



Succulent Scoop

Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society

September 2022

Volume 7 Number 9

Mission Statement:

The Conejo Cactus And Succulent Society encourages the study, cultivation, conservation, and appreciation of cacti and other succulent plants.

Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com

Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society

Web: ConejoCSS.com

Next Meeting
Monday, September 5th
7:00 pm

California Lutheran University
Lundring Events Center
130 Overton Court
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Doors Open at 6:30

Program: The Chilean Altiplano By Stefan Burger

Take the high road into the Andes and discover otherworldly plants and landscapes. The Altiplano translates to "High Plain" in Spanish and is the world's second largest area of high mountain plateau after Tibet. Altiplano territory spans across parts of Bolivia, Peru and Argentina, but a small – and arguably more intriguing – section is located in Chile, where the fascinating topography is home to a diversity of cacti, including *Oreocereus*, *Browningia*, *Neowerdermannia*, *Haageocereus* and *Corryocactus* species, as well as other alpine wonders such as *Azorella compacta*.



Stefan is an Australian naturalist and environmental consultant living in Chile. He has an academic background in Applied Sciences and developed a fascination for cacti and other exotic plants from a young age. Stefan now facilitates habitat tours in South America, works in conservation and independently researches cacti and desert ecology.

Stefan Burger's presentation will be via Zoom on the large screen at our September 5th meeting. We will not be giving out any Zoom links for at home viewing.

Refreshments



For refreshments, we're asking everyone to sign up for something randomly. Come to <http://whosbringingwhat.com/ccss> and see what's already on the table. If we need more, sign up. If not, wait until next time. Like last time, we will have a Keurig machine up and running. In the hot summer months, please consider bringing your own cold drink. Managing cases of water is heavy and leads to a lot of plastic waste. —Terry Wilson



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

This month's president's message is going to be different. First, it's my tribute to John Matthews.

As most of you probably know, John is retiring from selling plants. When I heard, I was worried something was wrong with John, but after talking to him, he assured me he was okay, and in his words, "It was just time."



John probably doesn't know, but he was my mentor from day one in my Cactus and Succulent life.

I met John at my first Arboretum Show. He gave me his business card and told me to come to his nursery. I visited his nursery, and he told me about the CSSA Show at the Huntington. Meanwhile, he was trying to get me to come to the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society meeting, but I kept insisting I didn't want to drive into the valley during the evening rush hour. While attending the CSSA Show, John introduced me to John Martinez, and between them, they talked me into trying an L.A. meeting. After attending one time, I was hooked.

Shortly after, I started to see the need for a club in Ventura County so people here wouldn't have to drive so far to enjoy the meetings. So, I told John when I retire I'm going to start a club. After that, he would keep asking, "When are you going to retire, so we can start a club."

Finally, the day came, and our five founding members (John Matthews, John Martinez, Marquita Ellias, Lisa Gailey, and I) started meeting monthly to make plans. It took us over a year before it came to fruition. John was there every step of the way to answer questions and make suggestions based on his 50-plus years of experience.

John attended all our board meetings, monthly meetings, sales, and events to offer help and suggestions when I needed them. He is also our Affiliate Representative for the CSSA.

What more can I say? John has been my friend and mentor, and I wish him the best of luck, fun, and relaxation, which he truly deserves.

Linda Holub
President CCSS



I am relinquishing my space and hundreds of flats of plants from my rented nursery space in Somis. There are thousands of cacti and other succulents. Appointments for 1-2 people at a time for a 1 1/2 -hour appointment are required. Bring your own boxes or bags. Cash only.

Please email jgmplants@aol.com
or call (661-714-1052) for appointment.

John Matthews



2022 Plant of the Month

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Columnar cacti	Succulent Bulbs
February	Ferocactus	Aloe
March	Parodia (Notocactus)	Gasteria
April	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium
May	Echinopsis	Euphorbia from Madagascar
June	Crested/Monstrose	Crested/Monstrose
July	Echinocereus	Agave
August	Mammillaria	Adenium
September	Eriosyce	Cyphostemma & Cissus
October	Copiapoa	Stapeliads (including Ceropegia)
November	Opuntia & relatives	Conophytum & Lithops
December	Favorites	Favorites

Plant of the Month (POM) What is this all about?

Each meeting of the CCSS will feature a friendly plant show/competition (POM). The goal of the POM is two fold.

- Introduce the membership to the various cactus and succulent genera and to open up a discussion on the culture, care, and display of these plants.
- Encourage members to share their plants with membership.

POM Submissions:

- Members may submit up to 3 three plants in each of the two categories (Cactus and Succulents). Plants entered in the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions must have been owned and maintained by the member for a minimum of one year. Plants entered in the Novice category may be newly acquired plants.

