



**The next meeting of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society will be Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 pm in Ayres Hall at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia.**

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month.

#### **Mini-Show Plants for March**

Cacti: Crests

Succulents: Crests and Monstrose

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

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America  
March 2017—Volume 50, Number 03

#### **Cactus and Succulent Workshop**

**Wednesday, March 15**

**Topic: Crests and Monstrose**

The C&S Workshop will meet on 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.

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## This Month's Presentation:

### The Secrets of Growing Quality Cacti and other Succulents

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

How do you find out what the secrets are? They are important strategies about how to grow plants well and they can be accomplished by doing five easy things: visiting habitats, traveling from garden to garden the world over, participating in shows, accessing numerous cactus and succulents books, and most importantly, talking with the growers of these wonderful plants. It is your awesome opportunity to learn from these various experiences!

With these experiences, it doesn't take long to learn the many different approaches on how to grow quality cacti and succulents. Like most things, years of experience help, but seeing cacti and succulents in the field (their natural habitat) gives one incredibly valuable insight. Also, visiting numerous collections and gardens around the world helps add an even greater dimension to the understanding of cultivation in various environments. Participating in cactus and succulent shows is another great way to give one a full perspective on how to present and grow quality plants. Last, but not least, read the books! Don't hesitate to use all of these available means to add to your information bank, and mostly, **don't be afraid to ask questions.** **"Why" is the biggest word in the world!** Many of the factors for growing quality plants aren't really secrets, but often, only the stories not shared or observed!

We will refer to both cacti and succulents as "succulents" because all cacti are succulent. Succulent plants are what they are for a reason! The storage of water is what gives them their succulent character and this storage is what gives them the ability to survive in often harsh habitats. The great majority of our succulent plants come from deserts or relatively arid regions. These environments are often very dry, and usually lack moisture for extended periods of time. These same habitats are usually very sunny and often reach high summer temperatures when moisture can so quickly be lost. Thus, our plants are succulent, because they must have water storage to get them through the often extended hot and or dry times.

Due to the variable environments that our succulent plants come from, there are many considerations that one must keep in mind. These factors include:

- \* At what time of the year does water generally become available and how?
- \* What are the high and low temperatures and air movement from the dry to wet times?
- \* What is the substrate, soils or rocks or bark, the growing medium?
- \* Does the substrate contain minerals, acids, alkalinity and or nutrients?
- \* What is the plant's method of water storage, leaves, stems or roots – tubers?
- \* What is the plant's method of acquiring water - roots or foliar?
- \* What is the plant's orientation to the sun, amount of exposure, nurse plants etc.?
- \* What is the plant's ability to take or need cold temperatures?
- \* What are the plant's root-system needs, confinement or open, drainage, temperatures?

In a general way, we will cover all of these aspects and how they relate to you and your overall growing environment. Each one of us live in a slightly, to extremely different micro niche. It is from all of the above mentioned factors and how we apply them that will determine how successfully we grow our plants. Don't forget, much like life itself, it is often from our mistakes that we gain our greatest learning experiences.



## Biographical Sketch of Woody, Wendell S. Minnich 2016

Woody, as he is commonly known, has been in the cactus hobby for some 47 years and has become well known for his participation and contributions. He has been awarded honorary life membership to ten clubs, as well as, a life member and Friend award with the CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) His many leadership roles include: National Show Chairman, Convention Sales Chairman, Convention Speaker coordinator, 2016 Mid-States Conference Co-chair, accredited C & S judge and writer -photographer. He has also served in almost all positions of leadership for many regional clubs and is currently the president of the new Santa Fe C & S club.

Woody is probably best recognized for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. After all, he was a celebrated secondary school teacher for 32 years, where he taught Art, Graphic Arts-Design and Architecture. He has now become a recognized international speaker and has presented at cactus and succulent events all over the world.

He has also authored a number of articles for various newsletters and journals, including the CSSA journal and his photographs are also well published. His work is featured in many books including: "The New Cactus Lexicon" *Hunt and Charles*, "Mammillaria" *Pilbeam*, and "Echeveria Cultivars" *Schulz & Kapitany*. Woody is the creator-originator of the first color version of the CSSA journal article "Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur" featuring show plants, shows, and the growers of the pictured plants. He is also often called upon to do new book reviews for the CSSA journal

His involvement in the cactus and succulent world is well represented by his 45 years of field work in regions including: Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States, and Yemen. He often goes to remote places where few, if anyone, have ever explored and as a result of this field work, he has introduced many new taxa. Also, being a recognized grower, Cactus Data Plants since 1975, Woody has developed strong interests in both succulent plant taxonomy and the many cultivation secrets that help us to grow these unique plants.

