



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

June 2010 - Volume 43, Number 6

**June Meeting:
Thursday,
June 10 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 —
Epiphyte**

**SUCCULENT—
Lithops**

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday, June 16th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Lithops

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President's Message

Summer's almost here. It is **Show and Sale** season. Our club is deeply involved with two of the upcoming Big Events.

The CSSA Show and Sale happens on June 25-27 at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. They need our help for set-up on the 24th and working the sale on all three days. You will receive a free pass for one day to the Gardens if you help out. There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting. Plan on entering plants in this show. It is a one class show and is always a very good one. Entrance to the Show and Sale is free.

The Inter-City Show & Sale is on August 14-15. Again, they need our help for this show. We get a large portion of our annual revenue from this show. Tom Glavich and Manny Rivera need your help.

We'll have a Members Garden Tour on June 19. Look in this newsletter for details and maps. Hope to see many of you all then.

Thanks to Woody Minnich for his fine presentation in May. That area in southern Brazil has some fantastic plants.

I was honored to be a part of the presentation to Myron Kimmach, Manny Rivera and Larry Grammer. All three are more than deserving of the Life Membership awards that the club has bestowed on them. Having several of the Huntington personnel in attendance and to have Jim Folsom give a short talk on Myron really made the evening.

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May Mini-Show Results

Cacti - Ferocactus

Novice

- 1st Gary/Jamie Mancuso F. rectispinus
- 2nd Louise Stack F. latispinus-recurvus
- 3rd Gary/Jamie Mancuso F. acanthodes

Advanced

- 1st Glen/Linda Carlzen F. macrodiscus
- 2nd Calvin/Cindy Arakaki F. viscayensis
- 3rd Glen/Linda Carlzen F. peninsulæ
- 3rd Barbara Hall F. pilosus

Open

No entries

Succulents - Miniatures

Novice

- 1st Hannah Nguyen Haworthia cv. "Korizato"
- 2nd Rebecca Mallonee Gasteria sp.
- 2nd Efren Flores Tylecodon buchholziana

Advanced

- 1st Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Haworthia gracilis v. teresa
- 2nd Barbara Hall Crassula ausensis ssp. titanopsis
- 3rd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Adromischus marianiae

Open

- 1st Jim Hanna Opercularia decaryi
- 2nd Karen Ostler Cereria pygmea
- 3rd John Matthews Adromischus marianiae "antidorcatum"

President's Message - Continued from Page 1

Our annual Club Picnic will be held on July 17 at Pitzer College. Arrive about 11:30, we'll eat at about noon, with games and plant auction to follow. Don't miss this fun event. More details in next month's Communique.

See you at the meeting,

Buck Hemenway

This Month's Program

Our Speaker for June is Darryl Koutnik. He will present "Cotyledon and Tylecodon".

Darryl is the co-author of the book by the same name which is the current expert text on these two South African genera. He lives in Southern California and has been involved with the Succulent Gardens at University of California, Riverside.

Darryl is an excellent speaker and this talk will prove very entertaining as well as educational.

Study Group

Wednesday, June 16th • Lithops

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.



Lithops dorothea flowering in October

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.

Club Member Events

— Tour of 3 Club Members' Gardens June 19th

We'll meet in the parking lot of the Arboretum at about 8:15 am and try to get as many people as possible ride-sharing. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting so we can try to get organized. If you are not ride-sharing, just go directly to the Matthews, planning to arriving at 9:30.

We'll leave the parking lot at 8:30 am and plan to arrive at the Matthews' garden at about 9:30.

We'll spend about an hour there and leave for the Ostlers' garden at about 10:30, arriving sometime around 11:00.

After an hour at the Ostlers' we'll head down the hill to the Caros' garden, arriving at about 12:30.

Bring your own lunch and we'll plan to eat at the Caros'. The Club will provide sodas and water at the Caros'.

John Matthews and Patty and Rene Caro will have plants for sale, and Karen Ostler might find a few that she'll be willing to part with.

This should be a fun day, the styles of gardens at each home are very different.

