



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

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

June 2016—Volume 49, Number 6

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in Ayres Hall, at the Los Angeles Arboretum, Arcadia  
**Note: The June 9 meeting will be in the Arboretum classrooms.**

**Mini-Show Plants  
for June:**

Cactus: Gymnocalycium  
 Succulent: Ficus & Dorstenia

**Next C&S Workshop:**

Wednesday, June 15th  
at 7:30 pm  
Topic: Gymnocalycium

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***President’s Message***

**Important:** The June meeting will be held in the Bamboo and Palm classrooms rather than Ayers Hall. We will be back in Ayers hall in July. If you have not been to the classrooms here are the directions. Enter the main gate at the Arboretum. Turn left and follow the walkway down to the classrooms. **Vendors:** Due to the limited space, we can only offer you one table this month.

Our field trip to Cima Dome was quite nice. The weather was perfect and everyone seemed to have a great time. A special thanks to Diane Miller from the LACSS for helping with the arrangements.

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Our club potluck picnic will be held on Saturday, July 16 at Pitzer College. We have held our picnic in this location for several years. We have a shaded picnic area with lots of room to roam around. As usual we will have some fun games including our semi-world famous Opuntia Toss. The club will supply the chicken and soft drinks. Please bring your favorite dish: Enough for the number of family members and guests you are bringing. After the picnic we will hold our plant auction. Members are welcome to bring as many as three plants to be offered at the auction. The plants should be in excellent condition and something you will be proud to have in your own collection.

Finally, the CSSA Annual Show and Sale is coming soon. The dates are July 1st -3rd. As always, it is held at the Huntington. With your club name tag and the special tags Barbara Hall is distributing, you will be able to attend the show without paying for general admission.

See you at the meeting!

Gunnar Eisel

President, SGVCCS

## **Regular Club Meeting**

Thursday, June 9th

The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. Visitors are welcome.

## **Cactus and Succulent Workshop**

Wednesday, June 15th

Topic: Gymnocalycium

The C&S Workshop will meet on Wednesday, June 18th in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles Arboretum at 7:30 pm

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 pm in the Palm Room at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia.



The Cima Dome Crew

## This Month's Program by Ernesto Sandoval

June 2016

Succulents in Containers and in Soil,  
Above and Below Ground

Ernesto will discuss what plants need above ground as well as below ground such as the sunlight/temperature combo & pH as well as a comparison of potted and in ground plants.

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout the State and elsewhere since that group of plants is his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He's long left the "mow, blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents.

Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.



Ernesto will bring an assortment of succulents and other satiating selections of less common plants for enthusiasts and collectors to benefit the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month June 2016

### Gymnocalycium

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in a large number of distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year.

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. The genus is named for the naked (spineless) calyx (the outermost covering of the bud and lower flower). Most Gymnocalycium are also readily identified by their "chins" beneath the areoles.

The heart of the genus Gymnocalycium is Argentina, although the genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the southernmost part of Brazil.

For the most part Gymnocalycium are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with a weak general purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months.

Gymnocalycium are easy to grow from seed, started in a well-drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most Mammillaria and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.



*Gymnocalycium tudae*



*Gymnocalycium buenekeri*

All the species and all the varieties and forms of *Gymnocalycium* are worth growing.

Great Gymnos:

*Gymnocalycium baldianum* has few spines, clumps readily, and grows quickly.

*Gymnocalycium buenekeri* has great flowers, and good, colorful spines. It clumps and is quick to grow.

*Gymnocalycium damsii* is a small clustering species. The stems are brownish green, and heavily marked, with the *Gymnocalycium chin* very evident. It produces bright pink flowers almost continuously during the year.

*Gymnocalycium erinaceum* is a dark green clustering species. It has short, dense spines, which are dark brown as they leave the gray-white areole, and then fade near the end to the same color as the areole wool. It makes for a very handsome appearance.

