

M A Y 2 0 1 6

# On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

## President's Message

by Tom Karwin

Our Spring Show & Sale was a fine occasion. Many thanks to Co-Chairs Lynda Waters and Gary Stubblefield, and all who contributed to making this event an enjoyable and educational opportunity for beginners and advanced collectors of cacti and succulents, and a success for MBACSS. We will have a full and official report of results at our May meeting; meanwhile, see a few photos on page 7 of this issue.

Our program for May features a presentation by Jeff Moore, veteran grower and seller of cacti and succulents, and author of two books, *Under the Spell of Succulents* (2014) and *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation* (2016). See page 2.

We will also have an update of the Projection Screen Study (see p.8), which is a response to some feedback we've received about undersize images.

The board of directors invites and encourages your responses to the Survey of Members that is included as page 6 of this newsletter. The board would like to receive responses from as many members as possible, to ensure an accurate indication of members' interests and priorities. A 100% return would be ideal, and anything above 50% would be very good.

We will distribute this one-page survey at the meeting, and ask members to respond on the spot. We ask members who do not attend the May meeting to complete the survey and either email it to [tom@karwin.com](mailto:tom@karwin.com) or send it via U.S. Postal Service to me at 121 Easterby Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Please do respond to this survey. Every vote helps build a good Society!

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## Save the Date!

### MBACSS Meets May 15, 2016

Gathering @ 12:00  
Potluck lunch @12:30  
Program @ 1:00

### Board Meets May 15, 2016

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

### Future Meetings Third Sundays

Veterans of Foreign  
Wars Post 1716  
1960 Freedom Blvd.  
Watsonville, California  
Visitors are welcome!



## Preview of May's Program

# Under the Spell of Succulents

By Jeff Moore

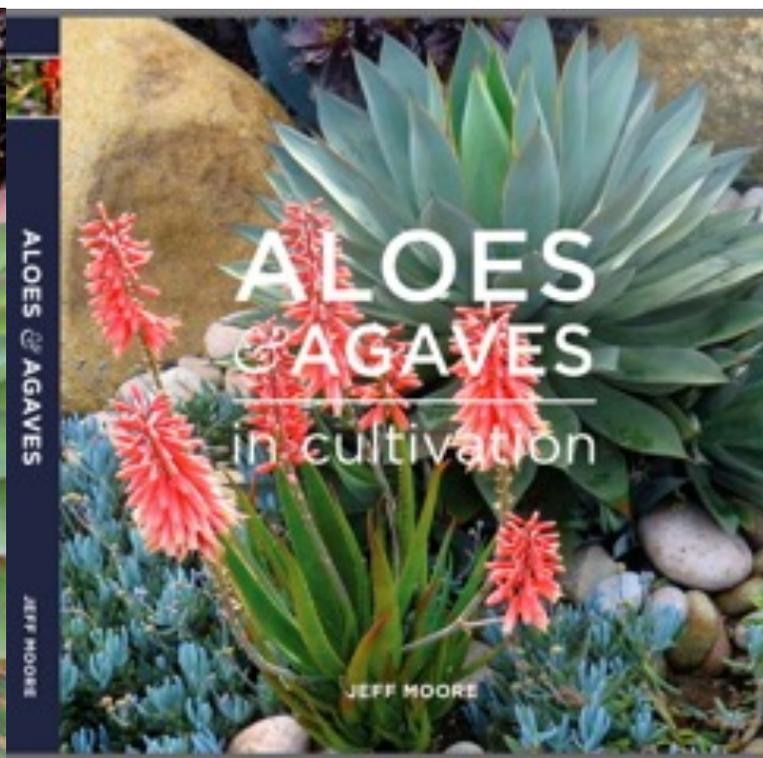
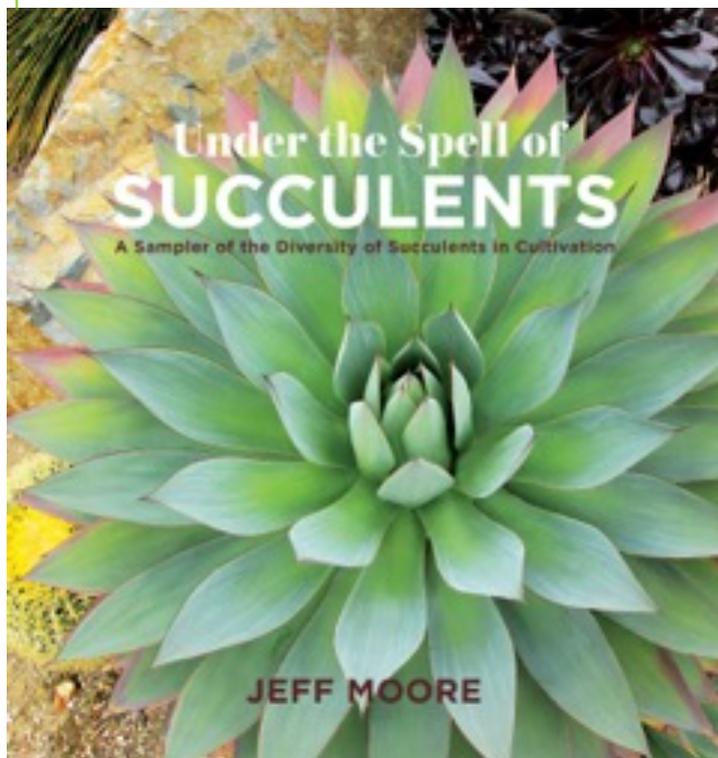
Jeff Moore has owned and operated Solana Succulents in Solana Beach for almost 24 years. He said, "This is a small retail nursery. I try to cater to the collector with rarities, along with all the colorful stuff that is so popular now. My personal favorite group is the aloes. I also love caudiciforms and bonsai succulents, but I'm a generalist and I appreciate it all."

