



ON THE DRY SIDE

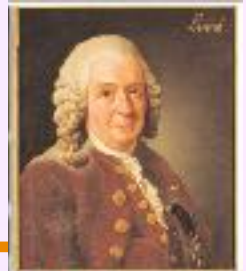


The next meeting is
Sunday May 14th at
2:00 at the Odd
Fellows' Hall.

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Gunnar Eisel
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Board Members

"The Folklore, Enchantment, and Evolution of the
C&S Hobby from 1894 to the present day"



The allure of cacti and succulents has fascinated people for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. However, unlike some other horticultural endeavors, the collecting and fostering an interest in the C&S is fairly new. This program focuses on the people, the changing American landscape, and a curious set of events that have shaped our hobby as we find it today.

Gunnar Eisel's interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with *Opuntia* glochids. His interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.

Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at CSULA, CSUF, Whittier College, and Fullerton College. He recently retired as music professor at Citrus College in Glendora where his students were frequently subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid C&S collector, he serves as Executive Director of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

The Genus Uebelmannia

INTRODUCTION - The genus *Uebelmannia*, which comprises a group of about 3 species, originates from Brazil in the state of Minas Gerais. Named after Swiss plant collector Werner J. Uebelmann. Being one of the true tropical genera, *Uebelmannia* only inhabit areas within the tropic line (north of the Tropic of Capricorn and south of the equator) and typically require warm temperatures year-round. *Uebelmannia* has always attracted attention with its striking skin color and texture and well-organized spination.

DESCRIPTION - Species in the genus *Uebelmannia* grow individually and rarely branch. Their spherical to cylindrical shoots reach heights of growth of up to 75 centimeters. Their skin is smooth, papillate, granular or covered with squamous deposits of wax. The numerous ribs are mostly sharp-edged, but sometimes also divided into bumps. 2 to 7 spines arise from the areoles, which are arranged protruding to spread out or comb shaped. They can be straight or slightly curved. The small, short, funnel-shaped flowers are yellow. They appear near the shoot tip and open during the day. The flower tubes are covered with a few areoles, from which dense wool and few bristles arise. The spherical to cylindrical, yellow or red, berry-shaped fruits are bare at the base and covered with wool and bristles towards the top. They are thin-walled, dry when ripe and have no remains of flowers. The fruits contain cap-shaped, shiny black to reddish-brown seeds.

CULTIVATION – In growing any type of succulent plants there are the ones which will grow regardless of how you treat them and there are ones which will die if you simply make a funny face in their direction. Unfortunately, *Uebelmannia* is in the latter group and is considered a difficult plant to grow to any age or size if not provided its proper cultural requirements. This often leads some growers to prefer grafted plants instead of growing plants with their own roots.

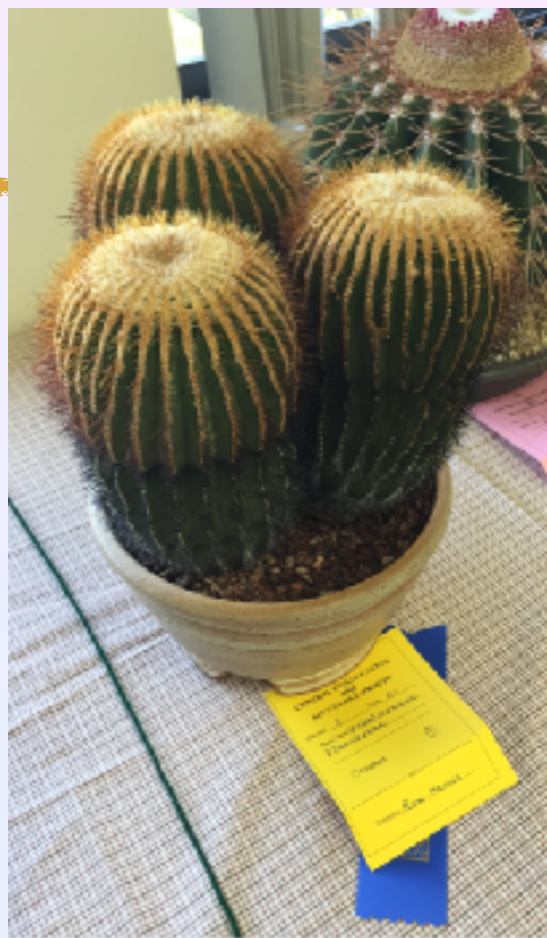


Figure 1 *Uebelmannia pectinifera* ssp. *flavispina* at our show and sale some years ago. A magnificent plant!

