

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

July 2015

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<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

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Facebook page

NEXT MEETING

Gary Duke:
"On the Cacti Trail in Southern Peru
(Peru Part II)"

Sunday July 12, 1:30pm
We will meet in the hall.

REFRESHMENTS FOR JULY

Thanks to those who helped in June, including:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| M.A. Bjarkman | Lou Hagemeier |
| Bowers, Marie | Lupe Hulett |
| Maria Capaldo | Bernard Johnson |
| Carol Causey | Nancy Mosher |
| Robert DeCrescenzo | Jim Wong |

Volunteers for July refreshments are:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Jim Gardner | Ana MacKenzie |
| Maria Lopez | |

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

The July meeting marks the start of my 9th term as President. I am proud of the many accomplishments we have made over the years, but none of them could have been accomplished without the efforts of many dedicated club members. Although our club continues to grow, with about 125 members (up 10 from a year ago), I continue to be concerned that we are not doing enough to make the club relevant enough for newer members. If you have any ideas that you think will improve our club, send them to me or any Board member.

As we start this new term the Board of Directors will see a little shuffling of titles as Maria Capaldo moves from VP to Secretary, Mike Short takes on the Communications Committee as Anita moves to an At-large position [ed: while remaining in charge of publicity]. Philip Johnston Ross will remain as Parliamentarian. M.A. Bjarkman will be welcomed as Vice president and Lou Hagemeier as an At-large member - replacing Phyllis DeCrescenzo. If you attend meetings, you know that Jim Gardner has asked to be replaced as our Show & Sale Committee Chair, after five years of excellence - the position is currently vacant.

The Board continues to make mostly small changes to our operating procedures. Sometimes these are invisible to most members, like changing our fiscal year to start in January rather than July and eliminating a non-functioning Desert Garden Planning Committee. But a little more visible is the change in mini-show rules to to allow a member to make multiple entries of the same species.

When you have an opportunity, it wouldn't hurt to thank Board and Committee members. Some of these tasks require a lot of time and commitment. I especially want to thank Bernard Johnson for the many things he does managing our funds; and Sally Fasteau for keeping the roster up to date; and Jim Tanner for totaling the Mini-show points and providing newsletter articles; and Carol Causey for hauling everything out of a cabinet, cleaning it, and putting it away. I haven't mentioned and thanked everyone who has volunteered for a position/task, but thank you all. And finally thank you who come to our meetings. I hope you feel it is worth the effort.

Dale La Forest,
President.

PRESENTER FOR JULY: Gary Duke

"On the Cacti Trail in Southern Peru (Peru Part II)"

Our very own Gary Duke describes a lot of tall columnar cacti that we don't see very often, especially large ones in the wild and some of the small globular ones as well. He also has pictures of bromeliads in his talk as well as several outstanding scenic views in the Andes and a bit on their culture. Part I last year concentrated on areas above Lima, this presentation investigates areas south of Lima. Come and see the differences with a new perspective of Peru.

Gary Duke has been collecting cacti and succulents since he was 10 years old. He is a retired Air Force Officer with a doctoral degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman. He has also been President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Cactus Club in the southern California area. Following his military career, he worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years. He's an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas. He has between 800- 900 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. He frequently gives slide presentations throughout southern California on cactus and succulents.



MINI-SHOW RULES (Abridged)

Exhibitors must be club members in good standing and must be present at the meeting in order to receive points.

There are two plant categories, "Cactus" and "Succulent". Up to three plants per member may be entered in each category. The entries may be the same specie. There are three entry classes: "Novice", "Intermediate" and "Open". Only members new to the hobby are expected to show in the novice class. Exhibitors in the Novice and Intermediate classes must have grown their entry for a minimum of six months. Open class entries must be owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least a year. Any container may be used, including plastic, as long as it is clean. All plants must be groomed and free of pests and disease.

The judge's decision is final. Judging criteria is the same as the CSSA.

Scoring:

First Place 6, Second place 4, Third place 2.

