



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

COMMUNIQUE



KAREN OSTLER
CACTUS EXPERT
TALKS STAGING
PLANTS



**SOUTH AMERICAN
OPUNTIA,
ALOE SPECIES**
PLANTS OF THE MONTH



MEETING 4/11 | WORKSHOP 4/17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & MORE:

A MESSAGE FROM NICK RENTERIA, SGVCSS PRESIDENT:



Spring has arrived!

And with the arrival of Spring, the cactus and succulent show and sales season is upon us.

Check the **Cactus Calendar** section of this newsletter for a complete listing of local shows and sales. Also, don't forget to mark your calendar and start preparing for the **Inter-city Show & Sale** which takes place on **August 2-4**. It'll be here before you know it!

In addition to all the local shows and sales coming up, your very own San Gabriel club is welcoming Spring with a speaker presentation by **Karen Ostler** on "*Staging for Show*" at our April general meeting. Our ever-popular **Spring Seed Workshop** takes place in the week following. Arrive early as this is one of our most popular workshops and tends to be very crowded. Last of all, stay tuned for details on some exciting upcoming **field trips**.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the general meeting on April 11.

Warm regards,
Nick Renteria

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

RENEWALS:

To renew, **\$20** dues covers the entire year and ensures you are eligible to participate in our *Winter Show* and *Inter-City Show*, and to attend our always-entertaining field trips, picnics, and more! Please see **Membership Coordinator Travis Martin** at our next meeting or workshop.

BECOME A MEMBER:

To become a **SGVCSS** member, please pay **\$20** dues per household (plus an additional **\$5** for each club name badge) to unlock all club member benefits.

You can pay at any meeting or workshop by cash or check. Checks must be made out to **SGVCSS**.

ABOUT SGVCSS

Chartered in 1967,
**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society's**
objectives are to promote knowledge, study, & interest in cacti and other succulent plants through educational programs, public exhibits, & the sharing of these interests to the general public.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

AUDIO VISUAL
COORDINATOR

REFRESHMENTS
COORDINATOR

CONTACT CLUB PREZ
NICK RENTERIA OR
VP AMANDA GERBERICH
FOR MORE DETAILS

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SGVCSS.COM



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[@SGVCSSCLUB](https://twitter.com/SGVCSSCLUB)



[/SANGABCACTUS](https://www.facebook.com/SANGABCACTUS)

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:

2024	
PLANTS OF THE MONTH	
JAN	MAMMILLARIA SENECIO, OTHONNA
FEB	BARREL CACTUS MESEMBS
MAR	TURBINICARPUS PELARGONIUM
APR	S. AMER. OPUNTIA ALOE SPECIES
MAY	ECHINOCEREUS AFR. PACHYPODIUMS
JUN	COPIAPOA AGAVE, YUCCA
JULY	GYMNOCALYCIUM GASTERIA
AUG	FAVORITES
SEP	HYBRIDS CULTIVARS
OCT	ARIOCARPUS AFR. EUPHORBIA
NOV	MONTROSE CRESTED

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APR 11 - MONTHLY

APR 17 - SPRING SEED WORKSHOP

MAY 9 - MONTHLY

MAY 15 - ECHINOCEREUS WORKSHOP

@ The Arboretum

ALL PROGRAMS START AT 7:30 PM

Meetings

Our club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in Ayres Hall at the *Los Angeles Arboretum* in Arcadia. Come as early as 6:00PM to socialize and shop. Enter Side Gate.

Workshops

Our hands-on workshops are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in the Palm Classroom at the *LA Arboretum*. Enter Main Gate.

2024 WORKSHOPS

JAN	SENECIO / OTHONNA
FEB	BARREL CACTUS
MAR	PELARGONIUM
APR	SPRING SEED
MAY	ECHINOCEREUS
JUN	STAGING
JUL	GYMNOCALYCIUM
AUG	TIPS & TRICKS
SEP	HYBRIDS & CULTIVARS
OCT	ARIOCARPUS
NOV	WINTER SEED

GUEST SPEAKER:

KAREN OSTLER

STAGING PLANTS FOR SHOW



PHOTO: LAUREN WOODLEY

Karen Ostler has been growing cactus since she got her first 'real' cactus; a *Gymnocalycium friedrichii*, (now *G. stenopleurum*). That same year, in the fall, she purchased six *Mammillarias* in 2 1/2" pots. She still has two of those plants: *M. albilanata* ssp. *tegelbergiana* and *M. llyodii*.

In the years since, she has been involved with both the CSSA and *Inter-city Shows* as a general helper; and has been *Show Chair* for the *Sunset Succulent Society* for the last 20 years.

