

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

November 2014

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NEXT MEETING
Sunday November 9, 2014, 1:30 PM

We will meet in the hall.

Presentation by: Tom Glavich
"Winter Growing Bulbs"

See inside for details ...

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the last meeting, Al Palacio showed us some interesting ways to decorate with succulents. I certainly enjoyed his presentation, and several members said they appreciated the change from our usual "Power Point" programs. As you can imagine demonstrations using live plants are

not the easiest programs for speakers. It takes time and effort to collect the materials and carry them to our meeting.

Last month I suggested that because our attention might be focused on the coming holidays, we might tend to ignore our plants, but the change in weather often brings pests and diseases. So you should inspect all your plants at least weekly. Very few of us are experts in this area, but I suggest we all should learn a little about what to look for and identify a resource that says what to do to fix the problem. If you don't already have a handy reference at home, there are probably hundreds of excellent sources on the Internet. Here's one that provides a few organic solutions that don't kill insect pollinators like bees. Contact me if you know a better one - please.

<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/pests-succulents-66542.html>

Happy Thanksgiving everyone. I am thankful for your support and encouragement.

Dale La Forest, President



REFRESHMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Thanks to those who helped in October, including:

Pam Carnesi	Betty Saunders
Carol Causey	Danny Westall
Lynda Johnson	Jim Wood
Ana MacKenzie	

Volunteers for November refreshments are:

Jacqui Bouvier	Ana MacKenzie
Lou Hagemeyer	Danny Westall
Maria Lopez	

If you would like to bring something to our next meeting, please do so - thanks!

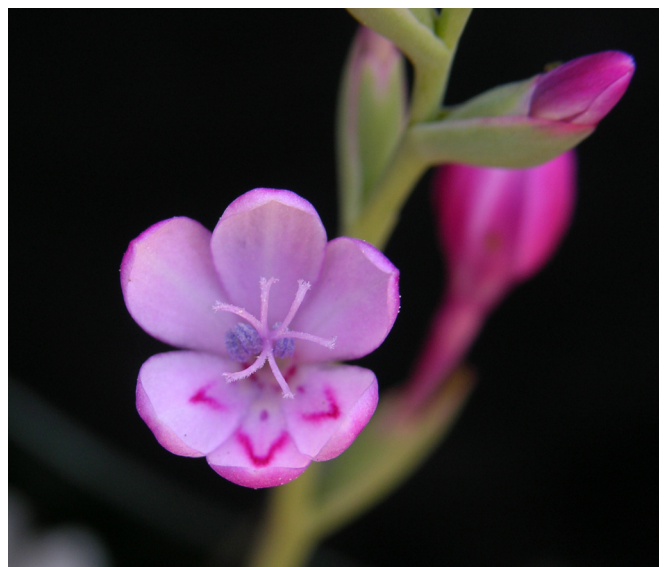
Kitchen Volunteers - Please see Carol Causey after the meeting if you are able to help with kitchen cleanup.

PRESENTER FOR NOVEMBER:

Tom Glavich - Winter Growing Bulbs

This talk will be a on Winter Growing Bulbs from Mediterranean climates, featuring bulbs and flowers from South Africa, The Mediterranean, Chile and California. A few words on cultivation and examples of the bulbs grown in each climate will be shown.

Tom Glavich is one of the co-chairs on the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent show and is chair of the Research Committee of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is author of the Beginner's Guide series of articles in the CSSA Journal To The Point, He is a member of several of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Societies as well as the Bulb and Daylily Society.

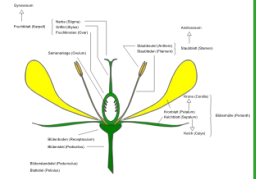


EDITOR'S NOTE:

Winter bulbs are also this months succulent of the month. See the article and pictures below.

BOTANICAL GLOSSARY

Ever find yourself reading up on a plant and being baffled by some of the botanical jargon? Or maybe you would like to learn the proper terms so you can hold your own in a conversation with botanists. Or maybe you just want to impress friends and neighbors with your scientific knowledge. So here is the first part of our attempt at a dictionary of botanical terms, more to follow next month.



