



Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

May 2017

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

Click here to visit
our Facebook page

NEXT MEETING

Ernesto Sandoval: "Aloes"

**Sunday May 14, at 1:00 pm
(Program starts at 1:30pm)
In the Classroom, not the Auditorium!**

REFRESHMENTS FOR MAY

Thanks to those who helped in April at the Show. We do not have a list of volunteers for May. If you would like to bring something to the meeting please do so - thanks!

Kitchen Volunteers – Please see Carol Causey after the meeting if you are able to help with cleanup.



Mammillaria carmenae

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The operative phrase for this year's show & sale is, 'exceeded my expectations'. By that I mean there was rain early Saturday and it was cloudy and cool when we opened the doors. But amazingly, there was a long line outside waiting to enter. The sky cleared and attendance was strong throughout the day - and again on Sunday. I don't have final financial figures, but it appears this might have been our most

successful sale. We added 22 new members at the show which is an amazing number. Many are younger members, probably due to our use of social media to attract attention. A big THANK-YOU to all members who volunteered their time and energy to make it a success.

As we near the end of our membership year, it's time to renew our dues. The Membership Renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter and will also be in the June and July issues. PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS and complete all the boxes. You can imagine it is a tedious task to compare your completed forms with our records to ensure we are able to contact you. Mail or bring your completed Renewal forms and dues (checks preferred) to Bernard Johnson, Treasurer before we adjourn the June meeting. I hope you all choose to renew as we have more terrific programs scheduled.

This month the Nomination Committee will announce the proposed slate of officers and at-large Board members for the 2017/2018 year. Members in attendance will be given an opportunity to make 'floor' nominations for these positions.

Did you know that several members, and sometimes others start arriving about noon to set up? Meetings start at 1:30 P.M., but coming early will allow you an opportunity to get advice from the more experienced growers who are selling plants. It's also a great way to get to know other members and make friends

Dale La Forest, President



Euphorbia caput-medusae

! NOTICES !

CSSA Convention - Submitted by Bill Wilk

As CSSA Affiliate Representative, I encourage all SCCSS members to check out the web sites below.

To get information and to register for the 37th CSSA Biennial Convention in Tempe, Arizona go to: <http://cssaconvention.com>

The following video on YOUTUBE (prepared by Bob Jewett) has samples of three presentations from the 2015 Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Brian Kemble of the Ruth Bancroft Gardens talks about agaves, Michelle Cloud-Hughes shows how a new opuntia was found, and Stephen McCabe from UC Santa Cruz discusses conservation of dudleyas. The 5-day Convention was held at Pitzer College in Claremont, California in June 2015. This video gives you an idea what to expect at lecture presentations at a CSSA convention: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLSOm2xWoD8>

Nursery Hopping Bus Trip - Submitted by Carol Knight

SPONSORED BY THE PALOS VERDES BEGONIA SOCIETY.

[Ed: Most of the nurseries also sell succulents, especial Pland Depot which has a huge selection.]

WHEN: Wednesday, May 24. Leaving from South Coast Botanic Garden at 8:00 am sharp! Arriving home approx. 6:30 pm

NURSERIES VISITED: Ricardo's in Long Beach, Lakewood Nursery in Cypress, Plant Depot in San Juan Capistrano, Green Thumb in El Toro, H & H in Lakewood

HOW MUCH: \$25 cash or check made out to Palos Verdes Begonia Society

PARTICULARS: Bring your own lunch. Snacks, water, and liquid refreshments (wink) provided.

Bring boxes to carry all your fabulous purchases.

Mail or give your check or cash to Carol Knight, 1441 Sunnyside Terrace, San Pedro, CA 90732, 310-508-3801.

Include your cell phone number.

Don't wait too long. The bus fills up fast.

CSSA 52nd Show & Sale - Submitted by Bill Wilk

Dates: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 30, and July 1-2, 2017

Location: The Huntington: 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA

The Botanical Center. Contact 626-405-3504

Show & Sale Hours: Sale: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

Show: Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

Show Setup: Thurs. June 29 th, 9am-1pm

Enter Plants: Thurs., June 29th 1pm-8pm & Friday, June 30, 10:00am-4:00pm.

