



San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society
COMMUNIQUÉ

October 2021 — Volume 54, Number 10
An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

IN THIS ISSUE

This Month's ProgramPage 2
Plants of the MonthPages 3-5
Board ElectionPage 4
Plant of the Month Schedule.....Page 6
Leadership Team.....Page 7
AnnouncementsPages 7-9

Our next meeting will be:

**Thursday, October 14th
at 7:30 pm. in Ayres Hall
LA County Arboretum**

“Travels to Guatemala”

Presented by Kelly Griffin

Masks required

Our C&S workshop will be:

**Wednesday, October 20th
at 7:30 pm in the Bamboo Classroom
LA County Arboretum**

**The topic will be
Cacti of the United States**

Masks required

Material in the Communiqué publication may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCSS and the author, and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material is sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

October Program:
Travels to Guatemala
Presented by Kelly Griffin

Thursday, September 9th at 7:30 pm

As a function of his work at Altman plants, Kelly Griffin is charged with finding and creating new and different plants. Kelly's hybrid aloes and agaves are well known in the industry. Kelly is a manager of Succulent Plant Development for Altman Plants. His inclination has been towards *Agaves*, *Aloes* and *Echeverias*, but there are many more plants that have garnered his attention. As part of his life's work, he has created and introduced many succulents ~ of course Aloes, Agaves but also other succulent cultivars for the garden and patio.

Although Kelly's area of study in college was physics, his love of plants continued to steer him towards horticulture as a career. He has traveled extensively worldwide documenting plants and collecting seed and pollen for propagation and hybridization.

Kelly today is one of the world's foremost explorers of Agaves and Aloes. His frequent trips to Mexico for agaves and Africa and Madagascar for aloes have entertained us for many years.



Kelly Griffin

Kelly is Past President of San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society and a frequent judge of many of our shows.

Kelly has acted as chair or co-chair for the CSSA Speaker Programs at four conventions.

Cacti of the Month: October 2021: *Eriosyce* and Friends

All text and photos by Tom Glavich

Eriosyce is an interesting genus, starting first as a single species, and more recently growing to envelop what generally considered several other species. The genus *Eriosyce* was first created in 1872, and consisted of a single species, *Eriosyce sandillon*. The cacti of Chile (where almost all are *Eriosyce* are from) were poorly known. Britton and Rose, the first of the great cacti classifiers kept the genus as monotypic, but described very similar species as being in the genus *Malacocarpus* and *Neoporteria*, based on flower shape and the spination of the fruit. In 1934 Backberg divided the genus into *Neoporteria*, *Neochilenia*, *Islaya*, *Horridocactus*, and *Pyrhocactus*. After this several others jumped in with several other short lived generic names, mostly based on minor differences in floral characteristics.

Late in the 20th century, Fred Kattermann, after more than a decade of study revised the genus, and placed all the above genera into *Eriosyce*. This has been generally accepted, and is how things appear in current literature, including the most recently published authoritative reference, the New Cactus Lexicon. However, the on-line Taxonomy of the Cactaceae based on the work of Joël Lodé, has restored *Neoporteria* and *Islaya* and again reduced *Eriosyce* to three species. What is a poor label maker to do!?

For this month's show we will accept any of the above genera as being acceptable

Eriosyce is a genus from the Central and Northern Coasts of Chile, and the Southern

Coast of Peru. This area has Mediterranean climate, with rain in the winter, and mostly dry summers. The climate is similar to Southern California, but generally somewhat drier. Fogs are more frequent, and can sometimes be the predominant source of water.

Cultivation of these plants is relatively easy. They will do well in pots in Southern California, and require protection only from excessive water and rain in the winter. They will grow well in the ground, as long as they are provided with good drainage. They grow much faster in the ground than they do in pots, and impressive specimens can be grown in just a few years. The spination on some of the plants, particularly in the old *Neoporteria* is so dense that the body is invisible. Some of the old *Neochilenia* live in areas that are only fed by fogs. The bodies of these plants vary from gray to dark purple. In habitat only the uppermost surface would be above the ground, the rest protected by sand and gravel. In cultivation these almost always become globular cacti.

All of the *Eriosyce*, and all of the incorporated genera have great spination, interesting flowers and are well worth growing. Most are only available as seed, or through some of the growers that specialize in obscure genera. They are easy from seed. (We always have some available as part of the April Seed Propagation Workshop). They are fast, and make show worthy plants in just a few years.

Tom Glavich, September 2021





Eriosyce nigrihorrida FK 474



Eriosyce subgibbosa Coquimba



Eriosyce senilis



Eriosyce glabrescens



The SGVCSS board election is in November. If you interested in a running for office, please email Margie Wilson.

margiekidsmw@gmail.com

Nominations for office will be taken from the floor at the October meeting.

