



*San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society*

**COMMUNIQUE**

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

February 2010 - Volume 43, Number 2

**February Meeting:  
Thursday,  
February 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 —  
Rebutia**

**SUCCULENT—  
Crassulaceae**

**Study Group:**

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

***Pelargonium***

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***President's Message***

2010 is off and running, as in water. Our plants love it, up to a point of course. We hope that there are enough dry days between the wet to keep our plants healthy and loving their environment.

There are two supplemental activities this month which will make February one of the busiest of the year. The Aloe Walk at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center is on Saturday, January 30 and our bus trip to the San Diego C&SS Winter Show and Sale plus San Diego Botanic Gardens is on Feb. 13. There are a few seats left on the bus. Contact Bill Gerlach before the meeting or sign up and pay at the meeting.

I want to thank Patty and Rene Caro for a very interesting talk last month. They gave us a new way to look at the health of our plants.

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***This Month's Program***

Our speaker this month will be Laurel Woodley. Laurel is a retired Biology professor in the LA Community College system and a long time member of several C&S clubs in the LA area. She is currently the President of the CSSA and as such has her hands full looking after the affairs of that group.

Laurel's talk will be on "Succulent Plant Families" and should give us new insights into the relationships between succulents. It will be a very interesting talk, don't miss it.

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## January Mini-Show Results

### Cacti - Straight-Spined Mannillaria

#### Beginner

1st	N. Molina	M. geminispina
2nd	Rene Hernandez	M. elongata
3rd	Gary Mancuso	M. geminispina
3rd	Louise Stack	M. zeilmanniana

#### Intermediate

1st	Dodson-Birgh	M. geminispina
2nd	Dodson-Birgh	M. muehlenpfordtii
2nd	Pat Swain	M. spinosissima
3rd	Tom Vermilion	M. plumosa

#### Masters

1st	Frank Nudge	M. hernandezii
2nd	Karen Ostler	M. petterssonii
3rd	Karen Ostler	M. guerrerpmos x polytaele

### Succulents - Madagascan Aloes & Hybrids

#### Beginner

1st	Oscar Flores	A. descoingsii
2nd	Anne Keegan	A. species
2nd	Anne Keegan	A. bellatula
3rd	Gerald Richart	A. hybrid (Kelly Griffin)

#### Intermediate

1st	Tom Vermilion	A. hybrid (Kelly Griffin)
2nd	Tom Vermilion	A. deltoideodonta ssp latifolia
2nd	Tom Vermilion	A. cv "RFG"
3rd	Alan Hooker	A. capitata v. quartzicola

#### Masters

1st	Frank Nudge	A. descoingsii
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## President's Message (continued from page 1)

Your Board of Directors will vote to donate some money to a worth-while organization in the near future. Decisions will be made at the April BOD meeting. If you have any suggestions, please contact someone on the Board and give them your input. We are favoring some donation to the LA Arboretum to foster education.

The dates are set for our Winter Show and Sale on November 6 & 7.

We had a terrific turn-out at the annual Desert Forum at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in January. I know that all of us really enjoyed those fabulous gardens and the unbelievable display of blooming aloes. Thanks once again for the Huntington and CSSA for arranging it.

I also want to thank the vendors at our meeting for donating plants to the raffle table. It really adds to the depth of our offering. I don't know if it was a record or not but the money we took in last month was mostly due to the great plants donated by Pat Swain. We normally purchase the raffle plants from one of the club members' nurseries, but this time Pat brought a whole bunch in to add to what was there. **THANKS PAT!**

We had a pretty small Study Group in January (3" of rain might have had something to do with it). Our Board of Directors turned out in large enough numbers to make a quorum. All in all a good night except for the rain.

See you at the meeting **Buck Hemenway**

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## Study Group

### Wednesday, February 17th • Pelargonium

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.

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Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at [www.sgvcss.com](http://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](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com).







## 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 —

#### *Rebutia*

The genus *Rebutia* has grown to swallow *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia*. There is no reliable distinguishing characteristic that separates what once were three genera.

*Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia* were genera from the highlands of Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are similar in appearance, in habitat and culture. Coming from high altitudes, they are tolerant of cold, and if dry, can be left out in all weather. The populations of all three overlap.

