

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

March 2016

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<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

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our Facebook page

NEXT MEETING
Ernesto Sandoval: "The ABCs of Growing African Bulbs"
Sunday March 13, 1:30pm
We will meet in the hall.

REFRESHMENTS FOR MARCH
Thanks to those who helped in February:
M.A. Bjarkman **Irene Rich**
Jo Boehm **Deborah Richards**
Ana MacKenzie **Laurel Woodley**
David Okihara
Volunteers for March refreshments are:
Sally Fasteau **Lynda Johnson**
Mari Jenkens **Mary 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- PRESIDENTS MESSAGE..... 1
- REFRESHMENTS.....1
- SHOW and SALE..... 1
- PRESENTER FOR THE MONTH.....2
- CACTUS OF THE MONTH.....2
- SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH.....4
- MINI-SHOW STANDINGS.....5
- MINI-SHOW RESULTS.....6
- LOQUERISNE LATINE?.....6
- CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS..... 7
- MEMBERSHIP NEWS.....8
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....8



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Attendance at the February meeting was excellent inspite of it being St. Valentine's Day. We introduced three new members (See article).

Our speaker, Marquita Ellias, gave a presentation on plant naming was well received and welcome, as many of our new members express their lack of knowledge of taxonomy.

Your Board of Directors (after much discussson) voted to donate \$1000 to the SCBG Propagation Area for tables and \$500 to the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) - Research Fund. The board decided that the Society could afford to donate funds from its account that is in excess of \$10,000, the decision to be made in the fall, and with the expectation to make a similar decision in the fall of following years. In the past we have donated funds to the CSSA (2014 Convention), CGCI (Anza-Borrego renovation project), and the SCBG (more tables). Your suggestions for people or organizations for worthy projects to any Board member are always welcome.

Other Board actions included replacing cash awards for the display tables at the Show & Sale with a ribbon or ribbons. It was felt the cash awards were not achieving their intended purpose of encouraging members to participate. However, this year all vendors are being asked to either set up a display table or put 10 plants on the Club table. We will probably double the number of tables we traditionally set up for this purpose.

Dale La Forest, President

SHOW and SALE

The plant show and sale is coming up quickly. It will take place on our usual meeting weekend April 9th & 10th, with set up on Friday the 8th.

There are still plenty of jobs that need filling. Let Heidi Husnak or Nancy Jengo know what job and hours you would like to work when we see you at the March meeting. If you don't already have some, there are postcards ready for you to hand out or put on a counter wherever you think people who would be interested can see them (barbershop, hair or nail salon, doctor or dentist's office, etc.).

Following this newsletter we are mailing an application to display plants at the show and sale. Please read it over, sign and mail the application. With all of us doing what we can it should be another amazing show and sale.

PRESENTER FOR MARCH: Ernesto Sandoval: "The ABC's of Growing African Bulbs"

"The ABC's of Growing African Bulbs," is a very timely topic as we approach spring. He will discuss several different kinds of bulbs and tell us how to propagate and grow them successfully. Ernesto has spoken to us before on plant hormones and will probably bring some plants for sale from UC Davis where he is the Director of their Botanical Conservatory as well as teaching several classes.



Ernesto has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout the State and elsewhere since that group of plants is his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been finding the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 23 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the

world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

CACTUS of the MONTH - Ferocactus *Submitted by Jim Tanner*

Ferocactus is a genus of large barrel-shaped cacti, mostly with large spines and small flowers. There are about 40 species included in the genus. They are found in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.

The young specimens are columnar but as they grow older ribs form and they take on a barrel form. Most of the species are solitary but some, form clumps. The flowers are pink, yellow, red or purple depending on the species, and the petals sometimes have a stripe of a darker color.

They are desert dwellers and can cope with some frost and intense heat. The typical habitat is hot and very arid, and the plants have adapted to exploit water movement to concentrate their biomass in areas where water is likely to be present. Ferocactus typically grow in areas where water flows irregularly or depressions where water can accumulate for short periods of time. They are most often found growing along arroyos (washes) where their seeds have been subjected to scarification due to water movement, but they oddly also tend to grow along ridges in spots where depressions have formed and can hold water for some period of time.

