

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
March 2006 Volume 39 Number

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 9th

Come one, come all and enjoy a presentation by **Sam Yalof** entitled "The Evolution of Cacti".

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

CACTI – Coryphanta & Escobaria SUCCULENT – Agave

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 and joy.

Study Group: Join us on Wednesday, March 15, when our topic will be **Aloe**. 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. Also, we usually have a large selection of cuttings and other plants donated by members that are given away by lottery at the end of meeting.

Roster: The 2006 Roster has been completed and will be available at the March meeting. Be sure to check the pictures on the back cover. They are pictures of plants that have been named in honor of current members of our society.

Personal Notes: SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members **John Stillion** and **Katzi Kayzer**. John might seem familiar to some of you as he was a member a few years ago.

Gene Oster reports that **Jim Kellogg** is much better! Wednesday February 22nd, he had his glasses on and was reading a news magazine when Gene walked into his room. Jim is still on the ventilator so he can't talk, but he whispered a bit and Gene could read his lips about half the time. Some of Jim's family members are down from Oregon to take care of him. They have been visiting with him for several hours a day. They must go back to Oregon on the 25th, but will return at the end of March and hopefully Jim will be able to leave the skilled nursing facility at that time. When he recovers, he plans to sell his house and join his family in Oregon.

Upcoming March Events: (See flyers at the end of the Communique)

- Mar 4th-5th Monrovia Rockhounds 46th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
- Mar 17th -19th RSVP Southwell Nursery Sale conducted by Woody Minnich
- Mar 25th - 26th Buck & Yvonne Hemenway's 6th Annual Garden Tour and Plant Sale
- Mar 26th Eagle Rock Champagne Brunch, Guided Garden Tour, and Plant Sale – All proceeds will be used to purchase trees for Eagle Rock.

Anso Borrego Field Trip - Date Change:

The Anso Borrego field trip is **now scheduled for the week-end of April 22nd and 23rd**

February – Plant of the Month Results:

Cacti-Sulcorebutia & Weingartia

Beginner

1st	Birgh-Dodson	S. steinbachii
2nd	John Matthews	S. langeri
3rd	Birgh-Dodson	S. rauschii

Intermediate

1st	Buck Hemenway	S. rauschii
2nd	Buck Hemenway	S. verticillacantha
3rd	Barbara Nolan	S. candiae
3rd	Barbara Nolan	S. langeri

Advanced

1st	Rita Gerlach	W. saipiensis
2nd	Rita Gerlach	S. mentosa
3rd	Rita Gerlach	S. flavissima

Master

1st	Karen Ostler	S. flavistyla
2nd		
3rd		

Succulent-

1st	Birgh-Dodson
2nd	Birgh-Dodson
2nd	Oscar Flores
3rd	Evelyn Maxwell

1st	Barbara Nolan
2nd	Dick Tatman
3rd	Dick Tatman

1st	Rita Gerlach
2nd	Tom Vermilion
3rd	Rita Gerlach
3rd	Frank Nudge

1st	Jim Hanna
2nd	Jim Hanna
3rd	Jim Hanna
3rd	Karen Ostler

Sansevieria

S. suffruticosa
S. "Lillian True "
S. species
S. variegated

S. species
S. species
S. pinguicula

S. kirkii
S. pinguigula
S. pinguigula
S. pinguigula

S. species
S. "Golden Hahnii"
S. "Streaker"
S. affinis suffruticosa

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the information to the address given 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@prodigy.net or via post to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Evelyn Stevens, 10119 1/2 E. Olive St., Temple City, CA 91780-3345. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.

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One generation plants the tree, the next sits in its shade.

Author Unknown

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month March 2006 – *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria*

Coryphantha and *Escobaria* are two closely related genera. They are both also closely related to *Mammillaria*, and almost all of the species have been described at one time or another as members of all three genera.



Coryphantha radians

Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* have furrowed tubercles (*Mammillaria* do not), and most *Coryphantha* have extra floral nectaries (glands that produce nectar located in the skin of the plant), while *Escobaria* do not. The furrow is a groove that goes from the tip to the base of the tubercle. It is sometimes obvious, and sometimes so faint that it is hard to see. There are also floral differences, with *Escobaria* tending towards fringed petals while *Coryphantha* flowers have simple petals. Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* flower from the top of the plant, rather from a ring of tubercles a further down the plant.

Both of these genera have some spectacular species, and both are neglected by most collectors. They are

relatively easy to grow, and are temporarily out of fashion.