There has been debate almost from initial discovery whether or not *Weingartia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* belong in the same genus. All three genera grow over large altitude ranges, and many species are so variable that collections from nearby populations or even the same population at different times have been given different names. There are far more names than species. The books by John Pilbeam help make sense of the species and varieties, and the New Cactus Lexicon gives the names under which the older species can now be found. Many names have changed multiple times over the years.

*Rebutia* are easily grown. They are dormant in winter, and start to grow in late March or April. They flower from April through June, with the peak flowering period varying from year to year depending on the weather. Two flowering cycles are common in cultivation in California. The flowers appear in abundance, and vary in color from purple and red through orange to yellow. They do well in normal cactus potting mixes, and grow best with steady fertilization when in active growth. They are attractive to spider mites. Damage can be prevented by frequent inspection, and a weekly, forceful wash down with water.

Many plants eventually get a woody brown growth at the base of the plants, which creeps up-

ward. This is known as creeping crud, and is a fungal disease. It can be avoided by maintaining the plants in active growth. Better yet, small offsets should be periodically used to start new growth. When the creeping crud appears, the plant should be discarded. It just gets uglier as time goes by, and the presence of diseased plants makes it easier for the fungus to grow and spread.

Propagation from offsets is easy. The offsets should be cut off, left to dry for a few days, and then replanted. Very small offsets can be successfully rooted. Seed is easy to germinate, but is short lived.

#### Selected species (they are all great!)

*Rebutia heliosa* (below) is an orange flowered form. It clumps rapidly in cultivation with a dark green body, small brown areoles and short whitish spines in a spiral pattern.



*Rebutia heliosa*  
(photo credit, Home and Garden.webshots)

*Rebutia steinmanni* 'christinae', also found as *R. christinae*, is from Salta Argentina, and is one of 7 species included in *R. steinmanni*. It has dense off white spines and wonderful red flowers with a yellow center.

*Rebutia marsoneri* from Jujuy, Argentina is noted for its spectacular golden yellow flow-ers.

*Rebutia pygmaea* comes in at least 20 varieties, many of which were originally described as species. Flower color varies over the full range for the genus. It's a challenge to keep some of the varieties small. Easy to grow.

*Rebutia (Sulcorebutia) candiae* was the Holiday Contest plant years ago. Those who kept them alive (not that hard) are enjoying the yellow spines and the yellow-orange flowers.

*Rebutia (Sulcorebutia) rauschii* is known in several forms. The most common is a dark purple bodied form. Second most common is a green bodied form, and the third is a golden spined form. Other forms are also available, but rarely seen. All are slow and beautiful, and harder than most others to keep looking good. All are worth the effort.

*Rebutia neocumingii (Weingartia longigibba)* is variable, with many great forms. One is shown in the accompanying picture below.



*Rebutia neocumingii*

Tom Glavich January 2010

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

### *Crassulacaea*

The *Crassulaceae* Family is enormous and cosmopolitan, with succulent members worldwide, and family members that range from the arctic to the hottest areas of the African deserts. As might be expected from a wide ranging family, the plants also vary tremendously, with succulent members varying from only a inch or less across at maturity to tree like shrubs. It is the third largest of the succulent families behind *Cactaceae* and *Mesembryanthemaceae*. Most members of this family are easy to grow, and many are winter growers, especially those from South Africa. This month's Plant of the Month Table should

be an example of the exuberance of this wonderful family. Many wonderful species and cultivars reproduce easily and rapidly, making them affordable to every grower. They appear at every show and sale, and every 99 cent store as well as better nurseries everywhere.

The care required by different genera of the family vary as well, most African *Crassulaceae* are winter growers, leafing out in the fall, and going dormant in the late spring. There are exceptions, so a reference book will help. Many New World *Crassulaceae* are also winter growers, *Dudleya* being the best known. Some do their best growing in the spring and early summer, *Echeveria* being the most popular.

All members of the *Crassulaceae* family want food and water when they are in active growth, and need to be allowed to rest when dormant. Too much forced growth at the wrong time of year will result in weak or spindly plants. Most of the rosette forming members of the family will eventually get leggy and benefit from being topped and restarted. Look at your plants; they will let you know when they are ready to grow and ready to go dormant.



*Crassula ausensis v titanopsis*

*Adromischus* is a small genus of shrubby plants from South Africa and Namibia. All of the species are small, ranging from an inch or so to a few inches in diameter. They have amazingly variable shapes and colors, and though some tend to be somewhat weedy, they can be kept under control by vigorous pruning, and occasional restarting from leaf or stem cuttings. They root very easily from fallen leaves.

