



# San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society COMMUNIQUE

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

July 2016—Volume 49, Number 7

**The next meeting of the SGVCSS will be Thursday, July 14th in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum.**

**Mini-Show Plants for July:**

Cactus: Frailea and Blossfeldia

Succulent: Cucurbits

**Next C&S Workshop:**  
Wednesday, June 20th  
at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room

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### *President's Message*

Let's start with a reminder of our club potluck picnic on Saturday, July 16 at Pitzer College. If you have never attended the picnic, I promise you will have a great time. We have a shaded picnic area with lots of room to roam around. The campus is completely landscaped with cacti and succulents. We play some fun games including our semi-world famous Opuntia Toss.

We start eating at 12:00 noon. Please arrive a bit early to help set up and enjoy some camaraderie. The club will supply the fried chicken and soft drinks. Please bring your favorite dish: Enough for the number of family members

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and guests you are bringing. After the picnic we will hold our plant auction. Members are welcome to bring as many as three plants to be offered at the auction. The plants should be in excellent condition and something you will be proud to have in your own collection.

The 31st Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the L.A. County Arboretum is upon us. The show is hosted by the San Gabriel, Los Angeles, and Long Beach clubs. It is quite possibly the largest C&S show and sale and probably the best as well. We are very proud to be involved with this show. It is the highlight of our calendar year. The dates are August 13-14, 9 a.m. to 5p.m.

Your help at the Inter-City show is needed in two areas. First, lots of help is needed for set-up on Wednesday morning and teardown on Sunday afternoon. The table rental company will set up the tables. We just need to push the tables into position and add table cloths. Also, we need help for clerking Friday afternoon and night. Please lend an extra hand by volunteering a bit of your time and enthusiasm to ensure this will be our best show ever. Please contact Tom Glavich at [tglavich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tglavich@sbcglobal.net) or 626-798-2430 if you are able to help.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Gunnar Eisel  
President, SGVCSS



### **Regular Club Meeting Thursday, July 14th**

The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. Visitors are welcome.

### **Cactus and Succulent Workshop Wednesday, July 20th**

Topic: Staging

The C&S Workshop will meet on in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles Arboretum at 7:30 p.m.

The workshop is an informal, hands-on learning experience that is fun for the expert and novice alike. Come and learn from the experience of others. We are happy to share our knowledge.

Workshops are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia.

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**\*\*Note \*\*** Membership Dues are Due!  
Your 2016 Club membership renewal can be paid at the next meeting or mailed direct to Mary Brumbaugh,  
2123 Pinehurst St.,  
Glendora, CA 91741.

Regular membership is \$20 per year or \$30 if you request the Communique by mail. Make checks to SGVCSS.

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## **This Month's Program by Peter Walkowiak, Horticulturist**

July 2016

I graduated from U.C. Cal Poly, Pomona in 1985 with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Worked for some large nursery operations for the next 15 years as nursery, production, and section manager. Started a landscape business that I operated for 12 years with the last 6 years focused on succulent landscapes. At this time I joined the San Diego CSS and then the Palomar CSS and the CSSA. I also started propagating succulent plants from my collection. Two years ago I switched from landscaping to my nursery, PW Plants, that specializes in South African Euphorbias and caudiciform plants.

I have been fascinated by plants my whole life, but my interest in succulent plants really began in college. By the time I graduated I had well over 100 plants in my collection. The succulent bug started up again when my two sons reached mid-teenage. This is when I discovered that there are cactus and succulent clubs. I heard there was a succulent plant show in Balboa Park. I joined the San Diego CSS on the spot. I joined the Palomar CSS and the CSSA in the following year. I am now a member of all the Southern CA. CSS's. I am currently the president of the Palomar CSS, the San Diego North County club. I am also serving on the board of directors of the San Diego CSS and the CSSA. I am also Show Chair for San Diego's two shows and Palomar's one show and co-chair for the Intercity Show, the largest succulent show in the world.

My collection now numbers well over a thousand plants. About half are cacti with the remaining consisting of Euphorbias and caudiciforms. Some of the plants I have now owned for over 30 years.

## **Staging: The Art of Succulent Plant Presentation**

The art of staging succulent plants is like the framing of an expensive or prized picture or painting. The frame is the pot, the matting is the top dressing, rocks and other accent pieces and the plant is the painting. There are many aspects to consider when staging a plant, among these is the plant color, form, growth habit, shape, and texture. These all determine what pot size, shape, and top dressing is best. Color and texture are important on all aspects of a successful framing of your plant. Often the goal is to make it look like it is still in habitat, a little bit of nature in a pot.

