

# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 2007

GENERAL MEETING--Sunday, February 11, 1:30 P.M.  
South Coast Botanical Gardens Classroom

KELLY GRIFFIN will be presenting a slide presentation Concerning ALOES. Most of the pictures show the plants in habitat. Kelly is a great photographer as well as a terrific Hybridizer of aloes and he will be bringing a few to sell. He Comes to our meeting from his home near San Diego so COME, BRING YOUR FRIENDS, and look forward to a very enjoyable program complete with an intriguing collection of Plants from which to make purchases.



## MEMBERSHIP-

### -INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS-

-During the December meeting, CAROL CAUSEY, Outgoing President, hands the gavel to incoming President, DALE LA FOREST.

NEW MEMBER: Our newest member is Ethan Pearson, 2113 Velez Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes. Welcome, Ethan!!

REFRESHMENTS--The following people have volunteered to bring refreshments to the February 11 meeting:

Ed Curlee  
Marsha Huebner  
Dale LaForest  
Barbara Stenger



**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.

### 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

CACTUS ADVANCE			CACTUS NOVICE		
CACTUS	JAN	TOTALS	CACTUS	JAN	TOTALS
Duke	8	8	Capaldo	4	4
Warzybok	4	4	Thompson	6	6

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED			SUCCULENTS NOVICE		
SUCCULENTS	JAN	TOTALS	SUCCULENTS	JAN	TOTALS
causey	3	3	Capaldo	5	5
Duke	8	8	Hemingway	2	2
Gardner	3	3	Hulett	4	4
Hanna	8	8	Pearson	2	2
LaForest	2	2	Ponce	4	4
Warzybok	4	4	Thompson	8	8

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
2007 PLANTS OF THE MONTH

CACTI

SUCCULENTS

Feb Echinocereus

Aeonium, sempervivum, sedum

Mar Parodia/notocactus

Sansevieria

April

SHOW TIME

May Variegates

Variegates

June Mammillaria

Euphorbia

July Favorite 3

Favorite 3

Aug Cereu (columnar cactus)

Xeric bromeliads

Sept Gymnocalycium

Agavaceae family

Oct

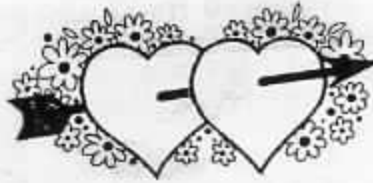
BREAK

Nov Miniature (under 3 inches)

Miniatures (under 3 inches)

Dec

CHRISTMAS PARTY



**DUES:** Are your dues paid yet? In case you have forgotten, fill in the form below, make out a check (\$10 for one; an additional \$2 for each extra family member), and send it to MARSHA HUEBNER, 1043 E. Joel, Carson, 90743. Make the check payable to SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP                      NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007**

- FEB. 10<sup>th</sup> SAN DIEGO WINTER SHOW AND SALE 9AM to 4PM  
RM. 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO
- APR. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW &  
SALE AT SO. COAST BOTONICAL GARDENS  
26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA # 310-832-2262
- APR. 29 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE Info. CALL 310- ~~833-6823~~
- APR 21 & 22 GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM  
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
- May 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM  
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783
- MAY 20 HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160
- MAY 20 EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-831-1209
- MAY 25-30 CSSA 32<sup>ND</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION—SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
- JUNE 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup> SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY—SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO. #619-477-4779
- JUNE 9<sup>th</sup> GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29<sup>th</sup>  
SHOW AND SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4  
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE  
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 9 & 10 LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.  
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- JULY 6, 7 & 8 CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE—HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.  
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> THRU JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>  
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> THRU THE 8<sup>TH</sup> TO THE PUBLIC
- AUG. 18 & 19 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM  
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH  
AT 626-798-2430 or BARBARA HALL AT 818-368-6914
- SEPT. 2 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- OCT. 13 & 14 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- DEC. 1 & 2 ORANGE COUNTY SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM  
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831  
SHOW AND SALE OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM  
FOR INFORMATION CALL 714-870-4887

## Cactus of the Month

*Echinocereus* is one of the earliest recognized genera of Cacti; first described in 1848 by George Engelmann from a plant collected in 1846 in what is now New Mexico. The type species (the first one found, and after which the genus is named) is *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, a widespread species with a distribution that ranges from Southern Wyoming, South Dakota, and Kansas to Eastern New Mexico. As the name suggests, it has brilliant green flowers.

