



# ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is October 10th beginning at 2:00 online with Zoom. Watch for the e-mail.

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Ron Parker	Brag Plants
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Our Guest Speaker:

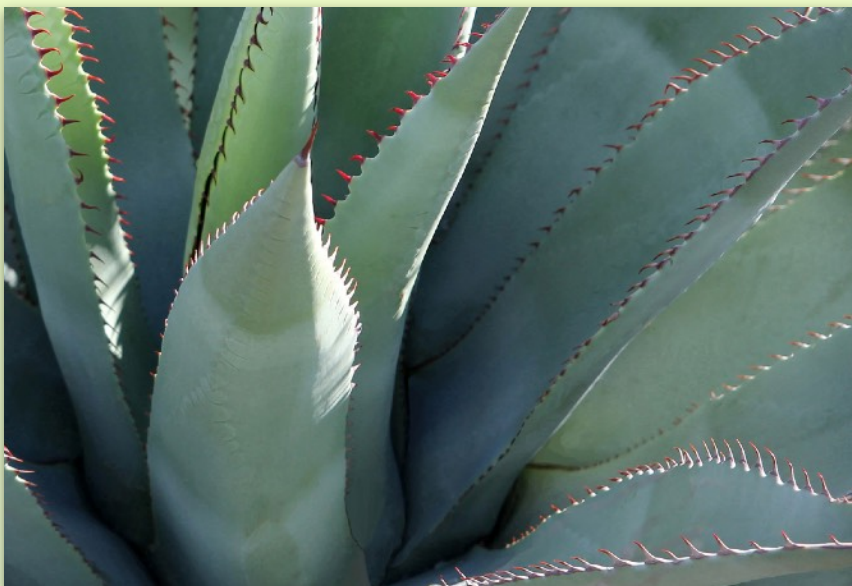
Ron Parker, "Agaveville"



Ron Parker will be speaking on "The Search for Ancient Agave Cultivars Across the Desert Southwest", which ties SW archaeology to agaves in a very meaningful way. It's actually a really fun subject that considers an aspect of agave distribution few have considered. He will give a quick backdrop on the ancient cultures that developed these agave cultivars, as well as their reasons for doing so, before going deep and examining the plants themselves, and then finally considering their fate.

## SPEAKER OF THE MONTH – Continued

Ron Parker is an outdoorsman, xeric plant enthusiast, and amateur botanist who spends half his time gardening and the other half exploring natural habitat across Arizona and neighboring states, primarily chasing agaves and archaeological sites. He has been studying agave populations in Arizona for many years, and has been out in the field with renowned botanists and regional archaeologists.



*Agave verdensis*



*Agave phillipsiana*

# Bursera (Elephant Trees)



Jacquin ex Linnaeus 1762

Named for Joachim Burser (1583-1639) Danish botanist

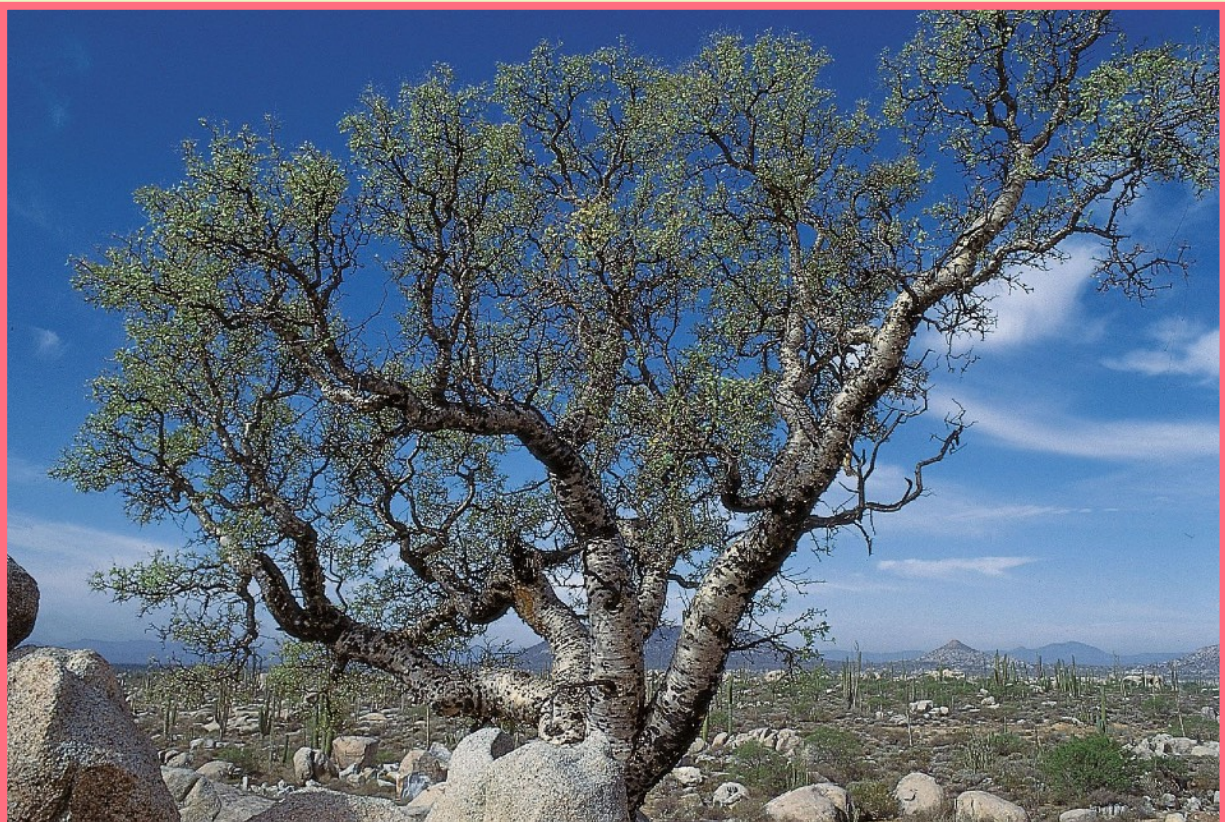
The genus *Bursera* includes 100 species of shrubs and trees native to the Americas distributed in tropical forests from Southern USA and the Caribbean islands to Northern Argentina. More than 80 species are found in Mexico and half of these are from the states of Guerrero, Michoacán and Oaxaca. Several species are succulent with thickened, pachycaul trunks swollen with water-bearing tissues.

