April Meeting:
Thursday, April 10 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: Variegated
SUCCULENT: Variegated

C&S Workshop:
The Workshop will meet on Wednesday, April 16th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Spring Seed Workshop

President’s Message

As you may know, we had some internet problems and our website was down for a few days. It’s working fine now. However, if the site goes down again we have a mirror site at http://desertsong.com.

Thirty-nine folks were able to join us on our recent bus trip to the Living Desert and Sunnylands. We all had a good time. Our return trip was made more interesting thanks to our “Mr. Toad’s Wild Ride” bus driver. A special thanks to Jeane Mullens for helping organize the trip.

Our next trip will be to the San Diego summer show on June 7th. We may make a short stop at San Diego County’s Waterwise Botanicals Nursery which is hosting a two-day Succulent Celebration, on Friday and Saturday, June 6 -7. The cost of the bus trip is $10. Admission to the show is free. If you would like to make a reservation you may do so at the next meeting or by emailing me at geisel@citruscollege.edu.

Just as a reminder, our Anza-Borrego overnight trip has been postponed. We will try again at some future time.

On April 16th we will hold our annual Spring Seed Workshop. This is one of your most popular workshops! The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Palm Room. And don’t forget – there is always an informal raffle; everyone takes home a plant or plant cuttings. We hope to see you there. A special thanks to Joe Clements who made the March California Natives C&S workshop so enjoyable and informative.

(continued on page 2)
**March Mini-Show Results**

**Cactus - Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia**

**Novice**

1st  Jose Esparrago  Sulcorebutia aranacea  
2nd  Jose Esparrago  Rebutia krainziana  
3rd  Minh Au  Rebutia fulvasita  
3rd  Minh Au  Rebutia vulpinia

**Intermediate**

1st  Rita Gerlach  Weingartia saipinensis  
2nd  David Hawks  Sulcorebutia candiae

**Masters**

1st  John Matthews  Sulcorebutia mentosa  
2nd  Frank Nudge  Sulcorebutia candiae/Rebutia glomeriseta  
3rd  John Matthews  Sulcorebutia candiae  
3rd  Cindy Arakaki  Rebutia heliosa

**Succulent - Echeveria**

**Novice**

1st  Nilda Howard  E. agavoides  
2nd  Fred Parrales  E. x Neon Breaker  
3rd  Fred Parrales  E. hybrid

**Intermediate**

1st  Tom Howard  E. Ebony  
2nd  Rita Gerlach  E. agavoides

**Masters**

1st  John Matthews  E. subrigida “Fire & Ice”  
2nd  John Matthews  E. cante  
3rd  John Matthews  E. elegans “Super Clone”

**Mini-Show Judges Signup**

Pete Kimbrell will assist Head Judge Manny Rivera in judging the entries for this month’s Mini-Show.

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**President’s Message** (cont. from page 1)

Our April speaker is Kelly Griffin. Kelly holds a degree in Applied Physics from UCSD, but his love for plants has led him to such positions as curator of Xerophytes at Rancho Soledad Nurseries and currently as Plant Research and Developer at Altman’s Plants. Kelly has led many expeditions to South Africa, Madagascar, Yemen, Socotra, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Mexico, and Peru. His presentation will be on his recent trip to Mexico. Don’t miss this one!

See you at the meeting.  

Gunnar Eisel

**This Month’s Program**

“Mexico - Visiting Old Friends and Making New Ones”  

Kelly Griffin

This past year in addition to going to other places in the world, I have made three trips to Mexico with at least two more planned. This talk will be about those excursions.

It is new so a little unpolished but that’s half the fun, right? I traveled the length of Baja and to several of the islands but that is just a part of the talk. I also traveled to Sonora, Mexico and jumped over to the state of Nuevo Leon to see the delights in the Lampozos Mountains.

It is an adventure of people and plants....mostly plants! Expect to see Agaves, Dudleyas, Echeverias, Cactus and even a few Cycads!

