

# COMMUNIQUE

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.  
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia  
**June 2008 Volume 41 Number 6**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Join us **Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm.

Our presenter for June is **Charles Spotts**. His topic will be "Haworthias I Have Known". Charles is known to many of us as an expert grower of opuntiods, so this talk will be very interesting. Plants from his own collection will be featured and he has invited us to bring interesting haworthias from our own collections to discuss. He is a retired professor from CSU Northridge, has traveled in Peru, Argentina, Baja California, Mainland Mexico, Virgin Islands, and our own Mohave, Chihuahuan, and Sonoran deserts in search of cacti in habitat. Following his retirement in 1994 the Spotts moved to Paso Robles taking their then modest collection of plants with them. Since then they have assembled a large collection of Opuntias in the ground and filled a 20' by 40' greenhouse with a large variety of cacti and other succulents

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**Plants of the Month:** (see attached write ups)

**CACTI – *Astrophytum***

**SUCCULENT – *Pachypodium***

Bring your specimens in for 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 this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting

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**Study Group: Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>; Topic – Bonsai Workshop**

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Workshops are an excellent opportunity to ask your questions and learn from the experts.

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**New Members:** SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members: **Lupe, Linda** and **Rebecca Handy, Marjory Harris, Libby Simon, and Marian Workman**. Be sure to take a look at the Club's website <http://www.sgvcss.com>. If you wish to receive your COMMUNIQUE on-line please notify the editor at [sgv\\_css@prodigy.net](mailto:sgv_css@prodigy.net).

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**Refreshments:** The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the June meeting: **Dick Tatman, William Molina** and **Una Yeh**. Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant.

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## May-08 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

### Cacti - Opuntiaceae

1st	Oscar Flores	Opuntia sp
2nd	Calvin Arakaki	Puna bonnieae
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	Tephrocactus ancistris

### Succulent- Stem Succulent Euphorbias

1st	Rebecca Mallonee	E. decaryi
2nd	Cindy Arakaki	E. stenoclada
3rd	Calvin Arakaki	E. lignosa

### Intermediate

1st	John Matthews	Tephrocactus geometricus	1st	No Entries
2nd			2nd	
3rd			3rd	

### Advanced

1st	B & Y Hemenway	Tephrocactus weberi	1st	Alan Hooker	E. millotii
2nd	Frank Nudge	Tunilla corrugata	2nd	Rita Gerlach	E. millii "Lemon Drops"
3rd	Frank Nudge	Brasiliopuntia brasiliensis	3rd	Rita Gerlach	E. lactea "White Ghost"

### Master

1st	Karen Ostler	Opuntia polyacantha	1st	Jim Hanna	E. rossii
2nd	Karen Ostler	Opuntia minima	2nd	Jim Hanna	E. gottlebei
3rd	Tom Glavich	Pterocactus tuberosa	3rd	Tom Glavich	E. meloformis

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## CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2008

- JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.--#619-477-4779
- JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>** GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29<sup>th</sup> SHOW AND SALE----SAT. 9 TO 4  
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE, GLEN AVON, CA  
INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>** LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.  
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- JUNE 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>** CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE – HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.  
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> THRU JUNE 29<sup>th</sup>  
THE SHOW OPENS JUNE 28<sup>H</sup> THRU JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> TO THE PUBLIC
- JULY 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>** ORANGE COUNTY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON  
ARBORETUM, 1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA  
SHOW AND SALE FRI 12PM TO 4PM SAT & SUN 10AM TO 4PM  
INFO 714-870-4887

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Cactus of the Month June 2008 - *Astrophytum*

*Astrophytum* are often one of the first cacti that a collector buys. They are inexpensive, available in discount stores, groceries, and home centers. How can anyone resist the \$2 (now \$4.50) special Bishop's Cap? More than a few show plants started out this way, but most are soon dead. Keeping seedlings alive for the first year or so is much more difficult than maintaining a mature plant. Growing a perfect, 10 or 20 year old specimen plant is a challenge few growers can master. Fortunately, the genus offers rewards and surprises at every level between novice and master, making it one of the most popular genera of cacti.

*Astrophytum* are native to Southern Texas and Northern to Central Mexico. They grow in very arid regions, with porous mineral soils. One of the cultivation difficulties with *Astrophytum* is their tendency to split open from sudden increases in soil moisture level. To avoid this, keep them in a soil that is very quick to drain, and which has little organic matter. A mixture of pumice and gravel or very coarse sand, with only a little potting soil is best for these plants.

