



ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is August 8th beginning at 2:00 at the Odd Fellows Hall on Dana St., SLO

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Feeding Succulents:

How Fertilizer, Water pH and Soil Can and Should Be Adjusted!

Perhaps you've heard that pH is important for plants?

Ernesto will summarize why you want your plants to receive slightly acidic water and how you can adjust it for your succulents. How is this similar and different than fertilizing "regular" plants? Ernesto will discuss all of this plus the importance of "soils"/container media and the details of how you can maximize the root potential for your plants!



SPEAKER OF THE MONTH – Continued

Biography. . .

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way that they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences of others as well as his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director/Manager over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of horticultural biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents! Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

Here is the recording of the 7-26-21 Membership meeting.

Meeting Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Haj37_IFILHRP1GroMb1qva_Y99q-WiU-V6vqdcUH9uLUy5j1dOsec6O4eO4e7NI.dKU4gw13x7kjWKpo

Access Passcode: **pnYWs@7+**





Ariocarpus:

Living rocks of the New World

Ariocarpus are small spherical or barely columnar cacti native to northeastern Mexico and the southern United States. They are usually found as single stems (heads), but occasionally form clusters. The genus consists of only a small number of species, six to eight depending on the authority cited.

Ariocarpus are unlike many other spherical or columnar cacti in that most of the main body of the plant typically grows underground or buried in rocky cover. In habitat the top of the plant is often nearly level with the surrounding ground and thus can make these nearly hidden plants very difficult to find when not in flower. Often all that is seen is the many pointed star pattern formed by the elongated tubercles barely protruding from the ground or covering rock. Ariocarpus flower in the fall and at this time their large and colorful flowers arising from the center of the plant give them away. In cultivation the plants are often raised in their pots so that the body of the plant can be more easily admired

Cultivation is not difficult if a few simple rules are followed. They appreciate warm summers — their habitat can become very hot in the summer. They can be

watered freely during their summer growing period but must be grown in a freely draining mix and given plenty of light. They must be kept quite dry during their winter dormant period which follows flowering in late October or November (my plants have shown no damage after winter temperatures in the teens when kept dry). In habitat nearly all Ariocarpus grow in calcareous soil (limestone, gypsum) which has led to the erroneous conclusion that the plants would like an alkaline environment. Although the plants may sometimes benefit from some added calcium source, e.g. limestone fragments, they do best in my hands if watered with a slightly acidic water.



Flowering Ariocarpus species in habitat.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Continued

The type species of the genus is *Ariocarpus retusus*. This is the most widespread species of the genus and shows the most diversity of form. It is found over a wide range in eastern central Mexico. Some of its forms have been regarded as separate species (e.g., *A. trigonus*). The plant can be relatively large (up to 12 inches) with thick pointed tubercles. Flowers are usually cream or white.



Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus in cultivation.

Ariocarpus agavoides, as the name implies, bears some resemblance to a tiny agave. The plants are quite small with elongated, thin tubercles. The flower is magenta. This species is rare due to its occurrence in only a few locations and over-collection.

Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus is another miniature (often no larger than 3 inches) which is usually found buried beneath the soil surface . This species is flattened with flat triangular tubercles which do not rise above ground level. Flowers are usually magenta.

Ariocarpus schaphirostrus is another small species, with pointed tubercles which protrude almost vertically from the rocky substrate. It occurs in only one valley.

Ariocarpus fissuratus is a complex of many forms, regarded by some to represent more than one species. Size is often to 6 inches. The tubercles are flattened or convex and usually have many fissures on top. Widespread in southern Texas and parts of Mexico. Flowers are magenta.

Article and Photos are by Charles Spotts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCCSS meetings summary July 11 2021



General Meeting:

75 in person attendees/7 on Zoom

- Harry welcomed the participants. This was Harry's first "live" meeting as President!
 - He encouraged participants to explore volunteer opportunities with the Club. We always need folks to help with set up and clean up at each meeting. Volunteers are needed for the Show & Sale. If you would like to be a judging clerk, please see Ann Erb. For all other volunteer jobs, sign up with Pat Gilson.
- Rob Skillin discussed the beautiful brag plants and the Plant of the Month specimens that were brought in.
- Mary Peracca reported that the SLO Botanical Garden (succulent area) is looking really good. There has been good collaboration between CCCSS & SLOBG. Will probably start working on improving other areas of the garden at the end of summer. Contact Mary P if you would like to help.
- There were 8 first time attendees to the meeting.
- Charles Varni & Linda Hicks discussed their perspectives on repotting and staging plants for the Show & Sale. Very informative. Lots of helpful tips. Thank you Charles & Linda!

