

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 59, Number 9

September 2013

The Meeting is the **4th** Saturday

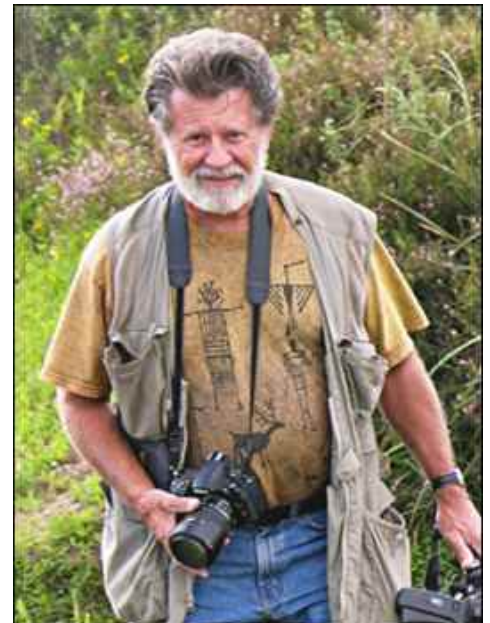
SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

Park Avenue Community Center

**210 Park Ave
Escondido, CA 92025**

Formerly Known as...
Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

Noon!!



“Namibia – A Dry Place in a Wet Time”

•• Wendell “Woody” Minnich ••

Namibia, rivaled only by the Chilean Atacama, is one of the driest regions in the world. Much of its western coast, located in the southern reaches of the African continent, rarely, if ever gets rain. Some of these areas are sustained only by the seasonal nightly fogs. Due to these unique conditions, it is in some of these very arid, Mojave desert-like landscapes, where many of the world's most unique plants and animals can be found.

Similar to the infrequent rainy El Nino years that affect our California and Chilean coasts, Namibia had an extreme summer rain fall this last January thru April 2011. It is reported that this was one of the heaviest summer rains ever experienced in Namibia.

Our objectives were to visit this amazing country in this unusually wet time when the plants and scenery may be different than what most explorers might normally experience. We were in luck and our timing was perfect. When we arrived, the last of the torrential rains were spitting and sputtering off into the eastern reaches of the country. Windhoek, the capital of the country, was green and the weather looked promising. Needless to say, unlike some of our other friends who had visited the country the previous month, we were blessed with open roads and passable river crossings. The weather stayed sunny, warm and accommodating for the entire three weeks.

From Windhoek we took a giant clockwise loop to the south and then did the same from Windhoek to the North. We experienced the succulent rich areas to the Orange River, and from there we migrated up to the famous Luderitz Bay. The Richtersveld vegetation in these southern environments included many fantastic plants from the statuesque Pachypodium namaquanum to the many jewel like mesembs. One could spend a life time studying all these different genera, some of which included: the Lithops, Sarcocaulons, Tylecodons, Conophytums, Othonnas, Aloes, Hoodias, Cerarias, Haworthias, Titanopsis, Adromischus, Pelargoniums, Crassulas, Avonias, Larryleachias and many, many more. On our northern loop we traveled to the west towards Swakopmund and then up to the impressive Epupa Falls on Namibia's northern border to Angola. From there we eventually meandered our way back to Windhoek. On this northern journey we encountered a very different group of succulent genera. The plant taxa generally became larger and often very sculptural. We saw Cyphostemmas, Pachypodiums, Welwitschias, Commiphoras, Sesamothamnus, Adansonias, Moringas, Aloes, Hoodias, Adenias, Adeniums and so on and so on. We also stumbled across many wonderful animals, not in the game reserves, as well as some of the most beautiful indigenous peoples. The Herero and Himba tribes were both unexpected cultural highlights of this amazing trip!

I took over 10,000 photos, and a few have found their way into this presentation. Be prepared to see the trip of a lifetime and the total of Namibia, edited of course!

[Woody]

Woody Minnich has been in the cactus hobby for some 45 years and has become well known for his participation in many of the cactus and succulent clubs. He is an honorary life member of nine clubs as well as a life member of CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) He has served in almost all positions of leadership from president, to newsletter editor, to show chairman and so on. He is also known for his extensive fieldwork studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen. From these trips he has developed an extensive knowledge of the cactus family as well as many of the other succulent genera.

