

THE CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is Sunday October 8 at 2 PM in the SLO Odd Fellows Hall on Dana St.

In This Issue:

Program: Jeff Moore Plant of the Month:

Opuntia phaeacantha **Announcements** *Message from the President Meeting Minutes*

October 2023



CCCSS Ask Us Garden Gatherings & other Business and Board Members

Dudleya presentation by Jeff Moore

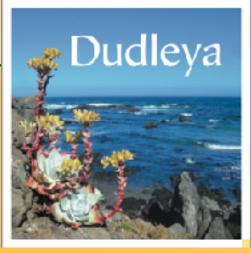
Jeff Moore's talk and PowerPoint presentation will follow the flow of the new Dudleya book that he has co-written with Jeremy Spath and Kelly Griffin (projected book arrival date will hopefully be December 2023). It will cover most if not all of the currently described species of this California and Baja genus. Images will show plants in habitat as well as cultivation, with advice on growing plants in captivity and an emphasis on conservation.



Images were taken by all three authors as well as contributors from the Dudleya community. Kelly and Jeremy have visited and photographed nearly all species *in situ*—most of the habitat photos are quite stunning, often with beautiful ocean or cliffside backdrops.

Jeff has owned and operated Solana Succulents near San Diego for over 30 years. It is a small retail specialty nursery, and carries as much of the rare and unusual as possible, along with more common and colorful succulents This Dudleya book will be my sixth succulent book. He will have plants and some of his other books for sale at the meeting.







SPEAKER OF THE MONTH - Jeff Moore



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PLANT OF THE MONTH - Opuntia phaeacantha – San Luis Obispo County's very own native prickly pear

INTRODUCTION – Although not known as a hot bed for cactus diversity (except for an amazing Cactus Society and some world class cactus collections), San Luis Obispo County has two native cactus species. One of them is a species of Cholla (Cylindropuntia californica), which

lives in extreme southeastern SLO County, and one is a species of Opuntia. It's this latter cactus, Opuntia phaeacantha (aka. The Brown-Spined Prickly Pear) which is the Plant of the Month for October 2023.

DESCRIPTION – *Opuntia phaeacantha* has a mounding habit of flattened green pads. The pads are protected by clusters of spines. Each cluster bearing 1-4 spines. The spines are brown, reddishbrown, yellowish, or gray, usually darker brownish toward the base than the tip, and often over 3 cm in length. At the base of the spine cluster is a round tuft of easily detached yellowish to reddish or brown bristles called Glochids. Glochids are also present on the fruit. This is the source for the plants common name "prickly pear".



The flowers are bright yellow with a pale green to orange or red center. In some regions occasional plants may produce flowers of other colors such as orange, pink, or magenta. The edible fruits are usually red or purple with a pink seedy flesh. The fruit has a mild watermelon or pear flavor. Both the fruit and the fleshy pads provide an important food resource for wildlife.

CULTIVATION – In researching this native SLO County Plant, I haven't found specific information pertaining to their cultivation requirements however, because they grow in our area as a native, I'm confident that they can handle the weather, the rain patterns and they will surely laugh at any sort of frost that gets thrown at them (North County Outdoors OK). Growing them in an unirrigated (once established) rock garden would likely suite them perfectly. They can grow fairly large but pruning of poorly placed pads can keep the growth at bay.

If you are growing them in a pot, I recommend a lean soil mix and excellent drainage.



PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY -

O.phaeacantha is the most wide spread member of the genus in the southwestern portion of the United States and is found in nine states. It ranges from Chihuahua, Mexico north to western Kansas and from central Texas to coastal California. In California (particularly in San Luis Obispo County), there is a separate population which is associated with Chaparral. The individual plants that are near the city of San Luis Obispo are the farthest north and west than any other native California cactus, with the exception of Little Prickly Pear in Siskiyou County.



They tend to grow in association metamorphic rock and the soil type seems to usually be gravelly or sandy.

