

# CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

# November 2021

# ON THE DRY SIDE

In This Issue: Speaker for Meeting JD Wikert Plant of the Month *Haemanthus albiflos* President's Message Meeting Minutes Ask Us Garden Gatherings Announcements Shows & Sales Community Announcements Nature Mag.Article Brag Plants Business Members Board Members

# November Speaker

# J.D. Wikert <u>AMAZING ADROMISCHUS</u>

J.D. is a fisheries biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on restoration of habitat for salmon in the Central Valley and lives in Lodi California. Previously, he worked in Florida sampling fish and doing lake restoration. He is a self-trained succulent hobbyist and usually has more than

100 flats of plants in his back (and side) yards. J.D. has been actively propagating succulent plants for over 15 years and has figured out how to kill most succulent species over that time period. He is a member of both the Sacramento and Stockton Cactus and Succulent Societies, and is currently the president (in absentia) for the Stockton Club which plans to resume in person meetings in February.

J.D. presented to the club previously on Stapeliads back in the pre-pandemic days. J.D. will provide a broad overview of the genus Adromischus. The talk will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation as well as providing pictures of some of the more readily available or interesting species.



While J.D. prefers to make his talks interactive, the virtual format makes that more challenging. Hopefully, we will be able to cue up people with questions throughout the presentation.

J.D. will bring sale plants, but you won't be able to purchase any because the meeting is virtual. :) Here's hoping we get back to normal soon.

### **SPEAKER OF THE MONTH** — Continued

J.D. has a number of presentations on succulent plants that he has given in the past, so if you like the current talk but would like more detail on a smaller group of plants, feel free to request any of the others from this list: Aloe, Dudleya, Gasteria, Haworthia, Sedum, Senecio, and Stapeliads.





#### **PLANT OF THE MONTH**

# Haemanthus albiflos

Family: Amaryllidaceae

Common names: white paint brush (Eng.); witpoeierkwas (Afr.); umathunga (Xho.); uzaneke (Zul)

#### Introduction

Haemanthus albiflos is the best known of the three evergreen species of Haemanthus: with its handsome leaves, long flowering season and red berries it is an excellent choice for shady spots in the garden.



Haemanthus flowers

#### Description

*H. albiflos* is a very variable plant growing up to about 10 inches tall when in flower. The oblong leaves vary in color from pale to dark green or greyish-green and are usually smooth and sometimes shiny. They may occasionally be covered with short, soft hairs, or have yellowish spots on the upper surface. The upper half of the bulb is usually exposed above ground and is bright green.

This plant has a long flowering period extending from early Autumn to as late as the end of Winter in the wild, but sporadic blooms may also appear at any time of the year under cultivation. The flower head

[ known as an umbel ] is compact, about 1 – 2 inches wide and consists of numerous erect, narrow white flowers enclosed by several broad, greenish-white bracts. The erect stamens protrude conspicuously beyond the tips of the flowers and their anthers turn bright yellow or orange when ripe. The ripe fruit is a most attractive bright orange or red fleshy berry producing a distinctive musty odor.

#### **Distribution and Habitat**

*Haemanthus albiflos* has a mainly coastal distribution stretching from the Cape of South Africa through many parts of the eastern cape. Unlike most other *Haemanthus* species, which prefer full sun, *H.albiflos* almost always occurs in shady habitats in forests.

*Haemanthus* is a most interesting, endemic southern Africa genus comprising approximately 22 species, the vast majority of which occur in South Africa, in particular the arid region of central and western Namaqualand. All the species are bulbous geophytes with perennial fleshy roots and produce a dense clusterof red, pink or white flowers.

The species from the western parts of southern Africa are all Winter growing with a distinct summer dormant period. Those from the summer rainfall parts are mostly summer-growing and dormant in winter, but there are also three evergreen species in this region, namely *H. albiflos, <u>H.</u>* <u>deformis</u> and *H. pauculifolius*.

