



Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - June 2012

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, June, 1:30 pm

We will meet in the classroom

PROGRAM SPEAKER:

Tom Vermillion will give a presentation titled "Lithops." These are those small South African plants that are also called "Living Rocks" that come in untold patterns and colors. You will find this talk amazing as you watch his video of a Lithop flower unfold. Tom is a member of the Southern California San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society. Lets give Tom a hearty welcome to our club.

Membership Renewal Dues

Last year our fiscal year changed to July 1st to June 31st (from January to December.) That means we are collecting dues by June 31, 2012. Please bring a check to the June meeting made payable to the South Coast C&SS.

Dues are \$12 per individual plus \$6 for each additional family member at the same address. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please add an additional \$6 to the amount. (Email copy of the newsletter is included with your membership.)

If you cannot attend a meeting before June 31st, please mail a check to our treasurer:

Bernard Johnson
629 18th Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266

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President's Message

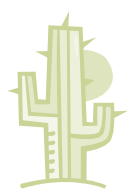
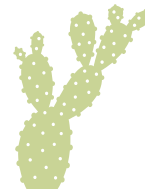
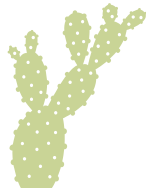
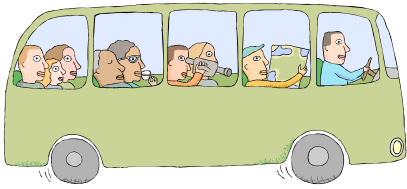
It's election time. As usual there isn't much competition. That can be interpreted in two ways; either you're satisfied that all is going well or you don't care . . . and in fact, it is probably a combination of the two. Still, as Chair of our Nominating Committee, Hank Warzybok has had an easy task because all incumbents have decided to continue and there were no floor nominations at the May meeting. I am also grateful that the Chairs of the Standing Committees, Coordinators, and Liaison members have agreed to continue, giving us a sense of stability and continuity. We have several members who are officers of other Clubs who know full well the amount of time and energy it takes to keep things running smoothly and even more so to make progress, so I want to thank and acknowledge the time and effort all our Officers, Chairs and Coordinators have spent this past year.

I discovered that our new Bylaws did not address election of At-large members, so we will have open nominations at the June meeting and elect them at that time. Self nominations are not only acceptable, but encouraged. This is your opportunity to make a difference. We will elect up to three At-large Board members

It's also Dues time. Dues become delinquent at the June meeting, if you plan on paying at the meeting checks are preferable. If you plan on paying with cash, please put the money in an envelope and include your name. If you are paying for more than one adult or wish to have the newsletter mailed to you , include that information. If you want to renew but won't be at the June meeting follow the instructions above and mail to Bernard Johnson

The June meeting marks the end of our fiscal year and the start of my sixth term as President. My, how time flies. It must be clear to you all that I enjoy the task. I am proud of our accomplishments, but none of them could have been realized without the efforts of other dedicated club members. Although the club has more then doubled in membership, I think the formation of an active Board of Directors has not only facilitated progress, but allowed us to focus our general meetings on education and entertainment. If you have any ideas that you think will improve our club, send them to any Board member.

Dale La Forest
President SC C&SS



BUS TRIP - SATURDAY, JULY 7

I finally heard back from the county. They did approve our free bus. However, too late to keep our spot at Lotusland. So, we will look at this experience as a trial to see how the club likes nursery trips.

We will meet at the South Coast Botanic Garden, with the bus leaving promptly at 8 a.m. Our schedule is as follows:

First stop: Sperling Nursery in Calabasas. This nursery has been in operation since 1971 and is on 11 hillside acres. It is stocked with unusual plants with a large succulent and cactus section. There is also a gift shop and pottery for sale. It has become well-known for its superior plant selection.

Second stop: Seaside Gardens in Carpenteria. This nursery is like a mini botanic garden. There are 11 garden vignettes providing an around the world sample of plants that thrive in California. These gardens include: Asian, Australian, California native, Central/South America, Grassland, Mediterranean, wetland, cottage, South African, succulent, and tropical themes. Check out their website: www.seaside-gardens.com

Third stop: Island View in Carpenteria. This nursery has very distinctive flora as well as unusual furnishings from all over the world. It has lots of succulents and unusual plants. Check out their website at: www.islandviewnursery.com

Fourth stop (if time allows): Green Thumb Nursery in Ventura. This is the best all around nursery I have ever been to. They have a large selection of plants, pots, decorative items, gardening items as well as knowledgeable nurserymen willing to help. I wish we had Green Thumb in the South Bay.

Please attend the June meeting to sign up. Bring a check for \$20 for the trip. This will be returned to you the day of the trip. This is one way to monitor those who show up for the trip. If you do not show up, you forfeit your \$20.

Bring your lunch. The club will provide water and maybe a little surprise for the trip home. We should arrive back at the botanic garden between 6 and 7 p.m.

Since this is our first trip, it will be a test. Maybe next year we can go in a southern direction. Hope this sounds appealing.

