

# 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  
**June 2006 Volume 39 Number 6**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Our guest speaker for June will be **Guillermo Rivera** all the way from Argentina. Since he has traveled many miles to be with us let's have a large turnout to welcome him to Southern California. Guillermo's presentation will be on *Parodia* and *Trichocereus*.

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

**CACTI – *Astrophytum*      SUCCULENT – *Fouquieria***

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.

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**Study Group:** Meetings are held 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, San Gabriel (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium). 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 21** (mark your calendar as this is not the week following the monthly meeting). Our discussion for June will be Baja California plants.

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**Personal Notes:** SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members **Thomas Morrison** and **Stefan Szalkowski**. Carefully review the COMMUNIQUE and the Roster in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club. Also, take a look at the Club's web site [www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/](http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/).

Although it may seem that **Rene and Patty Caro** dropped off the face of the earth, they have just relocated to Durango, Colorado. Their new address is: 125 Rustic Road, Durango, CO 81301.

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**Club Picnic:** The club picnic will be held on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Jean and Pat Mullens**. More details will be in the July COMMUNIQUE, including a list of items where help is needed. For too many years the bulk of the work involved has been done by just a few people.

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**Upcoming Events:** Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events and flyers for June events. Events are added, deleted or changed frequently so don't forget to take a look at the Calendar of Events every month.

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**Member's Corner:** Horace Birgh has a large quantity of plastic pots ranging in size from 2 ½" to 5 gallons that he would like to give to other club members. If you can use any of these pots let Horace know at the next club meeting and he will make arrangements to get them to you.

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**May Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results**

	<b>Cacti-</b>	<b>Lobivia</b>	<b>Echinopsis</b>		<b>Succulent-</b>	<b>Echeveria</b>
<b>Beginner</b>						
1st		Betty Farfan	L, Hybrid	1st	Mari Johnson	E. agavoides
2nd		Daniel Veelik	E. species	2nd	Mari Johnson	E. "Ghost Busters"
3rd		Betty Farfan	E. species	3rd	Evelyn Maxwell	E. cante
<b>Intermediate</b>						
1st		Barbara Nolan	L. crassic????	1st	Jean Mullens	E. x "Lipstick"
2nd		Barbara Nolan	Peanut Cactus	2nd	Barbara Nolan	E. Crest
3rd		Barbara Nolan	L. species	3rd	Dick Tatman	E. "Blue Curls"
<b>Advanced</b>						
1st		No Entries		1st	Tom Vermilion	E, "Blue Curls"
2nd				2nd	Tom Vermilion	E. x agavoides
3rd				3rd	Rita Gerlach	E. affinis
<b>Master</b>						
1st		No Entries		1st	Jim Hanna	E. gibbiflora hybrid
2nd				2nd	Jim Hanna	E. gibbiflora hybrid
3rd				3rd		

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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: [sgv\\_css@prodigy.net](mailto:sgv_css@prodigy.net) or via post to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Evelyn Stevens, 10119 ½ E. Olive St., Temple City, CA 91780-3345. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.

*May you never miss a rainbow or a sunset because you are looking down.*  
*Author Unknown*

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Cactus of the Month June 2006 - *Astrophytum*

*Astrophytum* are often one of the first cacti that a collector buys. They are inexpensive, available in discount stores, groceries, and home centers. How can anyone resist the \$2 special Bishop's Cap? More than a few show plants started out this way, but most are soon dead. Keeping seedlings alive for the first year or so is much more difficult than maintaining a mature plant. Growing a perfect, 10 or 20 year old specimen plant is a challenge few growers can master. Fortunately, the genus offers rewards and surprises at every level between novice and master, making it one of the most popular genera of cacti.

*Astrophytum* are native to Southern Texas and Northern Central Mexico. They grow in a very arid region, with a porous mineral soil. One of the cultivation difficulties with *Astrophytum* is their tendency to split open from sudden increases in soil moisture level. To avoid this, keep them in a soil that is very quick to drain, and which has little organic matter. A mixture of pumice and gravel or very coarse sand, with only a little potting soil is best for these plants.