Jeff has created many award-winning gardens at the annual San Diego County Fair and Home Shows, and gained recognition for his "undersea" succulent gardens; he will show how he used succulent plants to create such thematic gardens and other unique landscapes.

His first book, *Under the Spell of Succulents*, shows how we engage with our obsession with these unusual plants as growers and collectors, and use them in landscapes and containers.

Here is Jeff's description of his presentation to our Society. "My talk will follow the flow of *Under the Spell of Succulents*, which is an overview of succulents in cultivation. I'll talk about growers, collectors, landscaping, container and vertical gardening, crests, variegates, and also the main genera of plants we work with: aloes, agaves, cacti, euphorbias, on and on. I think you'll enjoy the images and I keep it entertaining, with some stories from the nursery and the trade."

Jeff also will describe how, as a first-time author, he worked through the book-making process. He will sell and sign copies of *Under the Spell of Succulents* and offer a preview of his upcoming book on aloes and agaves. He said, "I'm real proud of *Aloes & Agaves in Cultivation*, but it won't be available for sale until June. I'll bring a couple of advance copies and show them around."



## April's Mini-Show Results

By Jeff Brooks

April's Mini-Show did not happen because of the unexpected and late need to move our general meeting from the VFW hall. Naomi Bloss graciously invited our group to meet at her home, and Stan Verkler, Jeff Brooks, Gary Stubblefield and others arranged Naomi's patio to accommodate everyone comfortably. Some attendees wanted an opportunity to tour Naomi's garden and greenhouses, and she was receptive to the idea. Stay tuned!

## May's Mini-Show

By Jeff Brooks

### Succulents

Crassula

**Crassula** is a genus of succulent plants containing about 1,480 accepted species, including the popular jade plant (*Crassula ovata*). They are native to many parts of the globe, but cultivated varieties originate almost exclusively from species from the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Crassulas are members of the Crassulaceae family, also known as the stonecrop family, which includes 1,200–1,500 species and 34 genera.

Most cultivated forms will tolerate some frost, but extremes of cold or heat will cause them to lose foliage and die.

The name crassula comes from the Latin, meaning thick, referring to the thickening of the succulent leaves.

The plant pictured below is not the very familiar *C. ovata*, but *C. falcata*, commonly called Airplane Plant or Propeller Plant. It is native to South Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

The image is from Wikipedia.



