



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Communiqué



UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Club Meeting September 10**

Ayres Hall of the
LA Arboretum:
Meeting 7:30 PM
Doors open at 6:00 PM

* **C&S Workshop September 16**

**Topic: Madagascan
Pachypodiums**

Palm Classroom of the
Arboretum. 7:30 PM
Doors open at 6:00 PM

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ABOUT SGVCSS

Chartered in 1967,
San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society's
objectives are to promote
knowledge, study, and interest
in cacti and other succulent
plants through educational
programs, public exhibits, & the
sharing of these interests to the
general public.

Plants of the Month:



Ariocarpus

Bursera



Oakes Austin

President's Message



Whew! That's the sound of collective relief after the recent Inter-City Show and Sale. This year's show and sale was even better than last year in large part due to the dedication and hard work from all the volunteers, exhibitors, and vendors. I'd like to give special thanks to Gunnar Eisel, Inter-City Show Chair and Tom Glavich, Inter-City Sales Chair for their tireless efforts.

But don't put those plants away just yet! Bring your favorite *Ariocarpus* and *Bursera* to the general meeting for our plant of the month mini show, which will precede Oakes Austin's talk on *Conophytum: Growing Tips and Outstanding Plants*.

And one week later don't miss our workshop on Madagascan *Pachypodiums*.

Capping off the month will be our annual summer picnic on September 26th at Arcadia Community Regional Park. After lunch we'll have a water balloon toss, world famous opuntia toss, and plant auction.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the general meeting on September 10th

Warm regards,
Nick Renteria

September Landscaping Workshops

For more information and registration visit:
upperwater.org/water-smart-workshops-2/

Gardening with Native Plants from the San Gabriel Valley and San Gabriel Mountains
Thursday, September 17, 2026
6:00pm - 7:15pm | Virtual

Garden Design Seminar | 庭院设计研讨会
Presented in Mandarin
Saturday, September 19, 2026
10:00am - 11:30am
Arcadia Public Library | 阿卡迪亚公共图书馆

UPPER WATER
WaterSense
greemedia

NEW HOME. SAME PASSION.

Welcome to our new Instagram home!

SHARING
Shows & Events

LEARNING
Workshops

GROWING
Community

Let's grow together.

[instagram.com/sgvcss_org](https://www.instagram.com/sgvcss_org) | sgvcss.com

CHARTERED 1967

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



[INSTAGRAM.COM/SGVCSS_ORG](https://www.instagram.com/sgvcss_org)

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: OAKES AUSTIN

Conophytum: Growing Tips and Outstanding Plants



Oakes's presentation will cover the life cycle of *Conophytum*, with practical information on their care and propagation. It will also include photographs of selected species and forms to show the range and diversity of the genus and encourage others to grow them.

Oakes Austin has several years of hands-on experience cultivating, propagating, photographing and studying South African mesembs at Steven Hammer's Sphaeroid Institute, including *Conophytum*. He also maintains his own collection and has expressed a particular appreciation for the sculptural forms of *Conophytum* and *Lithops*.

Oakes grew up in Massachusetts and developed an interest in cacti and succulents at the age of six. Through members of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Massachusetts, he was introduced to renowned succulent expert Steven Hammer and moved to California in 2022 to work with him at the Sphaeroid Institute in Vista.



Middle: *Conophytum pellucidum*
Bottom Left: *Conophytum tetragonum*
Bottom Right: *Conophytum pageae*

IT'S PICNIC TIME!



PICNIC IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Festivities begin at 11:00 AM • Lunch at noon

ARCADIA COUNTY PARK
Oak Tree Picnic Area



World-famous Opuntia toss • Team water-balloon toss



Broasted chicken & sodas supplied by the club
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share



Plant auction to cap off the day!

PLANTS OF THE MONTH: *Ariocarpus*

Ariocarpus is one of the treasures of the world of cacti. This genus, from central and northern Mexico and southern Texas, has some of the most spectacular species in the entire family. Some succulent growers who otherwise avoid cacti make this genus their sole exception.

There are collectors who grow nothing but *Ariocarpus* and have hundreds of plants in their collections. Rare specimens can change hands for hundreds of dollars. Rare cultivars with unusual tubercles can sell for even more, particularly in Japan and China.

There is no denying that this genus has generated a worldwide cult of devotees.

With all of this, you might expect *Ariocarpus* to be expensive, difficult to obtain, and difficult to grow. Nothing could be further from the truth.



Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus

This genus is well within the range of even novice growers. Interesting hybrids have been produced by several growers, including Frank Nudge and Kal Kaminer of our club, as well as Miles Anderson and Gene Joseph of Tucson

With all of the fuss we make over the horticultural merits of this genus, we shouldn't overlook the plants' important ethnobotanical uses by several Native American cultures. The tubercles contain sticky mucilage that was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *A. kotschoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a treatment for rheumatism, and several species were used as "false peyote" in religious ceremonies.

Cultivation is not difficult when the native environment of these plants is remembered. They grow in mineral soils with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots and grow in areas that are very hot in summer and receive summer rainfall. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and are watered heavily and fertilized only during hot weather, good growth will result.

They need protection from winter rains. Using low-pH, acidified water can also help improve the growth and appearance of these plants. I grow mine in pure pumice, fertilize as needed, and water twice a week during hot weather such as we experienced this summer.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

Ariocarpus

There are currently six or seven recognized species, depending on the taxonomic reference, along with many varieties, local forms, and a nearly infinite number of cultivars.

Ariocarpus agavioides, as its name implies, resembles an agave. First described in 1941 as *Neogomesia agavioides*, it was later transferred to *Ariocarpus*. It is rare in nature and cultivation and occurs in a limited area of Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosí.



Ariocarpus fissuratus

Ariocarpus bravoanus has flattened, triangular tubercles. A beautiful species, it is slow growing and still not seen in many collections, although seedlings are now often available. This species comes from just a few localities in San Luis Potosí.

Ariocarpus fissuratus is much more common. Its range extends from southern Texas into northeastern Mexico, with populations occurring farther south and west. The wide geographical range of this species, along with the isolation of some populations, has given rise to considerable variation. This species is one of the more collectible members of the genus, with many cultivars and hybrids featuring extra hair, broad tubercles, and other distinctive characteristics.

Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus is the miniature of the genus. This species grows almost entirely at ground level. It is widespread in Mexico, occurring on silty plains from Coahuila to Querétaro. In habitat, this species is sometimes temporarily submerged after heavy rains. It is relatively easy to grow, requiring only a good, fast-draining potting mix. Multiheaded specimens of this species are especially appreciated.



Ariocarpus retusus in flower

Ariocarpus retusus was the first species in the genus to be described, in 1838. It is an easily grown species and is widespread throughout northeastern Mexico. Forms traditionally treated as *A. retusus* subsp. *trigonus* have more triangular tubercles. As with *A. fissuratus*, there are dozens of cultivars, variants, variegated forms, and other selections associated with the species.

Ariocarpus scaphiostriis is another of the smaller, less commonly collected species. Seedlings are available, and it is no more difficult to grow than many of the others. It is native to Nuevo León.

August 2026
Tom Glavich

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

Bursera

Bursera is a genus of small trees and shrubs native to the New World, ranging mostly from Southern California through northern Argentina and into the islands of the Caribbean. They are primarily subtropical plants and are well suited to the climate of Southern California. Some species are native to wetter tropical environments and appreciate additional water, while nearly all are adapted to periods of extended drought. In Southern California,

Bursera generally grow best when watered during the summer. Most will tolerate being left outdoors and unprotected during the winter rains. Any standard succulent mix can be used as a potting medium. They are tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions and can also be grown in the ground.

Growth is much faster when plants are well fed and given ample root room. When grown in a fast-draining mix, they can take an amazing amount of water during the summer and will reward the grower with substantial growth and trunk thickening. These are trees and should be fed accordingly, not with quarter-strength, low-nitrogen fertilizer once a month, but with a good-quality fertilizer in appropriate amounts. Nutricote is an excellent choice.

All species respond well to bonsai techniques and can be pruned to emphasize the geometry and structure of their trunks and bark.

Planting them in the ground with proper irrigation will greatly accelerate their growth. They can be left in the ground for several years and will generally tolerate lower temperatures in the ground than they will in pots.

Many species develop beautiful red or brown peeling bark that is rarely seen at its best in cultivation. Some of the more tree-like species are very vigorous growers, increasing from a foot tall to four feet or more in only two years in a three-gallon pot. They should be pruned to shape rather than allowed to grow into long, thin whips.

Most **Bursera** are aromatic, with leaves and bark that produce a pleasant woody to turpentine-like fragrance. Nearly all of the species are worth growing and can be developed into excellent show specimens through careful pruning. Many of the larger species require hard pruning each year to keep them compact.