Oh yeah, bring lots of money because you will see plants that you can't live without. Also, be prompt. The bus leaves at exactly 8 a.m. whether you are there or not.

Cheers, Carol Knight

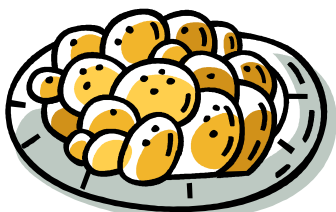


REFRESHMENTS FOR JUNE

Volunteers for February refreshments are: **Rose Arbuckle, Carol Knight, Irene Brennan, Irene Brennan.**

Anyone else who would like to contribute would be a welcome addition.

Many thanks,
Carol Causey



Rose Arbuckle adorned for Mother's Day wearing her beautiful hat which she decorated with colorful fresh flowers!

Photo by Laurel Woodley

2012 PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)

	SUCCULENTS	CACTUS
January	Dudleya	Eriosyce
February	Echevarias	Turbinicarpus to and include Aztekium, and Geohintonia
March	Succulent Bromeliad	Mammillaria - Straight Spines
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
May	Haworthia / Astroloba	Ferocactus
June	Pelargonium/ Sarcocaulon*	Coryphantha / Escobaria
July	Sansevieria	Copiapoa
August	Variegated (All)	Variegated Cacti
September	Aloes	Ariocarpus
October	Agaves	Gymnocalycium
November	Crassula	Echinocactus / Stenocactus
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

* The **Pelargonium and Sarcocaulon** should have a caudex. Succulent is defined as either “leaf succulent”, “stem succulents”, or, less familiarly, the part of the plant between the stem and roots, in which case the plant is a caudiciform. If the pelargonium does not have a caudex, it should not be entered, even if it does have cute flowers.

Jim Tanner

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.

Note: Members showing in the Open class may not enter plants in the Novice class during the year, but may re-enter the Novice class starting in January.

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 1st place and up to two 2nd and two 3rd places in each category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.

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.

Succulent of the Month June 2012 Pelargonium / Sarcocaulon

Pelargonium and Sarcocaulon are two succulent genera of the Geraniaceae family. Sarcocaulon is native to South Africa and Namibia, and Pelargonium is centered there, but with outlier species appear as far away as Kenya and Yemen. Most of the succulent species come from South Africa or Namibia.

Pelargoniums are mostly winter growing succulents. They are dormant in the summer, and at this time some look like dead sticks. Most species are very easy to grow, if attention is paid to providing an environment very similar to their South African home. Some species, such as *P. echinatum* and *P. triste* are tolerant enough to be naturalized in the ground in Southern California when given good drainage and protected from summer watering. Many species will not go dormant if watered all summer, but the plant health and appearance both suffer.

Sarcocaulon is a small genus of about 14 species. Growing conditions for Sarcocaulon are identical to those for Pelargonium, however most require a drier summer environment for best growth.

The potting mix for Pelargoniums and Sarcocaulon should be well drained, with only small amounts of organic matter. Fertilizer should be applied sparingly, and only during good (bright and warm) growing weather. A potting mix recommended by Michael Vassar is 50% pumice, 35% washed builders sand and 15% leaf mold based planter mix. Plants growing under these conditions will stay compact, have thick leaves, and a healthy appearance. A well grown Pelargonium will have leaves that appear to float near thick, rugged stems. If given too much water and fertilizer, they will grow leggy, and the leaves will become soft, large and droop. Plants grown hard will be healthier, and better able to survive hot summers undamaged. All Pelargoniums need pruning to maintain size and shape. Pinching new growth will make the plants bushy, and develop good trunk structure.

Many are self fertile, and seed is easily collected after flowering. Most are promiscuous, and garden hybrids are easily set if more than one species is in flower at a time. Seed collected in the spring and planted in late September to November germinates quickly, and will have an entire winter to grow before going dormant during the summer.

Tom Glavich
January 2005

The POM articles and photos for Pelargonium / Sarcocaulon and Coryphantha / Escobaria were researched and supplied by Jim Tanner.



Pelargonium carnosum



Pelargonium klinghardtense



Pelargonium crithmifolium



Sarcocaulon mossamedense



sarcocaulon patersonii

Cactus of the Month June 2012

Coryphantha / Escobaria

All of these genera are close relatives of Mammillaria. They differ by floral features, and the shape of the tubercles. They are often spectacular, underappreciated, and not grown nearly as often as they should be. Many are easy to grow.

Coryphantha is a medium sized genus of mostly globular plants from Mexico and the Southwestern United States. There are about 50 to 80 species depending on the reference chosen, and the accepted extent of the genus. They are grown for their beautiful spination and large, colorful flowers. They are one of several genera that are similar to Mammillaria in appearance, with tubercles arranged in spirals. In spite of their often beautiful appearance, they are rarely seen in shows.

Cultivation of Coryphantha is similar to Mammillaria, except that they are more sensitive to over watering, and in general, somewhat more prone to rot. Overall, cultivation is not difficult, and well within the capabilities of all growers.

