



ON THE DRY SIDE



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

<p>In This Issue: Speakers for Meeting Jeff Chemnick Plant of the Month <i>Lophophora</i> Announcements Letter from President Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>“Ask Me Table” & Garden Gatherings Brag Plants Business Members Board Members</p>
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This month’s presentation:

Creating a Field Guide to the Plants of Oaxaca by Jeff Chemnick

Recently Jeff organized a team of prominent field botanists to produce a much-needed field guide to the more commonly encountered and remarkable plants of the state of Oaxaca. This presentation is a description and progress report.

Jeff **Chemnick**, a research associate at Ganna Walska Lotusland, is an authority on Mexican cycads having published numerous articles and described several species new to science. In addition to his field research on the cycads of Mexico, he has led botanical and ornithological ecotours throughout the country with focus on the state of Oaxaca. Currently Jeff is co-authoring a book on the cycads of Mexico which is due to be published in a year or three. He is on the IUCN’s Cycad Specialist Group which determines the status of endangered species.

A former president of the Santa Barbara Horticulture Society and currently involved with various committees at Lotusland, Jeff has been involved for years within the botanical/horticultural

community of Santa Barbara. He has given numerous presentations on his botanical travels worldwide and teaches the Lotusland docent training course on cycads.

Jeff has considerable horticultural experience



Pachycereus weberi in the Cañada de Cuicatlán with Anders Lindstrom of Nong Nooch Garden lending scale

as owner and operator of Aloes in Wonderland, a specialty nursery in Santa Barbara where he has lived since 1981.

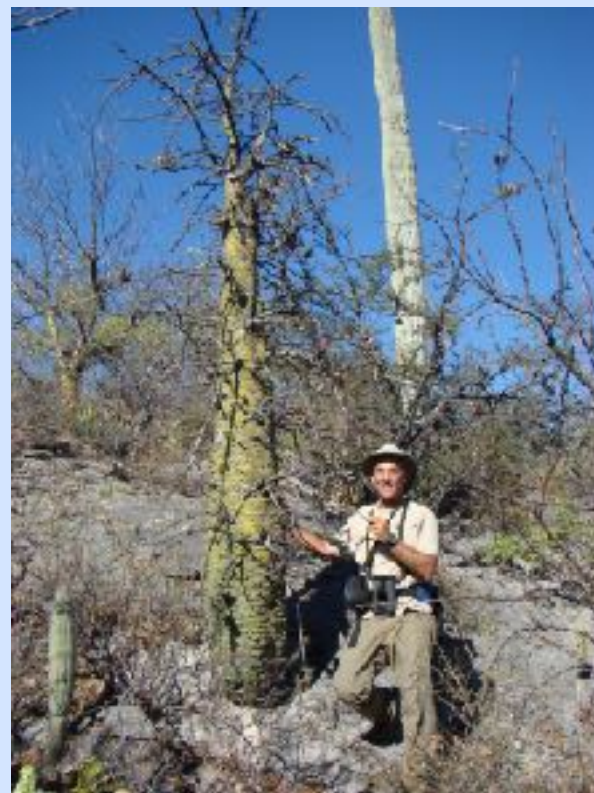
Aloes In Wonderland occupies nearly 5 acres at his residence in the upper Sycamore Canyon area of Santa Barbara.

Though he lost his home in the Tea Fire in 2008, the fire-resistant garden he planted years ago, consisting chiefly of cycads, aloes, agaves, fat trees, and generally plants with radial symmetry, has made a remarkable comeback in the ensuing years. Please visit his website www.aloesinwonderland.com to preview or make an appointment to visit.



Jeff in the Cañada de Cuicatlán with *Fouquieria purpusii*

Jeff's passions include tropical traveling, birding, surfing, skiing, word games, and playing music.



Jeff at the Oaxaca Botanic Garden with new *Zamia* species

Call for monthly meeting vendors:

As you know our club usually allows the speakers to sell plants at our monthly meetings. But sometimes we have an opening to sell cactus, succulents and pots at the meeting when the speaker is not selling. We are making a list of vendors interested in selling. If you are interested, please send an email to Bill Findley at CoolCactusKid805@gmail.com.

All vendors are required to have a copy of their sellers permit on file with the club. Please attach a copy to the email and it can be forwarded to the treasurer. Even if in the past you have sold at our meetings you still need to send along your seller's permit (unless it is on file with the treasurer) to be considered for selling at our future meetings.

You will be asked to do your own cashiering and will be asked to remit 25% of the sales promptly to the club.



PLANT OF THE MONTH July 2023

The Genus Lophophora

INTRODUCTION – In the plant kingdom the chemistry of plants is an often-overlooked aspect of what makes plants so amazing. The number of botanical chemical compounds and their subsequent contributions to the plants seems almost limitless. From helping the plant from freezing solid in winter, fending off herbivores from taking a bite out of their tissues, establishing fragrances that attract flies to their flowers and even harnessing the power of the sun, plants are literal chemistry labs in and around themselves.

Without exception, survival is the name of the game with these plants. In the genus Lophophora (one of the species being the famous Peyote), it is no different. There is one compound, Mescaline, that sets this group of small spineless cactus apart from the majority of cacti.

Mescaline, as far as the plant's survival is concerned, has helped them ward off potential herbivores from taking a bite out of their bodies without the use of spines and as an anti-bacterial agent possibly helping them heal from wounds inflicted from hungry herbivores.

