



*San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society*

# **COMMUNIQUE**

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

March 2011 - Volume 44, Number 3

**March Meeting:  
Thursday,  
March 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:**

*Hooked Spined  
Mammillaria*

**SUCCULENT:**

*Echeveria*

**Study Group:**

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

*Echeveria*

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***President's Message***

The Early Registration for the CSSA Convention (April 24-29 in San Diego) expires on March 1. This is a full \$100 discount from the regular registration amount. If you are going, you should be registered. As you know, the club will reimburse all paid for 2011 members who were members in 2010, ½ of their registration fee, up to \$100. This is a great deal, and an event that cactus crazies should not miss. Speakers from all over the world. A chance to rub elbows with succulent enthusiasts from all over the United States and beyond. The best plant sale ever. Register NOW.

We voted to change the By-Laws of the Society in February. This is part of the ongoing process for us to become an official not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation. The new By-Laws as related in last month's Newsletter and provided in full at the February meeting are now in effect.

We have two outings planned in April. The weekend of April 1-3 will feature a field trip to Anza Borrego to see the spring bloom. The trip is being organized by Jean Mullens. Call her for details. 626-967-5481. The club is partially underwriting this trip. Jean is in charge.

On April 9, we will take a bus trip to the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens. There are a number of succulent plants in their collection.

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### Club Bulletin Board

#### ANZA BOREGO FIELD TRIP

March 31st thru April 3rd, 2011

\*\*\* Back by Popular Demand \*\*\*

The spring wildflowers and desert cacti will be showing off their beautiful colors, and it has been more than several years since we've explored the mountains & valleys of Anza Borrego State Park.

So get your cameras ready and come join us for a fun filled weekend.

Many of us will be staying at Stanlunds Motel (760-767-5501) and it will be our headquarters or morning starting point. We are planning to have our Saturday night dinner at the Palm Canyon Resort. (760-767-5341.) Friday night at the Taco House.

Some will be staying at the Hacienda del Sol (760) 767-5442. Wherever, you choose to stay, please make your reservations as soon as you can because the little town of Borrego Springs will be filled up when the flowers start showing up. For more information, please call Jean Mullens or email her at [jeanemullens@earthlink.net](mailto:jeanemullens@earthlink.net). We need to know who all is coming so that we can complete the itinerary.

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#### SANTA BARBARA BUS TRIP

Saturday, April 9th, 2011

Our annual bus trip is in the planning stages and the itinerary will be announced soon. The cost will be \$20.00 to reserve a seat, with a \$10.00 refund when you board the bus.

The main destination will be the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, with stops at the Pier for lunch and one or two nurseries/gardens on the way back. Save the date - April 9th - if you want to go. See Judi Romine or email [judir5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judir5@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your place.

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#### SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2011

Buck Hemenway, President  
Tom Vermilion, Vice President  
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer  
Pat Swain, Secretary  
Bill Gerlach, Director  
Patty Caro, Director

Judi Romine, Director  
Jean Mullens, Director  
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Woody Minnich, Program Chair  
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Liz Alba, Library Chair  
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

### Study Group

Wednesday, March 16th • Echeveria

Your Board of Directors has decided that we will invite vendors to sell plants at the Study Group. Plants offered should be only of the genus that is being discussed at that meeting, such as this month's Echeveria.

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.

#### CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



April 24 - April 29, 2011  
Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley  
San Diego, California

Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society



#### CSSA Corner

The biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America is coming up fast. Early registration allows for a \$100 discount, but must be made by March 1, 2011 to qualify. Don't miss the best presenters anywhere and the social fun of a World-Wide C&S gathering. There will be field trips, plant workshops, a Judges Workshop, Newsletter Editors meeting, Affiliates meeting among all of the other activities. Remember, San Diego, April 24-30, 2011.

The new editor of the CSSA Journal is hard at work on his first issue. Tim Harvey will be a terrific addition to the list of names of succulent enthusiasts who have managed the Journal.

## 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.

### CACTI OF THE MONTH —

#### HOOKED SPINED MAMMILLARIA

There many species (200+) of *Mammillaria* and their range includes Caribbean Islands, Southwestern United States and Mexico, extending into Northern South America.

Collected specimens of “New World” plants were circulating throughout Europe from the 16th Century onwards and studious, esteemed folks named plants without any system. Then along came Carl Linnaeus, who established the first botanical classification system (i.e., rules) via *Species Plantarum* (1753). Linnaeus first described the genus *Mammillaria*, based on the plant *M. mammillaris* Haw., which he named *Cactus mammillaris*. The Linnaean species *mammillaris* was derived from the Latin “mamma” (breast or udder), and refers to a defining characteristic of the genus, its pointy-ish tubercles.

In 1812, Adrian Haworth (English botanist and entomologist) first described the genus *Mammillaria*, including *M. mammillaris* Haw. and related species that he assigned to this genus. By the 20th Century there were numerous attempts to subdivide and/or re-classify this large family of plants within the genus and/or create additional genera. At least 15 different classifications have been proposed since the 1920s.

