

# Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

February 2017

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<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

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our Facebook page

## NEXT MEETING

**Panayoti Kelaidis:**

**"Designing Gardens for Succulents"**

**Sunday February 12, at 1:00 pm  
(Program starts at 1:30pm)**

## REFRESHMENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Thanks to those who helped in January:

<b>Karin Cozzolino</b>	<b>Clif Wong</b>
<b>Robert DeCrescenzo</b>	<b>Laurel Woodley</b>
<b>Maria Jenkins</b>	<b>Karen Yoshioka</b>

Volunteers for February refreshments are:

<b>Anita Caplan</b>	<b>Cheryl Seiver</b>
<b>Art Guzman</b>	<b>June Treherne</b>
<b>Ana MacKenzie</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 cleanup.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For our newer members, perhaps a few words about our Annual Plant contest are in order. At each December potluck, members are asked to bring in their "annual plant" (dead or alive) so that we may compare how the plants grew under a variety of conditions in our local areas. It's a fun activity and we learn from each other's experiences, wisdom, and yes, even

failures. We alternate between a cactus and some other succulent from year to year. If you missed the potluck and the January meeting you can still get a free plant at the February meeting. Be sure to check our website for an excellent article about this year's annual plant. - *Pachypodium lealii* v *saundersii*.

We are starting to rev-up preparations for our annual Show & Sale. This year our Show & Sale Committee Chair is Heidi Husnak. Last month she gave you advance notice and I expect her to start recruiting volunteers to fill the many positions needed to have a successful event. If you plan on bringing in plants for show at the Club table or your own Display table, now is not too early to start getting ready. This year we are offering members a chance to donate plants for sale to benefit the Society. To be clear, all proceeds from sale of these plants will go to the Society. Maria Capaldo volunteered to coordinate this sale, but she isn't able to attend our February meeting to explain what we expect you to do. However, one thing is for sure, if you plan on offering plants for sale, either pot them in clean pots with proper name tags or ensure they are clean if they are bare root plants. No decisions have been made yet on how to price them.

I'm finding it a little frustrating that over a year ago I was warning members to take precautions to avoid plants rotting out from the predicted El Nino; while this year with little advance warning we see reservoirs being filled, snow on mountain tops, and plenty of local rain. I hope you don't lose plants from rot.

Dale La Forest,  
President



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## Parking for February Meeting

Because of an event on the day of our meeting, Feb. 12, we have been asked to park in the first row only of the main parking lot. That is the row immediately to your left as you enter the gardens. The event is the "Sweetheart's Stroll" from 12pm til 4pm. When the weather is good this is a popular event.

## Presenter for February: Panayoti Kelaidis - Designing Gardens for Succulents

As curator of the Denver Botanical Gardens, Panayoti is continually designing gardens for succulents—especially rock gardens. In his presentation, he will describe how to build

and maintain these works of art, especially the new crevice garden designs with examples from the Denver Botanical Gardens. Let's give Panayoti a very warm welcome to southern California.

**Panayoti Kelaidis** is a plant explorer, gardener and public garden administrator associated with Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) where he is now Senior Curator and Director of Outreach. He has designed plantings for many of the gardens at DBG, he is particularly noted for the plantings of the Rock Alpine Garden. He has introduced hundreds of native ornamentals from throughout the Western United States to general horticulture. He has taken six collecting trips to Southern Africa researching the high mountain flora there, as well as travels to the Andes, the Himalaya (from both Pakistan and China) as well as travels throughout much of Europe, and Turkey. Many of his plant introductions are available through Plant Select®, (a plant introduction program he helped launch along with staff from Colorado State University and nurseries across America). He has lectured in over 100 cities in seven countries, and has been featured in dozens of television, newspaper and magazine pieces. He has published widely in popular and technical horticultural journals.



