



On the Dry Side

April 2013

Meeting – April 21, 2013

Speaker: Russell Wagner

Canary Island Crossroads: Succulent extravaganza from Spain to Morocco and out to sea

Potluck: 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM

Please bring a dish to share, either an appetizer, main course, side dish, or dessert. Thank you!

Meeting: 1:00 PM

Program: Canary Island Crossroads

The Canary Islands are home of some of our most prized California garden plants, most notably aeoniums and echiums. But it's the diversity of its succulent flora that makes these seven islands of the coast of Morocco such a popular draw for succulentists.

Russell Wagner, former editor of *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, lived in Spain for two years and took the opportunity to make two trips to the Canaries, visiting the islands of Gran Canaria, Tenerife, and La Palma, the last specifically to see the magnificent *Aeonium nobile* in habitat. That island also harbors the most easily accessible wild dragon trees. At our next meeting Russell will share his photos and experiences on these wonderful islands, where all the amenities of Europe collide with a succulent smorgasbord.

The Canaries have been a great source of material for our coastal California gardens because their winter-rainfall climate is so similar to our own. Besides the ever-popular aeoniums, Russell was astonished to find many



beautiful species of *Monadenium*, *Greenovia*, *Euphorbia* (like the large candelabraform *E. canariensis*), *Ceropegia*, and *Kleinia* (a stem-succulent daisy). We'll see all these, plus a smattering of succulents from the Atlas Mountains outside of Marrakesh, and a few sedums and wildflowers of mainland Spain, plus a touch of the cultural heritage of this crossroads of Arabic and Latin culture. Russell plans also to bring a dish of the Canary Island's most important culinary staple, *papas arrugadas con mojo picón* (wrinkled spring potatoes with canary island hot sauce). Expect an inviting cross section of this beautiful corner of the world.

See Plants of the Month on Page 2.

April Show & Sale!

April 27, 9am–5pm / April 28, 9am–4pm

In the garden area of Jardines Restaurant,
115 Third Street, San Juan Bautista

Admission is free, public is invited. See and buy exotic and unusual drought-tolerant plants from around the world. There will also be a section of specimen plants that have been judged in competition and awarded appropriate ribbons.

See more info' on Page 3

Speaker's Biography

Russell Wagner

Russell Wagner arrived in the Bay Area to study chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley after receiving his undergraduate degree at the University of Georgia in 1994. He obtained his PhD in physical chemistry, but he found his passion for plants as a member of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society. He served for seven years as editor of Cactus and Succulent Journal, and he recently started his own publishing company, Little Sphaeroid Press. Their first book, authored by Steven Hammer and the first in a series on the collectable mesembs, was just published.

Russell has an extensive collection of (mostly seed-grown) succulents, with an emphasis on the Crassulaceae (Tylecodon and Adromischus are his favorites) and mesembs. He grows plants in the ground and in his homemade, 20 × 40' greenhouse in his yard in Oakland.

Russell travels extensively to see succulent plants in habits (having been to Mexico three times, South Africa three times, Peru, Bolivia, Morocco, and the Canary Islands, as well as throughout the desert southwest, with a particularly memorable week-long visit to Big Bend National park in Texas). He takes any opportunity to speak to cactus clubs and meet other members of the succulent plant world.

At our meeting Russell will be speaking on his trips to the Canary Islands, as well as offering a selection of seed grown plants and copies of Steven Hammer's new book.

Plants of the Month for the Mini Show

Cactus — Mammillaria

Succulents — Pelargoniums & Sarcocaulons

Novice only — Dish Gardens

Any Small Dish Garden Up To 4" x 7"
(Or any combination that is 30 square inches or less.)

Be sure to bring in Show and Tell Plants! Club members are interested in hearing about your plants.



Lotus Land Field Trip

May 11–12, 2013

Ask and you shall receive. Please join the Monterey Bay and San Jose Cactus Society for a field trip to Gianna Walska LOTUS LAND in Santa Barbara California. The date is May 11th-12th. Yes, this will be an overnight trip. The plan is to leave Watsonville very early May 11th as we are booked for the tour at 10:00AM. The tour will be a 2 hour tour and I have also made special provisions for a slow moving tour (this is for individuals that may have some issues with steps or surfaces not being flat). Please wear comfortable low-heeled shoes, which are suitable for walking in a garden. Hats and sunglasses are recommended in sunny conditions. Smoking, picnicking, pets and taking plant cuttings of any kind are not allowed on the grounds. After the tour we will have a lunch break and off to the nurseries we shall go for the afternoon. We will check into the hotel in the late afternoon, followed by a get together in the early evening. We will check out on Sunday morning stopping at several nurseries on our way back to Watsonville. The plan is to arrive back in Watsonville between 6:00-7:00 PM. The names of the nurseries and hotel will be provided once reservations have been confirmed.

