



Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

September 2016

Click here to visit our web site:
<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

Click here to visit
our Facebook page

NEXT MEETING

Woody Minnich:
"Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila"

Sunday September 11, 1:00pm
(Program starts at 1:30pm)

REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Thanks to those who helped in August:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| M.A. Bjarkman | Jim Hanna |
| Maria Capaldo | David Hodgson |
| Anita Caplan | Lupe Hulett |
| Carol Causey | Dale LaForest |
| Mary Feyk | Hank Warzybok |

Volunteers for September refreshments are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jim Hanna | Melani Parslow |
| Ana MacKenzie | |

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
 CACTUS OF THE MONTH.....3
 SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH.....5
 MINI-SHOW RESULTS.....6
 MINI-SHOW STANDINGS.....6
 MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH 2016.....6
 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS.....7
 MINI-SHOW RULES.....7
 CGCI LANDSCAPE AWARDS.....8
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....8
 EDITOR'S CORNER.....8



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How's your summer been this year? I've noticed members have been traveling to exotic places around the world. Did anyone go to Rio? I stopped traveling many years ago, although I surely would have enjoyed traveling to Kenya to search for Sansevierias in habitat. I think I would also have liked to visit the Republic of South Africa to look at succulents there. In truth, my failure to travel is mostly because I'm intimidated by the travel requirements, passport, flight schedules, accommodations, itinerary, not to mention the disruption of my comfortable daily routine.

As we enter the fall season, it's time to get prepared for Santa Ana conditions. This includes the strong winds that blow pots off shelves, low humidities that dry out plants over night, and scorching sunshine that burns foliage. Follow the Boy Scout motto and be prepared.

I hope many of you attend the Huntington Botanical Gardens (HBG) symposium. This annual event gives cactus and succulent enthusiasts an opportunity to not only increase their knowledge of these amazing plant families, but also to get to know and become friends with other experts and hobbyists. For those that attend, reimbursement for your registration is covered up to \$50 by the club.

Dale La Forest, President



Coryphantha pycnanantha

Presenter for September: Woody Minnich: "Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila"

Woody will be speaking on his recent trip to Coahuila, Mexico.

His photographs are exceptional, and he may also bring a few plants to sell.



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 Friend 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 in 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.

Woody writes:

Mexico is thought by many to be the richest region in the world for cacti. For all those individuals who travel in search of rare and unusual cacti, their first choice is often Mexico. The Sierra Madre Oriental is considered the center of diversity for Mexican genera, ranging from Ariocarpus to Aztekiums, Echinocereus, Ferocactus, Geohintonia, Gymnocactus, Mammillaria, Obregonia, Pelecephora, Thelocactus, Turbinicarpus and many, many more. Because of the plethora of plants found in the states of Tamalipas, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi and Hidalgo, most field workers have just decided to ignore the little explored Coahuila.

For most of us, Coahuila and its neighboring state of Chihuahua were often only used as drive-throughs on our way to the succulent rich south. In recent years, many of the serious plant explorers have started finding new back country roads in these two states. These new roads have graciously opened up some of the rarely explored areas to extremely remote regions, and some of these back country



roads (trails) are not even found on the maps! Coahuila, as close as it is to the USA, actually has some of the least explored and most remote regions in all of Mexico.

On our trip through Coahuila, we drove for many hours without ever seeing other vehicles or back country people. There were no urban or agricultural developments as these

wild places are still virtually untouched! The valleys and mountains of these expanses will surely offer many new species for the field worker willing to do some serious exploring. Near the roads, if you wish to call them roads, I saw only a few dried-up old ghost towns where apparently some tough old Mexicans, probably from the Poncho Villa era, once resided.

From the unknown territories of Coahuila, there have been numerous new cacti and other succulents discovered and rediscovered. The crown jewel of these new plants is the fantastic *Mammillaria luethyi*. It was lost for over 60 years since its original siting, growing in a rusted tin can on a dusty ranchito porch. All of us exploring Mexico had searched for this very special *Mammillaria*, until only a few years ago, Luethy found it in northern Coahuila. The Sierra del Carmen, which abuts the Rio Grand and the Big Bend National Park, has also been the origin of other new species. Close to this area, we discovered a new, very beautiful *Echinomastus*, or possibly *Gymnocactus*? Also from this region we found a very handsome red *Sedum*, as well as *Echinocereus longisetus*, and the northern most of the *Echeverias*, *Echeveria strictaflora*. In a remote dry lake bed, Laguna la Leche, we admired the amazingly cryptic



Escobaria abdita. Wow, just some of the treasures of Coahuila!

