



The next meeting is
Sunday March 12 at
2:00 at the Odd Fellows'
Hall.

ON THE DRY SIDE



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Gymnocalyciums, Argentina, Brazil & Uruguay

By Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Gymnocalycium is one of the most popular of all of the South American genera. Most everybody during the development of their cactus and succulent collections has eventually ended up with a sizable assortment of this wonderful genus. The genus is named for its naked, spineless floral calyx, thus; Gymno (naked) calycium (calyx). Their large flowers are often very beautiful in form and color, ranging from white to yellow to red and pink. When the flowers are fertilized, the naked calyx normally develops into a large colorful fruit which becomes very attractive to the various little creatures (mice, birds, lizards, etc.) who love to eat these succulent morsels. These little creatures also play a big part in the seed dispersal for many of the Gymno species.

Most of the species are not really large and thus they make perfect pot culture specimens. Their colors, shapes and unique spine arrangements often make them outstanding geometric treasures. Because many of the species live in harsh conditions, they have often evolved as geophytes, with colors that match

their soils and surroundings. Generally, their shapes are globose to sub-globose and flat to depressed, thus allowing them to survive in regularly arid and usually bright environments. When it comes to spines, many of the Gymnos are very heavily armed to thus protect them from numerous herbivores. Some of the flat, tap rooted species, have the most attractive pectinate spine arrangements, often looking like spiders or fingers clinging to their bodies. Probably the most desired aspect of the Gymnos is that they almost all make ideal and easy plants for cultivation. For the serious collector, who often wants every species of a particular genus, Gymnos are textbook. A complete assortment, of all of the Gymno species and forms, can be grown in a relatively small greenhouse or in an appropriately sized outdoor setting.



Gymnocalycium monvillei in habitat
south of Cordoba, Argentina



Gymnocalycium horridispinum

MONTHLY PROGRAM Cont'd

All of the *Gymnocalyciums* come from South America. Although, the great majority of the species are found in central to northern Argentina. In the surrounding countries of Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay, one can find many of the more subtropical species. These species generally like a higher degree of humidity and slightly lower day time temperatures. Over the years, many serious field explorers, each with their own perspectives, have roamed all of these adjacent countries. Thus, the taxonomy is slightly confused, and often many synonyms for the same species are offered in the trade. A few of the numerous pioneers who have searched for and discovered many of the taxa include; *Frederick Ritter, Leopold Horst, Roberto Kiesling, Ferrari, Backeberg, and Schuetz.*



Gymnocalycium calochlorum in habitat north of Cordoba, Argentina.

If you like the *Gymnocalyciums*, hopefully this presentation will give you a good feel for how and where they grow, as well as, much of the variation within the genus.

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

2021

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. To date, this makes 128 major trips. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants were often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: *Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls* in general.



Woody in the New Mexico winter wild lands

MONTHLY PROGRAM Cont'd

Woody has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."



Gymnocalycium damesii variegated
in Kathy Minnich pot

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of thirteen C&S societies across the country. He has been president, show and sale chair, newsletter editor, program chair, and plant of the month coordinator. Woody has also served on the CSSA board and numerous societies in many other leadership positions. He is a co-creator, and currently the president, of the Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club. With 52 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field (old fart), he has many experiences to share and thousands of photos to show.



PLANT OF THE MONTH is back!!