Nominees need to be present and seconded. The election will take place at the November meeting.



Succulent of the Month: October 2021: *Didierea, Alluaudia, Decarya*

Text by **Tom Glavich**

These genera are succulent shrubs and trees all members of the Didiereaceae. The entire family is endemic to Madagascar and consists of 11 members divided into 4 genera. These plants are the dominant members of the thorn forests of Southern Madagascar, and home to tribes of Lemurs. All of the species are available and appear on our sales tables at local shows and are available on line or at specialty nurseries.

They are all relatively easy to grow, with no special care required, except protection from cold and wet. All of these make interesting show specimens when small, however they don't stay small for very long, and can soon outgrow their welcome if not extensively and continually pruned. All of the plants in this family are either large shrubs or trees. They are all extremely spiny. *Alluaudia* is relatively easy to propagate from cuttings, the rest are more difficult. Seed is never offered for any of these. The Madagascar garden at the LA Arboretum has some impressive specimens, particularly of *Alluaudia procera*.



Alluaudia procera in G. Eisel's backyard



Alluaudia montagnacii

Photo G. Eisel

Plant of the Month

2021 Cacti	
Jan 2021	<i>Echinocactus</i>
Feb 2021	South American Opuntieae
Mar 2021	<i>Rebutia -Sulcorebutia -Weingartia</i>
Apr 2021	Small cactus staged as miniature
May 2021	<i>Echinocereus</i>
Jun 2021	Hooked Spined <i>Mammillaria</i>
Jul 2021	<i>Buiningia</i> and <i>Uebelmannia</i>
Aug 2021	Favorite cacti
Sep 2021	California Native cacti
Oct 2021	<i>Eriosyce</i>
Nov 2021	Variegated cacti
2021 Succulents	
Jan 2021	Small Aloes under 6"
Feb 2021	<i>Othonna, Senecio</i>
Mar 2021	<i>Sedum, Sempervivum</i>
Apr 2021	Small succulent staged a miniature
May 2021	<i>Haworthia</i>
Jun 2021	Thorny stemmed <i>Euphorbia</i>
July 2021	<i>Agave</i>
Aug 2021	Favorite Succulent
Sep 2021	<i>Adenium</i>
Oct 2021	<i>Didierea, Alluaudia, Decarya</i>
Nov 2021	Variegated succulents



SGVCSS LEADERSHIP TEAM 2021

Gunnar Eisel, President
 Tom Vermilion, Past President
 Sharon Sedillo, Vice President
 Louise Guerin, Secretary
 Margie Wilson, Treasurer
 Shaun Adams, Director 2019-2021
 Nick Renteria, Director 2019-2021
 James Lemos, Director 2019-2021
 Irene Chew, Director 2020 -2022
 Richard Salcedo, Director 2020 -2022
 Tori Wilson, Director 2020 -2022

Tom Glavich, Inter-City Show Chair
 Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
 James Lemos, Winter Sales Chair
 Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Rep
 Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair
 Tori Wilson, Membership Chair
 Cindy Arakaki, Librarian
 Vacant, Newsletter Editor



Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale
Sunday, October 17, 2021
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
558 North Ventu Park Road
Thousand Oaks, CA, 91320
SE corner of Ventu & Hillcrest

Vendors will be offering
Cactus, Succulents, Bromeliads & Plumerias
Along with Pottery
and Jewelry



Experts will be available for
advice on growing and cultivation



Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.

For more information: Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society
 Web: ConejoCSS.com Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com

CREATING AN ETHICAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT COLLECTION

Cactus and succulent species are at risk



One third of all cactus species (Cactaceae) are at risk of extinction¹, and so are many succulents and caudiciforms, including *Dudleya*, *Dioscorea*, and *Pachypodium*². Half of threatened cacti are at-risk at least in part due to the horticultural trade¹. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram influence the desire to take old and rare cacti, succulents and their seeds from habitat^{3, 4}.

Cacti and succulents are central in dry ecosystems



Cacti and succulents store water in their tissues, provide nesting areas and food for wildlife, photosynthesize, store carbon, and even provide a place for insects to lay their eggs until they develop into adults. These plants play an essential role in dryland ecosystems and must be protected.

Building your collection

1 Check the source before you buy



Use caution when buying online.

Was it nursery grown, or habitat collected?

Is it a species at risk?

2 Buy from reputable plant sellers



Search for an approved grower.

Ask your cactus and succulent community.

Ask previous customers.

3 Grow your own cacti and succulents



Plant from seed.

Propagate from a cutting or leaf.

Buy and grow young plants from sellers.

4 Educate yourself and spread the word



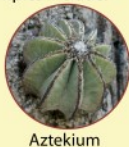
Learn more about plant poaching.

Join a cactus club or online community.

