



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

January 2012 - Volume 45, Number 1

**January Meeting:
Thursday,
January 12 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:

Single Head Mammillaria

SUCCULENT:

Aloe (species only)

Study Group:

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

Tips, Tools & Techniques

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President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope that all of our members have welcomed in the year 2012 safely and happily.

I would like to welcome our newly elected Directors to the Board of SGVCSS, Mary Brumbaugh, Brian Le and Rebecca Maloney. We look forward to a productive year.

Thanks again to Mary and Rebecca for taking the reins at the Holiday party. We had more than 110 people there. Thanks also to Jamie Mancuso for arranging the center pieces and the punch. For those who are aware, my mother-in-law, Irene is well.

We are still looking for some volunteer gardens for a spring Home Tour. Some of the original volunteers have had their collections scattered around the area. Such a disaster! Those of us who regularly experience those high winds can really sympathize. It's hard to imagine the damage. You keep seeing new bad things for months after.

Our first Board of Directors meeting of 2012 will be on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00 PM at Coco's on Michillinda and Colorado Blvd.

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Study Group

Wednesday, January 18th • Tips, Tools & Techniques

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.

Refreshment Signup

Fred Parrales
Betty Farfan
Cindy Arakaki

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

President's Message (cont'd. from page 1)

Don't forget the CSSA free day at the Huntington Library & Botanic Gardens on Saturday, January 14. You need to be there by 10:00 AM with your name badge on. This is an activity that every one of our members should take advantage of. More details in this newsletter.

The annual Aloe Walk at the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center will take place on Saturday, January 28. The walk starts at 9:30 AM.

Our own Tom Glavich will be our speaker this month. Don't miss his fantastic talk on the Monsters in our collections.

See you at the meeting.

Buck Hemenway

This Month's Program

Our Tom Glavich will present his program on *Monsters*. We will look at growing and producing crests, variegates, monstrose growth, and some of the unclassifiable addities that are part of the succulent plant world.



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.

Aloe arborescens (a South African species) in bloom at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in 2011. Don't miss the CSSA day at the Gardens on January 14th.

Club Bulletin Board

18th ANNUAL WINTER SHOW

The SGVCSS 18th Annual Winter Show was celebrated on November 5 & 6, 2011. It was a great show with beautiful plants and wonderful people.

The Show Chair wants to thank all of the Club members who worked hard to set-up and tear down, judges, clerks and tabulators, the people working in the sales area, plant holding, tag counting, back gate guarding, hospitality table, the people in charge of the kitchen who made sure we were fed, all of the exhibitors who brought those gorgeous plants to the show and, of course, all of the vendors and auctioneers.

Last month's newsletter announced the high points winners and following are the 2011 trophy winners:

2011 Winter Show Trophy Winners:

- Best Cactus Novice – **Gary & Jamie Mancuso**
- Best Cactus Advanced – **Paul & Carol Maker**
- Best Cactus Open – **Pat Swain**
- Best Succulent Novice – **Mary Brumbaugh**
- Best Succulent Advanced – **Barbara Hall**
- Best Succulent Open – **Peter Walkowiak**
- Best Ariocarpus – **Karen & Martin Ostler**
- Best Mammillaria – **Peter Walkowiak**
- Best Epiphytic Cactus – **Jim Nones**
- Best Gymnocalycium – **Charles & Joann Spotts**
- Best Rebutia/Sulcorebutia – **Peter Walkowiak**
- Best Opuntia – **Karen & Martin Ostler**
- Best Agave – **Gunnar Eisel**
- Best Mesemb – **Larry Grammer**
- Best Haworthia – **Charles & Joann Spotts**
- Best Madagascan Euphorbia – **Tommy Dodson**
- Best Euphorbia – **Petra Crist**
- Best Dorstenia – **Yvonne Hemenway**
- Best Crassulaceae – **Petra Crist**
- Best Geraniaceae – **Jim Hanna**
- Best Pachypodium – **Gunnar Eisel**

- Best Winter Growing Succulent – **Petra Crist**
- Best Collection – **Larry Grammer**
- Best Mutant – **Gunnar Eisel**
- Winter Thematic Award – **Gregg & Anna Cavanaugh**
- Best Baja Plant – **Petra Crist**
- Best Mexican Plant – **Vince Basta**
- Best Miniature – **Pat Swain**

*Thanks Everybody!
Manny Rivera, Show Chair*

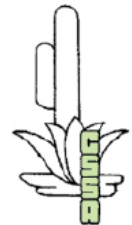
Welcome New Members



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

- David Johansen, Pasadena**
- Gregory Vosper, Burbank**

CSSA CORNER



The Huntington Botanical Gardens, in continuing cooperation with the CSSA and their affiliate clubs, once again offers the Desert Forum, a Free Day for CSSA members and members of affiliate clubs on January 14, 2012. Arrive at 9:30AM for a full day of the Huntington.

