



# Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - September 2012

## GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, September 9, 1:30 pm

We will meet in Frances Young Hall

### PROGRAM:

Peter Wakoviac from San Diego will give a hands-on type of demonstration on Mammillarias (Yes we all have one I'm sure). Peter had the most points this year at the national CSSA Show and Sale – which means he was the Best of the Best. He specializes in growing large plants to perfection, so come and learn how to grow them from an expert. Peter also propagates many of his plants and will be bringing some to sell. Lets give Peter a very warm welcome.

## REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Volunteers for September refreshments are:

**Snow Dunn and Melinda Hines**

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

The delicious August treats were supplied by Maria Capaldo, Carol Causey, Melinda Hines, Nancy Jengo, Mary Lopez, Mary Lopez, Ana MacKenzie, Carmen Shearer, Danny Westall and Laurel Woodley.

Many thanks,  
Carol Causey



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents Message.....	1
Refreshments for September .....	1
August Meeting Photos .....	2
Help Wanted .....	3
New Members.....	3
POM May First Place Winners.....	3
Mini Show Results as of August .....	3
2012 Plants of the Month .....	4
Plant of the Month Rules (POM).....	4
Succulent of the Month – <i>Aloes</i> .....	5
Cactus of the Month - <i>Ariocarpus</i> .....	6
Mealy Bugs and Cochineal Insects.....	7
Upcoming Calendar of Events.....	8
Costa Verde District Programs Calendar .....	8
Board of Directors FY2011 .....	8

## President's Message September 2012

Although I can't say Agaves are among my favorite species, I enjoyed Greg Starr's presentation and even bought a copy of his latest book. Maybe it will help me identify a plant I was given as "Blue Agave". I think you will all enjoy Peter Wakoviac's presentation on Mammillarias at the September meeting.

Mother nature has given us a bit of that hot, muggy summer that much of the rest of the country has experienced these past few months. I for one DON'T like it and hoping for a return to our normal Edenistic clime - SOON. Although . . . hot muggy weather is just fine with my plants, almost without exception, they love it. Because I use a rather dry potting soil - with a lot of pumice - I do need to water more often. I would add a little more sand to the mix to retain moisture, but when we have a wet, cool winter, excess moisture can cause rot. Geez . . . what's a body to do. <G>

The Board decided to donate \$500 to the CGCI project to improve Anza-Borego State Park. It's not much, but I think a fair amount. I'm sure more opportunities will come our way. Personally I'd like to donate more to the South Coast Botanic Gardens, but feel it might be better to wait until the 25-Year Vision plan is released early in 2014 or the way forward is clearer.

About 25 members did not renew their membership, but almost none of them were attending meetings, and it's not unusual for people to join after our April show out of enthusiasm and not renew. **Sally Fasteau** has returned from a vacation and has taken the helm of the membership Committee, allowing **Lucy Hemingway** to spend more time with her family. I'll be working with Sally to see if we can establish some sort of "recognition" process for long term members or those who have served with distinction.

Dale La Forest

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet after the general meeting. As usual we will adjourn NLT 4:30 PM.

**AUGUST MEETING PHOTOS** by Melinda Hines



Greg Starr signing his book *Agaves* and judging the Variegates at the August meeting



**PLANT OF THE MONTH ENTRIES**



**AUGUST SALES TABLES**



Hank Warzybok



Lupe Hulett



Phyllis DeCrescenzo



Jim Tanner selling his top dressing to Philip Ross and Bob Lewis

## HELP WANTED

*No experience needed and these will not put you in a higher tax bracket.*

**Judy Unrine** continues to serve as **CGCI Liaison**, but she is VP and holds positions in other Clubs. We need someone who will read the monthly CGCI Newsletter and bring ideas to our Board about how our club can participate in CGCI activities. Additionally there are three Costa Verde District Board meetings to attend during the year with the Club President.

**Dale La Forest** is acting **Communications Committee Chair**. But his duties as President limit the time he has to coordinate the activities of our Publicist, Editor, and Webmaster. Coordinating means making sure the information is consistent and correct on our website, in our Newsletters, and in our advertising.

Finally, **Philip Johnston Ross** might appreciate someone interested in taking over his additional assignment as **Parliamentarian**. Basically the job is to advise the President how to proceed during meetings in accordance with our Bylaws and assist in preparing revisions.

All three of these are Board positions. I'm sure Judy, Philip and myself would be more than willing to mentor anyone who volunteers.

Come on folks this is not rocket science!!!

Contact Dale La Forest if you are interested. . . .

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members.