BOD meeting:

- So great to see so many people in person at the meeting! There was discussion about the meeting format. It was decided to have Rob talk about the opportunity plants right before the giveaway.
- We will Zoom at the August meeting like we did today and then decide if there are enough participants to continue with the Zoom meetings. Thank you Tanya & Loring for organizing this!
- Leisa Swanson volunteered to take the video equipment home & then bring it to each meeting. Thank you Leisa!
- Treasurer's report: We are continuing to receive membership payments.
- Bill Findley reported that the presentation today was well received. The most popular presentations seem to be those geared toward plant culture, potting, general plant care. Please contact Bill Findley if you have requests for presentation topics.
 - Ernesto Sandoval from UC Davis will be our August speaker
- Natasha & Tanya will work on sending out an email to members about the t-shirt design contest. Entries need to be received before the August meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

- At the September meeting Rob will review the show schedule (list of plant categories for the show entries), show cards and details about what to do when you arrive with your plant for show set up on Friday.



Minutes submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary

President's Message August 8 2021

Meeting in person at the Odd Fellows Hall last month was lots of fun! Socialization with our old and new members really can't be done on Zoom.



We had a problem with our parking arrangement at Reis Mortuary, however. They had a rare Sunday afternoon service and we were not informed until the last minute. We agreed to never interfere with their business. Hopefully we will have access to their parking lot Sunday August 8th. In any case, we had enough spaces at OFH. We can double park some spaces in back, if necessary, behind board members who will be staying for the board meeting after the general meeting ends. Please do not park on Dana Street.

Our program this month will feature Ernesto Sandoval from UC Davis. He has spoken to our group many times and I'm excited to see what fabulous, reasonably priced plants he has brought for us. Plants will be available for sale before the meeting and at the break.

This month our break is scheduled to have our regular offering of delicious food provided by our members. Thanks to all who volunteer to bring food for the group. Please get to know Pat Gilson who coordinates all our Volunteer activities.

Our upcoming Show & Sale is on track for the weekend of September 24, 25, 26. We set up Friday evening including judging. Volunteers are still needed for Saturday & Sunday. This is our main fundraising event, a percentage of all sales go to CCCSS. Thanks to all who sign up to help and remember that you will be rewarded with tickets for our monthly plant opportunity table.

Health concerns regarding the Covid pandemic continue. We may have a new mask mandate for indoor meeting so please bring a mask to the meeting. If you are unvaccinated the current recommendation is that you wear a mask indoors. If you are vaccinated this requirement is optional. Please feel free to wear a mask if you have any safety concerns.

I am so looking forward to our next meeting, Sunday August 8th at 2pm. See you there.....Harry

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS
& SUCCULENT SOCIETY

2021
SHOW
& SALE

SEPTEMBER
25 & 26



Dudleya pachyphytum

15TH ANNUAL CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE **Free Admission**

Ludwick Center
864 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo, CA (corner of Mill St.)

Saturday, September 25th, 2021 — 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, September 26th, 2021 — 10 am to 4 pm

Experts will be on hand to answer your questions.
Rare plants and handmade pottery for sale.

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For more information log on to www.CentralCoastCactus.org

 Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH GUIDELINES REQUIRED FOR OUR SHOW WILL BE OBSERVED

As you can see we are planning for our September Show & Sale. Pat is recruiting volunteers, and will have a sign up sheet at the back table starting at our July 11, meeting. A large number of volunteers are needed to make the Show & Sale a success.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

Show and Sale, an Insider's Look

As many of you already know our club is having our "Show and Sale" on September 25th and 26th. For those of you who are wondering how this all works here is an insiders look.

Part of the venue is for the show plants. These are the best and nicest plants we hobbyist and collectors grow. We usually start making them look nice a month or two in advance (hint start now). This staging process was shared at the last meeting by Charles and Linda, they both did an amazing job! I liked one of Charles statements when he said the plant is the artwork, the pot is the frame and the top dressing (rocks on top) is the matting. Another place where you can get ideas of what show plants might look like is our website. There is a page that is just for the "Show and Sale" in that page are many nice photos of previous winners. Check it out, you will be able to see what others have shown in the past. I have included at the end of this article some information from our website on how the judges determine the awards. Please note as a "Rookie" shower your plants will not be judged with the open class plants but with other "Rookies"

If you are showing plants, please pick up the entry cards at the meeting or at the show. Having them pre-filled out when you arrive with your plants is best because there is not a staging area. If you need to fill out the cards at the event, please do it before you bring in the plants. There is a leaflet called "Show Schedule" on our web page that will list the categories for the plants that are organized by genus. The show plants need to arrive between 2pm and 6pm on Friday, September 24th. The judges then clear the venue and start judging (usually takes a few hours). In the morning the judges' results can be viewed with the plants. It is fun to see which plants the blue ribbons and rosettes are awarded to.

