

# Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

August 2016

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<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

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our Facebook page

## NEXT MEETING

**Bob Caplan: "Acts of Cactography on an Otherwise Dull Afternoon"**

**Sunday August 14, 1:00pm**

**(Program starts at 1:30pm)**

## REFRESHMENTS FOR AUGUST

Thanks to those who helped in July:

<b>M.A. Bjarkman</b>	<b>Nancy Mosher</b>
<b>Carol Causey</b>	<b>Jim Tanner</b>
<b>Karin Cozzolino</b>	

Volunteers for August refreshments are:

<b>M.A. Bjarkman</b>	<b>Lupe Hulett</b>
<b>Anita Caplan</b>	<b>Dale LaForest</b>
<b>Jim Hanna</b>	<b>Hank Warzybok</b>
<b>David Hodgson</b>	

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
PRESENTER FOR THE MONTH.....	2
MINI-SHOW RULES.....	2
MINI-SHOW RESULTS.....	3
MINI-SHOW STANDINGS.....	3
MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH 2016.....	3
MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH 2017.....	4
CACTUS OF THE MONTH.....	4
SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH.....	6
MEMBERS GARDENS.....	7
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS.....	9
MEMBERSHIP NEWS.....	9
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	9
EDITOR'S CORNER.....	9



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We continue to modify and clarify our mini-show rules to avoid ambiguity. Last year at this time we extended the monthly list of genera to 18 months to accommodate the requirement that entries in the intermediate and open classes be grown for a year by the entrants. We now allow multiple entries of the same species and clarified that as

long as the parts of the plant were vegetatively connected - that was okay. Also, when the Plant of the Month (POM) genera includes species that are NOT succulent, they may be entered. At the July Board meeting, we decided to allow entries by couples as long as they live at the same address and both care for the plant. And, not new guidance, but any clean container may be used, including plastic and the plants must be free of pests and disease.

All these changes are in effect now. We are trying to keep our published guidance up to date on our website and when the Mini-show abridged rules are printed in the Newsletter, but contact Gary Duke or myself if you need clarification.

Dale La Forest, President

[Ed: Abridged Mini-Show rules can be found below]



## PRESENTER FOR AUGUST: Bob Caplan: "Acts of Cactography on an Otherwise Dull Afternoon"

Want to make your cactus and succulents look terrific, at least in your photos? Want to see a movie where it's done? Watch SCCSS member, photographer, and filmmaker Bob Caplan show you simple but crucial tips, ones used by professionals in journals such as National Geographic. Then sit back and watch him practice his craft in a newly filmed short drama, SECRETS, a work in which, wouldn't you know, beautifully filmed cactus and succulents play a support role.

Who is this for? Whether you take photos or just admire good photography, you may find this presentation informative. For those who take pictures, these tips will get you the best pictures whether you use a smart phone, point-and-shoot, or something more complex.



As for Bob's film, it's a tale of adventure and suspense surrounding a secret spanning three generations. Our Society has been chosen for its premier public showing.

Bob and his wife, Anita, have been adventure travellers and documentary photographers for more than forty years. Their work has been shown to conservation and wilderness groups such as the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society.

[Ed: Bob and Anita have contributed a lot to South Coast C&SS, both have held board positions for many years. Anita's publicity has helped our Show & Sale to be the success it has been.]

### MINI-SHOW RULES - Abridged - 6/12/2016

A Mini-show is scheduled for all meetings except April and December as a way for expert members to show their prized plants and staging skills; and for everyone, especially novices to learn how to grow and show theirs. Lists of eligible plants are printed in the newsletter and on our Society's website.

There are three entry classes: Novice, Intermediate and Open. New members may enter at any level, but once a level has been entered members may not regress to a less advanced class.

There are two plant categories, Cactus and Succulent. Up to three entries per member may be entered in each category.

Exhibitors must be club members in good standing and present at the meeting. One member's name representing the household must be used unless plants are grown and shown separately. We trust you.

Any container may be used, including plastic. The containers and plants must be free of pests and disease. Only one plant/container is permitted but this includes

rosettes/offsets/pups connected by rhizomes, stolens, and above ground clusters. Dish gardens are an exception if they are the category of the month. Novice and Intermediate exhibitor entries must be grown for a minimum of six months, and one year for open class entries.

Usually our speaker (as an unbiased expert) will be asked to judge, but if the speaker is a Society member, one or two members who are not showing will be asked to judge. Remember, judges may not be experts and usually judge based on how well the plant is grown and staged. The following point system is used.