As far as humans are concerned, Mescaline happens to be a powerful hallucinogenic substance that is federally banned in America. Because of this, some Lophophora species, specifically Lophophora williamsii is illegal to grow without a special permit, which has given the Lophophora genera a bad reputation. You see, there are other Lophophora species and cactus genera that contain small amounts of Mescaline that are legal to grow. The purpose of this article is not to discuss the human use of Mescaline but rather to shed a little light onto an amazing group of plants called Lophophora because simply put, they are amazing plants.



PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

DESCRIPTION – Lophophora is a genus of spineless, button-like cacti that inhabits parts of the Chihuahuan Desert. Its native range covers parts of Mexico and can also be found in southern Texas and parts of southern New Mexico. The genus comprises between 2 to 6 species depending on who you speak to. Superficially the entire genus has a similar appearance. However, for the taxonomist and cactus lover there are distinct differences throughout the genus like epidermal color, flower color, overall size of heads, tendencies to cluster or remain solitary, native range, amount of fuzz on their tubercles and seed shape. The two main species are *Lophophora williamsii* (the true Peyote) and *Lophophora diffusa*.

The four remaining species are still out for debate as to whether they are a true species or merely a variety or subspecies and they are *L. fricii*, *L. koehresii*, *L. caespitosa* and *L. alberto-vojtechii*.

CULTIVATION – Hypothetically if one were to cultivate any of the Lophophora, there are a few important

components to understand. Overwatering is possibly the most common reason for death in cultivation. Lophophora are a very slow-growing group of cacti and sometimes the over eager grower will give a little extra food and water to speed up growth. This can lead to the plant body to split open which can then lead to some subsequent infection or fungal attack and then death. Because of this they should be grown in a coarse substrate that can dry out quickly. I have heard that using a

substrate consisting of Pumice, Coco Coir and some decomposed granite is suitable. They definitely like water, but do not care for extended moisture retention in the substrate. It is advised to keep them dry during the winter. You will notice that they have significant tap roots which helps

them during periods of no water (see photo of fat roots).

Amendments to the substrate such as gypsum and calcium may aid in health and flowering. Partial shade is recommended. Full sun (six hours or more of direct light) is not recommended. In the wild it has been reported that you usually find them under other desert plants in partial shade. In fact, to



PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

find them in habitat you should start by looking under desert shrubs with sufficient shade.

Spider mites and mealy bugs are *Lophophora's* main pests. These pests are easily addressed, but often hide in crevices and other plants, so it is important to treat all plants in the growing area thoroughly. Plants will bloom freely throughout the year. If a plant is not blooming, it is possible it is not mature.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY- *Lophophora* are desert dwellers (mainly the Chihuahuan desert) and are usually associated with limestone or gypsum. Just because they are native to the desert does not mean that they require full sun all day with little to no water. As mentioned, they typically grow in protected spaces that provide shelter from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures for part or most of the day. Another interesting survival technique



is their apparent relationship with non-vascular plants such as liverworts and mosses, crusts of which may ensure some moisture retention for the cactus at or near the surface of the ground right around the growing area. Additionally, when *Lophophora*

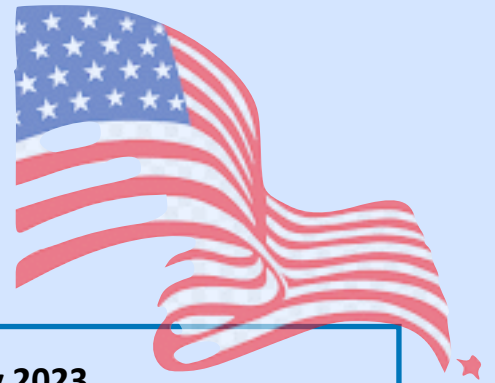
develop fruits, ants feed upon the fruits which may be a strategy in population distribution.



CONCLUSION- I hope that some of the bad reputation has been removed by learning a little more about this sweet genera of cactus. Although you need to be careful with which species you grow, they do make a wonderful addition to any cactus and succulent collection.

Thanks to David Westberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CCCSS President's Message July 2023

It is always nice to see new folks attend our meeting after our Show & Sale for the Succulents 101 presentation. Bill, Kathie and Charles did an outstanding job reviewing how to care of our special plants.

The S&S committee members had their wrap-up meeting on June 25th. We had numerous suggestions for improvement which we will implement next year. Some items will need further discussion which will be done when we start meeting and planning for the 2024 event. Again, thanks to all the volunteers for their participation and work at the S&S. It was really something to see the surge of activity at 4pm to change the Olympic Room from the HS cafeteria to our S&S. Great work! We now are funded for the next year.

As a special thank you we are planning a catered BBQ/potluck event for our August meeting. Please contact Pat to sign up for a potluck dish. We are also planning a silent auction with 100% of the proceeds donated to the Club. Please think about bringing a Cactus/Succulent related item to the auction. We will also have our regular opportunity raffle but **please no exchange plants in August.**

Mary and I will be going on a camping trip to the Eastern Sierra and Idaho and will miss the July meeting. The special awards for the prize-winning plants will be presented at the meeting. Bill Findley will chair the meeting and Peggy Heaney will take the notes. Thank you!

See you at the BBQ/potluck in August.....Harry

Reminder: Membership renewals are now due for the 23/24 year.

