



THE CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

September 2023



ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is Sunday
September 10 at 2 PM in the SLO
Odd Fellows Hall on Dana St.

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Collector

Plant of the Month

Brighamia insignis

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The talk will be:

"Othonnas for the Collector" by

Dylan Hannon

An overview of some familiar species (and hybrids) and others that are less often met with in collections. Cultivation requirements, propagation and provenance will be discussed.

Dylan was raised in Southern California, where he developed an early interest in a wide range of plant groups. Both his mother and grandmother helped nurture an avid appreciation of plants. He has worked for over 25 years in the botanical garden field, starting as a research assistant to Dr. Thomas B. Croat at Missouri Botanical Garden, working on the taxonomy of Araceae (aroids). He spent nine years as Plant Propagator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA, and has been Curator of Conservatory Collections at The Huntington Botanical Gardens since 2003. In between these posts Dylan worked in the wholesale cactus industry and for consulting firms as a field botanist in the San Diego area. His main interest is the propagation and distribution of cultivated plants, particularly material of known wild origin. These themes run through Dylan's writing, lectures and plant collecting. He is blessed to have his supportive wife Antoinette by his side.



SPEAKER OF THE MONTH - Dylan Hannon

Othonnas



Othonna pinnata



Othonna cakilifolia



Othonna retrofracta



Brighamia insignis - Ōlulu

INTRODUCTION – By definition, a succulent should have one or more distinct adaptations which allow them to survive during time of less or no water. Whether it's due to succulent leaves, succulent branches, succulent trunks or roots, these plants have that ability to survive when water gets scarce. Environments like this can be found all over the world and don't always have to be in deserts. One such non-desert habitat is on the towering basalt cliffs on the northwest side of the island of Kauai and neighboring sea cliffs on the island of Ni'ihau. Unfortunately, *Brighamia* is critically endangered due to predation (from introduced herbivores), habitat loss (via non-native invasive plants taking over suitable habitat) and the suspected extinction of its only known pollinator (a native Hawaiian hawk moth).

DESCRIPTION – This genus was named after William Tufts Brigham (1841-1926), the first director of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

Brigham was a dedicated researcher who made extensive collections of many Hawaiian native plants including the first scientific collections from which *Brighamia* was described. Called *Ālula* in the native Hawaiian tongue the genus *Brighamia* lies in the Bellflower family of plants (CAMPANULACEAE) and contains two species both from the Hawaiian Archipelago.



Brighamia rockii inhabits the island of Molokai and *Brighamia insignis* inhabits both Kauai and Ni'ihau. *Brighamia* is one of the most unusual plants in the Hawaiian flora. It has succulent stems that are generally stout and unbranched that are usually 1-2 m tall but rarely can grow up to 5 m tall. The leaves form a dense rosette at the top of the stem and are shiny, somewhat fleshy and vary in color from bright to dark green shiny. The leaves are wider at the apex (tip) than at the base therefore they appear spoon shaped.

They are large; 12-20 cm long and 6.5-11 cm wide. The margins of the leaves are usually entire but small teeth may be present at the tip of the leaves.

Brighamia insignis blooms in September and October. Each flower cluster contains 3 to 8 fragrant, cream to yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers. The flowers are fragrant with a slightly sweet smell that is similar to mild honeysuckle. The fruit of *Brighamia* is a small (1.3-1.9 cm long and

0.9-1.3 cm wide) two celled capsule which is dry at maturity. Many pale, ovoid (egg-shaped) seeds that are 0.8-1.2 mm long are produced within a single fruit. The seeds have tiny, raised bumps over their entire surface, a feature that differentiates this species from the only other *Brighamia* species, *Brighamia rockii*, in which the seeds are completely smooth.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

CULTIVATION – It is reported to be an easy grower if provided with the proper environmental conditions, however this plant is susceptible to mite infestation. In fact, it has anecdotally been described as a mite magnet which can present challenges if you struggle with mites in your growing area.

