



PRICKLY NEWS

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | JAN 2023



Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the newly elected Board members: Terri Straub as Vice-President, Vincent Darmali, Braulio Mena and Shane Mullen as Members at Large. Thanks to M.A for her service as Vice-President. She will continue on the Board as CSSA liaison and Program Chair. Thanks to Gary Duke who is stepping down as Member at Large and a decade as Program Chair.

MEETINGS - SHOW AND SALE: M.A. Bjarkman and Braulio Mena are planning an informative and entertaining speaker program for 2023. Suggestions are always welcome. Our monthly meetings will be in South Coast Botanic Garden in the Frances Young Auditorium the second Sunday of each month with 2 exceptions: The Show and Sale will be at the Palos Verdes Art Center on April 15th-16th and the May meeting will be May 21st. It is time to pot up cuttings for the Society Sale table. Plan ahead and mark your calendars!

PLANT OF THE YEAR: *Aylosteria (Rebutia) vulpina* is the Plant of the Year for 2023. For those who didn't attend the Holiday Party, we will distribute the plant at our January meeting. The description and care instructions were prepared by Roberta Hanna and are included in this Newsletter and will be on the website.

DUES: It's Dues Time! (\$20 per person) Please submit the membership form that is on the link on our website: <https://southcoastcss.org/join/> You may complete the form on your computer which will make it more legible for Sally, our membership chair, to read. Then print and mail it to our Treasurer (address on the form) or bring to the meeting with your payment. Dues are not pro-rated and are for each individual.

January 8th Meeting: Dylan Hannon will present "Othonnas for the Collector". Gain insight to the genus and get lots of tips on growing this group of plants.

I hope to see you there!
Maria Capaldo

GUEST SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Dylan Hannon

January 8, 1:30 pm



"Othonnas for the Collector"



To learn more visit southcoastcss.org



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“Othonnas for the Collector”

BY DYLAN HANNON



Dylan will present a brief overview of familiar species (and hybrids), and others that are less often met with in collections. Cultivation, requirements, and provenance will be discussed.

He was raised in Southern California, where he developed an early interest in a wide range of plant groups. Both his mother and grandmother helped nurture an avid appreciation of plants. He has worked for over 25 years in the botanical garden field, starting as a research assistant to Dr. Thomas B. Croat at Missouri Botanical Garden, working on the taxonomy of Araceae (aroids). He spent nine years as Plant Propagator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA, and has been Curator of Conservatory Collections at The Huntington Botanical Gardens since 2003. In between these posts, Dylan worked in the wholesale cactus industry and for consulting firms as a field botanist in the San Diego area. His main interest is the propagation and distribution of cultivated plants, particularly material of known wild origin. These themes run through Dylan’s writing, lectures and plant collecting. He is blessed to have his supportive wife Antoinette by his side.



JANUARY

2022 Plant of the Year: *Fockea edulis*

2022 Plant of the Year, *Fockea edulis*

News Flash

ANN NYE GROWS MIRACLE PLANT!

Of the dozen or so *Fockea edulis* plants that were brought in to our recent holiday gathering, most of them looked healthy and had grown a bit over the year. Most had leaves and some had sprouted a few new branches.

Not so with Ann's plant! It had turned into a sort of little bush as though she'd had it for years.

Most of the plants were cared for similarly. Most people kept their plant in partial shade. Most people repotted their plant at some point. The average watering schedule was about once/week with a couple responses as infrequent as once/month. And most people fertilized with the average fertilization schedule being about once/month.

The only notable difference with Ann's plant is that she put it in a huge pot with about a 2 foot diameter. She believes this is what made the difference. She said that when she went to put it in a smaller pot so that she could bring it to the party, the root was so big she had to cut some off! So, for this plant at least, the secret seems to be lots of room for the roots to grow.

Finally, everyone who filled out the questionnaire liked the plant, for a variety of reasons. My favorite response, when asked why they liked the plant, someone said 'because it did not die'.

Thank you all for your participation





JANUARY

Our 2022 Holiday Get Together

Happy
Holidays

Happy
Birthday!



The Holiday Party was well-attended (about 40 people). The entrees were ham (prepared by Sally) and Beef (cooked by Bernard). There were an amazing array of delicious side dishes; some members dropped off food because they or someone in the family was ill. Half of the auditorium was available. The tables were decorated with juniper donated by Laurel and tablecloths stamped with cactus designs. We had holiday music provided by the Garden because Santa and Mrs. Claus were on the other side of the auditorium (due to rain). Some members even got a photo with Santa during the party! Awards were given to the top Mini Show Point winners, and the Plant of the Year (*Aylostera vulpina*) was distributed. We sang Happy Birthday to Us for our 50 years and had a great cake to end the festivities. Thanks to all who helped set up and clean afterwards. There were lots of smiles and holiday cheer!

JANUARY

Plant of the Year 2023

Aylostera (=Rebutia) vulpina

The Plant of the Year. *Aylostera vulpina*, was previously placed in the *Rebutia* genus, but with recent DNA studies, has been assigned to be *Aylostera*. (Lodi, 2015).

