



**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

June 2011 - Volume 44, Number 6

**June Meeting:
Thursday,
June 9 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:

Notocactus & Parodia

SUCCULENT:

Dorstenia & Ficus

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday, June 15th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Coryphantha & Escobaria

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President's Message

Summer is almost here! Shows and Sales are going on almost every weekend. Now is the time to really enjoy our hobby.

Our annual Summer Picnic will be held on July 9 at Pitzer College. Be sure to save the date for this fun event and look for a map in next month's Communique.

We have regretfully accepted Tommy Dodson's resignation as our Holiday Party Chair. Judi Romine has stepped up and volunteered to chair the committee.

Our Spring Home Garden Tour was well attended. Somewhere between 35 to 45 people enjoyed the Gerlach, Vermilion and Warzybach gardens. Thanks to Tom Vermilion for stepping in to fill Vince's spot. A beautiful day, nice plants for sale, everyone had a great time. We are already planning one for next year.

Don't miss Steve Frieze's talk this month, it should be excellent.

See you at the meeting!

Buck Hemenway

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May Mini-Show Results

Cacti - *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, *Weingartia*

Novice

1st John Martinez	R. heliosa
2nd Rob MacGregor	W. nuemanniana
2nd William Molina	R. krainziana
3rd William Molina	S. rauschii
2nd Shaun Adams	R. hybrid

Intermediate

1st Rita Gerlach	W. salpinensis
2nd Kan Shaw	R. mentosa
2nd Hannah Nguyen	R. heliosa perplexa
3rd Cindy & Calvin Arakaki	R. species
3rd Ken Shaw	R. species

Master

1st Frank Nudge	R. heliosa
2nd John Matthews	R. heliosa
3rd Yvonne Hemenway	R. krainziana

Succulents - *Hoya*, *Dischidia*

Novice

1st Lorraine Lutz	H. Kenliana
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Intermediate

1st Hannah Nguyen	H. Curtsii
2nd Tom Vermilion	H. carnosa compacta "Hindu Rope" varigate

Master

1st Karen Ostler	H. bella
2nd Karen Ostler	H. curtsii

Welcome New Members

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

Danny Scott, Los Angeles
Bill Peters, La Crescenta
Lisa Kornblith, Altadena

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.

This Month's Program

An Expedition to Chile

Steve Frieze will be our speaker for June. Steve and his wife Phyllis are very active in the C&S hobby and business in the LA Basin. Their nursery is represented at every club show and sale, they both fill and have filled numerous positions at the LACSS and Steve was the Show Chair for the CSSA Show for several years.

He took a month long expedition to Chile and will share the beauty of the Atacama Desert as well as other hot spots where cacti in particular grow. Several species of Copiapoa as well as other plants are featured. This should be an excellent talk, don't miss it!

Study Group

Wednesday, June 15th • *Coryphantha* & *Escobaria*

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.



CSSA Corner

The CSSA will hold its annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA on July 1, 2 and 3. We hope to see many of our local Society friends there as well as out-of-towners who are able to stop by the best C&S sale anywhere.

We need volunteers to help out for the Show. **All volunteers will have free entry into the Gardens.** Call Buck Hemenway at 951-360-8802.

Club Bulletin Board

SPRING 2011 MEMBERS GARDEN TOUR



A picture perfect day to visit three SGVCSS members' gardens.

First a visit to Bill and Rita Gerlach's where we made the acquaintance of their tortoises, and admired Rita's beautifully staged garden shelves.



Then off to Tom Vermilion's garden to be amazed by georgeous Echeverias and Lithops, Lithops, Lithops.



Last, but not least we visited Hank Warzybok whose succulent-planted front yard was an inspiring sight. Hank's back yard showcased many plants, as well.



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2011

Buck Hemenway, President
Tom Vermilion, Vice President
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
Pat Swain, Secretary
Bill Gerlach, Director
Patty Caro, Director

Judi Romine, Director
Jean Mullens, Director
Tricia Kangrga, Director
Hannah Nguyen, Director
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative and Plant Sales Chair
Woody Minnich, Program Chair
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
Liz Alba, Library Chair
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

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.

CACTI OF THE MONTH —

NOTOCACTUS and PARODIA

The English botanist Adrian Hardy Haworth described the first *Notocactus* (as *Cactus erinaceus*) in 1819. The German botanist Curt Sprengel described the first *Parodia* (as *Cactus scopa*) in 1825. [Suffice it to say, a lot happens, then ...]

The German botanist Karl Schumann derived the term *Notocactus* in 1898 to describe a subgenus of cacti; it comes from the Greek words “notos” (south) and “kaktos” (thistle), to indicate that the cacti originated in the south (i.e., South America). The Czech cactus authority Alberto Frič first used *Notocactus* to describe a genus of cacti, in 1928. The name *Parodia*, coined by the Italian-Argentinean botanist Carlos Spegazzini in honor of the Argentinean botanist Lorenzo Parodi, was first used in 1923 to describe a genus of cacti. [A lot more happens. Then just recently ...]

