



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.

May 2009 - Volume 42, Number 5

**May Meeting:
Thursday,
May 14 at 7:30 pm**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at **7:30 pm** in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia.

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:
Echinopsis

SUCCULENT:
Echeveria

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday, May 20th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

***Vegetative Propagation
Workshop***

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President's Message

We had a great time! The CSSA convention in Tucson was fantastic. So many speakers, so little time. Each afternoon was arranged with double track speakers. Making a decision as to which to hear was agonizing. The people who write the books were the speakers, nearly 40 in all, including John Pilbeam, Miles Anderson, Mark Dimmitt, James Folsom, Kelly Griffin, Mary Irish, Kapatany and Schulz, and Ernst van Jaarsveld, among others. The habitat tour was first class. Joe Clements pronounced it the best convention ever. Even the auction was exciting. A variegated *Agave utahensis* went for \$3000. We had 21 members there. Everyone seemed to enjoy the week.

Our Lotus Land trip is just about filled up. At last count 44 of the 48 seats were spoken (and paid) for.

Continued on Page 2

This Month's Program

Our speaker for May will be Stephen Ingram. His wonderful book *Cacti, Agaves and Yuccas of California and Nevada* is a must-have for anyone with a succulent library. His talk illustrates those wonderful plants and is extremely informative as well as exquisite. The final montage of pictures put to music composed by a friend of his is really a show stopper.

A photographer by profession, Steven's work in putting the book together has obviously enthused him for our hobby. He was a full-time attendee at the recent CSSA Convention.

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March Mini-Show Results

Cacti - Echinocereus

Beginner

1st	Louise Stack	E. triglochidiatus var. inermis
2nd	Ken Shaw	E. roetteri
3rd	William Molina	E. rigidissimus ssp. rubispinus

Intermediate

1st	Pat Swain	E. fendleri
2nd	Pat Swain	E. fendleri x reichenbachii 'mexoca marvel'
3rd	Barbara Nolan	E. pechiatuyoauina

Advanced

1st	Oscar Flores	E. rigidissimus ssp. rubispinus
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Open

1st	Karen Ostler	E. viridiflorus var. canus
2nd	Karen Ostler	E. rigidissimus var. rubispinus
3rd	Karen Ostler	E. reichenbachii

Succulents - Haworthia

Beginner

1st	Tanya Batura	H. reticulata var. tuurlingii
2nd	Lorraine Lutz	H. reinwardtii
3rd	Tanya Batura	H. truncata var. maughanii

Intermediate

1st	Pat Swain	H. retusa var. acuminak
2nd	Cindy & Calvin Arakaki	H. blackburniae
3rd	Pat Swain	H. emelyae var. comptoniana hyb.

Advanced

1st	Buck & Yvonne Hemenway	H. parksiana
2nd	Frank Nudge	H. truncata
3rd	Oscar Flores	H. cooperi

Open

1st	Karen Ostler	H. pumila
2nd	Vince Basta	H. emelyae var. comptoniana (Japanese clone)
3rd	Vince Basta	H. "Mars" (Bill Baker)

President's Message - continued

I am very sad to report that the C&S world has lost one of its finest. Bill Baker passed away on April 11 of a massive heart attack. We'll all miss his dry wit and wonderful plants.

See you all at the meeting! Buck Hemenway

Book Review

The Genus Echeveria

Reviewed by: Tom Vermilion

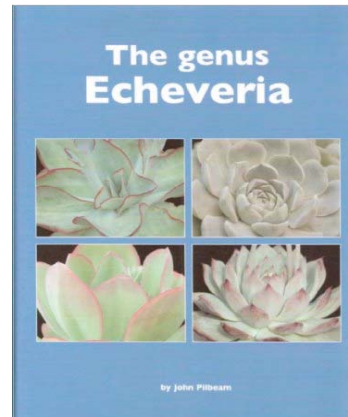
John Pilbeam

The British Cactus and Succulent Society

333 pages, over 400 color photos

Covers over 160 species

This book makes a great companion to the Schultz and Kapitany book, *Echeveria Cultivars*.



Where Schultz and Kapitany's book focuses almost exclusively on hybrids, Pilbeam's book covers the species and varieties in great detail. There are chapters on the history of the genus, distribution (including distribution maps), cultivation and more in addition to

an extensive chapter that includes descriptions of the 160+ accepted species with beautiful color photos for almost all of them. Many of the plants were photographed in habitat.

