



ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2018

OCTOBER SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: GENE SCHROEDER

Ferocactus: The Fantastic Barrel Cacti of the Southwest & Mexico

During General Kearney's 1846 Mexican-American War expedition to Santa Fe and the later conquest of California, Lt. Emory, an officer in his force, collected and sketched several large cacti.

In 1849, now Major Emory, became director of the Mexican-American Boundary Survey tasked with making a comprehensive survey of the natural history of this newly acquired region. Large collections of cacti were made and sent to Dr. George Engelmann who later published several papers including the 1859 "Cactaceae of the Boundary." All were amazed by the giant barrel cacti of the new territories. They were as striking and unusual then as now. For his work, Engelmann drew from botanists and explorers of these expeditions and surveys as well as professional colleagues of that era. Their names are commemorated in current species names within the genera *Ferocactus* erected by Britton & Rose as part of their classic 1922 work "The Cactaceae."

Big, up to 4 feet or more in height, protected by fierce thorns, topped with large flowers and edible fruit they earned the awe and respect of all who saw them. Native usage as emergency water sources and cattle food earned them the nickname, 'traveler's friend.'

Ranging across approximately 30 species, they now can be found in most botanic gardens and a growing number of xeric landscapes where their size and presence make them landmark plants that are tough, long lived and generally easy to grow.

About Gene: Gene has been a CCCSS member since a retirement move from Orange, CA, to Nipomo in 2008. For the prior 20 years, he was a member of Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society and had served as President, Show Co-Chair, and Librarian, and he volunteered at CSUF Arboretum.

Since arriving on the Central Coast, with over 3000 plants, he has been busy building a greenhouse and filling up the acre+ landscape of his home. He is a Past President and retired Librarian of CCCSS and has also been a member of the CSSA and BCSS national societies since the late 80's.

Until recent health issues intervened, he was an active SLO Master Gardener and Nipomo Native Gardens Board Member and volunteer. Now he spends most of his time pulling weeds, watering plants and walking Taz (his dog). RV Travels around the historic trails, sites and parks of the West—with wife Dail, Taz, and a camera—are a reprieve from house and plant care.

Gene's philosophy simplified: *"I have never considered myself a 'collector.' To me, that is one who purchases things almost solely to own them. I am a history and science guy, with the curiosity and quest for knowledge that usually implies. A child of the American West, born alongside the Oregon Trail near Nebraska's Homestead National Monument, I've have always been a student of the west's history, exploration and discovery. The wonders described by Lewis and Clark and later followers formed my need to study and understand the new land and its inhabitants. My prime intent is still "ex-situ" conservation via propagation of rare or endangered plants of the arid reaches, especially cacti."*



DON'T MISS OUR NEXT MEETING! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 2PM

Oddfellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo | Parking is limited — please consider carpooling!

OCTOBER PLANT OF THE MONTH

STAPELIADS



Hoodia alstonii (South Africa)

The genera of plants within the tribe Stapelieae are all, to varying degrees, stem succulents. Many of the species resemble cacti though they are not closely related and are an example of convergent evolution. The stems are often angular, mostly four-angled in cross-section, but in some species there are six or more with some species of Hoodia having more than thirty angles. The leaves are in most species reduced to rudiments, sometimes hardened and thorn-like, arranged on bumps or tubercles on the angles. Some species, however, still have recognizable leaves, most notably the Indian species *Frerea indica*, and some members of *Tridentea*.

Stapeliads are most abundant in warm, dry climates. In Africa there are two separate regions where Stapeliads have most diversified: northeast Africa and South Africa. Several species are endemic to the small island of Socotra off the Horn of Africa. The Arabian Peninsula, and most specifically the country of Yemen, contain another concentration of species. Several more are found in the drier parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, and Myanmar. A single species, *Caralluma europea* is found in Europe in the very southern part of the Iberian Peninsula.