She was originally living and growing both cactus and succulents in the San Fernando Valley, but has since moving to the High Desert, she decided to concentrate on growing cactus only, focused on *Ariocarpus* and related genera, *Mammillarias*, North and South American *Opuntias*, & *Gymnocalyciums*.



PHOTO: KAREN OSTLER

STAGING PLANTS FOR SHOW:

A discussion about how to bring out the best in your plants, how to best stage your plants to enter them into a show, and how to highlight the best features of your plant, including photo ideas.



PHOTO: KAREN OSTLER

CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

OPUNTIA SOUTH AMERICAN

The Cacti of the Month are all **South American members of Opuntioideae**, relatives of the common *Opuntia* native to Southern California. The Cactus family is divided into a number of subfamilies. The *Opuntioideae* is one of these sub-families, covering the largest geographical range of any of the sub-families -- stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada and covering all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas.

The first plants that come to mind when one thinks of *Opuntia* are the flat padded plants seen everywhere or the spiny cylindrical *Cholla* common to the local hillsides and deserts. The *Opuntioideae* family offers much more and some of the best come from the upland regions of South America.

These plants are surprisingly easy to grow in Southern California. They are summer growers, starting growth in late March and continuing into November. They need some protection from the hottest part of the day during the summer but look their best when grown hard. They do fine outdoors in our winters in pots with little care.

Propagation of all *Opuntias* is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds from the same plant sometimes germinating in days and sometimes not for months. Erratic seed germination is particularly a problem with *Tephrocactus* and the other South American highland *Opuntias*. Alternate freezing and thawing may help.

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Tephrocactus geometricus



Maihueniopsis subterrenea



Tephrocactus minor

CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

OPUNTIA SOUTH AMERICAN



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Handling of *Opuntias* is somewhat of a problem. They are notorious for their well-placed sharp spines, and nearly invisible glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.

A good potting mix for South American *Opuntias* is **80% pumice and 20% commercial potting mix**, well mixed. This mix allows quick draining and provides a base for nutrient retention.

Opuntias do best with steady fertilization starting in April when normal growth resumes and ending in October. Ending in October gives the plants time to use the remaining nutrients in the soil and to allow final autumn waterings to rinse the rest out of the potting mix. Any commercial fertilizer will work well with good success reported with all of them. Steady light feeding is much better than once or twice a year heavy doses.

--Tom Glavich



PUNA BONNIAE
PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

Outstanding Opuntia:

- ***Pterocactus*** is a Argentine geophytic genus with deciduous brown stems coming from a convoluted and interesting tuberous root. The stems are easily rooted, which is fortunate since they are even more easily detached whenever the plant is moved. The roots grow quickly and can be raised every year or two to make a spectacular plant. *Pterocactus tuberosa* is the most commonly seen species, but others are available.
- ***Maihueniopsis*** is another genus of clumping small plants. *Puna* was a mostly Argentine geophytic genus, related to (and now subsumed by *Maihueniopsis*.) Large subterranean roots are topped by small usually globular heads. *Puna bonnieae*, discovered in 1990 is a great example. You will see identical plants sold as *Puna* and *Maihueniopsis* with *Maihueniopsis* being the currently accepted correct name.
- ***Tephrocactus***, again mostly Argentine, is a genus of very variable cacti. Species vary considerably, from the very spiny *Tephrocactus stramria* to the paper spined *Tephrocactus articulata* to the nearly spineless *Tephrocactus geometricus*. *Tephrocactus* are probably the most collected of the *Opuntioideae*, and there is even a *Tephrocactus* study group for the true fanatics. They make small neat plants and a good collection can be kept in a reasonable area.

--Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

ALOE SPECIES



Aloe species have their own special niche in the world of plant collectors and this month is a wonderful time to have them displayed since many are in flower.

While there are dozens of new and spectacular hybrids being produced by Kelly Griffin, Karen Zimmerman, Dick Wright, Tim Harvey and others, these are not included this month. Only *pure Aloe species*.

Aloes are native to most of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and Madagascar. They are naturalized in every Mediterranean environment in the world, as well as some temperate and tropical regions. With only a few exceptions, all *Aloes* will grow readily in Southern California, either in the ground, or in pots. When in the ground they require minimal care, existing happily on only natural rainfall. Species cover the size range from a little over an inch to well over 30 feet.

The long blooming racemes of brightly colored *Aloe* flowers are attractive to sunbirds in Africa and hummingbirds in the West. When in bloom, hummingbirds will visit every few minutes, going from plant to plant and yard to yard, while fertilizing hundreds of flowers as they make their rounds.

