



*San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society*

**COMMUNIQUE**

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.

September 2011 - Volume 44, Number 9

**September Meeting:  
Thursday,  
September 8 at 7:30 pm**

Meetings are held on the  
2nd Thursday of the month  
at **7:30 pm** in the Palm Room,  
Los Angeles County Arboretum,  
Arcadia.

**Mini-Show Plants:**

**CACTUS:**  
*Coahuila Native Cactus*

**SUCCULENT:**  
*Madagascan Euphorbia*

**Study Group:**

Study group will meet on Wednesday,  
September 21st in the Palm Room,  
Los Angeles County Arboretum at  
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

*Eriocyce*

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**President's Message**

The Inter City Show and Sale are behind us. I haven't heard the final sales numbers yet, but I was told that it was down some from last year. Just a carry-over from our current economic conditions, I think.

We're looking forward to the Huntington Succulent Symposium. You should have this newsletter in time to register, if you've forgotten. September 3rd, see you there.

We're looking forward to several nice events for next year as a result of our Board of Director's meeting. One is an overnight trip to the Central Coast for their show & sale and other good stuff. That will be on the Memorial Day weekend. Mark your calendars.

Your Board of Directors passed a motion brought by Tom Vermillion to thank our members for participating in the Winter Show and Sale. Every volunteer who shows up to work, and every participant in the Show will receive \$10 in Show Bucks. They can use the Show Bucks to pay for plants at the Sale or to partially pay for the Show dinner. Very nice for all of our members.

We have had some differences of opinion on the split for vendor at our various auctions. The Board passed a motion to set the split at 80% for the vendor and 20% for the club at all auctions. Maximum vendor contribution is 3 plants per auction.

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## August Mini-Show Results

### Cacti - 3 Oldest (Longest Owned)

#### Novice

- 1st Jamie & Gary Mancuso Mammillaria rhodantha  
 2nd Jamie & Gary Mancuso Eulophia pettersii  
 3rd Jeff Delzell Astrophytum 'Super Kabuto'  
 3rd Jeff Delzell Monvillea spegazzini crest  
 3rd Jeff Delzell Opuntia vestita crest

#### Intermediate

- 1st Rita Gerlach Notocactus mmagnificus  
 2nd Rita Gerlach Weingartia saipaiensis  
 3rd Louise Stack Mammillaria hahniana

### Succulents - 3 Oldest (Longest Owned)

#### Novice

- 1st David Hawks Ficus microcarpa  
 2nd David Hawks Calibanus hookeri  
 3rd David Hawks Ceratozamia

#### Intermediate

- 1st Hannah Nguyen Pelargonium cotyledonis  
 2nd Rita Gerlach Euphorbia lactea crest  
 2nd Hannah Nguyen Aeonium sedifolium  
 3rd Hannah Nguyen year old seedling

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome these new members and make them feel welcome at our functions.

**Jeong Oh, Rosemead**

**Anthony & Chris Adame, Alhambra**

**Michael Thompson, Upland**

**Gabe Avila, Covina**

**Robert Greenberg, Northridge**  
(returning member)

**Bob & Marga Loncar, La Verne**

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at [www.sgvcss.com](http://www.sgvcss.com). Thanks to Gunnar Eisel for managing our website. If you wish to receive your **COMMUNIQUE** on-line please notify the editor at [yvonne@pricklypalace.com](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com).

## President's Message - cont'd.

Our annual Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 11. Judi Romine is the chair for the event; please offer to help her.

See the article on Bar Codes later in this newsletter. See you at the meeting!

**Buck Hemenway**

## This Month's Program

### Micropropagation by Tim Harvey

In 2006 Tim Harvey became a full-time propagator and pollinator of his favorite plants. He has a passionate interest in ex-situ conservation through propagation, and was able to use his scientific training in biotechnology to enliven the micro-propagation facility at the Huntington Library. Never able to walk past a plant in flower without trying to pollinate it, he is a keen hybridizer, with the pachycauls, Aloes and bulbs in his collection becoming defenceless subjects for experimentation.