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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.
Member plant sale - Oscar Flores

April 26th & 27, 9 am to 5 pm
6146 Cleon Ave., North Hollywood, 91606

The sale will include a small auction on Saturday that will conclude at 2 pm. Please contact Woody Minnich at 661-406-9816 or by email at cactusdata@msn.com for more information. Oscar has been collecting for over 20 years and has a large selection of most genera. Buy one or a bunch, all at wholesale rates. Something for everyone!

Refreshment Signup

Fred Parrales
Lynn Olson
Deanna Catalano
Yvonne Hemenway
Roberta Eisel

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

C&S Workshop

Wednesday, April 16th • Spring Seed 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.

Review of January-February 2014 CSSA Journal by Tim Harvey

Volume 86 begins with a clarification of the identity of Agave gigantensis by Robert Webb and Gregg Starr. The article well illustrates the differences between this species and Agave sobria from the same area, with which A. gigantensis has been confused.

Gideon Smith and Estrela Figueiredo give us a guided tour of the Hanbury Gardens (also known as La Mortola) in Italy.

Two new species of Avonia are created by Graham Williamson’s article, where he elevates them from subspecies level to full species.

Featured on the cover is a beautiful specimen of Pediocactus nigrispinus, one of many shown in Dixie Dringman’s article on them in habitat on the land owned by Dave Bishop in Washington State. Duke Benadom’s Super Succulents features a highly contrasting pair this month, a bizarre Astrophytum cultivar and Lithops leslei.

Sharp eyes and a convenient place to sit resulted in the discovery of Sedum minimum in Veracruz, Mexico, a new record for the state, documented by Miguel Chazaro and co-workers.

Root Gorelick brings the issue to an end with an account of Sclerocactus parviflorus growing along the trails in Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Root has also been busy completing Haseltonia 19, which amongst many interesting, has a must-read article on Huernia by Darrel Plowes. If you didn’t order a copy when you renewed your membership, now is the time to do so.

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2013

Gunnar Eisel, President
Tom Vermilion, Vice President
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
Pat Swain, Secretary
Rebecca Mallonee, Director
Mary Brumbaugh, Director
Louise Stack, Director
Shaua Adams, Director
Dean Elzinga, Director
Horace Bish, Director
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair
Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair
Woody Minnich, Program Chair
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
Cindy Arakaki, Librarian
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 & SUCCULENTS OF THE MONTH —

Variegates

All variegates are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. As a result of this mutation, chlorophyll is missing from some or all layers of the plant epidermis.

Variegation is known in most plant families, and variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The bright yellow and white of variegated foliage adds pattern and rhythm to many herbaceous borders. In succulent plants variegates are generally separated from normal plants, and compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. Variegated plants grow slower and are generally smaller than non-variegates of the same species. Colored areas are also generally weaker, and more susceptible to fungus, sunburn and other defects. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

Great Variegates

Agave – A striking form of Agave truncata, a common garden Agave, is well known but since it is slow to propagate, is not generally affordable. There are several forms of variegated Agave americana. There are forms with a green center stripe and yellow edges, a yellow stripe and green edges, a green center and white edges, a white center and green edges, yellow centers and crinkled edges, random yellow and green banding, and dozens more. Other species of Agaves have also produce variegates, with the same variety of variegation.

Cacti - variegates can be found in many genera. Gymnocalycium are the most often seen, but some columnar variegates and some Ferocactus variegates are also common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated Turbinicarpu, Astrophytum, Matucana and Ariocarpus have been seen at some of recent shows.

Many of these are artificially propagated by grafts. The famous ‘Red Caps’ and ‘Yellow Caps’ are Gymnocalycium or Lobivia variegates that have no chlorophyll at all, and live only by being grafted onto a root stock. These are harder to grow well than they appear.

