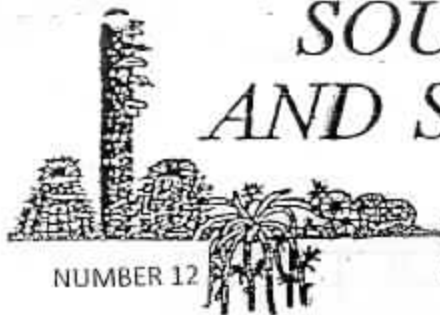


SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 12



DECEMBER, 2009

President's Message

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

Best wishes for the coming holidays. I hope to see you all at our December Holiday party. We have a large number of new members, and as in the past, Long Beach Club members have been invited. Please seek them out and extend them a warm welcome.

As usual, the entrées will be Prime Rib and a Honey-Baked ham. The club will provide paper plates, cups and plastic utensils. We will also provide (tap) water, coffee and tea. If you want something else to drink – bring it, but remember alcohol is not permitted.

Every member/family is encouraged to bring a potluck dish for 6-8 people. It can be a salad, side-dish or dessert. Please bring your dishes before 11:45 – or earlier if they must be heated.

It would be helpful if a few folks showed up about 11:00 to help set up the room. It is possible the tables will need to be cleaned – especially if someone used the room on Saturday. Table coverings will be provided by Rose Arbuckle. Seating will be on both sides of the tables to making chatting easier and conserve space.

I'll try to start the meeting at noon and after a few words of welcome we'll start the buffet line.

After we finish eating . . .

The "Annual Plant" contest will be held. Remember to bring your "Annual Plant" which was *Avonea alstonii* – dead or alive - to be judged. South Coast and Long Beach club entries will be judged separately, (even though I think we have the same specie). Mini-show winners will be announced and prize and surprise plants will be awarded.

If you want to participate in the gift exchange bring a wrapped gift suitable for a plant hobbyist in the \$10-15 range.

Before we adjourn, the current club Officers will be re-installed. I wish to thank them all for their efforts this past year in support of our wonderful club and willingness to serve another year.

After we adjourn, I hope everyone will pitch-in to help with clean up.

Hope to see ya'll there.

Dale



SCC&SS OFFICERS: President: Dale LaForest (310)618-9886, 1st V. Pres.: Hank Warzybok, (562) 429-7110; 2nd v. Pres: Gary Duke, (714)377-0064; Treas.: Marsha Huebner, (310)834-0263; Sec: Phillip Ross, (310)378-5748; Show Chr.: Jim Gardner; Sunshine Chr.: Lupe Hulett, (310)375-3790; Refreshments: Carol Causey (310)675-5843; Newsletter: Vera Thaxton (760)564-3285.

**Southcoast Cactus And Succulent Society
Club Mini Show Final Results
As of 11/2/2009**

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Caplan	11	12	Capaldo	45	17
Dunn		7	Duke	55	28
Kuprenas	10	1	Gardner		35
Don La Forest	10		Hanna		24
Lewis	28	8	Koklschreiber		3
Luhnow	10	22	D. La Forest	3	14
Mason	4	21	Ohlinder	12	3
Miller		6	Warzybok	9	19
Ross	10	17	Woodley	4	21
Snow		9			
Tanner J.	27	27			
Tanner K.	2				
Vande Bogart		1			

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to our newest members! Hopefully, they will all be at our Holiday Party, the 13th and you will have the opportunity to get acquainted with them.

Margie Angulo	Cathy Clous	Lauda Lewis	Candy Paula
11814 Van Buren Ave.	2601 Nelson Ave	20700 Anza Ave.	P.O. Box 4571
Los Angeles, 90044	Redondo Beach, 90278	Torrance, 90503	Torrance, 90503
(323) 755-3525	(310) 371-4195	(310)404-1037	((310)521-6929

As a point of interest, Cathy celebrates both Christmas and birthday on December 25 and Candy starts the new year off with a birthday on January 15.

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 (____) _____

HOLIDAY CACTI

The holiday cacti are grown mostly for their beautiful winter flowers. The original "Christmas Cactus" is a hybrid between *Schlumbergera russelliana* and what used to be known as *Zygocactus truncatus*. (You still see the name "Zygocactus" on plants in the garden shops.) This later species has since been transferred to *Schlumbergera*, and is now *S. truncata*. The "Zygocacti" are characterized by having teeth on the edges of the stem segments, giving rise to the common name "Crab Cactus" (also called "Thanksgiving Cactus" --by American growers--for its late November/early December bloom period.) The "Christmas Cactus" has smoother, more scalloped stem segments. The areoles, which all cacti have, are situated in the scallops along the edges of the stems.

This hybrid is technically known as *Schlumbergera xbuckleyi*. A number of hybrids have been developed, exhibiting many shades of white, pink, lilac, red, orange, and yellow. The flowers range from zygomorphic (irregular) in the "Zygocacti", to regular in the hybrids more related to *S. russelliana*.

