

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Number 7

July, 2006

Sunday, July 9,—South Coast Botanical Gardens

1:30 P.M.—General Meeting

Program: CSSA Trip to Chile—Gary James

Gary's presentation will cover his recent travels to Chile with CSSA. He will not only cover plants (predominantly cacti), but people and scenic places as well. Gary plans to bring a flat of his plants for sale. Let's give Gary a big welcome back! He hasn't spoken to our club in a while. Gary Duke

MEMBERSHIP: Do you have a cactus or succulent currently blooming? Do you have a plant whose name is "anonymous"? or do you need advice about a problem plant? If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes", BRING THE PLANT TO THE MEETING!! Specifically, bring it to the BRAG TABLE. This will give all of us opportunity to learn more about cacti and succulents.



INVASIVE WEEDS IN DESERTS—Deserts were never intended to burn. It's true that certain ecosystems such as some forests and grasslands thrive on small, localized fires for regeneration. But desert blazes like the Paradise Fire in Morongo Valley, California, simply scorch nature. Deserts don't harbor a single fire-dependent animal or plant species. There was not even a history of desert fires until 30 years ago. Fires suddenly arrived in the desert in the 1970s because of invasive weeds. Fast colonizing foreign grasses and mustards are the cause of charred deserts. Spread by vehicles, people and livestock, they threaten our public lands and private property and cost taxpayers millions in firefighting. Healthy deserts are home to diverse varieties of plants, all spaced a few respectable feet apart as they naturally partition extremely limited resources. However, invasive weeds crowd into these openings and rapidly crowd out natives for available resources. If fire is ignited, dry grasses can quickly carry fire across the windy desert, leaving native plants dead. Slow-growing cacti boil to death in their own juices. More habitat is now created for weeds—a vicious cycle steadily killing the native desert web of life.

[Source: Center for Biological Diversity, www.biologicaldiversity.org]

SCC&SS OFFICERS: President, Carol Causcy (310)675-5843; 1st V. Pres., Lowell Howard, (310)533-8778; 2nd V. Pres., Gary Duke (714)377-0064; Secretary, Dale La Forest, (310)618-9881; Treasurer, Marsha Huebner, (310)834-0263; Show Chairman, Harry Fletcher, (310)538-4078; Sunshine Hostess, Irma Rennie, (310)375-3790, and Newsletter Editor, Vera Thaxton (760)564-3285.

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PLANTS OF THE MONTH—2006



	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
July	Rebutia/ Sucrentia	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
September	Cacti of Argentina	Adenium & Plumeria
October	----- Break -----	
November	Miniatures (3 inch max)	Miniatures (3 inch max)
December	----- Christmas Party -----	

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS
FOR 2006**

- JUNE 30th-
July 2nd** **CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE—HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES ON THE 1ST THRU THE 3RD THE SHOW OPENS ON THE 2ND TO THE PUBLIC**
- JUNE 7** **LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA. SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432**
- AUG. 19 & 20** **21st 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. 2** **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON**
- SEPT. 24** **LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGUEZ ADOBE 18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.**
- OCT. 14 & 15** **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.**

PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES

- * A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- * There will be two classes of entrants: novice and advanced.
- * 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 third showing a plant that does not place.
- * There may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.
- * Entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of recordkeeping
- * At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders, regardless of class.



PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS -- 2006

CACTUS ADVANCED	JUNE	TOTALS	CACTUS NOVICE	JUNE	TOTALS
Duke	8	31	Capaldo		24
Fletcher	1	32	Ponce		5

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED	JUNE	TOTALS	SUCCULENTS NOVICE	JUNE	TOTALS
Duke		7	Capaldo		24
Fletcher	12	39	Hulett		20
Gardner		5	la Forest	6	12
Hanna		27	Ponce		12
LaForest		1	Ross		5



*South Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society
20300 Crengshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes
Peninsula, CA 90274*

I'm getting tired of typing out the name of our club newsletter – "*The South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter*" and wondered if club members might be interested in renaming it to something shortly, snappier, and easier to remember. I brought the issue up at the June meeting and the members present approved a contest to do just that.

To get your brains in gear, I've done a little preliminary work. Here are some words that might stimulate your thought processes: The Scoop . . . South Coast Succs . . . XeroNews . . . Shards . . . PV Peninsula . . . SoCoCaSuSo Dirt (I'll bet you can't say that correctly the first time) ☺

We probably don't want to duplicate names from other CSSA affiliate clubs, so here are the names already "taken". But listed to further stimulate your creative juices.

