



Sweepstakes Winner

# Open Gates

## A publication of the Gates Cactus & Succulent Society August 2015

NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY,  
August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE  
NAZARENE 1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN  
REDLANDS, CA

### Plants of the Month:

#### Cacti:

Rebutia/Sulcorebutia

#### Succulents:

Caudiciform/Pachycaul

### Save the Date!

**Aug. 8-9** Inter-City Show  
and Sale. LA County  
Arboretum

**Sept. 5** Huntington  
Botanical Gardens  
Succulent Symposium,  
all day event

**Sept. 6** Long Beach  
Cactus Club Annual Plant  
Auction -12-5PM

### From the President:

How is your summer planting going so far? Are the seeds germinating; the growing plants being re-potted; the propagation getting rooted; and are the flowers blooming? For me just about every spare moment I have is spent in the garden. And that amount of time seems not even enough before sunset. As soon I'm done with one task, ten more is waiting for my attention. If you feel that same way, then definitely you've caught the cactus/succulent "bug". No chemical or pesticide will be able to eradicate this bug from you though. The summer heat will fuel the rapid growth of your plants. That summer rain storm two weekends ago provided much needed water for us all and for the plants. You didn't have to water much during the following week. Did any of your plants get damaged or flooded? I know there is still much to be done by fall.

This month's speaker is a returning friend of the club, Ernesto Sandoval. He will be speaking about propagation at the UC Davis Botanical Garden. Those who are growing succulents from seedlings or from cuttings this talk should be of interest to you. Or if you only grow them for fun you will still get a lot of incite about propagation and growing plants. In any event we will learn something new with Ernesto. He will provide sound scientific information on horticultural planting, specifically plants that are dearest to us. Like us, Ernesto loves growing plants and he has taken that passion to a higher level in botany.

Summer is half over but lucky for us we can continue work with our succulents well into the fall season. It also means there is still plenty of cactus and succulent event to enjoy. The biggest annual summer show and sale is here. This Intercity event will be on August 8-9, 2015 at the LA County Arboretum. If you have never attended this show and sale before, you must make it a weekend priority. I guarantee you that the show is spectacular beyond pictures and the sale is a one-of-a-kind. Come early to get that specimen you're still missing or one that you just have.

There are a couple of fall/winter events exclusively for our club in the planning stage. It is that time of the year when we consider nominees for the club's officer election to the Board. No, it's not too early!

President	909-910-9195	Phuc Huynh	Director	909-797-8214	Kim Urman
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:huynhphu@excite.com">huynhphu@excite.com</a>		Director	909-380-6671	Connie Ramirez
Vice President	909-824-2147	Diana Roman	Dir/Editor	760-881-0184	Trisha Davis
Treasurer	951-369-7180	Karen Roholt	Director	909-503-3657	Ray Cardenas
Secretary	909-234-4388	Linda McConnell	Librarian	951-682-3795	Karen Fleisher
Past President	909-783-2477	Don McGrew	Greeter	951-781-8205	Teresa Wassman
Membership	951-369-7180	Karen Roholt			
S&S Chair	909-910-9195	Phuc Huynh			

### Leadership Team 2015

### **From the President Con't.**

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Judy Horne, will make its recommendation of nominees to the Board by October 13, 2015.

Anyone who is a fully paid club member is eligible to be a candidate for nomination. I encourage anyone who wants to serve on the Board to participate in this process. You are an integral part of the club and the club needs people with healthy and strong leadership roles to sustain the functions of the club. Although general election will be during the November meeting, please start thinking about possible candidates and share those thoughts to the nominating committee. The club's fall BBQ party with cactus cooking competition and a field trip is being planned. As always, I'll have more to share at the meeting.

Phuc

## **Our July Speaker** Ernesto Sandoval

Lecture Topic  
Succulent  
propagation at the  
UC Davis Botanical  
Conservatory:

A brief tour of the techniques used at the Conservatory to propagate a variety of succulent plants from seed (sexually) and from stems, and leaves. Techniques for good pollination as well as seed germination and grafting will be covered. Pollination and seed germination of *Dorstenia gigas* as well as *Welwitschia mirabilis* will be discussed along with seed capture of *Euphorbias* and grafting of *Aztekium* and other difficult to grow cacti. Leaf cuttings of *Haworthia*, *Gasteria*, and *Sansevieria* will also be covered.

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do since a young age. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. A "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.



When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 24 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

## **Mini-Show Results July 2015**

### **Succulent, Photograph**

#### **Advanced**

Large 3<sup>rd</sup> Agave Sp. Isabelle Moon

### **Cacti, Photograph**

#### **Novice**

Small 1<sup>st</sup> Lobiva Sp. Trisha Davis

#### **Advanced**

1<sup>st</sup> Bob Laughlin

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Laughlin

### **CACTUS RESCUE**

Just a reminder about our cactus rescue program; it's a great way for our members to acquire new specimens at a relatively low cost, and all funds go directly to our club. If you or anybody you know want to donate plants or an entire collection, contact Ray Cardenas or any other board member. We will collect and transport the plants, make arrangements for their care, prepare them for sale, and make them available to our club.