Potted *Aloes* are healthiest when given a balanced fertilizer during their growing periods. *Aloes* can be stunted if not given enough root room. Some of the smaller species naturally grow in cracks and crevices, but many of the larger species expect to send roots out several feet as they grow. Occasional root pruning of old roots on potted *Aloes* will give new feeder roots room to spread out.

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Aloe erinaceae



Aloe descoingsii



Aloe bruynsii

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

ALOE SPECIES



(continued from page 7...)

There are only three serious pests of *Aloes*: rust, mites, and mealy bugs. Aloe rust, which produces red ringed spots or black or brown spots on the leaves, is a fungal disease, and can be controlled with any fungicide.

Aloe galls are produced by the Aloe mite. These nearly invisible insects cause deformed flower stalks and leaves. The plant should be removed from all others, and is best destroyed, although eventual cure is possible with a heavy dose of systemic miticide. Aloe mites spread from plant to plant by birds and other insects and immediate removal of the plant is the best means of preventing this. Mealybugs are easily controlled with any insecticide or by careful and persistent cleaning.

Aloes are some of the easiest and fastest plants to grow from seed. Many obscure species from Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula are available only as seeds. They are planted in April, and will be up and growing in just a few weeks. Show quality plants can sometimes be produced in as little as two years from seed.

The ISI introductions over the past few years have also been a great source of unusual smaller *Aloes*. Many of these have been used in the production of some of the newer hybrids, but they are spectacular plants well worth any collection or show bench.

--Tom Glavich



ALOE FLORENCEAE
PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

Amazing Aloes:

- ***Aloe brunysii*** is a small clustering species from Madagascar. It makes an impressive pot plant with bright shiny leaves. It is always a good show plant.
- ***Aloe descoingsii*** is the classic miniature species, with heads only a little over an inch in diameter, but making clumps many times larger.
- ***Aloe erinacea*** from Namibia is a popular and beautiful plant from Namibia. It is slow-growing and is generally propagated by seed which makes it more expensive than most. The proper name is *Aloe melanacantha* var *erinacea* but it usually grown and sold as *Aloe erinacea*.
- ***Aloe florenceae*** is a small Madagascan species with interesting flowers
- ***Aloe pseudoparvula*** was released as an ISI offering in 2007. Another Madagascan species, this is easily grown, and a favorite of both Aloe collectors and gastropods. It is a beautiful plant, well worth protecting from pests.
- ***Aloe roeoeslii*** from Ankarana, Madagascar, is a wonderful mauve to almost orange (depending on the season) small Aloe. It was released by the Huntington as IDI-2010-15, and is readily available. A beautiful plant.

--Tom Glavich

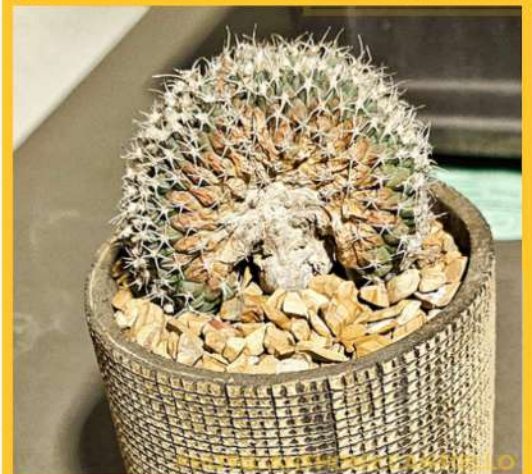
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MINI-SHOW RESULTS



March Mini-Show Results:

- **Novice Cactus**
 - 1st - Travis Martin - *T. lophophoroides crest*
- **Novice Succulent**
 - 1st - Nick Renteria - *Pelargonium klinghardtense*
 - 2nd - Cathy Tosetti - *Pelargonium hybrid*
 - 2nd - Nick Renteria - *Pelargonium laxum*
 - 3rd - Nick Renteria - *Pelargonium rapaceum*
 - 3rd - Tom Blanton - *Pelargonium sidoides*
- **Intermediate Succulent**
 - 1st - Tricia Kangrga - *P. peltatum 'Crocodile'*
 - 2nd - Richard Salcedo - *Pelargonium carnosum*
 - 3rd - Richard Salcedo - *Pelargonium carnosum*
 - 3rd - Tricia Kangrga - *Pelargonium klinghardtense*
- **Masters Cactus**
 - 1st - Tom Glavich - *Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus ssp. andersonii*
- **Masters Succulent**
 - 1st - Manny Rivera - *Pelargonium carnosum*
 - 2nd - Manny Rivera - *Pelargonium carnosum*
 - 3rd - Manny Rivera - *Pelargonium carnosum*



