



DRY TIMES

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No. 6

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June meeting
Tuesday, June 4, 2013
7:30 pm

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

PROGRAM

Where the Copiapoas Live;
A tour of the landscape and growing conditions
where this uniquely Chilean cactus grows
Steve Frieze

PLANT OF THE MONTH

CACTUS:
Rebutia, Weingartia, Sulcorebutia

SUCCULENT:
Bursera, Commiphora, Pachycormus

Steve Frieze writes: "I have worked for the California State University system for just about thirty years. I was an administrator for 22 years where I served as a manager of the office that looks at quality control issues at the university. For the past seven years I have functioned as an adjunct faculty member at California State University, Dominguez Hills teaching upper division psychology courses. I have been involved with the cactus and succulent hobby for over 25 years. When I retired from the university we started Desert Creations, a cactus and succulent plant store. Desert Creations has grown and we now participate in approximately 20 sales events each year. In addition to Chile, I have visited Costa Rica, Africa, and Brazil."

Last month Laurel Woodley presented a broad spectrum of slides taken during the Club's fieldtrip to Fallbrook in early April. The pictures were taken by Laurel and your Editor.

**** If your last name begins with letter S—Z , please bring goodies to munch on at the break. Thank you!**

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: *REBUTIA*, *WEINGARTIA*, *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 no natural hybrids are known.

There has been debate from the start on whether or not *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* are different genera. Current research is leading to the lumping of both into *Rebutia*. 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. They like open moving air, and do better outside of a greenhouse.

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.
September 2003 Tom Glavich

There are approximately six “solid” species of *Weingartia*, a genus found in Bolivia and Argentina with mostly solitary plants resembling *Sulcorebutia* with yellow flowers. In 1990 Hunt and Taylor transferred *Weingartia* to *Rebutia*, reaffirmed by Hunt in 1999 and Anderson in 2001. More recent taxonomic research argues against this reclassification.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: *BURSERA*, *COMMIPHORA*, *PACHYCORMUS*

This month’s succulents are a study in convergent evolution of pachycaul (swollen trunk) shrubs. *Bursera* are plants from the New World, while *Commiphora* are from the Old World.

All have similar cultivation requirements. They do best when watered in the summer in Southern California. They will all tolerate being left unprotected, outdoors during the winter rains, although some of the *Commiphora* (particularly ones coming from the tropics and Madagascar are very sensitive to freezing temperatures, and need protection when temperatures approach the mid thirties. Any standard succulent mix will do as a potting medium. Growth is much more rapid when they are fed. They will really take off when put into the ground and quickly try to become trees! All of the plants do well when treated as bonsai, and pruned to expose the geometry and structure of the trunk and bark.

Bursera is a widespread genus, with a range that extends from California into South America. Many of the species are beautiful trees with red or brown peeling bark, rarely seen in cultivation. Most *Bursera* are aromatic, with wonderful woody fragrance from their leaves and bark. Species frequently seen are *Bursera fagaroides*, *Bursera microphylla*, with very small leaves, *Bursera multijuglans* (with red peeling bark), and *Bursera simplex*.

Commiphora are the African equivalent. *Commiphora* is also a widespread genus, stretching from South Africa through tropical Africa the Arabian Peninsula and Madagascar. Many of the species have peeling bark, although the color tends to run more towards the yellow and gray than red. Vigorous growth is also found in well-fed and watered plants. *Commiphora* are aromatic, with fragrances that manage to be both similar and different to *Bursera*. *Commiphora pyracanthoides* is similar to some of the tall growing *Bursera*, and is easily grown from seed. Named species are beginning to appear on seed lists and nursery catalogs. The genus is understudied, and there are many species unknown or unidentified.

Tom Glavich, November 2004

Pachycormus is a monotypic genus of the cashew family. *Pachycormus discolor* is the single species. It is endemic to Baja California.



Rebutia heliosa condorensis, photo by N. Christianson

PLANT OF THE MONTH 2013

CACTUS

September Parodia, Notocactus
 October Opuntia, Pereskia, and Austrocylindropuntia
 November Miniature cacti under 3"

SUCCULENT

Cissus, Cyphostemma
 Agava, Calibanus, Nolina
 Argyroderma, Pleiospilos, Faucaria

May 2013 Plant of the Month Winners

Junior Cactus

1st Place Gretchen Davis Stenocactus costatus
 No 2nd or 3rd awarded

Senior Cactus

1st Place Brian Gold *Stenocactus multicostatus*
 2nd Place Nels Christianson *Stenocactus vaupelianus*
 No 3rd awarded

Junior Succulent – no entries

Senior Succulent

1st Place Brian Gold *Euphorbia caput-medusae*
 2nd Place Brian Gold *Euphorbia caput-medusae*
 No 3rd awarded

The May POM judges were Lee Freehling and Paul Nakamura accompanied by Nels Christianson.