#### **PLANT OF THE MONTH - Continued**

# Derivation of Name and Historical Aspects

The name *Haemanthus* is derived from the Greek *haima* meaning blood, a reference to the red flowers of most species, and *anthos* meaning flower. *Albiflos* refers to the white flowers of this particular species.

#### **Ecology and Uses**

Bees and butterflies visit the flowers and are probably the pollinators, but this has not been confirmed.

This plant is reported to be used in traditional medicine to treat chronic coughs and as a charm to ward off lightning.

#### **Growing Haemanthus albiflos**

*H. albiflos* It is an ideal plant for a shady rock garden or for difficult parts of the garden. It is one of the easiest of all the *Haemanthus* species to grow. It requires a dappled shade position similar to that preferred by clivias, and likes to remain undisturbed for many years once established. The soil medium must be well aerated. It also makes an excellent subject for containers, these need not be deep as the roots naturally spread out horizontally. Plants like to become potbound and mature bulbs flower reliably every year, and only need to be divided every seven or eight years.

This article and photos were adapted from <u>plantzafrica.com</u> by M. Mumper



Haemanthus berries



Haemanthus bulbs in shady forest floor



Haemanthus bulb



### President's Message November 2021

The end of 2021 is rapidly approaching and our December meeting traditionally has featured a banquet and plant auction. A virtual auction has been contemplated, but we will need members to contribute fantastic plants to auction off. We will discuss the feasibility of a virtual auction at our November BOD meeting.

Our Society is so fortunate to have several ceramic artists as members. After Maggie Wagner & Ben Trogdon's successful Open Studio sale we were able to purchase 5 unique pots and they also donated 3 more! These will be featured reserve items in upcoming plant giveaway events.

Our good friend Richard Rowe has also been a regular contributor to our giveaways. If you have not been to one the plant/pottery sales in Los Osos you have missed out on a great opportunity to socialize with plant enthusiasts. This month Richard will be our featured vendor at our plant pickup event at the Odd Fellows Hall on November 21. This will be the perfect time to stock up on his custom pottery and transplant all of those succulent plants in plastic pots that need a new home. Richard will contribute 25% of his sales to the Club to help finance our activities. Please come check out his pots---all are welcome even if you don't have a plant to pick up. We will have our new Club t-shirts, hats, stickers & bags for sale also. Remember the Holidays are right around the corner!

Thanks to all of you who have hung in there during the Covid to keep our Club alive. The strong social connections that we have developed have kept us going.

This month Rob will have another fantastic group of plants to distribute as well as the great donation plants from Gene. The October giveaway event really made some members very happy!

Our next Zoom meeting will be November 14 at 2pm. We hope to see you there and at our plant pickup at the OFH November 21 between 1 & 2:30pm.....

Harry

#### **Meeting Minutes**

CCCSS meeting summaries October 10 2021

#### **General Meeting**:

- Present: 47 screens
- President's introduction:
  - Next plant pickup will be 10/17
  - There will be a plant exchange table. No vendor this month. T-shirts, hats & bags will be for sale.
  - Several Board members visited Nipomo HS as a possible "Covid Safe" venue for our Spring Show & Sale. It's an impressive site. There is a large indoor space, a large Quad area and a large covered outdoor space. We can reserve the space without financial obligation.
  - Jose Toll has volunteered her garden for a gathering/tour. She & Kathie Matsuyama will coordinate this activity. Details to follow.
  - Richard Rowe & the We Grow SLO group will be having a plant/pottery sale on October 16 & 17.
- Ron Parker was our speaker today. He gave a really interesting presentation on his exploration of the indigenous people of Arizona and their use of the Agave plant for food and other useful purposes. They developed cultivars and farmed the agaves to meet their tastes and needs. Fascinating! For more info, his book entitled <u>Chasing</u> <u>Centuries: The Search for Ancient Agave Cultivars Across the Desert Southwest.</u> We have a copy of Ron's book in our library (thank you Ann Erb!) which will be available to check out when we meet in person again. Thank you Ron!
- The plant giveaway followed Ron's presentation.

