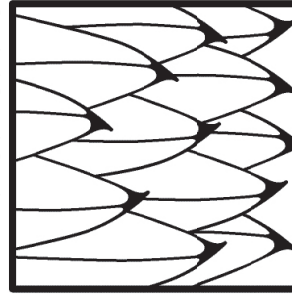


Central Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
c/o Markus Mumper
780 Merced St.
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



On the Dry Side

March 2011

Inside this issue: CCCSS February Meeting Recap

- Upcoming Speaker - Charles Spotts
We had another large turnout at our last meeting!
Gene Schroeder announced our club will soon be part of the California Garden Clubs Inc. This will allow us non-profit status. We want to thank Gene for all he has done getting this together for our club.
- Plants of the Month
- *Astrophytum asterias*
- *Pleiospilos nelii*
We are starting to prepare for our upcoming Show & Sale. This means two things: start thinking of what plants you may want to enter and also volunteering to help for this historically very successful event.
- CSSA Convention - April 24 - 29
Our program last month was with **Rene & Patty Caro** of Caro Desert Nursery. They shared with us the basic tools of photography along with some of their own beautiful pictures. They recommended that with camera equipment spend as much as you can afford. With removable lenses one can have more versatility from a camera and with a macro lens you can get deep inside a cactus/succulent flower.
- CCCSS Show & Sale - May 28 - 29

Tripods are important to keep the camera still and to get a sharp images. If you don't want to carry around a tripod, image stabilization is a good alternative. When there is no tripod steady yourself with any tool around, including your own elbows! For taking pictures of their succulents Rene & Patty use a black cloth as a backdrop. They also use photography reflectors that are used to reflect light towards the subject.

In the end they said - "don't be afraid to try different things". This program gave us some great helpful tips.

Thank you Rene & Patty for your informative program and also for bringing some beautiful plants for sale.

See you at the March meeting.

~Jan

Speaker of the Month _____

Charles Spotts - Glimpses of Baja California

Charles made several trips to Baja California during the '80s and '90s, he will bring us all along for the ride this month.

We will look at some of the more interesting succulent habitats from Mexicali to Cabo San Lucas and check out some of the sights and towns along the way. We will see the wind-bonsaied elephant trees at San Quintin, the Boojum trees at Catavina, giant cardons and creeping devils. Towering cerei and tiny *Mammillaria*. We will visit the petroglyphs in the San Francisco

Mountains, the abandoned marble quarry of El Marmol, the church designed by Eiffel in Santa Rosalia, the elegant mission church of San Ignacio and the opulence of Cabo San Lucas. All punctuated by beautiful beaches on both the gulf and ocean edges of the peninsula.



CCCSS meets CGCI

Wayne Mills, CCCSS Publicity

Gene Schroeder, Pat Gibson, Linda Hicks and I attended the quarterly meeting of the Montana De Oro chapter of the California Garden Clubs Incorporated (CGCI) at Tolosa Winery (near the SLO Airport) on February 22. CCCSS was introduced as the newest member of the chapter, bringing the total number of clubs in the chapter to about 7.

We were honored to have the state president of CGCI present to hand out some landscape design awards to Tolosa, and we even got a brief tour by the landscape architect as well as some delicious snacks. A highlight of the meeting was the introduction of our own Linda Hicks as the new president of the Montana De Oro chapter. Linda talked about the upcoming garden show at the Jack House in San Luis Obispo on June 7.

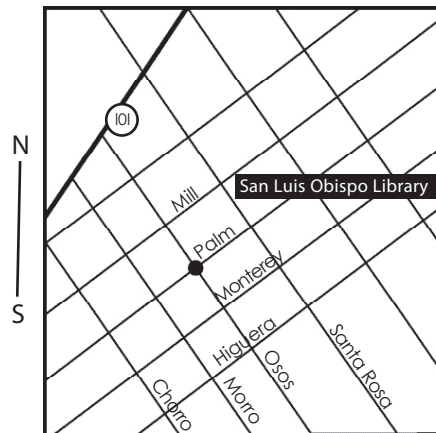
The CGCI is a large organization with 365 clubs and about 20,600 members statewide. Check out their website <http://californiagardenclubs.com/>

NEXT meeting:

Sun, Mar. 13'th at 2:00 pm

San Luis Obispo Public Library

995 Palm Street San Luis Obispo

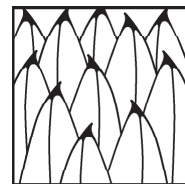


NEWS FROM THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:

- Nick Wilkinson will propose new club t-shirts.
- Many people signed up for the Show & Sale committee, we will need volunteers to staff the Show & Sale event.
- 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.
- Two signatures will now be required to sign CCCSS checks.

