

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 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
June 2007 Volume 40 Number 6

Monthly Meeting: Join us **Thursday, June 14th** at 7:30 pm for a presentation by the Hemenways titled "Granite Caps and Quartz Flats: Succulent Treasures in the South African Veld".

"During our three week adventure in South Africa, we found an unbelievable abundance of succulent plants growing in the most interesting places. Join us as we explore a few of those geological wonder spots in the Succulent Karoo." Buck and Yvonne

A *special thanks* to **Laurel Woodley** for her presentation on Namaqualand, South Africa. It is fascinating to see plants in their natural habitat and we appreciate Laurel sharing her experiences with us.

Plants of the Month: (see attached write ups)

CACTI – *Echinocactus & Ferocactus*

SUCCULENT – *Bursera & Commiphora*

Bring in your Echinocactus & Ferocactus and Bursera & Commiphora for our monthly mini-show. If you are not familiar with these plants be sure to read Tom Glavich's articles. 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.

Study Group: Wednesday, June 20th; Topic – Ceroids

The Study Group meets in the Grapevine room of the San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Dr. (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium) at 7:30 pm. In addition to lively discussions, we usually have a large selection of cuttings and other plants donated by members that are given away by lottery at the end of the meeting.

Personal Notes: Welcome new members: Monica and Louie Gutierrez, and Khue Jacobs. SGVCSS also welcomes back: Raquel Castellanos, Jim Nones, and Ralph Massey. 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.

Refreshments: The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the June: **Tommy Dodson, Yvonne Hemenway and Barbara Nolan**. Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant.

Highlights of the May 19, 2007 Board Meeting:

- The Board voted in Jean Mullens to fill the vacant director's position.
 - The library will be brought to the front of the room. Hopefully this will cut down on talking during meetings.
 - The plants of interest will also be brought to the front to avoid confusion with the freebies.
 - The Board voted to make a rule that an individual must be a member for six months before they could sell pots/plants at the meetings.
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May-07 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

Cacti- Tephrocactus, Puna, Pterocactus

Succulent-

Caudiciforms

Beginner

1st	Cindy Arakaki	Tephro. ancistrus	1st	Mari Johnson	Pachypodium succulentum
2nd	Gary & Jamie Mancuso	Tephro. articulatus	2nd	Mari Johnson	Euphorbia squarrosa
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	Tephro. articulatus	3rd	Calvin Arakaki	Fockea edulis

Intermediate

1st	Barbara Hall	Puna bonncea	1st	Alan Hooker	Gerrardanthus macrohizus
2nd	Manny Rivera	Puna clavaroides	2nd	Manny Rivera	Pelargonium triste.
3rd	Manny Rivera	Tephro. geometricus	3rd	Alan Hooker	Pyrenacantha malvifolia

Advanced

1st	Rita Gerlach	Tephro. articulatus	1st	Barbara Nolan	Euphorbia trichadenia
2nd	Barbara Nolan	Tephro. ancistrus	2nd	Rita Gerlach	Fockea edulis
3rd	Barbara Nolan	Tephro. Species	3rd	Barbara Nolan	Cissus tuberosa

Master

1st			1st	Jim Hanna	Euphorbia stellata
2nd			2nd	Jim Hanna	Pachypodium bispinosum
3rd			3rd	Jim Hanna	Fockea edulis

The Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society has a new home: They are now meeting at the Fullerton Arboretum in the Pavilion Meeting Room. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information visit their website at www.occss.org.

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month June 2007 - *Echinocactus and Ferocactus*

The Cacti of the Month for June are the two genera of Barrel Cactus from Mexico, with outliers stretching into the Southern US and Guatemala.



Echinocactus grusonii entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Jacques DeTisne

Echinocactus was once one of the 'main' genera of cacti, and had over a hundred species and more than a thousand names. As additional collection and research continued over the years, most of the species were separated into other genera, leaving only the nine that remain. *Echinocactus* superficially resemble *Ferocactus*, however *Echinocactus* have straight spines, while *Ferocactus* have hooked spines and nectar glands on the areoles.

