

Prickly News



South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Feb 2024

President's message



It was great seeing so many members in January. We are off to a good year.

MARCH MEETING!! Our March meeting will be March 17, the third Sunday in March, not the second. Please adjust your calendars.

SHOW AND SALE: The Show and Sale will be at the Palos Verdes Art Center on April 13-14. Set-up will be after 12:00pm on Friday, the 12th. There will be postcards to publicize the event, available at the next meeting, to distribute to your friends and neighbors. Plan ahead and mark your calendars! If you are interested in being a vendor, contact me or Jim Hanna. Volunteer opportunities are on our website page: <https://southcoastcss.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Volunteer-JOBS.pdf>. Any amount of time that you can donate will be appreciated.

DUES: It's Dues Time! (\$20 per person) The membership form is on the link on our website and in this Newsletter: <https://southcoastcss.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/membership-Application-2022-ms-20220218.pdf>. You may complete the form on your computer which will make it more legible for Sally, our Membership Chair, to read. Then print and mail it to our Treasurer (address on the form) or bring to the meeting with your payment. Dues are not pro-rated and are for each individual.

FEBRUARY 11 MEETING: Our speaker for the February meeting will be member, Gary Duke, who will present "Chile: More than Copiapoas," his latest trip to Chile with spectacular drone footage. His photos of plants and descriptions will be interesting and worth seeing.

I hope you will join us,
Maria Capaldo



Gary Duke:
"Chile:
More Than
Copiapoas"

February 11 at 1:00 pm South Coast Botanic Garden Palos Verdes Peninsula, Ca.

Save the Date:
South Coast Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale
April 13-14, 2024 PV Art Center



To learn more visit southcoastcss.org



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Gary Duke has been collecting cacti and succulents for over 50 years. He's an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas. He is a retired Air Force officer with a doctoral degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original and ever expanding collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman. He is a past President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Cactus Society. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

Following his military career, Gary worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years. He has over 1000 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. One can view some plants in his collection on his Instagram site: garyduke53. He frequently gives slide presentations throughout Southern California, including being invited to speak at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and at the Denver Cactus and Succulent Society. He has traveled to Aruba, Peru, Baja Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile to see cacti and succulents in habitat.

Program: "Chile: More Than Copiapos"

Gary describes the family of *Copiapos*, including some plants seldom seen. He also describes several *Eriosyce*, including those that grow underground belonging to the subfamily of Thelocephala and several wild flowers. He will also present drone footage of populations of *Copiapoa solaris*, *columna-alba*, *hypogea* and *dealbata*.

Gary in Chile with *Copiapoa*



Coryphantha (from Greek, (flowering on the top), or beehive cactus, is a genus of small-to middle-sized, globose or columnar cacti. The genus is native to arid parts of Central America, Mexico, through Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas and north into southwestern, central, and southeastern Montana. With its two subgenera, 50 species and 20 subspecies, it is one of the largest genera of cactus.

There are four characteristics that distinguish *Coryphantha* from other cacti:

1. Their bodies do not have ribs, just tubercles.
2. The flowers form at the top of the plant (the apex or growing end of the stem).
3. The tip (podarium) of each flowering tubercle has three parts, the spiny areole, the groove and the axil. Without the groove it is not a *Coryphantha*.
4. The seed coat (or testa) has a net-like pattern (reticulate).

More than many other cacti, the *Coryphantha* change in their appearance over their lifespan. The presence or absence of a central spine is not indicative of the genus, even in fully adult plants.



Coryphantha cornifera



Coryphantha ramillosa



Coryphantha cornifera

Pelecypora. All *Escobaria* have been moved to the genus *Pelecypora*.

Pelecypora (= *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*.

Pelecypora have small, funnel-shaped flowers in the spring and summer. The flowers are generally yellow, pink or brownish. In general *Pelecypora* 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.



