

# 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  
**July 2005 Volume 38 Number 7**

---

**Monthly Meeting:** July 14<sup>th</sup>. This month's presentation will be given by Mark Maradian. He'll tell us about his voyage through the Chilean Atacama Desert, the driest place on earth, to the land of the Copiapoa. Mark is a renowned potter, and will have with him a selection of his craft, available for our enjoyment, perusal, and purchase.

---

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

**CACTI – Columnar Cacti      SUCCULENT – Stem Succulent Euphorbia**

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 and joy. If you don't have any of this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting.

---

**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, July 20<sup>th</sup>. This month's subject: Asclepiads. That's the family containing all those star-shaped, stinky flowers and the carrion plants.

---

**Annual Club Picnic:** Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>, once again at the home of Pat & Jean Mullens. Featuring:

Picnic - The Club will be providing the hamburgers & hot dogs in addition to beverages so all you need to bring is a side dish and your own special beverage (optional of course) to share with others and your own utensils. Set up starts at 11:00am, we hope to have everyone eating by Noon and begin the games by about 1:00. Those arriving early can help set up.

Games - There will be the usual games, including the infamous Opuntia Toss, so dress comfortably and get ready to join the fun. Prizes, of course!

Auction - This is a great way to add to your collection or sell extra specimens. Rules for auction: Must be a club member to sell. Limit 10 plants or items total (bring nice plants, something you'd like to take home with you.) Club gets 25%; seller gets 75%. Cards will be available at the auction for each item to be sold. Write your name and the minimum acceptable bid on the card and place it with the item. If you want to bid on an item, write your name, but not your price, on the cards for each item you are interested in. The items that members have expressed interest in will then be auctioned off.

Directions - Take Interstate 10 to Grand Ave. in Covina. Go south on Grand to Lorencita and turn left. Take Lorencita to Buenos Aries Dr. and turn right. Buenos Aries will wind around a lot, but eventually you'll come to Santiago St. Turn left at 2124 Santiago, Covina. (See map, below.)

This is a great activity with a bunch of fun people. Bring your family and have some fun! Special thanks to Pat & Jean Mullens for allowing us to use their home and yard.

---

**Personnel Notices:** With sadness, we note that one of the founding members of our club, Virginia Martin, has passed away. Active in the hobby for fifty years, she was a past president of the SGVCSS and helped to develop our fine library. She also served as president of CSSA where she guided the direction of that club's development. She gave presentations internationally, especially in Mexico - Baja was one of her favorite places. The Cactus and Succulent Community has lost an esteemed and valuable member. On a happier note, the SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest member, **Wanchira Disaboot**. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club!

---

**Refreshments:** Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments to the June meeting! Mari Johnson, Antoinette Koltaj, Barbara Hall, Lorraine Lutz, and Yvonne Hemenway signed up to bring in provisions for this month's meeting. There are openings on the sign-up sheet throughout the coming year. Please, pick a month and bring us your favorite treat. The sheet will be at the refreshment table.

---

**10 years ago:** Joey Betzler from San Diego (currently Vice President of the C&SS of Southern Nevada) presented "Deserts of the World". The annual picnic was held at Almansor Park in Alhambra. 24 SGVCSS members attended the CSSA convention in Tucson.

**20 years ago:** There was a joint program by Gordon and Sylvia McTavish showing slides of their trip through the Panama Canal, and Peter Sharp showing pictures of plants from his trips.

**30 years ago:** Carl Bronston, Vice President of the San Fernando Bromeliad Society gave a talk on Bromeliads, with emphasis on the succulent members.

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

---

## Calendar of Events - 2005

**Jul 16th**                    **The Club Picnic**, to be hosted again by Pat & Jean Mullens. Put the date on your calendar!

