



On the Dry Side

Next Meeting: September 20th Potluck 12:30 Program

September Meeting Program

You'll be happy to join us at our September meeting. We will have a panel of knowledgeable growers & exhibitors of cactus & succulents. This will be a "hands on" approach. Bring your plant, container, gravel mix and learn how to stage your plant. The plant itself must be in show condition, healthy with no pests or disease. This is a great opportunity for those of you who might feel uneasy about entering your plants in the show. We hope to see you!

President's Message

"Hello everyone, hope you are all doing well lately. I hope you will be able to attend our meeting this month on September 20th. We plan to have a hands on roundtable panel, discussing plant cultural needs, repotting, soil mix, dormancy, etc. Also as we are having the Club Show and Sale on the following

weekend, Sept. 26th and 27th, we will have demonstrations on how to stage and dress plants to place in the Show. We encourage as many of you as possible to enter several of your choice specimen plants to share with the public attending the Show. Please remember

that Show plants must be pest free. If you would like help in staging a plant, please bring it in to the meeting, along with a pot that complements the plant, and any rocks or gravel mix you would like to use. We will have some of these

materials at the meeting to work with, but may not have the right ones for you special plant. If you remember also bring a small hand broom and

dustpan so we can clean up spilled soil and gravel at the end of our meeting. I believe we will all have a fun time with this, and hopefully learn new skills in growing our plants. See you on Sunday. Stan



August Meeting Recap

As my grandmother would say, "Wowie, zowie, pingo, powie!" Such big flowers they have! And some night bloomers and fragrant ones! Yes, the epiphyllums that Don talked about and showed us his amazing slide presentation. Thank goodness he had some to sell too. All it takes is a bit of morning sun or dappled shade, occasional watering, and fertilizing after bloom. There are over 12,000 hybrids and some are so colorful with ruffles and stripes. Thanks, Don, you've made some new enthusiasts! ~Suzy Brooks

Look a Book

'The Gardener's Guide to Cactus' by Scott Calhoun has glorious pictures of the 100 best paddles, barrels, columns, and globes. You'll just want at one of each in the garden, in troughs, or pots or the chance to see them in habitat. Three lists include culinary cactus, highly scented cactus, and spineless(or nearly so) to the touch. From Timer Press 2012. Look for it at the

August Mini-Show Results

Dish Garden.

- 1) Bill Ashen
- 2) Dot Hurley
- 3)Janice Morgan

Succulent Novice.

- 1)Sally Ramseck -- Echeveria sp.
- 2)David Haro -- Echeveria lindsayana
- 3)David Haro -- Echeveria lilacina

Cactus Novice.

- 1)Justin Delemus -- Gymnocalycium

Succulent Intermediate.

- 1)Linda McNally -- Echeveria 'Purple Afterglow'
- 2)Jeff Brooks -- Echeveria 'Doris Taylor'
- 3)Vaughn -- Graptoveria 'Silver Star'

Cactus Intermediate.

- 1)Suzy Brooks -- Rebutia sp.
- 2)Suzy Brooks -- Rebutia sp.

Succulent Advance.

- 1) Gary Stubblefield -- Echinopsis sp.
- 2) Gary Stubblefield -- Parodia aureicentra

Cactus Advance.

- 1) Gary Stubblefield -- Echeveria agavoides 'Ebony'
- 2) Ellen Stubblefield -- Echeveria colorata 'Mexican Giant'
- 3) Ellen Stubblefield -- Echeveria subsessilis

UPCOMING EVENTS

Succulent Extravaganza Time

The Succulent Extravaganza is being held at the Succulent Gardens in Castroville on September 25th and 26th. <http://sgplants.com/pages/succulent-extravaganza>

Our club's show and sale is on September 26th and 27th. The priority is to volunteer for the club show and sale. However, if you have time on the 25th or 26th to sit at a MBACSS membership table at the Extravaganza, please email you day and times to Anita Crawley at acrawley@comcast.net

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Come one come all! Join us September 26th-27th At the San Juan Bautista Community Hall 10 San Jose St. San Juan Bautista. Vendors will have plants, pots, and items for growing and tending your lovely plants. Also view the amazing entries of prime cactus and succulent in the show portion of the event!

We also need your help! Come volunteer behind the scene, with set up on Friday the 25th and breakdown Sunday promptly by 4pm. During the show and sale we will need packers, door security and clerks for check out. It is really fun, earn raffle tickets for your help! Win Win!

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum's 50th Anniversary Jubilee

Celebration is important. Join the Party!

Sunday September 20th, 4pm-7pm

In the Arboretum's beautiful Australian Garden

Tickets are \$50 includes music, food, wine tasting, auction, and tours

For tickets go to <http://arboretum.ucec.edu>
For 50 years this carefully planted 134 acre oasis has become a magical destination for nature lovers, scholars, students, scientists, poets, and dreamers. Now it's time to celebrate the proud past, revel in the present and toast to the future of the gardens.

