



On the Dry Side

Next Meeting: October 18 Potluck 12:30 Program 1pm

President's Message

"Greetings everyone, hope you are all doing well. Thank you to everyone who came to help us with our Fall Show and Sale at San Juan Bautista. We had many compliments on the fine show plants you brought to share with our visitors. I hope you will join us this month at the VFW Hall in Watsonville on October 18th. Our guest speaker will be Peter

Walkowiak from Escondido, CA. Peter will be sharing information in regards to using succulent plants in your landscape, and how to design and combine them for the optimal results. Peter is also experienced as a nurseryman

and master grower of many prize winning show plants. We start at 12:30 PM with a wonderful pot-luck lunch and really appreciate your contribution to the table each month. Your club officers are always open to suggestions on how we might improve your club. Let us know your ideas and interests.

Stan Verkler



October Meeting

Graduated in 1985 from Cal Poly Pomona with a B.S. Degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Worked as manager, production manager and section manager for three wholesale nurseries for 14 years. Ran a landscaping business for another 14 years, the last five years of which I specialized in succulent landscapes. During the landscaping part of my life I restarted collecting plants for my collection. This led to propagating plants from seed and thus the seed was sown for the nursery that I now own and run for the last two years.

My interest in succulent plants really got going in college, 1981-82. By the time I graduated my collection had grown to 200. This collection has grown to more than 1,000 currently. The collection consists of cacti, euphorbias and caudiciforms.

I am the current president of the Palomar CSS and on the board for the San Diego CSS and the CSSA. I am show chair for Palomar's one and San Diego's two shows and co-chair for the Intercity Show.

September Meeting Recap

Always a good meeting when Naomi shows us how it's done. A hands on demo is the best way to learn how to repot and manage those roots and not be afraid of them. See an echeveria deadheaded and know the stem can make pups as the head becomes renewed. The what and why of soil and its additives, uses for rocks that are not just ornamental, and what a splendid tool a chopstick is. Everyone learns something here, no matter how long you've been doing it. Thanks, Naomi. And thanks to her knowledgeable helpers. We are ready to have show plants.

Look a Book

If your vacation involves searching for the 'Cactus of Texas and Neighboring States' this is the book for you! A field guide with close to 200 color pictures of the prickly gems, mostly in bloom. Del Weniger is the author. I guess there's not too much call for a field guide to Texas cactus, it hasn't been checked out since 1989! Check it out next meeting.



MINI SHOW OCTOBER

October mini show will feature the cacti of Chile. Featured cacti genera are Austrocactus, Browningia, Copiapoa, Corryocactus, Cumulopuntia, Echinopsis, Eriosyce, Eulychnia, Haageocereus, Maihuenia, Maihueniopsis, Neowerdermannia, Oreocereus, and Tunilla. Featured succulents are Aeonium and any succulent from Chile, for example Calandrina spectabilis and Puya.



NEW MEMBERS

Paul & Cheryl Albert, 56 Buena Vista Dr.,
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Succulent Landscape Roadmap

1) Site Evaluation

- a) Determine north, south east and west. Shady and sunny areas may vary greatly in different seasons
- b) Microclimates; where does the prevailing wind blow, thermal slopes, reflected heat etc.. Plan accordingly, take advantage of those special spots.
- c) Noxious weeds; the main three to look out for are Nutgrass, Bermuda grass (summer growers) and Bulb Oxalis (winter grower). These must be eradicated during their growing season before any work can begin. This is very important.

2) Have a plan

- a) What is your objective? Look, style, colors
- b) How will you use this yard? Entertainment, trails, paths, maintenance
- c) Make a budget based on plan. This should include site preparation, hardscape, soil preparation, plants, irrigation, lighting and accents (boulders, rock, gravel, art)
- d) Do your research on your plant choices, how big, special needs, spreading etc. Plants in the wrong place can cause you many headaches down the road. Choose focal plants first then build around them. Taller plants to the back and shorter to the front.