### Cacti

Echinocereus, Parodia (Notocactus)

**Echinocereus** is a genus of small to medium-sized cylindrical cacti from the southern United States and Mexico. The genus (Cactaceae family) includes about 70 species; usually, these plants have large flowers and edible fruits. *E. coccineus* (below) has the common name, Scarlet Hedgehog Cactus. This image is from Arizona State U. (<http://www.public.asu.edu/~camartin/plants/lpdatasucculent.htm>)

**Parodia**. A genus of flowering plants, native to the uplands of Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. This genus (also in the Cactaceae family) has about 50 species, many of which have been transferred from *Eriocactus*, *Notocactus* and *Wigginsia*. They range from small, columnar globose cacti to one meter tall (three feet).

All *Parodia* are deeply ribbed and spiny, with single flowers at or near the crown. Some species produce **offsets** at the base. They are popular in cultivation, but must be grown indoors where temperatures fall below 10 °C (50 °F).

All plant descriptions on this page are based on entries on Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org>), with light editing.



# MBACSS Calendar for 2016

The Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society's annual calendar is presented here as a guide for members who wish to plan their participation. For example, the calendar should be helpful in preparing mini-show entries or joining in the spring and fall shows, as seller, buyer or volunteer.

This calendar includes all of 2016, so it also serves to recall past activities.

If members find this calendar useful, it will be in every issue of *On the Dry Side*, with updates of scheduled speakers (as may be necessary) and changes from "To be announced" to newly arranged programs.

Thanks to Jeff Brooks for the mini-shows and to Manson Waters for the programs.

MONTH	PROGRAM	CACTUS MINI-SHOW	SUCCULENT MINI-SHOW
1/17	Colors and Shapes of Mexican Succulents (Steve McCabe narrated the slide show)	Mammillaria	Aeonium
2/21	Steve McCabe: Growing and Conserving Rare Succulents: Threats to Dudleyas	Baja California: Cochemiea, Ferocactus, Myrtillocactus, Pachycereus, and Stenocereus	Dudleya
3/20	Rob Skillin: Cacti of the Central Andean Cordillera	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum	Aloes in bloom
4/2-3	San Jose Cactus & Succulent Society, Show & Sale, Sunnyvale, CA		
4/17	Naomi Bloss: Planting, Growing and Showing Succulents	Rebutia, (including Sulcorebutia) Echinopsis (Lobivia)	Mesems, e.g., Lithops, Conophyllum, Cheiridopsis. Pleiospilos
4/23-24	Monterey Bay Cactus & Succulent Society—Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Batista, CA (Set-up on 4/22)		
4/23-24	Huntington Botanical Gardens—42nd Annual Spring Plant Sale, San Marino, CA (members only 4/23)		
5/14	Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society —Annual Plant Sale, Santa Barbara, CA		
5/15	Jeff Moore: Under the Spell of Succulents	Echinocereus, Parodia (Notocactus)	Crassula
5/28-29	Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society—Annual Show & Sale, San Luis Obispo. CA		
6/4-5	Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society—Summer Show & Sale, Clovis, CA		
6/19	Peter Wachowiak Landscaping with Succulents	Mammillaria, Escobaria	Sedum, Sempervivum, Jovibarba
7/1-3	Cactus & Succulent Society of America—51th Annual Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino		
7/17	Country Store	No mini-show	No mini-show
8/21	TBA	Ferocactus, Blossfeldia	Euphorbia, Stapelia
9/18	TBA	Coryphanha, Tephrocactus	Senecio
10/1-2	Monterey Bay Cactus & Succulent Society—Fall Show & Sale, San Juan Batista, CA (Set-up on 9/30)		
10/16	TBA	Copiapoa, Cephalocereus	AGAVACEAE, including Agave, Yucca. Beschorneria, Fucaee, Manfreda, Mangave (Agave x Manfreda)
11/20	TBA	Opuntia, Rhipsalis, Schlumberger.	Any caudiciform or pachycaul succulent
12/18	Christmas Party	No mini-show	No mini-show