Placement: All non-disqualified entries receive one point

After the November meeting, the Board will review the record of those members in the Novice and Intermediate classes who have been awarded more than 64 points or winning at least six first place awards and decide whether they should be promoted to the next class, Intermediate or Open. These promotions are subjective. Members may not regress to a lower level.

Revised Jun 10, 2015

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2015

	Cactus	Succulent
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	

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - June 7, 2015

Open Cactus	1st	Dale LaForest	<i>Parodia magnifica</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Parodia magnifica</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Parodia roseoluteus</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Parodia scopa</i>
Open Succulent	1st	Jim Hanna	<i>Dyckia 'Brittle Star'</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Hechtia</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Dyckia choristaminea</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Dyckia</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Jade Neely	<i>Parodia sellowii</i>
	2nd	Jade Neely	<i>Parodia magnifica</i>
	2nd	Jackie Johnson	<i>Parodia schumanniana</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Parodia leninghausii</i>
	3rd	Jade Neely	<i>Parodia schumanniana</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Jackie Johnson	<i>Dyckia hybrid</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Dyckia 'Cherry coke'</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Hechtia epigyna</i>
	3rd	Jackie Johnson	<i>Dyckia 'Keswick'</i>
	3rd	Jackie Johnson	<i>Dyckia 'Chan's Brown'</i>
Novice Cactus	1st	Bernard Johnson	<i>Parodia leninghausii</i>
	2nd	William Wilk	<i>Parodia scopa</i>
Novice Succulent	1st	Mike Short	<i>Dyckia 'arizona' x 'Brittle Star'</i>
	2nd	William Wilk	<i>Dyckia 'Brittle Star'</i>
	2nd	William Wilk	<i>Dyckia isi #1750</i>
	3rd	William Wilk	<i>Dyckia 'Kaz'</i>

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

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of June 7, 2015)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Roselyn Arbuckle	4	1	Anita Caplan	2	4	Maria Capaldo	24	31
Janet Avent		1	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	34	37	Gary Duke	37	6
M.A. Bjarkman		4	Jackie Johnson	5	32	Jim Gardner	13	7
Martha Bjerke	4	4	Jade Neely	34	15	Jim Hanna		18
Sally Fasteau	7	6	Jim Wood	22	3	Dale LaForest	10	
Linda Hudson		4				Laurel Woodley	4	19
Lupe Hulett	4							
Bernard Johnson	16	17						
Phillip Johnston Ross	6							
Mike Short		12						
Judy Unrine		10						
William Wilk	6	28						

CACTUS of the MONTH - South American Columnar

Columnar cacti are not a closely related set of genera, but a lumping together of all the cacti that are much longer than they are around. Columnar cacti vary in size from a few inches, as in the aptly named, *Pygmaeocereus* to the giants like *Pachycereus* and *Carnegiea* (Saguaro). Most are robust growers, given adequate water, fertilizer, root room and support. They expect more nitrogen in their soil (or plant food) and more water than most globular cacti. They do well in normal cactus soil, as long as they get additional fertilization. Propagation is generally by cuttings or seed. Cuttings need to be dried well before planting. A few weeks is the minimum for some of the larger columnar species. They do best if dried in an upright position. If placed on their sides the cut end rots easier. Seed of columnar cacti are readily available, and are particularly enjoyable to grow.

While all of the globular cacti are the size of a pea, many of the columnar cacti are filling the pot, and an inch or more high. If grown from seed, many will not tolerate crowding for long, and demand their own pot. This is particularly true of *Oreocereus*, which will quickly stop growing if there is more than one plant per pot. The plants take many years to reach flowering size, and are only really happy in the ground, and get too big for pots in any case.

Some genera are very popular.



Cereus hildmannianus

Popular South American columnar cactus

Cereus is a genus of cacti including around 33 species of large columnar cacti from South America. *Cereus peruvianus*, found in many Southern California gardens, has been cultivated for over 400 years, and is not known in the wild! The flowers do not have areoles or spines, but they have a few scales. They are generally large, white, either funnel or trumpet-shaped. They are followed by a yellow or red fruit, generally edible containing black seeds.

