



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

April 2012 - Volume 45, Number 4

**APRIL Meeting:
Thursday,
April 12 at 7:30 pm**

Meetings are held on the
2nd Thursday of the month
at **7:30 pm** in **AYERS HALL**,
Los Angeles County Arboretum,
Arcadia.

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:
South American Opuntia

SUCCULENT:
Senecio, Othonna

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
April 18th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Spring Seed Workshop

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President's Message

We have our Spring Home Garden Tour organized, thanks to Judi Romine. Please see the maps and driving instructions later in this newsletter. It will happen on Saturday, April 14 and promises to be a terrific day.

Our first meeting in Ayres Hall went very well, as far as I'm concerned. We will continue to work out the small issues and the Club is much better off in that larger space.

The Show & Sale season is here. Take a look at the schedule in this newsletter to find one close by.

It rained on our parade. Our Nursery Tour was wet and wild. The best was Rita getting stuck coming into the bus. Her umbrella would not let her through the door. Rain sluicing down the umbrella and soaking Bill. You can always say "it could have been worse", but not much. This is Southern California after all. Anyway, it's always nice to see the nurseries, and I think many of us bought wonderful new treasures.

See you at the meeting!

Buck Hemenway

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March Mini-Show Results

Turbinicarpus, Pediocactus, Sclerocactus

Novice

1st	Tricia Kangrga	T. lophophoroides
2nd	Tricia Kangrga	T. lophophoroides

Intermediate

1st	C & C Arakaki	T. knuthianus
2nd	Barbara Hall	T. macrochele
3rd	C & C Arakaki	T. jaernigii

Open

1st	Tom Glavich	T. schmiedickeanus ssp. andersonii
2nd	Pat Swain	S. uncinatus ssp. wrightii
3rd	Karen Ostler	T. geilsdorfianus

Pelargonium, Monsonia

Novice

1st	Efren Flores	P. mirabile
2nd	Donn Muhleman	P. carnosum
3rd	Efren Flores	P. aciculatum

Intermediate

1st	C & C Arakaki	M. vanderitiae
2nd	Barbara Hall	P. sibthorpifolium
3rd	Barbara Hall	P. bubonifolium

Open

1st	Manny Rivera	P. alternans
2nd	Tom Glavich	P. lobatum
3rd	Tom Glavich	P. triste

Meeting Setup

Sign up for April –

Shaun Adams

Danny Scott

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.

This Month's Program

Pedios and Scleros of the Colorado Plateau

Our speaker for April is Rob Skillin. Rob is a long time member of the C&S hobby. He has served on the Board of Directors of the CSSA and is one of the founding members of the Central Coast C&SS. He has traveled the world in search of succulent plants and we've seen his beautiful pictures of plants in far-away places. His new program is "Pedios and Scleros of the Colorado Plateau". This should be a very interesting program on those wonderful little cacti that many of us find hard to grow.

Study Group

Wednesday, April 18th • Spring Seed Workshop

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.

Welcome New Members



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

Jennifer Hata, Pasadena

Annette Ankele, Rosemead

Roxie Esterle, Encino

Bruce Barton and Linda Hymel, Monrovia

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 —

South American *Opuntia*

The Cacti of the Month for April 2012 are all South American members of *Opuntioideae*, relatives of the common *Opuntia* native to Southern California. The Cactus family is divided into a number of subfamilies. The *Opuntioideae* is one of these subfamilies. The *Opuntioideae* covers the largest geographical range of any of the sub-families, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas.

The first plants that come to mind when one thinks of *Opuntia* are the flat padded plants, seen everywhere, or the spiny cylindrical *Cholla* common to the local hillsides and deserts. The *Opuntioideae* family offers much more, and some of the best come from the upland regions of South America.

Propagation of all *Opuntias* is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds sometimes germinating in days, and sometimes not for months. Erratic seed germination is particularly a problem with *Tephrocactus* and the other South American highland *Opuntias*. Alternate freezing and thawing may help.

Handling of *Opuntias* is somewhat of a problem. They are notorious for their well placed sharp spines, and nearly invisible glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glo-



Maihueniopsis subterranea

chids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help, and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.

