



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

July 2009 - Volume 42, Number 7

**July Meeting:
Thursday,
July 9 at 7:30 pm**

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

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:

Eriogyne

SUCCULENT:

Cyphostemma

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday, July 15th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Staging

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President's Message

Show and Sale season is here. The CSSA Show & Sale is just over, Orange County is this month and the Inter City show is in August. We'll be there and hope to see many of the SGVCSS members.

The bus trip to Lotus Land is finalized, see the write-up in this newsletter for updated instructions.

Our annual picnic will be at Pitzer College on Saturday, August 1. See the write-up on page 5.

We're working on obtaining a better PA system for our meetings. In the meantime, we really need the cooperation of vendors and others who stay in the vendor area during the meeting. No one can hear the speaker as there is a lot of noise from members who have no interest in the meeting. We have no way to control your behavior, other than to ask that you be more polite to the rest of the members.

The Huntington Symposium will be held on Saturday, September 5. As in recent years, we will draw names of those who wish to go (and haven't won before) at the August meeting. The Club will pay the fee for two members.

Thank you to Joe Clements for the great presentation on Shows and Judging. We all got a lot out of it.

Don't miss the July meeting, Kelly Griffin is our speaker.

See you soon at a meeting! Buck Hemenway

In This Issue

President's Message	1
May Mini-Show Results	2
Study Group	2
This Month's Program	2
Plants Of The Month	3
Annual Club Picnic	5
Field Trip To LOTUS LAND - July 18, 2009	6
Calendar of Upcoming Events	7
Refreshment Signup	7

May Mini-Show Results

Cacti - Cephalium-Bearing Cacti

Beginner

1st Brian Le Melocactus mantanzanus

Intermediate

1st Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Discocactus aranespinas
 2nd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Melocactus mantanzanus
 3rd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Discocactus species

Advanced

1st Rita Gerlach Discocactus albispinus
 2nd Buck/Yvonne Hemenway Melocactus ernestii
 3rd Rita Gerlach Melocactus species

Masters

1st Patty Caro Melocactus salvadorensis
 2nd Rene Caro Buiningia brevicylindrica
 3rd Rene Caro Discocactus buenekeri

Succulents - Adenium

Beginner

1st William Molina A. species, grafted

Intermediate

1st Cindy/Calvin Arakaki A. obesum

Advanced

1st Manny Rivera A. obesum 'Shada'
 2nd Manny Rivera A. obesum
 3rd Manny Rivera A. obesum 'Somalense'

Study Group

Wednesday, July 15th • Staging

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

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.

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.

This Month's Program

Our speaker for July is Kelly Griffin. His talk is on the many succulent plants, with emphasis on Agaves, that are found in the vicinity of Oaxaca Mexico. It is a wonderful examination of the special plants that grow in this region along with many that we have in our collections.

For those who do not know Kelly, he is a specialized grower of Aloes and Agaves. He has made a number of beautiful hybrids of both genera and always brings a number of them to sell. Kelly works at Rancho Soledad Nursery and a trip there to buy plants is always worth while.

If you see or hear about a succulent related story, please pass it along. Sometimes I can squeeze it into the newsletter.

Yvonne



Good Reception Goes Green

Cell towers disguised as saguaro cactus are cropping up in Arizona.

Bill Gerlach sent us this interesting picture from the Arizona Daily Star.

JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Although the *Eriosyce* and *Neoporteria* show tables always have entries, this genus is under-explored. There are many wonderful species and cultivars to be grown and shared.



Neoporteria coimasensis or
Eriosyce senilis coimasensis

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Cyphostemma

Cissus and *Cyphostemma* are two closely related genera both in the Vitaceae or grape family. Many species now in one *Cyphostemma* were originally described as *Cissus*. Both genera are tropical to subtropical plants, with relatively few members of both genera succulent. The members of both of genera span the range of extremely easy to grow plants to real challenges. Most of the species will grow large, given time, good root room, lots of fertilizer, and water during the growing season. These two genera give us some of the most striking pachycauls and caudexes of the entire plant world.

Cyphostemma will set fruit if there is more than one plant around, often even if they are different species. In most cases, the fruit is toxic to humans and most pets, although freely eaten by birds. The seeds in the fruit are ripe when the fruit turns color, usually bright red, but sometimes brown.

The key to success with these plants is to pay attention to the native habitat. *Cyphostemma juttae*, common in many collections, easily obtained, and often a show winner, comes from South Africa. It takes some frost with no damage, and grows in the ground in Southern California, putting on bulk and character

in just a few years.

Cyphostemma seitziana comes from Namibia, and is much less tolerant of unprotected cold and overwatering.

The exact relationship between the two genera was in dispute for most of the 19th and 20th centuries, and its easy to find both generic names used for the same species in many references. As a general guideline, *Cyphostemma* tend to be pachycaul succulents from Africa, while *Cissus* is widespread throughout new and old world tropics. *Cissus* tend to be more vine like. There are exceptions to both of these, and the final determination needs to be made by detailed examination of the flowers and in particular the placement of the flowers on the stem.

