

# 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 Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia  
**September 2007 Volume 40 Number 9**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Join us **Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm when Joe Clements will be our guest speaker. Joe's topic will be "California Hot Spots".

Although Joe will be speaking about "Hot Spots" we have been advised that the Arboretum's air conditioning has been fixed so he will take the meeting room off his list.

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**Special thanks to Victor Turecek** for filling in at the last moment and giving us a unique show on plants and architecture from around the world.

"Thank you" also to those members attending the August meeting for bearing with us when we found the storage area for our meeting supplies and library had not been opened. Extra "thanks" to the members who pitched in to make substitute tickets for the raffle plants and door prizes, plant of the month entry forms as well as taking attendance.

If you see Liz and Jerry struggling to bring in library books on September 13<sup>th</sup>, stop and give them a hand. They were kind enough to take the returned books home with them.

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

**CACTI – *Frailea* & *Blossfeldia*      SUCCULENT – *Monadenium* & *Jatropha***

Bring in your *Frailea*, *Blossfeldia*, *Monadenium* and *Jatropha* 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.

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**Study Group: Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, - Photo Tour (see attached write up for instructions)**

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. Editor's Note: At the recent Inter-City Show I received a first-place ribbon and a third-place ribbon for plants that I acquired at the Workshop.

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**Say Hello to our newest members:** **Maria Munoz** and **Anna Laws** as well as returning member **Leslie Martel**. 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).

**Inter-City Show and Sale:** Monte Crawford of Superstition Mountain., Arizona wrote that he and a small contingent of Arizonians attended the show stating that "It was the best yet of the 5 shows I have been to. They said there were nearly 1800 plants on display!" Another Arizona visitor uploaded photos of 74 of the best plants at the following: <http://www.succulentguy.myphotoalbum.com>.

If you have internet access be sure to take a look at these photos.

**Refreshments:** The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the September: **Cindy Arakaki** and **Barbara Nolan**. The Club will be furnishing a cake in celebration of our anniversary. 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.

**Huntington Symposium:** Mark Digeros and Eunice Thompson were selected to attend the Symposium. We will be looking forward for a report from them.

**Aug-07 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results**

<b>Cacti - Oldest</b>			<b>Succulent - Oldest</b>		
<b>Beginner</b>					
1st	Pat Swain	Ariocarpus fissuratus	1st	William Molina	Euphorbia sp
2nd	Pat Swain	Ferocactus latispinus	2nd	William Molina	Euphorbia loricata
3rd	William Molina	Mammillaria gracilis	3rd	Calvin Arakaki	Drassovola nodosa
<b>Intermediate</b>					
1st	Phil Skonieczki	Astrophytum myriostigma	1st	Manny Rivera	Euphorbia obesum "Shada"
2nd			2nd	Manny Rivera	Pachypodium namaquense
3rd			3rd	Phil Skonieczki	Haworthia fasciata
<b>Advanced</b>					
1st	Barbara Nolan	Ariocarpus retusus	1st	Tom Vermilion	Lithops fulviceps
2nd	Tom Vermilion	Turbincarpus schwarzii	2nd	Rita Gerlach	Sansevieria singularis
3rd	Frank Nudge	Strombocactus disciformis	"	Barbara Nolan	Gasteria sp
			3rd	Barbara Nolan	Calabanus hookerii

***CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007***

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cacti of the Month September 2007 - *Frailea and Blossfeldia*

*Frailea* is a medium size genus of small cacti. The range of *Frailea* stretches from Colombia to Argentina, and overlaps that of *Parodia* and *Notocactus*. The genus is closely related to *Parodia*. The number of species is probably less than 50, but uncertain, with many species recently named and available only as seed from European suppliers. Many of these new species are probably redundant, and when a careful revision of the genus is published will disappear as synonyms.



*Frailea schlinzkyana* entered in the 2005 Intercity Show by Tom Glavich

*Frailea* are easily grown, requiring bright light, and some protection from mid-day full sun. Any well drained potting mix will do. In habitat they can be found among rocks and in grassland, getting the same kind of broken shade that they get when grown under screen or light shade cloth. This genus is somewhat less tolerant of summer over-watering than many, with some of the more collectable species (*F. asteroides*) being the least tolerant. Almost all the species are weakly spined, with the pattern of the areoles on the body an important part of the plant, and often emphasized in staging for shows. The bodies are often strange blends of brown, purple and dark green.

