



**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

May 2010 - Volume 43, Number 5

**May Meeting:
Thursday,
May 13 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 —
Ferocactus**

**SUCCULENT—
Miniatures**

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
May 19st 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

We had a very lively Board of Directors meeting in April. Our next Board meeting will be at the Inter-City Show in August. Plan to attend if you have thoughts or issues that you'd like to share.

One of the items discussed at the BoD meeting was the issue of incorporation. We have decided to begin the process of becoming a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 Corporation. This will enable us to be a more legitimate entity. Among the many benefits for us in becoming a non-profit corporation is that we will be in position to accept donations and provide the donor a tax write-off. You will see more about this in the near future, but we should have the process complete by the end of the year.

We will have our annual picnic at Pitzer College again this year. The date is July 17. Plan to be there at around 11 -11:30 AM. The club provides sodas and water and fried chicken. Members bring side dishes and desserts. We'll eat at around 12:00 or when the chicken arrives. There is an auction after we eat, so bring your check book and Joe Clements will tour us around the campus to show off his latest plantings of succulents. The campus has become a true showplace of succulent plants.

Continued on page 2

This Month's Program

Our speaker for May will be Woody Minnich. Woody has been active in the C&S hobby for more than 40 years. He has served numerous clubs throughout the Southern California region and now lives and operates near Santa Fe, New Mexico. We all have plants in our

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April Mini-Show Results

Cacti - Melocactus

Beginner

No entries

Intermediate

1st Rita Gerlach Melocactus sp.

2nd Rita Gerlach Melocactus sp.

Advanced

1st Frank Nudge Melocactus bahiensis antonyi

Succulents - Dudleya

Beginner

1st Tricia Kangrga Dudleya Hassei

Intermediate

1st Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Dudleya greenii
"White Sprite"

2nd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Dudleya lanceolata

3rd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Dudleya hassei

Advanced

1st Barbara Nolan Dudleya greenii

2nd Yvonne Hemenway Dudleya pulverulenta
ssp. arizonica

3rd Barbara Nolan Dudleya caespitosa

Study Group

Wednesday, May 19th • 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.

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'd.

We will have a Home Tour on June 19 to please-plan to join us for that day if you can. We will visit John Matthews, the Ostlers and the Caros. Transportation will be by your own car. We will put together some carpooling. Maps and schedules in next month's newsletter. You should plan a day that begins at the Arboretum at about 8:30 and finishes at the Caros in Littlerock (Palmdale) at around 2:00. We'll brown bag it and the club will provide sodas and water.

The CSSA Show and Sale is in June 25 – 27 and the Inter-City Show and Sale is in August. San Gabriel members are always counted on to help out in a major way for both of those events. Mark them on your calendar.

Don't forget the meeting. Woody is our presenter and his talks are always terrific.

Thanks again to Kelly Griffin for his lively talk on Cedros Island and other parts of the Baja. We all enjoyed his presentation.

See you at the meeting

Buck Hemenway

This Month's Program - Cont'd.

collections from Woody's Cactus Data Plants which has been in business since 1975. Woody is one of the real explorers of cactus plants left in our world. He has explored all of the North American cactus habitats and is acknowledged as a true expert on those plants.

In recent years he has been traveling often to South America and is adding volumes to his already prodigious knowledge. We will join Woody on this trip to:

Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil

The Rio Grande Do Sul is the most southern state in the country of Brazil. It is bordered by the Atlantic to the east and the countries of Uruguay and Argentina (Paraguay) to its north and west.

This seldom seen region of Brazil is rich in Cacti, Bromeliads, succulents and other unusual plants and animals. It is the center of the distribution of the Parodias (Notocactus, Brasilicactus, Brasiliparodia, Malacocarpus and Eriocactus) and Fraileas as well as some of the Gymnocalyciums and Echinopsis.

An interesting parallel to South Africa, this primarily winter rainfall region has a wealth of fascinating plants from bulbs to cacti. We will walk in the footsteps of some of the most dedicated field explorers and see much of what they experienced over the past 100 years from this wonderful region, the Rio Grande Do Sul.

