

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

January 2015



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NEXT MEETING
Sunday January 11, 2015, at 1:30 pm

We will meet in the hall.

Gregg DeChirico, "Madagascar"

See inside for details ...



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope your holiday season was merry and I wish you, your loved ones, and all your plants a happy “green” New Year. We had about 55 members attend our Holiday Potluck. I didn’t know the hall was available until after our November meeting, but thought moving the affair to the hall worked out wonderfully. I hope the SCBG meeting schedule allows us to use the hall next year. I arrived what I thought was early at 10:30 AM to get started setting up tables and was surprised to see a dozen members had arrived earlier and almost everything that needed doing, was done. Thank you Maria Capaldo for organizing the event and giving me a break from my monthly duties as President.

This year we have have made several important changes. We added an Intermediate class to the mini-show; we tweaked Display Table rules for our annual show & sale; we increased our dues to help defray SCBG Foundation room rental fees; we changed our CGCI membership status from Garden Club to Associate Plant Society, allowing us to leave the Costa Verde District; and we welcomed Mike Short as Newsletter Editor. As some of you know, he has taken on the task of Webmaster by designing a new website - a task not yet completed. This past year we donated \$2000 to the CSSA to help defray the cost of inviting Heidi Hartman, from England to speak at the CSSA convention this June and another \$500 for the CSSA conservation fund. And after several years’ effort, we are now an official 501 (c) 3 - non-profit organization, in the eyes of the IRS. Thank you Bernard for hours devoted to making this happen.

At this time I don’t have any major changes in mind for this year. There is plenty to do to refine and integrate the changes we made this year. But I have confidence that the creative minds on our Board of Directors and members will think of ideas to improve our society. Remember, we are a scientific society and our motto is “Learn Facts, make Friends, and have Fun”. So next year we will try to spend a little more time discussing the novice entries and try to schedule some discussion groups. Making changes is usually a good thing. It keeps organizations from becoming moribund. But change requires initiative, work, flexibility, and most of all your involvement.

Happy Holidays
Dale La Forest, President.



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

REFRESHMENTS FOR JANUARY

Volunteers for January refreshments are:
NOBODY!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

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.

PRESENTER FOR JANUARY: Gregg DeChirico - Madagascar



Gregg DeChirico is a life-long plant hobbyist, having grown plants of all types for over 30 years. His obsessive focus on the hobby has now become a small nursery business, Gregg's Greenhouse, located in Santa Barbara, California and specializing in seed-grown rare and unusual plants, including a wide variety of succulents and bromeliads. Gregg is also a reptile hobbyist, raising several different species of harmless and very colorful milk snakes and king snakes, along with a colony of various tortoises. Gregg has travelled extensively to photograph the flora and fauna which is represented in his slide shows. Now in his second term as president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA), Gregg is a frequent and well-known participant, speaker and vendor at many local club shows and sales.



This month we are very fortunate to have the President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America speak about his recent trip to Madagascar. From the hills of Antananarivo near the geographic center of the island, west to the shores of Morondova on the Mozambique Channel, then jogging northward into the limestone crags of Tsingy de Bemaraha, before trekking down the coast to the spiny forest of Tulear, and finally back across the island to the home of the Madagascar's largest lemur, the Indri, in the rainforests of Andisibe, he traveled over 2000 miles photographing the vestigial remnants of Madagascar's unique flora and fauna.



Some 300 miles off the southeast coast of Africa, Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world. Comparatively, the area occupied by Madagascar is slightly less than twice the size of Arizona. Madagascar is a confounding place; Crushing poverty, unsustainable agricultural practices and the most diverse flora and fauna imaginable all caught in a complicated and anxious struggle for survival. Gregg is a fantastic, and energetic speaker. Don't miss this chance to hear him speak on an exceptionally unique area.

Morondava Avenue of Baobabs at dusk
by Gregg DeChirico



DORMANCY

By James Feucht, PhD, 2005 Colorado State University Cooperative Extension ~ Dormancy in Northern Hemisphere plants is caused by chemical changes within plant cells. It is stimulated by cooling temperatures and shorter days in late summer and fall. This "binds" water so it cannot freeze and injure plant cells. To break dormancy, plants must first go through a period of cold (about 40 degrees F or colder) for an average of 63 days. This cold period triggers changes which, when warm weather appears, allows plants to "deharden" and resume growth.

WINTER DORMANT Summer Grower

This group is generally regarded as the "summer growers". They have adapted to our northern hemisphere cycle & are dormant from November through February. Many of these will also enter a pseudo rest period for a few weeks during the hottest part of the summer before putting on a final burst of growth in September and October.

SUMMER DORMANT Winter Grower

Usually referred to as the "winter growers", these genera are dormant during the warmer months of May through August. Their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring while slowing considerably during true winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well especially in the Lily and Crassulaceae families.

