



**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

September 2013 - Volume 46, Number 9

**SEPTEMBER Meeting:
Thursday,
September 12 at 7:30 pm**

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

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:

Coryphantha, Escobaria

SUCCULENT:

Sansevieria

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
September 18th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Cephaliated Cacti

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President's Message

The weather was nearly perfect; the quality of the plants was superb; the turnout was great; and with that, the 2013 Intercity Show and Sale goes into the record books. Kudos and our undying appreciation go to show chairs Tom Glavich, John Matthews, and Peter Walkowiak, sales chair Jim Hanna, and show treasurer Evelyn Stevens. A special thanks to all of the hard-working volunteers that make this show a success each year. Lastly, thank you for all for your participation. I believe this is one of the finest C&S shows in the world. We should all be very proud.

Each year the Long Beach Cactus Club holds its annual plant auction. Since last year the event is being held at Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd, Long Beach. It is a wonderful, relaxing venue. If you have not had a chance to attend, why not give it a try. Sandwiches, salad, chips, soda, water, beer and wine will be provided. The auction is open to everyone. It is a great opportunity for buyers and sellers looking for specimen plants. The date is September 29th. Lunch and setup begin at 11:30 pm. The auction starts at 1:00 pm.

The last show and sale of the year is the SGVCSS Winter Show, November 2nd and 3rd. Manny Rivera is show chair, and Jim Hanna will be in charge of the sales area. This show is for SGVCSS members

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

President's Message	1
August Mini-Show Results	2
This Month's Program	2
Club Bulletin Board	3
Plants Of The Month	4
C&S Workshop	6
Letter to the Editor	6
Calendar of Upcoming Events	7
Refreshment Signup	7
T-Shirt Sale	7
Welcome New Members	7

August Mini-Show Results

Favorite Cactus

Novice

1st	Peter Claridge	Melocactus matanzanus
2nd	Minh Au	Copiapoa tenuissima monstrose
2nd	Daniel Veelik	Mammillaria fragilis
2nd	Mary aparicio	Parodia crest
3rd	Shaun Adams	Mammillaria
3rd	Rick Carron	Echinopsis crested

Intermediate

1st	Louise Stack	Stenocactus xiphicanthus
2nd	Barbara Hall	Mammillaria schiedeana
2nd	Sandy Chase	Mammillaria microthele
3rd	Rita Gerlach	Parodia scopa
3rd	Sandy Chase	Eriosyce sinillis

Open

1st	Cindy Arakaki	Ariocarps kotscheubeyanus hybrid
2nd	Cindy Arakaki	Rebutia heliosa

Favorite Succulent

Novice

1st	Peter Claridge	Echeveria cante
2nd	Mary Aparicio	Bursera simplicifolia
3rd	Shaun Adams	Agave filifera
3rd	Sharon Sedillo	Euphorbia knuthii
3rd	Minh Au	Sarcocaulon vandercetiae

Intermediate

1st	Sandy Chase	Whitesloanea crassa
2nd	Barbara Hall	Pelargonium cotyledonis
3rd	Tom Howard	Pachypodium namaquanum
3rd	Louise Stack	Aloe hemmingii harlanii
3rd	Tom Howard	Agave gypsophila

Open

1st	Tag missing	
2nd	Cindy Arakaki	Haworthia aranea
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	Huernia pillansii

President's Message - cont'd.

only. It is OUR show. If you did not compete in the Intercity show because you thought it was too daunting, here is your chance! As always, we will need lots of volunteers.

We had a surprisingly good turnout at the August C&S workshop on stapeliads. Thanks go to Tom Glavich, John Matthews, and Cindy Arakaki for sharing their experience and technique. As always, lots and lots of plants were raffled off at the workshop. The September 18th workshop will focus on Cephaliated Cacti. Please plan to join us.

See you at the meeting!

Gunnar Eisel

This Month's Program

"Bulbs for Succulent Growers"

Tim Harvey has a passionate interest in conservation through propagation, and was able to use his scientific training to enliven the micro-propagation facility at the Huntington Library. He is a keen hybridizer, with the pachycauls, Aloe and bulbs in his collection being defenceless subjects for experimentation.

