



Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - October 2012

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, October 14, 1:30 pm

We will meet in Frances Young Hall

PROGRAM:

Kelly Griffin will give a presentation titled "Lemurs, Lizards, and Aloes - Madagascar Revisited." (topic subject to change). Kelly made the trip in April of 2011. He spent three and one half weeks in the hinterlands of Madagascar seeking out new plants. This is an account of some of what he was able to see and photograph. It has a little about the flora and fauna of Madagascar and everything in between. Kelly is curator of xeric plants at Rancho Soledad Nurseries (www.ranchosoledad.com), a virtual plant Disneyland in Rancho Santa Fe, CA. Kelly, along with business partner, Allen Repashy, also runs Xericgrowers (www.Xericgrowers.com) specializing in propagation of unique cultivars and select forms of succulent plants. Feel free to check out the Xericworld forum at www.Xericworld.com - it's all about plants. Lets give Kelly a hearty welcome back to our club.

Open House

at

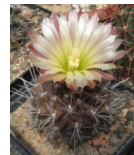
Gary Duke's

Saturday & Sunday

October 20 & 21

10:00 am to 2:00 pm each day

He has over 800 different cacti and succulents with over a hundred landscaped into his front yard. You are welcome to come and get landscaping or greenhouse ideas (he does have more than one design) as well as see the plant varieties and specimens. Yes, he will have some plants for sale. His address is: 4660 Rio Ave, Long Beach, CA 90805 (a few cars can park in his back yard located behind Johnny Rebs' on Long Beach Blvd - the gate will be open, but please do not park in Johnny Rebs parking lot. Parking is also available in front of the house on Rio Ave or on 47th Ave).

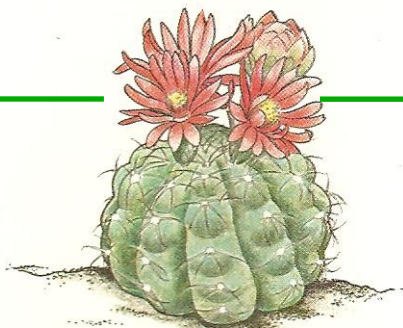
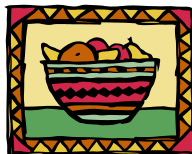


REFRESHMENTS FOR OCTOBER ???

Many tasty goodies were supplied at the September meeting and those who contributed will remain a mystery only to be known by the tummies that enjoyed them!

Since Carol Causey and Danny Westall were not at the meeting, I have no volunteer names to print. So we hope you remember if you've signed up on Carol's list for October.

AND anyone bringing refreshments will be greatly appreciated!



Gymnocalycium genturianum

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President's Message October 2012

As we head into the holiday season, it's time to get your plants ready for cooler, wetter weather. Most of us live in Zone 10 (Coastal) where temperatures seldom drop below freezing or Zone 9 (inland a few miles), where freezing temperatures are expected every winter. For most succulent plants, you should stop feeding and cut back on water. If you have tropical plants that don't like temperatures under 55 F and have to be brought indoors, you also should start getting them used to less light unless you use gro-lights indoors. If you have plants sitting in watering trays that could get filled by rain, you might want to remove the trays. BUT the best advice is to know your plants and watch them for signs of stress, like yellowing leaves and dry leaf tips.

I hope you enjoyed Peter Walkowiak's live presentation on Mammillarias last month. I thought the questions asked were excellent as were Peter's replies. Did you know David Okihawa helped me set up tables? He also put out all the chairs, helped Peter carry in all those heavy pots, and I think even helped Jim, Lupe, and Hank put up their tables to sell plants. THEN after the meeting he put almost all the tables and chairs away. All this without anyone asking him to do it !!! Next time you see him, say hello and thank him, ok? And I personally want to thank Bob Lewis for brewing some coffee in Danny's absence, preventing me from going into caffeine withdrawal.

