



# ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is  
Sunday April 9 at 2:00  
at the Odd Fellows'  
Hall.

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Gene & Linda  
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"Ask Me Table" &  
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Board Members



## Let's all enter a plant in our show in May!

As we are closing in on the Show and Sale it would be awesome to know how to stage a plant and show it. **Gene Schroeder and Linda Hicks** have both shown plants and judged shows throughout the state. They will talk about:

- how to make a plant ready for the show and some hints on how they get judged.
- how to select a plant to show, how to prepare the plant, and rules for showing.
- how they would be judged using their own plants.
- how to improve your plants and their presentation.



A little background on our presenters. . .

Linda Hicks:

Shortly after we were married, my husband and I moved to San Luis Obispo County in 1981. I joined a local Garden Club in 1995, and enjoyed growing iris and a variety of other plants. But after coming home, from another long sports weekend, with our kids, we found our plants wilted in the North County heat. So I started growing cactus and succulents. Then in 2008 I attended the CCCSS 2nd Annual Show and Sale. I enjoyed it so much I became a member of the club. I became a National Garden Clubs Flower Show Judge in 2012, and have judged various fairs and shows during the year. About 8 years ago we built a greenhouse to protect my tender succulents from the winter frost. When not tending plants at home, we enjoy traveling to Texas to visit our son, and walking in the desert to see cactus growing in habitat.

### Gene Schroeder

I have been a Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society member since moving to Nipomo in 2008. For the prior 20+ years, I was a member of Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society had served as President, Show Co-Chair and Librarian and was volunteer at CSUF Arboretum.

I am a Past President and retired Librarian of CCCSS and have been a member of the CSSA and BCSS national societies since the late 80's. Prior to some ongoing health issues beginning in 2015 I was an active UCE-SLO County Master Gardener and Nipomo Native Gardens Board Member and volunteer. Now 81 and retired from RV travels and photo safaris I spend most of my time pulling weeds, watering plants and general maintenance of our 1+ acre property full of succulents and native plants. I work with fellow member Kathie Matsuyama in running the CCCSS's Ask Me Table to provide horticultural info and aid for all members.

I began to show plants in 1989 when OCCSS Member and Master Showman C. W. Elliot stated "Every member must bring at least 1 plant to our annual show". It was a great experience that I kept up until a few years ago. The next year I began clerking at the Intercity Show and progressed to judging in 1997 under the supervision of Joe Clemens, former HBG Curator and CSSA Judge Supervisor and Show Chair.

Like being in Master Gardeners, showing and judging fulfill my desire to share my accumulated education on cacti, succulents and native plants. I have learned from many of the best and am always willing to "Play it Forward".

My philosophy simplified:

"I have never considered myself a "collector". To me, that is one who purchases things almost solely to own them. I am a history and science guy, with the curiosity and quest for knowledge that usually implies. A child of the American West, born alongside the Oregon Trail near Nebraska's Homestead National Monument I've have always been a student of the west's history, exploration and discovery. The wonders described by Lewis and Clark and later followers formed my need to study, understand and share the new land and its inhabitants. My prime intent is still "ex-situ" conservation via propagation of rare or endangered plants of the arid reaches, especially cacti".



## MONTHLY PROGRAM Cont'd

### How To Prepare Your Plant for the CCCSS Show

2023

Choose a plant that is growing well and will cleanup nicely. Make sure there are no insects of any kind on the plant. It helps if the plant is unique or rare. The Show and Sale rules say you need to have cared for the plant for 6 months or more except for the youth category

Choose a pot that will accent the plant. Keep in mind that the plant is the show piece and the pot should only hold dirt and help the presentation. You can show in any pot (handmade, plastic, terra-cotta and alike) just make sure it is clean and new looking. Think of the pots as a frame and the plant is the picture. Some pots might help bring out the color or texture of the plant.

Place a piece of window screen or plastic mesh over the hole and fill with your favorite cactus soil (must be good draining soil).

Removing the plant from the pot can be tricky depending on the pot and the root growth. Pots that have lips that turn in make removing plants from them a challenge. Use a long flexible old long kitchen knife around the edge of the pot to help release a stuck plant.

Place the plant a bit high in the new pot, sometimes called "proud". Some say in a round pot put the plant in the middle. Remember you are using the pot to accentuate your show plant. Use rocks protruding from the soil surface for color, texture or just making the plant look more interesting. The rocks can also be used to get water down into the soil if placed deep enough.

Top dressing (small rocks to cover the soil) can make or break a plant. Don't use large rocks with a small plant for top dressing. The color should make the plant pop, not distract or fight with the colors of the plant and the pot. When finished the plant should be interesting to look at and appealing to the eye.

