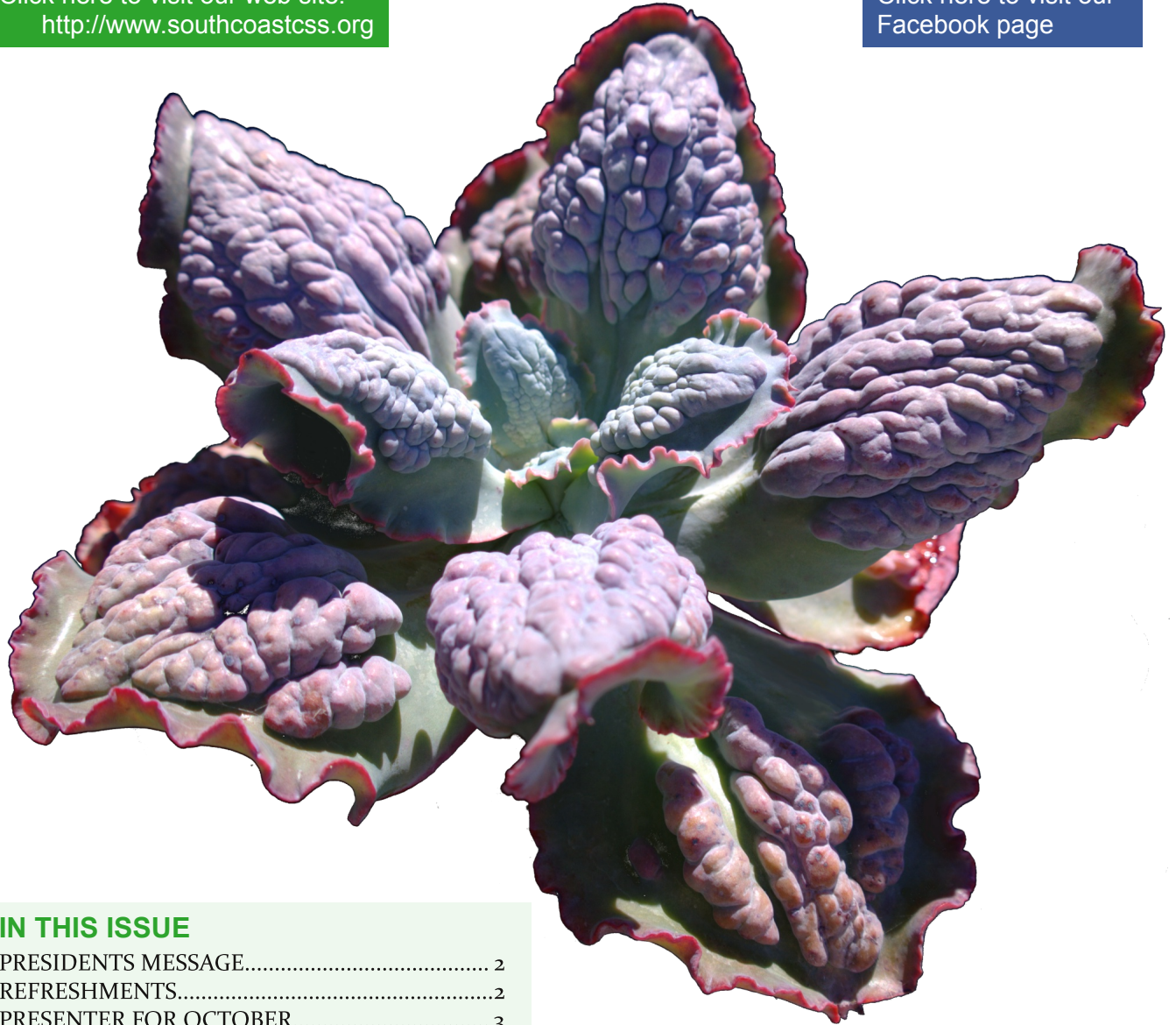


Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter – October 2014

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<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

Click here to visit our Facebook page



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NEXT MEETING
Sunday October 12, 2014, 1:30 PM

We will meet in the hall.

Presentation by: Al Palacio
"How to make a succulent wall hanging for inside and out"

See inside for details ...



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our September speaker, Gunnar Eisel said we were the first to see/hear his presentation on collecting and collections that had the long and unwieldy title of "From Windowsill to the Poor House: Building and Maintaining a Cactus and Succulent Garden." I found myself nodding in agreement during the presentation and thinking - I've been there and done that, as probably did most in the audience! We learned much about collecting, growing and nurturing our plants.

