

# 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  
**March 2007 Volume 40 Number 3**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Join us **Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm when our guest speaker will be **Kelly Griffin**. Kelly's topic will be "Aloes My View".

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**Thanks to Woody Minnich** for his presentation on the Bolivian Highlands. Woody's pictures always make you feel as if you were right there with him.

A belated "**thank you**" to **Hank Warzybok** for his January presentation. Weren't those penguins cute?

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

**CACTI – *Parodia***      **SUCCULENT – *Medusoid Euphorbia***

Hopefully you still have plants left after our recent cold spell! Bring in your parodias and medusoid euphorbias 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, March 21<sup>st</sup>; Topic – Haworthias**

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Grapevine Room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium). These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free give-a-ways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something!

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**Badges:** Remember to wear your badge to the meetings! Effective April 1, Susan will only give a ticket for a door prize to those members wearing their badge. Also, you need to wear your badge to check out a book from the library. If you can't find your badge see Bill Gerlach to order a new badge.

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**Refreshments:** The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the March meeting: **Tommy Dodson, Katzy Kayser, and Cindy Arakaki**. Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant. There are still some vacant spots on the sign-up sheet.

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**New Members:** SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members Mike Caley and Lonny Root. 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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**Bus Trip - March 24 -Riverside Area:** - Itinerary change. The first stop will be at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center for a tour of the Cactus Garden and sales area (See [www.jmcc.us](http://www.jmcc.us)). From the Jurupa Center we will go to Buck & Yvonne Hemenway's 7th Annual Garden Tour & Plant Sale. From the Hemenway's we will go to downtown Riverside near the Mission Inn for lunch. If you want to have lunch at the Mission Inn contact Jean Mullens. After lunch we are going to the Mexican Hat Cactus Nursery. ( See [www.mexicanhatcactus.com](http://www.mexicanhatcactus.com)) instead of U.C. Riverside. Time permitting we may also stop at the Sims Tree Learning Center in Pedley (See [www.simstic.com](http://www.simstic.com)) to see the Joe Casey Cactus & Succulent Collection. The cost of the trip for members will be a net \$15 (\$30 to get on the list with \$15 being refunded on the bus if you make the trip). Guests are welcome at \$25 with no refund. Boarding of the bus will begin at 8AM in the area behind Ayres Hall at the Arboretum. Boarding order will be by lottery. To get on the list send a check to Bill Gerlach at 719 S Albertson, Covina, CA 91723 or see him at the March meeting. Make checks payable to SGVCSS.

For those living east of the Arboretum, we have arranged for a second pickup at the San Dimas Park & Ride. It is on the west side of the 57 Freeway at Via Verde Avenue.

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**Feb--2007 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results**

<b>Cacti</b>	<b>Epiphitic Cacti</b>		<b>Succulent-</b>	<b>Epiphitic Succulents</b>	
<b>Beginner</b>					
1st	Eunice Thompson	Rhipsalis capillorformis	1st	Calvin Arakaki	Tillandsia secunda
2nd	Calvin Arakaki	Rhipsalis cassutha	2nd		
3rd			3rd	Daniel Veelik	Tillandsia bergerii
<b>Intermediate</b>					
1st	Dick Tatman	Lepismium cruciformis	1st	No Entries	
2nd	Dick Tatman	Erythrorhipsalis pilocarpa	2nd	No Entries	
3rd	Dick Tatman	Rhipsalis sp	3rd	No Entries	
<b>Advanced</b>					
1st	Rita Gerlach	Rhipsalis mesembryanthoides	1st	Rita Gerlach	Hoya "Krimson princess"
2nd	Barbara Nolan	Rhipsalis mesembryanthoides	2nd		
3rd	Barbara Nolan	Rhipsalis sp	3rd	Barbara Nolan	Tillandsia hybrid
<b>Master</b>					
1st	No Entries		1st	Tom Glavich	Tillandsia sp
2nd	No Entries		2nd		
3rd	No Entries		3rd		

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cactus of the Month March 2007 - *Parodia*

*Notocactus* and *Parodia* are now generally considered to be the same genus, and in modern references; all *Notocactus* have been moved into *Parodia*. The original distinguishing characteristic was the red stigmas in the flowers of *Notocactus*, and the yellow stigma in those of *Parodia*. The distinguishing characteristic between the two genera were redefined over time as more and more intermediates were discovered, eventually becoming a minor difference in the attachment of the seed to ovary. If you have a *Notocactus*, you can enter it this month labeled as a *Parodia*!