The roots are designed to pump up as much moisture as possible in as short a time as possible from infrequent rains. In a slow draining potting mix they will do this very effectively, and the body of the plant will swell, but the skin will not. Eventually the body pressure gets too great and the skin cracks.



*Astrophytum myriostigma*

There are currently five recognized species; however, there are older plants, clearly visibly different from the recognized species available in the trade. There are also varieties of the species, cultivars, and hybrids, all worth growing.

Growers in Japan and more recently in Thailand have developed some spectacular clones, cultivars and hybrids. The Japanese cultivars of *A. asterias* are sold under the name of *A. Super Kabuto* and *A. Miracle Kabuto*. Some of these special clones with intricate patterns can sell for more than \$100, when first developed. After a few years of propagation, the price drops to levels that most can afford. Look for some of these special clones at upcoming shows and sales.

## Astros:

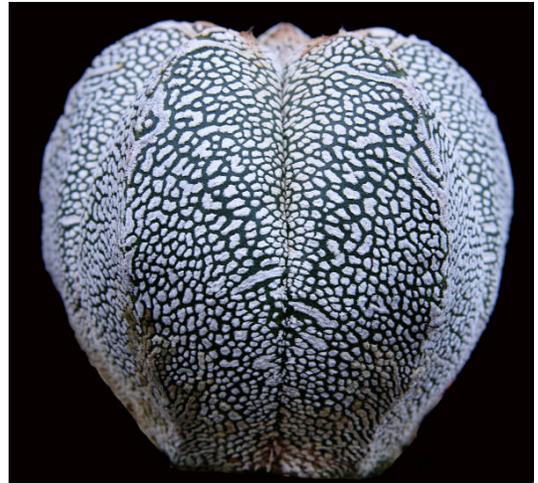


*Astrophytum asterias* exhibited by Carol and Paul Maker in the 2001 Inter-city Show

***Astrophytum asterias*** is the smallest of the species. It is the hardest to grow well, prone to splitting if over watered. It is the parent plant for many of the best hybrids. It is native to the Chihuahuan Desert of Northern Mexico. It has prominent spineless areoles,

***Astrophytum capricorne*** is generally the longest spined species, with spines are generally twisted and curved. Although young plants are globular, they soon become ovoid, and eventually columnar. It is widespread in the Chihuahuan Desert.

***Astrophytum myriostigma*** is the well known 'Bishops Cap.' Although usually five sided, three, four, six, seven and eight sided clones are also cultivated. Spiral forms, are also well known as are some very large clones. *A. myriostigma v. columnare* can grow to several feet.



*Astrophytum myriostigma* cv Onzuka



*Astrophytum ornatum v. mirbellii*

***Astrophytum ornatum*** from Hidalgo can grow to 12 inches in diameter and three feet in height. The spines are straight, yellow brown, and the woolly areoles tend to come in patches. The picture above shows a selected form.

### References:

Anderson, E. **The Cactus Family**  
Cullman,  
Kobayashi, A. *Cacti and Succulents in Japan. Part 3- Some Cultivars of *Astrophytum asterias* and *A. myriostigma* in the **CSSA Journal Vol. 68, p 245 (1996)***

Preston-Mafham, **Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Inter City Photos T. Nomer  
Tom Glavich May 2008

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month June 2008 *Pachypodium*

*Pachypodium* are members of the *Apocynaceae* or *Periwinkle* family, and are most closely related to *Adenium*, and more distantly to *Oleander* and *Plumeria*.

*Pachypodium* are native to only southern Africa and Madagascar. There are more Madagascan species than African, due to the geography of the island of Madagascar, with isolated habitat pockets that encourage the development of unique populations of plants, animals and insects.



*Pachypodium namaquanum*

All of the species of African *Pachypodium* can be grown out of doors, year around in southern California, requiring protection only from simultaneous cold and wet weather. The plants from South Africa are easier than those from Madagascar, and those from southern Madagascar are easier than those from the tropical regions of northern Madagascar.

