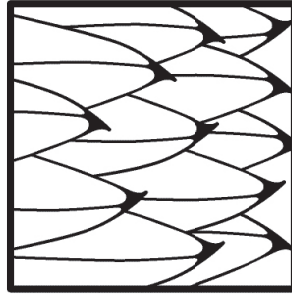


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

April 2011

Inside this issue: CCCSS March Meeting Recap

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Greetings club members!

Well, we are still taking volunteer sign-ups for our May 28th & 29th Show/Sale. Come help with this great show and fund raiser for our club.

Our cactus of the month was *Astrophytum*. They are some of the coolest looking cacti. The Japanese are working hard and coming up with new clones all the time. These plants from Mexico need as much bright light as possible. They come from the coastal plains in low elevations. They normally have five ribs but occasionally they can have three or four. These, of course, are special ones to own. They usually revert back to five ribs, though, as they mature.

Pleiospilos was our succulent of the month. They come from the Little Karoo in South Africa. These 'Mesembs' grow in the winter. When the new leaves break open to emerge after they flower, stop watering, as the new leaves draws moisture from the older outer leaves.

Rich Hart brought in another one of his unusual South African winter growing bulbs. This one was a yellow flowering *Veltheimia*.

Our presentation this month was given by our own **Charles Spotts** on Baja. Charles camped and roughed it in the 80's and 90's on his travels and adventures. The geography is very diversified in Baja, ranging from beaches to forests to deserts. The areas with higher rainfall have beautiful vegetation such as blue palms and native pines. Then there were areas of dry, wind blown *Pachycormus discolor*, (Elephant Tree) which look like giant bonsai plants. *Dudleya*'s can be found growing in coastal areas on steep cliffs. Throughout Baja, lots of *Agave*, *Ferocactus*, winter growing *Fouquieria* and *Mammillaria* thrive. Two of Charles favorite things in Baja are *Opuntia* and old churches, which they have plenty of. In Charles early trips, you were allowed to collect plants and seeds of these Baja plants, but those days are over. Many thanks Charles for sharing all your great photos and stories of your many years of travels.

~Jan

Speaker of the Month

Keith Taylor - Growing Caudiciforms

Keith Taylor has been growing caudiciform succulents since 1991. Growing quickly turned into obsessive collecting from a handful of plants at the beginning, and swelling to 800+ plants today. He was content with cultivating fatplants for his own pleasure, but, after much urging from friends and fellow growers to show his specimens Keith decided to enter the Sacramento C&SS event. He joined the club in 2007 to be able to show plants. 2007 was also the year he started making pottery to highlight his plants. Keith was elected to President of the Sacramento Club in 2009 and is currently in his second year.

Keith will talk about growing caudiciforms in a challenging Northern California climate, how to attain size and how to stage to best show off your fatty. This will be a hands-on program, Keith will bring in a few of his past winners for show and tell. Be ready with your questions about basic cultivation, winter care, summer growing and showing. Keith maintains a blog where he posts photos of his ceramics and staged show plants: plants-pottery-photo.blogspot.com. He will be bringing a good selection of his ceramics just in time to pot up one of your beauties!



CCCSS meets CGCI

The Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society has been formally accepted into the California Garden Clubs, Inc.'s Nonprofit Group Exemption program as of March 28th.

This allows our club to be legally recognized as a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

Thanks to Gene Schroeder for putting in the considerable effort required to achieve this recognition.

The CGCI is a large organization with 365 clubs and about 20,600 members statewide. Check out their website:

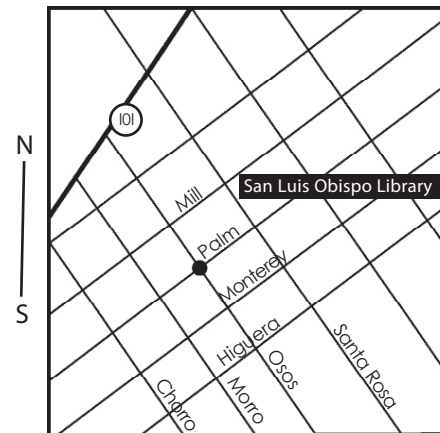
<http://californiagardenclubs.com/>

NEXT meeting:

Sun, Apr. 10'th at
2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo
Public Library

995 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo

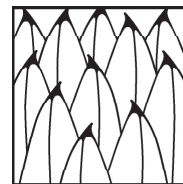


NEWS FROM THE MARCH BOARD MEETING:

- The position of newsletter editor is open, volunteer(s) gratefully accepted.
- Nick passed around t-shirt suggestions at the meeting and will come up with a design and run it by the board.
- It was proposed to add two new 'Board Member at Large' positions. These positions would have no specific duties but would take care of loose ends as necessary.
- CGC eventually wants us to be involved with their programs, we pay \$4.50 per member for CGC dues.

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on April 10'th right after our General Meeting. As always all members are welcome.



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
e-mail: markusmumper@gmail.com
All submissions to the CCCSS newsletter must be submitted two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

PRESIDENT Gene Schroeder 929-2161	VICE PRESIDENT Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	SECRETARY Jan Moon 927-1310	CCSSA AFFILIATE Rob Skillin 473-0788	TREASURER Edie Price 489-8491
EDITOR Markus Mumper 773-1499	ASST. EDITOR Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	PUBLICITY Wayne Mills 481-3495	LIBRARIANS Martin Howell & Jeanne Hanyasz 544-5389	HOSPITALITY Pat Gilson 481-5596 Ann Byrne 934-0492

A one time free newsletter will be mailed out to those who sign in at the monthly meetings. After this dues must be paid in order to start a subscription.

