

**San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society**

**COMMUNIQUE**

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

March 2014 - Volume 47, Number 3

**March Meeting:  
Thursday,  
March 13 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:**

***Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia***

**SUCCULENT:**

***Echeveria***

**C&S Workshop:**

The Workshop will meet on Wednesday, March 19th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

***California Natives***

**President's Message**

As you read this, we are getting ready for our first major rain-fall in several months. Obviously we could use a lot of rain. However, with all of the recent brush fires, I hope the hillsides hold up. My plants are getting a bit nervous, and so am I.

Our first bus trip to the Living Desert on March 15th is almost sold out. We have very few seats open. If you are interested, please email me at geisel@citruscollege.edu asap. Our bus will leave the Arboretum parking lot near Ayers Hall promptly at 7:45 am. Please come a bit early and be prepared for a great time.

Our second trip will be to the San Diego summer show on June 7th. We still have plenty of seats available for this trip. The cost is \$10. Admission to the show is free. There is space on the bus to bring back plants and other goodies. Balboa Park is always a wonderful place to visit. If you want to make a reservation before the next meeting please email me.

Our March speaker is Woody Minnich. As always, Woody presentations are one of the highlight of the year. Woody has been active in the cactus hobby for some 45 years and is well known for his participation in many of the cactus and succulent clubs. He is known for his extensive field work 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

(continued on page 2)

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## February Mini-Show Results

### Cactus - Mammillaria Clusters

#### Novice

(none)

#### Intermediate

None

#### Masters

1st	Pat Swain	Echinocereus engelmannii
2nd	Peter Walkowiak	Echinocereus triglochidiatus v. mojavnensis
3rd	Tony Marino	Mammillaria dioica

### Succulent - Succulent Bulbs

#### Novice

1st	Kyle Robinson	Marah fabaceus
2nd	Kyle Robinson	Coreopsis maritima
3rd	Kyle Robinson	Chlorogelum pomeridionum

#### Intermediate

1st	David Hawks	Bursera microphylla
2nd	David Hawks	Dudleya lanceolata
3rd	David Hawks	Encelia farinosa
3rd	Tom Howard	Agave utahensis eborispina

#### Masters

1st	Tony Marino	Agave utahensis eborispina
2nd	Tony Marino	Dudleya gnoma
3rd	Peter Walkowiak	Dudleya hassei

## Mini-Show Judges Signup

Tom Vermilion and Fred Parrales will assist Head Judge Manny Rivera in judging the entries for this month's Mini-Show.



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)

Yemen. His March presentation will be "Madagascar. Plants, People, and Places". You cannot afford to miss this month's exciting presentation!

Our Wednesday, March 19th C&S Workshop will focus on California Natives. We hope to see you there. And don't forget – there is always an informal raffle; everyone takes home a plant or plant cuttings.

Finally, a special thanks to all of the vendors who tirelessly devote their time, well-grown plants, and enthusiasm at each of your meetings. This month, Woody will join in. Come early and pick up some great plants.

See you at the next meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

## This Month's Program

### Madagascar: the Plants, People and Places

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Madagascar is an island where the plants, people and animals are as unusual as anywhere in the world. This presentation will feature most of the succulent plants that we find so special. It will also address its most fascinating people, the Malagasy. Because this island is so isolated from the main continent of Africa, its endemism of plants and animals, estimated at 6,400 species, is also very remarkable.

The succulent plants are notably diverse and range from giants to geophytes, which include such spectacular genera as: *Adansonia*, *Adenia*, *Alluaudia*, *Aloe*, *Commiphora*, *Cyphostemma*, *Didierea*, *Euphorbia*, *Kalanchoe*, *Moringa*, *Pachypodium*, *Senecio* and *Uncarina*.

In my travels around the world, the people of Madagascar are some of the most fascinating and happy people I have ever seen.

The places of Madagascar are also a real surprise. Large cities with paved roads are not common. The smaller towns and villages are truly exciting, as many operate with a simple barter or hand to mouth system. Grasshoppers, river fish, tubers, rice and zebu- - the



## 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 —

#### *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, *Weingartia*

The genus *Rebutia* has grown to swallow *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia*. There is no reliable distinguishing characteristic that separates what once were three genera.

