



ON THE DRY SIDE

Speaker for
The December
Meeting is
Joe Stead

We have the pleasure of hearing from Joe Stead this next virtual meeting. He is a full time staff member and a part-time instructor at Orange Coast College Horticulture Department in Costa Mesa, California. He has worked at the college since 1994. His passion and expertise is in the propagation and hybridization of many types of plants. He has co-authored articles published in the CSSA journal. His succulent garden design was a featured article in Sunset Magazine. He is currently working on new hybrid of Boswellia. Joe and his wife, Liann, currently live in Tustin, California. He will be speaking on propagation and planting in landscapes. We will also have the pleasure of seeing some of his gardens at the college.

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PLANT OF THE MONTH

Schlumbergera or Holiday Cactus

Schlumbergera, commercially known as Christmas cactus, Holiday cactus, Thanksgiving cactus, Easter cactus or Crab cactus is a very popular and easy to care for succulent. Unlike most succulents and cacti, Schlumbergeras aren't native to arid regions but instead they thrive in subtropical and tropical climates in the coastal mountains of south-eastern Brazil.

The tubular flowers of the Christmas cactus are beautiful; they have long bloom time and can be white, pink or red depending on the variety.



Holiday cacti flowers come a range of shades including bicolor, red, white, almost orange

PLANT OF THE MONTH - CONTINUED

There are three main types of Holiday Schlumbergeras (Christmas Thanksgiving, and Easter) and each one of them blooms close to the holiday that it is named after. Telling them apart can be quite confusing because most of them are labeled as Christmas cacti but interestingly enough, most of them turn out to be Thanksgiving cacti.



In habitat.

The most popular type of Holiday Cactus – the Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) has the pointiest leaves and, on the edges, you'll notice some claw-shaped projections. The leaves of the Christmas cactus are less pointy and more scalloped and have a teardrop shape while the leaves of the Easter cactus are rounded. The flowers of the Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are tubular, while the flowers of the Easter cactus are daisy-like.

Fun Facts:

Schlumbergera is a genus of cacti with six to nine species depending on the source.

Schlumbergeras thrive on indoor windowsills as they do not tolerate cold weather, but you can place them in your garden as long as the temperatures don't drop below 50°F.

They don't need a lot of water so it's best to apply the 'soak and then let dry' technique to avoid overwatering. It's recommended to repot your Christmas cactus in well-draining soil as soon as you bring it home, especially if its nursery soil and its pot are not appropriate.

With proper growing conditions Schlumbergeras can bloom more than once a year. Placed near an east-facing window where it will get twelve hours of bright indirect light and twelve hours of darkness each day this succulent will bloom again.

The preferred daytime temperature for Schlumbergeras is 70°F and the evening temperature is 60-65°F.

It is easy to propagate from cuttings and it doesn't need to be repotted very often.

When exposed to stress such as sudden changes in temperature or improper lighting conditions, Holiday Cacti will start dropping their blossoms.

They can be susceptible to mealy bugs and root rot (when overwatered).

A great thing about Schlumbergeras is that unlike most holiday plants, they are non-toxic so your curious pets are perfectly safe.

Adapted from: [Guide to Schlumbergera: How to Grow & Care for the "Christmas Cactus"](http://garden-beast.com) (garden-beast.com) by M. Mumper

PLANT OF THE MONTH — Continued



What blooms!

Odd (but beautiful) grafted Schlumbergera.

Submitted by
Leisa Swanson

With some of our holidays coming up, I thought that this might be a fun thing to add to our clubs information repertoire..

I actually did not know that the shape of the "leaves" determine what month/holiday they are supposed to bloom..Did you know this?



how to identify CHRISTMAS CACTUS THANKSGIVING CACTUS & EASTER CACTUS



Schlumbergera x buckleyi
Christmas Cactus (US)



Schlumbergera truncata
Thanksgiving Cactus (US)



Rhipsalidopsis
Easter Cactus (US)

<https://empresofdirty.net/identify-christmas-cactus/>

FROM Leisa Swanson

Dear Folks,

On this Thanksgiving month, I want to take time to tell you...."The Cactus Club," how grateful I am for this group. I love the camaraderie, the enthusiasm for cactus and succulents and the great teacher presentations that continue my learning... Thank you all for your friendship. I miss our meetings ever so much...

Have a safe and special Thanksgiving..🦃

Leisa Swanson

The following photos are from Leisa's yard.

The first Cactus is a Christmas cactus *Schlumbergera*, like a smooth oval.

In the second photo, these are both examples of Thanksgiving cactus *Schlumbergera truncata*. They do look like they have added a truncated section to the leaf.