In this workshop I will discuss the process of choosing the pot, top dressing, and rocks. Included in this discussion will be the reasons for making the choices that were made. Why this color, texture verses another, why one works while another does not.



## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month July 2016

### **Frailea and Blossfeldia**

*Frailea* is a medium sized genus of small cacti. The geographic range of *Frailea* stretches from Colombia to Argentina and overlaps that of *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* 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 are very small, from not much bigger than a nickel to an inch or two in diameter. When grown in pots 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 germinated, and are viable for at least two years if kept cool. Seeds collected in summer can be planted immediately or can be saved until spring.

## Fantastic Frailea

### ***Frailea castanea (cv. asteroides)***

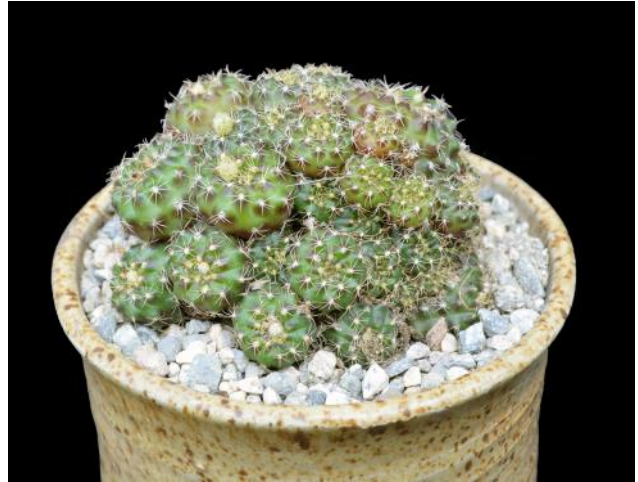
is the collector's choice. When well grown, it is often a dark brown to purple. As it ages, it tends more towards brown. Normally a single head, but with good growing conditions, and attention to watering, specimens like that shown above can be produced.

***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 castanea cv. asteroides*

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



*Frailea grahliana*

***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 schilinzkyana*** 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.

**Blossfeldia** is the genus containing the smallest of the cacti. ***Blossfeldia liliputana***, the single recognized species, grows to only 1/2 inch across in habitat. The genus is native to Bolivia and Argentina and is found over a wide geographical area.

***Blossfeldia*** 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.



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

Article and photos by  
Tom Glavich 2016

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Succulent of the Month

#### Cucurbitaceae July 2016

**Cucurbitaceae** is a large family with members throughout the temperate and tropical regions world wide. The family contains common vines such as cucumbers, watermelons, pumpkins, and cantaloupe. Many of the tropical forms are edible although some are quite poisonous. A few of the caudices are also edible but generally only with special preparation. A number are used for their medicinal properties.

There are two caudiciform cucurbitaceae native to the San Gabriel Valley. They can be found in the local hills and in out of the way corners of many back yards.

***Echinocystis macrocarpa*** (***Marah***) also known as the spiny cucumber, appears in the late winter as a climbing vine, growing over still dormant shrubs. The vine starts in an underground caudex that can be several feet in diameter. It flowers in early spring, and then produces a light green fist sized fruit covered with spines. As the fruit dries the end splits, exposing four tubes of large seeds.

Unfortunately, this plant does not survive well in pot culture.

***Cucurbita foetidissima***, known as the Buffalo Gourd or Coyote melon can also found in the local foothills, although it is much harder to find.

Many of the more collectable cucurbits are tropical caudiciforms, requiring warm weather for growth and are sensitive to cold and wet. Typical growth starts with a fast growing vine in late spring to early summer and ending in late September or October. When the vines die back, they can be cut off, and the caudex removed to a garage or basement for winter storage. Most are very vigorous growers and will grow much faster and better if given free root run.

One of the rarest of succulents is ***Dendrosicyos socotrana***, a tree cucumber from the Island of Socotra. This island, off the coast of Yemen is known for its endemic species and bizarre plant life. It is an Indian Ocean equivalent to the Galapagos Islands. This mono-typic species has a large trunk reaching to 20 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter and prickly leaves.

Another rare and beautiful cu-curbit is ***Seyrigia humbertii***, from a genus found only in Madagascar. It has a small caudex with blue green felt covered stems growing like very thick grass.

