

# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 5

MAY 2005



APRIL 9 & 10

SHOW & SALE



VOTE  
for the best



ASK experts  
how they  
grow

SEE outstanding  
displays



BUY plants  
from top  
growers



GENERAL MEETING: Sunday, May 8, 1:30 P.M, in the South Coast Botanical Gardens classroom, LAURA LYONS, manager of UCI Botanical Gardens, will speak on "BULBS AND PERENNIALS OF SOUTH AFRICA. This should be of particular interest to several of our bulb-fancying members. She may bring a few bulbs for sale as the following weekend is their summer sale. 3

*CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS  
FOR 2005*

- Apr 30      SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
May 1      VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM  
              4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783
- MAY 15      HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
              GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160
- MAY 16      EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
              LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-831-1209
- MAY 21 & 22      GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND  
                          SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4 SUN. 9 TO 4 —SAT. SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM  
                          JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE  
                          GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 4 & 5      SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY —SHOW AND SALE  
                          BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.—#619-477-4779
- JULY 1,2,3      CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE —HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
                          GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA  
                          626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> THRU THE 3<sup>RD</sup>  
                          THE SHOW OPENS ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TO THE PUBLIC
- AUG. 20 & 21      18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM  
                          301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH  
                          AT 626-798-2430 or GENE OSTER AT 818-998-9306
- SEPT. 25      HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
                          ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 25      LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGUEZ ADOBE  
                          18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 15 & 16      SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
                          SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.



*Harry and Sandra Fletcher  
at the Succulent Symposium  
September '04*

PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS---2005

<u>CACTUS ADVANCED</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CACTUS NOVICE</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Duke	6	4	23	Capaldo		12	18
Fletcher	2	10	16	Crowley	5	11	20
Hulett	10		10	Ponce	11		11
LaForest		1	1				

CACTUS

Duke	3	3	14
Fletcher	3	7	14
Gardner	10		13
Hanna	7	9	22
LaForest	6	1	7

SUCCULENTS

Capaldo		10	10
Crowley	9	12	31
Ponce		2	2



Martha Ponce



Tom and  
Gloria  
Crowley

## PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH RULES

At the November meeting the following rules were adopted for the 1999 Plant-of-the-Month (POM) competition:

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- There will be three classes for entrants: advanced, intermediate and novice.
- Advanced and intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, beginners for three months.
- Entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 2 points for third place and 1 point for showing a plant that does not place.
- At the discretion of the judges there may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no third place will be awarded.
- For an entrant to receive points, the entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of record keeping for POM.
- At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

### PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2005

May	Gymnocalcium	Bromeliaceae
June	Coryphantha	Mesembryan Thenaceae (ex conos & Lithops)
July	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
Aug.	Opuntioideae	Sansevieria
Sept.	Neoporteria/Neochicenia	Pachypodium

-----NO MEETING-----

Nov.	Miniatures (3 in. max)	Miniatures (3 in. max)
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*Van Aaker*

-----CHRISTMAS-----

*Jim Gardner*

*Gary Duke*

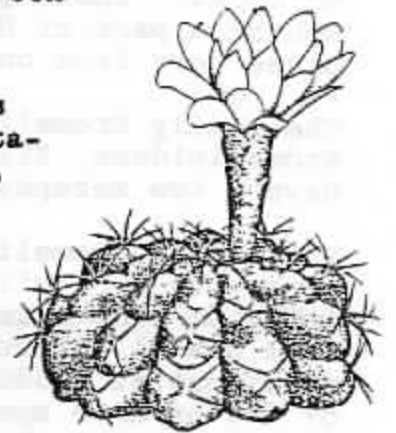




Hobbyists who are especially interested in this charming genus of South American cacti will find a useful aid in a small book called "Gymnocalyciums, a Guide for Growers" by E. W. Putnam, published in 1978. From the history and general description of the plants to the common-sense listing of species with their synonyms, cultivars and hybrids, it is an interesting and practical guide in laymen's language. The instructions for cultivation are for glass-house conditions in England and must be adapted to our conditions in California. The following observations are summarized from the book.

Gymnocalycium is the most widespread globular cactus genus in South America, being found as far south as Patagonia and occurring over much of Argentina and Uruguay, Paraguay, the south-eastern fringes of Brazil and in the southern half of Bolivia.

Although there can be problems in identifying species of Gymnocalycium, there is no difficulty at all in distinguishing the genus from other cacti. In general they are globular plants with relatively few ribs which are divided into blunt tubercles, often chin-like in shape. A horizontal cleft is plainly seen below the tubercle in all species. Some branch freely to form clumps, others remain normally as single stems. Some (e.g. G. andreae) have large tap-roots while others (G. damsii et al) have rather shallow and feeble root-systems. The flower buds are bare, smooth, and scaly. (The name, meaning "naked bud", is derived from this quality.) In most species the flowers are quite large and are long-lasting, a single bloom sometimes lasting ten or twelve days before wilting. If the weather is hot or the flowers are fertilized, they will wilt more quickly. The color can be white, yellow, red, purple-red, pink, or white with a red or pink center.



