



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

November 2012 - Volume 45, Number 11

**NOVEMBER Meeting:
Thursday,
November 8 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 and SUCCULENT:
*Monsters - Crested,
Monstrous and
Varietaged*

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
November 21st in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Winter Seed Workshop

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President's Message

It's time for the WINTER SHOW. This coming weekend, November 3 & 4 are the dates. We **NEED YOUR PLANTS**. Manny wants to make this the biggest and best San Gabriel Winter Show ever. Of course there will be Vendors selling great plants as well. We need your help during the weekend, manning information tables, walking the floor answering questions, reminding people to keep their hands off of the plants.

For all new members, please note that you need to wear your badge to gain entry to the Arboretum at no charge. Use the side gate that we normally use for our meetings. The large vehicle gate will be closed, use the smaller man gate to the side, and be sure that it is closed.

We will elect officers at the November meeting. The slate of officers is in the body of this Newsletter on page 6. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Any floor-nominated person must be in attendance.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors on Sunday, November 4th at 3:00 pm in Ayres Hall. Members who are on the proposed slate are definitely invited to attend.

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October Mini-Show Results

Ariocarpus

Novice

None

Intermediate

1st	G & L Carlzen	A. fissuratus
2nd	C & C Arakaki	A. kotscheubeyanus
2nd	C & C Arakaki	A. kotscheubeyanus hybrid
3rd	C & C Arakaki	A. retusus
3rd	Louise Stack	A. retusus

Open

1st	John Matthews	A. fissuratus
2nd	John Matthews	A. trigonus
3rd	John Matthews	A. retusus

African Euphorbia

Novice

1st	Kyle Robinson	E. pugniformis
2nd	Shaun Adams	E. squarrosa
3rd	Shaun Adams	E. hybrid 'Snowflake'

Intermediate

1st	C & C Arakaki	E. gariiepina
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Open

1st	John Matthews	E. obesa
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*Delosperma
sphalmanthoides*



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.

We're looking for ideas for a field trip for 2013. If you have any thoughts, let one of the Board members know.

Remember, our Holiday Dinner is on Sunday, December 9. Save the Date.

I'm really looking forward to our speaker this month. Panayoti Kelaidis' long experience with Rock Gardening should give us all some new insight on using succulents in our landscapes.

Thanks to Todd Masilko for a great program in October.

See you at the meeting!

Buck Hemenway

This Month's Program

"Rock Gardening With Succulents"

Our speaker this month is Panayoti Kelaidis. As a card carrying rock gardener for almost half a century (and a succulent lover for just as long) Panayoti has incorporated over a thousand kinds of succulents into the various gardens he has built and worked in: "I have found that cacti and succulents seem to perform best on rocky habitats, and especially in the recently developed technique called crevice gardening".

Panayoti will share some of his 33 year experience at Denver Botanic Gardens where he helped develop the cactus and succulent collections (both indoors and out). Through careful garden design they have cultivated nearly 200 species of mesembs successfully outdoors, as well as Othonna, Anacampseros, South African Euphorbia and several hundred kinds of cacti from both north and south America. To learn more about the Denver Botanic Gardens, visit www.botanicgardens.org.

Panayoti is best known for having introduced several dozen kinds of *Delosperma* to cultivation, and providing the specimen that became the type of *Delosperma sphalmanthoides*.

Club Bulletin Board

Mesemb Day 2012 at Tim Jackson's Greenhouse



John Martinez and John Matthews inspecting Lithodp species



Many Mesembs were in bloom.



Delicious Euphorbia Obesa cake decorations.



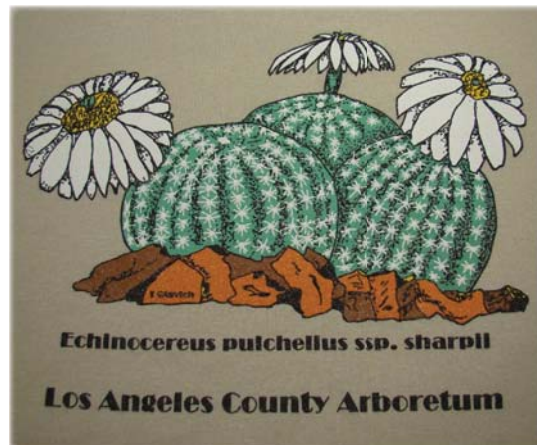
Tim Jackson and Buck Hemenway



L to R: Stephen Hammer, Karen Ohlinder, Tom Vermilion and Doug Dawson selecting packets of seeds, mainly Lithops.



Presenting the commemorative T-shirt for the 19th Annual Winter Show and Sale. L to R: Peter Sharp, Manny Rivera, Buck Hemenway.



