

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
November 2007 Volume 40 Number 11

The November 8th meeting will be held in Ayres Hall among the show plants.

Join us at 7:30pm for a presentation by Rob Skillin "Travels with Rob – Namibia"

Rob travels extensively to photograph succulents in the wild; having traveled throughout North and South America, Southern Africa, and will soon travel to Socotra. Some of the photos from these journeys have graced the covers of the journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

You are encouraged to bring your entries into the show before our meeting but if you arrive during the meeting you may still (quietly) place your plants.

For those unfamiliar with Ayres Hall it is located at the north end of the Arboretum parking lot. Enter through the gate at the East end of the building.

Special thanks to Tom Glavich for his presentation on Miniature Plants from South Africa and beyond. Also, Tom, many, many thanks for all of those wonderful write ups you provide each month.

Plants of the Month:

There will be no Mini Show this month as we focus on our Winter Show instead.

(If you receive your Communique via email, Tom Glavich's write-ups on Turbinicarpus and Stem Succulent Euphorbia will be included. Otherwise, look for Tom's write-ups in your December issue.)

Study Group: Wednesday, November 21st - Portulacaceae

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 7:30pm. 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.

Say Hello to our newest members: Jerry Dash and Marc Perkins. 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.

Board Meeting: There will be a Board meeting on Sunday, November 11th during the Winter Show. We will gather at the trophy table at 1:00pm to decide on an appropriate place to meet from there. We will choose Study Group and Plant of the Month topics for '08 and discuss other business as needed.

Refreshments: The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for November: **Tommy Dodson, Rita Gerlach, and Barbara Nolan.** Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant. If you find you are unable to bring refreshments, please call a friend to substitute for you.

Membership Renewals: It is not too early to pay your dues for 2008. Send your check to SGVCSS MEMBERSHIP at 719 S Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. (Or give your check to Bill Gerlach at the meeting.) \$12 for single membership, \$15 for two people at the same address. Your prompt payment will make it easier on those keeping records and will speed up the issuance of a new roster.

SGVC&SS Election: The election of officers will take place at the November meeting. The nominees are as follows:

President	Tom Vermilion	Board Member	Cindy Arakaki
Vice President	Buck Hemenway	Board Member	John Matthews
Treasurer	Bill Gerlach	Board Member	Manny Rivera
Secretary	Evelynn Stevens		

Oct-07 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

Cacti Ariocarpus			Succulent- Mesembs		
Beginner					
1st	Pat Swain	A. fissuratus	1st	Cindy Arakaki	Aloinopsis schoonesii
2nd	Pat Swain	A. retusus	2nd	Cindy Arakaki	Faucaria sp
3rd	Pat Swain	A. retusus v furfuraceus	3rd	Rene Hernandez	Faucaria tigrina
Intermediate					
1st	John Matthews	A. retusus	1st	John Matthews	Mitrophyllum augustifolium
2nd	John Matthews	A. kotschoubeyanus	2nd	Manny Rivera	Mitrophyllum issitum
3rd	John Matthews	A. fissuratus	3rd	Manny Rivera	Cheridiopsis sp
Advanced					
1st	Rita Gerlach	A. retusus	1st	Rita Gerlach	Rhombophyllum neelii
2nd	Carol Maker	A. retusus	2nd	Tom Vermilion	Cono. bilorum-gracile
3rd	Rita Gerlach	A. fissuratus	3rd	Tom Vermilion	Cono. Obcordellum
Master					
1st			1st	Jin Hanna	Trichodiadema bulbosum
2nd			2nd	Jin Hanna	Mestoklema arboriforme
3rd			3rd	Jin Hanna	Faucaria britteniae

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale: Our 14th ANNUAL WINTER SHOW is finally here and this time is closer to winter which means a lot of our winter growers – Pelargoniums,

Tylecodons, Othonna, Aloes, Conophytums, Haworthias- are waking up and starting to grow with the cooler nights. Cacti are looking good on their last effort before they go dormant.

