

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

September 2021 — Volume 54, Number 09  
An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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### **Our next meeting will be:**

**Thursday, September 9th  
at 7:30 pm. in Ayres Hall  
LA County Arboretum**

**"Landscaping and Micro-Climates  
for Small Yards"**

**Presented by Gary Duke**

**Masks required**

### **Our C&S workshop will be:**

**Wednesday, September 15th at 7:30 pm.  
Bamboo Classroom  
LA County Arboretum**

**The topic will be *Adenium***

**Masks required**

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## September Program:

### Landscaping and Micro-Climates for Small Yards Presented by Gary Duke

Thursday, September 9th at 7:30 pm

Program: Gary Duke will describe what factors should be considered when developing a plan to landscape your yard – sun angles, focal points, creating micro-climates for your special needs plants as well as how to plan for maintenance with special emphasis for small yards. He will show numerous examples of various yards and gardens to demonstrate his points and broaden our thinking to enhance our creativity. Gary has also written a book on this topic which people are welcome to buy.

Short Bio: Gary Duke has been collecting cacti and succulents since he was 10 years old. He is a retired Air Force officer with a doctoral degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original and ever- expanding collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman.

He has also been President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Club in the southern California area. He was recently elected to the Board of Directors to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Following his military career, he worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years.

Gary is an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas. He has over 1000 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. He frequently gives slide presentations throughout southern California.



Gary Duke



Gary Duke's Back Yard

## Cacti of the Month: September 2021: Cacti of the United States

All text and photos by **Tom Glavich**

Cacti are found throughout the United States, with at least one species native to most states except those in the extreme northeast, Hawaii and Alaska. There are *Opuntia* native to New Jersey, and *Escobaria* that grow into the Dakotas and as far east as Missouri. Florida has many species including some remarkable epiphytes. As might be expected, the Southwest from Texas through California is the home to most genera and species.

Environments vary from tropical areas where frost is very rare and humidity can be near 100% to areas that are below freezing and snow covered for part of the year. Cacti thrive in all of these environments.

There are about 150 species of cacti in the United States, depending on how you lump or split the various genera. There are several web pages that give complete lists; a quick search on Google will turn up many. Some of these pages use unusual and not generally accepted names for a few genera, but still provide a good guide.

A large fraction of any species list is devoted to *Opuntia*. Some of the best Cacti of the United States are *Opuntia*, and some of the best of these are the Chollas. However, few of these make good pot or garden plants, unless you have a very large garden.

The best known of all Southwest cacti is *Carnegiea gigantea*, or the saguaro. This native of the Sonoran desert defines the image of the Southwest. It does not transplant from its home well. Seedlings are readily available, and grow quickly, but large plants succumb to our wetter winters. The further inland you go, the better their chances of survival.

Nearly as impressive is *Stenocereus thurberi*, found mostly in United States in the Organ Pipe Cactus National monument and surrounding areas. It extends throughout Sonora and into Baja California.

When wandering through Southern Arizona or New Mexico, the most impressive cactus flowers

belong to the *Echinocereus*. Almost all the members of this genus have bright colored, usually red, flowers. There are at least a dozen species found through the southwest.

One of the most popular of the genera of the Sonoran desert is *Ferocactus*. *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *covillei* and *wislizenii* are all found in the Southwest desert.

A less obvious member of the Sonoran desert of Arizona is *Peniocereus greggii*, a tuberous rooted scrambler that climbs through shrubs, usually evident only during brief flower periods at night. Surprisingly, this plant is easy to grow, and does well in pots in Southern California. Relatively rare in collections, it is easily grown from seed, and develops a great tuberous root in just a few years.

The genus *Mammillaria* is represented by *M. dioica grahamii*, *M. tetrandicistra*, *M. microcarpa* and several others. These are easily found in the field, and worth seeking out. They do well in pots, and should be shown more often.