Ferocactus have very shallow root systems and are easily uprooted during flash floods. The "fishhook" spines and the armored web of

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Ferocactus glaucescens

spines enclosing the cactus body in many species of this genus are adaptations which allow the plant to move to more favorable locations. The seeds germinate in areas where water movement occurs or in areas where standing water accumulates for some period of time, and during flash floods, the hooked spines allow the plants to be caught on waterborne debris, uprooted and carried to areas where water tends to accumulate.

In cultivation ferocactus require full sun, little water, and good drainage. They are popular as houseplants. They cannot tolerate freezing temperatures for extended periods, which typically cause them to yellow, bleach, then slowly die. Propagation is usually from seeds.

Many ferocactus species are ant plants, exuding nectar along the upper meristem from extrafloral nectaries above each areole, and hosting ant colonies.



Ferocactus latispinus



Ferocactus macrodiscus



Ferocactus pilosus



Ferocactus gracilis



Ferocactus histrix



Ferocactus chrysacanthus



Documentation Assistant Required

The President would like someone familiar with Microsoft WORD documents to edit our Bylaws and Operational Procedures. The changes (mostly) already exist as WORD files, but need to be integrated into our master documents. CONTACT Dale La Forest for details if you're interested.

None of our jobs require a college degree, resumé, or interview. None require a lot of your time, but all need someone who's focused attention will make our club better.

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Gasteria Submitted by Jim Tanner

Gasteria is a genus of succulent plants, native to South Africa (and the far south-west corner of Namibia). The genus is named for its stomach-shaped flowers (“gaster” is Latin for “stomach”). Common names include ox-tongue, cow-tongue, lawyer’s tongue and, occasionally, mother-in-law’s tongue.

Gasterias are recognisable from their thick, hard, succulent “tongue-shaped” leaves. Their inflorescence is also unique, with their curved, stomach-shaped flowers, which hang from inclined racemes.

The species of this genus are mostly native to the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa, where the bulk of the species occur – especially in the small area between Grahamstown and Uniondale which enjoys rainfall throughout the year. However distribution of several species extends widely across the low-altitude coastal regions of the country, in an arched horseshoe shape across South Africa. At the one end of the genus’s distribution, a species *Gasteria pillansii* extends into the far south-west corner of Namibia. At the other end, a species reaches the Lebombo mountains of Swaziland.

Gasteria species are grown in well-drained, sandy soils in light shade. The species can all be propagated by off-sets and cuttings (leaf cuttings can usually be rooted easily). They are also commonly propagated by seed. Germination usually occurs within 8 days but may take as long as one month depending on the species.

Gasteria species are prone to *Fusarium* root rot, if they are over-watered.

Several hybrids with species in other related genera have been created in cultivation, such as between *Gasteria* and *Aloe* (×*Gasteraloe*), and between *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* (×*Gasterhaworthia*).

Gasteria is part of the family Xanthorrhoeaceae, subfamily Asphodeloideae. Closely related genera include *Aloe* and *Haworthia*, and the species of these genera are known to hybridise relatively easily with each other.

Dividing *Gasteria* into species is extremely difficult, as each plant can be highly variable. One plant will look different depending on its location, its soil and its age. Young *Gasteria* plants typically look entirely different to older specimens. (Usually, young plants have flat, strap-shaped, highly tubercled leaves, in a distichous formation.) In addition, the species tend to flow into each other in gradual transitions, with many intermediate forms, rather than being cleanly divided into discrete and separate species. Lastly, hybrids occur easily and naturally, whenever the range of two species overlap in habitat.

There is therefore considerable disagreement on how many species exist, with as many as 100 names being listed. Current studies tend to agree that there are between 16 and 23 species.

[Click to see the same with more pictures on our website](#)



