



# PRICKLY NEWS

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2019

**Woody Minnich**

**NEXT MEETING**

**20 Years in the Atacama, Land of the Copiapos**

Sunday August 11, at 1:00pm  
(Program starts at 1:30pm)



I am just returning from the CSSA convention at San Luis Obispo as I am writing; it was quite a whirlwind experience. South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society was well represented with 16 members. The first day of the convention was devoted to field tours.

While some took garden tours, I explored the Montaña de Oro State Park Coast. We saw beautiful steep cliffs with flowering Dudleyas just above the ocean. Others who took the Hearst Castle and elephant seal rookery tour came back with fabulous photos of mother/ infant and humongous male elephant seals lumbering along the shoreline. Check out the photos on the CSSA Facebook page for the gardens that were on the tour.

**We will have special coverage of the Convention in our September Newsletter and on our website, complete with pictures and stories.**

Congratulations to David Hodgson, as the recipient for the California Garden Club, Inc. (CGCI) Certificate for Outstanding Private Garden. This issue of the Newsletter highlights his beautiful landscaping skills. CGCI awards a Certificate of Recognition to an individual who is not a Gardening Consultant but has demonstrated outstanding skill in gardening as demonstrated by their private garden. This award may be given at the discretion of the California Consultants Council (CCC) Awards Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any Consultant or garden club member. Well done, David! If you know of any garden worthy of an award, please submit the nomination to our CGCI liaison, Lou Hagemeyer.

We welcome Woody Minnich this month for a presentation on the Atacama, home to Copiapos. Woody always has many interesting plants, travels and anecdotes to share. Please join us for this interesting presentation. I also hope to have photos of the convention to show.

See you there.  
*Maria Capaldo, President*

*Maria*

**REFRESHMENTS**

**Thank you to those who brought refreshments in July.**

Gloria Diaz  
Nancy and Jim Gray  
M.A. Bjarkman  
Nancy Sams  
Cheryl Seiver  
Joyce Mori  
Clif Wong  
Marie Bowers  
Jim Gardner  
Robert DeCrescenzo

**August**  
Sony Bontad

**SALE**

**SCCSS T-shirt now only \$10**

XL Only. Can be purchased at the next meeting. Limited quantity. Hurry!



**SCCSS**

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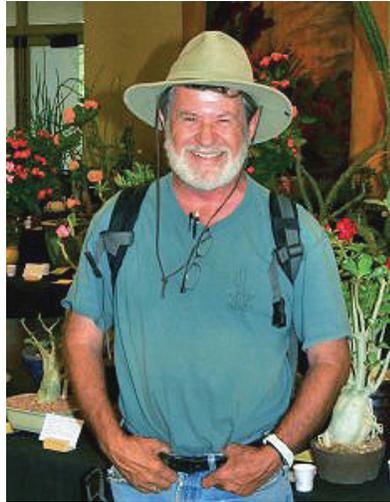
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## Woody Minnich – “20 Years in the Atacama, Land of the Copiapoas”

Similar to the coast of Namibia, the coastal and inland regions of northern Chile, known as the Atacama, is mainly watered by amazing fogs, “the Camanchacas.” These fog-fed regions, in two of the driest deserts in the world, have some of the most interesting cactus and succulents to be found anywhere. The Atacama of northern Chile has an endemic genus considered by many to be one of the most dramatic to have ever evolved, the Copiapoa. This ancient genus is also believed to be tens of thousands of years old, and there are those who feel it might well be on its way out! The ocean currents that affect the coastal Atacama have changed considerably over the last hundreds of years, and now its only source of moisture is primarily from consistent dense fogs. Some of these areas rarely, if ever, get rain and the plants that have evolved there live almost entirely off the heavy condensation from the Camanchaca.