Held in the Arboretum's Australian Garden, take in the sights and smells while enjoying the cultural tastes and sounds of Santa Cruz.

Groove to the acoustic rhythms of James Durbin and local bluegrass by Jimmy Chickenpants. Sip local wines and enjoy the Buttery's baked goods and locally catered appetizers. Jump into the live auction, take a tour, and celebrate the Arboretum's founders and future stars.

And here is a P.S. From Gary Stubblefield: Gary had to cut down 14 fir trees. The wood is cut in lengths of 14 to 18 inches long. The wood is FREE. He will load the wood in your pick up or trailer with his tractor. Some one will have to be strong enough to move the logs once they are dumped in the pick up or trailer.

Not split.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Suzanne Riedinger & Karen Waterman, 206 Farley Dr., Aptos, CA 95003,
831.688.0324, e-mail zeus@cruzio.com

Bette Burch, P.O. Box 3012, Carmel, CA 93921, 831.333.6597, e-mail
bettethebaker@gmail.com

Babs Nashlund, 656 San Mateo Place, Salinas, CA 93901, 831.424.3053,
e-mail babette1939@aol.com

Returning member Don Cravalho, 41 Astrida Dr., Apt. 8, Hayward, CA
94544, 510.259.0548, e-mail dcravalho@hotmail.com

David & Maureen Haro, 871 N. Chappell
Road, Hollister, CA 95023, 831.801.0805, e-mail dharo@sbcglobal.net

Fred & Karen Valentine, 720-A Olson Road, Soquel, CA 95073, 831.713.5801, e-mail
heart711@earthlink.net

Please add to your roster & give a warm welcome.

On the Dry Side is the newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus Society. Club Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month in the VFW Bldg., 1960 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville, CA. A pot luck lunch starts at 12:30 p.m. followed by the program. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Membership Chair: Linda McNally (831) 247-4382 or Club President: Stan Verkler (805) 550-8393

Board & Committee Chairs

President – Stan Verkler (805) 550-8393

Vice. President – Naomi Bloss (831) 722-1446

Secretary – Pat Livensparger (831) 6252980

Treasurer – Ruth Pantry (831) 758-6645

Membership – Linda McNally (831) 247-4382

Library – Suzy Brooks (831) 207-402

Programs – Manson Waters (831) 663-335 Director at Large-Tom Karwin (831) 760-6727

Director at Large –Gary Stubblefield (831) 663-4411 Director at Large –Anita Crawley (831) 293-8788

CSSA Rep: Jeff Brooks (831) 207- 4021

BOARD MEETING 11:00am Open to Members

An Introduction to Harmless Cacti:

Those with No Spines and No Glochids

Part 1: Cacti that Grow on Trees

by Jorge Quiñónez

Most people are turned off by cacti because of their sharp spines and glochids. Glochids are very small hair-like spines that have barbed ends that stick to our skin like velcro to fur. They can irritate skins in worst cases for weeks. Luckily they're only found on cacti in the *Opuntia* family that includes Prickly Pear Cactus (*Nopales*) and Chollas. On the other hand, spines on a few species of cacti can be over 10 inches long and are needle sharp. So its only understandable that people want to collect other succulent plants that aren't so fiercely defended!

Fortunately, there are a number of cacti that are undefended. Actually, they defend themselves by not being eaten by animals in other ways like camouflaging themselves or hiding way up in the trees. Below is an annotated list of my favorite ones. Some are easier to obtain than others. But, most can be found for sale at our C&CS sales, speciality nurseries, or online (some have websites and there is always eBay).

Below I talk briefly talk about five cacti that are epiphytes, that is, that would grow on trees in the wild or in our case: on hanging baskets, from a shelf, in the shade or indoors. They require more water than desert cacti.

Rhipsalis baccifera- This species is the most common from among the 3 dozen species in the *Rhipsalis* genus. Its commonly known as Mistletoe Cactus. The flowers are not especially attractive. Its grown more the foliage. Looks great in hanging basket. A curious fact is that several subspecies of this cacti are the only cacti from among the 1800 or so total species in the world that naturally occur outside of the Western Hemisphere (North or South America).

Hatiora salicornioides- This one is called "Drunkard's Dream" because the stems look like little liquor bottles. In the spring, it'll bloom with cute little yellow flowers.

Holiday cacti (*Schlumbergera* species and *Hatiora x graeseri*): Known collectively as Holiday cacti. *Hatiora x graeseri* is the Easter Cactus. Two *schlumbergera* species/hybrids are known as either the Christmas or Thanksgiving Cactus. These are day bloomers and bloom during the times of the year suggested in their names. They are the most prolific bloomers of the cacti discussed in this article and probably the easiest to obtain: Home Depot or Walmart will carry them at different times of the year.

Selenicereus wercklei- I mention this cactus because its the only one with no spines within the *Selenicereus* genus, a group of night blooming flowers. Its probably the rarest among the five listed in this article and looks like a fat *Rhipsalis* cactus.

In the Part 2, I'll talk about desert cacti that are spineless and glochidless.

September 20, 2015