Bursera can be propagated from cuttings, preferably taken at the beginning of the growing season. Cuttings can be rooted in pure perlite with the aid of a rooting hormone. Success can be sporadic and usually improves with practice, so take several cuttings and be patient.

Most plants will also produce seed. Seeds are best germinated when temperatures are warm. Late summer, including August, is an excellent time to start them.

August 2026
Tom Glavich



SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: *Bursera*



Bursera simplicifolia



Bursera fagaroides



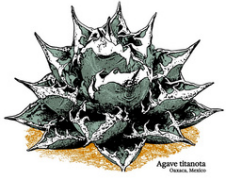
Bursera microphylla
Mount Waterman Arizona Form



Bursera microphylla



Species frequently seen in cultivation include *Bursera fagaroides*, *Bursera microphylla*, with its very small leaves, and *Bursera simplicifolia*. Many other species from Mexico and Central America deserve to be grown and shown.



40TH INTER-CITY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW

Inter-City Show 2026: Class point leaders

Top five cactus, succulent, and overall scores by division

Novice

* Rookie Novice

CACTUS		
1	Bill LeGoullon	45
2	Edward Zaragoza	* 33
3	Kathryn Ostremier	30
4	Lee Family (E, C, E)	27
5	Liz Wagner	27

SUCCULENTS		
1	Jan Wittenberg	* 52
2	Michael Pearson	47
3	Jonathan Brnak	40
4	John Van Unen	37
5	Desiree Alexander	35

OVERALL		
1	Michael Pearson	70
2	Cesar & Loretta Mendoza	* 55
3	Jan Wittenberg	52
4	Desiree Alexander	47
5	Bill LeGoullon	45

Advanced

CACTUS		
1	Owen Murray	115
2	Travis Martin	53
3	Mary Jo Mateer	35
4	Bandit Surintaramon	28
5	Ron Behar	26

SUCCULENTS		
1	Owen Murray	82
2	Angelo Toledo	58
3	Chris ZaFeres	50
4	Pat Wheeler	49
5	Mary Jo Mateer	47

OVERALL		
1	Owen Murray	197
2	Travis Martin	83
3	Mary Jo Mateer	82
4	Pat Wheeler	60
5	Angelo Toledo	58

Open

CACTUS		
1	Karen Ostler	76
2	Peter Walkowiak	59
3	Woody Minnich	30
4	Kathryn Boorer	26
5	Tom Glavich	24

SUCCULENTS		
1	Peter Walkowiak	122
2	Mike Hackett	51
3	Nick Wilkinson	48
4	Matt Maggio	40
5	Arnold Chaney	28

OVERALL		
1	Peter Walkowiak	181
2	Karen Ostler	101
3	Mike Hackett	51
4	Nick Wilkinson	48
5	Tom Glavich	43



40TH INTER-CITY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW

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Overall division leaders and high points

Division winners and the three highest point totals across all divisions

Overall division leaders

NOVICE

Michael Pearson

23 cactus • 47 succulent

70

POINTS

ADVANCED

Owen Murray

115 cactus • 82 succulent

197

POINTS

OPEN

Peter Walkowiak

59 cactus • 122 succulent

181

POINTS

Overall High Points

FIRST

SWEEPSTAKES

Owen Murray

197

POINTS



SECOND

Peter Walkowiak

181

POINTS

THIRD

Karen Ostler

101

POINTS



Inter-City Trophy Table Winners — Congratulations to everyone!



Inter-City Show Trophy Table Highlights



Welcome to Our New Members:

Crystal Baik, Arcadia
 Bill Breer, Claremont
 Sifry Borrayo, Whittier
 Carlos Calderon, Monrovia
 Rusty Collins
 Rebecca Collins
 Paola Hernandez, Monterey Park
 Ernie Lee, Pasadena
 Lisa Lee, Temple City
 Lily Lee, Temple City
 Michael Lisenkov, San Fernando
 Brianna Garcia
 Kin Lok, El Monte
 Malinda Mendoza, Monterey Park
 Lorenzo Mendoza, Monterey Park
 Manuel Olivera, Anaheim
 Natalie "Nat" Perez, Los Angeles
 Alex Perez
 Larry Regalado, Temple City
 Ransom Rideout, Altadena
 Linda Nishio
 Judd Schoenholtz, Pasadena
 Jennie Wang, Arcadia
 Edward Zaragoza, West Hollywood

Thank you to all our renewing members!

Did your SGVCSS Membership lapse?
 Membership is still \$20 per year.
 You may pay at the meetings or
 use the QR Code to the right.



