



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Number 8

August, 2006

Sunday, August 13—South Coast Botanical Gardens

1:30 P.M.—General Meeting

Program—Venezuela; from the Andes to the Savannah—Laurel Woodley

Laurel Woodley, Professor of Biology at Los Angeles Harbor College and a member of SCC&SS, will present a program based on her adventures in Venezuela in October, 2005. Laurel is one of our newer members and her presentation is sure to be very interesting so plan to attend; AND BRING A FRIEND!!



CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2006

- 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.

SCC&SS OFFICERS: President, Carol Causey (310)675-5843; 1st V. Pres., Lowell Howard, (310)533-8778; 2nd V. Pres., Gary Duke (714)377-0064; Secretary, Dale La Forest, (310)618-9881; Treasurer, Marsha Huebner, (310)834-0263; Show Chairman, Harry Fletcher, (310)538-4078; Sunshine Hostess, Irma Rennie, (310)375-3790, and Newsletter Editor, Vera Thaxton (760)564-3285

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.



PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS -- 2006

CACTUS ADVANCED	JULY	TOTALS	CACTUS NOVICE	JULY	TOTALS
Duke	10	41	Capaldo	11	35
Fletcher		32	Ponce	2	7
LaForest	4	4			

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED	JULY	TOTALS	SUCCULENTS NOVICE	JULY	TOTALS
Duke		7	Capaldo		24
Fletcher		39	Hulett		20
Gardner		5	la Forest		12
Hanna		27	Ponce		12
LaForest		1	Ross		5

POTS

WHY DO YOU USE THE ONES YOU USE?

BY SUE HAFNER, CSSA SEED DEPOT

Have you ever thought about why you use the pots you do for your plants? Here are some facts to consider:

- Standard pot—this type is as tall as the diameter of the pot (4 inches across and 4 inches tall);
- Azalea or $\frac{3}{4}$ pot—this is three quarters the height of the diameter (4 inches across and 3 inches High, for instance);
- Bulb pan—this is one half the height of the diameter (4 inches across and only 2 inches high).

Many succulent growers prefer the azalea pot size, chiefly for aesthetic reasons—many specimen plants display better in such pots. The standard pot, especially for smaller plants, may taper too much and prove to be unstable. You run the risk of knocking over and damaging a prized plant. Watering is also affected by the type of pot used. When you pour water onto the surface of your pot, the taller the column of water and gravity will act longer and pull more water out of the pot. This is needed for aeration and for pulling excess salts and fertilizer out of the pot, rather than collecting on the soil surface.

To restate the watering situation: if you have two pots that hold the same volume of soil and one is tall and skinny and the other is short and wide, more water will remain in the soil of the shorter pot. You won't have to water as often, as the short pots don't dry out as fast.

The pot should be large enough to provide a comfortable finger width between the edge of the pot and the plant (spines included), for globular plants. Tall, columnar plants should have a pot whose diameter is about one half their heights. A cluster or clump of plants generally has a shallower root system than a single plant of the same diameter. It is also growing more laterally than vertically, so you should allow more space between the pot and plant.

Clay, plastic, or other materials? Well, clay pots, of course, allow water to evaporate out from all sides. Clay will also allow water in from all sides (such as by overhead spraying or from capillary matting). This exchange works to keep the roots cool, as well. Plastic keeps the soil wetter longer by allowing evaporation to occur only from the soil surface. Also, plastic pots stay free of salt build-up and algae growth longer than clay pots do.

Pots made of Styrofoam, glass, or glazed ceramics tend to act much like the plastic pots.

Pot colors? Dark colors absorb most of the light that hits them, while white or light colors reflect a lot of light. Algae may grow on the insides of white pots if they sit where they are hit by direct sunlight. If your plastic pots are subject to the vagaries of temperature throughout the year, they will deteriorate—grow brittle and crumble at your touch. Green pots seem to last longer than white pots.

Round or square? We have more aesthetic considerations here. If your plant is more or less round, put it in a round pot. Still, many succulents defy classification as to shape, which no doubt has led to the many free-form "artist's" pots you see used for specimen plants.

How about the drainage? We all know that it is possible to grow succulents in containers without drainage holes—because we've seen this in the collection of one of our members! Still, most of us use pots with holes. Most commercial plastic pots have large drainage holes, so large, in fact that your soil mix escapes through them. Some of us use pieces of paper towel, used clothes dryer sheets, squares of hosiery material, squares of window screening, etc., in the bottom of the pot to hold in the soil. The paper will eventually deteriorate, but by then, the plant's root ball may have grown enough to hold the soil.