If you are interested in going on this trip, please contact Lynda Waters at 831-663-3355 or Roger Lane at 650-949-4831. Let us know how many people will be going, as space is limited. The cost of the bus and admission to Lotus Land will be covered for paid members of the society. If you would like to bring someone that is not a member let me know and I can tell you what the cost will be. The hotel charge and food will be paid my each individual attending the trip. *For those who plan on buying plants on this trip, please bring boxes to keep your plants.

We had a terrific time on the last trip, and I expect this trip will even be better. Give me a call should you have questions or concerns.

~Lynda Waters

Library Report

Reminder! Everyone who has books checked out, please return them at the next meeting. Next month, Gary will list all past due books holders that have their books for 2 months.

Thank you.

April Show & Sale

April 27 & 28, 2013

Sat. 9 AM to 5 PM, Sun. 9 AM to 4 PM

(Cont. from Page 1)

Volunteers Needed!

Please remember...

Your volunteering to help run the Show & Sale will be much appreciated with hugs, big smiles of THANK YOU, and also Show Bucks, \$5 per 2 hours, up to \$20/day for non-vendors. We need people to help with:

- Sales receipt checks at exits
- Watching over the show area
- Packing plants into boxes as we ring up the sales.

These all help immen\$ely with the support of our club functions, by paying for our rent, our programs, our Christmas plants, and our birthday bash, for example. The workers for Saturday and Sunday receive doughnuts and coffee! Please call Naomi and let her know if you can help either Saturday or Sunday. Or just show up for some fun in the sun and enjoy the Show and maybe find a new plant for your collection.

Special Note:

We are also looking for volunteers to help us set up the tents on Thurs @ 1:00 PM. These provide shade for the sale and show plants, and also respite for the visitors to the sale.

On Friday, the tables will be delivered at 12:00 noon, and we will need to meet to set those up. Help will be so appreciated.

Remember that Jardin's Restaraunt donates their beautiful garden courtyard for us to enjoy at our bi-annual Show & Sales, so come & ENJOY!

Needed for the Show & Sale

We need help with boxes! Please save boxes about the size of a six-pack of beer for the Show & Sale, and bring them either Thursday, Friday or Saturday, for customers to use to carry home their treasures.



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Calendar of Events

See our listing of CSS Shows on the back page.

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum

Spring Plant Sale — Saturday, April 20, 2013

10:00-noon, Arboretum/CNPS members only.

Noon-4:00pm, everyone welcome.

Succulent Wreath Making

Most Wednesdays, call to confirm—831-427-2998

See more: <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/calendar/>

Huntington Gardens Plant Sale

April 27–28, Members: 10am – 4:30pm,

Public: April 28, 1pm–4:30pm

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

MBACSS Trip to Gianna Walska LOTUS LAND!

May 11th-12th, Santa Barbara California

Come join us! (*See page 3 for details*)

Monterey Bay Master Gardeners Boot Camp

June 15, 2013, 8am–5pm (BYO lunch, or buy there)

Registration is required and starts May 1.

Cabrillo College Horticulture Center

Call 831-763-8007, email bootcamp@mbmg.org, or

See website: mbmg.org

CSSA Annual Convention

June 15 to 20 — CSSA 35th Biennial Convention.

Austin, TX — <http://cssa2013.com>

The Ruth Bancroft Gardens

Succulent Garden Design

Saturday, July 6, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

\$20 General; \$12 Members

Propagation Workshop (Popular—April's sold out!)

Saturday, July 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

\$20 General; \$12 Members

Container Gardening with Succulents

Saturday, August 10, 2013, 10:00–11:30am

\$25 General Admission; \$20 Members

Register for above: <http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/rbgarden/pages/GardenWorkshop.html>

LA CSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

June 8–9, 9am–5pm

Sepulveda Garden Center

16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA

www.lacss.com

Our Future Programs / Meetings

May 2013 — Our Club's Birthday Party!

Jeff Brooks February 17 Talk

'Getting Plants Ready for Spring'

Although this posting may be late, it is still in time to help for Spring!