#### **BOD Meeting:**

• Treasurer's report: We had income from membership and sales. One-time expenses included insurance, taxes and t-shirt printing.

### **Meeting Minutes**

- There was discussion regarding the pros/cons of moving the S&S to Nipomo HS. Another site visit will be planned. A couple of other options were discussed---Cuesta College & the Botanical Garden. These options will be explored as well.
- A member exchange table will be set up for the 10/17 pickup.
- Harry will contact local pottery/plant vendors to see if anyone is interested in selling at our next 2 pickup events. Kathy Goss will inquire about general members being able to sell at the pickup event as well. (Do they need a resale license?)
- There was discussion regarding a virtual auction at the December meeting. We would need to have quality plants donated or sold (with a percentage donated to the Club. Will discuss this at the November meeting to see if there is interest. Bill will schedule a speaker for the December meeting.

#### Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



**ASK ME** 



#### 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 <u>Active Member of CCCSS</u> 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: <u>AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org</u>

**Happy Growing!** 









Photos by K.Matsuyama

#### **BREAKING NEWS**..... GARDEN GATHERINGS ARE COMING BACK!!!

It's been a little over two years since our last Garden Gathering at the inimitable garden of Harry and Mary Harlow on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It was the second event for Harry and Mary who had also hosted in July of 2017 during the inaugural year of Garden Gatherings.

We are so happy to report that a CCCSS member in Pismo Beach has offered to host a Garden Gathering probably within the next month. Details are still being worked out. But if you are interested in attending, please contact Paul and Kathie's email at the end of this article.

And please let us know if you are interested in hosting a Garden Gathering event!

#### New to CCCSS? Here are the FAQs about Garden Gatherings:

**Why:** CCCSS club is large and growing; it's hard to connect with other cactophiles at our Zoom meetings and huge in-person meetings.

**What:** "Garden Gatherings" are a chance to meet club members in a fun, casual garden setting. Food and a tour of the member's garden are the focus of the events.

Where: Gatherings take place in a CCCSS member's garden.

Who: Participants must be CCCSS members. The host decides the number of guests.

When: Hosts pick the date and time for the event. Events average 1 to 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours.

**Help:** Event pre-planning, organization, sign-up and email coordination with your guests is all capably managed by Paul and Kathie!

We are looking for Garden hosts for 2021! Let us know if you are interested! Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at <a href="https://www.uvbigdogs@earthlink.net">https://www.uvbigdogs@earthlink.net</a>

PS We will miss our former Garden Gathering Co-Hostess **Susan Ross** who moved to Washington State to garden where it rains.



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# A Season for Giving! A Season for Growing! **Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale** plus a special HANDCRAFTED GIFT MARKET!

DECEMBER 4 (SATURDAY) & 5 (SUNDAY)

10AM - 4PM 2016 9TH STREET, LOS OSOS





Rare and unusual plants for the water wise garden Steve Super Gardens - 805.801.9973 - stevesupergardens@gmail.com stevesupergardens.com - on Etsy: SteveSuperGardens

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Unique, well-grown succulent plants for the Central Coast The Succ Shack - 805.602.7817 - calcoastsucculents@gmail.com Find our pop-up locations on Instagram: TheSuccShack

Amazing succulent plants for containers and landscape GROW Nursery/Botanica Nova - 805.305.9292 - nick@grownursery.com grownursery.com - 2024 Main Street in Cambria (enter through The Garden Shed)

AND a gift market featuring Wanderlust Jewelry by Cindy Rivera, silk scarves by Jeanne Miller, plus many more handcrafted gift items!



Masks and distancing, please.

**NO EARLY BROWSING. NO EARLY SALES.** 

FOR UPDATES

A portion of proceeds benefits SLO Food Bank, a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to work with a network of community partners to alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo county and build a healthier community.



### From Mary Peracca:

I will be selling my ceramic planters at this Holiday Sale in Santa Margarita on Saturday Nov. 20th, 10:00-4:00.

