



# ON THE DRY SIDE

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J Etter & M Kristen

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Our Speakers of the Month are Julia Etter & Martin Kristen

## Exploring the Sierra Gorda of Mexico

The Sierra Gorda, or the Fat Mountains, is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve encompassing the northern part of Queretaro and extending into the states of Guanajuato, Hidalgo, and San Luis Potosi. Elevation ranges between 650 – 10'400 ft, the area comprises 14 vegetation types, and is one of the most ecologically rich and diverse places in all of Mexico.

Of course, we can't show you all of the special plants of this huge area, but we're trying to give you an idea of how beautiful and interesting this region of Mexico is. Since our specialty are the Agavaceae and Crassulaceae families, we'll focus our presentation on these two genera, but as always, we'll also be showing you plenty of landscape shots and some of the rare cacti occurring in the biosphere reserve. The Sierra Gorda is home to such interesting species as the recently described *Pachyphytum*

*rogeliocardenasii*, but also *Strombocactus corregidora*, *Yucca queretaroensis*, *Echeveria xichuensis* and *Turbinicarpus alonsoi*, a whole bunch of rarely seen, small *Sedum* species, *Beaucarnea compacta* and *Calibanus glassianus*, *Astrophytum ornatum*, *Echeveria tolimanensis*, *Agave graciela*, and many more.

The landscapes are equally impressive and we will of course show you some of that too. There's the deep Barranca de Toliman where you can almost touch the vertical walls on both sides of your vehicle. There are desert areas studded with columnar cacti and ocotillo. And there's cloud forest with giant tree ferns, tillandsia-covered trees and epiphytically growing *Echeveria rosea*.

Our presentation about the Sierra Gorda is certainly not long enough to show all of the areas beauty, but we'll give our best to offer you a glimpse of this corner of Mexico, encouraging you to explore the Fat Mountains on your own.





## Speaker of the Month Continued :

Julia Etter & Martin Kristen

Originally from Switzerland and Austria, Julia and Martin have focused on the Agavaceae and Crassulaceae since 1989, which led to extensive field research starting in 1997. For several years they lived in their Unimog expedition vehicle "PocoLoco", travelling through the US and Mexico taking pictures of and studying Crassulaceae and Agavaceae. They relocated to Jalisco, Mexico, more than 15 years ago, where they are busy tending to the plants in their garden and greenhouse, caring for a large flock of chickens and six cats, and of course trying to get into the field as much as possible. Since 2009 they have been affiliated with the Institute of Biology of the Autonomous Mexican National University (UNAM). *Agave kristenii*, *Echeveria juliana*, and *Sedum kristenii* are named in their honor. Their photographs and articles have been published widely in books and journals. Members of the San Luis Obispo Club might remember them from the 2019 CSSA Convention. More info can be found on their websites at [globetrotters.ch](http://globetrotters.ch), [agavaceae.com](http://agavaceae.com) and [crassulaceae.com](http://crassulaceae.com).





# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## Adenia [Forsskål 1775]

Named after: Greek *aden* = gland, usually found on the leaves.

The family *Passifloraceae* includes 650 species in 18 genera of which the only succulent plants are in the genus *Adenia*. The remaining species include climbing vines and shrubs, of which *Passiflora* [Passion flowers] are widely cultivated for their large decorative flowers and fruit [granadilla].

The genus *Adenia* includes around 95 species of woody trees, shrubs, herbs and vines with swollen succulent caudiciform bases or tuberous roots. Many species have tendrils enabling them to climb through bushes. Some are protected with thorns. *Adenia* are dioecious [sexes on separate plants].

*Adenia* are tender plants requiring heat and full sun. These succulent plants should be watered very sparingly outside their growing season, but watering and feeding can be increased when the plants are in active growth. The deciduous leaves provide a guide to active and resting periods. Soil should be gritty and free-draining, especially so for species with fleshy roots. Some species can be grown from cuttings, but these can be reluctant to develop a caudex.