POM Divisions:

- **Novice:** 0-25 Total points • **Intermediate:** 26-100 Total points • **Advanced:** >100 Total Points
- When a member has accumulated the total number points in their Division, they will be moved up to the next higher Division in the following calendar year.

POM Judging Criteria:

- Plants are evaluated according to the following criteria:
- Condition (health, form, damage). 50%
- Maturity and size. 25%
- Staging (Artistic composition - container, stonework, etc). 20%
- Nomenclature (proper plant identification). 5%
- Additional criteria may include rarity, difficulty in growing, and whether the plant is in flower.

POM Judging:

- 1st place - 6 points • 2nd place - 3 points • 3rd place - 2 points
- All other entries will be awarded 1 point. Entry slips will be collected by the POM Coordinator for tabulation, record keeping, and publication in the CCSS Newsletter.

We are encouraging all members to participate in the POM. This is your opportunity to show off your prized treasures or to possibly learn how to better care for your plants.

See you at the next meeting
CCSS Board

Cactus of the Month: *Eriosyce*

Eriosyce is a genus of cacti from Chile and parts of Peru and Argentina. They are popular among cactus enthusiasts as they are small, easy to grow and many of the species have colorful bodies and interesting spines. Most species start out globular, with some staying that way and clumping readily, while others slowly become columnar. At least one species, *E. aurata*, becomes large and round somewhat similar to a Golden Barrel. The name *Eriosyce* means "wooly fruit", one of the distinctive characteristics of the group. The genus in its current form is a relatively recent taxonomic change from up to eleven small genera into a single medium size genus of about 35 species. Of those many genera, *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* are the best known to growers.

Eriosyce is a great example of how good taxonomy can work. Professional taxonomists do not change names for the sake of change. If they make a change it is because intensive research, often spanning several years, shows that a nomenclatural change is in the best interests of science.



Eriosyce villosa



Eriosyce occulta

In this case we have lots of different genera because numerous taxonomists over the last century or so looked at these plants piecemeal, often using only dry specimens in a museum, or only seeing a small number of species in habitat. They did their best with what they had, but without the big picture it is easy to think you have something unique that deserves its own genus. Then came along a taxonomist who decided to really focus on this group and spent extensive time in the field seeing them in the wild. Once he was able to study the full range of variation within and between species it became clear to him that they really were just a single genus. A different researcher did a DNA study (phylogeny) of these species and also came to the conclusion they were all closely related and should be a genus. The combination of field work and laboratory study necessitated the change that led to 11 different genera being combined into one, *Eriosyce*. A takeaway of this for the average grower is that if you have any cacti labeled as *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* you should change them to *Eriosyce*.

I discuss this not to try to turn you into a taxonomist, but to help explain why a name you are familiar with has changed. Must you follow a name change? Of course not, but don't justify your refusal by claiming scientists just like to change names. Note that I'm referring to professional or very serious amateur taxonomists (the latter being the case for *Eriosyce*) that back up their claims with solid data and publish in respected journals. Bad taxonomy does exist, but it usually has telltale signs.

All of the species of *Eriosyce* are small enough to be potted plants, with some of the bigger ones also working as a small landscape plants for a succulent garden. They take general cactus care though they can be especially sensitive to over-watering as most species have tap roots. Well-draining soil is a must. The species with colorful bodies are usually at their best in high light (protect from afternoon sun) and may turn greenish in lower light. Most species can take the occasional light frosts we get in this region.



Eriosyce napina

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams

Succulent of the Month: *Cissus* & *Cyphostemma*



Cissus quadrangularis

This month we focus on grapes. Maybe not exactly the same grapes we eat as a snack and make into wine, but the caudiciform relatives of the fruit. *Cissus* is a large genus of 350 species that range from tropical rainforest vines to highly succulent shrubs to vines. The genus can be found worldwide, though the more succulent species are mainly from Africa and Asia. Most species have glossy green to reddish green compound leaves and tendrils that it uses to climb up walls, fences, and other plants. The species of interest to succulent enthusiasts generally form thickened stems and roots that make the plant a caudiciform. These caudiciform species generally have succulent leaves and stems as well. Some species (e.g. *C. quadrangularis*) have reduced leaves and the stems themselves are the attraction. While the plants are succulents, they like ample water during the summer and vines can grow several feet long in a season. Often these vines will die back to the caudex in the winter, at which time the plants should be kept dry.

