



# Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

October 2017

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

Click here to visit  
our Facebook page

## NEXT MEETING

**Tom Glavich: "Euphorbias, A Survey and How to Grow Them"**

**Sunday October 8, at 1:00 pm  
(Program starts at 1:30pm)**

## REFRESHMENTS FOR OCTOBER

Thanks to those who helped in September:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Marie Bowers</b>       | <b>Jackie Johnson</b> |
| <b>M.A. Bjarkman</b>      | <b>Ana MacKensie</b>  |
| <b>Maria Capaldo</b>      | <b>Keka Ray</b>       |
| <b>The Caplans</b>        | <b>Cheryl Siever</b>  |
| <b>Carol Causey</b>       | <b>Judy Unrine</b>    |
| <b>Diane Cottrell</b>     | <b>Clif Wong</b>      |
| <b>Robert DeCrescenzo</b> | <b>Jim Wood</b>       |

Volunteers for October refreshments are:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>M.A. Bjarkman</b> | <b>Ana MacKensie</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.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**G**unner Eisel's presentation at the September meeting gave us all a lot to think about (why, really, do we love those plants). He was kind enough to augment his program with an impromptu presentation on *Astrophytum*, our minishow cactus for September. It was great to see many people bringing in plants to the brag table. I hope to see more involvement with those who need help with identifying plants or how to care for a new plant.

On my recent visit to Northern California, I was amazed at the increased visibility of succulents in the environment. I saw succulent plantings on walls, as centerpieces in almost every restaurant and winery, and of course, in garden landscapes of all types. It was sweet to see all the succulents I call friends everywhere I went. It's always fascinating to witness all the creative ways succulents are used in gardens and design.

I am also entertained by the many succulent focused Facebook pages or groups which support a global interest. These are also great sites for sharing photos, getting design ideas or information. (Beware! It isn't always accurate). So I encourage you to explore these sites to expand your horizons. Be sure to visit the CSSA and South Coast Botanical Garden sites.

At the September meeting, the SCCSS Board voted to donate \$1000 to the CSSA (Cactus and Succulent Society of America) Endowment Fund. This fund ensures investment for the future of the organization to be used for conservation, research and education. I encourage those who are not members to consider joining CSSA for the upcoming year. In an effort to encourage more participation in our national organization, the SCCSS Board also decided that our society will offer 2 free memberships to CSSA for those who are interested and have not been members in the past. We will be collecting names of those interested and will hold a drawing at the holiday potluck in December.

This month we welcome Tom Glavitch who will speak on Euphorbias, a very broad category of succulents. I look forward to seeing you all there..

Maria E. Capaldo,  
President



## PRESENTER FOR OCTOBER : Tom Glavich - "Euphorbias, A Survey and How to Grow Them"



Tom's presentation is focused on Euphorbias from around the world and shows how they are different and how they are similar. The talk includes display hints, cultivation practices and methods of propagation. Euphorbias are shown in habitat, in the garden as well as pots for display.

**Tom Glavich** is a long time grower of succulent plants. He is on the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and one of the co-chairs of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show held each August at the LA Arboretum. He writes frequently for the CSSA Journal.

### CACTUS OF THE MONTH: Copiapoa

Submitted by Jim Tanner



*Copiapoa cinerea*

These flowers are funnel shaped, mostly between 1 and 2 inches in diameter, and are quite similar from one plant to the next.

In contrast, the spines may be long and fierce or mostly absent. The roots may be fibrous or huge tubers that are larger than the portions above ground. Some plants are small individuals many form clumps, some imposing mounds of several feet across with hundreds of stems. Coloration is also a variable even within the same species from glaucous blue-green, to deep green to brown. In this way, it is easy to identify a given plant as one belonging in the genus Copiapoa, but it is conversely difficult to then decide to which species it belongs.

As previously stated, Copiapoa is widely popular in cultivation. In the wild the



*Copiapoa hypogaea*

genus is restricted to Northern Chile. There they are found primarily in the Atacama desert where annual rainfall is barely measurable. The plants in habitat get their moisture from coastal fogs. Images from this habitat often reveal vast barren areas where Copiapoa plants or clumps march across the void along with

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



*Copiapoa cinerea*



*Copiapoa tenuissima*



almost no other vegetation. Despite the extreme and specific conditions in habitat, Copiapoa as a whole are surprisingly easy in cultivation. From seed sowing to the care of mature plants, this genus is very forgiving. While staying manageable in size, Copiapoa in cultivation will flower from a young age and reliably so each following year.

**SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Lithops, Conophytum** *Submitted by Jim Tanner*



*Lithops dorotheae*



*Lithops optica 'Rubra'*

**L**ithops are very simple plants. All you get are two leaves, each mostly filled with water holding cells. They are dormant when the weather is too hot or too cold, and grow most in the spring.

