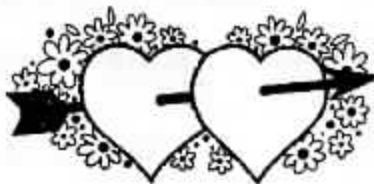


# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 2006



February 12—South Coast Botanical Gardens  
12:30 P.M.—Board Meeting—all are welcome  
1:30 P.M.—General Meeting

PROGRAM: Karen Ostler, STAGING WINTER GROWING PLANTS

Karen, one of our members, will show slides, present a few exemplar plants, and talk about their care. The selection of plants include Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon, Avonia, Anacampseros, Lithops, Conophytum, Sedum, and Cheirodopsis, to name but a few. Karen is knowledgeable and a joyously enthusiastic speaker. She may even bring some plants to sell. Make plans to attend this meeting and bring a friend!

CORRECTION: Dale La Forest is our newly-elected secretary, not Jim Gardner.

## MEMBERSHIP:

DUES: Are your dues paid yet? In case you have forgotten, fill in the form below, make out a check (\$10 for one; an additional \$2 for each extra family member), and send it to MARSHA HUEBNER, 1043 E. Joel, Carson, 90743. Make the check payable to SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP                      NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

We are all busy people, but when making out your membership renewal, please take the time to PRINT your name and address clearly and be sure the numbers in the address are clearly formed. Every effort is made to see that your newsletter arrives by the first of the month, but if the numbers LOOK like 7500, but are supposed to be 9600, delivery will be delayed or impossible.

Also, if you move during the year, it is YOUR responsibility to notify the editor, Carol Causey, or Marsha Huebner of your new address. For one reason or another, one or more newsletters are returned each month. Don't let it happen to you!

SCCSS OFFICERS: President, Carol Causey (310) 675-5843, 1st V. President, Lowell Howard (310) 533-8778, 2nd V. President, Gary Duke (714) 377-0064, Secretary, Dale La Forest; Treasurer, Marsha Huebner (310) 533-8778; Show Chairman, Harry Elsham (310) 533-4070; Committee Chairman, Carol Causey (310) 533-8778

PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS—2006

<u>CACTUS</u> <u>ADVANCED</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CACTUS</u> <u>NOVICE</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
			Capaldo	6	6

SUCCULENTS  
ADVANCED

Fletcher, S	6	6
Gardner	3	3
Hann	7	7

SUCCULENTS  
NOVICE

Capaldo	6	6
Hulett	8	8
Ponce	4	4



SCHLUMBERGERA  
'LAVENDER DOLL'

Dear Arid Lands Customers:

Arid Lands was founded 28 years ago and has risen to one of the most well-known and respected succulent nurseries in the world. Over the years, Arid Lands has introduced many new species to the hobby and has been one of the pioneers in suppling artificially propagated plants rather than field collect plants to the the hobby.

My daughter, Kristy, who has so ably led Arid Lands for the past few years, is now fighting cancer and will not be able to continue running the business as she must concentrate full time on regaining her health. For those of you who have known her and dealt with her, you know what a positive, hard-working, and pleasant person she is. Please send positive thoughts her way.

In Iowa, I have founded a new business; Orchids from Arid Lands, so cannot return to Tucson. Therefore, it is with great sadness that I have decided to sell Arid Lands. If I can find a qualified buyer, I will have no choice but to close it forever. Should any of you be interested in buying Arid Lands, please contact me at [chanson@aridlands.com](mailto:chanson@aridlands.com) or 712-520-0082.

Many thanks for your business and support over the years.  
Chuck Hanson

## PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES

- \* A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- \* There will be two classes of entrants: novice and advanced.
- \* Intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months; beginners, for three months.
- \* Entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 2 points for third place, and 1 point for third showing a plant that does not place.
- \* There may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.
- \* Entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of recordkeeping
- \* At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders, regardless of class.

### SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANTS OF THE MONTH—2006



	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
February	Ferocactus	Crassula
March	Cacti of Brazil	Haworthia and Astroloba
April	----- Show Time -----	
May	Lobivia	Echeveria
June	Copiapoa	Senecio and Othonna
July	Rebutia/ Sucreutia	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
September	Cacti of Argentina	Adenium & Plumeria
October	----- Break -----	
November	Miniatures (3 inch max)	Miniatures (3 inch max)
December	----- Christmas Party -----	