The descriptions and photos should allow most readers to identify many unnamed plants in their collections as well as give them ideas as to what other species they may want to acquire. The section on cultivation is only somewhat helpful in that it describes growing conditions suitable for the U.K. The book is well written and contains a wealth of information but considering the narrow scope of this book and its cost (about \$95.00), I'd say it's more suited for advanced collectors or for those that have a keen interest in *Echeveria* species.

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at www.sgvcss.com. Thanks to Gunnar Eisel for managing our website. If you wish to receive your **COMMUNIQUE** on-line please notify the editor at yvonne@pricklypalace.com.

CSSA CONVENTION IN TUCSON, ARIZONA



Are we having fun yet?

Bill and Rita Gerlach found all the comforts of home.



Echinomastus erectocentrus in bloom spotted on one of our habitat tours



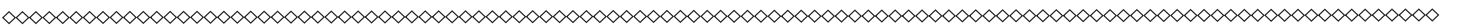
The happy SGVCSS Group at the closing banquet (Note we have adopted John Lavranos)



Round table discussions with Jim and Roberta Hanna, Hans Britsch of Western Cactus, and Mark Muradian



John Lavranos and Petra Crist comparing notes.



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2009

Buck Hemenway, President
 Horace Birgh, Vice President
 Rita Gerlach, Treasurer
 Anne Keegan, Secretary
 Manny Rivera, Board Member and Winter Show Chair

Cindy Arakaki, Board Member
 John Matthews, Board Member
 Phil Skonieczki, Board Member
 Karen Ostler, Board Member
 Ralph Massey, Board Member
 Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative and Plant Sales Chair
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair
 Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
 Liz Alba, Library Chair
 Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

Plants Of The Month

Enter your specimen plants in our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride and joy. If you don't have any of these species of plants you can learn about them at the meeting.

CACTI OF THE MONTH —

Echinopsis

Echinopsis is a large genus of cacti all native to South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay), that was first described by Joseph Zuccarini in 1837 who named the genus after its resemblance to either a sea urchin or hedgehog (both echinos in Greek). The genus now includes plants formerly named *Lobivia*, *Lobiviopsis*, and *Trichocereus*, as these all have the same flower structure. However, botanists continue to debate inclusions and exclusions, as well as renaming when earlier species nomenclature overlaps.

Echinopsis presently contains about 129 species and many hundreds of hybrids. [Hybridization began in several European countries soon after their introduction in the 19th century. Another resurgence in hybridization began in the 1950s among U.K. growers (Sussex hybrids), and also by Johnson (Paramount hybrids) and Schick (Schick hybrids) (1990s at the Huntington) in the United States.]

These (relatively) small, spiny cacti with spectacularly showy flowers are easy to grow. The distinguishing flower characteristics are: lateral, large (four to six inches), symmetrical, usually very long (up to eight inches) and funnel-shaped with a recessed ring of stamens in the throat, and hairy or scaly. Some are nocturnal, usually white or pale pink, with a fragrance. The diurnal species are usually colored (yellow or red), while hybrids have added orange, purple, graduated hues, bi-color, tri-color, stripes, more petals, etc.

While flowers generally last one day, these plants have been known to flower prolifically. Some plants flower daily for nearly a month each year.

Echinopsis are globose to short columnar cacti that often freely offset. They require good light (full sun to bright, indirect light), regular moisture from

spring to fall, and fast draining soil. They can take frost to 20° F. They do well in local gardens through wet and dry winters.

Propagation from seed is not difficult, however it is so much easier to repot/replant the pups, which have often sprouted roots. You cannot reproduce the hybrids from seed, only the species. So for hybrids, offsets are the way to go. Seed is the only way to get the rarer species and to explore the species variation with locality. These plants grow fast, and flowering three years from seed is not uncommon.

Echinopsis To Try

The type species is *Echinopsis eyriesii*, found in southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. This popular dark green globular species later elongates cylindrically, and freely offsets. It flowers are white, nocturnal, big, and jasmine-scented.

Echinopsis arachnacantha is a small (under two inches), round, dark green plant found in Bolivia. Its small day-blooming flowers are yellow to orange. It prefers bright light.



This was *Lobivia arachnacantha* and is now *Echinopsis arachnacantha*. When the Intercity Show comes around it will be a *Lobivia* again.

