

# 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  
**May 2007 Volume 40 Number 5**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Join us **Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm for a trip to Namaqualand, South Africa via slide presentation by our guest speaker **Laurel Woodley**. Laurel is currently Vice-President of CSSA and a member of several local clubs. Her presentation will focus on the succulent flora but will show some of the non-succulent shrubs and annuals, as well.

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A special thanks to **John Bleck** for taking us on a journey to Argentina. As you will recall, John drove down from Santa Barbara during one of our worst windstorms.

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

**CACTI – *Tephrocactus***

**SUCCULENT – *Caudiciforms***

Bring in your tephrocactus and caudiciforms for our monthly mini-show. If you are not familiar with these plants be sure to read Tom Glavich's articles. 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

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**Study Group: Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>; Topic – Vegetative Propagation**

Join us for annual **Vegetative Propagation Workshop**. As usual, the meeting will be held in the Grapevine room of the San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Dr. (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium) at 7:30 pm. Also, we usually have a large selection of cuttings and other plants donated by members that are given away by lottery at the end of the meeting.

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**Boxes, Boxes, Boxes, Boxes, Boxes, BOXES, Boxes, BOXES, Boxes**

**Save your Boxes!**

**It is time to start saving your boxes as Jim Hanna no longer has access to all those boxes he provided for plant sales at the Inter-City and Winter Shows.**

**If you have any questions, please see Jim Hanna.**

**Board Meeting:** There will be a board meeting Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the home of Jean Mullens. The club will provide pizza and beverages. E-mail President Tom Vermilion – [grandicornis@verizon.net](mailto:grandicornis@verizon.net) if you will be attending.

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**Personal Notes:** Welcome new members: Maureen Johnson, Brian Le, Jan Zwierstra and Haryn DeLeon. SGVCSS also welcomes back: Joey Guerra and Gwendoline Hill.

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**Postage Increase:** Postage will increase to 41¢ effective May 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are not receiving your COMMUNIQUE via e-mail now is a good time to sign up!

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**Remember to wear your badge to the meetings!** Effective April 1, Susan will only give a ticket for a door prize to those members wearing their badge. Also, you need to wear your badge to check out a book from the library. If you can't find your badge see Bill Gerlach to order a new badge.

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**Refreshments:** The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the April: **Tommy Dodson, Ana Troub and William Molina.** Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant.

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**April Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results**

<b>Cacti- Gymnocalycium</b>			<b>Succulent- Dudleya</b>		
<b>Beginner</b>					
1st	Pat Swain	G. saglione	1st	Eunice Thompson	D. guadacupensis
2nd	Pat Swain	G. manzanense	2nd	Michael Romero	D. pulverulenta
3rd	Eunice Thompson	G. minhanovichii	3rd	Cindy Arakaki	D. hassei
<b>Intermediate</b>					
1st	Barbara Hall	G. fleischerianum	1st	J & B Wilner	D. Hybrid
2nd	Barbara Hall	G. bruchii	2nd	H Birgh-T Dodson	D. cymosa ssp pumila
3rd	H Birgh-T Dodson	G. pflanzii s-albipulpa	3rd	H Birgh-T Dodson	D lanceolata
<b>Advanced</b>					
1st			1st	Rita Gerlach	D. Hassei
2nd	Carol & Paul Maker	G. calochlorum	2nd	Barbara Nolan	D. "White Sprite"
3rd	Carol & Paul Maker	G. saglionis	3rd	Barbara Nolan	D. sp
<b>Master</b>					
1st	Tom Glavich	G. chiguitanum	1st	Jim Hanna	D. guadalupensis
2nd			2nd	Jim Hanna	D. caespitosa
3rd			3rd	Jim Hanna	D. farinosa

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cacti of the Month May 2007 – *Tephrocactus*, *Puna* and *Pterocactus*

The Cacti of the Month for May 2007 are all South American members of *Opuntioideae*, relatives of the common *Opuntia* native to Southern California. The Cactus family is divided into a number of subfamilies. The *Opuntioideae* is one of these sub families. The *Opuntioideae* covers the largest geographical range of any of the sub-families, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas.