1st place: 6 2nd place: 4 3rd place: 2

Entries not disqualified receive 1 point.

After the November meeting, point total will be reviewed by the Board. Novice and Intermediate members with more than 64 points or with at least 6 first place awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate or Open class if their entries show them qualified. This is a subjective judgment.

## MINI-SHOW RESULTS - July 10, 2016

<b>Open Cactus</b>	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Lobivia chrysochete</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Lobivia species</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Echinopsis 'Stars and Stripes' Paramount hybrid</i>
<b>Open Succulent</b>	1st	Jim Hanna	<i>Pachypodium succulentum var griquense</i>
	2nd	Jim Hanna	<i>Pachypodium brevicaule w/ lamerei</i>
	3rd	Dale La Forest	<i>Pachypodium geayi</i>
<b>Intermediate Cactus</b>	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Echinopsis chamaecereus peanut cactus</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Lobivia arachnacantha</i>
	3rd	Jade Neely	<i>Lobivia hybrid</i>
<b>Intermediate Succulent</b>	1st	Jade Neely	<i>Pachypodium succulentum x bispinosum</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Pachypodium saundersii</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>
<b>Novice Cactus</b>	1st	Mike Short	<i>Echinopsis densispina</i>
	2nd	Judy Unrine	<i>Echinopsis densispina</i>
	3rd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Lobivia saltensis</i>
<b>Novice Succulent</b>	1st	Mike Short	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>
	2nd	M.A. Bjarkman	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>
	3rd	Judy Unrine	<i>Pachypodium</i>

Click for photos of  
the winning plants  
on our website

## SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of July 10, 2016)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Roselyn Arbuckle	4		Anita Caplan	10	13	Maria Capaldo	34	25
M.A. Bjarkman	3	12	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	66	50	Gary Duke	53	29
Martha Bjerke		2	Carol Knight		4	Jim Gardner	11	16
Sally Fasteau	11	13	Jade Neely	31	32	Jim Hanna		19
Lupe Hullet	4		Jim Wood	9		Dale LaForest	10	18
Nancy Jengo		1				Hank Warzybok	4	
Bernard Johnson	30	6				Laurel Woodley		6
Mike Short	10	39						
Terri Straub	6							
Jim Tanner	19	8						
Judy Unrine	6	9						
Christa Wilk		3						
William Wilk	2	36						

Click to see the standings  
on our website

## MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2016

	Cactus	Succulent
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

## MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2017

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Notocactus, Parodia	Aloe
February	Melocactus	Haworthia, Astroloba
March	Echinocactus	Agave
April	SHOW & SALE	
May	Mammillaria (clumping)	Euphorbia (African, not from Madagascar)
June	Opuntia, Tephrocactus	Cissus, Cyphostemma
July	Epiphytic Cactus	Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)
August	Ariocarpus	Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum
September	Astrophytum	Adenium & Adenia
October	Copiapoa	Lithops, Conophytum
November	Crest and Monstrose	Variegated
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

### CACTUS of the MONTH - *Thelocactus*, *Stenocactus*

*Submitted by Jim Tanner*

**T**helocactus are spectacularly beautiful cacti with dense multicolor spination, well shaped tubercles, and large colorful flowers. They have been a favorite with collectors since they were first discovered.

*Thelocactus* is a small genus in the cactus family, with only 11 or 12 species. In addition to the species, there are also half a dozen legitimate varieties, and a large number of less legitimate varieties that can be found in reference books and collections. The larger number of questionable varieties is due to variability of some of the species between populations from isolated locations.

*Thelocactus* are found from Southern Texas through central Mexico, mostly in the Chihuahuan Desert, but extending into brushland and thorn scrub in the western parts of its range, and into the Rio Grande Plains region in Texas. *Thelocactus bicolor* has the largest range, extending from central Chihuahua in the west into Texas in the north, and as far south as San Luis Potosi.

*Thelocactus* are easily grown, tolerant of heat and moisture, but not cold and moisture. They benefit from protection from being cold and wet, although plants left unprotected during the last several winters survived in good shape. Some species develop fairly large tap roots, and should be planted in deep enough pots to give them room to grow. They are easily propagated from seed, and this is the best way to develop a good collection from different populations. They can also be propagated from offsets, with a cutting allowed to dry, and then replanted. They are sensitive to mealy bug infestations and spider mites, in the same way that all cacti are, but in general are fairly rugged plants.

