



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
November 2004 Volume 37 Number 11

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, November 11th. The program for November is entitled "South Africa" and will be presented by Kelly Griffin. He will tell us about a lot of the neat plants he encountered on a recent trip.

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

CACTUS – *Thelocactus*

SUCCULENTS – Winter Growing *Mesembs* (excluding Conophytum)

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: Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel. These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Join us on Wednesday, November 17th when the topic will be **Aloe Hybrids**.

Personnel Notices:

The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members Doug George and Dean Weiner. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club!

Membership Renewals:

It's not too early to pay next year's dues. Send your check to Rita Gerlach at 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. \$12 for a single membership, \$15 for two people at the same address. Your prompt payment will make it easier on those keeping records and will speed up the issuance of a new roster. Your membership expiration date is on the mailing label.

Badges:

Anyone desiring a club badge should contact Bill Gerlach by phone at 626-332-8008, by mail at 719 S Albertson, Covina, CA 91723, by e-mail at wjgerlach@cs.com or see him at the next meeting. The badges cost the club \$7.00 but the cost to members is \$3.50.

Library Books:

Remember to return all library books you've checked out. We will be taking the annual inventory this month.

Refreshments: Alan Hooker and Hilde Rosenbluth have volunteered to bring in refreshments this month. More are always welcome! We continue to seek volunteers for coming months, so don't forget to sign up on the sheet located at the refreshment table! Our thanks go to Antoninette Koltaj, Jean Mullens, and everyone else who brought things for the October meeting.

10 years ago: (Information not available)

- 20 years ago:** Hazel and Don Hudson presented a program on “First Impressions of Baja”
30 years ago: Carl Meyers presented a program on “Cacti and Other Succulents – A Varied Group”.
 (Thanks go to Tom Glavich for providing this interesting feature)

SGVC&SS Election:

The nominating committee, Rene Caro, Jean Mullens and Karen Ostler, presents the following list of candidates for 2005 Club Offices:

President	Joe Clements	Board Member	Dick Tatman
Vice President	Woody Minnich	Board Member	Evelynn Stevens
Treasurer	Amber Jones	Board Member	Karen Ostler
Secretary	Rita Gerlach		

Board Members serve a 2 year term. Carryover Board Members are Jean Mullens, Hilde Rosenbluth and Tom Vermilion. At the November 11th meeting, nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The election will then take place. Many thanks to the nominating committee for a job well done.

October Plant-Of-the-Month Mini Show Results:

Cacti – *Matucana*, *Submatucana*, *Oroya*

Succulents –*Portulacaceae*

Beginner

1 st	Barbara Nolan	<i>M. aureiflora</i>	1 st	Alan Hooker	<i>Ceraria namaquensis</i>
2 nd	Barbara Nolan	<i>M. pujapatli</i>	2 nd	Alan Hooker	<i>C. pygmaea</i>
			3 rd	Alan Hooker	<i>C. pygmaea</i>

Intermediate

1 st	Manny Rivera	<i>C. fruticulosa</i>
2 nd	Manny Rivera	<i>C. pygmaea</i>
3 rd	Manny Rivera	<i>Portulacaria afra</i>

Advanced

1 st	Frank Nudge	<i>Submatucana paucicostata</i>	1 st	Frank Nudge	<i>Avonia buderiana</i>
			2 nd	Frank Nudge	<i>Avonia albissima</i>
			3 rd	Frank Nudge	<i>Talinum paniculatum</i>

Master

1 st	Vince Basta	<i>Anacampseros alstonii</i>
2 nd	Vince Basta	<i>Ceraria namaquensis</i>

Eleventh Annual Winter Show:

Our Winter Show was another huge success with 765 plants entered by 43 club members! There was a notable decrease of 10 members who entered plants over last year. 12 novice members brought in 183 plants, 17 advanced members brought in 341 plants and 14 open members brought in 241 plants! Total number of plants may have been down, but the quality and presentation of the plants were at their highest levels! Below are the point results and trophy winners:

2004 High Points

- Sweepstakes: Charles & Joann Spotts 208 points
- High Points Cacti Novice: Barbara Nolan 36 points
- High Points Cacti Advanced: Paul & Carol Maker 60 (Received Rosette to break tie with R.Caro)
- High Points Cacti Open: Charles & Joann Spotts 132
- High Points Succulents Novice: Alan Hooker 112 points
- High Points Succulents Advanced: Debbie Ball 93 points
- High Points Succulents Open: Jim Hanna 114 points

