



# THE CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & August 2023 SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is Sunday  
August 13 at 2 PM in the SLO  
Odd Fellows Hall on Dana St.

### In This Issue:

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Auction*

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Hi All,

Our **summer barbecue** and **potluck** will be at our meeting Sunday Aug. 13.

This month's meeting is all about enjoying each other's company and good food. I still have some room if you want to come. Just give me a call 805-710-4957 or email [hupt74@yahoo.com](mailto:hupt74@yahoo.com). I need to know how many people are coming and what you will contribute to the meal.

Setup will start at 12:30 so we can start eating by 2:00.

Pat Gilson



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**.

silent  
Auction



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### *The Genus Huernia*

**INTRODUCTION** – In the cultivation of any type of plant there is usually a reason that the grower decides to cultivate them. Sometimes it's the beautiful flowers which smell wonderful like in many orchids. Other plants may be selected because of their large tropically looking leaves like philodendron and some plants are grown because they attract butterflies. In *Huernia*, the reasons listed above do not apply at all, in fact they don't have leaves, they don't attract butterflies (they attract flies instead), and to most their flowers are more bizarre than beautiful and sometimes smell terrible (hence the flies). To me it is because they are so unique that makes them appealing. This month's Plant of the Month is the genus *Huernia*.



Fig.1 - *Huernia zebrina* - one of the more commonly available *Huernia*.

**DESCRIPTION** – The genus *Huernia* which lies in the Milkweed sub-family (Asclepiadoideae) consists of perennial, stem succulents from Eastern and Southern Africa and Arabia, first described as a genus in 1810. Named for Justus van Heurne (1587–1653?) a Dutch missionary, botanist, and doctor, who is reputed to have been the first European to document and collect South African Cape plants. As with many asclepiads like *Psuedolithos*, *Caralluma* and *Tavaresia*, *Huernia* contains many obscure and rare plants which usually only appeal to the most eccentric plant collector. Regardless of this, there are many that are readily available either from online dealers, local specialty nurseries or at our annual show and sale.



Fig.2 - *Huernia hystrix* - a not so common *Huernia*

**CULTIVATION** – *Huernias* require a potting mix with excellent drainage. A mix of pumice, coconut coir and decomposed granite is what has worked for me. Having a lean soil mixture prevents rotting and overwatering. Roots experience dieback in cool-season dormancy, so plants grow best in shallow containers that allow the soil to dry out quickly. Using clay pots further helps the soil from staying too wet.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

Huernias prefer bright light or partial shade. In nature, they grow underneath shrubs or other plants. Too much sun causes stems to develop protective reddish or purple pigmentation and can scare the stems. Too little light leads to weak, thin growth with decreased flower production. These succulents grow best between 50 and 80 °F (10 and 27 °C). Protect them from freezing weather. They can tolerate down to 40 °F (4.5 °C) when dormant if they are kept dry and also temperatures over 100 °F (38 °C) if not in full sun.

Mealybugs are the most serious threat to Huernia health. These insects suck the sap from the plant stems and roots, seriously weakening or killing them. Control the mealybugs with an Isopropyl solution or systemic insecticides. Examine plants weekly for signs of infestation and treat them promptly. Another less toxic pest control method is to keep plants from becoming too crowded so stems can be easily seen.

INTERESTING SIDE NOTE - Various species of Huernia are considered famine food by the inhabitants of Konso woreda in southern Ethiopia. The local inhabitants, who call the native species of this genus baqibaqa indiscriminately, eat it with prepared balls of sorghum (kurkufa); they note that baqibaqa tastes relatively good and has no unpleasant side-effects when boiled and consumed. As a result, local farmers encourage it to grow on stone walls forming the terraces, where it does not compete with other crops.



Fig. 3 - *Hernia namaquensis*



Fig. 4 - *Hernia pillansii*

CONCLUSION- Should you be growing huernia? Yes. Both for their unique beauty and as a tasty snack. But also, they typically do not take up too much space, they offer an interesting variety of flower and plant body forms, they grow relatively fast, and many are flexible with sub-optimal growing conditions. Next time you are perusing the sales area at a Cactus and Succulent Sale be sure to get one or two.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### President's Message

This month will be a members only catered/potluck meeting. You should have already signed up with Pat to bring your side dish for us to enjoy. We will have a silent auction with 100% donation to the Society, as well as our plant raffle. There will be no exchange table for this month.

