



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Number 6

Sunday, June 11—South Coast Botanical Gardens

June, 2006

12:30 P.M.—Board Meeting

1:30 P.M.—General Meeting

Gary Duke will lead a seed planting party again this year. This will be a hands-on seed planting demonstration. Please bring the seedlings from previous years (or bring an older plant you have grown from seed) so we can discuss successes and failures. Bring any seed you have collected this year to trade with your friends. We had quite a few contributed seeds last year. Gary will also furnish (same as last year):

- 2"x2" square black pots (4 pots per member or you can bring your own)
- cactus potting mix from Home Depot (You are also welcome to bring your own sterilized mix if you wish)
- 10"x12"x2" aluminum trays for putting soil in
- plastic sandwich bags
- sand blasting grit for topping
- and labels

Gary has obtained the following seeds from Germany to share:

- Astrophytum crassispinoides (100 seeds)
 - Hildewinteria colademonis (100 seeds)(just discovered a few years ago and I haven't seen it in the states yet)
 - Pyrrhocactus garaventei(100 seeds)
- The following seeds will be auctioned:
- Euphorbia confinalis (10 seeds)
 - Micranthocereus densiflorus (20 seeds)
 - Weingartia sp HS 164 with red blooms (20 seeds)
 - Echinocereus hybrid from Jarilla mtns w bright orange flowers (15 seeds)

MEMBERSHIP: Our thanks to LAUREL WOODLEY for serving as photographer at the the April Show and Sale. Her name was omitted from the list of credits in the May newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS: Duff, Mr. and Mrs. , 25829 Vidna Ave., #5, Lomita, CA 90717 (310)326-2206

Lindsey, V., 2008 Kingswinford Drive, N. Las Vegas, NV 89032. (800)384-4559

Thompson, Eunice, P.O. Box 4089, Bellflower, CA 90707 (562)920-2437
(562)419-9646

Please extend a hearty welcome to the new members!

To all our valued Arid Lands customers,

I am pleased to announce a change in ownership of Arid Lands Greenhouses. Bob Webb and Toni Yocum, long-time customers of Arid Lands from Tucson, Arizona, have purchased the Tucson facility and are open for business. Bob and Toni have traveled in Oman, Yemen (Socotra), Kenya, Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa in search of succulent plants. Bob also works in Baja California and the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. They have collected succulent plants for more than 20 years and have a large private collection, which includes many rare plants. Bob is particularly interested in the genera Aloe, Gasteria, Cissus, Sansevieria, and geophytic Ascleps. Toni has done landscaping with cacti and succulents for more than 25 years and knows which plants can withstand frost in Tucson. Please join me in welcoming Bob and Toni in their new endeavor. The web site is now open again so check it out at <http://www.aridlands.com>

Thanks for all your support through the last 28 years. Iâ?Tll miss you!

Chuck Hanson

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PLANTS OF THE MONTH—2006



	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
June	Copiapoa	Senecio and Othonna
July	Rebutia/ Sucrentia	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
September	Cacti of Argentina	Adenium & Plumeria
October	-----Break-----	
November	Miniatures (3 inch max)	Miniatures (3 inch max)
December	-----Christmas Party-----	

***CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS
FOR 2006***

- JUNE 10th** GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4 SUN. 9 TO 4 —SAT. SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 3 & 4th** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY -SHOW AND SALE BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.-#619-477-4779
- JUNE 30th-
July 2nd** CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE -HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES ON THE 1ST THRU THE 3RD THE SHOW OPENS ON THE 2ND TO THE PUBLIC
- JUNE ?** LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA. SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- AUG. 19 & 20** 21st ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH AT 626-798-2430 or GENE OSTER AT 818-998-9306
- SEPT. 2** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 24** LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGUEZ ADOBE 18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 14 & 15** SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE--- LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.

PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES

- * A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- * There will be two classes of entrants: novice and advanced.
- * Intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months; beginners, for three months.
- * Entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 2 points for third place, and 1 point for third showing a plant that does not place.
- * There may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.
- * Entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of recordkeeping
- * At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders, regardless of class.



