

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.

July 2013 - Volume 46, Number 7

**July Meeting:
Thursday,
July 11 at 7:30 pm**

Meetings are held on the
2nd Thursday of the month
at **7:30 pm** in AYRES HALL,
Los Angeles County Arboretum,
Arcadia.

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:

Oroya, Matucana

SUCCULENT:

Adenium

C & S Workshop:

The Workshop group will meet on
Wednesday, July 17th in the Palm
Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum
at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Staging

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President's Message

I don't know where cactus and succulent vendors get their energy! Several So Cal vendors drove to the CSSA Convention in Austin only to turn around and come to the CSSA show and sale at the Huntington a few days later. One of those energetic vendors is Woody Minnich who will top off his busy schedule by being our July speaker. His topic will be "The Great American Southwest". Be sure not to miss this entertaining and informative presentation!

Join us for fun and games at our summer potluck picnic that will be at Pitzer College on Saturday, July 20th. We'll start serving lunch at about 12:00. The club will provide delicious fried chicken. Please arrive early to enjoy the wonderful Pitzer gardens and a bit of socializing.

Now that the very successful CSSA Convention in Austin is over, it is already time to think ahead to the 2015 CSSA Convention at Pitzer College in Claremont. SGVCSS and the Gates C&S Society will be hosting the Convention. It will be a spectacular event. An organizational meeting will be held at Pitzer the morning of the Picnic. The meeting will begin 9:30 am. We need everyone's help and participation.

Our July C&S Workshop will focus on staging your plants; just

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June Mini-Show Results

Cactus - *Astrophytum*

Novice

- 1st Peter Claridge A. ornatum
 2nd Donn Muhleman A. ornatum
 3rd Brigitte Bergman A. coahuilense

Intermediate

- 1st Louise Stack A. ornatum
 2nd Rita Gerlach A. "Onzuka"
 2nd G & L Carlzen A. coahuilense

Masters

- 1st Gunnar Eisel A. myriostigma
 2nd Pat Swain A. capricorne v. minor
 3rd Gunnar Eisel A. capricorne

Succulent - *Medusoid Euphorbias*

Novice

- 1st Nilda Howard E. inermis v. buttonea hybrid
 2nd Sharon Sedillo E. medusoid Euphorbia sp.

Intermediate

- 1st Tom Howard E. inermis
 2nd Tom Howard E. flanagani
 3rd Rita Gerlach E. flanagani

Masters

- 1st Gunnar Eisel E. esculenta
 2nd Gunnar Eisel E. caput-medusa
 3rd Tom Vermilion Euphorbia medusoid hybrid

Mini-Show Judges Signup

Pat Swain and Yvonne Hemenway have signed up to assist Head Judge Manny Rivera in judging the entries for this month's Mini-Show. Check the Plant of the Month list on page 7 and sign up to judge a category that you enjoy growing.

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at www.sgvcss.com. Thanks to Gunnar Eisel for managing our website. If you wish to receive your **COMMUNIQUE** on-line please notify the editor at yvonne@pricklypalace.com.

President's Message (cont. from page 1)

in time get your plants ready for the Intercity Show August 17 and 18.

See you at the next meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

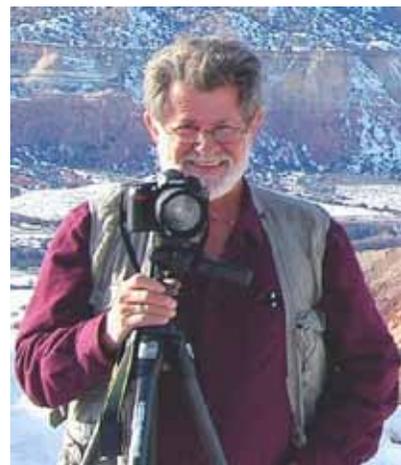
This Month's Program

Great American Southwest

In this program by Wood Minnich we are including the seven most cactus and succulent rich states; Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah. In these seven states there is a wealth of endemic plants and animals. The geology in this general region is very often tortured and dramatic, and thus the plants, animals and scenery are frequently nothing short of breath taking!

