



# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 2009

GENERAL MEETING: Sunday, September 13, 1:30 P.M., in the South Coast Botanical Gardens Classroom

PROGRAM: GARY DUKE will present a talk on PROPAGATION OF CACTI. He will give demonstrations on how to pollinate cactus flowers, plant cacti seeds, and take cuttings as well as how to graft cacti. Many of these techniques also apply to succulents. Bring seeds, if you have some to sow, as well as your seedlings from prior years so we can discuss successes and failures. Also, bring a plant you want to have grafted, if you have one. Gary will select 1 – 2 people to actually graft a cactus. Gary will provide the grating stock. Gary, of course, will bring a couple of flats of his cacti to sell.

### President' Message for September 2009

Wow . . . we moved the meeting to the south classroom so we could use the new projector screen that had been installed by a garden volunteer. Apparently word leaked out that our Speaker was going to be Woody Minnich. We crammed about 45 people into the room, including several guests who all wanted membership applications, so we must be doing something right. Woody changed his program to "Beautiful Plants of Mexico" because several people had already seen the scheduled program on Brazil. Woody was his usual loquacious, humorous, and informative self.

I am pleased to announce, the Club approved \$800 of the \$3200+ in proposed improvements for the SCBG Desert Garden, mostly for top dressing and pathway projects. And Lupe Hulett donated table coverings for the Club Table at our next show.

The Plants of the Month for the September Mini-show will be *Crests & Monstrose*. (See article). I look forward to seeing many unusual and strange looking plants. Remember, one of the important objectives in having a mini-show is to show other members what some species and forms look like in real life; so even if your plant isn't perfect bring it in and get a point or two.

Dale La Forest

MEMBERSHIP: A hearty WELCOME is extended to our two newest members!!

Alison Bogert, 2305 Pacific Avenue, Manhattan Beach, 90266, (310)546-5019

Stephanie Oberc, 21814 Scannel Avenue, Torrance, 90503, (310)940-5766



SCC&SS OFFICERS: President: Dale LaForest (310)618-9886, 1<sup>st</sup> V. Pres.: Hank Warzybok, (562) 429-7110; 2<sup>nd</sup> v. Presl: Gary Duke, (714)377-0064; Treas.: Marsha Huebner, (310)834-0263; Sec: Phillip Ross, (310)378-5748; Show Chr.: Jim Gardner; Sunshine Chr.: Lupe Hulett, (310)375-3790; Refreshments: Carol Causey (310)675-5843; Newsletter: Vera Thaxton (760)564-3285.

### Progress at the SCBG Desert Garden

As a result of the \$800 we donated to the South Coast Botanic Gardens last month, I received the following reply from Pedra Furmall. I thought you all might be interested in exactly how they are going to spend our money.

Dale La Forest

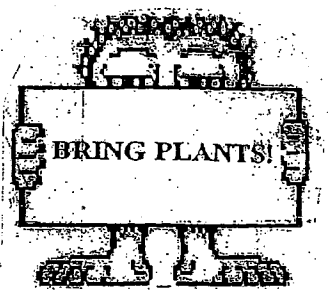
I am delighted to update you on the Desert Garden progress as a result of your generous donation. I have ordered the 13 tons of red lava rock from Thompson Building Materials. It should be delivered this Weds. August 19<sup>th</sup>. This rock will be used as a groundcover in the old desert garden on the Agave, Mammillaria and Aloe beds.

We also had a consultation with an engineer regarding the drainage issues in the Desert Garden. Instead of mixing concrete with our DG for erosion repairs he recommended some additional drainage pipe and grates to be installed in the garden to solve our erosion problems permanently. This would result in some slight changes in hardscaping such as moving two path entrances a little and extending the large rocks on the edge of the Mammillaria bed and Agave bed toward the road. There shouldn't be any plant material that would be disturbed.

