



*San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society*

**COMMUNIQUE**

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

June 2009 - Volume 42, Number 6

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

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

**Mini-Show Plants:**

**CACTUS:**

**Cephalium-Bearing  
Cacti**

**SUCCULENT:**

**Adenium**

**Study Group:**

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

***The Genus Astrophytum***

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***President's Message***

Well, it's summer. SDCSS, LACSS, CSSA, Orange County, and Intercity Shows & Sales are coming to a venue near by. Not to mention The Huntington Symposium (note the date, Sept. 5), our own summer picnic, Lotus Land trip, and a ton of other stuff.

June is really action packed. We will attend our first San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale on the 6th & 7th, and participate in the CSSA Show & Sale in June (you'll hear more about this event). Do not miss the CSSA Show and Sale June 26-28 at the Huntington Library. We need volunteers both for the Show and in the Sales area. All volunteers get admission to the Huntington for a day. The sale is the largest cactus & succulent plant sale in the US annually.

*Continued on Page 3*

***This Month's Program***

Our speaker for June will be our own Joe Clements. For those new members, Joe was the manager of the Cactus Collection at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens for 25 years. He is currently the curator of the Arboretum at Pitzer College in Claremont. He is several times Past President of our Club and is currently one of the senior members of the Board of Directors of CSSA. Joe's talk will be on "**Succulent Shows and Judging**". With Show season fast upon us, this will be a very timely talk for all of our members. Joe Clements is one of the most experienced judges in the succulent world. His beautiful photography and to-the-point presentation makes this talk a valuable experience.

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## May Mini-Show Results

### Cacti - Echinopsis

#### Beginner

1st	Tricia Kangrga	E. patrician
2nd	Anne Keegan	E. cv. 'Haku Jo'
3rd	Anne Keegan	E. subdenudata

#### Intermediate

1st	Cindy/Calvin Arakaki	E. arachnacantha
2nd	Cindy/Calvin Arakaki	E. arachnacantha
3rd	Glen/Linda Carlzen Phil Skonieczki	E. hybrid 'Rose Quartz' E. hybrid

#### Advanced

3rd	Rita Gerlach	E. crest
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#### Masters

1st	Karen Ostler	E. thionantha ssp. ferrarii
2nd	Karen Ostler	E. multiplex

### Succulents - Echeveria

#### Beginner

1st	Oscar Flores	E. agavoides
2nd	Tricia Kangrga	E. agavoides
3rd	Oscar Flores	E. runyonii 'Topsy Turvy'

#### Intermediate

1st	Pat Swain	E. agavoides cv. 'Ebony'
2nd	John Mathews	E. agavoides cv. 'Ebony'

#### Advanced

1st	Tom Vermilion	E. cv. 'Ruffles'
2nd	Tom Vermilion	E. cv. 'Etna'
3rd	Tom Vermilion	E. cv. 'Barbiillion'

#### Masters

1st	Karen Ostler	E. lauii
2nd	Jim Hanna	E. 'Lipstick'
3rd	Jim Hanna	E. 'Dick Wright'

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).

## Book Review

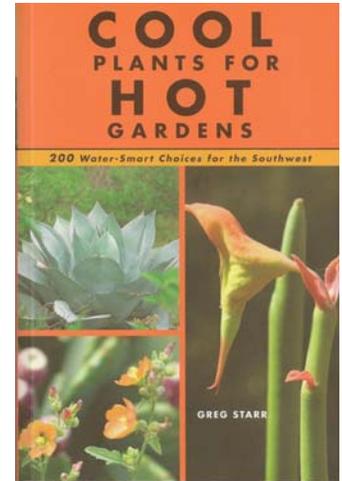
By Yvonne Hemenway

### COOL PLANTS FOR HOT GARDENS: 200 Water-Smart Choices for the Southwest

Greg Starr

Rio Nuevo Publishers,  
Tucson, AZ , 2009 \$24.95

Greg Starr is a self-described plant nerd and the owner and manager of the Starr Nursery in Tucson, Arizona. A familiar face in the gardening community, Starr was named Master of the Southwest by *Phoenix Home & Garden* magazine in 2006.



With *Cool Plants for Hot Gardens*, Greg Starr has provided an encyclopedia of garden plants suited to Southwestern gardens and landscapes. He offers extensive information on 200 low-water-use plants, including clear descriptions of each plant and its ornamental features, maintenance, and climate requirements, along with landscape applications, precautions, tips for plant identification and a color photo of the plant in a landscape setting.