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Hoodia dregei (South Africa)

STAPELIADS – CONTINUED

Most Stapeliads use flies as pollinators that are attracted to odors resembling dung or rotting meat emanating from the flowers. Many of the flowers also bear some physical resemblance to rotting animal carcasses leading to their popular name of Carrion Flowers. However, not all Stapeliads smell bad or attract flies. Some species use beetles, bees, wasps, butterflies or moths as pollinators. Stapeliad flowers range in size from mere millimeters in species of *Echidnopsis* and *Pseudolithos* to those of *Stapelia gigantea* that can reach 16 inches (40 cm) in diameter, and are some of the largest flowers to be found on any species of succulent.

Some Genera: *Baynesia*, *Caralluma*, *Desmidorchis*, *Duvalia*, *Echidnopsis*, *Edithcolea*, *Frerea*, *Hoodia*, *Huernia*, *Huerniopsis*, *Larryleachia*, *Notechidnopsis*, *Orbea*, *Piarranthus*, *Pectinaria*, *Pseudolithos*, *Quaqua*, *Rhytidocaulon*, *Stapelia*, *Stapelianthus*, *Stapeliopsis*, *Tavaresia*, *Tridentea*, *Tromotriche* and *Whitesloanea*.



Desmidorchis retrospiciens aka *Caralluma acutangula*



Desmidorchis retrospiciens, flower cluster (Kenya)



Tridentea longipes (South Africa)



Huernia namaquensis (South Africa)

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STAPELIADS – CONTINUED

Growing Conditions:

Light: All Stapeliads enjoy dry heat and sunlight if not too bright and intense.

Temperature: Stapeliads do not like winter cold and should remain fairly dry and warm during its winter resting period. Stapeliads come from climates where they survive extremely high temperatures in the summer months so most growth is in spring and autumn, with flowering in autumn when the weather starts to cool down.

Water: In growing season water in moderation when needed making sure soil is fairly dried out between waterings.

Soil: They all need extra good drainage. Stapeliads are shallow rooted and a collection of them can be planted up nicely in a wide, shallow bowl. When planting it is a good idea to allow the roots to be buried in soil and then put pure gravel or sand around the base of the plant to help prevent rot.

Fertilizer: Fertilize lightly, if at all, to prevent overly lush and weak stems.

Propagation: The easiest and best way to propagate Stapeliads is from stem cuttings which can be taken virtually throughout the year. Seeds are also a method of propagation.



Hoodia sp close-up



Above: Caralluma socotrana flowers (Socotra)

Left: Caralluma socotrana location overview (Socotra)



Plant of the Month article provided by Markus Mumper
Photos courtesy of Rob Skillin

CCCSS ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK!



Hi All!

I know thinking about the Holidays is the last thing you want to do right now but we only have the October & November meetings before our December 9th potluck. As you know we have limited seating. I have to follow a first come, first served basis, but I try to accommodate all who wish to attend. Please complete and return the potluck sign up sheet (below) to me as soon as possible. I also need to know how much meat to get.

We have a lot of fun every year—the potluck gives us an opportunity to socialize with each other that we don't always have time to do the rest of the year. If you are unable to attend the October and November meetings but wish to attend the potluck, please email me at hupt74@yahoo.com or call me at 805-710-4957.

Thank you,

Pat Gilson, Hospitality Chairperson

HOLIDAY POTLUCK SIGNUP ~ DECEMBER 9, 2018

Required personal info:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of People Attending: _____

The Club will supply ham & turkey ~ What will you bring?

_____ Appetizer

_____ Salad

_____ Bread/Butter

_____ Beverage

_____ Main Dish

_____ Side Dish

_____ Dessert

Would you like to volunteer for set-up and/or cleanup? _____

GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

The next exciting Garden Gathering will be hosted by Bill Findley in Arroyo Grande on Saturday October 20th.