3) Getting started

- a) Demolition and cleanup – Remove all plants, trash and existing hardscape. Remember to save anything that could be used again such as broken concrete for dry stack wall.
- b) Hardscape first - You may have soil displacement at this stage, think ahead and place where you will need it later, don't move it twice or dump it, use it. Remember to place irrigation drainage and other underground utilities before hardscape.
- c) Soil preparation - I recommend 4" inches of compost be spread out and then rototilled in. You may need to use a jackhammer with clay spade if soil is hard to loosen it. Proper soil moisture is very important at this time. Too dry and soil is hard and dusty. Too wet and you make adobe. Once the compost is spread I like to water it in. Water well if soil is dry to start. Wait till the following day to rototill or do any digging. Once soil is rototilled do not wet soil with a hose. Use a sprinkler in the evening to moisten for next day if soil gets to dry.
 - a. Plants and boulders - Finish hard irrigation lines, lighting and power. Do all trenching and backfill. You must start with the largest plants and boulders at this time. They will have the biggest soil displacement plus it is easier when you do not have to worry about tromping on the smaller plants. Plant the midsize plants next as well as smaller boulders. Drip irrigation main lines and low voltage lines are next. Plant remaining plants except flatted plants, these will be planted with top dressing. Run drip emitters to each plant, do a check (run system) then bury.
- d) Grading - Make the shape and contours you want, riverbeds, hills, basins. Start at hardscape edge at lowest point such as sidewalk and work to the back. You want negative space in front so grade should start at 1-2 inches below edge. Move soil to high points

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- b) Watering plants - If you need to water plants before you finish do so by turning the hose to a trickle and set by plant that needs to be watered till well wetted. Never water, spray plants or soil after planting. Water plants the day before planting and one week after.

4) Finishing touches

- a) Topdressing - The color and texture of the gravel you use will affect the outcome so choose carefully. Soil must be covered by mulch, gravel or DG. Once soil is covered you may use a hose to water in. This is for all raised areas.
- b) Dry streams and negative space - Rounded gravel works best, should be different but complimentary.

Stand back and take in all you hard work



Landscaping With Succulents

A how to from the beginning to completion

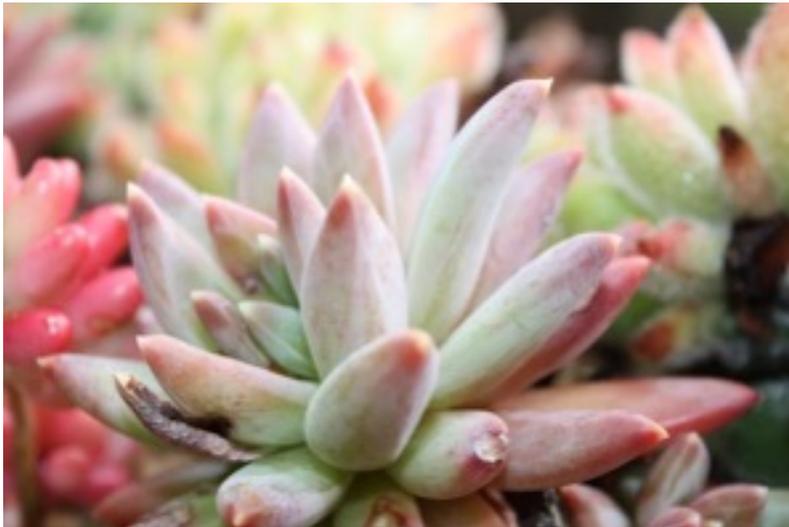
In this talk I will give you my perspective from a landscaper and designer point of view. There are many well-done succulent landscapes. But there are also a large number of poorly executed that are being installed all the time these days. With the many years of my experience to draw on you will be taken through a step-by-step process that will break the whole project down. There are a number of phases that must be followed so that you do not waste money or time. These are:

- 1) Site evaluation
- 2) Landscape design
- 3) Hardscape
- 4) Soil preparation
- 5) Plants and boulders
- 6) Irrigation
- 7) Final design elements

Each phase has many steps and will be detailed in the talk and handout that I will provide.

In the talk I will take you through several jobs from start to finish as well as current pictures. You will see the before, during and finish of each landscape. Each step and stage will be explained using the pictures to go with the narration. I no longer do landscaping but feel that all the knowledge I have should be shared with everyone who is considering redoing their yard to a succulent landscape.

Peter Walkowiak, Horticulturist



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.

Board & Committee Chairs:

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CSSA Rep: Jeff Brooks (831) 207-4021

Newsletter Editor: Sharon Lucchesi (831) 688-8454

Board Meeting 11:00 am, Members welcome to attend.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Membership Chair: Linda McNally (831) 247-4382 or Club President: Stan Verkler (805)