



ON THE DRY SIDE

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JANUARY 2020

JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER: JEFF CHEMNICK



Jeff has considerable horticultural experience as owner and operator of Aloes-in-Wonderland, a specialty nursery in Santa Barbara where he has lived since 1981. Jeff's garden and nursery occupies nearly 4.5 acres at his residence in the upper Sycamore Canyon area of Santa Barbara. Though he lost his home in the Tea Fire in 2008, the drought-tolerant garden he planted years ago, consisting chiefly of cycads, aloes, cactus, and agaves, made a remarkable comeback.



Aloe marlothii

A past president of the Santa Barbara Horticulture Society and former chair of the Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale, Jeff has been involved for years within the botanical/horticultural community of Santa Barbara. He is a research associate at the Ganna Walska Lotusland botanical garden in Santa Barbara, serves on several committees at Lotusland, and is the chair (and auctioneer) of the Exceptional Plants Auction, Sale, and Plant Party. Jeff has given numerous presentations on his botanical travels worldwide and teaches the Lotusland docent training course on cycads. He is an authority on Mexican cycads, having published numerous articles and described several species new to science. In addition to his field research on the cycads of Mexico, he leads botanical and ornithological ecotours throughout Mexico with a focus on the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.



Aloe voatsanda

Aloes in Wonderland

114 Conejo Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

www.aloesinwonderland.com

Happy New Year!

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH AT 2PM

Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo
Parking is limited – please consider carpooling.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

SOUTH AFRICAN WINTER-GROWING BULBS

South Africa has an extraordinary number of plant species found nowhere else, including hundreds of species of bulbs. Some of these bulbs are well-established in the gardening world, such as *Agapanthus* or *Amaryllis belladonna*, but others are little known except to bulb aficionados. They vary greatly in size — from large ones, with bulbs as big as a football, down to miniatures, with bulbs smaller than a pea.

While some grow and flower during the summer months, others spring to life toward the end of the year and grow through the winter. The winter growers come from the western part of the country, which has a Mediterranean climate much like that of California. With very little rainfall during the summer months, these plants respond by sleeping through the dry summers and waking up when the rainy season begins in autumn.

Often, they are so strongly adapted to this regimen that they do not last long when grown in places with wet summers. Happily for us, they present little difficulty in the coastal parts of California, where winters are not too cold and the rainfall arrives just when they need it.

Among South Africa's treasure trove of winter-growing bulbs is the large genus *Lachenalia*, with 133 species. These are small plants with delightful flowers, the great majority of them found in the southwest corner of the country, in the winter-rainfall zone. Many of them have spires of tiny short-tubular flowers, but some of the showiest kinds have larger, vividly colored long-tubular flowers, which are pollinated by nectar-feeding birds.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Photos, from the top:
Boophone haemanthoides
Haemanthus coccineus
Brunsvigia marginata

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



SOUTH AFRICAN WINTER-GROWING BULBS, CONTINUED

One such species is *Lachenalia punctata*, which grows mostly in sandy coastal locations both north and south of Cape Town, though there are a few places where it occurs farther inland. This plant has long been known by the name *Lachenalia rubida*, but recent research shows that the older name, *Lachenalia punctata*, refers to the same species, and should be used because it was published first, in 1788.

Lachenalia punctata emerges from its summer dormancy in the fall, coming up about late October to November at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. The flowers develop rapidly, beginning to bloom even before the leaves have developed fully. Each mature bulb produces a single slender flower stalk, which may in some cases grow to a height of 10 inches, though they are usually shorter than this. The cylindrical flowers are 2½ to 3½ inches long and come in various shades of red or pink. In some cases, the red comes in the form of speckles on a background of pale yellow, and this is the source of the name “*punctata*,” which means spotted.

The flowers are not the only part of the plant with spots, since the pointed leaves often have dark purple spots, though these are not always present. They grow through the winter months, going dormant again when summer approaches.

Lachenalia punctata makes a fine garden plant or potted specimen, requiring sun and good drainage. Heavier soils should be amended.



