

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

January 2022

ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is Sunday online with Zoom. Watch for the e-mail.

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Speaker: Raquel Folgado Casado

CRYOBIOTECHNOLOGY

the science behind the magic to preserve plants

Approximately twenty percent of the world's plants are threatened with extinction. Besides their importance to the agricultural, horticultural, and pharmaceutical industries, plants are essential for the health of all terrestrial ecosystems. Botanical gardens worldwide play a crucial role in preserving plant genetic resources and providing examples of species that have been extirpated from their natural habitat. Although some plant species can be maintained in seed collections, the traditional methods, such as field clonal gene banks, are often costly and risky. An appropriate approach is the use of micropropagation to maintain new collections in addition to the field collections at botanical gardens, such as The Huntington. Furthermore, we can take advantage of cryopreservation, which has been used for the preservation of many crop genetic resources. However, additional efforts are still needed for other crop species and many wild plant species in peril.

Since 2014, The Huntington has established projects focused on using plant cryobiotechnology tools (i.e., tissue culture and cryopreservation) to ensure the long-term preservation of species that are difficult to

bank with the traditional tools. At The Huntington Botanical Gardens, we held in vitro repositories for different groups of plants such as avocados, magnolias, oaks, aloes, and agaves. The in vitro repositories are maintained under normal growth for immediate availability and slow growth conditions for middle term conservation. In addition, we are designing micropropagation strategies: from collecting *ex vitro* plant materials to rooting and hardening before the plants can go back to the field conditions.



SPEAKER OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

Raquel Folgado Casado holds a Doctorate in Bioscience Engineering (KU Leuven, Belgium).

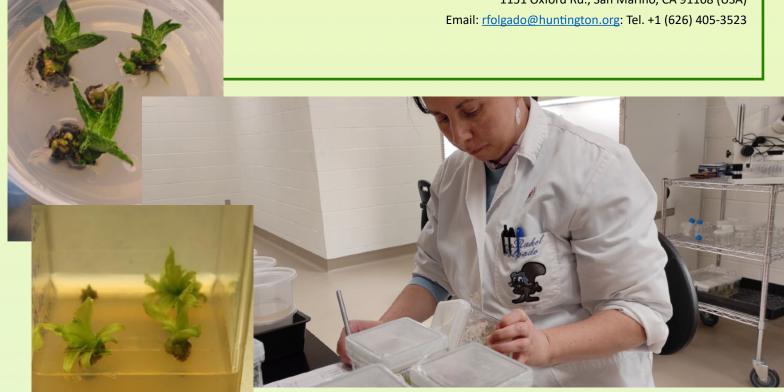
She serves as a cryopreservation research botanist at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in Southern California (USA). She's carrying out the development and improvement of protocols that will help to ensure long-term conservation, using cryopreservation techniques, for threatened species. She's leading different projects that involve aloes, agaves, cacti, magnolia trees, avocado, oaks, and other plant species of interest. She uses various micropropagation techniques, such as clonal multiplication, somatic embryogenesis, and embryo rescue. The optimization of these methods allows the development of the cryopreservation protocols since the tissue-cultured plants are often the material to perform this innovative conservation technology.

Dr. Folgado has created in vitro repositories at The Huntington to preserve aloes, agaves, oaks and magnolia trees in small space and to allow propagation and distribution of the plants. Besides, she is leading to create a seed bank of Cactaceae to preserve those emblematic species. Dr. Folgado serves as a reviewer for several scientific journals, and she is associated with scientific societies. She collaborates with researchers worldwide (Australia, Belgium, Mexico, USA, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Colombia) since the standardization of plant cryopreservation protocols requires partnerships that allow transference of knowledge. As a result of her research work, Dr. Folgado has more than twenty publications. She has also participated as a speaker at numerous international scientific conferences and luckily for us a few clubs!

RAQUEL FOLGADO CASADO, Ph.D.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens
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PLANT OF THE MONTH

Tephrocactus geometricus

Tephrocactus geometricus is a species of cactus family native to the desert areas of Argentina and the areas along the Bolivian border.