Join



Renew



PLANT OF THE MONTH AWARD WINNERS

NOVICE DIVISION: CACTUS

First Place	Eric Jump	<i>Ortegocactus macdougallii</i>
Second Place	Mike Pearson	<i>Blossfeldia liliputana</i>
Third Place	Nora Sandoval	<i>Eulychnia castanea</i> 'Spiralis' 'Unicorn Plant'

NOVICE DIVISION: SUCCULENT

First Place	Tony Mao	<i>Euphorbia bupleurifolia</i>
Second Place	Tony Mao	<i>Haworthia cymbiformis</i> 'Variegata'
Third Place	Nel	<i>Aeonium</i> , crested
Third Place	Charlene Sandoval	<i>Sansevieria masoniana</i> 'Whale Fin'

ADVANCED DIVISION: CACTUS

First Place	Travis Martin	<i>Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus</i> f. <i>monstruosus</i>
Second Place	Betty Farfan	<i>Mammillaria prolifera</i> subsp. <i>haitiensis</i>
Third Place	Sharon Sedillo	<i>Gymnocalycium schroederianum</i> f. <i>longispinum</i>

ADVANCED DIVISION: SUCCULENT

First Place	Nick Renteria	<i>Adenium obesum</i>
Second Place	Travis Martin	<i>Avonia alstonii</i>
Third Place	Daniel Veenk	<i>Caralluma hexagona</i>

OPEN DIVISION: CACTUS

First Place	Manny Rivera	<i>Myrtillocactus geometrizans</i>
Second Place	Manny Rivera	<i>Eulychnia castanea</i>
Third Place	Manny Rivera	<i>Eulychnia castanea</i>

OPEN DIVISION: SUCCULENT

First Place	Manny Rivera	<i>Adenia globosa</i>
Second Place	Manny Rivera	<i>Jatropha pelargonifolia</i>
Third Place	Manny Rivera	<i>Dorstenia gypsophila</i>

2026 C&S AND EPI EVENT CALENDAR

SEP. 26-27:

Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society Fall Sale and Show

Sat. 9:00 AM-5:00 PM,

Sun. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Info. mbacsspresident@gmail.com or mbsucculent.org

Portuguese Hall, 124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076

OCT. 4:

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Auction

1:00 PM-3:30 PM Info. Call 714-553-6914

Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA

OCT. 11:

Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society Fall Sale

9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Info. www.conejocss.com or conejocss@hotmail.com

558 N. Ventu Park Rd.

Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Oct. 23-25:

Huntington Fall Plant Sale

- Reservations Required

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Information and reservations:

www.huntington.org

Sale information: 626-405-3571

Oct. 24-25

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Fall Show and Sale

San Diego Botanic Garden

admission required

Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;

Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Information: rwkopfstein@gmail.com

San Diego Botanic Garden Conservatory, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA

PLANT OF THE MONTH AND WORKSHOPS

Sep	<i>Ariocarpus</i> <i>Bursera</i>	Madagascan <i>Pachypodium</i>
Oct	<i>Madagascan Pachypodium</i> <i>Melocactus</i> , <i>Discocactus</i>	Winter Seed Workshop
Nov	Crest and Monstrose	Tips and Tricks

Snack Schedule

September

Last Name: I-L

November

Last Name: Q-T



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2026

Officers and Directors:

Nick Renteria, President
 Amanda Gerberich, Vice President
 Charlene Sandoval, Secretary
 Margie Wilson, Treasurer
 Gunnar Eisel, Past President

Margie Wilson, Director
 Manny Rivera, Director
 Sharon Sedillo, Director
 Angela Clubb, Director
 Mike Pearson, Director
 Liz Wagner, Director

Committee Chairs and Appointed Positions:

Program Chair – Gunnar Eisel
 Membership Chair – Keiko Doi
 Club Librarian – Cindy Arakaki
 Newsletter Editor – Gunnar Eisel
 Social Media Chair – Open

Winter Show Chair – Manny Rivera
 Winter Sales Chair – James Lemos
 Inter-City Show Chair – Gunnar Eisel
 Inter-City Sales Chair – Tom Glavich
 CSSA Representative – Amanda Gerberich

General Meetings

Second Thursday of each month
 Doors open at 6:00 PM
 Meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

Location: Ayres Hall
 Los Angeles County Arboretum
 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

Workshops

Third Wednesday of each month
 Doors open at 6:00 PM
 Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

Location: Palm Classroom
 Los Angeles County Arboretum
 (No workshop in December)

Got News or Comments?
 Contact us at: editor@sgvcss.com

