



## *San Gabriel Valley* *Cactus & Succulent Society*

# **COMMUNIQUE**

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

May 2012 - Volume 45, Number 5

### **MAY Meeting: Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 pm**

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

### **Mini-Show Plants:**

**CACTUS:**  
*Echinocereus*

**SUCCULENT:**  
*African Pachypodiums*

### **Study Group:**

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

#### ***Vegetative Propagation Workshop***

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### **President's Message**

Will we ever get spring? It's raining as I write this at the end of April. What a weird winter/spring. 90 deg in January and 50 something in April. I guess I shouldn't complain, the hot days are coming, that I'm sure of.

We will have a Board of Directors meeting in May 16 at Cocos at Michillinda and Colorado Blvd. at 6:00 pm prior to the Study Group.

We are always looking for ways to improve the way we present the hobby to our members. As you all know, our club is growing and as we bring in new members, we need to be sure that we are doing everything we can to make their experience meaningful. Suggestions are always welcome. Please see anyone on the Board to make suggestions.

The Intercity Show & Sale planning is well underway. The annual planning meeting was held recently and it looks to be in good shape for 2012.

Have you renewed your CSSA membership? The Journal is better than ever, just \$50 per year for the most informative Cactus & Succulent publication in our country. Now is a good time to start repotting

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## April Mini-Show Results

### South American Opuntia

#### Novice

1st	Shaun Adams	Tephrocactus geometricus
2nd	Shaun Adams	Tephrocactus papyracanthus
2nd	Shaun Adams	Tephrocactus papyracanthus
2nd	Tricia Kangrga	Tephrocactus weberii

#### Intermediate

1st	C & C Arakaki	Camulopuntia pentlandii
2nd	C & C Arakaki	Opuntia pentlandii
3rd	C & C Arakaki	Tunilla corregata

#### Open

1st	Tom Glavich	Maihueniopsis subterranea
2nd	John Matthews	Tephrocactus geometricus
3rd	Tom Glavich	Pterocactus tuberosus

### Senecio, Othonna

#### Novice

1st	Anne Keegan	Senecio penalus
2nd	Anne Keegan	Senecio anteuphorbium
3rd	Irma Juarez	Senecio ssp. fulgens
3rd	Irma Juarez	Senecio rowleyanus

#### Intermediate

1st	C & C Arakaki	Othonna euphorbioides
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#### Open

1st	John Matthews	Othonna capensis
2nd	Yvonne Hemenway	Senecio bulbinefolius

## Meeting Setup

Sign up for May –

Shaun Adams  
Danny Scott

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).

#### President's Message - cont'd.

and staging show plants for the upcoming CSSA Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. The date for this year's event is June 29 - July 1.

I'm looking forward to Guillermo Rivera's presentation on South Africa.

See you at the meeting!

Buck Hemenway

## This Month's Program

### Exploring South Africa: From Cape Town to the Richtersveld

A journey through the provinces of Western Cape and Northern Cape, exploring the great succulent diversity of South Africa. We will visit several National Parks: Namaqua, Richtersveld, and others. The timing of this fascinating trip matches the incredible event of mass flowering in the dessert.

Conophytum, Lithops, Aloes, Pachypodium, and many Mesembs are among the plants we are going to see on this presentation, together with some wildlife shots in Kruger National Park

Our speaker: Guillermo Rivera —

Born in Argentina. Owner of South America Nature Tours (former Cactus Expeditions), a company dedicated to the organization of tours throughout South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador) with emphasis on plants (bromeliads, cacti, and orchids), or birding.

Former researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. BS degree in Biology University of Cordoba

MS Marine Biology. Northeastern University. PhD in Botany University of Cordoba.

Since 2011, the company started expeditions to South Africa with emphasis on plants, but also including a safari extension. This trip is scheduled again in August-September 2013.

*Pachypodium namaquanum*  
flowers



## **Club Bulletin Board**

### **SGVCSS Members' Garden Tour**

If you missed the Member's Garden Tours on April 14th, you really missed out. Those attending had a truly exceptional day. The weather was very kind and on the day of the event, the sun rose beautifully after several days of downpour. We experienced Altadena at three member's homes. Each garden was beautiful and demonstrated a memorable uniqueness. Snow capped mountains in the backdrop really added to the fantastic sight. The last stop is certainly not to be forgotten as we headed East for the Inland Empire. I did not see one single plastic pot in the whole entire display of cactus and succulent at the Alta Loma/Rancho Cucamonga home. This was truly exceptional. Each of the homes visited displayed admirable creativity in the landscaping as well as in the display of plants both in pots and in ground. Thanks again to Hilde, Karen, Phil, Greg and Anna for inviting us to your home and helping to make this a successful event.

Judi Romine



### **Study Group**

#### **Wednesday, May 16th • Vegetative Propagation Workshop**

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.



