

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

Gunnar Eisel

### **NEXT MEETING**

# "Astrophytum Revisited"

Sunday October 13, at 1:00 pm (Program starts at 1:30 pm)



I hope you found the Society's last Newsletter with Convention reports and photos interesting. We did enjoy ourselves!

The days are getting shorter but still very warm so I am being very cautious about

repotting my winter growers until we have cooler days. Because this is a good time to plant seed for winter growers, immediately after October's meeting, Gary Duke will run a seed propagation workshop. The workshop should last about 30 minutes after the meeting and we would expect to leave no later than 4:30pm. The first 30 members to sign up may attend and if there is interest we will hold another workshop in the Spring. Sally Fasteau has the sign-up sheet and will be available when you sign in at the meeting.

Lastly, please remember to renew your membership to our Society if you have not already done so. Our website has a renewal form which you may mail in, if you are unable to attend a meeting.

On Sunday of the Society's meeting, the South Coast Botanic Garden will be holding a Fall Festival starting at 11 AM. The website for information is: https://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/event/fall-festival-new/2019-10-13/. I would like to start the program on time, so please arrive early for the meeting and try to arrange carpooling since parking may be difficult

This month we welcome Gunnar Eisel, Executive Director of the CSSA, who will enlighten us on *Astrophytum* species. I am looking forward to hearing how I can keep them alive!

**See you there.**Maria Capaldo, President



#### REFRESHMENTS

**Thank you...** to those who brought refreshments in September.

Ana Mackenzie M.A. Bjarkman Diane Cottrell Clif Wong Maria Blas Bernard Johnson Rose Arbuckle Karen Yoshioka

Promised for October: Ana Mackenzie Gloria Diaz And you?

#### **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



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# Gunnar Eisel – "Astrophytum Revisited"





Astrophytum asterias 'Super Kabuto'



Astrophytum ornatum

How does a genus like Astrophytum, consisting of six species, remain such a perennial favorite and source of joy, headaches, and frequent disappointment? Clearly, a major attraction is the stunning beauty of these plants' exquisite symmetry and often intricately detailed body patterns. However, successful growing of these plants can pose problems and pitfalls even to some experienced growers.

The presentation will focus on primarily two species; *A. myriostigma* and *A. asterias* and the multitude of cultivars that have made these plants so popular. Starting with identification and sorting out the myriad of variations sought by Astrophytum collectors, Mr. Eisel will share a few tips based on his successes as well as point out some colossal failures in his attempt to master cultivation of these species.

Gunnar Eisel's interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with opuntia glochids. His interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.

Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at CSULA, CSUF, Whittier College and Fullerton College. He recently retired as a full-time music theory and history of music professor at Citrus College in Glendora where his students were occasionally subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid C&S collector, he serves as Executive Director of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.

Cactus: Turbinicarpus

# **OCTOBER**

#### **MINI Show Cactus**

Turbinicarpus is a small (but growing) genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It is one of several closely related genera, Neolloydia, and Gymnocactus, and Strombocactus being the ones most frequently mentioned. In many books, some of the plants listed below will appear as either Neolloydia or Gymnocactus. The exact relation of these genera is still being worked out and the disagreements between botanists are substantial. New species have been discovered and named in the past decade; seeds and plants of these are just becoming available.

All of the Turbinicarpus species are worth growing. They are all small, most full sized in collections at an inch or two. A few will clump readily, and make impressive show specimens, as shown below, but still remain manageable. A collection of all the species and varieties could easily fit on a table top.

In habitat, Turbinicarpus usually grow under nurse plants, generally shrubs that offer some protection from the worst of the mid day sun. Turbinicarpus have large tuberous roots, which are their primary food and water storage source in times of drought. Over much of their habitat, rain falls during the summer, and growth is most rapid during this period. They can take lots of heat.

Turbinicarpus are fairly easy to grow, if attention is paid to their life cycle. They are dormant in winter, from November through mid March. As they begin growth, watering has to start slowly. If too much water and fertilizer is given at once, it's possible to burst the skin of the plant. Once growth is going (April and after) water freely. During very hot weather in the summer, the plants sometimes go dormant again for a short period. Attention has to be paid to watering again.

