



ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is Sunday March 13 at 2:00. Watch for the e-mail. Remember Daylight Savings Time. Did you move your clocks ahead 1 hr.?

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Plant of the Month

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Board Members

Jeff Moore - Agaves

The presentation follows the flow of the book, with most of the Powerpoint images from the book itself. The majority of the species are covered, with images both in habitat (when possible) and in cultivation. There is also a chapter on established and new hybrids, as well as the relatively new phenomenon of mangaves. The book/talk will show examples of agaves in the landscape as well as those suitable for container culture, discusses pests/diseases as well as propagation. Although the emphasis is on agaves as ornamentals, we take a look at the history of agaves as commercial plants, for fiber, food, and of course the genus' most well known byproduct - tequila and mescal. From an ornamental perspective, there are some beautiful detailed images of agave spines and imprinting, as well as some of the more impressive variegated and collector forms.

Most of the images were taken by the authors, but we also have included many beautiful photos from contributors such as Bryan Kemble, Jeff Chemnick, Tony Krock, and other knowledgeable enthusiasts.

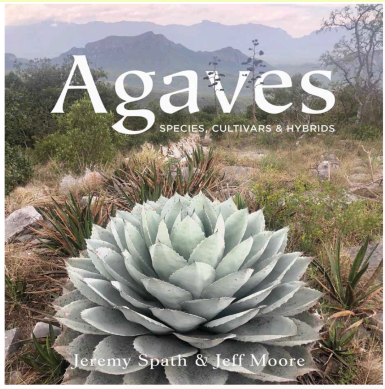


I'm happy to take questions during the talk (with the help of the moderator if on zoom) or after the talk. I will have books to sell/sign for in-person talks, or also they are available on my website, www.solanasucculents.com.

Bio: I have owned and operated Solana Succulents since 1992. It is a small retail specialty nursery, and I carry as much of the rare and unusual as possible, along with more common and colorful succulents. The agave book will be my fifth self-published book about succulents.

my Spath & Jeff Moore

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH - Cont'd



Here is a brief blurb about the book that will be on the book page of my website:

Agaves - Species, Hybrids and Cultivars takes a deep dive into the world of agaves, both cultivated and in their native habitat. Co-authored with agave expert Jeremy Spath, this 350+ page book offers over 2000 images and informative information about these stunningly beautiful and architectural plants. Cultivars and hybrids are shown and discusses as well as the majority of species. \$39.95 high-quality soft cover. Inquire at the nursery for limited edition hardcover.



AGAVE OVATIFOLIA
STARR & VILLAREAL 2002

In the mid 1980's Lynn Lowery found this extraordinary agave and brought it to the attention of Greg Starr, who went on to describe it with José Angel Villareal. Prior to this, it was found (but never formally described) in the late 19th century by Aurora Nickels of *Agave nichelshiae* fame, and she referred to it as *Agave noah*, likely a derivation of 'Noah' - the name used by the locals in the area. These plants grow on a private ranch around 3500'-5000' in the Sierra Languosco in Nuevo León. Unfortunately, accessing this ranch is only possible by passing through a neighboring ranch, but in recent years due to a territorial dispute it has become very difficult to reach the ranch to see these agaves. This part of Mexico where *Agave ovatifolia* grows is almost like untraced national parkland, yet there is nobody else there - no kept trails nor

official campgrounds. There are at least two areas south of Monterrey where a very similar looking agave grows, which is currently referred to as *Agave aff. ovatifolia*. Though beautiful, they are not quite as attractive as *A. ovatifolia* proper.

Agave ovatifolia can grow 4'-6' across & 3'-4' high and tolerates lows as cold as 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Although fairly new to cultivation, it has proven to be an easy grower from wet Northern California all the way throughout most of the desert southwest. The channeled leaves, bright silver in color, evoke awe even in the non-agave lover. *Agave ovatifolia* can be used in groups as accents or as a show stopping focal point in the landscape. The Latin name translates to 'egg leaf' as it is a wide-leaved agave. A common name for this plant is the 'Whale's Tongue' agave.