**Aug 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**                31<sup>st</sup> Biennial CSSA Convention, Scottsdale, AZ. For complete details, visit <http://www.cssainc.org/convent.html>

<b>Aug 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup></b>	South Bay Bromeliad Assoc. Show and Sale, 19121 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA (see flyer below).
<b>Aug 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup></b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA (626-798-2430, 818-998-9306, 310-538-4078, or 562-920-3046).
<b>Sep 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
<b>Sep 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St, Compton (Dominguez Hills) CA.
<b>Oct 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup></b>	SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

### Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show

The Intermediate Cactus winning plants were mistakenly identified last month, due to incomplete "cut and paste" processing. Correctly, first place went to Alan Hooker for his *Leuchtenbergia principis*, second went to Ron Young for *Ferocactus sp.* and third went to Dick Tatman for his *F. chrysancanthus*.

### Results for June

#### Cacti – *Discocactus and Melocactus*

#### Succulent – *African Pachypodiums*

#### Beginner

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lorraine Lutz	<i>M. azureus</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mari Johnson	<i>P. succulentum</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Hall	<i>D. bueneckii</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alex Abrahamian	<i>P. succulentum</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Efren Flores	<i>M. species</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	R. Dodson & H. Birgh	<i>P. bispinosum</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Schlegel	<i>D. zehntneri</i>			

#### Intermediate

1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>D. horstii</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>P. griquepse</i>
			2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>P. griquepse</i>
			3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Nolan	<i>P. succulentum</i>

#### Advanced

1 <sup>st</sup>	Rita Gerlach	<i>M. species</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Rita Gerlach	<i>P. saundersii</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Carol Maker	<i>D. crystallophilus</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tom Glavich	<i>P. succulentum</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Y & Buck Hemenway	<i>M. ernestii var longispinus</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tom Glavich	<i>P. bispinosum</i>

#### Master

1 <sup>st</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>M. ernestii</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jim Hanna	<i>P. "Arid Lands"</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Ostler	<i>M. rubrispinus</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jim Hanna	<i>P. succulentum</i>
			3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Hanna	<i>P. bispinosum</i>

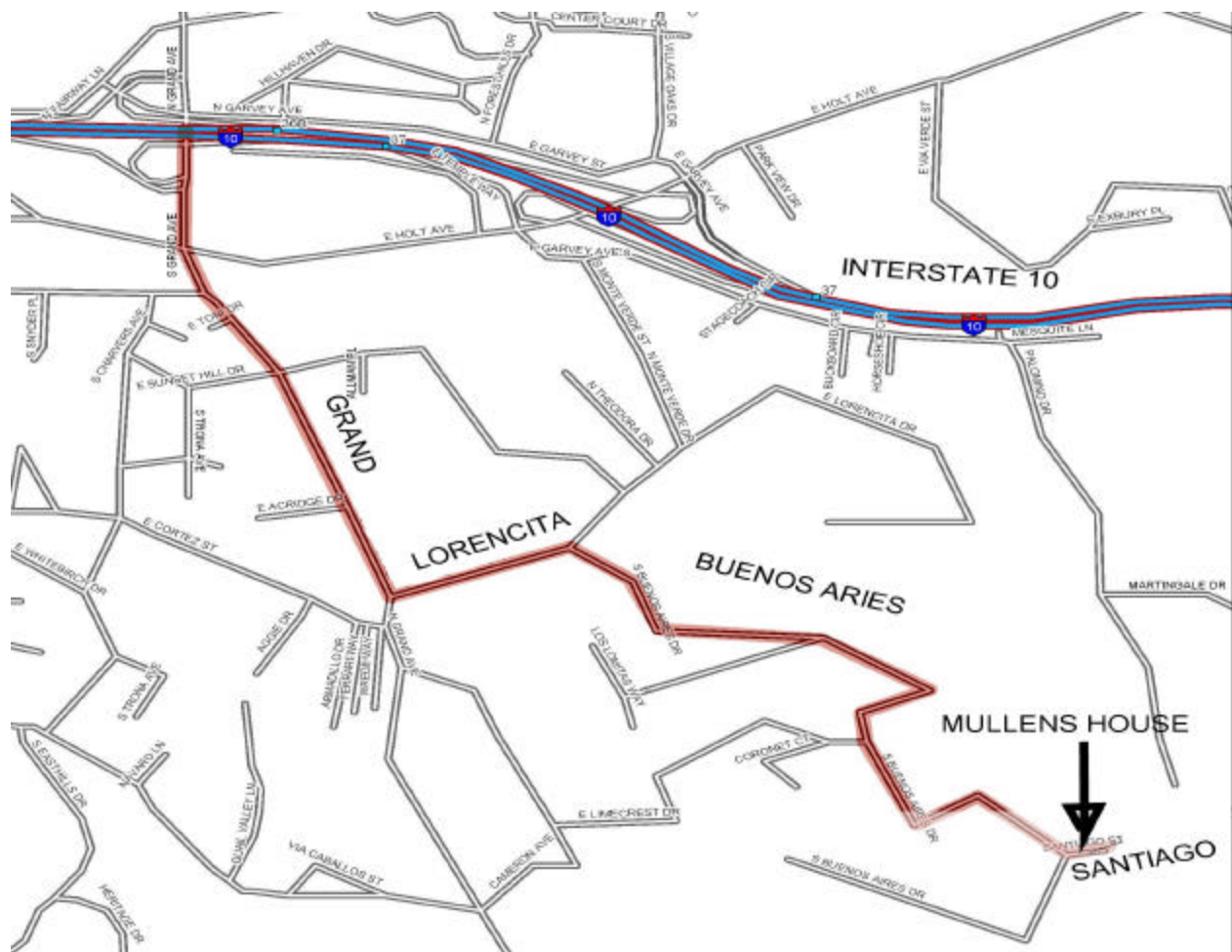
**Online:** If you would be content to view the **COMMUNIQUE** on-line and not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy, send the information via E-mail to [sgvcss@adelphia.net](mailto:sgvcss@adelphia.net). Note that <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> is 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 full of helpful links. A full-color version of the **COMMUNIQUE** can be viewed, and downloaded, from the site.