There are many different Copiapoa species ranging from small quarter sized subterranean geophytes to giant 1,000-year-old, 300-head mounding clusters. Thanks to Rudolf Schulz’s excellent field work and his two comprehensive Copiapoa books, we have all been introduced to these amazing plants. Having worked with Rudolf in Chile, I can honestly say that the genus Copiapoa is without comparison! Now, having visited Chile numerous times over the last 20+ years, I have become familiar with most all of the representatives of



this genus. With this presentation, I hope to taxonomically introduce you to most of the Copiapoa species as well as show their relationships and synonyms. Along with the Copiapoa, we will also encounter many other genera including the Neochilenias, Neoporterias, Eriocyce, Eulychnias, Trichocereus, as well as many of the other Chilean succulents. Chile also offers some of the best lunar landscapes, geologic formations, and spectacular beaches to be found in all of South America.

This last August 2018, I had the pleasure of leading a group of 20 crazy cactophiles in seven four-wheel drive trucks. Our objectives were to see most of the fantastic plants and spectacular scenery that are to be found in this the land of the Camanchaca. Most of our group were very young adults (25-35yrs), and they all wanted to see and know how us old timers (Rudolf, Woody, Ritter and Charles) used to do our explorations to the wild and seldom seen places of Chile. Not only did we take them on very bad roads, the kind of dusty, dirty two tracks we used to have to maneuver, we also had them camp out in the middle of nowhere with the scorpions. No restaurants, no showers, no beds, and no bar! These camp-outs were exceptional as we could often see, without light pollution, the Southern Cross and the Magellanic Lights until the Camanchaca fog slowly blanketed our campfire discussions. What an incredible trip it was!



The energy of the young people and my memories of the last 20+ years in Chile made this an epic adventure, one I will never forget! Join me at the meeting, and hopefully you'll share our exhilarating experience and the overall magic of this wonderful arid region, the Atacama.

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement.

His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium,

Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; *The Copiapoa* by Schulz, *The Mammillaria Handbook* by Pilbeam, *The Cactus Lexicon* by Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book *The Xerophile*. This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from *MNN Mother Nature Network* and *The Guardian Newspaper*.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of eleven C&S societies. With 49 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.



**Epithelantha** (button cactus) is a genus of cactus that is native to northeastern Mexico, and in an area from western Texas to Arizona. Epithelantha has two species, *Epithelantha micromeris* and *Epithelantha bokei*. The name Epithelantha refers to the flower position near the apex of the tubercles. Epithelantha are very small cacti with globe-shaped or cylindrical stems typically up to one inch in diameter, rarely reaching two inches long. Tiny whitish spines completely cover the surface of the stem. The flowers are also tiny, growing from the tip of the stem. Fruits are bright red. The fruit of all species is said to be edible.



*Epithelantha micromeris*  
ssp. *unguispina*



*Epithelantha micromeris*  
ssp. *polycephala*



*Epithelantha micromeris*

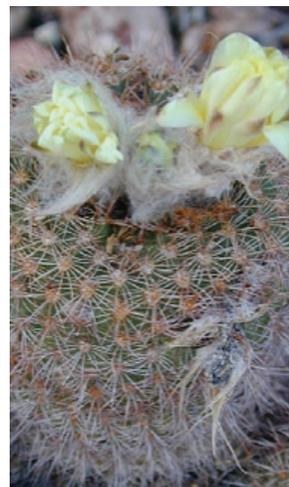
**Frailea** is a genus of globular to short cylindrical cacti native to Brazil. These species are cleistogamous, (being small inconspicuous closed self-pollinating flowers additional to and often more fruitful than showier ones on the same plant). They were first classified in the genus Echinocactus.



*Frailea phaeodisca*



*Frailea castanea*



*Frailea pumila*



*Frailea curvispina*

The genus **Aztekium** contains three species of small globular cactus. Discovered in 1929 by F. Ritter, in Rayones, Nuevo León, Mexico, this genus was thought to be monotypic (with *Aztekium ritteri*) until a second species (*Aztekium hintonii*) was discovered by George S. Hinton, in Galeana, Nuevo León in 1991. Aztekiums are by far the most challenging and difficult cacti to grow. They are having extremely slow growth, probably the slowest of the entire Cactus family. They usually take several years for growth to be even noticeable. Once a specimen is established on its own roots it is no trouble to keep it, and becomes an easy plant to manage. Because of the difficulty of cultivation, Aztekiums are most often grafted to hardier stock. They need good drainage and regular water in summer. Keep nearly totally dry in winter. If grafted, the plants can take a little more water. Just remember the graft stock is also a cactus and will rot if overwatered. Provide shade from midday through the afternoon. A little morning sun is OK.

