

December 2023



As 2023 draws to a close, I would like to acknowledge members who have contributed in so many ways to our Society. Personal thanks go to the following:

Mike Short, for managing Website, Events Calendar, Mini Show plant listings, sending out

communications to all the members, and setting up microphones at meetings.

Terri Straub, for serving as Vice-President, managing the Mini-Show, which involves tallying the Mini Show results at meetings, and contributing information on the plants of the month in the Newsletter.

She also coordinated the 2023 April Show and Sale.

Debra Bushweit Galliani, for her work as Secretary, documenting and archiving minutes, her Photography and Facebook posting, and auditing the financial records with Bernard

Sally Fasteau, our membership chair, for maintaining our membership directory, greeting members at meetings, and welcoming new members.

Clif Wong, for being our Newsletter Editor from his home in Massachusetts. He also designed our Show and Sale postcards, posters, and signage.

He will be retiring from his involvement with our Society and I thank him for all his excellent work.

Bernard Johnson, for his meticulous work as Treasurer and help with setting up for meetings.

Jim Hanna, for supplying our monthly drawing and end of year prize plants, coordinating the vendors for the Show and Sale, and being the link with other clubs, setting up flyers and distributing information.

Ann Nye, for publicity for our Show and Sale and monthly meetings.

Bob Caplan, for being the Nominating Committee in 2023

Braulio Mena, for assisting with speakers, being CGCI liaison, and serving as an At-Large member of the Board.

Laurel Woodley, for her photography, posting on Society Facebook page, and contributing her knowledge to members.

Caitlin Rubia, for posting on Instagram

Vincent Darmali, and **Shane Mullen** for serving as Members at Large on the Board and all their help at meetings

Bob De Crescenzo, for his help at setting up the meetings.

There are so many tasks to keep our meetings running and to make our Show and Sale successful, so many of you have helped in some way. I thank you all for your contributions. I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party,

Maria E. Capaldo, *President*

December 10 1:00 pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
Auditorium



“The 2023 SCCSS Holiday Gathering.”



Save the Date: South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, April 13-14, 2023 at the PV Art Center



To learn more visit southcoastcss.org



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https://www.instagram.com/_sccss/

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Our Holiday Pot luck

Our Holiday Pot Luck will be held on Sunday, December 10th, our usual meeting date, at the South Coast Botanic Garden. The festivities will start at 1PM in the Auditorium. We will start set-up at 12 Noon. Anyone with a flair for decorating or arms to help with table and chair set up is encouraged to come at that time.

The Club will provide prime rib and ham, paper plates, cups, and plastic utensils. Coffee, tea and water will be available. You may bring your own drink if you want something else. Please bring a covered dish for small servings for 20 people. It can be a salad, casserole, side hot or cold dish or dessert. (please keep desserts to a minimum). Don't forget a serving utensil with your name on it. Please bring your food already heated or chilled. We are unable to warm things up in the kitchen.

We are asking everyone to please enter through the auditorium, not the kitchen. You may drop off your dish from your car at the kitchen if you need to do so. Entry to the garden is free for members or those bringing a guest. Adult guests will be permitted with a paid \$10 admission. Check in with Sally at the door. Please do not bring young children. If you plan to bring a guest, please let Maria know by E-mail at minniecap@icloud.com by December 7th.