Although all the species and all the varieties of this wonderful genus are worth growing, a few stand out. *Thelocactus hexaedrophorus* has the best tubercles of any of the *Thelocactus*, and is a must for any collection. *Thelocactus rinconensis* has the largest body of all the species, getting to 8 inches in diameter in cultivation and habitat. Tom Glavich..

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



*Thelocactus conothele*



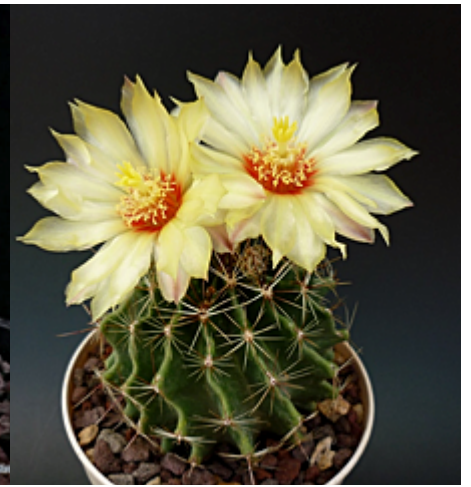
*Thelocactus macdowellii*



*Thelocactus hastifer*



*Thelocactus hexaedrophorus*



*Thelocactus setispinus*

**S**tenocactus is a genus of northern and central Mexican cacti of around 10 species related to *Ferocactus*. It now includes *Hertrichocereus* and *Echinofossulocactus*. They are mostly small globular cactus, of very variable characteristics, generally below 4 inches in diameter (10 cm), often solitary, but sometimes clustering as they age. The name *echinofossulocactus* comes from the Latin for 'Echinocactus with a little ditch', referring to the small wrinkle extending from the top of the areola in some species. They contain the wave cacti, also called brain cacti, that are so named because of their large number of undulating ribs.

The short funnel-shaped flowers are generally striped with a darker median line and, just above 1 inch across (2.5 cm). These flowers come in late summer and last 3-4 days. *Stenocactus* are not always self-fertile, so you might need to have several non related plants flowering at the same time, in order to get seeds. The seeds come in green pods.

They are propagated by seeds that germinate easily.



*Stenocactus pentacanthus*



*Stenocactus coptonogonus*



*Stenocactus crispatus*



*Stenocactus vaupelianus*



*Stenocactus phyllacanthus*



*Stenocactus sulphureus*

**SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Aizoaceae (other than Lithops)**

*Submitted by Jim Tanner*

Aizoaceae is a very large family, largely endemic to Southern Africa, with at least 120 genera including over 1800 species. A few species are found in Australia and the Pacific area. All species are considered succulent but cover a wide range of life styles from pebble-like leaf succulents to small shrubs with fleshy leaves.

*Click to see the same with more pictures on our website*

Distinctive seed capsules are valuable for identifying species. The comon Afrikaans name “vygie” meaning “small fig” refers to the fruiting capsule, which resembles the true fig. The fruits of some species e.g. *Carpobrotus edulis* can be made into a preserve.

Some species of Mesembs have water-storing bladder cells in their epidermis. These catch the light so that the succulent foliage sparkles in the sun as if covered in tiny crystals, leading to the common name, “ice plants”.



*Fenestraria rhopalophylla*



*Jensenobotrya lossowiana*



*Fenestraria rhopalophylla* 'Baby Toes'



*Sesuvium portulacastrum*



*Pleiospilos nelii* 'Royal Flush'

## MEMBERS GARDENS - David Hodgson - Buddha's Head Revisited

*Submitted by David Hodgson of San Pedro. Member Since April 2015.*

Welcome to my garden! Well, about 10 percent of the succulent plantings in the back yard (I didn't want to frighten anyone off by showing my Aloe tree jungle just yet). After joining the group in 2015, I went about collecting a variety of plants I knew next to nothing about, planted them haphazardly, and attempted not to kill them. Fortunately, most survived, despite my initial lack of experience.

During the intervening year, with the help and knowledge of SCCSS members, speakers, and copious research online for every new plant I purchased, I managed to grow plants that didn't look like shriveled weevils, and also became extremely enthusiastic about garden design. I studied the work of my father (who has a wonderful heather garden rockery back in England), as well as succulent designers (in particular the work of Laura Eubanks and Design for Serenity). Then this year, with a new degree of (possibly misplaced) confidence and competence, I redesigned a rockery atop a concrete planter that runs alongside my garage.

