



## September 2024 South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



### President's message

Good news! We have found a meeting place for October. So please mark your calendars with the location: Hesse Park in RPV. More information will be forthcoming on our website with the address and directions.

Our weather has been warm and humid. Working in the garden is more difficult, yet it is a time when our plants need us the most. So don't hesitate to get out there in the cool of the early morning or early evening to give them some love (acidic watering, fertilizing, repotting, etc.)

Flowering cacti activity has been active this past month and we are happy to share member photos with you (see page 8). Please feel free to send me any plant photos you have to add to the Newsletter in the future.

This month we are fortunate to have John Trager join us for his presentation on the gardens of Taiwan. John has traveled extensively, and is an excellent photographer, knowledgeable horticulturist, and interesting speaker.

I know it can be challenging to bring in plants for the Mini-Show, but we really learn a lot from seeing each other's plants, knowing how they are grown and admiring the special ones. So please honor us with your *Discocactus*, *Uebelmania* and *Dracaena/Sansevieria* to share.

I hope to see you there!

Maria Capaldo

There are still a few sizes of T-shirts available for sale at \$12 each.



## South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

September 8, 2024 1:00-4:00pm  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

### PRESENTATION



John Trager  
"Succulent Treasures of Taiwan in Habitat and Cultivation"



To learn more, go to  
<https://.southcoastcss.org>



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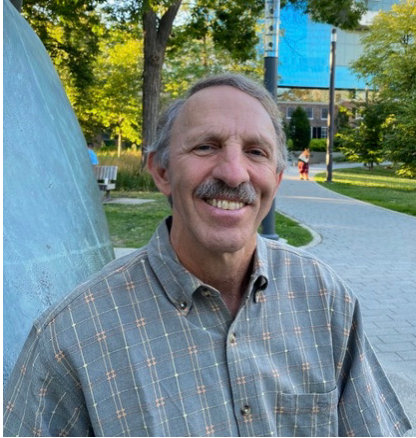
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# Speaker of the Month

# John Trager



PRESENTER FOR SEPTEMBER

## **Succulent Treasures of Taiwan in Habitat and Cultivation**

In 2019, John Trager presented a program about his travels in Southern China and Taiwan. The current program details a return to the fascinating island of Taiwan focusing on succulents, both wild and cultivated. Some of these are familiar, others are newer hybrids and cultivars being produced by the vibrant horticulture industry there. Join us for a tour of beautiful habitat and some of the nurseries specializing in succulents.



John Trager is the Bernie and Miyako Storch Curator of Desert Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California where he has worked since 1983. Prior to that he worked with master propagator Frank Horwood at Abbey Garden Nursery when it was located in Carpinteria. Trager's horticultural writings have appeared in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, the *Euphorbia Journal*, and various other horticultural publications. He is also known for his photography -- over 3000 of his images have been published in numerous textbooks and horticultural journals. Book projects include co-authorship and photography for *Dry Climate Gardening with Succulents* produced by the Huntington (1995), principal photographer for *The Genus Conophytum* (1993) and a contributor to other works by Steven Hammer: *Lithops*, *Treasures of the Veld* (1999) and *Dumpling and His Wife* (2002, a revision of the *The Genus Conophytum and Mesembs of the World* (1998, Smith, Hammer et al.)). He has also contributed photographs to works by Gordon Rowley: *The Succulent Compositae* (1994), *Anacampseros*, *Avonia*, *Grahamia: a grower's handbook* (1995), *Crassula, A Grower's Guide* (2003), as well as the multi-authored six-volume reference *The Illustrated Handbook of Succulents* (2001-2003). He continues to contribute images for new editions and new publications as opportunity and demand arises. The annual ISI introductions published in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* also provide a venue for his writing and photography. John has traveled widely in search of plants (and insects) including China, Costa Rica, Israel, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand, and Venezuela. He holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona (1992) and earlier studied botany at Santa Barbara City College and UCSB.



September  
2024

## Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

***Discocactus*** contains a dozen species of tropical cacti. Most species grow in rock outcrops in the tropical forests, and are endangered in their natural habitat.

Mature *Discocactus* stop growing and instead divert their energy into growing a cephalium. The cephalium is a specialized flowering head, generally covered with fibers. *Discocactus* blooms in summer, on and off. The flowers are generally white and open in late afternoon until the following morning. Many species have fragrant flowers.

*Discocactus* are tropical species and should be kept warm in winter. Many species are extremely difficult to keep on their own roots and are generally grafted. The grafted plants are less cold sensitive, but none have any frost tolerance.

*Discocactus bahiensis**Discocactus horstii**Discocactus placentiformis*

There are three species from Brazil in the genus ***Uebelmannia***. These plants feature globose to cylindrical stems that have distinct ribs lined with spines. The epidermis of the plants has a granular texture to it and can be a bright green, waxy-gray, or even dark purple in color. The spines typically stand in contrast in bright white, golden, or black coloring with areoles forming a continuous line along the ribs. These characters, while hard to describe, give the plants a most striking and unique appearance. The flowers, however, would not be considered anything special among the cactus family as they are small little yellow funnels that come out near the stem tip.

