

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

November 2014 - Volume 47, Number 11

**November Meeting:
Thursday,
Nov. 13 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:

Grafted Cacti

SUCCULENT:

Grafted Succulents

C&S Workshop:

The Workshop will meet on Wednesday, November 19th 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

My fortune teller informs me we will have a wonderful Winter Show and Sale. I'm sure she's right. However, uncharacteristically, she failed to predict the power outage we experienced at the Arboretum that prevented us from having our C&S Workshop in October. We tried emailing and phoning folks. We hope you received the message.



We will elect officers at the November meeting. The slate of officers is in this month's Communiqué Newsletter. A special thanks to Yvonne Hemenway for chairing the election nominating committee and the nominees for their dedication in playing leadership roles in SGVCSS.

The November speaker will be our very own Tom Glavich, whose presentation will be on "Euphorbia", that huge and variable family of plants.

Our November C&S Workshop will be our Winter Seed Workshop. This is one of the most popular workshops. Learn tips and techniques from the best seed growers. We will bring seeds and seed-growing supplies. You supply the enthusiasm and a little elbow grease.

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October Mini-Show Results

Cactus - Ariocarpus

Novice

1st	Ophelia Muradian	Ariocarpus retusus
2nd	Dick Hammer	A. fissuratus
3rd	Dianne Danks	A. retusus

Intermediate

1st	Louise Stack	A. retusus-fissuratus
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Masters

1st	Karen Ostler	A. fissuratus
2nd	John Matthews	A. fissuratus v. lloydii
3rd	John Matthews	A. retusus

Succulent - Sedum

Novice

1st	Mary Aparicio	Sedum multiceps
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Intermediate

1st	Phil Skonieczki	Monadenium ritchiei
2nd	Phil Skonieczki	Monadenium rubellum

Masters

1st	David Hawks	Sedum multiceps
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C&S Workshop

Wednesday, November 19th • **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.

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.

Our last Board meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, November 2nd, at 2:30 pm during the Show and Sale. Any club member with a contribution is welcome to attend.

On the horizon ... our Holiday Dinner will be Sunday, December 7th. The fun begins at 5:00 pm. We will have some great live entertainment, camaraderie, and a feast followed by our plant auction. Last year we were surprised by what was our biggest Holiday Dinner ever. We're ready for you this time! Since there will not be a December club meeting or C&S Workshop, the Holiday Dinner is our last get-together of the year. I hope you will be able to join us.

See you at the November 13th meeting!

Gunnar Eisel

This Month's Program

"Euphorbia"

Tom Glavich

This month's talk will be on Euphorbia, a genus with an unequalled variety of form and color. It has important horticultural members from the Mediterranean to South Africa, Madagascar and the Americas. The incredible variety of plant forms will be accompanied by some helpful hints on staging and propagation.

Tom Glavich will be the presenter and it is sure to be an interesting and informative evening.

Refreshment Signup

Fred Parrales
Una Yeh
Sharon Sedillo
Lynn Olson
Ana Wisnev

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

San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

Instead of our usual monthly meeting in December, we'll have our annual *Holiday Party & Potluck Dinner* on Sunday, December 7th, in Ayers Hall at the LA County Arboretum. Park in the side parking lot and enter through the gate next to the Hall.

Setup starts at 3:00 p.m., and WE CAN REALLY USE YOUR HELP to set up tables and decorate. Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. The club will provide turkey, ham, gravy, plates, cups, and utensils. Club members provide appetizers, salads, relishes, side dishes, and desserts. Please bring stuffing, yams, that yummy casserole your family begs for...anything you'd like to share with your fellow enthusiasts. And please bring enough to feed both you and your guests (one dish per person ensures that we have enough food for everyone). There are some fantastic cooks in our club, and the meal is always outstanding.

Please call your dinner coordinators, **Mary Brumbaugh 626/852-2914** or **Rebecca Mallonee 626/967-0716**, to volunteer your setup and/or cleanup services, or for questions. If you volunteered to bring a turkey or ham, or to perform any other function but will be unable to, please call Mary or Rebecca as soon as you know.

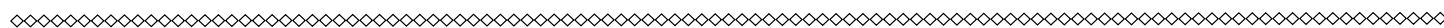
Gift Exchange: Anyone may participate in this optional activity. Bring one cactus, succulent, or related item per person. It must be in good condition (something you would like to receive). Attach a label with your name on one side and the species on the other. The plant or item that is deemed most desirable will be sold during the plant auction. The person who brought that item gets first pick from all remaining items. The person who brought that item gets to pick next, and so on.

Holiday Plants: Each member receives a Holiday Plant as a gift from the Club. Members are invited to bring in all surviving plants from previous Holiday Parties to show how well they have been grown, so bring in your plants from years gone by.

Plant Auction: Bring Money! This is a great opportunity to purchase or sell rare or specimen-sized plants. Items will be auctioned by some of our knowledgeable members. Auction rules are:

- Must be a club member to sell;
- Limit of 2 plants or cactus/succulent-related items per member. "Other items" may include artwork, such as paintings and pottery, or just neat items with cactus/succulents on them;
- Plants must be mature, well-grown specimens;
- Club gets 25% of the proceeds; seller gets 75%;
- Label your auction items with your name and the minimum bid you'll accept. If the item is a donation to the Club, then indicate such.

The auction is always great fun so, again, bring money, and come prepared to buy yourself a present! (After all.....who knows you better?)