CONCLUSION - If you are a cactus grower and love native plants, this prickly pear



cactus is for you. It doesn't need a greenhouse to thrive, needs little irrigation once established in your landscape and you can eat the fruits if properly prepared.



Thank you, David Westburg for contributing this article

CCCSS President's message October 2023

It is such a pleasure to see all of you each month at our well attended meetings. I would like everyone to reflect on what value the Society brings to your life. New friends, old friends and expert speakers enrich our lives. I would like to challenge you to consider becoming more involved in our Society. Next year we will have officer elections and there will be several openings on the Board of Directors. If you value this group, please consider serving on next year's Board. If you have an interest and have questions about what the work of the Board entails, please talk to any of the officers. We would be happy to answer your questions and address any concerns you may have. The Board is also working on writing job descriptions for each position to clarify what the responsibilities would be. Thank you for your consideration.

On another note....It would be appreciated if everyone would settle down by 2pm so that we can start the meeting on time. Let's not have to yell for quiet to get the meeting started.

For the December potluck we are asking everyone who is attending to bring a small potted plant (suggested pot size: 4 inches). These will be placed on the tables and all attendees will be able to take a plant home. These will replace the potted plants that were raffled off to a few lucky winners. Pat will bring gift bags to the November meeting to distribute to those coming to the potluck.

We will also have our Silent Auction (100% donation to the Club) and our Live Auction (25% donation) at the December potluck/catered meal.

We will see you October 8th at 2pm at the Odd Fellows Hall. As a reminder, no parking on Dana Street without a permit (or handicap sticker). Overflow parking is permitted at the Community Foundation building 3 doors down the street.

See you on the 8th.....Harry



Our club runs on volunteers from our membership like you. Would you like to be involved? Our current Webmaster wants to retire from keeping up our web page. The webpage needs a fresh new look to make it more user friendly. We have a specific need for someone in the club that has a willingness to help develop a web page for our club (willingness and/or experience is helpfull). Could this person be you? There are programs out there that make it much easier to make these web pages. If interested contact Bill Findley at <u>coolcactuskid805@gmail.com</u> or talk to him at the meeting.

CCCSS meetings summary September 10, 2023

Attendees: 80

Regular Meeting:

- Harry's announcements:
 - Thanks to everyone who has paid their dues. Please renew your dues if you have not done so.
 - It costs about \$1000 per meeting to meet our annual expenses. These include rent, insurance, accountant fees, speaker fees, supplies for refreshments and potluck food.
 - Nick Deinhart, a local member of CCCSS, and manager of Growing Grounds nursery in SLO is running for a seat on the CSSA BOD. He introduced himself and gave an overview of his work at Growing Grounds and discussed why he wants to participate on the CSSA BOD. Nick is also collaborating with Jeff Moore on his Dudleya book.
 - It was suggested (by Terrie Leivers and Pat Gilson) that instead of centerpieces we could have each attendee bring a small (suggested: 4") potted plant. Pat will provide bags to put these in at our next meeting. The bags would be distributed on the tables and each attendee would take a plant home. Harry announced this idea and the attendees (by a show of hands) were supportive.
 - Mary Peracca announced that she will be participating in Open Studio this year. The first weekend is October 14&15. Maggie Wagner and Ben Trogdon will also be participating this first weekend. To access the catalog with all participating artists, go to: <u>https://slocountyarts.org</u>.
 - Free plants were given to those that brought refreshments, helped with clean up and newcomers to the meeting.
- Bill Findley introduced our speaker, Dylan Hannon.
 - Dylan's topic was Othonnas, a succulent plant in the Sunflower family. They are related to Senecios (sister genus). They are mainly found on the Cape of South Africa. They produce beautiful flowers. Thank you, Dylan, for your interesting presentation.
- Rob covered Plant of the Month, Brag plants & Raffle plants

BOD Meeting:

