

THE CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

ON THE DRY SIDE

HAPRy 4" of July

* July 2022 **

*

The next meeting is Sunday
July 10 at 2 PM in the SLO
Odd Fellows Hall

In This Issue: Program

Rob Skillen

Plant of the Month

Markus is absent

Announcements

Message from the President Meeting Minutes CCCSS Ask Us Garden Gatherings & other

Business Members, **Board Members**

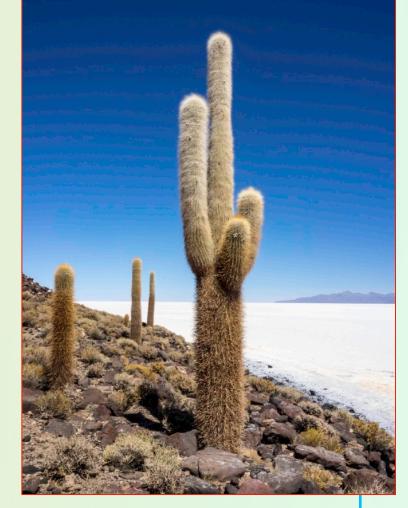
Cacti of the Central Andean Cordillera; Argentina and Chile

This month's program will feature the cacti from the region of the Andes Mountains of Argentina, Chile and Bolivia – spanning both sides of the Andes – from the Atacama Desert on the west, to the foothills above the Argentinian pampas on the east.

Our presenter will be Rob Skillin, who has made several trips through South America, from which he has put together this program of habitat shots of cacti ranging from the smallest of the small (<u>Blossfeldia liliputana</u> and <u>Copiapoa laui</u>) to the truly large (<u>Trichocereus</u> and <u>Eulychnia</u>) – with a few succulents thrown in for good measure.

In Rob's own words:

I have been growing cacti and succulents for 43 years, and have been involved in various local societies for most of that time.



The first office I held was Show and Sale Chairman for the Santa Barbara CSS, during the late 1980's. After moving to California's Central Valley, I became a founding member, and later, President of the Bakersfield CSS. In 2005, after another move, I was a founder of the Central Coast CSS and became its first President. I have also been involved with the CSSA as a member of its Board of Directors.

Program for June - cont'd

My first interest, which continues today, was cacti of the Chihuahuan desert, especially those unique genera such as <u>Ariocarpus</u>, <u>Aztekium</u>, and <u>Strombocactus</u>, etc. Gradually, I diversified my collection to include <u>Mesembs</u>, <u>Haworthias</u>, and other succulents, particularly caudiciforms. I've spent many years studying the cacti of the US, particularly species of <u>Sclerocactus</u> and <u>Pediocactus</u>. I am an avid grower of plants from seed, and now have a number of seed-grown specimens in my collection dating back to 1982. As an acknowledgment my expertise with these plants, I have been asked to judge numerous shows throughout California, including the CSSA, Intercity, NORCAL, LA, Fresno and San Diego shows.

Along with my interest in cacti and succulents, I enjoy photography and travel. These interests have come together in a wonderful way during my botanical explorations of the western US and Mexico, and portions of South America, Africa, Madagascar and the Middle East. I have several programs based on these trips, and I speak regularly to clubs in northern and southern California, as well as at the Huntington Succulent Symposium and 2019 CSSA Convention. Many of my photographs have been published as illustrations for articles and covers of the CSSA Journal and Haseltonia, as well as the Timber Press Book of Succulents of the World. I have published several articles on a variety of topics in the CSSA Journal.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



CCCSS President's Message July 2022

There is not a lot to report this month. **Yearly memberships are now due**. Please submit your dues to Laura Oliver at the July meeting or by mail (see her address info in the Newsletter).

Rob Skillin will be our featured speaker this month. His well thought out presentation will feature his outstanding photographs of the plants he has observed in habitat. Rob will also be selling his well grown plants at the meeting. Since he did not sell at our Show & Sale, this will be a great opportunity to see what he has to offer.

We will continue to meet in person at the Odd Fellows Hall at 2pm on the second Sunday of the month. Our next meeting is July 10th. Please continue to wear your masks as the Covid 19 virus is still quite prevalent in our community. There are no current plans to Zoom the meetings as it is quite difficult to do a production in a professional manner. We are having on-going discussions to explore what would be required to achieve a watchable program.

I would like to thank our Society members again for all their work in making our Show & Sale at Nipomo HS a success. Pat is working on the reward raffle tickets for volunteers and they should be available next meeting.