The Board approved a \$2280 donation to purchase tables for the South Coast BG Propagation area. The old tables were termite infested and new ones will also detour local raccoons from hunting grubs that seem to grow quite well in the Propagation potting soil mix.

The Board also approved reimbursement for the six members who attended the HBG Symposium.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

There will be a Board meeting after the general meeting. As usual we will adjourn NLT 4:30 PM.

Dale La Forest

September 9, 2012 Meeting



Peter Walkowiak



Carmen Shearer & Martha Becdach admiring Peter's Mammillaria Cacti



Mammillaria perezdelarosae



Mammillaria ritteriana

Show and Tell Table



Aeonium tabulaeforme
Jim Gardner

Photos by
Laurel Woodley & Melinda Hines



Tillandsia ionantha



Beautiful Bowl of Plumeria



Haemanthus coccineus coccoloba
JimGardner

South Coast Botanic Garden



Members Only Preview Night

Friday, October 5, 2012

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Frances Young Hall

This exclusive event is a popular one! Preview Night is open to SCBG Foundation, PV Peninsula Land Conservancy, and CA Native Plant Society members. Enjoy first choice of unique landscape plants for your garden. Spend some time meeting with other gardening enthusiasts. Light appetizers and refreshments catered by Misto Caffe and Bakery and Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. SCBGF Members get 15% off plant sales by showing their membership card.

Tickets are \$20.00 advanced sale and \$25.00 at the door. RSVP to the Foundation Office by calling (310) 540-1948

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 6, 2012

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Frances Young Hall

Come support the Garden and get all your Fall plant purchases at our annual sale! Admission to the plant sale is free. Shop early for the best selections. Enjoy our vendors:

- SCBG Propagation Workshop
- PVP Land Conservancy
- Monalisa's Tropicals
- Ricardo's Nursery
- Greenwood Daylily Garden
- John Matthews
- Mr. Fertilizer

Plant experts will be on hand to help you. SCBGF Members get 10% off their plant sale purchases by showing their membership card.



SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
310-540-1948

Feedback@southcoastbotanicgarden.org www southcoastbotanicgarden.org

2013 PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM)		
	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
January	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Kalanchoe
February	Variegated Cacti	Euphorbia with Caudex
March	Crested / Montrose	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	Turbincarpus / Leuchtenbergia	Adenium
October	Cereus / Columnar Cactus	Sedum
November	Discocactus / Melocactus	Lithops
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

September POM First Place Winners



September Plants of the Month
Aloe & Ariocarpus



Open - Cactus
Gary Duke
Ariocarpus fissuratus



Open - Succulent
Jim Gardner
Aloe rauhii

Novice - Cactus
Philip Ross
Ariocarpus fissuratus



Novice - Succulent
Jim Tanner
Aloe 'twilight zone'

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Mini Show Final Results As of September 9, 2012

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Caplan	8	32	Capaldo	30	32
Condon		6	Causey	10	36
DeCrescenzo	6	25	Duke	66	28
Dunn		1	Gardner	12	18
Hines	7	2	Hanna	3	32
Bernard Johnson	2	7	Kohlschreiber	2	13
Jackie Johnson	15	34	La Forest	5	12
Knight		2	Warzybok		13
Neely	28	24	Woodley		7
Ross	22	8			
Shearer		5			
Tanner	5	15			
Unrine		10			
Veits		16			
Williams	3				

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	

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.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Succulent of the Month - Agave October 2012

Agaves are native to Southern North America, Mexico, Central America, Northern South America and the West Indies. There are dozens of species, and hundreds of cultivars, selected for special color, form and spination.

Agaves are easily grown from seed. Although many members of this genus grow very large with age, they are particularly good looking as seedlings, and can be kept small for many years in pots. They thrive with regular feeding with any general purpose fertilizer. Their appearance is best when they are cleaned regularly, with debris removed from the leaves, and dead leaves removed to prevent insects from making homes. Many offset freely, and these offsets can be removed and repotted, giving a steady supply of small plants. Many growers keep the offsets, and dispose of the the mother plant, keeping size, health and condition under control.