- Membership was discussed. Laura sent out a reminder email to last year's members who had not renewed. This was helpful. There were a lot of folks at the Membership table today! The idea of "automatic renewal" was briefly discussed, but tabled until next month.
- The "plant in a bag" potluck party favor for our December meeting was approved by those in attendance.
- Webmaster: We are still researching the qualifications for a Webmaster. Need to publicize in the Newsletter. Maybe there is a member who could help or may know of someone.
- Need to recruit members for the BOD positions. Writing job descriptions is something that needs to be done. This would clarify what is needed and expected of Board members.
- Mary Peracca reported that the SLO Botanical Garden has a new BOD. They are making changes to ensure more fiscal responsibility. They are tracking plant sales more efficiently now. They will be holding a plant sale in November. Mary will report the date of this event at the next meeting.
- Terrie Leivers reported to the BOD that she monitors the FB page to ensure that "questionable" sellers/scammers are blocked.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary

Hey everyone,

I will have the sign up sheet for our holiday potluck at the December 10, meeting. If you can't attend the October meeting please contact me via email hupt74@yahoo.com or call 805-710-4957. I need to know how many will attend (family members are welcome)and what you will contribute to the potluck. The club supplies ham, turkey and gravy. We need you to fill in the rest.

Thank you, Pat Gilson Hospitality Chairperson



CCCSS ASK US ANSWERS: WHY DOES MY AGAVE HAVE BLISTERS?

GENE SCHROEDER & KATHIE MATSUYAMA ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Kurt wanted to know if the **ASK US** team could diagnose a recent problem with his **Agave attenuata** plants. Thanks for asking this question, Curt, because Kathie has experienced the exact same condition with her **Agave attenuata** plants and is betting that a lot of other CCCSS members had the same problem occur overnight in mid-August!

San Marcos Growers website includes a great explanation of this problem which they originally got from the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service web site (link unfortunately no longer active) as part of their Plant Protection Pointers series. It notes:

"Periodically in Florida's environment, stormy weather fronts will settle over large parts of the state bringing cloudy weather. These situations foster the development of a physiological condition called edema in landscape plants. Under overcast weather, photosynthesis is reduced which reduces stomatal openings in the leaves.

Air circulation is often reduced under cloudy weather which reduces evaporation of moisture from soil. A normally vigorous plant in the above situation is absorbing soil moisture through the root system but is transpiring a reduced amount from the leaves due to the closed stomata.

Internal water pressure buildup results in the rupturing of water from the lower leaf surface creating small water-soaked blisters overnight. These minute wounds quickly callus into scab-like spots. The upper leaf surface may exhibit small chlorotic spots directly above the lower leaf edema.

This disorder happens literally overnight and ends abruptly with the advent of higher light intensity and air circulation that re-establishes normal transpiration through the stomata."

San Marcos Growers website also indicated that this type of damage also occurs occasionally to *Agave attenuata* and other plants in landscapes around Santa Barbara and is usually associated with cool overcast moist conditions in early summer months. In October 2015 odd early morning temperature fluctuations were brought on by a tropical depression created by Hurricane Patricia off Mexico. Within two days many in the Santa Barbara area reported very bad edema damage to agave and aloe plants.

So, Kurt, by the long way of that explanation, the tropical depression created by our extremely rare Hurricane Hilary event in mid-August created the same temperature fluctuation conditions the SMG site referenced from Hurricane Patricia in 2015. Literally overnight, our *Agave attenuata* plants exhibited edema damage!



Continued . .

What action should you take:

- 1. None!
- 2. The damaged leaves are still functional and will assist in a speedier recovery.
- 3. Cutting off the damaged leaves may cause the plant to look unnatural and even more unsightly than if the damaged foliage remained.

Thanks for asking a great question, Kurt! Hope your Agaves recover soon!