*Parodia* has swept up several other genera, and is likely to grow and swallow a few more as botanical and genetic studies continue.



*Parodia schwebsiana*

*Parodia* are South American Cacti, with the center of the genus in Brazil and Argentina, but with members throughout the Eastern side of the Andes. Most are easy to grow, growing freely in the spring through the fall, and going more or less dormant in the fall. Some will flower in mid winter, and given their native environment, most do better given a little water year around. Some of

the more tropical species need protection from colder weather to prevent scarring, but most will take normal Southern California winters without protection.



*Parodia occulta*

*Parodia* are easy to grow from seed. Seed is available for nearly all the species, generally with variants from specific localities. It's worth exploring the differences in form and spination by growing the same species from multiple locations. The seedlings look very similar, but diverge more and more as the plants mature. The seed germinates readily and can grow into a show quality plant in just a few years. Vegetative propagation of the clustering types is easy as well. Cuttings taken during the late spring and early summer root readily and show new growth before the season is over.

The main cultural difficulties encountered with these plants are the ones common to all cacti, mealy bugs, spider mites and fungal spots. Mealy bugs can be kept

away by keeping the plants clean and keeping ants away from the pots. Spider mites can appear anytime. They can do a lot of damage during the winter when plants are kept dry, and less attention is paid to them. A periodic hosing of the plants will help keep them away as well. A rose miticide will kill them, as will the much less poisonous vlok oil. Soaking the entire plant for a few hours in water with dish detergent will take care of them, but this is not a recommended treatment if the plants are dormant.

Fungal spots and creeping crud growing from the base can be kept at bay by keeping the plants in growth as much as possible, by fertilizing regularly, and keeping the growing area clean and debris free to allow as much free air movement as possible.



*Parodia schummaniana*

## Great Parodias

*Parodia chrysacanthion* from Jujuy Argentina shown above is a solitary globose species, with great spines.

*Parodia (Notocactus) leninghausii* from Rio Grande do Sul Brazil is easy to come by, and with patience and care becomes a very impressive species. It is nearly columnar, offsetting from the base, with short yellow spines. The growing tip always leans towards the sun (much more so in California than in its native Brazil). Give it root room and lots of fertilizer to grow and spread.

*Parodia maassii* has dense spination, often colored. It is native to Southern Bolivia and Northern Argentina.

*Parodia penicillata* from Northern Argentina has very dense radial spines that stick out from the body. A very unusual species that is easy to grow. This another species whose growing point always points towards the sun, giving the plant a leaning appearance. This can be avoided by frequently turning the plant, or it can be emphasized as part of the unique character of the species.

*Parodia schummaniana* shown at left grows to more than a foot in diameter. This is an extremely variable species, always having deep ribs, but very different spination.

*Parodia turecekiana*, named after our own Victor Turecek, comes from western Uruguay, and Northern Argentina. A great species that is readily available.

## References:

- E. Anderson, **The Cactus Family**
- J. Pilbeam, **Cactus for the Connoisseur**
- C. Innes & C. Glass **Cacti**

Tom Glavich February 2007

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month March 2007 - *Medusoid Euphorbia*

The myth of Medusa is very old, and predates Greek Mythology. Medusa's character changes with culture, social conditions and time. The best known story comes from late Greek Mythology; where Medusa was a mortal woman, descended from the gods, whose beauty was so renowned that she fancied herself more beautiful than the god Athena. As punishment (or in revenge), Athena turned Medusa's hair to snakes, and placed a curse on her so that any living being looking at her was turned to stone. Although no one turns to stone, the first sight of Medusoid *Euphorbias* often stops viewers at our shows. The Medusoids are among the most unusual of the *Euphorbias*, and have no close parallel in other genera.

The Medusoid *Euphorbias* are easily identified. A (usually) large body is covered with arms. The arms may be stubby and widely spaced (*Euphorbia decepta*), or they may be long, snake-like and closely spaced (*Euphorbia caput-medusae*). For all of the Medusoid *Euphorbias*, the central thickened stem is equivalent to a caudex. It is the central storage region, and can act as a reservoir for nutrients and moisture in times of stress. Many of the Medusoids will shed their arms (branches) during extended droughts, regrowing new ones when the rains return.