*Adenia epigea* Madagascar

**Some species of *Adenia* are used by bushmen as sources of hunting poisons and all species should be regarded as poisonous.** Toxins include cyanide derivatives and potent lectins.

*Adenia epigea* is a slow growing large, deciduous, succulent liana up to 15 feet long. It is noted for the huge conical or rounded above-ground caudex it produces. Caudices often being deformed and monstrous with diameters exceeding 3 feet are well documented.

or shrubby tree, 3 - 6 feet tall with a distinct cluster of grotesque, irregularly club-shaped, softly woody stems and unarmed branches. Swollen stems are flask-shaped and smooth, up to 3 feet in height and ending into a few thick whip-like branches. The bluish-green leaves are simple or digitately 3- or 5-foliolate. The flower is bell-shaped and the corona has fine dense hairs.

*Adenia fruticosa* is a remarkable scrambling succulent shrub



*Adenia fruticosa* South Africa



## PLANT OF THE MONTH - continued

*Adenia globosa* is a shrub or climber forming a dangerously thorny tangle of twisted stems raying out every which way from an extraordinary wart-covered, hard, bumpish green caudex which in habitat can grow to a diameter of 6 feet. Flowers are greenish white, fruits leathery smooth and green.



*Adenia globosa* 10' caudex!



*Adenia pachelii* consists of a large above-ground, somewhat hemispherical caudex up to 3 feet on a tap root, the fat base is topped by eccentrically arranged, non-vinging branches. The branches are gray-green, succulent and spineless and make it look something like a hedgehog.

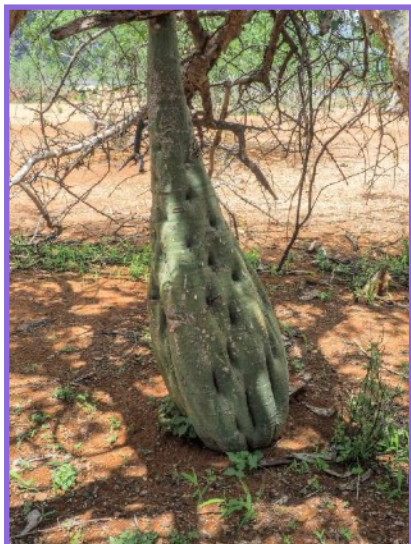


*Adenia pachelii* Namibia

*Adenia spinosa* is a thorny, climbing shrub growing up to 6 feet high. The plants bear a twisted frame of thin branches which arise from an irregularly shaped, fleshy and bulbous stem. Leaves are alternate and broadly egg-shaped with noticeable veins, grey-green above and paler below. Margins are smooth and not rough, although lobed (having divisions extended less than halfway to the middle of the base).



*Adenia spinosa* South Africa-Botswana-Zimbabwe border



*Adenia venenata* Kenya

*Adenia venenata* is a semi-succulent, almost tree-like creeper or climber plant up to 15 feet high. It produces a bottle-shaped swollen lower trunk with few to many glabrous, glaucous twining branches arising from its top which ascend high into trees. It is one of the most remarkable pachypodous species in the genus.

Adapted from [lilfe.com](http://lilfe.com) by Markus Mumper  
Photos courtesy of Rob Skillin.



## CCCSS Feb 14, 2021 Meetings Summary

### General Meeting:

Participants (screens signed in): 61

Harry reviewed today's meeting agenda & welcomed participants.

Mary Peracca gave a report on the work done at the SLO Botanical Garden. Good progress is being made. Thank you to the volunteers!

Bill Findley introduced today's speaker, Woody Minnich. Woody is a lifetime member of CCCSS, he lives in New Mexico.

