



Prickly News

September 2011

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, September 11, 1:30 pm

PROGRAM:

Tim Nomer will give a presentation titled "Cool Caudiciforms." He will be showing his favorite fat plants from CSSA shows, and some from in the ground at local gardens over the past 10 years. In particular he has many close-ups of peely bark, fat stems, thorns, bumps, patterns, and other features that he thought was pretty or interesting. Tim is from San Diego, let's give him a warm welcome and see what our plants can turn into.



Dioscorea Elephantipes,
Elephant Foot
terrarin-gardens.com



Fockea edulis www.bihrmann.com



Fouquieria Columnaris,
Boojam Tree
bajafloa.org



Dorstenia gypsophila,
fat-plants.com

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President's Message

I want to compliment and thank - again - Jim Gardner for his presentation on hybridizing. I wonder if he would have been an equal success as a stand up comedian as he was a doctor. <G> As usual we filled the room, but I heard no complaints.

I appreciated the work Lucy did redoing all the name tags and replacing those flimsy holders. And the raffle ticket method seems to be working quite well. I'm happy to be rid of those numbered key tags.

Gary Duke's plea for a volunteer to step up and take his place as Programs Committee Chair was met with stony silence. There are probably two basic reasons - you're still fully employed and/or you're new and not even sure if you'll stay a member. Still, the Club needs someone to contact and invite future speakers. This may sound difficult, but we have a list of possible speakers and a three year history of past speakers and their fees. Gary is more than willing to mentor and suggest people to call and so am I. We have speakers scheduled for the rest of the year, but need to start - soon - scheduling programs for next year.

After the general membership meeting the Board met. Mostly it was about progress on completing the By-laws. I think I started the first draft almost two years ago. It has been a learning experience for me, complicated by the constraints imposed by joining CGCI and our desire to become a 501 (c)3 organization. Having said that I would like to make it clear that this Club will be what you make it . . . if you have ideas about what you would like us to do as a club, or know a speaker or program that you think we would enjoy , . . . or more generally, any ideas about how to improve our Club, **share them** with me or a Board member. Some past suggestions that have been implemented include: having Committee Chairs submit articles to the Newsletter, emailing our Newsletter it to members to save costs, naming our Newsletter - the "Prickly News". We also have created a Committee to help improve the SCBG Desert Garden.

Perhaps the most important topic at the Board meeting was our decisions regarding next year's contract with the SCBG Foundation. We will be moving our meetings to the hall - same time same 2nd Sunday. If the hall is not available, we will try to move back to the classrooms if the Foundation permits. We will not change the meeting date to a 1st or 3rd Sunday. The Public will be invited to attend the "program" portion of the meeting (1:30-2:30 PM). After a short break we will have a 45-60 minute General meeting, followed (if necessary) by a Board meeting. This will require some members coming early to set up chairs and tables and put them away after the meeting.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

There will be a Board meeting after the general meeting. I hope to discuss and approve the Bylaws and Budget. As usual we will adjourn NLT 4:30 PM.

2011 Mini Show Plant List

MONTH	Cactus Genera	Succulent Genera
SEPTEMBER	Discocactus/Melocactus	Haworthia/Gasteria
OCTOBER	Crested All	Variegated All
NOVEMBER	Opuntia	Crassula
DECEMBER	PARTY	PARTY

REFRESHMENTS:

Thank you to those who brought August refreshments, and to Danny and Carol Causey for making the coffee and setting up the kitchen

September Refreshments will be provided by Lucy Hemingway, Laurel Woodley, Anita Caplan and Jeralyn Kirby.

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Mini Show Final Results As of August 14, 2011

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Arbucle	2		Capaldo	51	34
Angulo	12	2	Causey	13	21
Becdach	2		Duke	35	6
Caplan	26	16	Hanna	3	14
Fazio	20		Kohlschreiber	2	2
Hines	2		Gardner	4	36
Hemingway	1	13	Dale La Forest	8	11
Hutchison	4		Woodley	3	8
Johnson	12	34			
Kuprenas	4	1			
Neely	5				
Ross	5	9			
Shearer	3				
Tanner	17	30			
Unrine	3	1			
Veits		5			
Williams	3				



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.

Cactus of the Month—September 2011 Discocactus and Melocactus*

Submitted by Jim Tanner

Melocactus and Discocactus are two not-closely related genera of tropical cacti that share two distinguishing features. They are both globular and both form cephalia when they mature, with all flowers come from the cephalia.

Melocactus are among the first cacti found, probably discovered and brought back to Europe by Columbus. Species native to Venezuela were in cultivation in England (and well grown even by our standards) as early as 1569! They are native to the Central America, the Caribbean and coastal South America, the range stretching up to Puerto Rico, and west into tropical Peru.



Melocactus matanzanus

Melocactus are immediately recognizable by the large cephalium that develops on mature plants. Melocactus grow as normal appearing, but flowerless, globular cacti until they reach maturity. This can take from 6 to 15 years in cultivation, with a greater range in habitat. Once they reach maturity, the body stops growing vigorously (it still grows slowly).