Turbinicarpus swobodae



Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus



Turbinicarpus lophophoroides



Turbinicarpus kranzianus



Turbinicarpus knuthianus



Turbinicarpus alonsoi

If a head splits, all is not lost. The entire head can be removed, and the top of the tuberous root left half an inch above the soil. It will usually start two or three new heads. Removing a head is also a great way for vegetative propagation. Turbinicarpus can be raised from seed. They are slow for the first year, but reasonable size plants can be grown in a year or two, and flowers the size of the plant will appear by the second year. Producing clumps as shown above will take quite a bit longer.

# **OCTOBER**

#### **MINI Show Succulents**

Adromischus is a genus of at least 28 species of small clumping leaf succulents from South Africa. Some natural hybrids are known. Several of these species are quite popular and can be found pretty easily in the cactus and succulent section of most nurseries and garden centers.

The attractively marked and colored leaves of many species appeal to collectors but require high light levels for the different colors to be seen to full advantage. In shade most species adopt a similar green color. As the plants age, some elongate losing leaves lower down their thickened stems. Opinions vary as to the merits of mature plants compared with smaller ones.

Adromischus flowers are generally small, with a greenish-white tube and pink or reddish corolla and produce sufficient nectar towards the end of the growing season.

**Cultivation:** Many species are easy to grow in any free-draining gritty compost. Their compact habit allows a collection to be maintained in a small space and they grow well on any sunny window ledge or the top shelf of the greenhouse. Adromischus tolerate cool, frost-free conditions during the winter if kept dry. It is as well to keep water off the foliage during the winter. Mealy bugs and vine weevils can be discouraged with a systemic insecticide.

Many species can be propagated from a single leaf, which should be placed against the side of the pot so that the stem end is just touching the compost. Some species drop their leaves easily and although each leaf will form a new plant it can be a challenge to grow a large specimen. In other cases, leaves for propagation must be carefully detached with a sharp knife.

# Succulent: Andromischus

Andromischus trifloris



Andromischus alstonii



Andromischus oviforme



Andromishchus leucophyllus



Andromischus nanus



Andromischus cristatus



Andromischus phillipisiae



Andromischus fragilis



Andromischus marianni



Andromischus kitchengii



Andromischus marianae 'Dick Hulett'



Andromischus maculatus 'Calico-Hearts'

#### **OCTOBER**

# **Latin Lovers Lookup**

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

Learn more

**alonsoi** [al-ON-so-eye] Named for Alonso Garcia Luna, who discovered the plant as a young boy accompanying Charles Glass in Mexico.

**lophophoroides** [lof-oh-for-OY-deez] Resembles Lophora (genus name, from the Greek lophos, crest; and phoreo, bearer, carrier).

**Turbinicarpus** [tur-bin-ih-KAR-pus] From the Latin turbino (spinning) and karpos (fruit).

**Adromischus** [ad-roh-MIS-kus] From the Greek hadros (thick or stout) and mischos (stalk), referring to the short pedicels.

**alstonii** [al-STON-ee-eye] Named after Arthur Hugh Garfit Alston (1902-1958), pteridologist and collector.

cristatus [kris-TAY-tus] Crested.

fragilis [FRAJ-ih-liss] Brittle.

**herrei** [HER-ray-eye] Named for Dr. Hans Herre, 20th century botanist and expert on South African succulents.

leucophyllus [loo-koh-FIL-us] With white leaves.

maculatus [mak-yuh-LAH-tus, mak-yuh-LAY-tus] Spotted.

**marianae** [mair-ee-AN-ay-ee] Named for Marian Marloth, wife of South African botanist Dr. Rudolph Marloth.

nanus [NAN-us] Small, dwarf.

**phillipsiae** [fil-LIPS-ee-ay] Named for Lady Louise Jane Lort-Phillips, 20th century Norwegian amateur botanist and explorer who collected Stapeliads.

triflorus [TRY-flor-us] Three-flowered.

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

alba [AL-ba] White.

**Aloe** [AL-oh] From the Arabic Alloeh.

bivittatus [biv-it-TAY-tus] Two-banded.

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

Cryptanthus [krip-TAN-thus] Hidden flower.

