



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

June 2012 - Volume 45, Number 6

**JUNE Meeting:
Thursday,
June 14 at 7:30 pm**

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

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:

Gymnocalycium

SUCCULENT:

Agave, Yucca, Nolina

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday, June 20th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Gymnocalycium

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President's Message

The summer Show Season is here. Nearly every weekend in June, plus shows in July and August. Try to get to as many as possible. The CSSA Show and Sale at the end of June is famous for their huge sale and the Show, while not huge, one of the highest quality shows anywhere. All members of the San Gabriel Valley C&SS are eligible to enter plants in the CSSA Show, because the club is an affiliated member. Don't miss this one, or San Diego, or Los Angeles, or Orange County or of course the fabulous Inter-City Show and Sale in August.

Our speaker for June is Kelly Griffin, don't miss his talk.

Our summer picnic will be at Pitzer College on Saturday, July 21st. More in next month's Communiqué.

We have had a number of complaints from members regarding the noise from the Vendor sales area during the meeting. Even with the PA system, folks in the back rows can't hear what's going on. Your Board of Directors wants to remind Vendors (and members who want to keep gabbing) that Vendor sales are officially closed at the beginning of the meeting, 7:30 PM. They open again during the break and are closed for the night when the meeting starts again. No one wants to make a

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May Mini-Show Results

Echinocereus

Novice

1st	William. Molina	E. triglochidiatus v. inermis
2nd	William Molina	E. pentalophus

Intermediate

1st	C & C Arakaki	E. stramineus
2nd	Louise Stack	E. triglochidiatus inermis
3rd	C & C Arakaki	E. viridiflorus v. davisii
3rd	C & C Arakaki	E. websterianus

Open

1st	Pat Swain	E. coccineus v. arizonicus
2nd	Pat Swain	E. fendleri
2nd	Pat Swain	E. lindsayi
3rd	John Matthews	E. pulchellus ssp. sharpii

African Pachypodiums

Novice

1st	Tom Howard	P. saundersi-compacta
2nd	William Molina	P. namaquanum
3rd	William Molina	P. succulentum

Intermediate

1st	Tom Vermilion	P. saundersii
2nd	C & C Arakaki	P. lealii saundersii
2nd	C & C Arakaki	P. bispinosum
3rd	C & C Arakaki	P. namaquanum
3rd	Tom Vermilion	P. succulentum griquense form

Open

1st	Tom Glavich	P. succulentum griquense form
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Meeting Setup

Sign up for June – Shaun Adams

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'd.

big deal of this, so please respect the members' right to hear what is going on.

Just a brief announcement that for the August meeting, the vendors who normally sell at the meetings will be asked to forgo selling. We will meet outdoors in the Walk and Talk area of the Inter-City Show & Sale. The regular Inter-City Sale vendors will be set up and members can purchase plants and pay for them at the sale cash registers until the meeting begins at 7:30. Our members will get first shot at the entire selection.

See you at the meeting!

Buck Hemenway

This Month's Program

Madagascar

Our speaker this month is Kelly Griffin. Many of us know Kelly and love his fabulous talks. Kelly is one of the world's most recognized breeders of hybrid succulent plants, with emphasis on Aloes.

He is an expert on Aloes in nature and this talk will be from his trip to Madagascar last year. The talk includes pictures of the newly discovered Aloes in habitat that he and a guide walked more than 100 km in the bush to find. I have seen this talk. It is wonderful. Possibly the Lemurs steal the show from the Aloes (depends on your point of view).

Study Group

Wednesday, June 20th • Gymnocalycium

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.

Club Bulletin Board

Coming in August - - - - -

The next few months is a good time to start grooming your most outstanding plants for our Inter-City Show. There will be more information about the show and sale in July's newsletter.

Tom Glavich tells me that this years Inter-City collectors' t-shirt (featuring his fabulous artwork) will be available for purchase at our next meeting on June 14th. Plan to get yours early before sizes run out.

