



PRICKLY NEWS

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2020



**SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY**



March 2020 has been an interesting month filled with uncertainty. However, for those of us staying at home, our plants have been a source of support. What a wonderful hobby! The rain has been welcoming and keeps the succulents looking pumped up. Since I have more time, I am starting to re-pot the cacti for the Spring. Gymnocalyciums particularly appreciate a new pot every year.

It is disappointing that our Show and Sale on April 4-5 had to be cancelled. It is a source of funds for our programs and gives the ability to donate monies to causes we support. We presently have a strong financial base for the upcoming year. We will take part in the South Coast Botanic Garden Fall Fair, (the Spring Fair was also cancelled) and this will be an opportunity to sell plants and raise funds. Anyone who has plants to donate, please continue to nurse them to save for the Fall Fair.

I forgot to announce at the last meeting that David Hodgson has stepped down as At large Board member and Corey Zedler has graciously accepted the post until the June elections. Thank you Corey and thanks to David for all his work on the Board.

We will most likely cancel our May meeting, given the increased numbers of people affected in LA County and the present recommendations by the CDC to cancel all events for the next 8 weeks. However, we can still have a virtual Mini-show by photos. The plants of the month for May are Cactus: Notocactus and Parodia and Succulent: Euphorbia (not from Madagascar). Get them ready for a photo shoot and we will publish the photos in lieu of a meeting.

Stay well and physically but not socially isolated. Feel free to contact me with any concerns at minniecap@icloud.com

Maria Capaldo, President

REFRESHMENTS

Many thanks...
to all those who brought refreshments in March.

Ana MacKenzie
Karen Cozzolino
Lisa Mori
Gloria Diaz
Toni Luz
Joe Tillotson


Please bring something yummy to share for our next meeting..

OUR MISSION


We Aim To:

Promote education and cooperation among hobbyists and others interested in the study, culture, and propagation of succulent plants, including cacti. Support the activities of organizations whose goals include the conservation of cacti and succulents in their native habitats.


Learn facts, make friends, have fun!



[To learn more visit southcoastcss.org](http://southcoastcss.org)



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MINI Show Plant Calendar



Mini-show Plants for 2020-2021

April	SHOW & SALE CANCELLED	SHOW & SALE CANCELLED
May	Notocactus, Parodia	Euphorbia (not from Madagascar)
June	Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cyllindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia	Cissus, Cyphostemma
July	Melocactus	Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)
August	Astrophytum	Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum
September	Ariocarpus, Obregonia	Adenium, Adenia
October	Copiapoa	Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyveria
November	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose
December	HOLIDAY POTLUCK	HOLIDAY POTLUCK
January 2021	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.)
February 2021	Eriosyce, Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Islaya	Crassula
March 2021	Echinocereus	Gasteria and hybrids



SCSS Mini-Show March 2020 Results



Can you match up the winning plants ? Answers below.

Open Cactus	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo Gary Duke Gary Duke	<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i> 'Golden Barrel' <i>Echinocactus texensis</i> <i>Echinocactus horizontalis</i>
Open Succulent	1 st 2 nd 2 nd 3 rd 3 rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo Phyllis DeCrescenzo Maria Capaldo Sally Fasteau Sally Fasteau	<i>Agave lophantha</i> 'Quadricolor' <i>Agave potatorum</i> <i>Agave victoriae-reginae</i> 'Compacta' <i>x Mangave</i> 'Blood Spot' <i>x Mangave</i> 'Pineapple Express'
Intermediate Cactus	1 st 2 nd	Bernard Johnson Dale LaForest	<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i> 'Golden Barrel' <i>Echinocactus pacificus</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1 st 2 nd 2 nd 3 rd 3 rd	Bernard Johnson Mike Short Mike Short Bernard Johnson Ted Johnson	<i>Agave macroacantha</i> <i>x Mangave</i> 'Blood Spot' <i>Agave potatorum</i> 'Kichiokan' <i>marginata</i> <i>Agave</i> 'Cubic' <i>x Mangave</i> 'Blood Spot' <i>x Agave chrysantha</i>
Novice Cactus	1 st 2 nd	Terri Straub Diane Cottrell	<i>Echinocactus platyacanthus</i> <i>Echinocactus grusonii</i> 'Golden Barrel'
Novice Succulent	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	Terri Straub Jim Tanner Diane Cottrell	<i>Agave potatorum</i> 'Kichiokan' <i>marginata</i> <i>Agave</i> <i>Agave lophantha</i> 'Quadricolor'

The tables on page 9 show the current standings for the three classes (Open, Intermediate, and Novice) as of March 14, 2020.

