



Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - August 2013

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, August 11, 1:30 pm

We will meet in the Hall

ASTROPHYTUM: FROM SEED TRAY TO SHOW TABLE

– Presentation by Gunnar Eisel

How does a genus like *Astrophytum*, consisting of six species, remain such perennial favorite and source of joy, headaches, and frequent disappointment? Clearly a major attraction is the stunning beauty of these plants' exquisite symmetry and often intricately detailed body patterns. However, successful growing of these plants can pose problems and pitfalls even to some experienced growers.

The presentation will focus on primarily two species; *A. myriostigma* and *A. asterias* and the multitude of cultivars that have made these plants so popular. Starting with identification and sorting out the myriad of variations sought by *Astrophytum* collectors, Mr. Eisel will share a few tips based on his successes as well as point out some colossal failures in his attempt to master cultivation of these species.

From the seed tray to the show table, there will be something for everyone.



President's Message August 2013

Here we are in the "dog days" of summer. That was a popular term when I was a boy back in the mid-west. I'm not so sure it applies here in "Eden". It may not be the best place on earth to live, but it's pretty close to it.

Although Sally has brought a lot of order to the membership roster, we always lose members when it comes time to renew dues and it takes a while to sort out who's leaving and who's just tardy with their dues. As I said at the July meeting, the only people this is troublesome for are Sally and Bernard who needs a head count in order to pay CGCI dues. At least I thought that was the case, but Bernard told the Board that our "drop dead" date for CGCI is in October. But our new newsletter editor, Judi Woo-Sato also needs to know who is current so she knows to whom to send the newsletter. That may not sound like a difficult problem, but imagine trying to maintain a current group email list and perhaps a document in a mailing label format for those who elected to receive the newsletter by snail mail. Yuk!! Folks, it's like treading through a swamp.

So please contact Bernard Johnson whether you intend to renew or not. Please!

Dale La Forest
President

REFRESHMENTS FOR AUGUST

Volunteers for August refreshments are:

Martha Bjerke
Snowden & Rita Mason

The July snacks were provided by:

Carol Causey

Many thanks to all who bring snacks and treats for our members to enjoy and share at the meetings!



Kitchen Help -

Carol Causey has asked for help cleaning the kitchen and putting stuff away after meetings. Just meet with Carol in the kitchen after the August meeting.

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**South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
MINI SHOW FINAL RESULTS - (as of July 14, 2013)**

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Bjerke	2		Capaldo	27	14
Caplan	7	10	Causey	8	6
DeCrescenzo	26	15	Duke	58	34
Dunn		1	Gardner	6	40
Hines	4	7	Hanna		10
Jengo		1	Kohlschreiber	3	
Jenkins	2	1	La Forest	6	8
Jackie Johnson	16	20	Williams	3	
Bernard Johnson		4	Woodley	2	12
Kelly	10	1			
Knight		15			
Neely	43	30			
Shearer		1			
Tanner	6	13			
Unrine	3	4			
Veits	4	4			

2013 PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM)

	Cactus	Succulents
January	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Kalanchoe
February	Variegated Cacti	Euphorbia with Caudex
March	Crested / Monstrose	Gasteria
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
May	Turbinicarpus / Leuchtenbergia	Tylecodon
June	Parodia / Notocactus	Pachypodium
July	Lobivia / Echinopsis / Trichocereus	Senecio
August	Astrophytum	Variegated (All)
September	Opuntia - Flat Pad Varieties	Adenium
October	Cereus / Columnar Cactus	Sedum
November	Discocactus / Melocactus	Lithops
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES – (revised January 2010)

Up to 3 plants may be entered in each of the two categories: **Cactus** and **Succulent**

Entries may be in either the Novice or Open Class

Novice entries must have been held by the owner for at least 3 months.

Only plant condition will be judged, not the pot or other enhancements.

Open entries must have been held for at least 1 year. All aspects of the entry will be judged, including plant condition, and pot.

JUDGING

Entrants will receive 6 points for First Place, 4 points for Second Place, 2 points for Third Place and 1 point for showing a plant that is not disqualified. The judge may award one First Place and up to (2) Second and (2) Third Places in each category. No award will be given if plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality. At the discretion of the judge and/or Mini-Show Chair, a plant may be disqualified or removed due to disease or infestation or because it is not the correct genera.