ASK US Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama at: <u>AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org</u> Happy and Healthy Growing! Gene and Kathie









CCCSS ASK US HELPS IDENTIFY MYSTERY PLANT! GENE SCHROEDER & KATHIE MATSUYAMA ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Charles emailed the **ASK US** team for help identifying this beautiful plant growing on the Big Sur coast in a private garden. It was out of flower but full of plantlets. He thought it must be a **Yucca rostrata**.

Initially, Gene agreed it was certainly a Yucca; possibly **Yucca rostrata**, **Yucca treculeana**, or a hybrid related to either species. However, to better identify which species, Gene would need more information including leaf measurement (width, length) and close-up photos of the inflorescence for a precise determination.

Gene said the presence of bulbils on the plant in Charles' photo narrowed the choices to only 17 Agave species and all Furcraea species which are often called false agaves. The taxonomy of the entire Agave group is a real mess, having many plants described and sold under either name and a few others as well. There exist many hybrids within the Agavaceae also.



After additional sleuthing and much more research, Gene told Charles that another possibility came to mind and he thought the plant might be *Furcraea parmentieri*, sold under various names including San Marcos Grower's offering as *Furcraea bedinghausii*. Their web site has a good history of names/taxon showing the confusing history of the group. Gene referenced the San Marcos Growers website:

<u>https://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?</u> <u>strSearchText=Furcraea&plant_id=662&page=</u>

Gene says unfortunately the plant is likely monocarpic and will die soon since it has just flowered.

Charles agreed Furcraea bedinghausii is definitely the plant in his photo!!

ASK US Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama at: AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org

Happy and Healthy Growing! Gene and Kathie



Photo by Charles Varni

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 <u>Active CCCSS members</u> 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: <u>AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org</u>

Happy and Healthy Growing! Gene and Kathie







Gopher??

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! Invite CCCSS members to visit your garden for some casual socializing. We are now scheduling into 2024! Plan ahead and pick your favorite month in your garden to host an event!

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. Please note: we will be taking a hiatus from scheduling Garden Gathering events between mid-November and January 1st.

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 2024? Contact Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at <u>luvbigdogs@earthlink.net</u>





Photos by Kathie









October 14th & 15th 10:00am - 5:00pm

Mary Peracca #48 4486 Sunflower Way, San Luis Obispo

STUDIO TOUR 2023

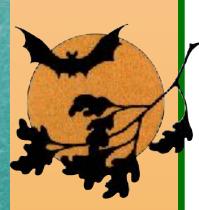
Sponsored by Arts Obispo http://www.sloartscouncil.org/open-studios

Peracca's Prickly Pottery

Hand built textured ceramic planters Also succulents for sale

> 4486 Sunflower Way San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 550-6977 Instagram: maryperacca

Open Studio Tours will begin on the 3rd weekend in October. The weekend followi ng our October **CCCSS** meeting.







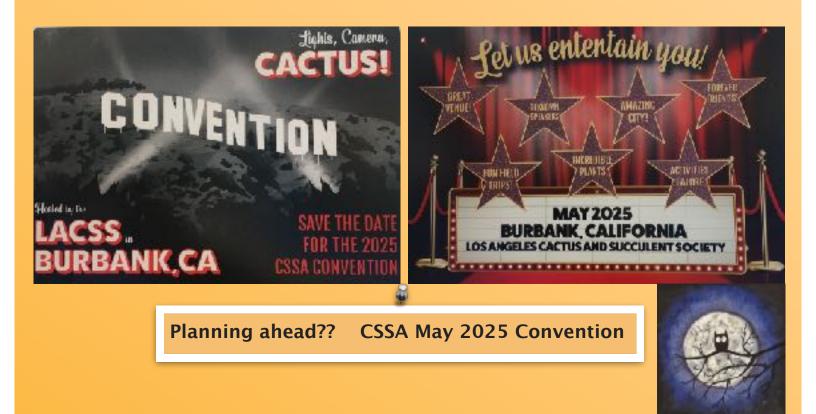
CSSA Members: If you have not yet done so, please renew you membership now. <u>CSSA membership</u> Not a member? Join now! <u>CSSA membership</u>

CSSA Membership Benefits:

- Receive the prestigious <u>Cactus and Succulent Society Journal</u>, published four times annually.
- Receive *To The Poin*t, 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 <u>CSSA Seed Depot</u>.
- 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.

