



San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society COMMUNIQUE

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America
October 2017—Volume 50, Number 10

**The next meeting
of the San Gabriel
Valley Cactus and
Succulent Society
will be Thursday,
October 12th
at 7:30 pm
in Ayres Hall at the
LA County Arboretum
in Arcadia.**

**Cactus and Succulent
Workshop
Wednesday, October 18th.
Topic: Mesembryanthemum**
The C&S Workshop will meet
in the Palm Room
at the Los Angeles County Arboretum
on Wednesday, at 7:30 pm

**Mini –Show Plants
for October**
Cacti:
Columnar cacti

Succulents:
Mesembryanthemum

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This Month's Presentation:

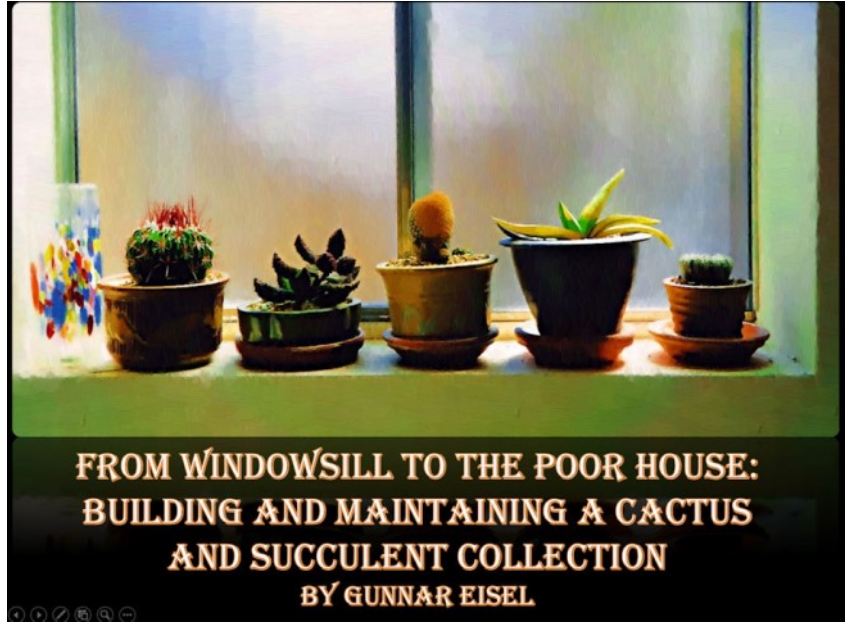
Gunnar Eisel will give a presentation entitled
**From the Windowsill to the Poor House:
Building and Maintaining a Cactus and Succulent Garden.**

He will explore why we collect and what do we collect, types of collections, building and “right-sizing” your collection, do’s and don’ts of managing your collection, a few example collections, pest control, and current trends and innovations.

Gunnar Eisel's interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with opuntia glochids. His interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.

Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at Cal State Univ. Los Angeles, Cal State Univ. Fullerton, Whittier College and Fullerton College. He is currently full-time music theory and history of music professor at Citrus College in Glendora, CA where his students are occasionally subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid C&S collector, he serves as General Manager and Convention Chairperson for the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and Past President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.



**FROM WINDOWSILL TO THE POOR HOUSE:
BUILDING AND MAINTAINING A CACTUS
AND SUCCULENT COLLECTION
BY GUNNAR EISEL**

Gunnar Eisel



San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month October 2017

Columnar Cacti

Article by Tom Glavich

Ceroid or columnar cacti are not a closely related set of genera, but a lumping together of all the cacti that are much longer than they are round. Ceroid cacti vary in size from a few inches, as in the aptly named, *Pygmaeocereus*, to the giants like *Pachycereus* and *Carnegiea* (Saguaro). Most are robust growers, given adequate water, fertilizer, root room and support. They expect more nitrogen in their soil and more water than most globular cacti. They do well in normal cactus soil as long as they get additional fertilization. These are great plants to put in the ground.

Propagation is generally by cuttings or seed. Cuttings need to be dried well before planting. A few weeks are the minimum for some of the larger columnar species. They do best if dried in an upright position. If placed on their sides the cut end rots easier. Seed of columnar cacti are readily available, and are particularly enjoyable to grow. While all of the globular cacti are the size of a pea many of the columnar cacti are filling their pot, and an inch or more tall. If grown from seed many will not tolerate crowding for long and demand their own pot. This is particularly true of *Oreocereus* which will quickly stop growing if there is more than one plant per pot.

Popular North American Ceroids

Stenocereus (Lemaireocereus) marginatus is a wonderful garden plant. It makes straight thick stems from the ground with short spines in neat orderly rows. It is easy to grow but can topple in wet soils during windy conditions.

Myrtillocactus geometrizans is a fairly rapidly growing species that branches quickly. It is from central Mexico, but does great in California gardens. It is easy to grow, makes a wonderful blue-stemmed accent in any garden, and requires practically no care.