People become interested in and grow cacti and succulents for reasons as varied and diverse as the plants themselves. Some are attracted by the beauty of the flowers, others by the bizzare shapes and forms. More recently, many have come to appreciate the plants for their value in landscaping and their drought-tolerance, as water resources are becoming more precious. Anyone who has travelled to see cacti and succulents in habitat will not have failed to notice that there are usually a few bulbs growing alongside the objects of their main interest, and it will perhaps come as no surprise that bulbs will grow happily in our collections, enjoying the same conditions we give to most xerophytes.

The talk will introduce the audience to the diversity of bulbs, from both winter- and summer-rainfall areas, whether they are grown for leaves or flowers, in pots or in the landscape, in the blazing sun or on a shady windowsill. Cultivation and propagation of these spectacular and rewarding plants will also be covered.

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at 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.

Club Bulletin Board

2013 INTER-CITY SHOW AND SALE – HIGH POINTS WINNERS

NOVICE

High Points - Cactus

Peter Claridge	98
Phyllis Frieze	39
Ralph Massey	23

High Points - Succulent

Rebecca Malonee	70
Mary Brumbaugh	51
Ralph Massey	49

Total Points

Peter Claridge	109
Rebecca Malonee	76
Ralph Massey	72

ADVANCED

High Points - Cactus

Barbara Hall	54
Greg & Anna Cavannaugh	49
Gunnar Eisel	37

High Points - Succulent

Kim Thorpe	140
Ken Taylor	71
Sandy Chase	62
Cathie McCameron	62

Total Points

Kim Thorpe	171
Barbara Hall	100
Ken Taylor	88

OPEN

High Points - Cactus

Ken Shaw	76
Peter Walkowiak	62
Bill Munkasey	60

High Points - Succulent

Peter Walkowiak	76
Jim Hanna	69
Petra Crist	67

Total Points

Peter Walkowiak	138
Ken Shaw	76
Tom Glavich	75

BEST CAUDICIFORM:

Cyphostemma uter entered by Petra Crist



BEST ARIOCARPUS:

A. retusus entered by Karen and Martin Ostler



BEST AGAVE:

A. cv 'Royal Spine' entered by Mary Brumbaugh

Pictures courtesy of Mike Wisnev

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2013

Gunnar Eisel, President
 Tom Vermilion, Vice President
 Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
 Pat Swain, Secretary
 Rebecca Mallonee, Director
 Mary Brumbaugh, Director

Brian Le, Director
 Shaun Adams, Director
 Dean Elzinga, Director
 Louise Stack, Director
 Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
 Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative
 Buck Hemenway, Plant Sales Chair
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair
 Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
 Cindy Arakaki, Librarian
 Gunnar Eisel, Website 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.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

Coryphantha, *Escobaria*

The two genera of cacti featured this month—*Coryphantha* and *Escobaria*—are among the most widespread North American cacti, yet still poorly understood. Confusion arose because early collection of specimens and attempts at botanical classification based on taxonomy and evolution were poorly understood at the time. Also hindering this process were the broad extent of their geographic ranges (particularly for *Coryphantha* in the arid and semi-temperate regions of the southern U.S. and northern Mexico), location in North America's "cactus incubator" (home to other widespread genera such as *Mammillaria*), exception to "common characteristics" (expressed traits used for botanical classification), and differing juvenile and mature forms (of *Coryphantha*, in particular).



Coryphantha elephantides

Engelmann (1856) first described *Coryphantha* as a subgenus of *Mammillaria* (*M. sulcata*); Lemaire (1868) raised it to the level of genus (to *C. sulcata*). The name *Coryphantha* is derived from the Greek: *koryphe* = crown + *anthos* =

flower, as *Coryphantha* flowers emanate from the top of the plants.

