

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

June 2014 - Volume 47, Number 6

**June Meeting:
Thursday,
June 12 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:

Notocactus & Parodia

SUCCULENT:

Bursera & Commiphora

C&S Workshop:

The Workshop will meet on Wednesday, June 18th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Stem Euphorbias

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President's Message

Our May meeting may have been the largest ever. Thanks again to Attila Kapitany for his enjoyable and informative presentation.

Our bus trip to the San Diego show on June 7th is now sold out. We will be meeting at the Arboretum at 8:15 am, and the bus will depart at 8:30 am. We are making a stop at the Pomona Fairgrounds Park and Ride. The bus will arrive at that location about 8:45 am. Please be a bit early. Further field trip details will be sent to the participants.

Thanks to Tom Glavich and Tom Vermilion, our recent Cactus and Succulent Workshop on Vegetative Propagation was a big success. Good luck with the cuttings, folks!

The 49th CSSA show and sale is June 27-29. Due to ongoing construction at the Huntington, the show admission policy has been changed. Admission to the show is free but you **MUST** wear your club name badges. For further information, visit the show and sale website at www.cssashow.com.

It's almost time for our semi-world famous Opuntia toss at our summer picnic. The picnic will once again be at Pitzer College. The date is Saturday, July 19th. We'll start serving lunch at about 12:00 noon. Please arrive a bit early. We will supply the entrée and drinks. Please bring a side dish. There will be plenty of things to do including a plant auction and tour of Pitzer's magnificent C&S plantings.

(continued on page 2)

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April Mini-Show Results

Cactus - *Gymnocalycium*

Novice

| | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Rebecca Mallonee | G. bruchii |
| 2nd | Shaun Adams | Gymno. species |
| 3rd | Rebecca Mallonee | G. spegazzini |
| 3rd | Fred Parrales | G. mihanovichii |

Intermediate

| | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st | Peter Claridge | G. pungens |
| 2nd | David Hawks | G. saglionis |
| 2nd | Peter Claridge | G. saglionis |
| 3rd | Peter Claridge | G. pflanzii v. riograndense |
| 3rd | Louise Stack | G. pflanzi |

Masters

| | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1st | Gunnar Eisel | G. saglionis |
| 2nd | Tom Glavich | Gymnocalycium sp. |
| 3rd | Gunnar Eisel | G. ochoterene |
| 3rd | John Matthews | G. marsoneri ssp. matoense |

Succulent - *Stem Euphorbias*

Novice

| | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1st | Nilda Howard | E. millii |
| 2nd | Shaun Adams | E. polyson |
| 2nd | Rosie Garcia | E. millii "Fireworks" |
| 3rd | Michael Romero | Euphorbia sp. |
| 3rd | Sharon Sedillo | E. resinifera |

Intermediate

| | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------------|
| 1st | Barb Hall | E. gymnocalycioides |
| 2nd | David Hawks | E. pseudoglobosa |
| 2nd | David Hawks | E. capsaintmariensis |
| 3rd | Tom Howard | E. fimriotta |
| 3rd | Hank Warzybok | E. stenoclada |

Masters

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1st | Tom Glavich | E. spinova |
| 2nd | Tom Glavich | E. pubiglans |
| 3rd | Yvonne Hemenway | E. obesa hybrid 'Bubbles' |
| 3rd | Yvonne Hemenway | E. horrida hybrid |

President's Message (cont. from page 1)

Interested in volunteering? Several key positions including Secretary and Treasurer will need to be filled next year. If you are interested or would like to "volunteer" someone, please speak to one of the officers at the next club meeting.

See you at the meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

This Month's Program

"Better Plant Photography:

Guidelines for Making and Taking Better Pictures"

Ernesto Sandoval

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout the State and elsewhere since that group of plants is his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a Jose of all plants master of none.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 22 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

Mini-Show Judges Signup

Peter Sharp and Horace Birgh signed up to assist Head Judge Manny Rivera in judging the entries for this month's Mini-Show.

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.

Volunteer Needed

Newsletter Editor

The club needs a new newsletter editor. The position is a very important one and a two-year minimum commitment is desired. It takes approximately 8 - 10 hours per month to compile the newsletter.