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

I have been growing *Uebelmannia* in my cactus collection for many years and am still learning the ins and outs of their cultivation. *Uebelmannia* require an extremely lean growing media being low in organics like peat moss or wood chips and high in coarse inorganic material. The soil mix I use so far 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 pots you use have excellent drainage holes. They do not tolerate long periods of saturation on their roots and yet they do not like to completely dry out. This leads to often difficult question as to when to water. In the summer they should be watered more frequently but in the winter that is a completely different story. According to Woody Minnich (who grows his own *Uebelmannia* in collection), a light watering once a month through the winter keeps the roots from complete desiccation and potential rot when you start watering again mid winter. I have used this technique with other sensitive genera (lightly watered through the winter months) and have had complete success. This technique works if your growing area is protected from the outside elements like in a greenhouse or covered shade house.



Figure 2 *Uebelmannia pectinifera* in flower

that the pots you use have excellent drainage holes. They do not tolerate long periods of saturation on their roots and yet they do not like to completely dry out. This leads to often difficult question as to when to water. In the summer they should be watered more frequently but in the winter that is a completely different story. According to Woody Minnich (who grows his own *Uebelmannia* in collection), a light watering once a month through the winter keeps the roots from complete desiccation and potential rot when you start watering again mid winter. I have used this technique with other sensitive genera (lightly watered through the winter months) and have had complete success. This technique works if your growing area is protected from the outside elements like in a greenhouse or covered shade house.

Since their introduction into cultivation, they have often been difficult to find and usually have demanded a high price. Fortunately, in the last few years I have been seeing them available more often and of the plants available they appear to be seed grown. This is very important as they are endangered in the wild due to over collecting of wild plants and habitat loss due to mining and agricultural practices. *Uebelmannia* are slow growers but they are extremely easy to start from seed. In my simple home set up I have consistently had an 80-90% success rate in germination. The only draw back is that you must wait a bit for them to grow to any size.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

Habitat and ecology- As mentioned before, Uebelmannia grow in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. The list below comprises the members of the genus and their specific locations of native growth.

List of the species of the genus Uebelmannia

1. U. pectinifera - Only known from one region, northeast of Diamantina, Minas Gerais, in Brazil (range of occurrence 3,000 km²). The plants are found growing in campo rupestre (dry savanna) and rocky areas in rock cracks or in pockets or small flat areas of organic leaf mould and sand found among crystalline rocks.

List of sub-species

- a) ssp. psuedopectinifera
- b) ssp. cristata
- c) ssp. flavispina
- d) ssp. horrida
- e) ssp. eriocactoides

2. U. buiningii - It occurs in a single location in the Serra Negra in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The overall range of the species is very limited (extent of occurrence is 40 km²). U. buiningii grows in south-eastern campo rupestre (in the Serra Negra) on slabs of quartzitic rock amongst quartz gravel. U. buiningii is on the verge of extinction and some of the subpopulations of this species, including at the type locality, have disappeared completely.



Figure 3 *Uebelmannia buiningii* in habitat <https://www.cl-cactus.com/>

3. U. gummifera – Found in the Serra Negra and Serra do Ambrósio, Minas Gerais, Brazil. U. gummifera has a limited range of occurrence (about 230 square kilometers) and there are three to four locations. U. gummifera grows on quartz sand in south-eastern campo rupestre biome. Fortunately, the species is locally very abundant, the population size is probably millions of individuals.

Conclusion: The genus Uebelmannia is a challenging yet pleasing group of plants to cultivate. Try them from seed or pick one up at the next show and sale. They are a rewarding group of plants to grow.