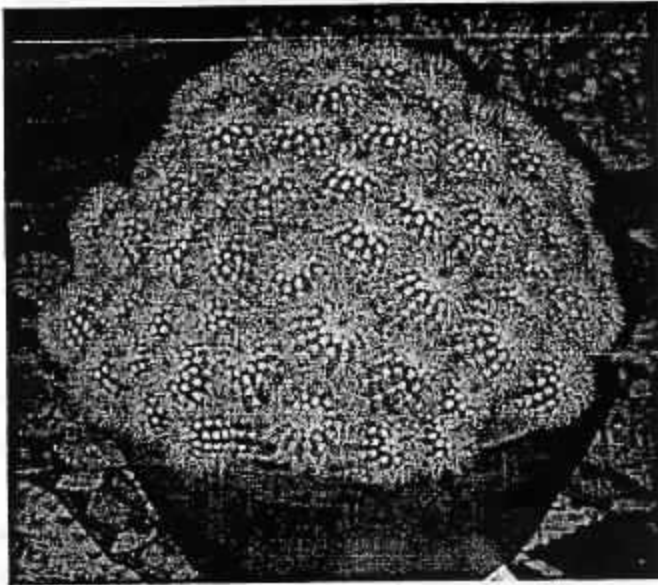


Figure Vince Basta's *Echinocereus baileyi* from the 15<sup>th</sup> InterCity Show

*Echinocereus* species can be found throughout the Western United States, and the range of species stretches through the American west and through Northern and Central Mexico to about Mexico City. As might be expected from a genus covering such a large range, *Echinocereus* are extremely varied in form, ranging from nearly spineless green balls such as *E. knippelianus*, to very spiny short columnar species such as *E. engelmannii*, to pencil thin sticks such as *E. poselgeri*.

In general, *Echinocereus* is an under appreciated genus. Most growers have one or two, but having killed a few in their early collecting days,

## *Echinocereus*

usually because of over watering, concentrate on other genera. Most of the species are in fact easy to grow. Many of the species are quite variable, and exhibit different spination and flower colors depending on the local environment. As a result, a large number of species were named. These are being reduced to a more conservative 30 to 50 species. The varieties and local growth forms provide an enormous range of interesting plants to grow.

Most *Echinocereus* have spectacular flowers, giving rise to such common names as Claret Cup, Strawberry Cactus, Calico Cactus. These common names are often attached to more than one species. *Echinocereus* flowers erupt through the skin, leaving scars. Offsets also erupt through the skin.

Almost all the species need bright light and warm temperatures to grow well and flower. Some are quite easy, but most have somewhat fragile root systems that are prone to rot. They often benefit from being slightly underpotted. Good drainage is a must.

Propagation from seed is fairly easy. Seed germinates in a few days to about two weeks in warm weather, as long as soil mixture is kept moist. Once germination occurs, the seedlings need to be moved to an environment with moving air. They need to be kept damp until they have hardened off.

Propagation from cuttings is relatively easy, but attention needs to cleanliness is important. Use of Rootone, or another rooting compound containing a fungicide helps ensure success.

## Cactus of the Month

## Echinocereus

### Excellent Echinocereus

*Echinocereus delaetii* - spines are reduced to white hairs. Flowers are pink to purple, with a very obvious green stigma. One of the more difficult to grow. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

*Echinocereus engelmannii* - from the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. A clumping species with stems 2 to 3 inches thick with generally light tan spines and rose like flowers.

