



*ON THE DRY SIDE*

The next meeting is Sunday  
December 12 at 2:00 online with  
Zoom. Watch for the e-mail.

*In This Issue:*

*December Auction*

*Plant of the Month*

*Taking a break*



*Announcements*

*Message from President*

*Meeting Minutes*

*CCCSS Ask Us*

*Garden Gatherings*

*+ others*

*Brag Plants*

*Business Members, Board*

## Exciting News: "December Virtual Auction"

**This month we will not have a speaker but we will have an auction (virtually).**

Each December we have a holiday party with lots of good food as well as a plant, pottery and cactus art auction. We won't be having our in-person get together but we will still have an auction! At our regular Zoom meeting (December 12<sup>th</sup>) we will show you how you can bid in our virtual holiday auction. The auction is hosted on line with a non-profit site called Better World. This is the same platform that the Five Cities Orchid Society uses (<https://www.fcos.org/>). It is easy to use and you can get some cool collector plants.

The auction will be starting after the meeting ends on December 12<sup>th</sup> and will close on Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. If you are the winning bidder you will pay through the web site and pickup the plant on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the Odd Fellows Hall from 1pm until 2:30pm (same as giveaway plant pickup). If you sold a plant or item through the auction, please bring it to the pickup at 1pm. You must be a member to sell but anyone can bid as long as they pickup the item on the 19<sup>th</sup>. All items not picked up on the 19<sup>th</sup> will be assumed as a donation to the club. Below you will find a few pictures of items that will be in the auction.

Here is a link to the auction starting December 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. You can preview the auction:

<https://cccss.betterworld.org/auctions/cccsholiday-auction>



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## President's Message December 2021

The Holiday season is here again and our traditional December banquet is only a fond memory. This year we are planning a fun December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting on Zoom at 2pm. No formal presentation is scheduled. As a substitute Bill Findley will showcase and describe our member auction plants and pottery. If you have not already entered a plant, please consider doing so. Send several pictures with text describing the plant's name and relevant care instructions to Bill at [coolcactuskid805@gmail.com](mailto:coolcactuskid805@gmail.com). The Club receives 25% of the purchase price to fund our activities. Of course, you could donate the entire proceeds to the Club is you wish.

We will also feature our popular plant giveaway event to members who remain online during the meeting. We have been distributing 44 items each month to lucky winners. This month reserve items will feature pottery from our talented member artists.

I would like to thank all of you who have been gathering with us at the OFH during the plant pick up every third Sunday afternoon. **Note:** Remember that you may attend this event even if you did not win a plant. This get together has morphed into an informal Society meeting with the best part being able to socialize with our friends. We can swap giveaway plants if we want, we can pick up items on the free exchange table and we can buy plants and pottery from our vendors. There are also Club t-shirts, hats and CCCSS stickers for sale.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> at the pick up event the auction plants are scheduled to arrive at 1pm and remain on a display table until 2pm so that everyone can admire the "Show". At 2pm the plants may be claimed by their buyers. We also have 3 vendors scheduled to sell that day: Linda Drake (plants & photography.), Maggie Wagner (pottery) & Mary Peracca (pottery). The event will end at 3pm.

A Committee has been formed to recruit new officers to serve on the Board of Directors for CCCSS. If you have been thinking how interesting it would be to get more involved with the Society's activities, please contact Loring Manley or Pat Gilson. Thank you for considering this opportunity!