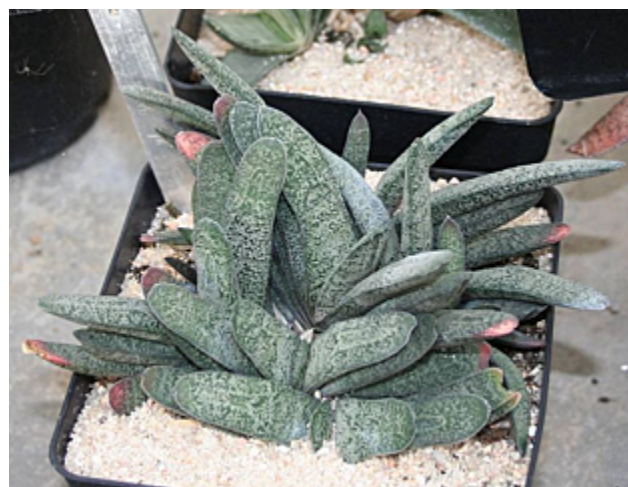
Gasteria batesiana



Gasteria nitida



Gasteria flowers



Gasteria baylissiana



Gasteria rawlinsonii



Gasteria excelsa



Gasteria pillansii



Gasteria disticha

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2016

	Cactus	Succulent
March	Ferocactus	Gasteria
April	PLANT SHOW AND SALE	<i>Click to see complete lists on our web site</i>
May	Gymnocalycium	
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	

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of February 14, 2016)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Martha Bjerke		1	Anita Caplan	3	7	Maria Capaldo	11	7
Sally Fasteau	1	3	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	22	12	Gary Duke	16	16
Bernard Johnson	15	1	Carol Knight		4	Jim Gardner	1	4
Mike Short		15	Jade Neely	11	9	Dale LaForest	4	3
Jim Tanner	7	2				Laurel Woodley		6
Judy Unrine	2	4	<i>Click to see the standings on our website</i>					
William Wilk	1	12						

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - February 14, 2016

Open Cactus	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Echinocerus davisii</i>
	2nd	Dale La Forest	<i>Echinocereus pentalophus</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Echinocereus barthelwanus v mammulatus</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Echinocereus viridiflorus v. correllii</i>
Open Succulent	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Crassula rupestris</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Crassula 'Woves'</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Crassula perforata</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Crassula 'tricolor'</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Crassula rupestris v. commutata</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Echinocereus knippelianus</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Echinocereus pectinatus v. rubispinus</i>
	2nd	Jade Neely	<i>Echinocereus dasyacanthus</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Echinocereus pectinatus v. rubispinus</i>
	3rd	Jade Neely	<i>Echinocereus sp.</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Crassula pyramidalis</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Crassula moonglow</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Crassula campfire</i>
	3rd	Carole Knight	<i>Crassula perforata</i>
Novice Cactus	1st	Bernard Johnson	<i>Echinocereus viridiflorus ssp. davisii</i>
	2nd	Disqualified	
	3rd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Echinocereus pentalophus</i>
Novice Succulent	1st	William Wilk	<i>Crassula arborescens 'Bluebird'</i>
	2nd	Mike Short	<i>Crassula ovata 'Hummel's Sunset'</i>
	2nd	William Wilk	<i>Crassula streyi</i>
	3rd	Mike Short	<i>Crassula perforata</i>

Click for photos of
the winning plants
on our website

LATIN LOOKUP - Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)?

The meanings of the latin names of plants in this newsletter - taken from <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botanary/>

Name	Meaning	Pronunciation
arborescens	Tree-like	ar-bo-RES-senz
batesiana	Named for George Latimer Bates, 20th century American ornithologist and botanist in West Africa.	1. bate-see-AH-nuh 2. bate-see-AY-nuh
baylissiana	Named for Colonel Roy Bayliss, a botanical explorer in South Africa and authority on succulents	bay-liss-ee-AH-na
commutata	Changing	kom-yoo-TAH-tuh
correllii	Named for Donovan Stewart Correll, early 20th century botanist and coauthor of the Vascular Flora of Texas	kor-REL-ee-eye
Crassula	Somewhat thickened foliage; diminutive of the Latin crassus (thick, fleshy)	1. KRASS-oo-la 2. KRASS-uh-la
dasyacanthus	Lots of spines, thick spines	day-see-uh-KAN-thus
davisii	Named for AR Davis, early 20th century cactus collector	dav-VISS-ee-eye
disticha	1. Two-ranked 2. leaves erect in a fan shape	DIS-tik-uh
excelsa	Tall	ek-SEL-suh

LATIN LOOKUP - Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)? - Cont.