Cleistocactus is one of the most beautiful genera of the columnar cacti. These slender plants branch from the base, and have dense spination. They are easy to grow, and quickly set flowers that are usually long red tubes sticking out through the spines. Some of the best are *C. smaragdiflorus*, with red flowers, a yellow band near the tip, and a bright green tip. *C. strausii* is a fuzzy white marvel, and often seen at sale tables at shows.

Espostoa come from Ecuador and Peru. Most of these are covered with a dense white wool that entirely hides the plant body.



Cereus peruvianus

Haageocereus come from Peru and Chile. They stay short (for a ceroid), rarely exceeding 3 or four feet, and have dense spines, and showy red flowers.

Micranthocereus is a small genus of Brazilian cacti. All of the species branch from the base, and make densely spined clusters. They stay small, and are happy as pot plants. Quite a few of these have been in the shows in the past few years.

Oreocereus are beautiful hairy plants, with wicked spines hidden in the hairs. Some branch from the base. They prefer outdoor air to a greenhouse, and need frequent turn- ing to keep symmetrical growth.

Pilosocereus is a largely Brazilian genera. It has a wide distribution, stretching into central Mexico. Many of the species are a glaucous blue with bright yellow spines and hairy areoles. *Pilosocereus magnificus* is one of these, with 4 to 12 deep ribs. The outer edges are covered with short yellow spines. *Pilosocereus aureispinus* has very 18 to 20 shallow ribs, and distinct areoles, that make dense yellow spirals around the plant on a dark green background. Tom Glavich 02/04



Cleistocactus strausii
photo by Pamla J. Eisenberg

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, Pseudolithos

Stapelia

Stapelia is a genus of low-growing, spineless, stem succulent plants, predominantly from South Africa with a few from other parts of Africa. Several Asian and Latin American species were formerly included but they have all now been transferred to other genera. The flowers of certain species, most notably *Stapelia gigantea*, can reach 41 cm (16 inches) in diameter when fully open. Most Stapelia flowers are visibly hairy and generate the odor of rotten flesh; a notable exception is the sweetly-scented *Stapelia flavopurpurea*. Such odors serve to attract various specialist pollinators including, in the case of carrion-scented blooms, blow flies of the dipteran family Calliphoridae. They frequently lay eggs around the coronae of Stapelia flowers, convinced by the plants' deception.

The hairy, oddly textured and colored appearance of many Stapelia flowers has been claimed to resemble that of rotting meat, and this, coupled with their odor, has earned the most commonly grown members of the Stapelia genus the common name of carrion flowers.

A handful of species are commonly cultivated as pot plants and are even used as rockery plants in countries where the climate permits. Stapelia are good container plants and can grow well under full sun and light to moderate watering. They should be planted in well-drained compost as the stems are prone to rotting if kept moist for long.



Stapelia gigantea

Huernia

The genus *Huernia* (family Apocynaceae, subfamily Asclepiadoideae) consists of stem succulents from Eastern and Southern Africa, first described as a genus in 1810. The flowers are five-lobed, usually somewhat more funnel or bell-shaped than in the closely related genus *Stapelia*, and often striped vividly in contrasting colors or tones, some glossy, others matt and wrinkled depending on the species concerned. To pollinate, the flowers attract flies by emitting a scent similar to that of carrion. The genus is considered close to the genera *Stapelia* and *Hoodia*. The name is in honor of Justin Heurnius (1587–1652) a Dutch missionary who is reputed to have been the first collector of South African Cape plants. His name was actually mis-spelt by the collector.

Various species of *Huernia* are considered famine food by the inhabitants of Konso special woreda in southern Ethiopia. The local inhabitants, who call the native species of this genus baqibaqa indiscriminately, eat it with prepared balls of sorghum; they note that baqibaqa tastes relatively good and has no unpleasant side-effects when



Huernia striata



Huernia asperia

boiled and consumed.

As a result, local farmers encouraged it to grow on stone walls forming the terraces, where it does not compete with other crops.

