

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

January 2018

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<http://www.southcoastcss.org>

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our Facebook page

NEXT MEETING

Marcia Tatroe:

"Rockin' with Cacti and Succulents"

Sunday January 14, at 1:00 pm
(Program starts at 1:30pm)

REFRESHMENTS FOR JANUARY

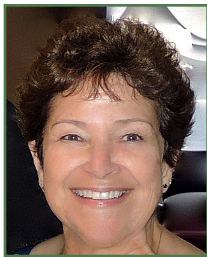
As the last meeting was the Pot-Luck we don't have a list of refreshment volunteers.

So if you would like to bring something to the next meeting please do so - thanks!

Volunteers: Please see Carol Causey after the meeting if you are able to help with cleanup.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I really enjoyed our Holiday Potluck Party. It was good to see so many people there. Thanks to Carol Causey for organizing the kitchen and to all who helped set up, decorate and clean up.

It was great seeing all the **Plant of the Year** results. It seems we all grow plants quite differently. For 2018, it would be great to get more information on how each individual grows their plants so that we might discover what makes these plants grow best. To meet this aim, we are developing a study as a club-wide project. Until you receive the questionnaire, please make note of the size of your 2018 plant of the year (*Thelocactus bicolor* var. *parras*) and its growing conditions. For those of you who did not attend the Potluck, a few plants will be available at the January meeting.

There is still a chance to receive a free one-year **membership to the CSSA** if you attend the meeting in January to put your name in for the drawing. Give your name to Sally Fasteau at the membership table when you arrive. Advantage of CSSA membership includes:

- * The Cactus and Succulent Society Journal, published six times annually
- * Participate in the CSSA Biennial International Convention.
- * Participate in CSSA's members-only Field Trips to native habitats of cacti and other succulents.
- * Greatly reduced prices on Cactus and Succulent seeds from the CSSA Seed Depot
- * Support CSSA's mission to support the cactus and succulent community through education, conservation, scientific research, and research grants.

I hope more of you will consider becoming a member of our parent organization.

Please join other CSSA affiliate members at the **Desert Forum** to be held the Huntington Botanical Gardens on Saturday, January 13. If you bring your SCCSS membership badge, you will get free admission to the garden and a chance to see the succulent conservatory.

Then, on January 14th at our **meeting**, we will be treated to a wonderful talk by Marcia Tatroe on use of rocks in cactus and succulent gardens. Landscaping with rocks and succulents have proven to be useful as a fire retardant as we have seen in the many fires in Southern California.

The upcoming meeting promises to be educational and fun. Please bring your plants of the month for the minishow. See you there!

Maria E. Capaldo, President



Tylecodon paniculatus

PRESENTER FOR JANUARY: Marcia Tatroe - "Propagation of Cacti and Succulents"

If you want to succeed with a collection of cacti and succulents outside, a rock garden is the ideal environment. Raised beds allow you to provide soil that is compatible to the plant's needs. Rocks help protect against weather extremes, while moderating temperature fluctuations enough to increase hardiness by a zone or two. This presentation considers stone selection, the basics of construction, and reveals rock garden tricks and techniques that will help make your garden flourish.

Marcia Tatroe writes the monthly "Mountain Garden Checklist" for Sunset Magazine and is a frequent contributor

to Colorado Gardener and other gardening publications. Her photography and gardens have been featured in numerous books, magazines and nationally televised gardening shows. She lectures throughout the West focusing on garden design, rock gardening, xeriscape and native plants. In her most recent book, *Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West*, she advocates using drought-tolerant and native plants and indigenous materials to create a gardening aesthetic unique to this region. Her garden was awarded Habitat Hero Status by the Audubon Rockies in 2015 as an outstanding urban wildscape.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: Mammillaria – Hooked Spines

Submitted by Jim Tanner

A Mammillaria is often one of the first cacti that a beginning grower buys. A credit to the toughness of these plants, is that many survive for years in spite of all sorts of abuse and neglect. Many inexpensive purchases at local chain stores have been grown on to become show plants, the quality of the plant maturing with the skill and experience of the grower. In part because they are so generous with flowers and seeds, and the seeds germinate so readily, many rare species end up in unlikely places like home centers, supermarkets, and hardware stores. It's worth keeping an eye out for unusual specimens, but beware of names found on discount store plants.

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



Mammillaria crinita sp. wildii

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactus family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some straight spined, and some clumped and heavily spined with hooks. Although the hooked spined species give the genus one of its common names, "fishhook cactus", they are not as often grown as the straight spined species. They



Mammillaria dioica



Mammillaria duwei

are not as friendly either, with the hooks catching on skin and clothes, and pieces of stem coming off, when least expected.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment.

