

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia  
**August 2004 Volume 37 Number 8**

**Monthly Meeting:** The August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in Ayres Hall, in conjunction with the setup for the Inter-city Show. Since you'll be at the Hall anyway, why not bring a few plants to enter in the show? The program for August will be given by our Club President, Tim Jackson. Titled "Winter-Growing Mesembs From Seed", this slide show is one he presented at the CSSA convention in St. Louis in 2003. Tim will show us step-by-step how to grow these fascinating plants, from seed to adult.

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

**CACTUS – *Turbinicarpus***

**SUCCULENTS – *Bromeliads***

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 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 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. Join us on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> when the topic will be 'Hawarthia Hoedown.'" See below for details.

**Refreshments:** As no one signed up to bring in refreshments this month, your help is needed! Or we'll starve! We continue to seek volunteers for coming months, so don't forget to sign up on the sheet located at the refreshment table. Our thanks go to Gwenn Hill and everyone else who brought things for the July meeting.

**Report on the Annual Club Picnic:** The picnic was once again a roaring success. The food was great, with lots of succulent side dishes provided by members and the club supplying dogs (both the hot and the pet-able kind), burgers and soft drinks. The ever-loquacious auctioneers Woody Minich and Victor Turecek managed many a bidding war, to the entertainment of all. What a pair! There was hot competition at the games with people throwing optuntia pads, water balloons and raw (?\*) eggs all over the place. Winners were:

| Event                | First Place  | Second Place  | Third Place            |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Opuntia Toss Round 1 | Paul Crist   | Jean Mullens  | Frank Nudge            |
| Opuntia Toss Round 2 | Manny Rivera | Bernie Wilner | Vince Basta            |
| Balloon Toss         | Patty & Rene | Amber Jones & | Bernie & Joanne Wilner |

|          |      |               |   |
|----------|------|---------------|---|
|          | Caro | Dennis Bauers | 4 <sup>th</sup> : Rita Gerlach & Lisa Basta |
| Egg Toss | Tie* | Tie*          | Bernie & Joanne Wilner                      |

\*After several attempts to eliminate our final participants, a tie was declared because the eggs would not break! They were skipping them across the lawn and one even rolled into the rose bushes without breaking! Congrats to Patty & Rene Caro and Amber Jones & Dennis Bauers for an amazing display of egg tossing skill.

**Special thanks to Pat & Jean Mullens for again sharing their wonderful home with us!**

**Personnel Notices:**

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of our long-time friend and club member, Jan Depew. Her gentle presence and warm friendship will be missed by all, and we all extend our heartfelt sympathies to Frank.

The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members Joe Chan, Suzanne Gutierrez, Michael Green, Jose Tovar & Beverly Wong, and Don Reining. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our warm and friendly club!

**The President's Corner:** We will once again hold a drawing for two of our members to attend the Huntington Succulent Symposium (see announcement and program below) free of charge. This drawing is open to all paid-up, active members, who have been members for at least a year and have not won before. At the September meeting, we expect a brief report on the symposium from the winners.

- 10 years ago:** Duke Benadom gave a talk on "Mexico"
- 20 years ago:** Leo and Lillian Pickoff gave a slide program on Stapelia. New Members included Ron and Lilia Young..
- 30 years ago:** The program was "Echinocereus" by Ed and Betty Gay.

(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, send the information via E-mail to [sgv\\_css@verizon.net](mailto: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**

- August 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** 17<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. (see program below)
- September 26<sup>th</sup>** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Auction. Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda, Compton (Dominguez Hills), CA.
- October 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** SGVC&SS Winter Show. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
- December 18<sup>th</sup>** The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar too!

### July Plant-Of-the-Month Mini Show Results:

#### Cacti – *Gymnocalycium* Succulents – *Pterodiscus*, *Sesamothamnus*, *Uncaraina*

##### Beginner

|                 |               |                          |                 |             |                       |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lorraine Lutz | <i>G. saglionis</i>      | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Alan Hooker | <i>U. roeoesliana</i> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jim Schlegel  | <i>G. horstii</i>        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Alan Hooker | <i>U. grandidieri</i> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Barbara Nolan | <i>G. fleischerianum</i> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Alan Hooker | <i>U. grandidieri</i> |

##### Intermediate

|                 |             |                      |                 |                   |                       |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Rene Caro   | <i>G. saglione</i>   | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Camille Rutkowski | <i>U. v. nova</i>     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Rene Caro   | <i>G. bayerianum</i> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Sokhara Tan       | <i>U. roeoesliana</i> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Carol Maker | <i>G. pungens</i>    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Manny Rivera      | <i>P. spiciosus</i>   |

