

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

September 2015

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<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

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Facebook page

NEXT MEETING

Attila Kapitany:
**"Australian Rock and Tree Dwelling
Succulents"**

Sunday September 13, 1:30pm
We will meet in the hall.

REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Carol Causey was away at the last meeting and we are lost without her. So a general thanks to those who helped in August.

We do not have a list of volunteers for September. If you are able to bring some refreshments and/or help in the kitchen it would be much appreciated.



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Following Tom Glavich' presentation in November 2014, I took his advice and transplanted my pachypodium lamerei and P. geayii into 10" pots with a tray and 3/8" pumice. I fill the tray with water about every other day. Almost immediately they started to grow. Here's what my lameri looks like now (2+ ft tall X 18' wide (foliage). I think this was a

successful change in potting medium, one that I'm applying to a few sansevierias in my collection.



Here we are in September, losing a few minutes of daylight every day. In fact our plants will receive an hour less of daylight this month. In most of the country hobbyists who grow their plants outdoors will be thinking about where they are going to put their tender plants indoors. I doubt any of us are planning on doing that. However, we do have other potential problems. Temperature and humidity can be extreme and quite variable in the fall, stressing more tender plants. So, as usual, "best practices" suggest we should visit our plants often - daily if possible.

Dale La Forest, President.

PRESENTER FOR SEPTEMBER: Attila Kapitany "Australian Rock and Tree Dwelling Succulents"

Attila is immediate past president of the Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia with 10 years in this position, and is also currently editor of its journal.

He has thirty years of experience growing and marketing cacti and succulents. Attila is also a member of the Horticultural Media in Australia, writing regularly in magazines, journals and newspapers and promoting succulent plants.

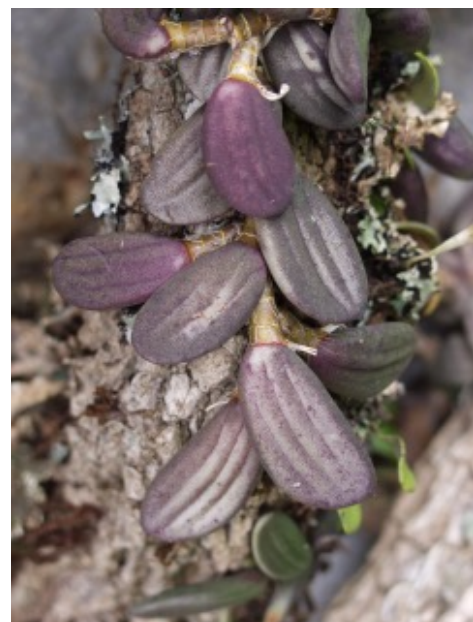
Attila has co-written seven books with Rudolf Schulz about succulents, with an eighth book a solo effort on Australian native species. His newest publications are a series of eight booklets on xerophytic Australian plants.

Since 2007 Attila has dedicated much of his time and resources to promoting lesser known Australian succulent plants, touring the Australian speaking circuit regularly and featuring on television and radio.

Attila is a succulent expert and author of many popular books on the subject will be along with pictures to show, and knowledge to share. Get an autographed copy of some of his publications.



Unlike his usual talks which cover desert plants from sandy arid regions of the continent, this is a look at the exciting plants that can be found on the east coast and closer to major cities. Here you will see and learn about some of the weirdest succulent plants in the world, including 'ant plants' and orchids.



MINI-SHOW RESULTS - August 9, 2015

Open Cactus	<p>1st Maria Capaldo <i>Copiapoa krainziana</i></p> <p>2nd Maria Capaldo <i>Copiapoa cinerea</i></p> <p>3rd Maria Capaldo <i>Copiapoa tenuissima</i></p>
Open Succulent	<p>1st Maria Capaldo <i>Sansevieria 'Twisted Sister'</i></p> <p>2nd Maria Capaldo <i>Hoya kerrii 'Sweetheart'</i></p> <p>2nd Laurel Woodley <i>Agave 'Snow Glow'</i></p> <p>3rd Dale La Forest <i>Sansevieria trifasciata dwarf marginated</i></p>
Intermediate Cactus	<p>1st Jade Neely <i>Copiapoa cinerea</i></p> <p>2nd Jade Neely <i>Copiapoa paposoensis</i></p> <p>2nd Jim Wood <i>Copiapoa dealbata</i></p> <p>3rd Jade Neely <i>Copiapoa esmeraldana</i></p> <p>3rd Jim Wood <i>Copiapoa columna-alba</i></p>
Intermediate Succulent	<p>1st Phyllis DeCrescenzo <i>Euphorbia milii variegata 'Golden Hearts'</i></p> <p>2nd Anita Caplan <i>Euphorbia milii variegata 'Fireworks'</i></p> <p>2nd Jackie Johnson <i>Gasteria</i></p> <p>3rd Jackie Johnson <i>Agave isthmensis medio-picta</i></p> <p>3rd Jackie Johnson <i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i></p>
Novice Cactus	<p>1st Sally Fasteau <i>Copiapoa tenuissima monstrose</i></p>
Novice Succulent	<p>1st Sally Fasteau <i>Sansevieria trifasciata 'Golden Hahnii'</i></p> <p>2nd William Wilk <i>Agave victoriae reginae 'Snow Princess'</i></p> <p>2nd William Wilk <i>Sansevieria 'Golden Hahnii'</i></p> <p>3rd Sally Fasteau <i>Haworthia cymbiformis variegata</i></p> <p>3rd Bernard Johnson <i>Agave potatorum kichiokan variegata</i></p>