Echinocacti are generally large plants, growing to three feet or more in diameter, and as high. The most common example is *Echinocactus grusonii*, popularly known as the 'golden barrel cactus' or 'mother-in-law's armchair', and a staple of any cactus garden. We are fortunate in having them grow well anywhere in Southern California. They are a prominent feature of the Huntington's cactus garden, and one of the key plants in the Getty Museum garden as well.

Echinocactus grow well in normal cactus soils. The species from Texas are sensitive to over

watering, but *Echinocactus grusonii* is nearly indestructible, and does best when planted in the ground.

Other species include:

Echinocactus horzonthalonius which grows wider than tall, has great spines, but requires more heat than we generally have for good growth.

Echinocactus ingens grows taller than the others, and has frosted white ribs and a yellowish wool.

Echinocactus texensis is a smaller species. It has the only spectacular flowers of the genus.

Ferocactus is medium sized genus, with about 40 members.



Ferocactus pottsii v. alamosanus entered by C & J Spotts in the 2001 CSSA Show

With age, *Ferocactus* generally get to be very large plants, particularly when grown in the ground; fortunately, they are fairly slow growers. When grown in pots, they will stay at a comfortable size for many years. Although there are only about 40 species, many of them are fairly variable, with widely varying spine lengths, shapes, textures and colors, depending on the specific locality.

Ferocactus are easily grown, and most are perfectly happy outdoors without protection year round in Southern California. A normal well draining potting mix will do well. They need sun to bring out the colors and textures of the spines.

Ferocactus are easily raised from seed. Planting is most successful when done in April or May. The seedlings grow slowly at first, but soon take off. There are several advantages to growing *Ferocactus* from seed. The first is that the selection of type localities and spine variations is far greater than you will ever see at a plant show or sale. The second and most important is that you get to grow the plant through its awkward juvenile growth. During the second year *Ferocactus* spines grow completely out of proportion to the *Ferocactus* body. A *Ferocactus* that will eventually be a foot in diameter, and 4 feet tall with 3 or four inch spines, will have as a seedling a body less than an inch in diameter, with spines an inch or more long.

Favorite Species

Ferocactus chrysacanthus from Baja California has dense golden spines, and becomes a spectacular species when about 8 inches in diameter. It will grow to 3 feet, eventually.

Ferocactus emoryi, from Arizona and Sonora, has long red spines that can vary from straight to hooked.

Ferocactus latispinus, from central Mexico, has flat reddish spines, with distinct grooves running crosswise, particularly on the bottom. A variety, ***Ferocactus latispinus v spiralis*** has the spines forming a spiral pattern up the stem. A spectacular plant when it gets to be about 18 inches tall.

Ferocactus rectispinus closely related to *F emoryi* has bright red spines.

Ferocactus stainesii, from San Luis Potosi, has red to carmine spines, clusters quickly, and can grow to 9 feet, given enough time.

Ferocactus wislizenii, another Baja species has flat spines. It grows more in the winter than the summer.

References

- N. L. Britton & J. N. Rose, **The Cactaceae**
C. Innes and C. Glass, **Cacti**
J. Pilbeam, **Cacti for the Connoisseur**
Cullmann, Gotz & Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

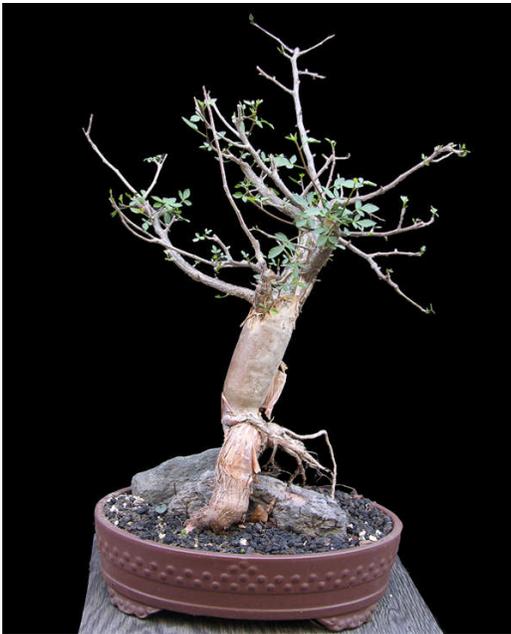
Tom Glavich May 2007
Photos by T. Nomer

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulents of the Month June 2007 - *Bursera* and *Commiphora*

