



# PRICKLY NEWS

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | JULY 2023



**Welcome to summer!** For those of us at the coast, we have a small window of time with cooler weather to pot up those summer growers before the hottest months arrive. To see the names of summer growers, see the list on our website at <https://southcoastcss.org/dormancy>.

Prepare your plants for the hot sun by moving them to shadier locations. Plants like Gasteria, Haworthia, Sansevieria, Dyckia, Echeveria, and some variegated plants are sun sensitive and while some of them get good color, many will burn when exposed to strong sun for prolonged periods. Covering them with shade cloth or screen is also an option.

Many plants are flowering and I encourage you to send me photos of your plants in all their glory to present at the meeting, on Facebook or in the Newsletter. This is a way to show off your plants when they are doing something exciting. Just send to [minniecap@icloud.com](mailto:minniecap@icloud.com). Bring your plants to the Minishow of the month clean and free of pests. This month's plants are Cactus: Melocactus and Succulent: Bromeliaceae (except Tillandsia).

Our speaker will be Kelly Griffin who will talk about "Aloe Hybrids". He is a master hybridizer and has travelled extensively to see plants in habitat.

Hope to see you there!

*Maria*

Mike Short has a Plant Nomenclature Syntax article, now on the website. Thanks Mike for this interesting presentation!

GUEST SPEAKER OF THE MONTH  
**Kelly Griffin**  
 July 9, 1:30 pm



## "Aloe Hybrids"



To learn more visit [southcoastcss.org](https://southcoastcss.org)



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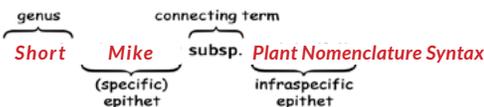
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### IN THE KNOW:

Mike's New write-up on Plant taxonomy



<https://southcoastcss.org/wp-content/uploads/Plant-Nomenclature-Syntax.pdf>

## “Aloe Hybrids”

BY KELLY GRIFFIN



Aloe ‘Lavendar Star’

Kelly is a succulent plant hybridizer, propagator and avid plant explorer. Like many of us, his interest in plants and particular succulent plants, started at a fairly young age. Since his early exposure, Kelly has traveled to 20+ countries searching for plants, visiting Madagascar 5 times, South Africa 5 times and Mexico 25 plus times to name a few. He worked as the Curator of Succulents at Rancho Soledad Nursery for 11 years and for the past 10 years he has been working for Altman’s Plants as Succulent Plant Development Manager.

Kelly has become well known for his hybridizing and is responsible for over 100 succulent hybrids now in the trade, including Aloes, Agaves and Echeverias. His specialty that he is well known for are his Aloe hybrids that are 30 years in the making (Pink Blush, Delta lights, Christmas Sleigh and Coral Fire etc) and some Agave hybrids and selections too (Blue Glow, Snow Glow, Cubic, Black and Blue, Dragon toes, Spawn, and Crème Brûlée to name just a few). He is also responsible for obtaining seed from many interesting species and propagating the seed for all to enjoy in cultivation.

Kelly has been a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society since 1992. He has been on the board of Directors for the SDCSS for way too long, he served 4 years as that clubs President and 2 years as Vice-President. He was very honored to be named a Fellow of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

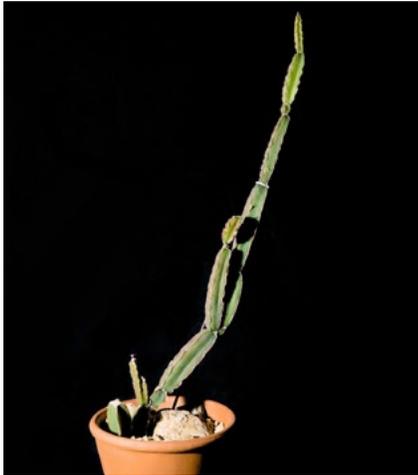
Kelly currently serves as a director on the board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

He will be bringing some of his hybrids and some seed grown plants for sale.



