

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

November 2016

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

Click here to visit
our Facebook page

NEXT MEETING

Stephen McCabe: "Dudleya Conservation: Threats and New Species"

Sunday November 13, 1:00pm
(Program starts at 1:30pm)

REFRESHMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Thanks to those who helped in October:

M.A. Bjarkman	Lou Hagemeyer
Marie Bowers	Betty Saunders
Carol Causey	Judy & George Unrine
Karin Cozzolino	

Volunteers for November refreshments are:

Martha Bjerke	Art & Kitty Guzman
Dennis Emerson	Jim Wood
Carol Knight	Laurel Woodley
Helen Lu	

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I overheard some members commenting on Tim Harvey's presentation at the October meeting, "A Question of Sex". They were saying it was a wonderful subject, one we would all like to know more about, but it was a little too much sex to squeeze into a one-hour presentation.

Next month (Dec) is our Holiday Potluck. M.A. Bjarkman is coordinating the event, but because of scheduled hip replacement surgery won't be able to attend our November meeting to finalize activities. We hope she will have recovered enough to be at the potluck. At last month's meeting we agreed the Society would provide our traditional prime rib and ham, with salads, side dishes, and desserts provided by the members. We will review and discuss details at the November meeting. I hope you all plan on attending the potluck, scheduled to start at 12 noon on Sunday, December 11.

This month the SCBG has scheduled "A Great Pumpkin Hunt" on Nov 13 - the date of our monthly meeting. I expect it might attract more visitors than usual, so be prepared to park in a designated area. It might also increase the number of visitors to our meeting.



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The United States Constitution was signed in 1787, amended four years later with the ten Bill of Rights, and 17 more amendments since then. Well, our Society's Bylaws were written over eight years ago and showing their age. The Board of Directors was shepherded by Maria Capaldo through the process of streamlining our Bylaws.

Many of the deletions are guidelines which more properly belong in our Operational Procedures and Standing Rules.

Continued on next page . . .

... President's Message: continued

We eliminated the "Sunshine" position because with our large membership we have no mechanism to discover who might benefit from a get-well or condolence card. We owe Lupe Hewlett thanks for doing this for the past decade.

We eliminated the Historian position because all newsletters are now on our website and the Secretary keeps copies of all past minutes of Membership and Board meetings.

We also eliminated the Parliamentarian position. The Board was unanimous in this decision, feeling that because

the Board was small, everyone had the opportunity to speak and following strict procedures just slowed progress.

The revised bylaws are on our website (click on "About Us"). Hard copy will be mailed to members who do not have access to the Internet and request them. I would like to vote on these changes at the November meeting.

I am thankful for your support and encouragement.

We have a great Society.

Dale La Forest, President

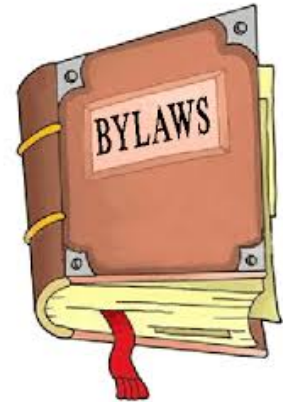
Changes to Bylaws

As mentioned in the President's Message we have some proposed new bylaws that we will be voting on at the November meeting.

To read the full text click or tap on the button below.

Printed copies will be available at the meeting for members who are not online.

[Click to read the proposed bylaws on our web site](#)



Presenter for November: Stephen McCabe: "Dudleya Conservation: Threats and New Species"

Stephen has been studying and growing Dudleyas for over thirty years and has been growing other succulents longer. He is currently retired, but was the Director of Research for the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Curator of Succulents. His interests are in the classification, evolution, ecology and conservation of Dudleyas and other plants. As a hobby, he hybridizes similar species to each other within the following genera: Echevaria, Gasteria, Dudleya and California monkey flowers.



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

This month, the Cacti and Succulent of the Month are both miniatures. Miniatures are defined differently for different shows. In most cases, the definition is a mature plant in a pot with an inside diameter less than three inches. Some shows define the miniature category as any plant displayed as a miniature. This allows seedlings and young plants to be entered as miniatures. Others require the plant to be the smallest in a genus. We'll use the broad definition for the Plant of the Month.

The key to success is staging plants. Particular attention must be paid to the relation of the plant to the pot, the top dressing, and any rocks. The importance of color, geometry, and texture are all magnified in the smaller scale of miniatures.

Succulents entered as miniatures include representatives from almost every family, and a list would be far too long to print. Unusual entries often do well.

With care, species that normally grow large can be kept small, stunted by the lack of root room. Even though small, miniatures need a little fertilizer to keep growth looking fresh, and frequent watering, since there is little storage either in the pot or the body of the plant.

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



Opuntia microdasyl



Astrophytum myriostigma nudum



gymnocalycium mihanovichii friedrichii



Mammillaria candida



Mammillaria fragilis



Mammillaria yaquensis



Turbinicarpus kranzianus ssp minimus



SUCCULENT of the MONTH - Miniatures Submitted by Jim Tanner

See Cactus of the Month description.

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



Aloe descoingsii



Crassula corymbulosa



Crassula susannae



Titanopsis calcarea

Crassulacean Acid Metabolism 'The Night Shift' by Mike Short

I started looking deeper into a phenomenon that I heard of a while back and found intriguing. Now I don't pretend to be a botanist, a biologist, nor a chemist but I do remember a little of the science I was taught at school. All the information below was gleaned by browsing the world wide web.

