



ON THE DRY SIDE April 2021

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**Our Guest Speaker
For the Month is Ann Erb
"Bonsai with Succulents"
Meeting April 11 at 2:00**

Ann Erb has been growing bonsai for over 40 years, 20 of it the hard way in the deep freeze of Minnesota. On a trip to Florida she met Jim Smith of Vero Beach. He has created amazing bonsai w/ [Portulacaria afra](#). It seemed like a great way to continue working on trees during the long cold months of winter in MN and Ann's interest in succulent bonsai grew. Ann and her husband moved to Nipomo (great for growing Japanese Black Pine) 24 years ago and her bonsai have flourished. As exhibit chair for CBS for 19 years she has been honing her display aesthetic and refined her appreciation of companion plants. Besides succulent and Black Pine (and just about any genus she can lay her hands on to try).



Jim Smith pruning *Portulacaria afra* bonsai

On succulent bonsai: "Bonsai is the art of shaping plants to reflect the image of large trees. Many in the bonsai community do not consider succulents as true subjects for bonsai, but in many areas of the world they are widely used as they are what is available locally. I feel that as long as succulents are worked and shaped using bonsai aesthetics they qualify as bonsai. However, simply potting a plant in a bonsai style pot does not make it a bonsai. Shaping and work to develop a plant into a tree is necessary. Far from being "too easy" a subject for bonsai, succulents can take as much work to develop and refine as other more traditional materials."

Since joining CCCSS 8 years ago more and more of her plant collection has been devoted to succulents and she is finding many more species to shape and turn into bonsai. Learn which will work well for shaping and how to prune and use other techniques to turn a "plant" into a sculpture.



Bursera simaruba bonsai

PLANT OF THE MONTH

NOTOCACTUS [PARODIA, ERIOCACTUS and WIGGINSIA]

The genus name comes from the Greek word "nòtos", meaning "southern", referring to the fact that these cacti come from Bolivia south to Uruguay. These plants are extremely long-lived and rather slow-growing but, if you wait a little bit, they will give you spectacular and unexpectedly large summer blooms that, untypically for cacti, will continue to brighten and color your surroundings for a whole week! Taxonomists are currently moving them like chess pieces between the genera of Parodia, Eriocactus, and Wigginsia.



Notocactus magnificans

In the early days of cactus taxonomy few cacti were yet discovered, precious little was known about them, and there were just a few described genera in which to place any newly discovered species. Thus many species were at first placed in the genus Echinocactus established by Link & Otto in 1827. As more plants were discovered and more was learned about them, here and there species were gathered into groups. Sometimes the taxonomists proceeded with caution and created subgenera within Echinocactus. Eventually, these subgenera were given status as genera in their own right. This was the path for Notocactus, made a subgenus in 1898 by Karl Moritz Schumann, then raised to genus by Alberto Vojtěch Frič in 1928. By recent taxonomic treatment, the notocacti are to be placed in the genus Parodia. However, you will find many nurseries still recognize Notocactus, which in fact will save you a good bit of trouble.

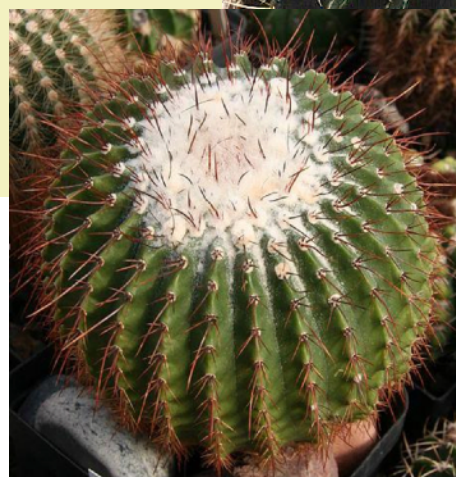
Thanks to www.nargs.org and Markus Mumper for submission