Looking for a Cactus and Succulent Event? Check out the CSSA Events Calendar

NEW! on our YouTube Channel: <u>Unveiling Nature's Artistry of Succulents</u> by Evelyn Durst



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Although the temperatures haven't fallen much, Fall is in full swing at the Garden. Staff and volunteers are hard at work planning for our signature end of year events:

This Month

at SLOBG

- Art in the Garden (October 6 8)
- Fall Plant Sale (November 4, with special access for members on November 3)
- Nature Nights (selected dates, November 17 December 31)

We are also gearing up for our Annual Fund Campaign which will kick off in early November and finishing the expansion of our retail nursery and gift shop in time for the holidays!

All of these efforts provide critical operating support for the Garden both this year and into 2024 making it possible to survive and thrive! Volunteering, renewing your membership, distributing flyers, buying tickets, encouraging people to visit -- every contribution you make to the Garden makes a difference.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you at the Garden soon!

Janine Stillman Executive Director



featuring 30+ local artists



ஸ்^{ச 771 பிற}ill Knight Duo all weekend!

Announcement: The Botanical Garden Needs Succulent Seeds! These are the seeds we need: *Aeonium nobile* Cotyledon orbiculata Dudleya abramsii ssp murina

Dudleya Formosa

Gasteria excelsa

Aloe striatula

If you can help, contact Mary Peracca: call or text 805 550-6977. Thanks!



FCOS ORCHID TALKS:

Bill Goldner Phd.

"Next Generation Miniature Phragmipediums and Other New Lines of Breeding"

- Thursday, October 12, 2023
- 7:00 PM 8:30 PM



Bill Goldner from Woodstream Orchids will introduce miniature and compact Phragmipedium (New World tropical lady slipper orchids) breeding and describe exciting new directions that Woodstream has taken to produce other types of new never-before seen hybrids in an array of colors, shapes, and sizes.

Dr. Bill Goldner is best known in the orchid world as the owner of Woodstream Orchids with his wife Lynn Evans-Goldner. A life-long outdoorsman, Bill's current mid-life crisis is fly fishing for trout, steelhead, and salmon, a passion he shares with Lynn and their son Zane. Many of the hybrid and cultivar names registered and used by Woodstream Orchids are names of the many places they have fished.

Now Zane (age 13) is part of the pack which includes golden retrievers Luna and Leo. In fact, at age four Zane and Bill started a jungle cactus and succulent business for Zane. Zane's Orchid Companion Plants now grows over 100 species of epiphytic cacti (or soft cactus as Zane call's them). He propagates the cacti from seed and cuttings

Woodstream Orchids (WSO) is a leading hybridizer and producer of Phragmipediums, Paphiopedilum species, and Epidendrums. They are well known for their innovative miniature Phrag hybrids. They are currently upping their game to include white and yellow Phrag hybrids.

Please email Bill for updated lists of Phrags, Paphs, Non-Slipper Genera, Flasks, Epiphytic Cacti and Epis. <u>Woodstream3@verizon.net</u>

Source:: http://www.woodstreamorchids.com/

Sign up for our free monthly newsletter and receive the zoom link to this Orchidtalk. Www.FCOS.org/subscribe



Transplanting and propagating dormant succulents

Succulents grown indoors don't experience a true dormancy. As such, you'll find its not a problem to transplant or propagate succulents indoors all year round.

However, for succulents growing outdoors it's ideal to wait until the succulent is in its active growing season. Typically you'll get the best results in the spring and fall.

If you give succulents a nice, temperate climate without too many extremes, they can be planted year-round.