# SCSS Mini-Show JUNE Winners

## Open Succulent



1st: Maria Capaldo  
*Cissus quadrangularis*



2nd: Maria Capaldo  
*Cyphostemma juttae*



## Intermediate Succulent



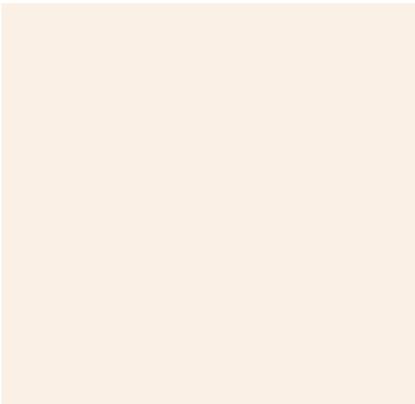
1st: Lemono Lott  
*Cyphostemma juttae*  
'Fat Bastard'



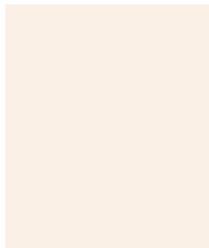
2nd: Mike Short  
*Cyphostemma juttae*



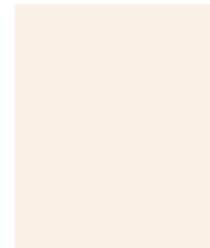
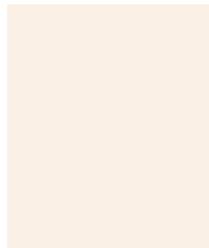
## Novice Succulent



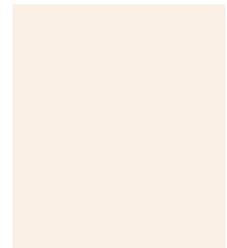
1st: none submitted



2nd: none submitted



3rd: none submitted





## SCSS Mini-Show JUNE Winners

### Open Cactus



1st: Phyllis DeCrescenzo  
*Opuntia gosseliniana*



2nd: Phyllis DeCrescenzo  
*Opuntia monacantha*  
var. *variegata*



3rd: Phyllis DeCrescenzo  
*Opuntia 'Snow'*

### Intermediate Cactus



1st: Terri Straub  
*Opuntia robusta*



2nd: Terri Straub  
*Tephrocactus articulatus*  
var. *papyracanthus*



3rd: Jackie Johnson  
*Austrocylindropuntia*  
*subulata*

### Novice Cactus



1st: Martha Bjerke  
*Austrocylindropuntia 'Desert Snow*  
*Pine'*



2nd: Martha Bjerke  
*Opuntia monacantha*  
'Maverick'



2nd: Vincent Darmali  
*Opuntia monacantha*  
var. *variegata*



# Monthly Cactus: Melocactus

**Melocactus** are immediately recognizable by the large cephalium that develops on mature plants. Melocactus grow as normal appearing, but flowerless, globular cacti until they reach maturity. This can take from 6 to 15 years in cultivation, with a greater range in habitat. Once they reach maturity, the body stops growing vigorously (it still grows slowly). Most of the plant energy goes into producing a cylindrical flowering and fruiting structure known as a cephalium. This is usually white, with short hairs of yellow, orange or red. As the years go by, the cephalium becomes more cylindrical, with the base becoming more colorful. The flowers are usually a red-purple, and the fruits are almost always a bright red, to attract birds. With age, the cephalium can grow to 18 inches or more in height.

Melocactus are native to a large region, Brazil to Southern Mexico, including a good part of the Caribbean. As might be expected, cacti from the tropical regions, particularly coastal regions are sensitive to cold and wet. Cold and wet conditions can cause scarring of the body, which usually appears as brown or tan lesions on the skin. A few of these are unavoidable, but a badly scarred plant quickly becomes unsightly. At the same time, almost all of the Melocactus expect high humidity and a higher moisture level than might be expected. Many grow within sight of the ocean, or in some of the more tropical and humid regions of Brazil. They like water, but demand good drainage.

