



NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Best holiday wishes. This has been an eventful year. I haven't counted the number of new members but guess it's about twenty. I attribute the increase to two events: Danielle Linden volunteered to be our Communications Chair and her meeting notices to local newspapers—which despite rumors of their demise are still read by a considerable percentage of the population. And we joined the California Garden Clubs, Inc. This has given us visibility among the other ten CGCI Clubs in the Costa Verde District. You can expect many changes in the coming year. To start, Melinda Hines will replace Vera Thaxton as Newsletter Editor after seventeen years in this responsible position. Also, our Treasurer, Marsha Huebner, is retiring after more than a decade of service to be replaced by Nanette Fazio. If you wish to have a say in deciding future changes, you need only to volunteer for a Committee, otherwise I'm afraid you're along for the ride. But even if you remain a 'wall-flower' I promise the Board will do its best to make our Club relevant in your life. I propose an unofficial motto of 'Learn Facts. . . Make Friends. . . Have Fun'. If you have an idea for a motto, let me know.

IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT THE DECEMBER POTLUCK

As in the past few years, the Long Beach Cactus Club has been invited. Please seek them out and extend them a warm welcome. I encourage you to sit across from someone you don't know and get to know them.

As has become traditional, the Club will provide Prime Rib (25 lb) and a Honey-Baked ham (10 lb). We'll also provide paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, etc. We will also provide (tap) water, coffee, and tea. If you want something else to drink – bring it, but remember alcohol is not permitted.

Every member/family is encouraged to bring a potluck dish for 6-8 people. It can be a salad, side dish, or dessert. Please bring your dishes before 11:45 – or earlier if they must be heated.

It would be helpful if a few folks showed up about 11 A.M. to help set up the room. Table coverings and decorations will be provided by Rose Arbuckle. Seating will be on both sides of the tables to make chatting easier and conserve space.

I'll try to start the meeting at noon and after a few words of welcome we'll start the buffet line. After we finish eating the 'Annual Plant' contest will be held. Remember to bring your 'Annual Plant' which was STENOCACTUS CRISPATUS-dead or alive-to be judged. South Coast and Long Beach Club entries will be judged separately, (even though I think we have the same specie). Mini-show winners will be announced and prize and surprise plants will be awarded.

There will be NO gift exchange this year.

After we adjourn, please pitch-in and help clean up.

Hope to see ya'll there.

Dale



SCC&SS OFFICERS: President: Dale LaForest [redacted] 1st V. Pres.: Hank Warzybok, [redacted]
[redacted] v. Presl: Gary Duke, [redacted] Treas.: Marsha Huebner, [redacted]
Sec: Phillip Ross, [redacted] Show Chr.: Jim Gardner; Sunshine Chr.: Lupe Hulett, [redacted]
Refreshments: Carol Causey [redacted] Newsletter: Vera Thaxton ([redacted])

black diamond trout flyfish

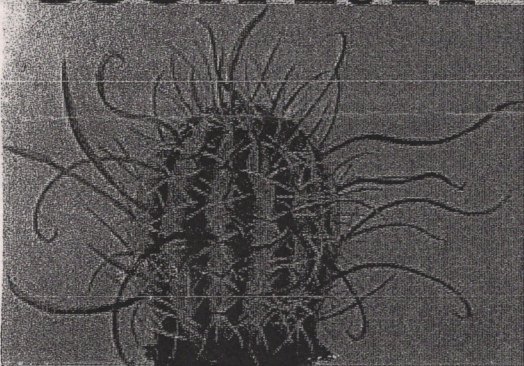
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**Southcoast Cactus and Succulent Society
Mini Show Final Results
As of November 14, 2010**

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Angulo	4	10	Capaldo	44	23
Caplan	21	16	Causey		20
Fazio	16	21	Duke	42	19
Hulett		3	Gardner	21	39
Johnson		18	Hanna		30
Kohlschreiber		1	Dale La Forest	1	17
Kuprenas	3	3	Woodley	14	23
Don La Forest		3			
B. Lewis	68	44			
L. Lewis	2	1			
Luhnnow		11			
Ross	9	10			
Tanner	27	16			
Thaxton	2	2			
Unrine	2	3			

Mark your calendar now!

CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



April 24 - April 29, 2011

Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley

San Diego, California

Watch for future updates

www.cssainc.org

Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Confirmed Convention Speakers

Myron Kinnach - Banquet

Tom Knapik

Jackie Poole

Debra Baldwin

Julia Etter/Martin Kristen

Guillermo Rivera

Tom Glavich

Marlon Machado

Karen Zimmerman

Andrew Hankey

Todd Masilko

HOLIDAY CACTI

Holiday cacti are grown mostly for their beautiful winter flowers. The original "Christmas Cactus" is a hybrid between *Schlumbergera russelliana* and what used to be known as *Zygocactus truncatus*. (You still see the name "Zygocactus" on plants in the garden stores.) This later species has since been transferred to *Schlumbergera*, and is now *S. truncata*. The "Zygocacti" are characterized by having teeth on the edges of the stem segments, giving rise to the common name "Crab Cactus" (also called "Thanksgiving Cactus" --by American growers--for its late November/early December bloom period.) The "Christmas Cactus" has smoother, more scalloped stem segments. The areoles, which all cacti have, are situated in the scallops along the edges of the stems.