Although most *Mammillaria* are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Colombia to Kansas and California. The species from the tropics and warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp, but can take considerable cold.

Propagation of Hooked Spined *Mammillaria* is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to early November), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix. *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright



Mammillaria mainiae

light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Most will survive, and grow quickly.

Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.)
Submitted by Jim Tanner

Caudiciform plants, also known as "Fat Plants", are a grouping of many totally unrelated plants all having a fat, short, swollen stem-trunk.

A fat, short, swollen stem is referred to by botanists as a caudex, while plants that display this kind of growth habit are called caudiciform plants. Caudiciform plants are almost exclusively desert dwellers that use their swollen stems for water storage between periods of drought. Cacti, especially the barrel type, have short, swollen stems, but are excluded because their stems have the major photosynthetic role. Caudiciform plants are found in many families, including the passion vine family, the grape



Cyphostemma juttae



Calibanus hookeri



Trichodiadema bulbosum

family, the euphorbia family, the dogbane family and the baobab family.

In nature, these fat-stemmed plants can attain enormous size. Baobab trees (*Adansonia* sp.) of Africa and Madagascar have swollen trunks more than 50 feet in diameter with what often looks like a modest topknot of growth to support the enormous base. The ponytail palm (*Nolinia recurvata*) of Mexico can have swollen bases 4 to 5 feet across.



Pachypodium saundersii

Some of the most beautiful caudiciform plants are the Adeniums, known collectively as desert rose. In the wild, *Adenium obesum*, has swollen stems to 3 or 4 feet across. Most caudiciform plants, are propagated by cuttings.

Caudiciform plants adapt well to pot culture and are easy to grow. Caudiciform plants are frost-tender and even

28 degrees will kill most of them. Most of these plants grow during the hot summer months and are dormant during the winter, so they adapt well to moving indoors during the winter. Evergreen species will need a bright location during winter. Ideally, a cool greenhouse maintained at 45 to 50 degrees is perfect for overwintering most kinds.

To keep the size of the plant somewhat in check and lessen the possibility of overwatering, keep the pot size of caudiciform plants relatively small for the size of the plant. When repotting, use a clay pot and a good, well-drained potting soil designed for cacti.



Dioscorea elephantipes



MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2018

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

[Click here to see complete lists on our website](#)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018

- JAN 13** **Huntington Desert Forum 2018**
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100
9:00 - 9:45 Registration - Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission. To receive free admission, you must arrive by 9:45. Late arrivers will need to pay for Huntington admission.
9:00 - 10:00 Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the lower part of the Desert Garden.
9:00 - 11:00 Desert Garden - Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory. Aloes will be flowering.
11:00 - 1:00 Plant Sales - (exclusively for CSSA and club members) Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - please, no early bird shopping, and no shopping after 1:00. Cash, checks, and credit cards.
1:00 - 5:00 Free Time - Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:00 am
Lunch: The Cafe in the visitor center features a variety of sandwiches, salads, and grilled items
 The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is an option for Asian food
 The coffee shop by the bookstore offers a small selection of pre-made options
- FEB. 10** **San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Winter Show & Sale**
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA, Info 619-990-2051
- MAR. 22-24** **Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale**
Thurs. 22nd 6-9pm---Fri. Mar. 23rd 9-7pm---Sat. Mar. 24th 9-5 1000 S. State College Bl.,
(Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA, Information Call 562-587-3357
- APR. 7-8** **South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**
9-4 Pm South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA
Info: heidihusnak@gmail.com or <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- Apr. 29** **Huntington Plant Sale**
10 To 5pm, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. 626-405-3504
- May 5-6** **Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info. 310-822-1783
- May 6** **South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale**
9am To 4pm, South Coast Bontanical Gardens, Info. 310-833-6823
- May 11-12** **Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 43rd Show & Sale**
Fri & Sat 9-4:30 PM, Information On Location Call 909-910-9195
- May 19-20** **Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale**
10-4 Pm Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA, Info. 562-631-5876
- May 26-27** **Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale**
(10-4PM), Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA
Info. 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- June 2-3** **San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society-- Summer Show & Sale**
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA Info. 858-382-1797
- June 9-10** **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale**
June 9th 9-4--10th 9-3, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA.
Info. www.lacactus.com
- Jun 29-Jul 1** **CSSA Annual Show & Sale**
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
Plants Sales Start June 29th Thru July 1st 10am To 5pm
Show Opens June 30th Thur July 1st 10am-5pm Info. 626-405-3504
- July 19-21** **Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale**
Thurs. 19th 6-9pm, Fri. July 20th 9am-7pm, Sat. 21st 9-5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
Information Call 949-212-8417

