



COMMUNIQUE

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
June 2004 Volume 37 Number 6

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, June 10th. The program for June will be given by one of our Club's Lifetime Members, Woody Minnich! In his inimitable style, he will tell us all about his recent adventures in "Chile."

Plants of the Month: (see the attached write ups)

CACTI – Epiphytic Cacti

SUCCULENTS – Epiphytic Succulents

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride & joy.

Study Group: Meetings are held at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive. These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something! Join us on Wednesday, June 16th. This month's topic is *Portulacaceae*.

Refreshments: Only Dick Tatman has volunteered to provision us at the break this month. Help is needed! We continue to seek volunteers for coming months, so don't forget the sign-up sheet located at the refreshment table. Our thanks go to Manny Rivera and Antoinette Koltaj and everyone else who brought things for the May meeting.

The President's Corner: There will be a short board meeting at approximately 7:15, before our regular monthly meeting. Although only officers and board members can vote, all SGVCSS members are welcome to attend.
Tim Jackson

Personnel Notices: The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its new members Alex & Leah Abrahamian and Barbara & Dale Huston! Carefully review the COMMUNIQUE, the **Roster**, and the Club **Constitution and By-laws** in order to avail yourselves of all the many benefits of membership in our warm and friendly club!

10 years ago: Victor Turecek gave a presentation on "My Argentina."

20 years ago: John Trager, of the Huntington gave a program on "Family of Succulents". The study class moved to the San Gabriel Mission Adult Center, where it has been ever since.

30 years ago: Victor Turecek gave the second part of his program on "Cactus Exploring in Argentina." The CSSA held their 9th annual show at the Los Angeles Arboretum July 4th – 7th.

(Thanks go to Tom Glavich for providing this interesting feature)

Get Your COMMUNIQUE Online: If you would be content to view the COMMUNIQUE on-line and not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy, enter your name and E-mail address on the sign-up sheet available on the front table at the meeting, or send the information via E-mail to sgv_css@verizon.net.

SGVC&SS Online: <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> is the Club's web site. If you or someone you know has internet access be sure to have a look. The pages were authored and are maintained by Gunnar Eisel who has done a great job in creating an informative and classy site. You can also download a version of the COMMUNIQUE complete with color photos. Look for the COMMUNIQUE link at the site's main page.

Calendar of Events - 2004

- June 5th-6th** San Diego C&SS Show and Sale, Balboa Park Room 101, San Diego, CA. (619) 477-4779.
- July 1st-3rd** CSSA Show and Sale. Opens 10:30. Huntington Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. (626) 405-2160 or 2277. Plant sales are on the 1st – 3rd. The Show opens to the public on the 2nd. Free Admission to Show and Sale. Thursday July 1st is a free day for the public to enter the rest of the Huntington.
- July 10th** Tentative date for the Club Picnic, to be hosted again by Jean Mullens at her home. Put the date on your calendar!
- August 14th-15th** 17th Annual Intercity Show and Sale. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Call Tom Glavich at (626) 798-2430, Harry Fletcher at (310) 538-4078, or Gene Oster at (818) 998-9306.
- September 4th** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- September 26th** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Auction. Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda, Compton (Dominguez Hills), CA.
- October 9th-10th** SGVC&SS Winter Show. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
- December 18th** The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar too!

May Plant-Of-the-Month Mini Show Results:

Cacti – *Astrophytum*

Succulents- *Aloe*

Beginner

1 st	Barbara Nolan	<i>A. sp.</i>
2 nd	Barbara Nolan	<i>A. capricorne</i>
3 rd	Barbara Nolan	<i>A. sp.</i>

1 st	Roy Dodson – Horace Birgh	<i>A. broomii v. tackaensis</i>
2 nd	Roy Dodson – Horace Birgh	<i>A. harlanii</i>
T-3 rd	Jim Schlegel	<i>A. saponeria</i>
T-3 rd	Dick Tatman	<i>Aloe hybrid</i>

