



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
February 2005 Volume 38 Number

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 10th. Our program this month will be presented by Gary Duke. The title of his talk is 'Anza Borrego.'

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

CACTI – *Rebutia* and *Sulcorebutia* SUCCULENT – *Tylecodon*

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.

A Commentary on the Monthly Mini-Shows

Members should review the rules on page 5 of the roster about which division to enter. The rules are different than the rules for divisions in the public shows. The present rules state that you should move up to the next division when you have won 12 first place honors or 20 (1st, 2nd or 3rd) overall. These rules are on the honor system and no records are kept. There are some members that have been in the club for well over 15 years and still compete in the novice division. This is simply not fair and goes against the purpose of the club which is to encourage new members to compete and become active members. I believe that the **Novice** division should be limited to persons who have been in our club or any other cactus club for no more than three years and the **Intermediate** division for no more than six years. There follows the **Advanced** division. The **Master** division should be for those members whose experience and knowledge qualify them as judges in the major shows. It's not too late to make your personal move up this year.

Bill Gerlach

Study Group: Join us on Wednesday, February 16th, when our topic will be the genus *Pelargonium*. 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 in specimens from the topic of discussion. Club President Joe Clements or another member will often present a brief slide show and preside over a discussion on the day's topic. Also, we usually have a large selection of cuttings and other plants, donated by members, that are given away by lottery at meeting's end.

Personnel Notices: The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest member, **Ramiro Garcia**. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club!

10 years ago: (no data available)

20 years ago: Virginia Martin presented a color slide program entitled "Some of My Favorite Sights and Plants"

30 years ago: Virginia Martin gave a talk on a 1974 trip over impossible roads in Sonora, Chihuahua and Sinaloa, Mexico.

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

Roster Deadline: Feb 16th is the cut-off date for inclusion in the 2005 roster. Membership dues can be paid at the Feb 10th meeting or sent to: SGVCSS Membership, 719 S Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. Membership is \$12.00 for individuals or \$15.00 for a family (at the same address). Your membership status is printed on the address label, above your name.

Notice! This is the last issue of the COMMUNIQUE that you will receive if you haven't paid your dues for 2005!!!

Refreshments: Antoinette Koltaj, Lorraine Lutz, and Dick Tatman have offered to bring refreshments for February. Any other goodies would be appreciated. We have openings for refreshment sign-ups throughout the coming year. The sign up sheet will be at the refreshment table. Thanks go to those who brought things, without prior commitment, to the January meeting!

Online: If you would be content to view the COMMUNIQUE on-line and not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy, send the information via E-mail to sgvcss@adelphia.net. <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> is the Club's web site. 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 great job in creating an informative and classy site. You can also download a version of the COMMUNIQUE complete with color photos. Look for the COMMUNIQUE link at the site's main page.

Calendar of Events - 2005

- Feb 12th** San Diego C&SS Winter Show, Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- Apr 9th-10th** South Coast C&SS Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA (310-832-2262).
- Apr 24th** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA (310-831-1209).
- April 23rd-24th** Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum.
- Apr 30th-
May 1st** Sunset C&SS Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA (310-822-1783)
- May 15th** Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale, 10-5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- May 15th** Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. (310-831-1209).
- May 21st-22nd** Gates C&SS Show (1-4 Sat, 9-4 Sun) and Sale (9-4 Sat & Sun), Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Glen Avon, CA (909-360-8802).
- Jun 4th-5th** San Diego C&SS Show and Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101 Casa del Prado, San Diego, CA (619-477-4779).

- Jul 1st-3rd** CSSA Show (2nd-3rd) and Sale (1st-3rd), Huntington Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA (626-405-2160 or 2277).
- Aug 5th-11th** 31st Biennial CSSA Convention, Scottsdale, AZ. For complete details, visit <http://www.cssainc.org/convent.html>
- Aug 20th-21th** 18th Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA (626-798-2430 or 818-998-9306).
- Sep 3rd** 22nd Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- Sep 25th** Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St, Compton (Dominguez Hills) CA.
- Oct 15th-16th** SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

January Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results:

Cacti – Straight Spined Mammillaria Clusters

Succulents – Gasteria

Beginner

1 st	Lorraine Lutz	M deherdtiana	1 st	Dick Tatman	G rawlinsonia
2 nd	H. Birgh & R. Dodson	M parkinsonii	2 nd	" "	G Sp
3 rd	Jim Schlegel	M parkinsonii	2 nd	" "	G batesiana
			3 rd	Linda Walpus	G gracilis var

Intermediate

1st	Carol Maker	M. lenta	1st	Alan Hooker	G verrucosa
2nd	" "	M microthele	2nd	" "	G armstrongii
3 rd	Barbara Nolan	M plumosa	2nd	Barbara Nolan	G Sp
			3rd	" "	G "Fire & Ice"

Advanced

1st	Rita Gerlach	M voburnensis	1st	Frank Nudge	G armstrongii
2nd	Tom Vermilion	M plumosa	2nd	Rita Gerlach	Gastrolea Sp
3rd	Rita Gerlach	M Sp	3rd	Tom Vermilion	G armstrongii

Master

1 st	Vince Basta	M lenta	1 st	Jim Hanna	G batesiana
2 nd	" "	M lindsayii	2 nd	Karen Ostler	G "Warthog"
3 rd	" "	M crucigera	3 rd	Jim Hanna	G armstrongii

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the info to me at the address below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice.

Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: sgvcss@adelphia.net or via post to: Paul Maker, 1245 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078-4816. 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 of the Month February 2005 – *Rebutia* and *Sulcorebutia*

Rebutia and *Sulcorebutia* are both genera from the highlands of Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are similar in appearance, in habitat and culture. Coming from high altitudes, they are both tolerant of cold, and if dry, can be left out in all weather. The populations of *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* overlap, but they do not naturally hybridize.



Rebutia marsoneri

There has been debate from the start on whether or not *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* belong in the same genus. Some would combine the two under *Rebutia*, others would rather split *Rebutia* into several genera. The issue will ultimately be settled by genetic studies (they are leading towards a single genus). For the present they are treated as separate genera, and they appear this way in almost all references, catalogs and show schedules. Both 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.

Both genera are easily grown. They are dormant in winter, and start to grow in late 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 compost, and grow best with steady fertilization, when in active growth. They are both attractive to spider mites. Damage can be prevented by frequent inspection, and a weekly, forceful wash down with water.

Most 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.

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, but is short lived.

Selected species (they are all great!)

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 (see above).

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 ritteri is now listed as *R. atrovirens* 'ritteri' has a gray green body, with the areoles and spines in neat rows. The orange red flowers seem to glow in late afternoon.

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.

Sulcorebutia MK2994 has dense spirals of white spines almost hiding a dark green body. The spines are in combs that interleave on the upper body, and separate

lower down, exposing the body. Slow growing, but impressive.



Sulcorebutia rauschii entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by David and Eileen Tufenkian
Photo T. Nomer

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.

References

John Pilbeam, **Rebutia**

John Pilbeam, **Sulcorebutia and Weingartia**

John Pilbeam, **Cacti for the Connoisseur**
Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

Tom Glavich January 2005

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month February 2005 - *Tylecodon*

Tylecodon is a genus of plants, in the Crassulaceae Family, almost exclusively confined to South Africa, and closely related to three other genera, *Adromischus*, *Kalanchoe*, and *Cotyledon*. They are winter growers, and generally look their best from mid fall through late spring. *Tylecodon* lose their leaves as the summer heat arrives, but generally flower during the summer, after all leaves are gone.

Tylecodon is a relatively new genus first published in 1978. In books published before this date, most plants that we know today as *Tylecodon* will appear as *Cotyledon*. *Tylecodon* is an anagram (rearrangement of the letters) of *Cotyledon*, reflecting the extremely close relationship between the two genera. In habitat, *Tylecodon* are generally deciduous, losing their leaves in summer while *Cotyledon* are evergreen. This is usually, but not always the same in cultivation. A more important botanical distinction is the structure of the attachment of flowers to the stem.



Tylecodon atrofusca

Tylecodon are extremely toxic to livestock so farmers and stockmen in South Africa routinely remove every *Tylecodon* they can find. *Tylecodon wallichii*, shown below is one of the main offenders.



Tylecodon wallichii

Cultivation of *Tylecodon* is easy. They are all winter growers, dormant in the summer. During dormancy, *Tylecodon* prefer little or no water, depending on size. The smaller species need water occasionally, as they would get in nature. They should get almost no fertilizer, or their growth will get long and leggy very quickly. If this happens, the leggy growth should be cut back.

Propagation is also easy, almost all root from cuttings. *Tylecodon* root best at the beginning of the growing cycle.

Seed is sometimes available. Best results are obtained by sowing the seed in November, and getting a full winter and most of the first summer before dormancy.

Plants of Note:

Tylecodon atrofuscus, shown on the previous page is one of the best of the dwarf species. The small caudex looks dead for most of the year, sprouting outsize leaves when the first fall rains come. This is one of the species that needs a small amount of summer moisture, even though there is no visible growth.

Tylecodon buchholzianus is unique among the Tylecodon. It can grow branches without evidence of leaves. Microscopic leaflets perform the function of normal leaves, allowing the branches to grow. It is also capable of setting normal leaves in the spring. Once fairly rare, this has been propagated from cuttings and is now fairly easy to find.



Tylecodon paniculatus

Tylecodon paniculatus is notable for its fast growth rate, thick trunk and peeling yellow bark. Easy to grow, with annual pruning to shape the growth this can become an amazing specimen in just a few years.



Tylecodon reticulatus

Tylecodon reticulatus is a medium size species that has the color and peeling bark similar to *Tylecodon paniculata*, but makes an excellent smaller bonsai. It is easy to grow, and easy to come by. It propagates very easily from cuttings.

Tylecodon wallichii has persistent leaf bases that dry to knobby spine like structures (see above). This is one of the most poisonous of all the *Tylecodon*, and one most quickly removed by ranchers and farmers. It holds its leaves as the grasses dry, making it particularly attractive to thirsty cattle.

References

H. Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

G. Rowley, **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents**

G. Rowley, **Name that Succulent**

M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich January 2005

**CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SHOW & SALE**

**SAT. & SUN. APRIL 9 & 10, 2005, 9am
to 4pm**

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**DIRECTIONS: From I 10, take 405 south to Crenshaw, go south on
Crenshaw or take 110 south to Pacific Coast Hwy., go west to Crenshaw
and turn left.**

**A SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SOCIETY PRESENTATION**

VISA AND MASTER CHARGE ACCEPTED