*Aeonium* is a somewhat larger genus, mostly endemic to the Canary Islands, however a few species are native to Northern Africa, particularly Morocco.

*Cotyledon* is another medium genus of mostly

shrubby plants with showy leaves. *Cotyledon*, *Kalanchoe* and *Tylecodon* are all closely related, and all mostly easy to grow winter growers.

*Crassula* is the largest genus in the family, containing everything from bog plants to some of the most extreme succulents. Many *Crassula* species have been naturalized and are commonly seen as garden plants in Southern California. Many hybrids and cultivars are available, offering an endless selection of colors and leaf shapes.

*Dudleya* is a new world genus, with members mostly in Mexico and California. There are dozens of species, some native to only a small region on one off-shore island. They are generally easy to grow, as long as water is withheld in summer.



*Dudleya pulverulenta*

*Echeveria* is a large genus, stretching from the Texas border into South America, with species coming from Columbia and Peru. There are an incredible number of colorful species and cultivars, and nearly every Southern California garden has a few tucked away in a planter somewhere. These are easy to grow, easier the closer you live to the coast. They need to be propagated regularly from cuttings to look their best.

*Kalanchoe* is a large genus of shrubs, much used by horticulturists to produce a many hybrid plants for home, gardens and shows. *K. fedtschenkoi* is a bush with blue gray leaves, but is more commonly seen in a variegated form. It is propagated by the millions for winter color throughout the world, making it the most propagated succulent plant in the world.

*Sedum* is a very large genus, primarily European, Asian and North American, but a few species are known from Africa as well. This genus has members that range from small trees to epiphytes to rosettes, to extreme sphaeroidal succulents.

*Sempervivum* is a medium sized genus of stemless rosette plants from the mountains of Europe, to Western Asia. It is closely related to *Aeonium*.

*Tylecodon* is a genus that varies from very small to large shrubby succulents with pachycaul stems very similar to *Cotyledon*.



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](mailto:tglavich@sbcglobal.net).



## Welcome New Members



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

**Joseph Cavallo**  
**Nancy Hamrick**  
**Jairo Ramirez**  
**Colleen Wheeler**  
**Beatrice Proo**



**\*\* Note \*\* Membership Dues are Due!** February 11th is the deadline for ensuring inclusion in the 2010 Roster. Any changes, corrections, deletions or exclusions from last year's roster should be brought to Bill Gerlach's attention at [billgerlach@verison.net](mailto:billgerlach@verison.net).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**February 13**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — San Diego Winter Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

**February 13**, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society BUS TOUR to the San Diego County Botanic Garden (formerly Quail Botanic Garden) and San Diego CSS Show and Sale. Bus will leave the LA Arboretum at 8:00 and return about 6:00 pm. Cost of the bus trip is \$20.00 which includes lunch. Please see Bill Gerlach to sign up or call 626-332-8008. **There are just a few seats left - all reservations must be paid for by February 11 meeting.**

**March 20**, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm — Staging Workshop, Plant and Potters Sale at the Caro Desert Nursery, 9607 East Avenue S12, Littlerock, CA 93543. Staging Workshops at 10:00, 1:00, and 3:30, call 661-456-0787 for reservations, \$35 fee. Stay for the barbeque after the last workshop.

**March 27 and 28**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — The Prickly Palace Garden Tour and Plant Sale in the Hemenway gardens, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, 92509. Call 951-360-8802 for more information.

**April 10 and 11**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society 2009 Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 263 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verde Peninsula.

## Refreshment Signup

These club members have signed up to provide refreshments at our February meeting.

**Dick Tatman**  
**Rebecca Mallonee**  
**Mary Brumbaugh**

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

## 2010 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Feb.	Rebutia	Crassulaceae	Pelargonium
Mar.	Cacti from Oaxaca	Medusoid Euphorbia	Agave
Apr.	Melocactus	Dudleya	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Ferocactus	Miniatures	Vegetative Propagation Workshop
June	Epiphyte	Lithops	Lithops
July	Thelocactus, Stenocactus	Pachypodiums from Madagascar	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Copiapoa
Sept.	Astrophytum	Bursera, Commiphora	Mammillaria
Oct.	Ariocarpus	Sansevieria	Tips and Tricks for Successful Growing
Nov.	Opuntia	Asclepiad	Winter Seed Workshop