

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

August 2015

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NEXT MEETING

Woody Minnich: "Madagascar: the Plants, People and Places"

Sunday August 9, 1:30pm
We will meet in the hall.

REFRESHMENTS FOR AUGUST

Thanks to those who helped in July, including:

Marie Bowers	Maria Lopez
Carol Causey	Ana MacKenzie
Phyllis DeCrescenzo	Irene Rich
Robert DeCrescenzo	George Unrine
Jim Gardner	Judy Unrine

Volunteers for August refreshments are:

Jeanne Jackson	Maria Jenkins
Nancy Jengo	Bernard Johnson

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

A few weeks ago, my brother in Knoxville, TN offered to send me some sansevieria offsets from his collection. It was a generous offer, so of course I accepted it. The large box contained six *S. fischeri* in the juvenile "tusk" stage with a leaf channel, not rare, but in the warm humid climate of a Knoxville summer, they (like all the plants) were well-grown and robust. He also included three rare *S. kirkii* 'Silver Blue'. This plant has not been officially described, although Juan Chahinian includes it in his latest book *The Splendid Sansevieria* (2005). It has very thick leaves. Finally, the box included nine offsets from a variegated *S. masoniana*. I hope I can propagate these plants as well as my brother.



Sansevieria kirkii 'Silver Blue'

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont.

Mini-show Rules Changes

Your Board of Directors has been working on the Plant-of-the-month (POM) lists for 2016 and 2017 - we didn't want to wait until the last minute. During the discussion we modified the mini-show rules a little. You may now enter multiple plants of the same species. Also when the POM genera includes species that are NOT succulent, they may be entered.

You can keep up to date by reading the extract of the rules when Mike Short (Editor) prints them in the newsletter - or just send me an email or call.

Dale La Forest, President.



Variegated *Sansevieria masoniana*

PRESENTER FOR AUGUST: Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich "Madagascar: the Plants, People and Places"

Woody, as he is commonly called, has been in the cactus hobby for some 45 years and has become well known for his participation in many of the cactus and succulent clubs. He is an honorary life member of nine clubs as well as a life member and Fellow of the CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) He has served in almost all positions of leadership from president, to newsletter editor, to show chairman and so on. He is also known for his extensive field work studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen. From these trips and his nursery experience, he has developed an extensive knowledge of the cactus family as well as many of the other succulent genera.



Woody is also known for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken for plant conventions - organizations all over the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico. Woody has also authored a number of articles for various newsletters, the CSSA journal, and his photographs are well published. Woody is the creator-originator of the first color version of the CSSA journal "Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur" that also featured show plants, shows and the growers of the pictured plants.

He is also known for his cactus and succulent nursery, Cactus Data Plants. CDP was started in 1975 and is still in operation today. Cactus Data Plants specializes in show specimens and rare cacti and other succulents with particular emphasis on Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Mammillaria, Gymnocalycium, Turbinicarpus, Melocactus, Copiapoa, Fouquieria, Pachypodium, Euphorbia, Cyphostemma, Adenium and Adenia.

Woody and his wife Kathy live in the beautiful mountains south of Santa Fe New Mexico, in a region called Cedar Grove. He has a small 1,200 sq. ft. greenhouse and a few cold frames where he grows his unique plants. He is always on the move and travels frequently to do presentations and shows throughout the western United States. Woody is the proud parent of three children, Leah, Denver and Sarah, all of whom are now grown and out in the big world. Woody is also the proud grandparent of three grandsons, Indiana, Ashton and Logan. He is a retired high school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphic Arts, Architecture, Art and Health.

Madagascar is a special place, an island in many respects, where the plants, people and animals are as unusual as anywhere in the world. This presentation will feature most of the succulent plants that we find so special. It will also address its most fascinating people, the Malagasy, with their intriguing heritage from the Malaysian, Arabian and African regions. Also, their many wonderful landscapes and biological regions vary from moderately high mountains to the rolling hills of grasses and inselbergs, to the dynamic canyons and geologically special places of rugged treacherous limestone, to dense jungles.

Because this island is so isolated from the main continent of Africa, its endemism of plants and animals, estimated at 6,400 species, is also very remarkable. One could spend a lifetime roaming this special island and not see it all.

The plants from Madagascar are considered to be most spectacular, especially the succulents, palms, orchids and carnivorous genera. The succulent plants are notably diverse and range from giants to geophytes, which include such spectacular genera as: *Adansonia*, *Adenia*, *Alluaudia*, *Aloe*, *Commiphora*, *Cyphostemma*, *Didierea*, *Euphorbia*, *Kalanchoe*, *Moringa*, *Pachypodium*, *Senecio* and *Uncarina*. There are also many fine genera of palms including such icons as the Travelers Palm, the giant noble blue palm *Bismarkia nobilis* and the famous bottle palm *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens*. The orchid species total more than 1,000 and many are considered some of the most unusual in the world. The carnivorous plants range from the fascinating Pitcher plants (*Nepenthaceae*) to the amazing *Droseras*. It can be said that it is difficult to ignore Madagascar's tremendous diversity of plants, many of which are often growing side by side. Also, it can be said that it is very difficult to know and understand them all.