Some Agaves get sunken white spots on their leaves, often just as they get show worthy. This can be prevented by periodic root pruning. If half of the roots are cut off, every year or so, the spots can generally be avoided. Pot bound plants are also less likely to get the spots, but by this time the leaves are generally too large for the pot.

References

H. Gentry, *The Agave Family in Sonora & G. Irish, Agaves, Yuccas and Related Plants*

Tom Glavich October 2004



Agave shawii



Agave victoriae-reginae



Agave parryi



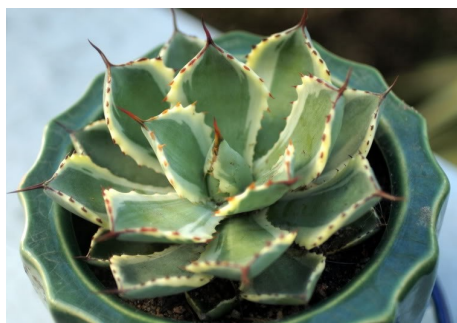
Agave tequilana



Agave stricta



Agave americana 'Medio-Picta'



Agave 'Kissho Kan'



Agave parrasana



Agave pumila



Agave americana



Agave geminiflora



Agave leopoldii



Agave schidigera

Cactus of the Month - *Gymnocalycium* October 2012

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in a large number of distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year.

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. The genus is named for the naked (spineless) calyx (the outermost covering of the bud and lower flower). Most *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles.

The heart of the genus *Gymnocalycium* is Argentina, although the genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the Southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day.



G. bruchii

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with a weak general purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months.

Gymnocalycium are easy to grow from seed, started in a well drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most *Mammillaria* and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.

All the species and all the varieties and forms of *Gymnocalycium* are worth growing.

Reference:

Pilbeam, J., *Gymnocalycium*, A Collector's Guide

Tom Glavich September 2004



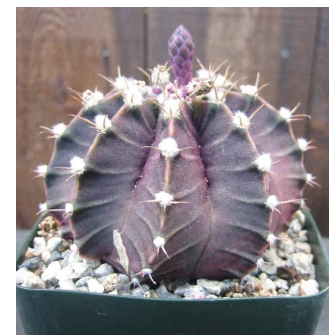
G. fischeri



G. oenanthe



G. horstii



G. Fredrichi



G. denudatum



G. mihanovichii 'Hibotan'



G. saglionis



G. baldianum



G. platense



G. eurypleurum

The POM articles and photos for the *Agave* and *Gymnocalycium* were researched and supplied by Jim Tanner.

News from HELL - The Ongoing Education of a Novice Gardener by Akemi Kayleng Knight

Hello!

For those of you who don't know me, or who missed my earlier column about the Hot Corner from Hell, I am now in the fourth year of an unintended education.

When you purchase a pre-owned house you inherit everything all previous owners have done. For both better and for worse.

We inherited a "yard" consisting of bare dirt, blanketed by pebbles, with dead plants sticking out. It was a God awful eyesore. So, to cease offending our eyes every time we looked out, we decided to landscape.

Rank novices, we believed in a simple color scheme formula. If it's brown, it will take anything green. Which goes to show how ignorant we were.

We were especially troubled by what I finally dubbed the Hot Corner from Hell in sheer exasperation. My joining our club was a head scratching attempt to figure out how to manage that inferno.

We're finally getting smart. And now we are reaping the benefits.

We have four echeveria plants, four beauties each in its own terra cotta container. We call them our "cabbages," because they look like big fancy cabbage plants. We call our first one the green cabbage. Then we got the lavender cabbage, the turquoise cabbage, and the curly green leaf cabbage with frilly red margins. We called them "cabbages" before we ever heard the word "echeveria." Even though we now know the correct terminology we still refer to them as our cabbage collection.



