



**San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society**

**COMMUNIQUE**

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

June 2013 - Volume 46, Number 6

**June Meeting:  
Thursday,  
June 13 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:**

***Astrophytum***

**SUCCULENT:**

**Medusoid Euphorbias**

**C & S Workshop:**

The Workshop group will meet on  
Wednesday, June 19th in the Palm  
Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum  
at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

***Rebutia, Sulcorebutia,  
Weingartia***

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**President's Message**

Our recent bus trip to three Southern California nurseries was a well-attended success. We visited Grigsbys, Rare Succulents, and the Mexican Hat nurseries. Special thanks go to Jeane Mullens for the wonderful job organizing the trip, and to Petra Crist of Rare Succulents for her hospitality.

The 48th CSSA show and sale is June 28-30. Due to ongoing construction at the Huntington, show admission policy has been changed. Admission to the show is free, but you **MUST** wear your club name badges. For further information the show and sale website is [www.cs-sashow.com](http://www.cs-sashow.com).

Speaking of CSSA, several SGVCSS members will be attending the CSSA Convention in Austin. We will be able to share info, photos, and memories at upcoming meetings.

Our recent Cactus and Succulent Workshop on Vegetative Propagation featured assorted knives, chisels and power tools. Tom Vermilion led the informative and interesting workshop. June's workshop topic will be a safe and sane look at Rebutias, Sulcorebutias, Weingartias.

Are you ready for our traditional Opuntia toss? Our summer picnic

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## May Mini-Show Results

### Cactus - Echinopsis, Trichocereus

#### Novice

1st	Nilda Howard	Echinopsis sp.
2nd	Fred Parrales	Echinopsis sp.

#### Intermediate

1st	Jim Nones	Trichocereus "Epic"
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#### Masters

1st	Ken Shaw	Echinopsis leucantha
2nd	John Matthews	Echinopsis sp.
3rd	Ken Shaw	Echinopsis cv. "Haku-Jo"

### Succulent - Caudiciforms, Pachycauls

#### Novice

1st	Kyle Robinson	Pachypodium brevicaulis
2nd	Kyle Robinson	Gerrardanthus lobatus
3rd	Kyle Robinson	Marah fabaceus
3rd	Rick Carron	Adenium obesum

#### Intermediate

1st	Barbara Hall	Cyphostemma uter
2nd	Barbara Hall	Euphorbia squarrosa
3rd	Barbara Hall	Pelargonium bowkeri

#### Masters

1st	Peter Walkowiak	Ficus brandegei
2nd	Tom Glavich	Ficus palmeri
3rd	John Matthews	Mestoklema arbiforme
3rd	Peter Walkowiak	Ficus petiolares

## Mini-Show Judges Signup

Cindy Aakaki has 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](http://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](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com).

## President's Message (cont. from page 1)

will be at Pitzer College on Saturday, July 20th. We'll start serving lunch at about 12:00. Please arrive a bit early. There will be plenty of things to do including a tour of Pitzer's magnificent cactus and succulent plantings.

The SGVCSS and the Gates C&S Society will be hosting the **2015 CSSA Convention**. This is the most important project undertaken by our clubs in many years. We need everyone's help and participation.

An organizational meeting will be held at Pitzer the morning of the picnic July 20th starting at 9:30 am. Please join us for this important meeting.

Our gentle yearly reminder: SGVCSS meetings are a great way of touching bases with our friends. However, side conversations and distractions in the vendor area during the presentations should be avoided. It will make for a more enjoyable evening for everyone.

We look forward to our June speaker, Leo Martin, who will present "Growing Cactus from Seed."

See you at the next meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

## This Month's Program

### Growing Cactus from Seed

Leo Martin became a medical doctor in order to earn steady plant money. He practices anesthesiology in Phoenix, Arizona.

Serious gardening studies began at age 4 with his mother, who yielded to incessant pleading and bought his first cactus at Fedmart. Leo has always gardened, even in the dorms, where he raised orchids. He has been known to purchase one product rather than another based on the container's suitability as a miniature greenhouse. He is always on the lookout for seeds



Continued on Page 3

## Club Bulletin Board

### Plant Shopping Bus Trip

*The group is on the way to visit Grigsby's, Rare Succulents and Mexican Hat nurseries.*

*At Petra Crist's Rare Succulents nursery, we were treated to a fine selection of plants and wonderful hospitality.*



### Cactus & Succulent Workshop

Wednesday, June 19th • Grafting Workshop

This month's workshop will cover three Andean cacti found in Bolivia and Argentina: Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, and Weingartia. The three genera will be considered together because the limits of each genus is currently uncertain (i.e., botanically debated). Just remember that Rebutia are fairly cold resistant and can take some frost, Sulcorebutia are generally less cold resistant, and Weingartia succumb to frost, but are less rot-prone.

Juvenile and adult specimens from each genera will be circulated amongst those gathered – so you get to see the plants up close. You can also ask the growers questions, e.g., growing mediums, watering, staging, 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.