See details of the event on page 6.

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2012

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Buck Hemenway, President | Hannah Nguyen, Director | Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative |
| Tom Vermilion, Vice President | Rebecca Mallonee, Director | Plant Sales Chair |
| Donn Muhleman, Treasurer | Mary Brumbaugh, Director | Woody Minnich, Program Chair |
| Pat Swain, Secretary | Brian Le, Director | Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair |
| Jean Mullins, Director | Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair | Liz Alba, Library Chair |
| Tricia Kangra, Director | Tom Glavich, Intercity Show 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.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

Single-Headed *Mammillaria*

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the *Cactus* family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some clumped and heavily spined with hooks. This month, the plant of the month is Single Headed *Mammillaria*, regardless of size.

Although most *Mammillaria* are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. With this wide distribution, the cultivation requirements obviously vary considerably. The species from the tropics and warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp, but can take considerable cold. With these restrictions aside, most *Mammillaria* are easy to grow.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. White mealy bug egg cases (*Mammillaria's* worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants around the plants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide.

Propagation of single headed *Mammillaria* is almost exclusively by seed. Fortunately, *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Most

will survive, and grow quickly.

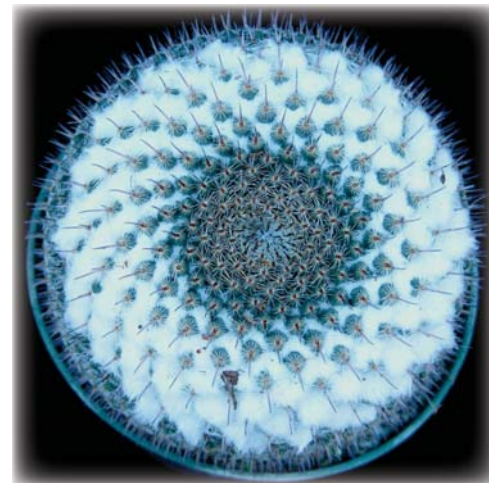
One of the rarely told secrets of *Mammillaria* is their beauty as seedlings. Seedlings a year or two old are amazingly beautiful plants with all of the wool and spination that they will have as adults, but in miniature form. Color in seedlings is often much more intense than it will be in older plants. Given the ease of germination, everyone should try a few.

Some *Mammillaria* normally single headed in habitat will offset with age in cultivation. It is not unusual for some species to suddenly start a second head, sometimes in an unusual location.

Magnificent *Mammillaria*

Mammillaria chionocephala comes from Coahuila and Nuevo Leon. It grows to about 4 inches in diam-

eter, and eventually gets to 6 or so inches tall. It's a beautiful species from the start.



Mammillaria ritteriana

Mammillaria dixanthocentron has long golden yellow central spines

that make a graceful drooping arc. It grows to nearly 10 inches high and 3 inches in diameter. The spines can add an additional inch and half to the appearance of the body. It is found in Oaxaca and Puebla. With age this will offset

Mammillaria gigantea is one of the largest solitary growing species growing to 10 inches or more in diameter. It is wider than it is high, and has a woolly center. It is easily grown. It is widespread, reported from many central Mexican states.

Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae from a very small locality in Nuevo Leon is another of the single headed miniatures. It remains small, an inch or less when fully grown.

Mammillaria sempervivi from Hidalgo, San Luis Potosi, and Nuevo Leon grows at altitudes of 4000 to 6000 feet. It is slow growing, and eventually gets to 4 or 6 inches in diameter. The white wool between the areoles makes this species a pleasure to look at and grow. It stays flat.

Mammillaria super-texta from Oaxaca comes in several forms with varying spination. All of them are worth cultivating. This is one of the species that will offset with age in cultivation, but is normally singular in habitat.



Mammillaria super-texta

Tom Glavich, January 2012

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Aloe Species

This month's Succulents of the Month are *Aloe* species. *Aloe* species have their own special niche in the world of plant collectors, and this month is a wonderful time to have them displayed, since many are in flower. There are dozens of new and spectacular hybrids being produced by Kelly Griffin, Karen Zimmerman, Dick Wright, Tim Harvey and others. These are not included this month.

Aloes are native to most of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Madagascar. They are naturalized in every Mediterranean environment in the world as well as some temperate and tropical regions. With only a few exceptions, all *Aloes* will grow readily in Southern California, either in the ground, or in pots. When in the ground they require minimal care, existing happily on only natural rainfall. Species cover the size range from a little over an inch to well over 30 feet.

