



ON THE DRY SIDE



The next meeting is Sunday at
2:00 Feb. 13 online with Zoom.
Watch for the e-mail.

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Speaker Brian Kemble

Plant of the Month

Dudleyas

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CCCSS Ask Us

Garden Gatherings

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Brag Plants

Business Members, Board

Board Members

Our Topic and Guest Speaker is:

South Africa's Left Coast . . by Brian Kemble

In this presentation, Brian Kemble will take us on a trip through the western part of South Africa, which is the part with winter rainfall and dry summers, much like the climate in California. The rainfall in this area decreases as you go northward, much as our rainfall here decreases going southward. This is a region with many wonderful succulents, including aloes, haworthias, gasterias, euphorbias and lots of mesembs.

Brian is the curator at the **Ruth Bancroft Garden** in Walnut Creek, CA, where he has worked for over 4 decades. He is also the VP of the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Soc., as well as a board member of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America. He has written hundreds of articles on botanical subjects over the years, and his photos appear in numerous books on succulents.



Career Profile: Brian Kemble, Curator

By CHARLOTTE CUSACK |

PUBLISHED The Mercury News, San Jose: October 15, 2010 at 9:09 a.m. |

UPDATED: August 13, 2016

When did you discover you had a green thumb?

I always liked plants as a child, and I credit my maternal grandfather for that interest; he was the green thumb in the family. In college, I majored in philosophy at Antioch College in Ohio. It wasn't until after college, after I moved to California, that I started to think about working with plants for a living.

What attracts you to succulents?

I find inspiration in the natural world in general, but the patterns and colors in plants draw me to plants specifically. I grew up in Massachusetts and Hawaii, locales where succulents weren't prominent. When I

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

moved to California, succulents had more prominence, and I was amazed by their forms and the vivid colors they came in; I thought succulents were otherworldly. Also, while many kinds of plants do not seem exceptional when they are not in flower, succulents are fascinating all year long.

Tell me about your journey to The Ruth Bancroft Garden.

I began assisting a local landscaper in my neighborhood, and as time went by, he gave me more and more work. I began building up clientele for whom I was installing and maintaining gardens as well as tree trimming.

I was told UC Berkeley had an incredible succulent garden, so I visited and was invited by a volunteer there to join the Cactus and Succulent Society. Eventually, I was elected vice president of the club which put me in charge of lining speakers up for meetings. One of the speakers mentioned that he had heard about a new succulent garden being developed in Walnut Creek, so we stopped by. This was my introduction to Ruth Bancroft and her amazing garden. For this area, this was a very unusual kind of garden, especially during the 70's. Ruth was a pioneer in being able to express herself in a different way when putting together a garden. I gave my name to Ruth, saying I would be delighted to work there. A year later, in 1980, she asked me to work one day a week tending the plants in the greenhouse.

After I had been working here a few years, I began purchasing plants during trips and bringing them back to the garden. Over time, I became more and more involved in the garden. When the garden became a non-profit in the early-90s, I took on the role of curator, which I've held since then.

What are some of your duties as curator?

We probably have a couple thousand species over these three acres, and I oversee the entire collection. If I hear about a new plant – one that's newly discovered or brought into cultivation for the first time – that I think has potential for us, I'll try and track it down. There's a lot of experimentation involved when bringing new plants to the garden, and the key question is whether or not they'll succeed in our climate. There's a lot of trial and error in finding what works. I'm also in charge of hybridizing plants. I look for two plants that have complementary characteristics and combine them to make something new and possibly better in some way than the original two plants.

When I get interested in a plant, I like to be able to see it in nature. So, I take many trips, mostly to Mexico and South Africa, to see the plants in their native context. I have given lectures throughout the United States and once in South Africa and have contributed articles and photographs to the Cactus and Succulent Journal and other publications.

What's your advice to someone interested in working with plants professionally?

I think a good place to start is volunteering at a garden or nursery in order to get a taste of actually working with plants and how well it suits you. If you really take a shine to it, you can get a horticulture degree or a related degree.



Antimima dualis



Orbea namaquensis



Tylecodon paniculatus

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Dudleyas

Dudleyas, signature native succulents of California, are popular regionally because they are so practical in the Mediterranean, dry-summer climate. They may be less well known outside the area, in part because of their preference for dry summers and mild, wet winters. But they can thrive anywhere if you can provide strong light, mild temperatures, excellent drainage, and regular water when the soil is dry.



