



**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

January 2011 - Volume 44, Number 1

**January Meeting:
Thursday,
January 13 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:

Columnar Cacti

SUCCULENT:

Haworthia - Retuse type

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday,
January 19th in the Palm Room,
Los Angeles County Arboretum at
7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Tylecodon

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President's Message

Happy New Year! 2011 is beginning wet and soggy. I hope all of our plants are surviving.

So - Get Ready, this is going to be a fun filled, busy C&S year! January has the Desert Forum at the Huntington (See the flyer) and the Aloe Walk at Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center on top of our usual January meetings. We'll have a bus trip later and the CSSA Convention in San Diego in April.

We have new officers and directors, so watch out for more new, exciting events in the coming months.

The Board of Directors will meet at Coco's at Michillinda and Colorado Blvd. On Wednesday evening January 19 at 6:00, prior to the Study Group. You are all invited to come and be a part of the club's operation.

We have a great line-up of speakers for 2011. We are always looking for ways to make the San Gabriel C&S experience better for all of our members, please let one of the Board of Directors know if you have some ideas for us.

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Club Bulletin Board

17th ANNUAL WINTER SHOW

The SGVCSS 17th Annual Winter Show was celebrated on November 6 & 7, 2010. It was a great show with beautiful plants and wonderful people.

The Show Chair wants to thank all of the Club members who worked hard to set-up and tear down, judges, clerks and tabulators, the people working in the sales area, plant holding, tag counting, back gate guarding, hospitality table, the people in charge of the kitchen who made sure we were fed, all of the exhibitors who brought those gorgeous plants to the show and, of course, all of the vendors and auctioneers.

Show Results:

Total Participants 63 –
 Novice 27, Advanced 17, Open 19

Total Entries 664
 Cactus 249, Succulents 415

Congratulations to all of the winners:

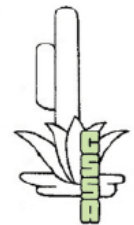
- Sweepstakes – Hannah Nguyen
- High Points Cacti Novice – Mike and Ana Wisnev
- High Points Cacti Advanced – Pat Swain
- High Points Cacti Open – Tom & Jeanette Glavich
- High Points Succulents Novice – Hannah Nguyen
- High Points Succulents Advanced – Manny Rivera
- High Points Succulents Open – Jim Hanna

2010 Winter Show Trophy Winners:

- Best Cactus Novice – Keith Taylor
- Best Cactus Advanced – Glen & Linda Carlzen
- Best Cactus Open – Vince Basta
- Best Succulent Novice – John Luhnnow
- Best Succulent Advanced – Debbie & Charles Ball
- Best Succulent Open – Jim Hanna
- Best Ariocarpus – Vince Basta
- Best Mammillaria – Woody Minnich
- Best Epiphytic Cactus – Rita Gerlach

- Best Gymnocalycium – Karen & Martin Ostler
- Best Rebutia/Sulcorebutia – Frank Nudge
- Best Opuntia – Charles & Debbie Ball
- Best Agave – Mary Braumbaugh
- Best Mesemb – Bill Hagblom
- Best Haworthia – Ana Wisnev
- Best Madagascan Euphorbia – Cliff & Linda Meng
- Best Euphorbia – Petra Crist
- Best Dorstenia – Manny Rivera
- Best Crassulaceae – Petra Crist
- Best Geraniaceae – Manny Rivera
- Best Pachypodium – Tom & Jeanette Glavich
- Best Winter Growing Succulent – Keith Taylor
- Best Collection – Larry Grammer
- Best Mutant – Vince Basta
- Winter Thematic Award – Evelyn Maxwell
- Best Baja Plant – Larry Grammer
- Best Mexican Plant – Hannah Nguyen
- Best Miniature – Vince Basta

*Thanks Everybody!
 Manny Rivera, Show Chair*



CSSA CORNER

Don't look now, but the biennial Convention of the CSSA is just 4 months away. You should have your reservations in by now. Don't miss the best presenters anywhere and the social fun of a World-Wide Cactus & Succulent gathering.

The Huntington Botanical Gardens, in continuing cooperation with the CSSA and their affiliate clubs, once again offers the Desert Forum, a Free Day for CSSA members and members of affiliate clubs on January 15, 2011. Arrive at 9:30AM for a full day of the Huntington.

