

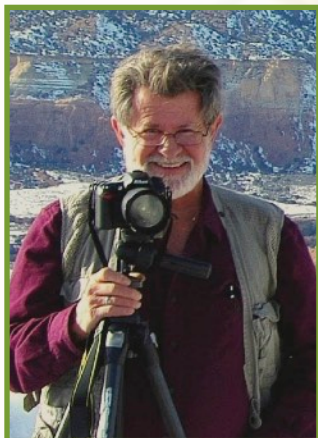


ON THE DRY SIDE

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NEXT ZOOM MEETING: Sunday, February 14th, 2:00 pm
Watch for your e-mail invite!

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich 2021

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. To date, this makes 128 major trips. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants were often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of thirteen C&S societies across the country. He has been president, show and sale chair, newsletter editor, program chair, and plant of the month coordinator. Woody has also served on the CSSA board and numerous societies in many other leadership positions. He is a co-creator, and currently the president, of the Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club. With 52 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field (old fart), he has many experiences to share and thousands of photos to show.

SPEAKER FOR THE MONTH - continued

Madagascar: the Plants, People and Places - Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Madagascar is a special place, an island in many respects, where the plants, people and animals are as unusual as anywhere in the world. This presentation will feature most of the succulent plants that we find so special. It will also address its most fascinating people, the Malagasy, with their intriguing heritage from the Malaysian, Arabian and African regions. Also, their many wonderful landscapes and biological regions vary from moderately high mountains to the rolling hills of grasses and inselbergs, to the dynamic canyons and geologically special places of rugged treacherous limestone, to dense jungles. Because this island is so isolated from the main continent of Africa, its endemism of plants and animals, estimated at 6,400 species, is also very remarkable. One could spend a lifetime roaming this special island and not see it all.

The plants from Madagascar are considered to be most spectacular, especially the succulents, palms, orchids and carnivorous genera. The succulent plants are notably diverse and range from giants to geophytes, which include such spectacular genera as: Adansonia, Adenia, Alluaudia, Aloe, Commiphora, Cyphostemma, Didierea, Euphorbia, Kalanchoe, Moringa, Pachypodium, Senecio and Uncarina. There are also many fine genera of palms including such icons as the Travelers Palm, the giant noble blue palm Bismarkia nobilis and the famous bottle palm Chrysalidocarpus decipiens. The orchid species total more than 1,000 and many are considered some of the most unusual in the world. The carnivorous plants range from the fascinating Pitcher plants (Nepenthaceae) to the amazing Droseras. It can be said that it is difficult to ignore Madagascar's tremendous diversity of plants, many of which are often growing side by side. Also, it can be said that it is very difficult to know and understand them all.

In my travels around the world, the people of Madagascar are some of the most fascinating and happy people I have ever seen. Their smiling faces and friendly demeanor are a genuine treat. Some of their customs, from their often very colorful clothing to their facial décor, are most attractive. The children are wonderful as they bounce around in a most innocent barefoot manor and always act as if they are excited to see everything. The soil that stains their feet and their windblown hair is very refreshing, and not one of them has an iphone. To watch the youngsters and old-timers all carrying their possessions, all balanced so well on the top of their heads, is also quite impressive. From region to region their facial characteristics seem to change and one can almost imagine their African, Malaysian or Arabian heritages.

The places of Madagascar are also a real surprise. Large cities with paved roads are not common. The smaller towns and villages are truly exciting, as many operate with a simple barter or hand to mouth system. Imagine the USA 150 to 200 years ago, this is what much of the rural life style in the remote regions seems to be. Grasshoppers, river fish, tubers, rice and zebu - - - the staples of life! Outdoor toilets, bathe in the river and drink the same water, it is what it is! Since the French left Madagascar in the 50s - 60s, much of the infrastructure has had no repair or modernization. Thus, Madagascar appears to be a country in decline as many of the wild places are being destroyed to feed a populous of 22 million. They also have no major economic exports.

This is part two of the three presentations that I will be giving on Madagascar.