*Gymnocalycium friedrichii* is sometimes combined with *G. mihanovichii*, and sometimes kept as a separate species. It is an extremely popular species, and easily grown. The ribs are very prominent, and sharp. The body is a dark reddish brown, banded when young. There are a number of readily distinguished varieties and cultivars available. *G. mihanovichii* tends to be greener. *G. mihanovichii* is the source of the "red caps" seen in many garden centers and plant sales. These are chlorophyll-less and variegated forms, that must be grafted onto a green stock plant.

*Gymnocalycium pflanzii*, has short spines. The body color varies from green (in the spring) to shades of purple and brown (during the summer and winter)

*Gymnocalycium ragonesi* is a well known and readily available species. It stays small, and varies in color from brick red to gray to greenish brown. It is very flat, and in the wild would grow almost completely buried.



*Gymnocalycium horridum*

#### References:

Britton and Rose; **The Cactaceae**

Cullman, Gotz, and Groner;  
**The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

J. Pilbeam; **Gymnocalycium,  
A Collector's Guide**

Preson-Matham; **Cacti, the  
Illustrated Dictionary**

C. Innes and C. Glass; **Cacti**

Tom Glavich  
March 2007/June 2016



## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Succulent of the Month

#### Dorstenia and Ficus June 2016

Dorstenia and Ficus are both member of the Moraceae or Fig family. Dorstenia is a strictly tropical genus, with almost all members coming from tropical rain forests. A few members have become succulent and are found in the dry lands of East Africa and Socotra. Ficus is a large genus, again mostly tropical, but with members that live well into the upper latitudes. The succulent members of the genus mostly come from either Mexico or South Africa.

Dorstenia is the more tropical genus, and is fairly touchy about getting cold and wet. It does best when protected from temperatures below 50 degrees. All the species appreciate reliable watering and feeding when in active growth.

Dorstenia have minute flowers that are grouped together in a head (hypanthodium), surrounded with odd shaped, and often brilliantly colored bracts that help attract pollinating insects. These function in exactly the same way as the common sunflower.

One of the rarest and best known species is *Dorstenia gigas* from Socotra. This species grows on the rocky slopes of the Island, with *Dendrosicyos* and *Adenium*. All three have the same general shape, with a thick cylindrical stem and stubby branches.

*Dorstenia crispa* is a common species, easily grown from seed, and frequently self-seeding in adjacent pots. The stems of *Dorstenia crispa* often resemble miniature palms. It originates in Kenya.



Dorstenia bloom



Dorstenia lavrani

*Dorstenia foetida* rapidly grows a small spherical caudex. As its name applies, the flowers smell like rotting meat, and it is pollinated by flies. The fragrance is fairly weak. It originates in Kenya and Tanzania, and easily hybridizes with *Dorstenia crispata*.

*Dorstenia radiata* has spider-like hypanthodia, and smaller, paler leaves. It originates in the Southern Arabian peninsula.

There are many rarely seen species of *Dorstenia* from the jungles and dry lands of Tanzania. Some of these have brilliant yellow hypanthodia, several inches long. With luck they will be in cultivation in the next few years. The Mexican and South African *Ficus* are altogether much easier to grow. They are happy growing outdoors in pots, and can take cooler temperatures and heavy winter rain without



*Ficus palmeri*

rotting. By far, the two most common species are *Ficus petiolaris* and *Ficus palmeri*. They are very similar in growth habit, with *Ficus petiolaris* being distinguished by its red leaf veins.

Both make excellent pot plants, and can be displayed as bonsai. Both are easily grown in root-over-rock style, by growing a plant for a year in a deep, narrow pot, and then taking the resulting roots, pruned back to only a few major ones, and draping them over a rock. The whole assembly should then be buried for a second year, for fast growth. The rock can then be raised to display the roots.

All *Ficus* can be easily propagated from either seed or cuttings. Seed is best planted in late spring, when the weather is guaranteed to be warm. Growth is generally fast, and repotting is necessary soon after germination. Cuttings can be taken any time when in active growth, and simply stuck in damp, loose potting soil. If a cutting is taken with several leaves, best results will be obtained if all the leaves except one or two of the smallest are removed. Rooting is generally rapid.

