

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

November 2013 - Volume 46, Number 9

**NOVEMBER Meeting:
Thursday,
November 14 at 7:30 pm**

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

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:
Epiphytic Cacti

SUCCULENT:
Epiphytic Succulents

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
November 20th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Winter Seed Workshop

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President's Message

Our Winter Show is this weekend, November 1st and 2nd. You can help in several ways. First, bring your plants! If you have never entered the show, I promise you it will be a great experience. Second, invite your friends to the show and spread the word. Third, volunteer for a few hours. There are plenty of jobs that could use extra hands, eyes, and a smile. Last, the very best vendors will be at the show. Plants, pots, and books-- it's all here. Please support them.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors on Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 pm in Ayers Hall. Among topics to be discussed will be the 2014 field trips. If you have any ideas or requests, please tell a board member.

We will elect officers at the November meeting. The slate of officers is in this month's Communiqué Newsletter. During the meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor. Any floor-nominated person must be in attendance and be willing to accept the nomination.

On the horizon ... our Holiday Dinner will be Sunday, December 8th. The fun begins at 5:00 pm. Don't forget to mark your calendar. We will have a surprise treat this year!

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August Mini-Show Results

Thelocactus

Novice

1st Danielle Romero T. hexaedrophorus

Intermediate

1st Glen/Linda Carlzen T. setispinus setaceus
 2nd Gunnar Eisel T. rinconensis
 3rd Glen/Linda Carlzen T. bicolor tricolor

Open

1st Ken Shaw T. macdowellii
 2nd Ken Shaw T. hexaedrophorus
 3rd Ken Shaw T. rinconensis

Lithops

Novice

1st Shaun Adams L. weneri
 2nd Shaun Adams L. pseudotruncatella

Intermediate

1st Louise Stack L. schwantesii

Open

1st Tom Vermilion L. pseudotruncatella 'Alpina'
 2nd Tom Vermilion L. aucampiae 'Jackson's
 Jade'
 3rd Tom Vermilion L. weneri



**Happy
 Thanksgiving !**

President's Message - cont'd.

The November speaker will be our very own Tom Glavich whose timely presentation will be on "Winter Bulbs"

See you at the meeting!

Gunnar Eisel

20th Annual San Gabriel Valley Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale



November 2 & 3 2013, 9am to 4 pm

This Month's Program

"Winter Growers"

Tom Glavich will give us a presentation of the Winter growers from three Mediterranean regions around the world, South Africa, the Mediterranean coast and islands, and the coast of California and Northern Mexico. Cultivation and growing conditions are discussed along with pictures of old friends and rarely seen rarities.

Tom is one of the Inter-city Co-chairs and a long time member of our club.



Eriospermum folioliferum

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 Bulletin Board

SGVCSS Elections

The following slate of officers will run for election to the position of Director for the 2014-15 term. Election will be held at the November 2013 meeting.

Directors: (vote for three)
 Horace Birgh
 Mary Brumbaugh
 Rebecca Mallonee
 Ralph Massey

Book Review

By: Phil Skonieczki

A Gallery of Agaves

Author: John Pilbeam
 Publisher: British Cactus and Succulent Society
 Pages: 317 Price: \$59.95

This is definitely a picture book. Not quite coffee table size at 11" wide and 8 1/2" tall but looks more that type with one picture per page and a couple of lines of text beneath. In his forward Pilbeam says nothing can match Gentry's "*Agaves of Continental North America*" in depth of coverage. His goal is to provide large color photos of the species and he has done so with clear sharp pictures that self describe the taxa.

There are three pages on classification of two subgenera and 25 groups with characteristics and the species listed in the groups. These are easy to read and help visualize and place the species in their taxonomic slot and relation to each other.

Then a page on cultivation mostly pertaining to the U.K., a map of U.S. and Mexican states where plants reside and a list by country and state and which species grow there. Next is an alpha list of all spe-

cies and localities including in bold red ink the 42 not illustrated in the book. Most of those are Caribbean species and 12 ancient cultivars such as *A. tecta*.

The heart of the book is pages 16 through 243. This section covers 195 taxa, usually a full page of each plant, mostly in habitat and a few of inflorescence. Underneath are a few lines of text that always gives the full Latin name, naming citations, size in metrics, comments that may include use, rarity, beauty, taxonomy or habitat.

