

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

May 2019

NEXT MEETING

Ernesto Sandoval:

"Forms and Functions of Cacti and Succulents Inside and Out along with other Desert Dwellers!"

**Sunday May 12, at 1:00 pm
(Program starts at 1:30pm)**

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

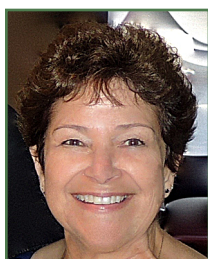
Click here for our Facebook page

REFRESHMENTS FOR MAY

Thanks to those who helped in April.

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

Volunteers: Please report to the kitchen after the meeting if you are able to help with cleanup.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We did it! Thanks to everyone's efforts we pulled off another great **Show and Sale**. Despite the change in dates we had a great turnout. The new configuration with vendors in the auditorium made for

easier circulation; it also provided more space for vendor to customer interaction -- a plus for our society mission of educating the public about our plants.

Special thanks to **Carol Knight** and **Nancy Jengo** for managing the event, to **Jim Hanna** for coordinating with the vendors, and our many members for spending numerous hours both at the event and in preparation.

The Society Sales Table was well stocked by members, and sales earned money for our many programs.

Congratulations to the **winners of the Show tables** (see photos on the website), **Jim Gardner**, **Laurel Woodley** and **Pedro Gonzales**, for the Specimen tables and **Jackie Johnson** and **Phyllis De Crescenzo** for the artistic tables.

I have asked **Bob Caplan**, **Jim Gardner** and **Lynda Johnson** to serve on the **Nominating Committee** which selects officers to serve on the Board for the upcoming year. Please consider being a member of the Board if you are asked. We will ask for nominations or volunteers from the floor at the upcoming meetings.

And, lastly, another takeaway from the Show and Sale. Thirteen new members joined the Society! Let's meet those new members and get them involved.

Members are encouraged to bring plants to the meeting for identification, problem solving or just to brag. All such plants go to the bragging table and we can share information and admire beautiful plants.

I look forward to Ernesto Sandoval at our next 

meeting. Bring your mother or your family to celebrate Mother's Day!

See you there.

Maria Capaldo, President

NOTE!

The date of the June meeting has been changed. It will be on June 9th (second Sunday), not the originally posted date of June 16th.

Board Member Needed

Hey you! Beginner or seasoned, imagine becoming a Board Member. We're about different perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds in creating great membership experiences.

Help us fill our member-at-large position.

More info? Call Jim Gardner at 310-378-1953.

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PRESENTER FOR MAY: Ernesto Sandoval “Forms and Functions of Cacti and Succulents Inside and Out along with other Desert Dwellers!”

Ernesto will be sharing his understanding of the way succulents and other desert plants are adapted to surviving drought in desert and other dry environments. He'll cover Biology (how they work overall), Anatomy ↷

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals as well as Master Gardeners. He



regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a “Jose of All Plants, Master of ↷

(How they're organized on the inside), Morphology (how they're organized on the outside), and Ecophysiology (how all the parts above work together) to make the plants adapted to their often challenging lives.

As usual Ernesto will bring an assortment of plants, mostly hardy succulents to offer for sale.

None.” Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly “because that’s the way you do it.” Since then he’s been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

He’s long left the “mow blow and go” monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens. He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication. By helping people to understand the workings of plants Ernesto hopes to help us better understand how and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: Cactus Dish Gardens Submitted by Jim Tanner

[Ed: Any container will be accepted, but cactus dish gardens must be 100% cactus.]

You too can design like garden photojournalist and author Debra Lee Baldwin.

Trendy succulents are fun and easy to grow, which makes them perfect for dish gardens. Because they come from parts of the world with hot, arid climates, they can tolerate the dry air inside most homes, and they're happy with little more than a spot by a sunny window.

Since these undemanding plants often have small root systems, you can pot them up in a shallow dish, saucer, or other container. They're seldom bothered by pests or ↷

Click to see the same with more photos on our website

diseases, but be sure to give them well-drained soil, and water only when the soil feels dry, to prevent possible rot.

You can change up your succulent dish garden in many ways. Try growing the plants in a half of a clam shell or conch, and add a bit of driftwood or a piece of beach glass for whimsy. Containers like this are perfect for setting off the sculptural forms of succulents.

To pick up subtle colors in their leaves, grow your succulents in a ceramic pot with a complementary glaze. They also look great in simple clay pots or garden urns. You can plant them in large containers, too, and some

succulents, like jade plants, will grow as big as the container will allow. Read the tags on your plants to learn about its mature size.