Thanks to David Westberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCCSS President's message May 2023

It's time for "All Hands on Deck" as our annual Show & Sale will be happening on May 27th and 28th at Nipomo High School. Set up begins on Friday, May 26th at 4pm. Please do not enter the High School parking lot or grounds before 4pm. There is adequate parking at the 101 off ramp on Willow Rd. to wait, if necessary. All students must be off campus before we begin. In addition, please don't bring your show plants until set-up is complete. This should be about 5pm. If you have not already signed up to help, please do so at our meeting on May 14. This event is our Open House for our Club and we will "Wow" the community with our outstanding Show & Sale.

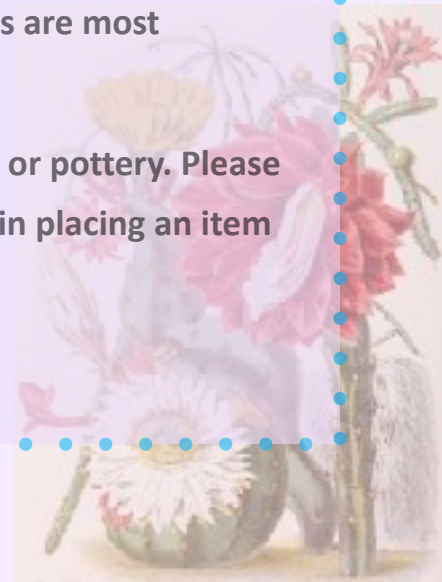
We are looking for someone with a truck/van to pick up tables from the Mineral Society (Wayne Mills will coordinate pick up). The pick-up location is in Nipomo. We need them picked up and delivered to the HS by 4pm. All able bodied helpers will be needed to move and set up the tables. Please see Pat to sign up.

Our new t-shirts will be available for sale for \$20, so be sure to bring funds to the meeting. We encourage everyone to wear the Club t-shirt while working at the S&S. We will provide our student volunteers with our yellow safety vests so we can easily identify them when we need their help.

This month we will re-elect our current BOD as all have agreed to serve another year. Thanks to all who give up their time to make our organization great. Please consider serving on the BOD in the future as fresh faces and ideas are most welcome.

Our exciting S&S Auction on Sunday is still open to submit plants or pottery. Please send a photo and description to Bill Findley if you are interested in placing an item in the Auction. Items should be valued at \$60 or more.

