

*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.

August 2009 - Volume 42, Number 8

**August Meeting:
Thursday,
August 13 at 7:30 pm**

Meetings are held on the
2nd Thursday of the month
at **7:30 pm** in *Ayers Hall*,
Los Angeles County Arboretum,
Arcadia.

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:

Favorite

SUCCULENT:

Favorite

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
August 19th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Sansevieria

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President's Message

August is here. July was terrific. We had a wonderful time at Lotus Land. There's a page of pictures in this Communique. I think everyone enjoyed the trip. Thanks to Jamie Mancuso for getting Yvonne's birthday cake and sneaking it on the bus. The Osters opened their beautiful yard to us. Fantastic plants in a great garden setting. Everyone enjoyed shopping at Seaside Gardens and lunching in Carpinteria.

Don't forget the annual Club Picnic on Saturday August 1.

The next big event is the Inter-City Show & Sale, coming up on August 15 and 16. A large part of our operating funds for the year come from this event, so please help the committee wherever you can. They particularly need help in the sales area and the plant holding area. Tear-down on Sunday night is a critical time as well. It doesn't take long if enough of us are there to help.

IMPORTANT - The first day of set-up for the show is the day of our next meeting, August 13. You can arrive early to enter your show plants, and then attend the meeting. Our informative "Staging" Study Group has made us all experts, right? In any case thanks to Patty and Manny for an information packed evening.

And thanks to Kelly Griffin for a fascinating talk in July on the succulent plants discovered on a montage of trips to Jalisco, Mexico.

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July Mini-Show Results

Cacti - Eriosyce

Beginner - No Entries

Intermediate

- 1st John Mathews E. (Neochilenia) occulta
- 2nd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki E. taltalense
- 3rd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki E. multicolor

Advanced

- 1st Frank Nudge E. (Pyrhocactus) strausiana
- 2nd Rita Gerlach E. (Neoporteria) nidus v. gerocephala
- 3rd Rita Gerlach E. (Neoporteria) nidus v. senilis

Masters

- 1st Rene Caro E. krausii
- 2nd Rene Caro E. occulta
- 3rd Patty Caro E. Nidus v. senilis

Succulents - Cyphosemma

Beginner - No Entries

Intermediate

- 1st Pat Swain C. betiformis
- 2nd John Matthews C. betiformis
- 3rd Barbara Nolan C. juttae 'Fat Bastard'

Advanced

- 1st Manny Rivera C. betiformis
- 2nd Barbara Hall C. juttae 'Fat Bastard'
- 3rd Alan Hooker C. juttae x hardyi

Masters

- 1st Vince Basta C. seitziana
- 2nd Jim Hanna C. juttae x hardyi 'Fat Bastard'
- 3rd Tom Glavich C. segmentatum

MEETING NOTICE!

- We will meet in Ayres Hall this month. The AC still doesn't work. Vendors will set up near our meeting area. We will not be able to buy from vendors who are not at the meeting.
- Bring your show plants and enjoy a meeting under the stars.

This Month's Program

Our speaker for August will be Rob Skillin. Rob is a long time succulent enthusiast who now lives in the Central Coast of California. He was instrumental in the founding of the Central Coast C&SS. He now serves on the Board of Directors of the CSSA.

Rob will present a program on Chile. It was a trip that he took a few years ago, exploring the fabulous succulent flora of northern Chile. It will be fascinating; don't miss it.

Due to the extreme heat in our normal meeting room, we are looking at meeting in or just outside of Ayres Hall (where the Intercity Show is), more on this elsewhere in this Communiqué.

President's Message - continued

His photography and explanations of how and where the plants grow that we love to collect is always fascinating.

Our speaker for August is Rob Skillin. Don't miss his fascinating talk (details above).

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held during the Inter-City Show & Sale on Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 in the afternoon. We'll figure out a place to meet during the day. We're always open for suggestions. Please see one of the BOD if you have an issue that needs to be brought before the club.

See you at the next meeting! Buck Hemenway

Study Group

Wednesday, August 19th • Sansevieria

The study group is an informal, hands-on learning experience that is fun for expert and novice alike. Come and learn from the experience of others. We are always happy to share our knowledge.

