

# Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

September 2017

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

Click here to visit  
our Facebook page

## NEXT MEETING

**Gunnar Eisel: "Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder: Our Wonderful and Weird Hobby"**

**Sunday September 10, at 1:00 pm  
(Program starts at 1:30pm)**

## REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Thanks to those who helped in August:

<b>Dennis Emerson</b>	<b>John Nisewaner</b>
<b>Kitty &amp; Art Guzman</b>	<b>Judy &amp; Gearge Unrine</b>
<b>Ana MacKensie</b>	<b>Clif Wong</b>

Volunteers for September refreshments are:

<b>M.A. Bjarkman</b>	<b>Gloria Diaz</b>
----------------------	--------------------

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.

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PRESENTER FOR THE MONTH.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CACTUS OF THE MONTH.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MINI-SHOW RESULTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MINI-SHOW STANDINGS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MINI-SHOW PLANTS 2017.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MINI-SHOW PLANTS 2018.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PLANT NAME SYNTAX.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>LYNDA JOHNSON'S OPEN GARDEN.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP NEWS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>! NOTICES !.....</b>	<b>9</b>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The attendees had a great time at the CSSA convention in Tempe, meeting up with like-minded plant people and enjoying the wonderful presentations. The days were well organized and everyone enjoyed their outings to either visit gardens or museums on the first day. There were lively conversations at meal times and I think everyone enjoyed their time together. Congratulations to Laurel Woodley for receiving a CSSA Service Award. After the banquet dinner, there was an entertaining talk on "The Sex Lives of Cacti and Succulents". There were also a variety of plants offered at the auction and by the vendors.

The other speakers' programs included diverse subjects as the new taxonomy, cold weather gardening, hardscape gardening with rocks, propagation, as well as the succulent natives of Socotra, Mexico, South Africa, Arizona and Brazil. There were also presentations on the genera of Lithops, Matucana, Sansevierias, and Adeniums. We hopefully will be able to bring some of the presenters to our meetings to share in their knowledge.

Now that I am back, I love this time of year with my cacti. So many are flowering and putting on a great show. The succulents are growing out of their pots, so there's always lots of work to be done. It is a labor of love.

The SCCSS Board decided that the minutes of the previous month's meeting in draft form will be communicated via our website. Please view them and contact me with any corrections. The Board also revised the Plant of the Month lists for the next 3 years. 2018 is published in this Newsletter and the website contains the remaining years in case you want to look ahead.

Congratulations to Lynda Johnson for her private garden CGCI award and thanks to her for opening up her garden to visitors in August. It is amazing to see what can be done with succulents in our yards. Hopefully, others will be so inspired. (see photos below).

The Huntington Succulent Symposium is taking place this weekend. Members will be recompensed for part of the admission fee. Take advantage of this opportunity.

I am looking forward to Gunnar Eisel's presentation at our next meeting. He has a great reputation as a speaker and an interesting topic. I hope to see you all there.

Maria E. Capaldo,  
President

## PRESENTER FOR SEPTEMBER :

### Gunnar Eisel - "Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder: Our Wonderful and Weird Hobby"

It is easy to see what attracts people to roses or African violets. However, if one asks C&S enthusiasts what they like about cacti and succulents, one is bound to get very differing answers. At first glance, people are surprised at the variety of striking shapes, textures, unworldly features one sees at our C&S shows. However, our appreciation grows deeper as we become more sensitized to the subtleties of our plants. With some plants, it's love at first sight. With others, we may wonder what all the fuss is about.

Our appreciation of our plants often changes as we become more familiar with them. We may even discover that plants which first attract us often align themselves with aspects our personalities.

"Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder" will explore what to look for as we broaden our appreciation of C&S. To paraphrase author Neale Donald Walsch, "growth begins at the end of your comfort zone".



**Gunnar Eisel's** interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with opuntia glochids. His interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.

Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at CSULA, CSUF, Whittier College and Fullerton College. He is currently full-time music theory and history of music professor at Citrus College in Glendora where his students are occasionally subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid C&S collector, he serves as General Manager of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and as past President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.

## CACTUS OF THE MONTH: *Astrophytum* Submitted by Jim Tanner

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

**Astrophytum** is a Chihuahuan desert native occurring in north/central Mexico and southern Texas, USA.

The *Astrophytum* genus is comprised of 4 species of globose to short cylindrical cacti and one sprawling, octopus-like member. The first four were discovered between the years 1828 and 1845. Two of these are spineless and two have prominent spines. While each species is quite distinct, one from another these four feature a star-shaped appearance when viewed from above. Hence the name *astrophytum*, which means star plant. *Astrophytum* species have been frequently compared to marine life, in particular *Astrophytum asterias* for its striking similarity to sea urchins.

The fifth member of this group was newly discovered in 2001. *Astrophytum caput-madusae* is quite distinct from the other members of the genus and actually very distinct from all other cacti genera as well. Hence, many enthusiasts feel it should be part of its own genus and consider it to be the sole species in the genus *Digitostigma*. The name *Digitostigma* describes the long digit-like tubercles that grow something like an octopus.

Despite the noticeable differences, all 5 species including *caput-madusae* feature a sort of flocking of white trichomes (or bumps) on the epidermis. Although, in cultivation, some forms are bred for their lack of flocking. Plants in this genus also all have yellow flowers with fuzzy floral tubes. Some have a red-centered flower, all are radially symmetric and eventually turn into dry, fuzzy seed pods bearing relatively large, black seeds that are among the easiest to germinate.

The four original *astrophytum* members have been extremely popular in cultivation and numerous exotic hybrids have been created that accentuate various features such as amount of flocking, number of ribs, lack of spines, etc. With the uniqueness of *caput-madusae* coupled with its late discovery, it is currently one of the most sought after cactus species by collectors world-wide. And in that sense, it fits in quite well with the other *astrophytum* species.



*Astrophytum myriostigma*

The generic name “Astrophytum” derives from the Greek words astron, meaning a “star” and phyton, meaning “plant”. The Genus name implies: “star plant”.

[Ed: Many wonderful hybrids and cultivars have been produced in Japan, particularly those of *A. asterias* and *A. myriostigma*. ‘Super Kabuto’ below is one example.]



*Astrophytum asterias* 'Super Kabuto'



*Astrophytum asterias* var. *nudum*



*Astrophytum asterias*



*Astrophytum ornatum*



*Astrophytum caput-medusae*



**SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Adenium and Adenia** Submitted by Jim Tanner

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

**A**denium is a member of the Apocynaceae, and a relative of Pachypodium, Oleander, and Vinca. The Apocynaceae is home to many showy flowering plants used for ornamental and medicinal purposes. Oleander is a staple of much of Southern California Gardening, Vinca is grown over the world.

Adenium are native to Africa. Adenium are easy to grow, requiring only good fertilizer, and lots of water when in growth, and protection from cold and damp when dormant. Some growers place their plants in their garages in late fall to force dormancy, and protect them from cold and damp. Adenium hybridization for caudex shape and flower color is being undertaken around the world.



*Adenium arabicum*



*Adenium multiflorum*



*Adenium obesum*



*Adenium somalense*



*Adenia racemosa*

**A**denia, a plant entirely unrelated to Adenium, is a member of the Passiflora or Passion Flower family. Most of the collectable adenias have large bases that support climbing stems or branches. In habitat they are often found in brush, with the branches scrambling up through brush, or alternately growing in an open area, entirely covered by a sprawling mass of live and dead stems.

In cultivation the sprawling stems are regularly pruned to keep the plant good looking in a pot (as well as transportable). All of the adenias are cold sensitive, particularly when young, and should never be exposed to cold and damp.