Jeff Brooks delivered a casual, friendly, and down-to-earth presentation on getting plants ready for spring, with questions answered as they came up and helpful comments from other members.

Give your plants the 'once-over' checking the overall appearance and health. Look for disease, like mold, rot, or edema (corky spots on leaves). Check for any bugs, mealy bugs (on plant and on roots), aphids, snails, thrips, mites,.... etc. A hand lens is very useful here.

Some of the products recommended were RTU (ready-to-use) sprays, systemic granules, and systemic liquid (Bayer Tree and Shrub).

Ask yourself, "Does the plant need transplanting or dividing?"

Tailor your mixes for different plants, adding perlite, pumice, or rock. Check if root pruning and fertilizing are needed, and wait 7–10 days before watering. Jeff also mentioned the pH of the soil, getting it on the acid side.

There was hands-on transplanting and division, and mention of plenty of products found at local businesses. This was interesting and informative and made fun by Jeff's charming personality and vast knowledge.

~Suzy Brooks

Final Notice

Okay, we are giving you *one more chance*. We are not desperate, we just like you! If you haven't paid for 2012, you will have a **RED DOT** on your mailing label, and/or you will receive a special email with your PDF newsletter. This is it. Please mail your check (\$15 for individuals or \$20 for family) to Ruth Pantry, 37 Young Drive, Salinas, CA 93901. Thank you. We hope you stay with us!

March Meeting

We were lucky enough to get the 'Haworthia Guy' to share his enthusiasm with us last meeting. His name is John Matthews, a self taught connoisseur of the little South African gems. When faced with the ultimatum of 'You go or the plants go', John and a few of his fellow club members put up some hoop houses to keep his ever increasing collection. He mentioned how Haworthias have been, and are still, on the taxonomy roller coaster; with aloes and gasterias, revised, renamed, 60 or 600 species? John just enjoys them.

He brought and passed around an amazing assortment of plants, no wonder they can't be pigeonholed! Long ones, short ones, fuzzy, brown, tiny, grassy, and very touchable. I'd say he sparked some new interest in the genus and sold quite a few.

John spoke about cultural requirements, sun, soil, propagation, and fertilizer. He recommended the Rudolf Schulz book for easy to understand info and the two publications dedicated to Haworthias. This was a lively and interesting talk.

Thank you for taking notes, Suzy Brooks!



A few of John's plants



H. blackburnae var.



H. limifolia variegated



H. truncata maughanii



H. bolusii

March Mini Show Winners

Novice Succulent

- 1st Place: Karl Karl, Haworthia species
- 2nd Place: Dot Hurley, Haworthia species
- 3rd Place tie: Karl Karl, Haworthia cymbiformis
Trudy Karl, Haworthia attenuata

Novice Cactus

- 1st Place: Dot Hurley, Echinocactus crest
- 2nd Place: Dot Hurley, Notocactus

Intermediate Succulent

- 1st Place: Dave Irmini, Haworthia f. variegated
- 2nd Place: Pat Boylan, Haworthia species
- 3rd Place: Dave Irmini, Haworthia variegated

Intermediate Cactus

- 1st Place: Karl Karl, Copiapoa Humilis

Advanced Succulent

- 1st Place: Naomi Bloss, Haworthia magnifica major
- 2nd Place: Ellen Stubblefield, Haworthia species
- 3rd Place tie: Stan Verkler, Haworthia venosa tessellata
Lisa Bloss, Haworthia mentelii? (does not exist) (emel-
lyae?)

Advanced Cactus

- 1st Place: Naomi Bloss, Copiapoa haseltoniana
- 2nd Place: Ellen Stubblefield, Copiapoa
- 3rd Place: Lisa Bloss, Echinocactus ingens