Name	Meaning	Pronunciation
Echinocereus	From the Greek echinos, (porcupine) and cereus, referring to the shape of the floral tube	1. ek-in-oh-KER-ee-us 2. ek-in-oh-SER-ee-us
Ferocactus	From the Latin ferus, (fierce) and cactus, referring to its heavy spines	fer-oh-KAK-tus
glaucescens	Becoming glaucous	glaw-KES-kens
gracilis	Graceful; slender	GRASS-il-is
Gasteria	From gaster, (belly, stomach); referring to swollen base on flower	gas-TAIR-ee-uh
histris	Variant spelling of hystrix, from the Greek word for Porcupine	HiS-triks
knippelianus	Named for Karl Knippel	ni-pel-ee-AY-nus
latispinus	Broad spines	la-TYE-spin-uss
nitida	Shiny, glossy	NI-ti-duh
ovata	Ovate in shape	oh-VAY-tuh
pectinatus	Like a comb	pek-tin-AY-tus
pentalophus	Five crests	pen-ta-LOH-fus
perforata	Perforated, punctured	per-for-AY-tuh
pillansii	Named for Neville Stuart Pillans, 20th century botanist	pil-AN-see-eye
pilosus	Covered in soft, long hair	pil-OH-sus
pyramidalis	Pyramid-shaped	peer-uh-mid-AH-liss
rubispinus	Red-colored spines	roo-bih-SPIN-us
rupestris	Referring to rocks	rue-PES-tris
viridiflorus	Green flowers	vir-id-uh-FLOR-us

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

- Mar. 18-19 **Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show and Sale**
Thurs. 17th 6-8pm---Fri. Mar. 18th 9-7pm---Sat. Mar. 19th 9-5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA. Info: 562-587-3357
- Mar. 19 **Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society - SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY PAUL KLAASSEN, "If It's Winter, It Must Be Chile".** Featuring the Atacama Desert in Bloom.
Saturday, Mar. 19th. Doors Open: 9:30 AM, Presentation at 10 AM.
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino. Info: email: kitaskactus@hotmail.com
- Apr. 9-10 **South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale**
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. Info: 310-378-1953
- Apr. 24 **Huntington Plant Sale** 10 to 4:30 Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. 626-405-3504
- May 1 **South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale**---9am To 4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens, Info. 310-833-6823
- Apr. 30, May 1 **Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale**
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info: 310-822-1783
- May 13-14 **Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 34th Show and Sale**
Fri & Sat 9-4:30pm, At Land Scapes Southern California Style
450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, CA Info. 951-360-8802
- May 21-22 **Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show and Sale** 10-4 pm
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA., Info. 562-631-5876
- May 28-29 **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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016 (Continued)

- June 11-12 **Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Show and Sale** 11th 9-5—12th 9-3:30
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA., Info. www.lacss-show.com
- June 4-5 **San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society –SUMMER Show and Sale**
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info: 858-382-1797
- July 1-3 **CSSA Annual Show and Sale –HUNTINGTON Botanical Gardens**
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA., 626-405-3504
Plant sales start July 1st thru July 3rd. The show opens July 2nd thru July 3rd
- July 22-23 **Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale.**
Thurs. 21st 6-8pm, Fri. July 22nd 9am-7pm, Sat. 23rd 9-5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA. Info: 949-212-8417
- Aug. 13-14 **31st Annual Intercity Show and Sale** at the LA County Arboretum,
9am-5pm daily. 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
Info. Call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795
- Sept. 3 **Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium**
All day at the Huntington 626-405-3504
- Sept. 10 **Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5pm**
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA 90615. Info: 562-631-5876
- Oct. 8-9 **Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale**
Sat. 10-5---Sun. 11-4 East Hills Mall, Center Court
3100 Mall View Road, Bakersfield, CA 93306 Info: 661-831-8488
- Oct. 22-23 **Palomar Show and Sale** Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4, San Diego Botanic Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Rd, Encinitas, CA. Info: hciservices@gmail.com. Info: 858-382-1797
- Nov. 5-6 **San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale** 9am-4pm both days
LA County Arboretum 310 No. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA.
Info: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - Submitted by Saly Fasteau



Please welcome the three new members who joined our society in February.

Charlotte Laura of Rancho Palos Verdes was a former docent at South Coast Botanic Gardens and has an interest in succulents.

Anne Nye volunteers at propagation at the SCBG and joined us last month. She lives in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Cheryl Seiver of Long Beach joined to accompany her husband John Nisewaner who joined in January. A big welcome to John as well!

David Verity from Rancho Palos Verdes was the former manager of the UCLA Botanical Garden and is a well-known succulent enthusiast. He is also renowned for his many hybrids of succulents and other plants.

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:

Lou Hagemeyer
Laurel Woodley
Anita Caplan
Bob Caplan
Lou Hagemeyer

Standing Committee Chairs:

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