---

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the information to the address given 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: [sgvcss@adelphia.net](mailto:sgvcss@adelphia.net) or via post to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Paul Maker, 1245 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078-4816. 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 SGVCSS **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.

---

### Directions to the PICNIC!





*Saturday, July 30 &  
Sunday July 31, 2005*

**LACSS**

**CACTUS & SUCCULENT**

**SHOW & SALE**

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society



Agave mendenalis variegata 'Joe Hoak'

**Saturday 9:00 – 5:00**

**Sunday 9:00 – 4:00**

**Free Admission**

**Sepulveda Garden Center**

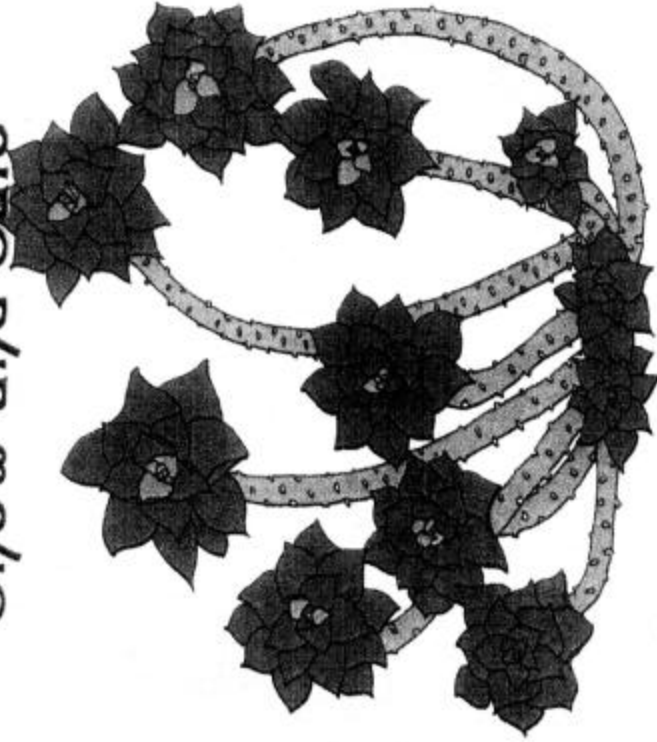
**16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino Calif**