These miraculous dwarf succulents with almost geometrically correct structures in nature thrive in conditions that few other plant species can tolerate. It grows at an altitude of 7,200 - 9,500 feet in the blazing sun and baren, dry, sandy, or clay soil.

The little plant is one of the showiest members of the subfamily Opunitaceae since it can offer so much: an irresistible formation, a variety of colors, and even gorgeous Tephrocactus geometricus bloom.

It is no wonder that the plant, also known as Opuntia geometrica, is highly appreciated and sought after houseplant among collectors and cactus lovers.

Tephrocactus geometricus is a small, spherically segmented cactus that grows loosely branched into low clumps. Each segment is one to two inches in diameter and has a blue to purple color exposed to full sun.

The new growths are dark purple creating a stunning overflow of shades from blue to purple during the different growth stages. It is almost spineless or has sporadic, downward turned spines, concentrated in the upper part of the global segments.

Tephrocactus geometricus flowers have a funnel shape. They are big and showy, most often double, white or pink with a darker center. Unfortunately, each Tephrocactus geometricus flower lasts only one day. Yet, the segments bloom alternately, which prolongs this beautiful floral show.

This article is taken from <u>www.evergreenseeds.com</u>

In cultivation



Show winner



In habitat



Short lived bloom



President's Message, January 2022

Happy New Year! I am really glad 2021 is behind us. December brought much needed rain to California, ending the year with a promise that the drought might be over for now.

Our Club remains strong with a large group of dedicated members willing to continue meeting virtually on Zoom and in person at the OFH for the plant pickup and sales events. We have an amazing Board of Directors who devote their time to planning and inventing events for us to attend. Members of the Board have agreed to continue serving in their various capacities for the coming year.

Meeting in person inside the OFH still seems quite irresponsible as the Covid is having its way by confounding us with ever changing mutations. Perhaps next Spring things will improve, let's hope so.

The plant auction was a rousing success with the BetterWorld website handling the nuts and bolts, updating the bids and handling the money. The only downside was that appreciating the size and quality of the plants is harder virtually than in person. Every item looked much better in person! The auction and the vendor contributions from sales are providing much needed income to fund the Club's activities.

This month, weather permitting, Charles Varni will be selling his ceramic creations and pottery during our plant pickup event on January 16th. We will also have our plant exchange table where you can exchange your giveaway plant for an alternate one. There will also be a free exchange table for plants or other plant related items.

That's all for now. See you on Zoom, Sunday, January 9th at 2pm. Plant pickup and sales will be January 16th, 1-2:30pm at the Odd Fellows Hall.

Harry



CCCSS meeting summaries December 12 2021

Regular Meeting:

47 screens present

- President's message:
 - Our first Zoom plant giveaway was one year ago, Dec 2020!
 - At the next giveaway plant pickup Mary Peracca & Maggie Wagner will be selling pottery. Linda Drake will be selling plants & photographic prints. Auction plants will also be available for pickup. Rain cancels sales event, but not plant pickup.
 - The Garden Gathering went very well at Laura Oliver's house. Thank you Laura! Jose
 Tolle has offered to have a gathering at her garden. Date TBA. Contact Kathie
 Matsuyama if you are interested in hosting a gathering.
 - Nipomo High School was officially approved by the Show & Sale Committee & subsequently by the Board of Directors to be the site of our Spring 2022 Show & Sale.
 The dates are May 27 (set up), 28 & 29. Fingers crossed!!
 - Rob Skillin has an article in the current CSSA Journal. Congratulations Rob! Check it out....CSSA is a great organization & their publication is excellent.
- Bill Findley
 - Bill announced that the CCCSS Plant Auction will be run by an organization called BetterWorld. He reviewed how the auction will be conducted. An email will be sent out prior to the auction start date to share the link to the site.
- The plant giveaway was conducted & 38 items will be given to members at the plant pickup Dec 19th.