*Part 1 is Madagascar: Land of the Giants,
Part 2 Madagascar: Plants, People and Places
Part 3 Madagascar: A Disappearing Island*

Photo
Baobobs at sunset

SPEAKER FOR THE MONTH - continued



Pachypodium lamerei



Pachypodium brevicaule

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cotyledon

Cotyledon Linnaeus (1753)

Greek: *kotyledon* = cup-shaped hollow

Cotyledon is a genus of 10 species of perennial shrubby leaf and stem succulents from South Africa with numerous varieties and cultivars. *Cotyledon* has been a catch-all genus which in the past included species from *Adromischus*, *Echeveria*, *Rosularia*, *Tylecodon* and *Umbilicus* amongst others, now all grouped separately. Tölken later (1978) separated 47 species of *Tylecodon* with seasonal, spirally-arranged leaves from *Cotyledon* with perennial leaves (the name *Tylecodon* is an anagram of *Cotyledon*.) As taxonomic fashions change and with new insights from DNA analysis it is possible that the scope of *Cotyledon* will change again. Some confusion over species validity included in *Cotyledon* still exists on plant labels and across the internet.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - continued

Cotyledons generally colonise rocky ground and cliff faces, a clue that they appreciate well-drained conditions in cultivation. The fleshy leaves of some species (e.g. *Cotyledon ladismithensis*) are slightly pubescent or farinose (e.g. *Cotyledon orbiculata*). The orange flowers of *Adromischus phillipsiae* are similar to those of *Cotyledon*, with which it was once grouped.

Cultivation: *Cotyledons* are easy to grow in any free-draining gritty compost and grow well on a sunny window ledge or greenhouse. These plants are suitable for gardens in a Mediterranean climate. Stems can be carefully pruned to maintain an attractive shape. *Cotyledons* tolerate cool, frost-free conditions during the winter if kept dry. It is best to keep water off the leaves.

Cotyledons should be regarded as poisonous as they are closely related to *Tylecodons*.

Cotyledon orbiculata Linnaeus 1753 (Afrikaans: 'Plakkie'= pig's ear) *Cotyledon orbiculata* includes numerous plants formerly regarded as separate species currently grouped into five variable subspecies. They grow in the Cape Province and have large flat bluish-grey fleshy leaves with reddened margins. The leaves nicely offset umbels of pink, orange or yellow tubular cup-shaped flowers held on long stems. The flowers are bird pollinated.

Cotyledon campanulata Herman Marloth 1907 *Cotyledon campanulata* is another South African plant that grows up to 12 inches tall including the flower stalk. Its leaves are finger-like and a fleshy green color with stunning yellow flowers that are pendulous and tubular.

