

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 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
July 2008 Volume 41 Number 7

Monthly Meeting: Join us **Thursday, July 10th** at 7:30 pm.

Our speaker for July is Mark Muradian. Mark is a fruit grower in the Fresno area and has done extensive world-wide travel searching for beautiful succulents. His presentation will be about Bolivian Cacti from a trip made a few years ago. This presentation is in a new format which is very pleasing. It is a video presentation and will knock your socks off.

Mark is the one that makes those beautiful show pots and he's bringing a bunch for us to buy

Plants of the Month: (see attached write ups)

CACTI – Variegates

SUCCULENT – Variegates

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. If you don't have any of this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting

Study Group: Wednesday, July 16th; Topic – Staging

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. With the InterCity Show taking place in August, this is an excellent opportunity to learn how to stage your plants so they look their best.

“Thank you” **Gene Oster** and **Joe Chan** for the demonstrations you gave on Bonsai at the June Study Group.

Writers Wanted: If you have an interest in a particular cactus or succulent and would like to write an article for the Plants of the Month section, please don't hesitate to step forward. In the next few months we need articles on Crests and Montrose, Monotypic Cacti, Lithops, Ariocarpus and Asclepiads. Please advise Tom Glavich of your interest so he can coordinate the write-ups. This is an excellent opportunity to show what you know.

New Members: SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members: **Suzanne Gagne, David Cervantes** and **Jennifer Turgeon**. Be sure to take a look at the Club's website <http://www.sgvcss.com>. If you wish to receive your COMMUNIQUE on-line please notify the editor at sgv_css@prodigy.net.

Refreshments: The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the June meeting: **Anne Keegan, Irma Juarez** and **Pat Swain**. Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant.

Annual Club Picnic: Saturday, July 26, 2008 is our annual Club Picnic. Again this year, Joe Clements is opening up the beautiful botanical gardens of Pitzer College in Claremont, just for us. Besides our usual prizes, games and the infamous opuntia toss, you can stroll thru 40 acres of cacti and succulents; admire the Mediterranean and the native California gardens.

Set up starts at 11:00 am, those arriving early can help with the set up. We plan to eat around 1pm. Come early to have plenty of time to explore the 40 acres. If you want to bring your bicycle it is a good place to ride.

The Club will be providing chicken from El Pollo Loco, water & soft drinks. Members are to bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share with others. Last year we had an "overabundance" of chips, please bring some kind of side dish if at all possible, be creative! Remember to bring your own serving utensils. Please sign up at the July meeting so we will have an idea of how much chicken to purchase.

Auction-this is a great way to add to your collection or sell some of your extra specimens. Only club members can sell. Limit 10 show-quality plants. Club gets 25%, seller 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, you must write your name (not your price) on the card for each item you are interested in.

The picnic is for members only; non-members will be charged \$12.00 per person. Please don't miss the special event as it may be our only opportunity to visit the Pitzer Botanical Gardens as a group. Special thanks to Joe, for arranging this special fun-filled day.

See attached map for directions.

Jun-08 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results

Cacti - Astrophytum			Succulent- Pachypodium		
Beginner					
1st	Pat Swain	A. capricorne	1st	Calvin Arakaki	P. lealii saundersii
2nd	Cindy Arakaki	A. asterias	2nd	Calvin Arakaki	P. horombense
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	A. asterias "Superkabuto"	3rd	Tricia Kangrga	P. lamerei
Intermediate					
1st	H. Birgh-T. Dodson	A. myriostigma	1st	Barbara Nolan	P. bispinosum
2nd	Barbara Nolan	A. Species	2nd	Barbara Nolan	P. Species
3rd	Barbara Nolan	A. myriostigma	3rd	Barbara Nolan	P. Species
Advanced					
1st	Rita Gerlach	A. asterias "Superkabuto"	1st	Rita Gerlach	P. lamerei crest
2nd	Manny Rivera	A. myriostigma nuda	2nd	Alan Hooker	P. rosatum gracilis
3rd	Rita Gerlach	A. "Onzuka"	3rd	Alan Hooker	P. bispinosum
			3rd	Alan Hooker	P. succulentum
Master					
1st			1st	Jim Hanna	P. "Arid Lands"
2nd			2nd	Jim Hanna	P. bispinosum
3rd			3rd		

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus and Succulent of the Month July 2008 - *Variegates*



Variegated *Gymnocalycium*

All variegates are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. As a result of this mutation, chlorophyll is missing from some or all layers of the plant epidermis.