##### Advanced

|                 |              |                       |  |  |  |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Rita Gerlach | <i>G. triacanthum</i> |  |  |  |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|

##### Master

|                 |              |                                |                 |              |                     |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Karen Ostler | <i>G. triacanthum</i>          | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Karen Ostler | <i>S. lugarelii</i> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Karen Ostler | <i>G. bruchii v. albispina</i> |                 |              |                     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Karen Ostler | <i>G. eurypleurum</i>          |                 |              |                     |

### Cactus/Succulent Related Announcements:

Morgan Smith (Box 153, Fort Langley, BC, Canada, V1M 2R5, 604-888-6850, [morgan@bcrealtors.ca](mailto:morgan@bcrealtors.ca)) of the Desert Plant Society of Vancouver is starting up a society devoted to desert trees (*Adansonia*, *Acacia*, *Commiphora*, *Bursera*, *Pachypodium*, etc). Anyone interested should contact him. As a society they hope to have several things available in the future including a newsletter, plant & seed exchange, a "seed depot" (bulk orders, and seed bank managed by the society), possibly books and other informational things available to members on a variety of aspects of the plants, and possibly meetings (at a much later date). Membership as of now, is free, and when finally instituted, membership fees will be kept low. Of course, 'desert tree' is fairly ambiguous, so they hope to attract a wide variety of interested people from a variety of areas, such as caudiciforms, trees, & succulentphiles.

## The Huntington

Library, Art Collections, and  
Botanical Gardens



# Island Hopping Madagascar and Socotra

21<sup>st</sup> Succulent Plants Symposium  
**Saturday, 4 September 2004**  
Huntington Botanical Gardens

**Dan Mahr**, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. *Succulent Trees of Madagascar: Patterns of Loss and Survival*

**Lee Miller**, Washington, D.C. *Madagascar - Its Plants and Its People*

**Gary James**, Costa Mesa, CA. *Madagascar: A Natural History Treasure chest*

**Dylan Hannon**, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA. *Socotra — The Hinterlands*

**Gary James**, Costa Mesa, CA. *Socotra — A Part of Yemen 's Natural Heritage*

**Joe Clements**, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA, *Retrospections of a Forty-Year Cactophile: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (Presentation follows dinner)

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., the program runs from 9:00-5:00, and dinner (optional) begins at 6:00 pm. Location is Friends' Hall at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108. Program cost is \$70.00 and dinner (optional) is \$25.00. Mail check, payable to *The Huntington*, or contact us at (626) 405-3504 or (626) 405-3501 FAX for credit card payments.

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](mailto: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.

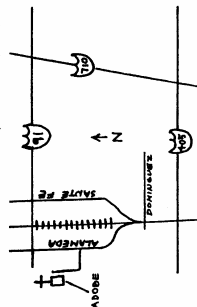
## LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB

Proudly Presents  
**CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS  
ANNUAL  
PLANT AUCTION**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2004 12:00 P.M.**



**DOMINGUEZ ADOBE**  
18127 S. ALAMEDA STREET  
DOMINGUEZ, CA 90221



**Directions:** From the 405 Freeway, take Alameda Street heading North. After going about a mile, take the Alameda Street West toward Compton. This puts you on the West side of the tracks heading North. Look for the following sign, which will be on your left:  
Dominguez Seminary  
The Mission  
18127

From the 91 Freeway heading East, take Alameda Street/Compton off-ramp. Turn right and drive a half mile to the sign Dominguez Ranch House.

From the 91 Freeway heading West, exit on the Santa Fe Ave./Alameda St. off-ramp. Take Alameda St., Compton, right. Look for the sign:  
Rancho San Pedro  
Dominguez Adobe  
18127

**Contact:** Hank WARZYBOK 562-429-7110 or DICK HULETT 310-832-2262  
\*BYO Sack Lunch \*Set up: 11:00 A.M.  
\*Sodas will be provided

**19<sup>th</sup> 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

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter  
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale**

Saturday and Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 from 9 to 5 each day

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden.  
301 N. Baldwin Avenue. Arcadia, CA

*Featuring winter growing succulents throughout the world!*



Presented by The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

*We are expecting one thousand show specimens to be on display and  
many unique and hard to find plants will be available to purchase  
from some of California's finest growers!*

For more information please call...  
Vince Basta, Show Chairman (714) 738-1422, Jim Hanna, Sales Chairman (562) 920-3046,  
Bill Gerlach (626) 332-8008, Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430, Woody Minnich (661) 944-2784.