In recent years Panayoti has been honored with the Boulder History Museum's 60 Year Living History award in 2004, in 2003 by being inducted into the Garden Club of America as Member-at-Large, in 2002 he received the National Garden Clubs Medal of Honor and in 2000 he received the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College. He has received four awards from the North American Rock Garden Society. In 2004 he was inducted into the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association's Hall of Fame. In 2009 he received the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award of the American Horticultural Society..



## Cactus of the Month: Melocactus Submitted by Jim Tanner

Melocactus are immediately recognizable by the large cephalium that develops on mature plants. Melocactus grow as normal appearing, but flowerless, globular cacti until they reach maturity. This can take from 6 to 15 years in cultivation, with a greater range in habitat. Once they reach maturity, the body stops growing vigorously (it still grows slowly). Most of the plant energy goes into producing a cylindrical flowering and fruiting structure known as a cephalium. This is usually white, with short hairs of yellow, orange or red. As the years go by, the cephalium becomes more cylindrical, with the base becoming more colorful. The flowers are usually a red-purple, and the fruits are almost always a bright red, to attract birds. With age, the cephalium can grow to 18 inches or more in height.

Melocactus are native to a large region, Brazil to Southern Mexico, including a good part of the Caribbean. As might be expected, cacti from the tropical regions, particularly coastal regions are sensitive to cold and wet. Cold and wet conditions can cause scarring of the body, which usually appears as brown or tan lesions on the skin. A few of these are unavoidable, but a badly scarred plant quickly becomes unsightly. At the same time, almost all of the Melocactus expect high humidity and a higher moisture level than might be expected. Many grow within sight of the ocean, or in some of the more tropical and humid regions of Brazil. They like water, but demand good drainage.

Melocactus are generally solitary, so the only means of propagation is through seeds. Fortunately they produce plenty of seed, and these germinate readily, particularly when the weather is warm. Keep the seedlings protected from direct sun, and moist until fairly large. It takes several years from seed to a flowering plant.

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

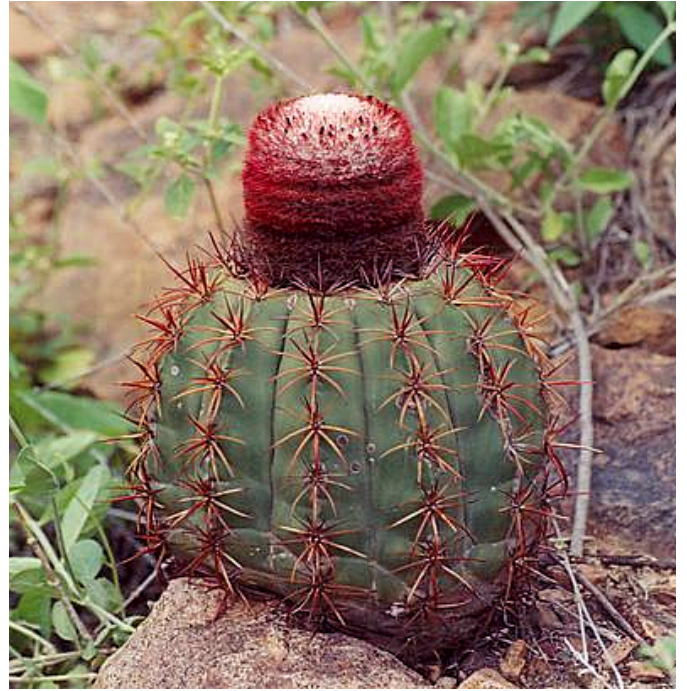


*Melocactus matanzanus*





*Melocactus azureus*



*Melocactus peruvianus*



*Melocactus zehntneri*



*Melocactus intortus*





## Succulent of the Month: Haworthia & Astroloba Submitted by Jim Tanner

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

**H**aworthia are native to South Africa, and grow in a winter-rainfall, Mediterranean environment not very different from Southern California. Most are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the winter and spring. Many will grow year round, if given sufficient water. They flower in spring, and some species will remain in flower into the summer. However, the flowers are small and generally off-white and not particularly notable. Haworthias are grown for their beautiful leaf shapes and colors.