How to Make a Cactus and Succulent Dish Garden

Whether you want a small grouping of cacti or a large bowl spilling over with a huge array of succulents. Different types of succulents and cacti look great when put together, adding a wide range of shapes, textures and colors to your miniature desert landscape. The creative possibilities for your own imaginative cactus dish garden scheme are endless. Your only restriction is to choose plants that require the same growing conditions if you want to grow them together.

Succulents offer geometrical form and unique beauty all their own. Yet, somehow they seem to complement each other when planted together.

Their green or blue-green color provides a common thread. Repeating similar shapes also gives continuity to a planting.

Gather Your Supplies:

- A fast-draining, sandy mix, such as cactus potting mix works best for all types of succulents.
- Choose a shallow container. Cacti and other succulents have shallow roots, so the dish only needs to be 3 in (8 cm) deep. A 9 in (23 cm) terra cotta bowl works fine. It doesn't need to have drainage holes (but it should) because the sandy potting mix is fast-draining. Just be careful not to overwater.
- You'll need a small trowel to fill the cactus dish garden with potting mix.
- A small, clean paintbrush comes in handy to clean off plants after they are planted.
- Small decorative pebbles or rocks for the surface of the cactus dish garden.

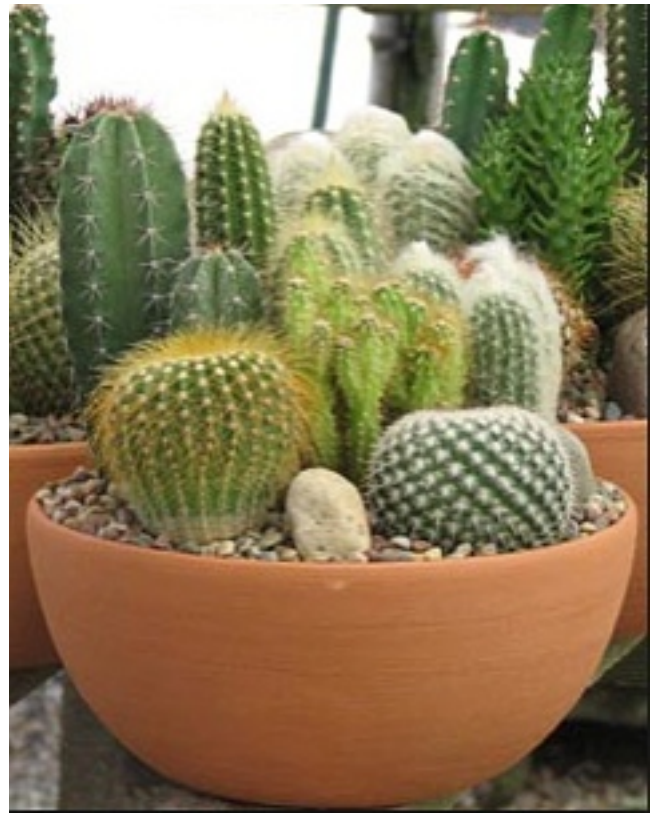
Plan Your Garden:

Before planting, set your plants in the dish to see how they'll look together.

Give it focus. Use 1 or 2 taller plants to give the arrangement a focal point. If you plan to display your dish garden against a wall or in a corner, place the taller plants in the back. For a dish in a central location to be viewed from all sides, put the tallest plants in the middle.

Don't overcrowd. You'll want to show off the contrasting forms and textures of the plants. Giving your plants some space will also allow for growth and good air circulation.

Repeat yourself. Add 2 or 3 of the same type of succulent, such as 2 column-shaped cacti or 3 rosette-shaped echeveria. Repeated forms give instant



Cactus garden

continuity to your garden.

How to Plant Your Cactus and Succulent Dish Garden

1. Fill the dish half-full with potting mix.
2. Remove each plant from its pot and place in the new dish. Use your fingers to spread the roots over the mix, if necessary.
3. Once all plants are in place, add more mix to fill the container. Make sure the plants are sitting at the same depth as they were in their original pots. Lightly pat the potting mix around the plants, leaving about 1/2 in (1 cm) space below the rim of the container to allow for watering.
4. Use a small, soft paintbrush to gently remove any potting mix on plant leaves or between cacti spines.
5. Spread small stones or pebbles on the top of the soil after planting. A dressing of small stones will give your arrangement a finished look. Add decorative rocks to fill in gaps, if you want.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Dish Garden *Submitted by Jim Tanner*

[Ed: Succulent dish gardens should be 100% succulents, but a small amount of cactus is OK.]

See "Cactus Dish Gardens" above for description.



