



# Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - November 2012

## GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 11, 1:30 pm

We will meet in Frances Young Hall

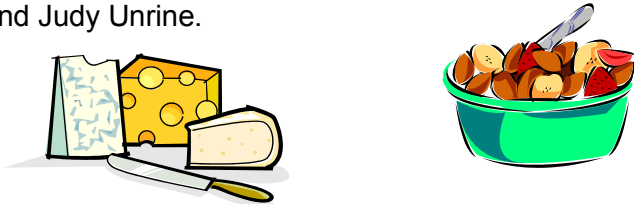
### PROGRAM:

Laurel Woodley and Jim Gardener (yes, our very own club members) will discuss the genus Aeonium. The name Aeonium comes from the ancient Greek word "aionos" meaning ageless. Aeoniums are mainly native to the Canary Islands, but some there are species native to Madeira, Morocco and eastern Africa (Ethiopia). Jim and Laurel have numerous slides of the different varieties and hybrids as well as some show plants. They will help us understand their similarities and differences and how to successfully grow them. Lets all attend and learn how to grow these "ageless" succulents better.

## REFRESHMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Volunteers for November refreshments are: Jackie Bouvier, Irene Brenner, Anita Caplan, and Ana Mackenzie.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who brought refreshments to the October meeting including Maria Capaldo, Sally Fasteau, Melinda Hines, Akemi Kayleng Knight, Bill Kelley, Dale La Forest, Betty Saunders, and Judy Unrine.



## WE STILL HAVE OPEN POSITIONS Get involved in your Club and volunteer!

Currently held by

CGCI Liaison ..... Judy Unrine  
Communications Chair ..... Dale La Forest  
Parliamentarian ..... Philip Johnston Ross

These are Board positions, Judy, Dale and Philip hold other Board positions and it would be super if a club member volunteered so they wouldn't have to do double duty.

Call Dale La Forest at 310-618-9886 for information on what is involved with each position.

## President's Message November 2012

I really enjoyed Kelly Griffin's talk on Madagascar. It's such a fascinating place. I apologize for the delay he experienced in starting. As many of us know computers can be exasperating at times. I wish Kelly had labeled more of his photos; he rattled off the names so fast that my lack of knowledge of the flora and fauna there disrupted my following and understanding of his presentation.

We will be making plans for the December Holiday Potluck dinner at the November meeting. Judy Unrine is in charge of the overall planning and Carol Causey will manage the kitchen. Mostly we will be deciding what entrée(s) the club will provide and asking members to bring a salad, side dish or dessert for 6-8 people. Since I became a member in 2000 the Club has bought prime rib and for the past three years Danny Westall has been the chef. He says he's eager to do it again this year. Last year we supplemented the ribs with Honey Baked ham.

## NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

There will be a Board meeting after the general meeting. Board members should send me their agenda items. As usual we will adjourn no later than 4:30 PM.

Dale La Forest

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## Gary's Open House

Thanks to all to those who were able to attend my Open House. Hope you enjoyed it and learned something, either about my plants, landscaping, greenhouses, shading or shelving. Here are a few pictures for those that missed it. Thanks again.

Gary Duke



Difficult to believe that Gary has this country size plot of land in the middle of Long Beach!

## October POM First Place Winners



**Open - Succulent**  
*Agave applanata*  
 Jim Hanna



**Novice - Succulent**  
*Agave potatorum kichiokan*  
 Jackie Johnson



**Open - Cactus**  
*Gymnocalycium horridispinum*  
 Carol Causey



**Novice - Cactus**  
*Gymnocalycium triacanthum*  
 Jackie Johnson

### Open Succulent

- 2nd - Maria Calpaldo - *Agave 'blue glow'*
- 2nd - Jim Hanna - *Agave filifera compacta*
- 3rd - Carol Causey - *Agave geminiflora*
- 3rd - Jim Gardner - *Agave leopoldii*

### Open Cactus

- 2nd - Maria Capaldo - *Gymnocalycium saglione*
- 2nd - Gary Duke - *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*
- 3rd - Gary Duke - *Gymnocalycium mostii*

### Novice Succulent

- 2nd - Jade Neely - *Agave 'royal spine'*
- 3rd - Jackie Johnson - *Agave applanta variegata 'cream spike'*
- 3rd - Jade Neeley - *Agave lophantha*

### Novice Cactus

- 2nd - Jade Neely - *gymnocalycium mostii*
- 2nd - Jade Neely - *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*
- 3rd - Bernard Johnson - *Gymnocalycium saglione*
- 3rd - Jackie Johnson - *Gymnocalycium saglione*

