



DRY TIMES

VOL. 117

SEPTEMBER 2017

No. 9

President: Rosalie Gorchoff
(310) 822-1783

Editor: Nels Christianson
(310) 396-1231
nelsico@gmail.com

September meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2017
7:30 pm

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

PROGRAM

Highlights of the 2017 CSSA Show in Tempe
Laurel Woodley

PLANT OF THE MONTH

CACTUS:

Ferocactus, Echinocactus

SUCCULENT:

Adenium, Pachypodium

Longtime Sunset member and former President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Laurel Woodley will present highlights of the recent 2017 CSSA Convention in Tempe, Arizona. Laurel continues to be active in the CSSA in her position as Sunset's Affiliate Representative and Administrator of CSSA's Facebook and Twitter accounts. She personally answers every inquiry that comes in. Laurel maintains a large and beautiful collection of cacti and succulents at her home in the South Bay and volunteers at the South Coast Botanical Garden. She has been a Sunset member since the 1960s. Laurel is a retired biology professor and a naturalist at heart.

The 2017 CSSA Convention was one of the all-time best. The hotel was welcoming and comfortable. The location was perfect for lunch and evening dining along Mill Avenue. There were approximately 350 participants from around the world and speakers from the USA, England, Spain, South Africa and Brazil. The presentations were enlightening and entertaining. Field trips to public and private gardens were well attended and highly praised while the selection of plants, pots and books for sale was outstanding. Your editor had the honor of announcing the winners of the CSSA awards after the banquet and the auction held afterwards was energetic and spirited, raising thousands of dollars for succulent research.

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

2017 Plant of the Month

MONTH

CACTUS

SUCCULENT

September
October
November

Ferocactus, Echinocactus
Opuntioids, Pereskia
Epiphytic cacti

Adenium, Pachypodium
Agave, Calibanus, Nolina, Yucca
Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Puya



Echinocactus horizontalionius



Ferocacti

Plant of the Month, Cactus: *Ferocactus, Echinocactus:*

Echinocactus was once one of the ‘main’ genera of cacti, and had over a hundred species and more than a thousand names. As additional collection and research continued over the years, most of the species were separated into other genera, leaving only the nine that remain. *Echinocactus* superficially resemble *Ferocactus*; however *Echinocactus* have straight spines, while *Ferocactus* have hooked spines and nectar glands on the areoles. Species include *E. grusonii*, *E. horizontalionius*, *E. parryi*, *E. platyacanthus*, *E. polycephalus* and *E. texensis*.

Echinocactus are generally large plants, growing to three feet or more in diameter, and as high. The most common example is *Echinocactus grusonii*, popularly known as the ‘golden barrel cactus’ or ‘mother-in-law’s cushion, and a staple of any cactus garden. We are fortunate in having them grow well anywhere in Southern California. With age, *Ferocactus* generally get to be very large plants, particularly when grown in the ground; fortunately, they are fairly slow growers. When grown in pots, they will stay at a comfortable size for many years. Although there are only about 40 species, many of them are fairly variable, with widely varying spine lengths, shapes, textures and colors, depending on the specific locality. [Ed. Note: Members of CSSA fieldtrips to Oaxaca, Puebla and Hidalgo have seen enormous examples of *E. platyacanthus*, some over 5 feet tall.]

Ferocactus are easily grown, and most are perfectly happy outdoors without protection year round in Southern California. A normal well-draining potting mix will do well. They need sun to bring out the colors and textures of the spines. *Ferocactus* are also easily raised from seed. Planting is most successful when done in April or May. The seedlings grow slowly at first, but soon take off. There are several advantages to growing *Ferocactus* from seed. The first is that the selection of type localities and spine variations is far greater than you will ever see at a plant show or sale. The second and most important is that you get to grow the plant through its awkward juvenile growth. During the second year *Ferocactus* spines grow completely out of proportion to the *Ferocactus* body. A *Ferocactus* that will eventually be a foot in diameter, and 4 feet tall with 3 or four inch spines, will have as a seedling a body less than an inch in diameter, with spines an inch or more long.

Favorite Species:

Ferocactus chrysacanthus from Baja California has dense golden spines, and becomes a spectacular species when about 8 inches in diameter. It will grow to 3 feet, eventually.

Ferocactus emoryi, from Arizona and Sonora, and shown above has long red spines that can vary from straight to hooked.

Ferocactus latispinus, from central Mexico, has flat reddish spines, with distinct grooves running crosswise, particularly on the bottom. A variety, *Ferocactus latispinus v spiralis* has the spines forming a spiral pattern up the stem. A spectacular plant when it gets to be about 18 inches tall.

Ferocactus rectispinus, closely related to *F. emoryi*, has bright red spines.

Ferocactus stainesii, from San Luis Potosi, has red to carmine spines, clusters quickly, and can grow to 9 feet, given enough time.

Ferocactus wislizenii, another Baja species has flat spines. It grows more in the winter than the summer.

Tom Glavich November 2004

Plant of the Month, Succulent: Adenium, Pachypodium



Pachypodium namaquensis



Adenium obesum, photo by N. Christianson

Adenium is a member of the *Apocynaceae*, and relative of *Pachypodium*, *Amosonia*, *Carrisa*, *Oleander*, *Thevetia* and *Vinca*. The *Apocynaceae* is home to many showy flowering plants used for ornamental and medicinal purposes. Native to Africa, *Adeniums* are easy to grow, requiring only good fertilizer and lots of water when in growth and protection from cold and damp when dormant. Several growers place their plants in their garages in late fall to force dormancy, and protect them from cold and damp. *Adenium* hybridization for the caudex shape and flower color is being undertaken in many locations.

Pachypodiums are native to only Southern Africa and Madagascar. There are more Madagascan species than there are African, due to the geography of the island of Madagascar, with isolated regions that encourage the development of endemic populations of plants, animals and insects. New species are still being discovered as botanists explore the more remote and isolated areas of Madagascar.

The Madagascan species are easy to grow, with the sole difficulty being their sensitivity to cold and wet. If they are protected, either by being brought indoors during the winter, or protected from rain and cold in a cold frame, or even a garage, they will survive and grow quickly. African species are generally easier, and are more tolerant of cold and wet.

Propagation of either the Madagascan or African species is easy from seed. Seeds are simply placed on good wet potting soil, and germination generally occurs within a week. Seeds should be sown in the spring to mid-summer, however the seeds are generally not long lived, (about a year is as long as they should be kept) and good results can be obtained nearly any time of year except mid-winter. Protection from direct sun is necessary until the first few leaf pairs have formed, and then gradual movement into strong light, with an increase in feeding and water will bring quick and strong growth.

All of the *Pachypodiums* are worth growing, and since there are not really that many species, and seeds and seedling plants are relatively cheap, a complete collection is within the resources of many. By Tom Glavich

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPT. 2 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON 626-405-3504

- SEPT. 16 Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Fall Sale, 10:00—4:00, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633
W. Magnolia Blvd., Encino CA 91343, www.lacactus.com

- SEPT. 17 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION , 12-5PM
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615 INFO. 562-631-5876

- Oct. 7-8 BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW & SALE SAT. 10-5---SUN. 11-3 ST. PAUL’S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADDMISSION & PARKING, INFO 661-8318488

- OCT. 28-29 PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS
230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA
INFO hciservices@gmail.com. 858-382-1797

- 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

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

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

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.