Cultivation of most of the US desert cacti is surprisingly easy. They are perfectly happy outside of their normal environments, and do fine in pots, unprotected from Southern California winter rains. The few exceptions include the larger ceroid species, which are more frost sensitive, and suffer from our periods of extended dampness. *Pediocactus* and *Sclerocactus* are hard to keep through Southern California summers.





A very incomplete list of US Cacti  
(only one or two US species listed for  
most genera)

*Ariocarpus fissuratus*  
*Astrophytum asterias*  
*Carnegiea gigantea*  
*Coryphantha ramillosa*  
*Coryphantha recurvata*  
*Cylindropuntia arbuscula*  
*Cylindropuntia imbricate*  
*Echinocactus horizionthalonius*  
*Echinocactus polycephalus*  
*Echinocactus texensis*  
*Echinocereus engelmannii*  
*Echinocereus rigidissimus*  
*Echinomastus intertextus*  
*Escobaria desertii*  
*Escobaria missouriensis*  
*Ferocactus cylindraceus*  
*Ferocactus eastwoodiae*  
*Grusonia emoryi*  
*Mammillaria dioica*  
*Mammillaria grahamii*  
*Opuntia basilaris*  
*Opuntia fragilis*  
*Pediocactus* (all)  
*Peniocereus greggii*  
*Sclerocactus papyracanthus*  
*Sclerocactus uncinatus*  
*Stenocereus thurberi*  
*Thelocactus setispinus*

Tom Glavich, August 2021



*Carnegiea gigantea* in Sabino Canyon



*Ferocactus cylindraceus*

## Succulent of the Month: September 2021: *Adenium*

Text and photos by **Tom Glavich**

*Adenium* is a member of the *Apocynaceae* and a relative of *Plumeria*, *Pachypodium*, *Amosonia*, *Carrisa*, *Oleander*, *Thevetia* and *Vinca*. The *Apocynaceae* is home to many showy flowering plants used for ornamental and medicinal purposes. Oleander is a staple of much of Southern California Gardening, *Vinca* is used worldwide, and *Thevetia*, and *Carrisa*, although not as often seen are spectacular shrubs.

*Adenium* are native to Africa and the Saudi Arabian peninsula. They are easy to grow requiring only good fertilizer and lots of water when in growth and protection from cold and damp when dormant. In the summer they should not be treated like succulents. Give them plenty of water, and lots of room in the pot for root growth. They need a fast draining potting mix. Many successful growers use a potting mix that is mostly or all pumice.

Once night time temperatures drop below 50 degrees the plants slow quickly. Watering has to be done much more carefully and fertilization should stop. When leaves drop or temperatures drop into the mid-40s the plants go dormant. Several growers place their plants in their garages in late fall to force dormancy and protect them from cold and damp. Many others bring them indoors either at night or for the entire winter. Those with heated greenhouses do best of all. However, many successful growers leave them out all night right through the winter. If the plants are grown in pumice or some other very fast draining mix outdoor winter survival is not at all difficult.

*Adenium* are attractive to mealybugs, white flies, and spider mites. Check under the leaves and look for very fine webs. Any good miticide will take care of the spider mites and the ones available in most nurseries for roses work well. Frequent washing of the plants with a strong stream from a hose keeps them from becoming established and is the preferred preventive treatment.

The species are closely related and hybridize readily with each other. The care for all is the same, with *Adenium socotranum* being more cold sensitive than the others and *Adenium swazicum* being the easiest to grow without protection in Southern California.

*Adenium* are easily propagated from seed and cuttings. Seed is available from the CSSA and from commercial sources. Seed should be planted when the weather is warm and then moved up as they grow. Cuttings are best taken in the late spring, when weather is warm. A 3- or 4-year-old Thai *Socotranum* (a hybrid) seedling is shown before and after cuttings are taken. The cuttings were stripped of leaves and dipped in Clonex and allowed to dry for a few hours, and then potted up in perlite with bottom watering. Rooting usually takes place within a few weeks, and new leaves will appear in a couple of months. They can then be potted up in a more nutrient rich potting mix.