The third photo is an Easter cactus. Their flower petals are more petite. It is interesting that this variety is also called *Rhipsalidopsis*. Very similar to the varieties of *Rhipsalis* and sometimes confused as such.



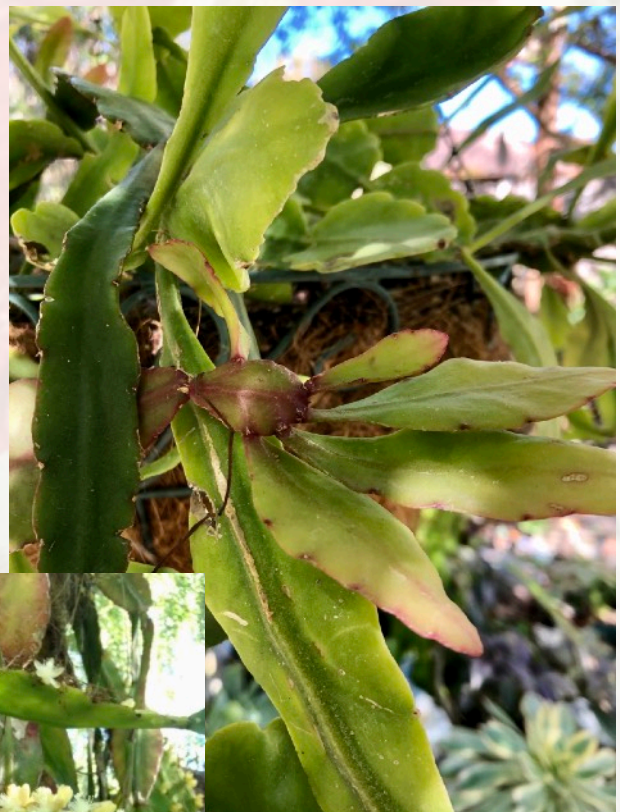
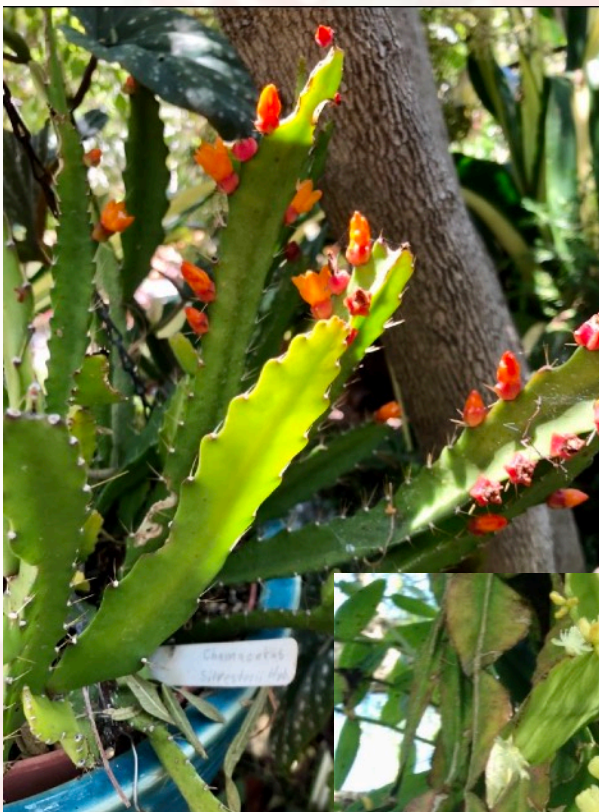
FROM Leisa Swanson - CONTINUED

The next three photos are of three kinds of rhipsalis.... similar to the Ripsalidopsis, but not quite.

These Ripsalis have multiple flowers on the sides of their leaves. After the flowers have dropped, they put out a fruit looking pod. Just like the Ephipheliums do after blooming.

I just love learning (through practice and a few dead 🤖 failures) to be success at growing blooming cactuses.. It is even more special that they bloom at different times of the year..

AND the bonus is that seasonally, we can bring these living bouquets into our homes having grown them ourselves!! TA DA!!



President's Message:

A special surprise for December 12th meeting!



It's finally almost over. 2020 will definitely be a memorable year, a sad and unfortunate time. Here's wishing all of you health and happiness as we end this year and move on to 2021.

Your Board has been working on ways to keep our Society relevant and operating as best we can. We have not been able to meet in person since March, and all business has been conducted via Zoom and email. A very challenging way to do business. Hopefully our club's Zoom meetings have been interesting as we've continued to have quality presenters scheduled, and features about our local club members and officers.