<i>The Cactus Patch</i>	<i>Sticky Issue</i>	<i>Stuck-up News</i>
<i>The Bulletin</i>	<i>Water Miser</i>	<i>Cactus Chatter</i>
<i>Roadrunner</i>	<i>Cereus Chatter</i>	<i>Desert Breeze,</i>
<i>Gems of the Desert</i>	<i>Spiney Messenger</i>	<i>Prickly Pages</i>
<i>Cactus Chronicles</i>	<i>The Baltimore Areole</i>	<i>The Cacto-Files</i>
<i>Espinas y Flores</i>	<i>Spinal Column</i>	<i>Cowtown Connection</i>
<i>The Epi Gram</i>	<i>The Digest</i>	<i>The Point</i>
<i>Communique</i>	<i>Succulent News & Views</i>	<i>Dinteranthus</i>
<i>Dry Times</i>	<i>Prickly Press</i>	<i>Cactizette</i>
<i>Points of View</i>	<i>Prickle Press</i>	<i>Digital Cactus</i>
<i>Cactus Courier</i>	<i>Xerophyte Highlights</i>	<i>Cactus Factus</i>
<i>On The Dry Side</i>	<i>Cactus Comments</i>	<i>Kaktos Komments</i>

Okay, if and when you're inspired send me your idea and I'll make up a ballot for a future meeting.

Dale La Forest
Secretary

Cacti of the Month

- *Rebutia* and *Sulcorebutia*



Rebutia and *Sulcorebutia* are both genera from the highlands of Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are similar in appearance, in habitat and culture. Coming from high altitudes, they are both tolerant of cold, and if dry, can be left out in all weather. The populations of *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* overlap, but they no natural hybrids are known.

There has been debate from the start on whether or not *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* are the same genus. Some would combine the two under *Rebutia*, others would rather split *Rebutia* into several genera. The issue will ultimately be settled by genetic studies. For the present they are treated as separate genera, and they appear this way in almost all references, catalogs and show schedules. Both genera cover large altitude ranges, and many species are so variable that collections from nearby populations, or even the same population at different times have been given different names. There are far more names than species. The books by John Pilbeam help make sense of the species and varieties.

Both genera are easily grown. They are dormant in winter, and start to grow in late March or April. They flower from April through June, with the peak flowering period varying from year to year depending on the weather. Two flowering cycles are common in

cultivation in California. The flowers are almost always numerous, and vary in color from purple and red through orange to yellow. They do well in normal compost, and grow best with steady fertilization, when in active growth. They are both attractive to spider mites. Damage can be prevented by frequent inspection, and a weekly, forceful wash down with water.

Propagation from offsets is easy. The offsets should be cut off, left to dry for a few days, and then replanted. Very small offsets can be successfully rooted. Seed is easy to germinate, but is short lived.



Sulcorebutia rauschii entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by D. & E. Tufenkian

Photo T. Nomer

References

John Pilbeam, *Rebutia*

John Pilbeam, *Sulcorebutia and Weingartia*

John Pilbeam, *Cacti for the Connoisseur*

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

March 2003 Tom Glavich

Succulent of the Month

Cissus and *Cyphostemma*



Cyphostemma seitziana entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Petra Crist photo T. Nomer

Cissus and *Cyphostemma* are two closely related genera both in the *Vitaceae* or grape family. The members of both of these genera span the range of extremely easy to grow plants to real challenges. Most of the species will grow large, given time, good root room, lots of fertilizer, and water during the growing season. Both of these genera present some of the most striking pachycauls and caudexes of the entire plant world.

Most *Cissus* and *Cyphostemma* will set fruit. In most cases, the fruit is toxic to humans and most pets, although freely eaten by birds. The seeds in the fruit are ripe when the fruit turns color.

The key to success with these plants is to pay attention to the native habitat. *Cyphostemma juttae*, common in many collections, easily obtained, and often a show winner, comes from South Africa. It takes some frost with no damage, and grows in the ground in Southern California, putting on bulk and character in just a few years.

Cyphostemma seitziana, on the other hand comes from Namibia, and is much less tolerant of unprotected cold and over watering.

The exact relationship between the two genera was in dispute for most of the 19th and 20th centuries, and it's easy to find both generic names used for the same species in many references. As a general guideline, *Cyphostemma* tend to be pachycaul succulents from Africa, while *Cissus* is widespread throughout new and old world tropics. *Cissus* tend to be more vine like. There are exceptions to both of these, and the final determination needs to be made by detailed examination of the flowers.



Cissus quinata

Propagation of both genera is easy from cuttings and seeds. Seed of all the common and even some of the truly rare species is sometimes available through the CSSA or through some of the better South African and US seed dealers. The germination is erratic (days to months), and only one seed should be sown per pot. The seedling mix should be sterile and organic, and hold a lot of water. Scarring the seeds to allow water penetration

Succulent of the Month

Cissus and *Cyphostemma*

helps. The seeds should be completely buried to provide uniform moisture. A plastic bag over the mix will help keep everything uniform. The bag should be removed as soon as any sign of green appears, the seedling leaves are large, and will rot if they touch the plastic. Softwood cuttings should be taken when active growth is occurring. Rooting does not require or even seem to benefit from hormones.