See you Sunday, May 14th at the OFH at 2pm.....Harry

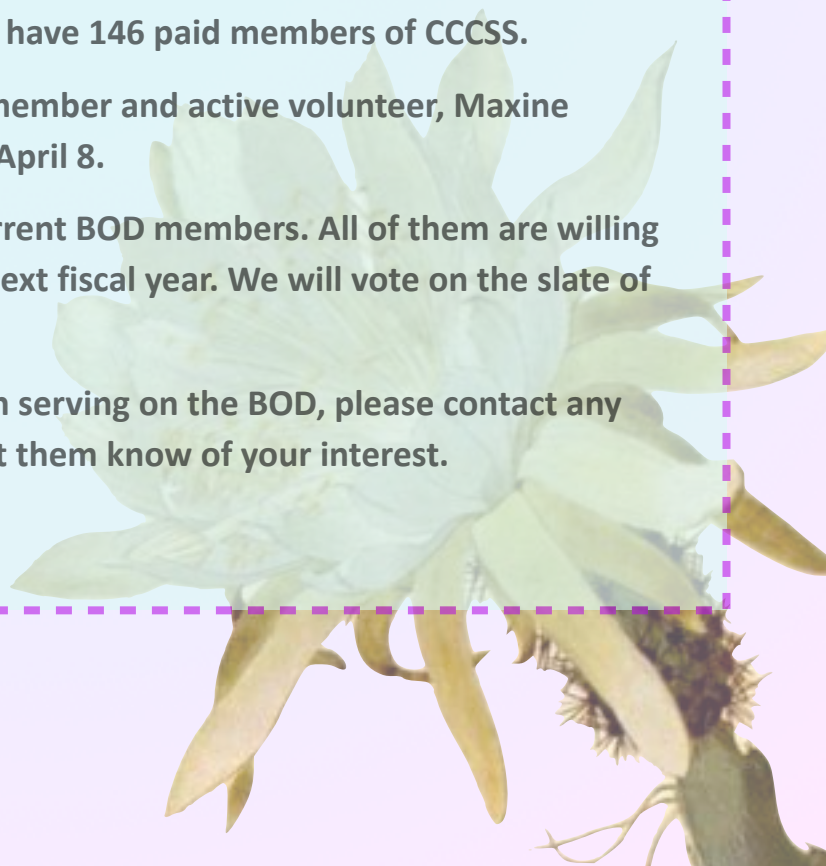


ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCCSS meeting summaries April 9 2023

Regular meeting: 50 attendees

- **Harry's announcements**
 - Linda Hicks and Gene Schroeder will be making the presentation today on preparing your plants for the Show.
 - The Show & Sale committee had their last scheduled meeting April 2. Everything is falling into place. Please sign up with Pat for volunteer duties. We will need small/medium sturdy boxes for our plant sale.
 - Show schedules and show entry cards are available on the back table.
 - Please wear your name tags while volunteering at the S&S.
 - We have 2 t-shirt designs to choose from. Please vote during the break....Note: The winning t-shirt design was done by Natasha Erickson. Thank you! (Thank you to Laura Oliver for entering a design!).
 - Refreshment, clean-up crew & first-time attendees were all given a free plant.
 - Laura reported that we now have 146 paid members of CCCSS.
 - On a sad note, a long-time member and active volunteer, Maxine Sederberg, passed away on April 8.
 - Harry read the list of our current BOD members. All of them are willing to continue to serve in the next fiscal year. We will vote on the slate of officers at the May meeting.
 - If you are interested in serving on the BOD, please contact any board member and let them know of your interest.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Highlights from Linda & Gene's presentation:**
 - Enter a plant, pick your favorite. Clean it up, and enter it!
 - Clerking is a good experience to help you understand what the judges are looking for. See Ann Erb if you would like to be a clerk. Handouts were available at the back table with tips on preparing your plant for the Show.
 - The pot should compliment your plant and make it "The Star of the Show".
 - Don't water your plant for at least a week prior to the entering.
 - Check the CCCSS website (centralcoastcactus.org) for the handouts on "Definition of Terms", "Judging Criteria", "Show Rules", and "Preparing Plants and Entering the Show". The show schedule is also on the website.

BOD meeting:

Minutes from the March 12 meeting were approved.

- It was approved that local CCCSS members be compensated for presentations at meetings and for judging at the S&S. Clerks will also be compensated with a CCCSS hat or t-shirt.
- The S&S committee recommended that Nipomo HS be given a monetary gift to support the Horticulture Dept. The BOD agreed and Bill will investigate how we can go about making this donation.
- The Standing rules were updated to reflect the activities of the Club with regards to the SLO Botanical Garden. Rob also updated the rules regarding requirements of our vendors. Loring and Bill are working on a statement for the Rules regarding their planned Propagation Group activities.
- T-shirts will be ordered so that we can have them for sale at the May meeting.
- Signage banners will be ordered this week for the S&S.
- Reservations have been made for the Saturday dinner at AJ Spurs. Rob will contact the vendors to see who wants to attend. The limit is 48 people.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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!

Gene and Kathie



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCCSS ASK US ANSWERS: TYLECODON DE-MYSTIFIED!

By Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama

Peggy ASKED US the name of her plant. It was a CCCSS raffle plant, but she lost the plant tag. She also wanted to know what was “bugging” her plants; thrips, spider mites, aphids, or something else. She noticed some stickiness on the leaves. And Peggy was concerned that leaves were falling off in handfuls.