▼ Agave aficionado Walker Young next to a habitat specimen of *Agave ovatifolia* in peak bloom.

All photos on this spread by Brian Kemble.



AGAVE SEBASTIANA
GREENE 1885

In Gettys's *Agaves of Continental North America*, *Agave sebastianiana* is said to grow off the coast of central Baja California on Islas Cedros, San Benito, and Narivida, as well as on the mainland of the peninsula around Punta Eugenia. On Isla Cedros *A. sebastianiana* is prolific and variable, resembling the growth habit of *Agave shawii* on mainland Baja, which is likely a close relative. Beautiful clumps of silvery blue foliage carpet parts of the island. Heading south, on Isla Natividad the plants are diminutive and much rarer. Heading even further south to Punta Eugenia, any number of plants can be downright difficult to find. Soon after Punta Eugenia, just a little further south around Bahía Tortugas, you begin to find *Agave stramineus*. One reason for all of this may

be that as soon you move away from the northern fog fed Isla Cedros toward the south of the island it becomes much drier - less water could equal smaller and more scarce plants. Another possibility is species clade - the *A. sebastianiana* on Cedros are morphing into the *A. virginianensis* that inhabit the very dry Vicano Desert. Isla Cedros, like part of northern Baja, is part of the California Floristic Province and the island resembles the chaparral of California. *Agave sebastianiana* should be grown like a California native plant. Avoid excessive irrigation in the summer months, especially overhead waterings. *Agave sebastianiana* can handle full sun to light shade and is hardy down to the low 20s.



Agave sebastianiana is an iconic plant on Cedros Island and a few smaller nearby islands. The image above shows a view from the leeward side of the island, facing east towards the Mexican mainland. The robust inflorescence is on display near left, framed by an elephant tree already in late spring dormancy.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pachypodium [pachy + podus = thick foot, Greek]

Pachypodium is a small genus of +/-25 species of caudiciform shrubs and trees, mostly from Madagascar with 5 species from Southern Africa. They generally grow on rocky outcrops and steep hills where micro-climatic conditions may be different from the surrounding plain.

Their bottle-shaped trunks and branches (if any) are strongly spined and topped by a rosette of long leaves, although a few species have compact flattened trunks. While the spines are probably a protective adaptation against herbivores, they also help the plant to survive in an arid environment by condensing water from fogs and dews, so that it drips from the tip of the spine to the base of the plant. As with other members of the Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family), the showy white, pink or yellow flowers have 5-fold symmetry.



Five fold symmetry flower

Pachypodiums will not tolerate any frost or prolonged cold and grow best in a warm sunny place. A very free-draining potting mixture should be used and even then the plants should be watered carefully. *Pachypodium bispinosum* tolerates a dry, cool frost-free winter at 4°C but others such as *P. lamerii* are liable to collapse into a heap of mush unless kept warmer.

All species of *Pachypodium* are poisonous to humans and animals. The milky sap should be kept off the skin and hands washed after handling the plants.

Thank you www.succulent-plant.com



PLANT OF THE MONTH - cont'd



Red flowered *P. windsorii*



P. densiflorum, give very little water while dormant!



P. rosulatum

Thank you, Markus



President's Message March 2022

There was a fantastic turn out at our social plant pick up event at the OFH on Feb 20. Before we started, there was a row of plants along the entire back side of the Hall. Along with the giveaway plants, Rob Skillin had 3 tables of beautiful winter growing succulents as well as agaves and cactus. At the end of the event, Rob's van was almost empty of plants. Thank you Rob for all you do!