The Genus *Sarcocaulon*

INTRODUCTION - The genus *Sarcocaulon*, which comprises a group of about 14 species, originates from the western side southern Africa. *Sarcocaulon* lies in the Geranium family (Geraniaceae) and anyone familiar with that family of plants will instantly recognize the flowers which are large, colorful and showy. *Sarcocaulon* has a sister genus, *Monsonia*. In 1996 the German botanist Focke Albers published a DNA analysis of *Sarcocaulon* and *Monsonia*. Albers expressed his belief that they should no longer be separate genera and proposed that all species of *Sarcocaulon* be included in the genus *Monsonia*. This decision was not widely supported citing macro-morphological differences, the historical recognition of two separate genera, the different natural range of the two genera (*Sarcocaulon* is largely confined to deserts and semi-desert regions in southern Africa while *Monsonia* are much more widely distributed from the south of the African continent into the Arabian Peninsula and India), and the lack of spiny stems on *Monsonia* that *Sarcocaulon* have. This has caused some confusion, but most current nomenclatural databases maintain the two genera as separate. Having a center of diversity around the southwestern coast of Africa hints at a key component to anyone who has the desire to grow these curious plants. The majority of the genus are winter growers! Being winter growers means that horticulturally they tend to have their most active period of growth when the day length shortens, and the temperature decreases during the rainy fall and winter months. This is the case for my small collection of *Sarcocaulon* and I always look forward to fall as it will awaken them with a flush of leaves and flowers.

Typically, *Sarcocaulon* grow as low growing shrubs in exposed areas with full sun and strong winds. One adaptation this group of plants possesses is a waxy coating on their stems which helps the plants reduce the effects desiccation while living in such arid environments. This waxy coating (which apparently is quit flammable) has even led to the local nick name of "Bushman's Candle". I, however, have yet to attempt to light my plants on fire to test this common name out. The word *Sarcocaulon* is derived from the Greek work for fleshy, "sarkodis", and for stem, "caulon". Indeed, they typically have very fleshy branches which have always reminded me of someone's splayed palm emerging from the earth or a pot.

Cultivation - Like most arid growing plants *Sarcocaulon* require a lean growing media being low in organics like peat moss or wood chips and high in coarse inorganic material. The soil mix I use consists of Pumice, Core (shredded coconut husk fiber) and decomposed granite. Good drainage in the media is key and it is also important that the pot you use has sufficient drainage holes as well. They do not tolerate long periods of wet on their roots. Watering must be in accordance with the winter growing nature of these plants. In the fall, these plants begin to put out leaves which for me is the sign that they would like a drink of water. From then on, around every two weeks I will water. In the spring, the leaves will begin to yellow and fall off.



Sarcocaulon multifidum flower & plant

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

Do not be deceived and think that they need more water. They are entering dormancy and will certainly suffer and potentially die if water is continued to be given to them at the rate I've suggested. Watering in the summer should be very conservative and only done to avoid letting the soil becoming bone dry. Another component of their cultivation is good ventilation which will help the soil dry out quickly and keep temperature near the plant at a manageable level especially if you grow your *Sarcocaulon* in a greenhouse.

Habitat and ecology- As mentioned before, *Sarcocaulon* grow in the western side of southern Africa in the countries of South Africa, Namibia and Angola (*S. mossamedense*). They grow in sandy or rocky grounds from sea level up to an elevation of about 5400 ft. The various species of *Sarcocaulon* are encountered in areas with scattered vegetation. As mentioned, they lack leaves for the most part of the year and produce leaves only after sufficient rains which occur during the fall or winter months. Also, the flowering is often triggered by the rainfall. The list below comprises the members of the genus and their specific locations of native growth.

List of the species of the genus *Sarcocaulon*

1. *S. spinosum* - L'Héritier (RSA: Namaqualand)
2. *S. camdeboense* - Moffett (RSA: Great Karoo)
3. *S. vanderietiae* - L. Bolus (RSA: Eastern Cape, Great Fish River Valley) not a total winter grower
4. *S. salmoniflorum* - Moffett (Namibia, Kalahari, RSA: Great Karoo, Tanqua Karoo, Richtersveld)
5. *S. patersonii* - De Candolle (RSA: coastal zone of Richtersveld, Namibia: from Rosh Pinah to Luderitz)
6. *S. crassicaule* - Rehm (RSA: Great Karoo, Tanqua Karoo, Namaqualand, Bushmanland, Namibia: southwest)
7. *S. ciliatum* - Moffett (Namaqualand Nord)
8. *S. flavescens* - Rehm (the North and South of the mouth of the river Orange)
9. *S. marlothii* - Engler (Namibia: Nama-karoo)
10. *S. mossamedense* - Welwitsch ex Oliver (Angola: Mossâmedes, Namibia: from Henties Bay to Hoanib River)
11. *S. inerme* - Rehm (Namibia: from Rosh Pinah to Witputz)
12. *S. herrei* - L. Bolus (RSA: Southeast Richtersveld)
13. *S. multifidum* - E. Meyer ex R. Knuth (RSA and Namibia: Orangemund)
14. *S. peniculinum* - Moffett (Namibia: South of Rosh Pinah)

