

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia  
**March 2005 Volume 38 Number 3**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Our program this month will be presented by our Program Chairman, Woody Minnich. His presentation is entitled "Northern Argentina" and what it looks like today. It is presented in honor of Victor Turecek. Later in the year, Victor will tell us how Argentina looked long ago.

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

**CACTI – *Echinocereus***

**SUCCULENT – *Adromischus and Crassula***

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. If you don't have any of this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting.

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**Study Group:** Join us on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, when our topic will be *Rebutia* and *Sulcorebutia*. As usual, the meeting will be held in the Grapevine room of the San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Dr. (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium) at 7:30 pm. For those who have not attended a Study Group meeting here's a brief description of what goes on. Members are encouraged to bring in specimens from the topic of discussion. Club President Joe Clements or another member will often present a brief slide show and preside over a discussion on the day's topic. Also, we usually have a large selection of cuttings and other plants, donated by members, that are given away by lottery at meeting's end.

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**Personnel Notices:** The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest member, **Judy Casanova**. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club! Judy maintains an interesting web site at [www.desertsucculents.com](http://www.desertsucculents.com). Another good site, maintained by Buck and Yvonne Hemenway, can be found at [www.pricklypalace.com](http://www.pricklypalace.com).

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**10 years ago:** Woody Minnich presented "Mammillaria". A bus trip to the International Center for Earth Concerns was planned

**20 years ago:** A series of seminars were given by Fred Hutflesz, and Jim Oravetz on Preparing for a Show, and a Free Clinic on plant care was conducted by Dr. Joe Clements and Dr. Peter Sharp.

**30 years ago:** Woody Minnich gave a talk on Cacti in Bloom.

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

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**Roster:** The 2005 Roster & General Information booklet is ready and will be distributed at the March meeting. Pick up your booklet at the meeting and save the Club the cost of mailing it to your home. Any omissions or errors in the booklet should be brought to Bill Gerlach's attention.

**Refreshments:** Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments to the February meeting! We need lots of you to help furnish the coffee break table this month! There are openings on the refreshment sign-up sheet throughout the coming year. The sign up sheet will be at the refreshment table.

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**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](mailto: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.

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### Calendar of Events - 2005

- Apr 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** South Coast C&SS Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA (310-832-2262).
- Apr 24<sup>th</sup>** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA (310-831-1209).
- Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>** Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum.
- Apr 30<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup>** Sunset C&SS Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA (310-822-1783)
- May 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** Los Angeles Geranium Society Show and Sale, Descanso Gardens (Mothers Day weekend). There will be a selection of species and succulent Pelargoniums at both the show and sale.
- May 15<sup>th</sup>** Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale, 10-5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- May 15<sup>th</sup>** Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. (310-831-1209).
- May 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>** Gates C&SS Show (1-4 Sat, 9-4 Sun) and Sale (9-4 Sat & Sun), Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Glen Avon, CA (909-360-8802).
- Jun 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** San Diego C&SS Show and Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101 Casa del Prado, San Diego, CA (619-477-4779).
- Jul 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>** CSSA Show (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>) and Sale (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>), Huntington Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA (626-405-2160 or 2277).
- Aug 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>** 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial CSSA Convention, Scottsdale, AZ. For complete details, visit <http://www.cssainc.org/convent.html>
- Aug 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup>** 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA (626-798-2430 or 818-998-9306).

- Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>** 22<sup>nd</sup> Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- Sep 25<sup>th</sup>** Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St, Compton (Dominguez Hills) CA.
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>** SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

### January Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results:

#### Cacti – *Rebutia* and *Sulcorebutia*

#### Succulents – *Tylecodon*

#### Beginner

1 <sup>st</sup>	John Matthews	<i>S. langeri</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mari Johnson	<i>T. pearsonii</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug George	<i>S. purpurea</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jim Schlegel	<i>T. wallichii</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Schlegel	<i>S. rauschii</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oscar Flores	<i>T. peticulatus</i>

#### Intermediate

1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>R. krainziana</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Alan Hooker	<i>T. wallichii</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>R. Sp</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>T. buchholziana</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Manny Rivera	<i>R. Sp</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Manny Rivera	<i>T. dinteri</i>

#### Advanced

1 <sup>st</sup>	Rita Gerlach	<i>S. Sp</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Frank Nudge	<i>T. paniculatus</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rita Gerlach	<i>R. krainziana</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Frank Nudge	<i>T. pearsonii</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Frank Nudge	<i>R. heliosa</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rita Gerlach	<i>T. paniculatus</i>

#### Master

1 <sup>st</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>R. arenacea</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>T. reticulatus</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>S. flavissima</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>T. sinus alexandre</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>R. fabrisii</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>T. buchholzianua</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: [sgvcss@adelphia.net](mailto: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.

## Cactus Data Plants 2005

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Potter's Sale

Sat. March 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 5:00

*Presenting four fine potters, all featuring unique cactus & succulent containers*

### Don Hunt

From the San Diego area, specializing in wheel thrown exotic shapes with very beautiful and colorful glazes. Don is a master at glazing.

### Mark Muradian

From the Fresno area, specializing in hand built iron wash pots with marvelous engraved patterns of rustic character.

### Joe Wujcik

From the Fallbrook area, specializing in wheel thrown textured and glazed pots to match the uniqueness of the succulent plants. Joe with his 34 years of experience, has become the standard.

### Kathy Hendig

From San Jose, Kathy is well known for her very fine wheel thrown pots. She features very large, elegant, low profile show quality pots often seen at the Nor-Cal show. This will be her first time at the potters sale, you do not want miss her!

Each of the potters will be presenting some of their first new offerings for the Spring of 2005. This is your opportunity to get first pick from each of these great potters.

**Cactus Data Plants** also invites you to see our wide selection of new and unusual plants, many at discounted prices for the potters Sale. *We are fully stocked, actually over stocked!*

*Also, do not miss*

**Our annual Spring, draw your discount Sale, on Sat. May 7, 2005 9 to 5**

Cactus Data Plants 9607 E. Ave. S-12 Littlerock, CA 93543  
For more info ask for Woody at 661-944-2784

**CACTUS**

**AND**

**SUCCULENT**

**SHOW & SALE**

**SAT. & SUN. APRIL 9 & 10, 2005, 9am  
to 4pm**

**SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS  
26300 CRENSHAW BLVD. PALOS VERDES  
PENINSULA**

**SEE outstanding displays by selected growers!**

**VOTE for the best!**

**ASK experts how they grow their plants!**

**BUY plants from top growers!**

**For more information contact Dick Hulett at 310-832-2262 (E-mail  
[petplants@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petplants@sbcglobal.net)); Carol Causey at 310-675-5843; Jim Hanna at  
562-920-3046 or [aloecats1@aol.com](mailto:aloecats1@aol.com).**

**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**

**VISA AND MASTER CHARGE ACCEPTED**

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cacti of the Month March 2005 – *Echinocereus*

*Echinocereus* is one of the earliest recognized genera of Cacti; first described in 1848 by George Engelmann from a plant collected in 1846 in what is now New Mexico. The type species (the first one found, and after which the genus is named) is *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, a widespread species with a distribution that ranges from Southern Wyoming, South Dakota, and Kansas to Eastern New Mexico. As the name suggests, it has brilliant green flowers.



*Echinocereus davisii* entered in the 2003 CSSA show by Lillian Pickoff

*Echinocereus* species can be found throughout the Western United States, and the range of species stretches through the American west and through Northern and Central Mexico to about Mexico City. As might be expected from a genus covering such a large range, *Echinocereus* are extremely varied in form, ranging from nearly spineless green balls such as *E. knippelianus*, to very spiny short columnar species such as *E. engelmannii*, to pencil thin sticks such a *E. poselgeri*.