ACUMINATE tapering to a point.

ACUTE sharply pointed but not drawn out.

ADPRESSED lying flat for the length of the organ.

ADVENTITIOUS applied to roots, those which do not arise from the radicle but from another part of the plant, usually the stem.

AESTIVATION the manner in which the parts of the flower are folded before expanding.

AMPLEXICAUL stem-clasping.

ANNUAL a plant which completes its life cycle within a year.

ANNULUS in some Stapelieae, the portion of the corolla which forms a fleshy, raised ring.

ANTHER the part of the stamen which contains the pollen.

APICULATE tipped with an apiculus, a short, sharp point.

ARISTATE awned.

ASPERULOUS slightly rough with little points.

ATTENUATE tapered.

AWN a stiff hairy bristle.

AXIL the angle between the axis (stem or branch) and the part arising from it (leaf or bract).

AXILE belonging to the axis, as in axile placentation.

AXILLARY growing in an axil.

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LIGHTER SIDE

Desert Flowers

by John F McCullagh

The desert sands, oft dark and drear,
show signs of life this time of year.

Rain, that most infrequent guest,
supplies the means, seeds do the rest.

What once appeared as barren ground
with desert lilies now abounds.

Their flesh so pale and delicate
exploding from the silicate.

So if you come to Joshua Tree
there's more than cactus here to see.

You'll see the lilies bloom at dawn
so welcome come, so quickly gone.

We've much in common, it seems to me,
these flowers and humanity.

We, too, quickly bloom and fade,
then spend forever as a shade.

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter? ... Pumpkin pi.

Why are husbands like lawn mowers?

They are difficult to get started, emit foul smells, and don't work half the time.

How do you know you are a Master Gardener?

There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.

You would rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothing store.

You prefer gardening to watching television.

You plan vacation trips to arboretums and public parks.

Dirt under your fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims.

Have you heard of the garlic diet?

You don't lose much weight, but from a distance your friends think you look thinner.

Why don't you ever iron a four-leaf clover?

You might press your luck.

SCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of October 12, 2014)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Roselyn Arbuckle	2	2	Anita Caplan	20	17	Maria Capaldo	30	34
M.A. Bjarkman		7	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	59	61	Gary Duke	79	31
Martha Bjerke		6	Jackie Johnson	29	38	Jim Gardner	8	26
Sally Fasteau		6	Carol Knight		11	Jim Hanna		50
Lou Hagemeyer		2	Jade Neely	52	36	Dick Kohlschreiber		2
Ellyn Holloway		7	Philip Johnston Ross	2	3	Dale La Forest	12	11
Nancy Jengo	1	14				Hank Warzybok	1	
Bernard Johnson	20	6				Laurel Woodley	6	13
Bill Kelly	43	16						
Carmen Shearer	5	2						
Mike Short		18						
Jim Tanner	7	34						
George Unrine	2	1						
Judy Unrine	5	2						
J. Williams	4							
Jim Wood	53	22						



MINI-SHOW RESULTS - October 12, 2014

NOVICE CLASS

Cactus	1st	Jim Wood	<i>Espostoa melanostele, Opuntia monacantha vulgaris variegata, Opuntia monacantha vulgaris variegata monstrose, Mammillaria hahniana</i>
Succulent	1st	Martha Bjerke	
	2nd	Mike Short	<i>Senecio haworthii, Echeveria peacockii, Haworthia fasciata, Crassula biplanata, Kalanchoe bracteata, Pachyphytum oviferum</i>
	3rd	Rose Arbuckle	

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Cactus	No Entries	
Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo

OPEN CLASS

Cactus	No Entries
Succulent	No Entries



Novice Class Cactus
Jim Wood



Novice Class Succulent
Martha Bjerke



Intermediate Class Succulent
Phyllis DeCrescenzo



PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2014

	Cactus	Succulent
May	Stenocactus	Gasteria
June	Crests / Monstrose	Echeveria
July	Coryphantha	Mesembs
August	Ferocactus	Agave / Yucca
September	Ariocarpus	Haworthia
October	Cactus dish gardens	Succulent dish gardens
November	Eriosyce	Winter Bulbs
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2015