This month's succulents are a study in convergent evolution of pachycaul (swollen trunk) shrubs. Both *Bursera* and *Commiphora* are members of the Burseraceae. *Bursera* are confined to the New World, mostly from Southern California through Guatemala. *Commiphora* are confined to the Old World, mostly South and East Africa and Madagascar.

trunk thickening. All of the plants do well when treated as bonsai, and pruned to expose the geometry and structure of the trunk and bark. Planting in the ground will greatly accelerate the growth rate.



Bursera fagaroides

Both genera have similar cultivation requirements. They all 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* are more sensitive to freezing temperatures, and need protection when freezes occur. Any standard succulent mix will do as a potting medium. Growth is much more rapid when they are fed. If grown in an open mix they can take an amazing amount of water in the summer, and will reward the grower with substantial growth and



Bursera fagaroides leaf

Bursera is a wide spread 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. Some of the tree-like species are very vigorous growers, going from a foot to 6 feet or more in a just two years, in a medium size pot. Most *Bursera* are aromatic, with wonderful woody fragrance from their leaves and bark. Most of the species are worth growing and can be made into show specimens by suitable pruning. Many of the larger species require hard pruning every year to avoid having them turn into trees. Species frequently seen are *Bursera fagaroides* (shown above), *Bursera microphylla*, with very small leaves, *Bursera multijuglans* (with red peeling bark), and *Bursera simplex*. There are many other species from Central and Southern Mexico, and Central America that should be grown and shown.

Commiphora are the African equivalent. *Commiphora* is also a widespread genus, stretching from South Africa through tropical Africa and continuing into Madagascar. Many of the species have peeling bark, although the color tends to run more towards the yellow and brown rather than red.



Commiphora orbicularis

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. *Commiphora capensis* and *cervifolia* are both occasionally available. Unnamed (or unidentified) species of *Commiphora* from Sudan, Madagascar, Kenya, and Tropical Africa are sometimes available, and beginning to be propagated. Named species are

beginning to appear on seed lists and nursery catalogs. The genus is understudied, and there are many species unknown or unidentified.

References

H. Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

G. Rowley, **Caudiciforms and Pachycaul Succulents**

G. Rowley, **Name that Succulent**

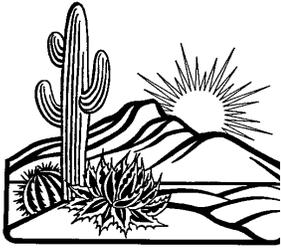
Rare Plants Research 2000 Plant List

Silverhill Seeds Catalogue of Seeds, 1999 and 2000.

Tom Glavich May 2007

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007**

- June 2nd -3rd San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info #619-477-4779
- June 9th Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30th Show and Sale – 9 to 4
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA
Info #909-390-8802
- June 9th -10th Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA Info #818-363-3432
- June 29th -30th
& July 1st CSSA Annual Show and Sale – Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA #626-405-2160 or 2277
Plant Sales start June 29th thru July 1st. Show opened to the public June 30th thru July 1st
- Aug 18th – 19th 22nd Annual Intercity Show and Sale – LA County Arboretum
310 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA Info Call Tom Glavich #626-798-2430 or
Barbara Hall #818-368-6914
- Sept. 2nd Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium – All Day at the Huntington
- Nov 10th - 11th San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA
- Dec. 1st -2nd Orange County Show and Sale – Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831
Show and Sale Open from 10am TO 4pm
For Information Call #714-870-4887



COMMUNIQUE
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
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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 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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