1. Spider webs can be removed with a small paint brush and a mixture of rubbing alcohol and water. (usually  $\frac{3}{4}$  alcohol and  $\frac{1}{4}$  water and a squirt of Dawn) Dust off the webs you can see then spray the plant with the mixture. It won't kill the spiders but they don't like it and come out running and you can remove them. Any show plant found to have bugs will be isolated and removed from judging.
2. Pots can be cleaned with water and a brush. If there are white residue from the water you can clean it with a tool used by Japanese chiefs to clean their knives. It is called a "Rust Eraser" which you can easily find on Amazon. To get a pot looking nice use a little baby oil and rub it into the pot.
3. Do not show any diseased or bug-ridden plant because it can infect other show plants.
4. Tools to bring to the show:
  - a. Spare top dressing (it always shifts in transport)
  - b. Small paintbrush to remove dirt and other unsightly things on your plant or pot.
  - c. Paint brush
  - d. Tweezers
  - e. Anything you might need to re-stage the plant if it gets moved around in transport.
5. Water the plant a week or so before the show. Do not bring a freshly watered plant to the show.

*Plant of the Month April 2023*

## *Euphorbia platyclada*

### – *The Dead Plant*

**INTRODUCTION** – *Euphorbia platyclada* is a leafless succulent shrub that originates from the southwest corner of the island of Madagascar and is in the Spurge family (Euphorbiaceae). Having a common name such as “the Dead Plant” may seem strange but for those who know of or have seen this plant, its decrepit mottled appearance is usually the only memorable characteristic which elicits

any sort of comment. “Is that plant even alive?” or “does it have leprosy?” are just some of the offhand remarks people have said when they first view it. This deathly appearance, although concerning, is typically a sign of a healthy plant grown under proper condition devoid of pests. You may be asking yourself then why this plant looks so strange. Well, in nature all living organisms whether plant, animal or fungus have strategies which help them survive in the unique environments they live in. *Euphorbia platyclada* is no exception and uses this strategy of looking dead as a form of camouflage to blend into the forest floor and hide in plain sight.

**CULTIVATION**- Like most arid growing plants, *Euphorbia platyclada* requires a lean growing media that 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. They do not tolerate long periods of wet on their roots. *Euphorbia platyclada* is more of a summer growing plant however they will accept (and benefit from) light water in the wintertime which keeps their growing media from completely drying out. It does not require strong light being an understory plant. It is an excellent candidate for seed propagation and, considering that the flowers are self-fertile, acquiring seed is easy. My plants live in a lightly shaded portion of a greenhouse (minimum temperature around a dry 45 degrees in winter) but for those of you whose growing area is your back deck or patio, be careful with full direct sun and during the winter months with cold and wet conditions.

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY**- As mentioned before, *Euphorbia platyclada* is native to Madagascar and inhabits a portion of the southern spiny forests. It is an understory plant growing below taller and spiner plants like *Alluadia*, *Didierea* and *Pachypodium*. There are two forms which you will see in habitat. The rarer form stands more upright (*ssp. hardyi*) and is more greenish grey in color with dark green warts. The more common form is more prostrate.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

forming stems that are pinkish to red-brown mixed with dark grey green veins which construct a tangly mat or carpet of stems. Once the cyathia (specialized euphorbia inflorescence) are pollinated the three-sided capsules form. Once the capsules mature and the seeds are ready to be dispersed the capsules darken and the pedicel holding the capsule becomes erect. At this time, the capsules pop open explosively sending the seeds flying. This method of seed dispersion helps in establishing dense colonies. Because of its limited range in an area of Madagascar that is constantly in need of usable farmland, *Euphorbia platyclada* is threatened due to forest clearing for agriculture.



Figure 3 - large colony on forest floor

**CONCLUSION** - *Euphorbia platyclada* is a fascinating species that I recommend to anyone who likes arid growing plants.



Figure 1 - Native range upper left portion of green (spiny bush)

It is certainly ugly if you're partial to roses and tulips, however, what it lacks in beauty it excels in a kind of wabi sabi aesthetic. I have had the pleasure of growing this amazing plant for many years and love its odd appearance, strange skin color and sweet looking near microscopic cyathia (flowers). If you can meet their basic requirements, you will be blessed with an intriguing plant which will always attract attention in your growing area and provide for ample conversation even for the most stoic non-plant person.



Figure 4 - stem detail

**NOTE** - I will have seed available (limited) if anyone is interested in trying to grow them from scratch.

Thanks to David Westberg

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CCCSS President's Message April 2023

Several months ago Susan Chandler's daughter, Maggie, contacted us to let us know about Susan's desire to get more kids involved in our hobby. However, her time ran out before she could champion this cause herself. Maggie wondered if we could develop a youth program to honor Susan's legacy. A Youth Grower category was envisioned and it will premier at this year's Show and Sale at Nipomo High School.

Another new category at this year's S&S will be ceramic creations. An entry may or may not have a plant in it. The ceramic object is what will be judged. The ceramic object must have been made by the entrant.

Please sign up to help at the S&S if you have not already done so. This event is truly a pleasure to attend and we need everyone's help to make it the best S&S event yet.

As a thank you to club members, the BOD decided to have another catered BBQ and potluck in August. Last year's event was a great success with lots of good food and ample time to socialize and perhaps make some new friends in the Club.