CSSA Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens

This event is coming up fast - June 29, 30 and July 1st. We are so lucky that our hobby's National Show is close to home. All plants are entered in a single class and you will see some of the most beautifully grown and unusual specimens here. Mark your calendars to attend and remember, volunteers get FREE entry into the gardens. Contact Barbara Hall at 818-368-6914 to help on Thursday, June 28th from 9 am til noon and Sunday afternoon, July 1st from 5 pm til 7 pm.

Welcome New Members

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

Marsha Ubovich, Monrovia



SGVCSS Annual Picnic and Auction

Saturday, July 21st at Pitzer College in Claremont. This is a fun event with good food, games, prizes, a plant auction and a chance to tour the beautiful succulent gardens throughout the college grounds. A map and times will be in the July newsletter. Save the date!

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2012

Buck Hemenway, President
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 Pat Swain, Secretary
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 Tricia Kangrga, Director

Hannah Nguyen, Director
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 Mary Brumbaugh, Director
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 Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
 Jennifer Craig, Plant Sales Chair
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair
 Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
 Cindy Arakaki, Library Chair
 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 —

Gymnocalycium

Due to early collecting, the genus *Gymnocalycium* arrived in Europe before its name did. They are easily grown and flower readily, with brightly-colored flowers. Germans in particular were avid collectors of these plants.

G. gibbosum was first described by Haworth in 1812, but labeled *Cactus gibbosus*.

The name *Gymnocalycium* was first proposed by physician and collector Karl Pfeiffer in 1845. (The name is derived from the Greek words: gymnon which means naked or hairless, and calyx which means goblet. The name is based on the naked flower buds, which are hairless or spineless.)

Yet this name for the genus was not adopted, and plants were labeled *Echinocactus*. In 1922, Britton and Rose recognized the genus (i.e., adopted the name for plants with similar distinctive appearance in flowers, ribs, and spines). They identified 23 species, which was remarkable given the inadequate and/or erroneous information provided by collectors on where specimens originated.

The common name for the genus is "chin" cactus, owing to the distinctive humps on the ribs of these plants.

Currently, species of *Gymnocalycium* are classified into groups by seed type. Most species in the genus are globose, solitary plants with ribs that are often

only somewhat tuberculate, with each areole generally having a handful of proportionately-sized spines. Yet there are exceptions of clumping, strongly tuberculate, or heavily-spined species.

Gymnocalycium

are widespread throughout central and southeastern South America. Their main area of distribution is northern Argentina, part of Uruguay, Paraguay, southern Bolivia and part of Brazil. Most *Gymnocalycium* are found at fairly low elevations (1500 to 3000 feet), east of the Andes in four ecosystems: Chaco, Monte, Pampa, and Espinal.



Gymnocalycium horstii

The genus is most wide-spread in the Chaco. Depending on the rainfall and temperature, the Chaco can be dry forest or palm savannah. Rainfall is 19 inches per year centrally, but greater peripherally. The Pampa is the wide grass steppes of the Rio de la Plata. The Monte is xerophytic prairie that vary topographically from hilly to flat with rainfall between 4 and 11 inches per year. The Espinal is the transitional area between Chaco, Monte, and Pampa with rainfall between 11 and 43 inches per year.

Gymnocalycium are easily grown outside of a greenhouse in southern California (unless you live in areas where it freezes). Some species can take all day sun in the summer, but most of mine do best in partial shade (i.e., getting only morning and late afternoon sun). They can be watered regularly during the summer growing season; I leave mine outside during the winter, but they are completely dry by then (though they make get an occasional winter sprinkling).

G. bruchii is a small, clumping plant with many bristly spines covering the stems. Areoles have short white wool. Flowers range from whitish-pink to deeper pink and some have darker stripes or throats. I have found it flowers and sets seed easily. The fruit is bluish, spherical, and small. The specimen plant was collected in western Argentina. There are a number of sub-species.

