

GEMS OF THE DESERT



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

President's Message

By Vince Basta

We will be adding a new activity to our monthly meetings starting February, the Plant of the Month Mini Show. There will be three entry divisions: Novice, Intermediate and Advanced. Each member may bring up to three plants for the plant of the month topic (up to 3 cactus and 3 succulents). A member entering as a novice may not have won more than 40 blue ribbons total in recognized Cactus and Succulent Society shows. A member entering as an intermediate may not have won more than 41 blue ribbons (excluding commercial sellers). A member entering as advanced must have won more than 80 blue ribbons or are commercial sellers of cacti and succulents. There will be entry cards for each participant to fill out. A tally will be kept and prizes will be awarded, so be sure to leave your entry card on the table. A head judge will be appointed at each meeting and two members will be chosen at random from the sign-in list to judge the plants during break time. The mini show will be a great way to get your plants ready for shows, participate in the

Next Meeting

**Thursday February 25, 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**

club

meetings, or simply to show off your prized plants!

We also have a great bus trip to Palm Springs lined up and the weather should be perfect at the end of March. I hope all of you and your plants survived the rains and crazy weather we have experienced the last few weeks, although many of the winter growers love it! I am sure we will see some of these great winter growing plants in Buck's program on "The Richtersveld, Succulent Wonderland", so be sure not to miss it! Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

February 2010 Speaker: Buck Hemenway

The Richtersveld, Succulent Wonderland

This month OCCSS welcomes Buck Hemenway with his presentation entitled "The Richtersveld, Succulent Wonderland." He will show us that incredible place in South Africa that has almost no rainfall, but produces some of the most treasured plants in our collections. Enjoy the habitat of plants such as *Pachypodium namaquanum*, *Aloe pearsonii*, *Aloe pillansii* and many others.

Buck is President of San Gabriel C&SS and past president of the Gates C&SS. He's on the Board of Directors of CSSA and chair of the annual CSSA Show. He and his wife, Yvonne, own *Prickly Palace*, a cactus and succulent wholesale nursery. As with most in the trade, their business is a result of a hobby gone wild.

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Thank you, Tim Harvey!

By Mary Chittenden; OCCSS VP Programs

OCCSS would like to thank Tim Harvey for his highly educational presentation on Micropropagation at our February meeting. He has great ideas for high volume propagation as well as for propagating rare species.



Picture by Lori Coxse; Secretary

OCCSS gives a warm welcome to all new members! We look forward to seeing you at the meetings. We hope to include names in future issues.



CLUB FIELD TRIP

Our club is sponsoring a bus trip to Palm Springs next month. The date to mark on your calendar is **Saturday, March 27**. We will be going to *The Living Desert* and the *Moorten Botanical Gardens*. After all the winter rains, the native desert flowers should be in bloom, and The Living Desert will be having its annual "Spring Plant Sale". Come to our February meeting for more information, and to sign up for this club trip.

Denise Fry; VP Excursions

Plant of the Month Mini Show

<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
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
Intermediate
Advanced

Points:

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

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

"I'm looking forward to seeing all your great plants!"

Darryl Craig; PotM Mini Show Director

The genus *Tylecodon*

Plant of the Month February 2010

By Vince Basta; OCCSS President



The genus *Tylecodon* is a member of the succulent plant family *Crassulaceae* and occurs in the countries of South Africa and Namibia. Prior to 1978, *Tylecodon* was part of the genus *Cotyledon* until the Australian botanist H. Toelken separated the two genera. The anagram *Tylecodon* was the resulting name given to the revised genus. *Tylecodon* is distinguished from *Cotyledon* by its deciduous leaves which are spirally arranged as well as some flower features. *Tylecodon* contains some 46 species comprised of small geophytes to other large caudiciform and pachycaul species with large stems and trunks, such as *T. paniculatus*. Because of their range of growth types from small to large, the genus is highly prized in our collections as container plants and can also make amazing landscape specimens.

In habitat, the genus is threatened because they are poisonous and are often removed by South African farmers to protect their livestock. The genus receives winter rainfall making them well suited to our Southern California climate. Many species can be grown outdoors in full sun to keep their growth tight but some of the smaller geophytic species need protection, such as *T. nolteei*, from blazing sunlight especially in the summer months. Also, be sure to protect your plants if the temperature drops below freezing. Three or so years ago when we had a cold snap in January, I experienced three nights of temperatures in the low 20's in Fullerton which meant disaster for many of my winter growing succulents. Until then, I had never given these plants any protection and they did fine, so be sure and watch the weather!