Winter Dormant Succulents

Grow mostly in spring, summer and fall

- Adenium
- <u>Aloinopsis</u>
- <u>Agave</u>
- <u>Ceropegia</u>
- Echeveria
- <u>Echinocactus</u>
- Euphorbia
- Ferocactus
- Mammillaria
- <u>Mangave</u>
- Notocactus
- Opuntia
- Pachypodium
- Pedilanthus
- <u>Rhipsalis</u>
- <u>Schlumbergera</u>
- <u>Sedum</u> (Cold hardy varieties)
- <u>Sempervivum</u>
- <u>Stapelianthus</u>
- <u>Tillandsia</u>
- <u>Titanopsis</u>

Summer Dormant Succulents

Grow mostly in fall, winter, and spring

- <u>Adromischus</u>
- <u>Aeonium</u>
- <u>Aloe</u>
- <u>Anacampseros</u>
- <u>Cotyledon</u>
- <u>Crassula</u>
- Dudleya
- Gasteria
- Graptopetalum
- Graptoveria
- Haworthia
- <u>Kalanchoe</u>
- Pachyphytum
- Pachyveria
- <u>Peperomia</u>
- <u>Portulacaria</u>
- Sansevieria
- <u>Sedeveria</u>
- <u>Sedum</u> (non-cold hardy varieties)
- <u>Senecio</u>

You can click on the names of the succulents in the table to learn more about species in that particular genus. https://www.succulentsandsunshine.com/succulent-dormancy-table/



(No Brag Plants?) Here are 2 interesting newsletters if you want to see more varieties of your favorite succulents.

SUCCULENTS

Subscribe to our Monthly Email

contact@cactusjungle.com



Oh yeah, this is a plant email, not a personal account of my wanderings. I forgot you subscribed for plant photos. Here, have a Pedilanthus braclealus bloom. I love these weird green sticks that come up with these weird red petal-less flowering cyathia blooms. The weight of the blooms can cause the green sticks to bend over like this, so this is the actual angle of incidence. Don't click that link unless you're interested in learning some SCIENCE! Then you'll know how I used that phrase all wrong.



World of Succulents



Huernia mccoyi is a small succulent plant that forms clumps of fleshy stems with long deltoid tubercles joined into five angles. The ...

The post <u>Huernia mccoyi</u> appeared first on <u>World of Succulents</u>.

Please click "Continue Reading" for a more detailed description, scientific and common names, scientific classification, origin and habitat, care tips, and photos!

To browse succulents on our <u>website</u>, click on the links below. Browse:

- by Scientific Name

- by Common Name

Or check out:

- the meanings of the scientific names given to succulent plants in our Dictionary of succulent plant names

- the definitions for most commonly used botanical and horticultural terms in our <u>Dictionary of botanical terms</u>

Well, I did receive a late Brag Plant photo!



Bill Findley's <u>Sanseveria Hallii (</u>Baseball Bat) in bloom



Want a special plant and/or pot for your collection? Be the first to email the answers to the following questions from the newsletter (only answers from the newsletter will be accepted) to Bill Findley <u>CoolCactusKid805@gmail.com</u>

- 1. Name two places where volunteers are needed in our club.
- 2. What is the cactus native to San Luis Obispo County?
- 3. Name your favorite two businesses that are noted in the newsletter?

Note: The BOD and newsletter authors are not eligible for this giveaway.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!





Steve Super gardens

Specializing in rare and unusual plants for the water wise garden

STEVESUPERGARDENS.COM STEVESUPERGARDENS@CHARTER.NET





Linda Drake Succulent Sales lindakathleendrake@gmail.com





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Jeanne Miller 805.602.7817 Mike Bush 805.452.6817

calcoastsucculents@gmail.com

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www.varni.org



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



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1108 Paso Robles Street

1920 N. Broadway Santa Maria, CA 93454 805.922.2737 • FAX 805.922.6982





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