**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS  
FOR 2006**

- FEB. 11<sup>TH</sup>      SAN DIEGO WINTER SHOW AND SALE  
RM. 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO
- APR. 8 & 9th      SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW &  
SALE AT SO. COAST BOTONICAL GARDENS  
26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA # 310-832-2262
- APR. 23            SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE    Info. CALL 310-831-1209
- APR 22 & 23      GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
- May 6 & 7th      SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM  
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783
- MAY 21            HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160
- MAY 21            EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-831-1209
- JUNE 10th        GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND  
SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4    SUN. 9 TO 4 ———SAT. SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM  
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE  
GLEN AVON, CA    INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 3 & 4th      SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY —SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.—#619-477-4779
- JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>-  
July 2nd          CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE —HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA  
626-405-2160 or 2277    PLANTS SALES ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> THRU THE 3<sup>RD</sup>  
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TO THE PUBLIC
- JUNE ?            LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.  
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- AUG. 19 & 20      21st ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM  
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA,CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH  
AT 626-798-2430 or GENE OSTER AT 818-998-9306
- SEPT. 2            HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 24          LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGEUZ ADOBE  
18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 14 & 15      SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.

## The Virtual Gardener

### E-mail

by Dale La Forest

February 2006

A fun way to use your computer to enhance your horticultural hobby is to talk about your hobby using e-mail. More often than not, most of my e-mail is Spam or stale humor from shirttail relatives, but I sit up and take notice when I see a subject line that says something like, "I Got This New Plant".

Attaching photos to email is usually easy, especially once you learn how to do it; but sometimes inserting images like photos into an email message results in a dreaded "Red X" for the recipient. This is often the result of not keeping your software up to date or a corrupted file. Fixing this problem is beyond the scope of this article, but if you have a digital camera and use it and your software correctly, you can get some pretty spectacular results. When sending photos, you should learn how to keep the size of the photo small. The most common image file type is JPG also known as JPEG. If you use a digital camera setting of one-megapixel, the initial file size will be a few hundred KB. This is no problem for people who have a cable or DSL modem, but people using a dial-up modem will have to wait a long time for your email to download from your ISP (Internet Service Provider) server. This is NOT a way to keep friends, well, friendly.

Attaching documents to email is also not usually a problem, although occasionally when the sender and recipient use different word processing programs – most often Microsoft WORD or Corel's Word Perfect. There are solutions that make documents from these programs mutually readable, but if the file is large and/or the format is not important, a simple solution is to send the file as a txt (text) file. It's not hard to convert a file. When it's open, just click on the FILE menu and pick the "Save as" option and save it as myfile.txt.

If you want your reader to sit up and take notice when he/she receives your email, you need to jazz it up by using a different font, color, or other attributes like *italic*, **bold** and underline. It's as easy as 1-2-3. If you are using Outlook Express click on "Create Mail", click on "Format" and make sure there is a dot next to "Rich Text HTML". This will open a tool bar that makes it easy to change these attributes. Create your message using different fonts and attributes and when you're satisfied, click on "Send Mail". One of my favorite fonts is **Comic Sans** because it's easy to read for my "old eyes".

If you find a really interesting website and want to share it, copy the URL (web address) and paste it into your email. Here's one every virtual gardener should be familiar with

<http://www.cssainc.org/953.html>. Did you guess that it's the C.S.S.A. website?

Normally when you receive email containing such an address, all you need to do is "click" on it and your browser will open automatically and take you there. If it doesn't you should just copy and paste the URL into your browser address window.

I've covered a few of the options you have when using email. If you know one I missed, send me email at [dlaforest@socal.rr.com](mailto:dlaforest@socal.rr.com)

## CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH

### THE GENUS FEROCACTUS

Dorothy Dunn

The genus Ferocactus was established in 1922 by Britton and Rose when they subdivided the huge and diverse Echinocactus genus, and at that time consisted of 31 species. Borg lists 34, and Lindsay, in his dissertation "The Taxonomy and Ecology of the Genus Ferocactus", discusses about 35 species and varieties, including two imperfectly-known species. Other genera now included under Echinocactinae range from the tiny Fraileas, through such dissimilar forms as Leuchtenbergia, Aztekium, Astrophytum, Ariocarpus, and Gymnocalycium, on up to the very large Echinocacti and Ferocacti. Also included are the beautiful South American genera of Notocactus and Parodia, as well as several others.

Ferocacti are commonly called "barrel cacti" or "visnagas", and the name Ferocactus means, literally, "Fierce" or "Ferocious Cactus". They are characterized by globular or cylindrical stems and thick prominent ribs. These ribs are an intrinsic mark of all Ferocacti; they allow for rapid expansion of the plant body, which permits a maximum intake of water when moisture is available. A system of shallow radiating lateral roots is the principal means of this moisture absorption, while a few short vertical tap roots apparently serve only to anchor the plants.

