

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

March 2015

Click here to visit our web site:
<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

Click here to visit our
Facebook page

NEXT MEETING Sunday March 8, 2015, at 1:30 pm

We will meet in the hall.

Buck Hemenway,
"Why We Love South Africa"

See inside for details ...

REFRESHMENTS FOR MARCH

Thanks to those who helped in February, including:

Marie Bowers	Jim Hanna
Carol Causey	Lupe Hulett
Phyllis DeCrescenzo	Bernard Johnson
Kitty Guzman	David Okihara

Volunteers for March refreshments are:

Rose Arbuckle	Maria Lopez
Pam Carnesi	Betty Saunders
Dale LaForest	Judy + George Unrine

If you would like to bring something to our next meeting, please do so – thanks!

Kitchen Volunteers – Please see Carol Causey after the meeting if you are able to help with kitchen cleanup.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you know Buck Hemenway and his wife Yvonne, this might be one of your last opportunities to wish him well as he is moving to South Africa. I don't know why, when, or the specific location, but we will miss his active participation in the cactus and succulent community here in Southern California. *Bon Voyage, Buck*

Preparations for our April Show & Sale are well underway. If you have a friend who you think would enjoy our Society, invite them to join at our show. The Board has approved "forgiveness" of the April - June dues for members who join at the Show & Sale. What a bargain! If you received advertising postcards for the Show & Sale, you probably should finish distributing them by the end of this month. They don't do any good sitting in a drawer. And don't forget, word-of-mouth is probably the best advertising, so commit to memory the show dates and times and don't forget the SCBG charges entry fees for non-foundation attendees.

The CSSA biennial convention will be at Pitzer College in Claremont from June 14-19. I strongly encourage you to attend. It's a great opportunity to meet people from other societies. Reduced rates for early registration will end May 1. You can register at their website - CSSA2015.com, or use a mail-in form.

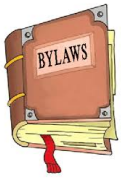
It's hard to believe only four months are left in this fiscal year and with April devoted to the show, time is limited before our June elections. So I will be asking for a couple of volunteers to form a Nominating Committee at the March meeting.

Good growing everyone.
Dale La Forest,
President.



*Get ready to make your selection at the April Show & Sale
April 11 - 12, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm*

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS



Due to recent changes in our CGCI status from Garden Club to Associate Plant Society; and because we are now a non-profit, 501c3 organization, some changes are required in our bylaws. I will be asking for your approval on these revisions at the March General Membership meeting. A summary of the proposed Bylaw revisions will be available at the meeting.

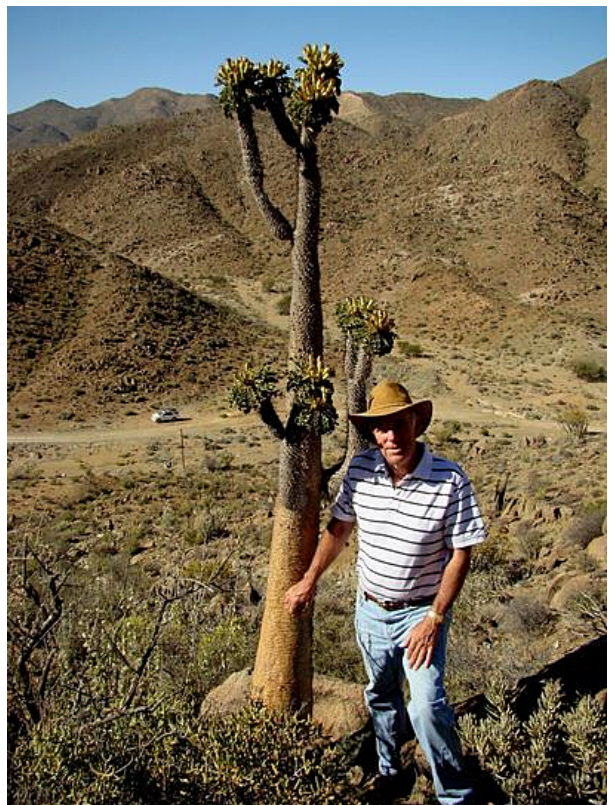
We will be voting on the following changes;

- (1) In Sec 3.1 change our fiscal year from Jul 1- Jun 30 to Jan 1-Dec 31; this will change our Federal and State income tax reporting requirements and simplify our Treasurer's tasks.
- (2) In Section 5.1 delete the requirement to be a member of the SCBG Foundation in order to use their facilities, since that requirement has been superceded by an annual contract with the Foundation. Guidance concerning this contract is better suited for our Operational Procedures (OpPros).
- (3) That portion of Sec 5.2 that requires us to inform the CSSA when Society information on the CSSA website is incorrect, should be moved to the OpPros.
- (4) In Sec 5.3 and 6.2.7 remove references to the CGCI, Costa Verde Distict.
- (5) Revise Sec 6.4.2 to state that minutes of the General Membership meeting be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.
- (6) In Sec 10.7 change the term of office from "Fiscal year" to 1 July - 30 June. This is basically no change but necessary because our fiscal year is changing.