**Y'All Come  
to the  
San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society  
Study Group Haworthia Hoedown!!**

- **Joe Clements slide show presentation covering Haworthia habitat, propagation, growing tips and much more.**
- **Show off your Haworthia plants**
- **Trade your Haworthia pups**
- **Bring books and other literature to share**
- **Wednesday nite 7:30pm - August 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **Study Group meeting hall:  
San Gabriel Mission Grapevine Room, in the San Gabriel Adult Center  
324 South Mission Drive**

Haworthia is such a popular genus with our members that we decided to give everyone a chance to share with one another.

Come with your favorite plants to show off. We'll all have an opportunity to chat about these wonderful plants.

And for the first time we will trade pups with one another, as a group activity!

The Joe Clements presentation is a great way to learn about Haworthias. The "pup exchange" is a fun opportunity to trade for new plants!

**The Haworthia Hoedown – See you there!!**

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Cactus of the Month August 2004 – *Turbinicarpus*



*Turbinicarpus valdezianus*

flower entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by Bill Hagblom Photo T. Nomer

*Turbinicarpus* is a small (but growing) genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It is one of several closely related genera, *Neolloydia*, and *Gymnocactus*, and *Strombocactus* being the ones most frequently mentioned. In many books, some of the plants listed below will appear as either *Neolloydia* or *Gymnocactus*. The exact relation of these genera is still being worked out and the disagreements between botanists are substantial. New species have been discovered and named in the past decade; seeds and plants of these are just becoming available.

All of the *Turbinicarpus* species are worth growing. They are all small, most full sized in collections at an inch or two. A few will clump readily, and make impressive show specimens, as shown below, but still remain manageable. A collection of all the species and varieties could easily fit on a table top.

In habitat, *Turbinicarpus* usually grow under nurse plants, generally shrubs that offer some protection from the worst of the mid day sun. *Turbinicarpus* have large tuberous roots, which are their primary food and water storage source in times of drought. Over much of their habitat, rain falls during the summer, and growth is most rapid during this period. They can take lots of heat.

*Turbinicarpus* are fairly easy to grow, if attention is paid to their life cycle. They are dormant in winter, from November through mid March. As they begin growth, watering has to start slowly. If too much water and fertilizer is given at once, it's possible to burst the skin of the plant. Once growth is going (April and after) water freely. During very hot weather in the summer, the plants sometimes go dormant again for a short period. Attention has to be paid to watering again.

If a head splits, all is not lost. The entire head can be removed, and the top of the tuberous root left half an inch above the soil. It will usually start two or three new heads. Removing a head is also a great way for vegetative propagation. *Turbinicarpus* can be raised from seed. They are slow for the first year, but reasonable size plants can be grown in a year or two, and flowers the size of the plant will appear by the second year.

Producing clumps as shown above will take quite a bit longer.

### **Terrific Turbs :**

*Turbincarpus krainzianus* (a.k.a. *Turbincarpus pseudomacrolele* v. *krainzianus*) is almost always clumping, as shown above. From Queretaro, it has white flowers with yellow centers.

*Turbincarpus laui* stays small, rarely more than an inch and a half. It has woolly areoles and a wool crown. From San Luis Potosi it has pinkish flowers.



*Turbincarpus lophophoroides*

*Turbincarpus lophophoroides* sometimes remains solitary, but generally clusters with age. It resembles the genus *Lophophora*. Careful watering away from the body of the plant will allow the areoles to keep their wool. The white crown will offset the white flowers. From San Luis Potosi.

*Turbincarpus pseudopectinatus* has small sets of comb like spikes at each areole. It usually remains solitary, and

grows to two inches or so high and an inch in diameter. From Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon it has large pink flowers.

*Turbincarpus schmedickeanus* is a very variable species, with at least half a dozen named varieties. This species has the largest spines of any of the *Turbincarpus*, with the spines often as large as the body of the plant. The named variations differ in the width, color and length of the spines. The spines of this species are hollow with narrow cracks. Water condensing on the spines runs through the spines and is used by the growing plant. This is a widespread species from Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, and Nuevo Leon.



*Turbincarpus valdezianus*

flower entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by Bill Hagblom. Photo T. Nomer

*Turbincarpus valdezianus* is another small bodied pectinate species with red and white striped flowers. In this species, the pectinate spines are not in the two neat rows as in *T. pseudopectinatus*, but are more spherical, and almost mashed.