Top dressing: most succulent growers use gravel of various sizes and colors to top dress the soil in the pots. This can also keep a "tippy" plant supported; can keep the base of the plant drier, thus reducing the possibility of rot. Also, the gravel is decorative. Bear in mind that the top dressing also can make it difficult to judge whether the plant needs watering. Figure out a means whereby you can check the soil under the gravel.

Should you water newly repotted plants? The standard advice you read in all the books and articles is that you need to let your plant sit for several days to a week while any root damage that may have occurred will heal. Generally, the authors of these books are writing from climates unlike ours, where plants may be subject to extended periods of dark, cold, damp weather when they are in danger of attack by fungi. Some growers in our area water-in their newly repotted plants—just a bit, to settle the soil—and have never noticed any ill effects. You can decide for yourself which is the better course to take. Also, don't put a newly repotted plant directly out in the sun. Let it rest for awhile in bright shade.

Remember that there is no perfect system that works for everyone. Experiment a bit and develop your own best technique. Good luck! From "To the Point, Vol. 76, No. 4, July/August, 2004.

MEMBERSHIP: Do you have a cactus or succulent currently blooming? Do you have a plant whose name is "anonymous"? or do you need advice about a problem Plant? If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes", BRING THE PLANT TO THE MEETING!! Specifically, bring it to the BRAG TABLE. This will give all of us opportunity to learn more about cacti and succulents.



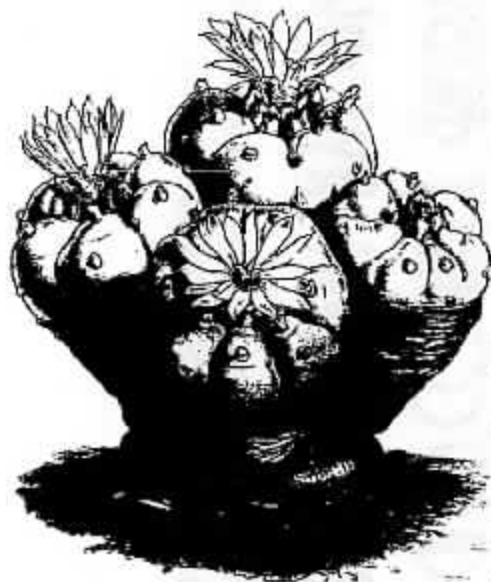
SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PLANTS OF THE MONTH—2006



	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
August	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
September	Cacti of Argentina	Adenium & Phumeria
October	----- Break -----	-----
November	Miniatures (3 inch max)	Miniatures (3 inch max)
December	----- Christmas Party -----	-----



Science From the Garden



Program includes:

Michael W. Frohlich, Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom, *How Plant Science is Changing, and How You Can Be Involved*

Rachel Schmidt Jabaily, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, *Evolution of the Genus Puya, the Bromeliad Queen of the Andes*

Jeff Moore, Solana Succulents, Solana Beach, California, *Under the Succulent Sea*

Ana Lilia Reina-G, Tucson, Arizona, *Ethnobotany of the Cacti of Sonora, Mexico*

Thomas R. Van Devender, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona, *Deep History and Evolution of the Sonoran Desert*

James A. Bauml, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, California, *Peyote: Sacrament to Schedule 1* (Presentation follows dinner)

Time:

Registration and continental breakfast, 8:30 a.m. Program, 9:00 - 5:00, includes speaker presentations, silent auction, Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory special hours, refreshments, and lunch. Dinner (optional), 6:00 p.m.

Location:

Friends' Hall
Huntington Library,
Art Collections,
Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108

Other Events:

- ◆ Succulent plant sales
- ◆ Silent auction of rare and unusual plants
- ◆ Special hours in the Desert Garden, Desert Conservatory, and Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science
- ◆ Dinner - optional (Registrants who choose not to stay for dinner are welcome to return for the presentation which follows dinner)

Registration:

Symposium	\$75.00
Dinner	\$25.00

The deadline for registration is 29 August. We cannot guarantee meals for late registrants. Send registration form and a check (made payable to *The Huntington*) or credit card information to:

Succulent Symposium
Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108
(626) 405-3504
(626) 405-3501 FAX

Name(s) _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Program _____ x \$75.00

Dinner _____ x \$25.00

Donation _____

Total enclosed _____

Credit card # _____

Name on card _____

Exp. _____ Signature _____

23rd Succulent Plants Symposium
2 September 2006
Huntington Botanical Gardens



THE HUNTINGTON
Library • Art Collections • Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108

21ST ANNUAL INTERCITY
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SHOW AND SALE
9 - 5 AUGUST 19-20, 2006



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 W BALDWIN AVE ARCADIA

Information: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 Jim Hanna 562-920-3046
Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078 Barbara Hall 818-368-6914