Hope to see you on Zoom, Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and at the Odd Fellows Hall December 19<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm.....Harry

# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued



## CCCSS Meeting summaries November 14 2021

### General meeting:

- Screens: 54
- President's announcements
  - Plant giveaway pick up 1-2:30 11/21
  - Gene Schroeder donated 3 more flats of plants for giveaway
  - A Garden Gathering will be held 12/4 at Laura Oliver's house in Grover Beach. Contact Kathie Matsuyama to reserve a spot
- Mary Peracca announced her upcoming pottery sale at Calliwalla Market in Santa Margarita on 11/20 from 10-4.
- Bill Findley reported on the planned plant auction at the December meeting. The Club will get 25% of the selling price. Using an auction website (Used by the Orchid Society) will be discussed at today's BOD meeting. If you have a plant to sell, send photos to Bill Findley. Bill will be sending a detailed email to members regarding how the auction will be conducted.
- Speaker: JD Wilkert. JD is a fisheries biologist and lives in Lodi, Ca.
  - The topic today was Adromischus. JD stated that he is not a specialist in succulent plants, but he loves to study & learn about them and then share what he learns. He shared a wealth of information starting with a review of how plants are categorized: genus, species and variety. Always good to review these basics!
  - He shared many photos of this interesting genus. They are small in size, fairly easy to grow, hearty and can be easily propagated from
  - Thank you JD for your interesting discussion on Adromischus. We hope to see you again for another presentation on succulent plant growing.
- The meeting adjourned after the plant giveaway.



### **BOD meeting:**

- Treasurer's report: We received income from memberships & merchandise sales. Expenses included speaker fees, sales tax & bookkeeper fee
- There was continued discussion about the feasibility of using Nipomo High School for our Spring Show & Sale. Bill Findley drew out some plans of the layout for review. Another site visit will be arranged by Pat.
- After the site visit, Harry will arrange the first meeting for Show & Sale committee members.
- December Auction: Bill presented information on using the "Better World" site as our "auctioneer". They specialize in managing auctions for non-profit organizations. The BOD approved this plan.
- In December we will present the Auction Plants and have a plant giveaway. No speaker will be scheduled.
- Rob has a few reserve plants to cover Dec & Jan meetings. He will procure more plants after the Jan meeting.
- A nominating committee for recruiting next year's BOD officers was formed. Loring Manley & Pat Gilson are the committee members.
- There was discussion about holding our Jan meeting in person. We could possibly do in person & Zoom as well. No decision was made. BOD will notify members in Jan if an in person meeting will be held.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



### **Hi Cactus and Succulent lovers!**

**Mary Peracca** will be selling my ceramic planters on Sunday Dec. 19th from 1:00-3:00. Last chance for holiday gifts for friends and family or yourself! See you there!

**Maggie Wagner** will be selling pottery and **Linda Drake** will be selling plants.





### 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

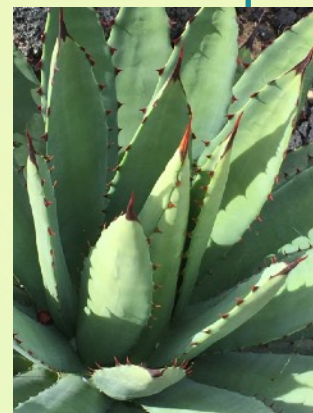
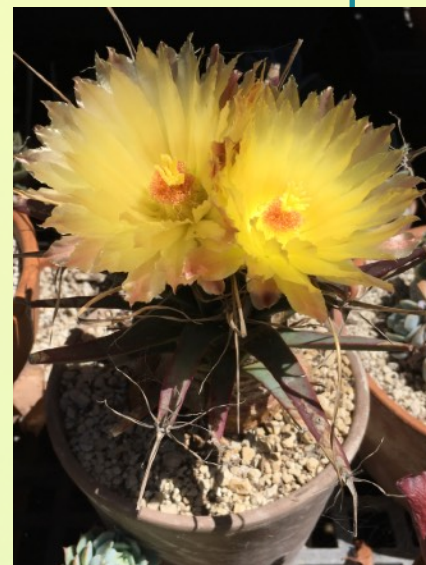
- Propagation

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!