Woody is one of the best speakers out there. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken for plant conventions - organizations all over the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Mexico. Woody has also authored a number of articles for various newsletters, the CSSA journal and his photographs are well published. Woody is the creator-originator of the first color version of the CSSA journal "Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur" that also featured show plants, shows and the growers of the pictured plants.

His nursery, **Cactus Data Plants**, is known throughout the world of cactus and succulents as an outstanding resource. CDP was started in 1975 and is still in operation today. Cactus Data Plants specializes in show specimens and rare cacti and other succulents with particular emphasis in *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Melocactus*, *Copiapoa*, *Fouquieria*, *Pachypodium*, *Euphorbia*, *Cyphostemma*, *Adenium* and *Adenia*.

Woody and his wife Kathy now live in the beautiful mountains south of Santa Fe New Mexico in a region called Cedar Grove. He has a small 1,200 sq. ft. greenhouse where he grows his unique plants. He is always on the move and travels frequently to do presentations and shows throughout the western United States. Woody is the proud parent of three children, Leah, Denver and Sarah, all of whom are now grown and out in the big world. Woody is also the proud grandparent of three grandsons, Indiana, Ashton and Logan. He is a retired high school teacher of 32 years teaching Graphic Arts, Architecture, Art and Health.





BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE



REFRESHMENTS

Lorie Johanson

Chris & John Barkley

Alexandra Jimenez

Jean O'Daniel

Jerre Stafford

Gloria Medina

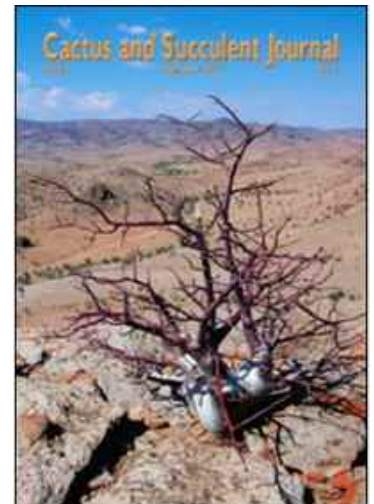
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE •• SEPTEMBER 2013

What a great picnic we had last month, great food, great location and great members. The Lawn House at the San Diego Botanic garden was a fantastic venue. We had our first annual plant auction at the picnic to raise money for the gardens. The space has been reserved for next year, the space will hold about 60 people. There will be a reservation signup next year so don't miss your chance to have a good time.

Next month is our 4th annual Fall Succulent Plant Show and Sale held at the Paul Ecke Building at the San Diego Botanic Garden, 26, 27 of September with Friday the 25th for setup. This event is important the society for many reasons: revenue to support club functions; exposure to the public of our club and our plants; a chance for members to come together for a fun social time. To make this happen two things need to happen, we need volunteers to put this together and your plants. There will be a signup sheet for all positions at the next meeting for setup, register, security, judges clerks, food, tear down. Last year cactus was real weak, especially novice, many opportunities for blue ribbons there. Bring in your favorite plants to show off, I will be there to help you place them in the correct category.

Woody Minnich is the speaker this month, an excellent presenter we have seen before and will be doing a talk on Namibia, an area that is now be explored more extensively in recent years and has many plants for us enjoy. On Sunday, the day after our meeting both Woody and I will be going to the Long Beach Plant Auction. This auction over the years has grown to be one of the premiere events of the year. Food, drink and great specimen plants, what's not to like.

Peter Walkowiak
President



Plant of the Month

• • **Yucca** • •

presented by Erik Gronborg



Yuccas are in the *Agave* family, which in addition to *Agaves* also includes *Manfreda* and *Furcraea* and a number of other genera. Although many *yuccas* look very much like some *Beaucarnias* and other members of the *Nolina* family, and like *Dasylyrions* look like some *Agaves*, the two families are not closely related. *Nolinas* are dioecious (having separate male and female plants), and have tiny flowers and indehiscent seedpods (they do not split open to release the seeds). *Yuccas* have large flowers with 3 thick, fleshy petals and 3 identical sepals called tepals cream to white, often with a purple tinge to the outside.