In habitat, this genus is generally short lived, with an average plant living only a few years before succumbing to predators, rot, or drought. The plants generally stay very small, from not much bigger than a nickel to an inch or two in diameter. When grown in pots, protected from predators, disease and drought, two interesting things happen. The first is that they grow to enormous size. Single heads can get as large as 3 inches, and clumping species can fill a six inch pot with remarkable speed. The second is that they lose control of their meristems. The meristem is the center of new tissue growth, normally at the center top of the plants. As they age, normally solitary species start producing pups, sometimes with great abandon. It's not unusual to see an old plant producing a set of pups, some normal, some not. Pups are usually produced at areoles, but occasionally are produced internally to the body of the plant, eventually erupting through the side.

*Frailea* invariably have yellow flowers. These are usually cleistogamous, which means that they pollinate themselves as buds. *Frailea* flower freely when warm and sunny, but even when the flowers don't open they produce hundreds of seeds. The seeds are easily raised, germinating quickly, but are only viable a short time. Seeds collected in late summer can be planted immediately, or can be saved until spring, however after a year there will be a noticeable loss in viability. Some germination still occurs with two and three year old seed, if carefully preserved in cool, dry storage.



*Blossfeldia liliputana* entered in the 2001 Winter Show by Laura and Gene Oster

*Blossfeldia* is the genus containing the smallest of the cacti. *Blossfeldia liliputana*, the only currently recognized species grows to only ½ inch across in habitat. The genus is native to Bolivia and Argentina, and is established over a wide geographical area.

These are difficult plants to grow on their own roots. Their specialized environment (mountain rock cracks), and the extremely dry environment makes them very sensitive to root loss. *Blossfeldia* have many unique characteristics, the most important is their ability (in habitat) to survive nearly complete desiccation, recovering when fog, mist or rain returns to their natural environment.

### Fantastic Fraileas

*Frailea angelesii* is a well known clumping species, growing more slowly than *Frailea grahliana*, eventually producing small to medium clumps of dark green and purple heads.

*Frailea asteroides* is the collector's choice. When well grown, it is often a dark brown to purple. As it ages, it tends more towards brown. Normally a single head, but with good growing conditions, and attention to watering, specimens like that shown above can be produced.

*Frailea cataphracta* is another normally single headed species, which with age begins to clump and grow oddly. It stays small, and keeps its dark brown color. Crests of this species are also available, and have been recent show winners.

*Frailea grahliana* is a common clumping species. It grows quickly, and can easily fill a six inch pot.

*Frailea pulcherrimia* is a representative of a less frequently seen group. These are still small plants, but have finger thick stems that become several inches long, branching freely. The main stem quickly starts to sprawl under the weight of the additional stems. It is a dull green, with short brown and yellow spines.

*Frailea schlinzkyana* clumps after a few years, and remains as a clump of depressed globular (wider than taller) plants. It stays a medium dark brownish green, with short tan spines.

### References

Edward Anderson **The Cactus Family**

Cullmann, Gotz & Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

S. and L. Brack, **Mesa Garden Seed List**,

Tom Glavich August 2007

Photos T. Nomer

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulents of the Month September 2007 – *Monadenium* and *Jatropha*

The genera *Monadenium* and *Jatropha* are close relatives of *Euphorbia*. While *Euphorbia* and *Jatropha* are world wide genera, *Monadenium* is confined to Africa, with a large part of the genus in tropical Africa. Both genera share the same milky sap as *Euphorbia*.



*Monadenium spinescens*

There are about 75 species, of *Monadenium* with many discovered recently, and more certainly to be found. Like *Euphorbia*, there is enormous size variation in the genus. There are leafy sub shrubs, true shrubs, and geophytes that have almost all their mass underground, with only deciduous leaves above ground when growth conditions are favorable.