Dudleya candida

These rosette succulents are mostly native to California and Baja California, though their range also extends into Oregon and Arizona. Most species are found along the coast or on offshore islands, where they experience regular fog, high humidity, winter rainfall, and summer drought. The few whose range extends inland tolerate greater temperature extremes.

They vary in size from miniature (the Hasseanthus group, with no above ground stem) to medium size (*D. brittonii*, which can grow to a couple of feet wide). The leaves may or may not have a white powdery dusting. Flowers may be open (flat), closed (tubular) or intermediate, and they attract bees and hummingbirds. Most Dudleyas flower in great abundance once a year when they are thriving.

In mild coastal climates, Dudleyas enjoy plenty of exposure, up to day-long sun, especially the powder-dusted species. They are generally salt-tolerant and well-suited for oceanside gardens. Where summer heat is an issue, they will require some protection, but strong light is important for health and proper form. Dudleyas prefer excellent drainage and enjoy regular water during their period of active growth (Fall through Spring). But do not mistake summer dormancy for thirst -- **it is quite the opposite!**

Three factors are important in arriving at an accurate identification of Dudleya species:

1. Knowing the geographical origin of a plant will help reduce the number of options to choose from.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

2. Seeing the flower will allow you to place the plant within a subgenus (based on shape), and in some cases tell you the species (based on color). Some flowers also have an informative odor.
3. Observing the rosette itself, to see whether stems branch, what color and shape the leaves are, and if they die off in the summer, will also help narrow the options.

Dudleya seeds are small, almost dust-like, but seedlings can be quick (1-2 years) to grow full sized rosettes. The species which branch can be easily propagated from cuttings in the fall or winter. The species which do not branch can be forced by coring.

Dudleya are related to other New World Crassulaceae including Echeveria, which are separate geographically (found on mainland Mexico and parts south, not on the peninsula of Baja California). It may be difficult to distinguish the two genera without floral features. Echeveria flowers are always tubular, while Dudleya flowers may be tubular, flat, or cup-shaped.

Thank you gardening.org



Dudleya saxosa



Dudleya brittonii



Dudleya viscida

Thank you, Markus





CCCSS Meeting summaries January 9 2022

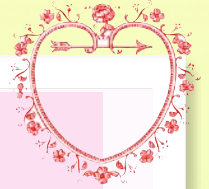
Regular meeting

- Harry presented welcoming comments
 - A retrospective of some pottery work by Charles Varni was showed. Charles will be selling at the plant pick up event on Jan 16. He will be donating 30% of sales to CCCSS. Thank you Charles.
 - Thank you to all our members who have hung in there for Zoom meetings and come in person to the plant pick up events.
 - Our BOD members have been devoted to the Club and have spent their time and energy planning events for the Club. All BOD members have agreed to continue serving in their various capacities.
 - Meeting in person indoors still seems out of the question, so we will continue with Zoom meetings until conditions improve. Hopefully in the Spring!
 - The plant auction in December was a rousing success. Having BetterWorld handle the event seemed to work out very well. The auction proceeds and the donations from our vendor sales is providing much needed cash flow for CCCSS.

BOD meeting

- Treasurer's Report
 - Income was from vendor sales donations
 - Expenses were for pots purchased for the giveaway events and CGCI dues
- Rob will be going down to Southern California to purchase plants for the meeting giveaways.
- We'll need to start thinking about t-shirts for the Spring Show & Sale. Bill & Natasha will work on planning this.
- Bill suggested that we might want to have another auction again sometime this year

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



President's Message

The plant pickup/club sales event in January at the OFH was a success as usual. Charles Varni enjoyed brisk sales and 30% of his proceeds will be donated to our Society. These welcome funds are financing our activities and plant giveaways. On pickup day a kind member wanted to donate some money to the Club, which she did. In the future we will have a jar at the event so that anyone wanting to contribute to cover our Club expenses can do so. Thank you in advance!

We are very pleased to announce that Rob Skillin will be our vendor this month. He will have some fabulous winter growing plants for sale. Rob also made a trip to Southern California to buy a fresh supply of plants for the giveaways. Our existing plants have lasted a long time thanks to your generous plant donations. We have a good supply of pots on hand as I have been purchasing several each month from our vendors.