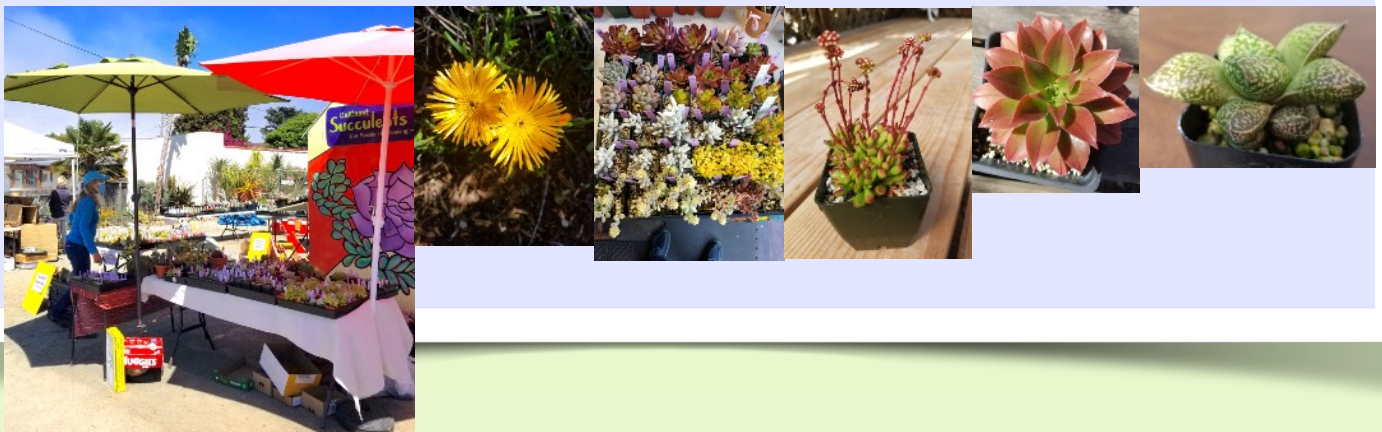
I was able to have some face to face time with some of you. I try to mingle and socialize as much as possible. There were probably 40 or so folks in attendance at any one time. Hard to say what the total attendance number was. What a great Club!

The concerned BOD decided to continue to meet via Zoom in March. We'll see how things go with Covid cases now that some restrictions have been lifted. Many of you have expressed praise of our virtual meetings and would like them to continue. Having a live meeting also Zoomed requires several talented individuals working together to make a watchable production. We'll have to explore this possibility. The issue of in person/Zoom meetings will continue to be discussed on a monthly basis.

On April 9, 2022 from 9-2pm. The Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association will be having their annual Open House/Scholarship fundraiser. Nipomo High School will be there staging area for the event. There will be plants for sale and information about visiting the commercial greenhouses. CCCSS plans to have a table there with information about our Club and our upcoming Show & Sale in May. It will be an opportunity to check out Nipomo HS and see how an event works in this setting.

Our next plant pickup event will be Sunday March 13. Steve Super, Mike Bush & Jeanne Miller will be there selling plants. They will donate 25% of sales to CCCSS. As usual we will have Club merchandise, opportunities to exchange your giveaway plant and our very popular table for free stuff brought by our members.

See you at the meeting on March 6th at 2pm on Zoom.....Harry





CCCSS Meetings summary February 13 2022

General Meeting:

Screens attending: 62

- President's announcements:
 - Mary Peracca: SLO Botanical Garden work days will resume most Tuesdays from 12-2pm. Contact Mary P if you would like to be on her mailing list. maryper777@gmail.com
 - Rob Skillin will be selling plants at the next plant pick up day, Sunday Feb 20, 1-2:30pm.
 - A Donation jar will be available for those that would like to contribute to the Club's coffers.
 - The BOD will be discussing when to resume live meetings. They will also discuss the possibility of a hybrid Zoom/in person meeting.
 - Jeff Moore will be our speaker in March
- Brian Kemble Presentation
 - Brian is a long-time friend of CCCSS. He is curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek.
 - Brian took us to the "Left (west) Coast" of South Africa with excellent photos and commentary on the plants to be seen there. Thank you Brian!