Adapted from succulent-plant.com by Markus Mumper



Photos courtesy of Rob Skillin

PLANT OF THE MONTH - continued

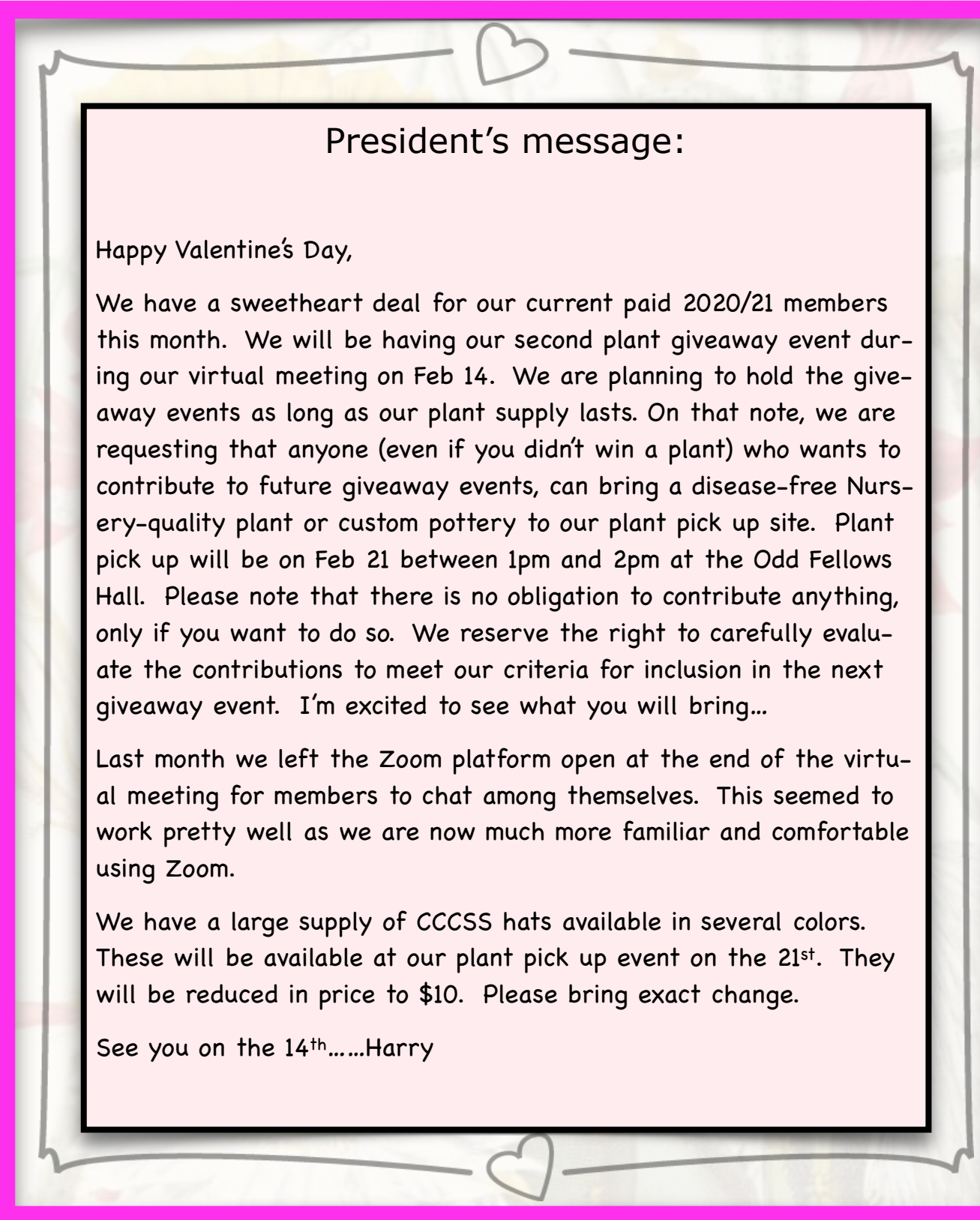
Thanks for the invitation to share some cotyledon photos. Because of their beautiful umbels of flowers, they are some of my fav's in the garden. Some of the plants are budded and readying for bloom. Others are just pretty in their state of foliage.

Cotyledon pictures from club member Susie Howard



Photos by our Bill Findlay

ANNOUNCEMENTS



President's message:

Happy Valentine's Day,

We have a sweetheart deal for our current paid 2020/21 members this month. We will be having our second plant giveaway event during our virtual meeting on Feb 14. We are planning to hold the giveaway events as long as our plant supply lasts. On that note, we are requesting that anyone (even if you didn't win a plant) who wants to contribute to future giveaway events, can bring a disease-free Nursery-quality plant or custom pottery to our plant pick up site. Plant pick up will be on Feb 21 between 1pm and 2pm at the Odd Fellows Hall. Please note that there is no obligation to contribute anything, only if you want to do so. We reserve the right to carefully evaluate the contributions to meet our criteria for inclusion in the next giveaway event. I'm excited to see what you will bring...

Last month we left the Zoom platform open at the end of the virtual meeting for members to chat among themselves. This seemed to work pretty well as we are now much more familiar and comfortable using Zoom.

We have a large supply of CCCSS hats available in several colors. These will be available at our plant pick up event on the 21st. They will be reduced in price to \$10. Please bring exact change.

See you on the 14th.....Harry

ANNOUNCEMENTS - continued

CCCSS Botanical Garden Project Update

Things are really moving along well!

We have had 2 garden outings. One on January 19th with Ann Erb, and Bill Findley. Ann did amazing pruning and bonsai work on a very over grown *Portulacaria*! We took out old and dead plants opening up space for new plants.

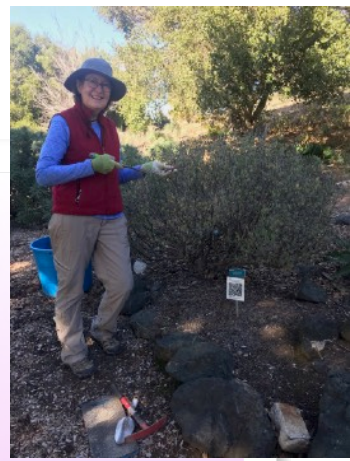
Our 2nd outing was on January 26th with Harry and Mary Harlow, Tim Dawson and Maggie Wagner. Harry and Mary did some challenging work removing the cuttings from last week. Tim continued cutting back the overgrown *Aloe distans* and Maggie did a great job pruning back a *Lampranthus*. My favorite thing to do is clear out leaves, dead plants and weeds!