PRESENTER FOR MARCH: Buck Hemenway - Why We Love South Africa

Buck Hemenway and his wife Yvonne are enthusiastic growers of succulent plants.



Their one time hobby turned into the Prickly Palace nursery, which supplied cacti and succulents to the retail nursery trade for 15 years.

Buck is Past President of the San Gabriel Valley C&SS and Gates

Cactus & Succulent Society, and currently serves on the board of Cactus & Succulent Society of America.. Both are "Northern" people. Yvonne is Canadian and Buck was born and raised in Portland.

They have traveled to Southern Africa on several occasions, visiting southwest Namibia as well as the Karoos in South Africa. They have a continuing love affair with South Africa and have purchased property there with the intent to move to the Little Karoo later this year.

The talk is titled "Why We Love South Africa". It is a grand tour of some of Buck and Yvonne's most favorite places and, of course, the plants that grow there.

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - February 8, 2015

Open Cactus	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Astrophytum capricorne</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Astrophytum myriostigma</i> ssp from Mazatlan
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Astrophytum coahuilense</i>
Open Succulent	1st	Laurel Woodley	<i>Euphorbia caput-medusae</i>
	2nd	Jim Hanna	<i>Euphorbia squarrosa</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Euphorbia squarrosa</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Jade Neely	<i>Astrophytum ornatum</i>
	2nd	Jade Neely	<i>Astrophytum ornatum</i>
	3rd		
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCresenzo	<i>Euphorbia medusoid</i> hybrid
	2nd	Jade Neely	<i>Euphorbia medusa</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCresenzo	<i>Euphorbia medusa</i> hybrid
Novice Cactus	1st	Philip Johnston Ross	<i>Astrophytum</i> 'Onzuka' hybrid
	2nd	Martha Bjerke	<i>Astrophytum</i> species
	2nd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Astrophytum myriostigma</i>
Novice Succulent	1st	Sally Fasteau	<i>Euphorbia esculenta</i>
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Euphorbia gorgonis</i>
	3rd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Euphorbia medusoid</i> hybrid

>>> Click here for photos of winning plants: <http://southcoastcss.org/mini-show-results-february-2015> <<<

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of February 8, 2015)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
M.A. Bjarkman		4	Anita Caplan	2	4	Maria Capaldo	4	12
Martha Bjerke	4	2	Phyllis DeCresenzo	15	12	Gary Duke	23	6
Sally Fasteau	4	6	Jackie Johnson		12	Jim Gardner		7
Bernard Johnson		12	Jade Neely	11	6	Jim Hanna		5
Phillip Johnston Ross	6		Jim Wood	6	3	Laurel Woodley		6

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2015

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Variegated cactus	Senecio, Othonna
February	Astrophytum	Euphorbia (caudiciform & medusoid)
March	Turbincarpus (incl. Gymnocactus & Acharagma)	Pelargonium
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
May	Opuntia (flat padded varieties)	Kalanchoe
June	Parodia	Dyckia, Hechtia
July	S. American Columnar	Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, Pseudolithos
August	Copiapoa	Variegated Succulent
September	Melocactus	Agave, Calibanus, Nolina, Yucca
October	Matucana, Oroya	Argyroderma, Pleiospilos, Faucaria
November	Schlumbergia (Christmas cactus)	Aloe
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

CACTUS of the MONTH - Turbinicarpus (inc Gymnocactus and Acharagma)

Turbinicarpus is a small (but growing) genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It is one of several closely related genera, Neolloydia, and Gymnocactus, and Strombocactus being the ones most frequently mentioned. In many books, some of the plants listed below will appear as either Neolloydia or Gymnocactus. The exact relation of these genera is still being worked out and the disagreements between botanists are substantial. New species have been discovered and named in the past decade; seeds and plants of these are just becoming available.