Escobaria is one of the many genera described by Britton and Rose (1919-1923) in *The Cactaceae*; it was named in honor Romulo Escobar of Mexico City and Numa Escobar of Juarez. From the outset, botanists have debated whether *Escobaria* is a genus or a subgenus of *Coryphantha*. Several characteristics (e.g., areole structure) suggest that *Escobaria* is closely related to *Coryphantha*, while others suggest a

closer relationship to *Mammillaria*. Both genera have been studied since the 1980s; the International Cactaceae Systematics Group accepts *Escobaria* as a genus.

Coryphantha flower from the first year growth at the apex of the plant, as do *Escobaria*. Characteristics that distinguish *Escobaria* from *Coryphantha* include: pitted seeds, fringed outer perianth parts, absence of nectar-secreting glands on the stem, a tendency for older tubercles to become corky and deciduous, flowers that usually appear in the spring and of various colors but never yellow, and fruits that are indehiscent, red, and naked.

Coryphantha consists of relatively small, globose to cylindrical plants, often forming large clumps. They have grooved tubercles instead of ribs, and most are well-armed. *Escobaria* species are similar to *Coryphantha*, with the distinctions from *Coryphantha* more subtle (as discussed above).

Escobaria has two cold-hardy species and one identified as threatened in 1994 (*E. laredoi*). Today the range of both genera is being threatened by development; roads and urban development are particularly destructive to native habitat as well as diversion of limited water supplies to population centers.



Escobaria minima

Care for *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* plants is the same as for most *Mammillaria* plants—fast-draining soil, and sun; mine are bench plants—no shade (but I do turn the plants and watch for sun burn in the early spring). Start watering plants when growth begins in the spring; mine also get winter rain. *Escobaria* plants can be fussy, but not *Coryphantha* that only seem prone to sunburn and require more frequent watering. *Coryphantha* do just as well in the ground as in pots for me; not so much for *Escobaria*—mine seem to prefer pots.

Anne Keegan, September 2013

Sources: *The Cactus Family*, Anderson; *The Cactaceae Vol. 4*, Rose and Britton; *Cacti and Succulents*, Haage; *Succulents in Cultivation*, Higgins; *Threatened*

Cacti of Mexico, Anderson, Montez, and Taylor; and <http://archosaurmusings.wordpress.com/2008/12/19/monophyletic-paraphyletic-and-polyphyletic/>

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Sansevieria

Sansevieria, the featured genus, underwent a long and tortuous process to arrive at its now widely-accepted name. For a detailed rundown of process, please see the article published in its entirety at sgvcss.com.

Common names for *Sansevieria* include bowstring hemp, mother-in-law's tongue, devil's tongue, jinn's tongue, and snake plant. Some of these reflect the beneficial uses of *Sansevieria* plants. Species are used by Khoisan and other African tribes to make high-quality string. Two species, *S. kirkii* and *S. parva*, are used as drugs by indigenous people to treat snakebite. *S. parva* is used to treat several conditions: its leaves are squeezed to extract juice to treat toothache, its boiled rhizomes are ingested to treat gout and stomach ulcers, its leaves are pounded to extract juice as an antidote to snakebite wounds, and its leaves are warmed in hot ash and applied to treat skin diseases. *S. parva* juice is also used to treat intestinal worms in livestock.

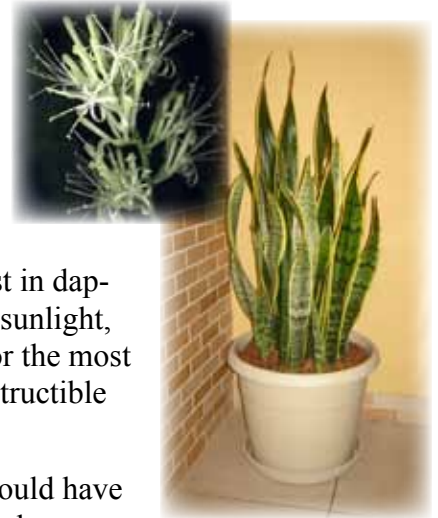
There are around 130-140 species and cultivars of *Sansevieria*. Many of the cultivars are variegated forms. For example, there are over 60 cultivars of *S. trifasciata*. There are so many *S. trifasciata* cultivars that they are divided into three groups: normal full size, medium size with wide leaves ('Futura' type), and dwarf bird's nest size ('Hahnii' type).