Wigginsia coronodes



Parodia tenuicyndrica



Eriocactus claviceps

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS - continued

Plant Give-Away on Sunday March 21 at Odd Fellows' parking lot with Tim, Mary H., Mary P., Karen K., and Harry.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - continued

Contact:
Anika Clements
805.541.1400 x304
anika@slobg.org



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden: Restoring Native Habitat: Examples from CA's Central Coast

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – Celebrate Earth Day with the SLO Botanical Garden! Join California State Parks Environmental Scientist Jodi Isaacs on Saturday, April 24th at 1 pm for an online talk about restoring the natural habitat in our local state parks. See how Morro Strand State Beach and Montana de Oro State Park have been transformed by replacing invasive plants with native species. Learn how invasive plants pose a threat to our native habitats on the Central Coast and how native habitat restoration can benefit wildlife and humans, alike.

A suggested donation of \$10 public/\$5 SLOBG members for tickets. **Details at slobg.org.**

Jodi has worked in the natural resource management field for over 30 years and currently works as an Environmental Scientist for California State Parks in Morro Bay where she dedicates much of her time to habitat conservation and restoration. Over the years Jodi has worked to restore riparian, grassland, oak woodland, and coastal scrub habitats throughout California. She completed her graduate work in Australia studying bird movements in a fragmented rainforest landscape and has worked studying birds in native and non-native habitats in Maui, Africa, Ecuador, and around California.

About San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is a non-profit organization that showcases plants from Mediterranean climates throughout the world. 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. The Garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., within El Chorro Regional Park off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. Admission is \$5 per person and free for both children 12 and under and Garden Members. 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

CCCSS ASK ME TABLE GOES VIRTUAL!!!

Do you have a prickly cactus question or a squishy succulent issue? The CCCSS 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

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 and Kathie Matsuyama at carolmortensen0@gmail.com.

Happy Growing!

Spring it On!

Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale

MAY 7 (FRI.) 11AM - 6PM

MAY 8 (SAT.) 9AM - 4PM

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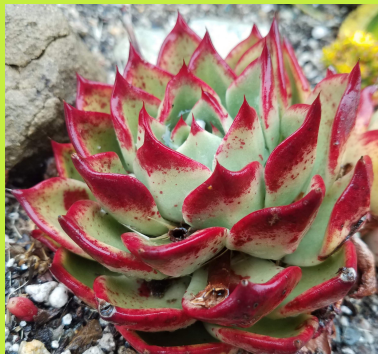
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A portion of proceeds benefits SLO Noor Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization that provides free medical, dental and vision care to uninsured adults in San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, or gender.

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

President's Message April 2021

I am overwhelmed at the generosity of our Club members when we requested donations for the Botanical Garden Cinder (and now plant) purchase fund. The bottom line is that the SLOBG got 20 bags of cinders plus a yard of 3/8" cinders delivered, with cash left over for future CCCSS-funded garden needs. Thank you all for your donations! A special thanks to Karen Kolba who fearlessly asked every plant winner, as they waited to pick up their plants, to donate to the fund.

Special thanks to Gary at AirVol who gave us a discount for cinders. Check them out for your pumice, cinder and landscape needs. They are incredibly fast and friendly at accommodating our hardscape needs.

We have had a lot of discussion regarding club membership dues. Our current Membership chair is Laura Oliver. Business memberships (\$40/yr) are required to advertise in the Newsletter. You must also be a business member to be a vendor in our Show & Sale. Regarding the **Show & Sale....**We have reserved the Ludwick Center on **September 24 (set-up), 25 & 26, 2021**. Please be sure to mark your calendars to reserve these dates in anticipation of permission to hold our event. Only time will tell what will be permitted in September and who will be comfortable participating.

We have another spectacular plant giveaway planned for our April 11th virtual meeting at 2pm. Please have your full name listed on your Zoom screen so that Karen will know who to enter in the giveaway. Only current paid members are eligible to win a plant. You must remain at the meeting until the plant give-away concludes. If you do not want a plant, please let us know in the Chat feature on your screen. Good luck!

