



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

COMMUNIQUE



**NICK
RENTERIA**

NEW PREZ PRESENTS
"THAILAND: A PLANT
GROWER'S PARADISE"



**MAMMILLARIA,
SENECIO &
OTHONNA**

PLANTS OF THE MONTH



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

A MESSAGE FROM NICK RENTERIA, SGVCSS PRESIDENT:

As the new president of the *San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society*, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!



Before we put 2023 too far in the rear-view mirror, I would like to thank all the outgoing officers, board members, chairpersons, and representatives. Your contribution has been instrumental in ensuring that our club continues to be one of the premier cactus and succulent clubs in the nation.

I would also like to give a special shoutout to outgoing president **Gunnar Eisel**, who has expertly guided our club for the past four years and who continues to be of service as we transition presidents.

On behalf of your new leadership team, we look forward to continuing our traditions, such as monthly meetings featuring plant of the month mini-shows and top-notch speakers, informative workshops, fun filled field trips, and of course our **Winter Show** and the **Inter-City Show**. We welcome any suggestions you may have for how we can improve our meetings or for any field trips or other activities you would enjoy.

Finally, the success of our club ultimately depends on those of you who volunteer your time to help out with our activities. We have several positions available and hope you will consider volunteering for one of them.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting!

Regards,
Nick Renteria



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

AUDIO VISUAL COORDINATOR

REFRESHMENTS COORDINATOR

INTER-CITY SALES CHAIR

CONTACT NICK RENTERIA OR
AMANDA GERBERICH
FOR MORE DETAILS

A MESSAGE FROM GUNNAR EISEL, PAST PRESIDENT:



Hi folks

It's been a pleasure and privilege to serve as **SGVCSS President** for a total of 8 years. SGVCSS has a rich history, and I'm honored to have been a part of it.

There are a lot of new faces, and I'm excited to see their new ideas unfold. We will leave things in the very capable hands of president **Nick Renteria** and the new and energetic board members.

I look forward to serving as *Speaker Chair* and wherever help is needed.

Best regards,
Gunnar

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:

2024

PLANTS OF THE MONTH

JAN

MAMMILLARIA
SENECIO, OTHONNA

FEB

BARREL CACTUS
MESEMBS

MAR

TURBINICARPUS
PELARGONIUM

APR

S. AMER. OPUNTIA
ALOE SPECIES

MAY

ECHINOCEREUS
AFR. PACHYPODIUMS

JUN

COPIAPOA
AGAVE, YUCCA

JULY

GYMNOCALYCIUM
GASTERIA

AUG

FAVORITES

SEP

HYBRIDS
CULTIVARS

OCT

ARIOCARPUS
AFR. EUPHORBIA

NOV

MONTROSE
CRESTED

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JAN 11 - MONTHLY

JAN 17 - SENECIO / OTHONNA
WORKSHOP

FEB 8 - MONTHLY

FEB 21 - BARREL CACTUS
WORKSHOP

ALL PROGRAMS START AT 7:30 PM

Meetings

Our club meetings are held on the *second Thursday* of each month at 7:30PM in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. You can come as early as 6:00PM to socialize and shop.

Workshops

Our hands-on workshops are held on the *third Wednesday* of each month at 7:30PM in the Palm Classroom at the LA Arboretum. Enter Main Gate.



2024 WORKSHOPS

JAN

SENECIO / OTHONNA

FEB

BARREL CACTUS

MAR

PELARGONIUM

APR

SPRING SEED

MAY

ECHINOCEREUS

JUN

STAGING

JUL

GYMNOCALYCIUM

AUG

TIPS & TRICKS

SEP

HYBRIDS & CULTIVARS

OCT

ARIOCARPUS

NOV

WINTER SEED

GUEST SPEAKER:

NICK RENTERIA

THAILAND: A PLANT GROWER'S PARADISE



THAILAND: A PLANT GROWER'S PARADISE

Thailand is well known for its orchids, but most people are unaware that the relatively warm year-round climate proves to be a near ideal climate for many of our cactus and succulents.

Join **Nick Renteria** as he takes you on a journey to visit two of the largest botanical gardens in Thailand, including the *Nong Nooch Tropical Garden* in Pattaya, which is frequently ranked as one of the top 20 gardens in the world.

Nick will also discuss and show you his stop by an outdoor garden show, as well as an outdoor garden swapmeet in Bangkok.

Nick Renteria was born and raised in Southern California and developed a love for gardening at an early age.