Presentation by Woody Minnich. Woody took us on a tour of the flora, fauna, & people of Madagascar. The emphasis was on succulent plants, but we saw much more than that in his slide presentation. Unfortunately, we were only half way around the island when time ran out, so we will have to have Woody back to a future meeting to continue his tour of the rest of Madagascar. Thank you, Woody, for being a good friend of CCCSS!

The plant giveaway followed the presentation. Over 30 plants were given away to lucky CCCSS members. The plant pick up was on Feb 21 & it was a fun mini/safe social event. So good to see everyone!

**Note for plant giveaway:** When you sign in to the meeting, please have your name on your screen. Karen needs names to identify who has won a plant. If you don't want to change your screen name, just enter in the "chat" who you are. Example: Hi, ipad3 is John Doe. That way you won't miss winning a plant!

### BOD Meeting:

Minutes of Jan meeting approved. Treasurer reported \$215/debits, \$290/credits to bank account.

CCCSS member, Laura Oliver, attended the meeting. She is interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Two positions are currently available: Publicity (Mary Harlow moved to Secretary) & Membership (Terry Skillin is wanting to resign). Laura expressed an interest in membership. Terry & Rob will work with Laura to explain the details of the position.

There was a discussion re: confusion over whether a member is paid up or not. Because our membership runs from July 1 to June 30, sometimes members are not sure if their dues are current. Loring & Rob are going to work on updating the current list & let members know (via email) their dues status.

For now, a plant giveaway is going to be held monthly.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



## President's Message:

Our Valentine's Day plant pick up event went very well at the Odd Fellows Hall Feb 21. We saw a lot of masked, but obviously smiling faces on everyone picking up their well grown cactus & succulent plants. It was good to see everyone in person.

The response to our request for Club members to donate plants or pottery for future giveaway events was a spectacular success! We received over seventy plants and eight new ceramic pots. The good news is that we now have enough plants to continue this event for the next four months! Thanks to everyone who donated items, especially our ceramic artists: Mary Peracca, Maggie Wagner, Ben Trogdon and Richard Rowe. In addition, Karen Kolba donated two vintage Charles Varni wall planters.

I would like to give special recognition and thanks to Rob Skillin who does so much for CCCSS. He has kept our club giveaway plants alive and well for over a year. His descriptions of each plant has been a highlight of our Zoom meetings.

In addition to growing great plants, Rob has traveled all over the world stalking cactus and succulent plants. Closer to home, in the four corners region of the USA, Rob has been studying *Pediocactus sileri* and other cactus of the region. He has photographed and measured individual cactus plants to see how they have grown over time. His hard work is featured in the current issue of the *CSSA Cactus and Succulent Journal* (Spring 2021, No. 1). Rob's fantastic photography is featured on the cover as well as throughout the lengthy article. Good work Rob!

I would also like to thank the volunteer staff of our Society for their hard work behind the scenes. They keep our organization running smoothly.

Stay safe, good luck at the next giveaway. Hope to see you at the parking lot!