BOD Meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Expenses continue to outpace revenue, but we did have good response to the online auction & revenue from plant sales at the giveaway events are keeping us in good shape.
- Rob Skillin made a trip to the nurseries in SoCal to replenish our stock of Club plants. We should now have enough for 4-5 months of meetings.
- T-shirts: We still have a large inventory of the 2021 t-shirts, but only a few of our generic CCCSS shirts. We will be ordering more of these. Natasha will provide a sign up if you want anything other than the standard Men's t-shirt.
- There was much discussion regarding a return to live meetings. Each BOD member gave input. The consensus was that we will continue to Zoom in March, check the Covid stats to ensure that cases/hospitalizations continue to fall & then hopefully resume in person meetings in April.

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 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!



Aloe muchii

BREAKING GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

Our next Garden Gathering will take place at Loring Manley's great garden and greenhouse in Santa Maria. The date for this event is April 30, 2022, with two time slots available. If you are interested in attending, please indicate if you would like to attend at 11:00 am or 1:30 pm. Email Kathie and Paul at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net to put your name on the list.

We are currently booking additional Garden Gathering date for next year. 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?

Contact Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net



Loring Manley Beautiful
Bonsai



Loring Manley Incredible
Papaya Tree



Loring Manley Huge
Adenium



Loring Manley Tortoise

Photos by Kathie


SAVE THE DATE

CCCSS SHOW & SALE

MAY 28 & 29 2022

Volunteers needed: Please contact Pat Gilson

(hupt74@yahoo.com) to sign up. Volunteers are needed on Friday afternoon, May 27, for set-up. We also need lots of help during the Show & Sale on Saturday & Sunday. Thank you!



An Irish Blessing

May the sun shine all day long
everything go right
and nothing wrong.
May those you love
bring love back to you,
and may all the wishes
you wish come true.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd

Did you miss the previous page??

Hi All,

It's that time again, I need volunteers to work the Show & Sale. The dates are Friday May 27, Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29. This is going to be a great S&S we need to makeup for all the good times we missed the passed 2 years. If you can volunteer please let me know. My email is hupt74@yahoo.com. Please include your name, email, phone & when you can work. If you have special needs such as needing to sit or stand please let me know.

We have a new venue with outdoor space and lots of parking. I hope to hear from you soon.

Miss seeing all of you,

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



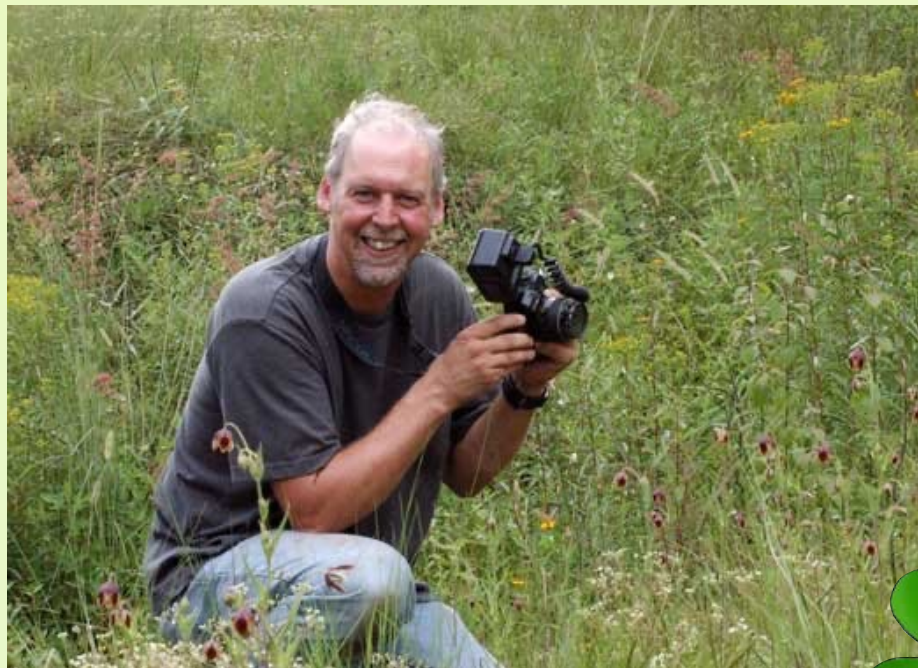
Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:

Ron Parsons: Bulbophyllums and Other Strange Orchids

Thursday, March 10th, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM PST

Explore the fascinating world of Bulbophyllums through Ron's amazing photographs. Ron has travelled the world photographing orchids and he will present images of Bulbophyllums in their natural habitat as well as in hobbyist collections. Learn how to care for these mostly miniature orchids and determine which you should consider growing for your specific growing conditions.

Go to www.fcos.org/subscribe for free newsletter and link to the meeting.





San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden Presents:
A Weekend of Art and Plants at the Annual
SLOBG Art in the Garden Show & Spring Plant Sale!

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—Visit the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden for a weekend of Art, Plants, and Community on Saturday March 26th and Sunday March 27th from 10am-5pm daily. This year's *Art in the Garden* show is presented in collaboration with the SLO County Arts Council and the New Times. The show features a diverse selection of well-respected local artists, and will include jewelry, glass, paintings, ceramics, sculptures and more. Visitors will find art for the home and garden, unique gifts, as well as a blossoming arts community. There will be something for everyone! Walk through the Oak Glen Pavilion and surrounding garden patios to be inspired and learn about the creative process from the artists themselves. All art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the SLO Botanical Garden. Our *Spring Plant Sale* is happening in-tandem with *Art in the Garden*, the weekend of March 26th and 27th. It's the perfect time to add some new color to your garden! The Garden offers charismatic, colorful, and hearty plants that make a great statement without affecting your water bill. All our volunteer-grown plants will be available to the public. In addition to our drought-tolerant and native plants, there will be Orchids for sale this year, in partnership with the Five Cities Orchid Society. Members Only: Shop from 9am-12pm on 3/26 and save 15% all weekend. Become a SLOBG Member today and get a free plant when you join or renew.

About San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is a non-profit organization that showcases plants from Mediterranean climates throughout the world. Through its programs and facilities, the Garden fosters an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between people and nature and encourages a sense of stewardship for the natural environment. The Garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Rd., within El Chorro Regional Park off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. Admission is \$10.00 for adults. Seniors, students, and military admission is \$8.00, and free for children 12 and under and members. To learn more visit slobg.org or the SLO Botanical Garden Facebook page.

3450 Dairy Creek Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
805.541.1400



Here's a note about the garden crew.

From Mary Peracca:

The **Botanical Garden Crew** is meeting again on improving the succulent area. We are adding and maintaining the plants there. It is looking really good! Thank you to the members who have been helping. Everyone brings knowledge and skills to the project.

Feel free to contact me if you are interested. We meet at the succulent area on Tuesdays at noon. All tools are provided. We meet every week if needed, or plan by what needs to be done. You can come every time, sometimes or even just once!

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 desertycola*

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)

10AM - 4PM

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Find our pop-up locations on Instagram: **TheSuccShack**



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polyplantshop.com

FOR UPDATES:

#wegrowslo

Masks and physical distancing recommended.

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
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Los Angeles, CA 90066
317-850-5111





THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY PRESENTS



ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE DESERT

An all-day family event



*Cultural Resources in the
Colorado Desert District*

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
9 a.m – 4 p.m.
Anza-Borrego Desert
State Park Visitor Center



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- How to visit an archaeology site
- Demonstration of Native plants and their uses by the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretative Center in Poway
- Kids Activities, including pottery-making using paddle-and-anvil construction techniques.
- Exhibits by San Diego County archaeological organizations & museums
- Guided tours of the CDAS Archaeology Lab
- In-person Field Trip to Mine Wash Indian Village



For information, please visit:

<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/arch-day-2022/>

Announcements - cont'd

Happy faces at February's Plant Pick-up and Rob's Plant Sale



BRAG PLANTS - Cont'd

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

From the Harlow's garden —————

This beauty began to bloom after being planted in the garden from a six inch pot.



