

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
March 2008 Volume 41 Number 3

Bus Trip – April 5 - Living Desert and Moorten’s Botanical Gardens

SGVCSS is sponsoring a bus trip to the Palm Springs area on Saturday April 5th to The Living Desert in Palm Desert (www.livingdesert.org) and to Moorten’s Botanical Garden (www.palmsprings.com/moorten/index.html) in Palm Springs. Both locations have many things to see and both locations have retail nurseries. See the links above for more info.

The cost of the trip will be \$15.00 including the group entrance fee to the Living Desert. If space allows, non-members can go for \$20.00.

We will leave the Arboretum (park in the area behind Ayres Hall) on Saturday morning at 8AM. We will spend 3 to 4 hours at the Living Desert before proceeding on to Moorten’s where we will stay 1 to 2 hours, returning home around 5 or 6 PM. Boarding of the bus will be by lottery. For those living east of the Arboretum, we have arranged for a second pickup at the San Dimas Park & Ride. It is located on the north side of Via Verde Avenue just west of the 57 Freeway (not the 10 Freeway!!!!).

Reservations can be made by calling Bill Gerlach at 626-332-8008 or signing up at the March 13th meeting. Payment must be made by the meeting date. Non-members can be added to the list after March 13th. Payment can be made by mail to Bill Gerlach at 719 S Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. Make checks payable to SGVCSS.

There are two restaurants at the Living Desert but there are also picnic areas if you want to bring your own lunch.

Monthly Meeting: Join us **Thursday, March 13th** at 7:30 pm. Woody Minnich a well-known nurseryman, world traveler, and active member of numerous clubs will present “Socotra, an island in the Arabian Sea”.

Plants of the Month: (see attached write ups)

CACTI – *Stenocactus & Thelocactus*

SUCCULENT – *Miniature Aloes*

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 and joy. If you don't have any of this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting

Study Group: Wednesday, March 19th ; Topic – Echeveria

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Lecture Hall at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.. These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free give-a-ways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something!

Refreshments: The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the February meeting: **Rene Hernandez, Una Yeah and William Molina.** Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant.

New Member: SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest member: Anne Keegon. Be sure to take a look at the Club's website <http://www.sgvcss.com>. If you wish to receive your COMMUNIQUE on-line please notify the editor at sgv_css@prodigy.net.

Roster: The 2008 Roster has been completed and will be available at the March meeting. Pick up your copy of the Roster at the meeting and save the club the mailing expense.

Badges: Remember to wear your badge to the meetings. Effective with the March meeting, door prize tickets will only be given to members wearing their badge.

FILM: HOTEL HELICONIA

April 26, 2:00 pm Beckman Auditorium, Caltech, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Pasadena

The heliconia, a tropical jungle plant with some of the most beautiful flowers on Earth, is both a rainforest hotel and supermarket. It provides a home and food for many fascinating creatures, all of which seem to be using the plant for their own gain but just who is pulling the strings? Stunning macro photography reveals how butterflies, bees, ants, hummingbirds, bats, and frogs take advantage of the plant offerings, while unwittingly contributing to the Heliconia's survival as pollinators, fertilizers, and protectors. This film is a BBC Production. Tara Adele Gomez of Cal Tech's Division of Biology will introduce the film and guide the post-screening discussion.

Feb-08 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

	Cactus -	Copiapoa		Succulent-	Sansevieria
Beginner					
1st	Mark Digeros	C. hypogaea	1st	Calvin Arakaki	S. kirkii "Copper"
2nd	Cindy Arakaki	C. humilis	2nd	Calvin Arakaki	S. Bartel's Sensation
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	C. laui	3rd	W. Molina	S. trifasciata "Moonglow"
Intermediate					
1st	John Matthews	C. tenuissima	1st	Dick Tatman	S. kirkii pulchra
2nd	H.Birgh-T.Dodson	C. tenuissima	2nd	Dick Tatman	S. pinguicula
3rd			3rd	Barbara Hall	S. volkensis
Advanced					
1st	Frank Nudge	C. echinoiodes	1st	Frank Nudge	S. patens
2nd	Barbara Nolan	C. tenuissima	2nd	Rita Gerlach	S. pinguicula
3rd	Manny Rivera	C. humilis	3rd	Alan Hooker	S. gracilis
Master					
1st	Tom Glavich	C.bridgesii	1st	Jim Hanna	S. pinguicula
2nd			2nd	Jim Hanna	S. suffruticosa
3rd			3rd	Jim Hanna	S. trifasciata hahnii