Notocactus became *Parodia*, as did the following genera: *Malacocarpus*, *Brasilicactus*, *Eriocactus*, *Wigginsia* and *Brasiliparodia*. *Parodia* now include 66 species! Though not everyone is pleased, SGVCCS accepts both *Notocactus* and *Parodia* as genera.

Notocactus and *Parodia* are generally small, round to later cylindrical, with distinct ribs. Flowers form at the apex of the plant, usually funnel shaped and often self-fertile. They are some of the easiest cacti to grow, and make great plants for beginners.

Species in the old genus *Notocactus* are fairly cold resistant; they do grow better, faster and larger, for me planted in the ground in full southern sun (but make sure the soil is well-drained). They can be grown in pots, most in full sun (a few in partial sun); they seem to do better if slightly over-potted to allow for root growth. My plants thrive outside all year, without a greenhouse (in Pasadena), receive winter rain and get early spring (March) watering (but I stop watering after the September/October heat waves).

Notocactus are found in the lowlands at relatively low altitudes (below 3,000 feet). They are located primarily in the recesses of low rocky hills in the grasslands and forests. *Notocactus* distribution is very wide, primarily in southern Brazil and Uruguay, with various species found in Paraguay, and a few found in northeastern Argentina.

Species in the old genus *Parodia* do better in winter if kept in partial shade; mine remain outside during the winter, but they receive mostly humidity, not direct rainfall. I have read that they are much more likely to lose their roots, and can be slow to restart in the spring, but I have not had this experience. They do burn – badly – if given too much sun. They also receive less water, overall, compared to the *Notocactus*.



Parodia schwebsiana

Parodia are found in the highlands at altitudes ranging from 1,500 to 12,500 feet. They are located mostly in the eastern mountains and foothills of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay.

One final thought. Plants need good air circulation.

Parodia and *Notocactus* TO TRY

N. buiningii (ex *Notocactus*) is a rare small (under four inches), dark green globular plant found in Uruguay. Its large (as the mature plant) day-blooming flowers are yellow. It prefers bright light.

N. leninghausii (ex *Notocactus*) is a solitary columnar plant (up to three feet) with an angled crown that faces the sun, branching at the base with age. Its spines are golden yellow, rising through white wool. From southern Brazil, it is a day bloomer with yellow flowers. TRY THIS IN THE GROUND! It needs sun.

N. magnificus (ex *Notocactus*) is a bluish-green plant that frequently offsets to form clumps. It has numerous white short radial spines and slightly longer brown central spines. This Brazilian day bloomer has sulfur-yellow flowers. TRY THIS IN THE GROUND IN FULL SUN! Bright light is essential.

N. schumannianus is an initially globular light-green plant that is to columnar (and darker green and corky) with age (up to three feet). This cliff dweller is found in Paraguay and northern Argentina. Its flowers are yellow with a yellow stigma, near the apex. This plant prefers partial sun.

N. warasii is a Bolivian globular cactus that is usually solitary (sometimes clustering) similar to *N. magnificus* but with a green surface. Stems became tall and erect as it ages (up to two feet, and one foot in diameter). Yellow flowers appear in the wooly apex. **TRY THIS IN THE GROUND IN FULL SUN!** Bright light is essential.

P. maassii is a very variable plant: solitary or clumping, a large or small body, spines long or relatively short, with densely-packed spines that are white to brown to black. It can be found in a wide area throughout central and southern Bolivia and northern Argentina. Its flowers are various shades of red.

P. chrysacanthion (aka Golden Powder Puff) is found in northern Argentina. It is a solitary cactus (less than six inches wide and tall) with a spherical pale green stem, spirally arranged ribs, and covered with thick yellow wool at the crown with yellow spines. Funnel-shaped yellow flowers bloom in spring.

P. subterranea is the smallest *Parodia*. This Bolivian native is less than half an inch across. Its flowers are as large or larger than the plant, and range in color from red to reddish-orange to yellow.



Parodia turecekiana

Anne Keegan,
May, 2011

Sources: Notocactus: A Review of the Genus Incorporating Brasilicactus, Eriocactus and Wigginsia, Mace; The Cactus Handbook, Haustein,

Cacti: The Illustrated Dictionary, Preston-Mafham; and, Cacti, Innes & Glass
Pictures courtesy of Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

DORSTENIA and FICUS

Dorstenia and *Ficus* are both member of the *Moraceae* or Fig family. *Dorstenia* is a strictly tropical genus, with almost all members coming from tropical rain forests. A few members have become succulent and are found in the dry lands of East Africa and Socotra. *Ficus* is a large genus, again mostly tropical, but with members that live well into the upper latitudes. The succulent members of the genus mostly come from either Mexico or South Africa.

