

# Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

February 2015

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

Click here to visit our  
Facebook page

## NEXT MEETING Sunday February 8, 2015, at 1:30 pm

We will meet in the hall.

**Paul Klaassen, "Fog"**

**See inside for details ...**

## REFRESHMENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Thanks to those who helped in January, including:

<b>Carol Causey</b>	<b>Ana MacKenzie</b>
<b>Kitty Guzman</b>	<b>Nancy Mosher</b>
<b>Lou Hagemeier</b>	<b>Laurel Woodley</b>
<b>Lynda Johnson</b>	<b>Karen Yoshioka</b>
<b>Carol Knight</b>	<b>Betty Saunders</b>

Volunteers for February refreshments are:

<b>M.A. Bjarkman</b>	<b>Bernard Johnson</b>
<b>Gary Duke</b>	<b>Jackie Johnson</b>
<b>Jim Hanna</b>	<b>David Okihara</b>
<b>Lupe Hulett</b>	

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.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Attendance at the January meeting was over 60, and no doubt impressed our speaker, Gregg DeChirico, who spoke to us on his trip to Madagascar. Despite the rainy weather on meeting day last month, everyone was obviously eager to attend another great program.

Greg didn't mention he was recovering from the flu and having computer problems that complicated his preparations for our meeting. But I doubt anyone noticed. What a "pro" he is. He had every excuse to stay home in Santa Barbara. Some of you mentioned to me that they appreciated his background slides on the climatology and geology of Madagascar. Me too. I also appreciated his comment about pachypodiums wanting to keep their "feet" dry while dipping their toes in the water. I was a little concerned about my two remaining pachypodiums (lamerei and geayi) and transplanted them to pure pumice. I also moved them under cover for the rest of the winter. This is the first time I've used pure pumice and anxious to see how it turns out.

Kudos to Mike Short for our revamped website. If you are a computer-wise person, you will be amazed at how professional it looks and could spend a lot of time clicking on the many links scattered throughout the site. I expect it will continue to improve as Mike continues the construction.

It's time to Spring into action. At the February meeting Jim Gardner will start recruiting volunteers for the April Show & Sale. So check your calendars AND see if you have at least one excellent plant you can get ready for the "Club Table". If you're new to the society, Jim will be able to answer questions at the meeting.

We still have positions that need filling. None of these jobs needs a college degree, resumé, or interview. None require a lot of your time, but all need someone who's focused attention will make our club better. Contact me, anytime.

Dale La Forest, President.

## NEW WEBSITE

Our website has undergone a complete rewrite. The new design works well on phones and tablets. We have a new events calendar that makes use of google maps, it can even be used to load destinations into the GPS on your phone. It is now easier for club members to add content. To visit the website use the link at the top of this page.

## PRESENTER FOR FEBRUARY: Paul Klaassen - Fog

Sunday 8 Feb 2015 at 1:30pm Paul Klaassen will speak on the exciting topic "Fog" which deals with succulent plants that grow in foggy areas of the world.



Born in the Netherlands, Paul won his first cactus show at school in 1959. His Opa (Grandad) gave him his first subscription to Succulenta, the Dutch C&S Society, as a birthday present in 1963 – Opa had been a member himself since 1933 but WWII had destroyed his collection.

Paul moved with his family from the Netherlands to Denmark where his collection continued to grow, under artificial lights. He remembers: "In 1967 we moved to England, supposedly just for two years. I still live there today. As I discovered girls, Irish Guinness and rock 'n' roll, my cactus collection went downhill, but a beaten up Ferocactus histrix somehow followed me around as I got married and moved around, from Surrey to Bristol and back to Dorking in Surrey, growing my own family. A move in 1988 gave me my own study, with my own windowsill for the lonely F. histrix. It was soon joined by many other cacti."

Paul joined the British Cactus & Succulent Society (BCSS) and not long after found himself in the role of Secretary of BCSS Crawley Branch before moving on to Wiltshire in 2003, living some 5 km from iconic Stonehenge. A house move now also included a collection of 3,500 cacti – quite a challenge!

In 1997 Paul made his first trip to Cactus Country, three weeks with two teenage sons travelling through New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado in pursuit of cacti, before a final week of theme parks and tourist attractions around Los Angeles. This first trip fired up a passion to see cacti in their habitat in preference to pots at home. Since then Paul has explored for cacti and other succulent plants in their habitats in South Africa and Namibia, South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru) and North America (USA, Mexico and Cuba).

These trips occur mainly during the UK winter time, while during the summer months Paul tours the UK to share what he saw in presentations entitled What I Saw Last Winter.

Paul is a published author: The Plantfinders Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents by Keith Grantham & Paul Klaassen (1999) (David & Charles Publishing in the UK, Timber Press in the USA).

A close-up photograph of an Aloe 'kelly blue' plant, showing its thick, green, serrated leaves with prominent red edges. The background is a clear blue sky.

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society  
**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show & Sale**  
April 11-12, 2015 9 am-4 pm  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula

Show included with paid  
Garden admission: Adult \$9;  
senior/student w/ID \$6;  
child 5-12 \$4; under 5 free;  
Garden members free.