Tom Glavich



*Adenia pechuelii*



*Adenia spinosa*

## MINI-SHOW RESULTS - August 13, 2017

<b>Open Cactus</b>	1st	Gary Duke	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Ariocarpus agavoides</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	3rd	Laurel Woodley	<i>Ariocarpus retusus</i> var. <i>furfuraceus</i>
<b>Open Succulent</b>	1st	Jim Gardner	<i>Sedum frutescens</i>
	2nd	Laurel Woodley	<i>Sedum dendroideum</i> 'Colossus'
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Sedum rubrotinctum</i>
	3rd	Jim Gardner	<i>Sedum hernandezii</i>
<b>Intermediate Cactus</b>	1st	William Wilk	<i>Ariocarpus trigonus</i>
	2nd	William Wilk	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
<b>Intermediate Succulent</b>	1st	William Wilk	<i>Sedum oxypetalum</i>
	2nd	Mike Short	<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i> 'Greenii'
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Sedum morganianum</i>
<b>Novice Cactus</b>	1st	Bernard Johnson	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	2nd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
	3rd	Jim Tanner	<i>Ariocarpus trigonus</i>
<b>Novice Succulent</b>	1st	Sally Fasteau	<i>Pachyphytum compactum</i>

[Click here for photos of the winning plants on our website](#)

## SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of August 13, 2017)

Open Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Capaldo, Maria	24	23	47
Duke, Gary	65	20	85
Gardner, Jim	15	46	61
Hanna, Jim		37	37
Woodley, Laurel	13	24	37

Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Caplan, Anita	11	11	22
DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	25	29	54
Knight, Carol	4		4
LaForest, Dale	24	4	28
Neely, Jade	11	8	19
Short, Mike	13	27	40
Wilk, William	56	54	110
Wood, Jim	9	7	16

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Bjarkman, M.A.	15	8	23
Bjerke, Martha		2	2
Fasteau, Sally	41	53	94
Hulett, Lupe	1		1
Johnson, Bernard	35	20	55
Johnson, Ted		11	11
Straub, Terri	7		7
Tanner, Jim	8	20	28
Unrine, Judy	2	5	7

[Click here to see the standings on our website](#)

## MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2017

	Cactus	Succulent
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	Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.)
February	Eriosyce, Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Islaya	Crassula
March	Echinocereus	Gasteria and hybrids
April	SHOW & SALE	SHOW & SALE
May	Coryphantha, Escobaria, Acharagma	Dudleya, Cotyledon
June	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium
July	Lobivia / Echinopsis	Sansevieria
August	Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia	Stapeliads (Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, etc.)
September	Discocactus, Uebelmania	Kalanchoe
October	Miniature (3in or less)	Miniature (3in or less)
November	North American Columnar Cacti (Saguaro, Cereus, etc.)	Senecio
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	HOLIDAY PARTY

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

- 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

*Click here to see the  
calendar on our website*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2017-2018

#### Board Members:

President	Maria Capaldo
Vice President	M.A. Bjarkman
Secretary	Sue Wong
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson
Communication Committee Chair	Mike Short
Finance Committee Chair	Jim Hanna
Membership Committee Chair	Sally Fasteau
Programs Committee Chair	Gary Duke
CGCI Liason	Lou Hagemeyer
CSSA Liason	Bill Wilk
Show and Sale Co-Chair	Heidi Husnak
Show and Sale Co-Chair	Nancy Jengo

#### At Large Board Members:

David Hodgson, Cliff Wong, Jim Wood

#### Committee Members (Tasked):

Publicity Coordinator	Anita Caplan
Refreshments Coordinator	Carol Causey
Speaker Co-coordinator	Gary Duke
Speaker Co-coordinator	Jade Neely
Mini-Show Coordinator	Jim Tanner

#### Other Positions:

Plant Man	Jim Hanna
Facebook	Laurel Woodley
Newsletter	Mike Short
Webmaster	Mike Short

## PLANT NAME SYNTAX by Mike Short 2017-08-27

Without possessing any botanical qualifications, this is merely a layman's attempt at demystifying the Latin naming conventions used in botany. What follows is information put together from the web and from books. My definitions below are by no means incontrovertible and may well be over-simplified, although expecting botanists to agree about taxonomy (the naming of plants) is like wanting politicians to agree about health care. The world of taxonomy is constantly changing, plants are being re-categorized regularly.