The genus Escobaria is very closely related to Coryphantha, and many species have gone back and forth between the two genera. Some authors place all Escobaria as a subspecies of Coryphantha. We may be seeing evolution in process, with Escobaria, containing most of the more Northern species (reaching into Southern Canada) beginning to separate from Coryphantha, which has the more Southern species. Both Coryphantha and Escobaria have furrowed tubercles (Mammillaria do not), and most Coryphantha have extra floral nectararies (glands that produce nectar located in the skin of the plant), while Escobaria do not. The furrow is a groove that goes from the tip to the base of the tubercle. It is sometimes obvious, and sometimes so faint that it is hard to see. There are also floral differences, with Escobaria tending towards fringed petals while Coryphantha flowers have simple petals. In general, Escobaria are thought to be more closely related to Mammillaria than Coryphantha, but genetic studies will tell us more in the near future.

References

I. Lawrie, Coryphantha and Associated Genera
Edward Anderson, The Cactus Family J. Pilbeam, Cacti for the Connoisseur

Tom Glavich November 2004



Coryphantha elephantidens



Coryphantha calipensis



Coryphantha ramillosa



Escobaria missouriensis



Escobaria vivipara



Escobaria minima

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
Mini Show Final Results
As of May 13, 2012

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Caplan	8	29	Capaldo	20	12
DeCrescenzo	6	13	Causey	10	16
Dunn		1	Duke	34	21
Hines	7	1	Gardner	12	3
Bernard Johnson	2	2	Hanna	3	26
Jackie Johnson	9	23	Kohlschreiber	2	8
Knight		2	LaForest	5	5
Neely	24	10	Warzybok		3
Ross	14	3	Woodley		7
Shearer		5			
Tanner	5	6			
Unrine		1			
Veits		3			
Williams	3				

May POM First Place Winners

Open - Cactus Gary Duke <i>Ferocactus glaucescens</i>	Open - Succulent Jim Hanna <i>Haworthia truncata</i> 'lime green'
Novice - Cactus Jade Neely <i>Ferocactus latispinus</i>	Novice - Succulent Anita Caplan <i>Haworthia fasciata</i>



The Hot Corner From Hell by Akemi Kayleng Knight

Hi! Some of you know me already. I joined our club last year, and recently paid my renewal dues. Choosing to renew would be surprising, since, as I've recently confessed to Dale, I threw in the towel and planted a tree in the Hot Corner From Hell.

A bit of explanation is called for. We moved to San Pedro in 2008. Our backyard was plagued from the start by a microclimate inferno in the northeast section. Some combination of factors made it so hot NOTHING survived.

I joined our club hoping to find a solution. At our last meeting Dale asked me how the Hot Corner From Hell was doing. With some embarrassment I had to admit, a tree now grows there. Admittedly, I took the "cop out" solution. The big mistake, I now realize, was I tried to use young plants thinking, "they're cacti and succulents so of course they can



stand the heat". I was too impatient to wait for my baby plants to grow and too cheap to purchase large, mature plants. So a tree was easier. But I have a feeling some of the plants I'm getting through the club will eventually go along the north wall leading to the Hot Corner. I've been told some of the door prizes I've acquired can be enormous if you give it a sufficiently large pot. So now the plan is to start them off in pots and when they are big enough to survive the north wall leading to hell they can go into the ground.

Funny thing is, the tree defeats my original purpose for joining the club. But I renewed my membership anyway. I enjoy the friends I'm making, and the talks are always very interesting. I've even brought in refreshments when I wasn't officially signed up to do so.

Happy growing,
Akemi



**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012
UPDATED 12/14/2011**

- JUNE 2 & 3** **SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY – SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO. 858-382-1797
- JUNE 9-10** **LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY**
PLANT SHOW AND SALE 11th 9-5, 12th 9-3:30
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD.
ENCINO, CA INFO. E-MAIL LACSS.Contact@gmail.com
- JUNE 29-JULY 1** **CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JUNE 29TH THRU JULY 1ST
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE JUNE 30TH THRU JULY 1ST FREE TO THE PUBLIC
- JULY 27-28** **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**
FRIDAY JULY 27TH Noon until 7pm, SATURDAY JULY 28TH 9am to 5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329
- AUG. 11-12** **27th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM,**
9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-297-5364
- SEPT. 1** **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM**
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 23** **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION**
18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA----12 PM
- NOV. 3-4** **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- NOV. 9-10** **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER SHOW AND SALE 9am-5pm**
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329

Happy Father's Day



FYI: Board of Directors for FY2011:

President	Dale La Forest
Vice President	Judy Unrine
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson
Secretary	Philip Johnston Ross
At Large Member	Maria Capaldo
At Large Member	Jim Tanner
At Large Member	Melinda Hines
Show & Sale Chair	Jim Gardner
Programs Committee Chair	Gary Duke
Finance Committee Chair	Jim Hanna
Communication Committee Chair	Vacant
Membership Comm. Chair	Lucy Hemingway
Liaison, CGCI	Neva Drages
Liaison, CSSA	Laurel Woodley
Parliamentarian	Philip Johnston Ross