Brief Biography - Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly called, has been in the cactus hobby for 40 years and has become well known for his participation in cactus and succulent clubs. He is an honorary life member of seven clubs as well as a life member of CSSA. He has served in almost all positions of leadership from president, to newsletter editor, to show chairman. Woody is also known for his extensive field work studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout the United States, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Africa, Yemen and Socotra. From these trips he has developed an extensive knowledge of the cactus family as well as many of the other succulent genera.

Woody is known for his presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken at plant conventions in the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Mexico.

He is also known for his cactus and succulent nursery, Cactus Data Plants. CDP was started in 1975 and is still in operation today. Cactus Data Plants specializes in show specimens and rare cacti and other succulents with particular emphasis in Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Mammillaria, Gymnocalycium, Turbinicarpus, Melocactus, Copiapoa, Fouquieria, Pachypodium, Euphorbia, Cyphostemma, Adenium and Adenia.

Woody and his wonderful wife Kathy now live in the mountains south of Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is always on the move and travels frequently to do presentations and shows throughout the western United States. Woody is the proud parent of three children, Leah, Denver and Sarah, all of whom are now grown and out in the big world. Woody is also the proud grandparent of three grandsons. He is a retired high school teacher of 32 years and he taught Graphic Arts, Architecture, Art and Health.

Book Review

The Complete Guide to Growing Cacti & Succulents

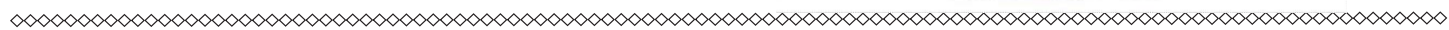
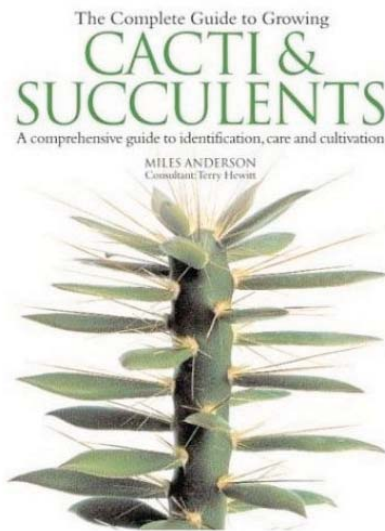
Miles Anderson (Consultant: Terry Hewitt)
2004, hardcover

This book is perfect for the beginning enthusiast and intermediate hobbyist as well. It is a comprehensive guide to all but the rarest cacti and succulent identification.

It covers the care and cultivation of these plants with beautiful photographs and illustrations. Each plant group or genus has an introduction about the main features and characteristics of that group. It also contains a description of the various species in the group along with a picture of the plants. It lists the natural habitat for each species, as well as the best growing situation. The book also identifies the country of origin.

It has a Glossary of common cacti and succulent terminology, a Plants List, and a thorough Index as well. I purchased this book at the Inter-City Show several years back. I can't imagine raising cacti and succulents without it. I note that it is also available for purchase through Amazon.

- Judi Romine



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2010

Buck Hemenway, President
Horace Birgh, Vice President
Ana Wisnev, Treasurer
Irma Juarez, Secretary
Phil Skonieczki, Board Member
Karen Ostler, Board Member

Ralph Massey, Board Member
Bill Gerlach, Board Member
Patty Caro, Board Member
Judi Romine, Board Member
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 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 —

Ferocactus

Ferocactus is one of many genera of cacti first described by Nathaniel Lord Britton (1857-1934) and Joseph Nelson Rose (1862-1928) in their four-volume work, 'The Cactaceae' (1919-1923). It means "fierce thistle" (from the Latin *ferox* and the Greek *kaktos*). This genus has become, for many, the iconic descriptor of all barrel cactus, particularly in the United States.

When first described, this genus included many species later assigned to different genera. Today, about 30 species are included *Ferocactus*; the genus is endemic to the southwestern United States and northwestern (to central) Mexico.

