



San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society COMMUNIQUE

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

September 2016—Volume 49, Number 9

The next meeting of the SGVCSS will be Thursday, Sept. 8th at 7:00 pm in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

Mini-Show Plants for September:

Cacti of the United States
Succulent: Cyphostemma

Next C&S Workshop:

Wednesday, Sept. 21st
at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room

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President’s Message

The 2016 Inter-City Show and Sale was fabulous. Our big, beautiful plants took up more table-space than ever before. It was very satisfying to see so many novice entries. People who had never attended a C&S show were overwhelmed at the fabulous display. Congratulations to all of you who entered the show. Kudos to Inter-city show chairs Tom Glavich, Artie Chavez , Steve Frieze and Peter Walkowiak, sales chair Jim Hanna,

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show treasurer Evelyn Stevens, the L.A. Arboretum staff, and all of the hard-working volunteers that made this show such a success.

Thinking ahead bit, the last show and sale of the year is the SGVCSS Winter Show, November 5th and 6th. Set up will be on November 3rd and 4th. We are happy to have Manny Rivera continue his excellent work as show chair. This show is for SGVCSS members only. It is OUR show. If you did not compete in the Intercity show because you thought it was too daunting, here is your chance!

See you at the meeting!

Gunnar Eisel

President, SGVCSS



Regular Club Meeting Thursday, September 8th

The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society meets at **7:00 pm** on the second Thursday of the month in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. Visitors are welcome.

Cactus and Succulent Workshop

Wednesday, Sept 21st

Topic: Succulent Landscaping

The C&S Workshop will meet in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles Arboretum at 7:30 pm

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.

Workshops are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia.

****Note **** Membership Dues are Due!

Your 2016 Club membership renewal can be paid at the next meeting or mailed direct to Mary Brumbaugh,
2123 Pinehurst St.,
Glendora, CA 91741.

Regular membership is \$20 per year or \$30 if you request the Communique by mail. Make checks to SGVCSS.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

NAMIBIA:

A DIFFERENT ANGLE

Tim Harvey

If you have not heard Tim speak, you might not know that he is originally from England. He moved across the pond in 1992, falling a little short and working at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto for a couple of years. He completed the trip to California when he went to work in the Biotechnology industry.

He was also able to relocate his cactus collection, started 20 years earlier, to a more favorable climate. Escaping with his morals intact in 2006, he enrolled as a full-time propagator and pollinator of his favorite plants, as well as becoming Editor of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* in 2011.

He makes frequent trips to his adopted country Namibia, as well as many appearances at clubs in Southern California, either as a speaker, or as a vendor at sales. Never able to walk past a plant in flower without trying to pollinate it, he is also a keen hybridizer, with the Pachycauls, Aloes, and bulbs in his collection being defenseless subjects for experimentation.

Tim Harvey's Talk

When people think of visiting succulents in habitat, they picture a group of GPS and camera-laden plant geeks running around a stony wilderness. This usually requires a significant effort, since most of the interesting plants do not grow where the vehicle stops, though there are exceptions if the driver is a good one. There are also many plants which prefer inaccessible cliffs, and so are similarly difficult to encounter. This talk will explore the use of a drone equipped with a camera, and highlight some of the things that can be done as well as the challenges encountered. There will also be some nice views and pictures of spectacular plants!



San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month September 2016 *Cacti of the United States*

Cacti are found throughout the United States, with at least one species native to most states except those in the extreme northeast, Hawaii and Alaska. There are *Opuntia* native to New Jersey, and *Escobaria* that grow into the Dakotas and as far east as Missouri. Florida has many species including some remarkable epiphytes. As might be expected, the Southwest from Texas through California are the home to most genera and species.

Environments vary from tropical areas where frost is very rare and humidity can be near 100% to areas that are below freezing and snow covered for part of the year. Cacti thrive in all of these environments.

