



# DRY TIMES

VOL. 111

APRIL 2011

NO. 4

President: Rosalie Gorchoff  
(310) 822-1783

Editor: Nels Christianson  
(310) 396-1231

nchristianson@mednet.ucla.edu

**April meeting  
Tuesday, April 5, 2011  
7:30 pm**

**Burton W. Chace County Park  
13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey**

## **PROGRAM**

### ***Preparing for the Show***

**Karen Ostler**

**Please call Karen in advance at 661-944-9844  
if you would like her to repot one of your plants at the meeting**

## **PLANT OF THE MONTH**

### ***CACTUS:***

**Uebelmannia, Buiningia**

### ***SUCCULENT:***

**Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Puya**

Longtime member Karen Ostler will give a hands-on demonstration on how best to present plants for Sunset's May show. She will bring potting mix, decorative rocks, and top dressing and has agreed to pot up some members' plants if she is contacted in advance of the meeting. Please call her at the above number.

Karen has been involved in the cactus and succulent scene in Southern California for over thirty-five years and has been a tireless advocate for these plants. She has served as show chair for Sunset and CSSA where her enthusiasm was invaluable in encouraging members to enter plants and to participate in general. Karen has an eye for beautiful and unique morphological details and is well known for her artistic presentation of plants in local shows.

**\*\* If your last name begins with letter A-G, please bring goodies to munch on at the break. Thank you!**

Last month Sunset member Woody Minnich presented a colorful program on the succulents of Yemen. Woody visited Yemen in 2007 and photographed its interesting people, architecture and plant life which he demonstrated in his enjoyable talk.

## **SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN 2011 !!**

### A Few Sunset Reflections

by Gretchen Davis (February 2011)

Early in the fall semester 2007 in Jim Jaeger's course at Santa Monica Emeritus College, we visited several gardens that featured succulents. I was intrigued by their beauty, colors, and variety and frankly, I was tired of replacing the wilted annuals in the large pots on my patio. When Lee Freehling announced a meeting of the Sunset Succulents Society to members of Jim's class, I thought it would be a good way to learn more. Watching Larry Grammer demonstrate grooming and staging plants that first evening, I was hooked. Brigitte Williams collected my membership dues that very night; Laurel Woodley encouraged me to join CSSA; and I made my first of many visits to the Huntington the following week-end.

A few months later, Rosalie Gorchoff and Nels Christianson organized a San Diego trip which included a visit to Rancho Soledad Nursery. I returned home with three large noble agaves -- still my favorite succulent. (Who can argue with John Ryan!) Sue Swartz introduced me to the wonders of aeoniums; John Mathews converted me to top dressing; Jim and Roberta Hanna answered my numerous questions as I began to explore kalanchoes, echeverias, aloes; and Bonnie Ikemura helped me battle a mealybug problem.

Although I have learned something new at the monthly meetings from each presentation and each display of featured plants, it has been the casual conversations with David and Sue Verity that have taught me the most. In the past three years, I have visited gardens and parks in the western US, attended the CSSA conference in Tucson, traveled to South Africa, added photos of individual plants and succulent landscapes to my growing collection, and I have filled the patio with hundreds of plants -- mostly blue gray agaves and other rosettes. Who knew that one meeting of the SSS would have such a serendipitous influence on my life!



Agave x David Verity 'Blue Flame' at Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, photo by G. Davis



*Agave verschaffeltii* at South Coast Botanical Garden, photo by G. Davis



*Erythrina acanthocarpa* at Karoo Desert National Park, South Africa, photo by G. Davis

### **Upcoming Events**

April 9-10, South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, information, 310-832-2262.

April 16-17, Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton CA 92831.

**April 24-29, CSSA Convention, San Diego CA, Marriott Hotel Mission Valley, [www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org)**

May 1, South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, 9 am-4 pm, South Coast Botanical Garden, information, 310-833-6823.

