



**San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society**

**COMMUNIQUE**

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

April 2013 - Volume 46, Number 4

**March Meeting:  
Thursday,  
April 11 at 7:30 pm**

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

**Mini-Show Plants:**

**CACTUS:**

***Eriosyce, Copiapoa***

**SUCCULENT:**

**Dudleya**

**C & S Workshop:**

The Workshop group will meet on  
Wednesday, April 17th in the Palm  
Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum  
at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

***Spring Seed Workshop***

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**President's Message**

Ah, springtime! Aren't we fortunate to live in our wonderful, succulent friendly, climate? We are also fortunate to have world-renowned speakers, such as last month's speaker Ernst van Jaarsveld, enlighten and edify us. Todd Masilko will be our distinguished speaker this month. He will be sharing his experiences of this recent trip to Cuba with this presentation "A Rare Look at Cuba".

Speaking of trips, we have two upcoming field trips. The first is a road trip from Baker to Henderson on April 6-7. We have a good group going. It is not too late to join us. Call or e-mail me, and I will provide you with all of the details. 909 908 4145 or e-mail: geisel@citruscollege.edu

The second trip will be our May 11 bus excursion to three Southern California nurseries. We will meet at the Arboretum parking lot 7:45 a.m. and take the coastal route to Vista where will visit Grigsby's Nursery. From there we will head northeast to visit Rare Succulents in Rainbow. We will have lunch at the Rainbow Oaks Restaurant. You may brown bag it, if you prefer. Our last stop will be the Mexican Hat nursery in Riverside. We should be back at the Arboretum around 6:00

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## February Mini-Show Results

### Cactus - North American Opuntiads

#### Novice

1st Rosie Garcia O. variagata

#### Intermediate

1st Tom Howard O. Santa Rita  
2nd Glen & Linda Carlzen O. polyacantha

#### Masters

1st Pat Swain O. erinacea v. ursina

### Succulent - Tylecodon, Cotyledon

#### Novice

1st Nilda Howard C. orbiculata  
2nd Sharon Sedillo T. wallichii

#### Intermediate

1st Barbara Hall T. pearsonii  
2nd Dick Tatman T. grandiflorus  
3rd Barbara Hall T. hirtifidius

#### Masters

1st John Matthews T. reticulata  
2nd John Matthews T. dinteri  
3rd John Matthews T. striatus  
3rd Tony Marino T. pearsonii

## Mini-Show Judges Signup

No club member has signed up to assist Head Judge Manny Rivera in judging the entries for this month's Mini-Show. Check the Plant of the Month list on page 7 and sign up to judge a category that you enjoy growing.

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at [www.sgvcss.com](http://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](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com).

## President's Message (cont. from page 1)

pm. IMPORTANT: There are currently 36 folks who have signed up. The bus will hold 45 people. If you have not yet signed up and are interested in going please sign up at the meeting. If you have already signed up but will not be able to go, we need to know asap to give other members the opportunity to join us.

We had a very nice turnout for our Pelargonium workshop. A special thanks to Manny Rivera for leading the discussion and displaying many of his impressive plants. April's workshop will be the ever popular Seed Propagation Workshop. Don't miss this one!

On a personal note, I will be out of the country in April. Tom Vermilion has graciously accepted to lead the April meeting. Thanks, Tom!

See you soon.

Gunnar Eisel

## This Month's Program

### A Rare Look At Cuba

Todd Masilko has a background in Industrial Design and has been an enthusiastic grower of Cacti and Succulents for nearly 10 years. He is currently an Instructor at the Pasadena Art Center College of Design and runs a Pasadena based product design consultancy. In addition to growing plants, he is a photography enthusiast.

Over the last several years, he has traveled to observe and photograph plants in habitats in the Canary Islands, Yemen and Socotra, Baja California and mainland Mexico, Namibia, as well as California and the Southwestern United States.

Cacti and Succulents of Cuba:

The island of Cuba lies less than 100 miles from South Florida, but it is difficult for Americans to visit. The 2012 Biennial Congress of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) was held in Havana, which provided an opportunity to visit Cuba and see a selection of plants in the wild. This talk will provide an overview of cacti and succulents and the habitats where they grow from the Northern coastline near Havana to the most xeric section of the island near Guantanamo Bay in Southeast Cuba.



