

COMMUNIQUE

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
January 2004 Volume 37 Number 1

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 8th. Our program this month will be “A Potter, on Repotting” presented by Joe Wujic. Most of us have already used many of Joe’s pots. Now, he’ll show us how to match up the right pot to our favorite plant! If you have a problem plant, or a staging problem, bring it in and ask Joe. He will invite questions and happily do some repotting right before our eyes!

Plants of the Month: (see the attached write ups)

CACTI – Miniatures

SUCCULENT – Miniatures

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride & joy. If you don’t have any of this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting. Remember that at the beginning of the year, it is customary for each member to review his/her ribbon accumulation and step up to the next higher category of competition in both the POM and Club shows when they have exceeded 40 blue ribbons in their current category.

Study Group: Join us on Wednesday, January 21th, when our topic will be plants of the genus *Mammillaria*. Everybody has lots of mams, and loves them (as well as their moms). Bring in you favorite and show it off! As usual, the meeting will be held in the Grapevine room of the San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Dr. (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium) at 7:30 pm. For those who have not attended a Study Group meeting here’s a brief description of what goes on. Members are encouraged to bring plants in that are on the topic for discussion. Joe Clements or another member will often present a brief slide show on the topic plants. We compare experiences on how best to grow them, sources for them, how to propagate etc. We discuss what pests they might be prone to and how to control them. Members can bring plants that they don’t have names for, or are unsure of the name that they have on the label, and some of our more knowledgeable members will try to identify them. Also, we usually have a large selection of cuttings and other free plants that members donate; these are given away at the end of the meeting by lottery.

The President’s Corner:

As we begin the new year I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who made 2003 such a success. Where to begin. At the beginning of each month you receive the newsletter, edited by Tom Vermilion. Tom Glavich is a regular contributor, producing the Plant of the Month articles. Ray and Mary Folck have done the mailing of the newsletter. The speakers at our monthly meetings are brought to us by the efforts of Woody Minnich. The raffle plants are usually provided by Jim Hanna or Tom Glavich. Susan Weststeyn is there to sign you in, sell you raffle tickets and help with the drawings. Jean Mullens and Hilde Rosenbluth make sure we have food at the break. Every month Joe Clements leads our study group discussion. Our two shows are the result of a tremendous amount of work by Tom Glavich and Vince Basta and many others. All this has to be paid for, which

keeps our treasurer Rita Gerlach busy. I could go on for pages, but I'll stop here. It takes the concerted efforts of dozens of people, many behind the scenes, to make our club what it is. Thank you all. I would hope that in the coming year those of you who have not had the opportunity to fully participate will join us to help make 2004 even more successful.

Tim Jackson

10 years ago: The program was given by Guy Wrinkle on the "Natural History of the Amazon and Peru."

20 years ago: The Program was given by Victor Turecek on "Gymnos of Argentina." The new officers included Peter Sharp President, Jim Oravetz Vice President, Gordon McTavish Treasurer, Shalon Dello Secretary.

30 years ago: Virginia Martin gave a presentation on some of her favorite sites in Arizona.

(Thanks go to Tom Glavich for providing this interesting feature)

2004 Dues are due! It's that time again, to pay your annual dues. See our Treasurer, Rita Gerlach, at the meeting or mail your dues to her at:

SGVC&SS Membership
719 S. Albertson
Covina, CA 91723-3302

Membership is \$12.00 for individuals or \$15.00 for a family (at the same address). Your membership status is on the front label, below your address. Your prompt renewals allow us to publish the Roster in a timely manner.

Refreshments: Our records show that no one is signed up to bring refreshments for January so we could use a few volunteers. We have openings for refreshment sign-ups throughout the coming year. The sign up sheet will be at the refreshment table. Thanks to everyone who generously brought things during 2003.

Holiday Plant Info: The plant given to members at our Holiday Party was *Discocactus bueneckeri*. Recipients should rear their plants aggressively but carefully and bring the result to next year's Party. The best surviving *bueneckeri* will be awarded a prize. Don't forget that the plants given at all of the Club's previous Holiday Parties should also be brought it and shown off. The grand winner of this year's competition was clearly Bill Hagblom's beautiful *Euphoriba aeruginosa minor* from the 2001 party, grown to the point of being an auction-able item!

Get Your COMMUNIQUE Online: The Club is considering sending out E-mail announcements each month describing the coming meeting and the online availability of the COMMUNIQUE. Members who are willing to accept this method of viewing the COMMUNIQUE would not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy. Note that your dues don't even cover the cost of our newsletter! Only those subscribing to online viewing would get the E-mail announcement. This proposition will be raised at the January meeting, and if enough interest is shown, a sign-up sheet will be made available. Sign-up could be done at any time thereafter.

SGVC&SS Online: Our club has an excellent web site online at <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> If you or someone you know has internet access be sure to have a look. The pages were authored and are maintained by Gunnar Eisel who has done a fabulous job in creating an informative and classy looking web site. You can also

download a version of the COMMUNIQUE complete with color photos. Look for the COMMUNIQUE link on the site's main page.

Calendar of Events - 2004

- January 25th** Great Rosarians of the World Annual Lecture Series, at the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.
- February 14th** San Diego C&SS Winter Show, 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- May 16th** Huntington Library and Botanical Garden Spring Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- July 1st-3rd** CSSA Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA.
- August 14th-15th** Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
- September 4th** 21st Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA.
- October 16th-17th** SGVC&SS Winter Show, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA.

