



San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society **COMMUNIQUE**

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

February 2016—Volume 49, Number 2

February Meeting:
Thursday,
February 11, at 7:00 pm

Meetings are held on the
2nd Thursday of the month
at 7:00 pm in Ayers Hall,
at the Los Angeles
Arboretum, Arcadia

Mini-Show Plants:

Cactus:
Echinocactus, Ferocactus

Succulent:
Othonna, Senecio

C&S Workshop

The C&S Workshop will meet on
Wednesday, February 17th in
Ayers Hall, at the Los Angeles
Arboretum at 7:30 pm to topic
will be: Plant Identification

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President’s Message

This will be a very interesting year. We have an excellent lineup of guest speakers starting with last month’s speaker Marquita Ellias who transported us to the Canary Islands. This month’s speaker will be Michelle Cloud-Hughes with a topic of more local interest: “Chucky Cholla, a New Species of Opuntia from southern California”. Future speakers will include a mix of club favorite speakers and some new speakers including Jeff Moore who has written the very popular and wonderful book, “Under the Spell of Succulents”.

Our first field trip will be an overnight car trip to Cima Dome Mojave National Preserve and environs. The tentative dates are April 9th-10th. The trip will include two side trips: Ethel M’s Botanical Garden and Chocolate Factory (yum!) in Henderson, NV, and Cactus Joe’s nursery in Las Vegas.

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President's Message, continued

It is an easy trip and will not require any high clearance vehicles or over-exertion. You'll love it.

Our bus trip this year will be to the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale, Saturday, June 4th. We have several options for fun side trips. It will be an enjoyable day trip!

We will also have a member garden tour in the near future. Several people have already offered to show off their fine C&S gardens. And, as usual, we will have our SGVCSS picnic in July.

I am very proud of our club. Our extraordinary group of officers, committee members, and volunteers keep everything running smoothly. Our loyal vendors supply us great plants and pots every meeting. Thank you!

One final note. If you have not done so, please pay your 2016 membership dues at the next meeting. The cost is \$20 per year for e-mail delivery of the Communiqué Newsletter or \$30 if you prefer a paper version delivered by the US postal Service. If you are not able to attend you may send a check to:

SGVCSS – Membership
2123 Pinehurst St
Glendora, CA 91741

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the meetings.

Gunnar Eisel
President, SGVCSS



SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2016

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Cindy Arakaki, Librarian
Richard Roosman, Newsletter Editor

This Month's Program

Hiding in plain sight: a new cactus species from the California Desert

Presentation Description:

Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis is a newly-described cactus found in San Bernardino, Riverside, and northern Imperial Counties, California. Michelle's presentation will describe how this historically-misidentified cholla was determined to be a distinct new species and the characteristics that distinguish it from similar cholla species. This presentation will provide detailed information on where to see "the chucky cholla" as well as many other intriguing succulents found in the same areas.

Michelle Cloud-Hughes is a botanist and restoration ecologist specializing in desert flora and ecosystems. She worked for the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group at San Diego State University from 1997 to 2013 and spent most of those years doing restoration work in the central Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin National Training Center. In 2010 she started her company, Desert Solitaire Botany and Ecological Restoration, and since then has been involved in many rare plant surveys and other botanical and restoration projects throughout the southwestern U.S. Her main love is *Cylindropuntia*, but she is also fascinated by other cactus, particularly *Echinocereus*, *Grusonia*, *Pediocactus*, and occasionally even *Opuntia*.



"Chucky" cholla first flower

Michelle Cloud-Hughes and "Chucky"

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month February 2016 - Echinocactus and Ferocactus

The Cacti of the Month for November are the two genera of Barrel Cactus from Mexico, with outliers stretching into the Southern US and Guatemala.

Echinocactus was once one of the ‘main’ genera of cacti and had over a hundred species and more than a thousand names. As additional collection and research continued over the years most of the species were separated into other genera, leaving only the nine that remain. *Echinocactus* superficially resemble *Ferocactus*, however *Echinocactus* have straight spines while *Ferocactus* have hooked spines and nectar glands on the areoles.

Echinocactus are generally large plants growing to three feet or more in diameter and as high. The most common example is ***Echinocactus grusonii***, popularly known as the “golden barrel cactus” or “mother-in-law’s cushion”, and a staple of any cactus garden. We are fortunate in having them grow well anywhere in Southern California. They are a prominent feature of the Huntington’s cactus garden and one of the key plants in the Getty Museum garden as well.

Echinocactus grow well in normal cactus soils. The species from Texas are sensitive to over watering, but *Echinocactus grusonii* is nearly indestructible, and do best when planted in the ground.

Other species include:

Echinocactus horzonthalonius which grows wider than tall, has great spines, but requires more heat than we generally have for good growth.

Echinocactus ingens grows taller than the others and has frosted white ribs and a yellowish wool.

Echinocactus texensis is a smaller species. It has the only spectacular flowers of the genus.