There are about 150 species of cacti in the United States, depending on how you lump or split the various genera. There are several web pages that give complete lists; a quick search on Google will turn up many. Some of these pages use unusual and not generally accepted names for a few genera, but still provide a good guide.

A large fraction of any species list is devoted to *Opuntia*. Some of the best Cacti of the United States are *Opuntia*, and some of the best of these are the Chollas. However, few of these make good pot or garden plants, unless you have a very large garden.

The best known of all Southwest cacti is *Carnegiea gigantea*, or the saguaro. This native of the Sonoran desert defines the image of the Southwest. It does not transplant well from its home. Seedlings are readily available, and grow quickly, but large plants succumb to our wetter winters. The further inland you go, the better their chances of survival.

Nearly as impressive is *Stenocereus thurberi*, found mostly in the United States in the Organ Pipe Cactus National monument and surrounding areas. It extends throughout Sonora and into Baja California.

When wandering through Southern Arizona or New Mexico, the most impressive cactus flowers belong to the *Echinocereus*. Almost all the members of this genus have bright colored, usually red, flowers. There are at least a dozen species found throughout the southwest.

One of the most popular of the genera of the Sonoran desert is *Ferocactus*. *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *covillei* and *wislizeni* are all found in the Southwest desert.

A less obvious member of the Sonoran desert of Arizona is *Peniocereus greggii*, a tuberous rooted scrambler that climbs through shrubs, usually evident only during brief flower periods at night. Surprisingly, this plant is easy to grow, and does well in pots in Southern California. Relatively rare in collections, it is easily grown from seed, and develops a great tuberous root in just a few years.

The genus *Mammillaria* is represented by *M. dioica grahamii*, *M. tetrancistra*, *M. microcarpa* and several others. These are easily found in the field, and worth seeking out. They do well in pots, and should be shown more often.

Cultivation of most of the US desert cacti is surprisingly easy. They are perfectly happy outside of their normal environments, and do fine in pots, unprotected from Southern California winter rains. The few exceptions include the larger ceroid species, which are more frost sensitive, and suffer from our periods of extended dampness. *Pediocactus* and *Sclereocactus* are hard to keep through Southern California summers.

This is a *very* incomplete list of US Cacti (only one or two US species listed for most genera)

Ariocarpus fissuratus

Astrophytum asterias

Carnegiea gigantea

Coryphantha ramillosa

Coryphantha recurvata

Cylindropuntia arbuscula

Cylindropuntia imbricata

Echinocactus horizonthalonius

Echinocactus polycephalus

Echinocactus texensis

Echinocereus engelmannii

Echinocereus rigidissimus

Echinomastus intertextus

Escobaria desertii

Escobaria missouriensis

Ferocactus cylindraceus

Ferocactus eastwoodiae

Grusonia emoryi

Mammillaria dioica

Mammillaria grahamii

Opuntia basilaris

Opuntia fragilis

Pediocactus (all)

Peniocereus greggii

Sclerocactus papyracanthus

Sclerocactus uncinatus

Stenocereus thurberi

Thelocactus setispinus



Congratulations to all of the Inter-City Show Winners

Succulent of the Month

Cyphostemma

Cissus and *Cyphostemma* are two closely related genera, both in the *Vitaceae* or grape family. Many species now in *Cyphostemma* were originally described as *Cissus*. Both genera are tropical to subtropical plants with relatively few members of both genera succulent. The members of both genera span the range of extremely easy to grow plants to real challenges. Most of the species will grow large given time, good root room, lots of fertilizer, and water during the growing season. These two genera give us some of the most striking pachycauls and caudexes in the entire plant world.

The exact relationship between the two genera was in dispute for most of the 19th and 20th centuries, and it's easy to find both generic names used for the same species in many references. As a general guideline, *Cyphostemma* tend to be pachycaul succulents from Africa while *Cissus* is widespread throughout new and old world tropics. *Cissus* tend to be more vine like. There are exceptions to both of these, and the final determination needs to be made by detailed examination of the flowers and in particular the placement of the flowers on the stem.