Mary & I missed last meeting as we went camping to the East Sierra and mountains of Idaho. It was nice to see our friends and family there after a long Covid break from traveling.

We will see you on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for another epic feast at the OFH....Harry



I'm going to be out of town next Sunday, so I won't be able to attend the BBQ. I'd like to post photos of it on Instagram, though. I'm hoping someone can get some photos?



Thanks,  
Peggy (publicity)



### CCCSS meetings summary July 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

#### **General meeting: 88 attendees**

Bill Findley conducted the meeting in Harry's absence.

- Members were asked to sign up for the August potluck, for clean-up crew and for refreshments at the September meeting.
- Newcomers were introduced. Clean-up crew was thanked along with the refreshment volunteers.
- **Membership renewals are due now.**
- Awards were presented to winners from our May Show & Sale.
- The presentation for this month was by Jeff Chemwick from Aloes in Wonderland.
- Plant of the month was Lophophora Williamsii
- Brag plants were admired
- The plant raffle was followed by the plant exchange.

#### **BOD meeting:**

Members present: Laura Oliver, Pat Gilson, Bill Findley, Kathy Goss, Tasha Erickson, Peggy Heaney.

- June minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's report: S&S breakdown and financial summary has been completed and will be forwarded to the S&S committee at the next meeting.
- Funds were approved for catering at the August meeting.
- August potluck: 78 are signed up to attend. Silent auction will end soon after the raffle is completed. Auction items are 100% donation to CCCSS. Items must be priced at an even dollar amount. A cashier will be moved to the door area.
- Website update needs more research and discussion. Bill spoke with Wayne Heaney and is not sure if we need to go with him or find someone in the club that can maintain the site.
- Harry will make "No Parking" signs for Dana Street.

Notes taken by Peggy Heaney (thank you Peggy!) Submitted by Mary Harlow



## CCCSS ASK US: WE WILL TRY TO HELP!!

Do you have a prickly cactus question or an inscrutable succulent issue? The CCCSS ASK US TABLE can now be accessed at in person CCCSS meetings or VIRTUALLY. See our venerable expert Cactophile Gene Schroeder and Succulentophile Kathie Matsuyama at the ASK ME table at monthly meetings or send us your questions. The online ASK US service is for Active CCCSS members only.

Examples of issues we may be able to help with include:

- ID of Plants

Provide 3 photos of the plant: 1) close-up of leaves, flowers, spines; 2) general photo of the plant with something in the photo that indicates scale....a ruler, soda can or credit card; and 3) a photo of the plant in its environment (is the plant in full sun, under a porch, planted in the landscape?)

- Watering & Light Requirements
- Feeding & Fertilization
- Pests & Problems
- Soil & Amendments
- Propagation

Please email/provide good photos of your plant. Also provide all the background information you think necessary to help us answer your question. Tell us which city you live in; microclimates in our region provide vastly different growing conditions. We will email/provide you with our thoughts. Your plant question might be featured in a future CCCSS ASK US Newsletter column.

Send your ASK US questions to Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama at:

[AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org](mailto:AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org)

Happy and Healthy Growing!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



### **\*BREAKING\* GARDEN GATHERING NEWS**

It's not too late to sign up for **Laura Oliver's Grover Beach Garden Gathering on Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. Or sign up at the CCCSS August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It is likely this event will oversell; we will have a waiting list. There are usually 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](mailto:luvbigdogs@earthlink.net)**

### GARDEN GATHERING HOSTS NEEDED!!

We are actively recruiting Garden Gathering hosts for this year. We currently have no future events scheduled. Let us know if you are interested in hosting. It's super fun!

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

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

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

**What:** "Garden Gatherings" are a chance to meet club members in a fun, casual garden setting. Food and a tour of the member's garden are the focus of the events.

**Where:** Gatherings take place in a CCCSS member's garden.

**Who:** Participants must be CCCSS members. The host decides the number of guests.

**When:** Hosts pick the date and time for the event. Events average 1½ hours.

**Help:** Event pre-planning, organization, sign-up and email coordination with your guests is all capably managed by Paul and Kathie!