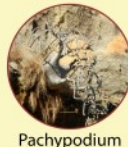
Join a conservation group.

Plants to be cautious of when purchasing

Slow-growing, rare plants sold online are more likely to be field-collected because their size and habitat characteristics are hard to replicate in a nursery, therefore the time it takes to grow them ethically reduces practical and economic feasibility. If you're looking for rare plants for your collection, ask experts in your plant community for help finding ethical sources, or learn which plants are endangered and/or protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (cites.org). Examples include:



Aztekium



Pachypodium



Dudleya

Identifying field-collected vs. greenhouse-grown

Wild plants tend to face harsher growing conditions than greenhouse-grown plants leading to features which can help you identify the source. These characteristics are not always diagnostic, so when in doubt ask a community expert.

Copiapoa cinerea subsp. *columna-alba*



Poaching impacts on wild populations



Wild populations can be significantly reduced by poaching. For example, in 2015, 3500 *Ariocarpus fissuratus* were stolen, likely from Big Bend National Park⁵.

Large-scale harvest of slow-growing wild cacti can decimate habitat populations by removing the mature, reproductive plants. This demonstrates how wild and illegal field collection for the horticultural trade is a significant threat to the survival of cacti and succulents in habitat.

This map highlights regions with high levels of cacti and succulents at-risk including Mexico, Chile, and southern Africa which face poaching impacts¹.

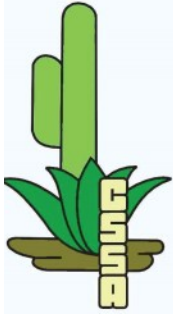


Copiapoa cinerea which are ~30 cm/12 in. tall and take ~100 years to reach this size in habitat. When they are removed from the wild, all that is left are holes in the ground.

Find out more at:
www.ethicalcactus.com

¹ Goettsch, B., Hilton-Taylor, C., Cruz-Piñón, G. et al. High proportion of cactus species threatened with extinction. *Nature Plants*. 2015
² <https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/plants-fungi/cactus-and-succulent-plants-specialist-group/cites-species> (Accessed Jan 31 2021)
³ Margulies, J. D. (2020). In *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* (Vol. 8, p. 367). <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fevo.2020.604921>
⁴ Hinsley, A., Lee, T. E., Harrison, J. R., & Roberts, D. L. (2016). *Conservation Biology*, 30(5), 1038–1047. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12721>
⁵ Annette McGivney. "Yanked from the ground": cactus theft is ravaging the American desert. *The Guardian*. [Online]. Published Feb. 20 2019.

Photos © Stefan Burger and Alex Gonzalez 2021
 Illustrations and design © Sarah C. Bird Illustration 2021
 Produced by Stefan Burger, Alex Gonzalez, and Sarah C. Bird 2021



The Cactus and Succulent Society of America Conservation Policy Statement

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is the national organization for the study, education, and promotion of cacti and succulents. The popularity of cacti and succulents, their availability online, and their increased monetary value have critically endangered their populations in the wild. The conservation of these unique plants and their habitats is of critical concern.

Existing Policies and Guidelines

CSSA shall adhere to:

- ✦ All national and international guidelines, treaties, and laws regarding the protection of cacti, other succulents, and their habitats.
- ✦ The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) treaty and the American Endangered Species Acts for both plants and animals.
- ✦ The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) Code of Conduct.
- ✦ Specific conservation policies of the applicable State or other local jurisdictions.

CSSA Show and Sale Policies

- ✦ CSSA will not accept field collected plants in its competitive shows; plants in question will be evaluated by a review team upon entering.
- ✦ CSSA functions will not allow the sale, purchase, or promotion of habitat-collected plants.

- ✦ CSSA encourages its affiliate societies to adopt or incorporate CSSA Conservation Policies in developing their own missions and show and sale policies.

Commercial Selling

- ✦ CSSA endorses and promotes vendors which produce sale plants from seed, cuttings or other artificial means.
- ✦ CSSA discourages the use of nurseries and online vendors that sell field collected plants.

Legal Initiatives

- ✦ CSSA will work with our appropriate government agencies to modernize laws regarding the sale of plants across international borders, especially for hybrids.
- ✦ CSSA will endorse and promote state laws and policies pertaining to the rescue of plants due to urban or agricultural encroachment.
- ✦ CSSA will assist in the development of procedures to conserve and disseminate rescued plants.



Eriosyce napina subsp. *lembckeii*. A little cactus of Atacama Region that is a species in danger.
Photo: Rescuti - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64463623>



COMMUNIQUE

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society

P.O. Box 1000
Claremont, CA 91711

FIRST CLASS MAIL

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the Communiqué, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date. Articles, notices and corrections may be sent via email to: gunnar.eisel@gmail.com

Material must be received by the 20th of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the Communiqué.