Virtually everyone was masked at the pickup event in January, without prompting. Good work Club!!

Library Books

Please return all Library books to the plant pickup/sales event at the OFH on Sunday, February 13th. Our Club librarian, Ken Byrne, has been inventorying our collection and notes that many books are still with our members. He would like to have our library up to date when we share books again. If you forget or can't get to the Feb event, please bring them to the OFH the following month. Thank you.

March Plant of the Month: Mammillaria

Gene S. noted that these hardy easy to grow plants are blooming now. Mary & I started our collections many years ago with these compact beautiful plants. Usually several Mammillaria are included in our monthly giveaway plants. Please send your pics to Carol Mortensen for the March Newsletter (carolmortensen0@gmail.com).

See you on Zoom February 13th at 2pm. Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, will be our featured speaker. That's all for now....Harry



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!



Echinocereus two colors

Photo by Kathie M.



“ASK US” EXPERTS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS BY GENE SCHROEDER AND KATHIE MATSUYAMA

CCCSS Member Mary asked a question about her root bound cactus:

“How can I get this cactus out of the pot without breaking the pot?! I have others like this too. Should have repotted it a long time ago! :) Thanks”

Gene Schroeder responded:

“My best advice is to

1. Let the plant/pot dry completely then slide a thin knife down the side of the pot to dig out until it is loose enough to push the soil out through the bottom hole.
2. Use your garden hose with a jet nozzle to blast around the plant until it is loose.

Option 2 is probably the safest but is messy and you will get wet. Don't worry about root damage. If the plant is dry/dormant you can just prune away most of the roots and store the plant upright in an empty pot for a few weeks until callused over well then repot. All or any surviving part will reroot and recover.

Good Luck ... Gene”



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

Kathie's additional comments:

1. In Option 1, if plant roots have grown out through the pot's drainage hole, it will be necessary to prune them off so the plant can be pulled out of the pot. Don't worry about permanently damaging the plant, just follow Gene's advice for Option 2.
2. Repot your cactus or succulent into damp soil. Do not water the plant immediately after repotting. Invariably roots have been broken during the repotting process. Broken roots can provide access for bacteria, fungus or disease into your plant. This could be accelerated by watering the plant. Wait a week or two, then water the plant and allow it to dry out before watering again.
3. Unless you are planning to permanently bonsai cacti or succulents (topic for a future Ask Us column!), it's a good idea to know the ultimate size of your plant so that you will find yourself with fewer plants needing emergency re-potting. One of the most fun and interesting aspects of our hobby is researching your plants!

Good luck Mary and thanks for the great question!



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

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'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?

Hi all you cactus and succulent lovers,

As you have heard we are planning to have our **Show and Sale in May**. We are moving to a new venue with lots of parking and outdoor space. Since we are doing Zoom meetings it will be more difficult to recruit **volunteers**. So I am starting early. If you wish to volunteer to work the show please send me an email at hupt74@yahoo.com. Please let me know what day or days you can work. Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Include your name, phone number & email, more information to follow.

Thank you so much
Pat Gilson



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

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.winehistoryproject.org.

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



The Five Cities Orchid Society invites you to our February Orchidtalk;

February's Speaker Fred Clarke

Thursday, February 11, 2021 7:00 PM 9:00 PM

Aussie Dendrobiums and their Cultivation"

Our friends down under have been breeding their native Dendrobiums and creating some fantastic flowers; the word is out!

Aussie Dens are easy to grow, tolerant of heat and cold, have fragrant flowers, and re-bloom from the old bulbs!!! They grow well with Cattleyas and in frost-free areas. They are perfect plants for the shade house.

Our friends down under have been breeding their native Dendrobiums and creating some fantastic flowers, the word is out!