For maps see pages 7 and 8.

— Three SGVCSS members awarded Lifetime Membership Plaques

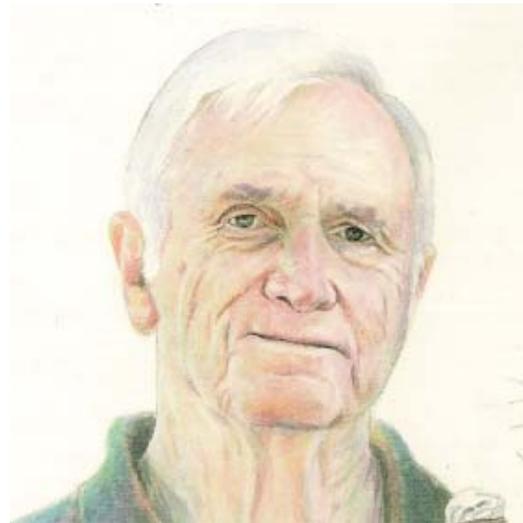
At our meeting in May, the Club recognized the significant contributions of Myron Kimnach, Larry Grammer, and Manny Rivera.

Myron's life and his work in the succulent world are described in the September-October 2007 and

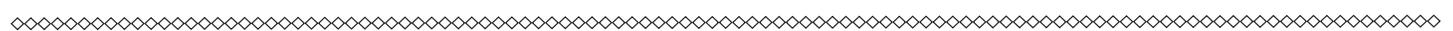
several subsequent issues of the CSSA Journal. We have all benefited from his dedication over the past six decades.

Larry Grammer was one of the founding members of the Intercity Show and Sale that is co-sponsored by the San Gabriel, Los Angeles, and Long Beach Cactus and Succulent Societies twenty-five years ago. He still participates in the event by arranging displays, entering show plants and judging. Larry has brought the art of staging and displaying these wonderful plants we call succulents to a whole new level. We are very grateful for his willingness to teach and share his gift with others.

Manny Rivera has become one of the pillars of the San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society. He took on the large responsibility of chairing the club's annual Cactus and Succulent Show and has done an outstanding job. In addition, Manny coordinates the judging of our Mini Show each month.



Drawing of Myron Kimnach by Gerhard Marx as shown on the cover of the Sept.-Oct. 2007 CSSA Journal.



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2010

Buck Hemenway, President
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Karen Ostler, Board Member

Ralph Massey, Board Member
Bill Gerlach, Board Member
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Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
and Plant Sales Chair
Woody Minnich, Program Chair
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
Liz Alba, Library Chair
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

Plants Of The Month

Enter your specimen plants in our monthly minishow. 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 —

Epiphyte

Epiphytic cacti have a place in every collection. They are easy to grow, requiring remarkably little care; in general have few spines, and many reward the grower with a spectacular show of flowers. Epiphytic cacti are the tree, rock and cliff dwellers of the cactus family, spending their entire lives above the ground, and living on water from rain, fog and mist.

Epiphytic cacti prefer a different potting mix than most ground loving cacti. A frequently used potting mix includes equal parts of potting soil, bark and pumice. Excellent drainage in the mix is important for healthy growth. These plants evolved with moisture passing through the root zone rapidly. Rain forest



Epiphyllum 'Aztec Treasure'

moisture is frequent, but short lived. Even rain forests have prolonged dry periods, and these plants have developed mechanisms to survive periodic droughts. Regular feeding with a balanced fertilizer and a constant supply of moisture during the growing season are important.

Epiphytic cacti are all easily propagated from either cuttings or seed. Cuttings can be taken any time the plant is in active growth, spring being best, but any time during the summer and early fall will also work. Thin stemmed epiphytes, such as most of the *Rhipsalis* can be planted immediately. Thicker leaved genera should be allowed to dry for a day or two before planting. *Zygocactus* can be easily propagated from cuttings, but for reasonable success, two segments need to be used rather than one.