Design-wise, I raised the sight lines of the plantings, so all the succulents were planted on a diagonal slope, allowing for more visual impact, as well as excellent water-draining. After lugging a dozen bags of succulent soil, I began the rockery with the obvious plan: Acquiring some rocks. These have some wonderful markings and coloration, and were known at the rock yard as "driftwood". I also placed a Buddha head I had collected in the mystical nirvana known as Portland, Oregon. Then I added some "anchor" plants – large specimens that would serve as the "base" of each vignette. The *Aloe harlana* (right of the Buddha), *Kalanchoe* "Blue Silk" (tree behind the Buddha) and the Gorgon's grotto (large red ruffled Echeveria) are three examples.

Next, I played around with partnering plants together, choosing opposite colors to contrast with each other. The *Agave* 'Blue Glow' (tucked under the right cheek of the Buddha head) and some blue Echeverias contrast nicely with the orange Aloe, Graptosedums, and the Buddha himself. Further along the rockery is a slightly-stressed *Echeveria agavoides* 'Ebony', partnered with an equally purple *Dyckia* 'Cherry Cola', with yellow barrel cacti and *Aeonium* "Irish bouquet" cuttings to contrast.

I finished this whimsical tapestry by adding some pebbles and a light sprinkling of red lava rock, until my wife gave me the thumb's up and my back gave out. I hope you enjoy the pictures of this little slice of paradise as much as I did designing and planting it all.

Succulents were purchased from a variety of locations, including Home Depot (Torrance), Rancho Soledad Nursery, and the smaller specimens from Oasis Botanicals down in Escondido.









[Ed: Many thanks David for these beautiful photos and your interesting write-up. It would be great for more members to send in similar articles about their gardens. We look forward to seeing and hearing about members gardens. Let's face it, who could get tired of seeing great photos of cactus and succulents.]

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

- 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 Sally Fasteau

**Membership renewals** are now overdue. The renewal form is attached for the last time this year. If you intend to renew please complete the form and return it to us either at a meeting or by mail. Checks or exact change are preferred. If you cannot print the form there will be some available at the next meeting.

### New Members

Please welcome the new members who joined in July.

**John Crookston** from Redondo Beach  
**Regina Fernandez** from San Pedro  
**Herb Halling** from Los Alamitos  
**Marion Scharffenberger** from Rolling Hills

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2015-2016

#### Officers:

President	Dale La Forest
Vice President	M.A. Bjarkman
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson
Secretary	Maria Capaldo
<b>Liaisons:</b>	CGCI Lou Hagemeier
	CSSA Bill Wilk
<b>At Large Members:</b>	Anita Caplan
	Bob Caplan
	Martha Bjerke

#### Standing Committee Chairs:

Show & Sale	Heidi Husnak
Programs Committee	Gary Duke
Finance Committee	Jim Hanna
Membership Committee	Sally Fasteau
Communication Committee	Mike Short
Newsletter	Mike Short
Webmaster	Mike Short
Facebook	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. 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. All submissions should be accompanied by the proper attribution when required by the original author(s).

Mike Short - Editor.

## Membership Form

### South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

**Instructions:** Make Check payable to: **SCCSS**  
**Either:** Mail Form and Check to: **Bernard Johnson**  
**629 18<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**  
**Or:** Submit form and payment at a meeting. (checks preferred)

**Please Read:** The membership year begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please provide the following information to the membership committee. Unless you indicate that you do not wish to include any or all of this information, it will be published in the membership directory. Renewing members may write "SAME" in the spaces where information has not changed.

<b>Date:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Member</b> <small>*Prorated see below</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Membership Renewal</b> <small>Renewals are not Prorated</small>
<b>Name:</b> <small>One name per form please.</small>	Please Print	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please exclude my address from the Directory <b>Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>City, State, Zip code:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please exclude my email address from the Directory <b>Email for newsletter:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please exclude my phone number from the Directory <b>Phone:</b>		
I give my permission to publish the above information with the exception of any exclusions indicated.	Sign here:	

*New memberships are prorated. Contact Membership Chair for amount due.	<b>Membership Chair:</b> Sally Fasteau 310-544-1313 sallyfasteau@cox.net	Enter amount below
<b>Member's Dues</b>	\$18/year	\$
\$12 Additional fee for hard copy of newsletter to be mailed to the above address. (Free newsletter delivery by email only.)	\$12/year <small>For hard copy of newsletter</small>	\$
	<b>Total</b>	\$
<small>Renewal Dues are not prorated.</small>		

Revised: May 2015