

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
May 2006 Volume 39 Number 5

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May 11 - **Karen Ostler** will demonstrate how to stage our plants. Please bring in your plants that you would like help in staging. Karen will provide potting mix, top dressing and rocks. Bring your own pots, or bring money as we will have several people selling pots that evening.

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

CACTI – *Lobivia & Escobaria* SUCCULENT – *Echeveria*

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: Meetings are held at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine Room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium). These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something! Join us on Wednesday, May 17. This month's learning episode will be on "**Vegetative Propagation.**" Following last month's seed workshop, we will have, in hand, alternative methods for starting up our own collections. And with all the expert growers in our club, we'll be learning from masters at the art!

Personal Notes: SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest member **Donn Muhleman**, as well as to **Joanne Gram** who was a member a few years ago.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends of **Lamar Welton**, who passed away on April 11, 2006. She and her husband, Harvey, owned the Mexican Hat Cactus Nursery. A memorial service will be May 20, at 10:00am at: Church of the Nazarene, 1307 E. Citrus Ave., Redlands, CA.

Upcoming Events: Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events and flyers for May events. Events are added, deleted or changed frequently so don't forget to take a look at the Calendar of Events every month.

Request for Plants: Listed below are plants that the Arboretum would like to have for the new demonstration garden. (They would be happy to have other plants as well.) Donations can be dropped off, or in a few cases they will look to see about pick up. Contact Tim Phillips if you have questions regarding plant donations at (626) 625-0032.

Agave desmettiana 'Aureo-Marginata' (have)
Agave gypsicola (have)
Agave parryi huachucensis (have)

Epiphyllum species and cultivars
Euphorbia xantii (can dig from SW section)
Hoodia gordonii (have)

Agave tequilana 'Limeno' (have)
 Agave weberi (on order)
 Aloe vera hybrid (have in African Section,
 can be dug)
 Arid orchids and bromeliads
 Cactus crests
 Caesalpinia cacalaco (have)
 Ceropegia woodii in hanging pots
 Echeveria lauii
 Echeveria species and cultivars (have some)
 Echinopsis (Echinobivia) hybrids (3 on the
 way, need more)

Hylocereus undatus (on order)
 Kalanchoe tomentosa 'Fang'
 Mammillaria plumosa (on order)
 Pedilanthus tithymaloides
 Plumeria acutifolia
 Puya alpestris
 Puya berteriana
 Rhipsalis in hanging pots
 Sedum 'Burrito'
 Sedum species and hybrids (have some)
 Tacitus bellus

April – Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

| Cacti - Argentine Cacti | | | Succulent - Clumping Haworthias | | |
|--|-----------------|--|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Beginner | | | | | |
| 1st | Pat Swain | Gymno. mazanense | 1st | Barbara Hall | H. attenuata x cymbiformis |
| 2nd | John Matthews | Gymno. bruchii | 2nd | Daniel Veelik | H. species |
| 3rd | Birgh-Dodson | Tephro.Geometricus | 3rd | Lorraine Lutz | H. reinwardtii |
| Intermediate | | | | | |
| 1st | Barbara Nolan | Rebutia krainziana | 1st | Dick Tatman | H. augustifolia |
| 2nd | Barbara Nolan | Frailea pygmaea | 2nd | Dick Tatman | H. acumenata "White Ghost" |
| 3rd | Barbara Nolan | Lobivia Famatimensis var. haematantha | 3rd | Barbara Nolan | H. hayashi |
| Advanced | | | | | |
| 1st | G & Laura Oster | Denmoza species | 1st | Tom Glavich | H. herbacea |
| 2nd | G & Laura Oster | Gymno. Zegarrae | 2nd | G & Laura Oster | H. magnifica |
| 3rd | Frank Nudge | Pyrrocactus madeave | 3rd | Y & B Hemenway | H. cymbiformis |
| Master No Master Entries for the Month of April | | | | | |

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**.

Friendship is a flower that grows more beautiful by the hour.
 Author Unknown

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month May 2006 – *Lobivia* and *Echinopsis*

Echinopsis is one of the largest genera in the Cactus family. It has now swallowed both *Trichocereus* and *Lobivia*, and the most modern references will include both of these under *Echinopsis*. The boundaries between *Echinopsis*, *Trichocereus* and *Lobivia* were always vague. The primary distinction between *Trichocereus* and *Echinopsis* was that *Trichocereus* was more columnar than *Echinopsis*, but this is not a measurable or reliable method of distinguishing the two. *Trichocereus* are now generally accepted to be included in *Echinopsis*. The flowers of *Trichocereus* and *Echinopsis* are both long. The flowers of *Lobivia* are short, but again this has not proven to be a reliable or measurable trait, and all books published since the late 1990s include *Lobivia* as part of *Echinopsis*. Nonetheless, as with other genera combined in the last 20 years, these are kept separate in seed catalogs, plant lists and show categories.