Pages 245 to 312 cover, in the same format, 61 variegates and oddities displaying the charm and variety that collectors and growers admire. A complete index follows.

What's not in the book? *Manfredas* are excluded. No synonymy and usage is almost nonexistent. Got a plant you don't know? If it's a species, or variegate you'll probably be able to identify it by flipping through the pictures. Want an *Agave* for show or landscape? This book can help you decide.

Winter Show Dinner

The Winter Show dinner will be held Saturday evening, November 2nd at 5:30 pm in Ayers Hall. Dinner will be a special meal, prepared by Richard Jones Pit BBQ Catering. The menu will include three meats; Chicken Breast, Beef Brisket (cooked for 16 hours) and Pork Spare Ribs. It will be accompanied by 4 side dishes including BBQ Beans, Green Beans & Almonds, Mixed Green Salad and Seasonal Vegetable Medley. Also included are Rolls, Butter, BBQ Sauce, Beverage and Apple Cobbler for dessert. The cost is \$25 per person. All reservations and payments must be in by Thursday, October 31st so the caterer will know how many to prepare for. If you would like to join us please contact Donn Muhleman: donnmuhleman@aol.com

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2013

Gunnar Eisel, President
 Tom Vermilion, Vice President
 Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
 Pat Swain, Secretary
 Rebecca Mallonee, Director
 Mary Brumbaugh, Director

Brian Le, Director
 Shaun Adams, Director
 Dean Elzinga, Director
 Louise Stack, Director
 Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
 Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
 Buck Hemenway, Plant Sales Chair
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair
 Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
 Cindy Arakaki, Librarian
 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.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

Epiphytic Cacti

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 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



Epiphyllum 'Lloyd J Pittman'



Epiphyllum 'Three Oranges'

summer and early fall will also work. Thin stemmed epiphytes, such as most of the Rhip-salis 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 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) kinnachii is a large red to pink flow-



Hatiora salicornioides

ered species with long thin stems.



Rhipsalis cereuscula

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

Sub species of *Rhipsalis bac-cifera* are found in tropical Africa Madagascar and the islands of the Indian 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 —

Epiphytic Succulents

Epiphytic Succulents form a mixed group of mostly tropical plants. Many of these come from genera that are not often collected by succulent growers, and fall more into other specialist collections. It's rare in our shows to have more than a few epiphytic succulents exhibited. Nonetheless, there is a wealth of Epiphytic Succulent genera to explore.

The *Asclepiadaceae* offers a number of wonderful plants, many from unusual locales for the Succulent grower, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, etc.

There are about 40 species of *Dischidia*, almost all epiphytic with clearly thick leaves. They come from hot humid places, and rainfall although frequent is not around long enough to provide a constant water source. These thick leaved plants thrive with frequent watering, particularly in the summer. Some require winter protection from temperatures below 40.

A related and more popular genus is *Hoya*.

Hoya are often somewhat more tolerant of cold, tolerating temperatures into the mid 30s and occasionally even below without much damage. *Hoya* have

been propagated and hybridized for leaf shape and flower color, and size. *Hoya* is the only succulent that has been hybridized for fragrance, giving the grower a choice that stretches from chocolate to raw sewage (these are very showy, and not powerful).



Hoya 'Julian Rope'

The Bromeliad family is another great source of interesting epiphytic succulents. The most commonly seen epiphytic bromeliads are members of the genus *Tillandsia*. There are hundreds of succulent species, cultivars and hybrids. Many enthusiasts collect nothing else. The flowers are often spectacular,



Tillandsia ionantha

sometimes remarkably fragrant. The plants are easily grown for the most part. Some species are only available from bromeliad nurseries, but a surprisingly large selection passes through retail outlets. They require frequent watering in the summer, and moving air at all times.

There are other succulent epiphytes in the Bromeliad family, some well known, and some not so well known. The genus *Quesnelia* offers some great species and hybrids and does *Aechmea* and *Billbergia*. Some of these are grown as epiphytic, but are really opportunists, growing on trees, rocks, power lines, etc.; wherever they can get a hold to start germination.

There are about 80 genera in the Bromeliad Family, and well over half have species that are both epiphytic and succulent.