Last month Gary Duke announced the first of our "hands-on" classes for members to learn more about how to grow and show succulents through "hands-on" sessions. At the end of the meeting only two members had signed up for the "Pumpkin Pot" class. Gary did his best to make it easy to enroll and attend by scheduling it before the October meeting. Jackie Johnson (1st place winner in our last two annual Show & Sale events) would have been the instructor. However, after some post meeting conversations, the session was canceled. We will try again next year to develop hands on sessions. If members have desires for a specific session to develop, please talk to Gary Duke.

Another innovation is the CGCI Landscaping awards, introduced by our CGCI Liaison, Lynda Johnson. Lynda has asked for volunteers to help her and anyone interested in supporting this activity, should contact Lynda. This could be a heap of fun for those participating and I encourage our members to get involved with this. Lynda says she will rally support at the October meeting. Further details can be found in this newsletter.

I'd like to thank David Okihara for coming in early at 11:30 AM to help me set up tables and chairs; a task he has been doing for the last couple of years without me asking him to do so. I also want to thank those of you who remain afterward to put the chairs, tables, and society paraphernalia. I apologize for not taking a minute to thank you all after the meetings.

I would like anyone responsible for a task in our society, to find someone who can take your place if you are unavailable or unable to perform your function. Informing me that you will be absent is also appreciated. We have several key positions that require knowledge of what the task requires ahead of time. So, let's recruit and train some backups.

Here's hoping that the recent hot weather hasn't been too hard on your gardens. We should be happy that the plants we love so much are amongst those most able to tolerate the hot and dry conditions of late, in fact many should thrive.

Dale La Forest, President



REFRESHMENTS FOR OCTOBER

Thanks to those who helped in September, including:

Martha Bjerke	Carol Knight
Carol Causey	Danny Westall
Rosalie P. Flores	Sue Wong
Maria Jenkins	

Volunteers for October refreshments are:

Pam Carnesi	Danny Westall
Carol Causey	Jim Wood



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

Any **Halloween** treats would be very welcome!



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



Who in their right mind wouldn't want one of these. Maybe SCCSS could make a bulk purchase!

**PRESENTER FOR OCTOBER:
Al Palacio (Top Right)**

Al will give a hands-on demonstration on how to make a succulent wall hanging for inside and out. Al is an avid local (Hawthorne resident) landscaper that specializes in succulents. Come and learn how to make wall hangings and how to take care of them. Al will probably bring some plants to make them as well. This topic is just in time for the Holidays so don't miss it! They would make great personal gifts.

As with many of us, Al Palacio ventured into a local plant society meeting (it was a Begonia society) about 25 years ago as a self-described "young kid of the group," and had a life-changing experience. The program that particular day was on propagating plants, and he found himself hooked. After that he took a number of horticultural classes at El Camino College and his new hobby was launched. Today he propagates and grows hundreds of varieties under a lath in two backyards - his own and that of his neighbor. About six years ago, Palacio gave up his administrative desk job to pursue landscaping as a career and launched his business "Shady Places". As a member of three begonia societies, Palacio is an admitted begonia aficionado, but he's also a member of other plant societies that promote the care and breeding of bromeliads, succulents and cacti, clematis and gesneriads, among others. Al's own front yard is devoted to a purely cactus and succulent landscape, which he may only water a few times a year.



SCSS MINI-SHOW FINAL RESULTS (as of September 14, 2014)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Arbuckle	2		Caplan	20	17	Capaldo	30	34
Bjerke		5	DeCrescenzo	53	52	Duke	79	31
Fasteau		6	Jackie Johnson	29	38	Gardner	8	26
Holloway		7	Carol Knight		11	Hanna		50
Jengo	1	14	Neely	52	36	Kohlschreiber		2
Bernard Johnson	20	6	Ross	2	3	La Forest	12	11
Bill Kelly	43	16				Warzybok	1	
Shearer	5	2				Woodley	6	13
Short		12						
Tanner	7	34						
George Unrine	2	1						
Judy Unrine	5	1						
J. Williams	4							
Wood	47	21						

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - September 14, 2014

NOVICE CLASS

Cactus	1st	Jim Wood	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	3rd	Jim Wood	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i> var <i>lloydii</i>
Succulent	1st	Sally Fasteau	<i>Haworthia cymbiformis variegata</i>
	2nd	Mike Short	<i>Haworthia viscosa</i>
	3rd	Bill Kelly	<i>Haworthia retusa</i>