## Look at a Book

By Suzie Brooks

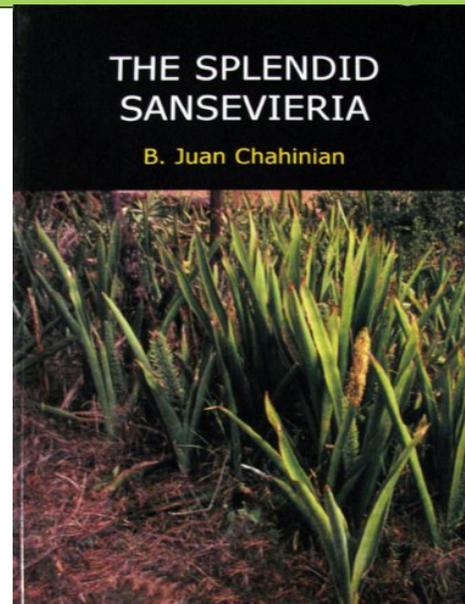
Not a new book but it hasn't ever been checked out, *The Splendid Sansevieria—An Account of the Species* (2005), by Juan Chahinian is loaded with color pictures. Friendly enough for the beginner and detailed for the collector, it's a good way to identify those "snake plants" you've got tucked away in a corner. The book covers cultivation and propagation. It's a soft back and lightweight publication, a hidden gem in our library.

From Chuck Everson Bookseller:

"Written by the man considered to be the world's expert on the subject, this first major book [about this genus that] deals with virtually all the known [species of] sansevieria available today.

"Chapters include: cultivation (7 pages), propagation (5 pages), a key to the species (6 pages), and a list of published sansevierias including botanical varieties (5 pages). The bulk of the book consists of individual descriptions (1 per page, with a color photo for each)."

Amazon Customer Review: "Pictures are excellent as is the written descriptions. Excellent resource book. Able to identify unique species not generally found in



## Review of April's Program

By Suzie Brooks

(Ed: Naomi Bloss discussed and demonstrated best practices for the care and maintenance of cacti and succulents, and advised on staging and displaying plants for shows.)

It's pretty exciting to enter a plant in a show. Well chosen, it can't embarrass you. It will be examined and admired, and could win you a ribbon. And it might inspire someone to enter the wonderful world of cactus and succulents.

Don't let the fact that your well-grown, beautiful plant is not in a handmade ceramic pot deter you from entering it in a show. Like Marilyn Monroe in burlap, the real thing will be a knockout no matter what.

Use an appropriate top dressing. Rocks are nice but leave the gnomes and sparklies at home. Not many judges have enthusiasm for garden art.

Double check that there are no spider webs, scale, or aphids and scrape off any residue from a label stuck to the side.

Don't worry about the name of the plant. There will be help to get it close and in the right category.

Thank you, Naomi, for a most gracious afternoon at your comfortable home and the basics of entering plants in a show.



Following Naomi's guidance, Sarah Martin repotted a plant in a slightly larger container, using a mix with about 50% pumice, for good drainage. Naomi recommended clearly that you should not water a repotted plant until after it has settled in its new container for several days. This purpose of this delay is to minimize development of fungus on the roots.

# Survey of Members

By the Board of Directors

The MBACSS Board of Directors invites your ideas and preferences for future directions.

During our general meeting in May, we will distribute this survey for members to complete.

If you will not attend that meeting, email your responses by May 31<sup>st</sup> to [tom@karwin.com](mailto:tom@karwin.com), or by postal mail to 121 Easterby Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Please indicate your interest in each of these activities. Mark one option on each line.

MEETING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES	Rating				
	Low				High
Country Store					
Demonstrations					
Holiday Party					
Library Books					
Mini-Show					
Narrated Slide Shows					
On the Dry Side newsletter					
Raffle					
Your Suggestions (describe below)					

Your Comments & Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL EVENTS & OUTINGS	Rating				
	Low				High
Day Trips (Private Car)					
Fall Show & Sale					
Overnight Trips (Private Car)					
Overnight Trips (Tour Bus)					
Spring Show & Sale					
Visits to Private Gardens					
Visits to Public Gardens or Nurseries					
Your Suggestions (describe below)					

Your Comments & Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

# Spring Show and Sale



# Minutes of MBACSS Board Meeting, April 2016

By Stan Verkler

**Present:** Naomi Bloss, Jeff Brooks, Tom Karwin, Gary Stubblefield, Stan Verkler

**Absent:** Steve McCabe, Linda McNally, Ruth Pantry, Manson Waters

**Guest:** David Ambriz, Commander of VFW Freedom Post 1716

**Treasurer's Report:** Ruth Pantry emailed a financial report of bank and petty cash balances.

**Spring Show & Sale.** Gary Stubblefield reported that the Show is on schedule, tables are on order and will be delivered on Friday, about 12:00 noon.