Melocactus are generally solitary, so the only means of propagation is through seeds. Fortunately they produce plenty of seed, and these germinate readily, particularly when the weather is warm. Keep the seedlings protected from direct sun, and moist until fairly large. It takes several years from seed to a flowering plant.

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## Monthly Cactus: Melocactus



*Melocactus azureus*



*Melocactus intortus*



*Melocactus matanzanus.*



*Melocactus peruvianus*



*Melocactus zehntneri*



By Tom Glavich



## Monthly Cactus: Saurocory in *Melocactus violaceus* (Cactaceae)

[Ed: The following is the abstract from an interesting article in *Biotropica* Vol. 26, No. 3 (Sep., 1994), pp. 295-301. Where “Saurocory” means seed dispersal. According to the article, to successfully propagate *M. violaceus* from seed we need to keep lizards, and follow them about hoping for seeds.]

Saurocory in *Melocactus violaceus* (Cactaceae)  
*Tropidurus hygomi* ingesting a fruit of *Melocactus*  
The button cactus, *Melocactus violaceus* (Cactaceae), occurs in open, sandy soils in southern Brazilian coastal areas. The fruits of this species are pink, cone-shaped, and have a high water content and low sugar concentration. The fruits of *M. violaceus* develop while completely protected inside the cephalium and are driven out by internal pressure when ripe. Fruits can be exposed in only a few minutes during the hottest part of the day, and they become easily visible over the cephalium. They are expelled more quickly when temperature is high and lizards are more active. During the dry season these fruits appear to be eaten exclusively by the lizard *Tropidurus torquatus* (Tropiduridae). The cephalium is positioned close to soil level and the bright color of the fruits apparently improves fruit detection. Lizards defecate viable *M. violaceus* seeds. These seeds germinated quickly under laboratory conditions, while seeds collected directly from ripe fruits did not germinate under the same conditions. Cactus and fruit morphology, and the diurnal pattern of fruit release, may represent a suite of adaptations for dispersal by *Tropidurus torquatus*.

### Monthly Cactus: Saurocory in *Melocactus violaceus* (Cactaceae)



*Tropidurus hygomi* ingesting a fruit of *Melocactus violaceus* in restinga habitat at municipally of Pirambu, State of Sergipe, Brazil (Photo by Maria A. Xavier).



By Tom Glavich



## Monthly Succulent: Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)

The Bromeliads, like Cacti and Agavaceae are a New World family. Like the Cacti they have evolved to cover a range of environments, from the Coastal Mountains of Chile, to the plains of Argentina, to the Amazon, the dry scrub and Montane forests of Brazil, all of Central America and Mexico, the off-shore Islands, and even the temperature regions of Argentina and the United States.

There are at least three regions where gradual climatic change forced some Bromeliad genera (and some species of other genera) to become succulent. The best known of the succulent genera are Dyckia, from Brazil and the surrounding countries, Puya, which are mostly Andean plants, Hechtia, largely confined to Mexico, and the Tillandsia, which inhabit regions from Virginia to Argentina. However there are some spectacular succulents in other genera as well.

Dyckia and Hechtia have similar cultural requirements, even though they are a hemisphere apart. Both like well draining soil. Most species can tolerate some cold, and light frosts are generally not a problem. A heavy frost will cause some tip damage, but is usually not fatal. They can take full sun when planted in the ground, but prefer some protection from the worst of the heat during the day.

Dyckia has been extensively hybridized, and choice cultivars have been selected from some of the more showy species. Bill Baker, well known to many club members, was one of the best hybridizers. Dyckia is also the best behaved of all of the succulent genera, some of the other genera can be aggressive spreaders, producing many offsets, but taking up more room than the average grower can tolerate.

A less known genus with a significant number of succulent species is **Orthophytum**. This genus comes from Brazil, and the genus for the most part occupies a warm and humid environment.

