

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
April 2007 Volume 40 Number 4

Monthly Meeting: Join us **Thursday, April 12th** at 7:30 pm when our guest speaker will be John Bleck. John has been described as a “true plants man and scholar whose love of plants started as a child”. He will be speaking about Argentina and other succulents.

A Special *Thanks* to **Kelly Griffin** for making the long drive from Carlsbad to give us a great talk on Aloes and his hybrids. Also, for bringing in some really great plants for sale. We're looking forward to having him back as a speaker again soon!

Plants of the Month: (see attached write ups)

CACTI – *Gymnocalycium* SUCCULENT – *Dudleya*

Bring in your gymnocalycium and dudleya 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, April 18th; Topic – Seed Workshop

Join us for annual **Seed Workshop**. Materials will be provided, including fresh seeds, pots and potting mix. Under the guidance of experts we will have a hands-on chance to pot up some little gems. 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. Also, we usually have a large selection of cuttings and other plants donated by members that are given away by lottery at the end of the meeting.

Personal Notes:

SGVCSS extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Bob Lamden, who succumbed to a stroke on March 11, 2007. Bob's presence will be missed at our monthly meetings.

Remember to wear your badge to the meetings! Effective April 1, Susan will only give a ticket for a door prize to those members wearing their badge. Also, you need to wear your badge to check out a book from the library. If you can't find your badge see Bill Gerlach to order a new badge.

Refreshments: The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the April: **Tommy Dodson, Lorraine Lutz, Barbara Hall.** Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant.

March - 2007 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

Cactus - Parodia-Notocactus			Succulent - Medusoid Euphorbias		
Beginner					
1st	Cindy Arakaki	P. succinnius	1st	William Molina	E. flanagani
2nd	Gary & Jamie Mancuso	N. buiningii	2nd	Eunice Thompson	E. flanagani
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	P. Sp	3rd	Marc Digeros	E. atroviridis
Intermediate					
1st	John Matthews	P. claviceps	1st	Alan Hooker	E. inermis
2nd	Horace Birgh-Tommy Dodson	P. concinna	2nd	Birgh-Dodson	E. caput-medusae
3rd	Horace Birgh-Tommy Dodson	N. scopa muriellii	3rd	Alan Hooker	E. flanagani
Advanced					
1st	Carol & Paul Maker	N. schlosseri	1st	Buck & Yvonne Hemenway	E. flanagani
2nd	Carol & Paul Maker	N. mammulosa	2nd	Frank Nudge	E. gorgonis
3rd	Rita Gerlach	P. aurispina	3rd	Carol & Paul Maker	E. caput-medusae
Master					
1st			1st	Tom Glavich	E. flanagani
2nd			2nd		
3rd			3rd		

"Amazing cacti

HOW about this for imaginative science? On a stall selling cacti in a craft fair that Steve Parkes visited was a handwritten sign saying: "One of the hazards of modern life is computer screens, which give off radiation. Cacti grow in deserts in strong sunlight, which has very high levels of ultraviolet. So buy a cactus and stand it in front of your computer screen to absorb all that harmful radiation."

From issue 2595 of New Scientist magazine, 17 March 2007, page 88"

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month April 2007 – *Gymnocalycium*



Gymnocalycium horridum

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in a large number of distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year.

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. The genus is named for the naked (spineless) calyx (the outermost covering of the bud and lower flower). Most *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles.

The heart of the genus *Gymnocalycium* is Argentina, although the genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day.



Gymnocalycium tudae

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with a weak general purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months.

Gymnocalycium are easy to grow from seed, started in a well drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most *Mammillaria* and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.

All the species and all the varieties and forms of *Gymnocalycium* are worth growing.

Great *Gymnos*:

Gymnocalycium baldianum, shown on the previous page, has few spines, clumps readily and grows quickly.



Gymnocalycium buenekeri

Gymnocalycium buenekeri shown above has great flowers, and good, colorful spines. It clumps and is quick to grow.

Gymnocalycium damsii is small clustering species. The stems are brownish green, and heavily marked, with the *Gymnocalycium* chin very evident. It produces bright pink flowers almost continuously during the year.

Gymnocalycium erinaceum is a dark green clustering species. It has short, dense spines, which are dark brown as they leave the gray-white areole, and then fade near the end to the same color as the areole wool. It makes for a very handsome appearance.

Gymnocalycium friedrichii is sometimes combined with ***G. mihanovichii***, and sometimes kept as a separate species. It is an extremely popular species, and easily grown. The ribs are very prominent, and

sharp. The body is a dark reddish brown, banded when young. There are a number of readily distinguished varieties and cultivars available. *G. mihanovichii* tends to be greener. *G. mihanovichii* is the source of the “red caps” seen in many garden centers and plant sales. These are chlorophyll-less and variegated forms, that must be grafted onto a green stock plant.