Laura Oliver - Membership
(See me at the back table at the meeting July 9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CCCSS meetings summary June 11, 2023

Regular Meeting: Attendees 72

Announcements:

- Congratulations on a successful Show & Sale!
- Free plants were given to refreshment & clean-up crew. There were about a dozen first-time attendees who received a plant. Most stating that they had been to the S&S.
- Reminder: **Do not park on Dana Street unless you have a Dana Street permit or a Handicap placard.** There is additional parking 3 doors up (toward Nipomo St) at the Community Foundation Building.
- Membership dues are now due. Please see Laura at the back table.
- Kathie Matsuyama announced that there are two Garden Gatherings coming up. Leisa Swanson's garden on June 17th and Laura Oliver's on August 19th. Contact Kathie to sign up.
- Mike Bush and the We Grow SLO group are having a sale in Los Osos July 1 & 2 on 9th Street.

Presentation:

- Bill Findley covered a variety of topics including the definition of what constitutes a cactus &/or succulent plant, various tools of the trade and watering requirements.
- Charles Varni covered various types of pots & pottery and soil mixes. With succulent plants the emphasis is on good drainage.
- Kathie Matsuyama discussed climate zones and microclimates, ground plantings and soil amendment. She also mentioned planting cactus/succulent plants as a fire break. Kathie also encouraged us to label our plants.

Thank you to Bill, Charles and Kathie for their great tips and tricks to successful growing!

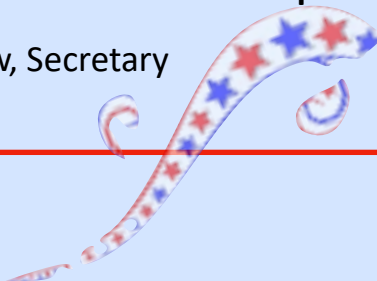
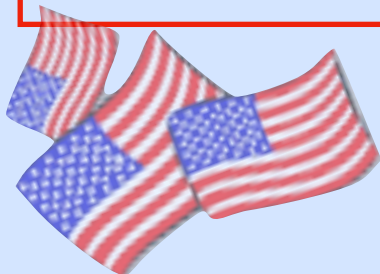
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Brag plants, raffle plants & the plant exchange rounded out the meeting.

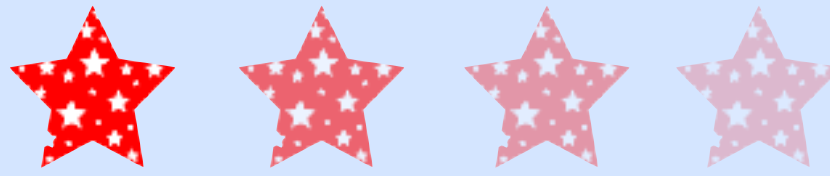
BOD meeting summary:

- Treasurer's report: Kathy is still tallying the results from the S&S, but the preliminary numbers indicate that our sales were comparable to last year.
- Wrap up S&S committee meeting will be June 25th at 5pm on Zoom.
- Harry & Mary will miss the July meeting (going camping!). Bill Findley will run the meeting. Peggy has agreed to take minutes.
- The S&S special awards will be presented at the July meeting
- Peggy's son, Wayne, has agreed to be our new Webmaster.
- Bill F would like to have a seller at every meeting. He will put a notice in the Newsletter.
- Loring Manley has served as Past President for 3+ years and has decided to resign from this BOD position. He will remain a very active member of the Club. Thank you Loring for your service!
- **August meeting will be a potluck. The BBQ will be catered. Sign up with Pat for dishes and so she can get a head count for ordering the meat.**
 - **We will also have a Silent Auction at the August Party. Bring a cactus/succulent related item & proceeds will go to CCCSS.**

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



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TAKE-AWAY TIPS FROM SUCCULENTS 101

By Kathie Matsuyama

At the June CCCSS meeting, Succulents 101 speakers mentioned several items including:

Kincaid Plant Stakes

Kathie Matsuyama discussed the plant stakes she uses to label plants in her outdoor landscape. They are made by:

www.kincaidplantmarkers.com

She prefers these stakes because they are 100% stainless steel construction; they don't rust in the often foggy, damp Nipomo climate. The stakes are well engineered with the post in back and the plant nameplate at a 45-degree viewing angle in front for ease of viewing. They have a unique removable "captive plate design", which means that although the nameplates are removeable, they will not fall off. The plant stakes come in a variety of lengths. Kathie prefers the longest for use in her sandy soil.



Products from the Kincaid Company are all Made in USA in the rolling hills of Northwest Missouri.

To label the name plates, Kathie uses a Brother P-Touch Label Maker. These are available from Costco



(and other sources). The type of label you use in the label maker for the Kincaid Sakes is important. The Kincaid Company recommends using Brothers TZe-Style weather resistant labels for the longest lasting results. Kincaid says they have been using this combination in their personal gardens since 1999 and haven't had a label peel, crack or even fade EVER! And remember, the company is in Missouri! Kathie has had the same results for the past 2 years.

Succulent Propagation by Attila Kapitany and Rudolph Schulz, 2004

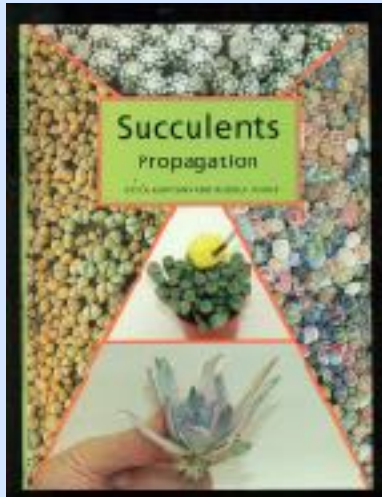
Bill Findley and Kathie Matsuyama highlighted this book as a particularly valuable addition to their personal libraries. This book covers a wide range of simple to more complex and specialized propagating techniques.