The system of binomial nomenclature that we use today was started by Carl Linnaeus in 1753 with his book *Species Plantarum*. It is now governed by the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (ICN).

The term "binomial" indicates that there are two names (in Latin) to describe a species, however many plants have extra names to describe their divergence from the base species. These extra (a.k.a. infraspecific) names include subspecies, variety, form, and cultivar.

The hierarchy of binomial nomenclature is, in order of rank :

genus -> subgenus -> species -> subspecies -> variety -> subvariety -> form -> subform [See below for cultivars and hybrids].

### DEFINITIONS

#### **Genus** (plural **genera**):

A subdivision of Family (example Crassulaceae) including plants of similar nature especially in their sexual characteristics. The genus name forms the first part of the binomial name for each species within the genus. Examples: *Sedum*, *Opuntia*.

#### **Subgenus** (plural **subgenera**):

Not often used, can be used to separate plants within a genus that will eventually be moved to another new genus. Notable example is *Pachyseudum* containing the well known *nussbaumerianum* and *rubrotinctum*, although both are usually called just *Sedum*.

#### **Species** (abbreviated **sp.**, plural **species** abbreviated **spp.**) More properly named the **Specific Name** or the **Specific Epithet**.

Quote - "The major subdivision of a genus, regarded as the basic category of biological classification, composed of related individuals that resemble one another, are able to breed among themselves, but are not (usually) able to breed with members of another species".

A special epithet can have two names which must be hyphenated, example *castello-paivae*. It's confusing that the word 'species' is often used to refer to both the single word of the epithet and to the entire binomial name, the latter being the more correct.

#### **Subspecies** (abbreviated "**subsp.**", or less preferred "**ssp.**")

A subdivision of a species, grouping plants that have an appearance distinct from other plants within the same species especially due to the geographical region or ecological conditions in which they grow. Plants in a subspecies are able to breed with other plants from the same species, including those in another subspecies or variety of that species. It's common to see the special epithet left out when there is also a subspecies name, this is not good practice because the subspecies name may not be unique among the species of that genus.

#### **Variety** (abbreviated **var.**)

A subdivision of a species or subspecies, grouping plants that have an appearance distinct from other plants within the same species even though they grow in the same geographical region or ecological conditions. Plants in a variety are able to breed with other plants from the same species, including those in a subspecies or variety of that species. There are several opinions as to the difference between variety and subspecies, although it is mostly agreed that variety should be subordinate to subspecies. It is not common to have both.

#### **Subvariety** (abbreviated **subvar.**)

A subdivision of a variety, rarely used.

#### **Form** (latin **forma**, abbreviated **f.**)

A subdivision of a species, subspecies, or variety grouping plants with a noticeable morphological deviation. Often used formas are *cristata* for crested, *monstrosa* for deformed, and *alba* for the white flowered variant. Plants named with the same forma but within different species bear no relation to each other apart from the nature of their deviation.

#### **Cultivar** (historically abbreviated **cv.**)

A variation of a species, subspecies, or variety, being created by man and not found in nature. They can be created by means like, selection, cross-pollination, and various forms of hybridization. A cultivar is usually given a name in English which is written between single quotes, for example *Aeonium* 'Sunburst' or *Aeonium arboreum* var. *atropurpureum* 'Schwartzkopf' or *Crassula* 'Tom Thumb'.

**Hybrid** (abbreviated ×)

A crossbreed between two species, subspecies, varieties, or occasionally genera. They can exist in nature but most are man-made. Many man-made hybrids are given cultivar names unfortunately losing the record of their parentage. In situations where only one parent is known the x is usually placed at the beginning of the name.

