

# 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 2006 Volume 39 Number 7**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Our guest speaker for July will be Mark Muradian. Mark's presentation will be on Northern Argentina. Mark's previous presentations have been well received and I am sure this one will be just as enjoyable.

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

**CACTI – *Stenocactus***

**SUCCULENT – *Pachypodium***

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, July 19<sup>th</sup> for a discussion on gymnocalycium.

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**Personal Notes:** With sadness we note the passing of **Jim Kellogg** on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jim was one of the mainstays of all of our shows. He was a frequent attendee of our meetings, but generally sat quietly in the audience. He rarely spoke publicly. Jim was always one of the first few at every show set-up day I can remember. This was after driving for an hour or more to get to the Arboretum. He was a tireless worker in helping get the show tables, the sales tables and trophy tables up, and was often one of those on ladders trying to get shade cloth up to protect sales plants.

He also came to every show, and spent several hours talking to his friends, assisting and entertaining all of us at the holding table, and doing whatever it took to make the shows better and all of our lives a little more fun. He had an endless stock of stories and opinions on all subjects. He is going to be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him. Tom Glavich

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We remember him best for his gruff nature and his total willingness to help in setting up tables and chairs for every club function and every plant show. He grumbled a lot (in a good natured way), and was a person to count on to be there with a helping hand every time.

Those of us who got to know him, admired his great skills at model building (trains, airplanes, and cars), his love for collecting plants and gardening, and his passion for raising koi fish.

We will miss a good friend and a talented man. Gene Oster

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**New Members:** SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest member **Fred Parrales** and returning members **Joyce and Mike Buckner**.

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**Website:** Gunnar Eisel, our webmaster, reports us that our desertsong.com website **Crashed and Burned**. Please change your bookmarks to indicate that our website is **sgvcss.com**. Gunnar has restored information to the new website. Special thanks to Tom Vermilion and Paul and Carol Maker for having made back-up copies of the Communique.

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**Inter-City Show:** We have learned from the Arboretum that the Inter-City Cactus Show & Sale, along with the Great Tomato Tasting on August 13, will be listed in the calendar section of the August issue of Sunset Magazine. Hopefully this will encourage hundreds of people to attend.

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**Annual Club Picnic:** Our annual picnic will be held **Saturday July 8th**, once again at the home of Pat & Jean Mullens.

This is a fun activity and a chance to get to know your fellow members better so bring your family and have some fun. (New members are especially welcome).

Picnic - The Club will be providing chicken from El Pollo Loco, as well as beverages and utensils/paper goods. Members are to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share with others. There will be a BBQ available if you would like to bring other items to grill.

**If you want chicken, please email Tom Vermilion at [grandicornis@verizon.net](mailto:grandicornis@verizon.net) or telephone Jean Mullens at (626) 967-5481 by July 5<sup>th</sup>, so that they know how much chicken to purchase.**

Set up starts at 11:00am, we hope to have everyone eating by Noon and begin the games by about 1:00. Plan to arrive a little early and help with the setting 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! Petra will be providing the plant prizes.

Auction - This is a great way to add to your collection or sell extra specimens. Rules for auction: just 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 put up for auction.

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)

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# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cactus of the Month July 2006- *Stenocactus*

*Stenocactus* and *Echinofossulocactus* are the same genus. The name of this easy to grow and uniquely ribbed genus has been a subject of contention since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The genus was originally described in 1841 by George Lawrence, but the description was invalid. It was re-described in 1898 by Karl Schumann. Various attempts to straighten out the names went on for the next hundred years. With blessings from the Committee for Spermatophyta, (no one else knows what it means either), Kew Gardens, and the International Cactaceae Systematics Group, the name *Stenocactus* seems to have finally triumphed.



*Echinofossulocactus phyllacantha* entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Charles and Joann Spotts

Echino traces to Echinus, which is Latin for Hedgehog, a spiny porcupine-like rodent from Europe, and also, equally likely, and much closer in appearance, a spiny, edible sea urchin from the Mediterranean. Stenos is Greek for narrow, an obvious referral to the many narrow ribs on almost all of the species.

