



# DRY TIMES

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NOVEMBER 2017

No. 11

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**November meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**  
**7:30 pm**

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

## PROGRAM

***Succulent Photography***  
**Brian Gold**

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

***CACTUS:***  
**Epiphytic cacti**

***SUCCULENT:***  
***Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Puya***

Brian Gold has been a member of the Sunset Club since the mid 70's and his collection of succulents represents six decades of growing. At the age of 13, with his father, Lee, he purchased their first succulent plants locally and collected plants from the local deserts, including two "field trips" to Baja California driving a VW camper to Cabo San Lucas. Today, 40 years later, Brian still has several of those original plants. Brian continues to show his plants competitively at the Sunset Club and CSSA annual shows.

In previous years Brian shot rock concert photos for the Grateful Dead, Santana, Sting, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Bonnie Raitt, Little Feat, Etta James and others. Now he enjoys shooting extreme close-up photography of his succulents when in flower and landscape travel photography. When not working in the garden, he is the Director of Peri-Operative Services and Surgery at Glendale Memorial Hospital. He and his wife of 30-plus years, Teresa, reside in Westchester and have lived there for over 20 years. Their son, Jason, is also a longtime Sunset member but because he now lives in Berlin, Germany can't make all the meetings. Their daughters, Jessica and Erin are both married and live in Santa Monica. Their grandchildren, Jade, three years old, and Connor, seven years old, have their own succulents in Poppi Brian's garden.

Please come out to Bingo Night at the Sunset Club – it will be like NO OTHER SUNSET SUCCULENT MEETING YOU'VE EVER NEVER BEEN TO!!!

Last month Gary Duke presented highlights of his recent trip to Bolivia.

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

### 2017 Plant of the Month

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CACTUS</u>	<u>SUCCULENT</u>
November	Epiphytic cacti	<i>Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Puya</i>

### October 2017 Plant of the Month Winners

#### Junior Cactus

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Lee Freehling	<i>Opuntia aciculata</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Lee Freehling	<i>Opuntia monacantha var. variegata</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Lee Freehling	<i>Opuntia monacantha var. variegata</i>

#### Senior Cactus

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Karen Ostler	<i>Tephrocactus bonniea</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Brian Gold	<i>Tephrocactus alexanderi var. geometricus</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Laurel Woodley	<i>Tunilla corrugata</i>
	Laurel Woodley	<i>Pereskia aculeate 'Godseffiana'</i>
	Nels Christianson	<i>Pereskia bahiensis</i>

#### Junior Succulent

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Christine Kaunitz	<i>Calibanus hookeri</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Lemona Lott	<i>Agave macroacantha</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Gretchen Davis	<i>Agave titanota</i>
	Gretchen Davis	<i>Agave pumila</i>

#### Senior Succulent

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Jim Hanna	<i>Yucca desmetiana</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Laurel Woodley	<i>Mangave 'Kalediscope'</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Jim Hanna	<i>Agave stricta 'Nana'</i>
	Brian Gold	<i>Agave potatorum variegata</i>

The October POM judges were Teresa Gold and David Miller accompanied by Gary Duke.

### September 2017 Plant of the Month Winners

#### Junior Cactus

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Bill Wilk	<i>Ferocactus hamatacanthus</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Bill Wilk	<i>Ferocactus covellii</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Bill Wilk	<i>Ferocactus latispinus</i>

#### Senior Cactus

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Brian Gold	<i>Echinocactus ingens</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Karen Ostler	<i>Echinocactus glauca inermis</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Brian Gold	<i>Ferocactus gaucesens inermis</i>

#### Junior Succulent

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Bill Wilk	<i>Pachypodium geayi</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Bill Wilk	<i>Adenium obesum 'Cherry Bomb'</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Gretchen Davis	<i>Pachypodium lealii var. saundersii</i>

**Senior Succulent**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Jim Hanna	<i>Pachypodium succulentum</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Brian Gold	<i>Pachypodium rosulatum</i> var. <i>rostatum</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Jim Hanna	<i>Pachypodium brevicaule</i> x <i>P. densiflorum</i>

The September POM judges were Nels Christianson and Robert Trichter accompanied by Karen Ostler.

**Plant of the Month, Cactus: Epiphytic Cacti:**

Epiphytic cacti do not grow in soil like most cacti. Rather, they root in clefts and tree limbs where detritus, mosses, lichens and other plants have concentrated. For the most part epiphytic cacti grow in the tropics in a humid environment. Their stomata are specially formed to allow absorption of ambient moisture. The only cactus found naturally outside of the New World is the epiphytic *Rhipsalis baccifera* which grows in Africa. According to Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, coastal Brazil is the ancestral home of some lineages of *Rhipsalis*. It has been remarked that as many as fifteen species of epiphytic cacti can be found within the immediate region of Rio de Janeiro. Epiphytes need well-draining soil which may contain a mixture of orchid bark, cactus mix, pumice and/or perlite. The soil should be slightly acidic. The percentage of each depends on the humidity of the grower's microclimate. Plants should be placed in a location that receives morning sun and good light during the rest of the day. Unlike desert cacti epiphytic cacti should be kept damp but not wet. During the dormant period they should only be watered if totally dry. Epiphytic cacti can make good hanging baskets. Some genera of epiphytic cacti are *Aporocactus*, *Disocactus*, *Epiphyllum*, *Hatiora*, *Heliocereus*, *Hylocereus*, *Lepismium*, *Nopalxochia*, *Pseudorhipsalis*, *Rhipsalis*, *Schlumbergera* and *Selenicereus*. Much hybridizing has been done with epiphytic cacti, producing plants with exquisite flowers in *Aporophyllum*, *Epiphyllum*, and *Zygocactus*, among others.