Echinocactus ingens

Ferocactus

Ferocactus is a medium sized genus, with about 40 members. *Ferocactus* are mostly native to Mexico, with a few species native to California and the Southwest and a few to Guatemala.

With age many *Ferocactus* often get to be very large plants particularly when grown in the ground: fortunately they are fairly slow growers. When grown in pots they will stay at a comfortable size for many years. Although there are only about 40 species, many of them are variable with widely varying spine lengths, shapes, textures and colors, depending on the specific locality.

Ferocactus are easily grown and most are perfectly happy outdoors without protection year round in Southern California. A normal well draining potting mix will do well. They need lots of sun to bring out the colors and textures of the spines. They should be repotted frequently, moving the pot size up steadily an inch or two at a time until they get so big you need help.

Ferocactus are easily grown from seed. Germination is most successful when done in April or May. The seedlings grow slowly for the first few months, but soon take off. They can be transplanted to pure pumice as soon as they are big enough to handle. At this stage a steady diet of neutral pH water and fertilizer will get them growing quickly. There are several advantages to growing *Ferocactus* from seed. The first is that the selection of type localities and spine variations is far greater than you will ever see at a plant show or sale. The second and most important is that you get to grow the plant through its awkward juvenile growth. During the second year *Ferocactus* spines grow completely out of proportion to the *Ferocactus* body. A *Ferocactus* that will eventually be a foot in diameter and 4 feet tall with 3 or four inch spines, will have as a seedling a body less than an inch in diameter, with spines an inch or more long.



Ferocactus chrysacanthus

Favorite Species of Ferocactus

Ferocactus chrysacanthus, from Baja California, has dense golden spines, and becomes a spectacular species when about 8 inches in diameter. It may eventually grow to 3 feet.

Ferocactus emoryi, from Arizona and Sonora, has long red spines that can vary from straight to hooked.

Ferocactus latispinus, from central Mexico, has flat reddish spines, with distinct grooves running crosswise, particularly on the bottom. A variety, *Ferocactus latispinus v spiralis* has the spines forming a spiral pattern up the stem. A spectacular plant when it gets to be about 18 inches tall.

Ferocactus rectispinus, closely related to *F emoryi*, has bright red spines.

Ferocactus stainesii, from San Luis Potosi, has red to carmine spines, clusters quickly, and can grow to 9 feet, given enough time.

Ferocactus wislizenii, another Baja species, has flat spines. It grows more in the winter than the summer.



Ferocactus emoryi

Article and photos
by Tom Glavich
February 2016

February Refreshments:

Gunnar and Roberta Eisel
Richard Roosman

(If you have signed up and your
name is not on the list,
please help us.)

**** Note **** Membership Dues are Due! Your 2016 Club membership renewal can be paid at the next meeting or mailed direct to Mary Brumbaugh, 2123 Pinehurst St., Glendora, CA 91741. \$20 regular membership or \$30 if you request the Communique by mail. Checks to SGVCSS.

Succulent of the Month February 2016

Othonna and Senecio

Othonna and *Senecio* are two genera in the *Asteraceae* family, a distinction that they share with such common plants as Sunflowers, Asters and dandelions. *Othonna* are confined to Southern Africa with most all species native to South Africa, while *Senecio* is a very large and cosmopolitan genus with species in most of the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Both genera have succulent and non-succulent members.

All of the *Asteraceae* are distinguished by a flower head that appears to be a single large flower, but is really a cluster of many smaller flowers (florets) protected (and advertised to passing pollinators) by colorful bracts. The flowers of both *Othonna* and *Senecio* show obvious resemblance to dandelions and sunflowers. The seeds are held in loose clusters, and scattered by the wind, just as with dandelions.

Both genera are relatively easy to grow requiring only modest attention to growing periods, and tolerant of some out of season watering within reason. Most species are winter growers losing their leaves in the heat of summer and leafing out again in early fall.

Seed is occasionally available and germinates readily. It's best planted in mid-autumn with maximum growth and development of water storage tissue before the first summer. Propagation from cuttings is also easy particularly for *Senecio*. Production of a typical caudex for species with long thin branches is best done by burying and rooting a branch while still attached to the mother plant.

Outstanding Othonnas

Othonna euphorbioides has leaves the shape and color of *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*, and a body shape that is also similar. It is one of several *Othonna* that have species names identifying the genus that they most closely resemble.

Othonna herrei is probably the best of the species with the caudex covered with knobby protrusions resulting from persistent leaf bases.

Othonna retrorsa comes from Cape Province, SA. It is a small species, with caudex two to three inches in tall and an inch in diameter. It can reach half that size in a year from seed.



Othona herrei
top photo



Senecio nyikensis var. hildebrandtii is a species from Madagascar. As shown in the photo above, it has fantastic flowers.

Show-worthy Senecios

Senecio rowleyanus has the common name, “String of Pearls”, and is a well known house plant. The leaves are globose, hanging on long prostrate stems. It’s often used as a hanging plant.

