



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

May 2011 - Volume 44, Number 5

**May Meeting:
Thursday,
May 12 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:

*Rebutia - Sulcorebutia
- Weingartia*

SUCCULENT:

Hoya & Dischidia

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
May 18th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Vegetative Propagation

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President's Message

Is spring really here? It hasn't rained for a week, so I guess so. Just a few extra weeds to pull, and it will look like Southern California once again. As I am writing this message, we are in final preparations for the CSSA Convention. I know I'm looking forward to it, I look forward to seeing a number of our members there too.

We have a **Home Garden Tour planned for Saturday, May 14.** I hope that many of our members can make it. The three gardens on the tour will be very nice, and there will be plants to purchase at most of them. Please see the maps and instructions inside.

Our May speaker is Guillermo Rivera. See more about him, but don't miss his talk on the flora and fauna of Patagonia.

We have Board of Directors meeting scheduled on Wednesday, May 18 at Coco's at Michillinda & Colorado at 6:00PM prior to the Study Group.

I hope that everyone is enjoying the weather,
See you at the meeting

Buck Hemenway

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April Mini-Show Results

Cacti - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor

Novice

- 1st Gary & Jamie Mancuso Ferocactus rectispinus
 2nd Gary & Jamie Mancuso Echinocactus
 platyacanthus

Intermediate

- 1st Glen & Linda Carlzen Mamillaria bombycina
 2nd Jim Nones Epiphyllum hyb. Princess
 Grace x unknown
 3rd Jim Nones Epiphyllum hyb. King of
 Yellows x Venetian Affair

Master

- 1st Frank Nudge Strombocactus disciformis
 2nd Frank Nudge Ariocarpus kotschoubenanus
 3rd Frank Nudge Ariocarpus retusus

Succulents - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor

Novice

- 1st Rebecca Mallonee

Intermediate

- 1st Tom Vermilion Lithops lesliei v. albinica
 2nd Tom Vermilion Tanquana millardii
 2nd Tom Vermilion x Gasteraloe "Spikey Jr."
 3rd Dick Tatman Euphorbia species

Master

- 1st Tom Glavich Pachypodium bispinosum
 2nd Frank Nudge Euphorbia bupleurifolia

Welcome New Members



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

- Rose Rosenberg, Valley Village**
Ann Kneeder, Los Angeles
Hiromi Sato, Glendale
Kim Manfredi, Morgan Hill

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.

This Month's Program

Nature and Cacti from Patagonia

Our speaker for May is Guillermo Rivera. Many of us know Guillermo, who visits us annually to enthral us with pictures and stories of South America and the fabulous plants that grow there. He is a true cactus expert. We were privileged to travel with him in Argentina last fall along with Paul and Carol Maker. His expertise was a great bonus to a fabulous trip.

Guillermo will speak on Patagonia this time. The plants and other wildlife of this region at the bottom of the earth are special. It should be a fabulous talk.

Guillermo Rivera was born in Argentina. He is the owner of South America Nature Tours which organizes tours throughout South America with emphasis on plants. Guillermo has a BS in Biology and PhD in Botany from University of Cordoba, Argentina and an MS in marine Biology from Northeastern University.

Study Group

Wednesday, May 18th • Vegetative Propagation

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 Corner

Congratulations to the new editor of the CSSA Journal, Tim Harvey. His first issue has been delivered to members around the world. He is another in a long line of accomplished succulent enthusiasts to share his expertise and enthusiasm with readers of that excellent publication.

The CSSA will be holding the annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA on July 1, 2 and 3. We hope to see many of our local Society friends there as well as out-of-towners who are able to stop by the best C&S sale anywhere.