Yuccas are divided into four groups, two with a single species: *hesperoyucca whipplei* (Our Lord's candle), the only monocarpic *yucca*, and *yucca brevifolia* (Joshua Tree), with large spongy fruit and leathery half closed flowers. The rest of the 50 species of *yucca*, with about 30 species being indigenous to Mexico, are divided with half in the sarcocarpa group characterized by seeds in large fleshy fruit, the other half in the chaenocarpa group with seeds in dry capsules which split open to spread the seed (dehiscent). The *Yuccas* range from southern USA all across the country to Mexico and into Guatemala. I will show the *Yuccas* you can find in southern California and Arizona and some of the Mexican species which are used in our gardens, of which *Yucca elephantibes* is the most widely seen.

Books consulted (I believe we have them in our library) :
Agaves, Yuccas and related plants, by Mary & Gary Irish
Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada, by Stephen Ingram



The photos are

1. Rina with Joshua trees
2. *Yucca schidigera* in bloom
3. flower from *Yucca schidigera*
4. large bloom stalk on *Yucca elephantibes*



Photos Needed for the *Cactus Courier*

We are planning to put together a website for the Club. Among the things we urgently need are original photographs – with permission to post them online. We would like to have several people take a few pictures at each meeting – original pictures of the Brag Plants, and the Plant of the Month, maybe some of the speakers, or the attendees, or the food table. We don't need a lot, and today's cell phones are remarkably capable. Please email them to me – I don't promise to use them all, but we'll use as many as we can on the Web, and in the *Cactus Courier*.

(...Eleanore)

Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Peter Walkowiak – President & Program Chair

Gloria Medina – Secretary

Vicki Broughton – Treasurer

Bruce Barry – Board Member & Exchange Table

Don Nelson – Board Member

Francis Granger – Board Member & Exchange Table

Annie Morgan – Board Member



Dick Henderson – Garden Representative

Brita Miller – Librarian

Vicki Martin – Assistant Librarian

Dennis Miller – Raffle & Plant Sales & Membership Co-Chair

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
Plant Show and Sale

October 26 and 27, 2013

San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas
(formerly known as Quail Botanical Gardens)

It's time to get your best plants all spruced up and ready for the Plant Show in October. They will benefit from that extra Tender Loving Care – it shows the Judges you know your business.

The Show is on Saturday; the Sale is both Saturday and Sunday.



WE NEED YOU!

Fall Show & Sale Volunteers Needed !!!

Some of these are sit-down jobs...

Friday

Setup - noon - 5pm - 2 or 3 people

Saturday

Sales Table - 9am - 1pm & 1pm - 5pm - 2 people per shift
Security - 9am - 1pm & 1pm - 5pm - 2 people per shift
Membership - 9am - 1pm & 1pm - 5pm - 1 person per shift
Kitchen - 11am - 2pm - 1 person per shift

Sunday

Sales Table - 10am - 1pm & 1pm - 4pm - 2 people per shift
Security - 10am - 1pm & 1pm - 4pm - 2 people per shift
Membership - 10am - 1pm & 1pm - 4pm - 1 person per shift
Kitchen - 11am - 2pm - 1 person per shift
Cleanup* - 4pm - 5:30pm - 3 or 4 people

***We REALLY need Cleanup help!!**
Please stay to help when you pick up your plants!
A couple of strong backs will be very helpful!!!!

And **BOXES** – We need boxes!!
<...smallish are best...>

We'll also need some food...
...plant shows & sales work up an appetite!
What will you be bringing?

Please think about how and when you can help out. If you're not sure, sign up anyway and we'll work it out!

Contact Brita Miller [redacted]
[redacted]



THERE WILL BE VENDORS !!



Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033
Membership Application

I/We wish to join/renew membership in the
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

\$25.00 Single Membership
\$30.00 Dual Membership (Same Address)
(1/2 price after June 30th)

There is a **\$5 discount** on the fees if you choose to receive your newsletter by email-only. Save money, leave a small carbon footprint, and reduce Eleanore's workload!

Please print! We have to be able to read it!

Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to:
"Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society"
P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033



2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

28 September Park Ave. Community Center
26, 27 October San Diego Botanic Garden (Quail)
23 November Park Ave. Community Center
21 December Park Ave. Community Center

NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!

Here is the list of Categories for next month's Plant Show at San Diego Botanic Gardens. This is to give you time to make labels for your special plants!

DIVISION 1: CACTACEAE

North American Cacti

- 1) Ariocarpus, Astrophytum
- 2) Aztekium, Pelecyphora, Epithelantha, Strombocactus, Obregonia, Encephalocarpus, Ortegocactus
- 3) Coryphantha, Escobaria, Neobesseyia, Neolloydia, Leuchtenbergia
- 4) Gymnocactus, Turbinocarpus, Stenocactus
- 5) Echinocereus
- 6) Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Hamatocactus
- 7) Mammillaria; hooked spines
- 8) Mammillaria; straight spines
- 9) Thelocactus, Sclerocactus, Pediocactus

South American Cacti

- 10) Blossfeldia, Frailea, Uebelmannia
- 11) Buiningia, Discocactus, Melocactus
- 12) Copiapoa
- 13) Echinopsis, Lobivia
- 14) Eriogyne, Neochilenia, Neoporteria, Pyrrhocactus, Horridocactus
- 15) Gymnocalycium
- 16) Notocactus, Parodia, Acanthocalycium
- 17) Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia
- 18) Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya, Borzicactus

Other cacti

- 19) Ceroids, columnar types
- 20) Opuntioideae
- 21) Epiphytic cacti
- 22) Variegates, crests and monstrose
- 23) Seed-grown by exhibitor

DIVISION 2: NON-CACTUS SUCCULENTS

Aizoaceae (Mesembryanthemaceae)

- 24) Lithops, Conophytum
- 25) Pleiospilos, Titanopsis, Dinteranthus, Faucaria
- 26) Mestoklema, Aloinopsis, Trichodiadema

Asphodelaceae

- 27) Aloe
- 28) Gasteria
- 29) Haworthia, Astroloba

Crassulaceae

- 30) Cotyledon, Tylecodon
- 31) Crassula, Kalanchoe
- 32) Dudleya
- 33) Echeveria
- 34) Pachyphytum, Graptopetalum, Tacitus
- 35) Aeonium, Sedum

Euphorbiaceae

- 36) Leaves, no spines: decaryi, capsaintemariensis, bupleurifolia
- 37) Leaves and spines: milii, gottlebei, viguieri, unispina
- 38) No leaves or spines: caput-medusa, inermis, esculenta, obesa
- 39) Spines, no leaves: stellispina, horrida, ferox, stellata, clavigera
- 40) Monadenium, Jatropha, Pedilanthus

Geraniaceae

- 41) Geraniaceae (Pelargonium)
- 42) Sarcocaulon

Apocynaceae

- 43) Adenium
- 44) Pachypodium

Asclepiadaceae

- 45) Fockea, Petopentia, Raphionacme
- 46) Caralluma, Hoodia, Huernia, Stapelia

Agavaceae

- 47) Agave
- 48) Nolina, Yucca, Beaucarnea, Calibanus

Asteraceae

- 49) Senecio
- 50) Othonna
- 51) Abromeitiella, Dyckia, Burseraceae
- 52) Commiphora, Didiereaceae
- 53) Alluaudia, Didierea, Dracaenaceae
- 54) Sansevieria
- 55) Moraceae, Ficus, Dorstenia, Passifloraceae
- 56) Adenia, Portulacaceae
- 57) Avonia, Anacampseros, Ceraria

Caudiciforms, Pachycauls, Geophytes

- 58) Bombax, Cucurbits, Fouquieria, Dioscorea, Pachycormus

DIVISION 3: OTHER

- 59) Succulent Bulbs
- 60) Variegates, Crests, and Monstrose
- 61) Succulent Bonsai; any succulent plant presented in a Bonsai style, classical or unconventional
- 62) Seed-grown by exhibitor
- 63) Dish Gardens; more than one plant per dish
- 64) Collections: minimum of three, maximum of ten plants of the same genus

DIVISION 4 – ART

- 65) Photography & Art in any media, about succulent plants, or habitat. Art made from plant materials also included. Display Only – NOT JUDGED.