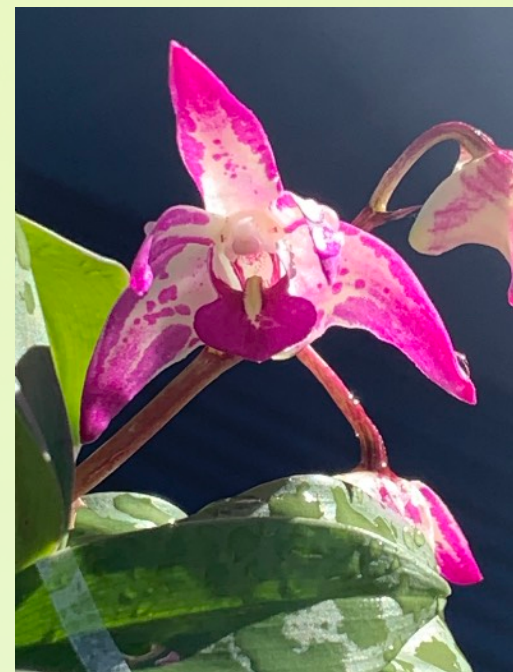
Aussie Dens are easy to grow, tolerant of heat and cold, have fragrant flowers, and re-bloom from the old bulbs!!! They grow well in a wide variety of conditions, they are perfect plants for summering in the shade house and then bring in doors once night are in the low 40's or stay outside year-round in frost free areas. In conclusion we cover the 'best growing practices' for cultivating these remarkable plants.



The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista. Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California. He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC's and thirty AM's from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden Presents:
Free Admission Day, February 12, 2022!

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA –Join us at the garden for SLOBG's Free Admission Day! The SLO Botanical Garden is happy to offer free admission to all visitors on Saturday, February 12th from 10am-4pm. The normal admission cost of \$10.00 for adults and children over 12, and \$8.00 for Seniors, students, and military will be waived. This is a great opportunity to spend time outdoors and learn about native plants. There will be a botanical art activity outside of the Education Center. Paper and basic drawing supplies will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own. We're located at 3450 Dairy Creek Road in San Luis Obispo, inside El Chorro Regional Park. If you can't make it out on the 12th, join us for our next free day on Saturday, March 26th, which coincides with our *Art in the Garden Show* and *Annual Spring Plant Sale* events. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Questions? Contact dara@slobg.org or call 805-541-1400 x 302.

Chilean Cacti and Puyas for The San Luis Botanical Garden

We have a request from David Fujimoto from the Botanical Garden for cacti and Puyas for their new Chilean Garden. He would like to know if anyone has any of the following plants or where to get them.

1. *Puya venusta*
2. *Echinopsis chilensis* / *Trichocereus chiloensis*
3. *Trichocereus litoralis*
4. *Trichocereus skottsbergii*
5. *Puya chilensis*
6. *neoporteria subgibbosa*
7. *Echinopsis deserticola*

Let me know if you can help with this project:

Mary Peracca

maryper777@gmail.com

805-6550-6977 call or text



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

Luck o' the Green (and Gold!)

Guest Vendor **Cal Poly Horticulture** is bringing
amazing house plants and tropical plants to the
Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale



MARCH 12 (SATURDAY) & 13 (SUNDAY)

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FOR UPDATES:

#wegrowslo

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NO EARLY BROWSING. NO EARLY SALES.



A portion of proceeds benefits Pacific Wildlife Care, a 501(c)3 organization - San Luis Obispo county's only licensed rehabilitation center that cares for injured birds, mammals and reptiles.

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.

To The Point e-newsletter: CSSA publishes a free quarterly e-newsletter. To receive your complimentary copy, please [Click Here](#)

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

Join us **Saturday, February 5th at 10:00 a.m. PST** for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Rod Haenni: *Companion Plants for Succulent Gardens* [Registration link](#)

Program: Cactus and other succulent gardens are objects of beauty all by themselves, but the tremendous palette of available (and ever-increasing) non-succulent plants suitable for interplanting with succulents can add much interest to your garden, both for yourself and friends and visitors. Rod will share examples of these companion plants that he grows in various cactus and succulent gardens, as well as examples from other gardens. Many of these plants can be grown successfully in a variety of climates available.



Plant groups discussed will include, dwarf conifers, penstemons, geophytes, brooms, ephedras, and a potpourri of many other plants of all sizes. The goal of the presentation is to inspire viewers to experiment with plants unknown or little known and incorporate some of them in existing or planned succulent gardens. "I still, after over forty years of serious gardening with cacti and succulents, continue to look forward to adding new succulents and companions to my gardens each year, both from my own efforts growing from seed and from cutting-edge nurseries. Learning about and growing new plants well-suited for my climate has become a passion and helps keep me a young gardener."

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



From: heidi ellis <h.jellis11@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022

Subject: Foxtail agave

Hi,

I was wondering if you have any members who have some medium sized foxtail agave they are selling?