These include propagation by offsets, bulbils and flower stalk plantlets, divisions, runners and rhizomes, cuttings, leaf propagation, propagation from roots, apical core drilling, grafting, and an excellent chapter on seed raising.



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These tips and tricks of the trade are followed by a chapter of propagation tips for 41 groups of succulents (including cactus). An appendix provides tables for propagating an additional 80 popular succulents and cactus.



The book is available from: www.exoticplantbooks.com for \$14.95 new plus shipping or www.amazon.com for \$21 new or about \$7 to \$10 used.

Succulent Care and Health by Attila Kapitany and Rudolph Schulz, 2003

An equally fantastic book by these wonderful Australian authors, covers excellent sections on caring for your succulents and their health. The care chapters cover choosing a container, potting mixes, repotting spiny plants, and growing succulents in extreme climates. Finally, it provides specific

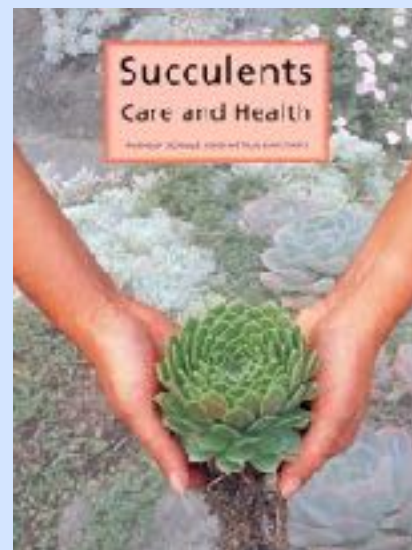
care information for nineteen groups of succulents,

The health chapters cover light requirements, temperature, watering, humidity, oxygen and roots, dormancy, weather damage, fertilizing, pest identification, diseases, organic controls and cures and chemical controls. The appendix has a nice explanation of winter growing and summer dormant succulents.

The book is available from www.amazon.com for \$13 to \$32 used.

Hopefully these tips will help you enjoy your plants more than ever!

**Happy Gardening,
Kathie**



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THANK YOU AWESOME TEAM OF PRE-CHECKERS!

At the 15th Annual CCCSS Show & Sale,
the Pre-Check Team of:

**Larry Angel, Mike Bush, Linda
Hicks, Karen Kolba,
Ken Krafthefer, Terrie Leivers,
Tanya Luthin,
Paul Matsuyama, Jeanne
Miller, Mardi Schleigh, Melany
Shapiro, and Jon Shapiro**

made the pre-processing of Show &
Sale plant sales run smoothly,
efficiently, and accurately with their
hard work, dedication, and amazing
effort!

I would especially like to thank our new
recruits for giving Pre-Checking a try.
These fantastic new volunteers were:

**Larry Angel, Ken Krafthefer, and
Tanya Luthin**

**YOU ARE ALL ROCK STARS!!!
Thank you! Kathie Matsuyama**





Hi All,

There is only 1 month till our **summer barbecue** and **potluck**.

I will have the signup sheet at the July meeting. If you are unable to attend please contact me Pat Gilson at hupt74@yahoo.com or call 805-710-4957. I need to know how many people will attend since family members are included, what you will add to the feast. The club will supply Tri tip and chicken. The members need to fill in the other 'goodies', salad, side dishes, etc. it's always fun and we to get visit.

August meeting - Barbecue & Potluck

Pat Gilson

Do you like to give demos of your gardening techniques?

As we get ready to start Fair season, I'm lining up people to give demonstrations in our Floral Building. The dates are July 19 - 30, 2023. We have spots available from 4 - 8 pm every day except Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22. The response to previous demos has been very positive and we'd love to see additional demos! Please let me know as soon as possible if you would be interested.

Thank you,

Linda Preston, Agriculture Horticulture Coordinator

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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

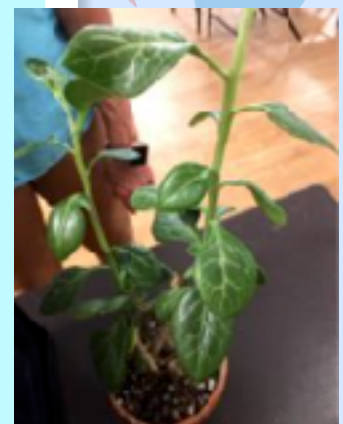
Photos by Kathie M.

ASK US A QUESTION: NAME THAT PLANT

Leisa brought a succulent to the May CCCSS meeting to ask members if anyone recognized what species it was.

Kathie replied that she was reading *Succulent Compositae: A grower's guide to the succulent species of Senecio & Othonna* by Gordon Rowley and came across a photo of an unnamed Senecio species. The photo looked remarkably like Leisa's plant. Leisa's plant may have grown in the shade since it is etiolated, hence the stretched-out appearance of the stem and the very dark green color.

According to the similarities between Leisa's plant and the plant pictured in the *Succulent Compositae* book, Leisa's plant appears to be *Senecio sp. nov.*, which means it is an unnamed Senecio species.