There will be a variety of other vendors including jewelry, goods from Nepal and ceramic mugs and bowls. You can do your holiday shopping in one place with hand made goods! This is a benefit sale and 20% of the sales will go to the ECHO Homeless Shelter for meals. I'll look forward to seeing my cactus and succulent friends there!



Happy members showing up to our Plant Giveaway on Sunday October 17th at the Odd Fellows parking lot.

















### **Notes From Our Library: What's That Plant?**

As gardeners, many of us have found that when trying to identify a particular plant, the best source is another gardener! However, if an expert is not available, we turn to other sources like books or even cell phones. Yes, there are apps for our cell phones that can easily be used for plant identification. You take a picture, and the app attempts to identify the plant.

Three free apps that you can try are:

**PlantNet**: This app's description claims that it can recognize over 20,000 species. It is available for both I-Phone and Androids. Tutorials on how to use the app are available on YouTube.

**Plant Snap**: This app claims that it can identify 90% of all known species of plants. (This free version contains ads. You must pay for the ad-free version.) It is available for both I-Phone and Androids.

**iNaturalist**: This is a website and app. The app is available for I-Phone, and can be accessed through Google Play on Androids. One difference with this app is that identifies both plants and animals. It was developed as a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and National Geographic. There is a good tutorial of how to use it on YouTube.

If you have books about plants of the five Mediterranean climate areas that could use a new home, please consider donating them to the library. Contact <u>info@slobg.org</u>.

# Garden Founder Walk & Talk 1st Wednesday of every month, 11:00AM-12:00PM

Walk and talk with Eve Vigil in the Botanical Garden each month on the first Wednesday from 11 am to 12 pm! Join Eve on **October 6th** in the Garden.

Subjects may touch on the Garden's history, what's in bloom, important maintenance – when and why – or whatever interests the group. Meet new people and learn great tips and tricks for having a stunning water-frugal garden.

# Birds and Botany Walk 4th Thursday of every month, 8:00-10:00AM

The Garden is excited to continue our monthly bird walk series which explores the intersection of birds and botany!

This walk, led by Mark Mushkat and Ken Levine on **October 28th**, will focus on birdlife among the plants of the Garden. Allow for a two-hour exploration, on mostly flat terrain, we expect to see and hear a wide variety of avian species as they feed, hide, nest, and defend territory in the garden's lush habitat.









# Free Family Day at the Garden on Friday, November 26th

Instead of shopping online or at the big box stores on Black Friday, take in the wonders of nature with your family and friends. The Garden is offering free admission that day and children will have an opportunity to try a free nature journaling activity! You never know what you might see. Consider it a microadventure!



#### Fall Succulent Arrangement Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:00 AM 12:00 PM

#### Join us this fall for a memorable mid-morning mashup of two of the gardens favorite things: drought tolerant succulents, arts and crafts!

Jayne Devencenzi, a long time educator and volunteer at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden will show participants how to create a living succulent pumpkin you can use throughout the fall season and as a centerpiece for Thanksgiving. It will last for many months until the pumpkin eventually rots away and then you can transplant the succulents into a pot or the soil.

We will provide the succulents, although if you have some at home, please bring some cuttings. The more variety we have the better! Sign up early as this class fill quickly.

Participants are reminded to BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin!) We recommend a reasonably large one. Pumpkins with a flat top are best, such as Cinderella pumpkins. Optional items are clippers and glue guns. We will have some, but having extras will be helpful.

Pricing: Public - \$65, Garden Member - \$55 Succulent Workshop

## The Five Cities Orchid Society invites you to Our Orchid Talk Series

Miniature Orchids by Marni Turkel Thursday, November 11, 2021 7:00 PM 9:00 PM

Explore the fascinating world of miniature orchids with Marni Turkel. From windowsill growers to those cultivated indoors under lights to those that can be tucked into corners of your greenhouse, Marni shares her wealth of experience growing these miniature gems of the orchid world. Join us for a Zoom presentation by Marni.