*Aztekium ritteri**Aztekium ritteri* (in flower)*Aztekium valdezii**Aztekium hintonii*

LATIN LOOKUP – Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin?)

The meanings of latin plant names on pages 4 and 5 are from the website <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botanary/>

*Aztekium* [az-TEK-ee-um] Latinized form of Aztec, referring to the plant's grooves and wrinkles which appear similar to Aztec sculpture.

*castanea* [kas-TAN-nee-uh] The Latin name for chestnut.

*Epithelantha* [ep-ith-el-LAN-tha] From the Greek epi (upon), thele (nipple), and anthos (flower); nipple-like flowers.

*Frailea* [FRAY-lee-uh] Named for Manuel Fraile, 19th century Spanish gardener, responsible for the cactus collection of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*hintonii* [HIN-ton-ee-eye] For George Boole Hinton, 20th century metallurgist, farmer, and plant collector in Mexico.

*polycephala* [pol-ee-SEF-a-la, pol-ee-KEF-a-la] Many-headed.

*pumila* [POO-mil-uh] Small, dwarf.

*ritteri* [RIT-ter-ee] Named for Friedrich Ritter, early 20th century German cactus collector.



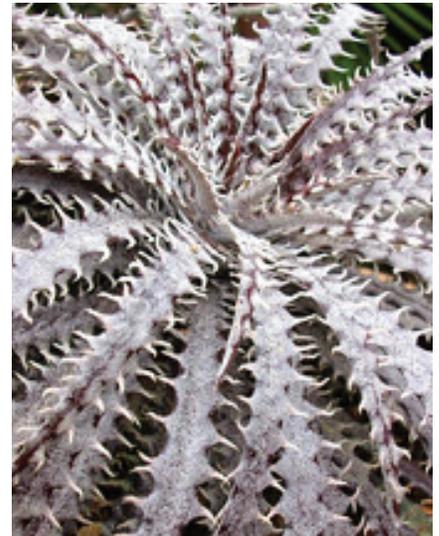
Speak Latin?

AUGUST

Mini Show: Succulents



*Dyckia beataea*



*Dyckia fosteriana* 'Star of Brazil'



*Dyckia marnier-lapostollei*



*Dyckia maritima*



*Dyckia dawsonii*

**Dyckia** is a genus of 120 terrestrial bromeliads native from Brazil and central part of South America. Dyckia have stiff leaves and are generally spiny. They live in rocky and/or sunny areas. Most species clump readily forming large mats. They are a relative of the pineapple and are relatively easy to grow. They should be grown as other succulents in a well drained soil. Good cactus soil or African violet soil is adequate. They like a lot of water in summer, and need a lot of space in their pot to accommodate their large root system. A lot of sunlight is a necessity. Flowers are generally yellow to orange and come from the side of the rosette.

*Dyckia brevifolia*



**Hechtia** is a genus of about 50 species belonging to the pineapple family. It is related to the genera Dyckia, Hechtia, Pitcairnia and Puya. They have long, stiff, spiny-toothed leaves in dense rosettes and clusters of small white flowers. Hechtias are terrestrial bromeliads, and they require copious amount of water and fertilizer to prosper. They are originating from dry areas of Texas thru Central America, but almost all the species are native to Mexico. Most of the species are extremely frost tender. They tend to have a large root system, and generally need to be overpotted. Hechtias are dioecious, so a male plant and a female plant are needed to produce seeds.



*Hechtia tillandsiodes*



*Hechtia texensis*



*Hechtia rosea*

There are about 168 species of **Puya**, native mostly from the Andes mountains, but also from other parts of South and Central America. This genus contains some of the largest Bromeliads, some species reaching 16 feet (5 m): *Puya raymondii*. Puya have often showy flowers on large spikes or panicles.

