



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

August 2011 - Volume 44, Number 8

**August Meeting:
Thursday,
August 11 at 7:30 pm**

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

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:

*3 Oldest (longest
owned) Plants*

SUCCULENT:

*3 Oldest (longest
owned) Plants*

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
August 17th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

***Echinopsis-Trichocereus-
Lobivia***

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President's Message

Summer is actually here! Hot days, many of our plants have finally started to really grow.

We had a great time at the annual picnic. The weather was mild and everyone ate until they couldn't. More later in this newsletter

Final preparations are being made for the Inter-City Show & Sale on Aug. 13 & 14. Tom needs our help, please call him or let him know if your can. See the article later in this newsletter.

We will have a Board of Directors meeting during the Inter City Show & Sale at 2:00 on Sunday, August 14th.

Don't forget the Huntington Succulent Symposium on September 3rd. More in this Newsletter.

See you at the meeting!

Buck Hemenway

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July Mini-Show Results

Dish Gardens

Novice

- 1st Donn Muhleman Dish Garden
- 2nd Rebecca Mallonee Undersea Dish Garden
- 3rd Richard Roosman Dish Garden

Intermediate

- 1st Hannah Nguyen Cactus Dish Garden
- 2nd Hannah Nguyen Succulent Dish Garden
- 3rd Louise Stack Dish Garden

Master

- 1st Patty Caro Cactus Dish Garden
- 2nd Patty Caro Ledebouria Garden
- 3rd Patty Caro Succulent Dish Garden

This Month's Program

Argentina, Land of Giants, and Little Things Too

Our speaker this month is Buck Hemenway. He will share the journey that he and Yvonne took last November to northwest Argentina. Some of the largest and many of the smallest cacti on earth live in the foothills of the Andes. We went, primarily, to see the big Echinopsis, Oreocerei and the other large cacti of the region. We were not disappointed, and we will share those giants with the Club (along with some other interesting stuff). It will be fun.



Buck and Yvonne Hemenway posing with an imposing Echinopsis terscheckii in Argentina.

Welcome New Members



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

Lura Hatcher, Pomona

Mark Darby, Moreno Valley

**Suzanne Gagne & David Cervantes,
Altadena**

Renee Rouselle, Whittier

Rhonda Boggess, Whittier

Keumsook Hahn, Glendale

Study Group

Wednesday, August 17th —

Echinopsis-Trichocereus - Lobivia

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.

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.

Club Bulletin Board

Annual Club Picnic at Pitzer College



Horace Birgh devised a new challenge for us "Name that Plant". We toured the Pitzer Gardens in three teams to see who could correctly identify 20 plants that Horace had picked out. The winning team above L to R: Buck Hemenway, Gary Mancuso, Louise Guerin, Mike Polka, Tricia and Mr. Kangrga.



The Opuntia Toss was won by the 4 talented players above L to R: Tom Vermilion, Rob MacGregor, Gary Mancuso, and Frank Nudge. The competition was so close this year that a tape measure was needed to determine the winners. I think Rob won by a glochid.



The two finalist teams in the Water Balloon Toss L to R; Rene and Patti Caro, and Karen and Martin Ostler. (Karen looks very pleased with her win!)



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2011

Buck Hemenway, President
Tom Vermilion, Vice President
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
Pat Swain, Secretary
Bill Gerlach, Director
Patty Caro, Director

Judi Romine, Director
Jean Mullens, Director
Tricia Kangrga, Director
Hannah Nguyen, Director
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative and Plant Sales Chair
Woody Minnich, Program Chair
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
Liz Alba, Library Chair
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

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.

CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS OF THE MONTH —

Oldest Owned Plant

One of the first questions asked when we show a beautiful specimen is "How long have you had that plant?" While we often don't know exactly how old a plant is, we have a pretty good idea how long we have owned and nurtured it.

Some plants grow very large as they age and become unwieldy and difficult to move, but some stay small and even at ten, twenty, and even thirty years old they make great show entries. Growing a plant to great age and keeping alive is an accomplishment, keeping that same plant looking good enough to enter into a show is amazing.

Look for some spectacular specimens in the upcoming Inter-City Show.