Lobivia famatimensis entered in the 2003 CSSA show by C. & J. Spotts

Lobivia is one of the genera of cacti most noted for colorful flowers. The flowers also have the advantage of being open during the day, making them easy to find for plant explorers, and

particularly popular with collectors. Flowering period starts in June, and runs through early summer, ending when the summer heat gets intense. All of the species and hybrids are easy to grow.



Lobivia chrysochete entered in the 2003 CSSA show by D. & E. Tufenkian

The colorful flowers of *Lobivia*, and other genera were used by early and modern hybridizers of the extremely colorful, large flowered *Echinopsis* that are seen in the Huntington and ISI plant offerings. The first of these were the Paramount hybrids, and these have been improved on by workers in Germany, Arizona, and Bob Schick of the Huntington.

The genus *Lobivia* is native to the Andean highlands of Bolivia, Argentina and Southern Peru. The genus was created by Britton and Rose in 1922,

and is an acronym of Bolivia, where most of the species are found.

Lobivia and *Echinopsis* are easy to grow. They will do well in almost any standard cactus mix. Most have significant tap roots, and do much better in a deep pot than a shallow one, particularly when young. They do best when they have moving air (a fan in a greenhouse, or outside with minimal sun protection). They are dormant in winter, and can be kept dry from late November into February, depending on the weather. They also do well nearly ignored on an outdoor bench. Rain doesn't seem to bother them, even though they are dormant. They will also do well when planted in the ground. There are about 70 recognized species. Since the plants are very variable depending on location and growth conditions, many of the species could probably be reduced to varieties.

Propagation from seed or from offsets and cuttings is also easy. Offsets are separated from the main plant with a clean, sharp knife, left to dry and replanted. Small cuttings only need a few days drying. Cuttings should be taken in the late spring through the summer, when the plant is in active growth. They can be taken any time. Seed is best planted in April or May, to get advantage of a full summer's growth before dormancy. Many of the more unusual varieties are available only as seed.

Selected Species (now all *Echinopsis*):

Lobivia arachnacantha is a commonly seen, small clustering plant, looking as much like a *Rebutia* as a *Lobivia*. It flowers freely, making a good show in mid spring, and has small, soft spines.

Lobivia densispina grows in clusters from a large tap root. The spines form a

close network that shades and in many cases almost hides the plant body. The flowers vary from yellow to orange and red.

Lobivia ferox almost looks like *Thelocactus*. It is globular, usually singular, and grows to 8 inches in diameter. It has very long spines, which on some cultivars can get to be more than six inches long.

Lobivia larae is a purple flowered species, with wonderfully long spines. It makes an impressive sight, even when not in flower.

Lobivia tiegeliana is another with a large tap root. It is a globular plant, and variable spines from black to honey colored. Most have violet to purple flowers, although there is a variety with yellow flowers as well.

References:

Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**
Preston-Mafham, Cacti, **The Illustrated Dictionary**
Innes, C. and Glass, C., **Cacti**

Photos by Tim Nomer

Tom Glavich April 2006

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month May 2006 – *Echeveria*

Echeveria, along with *Dudleya*, *Pachyphthum*, and *Sedum* is one of the principal members of the succulent New World *Crassulaceae*. *Echeveria* come principally from the mountains of Eastern Mexico, although there are plants found from Texas into South America. Venezuela has a significant population.



Echeveria pumila

The genus *Echeveria* is named after Atanasio Echeverria, an illustrator of a projected *Flora Mexicana* prepared under the direction of Martin Sesse, from 1789 to 1803. Martin Sesse received a Royal Patent for a botanical expedition to Mexico from Charles III, King of Spain in 1788. Unfortunately, he died shortly after giving the Patent, and before supplying any money. His son, Charles IV, was not enlightened, not particularly bright, and unlucky. Sesse went on with the expedition, and although chronically short of funds, and often sick and hungry, with Jose Mocino, Atanasio Echeverria, and others, collected hundreds of plants over a 15 year period. The three returned to Spain, expecting to become famous and publish their *Flora Mexicana*, only to be ignored by the King. Sesse returned to his land holdings; Mocino went to work at the Museum of Natural History in Madrid, and Echeverria was hired as an artist's assistant.