Medusoid *Euphorbias* come from a wide range of habitats, with Cape Province, South Africa being Medusoid central; but all go through extended periods of low moisture. Cultivation for many is relatively



***Euphorbia pugniformis***

easy; as long as attention is paid to not watering during periods of dormancy. There are generally two periods of dormancy, a long one during the late fall and winter (mid November through the end of February) and a shorter one during the peak of the summer heat (a few weeks in August and September). The arrival of the summer one is harder to predict, and over-watering in late summer can result in root rot. In spite of the sensitivity, most of the Medusoid *Euphorbias* do well as unprotected pot plants outdoors in Southern California during the winter.



***Euphorbia crassipes***

It's nearly impossible to find seed for most of the Medusoid *Euphorbias*, and in general, the seed is short lived (months). Vegetative propagation is easier. Most Medusoid *Euphorbias* can be propagated from arm cuttings, although an extended period will be required before the plant is worth of showing.

Species of Note:

***Euphorbia caput-medusae*** is the classic species. It is from Cape Province, with a caudex of up to 8 inches in diameter. The branches are long and serpentine. It's the most snake-like of all the species.

***Euphorbia decepta*** is from Cape Province South Africa. The caudex is 2 to 4 inches thick, and the branches generally less than an inch long. In habitat, the branches are deciduous, but in cultivation they stay on the plant all year. Seedlings of this plant look like World War II floating mines.

***Euphorbia flanaganii*** is one of the most common and easily grown of the medusoids. The central caudex is generally two or three inches across. It grows quickly, offsets readily, and can rapidly fill a large bowl with medusoid plants.

***Euphorbia fortuita*** comes from Ladismith in Cape Province. It has a tuberous main root that merges into the main caudex, and stiff cylindrical branches usually about 4 inches long, but occasionally one will be twice as long.



***Euphorbia fusca***

***Euphorbia fusca***, will produce secondary heads (upper left arm) quickly. These can be removed to start new plants.

***Euphorbia gorgonis*** - another species from Cape Province near Grahamstown. The caudex is mostly subterranean. It has short tuberculate branches that turn red in strong light. The name of this species is an extension of the medusa myth. Medusa was one of the three Gorgon sisters. In an earlier version of the myth all three had snake-like hair and wings. When Perseus beheaded Medusa, the two remaining Gorgon sisters chased after him as he flew across Africa.

***Euphorbia woodii*** is from Natal, but similar to ***Euphorbia flanaganii*** in appearance. Most of the caudex and a large turnip like root are subterranean.

#### References

- H. Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**
- H. Schwartz ed. **Euphorbia Journal**
- M. Sajeva and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich February 2007

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

- Mar 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Buck & Yvonne Hemenway's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour and Plant Sale 9AM to 5PM  
5890 Grinnell Dr., Riverside, CA 92509
- Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale  
So. Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA #310-832-2262
- Apr 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> Green Scene Plant Sale – Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831
- Apr 29<sup>th</sup> South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale  
So. Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA #310-833-6823
- May 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center,  
Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info. #310-822-1783
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Huntington Plant Sale 10 to 5 Huntington Botanical Garden  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino CA #626-405-2160
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale  
Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA #310-670-8148
- May 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> CSSA 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention—Seattle, Washington
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info #619-477-4779
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30<sup>th</sup> Show and Sale – 9 to 4  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA  
Info #909-390-8802
- June 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA Info #818-363-3432
- June 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>  
& July 1<sup>st</sup> CSSA Annual Show and Sale – Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA #626-405-2160 or 2277  
Plant Sales start June 29<sup>th</sup> thru July 1<sup>st</sup>. Show opened to the public June 30<sup>th</sup> thru July 1st
- Aug 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

## CSSA Promotional Article (2007, No. 1)

The next big CSSA event will be the biennial convention in Seattle, Washington, May 25-30, 2007. While Seattle is not exactly in cactus country, there are a number of other features of the area that make Seattle an attractive venue for our upcoming convention. I will mention some of the convention highlights here, but you will be able to obtain much more information by accessing the CSSA website (<http://www.cssainc.org>) and clicking on "convention." As in the recent past, the convention will consist of four days of programs (two on succulents and two on cacti), with a day of field trips in between. You can register for the convention on line or print a registration form from a PDF file and mail it with payment to Mindy Fusaro, Convention Registrar. Of course, you have to be a member of CSSA in order to attend the convention, but you can join CSSA via the Convention Registration Form.