A well-drained soil is recommended with added pumice. It likes strong indirect light and I suspect it does not tolerate frost (considering its homeland). It does not appear to have a true dormant period, but it has been observed that growth does slow in the winter months.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY - Growing natively on the sea cliffs of the Islands of Kauai and Ni'ihau, *Brighamia insignis* inhabits a very unique environment. A number of challenges such as intense tropical sun, strong winds (which sometimes



includes hurricanes), salt spray, shallow basalt soils and at times inconsistent rains (average less than 170 cm annually) have contributed to the adaptations Brighamia possess. It grows in mesic shrublands and dry forests on rocky ledges with little

soil and steep sea cliffs from near sea level to about 748 m on the Napali Coast of



Kaua'i. There is also suitable habitat on the south shore of Kauai on the Ha'upu ridge and mountain and it is thought that a few remain in that area of the island.



CCCSS President's message September 2023

Our potluck/BBQ meeting last month was enjoyed by all, and the silent auction had lots of interesting items to bid on. Thanks to everyone for making this party a success and for donating the proceeds of auction items to our Club. Thanks again to Pat for coordinating this event.

Several members have inquired about selling plants and pottery at our meetings. We require that a seller's resale permit be on file with Kathy Goss, our Treasurer, to do this. In a couple of months Jeff Moore will be presenting, and sadly his new book on Dudleya will not be available for sale yet. Contact Bill Findley (coolcactuskid805@gmail.com) if you have your license and would like to sell items at that meeting.

We recently had a plant donation from Suzanne McCaslin, a long-time member of CCCSS. Suzanne is moving to Arizona and we will have her donated plants available for distribution at the September meeting.

Please remember that there is no parking on Dana St without a special permit or handicap sticker. Overflow parking is available at the Community Foundation building 3 doors down the street.

See you on Sunday September 10 at 2pm....Harry

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - cont'd



Hi everyone I hope you all enjoyed our August potluck. Now it's time to start thinking about something special you would like to share with everyone at the December potluck. I know it's a little early but what the heck, get a plan early. I will have signup sheets starting in October.

We have always had centerpieces on the tables that are raffled off. We are thinking about doing something different this year (thanks Terrie Leivers) for the idea. The basic concept is: whoever attends will bring a plant in a decorative bag. The bag will be placed at each place setting that way everyone goes home with something. We still have to work out some details. At our September meetings we will ask the members how many people would be interested in doing this by a show of hands.

I am so happy to be part of such an amazing group.

Pat Gilson
Hospitality chairperson





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

LAURA OLIVER'S GARDEN GATHERING RECAP HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED



On Saturday August 19, 2023, our wonderful hostess Laura Oliver welcomed 29 Garden Gatherers to her garden in Grover Beach.

What a perfectly gorgeous warm and sunny day for the back-to-back groups to spend admiring Laura's extensive collection of unusual cactus and succulent specimens.

The Garden Gatherers carefully looked through Laura's collection while frequently commenting, "that's a blue-ribbon winner" or "that's a trophy plant"! Her collection is broadly grouped into categories of Haworthias, Dudleyas, Mesembs, crested cactus, echeverias, cotyledons, aloes, mammillarias, rebutias, crassulas, euphorbias, and parodias just to name a few!

Laura's front yard faces south and is hot and sunny, but her back patio is shady enough for stag horns and Rhipsalis. And the north side of her house is a perfect micro-climate to support even more species in Laura's vast collection with perfect growing conditions!

This was a very relaxing and fun Garden Gathering, thanks to our very capable and welcoming hostess! Thank you, Laura, for making everyone feel at home at your Garden Gathering! We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

We are booking time slots for Garden Gatherings for next year. If you are starting to pencil events into your 2024 calendar, let us know if you are interested in hosting a Garden Gathering event!



