

October 2010

Roadrunner News

Newsletter of the Long Beach Cactus Club

Founded 1933; Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

The Klein Karoo, Succulent wonderland

PROGRAM: Buck Hemenway will give his presentation of his most recent trip to a very special succulent area. Share the experience of one of those unbelievable places in South Africa where succulent plants grow literally everywhere. From giant aloe trees to the smallest mesembs, the profusion of succulents in this valley is amazing.

LOCATION: Dominguez Rancho Adobe, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220. Take the 91 Redondo Beach/ Artesia Freeway and exit south on Alameda. Signs for the Adobe are posted on the freeway and on Alameda. Coming from the freeway, the entrance to the Adobe is on the right or west side of Alameda. The meeting will be in the Carriage House which is at the south end of the Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum. It is at your right as you turn off the entry road into the parking area.

TIME: Sunday, October 24, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. We will follow this schedule: 1:00 to 1:30 -- setup and refreshments, 1:30 to 3:30 -- general meeting and program, 3:30 to 4:00 -- cleanup.

PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH:

Coryphantha/Escobaria

Cactus:

Succulent:

Senecio/Othonna

REFRESHMENTS: We will follow the alphabet to determine who is to bring the snacks and finger foods. This month, those with last names starting with the letters **G through L** are asked to bring the goodies. Please feel free to bring something even if you don't fall into this group.

DOOR PRIZES, BIRTHDAY PLANTS & PLANT SALES: Free plant for first time visitors.

PLANT RAFFLE: Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. **Members are asked to donate any plants they would like to pass along that they think others would like to buy.** Previous months' raffles have been big successes with several dozen plants available.

Special opportunities - see WWW.carodesert.com for special auction/sale info.

LBCC MEETING DATES 2010

| | <u>Speaker</u> | <u>Topic</u> | |
|------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| wonderland | Oct 24 | Buck Hemenway | The Klein Karoo, Succulent |
| determined | Nov 21 | John Bleck | Oaxaca or to be |
| | Dec ? | | Annual XMAS party |

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2010

**NOV. 6 & 7 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SOCIETY**

**SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM
ADDRESS ABOVE.**

**DEC. 3-5 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER
SHOW AND SALE . SALE:**

**DEC.3,4 & 5. 10 AM TO 4 PM EACH DAY. SHOW SAT. &
SUN.10 AM TO 4 PM.**

**FULLERON ARBORETUM, 1900 ASSOCIATED RD,
FULLERTON, CA.**

CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329

UPDATED 02/26/10

LBCC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2010

**President
OPEN**

John Luhnrow 310-908-9682

Secretary(temp)

Vice-President **OPEN**

Jess (Vern) Yandell

Treasurer

Directors, in alphabetical order, are John & Edwina Caceres, John Luhnnow, Dot Miller and Gary Duke (Past President)

Committees:

Affiliate Representative

John Matthews

Hank Warzybok

Newsletter

Birthday/Prize Plants

Woody Minnich

Jim Hanna

Programs

Garden Curator

OPEN

Publicity – Local

OPEN

Historian

Ken Shaw

Publicity – Shows Peter

Walkowiak

Inter-City Show Chairman Peter Walkowiak

Javier Arroyo

Refreshments

Library

Ken Shaw

Show & Tell Table

Carol Causey

Membership

John Luhnnow

Sunshine

Dot Miller

webmaster

David Quadhamer

MEMBERSHIP

Send applications to John Luhnnow, 3340 West 152nd St. Gardena, CA, 90249. **Dues** are \$15 per year for regular membership, seniors \$10; each associate member (same household) \$2.50 additional. (Senior membership is for retired persons, 65 and older.) Checks should be made out to **LBCC**.

If four or five or more members are interested they may order **official Long Beach Cactus Club member badges**. The cost is \$6.50 per person. Please see club treasurer at the meeting.

NEWSLETTER

If you have any stories, cultivation tips, information about upcoming calendar events or news in general about cacti and succulents that might interest our members, please send them in or give me a call. **Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Remember, this is your newsletter.** The address is: John Matthews, 23221 Redbud Ridge, Santa Clarita, CA 91354. Telephone: (661) 297-5364. Email – jgmplants@aol.com

CLARENCE B. WRIGHT MEMORIAL DESERT GARDEN

Come at 12:00 p.m., an hour before the regular meeting and help plant, water and maintain our garden. Find out what's blooming each month and get ideas for your home garden.

SPECIAL THANKS to **Rancho San Pedro** and the **Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum** for allowing us to use the grounds for our auction and the site for our monthly meetings. We appreciate the pleasant setting as well as being able to meet near our garden.

LIBRARY

Want to consult a book on cacti and succulents or a copy of the CSSA Journal? Call librarian Ken Shaw at (562) 430-1237 or email at kenlbca@earthlink.net and he will bring the requested items to the next meeting for you to check out.

!!!! We still have several open positions in the club. Get involved and volunteer to take a role in YOUR club!