All of the Turbinicarpus species are worth growing. They are all small, most full sized in collections at an inch or two. A few will clump readily, and make impressive show specimens, as shown below, but still remain manageable. A collection of all the species and varieties could easily fit on a table top.

In habitat, Turbinicarpus usually grow under nurse plants, generally shrubs that offer some protection from the worst of the mid day sun. Turbinicarpus have large tuberous roots, which are their primary food and water storage source in times of drought. Over much of their habitat, rain falls during the summer, and growth is most rapid during this period. They can take lots of heat.



Turbinicarpus knuthianus



Turbinicarpus alonsoi

Turbinicarpus are fairly easy to grow, if attention is paid to their life cycle. They are dormant in winter, from November through mid March. As they begin growth, watering has to start slowly. If too much water and fertilizer is given at once, it's possible to burst the skin of the plant. Once growth is going (April and after) water freely. During very hot weather in the summer, the plants sometimes go dormant again for a short period. Attention has to be paid to watering again.



Turbinicarpus lophophoroides

If a head splits, all is not lost. The entire head can be removed, and the top of the tuberous root left half an inch above the soil. It will usually start two or three new heads. Removing a head is also a great way for vegetative propagation. Turbinicarpus can be raised from seed. They are slow for the first year, but reasonable size plants can be grown in a year or two, and flowers the size of the plant will appear by the second year. Producing clumps as shown above will take quite a bit longer. Tom Glavich

Gymnocactus is a small genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It has been an unstable genus, moved into both Neolloydia and Turbinicarpus in the very recent past. Many references will have the plants we know as Gymnocactus moved listed as species of either of the other two genera.

Gymnocactus are not difficult to grow. They require very strong light, and are sensitive to over watering. The challenge with Gymnocactus is not growing them, but growing them too well. In habitat, these plants live in cracks in rocks, on cliff faces, so they get very little nutrients, and grow nearly free of organic matter. The only naturally occurring organic matter will be leaves blown around and getting caught on the spines. These should be grown in a very open mineral mix, (lots of pumice).

Tom Glavich



Gymnocactus bequini v senilis



Gymnocactus subterraneus var. *zaragosae*



Gymnocactus viereckii

Acharagma is a genus of two small cacti species from Coahuila and Nuevo Leon in northern Mexico.

These plants have globose bodies less than 3 inches in diameter and no more than 3 inches high. They may be somewhat cylindrical in shape and typically grow as individuals, but may put off several offsets from the bottom. These plants have tubercles and flower from the top, which is similar to both *Escobaria* and *Coryphantha*, however, they do not have a groove from the areole to the axis. In fact, the name *Acharagma* means in Greek "no groove" [a (no) - charagma (groove)]. The flowers are at the stem tips, and range from cream to pink and yellow. The spines are quite thick and can obscure much of the stem and are less than an inch in length. The fruits are smooth little pods that are green to purple colored.

The genus is of relatively recent creation, the species originally being described as part of *Escobaria*, although recognized as a separate section by Nigel Taylor in 1983, and raised to a genus by Charles Glass in 1998.



Acharagma aguirreanum



Acharagma roseana



Acharagma huasteca

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Pelargonium

Pelargonium is a genus of flowering plants which includes about 200 species of perennials, succulents, and shrubs, commonly known as geraniums in the United States.

Pelargonium are of the succulent genera of the Geraniaceae family. Most of the succulent species come from South Africa or Namibia, but with outlier species appear as far away as Kenya and Yemen.

Pelargoniums are mostly winter growing succulents. They are dormant in the summer, and at this time some look like dead sticks. Most species are very easy to grow, if attention is paid to providing an environment very similar to their South African home. Many species will not go dormant if watered all summer, but the plant health and appearance both suffer.

The potting mix for Pelargoniums should be well drained, with only small amounts of organic matter. Fertilizer should be applied sparingly, and only during good (bright and warm) growing weather. A potting mix recommended by Michael Vassar is 50% pumice, 35% washed builders sand and 15% leaf mold based planter mix. Plants growing under these conditions will stay compact, have thick leaves, and a healthy appearance. A well grown Pelargonium will have leaves that appear to float near thick, rugged stems. If given too much water and fertilizer, they will grow leggy, and the leaves will become soft, large and droop. Plants grown hard will be healthier, and better able to survive hot summers undamaged. All Pelargoniums need pruning to maintain size and shape. Pinching new growth will make the plants bushy, and develop good trunk structure.