The added benefit is to actually see our CCCSS friends in a safe environment. Thanks to all of the crew for your great work, its going to look awesome when we are done!

We've been able to get a lot done in 2 1/2 hours!
We meet at the Aloe garden at 12:00 on Tuesdays.

If you would like to join us for any amount of time, contact me at maryper777@gmail.com or text or call at (805)550-6977.

Mary Peracca



ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

345
0 Dairy Creek Road
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805.541.1400



San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden: Capturing California's Flowers: Natural History in the Digital Age

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA –The San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is excited to welcome Cal Poly botanist, Dr. Jenn Yost, for a discussion on how California's plants are shifting their flowering times in response to a warmer or drier world. See how natural history collections allow us to look into the past to see what plants were up to 100 years ago. Find out how you can get involved from home!

Capturing California's Flowers: Natural History in the Digital Age will be a Zoom talk on **Saturday, February 20th from 1 pm – 2 pm.** A donation of **\$5 for SLOBG members and \$10 for the public is suggested.** Register and learn more at slobg.org.

Dr. Jenn Yost is a faculty member at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California in the Biology department. Jenn is a botanist and director of the Hoover Herbarium, a collection of dried plant specimens. She teaches general botany, plant taxonomy, and field botany. She is leading a statewide effort to digitize herbarium specimens for the student of flowering time and has spear headed the creation of a new database the CCH2 where anyone can access the data.

About San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is celebrating over 30 years of sowing seeds and growing together. The Garden is located at 3450 Dairy Creek Rd. It is spread out on 150 acres in El Chorro Regional Park off Highway 1 between Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. Through its programs and facilities, the Garden fosters an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between people and nature, and encourages a sense of stewardship for the natural environment. To learn more visit slobg.org or the SLO Botanical Garden Facebook page.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Anika Clements
805.541.1400 x 304
anika@slobg.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

CCCSS January 10, 2021 meetings summary:

General Meeting:

Harry welcomed participants and discussed the next plant giveaway. It's scheduled for Valentine's Day, February 14th. He thanked everyone for participating in the survey. We had about 40 responses, mostly very positive.

Mary Peracca gave an update on the Botanical Garden. She's looking for a "garden crew" to work on improving the succulent garden area. Hours would be 12-4pm on Tuesdays. SLOBG will provide tools. She's receptive to any ideas you may have. Mary will provide contact info to members.

Markus & Maggie had some technical difficulties with the POM presentation this month. At a future meeting they will make a presentation on their recent trip to the Mojave Desert. **Please send your POM photos to: markusmumper@gmail.com.**

Kelly Griffin: Kelly gave an excellent presentation on the aloes of Southern Africa and Madagascar. Additionally, he shared photos of his extensive work on aloe hybridization. Always glad to have Kelly come speak to our Club!

Board of Directors Meeting:

Ann Byrne resigned from the Board position as Secretary. We thank her for her contributions to the Board. Ken Byrne will stay on in his position as Librarian. Thank you Ken. The Board voted to install Mary Harlow as Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: CSSA dues, Odd Fellows Rent, CGCI dues were all paid. We currently have 80 paid memberships.

The survey results were discussed. 50% of respondents indicated that they didn't attend the meetings because they "forgot". Email reminder will now be sent out the day of the meeting. Length of the meetings determined to be about right. People requested time to "chat" with club members. The windows will now remain open between the end of the regular meeting & the start of the BOD meeting. Will conduct another survey in probably 1 yr.

Mary Peracca enlisted 3 Board members to the Botanical Garden for the first work day. She'll take photos as the work progresses to share with club members.

A nominating committee will be chaired by Loring. Currently we need the positions of Publicity (Mary Harlow moved to Secretary) & Membership (Terry Skillin is wanting to resign) to be filled.