SGVC&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2010

Buck Hemenway, President
 Tom Vermilion, Vice President
 Donn Muhleman, Treasurer
 Pat Swain, Secretary
 Bill Gerlach, Director
 Patty Caro, Director

Judi Romine, Director
 Jean Mullens, Director
 Tricia Kangrga, Director
 Hannah Nguyen, Director
 Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair
 Tom Glavich, Intercity Show Chair

Jim Hanna, CSSA Affiliate Representative and Plant Sales Chair
 Woody Minnich, Program Chair
 Bill Gerlach, Membership Chair
 Liz Alba, Library Chair
 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 —

Columnar Cacti

Ceroid or columnar cacti are not a closely related set of genera, but a lumping together of all the cacti that are much longer than they are around. Ceroid cacti vary in size from a few inches, as in the aptly named, *Pygmaecereus* to the giants like *Pachycereus* and *Carnegiea* (Saguaro). Most are robust growers, given adequate water, fertilizer, root room and support. They expect more nitrogen in their soil and more water than most globular cacti. They do well in normal cactus soil, as long as they get additional fertilization. These are great plants to put in the ground.

Propagation is generally by cuttings or seed. Cuttings need to be dried well before planting. A few weeks are the minimum for some of the larger columnar species. They do best if dried in an upright position. If placed on their sides the cut end rots easier. Seed of columnar cacti are readily available, and are particularly enjoyable to grow. While all of the globular cacti are the size of a pea, many of the columnar cacti are filling their pot, and an inch or more high. If grown from seed, many will not tolerate crowding for long, and demand their own pot. This is particularly true of *Oreocereus*, which will quickly stop growing if there is more than one plant per pot.

A look through any of the references listed below gives many genera names that are rarely seen in cultivation. This is because the plants take many years to reach flowering size, are only really happy in the ground, and get too big for pots in any case. Some genera are very popular, and these are described below.

Popular North American Ceroids

Stenocereus (Lemaireocereus) marginatus is a wonder garden plant. It makes straight thick stems from the ground, with short spines in neat orderly rows.

It is easy to grow, but can topple in wet soils during windy conditions.

Myrtillocactus geometrizans is fairly rapidly growing species that branches quickly. It is from central Mexico, but does great in California gardens. It is easy to grow, makes a wonderful blue stemmed accent in any garden, and requires practically no care.

Cephalocereus senilis is the popular 'Old Man cactus'. It is surprisingly difficult to grow into a large specimen, subject to rot if it gets cold and damp. It is native to Hidalgo, Mexico.

Carnegiea gigantea or the Saguaro is another large plant, this time from Arizona, with a few in California. It does well in California gardens, at least until it gets large, but it is very slow.



Carnegiea gigantea

Popular South American Ceroids

Cereus are found in much of South America. *Cereus peruvianus*, found in many Southern California gardens, has been cultivated for over 400 years, and is not known in the wild!

Cleistocactus is one of the most beautiful genera of the columnar cacti. These slender plants branch from the base, and have dense spines and often wispy hair. They are easy to grow, and quickly set flowers that are usually long red tubes sticking out through the spines. One of the best is *C. smaragdiflorus*, with red flowers, a yellow band near the tip, and a bright green tip. *C. strausii* is a fuzzy white marvel, and often seen at sale tables at shows.

Espostoa come from Ecuador and Peru. Most of these are covered with dense white wool that entirely hides the plant body.

Haageocereus come from Peru and Chile. They stay short (for a ceroid), rarely exceeding 3 or four feet, and have dense spines, and showy red flowers.

Micranthocereus is a small genus of Brazilian cacti. All of the species branch from the base, and make densely spined clusters. They stay small (two about 2 feet), and are happy as pot plants.

Oreocereus are beautiful hairy plants, with wicked spines hidden in the hairs. Some branch from the base.

They prefer outdoor air to a greenhouse, and need frequent turning to keep symmetrical growth.



Oreocereus celsianus with bloom inset

Pilosocereus is a largely Brazilian genera, almost all of which are worth growing. It has a wide distribution, stretching into central Mexico. Many of the species are a glaucous blue with bright yellow spines and hairy areoles. *Pilosocereus magnificus* is one of these, with 4 to 12 deep ribs. The outer edges are covered with short yellow spines. *Pilosocereus aureispinus* has very 18 to 20 shallow ribs, and distinct areoles, that make dense yellow spirals around the plant on a dark green background.

Tom Glavich, January 2011



Pachycereus militaris

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Haworthia - retuse type

Haworthia, along with *Aloe* and *Gasteria* are part of the *Aloaceae* family. Almost all *Haworthia* come from South Africa and most from a Mediterranean environment not that different from Southern California. Most species are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the winter and spring.

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 really appreciate natural rainfall, the low pH of the water helps wash any residual salts from the potting mix. Control of the pH (acidity of the water) and regular fertilization during growing periods will really pay off in the quality and speed of growth.