So where are we now? Basically, there are fewer

*Mammillaria* species (from 500 to 200-300) and several new genera. What this means for *Mammillarias* with hooked spines is that there is no



*Mammillaria senilis*

single or small group of classifications that currently apply to “hooked spines” species (although *M. senilis* is always singularly categorized, separate from all other species).

Many *Mammillarias* originated in a similar growing environment to ours, and can be easy to cultivate here (though a few are very difficult to grow). While there is a lot of variety – in spination, offsets, size -- among species of *Mammillaria*, they all possess radial symmetry (= Fibonacci numbers [another paper altogether]) and pretty flowers. Quite a few are threatened or endangered in their native habitat. Some species are easy to grow from seed (which we will learn about next month).

The distinctive feature of the genus is the specific development of an areole that is split into two clearly separated parts, one occurring at the tubercle's apex, the other at its base. The apex is spine bearing, and the base is always spineless (usually having some bristles or wool). The base bears the flowers and fruits.

*Mammillarias* are usually small, globose to elongated plants, with stems up to 8 inches in diameter and 16 inches tall, and solitary to clump forming. Tubercles can be conical, cylindrical, pyramidal or round. Roots are fibrous, fleshy or tuberous. Flowers are funnel-shaped and range from ¼ inch to 1½ inches or more in length and in diameter, from white and greenish to yellow, pink and red in color, often with a darker mid-stripe. Fruit is berry-like, club-shaped or elongated, usually red but sometimes white, yellow or green.

Focusing on *Mammillarias* with hooked spines, the hooked spine(s) may hook upward or downward. They can vary in color, from yellow to yellowish-brown to reddish-brown to brown to black to white with dark tips. The hooked spine can range from under ¼ inch to 2½ inches long. Hooked spines can be found on small plants (*M. blossfeldiana*), large plants (*M. parkinsonii*), solitary plants (*M. chionocephala*), and large offsetting plants (*M. bombycina*).

Some *Mammillarias* with hooked spines to try:

*M. barbata* Englem. (Chihuahuan Desert, U.S. and Mexico) This plant has a poor root system, so make sure the potting mix drains thoroughly, the pot just accommodates the root ball, and that it receives strong light.

*M. blossfeldiana* Böed. (Baja California, and Guadalupe and Cedros Islands, Mexico, below 150 feet) This plant is prone to root rot, and needs a very porous potting mix.

*M. bombycina* Quel (Aguascalientes and Jalisco, Mexico, between 7,000 and 7,500 feet) This is a relatively easy-to-grow plant that offsets and blooms freely.

*M. magnifica* Buchenau. (Puebla and Morelos, Mexico, between 3,000 and 4,700 feet) This is a fairly fast grower that offsets profusely. As the plant ages, shallow pots of large diameter will be required.



*Mammillaria magnifica* (gold form)

*M. moelleriana* Böed. (Durango and Zacatecas, Mexico, between 6,700 to 7,800 feet) This plant has extreme spines. It is also difficult to grow; it is prone to root rot. It requires strong filtered light and a very porous potting mix.



*Mammillaria moelleriana*

*M. parkinsonii* Ehrenb. (Queretaro, Mexico, between 3,500 to 7,200 feet) Over time, this species dichotomously divides and is capable of forming large clumps. In order to keep clumps tightly formed, high light levels and steady growth are required.

*M. senilis* S.D. (Coahuila, Mexico, between 7,200 and 8,400 feet) This plant requires a very porous potting mix. It also requires a cool winter rest period

Anne Keegan, March 2011

Sources: The Cactus Family, Anderson; The Cactaceae Vol. 4, Rose & Britton; Cacti and Succulents, Haage, Succulents in Cultivation, Higgins, and www.mammillaria.net

All pictures courtesy of Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

*ECHEVERIA*

*Echeveria* is one the principal members of the succulent New World Crassulaceae, along with *Dudleya*, *Pachyphthum*, and *Sedum*. *Echeveria* come principally from the mountains of Eastern Mexico, although there are plants found from Texas into South America. Venezuela has a significant population.

The genus *Echeveria* is named after Atanasio Echeverria illustrator of a projected Flora Mexicana prepared under the direction of Martin Sesse, from 1789 to 1803. Martin Sesse received a Royal Patent for a botanical expedition to Mexico from Charles III, King of Spain in 1788. Unfortunately, he died



*Echeveria laui*

shortly after giving the Patent, and before supplying any money. His son, Charles IV, was not enlightened, not particularly bright, and unlucky. Sesse went on with the expedition, and although short of funds, and often sick and hungry, with Jose Mocino, Atanasio Echeverria, and others, collected hundreds of plants over a 15 year period. The three returned to Spain, expecting to become famous and publish their Flora Mexicana, only to be ignored by the King. Greatly disappointed, Sesse returned to his land holdings; Mocino went to work at the Museum of Natural History in Madrid, and Echeverria was hired as an artist's assistant.

Mocino sent the original drawings to the famous botanist Alphonse De Candolle as Napoleon marched on Madrid. The originals were lost in the confusion of the Napoleonic wars, but the drawings were saved by Alphonse De Candolle, who hired 120 draftsman to work for 10 days making several sets of precise tracings of Echeverria's drawings. De Candolle also named the genus in a lecture in 1827, first publishing it in 1928.

