

## On the Dry Side

December 2013



*Happy Holidays /  
Merry Christmas!*



### 2013 Holiday Extravaganza & Plant Auction!

**December 15, 2013**

**11:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Members should bring in appetizers or side dishes for this feast.**

This year's Holiday Banquet will be held in our normal meeting location, at the VFW Hall, in Watsonville (see map last page). Set up will begin at 10:30 AM. Members are encouraged to help with the set up, more hands make light work. Appetizers will be served from 11:30-12:00 PM. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM. The club is furnishing the Ham and the Turkey. Members should bring in appetizers or side dishes for this feast. If you have questions on what to bring, contact Manson or Lynda Waters at 831-663-3355.

Following the lunch there will be the plant auctions. There will be two types of auctions, silent auction and live auction. There is a change for the Silent Auction this year—there will be no limit on bids. There will be a card next to the plant in which people will bid on the plant. The live auction plants will start from the minimum bid. This will all be explained again at the lunch. Members can bring in their own plants for the auction

as donation to the club or to receive the total bid less 25% to the club. Do make sure they are of good quality and disease free. There is a maximum of 3 plants per member. If you are interested or have questions contact Manson or Lynda Waters at 831-663-3355.

There will be a special drawing after lunch. Members who renew their membership on or before the December meeting will participate in a special plant raffle. Winners for the drawing must be present.

Lastly, when the auction has been completed there will be a plant giveaway to all paid members in attendance for the Holiday Extravaganza. Members will be given a ticket and their names will be drawn for that special gift plant from the club.

Members who pay their dues by the Dec. 15th meeting, or at the *beginning* of the meeting, will be entered into a special plant drawing!



#### **Welcome to new member!**

Janet Stevenson of San Jose, welcome to our club! We hope you enjoy our club and we look forward to getting to know you more at our future meetings.

## November Meeting

### Jeff Brooks — Cactus & Succulent Soils



Planting and photo by Suzy Brooks

Our speaker, Jeff Brooks, works at a nursery that grows succulents, some cactus, and ornamental plants. He's been working with soils for many years and was quite ready to share some thoughts on the matter. Like our houses, soil provides a place for growth and support and a place to store our food, water, and air and to use it. And as different people have different shelters, all plants do not want the same 3 bedroom, 2 bath.

He briefed us on additives to soil, the pros and cons, how to use, and where to get them. In a handout to save in your favorite succulent book, he also listed some soil mix recipes. He encouraged us to try experimenting with soil additions if you weren't happy with the way your plants are growing and now we've got a list of things to try.

After that, we had brought our own pots and had pick of a lot of succulent cuttings to build our own combination pots. It was a planting frenzy, with some beautiful results!

Thanks, Jeff! (*Written by Suzy Brooks— Thanks, Suzy!*)

## Lost & Found

If anyone found an earring at the last club meeting that looks like this, *please* contact me, Trudy Karl, 831-663-6303, or email me: tkarl3@trudykarl.com.

They were made by a Japanese artist, and were a birthday gift from my husband. I'm so disappointed.

Losing one is like losing both!

*Thank you!*



## Letter From the President

### Recommended Board of Directors Slate for 2014 and 2015

Position	Name
President	Manson Waters
Vice-President	Naomi Bloss
Treasurer	Ruth Pantry
Secretary	Pat Livensparger
Membership	Linda McNally
Affiliate	Jeff Brooks
Director at Large	Gary Stubblefield
Director at Large	Tom Karwin
Director at Large	Anita Crawley
Past President	Stan Verkler

Voting for this slate will be immediately after our dinner. If anyone has an alternative slate this is the time to present it.

I would like to thank the BOD members that worked with me in the past two years that have decided not to continue; Karl Karl, as Vice-president, was responsible for the upgrades to the tarps and posts that were used in the show and sales. The upgrades plus his hands-on approach to the set up and take down of the tarps was a huge help to the club. Pat Boylan as club secretary has declined to continue on as secretary due to pain from back surgeries which have kept her from being a regular monthly participant. Larry Livermont because of a change in his work hours had to resign from the board. To all of you, Thank you for your wonderful work ethic and dedication to the MBACSS.

I would like to give a big Thank You to our departing *On The Dry Side Editor*, Trudy Karl. Trudy worked the news letter for four years and did the best news letter in our club's 28 year history! Trudy and Karl have a brand new grandchild to hug and kiss, plus having travel plans to see the USA have changed the time available to participate with the club. Thank you again Trudy for your dedication.

(If anyone is interested in this important position please give me a call. Manson 831-206-7543)

Ho-Ho-Ho every one, our December Seasonal party is close at hand. More information is elsewhere in this newsletter. See you December 15.

*~Manson, President*

## Letter from the Editor

This is my last month as newsletter editor, as most of you know. It has been *my pleasure* to serve the club in this capacity. We are new grandparents, and I take care of the baby one to two days a week. With that, my increasing contract work and our travel plans, I cannot keep up the newsletter.