CCCSS ASK US

ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS:

CEREUS FORBESII SPIRALIS WITH SPOTS & OOPS! WRONG PLANT NAMED LAST MONTH

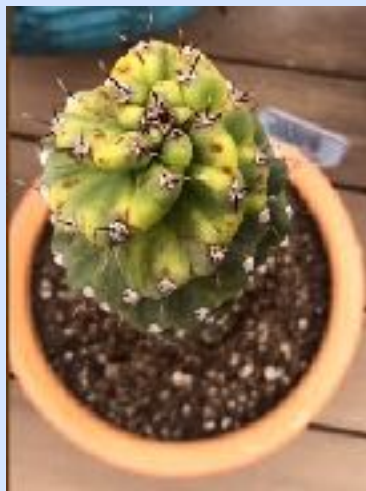
By Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama

CORRECTION TO JUNE POCKMARKED PLANT

In the June CCCSS Newsletter Ask Us article, Kathie answered a question from Sherry about her pockmarked plants. In her answer, Kathie misidentified one of Sherry's pictured succulents.

Mary Peracca wrote to say: "I have a correction to make. The Senecio is *Senecio jacobsenii* and not *Senecio crassissimus*. Mine hate the cold every year and look terrible. I cut them back and they come back but I think I should replace them because this happens every year!

Thank you, Mary Peracca, for calling this to our attention! We appreciate it!

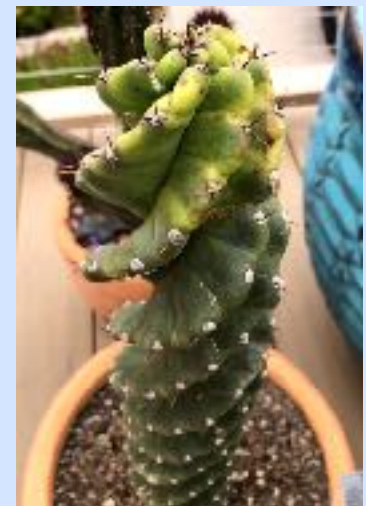


CEREUS FORBESII SPIRALIS WITH SPOTS

Lacey bought a greenhouse grown *Cereus forbesii spiralis*. She repotted it into a terra cotta pot using good cactus soil. It was kept in the house at night and put outside during the day, and gradually introduced to direct sun. Lacey watered her plant every 10-12 days, making sure it was dry before she watered it. It was doing fine for 6 weeks until it started to show yellow splotches and rusty brown spots on the top 3" of the plant.

Oh, Lacey, The Spotted Cactus (good name for a Rock Band!)? Spotted cactus are the bane of my existence here in damp and perennially foggy Nipomo. Most of the reasons for discoloration in a cactus are caused by its environment. The temperature or light levels may be too high or too low, or the plant may be absorbing too much water. If the environmental factors have been ruled out, the problem may be due to an infestation of pests or fungus.

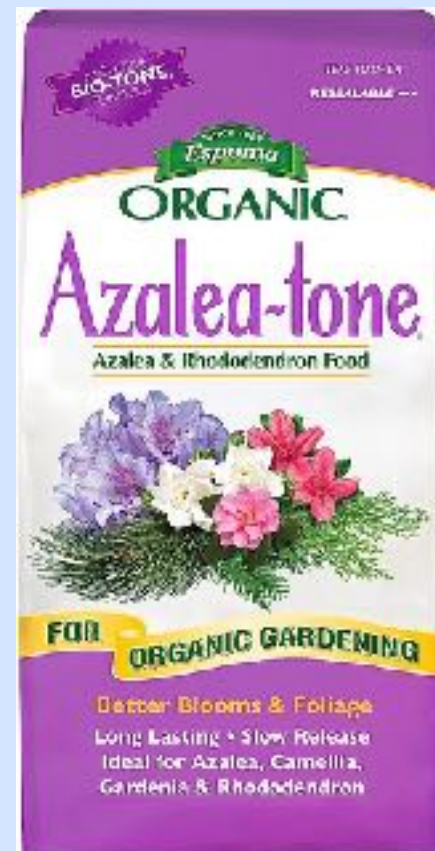
- Light levels: If your cactus is turning brown from the tips, this could be too much sun. Most cactus do not thrive in the blazing sun; many prefer dappled sunlight or shade. Sunburn, or brown spots, can happen when plants undergo abrupt changes in temperature.



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- **Watering:** Water regularly in summer but allow to dry fully before watering again. If you are unsure whether to water, wait a few days before watering. Underwatering is better than overwatering. Always water deeply but allow the soil to dry out before watering again. Like most cacti, this plant likes to be dry in winter and will not like a period of prolonged cold and wet. Water sparingly in winter; build up gradually in the summer. Taper off watering frequency again in autumn.
- **Soil:** Use a very well-draining soil. Soil that does not drain well will cause water to linger around the roots causing root rot. The base of the plant will be damaged, appearing brown. If the stem has a soft, spongy feel to it, the plant has absorbed too much water from the soil.
- **Root-bound:** Make sure your plant isn't root-bound. Since they are rapid growers, they need plenty of space for their roots. Repotting should be done every other year, or when the plant has outgrown its pot.
- **Fungi:** Cactus are susceptible to several fungi that can cause brown or rusty spots. Ensure that the plant is in a well-ventilated area to prevent the build-up of mold and other fungi.
- **Fertilizer:** Most cacti need acidic conditions. But most cities maintain an alkaline city water supply, in part because acidic water would be corrosive to city-maintained water pipes. Compensating for alkaline water means adding acidic fertilizer. An easy solution for acidic cactus fertilizer was recommended by our friend Karen Ostler, an elder Stateswoman in our Cactus and Succulent hobby and grower of ginormous and stunning plants! She uses an Azalea, Camellia dry fertilizer called Espoma Azalea-tone (4-3-4) because it is acidic.



