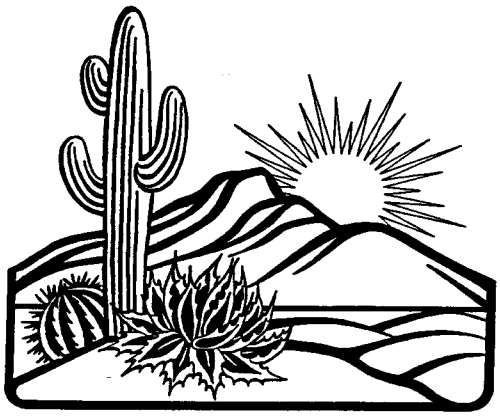


COMMUNIQUE

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
November 2005 Volume 38 Number 11

Monthly Meeting: November 10th. Our speaker this month will be Myron Kimnach, a club member and former Director of the Huntington Botanical Garden, editor of the CSSA Journal, and editor of Hasletonia, now retired but still active writing papers on succulents and his book on palms. The talk is titled "Madagascar", where he has traveled several times. It will feature the many fascinating plants, palms, people and places that he encountered.

Plants of the Month: (see the attached write ups)
CACTUS - *Copiapoa* **SUCCULENT - *Kalanchoe***
Bring your pride and joy specimens in and enter them in our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows, see what other plants and varieties are out there, and sharpen your competitive instincts! If you don't have any of these species, you can look at 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, November 16th. This month's subject species: ***Tylecodon.***

Membership Renewals: It's not too early to pay your dues for 2006. Send your check to SGVCSS MEMBERSHIP at 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. $12 for a single membership, $15 for two people at the same address. Your prompt payment will make it easier on those keeping records and will speed up the issuance of a new roster. Your membership expiration date is on the mailing label of your copy of the **COMMUNIQUE**. For those who receive the **COMMUNIQUE** electronically, you will be notified by e-mail each month, beginning in January, until your dues are paid.

SGVC&SS Election: The nominating committee, Rene Caro, Patti Caro, Woody Minich, and Karen Ostler presents the following list of candidates for 2006 Club Offices:

President	Joe Clements	Board Member	Horace Birgh
Vice President	Woody Minnich	Board Member	Bill Gerlach
Treasurer	Amber Jones	Board Member	Buck Hemenway
Secretary	Rita Gerlach		

Board Members serve a 2 year term. Carryover Board Members are Karen Ostler, Evelynn Stevens and Dick Tatman. At the November 10th meeting, nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

The election will then take place. Many thanks to the nominating committee for a job well done. We only hope that none of the nominees have sore arms occasioned by committee armtwisting.

Personnel Notices: The SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members, **Sara Maeda, Lynn & Robert Merchant , Glenn Lewis, Partick Daxon, Peter & Angela Cho, Louise Stack, Bill Baker**, and **Bill Munkacsy**. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** (available in early 2006) in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club!

Refreshments: Thanks to those who brought refreshments to the October 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: Club President Woody Minich presented a program on "Cactus, Canyons and Coyotes." New Members included Steve Ball, Raquel Castellanos, and Monte Woodworth.

20 years ago: Bill Baker presented a slide talk on the Cacti of Bolivia and Peru.

30 years ago: Kitty Sabo gave a program on basic identification.

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

Calendar of Events - 2005

December 17th The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar! Full particulars will appear in next month's issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.

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

	Cacti – Crest and Monstrose		Succulent – Crest and Monstrose		
Beginner					
1st	John Matthews	Mammillaria Fred	1st	Jim Schlegel	Euphorbia Grey Ghost
2nd	Lorraine Lutz	Sub Mammilaris crest	2nd		
			3rd	H. Birgh & T. Dodson	Senecio cylindricus crest
Intermediate					
1st	Buck Hemenway	Cereus crest	1st	Buck Hemenway	Senecio talinoides crest
3rd	Barbara Nolan	Cereus crest	2nd	Buck Hemenway	Echevaria shavianne crest
	Barbara Nolan	Mammillaria crest	3rd	Buck hemenway	Euphorbia nerifolia crest
Advanced					
1st	Frank Nudge	Epithelantha micromeris crest	1st	Tom Vermilion	Euphorbia pseudocactus crest
2nd	Tom Vermilion	Mammillaria bocasana "Fred"	2nd	Tom Vermilion	Euphorbia suzzanae crest
3rd	Frank Nudge	Lobivia denispina crest	2nd	Rita Gerlach	Euphorbia lactea crest
			3rd	Tom Vermilion	Euphorbia submammilarus monst
Master (shamefully, no entries!)					