Kathie replied regarding the plant’s name:

Peggy’s plant is a *Tylecodon Mystery (Tylecodon dinteri, Hort.)* or a very cool and relatively unusual Tylecodon. It’s a deciduous winter growing succulent shrub which is why Peggy’s plant is losing its leaves in our spring weather. It grows to 2 to 3 feet tall with thick succulent stems and rough bark-like skin. In early summer, while the plant is deciduous, it produces 18-inch-long branches of bright yellow flowers emerging from reddish buds – pretty spectacular!

Peggy, your plant probably needs to be repotted, or better yet put into the ground in well-drained soil. Water it only occasionally from fall through early spring and very infrequently or not at all when the plant is deciduous from late spring through early fall. It is hardy to short durations of 25°F.



This *Tylecodon* species is thought to be a hybrid between *Tylecodon wallichii* and *Tylecodon paniculatus*. If that’s the case, we would label it as *Tylecodon x dinteri*. However, since *Tylecodon dinteri* was the name associated with another plant, some say the epithet "dinteri" should not be used in reference to this hybrid plant. Instead, this plant should be listed as a cultivar with the name "*Tylecodon dinteri, Hort.*", which indicates that it has been mistakenly associated with this name in horticulture. In the November-December 2016 issue of the *Journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America* (Vol 88 Number 6) the author Michael Wisnev describes this plant and gives it the cultivar name *Tylecodon 'Mystery' (Tylecodon dinteri, Hort.)*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

Gene replied regarding the bugs on Peggy's plants that they look like aphids to him. In Kathie's experience almost all her Tylecodon flowers attract a lot of aphids. Keep an eye out for these bugs when the Tylecodon starts to flower.

Gene suggests reading about aphids at the UC Integrated Pest Management website:
www.Aphids +UC-IPM

Thanks for ASKING US about your Mysterious Tylecodon Peggy!
And Happy Growing
Kathie and Gene



Photos of Tylecodon by Peggy.
Photos of Tylecodon Flowers by Kathie

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

NO GARDEN GATHERINGS ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED!

WE NEED YOU TO HOST AN EVENT!!

Let us know if you are interested in hosting, it's super fun!
Got weeds? Don't we all? Still cleaning up from the winter? Yep, so are we!
Don't let that stop you from inviting CCCSS members to visit your garden for a couple hours of casual socializing.



Cycad cone

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 luvbigdogs@earthlink.net



Dudleya



Flowering Bromeliad.



Staghorn

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

HELP PUBLICIZE THE CCCSS SHOW & SALE CALL DAVE CONGALTON'S RADIO SHOW With Mike Bush and Kathie Matsuyama

Local radio show host **Dave Congalton** from KVEC at 920 AM /96.5 FM has generously invited club members Mike Bush and Kathie Matsuyama to be his radio show guests to promote the Annual Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale. Please listen as the three of us talk about the CCCSS and details of the upcoming Show & Sale.

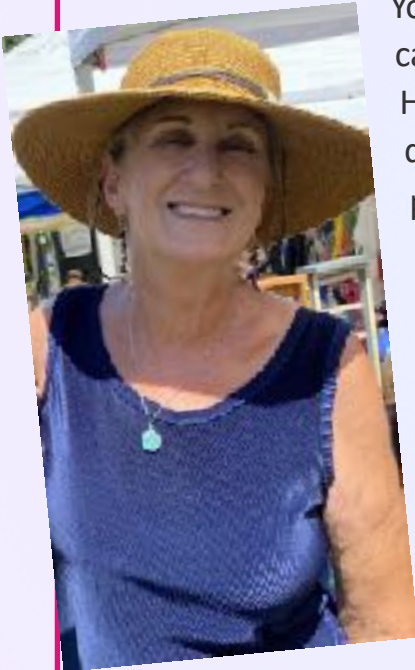
You can help publicize our event by calling into the Dave Congalton Hometown Radio Show with your questions to show producer and phone screener, **Craig Hill**.

Call into the Congalton radio show on **Wednesday May 24th** between **3:05 PM and 3:30 PM** to ask your questions live on the air at:

**Studio Line:
805-543-8830 or
800-549-5832**

Thanks for your help making this our most successful Show & Sale ever!