The long blooming racemes of brightly colored *Aloe* flowers are attractive to sunbirds in Africa and hummingbirds in the West. When in bloom, hummingbirds will visit every few minutes, going from

plant to plant and yard to yard, fertilizing hundreds of flowers as they make their rounds.

Potted *Aloes* are healthiest when given a balanced fertilizer during their growing periods. *Aloes* can be stunted if not given enough root room. Some of the smaller species are naturally growing in cracks and crevices, but many of the larger species expect to send roots out several feet as they grow. Occasional root pruning of old roots on potted *Aloes* will give new feeder roots room to spread out.

There are only three serious pests of *Aloes*, rust, mites and mealy bugs. *Aloe* rust, which produces red ringed, black or brown spots on the leaves is a fungal disease, and can be controlled with any fungicide. *Aloe* galls are produced by the *Aloe* mite. These nearly invisible insects cause deformed flower stalks and leaves. The plant should be removed from all others, and is best destroyed, although eventual cure is possible with a heavy dose of systemic insecticide. *Aloe* mites spread from plant to plant with birds and other insects, and immediate removal of the plant is the best means of preventing this. Mealybugs are easily controlled with any insecticide or by careful and persistent cleaning.

Aloes are some of the easiest and fastest plants to grow from seed. Many obscure species from Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula are available only as seeds. They are planted in April, and will be up and growing in just a few weeks. Show quality plants can sometimes be produced in as little as two years from seed.

The ISI introductions over the past few years have also been

a great source of unusual smaller *Aloes*. Many of these have been used in the production of some of



Aloe compressa v rugosquamosa

the newer hybrids, but they are spectacular plants well worth any collection or show bench.

Great Aloes (Just a sampling of the hundred or more wonderful species available)

Aloe descoingsii is the classic miniature species, with head only a little over an inch in diameter, but making clumps many times larger.

Aloe fleurentinorum is a flat dark green to gray species from Saudi Arabia. Rarely seen in cultivation, it is easy to grow and a spectacular addition to any collection.

Aloe harlana from South Africa is well known in cultivation. It is one of the most beautiful of the spotted aloes. It is easy to grow, and will quickly reach a foot in diameter.

Aloe pseudoparvula was released as an ISI offering in 2007. Another Madagascan species, this is easily grown, and a favorite of both Aloe collectors and gastropods. It is a beautiful plant, well worth protecting from slimy predators.

Aloe roeoeslii from Ankarana Madagascar, is a wonderful mauve to almost orange (depending on the season small Aloe. It was released by the Huntington as IDI-2010-15, and is readily available. A beautiful plant.



Aloe humulis



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.



DESERT FORUM

Saturday, 14 January 2012

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. **Registration**
Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag).
- 9:30 – 12:00 Noon **Desert Garden**
Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory. Aloes will be flowering.
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M. **Welcome Comments & Lunch – Friends' Hall**
Pick up sack lunch. Light snacks and beverages will be served.
Welcome comments – Jim Folsom
CSSA remarks – Laurel Woodley
- 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. **Plant Sales**
Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 P.M.
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 P.M. **Free Time**
Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries.

**** Note ** Membership Dues are Due!** Your 2012 Club membership renewal can be paid at the next meeting or mailed direct to Bill Gerlach, 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. \$15 regular membership or \$25 if you request the Communique by mail. Checks to **SGVCCS**.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 14, 9:30 am to 4:40 pm — DESERT FORUM at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden including a tour with knowledgeable staff, plant sale, and forum led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom. Wear your name badge!

January 18, 7:30 pm — Study Group, TIPS, TOOLS & TECHNIQUES. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

January 28, 9:30 am - 11:00 am — 12th Annual ALOE WALK at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. Phone 951-685-5818 for directions. The 6 acre succulent gardens at the Center are the result of planting done in the late 1960's and early 1970's. We will tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland Empire climate. The Granite Hill Nursery will be open. This event is Free.

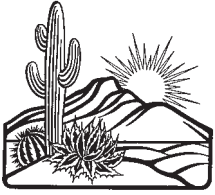
February 11, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — San Diego Winter Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

March 23 and 24, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For more information contact Vince Basta at 714-267-4329.

March 31 and April 1, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — The Prickly Palace Garden Tour and Plant Sale in the Hemenway gardens, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, 92509.

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

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Jan.	Single Head Mammillaria	Aloe - species only	Tips, Tools & Techniques
Feb.	Ferocactus, Echinocactus	Winter-growing Mesembs	Monsonia (Sarcocaulon)
Mar.	Turbinocarpus, Pedioactus, Sclerocactus	Pelargonium, Monsonia	Aloe
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***.