### **SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2012**

Buck Hemenway, President  
Tom Vermilion, Vice President  
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer  
Pat Swain, Secretary  
Jean Mullins, Director  
Tricia Kangrga, Director

Hannah Nguyen, Director  
Rebecca Mallonee, Director  
Mary Brumbaugh, Director  
Brian Le, Director  
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair  
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative  
Plant Sales Chair  
Woody Minnich, Program Chair  
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair  
Cindy Arakaki, Library 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 —

#### *Echinocereus*

*Echinocereus* is one of the earliest recognized genera of Cacti; first described in 1848 by George Engelmann from a plant collected in 1846 in what is now New Mexico. The type species (the first one found, and after which the genus is named) is *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, a widespread species with a distribution that ranges from Southern Wyoming, South Dakota, and Kansas to Eastern New Mexico. As the name suggests, it has brilliant green flowers.

*Echinocereus* species can be found throughout the Western United States, and the range of species stretches through the American west and through Northern and Central Mexico to about Mexico City. As might be expected from a genus covering such a large range, *Echinocereus* are extremely varied in form, ranging from nearly spineless green balls such as *E. knippelianus*, to very spiny short columnar species such as *E. engelmannii*, to pencil thin sticks such as *E. poselgeri*.



*Echinocereus pentalophus*

In general, *Echinocereus* is an under-appreciated genus. Many cactus growers try one or two; but having killed a few in their early collecting days, often because of over watering, concentrate on other genera. Most of the species are easy to grow.

Many species are variable displaying different spination and flower colors depending on the local environment. This caused a confusion of names with too many species named. These are being reduced to a

more conservative 30 to 50, but the number of collectable forms remains very high. The varieties and local growth forms provide an enormous range of interesting plants to grow.

Most *Echinocereus* have spectacular flowers, giving rise to such common names as Claret Cup, Strawberry Cactus, Calico Cactus. These common names are often attached to more than one species. *Echinocereus* flowers erupt through the skin, leaving scars. Offsets also may erupt through the skin.



*Echinocereus viereckii*

Almost all the species need bright light and warm temperatures to grow well and flower. Some are quite easy, but many have somewhat fragile root systems that are prone to rot. They often benefit from being slightly underpotted. Good drainage is a must. A low organic potting mix, with mostly to all pumice will give the best results. The plants will keep their natural character. Recent publications have shown the benefit of low pH (slightly acid) water. This improves growth and minimizes rot. City water is high pH, often over 8. Reducing pH is a great way to improve plant appearance and growth.

Propagation from seed is easy. Seed germinates in a few days to about two weeks in warm weather, as long as soil mixture is kept moist. Once germination occurs, the seedlings need to be moved to an environment with moving air. They need to be kept damp until they have hardened off. Once seedlings get to a size where they can be safely handled, they can be pulled out of the seedling mix and repotted in straight pumice. Growth and survival rate will improve dramatically.

Propagation from cuttings is relatively easy, but attention to cleanliness is important. Use of a good rooting compound containing a fungicide helps ensure success.

#### Excellent *Echinocereus*

*Echinocereus delaetii* - spines are reduced to white hairs. Flowers are pink to purple, with a very obvious green stigma. One of the more difficult to

grow. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus engelmannii*** - from the Southwest United States and Northern Mexico. A clumping species with stems 2 to 3 inches thick with generally light tan spines and rose like flowers.

***Echinocereus knippelianus*** - dark green body, with slightly lighter ridges, nearly spineless, clustering, and slow. Lots of pale pink flowers. Sensitive to over watering, and a fan of mealybugs everywhere, but easily worth the bother. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus nivosus*** has dense white needle like spines, with a dark green body. It clumps freely, and has large pink flowers, with bright green stamens. If this plant wasn't natural, it would be in bad taste. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus poselgeri*** was formally *Wilcoxia poselgeri*, and is one of several tuberous rooted species that have above-ground pencil thin stems. They have bright pink flowers, and make an odd sight and an interesting addition to any collection. (from Texas, Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus rigidissimus*** - columnar, with bands of red, pink and cream spines. A classic, and a frequent show winner. Every collection ends up with one sooner or later. (from Arizona, New Mexico, Northern Mexico)

***Echinocereus sharpii***, (now *Echinocereus pulchellus* subspecies *sharpii*) discovered in 1971 by club member Peter Sharp near La Asencion in Nuevo Leon, is one of the more difficult to grow, and infrequently seen in cultivation.



*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*

Tom Glavich, May 2012

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

### *African Pachypodiums*

There are only a few species of *Pachypodium* native to Southern Africa, but they are all wonderful plants. They are among the most collectable of all of the *Pachypodiums*, are readily available, and are easily grown.

All of the species of African *Pachypodium* can be grown out of doors, year around in Southern California, requiring protection only from severe frost and freezing weather. If given good drainage, they can survive the winter in pots, with some species even showing some growth throughout the winter months.

All are easy to grow from seed, with seed usually available either at the April Seed-growing Study Group, or through the CSSA, or any of the better known seed houses. They are best planted in warm weather, (May is ideal) one seed to a pot. Germination is quick, and small plants are ready for transplantation before the end of the summer.



