

Prickly News

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

November 2017

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

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our Facebook page

NEXT MEETING

Ernesto Sandoval: "Propagation of Cacti and Succulents"

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

REFRESHMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Thanks to those who helped in October:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Carol Causey | Jim Hanna |
| Isabel Cerda | Carol Knight |
| Phyllis DeCrescenzo | Ana MacKensie |
| Art & Kitty Guzman | Clif Wong |

Volunteers for November refreshments are:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Jackie Bowers | Ana MacKensie |
| Debbie Hemingway | Marilyn Rubin |
| Wanda Johnson | |

If you would like to bring something to the 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 having Tom Glavitch visit us last month and learned a lot about cultivation of Euphorbias. A summary of his talk, included in this month's Newsletter, shares many of his tips on growing Euphorbias including soil mix and how to handle the plants. I hope you find this as useful as I did.

It's always interesting to hear the many variations on soil mix. I personally like to use more soil than pumice, but I am increasingly seeing some growers using mostly pumice in their mix. For the inland growers, this means more frequent watering in the hot months. For those of us at the coast, the marine layer gives us a dose of daily moisture and a mostly pumice mix may be advisable. Everyone has their own successful method and trial and error with some types of plants will prove the best for you.

For landscaping, another recommendation is the use of rocks. I recommend looking at this website for some ideas on use of rocks in your succulent garden. <https://southwestboulder.com/blog/7-best-rocks-to-pair-with-succulents>.

As a reminder, 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 (we have 23 so far) and will hold a drawing at the holiday potluck in December. Please drop by the membership table at the November meeting and sign up for the drawing. Forms will be available. Contact Sally Fasteau if you cannot make the November meeting but would like your name included in the drawing.

In November, Ernesto Sandoval, from UC Davis, will talk on propagation. His presentations are always filled with interesting and useful information on growing succulents. He will also bring plants for sale.

At our November meeting, we will be making plans for our Holiday Potluck dinner in December. M.A. Bjarkman will be in charge of arrangements, and Carol Causey is in charge of the kitchen. We always need volunteers to help set up and decorate the tables. Get ready to bring your favorite dish!

Maria E. Capaldo,
President

PRESENTER FOR NOVEMBER: Ernesto Sandoval - "Propagation of Cacti and Succulents"

Ernesto describes soil mixes, watering, fertilization and how to grow our favorite plants from seed. Ernesto is a very energetic and entertaining speaker. Be sure not to miss this informative presentation.



From a very early age, Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking answers to why plants grow and look the way they do. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to people of a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to succulent clubs throughout California and adjoining states. Succulents and desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None". Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do. He has done roadside identification from a very early young age. 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 about the biology of plants by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany. Because of his interest, he worked his way from student weeder/waterer to Director over the past 25 years at UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He has long left the "mow, blow and go" landscape gardening world. He has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants, many of them succulent, at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. 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.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: Crest and Monstrose Submitted by Jim Tanner

The three most common types of mutation are crests, monstrose growth and variegation. All of these are mutations of the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. In normal plants the growth tip is a point, and the biochemistry of the plant forces one tip to be dominant or at least locally dominant.

In crests the genetic mutation removes this dominance, and instead of a single growth tip the area of active cell growth degenerates into a line. For monstrose growth, the local dominance is lost, and every growth tip tries to grow as if it were the dominant point.

Cresting and monstrose growth is not unique to succulent plants. Crests



are found in many genera of non-succulent plants, including conifers and many common garden plants.

Crests and monstrose plants are

grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some have weak roots, and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers, and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant, and comparison to healthy non-crested plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. Mutant plants tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker, and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. This is one of the many reasons they are often grown as grafts.

Crests flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering plant. Mutations are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a mutant plant is

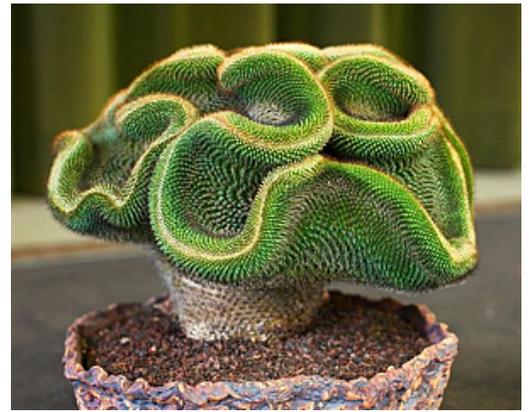


Myrtillocactus geometrizans 'Elite Crest'

much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the mother plant, but monstrose and variegated plants are also possible. The most common method of propagation of these plants is vegetative. Cuttings are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms. Tom Glavich.



Opuntia microdasys pallida



Mammillaria mystax

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Variegated
Submitted by Jim Tanner

All variegates are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. The three most common mutations are variegates, crests, and monstrosity. Two or even all three forms are sometimes combined in a single plant.

Variegation is known in most plant families, and variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The bright yellow and white of variegated foliage adds pattern and rhythm to many herbaceous borders. In succulent plants variegates are generally separated from normal plants, and compete against other variegates. This puts them on an equal footing. Variegated plants grow slower and are generally smaller than non-variegates of the same species. The yellow and white areas do not have chlorophyll, making the growth slower. The colored areas are also generally weaker, and more susceptible to fungus, sunburn and other defects. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

Great Variegates

Agave - There are several forms of variegated *Agave americana*. There are forms with a green center stripe and yellow edges, a yellow stripe and green edges, a green center and white edges, a white center and green edges, yellow centers and crinkled edges, random yellow and green banding, and dozens more. Other species of *Agaves* have also produce variegates, with the same variety of variegation.