Coming from mountainous regions, *Echeveria* prefer well drained soil, and good ventilation. They also prefer cooler temperatures, looking their best in late winter and early spring. The plants swell

with the winter rains, and as growth starts the colors become more intense. Although they don't go completely dormant in summer, growth slows, and in the inland valleys, plants tend to wilt and sulk, even with some shade. In California, the best *Echeveria* growers tend to live near the coast, and near San Francisco. In hotter inland areas, *Echeveria* do much better in the ground than they do in pots. Ground temperatures are cooler and less variable than pot temperatures.

Propagation of *Echeverias* is a required skill rather than an optional one. All *Echeveria* have leaves that dry and fall off as they age, leaving a thick, and usually ugly stem. With time, most *Echeverias* offset between the older leaves. These offsets can be removed, the bottom-most leaves of the offset removed, and the stem and remaining leaves planted as soon as the cut stem is dry. Successful rooting almost always follows. The terminal rosette should also be periodically removed and restarted in the same way, with all the dead and the older live leaves removed. If a few leaves are left on the stem, offsets will almost always form. These can then be removed and propagated. *Echeverias* have flowers on an extended stalk (raceme). The raceme has small leaves on it, and occasionally, rosettes. These will root easily as well.

Favorite species include:

*Echeveria agavoides*, forms large light green rosettes, with red tips when grown in full sun. Two popular cultivars are "Lipstick" which has red edges and "Ebony" which has dark red-purple edge. The colors are enhanced by sunlight.



*Echeveria ciliata*

*Echeveria ciliata* is a smaller species, only three or four inches in diameter. The name comes from the small hairs at the edges of all the leaves. It offsets slowly, but can be easily propagated from leaves.

*Echeveria elegans* is a smaller species with pale green leaves that makes an excellent bedding plant.

*Echeveria potosina* is readily available at many garden centers. It makes a wonderful ground cover, offsetting quickly, and recovering from accidental squashes.

*Echeveria purpusorum* is a small slow growing species from Southern Mexico. It has short stiff white-green leaves, with dark edges and small red spots.

*Echeveria* have also been hybridized frequently, and many interesting plants are available. One is shown with this article. *Echeveria* 'Etna' is a particularly carbunched hybrid created by Dick Wright of California.

Tom Glavich, March 2011



*Echeveria "Etna"*

### Refreshment Signup

The following three club members have sign up to bring refreshments this month and will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

Carol Padillo  
Irma Juarez  
Una Yeh



Thank you to Tom Glavich and Anne Keegan 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](mailto:tglavich@sbcglobal.net).



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**March 16**, 7:30 pm — Study Group, ECHEVERIA. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

**March 19**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Annual POTTERS SALE and Master Growers Invitational Plant Auction (1:00 pm) at Caro Desert Nursery, 9607 E. Avenue S12, Littlerock 93543. Phone 661-456-0787 or visit [www.carodesert.com](http://www.carodesert.com) for details.

**March 26 and 27**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — The Prickly Palace Garden Tour and Plant Sale in the Hemenway gardens, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, 92509.

**March 31 - April 1** — ANZA BOREGO FIELD TRIP. The SGVCSS is planning a field trip to Anza Borego State Park. If you want to join this fun event make your reservations early! See the write up on page 3 for more information.

**April 9**, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm — SGVCSS BUS TRIP to Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens and other interesting stops. More details next month. See Judi Romine or email at [judir5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judir5@sbcglobal.net) to make your reservations.

**April 9 and 10**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society 2009 Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verde Peninsula. For more information call Show Chair Jim Gardner at 310-378-1953 or Vendor Coordinator Jim Hanna at 562-920-3046.

**April 16 and 17** — Green Scene Plant Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831

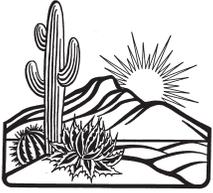
**April 24 thru 29** — **CSSA 2011 Convention** at the Marriott-Mission Valley, San Diego, California. For more information and updates go to [www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org). Early bird discount ends February 15th.

**May 1**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens. For information call 310-833-6823.

**May 7 and 8** — Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA. For information call 310-822-1783

### 2011 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Feb.	Miniature	Miniature	Ralph Massey Staging Workshop
Mar.	Hooked Spined Mammillaria	Echeveria	Echeveria
Apr.	Seed Grown by Exhibitor	Seed Grown by Exhibitor	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Rebutia-Sulcorebutia-Weingartia	Hoya & Dischidia	Vegetative Propagation Workshop
June	Notocactus & Parodia	Ficus & Dorstenia	Coryphantha & Escobaria
July	Dish Gardens	Dish Gardens	Staging
Aug.	Members 3 oldest (longest owned)	Members 3 oldest (longest owned)	Echinopsis-Trichocereus-Lobivia
Sept.	Coahuila Native Cacti	Madagascan Euphorbia	Eriocyce
Oct.	Crests/Monstrose/Variegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variegates
Nov.	3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show	3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show	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](mailto: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***.