Propagation of some species of *Cyphostemma* is easy from cuttings and seeds. Seed of all the common and even some of the truly rare species are sometimes available through the CSSA or through some of the better South African and US seed dealers. The germination is

erratic (days to months), and only one seed should be sown per pot. The seedling mix should be sterile and organic, and hold a lot of water. Scarring the seeds to allow water penetration helps.

The seeds should be completely buried to provide uniform moisture. A plastic bag over the mix will help keep everything uniform. The bag should be removed as soon as any sign of green appear — the seedling leaves are large, and will rot if they touch the plastic. Softwood cuttings should be taken when in active growth. Rooting does not require or even seem to benefit from hormones.

Cyphostemma will set fruit if there is more than one plant around, often even if they are different species. In most cases, the fruit is toxic to humans and most pets although freely eaten by birds. The seeds in the fruit are ripe when the fruit turns color — usually bright red, but sometimes brown.

The key to success with these plants is to pay attention to the native habitat. *Cyphostemma juttae*, common in many collections, easily obtained, and often a show winner, comes from South Africa. It takes some frost with no damage, and grows in the ground in Southern California, putting on bulk and character in just a few years. It often does not begin to leaf out until June.



Cyphostemmas to covet:

Cyphostemma betiformis is a Somalian species, relatively new to cultivation. It is generally very expensive.

Cyphostemma currorii is a Namibian species. It is easy to grow, and does well in the ground during the summer and fall, but needs to be removed to a pot for the winter.

Cyphostemma juttae is by far the commonest in cultivation. It is easy to grow, does well in the ground, and makes an impressive specimen in a short time.

Cyphostemma seitziana is one of the more tropical species. A bit harder to grow, it is sensitive to cold, and needs winter protection.

Cyphostemma uter is a large species, rarely seen in cultivation (except at the Inter-City Show, with orange peeling bark). Although it comes from South Africa, it is hard to keep going in the ground and needs some winter protection.



Cyphostemma juttae x *hardyi*

Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show follow-up

The three show chairs would like to thank the Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Societies for all of the support during this year's Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show. We had more entrants than ever before, over 1200 plants on display, and a great turnout from all three clubs. We particularly appreciate the efforts of many people during set-up, the show itself and tear down. This was the smoothest running show we've ever put on. We received compliments from the Arboretum staff as well as the general public on the quality of the show, the quality of the plants for sale, and the sharing of expertise at the Walks and Talks and from the club members.

It was a tremendous success and I expect all of the Cactus and Succulent Societies in the LA area to benefit from this show.

Thanks again from all of us, and we hope to see again at next year's show.

| Plant of the Month Cacti | | Plant of the Month Succulent |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jan | Hooked Spine Mammillarias | Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon |
| Feb | Echinocactus & Ferocactus | Othonna & Senecio |
| Mar | Rebutia, Sulcorebutia & Weingartia | Small Aloes |
| Apr | Discocactus & Melocactus | Kalanchoe |
| May | Stenocactus & Thelocactus | Millii type Euphorbias |
| June | Gymnocalycium | Ficus & Dorstenia |
| July | Blossfeldia & Frailea | Cucurbitaceae |
| Aug | Favorite cactus | Favorite succulent |
| Sept | U. S. Natives | Cyphostemma |
| Oct | Parodia & Notocactus | Retusa haworthia |
| Nov | So. American Opuntieae | Adromischus & Avonia |

**2016 Cactus and
Succulent Workshops**

| | |
|-----|------------------------|
| Jan | Pelargonium |
| Feb | Plant Identification |
| Mar | Small Aloes |
| Apr | Spring Seed Workshop |
| May | Vegetative Propagation |
| Jun | Gymnocalycium |
| Jul | Staging Workshop |
| Aug | Stapeliads |
| Sep | Succulent Landscaping |
| Oct | Ariocarpus |
| Nov | Winter Seed Workshop |
| Dec | no workshop |