Sansevieria 'Bantel's Sensation'

Cacti - variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, but some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are also common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been found. Many of these are artificially propagated by grafts. The famous 'Red Caps' and 'Yellow Caps' are *Gymnocalycium* or *Lobivia* variegates that have no chlorophyll at all, and live only by being grafted onto a root stock. These are harder to grow well than they appear.



Trichocereus bridgesii f. monstrosus variegatus

Sansevieria - There are dozens of named and unnamed varieties. Look for *Bantel's Sensation*, *Futura*, *Silver Moon*, *Silver Princess*, and variegated varieties of some of the cylindrical forms. Unlike normal *Sansevierias*, these can be difficult to

grow. They will not tolerate cold and wet conditions.

Gasteria - The Japanese have made an art of Gasteria and Haworthia variegate cultivation. Look in the 2000 CSSA Journal for just a sampling of the wonderful cultivars. Miniature white species, yellow species, even the occasional pink can be found.

Haworthia - 'Gray Ghost' is a Haworthia retusa variegate. There are several Haworthia limifolia variegates that look as if they were painted with mustard. All are beautiful.

Euphorbia - A number of columnar variegates are available, Euphorbia ammak, being the one most often seen. There are also some cristate and monstrose variegates as well. Tom Glavich



Haworthia 'White Ghost'



Euphorbia meloformis f. variegata



Gasteria gracilis f. variegata

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

MINI-SHOW RESULTS - October 8, 2017

Open Cactus	1st	Laurel Woodley	<i>Copiapoa tenuissima monstrose</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Copiapoa tenuissima</i>
	2nd	Jim Gardner	<i>Copiapoa haseltoniana</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Copiapoa hypogea</i>
	3rd	Laurel Woodley	<i>Copiapoa hypogea</i>
Open Succulent	1st	Maria Capaldo	<i>Lithops</i>
	2nd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Lithops</i>
	3rd	Maria Capaldo	<i>Lithops fulviceps aurea</i>
Intermediate Cactus	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Copiapoa griseo violacea</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Copiapoa intermedia</i>
	3rd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Copiapoa intermedia</i>
Intermediate Succulent	1st	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Conophytum bilobum</i>
	2nd	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	<i>Lithops optica rubra</i>
Novice Cactus	1st	Bernard Johnson	<i>Copiapoa marginata</i>
	2nd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Copiapoa dealbata</i>
	2nd	Bernard Johnson	<i>Copiapoa haseltoniana</i>
	3rd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Copiapoa tenuissima</i>
Novice Succulent	1st	Sally Fasteau	<i>Lithops</i>
	2nd	Jim Tanner	<i>Conophytum bilobum</i>
	2nd	Jim Tanner	<i>Lithops</i>
	3rd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Lithops</i>
	3rd	Sally Fasteau	<i>Lithops</i>

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

SCSS MINI-SHOW STANDINGS (as of October 8, 2017)

Open Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Capaldo, Maria	38	37	75
Duke, Gary	72	24	96
Gardner, Jim	19	46	65
Hanna, Jim		47	47
Woodley, Laurel	21	26	47

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Bjarkman, M.A.	23	8	31
Bjerke, Martha		2	2
Fasteau, Sally	51	63	114
Hulett, Lupe	1		1
Johnson, Bernard	45	20	65
Johnson, Ted		11	11
Straub, Terri	7		7
Tanner, Jim	8	29	37
Unrine, Judy	2	5	7

Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulent	Total
Caplan, Anita	16	11	27
DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	45	40	85
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
November	Crest and Monstrose	Variegated
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

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 (Saguaro, Cereus, etc.)	Senecio
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

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

NOV. 4-5

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society - Show & Sale

9am-4pm Both Days. LA County Arboretum 310 N. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA.
Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 Or John Matthews 661-714-1052

[Click here to see the calendar on our website](#)

Handling Euphorbias *by Tom Glavich*

- * The sap of some Euphorbias is an irritant
- * For a few species it is toxic
- * Wear eye protection
- * Wash your hands - Use a fat based soap if possible
- * Wear gloves when in doubt

Cultivation Basics

- * For Fast Growth
Use a quick draining potting mix
FEED YOUR PLANTS
PUT THEM IN A BIGGER POT
- * For Big Caudexes
PUT THEM IN A BIGGER POT
FEED YOUR PLANTS
Keep the Caudex buried

Avoiding Disaster

- * Never repot and prune Euphorbias on the same day
There are chemical signals going back and forth between the roots and the growing tips
If they are both removed at the same time, the Euphorbia can sit for months or rot instead of growing
Always wait at least two or three weeks before pruning a recently repotted Euphorbia

Potting Mix

- * My standard mix
80 % Pumice 20% Potting Mix
- * Other Popular mixes
100% Pumice
50% pumice 50% Potting mix
Commercial Cactus Mix
50% Commercial Cactus Mix 50% Perlite
- * My seed starting mix
50% Miracle Grow Seed Starting Mix, 50% perlite

Watering

- * Water when growing
- * Stop when they go dormant
Typically light watering in early March
Fertilizer and Water starts in late March/Early April
Water only in October, depending on the weather
No water in December through February
- * I leave South African cold tolerant species out in the rain with no protection all winter
I worried a lot this winter



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Submitted by Sally Fasteau

Please welcome new member(s)

Carol Levi of Rancho Palos Verdes
Todd Muilenburg of Long Beach

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 Hagemeier
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 !