We will be welcoming back favorite speakers from past conventions including Sheila Collenette, John Lavranos, Graham Williamson, and as Banquet Speaker, Graham Charles. Other speakers well-known to CSSA members include Jon Rebman of the San Diego Natural History Museum, CSSA Board members Joe Clements and Leo Martin, former editor of the CSSA Journal Myron Kimnach, and our immediate past President Dan Mahr. Finally, we are happy to welcome first-time CSSA Convention speakers Urs Eggli, Peter Gammarano, and Nick Heiting.

Two trips are being offered on fieldtrip day, one for the dedicated cactophile to Yakima, Washington, to view *Pediocactus* in habitat and the other for the rest of us, to the Weyerhaeuser Rhododendron Garden and Bonsai collection and to the Seattle Conservatory, which houses a fabulous plant collection.

A major draw for conventioners is always vendor sales and the upcoming convention will be no exception. So far, there are up to nine plant vendors, some familiar, some unknown to me, at least one pottery vendor and one book vendor, Rainbow Gardens. Evening activities include the opening banquet, the CSSA Convention Auction, and the closing Banquet with the promise of spectacular entertainment.

Please note: we are always looking for donations for the Auction, plants or plant-related items. Funds from the auction support succulent plant research grants and other CSSA activities. Anyone who'd like to make a donation should contact your truly (see below).

The convention venue is the Double Tree Hotel, very conveniently close to the Seattle Tacoma International Airport. It's a very attractive hotel with ideal facilities for our convention. Rooms are available for conventioners for the special rate of \$99 per night for up to 4 persons.

The local committee (members of the Cascade Cactus and Succulent Society) has arranged a number of day trips to local points of interest for non-cactophile spouses.

Finally, the CSSA Field Trips Committee has arranged a post-convention tour to Baja California. This trip is basically a repeat of the Baja tour held after the San Diego Convention in 1997. As a participant on that trip, I can report that it's an absolutely fabulous trip, which I highly recommend to anyone interested in the very special flora of that part of Mexico. Details of the trip are available on the CSSA website and also in a recent (November-December 2006) issue of the CSSA newsletter, *To the Point*.

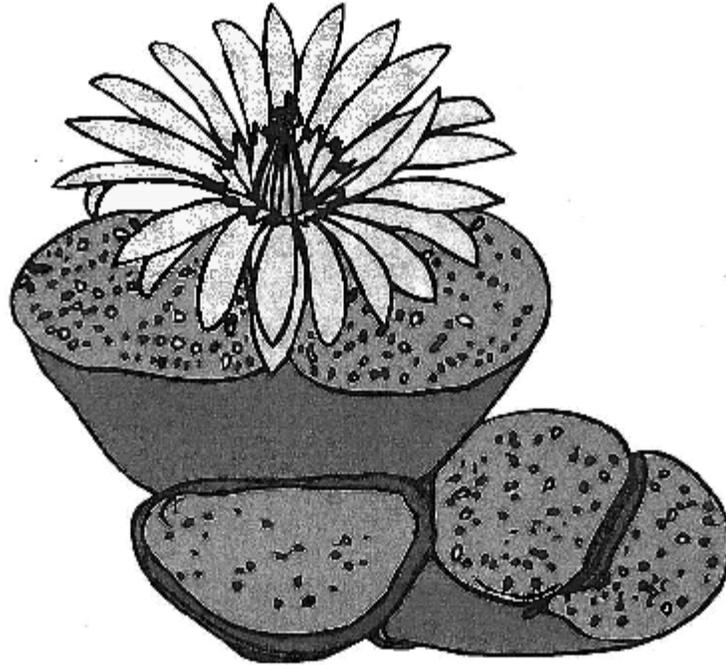
Good Growing,

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**SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT  
SHOW AND SALE FOR 2007**

**SAT. & SUN. APRIL 14th & 15th, 9am to 4pm**

**SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS — 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.  
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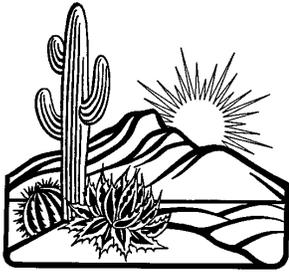
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COMMUNIQUE  
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
C/o Evelyn Stevens  
10119 ½ E Olive Street  
Temple City, CA 91780

## 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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