*Click here to see the calendar
on our website*

- Aug. 11-12** **33rd Annual Intercity Show & Sale**
At the LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily. 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
Info. Call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 Or John Martinez 805-390-2139
- Sept. 1** **Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium**
All Day At The Huntington 626-405-3504
- Sept 15** **Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction**
12-5PM, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA 90615 Info. 562-631-5876
- Oct. 13-14** **Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society**
Show & Sale Sat. 10-5---Sun. 11-3 St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304
Free Admission & Parking, Info 661-8318488
- Oct. 27-28** **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Fall Show And Sale**
Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3, San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas, CA
Info britamiller1@gmail.com
- Nov. 10-11** **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



Re-potting Checklist *Submitted by Dale LaForest*

Most healthy container garden plants eventually outgrow their pots. A good way to reinvigorate a rootbound plant is to repot it every few years.

1. Recognize when it's time to repot.

Telltale signs include soil that dries out quickly; roots that protrude from drainage holes or deform plastic pots; water sitting on the soil surface after watering. Often a plant simply looks top-heavy or as if it might burst out of its pot.

2. Gather materials.

Potting soil that will drain quickly, a good assortment of pots including 'show' pots, top dressing and perhaps decorative materials like rocks for more advanced collectors who show their plants. Use pots where the top has a larger diameter than the bottom, so the pot doesn't need to be broken to remove the plant..

3. Remove the plant from its pot.

For plants in small to medium pots, a few good whacks on an inverted pot will usually release the plant. An overnight soaking can usually loosen a stubborn root ball.

4. Check plant is ready for repotting.

A plant ready for repotting should slide out with the soil in one piece. If much of the soil falls free of the roots, the plant may not need repotting. If it does, there will likely be a solid soil-and-root mass. Roots should be white or light-colored. Black, dark, or foul-smelling roots are usually signs of a serious problem, such as fungal disease. Now is a good time to look for soil insects.

5.

6. Trim roots.

Trim off approximately a third of the bottom of the root ball (but not any tuberous growth) and make some vertical cuts up the sides severing roots that have been circling the pot. Loosen the remaining root ball before replanting. Remove loose and any damaged roots. Some plants can benefit from pruning the top of the plant [Ed: although some recommend not pruning until after the plant is well established in the new pot, to reduce shock].

7. Drainage.

Drainage holes don't normally need to be covered but a broken shard or rock can be used over a large hole as long as it doesn't block the hole. Keep the curved side up.

8. Bottom soil.

Put a few inches of soil in the pot and tamp it down.

9. Position plant.

Hold the plant in the pot low enough so that the eventual ground level is slightly below the top of the pot. Obviously you are using a pot that makes this possible.

10. Fill with soil.

Holding the plant in position, fill the pot to about 1/2 in. below where you want the ground level. Don't pack the soil tightly - roots need air.

11. Top dressing.

Cover the soil with about 1/4 in. top dressing (gravel) and, if desired, add decorative elements. Also for most of us insert a nametag.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - Submitted by Sally Fasteau

Please welcome new member(s)

Luba Anderson of Rancho Palos Verdes

Ruth Andrews of San Pedro

Regina and Ernesto Poblano of Harbor City

Andrea Ramella of Los Angeles

Eric Scott of Rolling Hills Estates

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
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CSSA Liason	Bill Wilk
Show and Sale Co-Chair	Heidi Husnak
Show and Sale Co-Chair	Nancy Jengo

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David Hodgson, Cliff Wong, Jim Wood

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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 !

Remembering Ruth Bancroft

Ruth Bancroft , beloved founder of the world- renowned Ruth Bancroft Garden, passed away November 26, at her home in Walnut Creek, California, at the age of 109. Ruth was a collector and skilled plantswoman who created numerous gardens around her home, the most notable of which became a public garden and plant nursery. Many CGCI clubs and members have enjoyed visiting this beautiful facility.

Ruth had a great eye for garden design, the art of arranging plants to create unique compositions, close friend and garden curator Brian Kemble said in a statement. "But beyond this, she was awed by the plants themselves, thinking of each kind as a near-magical product of the creative expression of Mother Nature ... There was a joy in the way she related to plants which will always stay with me." Brian Kemble is a popular lecturer at many of our Cactus & Succulent Societies.