He went to college intending to major in Horticulture, then took a 180-degree detour, graduating with a degree in Economics. He subsequently worked as an accountant and as an IT Systems Analyst.

In an attempt to get back on track with his true love of gardening, he completed the Certificate Program in Gardening and Horticulture through UCLA Extension in 2017.

After retiring from his IT position with a major entertainment company in 2021, he has devoted his free time to the world of cactus and succulents, where he currently serves as the Chair of the *Cactus and Succulent Society of America Annual Show and Sale* and the President of the *San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society*.

PHOTO: ANTHONY CANTIELLO



PHOTO: NICK RENTERIA

CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

MAMMILLARIA



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, and some others clumped and heavily-spined with hooks. This month the plant of the month is **Single-Headed Mammillaria**, regardless of size.

Although most *Mammillaria* are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. With this wide distribution, the cultivation requirements 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* remain 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. White mealy bug egg cases -- AKA a *Mammillaria's* worst enemy -- on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants around the plants means that mealybugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required with a thorough washing and spraying with an insecticide.

Propagation of single-headed *Mammillaria* is almost exclusively by seed. Fortunately, *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed.

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Mammillaria Lloydii



Mammillaria huitzilopochtli



Mammillaria Lloydii

CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

MAMMILLARIA



(continued from page 4...)

Fortunately, *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of 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.

One of the rarely told secrets of *Mammillaria* is their beauty as seedlings. Seedlings a year or two old are amazingly beautiful plants with all of the wool and spination that they will have as adults, but in miniature form. Color in seedlings is often much more intense than it will be in older plants. Given the ease of germination, everyone should try a few.

Some *Mammillaria* normally single headed in habitat will offset with age in cultivation. It is not unusual for some species to suddenly start a second head, sometimes in an unusual location.

--Tom Glavich



Memorable Mammillaria:

- ***Mammillaria chionocephala*** comes from Coahuila and Nuevo Leon. It grows to about 4 inches in diameter and eventually gets to 6 or so inches tall.
- ***Mammillaria lloydii*** has short spines that show off the impressive body that wrinkles with age. It grows to nearly 10 inches high and 5 inches in diameter.
- ***Mammillaria huitzilpochtii*** from Puebla and Oaxaca is known from forms that rapidly clump and others that stay solitary for many years. Great supination!
- ***Mammillaria sempervivi*** grow at high altitudes, is slow growing, and eventually gets to 4 or 6 inches in diameter. The white wool between the areoles makes this species a pleasure to look at and grow. It stays flat.

--Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

SENECIO & OTHONNA

Othonna and **Senecio** are two genera in the *Asteraceae* family, a distinction that they share with such common plants as *Sunflowers*, *Asters*, and *Dandelions*. *Othonna* are confined to Southern Africa, with most all species native to South Africa, while *Senecio* is a very large and cosmopolitan genus with species in most of the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Both genera have succulent and non-succulent members.

All of the *Asteraceae* are distinguished by a flower head that appears to be a single large flower but is really a cluster of many smaller flowers (florets) protected (and advertised to passing pollinators) by colorful bracts. The flowers of both *Othonna* and *Senecio* show obvious resemblance to dandelions and sunflowers. The seeds are held in loose clusters and scattered by the wind, just as with dandelions.

Both genera are relatively easy to grow, requiring only modest attention to growing periods and tolerant of some out of season watering. Most species are winter growers, losing their leaves in the heat of summer and leafing out again in early fall.

Seed is occasionally available and germinates readily. It's best planted in early autumn with maximum growth and development of water storage tissue before the first summer dormancy. Propagation from cuttings is also easy particularly for *Senecio*. Most collectable *Othonna* species like deep pots.

(continued on page 7...)



Senecio oxyriifolius



Othonna pacypoda



Othonna euphorbioides

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

SENECIO & OTHONNA

(continued from page 6...)

In habitat, many are geophytes, with above-ground leaves and flowers only appearing when conditions are favorable. Many *Senecio* are perfectly happy in normal pots, since most are not geophytes. A potting mix of 80% pumice and 20% commercial potting mix will work well for both species.

Some of the *Othonna* species that are particularly prone to rot do better in 100% pumice. Fertilization should start as soon as leaves start to appear and stop when the weather starts to get warm or the leaves start to yellow. Many of the *Senecio* species want water nearly all year, while many of the *Othonnas* are strictly winter growers. Any commercial general-purpose fertilizer will work well.