• • 2013 • •

Southern California Events

September 22nd

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction
Rancho los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd, Long Beach, 90615
Info: 310-922-6090

November 2 & 3

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Soc. Show & Sale
9am to 4pm daily
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, C



With more people choosing to live in rural areas closer to nature, the chances are greater than ever that someone you know will lose a house to a fire. Above, fire retardant is dropped on a burning hillside in Altadena in 2009.

(Christine Cotter, Los Angeles Times / August 25, 2013)

Your home's wildfire risk may be higher than you think

By Lew Sichelman, Los Angeles Times lsichelman@aol.com

One-third of all houses are located in what fire safety officials call wild-land urban districts, which are near or among areas prone to wildfires.

Wildfires like the one this summer that killed 19 elite firefighters near Yarnell, Ariz., can't be stopped. But there's plenty homeowners can do to protect their properties.

If you don't think you should take remedial action, think again. One-third of all houses are located in what fire safety officials call wild-land urban districts, which are near or among areas prone to wildfires.

Worse, perhaps, wildfires have ravaged houses in three-fourths of the 50 states. And with more and more people choosing to live in rural areas closer to nature, the chances are greater than ever that someone you know — maybe even you — will lose a house to a fire.

Nearly 30,000 fires have burned 2.5 million acres already this year, according to the latest count by the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. And the state with the most fires isn't California, Arizona or another place in the West. It's Georgia.

Fortunately, wildfires are covered by standard homeowner insurance policies. But the best insurance is prevention. Here, gathered from a number of sources, are some steps you can take to protect your house, improve its fire resistance and shield it from indirect exposure:

- **Choose a fire-wise location.** Canyons may offer a beautiful view, but they tend to act as chimneys, drawing the fire and accelerating the speed at which it spreads. A level site is better than a sloped one. A grass fire moves up a slope four times faster with flames twice as high as fire on level ground because

hot gases rising in front of the fire preheat the up-slope vegetation.

If you're building new, you can avoid this kind of topography. Also, find out about prevailing winds, seasonal weather conditions and the local fire history, so you can plan your landscape design accordingly.

- **Implement landscape safety zones.** Work on your surroundings so the landscape will not bring a fire to your door. Do this by creating three safety zones, the combined extent of which will depend on your property lines and your risk. In high-risk areas, even a zone reaching 200 feet from the house may not be enough.

The first zone should be a well-irrigated area that circles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides. If your house is on a slope, though, a clearance of between 50 and 100 feet may be necessary, especially on the downhill side of the lot.

Plantings in this area should be limited to carefully spaced indigenous species. Beware of "ladder fuels," or vegetation that serves as a link between the grass and treetops and enables the fire to climb into trees or onto your house.

Trees and shrubs are fine in the first zone, as long as dead or low-hanging branches are removed and the height of ground vegetation is controlled. But the more grass, the better, because a wide lawn can serve as a fuel break just as much as a driveway. Ditto for plants with a high moisture content.

Your irrigation system should also reach the second zone, which can contain a limited number of low-growing plants and trees spaced at least 10 feet apart. Dead or dying limbs should be trimmed away, and no live limbs should come within 10 feet of the structure. On trees taller than 18 feet, prune away branches that are less than six feet from the ground.

In the third zone, thin selected trees and remove highly flammable vegetation such as dead or dying shrubs and trees.

- **Consider your roof, walls and windows.** The landscape zones you construct around your house should keep all but the most ferocious wildfires at bay. But if one does happen to break through this protective zone — usually from wind-blown embers or firebrands, sometimes more than a mile away — ignition is most likely to occur on the roof.

Fire officials say eye-catching, untreated wood-shake roofs are the No. 1 cause of home losses in wild-land areas because they can catch wind-blown sparks. If local rules allow, a better choice is factory-treated shakes. But consider using such noncombustible or fire-resistant roofing materials as Class A shingles, metal, cement and concrete products, or tile made from slate or terra cotta.

Fire-resistant subroofing also can improve survivability. But don't be fooled into thinking an expensive roof sprinkling system will stop a fire. You need a large volume of water to make a roof safe, yet water pressure is generally at its lowest during a fire. Also, the electricity needed to run the system is likely to fail, and the high winds that usually accompany a wildfire often divert the spray away from the roof.

