

# CSS Prick ly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - October 2013

### **GENERAL MEETING** Sunday - October 13, 1:30 pm

We will meet in the Hall

#### "Nature and Cactii from Patagonia"

Presentation by Guillermo Rivera

The program will take us to a part of South América where people seldom travel in search of cacti. This is probably the reason why so many collectors and hobbyist alike are not very familiar with some genera such as Pterocactus, Austrocactus, Mahiyenia etc. Most people visit Patagonia in search for beautiful landscapes, snowcapped mountains, glacier lakes surrounded of pristine forests, incredible wildlife on the coast,

among many other attractions.

The truth is that, even though we can find all those things, there are over 40 species of cacti that grow at these latitudes. Because of their isolation, these plants are seldom known to most collector or cacti enthusiasts. Also, because of their habitat, these cacti would tolerate colder weather, and some of them even more humid conditions in the winter than plants from Northwestern Argentina.

This talk will attempt to show you the diversity of these poorly known plants as well some beautiful

scenery from Northern Patagonia.



Austrocactus

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## President's Message

I hope members who attended the September meeting were impressed with the wireless microphone; I certainly was. We still have a learning curve to climb as we learn how to transfer the headset from one person to another. Perhaps we could use the hand-held microphone at the head table and allow the guest speaker

to wear the wireless mic until he or she announces the mini-show awards. We certainly don't want to have Mike Short standing at the control station adjusting the volume every time the headset is transferred with a new speaker. Thank you, Mike.

I've never hid my Opuntia-phobia and was prepared for an uninteresting presentation from Jon Rebman. But Jade had told me his talk would be terrific and I confess to agreeing with her after hearing what Jon had to say. I think everyone learned a whole lot more about the various climatic regions in Baja and how the flora varies from one to another. I sure wasn't prepared to see aspens growing in meadows above 8,000 feet. If you missed Dr. Rebman, I recommend that if you get a chance to attend one of his talks elsewhere, that you make an attempt to attend.

Several key members were on vacation and missed the September meeting, including Danny and Carol. But nobody complained about the lack of coffee or tea, perhaps because Carmen Shearer brought iced tea that slaked some thirst. I'd also like to thank Nancy Jengo for coming in early to help with the sign-in process. Irene Brenner might have helped there too, but I didn't notice, sorry Irene.

We received a nice "Thank You" letter from the White Point Nature Conservancy. Thank all of you who brought in cuttings and Jackie Johnson who assembled them into a very nice dish garden for the Conservancy' silent auction. As I've said before, it feels good to contribute to worthy projects in

I'd like to thank David Okihara for coming in early at 11:30 a.m. to set up chairs and help me set up tables; a task he has been doing for several months now without me asking him to do so. He and Bob Caplan shared the task of putting them away. I also appreciated members who sell plants for putting their tables away. I'm not necessarily asking more members to come early or stay late to do these task, but I'm sure David would appreciate someone to help with the chairs and it would be nice to have company when I turn out the lights and close the doors when I leave at 5:00 PM.

Everyone should remember we are only one-person deep in almost all club activities. If you are responsible for a task, it is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to do it. Informing me that you will be absent is good, but that doesn't mean I'm responsible for finding your replacement. To some extent the Chairs of our standing committees can help you, but several tasks require knowledge of what the task requires ahead of time. Maybe it's time to recruit and train some backups.

Dale La Forest President





September Mini Show FIRST PLACE WINNERS

**CACTUS** 

Open Class
Jim Hanna
adenium arabicum
Novice Class
Phyllis DeCrescenzo

## opuntia vulgaris SUCCULENT

**Open Class**Laurel Woodley
opuntia decumbens

Novice Class Judy Unrine adenium obesum





#### **South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society** MINI SHOW FINAL RESULTS - (as of September 8, 2013) Cactus Open Class Cactus **Novice Class** Succulents **Succulents** Bjerke 3 Capaldo 31 17 Causey 17 12 Caplan 13 8 33 20 Duke 58 38 DeCrescenzo Dunn 1 Gardner 6 46 7 31 Hines 4 Hanna 1 Kohlschreiber 3 Jengo Jenkins 1 La Forest 6 11 19 Williams Jackie Johnson 20 3 Bernard Johnson 7 Warzybok 10 4 Kelly Woodley 16 16 18 Carol Knight 15 33 Neely 49 Ross 2 7 Shearer 14 Tanner 12 Unrine 4 10 Veits 4 4 Wilk 10 Wood 2

2013 PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM)		
	Cactus	Succulents
January	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Kalanchoe
February	Variegated Cacti	Euphorbia with Caudex
March	Crested / Monstrose	Gasteria
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
May	Turbinicarpus / Leuchenbergia	Tylecodon
June	Parodia / Notocactus	Pachypodium
July	Lobivia / Echinopsis / Trichocereus	Senecio
August	Astrophytum	Variegated (All)
September	Opuntia - Flat Pad Varieties	Adenium
October	Cereus / Columnar Cactus	Sedum
November	Discocactus / Melocactus	Lithops
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

#### **PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES** – (revised January 2010)

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

 $\underline{\underline{\text{Novice}}}$  entries must have been held by the owner for at least  $\underline{3}$  months.