--Tom Glavich



OTHONNA CAPENSIS VAR LH BAILEY
PHOTO: SPROUT N GREEN STORE

Outstanding Othonnas

- ***Othonna euphorbioides*** has leaves the shape and color of *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*, and a body shape that is also similar.
- ***Othonna herrei*** is probably the best of the species with the caudex covered with knobby protrusions resulting from persistent leaf bases.
- ***Othonna incisa*** is a geophytic species with leaves above the ground in the fall, and spectacular purple flowers in January.

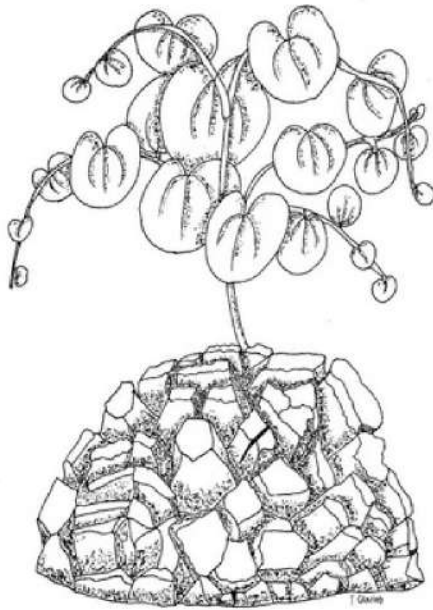
Show-worthy Senecio

- ***Senecio rowleyanus***, aka "String of Pearls", is a well known house plant. The leaves are globose, on long prostrate stems. It's often used as a hanging plant.
- ***Senecio fulgens*** is native to Southern Africa. It forms an interesting caudex, and can grow to be fairly large. It has large numbers of red flowers, and is an interesting garden or show plant.

--Tom Glavich

WINTER SHOW & SALE '24:

SGVCSS WINTER SHOW



Sale: February 9 - 11 8 AM - 5 PM

Show: February 10 9 AM - 5 PM

February 11 9 AM - 4 PM



A Note from SGVCSS Winter Sale '24 Chair James Lemos:

I am both excited and honored to again serve as the Club Sales Chair for this event, our **29th Annual Winter Show & Sale**. Come be a part of it!

Our new venue, the *Arcadia Masonic Center*, turned out to be a big success last year. So much so, that we decided to go back. I'm looking forward to seeing and working with you all.

A Note from SGVCSS Winter Show '24 Chair Manny Rivera:

Our **29th Annual Winter Show & Sale** is coming this February, which means a lot of our winter-growing plants will be actively growing and looking great with the cooler, longer nights. Some cacti will be waking up and some of them will be flowering.

The club's *Winter Show* is our annual fundraiser for our monthly meetings, guest speakers, holiday party, refreshments, club badges, books, field trips, and more.



Please support our show!

Volunteer, bring plants to show, bring your friends and show them your plants, invite them to the sales area, and tell them about our club.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

SET-UP DAY: WED 2/7 1-3PM

PLANT DROP-OFF:

WEDNESDAY 2/7 FROM 3-7PM,
THURSDAY 2/8 FROM 8AM-6PM,
FRIDAY 2/9 FROM 8AM-4PM

CLERKS AND TABULATORS:

FRIDAY 2/9 AT 4PM
DINNER AT 4PM
JUDGING FROM 5-9PM

WINTER SHOW & SALE '24 PREVIEW:

SGVCSS WINTER SHOW



The San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society
presents
The 29th Annual Winter Show
February 10 & 11, 2024
At Arcadia Masonic Center
50 W Duarte Road Arcadia, CA

Horticultural Classifications

Competitive entries shall be as follows:

NOVICE: Exhibitor has won no more than 40 blue ribbons total in recognized C&S shows.**Intermediate:** Exhibitor has won 41 or more blue ribbons. No commercial sellers.**OPEN:** Exhibitor must have won 80 or more blue ribbons or be a commercial seller of C&S plants.**All entrants must register their total entries in the show registrar prior to placement on tables.****DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, CACTI**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Ariocarpus up to 5" | 23 Mammillaria w/o hooks single up to 6" |
| 2 Ariocarpus single over 5" | 24 Mammillaria w/o hooks single over 6" |
| 3 Ariocarpus cluster over 5" | 25 Mammillaria w/o hooks cluster up to 5" |
| 4 Astrophytum | 26 Mammillaria w/o hooks cluster 5 to 10" |
| 5 Aztekium, Geohintonia, Epithelantha, | 27 Mammillaria w/o hooks cluster over 10" |
| Pelecypora, Encephalocarpus | 28 Melocactus |
| 6 Borzicactus, Malucana, Submatucana, Oroya | 29 Parodia, Notocactus |
| Blossfeldia, Frailea, Yavia | 30 Opuntia, North America |
| 7 Buinlingia, Uebelmannia | 31 Opuntia, South America |
| 8 Columnar - Ceroid types (N or S American) | 32 Pedicactus, Sclerocactus, Echinomastus |
| 9 Obregonia, Strombocactus, Ortegocactus | 33 Turbinicarpus, Gymnocactus |
| 10 Copiapoa | 34 Rebutia |
| 11 Coryphantha, Escobaria, Neobesseya, | 35 Sulcorebutia, Weingartia |
| Neolloydia, Acharagma | 36 Stenocactus, Echinofossulocactus |
| 12 Discocactus | 37 Thelocactus, Hamatocactus |
| 13 Echinocereus up to 5" | 38 Epiphytic Cacti (Aporocactus, Hatiora, etc.) |
| 14 Echinocereus over 5" | 39 Any other genus |
| 15 Echinopsis, Lobivia, Acanthocalycium, | 40 Variegated Cacti |
| Trichocereus | 41 Monstrose (multiple, irregular, growth centers) |
| 16 Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia | 42 Crested Cacti (fan-shaped growth) |
| 17 Eriosyce (Neoporteria, Neochilenia, | 43 Seed grown by exhibitors up to 5 years |
| Pyrrhocactus, Homidocactus) | 44 Miniature Cacti (3" maximum pot size) |
| 18 Gymnocalycium up to 5" | 45 Cacti Collections of 5 - 12 plants |
| 19 Gymnocalycium over 5" | |
| 20 Mammillaria hooked up to 6" | |
| 21 Mammillaria hooked over 6" | |

DIVISION 2 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, SUCCULENTS**Aizoaceae (Mesembryanthemaceae) family**

- 46 Lithops
47 Conophytum
48 Other genera - with prominent stems/roots:
Aloinopsis, Faularia, Mesoklema, etc.
49 Other genera - without prominent stems/roots:
Dinteranthus, Lapidaria, etc.

Asphodelaceae family

- 50 Aloe under 6"
51 Aloe 6" and over
52 Gasteria
53 Haworthia & Astroloba under 5"
54 Haworthia & Astroloba 5" and over

Crassulaceae family

- 55 Adromischus
56 Cotyledon, Tylecodon
57 Crassula, Kalanchoe
58 Dudleya
59 Echeveria
60 Other Crassulaceae: Aeonium, Pachyphytum
Graptoleptum, Monanthes, Sedum,
Tacitus, Orostachys, etc.

Euphorbiaceae family

- Euphorbia - species endemic to Madagascar
61 Caudiciform or Geophyte (capsaintemariensis,
Cylindropuntia v. tubifera, etc.)
62 Other Madagascan (decaryi, milii, etc.)
Euphorbia - species not endemic to Madagascar
63 Caudiciform (knuthii, squarrosa, etc.)
64 Medusa type (esculentia, porgoni, etc.)
65 Stem type (abdelkuri, obesa, suzannae, etc.)

Other genera of Euphorbiaceae:

- 66 Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, etc.

Geraniaceae family

- 67-A Pelargonium under 6"
67-B Pelargonium 6" and over
68 Sarcocaulon

Apocynaceae family

- 69 Adenium & Plumeria
70 Pachypodium - African
71 Pachypodium - Madagascan

Asclepiadaceae family

- 72 Fockea, Raphionacme, Brachystema
73 Caralluma, Hoodia, Huernia, Pseudolithos,
Stapelia, Trichocaulon, etc.
74 Other Asclepiadaceae: Ceropogia,
Sarcostemma, Hoya, etc.

