



JANUARY MEETING RECAP

'Landscaping with Succulents' was brought to us by our own, Steve McCabe, director of research, curator of succulents, at the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum. He shared pictures of designs and landscapes, many from the Succulent Extravaganza, held by Succulent Gardens in Castroville. Succulents can be combined successfully with buckwheat, poppies, lewisias, leucadendrons, and cordylines, to name a few. Grasses, while growing or in a dormant state, add some golden browns, fine texture, and movement to a garden. And, of course, with a smattering of dudleyas throughout!

MINI SHOW PLANTS FOR FEBRUARY

Plant for February Mini Show.

Cactus: Mammillaria

Succulent: Agave and Cotyledon

Bring a plant to enter, 3 categories: Novice, Intermediate & Advanced. Its a great way to get feedback on your plants and winning affords you a raffle ticket to be used in the meeting raffle!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Peter Walkowiak, B.S. Ornamental Horticulture

Interest in plants started as a child of five, amazed at the beauty of roses and the taste of blackberries right off the vine. As a teenager did yard work for neighbors to make some money and had a vegetable garden. Went to Cal Poly Pomona, in 1980 and graduated in 1985 with a degree in horticulture. Have worked for and ran a number of wholesale nurseries before starting a landscape and consultation business. Ten years ago started to propagate plants from the collection of plants that had been acquired in the previous 25 years, which led to the current business that has been a part of my life long dream, PW Plants, my own nursery.

Fascination with succulent plants started in college, a friend had this amazing Bombax ellipticum. The collection has grown from those early days to well over 1,500 plants. Interests center on the fat plants, caudiciforms, cacti and euphorbias.

Current President of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society, on the board of the San Diego CSS and CSSA. Show chair for the two shows for SDCSS and the one show for Palomar. Co-chair for the Intercity Show, the largest succulent show in the world. Participate in many other shows in the southwest from Phoenix to Los Angeles. (Will discuss Soil & Staging, as well as Soil & Fertilizer for Succulents)

MINI SHOW WINNERS/January

Mini Show winners for January.

Dish Garden:

First Place-Laura Demars.

No other entries

Novice Succulent:

First Place- Aloe sp. Yolanda Borges

No other Entries

Novice Cactus:

First Place- Trichocereus Yolanda Borges

Second Place- Mammillaria Yolanda Borges

Third Place- No entry

Intermediate Succulent:

First Place-Aloe 'Seymour Linden' Suzy Brooks

Second Place- Aloe sp. Suzy Brooks

Third Place- Dudleya sp. Pat Boylan

Intermediate Cactus:

First Place- Echinocactus grusonii Suzy Brooks

Second Place- Carnegia gigantea Suzy Brooks

Third Place- No Entry

Advance Succulent:

First Place- Dudleya pulverulenta Hybrid Jeff Brooks

Second Place- Dudleya 'White Spire' Stan Verkler

Third Place- Tie Dudleya virens Gary Stubblefield
Dudleya gnoma Ellen Stubblefield

Upcoming Show & Sale

April 18 & 19 Show & Sale: Please save small boxes for customers shopping use and newspapers for packing sale boxes. GREAT FUN! Come join us one and all! Set up will be Friday April 17th More information as we get closer to the event.

Look at Book!

Brand new, 'Echinocereus' by Duke Benadom. 500 pages and over 800 color photos of why you grow these plants. The brightly colored flowers are stunning. Check it out at the next meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Linda Beatham, 31175 Scriver St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062, 831.476.1753,e-mail
sclindab@sbcglobal.net

Lise Bixler, 91 Country Estates Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95062, 831.457.2089,e-mail
lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Hodge, 526 Argos Circle, Watsonville, CA 95076, 831.724.1062,e-mail
hodgebarb@yahoo.com

Marcia Meyer, 7101 Viewpoint Rd., Aptos, CA 95003, 831.688.5099, e-mail
marmey26@comcast.net

Zora Martin Elemadi, 216 Keystone Ave., SantaCruz, CA 95062. Honorary Member

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





MBAC&SS WEB PAGE UPDATE

We hope to launch the Monterey Bay Cactus and Succulent Society website in February. For the past couple of months, Anita Crawley has been developing the website with feedback from the board. We will provide the URL/web address for the website in the next “On the Dry Side.”

The website includes information about our club, CSSA, and local affiliate clubs. We are also building links to external general resources about succulent and cactus care, cultivation, design and suppliers. We are making an attempt to aggregate specific resources about succulent genera and families.

The website is a work in progress. Please be part of this initiative by providing feedback for improvements and additional resources that will enhance the experience for our internal and external audiences. Once the website is launched, we encourage you to send all suggestions to Anita at acrawley@comcast.net