*Adenium* hybrids and cultivars are created for showy caudexes, great flowers, or some combination of the two. One of the best local hybridizers was Bill Hagblom, well known to many of our older club members. He has produced spectacular flowered forms, as well as fast growing, well shaped caudexes. Shown with this article is *Adenium* 'Calypso', from Plants of the Southwest in Tucson. Many great cultivars appear on the show and sales tables at the Intercity and CSSA Shows.

There are groups of hybridizers producing great flowers and terrific caudexes in Tucson, Florida, India and Thailand. The golden age of *Adenium* hybridization is just starting.

Tom Glavich, August 2021





## *Adeniums*



Thai *Adenium Socotranum* pruned



*Adenium obesum* ssp *boehmianum*



*Adenium* 'Calypso'



Thai *Adenium Socotranum* 3 yr seedling



*Adenium* 'Black Ruby' Rooted cutting 4 months



Thai *Adenium Socotranum* cuttings

## Plant of the Month

	<b>2021 Cacti</b>
Jan 2021	<i>Echinocactus</i>
Feb 2021	South American Opuntieae
Mar 2021	<i>Rebutia - Sulcorebutia - Weingartia</i>
Apr 2021	Small cactus staged as miniature
May 2021	<i>Echinocereus</i>
Jun 2021	Hooked Spined <i>Mammillaria</i>
Jul 2021	<i>Buiningia</i> and <i>Uebelmannia</i>
Aug 2021	Favorite cacti
<b>Sep 2021</b>	<b>California Native cacti</b>
Oct 2021	<i>Eriosyce</i>
Nov 2021	Variegated cacti
	<b>2021 Succulents</b>
Jan 2021	Small Aloes under 6"
Feb 2021	<i>Othonna, Senecio</i>
Mar 2021	<i>Sedum, Sempervivum</i>
Apr 2021	Small succulent staged a miniature
May 2021	<i>Haworthia</i>
Jun 2021	Thorny stemmed <i>Euphorbia</i>
July 2021	<i>Agave</i>
Aug 2021	Favorite Succulent
<b>Sep 2021</b>	<b><i>Adenium</i></b>
Oct 2021	<i>Didierea, Alluaudia, Decarya</i>
Nov 2021	Variegated succulents



## SGVCSS LEADERSHIP TEAM 2021

Gunnar Eisel, President  
 Tom Vermilion, Past President  
 Sharon Sedillo, Vice President  
 Louise Guerin, Secretary  
 Margie Wilson, Treasurer  
 Shaun Adams, Director 2019-2021  
 Nick Renteria, Director 2019-2021  
 James Lemos, Director 2019-2021  
 Irene Chew, Director 2020 -2022  
 Richard Salcedo, Director 2020 -2022  
 Tori Wilson, Director 2020 -2022

Tom Glavich, Inter-City Show Chair  
 Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair  
 James Lemos, Winter Sales Chair  
 Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Rep  
 Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair  
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair  
 Tori Wilson, Membership Chair  
 Cindy Arakaki, Librarian  
 Vacant, Newsletter Editor

### CREATING AN ETHICAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT COLLECTION

**Cactus and succulent species are at risk**  
 One third of all cactus species (Cactaceae) are at risk of extinction, and so are many succulents and caudiciforms, including Dudleya, Ocotilla, and Pachypodium. Half of threatened cacti are at risk at least in part due to the horticultural trade. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram influence the desire to take wild and rare cacti, succulents and their seeds from habitats.

**Cacti and succulents are central in dry ecosystems**  
 Cacti and succulents store water in their tissues, provide nesting areas and food for wildlife, photosynthesize, store carbon, and even provide a place for insects to lay their eggs until they develop into adults. These plants play an essential role in dryland ecosystems and must be protected.

