

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

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

September 2015—Volume 48, Number 9

## ***In This Issue***

President's Message .....	1
August Mini Show Results.....	3
This Month's Program.....	4
Plants of the Month .....	4
Plant of the Month and Workshop Topics .....	10
Calendar of Upcoming Events.....	11

Material in the **COMMUNIQUE** publication may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCSS and the author, and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material is sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

## **President's Message**

The 2015 Inter-City show was the best I have ever seen. The plants keep getting better and bigger each year. People who have never attended a C&S show were overwhelmed at the fabulous display. The new lighting in Ayers hall made for great photographs and showed off our plants in their full glory.

Congratulations to all of you who entered the show. Kudos to Inter-city show chairs Tom Glavich, John Matthews, and Peter Walkowiak, sales chair Jim Hanna, show treasurer Evelyn Stevens, the L.A. Arboretum staff, and all of the hard-working volunteers that made this show such a success.

Continued on page 2

**September Meeting  
Thursday,  
September 10 at 7:00 pm**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in Ayres Hall in the Los Angeles County Arboretum.

## **Mini Show Plants:**

**Cactus:  
Turbinicarpus, Pediocactus,  
and Sclerocactus**

**Succulent: Asclepiads**

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.

## **Refreshment Sign Up**

Diana Liu  
Angie Acosta  
Mary Aparicio  
Robert Eisel  
Ann Linck  
Richard Salcedo

The speaker at our September meeting will be the well-known Australian succulent expert and author Attila Kapitany. His brand-new topic will be “Botanical Gardens of Australia Tour”. You simply cannot afford to miss this lecture.

We still have a few seats left for our Lotusland Botanical Garden field trip. The date is Saturday, September 26. Time of departure is 7:45 am. We will leave from either the Arboretum parking lot or a local park-and-ride. Further details will be given at the next meeting.

The trip will begin with a guided tour through Lotusland. On the way back we have a shopping visit to Seaside Gardens in Carpinteria. Finally, we will stop to visit three nurseries: Tim Harvey, John Martinez, and John Matthews near Moorpark. We expect to be back at 6:00 pm.

The cost of Field trip is \$45 per person which includes admission to Lotusland. Our bus will be comfortable and air-conditioned. You will need to pay for the field trip at least two weeks in advance.

Checks are payable to SGVCSS and should be mailed to:

Margie Wilson  
SGVCSS Treasurer  
501 San Luis Rey Rd  
Arcadia, CA 91007

Thinking ahead a bit, the last show and sale of the year is the SGVCSS Winter Show, November 7th and 8th. Set up will be on November 5th and 6th. We are happy to announce that Manny Rivera will continue his excellent work as show chair.

This show is for SGVCSS members only. It is OUR show. If you did not compete in the Intercity show because you thought it was too daunting, here is your chance!

Best regards,  
Gunnar Eisel  
President, SGVCSS

**The Cactus & Succulent Workshop**  
will meet on Wednesday,  
September 16 at 7:30 pm,  
in Ayres Hall  
(until September)  
Los Angeles County Arboretum.

This month’s topic will be:  
**“Pests”**

The workshop 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.

Workshops are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in Ayres Hall at the L A County Arboretum, 201 N.

**SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2015**

Gunnar Eisel, President  
Buck Hemenway, Past President  
Horace Birgh, Vice President  
Louise Guerin, Secretary  
Margie Wilson, Treasurer  
Rebecca Mallonee, Director  
Mary Brumbaugh, Director  
Louise Stack, 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 Representative  
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair  
Woody Minnich, Program Chair

*Plant of the Month Results  
for the August Mini-Show*

**Novice Succulent:**

1st - Robert Feldman - Rhoicissus sp.  
2nd - Una Yeh - Adenium oleifolium  
3rd - Danielle Romero - Haworthia limifolia striata

**Novice Cactus:**

1st - Mike Pearson - Haageocereus sp.  
2nd - Minh Au - Melocactus conoideus  
3rd - Fred Parrales - Coryphantha elephantidens

**Intermediate Cactus:**

1st - Joe Cavallo - Copiapoa tenuissima

**Advanced Succulent:**

1st - Cindy Arakaki - Monadenium ritchiei

**Advanced Cactus** - swept by Cindy Arakaki

1st - Mammillaria blossfeldiana  
2nd - Strombocactus disciformis  
3rd - Rebutia heliosa

***This Month's Program:***  
***Attila Kapatany***  
 Australian succulents

Attila is immediate past president of the Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia with 10 years in this position, and is also currently editor of its journal.