Most of the plant energy goes into producing a cylindrical flowering and fruiting structure known as a cephalium. This is usually white, with short hairs of yellow, orange or red. As the years go by, the cephalium becomes more cylindrical, with the base becoming more colorful. The flowers are usually a red-purple, and the fruits are almost always a bright red, to attract birds. With age, the cephalium can grow to 18 inches or more in height, occasionally bifurcating or trifurcating.



Melocactus intortus, or Turks Head

Discocactus are heavily ribbed Brazilian cacti. The genus is quite old, first described in 1835. Discocacti can be found inland in the state of Minas Gerais, and further South in the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Mato Grosso, and crossing into Paraguay, and even into the Southeastern most state of Bolivia, Santa Cruz.

The distinguishing characteristics of Discocacti are their globular to flattened globular shape, a cephalium, and fragrant night blooming flowers. Unlike Melocacti, the cephalia stay relatively small, are almost always white, and have long soft wool.



Discocactus placentiformis

An important difference between the two genera is that the onset of a cephalium in Melocactus terminates vegetative growth. The body no longer gets larger. Discocacti have ring-meristems (a ring of growth cells) that surround the cephalium, and allow the body to continue to grow after the cephalium forms.



Discocactus horstii

Both genera have similar cultivation requirements. They grow in rocky soil, often protected by nurse shrubs. The soil contains the decaying remains of shrubs, bromeliads, lichen, and other organic matter. The humidity is high, particularly during the growing season. Neither will tolerate cold, and particularly cold and wet. Melocactus in particular tend to get hard brown scars if they get too cold, even while dry.

* Based on articles by Tom Glavich



Discocactus Horstii

Succulent of the Month - September 2011 Gasteria and Haworthia*

Submitted by Jim Tanner

Gasteria is a popular and easily grown genus of plants that has been collected and kept as house plants since the 17th century. Gasteria flowers are carried on a long scape (leafless flower stalk). They generally hang down as they open, and have a swollen (gasteriform) portion at the base of the flower. The word Gasteria comes from the Greek "gaster" meaning stomach or belly.



Gasteria flower

Gasteria vary in size from about an inch to several feet in diameter. Almost all plants start out with the leaves in two rows (distichous), although most eventually begin to spiral, either remaining in a distichous spiral, or changing into a rosette form. Gasteria are very variable in appearance. They have definite juvenile and adult forms, have local variations in appearance, and have form and growth habits that are dependent on the soil type and amount of sunlight.

Typical natural habitats are humus rich, sandy soils. They grow on dry rocky hillsides and generally grow under larger shrubs particularly when young. They also can be found in rock fissures or in the shade of large rocks. The roots are shallow and thick which helps the plants obtain moisture from barely wet soils, and nourishment from decaying leaves and debris from larger shrubs.

Gasteria cultivation is easy. They are mostly winter and spring growers, but exhibit some growth all year except for the hottest part of the summer. They are tolerant of almost any growing mix, although they do best with high organic content mixes, similar to their natural growing conditions. They prefer partial shade, particularly in the afternoon; however the best color is obtained by giving them as much light and sun, short of sunburn, as possible.



Gasteria parvifolia



Gasteria pillansii



Gasteria batesiana

Haworthia are native to South Africa, and grow in a winter-rainfall, Mediterranean environment not very different from Southern California. Most are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the winter and spring. Many will grow year round, if given sufficient water. They are in flower now, and some species will remain in flower into the summer. However, the flowers are small and generally off-white and not particularly notable. Haworthias are grown for their beautiful leaf shapes and colors.

Haworthia in general are tolerant of almost any potting mix, and success has been reported with everything from straight pumice to potting soil-pumice or perlite mixes, to plain potting soil, and even garden soil. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do. An application of time release fertilizer in late winter will improve growth from late winter and early spring rains. Healthy Haworthia generally have stiff thick white roots. When repotting, it's important to inspect the roots for mealy bugs, and for old, dried brown or hollow roots, which are often the source of infection or rot. These should be removed back to healthy tissue.

* Based on articles by Tom Glavich



Haworthia limifolia variegata



Haworthia truncata



Haworthia attenuata
'Zebrina'

June POM First Place Winners

Open - Cactus Gary Duke <i>Pelecyphora aselliformis</i>	Open - Succulent Maria Capaldo <i>Lithops fulviceps</i> v 'aurea'
Novice - Cactus Anita Caplan <i>Gymnocalycium mihanovichii</i>	Novice - Succulent Jackie Johson Echeveria minima



A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.
 Sue Estes yard

MEMBERSHIP

A hearty WELCOME to our two new members!!