Club Bulletin Board

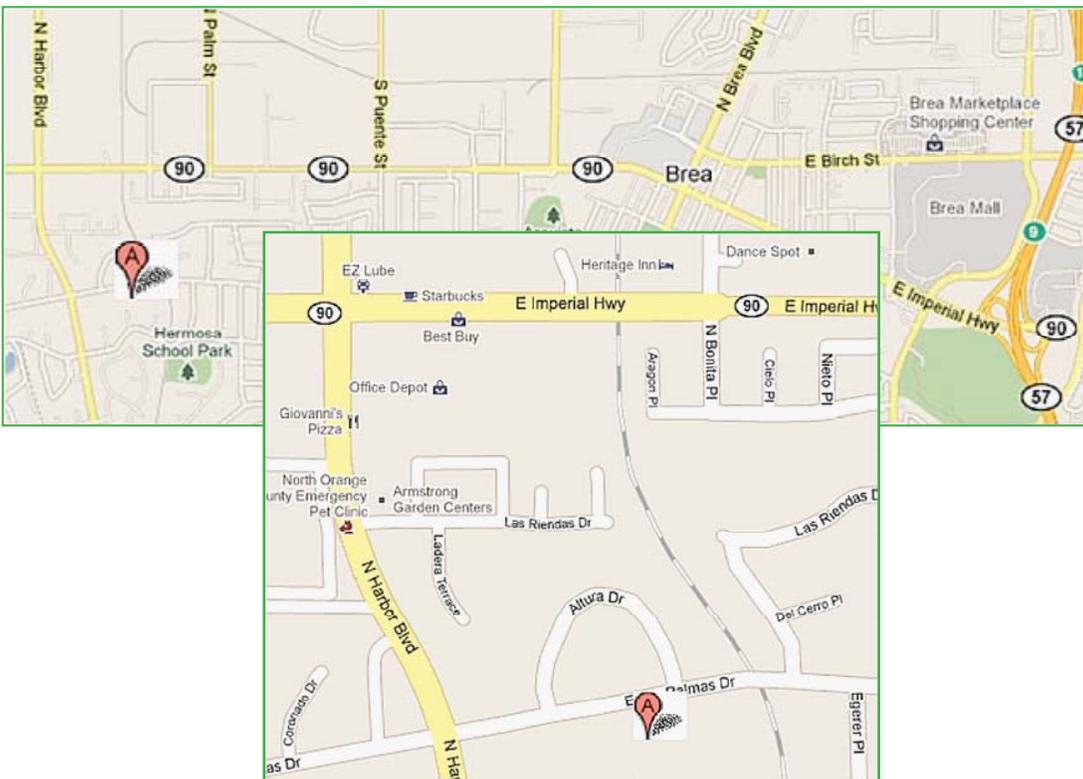
HOME GARDEN TOUR, May 14, 2011

Plan to arrive at the Gerlach's about 9:00 AM
 You can reach Buck's cell phone all day 951-360-8802



Bill & Rita Gerlach
 719 S Albertson
 Covina, CA
 626-332-8008

Travel east or west on I-10 in the Covina area. Exit on either Citrus or Azusa and drive north to Workman. Turn towards Albertson (A) and turn north on Albertson to destination.



We'll spend about 1 hour at the Gerlachs, leaving at a little before 10:00. Arriving at Vince's at about 10:20. Leaving Gerlachs:

Return to I-10 and turn east towards San Bernardino. Exit south on SR 57 and continue to Imperial Hiway in Fullerton. Exit west on Imperial Hiway (90) and travel to Harbor Blvd. Turn south on Harbor to Las Palmas. Turn left to Vince's house.

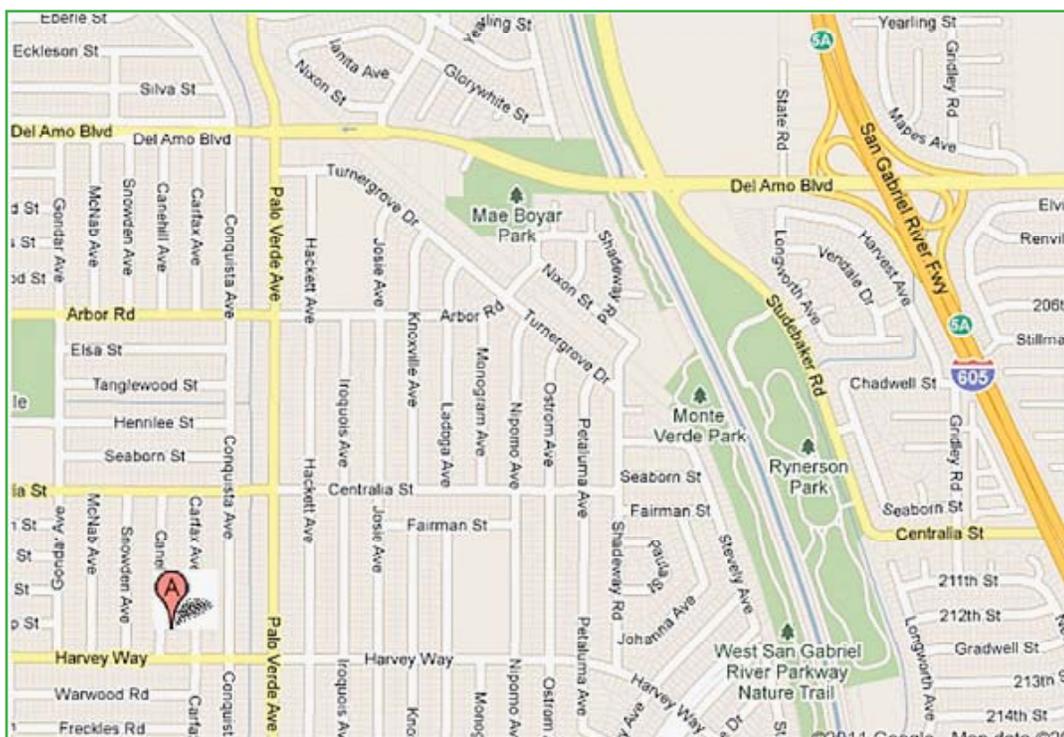
Vince Basta
 230 E Las Palmas Dr.
 Fullerton, CA 92835
 714 267-4329

