

On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

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President's Message

It appears that the Live Oak Grange will be our meeting place for the foreseeable future, at least until someone comes up with a better place with a comparable price.

The Grange hall is a good size for our group. It has a projection screen and a good sound system in place and available for our use (no charge!), and the unique tables are easy to set up (with practice). The board appreciates that the members are pitching in to set-up chairs.

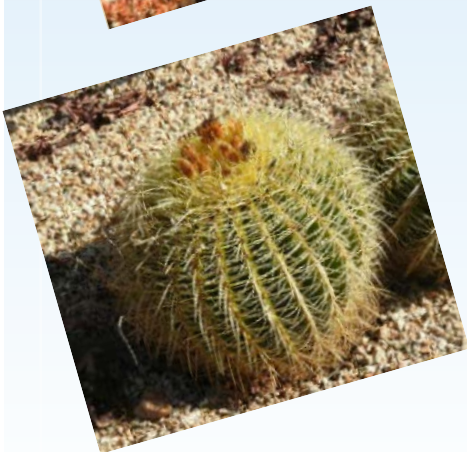
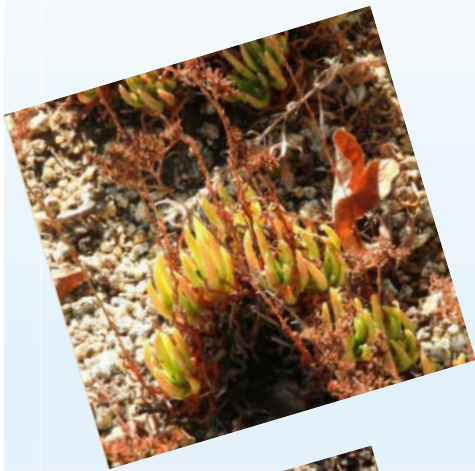
The acoustics are pretty good in helping our speakers to be heard. The board plans to try meeting in the kitchen, so it can follow the discussion easier during the members' social time.

When parking in the lot, do not park in the area in the back of the lot that is marked with white lines! We need to keep the aisles open for safe movement of cars. We would rather not have to recruit a parking supervisor!

The latest news is that our society has been invited informally to co-host the CSSA's annual convention in 2019, in San Luis Obispo. That seems a long way off, but plans need to be made firm in a few months. During our February meeting, we'll share what we have learned about co-hosting, and invite your comments and expressions of interest.

Final note: Our plan has been to present this newsletter in a new graphic design each quarter. We intended to change from the fall template to the winter template with the January issue, but we didn't do it! Some members enjoyed the colors of the fall template, so it wasn't a big deal. This issue has the winter template, a month late.

The photos on this page show plants from the UCSC Arboretum's Succulent Collection: *Dudleya viscida* (Sticky Liveforever) (above) and *Echinocactus grusonii* (Golden Barrel Cactus) (below). At our February meeting, we'll get an update on ideas for the future development of the Succulent Collection.



Save the Date

MBACSS Meets

February 19, 2017

Gathering @ 12:00

Potluck @ 12:30

Program @ 1:00

Board Meets

February 19, 2017

Board @ 11:00

Members always

welcome to attend.

Future Meetings

Third Sundays

Live Oak Grange

1900 17th Avenue

Santa Cruz, CA

Visitors are welcome!

Minutes of the Board Meeting, January 2017

Board Members in Attendance: Naomi Bloss, Jeff Brooks, Tom Karwin, Linda McNally, Ruth Pantry, Gary Stubblefield, Stan Verkler, Manson Waters.

Guests: Linda Waters, Sale Chairperson

Approval of Minutes: The board approved the minutes of the December meeting as published.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Pantry present the current financial report.

CSSA Report: Jeff Brooks announced that Annual Show & Sale of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America will be on July 1-3, 2017, at the Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA.

Program: Manson Waters reported that our speaker in February is Martin Quigley, Executive Director of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretums. The March speaker will be Brian Kimble, Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek.

OLD BUSINESS

Portable Lighting: Stan Verkler purchased a string of LED lights for illuminating plants, as by the board. Gary Stubblefield will develop a way to support the light string over the Mini-Show, for evaluation for uses during future Mini-Shows and Show & Sale occasions.