CACTUS ADVANCED	MAY	TOTALS	CACTUS NOVICE	MAY	TOTALS
Duke	11	23	Capaldo		24
Fletcher	2	31	Ponce		5

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED			SUCCULENTS NOVICE		
Duke	3	7	Capaldo		24
Fletcher	7	27	Hulett	12	20
Gardner		5	la Forest		6
Hanna	8	27	Ponce		12
LaForest		1	Ross		5

The Virtual Gardener Buying Plants On-Line

By Dale La Forest

What do you do when you want a specific plant and can't find it at the many C&SS shows/sales events or nurseries here in the Southland? Or perhaps you are unwilling to waste a day and a tank of gas driving a long distance. If you haven't used your computer to buy on-line, you might want to give it a try . . . its not hard and computer security is pretty good these days, so giving out your real name, address and credit card number shouldn't give you heart burn. ☺

Do you *Google* the plant species? That's a good start and idea. Unfortunately many of our favorite places to obtain plants do not have their own website where you can buy plants on-line. And a *google* search may provide you with thousands of websites to visit. Unless you have a favorite already an excellent place to start is the **Cactus Mall** at <http://www.cactus-mall.com/> The Mall is a wonderful place to find links to C&S nurseries. There are even pages devoted to California nurseries with a map – although the map isn't very useful.

Some Cactus Mall contacts go directly to the nursery website – some of which give only a contact email, address, or telephone number. Others allow you to view a catalog and buy on-line, while many others take you directly to eBay.

You **MUST** have heard of eBay. There isn't enough space to explain how to use eBay and I don't call myself an expert eBay user, but the Cactus Mall links that take you there usually offer you the choice to "Buy Now!" at a fixed price or enter an auction. It's your choice. You can of course buy from that seller, but a better way is to go directly to the eBay Home page and search for the species you want, where you can compare prices of everyone who is offering that species. Usually a photo is offered and eBay has links that allow you to see what other buyers have said about the seller. Ebayt oldtimers often use PayPal (like me) as a way to pay for purchases. I recommend it.

A few cautions

If and when you buy, be sure to include shipping and handling charges. Often these are quite high. Like any prudent shopper, it's a good practice to compare prices, bearing in mind that more often than not the seller does NOT tell you the size of the plant.

Don't compare apples to oranges. Read the plant descriptions carefully. Older larger plants are almost always cost more, as do variegated and other unusual forms.

Have you heard of the terms "lumpers" and "splitters"? Sellers tend to belong to the "splitter" group. Remember they are interested in selling plants and so it is in their interest to retain old names and even create new species. Do your homework before you buy a "new" plant to fill in your collection. I think it's a good idea to create a shopping list before you go on-line or in fact buy plants anywhere to avoid impulse buying.

Don't fall for the "slick" website. Some of these sites are absolutely wonderful places to browse and look at plant pictures; enjoy them. Some sites are pretty basic, but don't pass over these. Sometimes a telephone call will locate a rare specimen plant at a very reasonable price. You might even make a new friend. In any event, I recommend, you locate several sources and determine the shipping price before you settle on one.

Good shopping. Please contact me if you find a wonderful or lousy website.

This is the last of the series. I hope you found these articles interesting and useful. Feel free to contact me to discuss them.

Cactus of the Month

Copiapoa

Copiapoa is a unique genus from the North Coast of Chile. The genus has no close relatives, and is confined to a region of ecological change, becoming steadily drier for the past several hundred years. The Southern limit of *Copiapoa* is where reliable winter rains can be found. The Northern limit is the tropical region of reliable summer rains. *Copiapoa* live along the coast and through the river valleys cut through the coastal mountains. Some of the species live completely on dense fogs that appear regularly for months at a time. The hills and valleys of Northern Chile are still not well explored from a botanical point of view, and new species are and will be found in the future.

Given these extreme conditions, one would expect the cultivation of these plants in Southern California, with our frequent winter rains, fogs, and "June gloom" to be quite a challenge. Fortunately, this is not so, and *Copiapoa* are relatively easy to grow. They respond happily to the same potting mix, watering, and fertilization as most cacti, growing many times faster than they would in habitat. Some species can even be grown here in the open ground, as long as the soil is well drained. They are slow growers.