I would be happy to take any one interested into the desert garden and show exactly what the drainage plan will be. The items for the drain piping are in the process of being ordered as well. These items will be ordered through the County of Los Angeles so I am not sure when they will actually arrive. In the mean time we will begin DG repairs in areas that will not be affected by the drain pipe installation.

I am excited to go ahead with this project. I just wanted to keep everyone on the same page in regards to progress. I am available for any questions, comments or concerns regarding the Desert Gardens.

Thank You,  
Pedra Furmall  
Assistant Arboretum Gardener  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
[pfurmall@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:pfurmall@parks.lacounty.gov)



Do you have a plant that is praiseworthy? lacking a name? not growing?  
Bring it to our meeting and we will discuss it.

# South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus and Succulent of the Month September 2009 - Crests & Monstrose

The three most common types of mutation are crests, monstrose growth and variegation. All of these are mutations of the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. In normal plants the growth tip is a point, and the biochemistry of the plant forces one tip to be dominant or at least locally dominant. In crests the genetic mutation removes this dominance, and instead of a single growth tip the area of active cell growth degenerates into a line. For monstrose growth, the local dominance is lost, and every growth tip tries to grow as if it were the dominant point.

Cresting and monstrose growth is not unique to succulent plants. Crests are found in many genera of non-succulent plants, including conifers and many common garden plants.

## Culture of crests and monstrose plants

Crests and monstrose plants are grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some have weak roots, and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers, and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant, and comparison to healthy non-crested plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. Mutant plants tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker, and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. This is one of the many reasons they are often grown as grafts.

## Propagation of crests and monstrose plants

Crests flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering plant. Mutations are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a mutant plant is much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the mother plant, but monstrose and variegated plants are also possible.

The most common method of propagation of these plants is vegetative. Cuttings of are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms.

Tom Glavich October 2002

## ALBUCA OR ORNITHOGALUM?

Do not be too hasty in changing the labels in your pots. Names which change this year may be changed again next year! This has happened with *Albuca* (a South African bulb that succulent people grow) which was lumped into *Ornithogalum* a year or so ago. After further work by researchers at the Missouri Botanical Garden and several other agencies, the genus *Ornithogalum* has been redefined. The various genera which had been folded into it have been reinstated. Back to the drawing board.

Fresno Newsletter

**PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES – revised 7/09**

- Up to 3 plants may be entered in each of the two categories - cactus and succulent.

- Entries may be in either the Novice or Open class.

Novice entries must have been held by the owner for at least 6 months. Only plant condition will be judged, not the pot or other enhancements.

Open entries must have been held for at least a year. All aspects of the entry will be judged, including plant condition, label, and pot.

*Note:* Members showing in the Open class may not enter plants in the Novice class during the year, but may re-enter the novice class starting in January.

- Judging

Entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 2 points for third place, and 1 point for showing a plant that is not disqualified.

Up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.

At the discretion of the judge and/or Mini-show Chair a plant may be disqualified or removed due to disease or infestation or because it is not of the correct genera.

**Southcoast Cactus And Succulent Society  
Club Mini Show Results  
As of 8/15/2009**

<b>Novice Class</b>	<b>Cactus</b>	<b>Succulents</b>	<b>Open Class</b>	<b>Cactus</b>	<b>Succulents</b>
Caplan	9	7	Capaldo	30	11
Dunn		7	Duke	37	23
Kuprenas	10		Gardner		24
Don La Forest	7		Hanna		8
Lewis	13	4	Koklschreiber		3
Luhnow	2		D. La Forest	1	14
Mason		21	Warzybok	7	15
Ross	9	11	Woodley	4	19
Snow		8			
Tanner J.	9	21			
Tanner K.	2				
Vande Bogart		1			
Miller		6			



**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2009**

- Sept. 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT 27 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION  
18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA—12PM
- NOV. 7 & 8 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
SHOW AND SALE—LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- DEC. 5 & 6 ORANGE COUNTY SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM  
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831  
SHOW AND SALE OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM,  
FOR INFO. CALL 714-870-4887



