

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 6

On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

President's Message

by Stan Verkler

Hello everyone, and a very Happy New Year to you.

I hope you are all enjoying the nice rainy weather we have been having this week.

I have tried to leave out my hearty succulents to get a good overnight soaking. Then bring them indoors for about 3 or 4 weeks to dry out and not get too cold or soggy; they tend to rot if the drainage is not perfect or if it is too cold at night for a few weeks. Also make sure they have enough bright light during the days.

Please come join us on Sunday, January 17th for our fine lunch and meeting. Steve McCabe from Santa Cruz will be giving us a program on some of the beautiful succulent plants from Mexico and California. Hope you can make it.

Election of Officers for 2016

The December issue of On the Dry Side listed the nominees for positions on the board. During the December meeting, President Verkler introduced the nominees, and invited nominations from the floor. None were made.

The Nominating Committee One later added the nomination of Manson Waters to fill the one remaining position of Director-at-Large, with the assignment as Program Chair.

Members present at the January meeting will have an additional opportunity to make additional nominations from the floor. Then, the members present will be invited to vote for their choice of candidates for the 2016 board.

As provided in the MBACSSS bylaws, these appointments are all for two-year terms.

Save the Date

MBACSS Meets

January 17, 2016

Gathering @ 12:00.
Potluck luncheon @ 12:30.
Program @ 1:00

Board Meets

January 17, 2016

Board meets @ 11:00
Members are always
welcome to attend

Future Meetings

Third Sundays

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post
1960 Freedom Boulevard,
Watsonville, California
Visitors are welcome!

Preview of January's Program

by Steve McCabe

The January program is a slide show titled, "Beauty Lies in the Details: Colors and Shapes of Mexican Succulents" by Julia Etter and Martin Kristen. It is accompanied by beautiful music and was originally presented at the Cactus and Succulent Society of America 2015 Convention. One of the *Dudleya* photos was on the cover of the CSSA Journal and the other photos are similarly stunning.

There are species names below the slides, but no narration as part of the program. I will provide a few comments during the 47-minute program and there will be a question and answer session after the program to address how to grow some of the plants. The photos were taken in Mexico and focus especially on *Agave* and *Echeveria*. There are also several photos of cacti, *Sedum*, *Dudleya* and bromeliads.

Etter and Kristen are originally from Switzerland and Austria, respectively, and have lived in Mexico for about ten years. They travelled extensively in Mexico even before moving there. This is how they described themselves in the convention program: "Coming from another scientific background, their interest in botany with the main focus on Agavaceae and Crassulaceae started in 1989. Since 1997 they are busy doing field research, and since 2009 they are members of the scientific research team of the Institute of Biology of the Mexican university UNAM.

Although their investigative work focuses on the two above mentioned plant families, they are not blind when it comes to nature's beauty and they also take pictures of cacti, "normal" plants, animals, and landscapes. Their photographs and articles have been published in books, journals and on the Internet. More information is available on their websites:"

www.globetrotters.com

www.agavaceae.com

www.crassulaceae.com



Echeveria photo copyright by Stephen McCabe

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Preview of January's Program (Continued from page 2)

For further reading on the plants, I recommend starting with, "The genus Echeveria" by John Pilbeam and "Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers" by Greg Starr. [Ed: These books are available from the MBACSS library.] Pilbeam writes that there is one species of *Echeveria* in the US, many in Mexico, and some in Central America, and into Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, and possibly Argentina. His list of accepted species and subspecies is over 150 names. Starr says there are about 200 species, plus about 47 subspecies and varieties of agaves all of which are found in one or more of the following places: US, Mexico, Central America, parts of South America or on the Caribbean islands.

The program was so well received at the 2015 Convention that Etter and Kristen went out and made CDs of the program to sell over the next couple of days. Attendees are likely to see habitat shots of the same common species that they have grown for years as well as shots of plants they have never seen before and will immediately covet. I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Stephen McCabe, long-time member of the MBACSS