They are all spiny plants, collected much more for the appearance of the spines and the wonderful curved ribs than their

flowers, although the flowers can be quite showy. All of the species (there are ten) are very variable, and as a result, there are numerous varieties and forms that can enhance any collection. Most of the species are reasonably small, flowering at two years, when only an inch or so in diameter. A good representative collection can be kept on a table.



*Echinofossulocactus tricuspoidatus* entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Petra Crist

*Stenocactus* are native to Central to Northern Mexican. The genus is closely related to *Ferocactus*, differing by the lack of nectar glands, the lack of a ring of hairs above the stamens, and size.

*Stenocactus* grow in grass lands, and need some protection from full sun. They are easy to grow, putting on most of their body weight each year in the early spring to summer. Plants growing outdoors will grow slowly during the winter using just the water from winter rains. It is important not to fertilize during the darker days of December, January or February, or etoliation or stretching of the body will occur. The narrow ribs, the wooly areoles, and the dense spines are an ideal habitat for mealy bugs. Frequent inspection of the

plants will prevent them from spreading. Older plants sometimes get corky near the base. Keeping the plant in continuous growth delays this, but in some species the cork is inevitable.

Identifying the species of a *Stenocactus* is as difficult as identifying the genus is easy. For the most part, they tend to look alike, and there are far more names than there are species. However, a few species do stand out.

### **Stunning Stenos (AKA Enchanting Echinops)**

*Stenocactus (E.) albatrus* has a white woolly apex, and dense white spines that almost hide the ribs.



*Stenocactus crispatus*

*Stenocactus (E.) crispatus* has short white spines that set off the wavy ribs. It is one of the classic *Stenocactus*. The species has swallowed several others, including the popular and easily found *Echinofossulocactus lamellosus*.

*Stenocactus (E.) phyllacanthus* is generally a solitary species as shown above. It is one of the best of the genus, as shown above.

*Stenocactus (E.) tricuspoidatus*, also shown above as a multiheaded species has been moved into *S. phyllacanthus* in the most recent revisions. Comparing the two pictures above shows how different the species can look.



*Stenocactus vaupelianus*

*Stenocactus (E.) vaupelianus*, shown above has dense yellow spines and a woolly apex. It looks different than most of the rest of the genus, but is equally easy to grow. As with many of the species, it clumps with time, making an imposing specimen.

### **References**

E. Anderson, **The Cactus Family**  
Cullman, Gotz & Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

Tom Glavich June 2006

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month July 2006 *Pachypodiums*

*Pachypodium* are members of the *Apocynaceae* or *Periwinkle* family, and are most closely related to *Adenium*, and more distantly to *Oleander* and *Plumeria*.

*Pachypodium* are native to only Southern Africa and Madagascar. There are more Madagascan species than there are African, due to the geography of the island of Madagascar, with isolated regions that encourage the development of unique populations of plants, animals and insects isolated from others of the same genus.



*Pachypodium namaquanum*

All of the species of African *Pachypodium* can be grown out of doors, year around in Southern California, requiring protection only from severe frost and freezing weather. If given good drainage, they can survive the winter in pots, with some species even showing some growth throughout the winter months.

Some Southern California growers are starting seeds and growing *Pachypodiums* in a mix of Coir (ground coconut husk) and pumice or perlite. This is generally supplemented by a time release fertilizer, as well as frequent feedings. Fast growth, along with very healthy root systems have been obtained. The mix drains very quickly, and prevents the loss of roots from rot caused by over watering.

*Pachypodium bispinosum* comes from the southern tip of South Africa. In habitat, most of the caudex of this plant is wedged between and beneath rocks, giving it protection from the sun and predators.

*Pachypodium lealii* is the most tropical of the African species growing into Namibia and Southern Angola on the west coast and in South Africa and southern Zimbabwe on the east coast.

*Pachypodium namaquanum* is perhaps the most spectacular of all of the African species. Its common name is 'half man', which is what it appears to be on the hillsides of Namaqualand.