In my travels around the world, the people of Madagascar are some of the most fascinating and happy people I have ever seen. Their smiling faces and friendly demeanor are a genuine treat. Some of their customs, from their often very colorful clothing to their facial décor, are most attractive. The children are wonderful as they bounce around in a most innocent barefoot manner and always act as if they are excited to see everything. The soil that stains their feet and their windblown hair is very refreshing, and not one of them has an iPhone. To watch the youngsters and old-timers all carrying their possessions, all balanced so well on the top of their heads, is also quite impressive. From region to region their facial characteristics seem to change and one can almost imagine their African, Malaysian or Arabian heritages.

The places of Madagascar are also a real surprise. Large cities with paved roads are not common. The smaller towns and villages are truly exciting, as many operate with a simple barter or hand to mouth system. Imagine the USA 150 to 200 years ago, this is what much of the rural life style in the remote regions seems to be. Grasshoppers, river fish, tubers, rice and zebu- – the staples of life! Outdoor toilets, bathe in the river and drink the same water, it is what it is! Since the French

left Madagascar in the 50s – 60s, much of the infrastructure has had no repair or modernization. Thus, Madagascar appears to be a country in decline as many of the wild places are being destroyed to feed a populous of 22 million. They also have no major economic exports.

This is part two of the three presentations that I [Woody] has on Madagascar. Part 1 is **Madagascar: Land of the Giants**, part 2 **Madagascar: Plants, People and Places** and Part 3 **Madagascar: A Disappearing Island**.



MINI-SHOW RESULTS - July 12, 2015

Open Cactus	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Coleocephalocereus aureus</i>
	2nd	Jim Gardner	<i>Cleistocactus</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Espostoa melanosteale</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Oreocereus trollii</i>
	3rd	Laural Woodley	<i>Espostoa melanosteale</i>
Open Succulent	1st	Laural Woodley	<i>Hoodia raushii</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Stapelia flavopurpurea</i>
	3rd	Dale La Forest	<i>Stapelia echidna</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Cleistocactus baumannii</i>
	2nd	Jim Wood	<i>Cleistocactus strausii</i>
	3rd	Jim Wood	<i>Oreocereus trollii</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Stapelia gigantea</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Huernia pillansii</i>
	3rd	Jim Wood	<i>Pseudolithos migiurtinus</i>
Novice Cactus	1st	NO ENTRIES	
Novice Succulent	1st	Judy Unrine	Stapeliad Group
	2nd	Judy Unrine	Stapeliad Group
	3rd	Nancy Jengo	<i>Stapelia grandiflora</i>

>>> Click for photos of winning plants: <http://southcoastcss.org/category/cat-news/mini-show-results/> <<<

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of July 12, 2015)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Roselyn Arbuckle	4	1	Anita Caplan	3	5	Maria Capaldo	30	31
Janet Avent		1	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	42	48	Gary Duke	45	12
M.A. Bjarkman		4	Jackie Johnson	5	32	Jim Gardner	20	7
Martha Bjerke	4	4	Jade Neely	37	17	Jim Hanna		18
Sally Fasteau	7	6	Jim Wood	29	7	Dale LaForest	10	2
Linda Hudson		4				Laurel Woodley	7	25
Lupe Hulett	4							
Nancy Jengo		2						
Bernard Johnson	16	17						
Phillip Johnston Ross	6							
Mike Short		12						
Judy Unrine		20						
William Wilk	6	28						

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2015

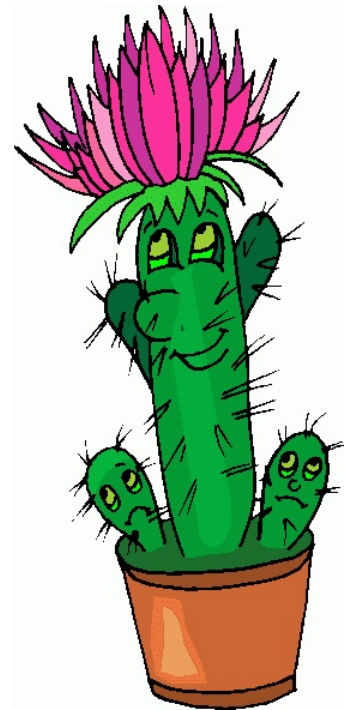
	Cactus	Succulent
August	Copiapoa	Variegated Succulent
September	Melocactus	Agave, Calibanus, Nolina, Yucca
October	Matucana, Oroya	Argyroderma, Pleiospilos, Faucaria
November	Schlumbergia (Christmas cactus)	Aloe
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2016

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Mammillaria – single head	Dudleya
February	Echinocereus	Crassula
March	Ferocactus	Gasteria
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	
May	Gymnocalycium	Sansevieria
June	Eriosyce (Neochilenia, Neoporteria...)	Echeveria
July	Lobivia, Echinopsis	Pachypodium
August	Thelocactus, Stenocactus	Aizoaceae (other than Lithops)
September	Coryphantha, Escobaria	Adromischus
October	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia	Aeonium
November	Miniature (3" or less)	Miniature (3" or less)
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	



The above photo shows the meticulous attention to detail taken by the Caplan household when preparing a plant for a show :-).