Many species of *Bursera* have aromatic resins in their bark and wood which are released when rubbed. *Bursera microphylla* is one of the most aromatic members of this genus.

These low spreading trees grow up to 10 feet tall with thickened succulent trunks, often twisted, whose green bark becomes white-ochre and peels in papery strips. The pinnate leaves have 3 - 15 leaflets and are produced as a response to rain. The bark and leaves are highly aromatic, similar to camphor, with a resin that can be collected for use as an incense similar to myrrh. Five-petalled creamy-white flowers appear in early Summer.

*Bursera microphylla* is distributed from South-Western Arizona and California into Baja California and the Mexican state of Sonora. A significant group of Elephant Trees grows at the bottom end of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, California. The aromatic resins discourage predation by herbivores and were used in traditional medicine and as a sealant for boats and pottery.

[succulent-plant.com](http://succulent-plant.com)



# PLANT OF THE MONTH - Continued



Closeup of leaves and fruit



Seedlings



Beauty



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## President's Message September 29, 2021

Autumn is upon us with shorter, crisper days giving our plants a much needed break from 100 degree temperatures here in the North County. The Club plants that we take care of will be happy with the cooler temperatures. Our good friend, Gene Schroeder, has promised to donate more of his cactus plants for our monthly giveaway events. Thank you again Gene for this and for describing the plants at the monthly meetings. We learn so much from you.

Our plant pick up event in September went very well considering that the parking lot entrance was under construction! The front sidewalk of the OFH turned out to be a good location to set up and parking enforcement personnel did not bother us. The construction project is supposed to be completed before our plant pick up day in October. The plant exchange table proved to be a popular addition to the plant giveaway. Everyone was able to get a plant that pleased them.

Having a vendor at the event was also quite a success. Mary Peracca's fantastic pottery was on display and sales seemed to be going quite well. I purchased two large pots that we will feature in December's Holiday event. Vendors contribute 25% of their sales to the Club which will generate some welcome income to cover our expenses. Our stylish Club t-shirts were also available for sale. Thanks to Natasha Erickson for her hard work on this project (and thanks for her beautiful design!). The shirts will be for sale at future in person events as well as CCCSS hats and stickers.

At the October 17<sup>th</sup> pick up event we are planning to set up a table for a member plant exchange. If you have a plant, pot or cutting that you would like to exchange for something else, bring it to the pickup event between 1pm and 2:30pm.

Our Show & Sale committee members have been exploring alternate sites to host our next S&S. We are looking at venues with adequate fenced outdoor space so that we can provide a safe environment for the event. I'll give an update at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting if anything interesting develops. It is with sadness that we are considering leaving the Ludwick Center where CCCSS has hosted such amazing shows and sales of beautiful and unusual plants.

Respectfully,

Harry Harlow



# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

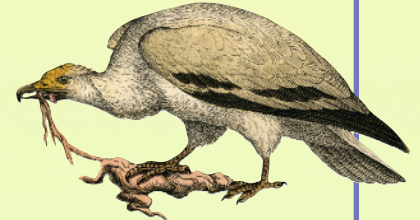


CCCSS meetings summary September 12, 2021

## General Meeting

- There was discussion before the regular meeting about sharing the Zoom link with individuals who may be interested in attending the meetings, but who are not on the list to receive the link. It was decided that it was fine for the link to be shared with interested individuals. Loring will note that in the invitation that he sends out.

