

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
October 2005 Volume 38 Number 10

Monthly Meeting: October 13th. This month's presentation will be given by Club President Joe Clements, who will tell us about his three week trip to Chile last year with the CSSA. They traveled from high in the Andes, through the high Atacama desert, past geysers, down to the coast. Look forward to an exciting presentation.

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

CACTUS and SUCCULENT CRESTS and MONSTROSE

Bring your pride and joy specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows, like our winter show, preparations for which will already be underway. If you don't have any crests of monstrose, view and 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, October 19th. This month's subject: *Ariocarpus*.

Personnel Notices: A long time member of our club has passed away, Elsa Peck. She joined the club back in the early '70s and was active helping her son Barry operate Peck's Cactus in Sylmar, which closed several years ago. Elsa died on August 11, and a memorial service will be held October 15. Barry can be reached at (818) 367-5376.

The SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members, **William Molina, Roberto Carrillo, Eddie Martinez,** and **Plot's House of Cactus** in Ripon, CA. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club!

Refreshments: Thanks to those who brought refreshments to the September meeting! Everyone is encouraged to bring in provisions for this month's meeting. Lets keep up our tradition of provisioning a tasty and tasteful refreshment table!

10 years ago: Gary Lyons presented "Aloes." A note in the Communique recommended joining Cacti_etc. and listed the current club members.

20 years ago: Henry Varney gave a presentation on *Adromischus*.

30 years ago: Ed and Betty Gay gave a talk on *Pachycereus pringlei*. New members included Gary Lyons.

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

The Club Winter Cactus Show and Sale:

Our 12th Annual Winter Show is just days away and there are a few items I would like to mention where help will be needed. We will need plenty of helping hands on Thursday morning, October 13th to set up tables and drape them. Also, the trophy table needs to be decorated, so if you are good at draping cloth, please show up.

During the show, help will be needed tabulating tags from sales on Saturday and Sunday. If you can help out, see Jim or Roberta Hanna. Also, it is helpful to have the presence of several club members on hand to answer questions and keep an eye on the show area for possible problems, people bringing sales plants into the show area, touching show plants, etc...

Pre-Sale will be open for all club members who participate in the show on Friday October 14th, from 3-5pm. I encourage all members to do their shopping at this time to get the best possible selection before the general public.

Show Dinner is on Saturday, October 15th in the show area. Please be sure to sign up and pay \$17.50 per person to Amber Jones by the Thursday meeting so we will know how many are attending. Also, chicken breast will be served in addition to the brisket and pork ribs.

Three new trophies will be awarded at this years show. In memory of Dick Hulett will be Best Miniature, for Ellen Low will be Best Baja plant and for Virginia Martin will be Best Mexican Plant. The board approved the purchase and Tom Glavich had the trophies made.

Let's make this our best show ever! Hope to see lots of plants and above all let's have some fun!

Vince Basta
Winter Show Chairman

Calendar of Events - 2005

Oct 15th-16th SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

December 17th The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar!

Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results for August

Cacti – Turbinicarpus

Succulent – Acslepiads

Beginner

1 st	Evelyn Maxwell	T. flavifloris	1 st	Evelynn Maxwell	Hoodia sp
2 nd	Michael Romero	T. schmiedickeanus var. gracilis	2 nd	Jeanette Elser	Fockea edulis
			3 rd	Evelynn Stevens	Hoya "Rope"

Intermediate

1 st	Buck Hemenway	T. pseudopectinatus	1 st	Alan Hooker	Fockea edulis
3 rd	Barbara Nolan	T. laskii	1 st	Manny Rivera	Huernia Sp
			3 rd	J & B Wilner	Raphioionacme flanaganii
			3 rd	Alan Hooker	Fockea Augustifolia

Advanced

1 st	Frank Nudge	T. lophophorides	1 st	Frank Nudge	Hoodia gordonii
2 nd	Carol Maker	T. jauniggii	2 nd	Tom Vermilion	Edithcolea grandis
3 rd	Frank Nudge	T. klinkerianus	3 rd	Rita Gerlach	Huernia pendula

Master

1 st	Karen Ostler	T. pseudomacrothele	1 st	Karen Ostler	Ceropegia africana
			2 nd	Karen Ostler	Ceropegia woodii

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. 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 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.