### References

Cullman, Gotz & Groner **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**  
Preston-Mafham, Rod & Ken **Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary**

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Succulents of the Month August 2004 - *Bromeliads*

The *Bromeliads*, like *Cacti* and *Agavaceae* are a New World family. Like the *Cacti* they have evolved to cover a huge range of environments, from the Coastal Mountains of Chile, to the plains of Argentina, to the Amazon, the dry scrub and Montane forests of Brazil, all of Central America and Mexico, the off-shore Islands, and even the temperature regions of Argentina and the United States.



*Aechmea recurvata* 'Tarzana'  
a Bill Baker Hybrid

The *Bromeliad* Family is one of the monocots, along with *Agave* and *Aloe*. It is a very distant relative of these more common succulents, and is more closely allied to the *Palms*, *Heliconia*, and the non-succulent monocots of the tropics. It is very likely that succulence evolved in the *Bromeliad* family independently from most other succulent monocots. Most *Bromeliads* are not succulent, come from tropical forests, and require a steady source of water.

There are at least three regions where gradual climatic change forced some *Bromeliad* genera (and some species of other genera) become succulent. The best known of the succulent genera are *Dyckia*, from Brazil and the surrounding countries, *Puya*, which are mostly Andean plants, *Hechtia*, largely confined to Mexico, and the *Tillandsia*, which inhabit regions from Virginia to Argentina. However there are some spectacular succulents in other genera as well.

*Dyckia* and *Hechtia* have similar cultural requirements, even though they are a hemisphere apart. Both like well draining soil. Most species can tolerate some cold, and light frosts are generally not a problem. A heavy frost will cause some tip damage, but is usually not fatal. They can take full sun when planted in the ground, but prefer some protection from the worst of the heat during the day. The roots are more sensitive to overheating than the leaves. There are dozens of species of *Dyckia*. *Hechtia* names need work; there are many unnamed species, and many species with more than one name. There are spectacular forms just waiting for cultivation.

*Dyckia* has been extensively hybridized, and choice cultivars have been selected from some of the more showy species. Bill Baker, well known to many club members, is one of the best hybridizers. *Dyckia* is also the best behaved of all of the succulent genera, some of the other genera can be aggressive spreaders, producing many offsets, but taking



up more room than the average grower can tolerate.



***Dyckia Ruby Snow***

*Dyckia macedoi* is a particularly handsome species, white leafed, with long graceful leaves, is just becoming available. *Dyckia fosteriana*, and all its hybrids and cultivars still sets the standard for beauty in this genus.

A less known genus with a significant number of succulent species is *Orthophytum*. This genus comes from Brazil, and the genus for the most part occupies a warm and humid environment. Many of the *Orthophytum* are spectacularly flocked with special cells (trichomes) that pull moisture directly out of the air. Bands of trichome rich and trichome poor regions on the leaves give these plants a spectacular coloring. As with *Dyckia*, there are a wealth of hybrids, with many be created in Florida, which is really more to their liking than the dry inner valleys of California. *Orthophytum Starlight*' and *'Iron Ore'*, hybrids from Florida are two beautiful hybrids sometimes available. *Orthophytum* are cold sensitive, and will start to show damage if exposed to the mid thirties. Exposure to cold and wet can be fatal.

Very closely related to *Orthophytum* is *Cryptanthus*. *Cryptanthus burlmarxii* is a succulent species. This genus is more at home

in the forests, and are almost all shade and moisture loving plants, however a few members of the genus are true succulents.

Another succulent genus is *Puya*, largely to the Andes, and with the largest number of species on the Western side of the mountains. Many of the *Puya* species are gigantic, some reaching tree-like dimensions before flowering. Others can be kept in a pot, at least for a few years. Many *Puya* have leaves that carry seedling leaf impressions, much like the *Agave*. *Puya mirabilis* is available and has flowers on stalks about 4 or five feet high. *Puya alpestris* is occasionally available. The flowers are 12 feet off the ground, and it needs to be a very big plant before flowering, but it is well worth the room and effort.

There are two types of *Tillandsia*, green leafed and gray leafed. None of the green leafed *Tillandsia* are succulent. These are plants from the rain forest. Some of the gray leafed *Tillandsia* are succulent. Those with thick or cylindrical leaves are. *Tillandsia bulbosa* is available everywhere, is a slow and delicate plant, but very much worth growing a good size specimen. *Tillandsia duratti* is a larger species, with fragrant purple flowers. It is impressive in bloom or out. There are well over a hundred species of gray leafed species. Many of these have interesting shapes and flowers, and are worth growing. They all need protection from frost, frequent misting or spraying in hot weather, but are otherwise very easy to grow.

References:

H. Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

Tom Glavich July 2004