This hybrid is technically known as *Schlumbergera xbuckleyi*. A number of hybrids have been developed, exhibiting many shades of white, pink, lilac, red, orange, and yellow. The flowers range from zygomorphic (irregular) in the "Zygocacti", to regular in the hybrids more related to *S. russelliana*.

The seven, or so, species of *Schlumbergera* are native to the coastal ranges of Brazil, where they grow as epiphytes--on trees and rocks.

The holiday cacti tend to have their heaviest bloom around the holiday for which they are named--though healthy plants may bloom two or three times a year. There is a lot of "mythology" regarding getting these plants to flower:

- 1) The optimum temperature for setting buds is 50-60 degrees. Any higher or lower minimum temps tend to retard bud development.
- 2) Fertilize with a low nitrogen, high potassium formulation when the buds form, in order to bring about larger and more long-lasting flowers.
- 3) Giving them the 'short day' treatment can make them bloom earlier.

Once buds do form, they can abort if the plant is moved, so leave it where it is.

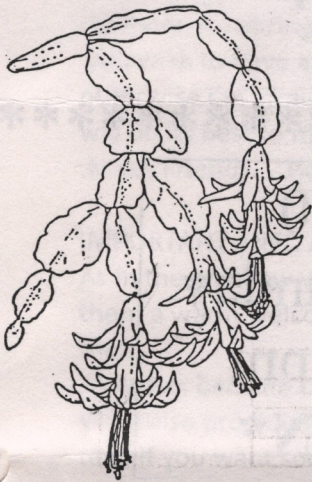
Another holiday cactus is the "Easter Cactus". These plants have smooth stem edges like the Christmas cactus, but have a number of hair-like spines at the tips of each segment and have radially symmetrical flowers. These belong to the genus *Rhipsalidopsis*.

The pink-flowered *R. rosea* is smaller in both growth habit and flower size than the red-flowered *R. gaertneri*. Recently some strikingly beautiful hybrids of this group have become available.

These are all pendant, epiphytic cacti which grow in semi-shade. They will do well in any standard cactus mix, but the addition of extra organic material (either humus or leaf mold) is appreciated as long as the soil remains well-drained. They will tolerate severe underpotting. The jungle cacti and so appreciate higher humidity than their desert cousins. They should not be allowed to go completely dry between waterings, and can be liberally watered when they are actively growing or in bud. They will tolerate winter minimum temps below 50 degrees, but prefer more warmth.

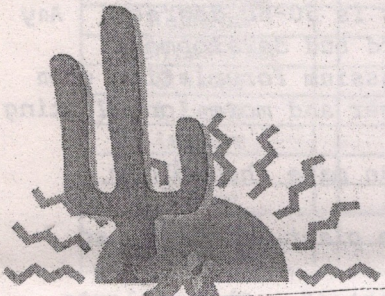
Some growers have a problem with their Christmas cacti, when they seem to dry up. Dick Kohlschreiber, writing in the newsletter of the South Bay Epiphyllum Society, addresses this problem: "'What do you do if your plant starts withering?' If this occurs right after they bloom, I wouldn't worry about it too much. It's probably due to the stress of blooming. If the plant has not bloomed and it's withering, it does not necessarily indicate that the plant is too dry. So don't water it unless you check for sure that it needs water. Withering often indicates some type of root problem. On the withered plants I've had, 9 out of 10 of them are too wet. If you want to try to save a withered plant, cut back on the watering and put the plant in a cool shaded place. Make cuttings in case the plant doesn't survive. Other signs to watch for are roots forming at each joint. Sometimes if the foliage turns reddish, it's a sign that the plant is stressed. If your buds drop off or segments fall off the plant, it may be due to low humidity or sudden changes in temperatures."

(Epi-Gram, Dec. 1992)



Schlumbergera 'Buckleyi'
CHRISTMAS CACTUS

The Orange County
Cactus and
Succulent Society
Winter Show and Sale
At The Fullerton Arboretum
Yorba Linda Blvd. at Associated Rd.



December 3 – 5, 2010
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
*** FREE ADMISSION***



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

Already the festive decorations and joyful music
of the holiday season brighten up the days.

This year, all of us
wish you a very special holiday!

We wish you abundant happiness, friendship and love,
health and good fortune, and most of all
peace and many glad tidings.

Happy Holidays!

