



*San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society*

# **COMMUNIQUE**

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

October 2011 - Volume 44, Number 10

**October Meeting:  
Thursday,  
October 13 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:**

**CRESTS / MONSTROSE /  
VARIEGATES**

**Study Group:**

Study group will meet on Wednesday,  
October 19th in the Palm Room,  
Los Angeles County Arboretum at  
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

**Crests/Monstrose/  
Variegates**

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***President's Message***

It's hard to imagine being so far away. In the last three weeks, Yvonne and I have witnessed some of the most exotic plants and animals alive. From a herd of giraffe to Lithops growing in the wild, there is a never ending palate of wonders in the view finders of our cameras. We can't wait to share it all with you.

Our Winter Show and Sale is just around the corner. It is the week **BEFORE** our November meeting, so be sure that you pick up all of the entry tags you'll need at the October meeting or study group. Do you have all of your show plants ready? Manny is trying for a new numbers record this year. Be sure to bring some, just a few will help. Remember, this event is how most of our new members find us. Even if you don't think the plant will make the trophy table, bring it. The variety is what makes our Shows so spectacular.

We have received some terrible news. Our friend and a friend to many of our members, Carol Wujick has passed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Joe, who is just now recovering from back surgery. Communication from South Africa is not perfect, but we'll try to keep everyone up to date on pending plans. It is my understanding that no services are planned in the immediate future so Joe can recover from his surgery.

See you at the meeting!

Buck Hemenway

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**September Mini-Show Results**

**Cacti - Coahuila Natives**

**Novice**

1st Jeff Delzell Echinocereus knippelianus

**Intermediate**

1st C & C Arakaki Epithelantha micromeris  
 2nd C & C Arakaki Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus  
 3rd C & C Arakaki Mammillaria lenta  
 3rd Barbara Hall Gymnocactus beguinii v. hintoniorum

**Masters**

1st John Matthews Ariocarpus fissuratus  
 2nd Frank Nudge Epithelantha micromeris  
 3rd Frank Nudge Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus

**Succulents - Madagascan Euphorbia**

**Novice**

1st Tom Howard E. gottliebii  
 2nd Tom Howard E. genoudiana  
 3rd Rebecca Mallonee E. decaryi v. spirosticha  
 3rd Jeff Delzell E. hedyotoides

**Intermediate**

1st Barbara Hall E. cylindrifolia v. tuberifera  
 2nd Barbara Hall E. neohumbertii  
 2nd C & C Arakaki E. genoudiana x gottlebei  
 3rd C & C Arakaki E. cylindrifolia  
 3rd Alan Hooker E. hedyotoides

**Masters**

1st Tom Glavich E. hedyotoides  
 2nd Tom Glavich E. bongolavensis  
 3rd Frank Nudge E. decaryi spirosticha

**This Month's Program**

**Tom Vermilion**

**Lithops: Different But Not Necessarily Difficult**

The program discusses where Lithops differ from other succulents in terms of watering, dormant period, pests, etc. and includes a gallery of select species. Tips on culture are geared more toward beginners and those who've had difficulty in keeping these unique plants alive. Topics include raising from seed, Lithops growth and dormant periods throughout the year and areas where Lithops are, in fact, just like other succulents.

I have been actively involved in the hobby since 1998 but I first became interested in Cacti & Succulents in about 1974 and have been growing them off and on ever since. My primary interests are in Lithops (big surprise) Echeveria hybrids, Aloe hybrids, Agaves and more.

**Welcome New Members**



Please welcome these new members and make them feel welcome at our functions.

**Charleen Vershaw, La Habra Heights**  
**Melanie Nissen & Kenny MacPherson, Sherman Oaks**



**CSSA Corner**

All CSSA members should be watching for the election ballot that will be included with your next CSSA Journal. Be sure to vote!

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at [www.sgvcss.com](http://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](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com).



**Plants Of The Month**

Enter your specimen plants in our monthly mini-show. 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 these species of plants you can learn about them at the meeting.