There are several South African and Asian pachycaul *Ficus* that can also be found, most often as seed. Some of these lose their pachycaul or caudiciform habit as they mature, but are clearly succulent plants when young. They are all worth trying and experimenting with. They are almost all receptive to hard pruning to make the caudex develop.

Continued on page 8



Dorstenia and Ficus  
(continued from page 7)

*Ficus abutilifolia* forms a caudex when less than an inch across. The caudex forms almost immediately when grown from seed.

*Ficus arnottiana* from the deserts of NW India resembles *Ficus palmeri*.

*Ficus glumosa* is native to Natal, Swaziland and Namibia. It eventually becomes a large tree. It is common to many warm areas of Asia with prolonged annual periods without rain.



*Ficus petiolaris*

Tom Glavich, June 2011/2016  
Photos courtesy of Buck Hemenway

**SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2016**

Gunnar Eisel, President  
Buck Hemenway, Past President  
Horace Birgh, Vice President  
Louise Guerin, Secretary  
Margie Wilson, Treasurer  
Rebecca Mallonee, Director  
Mary Brumbaugh, Director  
Jean Mullens, Director  
Shaun Adams, Director  
Dean Elzinga, Director  
Tom Vermilion, Director  
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair  
John Matthews, Winter Sales Chair  
Tom Glavich, Inter-City Show Chair  
Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Rep  
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair  
Woody Minnich, Program Chair  
Mary Brumbaugh, Membership Chair  
Cindy Arakaki, Librarian  
Richard Roosman, Newsletter Editor

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**\*\*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.

Regular membership is \$20 per year  
or \$30 if you request the Communique  
by mail. Make checks to SGVCSS.

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<b>Plant of the Month Cacti</b>		<b>Plant of the Month Succulent</b>
Jan	Hooked Spine Mammillarias	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	Favoriate succulent
Sept	U. S. Natives	Cyphostemma
Oct	Parodia & Notocactus	Retusa haworthia
Nov	So. American Opuntieae	Adromischus & Avonia

**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

**June Refreshments:**

Jean Burzynski  
 Roberta Eisel  
 Yolanda Roybal  
 Richard Salcedo  
 Colette Wayman  
 Una Yeh

## **May Mini Show Results**

### **Master division — Cactus**

Gunnar Eisel, 1st place, *Thelocactus rinconensis*  
Rico Leon, 2nd place, *Thelocactus heterochromus*  
Rico Leon, 3rd place, *Thelocactus phymatothelos*

### **Master division — Succulent**

Cindy Arakaki, 1st place, *Euphorbia millottii*

### **Intermediate division — Cactus**

Louise Stack, 1st place, *Stenocactus phymatothelos*  
Louise Stack, 2nd place, *Stenocactus nova* sp.

### **Intermediate division — Succulent**

Tom Howard, 1st place, *Euphorbia millii*  
Robert Feldman, 2nd place, *Euphorbia millii* crest  
Tom Howard, 3rd place, *Euphorbia millii*

### **Novice division—Cactus**

Sharon Sedillo, 1st place, *Thelocactus lophothele*  
Fred Parrales, 2nd place, *Thelocactus bicolor*  
Fred Parrales, 3rd place, *Stenocactus rinconensis*

### **Novice division — Succulent**

Nilda Howard, 1st place, *Euphorbia millii*  
Richard Salcedo, 2nd place, *Euphorbia millii*  
Richard Salcedo, 3rd place, *Euphorbia millii*  
M A Bjarkman, *Euphorbia millii* “lemondrop”

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events.

**June 4 & 5** — San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Saturday from 10 am to 5, Sunday 10 am to 4. Balboa Park, 1549 El Prado, room 101, San Diego.