2004 Trophy Winners

Best Agave	Laura & Gene Oster	<i>Agave ocahui</i>
Best Mesemb	Charles & Joann Spotts	<i>Lithops divergens v. amethystina</i>
Best Cactus Novice	Charles Ball	<i>Mammillaria magnifica</i>
Best Cactus Advanced	Calvin & Cheryl Newman	<i>Lobivia ferox</i>
Best Cactus Open	Vince Basta	<i>Mammillaria crucigera</i>
Best Succulent Novice	Patty Caro	<i>Euphorbia aphylla</i>
Best Succulent Advanced	Debbie Ball	<i>Cyphostemma currori</i>
Best Succulent Open	Larry Grammer	<i>Agave tomeyana v. bella</i>
Best Winter Growing Succulent	Petra Crist	<i>Tylecodon reticulatus</i>
Best Collection	Tim Jackson	<i>Conophytum collection</i>
Best Ariocarpus	Vince Basta	<i>Ariocarpus retusus</i>
Best Mutant	Debbie Ball	<i>Pachypodium lameri crest</i>
Best Haworthia	Charles & Joann Spotts	<i>Haworthia semivivi</i>
Best Mammillaria	Vince Basta	<i>Mammillaria crucigera</i>
Best Madagascan Euphorbia	Alan Hooker	<i>Euphorbia millotii</i>
Best Euphorbia	Vince Basta	<i>Euphorbia gymnocalycioides</i>
Best Dorstenia	Sandra & Harry Fletcher	<i>Dorstenia gigas</i>
Best Epiphytic Cactus	Jim Nones	<i>Rhipsalis species</i>
Best Gymnocalycium	Petra Crist	<i>Gymnocalycium obductum</i>
Best Crassulaceae	Petra Crist	<i>Crassula tetragona</i>
Best Rebutia/Sulcorebutia	David Delucca	<i>Sulcorebutia rauchii</i>
Best Opuntia	Charles Ball	<i>Opuntia erinacea</i>
Best Geraniaceae	Petra Crist	<i>Sarcocaulon herrei</i>
Best Pachypodium	Jim Hanna	<i>Pachypodium densiflorum</i>
C & S Winter Thematic Award	Frank Depew	<i>Dudleya Anthony</i>

Calendar of Events – 2004

December 18th The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar!

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, send the information via E-mail to sgvcss@adelphia.net. <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> is the Club's web site. 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 great job in creating an informative and classy site. You can also download a version of the **COMMUNIQUE** complete with color photos. Look for the **COMMUNIQUE** link at the site's main page.

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: sgvcss@adelphia.net or via post to: Paul Maker, 1245 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078-4816. 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 November 2004 - *Thelocactus*

Thelocactus are spectacularly beautiful cacti with dense multicolor spination, well shaped tubercles, and large colorful flowers. They have been a favorite with collectors since they were first discovered.

Thelocactus is a small genus in the cactus family, with only 11 or 12 species. In addition to the species, there are also half a dozen legitimate varieties, and a large number of less legitimate varieties that can be found in reference books and collections. The larger number of questionable varieties is due to variability of some of the species between populations from isolated locations. This in turn driven by the large geographical range with variable micro-climates.

Thelocactus are found from Southern Texas through central Mexico, mostly in the Chihuahuan Desert, but extending into brushland and thorn scrub in the western parts of its range, and into the Rio Grande Plains region in Texas. *Thelocactus bicolor* has the largest range, extending from central Chihuahua in the west into Texas in the north, and as far south as San Luis Potosi.

Thelocactus are easily grown, tolerant of heat and moisture, but not cold and moisture. They benefit from protection from being cold and wet, although plants left unprotected during the last several winters survived in good shape. Some species develop fairly large tap roots, and should be planted in deep enough pots to

give them room to grow. They are easily propagated from seed, and this is the best way to develop a good collection from different populations. They can also be propagated from offsets, with a cutting allowed to dry, and then replanted. They are sensitive to mealy bug infestations and spider mites, in the same way that all cacti are, but in general are fairly rugged plants.