T-shirt art by Tom Glavich represents Echinocereus pulchillus ssp. sharpii, named in honor of Peter Sharp.



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2012

Buck Hemenway, President
 Tom Vermilion, Vice President
 Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
 Pat Swain, Secretary
 Jean Mullins, Director
 Tricia Kangrga, Director

Hannah Nguyen, Director
 Rebecca Mallonee, Director
 Mary Brumbaugh, Director
 Brian Le, Director
 Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
 Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
 Jim Hanna, 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 minishow. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride and joy.

Cactus and Succulent Monsters



Haageocereus pseudodomelanostele cristata

INTRODUCTION

This month's topic is all about oddities. First, a quick review of basic biology.

In normal reproduction, the offspring inherits half of its genetic material (i.e., DNA) from each parent. In cloned reproduction, the offspring inherits all of its genetic material from its sole parent. The viability and traits of the offspring are determined by the genes it inherits. [Normally-reproduced offspring should have a genetic advantage over cloned offspring, due to the dominant and recessive nature of individual genes.]

Nurture is the other major factor affecting viability and expression of traits. For plants, "nurture" is habitat (environment) and culture (i.e., care of the plant). [Clearly, an otherwise viable plant can be injured or die if not given the basic necessities it requires (i.e., air, water, sunlight, nutrients, etc.)]

GENETIC MUTATION

The odd plant forms – that diverge from their phenotypes (physical appearance of specimens) – are due to cellular-level changes (i.e., genetic mutations) in individual plants. Such changes may be beneficial from an evolutionary perspective, making a plant healthier. But not always. The changes may not improve a plant, and can even be quite adverse.

Further, not all genetic mutations are reflected in

a plant's physical appearance. It all depends on: (1) the specific gene(s) mutated; (2) the system(s)/processes effected (e.g., cell division, cell elongation); (3) point in the life cycle the change(s) occurred; (4) the plant parts impacted (i.e., stem, roots, flowers, fruits); and, (5) whether the change(s) are transmissible genetically.

CAUSES

The two factors governing a plant's thriving are nature and nurture; these can also be the cause of genetic mutation. Nature causes are: (1) inheritance, (2) hormone imbalance, (3) random mutation, (4) bacteria, and (4) viruses. Nurture (environmental) causes are: (1) fungi, (2) insects, (3) chemicals, (4) damage to the growing tip, and, (5) exposure to cold and/or frost. [This is just a brief synopsis.]

CRESTS AND MONSTROUS PLANTS

Crests and monstrous plants result from fasciation (which means banding or bundling), a growth abnormality. Instead of a plant's growth being concentrated around a single point – the apical meristem (growth tip) – it is elongated perpendicular to the direction of growth, producing flattened, crested, or elaborately contorted tissue.



Echeveria crest

A crested plant results when its apex develops laterally from a linear meristem, rather than a single point (axil). Pure cristation is completely different than monstruosity. Crested plants exhibit axial symmetry instead of central symmetry. The crested growth is initially fan-like, then wavy, and eventually contorted.

A monstrous plant results when multiple axils (areoles) are activated and its apical meristem stops growing. Monstrous plants have multiple mutations, not just at the tip. Monstrous growth originates over all or many of the stems or branches of the plant, causing irregular growth.

Fasciation can cause parts of a plant's stem to increase in weight and volume. It can also occur in the root, fruit, or flower of the plant. Further, even if

*Pachycereus schottii**Pachycereus schottii monstrosus*

a plant exhibits fasciation one season does not necessarily mean it will again in the future. [There are three types of fasciation which can occur; only one type is stable.]

VARIEGATED PLANTS

[Biology aside: Plants depend on photosynthesis (the process in which light energy is used to form foods from carbon dioxide and water) to survive. Leaves contain various types of photosynthetic pigments (green (chlorophyll), orange-yellow (carotene), various shades of yellow(xanthophyll); another type of pigment -- various shades of red-purple (anthocyanin) -- is stored in the cell vacuoles).]



Haworthia truncata variegata
(growing in Tim Jackson's greenhouse)

Variegation (of leaves, flowers, etc.) occurs when the inherited color patterns occur separately or in unusual combinations. Like fasciation, variegation can occur in the stem, root, fruit, or flower of a plant. Variegation can also be unstable; only one type is stable.

Although unusual, variegation is more common than fasciation. Variegation is also observed across several plant genera and many species.

CULTIVATION

Crested and monstrous plants tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, too much sun, and brown spot than their normal counterparts. Sometimes crests split; sometimes they partially revert to normal growth..

Some prefer to grow these plants in more shade than the norm for their species.