**SUMMER FUN**

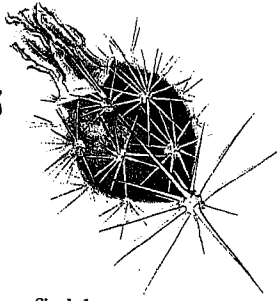
Is it hot where you are? If your answer is no, then you don't live anywhere near me! I am fortunate that where I do live the air quality is much better than it is in most of the rest of the Valley.

This is the time of year where experience and your watchful eye will tell you what kind of watering schedule you should be giving your plants. Most succulent collectors have a varied selection of plants from all over the world and all have different growing requirements to keep them healthy and looking good. Luckily for us, the vast majority are very forgiving and easy to grow.

I look at my plants and feel the weight of the pots, especially the smaller pots, because they dry out faster than the larger ones, and then determine when to water. When it is very hot for weeks at a time some plants go into a dormant period. At this time they will not want to be sitting in a pot with wet compost. I occasionally give everything a good sprinkling in the morning with a hose. I give them just enough to wet the surface of the soil and wash down the plant body. Things that need some extra and even moisture, like seedlings and cuttings, I spray with a spray bottle every day when I remember to do so. The trick is to observe your plants, learn their language, so you will know what they are saying to you.

Fred Gaumer  
Affiliate Representative  
Fresno C&S

26<sup>th</sup> Succulent  
Symposium  
September 5, 2009



**Program includes:**

**Bruce Hargreaves**, Bakersfield,  
California, *The Karoo in  
Botswana*

**Stephen Ward McCabe**,  
Arboretum at the University of  
California, Santa Cruz, California,  
*Dudleya: Taxonomic adventures  
and rare morphologies*

**José Delgadillo Rodríguez**,  
Herbarium BCMEX, Universidad  
Autónoma de Baja California  
Ensenada, Mexico, *Analytical  
approach to the Baja California  
and South African mediterranean  
floras; An emphasis on succulent  
life forms*

**Sean C. Lahmeyer**, Huntington  
Botanical Gardens, San Marino,  
California, *Tissue culture at the  
Huntington: An optimist's  
perspective*

**John N. Trager**, Huntington  
Botanical Gardens, San Marino,  
California, *Oh, Oaxaca!*

**Gerald S. Barad**, Flemington,  
New Jersey, *The gardens of  
Valley View* (Presentation follows  
dinner)

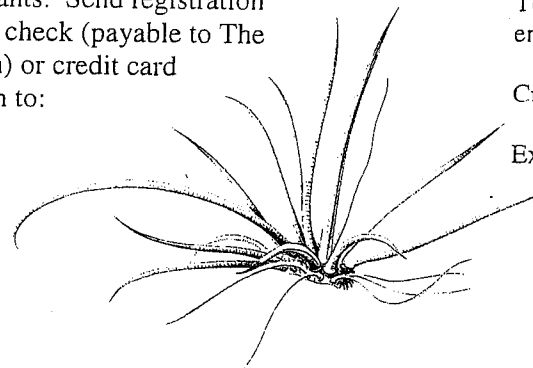
**Time:**

Registration and continental  
breakfast, 8:30 am. Program, in  
Friends' Hall from 9:00 – 5:00, also  
includes silent auction, Desert  
Garden and Desert Conservatory  
special hours, and lunch. Dinner  
(optional) begins at 6:00 pm.  
Registrants who have not signed up  
for dinner are welcome to return for  
the final presentation.

**Registration:**

Symposium	\$75.00
Dinner	\$20.00

Deadline for registration is August  
31st. We cannot guarantee meals for  
late registrants. Send registration  
form and a check (payable to The  
Huntington) or credit card  
information to:



**Succulent Plants 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 \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total  
enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_