**SYNTAX**

In order to communicate effectively syntax is important, especially the case and slant of any text.

**Genus** is always written in italics (or underlined), the first letter is capitalized, example *Kalanchoe*.

**Subgenus** if present is used instead of Genus using the same syntax.

**Special epithet, subspecies, variety, subvariety**, and **forma** names are always written in italics (or underlined) all lowercase, example *ovata*.

Abbreviations in front of names are not written in italics, example *Crassula arborescens* subsp. *undulatifolia*.

**Cultivar** names are written between single quotes and each word is capitalized (except words like and), example 'Tom Thumb'.

**Hybrid** names use the multiplication sign (×), although lower case x is often substituted. There are three ways of writing hybrids.

1) When the names of both parents are used the symbol is between the names, with the seed parent (female) before the x and the pollen parent (male) after the x, example *Aloe capitata* × *A. marlothii* where the A is the abbreviation for Aloe and may be omitted.

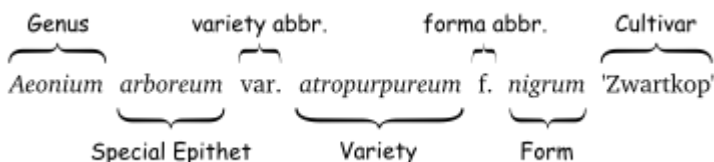
2) When the hybrid has been given a new special epithet, example *Quercus* × *deamii* (an oak hybrid).

3) When the hybrid is between two genera and the result is given a combined name, example × *Gasteraloe*.

The space after the multiplication sign is optional. The multiplication sign is often omitted (unfortunately).

**EXAMPLE:**

Our old friend Schwarzkopf used to be written:



**LYNDA JOHNSON'S OPEN GARDEN by Mike Short**

Those of us who went to Lynda Johnson's sale and open garden were treated to some wonderful sights and some amazing weather. Not only that but we all came away with bargains, and there were freebies too. Lynda has packed her garden, front and back, with succulents arranged in beautifully shaped beds. Her back garden is contoured with sweeping curves along with a dry river bed (arroyo), whereas her front garden is more geometric to accommodate the driveway and the path to the front door.

She has used tall Euphorbias and columnar cacti to add vertical elements. There are large Agave that have been positioned near the center of beds to allow growth, each bed being bordered with softer plants to allow comfortable movement around.

The rear is dominated by a small tree offering shade to a table and chairs where one can relax. It's remarkable how healthy all her plants look. Good job Lynda! See larger photos on our website: <http://southcoastcss.org/2017-08-19-lynda-johnsons-open-garden/>





**! NOTICES !**

**Huntington Botanical Gardens – 34th Succulent Plants Symposium 2017 (Sep. 2)**

See last months newsletter for more details.

Or on the Huntington's website at: <http://www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/calendardetail.aspx?id=23971>

Or on our website at: <http://southcoastcss.org/event/huntington-botanical-gardens-34th-succulent-plants-symposium-2017/>  
I (Mike Short) plan to go and will have two spare seats in my car if anyone is interested.

**Bill Baker's Succulent Plant Sale (Sep. 2)**

At Bill Baker's California Garden Nursery, 18552 Erwin Street / Tarzana, CA 91335

When: Saturday September 9, 2017, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Some boxes will be available (Additional boxes will be helpful)

For More Info: call Donna Marie Baker 818-344-4856

Bill Baker, who is no longer with us, was a major influence in the succulent world. Amongst other succulents and cacti he collected many bromeliads including Tillandsia and Dyckia. He has been responsible for some well known hybrids.

There is a video on YouTube showing this event in 2015 at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uKur4uMB9c>

**Revised Plant of the Month Lists**

Please note that the "MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2018" in this issue has been revised as have the lists for subsequent years on our website. The new lists should better allow plants to be shown at the best time of year for them.