In cultivation, this genus is considered one of the more difficult to grow. This makes them rather hard to find either for sale or trade. As a result, many new to the hobby are unfamiliar with the genus and are greatly impressed when they first encounter it.

*Uebelmannia buiningii**Uebelmannia pectinifera* subsp. *pectinifera**Uebelmannia pectinifera*

September  
2024

## Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

The genus *Sansevieria* has been included into *Dracaena* based on molecular studies. There are about 60 species of *Sansevieria*, but since many of the species are variable and have widespread habitats, there are more names than this. There are also dozens of cultivars, particularly of variegated *Dracaena*. They are currently in the *Dracaceae* family, but have moved through the 'dumping ground' families. In older references, they will be found in the *Lilaceae*, *Aloinaceae*, *Agavaceae*, and other families. Most *Dracaena* are native to Africa, although some come from India, Asia and the South Sea Islands.

They are among the easiest of all succulent plants to grow, requiring only a pot or a spot in the ground. They are tolerant of incredible neglect and abuse, but most grow rapidly and well if watered and fertilized regularly. They do well in Southern California outdoors or in, preferring avoidance of strong direct sun, and suffer damage only if they are cold and wet. They are free from most pests, suffering only rarely from scale. They are prone to fungal rusts, particularly in damp weather. The only cure for rust is to cut off the infected leaves, sterilizing the cutting tool after each cut (an alcohol wipe will do) and then spray the entire plant with a fungicide such as Funginex. Prevention is much easier. Bright light and moving air prevent most rusts.

*Dracaena* propagation is remarkably easy. Cut a piece off, let it dry for a few days, and stick it in some potting soil. They propagate readily from leaves (tips are best), rhizomes, and roots.

Variegation is very common in cultivated *Dracaena* and variegated plants form the majority of some collections. A variegated pup will appear on an otherwise normal plant. The variegation can be preserved by removing the pup and a portion of the rhizome and growing it on. If this is not done, the variegated pup, being weaker than the rest of the plant, will not reproduce. Variegated plants are slower growers than normal plants, and are much more sensitive to cold and wet conditions. They need protection, particularly in the winter. They are also sensitive to standing water in their crowns, quickly rotting if water is allowed to remain.



*Dracaena hanningtonii*  
(=*Sansevieria ehrenbergii*)



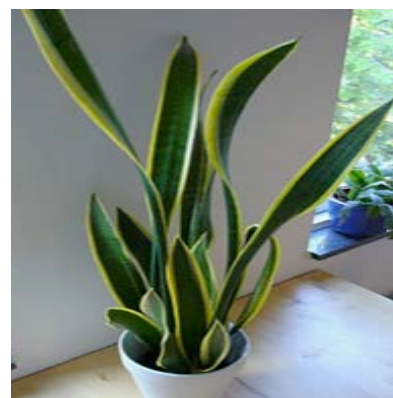
*Dracaena pethera* (= *Sansevieria kirkii*  
var. *pulchra*)



*Dracaena* (= *Sansevieria*)  
*trifasciata* 'Bantel's  
Sensation'



*Dracaena* (= *Sansevieria*)  
*trifasciata* 'Golden  
Hahnii'



*Dracaena* (= *Sansevieria*) *trifasciata*



Open

Cactus



- 1st - Maria Capaldo - *Lobivia ferox*  
var. *ferox*
- 2nd - Maria Capaldo - *Echinopsis*  
'Los Angeles'
- 3rd - Maria Capaldo - *Echinopsis*

Succulent

- No first place winner
- 2nd - Maria Capaldo - *Huernia zebrina*
- 3rd - Maria Capaldo - *Huernia zebrina*

Intermediate



- 1st - Terri Straub - *Soehrensia tarijensis*
- 2nd - Terri Straub - *Lobivia hertrichiana*
- 3rd - Anita Caplan - *Chamaecereus saltensis*



- 1st - Anita Caplan - *Huernia*
- 2nd - Terri Straub - *Orbea ciliata*
- 3rd - Terri Straub - *Orbea variegata*