He has thirty years of experience growing and marketing cacti and succulents. Attila is also a member of the Horticultural Media in Australia, writing regularly in magazines, journals and newspapers and promoting succulent plants.

Attila has co-written seven books with Rudolf Schulz about succulents, with an eighth book a solo effort on Australian native species. His newest publications are a series of eight booklets on xerophytic Australia plants.

Since 2007 Attila has dedicated much of his time and resources to promoting our lesser known Australian succulent plants, touring the Australian speaking circuit regularly and featuring on television and radio.



Attila Kapatany

San Gabriel Valley Cactus  
and Succulent Society

Cacti of the Month  
September 2015

**Turbinicarpus,  
Pediocactus,  
and Sclerocactus**

*Turbinicarpus* is a small (but growing) genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It is one of several closely related genera, *Neolloydia*, and *Gymnocactus*, and *Strombocactus* being the ones most frequently mentioned. In many books, some of the plants listed below will appear as either *Neolloydia* or *Gymnocactus*. The names of *Turbinicarpus* are generally a mess, with many plants having several, and the exact genus still under revision. The relation of these genera is still being worked out through DNA studies and the disagreements between botanists are substantial. New species have been discovered and named in the past couple of decades; seeds and plants of these are just becoming available.

*Pediocactus* is a small genus of cacti confined to the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. They are mostly high altitude plants, and are

intolerant of warm nights. They are difficult to grow in Southern California, unless grafted. All the species are endangered due to over collection.

*Sclerocactus* is another small genus of cacti confined to the Western United States and Northern Mexico. They are all hard to propagate and hard to keep alive in cultivation. All the species are endangered due to over collection. They are also usually seen as grafts.

*Pediocactus* and *Sclerocactus* are available as grafted plants. In Southern California, this is the easiest way to keep them alive, but they never will achieve the appearance they will in habitat. They get too big, and the spines are too long.

All of the *Turbinicarpus* species are worth growing. They are all small, most full sized in collections at just a few inches. A few will clump readily, and make impressive show specimens, but still remain manageable. A collection of all the species and varieties could easily fit on a table top.

*Turbinicarpus* have large tuberous roots, which are their primary food

and water storage source in times of drought. Over much of their habitat, rain falls during the summer, and growth is most rapid during this period. They can take lots of heat.

*Turbinicarpus* are fairly easy to grow as long as attention is paid to their life cycle. They are dormant in winter from November through mid March. As they exit dormancy water should be given sparingly. If too much water and fertilizer are given early in the growth cycle it is easy to split the skin of the plant. Once growth is established (April and after) water freely. During very hot weather in the summer, the plants sometimes go dormant again for a short period.

If a head splits, all is not lost. The entire head can be removed, and the top of the tuberous root left half an inch above the soil. It will usually start two or three new heads. Removing a head is also a great method of vegetative propagation.

*Turbinicarpus* are easily raised from seed. They are slow for the first year, but reasonable size plants can be grown in a year or two with flowers the size of the plant will appear by the second year. Many species and cultivars are only available as seed.

### Terrific Turbs:

*Turbinicarpus pseudomacrolele subsp. pseudomacrolele* clumps readily, as shown above. It is easily grown, and needs to be repotted frequently to maintain its growth.

*Turbinicarpus laui* stays small, rarely more than an inch and a half. It has woolly areoles and a wool crown. From San Luis Potosi it has pinkish flowers.

*Turbinicarpus lophophoroides* sometimes remains solitary, but generally clusters with age. It resembles the genus *Lophophora*. Careful watering away from the body of the plant will allow the areoles to keep their wool. The white crown will offset the white flowers. From San Luis Potosi.