Cyphostemma takes grape succulence to the extreme. It is a genus of over 200 species primarily from southern Africa and Madagascar. Many species form a fat, round or conical base with large leaves, but tend not to be as vining as *Cissus* or other grape relatives. *Cyphostemma uter* has a round caudex with short stems on top that give the appearance of a cow's udder (that's what "uter" means). It is quite rare in cultivation and commands a premium price (a plant of this species sold at the Drought Tolerant Plant Festival for \$500!) *Cyphostemma juttae* is one of the most commonly seen species and one of the most impressive if grown well. It can be grown in ground in our climate and can reach six feet tall and nearly as wide. Largest of all is *C. mappia*, a species from Mauritius, an island nation off the coast of Madagascar most famous as being home to the Dodo bird (before it was driven extinct). It is a tree that can reach 30' and has been called the Mauritian Baobob due to its thickened shape. Unfortunately, owing to its tropical nature, *C. mappia* can be difficult to grow in our climate outside of a greenhouse.



Cyphostemma currorii



Cyphostemma juttae

Both genera produce small flowers and red berries during the growing season. Although they are grape relatives you should not try the berries as many are highly toxic. They do make a beautiful contrast to the green to bluish leaves however. While every species has its own requirements, most succulent *Cissus* and *Cyphostemma* have similar cultural requirements. Lots of sun and regular water are preferred during the growing season. Plants should be kept dry during the winter dormancy. If grown in the landscape, species such as *C. juttae* can tolerate our winter rains if grown in well-drained soil. Species from Madagascar or other more tropical regions should avoid being cool and wet (cool and dry is fine).

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams, Hansueli Krapf, & Vinayaraj

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Event Publicity

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PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)

August, 2022

Cactus - Mammillaria

Novice:

1st	<i>Mammillaria</i> sp.	Ryan Ripley
2nd	<i>Mammillaria nejapensis</i>	Ryan Ripley
3rd	<i>Mammillaria</i> sp.	Ann Powers

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Mammillaria schiedeana</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Mammillaria pilcayensis</i>	Tom Horan
3rd	<i>Mammillaria sempervivi</i>	Ann Hopkinson

Advanced:

1st	<i>Mammillaria hahniana</i>	John Martinez
2nd	<i>Mammillaria geminispina</i>	Linda Holub
3rd	<i>Mammillaria</i> sp.	Linda Holub

Succulent - Adenium

Novice:

1st	<i>Adenium obesum</i>	Cheryl Norris
2nd	<i>Adenium oleifolium</i>	Ryan Ripley

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Adenium arabicum</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Adenium swazicum</i>	Marquita Ellias

Advanced:

2nd	<i>Adenium obesum</i>	John Martinez
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The August meeting provided 16 POM entries, 6 Novice, 5 Intermediate, and 5 Advanced. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated.

August Cactus POM - *Mammillaria*

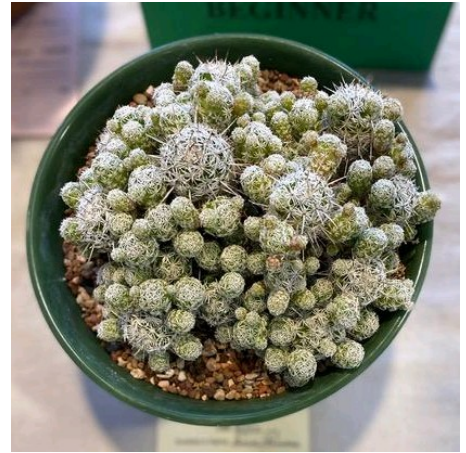
BEGINNER



1st Place
Mammillaria Sp..
Ryan Ripley



2nd Place
Mammillaria nejapensis.
Ryan Ripley



3rd Place
Mammillaria vetula subs. *gracilis*
Ann Powers

Intermediant



1st Place
Mammillaria schiedeana
Ann Hopkinson



2nd Place
Mammillaria pilcayensis
Tom Horan



3rd Place
Mammillaria sempervivi.
Ann Hopkinson

Advanced



1st Place
Mammillaria hahniana
John Martinez



2nd Place
Mammillaria grminispina
Linda Holub



3rd Place
Mammillaria sp.
Linda Holub

August Succulent POM - *Adenium*

BEGINNER



1st Place
Adenium obesum
Cheryl Norris



2nd Place
Adenium oleifolium
Ryan Ripley

Intermediate



1st Place
Adenium arabicum
Ann Hopkinson



2nd Place
Adenium swazicum
Marquita Ellias



2nd Place
Adenium obesum
John Martinez

Advanced

Thanks to Susan Krevitt for taking the POM photos and sharing her



Sulcorebutia rauschii
cv. *violacidermis*

It surely would have been a winner had it been in the right category.