**For Show Information call Artie (818) 363-3432**

**Bar-B-Que and Auction at 5:00 July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Center. Reservations must be made by July 21st**

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-City  
Cactus and Succulent**

**Show and Sale**



**August 20 & 21, 2005**

**Los Angeles County Arboretum**

**301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia**

*For information*

*Tom Glavich 626-798-2430, Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078,*

*Gene Oster 818-998-9306 Jim Hanna 562-920-3046*

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cacti of the Month July 2005 - *Columnar Cacti*

Columnar or ceroid cacti are not a closely related set of genera, but a lumping together of all the cacti that are much longer than they are around. Columnar 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 (or plant food) and more water than most globular cacti. They do well in normal cactus soil, as long as they get additional fertilization.



*Cleistocactus smaragdiflorus*

Propagation is generally by cuttings or seed. Cuttings need to be dried well before planting. A few weeks is 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 the pot, and an inch or more high. 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.

A look through any of the references listed below gives many genera names that are rarely seen in cultivation. This is because the plants take many years to reach flowering size, are only really happy in the ground, and get too big for pots in any case. Some genera are very popular, and these are described below.

### *Popular North American Ceroids*

*Pachycereus* (*Cephalocereus*, *Backbergia*) *militaris* is a difficult to grow ceroid from central Mexico with a beautiful large yellow cephalium that it wears like a military dress hat. Once seen, it is never forgotten.

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

*Carnegiea gigantea* or the Saguaro is another large plant, this time from Arizona, with a few in California.



### *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!

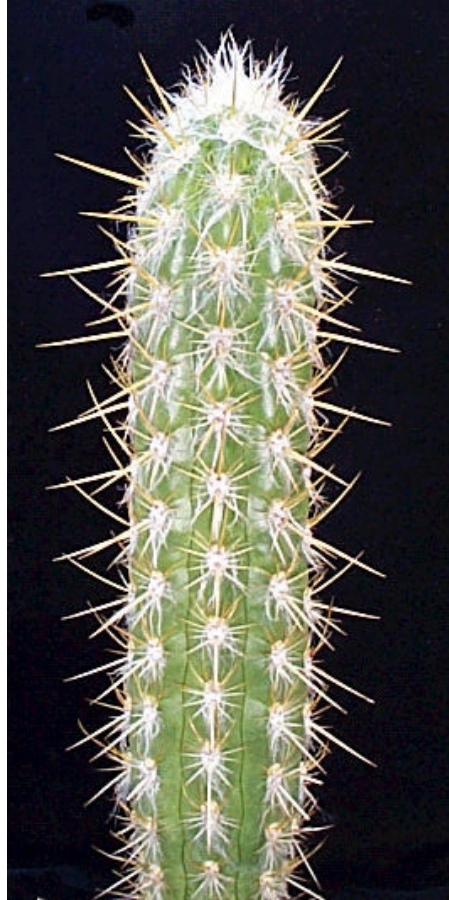
*Cleistocactus* is one of the most beautiful genera of the columnar cacti. These slender plants branch from the base, and have dense spination. They are easy to grow, and quickly set flowers that are usually long red tubes sticking out through the spines. Some of the best are *C. smaragdiflorus*, with red flowers, a yellow band near the tip, and a bright green tip. *C. strausii* is a fuzzy white marvel, and often seen at sale tables at shows.

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

*Haageocereus* come from Peru and Chile. They stay short (for a ceroid), rarely exceeding 3 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, 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.



*Oreocereus umarensis*

*Pilosocereus* is a largely Brazilian genera, almost all of which are worth growing. It has a wide distribution, stretching 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 18 to 20 shallow ribs, and distinct areoles, that make dense yellow spirals around the plant on a dark green background.

#### **References:**

W. Cullmann, E. Gotz, G. Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

E. Haustein, **The Cactus Handbook**

D C. Zappi, *Pilosocereus*

Tom Glavich May 2005

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Succulent of the Month July 2005 - *Stem Succulent Euphorbias*



**Stem Succulent Euphorbias exhibited at the 2001 Inter-city Show**

Stem succulent *Euphorbias* are exactly what they seem. These are *Euphorbias* where the main food and water storage organ is the stem. They are a perfect example of convergent evolution, resembling *cacti* in almost every aspect except flowers.