Mocino sent the original drawings to the famous botanist Alphonse De Candolle as Napoleon marched on Madrid. The originals were lost in the confusion of the Napoleonic wars, but the drawings were saved by Alphonse De Candolle, who hired 120 draftsmen to work for 10 days making several sets of precise tracings of Echeverria's drawings. De Candolle also named the genus in a lecture in 1827, first publishing it in 1928.

Coming from mountainous regions, *Echeveria* prefer well drained soil, and good ventilation. They also prefer cooler temperatures, looking their best in late winter and early spring. The plants swell with the winter rains, and as growth starts the colors become more intense. Although they don't go completely dormant in summer, growth slows, and in the inland valleys, plants tend to wilt and sulk, even with some shade. In California, the best *Echeveria* growers tend to live near the coast, and near San Francisco.

Propagation of *Echeverias* is a required skill rather than an optional one. All *Echeveria* have leaves that dry and fall off as they age, leaving a thick, and usually ugly stem. With time, most *Echeverias* offset between the older leaves. These offsets can be removed, the bottom-most leaves of the offset removed, and the stem and remaining leaves planted as soon as the cut stem is dry. Successful rooting almost always follows. The terminal rosette should also be periodically removed and restarted in the same way, with all the dead and the older live leaves removed. The old stem can be kept for awhile, as it frequently offsets from the top or side, and these offsets can be removed as well and propagated. *Echeverias* have flowers on an extended stalk (raceme). The raceme has small leaves on it, and occasionally, rosettes. These will root easily as well.

Favorite species include:



***Echeveria agavoides* cv. 'Ebony'**

Echeveria agavoides, forms large light green rosettes, with red tips when grown in full sun. Two popular cultivars are "Lipstick" which has red edges and "Ebony" which has dark red-purple edge. The colors are enhanced by sunlight.

Echeveria ciliata is a smaller species, only three or four inches in diameter. The name comes from the small hairs at the edges of all the leaves. It offsets slowly, but can be easily propagated from leaves.



Echeveria ciliata

Echeveria elgans is a smaller species with pale green leaves that makes an excellent bedding plant.

Echeveria purpusorum is a small slow growing species from Southern Mexico. It has short stiff white-green leaves, with dark edges and small red spots.

Echeveria runyonii is known only from cultivated plants, and one of the more interesting blue-gray species.

Echeveria subrigida, shown above, is one of the white glaucous species.

Echeveria have also been hybridized frequently, and many interesting plants are available.

Echeveria 'Arlie Wright' is a large cultivar that is a beautiful burgundy color when grown in full sun.

Tom Glavich April 2006

Calendar of Events - 2006

- *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 13th** Cactus Data Plants annual Spring Sale 9am – 5pm (661) 944-2784
- *May 13th – 14th** Los Angeles Geranium Society Show and Sale, Descanso Gardens (Mother's Day Weekend). There will be a selection of species and succulent Pelargoniums at both the show and sale.
- *May 20th** South Bay Geranium Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. 9am – 5pm.
- *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 Gardens, 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
- 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.

CACTUS DATA PLANTS

Annual Spring Sale

DRAW YOUR DISCOUNT
One total order for free!!!



Saturday May 13th from 9:00 to 5:00, 2006

Draw your discount. An equal number of 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% Previous participants, who have drawn the free card, have received as much as \$420, \$630 and \$140 worth in plants for \$0,000!!! Others have received as much as \$1,100 in plants for \$600.

Many new Summer & Fall imports and other rarely offered species will be available!

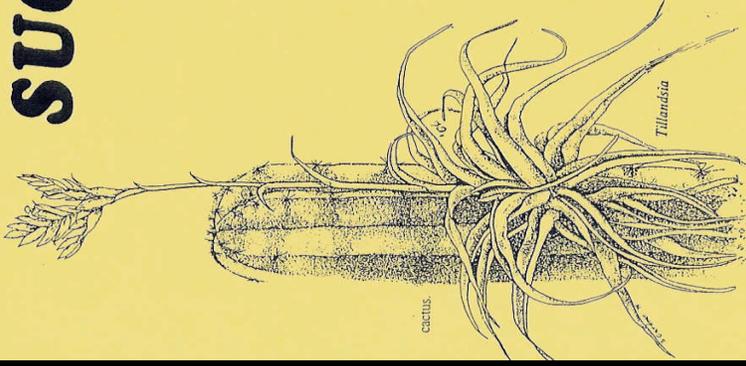
Selected show plants and new or seldom offered cacti and other succulents will also be made available from my personal collection. Top quality staging rocks, top dressings and show pots will be available for the serious collector.

CACTUS DATA PLANTS 9607 Ave. S-12 Littlerock, CA 93543 661-944-2784 cactusdata@thegrid.net

Don't miss some of these one-time offerings, and 10%-50% discounts. We'll see you for a wonderful day, Woody.