Haworthia in general are tolerant of almost any potting mix, and success has been reported with everything from straight pumice to potting soil-pumice or perlite mixes, to plain potting soil, and even garden soil. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do. An application of time release fertilizer in late winter will improve growth from late winter and early spring rains. Healthy Haworthia generally have stiff thick white roots. When repotting, it's important to inspect the roots for mealy bugs, and for old, dried brown or hollow roots, which are often the source of infection or rot. These should be removed back to healthy tissue..



*Haworthia retusa*



*Haworthia fasciata*



*Haworthia truncata*



*Haworthia xiphiophylla*

**I**t should come as no surprise that the genus **Astroloba** is closely related to Haworthias since they also inhabit South Africa and look similar to the columnar Haworthia, but are separated by the fact that their flower is regular shaped instead to have the characteristic 2-tipped corolla of the Haworthias. There is no evidence that the two genera have natural hybrids.

Cultivation is similar to Haworthia, although perhaps slightly drier. Many Astroloba are slow to grow and to offset. They take very little frost, and need a good drainage.



*Astroloba congesta*



*Astroloba herrei*

## 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 RESULTS - January 8, 2017

<b>Open Cactus</b>	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Notocactus sellowii</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Notocactus roseleanus</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Parodia scopai</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Parodia leninghausii</i>
<b>Open Succulent</b>	1st	Jim Hanna	<i>Aloe x 'Tim's Beauty'</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Aloe castilloniae</i>
	2nd	Laurel Woodley	<i>Aloe 'Marsha Layhew'</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Aloe plicatilis</i>
	3rd	Laurel Woodley	<i>Aloe jucunda</i>
<b>Intermediate Cactus</b>	1st	Dale La Forest	<i>Notocactus magnificus</i>
	2nd	Anita Caplan	<i>Notocactus magnifica</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Notocactus scopa</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Notocactus scopa</i>
	3rd	William Wilk	<i>Parodia scopa</i>
<b>Intermediate Succulent</b>	1st	William Wilk	<i>Aloe 'Sunset'</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Aloe crimson</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Aloe cameronii</i>
	3rd	Anita Caplan	<i>Aloe 'Kelly Blue'</i>
	3rd	Mike Short	<i>Aloe 'Pink Blush'</i>
<b>Novice Cactus</b>	1st	Sally Fasteau	<i>Notocactus magnificus</i>
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Parodia leninghausii</i>
	3rd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Parodia leninghausii</i>
<b>Novice Succulent</b>	1st	Sally Fasteau	<i>Aloe harlana</i>
	2nd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Aloe 'Jeff Karsner'</i>
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Aloe hybrid</i>
	3rd	Judy Unrine	<i>Aloe 'Firebird'</i>

Click here for photos  
of the winning plants  
on our website



## SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of January 8, 2017)

Open Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Capaldo, Maria	10	3	13
Duke, Gary	6	7	13
Hanna, Jim		8	8
Woodley, Laurel		6	6

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Bjarkman, M.A.		1	1
Bjerke, Martha		1	1
Fasteau, Sally	8	11	19
Johnson, Bernard	7	6	13
Straub, Terri	1		1
Tanner, Jim		3	3
Unrine, Judy		4	4

Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Caplan, Anita	4	4	8
DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	7	9	16
LaForest, Dale	7	3	10
Short, Mike	3	4	7
Wilk, William	4	8	12

*Click here to see the standings on our website*

### ! NOTICES !

#### SCCSS Show & Sale Postcards

If you asked Anita Caplan for postcards, don't forget to get them from her at the next meeting.  
If you didn't ask Anita for any but would like some, she will probably have extras at the meeting.

#### SCCSS Show & Sale Helpers

If you can help at the Show & Sale on April 8th and 9th please let Heidi Husnak know at the next meeting.

