

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

January 2013 - Volume 46, Number 1

**January Meeting:
Thursday,
January 10 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:

**White Spined
Mammillaria Clusters**

SUCCULENT:

**Small Aloes (mature
rosette less than 12")**

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
January 16th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Tips, Tools & Techniques

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President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As 115 attendees will attest, wonderful companionship and yummy food made for a delightful Holiday Party. Congratulations to Mary Brumbaugh and Rebecca Maloney for making this such a successful event. The elegant centerpieces provided by Yvonne Hemenway, Ana Wisney, Anna Cavanaugh, and Jamie Mancuso added a festive touch to our tables. A special thanks to Jim and Roberta Hanna and the Prickly Palace for supplying plant-of-the-month and holiday plants. The number and quality of auction plants seemed to be at an all-time high. Our superb and entertaining auctioneers, Buck Hemenway and Peter Walkowiak, made it seem all too easy.

Our January speaker will be Steve Martinez. Steve is President of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society and has travelled extensively to study succulent plants in their natural habitat. His presentation will be on a recent trip to northern and central Baja California.

The Aloes are in Bloom! The 6TH Annual Desert Forum will be held at the Huntington Botanical Garden, Saturday, January 19th in Banta Hall. This is a free day for CSSA members and Affiliated Club members. SGVCSS members should be prepared to offer evidence

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Study Group

Wednesday, January 16th • Tips, Tools & Techniques

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.

Refreshment Signup

Una Yeh
Margie
Art Knowles

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

Mini-Show Judges Signup

Karen Ostler
Peter Sharp

Karen and Peter will 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. 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.

President's Message (cont. from page 1)

that they belong to a club, so please bring your club badges.

We are in for a very busy and interesting year! During the next few weeks, we will be choosing among several field trip options including the Anenberg Sunnylands Center and Gardens, the Living Desert, Balboa Park, and a back road trip from Baker to State Line, NV.

The CSSA Biennial Convention in Austin, TX will soon be upon us. Keep your calendars open between June 15-20 for this important event.

On a personal note, I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society. As a long-time member of SGVCCS, I have a deep respect and admiration for those who have made SGVCCS the fine society it is today. In particular, I would like to thank Buck Hemenway for his four years of extraordinary leadership of the club. I look forward to maintaining the excellence we have become accustomed to, as well as building upon the friendship and camaraderie that has made our club so special.

See you at the next meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

This Month's Program

Baja North to Central, Road Kill to Rarity

Steve Martinez, President of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society, will give us a presentation on his recent trip through Northern and Central Baja California, Mexico.



Club Bulletin Board

19th ANNUAL WINTER SHOW

The SGVCSS 19th Annual Winter Show was celebrated on November 3 & 4, 2012. It was a great show with beautiful plants and wonderful people.

The Show Chair wants to thank all of the Club members who worked hard to set-up and tear down, judges, clerks and tabulators, the people working in the sales area, plant holding, tag counting, back gate guarding, hospitality table, the people in charge of the kitchen who made sure we were fed, all of the exhibitors who brought those gorgeous plants to the show and, of course, all of the vendors and auctioneers.

Last month's newsletter announced the high points winners and following are the 2012 trophy winners:

2012 Winter Show Trophy Winners:

- Best Cactus Novice – **Gary & Jamie Mancuso**
- Best Cactus Advanced – **Paul & Carol Maker**
- Best Cactus Open – **Peter Walkowiak**
- Best Succulent Novice – **Mary Brumbaugh**
- Best Succulent Advanced – **Barbara Hall**
- Best Succulent Open – **Petra Crist**
- Best Ariocarpus – **Woody Minnich**
- Best Mammillaria – **Peter Walkowiak**
- Best Epiphytic Cactus – **Mary Brumbaugh**
- Best Gymnocalycium – **Charles & Joann Spotts**
- Best Rebutia/Sulcorebutia – **Cindy/Calvin Arakaki**
- Best Opuntia – **Karen & Martin Ostler**
- Best Agave – **Mary Brumbaugh**
- Best Mesemb – **Charles & Joann Spotts**
- Best Haworthia – **Tom & Jeanette Glavich**
- Best Madagascan Euphorbia – **Peter Walkowiak**
- Best Euphorbia – **Petra Crist**
- Best Dorstenia – **Barbara Hall**
- Best Crassulaceae – **Paul & Carol Maker**
- Best Geraniaceae – **Kim Thorpe**
- Best Pachypodium – **Kim Thorpe**