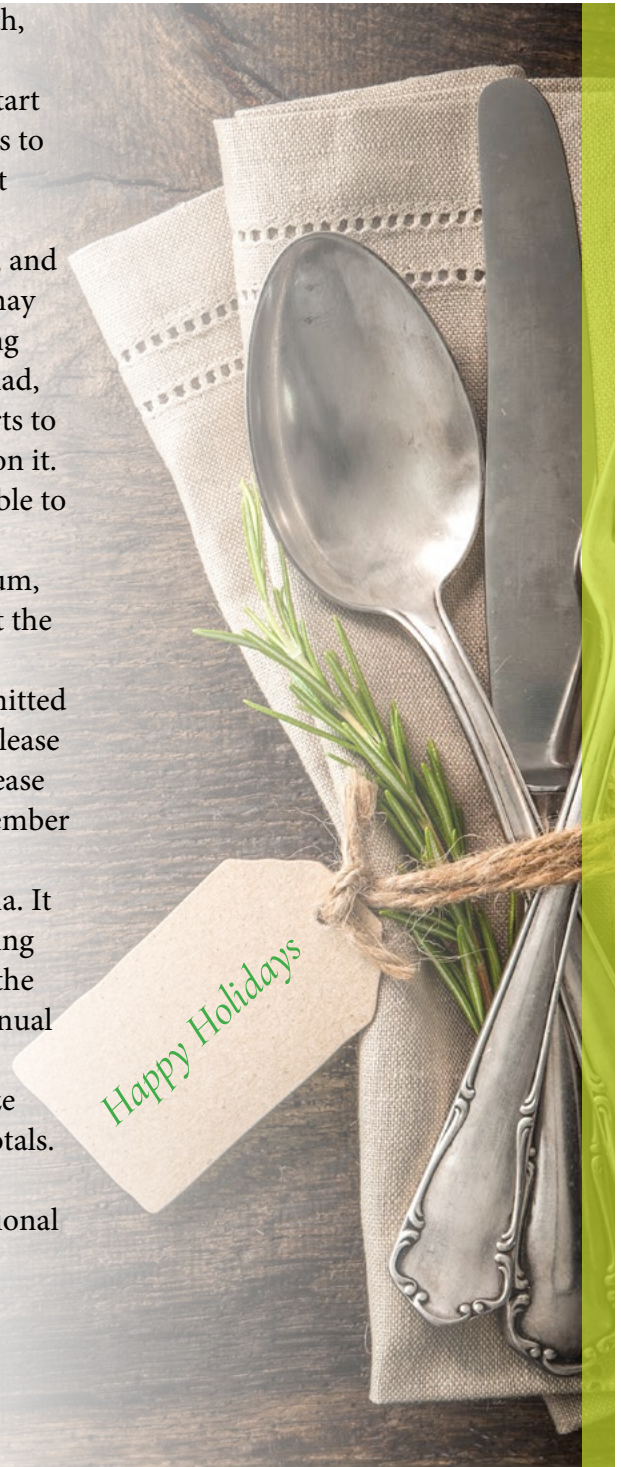
Please also bring your 2023 "Annual Plant", *Aylostera vulpina*. It will be fun to see how they did – dead or alive. Please also bring your form for how you grew your plant. This is available on the website and in this Newsletter. Everyone can pick up an "Annual Plant" for the 2024 year at the party.

The Mini-show winners for 2023 will be announced and prize plants will be awarded to the people with the highest point totals. We will award to the highest 4-point total in each category.

Thanks to all who participated in this interesting and educational activity.

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

We expect to adjourn around 3:00 pm.



SCCSS Plant Of the Year 2023



Scientific Name:
Aylostera vulpina

Family:
Cactaceae

Place of Origin:
Argentina/Bolivia

Rebutia_vulpina_1.jpg 1.000x750 pixels



The Plant of the Year, *Aylostera vulpina*, was previously placed in the *Rebutia* genus, but with recent DNA studies, has been assigned to be *Aylostera*. (Lodi, 2015).

Description: *Aylostera vulpina* is a small plant with globular flattened stems, forming cushions. It can form large clumps given the right conditions. Spines are needle-like with a small central spine and smaller radiating spines. The areoles have hair or bristles. The flowers are funnel shaped and usually is red-orange in color. Typically, it easily flowers in the right conditions.

Temperature: The plant prefers a hot climate with a temperature of 77- 95 degrees F in summer and can tolerate lower temperatures to 41 degrees F in the winter. In early spring, the plant can be put outdoors during the daytime, but shelter it from rain until the heat of the summer. It prefers indirect sun, but needs bright light in the summer. It prefers a constant flow of fresh air. You should gradually reduce the temperature in the room in the autumn because the cactus passes into a state of rest. Dry and cold climate with maximum lighting is maintained during the winter. If the temperature is too high in winter, the cactus will stretch and deform without flowering and numerous lateral shoots will appear.

Watering: Provide watering similar to natural conditions if you are growing the plant indoors. In summer, water abundantly when the temperature in daytime is above 64 F. The plant should be watered when the top layer of the soil is dry. The watering is gradually reduced in autumn. Water sparsely in winter. Young cacti are rarely watered in winter when their diameter does not exceed 1-2 cm. Use acidified water or rain water with a temperature of water 65-75 degrees F.

Soil: Use a ready-made Cactus and Succulent mix or prepare with equal portions of river sand, turf and leaf earth. It should be a well-drained mix.

Fertilizer: Fertilizer is added once a month during the period of active growth. A cactus fertilizer with less nitrogen. Mix: Nitrogen 9 parts, phosphorus 18 parts, potassium 25 parts. It is not necessary to fertilize in winter.



