

GEMS OF THE DESERT



Newsletter of the Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society
www.occss.org

President's Message

By Vince Basta

It's Show Time! Our Summer Show and Sale is just days away by the time you read your newsletter and a busy five day week is ahead. On Wednesday July 21st, we set up canopies starting at 8 am and arrange tables in the sales area starting around 11 am. If any club members are available to lend a hand on Wednesday, your help will be greatly appreciated. On Thursday, vendors will be arriving and our monthly meeting will be held in Oak Hall. The sale opens to the public on Friday and we will be setting up the show area early that morning. All show entries may be brought in Friday from 9am to 4pm and on Saturday from 7am to 10am. The public will be asked to vote for their favorite plants on Saturday starting at 10am, so let's put on a great show for them! Be sure to bring in the many great plants you have shown in the monthly mini-show. By bringing interesting plants to show, you may be inspiring someone to join in our cacti and succulent addiction! On Sunday at the show's close, help is also needed to break down the show. I want to thank everyone who signed up at

Next Meeting

**Thursday July 22, 2010
at 7:30pm**

**OCCSS Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month. Meeting place is the Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92839**

the June meeting to help in various areas of the show. Club member participation and volunteering is key to making our club endeavors a success.

Mary has a great program lined up for Thursday evening. I am looking forward to Woody's program on the cacti from the Rio Grande do Sul region of Brazil. It is sure to be a great program, so be sure to attend the next meeting.

July 2010 Speaker: Woody Minnich

Bolivian blooms

In July our speaker will be Woody Minnich. Woody has been active with cactus and succulents for more than 40 years. He has served numerous clubs throughout The Southern California region. Currently he lives near Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he continues to operate Cactus Data Plants. Woody has explored all of the North American cactus habitats and is an acknowledged expert. He will be talking about his recent trip to Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. An interesting parallel to South Africa, this primarily winter rainfall region has a wealth of fascinating plants from bulbs to cacti.

Mary Chittenden; OCCSS VP Programs

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Thank you, Kelly Griffin!

By Mary Chittenden; OCCSS VP Programs

We'd like to thank Kelly Griffin for his June presentation on Bolivian Flowers. It was entertaining and informative. We look forward to hearing about his next trip.



OCCSS gives a warm welcome to our new members!

Hello all OCCSS Members!!

We are coming up on just 2 weeks until our 2010 Summer Show and Sale on July 23, 24, and 25.

If you have never volunteered before, now is your chance to start.

There will be volunteer sign up sheets when you sign in, and they will also be passed

around during the meeting. And thanks to all of you who are volunteering again! We appreciate all the member participation!

We would like to encourage all members to bring in 20 boxes each.

This is one of the ways we are cutting expenses. If every member brings in 20 boxes, we wouldn't have to purchase them. And you can bring in as many boxes as you would like.

Our next meeting is the night before the start of our sale. Bring your boxes to the meeting and drop them off then! Some of our members who can't help at the sale, could be a big help bringing in boxes. Go by your local supermarket or drug store and ask for boxes.

We had a hugely successful sale in December, and used a whole lot of boxes. We hope to do even better at this sale, and that will mean more boxes!! So help the club out and round up a few boxes to bring in. If you can't make it to the meeting to drop them off, please let one of us know about it. We're looking forward to a great sale.

Remember our sales twice a year pay for all the things we do, like bus trips, our excellent speakers, and being able to donate to worthy causes.

Thanks for your support,
Denise Fry and Lori Coxé

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|--|
| Plant of the Month Mini-Show for June 2010 |
|--|

Novice Class - Succulent

Rick Davenport - Operculacaryi decary 1st
 Bruce McDonald - Caudiciform (fat plant) 2nd
 Jim Tanner - Pachypodium lamerei 3rd

Intermediate Class - Cactus

Kathy McNair - Coryphantha bumamma 1st
 N/A- 2nd
 N/A- 3rd

Novice Class - Cactus

Jim Tanner- Coryphantha ramillosa 1st
 N/A - 2nd
 N/A - 3rd

Advanced Class - Succulent

Vince Basta - Pachypodium brevicaulis x densiflorum 1st
 Craig & Denise Fry - Euphorbia cylindrifolia tuberifera 2nd
 N/A - 3rd