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.

Grafted Cactus and Succulents

Some of the oddest plants on the show tables and in collections are grafted plants. Grafted cacti and succulents consist of two parts: the scion (usually the top part, but the part that is going to be displayed and has the desired characteristics), and the rootstock, which is exactly what it is. Grafting is done for several reasons. Some plants are slow growing, and to speed the growth, the slow-growing scion is grafted onto a more robust rootstock. Extreme variegates, such as the red caps seen in any big-box garden center cactus display, have no chlorophyll and cannot survive without a rootstock. The same is true for many crests and monstrose plants. The multiple growing points



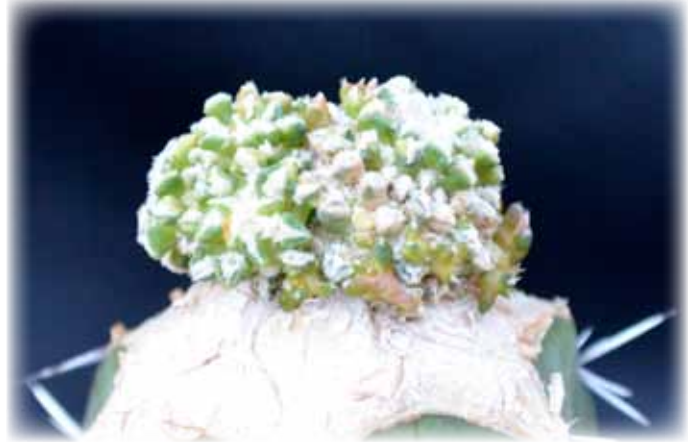
Pachypodium brevicaule

cannot be supported by a relatively weak root system, so a robust rootstock is used instead.

Grafting is relatively easy, once you get the hang of it. Initial attempts often result in dead or flying scions, but this is soon over-

come. The approach to all the genera is basically the same. A rootstock is cut flat across the top. The edges are trimmed, leaving a flat area about half the diameter of the original stem. The purpose of the trim is to keep the cut areas from knocking the scion off as they dry and shrink. The scion is then cut the same way, without the side trim. The key to success is in matching the vascular cambium layers of the scion to those of the rootstock. In cacti, these appear as green rings in both the rootstock and scion. The two rarely have cambium layers the same size; however, all that matters is that the cambium layers be in contact with each other. With two circles, it is always possible to get at least two points of contact. The scion is held

in place usually with a rubber band. The rubber band



Ariocarpus kotchubeyanus "Pear Pimples"

should not be excessively tight—just enough to hold the scion stable. The grafted plant is then left in the shade for a week or so and then gradually introduced to more light. It is important that both plants be in good health. Any rot on either will cause the graft to rot. The rubber band should be carefully removed after about two weeks. Water has to be kept off the graft for at least a few weeks or until the graft is solid and the cut tissue has healed. Both plants should be in active growth, with the rootstock fertilized and watered prior to starting.

Care of grafted plants is not much different than that of other plants. It is good practice to keep the grafted area dry. Many of the scions are weak plants and attract mealybugs and other cultivation problems. It's a good idea to keep an eye out for problems. Rootstocks will often send out offshoots (i.e., "suckers") around the scion. These have to be removed. Leaving them on will deprive the scion of nutrients and the graft will fail. Although grafted cacti can last for many years, sooner or later it will be necessary to either regraft it or take cuttings and graft them onto new rootstock.



Ariocarpus retusus v *furfuraceus*
monstrose

Practice makes perfect, so it is best to start early and practice with inexpensive plants before you have to graft a special plant. Failed grafts should be left to

produce new rootstocks. These quickly appear, and should be removed and potted up.

In addition to cacti, pachypodiums and euphorbias are often grafted. Pachypodiums are not much more difficult than cacti; euphorbias have the added challenge of copious and usually toxic sap. A spray bottle of ice water will minimize the bleeding and help the graft take.

Handling cacti—or any spiny plants—and rubber bands simultaneously requires some care. Even with practice, a scion will occasionally fly across the room. It is essential to wear eye protection when grafting.



Euphorbia piscidermis

Tom Glavich, November 2014



Thank you to Tom Glavich for putting together the Plant of the Month article. 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.



SGVCSS Elections

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Yvonne Hemenway, presents the following slate of officers for election to the positions noted for the 2015-16 terms. Election to be held at the November 2014 meeting.

For the two year term 2015 & 2016

President: Gunnar Eisel
 Vice President: Horace Birgh
 Secretary: Louise Guerin
 Treasurer: Margie Wilson

For the two year term 2015 & 2016

Directors: (vote for three)

Dean Elzinga
 Shaun Adams
 Tom Vermilion

Welcome New Members



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

Mariann Keenan, Mission Viejo
Dick Hammer, Palm Springs
Christian Cummins, Altadena
Lisa Kornblith, Altadena
Colette Wayman, West Covina
Guy Hernandez, Hacienda Heights
Marc Digeros & Tanya Batura,
North Hills

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 1 and 2, 9:00 am to 4:00 PM — San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

November 15 and 16, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — The Living Desert Fall Plant Sale. (15% discount, members 25% discount). 47900 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert, 92260. Visit www.livingdesert.org for more information.

December 7th, 5:00 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society *Annual Holiday Party* at Ayers Hall, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.



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

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Workshops
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