Harry



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

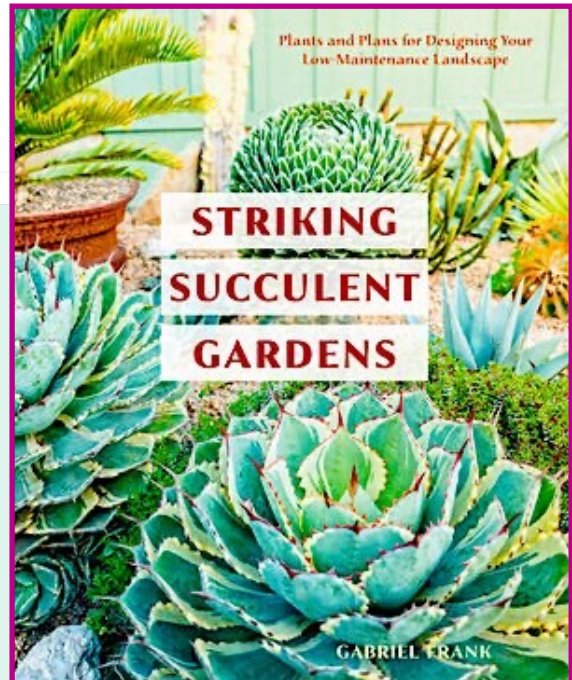


## **Striking Succulents Online Talk & optional In-Person class at the Garden**

**March 20th  
1-2 pm online talk  
3-4 pm planting class**

**Local landscape expert and author Gabriel Frank will present an online talk about landscaping with succulents. Learn about these amazing and adaptable plants, then join Gabriel at the Garden to create your own potted succulent arrangement! The Garden will offer a selection of succulents from the nursery, soil, and gravel. Bring your own decorative container. Details at [SLOBG.ORG](http://SLOBG.ORG).**

**Talk only: \$5 SLOBG members/ \$10 public  
Talk and planting class: \$45 SLOBG members/ \$55 public  
Planting class is limited to 12, so get your tickets soon!**





## MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS

The notification of membership status that went out on February 17 created a little confusion, and we apologize. To clear things up, the only members needing to send in a payment now are those whose membership was shown to have expired on 6/31/2020.

- If you have sent in your payment, thank you.
- If your expiration date was shown as 6/31/2021 and you sent a payment, you have been credited for the 2021/2022 year, and will not need to pay this coming June.
- Another update on membership status will be sent in June, so everyone will know their status before the end of this membership year.

**Please welcome Laura Oliver as the new Membership Chairperson.**

She is taking over as Terry Skillin steps down. Thank you Terry for filling this important job for the club over the last year!

Any membership dues should now be paid to:

CCCSS

c/o Laura Oliver

1585 Saratoga Ave

Dues are:

Individual \$20

Family \$25

Business \$40

Grover Beach, CA 93433

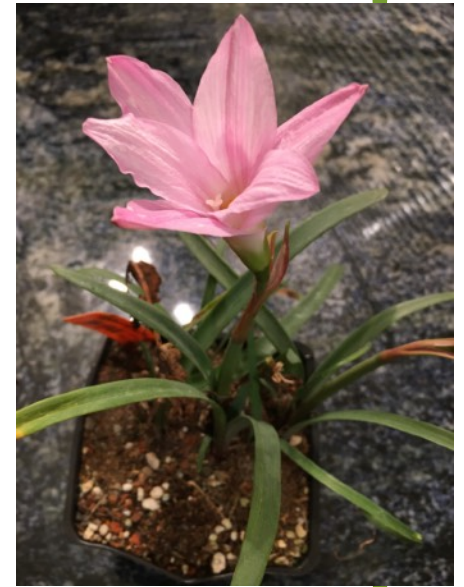
ph 310-951-0591

## CCSS ASK ME TABLE GOES VIRTUAL!!!

Do you have a prickly cactus question or a squishy succulent issue? The CCSS ASK ME TABLE is going VIRTUAL! You can now send your questions to our venerable expert Cactophile Gene Schroeder and Succulentophile Kathie Matsuyama.

Examples of issues we will try to help with include:

- ID of Plants (provide 3 photos of the plant: 1) close-up of leaves, flowers, or spines; 2) general photo of the plant with something in the photo that indicates scale....a ruler, soda can or credit card; and 3) a photo of the plant in its environment (is the plant in full sun, under a porch, planted in the landscape?)
- Watering & Light Requirements
- Feeding & Fertilization
- Pests & Problems
- Soil & Amendments
- Propagation



*Gladiolus carneus.*

Please email good photos of your plant. Also provide all the background information you think necessary to help us answer your question. Tell us which city you live in; microclimates in our region provide vastly different growing conditions!

We will email you with our thoughts.

Your plant question might be featured in a future ASK ME VIRTUALLY Newsletter column!