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### Monthly Succulent: Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)



*Deuterocohnia brevifolia*



*Deuterocohnia brevifolia*



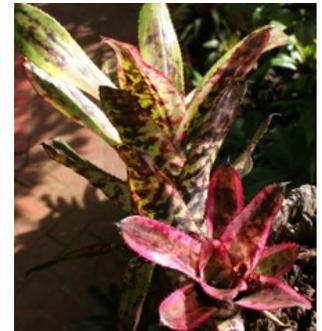
*Acanthostachys strobilacea*



*Aechmea 'Blue Tango'*



*Aechmea chantinii*



*Aechmea orlandiana*



*Aechmea recurvata*



*Aechmea recurvata*



By Tom Glavich



JULY

## Monthly Succulent: Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)

Many of the **Orthophytum** are spectacularly flocked with special cells (trichomes) that pull moisture directly out of the air. Bands of trichome rich and trichome poor regions on the leaves give these plants a spectacular coloring. As with *Dyckia*, there are a wealth of hybrids, with many be created in Florida, which is really more to their liking than the dry inner valleys of California.

Another succulent genus is **Puya**, largely to the Andes, and with the largest number of species on the Western side of the mountains. Many of the *Puya* species are gigantic, some reaching tree-like dimensions before flowering. Others can be kept in a pot, at least for a few years. Many *Puya* have leaves that carry seedling leaf impressions, much like the *Agave*.

Also popular is **Deuterocohnia** (=Abromeiteilla).

Members of this genus are found in Argentina and Bolivia. The multiple small rosettes form spreading mounds. If they are grown in enough light, the rosettes are very tight and at some of the shows there are often large dome shaped specimens. In the wild, they can grow over and on rocks. The readily available species are:

*D. brevifolia* grows outdoors at the Huntington Botanical Garden and forms a nice mound about 3 feet across. The triangular leaves have margins that are spineless. The flowers are tubular in shape and greenish in color.

*D. brevifolia* subs. *chlorantha* is an even smaller species with rosettes only 30 mm across. The leaves have a small terminal spine and the leaf margins have tiny teeth. This is the smallest of all terrestrial bromeliads.

*D. lorenziana* is a larger growing species but similar to the above.

## Monthly Succulent: Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)



*Aechmea* 'Skotak's Wild Ace'



*Ananas comosus* var. *bracteatus*



*Ananas comosus*



*Canistropsis billbergioides*



*Canistrum seidelianum*



*Dyckia* 'Brittle Star'



*Dyckia estevesii*



*Dyckia fosteriana* 'Star of Brazil'



By Tom Glavich



# Monthly Cactus: Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)



*Dyckia macedoi*



*Dyckia platyphylla*  
'Cherry Coke'



*Dyckia platyphylla*



*Dyckia remotiflora*



*Fascicularia* 'bicolor'



*Guzmania monostachia*



*Hechtia texensis*



*Neoregelia ampullacea*



*Nidularium fulgens*



*Sincoraea amoena*



*Orthophytum gurkenii*



*Ananas comosus* var. *bracteatus*



*Puya mirabilis*



*Puya venusta*



*Hylaeicum pendulum*



*Wittrockia* 'Leopardinum'

Monthly Succulent: Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)



By Tom Glavich

# Latin Lookup

Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)?  
The meanings of latin plant names on the previous pages  
– from <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botany/>

## Cactus

**azureus** [a-ZOOR-ee-us] Sky blue.  
**intortus** [in-TOR-tus] To twist in and out; to twine.  
**Melocactus** [mel-oh-KAK-tus] From the Greek melo (apple-shaped melon) and cactus; refers to the shape of these cacti.  
**peruvianus** [per-u-vee-AN-us] Of or from Peru.

