

# GEMS OF THE DESERT



Newsletter of the Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society  
[www.occss.org](http://www.occss.org)

## President's Message

By Vince Basta

When we had our first plant of the month mini show in February, I was very encouraged to see the level of participation and quality of plants our members brought in. At the March meeting, everyone set the bar even higher. I was really impressed by the number of excellent specimens brought in again last month. Then there was the discussion table. Bill Hagbloom showed us some great bulbs in his collection, Alan Ford shared some of his orchids, Gary James talked about two Pachypodium species, and Larry Nichols showed us a neat crested Mammillaria that had flowers. I want to congratulate everyone for their efforts to bring in plants for discussion, it adds a great amount of interest to our meetings.

I hope everyone had a great time on the bus trip to The Living Desert, Moorten Botanical Gardens, and Buck Hemenway's wonderful home. I look forward to seeing some great photo's of the excursion. We should all thank Denise Fry for putting together such a great trip!

## Next Meeting

**Thursday April 22, 2010  
at 7:30pm**

**OCCSS Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Meeting place is the Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92839**

I would also like to thank Daiv Freeman for redesigning our club website. He has made it easier for other club members to add content. Currently, I am working with Daiv learning how to add content and would like to hear feedback on what the members think about the site and other items we need to add.

Mary has a great program lined up by our very own past President Larry Nichols. It should be a great program so be sure to attend the April Meeting!

## April 2010 Speaker: Larry Nichols

Xeriscaping: Low water usage landscaping with succulents

Larry has been a member of the OCCSS for over 20 yrs, during which time he has served as president for two terms. After more than a decade of wanting a large cactus garden, he converted his front yard eight years ago. There are about 150 cacti and 5 succulents along with a rusty trellis, treasures from his travels and desert gems adorning the garden. Mike Buckner, San Diego's Plantman, helped with the design concepts, plant material choices and general issues that arose during the project. Since Larry was 8 yrs old, he has enjoyed the undeniably unique qualities of cacti. He started his collection with an Opuntia; ironically now he does not collect Opuntias or Chollas. He has around 800 plants, mostly cacti from around the world. Additionally, he has been on many trips to the Colorado Plateau, Baja CA, Mexico and the Western US to photograph & study these plants in their native habitat.

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Mary Chittenden; VP Programs

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## Thank you, Tom Glavich!

By Mary Chittenden; VP Programs

OCCSS would like to thank Tom Glavich for his presentation on South African Bulbs. We loved seeing the diversity of these plants and his beautiful photographs.



Photo: Mary Chittenden; VP Programs

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*OCCSS gives a warm welcome to our new members!*

Hilary A.  
Marie B.  
Bettigene W.

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### Plant of the Month Mini-Show Feb 2010

#### Novice Class - Succulent

Scott Bunell - Aloe ramosissima **1<sup>st</sup>**  
 Scott Bunell- Aloe distans **2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Scott Bunell-Aloe jucunda **2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Mary Chittenden- Aloe sp. **2<sup>nd</sup>**

#### Novice Class - Cactus

Pat Hurliman - Echinocereus faciculatus **1<sup>st</sup>**  
 Pat Hurliman - Echinocereus triglochidiatus **2<sup>nd</sup>**

#### Advanced Class - Succulent

Craig and Denise Fry - Aloe dinteri **1<sup>st</sup>**  
 Dean Hart - Agave display **1<sup>st</sup>**  
 Darryl & Jen Craig - Aloe parvula **2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Craig and Denise Fry- Agave filifera compacta **2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Craig and Denise Fry- Aloe cv. 'Dark Shadows' **2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Gary James- Agave Vitoria-reginae alba marginata **3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### Advanced Class - Cactus

Darryl & Jen Craig - Echinocereus engelmannii **1<sup>st</sup>**  
 Craig and Denise Fry - Echinocereus pectinatus v. rubispinus **2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Craig and Denise Fry - Echinocereus pulchellus **2<sup>nd</sup>**  
 Darryl & Jen Craig - Echinocereus lindsayi **3<sup>rd</sup>**