Ferocactus include large barrel-shaped cacti, but also smaller round stems, and clumps of a few to many stems. The stems are ribbed – mostly straight, sometimes tuberculate. Young specimens are columnar but form ribs as they age, and take on a barrel form.

All species have stout spines. Some spines are very thick and heavy; they may be hooked or straight. Spines come in a wide range of colors, often varying within species, and may be yellow, gray, white, brown, pinkish, or most notably, brilliant red. On many species, the central spines feature ridges that run the width of the spine.

All species have small flowers (one to two inches). They arise from the top of the plant, often forming a ring around the apex. Flowers vary from yellow to red, and are funnel shaped. The flowers are pink, yellow, red or purple de-



Ferocactus emori ssp. covillei
photographed in Sabino Canyon,
Tucson

pending on the species, and the petals sometimes have a stripe of a darker color.

Fruits in most species are elongated and bright yellow, forming bright yellow rings around the apex. The fruits are mostly dry with a very tough, fleshy skin, and contain many hard black or brown seeds. Propagation is usually from seeds.

Ferocactus are desert dwellers and can cope with some frost and intense heat. Due to their size, *Ferocactus* can be spotted easily from the road and often indicate a habitat where other cactus may be found.

In cultivation they require full sun, little water, and good drainage. All are summer growers. Some species are endemic to our locale, but all can be grown in the ground here.

Ferocactus TO TRY

Ferocactus chrysacanthus is a dark-green plant that is initially globular, later cylindrical, that can reach three feet high and one foot wide with age. It is endemic to Baja California. There are 13-22 tubercled ribs; about five slender white radial spines and four to ten curved yellow (most common) to red centrals, up to three inches long. Its flowers are diurnal, with yellow inner petals and pale brownish pink outer petals.

Ferocactus cylindraceus (common names: California Barrel, Cliff Barrel, Compass Barrel, Compass Cactus, Desert Barrel, Golden-Spined Barrel, Spiny Barrel Cactus) is unusual in collections, though is endemic here, and can be found in Anza Borrego State

Park and Joshua Tree National Park, as well as Arizona and Baja California. It, too, is initially globular and later cylindrical with age, reaching nine feet high and two feet wide. Its forms vary from solitary (most common) to clumping. It, too, has numerous tubercled ribs, slender white radial spines, but only one curved yellow to red (most common) central spine. Its flowers are diurnal, and range from green to yellow.

Ferocactus emoryi is a solitary plant, initially bluish-green, later dark-green in color. It is found in Arizona, California and Baja California. It, too, is cylindrical with age, growing up to five feet tall and two feet wide. It has about 30 ribs

with brown wooly areoles, about six white to reddish radial spines, and one longer central spine (up to three inches). This day bloomer has red to yellow flowers.

Ferocactus robustus is a clumper, offsetting at the base. Each stem can reach eight inches in diameter; it is dull green and somewhat oval in shape. Each stem has about eight ribs, 12 yellowish radial spines about an inch long, and five straight, slightly flat central spines about two inches long. This day bloomer has yellow to orange-yellow flowers.



Ferocactus chrysacanthus

Ferocactus wislizenii (common names: Arizona Barrel Cactus, Candy Barrel Cactus, Fishhook Barrel Cactus, Southwestern Barrel Cactus) is found east of here, in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Saguaro National Park. It is solitary, dark green and cylindrical with age, reaching three feet high and a foot across. It has about 21 notched ribs, 20 bristly grayish radial spines, and one or more reddish hooked central spines to over three inches. This diurnal bloomer has golden yellow flowers that deepen to orange.

Anne Keegan, May 2010

Sources: The Cactus Handbook, Haustein, and, Cacti, Innes & Glass

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Miniatures

Miniature succulents are plants that are diminutive in habitat and staged as miniatures – the pot can be no more than three-inches wide or high. Like all succulents, miniatures succulents are plants that retain water and are adapted to arid climate or soil conditions; they

store water in their leaves, stems, and/or roots.