In general, *Echinocereus* is an under appreciated genus. Most growers have one

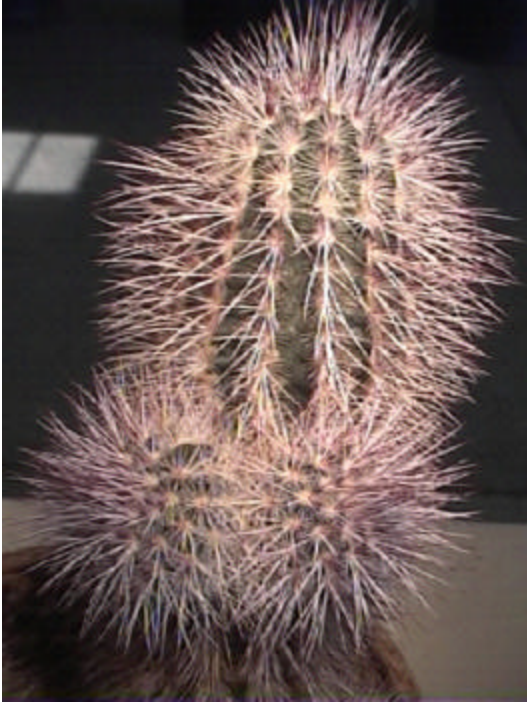
or two, but having killed a few in their early collecting days, usually because of over watering, concentrate on other genera. Most of the species are in fact easy to grow. Many are quite variable, and exhibit different spination and flower colors depending on the local environment. As a result, a large number of species were named. These are being reduced to a more conservative 30 to 50, but the number of collectable forms remains very high. The varieties and local growth forms provide an enormous range of interesting plants to grow.

Most *Echinocereus* have spectacular flowers, giving rise to such common names as Claret Cup, Strawberry Cactus, Calico Cactus. These common names are often attached to more than one species. *Echinocereus* flowers erupt through the skin, leaving scars. Offsets also erupt through the skin.

Almost all the species need bright light and warm temperatures to grow well and flower. Some are quite easy, but most have somewhat fragile root systems that are prone to rot. They often benefit from being slightly underpotted. Good drainage is a must.

Propagation from seed is fairly easy. Seed germinates in a few days to about two weeks in warm weather, as long as soil mixture is kept moist. Once germination occurs, the seedlings need to be moved to an environment with moving air. They need to be kept damp until they have hardened off.





***Echinocereus chloranthus v. neocapillus***  
entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by Pat and  
Mindy Fusaro

Propagation from cuttings is relatively easy, but attention to cleanliness is important. Use of Rootone, or another rooting compound containing a fungicide helps ensure success.

### **Excellent Echinocereus**

***Echinocereus delaetii*** - spines are reduced to white hairs. Flowers are pink to purple, with a very obvious green stigma. One of the more difficult to grow. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus engelmannii*** - from the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. A clumping species with stems 2 to 3 inches thick with generally light tan spines and rose-like flowers.

***Echinocereus knippelianus*** - dark green body, with slightly lighter ridges, nearly

spineless, clustering, and slow. Lots of pale pink flowers. Sensitive to over watering. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus nivosus*** has dense white needle like spines, with a dark green body. It clumps freely, and has large pink flowers, with bright green stamens. If this plant wasn't natural, it would be in bad taste. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus poselgeri*** was formally ***Wilcoxia poselgeri***, and is one of several tuberous rooted species that have above ground, pencil thin stems. They have bright pink flowers, and make an odd sight and an interesting addition to any collection. (from Texas, Coahuila, Mexico)

***Echinocereus rigidissimus*** - columnar, with bands of red, pink and cream spines. A classic, and a frequent show winner. Every collection ends up with one sooner or later. (from Arizona, New Mexico, Northern Mexico)

***Echinocereus sharpii***, discovered in 1971 by club member Peter Sharp near La Asencion in Nuevo Leon, is one of the more difficult to grow, and infrequently seen in cultivation.