Crests and monstrous should be kept on the dry side; i.e., grown hard during their normal growth cycle. [Note: for winter growing plants, this is the autumn, not spring.]. Too much water and/or fertilizer can cause problems. Trimming any normal shoots off helps the crest show better and truer to form.

Some growers find crested plants more prone to attack from spider mites and mealy bugs than normal plants

Variegated plants do not need as much coddling. In fact, they can be grown in similar conditions to their norm for their species.

Regardless, carefully observe the health of the individual crested/monstrous/variegated plant relative to healthy, normal plants of the same species. This will help you grow them well and determine if any special care should be taken.

PROPAGATION

Crested and monstrose plants flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Variegation may or may not. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce flowers, regardless.

The plant's abnormalities are not generally transmitted by seed, but may be.

The most common method of propagation of vegetative (cutting, cloning). Cuttings may survive better if grafted, both to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms

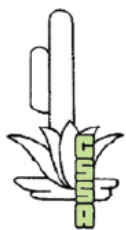
Cuttings of varieties that are on their own roots will generally root easily, as long as the cuts are taken during the growing season. After a few days drying, the cut sections are simply stuck into slightly moist potting soil. After a few weeks, there should be sufficient roots to resume watering (on the dry side).

Anne Keegan, November 2012

Pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

Sources: Botany for Gardeners, Capon; Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms, Marshall & Woods;

Cacti, Borg; Cacti for the Amateur, Hazelton, and Crazy for Cacti and Succulents, Brooklyn Botanic Garden



CSSA CORNER

To join the **Cactus and Succulent Society of America**, copy this form and fill in the required information. Mail it with your payment payable to **CSSA** in U.S. funds to:

CSSA, Inc.
c/o Gunnar Eisel
P.O. Box 1000
Claremont, CA 91711-1000
USA

Journal subscriptions commence with the first issue of each year. Each subscription also receives *To The Point*, the CSSA Newsletter. New subscribers mid-year will receive all issues for that year!

Please check selected rate below:

3 year Membership, US	\$150.00
Membership, US	\$50.00
Membership, International (Allen Airlift)*	\$70.00
Associate Membership	\$10.00
Institutional Membership, US	\$100.00
Institutional Membership, International	\$125.00
Affiliate Clubs, US	\$55.00
Affiliate Clubs, International	\$75.00
Life Membership, US	\$900.00
Life Membership, International	\$1,400.00

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*Members who select Allen Airlift need to get their dues for the year to the CSSA by January 1st, as back issues cannot be sent out separately later in the year by Allen Airlift.

All CSSA members should be sure to vote for directors using the ballot in your September-October *To The Point*.

SGVCSS Elections

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Tom Vermilion, presents the following slate of officers for election to the positions noted for the 2013-14 terms. Election to be held at the November 2012 meeting.

For the two year term 2013 & 14

President : Gunnar Eisel
Vice President: Tom Vermilion
Secretary: Pat Swain
Treasurer: Donn Muhleman

For the two year term 2013 & 14

Directors: (vote for three)
Dean Elzinga
Shaun Adams
Louise Stack

Study Group

Wednesday, Nov. 21st • Winter Seed Workshop

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.



Happy Thanksgiving !

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 3 and 4, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — 19th Annual San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale in Ayres Hall at the LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia.

BBQ Dinner and Auction — Saturday, November 3rd at 6:00 pm. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Please make reservations by October 1st (626-755-0246) and pay Donn Muhleman.

December 9th, 5:00 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society *Annual Holiday Party* at Ayers Hall, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.



Welcome New Members

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

- James & Melinda Monachino, Sierra Madre**
- Liz VanAlstine, Covina**
- Debby Prohias, San Gabriel**
- Ron Boyles, Altadena**

Refreshment Signup

- Rita Gerlach** **Dick Tatman**
- Bonnie Robinson** **Ann Linck**

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

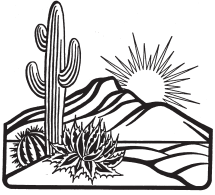
In Memory of Carol Wujcik ... There will be a Celebration of Life for Carol at 10 am on Saturday, November 10th. It will be at Christ Anglican Church at 2000 B Reche Rd, Fallbrook.

There will be a short ceremony followed by a chance for us to talk and remember.

Dues for 2013 are due at the end of December. The rate for 2013 is unchanged and will be \$15.00 per household member for electronic delivery and \$25.00 per household per year for postal delivery. Please make your check payable to SGVCSS and mail to: Bill Gerlach, 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723.

Checks must be received by January 31 to be included in the 2013 Roster.

2012 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics		
Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
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***.