



Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - September 2013

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday - September 8, 1:30 pm

We will meet in the Hall

"BAJA CALIFORNIA AND OPUNTIROID DIVERSITY" –



Presentation by
Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D.,
Curator of Botany,
San Diego Natural
History Museum

*The desert regions of Baja
California and southern
California satisfy my need
for scientific adventure*

*while providing a sense of excitement towards
botany, reverence for nature and its unaltered beauty,
appreciation for the complexity of natural history,
and an overall feeling of peace and purpose.*

— Jon P. Rebman

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REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Volunteers for September refreshments are:

David Okihara Judy Unrine
Robert & Anita Caplan Hank Warzybok

The August snacks were provided by:

Carol Causey Snow Dunn
Rita Mason Maria Capaldo
Martha Bjerky Maria Bowers

Many thanks to all!

Kitchen Help - Carol Causey is asking for kitchen help/cleanup. Please see her after the meeting.



President's Message August 2013

Setting up for last month's meeting started badly. First there was no projector for our speaker and then the new wireless microphones worked fine, but the amplifier didn't, and neither did the backup system. But, while I put

business before pleasure, Laurel Woodley graciously returned home to pick up her projector for our speaker's program. So, all's well that ends well, as they say and our speaker, Gunner Eisel, showed us what can be done in the way of modifying an *Astrophytum*. We saw some truly amazing plants.

In upcoming issues, you may (or may not) see articles submitted by members to our editor, Judi Woo-Sato, for publication. If you have something relevant to the club or hobby that you'd like to share, you may submit your article for publication consideration. Depending on available space, Judi will decide whether and when to publish. Modifications and/or edits may be requested. If you have photos to include, please submit to Judi saved in .pdf or .jpeg formats and not embedded in a document. If none of the preceding makes sense to you, please email Judi at jwsato.888@gmail.com. Articles should try to be limited to (200) words maximum. Unleash your creativity and tell us about your interest in succulents.

Thanks to Jackie Veits, Lou Hagemeyer, Lynda Johnson, Carol Causey and myself for donating cuttings, to Mike Short and Carol Causey for donating pots, and Jackie Johnson for creating one or more dish gardens for the White Point Nature Conservancy auction. It feels good to be helping in a small way to this worthy cause.

I hope to see some of you at the Huntington Symposium. We are lucky to have such knowledgeable experts living close by.

Dale La Forest
President





**August
Mini Show
FIRST PLACE
WINNERS**

CACTUS

Open Class
Laurel Woodley

Astrophytum 'super kabuto' x capricorne

Novice Class
Jim Tanner

Astrophytum myriostigma

SUCCULENT

Open Class
Jim Hanna

Euphorbia milii 'fireworks'

Novice Class
Carmen Shearer

Euphorbia lactea cristata variegata



**South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
MINI SHOW FINAL RESULTS - (as of August 11, 2013)**

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Bjerke		3	Capaldo	31	17
Caplan	11	13	Causey	8	12
DeCrescenzo	26	19	Duke	58	34
Dunn		1	Gardner	6	46
Hines	4	7	Hanna		20
Jengo		1	Kohlschreiber	3	
Jenkins	2	1	La Forest	6	11
Jackie Johnson	16	20	Williams	3	
Bernard Johnson		7	Warzybok		3
Kelly	15	4	Woodley	12	12
Carol Knight		15			
Neely	43	30			
Ross		2			
Shearer		7			
Tanner	12	14			
Unrine	3	4			
Veits	4	4			
Wilk		10			
Wood	1	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	Turbiniacarpus / Leuchtenbergia	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

Novice entries must have been held by the owner for at least 3 months.

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

Open entries must have been held for at least 1 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.

ADENIUM SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2013

Adenium is a genus of flowering plants in the dogbane family, Apocynaceae, and a relative of Pachypodium and Oleander. The Apocynaceae is home to many showy flowering plants used for ornamental and medicinal purposes.

Adenium are native to Africa. Adenium are easy to grow, requiring only good fertilizer, and lots of water when in growth, and protection from cold and damp when dormant. Some growers place their plants in their garages in late fall to force dormancy, and protect them from cold and damp. Adenium hybridization for caudex shape and flower color is being undertaken around the world.

Adenium obesum is grown as a houseplant in temperate regions. Numerous hybrids have been developed. Adeniums are appreciated for their colorful flowers, but also for their unusual, thick caudices. They can be grown for many years in a pot and are commonly used for bonsai.

Because seed-grown plants are not genetically identical to the mother plant, desirable varieties are commonly propagated by grafting. Genetically identical plants can also be propagated by cutting. However, cutting-grown plants do not tend to develop a desirable thick caudex as quickly as seedgrown plants.

The sap of Adenium boehmianum, A. multiflorum, and A. obesum contains toxic cardiac glycosides and is used as arrow poison throughout Africa for hunting large game.

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



*A. arabicum
trained as bonsai.*



OPUNTIA - FLAT PAD VARIETIES CACTUS OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2013

The first plants that come to mind when one thinks of Opuntia are the flat padded plants, seen everywhere common to the local hillsides and deserts. The Opuntia family offers much more, with a wealth of shapes, sizes and spination.

