

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

COMMUNIQUE



GYMNOCALYCIUM PFLANZII
AT THE 2024 CSSA SHOW
PHOTO: ANTHONY CANTIELLO

ERNESTO SANDOVAL

GROWING SUCCULENTS:
WHAT DID WE LEARN?



**GYMNOCALYCIUM
& GASTERIA**

PLANTS OF THE MONTH



MEETING 7/11 | WORKSHOP 7/17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & MORE:

A MESSAGE FROM NICK RENTERIA, SGVCSS PRESIDENT:



Happy Independence Day!

I hope everyone survived the sweltering heat this past week and I hope everyone survived the **CSSA Annual Show and Sale** at *The Huntington*. On behalf of the *CSSA*, I would like to thank all those who volunteered and all those who attended the show and sale.

Our club continues to provide a large percentage of volunteers as well as show entrants. All those club members involved should be proud. You make a difference!

But don't put those staging supplies away just yet! The **38th Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show & Sale** (of which we are a co-sponsoring club) is just around the corner. Inter-City Show Chair **Gunnar Eisel** and Sales Chair **Tom Glavich** and the rest of the team have been working hard on putting on a great show and sale.

The sale will feature **over two dozen vendors** and the show is expecting **over 1,500 entries**. Stay tuned for a list of speaker talks. And don't forget to volunteer. This show and sale is another one not to be missed!

Regards,
Nick Renteria

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

RENEWALS:

To renew, **\$20** dues covers the entire year and ensures you are eligible to participate in our *Winter Show* and *Inter-City Show*, and to attend our always-entertaining field trips, picnics, and more! Please see **Membership Coordinator Travis Martin** at our next meeting or workshop.

BECOME A MEMBER:

To become a **SGVCSS** member, please pay **\$20** dues per household (plus an additional **\$5** for each club name badge) to unlock all club member benefits.

You can pay at any meeting or workshop by cash or check. Checks must be made out to **SGVCSS**.



ABOUT SGVCSS



Chartered in 1967, **San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society's** objectives are to promote knowledge, study, & interest in cacti and other succulent plants through educational programs, public exhibits, & the sharing of these interests to the general public.

"WORLD'S LARGEST CACTUS SHOW"

38TH ANNUAL INTER-CITY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

INTERCITYSHOW.COM @INTERCITYSHOW

AUG 2-4, 2024, 8AM-5PM

- OVER 1500 PLANTS ON DISPLAY!
- EXPERTS TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS
- AMAZING PLANTS, POTS & ROCKS FOR SALE!
- RARE PLANT AUCTION SATURDAY NIGHT
- TWO DOZEN PLANT AND POTTERY VENDORS

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM
301 NORTH BALDWIN AVE
ARCADIA, CA 91007

ADVANCED ENTRY TICKETS REQUIRED. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ARBORETUM.ORG
LA ARBORETUM MEMBERS FREE!

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MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:

2024	
PLANTS OF THE MONTH	
JAN	MAMMILLARIA SENECIO, OTHONNA
FEB	BARREL CACTUS MESEMBS
MAR	TURBINICARPUS PELARGONIUM
APR	S. AMER. OPUNTIA ALOE SPECIES
MAY	ECHINOCEREUS AFR. PACHYPODIUMS
JUN	COPIAPOA AGAVE, YUCCA
JULY	GYMNOCALYCIUM GASTERIA
AUG	FAVORITES
SEP	HYBRIDS CULTIVARS
OCT	ARIOCARPUS AFR. EUPHORBIA
NOV	MONTROSE CRESTED



UPCOMING MEETINGS

JULY 11 - MONTHLY

JULY 17 - GYMNOCALYCIUM WORKSHOP

AUG 8 - MONTHLY

AUG 21 - TIPS & TRICKS WORKSHOP

@ The Arboretum
ALL PROGRAMS START AT 7:30 PM

Meetings

Our club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in Ayres Hall at the *Los Angeles Arboretum* in Arcadia. Come as early as 6:00PM to socialize and shop. Enter Side Gate.

Workshops

Our hands-on workshops are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in the Palm Classroom at the *Los Angeles Arboretum*. Enter Main Gate.