Also from Madagascar is *Xerosicyos* with four species. The most common is ***Xerosicyos danguyi***. This species has quarter sized glaucous green leaves widely spaced on sprawling stems. It is relatively easy to grow as long as it is kept in winter and not allowed to get much below 40 degrees.

***Momordica*** is a medium sized genus from the old world tropics with about 60 species, some of which form caudices. The most popular is

***Momordica rostrate***, which forms a pleated cone. Climbing vines starting from the tip of caudex grow through the summer and die back in the fall.

Another from the old world tropics is ***Kedrostis***, a genus of about 35 species, the most common of which is ***Kedrostis africana***, an easily raised caudiciform



*Zygiosicyos tripartus*

Similar to *Kedrostis* is *Gerrardanthus*, differing only in the fruits and details of the climbing tendrils. Both genera have several members that form very large caudices. They are rampant growers, and do well in the ground during the growing season.

The New World equivalent to *Kedrostis* and *Gerrardanthus* is *Ibervillea* with several species known and with new species being found in the jungles of Southern Mexico and Central America. *Ibervillea sonora* and *Ibervillea tenuisecta* are both readily available and easily grown. They form light grey elongated caudices. Like the African species they won't tolerate cold damp roots for long.



*Gerrardanthus macrorhizus*

Other less common members of the family include *Anisosperma* from Brazil, *Cephalopentandra* from Tropical Africa, *Ceratosanthes* from the Caribbean and South America, *Coceinia* from Africa and Asia, *Corallocarpus* also from Africa and Asia, *Cyclantheropsis* from Africa and Madagascar, *Eurelandra* from Africa and Socotra, *Nealsomitra* from India to Australia, *Telfairia* and *Trochomeria* from Africa, *Zehneria* from the Old World Tropics, and *Zygosicyos* from Madagascar. Continuing exploration of the tropical forests of Africa, Asia, and the Americas will bring new genus and species to the collector.

Article and photos by  
Tom Glavich June 2016



Save the date!  
SGVCS Annual Picnic July 16th!  
Pitzer College, Claremont



**Plant of the Month Cacti****Plant of the Month Succulent**

Jan	Hooked Spine Mammillarias	Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon
Feb	Echinocactus & Ferocactus	Othonna & Senecio
Mar	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia & Weingartia	Small Aloes
Apr	Discocactus & Melocactus	Kalanchoe
May	Stenocactus & Thelocactus	Millii type Euphorbias
June	Gymnocalycium	Ficus & Dorstenia
July	Blossfeldia & Frailea	Cucurbitaceae
Aug	Favorite cactus	Favorite succulent
Sept	U. S. Natives	Cyphostemma
Oct	Parodia & Notocactus	Retusa haworthia
Nov	So. American Opuntieae	Adromischus & Avonia

**2016 Cactus and Succulent Workshops**

Jan	Pelargonium
Feb	Plant Identification
Mar	Small Aloes
Apr	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Vegetative Propagation
Jun	Gymnocalycium
Jul	Staging Workshop
Aug	Stapeliads
Sep	Succulent Landscaping
Oct	Ariocarpus
Nov	Winter Seed Workshop
Dec	no workshop

**June Refreshments**

Mary Aparicio  
 Roberta Eisel  
 Suzie Jaurez  
 Fred Parrales  
 Richard Roosman

## **June Mini Show Results**

### **Master division — Cactus**

Gunnar Eisel, 1st place, *Gymnocalycium saglionis*  
Gunner Eisel, 2nd place, *Gymnocalycium ochoterena* crest  
Cindy Arakaki, 3rd place, *Gymnocalycium asterium*

### **Master division — Succulent**

Cindy Arakaki, 1st place, *Dorstenia gypsophila*  
Manny Rivera, 2nd place, *Dorstenia gigas*

### **Intermediate division — Cactus**

Louise Stack, 1st place, *Gymnocalycium pflanzii*

### **Intermediate division — Succulent**

Dick Hammer, 1st place, *Ficus thompsonii*  
Dick Hammer 2nd place, *Ficus neriifolia*  
Dick Hammer, 3rd place, *Ficus microcarpa*

### **Novice division—Cactus**

Minh Au, 1st place, *Gymnocalycium carminathum*  
Sharon Sedillo 2nd place, *Gymnocalycium species*  
Shaun Adams, 3rd place, *Gymnocalycium erinaceum*  
Sharon Sedillo, 3rd place, *Gymnocalycium vatteri*

### **Novice division — Succulent**

Mary Aparicio, 1st place, *Ficus petiolarias*  
Jeff Delzell 2nd place, *Dorstenia gigas*

**Calendar of Upcoming Events.**

**July 16th** — SGVCSS picnic at Pitzer College, Saturday beginning at noon  
More information at July meeting.

**July 21, 22, & 23** — Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society  
Summer Show and Sale. Thursday 6 pm to 8 pm, Friday 9 am to 7 pm, and  
Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 South State  
College Blvd, Anaheim. info: 949-212-8417.