Natasha Erickson is coordinating the t-shirt design contest. She talked about the requirements for entry at the March meeting and sent out a follow-up email to members as well. Entries need to be submitted by April 2. We will vote on the submitted entries at the April meeting. We will get them printed and available by the May meeting. We still have last year's t-shirts available for the bargain price of \$5. Check these out at the table next to the greeter.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact any Board member. We are working on a slate of officers for a vote in June. The new BOD starts their service July 1.

See you Sunday, April 9th at the Odd Fellows Hall at 2pm....Harry

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CCCSS Meeting summaries March 12 2023

### General meeting: 65 participants

- Harry's announcements:
  - Be sure to visit Pat at the back table. She has sign-up sheets for refreshments, clean up and for volunteer opportunities at the Show & Sale.
  - Claudette Rettig is needing to take a break from managing the refreshment setup/clean up. We thank her for her years of volunteer service to our Club! Carol Preston has agreed to help with this, but additional volunteers are needed. Please see Pat if you can help with this important job!
  - The next Garden Gathering is March 18<sup>th</sup> at Susie Hubbard's garden in Los Osos. Please contact Kathie Matsuyama to sign up or if you would like to host a Gathering.
  - At the April meeting Linda Hicks and Gene Schroeder will discuss/demonstrate preparing your plants for the Show.
  - Be sure to pick up a stack of Show & Sale cards to distribute to your family, friends and neighbors.
- T-shirt design contest: Natasha Erickson
  - Natasha reviewed the requirements for entering a design in the 2023 Show & Sale t-shirt contest. She will send out an email to members with this information with her email address to submit a design. **Entries must be submitted by April 2. We will view all the entries then vote on the designs at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.**
- We need Clerks to assist the Judges at the S&S. Judging will be on Saturday morning before the S&S opens. Please contact Ann Erb if you are interested in clerking or have questions. This is an interesting and valuable experience. You are encouraged to volunteer!
- Woody Minnich is our speaker today. He informed participants about the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's convention coming up on July 12-16 in Colorado Springs, Co. There will be field trips, lectures, an auction and plant sales at the event. See the CSSA website for details ([cactusandsucculentsociety.org](http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org)).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- - Woody's presentation today was on the Gymnocalycium of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. As always, Woody provided an interesting and entertaining lecture accompanied by beautiful photography of the plants and places he visited.  
Thank you, Woody!

- David Westberg discussed the plant of the month Sarcocaulon and brought several specimens of these small, interesting plants. Thank you David for taking on the plant of the month section of our Newsletter.
- Brag plants, the plant raffle and exchange finished out the meeting.

### **BOD meeting:**

- Kathy Goss presented the Treasurer's report. Our finances are stable. Taxes and bills have been paid. Please contact Kathy if you have questions about the Club's finances.
- New Webmaster: Our current webmaster is wanting to retire, so by June we need to come up with new ideas or changes to the website that we would like to see happen. Peggy Heaney's son does this kind of work, so we are planning to consult with him.
- We have two proposed subcommittees in process. The standing rules will need to be amended to include these committees. They are: (1) Propagation Group, and (2) Botanical Garden Committee.
- Publicity: We will be having a table at the Greenhouse Growers Open House at Nipomo High School on April 1 from 9-2p. We hope to talk with lots of folks about our upcoming Show & Sale.
- A slate of officers will be presented at the April general meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors is welcome to volunteer for a position. Voting will take place in June for Board officers.
- Compensation for Judges at the Show & Sale was discussed. It was agreed that ALL Judges should receive compensation (not just those traveling here from out of town).

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary





## ANNOUNCEMENTS



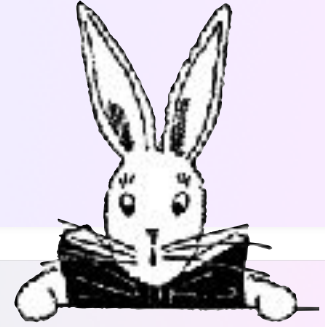
### **Susan K Chandler (1942-2022)**

Susan was an enthusiastic member of CCCSS, joining shortly after she and her husband moved to SLO from Sacramento in the early 2000s. She loved learning about cacti and succulents and was delighted to be part of CCCSS. She enjoyed many annual shows and holiday potlucks, usually accompanied by her daughter Maggie. Susan was excited to grow many types of cacti and succulents in her garden in Los Osos. She loved to bring a blooming plant to the meetings for the Brag Table.

Susan loved kids and was a happy grandmother to Max (16), Emily (13) and Geoffrey (12). As a wheelchair user, she was also a staunch advocate of access for all and inclusivity. She was a frequent contributor to many social causes. Her family came to think of her as our own “force of nature” for her endless energy, enthusiasm, and activities despite many challenges.