Contact Gene Schroeder at [leschroeder@earthlink.net](mailto:leschroeder@earthlink.net) and Kathie Matsuyama at [luvbigdogs@earthlink.net](mailto:luvbigdogs@earthlink.net)

Happy Growing!



*Pilocereus azureus*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

## Spring Fling Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale



MARCH 26 (FRI.) 11AM - 6PM  
MARCH 27 (SAT.) 9AM - 4PM

2016 9TH ST.- LOS OSOS



*Rare and unusual plants for the water wise garden*

**Steve Super Gardens** - 805.801.9973 - [stevesupergardens@gmail.com](mailto:stevesupergardens@gmail.com)  
[stevesupergardens.com](http://stevesupergardens.com) - on Etsy: **SteveSuperGardens**

*Functional & decorative ceramics; unusual tillandsias*

**Richard Rowe Clayworks** - 805.235.9721 - [roweclayworks@gmail.com](mailto:roweclayworks@gmail.com)  
[roweclayworks.com](http://roweclayworks.com) - on Etsy: **RoweClayworks**

*Unique, well-grown succulent plants for the Central Coast*

**The Succ Shack** - 805.452.6817 - [calcoastsucculents@gmail.com](mailto:calcoastsucculents@gmail.com)  
on Etsy: **TheSuccShack**

*Amazing succulent plants for containers and landscape*

**GROW Nursery/Botanica Nova** - 805.305.9292 - [nick@grownursery.com](mailto:nick@grownursery.com)  
[grownursery.com](http://grownursery.com)



A portion of proceeds benefits Hope's Village, a 501(c)3. Working to build a sustainable community village for unhoused veterans and their families.

FOR UPDATES:  
#wegrowslo

**MASKS required.**  
**PHYSICAL DISTANCING (MINIMUM 6') required.**

**NO EARLY BROWSING, NO EARLY SALES.**  
STRICTLY ENFORCED FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY DURING SETUP.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

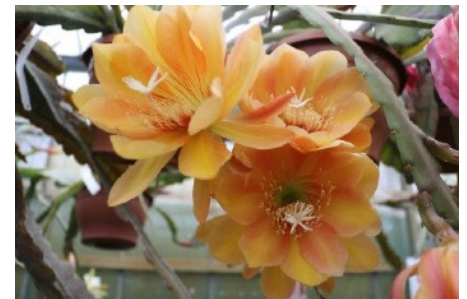


Hello folks,

Join us Saturday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.



Frank Süplie



'New Home' hybrid

## Frank Süplie: The Splendor of Orchid Cacti

To register for the webinar, [click here](#)  
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.

### Program: The Splendor of Orchid Cacti

With over 14,000 registered names, Epiphytic cactus hybrids, commonly known as Epiphyllums, Orchid Cacti, or Epis for short, have been a fascinating and growing hobby for many years. Join us as Frank Süplie, and a panel of Epi experts, explore this wonderful evolving world. See the latest advances and trends, and get cultural tips from one of the world experts in the field.

### Biography:

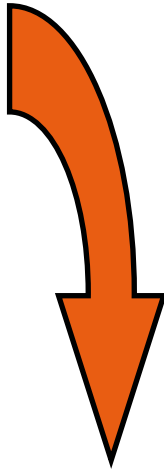
Frank Süplie's parents were already collecting epiphyllum hybrids when Frank was a little boy. At the age of 6, he came in contact with many, now famous, Epiphyllum growers such as Walther Haage, Kurt Petersen, and many more. At the age of 15, he wrote his first article about an Epiphyllum for the Dutch Cactus Society.

Frank has written more than 300 articles and books about epiphytic cacti hybrids. He is a prolific grower of new hybrids and has made some stunning crosses. Due to his never-ending work with these plants and his worldwide contacts, his collection has thousands of different hybrids.

Frank resides in Nijmegen, Netherlands and is member of several cactus societies. He has won international awards with many of his plants.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued



Note this!!