Adenia, Adenium, Agave, Alluadia, Aloinopsis rubrolineata, brachystelma, Bursera, Calibanus, Ceropegia, Cissus, Cyphotstemma, Didieria, Dorstenia, Echeveria, Encephalartos, Euphorbia, Ficus, Fockea, Huernia, Ibervillea, Ipomoea, Jatropha, Lithops, Monadenium, Moringa, Operculicarya, Pachypodium, Pedilanthus, Plumeria, Pseudolithos, Pterodiscus, Raphionacme, Siningia, Stapelianthus, Synadenium, Tillandsia, Titanopsis, Trichocaulon, Trichodiadema, Xerosicyos

Adromischus, Aeonium, Aloe, Anacampseros, Astroloba, Avonia, Bowiea, Bulbine, Ceraria, Conophytum, Cotyledon, Crassula, Dioscorea, Dudleya, Fouquieria, Gasteria, Gibbaeum, Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Haemanthus, Haworthia, Kalanchoe, Neohenricia, Othonna, Pachycormus, Pachyphytum, Pachyveria, Pelargonium, Peperomia, Portulacaria, Sansevieria, Sarcocaulon, Sedeveria, Sedum, Senecio, Stomatium, Sulcorebutia rauschii, Talinum, Tylecodon

MINI-SHOW TOP SCORES - 2014

NOVICE CLASS	1st	Jim Wood	85
	2nd	Bill Kelly	59
	3rd	Jim Tanner	46
	4th	Bernard Johnson	32
INTERMEDIATE CLASS	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	134
	2nd	Jade Neely	100
	3rd	Jackie Johnson	67
	4th	Anita Caplan	37
OPEN CLASS	1st	Gary Duke	119
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	71
	3rd	Jim Hanna	50
	4th	Jim Gardner	34

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	

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 - Variegated

var-i-e-gat-ed adj: Having streaks, marks, or patches of a different color or colors; varicolored: a plant with variegated leaves.

By convention, the italicised term *variegata* as the second part of the Latin binomial name, indicates a species found in the wild with variegation (e.g. *Aloe variegata*). Another common indication of a wild species is the use of forma or just f. following the special epithet (e.g. *Atrophytum myriostigma* f. *variegata*), although the f is often merely omitted. The more common, non-italicised, inclusion of 'Variegata' as the third element of a name indicates a variegated cultivar of an unvariegated parent (e.g. *Gymnocalycium pflanzii* 'Variegata').

Cacti - variegates are found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, but some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are also common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Atrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows.

All variegates are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. As a result of this mutation, chlorophyll is missing from some or all layers of the plant epidermis.

Variegation is known in most plant families, and variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The bright yellow and white of variegated foliage adds pattern and rhythm to many herbaceous borders. In succulent plants variegates are generally separated from normal plants, and compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. Variegated plants grow slower and are generally smaller than non-variegates of the same species. The yellow and white areas do not have chlorophyll, making the growth slower. The colored areas are also generally weaker, and more susceptible to fungus, sunburn and other defects. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.



Melocactus ruestii



Gymnocalycium pflanzii



Echinopsis pachanoi



Atrophytum nudum



Atrophytum asteria

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - 1. Senecio

Senecio is a genus of the daisy family (Asteraceae) that includes ragworts and groundsels. Variesly circumscribed, the genus Senecio is one of the largest genera of flowering plants, cleaved or not of species belonging to other genera. The 'traditional' circumscription of Senecio is artificial, being polyphyletic. The flower heads are normally rayed, completely yellow, and the heads are borne in branched clusters. Senecio is one of the largest genera of flowering plants, and despite the separation of many species into other genera it still contains c. 1250 species of varied form, including leaf, stem and tuber succulents, annuals, perennials, aquatics, climbers, shrubs and small trees. Some species produce natural biocides (especially alkaloids) to deter or even kill animals that would eat them.

The name means "old man".



Senecio rowleyanus



Senecio jacobsenii



Senecio haworthii



Senecio crassissimus



Senecio articulatus

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - 2. *Othonna*

Othonna is a genus of evergreen or deciduous geophytes, dwarf succulents or shrubs belonging to the sunflower family Asteraceae. The genus includes more than 100 species concentrated in the Western Cape of South Africa and southern Namibia. A few species occur in summer rainfall parts of southern Africa. The genus is closely allied to *Senecio* and can be distinguished principally by details of the involucre. Taxonomically they are in need of a modern revision.

The form or habit of othonnas is very diverse and in this lies much of their appeal to collectors of winter growing succulent plants. The various species may be pachycauls with elongate but proportionately swollen stems, caudiciform caudiciforms or dwarf and compact succulents with short branches. A highly distinctive group is made up of tuberous geophytes with subterranean rootstocks and deciduous stems or leaves. Other species are orthodox shrubs.