In her honor, Susan’s family is sponsoring the new category for “Youth Award” at our  
2023 Show & Sale.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd



### A Call for Auction Plants:

Once again, this year we will have be having an auction during the weekend (May 26<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>) show and sale. The plants for the auction are provided by you the club members. If you have a nice show worthy specimen that has a retail value of \$60 or more and would like to sell it at the auction, please send an email to Bill Findley at [coolcactuskid805@gmail.com](mailto:coolcactuskid805@gmail.com) In the email include at least two photos (one that includes something to show size, maybe a soda can, or a pencil), the plant name (if you don't know we will find out), and a reserve price (the lowest you would be willing to sell it). The sale will be Sunday afternoon at 1pm and the club retains 25% of the sale price and you will receive the 75%. Please send your submissions in by May 20<sup>th</sup> 2023. The auction committee will contact you by May 25<sup>th</sup> to let you know if your plants are accepted for the auction. Please bring the auction plant to the Show and Sale for display by Friday Evening. The table for the plants for the auction will be in the area where the show is located. If you have any questions contact Bill at [coolcactuskid805@gmail.com](mailto:coolcactuskid805@gmail.com)

## May 27, 28

Hi All,

It's about 2 months 'til 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.

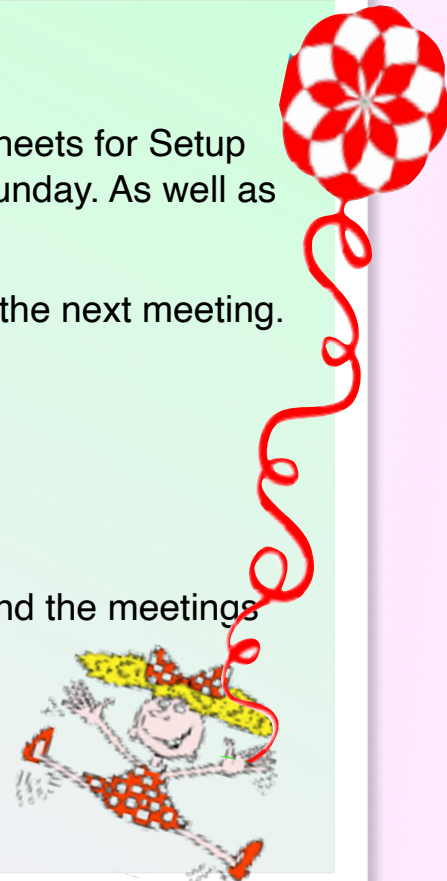
If you are interested in Recheck see Kathy Matsuyama.

If you are interested in Cashing see Kathy Goss.

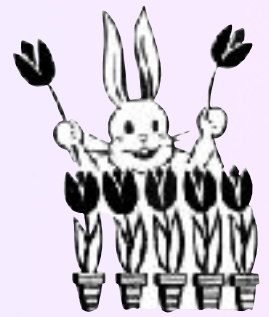
Everything else see me Pat Gilson, if you are unable to attend the meetings please call me 805-710-4957 or email [hupt74@yahoo.com](mailto:hupt74@yahoo.com)

Let's have a wonderful Show & Sale.

Pat Gilson



## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd



Our Show & Sale is coming!

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS  
& SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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



CCSS WEBSITE

### NEW YOUTH GROWER CATEGORY

- Free admission & parking on-site
- Experts available for questions
- Rare plants & handmade pottery sale
- Cash/check/credit cards accepted



CCSS FACEBOOK

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH GUIDELINES WILL BE OBSERVED OR EXCEEDED

### Here are the assignments for the Show Chair positions:

Show Chair: Harry Harlow

Sales Chair: Rob Skillin

Show Treasurer: Kathy Goss

-Cashiers: Maggie Wagner

Staffing/Hospitality/Interface with NHS: Pat Gilson

Publicity Chair: Peggy Heaney

Printed Materials/Signs/Plant Hotel: Mary Harlow

Judging/Clerks, Set-Up: Ann Erb

-Set-Up: Linda Hicks, Terrie Leivers

Awards Chair: Jan Moon

Merchandise: Natasha Erickson, Mary Harlow

Photography Chair: Loring Manley

-Winning photo certificates: Gene & Dail Schroeder

Auction Chair: Bill Findley

PA system: Randy Ball

Pre-Check Chair: Kathie Matsuyama

Technology Chair: Ben Trogdon

Field Trip Chair: Terry Skillin

Thanks everyone for your participation. On our way to another great Show & Sale....Harry

# ASK US ANSWERS

by **GENE SCHROEDER & KATHIE MATSUYAMA**

## **DOES MY ALOE HAVE FUNGUS?**

## **AND HOW TO WATER MY NEW GIBBAEUM**

**Carol ASKed US recently about her Aloe ferox. She wanted to know if it had fungus.**

Many dry-climate cactus and succulent plants need arid conditions, low humidity and infrequent water. These plants don't thrive in the moist, humid, rainy conditions we've been experiencing; many especially resent being simultaneously cold and wet. So given this winter's wacky weather it's no wonder our plants have brown spots, black spots, dead tips, mealy bugs, aphids and mushy parts!