One of the more pleasing recent technological developments has been a recent surge in the propagation of cacti and succulents through micropropagation, commonly referred to as tissue culture (TC). The last five years has seen an increase in the availability of rare species, cultivars and variegated succulents as a result. However, this has happened much faster than understanding of the technique by the plant hobbyist. This presentation attempts to bridge that gap, and explain TC so all can understand.

The talk will be a non-technical overview of the properties of plants that make them amenable to TC, as well as some background as to why plants do what they do in the first place. An overview of practical considerations follows, giving examples of the equipment and materials needed for success. You may even discover a new use for alcohol! Propagation of a diverse set of plants will be presented in detail, with examples coming from a variety of succulent plants. Many of those highlighted may have made their way into your collection via the International Succulent Introductions program. Finally, some perhaps surprising and novel uses of TC will be discussed, together with speculations for future developments.

**Club Bulletin Board**

**2011 INTER-CITY SHOW AND SALE – HIGH POINTS WINNERS**

Since the High Points tally was not available until the end of the Intercity Show, the results are listed below. Bragging rights are now official.

| <i>NOVICE</i>                  | <i>ADVANCED</i>                | <i>OPEN</i>                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>High Points - Cactus</b>    | <b>High Points - Cactus</b>    | <b>High Points - Cactus</b>    |
| Mark Digeros 40                | Ken Shaw 117                   | Bill Munkasey 176              |
| Kim Thorpe 35                  | Carol & Paul Maker 65          | Karen & Martin Ostler 104      |
| Louise Stack 34                | Barbara Hall 62                | Charles & Joann Spotts 64      |
| <b>High Points - Succulent</b> | <b>High Points - Succulent</b> | <b>High Points - Succulent</b> |
| Mary Brumbaugh 63              | Gunnar Eisel 71                | Larry Grammer 192              |
| Kim Thorpe 55                  | Tom Vermillion 64              | Petra Crist 74                 |
| Greg & Anna Cavannaugh 42      | Sandy Chase 30                 | Charles & Joann Spotts 50      |
| <b>Total Points</b>            | <b>Total Points</b>            | <b>Total Points</b>            |
| Mary Brumbaugh 63              | Ken Shaw 117                   | Larry Grammer 199              |
| Greg & Anna Cavannaugh 68      | Barbara Hall 91                | Bill Munkasey 177              |
| Kim Thorpe 65                  | Gunnar Eisel 89                | Karen & Martin Ostler 142      |

**WINTER SHOW – CHANGE IN PRICING METHOD**

As many of you know, there have been a number of instances of price tag switching at various shows over the last few years. Several clubs have decided to switch their policy regarding tagging plants for sale to the bar code system used by CSSA. CSSA has agreed to rent their cash registers to us for \$100 per machine per show. This will not be an issue for those vendors who already have their numbers and prices in the system. You know who you are. That leaves the members who are allowed to sell just a few flats at the Winter Show with no Bar Code numbers.

What we have decided to do is issue one vendor Bar Code number for the SGVCSS. Each plant of the member non-vendors will be required to be priced with a scannable tag AND be double tagged. That way, a price tag may be pulled from the plant and the money split using the old system, but the cash register will record the sales.

It will be a little rough at first, but it will work out. As in the past, you MUST see or talk with Jim Hanna, prior to the Sale, if you intend to sell anything at all at the Sale.

Just a reminder that all vendors will be required to submit an IRS form W-9 (supplied by the Club) and be subject to receiving a form 1099 from the Club.

*Buck Hemenway*



**SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2011**

|                               |                                   |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Buck Hemenway, President      | Judi Romine, Director             | Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative and Plant Sales Chair |
| Tom Vermilion, Vice President | Jean Mullens, Director            | Woody Minnich, Program Chair                                   |
| Donn Muhleman, Treasurer      | Tricia Kangrga, Director          | Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair                                 |
| Pat Swain, Secretary          | Hannah Nguyen, Director           | Liz Alba, Library Chair  |
| Bill Gerlach, Director        | Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair   | Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair                                    |
| Patty Caro, Director          | Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair |  |

## Plants Of The Month

Enter your specimen plants in our monthly minishow. 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 these species of plants you can learn about them at the meeting.