### Joined in July

Jackie Bhojak  
Morgan Ponce  
Kathy Snider

### Joined in August

Janet Avent  
Michael Short

## August POM First Place Winners

Open - Cactus	Open - Succulent
No entries	Maria Capaldo <i>Euphorbia</i>
Novice - Cactus	Novice - Succulent
No entries	Jackie Johnson - <i>Agave potatorum</i> <i>kichijokan</i>



## South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Mini Show Final Results As of August 12, 2012

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Caplan	8	32	Capaldo	23	28
Condon		6	Causey	10	36
DeCrescenzo	6	21	Duke	54	22
Dunn		1	Gardner	12	9
Hines	7	2	Hanna	3	32
Bernard Johnson	2	2	Kohlschreiber	2	8
Jackie Johnson	15	34	La Forest	5	11
Knight		2	Warzybok		13
Neely	24	21	Woodley		7
Ross	14	4			
Shearer		5			
Tanner	5	9			
Unrine		10			
Veits		12			
Williams	3				

2012 PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)		
	SUCCULENTS	CACTUS
January	Dudleya	Eriosyce
February	Echevarias	Turbincarpus 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
<b>September</b>	<b>Aloes</b>	<b>Ariocarpus</b>
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 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 - Aloe September 2012

Aloe, also written Aloë, is a genus containing about four hundred species of flowering succulent plants. The most common and well known of these is Aloe vera, or "true aloe". The genus is native to Africa, and is common in South Africa's Cape Province, the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighboring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian peninsula, and the islands off Africa.

The APG II system (2003) placed the genus in the family Asphodelaceae. In the past it has also been assigned to families Aloaceae and Liliaceae or lilly family. Members of the closely allied genera Gasteria, Haworthia and Kniphofia, which have a similar mode of growth, are also popularly known as aloes. Note that the plant sometimes called American aloe (*Agave americana*) belongs to Agavaceae, a different family.



*Aloe pegerae*

Most Aloe species have a rosette of large, thick, fleshy leaves. The leaves are often lance-shaped with a sharp apex and a spiny margin. Aloe flowers are tubular, frequently yellow, pink or red and are borne on densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stems.

Many species of Aloe appear to be stemless, with the rosette growing directly at ground level; other varieties may have a branched or unbranched

stem from which the fleshy leaves spring. They vary in color from gray to bright-green and are sometimes striped or mottled. Some Aloes native to South Africa are arborescent (resembling a tree in growth, structure, or appearance).

Aloe species are frequently cultivated as ornamental plants both in gardens and in pots. Many Aloe species are highly decorative and are valued by collectors of succulents. *Aloe vera* is used both internally and externally on humans, and is claimed to have some medicinal effects, which have been supported by scientific and medical research.

Species: There are around 400 species in the genus Aloe. For a full list, see List of species of genus Aloe. A few of the more common species include:

- Aloe vera* - used in healthcare & health products
- Aloe arborescens* - used in healthcare
- Aloe aristata* - Torch Plant, Lace Aloe
- Aloe dichotoma* - quiver tree or kokerboom
- Aloe nyriensis*
- Aloe variegata* - Partridge-breasted Aloe, Tiger Aloe
- Aloe wildii*



*Aloe vera*



*Aloe aristata*



*Aloe arborescens*



*Aloe dichotoma*



*Aloe polyphylla*

## Cactus of the Month - Ariocarpus September 2012

Ariocarpus is one of the treasures of the world of Cacti. This genus, from Central to Northern Mexico and Southern Texas has some of the most spectacular species of the entire family. Some succulent growers, who otherwise avoid cacti, make this genus their sole exception. There are collectors who collect nothing but Ariocarpus, and have hundreds of plants in their collections. Rare specimens can change hands for hundreds of dollars. Rare cultivars with unusual tubercles can be sold for even more, particularly in Japan. There is no denying that this single genus has generated a world wide cult of devotees.

With all of this, you might expect Ariocarpus to be difficult to come by, and difficult to grow. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are no more difficult to grow than many other central Mexican genera. All of the species and all of the varieties are readily available, and nearly all are affordable. This genera is well within the range of even beginning novice growers. Field collected specimens are occasionally available, and these are much more expensive, and much harder to grow. Recently collected specimens are now almost always illegally obtained.

With all of the fuss we make over this genus, it is important to remember that the plants have had important ethno-botanical uses. The tubercles contain a sticky mucilage, which was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *A. kotschoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a cure for rheumatism, and several species were used as 'false peyote' in religious ceremonies.

Cultivation is not difficult, when the home environment of these plants is considered. They grow in mineral soils, with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots. They grow in areas that are very hot in the summer, and that have summer rainfall. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and watered heavily only in hot weather, (but lightly throughout the summer growing season) good growth will result. They need protection from winter rains.

There are six species, several varieties, and a near infinite set of cultivars.

### References:

Anderson, E. *The Cactus Family*

Cullman, Gotz and Groner, *The Encyclopedia of Cacti*

Preston-Mafham, *Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary*

Innes, C. and Glass, C., *Cacti*

Tom Glavich May 2005



*Ariocarpus trigonus*



*Ariocarpus retusus*



*Ariocarpus confusus*

The POM articles and photos for the *Aloes* and *Ariocarpus* were researched and supplied by Jim Tanner.