Conclusion: The genus *Sarcocaulon* is a very interesting group of plants that I recommend to anyone who likes arid growing plants. Whether it's the beautiful flowers which emerge in the fall, interesting leaves throughout the winter or an aesthetic and dormant plant in the summer. If you can meet their basic requirements and resist the temptation to water during the summer months, you will be rewarded.



Sarcocaulon patersonii



Sarcocaulon patersonii

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCCSS President's Message March 2023

Our Society is well on its way to having another fantastic Show & Sale this Memorial Day weekend. It is surprising to realize all the work that goes into making this event happen. We have a committee of 19 dedicated individuals who will attend three or four scheduled meetings prior to the S&S. It's "all hands on deck" for the rest of our members to fill all the volunteer positions needed to run the event. This year is on track to be even better than last year as we've learned how to improve our table layout at Nipomo High School to have wider aisles in the sales area. We also have a new category for Youth Growers, and it will be interesting to see what they bring.

It's not too early to start saving newspaper for packing plants as many of us get our papers online these days. We will also need sturdy boxes (no flimsy takeout containers please) for our happy shoppers. This premier event will be better advertised this year, so we expect even a bigger turnout than last year. The S&S funds our Society's activities and will enable us to operate comfortably for the next year.

Each four-hour volunteer shift will be rewarded with 10 raffle tickets for our monthly plant raffle. It is not too early to think about staging and/or transplanting a favorite plant into a show pot. Perhaps think about bringing a few more plants to the Show this year than last.

Be sure to see Pat Gilson to sign up for the various volunteer opportunities to help at the Show. We hope to "Wow" the public again with our splendid Show plants and the great variety of plants for sale from our vendors. Be sure to pick up some S&S cards to distribute to your friends, neighbors, and local businesses.

See you Sunday March 12th at 2pm at the Odd Fellows Hall.....Harry

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

Meeting Minutes for 2/12/23
2:05 Harry began the meeting

Harry announced that Bob Webb will be the speaker for today's meeting. The S&S Committee held their first meeting and Loring had the postcards printed and ready for distribution.

Maggie Wagner introduced the show's Sponsored Awards which will be \$30. each. This amount is collected to pay for the award rosettes.

Plants were given to volunteers for clean-up, snacks and new visitors..

Bill Findlay introduced Bob Webb, a *Sansevieria* Specialist from Arizona and a delightful personality and storyteller.

Break

Pkts of S&S card were available to take and distribute.

Rob Skillin introduced the 'Brag Plants', 'Plant of the Month' (*Sansevieria*), and the raffle plants.

Submitted by C. Mortensen

Hi All,

It's about 3 months till the Show & Sale. I will have signup sheets for setup on Friday; Morning and afternoon shifts for Saturday and Sunday. As well as cleanup on Sunday.

For each shift you work you will receive 10 raffle tickets at the next meeting.

If you are interested in clerking see Ann Erb.

If you are interested in precheck see Kathy Matsuyama.

If you are interested in Cashing see Kathy Goss

Everything else see me Pat Gilson, if you are unable to attend the meetings please call me 805-710-4957 or email hupt74@yahoo.com

Let's have a wonderful Show & Sale.

Pat Gilson



2023 SHOW & SALE MAY 27 & 28

15TH ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Nipomo High School, 525 N Thompson Ave
Saturday, May 27 - 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, May 28 - 10 am to 4 pm

NEW YOUTH GROWER CATEGORY

- Free admission & strong meals
- Prizes available for exhibitors
- Free parking for non-club members
- Cash/Check/Debit cards accepted

QR codes for exhibitors and youth growers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

CCCSS ASK US: WE WILL TRY TO HELP!!