LBCC PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH RULES

At the April, 2003 meeting, the following rules were adopted for the Plant-of-the-Month (POM) competition:

A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).

There will be three classes for entrants: advanced (blue tag), intermediate (pink tag) and beginner (yellow tag).

Advanced and intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, beginners for three months.

Entrants will receive 8 points for first place, 6 points for second place, 4 points for third place, 2 points for show/honorable mention (HM) and 1 point for showing a plant that does not place.

At the discretion of the judges there may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no third place will be awarded.

For an entrant to receive points, the entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of record keeping for POM.

At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

2010 LBCC PLANTS-OF-THE-MONTH

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>CACTUS</u> | <u>SUCCULENT</u> |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| January | Neochilenia/Neoporteria Miniature aloes | |
| February | Echinocereus Sansevieria | |
| March | Parodia/Notocactus Euphorbia(Madagascar) | |
| April | Columnar cacti Haworthia/Astroloba | |
| May | Astrophytum Fockea/Raphionacme | |
| June | Miniature under 3" | Miniature |
| July | Opuntias/Tephrocactus | |

Cissus/Cyphostemma

August

September

October

November

December

Coryphantha/Escobaria

Senecio/Othonna

Favorite

SHOWTIME
LBCC Auction

HOLIDAY PARTY

Favorite

A special thanks is due to Tom Glavich for the wonderful POM writeups that he supplies.

Also special thanks are in order for all who helped at the club BBQ and auction.

2010 POM YEAR-TO-DATE STANDINGS THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Advanced

Intermediate

Beginner

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|----|
| 1. Jim Hanna | 70 | 1. <u>Bob Gillett</u> | 130 | 1. |
| Ken Shaw | 130 | | | |
| 2. Gary Duke | 22 | 2. Dot Miller | 81 | 2. |
| Vern Yandell | 17 | | | |
| 3. | | 3. Hank Warzybok | 19 | 3. |
| | | 4. Karen Ohlinder | 3 | |
| | | 5. John Luhnnow | 3 | |

JULY PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH WINNERS

Cactus – Advanced

- 1.
- 2.
- 2.
- 3.

Succulent - Advanced

- 1.
-
- 3.

Cactus – Intermediate

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Bob Gillett | Opuntia microdasys "Angel Wings" | 1. |
| 2. Bob Gillett | Opuntia strobiliformis | 2. |
| 3. Bob Gillett | Opuntia brasiliensis | 3. |

Succulent – Intermediate

Cactus – Beginner

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|----|
| 1. Ken Shaw | Tephrocactus weberi | 1. |
| 2. | Tephrocactus molinensis | 2. |
| 3. Ken Shaw | Opuntia santarita | 3. |

Succulent – Beginner

Long Beach Cactus Club

Cacti of the Month October 2010 – *Coryphantha and Escobaria*

Coryphantha and *Escobaria* are two closely related genera. They are both also closely related to *Mammillaria*, and almost all of the species have been described at one time or another as members of all three genera.



Coryphantha radians

Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* have furrowed tubercles (*Mammillaria* do not), and most *Coryphantha* have extra floral nectaries (glands that produce nectar located in the skin of the plant), while *Escobaria* do not. The furrow is a groove that goes from the tip to the base of the tubercle. It is sometimes obvious, and sometimes so faint that it is hard to see. There are also floral differences, with *Escobaria* flowers tending to fringed petals while *Coryphantha* flowers have simple petals. Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* flower from the top of the plant, rather from a ring of tubercles a further down the plant.

Both of these genera have some spectacular species, and both are neglected by most collectors. They are relatively easy to grow, and are temporarily out of fashion, although *Coryphantha* has recently become more popular.



Escobaria minima

Coryphantha is a medium sized genus of mostly globular plants from Mexico and the Southwestern United States. The range of *Coryphantha* overlaps that of *Thelocactus*, stretching through Texas into Oklahoma in the North, and continuing into Arizona, and California to San Bernardino. In the South, the genus stretches to Oaxaca. The center of the range is the central states of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, and Nuevo Leon. There are about 50 to 80 species depending on the reference chosen, and the accepted extent of the genus. They are grown for their beautiful spination and large, colorful flowers.

Escobaria has about 23 species, some variable. It covers the range from Central Mexico to Southern Canada, with two species accounting for most of the very wide range.

Cultivation of both genera is similar to *Mammillaria*, except that *Coryphantha* are more sensitive to over watering, and in general, somewhat more prone to rot. They start growing a little later in the year than *Mammillaria*, and stay in active growth later into the summer. Too much water before active growth starts can lead to their demise. Overall, cultivation is not difficult, and well within the capability of all growers. Since many come from the Southwestern United States and higher elevations in Mexico they are tolerant of cold, when dry, and should pose no difficult environmental problems in Southern California.