Information 858-382-1797

**June 11 & 12** — Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society show and sale. Drought Tolerant Festival. Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. Sunday 9 am to 3:30 pm. Sepulveda Gardens, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino. [www.lacss-show](http://www.lacss-show)

**July 1, 2, & 3** — CSSA Annual Show and Sale. Plant sale starts Friday and continues Saturday & Sunday. Show is open Saturday & Sunday. Huntington Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Information 626-405-3504.

More information on page 12

**July 16th** — SGVCSS picnic at Pitzer College, Saturday beginning at noon

More information at June meeting.

**July 21, 22, & 23** — Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society summer show. Thursday 6 pm to 8 pm, Friday 9 am to 7 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. Anaheim United Methodist Church, , 1000 South State College Blvd, Anaheim. info: 949-212-8417.

**August 13 & 14** — Intercity Show and Sale. Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm.

Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

Information: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795

**September 3** — Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. All day Saturday at the Huntington. Info: 526-405-3504

**September 10** — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, Saturday from 12 noon to 5 pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. Info: 562-631-5876

**October 8 & 9** — Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Sale. Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. East Hills Mall, Center Court, 3100 Mall View Road, Bakersfield info: 661-831-8488

**October 22 & 23** — Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas. Info: [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com) or 858-382-1797

**November 5 & 6** — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale.

Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm. Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Info: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052.

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51st ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE  
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
HUNTINGTON LIBRARY & BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Dates:** Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 1, 2, 3, 2016

**Location:** The Huntington: 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA

**Show & Sale Hours:** Friday and Saturday 10:30 am to 4:30 pm;  
Sunday 10:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Show Hours:** Saturday 10:30 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday 10:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Show Set Up:** Thursday, June 30th from 9 am to 1 pm

**Enter Plants:** Thursday, June 30th 1 pm to 6 pm; and Friday, July 1st  
from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Judging starts at 5:00 pm Friday

**Auction:** Items need to be registered by 3 pm, Saturday, July 2

There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and a Live Auction (30 items max) after dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items: 2 items per person/business. Marked as donation or split.

**Dinner** Dearmore BBQ: \$25 per person. Mail checks made out to CSSA to:  
Bonnie Ikamura — 8400 Bleriot Ave., Los Angeles. CA 90045  
Reservations must be made & paid for by 12 noon, Saturday, July 2.

Be sure to pick up a Show Schedule and Index from your CSSA Club Affiliate at your next club meeting if you are interested in entering plants in the Show or in the Auction.

All Cactus and Succulent Club members, CSSA members, vendors, volunteers, or show participants need to wear their club badges AND a special CSSA/HBG pass that reads, “Annual CSSA Show Participant” to enter the HBG (Huntington Botanical Gardens) for free. If you are a HBG member this does not apply. Please obtain a pass from your CSSA Affiliate at your club meeting or contact Barbara Hall, Show Chair, before the event. We are not permitted to hand out passes at the HBG entryway.

There are opportunities to participate or volunteer in this year’s show, even for a couple of hours in the showroom or sales area, hospitality (food) area, information table, holding area, welcome table at the HBG entry, and setup/teardown. All participants receive a show T-Shirt as a thank you.

See you at the Show!

Barbara Hall

CSSA Show Chair

e-mail: lbcjhall@aol.com      phone: 818-368-6914



**15th BIENNIAL  
MID-STATES  
CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 9, 10, 11, 12, 2016  
DENVER, COLORADO**

**What better place to be in the month of June!**

**TEN OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS  
TEN OF THE BEST CACTUS & SUCCULENT VENDORS  
AFFORDABLE LODGING, SHOW PLANT AUCTION, FUN FIELD TRIPS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS: RANDY TATROE  
[rtatroe@a.com](mailto:rtatroe@a.com) 303-699-8958 or WOODY MINNICH [cactusdata@msn.com](mailto:cactusdata@msn.com) 661-406-9816**



Echeveria agavoides “Ebony” in the middle and Anne Shein’s hand above it. Photo by Ernesto Sandoval.



## **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: [richardinwalnutpark@msn.com](mailto:richardinwalnutpark@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**.