Photos of winners above in order left to right:

Agave lophantha 'Quadricolor', *Echinocactus grusonii* 'Golden Barrel', *Agave potatorum* 'Kichiokan' *marginata*, *Echinocactus platyacanthus*, *Agave macroacantha*, *Echinocactus grusonii* 'Golden Barrel'



MARCH

SCSS Mini-Show March 2020 Standings

[Click here for sortable standings](#)

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total
Bjarkman, MA	2	5	7	Johnson, Bernard	10	22	32	Capaldo, Maria	16	10	26
Bjerke, Martha	0	2	2	Johnson, Ted	5	14	19	DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	18	19	37
Cottrell, Diane	7	9	16	La Forest, Dale	7	7	14	Duke, Gary	13	14	27
Diaz, Gloria	0	2	2	Neely, Jade	3	3	6	Sally Fasteau	4	16	20
Dorsey, Martin	0	8	8	Nettles, Coni	22	15	37	Gardner, Jim	9	2	11
Nisewanur,	0	10	10	Mike Short	0	8	8	Hanna, Jim	0	8	8
Sover, Suzane	0	1	1					Wilk, William	7	3	10
Straub, Terri	15	8	23					Woodley, Laurel	1	3	4
Straup, Matt	0	2	2								
Tanner, Jim	8	10	18								
Unrine, Judy	0	6	6								
Youssefzadeh, Aya	1	4	5								
Youssefzadeh, Jacob	4	14	18								

SCSS Mini-Show Rules

A Mini-show is scheduled for all meetings except April (Show and Sale) and December (Holiday Potluck) as a way for members to show their prized plants and staging skills; and for everyone, especially novices to learn how to grow and show theirs. Lists of eligible plants are printed in the newsletter and on our Society's website.

There are three entry classes: Novice, Intermediate and Open. New members may enter at any level, but once a level has been entered members may not regress to a less advanced class.

There are two plant categories, Cactus and Succulent.

Up to three entries per member may be entered in each category.

Exhibitors must be club members in good standing and present at the meeting. One member's name representing a household must be used unless plants are grown and shown separately. We trust you.

Any container may be used, including plastic. The containers and plants must be free of pests and disease. Only one plant/container is permitted but this includes rosettes/offsets/pups connected by

rhizomes, stolens, and above ground clusters. Dish gardens are an exception if they are the category of the month.

Novice and Intermediate entries must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months, and open class entries for one year.

Usually our speaker (as an unbiased expert) will be asked to judge, but if the speaker is a Society member, one or two members who are not showing will be asked to judge. Remember, judges may not be experts and usually judge based on how well the plant is grown and staged. The following point system is used.

1st place – 6

2nd place – 4

3rd place – 2

Entries not disqualified receive 1 point.

After the November meeting, point totals will be reviewed by the Board. Novice and Intermediate members with more than 64 points or with at least 6 first place awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate or Open class if their entries show them qualified. This is a subjective judgment.

Latin Lookup

Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)?
The meanings of latin plant names on page 3
– from <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botanary/>

Agave [a-GAH-vee] Noble, handsome.

Echinocactus [ek-in-oh-KAK-tus] From the Greek echinos (porcupine, hedgehog) and cactus, referring to its spines.

grusonii [grou-SON-ee-eye] Named for Hermann Gruson, 19th century German collector, nurseryman in Magdeburg.

lophantha [low-FAN-tha] Crested flower.

macroacantha [mak-roh-uh-KAN-tha]

With large thorns or spine; epithets also spelled macrocantha and macracantha.

pacificus [pa-SIF-ik-um, pa-SIF-ee-kum]

Of the Pacific.

platyacanthus [plat-ee-a-KAN-thus]

From the Greek platys (broad) and akantha (thorn).

potatorum [poh-tuh-TOR-um] Of drinkers; referring to a plant's use in brewing beer.

texensis [teck-SEN-sis] Of or from Texas (U.S.).

<https://davesgarden.com/guides/botanary>

APRIL

Tip of the Month

BY ELTON ROBERTS / FRESNO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Winter Greenhouse

I see that my *Mammillaria insularis* plants have been growing all winter and have outgrown the 2" pots they're in. I need to up-pot them when I get back to potting. A lot of other plants have also been slowly growing over the winter when I thought they would be resting. I now see that they are not resting but slowly growing. The ariocarpus are also growing over the winter; not the large plants, but the small ones are putting on new growth and have been all winter so far.

They got 3" of rain when the wind blew the plastic off the house near the end of November this last fall. These are the plants from a few years ago when the plastic blew off the big house after Christmas and they got 9" of rain that time. I could call them seedlings but I don't see the need to call a 2" to 3" diameter plant a seedling anymore. We are having daytime temps in the upper 60s and low 70s, which I'm sure is moving them along, also. So far most of February has been warm days which is unusual, for February is always our coldest month. I have been seeing that quite a few plants were growing in January, which seemed strange.

Other plants that have grown over the winter includes *Turbincarpus pseudopectinatus* SB 1469. It has for years looked like death warmed over come springtime.