From Kris Gorsuch

When one of my plants blooms so unexpectedly and extravagantly I just want to share it.

I know the attached photo is of a common plant (I believe its a *Kalanchoe Delagoensis*). I had never seen one bloom. I grew this plant for a couple years in a 2" pot then a 4" one. The plant was always about 4- 6 inches tall. In 2021 it started growing straight up- to 36" . Then late January it bloomed. Wow. I missed the "Valentines" issue but I wanted to give a Valentine "gift" to the club anyway. I know many of our members are collectors of rare plants, and they have seen about every bloom on every type of succulent. But, this one is just so much fun!



BRAG PLANTS - cont'd

From Leisa Swanson . .

The name of the Mammalaria cactus was first described in 1753. It was derived from Latin mammilla "nipple", referring to the tubercles that are the distinctive feature of this cactus.

The mammalaria cactus are some of my favorites for so many reasons..

First, they are hardy and easy to grow.. (so sad to lose expensive ones)

Their little flowers are rewardingly varied in color.

They are affordable. I find that many places have them at fair prices or less.. Sadly, Ace, Home Depot and Trader Joes dont have them labeled.

They are varied : the SPINE colors and their shapes are different from cactus to cactus, some of the shapes of TUBERCLES are pointy, others are bumpy.

The SHAPES of the cactus varies, some stay short and rounded, others grow long noses that keep growing..

I will try to name them, from top left,,



1. Bombycina



2. Longamama & Polythele



3. Maybe Matudae



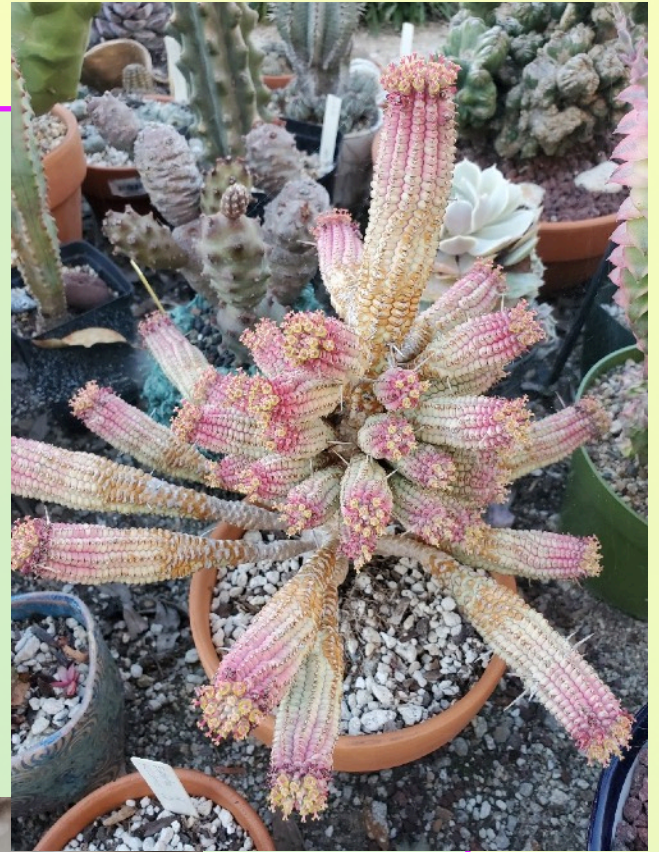
4. ? love all the orange flowers



5. **top left**..polythele, ? Matudae, Plumosa
middle.. spiny Compressa, Gracillis Fragillis, Duwei, SP gracilis, Gracillis little fingers
bottom.. Elongata