The 2011 Inter-City Show

The 2011 Inter-City Show is just around the corner. The show is August 13-14, 9 – 5. Set-up starts Wednesday morning and runs to the start of judging Friday evening. This is the largest and most well known show in the country, with entrants from Southern California and all the adjacent states. We routinely get visitors from Japan, India and Korea, as well as many of the countries in Europe. This year we have one entrant driving from Alabama, just to enter plants. As always this promises to be an extraordinary show.

It's only an extraordinary show if we have a great selection of plants in all classes, from novice through open. Everyone in the advanced and open category started as a novice, so don't be afraid to bring your best plants. Your plants are probably better than you think, but you will never really know until you bring

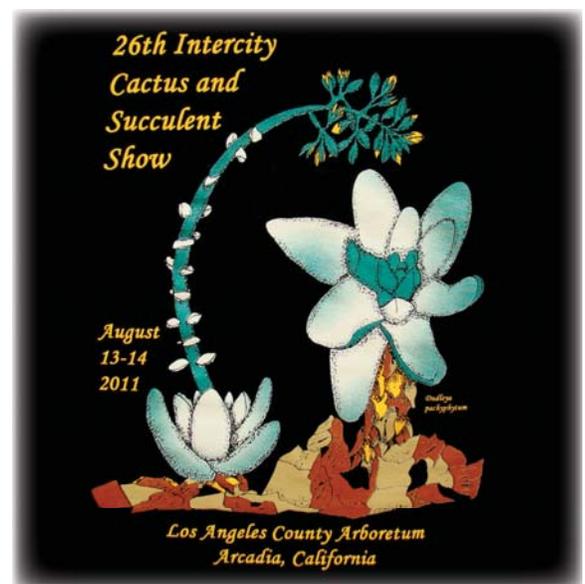
them to a show and enter them to be judged. You learn an enormous amount by bring even a few plants, and entering will make you a better grower. It gives you an opportunity to meet and talk to people with similar experience and compare notes on what works and what doesn't.

There will be entry tags and helpers at the show. If you are new to showing plants, just bring the plants to the show room in Ayres Hall. We will help you name and place the plants.

Please come to the show and sale. There is an advance sale on Friday for entrants and volunteers. There will be thousands of plants for sale, many of which appear only at this show. Be sure to come Saturday and Sunday to see the show, see your plants, and visit the sales area. Bring your friends as well. The Inter-City show is the largest source of new members for all the participating clubs.

This show is run entirely by volunteers, and we are always in need of help, particularly during set-up on Wednesday morning and during the sales rush on Saturday. Please contact Tom Glavich at tglavich@sbcglobal.net or 626-798-2430 if you would like to volunteer, or just show up. Show participants and volunteers can enter for free at the Ayres gate. Please wear your club badge. This show is one of the biggest money makers of the year for all three of the Inter-City clubs, and pays for much of the room rental and some of the speaker costs for the rest of the year.

This should be a great show, please bring your plants to make it a memorable one, and please come and see it.



Book Review

Aloes, The Definitive Guide

S. Carter, J. Lavranos, L. Newton, and C. Walker

Published by Kew Royal Botanic Gardens and the British Cactus and Succulent Society

720 pages \$160

This book was just published in May and is the first time that all known Aloe species have been included in a single volume. It builds upon Reynolds' 1950 Aloes of South Africa and 1960 Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar. Combined, those books described 330 species. The Definitive Guide updates this to 519 species and a total of 561 taxa through 2008 and adds four pages of addenda just prior to publication.

The book is very user friendly and certainly has the hobbyist in mind. The layout is very similar to the Guide to the Aloes of South Africa by Van Wyk and Smith and even groups them similarly. Van Wyk and Smith arrange them in ten groups by growth habit starting with tree Aloes and ending with grass Aloes. Carter, et al., also have ten groups starting with grass Aloes and ending with tree Aloes.

In the short, interesting 15 page introduction I learned new things such as each flower is open for two days and several species are poisonous and human deaths have resulted from ingestion. A 75 page history of Aloe exploration and discovery is thorough and gives life to epithetic names.