A fantastic article by Rob Skillin on “The Gypsum Cactus”, along with Rob’s travels in the deserts of Utah and Arizona, appears in the Spring Cactus and Succulent Journal of the CSSA.

Cover photo by Rob.



**It is CSSA renewal time!**

**Please renew your CSSA membership by [clicking here](#). We appreciate your continued support of CSSA and its mission.**

Best regards,  
Gunnar Eisel



## 2021 Garden Tour Photo Contest

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#TPFSpring21

#NativePlantGardenTour

### Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants <info@theodorepayne.org>

Be a part of the tour! We want to see your visions of nature in California. From March 1st - April 9th, share your favorite photos of California native plants and enter to win our 2021 Spring Photo Contest.

**PRIZES:** A \$100 gift certificate will be awarded to the winner of each of the following categories:

- **SPRING VIBES:** Photo that evokes the season of spring
- **HABITAT:** Photo that captures the interactions between plants, people, winged or legged creatures
- **PLANTS IN POTS:** Photo of a thriving container garden
- 

**HOW TO ENTER:** To submit a photo, use hashtags **#NativePlantGardenTour** and **#TPFSpring21** on Instagram or Facebook or email photos to [gardentour@theodorepayne.org](mailto:gardentour@theodorepayne.org) with subject: Garden Tour Photo Contest.

**DEADLINE:** The contest is open from March 1st through April 9th. The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 9th at 11:59 pm PST. Winning photographs will be announced and featured LIVE during the 2021 Native Plant Garden Tour. Good Luck!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

### PACIFIC BULB SOCIETY By Kathie Matsuyama

The **Pacific Bulb Society** (PBS) is a non-profit organization formed in 2002 for the benefit of people who garden with bulbs, including cold hardy and tender bulbs. Anyone interested in learning about bulbs, including corms, tubers, and other geophytes (plants with underground storage organs) should check out the PBS website: [www.pacificbulbsociety.org](http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org)

The Pacific Bulb Society has outstanding membership benefits but also provides incredible free resources including:

- **The Pacific Bulb Society Wiki**: The Wiki is a volunteer-written encyclopedia with information (and photos in most cases) on thousands of bulb species, plus selected hybrids. All geophytic plants with an underground storage organ such as bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers are included in the Wiki. Common garden center bulbs pale in comparison to the beauty and uniqueness of many species bulbs. The photos in Wiki show the incredible diversity of gorgeous plants that are almost unknown in cultivation. Many of these species are also threatened with possible extinction as their native lands are rapidly developing and urbanizing. The Pacific Bulb Society spreads information about these plants and teaches people how to grow and maintain them.
- **E-mail Discussion List**: The Pacific Bulb Society sponsors an e-mail discussion list, the PBS list. Anyone interested in learning more about bulbs is free to join.
- **Additional Free Resources on PBS**: There are many more free resources on the PBS website including: tutorials on the techniques and skills needed to cultivate bulbs successfully; links to the Pacific Bulb Society channel on You Tube; excellent and comprehensive reference lists for more information on bulbs; lists of bulb societies around the world; sources for bulbs, seeds, and seeds exchanges; etc.

Membership to the **BEST** bulb society on the planet only costs \$20 per year. In addition to all the free benefits I have described above, members also receive the following:

- **Newsletter**: Members get an excellent, beautifully printed quarterly newsletter, The Bulb Gardener, with informative articles illustrated in color.
- **Directory of Members**: Members receive this Directory every other year.
- **Bulb and Seed Exchange**: Members can participate in the Bulb and Seed Exchange and purchase bulbs or seeds of unusual species, rarely available in commerce, for low cost. This is a genuinely great benefit when you compare the member cost of seeds to the cost from retail sellers (if you can even find these unusual species for sale!).

Click here if you would like to join the Pacific Bulb Society: <https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/membership.html>

Thank you! And Happy Bulb Growing!