Gymnocalycium pflanzii, shown on the previous page has short spines. The body color varies from green (in the spring) to shades of purple and brown (during the summer and winter)

Gymnocalycium ragonesi is a well known and readily available species. It stays small, and varies in color from brick red to gray to greenish brown. It is very flat, and in the wild would grow almost completely buried.

References:

Britton and Rose, **The Cactaceae**

Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The**

Encyclopedia of Cacti

Pilbeam, J., **Gymnocalycium, A**

Collector’s Guide

Preston-Mafham, **Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Innes, C. and Glass, C., **Cacti**

Tom Glavich March 2007

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month April 2007 - *Dudleya*

Dudleya are members of the *Crassulaceae* family, and along with *Echeveria*, *Pachyphytum*, and *Sedum* form the principal members of the succulent New World *Crassulaceae*. *Dudleya* range along the west coast of Mexico, North to Oregon, and inland to Arizona and Nevada.



Dudleya hassei

In spite of their close appearance to the other New World members of the *Crassulaceae* family, they are distant relatives to all of the other genera. Hybrids between *Dudleya* and *Echeveria* and *Pachyphytum* are unknown.

The most interesting theory on why *Dudleya* are so different from the rest of the American *Crassulaceae* was presented by Charles Uhl of Cornell University. In his article in the CSSA Journal, he showed that the center of *Dudleya* is on the Pacific plate, while the center of the rest of the *Crassulaceae* is on the North American plate. Millions of years ago, *Dudleya* came from the same ancestral *Crassulaceae* as *Echeveria*. The intervening period of

separation as the Pacific plate moved away and back into the North American Plate was long enough for the genetic changes and mutations to accumulate so that the two genera are no longer able to hybridize.



Dudleya cultrata

Dudleya grow naturally in Southern California, and are ideally suited to casual culture. They can be planted in any garden soil, and as long as they are kept reasonably dry during the summer, will grow well. They are winter growers, coming out of dormancy in October or November, when the summer heat finally breaks. They pump up with the first rains, but do most of their growth in March and April. Flowering starts in February, and runs through August, depending on the species and how it's grown. When the summer heat arrives, the plants go back into dormancy.

Most of the *Dudleya* are low growing, branching shrubs. Propagation of these species is easy. A cutting of a branch is simply taken, allowed to dry for a few days, and then planted. Rooting is easy and quick. Best results are obtained either at the start of the growing season, or in mid

spring, when active growth is again strong. The single headed species are a bit more risky to propagate. A stem cutting is again taken, and propagated. Usually, the stem still in the pot will send up at least one head. These can then be separated and grown on, or the multiheaded specimen can be grown.

Some of the species, and particularly *Dudleya brittonii*, are very common, available even in Discount Chain stores. Many cultivars are also available, and can be found in garden shops everywhere. Rarer species occasionally appear at many of the local plant sales.

Dudleya to do right



Dudleya brittonii

Dudleya brittonii from Coastal Baja California, not far south of the border and easily seen from the road is the most spectacular of all the *Dudleya*. This species is a brilliant white, when properly grown and protected from finger marks of the curious.

Dudleya densiflora from San Gabriel Canyon, and other local canyons in the San Gabriel foothills. This species is certainly one of the best succulents with a native habitat within sight of our meeting hall.

Dudleya farinosa from Coastal Northern and Central California is another brilliant

white species, with a short shrubby base. This species is the basis of many cultivars.

Dudleya hassei, a California native from Santa Catalina, and ranging to Baja California and Guadalupe Island is a medium sized shrub, branching while young, it has farinose (glaucous or floury) leaves, and appears pale blue in morning light. The plant shown on the previous page is a propagation from an old collection by Peter Sharp.

Dudleya pachyphytum from Cedros Island is one of the more challenging species to grow well. It has thick leaves, covered with a white wax. It, along with *Dudleya brittonii* are the two classic *Dudleya*, always in the competition for an award in any show.

Dudleya viscida from Orange and San Diego counties, now rare and endangered in both, is a unique species. The leaves stay green, but are coated with a slightly sticky substance that traps blowing sand, giving the plants a unique texture and appearance.

C. Uhl, *Intergeneric Hybrids in the Mexican Crassulaceae: II Dudleya (and Plate Tectonics)* **CSSA Journal Vol. 66 p74**