Plants worth knowing:

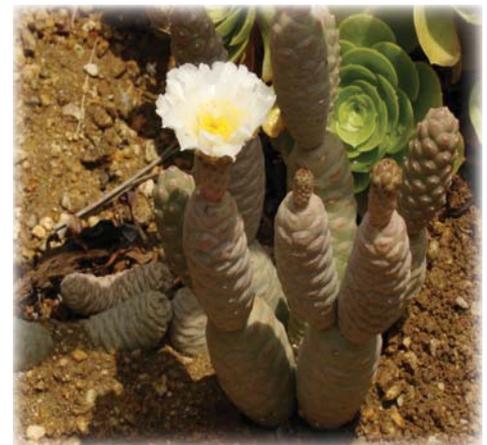
Pterocactus is an Argentine geophytic genus, with deciduous brown stems coming from a convoluted and interesting tuberous root. The stems are easily rooted, which is fortunate, since they are even more easily detached whenever the plant is moved. The roots grow quickly, and can be raised every year or two to make a spectacular plant.

Pterocactus tuberosa is the most commonly seen species, but others have recently become available.

Maihueniopsis is a highland genus of mat forming *Opuntias*. There are about 18 species nearly all worth growing. *Maihueniopsis subterranea* shown in the accompanying photo is typical. They need occasional pruning and restarting to keep their shape, and want very bright light in order to stay compact.

Puna is another mostly Argentine geophytic genus, related to both *Pterocactus* and *Tephrocactus*. Large subterranean roots are topped by small usually globular heads. *Puna bonnieae*, discovered in 1990, is the easiest to find. *Puna* have recently been moved into *Maihueniopsis*.

Tephrocactus, again Argentine, is a genus of very variable cacti. Species vary considerably, from the very spiny *Tephrocactus stramria* to the paper spined *Tephrocactus articulata* to the nearly spineless *Tephrocactus inermis*. *Tephrocactus* are probably the most collected of the *Opuntioideae*, and there is even a *Tephrocactus* study group for the true fanatics. They make small, neat plants, and a good collection can be kept



Tephrocactus inermis



Tephrocactus weberii
in a reasonable area.

Tom Glavich April 2012

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Othonna, Senecio

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



Senecio nyikensis
var. *hildebrandtii*

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, within reason. 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 mid fall, with maximum growth and development of water storage tissue possible before the first summer. Propagation from cuttings is also easy, particularly for *Senecio*. Production of a typical caudex for species with long, thin branches is best done by burying and rooting a branch while still attached to the mother plant.

Outstanding Othonnas:

Othonna euphorbioides has leaves the shape and color of *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*, and a body shape that is also similar. It is one of several *Othonna* that have species names identifying the genus that they most closely resemble.

Othonna herrei is probably the best of the species, with the caudex covered with knobby protrusions resulting from persistent leaf bases.

Othonna retrorsa comes from Cape Province, SA. It is a small species, with caudex two to three inches in tall and an inch in diameter. It can reach half that size in a year from seed.



Othonna herrei

Show-worthy Senecios:

Senecio cedrorum is a species from Madagascar. It has vertical leaves, looking somewhat like the pads of a small *Opuntia*. The leaves are a glabrous blue, with darker green veins.

Senecio rowleyanus has the common name "String of Pearls" and is a well known house plant. The leaves are globose, hanging on long prostrate stems. It's often used as a hanging plant.

Senecio saginata is one of several *Senecio* that were once in the genus *Kleinia*, which has since been absorbed into *Senecio*. This species shows convergent evolution, with a body form similar to some of the cylindrical *Opuntia*. The body is a medium green, with darker green patterns that look as if they were spines drawn on with ink. *Senecio saginata* is native to Oman. Most of the similar species (*S. pendulus*, *S.*

desfliersii) are native to Western Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Senecio scaposus, shown above, is from Cape Province, South Africa, and has long cylindrical leaves, with patterned patches of a waxy light blue on a light green background.

Senecio tropaeolifolius quickly forms a medium sized caudex (really a rhizome, or fleshy root). The vine like stems can be kept trimmed back to show the caudex. It has interesting pentagonal leaves, with sharp corners. It's one of the most sculptural of all the *Senecios*.

Tom Glavich April 2012



Thank you to Tom Glavich 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.