Intermediate

1 st	Carol & Paul Maker	<i>A. ornatum v. mirabelli</i>
2 nd	Carol & Paul Maker	<i>A. asterias</i>
3 rd	Sokhara Tan	<i>A. sp.</i>

1 st	Sokhara Tan	<i>A. sp.</i>
2 nd	Joanne & Bernie Wilner	<i>A. dumentoria</i>

Advanced

1 st	Tom Vermilion	<i>A. myriostigma</i> v. 'Onzuka'	1 st	Rita Gerlach	<i>A. 'Don Worth'</i>
2 nd	Tom Vermilion	<i>A. asterias</i> v. 'Tiger Kabuto'	2 nd	Rita Gerlach	<i>A. 'Jaws'</i>
			T-3 rd	Tom Glavich	<i>A. 'Winter Sky'</i>
			T-3 rd	Tom Glavich	<i>A. 'Dorian Black'</i>

Master

1 st	Dick Hulett	<i>A. columnaris</i>	1 st	Karen Ostler	<i>A. ramosissima</i>
2 nd	Dick Hulett	<i>A. myriostigma</i> v. <i>mariostigma</i>	2 nd	Jim Hanna	<i>A. erinacea</i>
3 rd	Dick Hulett	<i>A. myriostigma</i> v. <i>nudum</i>	T-3 rd	Jim Hanna	<i>A. jucunda hybrid</i>
			T-3 rd	Jim Hanna	<i>A. fiesta x rauhii hybrid</i>

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the COMMUNIQUE, please forward the info to me at the address below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice.

Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: sgv_css@verizon.net or via post to: Paul Maker, 2235 Canyon Road, Arcadia, CA 91006. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the COMMUNIQUE. Material in the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society COMMUNIQUE may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCSS and the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

**19th Annual Inter-city
Cactus and Succulent Show and
Sale**

Sat. and Sun. August 14 & 15, 2004 9 to 5

Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA

The Largest and Finest Cactus and Succulent Show Anywhere!



Information, Please contact Tom Glavich 626-798-2430
Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078 Gene Oster 818-998-9306

Sponsored by the Long Beach, San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles
Cactus and Succulent Societies

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month June 2004 - *Epiphytes*

Epiphytic cacti have a place in every collection. They are easy to grow, requiring remarkably little care; in general have few spines, and many reward the grower with a spectacular show of flowers. They are of course, the tree, rock and cliff dwellers of the cactus family, spending their entire lives above the ground, and living on water from rain, fog and mist.

Epiphytic cacti prefer a different potting mix than most ground loving cacti. A frequently used potting mix includes equal parts of potting soil, bark and pumice. Fast drainage in the mix is important for healthy growth. These plants evolved with moisture passing through the root zone rapidly. Rain forest moisture is frequent, but short lived. Even rain forests have prolonged dry periods. Epiphytic cacti have evolved to live in this specialized environment. Regular feeding, and a constant supply of moisture, particularly during the growing season are important.

Epiphytic cacti are all easily propagated from either cuttings or seed. Cuttings can be taken any time the plant is in active growth, spring being best, but any time during the summer and early fall will also work. Thin stemmed epiphytes, such as most of the *Rhipsalis* can be planted immediately. Thicker leaved genera should be allowed to dry for a day or two before planting. *Zygocactus* can be easily propagated from cuttings, but for reasonable success, two segments need to be used rather than one.



Epiphyllum 'Lloyd J Pittman'

Seed from many of the epiphytic cacti, particularly *Rhipsalis*, is hard to come by. One or two species are occasionally offered by the CSSA seed bank. For those with an interest in hybridization, many epiphytes are easily pollinated and cross pollinated both within genera, and across genera. When the fruit turns color and hardens, it can be harvested, the seeds removed, cleaned, and stored until the following spring.



Epiphyllum ‘Three Oranges’
Selected epiphytes

There are far too many great epiphytic cacti to include references to all of the genera, never mind species. A few noteworthy examples are:

Aporocactus (Disocactus) flagelliformis from Oaxaca to Hidalgo in Mexico has brilliant red flowers, born in profusion in May.

