

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

January 2014 - Volume 47, Number 1

**January Meeting:
Thursday,
January 9 at 7:30 pm**

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

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:

Mammillaria Clusters

SUCCULENT:

Succulent Bulbs

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
January 15th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

***Landscaping with
Succulents***

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President's Message

Happy Holidays! I hope you are having a joyous holiday season.

Wow! That was some holiday party. 185 folks were able to celebrate the season with us. Festivities included a jazz combo and our very own Frank McDonough singing several holiday favorites. As usual, the food was delicious, and the time shared with our friends made it a delightful evening. .

Special thanks to everyone who helped make this a wonderful event. I'd especially like to thank Mary Brumbaugh and Rebecca Mallonee for the extra effort to accommodate our surprisingly large turnout. Dinner was followed by the largest auction we have ever had. Our very capable auctioneers, Buck Hemenway, Peter Walkowiak, and Michael Buckner kept the ball rolling very nicely.

Our January speaker is Gary Duke who will be speaking on Columnar Cacti of Peru. Also, don't forget our January 15th C&S workshop as we discuss the how to's of landscaping with cacti and succulents. The workshops keep growing and growing. Please join us.

2014 will be a great year for SGVCSS. We have several field trips

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Study Group

Wednesday, January 15th • Landscaping with Cacti and Succulents

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

Rita Gerlach
Yvonne Hemenway

The first three club members who sign up and bring refreshments each month will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks. We are also grateful to have goodies from any other club members who just feel like sharing.

Welcome New Members

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

Dave Johnson, Duarte
Wayne Klein, Valencia



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.

President's Message (cont. from page 1)

in the works, and we will be asking for your help as we prepare for hosting the 2015 Cactus and Succulent Society of America Biennial Convention at Pitzer College in Claremont. These are very special times for your club!

See you at the next meeting.

Gunnar Eisel



Thank you Gunnar for arranging the evening's entertainment at the Holiday Party. These musicians were great!

This Month's Program

On the Cacti Trail in Northern Peru

Gary Duke is a retired Air Force Officer with a doctoral degree in physics. He currently works for Scitor and currently consults for the Air Force. He is an avid collector of cacti - he has over 800 different varieties of cacti and succulents in his yard. He also enjoys Dudleyas and Tylecodons. Gary has enjoyed his hobby since he was 10 years old and his mother bought him a small box of cacti in Phoenix. He grew up on a farm in central Illinois.

Gary's talk will describes lots of tall columnar cacti that we don't see very often, especially large specimens in the wild. He also has pictures of many bromeliads, as well as several outstanding scenic views in the Andes. Come and see a new perspective of Peru.

Club Bulletin Board

Good bye to an old friend.

Larry Grammer passed away on December 12th. He had been in failing health for some time and was in hospice care.

Larry will be remembered as a constant supporter of the cactus & succulent hobby. His plant staging designs forever changed the way that we present our plants for shows, and he was always generous in sharing his knowledge and expertise with his fellow enthusiasts. Larry was a long time member of C&S clubs in the LA area.

Many of us remember Larry with affection, and we all bid him a fond farewell.



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 18, 2014. Arrive at 9:30AM for a full day of the Huntington.

See details of the event on page 6.

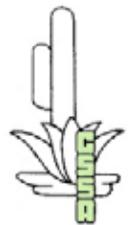
Review of November-December 2013 CSSA Journal by Tim Harvey

The discovery that a species is not so close to extinction in the wild as had been believed is always exciting. Jeremy Spath brings just such news concerning a good-sized population of *Aloe suzannae*, which also appears on the cover, to start the November-December issue, 85-6.

Also known for its Madagascan species, the genus *Pachypodium* is the focus for Dylan Burge's article on the origin of its diversity in Africa as a whole. For those interested in learning more about the taxonomic changes that result from the recent use of DNA sequencing to aid in classification, it includes a useful introduction to some of the terminology.

Book reviews of *Succulent Abstracts and Absurdities*, *Bradleya 30* and *Superb Succulents* are included for those still searching for a gift for their plant-loving friends.

As thick as the northwest Argentina special issue was, there still was not quite enough room for every article. Root Gorelick and Dan Mahr's well-illustrated guide to the *Tephrocactus* of the region had to wait until now for publication, but it is hoped the delay was worth it. Finally, the all-important index, compiled by Cody Howard, wraps up the issue, and 2013.