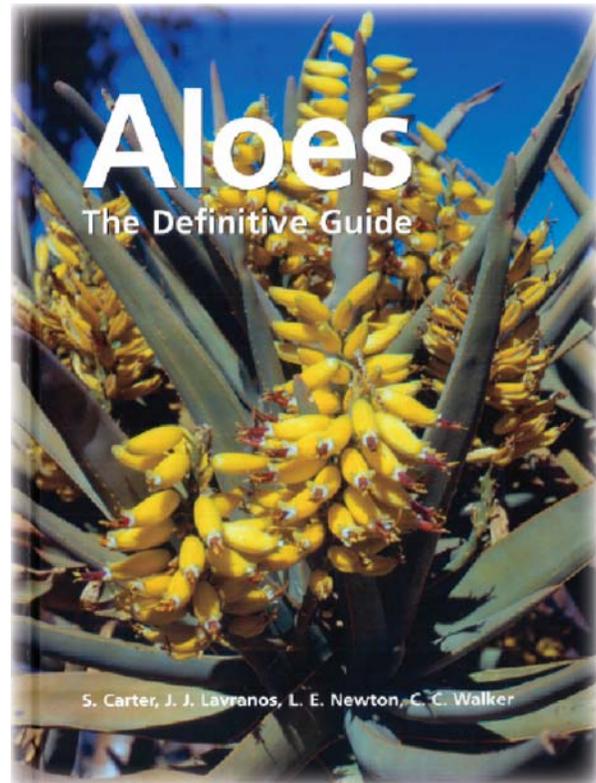
A key to the group and extensive keys within the groups to the species use vegetative characteristics as much as possible. I tried using them on two unknown aloes in my garden but was unsuccessful in identifying them. I'll try again using a centimeter tape measure when they are back in bloom.

The bulk of the book, over 600 pages, is given over to species with a full page for each species that gives the current name only, first published data, descriptive characteristics, location and affinity species and their differences. Two to four color photos accompany each species, mostly in habitat. A one page simple glossary, botanic term illustrations and an extensive bibliography round out the book.

I would like to see range maps, scientific botanic illustrations and synonymous species names to place

an old name with the current one such as Anderson did in The Cactus Family. But all this would have added to the size and cost. Buy the book anyway. It's still a delight and practical too.

Review by: Phil Skonieczki



Succulent Plants Symposium

September 3, 2011 at the Huntington Botanical Gardens

Time: Registration and continental breakfast, 8:30 am. Program in Friends' Hall from 9:00 - 5:00, also includes silent auction, Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory special hours, and lunch. Dinner (optional), 6:00 pm. Registrants who have not signed up for dinner are welcome to return for the final presentation.

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Registration: | |
| Symposium: | \$75.00 |
| Dinner | \$25.00 |



Deadline for registration is 29 August. We cannot guarantee meals for late registrants.

Program includes:

Mark Dimmitt, Tucson, Arizona
What is a Succulent: An Attempt at a Scientific Definition

Nancy Vivrette, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Identifying Ice Plants: A case for the History Detective

Kathy Musial, Huntington Botanical Gardens
Chile's Semi-arid North - The Norte Chico

Brian Dorsey, University of Michigan
Systematics of the Xerophytic and Succulent Euphorbia

Tim Harvey, Todd Masilko, and John Trager
Namibia in 3T

Steven Hammer, Sphaeroid Institute, Vista, CA
Music of the Sphaeroids (presentation follows dinner).

Send registration form and a check (payable to The Huntington) or credit card information to:

Succulent Symposium
Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108
(626-405-3504)

Name(s) _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Program _____ x \$75.00 = _____

Dinner _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Donation _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. _____

Signature _____



Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 13 and 14 — 26th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. For information call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or John Matthews at 661-297-5364.

September 3, 8:30 am — Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Fee: \$75.00 for the Symposium, \$25.00 for dinner. This event always fills up so register early to avoid disappointment.

September 25, 12:00 pm — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA.

November 5 and 6 — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA.



Refreshment Signup

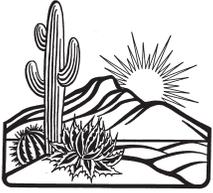
The following three club members have sign up to bring refreshments this month and will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

- Hannah Nguyen
- Una Yeh
- Lorraine Lutz



2011 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

| | Cacti of the Month | Succulent of the Month | Study Group |
|-------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Aug. | Members 3 oldest (longest owned) | Members 3 oldest (longest owned) | Echinopsis-Trichocereus-Lobivia |
| Sept. | Coahuila Native Cacti | Madagascar Euphorbia | Eriocyce |
| Oct. | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates |
| Nov. | 3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show | 3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show | 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***.