## 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.

### CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

#### *Eriosyce, Copiapoa*

The distribution of the two genera, *Eriosyce* and *Copiapoa*, overlap in northern Chile, centered along the Rio Copiapo from the coastal plain to the western Andes. *Eriosyce* is more widely distributed than *Copiapoa*, ranging from northwestern Argentina, southern Peru, and central to northern Chile. [More precisely, from Salta, Argentina (northeast) to Mendoza, Argentina (southwest) in the eastern Andes, and from Arequipa, Peru (north) to Concepción, Chile (south), from the western Andes to the coast. Or 370 S to 140 S and 740 W to 650 W. By comparison Los Angeles is 340 N and 1180 W] *Copiapoa* is concentrated around Copiapo, Chile/Río Copiapo in northern Chile.



*Copiapoa cinerea*

The genus *Eriosyce* has undergone considerably change (and controversy) since the first species was described. A brief synopsis of its botanical history includes: Bertero named earliest known species in 1829 (as *Cactus curvispinas*), the type and other species were named by 1850 (but identified as *Echinocactus*), Philippi proposed the genus *Eriosyce* in 1872 (separating it from *Echinocactus*), then considerable back-and-forth, botanically speaking, and most recently, detailed taxonomic studies by Backeberg (1958-1962) and Kattermann (1977-1986). Work continues on clarifying what fits where, etc.

Kattermann redefined the genus (tribe *Notocactae*) as 33 species of subglobular, globular, elongated, or rarely almost columnar form plants. Wool and bristles are apparent on the paricarpel and tube, with

a hollow, dihiscent fruit which has a basal opening, the seeds loose within and seeds with a small hilum. Floral characters vary somewhat within the genus.

Kattermann merged the genus *Neoportera* into *Eriosyce*, with further delineations into two sections: section *Eriosyce* (divided into subsections *Eriosyce*, *Islaya* and *Pyrrhocactus*), and section *Neoportera* (divided into subsections *Chileosyce*, *Horridocactus*, and *Neoportera*).

Interestingly, Kattermann's conclusions considered recent plate-tectonic studies of the coast of Chile – i.e., the Andes peaks were considerably lower than today (in geologic terms, 100,000). Given most of the cacti on the western side of the Andes evolved within the last 10,000 to 500,000 years, it is understandable that seed characters of subsections *Eriosyce* (western Andes) and *Pyrrhocactus* (eastern Andes) are similar, as they may have been at similar, lower elevations without the Andes height as a barrier.

As for cultivation, *Eriosyce* range from arid desert to high (alpine) altitudes. Some species are subject to relentless sun, while others are subject to near total fog/overcast, and others still, subject to variable sun/overcast conditions. Species' moisture levels range from no rain (only dense fog) to deep snow. Species can be found in sand, rock outcrops, as well as loam and clay.



*Eriosyce heinrichiana* ssp *intermedia*



*Copiapoa hypogaea*

*Eriosyce* tend to have a short spring growing period, and are otherwise dormant. All require excellent drainage. Most species should only be misted, and only at night during their growing period; a few can handle outright watering (but must dry out in-between). Some species need misting during dormancy, while most will only survive with no moisture. Some species are cold-hardy (alpine and southern Chilean). Partial shade is recommended. Be advised that plants in habitat look considerably different than horticultural specimens/hobby grown plants.

Propagation of all species of *Eriosyce* from seed is recommended; only three species produce offsets (*E. aspillagae*, *E. kraussi*, and *E. esmeraldana*). However, seed germination can be an issue. Germination rates can range from 50-60% to 10-20% to none. For some alpine/southern Chilean species, seeds must be subjected to winter freezes.



*Eriosyce paucicostata* ssp. *floccosa*

Germination rates can range from 50-60% to 10-20% to none. For some alpine/southern Chilean species, seeds must be subjected to winter freezes.

If you plan to exhibit *Eriosyce* at a show, be advised that this category is not as inclusive as described here. Some species may need to be exhibited in another category. If in doubt, please ask for help.

The genus *Copiapoa* has no close relatives -- it is a "niche" genus, whose habitat is riparian to coastal, from sea-level to lower-elevation hills and valleys. The Atacama region has been slowly desiccating southward (from Arequipa, Peru) for about a thousand years, so this is a genus subject to pressure in habitat.