Judging starts at 5:00pm Friday

Auction: Items need to be registered by 3pm, Saturday, July 1

There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and a Live Auction (35 items max.) after dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items: 2 items per person/business marked as donation or split.

Dinner: Saturday, July 1, 6:00 p.m. HBG's Bon Appetite: \$30 per person (\$35 after June 19).

Mail checks, made out to CSSA, to Bonnie Ikemura – 8400 Blierot Ave. Los Angeles, CA, 90045; Reserve spot by

Phone: 213-305-1421 or email Bonnie at bikemura@hotmail.com. Reservations must be made by June 19, 2017

Teardown: Sunday, July 2, 5:00pm

Be sure to pick up a Show Schedule, Index and entry tags from your CSSA Club Affiliate at your next club meeting if you are interested in entering plants in the Show or in the Auction.

All Cactus & Succulent Club members, CSSA members, vendors, volunteers or show participants need to wear their club badges (if you have one) AND a special CSSA/HBG pass that reads "Annual CSSA Show Participant" to enter the HBG for free. If you are a HBG member this doesn't apply. Please obtain a pass from your CSSA Affiliate at your club meeting or contact Barbara Hall, Show Chair before the event. We are not permitted to hand out passes at the HBG entryway.

There are opportunities to participate/volunteer in this year's show, even for a couple of hours in the showroom or sales areas, hospitality (food) area, information table, holding area, welcome table at the HBG entry & setup/teardown. All participants receive a show T-Shirt as a thank you.

Barbara Hall, CSSA Show Chair, Email: lbcjhall@aol.com, Phone: 818-368-6914

SCCSS Show & Sale - Submitted by Heidi Husnak

Hello Members - I sit on a happy cloud of positive feedback from attendees at our recent Show & Sale on April 8th & 9th. The gamut from die-hard nerds and afficianados to novices who find succulents and cacti interesting all were pleased. I extend my deep thanks to all of you who participated from the humping and schlepping of furniture, tagging of plants, displaying for show, selling, tag-pulling, cashiering, and getting to word out, plus every other little but helpful task. In a world of confusion about water use and in the face of increasing competition with plant sales we presented a pretty dang fabulous event.

PRESENTER FOR MAY : Ernesto Sandoval - Aloes

Aloe has a long ethnobotanical and medicinal history around world. Ernesto will look at the family Aloe from both a botanical and horticultural viewpoint, and also take a brief look at the facts and the myths surrounding its medical uses. He will include a few charts of how UC Davis has used aloes in their campus landscaping. 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 answers 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, 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, 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: Mammillaria (clumping) Submitted by Jim Tanner

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactus family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some straight spined, and some clumped and heavily spined with hooks. This month we will show off our collections of Mammillaria clusters.

A Mammillaria is often one of the first cacti that a beginning grower buys. They are still available, often for less than a dollar in discount stores, and for just a bit more at local home centers and discount stores. A credit to the toughness of these plants, is that many survive for years in spite of all sorts of abuse and neglect. Many inexpensive purchases at local chain stores have been grown on to be become show plants, the quality of the plant maturing with the skill and experience of the grower. In part because they are so generous with flowers and seeds, and the seeds germinate so readily, many rare species end up in unlikely places like home centers, supermarkets, and hardware stores. It’s worth keeping an eye out for unusual specimens, but beware of names found on discount store plants.

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing



Mammillaria elongata

environment. Many people starve and under water their plants, in attempt to avoid rot. Most Mammillaria will take quite a bit of water and fertilizer when in growth. The main growth period is the late spring (Middle of April, through July.) When summer heat really appears growth slows for a time, picking up again when the weather cools, before stopping around Thanksgiving. Almost all Mammillaria will do just fine in Southern California, with little or no winter protection, as long as they are potted in a freely draining potting mix.