Projection Screen: The plan to purchase a large projection screen for the VFW hall was suspended, given the move to the Live Oak Grange, which already has a mounted screen.

Sound Amplification: The Live Oak Grange has a sound amplification system of good quality already installed and available for our use.

Revision of Show Rules: Naomi Bloss indicated that the Show Rules Committee has discussed modifications of a few categories. She will soon recommend changes for board discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Third Show & Sale: The board discussed a possible third show & sale, emphasizing displays of larger plants, limited sales of such larger plants, and educational talks/demonstrations for the public. Such an event might be scheduled for November or December of 2017. Tom Karwin will inquire into the availability and cost of space the Museum of Art & History.

Adjournment: 12:00 p.m.

The Bold Dry Garden



The Bold Dry Garden: Lessons from the Ruth Bancroft Garden

By Johanna Silver, Photographs by Marion Brenner (Timber Press, 2016)

This is a beautiful book that presents one of California's (and the nation's) most treasured gardens. Several MBACSS members know and appreciate Ruth Bancroft's garden, and more should become students of Ruth's dedicated efforts to collect and learn about succulent plants.

This extraordinary garden in Walnut Creek is close enough to the Monterey Bay area for a one-day excursion, and detailed enough for a series of visits.

The New York Times has this to say about The Bold Dry Garden:

"Will quench your thirst for inspiration ... Elegant photographs ably capture the architectural drama of its bold forms and eccentric groupings."

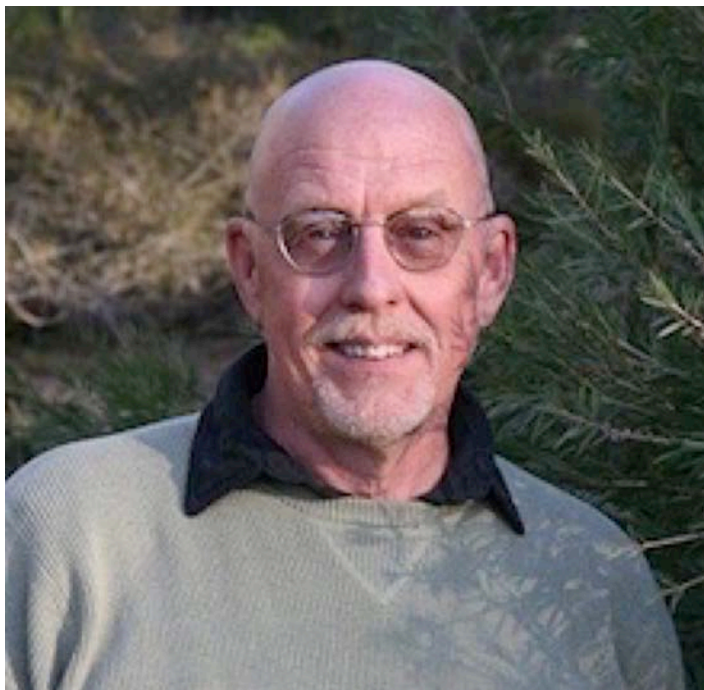
The garden's long-time curator, Brian Kimble, will speak about Madagascar's succulent plants at the MBACSS in March, so you might want to enjoy this book before then to be prepared to ask him questions about this garden.

This would be a good addition to the MBACSS Library!

Preview of February's Program

Future Fantasy: The succulent collection at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum

by Martin Quigley



UCSC's Succulent Collection is the largest public display of cacti and succulents in the Monterey Bay area. The only rival that comes near is the Arizona Garden at the Naval Post-graduate School in Monterey, but that historic installation is open to the public only on infrequent occasions.

The Succulent Collection focuses on succulents from the coastal areas of Mexico and California. Examples of beautiful and interesting cactus and succulents are exhibited in this garden. Many of the plants are from the collections of Victor Reiter, noted for his work as a plant breeder.

Director Quigley recently invited highly qualified people from the Monterey Bay area and significant gardens in California to review the Arboretum's Succulent Collection and offer ideas for future development of the collection. For his talk, he will share with MBACSS members some of the ideas that he has heard and his own thoughts about developing this part of the Arboretum and improving it for the Arboretum's visitors.