Propagation of some species of *Cyphostemma* is easy from cuttings and seeds. Seed of all the common and even some of the truly rare species are sometimes available through the CSSA or through some of the better South African and US seed dealers. The germination is erratic (days to months), and only one seed should be sown per pot. The seedling mix should be sterile and organic, and hold a lot of water. Scarring the seeds to allow water penetration helps. The seeds should be completely buried to provide uniform moisture. A plastic bag over the mix will help keep everything uniform. The bag should be removed as soon as any sign of green appears, the seedling leaves are large, and will rot if they touch the plastic. Softwood cuttings should be taken when in active growth. Rooting does not require or even seem to benefit from hormones.

Cyphostemmas to covet:



Cyphostemma juttae
hybrid

This is the Miles Anderson hybrid, a fat child who's father is unknown.

Cyphostemma betaformis is a Somalian species, relatively new to cultivation. It is generally very expensive.

Cyphostemma currori is a Namibian species. It is easy to grow, and does well in the ground during the summer and fall, but needs to be removed to a pot for the winter.

Cyphostemma juttae is by far the most common in cultivation. It is easy to grow, does well in the ground, and makes an impressive specimen in a short time.



Cyphostemma juttae at Sheilam Nursery in South Africa.



Cyphostemma segmentatum

Cyphostemma seitziana is one of the more tropical species. A bit harder to grow, it is sensitive to cold, and needs winter protection.

Cyphostemma uter is a large species, rarely seen in cultivation, with orange peeling bark. Although it comes from South Africa, it is hard to keep going in the ground and needs some winter protection.

References: *Gordon Rowley Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents*

Tom Glavich June 2009



Thank you to Tom Glavich for putting together the Plant of the Month articles. If you would like to participate by submitting a plant of the month write up for the **Communique**, please contact Tom Glavich at tglavich@sbcglobal.net.



Annual Club Picnic

Saturday, August 1st 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. We will have our traditional games (Opuntia Toss and Water Balloon Toss), prizes, picnic feast, and auction.

Setup starts at 11:00 am. We plan to eat around 1:00 pm. Come early to have plenty of time to stroll through acres of cacti and succulents and admire the gardens. A map to the picnic grounds is in the newsletter.

The Club will provide chicken, water and soft drinks. Members are asked to bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share with others. Remember to bring your own serving utensils. Please sign up at the July meeting so we have an idea of how much chicken to purchase.

The auction is a great way to add to your collection or sell some of your extra specimens. Club members can auction up to **three show-quality plants**. Club gets 25%, seller 75%. Come and join the fun and games!

Spotlight on the Spotts' Garden

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway had the opportunity to visit with Charles and Joann Spotts and tour their beautifully maturing garden in Paso Robles. What a treat!



Some of Joann's fabulous collection of Lithops



Charles grows one of largest specimens of *Agave truncata* we have ever seen!



Opuntia take center stage in the Spotts' garden this time of year.

Field Trip To LOTUS LAND - July 18, 2009

We'll leave the parking lot at the Arboretum at 7:00AM and have a 10:00AM appointment at the gardens for our tour. We plan to stop at the Oster's in Chatsworth to pick up the 'Valley' residents so they don't have to come all of the way in to the Arboretum. Call Gene Oster at 818-998-9306 for directions if you want to meet us there. We'll stop at the Seaside Nursery in Carpinteria on the way home. The cost is \$25.00 per person, plus your lunch. We plan to stop in Carpinteria where there are several restaurants to choose from to give people a choice of prices and cuisine. We'll stop at the Osters on the way back and Gene has offered to open his garden and plant sales for our group. We should be back at the Arboretum by 6:30 pm.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 18, 7:00 am - 6:30 pm — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society bus trip to Lotus Land. Signup is complete. Call Buck Hemenway at 951-360-8802 with any questions.

July 24 thru 26 — Orange County Summer Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. Show and Sale open Friday, July 24th, noon to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. For information call 714-870-4887.

August 1, 12 noon — **Annual San Garbiel Valley Club Picnic at Pitzer College.**

August 15 and 16 — 24th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. For information call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall at 818-368-6914.

September 5 — Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. All day at the Huntington. Fee: \$75.00 with an additional charge of \$25.00 for the dinner.

September 27, 12 pm — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA.

November 7 and 8 — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. For information call Manny Rivera at 626-793-6917.

December 5 and 6 — Orange County Winter Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. Show and Sale open Friday, December 4th, noon to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. For information call 714-870-4887.

Refreshment Signup

These club members have signed up to provide refreshments at this month's meeting.

Ana Wisnev
Pat Swain
Lorraine Lutz

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

2009 Plant-of-the Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
July	Eriosyce	Cyphostemma	Staging
Aug.	Favorite	Favorite	Sansevieria
Sept.	Gymnocalycium	Euphorbia (caudiciform type)	Photo Tour
Oct.	Parodia & Notocactus	Stemless Mesembs - No Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Frailea & Blossfeldia	Tylecodon	Winter Seed Workshop