This month Joe Stead from Orange Coast College will be our featured speaker. He recently presented at the CSSA Webinar (see CSSA website for future Webinars). I thoroughly enjoyed his well thought out presentation. See more about Joe Stead in this Newsletter.

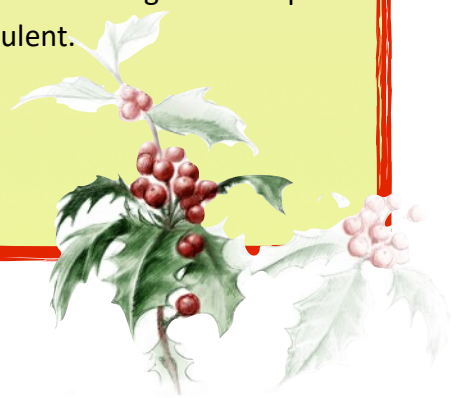
We plan to develop and send out a survey to all our current members after the December meeting. This will help us get some feedback on how we are doing. This is your club and we encourage you to participate in the survey.

Now for the special surprise.... Member at large, Karen Kolba, has been spearheading an effort to distribute plants to our members. We will be giving away 10 large reserve-quality plants to some lucky people attending the December meeting! Karen will randomly choose the winners. If all goes well, we hope to develop a system and continue to distribute plants at future meetings. Fortunately, Rob Skillin purchased a supply of plants for our opportunity table prior to the pandemic. The plants have been growing and they are in need of new homes. After the give away December 12th, we have tentatively scheduled a plant pick up at the Odd Fellows Hall parking lot on December 20th from 1-3pm. We hope to see you there!

We continue to rent the Odd Fellows Hall, now at one-half rent, because reasonable meeting halls with parking are hard to find in SLO. I am confident that we will be able to meet again in person next year. Hopefully next December—post vaccination---we will celebrate together at our Holiday banquet.

Here's wishing you all a safe, healthy Holiday Season. I am so looking forward to having over 100 people being able to meet safely again and celebrate all things Cactus and Succulent.

Cheers.....Harry Harlow, CCCSS President



ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS

Dues for the membership year 2020/21 are payable now, by mail. Nobody will be dropped from the rolls until our next in-person membership meeting, by which time you must have paid your dues. It would be very helpful to the club to pay your dues now, as we have ongoing expenses even though we are not meeting in person. Please pay by check, made payable to CCCSS. Dues are as follows: Individual - \$20; Family, all under same roof - \$25; Business, \$40. Please mail your dues c/o Terry Skillin, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

Please take a moment to renew your dues today. A membership application is not needed unless there are changes to your current membership status or you are a new member. Applications can be found online at [https:// centralcoastcactus.org/home/membership-information/](https://centralcoastcactus.org/home/membership-information/)

Contact:
Chenda Lor
805.541.1400x300
info@slobg.org

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden: The Garden is Changing Entrance

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is growing! Starting January 1, 2021, the Garden will have a new entrance location for your convenience. There will also be a new admission fee of \$5 per visitor, while Garden Members and children ages 12 and under remain free. Your support of the Garden greatly helps it remain a treasured educational and recreational resource for everyone.

The Garden strives to honor and preserve our connection with nature. Visit the SLO Botanical Garden at 3450 Dairy Creek Road to see the unique, drought-tolerant plants from the five mediterranean climates. You may also visit the website at slobg.org to learn more about becoming a Garden Member to gain access to the Garden all year long.

About San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is celebrating over 30 years of sowing seeds and growing together. The Garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. It is spread out on 150 acres in El Chorro Regional Park off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. Through its programs and facilities, the Garden fosters an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between people and nature, and encourages a sense of stewardship for the natural environment. To learn more visit slobg.org or the SLO Botanical Garden Facebook page.

3450 Dairy Creek Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
805.541.1400

slobg.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

GALLERY AND FUNDRAISER

VISIT THE SAN LUIS OBISPO BOTANICAL GARDEN THIS FALL FOR AN EXPLOSION OF ART THROUGH THE GARDEN.

Visit the second annual Art in the Garden gallery and fundraising sale **Thursday through Sundays** this November and December. Gallery opens Thursday November 5th at 10AM and runs through December 27th.

The art gallery features well-respected local artists. This show will include jewelry, glass, paintings, ceramics and sculptures. Visitors will find art for the home and garden, unique hostess gifts, as well one-of-a-kind jewelry. There will be something for everyone.