The Arboretum's California, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand Collection also include many succulent plants, making the Arboretum a "must-visit" spot for all gardeners with an interest in succulent plants.

The Arboretum is open from 9:00 to 5:00 every day except July 4, November 24, December 25-26 & 30-31, and January 1-6. Admission is \$5.00 (\$2.00 for children, free to Arboretum Friends and volunteers.)

Norrie's Gift and Garden Shop, offering plants, books & gifts, is open from 10-4:30. Every day that the Arboretum is open.

Martin Quigley is the executive director of the Arboretum at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He came to UCSC in 2015 from the University of Denver, where he was director of the Chester M. Alter Arboretum, and professor of botany (Edna Biggs Kurtz Endowed Chair in Botany).

He is the author or co-author numerous books, book chapters, and journal articles on aspects of horticulture, as well as uncounted papers related to his work.

Previous Positions

- Director of Landscape and Natural Resources, University of Central Florida
- Director of the University of Central Florida Arboretum, and Associate Professor of Biology
- Associate Professor of Urban Landscape Ecology, The Ohio State University
- Associate Professor of Plant Community Ecology, Eastern Illinois University

Earlier, he worked as an environmental assessor, landscape architect, public parks planner, ecologist landscape architect, and environmental planner.

Education

- Ph.D., Botany, Louisiana State University
- Studies at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
- MLA (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies), Utah State University
- B.A. cum laude, English & Comparative Literature, Cornell University
- Studies at Deep Springs College, CA



MBACSS Calendar for 2017

MONTH	PROGRAM	CACTUS MINI-SHOW	SUCCULENT MINI-SHOW
→1/15	Jeff Moore's New Book <i>Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation</i>	Any columnar cactus must be 12" or taller	Aeonium
2/19	Martin Quigley: Future Fantasy: The succulent collection at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum	Mammillaria, Escobaria	Euphorbia
3/19	Brian Kemble: Madagascar	Rebutia (inc. Sulcorebutia), Echinopsis (Lobivia)	Aloe
4/16	TBA	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum	Haworthia
5/20-21	MBACSS Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Batista		
6/18	TBA	Ferocactus, Blossfeldia	Kalanchoe
7/16	TBA	Melocactus	Stapelia
8/20	Country Store	No Mini-Show	
9/17	TBA	Rhipsalis	Adenium, Pachypodium
10/15	TBA	Echinocereus, Parodia	Echeveria
TBA	MBACSS Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Batista		
11/19	TBA	Opuntia, Opuntiads	Gasteria
12/17	Christmas Party	No Mini-Show	
CSS EVENTS ELSEWHERE IN CALIFORNIA (AND BEYOND)			
1/14	Desert Forum, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA		
4/23	Spring Plant Sale, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA		
5/27-28	Spring Plant Show & Sale, Central Coast CSS, San Luis Obispo, CA		
6/TBA	Spring Plant Show & Sale, San Francisco CSS, San Francisco		
6/11	Spring Plant Show & Sale, Los Angeles CSS, Encino, CA		
6/30 – 7/3	CSSA Annual Show & Sale @ Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA		
7/26-30	CSSA 37 th Biennial Convention, Tempe, AZ		
8/12-13	32 nd Annual Intercity Show & Sale @ Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA		
9/2	Succulent Symposium, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA		

Note: This calendar lists events for which information is available as of the date of publication of *On the Dry Side*. Generally, the calendar emphasizes shows & sales in central and northern California, major events in southern California, and CSSA events.



February's Mini-Show Plants

Selections by Jeff Brooks, Information by Wikipedia.com & Wikimedia Commons

Cactaceae

Mammillaria, Escobaria

Mammillaria is one of the largest genus in the cactus family (Cactaceae), with currently 200 known species and varieties recognized. Most of the mammillarias are native to Mexico, but some come from the southwest United States, the Caribbean, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala and Honduras. The common name "pincushion cactus" refers to this and the closely related genus Escobaria.

The first species of this genus was described by Carl Linnaeus as *Cactus mammillaris* in 1753, deriving its name from Latin *mammilla*, "nipple", referring to the tubercles that are among the distinctive features of the genus.