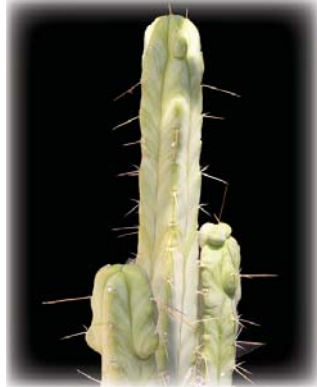
Echinopsis ferox is a globular plant (up to eight inches). As its name implies, its central spines are substantial – up to four inches long. This is another Bolivian day bloomer, with white flowers. It prefers a sunny location.



Echinopsis ferox, formerly *Lobivia ferox*.

Echinopsis aurea is a dark green round to shortly cylindrical plant that offsets. This plant is found in Argentina, and has bright yellow, diurnal flowers.

Echinopsis langeniformis, previously *Trichocereus bridgesii*, is found in Bolivia. A monstrose form is shown. It is known to be used there as a traditional drug.



Echinopsis langeniformis,
monstrose form

Echinopsis hybrids — Peruse Schick hybrid catalog from the Huntington Botanical Gardens' International Succulent Introductions. (www.huntington.org/BotanicalDiv/Schick/catalogindex.html).

Anne Keegan, April 2009

Sources: *Cacti*, Borg; *The Cactus Handbook*, Hausstein; and *Cacti*, Innes & Glass

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Echeveria

Echeveria is one the principal members of the succulent New World Crassulaceae, along with *Dudleya*, *Pachyptum*, and *Sedum*. *Echeveria* come principally from the mountains of Eastern Mexico, although there are plants found from Texas into South America. Venezuela has a significant population.

The genus *Echeveria* is named after Atanasio Echeverria, illustrator of a projected Flora Mexicana prepared under the direction of Martin Sesse, from 1789 to 1803. Martin Sesse received a Royal Patent for a botanical expedition to Mexico from Charles III, King of Spain in 1788. Unfortunately, he died shortly after giving the Patent, and before supplying any money. His son, Charles IV, was not enlightened, not particularly bright, and unlucky. Sesse went on with

the expedition, and although short of funds, and often sick and hungry, with Jose Mocino, Atanasio Echeverria, and others, collected hundreds of plants over a 15 year period. The three returned to Spain, expecting to become famous and publish their Flora Mexicana, only to be ignored by the King. Greatly disappointed, Sesse returned to his land holdings; Mocino went to work at the Museum of Natural History in Madrid, and Echeverria was hired as an artist's assistant.

Mocino sent the original drawings to the famous botanist Alphonse De Candolle as Napoleon marched on Madrid. The originals were lost in the confusion of the Napoleonic wars, but the drawings were saved by Alphonse De Candolle, who hired 120 draftsman to work for 10 days making several sets of precise tracings of Echeverria's drawings. De Candolle also named the genus in a lecture in 1827, first publishing it in 1928.

Coming from mountainous regions, *Echeveria* prefer well drained soil, and good ventilation. They also prefer cooler temperatures, looking their best in late winter and early spring. The plants swell with the winter rains, and as growth starts the colors become more intense. Although they don't go completely dormant in summer, growth slows, and in the inland valleys, plants tend to wilt and sulk, even with some shade. In California, the best *Echeveria* growers tend to live near the coast, and near San Francisco. In hotter inland areas, *Echeveria* do much better in the ground than they do in pots. Ground temperatures are cooler and less variable than pot temperatures.

Propagation of *Echeverias* is a required skill rather than an optional one. All *Echeverias* have leaves that dry and fall off as they age, leaving a thick, and usually ugly stem. With time, most *Echeverias* offset between the older leaves. These offsets can be removed, the bottom-most leaves of the offset removed, and the stem and remaining leaves planted as soon as the cut stem is dry. Successful rooting almost always follows. The terminal rosette should also be periodically removed and restarted in the same way, with all the dead and the older live leaves removed. The old stem can be kept for awhile, as it frequently offsets from the top or side, and these offsets can be removed as well and propagated. *Echeverias* have flowers on an extended stalk (raceme). The raceme has small

leaves on it, and occasionally, rosettes. These will root easily as well.