Dorstenia is the more tropical genus, and is fairly touchy about getting cold and wet. It does best when protected from temperatures below 50 degrees. All the species appreciate reliable watering and feeding when in active growth.

Dorstenia have minute flowers that are grouped together in a head (hypanthodium), surrounded with odd shaped, and often brilliantly colored bracts that help attract pollinating insects. These function in exactly the same way as the common sunflower.



Dorstenia bloom

One of the rarest and best known species is *Dorstenia gigas* from Socotra. This species grows on the rocky slopes of the island, with *Dendrosicyos* and *Adenium*. All three have the same general shape, with a thick cylindrical stem and stubby branches.

Dorstenia crispa is a common species, easily grown from seed, and frequently self seeding in adjacent pots. The stems of *Dorstenia crispa* often resemble miniature palms. It originates in Kenya.

Dorstenia foetida rapidly grows a small spherical caudex. As its name applies, the flowers smell like rotting meat, and it is pollinated by flies. The fragrance is fairly weak. It originates in Kenya and Tanzania, and easily hybridizes with *Dorstenia crispa*.

Dorstenia radiata has spider like hypanthodia, and smaller, paler leaves. It originates in the Southern Arabian peninsula.

*Dorstenia lavrani*

The Mexican and South African *Ficus* are altogether much easier to grow. They are happy growing outdoors in pots, and can take cooler temperatures and heavy winter rain without rotting. By far, the two most common species are *Ficus petiolaris* and *Ficus palmeri*. They are very similar in growth habit, with *Ficus petiolaris* being distinguished by its red leaf veins.

Both make excellent pot plants, and can be displayed as bonsai. Both are easily grown in root-over-rock style, by growing a plant for a year in a deep, narrow pot, and then taking the resulting roots, pruned back to only a few major ones, and draping them over a rock. The whole assembly should then be buried for a sec-

*Ficus petiolaris*

There are many rarely seen species from the jungles and dry lands of Tanzania. Some of these have brilliant yellow hypanthodia, several inches long. With luck they will be in cultivation in the next few years.

ond year, for fast growth. The rock can then be raised to display the roots.

All *Ficus* can be easily propagated from either seed or cuttings. Seed is best planted in late spring, when the weather is guaranteed to be warm. Growth is generally fast, and repotting is necessary soon after germination. Cuttings can be taken any time when in active growth, and simply stuck in damp, loose potting soil. If a cutting is taken with several leaves, best results will be obtained if all the leaves except one or two of the smallest are removed. Rooting is generally rapid.

There are several South African and Asian pachycaul *Ficus* that can also be found, most often as seed. Some of these lose their pachycaul or caudiciform habit as they mature, but are clearly succulent plants when young. They are all worth trying and experimenting with. They are almost all receptive to hard pruning to make the caudex develop.

*Ficus palmeri*

Ficus abutilifolia forms a caudex when less than an inch across. The caudex forms almost immediately when grown from seed.

Ficus arnottiana from the deserts of NW India resembles *Ficus palmeri*.

Ficus glumosa is native to Natal, Swaziland and Namibia eventually becomes a large tree. It is common to many warm areas of Asia with prolonged annual periods without rain.

Tom Glavich, June 2011
Photos courtesy of Buck Hemenway



Thank you to Anne Keegan and Tom Glavich 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.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 4 and 5 — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. For more information call 858-382-1797.

June 11 and 12 — Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA. For more information visit lacss.contact@gmail.com.

July 1, 2 and 3 — CSSA Annual Show & Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Plant sales on all three days, show is open for viewing July 2 and 3. Free to the public.

July 9, 11:30 am, — San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Picnic at Pitzer College. Maps will be published in the July Communique.

July 29 and 30 — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale ****NEW VENUE**** Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. Friday noon until 7:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information contact Vince Basta at 714-267-4329.

August 13 and 14 — 26th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. For information call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or John Matthews at 661-297-5364.

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Refreshment Signup

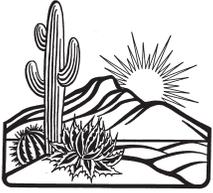
The following three club members have sign up to bring refreshments this month and will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

Judi Romine

Yvonne Hemenway

2011 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	<u>Cacti of the Month</u>	<u>Succulent of the Month</u>	<u>Study Group</u>
June	Notocactus & Parodia	Ficus & Dorstenia	Coryphantha & Escobaria
July	Dish Gardens	Dish Gardens	Staging
Aug.	Members 3 oldest (longest owned)	Members 3 oldest (longest owned)	Echinopsis-Trichocereus-Lobivia
Sept.	Coahuila Native Cacti	Madagascan Euphorbia	Eriocyce
Oct.	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates
Nov.	3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show	3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show	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***.