Leaf diversity is also notable in this genus. A few species possess highly succulent leaves (e.g., *O. capensis*, *O. sedifolia*) but most have bifacial leaves that are only slightly succulent. Size and shape is variable, with most species having leaves in the 1-10 cm long range, common shapes being elliptic, lanceolate, oblanceolate or spatulate. The leaf blades may be intricately divided (*O. abrotanifolia*) or lobed (*O. cakilaefolia*), amplexicaul or distinctly undulate. Often the leaves are sessile and the lamina is glaucous; leaf margins are entire to coarsely toothed. Some species are dimorphic in that the acaulescent juvenile leaves are very different from the adult leaves that are produced on the flowering stems.

With few exceptions the flowers of othonnas fit the stereotypical "DYC" ("Damned Yellow Composite", a tongue-in-cheek phrase used for a variety of composites) designation. A simple or branched inflorescence gives rise to daisy-like flower heads. The exceptions are a handful of attractive purple-flowered species that are deciduous geophytes. Most if not all species are self-incompatible. The seeds are often proportionately heavy and probably do not travel far from the parent plant without the assistance of brisk winds. In at least some cases the seeds exude a sticky substance when wetted and thus affix themselves to the soil surface, aiding in the establishment of seedlings.



Othonna palustris /
Senecio congestus



Othonna clavifolia



Othonna capensis

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 AN SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD., PALOS VERDES, 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 90615
INFO: 310-922-6090
- OCT. 24-25 **PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4, SAN DIEGO BONTAIC GARDENS**
230 QUAIL GARDENS RD, ENCINITAS. INFO: hciservices@gmail.com. 858-382-1797



THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626)
405-2100

BOTANICAL GARDENS

DESERT FORUM *Saturday, 17 January 2015*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 – 10:00 **Registration**
Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission
- 9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden**
Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory
Aloes will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales**
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping*
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 **Free Time**
Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:30

Lunch:

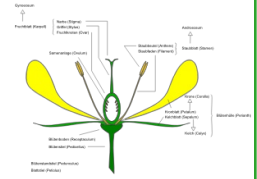
The Rose Garden Café features a variety of sandwiches and grilled items
The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a lovely option for fresh Chinese food

Don't miss:

“Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World” in Dibner Hall (Library building)
The newly renovated Japanese Garden
Liu Fang Yuan, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance (Chinese Garden)

BOTANICAL GLOSSARY

Ever find yourself reading up on a plant and being baffled by some of the botanical jargon? Or maybe you would like to learn the proper terms so you can hold your own in a conversation with botanists. Or maybe you just want to impress friends and neighbors with your scientific knowledge.



So here is the next part of our attempt at a dictionary of botanical terms, more to follow next month.

CADUCOUS - shed at an early age, ie caducous leaves.

CALYX - the outer series of leaf-like segments of the flower that is usually green in colour, it may be large and colourful, present or absent. It encloses the flower while it is still a bud.

CAMPANULATE - bell-shaped.

CANALICULATE - channeled.

CANDELABRIFORM - with a shape of a tall branched candlestick.

CAPITATE - applied to an inflorescence in which the flowers form a head.

CAPITULUM - a small head (of flowers).

CAPSULE - a dry, dehiscent fruit.

CARPEL - a simple pistil consisting of ovary, style and stigma, or element of a compound pistil.

CARTILAGINOUS - sinewy, tough (in respect of leaf margins).

CAUDEX - the stem of a plant.

CELL - in the mesems, a chamber of the ovary.

CILIA - hairs along the margin of a leaf or corolla lobe (as in many *Orbea* species).

CILIATE - fringed with hairs, as on the margin of the corolla lobes in some of the stapeliaceae.

CLADISTIC - a classification system based on the phylogenetic and evolutionary history of groups of organisms.

CLAVATE - club-shaped, thickened towards the top.

CLEISTOGAMOUS - applied to a flower in which fertilization occurs without the flower opening.

CONIC-CAPITATE - a cone-shaped head of flowers.

CONNIVENT - converging.

CORDATE - heart-shaped.

CORIACEOUS - leathery.

CORONA - in the stapeliaceae, a crown-like portion of the staminal column, usually with the inner and outer lobes.

CRENATE - notched or scalloped.

CRISPED - with a curled or twisted edge.

CUNEATE - wedge-shaped.

CYATHIUM - the inflorescence of euphorbia (plural: cyathia).

CYLINDRIC-ACUMINATE - elongated and tapering to a point.

CYME - an inflorescence in which the lateral axis grows more strongly than the main axis.

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Editor's Corner



Spot the Blooms answer - I can see 47.

Cover page photo: Display table at the South Coast Botanic Garden fall plant sale in the courtyard.

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.

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Please supply any required information along with the material submitted.