Seed from many of the epiphytic cacti, particularly *Rhipsalis*, is hard to come by. One or two species

are occasionally offered by the CSSA seed bank. For those with an interest in hybridization, many epiphytes



Epiphyllum 'Padre'

are easily pollinated and cross pollinated both within genera, and across genera. When the fruit turns color and hardens, it can be harvested, the seeds removed, cleaned, and stored until the following spring.

Selected Epiphytes

There are far too many great epiphytic cacti to include references to all of the genera, never mind species. A few noteworthy examples are:

Aporocactus (Disocactus) flagelliformis from Oaxaca to Hidalgo in Mexico has brilliant red flowers, born in profusion in May. *Aporophyllum* is a bi-generic cross between *Aporocactus* and *Epiphyllum*,

Disocactus amazonicus is one of the many brightly colored species of *Disocactus*.

Epiphyllum oxypetalum is a spectacular night white flowered bloomer. Pollinated by moths or bats. Its large flowers open after sundown, and are gone before 11 the next morning. Even so, the blooms are worth visiting at night, and in the early morning hours.

Hatiora salicornioides, commonly known as the Drunkard's Dream is an easily grown epiphyte from Brazil. It gets large with time and patience. It will stay dense if given sufficient water and food, otherwise it grows sparse.

Nopalxochia (Disocactus) kimmachii is a large red to pink flowered species with long thin stems.

Rhipsalis has about 25 species, and is possibly the only cactus known from outside of the New World.

Sub species of *Rhipsalis baccifera* are found in tropical Africa Madagascar and the islands of the Indian



Rhipsalis cereuscula

Ocean, stretching as far as Sri Lanka. Although centered in Brazil, subspecies are also found as far east as Peru, giving this species the largest geographical range of any cactus.

Tom Glavich May 2010

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Lithops

Not difficult, just different.

Many people shy away from Lithops and say they've killed their share of them. It really doesn't have to be this way because Lithops can actually be some of the easiest succulents to grow. The catch is that they have a different life cycle than many plants and can become distorted or die when treated like typical plants. Lithops also tend to give little warning or chance for saving them when something is going wrong. Once rot is visible it's usually too late to save the plant.

The proper amount of neglect.

More Lithops are probably killed by too much care than any other cause. Most novice growers think they're delicate little plants and end up pampering them to death. Actually, they're much better adapted to have you forget to water them for a couple weeks than to be kept constantly wet. So what works best? Bright light (but not full midday sun), good ventilation, a soil mix that drains well and respecting their growth cycle that includes a dormant period.

Lithops and other succulents that are grown in excessive shade tend to be weaker and more susceptible to insect damage than plants grown in bright light. Plants that are not getting enough light may become excessively tall as well. They do appreciate protection from midday sun but in general give them as much light as you can.

Lithops and most mesembs come from very arid regions and just can't deal with prolonged exposure to humidity. Place them where they are exposed to natural breezes and they'll grow well for you.

Lithops do best in a coarse well draining soil mix but can be grown in a wide variety of mixes. Different soil mixes just determine how often you need

to water and fertilize. They can be grown in pure Supersoil, a mix of 2/3rds pumice 1/3rd coir, a mix of pea gravel, coarse sand and loam. One popular mix consists of about 1/3rd Supersoil and 2/3rds pumice (or perlite). Ingredients for the last mix are easily obtainable at most garden or home centers, drains well, and works for most other succulents as well.

Go easy on the fertilizer. one application at 1/4 strength in the spring should be plenty. Too much and the plants will be very slow to have their old leaves dry out in Spring. Too rich a soil mix can also cause this.

The Lithops calendar.

Lithops follow a very definite growing cycle. Stray too far and you'll start to have problems. Lets start with Spring. Sometime around March you can expect to see the plants leaves start to shrivel and then dry out as a new pair start to emerge from between the old. The plants should not be watered at this time because the old leaves are transferring their moisture into the new leaves. If you do water them the old leaves will not dry out and the plant will develop a condition called "stacking".