If you have a disabled parking permit, please consider parking on the street in front of the OFH in order to allow more spaces in the parking lot. Thank you.

See you Sunday July 10 at 2pm.....Harry

CCCSS Meetings summary June 12 2022

Regular Meeting:

75 participants present

Harry welcomed participants to the meeting. We had several newcomers who introduced themselves and received a free plant.

 Awards presentation: The award certificates for plants that won in their respective categories at the Show & Sale were presented. These beautiful award certificates were put together by Dail Schroeder using Loring's photographs.



Succulents 101 presentation & panel discussion:

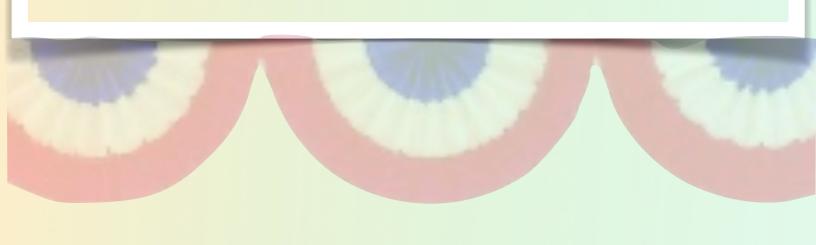
- Mike Bush gave an informative presentation on the needs of our succulent plants. He
 also reviewed areas around the world where these plants grow. His handout "A
 Common Sense Approach to
- o Growing Cacti and Other Succulents" will be available at the Greeter Table.
- The panel participants were: Kathie Matsuyama, Gene Schroeder, Markus Mumper,
 Ann Erb & Mike Bush. Here a some of the tips discussed:
 - Placing a bamboo skewer in your plant to see if it needs water. Leave it in place overnight & if it looks damp---don't water. Remember that one inadvertent watering will not kill a plant.
 - Know your plants. Label them with their Latin & common name. There are many resources on the internet (and in our lending Library) to find out where plants grow, and their light/temp/watering needs.
 - Spiders: Put several drops of Dawn in a water bottle sprayer. Spray the web, then watch for the spider to come out, then spray them directly. Any soap residue can then be washed off the plant.
 - Uses caution when putting plants in black plastic pots in the sun. They can get VERY HOT and this can kill the plant roots.
 - Ceramic pots without feet---raise them off a concrete surface with feet or rocks.
 This improves air circulation.
 - When to repot? It depends:
 - Some plants like to be crowded
 - How do you want the plant to look?
 - If plant is not draining freely, it might be root bound.
 - If the plant is put in too big a pot, the soil will stay wet longer and this can lead to rot.
 - If the plant is not looking good, unpot and take a look at the roots.
 - If you buy a plant that is planted in peat (often done by commercial growers) repot and get rid of the peat. It retains too much water.
 - When repotting, loosen the roots to help them spread out into the new soil. Hold off watering for a few days after repotting to allow roots to recover.



BOD Meeting:

- Treasurer's report: Maggie will review S&S income at the committee meeting on June
 23rd. We should have an idea of total income and expenses by the July meeting.
- Discussion re: mask wearing. The wearing of masks will be strongly encouraged due to prevalence of Covid cases in our Community.
- Survey: Loring and Tanya will work on crafting a short survey for members to determine the interest in Zoomed meetings, live streaming/recorded for later viewing, what parts of the meeting are most/least important to record.
 - In order to do a quality video production of the meetings we need to consider the expense, expertise of volunteers to do the production and the time it takes to film and edit the production.
- Parking: It seems to be adequate so far, but we will ask those with a disabled sticker to park in front of the building to free up spaces in the parking lot. The Community Foundation building down the street has parking in the back. We will check to see if we can use those spaces.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



From Mary Peracca:

Plants and cuttings needed for the Botanical Garden propagation and sales.

We can use plants in 2" or 4" pots and/or fresh cuttings, (2-3 days old) of soft succulents.

Plants with teeth or pointed tips don't sell well. No cacti.

Crassulas, aeoniums with color, sedums, senecios, haworthia, some aloes, etc.

Please bring any plants you can donate to the July meeting, I'll have a table and sign set up near the exchange table.

Thanks for your help!



Rena Dambly

P.O.Box 3014 Shell Beach, CA 93448

(805) 773-4757 **Cell 805 305 1803**chapmanestatefoundation@gmail.com

Rena is looking for gardening volunteers at the Chapman House, also cuttings and plants.

She usually works Monday 9-11 am but it's best to call her first.

José Toll 🥮



The Camino Fire started 6-28-22 in Huasna very close to both ranches of CCCSS members Terrie Leivers and Rob Skillin.

Photos by Kathie

This photo was taken shortly after the fire started from Paul and Kathie Matsuyama's backyard in Nipomo, about 7 miles south of the fire.

GARDEN GATHERING HOSTS NEEDED!!

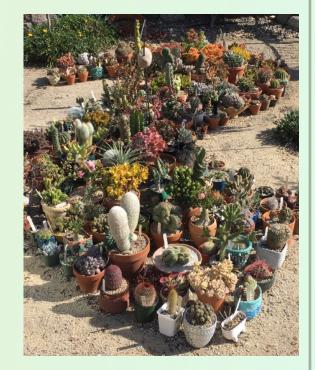
We are actively recruiting Garden Gathering hosts for this year. We currently have no

future events scheduled. Let us know if you are interested in hosting. It's super fun!

New to CCCSS? Here are the FAQs about Garden Gatherings:

Health FIRST: We take the health and safety of our club members seriously. Our Garden Gathering hosts are inviting us into their homes and gardens. Therefore, all attendees are required to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination to attend the events.

Why: Our CCCSS is large and growing; it's hard to connect with other cactophiles at our Zoom meetings and large in-person meetings. This is a great chance to meet people in small social group settings.



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 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



CCCSS ASK US: WE WILL TRY TO HELP!!

Do you have a prickly cactus question or an inscrutable succulent issue? The CCCSS ASK US TABLE can now be accessed at in person CCCSS meetings or VIRTUALLY. See our venerable expert Cactophile Gene Schroeder and Succulentophile Kathie

Matsuyama at the ASK ME table at monthly meetings or send us your questions. The online ASK US service is for Active CCCSS members only.

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



Photo by Bryan Quigley.

Please email/provide 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/provide you with our thoughts. Your plant question might be featured in a future CCCSS ASK US Newsletter column.

Send your ASK US questions to Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama at: AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org

Happy and Healthy Growing!

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd ASK US TABLE ANSWERS:

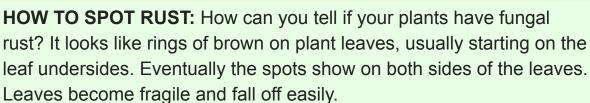
WHAT IS GOING ON WITH MY CRASSULAS? YIKES I HAVE RUST FUNGUS!!

By Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama

PROBLEM: Laura says her Crassulas had been growing great but were now in the midst of a die off. What was going on? She had tried taking cuttings of good growth, rooting them in fresh soil, and disposing of the old soil and bad plant parts. This resulted in beautiful, full plants for years. Now suddenly, they were starting to die.



ANALYSIS: Crassulas are usually bulletproof. Laura's information indicated some of her plants exhibited these same symptoms in the past. That made Gene and Kathie think there could be latent fungal disease in the plants. In the right conditions (too cold, too shady, too wet, and/or poor airflow) fungus can bloom and then spread. May "gray" and June "gloom" coastal weather where Laura lives is conducive to these kinds of fungal attacks.





TREATMENT: First immediately quarantine any plants you suspect of rust or showing similar signs of yellowing, brown spots or die-off. Rust fungus is contagious. You don't want to spread it to healthy plants. Rust is tough to get rid of, but you might be able to keep it under control. Gently remove the infected leaves (trying not to shake and spread the fungus).

In the very rare "go-to" book on Crassulas, <u>Crassulas: A Growers Guide</u>, Gordon Rowley says Crassulas are specifically susceptible to rust fungus. The suggested control is a systemic fungicide. Check the product for it's suitable for Crassulaceae. Gordon Rowley liked to annually soak his Crassulas with a systemic pesticide in the spring when the weather is warm, and the roots are ready for action. Be sure to follow all directions for application carefully. (Wear gloves, do it in a well-ventilated area, etc.).

Good Luck with your Crassulas! And Happy and Healthy Growing!



POST-FIRE REGENERATION HOW TO GERMINATE FIRE RESPONSIVE SEEDS TIM BECKER Director of Horitculture Theodore Payne Foundation Terry Huang Botanist & Garden Coach Theodore Payne Foundation



New Videos about Wildfire Ecology

How do landscapes recover after wildfire? Check out our new videos on post-fire ecology!

Post-Fire Regeneration: TPF's Director of Horticulture Tim Becker shares the natural process of ecological recovery in a post-fire landscape in Topanga, CA.