Thrilling Thelos:

Thelocactus bicolor var. bicolor is found over the full range, as described above. It generally has dense spines that are red and white, yellow and with, reddish purple and white, etc. depending on the locality. Although generally solitary, it clumps with age. In habitat, it is usually 2 to 6 inches high, and can grow to 5 inches in diameter.

Thelocactus bicolor var. commodus is smaller, with sparsely spaced spines.

Thelocactus bicolor var. pottsii has thicker spines, white at the center, purple in the middle of the spine, and white at the tip. The spines are longer than v. *commodus*, and just interlace.

Thelocactus bicolor var. tricolor can be found in some collections, but it is identical to the type.

Thelocactus conothelos var. argenteus has dense thin spines and generally purple flowers. It's a geographically isolated species, known from only one locality east

of La Ascension, Nuevo Leon. It is a beautiful species.

Thelocactus heterochromus has spination more typical of a *Ferocactus*, and was transferred to *Ferocactus* by E.F. Anderson. It has also been called an *Echinocactus*, to which it also has some resemblance. In many ways *Thelocactus* is the intermediate between the tubercular *Mammillaria* and *Escobaria* and the ribbed *Echinocactus* and *Ferocactus*. It has distinct tubercles as *Mammillaria*, but often has them in distinct ribs like *Ferocactus* or *Echinocactus*. *Thelocactus heterochromus*, an intermediate between the two largest species, *T. bicolor* and *T. hexaedrophorus*, is an interesting species from Durango.



T. phymatobelos (now *rinconensis*) entered in the 2004 Winter Show by Vince Basta

Thelocactus hexaedrophorus Has the best tubercles of any of the *Thelocactus*, and is a must for any collection. It eventually grows to about 6 inches in diameter, and a little taller. It has gray-green, olive-green, to bluish-gray skin, with spars dark spines.



Thelocactus lauserii entered in the 2004 Winter Show by Tom and Jeanette Glavich

Thelocactus macdowellii is a small clumping species from Coahuila, north of Monterey. It has dense white spination, and looks different from most of the other *Thelocactus*.

Thelocactus rinconensis has the largest body of all the species, getting to 8 inches in diameter in cultivation and habitat. There are several varieties found, the most popular being *T. rinconensis* var. *nidulans* which has long gray spines on an olive gray body, with yellow wool on the upper areoles.

References

John Pilbeam, **Thelocactus**
Cullman, Gotz & Groner, **The**
Encyclopedia of Cacti
T. Anderson, **The Cactus Family**

Tom Glavich October 2004

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulents of the Month November 2004

Winter Growing Mesembs (excluding *Conophytum*)

Most mesembs (as the family *Mesembryanthemaceae*, now included in the family *Aizoaceae*, is affectionately known) are winter growers. They are dormant during the long hot summer, often hiding underground or within the remains of last year's leaves. When the rains come, they burst forth, growing, flowering and getting ready for next summer.

Most are easy to grow in pots. A few are difficult, just enough to challenge us. They all do well in a gritty, mineral based soil mix. Organic material, such as peat, coir or leaf mold, is not necessary, and may prove detrimental to some species. Bright light is essential, though not full sun. Watering is best commenced in late summer or early autumn. In general, growth is better with frequent light watering than with infrequent drenching. Watering continues through the winter and into early spring. In summer, only an occasional misting is required. Many of these plants are opportunists, growing whenever there is sufficient water. These too receive the majority of their water in the autumn and winter.

Most genera can be propagated by cuttings, but raising them from seed is much more interesting and rewarding. Most are quick to germinate. I sow in the autumn, October through December, thereby avoiding the awkward task of nursing very small seedlings through our hot summer.

Glottiphyllum is one of the most commonly found genera in collections. Given insufficient light and too much water, they grow into great sprawling masses of fat, bright green leaves. Given a very bright position,



Glottiphyllum pygmaeum

the leaves are dark green, almost black at times, with red and purple. Their main growth period is in late winter, but they do best with at least a little water all year.