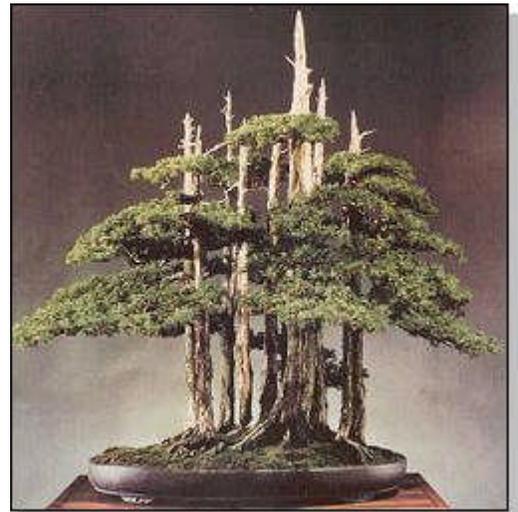
51st Annual Bonsai Show at the Huntington

March 8-9, Sat. - Sun.

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Discover the fascination of this ancient horticultural art as the California Bonsai Society presents its 51st annual show, featuring more than 100 beautiful specimens created by bonsai masters.

Traditional trees such as the Japanese black pine and California juniper will be displayed alongside outstanding examples of non-traditional bonsai. Free. Friends' Hall



San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month March 2008 – *Stenocactus and Thelocactus*

Stenocactus (sometimes still seen as *Echinofossulocactus*) and *Thelocactus* are two smaller Mexican genera, both with species with fantastic ribs, interesting flowers and wonderful spines.



Stenocactus sp. ex HBG

All *Stenocactus* are spiny plants, collected much more for the appearance of the spines and the wonderful curved ribs than their flowers, although the flowers can be quite showy. All of the species (there are ten) are very variable, and as a result, there are many varieties and forms that can find a place in a collection. Most of the species are reasonably small, flowering at two years, when only an inch or so in diameter. A good representative collection can be kept on a table. With age, many species can get large, filling a 6 inch pot in 4 or 5 years, and then offsetting to slowly fill a larger pot.

Stenocactus are native to Central to Northern Mexico. The genus is closely related to *Ferocactus*, differing by the lack of nectar glands, the lack of a ring of hairs above the stamens, and size.

Stenocactus often grow in grass lands, and need some protection from full sun. They are easy to grow, putting on most of their body weight each year in the early spring to summer. Plants growing outdoors will grow slowly during the winter using just the water from winter rains. It is important not to fertilize during the darker days of December, January or February, or etiolation or stretching of the body will occur. The narrow ribs, the woolly areoles, and the dense spines are an ideal habitat for mealy bugs. Frequent inspection of the plants will prevent them from spreading. Older plants sometimes get corky near the base. Keeping the plant in continuous growth delays this, but in some species the cork is inevitable.



Stenocactus vaupelianus

Identifying the species of a *Stenocactus* is as difficult as identifying the genus is easy. For the most part, they tend to look alike, and there are far more names than there are species. However, a few species do stand out.

Thelocactus are spectacularly beautiful cacti with dense multicolor spination, well shaped tubercles, and large colorful flowers. They have been a favorite with collectors since they were first discovered.



Thelocactus phymatotherlos (rinconensis)
Grown by Vince Basta

Thelocactus is a small genus in the cactus family, with only 11 or 12 species. In addition to the species, there are also half a dozen legitimate varieties, and a large number of less legitimate varieties that can be found in reference books and collections. The larger number of questionable varieties is due to variability of some of the species between populations from isolated locations. This in turn is driven by the large geographical range with variable micro-climates.

Thelocactus are found from Southern Texas through central Mexico, mostly in the Chihuahuan

Desert, but extending into brush land and thorn scrub in the western parts of its range, and into the Rio Grande Plains region in Texas. *Thelocactus bicolor* has the largest range, extending from central Chihuahua in the west into Texas in the north, and as far south as San Luis Potosi.

Thelocactus are easily grown, tolerant of heat and moisture, but not cold and moisture. They benefit from protection from being cold and wet, although plants left unprotected during the last several winters survived in good shape. Some species develop fairly large tap roots, and should be planted in deep enough pots to give them room to grow. They are easily propagated from seed, and this is the best way to develop a good collection from different populations. They can also be propagated from offsets, with a cutting allowed to dry, and then replanted. They are sensitive to mealy bug infestations and spider mites, in the same way that all cacti are, but in general are fairly rugged plants.