Many succulents begin life small, e.g., *Crassula*, *Sedum*, and *Adromiscus* miniatures are common, but as they offset, they must be managed to retain their miniature status over time. There are also solitary plants that are naturally petite and need no special attention to remain so once planted, e.g., some *Euphorbias*, *Aloes*, and *Haworthias* are naturally diminutive. Then there are solitary plants that remain small due to the confines of their pots (e.g., some *Agaves*).

Some succulent miniatures are winter growers (e.g., *Pleispilos*), and others, summer growers (e.g., *Fenestraria*). They vary in form (e.g., rosette, stemless, globular, tree-like), and hardiness (from alpine *Sempervivum* to tropical *Epiphytes*).

Miniature Succulents TO TRY

Adromischus marianiae var. *herrei* is a small, unusual looking plant. It has rough, petiolate leaves, thin stems, and thin inflorescences. Its leaves resemble dried berries or raisins, depending on their color. Forms have been collected with red, brown and pale green leaves; all are very desirable. Makes an interesting specimen plant, even as a miniature.

Bulbine weissi is a dwarf species of tuberous plants found chiefly in southern Africa (extending into tropical Africa), with a few species in Australia. Species of *Bulbine* resemble *Haworthia* and *Aloe* in appearance, but with soft fleshy leaves. This species exhibits a dome-shaped caudex. It is a winter grower; during its summer dormancy, its leaves die back and its roots contract into the caudex leaving no visible sign of life on the surface.



Bulbine weissi

Conophytum maughanii is a dwarf species of cushion-forming plants found primarily in South Africa and Namibia. The genus translates as “cone plant” (from the Latin “conus” and Greek “phytum”). This species is a tiny plant with small succulent leaves that are partially fused along their center. Each leaf pair



Conophytum maughanii

(together referred to as a body) is “bilobbed”. In their natural state, each stem has only one pair of leaves at a time, though one plant may have dozens of stems and dozens of leaf pairs.

Gasteria bicolor var. liliputana is a rare, dwarf succulent with rosette-shaped leaves, endemic to the eastern Cape of South Africa. It is one of the smallest of the gasterias. It offsets from the base, forming

dense mats of ten or more plants. The leaves are longer than they are broad, taper, with a strap-shaped and a smooth, mottled epidermis. Flowers can be produced at any time of year, but peak flowering is in midwinter to spring. The inflorescence is a simple, elongated raceme, much taller than the leaves; the flowers are long, pendulous, tubular, and reddish pink in color.

Haworthia fasciata is a small, clumping plant that offsets at its base. It is endemic to South Africa. It has firm, tough dark-green leaves with narrow white crested strips on the reverse. At the end of the leaf, is a non-acute spine. The flowers are small and white.

Tylecodon booliae is a dwarf species of geophytic plant found in Africa. It has deciduous leaves, which are spirally arranged. As most Tylecodons are very poisonous, handle this plant carefully.



Tylecodon booliae

Anne Keegan,
May 2010



Thank you to Anne Keegan 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.



Refreshment Signup

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

Raquel Castellanos
Anne Keegan
Armida Saucedo

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

Welcome New Members



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

David and Shirley Hickman

Michael and Danielle Romero

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 14 and 15, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Gates Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon. For information call 951-3608802. Sale on Friday and Saturday - Show on Saturday only.

May 16, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm — Huntington Annual Spring Plant Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens. Arrive early for the best selection and bring a wagon or cart to carry your purchases. Members shop early at a preview sale on Saturday, May 15, from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. For more information call 310-833-6823 or visit www.Huntington.org.

May 16 — Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. For information call 310-670-8148.

May 22 and 23, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm — Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA for information call 805-237-2054 or go to the website at www.centralcoastcactus.org.

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.

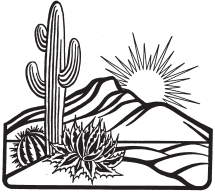
June 25 to 27 — CSSA Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Plant sale 9:30 - 4:00 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Show opens at 10:00 on Saturday. Free to the public.

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.

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

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
May	Ferocactus	Miniatures	Vegetative Propagation Workshop
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



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***.