Going further a field, the orchid family has many succulent epiphytic members. Shown below is *Epidendrum parkinsonianum*, a succulent epiphytic member of a family that is often terrestrial. This is growing, surrounded by *Tillandsias*, getting morning sun. It needs frequent watering and benefits from occasional

fertilizing, as do most epiphytic plants.

Tom Glavich
May 2004



Epidendrum parkinsonianum and
Tillandsia latifolia v. *divaricata*

Refreshment Signup

Rosie Garcia
Fred Parrales
Liz VanAlstine

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 new members and make them feel welcome at our functions.

Deisy Espinosa, West Covina
Albert Guritza, Palm Springs
David Hawks, Riverside

C&S Workshop

Wednesday, November 20th • Winter Seed Workshop

First, a few words about our workshops and what we do there. First and foremost, it's a more intimate and relaxed setting: held in the Palm Room, not Ayres Hall. (After you enter the Arboretum gate, take an immediate left, go downstairs, and it is the first room on your left.)

Participants range from commercial growers to experienced hobbyists to the inexperienced newcomers. Anywhere from 15 to 45 people participate, and run the gamut of abilities and interests. Some attend who never exhibit at a show and/or have trouble keeping a plant alive to the "masters". One and all have a place at our workshops.

Tom Glavich leads the group this month. The Club will provide all the materials you need to start new additions to your collections. There will be soil, pots, plastic bags, and winter-growing plant seeds (from the CSSA, and sometimes, others) – all for free! You will leave with at least two pots of planted seeds that you can watch germinate, grow, and hopefully, exhibit at a future meeting or show.

As the focus is on growing from seed (one of the cheapest ways to add to your collection, particularly for rare or endangered species), Tom will cover: equipment, sowing, and growing techniques/strategies, water, lighting, labeling, temperature control, seeds (selection, sources, treatment), and transplanting.

Tom says he has had the best germination results for seeds he takes home from the seed workshops. Our next seed workshop will not be until Spring 2014.

And don't forget – there is always an informal raffle; everyone takes home a plant or plant cuttings. Hope to see you there.

Anne Keegan, November 2013

Sources: Botany for Gardeners, Brian Capon; The Complete Book of Plant Propagation, Graham Clarke & Alan Toogood; 101 Essential Tips for Cacti and Succulents, Terry Hewitt; Seeds and Propagation, Susan McClure;

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 2 and 3, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — 20th Annual San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale in Ayres Hall at the LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia.

November 15, 16 and 17, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — The Living Desert Fall Plant Sale. (15% discount, members 25% discount). 47900 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert, 92260. Visit www.livingdesert.org for more information.

November 16 and 17, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm — ACS-DC Clay Festival and Gift Show in Ayres Hall at the LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia. The festival is free with admission to the Arboretum. For information call Celeste at 818-599-4233 or Eileen at 818-894-1232.

December 8th, 5:00 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society **Annual Holiday Party** at Ayers Hall, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

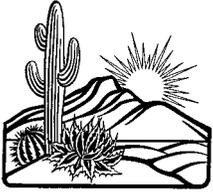


Dues for 2014 are due at the end of December. The rate for 2014 is unchanged and will be \$15.00 per household member for electronic delivery and \$25.00 per household per year for postal delivery. Please make your check payable to SGVCSS and mail to: Bill Gerlach, 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723.

Checks must be received by January 31 to be included in the 2014 Roster.

2013 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Jan.	White Spined Mammillaria Clusters	Small Aloes - less than 12" across	Tips, Tools & Techniques
Feb.	Stenocactus	Haworthia	Conophytums
Mar.	North American Opuntiads	Tylecodon, Cotyledon	Pelargoniums
Apr.	Eriosyce, Copiapoa	Dudleya	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Echinopsis	Caudiciforms, Pachycauls	Grafting Workshop
June	Astrophytum	Medusoid Euphorbias	Rebutias, Sulcorebutias, Weingartia
July	Oroya, Matucana	Adenium	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Stapeliads
Sept.	Coryphantha, Escobaria	Sansevieria	Cephaliated Cacti
Oct.	Thelocactus	Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Epiphytic Cacti, inc. Xmas Cactus	Epiphytic Succulents	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**.