Walls, too, should be made of fire-resistant materials such as stucco or masonry. Vinyl can soften and melt during a fire, offering little or no protection.

If you're building a new house, minimize the number and size of windows on the downhill side, the side most likely to be exposed to a fire. Smaller windows perform better than larger panes, according to the National Assn. of Home Builders' research unit, and double-pane and tempered glass are more effective than single-pane glass. For greater protection, windows, sliding glass doors and skylights should have nonflammable screening shutters.

To prevent sparks from entering your house, screen your chimney with noncombustible wire mesh. Also, cover exterior attic and under-floor vents with mire mesh — plastic or nylon screening will melt — with openings no larger than an eighth of an inch. Screen under your porch, too, as well as any other areas below the ground line.

Also, locate your under-eave roof vents near the roofline rather than near the wall to prevent heat or flames from becoming trapped inside. For the same reason, the eaves themselves should be boxed or designed with minimal overhang.

Finally, inspect your house occasionally, looking for breaks and spaces between roof tiles, warping wood or cracks and crevices in the structure where fire or sparks could enter.



Aloe dichotoma Photo by Tim Harvey



Top Ten Styling Tips for Collectors

By [Fred Hill](#) of the Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society
(Reprinted with permission)

Please note: This article assumes the plants have to deal with Winter. We don't, but many of the ideas will work for taking plants from the coast to, say, Valley Center, where the sun and temperature will need to be dealt with. – Eleanore

(If you are one of those that collect something other than succulents, replace the word “pad” with the word “branch” and jump on in there.)

1. **Give it a trim:** Your Opuntias and other hardy cacti may suffer damage as they shrink from winter water loss. Larger varieties tend to droop and shed their smaller joints; smaller ones recover better with smaller strings of pads. You can also more easily prune out damaged or dead pads at this time. Prune pad-type plants back to 2 to 3 pads maximum length. If you choose, you can pick the healthiest of these pads for propagation.
2. **Top it off:** If you use top dressing on your hardy beds, fill in any voids or thin spots to reduce erosion, strengthen the anchor points of your plants, and improve the barrier to invasive weeds and nuisance “droppings” of the smaller cholla-type plants.
3. **Step back and give it a look-over:** Judge the performance of your garden layouts; did the overall shape, elevation, concentration and mix of plants, and their surroundings, live up to expectations? Maybe a little off the side or a few more highlights would give you the flair it needs.
4. **Do the clothes make the look?** Empty all pots of plants that didn't make it. These pots are now available for dressing up any new or maturing plants. Do you recycle used cactus soil mix or discard all? I tend to recycle used mix from disease-free plants, pouring off the top dressing for the gravel component of the next batch, removing vegetative matter from the remainder. This is blended with new mix at something less than 50/50.
5. **Maybe a little bleach job?** Clean and sterilize used pots with a 1 to 10 bleach and water solution to keep problems from popping up with new residents.
6. **Get “In the Know”:** Use those long winter nights (*well, not so very long in Southern California!*) to seek out new specimens, new ways to present plants; perhaps go against the grain, study training your specimen in a new direction.
7. **How about a new ensemble?** Mentally shift through your smaller specimens; plan new dish gardens or rework your existing dishes. Take time to pull plants together in different arrangements, document the arrangement that best fits the dish, sizes, and elevations of a good dish garden. Photograph the layout if you are unable to assemble the dish before spring.
8. **Part it on the side?** How would paring the plant back or shearing sections off improve your specimen? Eliminate standard growth from your monstrose or crestate specimens, with cuttings to be discarded or potted up after curing up a while.
9. **Take care of those split ends:** Keep close watch on your plants throughout the winter, prepare to take care of, at the proper time, any damage from wind, ice (*again, not in our area*) or other calamities.
10. **Plan to work on that tan:** As winter wanes, plan exposure to sun for plants winter over in low light areas. Stage plants in locations with incrementally more sun exposure. Nothing is more unsightly as those brown spots caused by too much sun, too soon. This process may take up to 3 weeks.