



Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter – September 2014

NEXT MEETING

Sunday September 14, 2014, 1:30 PM

We will meet in the hall.

Presentation by: Gunnar Eisel
**"From Windowsill to the Poor House:
Building and Maintaining a Cactus and
Succulent Collection"**

See below for details ...

Click here to visit our web site:
<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

Click here to visit our Facebook page



IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.....	2
REFRESHMENTS.....	2
THE HUNTINGTON SYMPOSIUM.....	2
PRESENTER FOR SEPTEMBER.....	3
LANDSCAPING AWARDS.....	3
MINI-SHOW FINAL RESULTS.....	4
MINI-SHOW RESULTS for August.....	4
MINI-SHOW FIRST PLACE WINNERS.....	5
PLANTS OF THE MONTH 2014.....	6
MINI-SHOW RULES.....	6
CACTUS OF THE MONTH - Ariocarpus.....	7
SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH - Haworthia.....	8
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS.....	10
MEMBERSHIP NEWS.....	10
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	10



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe how fast the year passes. Here we are in September and the day is losing a few minutes every day - in fact we will lose 1 hour of daylight this month - meaning we have less time to care for our plants.

The Board approved changing our CGCI membership status from "Garden Club" to "Associate" and also leaving the Costa Verde District, which was an option. I don't anticipate most members will notice any difference - although leaving the District will mean you won't see invitations to their General membership meetings. We will continue to pay CGCI dues and buy their liability insurance. Hopefully we will find a way to take more advantage of the many educational and community service opportunities CGCI offers Society members in the future.

After many years of service to the club, our Webmaster, David Quadhamer, has moved on to other activities. We thank him for his contribution and are now looking for a replacement. Please contact me if you have some expertise and an interest in maintaining our web site. I will explain what the job entails and see if it is a good fit for you.

If you are a "social animal", be sure to visit our Facebook page. Laurel Woodley has uploaded some albums. I expect visitor attendance will grow in the coming months.

Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair, reports that almost all our regular members have renewed even with the increase in dues and the elimination of family memberships. We now have 101 paid memberships which puts us on an excellent footing for quality programming and activities. I encourage you to contact any Board member to share your thoughts on how we can improve our society. [Ed: or this newsletter]

Dale La Forest, President

The 31st Succulent Plants Symposium at The Huntington

The symposium on Aug 30 was well worth attending - even the lunch and dinner were excellent. Several society members were there, including **Gary Duke, Jade Neeley, Mike Short, Laurel Woodley, Robert & Phyllis DeCrescenzo, M.A. Bjarkman, and myself.**

The first speaker, Ivon M. Ramirez Morillo, presentation on an overview of *Hechtia* in Mexico was well organized, had excellent graphics and was well presented.

Next Nigist Asfaw of Addis Ababa Univ. in Ethiopia educated us on Medicinal and aromatic plants of the area. Hers was as well presented as the first, but focused more on the human element and was very scientific.

Then Nathan LeClear, gave us a detailed yet amusing insight into his field studies of the genus *Jatropha* for the University of Texas in Austin.

After lunch Jeffrey Horawetz, now at Rancho Santa Ana B.G. in Claremont spoke on African *Euphorbias*. Although *Euphorbias* are not one of my favorite genera, Jeffrey's humorous approach was delightful and refreshing.

Germian Carnevali Fernandez-Concha lives in the Yucatan and told us about succulents and xerophytic plant communities there. His presentation spoke to the terrain and climate differences there - one on the infinite areas of knowledge I know nothing about.

After dinner Sebsebe Demissew, also from Addis Ababa Univ told us about how environmental variations result in plant adaptations there.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, with the opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet new friends. I encourage you all to attend and can almost guarantee that each year you attend will be better than the last.