**Interested in hosting a Garden Gathering in 2022?**

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



# Maggie Wagner & Ben Trogdon

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Open Studio Art Tour**

**October 14 & 15, 2023 • 10am to 5pm**

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Instagram: [pacsunpotsandplants](https://www.instagram.com/pacsunpotsandplants)

## WEIRD, WACKY AND WONDERFUL Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale

August 26 (Saturday) & 27 (Sunday)

10AM - 5PM

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**The Succ Shack** - 805.602.7817 - [calcoastsucculents@gmail.com](mailto: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** - 805.305.8292 - [nick@grownursery.com](mailto:nick@grownursery.com)

[grownursery.com](http://grownursery.com) - 2024 Main Street in Cambria (enter through The Garden Shed)



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

FOR UPDATES:  
[#wegrowslo](https://www.instagram.com/wegrowslo)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



# This Month at SLOBG

JULY/AUGUST 2023

## In Bloom!



**IN THE DISPLAY GARDEN:**  
*Puya alpestris* (Sapphire Tower)  
This species of bromeliad is native to the Chilean Andes. Related to the pineapple, Puya only blooms every 5-8 years!

The flowers are tall spikes of "metallic" blue-green florets with orange stamens, a fairly uncommon color in nature.

This spectacular plant will only be in bloom 2-3 more weeks, so don't miss your chance to see this rare beauty!



**Puya alpestris**

**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

## Join a SLOBG Crew

### NEW CREW: BACK ACRE PLANT CARE

This crew meets on Tue, Tuesday, and on Friday to care for the new plantings on the back acreage. We are looking for at least 10 volunteers to keep the plants alive and thriving.



### NEW CREW: FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

Responsible and knowledgeable in doing structural and non-structural maintenance projects, both in the development and planning of new garden related adjustments.

### DOCENT

John Dodson comes to our monthly training meeting and commits to two shifts a month. We give you all the tools to keep the museum present and vibrant.



### CHILDREN'S CREW

Children's Crew meets on Monday on Thursday and each year has a tour for the Children's Garden to keep it up and vibrant. Email me for the other ways to volunteer!



### TRAILS

Trails crew meet "weekly" knowledge. We are opening up the Discovery and Peninsula trails to 6 ft wide and adding the Climate Zone Benches. Come join us!



### ACCESSIONING

Help Mark and inventory all our new plantings. Accessioning meets on Tuesdays and works to help build the Museum of plants. You could really use more help!



San Luis Obispo  
Botanical Garden  
[slobg.com](http://slobg.com)

# SLO Botanical Garden Community Rummage Sale

Sunday, August 20  
9:00am - 2:00pm

## 2 Ways to Participate:

### SELL YOUR STUFF:

- Tables are \$25 (6ft. rectangle or 60" round - provided by the Garden)
- You can keep what you make
- Everything that doesn't sell, you take home
- Everything you leave behind will be donated!

### DONATE YOUR STUFF:

- Bring what you want to donate and the Garden will sell it for you
- Garden keeps the proceeds
- Everything that doesn't sell, will be donated! (no items returned)

Drop off: August 17 & 18



**SPACES ARE LIMITED,  
SECURE YOURS HERE**

Volunteer Opportunities will be available

### • IT TAKES A VILLAGE!! HELPING ERNESTO SANDOVAL

Ernesto Sandoval worked for over 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory propagating, growing, managing, and expanding one of the most diverse university teaching collections in the country. Along the way he supervised and trained nearly forty interns, student employees, and volunteers annually.

Ernesto Sandoval is a rare multi-talented professional. He is an extremely knowledgeable botanist, who is fluent in all aspects of that science. He is also an avid and sophisticated horticulturalist. This means he not only knows thousands of plant species and how and why they grow, he knows how to make them grow well. Add to this an outstanding ability to explain in understandable terms these concepts and teach them to others. And he does not just talk the talk, he "walks the walk," having created marvelously healthy plantings at the UC Davis campus.

However, due to the vagaries of higher academics, Ernesto has been replaced at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He currently works at his landscaping business to support his wife and two young children.