BRAG PLANTS - cont'd

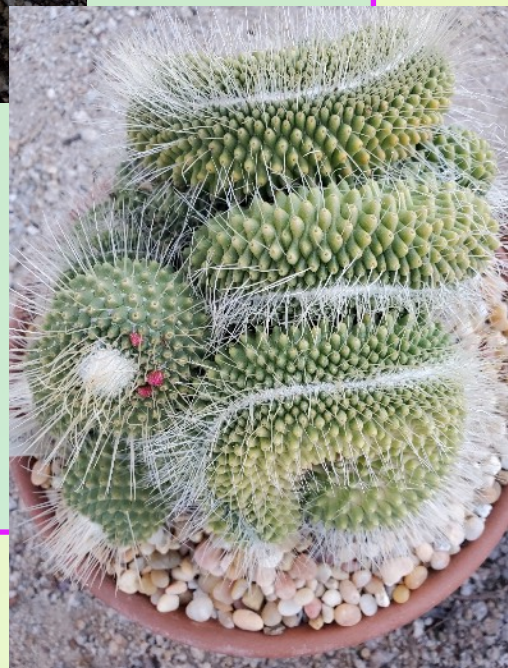
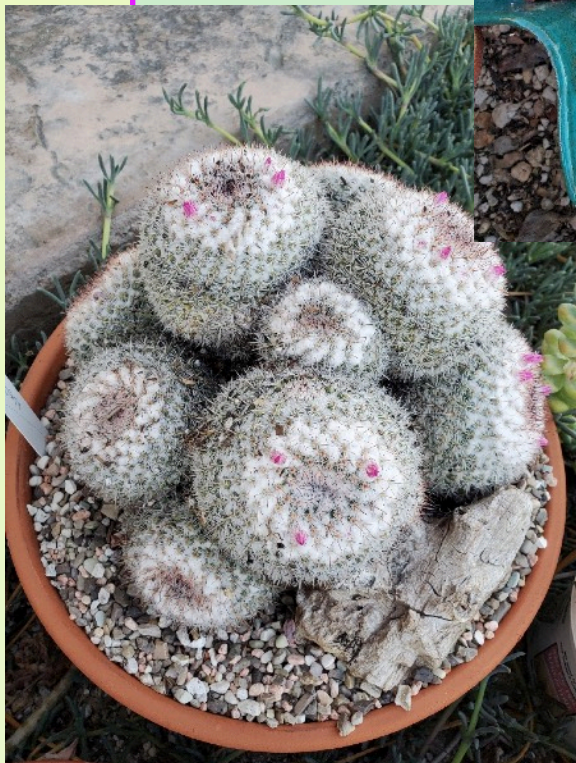
Mammalarias from Laura Oliver



BRAG PLANTS - cont'd



Mammalarias
from
Laura Oliver
Cont'd



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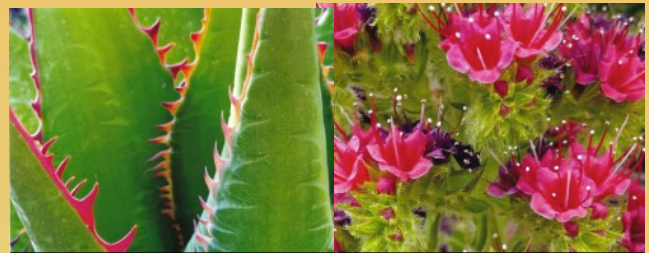


Richard Rowe

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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.



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Paso Robles, CA 93446
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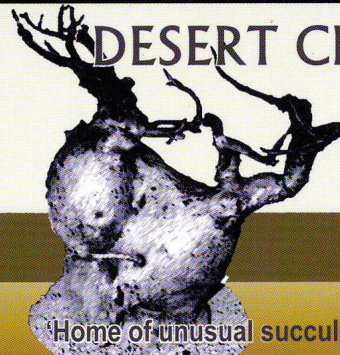
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