September Refreshments

Sharon Sedillo
Mary Ann LaChapelle
Irene Chew
Karen & Don Sodeistrom
Richard Roosman
Roberta Eisel

August Mini Show Results

Master division — Cactus

Cindy Arakaki — 1st place — *Mammillaria schumanii* var. *globosa*

Cindy Arakaki — 2nd place — *Strombocactus disciformis*

Cindy Arakaki — 3rd place — *Rebutia heliosa*

Master division — Succulent

Manny Rivera — 1st place — *Adenium obesum*

Cindy Arakaki — 2nd place — *Pseudolithos migiurtinus*

Cindy Arakaki — 3rd place — *Haworthia maughanii*

Manny Rivera — 3rd place — *Bursera* sp.

Novice division—Cactus

Mary Aparicio — 1st place — *Stenocactus ochoterrenus*

Irene Chew — 2nd place — *Mammillaria rhodantha*

David Johnson — 3rd place — *Opuntia ramosissima*

Novice division — Succulent

Jeff Delzell — 1st place — *Bursera* sp.

Una Yeh — 2nd place — *Adenium obesum*

Jeff Delzell — 3rd place — *Sarcocaulun*

Jeff Delzell — 3rd place — *Operculicarya*

CSSA 51st Annual Show & Sale

At the Huntington

The 51st Annual CSSA Show & Sale was a total success this year on many levels. The current drought has had a significant role in the changing landscapes of our communities and gardens. Drought-tolerant and xerophytic plants, especially cactus & succulents, are now in demand and events like the CSSA Show & Sale are not only making these plants available but educating the public as well. The plant sales were a record high this year!

A heartfelt thank you to the core of volunteers (90) from many different C&SS clubs and the CSSA Board, our terrific vendors (19), Chuck Everson, our Bookseller and the CSSA Show & Sale Committee: Tom Glavich, Jim Hanna, Rosalie Gorchoff, Manny Rivera, Gunnar Eisel, Karen & Martin Ostler, Tim Harvey, Doug George, Kathleen Misko, Marquita Elias, Mary Brumbaugh, Rebecca Mallonee & Bonnie Ikemura. The HBG Botanical Staff provided the banners & signage, carts for the sale area, extra tables & canopies, traffic cones and filled in the gopher holes in the sales area on a daily basis. Thank you for everything you do make the show run smoothly: Jim Folsom, Melanie Thorpe, Danielle Rudeen, John Trager, Karen Zimmerman, Louise Guerin and their staff.

The show & sale areas were well attended and many visitors took advantage of the free educational talks on “Staging” & “Soils & Fertilization” given by Peter Walkowiak on the weekend. A free children’s activity, “Plant your own dish garden”, created & presented by Cynthia Robinson, for the first time this year, was a huge success. She had planned for 10 kids each day; however, a total of 44 kids signed up!

A special thanks goes out to all CSSA & club members who donated succulent cuttings, Jim Hanna for additional pots & the HBG for cuttings & soil for this project. Thank you to Cynde Schreiber & Judy Pique for assisting Cynthia.

A round of applause to our Hospitality Committee who provided us with food & drink through out the three day event: Kathleen Misko, Marquita Elias, Bonnie Ikemura, Mary Brumbaugh, Rebecca Mallonee, Ignacia Matheus, Sylvia Strelo and Maria Capaldo. This year’s Show T-shirt was a hit thanks to Doug George whose friend, Piper, did the artwork. Loved the pistachio color!

I want to thank everyone who took on all the physical labor of set-up, tear down & storage of equipment. We were done in record time. And to those who volunteered in the Sales area by cashiering, controlling traffic, running the Holding area, as greeters at the front entrance, monitoring in the Show rooms, assisting the Bookseller, distributing T-shirts and manning the CSSA Membership table & Information table, your help was much appreciated. Thank you to the Scouts of BSA Troop 359 for the service hours they gave in the sales area helping load plants into cars and helping out where needed. This was their third year!