**South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society  
Mini Show Final Results  
As of October 14, 2012**

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Caplan	10	35	Capaldo	36	38
Condon		6	Causey	16	40
DeCrescenzo	8	25	Duke	74	31
Dunn		1	Gardner	12	22
Hines	7	2	Hanna	3	42
Bernard Johnson	4	10	Kohlschreiber	2	14
Jackie Johnson	23	43	La Forest	6	13
Knight		2	Warzybok		13
Neely	37	31	Woodley		7
Ross	24	8			
Shearer		5			
Tanner	6	16			
Unrine		11			
Veits		17			
Williams	3				



Happy Thanksgiving



**On Water pH**

By Elton Roberts

August 2007

**Extract (1)**

Plant collectors who live in areas where rainwater is scarce must rely on tap or well water. Often this water contains salts and minerals that make the water alkaline – often referred to as “hard water”. Over a period of several months, using hard water to irrigate plants (especially those in pots) turns the soil alkaline. Seeing white lime deposits outside of drain holes and plants that seem to be struggling is evidence that this condition is occurring. Other evidence is that the systemic poison you are using to control mealy bugs isn’t effective. Alkaline deposits (think lime) encapsulate nutrients and make them insolvable in water, preventing plants from using them. Using water that has been made acidic corrects this condition by dissolving these deposits and releasing nutrients (or systemic poisons). Acetic acid is a safe acid to use – it doesn’t harm skin or the plant in diluted amounts. A good inexpensive source of acetic acid is white vinegar. To make most tap water acidic, **use one tablespoon of vinegar to 5 gallons of water.** Continued use of vinegar water doesn’t make the soil more acid every time it’s

used, it just continues to flush minerals from the soil. Results can often be visible in a week or two. A pH of 7.0 is neutral with higher numbers alkaline and lower indicating acidic conditions. We are aiming for a pH of about 6.0. Rainwater can contain enough carbonic acid to reduce the pH to about 5.0; that is one reason why it works so well and why desert plants often grow so well after it rains.

**CAUTIONS:** Do not use other acids unless you know how to handle strong acids. Never use hydrochloric acid, which kills plants. Don’t use more than one tablespoon of vinegar unless you have a good pH meter and know how to use it. Specifically - don’t use a swimming pool test kit or a “stick-the-probe-in-the-soil” pH meter. If you decide you really want a pH meter buy a quality instrument. They can be obtained for about \$75.00 and up. However, try vinegar water first and if it works; stick with it. That way you will not need to buy a pH meter. Good growing.

(1) Extracted by Dale La Forest from a longer article..



## 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
<b>November</b>	<b>Crassula</b>	<b>Echinocactus / Stenocactus</b>
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	



*Stenocactus zacatec*



*Crassula capitella*



*Crassula lactea*



*Crassula tetragona*

### 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.

## Succulent of the Month - Crassula November 2012

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 stem 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).

### References

H. Jacobsen, *A Handbook of Succulent Plants*  
G. Rowley, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents*  
G. Rowley, *Name that Succulent*  
Sajeva and M. Costanzo, *Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary*

Tom Glavich January 2003



*Crassula ovata*



*Crassula helmsii*



*Crassula falcata*



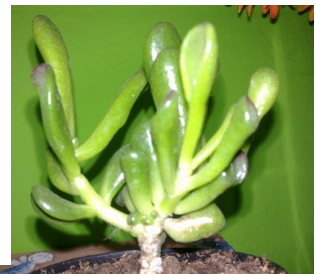
*Crassula marnieriana*



*C. rupestris x perforata*



*Crassula muscosa*



*C. ovata monstruosa*

## Cactus of the Month - November 2012

### Echinocactus

The Cacti of the Month for November are the two genera of Barrel Cactus from Mexico with outliers stretching into the Southern US and Guatemala.

*Echinocactus* was once one of the 'main' genera of cacti, and had over a hundred species and more than a thousand names. As additional collection and research continued over the years, most of the species were separated into other genera, leaving only the nine that remain. *Echinocactus* superficially resemble *Ferocactus*; however *Echinocactus* have straight spines, while *Ferocactus* have hooked spines and nectar glands on the areoles.



*Echinocactus grusonii spineless*



*Echinocactus grusonii*

*Echinocactus* are generally large plants, growing to three feet or more in diameter, and as high. The most common example is *Echinocactus grusonii*, popularly known as the 'golden barrel cactus' or 'mother-in-law's cushion', and a staple of any

cactus garden. We are fortunate in having them grow well anywhere in Southern California. They are a prominent feature of the Huntington's cactus garden, and one of the key plants in the Getty Museum garden as well.

*Echinocactus* grow well in normal cactus soils. The Texas species are sensitive to over watering, but *Echinocactus grusonii* is nearly indestructible, and does best when planted in the ground.