Thanks,

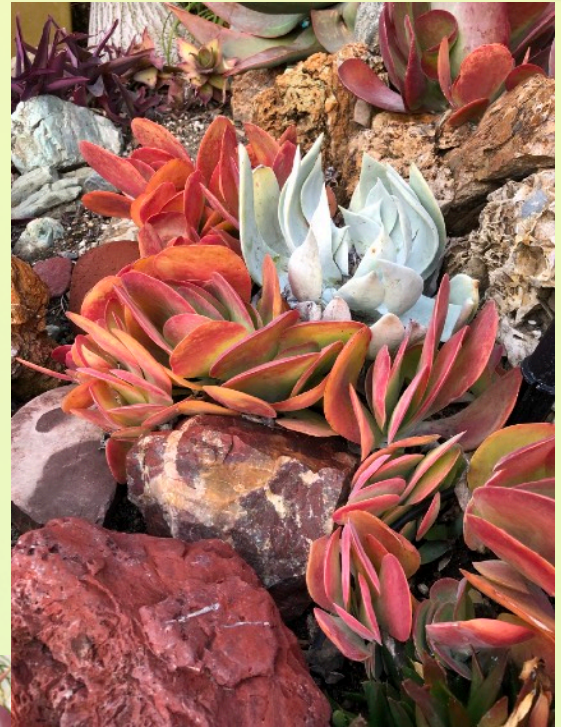
Heidi

BRAG PLANTS

Leisa Swanson's *Dudleas*

The first *Dudlea* I have had for at least 40 years. At that time it was not a no-no to gather these along our coastal cliffs.

The one on the frog I've had for probably 10 years.



BRAG PLANTS - Cont'd

Please send photos of your brag plants to carolmortensen0@gmail.com for the next newsletter.

From Mary & Harry Harlow

Dudleya ingens



This large Dudleya has purple tips. Last year a deer took a bite out of the center of the plant. The leaves must not taste good as the deer usually move on to something else.



Dudleya brittonii



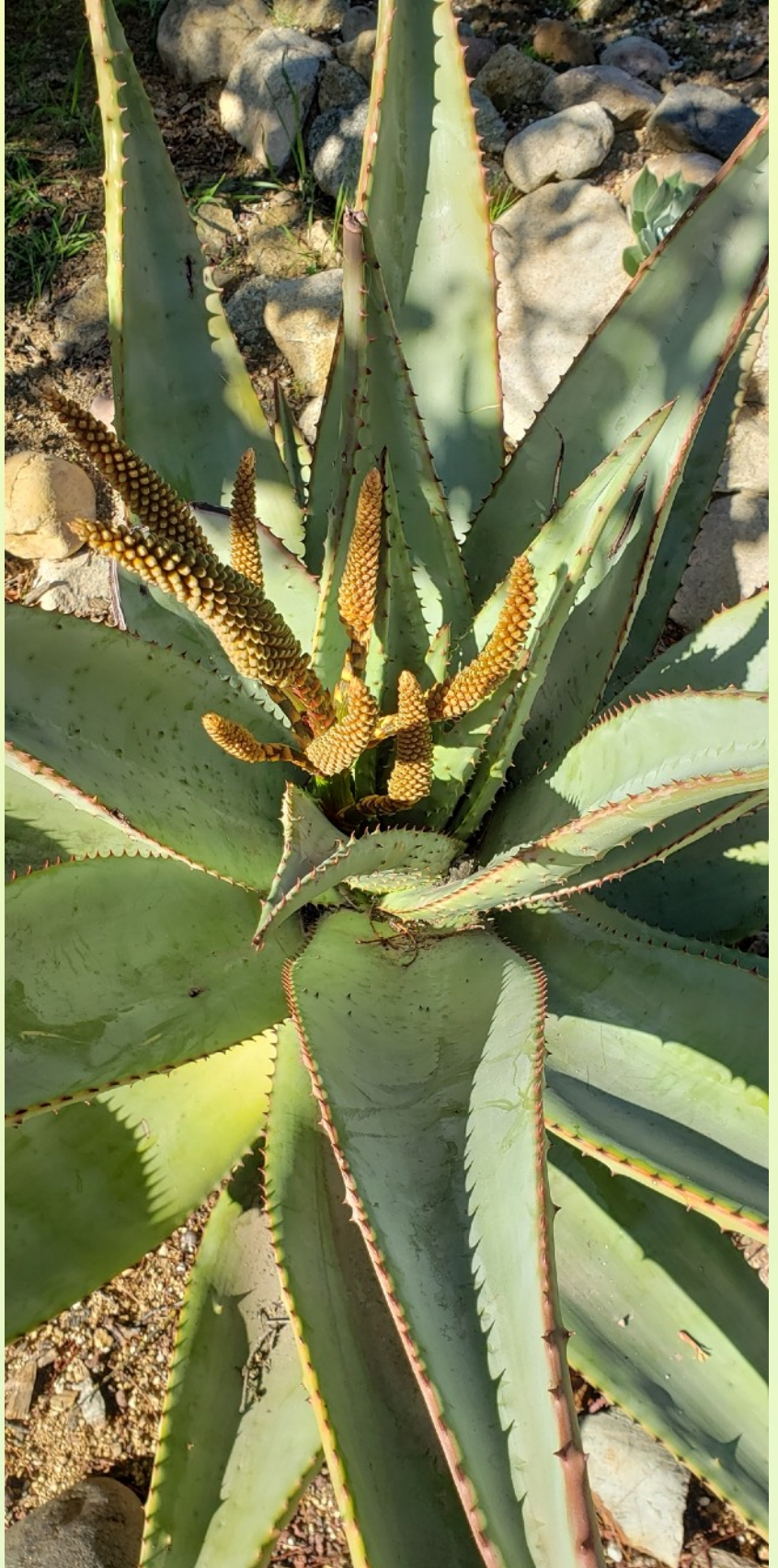
This large Dudleya is frequently in our giveaway events. It can stand a bit more water than most Dudleya, but should be dry in summer.