Last Year's Plant-Of-the-Month Mini-Show Results:

1. Tie	52	15. Tie	22	28. M&R Agajanian	6
Rene Caro		L&L Pickoff		29. ML&G Totten	5
Karen Oster		Vince Basta		30. Tie	4
3. Tom Vermillion	51	17. Gene/Laura Oster	20	Bill Hagblom	
4. Rita Gerlach	49	18. Ray Folk	19	Antoinette Koltaj	
5. C&P Maker	48	19. Alan Hooker	16	Phil Skonieczki	
6. Frank Nudge	45	20. Tie	15	Ron Young	
7. Petra Crist	34	Patty Caro		34. Roy Dodson	3
8. Manny Rivera	40	Dick Tatman		35. Michael Romero	2
9. Esther Lelah	34	22. Tie	12	36. Tie	1
10. Bobbie Nolan	31	Oscar Flores		Horace Birgh	
11. Tracy Kolb	28	Dick Hulett		Alan Hedman	
12. Jim Schlegel	26	J&B Wilner		Lorraine Lutz	
13. Tie	24	25. C. Rutkowski	10	Jean Mullens	
Jim Hanna		26. Bob Lambden	8		
Sochara Tan		27. Arlouse White	7		

Note that all of the above got to choose a plant from a selection that was brought in for this purpose. Order of choice was based upon the number of points scored last year.

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have included here please forward the info to me at the address below. Verify these dates before traveling, sometimes event are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice.

Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: sgv_css@verizon.net or via post to: Paul Maker, 2235 Canyon Road, Arcadia, CA 91106. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the COMMUNIQUE. Material in the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society COMMUNIQUE may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCSS and the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti and Succulent of the Month January 2004 - *Miniatures*

This month, the Cacti and Succulent of the Month are both miniatures. Miniatures are defined differently for different local shows. In most cases, the definition is a mature plant in a pot with an inside diameter less than three inches. Some shows define the miniature category as any plant displayed as a miniature. This allows seedlings and young plants to be entered as miniatures. Others require the plant to be the smallest in a genus. We'll use the broad definition for the Plant of the Month.



Operculicaria decaryi entered in the 2002 CSSA Show by Jim Hanna.

The miniature category is one of the most popular in our shows, with the number of entrants often one of the largest. The key to success is staging plants. Particular attention must be paid

to the relation of the plant to the pot, the top dressing, and any rocks. The importance of

color, geometry, and texture are all magnified in the smaller scale of miniatures.



Pachypodium succulentum entered by Tom Glavich in the 2001 Winter Show.



Argyroderma delectii entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Lillian Pickoff.

Succulents entered as miniatures include representatives from almost every family, and a list would be far too long to print. Unusual entries often do well.

With care, species that normally grow large can be kept small, stunted by the lack of

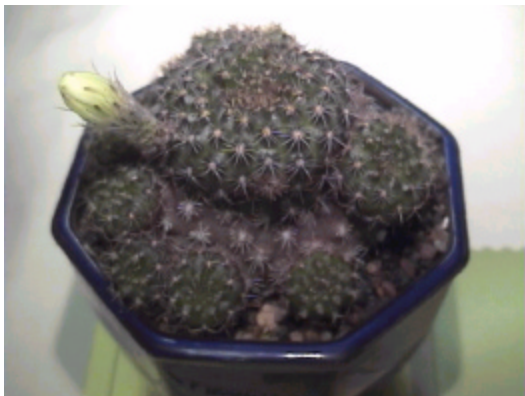
root room. Even though small, miniatures need a little fertilizer to keep growth looking fresh, and frequent watering, since there is little storage either in the pot or the body of the plant. The *Operculicaria* and the *Pachypodium* shown above have both been in the same pots for many years.

Some Cacti suitable as miniatures:

Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus - the classic entry.

Blossfeldia - a genus of miniature cacti from Brazil.

Epithelantha micromeris a variable species from Texas and Northern Mexico.



Frailea schlinzkyana entered by Tom and Jeanette Glavich in 2001 Intercity Show.

Frailea - a genus of small cacti, some of which clump.

Mammillaria saboae (discovered by club member Kitty Sabo!) and its varieties and forms.

Mammillaria herrerae is a small white species from Queretaro. *Mammillaria*

hernandezii is a particularly beautiful species from Oaxaca.

Pelecyphora asseliformis another classic from Mexico.



Tubincarpus collection entered by Frank Dewep in the 2001 Intercity Show.

Turbincarpus another genus of slow growing, small cacti from Mexico.

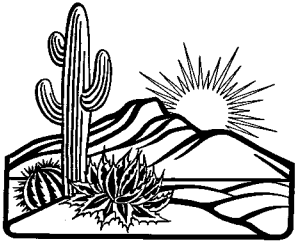
Others can be found in several genera, including *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Lobivia*, *Rebutia*, etc.

References:

Cullman, Gotz & Groner, The Encyclopedia of Cacti

Sajeva, M. and Costanzo, M., Succulents The Illustrated Dictionary

Tom Glavich December 2003
Intercity Pictures by T. Nomer



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