G. horstii ssp. *buenekeri* is a large growing spe-



Gymnocalycium bruchii

cies which may cluster with age. It has 5 to 6 ribbed stems. It usually has radial spines but no central spines. It has a nice, shiny green color. Flowers are large (for the genus) and lilac-pink to creamy white with a dark pink stripe. Fruit is bluish-green and ovoid.

G. saglionis is a large, flat-globular, solitary species. It is usually half as tall as wide. It is dull green in color. It has 10 to 15 radial spines, varying in color, some of which curve back on the body of the plant. Flowers are white to whitish-pink, with a red throat. Fruit is reddish and almost globular.

G. spegazzinii is well known in collections. It is a solitary plant that is grayish-green to brown in color with 10-15 low ribs and thick, beautiful radial spines curving downward and over the ribs. Areoles are oval and creamy white. Flowers are white or pale pink with a purple-red throat. Fruit is long-ovoid.



Gymnocalycium spegazzinii

Anne Keegan, June 2012

Sources: *Gymnocalycium*, Pilbeam; *The Cactus Handbook*, Haustein; and, www.richtstaat.de/gymnos/e_index.htm

All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Agave, Yucca, Nolina

The genus *Agave* is derived from the Greek 'agavos' meaning illustrious or noble (it is also the name of a Greek goddess). It is a genus of monocots (i.e., plants that grow from a single leaf). Plants are



Agave angustifolia

perennial, but each rosette flowers once and then dies (though it may offset as well as set seed).

The genus has a storied botanical history. Like with cactus, *Agave* specimens were collected and sent to Europe; these specimens cannot readily be identified today. Further discussion is left to a future article.

Agave today has over 200 species, found primarily in Mexico but also in the southern and western United States and central and tropical South America. Plants consist of a rosette of long, stiff, spear-shaped, fleshy leaves often armed with teeth and tipped with a long terminal spine.

Plants vary in size from a few inches to more than 12 feet tall and wide. Leaf color ranges from deep green to grass green to blue green to gray, and leaves may be striped or mottled with white, cream, yellow, or chartreuse. When it does flower (which may take years), plants display branched spikes of yellow, rose, or white tubular flowers on incredibly tall stems 6 to 40 feet above the plant. After flowering, the parent plant typically dies.

The genus *Yucca* was established by Linnaeus; it is derived from the Taino (a Haitian native language) word for cassava.

There are about 50 species of *Yucca*; the genus is closely related to *Agave*, though *Agave* tend to have more armor. *Yucca* is a genus of perennial shrubs and trees with evergreen rosettes of tough, sword-shaped leaves. They are found in the same areas as *Agaves* as well as the Caribbean.

Yucca is similar to *Agave* but often forms trunks and typically has more numerous, thinner, leathery leaves with a smaller terminal spine. *Yucca* leaves range in color from deep green to pale blue, and leaves may be striped in shades of white, cream, yellow, or chartreuse. When in flower, *Yucca* produces large, upright flower clusters of white, bell-shaped flowers. Unlike *Agave*, *Yucca* flowers are held within or just above the foliage; this helps distinguish species.



Yucca rostrata in bloom

Nolina is a genus of tropical xerophytic flowering plants. They are found in Mexico and the southern United States. Plants in this genus are stemless rosettes with hundreds of leaves, or small trees. The leaves of species range in color from light blue-gray to dark olive green. Leaves are long, linear, and pliable, and held in multiple or occasionally single, rosettes. Leaves have very small teeth, creating a distinct edge that can be felt but not seen. Several species are arborescent (i.e., trees) with trunks that can be up to 15 feet tall. Flowers are tiny, dioecious, and cream-colored. Fruits are small but often numerous.