### CACTI OF THE MONTH —

#### COAHUILA NATIVE CACTI

Located in the central part of northern Mexico, the state of Coahuila shares its borders with the once Mexican land of Texas in the U.S. along the Rio Bravo or Rio Grande to the north, and with the states of Nuevo Leon to the east, Zacatecas to the south, Durango to the southwest, and Chihuahua to the west.

Its vast area of 151,563 sq. kilometers makes it the third largest Mexican state in terms of territory, only behind Chihuahua and Sonora. Coahuila is located within the Chihuahuan Desert. Also standing out as part of the state's physical features are the Mapimi Desert, and the fertile lands of the so-called Lagunera region shared with the neighboring state of Durango.

The hydrological zone of the Rio Bravo- Rio Conchos lies within the state's limits. The Rio Bravo is the northern frontier and flows into the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the basin of the Nazas River-Aguanaval River, another major hydrological system within the region. Some other rivers are born in the local mountain chains, including the Alamos, Nadadores, Monclova, San Diego, and Sabinas Rivers.

Local climate usually includes dry or semi-dry conditions, along with disturbingly high temperatures across the lowlands (some areas of Coahuila can reach hi temperatures of 120°-125°F) while the pine and oak forests produce fresher and more moderate conditions along the eastern Sierra Madre. The rest of the territory is home to typical desert scrubland, containing brickellia, wild-lettuce, cassava and thistle bushes.

### OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT COAHUILA

About 12,000 years ago, Nomadic hunters entered this region, which once included South Texas. Archeological evidence suggests that early hunter-gatherer cultures evolved into fixed societies that engaged in

agriculture and fishing and used area caves as shelter. Later, Coahuila became home to several Indian tribes, including the Huauchichiles, Coahuiltecos, Tobosos, Irritilas and Rayados. When the Spaniards arrived, they found the natives to be peaceful and prosperous. Sadly, nearly 90 percent of the indigenous population was killed by European diseases.

### Middle History

The Spanish colonized the state between 1550 and 1580, naming it New Extremadura after a region in Spain. They later changed the name to Coahuila.

Colonization of the state was impeded by the vast desert, extreme weather and shortage of water. After much of the indigenous population was wiped out, leaving the northern part of Mexico largely unpopulated, the Spaniards brought Tlaxaltec Indians from south-central Mexico to settle the area and work the land.

The state of Texas was part of the Mexican State, Coahuila y Tejas before declaring independence in 1835.

### HERE IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE CACTUS THAT GROW IN THE STATE OF COAHUILA.

**Ariocarpus:**  
fissuratus  
kotschoubeyanus

**Astrophytum:**  
capricorne  
coahuilense  
myriostigma

**Coryphantha:**  
borwigii  
gladispina  
palmeri  
poselgeriana  
werdermannii

**Echinocereus:**  
conglomeratus  
delaetti  
enneacanthus  
knippelianus  
merkeri  
nivosus  
pectinatus



*Ariocarpus fissuratus* in Hemenway backyard habitat



*Astrophytum myriostigma*

***Echinofossulocactus:***

multicostatus

***Echinomastus:***

mariposensis

***Epithelantha:***

micromeris

pachyrhiza

***Escobaria:***

aguirreana

asperispina

dasyacantha

laredoii

roseana

zilziana

***Gymnocactus:***

beguinni

***Lophophora:***

williamsii

***Mammillaria:***

albiarmata

chionocephala

grusonni

lenta

penniespinosa

plumosa

potsii

rosealba

***Opuntia:***

bradtiana

imbricata

kleiniae

leptocaulis

moelleri

phaecantha

rufida

schotti

***Thelocactus:***

bicolor

***Turbincarpus:***

valdezianus

*Echinofossulocactus multicostatus**Astrophytum capricorne**Thelocactus bicolor*

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

***MADAGASCAN EUPHORBIA***

[NOTE: I strongly encourage anyone who has not already done so to borrow the following from the Club Library: Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar, Vol. 1 1995, and Vol. 2 1998 by Werner Rauh. The synopsis below does not do justice to his work (over 400 pages of text with botanical descriptions covering different genera and species growing in the same locale). The pictures of plants by themselves are to die for (color, small scale, extra pictures at the end of both volumes). It's most helpful for understanding the in situ growing conditions, e.g., a particular euphorbia grows in sandy soil in the shade of other succulent plants.]