**Euphorbia** [yoo-FOR-bee-uh] Named for Euphorbus, Greek physician to Juba II, King of Mauretania.

**fedtschenkoi** [fed-tscheng-koh-eye] Named for Alexei Fedtschenko 19th century Russian botanist and plant collector.

**Ferocactus** [fer-oh-KAK-tus] From the Latin ferus, (fierce) and cactus, referring to its heavy spines.

**Gymnocalycium** [jim-no-kal-LISS-ee-um] From the Greek gymnos (naked) and kalyx (covering; calyx); the flower buds are naked.

hahniana [hahn-ee-AY-na, hahn-ee-AH-na] Named for Hahn; the specific honoree is unknown.

hahnii [HAHN-ee-eye] Named for Hahn; the specific honoree is unknown.

**Hoya** [HOY-a] Named for Thomas Hoy, early 19th century botanist and head gardener for the Duke of Horthumberland at Syon House.

**isthmensis** [isth-MEN-sis] Of or from an isthmus, a narrow strip of land bounded by water on both sides (i.e., the Isthmus of Tehuantepec).

**Kalanchoe** [kal-un-KOH-ee] From the Chinese name for one of the species.

**kerrii** [KER-ee-eye] Named for Arthur Francis George Kerr, 20th century Irish physician and botanist in Thailand.

**kirkii** [KIR-kee-eye] Named for Kirk; the person commemorated depends on the specific epithet.

lactea [lak-TAY-uh] Milky.

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

marginata [mar-jen-AY-tuh, mar-jeh-NAH-tuh] Margined.

**mihanovichii** [me-han-oh-VIK-ee-eye, my-han-oh-VIK-ee-eye] Named for Nicolas Mihanovich, 20th century Yugoslavian shipping magnate and patron of botany.

**milii** [MIL-ee-eye] Named for M. le baron Milius, Governor of Isle Bourbon, present-day Isle de la Reunion (Reunion Island).

**monacantha** [mon-ah-KANTH-uh] From the Greek monos (one, only) and akantha (thorn, spine).

**monstruosa** [mon-stru-OH-sa] Strange, wonderful; monstrous; also spelled monstrosa.

**Opuntia** [op-UN-shee-a, op-UN-tee-a] Named after Opus (Greece), an area where other cactus-like plants were grown.

quadrifolia [kwad-ree-FOH-lee-uh] Four-leaved.

**Sansevieria** [san-se-VEER-ee-uh] Named for Prince Raimond de Sansgrio de Sanseviero, 18th century patron of botanical expeditions.

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

vulgaris [vul-GAIR-iss]Common.

wislizeni [wis-LIZ-en-ee] Named for Frederick Adolf Wislizenus, 19th century German physician and amateur botanist who collected in the southwestern U.S..

Reproduced from the Sept 2019 issue of the "Cactus Chronicle" newsletter of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society.'



Karen Ostler

September has finally arrived; days are noticeably shorter and hopefully this cap of high pressure will move away taking with it these nearly unbearably hot days And not just people are suffering, all of our plants are as well. Don't be surprised if you lose a few plants to this heat, between the high temperatures and our very carefully watering, a few will die. A sad story, but one that is a learning experience.

Sometimes it's hard to keep a plant alive because no matter how hard you try, you just can't provide what it needs to thrive and prosper. If all you have is a north facing balcony, you need to grow plants that love that lighting; cooler constant high bright light. There are lots of succulents and quite a few cactus that appreciate those conditions. Aporocactus, Epiphyllums and Rhipsalis all love those conditions and will grow and flower happily, rewarding you with fabulous displays. Some of the woodland Gymnocalyciums will grow a little slower, but will thrive and even flower.

Do some, I know; that word again...Research. Find out what will grow where you can grow it. Experiment, but be prepared...there will be death.

As autumn approaches, all of our plants will begin a short burst of growth; in the case of the cactus a very short burst before they shut down over the winter. If, of course, we get a winter. We all will have to keep an eye on what the weather is doing, if it continues to be very warm into October, we need to keep the plants watered, not as much as recommended during spring growth, but enough that all those oh, so important root hairs stay alive.

Start feeding your winter growing plants, at a quarter strength at first, every other watering until they begin to show absolutely that they have broken summer dormancy. Keep watering everything, until the weather firmly changes or the plants; caudiciforms mostly; begin to drop their leaves.