Photos by K. Matsuyama





## GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

***On Saturday December 4, 2021, our first Garden Gathering since October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 was held at **Laura Oliver**'s home in Grover Beach. Unfortunately, our December newsletter went to press ahead of the event. Stay tuned for the January newsletter for a complete recap of the event!!***

As a preview, I will mention that what I saw at my walk-through of Laura's garden made my head explode! Laura has an incredible collection of expertly cultivated cactus and succulents in a multitude of genera. It was truly astounding. Every nook and cranny of Laura's yard was packed with perfect potted plants.



Stay tuned for the January newsletter and the comments and reactions of the Laura Oliver Garden Gathering event participants. (I can't wait to see how many of ***their*** heads explode!)





GARDEN GATHERING NEWS cont'd

We are booking time slots for Garden Gatherings for next year. Loring Manley's great garden and greenhouse are being scheduled for April 2022. If you are starting to pencil events into your 2022 calendar, 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 is 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 1-1½ hours.
- \* ***Help:*** Event pre-planning, organization, sign-up and email coordination with your guests is all capably managed by Paul and Kathie!

**Interested in hosting a Garden Gathering in 2022?**

**Contact Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at [luvbigdogs@earthlink.net](mailto:luvbigdogs@earthlink.net)**

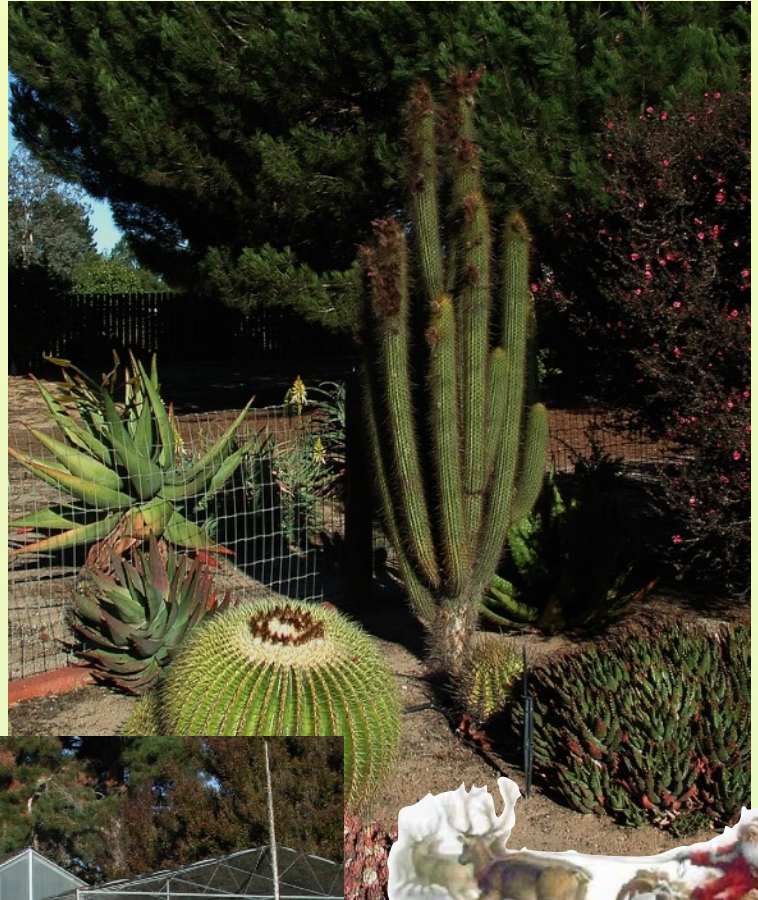




# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

## An Invite From Gene Schroeder . .

The winter aloe bloom season is kicking off at my place now. We are in the middle of a landscape project but most of the good stuff is visable from a street drive by. It will continue through early Jan unless we get an unusual frost so all are welcome to drive by or stop in to see why I love Aloes.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

### **FIVE CITIES ORCHID SOCIETY PRESENTS:**

Fragrant Orchids by Stephen Frownie  
December 9th, 7 pm

Steven Frownie has been obsessed with orchids since growing them in his parent's basement when he was in high school. Author of numerous books including "Orchids for Dummies" and "Fragrant Orchids: A Guide to Selecting, Growing and Enjoying" tonight's Zoom presentation will focus on all aspects of orchid fragrance. Steven holds a B.S. and Master's Degree in horticulture from Ohio State University and Cornell University. He has tended orchids at the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii and at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Stephen currently resides in Asheville, SC.