#### SCCSS Show & Sale Plants

This year we thought we'd try to have a table at our April Show and Sale to sell plants that were donated by members of the club to increase our revenue. So, if you have plants that are extras, or cuttings that can be planted now, please donate them to our cause. If you can nurse them yourself until the Show and Sale that would be great. But if space is a problem, bring cuttings or plants in to the meetings and give to Maria Capaldo who will pot them or nurse them for the club. If you have a full name for the plant, please be sure that is included.

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

- FEB. 11      **San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society - Spring Show & Sale**  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. INFO: 858-382-1797
- MAR. 23-25      **Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society - Spring Show & Sale**  
Thurs. 23rd 6-8pm, Fri. Mar. 24th 9am-7pm---Sat. Mar. 25th 9am-5pm  
1000 S. State College BL., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
INFO: Call 562-587-3357
- APR. 8-9      **South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society – Annual Show & Sale**  
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA.  
INFO: 310-378-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- APR. 23      **Huntington Plant Sale.** 10am To 4:30pm  
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. 626-405-3504
- MAY 6-7      **Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society - Show & Sale**  
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room  
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. INFO: 310-822-1783
- MAY 7      **South Bay Epiphyllum Society - Show & Sale.**  
9am to 4pm. South Coast Botanic Garden. INFO: 310-833-6823
- MAY 12-13      **Gates Cactus & Succulent Society - 35th Show & Sale**  
Fri & Sat 9am-4:30pm. At Landscapes Southern California Style  
450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, CA INFO: 951-360-8802

*Click here to see the calendar on our website*

- MAY 20-21 **Long Beach Cactus Club - Plant Show & Sale**  
10am-4pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA. INFO: 562-631-5876
- MAY 27-28 **Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society - Annual Show & Sale**  
10am-4pm. Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA.  
INFO: 805-237-2054, <http://www.centralcoastcactus.org>
- JUNE 3-4 **San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society – Summer Show & Sale**  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. INFO: 858-382-1797
- JUNE 10-11 **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society - Plant Show & Sale**  
June 10th, 9am–5pm June 11th, 9am-3pm  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA. INFO: <http://www.lgcss-show.com>
- JUNE 30-JULY 2 **CSSA Annual Show & Sale**  
Huntington Botanical Gardens. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. INFO: 626-405-3504  
Plant Sale June 30th thru July 2nd. Show open July 1st thru July 2nd.
- JULY 20-22 **Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society - Summer Show & Sale.**  
Thurs. July 20th 6-8pm, Fri. 21st 9am-7pm, Sat. 22nd 9am-5pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA.  
INFO: Call 949-212-8417
- JULY 26-31 **CSSA Convention**, Tempe, AZ.
- AUG. 12-13 **32nd Annual Intercity Show & Sale**  
9am-5pm Daily. LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.  
INFO: Call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795
- SEP. 2 **Huntington Botanical Gardens - Succulent Symposium**  
All day at the Huntington 626-405-3504
- SEP. 3 **Long Beach Cactus Club - Annual Plant Auction**  
12am-5pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA 90615  
INFO: 562-631-5876
- OCT. 7-8 **Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society - Show & Sale**  
Sat 10am-5pm - Sun 11am-3pm. St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304  
Free Admission & Parking, INFO: 661-8318488
- OCT. 28 -29 **Palomar Show & Sale**  
Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm, San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas, CA.  
INFO: [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com). 858-382-1797
- NOV. 4-5 **San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society - Show & Sale**  
9am-4pm Both Days. LA County Arboretum 310 No. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA.  
Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 Or John Matthews 661-714-1052



## 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 Hagemeyer
	CSSA	Bill Wilk

<b>At Large Members:</b>	Anita Caplan
	Bob Caplan
	Martha Bjerke

### Standing Committee Chairs:

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

### Other Positions:

Newsletter	Mike Short
Webmaster	Mike Short
Facebook	Laurel Woodley