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Cactus	1st	Jade Neely	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	3rd	Jade Neely	<i>Ariocarpus retusus</i>
Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Haworthia coarctata</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Haworthia fasciata</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Haworthia truncata</i>

OPEN CLASS

Cactus	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Ariocarpus trigonus</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Ariocarpus agavoides</i>
Succulent	1st	Jim Hanna	<i>Haworthia truncata</i> 'Lime Green'
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Haworthia emelyae</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Haworthia cooperi</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Haworthia viscosa</i>

MINI-SHOW FIRST PLACE WINNERS - August 2014



Novice Class Cactus



Jim Wood - *Ariocarpus fissuratus*

Novice Class Succulent



Sally Fasteau - *Haworthia cymbiformis variegata*

Intermediate Class Cactus



Jade Neely - *Ariocarpus fissuratus*

Intermediate Class Succulent



PhyllisDeCrescenzo - *Haworthia coarctata*

Open Class Cactus



Gary Duke - *Ariocarpus fissuratus*

Open Class Succulent



Jim Hanna - *Haworthia truncata* 'Lime Green'

PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2014

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Mammillaria straight spines	Adenia, Cissus and Cyphostemma
February	Rebutia	Sansevieria
March	Gymnocalycium	Crassula
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
May	Stenocactus	Gasteria
June	Crests / Monstrose	Echeveria
July	Coryphantha	Mesemb
August	Ferocactus	Agave / Yucca
September	Ariocarpus	Haworthia
October	Cactus dish gardens	Succulent dish gardens
November	Eriosyce	Winter Bulbs
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 - Dish Garden

A cactus dish garden must contain multiple succulents in a single container, all of which must be cacti. Due to the difficulty in defining further what constitutes a cactus dish garden we shall refrain from doing so.



SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Dish Garden

A succulent dish garden must contain multiple succulents in a single container, some of which may be cacti. Due to the difficulty in defining further what constitutes a succulent dish garden we shall refrain from doing so.



CACTUS & SUCCULENT DISH GARDENS

You too can design like garden photojournalist and author Debra Lee Baldwin.

Trendy succulents are fun and easy to grow, which makes them perfect for dish gardens. Because they come from parts of the world with hot, arid climates, they can tolerate the dry air inside most homes, and they're happy with little more than a spot by a sunny window.

Since these undemanding plants often have small root systems, you can pot them up in a shallow dish, saucer, or other container. They're seldom bothered by pests or diseases, but be sure to give them well-drained soil, and water only when the soil feels dry, to prevent possible rot.

To pick up subtle colors in their leaves, grow your succulents in a ceramic pot with a complementary glaze. They also look great in simple clay pots or garden urns. You can plant them in large containers, too, and some succulents, like jade plants, will grow as big as the container will allow. Read the tags on your plants to learn about its mature size.

How to Make a Dish Garden

Whether you want a small grouping of cacti or a large bowl spilling over with a huge array of succulents. Different types of succulents and cacti look great when put together, adding a wide range of shapes, textures and colors to your miniature desert landscape. The creative possibilities for your own imaginative cactus dish garden scheme are endless. Your only restriction is to choose plants that require the same growing conditions if you want to grow them together.

Succulents offer geometrical form and unique beauty all their own. Yet, somehow they seem to complement each other when planted together.

Their green or blue-green color provides a common thread. Repeating similar shapes also gives continuity to a planting.

Gather Your Supplies

A fast-draining, sandy mix, such as cactus potting mix works best for all types of succulents.

Choose a shallow container. Cacti and other succulents have shallow roots, so the dish only needs to be 3 in (8 cm) deep. A 9 in (23 cm) terra cotta bowl works fine. It doesn't need to have drainage holes (but it should) because the sandy potting mix is fast-draining. Just be careful not to overwater.

You'll need a small trowel to fill the cactus dish garden with potting mix. A small, clean paintbrush comes in handy to clean off plants after they are planted. Small decorative pebbles or rocks for the surface of the cactus dish garden.

Plan Your Garden

Before planting, set your plants in the dish to see how they'll look together.

Give it focus. Use 1 or 2 taller plants to give the arrangement a focal point. If you plan to display your dish garden against a wall or in a corner, place the taller plants in the back. For a dish in a central location to be viewed from all sides, put the tallest plants in the middle.

Don't overcrowd. You'll want to show off the contrasting forms and textures of the plants. Giving your plants some space will also allow for growth and good air circulation.

Repeat yourself. Add 2 or 3 of the same type of succulent, such as 2 column-shaped cacti or 3 rosette-shaped echeveria. Repeated forms give instant continuity to your garden.