Aylostera is easily grown so it can be recommended to beginning gardeners. *Aylostera vulpina* is one of 30 species that are native to South America, usually found in Argentina and Bolivia. It grows in mountainous and rocky terrain, in the cracks of rocks and grooves at an altitude range of 1380 to 4300m. So, there is a high variation in temperature and a lot of clean air.

Scientific Name: *Aylostera vulpina*

Place of Origin: Bolivia (Chuquisaca, Tarija) and Argentina (Jujuy, Salta, Catamarca).

Description: *Aylostera vulpina* is a small plant with globular flattened stems, forming cushions. It can form large clumps given the right conditions. Spines are needle-like with a small central spine and smaller radiating spines. The areoles have hair or bristles. The flowers are funnel shaped and usually is red-orange in color. Typically, it easily flowers in the right conditions.

Temperature: The plant prefers a hot climate with a temperature of 77- 95 degrees F in summer and can tolerate lower temperatures to 41 degrees F in the winter. In early spring, the plant can be put outdoors during the daytime, but shelter it from rain until the heat of the summer. It prefers indirect sun, but needs bright light in the summer. It prefers a constant flow of fresh air. You should gradually reduce the temperature in the room in the autumn because the cactus passes into a state of rest. Dry and cold climate with maximum lighting is maintained during the winter. If the temperature is too high in winter, the cactus will stretch and deform without flowering and numerous lateral shoots will appear.

Humidity: Cactus is sprayed with a sprayer in the hot and dry season with water of high quality. The plant should be sprayed when the sun has diminished in intensity so that burns will not appear on the surface of the cactus.

Soil: Use a ready-made Cactus and Succulent mix or prepare with equal portions of river sand, turf and leaf earth. It should be a well-drained mix.



Fertilizer: Fertilizer is added once a month during the period of active growth. A cactus fertilizer with less nitrogen. Mix: Nitrogen 9 parts, phosphorus 18 parts, potassium 25 parts. It is not necessary to fertilize in winter.

Watering: Provide watering similar to natural conditions if you are growing the plant indoors. In summer, it should be watered abundantly when the temperature in daytime is above 64 F. The plant should be watered when the top layer of the soil is dry. The watering is gradually reduced in autumn. Water sparsely in winter. Young cacti are rarely watered in winter when their diameter does not exceed 1-2 cm. Use acidified water or rain water with a temperature of water 65-75 degrees F.

Links to sources of information:

[Llifle – Encyclopedia of Succulents](#)

[Also see the SCCSS Annual Plant List](#)





Monthly Cactus: POM Mammillaria “straight spine (clumping)”

Monthly Cactus: Mammillaria

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. However, some of the most attractive are the straight spined clusters. This month we will show off our collections of Mammillaria straight spined clusters.

A Mammillaria is often one of the first cacti that a beginning grower buys. They are still available, often for less than a dollar in discount stores, and for just a bit more at local home centers and discount stores. 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.

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. Many people starve and under water their plants, in attempt to avoid rot. Most Mammillaria will take quite a bit of water and fertilizer when in growth. The main growth period is the late spring (Middle of April, through July.) When summer heat really appears growth slows for a time, picking up again when the weather cools, before stopping around Thanksgiving.

Almost all Mammillaria will do just fine in Southern California, with little or no winter protection, as long as they are potted in a freely draining potting mix.



Mammillaria compressa



Mammillaria geminispina



Mammillaria perbella



Mammillaria haageana

The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (Mammillaria's worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide. A less toxic solution is to soak the entire plant in soapy water overnight. Followed by a good rinse with water from a hose.



By Tom Glavich



Monthly Succulent: Aloe

[Ed: Plants that have been moved from Aloe to Kumara will also be accepted. So far we know of two, *Kumara haemanthifolia* and *Kumara plicatilis* (next page).]

Aloe, is a genus containing about four hundred species of flowering succulent plants. The most common and well known of these is Aloe vera, or “true aloe”.

The genus is native to Africa, and is common in South Africa’s Cape Province, the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighboring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian peninsula, and the islands off Africa.

The APG II system (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II system)(2003) placed the genus in the family Asphodelaceae. In the past it has also been assigned to families Aloaceae and Liliaceae or lilly family. Members of the closely allied genera Gasteria, Haworthia and Kniphofia, which have a similar mode of growth, are also popularly known as aloes.

Most Aloe species have a rosette of large, thick, fleshy leaves. The leaves are often lance-shaped with a sharp apex and a spiny margin. Aloe flowers are tubular, frequently yellow, pink or red and are borne on densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stems.