Gene thinks Carol is probably right in assessment her Aloe ferox has Fungus. The photos look a lot like the "smut or rust" that occurs in vineyard crops in wet winters. Gene says he gets enough wind at his Nipomo home to avoid rust, but when he sees it appearing he gives plants a good hard spray wash. There are chemical cures for plant fungal issues, but since this problem usually is seasonal and does little permanent damage, Gene does not use any chemical cures.

Gene's alternate opinion is that there are some virus strains in Aloes. He suggests that if the condition continues to persist with new spring/summer growth that the plant be thrown out and Carol start over with a new one.

Kathie has landscape suggestions for the future. Where possible, build large very well-draining mounds for your cactus and succulents to ensure water drains away from the plant's base. Plant large aloes in year-around full sun. Poor growing conditions cause disease symptoms. Tip die back, mealy bugs, aloe rust, black spot, scale and aphids can occur on aloes in poorly drained, over-watered soil, too shady soil.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

### Drake ASKed US how to water his new *Gibbaeum*?

Drake received a *Gibbaeum dispar* at last month's meeting as a new attendee (welcome Drake!). His question regarded watering care for his new plant.

*Gibbaeum* is a dwarf mesemb from dry and desert regions of South Africa characterized by two leaves of which each leaf differs from each other in shape and size. The two leaves can be divided into lobes that resemble a shark's mouth. *Gibbaeum* common names include *volstruistone* (ostrich toes) and *volstruiswater* (ostrich water), referring to the water-filled plant leaves. *Gibbaeum* are eaten by ostriches in times of drought.

*Gibbaeums* can withstand extended periods of drought and require careful watering. Water minimally in summer, only when the plant starts to shrivel. Water more abundantly when they are growing in the autumn and spring, but let the soil dry between soakings. Too much water and the skin of the *Gibbaeum* is prone to splitting leaving ugly scars.

Gene says he tends to think of *Gibbaeums* as just fussy lithops but otherwise not too difficult. He says Drake's plant is just now going into winter dormancy so the older, lower leaf pair will be absorbed. If the new pair of leaves appear healthy, just give it an occasional light misting ... no watering is necessary until later in spring.

Follow this link for excellent info on *Gibbaeum* at the [www.lifile.com](http://www.lifile.com) encyclopedia (should be on everyone's computer speed dial!) and for specific information on *Gibbaeum dispar*: [http://www.lifile.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Aizoaceae/13289/Gibbaeum\\_dispar](http://www.lifile.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Aizoaceae/13289/Gibbaeum_dispar)

An excellent reference is **Mesembs of the World: Illustrated Guide to a Remarkable Succulent Group** by Gideon Smith, et.al. It is 400 pages, covers 128 genera, up to 15 species per genus, and almost 700 color photos. This book is packed with information written by nine of the world's most respected authorities on this large and complex group of plants. Kathie can't recommend this great book enough! New copies can be found at [www.exoticplantbook.com](http://www.exoticplantbook.com) for an incredible \$36.95!

Keep your great question coming! And Happy Growing!  
**Gene and Kathie**



Photo by Kathie Matsuyama



Photo by Drake Abrahamsson

## 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:



Paul Lotusland.JPG



Gasteria Bowl



Tephrocactus in Flower



Matsuyama Cacti Circle



Photos by Kathie

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

### GARDEN GATHERING RE-CAP. . . HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED!!

#### SUSIE HUBBARD'S CHARMING SEASIDE SUCCULENTS

A very **BIG THANK YOU** to Susie Hubbard for her Fabulous Garden Gathering on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> in Los Osos. Forty CCCSS Garden Gatherers met for back-to-back morning and afternoon tours for a delightful respite from weeks of rainy winter weather!

In her front garden, Susie talked about the history of the very old beach cottage she now calls home. Its charm

is enhanced by the lovely old Cecile Brunner rose arching over the front door.

Susie explained she relocated to the Central Coast from Tehachapi where she grew hundreds of roses in Tehachapi's perfect rose-growing climate. Her rose growing skills are so expert that Susie won a National award for rose growing in 1994: the All-American Rose Selections Grand Prize Award for the Residential Division (landscaping with roses contest). Susie grows few roses in Los Osos because she says the climate is not as conducive to producing healthy roses.

Susie has obviously turned her attention to growing other plants very successfully and she certainly has a green thumb! Particularly interesting is her highly successful combination of succulents with spring flowers and other ornamental flowering plants. After weeks of grey skies, Susie's backyard was like walking into Spring: flowering hellebores, daffodils, stunning huge Sparaxis, Snowdrops, and an explosion of other gorgeous flowers!



Susie's Back Patio



Susie's Backyard Corner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

Everyone was WOWed by Susie's gorgeous garden and exceptional eye for design detail. Her groupings of like-colored pottery, her unique incorporation of "found" items in stunning ways show Susie really likes to have FUN in her garden! That Susie spends a lot of time "playing" in her garden is obvious; her plants are perfectly grown! I'm sure all who attended will agree that although Susie's garden is small, it is packed, packed, and more packed with wonderful things to see!