Photos by Kathie

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



Laura's cactus oddity



Laura's plant rack



Laura's Babytoes

ASK US



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



Yucca flower



Aeonium Nobile



Blue Cactus flower

Photos by Kathie

2023 Open Studio Tour



October 14th & 15th

10:00am - 5:00pm

Mary Peracca #48

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OPEN STUDIO TOUR 2023

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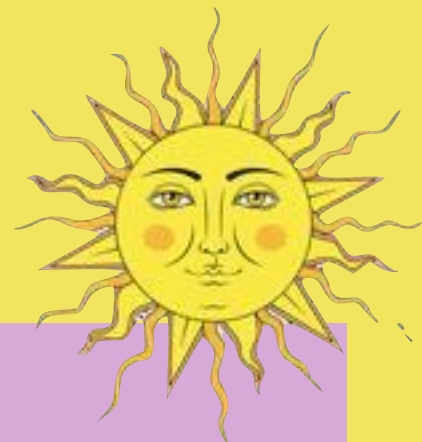
<http://www.sloartscouncil.org/open-studios>

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Maggie Wagner & Ben Trogdon

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



CSSA Webinar: Graham Charles:

Gymnocalycium in Habitat and Culture

Join us Saturday, September 2nd at 10:00 a.m. PDT for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

[Registration link](#)

The cactus genus *Gymnocalycium* is well-liked by enthusiasts. Graham will talk about the history of the genus, the relationships of the species and where they grow naturally.

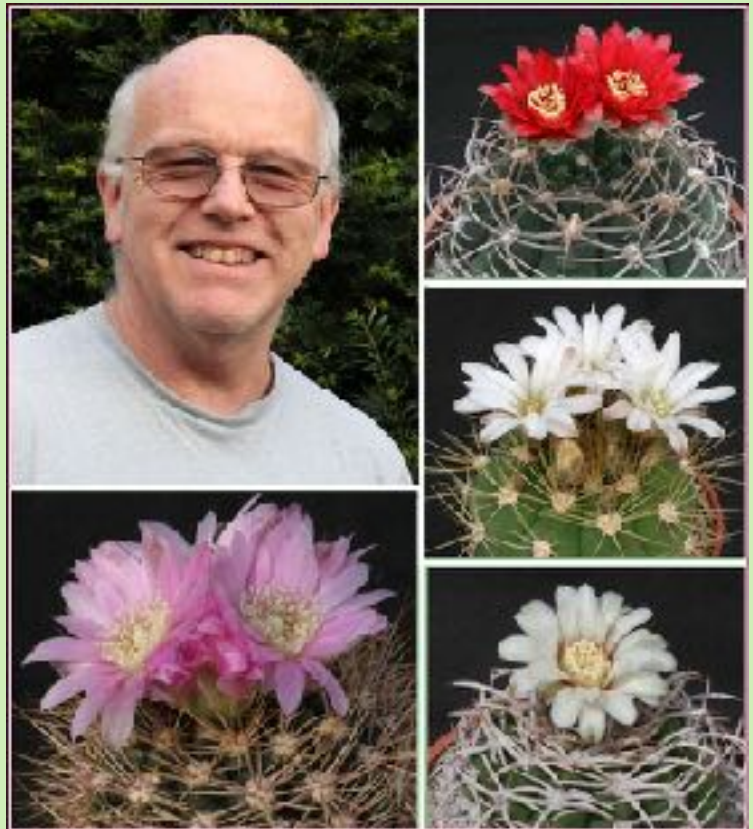
He will introduce you to the best species to grow and tell you how to cultivate them. Having visited their South American home many times, Graham will show you some of the diverse habitats where *Gymnocalyciums* can be seen growing in the wild.

Short Biography: Graham Charles is well-known within our community and has given 1000s of talks at BCSS branch meetings and conventions in Britain as well as at events in mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. He has made more than 20 visits to South America to study the plants in their natural habitat. For his contribution to the hobby, the CSSA made Graham a Fellow of their Society in 2005.

A prolific author, his books include *Copiapoa*, *Cacti in Brazil*, *Cacti and Succulents* and *Gymnocalycium*. The next book project will be about *Matucana*. He was past editor of *Bradleya* the BCSS yearbook.

In 2011 Graham launched *The Cactus Explorer*, the first free on-line journal in English for cactus and succulent enthusiasts.

Graham met his wife, Elisabeth, at a cactus meeting and, for more than 30 years, they and their plant collections have shared a large glasshouse at their home in Rutland, near the historic town of Stamford, England.