Tom Karwin presented a 8.5" x 11" flyer for the Spring Show & Sale, and recommended hiring Clutch Couriers to print and distribute 100 copies within Santa Cruz County, The cost for this service would be about \$100. The board approved this expenses, which is within approved guidelines for publicity, if the vendor could do the work in a timely way.

**Educational Budget.** The Society's 2015 budget allocation for education has not been committed. Naomi Bloss suggested a donation to CSSA. Stan Verkler suggested funding programs with high-profile speakers. Another possible use of the allocation for education would be to acquire and install a larger screen for projected presentations. VFW Post Commander, who attended the meeting briefly, offered to have the Post share the cost to install a ceiling projection screen. Gary Stubblefield asked if we could poll members as to what they desire or like in our program. Tom Karwin will draft a survey of members to invite their input.

**Library.** Chuck Hanson is closing his book-selling business, Rainbow Gardens Bookshop, and offering good prices for books.

**Meeting Arrangements.** Due to a communication mix-up, the VFW was not aware of plans for our general meeting in May (we had often skipped the May meeting previously because it conflicts with the Spring Show & Sale) and scheduled another group to meet in the hall on this day. Naomi offered to host the meeting at her home, and the board agreed to this alternative arrangement.

**Adjournment** at approximately 12:00 noon.

submitted by Stan Verkler

## Projection Screen Study – Early Progress

By Tom Karwin

For the past several months, many of the Society's programs have featured projections of digital images, recently presented by cactus and succulent collectors who have traveled to selected locations in southern California, Mexico and Chile. For these programs, we have used a portable screen that must be carried to our meetings, set up, taken down, taken away and stored until then next need. Generally, a great hassle! In addition, some members have expressed interest in larger images.

The board envisions a remotely controlled projection screen, mounted on the ceiling above the platform on the south end of the VFW hall, near an existing row of fluorescent lights (for easy access to electrical power). Such a screen could display larger images and would be much more convenient than a portable screen.

Before looking into the cost of acquiring and installing such a screen, we are looking into several design considerations, particularly the size, shape and height of the projection surface. The ideal size of an image depends on the individual viewer's preference, but generally people prefer to view from a location about 1.5 to 2.0 times the width of the image. So, for a 10-foot image, the best seating area would be 15 to 20 feet from the screen. Seats that are closer to the screen or farther away also would be acceptable to many viewers.

Another consideration is possible interest of the Society, the VFW or other users of the hall, in showing wide-format films. Such films are displayed best on a wide screen, in comparison to digital slides or television programs.

The VFW hall is rather long, so a really large screen might be a good choice for a large viewing audience, but a large but dim image would be a disappointment. We should consider the brightness of the projector's output!

The board will discuss these design matters at its May meeting. Members are welcome to join the talk.

# Officers and Chairpersons, 2016

Thanks to all who serve!

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Tom Karwin  
 VICE PRESIDENT — Naomi Bloss  
 SECRETARY — Stan Verkler  
 TREASURER — Ruth Pantry  
 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR — Linda McNally  
 AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE — Jeff Brooks  
 DIRECTORS-AT -LARGE  
     — Gary Stubblefield  
     — Manson Waters  
     — (Vacant)  
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT — Stan Verkler

## CHAIRPERSONS

LIBRARIAN — Suzy Brooks  
 MINI-SHOW — Jeff Brooks  
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR— Tom Karwin  
 PROGRAMS — Manson Waters  
 PUBLICITY — Sharon Lucchesi  
 RAFFLES — Gary Stubblefield  
 Roster — Ruth Pantry  
 SALE — Gary Stubblefield & Lynda Waters  
 SHOW—Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks  
 WEBMASTER — Anita Crawley

# Welcome to New Members

People Who Have Joined Recently

Patricia Brooks  
 Virginia Chavira  
 Barbara Hardy  
 Carol Marchbank, Santa Cruz  
 Stella Perea. Salinas

We are pleased to welcome these new members to the MBACSS. There is a good chance that each is a skilled gardener, and possibly already a collector of cacti and succulents. We will all learn more about them during our meetings and other activities.

All members can invite their friends and neighbors to become members of the MBACSS, join in learning about the fascinating world of cacti and succulents, and enjoy the company of this society of avid and creative gardeners.



## On the Dry Side

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