



DRY TIMES

VOL. 116

JANUARY 2016

No.1

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
January meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2016
7:30 pm

Burton W. Chace County Park
13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey

PROGRAM

2015 CSSA Trip to Northeastern Mexico, Part I
Nels Christianson

PLANT OF THE MONTH

CACTUS:
Miniature under 3"

SUCCULENT:
Senecio, Othonna

Dry Times Editor Nels Christianson participated in the CSSA's 2015 pre-convention trip to northeastern Mexico. This month he will present a program on the first half of the trip which includes the states of Hidalgo, Querétaro and Guanajuato. The group traveled through various biospheres in the Sierra Madre Oriental and witnessed an incredible array of succulent plants. This was the fifth CSSA-sponsored trip in which Nels has participated, the others being Brazil, Oaxaca, northwestern Argentina and the Canary Islands. "I highly recommend the CSSA-sponsored trips as a way to see interesting and unusual succulent habitats in the company of excellent guides and fellow plant enthusiasts," Nels says. "In August we're going to Peru!"

Nels joined CSSA and our club in 1984. Last year he became a CSSA board member. He has been the editor of our newsletter for fourteen years and previous to that served as our treasurer for almost ten years. Nels retired from UCLA Medical Center in 2012 and now dedicates much of his time to gardening and making ceramic planters. He volunteers in the Desert Collection area at the Huntington, is the president of the Westchester Chapter of the American Begonia Society and serves on the board of California Poets in the Schools, a statewide non-profit organization that brings poetry composition classes to more than 25,000 children a year. "Kids benefit greatly by having their creativity and imagination stimulated," Nels adds. Seven years ago Nels began a *Dyckia* hybridization program and promises to make some of his seedlings available soon. Other genera he enjoys are *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Gasteria*, *Aloe*, *Sinningia* and *Parodia*.

** If your last name begins with **A--F** please bring in goodies for the refreshment table.

PLEASE ALSO BRING 4 inch to 1 gallon pots and cuttings to the meeting for Bonnie. She will pot up the cuttings for our Show and Sale. It takes a few months for the plants to grow enough to be ready to sell.

November 2015 Plant of the Month Winners

Junior Cactus

Hon. Ment. Christine Kaunitz Haageocereus

Senior Cactus

1st Place Brian Gold *Pilosocereus aurisetus* var. *densilanatus*
 2nd Place Brian Gold *Oreocereus trollii*
 3rd Place no award

Junior Succulent

1st Place William Wilk *Senecio scaposus*
 2nd Place William Wilk *Senecio stapeliformis*
 William Wilk *Senecio crassissimus*
 3rd Place William Wilk *Senecio medley-woodii*

Senior Succulent

1st Place Brian Gold *Othonna euphorbioides*
 2nd Place Stan Kamin *Senecio vitalis* Crest
 Nels Christianson *Senecio fulgens*
 3rd Place Nels Christianson *Senecio haworthioides*
 Laurel Woodley *Othonna herrei*

The November POM judges were John Ryan and Laurel Woodley accompanied by Woody Minnich.

2016 Plant of the Month

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CACTUS</u>	<u>SUCCULENT</u>
January	Miniature under 3"	<i>Senecio, Othonna</i>
February	Crested, Monstrose	<i>Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon</i>
March	<i>Mammillaria</i> (straight spine)	<i>Echeveria, Dudleya</i>
April	<i>Echinopsis, Lobivia</i>	<i>Aeonium, Sempervivum</i>
May	Cactus -- Epiphytic	<i>Sansevieria</i>
June	<i>Astrophytum, Ariocarpus</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> -- Madagascar
September	<i>Melocactus, Buiningia</i>	<i>Stapeliads, Fockia, Raphionacme</i>
October	<i>Gymnocalycium</i>	<i>Adenium, Pachypodium</i>
November	<i>Copiapoa, Matucana</i>	<i>Haworthia</i>

Plant of the Month, *Senecio, Othonna* (we're repeating these genera from November to see if the Othonna look better this month)

Senecio is a worldwide genus in the daisy family with over 1000 species, many of which are succulent. Among the succulent *Senecios*, which are mostly from southern and eastern Africa, leaf color ranges from green to chalky blue while flowers are usually white or yellow. Several species are *S. articulatus*, *S. crassissimus*, *S. ficoides*, *S. haworthii*, *S. jacobsonii*, *S. kleiniaeformis*, *S. radicans*, *S. scaposus*, *S. serpens* and *S. vitalis*. Some former *Senecios* are currently found in the genus *Kleinia*. Likewise, *Senecio praecox* and four other succulent species from Mexico have been segregated into the genus *Pittocaulon*.

Othonna is concentrated in South Africa and Namibia and is related to *Senecio*. There are said to be over 100 species. *Othonnas* are small succulents, most of which occur in winter rainfall regions. As such, they are a natural for southern California succulent collections. In general they are of easy culture. Many *Othonnas* are pachycauls and lose their leaves in the dry season while others have succulence concentrated in the leaves. Most *Othonna* flowers are yellow. Some species are *O. arminiana*, *O. cacalioides*, *O. capensis*, *O. clavifolia*, *O. euphorbioides*, *O. furcata*, *O. herrei*, *O. lepidocaulis*, *O. littoralis*, *O. quercifolia*, *O. reticulate*, *O. retrofracta* and *O. triplinerva*.



Senecio scaposus



Senecio medley-woodii, photos by N. Christianson



THE HUNTINGTON
 LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

DESERT FORUM
Saturday, 16 January 2016

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 – 10:00 **Registration – in front of new visitor entry area**
 Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission
- 9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden**
 Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory
 Aloes will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales**
 Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping*
 Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 **Free Time**, Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:30.

Lunch:

The Café in the new visitor center features a variety of sandwiches and grilled items. The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a lovely option for fresh Chinese food.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB. 13 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, SPRING SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA—INFO 858-382-1797

MAR. 18-19 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE
THURS. 17th 6-8PM---FRI. MAR. 18th 9-7PM---SAT. MAR. 19th 9-5PM
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357

APR. 9-10 SOUTH COAST CACTUS AN SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.,
PALOS VERDES, CA INFO: 310-378-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>

Material for publication in the newsletter must be in the Editors' hands by the 1st day of the publication month (e.g., by Aug. 1 for the next issue). Articles and letters may be edited for space and clarity. Editorial comment and signed articles are the opinions of the Editor or author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Board of Directors of the Society, an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Unless expressly denied in a note with the article, all material in the newsletter may be reprinted by non-profit organizations, provided that proper credit is given to the SSS and the author, and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the Editor. Reproduction in whole or in part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the SSS is prohibited.

Membership Renewal

Thanks to our members who have already renewed their membership for 2016.

If you have not yet renewed, please complete the membership form and return it with your dues at the January meeting.

If you prefer, you may mail your completed form and check:

Sunset Succulent Society
1017 21st Street Unit B
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Sunset Succulent Society Membership Form 2016

Name _____

Additional Member(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Membership: New or Renewal (Please circle.)

Membership dues: Individual Membership per year	\$15.00
Family Membership per year	\$20.00
To send the newsletter by U.S. Mail instead of email	\$5.00

Cash or check # _____ Date: _____