In the introduction, Greg explains how the book will help the property owner, gardener, and landscape professional understand, select, install and maintain landscape plants that thrive in the southwestern United States. He has included a section entitled "Digging in the Dirt" where he offers the basics about soil composition, texture, depth, and chemistry. Another section on "Culture/Maintenance" admonishes the reader to avoid pruning atrocities and get past the notion that our landscapes look better if the shrubs are pruned into round balls or square boxes every couple of weeks. We just need to select the right plant for the right spot.

This is an essential book for gardeners, professional and amateur landscapers, and anyone interested in conserving precious water without sacrificing attractive, healthy plants.



cephaliums. *Coleocephalocereus*, *Facheiroa* and *Sicobaccatus* develop lateral cephaliums. Some, but not all, *Oreocereus* develop apical cephaliums, others develop lateral cephaliums. Some, but not all, *Cipocereus* and *Lophocereus* develop pseudocephaliums. *Buiningia*, *Espostoa*, *Neobinghamia* and *Thrixoanthocereus* develop either lateral cephaliums or pseudocephaliums. Finally, in *Micranthocereus* and *Pilosocereus*, some species develop a cephalium, others develop a pseudocephalium, and some develop neither.

A description of how the apical cephalium develops on *Melocactus* may be helpful. All *Melocactus* start with spherical, green bodies and strong, widely spaced curved spines that protect the stem but do not shade it significantly. Plants grow like this for years without flowering. Once mature, the plant's apical shoot starts to produce the cephalium, which is narrower than the body. The cephalium's brownish-red spines are shorter, straighter and more abundant, and combined with the close packing of the wooly areoles, completely protects the adult surface from animals, sunlight, fungi, bacteria, etc.

Another example is *Buiningia*, which is a small group of short cylindric, cephalium-bearing cacti from Brazil. As small plants they are globular and very *Melocactus* like, but the cephalium appears only on one side of the stem, and continues to elongate. It is comprised of white wool and yellow bristles.



*Melocactus warasii* entered by Petra Crist in the 2003 Intercity Show. Photo by Tim Nomer.

*Melocactus warasii* is one of the largest spe-

cies in the genus; plants over three feet tall have been discovered in Brazil. It has a grayish-green to bluish-green body with a brownish-red, white topped cephalium. It has day-blooming flowers that are reddish pink. It needs full sun, winter warmth and prefers not to dry out, as it is a tropical plant.

*Discocactus horstii*, (from the Greek "diskos" meaning disc), is a small, flattened globular plant (two and half inches wide and less than an inch high). The cephalium is white, wooly and bristly. This is another Brazilian day bloomer, with white flowers. It, too, prefers a sunny location, winter warmth, and some moisture.



*Discocactus horstii* entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by Duke and Kaz Benadom.

*Buiningia aurea* is a short columnar plant (to two feet) which branches freely from the base. small, flattened globular plant (two and half inches wide and less than an inch high). The cephalium is white, wooly and bristly. This is a Brazilian night bloomer, with very small pale yellowish-green flowers. It prefers the same growing conditions described above.



*Buiningia aurea* entered by Gene and Laura Oster in the 2001 Intercity Show. Photo by Tim Nomer

Anne Keegan, June 2009

Sources: *Cacti*, Borg; *The Cactus Handbook*, Haustein, and *Cacti*, Innes & Glass

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

***Adenium***

*Adenium* is a member of the *Apocynaceae*, and a

relative of *Plumeria*, *Pachypodium*, *Amosonia*, *Carrisa*, *Oleander*, *Thevetia* and *Vinca*. The Apocynaceae is home to many showy flowering plants used for ornamental and medicinal purposes. *Oleander* is a staple of much of Southern California Gardening, *Vinca* is used worldwide, and *Thevetia*, and *Carrisa*, although not as often seen, are spectacular shrubs.

*Adenium* are native to Africa and the Saudi Arabian peninsula. They are easy to grow, requiring only good fertilizer and lots of water when in growth and protection from cold and damp when dormant. In the summer, they should not be treated like succulents. Give them plenty of water, and lots of room in the pot for root growth. They need a fast draining potting mix. Many successful growers use a potting mix that is mostly or all pumice.

Once night time temperatures drop below 50 degrees, the plants slow quickly. Watering has to be done much more carefully, and fertilization should stop. When leaves drop or temperatures drop into the mid 40s, the plants go dormant. Several growers place their plants in their garages in late fall to force dormancy, and protect them from cold and damp. Many others bring them indoors, either at night, or for the entire winter. Those with heated greenhouses do best of all. However, many successful growers leave them out all night right through the winter. If the plants are grown in pumice or some other very fast draining mix, outdoor winter survival is not at all difficult.