*Copiapoa* are globose to globose-cylindrical, with well-defined ribs and wool at the apex; nearly all flowers are yellow, and emanate from the apex. Flowers are funnel shaped, about an inch or two in diameter. There is greater variability regarding spines, which range from long and dense to nearly absent. *Copiapoa* roots may be fibrous or huge tubers. Some species form clumps that can vary considerably in size. Coloration within a species is also variable (shades of green).

While *Copiapoa* share habitat with some species of *Eriosyce*, *Copiapoa* are much easier to cultivate. In southern California, they are summer growers. *Copiapoa* need well-draining soil, but can be watered -- as opposed to misted -- but need to dry out in-between. Given *Copiapoa*'s coastal range, partial shade is recommended for their growing; alpine/non-coastal species can handle some more sun. *Copiapoa* should be protected from water during their dormancy.

Anne Keegan, April 2013

Sources: The Cactus Family, Edward Anderson; *Eriosyce* (Cactaceae): The Genus Revised and Amplified, Fred Kattermann

All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

### *Dudleya*

The first description of *Dudleya* was made by A.H. Haworth (1803) and named *Cotyledon caespitosa* because the specimen's origin was misidentified as being from the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. De Candolle (1828) created the genus *Echeveria*, and placed the aforementioned species and three others within *Echeveria*. Then Britton and Rose (1903) created three new genera for about 60 species: *Dudleya*, *Hasseanthus*, and *Styllophylum*. (The latter two are now subgenera of *Dudleya*.)

Currently *Dudleya* contains around 50 species of rosette-form plants. As with most genera under current investigation, field work and further studies will refine species.

*Dudleyas* range from Oregon (north) to Baja California Sur, Mexico, and from the Channel/coastal Mexican islands inland to Nevada/Arizona and Jalisco/Sonora, Mexico. *Dudleya* are also found



*Dudleya pulverulenta* on the road cut of the toll road from Tijuana to Ensenada.

in west central South America. Roughly, *Dudleya* is concentrated in a 200-mile radius around San Diego, California, where 75% of the species are found.



*Dudleya rubens* growing on Sierra San Francisco in Baja California Sur at approximately 8000 ft. El.

Most *Dudleya* are silvery grey, have very delicate leaves that are either flattened or tubular; they tend to form stems over time. Most of the flat, thick-leaved species form solitary rosettes while the tubular-leaved species form dense clumps.

*Dudleya* flowers form at/near the bottom of the rosette, rarely from the center. The flowers are covered with leaves that spread along the peduncle up to the flower. *Dudleya* is a winter grower. It flowers from late winter to early spring, with colors ranging from white, to yellow to bright red.

Cultivation difficulties often arise because growers confuse *Dudleya* with *Echeveria*, which is a summer grower. *Dudleya* should be watered from about mid-October/November through early March – depending on the amount and timing of our winter rainfall, no additional watering may be required.



*Dudleya cultrata*

*Dudleya* require both excellent drainage and care when watering. If over-watered, *Dudleya* are particularly susceptible to fungi/rot. Some growers recommend watering *Dudleya* at an angle so the leaves/rosettes remain dry, mirroring their angled placement on rocks crevices/steep slopes in habitat. Some *Dudleya* grow on moss-like plants.

*Dudleya* can be grown in full sun from mid-November to the end of February, afterwards, they fare better in partial to full shade.

*Dudleya* can be propagated from seed and by vegetative methods (division and offsets, but not leaves). They can also be purchased.



*Dudleya attenuata ssp attenuata*

Pests and disease often scar and/or kill *Dudleya*. Snails, slugs and aphids like *Dudleya*, as do birds, small mammals (rodents, rabbits), and larger mammals (wild and commercial grazers).

Southern California is *Dudleya*'s native habitat. As they can be long-lived; they make excellent landscape plants.

If you are new to growing *Dudleya*, ask the seller about how to care/grow/cultivate these plants. Advice can also be sought at an SGVCSS workshop.

Anne Keegan, April 2013

Sources: *Dudleya* and *Hasseanthus* Handbook, P.H. Thomson, A Handbook of Succulent Plants, H. Jacobson  
All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

Thank you to Anne Keegan and Buck Hemenway 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](mailto:tglavich@sbcglobal.net).

## Another Incredible Auction!

# The Charles & Joann Spotts \*Show Plants\*

On Saturday, April 27,<sup>th</sup> 2013 CDP will be auctioning 108 specimens of the Charles and Joann Spotts show plant collection.