Escobaria minima

Coryphantha is a medium sized genus of mostly globular plants from Mexico and the Southwestern United States. The range of *Coryphantha* overlaps that of *Thelocactus*, stretching through Texas into Oklahoma in the North, and continuing into Arizona, and California to San Bernardino. In the South, the genus stretches to Oaxaca. The center of the range is the central states of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, and Nuevo Leon. There are about 50 to 80 species depending on the reference chosen, and the accepted extent of the genus. They are grown for their beautiful spination and large, colorful flowers.

Escobaria has about 23 species, some variable. It covers the range from Central Mexico to Southern Canada, with two species accounting for most of the very wide range.

Cultivation of both genera is similar to *Mammillaria*, except that *Coryphantha* are more sensitive to over watering, and in general, somewhat more prone to rot. They start growing a little later in the year than *Mammillaria*, and stay in

active growth later into the summer. Too much water, before there is active growth, can lead to their demise. Overall, cultivation is not difficult, and well within the capabilities of all growers. Since many come from the Southwestern United States and higher elevations in Mexico they are tolerant of cold, when dry, and should pose no difficult environmental problems in Southern California.



Coryphantha elephantidens

Particularly Interesting Species

Coryphantha durangensis is an extremely woolly, with the wool being so dense that it covers the areoles and spreads to entirely hide the body.

Coryphantha elephantidens is another of the woollier species, this time with red to reddish-brown spines. It has large tubercules, and offsets at the base.

Coryphantha recurvata is a large, often single headed species with dense interlaced yellow spines on a green body. Given time, it offsets from the body. The top of the plant is often so densely spined that it appears completely yellow, particularly when it is in full growth. As the plant matures, the lower spines turn a light tan, and then a reddish-brown giving larger plants an

impressive shading. It can grow quite large, to eight inches or more tall, and semi-cylindrical rather than globular.



Coryphantha sulcata v. nichelsai

Coryphantha sulcata offsets quickly to form large clumps. It has white spines, and a yellow flower.

Escobaria minima from Brewster County, Texas is an endangered species in the wild. Seed is available and cultivated plants are not hard to come by.

References

I. Lawrie, **Coryphantha and Associated Genera**

Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

J. Pilbeam, **Cacti for the Connoisseur**

Tom Glavich February 2006

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month March 2006 - *Agave*

The *Agave* family, like the *Cactaceae* family, is entirely new world in origin, although many members have been naturalized around the world.

Agaves are native to Southern North America, Mexico, Central America, Northern South America and the West Indies. There are dwarf forms just a few inches across, but most species are larger, spanning the range of 8 inches to 10 feet.



Agave pumila

Although many members of this genus grow very large with age, they are particularly good looking as seedlings, and can be kept small for many years in pots. All described below are easily grown in Southern California. They can remain unprotected in pots or the ground year-round. They thrive with regular feeding with any general purpose fertilizer.

They appear best when they are cleaned regularly, with debris removed from the leaves, and dead leaves

removed to prevent insects from making homes. Many offset freely, and these offsets can be removed and repotted, giving a steady supply of small plants. Some growers keep the offsets, and dispose of the mother plant, keeping size, health and condition under control.

Some *Agaves* will get sunken spots on the leaves when grown in pots. This blemish takes several years to heal, but can be avoided by pruning the roots back to about 1/3 of their length and then repotting.



Agave titanota

All *Agave* are easily grown from seed, the difficulty for most species is in getting seed. Increasing interest in the genus has made this easier, with many species now available on some of the better seed lists, but there still are many species and cultivars that are not available. Seed should be started when the weather turns warm and night temperatures are consistently above 50 F. This allows constant growth through

the first summer, and prevents seedling loss. Some of the smaller growing species include:

Agave colorata, from Sonora and Sinaloa will grow in the ground to 3 feet across, but will stay smaller in pots. This is a beautiful, glaucous to light gray species, with red zones and occasional cross banding. It's rare in habitat, and was known as "mescal ceniza".

Agave parryi and its many varieties, but particularly **A. parryi v. truncata** make great garden and show plants. They grow to about 15 inches in pots, but can be kept smaller by trimming the roots periodically. These plants have great dark sinuous terminal spines.

Agave titanota from Sierra Mixteca. Full grown at about 18 inches across, it has spectacular brown teeth and spines. There are several clones of this species in cultivation. One of the most common is shown above.



Agave xylonacantha

Agave utahensis and its varieties grow to 10 to 20 inches across. The narrow tooth leaves have long sharp ends. **var. nevadensis** is particularly

beautiful when well grown. The long ends of the leaves twist.