Copiapoa are easily propagated from cuttings or division of clumps. Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed houses, and germinates quickly in the spring. They can be started in a moist potting soil, and moved to drier surroundings after germination.

Copiapoa were first collected in the 1840s, and described as *Echinocactus*, then the home of anything more or less globular. The genus *Copiapoa* was named by Britton and Rose in 1922 in their great work *The Cactaceae*. The name derives from Chilean province of Copiapo, home to many of the species.

Copiapoa cinerea In habitat this species is an ash-gray with black spines. They grow to 4 or 5 inches in diameter, and cluster. In cultivation, the body tends to stay greenish, but it remains a classic plant.

Copiapoa humilis is a widespread species, with many named varieties. It is one of the smaller species, easy to grow, and very common. All of the varieties are equally easy to grow and differ from the type (first to be found) of the species by variation in spination. ***C. humilis v. humilis*** is a dark green with black spines; ***v. longispina*** is a lighter, green with white spines; ***v. tenuissima*** has woolly areoles; and the ***v. tocopillana*** is densely spined. All of these are worth collecting.

Copiapoa hypogaea is a dwarf species, clustering in habitat and cultivation. It is variable, and several named varieties exist, all worth growing. ***C. hypogaea v. laui*** is the smallest of the *Copiapoa*, growing to only $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across. ***C. hypogaea v. montana*** has very woolly areoles, particularly when grown in cultivation.

Copiapoa krainziana, also known as ***Copiapoa cinerea v. krainziana*** is one of the most popular of the species. Easy to grow, with long white spines, and a woolly crown, it is really the most extreme of a very variable population.

Copiapoa solaris comes from the northern part of the range. It is a fairly large plant in habitat, forming clusters up to six feet cross and three feet high.

References:

Britton and Rose, **The Cactaceae**

Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

Preston-Mafham, Cacti, **The Illustrated Dictionary**

Charles, G. **Copiapoa**

Innes, C. and Glass, C., **Cacti**

Compiled by Tom Glavich May 2000

Succulents of the Month

- *Senecio* and *Othonna*

Othonna and *Senecio* are two genera in the *Compositae* family, a distinction that they share with such common plants as Sunflowers, Asters and dandelions.



Senecio fulgens entered in 2001 CSSA Show by Marylyn Henderson

Othonna is confined to Southern Africa, with most all species native to South Africa, while *Senecio* is a very large and cosmopolitan genus, with species in most of the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Both genera have succulent and non-succulent members.

All of the *Compositae* are distinguished by a flower head that appears to be a single large flower, but is really a cluster of many smaller flowers (florets) protected (and advertised to passing pollinators) by colorful bracts. The flowers of both *Othonna* and *Senecio* show obvious resemblance to dandelions and sunflowers. The seeds are held in loose clusters, and scattered by the wind, just as with dandelions.

Both genera are generally easy to grow, requiring only modest attention to growing periods, and tolerant of some out of season

watering, within reason. Most species are winter growers, losing their leaves in the heat of summer, and leafing out again in early autumn.

Seed is occasionally available, and germinates readily. It's best planted in mid autumn, with maximum growth and development of water storage tissue possible before the first summer. Propagation from cuttings is also easy, particularly for *Senecio*. Production of a typical caudex for species with long, thin branches is best done by burying and rooting a branch while still attached to the mother plant.

Show-worthy *Senecios*

Senecio cedrorum is a species from Madagascar. It has vertical leaves, looking somewhat like the pads of a small *Opuntia*. The leaves are a glabrous blue, with darker green veins.

Senecio fulgens, shown at left is from South Africa, near Durban. It has sprawling stems, perfectly groomed above on a tuberous root.

Senecio rowleyanus has the common name, "String of Pearls", and is a well known house plant. The leaves are globose, hanging on long prostrate stems. It's often used as a hanging plant.

Senecio saginata is one of several *Senecio* that were once in the genus *Kleinia*, which has since been absorbed into *Senecio*. This species shows convergent evolution, with a body form similar to some of the cylindrical *Opuntia*. The body is a medium green, with darker green patterns that look as if they were spines drawn on with ink. *Senecio saginata* is native to

Succulents of the Month

• *Senecio and Othonna*

Oman, Most of the similar species (*S. pendulus*, *S. desfliersii*) are native to Western Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Senecio scaposus, shown above, is from Cape Province, South Africa, and has long cylindrical leaves, with patterned patches of a waxy light blue on a light green background.



