



November 2014

OCTOBER Show & Sale

No meeting was held in October, as we held our Fall Show & Sale in San Juan Bautista. The show was well attended, and everyone seemed to have a marvelous time.

November Meeting

The program for November 16 will be by Duke and Kaz Benadom. The program will be on Southern Uganda with a little on Northern Uganda. They will have plants for sale. Duke Benadom is Sole Proprietor of Superb Succulents and author of a book by the same name. According to information gleaned from Facebook, it looks as though he has authored another book, entitled "Echinocerus".



Echeveria entry, Jeff & Suzy Brooks

Time for Dormancy?

From Highland Culture Guide

The least understood and most critical time for cultivating succulents is the dormancy or rest period. Most losses occur during or shortly after this time because plants are kept too dry and not monitored. This is the number one reason for failure.

Dormancy is a fact of life. Plants gradually move into a rest period in response to dropping light and temperature levels. They need this break to stay healthy. Your job is to coast them through it.

The first sign that a plant is entering dormancy is that it stops growing. Soon after, leaves begin to yellow and drop, rosettes tighten and contract, or for very succulent groups such as mesembs, bodies can pull themselves into the soil and develop a papery covering as protection. You may not see much happening on the outside, but even in this state, your plants are not just sitting there. Transpiration is still going on and this moisture must be replaced. They need feeder roots to take up this moisture so naturally plants cannot be kept so dry that these roots desiccate and die. This can easily happen to slow growing species and the consequences will not become apparent until spring when growth commences and plants begin to fail. Plants are failing in April and May because of what you did over the winter months. Signs of trouble often take months to appear. (cont'd)

So how often should you water during the rest period? Again it largely depends on your conditions, i.e. how fast they dry out. If you live where it's cool during the winter, your plants will rapidly dry from heating equipment being present so one or two waterings per week may be required. If you live in a mild climate, possibly every other week will work. Just water, give them a good dry spell to the point where pots feel light but not dust dry, then water again.

What about the plants that are summer dormant and how should they be treated? Since this group is resting during the warmest time of the year, they will dry out much faster than the winter dormant species and therefore require more frequent waterings. As a starting point, water these every other time you water your summer growers but again, it completely depends on your conditions. During extremely hot weather, they may need water every day.

It's important to remember that you can't force your plants into or out of dormancy by withholding or applying moisture. The one exception to this is the mistaken advice one often hears that succulents should be kept completely dry when dormant. In this case they will indeed go dormant but unfortunately it will likely be permanent.

To better understand dormancy and its role in your cultivation, you must be aware of when your plants are actually dormant. Succulents can be organized by genus into the two groups of winter and summer dormant with the most popular genera presented in our Dormancy Table. There are a few exceptions for individual species.

WINTER DORMANT

This group is generally regarded as the "summer growers". They have adapted to our northern hemisphere cycle and are dormant from November through February. Many of these will also enter a pseudo rest period for a few weeks during the hottest part of the summer before putting on a final burst of growth in September and October.

Adenia Adenium

Agave Alluaudia

Brachystelma Bursera

Calibanus Ceropegia

Cissus Cyphostemma

Didieria Dorstenia

Echeveria Encephalartos

Euphorbia Ficus

Fockea Huernia

Ibervillea Ipomoea Jatropha

Lithops Monadenium

Moringa Operculicarya

Pachypodium Pedilanthus

Plumeria Pseudolithos

Pterodiscus Raphionacme

Sinningia Stapelianthus

Synadenium Tillandsia

Trichocaulon Trichodiadema

Xerosicyos

SUMMER DORMANT

Usually referred to as the “winter growers”, these genera are dormant during the warmer months of May through August. Their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring while slowing considerably during true winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well especially in the Lily and Crassulaceae families.

