



COMMUNIQUE

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
February 2004 Volume 37 Number 2

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 12th. The program for February will be given by Gary Duke. It's entitled "**Natural *Echinocereus* Hybrids.**" He will discuss and show slides of "the amazing diversity in flower color and spine variation of *Echinocereus* hybrids" found in a small area of Otero County, New Mexico. His articles in the **Cactus and Succulent Journal Vol.75, No. 5 and No. 6**, document the topic.

Plants of the Month: (see the attached write ups)

CACTI – Single-Headed *Mammillaria*

SUCCULENTS – *Pachyphytum* & *Graptopetalum*

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride & joy.

Study Group: Join us on Wednesday, February 18th, when our topic will be *Kalanchoe*. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine room of the San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive.

Future POM and Study Group Topics: For those who like to prepare in advance, here is our schedule of subjects for the rest of the year:

Month	Cactus of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group Topic
Mar	Opuntiaceae	Haworthia	Gymnocalycium
Apr	Uebelmannia and Discocactus	Kalanchoe	Seed Workshop
May	Astrophytum	Aloe	Vegetative Propagation
Jun	Epiphytic Cacti	Epiphytic Succulents	Portulacaceae
July	Gymnocalycium	Pterodiscus, Sesamothamnus,	Pests and Disease
Aug	Turbiniacarpus	Uncarina	Cultivation
Sep	Ariocarpus	Bromeliaceae	Bromeliaceae
Oct	Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya	African Pachypodiums	Astrophytum
Nov	Thelocactus	Ceraria & Portulaca	Aloe Hybrids
		Mesemb	

Refreshments: We could use a few more volunteers to bring goodies to this month's meeting. Openings exist for refreshment sign-ups throughout the coming year. The sign-up sheet will be at the refreshment table. Thanks to everyone who brought things for the January meeting.

The President's Corner: We will have our first Board Meeting on Saturday, February 28th. We will begin with a pot-luck lunch at 12 noon and hope to start the board meeting around 1:00. It will be

held at the home of Tom Glavich, 1979 Skyview Drive, Altadena CA. If you need directions, give Tom a call at 626-798-2430. Although only officers and board members can vote, all members are welcome to attend.

Tim Jackson

Personnel Notices: It is with sorrow and a sense of emptiness that we note the passing of one of our long-time contributing members, Esther Lelah. It is reported that she enjoyed an active 80th birthday on December 29th, only to pass away on the 30th of a sudden heart attack. Her gentle presence will be missed by all.

10 years ago: Myron Kimmach gave a talk about his travels and the plants of Madagascar.

20 years ago: Dr. David Anderson, genetic engineer, gave a program on Tissue Culture.

30 years ago: John Catlin, gave a talk on Landscaping with Succulents.

(Thanks go to Tom Glavich for providing this interesting feature)

2004 Roster: The 2004 Roster is being compiled. For you to be included in the roster, your dues - \$12.00 for individuals or \$15.00 for a family at the same address - must be up to date. See the bottom of the address label on your most recent COMMUNIQUE for the date through which your dues have been paid. It's also included in the E-mail sent to you announcing the on-line availability of the COMMUNIQUE if you have subscribed to that program. If there have been any changes to your Address, Phone Number or E-Mail since last year be sure to forward the info to Rita Gerlach. You can give her a note at the meeting with your updated info or mail it to her at SGVC&SS Membership, 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723-3302 You can E-mail it to her (Bill Gerlach really) at Wjgerlach@cs.com

Get Your COMMUNIQUE Online: If you would be content to view the COMMUNIQUE on-line and not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy, enter your name and E-mail address on the sign-up sheet available on the front table at the meeting, or by sending it via E-mail to sgv_css@verizon.net.

SGVC&SS Online: Remember that our club has an excellent web site online at <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> If you or someone you know has internet access be sure to have a look. The pages were authored and are maintained by Gunnar Eisel who has done a fabulous job in creating an informative and classy looking web site. You can also download a version of the COMMUNIQUE complete with color photos. Look for the COMMUNIQUE link on the site's main page.

Calendar of Events - 2004

February 14th San Diego C&SS Winter Show, 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

April 10th-11th South Coast C&SS Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula.

May 1st-2nd Sunset C&SS Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City CA.