The following are the general duties that the editor will be expected to do:

1. Update the newsletter template to reflect the current month's information (Plants of the Month, C&S Workshop, Calendar, etc.)
2. Put in the winners from last month's POM Mini-Show. The information is compiled by the club Secretary and emailed to the newsletter editor.
3. Put in the current month's speaker information. The list of speakers is provided by Woody Minnich, however you may have to contact the speaker directly for presentation details and a short bio (and possibly a picture).
4. Paste in the Plant of the Month articles provided by the article writers. Club members are encouraged to research and write an article for a cactus or succulent genus that they are familiar with. Co-ordinate with Tom Glavich for POM articles.
5. Put in any new club member names received from Bill Gerlach. Update refreshment signup and mini-show judges.
6. Paste in President's Message from Gunnar Eisel.
7. Email completed newsletter to website manager (Gunnar Eisel) for posting on the website.
8. Email completed newsletter to production manager (John Matthews) who will print and mail to snail mail members.

MOST IMPORTANT - Read the newsletter for spelling and grammar and double-check all dates.

C&S Workshop

Wednesday, June 18th • Stem Euphorbias

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.



Welcome New Members

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

- Celeste Iida, Los Angeles**
- Ray Cardenas & Rocio Diaz, Banning**
- Loren Rivera, Glendale**
- Yuki Hatashita, Los Angeles**

Refreshment Signup

- Fred Parales**
- Rosalie Garcia**
- Manny Rivera**
- Mary Aparicio**
- Margie Wilson**

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



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2014

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

- Louise Stack, Director
- Shaun Adams, Director
- Dean Elzinga, Director
- Horace Birgh, Director
- Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
- Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

- Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
- Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair
- Woody Minnich, Program Chair
- Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
- Cindy Arakaki, Librarian

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 —

Notocactus and Parodia

Notocactus and *Parodia* are now generally considered to be the same genus, and in modern references; all *Notocactus* have been moved into *Parodia*. The original distinguishing characteristic was the red stigmas in the flowers of *Notocactus*, and the yellow stigma in those of *Parodia*. The distinguishing characteristic between the two genera were redefined over time as more and more intermediates were discovered, eventually becoming a minor difference in the attachment of the seed to ovary. If you have a *Notocactus*, you can enter it this month labeled as a *Parodia*!

Parodia has swept up several other genera, and is likely to grow and swallow a few more as botanical and genetic studies continue.

Parodia are South American Cacti, with the center of the genus in Brazil and Argentina, but with members throughout the Eastern side of the Andes. Most are easy to grow, growing freely in the spring through the fall, and going more or less dormant in the fall. Some will flower in mid winter and, given their native environment, most do better given a little water year around. Some of the more tropical species need protection from colder weather to prevent scarring, but most will take normal Southern California winters without protection.

Parodia are easy to grow from seed. Seed is available for nearly all the species, generally with variants from specific localities. It's worth exploring the differences in form and spination



Parodia schwebsiana

by growing the same species from multiple locations. The seedlings look very similar, but diverge more and

more as the plants mature. The seed germinates readily and can grow into a show quality plant in just a few years. Vegetative propagation of the clustering types is easy as well. Cuttings taken during the late spring and early summer root readily and show new growth before the season is over.

The main cultural difficulties encountered with these plants are the ones common to all cacti: mealy bugs, spider mites and fungal spots. Mealy bugs can be kept away by keeping the plants clean and keeping ants away from the pots. Spider mites can appear anytime. They can do a lot of damage during the winter when plants are kept dry, and less attention is paid to them. A periodic hosing of the plants will help keep them away as well. A rose miticide will kill them, as will the much less poisonous vlok oil. Soaking the entire plant for a few hours in water with dish detergent will take care of them, but this is not a recommended treatment if the plants are dormant.

Fungal spots and creeping crud growing from the base can be kept at bay by keeping the plants in growth as much as possible, by fertilizing regularly, and keeping the growing area clean and debris free to allow as much free air movement as possible.

Great *Parodias*:

Parodia chrysacanthion from Jujuy, Argentina shown above is a solitary globose species, with great spines.