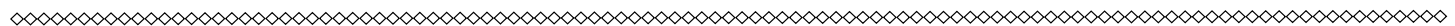
Anne Keegan

### This Month's Program - continued

that need a home.

Leo's first plant love is cactus & succulents. He has served the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society as President, Newsletter Editor, Show and Sale Chair and Webmaster, and was a member of the Board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, here he supervised that society's publications and Convention. He is a CSSA life member.

In his spare time Leo serves on the board of Arizona Schnauzer Rescue, Inc., and houses rescue Schnauzers. If you need a wonderful dog contact Leo.



### SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2013

Gunnar Eisel, President  
Tom Vermilion, Vice President  
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer  
Pat Swain, Secretary  
Rebecca Mallonee, Director  
Mary Brumbaugh, Director

Brian Le, Director  
Shaun Adams, Director  
Dean Elzinga, Director  
Louise Stack, Director  
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair  
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative  
Buck Hemenway, Plant Sales Chair  
Woody Minnich, Program Chair  
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair  
Cindy Arakaki, Librarian  
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

## Plants Of The Month

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

### CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

#### *Astrophytum*

The name *Astrophytum* is derived from the Greek words “aster” and “phytum”, and mean “star plant.” The first description of a plant within the genus *Astrophytum* was by De Candolle in 1828 (based on a specimen of *A. ornatum* collected by Coulter in 1827); De Candolle named this plant *Echinocactus ornatum*. The genus *Astrophytum* was created by Lemaire in 1839, using *A. myriostigma* as phenotype.

Part of difficulty in naming/placing specimens in *Echinocactus* versus *Astrophytum* is that juvenile forms of *Astrophytum* appear different than mature forms, and even mature forms of *Astrophytum* vary in appearance. Adding to the confusion was the appearance or lack thereof, of white-tufted spots on early-collected specimens. The advantages of having the white spots is debated (protection against the sun, protection from predators, etc.)

*Astrophytum* are indigenous to southern Texas and northern and central Mexico. Plants are usually solitary, globose to columnar, green, with fine white tufts of trichomes (that are sometimes absent), variable ribs. Tubercles are absent. Areoles are large, close-set, and distinct. Spines are variable. Flowers are diurnal, funnel-shaped, yellow or yellow red-throated; pericarpels with pointed scales.

*Astrophytum*, endemic to the valleys and low foothills in habitat, are endangered. Plants have been lost due to human activity: over-collecting and development (e.g., roads). There is little re-



*Astrophytum capricorne v. niveum*

plenishment and dwindling stocks of *Astrophytum* in its native habitat.

Somewhat curious is that the plants remaining “in habitat” often look terrible, being trampled by humans and stock animals alike. (The best looking specimens are usually found in rock crevices/rock faces, where it is more difficult for animal and man to traverse.)



*Astrophytum myriostigma*

*Astrophytum* has six species (common names in parentheses). They are:

- *A. asterias* (star cactus, sand dollar cactus, sea urchin cactus) is found in the thorn shrub vegetation of south Texas and northern Mexico along the Rio Grande, a “relatively” wet habitat;
- *A. capricorne* (bishop cap, bishop’s hat, goat’s horn): has the driest habitat, and ranges throughout the northern Chihuahuan Desert in Mexico;
- *A. caput-medusae* is the most recently collected and identified species;
- *A. coahuilense* (native to the Mexican state of Coahuila) is found in the central Mexican states of Coahuila, Zacatecas, and Durango, and differs from *A. myriostigma* only in its red-orange throated (versus yellow) flower;
- *A. myriostigma* (bishop’s cap, bishop’s hat, bishop’s miter cactus, mitra), has the second driest habitat, and ranges from northern and central Mexico, primarily the Chihuahuan Desert; and,
- *A. ornatum* (monk’s hood) is found in central Mexico.

The cultivation of *Astrophytum* can be tricky for the beginner. Well-established (i.e., larger) specimens are more easily grown – either in the ground or potted. I have several large *A. ornatums* that have thrived in the ground for years, while I have lost any number of smaller potted plants that I pampered (to death). *Astrophytum* as a rule generally do not like wet and cold. Some do not like cold at all, even if kept dry.

When purchasing *Astrophytums*, ask the vendor

about how they were grown. Sometimes these plants cannot handle the “change” in growing conditions, especially the first winter. These plants require very fast draining soil, a definite winter rest from water (including fog), and a generally hotter temperature than we have in southern California.

Anne Keegan, June 2013

Sources: <http://www.astrobase.de>; The Cactus Family, Edward Anderson; and Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms, W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods

All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

### *Medusoid Euphorbias*

The genus *Euphorbia* is widespread throughout tropical to semi-temperate regions of the world: Africa, the Mediterranean, the Levant/Arabian Peninsula, India, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, the Canary Islands, and even America. The name first appears in The Natural History of Pliny (79 A.D.); Pliny the elder attributes the name to King Juba II of Mauritania, who named a newly discovered plant *Euphorbia* in his physician Euphorbus' honor. The first botanical description of the genus is found in Linnaeus' Species Plantarum (1753).

