

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

May 2013 - Volume 46, Number 5

**May Meeting:
Thursday,
May 9 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:
Echinopsis, Trichocereus

SUCCULENT:
Caudiciforms, Pachycauls

C & S Workshop:

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

Grafting Workshop

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President's Message

Three C&S shows and sales (the Sunset, Gates, and Central Coast clubs), and our bus trip to nurseries on Saturday, May 11th will make for a busy month. I hope you can come to one or all of these events.



A special thanks to Joe Clements and Steve Plath for guiding us through wild and woolly back roads on our recent field trip from Baker to Henderson and environs. We all came back virtually unscathed. If you did not get a chance to join us this time, please give it some consideration the next time around. Check out the Club Bulletin Board on page 3 for some photos. (We thought this *Ferocactus cylindraceus* had a remarkable resemblance to Hank Warzybok.)

It's not too late to register for the CSSA Biennial Convention in Austin, Texas June 15-20th. The CSSA Conventions are truly memorable as anyone who has been to one will attest. Many of us from the local clubs will be going. Why not plan to join us?

Our good friend and horticulturist extraordinaire from Escondido, Peter Walkowiak, will be our speaker this month. His topic, "Staging" (continued on page 2)

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April Mini-Show Results

Cactus - Copiapoa, Eriosyce

Novice

1st	Danielle Duboff	C. hypogaea
2nd	Fred Parrales	C. haseltoniana
3rd	Fred Parrales	Neoporteria sp.

Intermediate

1st	Louise Stack	C. hypogaea
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Masters

1st	Ken Shaw	C. calderana
2nd	John Matthews	C. tenuissima
2nd	John Matthews	C. dura
3rd	Ken Shaw	Pyrrhocactus bulbocalyx

Succulent - Dudleya

Novice

No entries

Intermediate

1st	Dick Tatman	D. traskiae "Santa Barbara"
2nd	Barbara Hall	D. "White Sprite"
3rd	Rita Gerlach	D. hassei

Masters

1st	Ken Shaw	D. pachyphytum
2nd	Ken Shaw	D. hassei

Mini-Show Judges Signup

Jean Mullens and Buck Hemenway have 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. 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. from page 1)

Your Way to the Trophy Table" will be of interest to all of us. Also, please join us for this month's C&S workshop as we discuss grafting tips and techniques.

Finally, I would also like to thank Tom Vermilion for standing in for me last meeting while I was in Northern Germany.

See you at the next meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

This Month's Program

Stage Your Way To The Trophy Table

Peter Walkowiak always has plants displayed on the trophy table at every show. He has agreed to share with us some of his tips and techniques on how to stage your plants to catch the judges' eyes.

Peter's talk will help inspire everyone to get their best plants ready for this season's upcoming shows.



Cactus & Succulent Workshop

Wednesday, May 15th • Grafting Workshop

The workshop will cover equipment, planting/grafting, and growing techniques/strategies. This includes pots, soil/potting mixes, water, lighting, labeling, and temperature control. There will be demonstrations of leaf cuttings, stem cuttings, stem sections, division of clump-forming offsets, division of offsets, split-grafting, and flat-grafting. Transplanting and some basic botany will also be discussed.

Remember, there is always a plant giveaway; everyone takes home a plant or plant cuttings. Hope to see you there.

Anne Keegan

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 —

Echinopsis and *Trichocereus*

This month we consider two genera: *Echinopsis* and *Trichocereus*. In 1974, they were combined into the single genus *Echinopsis*, but due to distinct differences in plant characteristics, each genus is discussed separately.

Echinopsis (Zuccarini) is a large genus (125+ species) of usually globular (sometimes short columnar) South American cacti. The name is derived from the Greek (echino = hedgehog + opsis = appearance of). Common names include hedgehog cactus, sea-urchin cactus, and Easter lily cactus; one small species (*E. chamaecereus*) is known as the peanut cactus.