*Pachypodium succulentum* staged for show.

***Pachypodium bispinosum*** comes from the southern tip of South Africa. In habitat, most of the caudex of this plant is wedged between and beneath rocks, giving it protection from the sun and predators. Only the relatively small and easily replaced branches stick out. This makes this species easy to bonsai, and dwarf. It can develop an impressive caudex even in cultivation.

***Pachypodium lealii*** is the most tropical of the African species growing into Namibia and Southern Angola on the west coast and in South Africa and southern Zimbabwe on the east coast. It grows at the same latitudes on both sides of the continent, with the east and west side generally being treated as separate subspecies. The east coast species are *Pachypodium lealii* ssp. *lealii*, and were the first discovered in 1859. They are easy to grow, but require very good drainage to avoid root rot. They form large trees in habitat, to 30 feet tall, but remain small and easy to handle in

pots. The west coast subspecies is *Pachypodium lealii* ssp. *saunderii*. These tend to be smaller, and in habitat, to have a more spherical caudex than a tree form. It is easier to grow than its east coast cousin.

***Pachypodium namaquanum*** is perhaps the most spectacular of all of the African species. Its common name is 'half man', which is what it appears to be on the hillsides of Namaqualand. It can grow to 6 feet or more. It is the defining plant of portions of Namaqualand, just as the saguaro is to parts of the Sonoran desert. These often go dormant in the early summer, sometimes losing all their leaves, sometimes keeping some, but showing no growth. They leaf out again in late July, and grow through the winter.



*Pachypodium namaquanum* in flower, Richtersveldt, South Africa

***Pachypodium succulentum*** is similar in appearance to *Pachypodium bispinosum*. It is a dwarf species that grows at the Southern tip of South Africa,

with a habitat that is larger than and encompasses that of *Pachypodium bispinosum*. The flowers and flowering times are different, and the two do not hybridize in habitat. This species is easy to root from root cuttings. A piece of root is removed, and immediately replanted, with about a quarter inch sticking out above the top dressing. Within a few days to a few months, new leaves will start to form at the tip, shortly followed by new branches and a new caudex. Stem cuttings can also be rooted, though with more difficulty.

This species is easy to grow from seed, and like *Pachypodium bispinosum* easy to keep small. The *Pachypodium succulentum* shown in the accompanying figure is about 6 years old from seed, and has been in a 1 ½ inch pot since it was a little over a year old. The entire plant is about 4 inches tall.

Tom Glavich, May 2012

### **In Memoriam — Warren Buckner, Sept. 7, 1919 - Mar. 30, 2012**

We were saddened to learn that Michael Buckner's father, Warren, recently passed away. Many of our San Gabriel Valley C&SS members knew Warren through his long association with the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society where he served in many positions, including President. He also participated in the CSSA Show and won awards for his Educational Exhibits of Aloe, Haworthia and Gasteria species.

Warren Buckner also served his community of Lemon Grove as a Director of the Helix Water District and Chairman of the Lemon Grove Planning Commission. In 2005 the H. Warren Buckner Cactus and Succulent Garden was opened at the Cuyamaca College Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon.



*Pachypodium succulentum* in habitat, Babiaanskloof, South Africa

### **Welcome New Members**



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

**Ineva Versalovich, Whittier  
Margie Wilson, Arcadia**



*Hope you have a great Memorial Day celebration!*

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**May 1 and 2** — Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA. For information go to [www.sunsetsucculentsociety.org](http://www.sunsetsucculentsociety.org) or call 310-822-1783.

**May 5 and 6**, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm — LA Arboretum Garden Festival. Members early sale Friday, May 4, 5pm to 8pm.

**May 6**, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm — Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale. McKenzie Park in Santa Barbara. Directions at [www.sbcactus.org](http://www.sbcactus.org).

**May 18 and 19**, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm — Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Jurupa Valley, CA. Sale Friday 18th and Saturday 19th, Show Saturday 19th. Call 951-360-8802 for more information.

**May 19 an 20** — The Epiphyllum Society of America 53rd Annual Show and Sale. Presale, Saturday May 19, 9 am to 4 pm. Show Sunday, May 20, 10:30 am to 4 pm. Visit [www.epiphyllumsociety.org](http://www.epiphyllumsociety.org) for more info.

**May 26 and 27**, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm — Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA. Call 805-237-2054 or visit [centralcoastcactus.org](http://centralcoastcactus.org).

**June 2 and 3** — San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show an Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. For information call 858-382-1797.

**June 9 and 10**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA. For info email [LACSS.Contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.Contact@gmail.com).

### **Refreshment Signup**

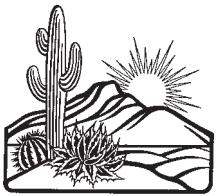
**Raquel Castellanos  
Armida Saucedo  
Danielle Duboff**



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

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

<b>Cacti of the Month</b>	<b>Succulent of the Month</b>	<b>Study Group</b>
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](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***.