The roots are designed to pump up as much moisture as possible in as short a time as possible from infrequent rains. In a slow draining potting mix they will do this very effectively, and the body of the plant will swell, but the skin will not. Eventually the body pressure gets too great and the skin cracks.



*Astrophytum capricorne* exhibited by Laura Ostler in the 2001 Inter-city Show

There are currently four recognized species; however, there are older plants, clearly visibly different from the recognized species available in the trade. There are also varieties of the species, cultivars, and hybrids, all worth growing.

Growers in Japan and more recently in Thailand have developed some spectacular clones, cultivars and hybrids. The Japanese cultivars of *A. asterias* are sold under the name of *A. Super Kabuto* and *A. Miracle Kabuto*. Some of these special clones with intricate patterns can sell for more than \$100, when first developed. After a few years of propagation, the price drops to

levels that most can afford. Look for some of these special clones at upcoming shows and sales.

### All the Astros:



*Astrophytum asterias* exhibited by Carol and Paul Maker in the 2001 Inter-city Show

***Astrophytum asterias*** is the smallest of the species. It is the hardest to grow well, prone to splitting if over watered. It is the parent plant for many of the best hybrids. From the Chihuahuan Desert of Northern Mexico. It has prominent spineless areoles,

***Astrophytum capricorne*** is generally the longest spined species. The spines are generally twisted and curved. Although young plants are globular, they soon become ovoid, and eventually columnar. It is widespread in the Chihuahuan Desert.



*Astrophytum myriostigma* exhibited by Vince Basta in the 2001 Inter-city Show

***Astrophytum myriostigma*** is the well known 'Bishops Cap.' Although usually five sided, four sided six, seven and eight sided clones are also common. Spiral forms, are also well known as are some very large clones. *A. myriostigma v. columnare* can grow to several feet.

***Astrophytum ornatum*** from Hidalgo can grow to 12 inches in diameter and three feet in height. The spines are straight, yellow brown, and the woolly areoles tend to come in patches.

### References:

Anderson, E. **The Cactus Family**  
Cullman,

Kobayashi, A. *Cacti and Succulents in Japan. Part 3- Some Cultivars of *Astrophytum asterias* and *A.**

*myriostigma* in the **CSSA Journal Vol. 68, p 245 (1996)**

Preston-Mafham, **Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Photos T. Nomer

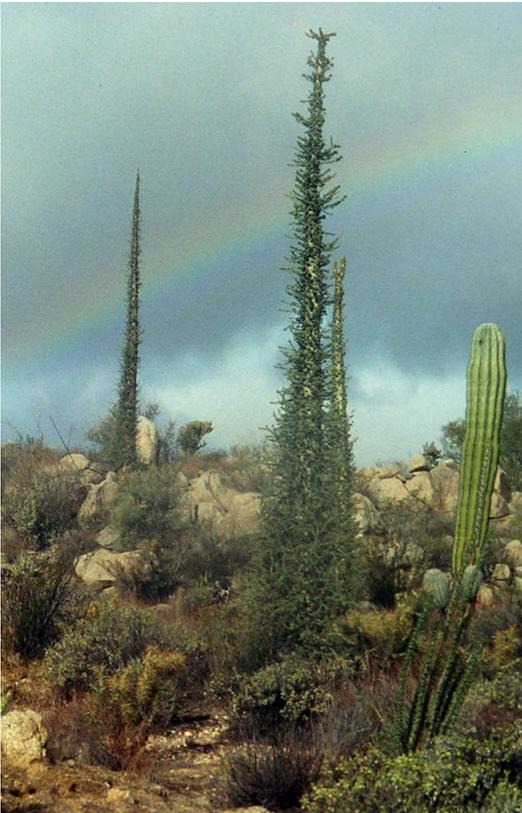
Tom Glavich May 2006

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month June 2006 - Fouquieria

*Fouquieria* is a genus of about a dozen species native to Mexico and the Southwest and California. The genus is the sole member of the family *Fouquieriaceae*. The family has no close relatives.

and seed collection made them available. They are all slow growing, so getting a large size plant is still expensive for most species. This will change as many of the rarer species are now in cultivation.