The seven, or so, species of *Schlumbergera* are native to the coastal ranges of Brazil, where they grow as epiphytes--on trees and rocks.

The holiday cacti tend to have their heaviest bloom around the holiday for which they are named--though healthy plants may bloom two or three times a year. There is a lot of "mythology" regarding getting these plants to flower:

- 1) The optimum temperature for setting buds is 50-60 degrees. Any higher or lower minimum temps tend to retard bud development.
- 2) Fertilize with a low nitrogen, high potassium formulation when the buds form, in order to bring about larger and more long-lasting flowers.
- 3) Giving them the 'short day' treatment can make them bloom earlier.

Once buds do form, they can abort if the plant is moved, so leave it where it is.

Another holiday cactus is the "Easter Cactus". These plants have smooth stem edges like the Christmas cactus, but have a number of hair-like spines at the tips of each segment and have radially symmetrical flowers. These belong to the genus *Rhipsalidopsis*.

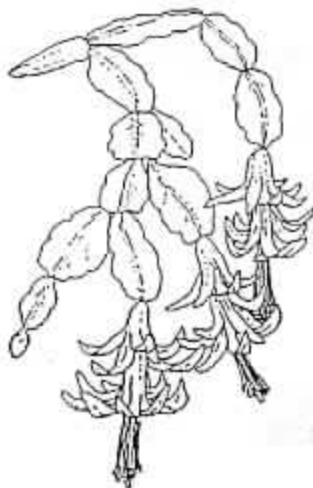
The pink-flowered *R. rosea* is smaller in both growth habit and

flower size than the red-flowered *R. gaertneri*. Recently some strikingly beautiful hybrids of this group have become available.

These are all pendant, epiphytic cacti which grow in semi-shade. They will do well in any standard cactus mix, but the addition of extra organic material (either humus or leaf mold) is appreciated as long as the soil remains well-drained. They will tolerate severe underpotting. The jungle cacti and so appreciate higher humidity than their desert cousins. They should not be allowed to go completely dry between waterings, and can be liberally watered when they are actively growing or in bud. They will tolerate winter minimum temps below 50 degrees, but prefer more warmth.

Some growers have a problem with their Christmas cacti, when they seem to dry up. Dick Kohlschreiber, writing in the newsletter of the South Bay Epiphyllum Society, addresses this problem: "What do you do if your plant starts withering?" If this occurs right after they bloom, I wouldn't worry about it too much. It's probably due to the stress of blooming. If the plant has not bloomed and it's withering, it does not necessarily indicate that the plant is too dry. So don't water it unless you check for sure that it needs water. Withering often indicates some type of root problem. On the withered plants I've had, 9 out of 10 of them are too wet. If you want to try to save a withered plant, cut back on the watering and put the plant in a cool shaded place. Make cuttings in case the plant doesn't survive. Other signs to watch for are roots forming at each joint. Sometimes if the foliage turns red, it's a sign that the plant is stressed. If your buds drop off or segments fall off the plant, it may be due to low humidity or sudden changes in temperatures."

(Epi-Gram, Dec. 1992)



Schlumbergera 'Buckleyi'
CHRISTMAS CACTUS

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2010**

- FEB 13 SAN DIEGO SHOW AND SALE 9AM-4PM
RM. 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK-SAN DIEGO
- APR 10 & 11 SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW &
SALE AT SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS
26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA INFO. 310-832-2262
- APR 17 & 18 GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
- May 1 & 2 SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 2 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE—9am to 4pm
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS
INFORMATION CALL-310-833-6823
- MAY 15 GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 30th
SHOW AND SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- MAY 16th HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
- MAY 16th EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-670-8148
- MAY 22 & 23 CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
ANNUAL SHOW & SALE (10-4PM), LUDWICK CENTER, 864 SANTA ROSA
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – INFO. 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- JUNE 5 & 6 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.-#619-477-4779
- JUNE 12 & 13 LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- JUNE 25-27 CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JUNE 25TH THRU JUNE 27th
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE JUNE 26th THRU JUNE 27th FREE TO THE PUBLIC
- JULY 23-25 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND
SALE. SALE JULY 23, 24 & 25 10AM TO 4PM EACH DAY. SHOW: SAT. AND
SUN. 10 AM TO 4 PM. FULLERTON ARBORETUM, 1900 ASSOCIATED RD.
FULLERTON, CA. CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329
- AUG. 21 & 22 25th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM,
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH
AT 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS AT 661-297-5364
- SEPT. 4TH HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT 26 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA—12 PM
- NOV. 6 & 7 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE—LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- DEC. 3-5 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER SHOW AND SALE . SALE:
DEC.3,4 & 5. 10 AM TO 4 PM EACH DAY. SHOW SAT. & SUN. 10 AM TO 4 PM.
FULLERON ARBORETUM, 1900 ASSOCIATED RD, FULLERTON, CA.
CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329