Good luck with your *Cereus forbesii spiralis*! And thanks for your great question, Lacey!

Happy Growing
Kathie and Gene

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

BREAKING* GARDEN GATHERING NEWS *BREAKING

Laura Oliver Grover Beach Garden Gathering Saturday August 19th

A Garden Gathering is planned at **Laura Oliver's** home in Grover Beach on **Saturday August 19th at 11:00 am and 12:30 pm**. Laura's compact garden is filled with an extraordinary collection of very well-grown cactus and succulent specimens. Laura's wide-ranging interests include Haworthias, Dudleyas, Mesembs, crested cactus, echeverias, cotyledons, aloes, mammillarias, rebutias, crassulas, euphorbias, and parodias just to name a few! Laura is lucky enough to have multiple micro-climates around her house to support her vast collection with perfect growing conditions!

**Laura won the CCCSS Ribbon for Rarest Plant in the Show in both 2022 and 2023!!
Laura grows great plants!!!**

How To Sign Up

There are two time slots available to attend Laura Oliver's Garden Gathering: 11:00 am and 12:30 pm. There are only 20 spots available to attend in each time slot. Don't hesitate, spaces are filling fast for this fantastic Garden Gathering. **You must be a CCCSS member to attend, no guests are welcome.**

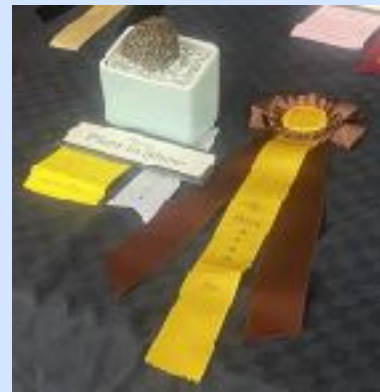
Email Kathie and Paul Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net and let us know what time you would like to attend Laura's event, and we will add your name to the list.

It is likely this event will oversell; we will have a waiting list. There are always some last-minute dropouts. So, if you are on the waiting list, don't worry, you may still get to attend.

Interested in hosting a Garden Gathering in 2023?

**Contact Paul and Kathie
Matsuyama at**

luvbigdogs@earthlink.net



Photos by Kathie Matsuyama

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GARDEN GATHERING RECAP LEISA SWANSON'S SOIREE

On a warm Saturday morning on June 17th in San Luis Obispo, 25 Garden Gatherers met at Leisa Swanson's home in San Luis Obispo for a wonderful event. This was Leisa's second Garden Gathering. Her first was five years ago in 2018, when Leisa was one of the first to host a Garden Gathering.

The visit started in the warm southwest-facing front-yard filled with an outstanding collection of one-of-a-kind rocks providing the perfect backdrop for Leisa's collection of potted Aloes, cacti, and large succulents as well as a mounded hill of planted succulents.

Through the side gate, punctuated by a large pine tree growing through a hole in the side of the fence, the Garden Gatherers entered Leisa's large pie-shaped backyard. Leisa's Garden Gathering was like visiting a well-stocked nursery with a group of great friends! Her eclectic back garden was a series of outdoor rooms leading visitors from one amazing plant filled area to another, with wonder growing at each walkway turn.... What would be around the next corner?

Leisa certainly has a green thumb and grows an amazing variety of succulents as well as tropical plants, fruit trees, and huge blooming roses! As Garden Gatherers walked through the garden, they were amazed by the ginormous Epiphyllums hanging from the large shade trees. Wow! The hot pink and magenta flowers of these jungle cacti were 6" + in diameter.

Leisa's fun garden included a little of everything! She even has a fantastic koi pond with large, colorful koi. What a fun element to have in your garden!

Leisa's generous gardening spirit was underscored by all the bits and pieces of plants that went home with all the Garden Gatherers! Thank you, Leisa, for your generosity and sharing your love of plants with all of us!

Interested in hosting a Garden Gathering in 2023?

Contact Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at

luvbigdogs@earthlink.net



Rhipsalidopsis gaertnerii



Epiphyllum



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

How to Sign up for a Garden Gathering Event

Please sign up quickly; spaces will fill fast for both fantastic Garden Gatherings. **You must be a CCCSS member to attend, no guests are welcome.**

Sign up in person at our monthly CCCSS meetings. Or email Kathie and Paul Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net and let us know which event, and if appropriate which time slot, you are interested in attending. We will add your name to the list.

INTERESTED IN MEETING CCCSS MEMBERS AT A CASUAL GET TOGETHER IN YOUR OWN GARDEN?? **HOST A GARDEN GATHERING EVENT!!**

Let us know if you are interested in hosting one of these super fun events!

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 several hours of casual socializing.

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.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS—Cont'd



From the Executive Directors

Summer is here and we are getting busy at the garden. We have a long list of projects we'd like to tackle! From organizing the sheds and refinishing fences to keeping weeds at bay and finishing nursery repairs, we have a lot to do. Projects small and large really help keep the garden looking great and operating smoothly - and that makes a difference for both visitors and volunteers!

We could use your help to get these projects from start to finish!