The Show is our fundraiser for our monthly meetings, guest speakers, Holiday party, refreshments for show participants, club badges, books, etc. Please support our show! Bring in plants to show, bring your friends and show them your plants, invite them the sales area, and tell them how great our Society is.

The day of our monthly meeting is the day of set up so you can come early and bring your plants into the Show or you can do it on Friday.

Remember to come to the Show dinner and plant auction. It is a great dinner and is your opportunity to buy beautiful and rare specimen plants. It's going to be fun!

The sales area will be open for workers and participants from 3:00pm to 5:00pm on Friday, November 9th. Plants not paid for by 5:00pm will be placed back in the sales area.

Remember we need volunteers:

Set Up: We need club members Thursday, November 8th at about 8:30am at the show and sale areas to help set up tables, tablecloths and the trophy table. Show and sale plants are welcome on Thursday from noon to 9:00pm. All show plants must be in by Friday at 4:00pm.

Clerks, tabulators and helpers are also needed Friday evening. It's Fun! It gives you the opportunity to hear the judges' comments and learn more about the Show. There will be a sign-up list at the next meeting, or call Manny at (626) 793-6917.

2006 Trophy Winners: If you won a trophy last year, please have your name engraved on it before you bring it back to the show.

See you there! Manny

Time Change: Mark your calendars for the return to Pacific Standard Time on November 4th. Remember the saying "In the fall you fall back . . ."

CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007

- | | |
|---|--|
| Nov 10 th - 11 th | San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale
LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA |
| Dec. 1 st -2 nd | Orange County Show and Sale – Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road
Fullerton, CA 92831 For Information Call #714-870-4887
Show and Sale Open from 10am TO 4pm |
| Dec 9 th | Holiday Party |

THIS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
ANY CHANGES-PLEASE E-MAIL TO ALOECATS1@AOL.COM
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2008

- FEB. 9th** **SAN DIEGO WINTER SHOW AND SALE 9AM to 4PM**
RM. 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO
- APR. 12th - 13th** **SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE AT SO. COAST**
BOTANICALGARDENS 26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA # 310-832-2262
- APR 19th - 20th** **GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM**
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
- APR. 27th** **SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS INFO. CALL-310-833-6823
- MAY 3rd - 4th** **SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783
- MAY 18th** **HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL**
GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160
- MAY 18th** **EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-670-8148
- JUNE 7th - 8th** **SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SHOW AND SALE**
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.--#619-477-4779
- JUNE 14th** **GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND SALE----SAT. 9 TO 4**
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE, GLEN AVON, CA
INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 14th - 15th** **LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- JUNE 27-29th** **CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL**
GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JUNE 27TH THRU JUNE 29th
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE JUNE 28^H THRU JUNE 29th TO THE PUBLIC
- AUG. 16th - 17th** **23rd ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM**
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA,CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH
AT 626-798-2430 or BARBARA HALL AT 818-368-6914
- AUG. 30th** **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM**
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- NOV. 8th - 9th** **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- DEC. 6th - 7th** **ORANGE COUNTY SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM**
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
SHOW AND SALE OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM
FOR INFORMATION CALL 714-870-4887

UPDATED 10/23/07

The following is an excerpt from Open Gates courtesy of Michael Green:

The bugs are coming, the bugs.....??

GONE???

Apparently, I'm the only one in Gates that has ever tried treating for mealy bugs either on the roots or the spines? The purpose of the this column is to help all of us, experienced and beginners alike, to deal with the various infestations that mar, discolor or eventually kill the dull, ordinary and ugly plants for which Gate's meets every month and for which we drain our budgets (and pots). And Gate's even has the audacity to hold public shows (since the bugs haven't got 'em yet, they aren't called "viewings"). So, for all who are to proud to admit to ever having them, and for those who don't even know what they look like, here is the

"Mealy Bug"



Adult mealy bug



typical wax covering on mealy bug

The typical spine mealy appears as white specks on the spine.