As the end of the month gets closer start thinking about how you will protect all of your plants over the winter. None of them, cactus or succulent, summer grower or winter grower, appreciate the cold. They will reward callous treatment by dying.

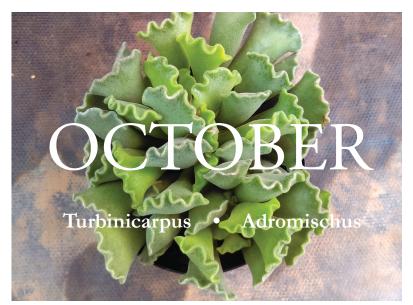
I absolutely hope all of you had a chance to attend the Intercity Show this year, it was wonderful! We had an amazing number of novice growers entered this year, and quite a few ended up on the Trophy Table. And many of them went home with ribbons.

Happy growing, Karen Ostler





# **SCCSS Mini-Show Calendar**





Minishow Plants for 2019						
October	Turbinicarpus Adromischus					
November	South American columnar cactus (Espostoa, Oreocereus, Cleistocactus, etc.)	Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon. Tylecodon				
December	HOLIDAY POTLUCK	HOLIDAY POTLUCK				
	Minishow Plants for 2020					
January	Mammillaria straight spine (clumping)	Aloe				
February	Epiphytic Cactus	Haworthia, Astroloba				
March	Echinocactus	Agave, Manfreda, (inc. x Mangave)				
April	SHOW & SALE	SHOW & SALE				
May	Notocactus, Parodia	Euphorbia (not from Madagascar)				
June	Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cylindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia	Cissus, Cyphostemma				
July	Melocactus	Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia)				
August	Astrophytum	Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum				
September	Ariocarpus, Obregonia	Adenium, Adenia				

#### **SEPTEMBER SCCSS Mini-Show Winners**













Can you match up the winning plants?

·	1	1	
Open Cactus	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Phyllis DeCrescenzo Gary Duke Gary Duke Phyllis DeCrescenzo Phyllis DeCrescenzo	Opuntia vulgaris variegata Mammillaria hahniana Ferocactus wislizeni Euphorbia lactea 'Crest Variegate' Opuntia Variegate
Open Succulent	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Laurel Woodley Jim Gardner Jim Gardner Maria Capaldo Jim Gardner	Euphorbia milii 'Fireworks' Agave 'Kichijokan' Dyckia 'Brittle Star' Hybrid Dyckia Hybrid Dyckia platyphylla
Intermediate Cactus	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coni Nettles Barnard Johnson	Opuntia monacantha f. monstruosa variegata Opuntia vulgaris variegata
Intermediate Succulent	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sally Fasteau Sally Fasteau Coni Nettles Dale La Forest Coni Nettles	Oryptanthus bivittatus 'Pink Star' Agave isthmensis medio alba Sansevieria hahnii Sansevieria kirkii 'Silver Blue' Agave 'Kichiokan'
Novice Cactus	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ted Johnson Jim Tanner Diane Cottrell	Opuntia vulgaris variegata Gymnocalycium mihanovichii 'Moon Cactus Opuntia monacantha
Novice Succulent	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ted Johnson Jim Tanner Ted Johnson	Aloe brevifolia variegata Agave quadrifolia Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi

Please note that points were awarded for plants on display at the Show & Sale.

The points (max 4 per participant) were added to the Cactus totals.

The tables on page 10 show the current standings for the three classes (Open, Intermediate, and Novice) as of September 15, 2019.

Photos of winners above in order left to right: Opuntia vulgaris variegata, Euphorbia milii 'Fireworks', Opuntia monacantha f. monstruosa variegata, Cryptanthus bivittatus 'Pink Star', Opuntia vulgaris variegata, Aloe brevifolia variegata