The two photos below are from an article on Crested and Monster Succulents from the website for Dave's Garden.



Echinopsis densispina



Ariocarpus retusa

## SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2017

Tom Vermilion, President  
Gunnar Eisel, Past President  
Vince Basta, Vice President  
Louise Guerin, Secretary  
Margie Wilson, Treasurer  
Rebecca Mallonee, Director  
Mary Brumbaugh, Director  
Jean Mullens, Director  
Gunnar Eisel, Director  
Sharon Sedillo, Director  
Kal Kaminer, 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 2017 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.

## San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

### Plant of the Month

This month's Mini-Show plants will be **Crests and Monstrose**

Crested and Monstrose plants are mutants. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. In normal plants the growth tips are points and the biochemistry of the plant forces one tip to be dominant or at least locally dominant. In crests, genetic mutation removes this dominance and instead of a single growth tip the area of active cell growth degenerates into a line. In monstrose growth, the dominance of all or at least many potential growth points is equal and many new bodies try to form simultaneously.

Cresting and monstrose growth are two of the three most common mutations (the other being variegation). Two or even all three forms are sometimes combined in a single plant. For this month any combination of cresting or monstrosity either alone or together or combined with variegated growth is acceptable.

Cresting is not unique to succulent plants. Crests are found in many genera of non-succulent plants, including conifers and many common garden plants.

#### **Culture of Crests and Monstrose Plants**

Crests are grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some crests have weak roots and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant and comparison to healthy non-crested plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. Crests tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. For the same reason, they are more attractive to spider mites and mealy bugs than normal plants, and a careful eye must be kept on them to keep good health.

#### **Propagation of crested plants**

Crests and Monstrose plants flower and produce seed just as other plants do but less often. Healthy strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering crest. This means regular watering and fertilization and proper light. Cresting and Monstrosity are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a mutant plant is much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the parent but any other mutation is also possible.

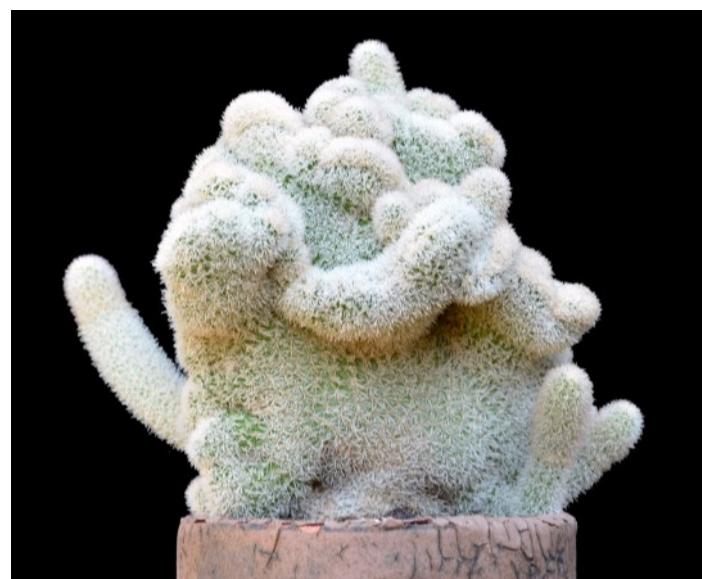
The most common method of propagation of crested plants is vegetative. Cuttings of crests are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms. Cuttings of varieties that are on their own roots will generally root easily, as long as the cuts are taken during the growing season. After a few days of drying, the cut sections are simply stuck into slightly moist potting soil. After a few weeks, there will be sufficient roots to resume normal watering.

Tom Glavich — February 2017



Euphorbia pseudocactus  
Montrose crest

Photo by  
Tom Glavich



Haageocereus lanugispinus crest

Photo by  
Tom Glavich

## **March Refreshments**

These people volunteered to bring refreshments to the February meeting:

Yolanda Rosalez  
Fred Parrales  
Kzi Teng  
James Lamos  
Richard Salcedo

The first three club members who sign up and then bring refreshments for the meeting will receive a **free** plant.

