

South Coast  
Cactus & Succulent Society



# Prickly News

November 2011



**GENERAL MEETING**  
Sunday, November 13, 1:30 pm

**PROGRAM:**

Our speaker for November is Tom Glavich who will give an exciting presentation titled "Monstrosities." His talk will cover all those odd forms, such as crests, variegation and other deformities and what forms some of them. Tom is an exciting speaker and has talked to us before. He usually writes an article for each issue of the CSSA Journal and frequently sells plants at our show. Lets give Tom an enthusiastic welcome back to our club. Tom will probably bring some of his pelargoniums and other succulents to sell as well.

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Cactus Wren

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

While searching the Internet for things to do in November, I stumbled across the website of the Desert Garden in Phoenix and while we certainly can't be classified as a "low desert" climate, there are some similarities. Our temperatures aren't likely to be as low and we certainly get more rain and fog. Now that we are distributing our Newsletter by email, "URL hotlinks" will be functional. For members who get hard copy, if you have access to a computer, just look up Desert Garden and browse to their gardening calendar. The actual list is quite lengthy, so I didn't want to copy it or even try to condense it. This is the best way to bring it to your attention. <http://www.dbg.org/gardening-horticulture/gardening-calendar/november>

If you know other websites that contain good advice, let me know.

At the October meeting I asked for volunteers to fill three committee positions. So far I've not heard from anyone. I'll have to resort to the "PREGNANT PAUSE". That means, I'll ask for volunteers and just wait until someone feels obliged to raise his or her hand. The Club really needs your involvement. Call me.

By now you will have received the Bylaws or will receive a copy when you get your Newsletter in the mail. The Board approved of our revised Bylaws in October and now it is time to bring them to the membership for a final vote.

As I write this article (Oct 16), I am still waiting for the SCBG Foundation to notify me about our request to move our 2011 meetings to the hall. They have informed me

that we can have our meetings in the hall except for the months of Jan, May, June and December, at which time we will move back to the classrooms. I have asked for permission to use both classrooms so that members and presenters who want to sell plants will have more table space. Next year we will try to start all meetings with the Program. The public will be invited to attend these, or at least Foundation members if we can get our program information to the Foundation in time for them to put it in their Newsletter and calendar.

Speaking of the Foundation, have you visited their website recently? If you haven't, it's worth a few minutes of your time.

<http://www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org/>

**NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING**

There will be a Board meeting after the General membership meeting. Agenda items will include a proposal to purchase a digital projector and donate it to the SCBG. And if I get a contract from the SCBG Foundation or an agenda item from a Board member, that too will be on the agenda to approve and discuss.

**WEBSITE**

If you've never visited our website or haven't been there in a while, please take a few minutes and browse. <http://www.southcoastcss.org/> I am extremely happy and pleased that Gary (and perhaps Jade) and David have already changed the November speaker. Maintaining our website requires making a lot of monthly changes. If you would like to learn more about how to do this or already consider yourself an expert or if you see things that could be improved or corrected, contact David or me.

## Tribute to Carol Anne Wujcik

On Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we all lost a great friend, a wonderful and compassionate person and a lover of the world's natural treasures. Carol passed from a heart attack at 7:00 pm in her home in Fallbrook, CA. She was in the presence of her loving husband Joe, their housekeeper and their family of cats. Carol was born on September 1, 1943 in the town of Manhattan, KS and is survived by Joe, her siblings Bill, Peter and Steff, her father, her numerous friends, and all of her special kitties and plants.

Having known Carol for over 30 years, I was asked and am honored to write this tribute to Carol and her amazing life. Anyone who knew Carol, quickly became aware that she was a very compassionate, philosophical and a giving person. Not only did she give so much of herself to Joe, her friends and her many prized four legged creatures, but she also gave greatly to the betterment of humanity.