Sansevieria are indigenous to the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Arabia, Madagascar, India and Indonesia. A number of species remain unnamed and undescribed, particularly in Indonesia. A further complication is that many *Sansevieria* have distinct juvenile and mature forms, which makes them appear to be different species.

Sansevieria generally have evergreen strap-shaped leaves (stiff, erect, and fibrous), grow from eight inches to nine feet tall, and often form dense clumps from spreading stoloniferous rhizomes. Mostly they are xerophytic plants. Flowers are greenish-white (some-

times inconsequential) that are produced on a simple or branched spike 15 to 35 inches long; they may be scented. The fruit is a red or orange berry.

Generally, if you can bend the leaf tip easily, the plant prefers more shade. If the tip is less pliable, it prefers more light. Most species do best in dappled light, morning sunlight, or indirect light. For the most part, these are indestructible plants.



Sansevieria trifasciata variegata
(with bloom inset)

Sansevierias should have well-drained soil, and the soil should not remain continuously damp. Most can handle weekly water when growing, then about every three weeks when dormant (September to April). Try to avoid wet and cold for these mostly tropical/subtropical plants.

However, some species (e.g., *S. pinguicula* and *S. eilensis*) require more exacting cultivation. Ask the grower if purchasing species other than *S. trifasciata* or *S. hahnii* about any particular cultivation requirements (do's and don'ts).

Sansevierias can be readily propagated by division and through leaf cuttings (the latter does not work for variegated forms). Plants can also be produced from seed, although more slowly. Cultivars may or may not be reproducible.

Anne Keegan, September 2013
(with invaluable guidance from Horace Birgh)

Sources: "Brown's Monograph on *Sansevieria*" Part 8, N.E. Brown; "Medicinal Plants of East Africa", J.O. Kokwaro; <http://directory.abci.org/index.php/item/sansevieria-parva>; http://www.sansevieria-international.org/species_cultivars.htm; "Sansevieria as a Genus", S. Jankalski; "The *Sansevieria* Species of South Africa and Namibia", Ernst van Jaarsveld; "Sansevieria Production Guide", R.W. Henley, A.R. Chase and L.S. Osborne, University of Florida; "Sansevieria, the Air Purifier Succulent", S. Aris-kan; "Sansevieria for Clean Air and Allergy Relief", by ithabise 218 Followers; "Succulent Plants of the World, F. Dortort; Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar, Vol.2, W. Rauh

C&S Workshop

Wednesday, September 18th • Cephaliated Cacti

This month's workshop focuses on cacti with cephalia. [Cephalium is derived from the Greek word "cephalo" (head).] Cephalic cacti have evolved a unique reproductive strategy that saves energy, maximizes reproductive potential, and provides protection to flowers and fruit as they develop; as plants mature from juvenile to adult, the stem undergoes a transformation, developing a dense mass of areoles (that produce wool and bristles) from which flowers form.

Cephalic cacti are found in North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America, though most genera are from South America.

The cephalium may be apical (form at the top of the stem), lateral (form at the side of the stem), or circular/ring (form around the perimeter of the stem). The cephalium usually develops on the sunniest side of the plant (in North America, facing/leaning southwest, and in South America facing/leaning northwest). Usually when the cephalium develops, other vegetative growth ceases (but not always, *Arrojadoa*). To further complicate matters, not all species of genera that have cephalium-bearing species necessary develop a cephalium.

Then there are the "confused" genera, such as *Pilosocereus gounellei*, where some populations develop cephalia, some populations develop a woolly flowering zone (but not a cephalium), and some populations develop neither. A woolly flowering zone is not a cephalium unless accompanied by stem modification. This is a species where the genetic trait for cephalium is unstable (likewise for *Facheiroa estevesii* and *micranthocereus* subgen. *micranthocereus*).