Cissus glabrum

Cyphostemmas to covet:

Cyphostemma betaformis is a Somalian species, relatively new to cultivation. Not particularly difficult to cultivate as long as warm conditions are given.

Cyphostemma currori is a Namibian species. It is easy to grow, and does well in the ground during the summer and fall, but needs to be removed to a pot for the winter.

Cyphostemma juttae is by far the commonest in cultivation. It is easy to grow, does well in the ground, and makes an impressive specimen in a short time.

Cyphostemma seitziana, shown on the previous page is one of the more tropical species. A bit harder to grow, it is sensitive to cold, and needs winter protection.

Cyphostemma uter is a large species, rarely seen in cultivation, with orange peeling bark. Although it comes from South Africa, it is hard to keep going in the ground and needs some winter protection.

Cissus to cultivate:

Cissus glabrum, shown left is an easy species to grow from seed. The vine spreads rapidly as the caudex develops, but it is easily pruned for show, or even trimmed back to the caudex at the end of the season.

Cissus quinata, shown on previous page has great colored leaves. It grows quickly, and needs lots of room to spread for best caudex development.

Cissus tuberosa may be the best of all the species. The caudex is usually round when seed grown, and usually elongate when grown from cuttings. In both cases they are excellent specimens.

References

Gordon Rowley *Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents*

Tom Glavich June 2002

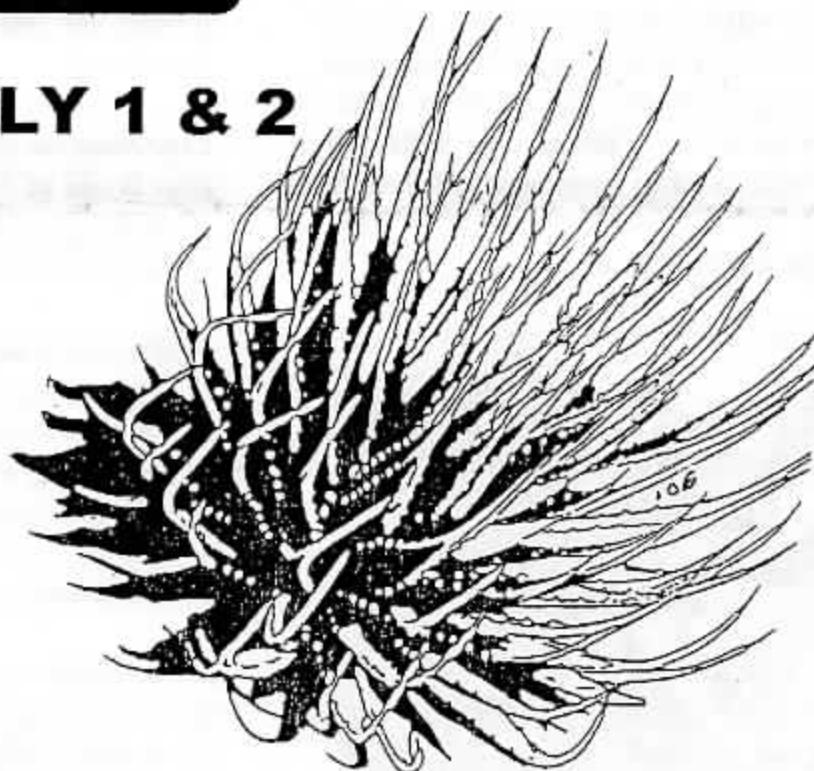
The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

**Cactus and Succulent
SHOW & SALE**

JUNE 30, JULY 1 & 2

SHOW PLANT
EXHIBITERS
RECEIVE A FREE
ADMISSION PASS TO
ALL THE GARDENS
& PUBLIC
BUILDINGS WITHIN
THE HUNTINGTON
BOTANICAL
GARDENS

INFO: (310) 822-1783

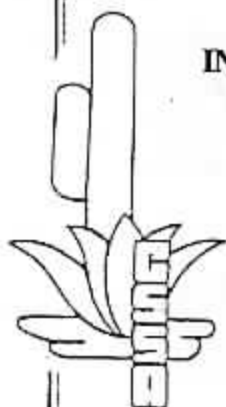


SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:30 am
SHOW: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am