Please invite friends and neighbors to come to a meeting with the aim of both supporting the future of Sunset Succulent Society and educating our communities about the wonderful world of succulents, including the usefulness of using succulents in landscaping.

Letter to the Editor:

Each month when I leave our terrific Sunset S.S. meetings I notice that Rosalie Gorchoff, our devoted President, is one of the last to leave. She takes home the coffeepot and paper supplies which she brings faithfully and she makes sure the place is left clean and secure. She is also one of the first to arrive to make coffee, get flyers out and prepare for our speaker. For years she has been doing this generously in addition to being the glue that has not only held us together but made us grow into the happy successful club we have become. Rosalie is dynamite in the scenes behind our annual show and sale and is the always available leader for each of the jobs our cooperative entails. We have many hard-working members who make things happen but it is often Rosalie who smooths out the crises, gives kudos to those who deserve praise and is always available to solve any and every problem. She has been our chosen President for many years quietly and sometimes jokingly doing more than any of us. She's an amazing woman - we are so fortunate to have her magnanimous nature among us.

For this year's show, certificates were given to honor winners instead of the impressive plaques we have long sent home engraved with winners' names. Again it was Rosalie who had been storing these plaques, bringing them and tracing their whereabouts for each show.

Change is sometimes necessary and people appreciated their paper awards which they may frame. However, I hope that the history of Sunset and its traditions will not disappear. Years ago there was much excitement when many of our members sponsored the purchase of a handsome award (wooden and ceramic plaques, golden cups). They were engraved with the name of the donor, a specific genus or category and then each year's winners' names. Let's store these properly as they are an important part of our history and of people who cared. Bob McClurkin, historian for many years, made many scrapbooks of our early development for our library. They too matter more than may presently be realized. Archives of Sunset Succulent Society's place in Los Angeles are important. - Judy Campbell

**** SAVE THE DATE:** Our annual club barbecue at the home of Nathan and Rosalie Gorchoff will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, August 3rd. A reminder will be sent to you in early July.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1 & 2, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Soc. Summer Show and Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101, info. 858-382-1797.

June 8 & 9, Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Show and Sale, 8th from 9 am – 5 pm, 9th from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino CA, info. lacss.contact@gmail.com

June 15-20, 35th CSSA Biennial Convention, Austin, TX, info. www.cssa2013.com

June 28-30, CSSA Annual Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, info. 626-405-2160 or 2277. Plant sale starts June 28th, show opens June 29-30. Free to public.

July 26-28, Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale, Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27, 9am-5pm, Sunday, July 28, 12-4pm, 1000 S. State College Blvd., (Anaheim United Methodist Church), Anaheim, info. 949-212-8417.

August 17 & 18, 28th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm daily, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, info. Call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364.

September 7, Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, all day at the Huntington.

September 22, Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, Rancho Los Amigos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd, Long Beach 90615, info. 310-922-6090.

November 2 & 3, San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, 9am-4pm both days, LA County Arboretum (address above).

2013 Show Results

Best Aloe	Duke & Kaz Benadom
Best Cactus Advanced	Karen Ostler
Best Cactus Novice	Inacia Matheus
Best Caudiciform	Laurel Woodley
Best Cereus	Brian Gold
Best Copiapoa	Peter Walkowiak
Best Crassula	Laurel Woodley
Best Echinocereus	Peter Walkowiak
Best Euphorbia	Laurel Woodley
Best Gasteria	Laurel Woodley
Best Gymnocalycium	Peter Walkowiak
Best Haworthia	John Matthews
Best Lithops	John Matthews
Best Mammillaria	Peter Walkowiak
Best Mesembryanthemaceae	Karenn Ohlinder
Best Miniature	John Matthews
Best Monstrose/Crest	Darlene Weld
Best Rebutia	Peter Walkowiak
Best Sansevieria	Duke & Kaz Benadom
Best Succulent Advanced	Peter Walkowiak
Best Succulent Novice	Lemono Lott
Best Variegated Cactus	Calvin & Cheryl Newman
Best Variegated Succulent	John Matthews

Show Chair Bonnie Ikemura reports that 327 plants were entered in the show. The top five members to enter plants were Brian Gold (65), Peter Walkowiak (62), Nels Christianson (50), Karen Ostler (30) and John Matthews (14), The top five highest point earners were Peter Walkowiak (166), Brian Gold (155), Karen Ostler (114), Nels Christianson (68) and Laurel Woodley (65).

President Rosalie Gorchoff thanks all who entered plants and hopes that more novices will enter next year. Rosalie also thanks all the members who participated in the show and sale by volunteering in so many different ways.

About DRY TIMES

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

President	Rosalie Gorchoff	(310) 822-1783	Vice Pres.	Brigitte Williams	(818) 455-1246
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		2nd 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.