Our community of cactus and succulent growers and hobbyists would like to see the extremely talented and knowledgeable Ernesto continue teaching in the field of higher education. This may mean Ernesto needs an advanced education degree beyond his BS in Botany. We are taking a collection to send directly to help Ernesto for that purpose. If you would like to help, please bring your checkbook or a check made out directly to Ernesto Sandoval to our CCCSS meeting Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>. Checks will be collected and sent directly to Ernesto. Sorry, no cash will be accepted. If you will not be attending the meeting Sunday, you can mail your check **made out to Ernesto Sandoval** to:

Kathie Matsuyama  
510 Calle Cielo  
Nipomo, CA 93444

Thank You So Much!!  
Kathie Matsuyama





## UPCOMING ANZA-BORREGO: IN FOCUS WEBINAR

Welcome to the third in our summer webinar series: Beat the Heat with Cool Webinars!

Anza-Borrego: In Focus, Journey to the Center of the World: Centrality and Sacredness in the Colorado Desert

**Date:** August 31st, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM PST

**Cost:** General: \$10

ABF Members: \$5

Students: Free

Tribal Members / Descendants: Free

**This talk uses an interdisciplinary lens to explore notions of place, sacredness, and centrality in the Colorado Desert, including Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This unique subsection of the larger Sonoran Desert is replete with themes of universal significance, where past and present, local and global, sacred and profane, all intersect. Studying the history of the Colorado Desert offers an experiential reflection on place and the diverse meanings attributed to it, including traditions of the sacred, which memorialize the desert as a locus of the holy — and holiness is directly related to notions of value, significance, and centrality.**

In this webinar, Dr. Matthew Herbst will consider: Why is a place deemed significant (or insignificant)? What are the values at play and whose values are they? Who must remember? How is this memory perpetuated or generated? Finally, we consider the ways in which the Colorado Desert is connected to and contrasts with desert regions beyond. Join us on a journey exploring the reasons why Anza-Borrego and the Colorado Desert are such special places to so many people and has been central to many events in history.

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

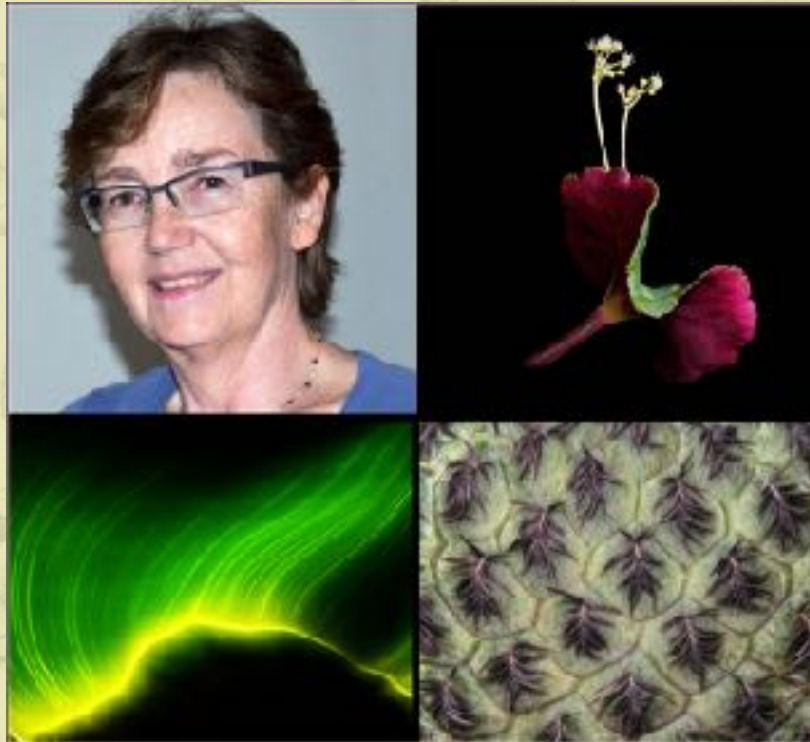
Join us **August 19th at 10:00 a.m. PDT** for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.



### Evelyn Durst: Unveiling Nature's Artistry of Succulents

[Registration Link](#)

Top Left: Evelyn Durst,  
Top right: *Crassula umbella*  
Bottom left: *Welwitschia mirabilis*,  
Bottom right: *Sulcorebutia rauschii*



### Unveiling Nature's Artistry of Succulents

**Program:** This program is an exploration of plant photography highlighting characteristics and peculiarities of cacti and succulents with many examples and insightful commentary. You will be stimulated to find new approaches and techniques to capture the intriguing aspects of your plants.