### Plant of the Month Mini Show

<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
January	N/A	N/A
February	Turbincarpus/Eriocyce	Tylecodon/Cotyledon
March	Echinocereus/Echinomastus	Aloe/Agave
<b>April</b>	<b>Mammillaria</b>	<b>Stapeliads</b>
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:*

1<sup>st</sup> 10 pts  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 pts  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 pts  
 HM 2 pts

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

## *Stapeliads & Mammillarias*

Plants of the Month: April 2010

Photos by Corona Cactus Nursery



*Stapelia paniculata*



*Mammillaria stella de tacubaya*



*Stapelia species*



*Mammillaria deherdtiana*



*Mammillaria sempervivi*



*Mammillaria coahuilensis*

## Up Coming Events

**May 1 & 2 :** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale; Veterns Memorial Center, Garden room 4117 Overland Ave. Culver City Info: 310-822-1783

**May 14 & 15:** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 30<sup>th</sup> Show & Sale; Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon Info: 909-360-8802 9am - 4pm

**May 16<sup>th</sup> :** Huntington Plant Sale; Huntingon Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino Info: 626-405-2160 10am-5pm

**May 22 & 23:** Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale; Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa San Luis Obispo Info: 805-237-2054 10am-4pm

### Editor's Pic



*Richtersveldtia columnaris* ; Richtersveld, South Africa  
Photo: Jen Craig; CoronaCactus Nursery

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## Discussion table plants: *Cacti/Succulent planters*

Larry Nichols will be talking about Xeriscaping. Obviously we can't bring in our Xeriscaped yards, but we can represent them by bringing in planters that demonstrate plants that grow well together, or even pictures of your yard creations. Let's see them! Bring in your plants and show them off.



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.

### OCCSS Library

The Library will be at the next meeting. Bring all borrowed books back, old and new. We are going to order some new books soon, so let me know if you have any requests. Also, I have 100's of old CSSA Journals, if any one is interested.

*Craig Fry: OCCSS Library Chair*

**Our March 27 Club bus trip to the Living Desert & Zoo, Moortens Botanical Gardens, and Buck & Yvonne Hemmenways open yard, was a success. The weather was perfect. There were many beautiful plants to see and animals too. Members enjoyed buying plants and taking pictures of the gardens we visited. 29 of our club membership were able to attend. We missed those of you who couldn't make it! A good time was had by all.**

*Denise Fry: VP excursions*

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Garden Tour, sponsored by Sherman Gardens Volunteers, is scheduled for Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> from 11a.m.-4p.m. Our guests will be able to visit six delightful and unique private gardens in Cameo Gardens, Crystal Cove, Bonita Canyon and Shady Canyon. Tickets may be purchased for \$40 at Sherman Gardens gift shop located at 2647 Pacific Coast Highway, Corona del Mar, or by mail or phone (949-673-2261). Tickets may also be purchased the day of the event at Sherman Gardens for \$45. Included in this year's tour is a special viewing of the Library's California Impressionist Art Collection. Light refreshments will be served from 11a.m.-3p.m. For more information contact Sherman Gardens at 949-673-2261 or visit the web site at [WWW.slgardens.org](http://WWW.slgardens.org).

OCCSS is looking for articles that relate to the Plant of the Month mini show. We could use articles about a genus in general or a focused article about just one species or a group in that genus. Look over the schedule for the year and let us know what plant you want to write about. To avoid multiple articles about the same subject, talk to Darryl or Jen Craig at the meetings or email us at [ccn@coronacactus.com](mailto:ccn@coronacactus.com) and let us know what subject you will be writing about so we can mark you down. Photos would be an excellent addition to your article!

**Renewal of Club Membership for 2010; \$20.00 email or \$25.00 snail mail. You may do this at the next meeting or mail it to:**

OCCSS  
c/o Membership Chairman  
P.O. Box 3062  
Fullerton, CA 92834

Contact the Newsletter Editor:  
Jen Craig -- [CCN@coronacactus.com](mailto:CCN@coronacactus.com)

[WWW.OCCSS.ORG](http://WWW.OCCSS.ORG)

### 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 & Sue Gilley, Refreshments  
Rick Davenport, CSSA Affiliate Representative  
Jen Craig, Newsletter Editor  
Daiv Freeman, Website