CACTI and SUCCULENTS OF THE MONTH —  
**CRESTS / MONSTROSE / VARIEGATES**

Every so often, Mother Nature gets it wrong, or different, or just messes up. We are constantly reminded by the presenters at our meetings, that there is never one exact way for a plant to look. Variability of the genetic code when one plant's pollen is introduced to another plant is what makes them interesting and different. Occasionally Mother Nature gets wild with her design and gives us really different variations on the norm.

Many plant lovers and scientists consider Crested, Monstrose and other genetic differences to be too far from normal and discard those from the seed batches. Cactus & Succulent people are not of that mind. The crazier the deviation from normal the better for us.



*Haageocereus pseudodomelanostele cristata*

We have lumped all three basic deviations into the same basket. Plants can be entered in the Mini-Show if they exhibit crested, monstrose or variegated leaves and or stems. The plant must have at least 30% of the deviant form

to qualify for the show. Judging this miasma is not a simple task, but viewing it is always an exciting experience.

In particular, crested and monstrose plants have a much harder time growing than normal ones. Usually, plants grow from the tips of their branches. New little special cells are always forming at the very tip or apical growing point or meristem and that's what causes a plant to get bigger. Just imagine then that if instead of one apical point at the tip of each stem, you had a line (the crest) maybe 15 inches long that served the same

purpose. It would be much harder to grow when the roots must supply energy to that whole crest instead of a few branches.

Monstrose growth is even worse. The plant can't decide where its growing point is and actually creates new growing points all over the plant. That's why many monstrose cacti for example, never get spines and some never bloom. It's because every areole has decided to become the apical growing point and as such has no time or energy for normal functions such as spines and flowers.



*Echeveria crest*

Variegated growth brings its own hazards to normal growth. Much variegation is supplied courtesy of a plant virus. Whether or not it is virus caused, it is obvious that the variegated part of the plant does not have as much green (chlorophyll) in it as the non variegated part. That makes most variegated plants much more slow growing than their healthy cousins and more sensitive to the sun. We should remember that some plants are variegated as a normal growing form.

In general, the Monsters are less hardy than their normal counterparts.

They get the same pests and tend to have a more difficult time with them.

Usually, a plant will contain abnormal and normal growth. In many cases a crested plant will send enough "normals" to cause them to outstrip the crest and soon, it will not be visible. The normal growth will always be more vigorous than the abnormal. It is recommended that one cut the normal growth off of a Monster, so that the abnormal growth persists and is what one sees.

There seems to be no word in the English language as monstrose. We would write *Pachycereus schottii monstrosus* as the proper binomial name of

the Totem Pole cactus in the pseudo-latin. The term monstrose is commonly used to describe the condition defined by monstrosus. Likewise “cristata” is used to define the crested stated in a binomial and “variegata” for a variegate.



*Pachycereus schottii*



*Pachycereus schottii monstrosus*



*Mammillaria bocasana*



*Mammillaria bocasana monstrosus "Fred"*

## SHOW RULES

- 1) Showers must be members of the SGVC&SS
- 2) Entries must be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least 6 months. Artificially propagated plant entries are encouraged. Plants must be clean (no weeds or debris), healthy (no insects, disease, or pesticide odor) and dry (to keep tables and table coverings from being ruined). Plant labels should be removed. Exhibitors are responsible for placing entry cards with exhibits prior to judging. The show committee may remove any entry which detracts from the show or jeopardizes the health of other entries.
- 3) Plants in Division 1, 2 & 6 must be individually potted specimens. Pot size refers to the inside diameter of the pot at soil level (Irregular pots; the average diameter). Cristate & Monstrose plants should appear only in their specific classes. Miniature refers to the intrinsic characteristic of the species; i.e., a small, mature plant; not an immature, or stunted plant. A collection should be of individually potted, identified plants of one genus or some unifying theme.
- 4) Depending on the number of entries, prior to the judging, the Show Committee may combine or divide categories and rearrange entries. The Show Room is open to authorized people only during judging. Entries must remain until the end of the show.