Questions for Plant of the Year

2023 POY

Aylostera (=Rebutia) vulpina

Please use one form per person and circle answers

1. Where did you grow your plant? (circle an answer)

--Full sun

--Partial shade, such as patio, under shade cloth, etc

--Full shade

--Full summer sun and partial shade during the winter

2. Did the plant survive until December 2023?

--Yes --No

3. Did you like the plant? If so, what did you like or did not like about it?

--Yes --No

4. Did the plant flower in your possession? Color?

--Yes --No

5. Did you repot it?

--Yes --No

If repotted, when and what soil mix was used?

6. What was the approximate watering schedule?

--Every 1–4 days --About once/week --About every other week

--About 1/month --Never

7. Did you fertilize? With what kind of fertilizer, and how much?

--Every watering

--Every other watering

--Once/month

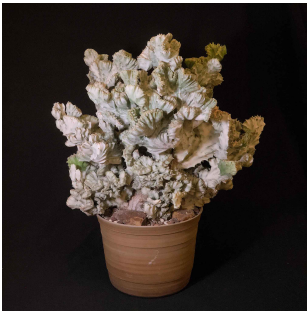
--Less than once/mo

--No, never

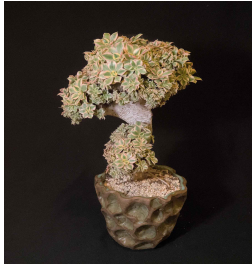


SCSS Mini-Show NOVEMBER Winners

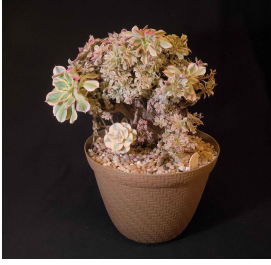
Open Succulent



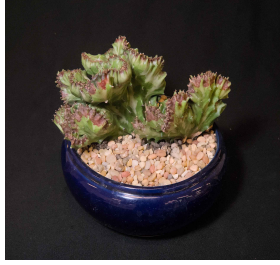
1st: Gary Duke
Euphorbia lactea, crest



2nd: Laurel Woodley
Aeonium 'Sunburst', crest



3rd: Phyllis De Crescenzo
Aeonium 'Sunburst', crest



3rd: Phyllis De Crescenzo
Euphorbia lactea, crest



Intermediate Succulent



1st: Bonnie Ikemura
Echeveria 'Cubic Frost', crest



2nd: Terri Straub
Aeonium 'Sunburst', crest



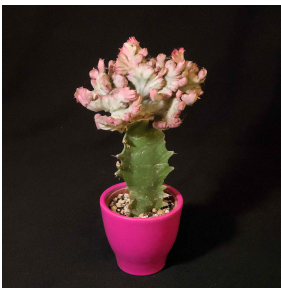
3rd: Terri Straub
Aeonium 'Sunburst', crest



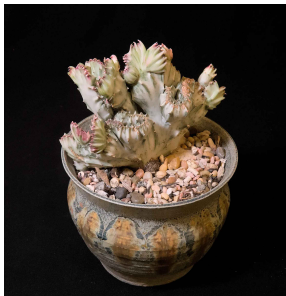
Novice Succulent



1st Vincent Darmali
Aeonium 'Sunburst', crest



2nd: Diane Cottrell
Euphorbia lactea, grafted crest



3rd: Martha Bjerke
Euphorbia lactea, crest





SCSS Mini-Show NOVEMBER Winners

Open Cactus



1st: Laurel Woodley
Myrtillocactus geometrizans, crest



2nd: Gary Duke
Myrtillocactus 'Blue Candle', crest



2nd: Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Mammillaria, crest



3rd: Gary Duke
Cleistocactus ritteri, crest

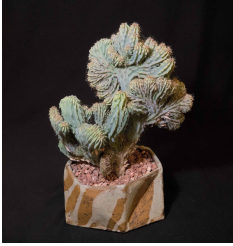
Intermediate Cactus



1st: Jackie Johnson
Austrocylindropuntia subulata, crest



2nd: Bernard Johnson
Cereus forbesii, crest



2nd: Bonnie Ikemura
Myrtillocactus geometrizans, crest



3rd: Jackie Johnson
Cereus repandus (=peruvianus), monstrose

Novice Cactus



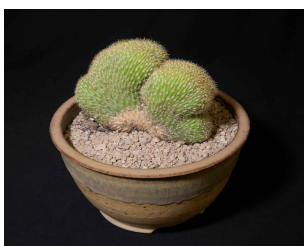
1st: Vincent Darmali
Myrtillocactus geometrizans, crest