The Ludwick Center was reserved for the 2021 Show & Sale. The dates will be September 24 (set up) ,25,26. In May the Board will make a decision, based on current Covid 19 restrictions, whether it will be possible to hold the event.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS

Dues for the membership year 2020/21 are payable now, by mail. Nobody will be dropped from the rolls until our next in-person membership meeting, by which time you must have paid your dues. It would be very helpful to the club to pay your dues now, as we have ongoing expenses even though we are not meeting in person. Please pay by check, made payable to CCCSS. Dues are as follows: Individual - \$20; Family, all under same roof - \$25; Business, \$40. Please mail your dues c/o Terry Skillin, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

Please take a moment to renew your dues today. A membership application is not needed unless there are changes to your current membership status or you are a new member. Applications can be found online at <https://centralcoastcactus.org/home/membership-information/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued



Dear CSSA members and friends,

CSSA is very pleased to announce the Spring 2021 edition of our exciting quarterly electronic newsletter [***To The Point.***](#)



To download the *To The Point* e-newsletter, click [here](#).

It is CSSA renewal time!

Please renew your CSSA membership by [clicking here](#).

We appreciate your continued support of CSSA and its mission.

Best regards,
Gunnar Eisel

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

Jeff Parham
President, FCOS
Jsp1440@aol.com
www.FCOS.org

The Five Cities Orchid Society
invites you to be a guest at our monthly
meeting. This Feb 11, 2021 at 7 pm on
Zoom.



Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower"

Ever wonder what the most important requirements are for growing the best orchids? Learn about the underlying reasons of how and why orchids grow as they do. Then explore the fundamentals and advanced growing techniques to best grow them. Orchid plant culture is explained as you have never heard it before. Learn how to become an 80 percentile grower, expect to be wowed by this talk!

The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista. Fred has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC's and thirty AM's from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society

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<https://www.fcos.org/events-and-where/februarys-speaker-fred-clark>



An example of a hard to weed around plant.



When pulling weeds growing through and around Dasyliion and some thin leaved Agaves you can use a fiberglass rod or metal ruler slid under the leaves, close to the plant base, to lift the spiky leaves enough to allow painless access to the weeds.

Safe to weed. illustrates how using the tip works to lift the spiky leaves out of the way for safe weeding

BRAG PLANTS

Just look at these Aloes from our Gene Schroeder!!
Here some views from around the property a few days in January...pt 1



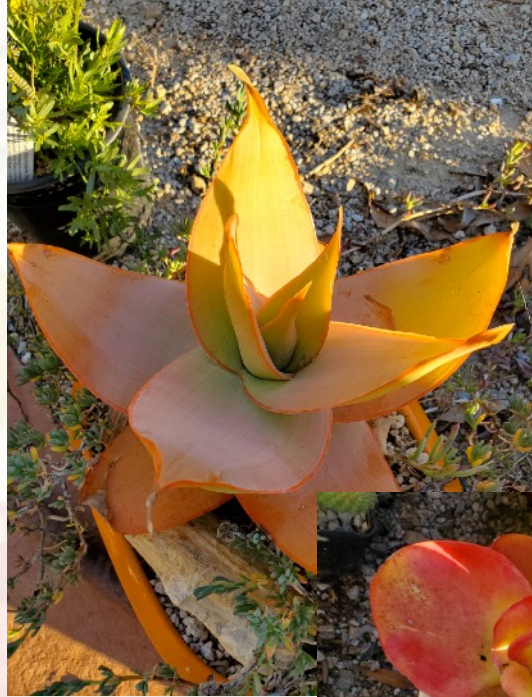
BRAG PLANTS - Continued pt 2



BRAG PLANTS - Continued

Photos by Laura Oliver

1. *Coral aloe striata*
2. *Kalanchoe luciae* 'Fantastic'
3. *Cotyledon orbiculata* variegated
4. *Cotyledon orbiculata*
5. *Haworthia* 'White Ghost'
6. *Sinningia bullata*
7. *Crassula* 'Morgan's Beauty'



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

BRAG PLANTS - Continued

From Loring Manley -

This is my brag plant for this month. It is an *Adenium arabicum* 'Shada' with seed pods after successfully hand pollination. A first for me on this plant.



BRAG PLANTS - Continued

From Susan Chandler . . . “These are from my front east facing patio.”



Nice Aloe? With first time flowers



Wonderful family of Euphorbia



First time I've ever seen a flower on this *Gasteria maculata*?



Cute tiny flowers



Could this be *Euphorbia mammillaris*?

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