Member's Home Garden Tour

Saturday, April 14, 2012

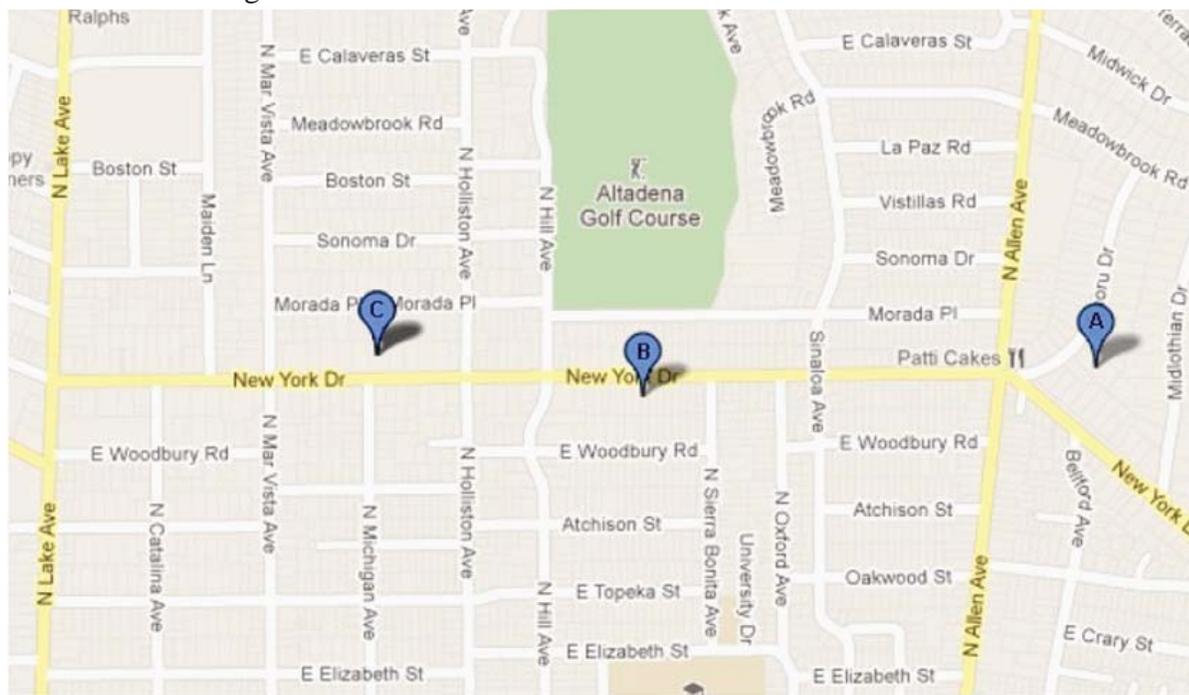
A. 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Hilde & Irving Rosenbluth 626-296-3106
1960 Minoru Drive, Altadena, CA 91001

B. 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Karen Holgerson 626-791-7317
1510 New York Drive, Altadena, CA 91001

C. 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Phil & Nancy Skonieczki 626-794-5495
1231 New York Drive, Altadena, CA 91001

This will be a lunch stop so bring lunches. Water and sodas will be provided by the Club. (NOTE: Benches & shade provided)

Directions to the Rosenbluth's A: Take 210 Freeway, Exit Allen Ave., Head north approximately 2 miles past Washington Blvd. Turn right on New York Drive. Turn left first opportunity on left at Minoru Dr. (0.4 mi) House will be on the right/east side of street.



FROM ROSENBLUTH’S TO HOLGERSON’S B

Go downhill/south to New York Drive. Turn right. Go 0.5 miles to Holgerson’s. House will be on the south/left side of street. 1510 New York Dr.