The spines of Ferocacti are very strong and stiff, with the central one generally being hooked. According to Lindsay "In a number of cactus genera, particularly Ferocactus, certain spines are modified for the production of a sweet secretion, and serve as extra-floral nectaries. These "gland-spines" appear during the blossoming period of the plant and attract large numbers of ants and insects. While these insects sometimes damage the plant, they also act as significant pollinating agents." The larger spines show a definite striation, with each tiny line indicating one days' growth.

Ferocactus flowers may be red, purple, white, yellow, or greenish-yellow (as in F. viridescens) and may vary within individual species, although F. gracilis always has red flowers and F. acanthodes var. tortulospinus always has yellow flowers. The flowers are produced by the younger areoles near the top of the plant and are apparently self-sterile.

Ferocacti are native to Mexico (including Baja California), Texas, Arizona, and California. They usually grow on rocky, well-drained slopes, and all species are relatively tolerant of basic soils. Their habitats are characterized by low and erratic rainfall, low humidity, high temperatures which fluctuate daily as well as seasonally, and strong winds. They are not in direct competition with plants which share their environment because their shallow root systems are devised to take up soil moisture rapidly when it is most plentiful; this they store in their expansible, highly succulent stems. Specimens have been known to survive without

water for as long as six years. Their geographical range is quite extensive. Lindsay says "The principal limiting factor for the southern distribution of Ferocacti is too much moisture. Most species grow where the annual rainfall is between 3 and 20 inches. When there is over 20 inches of rainfall, the specialized succulent storage system is unnecessary for water retention, and becomes a liability because of susceptibility to decay in a moist environment. Low temperatures prevent the northward migration of the genus. Barrel cacti can withstand 14° to 20° F. temperatures for short periods, but prolonged exposure to temperatures under 28° will cause their destruction. Plants turgid with water will damage more easily than flaccid, dessicated ones." This should provide a clue to their requirements under cultivation in our gardens.

All Ferocacti are easily grown from seed and this is the usual means of propagation as most species generally do not offset unless damaged. Seedling plants are very attractive and are well worth growing for their rugged forms and spinations alone, as most Ferocacti must attain some age and size before blooming (with the exception of F. fordii and F. viridescens).

The principal pests affecting Ferocacti are scale, and borers in F. fordii var. fordii. In the wild, ground squirrels often eat the flowers, and later cut off the top of the fruit in order to collect the seeds. However, man is really the most serious enemy. Since a mature Ferocactus is at least 50 years old, over-collecting by commercial dealers and the practice of some ranchers of uprooting and feeding barrel cacti to their livestock poses an increasingly deadly threat to the survival of these magnificent plants.

#### THE "BAJA BARRELS"

No article on Ferocacti would be complete without some mention of the often spectacular species which inhabit the peninsula of Baja California and its adjacent islands. One of these is F. gracilis, an exceptionally attractive red-spined "barrel" with red flowers and yellow fruit, which occurs from about the El Rosario area southwards to below Punta Prieta, where it intergrades with and is replaced by its variety coloratus and F. peninsulae var. vizcainensis in the northern Vizcaino Desert. F. gracilis was so named by Howard Gates because of its tall slender form; it is usually less than one foot in diameter, but may occasionally reach a height of nine feet. It grows in particularly arid sections from silt flats near the beach to rocky slopes. F. peninsulae, another very handsome barrel, and its variety vizcainensis occur further south in central Baja, from Bahía de los Angeles and the Sierra San Borja to the Cape region. F. acanthodes var. tortulospinus occurs in the Laguna Chapala Seca area and along the Jaraguay Grade, and has a very limited distribution; scattered specimens have also been found in the Calamajúe Canyon area. This barrel is impossible to mistake because of its very long (up to seven inches) and strangely-twisted lower central spine, to which the specific name refers. The plant body is always simple. The flowers and fruit are indistinguishable from F. acanthodes. F. acanthodes var. rostii is found much further north in the San Matías Pass area, along the road which connects Ensenada with San Felipe on the east coast. Superficially it resembles

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the "Golden Barrel" (Echinocactus grusonii), but the body is a peculiar dull green shade and the spines are dull gold.

Another unmistakable - and very rare - barrel is F. rectispinus, which occurs at sea level along Conception Bay but may be found as high as 4,000 - 5,000 feet. The flowers are a brilliant clear yellow, and the extremely long central spines sometimes reach a length of 10 or 11 inches. This plant is now practically extinct in habitat. It apparently intergrades with F. peninsulae in the area where the two populations merge. F. fordii var. fordii grows in the coastal area of western Baja, particularly around El Rosario. It grows in coastal chapparal in association with Euphorbia misera, Echinocereus maritimus, Bergerocactus emoryi, and several species of Dudleya. Although it is one of the less attractive Ferocacti, it does have several unique features: the flowers are rose-purple to orchid as opposed to the usual red to yellow shades of Ferocacti blossoms, the plants bloom when very small, and they are subject to attack by borers, which is unusual in the genus Ferocactus. F. chrysacanthus is another very beautiful and very rare barrel, occurring only on Cedros Island, some 75 miles off the west coast of Baja and northwest of Scammon's Lagoon, where it can grow near the beach in loose sand or among rocks in arroyo bottoms and sides of canyons. It also grows on higher slopes of the island. The plant body is covered with a mass of yellow or red twisted spines, and the spine color can range from almost white to dull gold to bright yellow to red, with the bright yellow coloration being the most desirable.