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
 Tricia Kangrga, Director
 Hannah Nguyen, Director
 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



After about 1 hour at Vince's we'll travel to Hank's house. Plan about 1/2 hour, arriving there at around 12:00.

Leaving Basta's house, return to SR 57 and turn south to SR 91. Exit west on SR 91 and travel to I-605. Exit south on I-605 and exit west on Del Amo Blvd. Turn left on Palo Verde Ave to Harvey Way. Turn right on Harvey to Canehill and turn right to Hank's house.

Hank Warzybok
4318 Canehill
Lakewood, CA 90713
562-429-7110

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.

CACTI OF THE MONTH —

REBUTIA, SULCOREBUTIA, WEINGARTIA

In 1895, the German botanist Karl Schumann created the monotypic genus *Rebutia* (holotype: *R. miniscula*). The genus was named in honor of Pierre Rebut, a 19th century French cactus dealer and expert.

In 1951, the German horticulturist Curt Backeberg created the genus *Sulcorebutia* (holotype: *S. steinbachii*, Werderman). The modifier "sulco" is from the Latin "sulcus", meaning furrow.

In 1958, the Bolivian botanist Martín Cárdenas created the genus *Weingartia* (holotype: *R. fidaiana* ssp. *cintiensis*, D.R. Hunt, 1997). The genus was named in honor of Wilhelm Weingart, a German cactus expert.

While the botanical trend for cactus genera for

most of the 20th century was to create new genera, the current approach is to consolidate plants into fewer genera. Likewise, the number of recognized species is less; what were once classified as separate species are now considered varieties, forms or synonyms. So today, *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia* are synonyms of *Rebutia*, and they have fewer associated species.

Rebutias/Sulcorebutias/Weingartias are found in Bolivia, Argentina, and Peru. In Bolivia, these genera are primarily found in the Puna, the (eastern Andes mountains) Cordillera Oriental's high habitable basins: the Cochabamba, Sucre, and Tarija (6,000 to 10,000 feet in altitude) and in the Cordillera Occidental (the northwestern Andes mountains bordering Peru). In Argentina, these genera are primarily found in the northwestern Andean region and the western portion of the subtropical plain of the north (the Gran Chaco).

Rebutias can be grown in the ground in southern California, but they must be kept dry in winter. [My ground plants do much better than potted plants.] To prevent root rot, they should be planted high, with pumice or gravel surrounding the base of the plant; this helps the water drain fast and provides good air circulation. They should also be planted in some shade – they can burn in our August/September sun. Depending on the amount of sunlight they receive, they will turn purplish.

Rebutias are small plants, with large flowers (relative to body size), and bright colors (e.g., red, orange, yellow, and sometimes, white). Their flowers, which close up at night, will last four or five days.

Rebutias are dwarf, round to cylindrical plants, often offsetting with age to produce large clumps, though some are solitary. *Rebutias* have small spines, with tubercles arranged in spirals, and no distinctive ribs.

Rebutias need bright light, a planting mix with excellent drainage, good air circulation and cool to cold night temperatures. They prefer to be drenched and let dry. *Weingartias* tend to be more rot-prone, and are not as frost resistant as *Rebutias*.

Some *Rebutias/Sulcorebutias/Weingartias* to try:

S. rauschii Frank (Chuquisaca, Bolivia) This plant has a tuberous root, a depressed, globose body an inch by one-half inch around that is freely clustering, with a blackish-green to purple body and black or gold spines. It has 16 oblique ribs divided into low tubercles every two inches. Areoles are oblong and sparsely white-felted. Make sure the potting mix drains thoroughly, the pot accommodates the root ball, and that the plant receives strong light and is kept dry in the winter.

R. miniscula K. Schumann. (Salta, Argentina) Medium green, flattened sphere to depressed globose plant, two inches in diameter. Offsets prolifically. This is a good plant for beginners, with many varieties.

R. mentosa purpurea (aka *S. purpurea*) Ritter. Solitary, fresh green, from flattened sphere to hemispherical, up to 2-1/2 inches in diameter, with long tap roots, pectinate red-brown to black spines and a purple flower. Keep dry in winter. The more sunlight the plant gets, the more purple in color it gets.