Top Left: Graham Charles

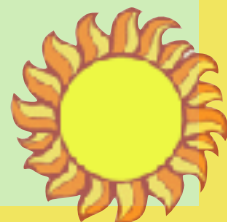
Bottom Left: *G. neuhuberi*

Top Right: *G. oenanthemum*

Middle Right: *G. chacoense*

Bottom Right: *G. castellanosii ferocior*

[Complete CV](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd



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.

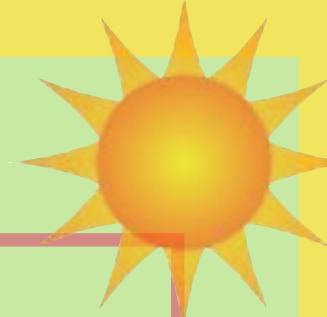
✓ Looking for a Cactus and Succulent Event? Check out the [CSSA Events Calendar](#)

✓ **NEW!** on our YouTube Channel: [Unveiling Nature's Artistry of Succulents](#) by Evelyn Durst



Planning ahead?? **CSSA May 2025 Convention**





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GENEROUS CCCSS MEMBERS HELP ERNESTO SANDOVAL

Thank you to the very generous members of CCCSS who recently donated more than \$1,300 to help Ernesto Sandoval.

Ernesto Sandoval has been one of the favorite speakers at our Club more than a dozen times since 2008! His topics have included: 'How Succulents Grow', 'South African Bulbs', 'Plant Hormones', and 'Feeding Succulents: How Fertilizer, Water pH and Soil Can and Should Be Adjusted!'.

Ernesto 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. He is a rare multi-talented professional. He is an extremely knowledgeable botanist, an avid and sophisticated horticulturalist, and an amazingly talented teacher with an outstanding ability to explain in understandable terms botanical and horticultural concepts.

Unfortunately, due to the vagaries of higher academics, Ernesto has been replaced after 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He is currently working in 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. Funds are being collected and sent directly to Ernesto for this purpose.

It's not too late for you to help Ernesto. A check in any amount will help! Please send your check **made out to Ernesto Sandoval** to:

Kathie Matsuyama
510 Calle Cielo
Nipomo, CA 93444



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Cont'd.

(Just for the fun of it)

If you have considered traveling on a botanical expedition, but had no idea of the cost of the tours. This is an example to look at.



C. ARGENTINA AND CHILE: Crossing the Andes

www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2023/argentina-and-chile

A great trip combining the best of both countries, plus the unique experience of crossing the Andes on two occasions. Starting from Central Argentina in Cordoba and heading northwest towards the highlands, we will see over 60 Argentinean species of cacti many of them blooming and/or seeding; from the small *Rebutias* and *Parodias*, to several forests of *Trichocereus pasacana*. After crossing the Andes the first time, we will arrive in northern Chile, the Atacama Desert.

Along the Chilean coast we will see most of *Copiapoa* species, with spectacular populations of *Copiapoa dealbata*, *Copiapoa columna-alba* among others. Heading back to Argentina, we will cross the San Francisco Pass, the highest pass of the Andes: with an altitude of over 14,000 feet (4350 meters!), aquamarine lakes, flamingoes, and volcanos reaching 6800 meters!

