

GET INVOLVED

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society is one of the oldest horticultural societies meeting at the Arboretum. The Society was formed in the old board room in 1967. The Society meets twice each month in the Arboretum Palm room. The main meeting is held on the second Thursday at 7:30; it is our 'formal' meeting with a brief discussion of club business, a slide presentation on plants or habitat or other demonstration, a 'mini competition' of a selected succulent and cactus genus as described in the club's monthly newsletter, plant raffles and door prizes. There is also lots of time to look at and discuss plants and cultivation. The club's other monthly meeting, 'Study Group', is held on the third Wednesday of each month. This meeting is a workshop where an advanced grower will discuss a topic and members are encouraged to ask questions or give their experience. Popular study groups include succulent plant photography, seed growing and vegetative propagation. Field trips to local deserts, rare plant nurseries and other succulent plant gardens are held each year.

The SGVCSS hosts two Cactus and Succulent Shows every year. The third weekend of August is the Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, where close to two thousand of the best cacti and succulents in Southern California can be seen. This is the best and largest cactus and succulent show in the world, with entrants coming from San Francisco to San Diego and as

far east as Phoenix and Tucson. The sales area at this show has everything from rare plants seen nowhere else to inexpensive beginner's plants. The show features informal talks on potting and plant care, and tours by knowledgeable guides of the Arboretum's three great cacti and succulent gardens. The show grows in size and popularity every year, and has been filmed twice by PBS. The show is August 16-17 this year, and shouldn't be missed.

The SGVCSS also holds a 'Winter Show' the second weekend in November. Many of the most interesting plants grow in winter rain regions much like Southern California. These are dormant in the summer, but are looking there best with new growth starting in October or November.

Cactus and Succulent growers rarely take themselves too seriously. (No one else does either.) This is a very friendly group, welcoming everyone from the casual admirer, to the back yard gardener, to the serious collector. Beginning growers, and enthusiasts are especially welcome. We have members that are in their teens and members in their 90s, and cover every age group in between. Please come and join us at our next meeting.

GRAPEVINE

Leigh Adams – An Extraordinary Artist

Leigh Adams' love of art, nature, and children combined with her commitment to public art have resulted in a variety of educational activities and art installations at The Arboretum as our Artist in Residence.

Although much of Leigh's work can be seen in the Pasadena area, she has been invited to Mexico, China and Central America for special commissions and teaching assignments.

Whether teaching arts, language or life skills, Leigh believes that cooperative learning, achieving consensus and building new skills which can result in public acknowledgement are some of the greatest gifts we can give our children and our society.

As arts become less available in our schools, Leigh believes it is incumbent upon us to make opportunities for hands-on learning available to our young people.

Public installations are an excellent way to elevate children's belief in themselves, their self-worth and the value of their efforts.



Leigh is currently installing a 1,000' mosaicked Serpent Trail in The Arboretum's Australian Children's Discovery Node using tiles glazed by children. The final Serpent Trail will lead visitors through an Australian habitat of wonderful discoveries.

The Serpent Trail is part of the Australian Children's Discovery Node and Amphitheatre and is made possible with support of the Michael J. O'Connell Foundation and the Georgina Frederick children's Foundation.



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Los Angeles Arboretum

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