GENE SCHROEDER & KATHIE MATSUYAMA ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

The CCCSS ASK US TABLE is available at CCCSS meetings or send us your questions.

The online ASK US service is for Active CCCSS members only.

We will try to help with:

- Plant ID (Provide photos of the plant: 1) close-up of leaves, flowers, spines; 2) plant photo with a ruler, soda can or credit card for scale; and 3) plant photo showing where its grown (full sun, shade, in the ground?)
- Cultural Requirements (water, light, fertilizer, soil type)
- Pests & Other Problems
- Propagation

Please provide as much information as you can to help us answer your question. Microclimates matter, be sure to tell us where you live!

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

Happy and Healthy Growing in 2023!

Please stop by our table and wish Gene a very Happy Birthday!

Gene and Kathie



Cheiridopsis pillansii



Aloe africana



Photos by Kathie

"GARDEN GATHERING EVENTS"

If you are interested in attending, please let us know; we will put your name on the waiting list and contact you if a spot opens. **You must be a CCCSS member and fully vaccinated to attend.** Email Kathie and Paul at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net to put your name on the waiting list.

We are currently booking additional Garden Gathering dates for 2023. Let us know if you are interested in hosting. It is 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. Most hosts require all attendees to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination to attend the events.

Why: CCCSS club is large and growing; it is hard to connect with other cactophiles at our 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 one½ 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 2023?

Contact Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd



UPCOMING GARDEN GATHERING EVENTS

A Garden Gathering is planned at **Susie Hubbard's** home in Los Osos on **Saturday March 18, 2023 at 11:30am or 1:30pm**. This

charming garden has an abundance of delightful and whimsical decorations everywhere you look! You will be awed by

Susie's meticulously maintained garden. Her creative and colorful use of succulents with cottage garden flowers in borders and beds will

inspire! It will be a fun and relaxing event in this must-see garden of an excellent collector and grower. There may be some plants and pottery for sale at the event as well.



This event is currently almost full. If you are interested in attending, please let us know which time you would like to attend, and we will add your name to the attendee list. **You must be a CCCSS member and fully vaccinated to attend.** Email Kathie and Paul at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net



Photos by Kathie Matsuyama



Morro Bay Madness

A One-Day Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale

In **Morro Bay** at BHGRE Haven Realty Office

805 Main St. (Corner of Morro Bay Blvd. and Main St.)



March 25 (Saturday)
11am - 7pm



Rare and unusual plants for the water wise garden

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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 with a network of community partners to alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo county, and build a healthier community.

OUR NEXT SALE:
May 6 & 7 in Los Osos
Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale
Updates at #wegrowSLO

2023 Spring Garden Festival Art in the Garden and Plant Sale

Sat. & Sun, March 25 & 26

10:00AM - 4:00PM

FREE

Come spend the day at the SLO Botanical Garden enjoying beautiful fine art, food and music in our lovely outdoor setting. Over 35 artist's creations will be on display and you can shop our nursery that showcases native plants and succulents propagated here at the garden. Food and drink will be available for purchase and Jill Knight will be performing on our terrace throughout the weekend.

We hope you can join in the fun.

Questions? janine@slobg.org

ALOE FEROX DONATION

Thank you Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

for funding the 100+ Aloe ferox's we are currently planting. The CCCSS generously gifted \$2,000 worth of these important plants recently. You'll find them in the South African section of the garden.



CHUMASH ETHNOBOTANY with Jan Timbrook

Saturday, March 11. 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Chumash people have used some 150 species of plants for food, medicine, raw materials for making clothing, tools and utensils, religious paraphernalia, and other items essential to existence. Equally important are the ways in which the Chumash thought about plants and were affected by them.

Dr. Timbrook's informative, illustrated talk will provide a glimpse into the fascinating plant world of the Chumash, including the complex interrelationships between the first people of our region and the environment in which they lived.