These plants are the best in the country and many have been recent trophy table winners at the Inter-City, CSSA, SGVCSS Winter and the CCCSS shows. Most of these specimens are beautifully staged in show quality pots including: traditional bonsai, and pots made by Joe Wujcik, Erika Van Auker, Mark Muradian, Steve Pate and Rita Gerlach.

Some of the genera include: *Aloe*, *Agave*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Conophytum*, *Copiapoa*, *Coryphantha*, *Echinocactus*, *Echinofossulocactus*, *Euphorbia*, *Ferocactus*, *Gymnocactus*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Haworthia*, *Lithops*, *Lobivia*, *Mammillaria*, *Matucana*, various *Opuntioides*, *Oroya*, *Parodia*, *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, *Thelocactus*, *Weingartia* and *Yucca*.

***You do not want to miss out on getting some of these fabulous trophy winning show specimens!***

The auction will take place at the home of Charles and Joann Spotts in Paso Robles. Attendees are welcome to come to review the plants from 10:00am until close of the auction event. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 am and the verbal auction will start at about 1:00pm. You will also be able to see the next 100+ plants that will be available for the second auction, which will be held on Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Spotts' address is **5941 Lone Pine Place, Paso Robles CA.**

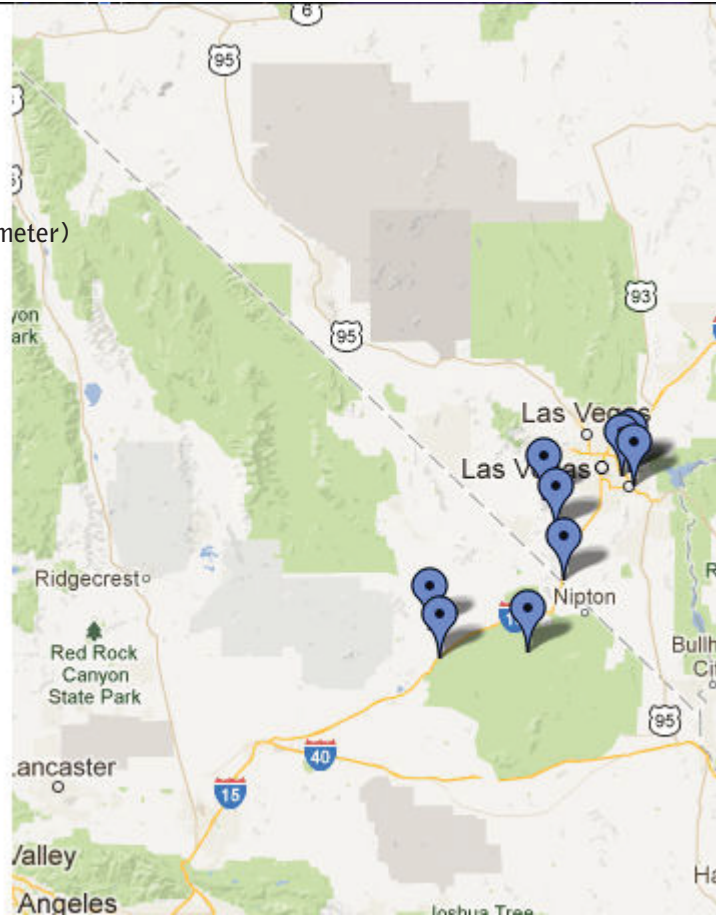
This event will follow in the tradition of the Sobel, Wakamatsu, Grammer, Johnson, Hulett, Hacket, and Chan auctions. The auction format will be the same and will be conducted by CDP, Woody Minnich. You may place email, phone or in-person bids on the plants as listed from the auction list. For more information or a copy of the auction list, please email Woody at [cactusdata@msn.com](mailto:cactusdata@msn.com) or phone 505-281-5884 or 661-406-9816.

Please do not disturb the Spotts regarding the auction bidding.