Plant pick up will be April 18th , 1-2pm at the Odd Fellows Hall parking lot. Please arrange for someone to pick up your plant if you cannot do so. Unclaimed plants will be returned to the collection.

The Board position of Publicity chair is still open. I encourage anyone interested in becoming more active in Club management to join us on the Board.

See you virtually April 11th at our next meeting. Our own, Ann Erb, will be the featured presenter. Ann is an expert in bonsai and she will be explaining how succulent plants can be used in this way.

Harry

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

CCCSS BOD meeting minutes Feb 14, 2021

Present: Harry & Mary Harlow, Loring Manley, Rob & Terry Skillin, Mary Peracca, Pat Gilson, Kathy Goss, Carol Mortensen, Karen Kolba, Natasha Erickson, Laura Oliver

Old Business:

- Minutes approved from Jan 10 meeting
- Treasurer's Report: \$215 debits, \$290 credits. Balance is approx. \$26,500.
- \$90 paid to Rob Skillin for giveaway plants
- SLOBG update: Thank you to everyone who has volunteered at the Garden! All volunteers will be given CCCSS hats. CCCSS hats to Board members too.

New Business:

- Laura Oliver introduced herself & told us about her interest in succulent plants and her desire to participate on the CCCSS Board. The two open positions are Publicity and Membership. After discussion with Rob & Terry, Laura decided that she would be interested in the Membership position.
 - Harry nominated Laura to the Membership position. Seconded by Pat Gilson. All members present voted for approval.
- All Board positions will be up for renewal in July. Everyone present was asked if they would like to leave the Board or make a change. All those present stated that they would like to stay in their present positions. After the meeting Harry contacted Bill Findley & he stated that he would like to stay on as Vice President.
- Carol Mortensen also agreed to stay on as Newsletter Editor.
- Some confusion has arisen among members regarding their membership status. Many members have not renewed for the 2020-2021 year & some have renewed twice (their dues will be credited to the 2021-2022 year).
 - Loring and Rob will work on this & send out an email to all members to clarify their status for them.
 - Dues renewal for the 2021-2022 year are due July 1, 2021.
- A plant giveaway will be scheduled for every meeting until further notice.
- Board Member reports:
 - Loring is working on Zoom to better highlight the plants during the giveaway.
 - Natasha has some t-shirts (limited sizes) and bags. Maybe at the next giveaway?
 - Mary P stated that work at the SLOBG may change to every other week. She will contact the current volunteer crew to let them know of work days.
 - Pat Gilson suggested that we ask AirVol in person for a donation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

CCCSS meetings summary March 14, 2021

General Meeting:

Counted 58 screens participating

Harry's introduction noted that we are 1 year into the Covid 19 pandemic. He stated that he was hopeful that we would be able to have in person meetings by Fall (or hybrid Zoom/in person). The Ludwick Center has been reserved for September 24, 25, 26, 2021. We'll have to wait and see if this type of gathering will be permitted.

Mary Peracca asked that if people wanted to donate plants to the SLO Botanical Garden they need to send her a picture with the genus & species. The garden only accepts Mediterranean succulents. She provided contact info in the Newsletter. We will have a "Cinder donation" bucket at the plant pick up site on Mar 21, if you would like to donate.

Our featured speaker was Julia Etter. She and her husband Martin Kristen are from Switzerland & Austria but currently live in Mexico. They have traveled extensively and this presentation concentrated on the Sierra Gorda region of Mexico. It was a terrific presentation with expert commentary and fabulous photography. This is a spectacular area, with very diverse geography and climate and therefore a great variety of succulent plants. Thank you Julia & Martin!

47 plants were given away to lucky members!

BOD Meeting:

Treasurer's report: We had \$660 in deposits---all membership! Thank you new & renewing members!

Rob wanted to know if he should continue giving his "blurb" about each plant. The BOD said, Yes! We all learn so much when Rob shares his knowledge.