References

John Pilbeam, **Thelocactus**

Cullman, Gotz & Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

T. Anderson, **The Cactus Family**

Tom Glavich February 2008

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month March 2008 - *Miniature Aloes*

Mature Aloes span the size range from one inch true miniatures to 30 foot trees. The term miniature is hard to apply to Aloes. There are many Aloes with small heads, but they all offset, and in time will fill a fairly decent sized pot. For this month, we will accept any mature head single less than 5 inches tip-to-tip as being a miniature, and any clump with multiple heads less than three inches tip to tip. The clump can be considerably larger.



Aloe humilis

Aloe humilis is a small species from South Africa. It is used in many hybrids, but makes a wonderful species on its own. A single head will offset to fill a six or seven inch pot in just a few years. It has great orange-red flowers. The smallest Aloe is *A. descoingsii*, a species from Madagascar.

There is an entire section of Aloes, rarely grown or seen in California. The 'Grass Aloes' are increasingly endangered in habitat, and most almost unknown in cultivation. A few species appear on some of the better seed lists every year. They are easy to germinate, but hard to keep going for more than a few years. As the name implies they are grass like, with thin upright

leaves, and sparse, small flowers. *Aloe richardsiae*, shown below had not only grass like leaves, but also formed a small caudex.



Aloe richardsiae

Many of the 'miniature' Aloes are hybrids, some produced in the United States, but many produced in South Africa and Australia. Many of the best come from either John Bleck of Santa Barbara or Kelly Griffin of Escondido.



Aloe Winter Sky (J. Bleck Hybrid)



Aloe 'Little Spikey'

Typical of one of John Bleck's complex hybrids is *Aloe 'Grande'* an ISI release of 1995. This hybrid is (*A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula*) x [(*A. albiflora* x *A. bellatula*) x (*A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula*)]. This means that four separate species were used in making this hybrid. In the first round, two hybrids were created, *A. albiflora* x *A. bellatula* and *A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula*. These hybrids were then crossed to make a second generation, and finally, this second generation was hybridized with one of the original pairs. In each generation a number of hybrids were created, and selections with the best characteristics were then used to make the following generation. The second cross of *A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula* may well have been a different plant than the first.



Aloe 'Doran Black'

Aloe 'Doran Black' is a spectacular hybrid, and has appeared on our raffle table a few times in the past year. It is a complex cross, created By R. Wright. Parentage is unknown

Most Aloes are winter growers, putting on most of their growth in the cool weather of mid autumn and spring into early summer. They go dormant in the summer and in the dead of winter. They are tolerant plants, easy to grow in pots or in the ground.