Dale La Forest, President

REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Many thanks to those who helped in August:

Maria Blas	Irene Brenner
Carol Causey	Lupe Hulett
Nancy Moser	Betty Saunders

Volunteers for September refreshments are:

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

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

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



Sempervivum arachnoideum

PRESENTER FOR SEPTEMBER: Gunnar Eisel

We are fortunate to have Gunnar Eisel speaking at South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society on Sunday, September 14th, at 1:30. He is very knowledgeable, grows beautiful specimen plants, and active in the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. The title of Gunnar's talk will be "From Windowsill to the Poor House: Building and Maintaining a Cactus and Succulent Collection."

Gunnar's interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with opuntia glochids. His interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.

Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at CSULA, CSUF, Whittier College, and Fullerton College. He is currently a full-time music theory and history of music professor at Citrus College in Glendora where his students are occasionally subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid c&s collector, he serves as Business Manager of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and as President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.



OPPORTUNITIES TO AWARD EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPING

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

SCCSS MINI-SHOW FINAL RESULTS (as of August 10, 2014)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Arbuckle	2		Caplan	20	17	Capaldo	27	31
Bjerke		5	DeCrescenzo	49	40	Duke	67	28
Holloway		7	Jackie Johnson	29	38	Gardner	8	21
Jengo	1	13	Carol Knight		11	Hanna		39
Bernard Johnson	16	4	Neely	44	33	Kohlschreiber		2
Bill Kelly	43	14	Ross	1		La Forest	12	8
Shearer	5	2				Warzybok	1	
Short		6				Woodley	6	10
Tanner	7	31						
George Unrine	2							
Judy Unrine	5							
J. Williams	4							
Wood	38	18						

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - August 10, 2014

NOVICE CLASS

Cactus	1st	Jim Wood	<i>Ferocactus latispinus</i>
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Ferocactus cylindraceus</i>
	3rd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Ferocactus hamatacanthus</i>
Succulent	1st	Jim Wood	<i>Agave filifera</i>
	2nd	Mike Short	<i>Agave potatorum (isthmensis?)i cv. Kichijokan Marginata</i>
	3rd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Agave gentryi</i>

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Cactus	1st	Jade Neely	<i>Ferocactus latispinus</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Ferocactus stainesii</i>
	3rd	Jade Neely	<i>Ferocactus cylindraceus</i>
Succulent	1st	Jackie Johnson	<i>Agave applanata</i>
	2nd	Jade Neely	<i>Agave 'Royal Spine'</i>
	3rd	Jackie Johnson	<i>Agave stricta 'Nana'</i>

OPEN CLASS

Cactus	1st	Jim Gardner	<i>Ferocactus latispinus</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Ferocactus gracilis</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Ferocactus gracilis</i>
Succulent	1st	Maria Capaldo	<i>Agave victoriae-reginae f. compacta</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Agave titanota</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Mangave 'Bloodspot'</i>



Novice Class Cactus



Jim Wood - *Ferocactus latispinus*

Novice Class Succulent



Jim Wood - *Agave filifera*

Intermediate Class Cactus



Jade Neely - *Ferocactus latispinus*

Intermediate Class Succulent



Jackie Johnson - *Agave applanata* 'Snowfall'

Open Class Cactus



Jim Gardner - *Ferocactus latispinus*

Open Class Succulent



Maria Calpaldo - *Agave victoriae-reginae* f. *compacta*

PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2014

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Mammillaria straight spines	Adenia, Cistus and Cyphostemma
February	Rebutia	Sansevieria
March	Gymnocalycium	Crassula
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
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	Eripsyce	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.



A great place to read the Prickly News?

CACTUS of the MONTH - Ariocarpus

Ariocarpus is one of the treasures of the world of Cacti. This genus, from Central to Northern Mexico and Southern Texas has some of the most spectacular species of the entire family. Some succulent growers, who otherwise avoid cacti, make this genus their sole exception. There are collectors who collect nothing but Ariocarpus, and have hundreds of plants in their collections. Rare specimens can change hands for hundreds of dollars. Rare cultivars with unusual tubercles can be sold for even more, particularly in Japan. There is no denying that this single genus has generated a world wide cult of devotees.