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

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

Tom Glavich March 2007

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007**

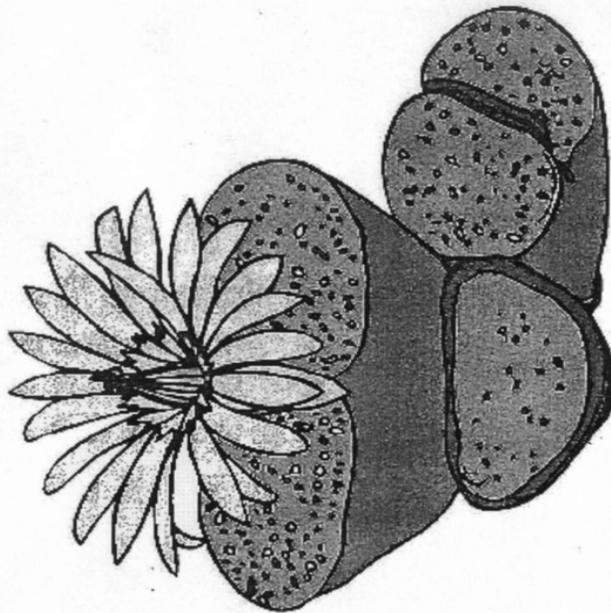
- Apr. 7th-8th South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale
So. Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA #310-832-2262
- Apr 21st -22nd Green Scene Plant Sale – Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831
- Apr 29th South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale
So. Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA #310-833-6823
- May 5th -6th Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center,
Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info. #310-822-1783
- May 12th -13th Los Angeles Geranium Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 310 Baldwin Avenue,
Arcadia, CA (Mother's Day Weekend). There will be a selection of species and succulent
Pelargoniums at both the show and sale.
- May 20th Huntington Plant Sale 10 to 5 Huntington Botanical Garden
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino CA #626-405-2160
- May 20th Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale
Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA #310-670-8148
- May 25th-30th CSSA 32nd Biennial Convention—Seattle, Washington
- June 2nd -3rd San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info #619-477-4779
- June 9th Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30th Show and Sale – 9 to 4
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA
Info #909-390-8802
- June 9th -10th Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA Info #818-363-3432
- June 29th -30th
& July 1st CSSA Annual Show and Sale – Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA #626-405-2160 or 2277
Plant Sales start June 29th thru July 1st. Show opened to the public June 30th thru July 1st
- Aug 18th – 19th 22nd Annual Intercity Show and Sale – LA County Arboretum
310 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA Info Call Tom Glavich #626-798-2430 or
Barbara Hall #818-368-6914

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT

SHOW AND SALE FOR 2007

SAT. & SUN. APRIL 14th & 15th, 9am to 4pm

SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS — 26900 CRENSHAW BLVD.
PALOS VERDES PENINSULA



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

For more information contact:
Dale LaForest 310-618-6896
John Hanna 662-920-8046
Harry Fuldner 310-538-4078

Visa and Mastercard Accepted

Cactus Data Plants 2007

7th Annual, last and final, Potters' Sale

& **Farewell** (soon we'll be in NM) **Barbecue**

Sat. April 7th 9:00 am to late

Presenting five fine potters, all featuring unique cactus & succulent containers for your first of the year show pot acquisitions.

Don Hunt

From the San Diego area, specializing in wheel thrown exotic shapes with very beautiful and colorful glazes. Don is a master at glazing.

Mark Muradian

From the Fresno area, specializing in hand built iron wash pots with marvelous engraved patterns of rustic character.

Joe Wujcik

From the Fallbrook area, specializing in wheel thrown textured and glazed pots to match the uniqueness of the succulent plants.

Kathy Hendig

From San Jose, Kathy is well known for her very fine wheel thrown pots. She features very large, elegant, low profile show quality pots.

Steve Pate

From Northern Cal., Steve is another master at the wheel thrown pot and has been specializing in large stylish show pots for succulents.

Each of the potters will be presenting some of their first new offerings for the Spring of 2007. This is your opportunity to get first pick from each of these great potters. Buy in quantity and ask the potters for discounts?

Cactus Data Plants also invites you to see our wide selection of new and unusual plants, many at discounted prices for the Potters Sale. You will be surprised at our new and varied assortment of quality sales plants. The 20x60 GH is full!

Cactus Data Plants 9607 E. Ave. S-12 Littlerock, CA 93543 for more info. Ask for Woody at 661-944-2784 or at cactusdata@thegrid.net

Bromeliad Show And Sale

Presented by
La Ballona Valley Bromeliad Society



MAY 5 - 6

PLANT SALES: SATURDAY 10 - 5, SUNDAY 10 - 4
SHOW: SATURDAY 12 - 5, SUNDAY 10 - 4

Lecture and Demonstration both days at 2pm

***Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Culver City, Ca.***

***4117 Overland Ave. (at Culver)
Admission and Parking are FREE***

For information: (323) 294-9839

Club meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Veterans Memorial Building in Culver City. New members receive a free plant at the May meeting!

CACTUS & SUCCULENT & SHOW & SALE



... free admission ...

PLANT SALE:
SATURDAY 10 - 5
SUNDAY 10 - 4

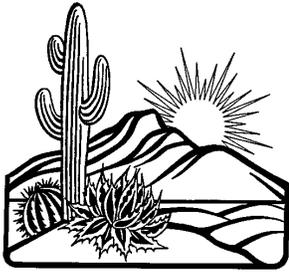
SHOW:
SATURDAY 12 - 5
SUNDAY 10 - 4

Information: 310/822-1783



Club Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month
(except July & August) at 7:30 PM
Burton W. Chace Park, 13650 Miadanao Way
Marina Del Rey

**garden room, veteran's memorial bldg.
4117 overland (at culver), culver city**



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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