#### **SCCSS Mini-Show Final Results** (As of September 15, 2019)

#### Click here for sortable standings

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total
Bjarkman, MA	4	2	6	Caplan, Anita	8	11	19	Capaldo, Maria	51	40	91
Bjerke, Martha	1	19	20	Fasteau, Sally	37	63	100	DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	30	54	84
Cottrell, Diane	13	27	40	Johnson, Bernard	13	27	40	Duke, Gary	48	12	60
Diaz, Gloria	3	5	8	Johnson, Jackie	4	-	4	Gardner, Jim	6	21	27
Dorsey, Martin	12	6	18	Knight, Carol	-	8	8	Hanna, Jim	4	28	32
Hulet, Lupe	3	-	3	La Forest, Dale	7	10	17	Warzybok, Hank	4	-	4
Johnson, Ted	23	45	68	Neely, Jade	8	11	16	Wilk, William	14	10	24
Keka, Ray	-	1	1	Nettles, Coni	38	28	66	Woodley, Laurel	10	21	31
Mosher, Nancy	11	10	21	Short, Mike	6	3	9				
Nisewanur, John	4	10	14	Tillotson, Joseph	-	1	1				
Richer, Russ	-	1	1								
Sover, Suzane	2	-	2								
Steenson, Dean	2	-	2								
Straub, Terri	38	9	47								
Straup, Matt	6	-	6								
Tanner, Jim	9	13	22								
Trostler, Marie	4		4								
Youssefzadeh, Jacob	-	6	6								

#### **SCCSS 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.



#### **Summer Growers**

This group is usually referred to as "summer growers". They are dormant from November through February (June through September in the southern hemisphere). Many of these will also enter a rest period for a few weeks during the hottest part of the summer (called estivation) before putting on a final burst of growth in September and October (March and April in the southern hemisphere).

Adenia	Didieria	Jatropha	Sempervivum
Adenium	Dioon	Lithops	Sinningia
Alluaudia	Dorstenia	Monadenium	Stangeria
Aloinopsis	Echeveria	Moringa	Stapelianthus
rubrolineata	Encephalartos	Operculicarya	Synadenium
Brachystelma	Euphorbia	Pachypodium	Tillandsia
Bursera	Ficus	Pedilanthus	Titanopsis
Calibanus	Fockea	Plumeria	Trichocaulon
Ceropegia	Huernia	Pseudolithos	Trichodiadema
Cissus	Ibervillea	Pterodiscus	Uncarina
Cyphostemma	Ipomoea	Raphionacme	Xerosicyos

#### Winter Growers

These are dormant during the hottest summer months. They actually grow during fall and spring and in real winter months when days are shorter they only produce minimal growth, if any. Keep in mind it is not uncommon for a plant to change its growing habit and revert from being a winter grower to a summer grower and vice versa.

Adromischus	Cotyldeon	Haworthia	Sansevieria
Aeonium	Crassula	Kalanchoe	Sarcocaulon
Agave	Dactylopsis	Monanthes	Sedeveria
Aichryson	Dioscorea	Neohenricia	Sedum
Aloe	Dudleya	Othonna	Senecio
Anacampseros	Fouquieria	Pachycormus	Sphalmanthus
Astroloba	Gasteria	Pachyphytum	(Phyllobolus)
Avonia	Gibbaeum	Pachyveria	Stomatium
Bowiea	Graptopetalum	Pelargonium	Sulcorebutia
Bulbine	Graptoveria	Peperomia	rauschii
Ceraria	Greenovia	Pilea	Talinum
Conophytum	Haemanthus	Portulacaria	Tylecodon

Genera such as Agave, Aloe and Haemanthus (to name a few) include some species that are summer dormant and some that are winter dormant, and with genera such as Agave and Aloe, some species do not appear to go dormant at all.



Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale OCTOBER 12-13

SATURDAY, October 12 10:00 am - 5:00 pm SUNDAY, October 13 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

St. Paul's Church 2216 17th Street Bakersfield, CA 93304 Free Admission & Parking

Email: lithops44@bak.rr.com 661-831-8488

www.bakersfieldcactus.org/

Learn more



Huntington Fall Plant Sale OCTOBER 25, 26, 27

FRIDAY-SUNDAY October 25, 26, 27 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

www.huntington.org 626-405-3504



Palomar Fall Show and Sale OCTOBER 26, 27

FRIDAY-SUNDAY October 26, 27 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive Encinitas, CA 92024

Info:

Brita Miller email: eventcoordinator at palomarcactus.org 858-776-7216

Learn more

Learn more

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