Pelargonium Peltatum



Pelargonium tetragonum



Pelargonium tricolor

Many are self fertile, and seed is easily collected after flowering. Most are promiscuous, and garden hybrids are easily set if more than one species is in flower at a time. Seed collected in the spring and planted in late September to November germinates quickly, and will have an entire winter to grow before going dormant during the summer.

Tom Glavich



Pelargonium cotyledonis

Editors Note:

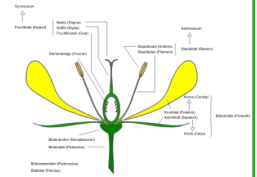
It is recognized that a difference between Geranium and Pelargonium is that the former has petals of equal size and spacing whereas the latter generally has two at the top and three at the bottom. It has been suggested that the origin of the name came from the resemblance of the flower buds to the beak of a pelican rather than that of a heron.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015 (TENTATIVE)

- MAR. 27-29 **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE.**
FRI. AND SAT. MAR. 27-28 9-5PM SUN. MAR. 29th 12-4PM
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO: 562-587-3357
- APR. 11-12 **SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD., PALOS VERDES PENINSULA, CA
INFO: 310-378-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- APR. 26 **HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS,
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
- MAY 3 **SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**---9am to 4pm
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS. INFO: 310-833-6823
- MAY 2-3 **SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO: 310-822-1783
- MAY 9-10 **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB PLANT SHOW AND SALE 10AM-5PM**
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH
INFO: 310-922-6090—www.lbcss.org
- MAY 15-16 **GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 34TH SHOW AND SALE**
FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm, at LAND SCAPES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STYLE
450 E. ALESSANDRO BLVD., RIVERSIDE, CA INFO: 951-360-8802
- MAY 23-24 **CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE**
(10-4PM), LUDWICK CENTER, 864 SANTA ROSA, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA
INFO: 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- MAY 30-31 **LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SHOW AND SALE**
30Th 9-5, 31St 9-3:30 SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER,
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO, CA. INFO: www.lacss-show.com
- JUNE 6-7 **SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO: 858-382-1797
- JUNE 14-19 **CSSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION, PITZER COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CA**
<http://www.cssainc.org>
- JUNE 26-28 **CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160 or 2277
PLANT SALES JUNE 26Th THRU 28Th, SHOW JUNE 27Th THRU 28Th
- JULY 24-26 **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**
FRI. JULY 24TH 9am-5pm, SAT JULY 25TH 9am-5pm, SUN 26TH 12-4pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO: 949-212-8417
- AUG. 8-9 **30th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM,**
9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
INFO: TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052
- AUG. 29 **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM**
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 6 **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION -12-5PM**
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90815
INFO: 310-922-6090
- OCT. 24-25 **PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS**
230 QUAIL GARDENS RD, ENCINITAS. INFO: hciservices@gmail.com. 858-382-1797
- NOV 7-8 **SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
9am-4pm both days LA COUNTY ARBORETUM, 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.

BOTANICAL GLOSSARY

Ever find yourself reading up on a plant and being baffled by some of the botanical jargon? Or maybe you would like to learn the proper terms so you can hold your own in a conversation with botanists. Or maybe you just want to impress friends and neighbors with your scientific knowledge.



So here is the next part of our attempt at a dictionary of botanical terms, more to follow later.

DEHISCE - to split open when ripe, as in a capsule

DECUMBENT - laying or growing on the ground but the tips are erect or growing upright.

DECIDUOUS - falling off or shed at a specific season or stage of growth.

DISCUS - an enlarged area bearing numerous tiny flowers, ie the flower head of a composite plant like a daisy.

DISTICHOUS - two rows of upright leaves, common in Gasteria seedlings

ELLIPTIC - having a shape of a flattened circle.

ENTIRE - without toothing, a smooth margin.

ETIOLATION - thinning of a plant due to lack of light.

EXsertED - protruded beyond.

EXTRA-FLORAL - outside the flower.

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Editor's Corner

Thanks to Jade Neely and Gary Duke for supplying the Presenter of the Month material and POM list.
Thanks to Jim Tanner for supplying the Mini-Show and Plant of the Month material.

Mini-Show winners can request the original (full size) photo of their plant from mshort@mail.com stating either the size and format required or how you intend to use it (1080 computer screen, TV, 4 x 6 print, etc.).

Mike Short.

Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged, especially articles of an educational nature.

We also welcome any information on upcoming events that might be of interest to club members.

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Please supply any required information (attribution) along with the material submitted.