Madagascar is an island-nation (the 4th largest island in the world), lying in the Indian Ocean about 800 miles off the southeast coast of Africa. Madagascar roughly parallels Mozambique – the island is longer than wide (i.e., long oval missing its northwestern third), about the size of Texas. It is sometimes referred to as the 8th continent.

Madagascar's evolutionary uniqueness (i.e., number of endemic species of flora and fauna) is due to many factors, foremost, its geologic history. When the super-continent Gondwanaland formed 170 million years ago, Madagascar was in the middle, between land that would eventually become South America and Africa, and land that would eventually become India, Australia, and Antarctica. Due to subsequent tectonic activity, Madagascar and India (i.e., the India Plate), first split from Africa and South America, and then from Australia and Antarctica, and started heading north. About 90 million years ago, a rift on the India Plate split Madagascar from India; another rift to the west split the Mozambique Channel from the African Plate, leaving Madagascar "alone" for 88 million years.

Another important factor in Madagascar's uniqueness is its geology. Geologically, Madagascar can be divided into two main zones, each covering half the island. There is a metamorphic/metasediment (basement) complex in the east, and sedimentary cover formations in the west. The eastern basement consists of volcanic remnants (the island's "spine"), and moving eastward, granite, then gneiss, and finally

Manny Rivera, September 2011

Photos courtesy of Buck Hemenway

*Euphorbia capmanambatoensis*

alluvial deposits. The western sediment is mainly of marine origin; from the mountainous spine westward the landscape descends into a central plateau and then low-lying coastal areas of alluvial deposits.

Madagascar's geography is important, too. Madagascar has three contrasting north-south central landscapes. The north-central plateau forms the central spine of the country, with elevations from 2,000 to 5,000 feet, with several massifs (volcanic peaks) that rise to 8,500 feet (i.e., high steep spinal mountains, abutting lower medium-height mountains to the east). To the east of the highlands lies a relatively narrow coastal strip of tropical rainforests (i.e., a long, narrow sea-level strip of rainforest next to the Indian Ocean). To the west are low plateaus and wide savannas and forest (i.e., the western flank of steep volcanic mountains descends into medium-high plateaus that decline lower savannas that decline into the Mozambique Channel).

The climate of Madagascar is also important. Southeastern trade winds dominate the climate and weather of Madagascar, producing a hot rainy season (November–March), and a relatively cooler dry season (April–October). Broadly speaking, the climate is tropical along the coast, temperate inland, and arid in the south, but factors such as regional elevation produce significant variation.

Finally, Madagascar has many different habitats. The island can be broadly divided into an eastern and south-central rain forest, western dry forests, southern desert and spiny forest

Zone 1: The eastern half of Madagascar (below the volcanic peaks) gets considerable year-round rainfall (average 137 inches annually), but depending on location can be hot, mild, cool or cold. Rainforest: *E. lophogona*, *E. annamariae*, *E. leuconeura*, *E. millii* var. *imperatae*, *E. elliotii*, *E. gerodii*, *E. tardieuana*, *E. thouarsiana*, *E. robivelonae*, and *E. millotii*.