Some genera readily come to mind when thinking about cephalic cacti: *Melocactus*, *Discocactus*, and *Espositoa*. But there are other cephalic genera: *Cepholocereus*, *Pachycereus*, *Orocereus*, *Cleistocactus*, *Micranthocereus*, *Coleocephalocereus*, *Arrojadoa*, *Stephanocereus*, *Pilocereus*, *Cereus*, *Facheiroa* and *Espositoopsis*,

One final point of clarification – a cephalium is a mature growth form, not an aberrant growth form, like monstrose or crests.

Our master growers will have some examples of cephalic cacti. But you, too, may have plants to show or have questions. You may bring plants or pictures to the Workshop. Remember, it is a time to share information and learn more about these plants.

And don't forget – there is always an informal raffle; everyone takes home a plant or plant cuttings. Hope to see you there.

Anne Keegan, June 2013

Sources: "Cephalium Producing Cacti"
Mark Machado, October 2007

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

Letter to the Editor

from Ralph Massey

I decided that I would show some support for the Club by bringing in some plants to the Intercity Show. I have an investment in the Club (member since 1972) and wish to maintain a visible presence. Although I had a display table or two over the years, I placed perhaps only one or two plants in the competition.

So I brought in thirty-two plants and WOW! I came away with twenty-one ribbons. But here is the strange part. Only one of them I might consider to be specimen sized. That was in the *Tephrocactus/Opuntia* category. Had it not been for Mr. Spotts' lovely entry, I would have had the trifecta for sure. I took a first for a single *Lithop*, first for a very small *Dorstenia foetida* which sat next to a nice medium-sized *D. gigas* (which is rarer and more difficult for some growers), a first for an *Echeveria* "Raindrop" in a plain terracotta pot, and, strangest of all, a first for my sunburned scraggly *Matucana madisonorum* planted in an ashtray.

I regard this as high praise; recognition of my belief that bigger is not always better, that an eccentric point of view and innovation with inexpensive materials sometimes tops the mainstream or current fashion. My only competitive advantage is originality. I don't intend any of this as bragging. I want to set an exam-

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 29, 11:30 - 3:00 pm — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Auction and Picnic, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, 90815. For information contact John Luhnnow at 310-922-6090.

November 2 and 3, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — 19th Annual San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale in Ayres Hall at the LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia.

Letter to the Editor - cont'd.

ple for other Club members who don't buy large established plants or collected rare plants to enter for the sake of awards or praise. Most of my plants entered were started by me from seed or very small seedlings.

Our shows can be a marketplace for new ideas. We need to let in some fresh air. Let originality coincide with good growing a dedication to propagate and preserve. Break the mold of conformity - keep the door open for debate, and don't be afraid to be a little different in staging and in life.

Refreshment Signup

Rosie Garcia
Fred Parrales
Liz VanAlstine

The first three club members who sign up and bring refreshments each month will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks

T-Shirt Sale

The Club has a large selection of T-shirts from past shows and we are going to offer them at an incredible discount for club members. They will be available at the next few meetings — while supplies last — for **\$2.00** each.



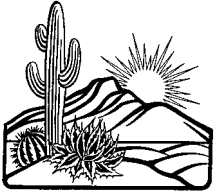
Welcome New Members

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

Julianne Jameson, San Dimas
Ignacio Rojas, Los Angeles
Richard Deming, Carmel Valley

2013 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Jan.	White Spined Mammillaria Clusters	Small Aloes - less than 12" across	Tips, Tools & Techniques
Feb.	Stenocactus	Haworthia	Conophytums
Mar.	North American Opuntiads	Tylecodon, Cotyledon	Pelargoniums
Apr.	Eriocyce, Copiapoa	Dudleya	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Echinopsis	Caudiciforms, Pachycauls	Grafting Workshop
June	Astrophytum	Medusoid Euphorbias	Rebutias, Sulcorebutias, Weingartia
July	Oroya, Matucana	Adenium	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Stapeliads
Sept.	Coryphantha, Escobaria	Sansevieria	Cephaliated Cacti
Oct.	Thelocactus	Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Epiphytic Cacti, inc. Xmas Cactus	Epiphytic Succulents	Winter Seed Workshop



COMMUNIQUE

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
c/o Yvonne Hemenway
5890 Grinnell Drive
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 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**.