Her contributions to the cactus, succulent and bromeliad worlds were never ending. She was the newsletter editor for many years of the Long Beach Cactus club and was soon made an honorary life member of this club, the oldest C & S club in the United States. She was also one of the inspirational persons for the foundation of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show. Due to her wonderful ability to promote others, she soon became the pre and post show newsletter person for the ICCSS. It was from this forum that her photography and positive journalism were really recognized. She is without a doubt one of the major reasons for the philosophy and great success of the ICCSS show today. Over the last number of years, she and her husband Joe have been producing a superb newsletter for the Saddleback Bromeliad Society. As a writer, photographer and an overall promoter of people, Carol has definitely set the standard and left her mark for all newsletter persons to emulate.

Carol also had a tremendous enthusiasm for the wild outdoor places, especially our own south west, USA. Once living in California, she soon became familiar with the stark and dramatic Mojave Desert. On one of her first trips into the Mojave, the Clark mountain region, she was instantly taken by the often spiritual experience of sitting around the campfire and enjoying the stellar light shows. We were lucky to travel with Carol and Joe on numerous trips into the US deserts, as well as many trips into the majestic Baja California, Mexico. During these later trips, Carol quickly learned to embrace the joy of campfire margaritas and philosophical conversations. She was well known for her deep and spiritual questions, such as; "What is the meaning of life?" and "If there is reincarnation, what would you like to come back as?" Carol would often say, "I would like to come back as one of my dogs, they have such good lives." I will always remember myself and a few others dragging Carol up the mountain at Cerro Bola, Mexico, to see her first *Astrophytum coahuilense* by the star light. She was glowing with excitement, a moment that I'm sure, she also never forgot.

Carol had a tremendous affect on us all. From shows, to the great outdoors, to gatherings of cactus, succulent and bromeliad people, she touched our hearts and our imaginations. All three of my children saw Carol like a godmother and my daughter Sarah said, "I'll never forget going to Carols home and dressing-up her cats in beads and hearing Carols most wonderful, joyful laughter." Those of us who knew Carol are very lucky. I hope we can pass on her love and appreciation for nature's wonders and her desire to bring people closer together.

With love, from Woody and all who knew her.



## 2011 Mini Show Plant List

MONTH	Cactus Genera	Succulent Genera
NOVEMBER	Opuntia	Crassula
DECEMBER	PARTY	PARTY



Wikipedia

*Opuntia galapagos*

### South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Mini Show Final Results As of October 9, 2011

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Arbuckle	2		Capaldo	65	40
Angulo	12	2	Causey	13	21
Becdach	2		DeCrescenzo		1
Caplan	26	22	Duke	50	17
Fazio	20		Hanna	3	28
Hines	2		Kohlschreiber	2	3
Hemingway	1	13	Gardner	4	36
Hutchison	4		Dale La Forest	8	21
Bernard Johnson		2	Woodley	3	9
Ted Johnson	16	38			
Kuprenas	4	1			
Neely	5				
Ross	5	9			
Shearer	9	9			
Tanner	23	42			
Unrine	3	1			
Veits		15			
Williams	3				



Wikipedia

*Crassula capitella*

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> place and up to two 2<sup>nd</sup> and two 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Cactus of the Month – Opuntia

The Cactus family is divided into a number of subfamilies. The Opuntioideae is one of these sub families. The Opuntioideae covers the largest geographical range of any of the sub-families, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas. It is naturalized on every continent except Antarctica. It is a pest and a noxious weed in many places, and is displacing native vegetation in parts of Africa, Madagascar and Australia.

The first plants that come to mind when one thinks of Opuntia are the flat padded plants, seen everywhere, or the spiny cylindrical Cholla common to the local hillsides and deserts. The Opuntioideae family offers much more, and some unusual as well as common forms are described below.

Propagation of all Opuntias is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator required. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds from the same plant sometimes germinating in days, and sometimes not for months.

Handling of Opuntias is somewhat of a problem. They are notorious for their well placed sharp spines, and nearly invisible glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help, and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.

Tephrocactus, is a genus of very variable cacti, mostly from Argentina. Species vary considerably, from the very spiny *Tephrocactus stramria* to the paper spined *Tephrocactus articulata* to the nearly spineless *Tephrocactus inermis*. Tephrocactus are probably the most collected of the Opuntioideae, and there is even a Tephrocactus study group for the true fanatics. They make small, neat plants, and a good collection can be kept in a reasonable area.