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2013

Gunnar Eisel, President
Tom Vermilion, Vice President
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
Pat Swain, Secretary
Rebecca Mallonee, Director
Mary Brumbaugh, Director

Louise Stack, Director
Shaun Adams, Director
Dean Elzinga, Director
Horace Birgh, Director
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair
Woody Minnich, Program Chair
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
Cindy Arakaki, Librarian

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 —

Mammillaria Clusters

First described as *Cactus mammillaris*, and illustrated in 1697 by Commelin and the only cactus known to Linnaeus; *Mammillaria mammillaris*, serves as the lectotype for the genus. The genus is further divided into, depending on author; about 12 to 21 subgenus'. These subgenus break down based on the spines, flowering, growth habit, and seed style, into more manageable units. The genus overall is characterized by raised tubercles topped by spines and by the flowering, typically a circle of flowers in a crown or necklace around the body of the plant. *Mammillarias* are one of the largest; although not the largest; genus of cacti.



M. bocasana, typical growth habit.

The flower color varies from white, *M. albiflora* (subgenus *Herrerae*), to pinkish yellow in *M. pulmosa* (subgenus *Proliferae*), to a stunning, deep rose violet, *M. guelowziana* (subgenus *Phellosperma*). Flower size also varies from the tiny *M. klissingiana*, to the relatively large *M. booli*.

Spines are also quite variable from the delicate white dots of *M. leuthyi* to the long *M. geminispina*, and run the gamut of soft, *M. pulmosa* to the nasty hooked spines of *M. magnifica*. Spine color ranges from the pure white of *M. hahniana* (subgenus *Leucocephalae*) through to the bronze of *M. elongata* (subgenus *Leptocladodae*) to the black of *M. thornberi* ssp. *yaquensis* (subgenus *Chilita*.)

They grow from central North America; *M. tetrancistrata* (subgenus *Ancistracanthae*) into Utah

and Nevada; down through Mexico, Central America and into South America, *M. columbiana* (subgenus *Supertextae*) into Columbia and Venezuela. And even now new species are being discovered and described.



M. geminispina in the Hemenway garden.

Mammillarias are one of the first cacti encountered and grown by novice growers. They are fairly easy to grow and are quite rewarding. As with all cacti, they do not appreciate being cold and damp, but other than that they have few demands.

White spined *Mammillarias* require higher light levels than those with darker or fewer spines, to maintain the dense spination and the white color.

Clustering *Mammillarias* occur through most of the subgenus' and range in size from the tiny *M. hernandezii* (subgenus *Longiflorae*) to *M. compressa* (subgenus *Polyedrae*). Most offset readily from the base of the plant when young and with age will offset all along the plant body.

Care of *Mammillarias* is quite easy. They appreciate a well draining substrate; consisting of pumice and potting soil (or coir), I prefer a higher content of pumice to soil. Fertilizing is recommended from April to September with a balanced fertilizer, and slightly acidic water (7 ph). To maintain pristine spine formation, do not water from overhead.

Mammillarias should be potted up on a regular basis to prevent uneven growth or if preferred may be kept stunted by regularly repotting in fresh soil and being returned to the same size pot. But the clustering *Mammillarias* can form absolutely stunningly massive mounds that can be used to good effect in landscaping, and are beautiful in a large pot



Mammillaria pringlei growing in the Hemenway garden.

although they can be difficult to manage.

Recommended reading;

Anderson, E., The Cactus Family
Britton and Rose, The Cactaceae, (mainly for
archaic names, historical details)

Craig, R. T., The Mammillaria Handbook

Hunt, D., The New Cactus Lexicon

Pilbeam, J., Mammillaria

There is also, for those whom the genus is a pas-
sion the British Mammillaria Society.

Karen Ostler, January 2014

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Succulent Bulbs

The world of bulbs is at least as large as the world of other succulents. It has its own specialty societies, and its devotees collect plants from around the world, including many familiar areas such as South Africa, but also many cold temperate areas such as Siberia, Eastern Asia, the Himalayas, and Georgia (both of them).

Cultivation practices and weather requirements vary greatly, and bulbs will only thrive and flower in the correct growing conditions. For those of us in California, it means that the bulbs of California, Chile, the Mediterranean, and South Africa will be the easiest to grow. Those from the colder regions of central Turkey (such as some tulips) and Russia (some Hyacinths) will be much more difficult; only intermittent success in keeping these alive can be hoped for, and flowers expecting cool damp weather will never achieve their proper form or color.