The doctor is "in"??

These are mealy bug remedies found online or in the cactus literature:

Biological control - Introduce *Hypoaspis* and/or *Cryptolaemus* (Australian Ladybird) to the infected plants. *Hypoaspis* is a small mite that feeds on small insects, especially mealy bug.

Manual removal - Pick the bugs off manually in plants that are not severely infested or use a strong jet of water (be careful not to damage plants). Or submerge the entire plant, pot and all, in water overnight with 1 oz safer soap per gallon of water.

Manual Removal - Use a 50/50 mix of water and methylated spirits to wipe away the bugs, the spirits should kill any remaining pests.

Use a Q-tip with rubbing alcohol.

Systemic ("chemical") pesticide options:

Malathion: Neem Oil Mix One tablespoon each per gallon of water

Malathion: Volk Oil Spray 1.0 tsp each per gallon water

or

Malathion: Volk Oil Spray 1.0 tsp malathion and 1.25 oz volk oil per gallon water

Dimethoate spray 1 tbs per gallon water

For all sprays: Spray until the plant is dripping wet. Repeat weekly for three weeks to take care of the eggs, larvae and adults. Malathion will kill crassula.

Dimethoate root drench 1 oz per gallon

Imidacloprid one tablespoon per gallon of water (Marathon is another trade name for Imidacloprid) Bayer Advanced Plant Care, Tree & Shrub version.

From Cactiguide.com: when I have mealies and scale, I blast them off with the hose and then give the plant a drink of some systemic for the roots to take in.

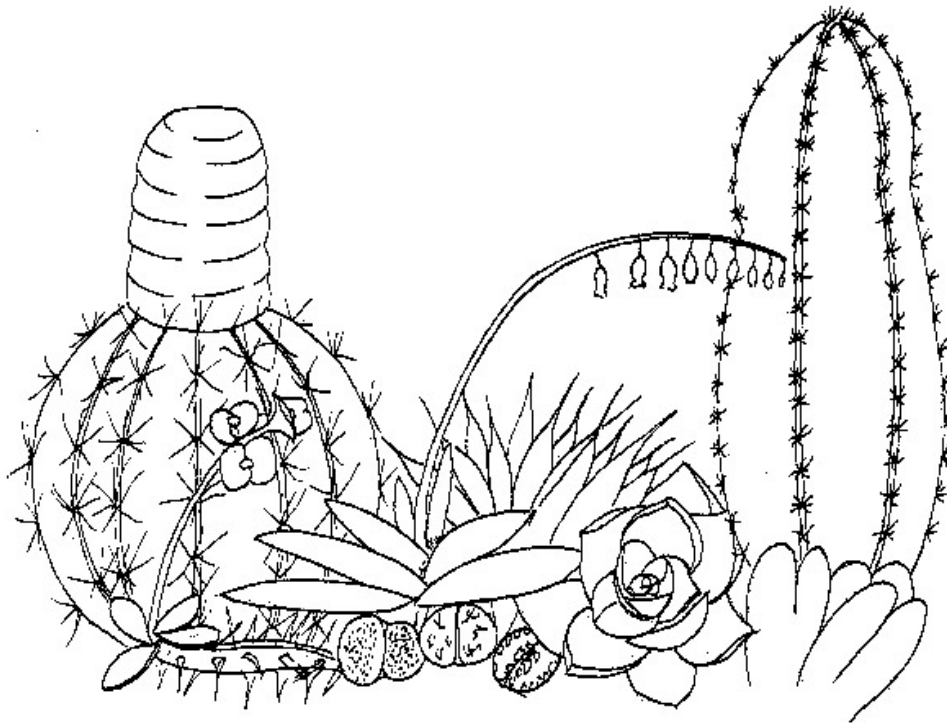
If you know of any more possible remedies, please email me at firelab@echinocereus.org