SHOWS, SALES, & MORE:

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Annual Show & Sale

April 13 and 14, 2024

Hours: 9am - 4 pm

Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
90275

FREE admission and parking



LACSS SPRING CACTUS SALE

MAY 17th & 18th



FRIDAY
5pm - 9pm
TWILIGHT SALE
\$10 Admission
(Free with current membership)

+
COLLECTORS LIVE AUCTION
8pm

SATURDAY
9am - 3pm
SATURDAY SALE & KIDS DAY

FOOD & MUSIC ON-SITE

TARZANA COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
19130 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana CA 91356

THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF SAN JOSE PRESENTS THE

Spring Show & Sale

10,000 square feet of cacti, succulents, & handmade pottery for sale!



April
26 5 pm - 7 pm
27 10 am - 5 pm
28 9 am - 3:30 pm

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Fiesta Hall (at Gate C)

FREE Admission & Parking

cssSJ.org/2024/spring-show-and-sale/



SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

MAY 4 - 5, 2024

SATURDAY & SUNDAY SALE
9AM - 4PM

SATURDAY SHOW 12PM - 4PM
SUNDAY SHOW 9AM - 4PM

(TEEN CENTER) AT VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CENTER
4117 OVERLAND BOULEVARD CULVER CITY



Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 49th Annual Show & Sale



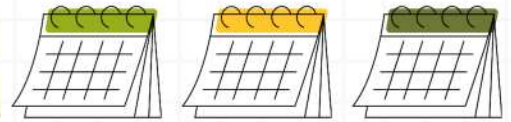
Plant Sale - Friday & Saturday, May 10-11, 2024
Exhibit Show - Saturday, May 11, 2024
9:00am - 4:00pm
Redlands Church of the Nazarene
1307 East Citrus Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374
FREE ADMISSION
Plant auction and raffle.
www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com
(909) 910-9195 (909) 222-3326



- BRYAN CHAN BROMELIADS
- COLE JAMES CERAMICS
- DESERT CREATIONS
- DISTINCTIVE FLORA
- DUKE & KAZ SUCCULENTS
- GERALD RICHERT POTTERY
- GREEN TOUCH NURSERY
- GOLDBALL CACTUS
- GROW UP
- HANNA'S SUCCULENTS
- INNERSCAPES
- JPM PLANTS
- JUNE'S POTS
- KATHRYN BOORER
- KYLE'S PLANTS
- MICHELLE LEE ART
- NELS CHRISTENSON POTS
- SKYVIEW SUCCULENTS
- SUNSET SUCCULENT
- THORN OASIS
- TRISH SIDWERSKI PLANTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CACTUS CALENDAR



APRIL

Monterey Bay Area CSS Spring Show & Sale

April 12-14, 3PM-6PM, 9AM-5PM (3PM)
mbsucculent.org

South Coast CSS Show & Sale

Apr 13-14, 9AM-4PM
southcoastcss.org

Conejo CSS Spring Sale

Apr 14, 9AM-4PM
conejocss.com



San Jose CSS Show & Sale

April 26-28, 5PM-7PM, 10AM-5PM (4PM)
csssj.org

Palomar CSS Spring Festival

April 27, 11AM-3PM
palomarcactus.org

Huntington Spring Plant Sale

April 28, 10AM-5PM
huntington.org (res req'd)

MAY

Sacramento CSS Show & Sale

May 3-5, 9AM-5PM
sacramentocss.com

Sunset Succulent Society Show & Sale

May 4-5, 9AM-4PM
sunsetsucculentsociety.org

Long Beach Cactus Club Show & Sale

May 5, 12PM-4PM
longbeachcactusclub.org

Gates CSS Show & Sale

May 10-11, 9AM-4PM
gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com

Santa Barbara CSS Show & Sale

May 11, 10AM-3PM
sbcactus.org



LACSS Spring Cactus Sale

May 17-18, 5PM-9PM, 8AM-3PM
lacactus.com

NOTE: All dates and times are subject to change.

Snacks For Our Meetings

We need YOUR help!
 Please bring in **snacks or drinks** for our meetings based on the letter of your last name below.

Cookies, pastries, fruit, veggies, appetizers, soda, or water are always welcome!

April
 May
 June

J-K-L
 M-N-O
 P-Q-R



Newsletter Submissions

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the **SGVCSS Communiqué**, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date.

Articles, notices, photos, and any corrections may be sent via email to: SGVCSSCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Material must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the newsletter.

SGVCSS EXECUTIVE BOARD:



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TBD