Adromischus Aeonium Aloe

Anacampseros Astroloba

Avonia Bowiea

Bulbine Ceraria Conophytum

Cotyledon Crassula

Dioscorea Dudleya

Fouqueria Gasteria

Gibbaeum Graptopetalum Graptoveria

Haemanthus Haworthia

Kalanchoe Neohenricia

Othonna Pachycormus

Pachyphytum Pachyveria

Pelargonium Peperomia

Portulacaria Sansevieria

Sarcocaulon Sedeveria

Sedum Senecio

Stomatium Talinum

Tylecodon

New Members

John Mello
P.O. Box 2649
Aptos, CA. 95003
831-761-1830
I-got-rhythm@att.net

Please add to your rosters, and give a warm welcome!

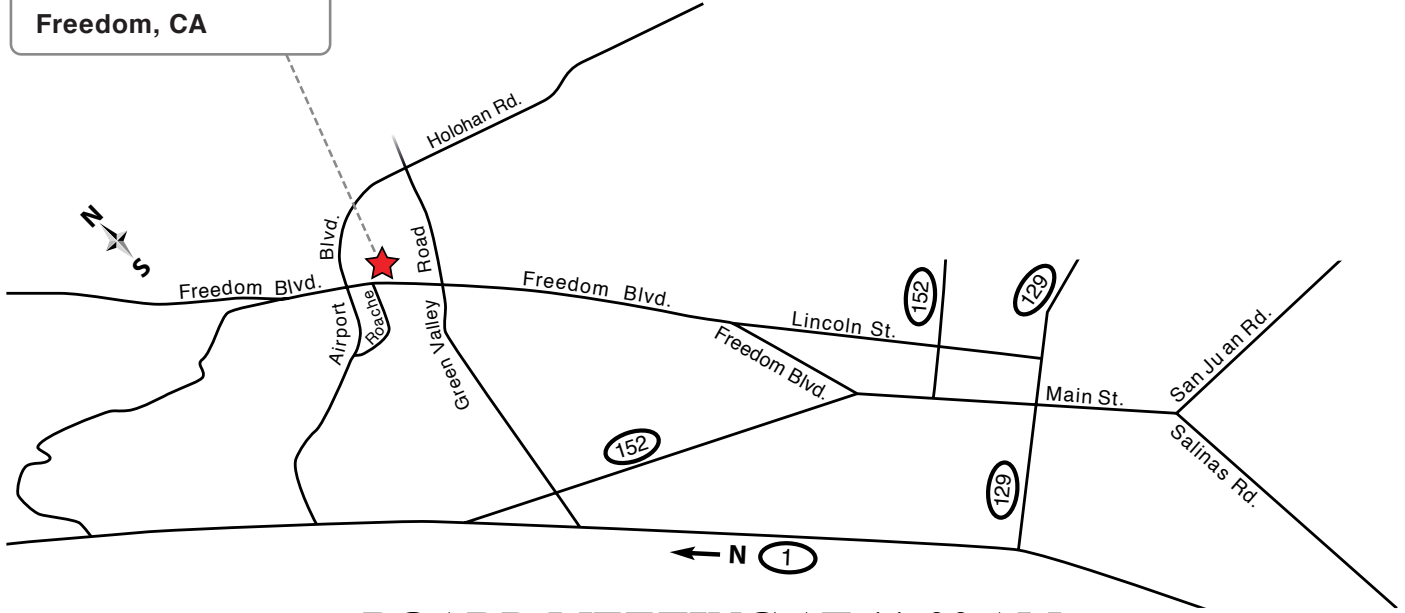
On the Dry Side is the newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus Society. Club Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month in the VFW Bldg., 1960 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville, CA. A pot luck lunch starts at 12:30 p.m. followed by the program. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Membership Chair: Linda McNally (831) 247247-4382 or Club President: Manson Waters (831) 663-3355

Board & Committee Chairs:

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VFW Hall
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Freedom, CA



BOARD MEETING AT 11:00 AM

Last Minute
Additions



ON THE DRY SIDE

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society
Sharon Lucchesi, Editor
(Address)