Variegation is known in most plant families, and variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The bright yellow and white of variegated foliage adds pattern and rhythm to many herbaceous borders. In succulent plants variegates are generally separated from normal plants, and compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. Variegated plants grow slower and are generally smaller than non-variegates of the same species. Colored areas are also generally weaker, and more susceptible to fungus, sunburn and other defects. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

Great Variegates

Agave – A striking form of *Agave truncata*, a common garden *Agave* is well known, but since it is slow to propagate, is not generally affordable. There are several forms of variegated ***Agave americana***. There are forms with a green center stripe and yellow edges, a yellow stripe and green edges, a green center and white edges, a white center and green edges, yellow centers and crinkled edges, random yellow and green banding, and dozens more. Other species of *Agaves* have also produce variegates, with the same variety of variegation.

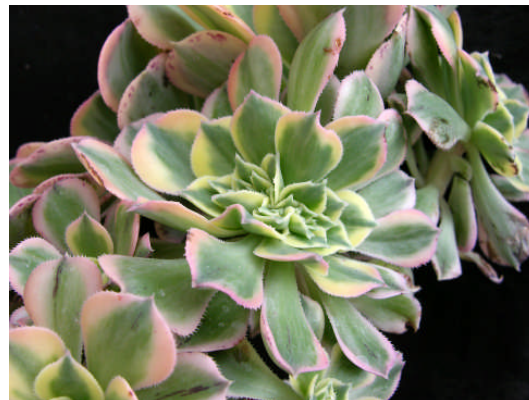
Cacti - variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, but some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are also common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows.

Many of these are artificially propagated by grafts. The famous 'Red Caps' and 'Yellow Caps' are *Gymnocalycium* or *Lobivia* variegates that have no chlorophyll at all, and live only by being grafted onto a root stock. These are harder to grow well than they appear.



Variegated *Monstrose Lobivia*

Sansevieria - There are dozens of named and unnamed varieties. Look for Bantel's Sensation, Futura, Silver Moon, Silver Princess, and variegated varieties of some of the cylindrical forms. Unlike normal *Sansevierias*, these can be difficult to grow. They will not tolerate cold and wet conditions. *Sansevieria* variegates can only be propagated through the tuber. Cuttings of the leaves will root, but will almost always revert to an unvariegated form. On the other hand, normal *Sansevierias* will often put out a variegated pup. These should be removed from the main plant and grown on their own roots to preserve the variegation.



Aeonium 'Kiwi' Crested Variegate

Euphorbia - A number of columnar variegates are available, *E. ammak*, being one most often seen. There are also some cristate and monstrose variegates as well.

Haworthia - 'Gray Ghost' is a *Haworthia retusa* variegate. There are several *Haworthia limifolia* variegates that look as if they were painted with mustard. Offsets are produced on the flower stalks, these are variegated, as are the flowers themselves.

Crassulaceae - *Aeonium* 'Kiwi' is only one of the many variegates found and propagated in this large family. A Crested Variegate is shown above.

G. Rowley, **Teratopia**

Tom Glavich June 2008



Gasteria armstrongii Variegate

Gasteria - The Japanese have made an art of *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* variegate cultivation. Read the 2000 CSSA Journal for just a sampling of the wonderful cultivars. Miniature white species, yellow species, even the occasional pink can be found. There are dozens of variegated *Gasterias* shown at our shows, and available from all of the local vendors. Look for *Gasteria* 'Little Warty', a nice white and green species, as well as many of the yellow and green species such as the Japanese hybrid *Gasteria 'shozodan'*.

It works for me by Harvey Welton

Soil

When growing any plant there are several major factors that will have a significant effect on the end product. They are soil or growing media, water, fertilizer and growing environment (light and heat.)

These factors are all equally important to a successful grower. I am most often asked to recommend a soil mix or growing media so I will start there. Once again let me stress if what you are using is giving you the results that you want - DON'T CHANGE!