How to Germinate Fire-Responsive Seeds: Botanist & Garden Coach Terry Huang shares three methods for germinating seeds that require fire cues in order to germinate.

Star-Spangled Succulents
Plants and Pottery Sale

JULY 2 (SAT.) & JULY 3 (SUN.)

10AM - 5PM 2016 9TH STREET, LOS OSOS



Rare and unusual plants for the water wise garden

Steve Super Gardens - 805.801.9973 - stevesupergardens@gmail.com

stevesupergardens.com - on Etsy: SteveSuperGardens

Functional & decorative ceramics; unusual tillandsias **Richard Rowe Clayworks -** 805.235.9721 - roweclayworks@gmail.com

387 'B' Quintana Road in Morro Bay - roweclayworks.com - on Etsy: **RoweClayworks**

Unique, well-grown succulent plants for the Central Coast **The Succ Shack -** 805.602.7817 - calcoastsucculents@gmail.com

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

Amazing succulent plants for containers and landscape **GROW Nursery/Botanica Nova** - 805.305.9292 - nick@grownursery.com *grownursery.com* - 2024 Main Street in Cambria (enter through The Garden Shed)

NO EARLY BROWSING. NO EARLY SALES.



Howdy, Pals!

Looks like a great weekend for our upcoming Succulent & Pottery Sale in Los Osos, next to La Casita Mexican Restaurant on 9th Street.

With three great growers, plus Richard's pots designed with succulents in mind, there is a superior assortment of items to tempt you.

Jeanne Miller and Cal Coast Succulents will have the SuccShack there, with plants from \$4 up, most in the \$6-\$10 range

Following every sale, each of the four vendors make a donation to a selected local charity - the SLO NOOR Foundation Clinics.

Join us for a fun weekend of plant people and their plants.

Mike

Mike Bush Los Osos, California









Free Day At The Garden! Saturday, July 9, 2022 9:00AM - 5:00PM



Join us at the SLOBG on **Saturday**, **July 9th**, 2022, for our FREE admission day from 9am-5pm! Bring the whole family and make a day of nature & exploration! Join us for a garden scavenger hunt, and nature inspired art activity!

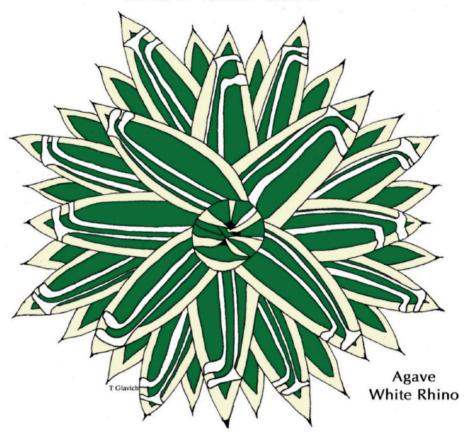
About San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

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 Slobg.org

Cactus and Succulent Society of America

55th Annual Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale



July 1 - 3, 2022

The Huntington

Huntington Hours 10 AM to 5 PM 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA

INFORMATION 626-405-3504

Open to the public with paid admission or Huntington membership

Advance online timed entry reservations are now required ONLY on weekends for both visitors

& Members.NO WALK-INS. Limited daily capacity. Friday sale reservations strongly
recommended.

Go to the huntington.org website for tickets

If you have not seen the Summer 2022 edition of our *To The Point* newsletter, Click here.

Coming Events: July 1-3: CSSA 55th Annual Show and Sale website
The Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA.

Join us Saturday, July 9th at 10:00 a.m. PDT for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Matt Opel, PhD. Welwitschia

Registration link

"I could do nothing but kneel down and gaze at it, half in fear lest a touch should prove it a figment of the imagination."

-Friedrich Welwitsch, on finding Welwitschia in Angola in 1859

Welwitschia is an anomalous cone-bearing plant from the Namib Desert in coastal southern Africa, a lone survivor of a largely vanished lineage, clinging to existence in the oldest desert region on Earth. Its peculiar form—essentially the decapitated stump of a tree with a pair of leaves that must last for the entire centuries-long life of the plant—and equally puzzling ecology—how can those expansive leaves make sense in the dry moonscapes of the Namib?—have inspired wonder and speculation from generations of botanists.