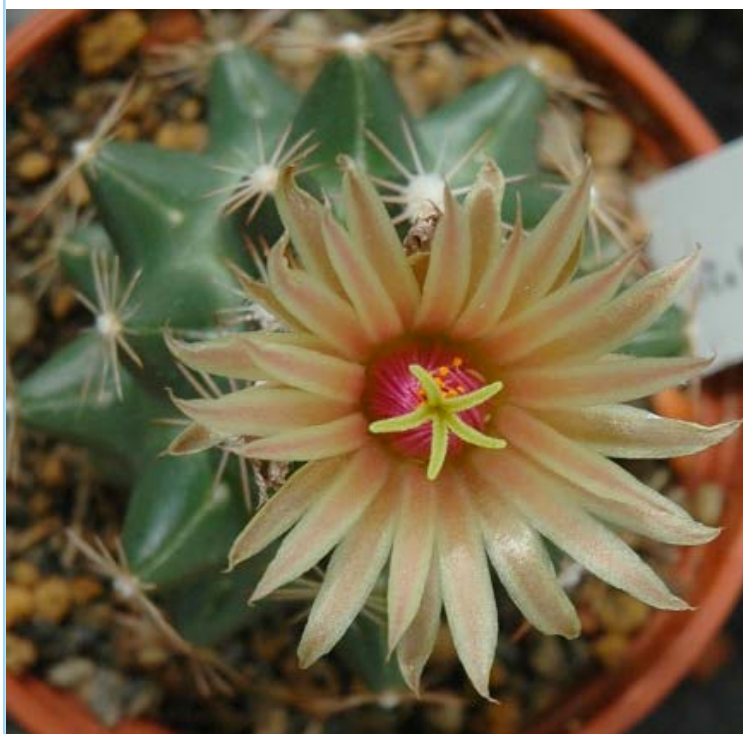
In 1812, the cactus specialist Adrian Haworth described the genus *Mammillaria* to contain this and related species.

Numerous species are commonly known as globe cactus, nipple cactus, fishhook cactus or pincushion cactus. Such terms may also be used for related taxa, notably *Escobaria*.

Escobaria (pincushion cactus or foxtail cactus) is a genus of low-growing cacti that range from the southernmost parts of central and western Canada through northern Mexico, with one species in Cuba. The genus comprises about 23 species.

The stems of *Escobaria* range from globose to cylindrical, and lack nectar-secreting glands; while ribs are absent tubercles are present, tending to become corky and deciduous as they age. The flowers usually appear in spring and may have a variety of colors, while the fruits are almost always red.

Pictured: *E. missouriensis* var. *asperispin*



Succulents

Euphorbia

Euphorbia is a very large and diverse genus of flowering plants, in the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae).

"Euphorbia" is sometimes used in ordinary English to collectively refer to all members of Euphorbiaceae (in deference to the genus), not just to members of the genus.

Some euphorbias are commercially widely available, such as poinsettias at Christmas. Some are commonly cultivated as ornamentals, or collected and highly valued for the aesthetic appearance of their unique floral structures, such as the crown of thorns plant. Euphorbias from the deserts of Southern Africa and Madagascar have evolved physical characteristics and forms similar to cacti of North and South America, so they (along with various other kinds of plants) are often incorrectly referred to as "cacti." Some are used as ornamentals in landscaping, because of beautiful or striking overall forms, and drought and heat tolerance.

Euphorbias range from tiny annual plants to large and long-lived trees. The genus has over or about 2,000 members, making it one of the largest genera of flowering plants. It also has one of the largest ranges of chromosome counts, along with *Rumex* and *Senecio*. *Euphorbia antiquorum* is the type species for the genus *Euphorbia*. It was first described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753 in *Species Plantarum*.

The plants share the feature of poisonous, milky, white, latex-like sap, and unusual and unique floral structures.

Pictured: *E. oblongata*



January's Mini-Show Results

Reported by Jeff Brooks, Photos by Tom Karwin

Dish Garden

First Place—Dot Hurley

Novice Succulent

First Place—Aeonium 'Kiwi' Dot Hurley

Novice Cactus

No entries

Intermediate Succulent:

First Place—Aeonium 'Waterlily' Suzy Brooks

Intermediate Cactus

No entries

Advanced Succulent

First Place—Aeonium 'Mardi Gras' Ellen Stubblefield

Second Place—Aeonium 'Emerald Ice' Gary Stubblefield

Third Place—Aeonium 'Sunburst' Ellen Stubblefield



Advanced Cactus:

- First Place—Espostoa lanata
- Second Place—Vatricania guentheri
- Third Place—Espostoa lanata

Note

Plant names and photos of the winning entries are incomplete, so this report is incomplete. Sorry!