Disocactus amazonicus is one of the many brightly colored species of *Disocactus*.

Epiphyllum oxypetalum is a spectacular night white flowered bloomer. Pollinated by moths or bats. Its large flowers open after sundown, and are gone before 11 the next morning. Even so, the blooms are worth visiting at night, and in the early morning hours.



Hatiora salicornioides

Hatiora salicornioides, shown above, and commonly known as the Drunkard’s Dream is an easily grown epiphyte from Brazil. It gets large with time and patience. It will stay dense if given sufficient water and food, otherwise it grows sparse.

Nopalxochia (Disocactus) kimnachii is a large red to pink flowered species with long thin stems.

Rhipsalis has about 25 species, and is possibly the only cactus known from outside of the New World.



Rhipsalis cereuscula

Sub species of *Rhipsalis baccifera* are found in tropical Africa Madagascar and the islands of the Indian Ocean, stretching as far as Sri Lanka. Although centered in Brazil, subspecies are also found as far east as Peru, giving this species the largest geographical range of any cactus.

References

C. Innes and C. Glass, **Cacti**

J. Pilbeam, **Cacti for the Connoisseur**

Cullmann, Gotz & Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

Tom Glavich May 2004

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month June 2004 - *Epiphytes*

Epiphytic Succulents form a mixed group of mostly tropical plants. Many of these come from genera that are not often collected by succulent growers, and fall more into other specialist collections. It's rare in our shows to have more than a few epiphytic succulents exhibited. Nonetheless, there is a wealth of Epiphytic Succulent genera to explore.

The *Asclepiadaceae* offers a number of wonderful plants, many from unusual locales for the Succulent grower, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, etc.



Hoya 'Julian Rope'

There are about 40 species of *Dischidia*, almost all epiphytic with clearly thick leaves. They come from hot humid places, and rainfall although frequent is not around long enough to provide a constant water source. These thick leaved plants thrive with frequent watering, particularly in the summer. Some require winter protection from temperatures below 40.

A related and more popular genus is *Hoya*. *Hoya* are often somewhat more tolerant of

cold, tolerating temperatures into the mid 30s and occasionally even below without much damage. *Hoya* have been propagated and hybridized for leaf shape and flower color, and size. *Hoya* is the only succulent that has been hybridized for fragrance, giving the grower a choice that stretches from chocolate to raw sewage (these are very showy, and not powerful).



Hoya 'Dee's Big One'

The *Bromeliad* family is another great source of interesting epiphytic succulents. The most commonly seen epiphytic bromeliads are members of the genus *Tillandsia*. There are hundreds of succulent species, cultivars and hybrids. Many enthusiasts collect nothing else. The flowers are often spectacular, sometimes remarkably fragrant. The plants are easily grown for the most part. Some species are only available from bromeliad nurseries, but a surprisingly large selection passes through retail outlets. They require frequent watering in the summer, and moving air at all times.



Tillandsia edithiae

There are other succulent epiphytes in the *Bromeliad* family, some well known, and some not so well known. The genus *Quesnelia* offers some great species and hybrids and does *Aechmea* and *Billbergia*. Some of these are grown as epiphytic, but are really opportunists, growing on trees, rocks, power lines, etc.; wherever they can get a hold to start germination.



Tillandsia ionantha

There are about 80 genera in the *Bromeliad* Family, and well over half have species that are both epiphytic and succulent.

Going further a field, the orchid family has many succulent epiphytic members. Shown below is *Epidendrum parkinsonianum*, a succulent epiphytic member of a family that is often terrestrial. This is growing, surrounded by Tillandsias, getting morning sun. It needs frequent watering and benefits from occasional fertilizing, as do most epiphytic plants.



Epidendrum parkinsonianum and
Tillandsia latifolia v. *divaricata*

Tom Glavich May 2004