**August 13 & 14** — Intercity Show and Sale. Saturday and Sunday  
from 9 am to 4 pm. Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North  
Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Information: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430  
or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795

**September 3** — Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium,  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. All day Saturday at the Huntington.  
Info: 526-405-3504

**September 10** — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, Saturday  
from 12 noon to 5 pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach.  
Info: 562-631-5876

**October 8 & 9** — Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Sale. Saturday  
from 10 am to 5 pm. Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. East Hills Mall, Center Court,  
3100 Mall View Road, Bakersfield info: 661-831-8488

**October 22 & 23** — Palomar Show and Sale. Saturday from 9 am  
to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. San Diego Botanic Gardens,  
230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas. Info: hciservices@gmail.com  
or 858-382-1797

**November 5 & 6** — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society  
Show and Sale. Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm. Los Angeles  
County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.  
Info: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052.

**SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2016**

Gunnar Eisel, President  
 Buck Hemenway, Past President  
 Horace Birgh, Vice President  
 Louise Guerin, Secretary  
 Margie Wilson, Treasurer  
 Rebecca Mallonee, Director  
 Mary Brumbaugh, Director  
 Jean Mullens, Director  
 Shaun Adams, Director  
 Dean Elzinga, Director  
 Tom Vermilion, Director  
 Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair  
 John Matthews, Winter Sales Chair  
 Tom Glavich, Inter-City Show Chair  
 Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Rep  
 Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair  
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair  
 Mary Brumbaugh, Membership Chair  
 Cindy Arakaki, Librarian  
 Richard Roosman, Newsletter Editor

**New Cactus Club**

It was only a matter time. It's been 38 years or so since a new cactus and succulent society was formed in the area. Say hello to the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society (CCSS) - a CSSA affiliated club meeting in Newbury Park, Ventura County (midway between the Santa Barbara club and the Los Angeles club.

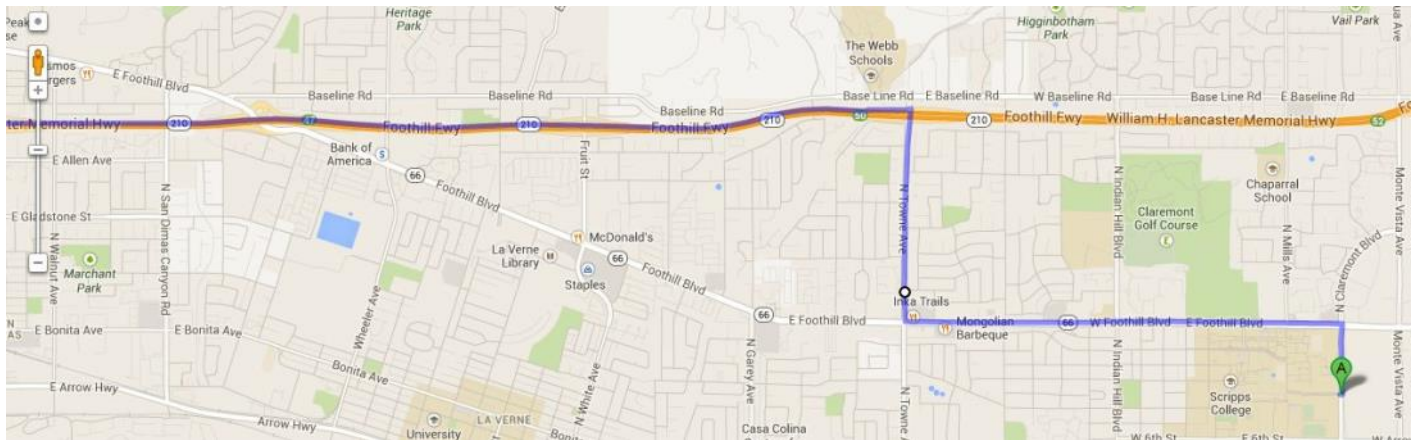
We hope to see lots of members from those two clubs as well as any other of the C&S clubs in our area. Of course we will attract most of our new members from the Ventura County area who may not have ever had a C&S club so close to them. The focus of CCSS will be worked out as the interests of new members is surveyed. There will be great presentations with perhaps some new speakers hiding in the area. Also a chance to catch a presentation possibly missed from your home club as we plan to have the out-of-town speakers making the rounds as well. And a chance to meet a whole new group of C&S enthusiasts who may be attending a club event for the first time. Field trips, home garden visits, plant sales and more.