You Must See These DVDs!
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**The CCCSS 2011 Show & Sale
 Planning Committee**

The Show & Sale Planning Committee is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of our upcoming S&S have been thought out and to have a plan in place which will lead to success.

Another meeting was held on March 31st to review planning for this event.

A request for volunteers to help with the setup, take down and staffing of the S&S will be made in April and May.

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CSSA Corner

The Convention is nearly upon us. The dates are April 24-29. Day passes are available. A person can choose which speakers to see and which events to participate in. See the web site at www.cssainc.org. Welcome all to beautiful San Diego.

The CSSA will be holding the annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA on July 1, 2 and 3. We hope to see many of our local Society friends there as well as out-of-towners who are able to stop by the best C&S sale anywhere.

Upcoming Events

April 9 - 10

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

South Coast Botanic Gardens, 9:00am - 4:00pm
 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. 310 618-9886 dlaforest@socal.rr.com

April 24 - 29

Cactus and Succulent Society of America's 34th Biennial Convention

Mission Valley Marriot Hotel
 8757 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA. www.cssainc.org

May 7 - 8

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society 51st Annual Show & Sale

McKinley Park, Shepard Garden and Art Center - 9:00am - 5:00pm
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento CA. 530 753-7011 nedmar@aol.com

May 21 - 22

Carmichael Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Carmichael Park Clubhouse - 9:00am - 4:00pm, 10:00am - 2:30pm
 5750 Grant Ave., Charmichael, CA 916 966-3358 kaktuspige@yahoo.com

May 28 - 29

Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Ludwick Center - 10:00am to 5:00pm, 10:00am - 4:00pm
 864 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo, CA 805 921-2161 centralcoastcactus.org

June 11-12

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Sepulveda Garden Center - 9:00am - 5:00pm, 9:00am - 3:30pm
 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 818 367-0864 lacss.contact@gmail.com

July 1 - 3

Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens - 9:00am - 4:00pm
 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. 626 405-2160

Hospitality News

Sign up to bring refreshments and get a 4 inch plant!! You must sign the **Hospitality Sign-Up sheet** and bring refreshments to get a plant. We need refreshments for each monthly meeting and we need to know who is bringing them. Thanks to everyone who has been contributing to the refreshment fund; donations can be made at the refreshment table.

~Pat & Ann

Rebutia (Pierre Rebut, 1828-1898)

After the recent incorporation of the genera *Aylostera*, *Mediolobivia*, *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia* into the genus *Rebutia*, there are now around 60 species of cactus native to the eastern side of the Andes Mountains in Bolivia and Northern Argentina with this genus name. They are generally small globular cacti, 4 inches in diameter or, generally, less. Many species form large clusters. The genus *Rebutia* is named after P. Rebut, French cactus dealer and expert from the 19th century.

Rebutias bloom easily and have relatively large daytime flowers. Flowers are generally yellow to red, although some species have white ones. One telling indication that a plant is a *Rebutia* is that the flowers emerge from the lower part of the stem.

Optimal growing conditions vary. Here the old names are quite useful since they give some ideas of what to expect. All the species need a gritty, well drained, slightly acidic cactus soil. They also need strong light, although generally not too much direct sunlight. They need good watering in summer, but you should allow the soil mixture to dry out between waterings. Many *Mediolobivia* grow large tap roots and are best suited to a deeper than normal pot and gritty cactus compost. The plants from the original genus *Rebutia* are fairly cold resistant and will take some frost. The *Sulcorebutia*, on the other hand, are generally less cold resistant. The *Weingartia* are less rot-prone than other species, but are the least frost resistant.

Rebutia are propagated by seed or offsets. The seeds should be less than 12 months old.



Rebutia heliosa



Rebutia donaldiana

Pachypodium (Greek - *pachy* [thick], *podium* [foot])

Pachypodium is a genus of about twenty to twenty four species in the large *Apocynaceae* family. This family consists of over 175 genera and includes such familiar plants as the periwinkle, oleander, and frangipani. Like all species in this family - *Pachypodium* sap is poisonous to live stock and humans. *Adenium* is the only other succulent genus in this family.

The majority are from Madagascar with some from southern Africa. The usually bottle-shaped trunk is typically solitary and wide. They range from small (*P. brevicaule*), to eighteen to thirty foot tall 'trees' (*P. lamerii* and *P. geayi*). The taller species are armed with stout paired spines and topped with a palm like rosette of long leaves (hence the common name 'Madagascar Palm' for some).

Pachypodium make use of spinescence as an adaptive mechanism to the local environment. Spinescence is employed to different degree in various species to collect and drip to the ground moisture from fogs and dews. A superficial root system will often develop to take advantage of this source of moisture.

They will grow well indoors on a sunny window sill, outdoors during the warmer summer months with regular watering or in a greenhouse where temperature and water can be controlled all year round. Some like *P. lamerii* and *P. geayi* can grow up to a foot per year. Give them regular water in the warm summers as long as they are growing in a free draining soil mix. Under watering during a warmer growing period can lead to leaf loss. Reduce water in the Winter and avoid any frost.



Pachypodium densiflorum



Pachypodium lamerii crest