Intermediate Class - Succulent

Jeff McNair- Gerrardanthus macrohizus 1st
 Jeff McNair - Bombax ellipticum 2nd
 N/A- 3rd

Advanced Class - Cactus

Craig & Denise Fry - Escobaria minima 1st
 Craig & Denise Fry - Coryphantha retusa 2nd
 Craig & Denise Fry - Escobaria leei 3rd

| Plant of the Month Mini Show | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Month | Cactus | Succulent |
| January | N/A | N/A |
| February | Turbinicarpus/Eriosyce | Tylecodon/Cotyledon |
| March | Echinocereus/Echinomastus | Aloe/Agave |
| April | Mammillaria | Stapeliads |
| May | Notocactus (Parodia) | Haworthia |
| June | Escobaria/Coryphantha | Caudiciforms |
| July | Opuntiads (Opuntia+all subgenera) | Echeveria/Dudleya |
| August | Thelocactus/Sclerocactus | Lithops |
| September | Discocactus/Melocactus | Euphorbia/Monadenium (South Africa) |
| October | Gymnocalycium/Matucana | Euphorbia (Madagascar) |
| November | Ariocarpus/Astrophytum | Crassula/Sedum |
| December | Echinopsis (hybrids ok) | Other Mesembs (Gibbeum, Conophytum...) |

MonthCactusSucculent

January

N/A

N/A

February

Turbinicarpus/Eriosyce

Tylecodon/Cotyledon

March

Echinocereus/Echinomastus

Aloe/Agave

April

Mammillaria

Stapeliads

May

Notocactus (Parodia)

Haworthia

June

Escobaria/Coryphantha

Caudiciforms

July

Opuntiads (Opuntia+all subgenera)

Echeveria/Dudleya

August

Thelocactus/Sclerocactus

Lithops

September

Discocactus/Melocactus

Euphorbia/Monadenium (South Africa)

October

Gymnocalycium/Matucana

Euphorbia (Madagascar)

November

Ariocarpus/Astrophytum

Crassula/Sedum

December

Echinopsis (hybrids ok)

Other Mesembs (Gibbeum, Conophytum...)

Classes:

Novice - WHITE
 Intermediate - YELLOW
 Advanced - BLUE

Points:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1 st | 10 pts |
| 2 nd | 8 pts |
| 3 rd | 5 pts |
| HM | 2 pts |

Up to 3 cacti and 3 succulents each show per exhibitor please

“Year-to-date point totals will be available at the meeting!!!”

Darryl Craig; PotM Mini Show Director

An Introduction to Opuntia for the Modern Collector

The Subfamily Opuntioideae – A.k.a. “Opuntiads”



These Aren't Your Father's Opuntias

Opuntiads are finding much popularity with modern collectors. Gone is the stereotype of the “beaver tail” or “prickly pear”. Instead, people are enjoying the small size and diversity of a subfamily that is quickly finding its way into many collections.

With over 450 species, the subfamily Opuntioideae is second only to the Genus Mammillaria in size, growing from Canada down to southern South America. Let's cover some of the most popular plants, prized by enthusiasts these days, and a few that are barely known about, but will probably be highly sought after by collectors.

Under the family of Cactaceae is the subfamily Opuntioideae. About 50 or 60 years ago all these plants were categorized in the genus *Opuntia*. Then Brackenber came along and started breaking out some plants, creating new genera, such as *Cumulopuntia* and *Tephrocactus*.

Perhaps the most popular genera of the subfamily Opuntioideae are:

- **Austrocyllindropuntia**
- **Cylindropuntia**
- **Corynopuntia**
- **Grusonia**
- **Maihueiopsis**
- **Opuntia**
- **Tephrocactus**
- **Tunilla**



Tunilla soenrensis

These plants are found often at high elevation in south-central South America. In cultivation, plants are only found through specialist nurseries or traded between avid growers and collectors.