Agave xylonacantha, shown above is from central Mexico. It is a strong grower and pups quickly, so it needs frequent repotting and restarting to stay neat. It has great hooked teeth.



Agave victoria-reginae

Agave victoria-reginae is one of the best and showiest of all the Agaves. It is readily available, and easy to grow. The specimen shown above, in the ground at the Huntington Library shows everything this plant can be. It needs care to keep it clean and spotless, but it is easy to grow and a perennial show winner.

References

H. Gentry, **The Agave Family in Sonora**

M. & G. Irish, **Agaves, Yuccas and Related Plants**

Tom Glavich February 2006

Calendar of Events - 2006

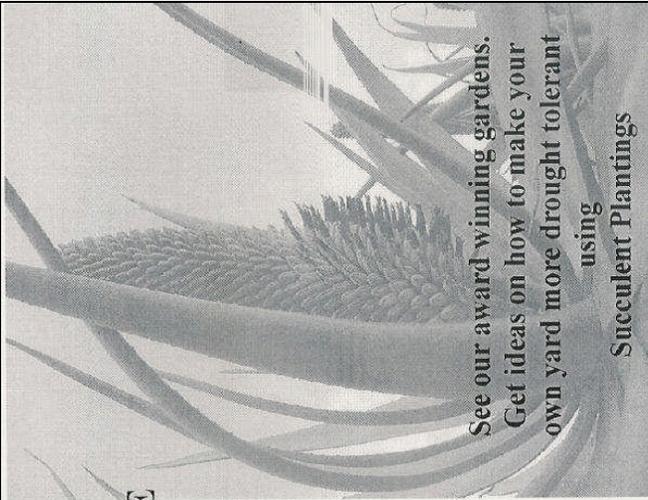
- April 8th - 9th** South Coast C&SS Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA. Pho #(310)832-2262.
- April 23rd** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA Pho #(310)831-1209.
- April 22nd - 23rd** Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum.
- April 22nd - 23rd** Anso Borrego Field Trip
- May 6th - 7th** Sunset C&SS Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA Info (310)822-1783
- May 21st** Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale, 10-5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- May 21st** Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. (310)831-1209.
- June 3rd - 4th** San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society – Show and Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info (619) 477-4779
- June 10th** Gates C&SS 29th Show and Sale. Show (1-4 Sat, 9-4 Sun); Sale (9-4 Sat and Sun), Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Glen Avon, CA. Info (909) 360-8802.
- Jun 30th - Jul 2nd** CSSA Annual Show and Sale – Sale (30th - 2nd)- Show (1st - 2nd) Huntington Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA (626) 405-2160 or 2277.
- July 15th – 16th** Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA
Show Info call (818) 363-3432
- August 19th-20th** 21st Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA . Info Call Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 or Gene Oster (818) 998-9306.
- September 2nd** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium
All Day at the Huntington.
- September 24th** Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St., Compton (Dominguez Hills), CA.
- October 14th-15th** SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

**YOU'RE INVITED
TO
BUCK AND YVONNE
HEMENWAY'S
6th ANNUAL
GARDEN TOUR
AND
PLANT SALE
2006**

**When?
Saturday and Sunday
March 25th and 26th
9:00AM till 4:00PM**

See plantings of rare and unusual Cacti and Succulents. Learn how to combine leafy plants with succulents to create a pleasing Southern California Garden

Landscape Sized Plants available for your garden,
Euphorbia aamack
Kalanchoes, Yuccas,
Golden Barrel Cacti
Senecio shrubs
Many Many More



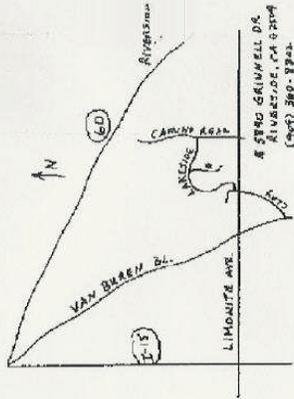
See our award winning gardens. Get ideas on how to make your own yard more drought tolerant

Succulent Plantings

Unusual Plants for Sale

- Tequila Agave, Weber's Blue Agave
- Four varieties of the Century Plant
- Tree Aloes, 3 varieties
- Ground Covers (see them in use)
- Rare varieties of Hen and Chicks

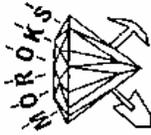
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(951) 360-8802



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS

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46 ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW



MARCH 4 – 5, 2006

9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Both Days

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
1 block South of I-210, Foothill Freeway at 301 North
Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, near Santa Anita Race Track

13 Dealers, Display Cases, Geode Cracking, Dino Dig,
Treasure Wheel, Raffle Prizes and our famous \$1.00
Grab Bags and we will identify the rocks in it for you.