Succulent Dish Garden



Succulent Dish Garden



Succulent Dish Garden



Succulent Dish Garden

In Memoriam, Bernice May Duke

Bernice May Duke, age 99, of Long Beach, California, and formerly of Blandinsville, passed away at 11:45 A.M. on April 8, 2019 at the home of her son, Gary Duke in Long Beach, California.

Bernice was born on May 18, 1919 in Liberty Township, Adams County, Illinois. She was a 1941 graduate of Western Illinois University with a teacher's degree. She taught elementary and high school mathematics in Mineral, Lewiston, Canton and Blandinsville for 22 years. She and her husband

were farmers and had lived in Canton till 1951 when they moved to Blandinsville. They spent winters in Florida from 1983 to 2004. She continued to spend winters in Florida and summers in Illinois until 2010 when she moved to California to be with her son.

She became a member of the South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society in 2012 and attended meetings with her son, Gary, while her health allowed. She was a strong woman with a positive attitude and will be well remembered.

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2019

	Cactus	Succulent
June	Rebutia, Aylostera, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia	Echeveria
July	Matucana, Oroya	Mesembs, NO Lithops or Conophytum
August	Epithelantha, Frailea, Aztekium	Dyckia, Hechtia, Puya
September	Variegated cactus	Variegated Succulent
October	Turbinicarpus	Adromischus
November	South American columnar cactus (Espostoa, Oreocereus, Cleistocactus, etc.)	Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon. Tylecodon
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	HOLIDAY PARTY

Click to see complete lists on our website

MINI-SHOW PLANTS OF THE MONTH (POM) 2020

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Mammillaria straight spine (clumping)	Aloe
February	Epiphytic Cactus	Haworthia, Astroloba
March	Echinocactus	Agave, Manfreda, (inc. x Mangave)
May	Notocactus, Parodia	Euphorbia (not from Madagascar)

SHOW RESULTS - April 7, 2019

Specimen Table	1st	Jim Gardner
	2nd	Laurel Woodley
	3rd	Pablo Gonzales
Artistic Table	1st	Jackie Johnson
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo

Click for photos of the winning tables on our website

SCCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of April 7, 2019)

Open Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total	Novice Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Capaldo, Maria	11	14	25	Bjarkman, M.A.	4		4
DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	14	17	31	Bjerke, Martha	1	6	7
Duke, Gary	22	6	28	Cottrell, Diane	1	3	4
Gardner, Jim	6	7	13	Diaz, Gloria	2		2
Hanna, Jim	4	15	19	Dorsey, Martin	12	2	14
Warzybok, Hank	4		4	Hulett, Lupe	3		3
Wilk, William	14	7	21	Johnson, Ted	9	16	25
Woodley, Laurel	6	6	12	Nancy Mosher	11	10	21
				Nisewaner, John	4	10	14
				Richer, Russ		1	1
				Sover, Suzane	2		2
				Stenson, Dean	2		2
				Straub, Terri	16	4	20
				Tanner, Jim	5	3	8
				Trostler, Marie	4		4

Click to see the standings on our website

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2019

Click to see the calendar (with flyers) on our website

May 4-5

Sunset C&SS Show & Sale

Veterans Memorial Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. 310-822-1783

May 5

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale

9am-4pm, South Coast Botanic Garden, 310-833-6823

May 10-11

Gates C&SS Show & Sale

Fri & Sat 9am-4pm, Redlands Church of Nazarene, 1307 E. Citrus Ave., Redlands, CA.

INFO: 909-910-9195 or www.gatescss.com

May 18-19

Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale

INFO: 310-647-7300

May 25-26

Central Coast C&SS Annual Show & Sale

Sat 10-5pm, Sun 10-4pm, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA.

INFO: 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org

Jun 1-2

San Diego C&SS Summer Show & Sale

Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA.

INFO: 858-382-1797

Jun 8-9

Los Angeles C&SS- Drought Tolerant Plant Festival Show & Sale

June 8th 9-4pm, June 9th 9-3pm, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA.

INFO: www.lacactus.com

Jun 28-30

CSSA Annual Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

Plants Sales Start Jun 28th Thru Jun 30th, 10am - 5pm
Show Opens June 29th Thur June, 30th 10am-5pm

INFO: 626-405-3504

Jul 17-20

CSSA Convention

INFO: gunnar.eisel@gmail.com,

<http://www.cssaconvention.com/>

Jul 26-27

Orange County C&SS Summer Show & Sale

Fri. July 26th Noon-8pm, Sat. 27th 9-7pm,
Anaheim United Methodist Church

1000 S. State College Bl., Anaheim, CA.

INFO: Call 949-212-8417



Aug 10-11

34th Annual Intercity Show & Sale

9am-5pm Daily. LA County Arboretum,
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

INFO: Call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John
Martinez 805-390-2139 or www.intercityshow.com

Aug 31

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium

All day at The Huntington 626-405-3504

Sep 14

Los Angeles C&SS Fall Sale

9-4pm, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia
Blvd., Encino, CA. INFO: www.lacactus.com

Sep 15

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction

11-1pm, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road,
Long Beach, CA. 90615. INFO: 562-631-5876

Oct 12-13

Bakersfield C&SS, Show & Sale

Sat. 10-5pm, Sun. 11-3pm, St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th
Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304.