Pelecypora vivipara



Pelecypora minima



Pelecypora missouriensis
subsp. *asperispina*

Acharagma is a genus of two small cacti species from Coahuila and Nuevo Leon in northern Mexico. These plants have globose bodies less than 3 inches in diameter and no more than 3 inches high. They may be somewhat cylindrical in shape and typically grow as individuals, but may put off several offsets from the bottom. These plants have tubercles and flower from the top, which is similar to both *Escobaria* and *Coryphantha*, however, they do not have a groove from the areole to the axis. In fact, the name *Acharagma* means in Greek “no groove” [a (no) – charagma (groove)]. The flowers are at the stem tips, and range from cream to pink and yellow. The spines are quite thick and can obscure much of the stem and are less than an inch in length. The fruits are smooth little pods that are green to purple colored.

The genus is of relatively recent creation, the species originally being described as part of *Escobaria*, although recognized as a separate section by Nigel Taylor in 1983, and raised to a genus by Charles Glass in 1998.



Acharagma aguirreanum



Acharagma roseanum



Acharagma roseanum
subsp. *galeanense*

Cochemiea is a genus of cactus. It had previously been synonymized with *Mammillaria*, but molecular phylogenetic studies have shown they are different, and *Cochemiea* has been accepted as a separate genus. The genus *Cochemiea* has been expanded to include a large number of species previously placed in *Mammillaria*. There are currently 37 species in the genus *Cochemiea*.

The name *cochemiea* comes from the Cochimi Indians which used to live in Baja California where many of these cacti are found. Their habitat ranges from Southwestern and South Central United States to Mexico.

All species of *Cochemiea* feature short cylindrical stems that form small clumps of a dozen or more stems that prefer to grow in the cracks of rocks in habitat. The stems are tuberculate and heavily armed with stout spines, many featuring prominent hooked central spines. The flowers can be many different colors. In common with *Mammillaria*, the flowers are borne from the axils of the tubercles on second-year growth.



Cochemiea theresae
[Photo by adricoco]



Cochemiea tetrancistra
[Photo by Tom Chester]



Cochemiea fraileana flower
[Photo by David Traish]

Sclerocactus is a genus of cacti. It comprises about 15 species, the exact number depending on the authority. The Greek word *scleros* meaning hard or cruel is a reference to the hard, dry fruit.

Plants in this group are native to the Southern United States and Northern Mexico. Here they grow in often very-restricted populations and experience a surprising range of climate conditions. However, despite the harsh environment where these plants seem to thrive, they are notoriously difficult to grow in cultivation. Most people who do succeed in keeping these species do so with a pure mineral substrate with no organic material.

The plants themselves are relatively small globes or cylinders usually with tuberculate ribs. Most have a dense cover of spines with a prominent hooked central spine. Flowers arise from the apex of the plant and point straight up. They are funnel-shaped and range widely in color from pink to yellow to greenish to white and even brown.



Sclerocactus mesae-verdae

[Photo by Rebou]



Sclerocactus nyensis

[Photo by Rebou]



Sclerocactus wetlandicus

[Photo by Rebou]



Sclerocactus pubispinus

[Photo by Paolo Neo,]

Gasteria is a genus of succulent plants, native to South Africa (and the far south-west corner of Namibia). The genus is named for its stomach-shaped flowers (“gaster” is Latin for “stomach”). Common names include ox-tongue, cow-tongue, lawyer’s tongue and, occasionally, mother-in-law’s tongue.

Gasterias are recognizable from their thick, hard, succulent “tongue-shaped” leaves. Their inflorescence is also unique, with their curved, stomach-shaped flowers, which hang from inclined racemes.

The species of this genus are mostly native to the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa, where the bulk of the species occur – especially in the small area between Grahamstown and Uniondale which enjoys rainfall throughout the year. However distribution of several species extends widely across the low-altitude coastal regions of the country, in an arched horseshoe shape across South Africa. At the one end of the genus’s distribution, a species *Gasteria pillansii* extends into the far south-west corner of Namibia. At the other end, a species reaches the Lebombo mountains of Swaziland.

Gasteria species are grown in well-drained, sandy soils in light shade. The species can all be propagated by off-sets and cuttings (leaf cuttings can usually be rooted easily). They are also commonly propagated by seed.

Germination usually occurs within 8 days but may take as long as one month depending on the species.

Gasteria are prone to *Fusarium* root rot, if they are over-watered.