### **References**

- L. di Martino Cactus & Co., **Echinocereus**
- C. Innes and C. Glass, **Cacti**
- J. Pilbeam, **Cacti for the Connoisseur**
- T. Anderson, **The Cactus Family**

Tom Glavich February 2005

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month March 2005 - *Adromischus* and *Crassula*

The genus *Adromischus* is a member of the *Crassulaceae* family, closely related to *Cotyledon* and *Kalanchoe*, and restricted in natural habitat to South Africa and Namibia.



***Adromischus herrei***

They are easily grown, (in fact difficult to kill) preferring some shade during the hottest months of the year, and occasional watering during the entire year. All of the species are dwarf plants, although in cultivation, some can grow reasonably large and even become weedy. The main growth period is the spring and early summer, but slow growth continues for most of the year.

*Adromischus* are among the easiest plants to propagate. Leaves or stems, when separated from a plant quickly set roots, even if left on a potting bench. When placed on fresh soil, they will root and start growing new plants within a few weeks. *Adromischus* can also be propagated from seed. The seed is dust like and best started in late fall.

*Adromischus* look best when kept tight and compact. This requires very bright light. At the same time, attention must be paid to soil moisture. If the soil remains too dry for very long, the lower leaves start to drop, and the upper ones wilt. Once lower leaves start to fall, most *Adromischus* lose

their charm, and are best restarted from cuttings.

### **Admirable *Adromischus*:**

*Adromischus alveolatus* has short gray-brown stems, with a base and branches rarely more than an inch or an inch and a half long. From this, clumps of one inch long, egg shaped, green leaves form in clusters.

*Adromischus herrei* is seen in several forms, with leaves that can vary from smooth brown spheres to red and purple wrinkled leaves resembling drying plums. This is the most collectable of all the species, with almost all the forms worth collecting.



***Adromischus bicolor***

*Adromischus bicolor* has smooth green waxy leaves that grow to an inch to an inch and a half in length. The leaves are cylindrical, and pointed at both ends.

The genus *Crassula* is a mostly African member of the *Crassulaceae* family. *Crassula* is distinguished from the rest of



the family by having as many stamens as petals, and having opposite leaves. Other African members of the *Crassulaceae* have twice as many stamens as petals.



***Crassula hirtipes*** Vredendahl

The genus runs the gamut from beginner plants that are virtually indestructible to difficult winter growers that are intolerant of water in the summer, but at the same time prone to drying up if insufficient moisture isn't provided.

Many cultivars have been developed and are available at shows and even many local garden centers. First quality cultivars can sometimes be found at home centers.

Almost all the *Crassula* are winter growers. They start growth in October, grow until the days get too short, sit out the worst of the winter, and then grow again until the weather warms in the early summer. Most are dormant during the summer, or would prefer to be.

Propagation of almost all *Crassula* species is most easily done by vegetative offsets. Cuttings should be taken when the plants are in active growth, early spring being best, left to dry for a day or two, and then simply potted in the same mix as the original plant. Rooting is almost always rapid and new growth appears in a week or two.

Propagation from seed is possible, but surprisingly difficult, with the seed planted in October or November. Germination is sporadic, and keeping the young seedlings alive is often a challenge.

### **Crassulas to Crave**

*Crassula alstonii* a wonderful miniature species with tight hemispherical leaves piling on one another. A species from the Huntington Library conservatory is shown below.

*Crassula hirtipes* shown left is one of the classic miniatures. It propagates readily from stem cuttings

*Crassula suzannae* another of the small clumping species, looks much like a mesemb, and very sensitive to watering at the wrong time of year.

*Crassula tecta* has many forms and cultivars. White spotted and patterned leaves make this a choice species.

Finally, no discussion of *Crassulas* would be complete without the wonderful garden plants, *Crassula arborescens*, *Crassula ovata*, and their various cultivars and hybrids.

### **References**

Court, D. **Succulent Flora of Southern Africa**

Tom Glavich February 2005