Continued

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued



*Massonia depressa*.Kamiesburg



*Gladiolus venustus*



*Moraea elegans*



*Veltheimia bracteata*



*Ferraria foliosa*

The photos on this page are from **Arnold Trachtenberg**, the Treasurer of the Pacific Bulb Society.



## Announcements - Continued

### **A Community of Plant Parents Grows in Confinement**

In May 2020, Fernanda Meier walked into a nursery to buy a few plants that would be hard to kill. The Dallas social worker had started the pandemic with just one lonely plant and wanted to purchase some new friends.

She walked out of the nursery that day with a couple of succulents and a snake plant. Two weeks later, she returned and bought more. She then returned again and again until her plant collection swelled to nearly 80 plants.

“My apartment is now a jungle,” she says.

Meier and many others have flourished into proud plant parents during the pandemic, adopting plant babies to care for and spend time with when contact with humans has been limited. Nurseries and garden centers have seen boosts in sales of houseplants as those largely confined to their homes have sought to add some green to their immediate surroundings.

The pandemic started at the beginning of what is usually garden centers’ busy season, and many successfully pivoted to create online stores. They couldn’t have walk-in customers in those early days, but they found that many people kept buying plants. The houseplant industry has been experiencing a boom in recent years, but garden center owners say things really took off during the pandemic.

“When people started working from home, the desire to green up their spaces became something that was important to them,” says Gina Pellino, a manager at the Chelsea Garden Center in Brooklyn, New York. “We’ve heard from many customers that, instead of traveling, they stay-cationed and that money went into making their homes more of an oasis.”

Past research has shown that gardening, plants and generally being close to nature can be beneficial for mental health. And houseplants have been particularly good for those confined to their homes during the pandemic, a [recent study](#) suggests. This international study found that houseplant ownership during the pandemic correlated with positive emotional well-being for housebound plant parents. Researchers sent out a plant questionnaire and received answers from more than 4,200 people around the world. Almost 74 percent of respondents agreed that having some kind of vegetation inside their homes contributed to their state of mind in a positive way during the pandemic. Luis Pérez-Urrestarazu, one of the study’s authors, says a big problem for many people living in cities during the pandemic has been that it’s been harder for them to connect with nature. He points to the psychological impact of owning plants but also more quantifiable benefits such as the fact that they can improve the air quality of a room.



## Announcements - Continued

It's common for plant parents to talk to their green babies and give them names. Pérez-Urrestarazu says more people have started to interact with their plants as they would a pet or another human. For Meier, reading out loud to her plants in the morning has become a bit of a ritual, and she fittingly named a couple of her ZZ plants ZZ Top (after the legendary rock band) and ZZ Bottom.

Every time Jai Williams brings home a new plant, she has a naming ceremony. She sits on her yoga mat surrounded by her plants, and introduces the new potted friends to the older ones. To determine names, Williams will look at the new plant's species and region. She'll then go online and find names from that region. "Then I might pick a few names and call them out to the group, and then whatever they respond to, we select that as their name and everyone is happy and claps," says Williams, who is a photographer based in the Mississippi Delta. "We also choose what gender they want to be. I know that sounds so weird, but female, male [or] non-gendered."

Williams bought her first pandemic houseplant in July 2020, and she eventually amassed dozens more as they thrived. She now has more than 35 and has started devoting every Sunday entirely to taking care of her plants.

Williams bought her first pandemic houseplant in July 2020, and she eventually amassed dozens more as they thrived. She now has more than 35 and has started devoting every Sunday entirely to taking care of her plants.

Sara Costello, an actor who lives in Chicago, says she talks to her plants a lot. She has been a plant mom since 2017, but she says her collection has "gotten a little out of hand" during the pandemic. She owns around 35 plants now and she talks to them as she goes around to check on them. She speaks sweetly to her smaller plants and mostly gives them "motivational talk."