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at www.sgvcss.com. Thanks to Gunnar Eisel for managing our website. If you wish to receive your **COMMUNIQUE** on-line please notify the editor at yvonne@pricklypalace.com.

Plants Of The Month

Enter your specimen plants in our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride and joy. If you don't have any of these species of plants you can learn about them at the meeting.

CACTI OF THE MONTH —

Favorite

This is the month to look over your collection and select a particularly gorgeous specimen or two to show off at our August meeting.

It will be exciting to see what shows up – and the plants you bring to the Mini-Show will be ready to enter in the Inter-City Show coming right up!

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Favorite

Book Review

Gymnocalycium in Habitat and Culture

Reviewed by: **Karen Ostler**

By: Graham Charles
Published by Graham Charles, Briars Bank, Fosters
Bridge–Stamford, England 2009

A reworking of the Genus *Gymnocalycium*, based on field and greenhouse studies, and a great source book for the Gymnophiles among us.

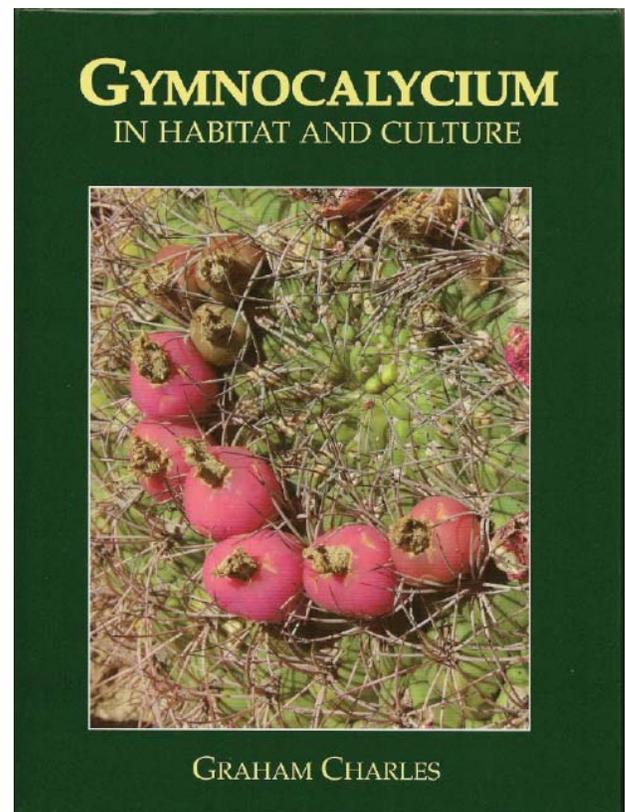
The book begins with a history of the Genus, followed by the individual species. Each species description is followed by conservation status, history, field notes and cultivation notes. At least two photographs, and frequently more, accompany each description to give the reader a more complete idea of the variation within each individual species. This is very helpful, as variation within a species can sometimes be extreme.

The descriptions are excellent, and although I am not a big fan of Gymnocalyciums, the photographs make the plants truly lust-worthy.

The culture, of course, is based on English weather and that size variation should be taken into account.

The appendices are excellent as well, supplying chromosome counts, field numbers and valid names and synonyms.

An all-round excellent book for those interested in the Genus *Gymnocalycium*.



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2009

Buck Hemenway, President
Horace Birgh, Vice President
Rita Gerlach, Treasurer
Anne Keegan, Secretary
Manny Rivera, Board Member and
Winter Show Chair

Cindy Arakaki, Board Member
John Matthews, Board Member
Phil Skonieczki, Board Member
Karen Ostler, Board Member
Ralph Massey, Board Member
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
and Plant Sales Chair
Woody Minnich, Program Chair
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
Liz Alba, Library Chair
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

SGVC&SS TRIP TO LOTUS LAND



Happy shoppers at Seaside Gardens



Some of our Lotusland tourists posing in front of the famous *Euphorbia ingens*



Hey Bill,
Whatcha doin'?



Aloe africans



An army of *Beaucarnea recurvata* in bloom.