**May 7-8, Sunset Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. Info 310-822-1783.**

May 15, Huntington Plant Sale, 10 to 5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino Ca

May 15, Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, 310-670-8148

May 14-15, Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 10-4 pm, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo CA, info.: 805-237-2054, [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)

May 20-21, Gates Cactus and Succulent Society show and sale, 9 am – 4pm. Jurupa Mountain Cultural Center, for info call 909-360-8802.

June 4-5, San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale, Balboa Park, Rm. 101, San Diego, Info.: 858-382-1797.

June 11-12, Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale, June 11 9-5, June 12 9-3:30, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, info Sandy Chase, 818-367-0864.



*Buiningia brevicylindrica* (*Coleocephalocereus aureus*), Pedra Azul, Minas Gerais, photo by N. Christianson

**PLANT OF THE MONTH 2011**

**CACTUS**

**SUCCULENT**

April Uebelmannia, Buiningia  
 May Lobivia, Echinopsis  
 June Ferocactus, Echinocactus  
 September Copiapoa, Matucana  
 October Melocactus  
 November Ariocarpus

Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Puya  
 Euphorbia – Africa  
 Euphorbia – Madagascar  
 Bursera, Operculicaria, Commiphora  
 Succulent Crests  
 Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon



**March 2011 Plant of the Month Winners**

**Junior Cactus**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Peggy Oberg	Mammillaria perezdelarosae ssp. andersonii
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Robert Trichter	Mammillaria sp.

**Senior Cactus**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	John Matthews	Mammillaria supertexta
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Brian Gold	Mammillaria hahniana superba
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Brian Gold	Mammillaria nezapensis
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Nels Christianson	Mammillaria theresae

**Junior Succulent** -- No entries

**Senior Succulent**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Darlene Weld	Tylecodon bucholtziana
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	John Matthews	Tylecodon reticulatus
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Laurel Woodley	Tylecodon leucothrix

The March POM judges were Barbara Hogan and Robert Trichter accompanied by Woody Minnich

**Cacti of the Month, April 2011 - *Uebelmannia* and *Buiningia***

*Uebelmannia* and *Buiningia* are both tropical Brazilian cacti. In the most modern reference, *Buiningia* has been swept into the genus *Coleocephalocereus*. Although both are from the same geographical region, they are not closely related. Both however have some spectacular species, well worth the effort of growing.



*Uebelmannia* and *Buiningia* are (as far as known) confined to a single state in Brazil, Minas Gerais. *Uebelmannia* is concentrated around Diamantina and *Buiningia* around Pedra Azul.

Both genera have similar cultivation requirements. They grow in rocky quartzite soil, often protected by nurse shrubs. The soil contains the decaying remains of bromeliads, lichen, and other organic matter, and is acid. The humidity is high, particularly during the growing season. Neither will tolerate cold, and particularly cold

and wet. Both will scar if the temperature approaches 40, even if bone dry. Most references recommend keeping them above 55.

The distinguishing characteristics of *Uebelmannia* are the rows of bristle-like spines on the ribs. The flowers are small, grow close to the crown, and are yellow to yellow-green.

*Buiningia* (and the rest of the *Coleocephalocereus*) are distinguished by producing a cephalium (a region of dense hair like spination from which flowers and fruit appear). Although other genera of *cacti* have cephalia, the cephalia of *Buiningia* are located on one side and are mostly contained in a groove in the stem.

Propagation from seed is relatively easy, although the seed (particularly *Uebelmannia*) is harder to come by and more expensive than most. Older references and many seed catalogs will list *Buiningia* and many more species than those currently referenced. These are all different variants of the currently recognized species, and all worth growing. Reference: E. Anderson, **The Cactus Family** Tom Glavich March 2003



*Uebelmannia flavispina* west of Diamantina, Minas Gerais, photo by N. Christianson