Several hybrids with species in other related genera have been created in cultivation, such as between *Gasteria* and *Aloe* (\times *Gasteraloe*), and between *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* (\times *Gasterhaworthia*).

Gasteria is part of the family Xanthorrhoeaceae, subfamily Asphodeloideae. Closely related genera include *Aloe* and *Haworthia*, and the species of these genera are known to hybridize relatively easily with each other. Dividing *Gasteria* into species is extremely difficult, as each plant can be highly variable. One plant will look different depending on its location, its soil and its age. Young *Gasteria* plants typically look entirely different to older specimens. (usually, young plants have flat, strap-shaped, highly tubercled leaves, in a distichous formation.) In addition, the species tend to flow into each other in gradual transitions, with many intermediate forms, rather than being cleanly divided into discrete and separate species. Lastly, hybrids occur easily and naturally, whenever the range of two species overlap in habitat.

There is therefore considerable disagreement on how many species exist, with as many as 100 names being listed. Current studies tend to agree that there are between 16 and 23 species.

[Ed: Hybrids between *Gasteria* and other genera are allowed, including *Gasteraloe* (= *Gastrolea*), *Gasterhaworthia* (= *Gasworthia*, *Gastworthia*), *Gastrolirion*, and *Gastroloba*. There is an excellent article by Geoff Stein on the Dave’s Garden website at <https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2915>]



Gasteria batesiana



Gasteria baylissiana

Feb

2024

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

*Gasteria glomerata**Gasteria rawlinsonii**Gasteria gracilis*, variegated

LATIN LOOK UP Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)
The meanings of Latin plant names on pages 3-7

- 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.
- Escobaria [es-koh-BAR-ree-uh, es-koh-BAY-ree-uh] Named for brothers Romulo and Numa Pompilio Escobar, of Mexico City (late 1800s to mid 1900s).
- minima [MIN-eh-muh] Very small.
- batesiana [bate-see-AH-nuh, bate-see-AY-nuh] Named for George Latimer Bates, 20th century American ornithologist and botanist in West Africa.
- baylissiana [bay-liss-ee-AH-na] Named for Colonel Roy Bayliss, a botanical explorer in South Africa and authority on succulents.
- Gasteria [gas-TAIR-ee-uh] From gaster, (belly, stomach); referring to swollen base on flower.
- glomerata [glahm-er-AH-tuh] Clustered.
- gracilis [GRASS-il-is] Graceful; slender.

Open Cactus



1st Maria Capaldo *Mammillaria bombycina*



2nd Gary Duke *Cochemiea (=Mammillaria) boolii*



3rd Gary Duke *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*

Open Succulent



1st Jim Gardner *Pachypodium bispinosum* x *succulentum*



2nd Jim Gardner *Mestoklema tuberosum*



2nd Maria Capaldo *Dioscorea elephantipes*



3rd Jim Gardner *Beaucarnea (=Calibanus) hookeri*

Intermediate Cactus



1st Bernard Johnson *Mammillaria bocasana*



2nd Terri Straub *Mammillaria bombycina*



3rd Bernard Johnson *Mammillaria bombycina*

Intermediate Succulent



1st Bernard Johnson
Fouquieria columnaris



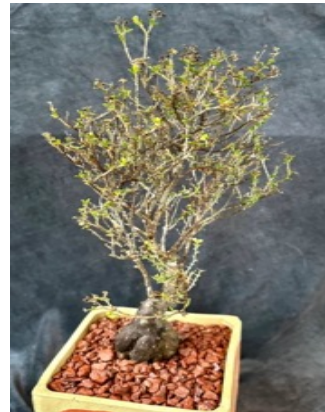
2nd Anita Caplan *Fockea edulis*



2nd Terri Straub *Euphorbia stellata*
subsp. *stellata*



3rd Bernard Johnson *Fockea edulis*



3rd Bernard Johnson
Mestoklema arboriforme

Novice Cactus



1st Martin Dorsey *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*

Jan

2024

Mini-Show January Winners

Novice Succulent



1st Martin Dorsey
Pachypodium Succulentum



2nd John Nisewaner *Fockea edulis*



3rd Linda Ohara *Tylecodon*
'Mystery' (=× *dinteri*)