Perhaps the nicest tribute of all was paid by Paul Matsuyama, licensed Landscape Architect for 38 years, who told Susie "Of all the gardens I've seen in my professional career, this is right up there at the top of the list of most beautiful!"



Susie Hubbard and  
Sister Laurie



Susie's Side Fence



Susie's National Grand Prize Roses





## GARDEN GATHERINGS

We are actively booking additional Garden Gathering dates for 2023. Let us know if you are interested in hosting. Being a host is super fun!

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

**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. Our Garden Gathering hosts graciously invite us into their homes and gardens. It is their prerogative whether to require attendees to be vaccinated for COVID and to provide proof of vaccination.

**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 2023?**

**Contact Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at [luvbiadoqs@earthlink.net](mailto:luvbiadoqs@earthlink.net)**



Linda’s back patio by Sarah Warisi.



# OPEN HOUSE



native sons

379 WEST EL CAMPO ROAD, ARROYO GRANDE, CA

**SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2023**

**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**



[CCGGA.COM/CCGGA-EVENTS/OPEN-HOUSE](https://ccgga.com/ccgga-events/open-house)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

### FAMILY FREE DAY

Sunday, April 9

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Bring the whole family to peruse the beautiful plant collection, talk to experts, and participate in fun activities! Come early to go on our Acorn Adventures hike—a guided, family-friendly hike to some of our favorite spots at the SLOBG.

Join Dr. Emily Taylor from Cal Poly with some sensational serpents!

Dr. Taylor and her Cal Poly students will give a presentation about snakes, including myth-busting some tall tales about rattlesnakes. She will also introduce visiting families to live local harmless snakes as well as venomous rattlesnakes in a safe and fun environment:

1:00PM - 2:00PM!



### 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.



### FOUNDER'S WALK & TALK with Eve Vigil

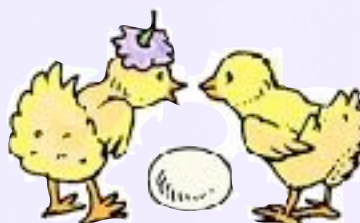
Tuesday, April 4

11:00AM - 12:30PM

Join gardening expert and SLOBG founder Eve Vigil for great tips and tricks for your garden. Subjects may touch on the Garden's history, what's in bloom, important maintenance – when and why – or whatever interests the group. Have you ever wondered how the garden beds were initially prepared, what the irrigation schedule is or anything about the plants? Well, come on out and ask Eve! Meet new people and learn great tips and tricks for having a stunning water-frugal garden. Please bring water and comfortable shoes for our walk around the garden!

**\$10 / Members Free**

[Register](#)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS—Cont'd

Hi all,

We are having our Annual LACSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival this year on Earth Day Weekend. April 22-23, 2023.

Thank you!

LACSS

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

## Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

Spend EARTH DAY weekend with us April 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am-4pm + 23<sup>rd</sup> 9am-3pm



Kid's Day returns April 23rd 11am-2pm with Pot-A-Plant and educational display.

Knowledgeable experts on hand to answer your questions.

Explore the beautiful Sepulveda Garden Center

All new judged interior show featuring dozens of unique cacti and succulents.

All new interactive photo booth with multiple habitat backdrops.

On-site food vendors

FREE admission and parking

Over 30+ vendors  
Cacti, succulents, landscaping plants, collectible plants from around the world, pottery, hobby supplies, handmade crafts, and much more.

### Show info

LACSS-SHOW.COM | LACACTUS.COM  
IG @la\_cactusandsucculent\_society  
FB Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society  
(818) 749-5346



# LACSS

## Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

April 22nd 9am-4pm  
April 23rd 9am-3pm

Sepulveda Garden Center  
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino  
Free admission + parking



Join us Earth Day weekend!



# ORCHID FEST 2023

Saturday & Sunday

April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

10:00AM – 4:00PM Free Admission

El Chorro Regional Park Entrance/Parking Fee: \$3.00 per car



**March 14, 2023 (San Luis Obispo, CA)** – San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and Five Cities Orchid Society present: Orchid Fest 2023! This plant and art sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the El Chorro Regional Park (3450 Dairy Creek Road, off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo). Parking is \$3.00 per car, and admission to the event is free.

With the Central Coast of California providing the ideal climate for orchids, and new hybrids that are easier to care for, orchids are more enjoyable than ever. Many varieties flourish on windowsills or sheltered outside areas, and are

behold. This an opportunity plants and get orchid-related answered. We by six of talented growers/ offering their The SLOBG will native plants, also be joined supply vendors vendors.

Featured include Sunset

renowned for the development of the black orchid “After Midnight” and their *Dendrobium* and *Cattleya* hybridizing programs; Ambriz Kingdom of Plants, selling orchids suitable for outdoor growing in coastal areas, as well as amazing *Tillandsias* (air plants) which need little care; Orchid Design, which offers outdoor growing *Cymbidiums*; SLO Orchids, selling insect eating “Mean Green Mother from Outer Space” carnivorous Venus fly traps; Orchids of Los Osos, offering a wide selection of unique orchids including pansy orchids (*Miltoniopsis*); and CalCoast Orchids, specializing in the world's number one selling house plant, the moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis*). Their new salmon colored variety sold out in the first hour at the SLOBG plant sale last March.