Monthly Succulents: Aloe



Aloe arborescens



Aloe arborescens



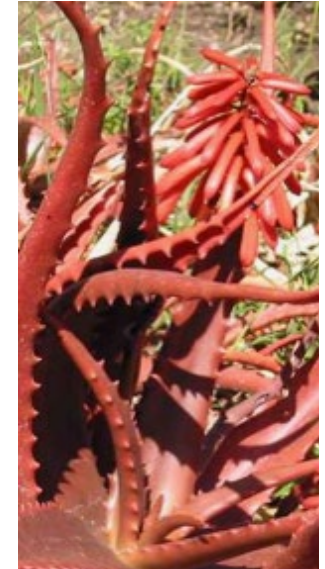
Aloe arenicola



Aloe brevifolia variegata



Aloe broomii



Aloe cameronii



By Tom Glavich



Monthly Succulent: Aloe

Many species of Aloe appear to be stemless, with the rosette growing directly at ground level; other varieties may have a branched or unbranched stem from which the fleshy leaves spring. They vary in color from grey to bright-green and are sometimes striped or mottled. Some Aloes native to South Africa are arborescent.

Aloe species are frequently cultivated as ornamental plants both in gardens and in pots. Many Aloe species are highly decorative and are valued by collectors of succulents.

Monthly Succulent: Aloe



Aloe castilloniae



Aloe 'Christmas Carol'



Aloe 'Jeff Karsner'



Aloe pictifolia



Aloe Vera



Aloe 'Yellow Torch' in bloom



Aloe polyphylla



Aloe plicatilis



Aloe variegata



Aloe polyphylla



Aloe polyphylla



By Tom Glavich

Latin Lookup

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

Cactus

compressa [kom-PRESS-uh] Compressed.

geminispina [jem-in-ih-SPIN-uh] Having twin or many spines.

haageana [hag-ee-AH-nuh] Named for J.N. Haage, 19th century German plant collector and seedsman.

Mammillaria [mam-mil-AR-ee-uh] Nipple- or teat-like.

perbella [per-BEL-uh] Most beautiful.

Succulent

Aloe [AL-oh] From the Arabic Alloeh.

arborescens [ar-bo-RES-senz] Tree-like.

arenicola [ar-en-EE-koh-luh] Inhabiting or dwelling in sandy places.

brevifolia [brev-ee-FOH-lee-uh] Short leaves.

broomii [BROOM-ee-eye] Named for Dr. Robert Broom, 20th century anthropologist.

cameronii [kam-er-ON-ee-eye] Named for Kenneth L. Cameron, who discovered this species of Aloe in Nyasaland (now Malawi).

pictifolia [pic-tee-FOH-lee-uh] Painted, variegated or spotted leaves.

plicatilis [ply-KAY-til-iss] Folded or pleated.

polyphylla [pol-ee-FIL-uh] Many leaves.

variegata [var-ee-GAY-tuh] Variegated.

vera [VER-uh, VER-uh] True.



Mini-Show Plant Calendar



Mini-Show Plants for 2023

January 2023	Mammillaria straight spine (clumping)	Aloe
February 2023	Epiphytic Cactus	Haworthia, Astroloba
March 2023	Echinocactus	Agave, Manfreda, (inc. x Mangave)
April 2023	2023 SCCSS SHOW & SALE	2023 SCCSS SHOW & SALE
May 2023	Notocactus, Parodia	Euphorbia (not from Madagascar)
June 2023	Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cyllindropuntia, Austrocyllindropuntia	Cissus, Cyphostemma
July 2023	Melocactus	Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)
August 2023	Astrophytum	Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum
September 2023	Ariocarpus, Obregonia	Adenium, Adenia
October 2023	Copiapoa	Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyveria
November	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose
December	HOLIDAY POTLUCK	HOLIDAY POTLUCK



SCCSS Membership Application

New and Renewing Members: You can either fill in the information on a computer then print, or print first then write in the information. Please sign after printing.

Make check payable to: **SCCSS**
Mail form and payment to: **Bernard Johnson,**
629 18th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Date mm/dd/yy:

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email Address: Phone:

Our membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

- \$20.00 Membership: Renewal or New Member
- Lifetime Member Honoree: No Charge
- I am a Member of CSSA – Cactus and Succulent Society of America

The above information will be included in our Membership Directory (for use by members only). If you wish to exclude any of the above information from the Directory, please indicate your exclusions here.

Do not publish my: Email Phone Address

SCCSS is a 501 3C organization. In addition to your dues you may make an optional charitable donation to support our philanthropic endeavors as well as the operating expenses of the organization. If you choose to do so, please indicate the amount _____. You will receive a donation receipt. Thank you.

I agree to have my information published in the Membership Directory with noted exceptions.

Signature Date: _____

Sally Fasteau, Membership Chair
sallyfasteau@cox.net
310-544-1313

ms-20220218

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Amount _____ Donation _____ Receipt _____

Upcoming Events

[Click here for Full List](#)

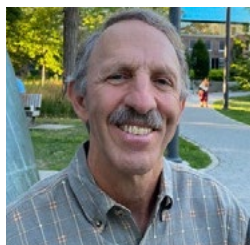


SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

Dylan Hannon
“Othonnas for the Collector”

January 8 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm PST

South Coast Botanic Garden,
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

John Trager
“Huntington Happenings”

February 12 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm PST

South Coast Botanic Garden,
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

Jerry Robinson
“Bromeliads for the Home and Garden”

March 12 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm PST

South Coast Botanic Garden,
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

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



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