Growers of cacti and succulents have similarly been inspired by the prospect of cultivating this vegetable marvel, and a rich lore of horticultural techniques and legends has accumulated around *Welwitschia*. Dr Matthew Opel will attempt to demystify the science and cultivation of *Welwitschia*, without taking away all of the romance. He will describe the unique form and growth of the plant, and cover important aspects of its ecology in its natural environment. Knowledge of the evolution and relationships of *Welwitschia* has expanded greatly in recent years, resulting in the downfall of hypotheses about its supposed affinity with flowering plants, and exciting developments around the possible existence of two *Welwitschia* subspecies. Finally, Matt will provide practical advice for propagating and growing *Welwitschia*, and debunk some of the less-than-useful *Welwitschia* cultivation myths, so that attendees should have a better chance of keeping the strangest of all conifers in their own greenhouse.

Biography:

Matthew Opel grew up in Westchester County, NY, where he developed an early love of plants, gardening and the natural world; one of his first words was "pachysandra." He became interested in *Lithops*—the "living stones"—and other desert plants after visits to the New York Botanical Garden, and eventually went on to study biology and botany at Cornell

University. Matt received a doctorate from the University of Connecticut after completing studies of the anatomy and evolution of *Conophytum*, a genus of African succulent plants. In the course of his research he spent three winters in South Africa, where he discovered a new species of succulent plant that was named *Tylecodon opelii* in his honor in 2011.

Matt is currently employed as a collections scientist at the University of Connecticut, at the Plant Biodiversity Conservatory and Research Core. He has



Top: 2 year-old *Welwitschia* seedling, Middle: female Cones, Bottom: Wasp pollination

written about desert plants for specialist journals in the US, the UK and South Africa, and given lectures on botanical topics to a wide range of audiences. He is the current vice-president and past president of the Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society.

If you have not seen the Summer 2022 edition of our *To The Point* newsletter, <u>Click here.</u> Coming Events: July 1-3: <u>CSSA 55th Annual Show and Sale website</u>

The Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA.

Looking for a more Cactus and Succulent Events? Check out the <u>CSSA Events Calendar</u>

CSSA Members: If you have not yet done so, please renew you membership now. <u>CSSA membership</u>

Not a member? Join now! CSSA membership CSSA Membership Benefits:

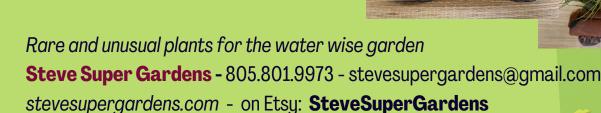
- Receive the prestigious <u>Cactus and Succulent Society Journal</u>, published four times annually.
- Receive To The Point, our CSSA e-newsletter, published four times annually, featuring news, views and growing tips from around the world.
- Participate in CSSA's bi-monthly Webinar Series featuring C&S experts from around the world.
- Access and purchase rare C&S seeds at our <u>CSSA Seed Depot</u>.
- Participate in CSSA's members-only field trips to native habitats of cacti and other succulents.
- Participate in the CSSA convention. The next convention will be in Colorado Springs in 2023.



Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale

AUGUST 20 (SAT.) & AUGUST 21 (SUN.)

10AM - 5PM 2016 9TH STREET, LOS OSOS



Functional & decorative ceramics: unusual tillandsias Richard Rowe Clayworks - 805.235.9721 - roweclayworks@gmail.com 387 'B' Quintana Road in Morro Bay - roweclayworks.com - on Etsy: RoweClayworks

Unique, well-grown succulent plants for the Central Coast The Succ Shack - 805.602.7817 - calcoastsucculents@gmail.com Find our pop-up locations on Instagram: TheSuccShack

FOR UPDATES: *wegrowslo

Amazing succulent plants for containers and landscape GROW Nursery/Botanica Nova - 805.305.9292 - nick@grownursery.com grownursery.com - 2024 Main Street in Cambria (enter through The Garden Shed)



A portion of proceeds benefits SLO Food Bank, a 501 (c)3 organization whose mission is to work FOOD BANK healthier community. with a network of community partners to alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo county and build a

Brag Plants



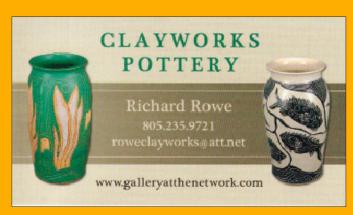
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- We Have Four Locations To Serve You -

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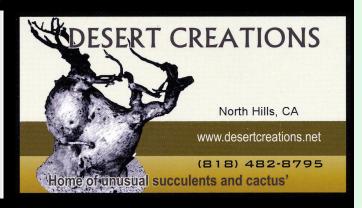
Robin Sims slogrower@gmail.com



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