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus and Succulent of the Month October 2005 - Crests and Monstrose

Crested and Monstrose plants are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. In normal plants the growth tips are points, and the biochemistry of the plant forces one tip to be dominant or at least locally dominant. In crests genetic mutation removes this dominance, and instead of a single growth tip, the area of active cell growth degenerates into a line. In monstrose growth, the dominance of all or at least many potential growth points is equal, and many new bodies try to form simultaneously.

Cresting and monstrose growth are two of the three most common mutations, the other being variegation. Two or even all three forms are sometimes combined in a single plant. For this month, any combination of cresting or monstrosity either alone, or together or combined with variegated growth is acceptable. Grafted plants are also welcome.



***Euphorbia lactea* Grey Ghost Crest**
entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Lem
and Pat Higgs

Cresting is not unique to succulent plants. Crests are found in many genera of non-succulent plants, including conifers and many common garden plants.



Euphorbia Zig Zag entered in the 2001
Intercity Show by Duke and Kaz Benadom

Culture of crests and Monstrose Plants

Crests are grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some crests have weak roots, and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers, and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant, and comparison to healthy non-crested plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. Crests tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker, and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. .



Parodia crest

For the same reason, they are more attractive to spider mites and mealy bugs than normal plants, and a careful eye must be kept on them to keep good growth.



Pachyphytum Crest

Propagation of crests plants

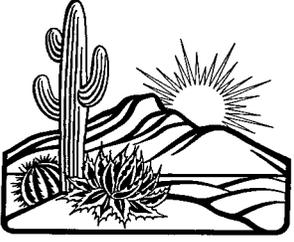
Crests and Monstrose plants flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering crest. Crests and Monstrosity are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a mutant plant is much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the parent, but any other mutation is also possible.



Lophocereus schottii monstrose

The most common method of propagation of crested plants is vegetative. Cuttings of crests are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms. Cuttings of varieties that are on their own roots will generally root easily, as long as the cuts are taken during the growing season. After a few days drying, the cut sections are simply stuck into slightly moist potting soil. After a few weeks, there will be sufficient roots to resume normal watering.

Tom Glavich September 2005



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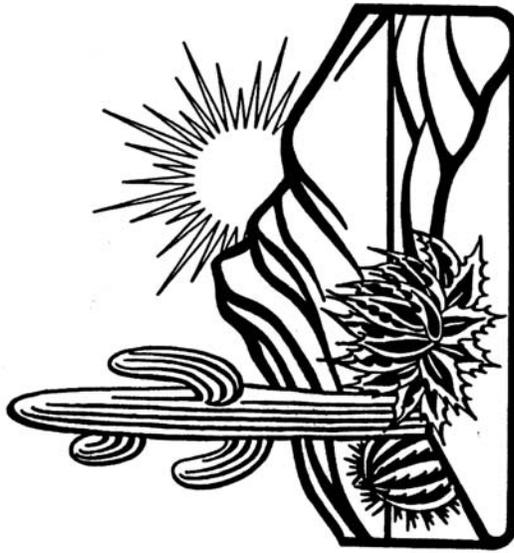
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society
c/o Paul & Carol Maker
1245 San Pablo Drive
San Marcos, CA 92078-4816

12th Annual Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Saturday and Sunday, October 15th & 16th, 2005 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) 267-4329, Jim Hanna, Sales Chairman (562) 920-3046,
Bill Gerlach (626) 332-8008, Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430, Woody Minnich (661) 944-2784.
Email cactoholic@sbglobal.net