We will focus on the most unique and classic representatives of the Cactaceae and the many other succulent genera. These genera will include; Agave, Ancistrocactus, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Carnegia, Coryphantha, Dasylyrion, Dudleya, Echeveria, Echinocereus, Echinomastus, Epithelantha, Escobaria, Ferocactus, Graptopetalum, Lophocereus, Lophophora, Mammillaria, Neobesseya, Neolloydia, Nolina, Opuntia, Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Stenocereus, Thelocactus, and Yucca.

Many people from all over the world have been attracted this special region, and for me, I will be sharing over 40 years of my field work in this most incredible part of our country.



Plants Of The Month

Enter your specimen plants in our monthly minishow. 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 these species of plants you can learn about them at the meeting.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

Oroya, Matucana

Both *Oroya* and *Matucana* are found in the Peruvian Andes (ranging from 2,500 to 14,000 feet). The names are the localities (towns) of the first collected specimens (*Oroya*, Peru and *Matucana*, Peru).

In 1850, Salm-Dyck described *Matucana haynei*, naming it *Echinocactus haynei*; Salm-Dyck attributed the name to Otto. In 1903, Shuman described *Oroya peruviana*, naming it *Echinocactus peruvianus*.

Britton and Rose (1922) proposed the names *Oroya* and *Matucana* as distinct genera from *Echinocactus*. For many years these genera had only a single species; today *Oroya* has two species, and *Matucana* has 17 species. However, as additional species are described, their "distinctness" has become less clear.

Britton and Rose described *Oroya* based on the phenotype *O. peruviana* and *Matucana* based on the phenotype *M. haynei*. Phenotype is derived from the Greek "to appear". It is a description of a specimen based on its observed characteristics – usually a dried specimen, its flower(s) and seed(s), sometimes a living specimen, and preferably from field observations. It is only recently that genotype of plants (i.e., DNA) could be used to classify them.

Oroya and *Matucana* are closely related to *Oreocereus* and *Denmoza*.

Botanists are trying to sort out which are monophyletic (i.e., arising from a single ancestor), as some species within these genera appear to be polyphyletic (i.e., arising from more than one ancestor).

Species in both genera are globose to cylindri-



Oroya peruviana

cal, but *Oroya* are shorter (around 12 inches) than *Matucana* (to 20 inches)

when mature. Both genera occasionally branch basally. Their flowers are pollinated by birds (primarily hummingbirds).



Matucana madisoniorum

Oroya have tuberous roots and have many ribs sometimes forming low tubercles. The areoles are long and narrow. *Oroya* have one to six central spines, and several radial spines pectinately arranged. Flowers are borne subapically, with the outer perianth parts spreading widely but the inner ones erect. Flower color ranges from red to pink to yellow.

Matucana can form cushions when mature. Ribs are few to many, broad, low, and tuberculate. Areoles produce both hairs and spines. Spines are extremely variable, fine, and sometimes numerous or few to absent. Flowers are borne subapically, funnellform to narrowly tubular funnellform, open during the day. Flower color ranges from bright red to orange to pink or yellow.

The cultivation of *Oroya* and *Matucana* can be tricky for the beginner. While their latitude is the same as Central America's, they grow in the Andes (foothills and higher), so are subject to much colder and drier weather than here. As *Matucana* has the broader range -- from arid foothills to high (alpine) altitudes. Some species are subject to near total fog/overcast, and others subject to variable sun/overcast conditions. Species' moisture levels range from no rain (only dense fog) to deep snow. Species can be found in rock outcrops, loam, and clay. I find *Oroya* more forgiving.

Oroya and *Matucana* have a normal spring growing period, and are otherwise dormant. All plants require excellent drainage and partial shade (morning sun is okay). Plants can handle some winter moisture (fog, light rain) in a protected location, but mine are not subject to cold and wet. During their growing period, they should be watered but then left to dry out. Err on the side of less water. *Oroya* (*O. peruviana*) can be successfully grown in the ground here; unsure about *Matucana*.