## Succulent

**Acanthostachys** [a-kan-tho-STAK-iss, a-kan-tho-STAY-kiss] From the Greek kantha (thorn) and stachys (spike); the flower spikes are spiny.  
**Aechmea** [EEK-mee-uh, EK-mee-uh] From the Greek aikhme, meaning point of a spear.  
**amoena** [am-oh-EN-uh] Delightful.  
**ampullacea** [am-pul-uh-KEE-uh, am-pul-uh-SEE-uh] Flask-shaped.  
**Ananas** [A-nan-as, AN-uh-nus] Pineapple.  
**bicolor** [BY-kul-ur] Of two colors.  
**bracteatus** [brak-tee-AY-tus] Having bracts (modified leaves directly beneath the flower).  
**brevifolia** [brev-ee-FOH-lee-uh] Short leaves.  
**Canistrum** [kan-NIS-trum] From the Latin canistrum, (basket), referring to the cluster of flowers appearing as a flower basket.  
**chantinii** [chan-tee-nee-ee] For Antoine Chantin, 19th century french horticulturist.  
**comosus** [kom-OH-sus] Hairly.  
**Deuterocohnia** [doo-ter-oh-KON-ee-uh] Second Cohnia (acknowledging the existing genus Cohnia); named for Ferdinand Julius Cohn, 19th century German botanist.  
**Dyckia** [DY-kee-uh, DIK-ee-uh] Named for Prince Joseph Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck, 19th century botanist and author of book on succulents.  
**Dyckia** [DY-kee-uh, DIK-ee-uh] Named for Prince Joseph Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck, 19th century botanist and author of book on succulents.  
**estesvii** [es-teh-VEZ-ee-eye] Named for Eddie Esteves Pereira, 20th century Brazilian researcher and cactus collector.  
**Fascicularia** [fas-sik-yoo-LAR-ee-uh] Banded, bundled.

**fosteriana** [fos-ter-ee-AY-nuh] Named for Mulford Bateman Foster, 20th century American horticulturist who provided many specimens to the botanist Lyman B. Smith.

**fulgens** [FUL-jenz] Shining, shiny.  
**Guzmania** [guz-MAN-ee-uh] Named for Anastasio Guzman, an 18th century Spanish naturalist.  
**Hechtia** [HEK-tee-uh] Named for Julius Gottfried Conrad Hecht, 19th century counsellor to the King of Prussia.  
**lorentziana** [lor-ent-zee-AH-nuh, lor-ent-zee-AY-nuh] Named for 19th century explorer H. A. Lorentz, who explored New Guinea.

**macedoi** [ma-SAY-do-eye] Named for Amaro Macedo, 20th century Brazilian botanist and collector.  
**mirabilis** [mih-RAB-ih-liss] Wonderful.  
**Neoregelia** [nee-oh-reg-EL-ee-uh, nee-oh-re-JEE-lee-uh] New Regelia (genus named for Eduard August von Regel, 19th century German botanist superintendent of the botanic garden at St. Petersburg, Russia).  
**Nidularium** [nid-yoo-LAY-ree-um] From the Latin nidus (nest); referring to the short cluster of inner leaves surrounding the flower.

**Orthophytum** [orth-oh-FY-tum] Straight plant.  
**pendulum** [PEND-yoo-lum] Pendant, hanging.  
**platyphylla** [plat-TY-fil-uh] Broad leaved.  
**Pseudananas** [soo-do-AN-a-nas] From the Greek pseudo (false) and Ananas (pineapple genus).  
**Puya** [POO-yuh] The Chilean vernacular name.  
**recurvata** [rek-er-VAY-tuh] Bent backwards.  
**remotiflora** [re-mo-tee-FLOR-uh] Flowers apart from each other, presumably on stems.  
**strobilacea** [stroh-BIL-uh-say] Cone-like.  
**texensis** [teck-SEN-sis] Of or from Texas (U.S.)  
**tricolor** [TRY-kull-lur] Three color.  
**venusta** [ven-NUSS-tuh] Beautiful, charming.