Coryphantha elephantidens

Particularly Interesting Species

Coryphantha durangensis is extremely woolly, with the wool being so dense that it covers the areoles and spreads to entirely hide the body.

Coryphantha elephantidens is another of the woollier species, this time with red to reddish-brown spines. It has large tubercles, and offsets at the base. A large multiheaded specimen is a hard plant to beat.

Coryphantha recurvata is a large, often single headed species with dense interlaced yellow spines on a green body. Given time, it offsets from the body. The top of the plant is often so densely spined that it appears completely yellow, particularly when it is in full growth. As the plant matures, the lower spines turn a light tan, and then reddish-brown giving larger plants impressive shading. It can grow quite large, to eight inches or more tall, and semi-cylindrical rather than globular.



Coryphantha sulcata v. nichelsai

Coryphantha sulcata offsets quickly to form large clumps. It has white spines, and a yellow flower.

Escobaria minima from Brewster County, Texas is an endangered species in the wild. Seed is available and cultivated plants are not hard to come by.

References

I. Lawrie, **Coryphantha and Associated Genera**
Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**
J. Pilbeam, **Cacti for the Connoisseur**

Tom Glavich March 2008

Long Beach Cactus Club

Succulents of the Month October 2010 - *Senecio and Othonna*

Othonna and *Senecio* are two genera in the *Compositae* family, a distinction that they share with such common plants as Sunflowers, Asters and dandelions.

Figure Senecio fulgens entered in 2001 CSSA Show by Marylyn Henderson

Othonna is confined to Southern Africa, with most all species native to South Africa, while *Senecio* is a very large and cosmopolitan genus, with species in most of the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Both genera have succulent and non-succulent members.

All of the *Compositae* are distinguished by a flower head that appears to be a single large flower, but is really a cluster of many smaller flowers (florets) protected (and advertised to passing pollinators) by colorful bracts. The flowers of both *Othonna* and *Senecio* show obvious resemblance to dandelions and sunflowers. The seeds are held in loose clusters, and scattered by the wind, just as with dandelions.

Both genera are generally easy to grow, requiring only modest attention to growing periods, and tolerant of some out of season watering, with-in reason. Most species are winter growers, losing their leaves in the heat of summer, and leafing out again in early autumn.

Seed is occasionally available, and germinates readily. It's best planted in mid autumn, with maximum growth and development of water storage tissue possible before the first summer. Propagation from cuttings is also easy, particularly for *Senecio*. Production of a typical caudex for species with long, thin branches is best done by burying and rooting a branch while still attached to the mother plant.

Show-worthy *Senecios*

Senecio cedrorum is a species from Madagascar. It has vertical leaves, looking somewhat like the pads of a small *Opuntia*. The leaves are a glabrous blue, with darker green veins.

Senecio fulgens, shown at left is from South Africa, near Durban. It has sprawling stems, perfectly groomed above on a tuberous root.

Senecio rowleyanus has the common name, "String of Pearls", and is a well known house plant, The leaves are globose, hanging on long prostrate stems. It's often used as a hanging plant.

Senecio saginata is one of several *Senecio* that were once in the genus *Kleinia*, which has since been absorbed into *Senecio*. This species shows convergent evolution, with a body form similar to some of the cylindrical *Opuntia*. The body is a medium green, with darker green patterns that look as if they were spines drawn on with ink. *Senecio saginata* is native to Oman, Most of the similar species (*S. pendulus*, *S. desfliersii*) are native to Western Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Senecio scaposus, shown above, is from Cape Province, South Africa, and has long cylindrical leaves, with patterned patches of a waxy light blue on a light green background.

Senecio sempervivus, has leaves that resemble a *Sempervivum*, as its name implies, but the stems holding the *Sempervivum*-like leaves come from a knobby white caudex. A red shaving brush flower, rises above the leaves on a long stem.

Senecio tropaeolifolius quickly forms a medium sized caudex (really a rhizome, or fleshy root). The vine like stems can be kept trimmed back to show the caudex. It has interesting pentagonal leaves, with sharp corners. It's one of the most sculptural of all the *Senecios*.

Outstanding *Othonnas*

Othonna carnosa is an easily grown species, occasionally available from seed. It has nice blue leaves, resembling many *Senecios*.

Othonna euphorbioides has leaves the shape and color of *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*, and a body shape that is also similar. It is one of several *Othonna* that have species names identifying the genus that they most closely resemble.

Figure Othonna carnosa

Othonna herrei is probably the best of the species, with the caudex covered with knobby protrusions resulting from persistent leaf bases.

Othonna retrorsa comes from Cape Province, SA. It is a small species, with caudex two to three inches in tall and an inch in diameter. It can reach half that size in a year from seed.

References

Gordon Rowley, **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents**
Hermann Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

Tom Glavich December 2001
Senecio Photo by Tim Nomer from the 2001 CSSA Show

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23221 Redbud Ridge
Santa Clarita, CA 91354

CLASS PLEASE

FIRST