*Rebutia* is and *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia* were genera from the highlands of Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are similar in appearance, in habitat and culture. Coming from high altitudes, they are tolerant of cold, and can be left out in cold weather. The populations of all three overlap.

There has been debate almost from initial discovery whether or not *Weingartia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* belong in the same genus. All three genera grow over large altitude ranges, and many species are so variable that collections from nearby populations or even the same population at different times have been given different names. There are far more names than species. The books by John Pilbeam help make sense of the species and varieties, and the New Cactus Lexicon gives the names under which the older species can now be found. Many names have changed multiple times over the years. All shows are tolerant of the different names, and *Rebutia* and *Sulcorebutia* are sometimes separated and sometimes combined.

*Rebutia* are easily grown. They are dormant in winter, and start to grow in March or April. They flower from April through June, with the peak flowering period varying from year to year depending on the weather. Two flowering cycles are common in cultivation in California. The flowers appear in abundance, and vary in color from purple and red through orange to yellow. They do well in normal cactus potting mixes, and grow best with steady fertilization when in active growth. They are attractive to spider mites. Damage can be prevented by frequent inspection, and

a weekly, forceful wash down with water.

Many plants eventually get a woody brown growth at the base of the plants, which creeps upward. This is known as creeping crud, and is a fungal disease. It can be avoided by maintaining the plants in active growth. Better yet, small offsets should be periodically used to start new growth. When the creeping crud appears, the plant should be discarded. It just gets uglier as time goes by, and the presence of diseased plants makes it easier for the fungus to grow and spread.

Propagation from offsets is easy. The offsets should be cut off, left to dry for a few days, and then replanted. Very small offsets can be successfully rooted. Seed is easy to germinate and readily available.

#### Selected species

*Rebutia heliosa* is an orange flowered form. It clumps rapidly in cultivation with a dark green body, small brown areoles and short whitish spines in a spiral pattern.

*Rebutia steinmanni* 'christinae', also found as *R. christinae* is from Salta, Argentina, and is one of 7 species included in *R. steinmanni*. It has dense off white spines and wonderful red flowers with a yellow center.

*Rebutia marsoneri* from Jujuy, Argentina is noted for its spectacular golden yellow flowers.

*Rebutia mentosa purpurea* is green when in



*Rebutia mentosa purpurea*

growth, but with lots of sun will color up to a wonderful red-purple. It clumps and can easily fill a 12 inch pot given a few years of careful growth and steady fertilizer.

*Rebutia pygmaea* comes in at least 20 varieties, many of which were originally described as species. Flower color varies over the full range for the genus. It's a challenge to keep some of the varieties small. Easy to grow.

*Rebutia (Sulcorebutia) candiae* was the Holiday Contest plant years ago. Those who kept them alive (not that hard) are enjoying the yellow spines and the yellow-orange flowers.

*Rebutia (Sulcorebutia) rauschii* is known in several forms. The most common is a dark purple bodied form. Second most common is a green bodied form, and the third is a golden spined form. Other forms are also available, but rarely seen. All are slow and beautiful, and harder than most others to keep looking good. All are worth the effort.

*Rebutia neocumingii (Weingartia longigibba)* is variable, with many great forms. One is shown in the accompanying picture.



Tom Glavich, March 2014

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

*Echeveria*

*Echeverias* are a group of succulent new world plants that occur from Texas to northern South America. The largest concentrations are in the mountainous regions of Mexico. They are a member of the *Crassulaceae* family and look very similar to our native *Dudleyas*. *Echeverias* prefer bright light but don't like to get particularly hot. They are rosette-forming succulents that can range from less than 2 inches to over 2 feet in diameter. Plants grow as single rosettes and many species can form clusters.

Care

*Echeverias* are not particularly difficult to grow so just follow typical succulent culture. Most are also suitable as landscape plants as long as they are protected from frost. Plant in well drained soil, water well and allow to dry before watering again. Exceptions are most of the large hybrids, these prefer to remain at least slightly damp to prevent leaves from burning. Bright light is needed to promote tight growth but in hotter inland locales more shade is needed to prevent

burning. Avoid touching those with a waxy coating as it is easily rubbed or even rinsed off. To grow perfect plants for show you should avoid overhead watering to prevent water spots.