MOROKS SHOW IS FREE

You only pay Arboretum admission.

- Adults.....\$7.00
- Students & Seniors ...\$5.00
- Children 5-12.....\$2.50
- Children under 5.....Free

The RSVP Southwell Nursery

ALL FOR SALE

Friday, Saturday & Sunday March 17th, 18th and 19th
Woody Minnich will be acting exclusively as the sale agent for Rowena Southwell and Wes Briggs for the total sale of their Nursery plants, pots and books.

The sale will be at the RSVP Nursery, 729 Moonglow Crt. San Jose CA
Due to health issues and personal life style changes, Rowena has decided to sell the entire Nursery. After selling the total Nursery, Rowena feels that this will allow her and her dear friend Wes Briggs, to enjoy a less rigorous schedule and pursue their desires to travel more. Rowena has asked Woody Minnich to conduct this sale because she finds herself too attached to her plants and thus finds it difficult to let them go. With Woody conducting the sale, this will allow for all material to be sold with no restrictions. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Woody (661-944-2784) Inquiries welcome. Rowena and Wes have requested that you not disturb them at this time because of personal needs and they would like you to direct all questions or sales to Woody. There will be NO SALES, prior to the three dates mentioned above, without consulting Woody for special considerations.

ALL ITEMS WILL BE SOLD AT WHOLESALE VALUE OR BELOW MARKET PRICE, EVERYTHING MUST GO!

FRIDAY MARCH 17th This day will be aimed at selling items in wholesale quantities. We invite all plant dealers or serious hobbyists interested in purchasing wholesale lots of plants, pots or books. With larger quantities of items purchased, greater discounts will be given. Suggested sales would be; buying ALL of a particular genus. Example; Aloes, Agaves, Dudleyas, Ariocarpus, Echeverias, Lithops, Conophytums, Mammillarias, Haworthias, Tylocodons, Pachypodiums, Sarcocaulons, Cyphostemmas, Turbinicapus, Sulcorebutias, Adeniums, Bonsai pots, etc. Arrangements can be made for these total purchases to be picked up by the conclusion of the sale on Sunday March the 19th. Special long distance purchases will be given consideration with arrangements to be made regarding pick-up times.

SATURDAY MARCH 18th and SUNDAY MARCH 19th
These two days will be open to all persons wishing to purchase anything in small or large quantities. All items will be sold on a first come first serve basis and payments for materials must be made prior to their removal. On Sunday the 19th we will accept extreme discount offers on the purchase of groups of items. Our objective will be to remove as much as possible, if not ALL PLANTS, POTS and BOOKS by the conclusion of the day of the 19th.

CACTUS and SUCCULENT BOOKS; Rowena and the late Steve Southwell had acquired a considerable number (in many cases duplicate volumes) of most of the rare and almost all of the newer publications on cacti and succulents. Most of the books in this extensive collection are in good condition and many are like new. Feel free to E-mail Woody at (cactusdata@thegrid.net) for a list of all the books and or to make purchase reservations on any particular book(s). This collection also includes complete sets of the American Journals and other journals. Woody Minnich
9607 E. Ave. S-12 Litterock, CA 93543 (661-944-2784) at CACTUS DATA PLANTS

 **The Collaborative Eagle Rock Beautiful**
is a nonprofit organization that brings together local volunteers and agencies to help beautify the community of Eagle Rock.

*All proceeds will be
used to purchase trees
for Eagle Rock*

▪ Garden Tour

Visit unique Eagle Rock gardens for guided tours. Shuttles will depart from the hall, leaving every half hour until 3:00 pm. Tickets: \$20

▪ Champagne Brunch

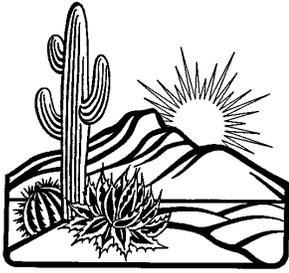
Enjoy a delectable bounty of savories and sweets with your friends and neighbors. Served until 3:00 pm. Tickets: \$10

▪ Plant Sale

Purchase succulents, bromeliads and other plants on this special day. Admission: free



Sunday, March 26
@ The Eagles Banquet Hall
10 am to 4 pm



COMMINQUE
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
c/o Evelyn Stevens
10119 ½ E. Olive Street
Temple City, CA 91780