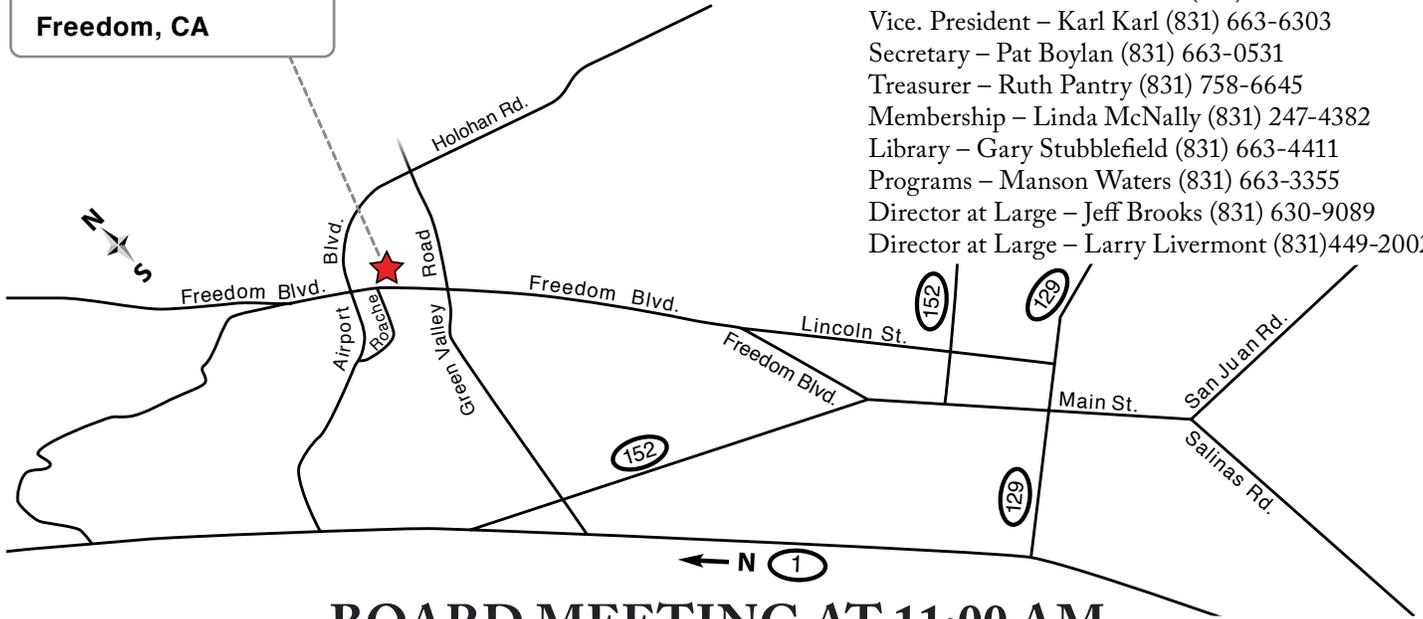
Dish Gardens (Novice)

- 1st Place: Dot Hurley
- 2nd Place: Dot Hurley
- 3rd Place tie: Rosemary Bridwell & David Haro

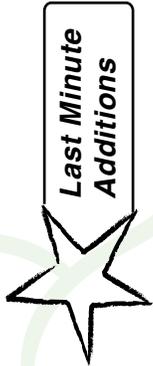
VFW Hall
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Freedom, CA

BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

President – Manson Waters (831) 663-3355
 Past President – Stan Verkler (831) 427-1469
 Vice. President – Karl Karl (831) 663-6303
 Secretary – Pat Boylan (831) 663-0531
 Treasurer – Ruth Pantry (831) 758-6645
 Membership – Linda McNally (831) 247-4382
 Library – Gary Stubblefield (831) 663-4411
 Programs – Manson Waters (831) 663-3355
 Director at Large – Jeff Brooks (831) 630-9089
 Director at Large – Larry Livermont (831)449-2002



BOARD MEETING AT 11:00 AM



2013 CSS Shows & Sales

Date	Society	Location
April 20-21 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-4	CSS of San Jose	Buchser Middle School 1111 Bellomy Street Santa Clara, CA
April 27-28 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4	Monterey Bay Area CSS	Jardines Restaurant Garden 115 Third St. San Juan Bautista
May 4-5 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4	Sacramento CSS	Shepherd Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA
May 18-19 Sat. 9-4 Sun. 10-2:30	Carmichael CSS	Carmichael Park Clubhouse 5750 Grant Ave. Carmichael, CA
May 25-26 Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4	Central Coast CSS	Ludwick Community Center 864 Santa Rosa St. San Luis Obispo, CA
June 1-2 Sat. 10-6 Sun. 11-5	Fresno CSS	Sierra Vista Mall Community Room 1060 Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA
June 8-9 9-5	San Francisco SCS	SF County Fair Bldg. 9th & Lincoln Way Golden Gate Park San Francisco, CA
Aug. 17-18 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-5	Inter-City CSS	LA County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA
Sept. 14-15 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4	Monterey Bay Area CSS	Jardines Restaurant Garden 115 Third St. San Juan Bautista

For more dates and locations, see Fresno CSS nice website events calendar: <http://www.fresnocss.org>

ON THE DRY SIDE

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society
 Trudy Karl, Editor
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