May 16th Huntington Library and Botanical Garden Spring Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

- June 5th-6th** San Diego C&SS Show and Sale, 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- July 1st-3rd** CSSA Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino, CA.
- August 14th-15th** Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
- September 4th** 21st Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA.
- October 16th-17th** SGVC&SS Winter Show, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA.

January Plant-Of-the-Month Results:

Cacti – Miniatures

Succulents- Miniatures

Beginner

1 st	Lorraine Lutz	<i>Mammillaria hernandezii</i>	1 st	Alan Hooker	<i>Euphorbia francoisii</i>
2 nd	None		2 nd	Alan Hooker	<i>Euphorbia cylindrifolia v. tuberifolia</i>
3 rd	Oscar Flores	<i>Copiapoa monstrose</i>	3 rd	Barbara Nolan	<i>Tylecodon reticulatus</i>
3 rd	Tracey Kolb	<i>Mammillaria fragilis</i>	3 rd	Barbara Nolan	<i>Conophytum v. nudum</i>

Intermediate

1 st	Carol Maker	<i>Ariocarpus kutschoubeyanus</i>	1 st	Manny Rivera	<i>Aeonium sp.</i>
2 nd	Carol Maker	<i>Strombocactus disciformis</i>	2 nd	Sokhara Tan	<i>Gasteria sp.</i>
3 rd	Sokhara Tan	<i>Mammillaria sp.</i>	3 rd	Camille Rutkowski	<i>Oxalis rubra</i>

Advanced

1 st	Frank Depew	<i>Ariocarpus kutschoubeyanus</i>	1 st	Frank Depew	<i>Sarcocaulon penculinum</i>
2 nd	Frank Depew	<i>Mammillaria pectinifera</i>	2 nd	Frank Depew	<i>Lithops olivacea</i>
3 rd	Tom Vermilion	<i>Turbinicarpus schmedickianus v. schwarzii</i>	2 nd	Tom Vermilion	<i>Lapidaria margarete</i>
			3 rd	Tom Vermilion	<i>Conophytum obcordellum</i>

Masters

1 st	Karen Ostler	<i>Mammillaria pectinifera</i>	1 st	Jim Hanna	<i>Operculicaria decaryi</i>
2 nd	Karen Ostler	<i>Turbinicarpus valdezianus</i>	2 nd	Karen Ostler	<i>Conophytum hians</i>
3 rd	Karen Ostler	<i>Geohintonia mexicana</i>	3 rd	Karen Ostler	<i>Euphorbia francoisii</i>

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the COMMUNIQUE, please forward the info to me at the address below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice.

Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: sgv_css@verizon.net or via post to: Paul Maker, 2235 Canyon Road, Arcadia, CA 91006. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the COMMUNIQUE. Material in the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society COMMUNIQUE may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCSS and the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month February 2004 - *Single Headed Mammillaria*

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the *Cactus* family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some clumped and heavily spined with hooks. This month, the plant of the month is Single Headed Mammillaria, regardless of size.



Mammillaria megiana shown in the 2003 Intercity Show by Carol and Paul Maker

Although most *Mammillaria* are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. With this wide distribution, the cultivation requirements obviously vary considerably. The species from the tropics and warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp, but can take considerable cold. With these restrictions aside, most *Mammillaria* are easy to grow.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (*Mammillaria's* worst enemy) on the tips of

the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide.



Mammillaria tesopacensis shown in the 2003 Intercity Show by Carol and Paul Maker

Propagation of single headed *Mammillaria* is only by seed. Fortunately, *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Most will survive, and grow quickly.

One of the untold secrets of Mammillaria is their beauty as seedlings. Seedlings a year or two old, are amazingly beautiful plants with all of the wool and spination that they will have as adults, but in miniature form. Color in seedlings is often much more intense than it will be in older plants. Given the ease of germination, everyone should try a few.

Magnificent Mammillarias

Mammillaria chionocephala comes from Coahuila and Nuevo Leon. It grows to about 4 inches in diameter, and eventually gets to 6 or so inches tall. The one shown at above is about three years old and three inches in diameter. It's a beautiful species from the start.

Mammillaria dixanthocentron has long golden yellow central spines that make a graceful drooping arc. It grows to nearly 10 inches high and 3 inches in diameter. The spines can add an additional inch and a half to the appearance of the body. It is found in Oaxaca and Puebla.



Mammillaria gigantea

Mammillaria gigantea is one of the largest solitary growing species getting to 10 inches or more in diameter. It is wider than it is high, and has a woolly center. It is easily grown. It

is widespread, reported from many central Mexican states.

Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae from a very small locality in Nuevo Leon is another of the single headed miniatures. It remains small, an inch or less when fully grown.



Mammillaria sempervivi

Mammillaria sempervivi from Hidalgo, San Luis Potosi, and Nuevo Leon, at altitudes of 4000 to 6000 feet. It is slow growing, and eventually gets to 4 or 6 inches in diameter. The white wool between the areoles makes this species a pleasure to look at and grow. It stays flat.

References:

- J. Pilbeam, **Cactus for the Connoisseur**
- J. Pilbeam, **Mammillaria**
- R. Craig, **The Mammillaria Handbook**
- C. Innes & C. Glass **Cacti**

Intercity Show Pictures: Tim Nomer

Tom Glavich January 2004

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulents of the Month February 2004 – *Pachyphytum* and *Graptopetalum*

Both *Pachyphytum* and *Graptopetalum* are genera in the *Crassulaceae* family. Both are primarily native to Mexico. They are relatives of *Echeveria*, *Dudleya*, and *Sedum*. The *Crassulaceae* family in the Americas is very large, with members in many genera. Although some species in these two genera look somewhat alike, they are not all that closely related. *Pachyphytum* is very closely related to *Echeveria*, so closely that some feel that it is only a subgenus. *Graptopetalum* is much more closely related to *Sedum*.



Graptopetalum superbum

Both species are primarily spring growers. They are more or less dormant during the summer, and the dead of winter. They need some water year around, and continue to grow through the summer, although generally very slowly, particularly in August and the hottest days of September. Both genera will drop leaves when heat stressed in the

summer. Continued watering will minimize but not eliminate this.

As with many *Crassulaceae*, they eventually get leggy and unsightly, with long bare stems. The plants will grow better, and you will be much happier with the appearance, if the tops are cut off and restarted every spring or two. Late March or April is the ideal time to do this. The plants are beginning to grow well as the warm days of mid spring approach, and rooting will be very rapid. Cuts can be taken and immediately potted. There is no need to wait days for the ends to dry. Use a fairly (not totally) dry potting mix, and keep the cuts in the shade for a few days until the new roots start to form. This minimizes the dropped leaves.



Graptopetalum paraguayense

When not in flower, many species of the two genera can be difficult to distinguish. When in flower, *Graptopetalum* have speckled petals. (Sometimes there are a lot of speckles, sometimes very few.) The rest of the genera in the *Echeverioideae* subfamily do not. In many references you will find the species

confused or mixed, or originally described as *Echeveria*.

The two genera have been hybridized with each other, *Echeveria*, *Sedum*, as well as *Tacitus* and *Thompsonella*, but not with *Dudleya*.

There are many undescribed species of both genera, some in cultivation, some not. Both genera are under explored and under grown by succulent plant enthusiasts. This is in part because they are so easy to grow quickly (and poorly).



Graptopetalum flower

***Pachyphytum* to Pot**

Pachyphytum compactum is a small species, perfectly happy in a one or two inch pot, at home in the Pachyphytum or miniature section of any show. When grown well, it looks like a clump of small gray pebbles.

Pachyphytum hookeri shown in the next column is a bigger version. The bright green leaves stand out.

Pachyphytum oviferum is a wonderful white-green, with egg shaped leaves. Easy to

grow, as long as you keep water off of the leaves, it is a superb show plant.



Pachyphytum hookeri

Great Graptopetalum

Graptopetalum superbum (*G. pentandrum* ssp. *superbum*) should not be touched. Easy to grow, relatively fast, clumping from the base, and a wonderful purple color. Move it carefully.

Graptopetalum paraguayense, in spite of its name is from Mexico. It is a classic *Graptopetalum*. Easy to grow, fast, and needs to be cut and started every few years.

Graptopetalum amethystinum is a round leafed species, with a light purple blush, similar in appearance to *Pachyphytum oviferum*. It has great red flowers.

References

Urs Eggli, **Crassulaceae**

M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich January 2004

CACTUS and SUCCULENT SHOW and SALE

SAT. & SUN. APRIL 10 & 11, 2004, 9am to 4pm

**SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS
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DIRECTIONS: From I 10, take 405 south to Crenshaw, go south on Crenshaw or take 110 south to Pacific Coast Hwy., go west to Crenshaw and turn left.

**A SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SOCIETY PRESENTATION**