BOD Meeting:

(Note: The BOD meeting was conducted prior to the regular member meeting.)

- Treasurer's Report
 - o Expenses were for speakers and for ceramic pots for the plant giveaway
 - o Revenue was from membership, club merchandise sales and vendor sales donations
 - CGCI dues will be paid this monthThe recommendation from the Show & Sale committee was to use Nipomo HS as our venue for the 2022 S&S. After brief discussion the BOD voted unanimously to accept this recommendation & approve this venue for the May 2022 Show & Sale.
- Mary Peracca stated that she was informed that the Dana Adobe is wanting Opuntias for a landscape project. She will put a notice in the Newsletter when she gets more details.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



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:

AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org

Happy Growing!





"ASK ME" EXPERTS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

BY GENE SCHROEDER AND KATHIE MATSUYAMA

CCCSS Member Mary asked a question about her *Dorstenia gigas*:

"I understood that if you keep watering Dorstenia gigas in the winter it will remain leafed out. I have watered it but it's still getting a lot of yellow leaves that are dropping. Should I stop watering it and let it go totally dormant?"

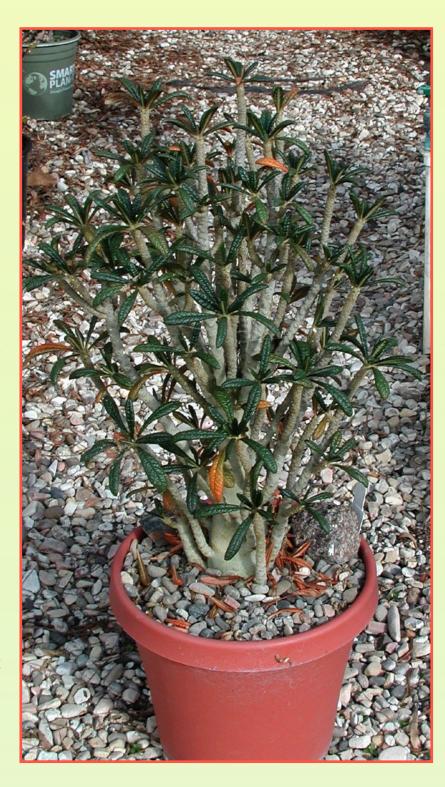
Gene Schroeder responded:

"Your *Dorstenia gigas* will lose leaves as it gets cooler in autumn/winter. The plant really needs a lot of sun to keep it compact and regular watering especially in hot times. I keep mine outside under 15% shade most of the year but at this time it will lose a lot of leaves as the temp drops. At that time I bring it into my unheated greenhouse and water it lightly every 10-15 days. It is planted in 75% pumice. Give the trunk the "pinch test" to tell if it needs water. A firm or solid feel indicates water is ok. If at all squishy, water lightly and keep checking. If it firms up, the plant will be ok.

Next spring put in a sunny spot and it will become more compact and natural looking.

Cheers ... Gene

PS.. Other *Dorstenia* species may exhibit mandatory dormancy, some for months at a time.



GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

On Saturday December 4, 2021, our first Garden Gathering since October 5th, 2019 was held at Laura Oliver's home in Grover Beach.

The weather was warm and sunny day for the 17 attendees, perfect for spending several hours talking together as we walked through Laura's garden and admired her extraordinary collection of cactus and succulent specimens.

The garden gatherers were enthralled with the quite wide-ranging interests Laura's collection represented. She grows Haworthias, Dudleyas, Mesembs,

crested cactus, echeverias, cotyledons, aloes, mammillarias, rebutias, crassulas, euphorbias, and parodias just to name a few!

Laura is lucky enough to have multiple micro-climates around her house to support her vast collection with perfect growing conditions! Lucky plants to have the perfect home!!