The natural habitats vary greatly. Some species are found among grasses and shrubs on low ground, others occur in rocky locations on mountainsides. Certain species (G. griseo-vallidum and G. pseudomalacocarpus) survive in the extremely hostile environment of the so-called Grey Hell of south-eastern Bolivia, growing in salt-caked soil close to the salt lagoons of this otherwise arid waste. Although the northerly species are found in the tropics, they are not necessarily tender or difficult to cultivate, since many grow at considerable heights in the mountains where the climate is far harsher than in the lowlands.

Gymnocalyciums offer very few problems in cultivation. Some of the species are probably frost-resistant; G. bruchii, for example, may tolerate temperatures as low as 14° F. (Note: Ours do very well planted out of doors here in the San Fernando Valley, in spite of winter frosts. E&B) Gymnocalyciums can be grown and flowered successfully as house-plants, if given sunny positions, preferably in south-facing windows. The tenderest are likely those of the G. mihanovichii group which enjoy a warm, moist climate during part of the year in their native habitat. They have tough skins which are not easily damaged by sun or by insect pests, and may be watered generously when in growth, from late March to October. They can be successfully propagated either from offsets or seed, though care should be taken to guard against hybrid seed. Fungus is probably their worst enemy, and should be treated as soon as brown or black spots appear. Under greenhouse conditions, dried flower remains should be removed promptly, since fungus infestations may begin here.

Text: Ed & Betty Gay (Excerpts from "Gymnocalyciums" by E. W. Putnam.)  
 Illustration: G. mihanovichii, from "Cactaceae" by Marshall and Bock

# SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

by Dorothy Byer

## XERIC BROMELIADS

The Bromeliaceae (Pineapple family) encompasses 44 genera and over 2400 species. With one exception all are native to the Americas. Most are tropical or subtropical. They grow as epiphytes, as terrestrials, or on rocks. Their geographic range is from the tip of Argentina to the southern part of U.S.A. at altitudes from sea level to 14,000 feet. Sizes vary from one inch to forty feet.

The family Bromeliaceae is split into three sub-families; Bromelioideae, Tillandsioideae, and Pitcairnioideae. The first two have a few xerophytes while the latter is almost totally xerophytic.

Sub-family Bromelioideae plants usually have spined leaves, flowers are conspicuous, fruit is berry shaped and seeds have no wings or pappus (ring of fine hairs or scales). Monotypic Acanthostachys strobilacea from Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay is considered xeric as it grows on sandstone at 2,500 feet. Aechmea MacVaughii, a terrestrial in a genus of 180 or more species, is very succulent and can tolerate extended drought. Orthophytum (Brazil), a genus of 6 or 7 species, and Ochagavia (Chile), a genus of 5 species, are mostly xeric terrestrials. Orthophytum spp. are distinguished by the long spike inflorescences which carry normal leaves that become smaller toward the top.

Sub-family Tillandsioideae has some quite drought tolerant plants in the genus Tillandsia. Other genera in this sub-family are mainly tropical rain forest inhabitants. Tillandsia spp. leaves are always entire, never spiny, almost always covered with dense scales, and appear white to grayish because of these scales. The fruit is a capsule and the seeds have a pappus attached to the base, aiding in wind dispersal. Tillandsia straminea grows in great masses on the sands of a Peruvian desert. It is spectacular with pink flowers that are very fragrant. Tillandsia secunda is a viviparous terrestrial with deep red flowers. Pups are formed in the axils of the floral branches which can be 4 or 5 feet tall.

Sub-family Pitcairnioideae plants are terrestrial or saxicolous (living on rocks). Leaves, persistent or falling, are entire or spiny, sometimes dimorphic or trimorphic. Flowers are large and conspicuous. Seeds are winged. This sub-family encompasses the following genera:

Abromeitiella spp. (2) Smallest rosettes in Pitcairnioideae form large terrestrial mats or mounds, have sessile inflorescences with green tubed flowers. Habitat: Argentina, Bolivia.

Deuterocohnia spp. (7 or more) Rosettes, saxicolous or terrestrial, are silvery grey scaled. Inflorescence is a branched panicle and is produced laterally. Flowers, yellow and green-yellow may reappear on the same panicle for 6 or 7 years. These plants are extreme xerophytes. Habitat: Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay.

Dyckia spp. (80 or more) Terrestrial rosette with short, thick, stiff, spined leaves terminating in sharp tips, silvery white scales undersides. Inflorescence is a raceme, spike or panicle. Flowers are yellow, orange, or red. Habitat: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay.