

**San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Society**

**COMMUNIQUE**

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

February 2013 - Volume 46, Number 2

**February Meeting:  
Thursday,  
February 14 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:**

**CACTUS:**

***Stenocactus***

**SUCCULENT:**

***Haworthia***

**Study Group:**

Study group will meet on Wednesday,  
February 20th in the Palm Room,  
Los Angeles County Arboretum at  
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

***Conophytums***

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**President's Message**

Oh, that darn Weather! I hope most of your plants survived our cold snap. It's a well-known fact that for every plant you lose, you are entitled to buy two more. Speaking of the weather, we had an absolutely gorgeous warm and sunny day for the Desert Forum at the Huntington. About 175 members from So Cal C&S clubs participated. We thank the Huntington and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America for making this such a wonderful annual event.

Lots of good ideas were shared at the January "Tips, Tools & Techniques" study group session. We look forward to seeing you at the February Study group. The topic will be Conophytums.

Among things to be discussed at the February 20th Board of Directors meeting will be our upcoming field trips. Our first trip will probably be a car caravan road trip along Powerline Road from Baker, CA to Stateline, NV. on April 6-7. As on previous excursions, Joe Clements will be our extremely well-informed tour guide. We will spend the night at one of the Stateline motels and do more exploring the next day.

The first cactus and succulent show of 2013 will be the San Diego

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## November Mini-Show Results

### *Cactus - White Spined Mammillaria Clusters*

#### Novice

1st	Minh Au	M. geminispina rioverdensis
2nd	Shaun Adams	M. geminispina 'super spine'
3rd	Peter Claridge	M. geminispina
3rd	William Molina	M. parkinsonii

#### Intermediate

1st	Rita Gerlach	M. geminispina
2nd	Phil Skonieczny	M. crucigera

#### Masters

1st	Pat Swain	M. lasiacantha
2nd	John Matthews	M. plumosa
3rd	John Matthews	M. duwei
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	M. plumosa

### *Succulent - Small Aloes*

#### Novice

1st	Shaun Adams	A. 'Donnie'
2nd	Shaun Adams	A. 'Lavender Star'
3rd	Shaun Adams	A. 'Pink Blush'
3rd	Peter Claridge	A. hybrid

#### Intermediate

1st	Louise Stack	A. broomii
2nd	Rita Gerlach	A. descoinsii
3rd	Louise Stack	A. 'Christmas Carol'

#### Masters

1st	Yvonne Hemenway	A. 'Viper'
3rd	Yvonne Hemenway	A. 'Sunrise'
3rd	Tom Glavich	A. 'Winter Sky'
3rd	Cindy Arakaki	A. 'Moondance'

## President's Message (cont. from page 1)

Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale on Saturday, February 9th at Balboa Park. Balboa Park is always spectacular. Add a great cactus and succulent show and it becomes impossible to resist. Our website has a link to show details.

A special thanks to our January speaker, Steve Martinez. His colorful, entertaining, and often humorous account of his road trip to Northern and Central Baja California, Mexico was much appreciated.

See you at the next meeting.

Gunnar Eisel

## This Month's Program

### A New Look At Madagascar

Kelly Griffin, plant explorer extraordinaire, will give us a presentation on his most recent trip Madagascar. Among the many interesting discoveries he made was a large population of *Aloe suzannae*, previously thought to be extinct in habitat.

Kelly has recently joined the staff of Altman Plants and is the Succulent Plant Development Manager there. We can expect wonderful new creations at our big box retailers in the future. Don't forget that he will have some of his plants for sale at the meeting as well.



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).

## Club Bulletin Board

### CSSA CONVENTION 2015

The San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society and the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society will co-host the CSSA's 36th Biennial Convention to be held at Pitzer College. This is an opportunity for clubs in the Los Angeles Basin to strut our stuff in front of the cactus and succulent world. It will have been 14 years since the LA club last hosted a convention here.

We will hold our first organizational meeting on Sunday, February 10th at 2:00 pm at the home of Buck and Yvonne Hemenway. Anyone who has some interest in helping to put on this important event is welcome.

Please rsvp your interest to participate by phoning 951-360-8802 or email buckhem@sbcglobal.net.

