SCCSS
South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter November 2015

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NEXT MEETING

Rob Skillin
"Pediocactus and Sclerocactus; A Tour of the Colorado Plateau"

Sunday November 8, 1:30pm
We will meet in the hall.

REFRESHMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Thanks to those who helped in Oct., including:

Carol Causey	Lupe Hulett
Marilyn Doffing	Ana MacKenzie
Eloise Donnelly	David Okihara
Pam Hardy-Carnesi	Rod Smith

Volunteers for November refreshments are:

Martha Bjerke	Jim Gardner
Jacqui Bouvier	Jackie Johnson
Stella Castaneda	Luda Kuprenas
Karin/Mike Cozzolino	Jim Wood

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Be prepared for parking issues at our November meeting as the SCBG Foundation will be having a large event at the Garden the day of our November meeting. They will reserve a row of 41 parking spaces for us.

Last month your Board of Directors discussed ways to make our meetings more interesting. We generally agreed that we needed to reduce the number to "travelogs", but we struggled to find a way to present "Show & Tell" or "How To" programs. The reasons are pretty simple. There are very few knowledgeable people who are willing to put together a program that probably would involve bringing many plants to the hall and making a mess, and making the program long enough. After all, there is only so much one can do to demonstrate how to graft one cactus on to another. There is also the problem of "how do you get 60+ people around a demonstration close enough to see the action"? I think the Board is willing to underwrite costs, but maybe we need help. If you have ideas, PLEASE contact me or any Board member.

Dale La Forest,
President

Aloe dichotoma

PRESENTER FOR OCTOBER: Rob Skillin
"Pediocactus and Sclerocactus; A Tour of the Colorado Plateau"

Rob Skillin, from the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society in Santa Barbara.
This month's program will feature two little known genera of American cacti: Pediocactus and Sclerocactus. Rob's program highlights the best of 25 years of field study during which he photographed all species of the two groups, as well as the magnificent landscapes of the Southwestern US. He will explain what these plants are, where they are found, the often very specialized environmental conditions they have adapted to, and why they are so seldom grown in plant collections. Come to this month's meeting and learn about the smallest US cactus, the rarest US cactus, and the most widespread genus you've never heard of.

Pediocactus

Sclerocactus

Rob Skillin has been growing cacti and succulents for approximately 37 years, and has been involved in various local societies for most of that time. The first office he held was Show and Sale Chairman for the Santa Barbara C&SS, during the late 1980's. After moving to California's Central Valley, he became a founding member, and later, President of the Bakersfield C&SS. In 2005, after another move, he became a founder of the Central Coast C&SS and was its first President.

This society now boasts 200+ enthusiastic members, and held its very successful ninth annual show and sale in May of 2015. He has also been involved with the CSSA as a member of it's Board of Directors.

His first interest, which continues today, was cacti of the Chihuahuan desert, especially those unique genera such as Ariocarpus, Aztekium, and Strombocactus, etc. Gradually, he diversified his collection to include Mesembs, Haworthias, and other succulents, particularly caudiciforms. He has spent many years studying the cacti of the US, particularly Sclerocacti and Pediocacti. He is an avid grower of plants from seed, and now has a number of seed-grown specimens in his collection dating back to 1982. As an acknowledgment of his expertise with these plants, Rob has been asked to judge numerous shows throughout California, including the CSSA, Intercity, NORCAL, LA, and San Diego shows.

Along with his interest in cacti and succulents, he enjoys photography and travel. These interests have come together in a wonderful way during his botanical explorations of the western US and Mexico, and portions of South America, Africa, Madagascar and the Middle East. He has several programs based on these trips, and speaks regularly to clubs in northern and southern California. Many of his photographs have been published as illustrations for articles in the CSSA Journal, as well as on its cover, and that of Haseltonia.

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - September 13, 2015

Open Cactus	1st	Gary Duke	*Oroya borchersii*
	2nd	Gary Duke	*Matucana madisoniorum*
	2nd	Jim Gardner	*Matucana madisoniorum*
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	*Matucana hystrix*
	3rd	Gary Duke	*Matucana tarapotensis*
Open Succulent	1st	Gary Duke	*Faucaria tigrina*
	2nd	Gary Duke	*Adromischus marianae var. immaculatus*
	2nd	Jim Hanna	*Faucaria tuberculosa* 'Sato'
	3rd	Jim Hanna	*Faucaria tigrina*
	3rd	Jim Hanna	*Faucaria* 'Cosmic Cube'
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Jim Wood	*Oroya borchersii*
	2nd	Jade Neely	*Matucana madisoniorum*
	2nd	Jade Neely	*Melocactus ernestii*
	3rd	Jade Neely	*Matucana pujupatii*
	3rd	Jade Neely	*Oroya gibbosa*
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	*Faucaria tigrina*
	2nd	Anita Caplan	*Faucaria tigrina*
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	*Pleiospilos*
	3rd	Anita Caplan	*Faucaria tigrina*
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	*Pleiospilos split rock*
Novice Cactus	1st	Bernard Johnson	*Matucana madisoniorum*
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	*Oroya peruviana*
Novice Succulent	1st	William Wilk	*Pleiospilos willowmorensis*
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	*Faucaria tigrina*
	3rd	Martha Bjerke	*Pleiospilos nelii*
	3rd	William Wilk	*Pleiospilos nelii*