First a little background so that you can understand why and how I have arrived where I am now. I have seen cacti and succulents successfully grown in everything from the street sweepings of one of our Southern California cities and blown vineyard sand to very specific formulas that included very exact amounts of everything from sand and gravel to humus, fertilizer and micronutrients. I suspect that there are as many soil mixes in use today as there are individuals producing plants either as a commercial enterprise or as a hobbyist. My nursery has used several soil mixes with equal success and when I changed it was for a specific reason.

The first mix that we used was referred to as the UC mix. As you might suspect it was a formula that was provided by the University of California for growing cacti and succulents in a nursery environment. It contained, as near as I can remember, equal parts of washed plaster sand, pea gravel and peat moss.

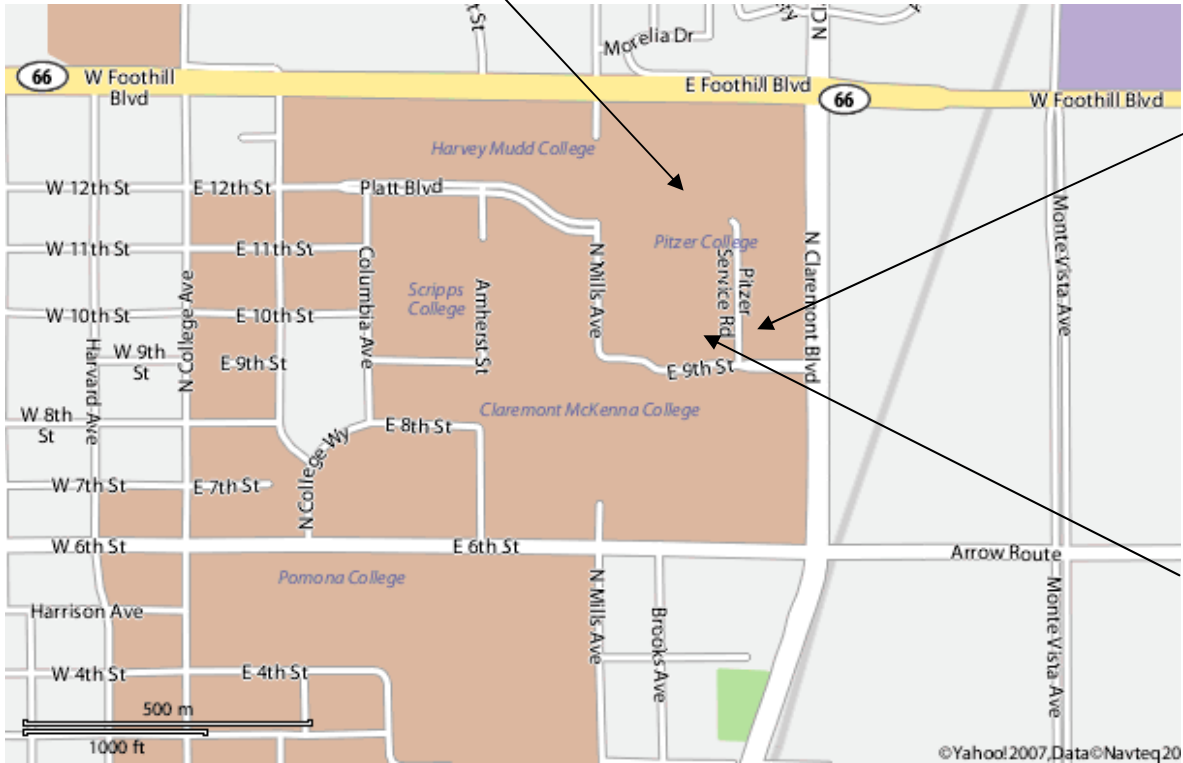
At the time we were growing in wooden propagation flats that were nailed together and measured 18" square and 2" deep. There were several problems with this situation. First the wooden flats were used over many times. To eliminate the problem of disease contamination they had to be sterilized after each use before new soil and plants could be planted in them. Then the nails that held the flats together rusted from the constant dampness, required to keep the young plants growing. Of course eventually the flat, usually full of sticky plants, would fall apart. Not good! The last problem was weight. Each flat, filled with wet soil and depending on the size and number of plants, would weigh as much as 20 to 30 pounds. Thirty pounds may not be a problem for most men but in those days, 40 years ago, most of the small commercial growers were or had been hobbyists and were either older folks or women. For them weight was a problem.