Sansevieria - There are dozens of named and unnamed varieties. Look for Bantel’s Sensation, Futura, Silver Moon, Silver Princess, and variegated varieties of some of the cylindrical forms. Unlike normal Sansevierias, these can be difficult to grow. They will not tolerate cold and wet conditions. Sansevieria variegates can only be propagated through the tuber. Cuttings of the leaves will root, but will almost always revert to an unvariegated from. On the other hand, normal Sansevierias will often put out a variegated pup. These should be removed from the main plant and grown on their own roots to preserve the variegation.

Gasteria - The Japanese have made an art of Gasteria and Haworthia variegate cultivation. Read the 2000 CSSA Journal for just a sampling of the wonderful cultivars. Miniature white species, yellow species, even the occasional pink can be found. There are dozens of variegated Gasterias shown at our shows, and available from all of the local vendors. Look for Gasteria ‘Little Warty’, a nice white and green species, as well
as many of the yellow and green species such as the Japanese hybrid *Gasteria* ‘shozodan’.

**Euphorbia** - A number of columnar variegates are available, *E. ammak*, being one most often seen. There are also some cristate and monstrose variegates as well.

**Haworthia** – ‘Gray Ghost’ is a *Haworthia retusa* variegate. There are several *Haworthia limifolia* variegates that look as if they were painted with mustard. Offsets are produced on the flower stalks, these are variegated, as are the flowers themselves.

**Crassulaceae** – *Aeonium* ‘Kiwi’ is only one of the many variegates found and propagated in this large family.


Thank you to Tom Glavich 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.

**Welcome New Members**

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

Sadie Heitman, San Francisco  
Kyle Hart, Pasadena

Happy Springtime

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**Save The Date**

Desert Creations  
Spectacular Beginning of the Year Sale

Date: Saturday, April 12  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

All cactus and succulent club members are invited to this special opportunity  
**Save 20 percent on all plants**  
The above price reduction covers recently arrived plants from Africa – We have made some special purchases and look forward to sharing them with you.

Special Staging Demonstration from 11:00 to 12:30  
You can purchase a plant, pot, top dressing, and have your plant staged

Located in the San Fernando Valley  
15914 Rayen Street North Hills California 91343

Directions: Exit the 405N Freeway at Nordhoff (go west after exiting for approximately two blocks, turn left on Haskell and then right on Rayen – look for the cactus garden on the South side)

Call (818) 482-8795 for additional information
39th Annual Show, Sale & Dinner
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
May 16 & 17, 2014
From 9:00AM till 4:30PM
Landscapes Southern California Style
450 Alessandro Blvd.
Riverside, CA
951-360-8802 for Information
www.gatescss.org

Dinner & Auction
Friday May 16  6:30pm
Barbeque Dinner with a Rare Plant Auction to follow. Vendors are invited to enter plants, revenue shared 70/30. Call Karen Roholt 951.369.7180 to make reservations. $20.00 per person.

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.

Judged Cactus & Succulent Show
open Saturday only
More than 500 rare and Exotic Plants on Display

Children’s Activity
Plant a garden for $1.00 (Kids Only)
Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 5 and 6, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — American Ceramic Society Clay Festival at the Arboretum, Ayres Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Admission to the Festival is free with admission to the Arboretum ($9).

April 12 and 13, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale at the South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. For information call 310-378-1953

Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 pm — Workshop, SPRING SEED WORKSHOP. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

April 19 and 20, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Green Scene plant sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831

April 27, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm — Huntington Spring Plant Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. For more information call 626-405-2160.

May 4, 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, CA. For information call 310-833-6823.

May 3 and 4, — Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. For information call 310-822-1783.

May 16 and 17, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm — Gates Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale, at the Waterwise Garden, 450 Alessandro Blvd, Riverside, CA. (New venue!) For information call 951-360-8802.

May 17 and 18, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm — Long Beach Cactus Club Show and Sale at Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA. For information call 310-922-6090 or visit www.lbcss.org.

May 24 and 25, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm — Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA. For more information call 805-237-2054 or visit www.centralcoastcactus.org.

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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 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.