## **2017 Cactus and Succulent Workshops**

Jan	Othonna and Senecio
Feb	Caudiciforms and Medusoid
Mar	Crests and Monstrose
Apr	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Vegetative Propagation
Jun	Staging Workshop
July	Echinopsis
Aug	Member Photo Tour
Sep	Astrophytum
Oct	Mesembryanthemum
Nov	Winter Seed Workshop
Dec	None

## **Plant of the Month: Cacti**

Jan	Mammillaria clusters
Feb	Copiapoa and Eriosyce
Mar	Crests
Apr	Cephaliated Cacti
May	Miniatures
June	Echinopsis
July	Monotypic Cacti
Aug	Favorite cactus
Sept	Astrophytum
Oct	Columnar Cacti
Nov	Variegated Cacti

## **Plant of the Month: Succulent**

Agave
Tylecodon and Cotyledon
Crests and Monstrose
Haworthia
Pachypodium
Miniatures
Adenium
Favorite succulent
Bursera and Commiphora
Mesembryanthemum
Variegated Succulents

## **Plant of the Month Mini Show Results for February, 2017**

### **Open Cactus**

- 1st — Gunnar Eisel — *Eriosyce curvispina*  
2nd — Karen Ostler — *Copiapoa esmeraldana*  
3rd — Karen Ostler — *Copiapoa hypogaea*

### **Open Succulent**

- 1st — Manny Rivera — *Tylecodon dinteri*  
2nd — David Hawks — *Tylecodon reticulatus*  
3rd — David Hawks — *Tylecodon pearsonii*

### **Intermediate Cactus**

- 1st — Dick Hammer — *Eriosyce senilis*  
2nd — Louise Stack — *Copiapoa hypogaea*  
3rd — Tricia Kangrga — *Eriosyce senilis*

### **Intermediate Succulent**

- 1st — Tricia Kangrga — *Cotyledon undulata*  
2nd — Dick Hammer — *Tylecodon paniculatus*  
3rd — Tom Howard -- *Tylecodon paniculatus*

### **Novice cactus**

- 1st — David Lew -- *Copiapoa serpintisulcata*  
2nd — Minh Au — *Eriosyce esmeraldana*  
3rd — Richard Salcedo — *Eriosyce senilis*

### **Novice succulent**

- 1st — - Shaun Adams — *Tylodon paniculatus*  
2nd — Robert Feldman — *Tylodon paniculatus*  
3rd — Robert Feldman — *Tylodon paniculatus*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events.

### **February 11, 2016 – San Diego Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale.**

Saturday. Balboa Park, room 101, San Diego. Information: 858-392-1797

### **March 23 thru 25 – Orange County Cactus & 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 8 & 9 – South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale.**

Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm, South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes,. Information: 310-378-1953 or [www.southcoastcss.org](http://www.southcoastcss.org)

### **April 29 – Huntington Plant Sale.**

Saturday from 10 1 pm to 5 pm. Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Information: 626-406-3504

### **May 6 & 7 – Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale.**

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

### **May 7 -- South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale**

Sunday from 9 am to 4 pm. South Coast Botanical Gardens.  
Information: 310-833-6823

### **May 12 & 13 – Gates Cactus & 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 20 & 21 – 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 27 & 28 – Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society 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](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)

### **June 3 & 4 – San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale.**

Balboa Park, room 101, San Diego. Information 858-382-1797

### **June 10 & 11 – Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale.**

Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm. Sepulveda Gardens, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino. Information [www.lacactus.com](http://www.lacactus.com)

### **.Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)**

#### **June 30, July 1 & 2— CSSA Show and Sale at the Huntington**

Plant sale Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Show Saturday and Sunday. Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

#### **July 22 & 23 – Orange County Cactus & 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 South State College Blvd., Anaheim. Information 949-212-8417

#### **August 12 & 13 – 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 John Martinez 805-390-2139

#### **September 2 – Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium.**

All day Saturday at the Huntington. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino.

#### **September 3 – Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction.**

Saturday from noon to 5 pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach,. Information 562-631-5876

#### **October 7 & 8 Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale**

Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304 Free admission & parking, Information 661-831-8488

#### **October 28-29 Palomar Show and Sale**

Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas

Information: hciservices@gmail.com or call 858-382-1797

#### **November 4-5 San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society,**

from 9am to 4 pm both days show and sale ---LA County Arboretum,

310 North Baldwin, Arcadia, CA . Manny Rivera 626-780-6957

or John Matthews 661-714-1052

List complied by Jim and Roberta Hanna



**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 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**.