



**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

October 2014 - Volume 47, Number 10

**October Meeting:
Thursday,
Oct. 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:

Ariocarpus

SUCCULENT:

Sedum

C&S Workshop:

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

Sansevieria

President's Message

If we are lucky, Fall will favor us with cooler weather. The 108°F last week was a bit much! The October meeting will be the last one before our Winter C&S Show, which is Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd. The Winter Show is our club's major fundraiser. You can help in several ways. First, bring your plants! If you have never entered the Show, I promise you it will be a great experience. Second, invite all of your friends to the Show and spread the word. Third, volunteer for a few hours. There are plenty of jobs that could use extra hands, eyes, and a smile. The very best vendors will be at the show. Plants, pots, and books—it's all here. Please support our vendors. Our show chairperson, Manny Rivera, could still use more volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please see him at the meeting. We will have T-shirts and Exhibitor tags at the meeting.



We are fortunate to have Irwin Lightstone as our October speaker. Mr. Lightstone's topic will be "Digital Photography Hints". Macro photography is one of Irwin's specialties. Whether you are a novice "point-and-shoot" photographer or a seasoned hobbyist, there will be plenty of tips, tools, and techniques that will improve your photos.

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September Mini-Show Results

Cactus - Cephaliated Cacti

Novice

No Entries

Intermediate

No entries

Masters

1st Tony Marino Discocactus zehntnerii
albispinus

Succulent - Monadenium

Novice

No entries

Intermediate

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

Masters

1st Frank Nudge Monadenium elegans
2nd Cindy Arakaki Monadenium ritchei

Mini-Show Judges Signup

Mary Aparicio and Greg Cavanaugh signed up to assist Head Judge Manny Rivera in judging the entries for this month's Mini-Show.

Refreshment Signup

Fred Parrales
Mary Aparicio
Rosalie Garcia
Irma Juarez
Yvonne Hemenway

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

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.

Finally, It's not too early to mark your calendars for our Holiday Party, Sunday, December 7th. Our party last year surprised us with the largest turnout ever. This time we will be ready for you! And we have a few surprises in store, so save the date.

See you at the meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

This Month's Program

"Digital Photography Hints"

Irwin Lightstone

Selfies, jpgs, megapixels, and focus stacking... the fun and exciting world of digital photography can sometimes seem complex and confusing. To make better sense of this fast changing world and to improve your photographic technique, Irwin Lightstone, a professional photographer, offers a number of helpful suggestions.

After 29 years practicing trial law, Irwin Lightstone closed his law firm to concentrate on his photography. Irwin is past president of the North Texas Cactus and Succulent Society, past president of the Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies, and a vice president of the Fort Worth Cactus and Succulent Society. He led numerous photographic seminars throughout the state including Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth, Plano, Kerrville, McKinney, and Dallas and was a featured speaker at the Gulf States Photographic Conference. Additionally, he led programs sponsored by the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Arboretum and the International Photography Hall of Fame and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. His photography has won numerous awards and is often featured in the Cactus and Succulent Journal. Recently, many of Irwin's images of the artifacts of war in the book were featured in *Exotische*. Irwin was formerly the Director of Photography at the Wilson History and Center. He published *Succulent Abstracts and Absurdities in Black and White*. Presently, he is working with Steven Hammer on the new mesemb book.

Irwin lives in Dallas with his wife, Robin, his two children, one cat and several thousand plants.

San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society
21st Annual Winter Show and Sale

SHOW ACTIVITIES

Set-up: Thursday October 30th from 8:30 am till noon(set-up tables, show & sales area)

Exhibitors & sellers may bring in plants on Thursday from noon till 9:00 pm.

Plant Entries: Friday October 31st from 9:00 am till 4:00 pm.

Judging: Friday October 31st from 5:00 pm till 9:00 pm.

Take-down: Sunday, November 2nd from 4:00 pm till close

Pre-sale: The sales area will be open for workers and participants from 3:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. on Friday the 31st. Plants bought during pre-sale must be paid for and removed from the show no later than 9:00 p.m. Friday the 31st or they will be placed back in the sales area.

Competitive entries shall be as follows:

NOVICE: Exhibitor has won no more than 40 blue ribbons total in recognized C&S shows.

INTERMEDIATE: Exhibitor has won 41 or more blue ribbons. No commercial sellers.

OPEN: Exhibitor has won 80 or more blue ribbons or be a commercial seller of C&S plants.

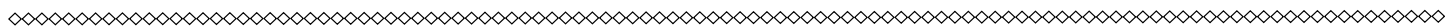
All entrants must register their total entries in the show registry prior to placement on tables.