#### **Biography:**

Born in the Alps of Northern Italy, surrounded by wonderful sceneries, Evelyn Durst became fascinated by the beauty and immense variety of plants and their fascinating aspects. Therefore, it was only natural that, as a youngster, Evelyn focused her passion to the photography of plants. Her first acquisition was a *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*, followed later by a *Dioscorea elephantipes*. They had an 'imprinting' effect on her, and they are still among her all-time favorites in her succulent collection.

Evelyn has an extensive archive of photos that show how intriguing and sometimes bizarre nature is. Her equipment is quite basic but meets her needs which are concentrated mainly on macro photos. As photography can also be creative and fun, letting imagination become visible, she sometimes enjoys playing with post-processing.

Evelyn's photos have been shown at botanical events in Italy, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium and in specialized articles published in various international journals.



37<sup>th</sup> Annual **Inter-City**  
**Cactus & Succulent**  
**Show and Sale**



Thank you, Volunteers !  
Thank you, Exhibitors !  
Thank you, Vendors !  
Thank you, Shoppers !  
Thank you, Visitors !

Our wonderful plant community would not be what it is without Every Single Person who participates in their own way. Here are just a couple of the pictures from this year's wonderful show & sale. We had a record number of Novice Exhibitors, 100!

Thank you again !

Photo Credit to Anthony Cantiello.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



## CONGRATULATIONS NICK WILKINSON & ROB SKILLIN!!

At the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale at the Los Angeles County Arboretum last weekend, our CCCSS members Nick Wilkinson and Rob Skillin represented our Club with lots of Trophies on the Trophy Table. Congratulations Nick and Rob!



Photos by Kathie Matsuyama



## BRAG PLANTS

From Leisa Swanson . . .

I just had to share this variegated Aeonium Sunburst with you... Have you ever seen one stretch so tall.? It is growing up the side of my cumquat tree.. Very happy for its support. I measured it, it is 5 ft tall !!!

This is one of the children of my very first Aeoniums.. They multiplied so happily in my yard.... the first one, having been liberated from my friend's windowsill around 1995!

It took our Cactus Club to give its face a name.. Thank you.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

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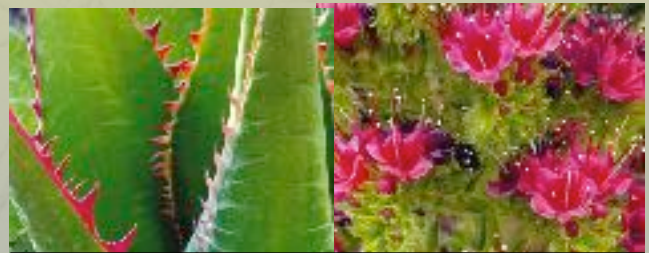
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You can advertise on these pages by becoming a Business Member of CCCSS.



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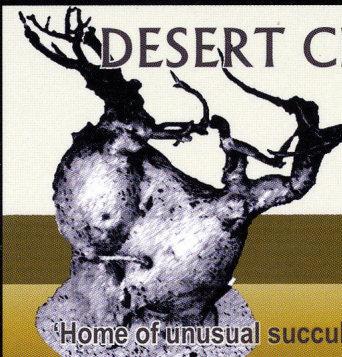
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**General Club Email Address:** [info@centralcoastcactus.org](mailto:info@centralcoastcactus.org)

### **AUGUST**

After the frolicsome brightness of June and July, August's golden expressiveness is the first intimation of deeper change, richer colors and stronger moods. William Faulkner, who named a book after August, put it this way:

"In August in Mississippi there's a few days somewhere about the middle of the month when suddenly there's a foretaste of fall, it's cool, there's a lambence, a soft, a luminous quality to the light, as though it came not from just today but from back in the old classic times. It might have fauns and satyrs and the gods and – from Greece, from Olympus in it somewhere. It lasts just for a day or two, then it's gone."

Taken from the magazine, "The Writer"; Sept.2013