>> Click for photos of winning plants: <http://southcoastcss.org/category/cat-news/cat-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	10	Maria Capaldo	30	31
Janet Avent		1	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	43	56	Gary Duke	45	12
M.A. Bjarkman		4	Jackie Johnson	5	40	Jim Gardner	20	7
Martha Bjerke	4	5	Jade Neely	49	17	Jim Hanna		18
Sally Fasteau	13	15	Jim Wood	36	7	Dale LaForest	10	2
Linda Hudson		4				Laurel Woodley	7	25
Lupe Hulett	4							
Nancy Jengo		2						
Bernard Johnson	16	21						
Philip Johnston Ross	6							
Mike Short		12						
Judy Unrine		21						
William Wilk	6	33						

>>> Click to see tables on our website: <http://southcoastcss.org/mini-show-standings/> <<<

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2015

	Cactus	Succulent
September	Melocactus	Agave, Calibanus, Nolina, Yucca
October	Matucana, Oroya	Argyroderma, Pleiospilos, Faucaria
November	Schlumbergera (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	Eriogyne (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	

CACTUS of the MONTH - Melocactus

>>> Click to see the same with more pictures on our website: <http://southcoastcss.org> <<<

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.

Melocactus are native to a large region, Brazil to Southern Mexico, including a good part of the Caribbean. As might be expected, cacti from the tropical regions, particularly coastal regions are sensitive to cold and wet. Cold and wet conditions can cause scarring of the body, which usually appears as brown or tan lesions on the skin. A few of these are unavoidable, but a badly scarred plant quickly becomes unsightly. At the same time, almost all of the Melocactus expect high humidity and a higher moisture level than might be expected. Many grow within sight of the ocean, or in some of the more tropical and humid regions of Brazil. They like water, but demand good drainage.



Melocactus intortus

Melocactus are generally solitary, so the only means of propagation is through seeds. Fortunately they produce plenty of seed, and these germinate readily, particularly when the weather is warm. Keep the seedlings protected from direct sun, and moist until fairly large. Although it is several years from seed to a flowering plant, most of the Melocactus have magnificent spination and vividly colored bodies, which make keeping them a pleasant task.



Melocactus peruvianus



Melocactus azureus

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Agave, Calibanus, Nolina, Yucca

>>> Click to see the same with more pictures on our website: <http://southcoastcss.org> <<<

The genus **Agave** is part of the family Agavaceae. There are around 200 species in the genus. Most of these are from Mexico, although they occur in the southern United States and into South America.

Plants are characterized by forming rosettes of fleshy (succulent) leaves which have a sharp point or spine terminally. The leaf margins may be smooth or spiny.

Agave plants have been given the common name “Century Plant” because of their blooming habit. The idea is that the plants live for 100 years, bloom and die. While it is true that Agave are monocarpic, meaning they bloom once and then die, few species, if any, take a full 100 years to do this. When an Agave does bloom, it sends up a large flower stalk out of the center of the plant that grows very quickly. The height of the bloom stalk is often many times higher than the plant. This often catches people by surprise when the Agave they were growing in their garden for years, suddenly and rapidly goes through this transformation. This is often when they try to identify and learn more about their plant.

Because of the fleshy green succulent leaves and the sharp points, many people try to look up cactus or cacti when in fact it is an Agave they are searching for.



Agave victoriae-reginae

Calibanus, nolina, and yucca are all members of the Agavaceae family. The Agave family, like the Cactaceae family, is entirely new world in origin, although many members have been naturalized around the world.