SHOW DINNER & AUCTION

Saturday evening, November 1st at 5:30 pm in Ayers Hall. Dinner will be a special meal, prepared by Richard Jones Pit BBQ Catering. The menu will include three meats; Chicken Breast, Beef Brisket (cooked for 16 hours) and Pork Spare Ribs. It will be accompanied by 4 side dishes including BBQ Beans, Green Beans & Almonds, Mixed Green Salad and Seasonal Vegetable Medley. Also included are Rolls, Butter, BBQ Sauce, Beverage and Apple Cobbler for dessert. Total cost is \$25 per person. There will be an awards presentation, auction and lots of fun! Please be sure to sign up at the October meeting! All reservations and payments must be in by Thursday, October 30th so the caterer will know how many to prepare for. Please pay Donn Muhleman at the meeting.

As a reminder, you **MUST** wear your Club name badge to get into the door by Ayres Hall without paying the Arboretum entry fee.

Our show schedule is posted on the SGVCSS website at www.sgvcss.com and Manny will have copies available at the October meeting along with entry tags.



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 minishow. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride and joy.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

Ariocarpus

In 1838, the genus *Ariocarpus* was first described by Michel Scheidweiler. The genus name is most likely derived from the Greek “Aria,” meaning “Sorb” (in reference to *Sorbus aria*, the white-beam tree) and the Greek “karpos,” meaning “fruit.” But just a year later, this name would be challenged by Lemaire, who described five species as the genus *Anhalonium*, including what we know today as *Lophophora williamsii*. Over the next century, there followed a spirited lumping and splitting, and a dizzying reshuffling of names, genera, and subspecies. This botanical “tug-of-war” continued until Marshall, in 1962, rescued *A. agavoides* from the genus *Neogomesia*. Since the early ‘60s to

the present, *Ariocarpus* has remained the accepted name for the genus. Those seeking a detailed history and more recent work on the genus may refer to www.living-rocks.com/history.htm.



Ariocarpus fissuratus

Habitat

Ariocarpus is found in the Chihuahuan Desert (Coahuila, Nuevo León, Zatecas, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato, and Querétaro), with the exception of one species native to the Big Bend region of Texas—*A. fissuratus*—which can be found growing on ancient limestone bluffs.

One of the more intriguing species occurs in the “mud flats” near Huizache, San Luis Potosí. There, *A. kotschoubeyanus* can be underwater during the monsoon season for days or weeks. As the dry season sets in from late Fall to Spring, the drying mud cracks, creating interesting photo ops. Nearby *A. k.* var. *macdowellii* (Coahuila) and, further south, the white-flowering *A. k.* var. *albiflorus* (Tamaulipas), when not in flower, can be difficult to find. A helpful tip was offered by

Woody Minich, an expert in these matters: look for cryptogamic lichen. These biological soil crusts take years to form, and give an indication the area has not been disturbed, thereby creating the ideal habitat for these small



gems. In its southernmost range (Querétaro) can be found the largest variety, *A. k. elephantidens*.

A. retusus is the most widespread of all the species, and is identified by its location, e.g., “Aramberri form.” Others are named for tubercle shape and form. *A. retusus* v. *retusus* has long, pointed tubercles; *A. r. furfuraceus*, a fatter base with smaller point. This species is found on low, rocky limestone slopes among shrubs. Flowers may be white, pink or bicolored, with older plants forming clusters and occasional crests.

A. trigonus (Tamaulipas and Nuevo León), the only yellow-flowered species, can grow rather large, clustering with age.

A. agavoides, of very limited distribution (Tamaulipas), blends in with its rocky surroundings. Its disproportionately large, dark purple flowers will help you find the plants.

A second purple-flowered, larger species, *A. scaphirostris*, of limited distribution, can be found blending in with the loose shale hills around Rayones, making it hard to spot.



Recent species described in the past 25 years include:

A. fissuratus v. *hintonii* (Stuppy)

and Taylor, 1989);

A. bravoanus (Hernandez and Anderson, 1992);

A. confusus, *A. retusus* *fm. scapharostroides* and *A. retusus* *ssp. panarottoi* (Halda and Horacek, 1998);

A. trigonus *var. horacekii* (Halda, 1998);

A. retusus *ssp. jarmilae*, *A. scaphirostris* *var. swoboda* (Halda, Horacek & Panarotto, 1998);

A. retusus *var. horacekii* (Halda & Panarotto, 1998).

The question is, what's still out there?

Cultivation

Ariocarpus evolved in the high Chihuahuan desert (1,000—4,000 ft.), nestled in the rain shadow of two great mountain ranges—Sierra Madre Occidental (west) and Sierra Madre Oriental (east), and thrives on temps in the 90° to 100° range. In habitat, *Ariocarpus* takes on most of its growth during the summer monsoon season. Flowering is in Fall, but the seed capsules won't emerge until the following Spring.