## Attribution:

*Deuterocohnia brevifolia*: James Steakley / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)

*Deuterocohnia lorentziana*: User:BotBln / CC BY-SA (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)

<https://davesgarden.com/guides/botany/>



# SCSS Mini-Show Standings

[Click here for sortable standings](#)

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total
Bjarkman, M.A.	7	6	13	Caplan, Anita	2	7	9	Capaldo, Maria	19	33	52
Bjerke, Martha	11	16	27	Johnson, Bernard	25	20	45	DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	32	26	58
Cottrell, Diane	0	3	3	Johnson, Jackie	22	25	47	Duke, Gary	9	6	15
Darmali, Vincent	12	8	20	Lott, Lemono	1	19	20	Fasteau, Sally	3	5	8
Diaz, Gloria	2	4	6	Short, Mike	3	21	24	Gardner, Jim	20	27	47
Dorsey, Martin	0	12	12	Straub, Terri	33	27	60	Hanna, Jim	0	15	15
Galliani, Debra	10	1	11					Woodley, Laurel	6	4	10
Marek, Robert	2	0	2								
Mena, Braulio	2	16	18								
Mullen, Shane	9	3	12								
Nisewaner, John	0	16	16								
Smiley, Barbara	0	2	2								
Tillotson, Joseph	0	1	1								
Unrine, Judy	0	1	1								

## Mini-Show Rules

Exhibitors must be club members and must be present at the meeting in order to receive points. One name representing the same household must be used unless plants are grown separately. Mini-show coordinator will be consulted if there is any question of entry identity.

Any container may be used, including plastic, as long as it is clean. All plants must be groomed and free of pests and disease.

There are two plant categories, "Cactus" and "Succulents". Up to three plants per individual may be entered in each category.

There are three entry classes: "Novice", "Intermediate" and "Open". Only members new to the hobby would be expected to be in the novice class.

After the November meeting, members' point totals will be reviewed by the Board of the Society. Novice members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards will be asked to move to the Intermediate class in both categories. Intermediate Members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards, will be asked to begin showing in the Open class.

All plants must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months for novice and intermediate and one year for open class. An individual plant may be entered only once a year

### Scoring:

- First Place: 6 points
- Second place: 4 points
- Third place: 2 points

**Placement:** all entries that are not disqualified receive one point



## Mini-Show Plant Calendar



### Mini-Show Plants for 2023-2024

July 2023	Melocactus	Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)
August 2023	Astrophytum	Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum
September 2023	Ariocarpus, Obregonia	Adenium, Adenia
October 2023	Copiapoa	Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyveria
November 2023	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose
December 2023	HOLIDAY POTLUCK	HOLIDAY POTLUCK
January 2024	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.)
February 2024	Coryphantha, Escobaria, Acharagma, Cochemia, Sclerocactus	Gasteria and hybrids
March 2024	Echinocereus	Dudleya, Cotyledon
April 2024	SHOW & SALE	SHOW & SALE
May 2024	Eriogyne, Neopteris, Neochilena, Islaya	Crassula
June 2024	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium

## Upcoming Events

[Click here for Full List](#)



South Coast C&SS monthly meeting  
July 9, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm PDT

South Coast Botanic Garden,  
Frances Young Hall  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA,

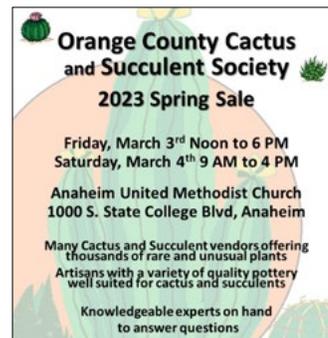
PRESENTER FOR JULY:  
Kelly Griffin  
"Aloe Hybrids"



CSSA Convention Info.  
July 12 - July 16

Colorado Springs Marriott  
5580 Tech Center Drive,  
Colorado Springs, CO

CSSA Convention Info.  
<https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org>



Orange County C&SS  
Summer Sale 2023  
Fri. July 21st Noon To 6pm, Sat.  
July 22nd 9-4pm

Anaheim United Methodist Church  
1000 S. State College Bl.  
Anaheim, CA,

Information Call 657-549-0702

[For more information and to learn more](#)



## 2023 Board of Directors

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Bernard Johnson

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AT LARGE BOARD  
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Shane Mullen



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Terri Straub

Programs

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Jim Hanna

Mini-Show Coordinator

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