Most of the plants in this genus offset easily, and propagation is simple from offsets. Seed is sometimes available, and easily germinates in cool weather, with best results coming in November and December. Seed is not long lived, and can be planted any time it becomes available, except the hottest months of summer. The plants do most of their growing in the spring, and flower mostly in the spring, but sporadically all year round. Some genera and some species tend to lose roots easily. If these are grown in pure pumice or pumice-perlite mixes, most root loss will stop. Plants grown in pure pumice or pumice perlite mixes need steady fertilization during peak growing periods. Most species have a summer dormant period, with low to no growth during hot weather. They are more sensitive to warm night time temperatures than day time highs.

Haworthia morphology ranges from grass like plants, to thin leaved plants, to those that grow in flat rosettes with hard, nearly shiny leaves. These are the retuse plants. They are the ones most favored by collectors, and have been used to make many hybrids and cultivars. For many years, *Haworthia* was divided into Sections, one of which contained all of the retuse

forms. Two of the most popular species, *Haworthia truncata* and *Haworthia maughanii* (really a form of *H. truncata*) were botanically retuse, but are often shown as if they were. The cultivation is the same. They will be allowed as retuse plants during this month's entries. The botanic division into Sections is no longer in current use.

The species most often seen as retuse *Haworthias* are *Haworthia retusa*, *Haworthia emelyae*, *Haworthia magnifica*, *Haworthia pygmaea*, *Haworthia truncata*, *Haworthia mirabilis*, *Haworthia mutica*, all of which have numerous forms and cultivars, and many of which have been used to produce very interesting hybrids.



Haworthia truncata cv 'Lime Green'

Three favorite species are shown with this article. *Haworthia truncata* cv. *Lime Green* is a bright green cultivar of a plant that is usually much darker green. It grows much quicker than the normal species, and offsets much more quickly. Although not a true variegate, it is a color form that is so extreme that it probably should be treated as one. It can get sunburnt if not protected during the summer.

Haworthia Bev's Wonder is a hybrid between *Haworthia badia* and *Haworthia emelyae* v. *major*. The cross has been done several times, and all the plants share this name, even though there are several visibly different clones in cultivation.



Haworthia 'Bev's Wonder'

Haworthia mutica v. *nigra* is a spectacular species,

variable with location. The form from Kransriviermond turns a dark greenish purple during its summer dormancy. It is a beautiful plant.

Tom Glavich,
January 2011



Haworthia mutica v. *nigra*

This Month's Program

Our Tom Glavich will present his new program *Haworthia - The Descent into Obsession*

We will look at *Haworthia*, with a survey of some of the most interesting species, and then move on to look at how some species can be extraordinarily variable. The genus *Haworthia* has attracted many hybridizers around the world, and we will look at some of the interesting plants being developed in the US, South Africa, and Japan.



Buck and Yvonne Hemenway with their new best friend in Argentina.



Thank you to Tom Glavich 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.



**** Note ** Membership Dues are Due!** Your 2011 Club membership renewal can be paid at the next meeting or mailed direct to Bill Gerlach, 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723. \$15 regular membership or \$25 if you request the Communique by mail. Checks to **SGVCS**.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 15, 9:30 am to 4:40 pm — DESERT FORUM at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden including a tour with knowledgeable staff, plant sale, and forum led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom. Wear your name badge!

January 19, 7:30 pm — Study Group, TYLECODON. Palm Room of the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia.

January 29, 9:30 am - 11:00 am — 11th Annual ALOE WALK at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. Phone 951-685-5818 for directions. The 6 acre succulent gardens at the Center are the result of planting done in the late 1960's and early 1970's. We will tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland Empire climate. The Granite Hill Nursery will be open. This event is Free.

February 12, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — San Diego Winter Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

2011 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Jan.	Columnar Cacti	Haworthia - retuse type	Tylecodon
Feb.	Miniature	Miniature	Ralph Massey Staging Workshop
Mar.	Hooked Spined Mammillaria	Echeveria	Echeveria
Apr.	Seed Grown by Exhibitor	Seed Grown by Exhibitor	Spring Seed Workshop
May	Rebutia-Sulcorebutia-Weingartia	Hoya & Dischidia	Vegetative Propagation Workshop
June	Notocactus & Parodia	Ficus & Dorstenia	Coryphantha & Escobaria
July	Dish Gardens	Dish Gardens	Staging
Aug.	Members 3 oldest (longest owned)	Members 3 oldest (longest owned)	Echinopsis-Trichocereus-Lobivia
Sept.	Coahuila Native Cacti	Madagascan Euphorbia	Eriocyce
Oct.	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates
Nov.	3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show	3 Ribbon-winning Plants from Intercity or Winter Show	Winter Seed Workshop