### Study Group

#### Wednesday, February 20th • Conophytums

The study group 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.

Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Palm Room at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

### Welcome New Members

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

**Daniel Ruiz and Desiree Guerra, Whittier**  
**Tina Coen, Granada Hills**



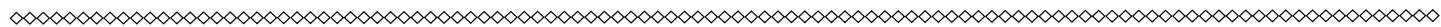
Outgoing President Buck Hemenway (R) was presented with an award of appreciation for his four years of leadership of the San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society at the January meeting. Incoming President Gunnar Eisel (L) presented the plaque. Thanks for a great job, Buck!

### Mini-Show Judges Signup

**John Matthews**  
**Shaun Adams**

John and Shaun will assist Head Judge Manny Rivera in judging the entries for this month's Mini-Show. Check the Plant of the Month list on page 7 and sign up to judge a category that you enjoy growing.

**Please Note:** Feb 14th is the absolute deadline to be included in the 2013 SGVCSS Roster by paying your 2013 dues.



### SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2013

Gunnar Eisel, President  
Tom Vermilion, Vice President  
Donn Muhleman, Treasurer  
Pat Swain, Secretary  
Rebecca Mallonee, Director  
Mary Brumbaugh, Director

Brian Le, Director  
Shaun Adams, Director  
Dean Elzinga, Director  
Louise Stack, Director  
Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair  
Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative  
Buck Hemenway, Plant Sales Chair  
Woody Minnich, Program Chair  
Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair  
Cindy Arakaki, Librarian  
Gunnar Eisel, Website Chair

## 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.

### CACTUS OF THE MONTH —

#### *Stenocactus*

*Stenocactus* (sometime still seen as *Echinofosulocactus*) is one of the smaller Mexican genera, a species with fantastic ribs, interesting flowers and wonderful spines.



*Stenocactus sp. ex HBG*

All *Stenocactus* are spiny plants, collected much more for the appearance of the spines and the wonderful curved ribs than their flowers, although the flowers can be quite showy. All of the species (there are ten) are very variable, and as a result, there are many varieties and forms that can find a place in a collection. Most of the species are reasonably small, flowering at two years, when only an inch or so in diameter. A good representative collection can be kept on a table. With age, many species can get large, filling a 6 inch pot in 4 or 5 years, and then offsetting to slowly fill a larger pot.

*Stenocactus* are native to Central to Northern Mexican. The genus is closely related to *Ferocactus*, differing by the lack of nectar glands, the lack of a ring of hairs above the stamens, and size.

*Stenocactus* often grow in grass lands, and need some protection from full sun. They are easy to grow, putting on most of their body weight each year in the early spring to summer. Plants growing outdoors will grow slowly during the winter using just the water from winter rains. It is important not to fertilize during the darker days of December, January or

February, or etiolation or stretching of the body will occur. The narrow ribs, the woolly areoles, and the dense spines are an ideal habitat for mealy bugs. Frequent inspection of the plants will prevent them from spreading. Older plants sometimes get corky near the base. Keeping the plant in continuous growth delays this, but in some species the cork is inevitable.



*Stenocactus vaupelianus*

Identifying the species of a *Stenocactus* is as difficult as identifying the genus is easy. For the most part, they tend to look alike, and there are far more names than there are species.

Tom Glavich, February 2013

### SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

#### *Haworthia*

*Haworthia*, along with *Aloe* and *Gasteria* are part of the *Aloaceae* family. *Haworthia* are native exclusively to South Africa, and almost all from a Mediterranean environment not that different from Southern California. Almost all are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the early autumn and spring through early summer. *Haworthia* are one of the most collected of all succulent plants. There are about 60 species, but the number of subspecies, varieties and cultivars is overwhelming and continually increasing. Hybridization efforts in South Africa, the United States, Japan and Europe have produced amazing plants. Even so, selected cultivars of South African species still set the standard for elegance and beauty.



*Haworthia retusa cv Chocolate*

The genus takes on a remarkable variety of forms, shapes and colors, all based on a simple rosette. Bruce

Bayer's *Haworthia Revisited* is the best guide to species and intergrades between species. There are roughly sixty species, however there is widespread disagreement on the meaning of the word species as applied to *Haworthia*. Many species intergrade, with gradual variation from one species to another. Intergrades between three or more species are also found. On top of this many species are highly variable. Bayer's books do a great job at classifying the species not only by species name, but also by locality.