BRAG PLANTS - cont'd

From Mary & Harry Harlow

Aloe ferox

Gene grew this plant from seed. In my newest garden.



BRAG PLANTS - cont'd

These plants are happy! I had never seen the Sansevieria bloom before!

—Laurie Aguilar



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

The following article is suggested reading by our member, Leisa Swanson.



Phil Lane Jr

Remembering our Bee relatives!

There was a time when almost every rural British family who kept bees followed a unique tradition.

Whenever there was a death in the family, someone had to go out to the hives and tell the bees of the terrible loss that had befallen the family.

Failing to do so often resulted in further losses such as the bees leaving the hive, or not producing enough honey, or even dying.

Traditionally, the bees were kept abreast of not only deaths but all-important family matters including births, marriages, and long absences due to journeys. If the bees were not told, all sorts of calamities were thought to happen. This peculiar custom is known as “telling the bees”.

The practice of telling the bees may have its origins in Celtic mythology that held that bees were the link between our world and the spirit world. So if you had any message that you wished to pass to someone who was dead, all you had to do was tell the bees and they would pass along the message.

The typical way to tell the bees was for the head of the household, or “good wife of the house” to go out to the hives, knock gently to get the attention of the bees, and then softly murmur in a doleful tune the solemn news.

Little rhymes developed over the centuries specific to a particular region. In Nottinghamshire, the wife of the dead was heard singing quietly in front of the hive, “The master's dead, but don't you go; Your mistress will be a good mistress to you.”

In Germany, a similar couplet was heard, “Little bee, our lord is dead; Leave me not in my distress”.

But the relationship between bees and humans goes beyond superstition. It's a fact, that bees help humans survive. 70 of the top 100 crop species that feed 90% of the human population rely on bees for pollination.

Without them, these plants would cease to exist, and with it all animals that eat those plants. This can have a cascading effect that would ripple catastrophically up the food chain.

Losing a beehive is much worse than losing a supply of honey. The consequences are life-threatening.

The act of telling the bees emphasizes this deep connection humans share with the insect.

Art: The Bee Friend, a painting by Hans Thoma (1839–1924)

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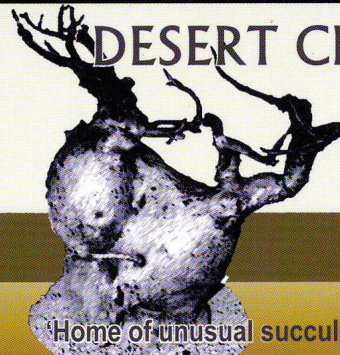
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