Favorite species include:

Echeveria agavoides, forms large light green rosettes, with red tips when grown in full sun. Two popular cultivars are “Lipstick” which has red edges and “Ebony” which has dark red-purple edge. The colors are enhanced by sunlight. The picture with this article shows the cultivar ‘Ebony’



Echeveria agavoides

Echeveria ciliata is a smaller species, only three or four inches in diameter. The name comes from the small hairs at the edges of all the leaves. It offsets slowly, but can be easily propagated from leaves.

Echeveria elegans is a smaller species with pale green leaves that makes an excellent bedding plant.

Echeveria potosina is readily available at many garden centers. It makes a wonderful ground cover, offsetting quickly, and recovering from accidental squashes.



Echeveria potosina

Echeveria purpusorum is a small slow growing species from Southern Mexico. It has short stiff white-green leaves, with dark edges and small red spots..

Echeveria have also been hybridized frequently, and many interesting plants are available. One is shown



Echeveria 'Culibra'

with this article. *Echeveria 'Culibra'* is a particularly contorted hybrid created by Dick Wright of California.



Thank you to Tom Glavich and Anne Keegan for putting together the Plant of the Month article. If you would like to participate by submitting a plant of the month write up for the **Communique**, please contact Tom Glavich at tglavich@sbcglobal.net.



Study Group

Wednesday, May 20th • Vegetative Propagation Workshop

The study group is an informal, hands-on learning experience that is fun for expert and novice alike. Come and learn from the experience of others. We are always happy to share our knowledge.

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

CSSA Convention Reimbursement

As previously announced, all San Gabriel Valley C&SS members who attended the CSSA Convention last month are entitled to a 50% reimbursement of their registration fee. The early registration fee was \$169.00 per member, so each full time attendee is entitled to a reimbursement of \$84.50. If you bought only one or two days registration, the price is less.

Please prepare a request and present it to Rita Gerlach at our May meeting or by mail. A copy of your convention badge will suffice as proof of payment to CSSA.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 2 and 3 — Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City. Call 310-822-1783 for more information.

May 3, 9am to 4pm — South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 263 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verde Peninsula. Call 310-833-6823 for more information.

May 9, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 2009 Show and Sale at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon (Riverside). For information call 951-360-8802.

May 16, 10:00 to 4:00 and **May 17**, 10:30 to 4:00 — 35th Annual Spring Plant Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Visit www.huntington.org for more information. **Volunteers are needed!** Volunteers can take advantage of the 1 hour presale before the public is admitted. Call Shirley Kerins at 626-405-3575 to schedule volunteer time.

June 6 and 7 — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society 2009 Show and Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego. For information call 619-477-4779.

June 13 and 14 — Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino. For show information call 818-363-3432.

June 26 thru 28 — Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Plant sales start June 26th thru June 28th. The Show is open on June 27th and June 28th. Free to the public. For information call 626-405-2160 or 951-360-8802.

July 24 thru 26 — Orange County Summer Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. Show and Sale open Friday, July 24th, noon to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. For information call 714-870-4887.

August 15 and 16 — 24th Annual Intercity Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall at 818-368-6914.

Refreshment Signup

These club members have signed up to provide refreshments at this month's meeting.

Raquel Castellanos

Armida Sauredo

Janette Cox

The first three club members who sign up and bring refreshments each month will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

2009 Plant-of-the Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
May	Echinopsis	Echeveria	Vegetative Propagation Workshop
June	Cephalium bearing Cacti	Adenium	Astrophytum
July	Eriosyce	Cyphostemma	Staging
Aug.	Favorite	Favorite	Sansevieria
Sept.	Gymnocalycium	Euphorbia (caudiciform type)	Photo Tour
Oct.	Parodia & Notocactus	Stemless Mesembs - No Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Frailea & Blossfeldia	Tylecodon	Winter Seed Workshop



**34th Annual
Show & Sale
Gates Cactus &
Succulent Society**



**May 9, 2009
From 9:00AM till 5:00PM
Held At**

Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center

7621 Granite Hill Dr.

Riverside, CA

951-360-8802 for Information

**Huge Succulent Plant
and Pottery Sale**

Thousands of rare and interesting succulent plants for the Landscape and for the Collector. Sold by the Grower and by the Potter.

Plant Societies

and related groups Selling Plants and offering advice.
Master Gardeners, Master Composters on hand .

**Judged Show
Cacti and Succulents**

More than 500 rare and Exotic Plants on Display

Children's Activity

Plant a garden for \$1.00
(Kids Only)

**Granite Hill
Gardens Nursery**

Offering a Wide array of rare and unusual Cacti & Succulents.