Species vs hybrids & cultivars

There are hundreds of species and cultivars and probably an even larger number of hybrids. Some, such as *Echeveria elgans*, grows to about 3" and then begins to form clusters or mounds. Others, such as *E. lilacina*, grow to about 10" and generally remains solitary. If you want the really big ones you will have to seek out some of the many hybrids. Some such as *E. 'Dick Wright'*.



*Echeveria 'Dick Wright'*

Pests

Mealybugs & aphids can be a problem as can snails & slugs. As with most plants, prevention is far more effective than treating plants that are being attacked. Aphids and minor mealybug infestations can be treated with a strong spray of water every couple days. It doesn't kill them, but is usually enough to disrupt their life cycle and drive them away to somewhere else. Use extreme caution when using pesticides, many members of the *Crassulaceae* family are easily damaged by the solution used to carry them. A better method of control is to use some form of systemic and keep the bugs away in the first place. All



Plants in Show with large flower stalks

the standard remedies to control snails and slugs work fine with *Echeverias*. Watch for their silvery trails near

the ground under the leaves. Keep an eye on the tall flower stalks for aphids.

**Propagation/Maintenance**

Required to maintain beautiful, well kept plants. Most become overly tall with age and need to have their stem shortened to look their best. Here you can choose to propagate or just maintain a beautiful plant. To propagate, cut the crown off the top of the stem but leave 2 or 3 of the bottom crown leaves on the stem. Set the crown aside in a semi shady location for 10-14 days and then place on top of some well drained mix to re-root. Continue watering the remaining stem as usual and in a few weeks it should start forming several offsets along it's sides. Let them grow to about 2 inches in diameter or until they form a small stem before removing and rooting them. If you are not

interested in propagating then make the cut about one inch below the bottom leaves of the rosette, set it aside for 10-14 days and root it. With no leaves, the old stem may make offsets or just wither and die.



*Echeveria propagation*

All in all, *Echeverias* are a fairly easy group of plants to grow yet can still offer a challenge in producing a show quality plant. There are several hundred to choose from. Many readily available and some hard to find. This group of plants should have something for everyone.

Tom Vermilion, March 2014



Thank you to Tom Vermilion and Tom Glavich for putting together the Plant of the Month articles. 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).



South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society  
 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show & Sale

- Beautiful displays
- Expert advice
- 1000s of plants for sale

April 12 – 13, 2014  
 9 AM to 4 PM  
 South Coast Botanic Garden  
 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
 Palos Verdes Peninsula

Entry free with paid admission to garden: adult \$9; senior/student \$6; child 5-12 \$3; under 5 free.

[www.southcoastcss.org](http://www.southcoastcss.org)

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, March 19**, 7:30 pm — Workshop, CALIFORNIA NATIVES. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

**March 28, 29** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm **and March 30**, 12:00 to 4:00 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 29 and 30**, 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.

**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

**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.

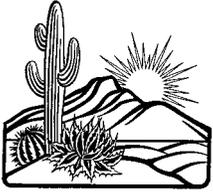
**May 3 and 4**, — Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. For information call 310-822-1783.

**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](http://www.lbcss.org).

**2014 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics**

	<b>Cacti of the Month</b>	<b>Succulent of the Month</b>	<b>Workshops</b>
Jan.	Mammillaria Clusters	Succulent Bulbs	Landscaping with Succulents
Feb.	California Native Cacti	California Native Succulents	Plant Identification
<b>Mar.</b>	<b>Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia</b>	<b>Echeverias</b>	<b>California Natives</b>
Apr.	Variegated Cacti	Variegated Succulents	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Gymnocalycium	Stem Euphorbias	Vegetative Propagation
June	Notocactus and Parodia	Bursera & Commiphora	Stem Euphorbias
July	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose	Staging Workshop
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Crests and Monstrose
Sept.	Cephaliated Cacti	Monadenium	Succulent Orchids
Oct.	Ariocarpus	Sedums	Sansevierias
Nov.	Grafted Cacti	Grafted 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**.