It is my deepest hope that someone steps up for this vital role in keeping members informed. It is a lot of fun, with opportunities to connect, and much more. The club also pays for your membership to CSSA, with their Journal and *To The Point* newsletter included!!! It's wonderful.

The newsletter could easily be edited in a common program, such as Microsoft Word. I'll even create the template, if needed. You do not have to follow what I did, either; make it yours! Members write the content, and you just edit. I will also be available to answer questions.

Please contact Manson Waters if you are interested (831-663-3355 or 831-206-7543).

My best to you all! Merry Christmas / Happy Holidays!

~Trudy Karl, Newsletter Editor

## From the Librarian

Suzy Brooks will be the new Librarian for the club. I have enjoyed the 10 years I have had the job. I need the room in my garage for some junk I had to move to make room for more plants.

~Gary Stubblefield, Current Librarian

## Our Future Programs

**January 19: Brian Kemble—Jalisco, Mexico**

**February 16: Rob Skillin—Madagascar**



© 2013 Trudy Karl

## Calendar of Events

### Ruth Bancroft Gardens

**Docent Training Lectures now open to the public Succulent-oriented are below; more on their website:**  
<http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/rbgarden/pages/programs.html>

#### Plant Families Bromeliaceae & Aizoaceae

Saturday, February 22, 2014, 10AM – 12PM

#### Plant Family Crassulaceae

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10AM – 12PM

#### Plant Family Cactaceae and Euphorbiaceae

Saturday, March 22, 2014, 10AM – 12PM

\$20 General Admission, \$12 Members Price

### 2014 CSS Shows & Sales

Except ours below, all were listed in CSSA newsletter...

**Feb 8, 2013: San Diego CSS**, Balboa Park, Room 101

**Mar 28–30: Orange County CSS**, Anaheim Methodist Church, Anaheim, CA

**Apr 12–13: So. Coast CSS**, So. Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA

**Apr 26–27: Monterey Bay Area CSS**, Location TBA!

**May 3–4: Sunset CSS**, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA

**May 16–17: Gates CSS**, Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr., Glen Avon, CA

**May 17–18: Long Beach CSS**, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach, CA

**May 24–25: Central Coast CSS**, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo, CA

**June 7–8: San Diego CSS**, Balboa Park, Room 101

**June 14–15: L.A. CSS**, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA

**Jun 27–29: CSSA Annual Show & Sale**, Annual Meeting: June 28, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

**July 25–27: Orange Co. CSS**, (same as above)

**Aug 9–10: 29th Annual Intercity**, L.A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA

**Nov 1–2: San Gabriel CSS**, L.A. County Arboretum

### Huntington Gardens

Apr 27: Plant Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens

Aug 30: Huntington Symposium, “ “ “

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS EARLY...

#### CSSA Biennial Convention

June 14–19, 2015

Pitzer College, Claremont, CA

# Seeds from UCSC Arboretum may help threatened species in aftermath of recent fire

**September 25, 2013,  
Article by Arboretum Staff**

The May 2013 Camarillo Springs Fire in Ventura County burned the entire habitat of a federally listed threatened plant species, a succulent known as Verity's liveforever (*Dudleya verityi*). Stephen McCabe, research director at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, has been working with National Park Service ecologist John Tiszler to study the plants and their potential for recovery in the aftermath of the fire.

In some areas where the succulents once grew, the fire was so hot that no plants could be found, according to McCabe and Tiszler. At other sites, the percentage of plants that appears to have survived is very small. In one area where 1,500 plants were counted in 2009, only 10 appeared un-scorched.

Because these plants can appear alive for awhile after their roots have been killed, researchers are hesitant to conclusively assess all the damage until after the first heavy fall rains. The fire occurred during the flowering period for these plants, but very few flowers have been seen since the fire on any of the Verity's liveforevers, so there might have been very little seed set this year.

While experts prefer to see a threatened species survive on its own, in this case the Verity's liveforever may need some help. Seed collected from garden-grown plants at the UCSC Arboretum could potentially be used to help restore the wild populations. No decisions have been made yet, however, about the best ways to facilitate the recovery.

Verity's liveforever is only known from six reported occurrences in the western Santa Monica Mountains. It is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, in part due to the potential loss to quarrying, housing development, fire, and collecting. Air pollution, non-native weeds, and trampling of habitat during recreational use may also be threats.

There is often debate about whether or not chance events could really have an effect on an endangered species that has more than one occurrence. Unfortunately, this is a case where a single event has adversely affected an entire species, McCabe said.

The Springs fire started along Highway 101 and within several hours had burned the entire 5,000-acre area over which the *Dudleya* populations are dispersed. The fire ultimately burned 24,000 acres over three days. Like almost all fires in the Santa Monica Mountains, it was a man-made fire, started by an automobile. Its occurrence during the spring growth and flowering period, rather than the late summer dormancy period, was unusual.