Online: If you would be content to view the **COMMUNIQUE** on-line in color 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.

Twelfth Annual Winter Show: A report on the show will appear in next month's **COMMUNIQUE**.

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month November 2005 - ***Copiapoa***

Copiapoa is a unique genus of spectacular plants from the North Coast of Chile. The genus has no close relatives, and is confined to a region of ecological change, becoming steadily drier for the past several hundred years. The Southern limit of *Copiapoa* is where reliable winter rains can be found. The Northern limit is the tropical region of reliable summer rains. *Copiapoa* live along the coast and through the river valleys cut through the coastal mountains. Some of the species live completely on the dense fogs that appear regularly for months at a time. The hills and valleys of Northern Chile are still not well explored from a botanical point of view, and new species are still being described and additional species will be found in the future.

Copiapoa hypogaea

Given these extreme conditions, one would expect the cultivation of these plants in Southern California, with our frequent winter rains, fogs, and "June gloom" to be quite a challenge. Fortunately, this is not so, and *Copiapoa* are relatively easy to grow. They respond happily to the same potting mix, watering, and fertilization as most cacti, growing many times faster than they would in habitat. Some species can even be grown in the open ground in the San Gabriel Valley, as long as the soil is well drained. They do tend to be slower growers than many.

Copiapoa are easily propagated from cuttings or division of clumps. Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed houses, and germinates quickly in the spring. They should be started in a moist potting soil, and moved to drier surroundings after germination.

Copiapoa were first collected in the 1840s, and described as Echinocactus, then the home of anything more or less globular. The genus *Copiapoa* was named by Britton and Rose in 1922 in their great work **The Cactaceae.** The name derives from Chilean province of Copiapo, home of many of the species.

All of the Copiapoa are worth growing. This is a genus unparalleled in excellent species.

Classic Copiapoa

Copiapoa cinerea In habitat this species is an ash-gray with black spines. They grow to 4 or 5 inches in diameter, and cluster. In cultivation, the body tends to stay greenish, but it remains a classic plant.

Copiapoa humilis is a widespread species, with many named varieties. It is one of the smaller species, easy to grow, and very common. All of the varieties are equally easy to grow and differ from the type (first to be found) of the species by variation in spination.

C. humilis v. humilis is a dark green with black spines; ***v. longispina*** is a lighter, green with white spines; ***v. tenuissima*** has woolly areoles; ***v. tocopillana*** is densely spined. All of these are worth collecting. The larger of the two heads shown in the adjacent picture is less than an inch across.

Copiapoa humils v. tenuissima

Copiapoa hypogaea is a dwarf species, clustering in habitat and cultivation. It is variable, and several named varieties exist, all worth growing. ***C. hypogaea v. laui*** is the smallest of the *Copiapoa*, growing to only ¾ of an inch across. ***C. hypogaea v. montana*** has very woolly areoles, particularly when grown in cultivation.

Copiapoa krainziana also known as ***Copiapoa cinerea v. krainziana*** is one of the most popular species. Easy to grow, with long white spines, and a woolly crown, it is really the most extreme of a very variable population.

Copiapoa calderana

Copiapoa calderana from central Chile, is easily grown from seed. Although globular at first, after a few years it becomes a well spined cylinder. The specimen shown above should start developing a grey wool crown. This species has a large tap root, and needs a bigger pot than might be expected for optimum growth.

Copiapoa solaris comes from the northern part of the range. It is a fairly large plant in habitat, forming clusters up to six feet across and three feet high. It is one of the most photogenic of the entire genus, particularly in habitat.