The other part of the venue is for the sale plants. The multipurpose room in the Ludwick Center is a full basketball court. In this space you will find many vendors selling both beautiful and unique plants and pots. This space can get crowded so be kind, patient and courteous to others in this area. Usually, the artist or grower will be close by and can easily answer questions about what they have for sale.

After collecting your plants, you can purchase them all at the central location in the front of the room. Simple as that.

It will be a fun time. But wait there is more.

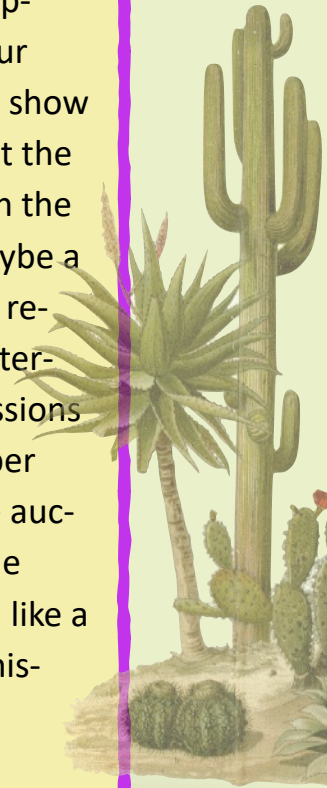
If you volunteer to help anytime during the "Show and Sale" you may purchase plants on Friday night (between 4:30pm-6:30pm) before the public but this is only if you volunteer. To volunteer speak to Pat Gilson at the meeting or by email at hupt74@yahoo.com No presales to people not on her list. Another benefit to volunteering is you get raffle tickets for our regular meeting raffles.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

A Call for Auction Plants:

Once again, this year we will have be having an auction during the weekend (September 25th and 26th) show and sale. Some of these plants will be provided by our vendors and some will be provided by club members, like you. If you have a nice show worthy specimen that has a retail value of \$50 or more and would like to sell it at the auction, please send an email to Bill Findley at coolcactuskid805@gmail.com In the email include at least two photos (one that includes something to show size, maybe a soda can, or a pencil), the plant name (if you don't know we will find out), and a reserve price (the lowest you would be willing to sell it). The sale will be Sunday afternoon at 1pm and the club retains 25% of the sale price. Please send your submissions in by September 17th 2021. The auction committee will contact you by September 21st to let you know if your plants are accepted for the auction. Please bring the auction plant to the Show and Sale for display by Saturday morning. The table for the plants for the auction will be in the area where the show is located. If you would like a photo of your plant for sale in the September newsletter, please send your submissions by August 25th. If you have any questions contact Bill at coolcactuskid805@gmail.com !



MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS

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.

Any membership dues should now be paid to:

<u>CCCSS</u>	<u>Dues are:</u>
<u>c/o Laura Oliver</u>	<u>Individual \$20</u>
<u>1585 Saratoga Ave</u>	<u>Family \$25</u>
<u>Grover Beach, CA 93433</u>	<u>Business \$40</u>
<u>ph 310-951-0591</u>	

Defeat Dudleya Poaching through Propagation

A primary issue for Fish and Game was collecting seed from wild populations.

Note in this article I emphasize the “advantage” of garden seed collection (hybrid forms) over pure-species wild seed collection.



California Dudleyas are easy to grow. Illegal wild collection can be disrupted via legal propagation. I propagate Dudleya with middle school science classes. If seventh-graders can grow these natives from seed, you can too.

Home gardens are a good source of Dudleya seed. Collect whole flower clusters in the late summer. Dry and store in a paper bag. Many Dudleya varieties freely hybridize, so garden collections are a good source of unique types.



Seeds are microscopic. Small brown crescents or football shaped ovals. Seeds do not need to be cleaned, but crush pods to release the seeds. Hundreds of seeds are found in every flower.

Broadcast seeds on the top surface of a “soiless mix”. I use the those ubiquitous landscape flats to seed individual varieties. I use stucco sand, perlite and vermiculite and a time release fertilizer. No composts or peatmoss at this stage.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

Seeds have no dormancy and can be sown any month of the year. A single teaspoon of seed will germinate hundreds to thousands of tiny plantlets.