Next month: scale

Michael J. Green

San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale
Sat. and Sun. November 10 & 11, 2007 9 to 5

Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA



Information, Please contact
Manny Rivera 626-793-6917
Tom Glavich 626-798-2430
Jim Hanna 562-920-3046

Sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

The San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society

presents

The 14th Annual Winter Show

November 10 & 11, 2007

At the Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Avenue Arcadia, CA

SHOW SCHEDULE

Set-up: Thursday November 8th from 8:30 am till noon (set-up tables, show & sales area)

Exhibitors & sellers may bring in plants on Thursday from noon till 9:00 pm.

Set-up: Friday November 9th from 9:00 am till 4:00 pm.

Judging: Friday November 9th from 5:00 pm till 10:00 pm.

Take-down: Sunday, November 11th from 5:00 pm till close

Pre-sale: The sales area will be open for workers and participants from 3:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. on Friday the 9th. Plants bought during pre-sale must be paid for and removed from the show no later than 9:00 p.m. Friday the 9th or they will be placed back in the sales area.

Horticultural Classifications

Competitive entries shall be as follows:

NOVICE: Exhibitor has won no more than 40 blue ribbons total in recognized C&S shows.

ADVANCED: Exhibitor has won 41 or more blue ribbons. No commercial sellers.

OPEN: Exhibitor must have won 80 or more blue ribbons or be a commercial seller of C&S plants.

All entrants must register their total entries in the show registrar prior to placement on tables.

DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, CACTI

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | <i>Ariocarpus</i> up to 5" | 21 | <i>Mammillaria</i> hooked up to 6" |
| 2 | <i>Ariocarpus</i> single over 5" | 22 | <i>Mammillaria</i> hooked over 6" |
| 3 | <i>Ariocarpus</i> cluster over 5" | 23 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks single up to 6" |
| 4 | <i>Astrophytum</i> | 24 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks single over 6" |
| 5 | <i>Aztekium, Pelecyphora, Epithelantha</i> | 25 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks cluster up to 5" |
| 6 | <i>Borzicatus, Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya</i> | 26 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks cluster 5 to 10" |
| 7 | <i>Blossfeldia, Frailea</i> | 27 | <i>Mammillaria</i> w/o hooks cluster over 10" |
| 8 | <i>Buiningia, Uebelmannia</i> | 28 | <i>Melocactus</i> |
| 9 | Columnar - Ceroid types (N or S American) | 29 | <i>Notocactus, Parodia, Weingartia</i> |
| 10 | <i>Obregonia, Strombocactus, Encephalocarpus</i> | 30 | <i>Opuntia</i> (all Opuntioideae) |
| 11 | <i>Copiapoa</i> | 31 | <i>Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Turbinicarpus</i> |
| 12 | <i>Coryphantha, Escobaria, Gymnocactus, Neobesseya, Neolloydia, Ortegocactus</i> | 32 | <i>Rebutia, Medioblobia</i> |
| 13 | <i>Discocactus</i> | 33 | <i>Sulcorebutia</i> |
| 14 | <i>Echinocereus</i> up to 5" | 34 | <i>Stenocactus (Echinofossulocactus)</i> |
| 15 | <i>Echinocereus</i> over 5" | 35 | <i>Thelocactus</i> |
| 16 | <i>Echinopsis, Lobivia, Acanthocalycium</i> | 36 | Epiphytic Cacti (<i>Aporocactus, Hatiora</i> , etc.) |
| 17 | <i>Echiocactus, Ferocactus, Hamatocactus</i> | 37 | Any other genus |
| 18 | <i>Eriosyce (Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Pyrrhocactus, Horridocactus)</i> | 38 | Variegated Cacti |
| 19 | <i>Gymnocalycium</i> up to 5" | 39 | Crested Cacti (fan-shaped growth) |
| 20 | <i>Gymnocalycium</i> over 5" | 40 | Montrose (multiple, irregular, growth centers) |
| | | 41 | Seed grown by exhibitors up to 5 years |
| | | 42 | Miniature Cacti (3" maximum pot size) |
| | | 43 | Cacti Collections of 5 - 12 plants |

