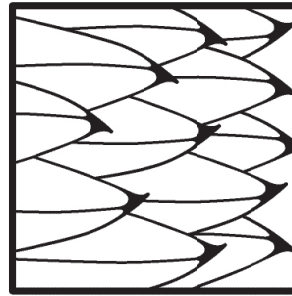


Central Coast Cactus  
& Succulent Society  
c/o Markus Mumper  
780 Merced St.  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449



# On the Dry Side

November, 2011

## Inside this issue: CCCSS October Meeting Recap

- Upcoming Speaker  
**Gregg DeChirico**

Thanks to **Charles Spotts** for the most interesting information regarding our plants of the month: *Sedum* and *Sempervivum*.

- Genus of the Month  
**Ariocarpus**

*Sempervivum* are alpine plants that can survive in poor soil, little water and can even tolerate snow. These popular and fast growing plants are great for rock gardens. They have star looking flowers and a rosette that blooms will die but always puts out plenty of pups to replace it.

*Sedum* is the biggest genus in the *Crassulaceae* family. There are over 400 species. They come from many areas including Japan, Korea and China, but Mexico has the biggest variety of *Sedum*. Some are native to Oregon and some even from the California mountains. *Sedum* can grow as ground cover, bushes and some can grow quite tall.

Our speaker of the month was **Mark Muradian** from the Fresno area. Mark is a plant enthusiast, farmer, potter and big time plant mover! Mark's presentation was the step-by-step process of how he planted his cactus garden. He started with moving some huge granite boulders for borders. He also put lots of rubble underneath the beds to deter the moles and gophers. Well, that didn't work, they still came. We were entertained with Mark's slide show and saw at what lengths Mark took to move some huge plants from neighborhood yards that he had his eye on for a while.

The Fresno area can get mighty cold so Mark protects some of his plants with plastic in the winter. He also protects some plants with burlap in the summer so they won't get scorched. He had some challenges, but in the end he produced a beautiful garden.

Thanks Mark for bringing in your beautiful pottery for sale and also for a very interesting presentation. Mark's presentations always keep us laughing and are always informative.

See you in November.

~Jan

Speaker of the Month

**Gregg DeChirico** has grown plants of all types for over 30 years. He has a nursery, Gregg's Greenhouse, located in the Santa Barbara area and specializing in seed-grown rare and exotic plants. Gregg is a frequent participant and vendor at many local club shows and sales. He has travelled throughout Latin America to photograph the flora and fauna, and uses the pictures in seminars and presentations given to local and regional horticultural groups. Gregg served as president of the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society; he is current president of the Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society and most recently has been elected to the CSSA board.

**Peru: Discovery of Wonders-** a travelogue starting in arid coastal Northern Peru, heading south and traversing the Andes three time before ending in Peru's southern highlands. Our zig-zagging journey takes us through cactus gardens in the lush hills valleys of Amazonia and Cajamarca, then west to the seemingly barren pacific coast where life teems on offshore islands, and then high into the Andes to the slopes of the Cordillera Blanca where forests of orchids and bromeliads grow within view of glaciers, then across the Altiplano where stands of huge *Puya raimondii* tower over grassy plains, and finally to the cultural wonder of Machu Picchu and historic city of Cusco. Along the way there are many splendid and wondrous sights of flora and fauna, as well as culture- both past and present- all captured in photos illustrated in this presentation.

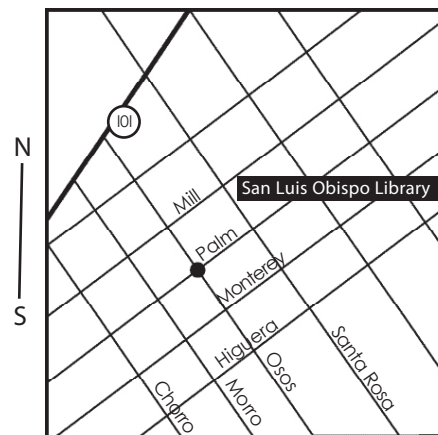


NEXT meeting:

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

San Luis Obispo  
Public Library

995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo

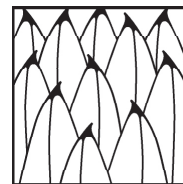


NEWS FROM THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING:

- Thanks to Jim, Terry and Wayne for organizing a great field trip, approximately 35 people attended.
- The CCCSS re-sale permit official, we now have our own control of re-sale taxes for our club.
- Still looking for an assistant newsletter editor. Anyone interested please contact Markus Mumper.
- Mary Peracca is looking for potential club members to become future board members, all interested can talk to Mary at the next meeting.

BOARD—MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on November 13'th right after our General Meeting, as always all members are welcome.