July Mini Show

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

CACTUS

Open Class
Maria Capaldo
Lobivia arachnacantha

Novice Class
Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Trichocereus pachanoi

SUCCULENT

Open Class
Jim Gardner
Senecio scaposus

Novice Class
Jackie Johnson
Senecio jacobsenii



ASTROPHYTUM SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2013

Astrophytum is a genus of six species of cacti. These species are sometimes referred to as living rocks, though the term is also used for other genera, particularly lithops aizoaceae. The generic name is derived from the Greek words (astron), meaning "star," and (phyton), meaning "plant."

Astrophytum asterias

Astrophytum asterias is a species of cactus in the genus *Astrophytum*, and is native to small parts of Texas in the United States and Mexico. Common names include Sand Dollar Cactus, Sea Urchin Cactus, Star Cactus and Star Peyote.

Astrophytum asterias is small, round, spineless and squat, reaching a height of 2.5–6 cm (0.98–2.4 in) and a diameter of 5–15 cm (2.0–5.9 in). The disc-shaped body is divided into 7-10 sections, known as ribs; in the middle of each rib there are woolly areoles. The body is a greenish-brown color and may appear speckled from its covering of white scales trichomes. The flowers of this cactus are yellow with red bases and the outer parts are very woolly. Green to pink oval fruits are produced; the outside coat is covered with woolly hairs.

Distribution and habitat

Star cactus is native to the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas in the United States and the states of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas in Mexico, to the east of the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range.

Previously more abundant, this species is today restricted to a single 200-acre site in Texas, where there are around 2,000 individuals, and a few small sites in Tamaulipas. Today this species is associated with thorn scrub, amongst rocky ground; it may have previously occupied richer, flat grasslands that have since been developed. It has probably been extirpated from Nuevo León.



Astrophytum asterias



Astrophytum caput-medusae



Astrophytum ornatum

Astrophytum myriostigma

VARIEGATES

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. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

Great Variegates

Agave

There are several forms of variegated *Agave americana*. There are forms with a green center stripe and yellow edges, a yellow stripe and green edges, a green center and white edges, a white center and green edges, yellow centers and crinkled edges. Other species of *Agaves* have also produce variegates, with the same variety of variegation.

Cacti

Variegates can be 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*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows.

Many of these are artificially propagated by grafts. The famous 'Red Caps' and 'Yellow Caps' are *Gymnocalycium* or *Lobivia* variegates that have no chlorophyll at all, and live only by being grafted onto a root stock.

Sansevieria

There are dozens of named and unnamed varieties. Look for "Bantel's Sensation, Futura, Silver Moon, Silver Princess, and variegated varieties of some of the cylindrical forms. Unlike normal *Sansevierias*, these can be difficult to grow. They will not tolerate cold and wet



variegated succulent



Echeveria "Hanaikada" variegated



Agave potatorum 'Kichiokan Marginata'



Yucca filamentosa



Variegated Agave lophantha



Astrophytum myriostigma quadricostatum



Gymnocalycium mihanovichii variegated



Melocactus ruestii variegated



Astrophytum asteria

conditions. *Sansevieria variegates* can only be propagated through the tuber. Cuttings of the leaves will root, but will almost always revert to an unvariegated form. On the other hand, normal *Sansevierias* will often put out a variegated pup. These should be removed from the main plant and grown on their own roots to preserve the variegation.

Gasteria

The Japanese have made an art of *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* variegate cultivation. Read the 2000 CSSA Journal for just a sampling of the wonderful cultivars. Miniature white species, yellow species, even the occasional pink can be found. There are dozens of variegated *Gasterias* shown at our shows, and available from all of the local vendors. Look for *Gasteria* 'Little Warty', a nice white and green species, as well as many of the yellow and green species such as the Japanese hybrid *Gasteria* 'shozodan'.

Euphorbia

A number of columnar variegates are available, *E. ammak*, being the one most often seen. There are also some cristate and monstrose variegates as well.

Haworthia

"Gray Ghost" is a *Haworthia retusa* variegate. There are several *Haworthia limifolia* variegates that look as if they were painted with mustard. Another example would be a variegated hybrid between *Haworthia attenuata* and *Haworthia pumilla*. Offsets are produced on the flower stalks, these are variegated, as are the flowers themselves.