*Fouquieria columnaris* near El Rosario, Baja California Norte



*Fouquieria fasciculata* at the Huntington Library

*Fouquieria* are a major part of the California and Arizona desert flora. The sculptural forms of *Fouquieria splendens*, better known as Ocotillo grace most desert areas, being particularly plentiful in Joshua tree National Monument and other preserved desert lands.

*Fouquieria columnaris*, known by many other names (Boojum, Cirio, Idria, etc.) defines the desert views of much of Baja California.

Many of the *Fouquieria* species have been nearly impossible to find until recently, when vegetative propagation of choice specimens

All of the species make great pot and show plants, when pruned and displayed at their best. A few species, such as *Fouquieria splendens* make good garden plants over much of the geographical range of our club. They can be sensitive to too much water in the wrong season, and too much organic matter in the soil, but if sufficient drainage is applied and water from garden sprinklers is avoided, good growth generally results.

Many of the Mexican species make the best show and display plants. Although they are harder to come by, they have the best roots, pachycaul trunks and caudexes. The figure on the previous page shows *Fouquieria fasciculata* growing in the ground at the Huntington. Although it is native to Hidalgo, Mexico, and relatively rare even there, it can be found and grown in the ground, if given sufficient protection.

Some of the other species, such as *Fouquieria purpusii* and *Fouquieria ochoterenae*, both of which come from Oaxaca, should be treated as tropical succulents, and never allowed to get cold and wet at the same time.

Almost all of the *Fouquieria* will leaf out more than once per year, depending on the water. As the roots dry, the leaves quickly turn brown and drop off. A good soaking rain will start leaf growth again.

*Fouquieria* can be propagated from seed, and seed for even some of the rarest species has become available, though pricey. Good seed germinates quickly, usually within 10 days. The seedling plants need bright light, protection from drying sun, high humidity, and good watering practice. After a few weeks they begin to resemble *Fouquieria*, although not necessarily the spectacular species they will become. They should be moved up in pot size relatively quickly, with care taken not to damage the seedling roots on the first couple of transplants.

*Fouquieria* can also be propagated by cuttings. Cuttings of branches should be taken just as they begin to leaf out. A good hormonal treatment (best success seems to be coming from the rooting hormone gels) will get the cuttings to root. Rooting is best with a little bottom heat, but cool, moving air around the leaves. As might be expected, the rare species are hardest to root, and the common species are easiest.

All of the *Fouquieria* tolerate being planted in shallow pots (in habitat they often start in cracks between rocks), as long as they are properly watered. These are all oddly shaped plants, and encourage creative staging treatment. *Fouquieria macdougallii* shown below is readily available, easy to grow and inexpensive. It is a great one to start with.



*Fouquieria macdougallii*

Tom Glavich May 2006

## Calendar of Events - 2006

- \*June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>** San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society – Show and Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info (619) 477-4779
- \*June 10<sup>th</sup>** Gates C&SS 29<sup>th</sup> Show and Sale. Show (1-4 Sat, 9-4 Sun); Sale (9-4 Sat and Sun),  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Glen Avon, CA.  
Info (909) 360-8802.
- \*June 10<sup>th</sup>** Grand Opening – Desert Creations –info on page 9  
15914 Rayen Street, North Hills, CA 91343
- \*Jun 30<sup>th</sup>- Jul 2<sup>nd</sup>** CSSA Annual Show and Sale – Sale (30<sup>th</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup>)- Show (1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup>) Huntington Botanical  
Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA (626) 405-2160 or 2277.
- July 8<sup>th</sup>** Club Picnic at the home of Jean and Pat Mullens
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>** Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA  
Show Info call (818) 363-3432
- August 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum,  
301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA . Info Call Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430,  
Barbara Hall (818) 368-6914
- September 2<sup>nd</sup>** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium  
All Day at the Huntington.
- September 24<sup>th</sup>** Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St.,  
Compton (Dominguez Hills), CA.
- October 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave,  
Arcadia CA.