The first plants that come to mind when one thinks of *Opuntia* are the flat padded plants, seen everywhere, or the spiny cylindrical *Cholla* common to the local hillsides and deserts. The *Opuntioideae* family offers much more, and some of the best come from the upland regions of South America.

Propagation of all *Opuntias* is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator required. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds from the same plant sometimes germinating in days, and sometimes not for months.

Handling of *Opuntias* is somewhat of a problem. They are notorious for their well placed sharp spines, and nearly invisible glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with

tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help, and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.

Plants worth knowing



*Pterocactus australis* entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by Charles and Joann Spotts

*Pterocactus* is an Argentine geophytic genus, with deciduous brown stems coming from a convoluted and interesting tuberous root. The stems are easily rooted, which is fortunate, since they are even more easily detached, whenever the plant is moved. The roots grow quickly, and can be raised every year or two to make a spectacular plant.

**Pterocactus tuberosa** is the most commonly seen species, but others have recently become available.

*Puna* is another mostly Argentine geophytic genus, related to both *Pterocactus* and *Tephrocactus*. Large subterranean roots are topped by small usually globular heads. ***Puna bonnieae***, discovered in 1990, is just coming into cultivation.



Tephrocactus sp. entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by Ray Folck

*Tephrocactus*, again Argentine, is a genus of very variable cacti. Species vary considerably, from the very spiny ***Tephrocactus stramria*** to the paper spined ***Tephrocactus articulata*** to the nearly spineless ***Tephrocactus inermis***. *Tephrocactus* are probably the most collected of the *Opuntioideae*, and there is even a *Tephrocactus* study group for the true fanatics. They make small, neat plants, and a good collection can be kept in a reasonable area.

References:

Britton and Rose, **The Cactaceae**  
Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**  
Erik Haustein, **The Cactus Handbook**

Tom Glavich February 2004

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month May 2007 - *Caudiciform Succulents*

A caudex is a generally accepted as a swollen stem or swollen root, or most often a combination of the two. There is no exact, horticulturally accepted definition of the word caudex. Over the years it has been defined slightly differently by too many authors.

A caudex is a swollen plant base that supports leaves and stems, and sometimes flowers. It generally connects directly to roots, but sometimes is just an extension of a tap root. It differs from a root or tuber primarily by tolerating being above ground without rotting for extended periods. A caudiciform succulent is sometimes distinguished from a pachycaul (elephant like) succulent by being wider than taller, but this too is a vague definition.



*Tylecodon booliae* in a 1 inch pot

Caudiciforms come in all sizes, from well under an inch to many feet in diameter. Cultivation requirements vary so widely, that few useful statements can be made. In general, caudiciforms come from sub

tropical and tropical climates, and can be damaged or killed by a freeze. Most prefer rapidly draining soil mixes, and tolerate poorly excessive long term wetness. They want food and water when growing, and want to be kept dry when they are not.



*Pachypodium bispinosum*

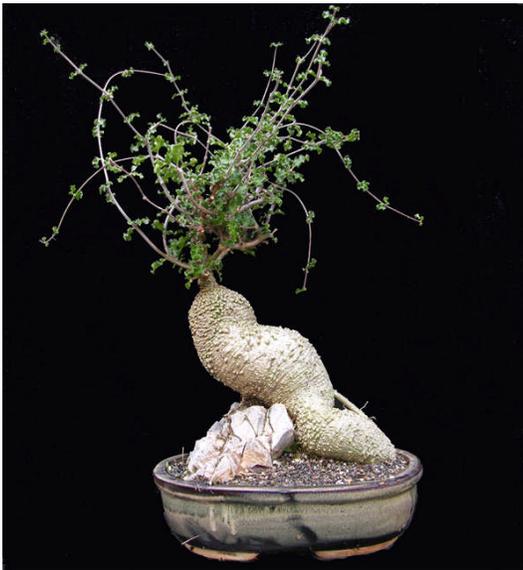
Pachypodiums are mostly caudiciform plants, and easily propagated by seed. Many can also be propagated by either stem or root cuttings.