Click for photos of the winning plants on our website

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of September 13, 2015)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Roselyn Arbuckle	4	1	Anita Caplan	3	22	Maria Capaldo	49	49
Janet Avent		1	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	46	71	Gary Duke	68	26
M.A. Bjarkman		5	Jackie Johnson	5	49	Jim Gardner	24	12
Martha Bjerke	4	7	Jade Neely	57	20	Jim Hanna		33
Sally Fasteau	19	23	Jim Wood	54	7	Dale LaForest	10	6
Linda Hudson		4				Laurel Woodley	7	30
Lupe Hulett	4							
Nancy Jengo		2						
Bernard Johnson	28	31						
Philip Johnston Ross	6	3						
Mike Short		12						
Jim Tanner		1						
Judy Unrine		22						
William Wilk	10	48						

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

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2015		
	Cactus	Succulent
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	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	

Click to see complete lists on our web site

CACTUS of the MONTH - Schlumbergera

Submitted by Jim Tanner

Schlumbergera is a small genus of cacti with six species found in the coastal mountains of south-eastern Brazil. Plants grow on trees or rocks in habitats which are generally shady with high humidity and can be quite different in appearance from their desert-dwelling cousins. Most species of Schlumbergera have stems which resemble leaf-like pads joined one to the other and flowers which appear from areoles at the joints and tips of the stems. Two species have cylindrical stems more similar to other cacti. In Brazil, the genus is referred to as Flor de Maio (May flower), reflecting the period in which they flower in the Southern Hemisphere.

This genus contains the popular house plants known by a variety of names including Christmas Cactus, Thanksgiving Cactus, Crab Cactus and Holiday Cactus, which are Schlumbergera cultivars, and flower in white, pink, yellow, orange, red or purple. (The Easter Cactus or Whitsun Cactus, which may also be called a Holiday Cactus and has vivid scarlet flowers in the most commonly grown form, is now placed in the genus Hatiora.)

In the wild, the species of Schlumbergera grow either on trees (epiphytic) or on rocks (epilithic) and can form sizeable shrubs with woody bases; a height of up to 1.2 m (4 ft) has been reported for one species (S. opuntioides). They are leafless, the green stems acting as photosynthetic organs. The stems are composed of segments, which take one of two forms. In most species the segments are strongly flattened (cladodes), being made up of a central core with two (or more rarely three) "wings". Special structures characteristic of cacti, called "areoles", then occur at the ends of the segments of the stem. The areoles, which may have wool and bristles, are where the flower buds appear.

Click to see the same with more pictures on our website

Schlumbergera 'Nicole'

Schlumbergera 'Pink Heaven'

Schlumbergera 'Witte Eva'

The flowers either hang downwards and are almost regular or, are held more or less horizontally with the higher side of the flower different from the lower side.

Schlumbergera

Schlumbergera orssichiana

In those species whose flowers are held up, their angle with the horizontal is relatively constant and is characteristic of the species. The flowers produce nectar in a chamber at the base of the floral tube.

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - ALOE

Submitted by Jim Tanner

Click to see the same with more pictures on our website

Aloe, 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 neighbouring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian peninsula, and the islands off Africa.

The APG II system (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group 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.

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 broomii

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 grey to bright-green and are sometimes striped or mottled. Some Aloes native to South Africa are arborescent.

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 polyphylla

Aloe variegata

Aloe plicatilis

DORMANCY

Courtesy of Highland Succulents - http://www.highlandsucculents.com/culture_guide.htm

The least understood and most critical time for cultivating succulents is the dormancy or rest period. Most losses occur during or shortly after this time because plants are kept too dry and not monitored. This is the number one reason for failure.

Dormancy is a fact of life. Plants gradually move into a rest period in response to dropping light and temperature levels. They need this break to stay healthy. Your job is to coast them through it.

The first sign that a plant is entering dormancy is that it stops growing. Soon after, leaves begin to yellow and drop, rosettes tighten and contract, or for very succulent groups such as mesembs, bodies can pull themselves into the soil and develop a papery covering as protection.

You may not see much happening on the outside, but even in this state, your plants are not just sitting there. Transpiration is still going on and this moisture must be replaced. They need feeder roots to take up this moisture so naturally plants cannot be kept so dry that these roots desiccate and die. This can easily happen to slow growing species and the consequences will not become apparent until spring when growth commences and plants begin to fail. Plants are failing in April and May because of what you did over the winter months. Signs of trouble often take months to appear.

So how often should you water during the rest period? Again it largely depends on your conditions, i.e. how fast they dry out. If you live where it's cool during the winter, your plants will rapidly dry from heating equipment being present so one or two waterings per week may be required. If you live in a mild climate, possibly every other week will work. Just water, give them a good dry spell to the point where pots feel light but not dust dry, then water again.