SUBMITTED BY: JIM TANNER



*Puya mirvenusta*



*Puya berteroniana*



*Puya mirabilis*



*Puya alpestris* (in flower)



*Puya chilensis*

## SCCSS Mini-Show Calendar



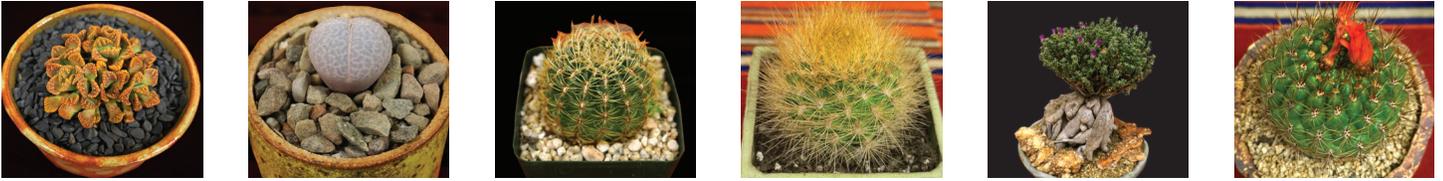
### Minishow Plants for 2019

August	Epithelantha, Frailea, Aztekium	Dyckia, Hechtia, Puya
September	Variegated cactus	Variegated Succulent
October	Turbinicarpus	Adromischus
November	South American columnar cactus (Espositoa, Oreocereus, Cleistocactus, etc.)	Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon, Tylecodon
December	HOLIDAY POTLUCK	HOLIDAY POTLUCK

### Minishow Plants for 2020

January	Mammillaria straight spine (clumping)	Aloe
February	Epiphytic Cactus	Haworthia, Astroloba
March	Echinocactus	Agave, Manfreda, (inc. x Mangave)
April	SHOW & SALE	SHOW & SALE
May	Notocactus, Parodia	Euphorbia (not from Madagascar)
June	Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cylindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia	Cissus, Cyphostemma
July	Melocactus	Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)

## AUGUST SCCSS Mini-Show Winners



Can you match up the winning plants ?

Open Cactus	1st 2nd 2nd 3rd 3rd	Gary Duke Maria Capaldo Maria Capaldo Maria Capaldo Gary Duke	<i>Matucana celendinensi</i> <i>Matucana aurantiaca</i> <i>Matucana myriacantha</i> <i>Matucana hystrix</i> <i>Oroya peruviana</i>
Open Succulent	1st 2nd 2nd 3rd	Jim Hanna Jim Hanna Laurel Woodley Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Trichodiadema bulbosum</i> <i>Mestoklema arboriforme</i> <i>Faucaria tuberculosa</i> <i>Aloinopsis rubrolineata</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Sally Fasteau	<i>Matucana weberbaueri</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1st 2nd 3rd	Sally Fasteau Sally Fasteau Sally Fasteau	<i>Aloinopsis lodewykii</i> <i>Machairophyllum brevifolium</i> <i>Faucaria tuberculosa</i> 'Sato'
Novice Cactus	1st 2nd 3rd	Diane Cottrell Terri Straub Terri Straub	<i>Oroya</i> <i>Oroya</i> <i>Matucana madisoniorum</i>
Novice Succulent	1st 2nd 3rd	Jacob Youssefzadeh Martin Dorsey M.A. Bjarkman	<i>Dinteranthus pole-evansii</i> <i>Faucaria tigrina</i> <i>Fenestraria</i> 'baby toes'

Please note that points were awarded for plants on display at the Show & Sale.  
The points (max 4 per participant) were added to the Cactus totals.

The tables on page 10 show the current standings for the three classes  
(Open, Intermediate, and Novice) as of July 14, 2019.

Photos of winners above in order left to right: *Aloinopsis lodewykii*, *Dinteranthus pole-evansii*, *Oroya*,  
*Matucana weberbaueri*, *Trichodiadema bulbosum*, *Matucana celendinensi*