Once the old leaves have shriveled to the point



Lithops fulviceps - New leaves emerging in Spring, don't water until the old leaves dry up.

that they have the appearance of raisins then it is almost time to start watering. Let the plants dry a couple weeks longer and then you can begin to water them weekly, allowing them to dry out between watering. If the old leaves

plump back up from your first spring watering then stop and let them really dry out before watering again.

Continue regular watering throughout the summer and let them dry between watering. Depending on species, mature plants can begin flowering as soon as June or even earlier but most will flower from September to November. Continue watering as before through flowering and if a seed pod forms continue then as well. After the pod is nice and plump, or if no pod formed, just stop watering. While this is often referred to as their dormant period there is a lot going on within the plant, it just does not need water at this

time. You can give them a quick spritz now and then to wash away dust that may accumulate but avoid getting the plants truly wet until spring when the outer leaves have shriveled sufficiently.

So what can go wrong?

Watering year round or fertilizing too much leads to stacking. Too little light makes them tall, skinny and vulnerable to pests and fungi. Prolonged exposure to humid growing conditions or constantly wet soil leads to rot. Many of these conditions are bad for succulent plants in general so you can't blame Lithops for being fickle here.

Lithops for beginners

Not all Lithops are as forgiving as others. One of the main differences is in how cooperative they are in drying out in the spring so you can start watering them. In general the flat topped species tend to dry more readily than those with round, lobe shaped leaves. With that in mind some of the easier species, along with their various sub-species, include: *L. aucampiae*, *L. fulviceps*, *L. hallii*, *L. hookeri*, *L. karasmontana*, *L. lesliei*, *L. pseudotruncatella*, *L. salicola*.

Tom Vermilion 2008/2010



Lithops fulviceps v. lactinae - This plant is stacking. There are too many leaves on each body. It can be caused by too much fertilizer, soil mix being too rich or by watering year round.



Lithops dorotheae - Each head of a two headed plant has divided in two creating a four headed plant. The old leaves are still a bit too plump for this plant to be watered.



Lithops gracilidelineata v. waldroniae almost ready to start watering.



Lithops hookeri v. marginata ready for water. Last years leaves have dried out enough so regular watering can begin once again.