To receive the link go to <https://www.fcoss.org/subscribe> and sign up for the FCOS Newsletter.



Horticulturist Steven A. Frownie is a consultant to the green industry and an active garden writer and speaker. He has tended orchids at the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii and at Missouri Botanical Garden, where he managed one of the largest orchid collections in the United States—over 10,000 plants. Steve has passionately grown orchids in his home and is vice president of the Connecticut Orchid Society. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in horticulture from Ohio State University and Cornell University respectively.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued



## Upcoming Events

### **Garden Founder-Eve Vigil Walk & Talk 1st Tuesday of every month, 11:00AM-12:00PM**

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. Free garden tour. Donations encouraged!

**Walk and Talk**

### **Free Day At The Garden! Saturday, December 11, 2021 10AM-4PM**

Join us at the SLOBG on Saturday, 12/11/21 for our FREE admission day from 10am-4pm! Bring the whole family and make a day of nature & exploration! Pick up your special Scavenger Hunt at the Garden Gift Shop when you arrive.

**We look forward to seeing you soon!**

### **Monthly Bird (and Botany!) Walk 8AM-10AM**

**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 **December 16**, 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.

Visit [slobg.org](http://slobg.org) or click the link below to for more information or to get your tickets now!





# ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued



*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



We will be next to La Casita Mexican Restaurant. Four local plant vendors and potters - Steve Super Gardens, Rowe Clayworks, Calcoast Succulents/The Succ Shack, and GROW Nursery are bringing an amazing lineup of succulent plants and gorgeous handmade planters. Enjoy a special holiday gift market with gorgeous **hand-crafted jewelry** by Cindy Rivera (Wanderlust Jewelry), lustrous **hand-painted pure silk scarves** by Jeanne Miller ([jeannemillerart.com](http://jeannemillerart.com)), and incredible **hand-carved wood spoons** by Jean Obermeier – high-quality gifts made with care by local artists. PLUS a collection of pre-owned plant books for just \$2 each (great plant-geek gifts!) Get expert help with plant selection, care and placement. No early browsing/no early sales. FREE and open to the public. Masks and physical distancing requested for everyone's safety. A portion of proceeds will benefit **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.



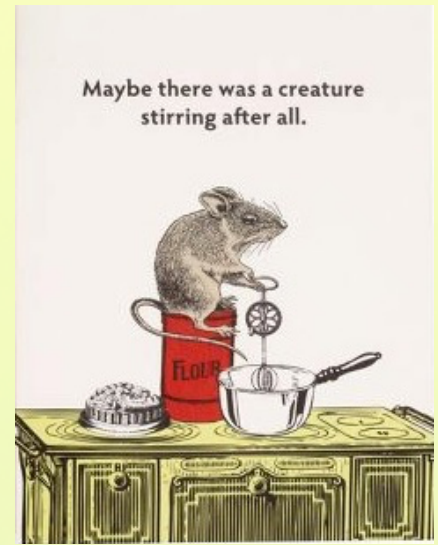


## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

Sunday's "Plant Give Away" to meeting attendees from our previous Sunday Zoom meeting.. As always, lots going on.



Richard Rowe was selling his pots.



Karen brings plants to give away and helps Harry and Mary with handing out plants.



Maggie and Markus selling their amazing plants.



## BRAG PLANTS

Please send photos of your brag plants to [carolmortensen0@gmail.com](mailto:carolmortensen0@gmail.com) for the next newsletter.



*Oxalis fabaefolia* from C Mortensen

Maybe not so much 'brag', but keep watch on those persistent agaves crawling through the bricks.