How to Plant Your Dish Garden

1. Fill the dish half-full with potting mix.
2. Remove each plant from its pot and place in the new dish. Use your fingers to spread the roots over the mix, if necessary.
3. Once all plants are in place, add more mix to fill the container. Make sure the plants are sitting at the same depth as they were in their original pots. Lightly pat the potting mix around the plants, leaving about 1/2 in (1 cm) space below the rim of the container to allow for watering.
4. Use a small, soft paintbrush to gently remove any potting mix on plant leaves or between cacti spines.
5. Spread small stones or pebbles on the top of the soil after planting. A dressing of small stones will give your arrangement a finished look. Add decorative rocks to fill in gaps, if you want.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

- OCT 18 **OPEN HOUSE at Gary Duke's**
10AM-3PM, 4660 Rio Ave, Long Beach, CA 90805
INFO: see panel below for details
- OCT 25 - 26 **PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE**
Sat 9AM-6PM, Sun 10AM-4PM
San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas
INFO: hciservices@gmail.com 858-382-1797i
- 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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership Directory

The 2014-2015 Membership Directory has been sent to members with email addresses. If you have email and did not receive the directory, please contact the membership chair.

For those of you who do not have email addresses, hard copies will be available upon request. Please contact the membership chair.

Membership Renewal Information

Current Members	103
New Members this year:	17

We will continue to enroll new members and accept any renewals throughout the year. The membership form is available at all meetings and on our website:

[Click here for membership form on the web](#)

SCCSS Name Badges

If you need a new name badge, please notify the membership chair before the next meeting and one will be waiting for you at the sign-in table. New members may pick up their badges at the membership table.

Membership Chairperson:

sallyfasteau@cox.net 310-544-1313

Please welcome the following new member:

Rosemarie Murphy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2013-2014

Officers:

President	Dale La Forest
Vice President	Maria Capaldo
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson
Secretary	Philip Johnston Ross
Parliamentarian	Philip Johnston Ross

Standing Committee Chairs:

Show & Sale	Jim Gardner
Programs Committee	Gary Duke
Finance Committee	Jim Hanna
Communication Committee	Anita Caplan
Membership Committee	Sally Fasteau

Liaisons:

CGCI	Lynda Johnson
CSSA	Laurel Woodley

At Large Members:

Bob Caplan
Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Mike Short

OPPORTUNITIES TO AWARD EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPING

(First printed in September)

Have you ever admired someone's garden and thought "They should get an award for that"? Now there is an opportunity to do just that, for a neighbor, a landscape architect or even a stranger. The California Consultants Council of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) is awarding certificates and commendations in various categories and the South Coast Cacti and Succulent Society board has voted to participate.

There are four different types of awards. Certificates of Recognition are awarded to individuals for an "outstanding private garden. Awards of Merit in Landscape Architecture are awarded to landscape architects for "excellence in land use". Landscape Design Commendations are awarded to individuals or groups for "good land use". A Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation is awarded for "outstanding skill in managing land use or for enthusiastically supporting the CGCI Landscape Design Program".

The Board will create an ad-hoc committee to review the nominations before forwarding them to CGCI. This

Committee will consist of Lynda Johnson, the CGCI liaison, and two members of the Society. If you would be interested in participating in the Committee, please contact Lynda Johnson at 310-324-3304. The committee will review nominations, prepare applications to the state organization, and possibly visit the nominated locations. Nominations will be limited to gardens/projects that include at least 50% succulents/cacti. Awardees will be invited to attend a general meeting, where they will be presented with their award.

Once the Committee is in place, more information on how to submit a nomination will be announced at a general meeting and in a future newsletter. Submissions will be accepted year-round and are expected to take 2-3 months to process. This is a great opportunity for our organization to recognize a project or person who has helped to make our community more beautiful using drought-tolerant succulents.

Submitted by Lynda Johnson, CGCI Liaison

OPEN HOUSE at Gary Duke's

Saturday, 18 October 2014, 10:00 to 3:00pm
4660 Rio Ave, Long Beach, CA 90805

Gary has over 800 different cacti and succulents with over a hundred landscaped into his front yard. You are welcome to come and get landscaping or greenhouse ideas (he does have more than one design) as well as see his plant varieties and specimens. Yes, he will have some plants for sale.

Parking is available in front of the house on Rio Ave or on 47th Ave. (Call Gary at 714-271-9720 if you need handicapped parking).



Editor's Corner

Cover page photograph *Echeveria 'Etna'* (probably), by myself. 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.

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

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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