Senecio saginata is one of several *Senecio* that were once in the genus *Kleinia*, which has since been absorbed into *Senecio*. This species shows convergent evolution, with a body form similar to some of the cylindrical *Opuntia*. The body is a medium green, with darker green patterns that look as if they were spines drawn on with ink. *Senecio saginata* is native to Oman, Most of the similar species (*S. pendulus*, *S. desfliersii*) are native to Western Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Senecio scaposus is from Cape Province, South Africa, and has long cylindrical leaves, with patterned patches of a waxy light blue on a light green background.

Senecio tropaeolifolius quickly forms a medium sized caudex (really a rhizome, or fleshy root). The vine like stems can be kept trimmed back to show the caudex. It has interesting pentagonal leaves, with sharp corners. It’s one of the most sculptural of all the *Senecios*.

Article and photos

By Tom Glavich

February 2016

	Plant of the Month Cacti	Plant of the Month Succulent
Jan	Hooked Spine Mammilarias	Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon
Feb	Echinocactus & Ferocactus	Othonna & Senecio
Mar	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia & Weingartia	small Aloes
Apr	Discocactus & Melocactus	Kalanchoe
May	Stenocactus & Thelocactus	Millii type Euphorbias
June	Gymnocalycium	Ficus & Dorstenia
July	Blossfeldia & Frailea	Cucurbitaceae
Aug	Favorite cactus	Favorite succulent
Sept	U. S. Natives	Cyphostemma
Oct	Parodia & Notocactus	Retusa haworthia
Nov	So. American Opuntieae	Adromischus & Avonia

The mini show featuring plants of the month is part of the regular meeting. The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia.

2016 Cactus and Succulent Workshops

Jan	Pelargonium
Feb	Plant Identification
Mar	Small Aloes
Apr	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Vegetative Propagation
Jun	Gymnocalycium
Jul	Staging Workshop
Aug	Stapeliads
Sep	Succulent Landscaping
Oct	Ariocarpus
Nov	Winter Seed Workshop
Dec	no workshop

Cactus and Succulent Workshop

Wednesday, February 17th

Topic: Plant Identification

The workshop is an informal, hands-on learning experience that is fun for the expert and novice alike. Come and learn from the experience of others. We are happy to share our knowledge.

Workshops are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p, in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia.

January Mini Show Results

Masters division - cactus

1st - Cindy Arakaki - Mammillaria blossfeldiana

Masters division - succulent

1st - Manny Rivera - Pelargonium carnosum

2nd - Gunnar Eisel - Pelargonium crassicaule

3rd - Manny Rivera - Pelargonium paniculatum

Intermediate division - cactus

1st - Peter Claridge - Mammillaria sp.

2nd - Dick Hammer - Mammillaria magnifica

3rd - Barbara Hall - Mammillaria bombycina

3rd - Barbara Hall - Mammillaria magnifica

Intermediate division - succulent

1st - Tommy Dodson - Monsonia crassicaule

2nd - Tommy Dodson - Pelargonium alternans

2nd - Barbara Hall - Pelargonium desertorum

3rd - Barbara Hall - Pelargonium radicum

3rd - Barbara Hall - Pelargonium triste

Novice division - cactus

1st - Luanne Lelewer - Mammillaria senilis

2nd - Richard Salcedo - Mammillaria bombycina

3rd - David Johnson - Mammillaria sp.

Novice division - succulent

1st - Robert Feldman - Pelargonium triste

2nd - Robert Feldman - Pelargonium triste

3rd - Nilda Howard - Pelargonium xerophyton 'Bunny'

3rd - Nilda Howard - Pelargonium elegans

Calendar of Upcoming Events.

February 13, 2016 — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale.

Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Balboa Park, room 101, San Diego.

Information: 858-392-1797

March 17, 18, & 19 — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale.

Thursday from 6 pm to 8 pm, Friday from 9 am to 7 pm, and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim.

Information: 562-587-3357

April 9 & 10 — South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale.

Saturday and Sunday, South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes,. Information: 310-378-1953 or www.southcoastcss.org

April 24 — Huntington Plant Sale. Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Information: 626-406-3504

April 30 & May 1 — Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale.

Saturday and Sunday. Veterans' Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City. Information: 310-822-1783

May 1 -- South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm. South Coast Botanical Gardens. Information: 310-833-6823

May 13 & 14 — Gates Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 4:30 pm at Land Scapes Southern California Style, 450 East Alessandro Blvd., Riverside. Information: 951-360-8802

May 21 & 22 — Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show and Sale. Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. Information 562-631-5876

May 28 & 29 — Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale. Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo. Information: 805-237-2064 or www.centralcoastcactus.org



COMMUNIQUE

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
c/o Richard Roosman
P.O. Box 5222
Huntington Park, CA 90255

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: richardninwalnutpark@msn.com or via mail to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Richard Roosman, P.O. Box 5222, Huntington Park, CA 90255. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.