## Zoom screens: 62



- Harry's announcements:
  - Thanks to members for paying dues and for attending meetings
  - Plant pickup will be September 19, 1pm-2:30pm. We will have a few extra plants available so you can exchange the plant you received in the giveaway with another plant if you like. Mary Peracca will be selling her pottery & we hope to have t-shirts for sale.
  - Reminder that the Show & Sale that was scheduled for September 25 & 26 has been postponed until Spring 2022.
  - Budgeting will be the topic of discussion at today's BOD meeting.
  - December Holiday Party: Not sure if we will be able to meet in person. If we have to meet via Zoom we need to think about ideas for the meeting. Maybe a "Live" Auction of beautiful plants?? Let the BOD know if you have any ideas.
- Today's speaker was Jeff Chemnick from Santa Barbara's "Aloes in Wonderland". His home was destroyed during the Tea Fire in 2008 and his gardens were severely impacted. He has since rebuilt his home and surprisingly most of the gardens recovered. He took us on a tour of the fantastic garden. He said that pretty much "everything is for sale" so if you want to schedule a visit to his place contact him at [AloesinWonderland.com](http://AloesinWonderland.com) & schedule a visit. **Thank you Jeff!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued



### BOD meeting:

- Budgetary items were discussed:
  - The Odd Fellows have reduced our rent again since we have gone back to Zoom meetings. We can still use the parking lot for our plant giveaways & other activities.
  - Vendors will donate 25% of sales to the Club when they sell items at our giveaway event (this is the same percentage as at the S&S).
  - Regarding the S&S expenses. We did purchase some credit card chip readers which we will be able to use in the future. We are in negotiations with the table rental company regarding a refund or credit for the table rental.
  - Kathy Goss, Treasurer reviewed our expected income/ expenses for the coming year. Financially we are doing OK for now. Membership & vendor sales at the plant giveaways & a possible plant auction will generate some income. Hopefully next year we will be able to have some version of a Show & Sale.
  - Membership: 104 paid members
- Parking: Harry is still in contact with the folks at Reis Mortuary. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic they have been having more services on Sundays. When we are able to meet in person again we will try to see if we can use their parking lot. If you have a Handicapped placard you can park in the restricted parking spaces on Dana St.
- Board members are looking at other venues for the 2022 S&S. Hopefully we can find a venue that will be Covid safe. Preferably with some covered outdoor space.





### CCCSS ASK US: WE WILL TRY TO HELP!!

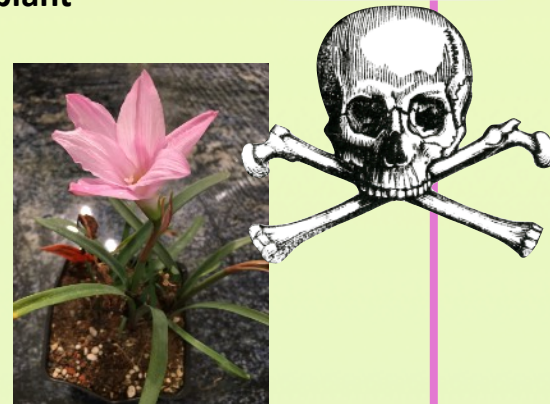
Do you have a prickly cactus question or an inscrutable succulent issue? The CCCSS ASK ME TABLE can now be accessed VIRTUALLY. Send your questions to our venerable expert Cactophile Gene Schroeder and Succulentophile Kathie Matsuyama. Due to the overwhelming number of ASK ME requests, you must be an 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](mailto:AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org)

Happy Growing!







### ASK ME TABLE ANSWERS:

#### SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT AGAVE SNOUT WEEVILS & GRUBS?

The topic of agave snout-nosed weevils came to the attention of the **Virtual ASK ME Table** last week. Debra Lee Baldwin recently circulated an email regarding snout-nosed weevils and grubs. YIKES! It got our attention. If you are not aware of this serious and rapidly spreading new succulent pest, please keep reading and be sure to watch Debra Lee's YouTube video on this topic!

**ARE YOU INFESTED?** Debra Lee's new video shows how to tell at a glance if an agave is under attack, how to test how bad it is with your fingertips, and what to do when this global menace finds your prized succulents...or your next-door neighbors'.

**GET THE WORD OUT:** Copy and paste the alert from Debra Lee's webpage onto your neighborhood forum and send it to garden club members and friends who might benefit.