- Best Winter Growing Succulent – **Peter Walkowiak**
- Best Collection – **Charles & Joann Spotts**
- Best Mutant – **Karen & Martin Ostler**
- Winter Thematic Award – **Tim Harvey**
- Best Baja Plant – **Charles & Joann Spotts**
- Best Mexican Plant – **Karen & Martin Ostler**
- Best Miniature – **Kyle Robinson**

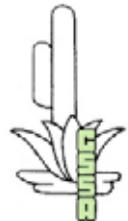
*Thanks Everybody!
Manny Rivera, Show Chair*

Welcome New Members



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

- Lorelei Dewe, Dixon**
- Ron Ernst, Upland**
- Jane Florentinus, San Gabriel**
- Robin Petersen, Los Angeles**
- Dianne & Rob Danks, Norwalk**
- Robert Watkins, Hawaii**
- Stella MacDonald, Temple City**



CSSA CORNER

The Huntington Botanical Gardens, in continuing cooperation with the CSSA and their affiliate clubs, once again offers the Desert Forum, a Free Day for CSSA members and members of affiliate clubs on January 19, 2013. Arrive at 9:30AM for a full day of the Huntington.

See details of the event on page 6.

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2013

- Gunnar Eisel, President
- Tom Vermilion, Vice President
- Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
- Pat Swain, Secretary
- Rebecca Mallonee, Director
- Mary Brumbaugh, Director

- Brian Le, Director
- Shaun Adams, Director
- Dean Elzinga, Director
- Louise Stack, Director
- Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
- Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

- Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
- Buck Hemenway, Plant Sales Chair
- Woody Minnich, Program Chair
- Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
- Cindy Arakaki, Librarian
- 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.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

White Spined Mammillaria Clusters

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactus family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some clumped and heavily spined with hooks. However, some of the most attractive are the white spined clusters.

Although most *Mammillaria* are native to Mexico,



Mammillaria humboldtii entered in the Intercity Show by Bill Munkacsy

some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. With this wide distribution, the cultivation requirements obviously vary considerably. The species from the tropics and

warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp, but can take considerable cold. With these restrictions aside, most *Mammillaria* are easy to grow.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (*Mammillaria*'s worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide.

Propagation of *Mammillaria* clusters is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the grow-

ing season (April to early November), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix. Rooting is rapid, with short white roots generally appearing after a couple of weeks. *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Most will survive, and grow quickly. Show quality plants can sometimes be grown in just 4 or 5 years, and entries can be ready for seedling classes in as little as 6 months.

Mammillaria decipiens subsp. campotricha from Queretaro, long known as the birds nest, has a dark green body and long twisting spines that can vary from white to yellow (most common) to red, depending on the clone.

Mammillaria crucigera produces clumps by splitting dichotomously (each head splitting into two). The body ranges from green to almost brown to almost purple. This species is a slow grower.

Mammillaria geminispina, is a variable species with some varieties having short white spines, while others have long flexible centrals.

Mammillaria herrerae is a spectacular small white species, with very dense interlacing spines. It comes from Queretaro Mexico.



Mammillaria lenta, from Coahuila forms mounds of off-white to white. Slower growing than the somewhat similar *M. plumosa*, described below, it is often a show winner.

Mammillaria luethyi from Coahuila, and discovered in 1996 is now available in cultivation. A breathtaking miniature, it has very short white spines on a dark green body.

Mammillaria nivos generally has a dark green body, offset with woolly areoles, and open yellow spines.



Mammillaria geminispina growing in the Hemenway garden.

Mammillaria plumosa is a relatively quick grower, forming mounds of white heads. The heads are covered with white feathery spines, which must be kept dry if the color is to be maintained.

Mammillaria viperiana from Puebla Mexico, is generally a white spined species, that clumps from the body, particularly as the main body elongates.

References:

- E. Anderson, The Cactus Family
- J. Pilbeam, Cactus for the Connoisseur
- R. Craig, The Mammillaria Handbook
- C. Innes & C. Glass

Tom Glavich, December 2004

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Small Aloes (mature rosette under 12")

We are discussing the diminutive forms of one of our largest genera of succulent plants. In this case, we are including the many hybrids that have been developed. The qualifying size of plant for the Mini-show this month is any on which the mature rosette is no more than 12" across. These will include most of the hybrids developed by John Bleck, Kelly Griffin, Tim Harvey and Karen Zimmerman to name a few. Both species and hybrids will be accepted in the Mini-show.