References

The Haworthiad

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

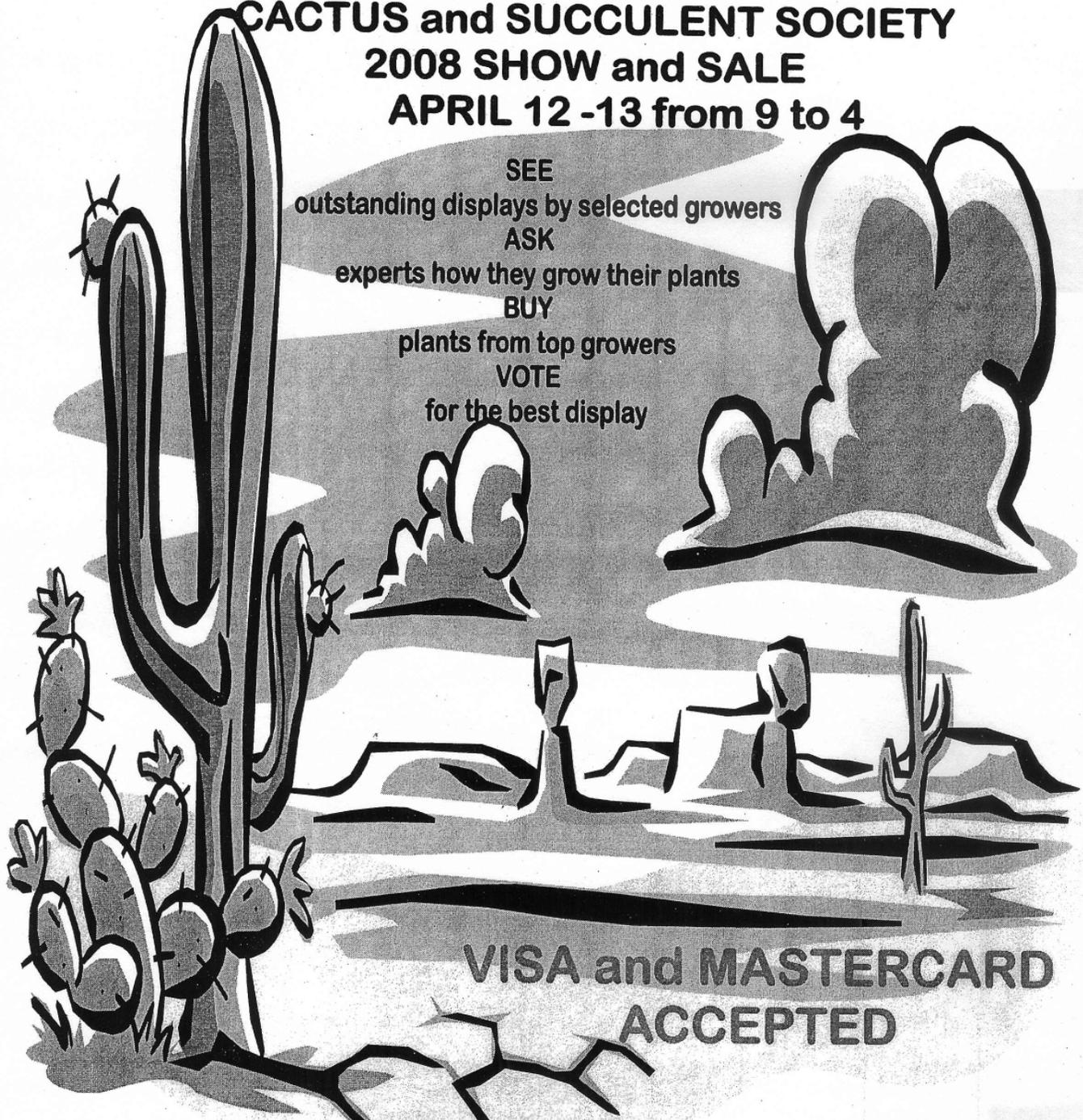
Tom Glavich February 2008

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2008**

- APR. 12th - 13th** **SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE AT SO. COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS 26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA # 310-832-2262**
- APR 19th - 20th** **GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831**
- MAY 4th** **SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS INFO. CALL-310-833-6823**
- MAY 3rd - 4th** **SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783**
- MAY 18th** **HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160**
- MAY 18th** **EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-670-8148**
- JUNE 7th - 8th** **SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.--#619-477-4779**
- JUNE 14th** **GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND SALE----SAT. 9 TO 4
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE, GLEN AVON, CA
INFO. 909-360-8802**
- JUNE 14th - 15th** **LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432**
- JUNE 27th - 29th** **CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE – HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARION, CA
626-405-2160 OR 2277 PLANT SALES START JUNE 27TH THRU JUNE 29TH
THE SHOW OPENS TO THE PUBLIC JUNE 28TH THRU JUNE 29TH**
- JULY 25th -27th** **ORANGE COUNTY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON
ARBORETUM, 1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA
SHOW AND SALE FRI 12PM TO 4PM SAT & SUN 10AM TO 4PM
INFO 714-870-4887**
- AUG. 16th - 17th** **23rd ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA,CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH
AT 626-798-2430 or BARBARA HALL AT 818-368-6914**

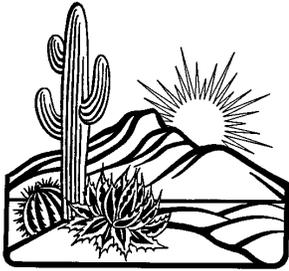
**SOUTH COAST
CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY
2008 SHOW and SALE
APRIL 12 -13 from 9 to 4**

SEE
outstanding displays by selected growers
ASK
experts how they grow their plants
BUY
plants from top growers
VOTE
for the best display



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Dale La Forest 310-618-9886
Jim Hanna 562-920-3046**



COMMUNIQUE
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
C/o Evelyn Stevens
10119 ½ E Olive Street
Temple City, CA 91780

FIRST CLASS MAIL

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the information to the address given 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: sgv_css@prodigy.net or via post to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Evelyn Stevens, 10119 ½ E. Olive St., Temple City, CA 91780-3345. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.

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