Propagation by many members of the genus can be done by cuttings, but some smaller species can only be grown from seed. The seeds are quite small and look more like dust. Because the seed is so small, it should be sowed directly on top of the soil in a fine gritty medium and small pumice seems to work well. I was amazed at the number of seedlings which popped up in the pots of my heavily damaged or dead *Tylecodon* adult plants. It was fortunate I did not throw them out right away as I was able to salvage a good crop of small seedling of *T. paniculatus* and *T. reticulatus*.

Recommended species: *T. bodleyae*, *T. ellaphieae*, *T. nolteei* and *T. pearsonii* are great smaller species for those with limited space. Medium to larger species which are popular include *T. hallii*, *T. paniculatus*, *T. reticulatus* and *T. wallichii*.

Below is a check list of *Tylecodon* species, so seek them out and give these rewarding plants a try! I found this list on the Garipe Plants website.

Tylecodon albiflorus [South Africa] *Tylecodon aridimontanus* [Namibia] *Tylecodon atropurpureus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon aurusbergensis* [Namibia] *Tylecodon bayeri* [South Africa] *Tylecodon bleckiae* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon bodleyae* [South Africa] *Tylecodon buchholzianus* var. *fasciculatus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon cacalioides* [South Africa] *Tylecodon cordiformis* [South Africa] *Tylecodon decipiens* [South Africa] *Tylecodon ellaphieae* [South Africa] *Tylecodon faucium* [South Africa] *Tylecodon fragilis* [South Africa] *Tylecodon grandiflorus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon hallii* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon hirtifolius* [South Africa] *Tylecodon kritzingeri* [South Africa] *Tylecodon leucothrix* [South Africa] *Tylecodon longipes* [South Africa] *Tylecodon nigricaulis* [South Africa] *Tylecodon nolteei* [South Africa] *Tylecodon occultans* [South Africa] *Tylecodon paniculatus* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon pearsonii* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon peculiaris* [South Africa] *Tylecodon petrophilus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon pusillus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon pygmaeus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon racemosus* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon reticulatus* ssp. *phyllodium* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon reticulatus* ssp. *reticulatus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon rubrovenosus* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon scandens* [South Africa] *Tylecodon schaeferianus* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon similis* [South Africa] *Tylecodon singularis* [Namibia] *Tylecodon stenocaulis* [South Africa] *Tylecodon striatus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon suffultus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon sulphureus* var. *armianus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon sulphureus* var. *sulphureus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon tenuis* [South Africa] *Tylecodon torulosus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon tribblei* [South Africa] *Tylecodon tuberosus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon ventricosus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon viridiflorus* [South Africa] *Tylecodon wallichii* ssp. *ecklonianus* [South Africa & Namibia] *Tylecodon wallichii* ssp. *wallichii* [South Africa]

Up Coming Events

March 20: The Caro Desert Nursery presents “The Incredible Staging Workshop & Potters Sale” 9 am until after the BBQ; Contact Info: 661-456-0787 or www.CaroDesert.com

March 27: OCCSS Sponsored trip to The Living Desert & Moorten Botanical Gardens; talk to Denise Fry & sign up at the February meeting

March 27 & 28: Prickly Palace Garden Tour & Sale Call Buck 951-360-8802 or www.pricklypalace.com

March 27 & 28: Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Display & Sale Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA Show Info. Call 818-367-0864

Editor's Pic



Anacampseros sp. growing on 15 Mile Mtn., South Africa
Photo: Jen Craig; CoronaCactus Nursery

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Discussion table plants: *Aloe pearsonii*, *Aloe pillansii*

Buck Hemenway will be talking about these plants. Let's see them! Bring in your plants and show them off.



Photo by Vince Basta; OCCSS President

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.

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

OCCSS Library

Craig Fry, OCCSS Library Chair, is adding new books periodically that can be checked out by current OCCSS members. There is great stuff to learn in these books so take advantage of all the information available. You can browse the library at any meeting.



Denise Fry; VP Excursions



Nancy Rokkum; Treasurer



Vince Basta; President



Lori Coxe; Secretary

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, Refreshments

Rick Davenport, CSSA Affiliate Representative

Jen Craig, Newsletter Editor

Daiv Freeman, Website



Roger Claassen; Past Pres. 2008



Rick Davenport; CSSA Rep.



Mary Chittenden; VP programs



Jen Craig; Newsletter Editor

Dear Cactus and Succulent Enthusiast,

Hi, let me introduce myself. My name is Patty Miller. I joined the club back in July at the cactus and succulent show and sale because I was so impressed with the enthusiasm, professionalism, and warm welcome that I was given for just helping out with the sale.

My goal as membership director is to increase our numbers:

- So the club has new competition when showing plants
- More people to participate with sales and shows
- To enhance the knowledge and sharing of ideas
- New people to carry on the club's name

All the Best,
Patty Miller
 Membership Director