*Pachypodium succulentum* is a dwarf species that grows at the Southern tip of South Africa

The Madagascan species are easy to grow, with the sole difficulty being their sensitivity to cold and wet. If they are protected, either by being brought indoors during the winter, or protected from rain and cold in a cold frame, or even a garage, they will survive and grow quickly.



*Pachypodium succulentum* about 8 years from seed

***Pachypodium brevicaule***, shown above, is a ground hugging, nearly flat caudiciform, the shortest of all the species. It comes from east side of Madagascar, near the middle of the island. Its knobby top growth hides roots that anchor it to the soil.

***Pachypodium baronii* v *windsorii*** comes from a peak named Windsor Castle in the northernmost part of the island. It is a small species, with a bulbous base. Its larger cousin, ***P. baronii* v. *baronii*** grows 200 miles further down the coast, and is larger, growing to 6 feet in the wild. Both of these are sensitive to both over and under watering.

***Pachypodium geayi*** is a southern species, similar in appearance to *Pachypodium lamerei*, but more robust. It is the largest member of the genus, growing in a few instances to 30 feet. Like *P. lamerei*, it is a fast grower, but is less tolerant to cold. The main visible difference is the fine coating of hair or down on the spines, and when in flower, the completely different flower.

***Pachypodium horombense***, known also as ***P. rosulatum* v. *horombense***, is a Southern species, with a wide base.

It is the queen of the Madagascar Pachypodiums, with many people agreeing that this is the most beautiful. It takes a place of honor as one of the oldest plants in the Huntington Conservatory. It is relatively easy to grow. It has open yellow flowers that are easily pollinated by bees, and forms a robust pachycaul trunk even as a young seedling.

***Pachypodium lamerei*** is the best known of all the *Pachypodiums*, available as a “Madagascar Palm” in florists, home centers and even supermarkets. It grows quickly, reaching 12 inches within a year if well (lots of food and water). It tolerates indoor life well, and is popular as a house plant. Several cultivars have been created, with more robust trunks, or lower and more frequent branches. It grows in the South and West.

***Pachypodium rutenbergianum*** is the opposite of *P. brevicaule*, reaching for the sky, even as a young seedling. It grows from the northernmost tip to the South East of the island, but in spite of this wide distribution is fairly difficult to grow. It likes warmth, but the roots will shrivel and die if kept too dry in the winter. The tips will freeze and rot, even in the mild winters of the San Gabriel valley.