*Aloe 'kelly blue'*

### The 2015 SCCSS Show & Sale postcard.

We rely on members to help publicize the annual Show & Sale by distributing postcards to friends, neighbors, businesses and clubs.

If you haven't already, please let Anita Caplan know how many postcards you would like to have.

You can email her at [arcaplan2@gmail.com](mailto:arcaplan2@gmail.com) and she will bring them to the February meeting.

## MINI-SHOW RESULTS - January 11, 2015

### OPEN CLASS

<b>Cactus</b>	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Gymnocalycium baldianum</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Coleocephalocereus aureus</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Mammillaria hahniana</i>
Succulent	1st	Maria Capaldo	<i>Senecio haworthii</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Senecio scaposus</i>
	2nd	Jim Gardner	<i>Senecio kleinia formis</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Senecio medley-woodii</i>

### INTERMEDIATE CLASS

<b>Cactus</b>	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Opuntia monacantha monstrose variegata</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Opuntia variegata</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Opuntia variegata</i>
<b>Succulent</b>	1st	Jackie Johnson	<i>Othonna capensis</i>
	2nd	Jackie Johnson	<i>Senecio mandraliscae</i>
	3rd	Jackie Johnson	<i>Senecio haworthii</i>

### NOVICE CLASS

<b>Cactus</b>	1st	No Entries	
<b>Succulent</b>	1st	Bernard Johnson	<i>Senecio articulatis</i>
	2nd	M.A. Bjarkman	<i>Senecio articulatis</i>
	3rd	Martha Bjerke	<i>Senecio scaposus</i>

## SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of January 11, 2015)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
M.A. Bjarkman		4	Anita Caplan	1	2	Maria Capaldo		9
Martha Bjerke		2	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	12	2	Gary Duke	12	5
Bernard Johnson		6	Jackie Johnson		12	Jim Gardner		4
			Jim Wood	3	2			

## MINI-SHOW 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	

## CACTUS of the MONTH - *Astrophytum*

*Astrophytum*, also called "Star Cacti", is a very popular genus of cacti. It contains only 5 or 6 species of Mexican cacti, that are each beautiful and relatively easy to grow. The plants are globular when young with a small number of ribs that are prominent and covered with white scales and flecks. Their flowers are yellow, followed by a hairy fruit.

They are grown from seeds, but are often grafted to allow them to grow faster. Although easy to grow, they are sensitive to root rot and should be watered with caution. Most species will take some frost.

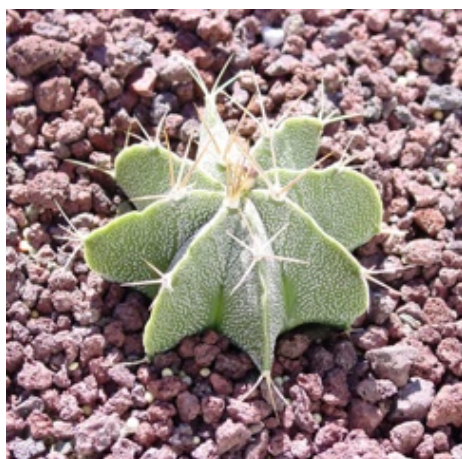
The generic name is derived from the Greek words (astron), meaning "star," and (phyton), meaning "plant."



*Astrophytum asterias* with flower



*Astrophytum coahuilense*



*Astrophytum ornatum*



*Astrophytum caput-medusae*

## SUCCULENT of the MONTH Euphorbia, Caudiciform & Medusoid

Euphorbias are among the most successful of the plant families, covering an amazing geographical and environmental range. In horticulture, they span the range from English Garden plants to trees, stem succulents, geophytic miniatures, to medusoid globulars to caudiciforms.

Almost all of the collectable caudiciform Euphorbias come from Africa and Madagascar. These plants use a swollen base or root to store water and nutrients through dry periods that may be from several months to several years long. When the rains finally arrive, the stored water and energy give them a head start over the surrounding vegetation.

Although many caudiciform Euphorbias are very easy to grow, with the swollen root making them very tolerant of under watering, some are very difficult, turning immediately to mush when over watered, or watered out of season. Care must be given in watering, keeping them warm and wet while growing, and cooler and dry when dormant. Euphorbias from tropical areas (Madagascar, and central Africa) are particularly prone to rot if left cold and damp while dormant.



*Euphorbia brunellii*

Protection in a greenhouse, or even a garage for a month or two in the middle of the winter will greatly increase the survival rate.

Most caudiciform Euphorbias are easy to propagate. The green stems can be removed, left to dry for at least week or even a bit more, and then replanted. The newly planted stems take a few weeks to establish, and then start growing.

Some cuttings will not form caudexes unless double cut. Once growth is strong, the top of the green shoot needs to be cut off again to force the plant to start a caudex. Some species form a perfectly symmetrical caudex when grown from seed, but form distorted (but often more interesting) caudexes when grown from cuttings.