Parodia (Notocactus) leninghausii from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil is easy to come by, and with patience and care becomes a very impressive species. It is nearly columnar, offsetting from the base, with short yellow spines. The growing tip always leans towards the sun (much more so in California than in its native Brazil). Give it root room and lots of fertilizer to grow and spread.



Parodia magnifica

Parodia maassii has dense spination, often colored. It is native to So. Bolivia and No. Argentina.

Parodia penicillata from Northern Argentina has very dense radial spines that stick out from the body.

A very unusual species that is easy to grow. This is another species whose growing point always points towards the sun, giving the plant a leaning appearance. This can be avoided by frequently turning the plant, or it can be emphasized as part of the unique character of the species.

Parodia schummaniana grows to more than a foot in diameter. This is an extremely variable species, always having deep ribs, but very different spination.



Parodia schummaniana

Parodia turecekiana, named after our own Victor Turecek, comes from western Uruguay, and Northern Argentina. A great species that is readily available.

References:

- E. Anderson, *The Cactus Family*
 J. Pilbeam, *Cactus for the Connoisseur*
 C. Innes & C. Glass, *Cacti*
 Tom Glavich, February 2014

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Bursera and Commiphora

Succulents Of The Month for June are *Bursera* and *Commiphora*, two of the largest genera in the Torchwood or incense tree family. Other than saffron and certain cactus, what cultural pedigree could rival frankincense, myrrh, and the Balm of Gilead? What plant symbols could be more ancient?

Genus *Bursera* and genus *Commiphora* are so closely related that some scientists have argued they should be combined into a single genus. Molecular DNA studies support the traditional breakdown, that *Bursera* come from North and South America, while *Commiphora* come from Africa, Persia and the Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia, Madagascar, and the island of Socotra.

Bursera and *Commiphora* count among their species many ethnobotanically important sources of aromatic resin. These resins have been known and traded since ancient times as incense, culinary aromatics, and preservatives. Myrrh, used by ancient Egyptians to embalm the dead, can be produced from

Commiphora myrrha—or from the Guggul tree, *Commiphora wightii*, the only member of the *Burseraceae* native to the Indian subcontinent. The Balm of Gilead mentioned in the Bible is produced from *Commiphora gileadensis*.

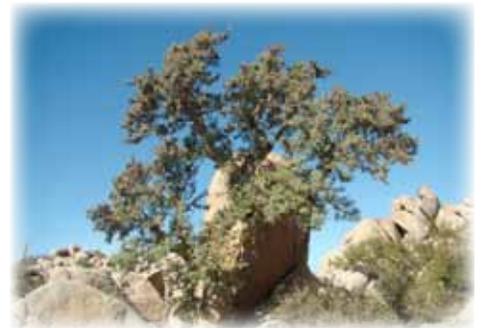
- *Bursera fagaroides*. Another beautiful, slow, Elephant Tree.

- *Bursera hindsiana*. Torote Prieto, Torchwood, Copla. Baja California, more woody and less succulent than other Elephant Trees, like *Bursera microphylla*.

- *Bursera microphylla*. Strongly recommended, and some populations exist in California, making this a California Native.

- *Bursera simplicifolia*.

Forming thickened trunks at under 12 inches in height, these are highly individual and attractive specimens in containers, if you



Bursera microphylla

can find them. They are occasionally available in the Southern California trade.

- *Commiphora africana*. I'm a sucker for the ones with thorns, aren't you?

- *Commiphora gileadensis*. There is a Balm in Gilead.

- *Commiphora glandulosa*. Small tree distributed across southern Africa from Namibia to Mozambique.

- *Commiphora humbertii*. Fat-trunked Madagascan species.

- *Commiphora pyracanthoides*. Shrub or small tree with variable spines & thorns.

- *Commiphora schimperi*. Spiny shrub or small tree with broad range: Yemen through East Africa. It has peeling bark and the resin



Bursera microphylla

can be aromatic.

- *Commiphora wildii*. I had a small seedling and I killed it. I'm not pleased with myself. The pictures look gorgeous.

A third group of *Burseraceae*, the so-called *Boswellinae*, share many traits with *Bursera* and *Commiphora*. In fact, true frankincense is...