DIVISION 2 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, SUCCULENTS

Aizoaceae (*Mesembrianthemaceae*) family

- 44 *Lithops*
- 45 *Conophytum*
- 46 Other genera - with prominent stems/roots:
Aloinopsis, Faucaria, Mestoklema, etc.
- 47 Other genera - without prominent stems/roots:
Dinteranthus, Lapidaria, etc.

Asphodelaceae family

- 48 *Aloe* under 6"
- 49 *Aloe* 6" and over
- 50 *Gasteria*
- 51 *Haworthia* & *Astroloba* under 5"
- 52 *Haworthia* & *Astroloba* 5" and over

Crassulaceae family

- 53 *Adromischus*
- 54 *Cotyledon, Tylecodon*
- 55 *Crassula, Kalanchoe*
- 56 *Dudleya*
- 57 *Echeveria*
- 58 Other *Crassulaceae*: *Aeonium, Pachyphytum, Graptopetalum, Monanthes, Sedum, Tacitus, Orostachys*, etc.

Euphorbiaceae Family

- Euphorbia* - species endemic to Madagascar
- 59 Caudiciform or Geophyte (*capsaintmariensis, cylindrifolia v. tubifera*, etc.)
- 60 Other Madagascar (*decaryi, milli*, etc.)
- Euphorbia* - species not endemic to Madagascar
- 61 Caudiciform (*knuthii, squarrosa*, etc.)
- 62 Medusa type (*esculenta, gorgonis*, etc.)
- 63 Stem type (*abdelkuri, obesa, suzannae*, etc.)
- Other genera of *Euphorbiaceae*;
- 64 *Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus*, etc.

Geraniaceae family

- 65 *Pelargonium*
- 66 *Sarcocaulon*

Apocynaceae family

- 67 *Adenium* & *Plumeria*
- 68 *Pachypodium* - African
- 69 *Pachypodium* - Madagascar

Asclepiadaceae family

- 70 *Fockea, Raphionacme, Brachystelma*
- 71 *Caralluma, Hoodia, Huernia, Pseudolithos, Stapelia, Trichocaulon*, etc.
- 72 Other *Asclepiadaceae*: *Ceropegia, Sarcostemma, Hoya*, etc.

Succulents in Other Families

- 73 **Agavaceae**: *Agave, Nolina, Yucca*
- 74 **Asteraceae**: *Senecio, Othonna*
- 75 **Bromeliaceae**: *Abromeitiella, Dyckia*, etc.
- 76 **Burseraceae**: *Bursera, Commiphora*
- 77 **Didiereaceae**: *Alluaudia, Decarya, Didierea*
- 78 **Dracaenaceae**: *Sansevieria* (may include variegates)
- 79 **Moraceae**: *Dorstenia* (enter *Ficus* in 83 or 84)
- 80 **Passifloraceae**: *Adenia*
- 81 **Portulacaceae**: *Anacampseros, Avonia, Ceraria*
- 82 **Vitaceae**: *Cissus, Cyphostemma*

Pachycauls, Caudiciforms & Geophytes

- Adansonia, Bombax, Chorisia, Cucurbitaceae, Dioscorea, Fouquieria, Pachycormus*, etc.
- 83 Pot size under 8"
- 84 Pot size 8" and over
- 85 Any other genus
- 86 Variegated Succulents
- 87 Crested Succulents (fan-shaped growth)
- 88 Monstrose (multiple, irregular, growth centers)
- 89 Seed grown by exhibitors up to 5 years
- 90 Miniature (3" maximum pot size)
- 91 Collection of 5 - 12 plants