The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (Mammillaria's worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide. A less toxic solution is to soak the entire plant in soapy water overnight. Followed by a good rinse with water from a hose. Tom Glavich

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



Mammillaria bocasana



Mammillaria bombycina



Mammillaria compressa



Mammillaria geminispina



Mammillaria haagiana

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Euphorbia (African, not from Madagascar) Submitted by Jim Tanner

Euphorbia is one of the largest of the succulent plant families. The genus Euphorbia is found throughout the tropics and semi tropics around the world, with some members of the family growing well into temperate regions. The succulent species are largely African and Madagascan, although there are some interesting and rarely seen species from the Americas. Given the size of the African continent, and the distribution of interesting Euphorbias from the northernmost parts to the tip of the Cape, it is hard to make any sort of generalization on cultivation.

When buying a Euphorbia it is a good idea to find out where it comes from. Species native to the South Africa or Namibia are generally fairly easy to grow. Their natural environment is not that different from Southern California. it is best to ascertain whether they come from a winter or summer rainfall area, and treat them accordingly. Most are summer growers but there are exceptions.

The sap of many Euphorbias is toxic and an irritant. Care needs to be taken when handling the plant and eye protection should be worn when cutting into the plants, particularly in the spring when sap is sometimes under pressure. Careful attention to washing up after working on Euphorbias will avoid most problems.

Euphorbia gymnocalycioides found in Ethiopia and Somalia is a good example of a tropical species. Relatively difficult on its own roots, it is usually seen as a grafted plant.

Euphorbia gorgonis is a good example of a medusoid from the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Coming from an environment very similar to Southern California it is easy to grow, requiring only some protection from winter rains, and doing best in a very open potting mix.

Euphorbia squarrosa, also from the Eastern Cape is a great example of a caudiciform Euphorbia. One of the easiest to grow, it makes an impressive specimen from cuttings in just a few years.

From the Western Cape a summer rainfall area, is *Euphorbia suzannae*. This is a great example of a stem succulent Euphorbia.

Tom Glavich



Euphorbia suzannae



Euphorbia gorgonis



Euphorbia squarrosa



Euphorbia brunellii



Euphorbia obesa



Euphorbia knuthii



MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2017

	Cactus	Succulent
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 here to see complete lists on our website

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2018

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Kalanchoe
February	Variegated Cacti	Euphorbia with Caudex
March	Crested / Monstrose	Dudleya
May	Opuntia, Tephrocactus	Tylecodon
June	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium
July	Lobivia / Echinopsis	Senecio

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of April 9, 2017)

Open Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Capaldo, Maria	15	7	22
Duke, Gary	29	14	43
Gardner, Jim	1	17	18
Hanna, Jim		22	22
Woodley, Laurel		11	11

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Bjarkman, M.A.	6	2	8
Bjerke, Martha		2	2
Fasteau, Sally	18	30	48
Hulett, Lupe	1		1
Johnson, Bernard	17	14	31
Straub, Terri	7		7
Tanner, Jim		16	16
Unrine, Judy	2	4	6

Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Caplan, Anita	9	9	18
DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	16	15	31
Knight, Carol	4		4
LaForest, Dale	14	3	17
Neely, Jade	11	8	19
Short, Mike	8	15	23
Wilk, William	17	20	37
Wood, Jim	9	7	16

Click here to see the standings on our website

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

APR. 28-30 **Huntington Plant Sale.** Members: April 28, Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. April 29, Saturday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Public Sale: April 29, Saturday, 1–5 p.m. April 30, Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
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. 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–4pm 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 10am to 5pm. Show open July 1st thru July 2nd 10am to 5pm.
- 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. 17 **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. 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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please welcome new members

Siobhan Armstrong (Long Beach), Josephine Balboa (Long Beach), Sonita D. Bantad (Carson), Erika Biber (Rancho Palos Verdes), Julie Biggs (San Pedro), Brenda Donnelly (Long Beach), Martin Dorsey (Redondo Beach), Joann Frisch (Torrance), Vicente Godfrey (Whittier), Debra Hemingway (Lomita), Ed Kennedy (Hawthorne), Florence Kinzy (South Gate), Sue van Nordenflycht (Rancho Palos Verdes), Sandra Marchitelli (Redondo Beach), Joyce Mori (Torrance), Lisa Mori (Torrance), Jose A. Ramirez (Fullerton), Caitlin Rubia (Long Beach), Annie Schneider (Torrance), Amanda Sokolis (San Pedro), Mary K. Thomas (Redondo Beach)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2016-2017

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
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