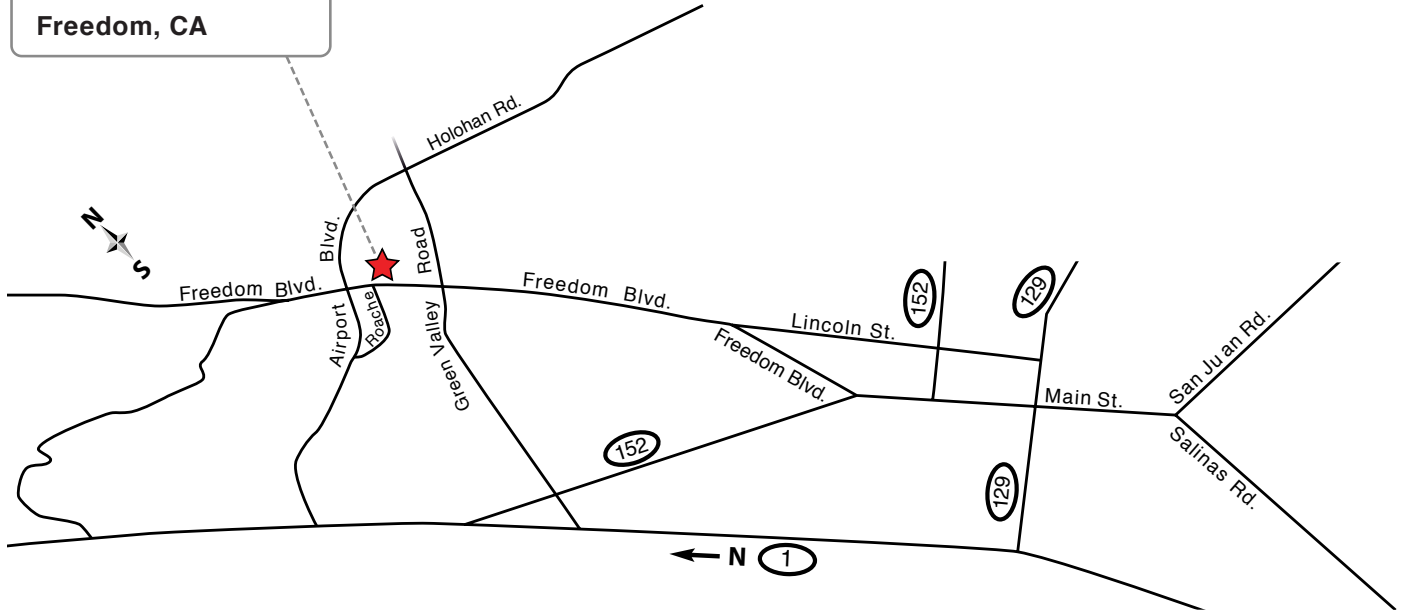
On the Dry Side is the newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus Society. Club Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month in the VFW Bldg., 1960 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville, CA. A pot luck lunch starts at 12:30 p.m. followed by the program. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Membership Chair: Linda McNally (831) 247-4382 or Club President: Stan Verkler (805) 550-8393

Board & Committee Chairs:

President – Stan Verkler (805) 550-8393
Vice. President – Naomi Bloss (831) 722-1446
Secretary – Pat Livensparger (831) 6252980
Treasurer – Ruth Pantry (831) 758-6645
Membership – Linda McNally (831) 247-4382
Library – Suzy Brooks (831) 207-4021
Programs – Manson Waters (831) 663-335
Director at Large-Tom Karwin (831) 760-6727
Director at Large –Gary Stubblefield (831) 663-4411
Director at Large –Anita Crawley (831) 293-8788
CSSA Rep: Jeff Brooks (831) 207-4021



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
1805 Leslie Ln.
Aptos, CA. 95003
(Address)

Soil and Staging Workshop Peter Walkowiak, Horticulturist

The second most asked question I get after ‘ When do I water this plant?’ is ‘ What soil do I use for my succulent plant?’ and this was the genesis for this talk on soil. Consider your soil as your foundation upon which will sustain and support healthy plant growth for a long period of time. Important things a soil needs to have are good drainage and aeration, water retention, nutrient availability, proper PH and longevity. In this talk each of these topics will be covered in depth so that the unseen complexities of soil can be understood. What materials work, what does not and why they should not be used.

There will be a demonstration on mixing soil that is used in my nursery. I spent many years trying different materials to find the perfect succulent soil mix. There were many failures, most took two to three years to manifest its self and then had to answer the question ‘Why did this fail?’. You will be shown the ingredients and how they are blended to get this soil mix.

In the second part of the program we will discuss the process of staging your plants to maximize their beauty. There are many things to consider when putting together your composition. These are form, texture, color and balance and must be thoughtfully considered when putting together your piece of art.

The final part of the program is hands on, getting you hands dirty. You’re invited to bring a pot and plant you want to be staged. Please no large pots, there is limited soil to share. There will be top dressing but if you have one you want to use bring it. There will be no staging rocks provided, bring your own.

Soil and Fertilizer for Succulents

By Peter Walkowiak, B.S. Horticulture, PW Plants

There are three ingredients for my soil mix. You can substitute other materials and those will be listed below. There are three materials to avoid, peat moss, sand and kor. Both peat moss and kor (coconut husk) are not composted and when they do it turns to muck. Sand compacts and does not dry out or allow good air penetration.

Soil

60% Perlite #3, substitute pumice; this should be completely wetted and mix, do not remove fines unless excessive.

20% Compost, substitute good potting soil, I get my compost from the green recycling at the local dump and let age for a month minimum.

20% DG (decomposed granite); use 1/8 screen to remove gravel from fines. Gravel is for top dressing and fines for the soil mix.

Mix DG and compost together. Add this to the WET perlite and mix till blended and no white is showing from perlite. Soil is ready to use. Always use moist soil and never water newly transplanted succulents.

Fertilizer

0-50-30 Grow More water soluble fertilizer

15.5-0-0 Calcium Nitrate, water soluble form

White vinegar, 2 tablespoons per gallon, PH of 6.0 to 6.5

Increase nitrogen in the early spring and late summer, decrease during heat waves, mid summer and winter