In cultivation, a cold frame or greenhouse can bump up the temperature to the desired range in cooler coastal areas. In hot inland areas, use 30-40% shade cloth over your plants. They enjoy regular watering + light fertilizer during Spring and Summer. After flowering in the Fall, water (no fertilizer) only on sunny or windy days, as watering on cooler days can result in rot.

If you have avoided cacti for their spines or glochids, grow *Ariocarpus*. *Ariocarpus* seedlings have spines, but these are short-lived. And because they are slow growers, *Ariocarpus* species are great candidates for those with limited space. Perhaps now you will consider growing these “user-friendly,” woolly-topped and beautifully flowering cacti.

Vince Basta, October 2014

Anderson, E.F. and Fitz, Maurice, W.A. 1997. *Ariocarpus* Revisited. *Haseltonia* 5:1-20.

Hunt, David. 2006. *The New Cactus Lexicon*.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Sedum

Sedum is a wonderful genus. It contains miniatures from the Italian Alps, ground covers from Japan, tree-like specimens from Mexico, *Echeveria* impostors and little weedy things from all over. Most are easily grown, many are tolerant of extreme cold, and are as much a part of the rock gardening and alpine plant communities as they are the cactus and succulent world. There are few plants that can withstand out-and-out abuse better than some of the small ground-hugging *Sedum*.

Many of the smaller *Sedums* make excellent ground cover. These plants are often available in flats or six-packs at nurseries that specialize in landscape plants. They are not often seen in small pots, although they make excellent pot specimens, accents for a dish garden or drapes for hanging planters. When well staged, many are trophy table competitors at all of our local shows.

Sedum is one of the genera of *Crassulaceae*, with over 400 species. The plants are mostly northern hemisphere plants, with significant endemic groups in East Asia, North America and Europe/West Asia. There are about 120 Mexican *Sedums*. In general, *Sedum* can be identified by opposite leaves and five-pointed flowers; however, there are numerous exceptions here as well.

Sedums are apparently in active evolution, with many “near *Sedums*” in very closely related genera. The genus as a whole is still poorly studied and explored. The relationships with *Villadia* and other smaller genera are still being refined.

Sedum booleanum from Nuevo León is one of the smallest-leaved interesting species. This is a recently described species, first appearing in 1996. The leaves are opposite, forming a neat, white, cruciform head when viewed from above. It branches freely and is easily grown.

This plant is just coming into cultivation, and is still hard to find.



Sedum booleanum



Sedum nussbaumerianum

The second picture is *Sedum nussbaumerianum*, with a species name considerably longer than the leaves. However, this is a wonderful ground cover and a great addition to any garden planting. The unusual yellow-green color and low growth habit make it

a perfect foil for other succulent plants.

Easily grown and spectacular is *Sedum oxypetalum*. This pachycaul sedum lends itself to wild, twisted growth. It is easily propagated from stem cuttings. A similar species is *Sedum frutescens*, which

is more sedate in its branching, but generally more prolific with leaves. Both make wonderful show plants, and can be best displayed in bonsai planters. They are both easy to grow, and tolerate light frosts without damage. All of the woody species want excellent drainage, with nearly pure pumice providing the best growth conditions, as long as they are kept fertilized and frequently watered in the summer months.



Sedum oxypetalum

Tom Glavich, October 2014



Thank you to Vince Basta and Tom Glavich 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.



Welcome New Members



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

- Margaret Oberg, Los Angeles**
- Kent Preston, Upland**
- Victoria Wilson, Arcadia**
- Roger Villasenor, Monterey Park**
- Alexander Vega, Pico Rivera**
- Cathy Sample, Altaena**

C&S Workshop

Wednesday, October 15th • **Sanservieria**

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.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 24, 25, 26, 10:30 am to 4:00 PM — Huntington Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

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 Cactus and Succulent Show & Sale

Presented by

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society!



October 25th & 26th SAT. 9 to 5 SUN. 10 to 4

**At San Diego Botanic Garden (formerly Quail Gardens)
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024**

For Directions: <http://www.sdbgarden.org/directions.htm>

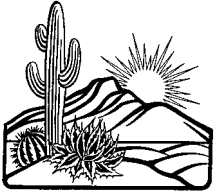
- ~ There will be spectacular specimens of cacti & other succulents from around the world!
- ~ Plant judging is Saturday from 11am – 12:30pm.
- ~ The public can follow along as judges comment on entries and make their decisions.
- ~ All plants will be available for viewing during show hours Saturday and Sunday, with winners identified after 1pm Saturday.
- ~ Specimen plants for the novice or collector, as well as handmade stoneware pots will be for sale.

Cost: Free with garden admission or garden membership

For more info contact: Merrilee 'Annie' Morgan @ 760-803-8948 or Britta Miller @ 858-484-7118

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
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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**.