Martha Bjerke
 512 Camino de Encanto
 Redondo Beach CA 90277
 310-375-4642
mkbjerke@verizon.net

Bob Lenker
 1190 Duncan Drive
 Manhattan Beach CA
 90266
robertlenker@verizon.net

Sandra Cardot
 1525 Dalmatia Drive
 San Pedro CA 90732
 310-547-3417
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Linda M. Ohara
 21507 Main Street
 Carson CA 90745
 310-834-4911
oharalindam@yahoo.com



CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2011 UPDATED 02/19/2011

- SEPT. 3 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 25 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA----12 PM
- NOV. 5-6 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- Fri. Nov. 11 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER SHOW AND SALE
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
9:00 AM—5:00 PM CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329



SCC&SS OFFICERS

President:	Dale LaForest	310-618-9886
1 st Vice President	Judy Unrine	310-378-0227
2 nd Vice President	Gary Duke	714-377-0064
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson	310-561-9526
Secretary	Philip Ross	310-378-5748
Show Chair	Jim Gardner	310-378-1953
Sunshine Chair	Lupe Hulett	310-832-2262
Refreshments:	Carol Causey	310-675-5843
Newsletter	Melinda Hines	310-540-6951
	mel.mindy@verizon.net	

FYI: Board of Directors for FY2011-2012 are:

President	Dale La Forest
Vice President	Judy Unrine
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson
Secretary	Philip 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	vacant
Finance Committee Chair	Judi Woo-Sato
Communication Comm. Chair	Danielle Linden
Membership Comm. Chair	Lucy Hemingway
Liaison, CGCI	Judy Unrine
Liaison, SCBG Foundation	Jim Gardner
Liaison, CSSA	Laurel Woodley
Parliamentarian	Philip Johnston Ross

Exhibiting Your Plants By Dale La Forest

Exhibiting plants in a show can be fun and you will almost always learn something new about your entries. Unfortunately, many of us hesitate to enter plant shows because we're uninformed about what constitutes a "show-worthy" plant. The purpose of this article is to acquaint the "uninformed" with a few basics.

The criteria most often followed in a C&S show is the CSSA (Cactus and Succulent Society of America) Judging Scale, which is: Condition = 70%; Staging = 15%; Size and Degree of Maturity = 10%; Nomenclature = 5%

The condition of a plant relates to general culture. It reflects on a grower's ability to assess a particular plant's needs to maintain characteristic, healthy growth. Is the plant etiolated (too green and lanky, indicating too much shade and/or too much fertilizer? Is it sunburned, scarred, discolored, or diseased? Is the growth uniform and even? Are there damaged leaves or spines? Are there signs of mealy bug, scale or ants?

Staging includes containers (pots), top dressing, other decorative elements like rocks, and cleanliness. Pots may be ordinary clay, stoneware, ceramic, and even plastic, but they must be clean without alkali encrustations, algae, dirt clinging to the pot, and in good condition (no chips or cracks).

The pot should be of a complimentary size, shape and color for the plant: no garish, shiny colors or elaborate designs, and no fanciful, overly ornate or too-cute shapes. Remember, you are displaying the plant - not the pot, and while the pot should always subtly enhance the plant, it should never overwhelm or detract from it in any way. The plant must be upright and centered in the pot. Top dressing is optional, but generally adds to a well-groomed effect. It may consist of clean gravel, small natural looking pebbles, lava rock (scoria), or coarse sand or decomposed granite. Aside from being neat appearing, topdressing is beneficial to the plant; it keeps the soil from cracking, conserves moisture. It

should never detract from or clash with the plant. If you choose not to use top dressing, the soil around the plant should be clean and fresh looking and free of weeds and debris. The plant should be as immaculate as you can possibly make them - no spider webs, no snail tracks, no hard-water deposits, no dead leaves or other debris. Dead blooms should be removed, unless they have been left on the plant for the purpose of setting seed. Some plants benefit by being in larger pots where rocks and other decorative elements can be placed, but again these should enhance the plant and not draw attention.

Size and Degree of Maturity A large relatively mature "specimen-size" plant, if well grown, will always take precedence over an immature or seedling plant. This is where size and degree of maturity come in. It is especially satisfying to display a plant, which you have successfully grown from a seedling into a handsome and mature specimen. Many succulents grow with multiple "heads" or growths. It is usually best to remove "suckers" attached to the parent plant by a stolen or rhizome, but there are so many exceptions to this rule, the grower will have to decide based on their knowledge of the species normal growth habits.

Nomenclature Using the correct botanical binomial name (including spelling) of the plant is important even though it counts for only 5%. Since taxonomists are always reclassifying plants, unless you consider yourself an expert, use the name a plant had when you obtained it. Never use the common name such as; "Pincushion Cactus". Print the required information on entry cards as neatly as you can. If the plant is to be judged, the owners name should not be visible to the judges. So, now-start making plans to cart your favorite plants off to the show with confidence, relax and enjoy it, and try to accept with grace and suitable modesty the compliments and ribbons which are sure to reward your efforts.

Based on an article by Dorothy Dunn in the Cactus Courier, Newsletter of the Palomar C&SS San Diego, CA, Date unknown.



Echeveria 'Black Prince'
Grown and Exhibited by: Ingrid Fritze
Best in Show for the "other" succulent
Division. National Capital C & S Society
2010 Show and Sale