References:

Britton and Rose, **The Cactaceae**
Charles, G. **Copiapoa**
Innes, C. and Glass, C., **Cacti**

Tom Glavich October 2005

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month November 2005 - ***Kalanchoe***

Kalanchoe rhombopilosa

Kalanchoe is one of the main genera of leaf succulents in the *Crassulaceae* Family. *Kalanchoe* are winter growers, and generally look their best in late winter and early spring. *Kalanchoe* is closely related to three other genera, *Cotyledon*, *Adromischus* and *Tylecodon*; many members of all four families were originally described as *Cotyledon*.

Kalanchoe is a pan tropical genus, with a large number of species in Africa and Madagascar, with significant (but less well known) populations in Socotra, India, tropical Asia, Indonesia, and a few in Central America. *Kalanchoe* is by far the most widely propagated and grown succulent plant in the world. It is produced by the millions as a winter houseplant all over the world. The most popular of all is ***Kalanchoe blossfeldiana***, from a cloud forest on Mount Tsaratanana in northeastern Madagascar. Cultivars with red, yellow, orange and even purple flowers developed from this species are produced each year by vegetative propagation (usually by micropropagation or cloning) in large commercial nurseries and sold in florists, supermarkets and garden shops. It is virtually indestructible, and grows and blooms through the winter in heated apartments, offices, etc. with little care. It eventually gets leggy and stops blooming, and is generally thrown out during a spring cleaning.

Kalanchoe care in Southern California is extraordinarily easy. They tolerate light frosts and do well outside in our rains. A few of the more tropical species are sensitive to cold, but most tolerate anything we get without more than a few dropped leaves. Most of the species sold in florists shops will do well as bedding plants in local gardens. Producing a show quality plant requires a bit more work. Pruning and pinching of growth tips to encourage side growth is required to get a full bodied plant. Since most of the cultivated species come from the cloud forests of Madagascar, they never go through long periods of dryness, and require some watering and moisture even during their summer dormant period.

Propagation is easy. Take a cutting. Stick it in some potting soil. Success is virtually guaranteed. There is no need to wait for the end to dry, no need for growth hormones, etc. Leaves can also be rooted, and many leaves, falling from a plant will often root on the potting bench or in neighboring pots.

Seed is rarely available, but is also easily grown, and sows well in the fall. Growth is fairly rapid, and flowers during the next winter can generally be expected.

Although pot grown *Kalanchoe* lose their bottom leaves when they are stressed for water, *Kalanchoe* grown in the ground do not have this problem. Much larger and better looking plants can be grown in the ground than can ever be grown in pots. Plants grown in the ground look much more like those from habitat.

Kalanchoes to Keep:

Kalanchoe beharensis is a variable large leafed plant from Madagascar. There are several unusual shaped and colored cultivars available, including 'Fang' and 'Oak Leaf'. The leaves are often felt-like, with a mixture of green and brown.

Kalanchoe hildebrandtii

Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi is another variable species, common in the florist trade as well as succulent shows. There are many varieties and cultivars, and several interesting variegated forms as well. It has blue-purple to gray to white leaves, depending on the cultivar. It is weak stemmed, and is often grown as a sprawling or even hanging plant.

Kalanchoe rhombopilosa is a small plant, reluctant to branch, with dense beautiful gray leaves covered with red spots and lines.

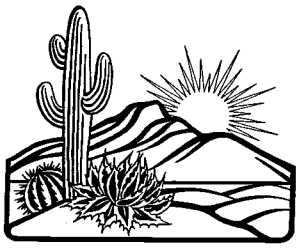
Kalanchoe synsepala has great blue-green leaves with red to purple serrated edges. It produces offsets on long trailing stems. It is great as a hanging plant, or in a show pot.

Kalanchoe tomentosa is a wonderful densely leafed shrub. The leaves are green and white and feel as if felt covered. When given enough light and water, the edges turn red or brown. It is easy to grow poorly, but very hard to grow well.

Kalanchoe uniflora is another climbing species. In spite of its name, the flowers occur in groups of three, with many groups per plant. It is naturally epiphytic, and is happiest as a hanging plant.

References
W. Rauh, **Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar**
M. Sajeva and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich October 2005



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