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  
STEVESUPERGARDENS@CHARTER.NET

### CLAYWORKS POTTERY



Richard Rowe

805.235.9721

roweclayworks@att.net

www.galleryatthenetwork.com



Travel Photographer  
of the Year

### LINDA DRAKE PHOTOGRAPHY

15% FOR CCSS MEMBERS



2024 MAIN ST | GROWNURSERY.COM | 805.924.1340

Follow us!

Instagram: @thesuccshack

Facebook: CalCoast Succulents

Jeanne Miller 805.602.7817

Mike Bush 805.452.6817

CalCoast  
Succulents

calcoastsucculents@gmail.com

### PLANTERA PRIMAL

Stoneware ceramic planters and tiles fired with solar generated electricity. See website for sales venues. Contact for private appointment.



Charles Varni, Oceano, CA

Ph 805.459.6698

www.varni.org

charles@varni.org



### Cal Seedling Co.

Jenna Cismowski

Assist. Office Mgr/Customer Service

1149 Arboles Way  
Arroyo Grande Ca 93420

805-489-6548  
jenna@calseedling.com  
www.calseedling.com



Please try to support local businesses as much as possible, including our valued Business Members on these pages. Click on images to visit their websites or to contact them via email. Many will take online or phone orders. Some are now on Etsy!

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



We Have Four Locations To Serve You

224 Tank Farm Road  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
805.543.3751 • FAX 805.543.0613

1108 Paso Robles Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
805.238.1177 • FAX 805.238.3527

1079 El Camino Real  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
805.489.5514 • FAX 805.473.7263

1920 N. Broadway  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
805.922.2737 • FAX 805.922.6982

# SLO Growers

San Luis Obispo County, California

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

Robin Sims  
[slogrower@gmail.com](mailto:slogrower@gmail.com)



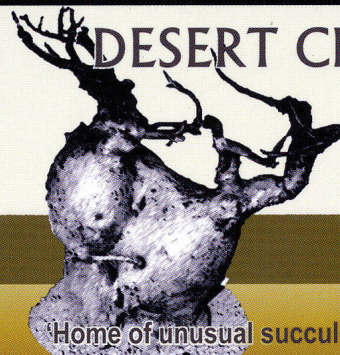
# PSCS

Ben Trogdon & Maggie Wagner

Pacific Sun Ceramics and Succulents  
273 Blue Sky Drive  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

[www.PSCS.US](http://www.PSCS.US) • [pacsunceramics@gmail.com](mailto:pacsunceramics@gmail.com)

# DESERT CREATIONS



North Hills, CA

[www.desertcreations.net](http://www.desertcreations.net)

(818) 482-8795

'Home of unusual succulents and cactus'



*Stephanie Arehart*  
**Ceramics**

**Instagram**  
[stephaniearehartceramics](https://www.instagram.com/stephaniearehartceramics)

**email**  
[stephaniearehartceramics@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniearehartceramics@gmail.com)

**Better  
Homes  
and Gardens.**  
REAL ESTATE

**HAVEN  
PROPERTIES**

**BARBARA BROOKS**

BROKER ASSOCIATE

**805.680.1389**

[BarbaraHBrooks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BarbaraHBrooks@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.HavenSLO.com](http://www.HavenSLO.com)

441 Marsh Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

An Independently Owned  
and Operated Franchise.

LIC 01227626



## Growing Grounds

DOWNTOWN

Plants & Gifts for a Cause

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: 805-544-4967

Email: [ggdstore@t-mha.org](mailto:ggdstore@t-mha.org)

*Inspiring hope, growth,  
recovery and wellness in our  
communities.*

[www.tmha.org](http://www.tmha.org)

## CCCCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

President	Harry Harlow
Vice President	Bill Findley
Secretary	Mary Harlow
Treasurer	Kathy Goss
Publicity	Tanya Luthin
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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
Wishing you the merriest kind  
of holiday cheer.