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

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Gene Schroeder 929-2161	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Nick Wilkinson 528-8880	<b>SECRETARY</b> Jan Moon 927-1310	<b>CSSA AFFILIATE</b> Rob Skillin 473-0788	<b>TREASURER</b> Edie Price 489-8491
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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.

## CSSA Corner

All CSSA members should be sure and vote for directors using the ballot in To The Point in the next CSSA Journal.

The first ever **Myron Kimmach Lifetime Achievement Award** was given to Myron at the Huntington Succulent Symposium on September 3rd. The award will be presented at the Symposium in non-Convention years.

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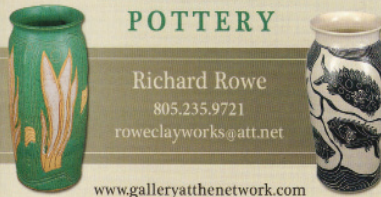


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## Upcoming Events

November 11 - 12

### Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale

Anaheim United Methodist Church: 12:00pm - 7:00pm, 9:00am - 5:00pm  
1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA

## Show & Sale 2012

To all Members and Vendors - Rob has informed us that per the City of San Luis Obispo we will be able to begin setting up next year's Show & Sale at the Ludwick Center earlier than in previous years. So, in the interest of achieving better organization, I feel it would be best to complete our set up **Friday night**, rather than Saturday morning as in the past, so that judging could be accomplished first thing Saturday and the public can be admitted earlier and with no delays. I feel this would be better for the vendors, our exhibitors and, of course, the public. Any members, or prospective vendors, who wish to make comment or have any further suggestions please feel free to contact me at: 805-481-5596, or via the net at: [hupt74@att.net](mailto:hupt74@att.net), or you can speak to me at our November meeting. Thank you - Pat Gilson

## Library News

This month both of our librarians, Jan Moon and Maggie Wagner, will be out of town, library books will not be available for check out at the meeting.

Sorry for the inconvenience!

The Library will be up and running again this January.

## Hospitality News

There will be a sign-up sheet for our December Potluck circulated at the November Meeting.

The club will be providing turkey and ham (thank you Pat Gilson and Jeanne Hanzsz).

## Ariocarpus: Living rocks of the New World C. Spotts

*Ariocarpus* are small spherical or barely columnar cacti native to north-eastern Mexico and the southern United States. They are usually found as single stems (heads), but occasionally form clusters. The genus consists of only a small number of species, six to eight depending on the authority cited.

*Ariocarpus* are unlike many other spherical or columnar cacti in that most of the main body of the plant typically grows underground or buried in rocky cover. In habitat the top of the plant is often nearly level with the surrounding ground and thus can make these nearly hidden plants very difficult to find when not in flower. Often all that is seen is the many pointed star pattern formed by the elongated tubercles barely protruding from the ground or covering rock. *Ariocarpus* flower in the fall and at this time their large and colorful flowers arising from the center of the plant give them away. In cultivation the plants are often raised in their pots so that the body of the plant can be more easily admired

Cultivation is not difficult if a few simple rules are followed. They appreciate warm summers — their habitat can become very hot in the summer. They can be watered freely during their summer growing period but must be grown in a freely draining mix and given plenty of light. They must be kept quite dry during their winter dormant period which follows flowering in late October or November (my plants have shown no damage after winter temperatures in the teens when kept dry). In habitat nearly all *Ariocarpus* grow in calcareous soil (limestone, gypsum) which has led to the erroneous conclusion that the plants would like an alkaline environment. Although the plants may sometimes benefit from some added calcium source, e.g. limestone fragments, they do best in my hands if watered with a slightly acidic water.

The type species of the genus is *Ariocarpus retusus*. This is the most widespread species of the genus and shows the most diversity of form. It is found over a wide range in eastern central Mexico. Some of its forms have been regarded as separate species (e.g., *A. trigonus*). The plant can be relatively large ( up to 12 inches) with thick pointed tubercles. Flowers are usually cream or white.

*Ariocarpus agavoides*, as the name implies, bears some resemblance to a tiny agave. The plants are quite small with elongated, thin tubercles. The flower is magenta. This species is rare due to its occurrence in only a few locations and over-collection.

*Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* is another miniature (often no larger than 3 inches) which is usually found buried beneath the soil surface . This species is flattened with flat triangular tubercles which do not rise above ground level. Flowers are usually magenta.

*Ariocarpus schaphirostrus* is another small species, with pointed tubercles which protrude almost vertically from the rocky substrate. It occurs in only one valley.

*Ariocarpus fissuratus* is a complex of many forms, regarded by some to represent more than one species. Size is often to 6 inches. The tubercles are flattened or convex and usually have many fissures on top. Widespread in southern Texas and parts of Mexico. Flowers are magenta.



Flowering *Ariocarpus* species in habitat.



*Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* in cultivation.