Scadoxus (Blood Lily)

Achmea ornata



A beautiful Lotus
flower blooming
in the lotus pond at
Lotusland



Photo: Buck Hemenway



24th Annual Inter-City Show and Sale

This month is the 24th Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show. This is a joint show put on by the San Gabriel, Los Angeles and Long Beach Clubs. It has grown to be the largest and best show in the world, with the Open Class having the most competitive entries seen anywhere. At the same time this is one the friendliest and easiest shows for the novice and advanced growers to enter. There are three classes and the novice growers (less than 40 blue ribbons) compete against other novices, and the advanced compete against other advanced growers. There are plenty of people to help identify plants if you are unsure of names or spelling, and people to help with last minute staging touch-ups and placement of the plant. If you have a succulent you have grown, bring it, we will help you get it placed and named properly. We all start out as novices, and have all benefited from years of help.

Entry times are from 1 – 7 on Wednesday August 12, 8 AM to 10 PM on Thursday August 13th and 8 AM to 5 PM on August 14th.

The show is important for many reasons; it is an essential source of funds for the three clubs. All three clubs have to pay for meeting rooms and speakers. Club dues only pay for newsletters and postage. The money for the room rental and speakers comes from the shows that are put on. Equally important, the Inter-City Show is one of our main sources of new members. The wonderful plants grown and staged for a show are what originally attracted a surprisingly large number of our members. We need to keep this up. This is where the Novice and Advanced entries are so important. The Open class entries can be overwhelming, but most people think that with a little help they can grow plants that are competitive in the Novice or Advanced Classes. They come to our meetings after the show, and often become life-long members.

Please enter the show; we need your help to make this a great and memorable show. Please attend the show as well, and bring a friend or neighbor. The extra attendance makes all the difference.

Along with every Inter-City Show there is an awards banquet and Auction. The Banquet is held at Carrow's Oak Room near the Arboretum. The auction has a selection of plants, from the surprisingly affordable, to the very rare and expensive. Make a reservation with Evelyn Stevens. This is a dinner you will not forget. We always sell out, so don't delay on this.

No show would be complete without a sale. We have one of the best of these as well. We have local vendors, many who saved their best for this show, as well as vendors from San Diego, Tucson, New Mexico, and the Bay Area. There will be great plants and spectacular pots all for sale. There is a pre-sale on Friday starting at about 1:00 for participants and helpers with the show. Public Sales start at 9:00 on Saturday.

We need help with Set-Up on Wednesday Morning. Tables arrive around 9:00. The table company sets them up, we push them into place, and then set out table cloths, and category spaces. We also need help with set-up on Friday as we adjust categories, making room for new plants, and organizing the show. On Saturday and Sunday we need volunteers to help at the cash registers, to help at the plant holding table, to answer questions at the hospitality table, and to provide a watchful eye on the show and sale. No experience is necessary and no expert knowledge is needed.

Show T-shirts are still available. They will be available on Thursday night, and go on public sale on Friday at a higher price.

Please participate in this wonderful event!

Tom Glavich, Inter-City Show Chair

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 15 and 16 — 24th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. For information call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall at 818-368-6914.

September 5 — Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. All day at the Huntington. Fee: \$75.00 with an additional charge of \$25.00 for the dinner. Call 626-405-3504 for reservations.

September 27, 12 pm — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA.

November 7 and 8 — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. For information call Manny Rivera at 626-579-7954 or 626-780-6957.

December 5 and 6 — Orange County Winter Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. Show and Sale open Friday, December 4th, noon to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. For information call 714-870-4887.

Welcome New Members!

We've neglected this feature of our newsletter over the past few months. Please welcome these new members and make them feel welcome at our functions.

Steve Davey	Bradley Greer	Monica and Louie Gutierrez
Rosalie Garcia	Sadie and Jerry Heitman	Frank and Susan Malinowski
Stacy & Angel Garnica	Gerald Richert	Ramona and Michelle Ortega
Ann and Toni Miguel		

Refreshment Signup

These club members have signed up to provide refreshments at this month's meeting.

Betty Farfan Yvonne Hemenway Rosie Garcia

The first three club members who sign up and bring refreshments each month will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

2009 Plant-of-the Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Aug.	Favorite	Favorite	Sansevieria
Sept.	Gymnocalycium	Euphorbia (caudiciform type)	Photo Tour
Oct.	Parodia & Notocactus	Stemless Mesembs - No Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Frailea & Blossfeldia	Tylecodon	Winter Seed Workshop