*Echinocereus knippelianus* - dark green body, with slightly lighter ridges, nearly spineless, clustering, and slow. Lots of pale pink flowers. Sensitive to over watering. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

*Echinocereus nivosus* has dense white needle like spines, with a dark green body. It clumps freely, and has large pink flowers, with bright green stamens. If this plant wasn't natural, it would be in bad taste. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

*Echinocereus poselgeri* was formally *Wilcoxia poselgeri*, and is one of several tuberous rooted species that have above ground pencil thin stems. They have bright pink flowers, and make an odd sight and an interesting addition to any collection. (from Texas, Coahuila, Mexico)

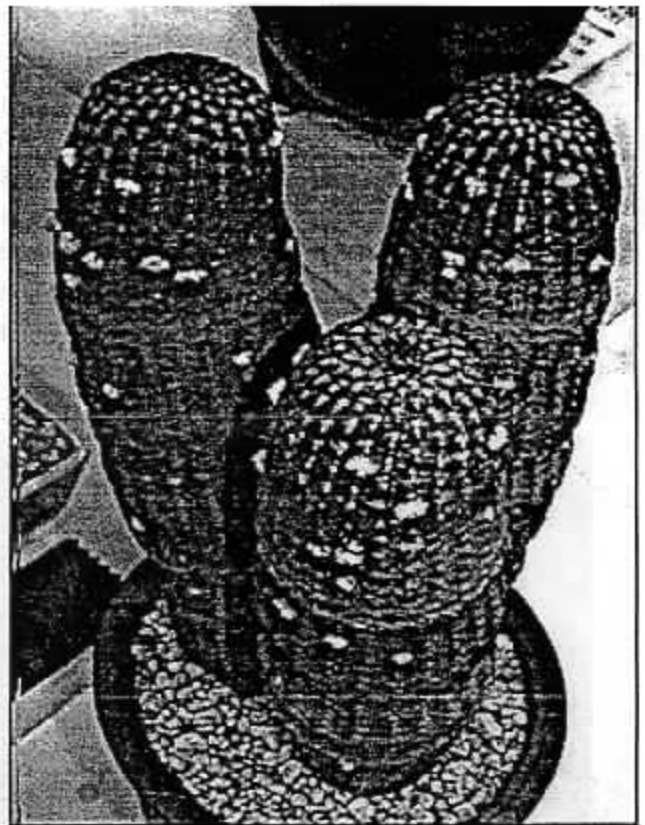


Figure Charles and Joanne Spotts *Echinocereus rigidissimus* v. *rubispinus*

*Echinocereus rigidissimus* - columnar, with bands of red, pink and cream spines. A classic, and a frequent show winner. Every collection ends up with one sooner or later. (from Arizona, New Mexico, Northern Mexico)

*Echinocereus sharpii*, discovered in 1971 by club member Peter Sharp near La Asencion in Nuevo Leon, is one of the more difficult to grow, and infrequently seen in cultivation.

### References

- L. di Martino Cactus & Co., *Echinocereus*
- C. Innes and C. Glass, *Cacti*
- J. Pilbeam, *Cacti for the Connoisseur*
- Cullmann, Gotz & Groner, *The Encyclopedia of Cacti*

## Succulents of the Month

### *Aeonium*, *Sempervivum* and *Sedum*

These three genera are members of the *Crassulaceae* family. *Aeonium* comes from the general Mediterranean area. It is endemic to the Canary Islands, and a majority of the species come from these small islands. There is also a cluster of species from the Cape Verde Islands, and additional species are spread throughout the Mediterranean from Spain and Morocco to the Arabian Peninsula. *Sempervivum* are more widespread, native to a good part of Europe and Northern Africa, and spreading into Asia. *Sedum* are more widespread, growing throughout the old and new worlds.