Zone 2: Northwestern Madagascar gets seasonal

rainfall of 37–60 inches, with a short, distinct winter dry season, and temperatures similar to ours. *E. tirucalli*, *E. analalavensis*, *E. boinensis*, *E. bulbispina*, *E. ankarensis*, *E. alfredii*, *E. denisiana*, *E. hermannschwartzii*, *E. auro-viridiflora*, *E. neohumbertii*, *E. viguieri* and variants, *E. pachypodioides*, *E. guillauminiana*, *E. pedilanthoides*, *E. perrieri* and variants, *E. paulianii*, *E. bongolavensis*,

Zone 3: The Central Plateau receives about 40 inches of rainfall, and has a long winter dry season subject to (morning) fog and (overnight) frost. Grassy steppes, *Euphorbias* that can survive the annual burn: *E. primulifolia* and variants, *E. moratii* and variants, *E. cremersii* and variants. Montane: *E. quartzicola*. Inselberg succulents: *E. millii* and variants, *E. finanarantsoae*, *E. duranii*, *E. horombensis*, *E. didiereoides*, *E. leucodendron* ssp. *onococlada*, *E. orthoclada*

Zone 4: The west and southwest, and the extreme northern tip of Madagascar are dryer still, with rainfall of 19 inches annually, with a long, dry season, and temperatures similar to ours. *E. enterophora* and subspecies, *E. stenoclada* and subspecies, *E. leucodendron* and subspecies. *E. tirucalli*, *E. platyclada* and subspecies, *E. sakaharensis*, *E. isaloensis*, *E. leandriana*, *E. gottlebei*, *E. rossii*

Zone 5: Finally, an arc of land from the coast to 20 miles inland from southwestern Madagascar to the southern tip is the most arid area; although its temperatures and annual rainfall are like ours, its rainfall distribution is not. Most of its 13 inches of annual rainfall is sporadic, from thunderstorms, and received in January. *E. enterophora* and subspecies, *E. stenoclada* and subspecies, *E. famatamboay* and subspecies, *E. kamponii*, *E. leucodendron* and subspecies, *E. ramofraga*, *E. arahaka*, *E. fiherenensis*, *E. intisy*, *E. mainty*, *E. plagiantha*, *E. tirucalli*, *E. millii* variants, *E. hofstaetteri*, *E. genoudiana*, *E. croizatii*, *E. banae*, *E. subpeltatophylla*, *E. orthoclada*, *E. ambovobensis*, *E. capsaintemariensis*, *E. cylindrifolia* and subspecies, *E. decaryi* and variants, *E. francoisii* and variants, *E. parvicynthophora*, *E. tulearensis*

*Euphorbia vilii* v. *hislopilii*



*Euphorbia croizatii*

Anne Keegan, August 2011

Sources: Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar, Vols. 1 and 2, Rauh

Pictures courtesy of Tom Glavich

Thank you to Anne Keegan and Manny Rivera for putting together the Plant of the Month articles. If you would like to participate by submitting a plant of the month write up for the **Communique**, please contact Tom Glavich at [tglavich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tglavich@sbcglobal.net).

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### Calendar of Upcoming Events

**September 3, 8:30 am** — Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Fee: \$75.00 for the Symposium, \$25.00 for dinner. Call 626-405-3504 to ask if there are still reservations available.

**September 25, 12:00 pm** — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA.

**November 5 and 6** — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA.

**November 11 and 12, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm** — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For more information contact Vince Basta at 714-267-4329.

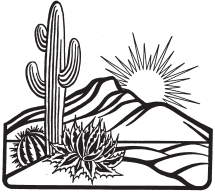
### Refreshment Signup

The following three club members have sign up to bring refreshments this month and will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

- Roberta Eisel
- Sharon Sedillo
- Pat Swain

### 2011 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

|       | Cacti of the Month                                    | Succulent of the Month                                | Study Group                  |
|-------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Sept. | Coahuila Native Cacti                                 | Madagascan Euphorbia                                  | Eriocyce                     |
| Oct.  | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates                          | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates                          | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates |
| Nov.  | 3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show | 3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show | Winter Seed Workshop         |



***COMMUNIQUE***

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
c/o Yvonne Hemenway  
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Riverside, CA 92509

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the ***COMMUNIQUE***, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date. Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via email to: [yvonne@pricklypalace.com](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com) or via mail to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Yvonne Hemenway, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, CA 92509. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the ***COMMUNIQUE***.