What about the plants that are summer dormant and how should they be treated? Since this group is resting during the warmest time of the year, they will dry out much faster than the winter dormant species and therefore require more frequent waterings. As a starting point, water these every other time you water your summer growers but again, it completely depends on your conditions. During extremely hot weather, they may need water every day.

It's important to remember that you can't force your plants into or out of dormancy by withholding or applying moisture. The one exception to this is the mistaken advice one often hears that succulents should be kept completely dry when dormant. In this case they will indeed go dormant but unfortunately it will likely be permanent.

To better understand dormancy and its role in your cultivation, you must be aware of when your plants are actually dormant. Succulents can be organized by genus into the two groups of winter and summer dormant with the most popular genera presented in our Dormancy Table. There are a few exceptions for individual species.

WINTER DORMANT			SUMMER DORMANT		
This group is generally regarded as the "summer growers". They have adapted to our northern hemisphere cycle and are dormant from November through February. Many of these will also enter a pseudo rest period for a few weeks during the hottest part of the summer before putting on a final burst of growth in September and October.			Usually referred to as the "winter growers", these genera are dormant during the warmer months of May through August. Their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring while slowing considerably during true winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well, especially in the Lily and Crassulaceae families.		
Adenia	Encephalartos	Pedilanthus	Adromischus	Dudleya	Pachyveria
Adenium	Euphorbia	Plumeria	Aeonium	Fouqueria	Pelargonium
Agave	Ficus	Pseudolithos	Aloe	Gasteria	Peperomia
Alluaudia	Fockea	Pterodiscus	Anacampseros	Gibbaeum	Portulacaria
Brachystelma	Huernia	Raphionacme	Astroloba	Graptopetalum	Sansevieria
Bursera	Ibervillea	Siningia	Avonia	Graptoveria	Sarcocaulon
Calibanus	Ipomoea	Stapelianthus	Bowiea	Haemanthus	Sedeveria
Ceropegia	Jathropha	Synadenium	Bulbine	Haworthia	Sedum
Cissus	Lithops	Tillandsia	Ceraria	Kalanchoe	Senecio
Cyphostemma	Monadenium	Trichocaulon	Conophytum	Neohenricia	Stomatium
Didieria	Moringa	Trichodiadema	Cotyledon	Othonna	Talinum
Dorstenia	Operculicarya	Xerosicyos	Crassula	Pachycormus	Tylecodon
Echeveria	Pachypodium		Dioscorea	Pachyphytum	

[Ed: As pointed out in the text above the list is of genera and there are species within those genera that do not share dormancy. Some genera are so widespread that they are endemic to both Summer and Winter rainfall regions. Also there is the possibility that certain species within a genera are more likely to adapt after a move from the Southern hemisphere.]

RAINSTICKS

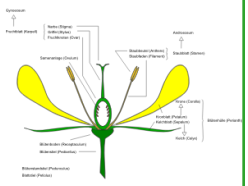
From Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainstick

A rainstick is a long, hollow tube partially filled with small pebbles or beans that has small pins or thorns arranged helically on its inside surface. When the stick is upended, the pebbles fall to the other end of the tube, making a sound reminiscent of rain falling. It is designated 112.1+133.1 in the Hornbostel–Sachs classification system.

The rainstick is believed to have been invented by the Aztecs and was played in the belief it could bring about rainstorms. Rainsticks are usually made from any of several species of cactus. The cacti, which are hollow, are dried in the sun. The spines are removed, then driven into the cactus like nails. Pebbles or other small objects are placed inside the rainstick, and the ends are sealed. A sound like falling water is made when the rainstick has its direction changed to a vertical position.

Two species of cactus used are: *Eulychnia acida* and *Echinopsis pachanoi*.

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.

IDIOBLAST - single specialized cell present in uniform tissue.
IMMACULATE - unspotted.
INCUMBENT - resting upon.
INDEHISCENT - applied to fruit that remain unopened at maturity.
INFLEXED - turned abruptly inward.
INFLORESCENCE - a special branch-system that bears flowers.
INTERNODE - portion of the stem between two nodes.
INVOLUCRE - a ring of bracts that surround one to many flowers.

KEEL - a longitudinal ridge, at the back of the leaf.
KEELED-MARGINATE - the leaf-keel veers over to form a leaf-margin (Aloineae).

LACERATE - torn.
LACINIATE - cut into narrow lobes.
LAMINA - the blade of the leaf.
LANCEOLATE - lance-shaped, tapering from a broad base to the apex.
LAX - loose or limp, not densely arranged.
LECTOTYPE - a specimen chosen after the original description to be the type.
LIGULATE - star shaped.
LIGNOTUBER - woody tuber - tuberous rootstock.
LINEAR - narrow with nearly parallel sides.
LOCULUS - cavity or chamber of an ovary.

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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.

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.

Mike Short - Editor.