Visit the gallery and wander through the Garden's Yarn Bomb for free this fall. **All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden.**

Maggie Wagner and Ben Trogdon have an assortment of succulents potted in hand made ceramic planters. There is also a small assortment of planters for sale.

For more information visit slogb.org

San Luis Obispo
BOTANICAL GARDEN
NOV 5
THROUGH
DEC 27
2020
THURSDAY - SUNDAY | 10A - 4P
ART IN THE GARDEN
GALLERY AND FUNDRAISER

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

Cactus and Succulent Society of America
P.O Box 1000
Claremont CA 91711



Hello folks,

Join us Saturday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Program: [The History of the Huntington Desert Garden and its Place in C&S history.](#)

To register for the webinar in advance, [click here](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email

The ten-acre Huntington Desert Garden, in Sierra Madre, CA is one of the largest outdoor collections of cacti and succulents in the world, the Desert Garden includes more than 5,000 species of desert plants in sixty landscaped beds.

This webinar will present the history of the Huntington Desert Garden and its place in C&S history, recent renovations of the upper Desert Garden and conservatory, and a few sneak peeks at plant possibilities in the renovated garden.

We are fortunate to have Jim Folsom, Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens; John Trager, Curator of the Desert Gardens & Collection; and Seth Baker, Gardens Principal Designer as our speakers. We have a few surprises in store during the webinar.

Don't miss this one!



Dr. James Folsom



John Trager



Seth Baker

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

Biographies:

Jim Folsom rides the demographic peak of baby boomers, having been born in southeastern Alabama in 1950. His lifelong love of plants is reflected in a BS in Botany from Auburn University, an MA in Biology from Vanderbilt University, and a PhD in research botany from The University of Texas at Austin. Though his research has centered on the orchid family, with much of that time spent in Tropical America (including a year in Colombia on a Fulbright Pre-Doctoral Fellowship), Jim's botanical interests are wide-ranging. As Director of the Botanical Gardens at The Huntington in San Marino, CA, he dedicates much of his effort to educational programs that increase public interest and understanding of the science, culture, and history of plants and gardens. He lives at The Huntington with his wife, Debra (also a botanist). Jim was recognized as a Friend of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in 1996, a Member-at-Large of the Garden Club of America in 1998, and presented a Professional Citation by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in 1999. The Garden Club of America awarded him their Medal of Honor in 2007; Japan presented him with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in 2016; and the American Horticultural Society awarded him the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award in 2020.

John Trager is Curator of the Desert Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA where he has worked since 1983. Trager's horticultural writings have appeared in the Cactus and Succulent Journal, the Euphorbia Journal, and various other horticultural publications. He is also known for his photography -- over 2000 of his images have been published in numerous textbooks and horticultural journals. Book projects include co-authorship and photography for *Dry Climate Gardening with Succulents* produced by the Huntington (1995), principal photographer for *The Genus Conophytum* (1993), and a contributor to other works by Steven Hammer: *Lithops, Treasures of the Veld* (1999) and *Dumpling and His Wife* (2002, a revision of the *The Genus Conophytum*), and *Mesembs of the World* (1998, Hammer et al.). He has contributed photographs to works by Gordon Rowley: *The Succulent Compositae* (1994), *Anacampseros, Avonia, Grahamia: a Grower's Handbook* (1995), *Crassula, A Grower's Guide* (2003), as well as the multi-authored six-volume reference *The Illustrated Handbook of Succulents* (2001-2003). John has traveled widely in search of plants (and insects) including China, Costa Rica, Israel, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela. He holds a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona (1992) and earlier studied Botany at Santa Barbara City College and UCSB.

Seth Baker is a fifth generation Californian, born in Bishop. His early life in the Eastern Sierra was formative in his love of nature and striking landscapes. His affinity for planning developed when appointed to the city planning commission at age 18. He moved to Southern California to attend Art Center College of Design where he received a BS in Environmental Design with honors and a minor in Design for Social Impact. Seth started working for the Huntington in 2006 as a gardener in the Lily Ponds and later became Head Gardener of the Brody California Garden. In 2019 he was named Gardens Principal Designer where he contributes to a host of projects at the Huntington.

BRAG PLANTS

Loring Manley

Here is my little Haworthia from last year's challenge in a StudioGwyneth pot -



Members!

Please submit the photos of your challenge plant for the next newsletter.

Please send to "CCCSS January Newsletter" at carolmortensen0@gmail.com

-from Carol Mortensen's garden



Hoya multiflora



Eriosyce subgibbosa castanea



Haemanthus albiflos

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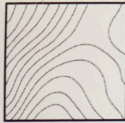
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