Thank you, Laura, for being such a great hostess for our Garden Gathering! We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

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,









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 1-1½ 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

Mary Peracca is coordinating a new project for the Dana Adobe. They have asked us to provide cacti and native plants for their rock wall area. We can also help with a planting crew. This is in the planning stages and she will keep you posted as it progresses! See the details below:



Please help us propagate Native Plants to Protect San Luis Obispo County History and a Heritage Mission Vineyard

The Board of the DANA Adobe and Cultural Center announced their collaboration with the Wine History Project to plant a Mission Grape Heritage Vineyard on the grounds of the historic Adobe. The vineyard will be surrounded by a low stone wall and a dense garden to protect it from deer, coyotes and other critters. We need your help in propagating cacti and native plants for this garden. Nick Wilkerson, owner of Grow nursery, is compiling the list of plants this week. Please volunteer. We will arrange a tour of the historic Dana Adobe and grounds and keep you apprised of our progress.

The mission of the DANA Adobe is to engage visitors with the stories of California's Rancho Era History (1822-1846), connecting them with the peoples, the land and its resources to foster environmental stewardship and cultural understanding. The Wine History Project has partnered with Cal Poly Department of Viticulture to propagate Mission Vines from original cuttings taken from the San Gabriel Mission"mother vine" planted in the late 1700s. Please contact Libbie Agran at libbie@winehistoryproject.org. Our website is www.wine history.org.

Libbie Agran, Director
Wine History Project of San Luis Obispo County
www.winehistoryproject.org
Cell Phone: 310- 903-6326







George Hatfield graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Science. George is the founder of Hatfield Orchids which was established in 1999. Hatfield Orchids is a leading hybridizer of cymbidiums in the World. Hybrids created and sold by Hatfield Orchids have won numerous awards internationally.

Professional Employment:

- Owner Hatfield Orchids 1999 Curent
- Hatfield Agricultural Consulting, 2005 Current

Major accomplishments of George in the field of orchids include:

- Trustee of World Orchid Conference 2019 Current
- Cymbidium Society of America, Hudlow Medal recipient
- Hybridizer Award for Cymbidiums, AOS 2018
- President, American Orchid Society Past 2016 2018
- Board Member Cymbidium Society of America 1994 2010
- President, Cymbidium Society of America 1998/99
- Chairman of the CSA Cymbidium Congress from 1998-2001
- Author of Articles in Awards Quarterly, Orchid Digest, and Cymbidium Society Journal
- President of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show 2002/2003 and 2015/2016
- Certified Accredited Judge American Orchid Society and Cymbidium Society of America
- Keynote speaker at the 2009 Australian National Orchid Conference

Sign up for our free newsletter at www.FCOS.org and receive a Zoom link.





Farmstead ED ZOOM

Thursday, January 6, 2022 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us as Lynette Sonne and Megan Paulson zoom in from Clearwater Color Nursery in Los Osos where they will be talking about their Grow Your Own series of workshops; Grow Your Own Beneficial Garden, Grow your Own Spa

and Grow Your Own Cocktail. They will be sharing how many of our local farms grow ingredients for local makers, in addition to talking aboutFARMstead ED and the programs they offer.

Buy Farmstead ED Tickets Here!



Free Admission Day

Join us at the SLOBG on Friday, 1/17/22 for our FREE admission day from 10am-4pm! Bring the whole family and make a day of nature & exploration! **We look forward to seeing you soon!**



A Heart Succulent Wreath Workshop

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Celebrate Valentine's Day by creating your own heart succulent wreath. Led by artist, Jayne Devencenzi, this handson workshop will teach you how to make a unique living wreath that can last for years. The \$75 fee includes all materials. We will provide succulent cuttings for everyone, but if you have any succulents growing in your yard, feel free to bring cuttings to share. The class is limited to 20 students.

For questions, please contact Peter Sarracino at (805) 541-1400, ext 305 or <u>peter@slobg.org</u>

Buy Succulent Workshop Tickets Here!

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



Greetings CSSA Affiliate Clubs,

This information is being provided to the CSSA affiliate clubs to distribute to your membership and for publication in your organizations newsletters.