Reminders to giveaway participants: Turn off video & sound during presentation. Screen name should be your full name. Plant p/u is the following Sunday 1-2pm. Remember your # & have someone p/u for you if you can't come.

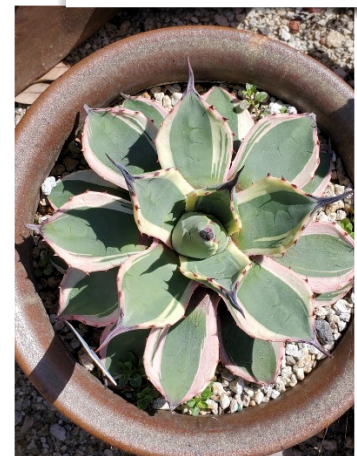
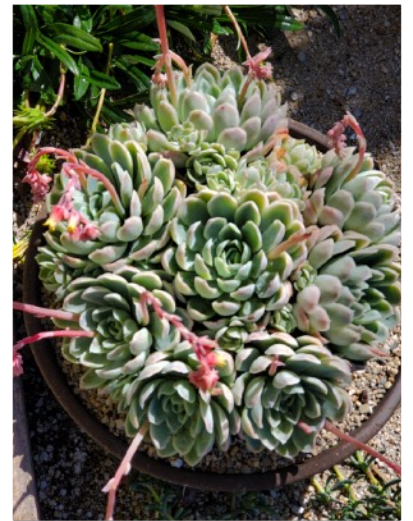
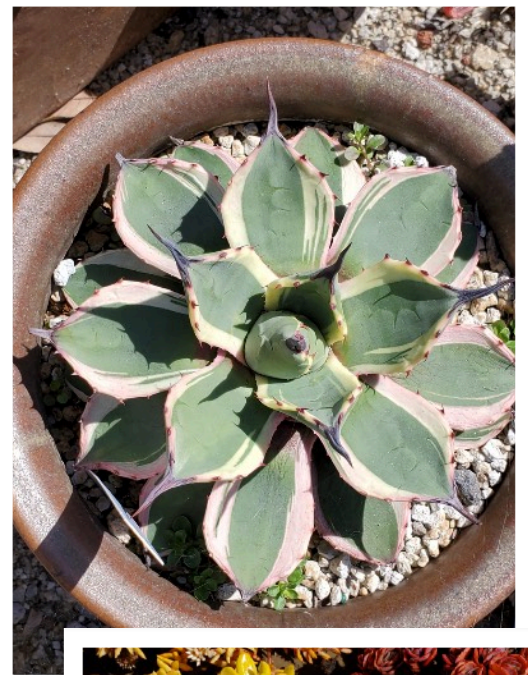
There was discussion about a "hybrid" Zoom/in person meeting in the future. We would have to figure out some tech issues & interest to see if this would work.

Discussion re: a Newsletter article to feature a "Member of the Month" to highlight and introduce someone to the members at large. How did they get interested in succulent plants? What particular issues do they have in their locality? What plants do they like best? Anyone interested in this feature, please contact the Board.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary

BRAG PLANTS

Thank you to Laura Oliver



BRAG PLANTS - Continued

Thank you to Bill Findley . .
Aloe striata in my yard.



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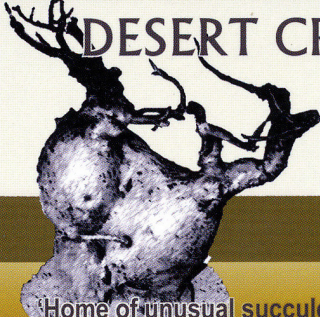
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Hospitality	Pat Gilson
Membership	Laura Oliver
Past President	Loring Manley
CSSA Affiliate	Rob Skillin
Member-at-large 1	Natasha Erikson
Member-at-large 2	Karen Kolba
Member-at-large 3	Mary Peracca
Newsletter Editor	Carol Mortensen

General Club Email Address:
info@centralcoastcactus.org