Above: *Lachenalia* sp

At right, top to bottom:
Bulbine praemorsa
Bulbine bruynsii
Lachenalia anguinea

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

MARY PERACCA 20% OFF SALE Ceramics & Misc Plants

Sunday, January 12th, 11am - 1pm
4486 Sunflower Way
San Luis Obispo

*Cash Only

*Bring Your Own Boxes

*Packing Material Will Be Available

CCCSS MEMBERS' PLANT WISH LIST

If you have plants to share, or are looking for something yourself, you can sign up at the next meeting. The Wish List sign-up sheet is at the back table during meetings.

Your preferred contact info will be included in the newsletter with your post.

- **Denise Wharton** is looking for **Oxalis**, and can be reached at whartonde@att.net.
- **Tim Dawson** wants an **Aloe castanea** (plant or seed), and can be reached at **805-610-9533**.
- **Margaret Moreno** would like a **Tephrocactus geometricus** (plant), and can be reached at **805-710-0213**.

AGAVE ATTENUATA GIVEAWAY IN CAYCUOS

Vicki Tamoush in Cayucos has approximately 20 Agave attenuata on her property that will likely be removed by the end of January in preparation for the demolition and rebuilding of the house.

If you are interested in taking any of these plants, please contact her via the following:

Vicki Tamoush
714.362.7676
vtamoush@gmail.com



GARDEN GATHERINGS

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for a Prosperous and Healthy 2020!

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

- **What:** "Garden Gatherings" are a chance to meet club members in a fun, casual garden setting. Conversation, food, and a tour of the member's garden are the focus of the events.
- **Why:** CCCSS club is large and growing; it's hard to connect with other cactophiles at our huge meetings.
- **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 1 to 1 ½ hours.
- **Help:** Event planning, organization, sign-up, and email coordination with your guests is capably managed by Susan and Kathie!

We are looking for Garden hosts for 2020! Let us know if you are interested:

Susan Ross: susanrosscra@yahoo.com

Kathie Matsuyama: luvbigdogs@earthlink.net

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SLO BOTANICAL GARDENS

Full Moon Ceremony and New Year's Intentions at SLO Botanical Garden

Join us for an evening of connecting with your intuitive knowledge. Enjoy an empowering ceremony that celebrates your past and welcomes the future. More info at slobg.org.

Friday, January 10, 5:30pm-7:30pm -- Limited to 18 people.
Please pre-register at slobg.org or email education@slobg.org
Cost: Ceremony \$30
San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd
Event Contact: 805-541-1400 x 304

Native Plant Propagation at SLO Botanical Garden

Join a professional native plant propagator to learn growing techniques to increase your success. Learn several seed treatments and also how to grow from cuttings. More info at slobg.org.

Saturday, January 11, 1:00pm-2:30pm
Cost: Suggested Donation \$5-\$10
San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd
Event Contact: 805-541-1400 x 304

Mushroom Discovery Lecture at SLO Botanical Garden

Enjoy a photo filled presentation by mushroom author and research Christian Schwarz. Learn some basic identification methods and mushrooms found on the central coast. More info at slobg.org.

Friday, January 24, 5:30pm-7:30pm
Cost: \$5 for Garden Members, \$10 for the public
San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden, 3450 Dairy Creek Rd
Event Contact: 805-541-1400 x 304



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General Club Email Address:
info@centralcoastcactus.org

Newsletter submissions:
marknslo@gmail.com

*Deadline is 2 weeks before
the next monthly meeting.



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

FROM THE 2019 HOLIDAY POTLUCK...



Photos courtesy of club member Sarah Warisi.



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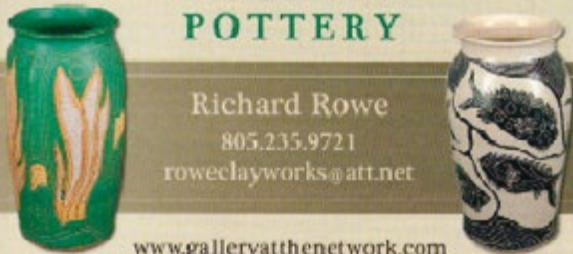


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Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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