*Adenium* are attractive to mealybugs, white flies, and spider mites. Check under the leaves and look for very fine webs. Any good miticide will take care of the spider mites, and the ones available in most nurseries for



*Adenium boehmianum* in leaf

roses work well. Frequent hosing down of the plants with a strong stream from a hose keeps white flies from becoming established and is the preferred preventive treatment.

There is either one variable species, *Adenium obesum* with six subspecies, or six species, depending on your choice of reference. In either case, the species or subspecies are closely related and hybridize readily with each other. The care for all is the same, with *Adenium socotranum* being more cold sensitive than the others.

*Adenium* hybrids and cultivars are created for showy caudexes, great flowers, or some combination of the two. One of the best local hybridizers is Bill Hagblom, well known to almost all of our club members. He has produced spectacular flowered forms, as well as fast growing, well shaped caudexes. Shown with this article is *Adenium* 'Calypso', from Plants of the Southwest in Tucson. Many great cultivars appear on the show and sales tables at the Intercity and CSSA Shows.



*Adenium* 'Calypso'

There are groups of hybridizers producing great flowers and terrific caudexes in Tucson, Florida, India and Thailand. The golden age of *Adenium* hybridization is just starting.

Tom Glavich, June 2009



Thank you to Tom Glavich and Anne Keegan for putting together the Plant of the Month articles. If you would like to participate by submitting a plant of the month write up for the **Communique**, please contact Tom Glavich at [tglavich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tglavich@sbcglobal.net).



## Study Group

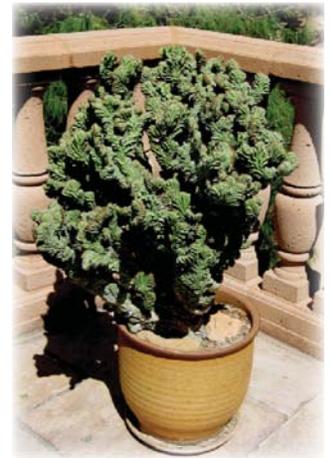
Wednesday, June 17th • The Genus *Astrophytum*

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

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

## A Feast for the Eyes

These were some of the amazing plants on display at the CSSA Convention in Tucson, April 2009



*Adenium* hybrids by Mark Dimmitt



## Field Trip To LOTUS LAND

Here are the details for the Lotus Land field trip. The trip will be on Saturday, July 18, 2009. The bus will leave the parking lot at the Arboretum at 7:00AM and arrive at the gardens for our tour at 10:00AM. We will stop at Gene and Laura Oster's to pick up Valley residents so they don't have to come all the way in to the Arboretum. On the way home we'll stop at Seaside Nursery in Carpentaria then have lunch in Ventura at the Esplanade Shopping Center. There are several restaurants in the shopping center to give members a choice of cuisine and price level. When we arrive at the Oster's to drop the Valley residents, Gene and Laura have invited us to tour their yard. The trip is currently fully booked and there is a waiting list. We plan to return to the Arboretum by about 6:30PM.

**PLAN TO BE AT THE ARBORETUM PARKING NO LATER THAN 6:30AM.**

## *Calendar of Upcoming Events*

**June 6 and 7** — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. For information call 619-477-4779.

**June 13 and 14** — Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino. For show information call 818-363-3432.

**June 26 thru 28** — Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Plant sales start June 26th thru June 28th. The Show is open on June 27th and June 28th. Free to the public. For information call 626-405-2160 or 951-360-8802.

**July 24 thru 26** — Orange County Summer Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. Show and Sale open Friday, July 24th, noon to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. For information call 714-870-4887.

**August 1, 12 noon** — **Annual San Gabriel Valley Club Picnic at Pitzer College.**

**August 15 and 16** — 24th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. For information call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall at 818-368-6914.

**September 5** — Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. All day at the Huntington. Fee: \$75.00 with an additional charge of \$25.00 for the dinner.

**September 27, 12 pm** — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA.

**November 7 and 8** — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. For information call Manny Rivera at 626-793-6917.

### *Refreshment Signup*

These club members have signed up to provide refreshments at this month's meeting.

**Una Yeh**

**Anne Keegan**

**Barbara Nolan**

The first three club members who sign up and bring refreshments each month will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

### 2009 Plant-of-the Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
June	Cephalium bearing Cacti	Adenium	Astrophytum
July	Eriogyne	Cyphostemma	Staging
Aug.	Favorite	Favorite	Sansevieria
Sept.	Gymnocalycium	Euphorbia (caudiciform type)	Photo Tour
Oct.	Parodia & Notocactus	Stemless Mesembs - No Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Frailea & Blossfeldia	Tylecodon	Winter Seed Workshop