Titanopsis calcarea

Titanopsis is another popular genus. The ends of the leaves are covered in warts and bumps, providing camouflage in nature. In time these plants will form large clumps. When given adequate light, the leaves are packed closely together, with only the expanded ends visible. The leaf colors are extremely variable, all the

earth tones: white, grey, brown, reddish, orange, and everything in between, often on the same leaf. This is one of the most frost hardy of the mesembs, safely enduring temperatures as low as 10 F. *T. calcarea* grows in summer and fall; the other species, in fall and winter. All need a lot of light and plenty of water.



Another *Titanopsis calcarea*

Fenestraria is also well known, though seldom well grown. One species, or two depending on who you believe, is found along the coast in southwestern Namibia and adjacent parts of South Africa. In the wild they grow completely buried in the sand, with only the tips of the leaves showing. That doesn't work for long in cultivation, so we must grow them with the leaves exposed. They need bright light and frequent light waterings. A soaking drench once or twice a year is a good idea. After flowering, various shades of orange, white and pink, reduce watering to just enough to maintain the turgidity of the leaves.

The genus *Argyroderma* is found on the quartz strewn plains of the Knersvlakte in the northwest corner of South Africa. Most species look like an egg split in half. When given enough light, the two fat leaves are very pale, almost white or silver (hence the name). Flowers are large and brilliantly colored, yellow, magenta, white, pink, and appear in the autumn. This genus requires frequent, light waterings, never drenching, in the fall and winter. They will let

you know right away if they've had too much; the skin cracks. Although they will survive a summer without any water, they look and grow much better if given a little now and then to keep the roots alive.

Cheiridopsis is a genus that should be more popular. There is a wide variety of leaf sizes and shapes, and the flowers are large and showy. As with the others, they look their best when grown in a very bright situation. The small species prefer frequent, light waterings; the large ones, infrequent drenchings. Watering for all of them starts in very late summer and continues until early spring, when the old leaves start to wither. In the summer the plants look brown and dead, the new leaves hiding beneath the dried remains of the old. Most will take a little frost in winter.

For the purposes of our Plant of the Month mini-show, these are the genera that are acceptable:

Antimima, Arenifera, Argyroderma, Astridia, Bijlia, Braunsia, Brownanthus, Cephalophyllum, Cerochlamys, Cheiridopsis, Conicosia, Cyliodophyllum, Dicrocaulon, Didymaotus, Diplosoma, Dracophilus, Drosanthemopsis, Eberlanzia, Ebracteola, Fenestraria, Gibbaeum, Glottiphyllum, Hallianthus, Imitaria, Jacobsenia, Jensenobotrya, Juttadinteria, Kensitia, Malephora, Meyerophytum, Mitrophyllum, Monilaria, Muiria, Namaquanthus, Namibia, Nelia, Odontophorus, Oophytum, Ottosonderia, Phyllobolus, Psammophora, Ruschianthus, Sceletium, Schwantesia, Stoeberia, Tanquana, Titanopsis, Vanheerdea, Wooleya.

References:

'Mastering the Art of Growing Mesembs' by Steven Hammer, in the **C&SJ(US)**, **Vol. 87, No. 4**, pages 195-247

Mesembs of the World by Gideon F. Smith, et al., 1998

Tim Jackson October 2004



Grigsby Cactus Gardens' 39th Anniversary Sale

To show our appreciation to those who have supported us for the last 39 years
we are celebrating with a *special* thank you sale.



Pick out that new show plant or a plant for your collection
or a nice BIG plant for your garden!
(Bring your own padding for the BIG ones!!!)



GREAT DISCOUNTS
on regularly priced plants

Purchases over \$25.00 ~ 25% discount

Special selection of blue label plants
Marked 40% to 70% off regular price
(no other discounts will apply)

Purchases over \$100.00 ~ 30% discount

NO DISCOUNT ON PINK LABEL PLANTS or PLANTS MARKED "NET"



***SPECIAL* DRAWING**

3 ~ \$100.00 gift certificates



LOTS OF NICE PLANTS

Aloes, Euphorbias, Pachycereus, Mammillarias, Sansevierias, Agaves, Ferocactus and many others!

NOVEMBER 4th - 13th, 2004

No appointment needed - Special hours
Open Tuesday to Saturday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Grigsby Cactus Gardens
2354 Bella Vista Drive Vista CA 92084-7836
760-727-1323 fax 760-727-1578