DIVISION 3 ARRANGEMENTS

- 92 Dish gardens (miniature scene)
- 93 Planters (group of the same or assorted plants)
- 94 Bonsai (Succulent Media of Living Art)

DIVISION 4 DISPLAYS

- 95 Individual display
- 96 Commercial display
- 97 Educational display

DIVISION 5 ALLIED INTERESTS

- 98 Photography
- 99 Art Work & Handicrafts

DIVISION 6 HOLIDAY PLANTS

- 100 Cacti
- 101 Succulents

SHOW DINNER & AUCTION

Saturday evening, November 10th at 6:00 pm in Ayers Hall. Dinner will be a special meal, prepared by Richard Jones Pit BBQ Catering. The menu will include three meats; Chicken Breast, Beef Brisket (cooked for 16 hours) and Pork Spare Ribs. It will be accompanied by 4 side dishes including BBQ Beans, Green Beans & Almonds, Mixed Green Salad and Seasonal Vegetable Medley. Also included are Rolls, Butter, BBQ Sauce, Beverage and Apple Cobbler for dessert. Total cost is \$17.50 per person. There will be an awards presentation, auction and lots of fun! Please be sure to sign up at the October meeting! All reservations and payments must be in by Thursday, November 8th so the caterer will know how many to prepare for. Please pay Bill Gerlach at the meeting.

SHOW RULES

- 1) Showers must be members of the SGVC&SS
- 2) Entries must be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least 6 months. Artificially propagated plant entries are encouraged. They must be clean (no weeds and debris), healthy (no insects, disease, and pesticide odor) and dry (to keep tables and table coverings from being ruined). Plant labels should be removed. Exhibitors are responsible for placing entry cards with exhibits prior to judging. The show committee may remove any entry which detracts from the show or jeopardizes the health of other entries.
- 3) Plants in Division I, II & VI must be individually potted specimens. **Pot size** refers to the inside diameter of the pot at soil level (Irregular pots; the average diameter). **Cristate & Monstrose** plants should appear only in their specific classes. **Miniature** refers to the intrinsic characteristic of the species; ie., a small, mature plant; not an immature, or stunted plant. A collection should be of individually potted, identified plants of one genus or some unifying theme.
- 4) Depending on the number of entries, prior to the judging, the Show Committee may combine or divide categories and rearrange entries. The Show Room is open to authorized people only during judging. Entries must remain until the end of the show.
- 5) Entries are judged on: Condition, Size & Maturity & Difficulty of Culture (70%); Staging (25%); and Nomenclature (5%). Entries are judged against "perfection"; awards are given only if the judges, whose decisions are final, believe they are merited.
- 6) The Society and Show Committee will take due care to safeguard entries but cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of, plants or other property.

AWARDS

First, second and third place ribbons may be awarded in each class in Divisions 1 through 6. In addition 18 rosettes will be awarded for outstanding entries in both Divisions 1 & 2. For Sweepstakes calculations 1st place = 6 pts, 2nd place = 3 pts and 3rd place = 1 pt. Rosettes will be tie-breakers.

TROPHIES

Best Cactus (all categories), donated by *Cactus Data Plants*

Best Succulent (all categories), donated by *Steve Crider*

Sweepstakes overall; **High Points Cacti** (all categories); **High Points Succulents** (all categories).

Other trophies awarded as perpetuals include:

Best Agave donated by *Darlene Osborn*, **Best Ariocarpus**, **Best Collection**, The VIRGINIA SHAMBEAU trophy for **Best Crassulaceae** donated by the SGVC&SS, **Best Dorstenia** donated by *Tom & Carol Loehman*, **Best Epiphytic Cacti** donated by *Rainbow Gardens*, **Best Euphorbia**, **Best Gymnocalycium**, **Best Haworthia**, **Best Mammillaria** donated by *Woody & Kathy Minnich*, **Best Mutant** - includes variegates, crests or monstrose donated by *Ken Felton*, **Best Opuntia** donated by *Jean Mullens*, **Best Pelargonium-Sarcocaulon** donated by *Arid Lands Greenhouses*, **Best Rebutia-Sulcorebutia**, **Best Winter Growing Succulent** donated by *David & Eileen Tufenkian*, **Best Pachypodium** donated by *Bill Hagblom* and *Vince Basta*, The Dick Hulett trophy for **Best Miniature**, The Ellen Low trophy for **Best Baja Plant**, & The Virginia Martin trophy for **Best Mexican Plant**, all three donated by the SGVC&SS.

Show Chairman: Manny Rivera (626) 793-6917 **Sales Chairman:** Jim Hanna (562) 920-3046
Treasurer: Bill Gerlach (626) 332-8008 **Publicity:** Bill Gerlach (626) 332-8008

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month November 2007 - *Turbinicarpus*



Turbinicarpus beguinii ssp. *zaragoasae*

Turbinicarpus is a small (but growing) genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It is one of several closely related genera, *Neolloydia*, and *Gymnocactus*, and *Strombocactus* being the ones most frequently mentioned. In many books, some of the plants listed below will appear as either *Neolloydia* or *Gymnocactus*. The exact relation of these genera is still being worked out and the disagreements between botanists are substantial. New species have been discovered and named in the past decade; seeds and plants of these are just becoming available.

All of the *Turbinicarpus* species are worth growing. They are all small, most full sized in collections at an inch or two. A few will clump readily, and make impressive show specimens, as shown below, but still remain manageable. A collection of all the species and varieties could easily fit on a table top.

In habitat, *Turbinicarpus* usually grow under nurse plants, generally shrubs that offer some protection from the worst of the mid day sun, or protected by rocks.

Turbinicarpus have large tuberous roots, which are their primary food and water storage source in times of drought. Over much of their habitat, rain falls during the summer, and growth is most rapid during this period. They can take lots of heat.



Turbinicarpus lauii

Turbinicarpus are fairly easy to grow, if attention is paid to their life cycle. They are dormant in winter, from November through mid March. As they begin growth, watering should be given slowly. If too much water and fertilizer are given at once, it's possible to burst the skin of the plant. Once growth is established (April and after) water freely. During very hot weather in the summer, the plants sometimes go dormant again for a short period. Attention has to be paid to watering again.

If a head splits, all is not lost. The entire head can be removed, and the top of the tuberous root left half an inch above the soil. It will usually start two or three new heads. Removing a head is also a great method of vegetative propagation.

Turbinicarpus are easily raised from seed. They are slow for the first year, but reasonable size plants can be grown in a year or two, and flowers the size of the plant will appear by the second year. Producing clumps as shown above will take quite a bit longer. Many varieties are only available as seed.

Terrific Turbs:

Turbinicarpus krainzianus (a.k.a. *Turbinicarpus pseudomacrolele* v. *krainzianus*) is almost always clumping, as shown above. From Queretaro, it has white flowers with yellow centers.

Turbinicarpus laui stays small, rarely more than an inch and a half. It has woolly areoles and a wool crown. From San Luis Potosi it has pinkish flowers.



Turbinicarpus lophophoroides

Turbinicarpus lophophoroides sometimes remains solitary, but generally clusters with age. It resembles the genus *Lophophora*. Careful watering away from the body of the plant will allow the areoles to keep their wool. The white crown will offset the white flowers. From San Luis Potosi.

Turbinicarpus pseudopectinatus has small sets of comb like spikes at each areole. It usually remains solitary, and grows to two inches or so high and an inch in diameter. From Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon it has large pink flowers.

Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus is a very variable species, with at least half a dozen named varieties. This species has the largest spines of any of the *Turbinicarpus*, with the spines often as large as the body of the plant. The named variations differ in the width, color and length of the spines. The spines of this species are hollow with narrow cracks. Water condensing on the spines runs though the spines and is used by the growing plant. This is a widespread species from Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, and Nuevo Leon.