Stem succulent *Euphorbias* can be found throughout Africa, in the Mediterranean, on Madagascar and the other offshore islands, in India, on the Canary Islands, in South America, and even in Mexico. Some have persistent leaves, some don't. Those from tropical climates (Uganda, Madagascar, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen) tend to be frost sensitive. Those from Mediterranean climates (South Africa, Canary Islands,

Mexico) tend to be tolerant of some frost. There are exceptions in both cases.

In general all of these are easy to grow. Good, fast draining potting mixes, protection from excessive winter water and cold, are really all they ask. They benefit from relatively frequent repotting, and fairly frequent applications of fertilizer when they are growing.



***Euphorbia obesa* exhibited at the 2001 Inter-city Show by Charles Ball**

Seed of most *Euphorbia* is hard to come by. The seed is short lived, and should be planted as soon as available. Once germinated, the seedlings are similar to cacti seeds, growing slowly at first, and then accelerating in the second and third years.



A more common method of propagation is vegetative propagation. Cuttings can be taken when in active growth. The latex is often an irritant, and sometimes a severe one, so care must be taken to keep it off your skin and clothes. Eye protection should be used when cutting *Euphorbias*. *Euphorbias* will bleed a milky latex when cut. This can be stopped by spraying with cold water. The cuttings are then left to dry for a few days, replanted, and watered lightly until roots form and new growth starts. For large cuttings, new growth may not appear for six months.



*Euphorbia clivicola* exhibited in the 2001 Inter-city Show by Tom Glavich

### ***Exceptional Euphorbias***

*Euphorbia confinalis* is a tree eventually, but as a seedling, it has stunning patterns of light and dark green on the stems. Every plant is different.

*Euphorbia gymnocalicioides* from Ethiopia looks almost exactly like a *Gymnocalycium*.

*Euphorbia horrida*, from South Africa and all its many forms. Easy to grow, two forms are shown in the first figure.

*Euphorbia millotti* has thick white, succulent stems, crowned with a head of leaves green on top, purple to red below. From Madagascar, it is cold sensitive.

*Euphorbia milii*, another Madagascar species is common as a houseplant everywhere. It has a spiny stem, and small green leaves. It is grown for its flowers. Recent Thai hybrids, with other *Euphorbia* species have resulted in very large colorful flowers.

*Euphorbia obesa*, the classic baseball plant, is common in almost every collection.

*Euphorbia rossii* another Madagascar plant, related to *E. milii* has beautiful, densely spined stems, with deciduous leaves. More cold tolerant than might be expected, it does well in Southern California.

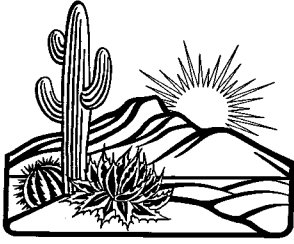
*Euphorbia suzannae*, another classic in almost every collection. Easy to grow, bright green stems, that quickly clump to form an impressive specimen. Easy to grow, but it needs very bright light to keep its true form.

*Euphorbia valida*, another cactus look alike is a nicely patterned *Euphorbia* with a body shape much like an *Astrophytum*.

### References

- M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**  
**The Euphorbia Journal** (all volumes)  
 Tom Glavich May 2005

# COMMUNIQUE



Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society  
c/o Paul & Carol Maker  
1245 San Pablo Drive  
San Marcos, CA 92078-4816

## BROMELIAD SHOW & SALE

PRESENTED BY



**FREE ADMISSION**  
**FREE PARKING**  
Sales from members private collections and commercial vendors

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
**AUG 6 & 7, 2005**

AT  
**Rainforest Flora Inc**  
19121 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Torrance CA 90503

**SHOW HOURS SAT. NOON-4:30**  
**SUN. 10:00-4:30**

**SALES HOURS SAT. 10:00-4:30**  
**SUN. 10:00-4:30**