- **Buy Supplies** - our [Amazon wish lists](#) make it easy to help projects happen in just a few clicks. From garden tools to children's toys to storage bins - there are a lot of things that we can use right now to help improve the garden for visitors and the work environment for volunteers. Have some of these items in good condition that you'd like to donate? We'd appreciate that too! [Contact Janine](#).
- **Participate in a Group Workday** - weekend work days will return this summer on Saturdays: June 17, July 15, and August 19, so if you'd rather get your hands dirty, sign up for one (or more) and help us keep the Garden looking its best. [Sign up with Cheryl](#).
- **Join a Committee** - Weeding isn't the only way to volunteer at the Garden. Committees are a great way to share your personal and professional expertise and help the Garden meet its goals. Development/Special Events, Membership/Marketing, Adult Programs, Youth Programs, and Art Accessioning are all looking for new members. [Contact Cheryl if you are interested](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the Garden!

Janine Stillman and Cheryl Wakefield
Co-Executive Directors

Coming in July

Family Free Day
SUNDAY, JULY 9
10am - 2pm
Come early to join our Aborn Adventures hike—a guided, family-friendly walk to some of our favorite spots in the Garden.

Summer Art Series for Adults
Join local artists for workshops in the Garden
Sundays @ 1:00pm
July 9 - Forage and Dye
July 16 - Botanical Watercolors
July 23 - Paper Flowers
July 30 - Fused Glass

Bird and Botany Walk
Thursday, July 27
Our feathered friends take center stage on this easy guided walk around the Garden.

**NEW GARDEN HOURS:
GARDEN IS OPEN TO VISITORS 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

GIFT SHOP/OFFICE HOURS
Sunday: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Monday: Closed*
Tuesday: Closed*
Wednesday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Thursday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

**THIS WEEKEND (Saturday and Sunday, 10am - 5pm) at 2016
9th St in Los Osos (adjacent to La Casita Mexican Restaurant).**

July 1 (Sat.) & 2 (Sun.) 10am-5PM

SUMMER SPECTACULAR

Succulent Plants & Pottery Sale

2016 9th St. - Los Osos



Updates at #wegrowslo

Our 'Central Coastal Coalition' (Steve Super Gardens, Rowe Clayworks, GROW Nursery and Calcoast Succulents) are back selling again.

THERE WILL BE BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY, LOCALLY GROWN PLANTS AND HANDMADE POTTERY FOR SALE.

We donate a portion of each sale's proceeds to a local nonprofit, and our recipient for this sale is **Pacific Wildlife Care**, a 501 (c) 3 organization - San Luis Obispo county's only licensed rehabilitation center that cares for injured birds, mammals and reptiles.

Mike Bush
Los Osos, California

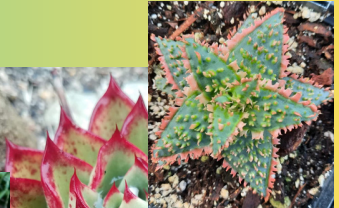
Coming up
in August!

WEIRD, WACKY AND WONDERFUL Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale

August 26 (Saturday) & 27 (Sunday)

10AM - 5PM

2016 9TH STREET, LOS OSOS



Rare and unusual plants for the water wise garden

Steve Super Gardens - stevesupergardens.com

805.801.9973 - stevesupergardens@gmail.com - on Etsy: **SteveSuperGardens**

Functional & decorative ceramics for the home and garden

Richard Rowe Clayworks - roweclayworks.com

805.235.9721 - roweclayworks@gmail.com - on Etsy: **RoweClayworks**

Unique, well-grown succulent plants for the Central Coast

The Succ Shack - 805.602.7817 - calcoastsucculents@gmail.com

By appointment, or find our pop-up locations on Instagram: **TheSuccShack**

Amazing succulent plants for containers and landscape

GROW Nursery/Botanica Nova - 805.305.9292 - nick@grownursery.com

grownursery.com - 2024 Main Street in Cambria (enter through The Garden Shed)



A portion of proceeds benefits Hope's Village, a 501c(3) organization planning a model sustainable community village of tiny houses for chronically unhoused veterans and other people who have little or no income here on the Central Coast of California.

FOR UPDATES:
#wegrowslo

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Cont'd

Hello Plant Lovers,

Please save the date for the World's Largest Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale. **The Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale** is AUGUST 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2023. Advanced tickets required for LA County Arboretum Admission and the sale/show is free. The SALE is open on Friday the 4th from 8am to 5pm. The SHOW & SALE is open Saturday & Sunday the 5th & 6th from 8am to 5pm.

We have 23 Vendors from CA & NM with every possible type of succulent plants, handmade pottery, top dressing, & tools.

We have World class exhibits of rare and exotic as well as extremely mature specimens that can't be seen anywhere else!

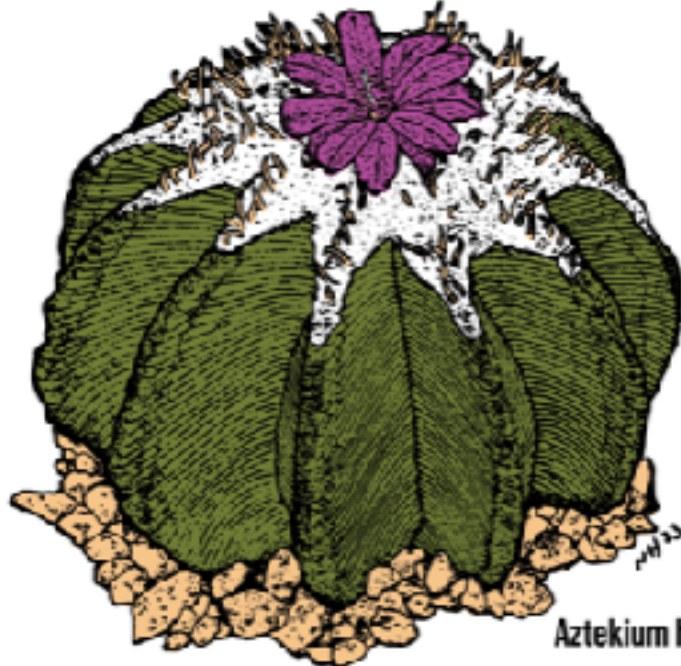
We also have world class judges choosing our Trophy Table plants.