Propagation of all Opuntias is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator required. Handling of Opuntias is somewhat of a problem. They are notorious for their well-placed sharp spines, and nearly invisible glochids.

Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help, and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.

The genus is named for the Ancient Greek city of Opus where, according to Theophrastus, an edible plant grew which could be propagated by rooting its leaves.



Opuntia aciculata



Opuntia basilaris



Opuntia chlorotica



Opuntia stricta



Opuntia oricola

SEPTEMBER'S PRESENTER: JON P. REBMAN, PH.D

*Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D. has been the Mary and Dallas Clark Endowed Chair/ Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) since 1996. Dr. Rebman is a plant taxonomist and conducts extensive floristic research in Baja California and in San Diego and Imperial Counties. He leads various field classes and botanical expeditions each year and is actively naming and describing new plant species from our region. His primary research interests have centered on the systematics of the Cactus family in Baja California, especially the genera *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) and *Opuntia* (prickly-pears). However, Dr. Rebman also does a lot of general floristic research and he co-published the most recent edition of the Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County. He has over 23 years of field experience with surveying and documenting plants including rare and endangered species. As a field botanist, he is a very active collector of scientific specimens with his personal*



collections numbering over 27,000. Since 1996, he has been providing plant specimen identification/ verification for various biological consulting companies on contracts dealing with plant inventory projects and environmental assessments throughout southern California. He is the director of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project and identifies/verifies all of the new specimens (currently over 62,000) coming into the herbarium through this scientific endeavor. As the curator of the SD Herbarium at the SDNHM, he is in charge of this dried plant specimen collection that contains over 228,000 specimens dating back to the 1870s.



Dr. Rebman recently finished a new edition of the Baja California Plant Field Guide with co-author Norman Roberts that was published in June 2012. He is in the process of finishing another book entitled Ferns and Lycophytes of San Diego County that is co-authored with Annette Winner. This local natural history publication will hopefully be available in late 2013 and contains detailed information on 60 different ferns and lycophytes from our region.



News from Hell The Ongoing Education of a Novice Gardener by Akemi Kayleng-Knight

Hello!

Strange how e-mail musings between myself and Dale have turned into a newsletter column. Never would have thought this would happen. Dale says he thinks a lot of people could identify with my issues. So, for those newcomers to the ongoing story about the Hot Corner From Hell, we are the unlucky owners of a patch of Hell in an otherwise idyllic backyard. Some ungodly combination of factors has created an inferno which broils everything we've tried putting there, including cacti and succulents.

Well not exactly. A few years into our status as new homeowners, I realize large, mature succulents and cacti would survive Hell. Unfortunately big plants cost big money. So, as reported earlier in this column, a tree with lots of protective bark went in. It's now a full story tall.

And now Hell intersects with family relations.

From the get go cleaning up the mess we inherited from the previous homeowner was my project. Not Steve's. Hell was just the tip of the iceberg, or, more accurately, the tip of the tallest blaze in a very hard to landscape oven. Steve said no thanks.

In fact, after I joined our club I kept getting the No More Plants lecture just prior to our meetings.

Then to my very great surprise, two meetings ago, he joined. And as a new member he brought home....two new plants. But we don't have much room so he didn't put his name in the raffle bucket. Then at the last meeting Irene Brenner gave us....more plants.

In my first report I said the tree is a cop out. Not entirely so. It's canopy now provide some gorgeous shade. And the new baby cacti underneath are doing...just fine. Stay tuned for periodic updates on the progression of Hell.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS for FY2013-2014

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Lynda Johnson
Laurel Woodley

At Large Members

Mike Short
Bob Caplan

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT – 2013 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| September 29 | LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB
ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS
6400 Bixby Hill Road,
Long Beach, CA 90605
Info: (310) 922-6090 |
| November 2 & 3 | SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY
9am - 4pm both days
SHOW AND SALE -
L.A. County Arboretum
(See address above) |

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS 2013

August
M.A. Bjarkman



SIGNS THAT YOU ARE A PLANT NERD

1. If you had the option, you would rather photosynthesize.
2. You buy plants without knowing where you are going to plant them.
3. Discussions with your friends contain just as much Latin as English.
4. You worship the Fertilizer, the Sun, and the Holy Spigot.
5. You have on several occasions used a flashlight to garden.
6. The first things that get entered into your monthly planner are events of botanical significance.
7. Whenever you travel somewhere, you first find out where the cool nurseries/public gardens are nearby.
8. You employ a plant sitter while you are away for any extended period of time (1 week).
9. You almost have as many plants in pots waiting to be planted as you do actually in the ground (see #2).
10. Your reading material in the bathroom consists mainly of nursery catalogs.
11. Your non-gardening friends think you are weird because many of your plant catalogs don't have any pictures.
12. You can't have just one pair of pruners.
13. Some of your plants get more attention than your pets/children/significant others.
14. You have, on occasion, planted things on other people's property or have asked permission to garden on someone else's property.