### SGVCSS Field Trip, April 6 & 7, 2013

- 1. Baker, - Arrive Sat. 8:00 am, (Meet at the giant thermometer)
- 2. Cima Dome - Exploring and Lunch  
Mojave National Preserve, California 92364
- 3. Powerline Rd - Several Stops
- 4. Primm, NV - Rest stop
- 5. Fiesta Henderson - arrive Saturday about 6:30 pm
- 6. Sunday: Ethel M Chocolates and C&S Garden - 9:00 am
- Moon Sun Cactus & Koi Gardens 10:30 am
- Mt. Potosi - Agaves
- Goodsprings - last stop

Gunnar's cell phone: 909-908-4145



### Welcome New Members



Please welcome new members and make them feel welcome at our functions.

- Walter Wisura, Claremont**
- Tony Phan, San Gabriel**
- Matthew Trinidad, Rosemead**

Volunteer Needed ! We are looking for someone to accept the position of newsletter editor beginning in July 2013. Yvonne Hemenway has been our editor for 4-1/2 years and her travel schedule for the second half of 2013 is very full.

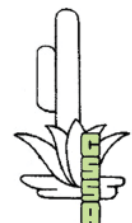
Please talk to Yvonne or Gunner Eisel if you are prepared to take on this responsibility. Thanks.

### CSSA Corner

The CSSA Convention is coming up fast. Members have until May 1st to book at the early rate which shows a \$100 discount. Remember, Austin, Texas, June 15 - 20. You can register online at [www.cssa2013.com](http://www.cssa2013.com). Details are available in the brochure that is at the meeting or by going online to [www.CSSA-SAINC.com](http://www.CSSA-SAINC.com).

There are World Class speakers scheduled on all things succulent. There is no substitute for rubbing elbows with the most succulent crazy people on earth for a week.

Buck Hemenway  
Ph: 951-360-8802  
Fax: 951-360-0829



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**April 6 and 7** — SGVCSS trip to Death Valley and beyond. Meet at the giant thermometer in Baker at 8:00 am Saturday morning. Overnight at the Fiesta Motel, Henderson, NV (hotel website: <https://fiestahenderson.sclv.com/> AAA rates are \$85 plus taxes. If anyone wants to go they should phone Gunnar at 909 908 4145.

**April 13 and 14**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society 41st Annual Show & Sale at South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Information available at [www.southcoastcss.org](http://www.southcoastcss.org).

**April 20 and 21**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Green Scene Plant Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton.

**Saturday, April 27**, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm — Show Plant Auction at the residence of Charles and Joann Spotts, 5941 Lone Pine Place, Paso Robles, A. For more information or a copy of the auction list, please email Woody Minnich at [cactusdata@msn.com](mailto:cactusdata@msn.com) or phone 505-281-5884 (home) 661-406-9816 (cell).

**Sunday, April 28**, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm — Huntington Plant Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino.

**Sunday, May 5**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. For information call 310-833-6823.

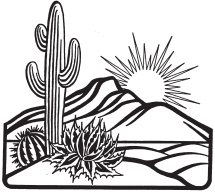
**May 4 and 5** — Sunset Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. For information call 310-822-1783.

**Saturday, May 11**, 7:45 am to 6:00 pm — SGVCSS bus trip to 3 nurseries. There are still a few seats left so sign up at a meeting if you want to come along. Bus leaves from the LA Arboretum at 8:00 am sharp.

**May 17 and 18**, 9:00 am to 4:30 — Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Jurupa Valley, CA. Sale Friday 17th and Saturday 18th, Show Saturday 18th. Call 951-360-8802 for more information.

### 2013 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	<b>Cacti of the Month</b>	<b>Succulent of the Month</b>	<b>Study Group</b>
Jan.	White Spined Mammillaria Clusters	Small Aloes - less than 12" across	Tips, Tools & Techniques
Feb.	Stenocactus	Haworthia	Conophytums
Mar.	North American Opuntiads	Tylecodon, Cotyledon	Pelargoniums
Apr.	Eriosyce, Copiapoa	Dudleya	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Echinopsis	Caudiciforms, Pachycauls	Grafting Workshop
June	Astrophytum	Medusoid Euphorbias	Rebutias, Sulcorebutias, Weingartia
July	Oroya, Matucana	Adenium	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Stapeliads
Sept.	Coryphantha, Escobaria	Sansevieria	Cephaliated Cacti
Oct.	Thelocactus	Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Epiphytic Cacti, inc. Xmas Cactus	Epiphytic Succulents	Winter Seed Workshop



**COMMUNIQUE**

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date. Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via email to: [yvonne@pricklypalace.com](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com) or via mail to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Yvonne Hemenway, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, CA 92509. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.