Styrofoam flats were invented about the time we moved to Riverside and began growing cacti. The change in flats necessitated a change in the soil mix. The UC mix was so heavy it would often cause the flats to break. So initially we substituted pumice for the pea gravel. That didn't reduce the weight enough so we cut the amount of sand in half and substituted vermiculite for the missing sand. Now the mix was 2 parts pumice, 2 parts peat moss, 1 part sand and 1 part vermiculite. That mix worked well even though we had to provide almost constant fertilizer which resulted in very soft or tender plants that had to be hardened off before we sold them. A few years later the disposal of old car tires became a problem and it was solved by making them into the propagation flats that we now use. At my nursery my three daughters and wife did the majority of transplanting and wanted the soil mix still lighter. Again we began the substitution process.

The soil mix now became 2 parts commercial seed mix, 2 parts perlite and one part washed plaster sand. I used this basic soil mix for the last 25 years or so. Eventually I added a small amount of balanced slow release fertilizer and a systemic insecticide to control fungus gnats. Recently I began having trouble with an influx of weeds which I determined were coming into the nursery via the sand we were using. So to remedy this problem I changed to 2 parts commercial seed mix and one part pumice and that is what we are presently using. So far it seems to be working well. Only time will tell if we need to modify this formula.

Harvey Welton Mexican Hat Cactus

Picnic Area – Area 12 of map below. You may drive in Service Road to drop off items then return to either of the parking lots.



Parking Lot

Parking Lot



From the I-10 Freeway: Exit on Indian Hill Boulevard going north (towards the mountains) for about 2 miles. Turn right onto Foothill Boulevard. Turn right onto Claremont Boulevard, which will be the third stoplight you encounter. Turn right onto Ninth Street. The Pitzer Visitor Parking Lot will be directly on your right (East Mesa Parking Lot).

From Pasadena and the San Fernando Valley: Take I-210 east to the Baseline exit. Turn left on Baseline, turn left onto Monte Vista, turn right onto Claremont Blvd., turn right onto Ninth Street. The Pitzer Visitor Parking Lot will be directly on your right (East Mesa Parking Lot).

***CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2008***

- JULY 25th -27th** **ORANGE COUNTY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM, 1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA
SHOW AND SALE FRI 12PM TO 4PM SAT & SUN 10AM TO 4PM
INFO 714-870-4887**
- AUG. 16th - 17th** **23rd ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA,CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH
AT 626-798-2430 or BARBARA HALL AT 818-368-6914**
- AUG. 30th** **HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON**
- NOV. 8th - 9th** **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.**
- DEC. 6th - 7th** **ORANGE COUNTY SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
SHOW AND SALE OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM
FOR INFORMATION CALL 714-870-4887**



Fullerton Arboretum

The Potting Shed & The Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society

SUMMER CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

Friday ~ July 25

HOURS: 12 Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday ~ July 26 - 27

HOURS: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FREE Admission



The Cactus & Succulent Sale will feature hundreds of varieties of cacti and succulents from throughout the world. Members will be on hand to answer questions and encourage beginners to grow these easy care plants. The Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Show will be on July 26 and July 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Thousands of plants for sale (great selection for summer and fall planting)
- Dozens of vendors — with many new vendors this year
- Beautiful cactus and unusual succulents

Yorba Linda Blvd. at Associated Road • (714) 278-3578

www.arboretum.fullerton.edu

**23rd
Intercity
Cactus &
Succulent
Show
and
Sale**



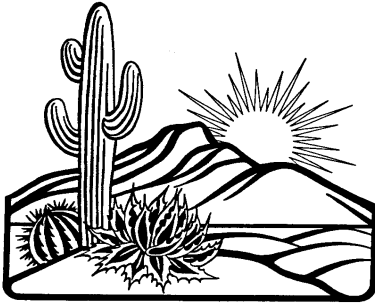
**August 16 -17
9:00 - 5:00**

**Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N Baldwin Ave Arcadia
625-821-3222**

Information

**Tom Glavich 626-798-2430
Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078**

**Jim Hanna 562-920-3046
Barbara Hall 818-368-6914**



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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 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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