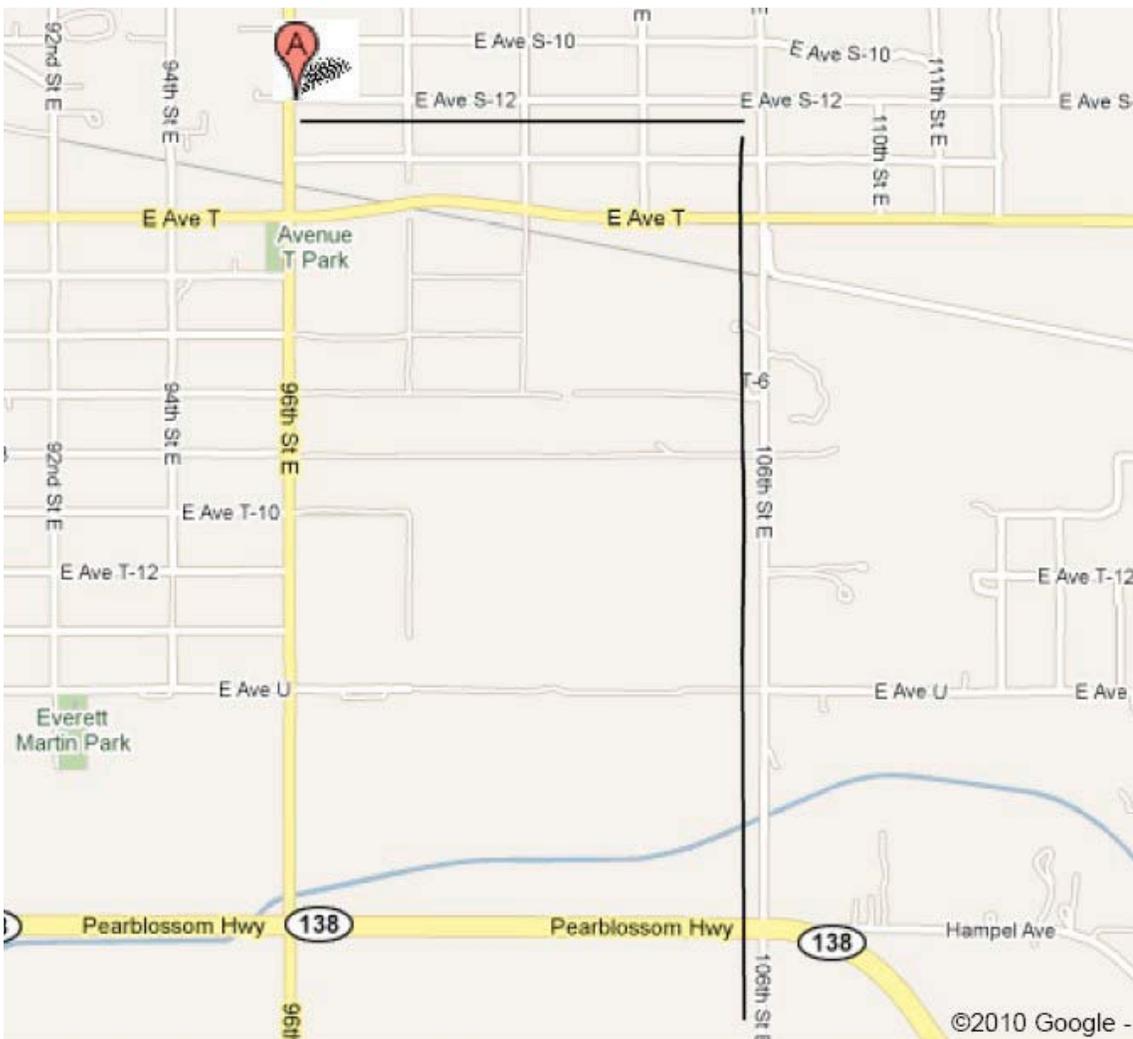
Thank you to Tom Glavich and Tom Vermilion for putting together the Plant of the Month article. If you would like to participate by submitting a plant of the month write up for the **Communique**, please contact Tom Glavich at tglavich@sbcglobal.net.





Karen & Martin
Ostler
9400 East Ave Y-8
Juniper Hills, CA
661-944-9844
Arrive at about 11:00

Turn right on 106th St. E.
Follow 106th for approx 5 miles.
Turn right on Cima Mesa Rd for 1.5 mi.
Cima Mesa Rd turns in to 96th St, E,
Follow 96th for 0.6 mi.
Turn left on Ave Y-8 for 0.3 mi.
The Ostlers are on the hill on your left.



Patty & Rene Caro
9607 E S-12
Littlerock, CA
661-456-0787
Arrive at about 12:30

Leaving the Ostlers, retrace your route to 106th St. E.
Follow 106th St across Hwy 138 to E Ave S-12
Turn left on S-12 to 96th St.
Caros are on the right.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 5 and 6 — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Balboa Park, Room 101. For information call 858-382-1797.

June 12, 9:00 to 5:00 and June 13, 9:00 to 3:30 — Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Drought Tolerant Plant Festival. Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA. For information call Sandy Chase at 818-367-0864.

June 19, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm — San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Garden Tour to the gardens of John Matthews, Karen and Martin Ostler, and Patty and Rene Caro. Maps are included in this Communique.

June 25 to 27 — CSSA Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Plant sale 9:30 - 4:00 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Show opens at 10:00 on Saturday. Free to the public.

July 17, 11:30 am, — San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Picnic at Pitzer College. Maps will be published in the July Communique.

July 23 - 25, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton. Contact Vince Basta at 714-267-4329 for more information or visit www.occss.org.

August 14 and 15 — 25th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. For more information call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or John Matthews at 661-297-5364.

Refreshment Signup

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

Nancy Hamrick

Una Yeh

Rosie Garcia

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

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

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
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