Although many of the members of this family grow very large with age, they are particularly good looking as seedlings, and can be kept small for many years in pots. All described below are easily grown in Southern California. They can remain unprotected in pots or the ground year-round. They thrive with regular feeding with any general purpose fertilizer. Their appearance is best when they are cleaned regularly, with debris removed from the leaves, and dead leaves removed to prevent insects from making homes.

Calibanus is a monotypic genus, consisting of *Calibanus hookeri* from central Mexico. *Calibanus hookeri* has a hemispherical caudex covered with a gray to dark brown thick bark. The leaves are grass-like, and are produced in tufts. Readily available, and hardy in Southern California, this plant will grow quickly if placed in the ground for a few years. It's worthwhile growing a few because the caudices vary in shape, pattern and texture.

Some of the best caudexes are produced by abusing the growing plant, and turning the pot on its side for all or part of a growing season. This produces the most interesting shapes, and the best looking plants. Many growers will cut off the trunk periodically to force new branched growth and more growing tips. All of these help produce the caudexes with great character that frequently grace our shows.



Calibanus 'Lotusland' calicarnea



Nolina parryi

Nolina, native to California Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico is a genus of long leafed shrubs to small trees that do well in local gardens.

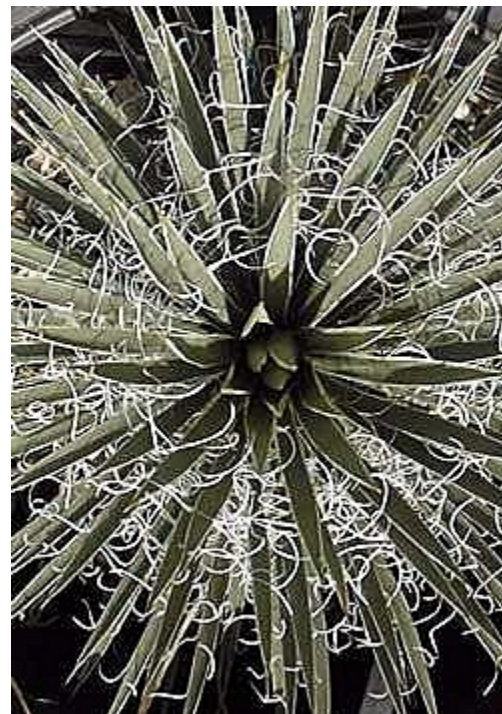
Many members of the Nolinaceae are characterised by stout succulent caudexes or swollen trunks storing water and food reserves, while supporting relatively thin, wiry leaves.

Members of the Nolinaceae are found in the Southern states of the USA and through Mexico into Guatemala. Unlike most Agaves, all members of the family Nolinaceae are polycarpic and dioecious, with decorative spikes of numerous small creamy-white flowers, sometimes tinged with pink or purple.

Yuccas occur exclusively in the Americas, distributed over a wide area from Canada into Central America and the Caribbean with species adapted to dry deserts, grasslands and tropical rainforests.

There are at least 50 species of *Yucca* notable for their rosettes of evergreen, tough, sword-shaped leaves and large terminal panicles of white or whitish flowers.

Yuccas are widely grown as architectural plants providing a dramatic accent to landscape design. They tolerate a range of conditions, but are best grown in full sun in subtropical or mild temperate areas. Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) are protected by law in some states. A permit is needed for wild collection. As a landscape plant, they can be killed by excessive water during their summer dormant phase, so are avoided by landscape contractors.



Yucca baileyi

M.A.'s ON DRY LAND NOW

Once upon a time ...
M.A. Bjarkman (our Vice
Chair) had a swimming pool.

"Oh dear" said M.A., "that pool
uses too much precious water,
what ever shall I do".

Then she had an idea ...
Along came some nice men
who filled it in with eleven
dump trucks of dirt.

On top she planted lots of
beautiful succulents and
drought tolerant plants.
And in the middle a bench for
all to sit and enjoy the garden
and watch the butterflies.

Well done M.A.!



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015

- 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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

New Members

Please welcome our latest new members:

Karen Cozzolino	May
Yvette Grageda	June
Jeanne Jackson	June
Gretchen Davis	July
Nancy Conger	Aug
Robert Conger	Aug
Lisa Kornblith	Aug
Russell Richer	Aug

Membership Renewal Information:

Renewals	87
New Members this year	18
TOTAL Members:	105

We will continue to enroll new members and accept any renewals throughout the year. The membership form is available at all meetings and on our website:

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

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	Lynda Johnson
CSSA	Laurel Woodley
At Large Members:	Anita Caplan
	Bob Caplan
	Lou Hagemeyer

Standing Committee Chairs:

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

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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