Other noteworthy Baja Ferocacti include Ferocactus gatesii, known only from islands and islets at the mouth of Bahía de los Angeles (Smith Island group), where it grows on barren granite rocks in an area of extremely limited rainfall. It has large red flowers and enormous elongated fruit. Another rarity, F. johnstonianus, occurs only on Angel de la Guarda Island in the Gulf of California, where it grows among rocks. It has brilliant yellow spines which lose much of their bright coloration when removed to a damper climate. F. diguetii, the largest of the barrel cacti, is known only from a few islands in the Gulf of California, whereas F. townsendianus is quite a small plant which occurs farther south toward the Cape Region. As a group, these varied and striking "Baja Barrels" comprise a fascinating field of study in themselves.

Literature cited:

Borg, J.                    Cacti  
Lindsay, G.                The Taxonomy and Ecology of the Genus Ferocactus



## CRASSULA Linn.

This genus is a very large one, with the greatest number originating from South Africa but other species are to be found throughout much of tropical Africa, and as far north as Arabia. A few species are to be found in other parts of the world. They grow in varied locations from desert regions to quite moist mountain slopes.

Crassulas are usually freely clustering plants, sometimes erect, occasionally pendant. Some are very dwarf with exceptionally succulent leaves, others are of shrub or even tree-like proportions (*C. argentea* and *C. arborescens*). However, they all have fleshy leaves in varying degrees of succulence, produced in pairs opposite one another, sometimes crowded together into tight rosettes. The flowers are small, white, cream, pink to scarlet and made up of ten parts, that is 5 sepals and 5 petals, usually produced as a fairly dense inflorescence. Sometimes many inches across and made up to 50 or more flowers that form compact clusters from the center of the plant. Some species are highly scented, and with careful choice of species, it is possible to have a range of plants which bloom during all months of the year.

Some Crassula miniatures have leaves clustered so densely that they seem to form one compact body (*C. columnaris*, *C. hemispherica*, *C. pyramidalis*.) *C. barbata*, *C. orta*, *C. suzannae* and most of the other miniatures need plenty of light and very sandy soil mixed with some humus, for optimum drainage.

The vine-like types (*C. lycopodioides*, *C. perforata*, *C. rupestris*) make beautiful hanging baskets. Trim back each year in March to make them branch and eliminates the "weedy" look. Morning sun brings out the red color in the leaves. Protection from the late afternoon sun may be necessary.

The compact, very succulent forms (*C. orta*, *C. tecta*, *C. hottentotta*) generally have silver-white leaves and prefer full sun. This type loses the leaves at the bottom and should be cut off yearly in the growing season, and the tops re-rooted.

In some Crassula species (*C. barbata*, *C. turita*, *C. cooperi*, *C. picturata*) the entire plant elongates when it flowers. Cut the plant 3 or 4 leaves from the base before the last flower opens, the remaining leaves will produce offsets. This procedure will also work with plants that do not elongate, but usually die after flowering (*C. teres*, *C. columnaris*, *C. pyramidalis*).

The sizes range from 12ft. bushes, to 1/2" mats. The colors range from green to blue, to white. Some with hair, some with spots, and some form 'satellites'. A few species form tubers (*C. corallina*) and others immitate other types of plants (*C. mesembrianthemopsis*).

Crassulas are generally easy to grow. They require a rich, open soil. The compact and white forms require more sun and less water than the green forms with widely spaced leaves. Propagation from either leaves or cuttings is best, as seed is usually hybridized.

Few pests are attracted to Crassulas, but if mealy bugs or aphids do attach, don't pour insecticide over the plant--it will burn the leaves. Use a systemic type of insecticide and drench the soil. If a brown fungus attacks, use 'Captan' or some other fungicide in a liquid form on the plant.

Literature: A Revision of the genus Crassula in Southern Africa

H. R. Tölken

Contributions from the Bolus Herbarium

No. 8, Part 1 & 2, 1977

The Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700

**SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT  
SHOW AND SALE FOR 2006  
SAT. & SUN. APRIL 8th & 9th, 9am to 4pm**

*SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS — 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.  
PALOS VERDES PENINSULA*



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