*Turbinicarpus pseudopectinatus* has small sets of comb like spikes at each areole. It usually remains solitary, and grows to two inches or so high and an inch in diameter. From Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon it has large pink flowers.

*Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus* is a very variable species, with at least half a dozen named varieties. This species has the largest spines of any of the *Turbinicarpus*, with the spines often as large as the body of the plant. The named variations differ in the width,

color and length of the spines. The spines of this species are hollow with narrow cracks. Water condensing on the spines runs through the spines and is used by the growing plant. This is a widespread species from Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, and Nuevo Leon.

*Turbinicarpus valdezianus* is another small bodied pectinate species with red and white striped flowers. In this species, the pectinate spines are not in the two neat rows as in *T. pseudopectinatus*, but are more spherical, and almost mashed.

Tom Glavich August 2015



*Turbinicarpus pseudomacrochele*



*Turbinicarpus lauii*

## Succulent of the Month

September 2015

*Asclepiads*

The *Asclepiadaceae* or Milkweed Family is a large family of succulent and non succulent plants. The family has a wealth of growth forms, rivaling and possibly exceeding that found in the *Cactaceae*, *Crassulaceae* and *Euphorbiaceae* families. Forms run from trailing vines, to weak stemmed sprawlers, to cactus-like succulents, to caudiciforms. New species are still being discovered in South and Tropical Africa, and the family will continue to grow. The flowers of all of the *Asclepiadaceae* are five sided, and complex, with most suited to the activities of a single pollinator, usually a fly.

The cactus-like forms include *Hoodia* and *Trichocaulon*. Most of the *Hoodia* have a similar appearance, with soft spines. Their flowers are simple, open, and moderately odoriferous. The most outstanding quality is their resemblance to pink, purple, gray or brown radar dishes. They are easy to grow, but need heat, and protection from excess moisture in the winter. They can be propagated from cuttings fairly easily.

*Hoodia gordonii* and *Hoodia bainesii* are often available, and are strong growers.

The weak stemmed sprawlers such as *Caralluma*, *Huernia*, *Orbea*, and *Stapelia* are all grown for their spectacular flowers. The flowers of these genera are all very complex, with a central raised zone, and very complex color patterns. They generally have an odor of rotting meat, and many have small hairs that move in wind, simulating the hairs that grow on mold. All of the weak stemmed species are easy to propagate from cuttings. A cutting is taken, allowed to dry, and simply placed on top of damp potting soil. Cuttings root in just a few weeks. All of these species are also the victim of a black rot that can reduce a plant from a show quality specimen to a pot of black slime in just a few days. The fungus causing this black rot travels through the plant extremely quickly, and the plant is usually doomed by the time the problem is noticed. Many growers propagate two or three cuttings of every species so they will have a spare, when the inevitable happens. There are literally dozens of great species in this group, and you can hardly go wrong, regardless of what you grow.

*Caralluma socotrana*, while a challenge to grow is particularly beautiful.

*Huernia pendula* has dark purple flowers, and is a rapid grower.

The caudiciform genera, *Fockea*, *Brachystelma*, some of the *Ceropegia*, and *Raphionacme* are all really vines. The caudex is generally below ground in habitat. *Fockea edulis*, shown at left is one of the most popular. Easily raised from seed, an impressive caudex can be grown in just a few years, if it is left below soil level in the pot. The *Fockea* are all easy to grow, perfectly happy outdoors, even with temperatures near freezing. *Raphionacme* are a bit more temperamental, and rot more quickly, but as long as they are kept from being cold and wet, will do fine outdoors. *Brachystelma* and *Ceropegia* on the other hand are much harder to keep. *Brachystelma* rot easily and quickly when either too cold or too wet. *Brachystelma* have the worst smelling flowers of all the *Asclepiads*. *Ceropegia* have the most complex, with the petals forming a small enclosure that limits access to only a few pollinators.

*Pseudolithos* and *Whitesloania* are two rare genera. *Pseudolithos* is brain-like in appearance, as shown at left. *Whitesloania* resembles an *Astrophytum myriostigma*. These are wonderful, complex plants, with small flowers coming directly from the body. *Pseudolithos* is generally available, *Whitesloania*, rarely so. *Pseudolithos migiurtinus*, is actually fairly forgiving and grows well in a greenhouse. It needs protection from cold and damp, but doesn't like to get bone dry, even in winter.