Cephalocereus senilis is the popular 'Old Man cactus'. It is surprisingly difficult to grow into a large specimen because it is subject to rot if it gets cold and damp, but easier to grow in the ground. It is native to Hidalgo, Mexico.

Popular South American Ceroids

Cereus are found in much of South America. ***Cereus peruvianus***, found in many Southern California gardens, has been cultivated for over 400 years and is not known in the wild!

Carnegiea gigantea or the Saguaro, is another large plant, this time from Arizona with a few in California. It does well in California gardens, at least until it gets large, but it grows very slowly.

Cleistocactus is one of the most beautiful genera of the columnar cacti. These slender plants branch from the base, and have dense spines and often wispy hair. They are easy to grow and quickly set flowers that are usually long red tubes sticking out through the spines.

Espostoa come from Ecuador and Peru. Most of these are covered with dense white wool that entirely hides the plant body.

Haageocereus come from Peru and Chile. They stay short (for a ceroid), rarely exceeding three or four feet, and have dense spines, and showy red flowers.

Micranthocereus is a small genus of Brazilian cacti. All of the species branch from the base, and make densely spined clusters. They stay small (to about 2 feet), and are happy as pot plants.

Oreocereus are beautiful hairy plants, with wicked spines hidden in the hairs. Some branch from the base. They prefer outdoor air to a greenhouse, and need frequent turning to keep symmetrical growth.

Pilosocereus is a large genus, all of which are worth growing. It has a wide distribution stretching from Brazil into central Mexico. Many of the species are a glaucous blue with bright yellow spines and hairy areoles. ***Pilosocereus magnificus*** is one of these with 4 to 12 deep ribs. The outer edges are covered with short yellow spines. ***Pilosocereus aureispinus*** has very 18 to 20 shallow ribs and distinct areoles that make dense yellow spirals around the plant on a dark green background.



Night blooming Cereus
Photo from watersavingplants.com



Night blooming Cereus
with flowers
Photo from
worldofsucculents.com



Cleistocactus webstramus
aka *Borzicactus websteramus*
Photo from Wikipedia.
Plant at the Huntington Desert
Garden

Cactus costumes in a cactus garden.
Photo from westphoria



San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month October 2017

Mesembryanthemum

Article by Tom Glavich

The Mesembs are the largest family of succulent plants in the world. The plants of this family take on an extraordinary number of shapes and colors in their struggle to survive in a very unforgiving environment.

Cultivation requirements of mesembs are particular to the genus and sometimes the species. The family is divided into winter growers, growing where there is little summer rain; summer growers, where just the opposite occurs; and opportunistic growers, that generally grow in regions where rainfall is sparse but can occur at any time. Some of the winter growers do not want any summer water and will easily rot if watered too often. It is much hotter and dryer sitting in a pot in a Southern California valley than it ever is in their habitat. For the winter dormant species, it is best to provide some summer shade (50% shade cloth is fine) and an occasional light misting. (Once every week or so, and just a flick with the hose will do.)

All mesembs grow well in a potting mix that contains very little organic matter. A mix of 3 parts pumice, 3 parts plaster sand and one part potting soil will produce plants that are closer to their natural appearance, will require less water, and will be easier to maintain. Many growers use straight pumice as a potting mix for the more difficult species.

With such an enormous family, there isn't room to even list all the genera worth growing. Every collection should have some *Faucaria* (all the species, and all the varieties are great). Almost all the *Cheiridopsis* are worth growing. The colors on the leaves of these plants are wonderful, changing throughout the year.

Antegibbaeum fissoides is a rarely seen monotypic genus (one species) with great leaves and fantastic purple flowers. ***Titanopsis*** have leaves that look like thin concrete or dried mud. ***Aloinopsis*** are miniature caudiciforms with flowers that change shape from day to night (when they fully open). *Aloinopsis* and many other mesembs are night fragrant. It is worth visiting your collection after dark.

Mesembryanthemum continued

Conophytum is the largest of the genera and is the home of many spectacular species with wonderful body shapes and flowers unparalleled by any in the plant world. Everyone should grow a few hundred. (Most are very small.)

Lithops make a major part of every show and sale. Every collection should include a few (or a lot).

Seeds for nearly all the mesembs are readily available and can be started either in the spring (March or April is best) or October through December. For many genera, growth is rapid and they will need repotting into growing pots within a year.



Conophytum bilobum

Conophytum bilobum is a plant in the family Aizoaceae, native to South Africa. It blooms in autumn. It is scentless and grows to a height of 2.8 inches (from Wikipedia)

Photo by Tom Glavich

***Faucaria felina* subs. *tuberculosa* 'Super Warty'**

Photo by Tom Glavich

Cactus and Succulent Workshop

Workshops are held on the third Wednesday of the month. The workshop is an informal, hands-on learning experience that is fun for the expert and novice alike. Come and learn from the experience of others. We are happy to share our knowledge.