Echinopsis is native to central and southern South America, with species found in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. Species thrive in inhospitable terrain in their native habitat:



Echinopsis pseudocandicans

sandy soil, gravel, or rock crevices. They are summer growers that cannot tolerate wet and cold, so excellent drainage is

needed. Winter water/rain should be avoided.

Species flowers are large and range in color from white to pale pink (nocturnal bloomers) to yellow and red (diurnal bloomers). While many *Echinopsis* flowers are unscented, *E. eyriesii* has jasmine-scented flowers, and *E. obrepanda* has parsley-scented flowers.

Echinopsis species have been in European collections since the early 19th century. Given that the

genus is known for its large, showy flowers on rather unspectacular-looking plants that are cold tolerant (if kept dry), *Echinopsis* was ideal for hybridizing. There have been several “waves” (or is it crazes?) of *Echinopsis* hybrids, first produced by European gardeners/collectors, then by American growers/collectors.



Echinopsis hybrid

For gardeners, *Echinopsis* hybrids provide a lot of “bang for the buck”, and easily-grown landscape plants. For collectors, species are prized for their “purity of lineage”. When purchasing, be sure to note if the plant is a true species or hybrid, and if so, what “type” (e.g., Schick).

Trichocereus (A. Berger) is a smaller genus (50-ish species) of columnar (candelabra-type) South American cacti, mostly erect, sometimes prostrate. *Trichocereus* is native to the South America Andes, with species found in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru, with a smaller range than *Echinopsis*. The name is derived from the Greek (tricho = hair) and the Latin (cereus = wax candle). *Trichocereus* flowers are also large and showy, with colors ranging from white, yellow, and red. Cultivation of *Trichocereus* is similar to that of *Echinopsis*. In my experience, *Trichocereus* species are easier to grow as landscape plants than *Echinopsis* species are.



Trichocereus terscheckii

T. pachanoi and *T. peruvianus* are used by indigenous Peruvians as a drug. These species have high alkaloid contents; the active ingredient is toxic to humans, and if ingested in large enough quantities, can result in severe illness and even death.

Anne Keegan, April 2013

Sources: The Cactus Family, Edward Anderson;
The Cactus Handbook, Erik Haustein;

All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Caudiciforms and Pachycauls

First, a definition of terms: caudiciforms and pachycauls are synonyms for a group of plants with pronounced, large caudices or caudex-like structures. A caudex is the trunk or woody axis of a tree, or woody base of a perennial plant. “*Pachy*” is a Greek prefix (= thick or stout); for our purposes, that are pachycentrus (= thick-centered) stem/trunk or pachycladus (= thick shoots). These plant forms are known colloquially as “Fat Plants” (used hereafter).

Fat Plants can be succulent and non-succulent. Fat Plants may be trees, shrubs, bushes, vines, and



Fockea edulis (geophyte)

even bulbs. Fat Plant genera include: Adenium, Adenia, Adansonia, Albuca, Aloe, Beaucarnea/Nolina, Boophane, Bowiea, Bursera, Calibanus, Ceratozamia, Coccinea, Cycas, Cyphostemma, Dasylirion, Dion, Dioscorea, Eu-

phorbia, Ficus, Fockea, Fouquieria, Jatropha, Ibervillea, Kleina, Kedostris, Macrozamia, Operculicarya, Ornithogalum, Pachycormis, Pachypodiums, Pelargonium, Pseudolithos, Pseudobombax, Pterocactus, Pterodiscus, Sesamothamnus, Trichodiadema, Trochomeria, Tylecodon, Uncarina, Xanthorrhoeas, and Zamia. For some genera, all species can be characterized as Fat Plants, in others, only some can be characterized as Fat Plants.

Like “bonsai” plants, Fat Plants are plants that are manipulated by the grower to emphasize certain plant features or characteristics and/or staged to exhibit these to greatest effect. Some plants by their very nature are Fat Plants (e.g., the Baobab tree is a caudiciform tree). Others must be specially pruned to become Fat Plants (e.g., caudiciform vines) or staged (e.g., caudiciform bulbs). For the most part, cactus are not Fat Plants.