Ray Cardenas

### **Kitchen Duty for August**

Andrew Gould and Trisha Davis

### **Guest Judge for August**

David Hawks

## Plants of the Month

	<b>Cacti</b>	<b>Succulents</b>
August	Rebutia/ Sulcorebutia	Caudiciform/ Pachycaul
September	Miniatures	Miniatures
October	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates

## Up Coming Cactus & Succulent Events

- AUG. 8-9                    30<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercity Show and Sale, at the LA County Arboretum,  
9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.  
INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052
- SEPT. 5th                    Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium  
   ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 6<sup>th</sup>                    Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5PM  
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615  
INFO: 310-922-6090

# Rebutia

The genus *Rebutia* has grown to swallow *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia*. There is no reliable distinguishing characteristic that separates what once were three genera.

*Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia* were genera from the highlands of Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are similar in appearance, in habitat and culture. Coming from high altitudes, they are tolerant of cold, and if dry, can be left out in all weather. The populations of all three overlap.

There has been debate almost from initial discovery whether or not *Weingartia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Rebutia* belong in the same genus. All three genera grow over 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, and the New Cactus Lexicon gives the names under which the older species can now be found. Many names have changed multiple times over the years.

*Rebutia* 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 appear in abundance, and vary in color from purple and red through orange to yellow. They do well in normal cactus potting mixes, and grow best with steady fertilization when in active growth. They are attractive to spider mites. Damage can be prevented by frequent inspection, and a weekly, forceful wash down with water.

Many plants eventually get a woody brown growth at the base of the plants, which creeps upward. This is known as creeping crud, and is a fungal disease. It can be avoided by maintaining the plants in active growth. Better yet, small offsets should be periodically used to start new growth. When the creeping crud appears, the plant should be discarded. It just gets uglier as time goes by, and the presence of diseased plants makes it easier for the fungus to grow and spread.

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.

## Selected species (they are all great!)

*Rebutia heliosa* is an orange flowered form. It clumps rapidly in cultivation with a dark green body, small brown areoles and short whitish spines in a spiral pattern.



***Rebutia heliosa***  
Thanks to Home and Garden.webshots

*Rebutia steinmanni* '*christinae*', also found as *R. christinae* is from Salta Argentina, and is one of 7 species included in *R. steinmanni*. It has dense off white spines and wonderful red flowers with a yellow center.

*Rebutia marsoneri* from Jujuy, Argentina is noted for its spectacular golden yellow flowers.

*Rebutia pygmaea* comes in at least 20 varieties, many of which were originally described as species. Flower color varies over the full range for the genus. It's a challenge to keep some of the varieties small. Easy to grow.

*Rebutia (Sulcorebutia) rauschii* is known in several forms. The most common is a dark purple bodied form. Second most common is a green bodied form, and the third is a golden spined form. Other forms are also available, but rarely seen. All are slow and beautiful, and harder than most others to keep looking good. All are worth the effort.

*Rebutia neocumingii* (*Weingartia longigibba*) is variable, with many great forms. One is shown in the accompanying picture.



## Caudiciforms, Pachycauls

By: Buck Hemenway

Many of the most sought-after succulent plants belong in this grouping. The grouping is made up of plants that 'look' a certain way. They grow on fat bases. These fat plant bases are not necessarily special organs or plant structures, such as bulbs or corms. They are just fat and we like them!

*Caudiciforms* are plants that usually have fat structures (*Caudexes*) that grow at or below the ground surface. These are just big fat roots, until the grower decides to raise them so they are exposed to the air and to our appreciating eyes.

*Pachycauls* are plants that tend to have fat bases with spindly or even vining branches. Think of a big *Pachypodium lamerei* for example. The base of the plant is kind of like an elongated pear and the branches get sturdier with the passing years.

These plants come from a number of genera and there is no finite list of them. Just consider that if your plant wants its roots raised up and exposed, then it is most likely a *Caudiciform*. If its base or trunk is out of proportion to the overall size of the plant (and is a succulent) then it is most likely a *Pachycaul*.

They are normally very easy to grow, but a large percentage of them are endemic to sub tropical and tropical climates. For that reason, cold is a big enemy. Some study is required before deciding where to permanently install one of these plants.

Some of the most common are the *Beaucarnia recurvata* (Pony Tail Palm), *Pachypodium lamerei* (Madagascar palm), *Adenium obesum* (Desert rose), *Fockea edulis*, *Trichodiadema bulbosum* and up to 2,000 other individual plant names.

Prices for most can be pretty expensive for mature plants, and they always bring top money at the big auctions.

Many of the *Pachycauls* become extremely large with age. Pictures of *Adenium socotranum* on the island of Socotra are unbelievable. The bases are as large as automobiles. We all know of some extremely large *Beaucarnia recurvata*. This is a really enjoyable section of our hobby. These plants are always looked upon with awe by hobbyists and experts alike.

**Trichodiadema bulbosum**  
**Pachypodium succulentum (roots exposed)**



From: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society  
14278 Desert Rose St.  
Hesperia, CA 92344

FIRST CLASS MAIL