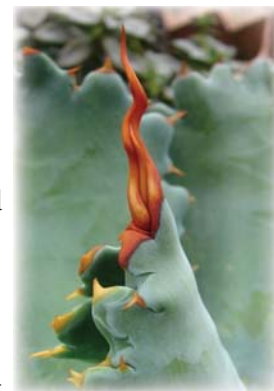
Species of all of the above-named genera are easily grown in southern California. Most of my specimens are planted in the ground and subsist on rainfall, erratic as it may be. Potted specimens grow more slowly and (for me) are even “miniaturized”. I water them regularly in the summer. I have noticed that my potted specimens burn in the full sun, while my ground-planted specimens rarely burn. So if you plan to show your plants, keep them in partial shade.

Agave angustifolia can be 3 to 5 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide. It has stiff lanceolate leaves. The flowers can be 10 to 16 feet tall with 10 to 20 branches. It has a wide distribution from Mexico through to Costa Rica.



Agave cv. 'Blue Glow' is a cultivar that became available via retail nurseries this past decade. I have both in-ground and potted specimens. My *Agave cv. 'Blue Glow'*

in-ground specimens are 3 to 5 times as large (3 to 5 feet tall and 1 to 3 feet wide) as my potted specimens. Leaves are a pretty bluish-green with a red edge.



Agave potatorum spine

Agave potatorum is a small species that is usually solitary and stemless (though I have a “miniaturized variegate” that clumps). Apparently this species has more than 30 known variants. The leaves range from ovate to oblong or short lanceolate and vary considerably in size, shape, and color. It has rusty color teeth, sharp brown terminal spine. Flowers are light green yellow with a red tinge. This is a subtropical species.

Agave shawii can be either a solitary plant or have numerous offsets. It can grow to nearly 7 feet in height. The flowers are 6 to 13 feet, with 8 to 14 branches. They are greenish with purple bracts, and appear purple. This plant is from northwestern Baja.



Agave shawii bloom

Anne Keegan, June 2012

Sources: Agaves, Yuccas, and Related Plants, Irish; Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary, Sajeva & Costanzo
All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

Refreshment Signup

Una Yeh
Dianne Laird
Yvonne Hemenway



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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 2 and 3 — San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. For information call 858-382-1797.

June 9 and 10, 9:00 am to 4:00 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 29 and 30, July 1, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm — Cactus & Succulent Society of America Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Dinner and auction on June 30th, reservations required.

July 21, noon til 4 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Picnic and Plant Auction at Pitzer College in Claremont.

July 27, 28 and 29, 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 11 and 12, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — 27th Annual INTER-CITY Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale at the LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia



**Orange County Cactus
and Succulent Society**

www.occss.org

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

**SAVE THE DATE
Our 2012
Summer**

**Show & Sale
Friday, July 27 &
Saturday, July 28
9am to 5pm**

**WE'VE ADDED
A DAY!!!!**

**Sunday, July 29
11am - 4pm**

**Anaheim
United Methodist
Church
1000 S. State College
Blvd., between Lincoln
Ave & Ball Rd in Anaheim**



Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society

would like to invite all members of
Cactus and Succulent Clubs to their

2012 Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

Saturday June 9th 9am to 5pm

Sunday June 10th 9am to 4pm

Sepulveda Garden Center

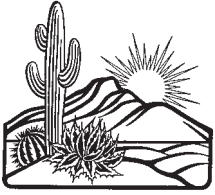
16633 Magnolia Boulevard Encino, CA 91436

Questions? 818.749 5346 or www.lacss-show.com

email: info@lacss-show.com

2012 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
June	Gymnocalycium	Agave, Yucca, Nolina	Gymnocalycium
July	Discocactus, Melocactus, Uebelmannia	Gasteria	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Astrophytum
Sept.	Hybrids & Cultivars	Hybrids & Cultivars	Photo Tour
Oct.	Ariocarpus	African Euphorbia	Loreto, Mexico Tour
Nov.	Monsters	Monsters	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***.