### April 2011 Succulents of the Month -- *Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia* and *Puya*

*Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia* and *Puya* are South American terrestrial succulent species in the bromeliad family. All possess a rosette form. *Deuterocohnia* is found in Andean Peru, Argentina and Chile and elevated regions in Paraguay and southern Brazil. *Dyckia* is found in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay whereas *Puya* is concentrated in the sub-Alpine regions of the Andean countries of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. *Puya* can stand considerable cold and reaches great sizes. Often the flowers are intense blue, purple or even turquoise. Because of their large size *Puyas* are more commonly seen in botanical gardens than in private collections. Physically, *Deuterocohnia* falls into two types of plant forms. The small forms such as *D. brevifolia*, known as *Abromeitiella* until 1992 when Michael Spencer and Lyman Smith merged them into *Deuterocohnia*, can grow into large mats several feet across. They have tubular green flowers. The larger-headed plants are mostly silvery in color and tend to measure 5"-12", often pupping. The latter type, such as *D. longipetala*, flowers yearly on the same dry looking inflorescence, creating a delicate bouquet of small yellow flowers. This habit is unique among the bromeliads and the scape should not be removed after flowering. *Deuterocohnia* can be well watered in spring and summer to promote growth and to prevent leaf tip die back. *Dyckia* is concentrated in Brazil with Minas Gerais-Bahia populations separated from Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul populations. Most species inhabit mountainous regions and customarily are found growing on rocks where a single head can reach 12"-16". However, with pot culture *Dyckia* plants average half this size. The northern species prefer warmer winter temperatures and will sulk in a rainy 40° F winter. All species appreciate plenty of sun and water in the summer. *Dyckia* does not reach its mature look until flowering, usually at about five years or more. Some species more commonly divide than produce pups. *Dyckia* is valued for its variety of spination, color (green, tan, reddish, maroon, gray) and abundant amount of trichomes which can give an intense silver tone to plants. An example of this is the much loved *D. marnier lapostollei*. *Dyckia* flowers can be yellow, orange, red orange and maroon. In recent years some fragrant southern Brazilian species have been discovered. According to Constantino Gastaldi, webmaster of *Dyckia* Brazil, several new species of *Dyckia* are discovered each year in

such places as Mato Grosso do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Paraguay and Argentina. Dyckia is quick to hybridize and Bill Baker, deceased and much loved owner of California Gardens in Reseda, worked tirelessly with Dyckia hybridization for many years and produced such outstanding plants as D. 'Brittle Star' and D. 'Bill Paylen' that are sought after in Europe, Australia, and Thailand, as well as in the United States. Many new species have become available in recent years and the future of Dyckia hybridization is promising.



Dyckia 'Burgundy Ice', photo by N. Christianson

*Mark your calendar now!*

## CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



**April 24 - April 29, 2011**  
 Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley  
 San Diego, California

**Watch for future updates**  
[www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org)

**Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society**

### Confirmed Convention Speakers

Myron Kinnach – Banquet	Tom Knapik	Jackie Poole
Debra Baldwin	Julia Etter/Martin Kristen	Guillermo Rivera
Tom Glavich	Marlon Machado	Karen Zimmerman
Andrew Hankey	Todd Masilko	

If you don't collect stamps, please save the envelope you received this newsletter in for Nels. Thank you.

### *About DRY TIMES*

*DRY TIMES* is published monthly by the *Sunset Succulent Society* (SSS), whose officers are:

<b>President</b>	Rosalie Gorchoff	(310) 822-1783	Vice Pres.	Brigitte Williams	
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Oberg	(310) 645-7946	Treasurer	Brigitte Williams	(818) 455-1246
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres., Plant of the Month		Laurel Woodley	

Material for publication in the newsletter must be in the Editors' hands by the 1st day of the publication month (e.g., by Aug. 1 for the next issue). Articles and letters may be edited for space and clarity. Editorial comment and signed articles are the opinions of the Editor or author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Board of Directors of the Society, an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Unless expressly denied in a note with the article, all material in the newsletter may be reprinted by non-profit organizations, provided that proper credit is given to the SSS and the author, and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the Editor. Reproduction in whole or in part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the SSS is prohibited.