Thank you to this year’s Show Judges for their participation and expertise: Artie Chavez, Tim Harvey, Gregg DeChirico, Woody Minnich, Peter Walkowiak, Petra Crist & David Tufenkian and the twelve clerks who assisted the judges under the direction of our Head Clerk, Manny Rivera. Our tabulators, Rebecca Mallonee, Mary Brumbaugh & Evelyn Stevens tallied up all the entries, which came to 515, submitted by 46 exhibitors. These numbers were down compared to previous years which may have due to the holiday weekend or the recent heat wave which made some our show plants less showable. No time like the present to start working on show plants for next year! Come on Novices, we need your support next year!

A special thanks to Karen Ostler for organizing & arranging the auction items. Saturday evening began with a Silent Auction highlighted by many non-plant items from the estate of the late Jerry Barad, submitted by HBG. There was friendly competition amongst the bidders and jockeying for position to get that final bid in. This was followed by our traditional BBQ dinner by Dearmore catering. The Rare Plant Auction commenced in earnest, after dinner, with our auctioneers Woody Minnich, David Tufenkian and Artie Chavez, teasing us with details about each item and encouraging higher bidding. Kudos to our Treasurer, Cliff Meng and his assistants Cynthia Robinson, Margie Wilson & Victoria Wilson, for managing the bids and payments during the auction, which raised \$2,294 for the CSSA Research Fund (a record for the last 10 yrs.)

This year’s Overall High Points & High Points Cactus winner was Karen & Martin Ostler; High Points Succulents winner was Petra Crist. Congratulations!

As we begin to plan for next year’s show (did I really say that?), I sincerely hope that many of you will sign up to volunteer again next year (please, please) or join our show & sale committee. I welcome any comments and suggestions you have to help improve future show & sales.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hall

CSSA Show Chair

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2016

Gunnar Eisel, President
 Buck Hemenway, Past President
 Horace Birgh, Vice President
 Louise Guerin, Secretary
 Margie Wilson, Treasurer
 Rebecca Mallonee, Director
 Mary Brumbaugh, Director
 Jean Mullens, Director
 Shaun Adams, Director
 Dean Elzinga, Director
 Tom Vermilion, 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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 10 — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, Saturday from 12 noon to 5 pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. Info: 562-631-5876

October 8 & 9 — Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Sale. Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. East Hills Mall, Center Court, 3100 Mall View Road, Bakersfield info: 661-831-8488

October 22 & 23 — 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. Info: hciservices@gmail.com or 858-382-1797

November 5 & 6 — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm. Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Info: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052.

December 3 — San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Annual holiday party. Sunday 3 pm to 9:30 pm.

New Cactus Club

It was only a matter of time. It's been 38 years or so since a new cactus and succulent society was formed in the area. Say hello to the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society (CCSS) - a CSSA affiliated club meeting in Newbury Park, Ventura County (midway between the Santa Barbara club and the Los Angeles club).

We hope to see lots of members from those two clubs as well as any other of the C&S clubs in our area. Of course we will attract most of our new members from the Ventura County area who may not have ever had a C&S club so close to them. The focus of CCSS will be worked out as the interests of new members is surveyed. There will be great presentations with perhaps some new speakers hiding in the area. Also a chance to catch a presentation possibly missed from your home club as we plan to have the out-of-town speakers making the rounds as well. And a chance to meet a whole new group of C&S enthusiasts who may be attending a club event for the first time. Field trips, home garden visits, plant sales and more.

The meeting will be the first Monday of every month. The first meeting is planned for October 3, 2016. The meeting place is the Borchard Community Center at 19 Reino Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320. The meeting will start at 7:00. Contact Linda Holub at (805)-501-0761 or email conejocss@hotmail.com for more info.





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 last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.