Senecio sempervivus, has leaves that resemble a *Sempervivum*, as its name implies, but the stems holding the *Sempervivum*-like leaves come from a knobby white caudex. A red shaving brush flower, rises above the leaves on a long stem.

Othonna carnosa

Senecio tropaeolifolius quickly forms a medium sized caudex (really a rhizome, or fleshy root). The vine like stems can be kept trimmed back to show the caudex. It has interesting pentagonal leaves, with sharp corners. It's one of the most sculptural of all the *Senecios*.

Othonna herrei is probably the best of the species, with the caudex covered with knobby protrusions resulting from persistent leaf bases.

Outstanding *Othonnas*

Othonna carnosa is an easily grown species, occasionally available from seed. It has nice blue leaves, resembling many *Senecios*.

Othonna retrorsa comes from Cape Province, SA. It is a small species, with caudex two to three inches in tall and an inch in diameter. It can reach half that size in a year from seed.

Othonna euphorbioides has leaves the shape and color of *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*, and a body shape that is also similar. It is one of several *Othonna* that have species names identifying the genus that they most closely resemble.

References

Gordon Rowley, **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents**

Hermann Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

Tom Glavich December 2001

Senecio Photo by Tim Nomer from the 2001 CSSA Show

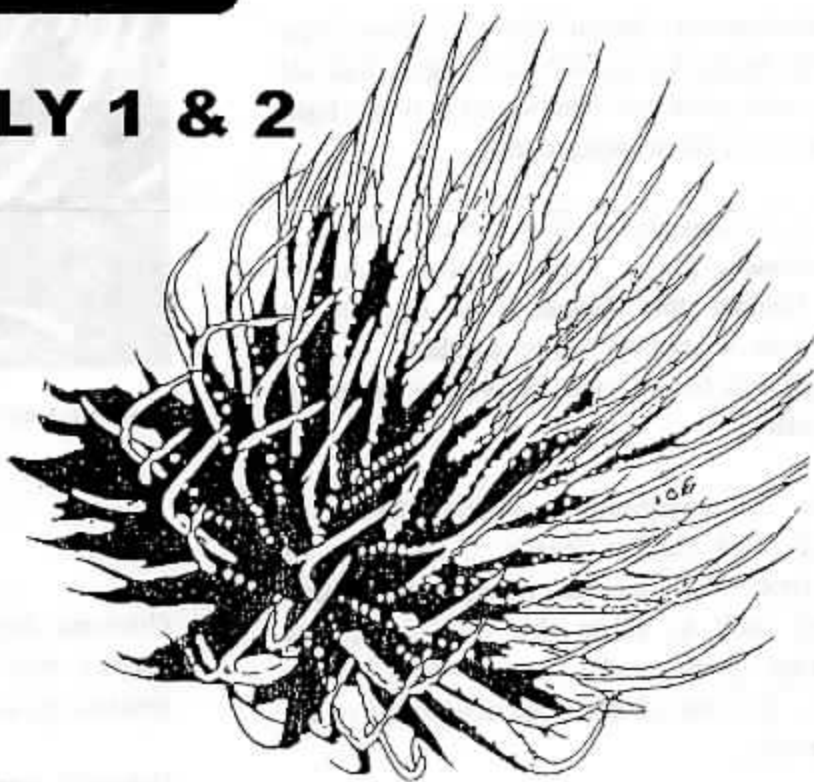
The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

**Cactus and Succulent
SHOW & SALE**

JUNE 30, JULY 1 & 2

**SHOW PLANT
EXHIBITERS
RECEIVE A FREE
ADMISSION PASS TO
ALL THE GARDENS
& PUBLIC
BUILDINGS WITHIN
THE HUNTINGTON
BOTANICAL
GARDENS**

INFO: (310) 822-1783



SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:30 am
SHOW: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am

Free Admission to Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino
For Information Call – (626) 405-2100