## SCCSS Mini-Show Final Results *(As of July 14, 2019)*

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total
Bjarkman, MA	4	2	6	Caplan, Anita	8	8	16	Capaldo, Maria	40	24	64
Bjerke, Martha	1	12	13	Fasteau, Sally	37	53	90	DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	20	44	64
Cottrell, Diane	11	21	32	Johnson, Bernard	9	14	23	Duke, Gary	40	9	49
Diaz, Gloria	3	3	6	Johnson, Jackie	4	-	4	Gardner, Jim	6	11	17
Dorsey, Martin	12	6	18	Knight, Carol	-	8	8	Hanna, Jim	4	25	29
Hulet, Lupe	3	-	3	La Forest, Dale	7	-	7	Warzybok, Hank	4	-	4
Johnson, Ted	17	25	42	Neely, Jade	5	11	16	Wilk, William	14	10	24
Keka, Ray	-	1	1	Nettles, Coni	32	21	53	Woodley, Laurel	10	14	24
Mosher, Nancy	11	10	21	Short, Mike	6	3	9				
Nisewanur, John	4	10	14	Tillotson, Joseph	-	1	1				
Richer, Russ	-	1	1								
Sover, Suzane	2	-	2								
Stenson, Dean	2	-	2								
Straub, Terri	38	9	47								
Tanner, Jim	5	7	12								
Trostler, Marie	4		4								
Youssefzadeh, Jacob	-	6	6								

### SCCSS Mini-Show Rules

A Mini-show is scheduled for all meetings except April (Show and Sale) and December (Holiday Potluck) as a way for members to show their prized plants and staging skills; and for everyone, especially novices to learn how to grow and show theirs. Lists of eligible plants are printed in the newsletter and on our Society's website.

There are three entry classes: Novice, Intermediate and Open. New members may enter at any level, but once a level has been entered members may not regress to a less advanced class.

There are two plant categories, Cactus and Succulent. Up to three entries per member may be entered in each category.

Exhibitors must be club members in good standing and present at the meeting. One member's name representing a household must be used unless plants are grown and shown separately. We trust you.

Any container may be used, including plastic. The containers and plants must be free of pests and disease. Only one plant/container is permitted but this includes rosettes/offsets/pups connected by rhizomes, stolens, and above ground clusters. Dish gardens are an exception if they are the category of the month.

Novice and Intermediate entries must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months, and open class entries for one year.

Usually our speaker (as an unbiased expert) will be asked to judge, but if the speaker is a Society member, one or two members who are not showing will be asked to judge. Remember, judges may not be experts and usually judge based on how well the plant is grown and staged. The following point system is used.

- 1st place – 6
- 2nd place – 4
- 3rd place – 2
- Entries not disqualified receive 1 point.

After the November meeting, point totals will be reviewed by the Board. Novice and Intermediate members with more than 64 points or with at least 6 first place awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate or Open class if their entries show them qualified. This is a subjective judgment.

AUGUST

SCCSS special story of the month

**David Hodgson...** Congratulations! for outstanding display of succulents with rocks and pottery as a beautiful example of the use of waterwise plants to create a magnificent landscape as an alternative to the traditional lawn. The sloped landscaping and dry creek bed facilitates drainage providing additional interest. - *Outstanding Private Garden, California Garden Club.*



## Upcoming Events

[Click here for Full List](#)



### 34<sup>th</sup> Intercity Show & Sale AUGUST 10-11

Sat. August 10, 9am -5pm  
Sun. August 11, 9am -5pm

L.A. County Arboretum,  
301 North Baldwin Ave,  
Arcadia, CA 91007

[www.intercityshow.com](http://www.intercityshow.com)

#### INFO:

Tom Glavich 626-798-2430  
or  
John Martinez 805-390-2139

[Learn more](#)



### Hank Warzybok Home Plant Sale AUGUST 17

Hank Warzybok will hold  
a plant sale at his home on  
Saturday, August 17th  
between 9:00am and 2:00pm.

The address is:  
4318 Canehill Ave.  
Lakewood 90713  
(562-429-7110)

All welcome



### Huntington Botanical Gardens 36<sup>th</sup> Succulent Plants Symposium 2019 AUGUST 31

Huntington Botanical Gardens,  
1150 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108  
\$85 All day at the Huntington,  
call 626-405-3504

TIME: Registration and continental  
breakfast, 8:30 am.  
Program, in the Ahmanson  
Classroom from 9:00am – 5:00pm,  
also includes silent auction, lunch,  
succulent plant sales, and a reception.

[Learn more](#)

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