Meeting will be the first Monday of every month. First meeting is planned for October 3, 2016.

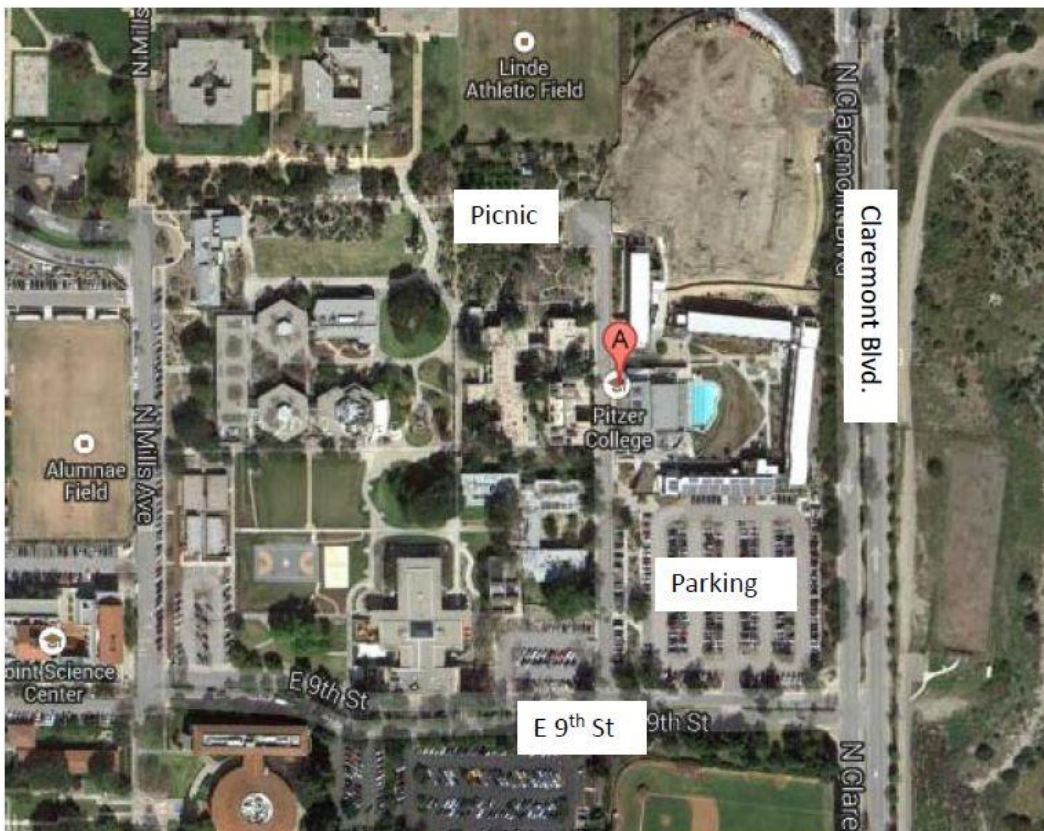
The meeting place is the Borchard Community Center at 190 Reino Rd, Newbury Park CA 91320. Meeting to start at 7:00. Contact Linda Holub at (805)-501-0761 or email [conejocss@hotmail.com](mailto:conejocss@hotmail.com) for more info.



# Map to SGVCSS Picnic



## Pitzer College Map



Traveling east or west on I 10, exit at Monte Vista Ave. Turn north on Monte Vista to Foothill, then west (left) to Claremont Blvd. Turn south (left) on Claremont to E 9<sup>th</sup> St.

Traveling east or west on I 210, exit at Baseline Rd. Turn west on Baseline to Monte Vista (less than 1 mile) . Turn south on Monte Vista to Foothill , then west (right) to Claremont Blvd. Turn south (left) on Claremont to E 9<sup>th</sup> St.



## **COMMUNIQUE**

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
c/o Richard Roosman  
P.O. Box 5222  
Huntington Park, CA 90255

**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: [richardinwalnutpark@msn.com](mailto:richardinwalnutpark@msn.com) or via mail to:

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Richard Roosman, P.O. Box 5222, Huntington Park, CA 90255. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.