- *Boswellia sacra* and its close relatives. All three of these groups in the *BURSERACEAE* are known for their fragrant sap, with preservative, spiritual, and other ethnobotanical uses. Finally, don't forget to look at oddball...

- *Beiselia mexicana*. Monotypic genus with unique trunk. In evolution, this was an early, basal branch from the rest of the *Bursereae* tribe.

If you like succulent trees, and particularly if you like incense or just the pungent aromatics of the desert, you might love growing *Bursera* and *Commiphora*.



Commiphora capensis

Jason Eslamieh, *Cultivation of Bursera, Frankincense of the Americas*

Molecular Systematics and Biogeography of the Burseraceae, dissertation by Andrea Weeks at UT Austin, 2003

Dean Elzinga, June 2014



Thank you to Tom Glavich and Dean Elzinga 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.

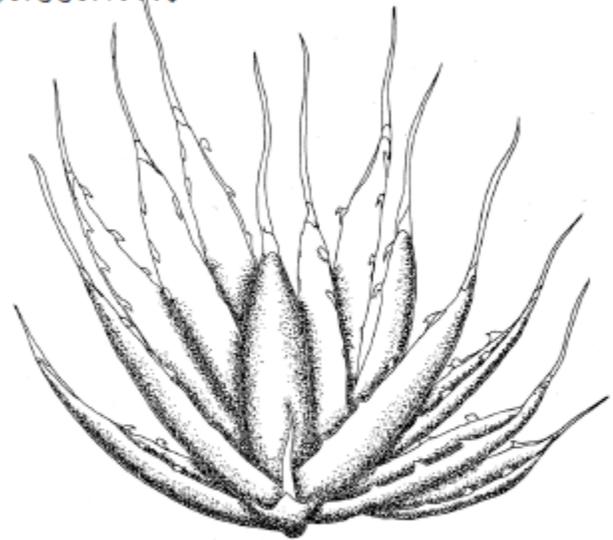


29th Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

August 9 - 10 2014

9:00 - 5:00

Los Angeles County Arboretum



The Inter-City Show and Sale newsletter is posted on our www.sgvcss.com website. In this very informative newsletter you will find detailed information about the schedule for the event, including set-up, sale hours, talks, and more. Also see results from last year's event and great pictures.

Exotica

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 7 — Bus trip to the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale at Balboa Park. Bus leaves the Arborteum parking lot at 8:30 am.

June 7 and 8, — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale at Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. For more information call 858-382-1797.

June 14th, 9 to 5 and 15th, 9:00 to 3:30 — 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.

Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 pm — Workshop, STEM EUPHORBIAS. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

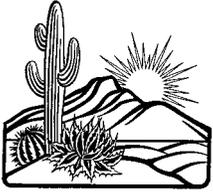
June 27 - 29, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm — Cactus & Succulent Society of America Annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Dinner and auction on June 29th, reservations required.

July 25 - 27, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm — Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. Fri. July 25th 9am-5pm, Sat. July 26th 9am-5pm, Sun. July 27th 12-4pm. For information call 949-212-8417.

August 9 and 10, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — 29th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. For information call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-714-1052.

2014 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

| | <u>Cacti of the Month</u> | <u>Succulent of the Month</u> | <u>Workshops</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jan. | Mammillaria Clusters | Succulent Bulbs | Landscaping with Succulents |
| Feb. | California Native Cacti | California Native Succulents | Plant Identification |
| Mar. | Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia | Echeverias | California Natives |
| Apr. | Variegated Cacti | Variegated Succulents | Spring Seed Workshop |
| May | Gymnocalycium | Stem Euphorbias | Vegetative Propagation |
| June | Notocactus and Parodia | Bursera & Commiphora | Stem Euphorbias |
| July | Crested and Monstrose | Crested and Monstrose | Staging Workshop |
| Aug. | Favorite Cactus | Favorite Succulent | Crests and Monstrose |
| Sept. | Cephaliated Cacti | Monadenium | Succulent Orchids |
| Oct. | Ariocarpus | Sedums | Sansevierias |
| Nov. | Grafted Cacti | Grafted 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 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**.