Happy Halloween
Cartoon from 7gardoon.com

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2017

Tom Vermilion, President
Gunnar Eisel, Past President
Vince Basta, Vice President
Louise Guerin, Secretary
Margie Wilson, Treasurer
Rebecca Mallonee, Director
Mary Brumbaugh, Director
Jean Mullens, Director
Gunnar Eisel, Director
Sharon Sedillo, Director
Kal Kaminer, Director
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
John Matthews, Winter Sales Chair
Tom Glavich, Inter-City Show Chair
Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Rep
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair
Woody Minnich, Program Chair
Mary Brumbaugh, Membership Chair
Cindy Arakaki, Librarian
Richard Roosman, Newsletter Editor

****Note **** Join the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society. Membership Dues are \$20 per year or \$30 if you request the newsletter (the Communique) by mail. Your 2017 Club member dues can be paid at the next meeting or mailed direct to Mary Brumbaugh, 2123 Pinehurst St., Glendora, CA 91741. Make checks to SGVCSS.

September Refreshments

The first three club members who sign up and then bring refreshments for the meeting will receive a **free** plant.

Bringing Snacks:

Richard Salcedo

Una Yeh

Yolanda R

2017 Cactus and Succulent Workshops

- Jan Othonna and Senecio
- Feb Caudiciforms and Medusoid
- Mar Crests and Monstrose
- Apr Spring Seed Workshop
- May Vegetative Propagation
- Jun Staging Workshop
- July Echinopsis
- Aug Member Photo Tour
- Sep Astrophytum
- Oct Mesembryanthemum
- Nov Winter Seed Workshop
- Dec None

Plant of the Month: Cacti

- Jan Mammillaria clusters
- Feb Copiapoa and Eriosyce
- Mar Crests
- Apr Cephaliated Cacti
- May Miniatures
- June Echinopsis
- July Monotypic Cacti
- Aug Favorite cactus
- Sept Astrophytum
- Oct Columnar Cacti
- Nov Variegated Cacti

Plant of the Month: Succulent

- Agave
- Tylecodon and Cotyledon
- Crests and Monstrose
- Haworthia
- Pachypodium
- Miniatures
- Adenium
- Favorite succulent
- Bursera and Commiphora
- Mesembryanthemum
- Variegated Succulents

Plant of the Month Mini Show Results September 2017

Open Cactus

- 1st place — Gunnar Eisel — *Astrophytum capricorne*
- 2nd place — Gunnar Eisel — *Astrophytum myriostigma*
- 3rd place — Manny Rivera — *Astrophytum myriostigma* ‘Onzuka’
- 3rd place — Rob MacGregor — *Astrophytum* hybrid

Open Succulent

- 1st place — David Hawks — *Bursera odorata*
- 2nd place — David Hawks — *Commiphora guidottii*
- 2nd place — Tom Glavich — *Bursera simplicifolia*
- 3rd place — David Hawks — *Bursera schlechtendalii*
- 3rd place — Rob MacGregor — *Bursera microphylla*

Intermediate Cactus

- 1st place — Louise Stack — *Astrophytum myriostigma nudum*

Intermediate Succulent

no entries

Novice Cactus

- 1st place — Alex Sierra — *Astrophytum myriostigma nudum*
- 2nd place — M. A. Bjarkman — *Astrophytum myriostigma*
- 3rd place — Daniel Hofstad — *Astrophytum myriostigma nudum*

Novice Succulent

no entries

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 7 Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society Sale

Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm. Elks Lodge, 158 North Conejo School Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

October 14 & 15 Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale

Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304 Free admission & parking, Information 661-831-8488

October 28 & 29 Palomar Show and Sale

Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas
Information: hciservices@gmail.com or call 858-382-1797

November 4 & 5 San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale

Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 4 pm both days show and sale
Los Angeles County Arboretum, 310 North Baldwin, Arcadia, CA .
Information: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957
or John Matthews 661-714-1052

January 7, 2018 San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Banquet at the Arboretum.

List compiled by Jim and Roberta Hanna
modified by Richard Roosman



Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale Saturday October 7, 2017

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Elks Lodge

**158 N. Conejo School Road
Thousand Oaks, CA, 91362**

**Plant Vendors &
Potters**

will be featured

along with Experts

to give you tips on growing and cultivation of cactus & succulents.

Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your treasures.

The Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, are celebrating our one year anniversary with a plant sale.

We are excited to share our club's success with the community.

Over 130 members have joined since our first meeting in October 2016.

For more information email to: conejocss@hotmail.com

Our Sale is in conjunction with the Elks Lodge weekly BBQ.



COMMUNIQUE

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
c/o Richard Roosman
P.O. Box 5222
Huntington Park, CA 90255

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: richardinwalnutpark@msn.com or via mail to:

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Richard Roosman,
P.O. Box 5222, Huntington Park, CA 90255. Material must be received by the 20th of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.