2nd: Diane Cottrell
Myrtillocactus geometrizans, crest, red form



2nd: Martha Bjerke
Opuntia tuna, crest



3rd: Martha Bjerke
Trichocereus, crest

NOVEMBER

SCCSS Mini-SHOW 2023

Final Standings

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Aburto, Carlos	0	11	11	Caplan, Anita	2	21	23	Capaldo, Maria	39	57	96
Bjarkman, M.A.	7	6	13	Ikemura, Bonnie	8	6	14	DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	57	60	117
Bjerke, Martha	17	44	61	Johnson, Bernard	41	26	67	Duke, Gary	27	18	45
Cottrell, Diane	4	7	11	Johnson, Jackie	31	46	77	Fasteau, Sally	9	5	14
Darmali, Vincent	24	22	46	Lott, Lemono	1	20	21	Gardner, Jim	20	35	55
Diaz, Gloria	2	4	6	Short, Mike	9	30	39	Hanna, Jim	0	15	15
Dorsey, Martin	0	12	12	Straub, Terri	60	47	107	Woodley, Laurel	12	12	24
Galliani, Debra	10	1	11								
Marek, Robert	2	0	2								
Mena, Braulio	7	18	25								
Mullen, Shane	13	9	22								
Nisewaner, John	0	24	24								
Smiley, Barbara	0	2	2								
Tillotson, Joseph	0	1	1								
Unrine, Judy	0	1	1								

Mini-Show Rules

Exhibitors must be club 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.

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 the Society.

Novice members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place 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. An individual plant may be entered only once a year

Scoring:

First Place: 6 points

Second place: 4 points

Third place: 2 points

Placement: All entries that are not disqualified receive one point.

Note From Clif Wong

A final word. Dear friends at the SCCSS, It has been my distinct pleasure to produce the Prickly News for the past few years. I have learned so much from so many expert cactus and succulent members. Thank you to Mike Short and Maria Capaldo for all their patience and expertise in helping me make the newsletter accurate and informative. It has been fun. Our desire to move back to New England was one which will allow us to spend more time with old friends and family here. I just need to learn how to make cactus grow in the snow now. Goodbye to all, happy growing, and many, many thanks.



Mini Show Plant Calendar



Mini-Show Plants for 2024

December 2023	Holiday Potluck	Holiday Potluck
January 2024	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.)
February 2024	Coryphantha, Escobaria, Acharagma, Cochemiea, Sclerocactus	Gasteria and hybrids
March 2024	Echinocereus	Dudleya, Cotyledon
April 2024	2024 SCCSS SHOW & SALE	2024 SCCSS SHOW & SALE
May 2024	Eriosyce, Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Islaya	Crassula
June 2024	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium
July 2024	Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia	Kalanchoe
August 2024	Lobivia, Echinopsis	Stapeliads (Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, etc.)
September 2024	Discocactus, Uebelmania	Sansevieria, Dracaena
October 2024	Miniature, less than 3 inch pot	Miniature, less than 3 inch pot
November 2024	North American Columnar Cacti (Saguaro, Cereus, etc.)	Senecio, Caputia, Curio, Kleinia



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 & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

December 10 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm PST

South Coast C&SS Holiday Gathering
2023 (members and their guests only)
South Coast Botanic Garden, Frances
Young Hall 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

Members and guests only:

Our annual Holiday Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 10th. The festivities will start at 1PM in the Auditorium.



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

**Al Klein: "Growing
Caudiciforms, Fat Plants"**

**January 14 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
PST**

South Coast Botanic Garden,
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

Speaker TBA

**February 11 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
PST**

South Coast Botanic Garden,
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

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



2023 Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President

Maria Capaldo

Vice President

Terri Straub

Treasurer

Bernard Johnson

Secretary

**Debra Bushweit
Galliani**

**AT LARGE BOARD
MEMBERS:**

Vince Darmali

Braulio Mena

Shane Mullen



STANDING

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Terri Straub

Programs Chair

M.A. Bjarkman

Finance Chair

Jim Hanna

Mini-Show Coordinator

Terri Straub



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Chair Mike Short

Webmaster

Mike Short

Newsletter

Maria Capaldo

Publicity

Ann Nye

Facebook

Laurel Woodley

Instagram

Caitlin Rubia



Membership Chair

Sally Fasteau

COMMITTEE

MEMBERS (TASKED):

Speaker Coordinators

M.A. Bjarkman

Braulio Mena

LIAISONS:

CGCI

Braulio Mena

CSSA

M.A. Bjarkman