*Othonna retrofracta*

There are many winter growing, small to medium size Othonnas, with caudiciforms. These start growth in October, and grow through the first hot days of spring.

Not all caudiciforms are small. Shown below is a *Fockea edulis* in an 8 inch pot. This will easily fill a 15 inch pot, given a few more years. *Fockea* are some of the easiest grown caudiciforms, readily available, and fast growing. They do best with regular feeding, grow most in the spring with late winter rains, but will bulk up all year long. Caudex growth is fastest if they are left underground, and the stems are allowed to trail. They look best with the stems and leaves trimmed into a neat ball.



***Fockea edulis***

Some cuttings will not form caudexes unless double cut. Once growth is strong, the top of the green shoot needs to be cut off again to force the plant to start a caudex. Some species form a perfectly symmetrical caudex when grown from seed, but form distorted (but often more interesting) caudexes when grown from cuttings.



***Euphorbia squarrosa***

Many of the most interesting caudexes can be found in the genus *Euphorbia*. Shown above is a South African species, *Euphorbia squarrosa*, which is easily grown and tolerant of a Southern California climate. But there are many others in this family, particularly from Madagascar which deserve to be grown. The Madagascan species are more difficult, and less tolerant of cold. The South African species are easy, requiring only patience to develop large the large caudex seen above.

### **References**

Gordon Rowley **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents**

Herman Schwartz, **The Euphorbia Journals**

Tom Glavich  
April 2007

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007**

- May 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info. #310-822-1783
- May 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Geranium Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 310 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA (Mother's Day Weekend). There will be a selection of species and succulent Pelargoniums at both the show and sale.
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Huntington Plant Sale 10 to 5 Huntington Botanical Garden  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino CA #626-405-2160
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale  
Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA #310-670-8148
- May 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> CSSA 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention—Seattle, Washington
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info #619-477-4779
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30<sup>th</sup> Show and Sale – 9 to 4  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA  
Info #909-390-8802
- June 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA Info #818-363-3432
- June 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>  
& July 1<sup>st</sup> CSSA Annual Show and Sale – Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA #626-405-2160 or 2277  
Plant Sales start June 29<sup>th</sup> thru July 1<sup>st</sup>. Show opened to the public June 30<sup>th</sup> thru July 1st
- Aug 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Intercity Show and Sale – LA County Arboretum  
310 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA Info Call Tom Glavich #626-798-2430 or  
Barbara Hall #818-368-6914
- Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium – All Day at the Huntington
- Nov 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA
- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> Orange County Show and Sale – Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831  
Show and Sale Open from 10am TO 4pm  
For Information Call #714-870-4887

Bus Trip March 24, 2007



# Bromeliad Show And Sale

Presented by  
*La Ballona Valley Bromeliad Society*



**MAY 5 - 6**

PLANT SALES: SATURDAY 10 - 5, SUNDAY 10 - 4  
SHOW: SATURDAY 12 - 5, SUNDAY 10 - 4

Lecture and Demonstration both days at 2pm

***Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
Culver City, Ca.***

***4117 Overland Ave. (at Culver)  
Admission and Parking are FREE***

For information: (323) 294-9839

*Club meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Veterans Memorial Building in Culver City. New members receive a free plant at the May meeting!*

# CACTUS & SUCCULENT & SHOW & SALE



... free admission ...

PLANT SALE:  
SATURDAY 10 - 5  
SUNDAY 10 - 4

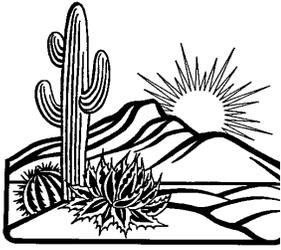
SHOW:  
SATURDAY 12 - 5  
SUNDAY 10 - 4

Information: 310/822-1783



Club Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month  
(except July & August) at 7:30 PM  
Burton W. Chace Park, 13650 Miadanao Way  
Marina Del Rey

**garden room, veteran's memorial bldg.  
4117 overland (at culver), culver city**



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](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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