Crassulacean Acid Metabolism also known as CAM photosynthesis or just CAM is an adaptation used by some plants to fix the carbon they need to grow. The plants that can perform CAM use it to exist in extreme arid conditions.

CAM allows the plant to keep it's stomata, the ports through which it intakes Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), closed during the heat of the day resulting in reduced loss of liquid from the plant.

At night the plant opens it's stomata allowing the intake of CO₂ which is stored as carbon in an acid solution (usually malic acid) within the plant's body. The following day, when the sun shines, the plant converts the stored carbon back into CO₂ allowing photosynthesis to take place even with the stomata closed.

Plants that perform CAM include most succulents, cacti, orchids, purslane, and pineapple. Also some grapes, ferns, lillies, and pelargonium.

Some sedum, particularly *Sedum album*, are able to turn CAM on or off depending on the amount of available water. Which might explain why some Sedum also do well in wetter climates. The same is said of the ice plant *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* usually found in salty conditions.

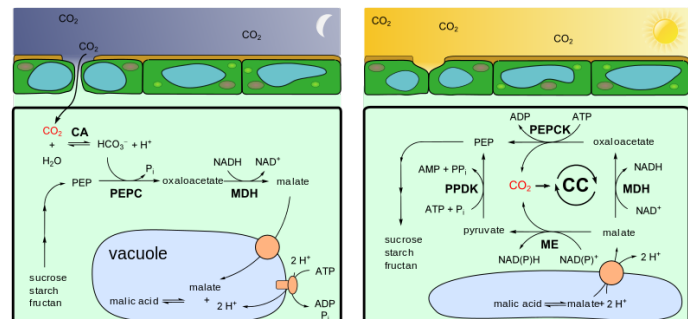
Our climate here in coastal Southern California with our warm days and relatively cool nights is ideal for CAM

performing plants especially in areas that experience marine mists. It is also notable that when day and night temperatures are similar CAM is less effective and so may be turned off.

A possible advantage of keeping CAM performing plants in or close to the house at night is that they consume the CO₂ that we humans breathe out, and produce the oxygen that we are so fond of. So perhaps a Jade plant or a cactus on the bedroom windowsill might be helpful.

CAM was first dicovered by scientists when they noticed that the acidity of some plants varied between day and night. This storage of acid at night also requires water storage which makes the plants more susceptible to frost damage.

Researchers at universities in the US and the UK have received grants (\$14.3m) to study CAM in desert plants with a view to copying some of their genes into plants used to make biofuel, hoping to reduce the water needed to grow them. They are even looking at similar ways of improving food crops. The plants they are studying are Agave, *Opuntia*, and 'Ice Plant'.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

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

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - October 9, 2016

Open Cactus	1st	Maria Capaldo	<i>Sulcorebutia tiraquensis</i> var. <i>bicolorispina</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Rebutia sanguinea</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Sulcorebutia glomeriseta</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Sulcorebutia santiaginensis</i>
Open Succulent	1st	Jim Gardner	<i>Aeonium castello-paivae</i>
	2nd	Jim Gardner	<i>Aeonium glandulosum</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Aeonium saundersii</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Sulcorebutia candiae</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Rebutia perplexa</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Aeonium</i> 'Sunburst'
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Aeonium</i> 'Kiwi'
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Aeonium</i> 'Zwartkop'
Novice Cactus	1st	Regina Fernandez	<i>Rebutia heliosa</i>
	2nd	Regina Fernandez	<i>Sulcorebutia arenacea</i>
	3rd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Rebutia muscula</i>
Novice Succulent	1st	M.A. Bjarkman	<i>Aeonium</i>
	2nd	M.A. Bjarkman	<i>Aeonium</i> 'Little Chocolate'
	2nd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Aeonium</i> 'Mardi Gras'
	3rd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Aeonium decorum</i> 'Berry Nice'
	3rd	William Wilk	<i>Aeonium nobile</i> x <i>unk.</i>

Click for photos of the winning plants on our website

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of October 9, 2016)

Novice			Intermediate			Open		
Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent	Name	Cactus	Succulent
Roselyn Arbuckle	4		Anita Caplan	10	13	Maria Capaldo	43	33
M.A. Bjarkman	3	22	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	78	74	Gary Duke	53	29
Martha Bjerke		8	Carol Knight		4	Jim Gardner	11	23
Sally Fasteau	15	28	Jade Neely	31	32	Jim Hanna		19
Regina Fernandez	10		Jim Wood	9		Dale LaForest	14	18
Lupe Hulett	4					Hank Warzybok	4	
Nancy Jengo		1				Laurel Woodley	6	21
Bernard Johnson	37	11						
John Nisewaner		1						
Mike Short	17	41						
Terri Straub	6							
Jim Tanner	19	12						
Judy Unrine	8	11						
Christa Wilk		6						
William Wilk	2	55						

Click to see the standings on our website

Click for Mini-Show Rules on our website

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2016

	Cactus	Succulent
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

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	

Click to see complete lists on our web site



Fenestraria rhopophylla

Membership News

Please welcome new members:

Dean Steenson from Torrance

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:

Refreshments Committee	Carol Causey
Show & Sale Committee	Heidi Husnak
Programs Committee	Gary Duke
Finance Committee	Jim Hanna
Membership Committee	Sally Fasteau
Communication Committee	Mike Short

Other Positions:

Newsletter	Mike Short
Webmaster	Mike Short
Facebook	Laurel Woodley