Online Journals...Free!



England's Cactus Explorers Club publishes *The Cactus Explorer* about three times each year "when sufficient material is available." The most recent issue, dated December 2016, includes sixty-two pages of content, with material suitable for laypersons (like most of us).

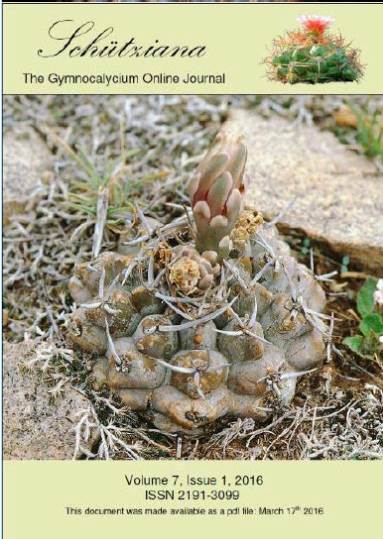
The December issue (pictured) includes these articles:

- "Juab and Utah County, Utah Throughout the Year 2015," by Petr Šimon
- "Where Lizards Dare: An Excursion to Barranco Rambla de Ruiz (Tenerife)," by Marco Cristini
- "Travel with the Cactus Expert," by Zlatko Janeba (This article is #16 in a series of articles about the author's travels in the American south.

This digital publication complements *Bradleya*, the more scientifically oriented yearbook of the British Cactus and Succulent Society, those with deep knowledge of this field.

Current and past issues of *The Cactus Explorer* are available as .pdf files for free download. Visit www.cactusexplorers.org.uk.

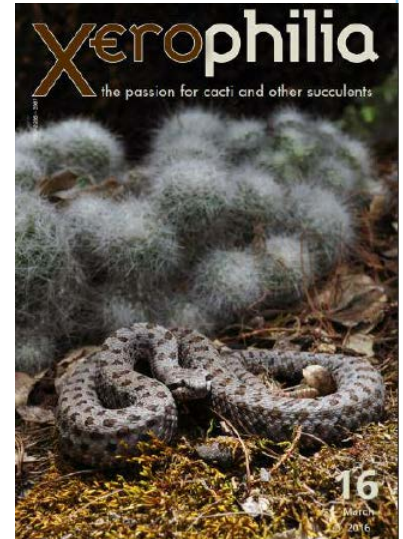
Here's a sampling of other free "e-journals," with their web addresses.



Schutziana
(in English)
www.schutziana.org



Bulletin of S.L.C.C.
(in Spanish)
www.ibiologia.unam.mx/slccs/www/boletin.htm



Xerophilia
xerophilia.ro

International Rock Gardener is published online by the Scottish Rock Gardening Club. While not focused on cacti and succulents, this e-journal often includes articles and photographs of plants that may be of interest to MBACSS members (especially those who regard geophytes as succulents).
www.srgc.net



Officers and Chairpersons, 2016

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
 — Sharon Lucchesi
 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

Member Update

We have recently received the 2017 roster of MBACSS members, thanks to Treasurer Ruth Pantry and Membership Chair Linda McNally. It's good to see the continuation of our long-term members and to welcome each year's new members.

Inevitably, a few members not renew their membership for a variety of reasons. We are pleased to have had their company until now, and we hope to have them re-join in the future.

Each year, we must update our email records to ensure that it includes all current paid-up members. We have not yet completed that annual task, so members who have not renewed will still receive the February issue of *On the Dry Side*. We'll get that done in time for the March newsletter distribution. (We have strived to include new members!)

If you have not renewed your membership by early March, this is the last issue of *On the Dry Side* that will be sent to you!

We are anticipating a full schedule of activities for 2017, as we settle in to our new meeting place and try out a few new directions. Your ideas are always needed and welcome!

Ill see you at the meeting!

On the Dry Side

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