Sign-up at the Ask Me Table at the next meeting. Bill, an original co-host of the Garden Gathering events, hosted our first Garden Gathering in February 2017! You will be very interested to see how much Bill's garden has changed in 20 months! Here is what I wrote about Bill's garden back in February of 2017:

"Bill's interesting garden started as a weed filled flat yard and has developed into a terraced, flowing landscape using fantastic tree Aloes, interesting specimen succulents and a great collection of container plants.



His front yard has several meandering paths. Some draw the eye to the front door and others create curiosity as to where they could lead. Curves and smooth shapes accent the plantings. Bill groups together several of the same species of plants to create a pleasing backdrop for an interesting vignette of succulents instead of planting solitary species throughout his yard, botanical garden style.

Bill's landscape ranges from a few years to almost 20 years in the ground. Some of his acquired specimen plants are half a century old! Bill also has a huge collection of well potted container plants. He grows most of his plants outdoors, but also has some cool plants indoors! Bill won't tell you, but I think he has a thing for Aloes!"

Sign-ups for Garden Gathering Hosts for 2019 are underway! Volunteer early—choose your favorite month in your garden!

If you're not familiar with the CCCSS Garden Gatherings, here are the FAQs:

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 included.

Why: CCCSS club is large; it's hard to connect with other cactophiles at our huge meetings.

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

Who: Garden Gathering participants must be CCCSS members. The host decides the number of guests. Sign-ups are taken at monthly club meetings.

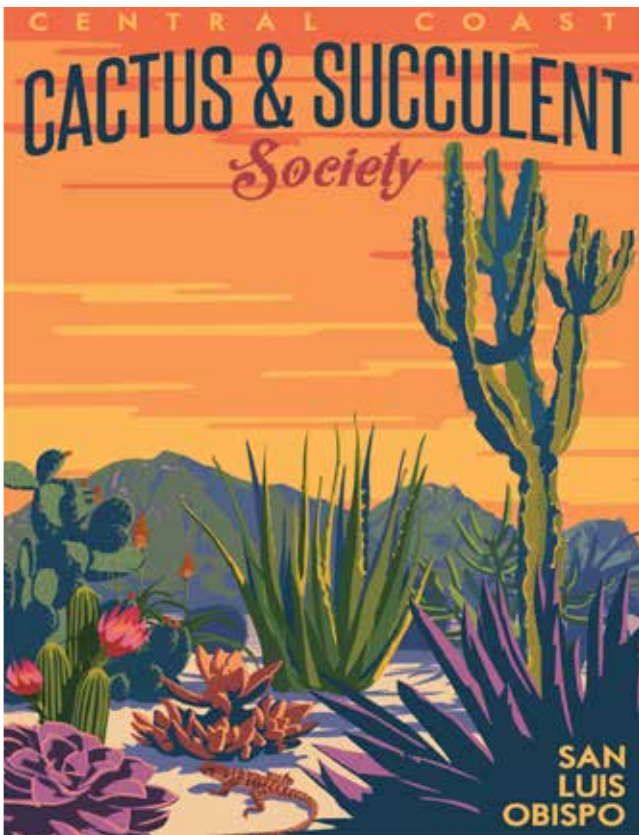
When: Hosts pick the date and time for the event.

The process of pre-planning, event organization, sign-up sheets, emailing your guests, etc. will be capably coordinated by Susan and Kathie! Please don't hesitate to sign up because you have a weed or two in your garden, we all do! And don't worry if your garden is not all cacti or succulent-related. The intent of Garden Gatherings is to get to know other members of CCCSS. This is a very delightful way to do exactly that!

Garden Gatherings are also planned in gardens in Los Osos and San Luis Obispo. See the Ask Me Table for sign-up information. Announcements will be made at the October CCCSS meeting or you can email Susan or Kathie for more information.

We are always looking for folks with a desire to share their passion for their plants, their garden and a willingness to host. Please let us know if you are interested!

Contact **Susan Ross** at susanrosscra@yahoo.com, or **Kathie Matsuyama** at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net.