Some southern California growers are starting seeds and growing *Pachypodiums* in a mix of Coir (ground coconut husk and pumice or perlite), while others have success with commercial seed starting mixes or a sand and pumice or even pure pumice mix. These mixes are generally supplemented by a time release fertilizer, as well as frequent feedings. These potting mixes drains very quickly, and prevent the loss of roots from rot caused by over watering. Frequent potting on will encourage fast growth and healthy plants.

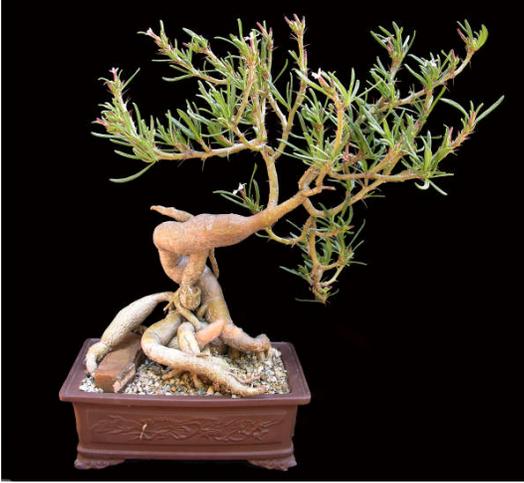
### African Species:

*Pachypodium bispinosum* comes from the southern tip of South Africa. In habitat, most of the caudex of this plant is wedged between and beneath rocks, giving it protection from the sun and predators.

*Pachypodium lealii* is the most tropical of the African species growing into Namibia and southern Angola on the west coast and in South Africa and southern Zimbabwe on the east coast.

*Pachypodium namaquanum* is perhaps the most spectacular of all of the African species. Its common name is 'half man', which is what it appears to be on the hillsides of Namaqualand.

*Pachypodium succulentum* is a dwarf species that grows at the southern tip of South Africa



*Pachypodium succulentum* about 8 years from seed

The Madagascan species are trickier to grow, with the difficulty being their sensitivity to cold and wet. If they are protected, either by being brought indoors during the winter, or protected from rain and cold in a cold frame, or even a garage, they will survive and grow quickly.

#### Madagascan Species:

*Pachypodium brevicaule* is a ground hugging, nearly flat caudiciform, the shortest of all the species. It comes from east side of Madagascar, near the middle of the island. Its knobby top growth hides roots that anchor it to the soil.

*Pachypodium baronii v windsorii* comes from a peak named Windsor Castle in the northernmost part of the island. It is a small species, with a bulbous base. Its larger cousin, *P. baronii v. baronii* grows 200 miles further down the coast, and is larger, growing to 6 feet in the wild. Both of these are sensitive to both over and under watering.

*Pachypodium geayi* is a southern species, similar in appearance to *Pachypodium lamerei*, but more robust. It is the largest member of the genus, growing in a few instances to 30 feet. Like *P. lamerei*, it is a fast grower, but is less tolerant to cold. The

main visible difference is the fine coating of hair or down on the spines, and when in flower, the completely different flower.

*Pachypodium horombense*, known also as *P. rosulatum v. horombense*, is a southern species, with a wide base. It is the queen of the Madagascar Pachypodiums, with many people agreeing that this is the most beautiful. It takes a place of honor as one of the oldest plants in the Huntington Conservatory. It is relatively easy to grow. It has open yellow flowers that are easily pollinated by bees, and forms a robust pachycaul trunk even as a young seedling.

*Pachypodium lamerei* is the best known of all the *Pachypodiums*, available as a "Madagascar Palm" in florists, home centers and even supermarkets. It grows quickly, reaching 12 inches within a year if well (lots of food and water). It tolerates indoor life well, and is popular as a house plant. Several cultivars have been created, with more robust trunks, or lower and more frequent branches. It grows in the South and West.

*Pachypodium rutenbergianum* is the opposite of *P. brevicaule*, reaching for the sky, even as a young seedling. It grows from the northernmost tip to the south east of the island, but in spite of this wide distribution is fairly difficult to grow. It likes warmth, but the roots will shrivel and die if kept too dry in the winter. The tips will freeze and rot, even in the mild winters of the San Gabriel valley.