Just as with succulents, some species that you would never expect to thrive do so, allowing bulb collectors to experience the entire world of bulbs.

There are four main families of bulbs, and we show an example of each in this article.



Amموcharis coranica

Amموcharis coranica is one of the many bulbs in the Amaryllis Family. The bulbs come from South Africa, and generally grow above ground, similar to the way it is presented in this pot. They flower regularly in early July. The leaves have square ends, and look as if trimmed with scissors, but this is a natural adaptation to sparse and erratic rainfall.

Representing the Alliaceae or Onion Family is *Allium karataviense*. It is widespread in central Asia, and has two leaves that resemble a *Welwitschia mirabilis*. Although it grows in conditions different from Southern California, it can be grown in pots with some protection from extreme summer heat. It flowers in the spring.



Tigridia pavonia canariensis

The Hyacinth family is represented by *Lachenalia latimerae*, one of many species of this genus. These grow in South Africa and are reliable and easy winter growing bulbs. These flower in late winter to mid spring, depending on weather. They are entirely dormant in summer, and do best if left to enjoy a dry rest.

Many of the bulbs of South Africa come from winter growing areas with soil identical or similar to that where Pelargoniums and mesembs grow. They want winter water, and mineral based soil.



Lachenalia latimerae.

Representing both the new world and the Iris family is *Tigridia pavonia canariensis*, a yellow form of this Mexican member of the Iris family. The Iris family rarely produces true bulbs, and this as with most is really a corm. This is also easy to grow and available from many commercial suppliers. It is a summer flower.

Bulb cultivation is relatively easy. Water them when they are green, stop when they are not. Feed them to get flowers. This year's leaves are used to develop next year's flowers, so feed frequently, and give the more nitrogen than you would a slow growing Euphorbia or Pachypodium. There is a wealth of cultivated varieties, some going back to Roman times,

and some remarkable ones just produced in the past few years.

There are thousands of bulbs worth growing, with many species available in local nurseries and others from specialty bulb nurseries. Everyone should try a few (or a lot).

Tom Glavich, January 2014



Thank you to Karen Ostler and Tom Glavich for putting together the Plant of the Month articles. 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.



Our Holiday Plant for 2013 is *Weingartia neocummingii* fa. *brevispina*, native to Bolivia. This is a short-spined variety of the species. It is semi-globular (growing taller than wider with age, up to 8-inches high by 4-inches wide) and is generally a single head. The flowers have orange petals, shading to a yellow throat and are quite large, about 3/4 to 1 inch across.

Weingartia neocummingii needs a bright location and will not tolerate cold and wet in the winter.



DESERT FORUM

Saturday, 18 January 2014

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 2014 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 **SGVCSS**.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 18, 9:30 am to 4:30 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!

Wednesday, January 15, 7:30 pm — Workshop, LANDSCAPING WITH SUCCULENTS. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

Saturday, January 25, 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 were planted by local succulent enthusiasts in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Buck Hemenway will lead the tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland Empire climate. This event is Free.

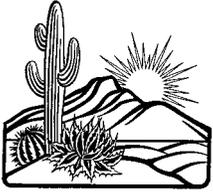
Saturday, February 8, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

March 28, 29 9:00 am to 5:00 pm **and March 30**, 12:00 to 4:00 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 call 562-587-3357.

March 29 and 30, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — The Prickly Palace Open Gardens and Plant Sale in the Hemenway gardens, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, 92509. Call Buck Hemenway at 951-360-8802 for more information.

2014 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	<u>Cacti of the Month</u>	<u>Succulent of the Month</u>	<u>Workshops</u>
Jan.	Mammillaria Clusters	Succulent Bulbs	Landscaping with Succulents
Feb.	California Native Cacti	California Native Succulents	Plant Identification
Mar.	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia	Echeverias	California Natives
Apr.	Variegated Cacti	Variegated Succulents	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Gymnocalycium	Stem Euphorbias	Vegetative Propagation
June	Notocactus and Parodia	Bursera & Commiphora	Stem Euphorbias
July	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose	Staging Workshop
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Crests and Monstrose
Sept.	Cephaliated Cacti	Monadenium	Succulent Orchids
Oct.	Ariocarpus	Sedums	Sansevierias
Nov.	Grafted Cacti	Grafted Succulents	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**.