\$15.00 / \$5.00 Members

[Register](#)



BE A PART OF THE PROCESS - VOLUNTEER!

Do what you know and love or learn something new! Opportunities include Garden & Facilities Maintenance, Educational Docent, Photography/Videography, Propagation, Special Events and More!

Contact: Cheryl Wakefield cheryl@slobg.org



Tim Culbertson "Vandaceous Minis for Outdoors"

The Five Cities Orchid Society invites you to our series of
Orchid Talks 2023
March 9th, 2023, 7pm to 8:30pm

Tim Culbertson's talk is entitled "Beautiful Miniature Vandaceous Orchids for Outdoors." These plants are easy to grow and flower, are vigorous, and have low cultural demands; they are natives of Australia or Japan and will grow easily outdoors in California. Tremendous advancements in breeding *Sarcochilus* and *Neofineta* have been made recently, and he will share some of these with you, as well as help identify some of the important parents in the backgrounds of new and modern colors found in these genera. By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of what goes into breeding trends for these types of plants, as well as an appreciation of their beautiful flowers and ease-of-growth. Tim will be providing an opportunity to get some of the newest, modern, cutting-edge temperature-tolerant Vandaceous species and hybrids!



Join us on Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82355435739?
pwd=bThHazRPEkw5cjhnYmNzMIpkTW96dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82355435739?pwd=bThHazRPEkw5cjhnYmNzMIpkTW96dz09)

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739





Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Join us Saturday, March 4th at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Martin Lowry: *Bolivia's Amazing Diversity of Cacti*
To register for the webinar, [click here](#)

Program : *Bolivia's Amazing Diversity of Cacti*

In this program, Martin Lowry presents the country's huge diversity of cacti from *Aylostera* to *Yungasocereus*. The plants are shown in relation to their natural environments, delineated by climatic and geographical characteristics, and illustrated with images in habitat taken during the many expeditions he has made to this fascinating country.

Short Biography:

Martin is a retired academic radiologist. He first started accumulating succulent plants in 1977, joining the *National Cactus and Succulent Society* the following year. After several years maintaining a general collection, in 1985 he became a member of "*The Chileans*" and began to specialize in the Andean cacti of South America, particularly *Echinopsis* and *Lobivia*. For several years he held the UK's National Collection of these genera. In 2001 he attended his first IOS meeting and subsequently became a core member of the *International Cactaceae Systematics Group* and contributed to the production of *The New Cactus Lexicon*.

He has travelled extensively in South America making twenty field trips there since 1996, most of those to Bolivia. He has published many articles on cacti, two of which described new species. He is currently treasurer to the *International Organization For Succulent Plant Study (IOS)*.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd



CSSA Members: If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership now.
Not a member? Join now! [CSSA membership](#)

CSSA Membership Benefits:

- Receive the prestigious [Cactus and Succulent Society Journal](#), 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 [CSSA Seed Depot](#).
- 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. Stay tuned!
- Support CSSA's mission of conservation, research, outreach, and educational projects.



*Cactus and Succulent Society of America
2023 Biennial Convention*

July 12 to 16, 2023

*Succulents with Altitude
Colorado Springs, Colorado*



**[Complete CSSA
Convention Details](#)**



BRAG PLANTS

From Gene Schroeder's garden.
Rain does wonders!!



BRAG PLANTS

Gene Schroeder's garden continued . .



BRAG PLANTS Cont'd

From the Harlow's fabulous yard.



Snow in Santa Margarita on Saturday morning 2/25/2023



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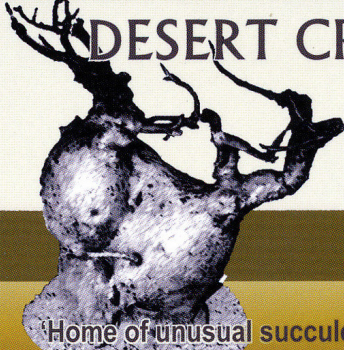
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SLO Growers


San Luis Obispo County, California
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Robin Sims
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General Club Email Address: info@centralcoastcactus.org