This summer we're happily watching them enter pupping season. Dale tells me pups arise from the base of the stem, while the inflorescence grows out of the rosette. I know from experience that rooting a flower stalk (at least for the green cabbage) results in new plants. Beautiful babies producing more babies.

With one exception, they're pretty tame, well behaved plants.

The exception is the curly green with frilly red margins. We're not sure whether to call this the Garden Bully, or the Flamenco Dancer.

I made the mistake of putting this character, the turquoise cabbage, and two aeonium plants in the same pot. As Dale kindly explained after I sent him a frantic S.O.S., echeverias and aeoniums have very different water needs this time of year. I nearly killed the aeoniums.

But a problem remained even after transplanting the aeoniums to new containers. Big Bully had always been a very aggressive plant from the get go. Even if the aeoniums weren't drowning, something would have had to come out. Big Bully was determined to muscle everybody out.

The only solution was to remove the turquoise cabbage and reposition Big Bully so it sits in the middle of the huge terra cotta container.

We did this a few months back, and did it take off! Flamboyant red and green leaves defiantly swirling out and four ridiculously beefy flower stalks stabbing the air. It looks like a Flamenco Dancer. I estimate the diameter, looking down from above, to be 18-24 inches.



I've promised Dale I'll bring in some of the babies I'm working on from pups and inflorescences when they're ready. They will be freebie giveaways, babies looking for adoptive homes.

Just a warning to anybody who picks up anything coming from the Flamenco Dancer...if the old adage, like father, like son holds true, this one will try to muscle out anything else growing near it.

Will send you more updates from Hell as my education continues.

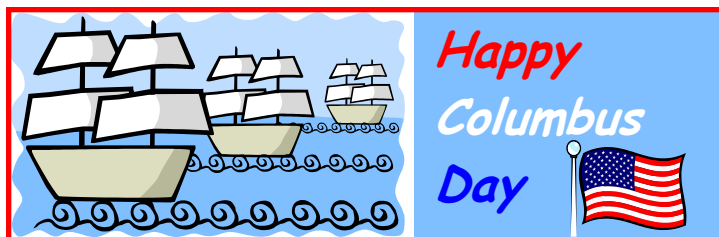




CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012

UPDATED 12/14/2011

- OCT 5 & 6** **FALL PLANT SALE, SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN (See page 3 for details)**
- OCT 16** **9:30 am - 5:00 pm HORTICULTURE SHOW**
South Coast Botanic Garden 9 am-4 Pm, Frances Young Hall
SCBG Free Admittance Day)
CVD Garden Clubs and Societies invited to participate.
- OCT 20 & 21** **OPEN HOUSE AT GARY DUKE'S, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, 4660 Rio Ave,**
Long Beach, 90805
- 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



FYI: Board of Directors for FY2013:

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	Nancy Jengo
Show & Sale Chair	Jim Gardner
Programs Committee Chair	Gary Duke
Finance Committee Chair	Jim Hanna
Communication Committee Chair (Acting)	Vacant Dale La Forest La Forest
Membership Comm. Chair	Sally Fasteau
Liaison, CGCI (Acting)	Judy Unrine
Liaison, CSSA	Laurel Woodley
Parliamentarian (Acting)	Philip Johnston Ross

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
September 26, 2012
January 23, 2013
May 22, 2013

CVD General Meetings 9:30 am
October 3, 2012

Horticulture Show formation of committees
and planning.

October 16, 2012 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
Horticulture Show

(SCBG Free Admittance Day)

South Coast Botanic Garden 9 am-4 pm
Frances Young Hall

CVD Garden Clubs and Societies invited to
participate.

December 5, 2012

Holiday Potluck Luncheon

OPEN POSITIONS

..... Currently held by
CGCI Liaison.....Judy Unrine
Communications Chair Dale La Forest
ParliamentarianPhilip 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.