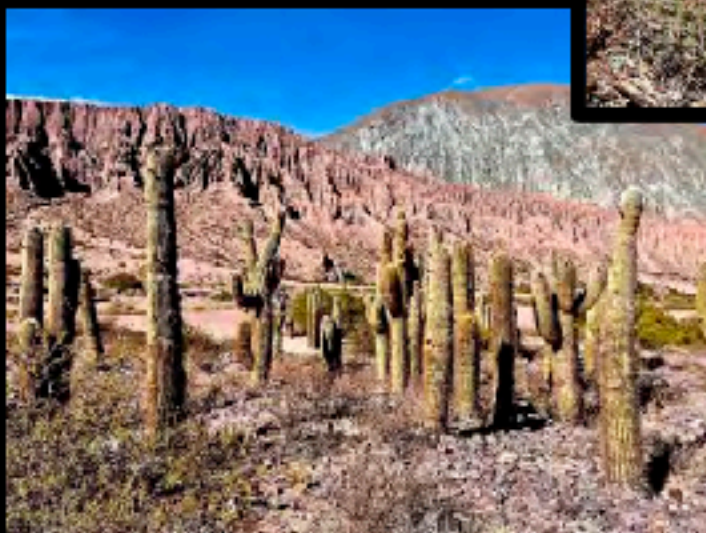
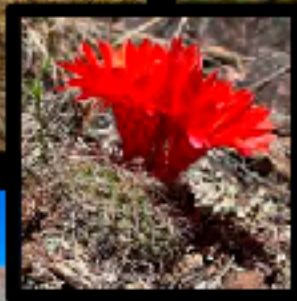
Dates: November 2023

Duration: 17 days

Included: All inclusive, starting and ending in Cordoba, Argentina

Participants: Minimum 8 participants, maximum 12 - **Taking Reservations**

Price: US\$4650 all-inclusive except air fare (single occupancy + \$550)





- **GOOD-BYE AGAVE MR. RIPPLE!!**
- **By Kathie Matsuyama**

About ten years ago, Mary Peracca gave me and Paul an Agave that had outgrown its container. She didn't have room for **Agave 'Mr. Ripple'** which can grow to 4' tall by 6' wide. So **'Mr. Ripple'** happily went into the ground in our backyard in Nipomo. Below is a photo of Mary with **'Mr. Ripple'** in 2019, about 4 years after we planted him. This spring, **'Mr. Ripple'** started to bloom much to our dismay. Since **'Mr. Ripple'** is a monocarpic Agave, it will flower only once in its entire lifetime and then die after flowering.

As I told Mary, I've considered **'Mr. Ripple'** one of my favorite plants in our garden with its broad undulating bluish olive-green leaves and its large, elegant presence! Losing **'Mr. Ripple'** will be sad. However, watching the flower spike grow has been fun; we are enjoying the tremendous 25' tall spectacular bloom spike almost as much as our bird population is enjoying great new perch opportunities.

And happily **'Mr. Ripple'**, although not prodigious, has produced a few pups. We've planted one in the front yard which is off to a good start and have noticed quite a few young suckers growing nearby.....a small family of **'Ripples'**!!

Thanks, Mary, for such a lovely addition to our landscape!
Kathie Matsuyama



Photos by Kathie Matsuyama

BRAG PLANTS

This is from the garden Gathering at Laura Oliver's house.
Beautiful!....Photo by Mary Harlow



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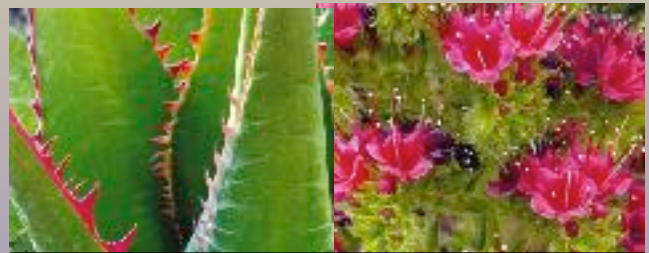


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You can advertise on these pages by becoming a Business Member of CCCSS.



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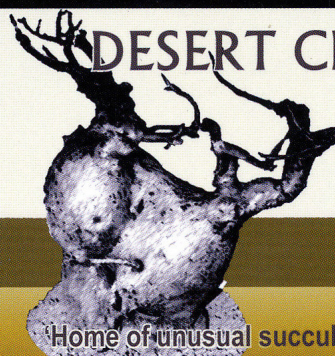
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General Club Email Address: info@centralcoastcactus.org

Summer's End

*No flowers to plant,
No garden to tend,
As summertime lagily
Comes to an end.*

*It's time to sit back
and deliciously savor
The beauty of the season
and the fruits of our labor.*

*Farewell to summer;
for autumn make way,
With this last celebration,
We call Labor Day.*

Author: Nancy Hughes



This poem was found on
scrapbook.com