## MEALY BUGS AND COCHINEAL INSECTS

By Don Campbell

Mealy bugs and cochineal insects—what do they have in common? They're both nasty little cousins belonging to the Scale Crime Family. They sneak up on defenseless unsuspecting hosts, steal their vital juices, disfigure their bodies and, left unarrested, eventually murder their victim. Much has been written about these unsavory characters. Anyone interested in learning more about mealy bugs and cochineal insects can easily do so by going to the library or doing a web search.



Mealy bugs on my indoor plants have caused me a great deal of anguish over the years. More recently, however, I've been able to keep them pretty well in check. I'm currently using a twopronged approach for controlling these little buggers.

I keep a one quart hand sprayer full of a nontoxic mixture consisting of 1 part alcohol, 1 part 409 All-Purpose Cleaner (other cleaning products may also work), and 6 parts water. When I see evidence of a mealy, I immediately squirt the intruder and continue doing this every few days until they dry up and die. Some plants may be suitable for using a relatively high pressure plain water spray to wash at least some of the offenders off the plant. This mixture seems to be similar to the horticultural soaps and sprays.

I've also found the systemic insecticide, imidacloprid, to be quite effective. "Marathon" is a dry granular product containing imidacloprid made by the Olympic Horticultural Products Co. These granules are spread on top of the soil in the pot and watered in. This product requires measuring a specified amount of chemical depending on pot size and is quite time consuming. It does seem to be effective, however.

My preferred treatment for controlling mealybugs on indoor plants is "Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub" formula. The active ingredient in this concentrated liquid is also imidacloprid. It's made by Bayer CropScience LP and is available at most garden centers in handy quart-sized containers. After conferring with our Extension Entomologist, I've settled on adding one ounce of this concentrate to a gallon of water and drenching each pot every few months. Since starting this preventative/control regime,

the only mealy I've seen in my sunroom arrived on newly acquired plants. This is when I quickly grab the hand sprayer and give them a dose of the alcohol/409 mix followed by some of the dry granular imidacloprid.

Cochineal insect infections on various *Opuntias* are a real problem in our outdoor gardens. I've had limited success using various contact insect sprays. Spraying the infected plants with a relatively high pressure water spray can remove some of the visible insects but doesn't seem to affect those hiding on the bottom of the pads and down at the ground line. Some prickly pears have become so heavily infested that severe pruning or removing the plant completely has been necessary.

One of the more promising treatments for cochineal infested *Opuntias* seems to be the "Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub" formula. In consultation with our local Extension Entomologist, we've begun using the one ounce per gallon of water mixture on the prickly pears. It's probably a good idea to use a high pressure plain water spray to remove as much of the cochineal as possible prior to sprinkling with



the systemic insecticide. Up to this point we've applied it using hand watering cans. Enough of the mixture is sprinkled around the base of the plant to wet the soil. The next time I plan to use the same application rate with a hose-end sprayer. This approach should be less time-consuming, especially in our larger gardens.

---

This article by Don Campbell was originally published in the May 2012 issue of *Succulent Morsels*, the newsletter of the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society in Colorado.

<http://chinlecactusclub.org>

Aphid photo from Wikipedia public domain.

Cochineal infested *Opuntia* photo taken from: <http://www.food-info.net/uk/colour/cochineal.htm>



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

- SEPT. 1** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 23** LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION **NEW LOCATION**  
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90815  
LUNCH/SET UP 11:30 - 1:00, AUCTION STARTS AT 1:00  
CONTACT JOHN LUHNOW (310) 922-6090 email [johnluhnow@yahoo.com](mailto:johnluhnow@yahoo.com)
- 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.
- 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

**Costa Verde District Programs  
2012-2013**

CVD Meets at:

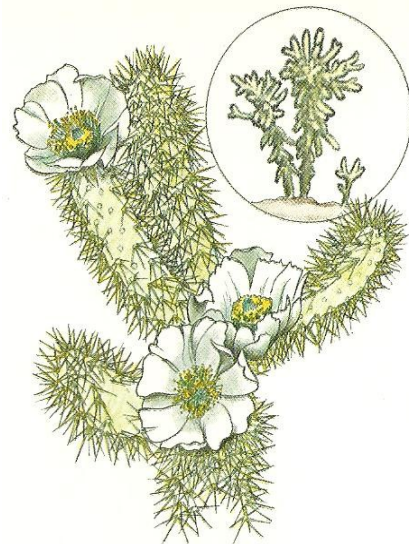
South Coast Botanic Garden 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274-2515

**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



*Opuntia bigelovii*

**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<br>Chair | Vacant Dale<br>La Forest (Acting) |
| Membership Comm. Chair           | Sally Fasteau                     |
| Liaison, CGCI (Acting)           | Judy Unrine                       |
| Liaison, CSSA                    | Laurel Woodley                    |
| Parliamentarian                  | Philip Johnston Ross              |