Around the holidays, Costello says she became jealous of all the beautiful Christmas cards she was receiving from couples or people who have dogs and families. So, one day, she decided to make her own Christmas card. "I thought 'I have a beautiful collection of plants. I'm jumping up on this counter and we're taking this Christmas card,'" she says. "I'm so proud of how it turned out. They're very photogenic."

Plant parents get a lot of joy from taking care of their plants and watching them thrive and grow. But it also has given them a new way to connect with the people in their life, as well as strangers. Meier says she didn't realize her parents were such plant lovers until she started sending them photos of her own houseplants during the pandemic. But not everyone in her family is as impressed by her plant collection. She says her sister has tried several times to hold plant interventions with her to convince her to stop buying more plants, but they have all been unsuccessful.

Plant parenthood has also given people a sense of community with strangers online. Many new plant parents have connected through social media, where they'll share tips, questions and photos of their plants. Meier says the experience has introduced her to non-traditional plant parents who probably wouldn't have even thought about owning plants before the pandemic, let alone 80 of them.

"It's like I've found a whole new world with plants," says Meier. "Becoming a plant parent is awesome in and of itself, but there are also a lot of different ways that has exposed me to other people and has still allowed me to develop a sense of community, being completely away from everyone in the world."



# BRAG PLANTS

These plants are on the sunny east patio in front of my house. Enjoy!

Susan Kirk Chandler

These are tiny little 🌺



This Blue Aloe now has 5 stalks of flowers and velvety leaves.



This is the prize tho, Adimium 'fat boy' x 'squat'. I think I got it at a meeting, took it home and it promptly lost all its leaves! But today I looked at it and it has turned into a lovely plant!

I think this is also a Euphorbia I've had it for along time and shown it before. It produces lots of these pink flowers. Don't know what is going on with the base it looks like a bad case of acne!





## BRAG PLANTS - Continued



When I looked for corn succs nothing showed up but today while looking for the Euphorbia here they are! They even have tiny flowers on top!  
Speaking of tiny flowers! I have had this succ for a long time and this is the first I've seen it bloom!

This Sarcocaulon vanderietae is also a first timer it has spikes— the red is a fire stick in the next pot!



This is a nice cluster of Euphorbia anoplia? with tiny burgundy flowers on top. The caudix bulb in front has about 4 distinct sprouts of leaves!



## BRAG PLANTS - Continued

From Rob Skillin . . .

*Pachypodium brevicaule* is native to Madagascar and has a reputation for being very difficult to grow. The secret is to let it tell you what it wants, and not to try to force it to do what you want. It will be dormant in the winter months, and as the days grow longer and warmer, it will eventually start showing some green at the growing points, indicating that it's time to start tickling it with some water. As it develops more leaves and flowers, it can handle more water, but don't ever keep it constantly wet. It's also best to keep it on the warm side – I never let mine get below 55 degrees, and that seems to work well. Here on the Central Coast, it's an indoor plant that likes light as bright as you can give it – even direct sunshine, which will keep it compact and dry the soil out faster. This year has been unusual with the many days of clear, warm weather, which has caused this plant to break dormancy much earlier than it usually does.





# PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

## Peracca's Prickly Pottery

Textured hand built planters designed for cactus and succulents

Sales and garden tours by appointment

Mary Peracca  
(805) 550-6977



maryper777@gmail.com  
Instagram: maryperacca

## STEVE SUPER GARDENS

SPECIALIZING IN RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS  
FOR THE WATER WISE GARDEN

STEVESUPERGARDENS.COM

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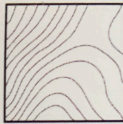
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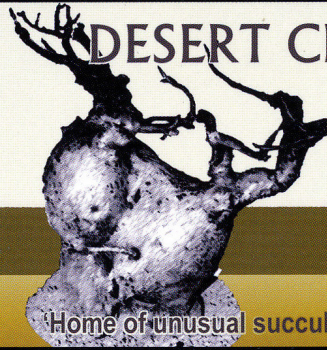
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