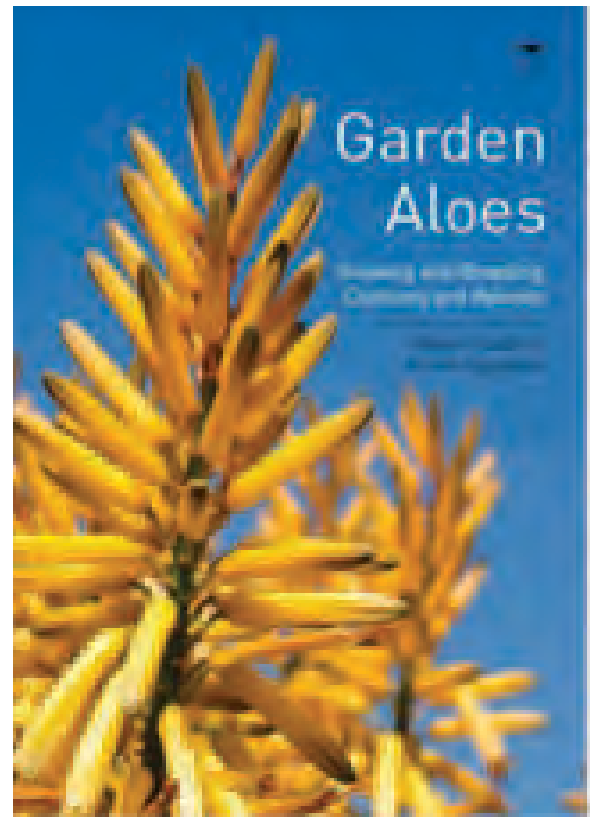
Look at a Book

By Suzy Brooks

Two South African authors give us a book loaded with color photos of hybrid aloes. "Garden Aloes, Growing and Breeding Cultivars and Hybrids" by Gideon Smith and Estrela Figueiredo shows the plants, the flowers, and how to care for them and how to make your own hybrids. Paperback, easy to read, from July 2015.

Amazon.com Review (excerpt) *Garden Aloes* is the first to deal with a range of the most desirable aloe cultivars and hybrids, all of which are exceptionally suitable for planting in gardens. The book is comprehensively illustrated with full-color photographs that show the growth forms and a range of the characters that make these plants some of the most desirable to grow in any garden. Identification of the cultivars is made easy through descriptions and a range of images of the plants, their inflorescences and flowers.

Garden Aloes is a must for anyone interested in gardening, landscaping, natural history, aloes, succulents, and more.



January's Mini-Show

Display your best specimens of plants for Mini-Show bragging rights and preferred access to raffle plants. Here are examples of the featured genera for January (other genera are welcome for Show & Tell):



Succulent: Aeonium



Cactus: Mammillaria

Scenes from the Party

The Plant Auction

The auction provided opportunities for members and guests to bid on a stunning array of plants.

Auctioneer Gary Stubblefield (right), assisted by Jeff Brooks, presents a fine specimen of *Peniocereus maculatus*. This Rare and Endangered Species, a member of the Cactaceae family, is native to Guerrero, Mexico. Salley Ramseck gained this plant for her collection.



The Gift Plants

All paid-up members who attended the Christmas Party were able participate in a raffle of fine plants selected for the occasion by Stan Verkler, Naomi Bloss and Manson Waters, who shopped at Jeff Brooks' and Altman's nurseries. Their good work added good-looking and much-appreciated plants under the members' Christmas trees.



When your number is called to select a plant for your collection, it's not a simple task! Still, receiving a gift is an enjoyable experience, traditionally, and it's even better when you can decide for yourself on your free new plant.



Membership, 2016

This issue of On the Dry Side will be your last unless you have renewed your membership for 2016!

The January meeting is the last chance to pay your dues for 2016 in time to be listed in the 2016 Club Roster.

Members in 2015 should locate the terra green dues notice that was sent in November and mail it with your check, payable to MBACSS, to Ruth Pantry, 37 Young Dr., Salinas, CA 93901.



Admission to the UC Botanical Garden is free for members, and affordable for non-members.

Guided tours typically also have affordable fees that may be discounted for members.

For directions to the Garden, visit the website, <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/>

For tours and other scheduled activities, visit <http://events.berkeley.edu/>

Go the calendar and click on the date(s) when you would like to visit.



On the Dry Side
 Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society
 Visit our Website: <http://mbsucculent.org>

Day Trip Opportunity

To learn about cacti and succulents, visit the Arid House within the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley.

Here's blurb from their website:

“While it's a pleasure to visit all of our greenhouses in the winter, the dry warmth of the Arid House is particularly appealing...the Arid House collection of cacti and succulents constitutes the single largest collection in the Garden...many plants in the Arid House are quite old, dating from early UC expeditions to the Andean foothills of South America...spend some time in the Arid House, enjoying the wonderful shapes, forms and blossoms...”