2024 WORKSHOPS

JAN	SENECIO / OTHONNA
FEB	BARREL CACTUS
MAR	PELARGONIUM
APR	SPRING SEED
MAY	ECHINOCEREUS
JUN	STAGING
JUL	GYMNOCALYCIUM
AUG	TIPS & TRICKS
SEP	HYBRIDS & CULTIVARS
OCT	ARIOCARPUS
NOV	WINTER SEED

GUEST SPEAKER:

ERNESTO SANDOVAL

GROWING SUCCULENTS



Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to amateur and professional gardeners.

Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He loves learning from the experiences and passions of others and his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, particularly gardeners, understand why and how plants do what they do.

He's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, and now as a Graduate Student getting his Masters in Horticulture and Agronomy at UC Davis.

PHOTO: ERNESTO SANDOVAL

GROWING SUCCULENTS -- WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Ernesto has been learning, testing, observing, and researching how to grow succulents for nearly 40 years.

What are some important things he has learned about growing succulents? What has been helpful to be a more informed grower? What remains to be learned... and researched? As always, he'll frame his lecture with information to help us all better grow our plants as well as understand why we can and should "manage" their growth.

In preparation, he encourages you to think about some plant challenges you might be having and to look up where your plants are from!



PHOTO: ERNESTO SANDOVAL

CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

GYMNOCALYCIUM

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular cacti from the novice through the advanced grower. They are easy to grow, flower readily, come in a large number of distinguishable species, look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well-grown plant will often flower several times during the year.

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. The genus is named for the naked (spineless) calyx (the outermost epidermis of the bud and lower flower). They are different from most cacti which have spines on the calyx. Many *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles.

The heart of the genus *Gymnocalycium* is in Argentina, although the genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part, *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result most like some protection from full afternoon sun but need bright light during the day.

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter and they can take Southern California climate without winter heat as long as they are dry.

Gymnocalycium will shrink noticeably in the fall as they go dormant. When this happens, watering should stop and the plants given some protection from rain. They should be fed regularly with a weak general-purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well-drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot.

Fortunately, they are easy to re-root with roots generally re-growing in a just few months. Watering should start slowly in the spring, with no fertilizer until the plant is again turgid and growing. Over fertilization and too much water early in the growing season can cause the stems to split.

(continued on page 6...)



Gymnocalycium exepanzae



Gymnocalycium horridum



G. tanningense var lukasikii

CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

GYMNOCALYCIUM



(continued from page 5...)

Gymnocalycium are easy to grow from seed when started in a well drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid but growth during the first year can be slow compared to many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.

--Tom Glavich

GYMNOCALYCIUM PFLAZII
PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH



Great Gymnocalyciums:

- ***Gymnocalycium baldianum***, has few spines, clumps readily and grows quickly.
- ***Gymnocalycium buenekeri*** has great flowers and good, colorful spines. It clumps and is quick to grow.
- ***Gymnocalycium damsii*** is small clustering species. The stems are brownish green and heavily marked with the *Gymnocalycium chin* very evident. It produces bright pink flowers almost continuously during the year.
- ***Gymnocalycium erinaceum*** is a dark green clustering species. It has short, dense spines which are dark brown as they leave the gray-white areole and then fade near the end to the same color as the areole wool. It makes for a very handsome appearance.
- ***Gymnocalycium friedrichii*** is sometimes combined with ***G. mihanovichii***, and sometimes kept as a separate species. It is an extremely popular species and easily grown. The ribs are very prominent, and sharp. The body is a dark reddish brown, banded when young. There are a number of readily distinguished varieties and cultivars available. *G. mihanovichii* tends to be greener. *G. mihanovichii* is the source of the "red caps" seen in many garden centers and plant sales. These are chlorophyll-less and variegated forms that must be grafted onto a green stock plant.
- ***Gymnocalycium pflanzii*** has short spines. The body color varies from green (in the spring) to shades of purple and brown (during the summer and winter)
- ***Gymnocalycium pungens*** is a spectacular species that becomes columnar with age. There are various forms many having excellent spination. It pays to look for a good specimen.

--Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

GASTERIA

Gasteria is a popular and easily grown genus of plants that has been collected and kept as house plants since the 17th century. *Gasteria* are readily distinguished from *Aloe* and *Haworthia* (both close relatives) by the shape of their flowers. *Gasteria* flowers are carried on a long scape (leafless flower stalk). They generally hang down as they open and have a swollen (gasteriform) portion at the base of the flower. The word *Gasteria* comes from the Greek "gaster" meaning stomach or belly.

Gasteria vary in size from about an inch to several feet in diameter. Almost all plants start out with the leaves in two rows (distichous) although most eventually begin to spiral, either remaining in a distichous spiral, or changing into a rosette. *Gasteria* are very variable in appearance. They have definite juvenile and adult forms, have local variations in appearance, and have form and growth habits that are dependent on the soil type and amount of sunlight.

Typical natural habitats are humus rich sandy soils. They grow on dry rocky hillsides and often grow under larger shrubs when young. They also can be found in rock fissures or in the shade of large rocks. The roots are shallow and thick which helps the plants obtain moisture from barely wet soils and nourishment from decaying leaves and debris from larger shrubs.

Gasteria cultivation is easy. They are mostly winter and spring growers but exhibit some growth all year except for the hottest part of the summer. They are tolerant of almost any growing mix. They prefer partial shade, particularly in the afternoon; however, the best color is obtained by giving them as much light and sun short of sunburn as possible.

(continued on page 8...)



Gasteria excelsa



G. batesiana pongola form



Gasteria pillansii dwarf extra wide

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

GASTERIA



(continued from page 7...)

Gasteria are generally free from most pests. The one difficulty is 'black spot', a fungus that attacks many *Gasteria*. The fungus is rarely fatal but causes large unsightly black spots on the leaves. There is no way to remove the spots, and since the leaves remain on the plants for several years, the fungus can quickly ruin show plants. The fungus can be minimized by keeping the leaves dry, and particularly keeping dew off the leaves. It can be prevented by regular application of systemic fungicides, but vigilance is required.

Gasterias are readily propagated from offsets at the base which can be simply pulled off and planted. Leaf cuttings will also root easily. *Gasterias* left in the open in California will be rapidly pollinated by hummingbirds, although the resulting seed is then an uncontrolled and unknown hybrid. Controlled pollination is easily accomplished with a small brush or toothpick. Seed can be collected as soon as the fruits start to dry.

Gasteria hybridize easily, and cross pollination can produce interesting plants. Many hybrids are available, as are several variegated cultivars. Intergeneric hybrids with *Aloes* and *Haworthia* are also available.

--Tom Glavich



GASTERIA ARMSTRONGII VARIEGATE
PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

Great Gasteria:

- ***Gasteria armstrongii*** is a small plant, with distichous leaves only a few inches long. The leaves are dark green (almost black in some cases), and are tuberculate (covered with small bumps).
- ***Gasteria batesiana*** is another of the dark green tuberculate species. The leaves spiral with age to form rosettes. The plant is much larger than *Gasteria armstrongii*, and the tubercles are often a lighter green than the main body, giving the plant a speckled appearance.
- ***Gasteria carinata* var. *verrucosa*** (often found as *G. verrucosa*) is a lighter colored species. It is larger than *G. batesiana*, with thinner leaves. The tubercles are much larger, and often merge into large areas of glaucous green on a dark green background.

--Tom Glavich

SHOW & SALE RECAP:

CSSA SHOW '24

SGVCSS REPRESENTED AT SHOW



SGVCSS members were a strong presence at this year's CSSA Show & Sale, June 28-30, at The Huntington.

From Show Chair **Nick Renteria** to Hospitality and Rare Plant Auction Chair **Amanda Gerberich** to Head Clerk **James Lemos** to judges **Sharon Sedillo** and **Peter Walkowiak** to vendors like **Tom Glavich** and **Lupe Casas** to Publicity Chair **Anthony Cantiello** to Sales Area Security **Ken Hanke** to the many plant entrants and to the numerous other volunteers all weekend, SGVCSS members were all over!