This is a great opportunity to be around people who love succulent plants and can rattle off just as many fun facts as you can.

For complete info on entering plants, please visit intercityshow.com and view the "plant entry rules". You DO NOT have to be member of any of the host clubs. We welcome ALL succulent plants!

We hope to see you and your plants!

37th Annual Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale



Aztekium hintonii

August 4th, 2023 - Sale 8AM-5PM

August 5th & 6th, 2023 - Show & Sale 8AM-5PM

Los Angeles County Arboretum - www.intercityshow.com

Hosted by the Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Societies

Instagram: @intercityshow Facebook Group: intercityshow

We encourage you to bring your own box to the sale

The Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:

“FCOS’s Orchid Talks 2023 ”

Francisco Miranda “The Genus *Laelia* in Brazil”

July 13th, 2023 at 7 pm PST

The Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) is excited to invite you to a fascinating virtual tour of Brazil's *Laelia* regions! Our knowledgeable speaker, Francisco Miranda, is a renowned orchid expert who has dedicated his life to studying and exploring the diverse flora of Brazil.

During the tour, Francisco will take us on a journey through some of the most enchanting areas of Brazil, where the beautiful *Laelias* can be found. With his extensive expertise, Francisco will share insights into the unique characteristics and habitats of these stunning orchids.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Francisco's passion for orchids began at a young age. He later pursued a Masters degree on the section *Cattleyodes* of the genus *Laelia* and has since focused his research on the Brazilian *Laelias* and *Cattleyas*. He has authored numerous publications on orchids and is the owner of Miranda Orchids, a renowned orchid nursery in Florida.

Join us for this exceptional opportunity to explore the breathtaking regions of Brazil where the *Laelias* grow and learn from one of the most knowledgeable experts in the field!

Zoom with us by signing up at <https://www.fcos.org/subscribe> to receive our free monthly orchid newsletter and link to this Free Zoom meeting.





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

Not a member? Join now! [CSSA membership](#)

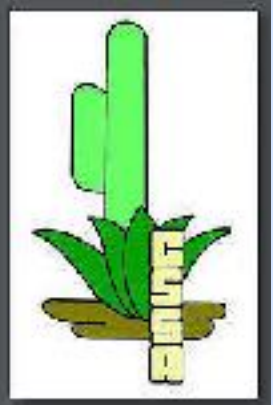
CSSA Membership Benefits:

- 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](#)**



Labeling and Turning Potted Plants

I use labels for both identification and orientation. Losing plant names because of label breakage or fading of the writing is often a problem and many ways to avoid such loss have been reported. I have tried many such suggestions including using two plastic labels, one of them below the soil, writing on the pot itself, writing the plant name or a code number on the part of the label below soil level, and having all plants of the same species grouped together. Label or writing loss is only a major problem with plants that spend time outdoors. Plastic labels and the writing on them last much longer indoors.

Outdoors I group my potted plants so that identical ones are all together in a group that is separated from plants that they might be confused with by other plants that have some obvious differences from the group members.

When replacing labels in outdoor pots I now use two zinc labels in each pot, with full information written on both sides of each label. The labels are inserted together as a pair, touching each other. Over time the writing on the outer sides of the label pair fades but the writing on the inner, touching surfaces lasts much longer. Zinc labels are long-lasting outdoors where rains wash out minerals, preventing the accumulation of salts that can dissolve the parts of the zinc labels that are below the soil surface. I do not use zinc labels in my house or greenhouse because of this loss of the lower parts of the labels due to dissolving of the zinc by soil minerals.

I turn my greenhouse and indoor plants on a regular basis, using the labels in the pots for orientation. Outdoors I turn the pots only when turning is really needed because of leaning. With some of my indoor plants which are turned regularly, especially some of the aloes, the plants extend beyond the edges of the pots so far that the labels are difficult or impossible to find. With these I either tape a rectangle of white paper to the side of the pot below the label or make a conspicuous chalk mark in this area. With some pots I use both chalk mark and paper rectangle. The paper rectangles are easier to see and do not rub off, but the chalk marks are easier to apply. With a few of my aloes, especially some 'Aloe polyphylla' plants, I no longer can find the label but still have the paper and chalk marks for orientation. These few pots in which I no longer can find the labels contain plants whose identity is obvious without the labels.

By Thomas Schwink, 2000 Mid-Iowa C&SS

Brag Plants

From
Harry and Mary Harlow. .
“Here's a photo of our
Tephrocactus geomerricus
that finally bloomed.”



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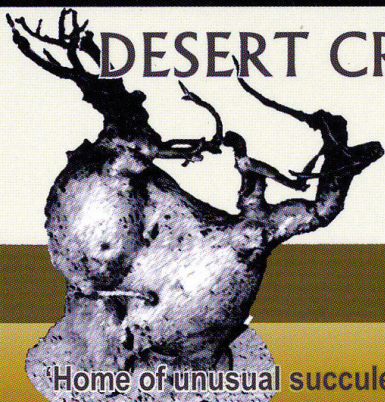
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(I will be gone for the month of July into August, so the next newsletter will be a little late)