Free Admission & Parking, INFO: 661-831-8488

Oct 25-27

Huntington Fall Plant Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road,
San Marino, CA. INFO: 626-405-3504

Oct 26-27

Palomar C&SS Fall Show & Sale

Sat. 9-5, Sun 10-3, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail
Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA. INFO: Brita Miller –
eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org



Greenhouse Notes - May

Reproduced from the May 2018 issue of the "Cactus Chronicle" newsletter of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society. Karen has been a member of local societies for over 30 years and currently serves as Show Chair for the Sunset Succulent Society.

By Karen Ostler



Water. The first question every novice asks when they buy an unfamiliar plant. "How much should I water it?" And the answer is invariably; "Once every week to week and a half." This answer works, and produces okay growth, BUT...There is so much more involved. Is it a succulent or a cactus? Some succulents need water more frequently than do a majority of cactus. If it's a succulent you will most likely be growing it in morning light or a filtered light situation so as not to burn it. That means you will have to watch carefully not to overwater, as it won't use the water as quickly as it would in full sun. Is it a winter grower? If it is, it needs less water in the summer than it does during the winter, and if we are lucky and it rains, half of your watering chores are done for you.

If the plant is a cactus, it will use less water than a succulent; unless you are growing it in full sun; you know that awful place on the pavement right next to the garage in full southern sun. If it's growing there it needs a lot of water; maybe every day depending on the temperature and the pot you have it in. And just a small point here; if you are growing it in that spot; the Sahara of your yard, don't use a plastic pot; you'll cook the roots.

What kind of pot is it in; plastic, clay, glazed ceramic, or is it going into the ground? Plastic pots tend to hold on to moisture, as does glazed ceramic, but clay breathes ↷

and the water in the soil will evaporate much more quickly.

What kind of soil is it in? Different growers use a variety of mixes; each tailored to their growing conditions and watering habits. The Huntington uses a mix of 80% pumice to 20% humus, and they water frequently to promote growth. Desert Creations uses a 60-70% pumice and 30-40% humus, and waters about once a week or week and a half. Some commercial growers use a 50/50 mix of perlite and humus and water nearly every day. My mix is tailored for me, my growing conditions and my watering habits; 3 parts pumice, 2 parts native soil (consisting of clay, sand, and decomposed granite,) and 1 part humus. And I tend to water once every two weeks or so, sometimes more, but frequently much less. That's where the sand is helpful; it like a plastic pot; holds water.

Your water is important as well. Are you acidifying your water? Have you tested it? For the best growth it should be between a Ph of 5.7 to 6.2. You can pick up a small test kit at a pool supply store, they aren't too expensive and you should test every quarter, because city water changes depending on the seasons. If you don't test; although I wouldn't recommend it; you can go by the rule of thumb and add a teaspoon of household vinegar per gallon of water.

The most important rule of watering: water until the water comes out of the bottom of the pot. When I water the greenhouse, I start on one bench and work my way around the greenhouse once. Then I go back and start all over again, watering each and every plant twice. That way I can be certain that there are no dry spots in a plant's soil.

Sometimes; if it has been a couple of weeks since my last watering; I'll make an extra trip around, making sure that all the Gasterias and Haworthias have adequate moisture in the soil. I don't want those important root hairs to die, because that will cause the plant to rot.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2017-2018

Officers:

President	Maria Capaldo
Vice President	M.A. Bjarkman
Secretary	Sue Wong
Treasurer	Bernard Johnson

At Large Board Members:

David Hodgson, Clif Wong, Caitlin Rubia

Standing Committee Chairs:

Communications	Mike Short
Finance	Jim Hanna
Membership	Sally Fasteau
Programs	Gary Duke
Show and Sale	Carol Knight

Committee Members (Tasked):

Mini-Show Coordinator	Jim Tanner
Publicity (Show)	Anita Caplan
Publicity (Monthly)	Ann Nye
Speaker Coordinator	Jade Neely

Liasons:

CGCI	Lou Hagemeyer
CSSA	Bill Wilk

Other Positions:

Facebook	Laurel Woodley
Hospitality/Refreshments	Maria Blas, Debby Hemingway
Newsletter/Webmaster	Mike Short
Plant Man	Jim Hanna