This trip was also to be an adventure in seeing some of the brand new *Agaves*, *Echeverias*, *Astrophytums*, *Echinocereus* and *Mammillarias*. We scored on almost everything we went to see, and never, in the 45 years that I have traveled Mexico, have I seen it so green. This talk will also feature many cacti and other succulents that have never been seen in books or presentations. Come explore Mexico with me!.

CACTUS of the MONTH - *Coryphantha* & *Escobaria* Submitted by *Jim Tanner*

Coryphantha is a medium sized genus of mostly globular plants from Mexico and the Southwestern United States. There are about 50 to 80 species depending on the reference chosen, and the accepted extent of the genus. They are grown for their beautiful spination and large, colorful flowers. They are one of several genera that are similar to *Mammillaria* in appearance, with tubercles arranged in spirals. In spite of their often beautiful appearance, they are rarely seen in shows.

Cultivation of *Coryphantha* is similar to *Mammillaria*, except that they are more sensitive to over watering, and in general, somewhat more prone to rot. Overall, cultivation is not difficult, and well within the capabilities of all growers.

The range of *Coryphantha* overlaps that of *Thelocactus*, stretching through Texas into Oklahoma in the North, and continuing into Arizona, and California to San Bernadino. In the South, the genus stretches to Oaxaca. The center of the range is the central states of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, and Nuevo Leon.

Coryphantha is very closely related to *Escobaria*, and some species have gone back and forth between the two genera. Some authors place all *Escobaria* as a subspecies of *Coryphantha*. We may be seeing evolution in process, with *Escobaria*, containing most of the more Northern species (reaching into Southern Canada) beginning to separate from *Coryphantha*, which has the more Southern species. Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* have furrowed tubercles (*Mammillaria* do not), and most *Coryphantha* have extra floral nectararies (glands that produce nectar located in the skin of the plant), while *Escobaria* do not. The furrow is a groove that goes from the tip to the base of the tubercle. It is sometimes obvious, and sometimes so faint that it is hard to see. There are also floral differences, with *Escobaria* tending towards fringed petals while *Coryphantha* flowers have simple petals. Tom Glavich.

[Ed: *Coryphantha* (kor-ry-FAN-tha, kor-rif-AN-tha)

From the Greek *koryphe* (summit, top), and *anthos* (flower), referring to the position of the flowers on these cacti.]

Click to see the same with more pictures on our website



Coryphantha pycnacantha



Coryphantha calipensis



Coryphantha missouriensis



Coryphantha erecta

Escobaria is a small North American genus from southwestern USA down to northern Mexico. It is closely related to Coryphantha and somewhat more distantly to Mammillaria.

Escobaria have small, funnel-shaped flowers in the spring and summer. The flowers are generally yellow, pink or brownish. In general Escobaria are very rot prone. They should be underpotted, be in a container with excellent drainage, and be watered carefully. All of them can take some frost.



Escobaria albicolumnaria



Escobaria zilziana



Escobaria tuberculosa



Escobaria asperispina

SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Adromischus Submitted by Jim Tanner

Adromischus is a genus of at least 28 species of small clumping leaf succulents from South Africa. Some natural hybrids are known. Several of these species are quite popular and can be found pretty easily in the cactus and succulent section of most nurseries and garden centers.

The attractively marked and colored leaves of many species appeal to collectors but require high light levels for the different colors to be seen to full advantage. In shade most species adopt a similar green color. As the plants age, some elongate losing leaves lower down their thickened stems. Opinions vary as to the merits of mature plants compared with smaller ones.

Adromischus flowers are generally small, with a greenish-white tube and pink or reddish corolla and produce sufficient nectar towards the end of the growing season.