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

## Cactus and Succulent SHOW & SALE

**JUNE 30, JULY 1 & 2**

SHOW PLANT  
EXHIBITORS  
RECEIVE A FREE  
ADMISSION PASS TO  
ALL THE GARDENS  
& PUBLIC  
BUILDINGS WITHIN  
THE HUNTINGTON  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

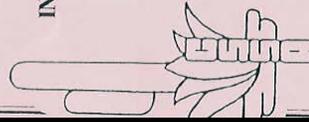
INFO: (310) 822-1783

**SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:30 am**  
**SHOW: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am**

Free Admission to Show & Sale

## Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino  
For Information Call - (626) 405-2100



## Gates Cactus & Succulent Society

### 31st Annual Show and Sale

June 10, 2006

From 9:00AM till 5:00PM



Held At

### Green Faire 2006

Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center

7621 Granite Hill Dr.

Riverside, CA

951-685-5818 for Information

### Children's Activity Table

Plant a garden for \$1.00 (Kids Only)

### Buy Plants from The Grower

Member Growers on hand  
Selling Plants

### Judged Show Cacti and Succulents

More than 400 rare and  
Exotic Plants on Display

### Other Plant Societies

and related groups Selling Plants  
and offering advice

San Bernardino County Master Gardeners  
Inland Empire Iris Society  
California Rare Fruit Growers  
Orchid Society  
Riverside County Master Gardeners  
Inland Koi Society

### Granite Hill

### Gardens Nursery

Offering a Wide array of  
rare and unusual Cacti &  
Succulents



# Grand Opening

## Desert Creations Unique and rare succulents and cacti

**Open House  
June 10 and 11  
10:30 to 4:30**

**Drop by at your convenience and enjoy the opening week festivities  
which include:**

- ❖ 10 percent off orders less than \$200
- ❖ 15 percent off order between \$200 and less than \$500
- ❖ 20 percent off orders \$500 or more
- ❖ Refreshments

15914 Rayen Street North Hills California 91343

Located in the San Fernando Valley approximately 5 minutes from CSUN  
Exit the 405 Freeway at Nordoff

Contact information:

Phone number: (818) 482\*8795

Email address: [sfrieze@csudh.edu](mailto:sfrieze@csudh.edu)

## LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE JULY 15 & 16, 2006

**Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO**

This will be a non-judged show. Members show for FREE! Everyone is welcome to show plants!

Invite your friends! Non-members can show for only \$10 !!

Beginners and children will be comfortable showing alongside seasoned competitors!

Every participant will receive a fabulous Participation Certificate!

Plants shown and for sale will include many rare specimens you will not find at your local nursery!

New members will receive the LACSS monthly informative publication

**Cactus Chronicle** and a 2006 membership

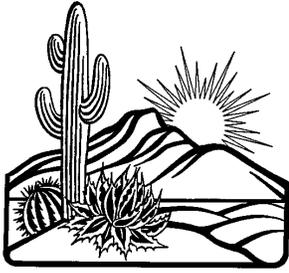
in the *Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society*.

**FRIDAY SET-UP 12:00PM TO 8:00PM**

**SATURDAY 9:00AM TO 5:00PM**

**SUNDAY 9:00AM TO 4:00PM**

**Contact Artie Chavez for Information : 818-363-3432**



COMMUNIQUE  
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
c/o Evelyn Stevens  
10119 ½ E. Olive Street  
Temple City, CA 91780

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