Tom Glavich June 2006

## June – Plant-of-the Month Mini-Show Results

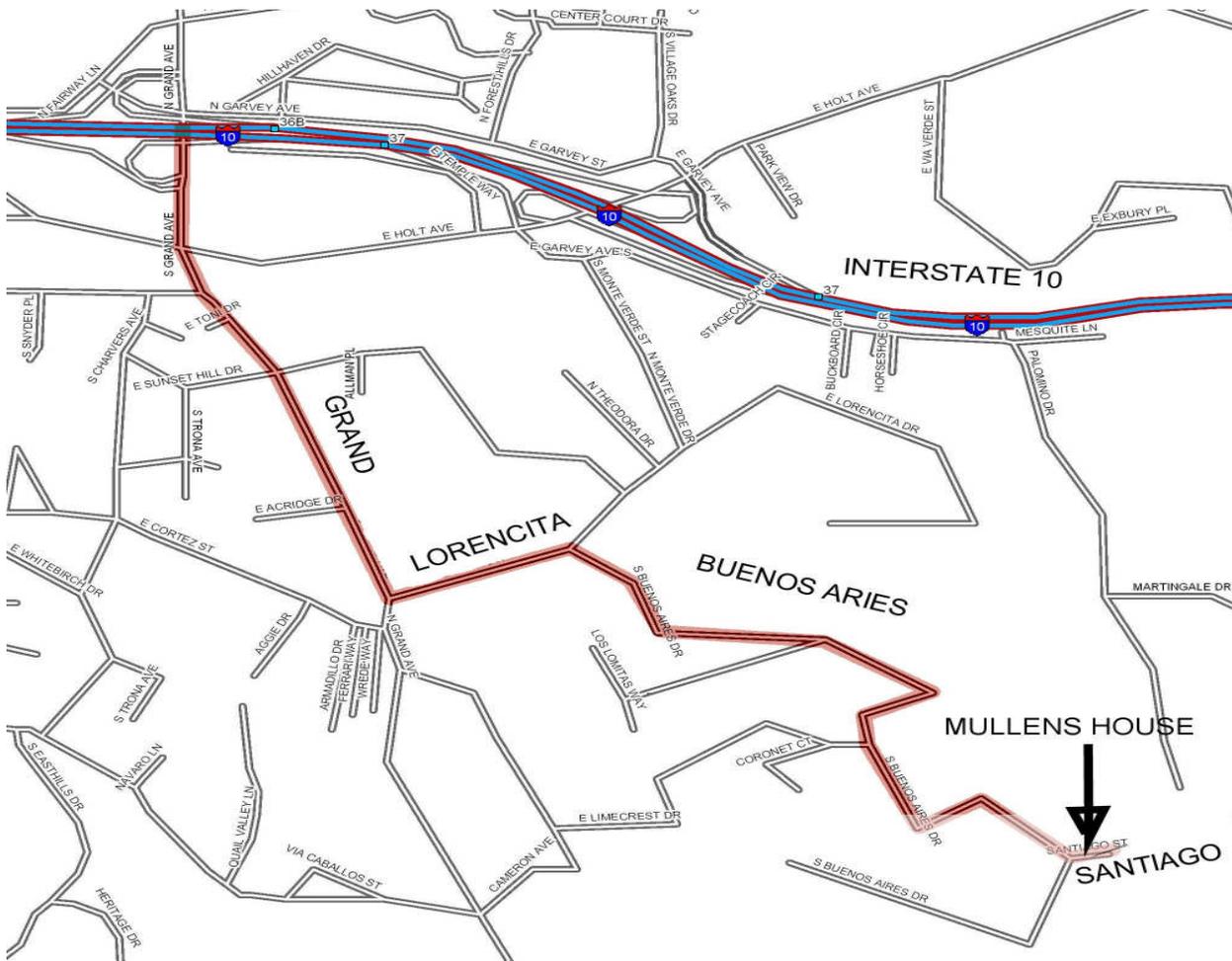
Cacti- Astrophytum			Succulent- Fouquieria		
<b>Beginner</b>					
1st	Oscar Flores	A. superkabuto x coahalense	1st	Dodson-Birgh	F. splendens
2nd	Daniel Veelik	A. myriostigma	2nd		
3rd			3rd		
<b>Intermediate</b>					
1st	Barbara Nolan	A. ornatum floccosum	1st	Barbara Nolan	F. macdougallii
2nd	Barbara Nolan	A. species	2nd		
3rd	Barbara Nolan	A. asterias	3rd	Barbara Nolan	Alluaudia
<b>Advanced</b>					
1st	Paul & Carol Maker	A. ornatum	1st	Rita Gerlach	F. macdougallii
2nd	Paul & Carol Maker	A. ornatum v mirbelli	2nd		
3rd			3rd		

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## Calendar of Events - 2006

- \*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.

## Directions to the PICNIC!



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.

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

## Cactus and Succulent SHOW & SALE

**JUNE 30, JULY 1 & 2**

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

INFO: (310) 822-1783

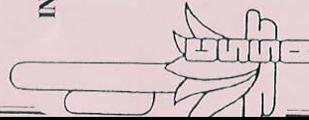


**SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:30 am**  
**SHOW: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am**

Free Admission to Show & Sale

**Huntington Botanical Gardens**

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



## 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

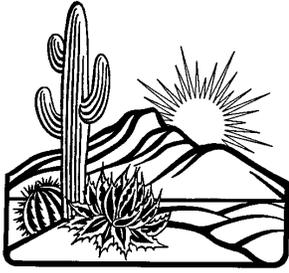
in the *Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society*.

**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**



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

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**.

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