Phylogenetic studies have shown the genus to be monophyletic, and most closely related to the *Tavaresia* genus, and to a widespread branch of stapeliads comprising the genera *Orbea*, *Piранthus* and *Stapelia*.

Orbea

Orbea variegata is a leafless, glabrous, clump-forming succulent perennial. The four-angled stems are usually prominently sharp-toothed, with a soft tip, grey green mottled purple in full sun. Each stem can reach over 10 inches (25 cm). Starfish-like flower (has a light carrion smell), corolla 2 – 3 inches (5 – 7 cm) across, transversely ridged, pale greenish-yellow with dark purple-brown spots mostly in 6 – 7 rows or sometimes irregularly scattered, annulus pentagonal, 7/8 inch (2.2 cm) across, pale yellow with small dots, lobes of corona yellow, dusted or spotted purple. Smooth, cylindrical fruits, blotched and dotted purple, up to 4.7 inches (12 cm) long. Native to South Africa (Cape Province).



Orbea variegata



Pseudolithos

Pseudolithos

Pseudolithos migiurtinus is one of the rarest of the succulent milkweeds (Asclepiadaceae). It occurs naturally in a very difficult country to get into (and most importantly, out of); Somalia. Somalia is a dry tropical country on the east coast of Africa, just above Kenya. These plants, like most of the succulent milkweeds (stapeliads) are generally fly pollinated and conveniently smell like rotten meat or some type of manure. This species is usually single stemmed, so propagating them by cuttings is not a winning situation. They are successfully grown from seed once the seed is in hand. Seedpods each have about 15 to 20 seeds in them.

The flowers are about 1/4 inch across and occur mostly during the summer, but it is not unusual to see them virtually year round inside a heated greenhouse. Care for *Pseudolithos migiurtinus* is not difficult, but mistakes are costly. If rot sets in, there is practically no time, nor warning, before the plant turns to expensive mush. Water 2 to 3 times a week during the hot summer, under very strong light (not full sun) and once a week during sunny winter days. A suggestion is to first have some success with some other stapeliads before rushing out and acquiring a pseudolithos. This plant is a candidate for under-potting, as long as you keep it watered. Chronic under-watering will induce rot almost as fast as over-watering.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015

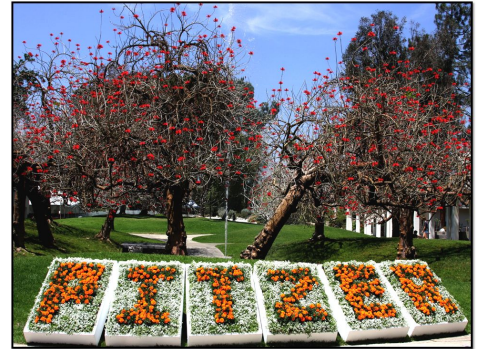
- JULY 24-26 **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**
FRI. JULY 24TH 9am-5pm, SAT JULY 25TH 9am-5pm, SUN 26TH 12-4pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO: 949-212-8417
- AUG. 8-9 **30th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM,**
9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
INFO: TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052
- SEPT. 5 **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.

Cactus and Succulent Society of America – 36th Biennial Convention Report

[Ed: The convention was held at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA from June 14 to June 19 2015.]

Submitted by **M.A.Bjarkman**

This was my first CSSA convention and I was like a kid at Christmas. Living on campus was an adventure in its own right. Enough said. Food was edible - catered because the cafeteria was closed for renovations. The auditorium and AV were excellent. The speakers were global : including Madagascar, South Africa, Australia, England, Mexico, more African representatives, as well as the US. And the attendees were also from all over: including Japan, Scotland, Canada, Mexico and South America. Our club was well represented with over 12 members attending. Gunnar and Buck did an outstanding job of producing the event, and the support team - and security team (Karen and Martin) - were everywhere and doing outstanding jobs.



Am I sugar coating it? Only downside for me was how hot it was outside - I, like many others, came home with a cold.