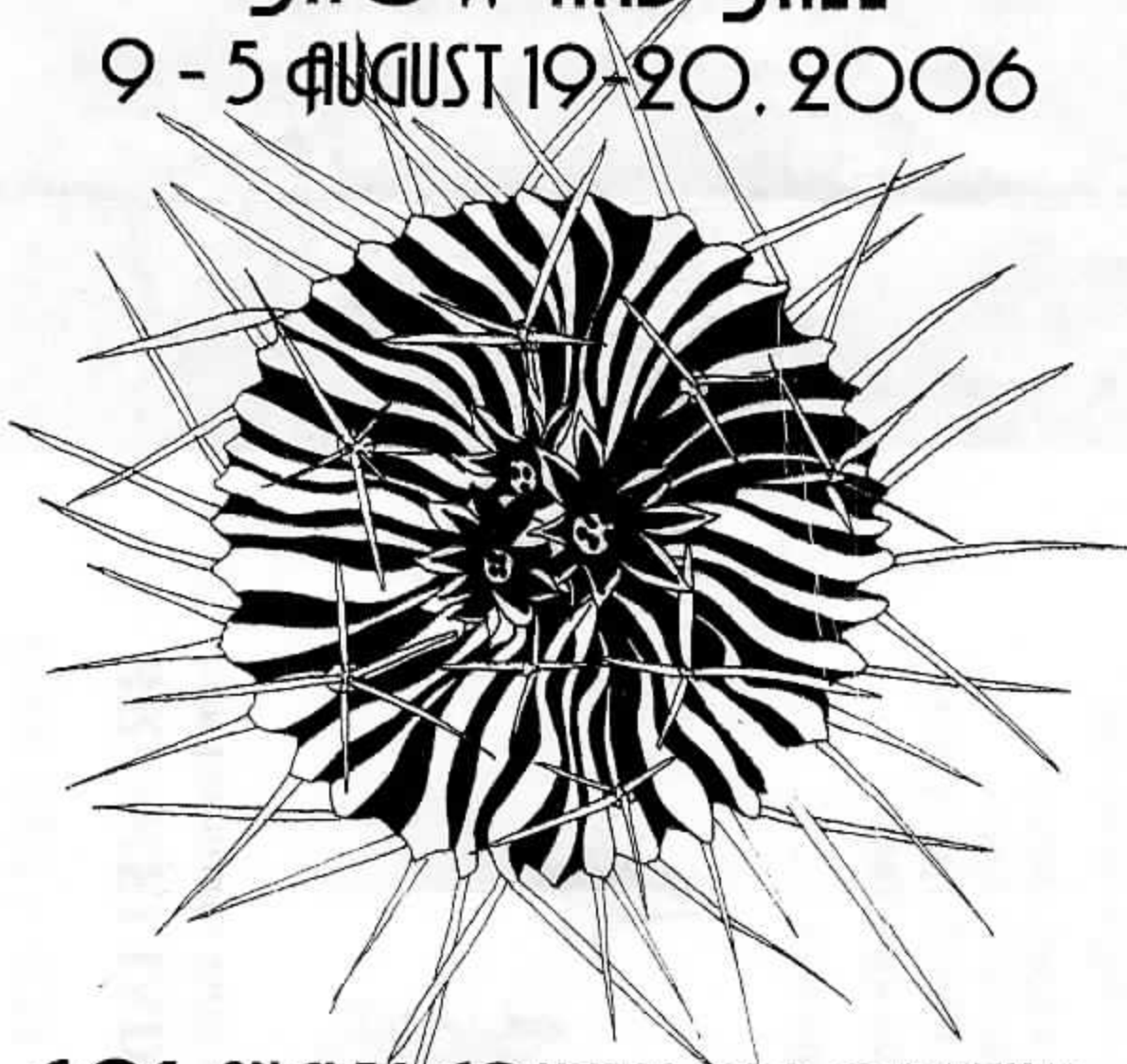
Free Admission to Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino
For Information Call – (626) 405-2100



21ST ANNUAL INTERCITY
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SHOW AND SALE
9 - 5 AUGUST 19-20, 2006



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 W BALDWIN AVE ARCADIA

Information: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 Jim Hanna 562-920-3046
Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078 Barbara Hall 818-368-6914

LACSS

Show & Sale July 15 - 16



**2006
Show & Sale**

Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Boulevard
Encino, CA 91316

July 15th & 16th
9:00am - 4:30pm

Rare plant auction
July 15th after show

*Los Angeles Cactus
and Succulent Society*

*Saturday, July 15 &
Sunday July 16, 2006*

Open 9:00 - 4:30

BROMELIAD SHOW & SALE
San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society



Free Admission

Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino CA
*101 Fwy just West of 405 Fwy
Between Balboa and Hayvenhurst*

Information: Bryan Chan (818) 366-1858
bcbrome@aol.com