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Variegated cactus	Senecio, Othonna
February	Astrophytum	Euphorbia (caudiciform & medusoid)
March	Turbincarpus (incl. Gymnocactus & Acharagma)	Pelargonium
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
May	Opuntia (flat padded varieties)	Kalanchoe
June	Parodia	Dyckia, Hechtia
July	S. American Columnar	Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, Pseudolithos
August	Copiapoa	Variegated Succulent
September	Melocactus	Agave, Calibanus, Nolina, Yucca
October	Matucana, Oroya	Argyroderma, Pleiospilos, Faucaria
November	Schlumbergia (Christmas cactus)	Aloe
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

MINI-SHOW RULES

Exhibitors must be club members in good standing 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 December meeting, members' point total will be reviewed by the Programs Committee Chair and Mini-show Coordinator.

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. Members will not be allowed to regress to a lower level.

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.

Points score: First Place 6, Second place 4, Third place 2.

Placement: Entries not disqualified receive 1 point.

CACTUS of the MONTH - Eriosyce

The cactus genus *Eriosyce* is native to Chile. There are both globular and columnar types that produce flowers with a spiny and hairy tube. The flowers grow laterally on specially formed areoles.

Almost all of these plants need a deep pot with very good drainage to accommodate a tap root. It is susceptible to over-watering. Occasionally some are grafted to avoid root rot problems. Keep dry in winter. Best suited for airy exposures. They like full sun; and can tolerate light shade. They like warmth (recommended minimum winter temperature: 40°F). But a plant kept perfectly dry can easily survive at winter night-time temperatures below freezing – especially if warmed to near 60 F the next day.

Some if not all are especially prone to rot, therefore, under-pot in a smaller container filled with very porous compost. Mealybugs can also attach themselves to the spines, plant body, and roots.



Eriosyce esmeraldana



Eriosyce aerocarpa



Eriosyce senilis



Eriosyce curvispina



Eriosyce villosa

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Winter Bulbs

Whether or not bulbs are true succulents, people who collect succulent plants tend to be attracted to bulbs too. If you have a collection of winter-growing bulbs, you probably put the barren pots away at the end of spring, out of sight and sheltered from summer rains. September is the time to remember where you stashed them and prepare them for their coming growing season. It's also time to order any new ones you want to try. Most winter bulbs are activated by cooling nights and soil moisture. They may not show above ground until late October or November, but the roots began to grow a month before you see green. The following task list applies to the great majority of winter bulbs:

1. If the bulbs have multiplied and become crowded, future flower spikes will be stunted. Unpot and divide the clusters, replanting the largest bulbs. Space them to allow two or three years of growth before they become crowded again.
2. Because cooling temperature is necessary to break dormancy, bulbs in clay pots or pots located in the shade will sprout before those in plastic pots in the sun. Plastic pots can be wrapped in aluminum foil or painted white with spray paint to keep them cooler. (You may notice that the bulbs on the south side of the pot will sprout last, and are often smaller than those on the north side. Many winter bulbs are marginally adapted to the desert's warm winters.)
3. In late September or October when nights begin to drop into the 60s F, soak the pots once. Then keep the medium barely moist until you see green sprouts. Some bulbs such as *Ferraria* will sprout at much higher temperatures. Move the pots of sprouted plants into a sunny location if they aren't there already. Full desert sun is a bit too much for most species, especially in spring. So most potted bulbs should be shielded from full afternoon sun. High temperatures can trigger premature dormancy. This is a major reason why those from the coolest habitats do not perform well here.
4. When growth is well under way, water and fertilize generously. Be prepared to cover the tender species on frosty nights. Most species will tolerate nights in the upper 20s in partial shade, while mid to low 20s will damage many if they're exposed to the night sky.



Boophone disticha



Scilla violacea



Haemanthus multiflorus



Albuca Spiralis



Ornithogalum juncifolium



Urginea maritima

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

- NOV. 1 & 2 **SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
9AM-4PM both days
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA
- DEC. 14 **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY !!!**
12PM (Noon). In the hall.
- MAY 30 & 31 **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society (LACSS) Drought Tolerant Festival**
Encino. lacss.contact@gmail.com

CGCI CORNER



Opportunity to Acknowledge Great Succulent Gardens

The South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society (SCCSS) will be accepting nominations for California Consultants Council awards affiliated with the California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI). These awards recognize a project or person who has helped make their community more beautiful through the use of the principles of good design in landscape architecture or good land use.

There are four possible awards:

1. Certificate of Recognition: for an outstanding private garden, awarded to individuals.
2. Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture: for excellence in land use, awarded to landscape architects.
3. Landscape Design Commendations: for good land use, awarded to individuals or groups
4. Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation: for outstanding skill in managing land us or for enthusiastically supporting the CGCI Landscape Design Program.

These certificates/commendations will be awarded year-round and will be presented when merited. The SCCSS will determine which submissions are forwarded to the CGCI for review by the Council. Any member of the SCCSS can nominate an individual or a project for an award. It will not be necessary for the nominator to fill out an application.

If you would like to nominate a individual or a project, please submit the following information:

1. Your Name and Phone Number/E-mail Address
2. Name and Address of Nominee/Project
3. Category (from list above)
4. Short Narrative Describing Project (must be at least 50% succulents/cacti)
5. Photos, Designs/Site Plan (if relevant)

This information may be submitted to SCCSS President Dale La Forest at a monthly meeting or to Lynda Johnson, CGCI Liaison by email at ljohnsonskier@verizon.net.

The SCCSS will review the nominations and will fill out applications for those selected to be forwarded to the California Consultants Council. Those selected for an award will be notified and invited to a meeting to receive it. Please be sure to notify the owner/designer before submitting your nomination to the SCCSS.

Submitted by Lynda Johnson, CGCI Liaison

GARY DUKE'S OPEN GARDEN

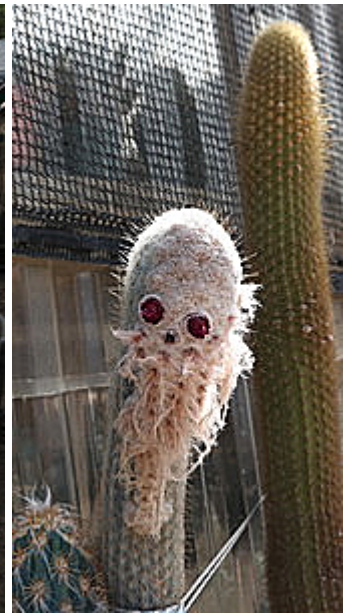
Those of you who visited Gary's place on Oct 18th will no doubt have been fascinated by his large collection. Below are some photos for those of you who couldn't make it. [Unfortunately limited by available space and file size].

Gary was relaxed and hospitable in his native environment which is a nice property in a pleasant and secluded part of Bixby Knolls/North Long Beach close to the LA River. Seeing the maturity of the garden it's hard to believe that he's lived there for just 4 years. Clearly he brought many mature cacti with him, a task that must have been both arduous and thorny.

Within his greenhouse and lean-tos were dazzling arrays of choice specimen plants. Some were in beautiful pots, and were presumably his show plants, some of them I recognized from previous SCCSS shows. He also produces cacti and succulents from seed in his extremely crowded greenhouse.

Gary was giving valuable advice to a steady stream of visitors. There were refreshments and a couple of tables of plants for sale at good prices. Thanks Gary.

By Mike Short.



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CGCI	Lynda Johnson
CSSA	Laurel Woodley

At Large Members:

Bob Caplan
Phyllis DeCirescenzo
Mike Short

Editor's Corner



Cover page photo: *Opuntia vestita*. Taken in the propagation nursery at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

Thanks to Jade Neely and Gary Duke for supplying the Presenter of the Month material and POM list.

Thanks to Jim Tanner for supplying the Mini-Show and Plant of the Month material.

Mini-Show winners can request the original (full size) photo of their plant from mshort@mail.com stating either the size and format required or how you intend to use it (1080 computer screen, TV, 5 x 7 print, etc.).

Mike Short.

Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged, especially articles of an educational nature. Also information on upcoming events that might be of interest to club members are welcomed. Humorous articles, photos, cartoons, or poetry also welcomed.

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