5) Entries are judged on: Condition, Size & Maturity & Difficulty of Culture (70%); Staging (25%); and Nomenclature (5%). Entries are judged against “perfection”; awards are given only if the judges, whose decisions are final, believe they are merited.

6) The Society and Show Committee will take due care to safeguard entries but cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of, plants or other property.

## AWARDS

First, second and third place ribbons may be awarded in each class in Divisions 1 through 6. In addition 18 rosettes will be awarded for outstanding entries in both Divisions 1 & 2. For Sweepstakes calculation:s

- 1st place = 6 points, 2nd place = 3 points and
- 3rd place = 1 point. Rosettes will be tie-breakers.

**DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, CACTI**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Ariocarpus up to 5"  | 23 Mammillaria w/o hooks single up to 6"          |
| 2 Ariocarpus single over 5"  | 24 Mammillaria w/o hooks single over 6"           |
| 3 Ariocarpus cluster over 5"   | 25 Mammillaria w/o hooks cluster up to 5"         |
| 4 Astrophytum  | 26 Mammillaria w/o hooks cluster 5 to 10"         |
| 5 Aztekium, Geohintonia, Epithelantha,<br>Pelecyphora, Encephalocarpus | 27 Mammillaria w/o hooks cluster over 10"         |
| 6 Borzicatus, Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya                             | 28 Melocactus                                     |
| 7 Blossfeldia, Frailea   | 29 Parodia, Notocactus                            |
| 8 Buiningia, Uebelmannia   | 30 Opuntia, North America                         |
| 9 Columnar - Ceroid types (N or S American)                            | 31 Opuntia South America                          |
| 10 Obregonia, Strombocactus, Ortegocactus                              | 32 Pediocactus Sclerocactus                       |
| 11 Copiapoa  | 33 Turbinicarpus, Gymnocactus                     |
| 12 Coryphantha, Escobaria, Neobesseya, Neolloydia                      | 34 Rebutia  |
| 13 Discocactus   | 35 Sulcorebutia, Weingartia                       |
| 14 Echinocereus up to 5"   | 36 Stenocactus                                    |
| 15 Echinocereus over 5"  | 37 Thelocactus, Hamatocactus                      |
| 16 Echinopsis, Lobivia, Acanthocalycium, Trichocereus                  | 38 Epiphytic Cacti (Aporocactus, Hatiora, etc)    |
| 17 Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia                            | 39 Any Other Genus                                |
| 18 Eriosyce (Neoporteria, Neochilenia,<br>Pyrhocactus, Horridocactus)  | 40 Variegated Cacti                               |
| 19 Gymnocalycium up to 5"  | 41 Monstrose (Multiple, irregular growth centers) |
| 20 Gymnocalycium over 5"   | 42 Crested Cacti                                  |
| 21 Mammillaria hooked up to 6"   | 43 Seed grown by Exhibitors up to 5 years         |
| 22 Mammillaria hooked over 6"  | 44 Miniature Cacti (3 inch Maximum pot size)      |
|  | 45 Cacti collections of 5 – 12 plants             |

**DIVISION 2 INDIVIDUAL POTTED SPECIMENS, SUCCULENTS****Aizoaceae** (Mesembryanthemaceae) family

- 46 Lithops  
 47 Conophytum  
 48 Other genera - with prominent stems/roots:  
 Aloinopsis, Mestoklema, etc.  
 49 Other genera - without prominent stems/roots:  
 Dinteranthus, Lapidaria, etc.

**Asphodelaceae** family

- 50 Aloe under 6"  
 51 Aloe 6" and over  
 52 Gasteria  
 53 Haworthia & Astroloba under 5"  
 54 Haworthia & Astroloba 5" and over

**Crassulaceae** family

- 55 Adromischus  
 56 Cotyledon, Tylecodon  
 56 Cotyledon, Tylecodon  
 57 Crassula, Kalanchoe  
 58 Dudleya  
 59 Echeveria  
 60 Other Crassulaceae: Aeonium, Pachyphytum  
 Graptopetalum, Monanthes, Sedum,  
 Tacitus, Orostachys, etc.