*Haworthia* in general are tolerant of varying potting mixes, and success has been reported with everything from straight pumice to potting soil – pumice or perlite mixes, to plain potting soil, and even garden soil. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do. *Haworthia* can be naturalized as a ground cover, placed under shrub cover in shadier parts of California gardens. They are great favorites of the local snails. *Haworthia* like bright light and morning sun. The sun brings out the color of the leaves. If the light is too dim, the leaves will be a pale green and the leaves will stretch. The goal of the grower should be to get a firm, tightly packed rosette, showing the best color possible. Many species will exhibit reds, greens, whites and browns when grown properly.

*Haworthia* are fairly free from most insect infestations, although scale can sometimes attack a plant. Scale is difficult to kill, but submerging the plant in soapy water with some insecticide will usually work. Mealybugs can sometime hide in the center. They respond to the same treatment.

Most of the plants in this genus offset easily, and propagation is easy from offsets. Offsets can often be removed with roots, and offsets without roots will put out roots in just a few weeks. Seed is sometimes available, and easily germinates in cool weather, with best results coming in October, November and January. The trick with *Haworthia* seed is to get enough growth on the seedlings to allow them to survive their first summer dormancy. Most seedling losses are due to heat and dry weather rather than over watering. Fresh seed is needed; most *Haworthia* seed lose their viability after a year or so.

Selected species

*Haworthia cooperi* is a fast growing species,

with many interesting forms that vary from having round tips to sharp points. The leaves are very fat and almost cylindrical. It is very easy to grow and make an impressive show specimen.

*Haworthia emelyae* has smooth flat topped triangular leaves with small white tubercles (dots) that converge into lines running to the point. The edges of the leaves near the center of the plant are almost blood red in winter. The picture shows a particularly good form from near the Saffron River.



*Haworthia emelyae*

*Haworthia pygmaea* has sharp pointed gray-green triangular leaves. The tubercles are extremely fine, giving the tops an almost felt like appearance. To the touch, they feel the same as very fine sandpaper. The sides of the leaves are perfectly smooth.

*Haworthia retusa v. acuminata* has long sharply pointed leaves, decorated with white lines and teeth on the edge that are not visible, but can be easily felt. The leaves are smooth near the center, and just as *Haworthia Emelyae* slightly rough at the edge.

*Haworthia truncata* is easy to come by, but slow, and takes several years to form good looking heads. This has been the subject of intense work by the Japanese, and a number of patterns of white on green-gray have been developed and propagated. The one shown in the picture is propagated from plants originally from Dusseldorp.



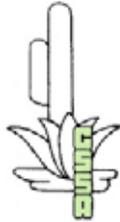
*Haworthia truncata*

*Haworthia venosa ssp. tessellata* has a large number of leaf forms in cultivation, some with delicate patterns formed in nearly flat tops, some deeply

incurved as shown in the picture on the previous page. An interesting collection can be made of this species alone.

References:  
 M. B. Bayer, *Haworthia Revisited*  
 Tom Glavich, February 2013

Thank you to Tom Glavich and Buck Hemenway for putting together the Plant of the Month article. If you would like to participate by submitting a plant of the month write up for the **Communique**, please contact Tom Glavich at [tglavich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tglavich@sbcglobal.net).



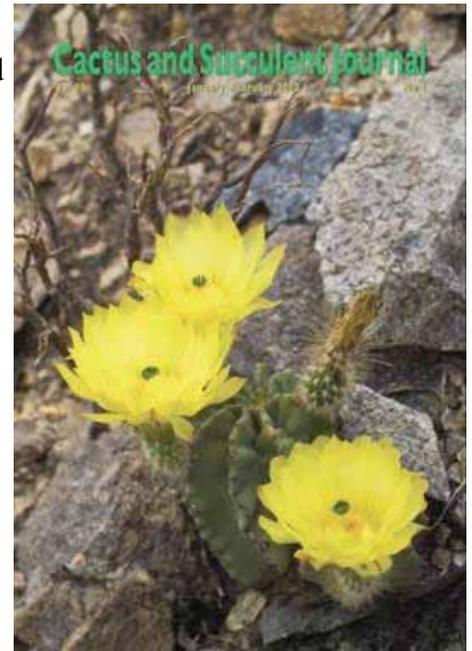
**CSSA CORNER**

The 35th Biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America will be held in Austin TX, from June 15 - 20, 2013. All members of the Society are invited to join in the gathering which will feature world renowned authors and experts in the field of Cacti & Succulents. The web site for the Convention is located at <http://cssa2013.com>.