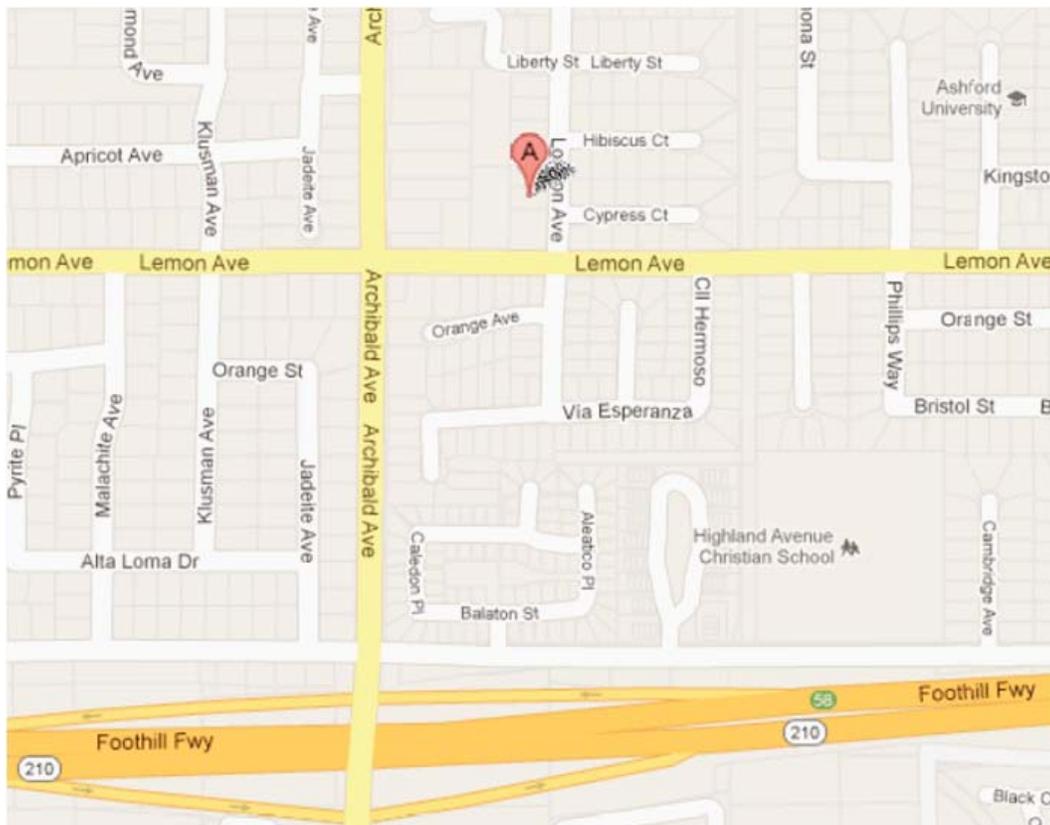
FROM HOLGERSON’S TO SKONIECZKI’S C

Head West on New York Drive. Go 0.3 miles to 1231 New York Drive. House will be on north/right side of street.

FROM SKONIECZKI’S TO CAVANAUGH’S

Cavanaugh’s phone # 909-466-3838

Head East on New York Drive. Turn right on Allen. Go 1.9 miles to Corson St. Turn left to I-210 freeway. Head East towards San Bernardino. Go 13.4 miles to Archibald Ave. Turn left onto Archibald Ave. Turn right on Lemon Ave. to first street on left. Turn left on London Ave. to first driveway on left. 6316 London Ave., Rancho Cucamonga (Alta Loma).



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 7 and 8 — South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale at South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verde, CA. Call 310-832-2262 for more information.

April 14 and 15 — Green Scene Plant at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831.

April 18, 7:30 pm — Study Group, SPRING SEED WORKSHOP. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

April 28, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens. For information call 310-833-6823.

May 1 and 2 — Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA. For information go to www.sunsetsucculentsociety.org or call 310-822-1783.

May 6, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm — Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale. McKenzie Park in Santa Barbara. Directions at www.sbcactus.org.

May 18 and 19, 9:00 am to 4:30 — Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Jurupa Valley, CA. Sale Friday 18th and Saturday 19th, Show Saturday 19th. Call 951-360-8802 for more information.

May 26 and 27, 10:00 am to 4:00 — Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA. Call 805-237-2054 or visit centralcoastcactus.org.

Refreshment Signup

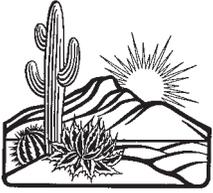
William Molina
Judi Romine
Mark Darby



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

2012 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Apr.	South American Opuntia	Senecio, Othonna	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Echinocereus	African Pachypodiums	Vegetative Propagation Workshop
June	Gymnocalycium	Agave, Yucca, Nolina	Gymnocalycium
July	Discocactus, Melocactus, Uebelmannia	Gasteria	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Astrophytum
Sept.	Hybrids & Cultivars	Hybrids & Cultivars	Photo Tour
Oct.	Ariocarpus	African Euphorbia	Loreto, Mexico Tour
Nov.	Monsters	Monsters	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***.