Only plant condition will be judged, not the pot or other enhancements.

 $\underline{\text{Open}}$  entries must have been held for at least  $\underline{1 \text{ year}}$ . All aspects of the entry will be judged, including plant condition, and pot.

#### **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. The judge may award one First Place and up to (2) Second and (2) Third Places in each category. No award will be given if plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality. 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 the correct genera.

#### **SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH - SEDUM**

Sedum is a genus of about 400 species of leaf succulents, from the old and new world in the Northern Hemisphere. They vary in habit from annual groundcovers to shrubs. The flowers usually have five petals, seldom four or six. There are typically twice as many stamens as petals.

Well known European Sedums are Sedum acre, Sedum album, Sedum dasyphyllum, Sedum reflexum (also known as Sedum rupestre) and Sedum hispanicum.

Leaves of many species turn red in late fall; some cultivars have brilliantly colored or variegated foliage. Many sedums have showy pink, red, or purple flowers in fall.

Others bloom from May through August with white or yellow flowers.

The best sedums for the perennial garden are hybrids.

Some creeping or low-growing species sedums make good groundcovers for dry, sunny or lightly shaded sites.



Sedum sieboldii



Pork n Beans Sedum (Sedum rubrotinctum)



Sedum 'Angelina'



Sedum cauticola



Sedum burrito



Sedum Spathulifolium

## **CACTUS OF THE MONTH -CEREUS COLUMNAR CACTUS**

The term cereus is used to describe cacti with very elongated bodies, including columnar growth cacti and epiphytic cacti.

According to Cactiguide the word cereus was commonly and freely used to describe any tree-like cacti. Even in the Cactus and Succulent society, the word cereus was commonly used to describe most tall green columnar cacti.

Genus Cereus was first genera for such cacti, one of the oldest cactus genera, and the circumscription varies depending on the authority.

Any of various large cacti (genus Cereus) of the western U.S. and tropical New World. The genus is the largest in the cactus family.



Cereus hexagonus



Cereus Peruvianus Monstrose



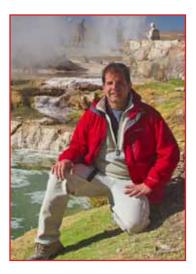
Cereus spegazzinii



cereus forbesii

The Plant-of-the-Month articles and photos provided by Jim Tanner.

#### **OCTOBER'S PRESENTER: GUILLERMO RIVERA**



Guillermo Rivera Born in Argentina. Owner of South America Nature Tours (former Cactus Expeditions), a company dedicated to the organization of tours for the last 12 years, throughout South America (Chile,

Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador), Mexico and South Africa, with emphasis on plants (bromeliads, cacti, and orchids), and birding.

Former researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. BS degree in Biology University of Cordoba MS Marine Biology. Northeastern University. PhD in Botany University of Cordoba.

Next year we are planning another trip to South Africa, as well as a new trip to Madagascar. Both of these trips will focus on the succulent flora of these places. For more information please contact Guillermo at rivera@intecar.com.ar or info@cactusexpeditions.com or visit website: www.southamericanaturetours.com

Other talks can be on Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, South Africa....



Maihuenia poeppigii

#### CACTUS AND SUCCULENT – 2013 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2 & 3

SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am - 4pm both days SHOW AND SALE -L.A. County Arboretum (See address above)

#### REFRESHMENTS FOR OCTOBER

Volunteers for October refreshments are: Danny Westfall Lou Hagemier

Mary Lopez

The September snacks were provided by: Hank Warzybok Judy Unrine

David Okihara

Many thanks to all!

Kitchen Volunteers - Please see Carol Causey after the meeting if you would like to help with kitchen cleanup.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS for FY2013-2014**

Officers

President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Parliamentarian

Standing Committee Chairmen

Show & Sale Chair Programs Committee Chair Finance Committee Chair Communication Committee Chair Membership Committee Chair

Liaisons

**CGCI CSSA** 

At Large Members

Dale La Forest Maria Capaldo Bernard Johnson Philip Johnston Ross **Judy Unrine** 

Jim Gardner **Gary Duke** Jim Hanna Anita Caplan Sally Fasteau

Lynda Johnson **Laurel Woodley** 

Mike Short **Bob Caplan** 



Next up in November: Discocactus Melocactus Lithops