As with most tropical genera, *Monadenium* are sensitive to cold temperatures, and particularly to combined cold and wet conditions. It pays to keep them dry during their winter dormancy, and to bring them out of dormancy with some care to keep the roots from rotting in the early spring.

Propagation of *Monadenium* is similar to *Euphorbia*. Cuttings can be made from the stem succulent species. When they are fully dry, they will root and form typical plants. Cuttings should be taken when plants are in full growth, doing best when taken in early summer.



Shown at left is *Mona-denium trinerve* a tuberous species from Kenya, just starting spring growth.

*Jatropha* is a tropical and subtropical genus, with members in both the old world and new.



*Jatropha podagrica*

*Jatropha* are generally shrubs, with natural heights of a few feet. Some have tuberous roots or swollen bases, particularly when young while others have thick semi-succulent branches. Most are border line succulents, with deciduous, non-succulent leaves. Several have become world wide cultivated plants, grown for their ornamental and medicinal properties.



*Jatropha podagrica* (Mexico) in a garden in Southern India



*Jatropha* sp.

Many of the shrubby species can be pruned into bonsai-like forms and maintained in this condition for years.

Noteworthy species

*Monadenium elgans*, a fast growing shrubby succulent with peeling brown bark, white veined green deciduous leaves with red edges. Prune regularly to keep it in shape and size.

*Monadenium spinescens* another fast growing species. Great leaves and bark.

*Monadenium trinerve* is one of the more difficult geophytic species. It loses its leaves with the onset of cold weather, and often the caudex before winter's end, leaving only an empty pot. It is worth growing, but needs a warm greenhouse.

*Jatropha podagrica* is readily available, but not the easiest to keep alive. Keep it dry after it loses its leaves.

*Jatropha cinera*, another Mexican and Baja plant is a fast growing shrub. It needs regular pruning to keep it under control, but can make a spectacular specimen.

*Jatropha curcas* is Mexican and Central American in origin, but is grown world wide for its seeds which have medical uses. People are regularly poisoned by improper preparation, but it is a wonderful species to grow.

*Jatropha gossypifolia* a tropical American species has been naturalized as an ornamental plant around the world. Easy to grow from seed, it has wonderful red-green leaves in late summer and early fall.

Tom Glavich August 2007

## September Study Group - Photo Tour

**What to do:** Take us on a tour of your yard & collection via photos. This should include both distant, wide angle shots that show us your overall growing area and close-ups of some of your favorite plants. If you have photos of your collection from past years you can use those too as an example of how things have grown or just to showcase plants that were looking especially good in past years.

**The Pictures:** We will be using the clubs digital projector to show the photos so all your pictures should be taken with a digital camera. You have several options for your slide show. If you are computer literate you can use PowerPoint or Keynote or another presentation program and put your slideshow together there. You can then bring a Laptop PC or save your file to CD and bring it in ( we expect to have both a Windows and Mac laptop to show pictures from available at the meeting).

You may also save your pictures to a CD or memory card and we will load those onto one of the laptops and show them from there.

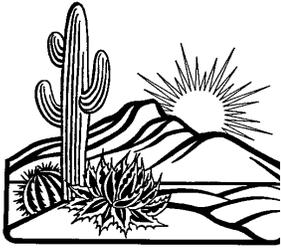
Video is another option. The projector can display video too so if you like you may also use a video camera and take us on a tour of your collection that way.

**Your Presentation:** Your show should be up to 10 minutes long. We want to keep the talks brief so we can see presentations from several people. When you have decided what photos you are going to show you should make a practice presentation at home to get an idea of how long your show will be and what you are going to talk about. You may find you have time enough for more photos.

**Technical details:** The Club's projector has input ports for SVGA (computer) S-Video and Composite Video. If you are bringing a laptop or camcorder or other device you should bring a cable that will connect to one of those ports.

If you will be bringing your photos to the meeting on a CD or memory card you should name the files so they will be in the order you want to show them. One method that works well is to begin a photos name with numbers. Start with 001 (Zero, Zero, One ) and continue for each of your photos. This way, your slides will remain in the correct order when they are copied onto one of the computers to display.

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COMMUNIQUE  
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
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## 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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