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015

- 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 of the MONTH - Copiapoa

Copiapoa is a genus of cacti from the dry coastal deserts, particularly the Atacama Desert, of northern Chile. It comprises about 26 species. These species vary in form from spherical to slightly columnar and in color from a brownish to blue-green body.

Copiapoa is a favorite genus among many cactus growers. While not known for any particular characteristic, such as the large flowers of Echinopsis, the species in Copiapoa exhibit a wide degree of "variation on a theme". In common with each other, Copiapoa species are globose or globose-cylindrical plants that have well-defined ribs and a woolly apex which gives rise to nearly all yellow flowers. These flowers are funnel shaped, mostly between 1 and 2 inches in diameter, and are quite similar from one plant to the next.



Copiapoa hypogaea



Copiapoa cinerea



Copiapoa cinerea

In contrast, the spines may be long and fierce or mostly absent. The roots may be fibrous or huge tubers that are larger than the portions above ground. Some plants are small individuals many form clumps, some imposing mounds of several feet across with hundreds of stems. Coloration is also a variable even within the same species from glaucous blue-green, to deep green to brown. In this way, it is easy to identify a given plant as one belonging in the genus Copiapoa, but it is conversely difficult to then decide to which species it belongs.

As previously stated, Copiapoa is widely popular in cultivation. In the wild the genus is restricted to Northern Chile. There they are found primarily in the Atacama desert where annual rainfall is barely measurable. The plants in habitat get their moisture from coastal fogs. Images from this habitat often reveal vast barren areas where Copiapoa plants or clumps march across the void along with almost no other vegetation. Despite the extreme and specific conditions in habitat, Copiapoa as a whole are surprisingly easy in cultivation. From seed sowing to the care of mature plants, this genus is very forgiving. While staying manageable in size, Copiapoa in cultivation will flower from a young age and reliably so each following year.



Copiapoa humilis



Copiapoa tenuissima

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Variegates

All variegates are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. As a result of this mutation, chlorophyll is missing from some or all layers of the plant epidermis.

Variegation is known in most plant families, and variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The bright yellow and white of variegated foliage adds pattern and rhythm to many herbaceous borders. In succulent plants variegates are generally separated from normal plants, and compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. Variegated plants grow slower and are generally smaller than non-variegates of the same species. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.



Aeonium 'Compton Carousel' Variegated

Agave – There are several forms of variegated *Agave americana*. There are forms with a green center stripe and yellow edges, a yellow stripe and green edges, a green center and white edges, a white center and green edges, yellow centers and crinkled edges. Other species of *Agaves* have also produce variegates, with the same variety of variegation.

Cacti – variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, but some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are also common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows.

Many of these are artificially propagated by grafts. The famous 'Red Caps' and 'Yellow Caps' are *Gymnocalycium* or *Lobivia* variegates that have no chlorophyll at all, and live only by being grafted onto a root stock.

Sansevieria – There are dozens of named and unnamed varieties. Look for "Bantel's Sensation, Futura, Silver Moon, Silver Princess, and variegated varieties of some of the cylindrical forms. Unlike normal *Sansevierias*, these can be difficult to grow. They will not tolerate cold and wet conditions. *Sansevieria* variegates can only be propagated through the tuber. Cuttings of the leaves will root, but will almost always revert to an unvariegated form. On the other hand, normal *Sansevierias* will often put out a variegated pup. These should be removed from the main plant and grown on their own roots to preserve the variegation.



Sansevieria trifasciata 'Bantel's Sensation'

Gasteria – The Japanese have made an art of *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* variegate cultivation. Read the 2000 CSSA Journal for just a sampling of the wonderful cultivars. Miniature white species, yellow species, even the occasional pink can be found. There are dozens of variegated *Gasterias* shown at our shows, and available from all of the local vendors. Look for *Gasteria* 'Little Warty', a nice white and green species, as well as many of the yellow and green species such as the Japanese hybrid *Gasteria* 'shozodan'.



Gasteria nitida var armstrongii



Gasteria



Haworthia truncata

Euphorbia – A number of columnar variegates are available, E. ammak, being the one most often seen. There are also some cristate and monstrose variegates as well.

Haworthia – “Gray Ghost” is a Haworthia retusa variegate. There are several Haworthia limifolia variegates that look as if they were painted with mustard. Shown below is a variegated hybrid between Haworthia attenuata and Haworthia pumilla. Offsets are produced on the flower stalks, these are variegated, as are the flowers themselves.

Tom Glavich 2005



Euphorbia Obesa Variegated



Haworthia comptonia variegated



Haworthia limifolia variegated

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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 - Editor.

Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged, especially articles of an educational nature. Also information on upcoming events that might be of interest to club members are welcomed. Humorous articles, photos, cartoons, or poetry also welcomed.

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