With all of this, you might expect Ariocarpus to be difficult to come by, and difficult to grow. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are no more difficult to grow than many other central Mexican genera. All of the species and all of the varieties are readily available, and nearly all are affordable. This genera is well within the range of even beginning novice growers. Field collected specimens are occasionally available, and these are much more expensive, and much harder to grow. Recently collected specimens are now almost always illegally obtained.

With all of the fuss we make over this genus, it is important to remember that the plants have had important ethno-botanical uses. The tubercles contain a sticky mucilage, which was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *A. kotschoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a cure for rheumatism, and several species were used as 'false peyote' in religious ceremonies.

Cultivation is not difficult, when the home environment of these plants is considered. They grow in mineral soils, with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots. They grow in areas that are very hot in the summer, and that have summer rainfall. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and watered heavily only in hot weather, (but lightly throughout the summer growing season) good growth will result. They need protection from winter rains.

There are six species, several varieties, and a near infinite set of cultivars.

References:

Anderson, E. The Cactus Family, Cullman, Gotz and Groner, The Encyclopedia of Cacti, Preston-Mafham, Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary, Innes, C. and Glass, C., Cacti

Tom Glavich May 2005



Ariocarpus bravoanus



Ariocarpus fissuratus



Ariocarpus retusus



Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus



Ariocarpus retusus var. *trigonus*

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Haworthia

Haworthia, along with Aloe and Gasteria are part of the Aloaceae family. Haworthia are native exclusively to South Africa, and almost all from a Mediterranean environment not that different from Southern California. Most are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the early autumn and spring through early summer.

The genus Haworthia is generally divided into retuse and non-retuse forms for shows. This month, the entire genus of Haworthia is welcome. We hope to have a great display of all the wonderful shapes, textures and colors that Haworthia can exhibit.



Haworthia coarctata var. *tenuis*

Haworthia are notable for their variety of appearance. Almost all of the species have varieties, forms, cultivars, and plants propagated from selected individuals. It is possible to develop a large collection of Haworthia with remarkable variation in shape, texture and form. Bruce Bayer's *Haworthia Revisited* is the best guide to forms, and intergrades between species.

There are roughly sixty species, however there is widespread disagreement on the meaning of the word species as applied to Haworthia. Many species intergrade, with gradual variation from one species to another.



Haworthia paradoxa



Haworthia bayeri



Haworthia cymbiformis



Haworthia fasciata

Haworthia in general are tolerant of varying potting mixes, and success has been reported with everything from straight pumice to potting soil - pumice or perlite mixes, to plain potting soil, and even garden soil. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do. Haworthia can be naturalized as a ground cover, placed under shrub cover in shadier parts of California gardens.

Cont...

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Haworthia (cont.)

Most of the plants in this genus offset easily, and propagation is easy from offsets. Offsets without roots will put out roots in just a few weeks. Seed is sometimes available, and easily germinates in cool weather, with best results coming in October, November and December. The trick with Haworthia seed is to get enough growth on the seedlings to allow them to survive their first summer dormancy. Most losses are due to heat and dry weather rather than over watering.

Tom Glavich March 2005



Haworthia magnifica



Haworthia marginata



Haworthia retusa



Haworthia maxima



Haworthia truncata



Haworthia xiphiophylla

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

- SEPT. 7 **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION**
12-5PM
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach CA 90615
INFO: 310-922-6090
- 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 Chairperson:

sallyfasteau@cox.net 310-544-1313

Membership Renewal Information:

Again, thank you to all of the members who renewed their membership for the coming year. We now have 101 active members for the 2014-15 year. This includes 16 new members!

Of course 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:

<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

Membership Directory

The 2014-2015 Membership Directory will be published at the end of September and sent to all current members via email. For those of you who do not have email addresses, hard copies will be available by request. If anyone wishes to have member contact information before or after the initial publication date, please let me know and a current directory will be sent to you. As a reminder, this is a confidential list shared with members only and is not to be used for commercial purposes or shared with those outside the club.

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.

New Members:

Please welcome the following new members:

For July:

Malinee Krailas
Lorraine Mone
Clifton Wong
Sue Wong

For August:

Dennis Emerson
June Schwarzmann



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