Tom Glavich May 2008

# **It works for me by Harvey Welton**

## **Beginnings**

Welcome to what I believe may be a different view of the cactus and succulent industry. I own and operate, what is, by nursery standards, a very small cactus and succulent nursery in Riverside, California. Our nursery has been involved in the industry for over 40 years and has been a licensed California nursery for nearly that long. The plan and reason for this column is to share information about cactus and succulent culture that has and still does work for me in my nursery. Be aware that what you are reading 'works for me', here, in this nursery, that is located on the western edge of the city of Riverside, California. What works for me may not work for you!!! Before I get into the nuts and bolts of what I personally do in the realm of propagation and growing plants here are a few words about how I came about the knowledge I am going to share as well as some random thoughts may be helpful.

First let me assure you that I have never read or known anyone in this business that gave out information that they thought was incorrect or would be detrimental to the reader. There are many books and articles that are excellent sources of information. Find and read them – just be aware of WHERE the person was that wrote the book. For example, if the book was written in England and you follow the advice regarding providing a plant with “the maximum amount of sunlight available”, and live in my area you may cook or at least sunburn a valuable plant.

I suggest that you join one of the many Cactus and Succulent Societies/Clubs that exist across our great land. The members of these associations can provide you with information that will prove helpful in your specific area.

I consider myself very fortunate to have known many of the individuals that are quite possibly responsible for your being able to collect and enjoy these unique and interesting plants. Do the names such as Harold Gates, Harry Johnson, Gil Tegelberg, Slim and Pat Moorten, Frank Fielding, Jim and Elsa Peck and Bob Schick, to name just a few, sound familiar? These persons and many many others, both growers and hobbyists, were and are my friends, mentors, instructors and critics. If I have enjoyed any success as a cactus grower I owe it to these and many others both living and dead.

So let us begin with a very short, true story that over the years has often guided my actions.

The first year that we had a nursery license we joined the California Cactus Growers Association. Meetings were held at the individual nurseries. The particular meeting that I am referring to happened at our nursery was during the winter of 1968-69. At that time we had one 15' x 50' greenhouse (cold frame that was covered with shade cloth and 4 mil plastic to keep the rain off the plants).

After the business meeting and lunch was over Gil Tegelberg asked if he could see the nursery. Of course I proudly took him down to see what I thought was a marvelous growing facility.

He carefully looked over my plants and then asked, “Harvey, what is the most valuable plant that you have?” I considered carefully and then pointed out a gymnocalycium saglione that had set seed for me.

Gil smiled and then pointed to a dead plant off in one corner of the greenhouse and asked, “What happened to that plant?” I told him that the plastic over the plant had a small hole that allowed the water to drip on the plant and a result of too much water when the plant was dormant caused it to rot and die. Laughingly Gill said “That plant, Harvey, is the most valuable plant in your nursery. The plant died and you know why it died and it probably won't happen again.”

Lesson to be learned. If a plant dies and you can determine the cause, the plant's death was not in vain. It served a useful purpose. Observe and learn! Let your plants teach you – they will!

Harvey Welton Mexican Hat Cactus

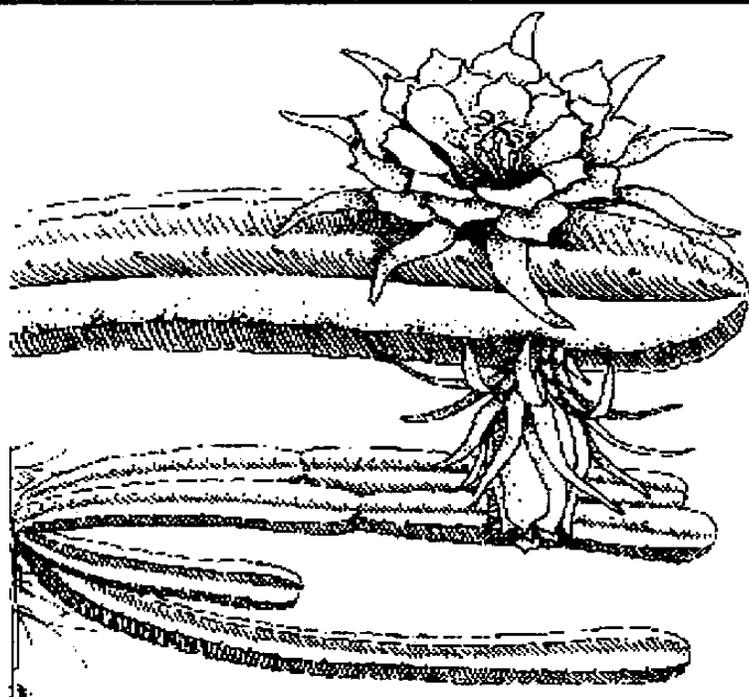
**CACTUS COLLETION 4 SALE**

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PLEASE NO CALLER-ID BLOCKED CALLS  
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[colenyx2@yahoo.com](mailto:colenyx2@yahoo.com)  
PLACE "CACTUS" IN TITLE**

**JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> 9am – 4 pm**

**GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE**

**JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER  
7621 GRANITE HILL DRIV  
GLEN AVON, CA  
INFO. 909-360-8802**



**LACSS  
2008 Show & Sale**

**Los Angeles Cactus &  
Succulent Society**

**June 14th & 15th  
9:00am – 4:00pm**

**Sepulveda Garden Center  
16633 Magnolia Boulevard  
Encino, CA 91316**

**\*Rare plant auction June 14<sup>th</sup> after show**

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

# Cactus and Succulent SHOW & SALE

## JUNE 27, 28 & 29

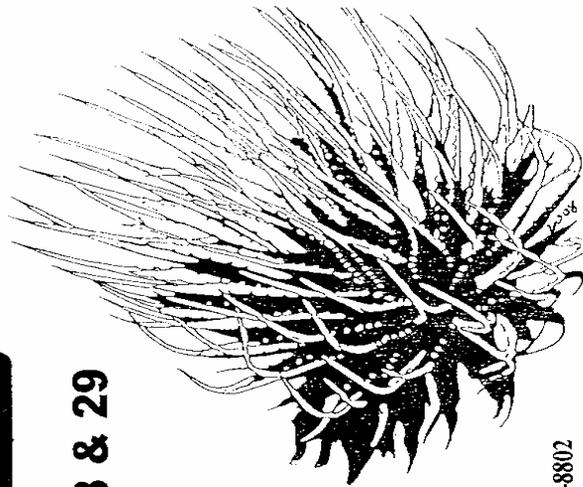
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& PUBLIC  
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THE HUNTINGTON  
BOTANICAL  
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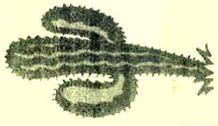
SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:30 am  
SHOW: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am

Free Admission to Show & Sale

# Huntington Botanical Gardens



# Granite Hill Gardens Cactus & Succulent Nursery



## Green Faire

## June 14, 2008

5:00PM - 9:00AM

No other discounts apply. Limited to stock on hand.

Look for the Granite Hill Gardeners Club Booth and pick up a coupon redeemable at the Nursery for a FREE 2" potted cactus or succulent plant

4" pots all the way to landscape size pots

LOOK for our handcrafted specials!

ONLY A FEW LEFT

OVERSTOCK SPECIAL

Aloe Mitriformis & Aloe Brevifolia

4" pot reg. \$4.95 SALE \$1.95\*\*6" pot reg. \$6.95 SALE \$2.95\*\*1 gal pot reg. \$9.95 SALE \$3.95

## FINAL MARKDOWN ON ALL CLEARANCE ITEMS

Reg. \$4.95 -now \$.95 Reg. \$6.95 -now \$1.35 Reg. \$9.95 -now \$1.95

All clearance stock must go!!

LOOK FOR THE MAMMOTH! ON THE HILL

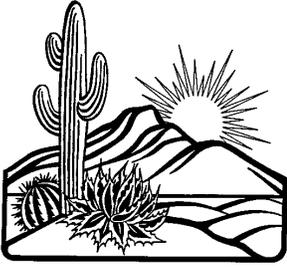


Exit the 60 Freeway at Pyrite Ave.

Granite Hill Gardens Nursery at Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center

7621 Granite Hill Drive  
Riverside, CA 92509  
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www.jimcc.us  
Nursery Cell 951-965-2557

Open Tues - Sat 8AM - 4PM



COMMUNIQUE  
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
C/o Evelyn Stevens  
10119 ½ E Olive Street  
Temple City, CA 91780

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the information to the address given below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice. Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via E-mail to: [sgv\\_css@prodigy.net](mailto:sgv_css@prodigy.net) or via post to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Evelyn Stevens, 10119 ½ E. Olive St., Temple City, CA 91780-3345. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.

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