The Medusoid Euphorbias are easily identified. A (usually) large body is covered with arms. The arms may be stubby and widely spaced, or they may be long, snakelike and closely spaced. For all of the Medusoid Euphorbias, the central thickened stem is really a caudex. It is a central storage region, and can act as a reservoir for nutrients and moisture in times of stress. Many of the Medusoids will shed their arms (branches) during extended droughts, re-growing new ones when the rains return.



*Euphorbia knuthii*

In our shows, we generally have classes for Medusoid and Caudiciform Euphorbias. The medusoids are really a subset of the caudiciforms, and compete best against similar cylindrical or spherical species rather than the odd shaped caudiciforms. The Euphorbias with all of the branches coming from a small area in the top are generally entered as in the caudiciform classes.

Medusoid Euphorbias come from a wide range of habitats, with Cape Province, South Africa being Medusoid central; but all go through extended periods of low moisture. Cultivation for many is relatively easy; as long as attention is paid to not watering during periods of dormancy. There are generally two periods of dormancy, a long one during the late fall and winter (mid November through the end of February) and a shorter one during the peak of the summer heat (a few weeks in August and September). The arrival of the summer one is harder to predict, and overwatering in late summer can result in root rot. In spite of the sensitivity, most of the Medusoid Euphorbias do well as unprotected pot plants outdoors in Southern California during the winter.

It's nearly impossible to find seed for most of the Medusoid Euphorbias, and in general, the seed is short lived (months). Vegetative propagation is easier. Most Medusoid Euphorbias can be propagated from arm cuttings, although an extended period will be required before the plant is worth of showing.

Tom Glavich



*Euphorbia gorgonis*



*Euphorbia flanaganii*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015 (TENTATIVE)

- FEB. 14 **SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, SPRING SHOW AND SALE**  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA - INFO: 858-382-1797
- MAR. 27-29 **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE.**  
FRI. AND SAT. MAR. 27-28 9-5PM SUN. MAR. 29th 12-4PM  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
INFO: 562-587-3357
- APR. 11-12 **SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**  
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD., PALOS VERDES PENINSULA, CA  
INFO: 310-378-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- APR. 26 **HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS,  
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
- MAY 3 **SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**---9am to 4pm  
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS. INFO: 310-833-6823
- MAY 2-3 **SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**  
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM  
4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO: 310-822-1783
- MAY 15-16 **GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 34TH SHOW AND SALE**  
FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm, at LAND SCAPES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STYLE  
450 E. ALESSANDRO BLVD., RIVERSIDE, CA INFO: 951-360-8802
- MAY 16-17 **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB PLANT SHOW AND SALE 10AM-5PM**  
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH  
INFO: 310-922-6090—[www.lbcss.org](http://www.lbcss.org)
- MAY 23-24 **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](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)
- MAY 30-31 **LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SHOW AND SALE**  
30Th 9-5, 31St 9-3:30 SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER,  
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO, CA. INFO: [www.lacss-show.com](http://www.lacss-show.com)
- JUNE 6-7 **SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO: 858-382-1797
- JUNE 14-19 **CSSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION, PITZER COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CA**  
<http://www.cssainc.org>
- JUNE 26-28 **CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160 or 2277  
PLANT SALES JUNE 26Th THRU 28Th, SHOW JUNE 27Th THRU 28Th
- JULY 24-26 **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**  
FRI. JULY 24TH 9am-5pm, SAT JULY 25TH 9am-5pm, SUN 26TH 12-4pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
INFO: 949-212-8417
- AUG. 8-9 **30th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM,**  
9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.  
INFO: TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052
- AUG. 29 **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM**  
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 6 **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION -12-5PM**  
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90815  
INFO: 310-922-6090
- OCT. 24-25 **PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS**  
230 QUAIL GARDENS RD, ENCINITAS. INFO: [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com). 858-382-1797

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Membership Renewal Information

Renewals	90
New Members this year	20
Total	110

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](#)

### Membership Chairperson:

sallyfasteau@cox.net 310-544-1313

### Please welcome the following new members:

Linda Lem      Terri Straub  
Donna Russell   Don Thirkill

## 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
Newsletter	Mike Short
Webmasters:	Mike Short Laurel Woodley

### Liaisons:

CGCI	Lynda Johnson
CSSA	Laurel Woodley

### At Large Members:

Bob Caplan  
Phyllis DeCrescenzo  
Mike Short



### Newsletter Assistant

Mike Short needs someone to take over the task of reproducing about 14 copies in B&W of the newsletter and mailing it to members who wish hard copy. Reproduction and mailing costs are reimburseable.

CONTACT Mike for details at mshort@mail.com



### Editor's Corner

In order to reduce the page count of the newsletter, some features have been dropped, Botanical Glossary, The Lighter Side, and the front page photo. Also mini show winner photos are gone, but they can now be viewed on our new website.

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, 4 x 6 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.

Materials supplied for the newsletter ought to be legally usable, there should not be any copyright infringement.

We can attach attributions when required, usually the owner's name, the origin of the material, and any license involved. Attribution is often required for photos on the web, like those covered by "Wikimedia Commons" licenses.

Please supply any required information along with the material submitted.