Maihueiopsis



Maihueiopsis bonnieae

Maihueiopsis plants form cushions on the ground of tightly-packed stem-segments. Stems are mostly round or globular and several species have large taproots with very little growth above

ground. Spines may be long and dense, protecting the plants or tiny and tight against the stem. In habitat, the distribution of this genus is fairly widespread from Peru down through Chile and into Argentina and Bolivia.



Cylindropuntia leptocaulis

Cylindropuntia – A.k.a. “Cholla” (or Jumping Cholla)

The body consists of cylindrical stems, which are segmented. They grow in the form of a bush or small tree from 2 to 8+ feet tall. Most of the species have tube-like stems that are heavily armed with spines. The spines of this genus are covered in a papery sheath, which may fall off in time. This sheath gives some species a silvery or gold appearance.

Austrocyllindropuntia

“Austro” as a prefix means southern. Plants in this genus grow farther down in South America than *Cylindropuntia*. Aside from that, other unique features to this genus: The stems are segmented; and no papery sheath on the spines.



Austrocyllindropuntia subulata

A Word of Warning about the Spines

The spines are also quite fiercely reverse-barbed which makes them grab firmly to the skin of unwitting passers-by and are consequently very painful to remove. Growing at the areole are glochids, which are small and thin miniature spines. These too are barbed and extremely irritating. Glochids and many spines on Opuntiads release from the plant onto your skin with the lightest touch.

Where to get Opuntiads?

The nicer ones are few and far-between at cactus shows and nursery's. Only a few seller's in our hobby carry these plants. The two sources that I know carry these plants and will either ship or welcome you to their nursery (call ahead to be sure) are:

Corona Cactus
Phone: 714-235-2776
www.coronacactus.com

The Caro Desert Nursery
Phone: 661-456-0787
www.Carodesert.com



Tephrocactus atacamensis

For a more in depth look into the family of Cactaceae visit www.Carodesert.com

Written by: Rene Caro

Up Coming Events

July 23-25: Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Rd. Fullerton, CA 10-4 INFO: Vince Basta 714-267-4329

August 14 & 15: 25th Annual Intercity Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA INFO: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364

Sept 4th: Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, All day at The Huntington

Editor's Pic



Opuntia ficus-indica (not native); Little karoo, South Africa
Photo: Jen Craig; CoronaCactus Nursery

Discussion table plants

Do you have a question about a plant you have? Looking for a name? Wondering how to grow it? Or do you have a special plant that you just feel like showing off? Bring in these plants so that we can talk about them. This way, we all can learn something new!

OCCSS now has its own page on **Facebook**. You can find us by searching for “*Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society*” in the search box.



OCCSS Leadership Team for 2010**Vince Basta, President**

Mary Chittenden, V.P. Programs

Denise Fry, V.P. Excursions

Nancy Rokkum, Treasurer

Lori Coxe, Secretary

Roger Claassen, Immediate Past President (2008)

Patty Miller, Membership Chair

Lori Coxe & Denise Fry, Summer/Winter Sales Co-chairs

Vince Basta, Summer/Winter Show Entry Chair

Craig Fry, Library Chair

Darryl Craig, PotM Mini Show Director

Barbara Kerr, Raffle Sales

Denise Fry, Raffle Plants

Pat Hamilton & Mary Ann Rogers & Sue Gilley, Refreshments

Rick Davenport, CSSA Affiliate Representative

Jen Craig, Newsletter Editor

Daiv Freeman, Website

OCCSS is looking for articles that relate to the Plant of the Month mini show. We could use articles about a genus in general or a focused article about just one species or a group in that genus. Look over the schedule for the year and let us know what plant you want to write about. To avoid multiple articles about the same subject, talk to Darryl or Jen Craig at the meetings or email us at ccn@coronacactus.com and let us know what subject you will be writing about so we can mark you down. Photos would be an excellent addition to your article!

Renewal of Club Membership for 2010; \$20.00 email or \$25.00 snail mail. You may do this at the next meeting or mail it to:

OCCSS

c/o Membership Chairman

P.O. Box 3062

Fullerton, CA 92834

Contact the Newsletter Editor:
Jen Craig -- CCN@coronacactus.com

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