August

2024

Mini-Show August Winners

Novice

Cactus



1st - Braulio Mena - *Echinopsis oxygona*

2nd - Liz Ying - *Lobivia*

3rd - Shane Mullen - *Lobivia ancistrophora*

Succulent



1st - Martin Dorsey - *Pseudolithos migiurtinus*

2nd - Martin Dorsey - *Stapelia gigantea*

Mini-Show Standings August, 2024

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Martha Bjerke		14	14	Anita Caplan	4	20	24	Maria Capaldo	35	34	69
Vince Darmali	8	6	14	Bonnie Ikemura		4	4	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	32	43	75
Martin Dorsey	41	52	93	Bernard Johnson	29	26	55	Gary Duke	47	19	66
Braulio Mena	14	13	27	Mike Short	2	36	38	Sally Fasteau	4	1	5
Shane Mullen	7		7	Terri Straub	72	31	103	Jim Gardner		31	31
ohn Nisewaner		6	6					Jim Hanna		5	5
Linda Ohara		12	12					Laurel Woodley	1	4	5
Joe Tillotson	2	1	3								
Liz Ying	16	1	17								

## 2024-2025 Mini-Show Calendar

<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
<b>September</b>	<i>Discocactus, Uebelmania</i>	<i>Sansevieria, Dracaena</i>
<b>October</b>	Miniature (3inch or less)	Miniature (3inch or less)
<b>November</b>	North American Columnar Cacti ( <i>Saguaro, Cereus, etc.</i> )	<i>Senecio, Caputia, Curio, Kleinia</i> and hybrids
<b>December</b>	Holiday Pot Luck	Holiday Pot Luck
<b>January 2025</b>	<i>Mammillaria</i> and <i>Cochemiea</i> , single-headed	<i>Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon, and Tylecodon</i>
<b>February 2025</b>	<i>Stenocactus, Echinofossulocactus</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> from Madagascar
<b>March 2025</b>	<i>Thelocactus</i>	<i>Aeonium, Greenovia</i>
<b>April 2025</b>	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
<b>May 2025</b>	Dish Garden	Dish Garden
<b>June 2025</b>	<i>Rebutia, Aylosteria, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia</i>	Mesembs (no <i>Lithops</i> or <i>Conophytums</i> )
<b>July 2025</b>	<i>Matucana, Oroyo</i>	<i>Echeveria</i>
<b>August 2025</b>	<i>Epithelantha, Frailea, Aztekium</i>	<i>Dyckia, Hechtia</i>

### Mini-Show Rules

Exhibitors must be Society members and must be present at the meeting in order to receive points. One name representing the same household must be used unless plants are grown separately. Mini-Show coordinator will be consulted if there is any question of entry identity.

Any container may be used, including plastic, as long as it is clean. All plants must be groomed and free of pests and disease. There are two plant categories, "Cactus" and "Succulents." Up to three plants per individual may be entered in each category.

#### Scoring:

First Place: 6 points  
 Second place: 4 points  
 Third place: 2 points  
 Placement: all entries that are not disqualified: 1 point.

An individual plant may be entered only once a year.

There are three entry classes: "Novice," "Intermediate," and "Open." Only members new to the hobby would be expected to be in the Novice class.

After the November meeting, members' point totals will be reviewed by the Board of the Society.

Novice members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least six first place awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate class in both categories. Intermediate members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least six first place awards, may be asked to begin showing in the Open class.

All plants must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months for Novice and Intermediate and one year for Open class.



Member photos



*Peniocereus greggii* by Anita Caplan



*Echinopsis* 'Buttercup' by Maria Capaldo



*Echinopsis* 'Stars and Stripes' by Bernard Johnson



# Upcoming Events



## SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

**PRESENTER: John Trager**  
**September 8, 2024 1:00-4:00 pm**  
**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**  
**Frances Young Hall**  
**26300 Crenshaw Blvd.**  
**Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274**

**Orchid Show and Sale**  
**September 7 & 8 Hours 10 am to 4 pm**  
**Location: Palos Verdes Art Center**  
 5504 Crestridge Road Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

See award winning orchids on display  
 Buy direct from commercial nurseries and growers  
 Visit the Palos Verdes Art Center Gallery  
 Participate in the hourly raffle (with your paid admission)

Admission: \$5.00 Adults Children under 12: Free  
 Free Parking

More information:  
[southbayorchidsociety.com/Show](http://southbayorchidsociety.com/Show)

## The Duke of Long Beach invites you to a Plant and Handcrafted Pottery Sale

**Saturday, Sep 7, 2024**  
**4660 Rio Ave, Long Beach, CA 90805**  
**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
 (Can also enter from back of Johnny Reb's parking lot)

### Vendors:

**@port\_town\_pottery @dpaige**  
**@potterybypatrice @alden\_norris**  
**@mr\_grants\_plants @heamarket**  
**@grannykitchenlove**  
**@UrPlantssucc @ddsucculents**

Great opportunity to find a unique gift, rare plant, or pot

For more information and to learn more



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Maria Capaldo

#### Vice President

Terri Straub

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Bernard Johnson

#### Secretary

Debra Bushweit Galliani

#### At Large Board Members

Martha Bjerke

Vince Darmali

Nancy Sams

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Terri Straub

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M.A. Bjarkman

#### Finance Chair

Jim Hanna

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Terri Straub

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#### Newsletter Maria Capaldo

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