Cultivation: Many species are easy to grow in any free-draining gritty compost. Their compact habit allows a collection to be maintained in a small space and they grow well on any sunny window ledge or the top shelf of the greenhouse. Adromischus tolerate cool, frost-free conditions during the winter if kept dry. It is as well to keep water off the foliage during the winter. Mealy bugs and vine weevils can be discouraged with a systemic insecticide.

Many species can be propagated from a single leaf, which should be placed against the side of the pot so that the stem end is just touching the compost. Some species drop their leaves easily and although each leaf will form a new plant it can be a challenge to grow a large specimen. In other cases, leaves for propagation must be carefully detached with a sharp knife.

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



Adromischus marianiae 'Dick Hulett'



Adromischus cristatus



Adromischus leucophyllus



adromischus nanus



Adromischus Maculatus 'Calico Hearts'



Adromischus oviforme



Adromischus marianae

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - August 14, 2016

Open Cactus	1st	Laurel Woodley	<i>Stenocactus ochoterenanus</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Thelocactus bicolor ssp. schwarzii</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Stenocactus ochoterenanus</i>
	3rd	Dale La Forest	<i>Stenocactus multicostatus</i>
	3rd	Dale La Forest	<i>Stenocactus sp.</i>
Open Succulent	1st	Laurel Woodley	<i>Titanopsis calcarea</i>
	2nd	Laurel Woodley	<i>Aloinopsis malherbei</i>
	3rd	Laurel Woodley	<i>Conophytum blandum</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Stenocactus</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Rhombophyllum nelii</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Fenestraria ("Baby Toes")</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Delosperma echinatum</i>
Novice Cactus	1st	Mike Short	<i>Stenocactus zacatecasensis f. longispinus</i>
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Stenocactus multicostatus</i>
	3rd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Thelocactus bicolor</i>
Novice Succulent	1st	William Wilk	<i>Cheiridopsis denticulata</i>
	2nd	M.A. Bjarkman	<i>Faucaria tigrina</i>
	2nd	William Wilk	<i>Ruschia pulvinaris</i>
	3rd	William Wilk	<i>Delosperma echinatum</i>

Click for photos of the winning plants on our website

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

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Roselyn Arbuckle	4		Anita Caplan	10	13	Maria Capaldo	43	25
M.A. Bjarkman	3	12	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	72	62	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	14	18
Nancy Jengo		1				Hank Warzybok	4	
Bernard Johnson	36	10				Laurel Woodley	6	18
Mike Short	17	40						
Terri Straub	6							
Jim Tanner	19	8						
Judy Unrine	7	9						
Christa Wilk		3						
William Wilk	2	48						

Click to see the standings on our website

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2016

	Cactus	Succulent
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	

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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

- 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

CGCI Landscape Awards Submitted by Lou Hagemeyer, CGCI Liason

The California Consultants Council (CCC) of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) is again offering landscape awards. If you know of a landscape project by one of our club members that you think deserves an award please nominate it. Application forms will be available at SCCSS meetings as well as online, and should be submitted to me, Lou Hagemeyer, I will send them on to Julie West who is the CGCI Chairman of Awards. If you have any questions regarding the awards, applications, etc., I will be happy to assist in any way I can. You can email me at louluo@att.net or contact me at a meeting.

[Click for the CGCI Awards Page](#)

There are 2 awards that may be submitted by an affiliate club member (that's us):

- Outstanding Private Garden award (for, unsurprisingly, an "outstanding" private garden). [Click for form](#)
- Landscape Design Commendation award (for good land use). [Click for form](#)

There are another 2 awards that may only be submitted by a CCC consultant but may be recommended by us:

- Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture (awarded to **landscape architects** by the CCC in recognition of excellence in land use on a commercial, public or residential project) [Click for form](#)
- Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation/Recognition/Achievement award (may be given to an individual or group who is neither a Landscape Design Consultant nor a landscape architect). [Click for form](#)



Escobaria deserti



Adromischus cooperi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2015-2016

Officers:

President	Dale La Forest
Vice President	M.A. Bjarkman
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson
Secretary	Maria Capaldo

Liaisons:	CGCI	Lou Hagemeyer
	CSSA	Bill Wilk

At Large Members:	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.