Other species include:

*Echinocactus horizontalonius* which grows wider than tall, has great spines, but requires more heat than we generally have for good growth.



*E. horizontalonius*

*Echinocactus ingens* grows taller than the others, and has frosted white ribs and yellowish wool.

*Echinocactus texensis* is a smaller species. It has the only spectacular flowers of the genus.



*E. parryi*



*E. platyacanthus*



*Echinocactus texensis*



*Echinocactus texensis*

Tom Glavich  
November 2004



*Stenocactus multicostatus*



*Stenocactus crispatus*



*Stenocactus ochoterrenus*



*Stenocactus coptonogonus*



*Stenocactus phyllacanthus*

## Cactus of the Month - November 2012 Stenocactus

*Stenocactus* is a genus of northern and central Mexican cacti of around 10 species related to *Ferocactus*. It now includes *Hertrichocereus* and *Echinofossulocactus*. They are mostly small globular cactus, of very variable characteristics, generally below 4 inches in diameter (10 cm), often solitary, but sometimes clustering as they age. The name echinofossulocactus comes from the Latin for 'Echinocactus with a little ditch', referring to the small wrinkle extending from the top of the areola in some species. They contain the wave cacti, also called brain cacti, that are so named because of their large number of undulating ribs.

The short funnel-shaped flowers are generally striped with a darker median line and, just above 1 inch across (2.5 cm). These flowers come in late summer and last 3-4 days. *Stenocactus* are not always self-fertile, so you might need to have several non related plants flowering at the same time, in order to get seeds. The seeds come in green pods.

They are propagated by seeds that germinate easily.



*Stenocactus obvallatus*



## **CACTUS AND SUCCULENT**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013 (updated 10/21/2012)

- FEB 9TH** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –WINTER SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO. 858-382-1797
- MAR. 22-24** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE. FRI. MAR. 22<sup>ND</sup> 9am-5pm, SAT. MAR. 23<sup>RD</sup> 9am-5pm, SUN. 24<sup>TH</sup> 12-4pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357
- APR 13 & 14** SOUTH COAST CACTUS AN SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE  
SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.,  
PALOS VERDES, CA INFO: 310-832-2262
- APR 20 & 21** GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM  
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
- APR 27TH** SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE---9am to 4pm  
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS  
INFORMATION CALL-310-833-6823
- APR 28<sup>th</sup>** HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
- May 4 & 5** SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM  
4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 17 & 1** GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
32<sup>ND</sup> SHOW AND SALE FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm  
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE  
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 951-360-8802
- MAY 25 &** CENTRAL COAST CASTUS & 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)
- JUNE 1 & 2** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SUMMER SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO: 858-382-1797
- JUNE 8 & 9** LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
PLANT SHOW AND SALE 8<sup>TH</sup> 9-5, 9<sup>TH</sup> 9-3:30  
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD.  
ENCINO, CA INFO. E-MAIL [LACSS.Contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.Contact@gmail.com)
- JUNE 15-** **CSSA 35<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION, AUSTIN, TX- [www.CSSA2013.COM](http://www.CSSA2013.COM)**
- JUNE 28-30** **CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.  
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> THRU JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>  
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> THRU JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> FREE TO THE PUBLIC
- JULY 26-28** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE. FRI. JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> 9am-5pm, SAT JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> 9am-5pm, SUN 28<sup>TH</sup> 12-4pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
INFORMATION CALL 949-212-8417
- AUG. 17 & 18** 28<sup>th</sup> 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 7TH** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup>** LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION  
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615  
INFO: 310-922-6090
- NOV. 2 & 3** SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am-4pm both days  
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.



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

**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 LORI COXE (562) 587-3357



*Gymnocalycium venturianum*

**Costa Verde District Programs**

**2012-2013**

CVD Meets at:

South Coast Botanic Garden 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274-2515

**CVD Board Meetings**

**9:30 am**

**January 23, 2013**

**May 22, 2013**

**December 5, 2012**

**Holiday Potluck Luncheon**

**2013 PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM)**

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



*Opuntia basilaris*

**Board of Directors for FY2013:**

President	Dale La Forest	Programs Committee Chair	Gary Duke
Vice President	Judy Unrine	Finance Committee Chair	Jim Hanna
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson	Communication Committee Chair	Vacant Dale La Forest
Secretary	Philip Johnston Ross		(Acting)
At Large Member	Maria Capaldo	Membership Comm. Chair	Sally Fasteau
At Large Member	Jim Tanner	Liaison, CGCI (Acting)	Judy Unrine
At Large Member	Nancy Jengo	Liaison, CSSA	Laurel Woodley
Show & Sale Chair	Jim Gardner	Parliamentarian	Philip Johnston Ross