Tom Glavich March 2005

\*Members of the genus Tephrocactus, a low clumping genus from the southern parts of South America were originally part of the genus Opuntia. Later they were separated and the genus Tephrocactus was set up in its own right. It has now been put back in its original genus but as a sub genus. Tephrocacti do not have flat pads but have globular ovoid or short, cylindrical-jointed, lightly attached stems, often with well-developed spines. \* From CSSA, from the ISOCS Journal, India.



*Opuntia microdasys*



*Opuntia subulata*



*Opuntia basilaris*



*Opuntia bigelovii articulata*



*Tephrocactus*



*Opuntia cylindrica cristata*

## Succulent of the Month – Crassula

The Crassulaceae Family is medium sized and cosmopolitan, with succulent members worldwide, and family members that range from the arctic to the hottest areas of the African Deserts. As might be expected from a wide ranging family, the plants also vary tremendously, with succulent members varying from only a inch or less across at maturity to tree like shrubs. It is the third largest of the succulent families behind Cactaceae and Mesembryanthemaceae.

Crassula is the largest genus in the family, containing everything from bog plants to some of the most extreme succulents. Many Crassula species have been naturalized and are commonly seen as garden plants in Southern California. These include *C. arborescens*, *C. falcata*, *C. perforata*. Many hybrids and cultivars are available, offering a large variety of colors and shapes. Some favorite species include: *Crassula arta* which makes columns of close packed triangular leaves. As the stems lengthen with age, cuttings can be taken and the plant restarted. *Crassula lycopodioides* is a wonderful plant for hanging baskets. Its thin green strands of tiny leaves offset from roots and the base to fill a good size pot. *Crassula pyramidalis* forms mats of short four sided branches.

Many Crassulas border on being weedy. They get lanky after a year or two, and the bottom leaves either fall off or turn brown. Cuttings of these plants should be taken (they almost always root), and the plants restarted either in the early fall (October is best) or early spring (late February to April).

Tom Glavich January 2003



*Crassula arborescens*



*Crassula lycopodioides*



*Crassula falcata*



*Crassula juliana*



*Crassula alstonii*



*Crassula perforata*

## October POM First Place Winners

<b>Open - Cactus</b> Gary Duke <i>Haageocereus</i> <i>Pseudomelanosteles</i> <i>variespinus</i>	<b>Open - Succulent</b> Jim Hanna <i>Haworthia</i> <i>cymbiformmis</i>
<b>Novice - Cactus</b> Carmen Shearer <i>Mammillaria elongata</i> crest	<b>Novice - Succulent</b> Jim Tanner <i>Agave schidigera</i>

## THE SEVEN BEST WAYS TO KILL YOUR SUCCULENTS

1. Don't ask questions of other people who grow the same plant. Just because they have blooming specimen plants doesn't mean they know anything about growing.
2. Put your plant on a fixed watering schedule. Why water it when it needs it? After all it rained a few days ago, followed by 5 days of 110° F.
3. Assume that the plant is happy where you first place it. That spot on the north side of the house with the light shade all thru June, July and August will become the cold densely shaded spot all winter long.
4. Don't inspect your plants too closely. Three months of unnoticed scale and mealy bugs aren't going to hurt anything, are they?
5. Never buy literature on the plants that you grow. Those articles are written by eggheads for eggheads, and you should enjoy the challenge of keeping your plants alive.
6. Use whatever soil is available for transplanting. If you dump enough fertilizer in that broken down mucky peat, that desert growing terrestrial will be just fine, won't it?
7. Treat all of your plants alike. They're all green, right?



## CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2011

**NOV. 5-6**      **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND-SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**  
**LA COUNTY ARBORETUM**  
 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

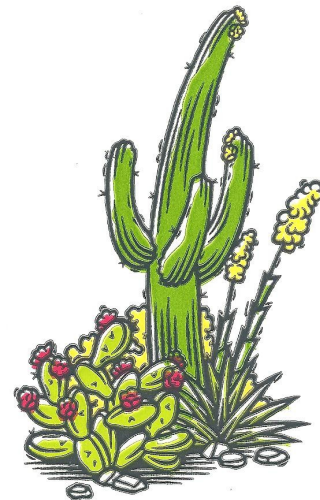
**Fri Nov. 11**      **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER SHOW AND SALE**  
**Noon to 7:00**  
**Sat Nov 12**      **1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim**  
**9am to 5pm**      **United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA**  
**CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329**



## FYI: Board of Directors for FY2011-2012 are:

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
Annual Show & Sale Chair	Jim Gardner
Programs Committee Chair	Gary Duke
Finance Committee Chair	Judi Woo-Sato
Communication Comm. Chair	
Membership Comm. Chair	Lucy Hemingway
Liaison, CGCI	Judy Unrine
Liaison, SCBG Foundation	Jim Gardner
Liaison, CSSA	Laurel Woodley
Parliamentarian	Philip Johnston Ross

The above article originated in the newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society. Hank Warzybok submitted it for the *Prickly News*.



Dale found an interesting website for several cactus recipes that you may like to try cooking.  
<http://www.succulent-plant.com/crecipe.html>



**ARE YOU A CACTUS FLOWER?**

*Are you a cactus flower  
That chooses when to cheer  
By showing up once a year?*

*Or could you be a wallflower,  
Warming a perimeter chair,  
Hiding behind your hair?*

*Maybe you're a dandelion,  
Growing in a wrong place,  
Ashamed to show your face.*

*I hope you're not a fading bloom  
Long past it's vibrant youth  
That has become uncouth.*

*And, God forbid you're not a thorn  
That cuts and tears the fabric  
Of our Club's social rubric.*

*I wonder why you don't grow roots  
And share your thoughts that nourish  
That help our Club to flourish.*

*Perhaps we should all be succulents  
Whose maintenance is small,  
Prized and loved by all.*



Joe Stead of Orange Coast Community College gave a very interesting presentation on propagation

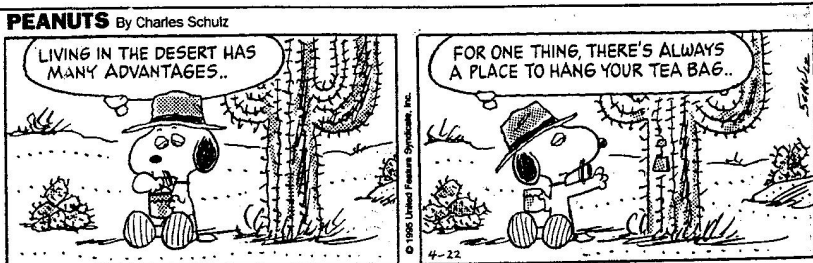


Plants of the Month for October  
Variegated - All  
Crested - All



Yes! They are growing!

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1995 GAZETTE TELEGRAPH D11



# **Mad's Magic Egg Sale**

## **Thurs, Nov. 3rd through**

### **Sat, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**



**DRAW YOUR OWN DISCOUNT ON ALL PRICED PLANTS!  
INCLUDING BLUE LABEL AND PLANTS MARKED "NET"**

**20% or 30% or 40% or 50%  
or up to \$100.00 FREE!**

**Two \$75.00 GIFT CERTIFICATES WILL BE  
GIVEN AWAY!**



**Bring your own padding for the BIG ones!  
No shipping of discounted plants. Carry out only.**

**NOW is one of the best times to plant cacti or other succulents out in your garden or repot ones in your collection. In the fall, after the hot weather, our plants go into a growth spurt before the cold weather arrives. Here in California and other warm areas, the ground is still above 50°F and the plants root in nicely before the winter rain produces more root growth. In most coastal areas the plants don't go totally dormant in winter, but grow slowly until the spring growth spurt. Come find a special plant for your garden or a new specimen for your collection!**

**WE HAVE SOME REALLY GREAT BARGAINS FOR YOU!**

**GRIGSBY CACTUS GARDENS**  
**Open 9 am to 2pm, Tuesday through Saturday**  
**Closed Sunday and Monday**  
**2354 Bella Vista Drive**  
**Vista CA 92084-7836**  
**760-727-1323**