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on March 13'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.



15% off for all CCCSS members

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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.

A meeting was held on February 25th to assign responsibilities for the S&S committee members.

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

CSSA Corner

The biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America is coming up fast. Don't miss the best presenters anywhere and the social fun of a world-wide C&S gathering. There will be field trips, plant workshops, a Judges Workshop, Newsletter Editors meeting, Affiliates meeting among all of the other activities. Remember, San Diego, April 24-29, 2011.

The new editor of the CSSA Journal is hard at work on his first issue. Tim Harvey will be a terrific addition to the list of names of succulent enthusiasts who have managed the Journal.

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 - 9:00am to 5:00pm, 9:00am - 4:00pm

864 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo, CA 805 237-2054

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

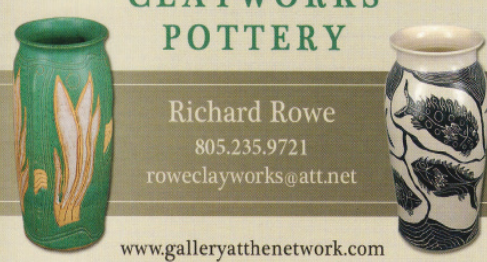
Huntington Botanical Gardens - 9:00am - 4:00pm

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. 626 405-2160

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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

Astrophytum asterias

Growth Habits: The plant is almost always solitary, with a globular body, flattened and slightly depressed at the apex, with 6 to 8 ribs. It can attain approximately 6 inches in diameter. It has no spines but prominent felted areoles. Plants vary tremendously in the amount of flecking they have covering the epidermis which is usually darkish green. Some plants have very little or no flecking whereas others are virtually covered as in the 'Super Kabuto' varieties. Many collectors have dozens of different forms all differing from each other in some way.

Etymology: The name *Astrophytum* derives from the Greek words *astron*, meaning 'star' and *phyton*, meaning 'plant'. *Asterias* derives from the Greek name *aster* which means a star and the Greek suffix *ias* meaning 'likened to, comparable, similar'.

Origin: This plant is native to the Chihuahuan Desert along the border between Texas and Mexico.

Cultivation: Requires full sun to help the plant flower well. Use well drained compost with added pumice. Water with care as the plant has a tendency to rot at the roots. Minimum temperature is around 30°F, they will stand lower temperatures for short periods if the soil is dry.

Flower and Fruit: The flower is predominantly yellow as with other *Astrophytum*, but in the case of *asterias* the flower has a deep red throat, yellow anthers and stamens. The petals have a silky sheen to them. The fruit is a greyish red, with black helmet shaped seeds that are quite large and germinate fairly easily, particularly when fresh.

Habitat: There are many threats to this plant in its native habitat, not least the collection of plants for the cactus trade and conversion of its habitat for urban land use and agriculture.

cactiguide.com



Astrophytum asterias in habitat



Astrophytum asterias in cultivation

Pleiospilos nelii

Growth Habits: The body of the plant consists of a pair of leaves, fused at the base, grey green to brownish to reddish in color with darker markings scattered over the whole of the leaves. Generally the more light that is provided the darker the plant becomes.

Etymology: The genus name is derived from the Greek words *pleios*, meaning 'many' and *spilos*, which refers to the dotted markings on the leaves of the plant.

Origin: The plants are indigenous to South Africa and are found mainly in the Little Karoo on the border of the Eastern and Western Cape. Distribution extends to the southern parts of the Great Karoo in the Northern Cape.

Cultivation: These plants grow best in full sun using a very open compost. They are among the most succulent plants in the world and can (if they have to) last many months without water. Although normally a Winter grower *P. nelii* is opportunistic and will enjoy an occasional drink any time of year but they look their best when grown 'hard'. They will tolerate some frost.

Flower and Fruit: Flowers appear in autumn or winter. The large fragrant flowers have a distinct smell of coconut and open in mid-afternoon and close just after sunset. The seeds pods have 9 - 15 locular (small cavities or compartments), closing lids and covering membranes are present. When the pods become wet the closed lids open up to dispense the seeds.

Habitat: *P. nelii* occur in shale or sandstone areas. The annual rainfall for the distribution area for these plants is between 150mm and 300mm but it should be remembered that the soil is extremely free draining.

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Mid-day flower



Pleiospilos nelii 'Royal Flush' - nice red form