As you may know, the CSSA publishes a quarterly e-newsletter "To The Point". Currently, a complementary copy of 'To The Point" is available to the public free of charge.

The link below will give access to receive a complementary copy of the newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you, MA Bjarkman Co-chair, CSSA Affiliate Committee

Please ask your newsletter editor to include the following in your next edition:

To The Point e-newsletter: CSSA publishes a free quarterly e-newsletter. To receive your complimentary copy, please <u>Click Here</u>

Best wishes for the holiday season, MA

MA Bjarkman 4119 Inglewood Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90066 317-850-5111





The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

2022 Membership Application and Renewal Form

You may also renew your CSSA membership at: http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org

Tou may also renew your CSSA membership a	i. http://cactusanusuc	culentsociety	.org	
		<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Canada</u>	International
1 year CSSA Membership – includes four issues of the CSSA Journal 1 year CSSA Membership and latest Haseltonia yearbook bundle (save \$10) 1 year CSSA Supporting Membership * (does NOT include the CSSA Journal) 3 year CSSA Membership 3 year CSSA Membership and latest Haseltonia yearbook bundle (save \$10) CSSA Associate Membership – Additional family member (per year) 1 year CSSA Institutional Membership 1 year CSSA Affiliate Club Membership		\$50	\$60	\$70
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Membership is payable to CSSA in U.S. funds. Please mail renewal form to: CSSA, Inc. c/o Gunnar Eisel, P.O. Box 1000, Claremont, CA 91711-1000

Change of Address: Four weeks advanced notice is required for change of subscription address. Copies misdirected due to failure to provide timely address information will not be replaced.

* Includes the To The Point e-Newsletter, access to the CSSA Seed Depot, voting privileges, and access to the CSSA Convention.

BRAG PLANTS

Since our plant of the month is *Tephrocactus geometricus*, Harry suggested that we brag about these plants. So, we have a few on the following pages.

From Gene:

Tephrocactus geometricus.
This is not my plant ... I was babysitting it for Donna Duerk while she was in Mass for the summer.
She had gotten them as fresh cuttings after the 2018 show. They spent the next several months getting rooted under my care and eventually flowering. She has them back now.



Here is an image of Ron Harris's *T. geometricus* from our 2014 Show ... several members have offsets from this plant including the Donna Dureck plants.

Cheers ... Gene



BRAG PLANTS - cont'd

Tephrocactus geometricus from Harry and Marry









These were both auction items.

Mary Peracca pot with Aloe

"Lavender Star" from Gene S
....thanks, Harry

Thank You, Laura Oliver







And Thank You Charles Varni



BRAG PLANTS - cont'd



From Leisa Swanson (my old Christmas cactus plants)

I believe this year, because of our consistent hotter weather, my front porch blooming Christmas cactus plants greeted folks for Thanksgiving.

Though they only bloom once a year, the blooms continue to open over a months span of time. The display of flowers is so spectacular.

Its great that I have my Easter Cactus to look forward to in the upcoming spring months.



And from our Terry Excell . . It is a very happy-there-is-rain Stapelia gigantea.



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

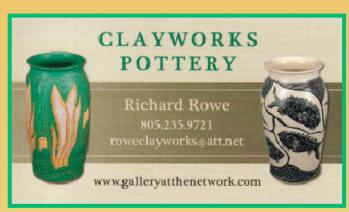




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You can advertise on these pages by becoming a Business Member of CCCSS.



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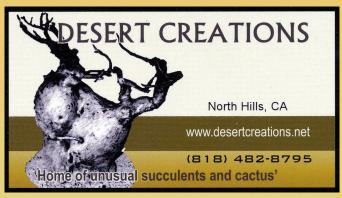




PSCS

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Photo Credit: Tyler Webb

"And I dream of the vast deserts, the forests, and all of the wilderness of our continent, wild places that we should protect as a precious heritage for our children and for our children's children. We must never forget that it is our duty to protect this environment."— Nelson Mandela.