When purchasing *Oroya* or *Matucana*, ask the vendor about how they were grown. I try to replicate these conditions the first year or two.

Anne Keegan, June 2013

Sources: The Cactus Family, Edward F. Anderson; Botany for Gardeners, Brian Capon; and, Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms, W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Adenium

Adenium are caudiciform plants; they all have an above-ground caudex and a growing center substantially raised above the soil level. *Adenium* species include: *A. arabicum*, *A. boehmianum*, *A. multiflorum*, *A. obesum* (the earliest described and probably the most commonly grown), *A. oleifolium*, *A. socotranum*, *A. somalense* (and variety *crispum*), *A. swazicum*. *Adenium* are endemic to east Africa, from Somalia to eastern South Africa, including the semi-desert Sahel south of the Sahara Desert, to the Arabian Peninsula including Socotra (but not Madagascar). They are commonly called Desert Rose or Impala Lily.

Adenium can be found at many plant nurseries and even Home Depot and Target (usually *A. obesum* and its hybrids). But *A. obesum* is somewhat misnamed – the name implies a fat, greatly swollen base. Yet *A. obesum* in habitat rarely develops a hugely enlarged caudex, though all of its parts – stems, branches, roots – enlarge with age. At the other extreme, *A. socotranum* develops a boulder-like caudex as much as eight feet across and tall.

Adenium cultivation can be tricky. While most plants are summer growers, you may find that you have a winter grower. The plant is growing when it is sending out new leaves. Most species go dormant and lose their leaves in the fall, when watering should cease



Adenium arabicum

Adenium need excellent drainage, and their roots require some moisture at all times, but *Adenium* do not like to be too wet (no standing water) or totally dry (which can cause early dormancy). Also, *Adenium* do not like wet leaves. Some growers prefer to use hard water rather than acidic water, and water in the morning rather than the evening.

Most *Adenium* cannot take wet and cold – *A. swazicum* is the most cold hardy – and most species are prone to root rot. *Adenium* prefer a controlled environment in southern California (a greenhouse); in some parts of Arizona and Florida they can be planted in the ground, but not here.

Adenium need lots of light for heavy flowering. Some specimens may grow year round under the right conditions, but usually growth slows down even if the plant does not go fully dormant. If new leaves continue to form, continue to water the plant, but take care as the time between watering may get longer.

When they are growing, *Adenium* benefit from regular applications of fertilizer; with higher phosphorous than nitrogen or potassium (i.e., lower N, higher P, lower K). Also, fertilizer should be diluted and applied after the initial watering. Applying fertilizer directly on the roots, or when the plant is too dry, can result in root burn and leaf drop.

Now, how to do you encourage the development of a showy trunk? Forget the fancy pottery. Plant your *Adenium* in a plastic container (depending on the size of the plant, a one-gallon to three-gallon container should do). Then, try to keep the growth phase going as long as possible (following the previous directions). Then, in a year or two, raise the plant (possibly re-plant into a larger container), with at least two-thirds of the swollen roots exposed and the remainder in the ground. This will allow the in-ground roots to expand and form new roots.

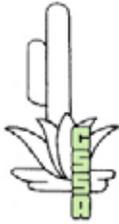


Adenium obesum

Anne Keegan, July 2013

Sources: “Introduction to Caudiciform Plants - Also Known as Fat Plants” Geoff Stein; The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World, Fred Dortott

CSSA Corner



CSSA Journal - May/June 2013

Dylan Burge takes us on a springtime tour of Namaqualand to get the May-June issue underway. He was a lucky recipient of a Schwartz Travel Grant, and is sharing the fauna and flora of that special part of the world with us.

Welwitschia mirabilis, perhaps one of the most distinctive plants of the world, is the subject of an article by Ernst van Jaarsveld, and also featured on the cover. Ernst achieves a 3-for-1, since he also introduces a new book on Welwitschia, and simultaneously celebrates the centenary of the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens.