Mike's photos by Jeanne Miller.
Kathie's photo by Paul Matsuyama.



AND

From Terrie Leivers -

Share the show & sale information and if you see a post on facebook - share it!



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

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.

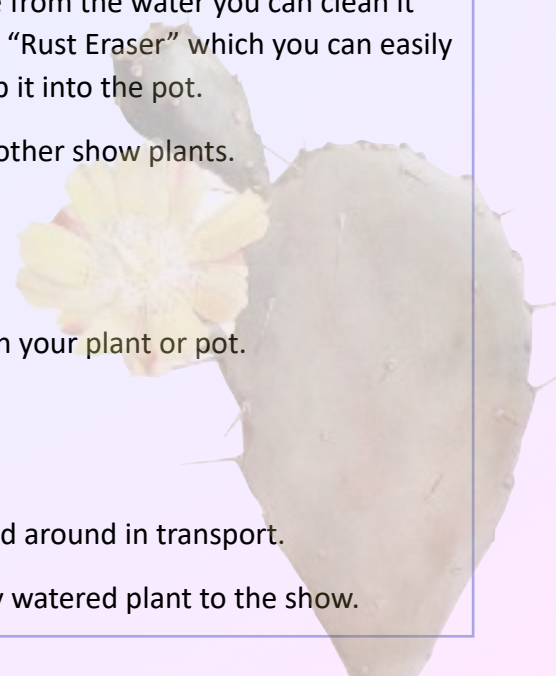
Place a piece of window screen or plastic mesh over the hole and fill with your favorite cactus soil (must be good draining soil).

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 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 is white residue from the water you can clean it with a tool used by Japanese chefs 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

Hi All,

May 27, 28

I am happy to say I have a wonderful group of volunteers, I can always use a few more.

I just wanted to remind you that those working Friday May 26 CANNOT come on the Nipomo High School grounds until 4:00pm.

To those working Saturday and Sunday, please wear your club t-shirt if you have one.

We open the doors at 10:00am; please come a little earlier.

The club supplies food Saturday and Sunday but additional snacks are welcome.

Thank you all for the hard work.

This is going to be the best show ever.

Pat Gilson

Show and Sale Saturday Night Dinner

We have a room reserved for our annual show and sale dinner at AJ Spurs in Grover Beach on Saturday, May 27th at 5:30 PM. If you would like to join us, there will be a sign up sheet at the May meeting, or you can email me at info@centralcoastcactus.org to reserve a spot.

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

NEW YOUTH GROWER CATEGORY

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

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH GUIDELINES WILL BE OBSERVED OR EXCEEDED



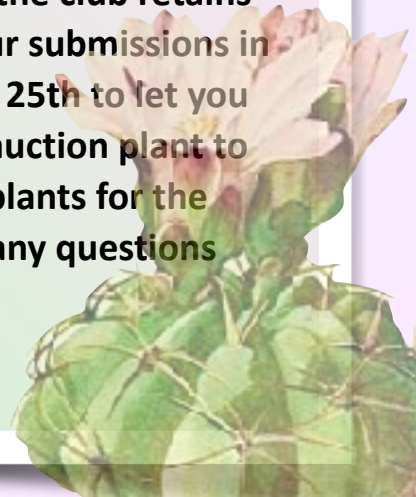
CCCSS WEBSITE



CCCSS FACEBOOK

A Call for Auction Plants

Once again, this year we will have be having an auction during the weekend (May 26th to May 27th) 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 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 20th 2023. The auction committee will contact you by May 25th 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



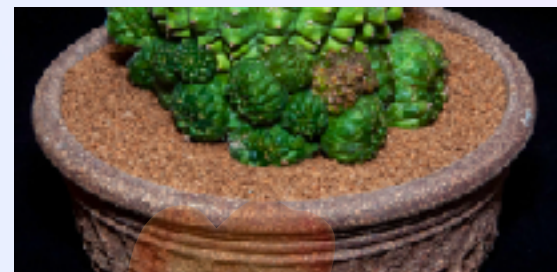
Finishing Touches by Bob Smoley Prickly Pages, Greater Pittsburgh C&S

It is surprising and at times amazing how much beauty and value ten cents worth of top-dressing can add to a plant. Believe it or not, this ten cents could even be the tie-breaker in a show plant (even though it shouldn't be).