Rebutia mentosa purpurea

S. steinbachii (Werderm.) Backeb. (Cochabamba, Bolivia) This is an extremely variable plant. Spines can be pectinate to long and dagger-like. Flower color has extreme variation in single population. Solitary to clumping, with tuberous root and up to 13 indistinct ribs dividing into alternating oblong rhomboidal tubercles. It is easy to grow; watch out for root rot. It requires strong filtered light and a very porous potting mix.

R. neocummingii subsp. *neocummingii* (aka *W. longigibba*) (Backeb.) D.R.Hunt 1987 (Cordillero Occidental, Bolivia/Peru) This is an extremely variable plant in spination and flower color. It is usually solitary, spherical to shortly cylindrical, up to four inches wide and eight inches tall. Up to 18 tuberculate ribs, often spiraling. This plant requires a very porous potting mix, and a cool winter rest period



Weingartia longigibba

Anne Keegan, May 2011

Sources: Cacticulture Series III: Rebutia, Marsden & Jackson; The Cactus Handbook, Haustein; Cacti, Innes & Glass; Cacti: The Illustrated Dictionary, Preston-Mafham
All pictures courtesy of Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

HOYA and *DISCHIDIA*

Hoya and *Dischidia* are described in the wide-ranging family of *Asclepiadaceae*. *Hoyas* vary from the more common terrestrial designs of *Stapeliads* to having vine and shrub forms. As widely distributed and loved as *Hoyas* are, *Dischidias* are virtually unknown. This oversight is partially explained by the easily achieved and abundant blooms of the *Hoya*. Their dangling umbrels of nectar-drip-



Hoya bloom umbrel

ping five-pointed blooms typifying the *Asclepiadaceae* flower are colorful and charming. Not only do the blooms lack the “rotting meat” smell of others in the genus, the nectar is sweet and palatable to humans. The relative ease of propagation through both seed and cuttings has made them readily available. A nifty propagation device is this: using a large ziplock bag, add a handful of pumice, about one inch of water, mist the interior with a fungicide, add a stem cutting with a pair of leaves, seal, and watch the roots form. Remove the plant when the roots are substantial.

Grown in similar environments as new world *Epiphytums*, these southeast Asian vines will thrive. Warm damp environments, filtered sunlight, monthly fertilizing during summer months, rich but fast-draining soil mixes add up to frequent blooming rewards.



Hoya carnosa “variegata”

Don't expose to frost and never allow soil to go completely dry. These are not bog plants and should not be kept soaking. Flowers re-bloom from old bracts and these should not be removed. A

favorite take-out food stop for mealybugs, the plants can be treated topically or with systemic insecticides. About two hundred species originate from India, China and south through the islands to Australia.

Dischidia blooms are pale cousins to the glorious bundles of blooms on *Hoyas*. Many blooms lack the flared open structure of *Hoyas* and for this reason are difficult to pollinate. They are mostly propagated by taking cuttings of relatively young branches or offsets.

What *Dischidias* lack in floral charm they make up for with their weird, often inflated leaves or stems, some of which become habitats for ants. The blooms are similar in some ways to those of *Cynanchums*.



Dischidia pectinoides (Note inflated leaves)

This genus includes vine forms as well as terrestrial shapes forming interesting caudexes. Treat them like your *Hoyas* but give frequent misting. About eighty species have been found from western Asia to the western Pacific. For great information about *Dischidia* visit www.dischidia.com.

Ralph Massey, May 2011

Sources: A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants – The American Horticultural Society

Asclepiadaceae – Focke Albers, Ulrich Meve

Special thanks for research assistance to Norma Lewis



Thank you to Anne Keegan and Ralph Massey 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.



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
Richard Roosman

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

May 15, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm — Huntington Plant Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Roac, Sam Marino

May 15 — Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia. For more information call 310-670-8148.

May 20 and 21, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Gates Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. For more information visit www.gates.org or call 951-360-8802.

May 28 and 29, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm — Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Road, San Luis Obispo, CA Visit www.centralcoastcactus.org for more information.

June 4 and 5 — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. For more information call 858-382-1797.

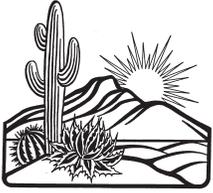
June 11 and 12 — Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA. For more information visit lacss.contact@gmail.com.

July 1, 2 and 3 — CSSA Annual Show & Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Plant sales on all three days, show is open for viewing July 2 and 3. Free to the public.

July 29 and 30 — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale ****NEW VENUE**** Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. Friday noon until 7:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information contact Vince Basta at 714-267-4329.

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

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
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 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***.