Verity's liveforever (*Dudleya verityi*) growing in the wild in a bed of lichen. (Photo by Tarja Sagar, National Park Service)



Flowers of *Dudleya verityi* growing in cultivation at the UCSC Arboretum. (Photo by Stephen McCabe)

*Cont. from Page 4*

Unfortunately, some climate-change models predict that conditions for such early fires will become more common. At the same time, increasing human populations make additional fire starts inevitable. The proximity to urbanization of all six occurrences of Verity's liveforever makes it likely that there will be damaging fires in the future.

Fire experts and public agencies remind the public to be especially careful not to start fires in a dry year like this one. They also emphasize the need for interagency cooperation to protect and restore endangered species that grow on a mix of different public and private lands.

The Arboretum maintains back-up collections for many species from around the world for events just such as this and encourages people to help the wild populations survive.

The UCSC Arboretum relies on gifts, memberships, and gift shop sales to pay for salaries, plants, supplies, and technology. The Arboretum is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information is available online at <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu>.

See the article on the fire on the KCLU website at: <http://www.kclu.org/2013/10/01/ventura-county-brush-fire-pushes-already-rare-plant-to-edge-of-extinction/>

*Article used with permission from the UCSC Arboretum.  
Thank you to Steve McCabe!*

## MBACSS Membership / Renewal Application

To join the Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society (MBACSS), fill out this form and mail it with your check to:

Ruth Pantry  
37 Young Drive  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 758-6645

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check type of membership:

Single — \$15 per year \_\_\_\_\_

Couple — \$20 per year \_\_\_\_\_

For any additional information contact:

Linda McNally at (831) 247-4382

or

Lynda Waters at (831) 663-3355

or

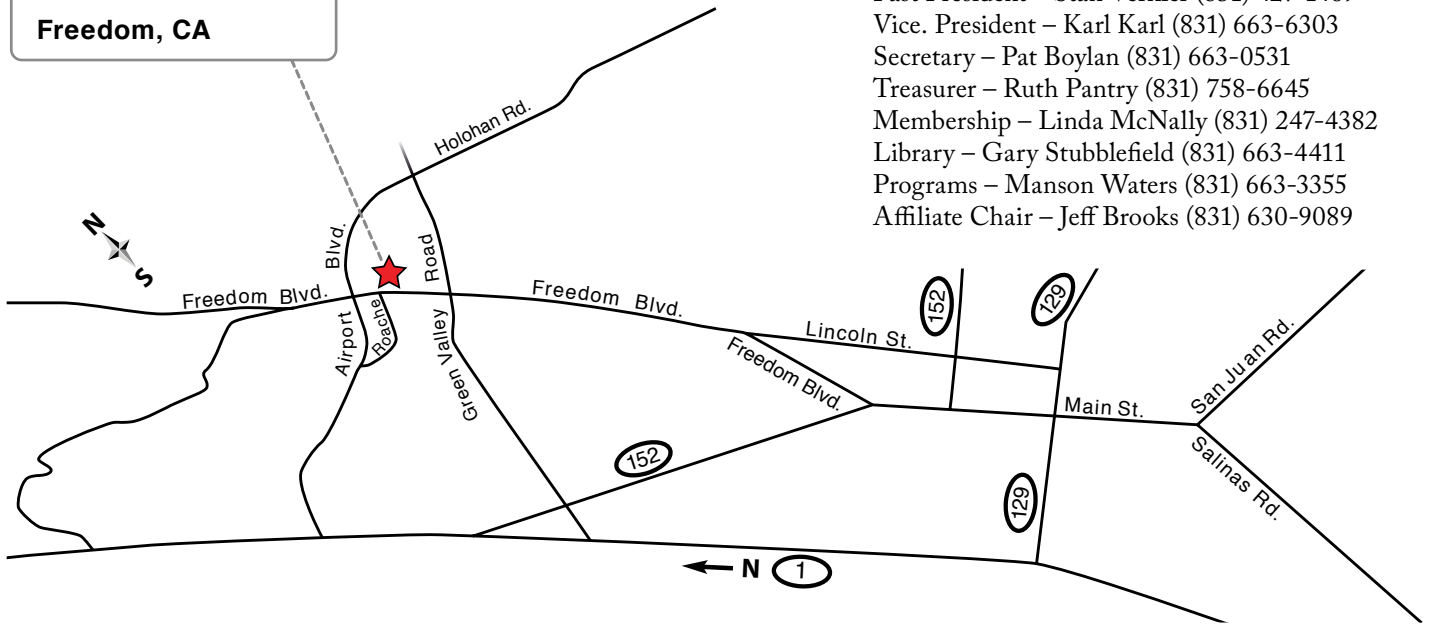
Naomi Bloss at (831) 722-1446

\*\*\*Those club members who pay their dues by the Dec. 15th meeting (or at the *beginning* of the meeting) will be entered into a special plant drawing!

**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  
Affiliate Chair – Jeff Brooks (831) 630-9089



**Last Minute  
Additions**

**Please be thinking about  
program topics you would  
like to see covered at the  
meetings and contact  
Manson to let him know.**

## **ON THE DRY SIDE**

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

Trudy Karl, Editor

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