M. Sajeva and M. Costanzo, Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary

Tom Glavich October 2005



Sansevieria trifasciata



Gasteria armstrongii



variegated haworthia



Euphorbia characias
'Glacier Blue'



Variegated Haworthia
limifolia



Variegated Haworthia
truncata



AUGUST'S PRESENTER: GUNNAR EISEL

Gunnar Eisel'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.

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT – 2013
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- August 17 & 18 28TH ANNUAL INTERCITY
SHOW AND SALE
AT THE L.A. COUNTY
ARBORETUM
9am-5pm daily
301 North Baldwin Ave,
Arcadia, CA
Info: Tom Glavich:
(626) 798-22430 or
John Matthews: (661) 297-5364
- August 31 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDENS SUCCULENT
SYMPOSIUM
All day at the Huntington
- September 29 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB
ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS
6400 Bixby Hill Road,
Long Beach, CA 90605
Info: (310) 922-6090
- November 2 & 3 SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY
9am - 4pm both days
SHOW AND SALE -
L.A. County Arboretum
(See address above)



**We will miss you as our
editor, thanks again for
all your efforts Melinda!**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS for FY2013 - 2014

Officers

- President*
- Vice President*
- Treasurer*
- Secretary*
- Parliamentarian*

- Dale La Forest**
- Maria Capaldo**
- Bernard Johnson**
- Philip Johnston Ross**
- Judy Unrine**

Standing Committee Chairmen

- Show & Sale Chair*
- Programs Committee Chair*
- Finance Committee Chair*
- Communication Committee Chair*
- Membership Committee Chair*

- Jim Gardner**
- Gary Duke**
- Jim Hanna**
- Anita Caplan**
- Sally Fasteau**

Liaisons

- CGCI*
- CSSA*

- Lynda Johnson**
- Laurel Woodley**

At Large Members

- Mike Short*
- Bob Caplan*

Standing Committees

- Show & Sale Chair*
- Programs Committee Chair*
- Speaker Coordinator*
- Mini-show Coordinator*
- Finance Committee Chair*
- Communication Committee Chair*
- Newsletter Editor*
- Webmaster*
- Publicity*
- Membership Committee Chair*
- Hospitality/Refreshments*
- Hospitality/Refreshments*
- Meet & Greet*

- Jim Gardner**
- Gary Duke**
- Jade Neeley**
- Jim Tanner**
- Jim Hanna**
- Anita Caplan**
- Judi Woo-Sato**
- David Quadhammer**
- Anita Caplan**
- Sally Fasteau**
- Carol Causey**
- Danny Westall**
- Irene Brenner**

Ad Hoc Committees

- Desert Garden Planning
Committee Chair*
- Plant Rescue Committee
Librarian*
- Historian*

- Gretchen Marlotte**
- Gina Bush**
- Philip Johnston Ross**
- Carol Causey**

**WELCOME
TO OUR NEW
MEMBERS 2013**

June

- Fernand Bournival**
- Georgeann Dumkrieger**
- Jonnell Larsen**
- Jim Wood**

July

- Marjorie Beringer**
- Ellyn Holloway**
- Steven Knight**
- Gwen J. Richardson**

Membership Application

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Instructions: Make Check out to: **SCCSS**
 Mail Form and Check to: **Sally Fasteau**
30728 Rue de la Pierre
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
 Or, submit form and payment (checks preferred) at a meeting.

New Member **Membership Renewals** **Date:**

Please Print	
Name (of Principle member)	
Additional member's (full name) <small>Note: Additional members must reside at the same address</small>	
Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip code	
Email for newsletter	
Home Phone	
Mobile Phone	

New memberships are prorated. Contact Membership Chair for amount due.	Membership Chair: Sally Fasteau 310-544-1313 sallyfasteau@cox.net	Enter amount below
Principle Member's Dues	\$12/year	\$
Additional Family Member's	\$6/year ea.	\$
Additional fee for hard copy of newsletter to be mailed to the above address. (Free newsletter delivery by email only.)	\$6/year	\$
	Total	\$
		<small>Renewal Dues are not prorated.</small>