I germinate flats under a spun row cover inside a shade house. Plants are misted four times per day via a battery operated hose timer and "mister" drip emitters. Flats are kept uniformly moist, but not soaked.

Expect germination in a week to 10 days.

Plantlets are lifted twice. Pricked up with a pencil or the tip of knife. The crowded plantlets are spaced on a fresh flat (100-200 per flat), and later lifted to cells or 3 inch pots. Algae scum remains a risk, so continue to use a soilless sand-rich mix.

Dudleya will be ready for "potting up" to commercial sized containers in 4-6 months. Final soil mix can be a garden loam or cactus mix. Overly rich soil can yield overly frost-sensitive plants.

Light shading (50-60% shade cloth) improves color and tone of the first year plants.

First year *Dudleya lanceolata* grown by Los Osos Middle School students ready for restoration planting.

Good luck!
John Chesnut

"Please source your Dudleya seeds from your gardens and sustainable resources not from habitat."



The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.



CCCSS ASK US: WE WILL TRY TO HELP!!

Do you have a prickly cactus question or an inscrutable succulent issue? The CCCSS ASK ME TABLE can now be accessed VIRTUALLY. Send your questions to our venerable expert Cactophile Gene Schroeder and Succulentophile Kathie Matsuyama. Due to the overwhelming number of ASK ME requests, you must be an Active Member of CCCSS to participate.

Examples of issues we may be able to help with include:

- ID of Plants

Provide 3 photos of the plant: 1) close-up of leaves, flowers, 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 CCCSS ASK US Newsletter column.

Don't forget to renew your CCCSS membership today. And send your ASK ME questions to Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama at: AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org

Happy Growing!



Echinopsis



Agave attenuata 'Variegata'



Ferocactus emoryi ssp. rectispinus

BRAG PLANTS

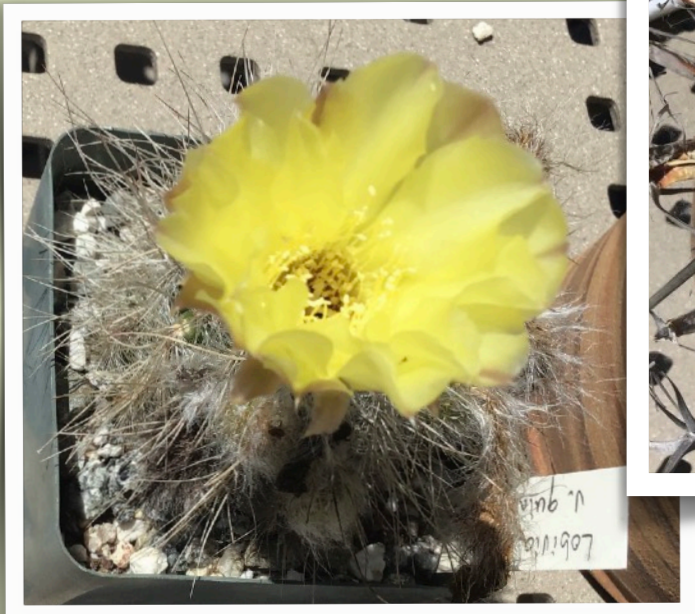
Please share your special plants with us. Send your photos to Carolmortensen0@gmail.com and I will put them in the newsletter.



Cotyledon



Leuchtenbergia



Lobivia

Summer beauties from Carol Mortensen's yard

BRAG PLANTS - Continued

A *Tylecodon* flower from the Harlows.
“This is a raffle plant from several years ago.
First flowering.
Smells nice too!”



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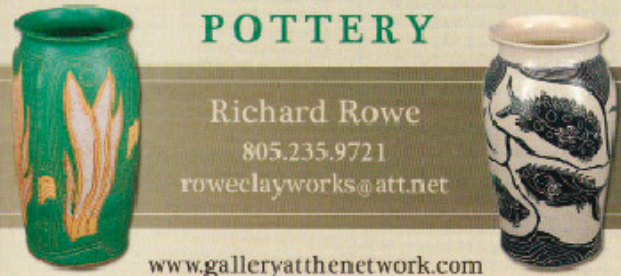
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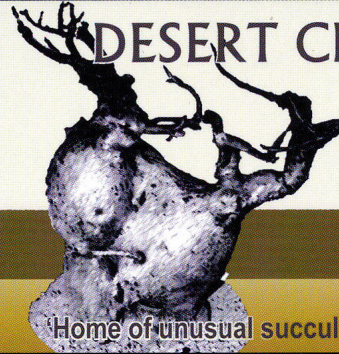


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