Digital macro photography of cactus and succulent plants, by Toni Miguel provides some excellent examples of what can be done with a camera, and gives hints on how we can all achieve better results.

Some spectacularly-colored cacti are the subject of Russell Wagner's article, but they may not be quite what you think! The most recent news on them is that they are starting to appear in the US markets.

Zlatko Janeba provides a rock's-eye view of Agave albopilosa, a recently described species that provides a stark contrast with the all-too-familiar A. americana.

Dylan Hannon has written an in-depth review of Steven Hammer's latest opus Mesembs: the Titanopsis Group which will be of value to those not yet decided whether to invest in a copy.

Duke Benadom selected two geophytic members of the Asclepiadaceae as Superb Succulents this time, and the issue concludes with the final part of the Opuntia fragilis jigsaw so expertly put together by Eric Ribbens.



Cactus & Succulent Workshop

Wednesday, July 17th • Staging Workshop

This month's workshop will plant staging. In the workshop, specimen plants will be brought by master growers in "regular" growing pots and replanted into show-ready plants.

Staging is more than just re-planting a plant from a plain pot into a fancy ceramic container. It also involves container selection, plant placement, choice of staging materials (e.g., rocks), and use of top dressing.

As several specimen plants are generally re-potted – both succulent and cactus – by more than one grower, you get to see master growers' stage their plants up close. You can also ask the growers questions, e.g., growing media, watering, when to stage/re-stage, whatever you want to know about growing and/or showing these plants.

And don't forget – there is always an informal raffle; everyone takes home a plant or plant cuttings. Hope to see you there.

Anne Keegan

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 20, 9:30 am to noon — 2015 CSSA Convention Committee Meeting at Pitzer College. Our planning process will continue at this meeting. We'd like to begin fixing committees and their leaders now. We'll meet prior to the Annual Picnic at the Grove House (our normal Picnic spot). Please plan to attend and become part of this effort. Please rsvp your intent to participate by phoning 951-360-8802 or email Buckhem@sbcglobal.net.

July 20, noon til 4 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Picnic and Plant Auction at Pitzer College in Claremont.

July 26, 27 and 28, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For more information contact Lori Coxe at (562) 587-3357

August 17 and 18, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — 28th Annual INTER-CITY Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale at the LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia. Please see the Inter-City Show newsletter on the SGVCSS website. For information call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364.

August 31, 9:00 am — Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. More information, including the fee for the Symposium, will be published next month.

Refreshment Signup

**Fred Parales
Mary Aparicio
Una Yeh**

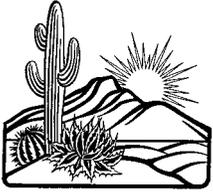
The first three club members who sign up and bring refreshments each month will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks. However, if you have not signed up and can bring a snack item to share, it will be more than welcome and greatly appreciated.

Have a GREAT 4th of JULY



2013 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Jan.	White Spined Mammillaria Clusters	Small Aloes - less than 12" across	Tips, Tools & Techniques
Feb.	Stenocactus	Haworthia	Conophytums
Mar.	North American Opuntiads	Tylecodon, Cotyledon	Pelargoniums
Apr.	Eriosyce, Copiapoa	Dudleya	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Echinopsis	Caudiciforms, Pachycauls	Grafting Workshop
June	Astrophytum	Medusoid Euphorbias	Rebutias, Sulcorebutias, Weingartia
July	Oroya, Matucana	Adenium	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Stapeliads
Sept.	Coryphantha, Escobaria	Sansevieria	Cephaliated Cacti
Oct.	Thelocactus	Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Epiphytic Cacti, inc. Xmas Cactus	Epiphytic Succulents	Winter Seed Workshop



COMMUNIQUE

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
c/o Yvonne Hemenway
5890 Grinnell Drive
Riverside, CA 92509

FIRST CLASS MAIL

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date. Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via email to: yvonne@pricklypalace.com or via mail to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Yvonne Hemenway, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, CA 92509. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.