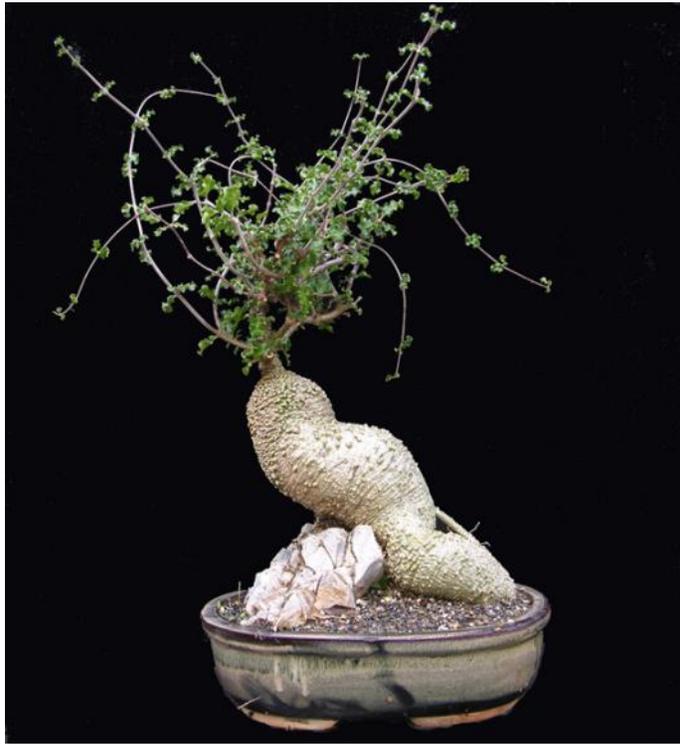
Tom Glavich September 2015



*Trichocaulon whitesloanea*



*Hoodia huasabensis*



Fockea edulis



Huenia ciliate

*Welcome New Members*

Madena Asbell

Richard Callard

Carolyn Feldman

Barbara Newman

M. A. Bjarkman

Jonathan Cross

Dan Gale

Loring Rutt

Ian Bruyey

Ronna Dishnica

Scott Gilmour

Nancy Shiffman

Guy Bruyey

Robert Feldman

Manuel Jimenez

Shali Tomaneng

<b>2015 Plant-of-the-Month and Workshop Topics</b>			
	<b>Cactus of the Month</b>	<b>Succulent of the Month</b>	<b>Workshops</b>
Jan.	Mammillaria Clusters	Agave	Mammillaria
Feb.	Coryphantha, Escobaria	African Crassulaceae	Tips, Tools and Techniques
Mar.	Opuntioideae	Haworthia	Haworthia
Apr.	Eriosyce, Copiapoa	Dudleya, Echeveria	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Echinocereus	Pachypodium	Vegetative Propagation
June	Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Thelocactus	Gasteria	Echinocereus
July	Astrophytum	Lithops	Staging Workshop
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Euphorbia
Sept.	Turbinocarpus, Pediocactus, Sclerocactus	Asclepiads	Pests
Oct.	Ariocarpus	Sansevieria	Sansevieria
Nov.	Variegates	Variegates	Winter Seed Workshop

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**September 5-- Huntington Symposium.** Saturday, September 5, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Huntington.

**September 7-- Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction.** Monday, Labor Day, September 7 from noon to 5 pm. Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach. Info: (310) 922-6090

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

**October 24 & 25 — Palomar Show and Sale.** Saturday, October 24 from 9 am to 5 pm. Sunday, October 25 from 10 am to 4 pm. San Diego Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Road, Encinitas. info: hciservices@gmail.com or 858-382-1797.

**November 7 & 8 — San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale.** Saturday, November 7 from 9 am to 4 pm. Sunday, November 8 from 9 am to 4 pm. L. A. County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.



2015  
Inter-City trophy winners



**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: [richardinwainutpark@msn.com](mailto:richardinwainutpark@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**.