BEAUTIFUL ART FOR SALE

Have you noticed the gorgeous cactus and succulent artwork available for sale at our meetings? This art was commissioned by Just Looking Gallery in San Luis Obispo. The artist of this wonderful work, **Steve Thomas**, was born in Canada and is based in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. Thomas has a long history as a commercial artist, working with organizations such as America's National Park Service, Clif Bar and Disney. Currently he focuses on creating fine art paintings heavily influenced by the 1930s Art Deco movement. Over the past five years, working with Just Looking Gallery in San Luis Obispo, he has developed an extraordinary series of vintage style travel posters capturing the beauty and unique nature of California's Central Coast. We certainly LOVE the art he created especially for the CCCSS!

The profit from every piece of this beautiful cactus and succulent art sold by CCCSS goes to CCCSS! **Thank you, Ken McGavin and Ralph Gorton of Just Looking Gallery**, for your kindness and generosity! Just Looking Gallery is located at **746 Higuera Street in Suite 1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, (805) 541-6663.**

The art prices including tax:

12"x18" framed print: \$120, and 24"x36" print on canvas: \$420

Orders for art pieces will be taken at the club meetings, cash and checks only please. Your print will be ordered from Just Looking Gallery and delivered to you at the following club meeting. For more information, see Kathie Matsuyama at the Ask Me Table or contact her at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net.

In next month's newsletter: Get the backstory! Why did Just Looking Gallery commission Steve Thomas to create a work of art specifically for the Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society? **Stay Tuned!!**

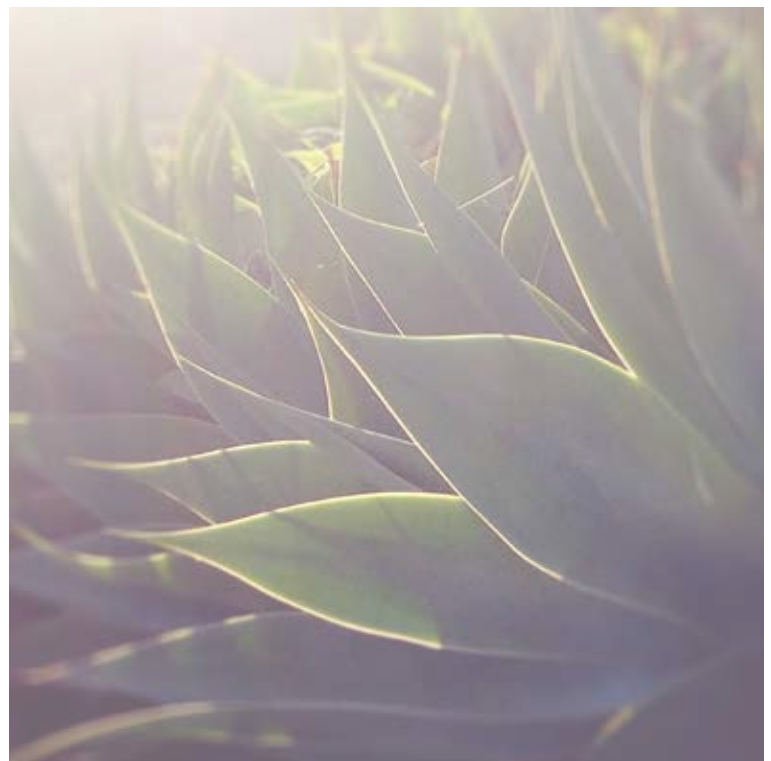
ASK ME TABLE

For Cactus And Succulent Questions

Bring your questions about cacti and succulents to the **ASK ME TABLE** conveniently located next to the library book table at our monthly meetings. The Ask Me table will be capably staffed by our venerable expert Cactophile, Gene Schroeder. Gene has never met a cactus he didn't like (and many succulents as well)! Assisting Gene will be Succulentophile Kathie Matsuyama.