Succulents in Other Families

- 75 Agavaceae: Agave, Yucca
76 Agavaceae: Nolina, Calibanus, Beaucarnea
77 Asteraceae: Senecio, Othonna
78 Bromeliaceae: Abromeitiella/Deuterocochlia, Dyckia,
etc.
79 Burseraceae: Bursera, Commiphora
80 Dieliaceae: Alluaudia, Alluaudiopsis, Decarya,
Diceria
81 Dracaenaceae: Sansevieria (may include
variegated)
82 Moraceae: Dorstenia, Ficus
83 Passifloraceae: Adena
84 Portulacaceae: Anacampseros, Avonia, Ceraria
85 Vitaceae: Cissus, Cyphostemma

Pachycauls, Caudiciforms & Geophytes

- Adansonia, Bombax, Chorisia,
Cucurbitaceae: Dioscorea, Fouquieria,
Pachycormus, etc.
86 Pot size under 6"
87 Pot size 6" and over
88 Any other genus
89-A Bulbs under 6"
89-B Bulbs 6" and over
90 Variegated Succulents
91 Crested Succulents (fan-shaped growth)
92 Monstrose (multiple, irregular, growth centers)
93 Seed grown by exhibitors up to 5 years
94 Miniature (3" maximum pot size)
95 Collection of 5 - 12 plants

DIVISION 3 ARRANGEMENTS

- 96 Dish gardens (miniature scene)
97 Planters (group of the same or assorted plants)
98 Bonsai Miniature under 8" tall
99 Bonsai 8" or taller

DIVISION 5 ALLIED INTERESTS

- 103 Photography
104 Art Work & Handicrafts

DIVISION 4 DISPLAYS

- 100 Individual display
101 Commercial display
102 Educational Display



SHOWS, SALES, & MORE:

29TH ANNUAL

SGVCSS



WINTER SHOW & SALE



ARCADIA MASONIC CENTER

FEB 9-11, 2024

8AM-5PM



- CACTI
- SUCCULENTS
- POTTERY
- ACCESSORIES
- ROCKS

NEW LOCATION!

Arcadia Masonic Center

50 W Duarte Rd

Arcadia, CA 91007



29TH ANNUAL

SGVCSS



WINTER SHOW & SALE



SHOW DINNER & PLANT AUCTION

SATURDAY 2/10 @5PM

ARCADIA MASONIC CENTER

RESERVATIONS: EMAIL MARGIE
MARGIEKIDSMW@GMAIL.COMCOST: \$30 INCLUDES DINNER,
DRINKS, AND DESSERT

QUESTIONS: MANNY 626-780-6857

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CACTUS CALENDAR

FEB 9-11

SGVCSS
Winter Show
& Sale
8AM-5PM (4PM)
sgvcss.com

FEB 10

San Diego CSS
Winter Show
& Sale
10AM-3PM
sdcss.net

Snacks For Our Meetings

We need YOUR help!

Please bring in snacks or drinks
for our meetings based on the
letter of your last name below.
Extra snacks always welcome!

January A-B-C

February D-E-F

March G-H-I



ABOUT SGVCSS

Chartered in 1967, SGVCSS's objectives are to promote knowledge, study, and interest in cacti and other succulent plants through educational programs, public exhibits, and the sharing of these interests to the general public.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

HELLO
my name is

SGVCSS

Become a Member:

To become a SGVCSS member, please pay **\$20** dues per household (plus an additional **\$5** for each club name badge) to unlock all club member benefits.

Dues can be paid by cash or check to the
Membership Chair
at the next meeting or workshop.

Renewals:

Memberships are annual and can be renewed each January.



Newsletter Submissions

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the SGVCSS Communiqué, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date.

Articles, notices, photos, and any corrections may be sent via email to: MSGVCSSCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Material must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the newsletter.



SGVCSS.COM



[@SGVCSSCLUB](https://www.instagram.com/SGVCSSCLUB)



[@SGVCSSCLUB](https://twitter.com/SGVCSSCLUB)



SGVCSS EXECUTIVE BOARD:



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024

NICK RENTERIA
President



AMANDA GERBERICH
Vice President +
CSSA Rep.



ANTHONY CANTIello
Secretary +
Newsletter Editor



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GUNNAR EISEL
Past President +
Inter-City Show Chair



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Director 2023-2024



LOUISE GUERIN
Director 2023-2024



JAMES LEMOS
Winter Sales Chair



HANSEL REYES
Director 2024-2025



MANNY RIVERA
Director 2024-2025 +
Winter Show Chair



SHARON SEDILLO
Director 2024-2025



PROGRAMMING
Gunnar Eisel

MEMBERSHIP
TBD

REFRESHMENTS
TBD

WORKSHOPS
Tom Glavich
Manny Rivera

CLUB LIBRARY
Cindy Arakaki

SOCIAL MEDIA
Anthony Cantiello

WEBSITE
Gunnar Eisel

A/V TECH
TBD