This year I have watered them several times and they have never looked better. Instead of looking like a plant the size of your little finger, they are nice and round and most are the size of golf balls or a bit larger. They are also loaded with buds, unlike years before when they tried to make buds in the spring. All the *Turbincarpus valdezianus* plants have also been growing over the winter with a couple or maybe 3 waterings. These waterings are not flood but fairly light. I don't think the water flowed out the bottom of the pot but sure made a difference in the looks of the plants. Would you believe that even *Epithelantha micromeris* and some other epithelanthas got a kick of water and are looking so much better than they have after being starved for water all winter. I think I'm onto something new here again. In the desert a lot of the plants get some winter rain besides the monsoon rains.

We need to keep in mind that after the monsoons, the desert is not dry as a keg of gun-powder, but there is moisture there that lasts most if not all winter.

I just went out to see what plants were growing over the winter and I would have to say it includes over half the cacti: the oreocereus, a lot of different echinocereus, echinofossulocactus, rebutia and sulcorebutia. Most, if not all the Baja California plants have been growing. The only plants I'm not sure about are the old mature plants that only grow a tiny bit as they make spring buds. I have taken the hose to



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APRIL

Tip of the Month

BY ELTON ROBERTS / FRESNO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

most of the plants in the sale house several times this winter and they're looking ever so much better. Now I know that a lot of the plants can use a drink or two in the winter. We have been brainwashed in meetings and books that you're supposed to keep plants powder dry over the winter, keep them dry, dry or they will rot away.

In some cases you have problem with high humidity and the soil not drying out. This is why I say you need a *blower fan blowing 24/7, for that mimics the desert winds. The air moving all the time also helps the top of the soil to dry faster and reducing the chance of rot at the bases of the plants. The reason seedlings damp off is that growers keep them in plastic or under glass where there is no air movement. The soil stays too damp and it rots the seedlings at the base. I had damping off till I put a fan over the seedlings; that stopped the problem. No plants in habitat stay in a damp plastic bag for months or a year. In the desert most seeds germinate in fall after the rains and cool temps so the seedlings don't burn in the summer heat. Why do we get better seedling growth when the seed is spread around the parent plants? It's because the soil surface stays damp long enough for the seed to crack open and, as the soil dries, the seedlings sink a root/s down for some moisture. When we water the parent plant the seedlings benefit from it also. As we only water the larger plants now and then, the seedlings don't stay on soggy soil and don't damp off.

In the artificial habitat of our greenhouses or hothouses, it's very important to keep a fan moving the air all the time. It may seem foreign to run a fan all the time but the plants will be much healthier because of it; if not a fan, then windows open to fresh breezes. One thing to keep in mind is that at night it's important to have air movement, as the temperature drops at night and evaporation goes down to almost nothing; hit the dew point and it stops. This is the time when wet soil starts working on the plant and rot can start. You probably recall the advice to water in the cool of the morning or the cool of the evening. How many people can water in the "cool of the morning"? Most have to water after work. Water "in the cool evening" and the soil stays damp or even wet. Some people say that can only grow a small clump of this or that plant and then it rots. That's mainly because the soil has been too wet too long and there was no moving air to help. Air movement in hothouses is very important, especially for cacti and succulents. A blower fan will also help keep your plants from burning on very hot days. That bit of air moving helps keep the heat from burning or scorching the plants. Air movement is a must if you are using a dark color top dressing, for it absorbs the heat and gets very hot, burning the plants it surrounds.



*A blower fan will put out much more air than a blade fan for the size of motor.

A blower fan has many blades where a blade fan has usually only 3 blades. A blade fan will move air but nothing like a blower fan.

NEW for 2020!

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society T-shirts



FRONT



MEN'S: MED, LG, XL



WOMEN'S: SM, MED, LG



For sale at the next SCCSS meeting

Upcoming Events

[Click here for Full List](#)



Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale

Friday, April 3, 9am-5pm
Saturday, April 4, 9am-5pm
Sunday, April 5, 9am-5pm

Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix
1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008 United States

Dorrance Hall & Boppart Courtyard,
Show and Sale open to the public
Friday, April 3, through Sunday, April 5.

<https://centralarizonacactus.org/show-sale/>



South Coast C&SS Show & Sale

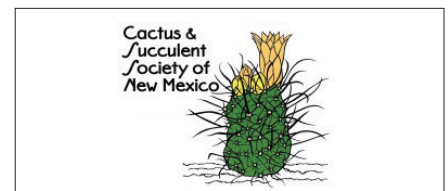
April 4-5th, 9am – 4pm

South Coast Botanic Garden,
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes, CA

INFO: cknightgardens@yahoo.com

- Thousands of cactus & succulents for sale
- Hard-to-find plants
- Kids potting table
- Beautiful displays by expert growers
- Expert advice for beginners and advanced
- Visit garden at same time

Garden admission required for entrance:
Effective March 1, 2020
Adult \$15, senior/student w/ID \$11,
Age 5-1, Under 5 FREE
Garden members FREE



Cactus & Succulent Society of New Mexico

2020 Spring Show & Sale

April 11-12

10:00 am to 4pm

Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
Phone: (505) 296-6020

Website: <http://www.albuquerquegardencenters.org/>

Cactus & Succulent Society
of New Mexico

Website: <https://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org/>

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

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