On a fine level, no other genus has such a wealth of variation in color, shape, texture and pattern. (except maybe Conophytum).

There a little less than 60 species, about 800 or so know local variations of the species, and a few hundred named and unnamed cultivars. No two Lithops plants look the same, yet a knowledgeable grower can identify most species.

There are as many successful ways of growing Lithops as there are growers, and the cultivation practices are modified to fit individual habits, and local microclimates. The basic cultivation routine is: Stop watering after flowering, or at the end of November, except for *L. optica* which needs water until the end of December. Start watering after the old leaves completely dry. (Usually late March or Early April) Water freely during the summer. Grow them in an open, fast draining mix. Most growers use at least 50% pumice, some sand, and little organic material. Keep peat out of the mix. Some good growers fertilize frequently, some hardly ever. Keep them dry during the winter.

Lithops are small, they don't take up much room. They are easy to grow from seed, with seed planting best in either October or April. There are good growers who do it both ways, and some who do it both times.

Because they are small and inexpensive, its best to grow them in quantity. Most of the people who can't grow Lithops, have killed a few one by one. They are best grown by the dozen. Even the best growers have plants that mysteriously dry up, or leave during the night.  
Tom Glavich

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



*Lithops hallii*



*Lithops lesliei var. hornii*



*Lithops pseudotruncatella*





**Conophytum** is a large genus of small plants. They are winter growing. They generally, but not always clump. They are relatively easy to grow, as long as they are allowed to be dry when dormant, and then protected from overheating and desiccation. An eastern exposure is often recommended. They are readily available as plants and seeds. Once the knack is acquired, most Conophytum are easy to grow. In late July, Conophytum are generally dormant, and are covered by the paper thin leaves from last year's growth.

The bilobum types tend to be easier (more forgiving of watering errors) for beginners. These have two definite leaves, with a deep notch between them. The more difficult small round leafed forms provide an additional challenge, and additional rewards with spectacular colors, patterns and shapes. A large collection can be maintained in a very small area.  
Tom Glavich



*Conophytum minimum*



*Conophytum calculus*



*Conophytum ficiforme*



*Conophytum braunsii*

### MINI-SHOW RESULTS - September 10, 2017

<b>Open Cactus</b>	1st	Maria Capaldo	<i>Astrophytum 'Snow Storm'</i>
	2nd	Gary Duke	<i>Astrophytum capricorne</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Astrophytum caput-medusae</i>
<b>Open Succulent</b>	1st	Jim Hanna	<i>Adenium arabicum</i>
	2nd	Jim Hanna	<i>Adenium obesum</i>
	3rd	Gary Duke	<i>Adenium obesum var. crispatum</i>
<b>Intermediate Cactus</b>	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Astrophytum coahuilense</i>
	2nd	Anita Caplan	<i>Astrophytum ornatum</i>
	3rd	Mike Short	<i>Astrophytum ornatum</i>
<b>Intermediate Succulent</b>	1st	William Wilk	<i>Adenium obesum 'Cherry Bomb'</i>
	2nd	William Wilk	<i>Adenium obesum f. shada</i>
	3rd	William Wilk	<i>Adenium obesum 'Persia'</i>
<b>Novice Cactus</b>	1st	M. A. Bjarkman	<i>Astrophytum myriostigma</i>
	2nd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Astrophytum myriostigma</i>
	3rd	M. A. Bjarkman	<i>Astrophytum ornatum</i>
<b>Novice Succulent</b>	No Entries		

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

## SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of September 10, 2017)

Open Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Capaldo, Maria	31	25	56
Duke, Gary	72	24	96
Gardner, Jim	15	46	61
Hanna, Jim		47	47
Woodley, Laurel	13	26	39

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Bjarkman, M.A.	23	8	31
Bjerke, Martha		2	2
Fasteau, Sally	45	53	98
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

Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Caplan, Anita	16	11	27
DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	33	30	63
Knight, Carol	4		4
LaForest, Dale	24	4	28
Neely, Jade	11	8	19
Short, Mike	16	27	43
Wilk, William	56	66	122
Wood, Jim	9	7	16

*Click here to see the standings on our website*

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

	Cactus	Succulent
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	

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

OCT. 14-15

### 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

**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

**! NOTICES !**

**Greg Horn's Plant Sale**

Recent member Greg Horn is selling some plants from his house. He has some succulents, plumerias, bromeliads, and other plants for sale. October 21st and 22nd, 8am – 5pm at 14600 Bodger Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250

See the event on our website at <http://southcoastcss.org/event/greg-horns-sale-2017/>