The Pitzer College grounds looked like a mini Huntington, just spectacular landscaping, not surprising since the landscaper was a former Huntington employee and a CSSA board member, Joe Clements.

Monday evening we were transported by bus to the Huntington for a visit there to see the brand new welcome succulent entrance, the succulent greenhouse, and grounds followed by a sumptuous banquet out on the lawn. Then we were treated to talk by Jim Folsom who spoke about the history of succulents in gardens through the ages and then issued a challenge to all of us as we move forward to more low water yards and gardens.

Wednesday was open for touring from the desert to home gardens, then two interesting meetings back at Pitzer, one on ideas for our local clubs followed by another dealing with CSSA and local clubs, both very interesting. Later that evening about 100 folks stopped by Jim and Roberta's dorm room for a party with a range of fine margaritas. Roberta throws a fine party!

I came home with my eyes and head bursting with images and information. I have already started applying some of what I learned and I encourage you to do whatever is necessary to attend the next one in Phoenix in two years!



Help Wanted: Hall setup and Breakdown

We are looking for a few able bodied helpers to do either set-up or breakdown (or both) at meetings.

It involves setting out tables and chairs.

For set-up you would need to arrive by 12:15 am, and for breakdown you would be done by 4:00 pm.

An alternative is to pay garden staff to do it, but that would cost the club about \$1000/yr which could be spent on more interesting projects.

If you are able to help please contact any board member, or myself (Mike Short) mshort@mail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2015-2016

Officers:

President	Dale La Forest
Vice President	M.A. Bjarkman
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson
Secretary	Maria Capaldo
Parliamentarian	Philip Johnston Ross

Liaisons: CGCI
CSSA

At Large Members:

Lynda Johnson
Laurel Woodley
Anita Caplan
Bob Caplan
Lou Hagemeyer

Standing Committee Chairs:

Show & Sale	vacant
Programs Committee	Gary Duke
Finance Committee	Jim Hanna
Membership Committee	Sally Fasteau
Communication Committee	Mike Short
Newsletter	Mike Short
Webmasters:	Mike Short
	Laurel Woodley

Notes from Ernesto Sandoval - Presentation 6/7/2015

Submitted by: Gary Duke

As promised Ernesto sent us a link to some of his work on-line. All his presentations can be found at:

<http://greenhouse.ucdavis.edu/conservatory/index.html> - Look under Resources

Good book on propagation is: Plant propagation by Hastman & Kester

- 6th or 7th editions are very good, 8th edition is more expensive and probably not worth the additional cost

Planting seeds

- Use sand or small gravel on top – prevents fungus from starting
- After 1 – 2 weeks, make slits in baggie to let some air in and harden seedling
- He thinks making slots is better than opening top as top sometimes folds over
- Good seed source for South African bulbs is: Silverhill Seeds
- If planting *Cyrtanthus spiralis*, open bag as soon as they germinate, they rot very easily

Pollination

- Don't use plastic brushes, only use natural hair brushes

Grafting

- He likes *Trichocereus pachanoi* or *Pilocereus glaucochrous* better than *Myrtillocactus geometrizans* for grafting stock
- Cut stock to be 4 – 6" tall from young growth
- Some people have made cuttings and grafted one end and rooted the other end, but he doesn't recommend it
- Always use clean/sterile tools after each cut when grafting
- Make rubber bands/nylon hose very tight
- Keep from drying out – he encloses in an aquarium

Cuttings

- Set cuttings upright and let dry/callous for a few days
- Plant in pumice or lava rock
- The more oxygen roots have, the more efficiently a plant can use water

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Submitted by: Sally Fasteau, Membership Chair
sallyfasteau@cox.net 310-544-1313

Welcome to new members:

Karin Cozzolino
Yvette Grageda
Jeanne Jackson

Membership Renewal

Our membership year begins July 1.

To renew please use the membership form in this issue, or the June and July newsletters, or pick up a form at one of our meetings. The form is also available on the website:

[Click here for membership form on the web](#)

SCCSS Name Badges

If you need a new name badge or would like a current Membership Directory, please contact the membership chair.



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 - Editor.