# Sign up at <u>www.fcos.org/subscribe</u> to receive the zoom link.

Marni Turkel (pronounced tur KELL) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and has been growing orchids since 1980. She grows in four greenhouses in Santa Rosa with approximately 1250 sq ft of growing space. Her main interest is in miniature species but plenty of larger plants have crept into the collection as well. Marni has been a contributor to Orchids magazine with her series called 'Well Worth the Space' and 'Give It a Rest'. Her articles have been translated into Dutch, German, Portuguese and Swedish for international publication. Photographs of her plants have been feature in articles noted orchid publications including Orchids Magazine, Orchid Digest, Richardiana, The Orchid Review,



and The Australian Orchid Review. For the last few years she has been sharing her photographs and knowledge on <u>OrchidsForum.com</u>.

Starting in 2009, Marni expanded her work with orchids to include propagation of orchids from seed and has set up a flasking lab of her own to take the process from start to finish and sell flasks of many of the orchids species in her collection. After working for over 43 years as a potter, she has retired from ceramics to pursue orchids full-time.

Article from the *Nature Magazine*, October 2021

# A Prickly Proposition

THE SILER PINCUSHION IS A RARE AND

rather particular cactus. Currently listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the spiny, pineapple-sized plant occurs only across a narrow band of desert in southwestern Utah and northwestern Arizona. Some of its limited habitat falls within The Nature Conservancy's 800acre White Dome Nature Preserve in St. George, Utah; some of it falls in an adjacent area slated for development.

To protect that stronghold of succulents from being bulldozed, TNC relocated 91 healthy specimens to its preserve a couple of hundred yards away. But the transfer was a painstaking process: The spiked orbs are tricky to handle, and volunteers and botanists had to carefully dig a large radius around each plant to preserve its long, thin roots, which grow laterally to optimize water absorption during the region's infrequent rain showers.

"It's really important that we try to save them," says Elaine York, west desert regional director for TNC in Utah, noting that other threats to *Pediocactus sileri* include off-road vehicle use and disturbance from mining and mineral exploration. The transplanted cohort will be monitored over the next two years in hopes that at least 60% will survive. Regardless of how many do, though, the project's impact will endure, York says. "It will help inform future efforts to relocate rare plants and preserve biodiversity." –C.Z. ROOT LENGTH Up to 3 feet long

#### RANGE

Southwestern Utah and northwestern Arizona

**CONSERVATION STATUS** Threatened

HABITAT

Gypsiferous clay and sandy soils

DIMENSIONS

About 9.8 inches tall by 4.7 inches wide

#### THREATS

Off-road vehicle use, trampling by cattle and mineral exploration

**GROWING PAINS:** Cultivating the Siler pincushion in nurseries has not been successful because the environment it favors is hard to replicate.

### **BRAG PLANTS**

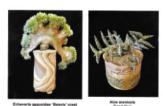


Please send photos of your Brag Plants to me before the end of each month and I will post them in the newsletter!

*Leuchtenbergia* From Carol Mortensen



32 Different Flash Cards

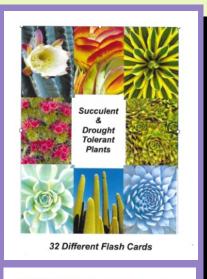






Symnocalycium baldianum

32 Different Planted Succulents including Cacti & Crests





32 Different Succulents w/names in Landscape & Close-up Professional Photographer and club member, Linda Drake, has produced 2 different sets-32 cards each size (5 1/2 X 4 1/4) of SUCCULENT Identification-Flash cards for sale. The cost is \$15 for a set. If interested, you can text or call Linda to make an order at 805.748.7405

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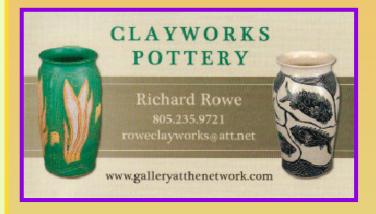


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