**Plant of the Month, Succulent: *Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia*, *Puya***

These three rosette-forming genera (along with *Encholirium* and *Orthophytum*) represent the succulent terrestrial bromeliads native to South America. Non-succulent terrestrial bromeliads include *Aechmea* (some species), *Ananas*, *Bromelia* and *Cryptanthus*. *Deuterocohnia* with approximately 15 species is native to somewhat high elevations in northwestern Argentina, Bolivia, northern Paraguay and western Brazil. The leaves tend to be rigid and the epidermis can vary from green to almost white. Most common in collections are *D. longipetala*, *D. meziana* and *D. brevifolia* and are of easy cultivation. In habitat they can be found growing on rocky slopes and cliffs. Several years ago, after modern DNA analysis, the mat-forming species of *Abromeitiella* were reclassified under *Deuterocohnia*. Most species have yellow or greenish yellow flowers, often borne on stalks that rebloom year after year. They are of easy culture.

*Dyckia* with approximately 120 species is native primarily to central eastern and southern Brazil but several species grow in Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay. They can be found growing on rock outcrops or rocky soil, which often represent clearings in the middle of wooded areas, from elevations of 4,000 feet down to sea level and in very moist conditions during the summer rainy period. *D. brevifolia* grows on the rocky banks of the Itajaí River of Santa Catarina state and routinely lives submerged for two or three weeks a year. *Dyckias* native to Minas Gerais and Goiás with plentiful scurf and a whitish appearance, such as *D. marnier-lapostellei*, as well as *D. velascana* of Córdoba and La Rioja provinces in Argentina, are used to less rainfall and a prolonged dry period during the winter months (sometimes accompanied by morning fog). According to the Brazilian *Dyckia* specialist Constantino Gastaldi of Joinville, Santa Catarina, several new species are discovered each year in such areas as Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and even recently in the Amazonian state of Pará. *Dyckias* from the southern areas more commonly have yellow or yellow orange flowers while the northern species have yellow orange to deep orange flowers. A wine colored flower has been reported on a species from southern Brazil as well. *Dyckias* are of easy culture in southern California but require ample water in the summer months where many collectors grow them with a basin which can be filled frequently. Many *Dyckias* form stunning rosettes such as the graceful *D. delicata* and the robust *D. goehringii* and *D. magnifica* (not described). Interest in *Dyckias* has increased in the United States in recent years. Beautiful hybrids of the late southern California nurseryman Bill Baker, such as *D.* 'Arizona,' *D.* 'Bill Paylen,' *D.* 'Brittle Star,' *D.* 'Mary Ellen,' *D.* 'South Bay,' *D.* 'Tarzan,' *D.* 'Toothy' and *D.* 'Zebra' are the current rage in Thailand, Taiwan and Japan and highly sought after.

*Puya* comprises approximately 200 species and is primarily a high altitude genus of the Andes from Colombia south to Chile and Argentina. These tend to be large, lanky and very spiny plants, examples of which can be found at the UCLA Mildred Mathias Botanical Garden and at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. *Puyas* have not traditionally been fancied by bromeliad or succulent collectors due to their size. Not all species are enormous. *Puya mirabilis* with a yellow flower stays relatively small and can fit nicely in a collection. On the other hand, *Puya raimondii* at six feet tall with a 15-foot inflorescence is the largest bromeliad known. It inhabits Andean highlands in Peru and Bolivia up to an elevation of 9,000-11,500 feet. *Puya spathacea* of Bolivia can also be found in the province of Córdoba, Argentina, growing at an altitude of about 2,000 feet, the lowest for the genus. *Puyas* are of easy culture in southern California. Flowering is usually spectacular and the flowers can be intense green, blue and purple as well as yellow.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- NOV. 4-5            SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am-4pm BOTH DAYS  
 SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA MANNY RIVERA  
 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052
- FEB. 10            SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE, BALBOA PARK, RM  
 101, SAN DIEGO, INFO: 858-382-1797



*Puya spathacea*



*Dyckia* collection

*DRY TIMES* is published monthly by the *Sunset Succulent Society* (SSS), whose officers are:

<b>President</b>	<b>Rosalie Gorchoff</b>	<b>(310) 822-1783</b>	<b>Vice Pres.</b>	<b>Laurel Woodley, Plant of the Month</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Peggy Oberg</b>	<b>(310) 645-7946</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gretchen Davis</b>

**Membership: Coni Nettles**

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.