#### Building your collection

- Check the source before you buy**  
 Use caution when buying online.  
 Was it nursery grown, or habitat collected?  
 Is it a species at risk?
- Buy from reputable store sellers**  
 Search for an approved grower.  
 Ask your cactus and succulent community.  
 Ask business customers.
- Grow your own cacti and succulents**  
 Plant from seed.  
 Propagate from a cutting or leaf.  
 Buy and grow young plants from sellers.
- Educate yourself and spread the word**  
 Learn more about plant poaching.  
 Join a cactus club or online community.  
 Join a conservation group.

**Plants to be cautious of when purchasing**  
 Slow-growing, rare plants sold online are more likely to be field-collected because their size and habitat characteristics are hard to replicate in a nursery, therefore the time it takes to grow them ethically reduces practical and economic feasibility. If you're looking for rare plants for your collection, ask experts in your plant community for help finding ethical sources, or learn which plants are endangered and/or protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES.org). Examples include:

**Identifying field-collected vs. greenhouse-grown**  
 Wild plants tend to face harsher growing conditions than greenhouse-grown plants leading to features which can help you identify the source. These characteristics are not always diagnostic, so when in doubt ask a community expert.

**Poaching impacts on wild populations**  
 Wild populations can be significantly reduced by poaching. For example, in 2015, 3500 *Acahuete* *Acahuete* were stolen, likely from Big Bend National Park. Large-scale harvest of slow-growing wild cacti can decimate habitat populations by removing the mature, reproductive plants. This demonstrates how wild and illegal field collection for the horticultural trade is a significant threat to the survival of cacti and succulents in habitat.

**Find out more at: [www.ethicalcactus.com](http://www.ethicalcactus.com)**



### The Cactus and Succulent Society of America Conservation Policy Statement

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is the national organization for the study, education, and promotion of cacti and succulents. The popularity of cacti and succulents, their availability online, and their increased monetary value have critically endangered their populations in the wild. The conservation of these unique plants and their habitats is of critical concern.

#### Existing Policies and Guidelines

CSSA shall adhere to:

- All national and international guidelines, treaties, and laws regarding the protection of cacti, other succulents, and their habitats.
- The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) treaty and the American Endangered Species Acts for both plants and animals.
- The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) Code of Conduct.
- Specific conservation policies of the applicable State or other local jurisdictions.

#### CSSA Show and Sale Policies

- CSSA will not accept field collected plants in its competitive shows; plants in question will be evaluated by a review team upon entering.
- CSSA functions will not allow the sale, purchase, or promotion of habitat-collected plants.

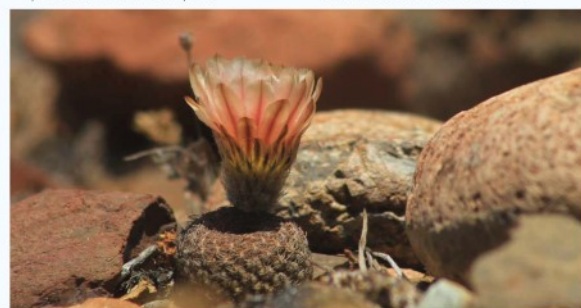
- CSSA encourages its affiliate societies to adopt or incorporate CSSA Conservation Policies in developing their own missions and show and sale policies.

#### Commercial Selling

- CSSA endorses and promotes vendors which produce sale plants from seed, cuttings or other artificial means.
- CSSA discourages the use of nurseries and online vendors that sell field collected plants.

#### Legal Initiatives

- CSSA will work with our appropriate government agencies to modernize laws regarding the sale of plants across international borders, especially for hybrids.
- CSSA will endorse and promote state laws and policies pertaining to the rescue of plants due to urban or agricultural encroachment.
- CSSA will assist in the development of procedures to conserve and disseminate rescued plants.



*Eriosyce napina* subsp. *lembckei*. A little cactus of Atacama Region that is a species in danger. Photo: Rescuti - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64463623>





## **COMMUNIQUE**

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
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Claremont, CA 91711

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the Communiqué, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date. Articles, notices and corrections may be sent via email to: [gunnar.eisel@gmail.com](mailto:gunnar.eisel@gmail.com)

Material must be received by the 20th of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the Communiqué.