Please do not bring any diseased plants to the meeting! Instead, bring good photos of the plants and/or bugs.

We look forward to seeing you at the ASK ME TABLE!



SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

President, Loring Manley called the meeting to order at 2:10pm on September 8, 2018 and welcomed 131 members and guests to the meeting.

Recognition of Refreshment Volunteers: Loring thanked the members who brought refreshments: K.T. Appleby, Ann Byrne, Nancy Cooley, Dianna Deem, Natasha Erickson, Terrie Leivers, Carol Preston, Claudette Rettig, Leisa Swanson, Spring Smith and Kathy Tindula, and invited them to choose a free plant as a thank you.

Additional Volunteers: Loring also thanked all the members that volunteer at each meeting and reminded everyone to check out the different club tables (Membership, Raffle Plants, Brag Plants, Plant of the Month, Library, Sales-Art/Books, Greeters, etc) during the break.

First-Time Visitors: Loring invited first-time visitors (10) to come up and introduce themselves to the group and also invited them to select a free plant.

Annual Christmas Party: Loring reminded everyone that the Annual Christmas Party is fast approaching and additional information along with a sign-up sheet for the potluck will be available at the October meeting.

Show and Sale Raffle Tickets: If you volunteered at the Show and Sale and haven't picked-up of your thank you raffle tickets, please pick them up at the back table.

Open Studio Tours: Some of our members who are potters (Charles Varni, Richard Rowe, Mary Peraca and Alonzo Allen) will be selling their wares during the Open Studio Tours on October 13th and 14th, 10am to 5pm.

Garden Gatherings: Kathy Matsuyama and Susan Ross noted that sign-up sheets are available at the back of the room for upcoming Garden Gatherings, which include:

- Bill Findley – Saturday, October 20th.
- Susan Chandler – January (exact date to be determined)
- Carl and Stefanie Kleinman – February (exact date to be determined)

Plant of the Month – Dorstenia: Rob Skillin shared with the group that "Dorstenia" is in the fig family and has very unusual flowers. He brought several excellent examples and reminded everyone that there is a more detailed description of Dorstenia by Markus Mumper in the September newsletter.

Brag Plants and Raffle Table Review: Rob Skillin thanked everyone that brought a brag plant and invited them to come forward to talk about their plants. Examples were projected for viewing. He also described some of the notable plants on the raffle table.

Program: "Growing and Selling Succulents at Cal Poly Horticulture Unit", presented by Mike Bush, supervisor of several horticultural green houses at Cal Poly and who recently started a new business called Cal Coast Succulents, and Allana Childs, recent Cal Poly graduate, currently working at Succulent Gardens in Castroville, CA. Mike also announced that the annual Cal Poly "Succulentopia" will be held on October 19th and 20th from 9am to 1pm at Cal Poly.

After the program came the raffle and plant exchange, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Submitted by: Ann L. Byrne, CCCSS Secretary



CCCSS SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order by President, Loring Manley at 5:10pm on September 8, 2018.

Present: A quorum of board members were present: Barbara Brooks, Ken Byrne, Ann Byrne, Natasha Erickson, Bill Findley, Kathy Goss, Terrie Leivers, Loring Manley, and Terry Skillin.

Absent: Pat Gilson, Carol Mortensen and Rob Skillin.

Old Business:

- Workshop and Garden Gathering Guidelines: Bill Findley presented write-ups to the Board to review. One revision was suggested, Bill will revise and the board will vote at the October meeting.
- Treasurer's Report – Kathy Goss
- Member Audit: Barbara Brooks informed the Board that all members have signed the Hold Harmless clause when they renewed their memberships.
- CSSA Convention Update: Ken Byrne/Terrie Leivers

New/Other Business:

- Budget Development: Kathy Goss
- Plant of the month mini show: Barbara Brooks suggested forming a committee to look into this.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Ann L. Byrne, CCCSS Secretary



CCCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

President: **Loring Manley** loring.manley@icloud.com

Vice President: **Carol Mortensen** carolmortensen0@gmail.com

Secretary: **Ann Byrne** annierose1206@msn.com

Treasurer: **Kathy Goss**

Membership: **Barbara Brooks** barbarahbrooks@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: **Pat Gilson** hupt74@yahoo.com

Librarian: **Ken Byrne** agaveken@msn.com

Publicity: **Terrie Leivers** terrieleivers@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: **Mark Woods** marknslo@gmail.com

General Club Email Address: **New club email address to be announced shortly.**

Past President:

Ken Byrne agaveken@msn.com

CSSA Affiliate:

Rob Skillin rskillin@gmail.com

Members At Large:

Terry Skillin
tjskillin@gmail.com

Natasha Erickson
ayin1331@gmail.com

Bill Findley
coolcactuskid805@gmail.com



779 Facebook members! View club updates & member photos.
Also find us online at www.centralcoastcactus.org.



REMAINING SHOW & SALE EVENTS FOR 2018:

- **OCTOBER 13-14:**
Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th St, Bakersfield
www.bakersfieldcactus.org | 661.831.8488
- **OCTOBER 27-28:**
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Rd, Encinitas | www.palomarcactus.org
858.776.7216 | britamiller1@gmail.com
- **NOVEMBER 3-4:**
San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society
Winter Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum
301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia | www.sgvcss.com

2019 CSSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Our Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society (CCCSS) is hosting the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's 38th Biennial Convention, July 17-20, 2019 in San Luis Obispo at the Veterans Hall on Monterey St.

CSSA will be distributing a 2019 CSSA Convention program which will be professionally designed with full color advertisement space available. We still need more advertisers, thus if you are interested in purchasing an ad space this year in support of the CSSA Convention, please contact Terrie Leivers at terrieleivers@gmail.com. Terrie is the 2019 CSSA Convention Host Co-Chairperson and our CCCSS Publicity Board Member.

Additionally, if you would like to get on the list to volunteer during the convention between the dates of July 18-20, 2019, you can email Terrie for that as well (terrieleivers@gmail.com), and you will be added to the list for volunteer opportunities that may interest you. It looks like an approximate 5-hour shift will get you a 1-day pass to attend lectures (there are usually 6 lectures per day) with a max of two 1-day passes, depending upon the number of volunteers we get who are interested, or if you are interested in being a field trip host your trip will be covered by CSSA. Please note that the pass cannot be split among different days of the convention.

Thank you.



 Cactus & Succulent Society of America

JOIN THE CSSA



Succulentopia!

FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 12 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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*Studio #118 in ARTS Obispo's Catalog



See More of Richard Rowe's Art!

Cactus & Succulent Society of San Jose Show & Sale **Sept 22 & 23**

Monterey Bay Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale **Sept 29 & 30**

Holiday Gift Studio Show, Rowe Clayworks **Dec 2**

Avila Gallery Avila, CA

GROW Nursery Cambria, CA

Fiona Bleu Gallery Morro Bay, CA

Park Street Gallery Paso Robles, CA

Woods Humane Society will get a portion of 2018 art sales. Thank you!

*ARTS Obispo hosts this Annual FREE event. Find art, catalogs & details at artsobispo.org or call 805.544.9251.

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Click on images to visit the websites of these businesses or to contact them via email.

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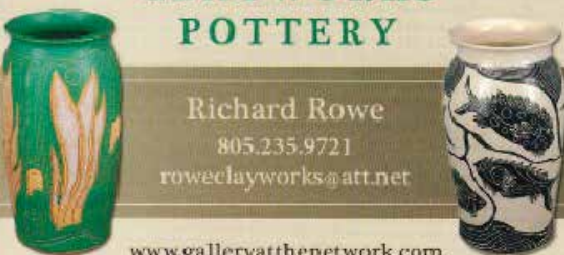
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