Thanks so much for representing our club!



SHOW & SALE RECAP:

CSSA SHOW '24

SGVCSS REPRESENTED AT SHOW



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CSSA SHOW '24

SGVCSS REPRESENTED AT SHOW



PLANT EXPO RECAP:

DESCANSO GARDENS EXPO



SGVCCS members joined up with volunteers from **LACSS** and **LBCC** to help educate the public with colorful and smartly-themed plant displays at the **Descanso Gardens Plant Expo**, June 7-9.

Special thanks to LACSS' **Kim Chavez** for organizing the event and providing Kids' Day activities, as well as to our own **Angela Clubb, Sharon Sedillo, & Barbara Hall** for providing show plants and for also helping out and volunteers **Irene Chew & Anthony Cantiello**.

Thanks so much for representing our club! Educational events are key to our club's mission and are another means of outreach to our community.



ALL PHOTOS BY ANTHONY CANTIELLO

PLANT EXPO RECAP:

DESCANSO GARDENS EXPO



ALL PHOTOS: ANTHONY CANTIELLO

SHOWS, SALES, & MORE:

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SHOWS, SALES, & MORE:

MID-STATES CONFERENCE

JULY 26th, 27th, 28th, 2024

Santa Fe, New Mexico



Nothing like the summer in historical Santa Fe!

SIX OF THE BEST SPEAKERS IN THE COUNTRY

SIX OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING CACTUS & SUCCULENT VENDORS

AFFORDABLE HOTELS, SHOW PLANT AUCTION & FABULOUS OUTINGS

For more information, go to www.santafecactusclub.org/MidStatesCon or contact conference chair Woody Minnich at cactusdata@msn.com or 661-406-9816



Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society

2024 Summer Sale

Friday, July 19th Noon to 6 PM
Saturday, July 20th 9 AM to 4 PM

Anaheim United Methodist Church
1000 S. State College Blvd, Anaheim

Many Cactus and Succulent vendors offering thousands of rare and unusual plants
Artisans with a variety of quality pottery well suited for cactus and succulents

Knowledgeable experts on hand to answer questions

For additional information please visit the OCCSS Website at <http://occss.org>



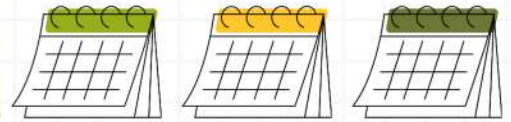
YOUR PLANT RELATED EVENT OR BUSINESS HERE

Email sgvcssclub@gmail.com for more info



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CACTUS CALENDAR



JULY

Orange County CSS Summer Sale

July 19-20, 12PM-6PM/9AM-4PM

occss.org

AUG/SEPT

Inter-City Show & Sale

August 2-4, 8AM-5PM

intercityshow.com (res req'd)



Huntington Succulent Symposium

August 30, 9AM-3PM

huntington.org (res req'd)

Monterey Bay CSS Fall Sale & Show

August 30 - September 1, 9AM-5PM(3PM)

mbsucculent.org

OCTOBER

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Auction

October 6, 1PM-3:30PM

longbeachcactusclub.org



Conejo CSS Fall Sale

October 13, 9AM-4PM

conejocss.com



Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Fall Show & Sale

October 26-27, 9AM-5PM / 10AM-3PM

palomarcactus.org

NOVEMBER

The Huntington Fall Plant Sale

Nov 1-3, 10AM-5PM

huntington.org (res req'd)

NOTE: All dates and times are subject to change.



Snacks For Our Meetings

We need YOUR help!

Please bring in **snacks or drinks** for our meetings based on the letter of your last name below.

Cookies, pastries, fruit, veggies, appetizers, soda, or water are always welcome!

July S-T-U
 August A-B-C
 September D-E-F



Newsletter Submissions

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the **SGVCSS Communiqué**, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date.

Articles, notices, photos, and any corrections may be sent via email to: SGVCSSCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Material must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the newsletter.

SGVCSS EXECUTIVE BOARD:



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024



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CSSA Rep.



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A/V TECH
TBD