Aloes are native to the Old World, in Africa, Madagascar, and Arabia. They are currently classified in the huge plant family *Xanthorrhoeaceae* in



Aloe variegata is found throughout western South Africa.

subfamily *Aphodelaceae*. There is much controversy over these classifications. The discussion continues, but most botanists agree that aloes are closely related to *Astoloba*, *Bulbine*, *Gasteria*, and *Haworthia* while *Lomatophyllum* has been subsumed into *Aloe*.

We find *Aloes* particularly easy to grow in Southern California. Many of them are endemic to Western South Africa, and as such appreciate our winter rain fall. Those winter growers bloom in the winter and are wonderful addition to our succulent landscapes. All of them appreciate some summer irrigation as well. For the most part, they will tolerate brief freezing temperatures and most of them do beautifully in our summer weather.



Aloe brevifolia from the Cape Region of South Africa.

A word of caution regarding the hybrids. Many of them are not hardy enough to withstand full sun together with temperatures over 100 deg.F. They all appreciate as much direct sun as possible. The hybridizers of these plants have designed them to show their best in full sun.

Aloes are fairly pest resistant. The collector should be watchful for mealy bug infestations and aphids on their blooms. The top pest is the aloe mite. It causes the plant to change its molecular structure to grow a special habitat for the nasty little critter. Mechanical removal of the gall on the leaves or on the bloom stalk is recommended. There are some new pesticides that feature miticides in their list of ingredients that seem to work on the aloe mite, but there has been no testing and no guarantees by the manufacturers.



Aloe Jucunda grows at 1500 m elevation in Somalia.

Buck Hemenway, January 2013



Thank you to Tom Glavich 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.



Our Holiday Plant for 2012 is *Dyckia* cultivar “Burgundy Ice”. The plant was selected for its rich deep red color and outstanding spination (ouch!). Your plant will form a clump up to 12” high and 24” wide. Bright orange blooms appear in late spring through early fall on a long stalk. *Dyckia*’s want full sun to show off their color. This plant is fairly cold tolerant and is hardy to 25 deg. F.

Planted in a container or in the ground, *Dyckia* “Burgundy Ice” is an outstanding landscape plant.

Thanks to Joe Wujcik for the article posted on the website that has a wealth of cultivation and general information about *Dyckia* species.



DESERT FORUM

Saturday, 19 January 2013

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. **Registration**
 Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag).
- 9:30 – 12:00 Noon **Desert Garden**
 Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory. Aloes will be flowering.
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M. **Welcome Comments & Lunch – Friends’ Hall**
 Pick up sack lunch. Light snacks and beverages will be served.
 Welcome comments – Jim Folsom
 CSSA remarks – Laurel Woodley
- 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. **Plant Sales**
 Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 P.M.
 Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 P.M. **Free Time**
 Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries.

**** Note ** Membership Dues are Due!** Your 2013 Club membership renewal can be paid at the next meeting or mailed direct to Bill Gerlach, 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. \$15 regular membership or \$25 if you request the Communique by mail. Checks to **SGVCSS**.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 19, 9:30 am to 4:40 pm — DESERT FORUM at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden including a tour with knowledgeable staff, plant sale, and forum led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom. Wear your name badge!

Saturday, January 16, 7:30 pm — Study Group, TIPS, TOOLS & TECHNIQUES. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

January 26, 9:30 am - 11:00 am — 13th Annual ALOE WALK at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. Phone 951-685-5818 for directions. The 6 acre succulent gardens at the Center are the result of planting done in the late 1960's and early 1970's. We will tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland Empire climate. The Granite Hill Nursery will be open. This event is Free.

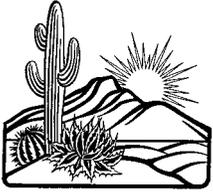
Saturday, February 9, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — San Diego Winter Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

March 22, 23 9:00 am to 5:00 pm **and March 24**, 12:00 to 5:00 pm — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For more information call 562-587-3357..

March 30 and 31, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — The Prickly Palace Open Gardens and Plant Sale in the Hemenway gardens, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, 92509. Call Buck Hemenway at 951-360-8802 for more information.

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

	<u>Cacti of the Month</u>	<u>Succulent of the Month</u>	<u>Study Group</u>
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
c/o Yvonne Hemenway
5890 Grinnell Drive
Riverside, CA 92509

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 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**.