Additionally, SLOBG and FCOS will be hosting a Cake Auction as a fundraising event. We will be auctioning cakes that have been donated by local bakeries and private bakers. This event will be live and enthusiastic, and will take place at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Orchid Fest 2023 continues the 28-year history of annual orchid shows and sales by FCOS. Join us to discover the secrets of orchid growing/re-blooming both “easy growing” and more demanding orchid species, learn tips/tricks from our friendly club members/expert vendors, and purchase new plants/items to your heart’s content. We look forward to seeing you there.



a delight to event provides to collect new all of your questions will be joined California’s orchid hybridizers plants for sale. be selling and we will by orchid plant and art

orchid vendors Valley Orchids,

Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) Presents

ORCHID TALKS 2023



Chris Ehler: Pleurothallids: A Photographic Journey

Chris' presentation is entitled "Pleurothallids: A Photographic Journey". This group is among one of the most popular cultivated orchids based on their wide variety of showy flowers that can vary in size from less than 0.04 inch (1 mm) up to 11.8 inch (30 mm) or more. There are almost 5,500 species of Pleurothallids ranging from Florida through central America to southern Brazil. The largest numbers are found in the Andes Mountains in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. This group is currently divided into 48 genera. These species are generally epiphytic but some can be found growing as either terrestrials or as lithophytes. The presentation will consist of many photos of a wide variety of species of genera including Dracula, Masdevallia, Pleurothallis, Lepanthes, Porroglossum and Restrepia. Chris will also discuss culture of this group along the central coast of California.

Chris earned his Master's in 1976 and since then environmental consultant permit compliance issues clients. Chris and his wife Betsy have lived in Grover Beach since 1976, and two grandsons who also mom always had yard but she did not grow they were 'too difficult to first orchid (a small red Orchid Society (FCOS)



Degree in Marine Biology has worked as an in marine biology and for a wide variety of Betsy have lived in Grover they have two sons and live in the area. Chris' cymbidiums in the back any other orchids because grow'. Chris purchased his one) at the Five Cities show about 20+ years

ago, but at some point-in-time it ended up in the compost pile along with a number of others that found their way there through the years. He has been the president of the FCOS three times. For a number of years, Chris along with Jeffrey Thompson (FCOS member) have set up Ecuagenera's display at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. His presentation will be a series of photos of a variety of species of the subtribe Pleurothallidinae (pleurothallids) he has taken of his collection, in San Francisco Bay Area greenhouses, at a wide variety of shows, and while orchid hunting Ecuador and Colombia. The presentation will also include cultural information about growing orchids that are in this group.

**FCOS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**April 13, 7 pm**

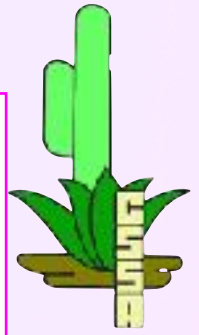
**Topic: Chris Ehler: Pleurothallids: A Photographic Journey**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82355435739?pwd=bThHazRPekw5cjhnYmNzMIpkTW96dz09>

**Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS—Cont'd



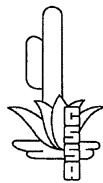
December 28, 2022

Dear Jeff Pavlat, Gunnar Eisel, and the CSSA BOD,

The Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society is pleased to donate \$1000.00 to the CSSA Conservation Fund. We appreciate the work the CSSA is doing to protect our favorite plants and their habitats. We desire to assist in your efforts, as it aligns with our Objectives as expressed in our bylaws, and is critical now more than ever before.

The BOD of the CCCSS does not have a specific suggestion as to how these funds should be used; please put them to the use which you feel is the current highest priority within the realm of conservation.

Rob Skillin  
CSSA Affiliate Representative  
CCCSS



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gunnar.eisel@gmail.com

Gunnar Eisel  
Cactus and Succulent Society of America  
P.O Box 1000  
Claremont CA 91711

February 21, 2023

Rob Skillin  
8910 Camino Cielo  
Arroyo Grande  
CA 93420-6125

Dear Rob,

Sorry for the extremely long delay. Somehow this was never mailed. CSSA has a new treasurer, and this seems to have gotten lost in the shuffle.

We are overwhelmed by the Central Coast Succulent and Society's generous donation of \$1,000 to the CSSA Conservation Fund.

On behalf of CSSA, thank you for this wonderful contribution which will ensure the future health and sustainability of our mission.

Thanks again for your continued support of CSSA!