Mini-Show Standings 2024 January

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	
Martin Dorsey	6	8	14	Anita Caplan		6	6	Maria Capaldo	8	6	14	
Braulio Mena		1	1	Bonnie Ikemura		2	2	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	3	3	6	
John Nisewaner		6	6	Bernard Johnson	9	10	19	Gary Duke	7	1	8	
Linda Ohara		4	4	Mike Short	2	2	4	Jim Gardner		12	12	
				Terri Straub	6	6	12					

2024 SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT OF THE MONTH LIST

Month	Cactus	Succulent
February	Coryphantha, Escobaria, Acharagma, Cochemiea, Sclerocactus	Gasteria and Hybrids
March	Echinocereus	Dudleya, Cotyledon
April	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
May	Eriosyce, Neoporteria, Islaya, Neochilenia	Crassula
June	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium
July	Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia	Kalanchoe
August	Lobivia, Echinopsis, Soehrensia and Chamaecereus	Stapeliads (Huernia, Stapelia, Orbea, etc.)
September	Discocactus, Uebelmania	Sansevieria, Dracaena
October	Miniature (3inch or less)	Miniature (3inch or less)
November	North American Columnar Cacti (Saguaro, Cereus, etc.)	Senecio, Caputia, Curio, Kleinia, and hybrids
December	Holiday Pot Luck	Holiday Pot Luck

January 2025	Mammillaria and Cochemiea, Single-headed	Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon, Tylecodon
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Mini-Show Rules

Exhibitors must be Society members and must be present at the meeting in order to receive points. One name representing the same household must be used unless plants are grown separately. Mini-Show coordinator will be consulted if there is any question of entry identity. Any container may be used, including plastic, as long as it is clean. All plants must be groomed and free of pests and disease.

There are two plant categories, "Cactus" and "Succulents." Up to three plants per individual may be entered in each category.

Scoring:

First Place: 6 points

Second place: 4 points

Third place: 2 points

Placement: All entries that are not disqualified receive one point per plant. An individual plant may be entered only once a year.

There are three entry classes: "Novice", "Intermediate" and "Open." Only members new to the hobby would be expected to be in the Novice class.

After the November meeting, members' point totals will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Society.

Novice members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 firstplace

awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate class in both categories. Intermediate members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards, may be asked to begin showing in the Open class.

All plants must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months for Novice and Intermediate and one year for Open class.



SCCSS Membership Application

New and Renewing Members: You can either fill in the information on a computer then print, or print first then write in the information. Please sign after printing.

**Make check payable to: SCCSS
Mail form and payment to: Bernard Johnson,
629 18th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**

Date mm/dd/yy:

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email Address: Phone:

Our membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

- \$20.00 Membership: Renewal or New Member
- Lifetime Member Honoree: No Charge
- I am a Member of CSSA – Cactus and Succulent Society of America

The above information will be included in our Membership Directory (for use by members only). If you wish to exclude any of the above information from the Directory, please indicate your exclusions here.

Do not publish my: Email Phone Address

SCCSS is a 501 3C organization. In addition to your dues you may make an optional charitable donation to support our philanthropic endeavors as well as the operating expenses of the organization. If you choose to do so, please indicate the amount _____. You will receive a donation receipt. Thank you.

I agree to have my information published in the Membership Directory with noted exceptions.

Signature Date: _____

Sally Fasteau, Membership Chair
sallyfasteau@cox.net
310-544-1313

ms-20220218

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Amount _____ Donation _____ Receipt _____

Upcoming Events



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Speaker: Steve Frieze **Note
new date**
March 17 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos
Verdes Peninsula, CA



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Annual Show and Sale
April 13-14th, 2024
9:00am - 4:00pm
Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
90275

[For more information and to learn more](#)



2024 Board of Directors

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Vice President
Terri Straub
Treasurer
Bernard Johnson
Secretary
Debra Bushweit Galliani
At Large Board Members
Martha Bjerke
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Programs Chair
M.A. Bjarkman
Finance Chair
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**Mini-Show
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