**GARDEN PEST ALERT:** The agave snout-nosed weevil spreads rapidly and kills large succulents. Don't wait for signs of infestation; take preventative measures now to protect your agaves, furcraeas (an agave relative), beaucarneas (ponytail palm), yuccas and mangaves. Please keep your yard from becoming a weevil breeding ground! Learn more:

<https://debraleebaldwin.com/caring-for-succulents/agave-snout-weevil-prevention-treatment/>

**DEBRA LEE'S YouTube VIDEO:** In her video, "Agave Snout Weevil Prevention and Treatment," Debra Lee demonstrates how to inspect nursery agaves, shows resistant varieties, and interviews agave expert Kelly Griffin at an infested colony of *Agave americana*. Kelly also talks about applying a systemic insecticide as a prophylactic (preventive) option.

The weevil---once prevalent only in desert regions and Mexico---is spreading rapidly throughout the US and abroad, earning it the dubious distinction of being one of the "Top 100 Worst Global Invasive Species."

**Do you have a question for the ASK ME TABLE? If you are a CCCSS member, send your question to Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama at:**

[AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org](mailto:AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org)

**Happy Growing!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

## Good Golly - it's Cal Poly!

*Cal Poly Horticulture, our first-ever Guest Vendor, is bringing a TROPICAL twist to our*

## Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale

OCTOBER 16 (SATURDAY) & 17 (SUNDAY)

10AM - 4PM

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[grownursery.com](http://grownursery.com) - 2024 Main Street in Cambria (enter through The Garden Shed)

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FOR UPDATES:  
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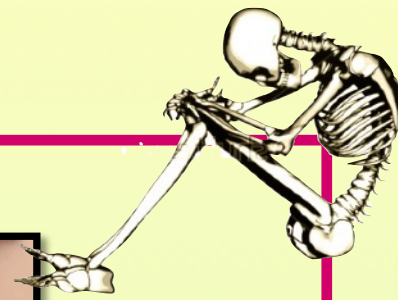


**Masks and physical distancing REQUIRED.**  
**NO EARLY BROWSING. NO EARLY SALES.**



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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued



## OPEN STUDIO ART TOUR - Ben Trogdon & Maggie Wagner

Come Join Us at SLO Open Studio – Saturday Oct 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 5pm (First Weekend Only)

**Handmade ceramic bowls, dishes, succulent planters and succulent plants  
Greenhouse tour, wheel throwing demonstrations, and refreshments**

### Directions:

**At the home of Ben Trogdon & Robin Shroyer**

273 Blue Sky Drive – Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Go through the Village of Arroyo Grande toward Lopez Lake

Take Hausna Road/Lopez Drive about 3.3 miles

Turn on Blue Sky Drive - Follow Signs up the hill to 3<sup>rd</sup> House on the Left

Animals in Need Fund Staff & Volunteers will be present selling t-shirts and decals (a portion of all sales will be donated to AINF)





## Annual Fall Plant Sale

Mark your calendars & join us in the garden for our biggest event of the season!

# FALL PLANT SALE '21

FRIDAY OCTOBER 22- MEMBERS ONLY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23- PUBLIC

10AM-5PM

SHOP NATIVE AND  
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PLANTS TO SUPPORT  
THE GARDEN

### MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- 15% OFF PLANT SALE AND GIFT SHOP (ARTIST CONSIGNMENT NOT INCLUDED)
- EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO PLANT SALE BEFORE THE PUBLIC
- FREE PLANT FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS



VISIT [SLOBG.ORG](http://SLOBG.ORG)  
FOR MEMBER DEALS,  
PLANT LISTS & MORE!

FREE GARDEN

ADMISSION!!

SATURDAY OCT 23



*San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden*  
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SAN LUIS OBISPO

[SLOBG.ORG](http://SLOBG.ORG)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

Plant Pick-up for those members winning the raffle at the meeting on Sept. 12. Remember, you have to attend the online meeting to be entered into the raffle. This was a wonderful sunny Sunday September 19 to see so many members. Mary Peracca was there to sell her pottery Natasha was there selling club t-shirts.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued



Leisa's new shirt



BRAG PLANTS

From Mary & Harry Harlow



Ariocarpus in bloom



Showing plant damage from deer. Just so folks can get a glimpse of what we're dealing with up here in rural Santa Margarita...ha!.



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### Peracca's Prickly Pottery

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You can advertise on these pages by becoming a Business Member of CCCSS.



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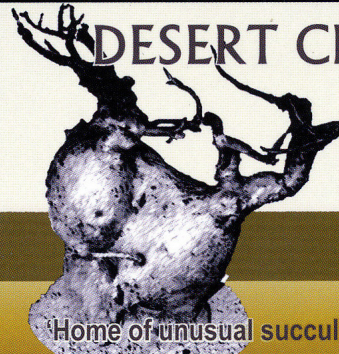
[www.slogrowers.com](http://www.slogrowers.com)

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**General Club Email Address:**  
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# A HAPPY HALLOWEEN