*Aeonium urbicum*

*Aeonium* and *Sempervivum* are closely related (indistinguishable according to some authors) and share most of the same growth and floral characteristics. In general, *Sempervivum* are hardy and *Aeonium* are not, but not always.

The distinguishing characteristics of both are rosettes, often quite large in the case of

*Aeonium* and sometimes tiny in the case of *Sempervivum*. Foliage varies in color from yellow green to purple, with many hybrids and cultivars available.

*Aeonium* and *Sempervivum* are among the easiest of all succulents to grow. They are winter growers, perfectly suited to the California climate. They look their best from fall, shortly after the first real rain through late spring.



*Sempervivum 'Rubellum Mahogany'*

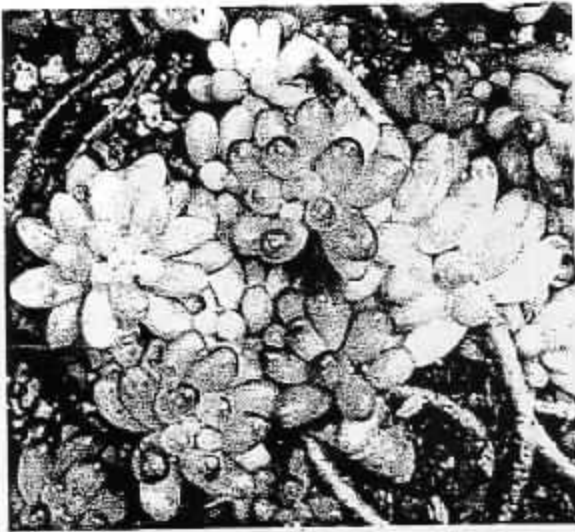
Most *Sedum* are also easy to grow, although the genus is so large, with plants coming from so many varying climates that some will prove quite a challenge. The most difficult ones to keep looking good are the ones from Japan and the higher damper mountain regions. These often have trouble making it through our hot summer nights.

Pot culture is simple for all three. Leave the plants in the garden for the winter rains, and then maintain them through the summer with

## Succulents of the Month

### *Aeonium, Sempervivum and Sedum*

partial shade and more frequent watering. When weather gets really hot (over 100), and particularly when nights are hot, avoid watering them at all. The plants will be dormant, and water will only encourage rot. They are tolerant of most potting soils, and require no special treatment. Show plants benefit from frequent repotting, and generally do best without long stems.



*Sedum rubrotinctum* grown by Virginia Martin

Propagation by cuttings is simple. Cuttings can be taken during the growing period, (March is ideal) left overnight to dry slightly, and simply stuck in the ground or fresh potting soil. The cut stem often sets new heads, and the cuttings almost always root quickly. Propagation by seed is also easy, with seed planted in October.

#### **Admirable Aeonium:**

*Aeonium lindleyi*, from the Canary Islands tends to be a small shrub with rosettes two or three inches across. The leaves have been reported to provide a relief from burns and pain produced by *Euphorbia latex*.

*Aeonium tabulaeforme* from the Canary Islands is a nearly perfectly flat growing. Growers frequently restart it from cuttings in late spring to be ready for early summer shows. In contrast to the way it is normally seen in shows and gardens, this plant grows nearly vertically in rock clefts in habitat.

#### **Seductive Sempervivum:**

*Sempervivum arachnoideum* has hair leaves, with the hairs resembling thin webs.

*Sempervivum 'Twilight Blues'* a cultivar has blue-purple leaves, the name perfectly capturing the last clouds of the day.

#### **Select Sedum:**

*Sedum oxypetalum*, a tree sedum from Mexico has succulent branches and peeling bark. A great addition to any collection.

*Sedum rubrotinctum*, shown at left, common, easy to grow poorly, hard to grow well. Beautiful colors as shown.

#### **References:**

Jacobsen, H., A Handbook of Succulent Plants  
Sajeva, M. and Costanzo, M., Succulents The Illustrated Dictionary  
Stephenson, Sedum Cultivated Stonecrops

Tom Glavich February 2002