The term “medusoid” comes from the Late Greek mythological character, Medusa, whose hair was turned into snakes and anyone who looked at her would turn into stone.

Medusoid *Euphorbias* are a subset of caudiciform *Euphorbias*, and primarily used for categorization and show purposes. While *Euphorbia* species cover the range of odd plants, medusoids are among the most unusual.



*Euphorbia namibensis*

Medusoid *Euphorbias* are easily identified; they have a central thickened stem (caudex) covered with branches (arms). The branches may be stubby and widely spaced (*E. decepta*), or long, snake-like, and closely spaced (*E. caput-medusae*). The

caudex acts as a reservoir for nutrients and moisture in times of stress. Some medusoids shed their branches during extended droughts, which regrow when water returns.

Medusoid *Euphorbias* are endemic to Africa (particularly South Africa), and found in a wide range of habitats. Yet all go through extended periods of low moisture.

Successful cultivation of medusoid *Euphorbias* requires that little to no moisture be given during these plants' two dormant periods: long (late fall through winter) and short (high-heat summer). While some growers successfully grow medusoid species unprotected from winter rain, in my experience (excepting *E. flanaganii*), some protection is needed from winter rain/fog.

Medusoid *Euphorbias* include (all from South Africa):

- *E. caput-medusae* – most snake-like;
- *E. decepta* – short, stubby branches, stem is above and below ground in habitat ;
- *E. flanaganii* – most common and easily grown, offsets form quickly, stem is above and below ground in habitat;
- *E. fortuita* – stiff, longish cylindrical branches, tuberous main root merges into caudex;
- *E. gorgonis* – looks like stubby *E. flanaganii* (without offsets), stem is above and below ground in habitat; and,
- *E. woodii* – looks similar to *E. flanaganii*, *Euphorbia caput-medusae* caudex and large tuberous root are subterranean.

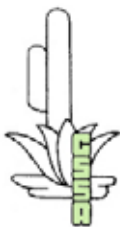


*Euphorbia caput-medusae*

Seed for medusoid *Euphorbias* is not readily available and short lived. Vegetative propagation is easier, but sometimes the caudex may not develop (or take many, many years to develop).

Anne Keegan, June 2013

Sources: Cactus and Succulents, W. Haage; A Handbook of Succulent Plants, H. Jacobsen;; All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway



**CSSA Corner**

**2015 CSSA Convention**

**Committee Meeting Saturday, July 20 at Pitzer College, 9:30 AM.** Our planning process will continue at this meeting. We'd like to begin fixing committees and their heads 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.

2015? June 2015? Isn't that more than 2 years away? Time Flies!

The Gates C&SS and San Gabriel Valley C&SS will be co-hosts of the CSSA's 36th Biennial Convention to be held at Pitzer College. This is an opportunity for those of us in the Los Angeles Basin to strut our stuff in front of the C&S World. It will have been 14 years since the LA club last hosted anywhere near here.

Please rsvp your intent to participate by phoning 951-360-8802 or email [Buckhem@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Buckhem@sbcglobal.net).

**Annual CSSA Show and Sale**

The Huntington Botanical Gardens will once again host the CSSA's annual show and sale. The sale will be in a different location this year due to extensive construction. In order for members of CSSA affiliate clubs to have free entry to the sale, **it is mandatory to wear your name badge.**

You can pick up a show schedule at the next meeting or go to [www.CSSAinc.com](http://www.CSSAinc.com).

**28th Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show**



**9-5 August 17 - 18 2013  
Los Angeles County Arboretum  
301 N Baldwin Ave Arcadia**



**Welcome New Members**

Please welcome new members and make them feel welcome at our functions.

**Ann Hamilton, Hacienda Heights**

**Happy Flag Day**

June 14th



Volunteer Needed ! We are looking for someone to accept the position of newsletter editor beginning in July 2013. Yvonne Hemenway has been our editor for 4-1/2 years and her travel schedule for the second half of 2013 is very full.  
  
Please talk to Yvonne or Gunner Eisel if you are prepared to take on this responsibility. Thanks.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**June 1 and 2** — San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. For information call 858-382-1797.

**June 8 and 9**, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA. For info email LACSS.Contact@gmail.com.

**June 15 - 20** — CSSA 35th Biennial Convention in Austin, Texas. [www.CSSA2013.com](http://www.CSSA2013.com)

**June 28 - 30**, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm — Cactus & Succulent Society of America Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Dinner and auction on June 29th, reservations required.

**July 20**, noon til 4 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Picnic and Plant Auction at Pitzer College in Claremont. NOTE: An organizational meeting for the 2015 CSSA Convention will be held before the picnic starting at 9:30 am. Everyone interested in helping organize this event is welcome to attend.

**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. For information call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364.

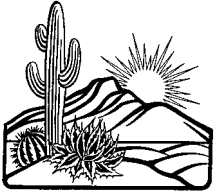
## Refreshment Signup

**Dick Tatman - Danielle Duboff - Liz VanAlstine**

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.

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

	<b>Cacti of the Month</b>	<b>Succulent of the Month</b>	<b>Study Group</b>
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](mailto: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**.