Turbinicarpus valdezianus is another small bodied pectinate species with red and white striped flowers. In this species, the pectinate spines are not in the two neat rows as in *T. pseudopectinatus*, but are more spherical, and almost mashed.

References

Pilbeam & Weightman, ***Ariocarpus et cetera***
Tom Glavich October 2007

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month November 2007 - *Stem Succulent Euphorbias*

Stem succulent *Euphorbias* are exactly what they seem. These are *Euphorbias* where the main food and water storage organ is the stem. They are a perfect example of convergent evolution, often resembling *cacti* in almost every aspect except flowers.



Euphorbia phillipsioides

Stem succulent *Euphorbias* can be found throughout Africa, in the Mediterranean, on Madagascar and the other offshore islands, in India, on the Canary Islands, in South America, and even in Mexico. Some have persistent leaves, some don't. Those from tropical climates (Uganda, Madagascar, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen) tend to be frost sensitive. Those from Mediterranean climates (South Africa, Canary Islands, Mexico) tend to be tolerant of some frost. There are exceptions in both cases.

In general all of these are easy to grow. Good, fast draining potting mixes, protection from excessive winter water and cold, are really all they ask. They benefit from relatively frequent repotting, and fairly frequent applications of fertilizer when they are growing.

Seed of most *Euphorbia* is hard to come by. The seed is short lived, and should be planted as soon as available. Once germinated, the seedlings are similar to cacti seeds, growing slowly at first, and then accelerating in the second and third years. A more common method of propagation is vegetative propagation. Cuttings can be taken when in active growth. The latex is often an irritant, and sometimes a severe one, so care must be taken to keep it off your skin and cloths. Eye protection should be used when cutting *Euphorbias*.

Euphorbias will bleed a milky latex when cut. This can be stopped by spraying with cold water. The cuttings are then left to dry for a few days, replanted, and watered lightly until roots form and new growth starts. For large cuttings, new growth may not appear for six months.

Exceptional Euphorbias

Euphorbia confinalis is a tree eventually, but as a seedling, it has stunning patterns of light and dark green on the stems. Every plant is different.



Euphorbia gymnocalycioides

Euphorbia gymnocalycioides from Ethiopia looks almost exactly like a *Gymnocalycium*.

Euphorbia horrida, from South Africa with many different cultivars, all worth growing.

Euphorbia millotii has thick white, succulent stems, crowned with a head of leaves green on top, purple to red below. From Madagascar, it is cold sensitive.

Euphorbia milli, another Madagascar species is common as a houseplant everywhere. It has a spiny stem, and small green leaves. It is grown for its flowers. Recent Thai hybrids, with other *Euphorbia* species have resulted in very large colorful flowers.

Euphorbia monteiri, shown at right is a wonderful species from Botswana to Namibia, with several similar subspecies available.

Euphorbia obesa, the classic baseball plant, is common in almost every collection.

Euphorbia rossii another Madagascar plant, related to *E. milli* has beautiful, densely spined stems, with deciduous leaves. More

cold tolerant than might be expected, it does well in Southern California.



Euphorbia monteiri

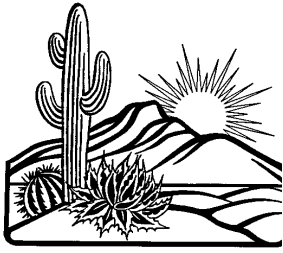
Euphorbia suzannae, another classic in almost every collection. Easy to grow, bright green stems, that quickly clump to form an impressive specimen. Easy to grow, but it needs very bright light to keep its true form.

Euphorbia valida, another cactus look alike is a nicely patterned *Euphorbia* with a body shape much like an *Astrophytum*.

References

M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**
The Euphorbia Journal (all volumes)

Tom Glavich October 2007



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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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