Best regards,

Gunnar Eisel  
Executive Director, CSSA



Cactus & Succulent Society of America Inc is an educational organization in Fullerton, California. Its tax id (EIN) is 95-6140611. It was granted tax-exempt status by IRS in November 1983

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd



Join us Saturday, April 1st at 10:00 a.m. PDT for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

**Jakub Jilemicky: *The Best Haworthias in the Western Cape of South Africa***  
To register for the webinar, [click here](#)

### Program: *The Best Haworthias in the Western Cape of South Africa*

In this program, Jakub Jilemicky will present about 200 photos; most of them are *Haworthias* and others include *Conophytums* and *Astrolobas*. Jakub will show us the high diversity of succulent flora of this part of South Africa with focus on *Haworthias*. We will start at Namaqualand, go through wine country, garden route, Little Karoo and finish at Great Karoo.

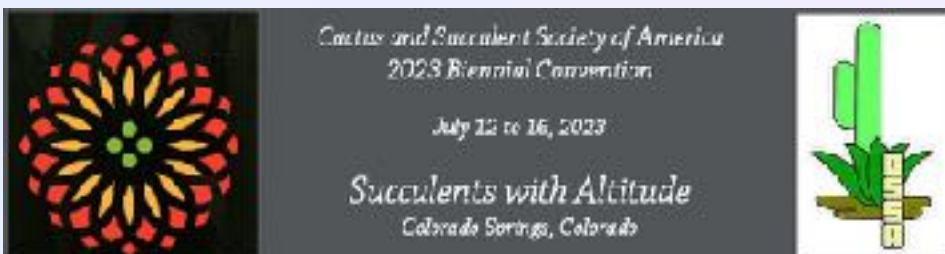


#### Short Bio:

##### Jakub Jilemicky

Jakub Jilemicky graduated in International Territorial Studies, majoring in tourism. His studies focused on specifics of South Africa tourism which led to his interest in the study of *Haworthia*, *Gasteria*, *Astroloba* and *Conophytum*. He has been involved in this field for over 25 years including more than 2 years of field expeditions in South Africa. He has travelled to other Southern African countries - Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, mostly as a tour guide. He has a well-known web site - [www.haworthia-gasteria.com](http://www.haworthia-gasteria.com), which is dedicated to the genera *Haworthia*, *Astroloba* and *Gasteria*.

As a speaker, he holds talks in the UK for BCSS and the Haworthia Society, for the Chinese Cactus and Succulent Society, for the Cactus and Succulent Society of South Australia and in many other EU countries. His field photographs were used in several publications and journals, for example Robin Frandsen's *Succulents of Southern Africa*. Jakub is currently supplying photos for Ernst van Jaarsveld's new *Gasteria* book.

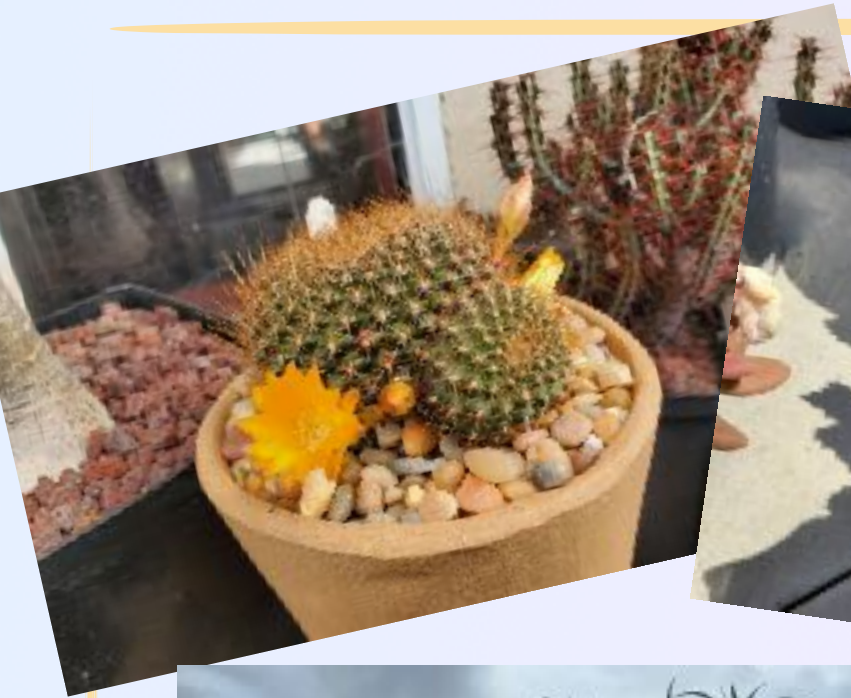


[Complete CSSA Convention Details](#)



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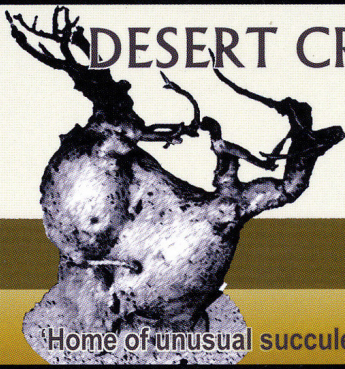
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