Lunch and snacks will be served!

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE



MAY 6 - 7

...free admission...

PLANT SALE:

SATURDAY 10 - 5
SUNDAY 10 - 4

SHOW:

SATURDAY 12 - 5
SUNDAY 10 - 4

Information: 310/822-1783

Club Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month
(except July & August) at 7:30 PM
Burton W. Chase Park, 13650 Mindanao Way
Marina Del Rey



SPECIAL: LA BALLONA BROMELIAD SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
(Auditorium) Same location/date



**garden room, veteran's memorial bldg.
4117 overland (at culver), culver city**

CSSA Promotional Article
No. 1 2006

In this article I'd like to focus on the **Cactus and Succulent Journal**. Under the able leadership of our current editor Russell Wagner, the journal has a new look, elegantly formatted and lavishly illustrated entirely in color. **Volume 77 (2005)** contains something of interest for every lover of succulent plants. Space limitation allows me to mention only a few of the highlights.

The **January-February** issue features an article on lesser-known and under-appreciated **succulent members** of the **Portulaca Family**, including the genus *Avonia*. Another article of interest concerns the **hybridization** of **Turbinicarpus** and **Gymnocactus**, which includes useful cultural information. As usual, the **March-April** issue contains the 2005 offering of the **International Succulent Introductions**. There were some real goodies here that I certainly wouldn't have wanted to miss out on. This issue also features three articles of interest for lovers of melocacti with many photos of plants in habitat, especially the one covering **The Melocacti of Chapada Grande, Brazil**, but also those covering **The Succulents of Venezuela's Rio Chama Conayon** and **Trekking for Cuban Cacti**. In the **May-June** issue we find a lengthy article discussing field observations on *Backebergia* and other cacti of **The Balsas Basin** in western Mexico.

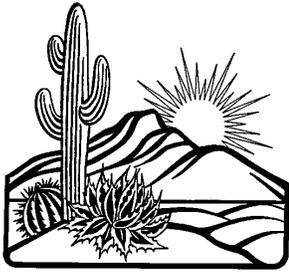
The **July-August** issue presents *Pachypodium mikea*, a new arborescent species from **Madagascar**. The features of this plant are carefully compared with its well-known close relatives *P. gayi* and *P. lamerei* and also with *P. umbongense* and the recently described *P. menabeum*. Also of interest in this issue is an article on the **Interdependence of the Galapagos Islands Cacti and Fauna**. Two travelogues in the **September-October** issue focus on the cacti and succulents of the **Superstition Mountains** near Phoenix and **Gasterias** in habitat in **South Africa**. Articles on epiphytic cacti don't often appear in our journal, but there is one in the September-October issue on *Schlumbergera* hybrids with spectacular flower photos and good cultural information. Finally Part 3 of a three-part series entitled "**Succulents for most Gardens**," appears in this issue (Parts 1 and 2 appear in the previous two issues). Featured in these articles are the genera *Phedimus*, *Hylotelephium* and *Rhodiola*, which I had never heard of, but they turn out to be splits from the genus *Sedum*. Most of the plants discussed are native to various parts of Eurasia and should be of interest to cool-climate gardeners (they should be good for zones 1-6, according to the articles). Not particularly heat tolerant, these plants will be of less interest to those of us living in warmer climates, but we have many other choices of cacti and succulents for growing outdoors. In the final issue of the year, one can learn about *Thelocactus* in habitat and in cultivation, succulent and xeromorphic **Bromeliads of Brazil** (*Dyckia marnier-lapostollei*, in particular) and also the changing face of **cactus fruit growing**. Also in this issue is a special conservation report exploring the threat posed by invasive weeds and wildfires to our **North American deserts**. Sequels to both this conservation report and the article on Brazilian succulent bromeliads are promised for the coming year.

I hope this brief review of Volume 77 of our journal gives the reader some idea of the breadth of coverage now available. We are trying to include more articles of general interest to the succulent hobbyists than has sometimes been true in the past, and I think we are succeeding in accomplishing this. In addition to the various articles included in each issue, regular features include book reviews, a page of succulents on stamps by Peg Spaete, a buyers' guide and appearing in most issues, a research and conservation report by Donna Woodward.

I know that many affiliate club members are not members of CSSA and that although you may have access to the **Cactus and Succulent Journal** in your club's library, you may not have been able to become aware of all that the journal has to offer. By joining CSSA and having regular access to your own copy of the journal, you will be able to increase your understanding and appreciation of the wonderful plants that form the basis of our hobby.

Good Growing.

Bob Barth, Publicity Chair, CSSA Board of Directors



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

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