Top-dressing a plant with a color-coordinated stone that picks up or contrasts the color of the show plant tells the viewer, who could be the judge, that the grower of this plant is putting forth an added effort in showing and displaying his or her prized specimen. As a grower, I find that an attractive top-dressing also increases the value of the plant. If two identical plants were side by side, I could easily receive an extra dollar for the plant that is attractively top-dressed. But where does one get all of these rocks and pebbles? I will try to point everyone in the right direction, and as you will see, a strange direction at times it will be.

Two of the most unlikely places to find top-dressings are your local feed store and sandblasting supply houses. Others that are more recognizable would be pet and tropical fish stores, and of course, your local garden centers and nurseries. At the feed store, you can find what is called what is called chicken grit. This is a crushed granite that is fed to chickens to harden their egg shells. It comes in two or three sizes, the smallest size working just fine to dress 2-3 inch pots for lithops. It also works well to top-dress freshly sown seed, but be sure to use only a thin layer up to an eighth inch. The larger size of grit is OK for pots up to six inches or so. Since it is granite, the rock is a grayish silver color with a bit of a sparkle to it.

Moving on to the sandblasting supply yard, we found a number of choice toppings available. Q rock, which comes in four grades, or sizes, is great for smaller pots and is inexpensive at seven to eight dollars for a hundred pound bag. Number 2 Q-rock is also great for covering newly sown seeds. Another sandblasting rock, black beauty, is a byproduct of the steel industry and is a shiny, jet black glass. Black beauty is really sharp looking when used to top-dress small pots of lithops and mimic plants, and provides a striking contrast color for echeverias and other succulents. Finally, some sandblasting supply yards sell a small graded river gravel that is about an eighth inch in diameter with nice earth-tone colors that look great on any pot. Lets travel next to a good, nice-sized pet supply or tropical fish store. Here you can find some really fantastic looking aquarium gravels in almost any size or color. Some that are especially nice looking are the epoxy stones that have a nice, clean shine to them.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

You can also find crushed quartz that is very natural and clean looking. Also available is volcanic rock, which usually comes only a few sizes and in black, brown, and shades of dark red. The heavier grades are very good for pot sizes of six inches and larger.



Well, what's left for the garden center or nursery to sell? Well-stocked garden centers should stock many of the tropical fish gravels and small pea gravel. They might also have pumice, which can be used as a great soil additive for cactus and succulents and a top-dressing as well. A more recent product that is good for large pots is expanded clay, which are small pieces of clay that have been heated and popped, much like popcorn. Also available for larger pots are various grades of crushed marble.



If you want to get really exotic and a bit expensive, travel now to your local gem and mineral store. Here you might find crushed chips of amethyst, quartz, rose quartz, citrine, agate, and many others for those extra special plants on which you need to spend that dollar in the back of your wallet. Larger pieces of gems and minerals also make really nice accent pieces in mixed plantings. Try an all succulent planting of echeverias, crassulas, kalanchoes, or any other succulents in a low, natural clay bowl top-dressed with a clean, white aquarium gravel and accented with a few pieces of amethyst crystals and iron pyrite (fools gold) and you have an exquisite planting.



There are some practical reasons for top-dressing your plants. First, as a fine topping over newly-sown seed. Since seedlings should be kept moist at all times (in most cases), the top-dressing helps keep moisture in so you don't need to water as much. Best of all, the pots that have been top-dressed will show a lighter color as they dry out on the surface compared to the darker color of ones still moist, making it easy to tell when to water. In larger pots, the top-dressing helps hold down the germination of weed seed, which makes for a lot less work later.



One final comment wash the top-dressing material and let dry before use. This removes any impurities and finer dust particles that may be present. And please don't add any of that glue, cement, or whatever it is that the mass producers use to hold the top-dressing in place for shipment - its not good for the plants and is really tacky. Happy Growing!!





Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) invites you to join us for Orchid Talks 2023.

David Sorokosky: Don't Fear the Slippers!

May 11, 2023 at 7 pm on Zoom

Paphiopedilums, the lady's-slipper orchids, originate in the jungles of the Far East including Indonesia. They are semiterrestrial, growing in humus and other material on the forest floor, on cliffs in pockets of humus and occasionally in trees. They are easy to grow in the home, under lights or in the greenhouse.

So you've bought yourself a Paph... good choice! Now how do you keep it happy and healthy? Here is what you need to know about the care and feeding of Paphiopedilum orchids, what you need to know to grow your Paphs like a professional.

After receiving his degree in biochemistry from the University of Toronto, Dave opted to step outside his chosen field and operated a tropical fish import business for eight years. Upon returning to school, Dave received a degree in enology and viticulture from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. While attending Brock, Dave began acquiring orchids one 2" pot at a time and before he graduated, Dave had over 100 orchids. Winemaking and a passion for orchids prompted Dave to seek a warmer climate in California about one year later. Dave has been growing paphiopedilums for about 15 years and seriously hybridizing for the past 10 years. He is an accredited AOS judge and his paphiopedilums have received over 100 awards to date from the AOS and CSA. Many of those awarded plants playing important roles in his breeding program. In 2018 Dave left winemaking in order to focus all of his time running Paph Paradise Orchids.

<https://www.fcos.org/events-and-where/fcos-orchid-talks-david-sorokowsky-dont-fear-the-slippers>

SIGN UP BY GOING TO <https://www.fcos.org/subscribe> AND RECEIVE OUR FREE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND ZOOM LINK.



Auction Fund Raiser

Please consider donating any divisions or extra plants that you have for the FCOS orchid Auction to be run on July 1-12..

Plants will be picked up at the FCOS Birthday Party at Toucan Terrace in AG.

Use this form to submit the name, description, picture, estimated value of the item. There will be a miscellaneous category for donated non-orchid items.

What item(s) would you be willing to donate?

FCOS is planning a members only Online Auction during the 1st two weeks of July.

Plant pickup will be at the FCOS Birthday party on July 15 11:30 am at the Toucan Terrace Clubhouse in AG.

We will plan on having a plant auction at the BDay party but this Online auction will feature a few select plants and encourage members to attend this event.

Please donate to this auction and use the online form to send a description of your plant or other item.

Donate an auction or giveaway item to Five Cities Orchid Society

<https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate-an-item>

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Cont'd

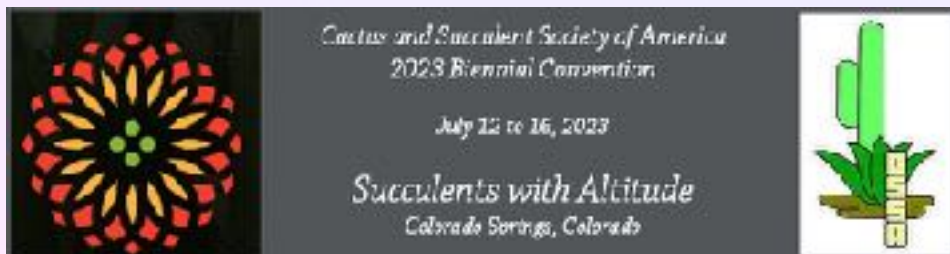


CSSA Members: If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership now. [CSSA membership](#)

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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.



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

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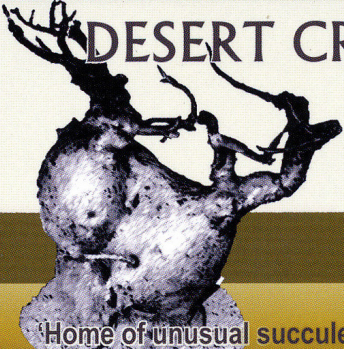
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with me
BUT, I think
she ENJOYED it.
♥ Mark TWAIN ♥