Caudiciform plants can be divided up into 4 general forms:

1. Phanerophytes: plants that have an above-ground caudex and a growing point substantially (nine inches or more) raised above the soil level;
2. Chamaephytes: plants that have an above-ground caudex and a growing point significantly closer to the ground;
3. Hemicryptophytes: plants that have a below-ground caudex and a growing point substantially above the ground; and
4. Geophytes: plants that have a both a below-ground caudex and growing point.

Some folks like Fat Plants; others find them contrived. Some of the vines and bulbs are easy for the beginner to grow; others require years of commitment and controlled growing conditions (like bonsai). Some folks grow them as landscape plants.

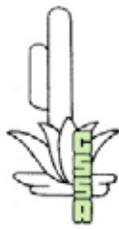
If you want to grow a Fat Plant, ask the seller about the ease of growing, pruning, staging, etc. It is disheartening to purchase an expensive plant that rots the first winter or takes more commitment than you can give to it.

Anne Keegan, April 2013

Sources: A Guide to Growing Pachycaul and Caudiciform Plants, Philippe de Bosjoli; Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms, W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods; “Introduction to Caudiciform Plants – Also Known as ‘Fat Plants’”, Geoff Stein
All pictures courtesy of davesgarden.com



Beaucarnea gracilis
(phanerophyte)



CSSA Corner

The CSSA Convention is coming up fast. The early rate with a \$100 discount has been extended to May 15th. Remember, Austin, Texas, June 15 - 20. You can register online at www.cssa2013.com. Details are available in the brochure that is at the meeting or by going online to www.CSSAINC.com.

Buck Hemenway
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The March-April issue of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* is one of the year's most anticipated, since it contains the latest offerings from International Succulent Introductions, based at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. John Trager's article introduces several species of cacti, including an attractive short-spined form of the popular *Echinocactus grusonii*. Three more Zimmerman Aloe hybrids make their debut, as well as several curly- and furry-leafed bulbs, various Crassulaceae and other succulents of interest to all.

Tom McCoy describes a very unusual new species of *Sulcolluma*, discovered and named after his daughter Erica. Duke Benadom's "Superb Succulent" in this issue graces the cover; *Agave utahensis*. The variability of this species is illustrated in the article. Technology has impacted plant exploration and research in many ways, and Rudolf Schultz illustrates how visiting the same plant years apart can

provide insight not only into growth rates, but also habitat changes. Darrel Plowes provides the second stapeliad article of the issue, recognizing the distinctness of the plant formerly known as *Caralluma sinaica* v. *baradii*, named for the CSSA's past President Gerry Barad. Finally, closer to home, Michael Lange and Jim Sinclair provide an update on conservation efforts surrounding *Echinocereus fitchii* ssp. *albertii*, a plant that has apparently exhausted all the taxonomic permutations available to its name.



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.



Welcome New Members

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

Shake Mamigonian, Pasadena
Joe Reardon, Sierra Madre

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 5, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. For information call 310-833-6823.

May 4 and 5 — Sunset Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. For information call 310-822-1783.

Saturday, May 11, 7:45 am to 6:00 pm — SGVCSS bus trip to 3 nurseries. There are still a few seats left so sign up at a meeting if you want to come along. Bus leaves from the LA Arboretum at 8:00 am sharp.

May 17 and 18, 9:00 am to 4:30 — Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Jurupa Valley, CA. Sale Friday 17th and Saturday 18th, Show Saturday 18th. Call 951-360-8802 for more information.

Sunday, May 19, 9:00 am to 4:00 — The Epiphyllum Society of America 53rd Annual Show and Sale at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Presale only Saturday May 18, 9 am to 4 pm. Visit www.epiphyllumsociety.org for more info.

May 25 and 26, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm — Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale at the Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA. Call 805-237-2054 or visit centralcoastcactus.org.

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.

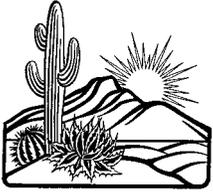
Refreshment Signup

Bill Peters - William Molina - Yvonne Hemenway

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

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
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
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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**.