**Apocynaceae** family

- 69 Adenium & Plumeria  
 70 Pachypodium - African  
 71 Pachypodium - Madagascan

**Asclepiadaceae** family

- 72 Fockea, Raphionacme, Brachystelma  
 73 Caralluma, Hoodia, Huernia, Pseudolithos,  
 Stapelia, Trichocaulon, etc.  
 74 Other Asclepiadaceae: Ceropegia,  
 Sarcostemma, Hoya, etc.

## Succulents in Other Families

- 75 **Agavaceae:** Agave, Yucca  
 76 **Agavaceae:** Nolina, Calibanus, Beaucarnea  
 77 **Asteraceae:** Senecio, Othonna  
 78 **Bromeliaceae:** Abromeitiella, Dyckia, etc.  
 79 **Burseraceae:** Bursera, Commiphora  
 80 **Didiereaceae:** Alluaudia, Decaryia, Didieria  
 81 **Dracaenaceae:** Sansevieria (may include  
 variegates)  
 82 **Moraceae:** Dorstenia (enter Ficus in 83 or 84)  
 83 **Passifloraceae:** Adenia  
 84 **Portulacaceae:** Anacampseros, Avonia, Ceraria  
 85 **Vitaceae:** Cissus, Cyphostemma

**Euphorbiaceae Family**

- Euphorbia - species endemic to Madagascar:
- 61 Caudiciform or Geophyte (capsaintmariensis, cylindrifolia v. tubifera, etc.)
- 62 Other Madagascan (decaryi, milli, etc.)
- Euphorbia - species not endemic to Madagascar:
- 63 Caudiciform (knuthii, squarrosa, etc.)
- 64 Medusa type (esculenta, gorgonis, etc.)
- 65 Stem type (abdelkuri, obesa, suzanna, etc.)
- Other genera of Euphorbiaceae:
- 66 Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, etc.

**Geraniaceae family**

- 67 Pelargonium
- 68 Sarcocaulon

**DIVISION 3 ARRANGEMENTS**

- 96 Dish gardens (miniature scene)
- 97 Planters (group of the same or assorted plants)
- 98 Bonsai (8" or taller)
- 99 Bonsai Miniature (less than 8" tall)

**DIVISION 5 ALLIED INTERESTS**

- 103 Photography
- 104 Art Work & Handicrafts

**Pachycauls, Caudiciforms & Geophytes**

- Adansonia, Bombax, Chorisia, Cucurbitaceae, Dioscorea, Fouquieria Pachycormus, etc.
- 86 Pot size under 8"
- 87 Pot size 8" and over
- 88 Any other genus
- 89 Bulbs
- 90 Variegated Succulents
- 91 Crested Succulents (fan-shaped growth)
- 92 Monstrose (multiple, irregular, growth centers)
- 93 Seed grown by exhibitors up to 5 years
- 94 Miniature (3" maximum pot size)
- 95 Collection of 5 - 12 plants

**DIVISION 4 DISPLAYS**

- 100 Individual Display
- 101 Commercial Display
- 102 Educational Display

**DIVISION 6 HOLIDAY PLANTS**

- 105 Cacti
- 106 Succulents

***Calendar of Upcoming Events***

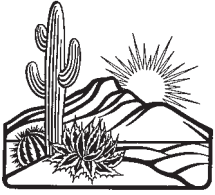
**November 5 and 6** — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA.

**November 11 and 12, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm** — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For more information contact Vince Basta at 714-267-4329.

**December 11, 5:00 pm** — San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society *Annual Holiday Party* at Ayers Hall, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

2011 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

|      | Cacti of the Month                                    | Succulent of the Month                                | Study Group                  |
|------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Oct. | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates                          | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates                          | Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates |
| Nov. | 3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show | 3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show | Winter Seed Workshop         |



***COMMUNIQUE***

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
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**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: [yvonne@pricklypalace.com](mailto:yvonne@pricklypalace.com) or via mail to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Yvonne Hemenway, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, CA 92509. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the ***COMMUNIQUE***.