Following is a synopsis from editor Tim Harvey of the CSSA Journal which will be mailed in the next week. Remember, one of the main benefits of membership in the CSSA is the receipt of all members of this very professional journal 6 times per year.

Volume 85 begins with an account of exploration in Mexico by Julia Etter and Martin Kristen. So far, two new species (an *Echeveria* and a *Sedum*) have been described as a result of their work, named in honor of the authors in the recently-published *Haseltonia* 18. Here they tell us more about the extremely challenging terrain around the Rio Piaxtla as well as other plants seen in the area, several of which still await better understanding. Socotra is once again difficult to travel to, after a short period when tourists could visit relatively freely. Despite the current difficulties, the intrepid Alain Rzepecky managed to find a new arborescent *Euphorbia* species, described here and accompanied by spectacular habitat images. The second new species described in this issue is a member of the genus *Eriospermum* from near the Orange River area in Southern Africa. Graham Williamson provides some beautiful drawings to illustrate the

finer points of this plant. *Euphorbia schoenlandii* and a Kelly Griffin hybrid *Aloe* 'Red Ridge' feature in Duke Benadom's Superb Succulents article. Jeff Chemnick provides an in-depth guide to the cycad genus *Dioon* as it occurs in Oaxaca, in an article held over from the Special Edition on the CSSA tour to that state, which came out in 2012. Finally, Elton Roberts' article on the genus *Micropuntia* is sure to be the first encounter for many with this fascinating group of plants, and again he provides an alternative and informed view of current taxonomy.



**Refreshment Signup**

**Una Yeh  
 Nilda Howard  
 Carol Randall**

The first three club members who sign up and bring refreshments each month will receive a **FREE** plant as thanks.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Saturday, February 9**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — San Diego Winter Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

**Wednesday, February 20**, 7:30 pm — Study Group, CONOPHYTUMS. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

**March 22, 23** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm **and March 24**, 12:00 to 5:00 pm — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. For more information call 562-587-3357.

**March 30 and 31**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — The Prickly Palace Open Gardens and Plant Sale in the Hemenway gardens, 5890 Grinnell Drive, Riverside, 92509. Call Buck Hemenway at 951-360-8802 for more information.

### Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by  
*The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society*

**February 9, 2013**

Strange and exotic plants from the far corners of the world gathered together for your viewing amazement!!

Sale of choice specimen plants for the novice and collector as well as handmade stoneware planters and pots!!

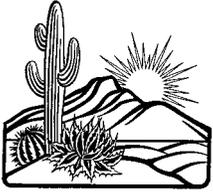
Members only shopping from 9 to 10

For additional information visit: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)



### 2013 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	<b>Cacti of the Month</b>	<b>Succulent of the Month</b>	<b>Study Group</b>
Feb.	Stenocactus	Haworthia	Conophytums
Mar.	North American Opuntiads	Tylecodon, Cotyledon	Pelargoniums
Apr.	Eriogyne, Copiapoa	Dudleya	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Echinopsis	Caudiciforms, Pachycauls	Grafting Workshop
June	Astrophytum	Medusoid Euphorbias	Rebutias, Sulcorebutias, Weingartia
July	Oroya, Matucana	Adenium	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Stapeliads
Sept.	Coryphantha, Escobaria	Sansevieria	Cephaliated Cacti
Oct.	Thelocactus	Lithops	Ariocarpus
Nov.	Epiphytic Cacti, inc. Xmas Cactus	Epiphytic Succulents	Winter Seed Workshop



**COMMUNIQUE**

Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
c/o Yvonne Hemenway  
5890 Grinnell Drive  
Riverside, CA 92509

**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**.