



*San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society*

COMMUNIQUE

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

July 2010 - Volume 43, Number 7

**July Meeting:
Thursday,
July 8 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 —
Thelocactus,
Stenocactus

SUCCULENT—
**Pachypodiums from
Madagascar**

Study Group:

Study group will meet on Wednesday, July 14th in the Palm Room, Los Angeles County Arboretum at 7:30 pm. The topic will be:

Staging

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President's Message

Did you notice? It's July already. Where does the time go.

We attended the 45th annual CSSA Show and Sale this weekend along with a few thousand other C&S crazies. The sale was near record in terms of dollars and the show was extremely high quality. A large number of San Gabriel Valley C&SS members were on hand running the show and selling plants. The weather was perfect. Everyone had a good time.

We have our annual picnic scheduled on July 17 at Pitzer College. More in this newsletter. Don't forget the Inter-City Show and Sale on August 14 and 15. More in the next Communique

Our club has never been more active and alive. Please join us at the next meeting.

See you at the meeting

Buck Hemenway

This Month's Program

Our speaker for July will be Nick Wilkinson. Nick is the owner of Grow Nursery in Cambria, CA. He is a succulent nut much like the rest of us, but has the good luck to be able to use the plants in his work. His business is a fusion of art (his college major) and plants. He is a landscape designer as well.

Nick will present a wonderful look at Landscaping With Succulents. The presentation features his designs and shows several as they have matured. You can visit his website www.grownursery.com.

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May Mini-Show Results

Cacti - Epiphyte

Novice

- 1st Gary/Jamie Mancuso F. rectispinus
- 2nd Louise Stack F. latispinus-recurvus
- 3rd Gary/Jamie Mancuso F. acanthodes

Advanced

- 1st Glen/Linda Carlzen F. macrodiscus
- 2nd Calvin/Cindy Arakaki F. viscayensis
- 3rd Glen/Linda Carlzen F. peninsulæ
- 3rd Barbara Hall F. pilosus

Open

No entries

Succulents - Lithops

Novice

- 1st Hannah Nguyen Haworthia cv. "Korizato"
- 2nd Rebecca Mallonee Gasteria sp.
- 2nd Efren Flores Tylecodon buchholziana

Advanced

- 1st Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Haworthia gracilis v. teresa
- 2nd Barbara Hall Crassula ausensis ssp. titanopsis
- 3rd Cindy/Calvin Arakaki Adromischus marianiae

Open

- 1st Jim Hanna Opercularia decaryi
- 2nd Karen Ostler Cereria pygmea
- 3rd John Matthews Adromischus marianiae "antidorcatum"

A Big Thank You to our Garden Tour Hosts

John Matthews and his remarkable Haworthia collection



Karen and Martin Ostler showed us excellent examples of high desert landscaping.



Patty and Rene Caro hosted our lunch while we explored their great nursery.

Please welcome new SGVCSS member:

Frank Bossong of Monrovia

Be sure to take a look at the Club's website at 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.

Study Group

Wednesday, July 14th • Staging

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.

Club Member Happenings

— Myron Kinnach to Receive Golden Cactus Award

The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) is recognizing Myron Kinnach's outstanding contribution to the research and study of succulent plants. He is one of only 16 recipients to earn the Golden Cactus (or Cactus d'Or) Award since the IOS was established in Monaco in 1950.

Others who have received the award include Dr. Werner Rauh, Mr. Gordon Rowley, Dr. Edward Anderson, and Dr. Gideon Smith.

Myron's career in botany began in the early 1950's when he was assistant manager at University of California, Berkeley Botanical Garden. In 1958 he was a co-founder of the International Succulent Institute (Introductions) (ISI). From 1962 to 1987 Myron was Curator of the Botanical Gardens at the Huntington Library, Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens. He has been active with the CSSA since the 1960's including serving on the Board as president and vice-president. Myron was the editor of the Cactus and Succulent Journal from 1993 to 2003. Please refer to the September-October 2007 edition of the Cactus and Succulent Journal for a much more comprehensive outline of Myron Kinnach's accomplishments.

Myron also undertook extensive field research, in particular to Mexico, where he explored the habitats of the species Echeveria. He continues his work at the Huntington today, introducing new plants and hybrids to succulent enthusiasts worldwide.

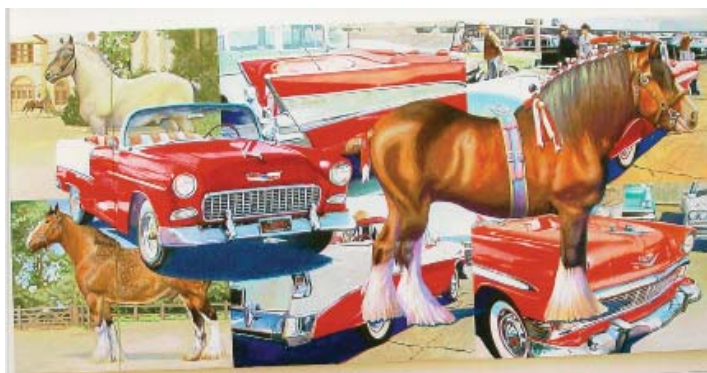
Myron will travel to Monte Carlo, Monaco for the award ceremony. (Maybe the SGVCS should organize a club tour – just kidding.) Of course all of us who know Myron are surprised it took so long for the IOS to bestow the honor.

CONGRATULATIONS MYRON!

— Ralph Massey Paintings Featured in Exhibit at the Petersen Automotive Museum

Succulent plant grower and artist extraordinaire Ralph Massey is pleased to announce a major exhibit of his paintings at the Petersen Automotive Museum. The exhibit began on May 1 and runs through November 14 featuring Massey's inventive and finely detailed images. You can web search Petersen Automotive Museum and click on Exhibits for information and images.

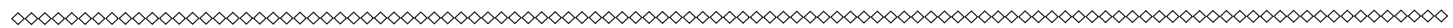
P.S. SGVCS members are requested to see the exhibit and make flattering comments to the artist.



Two for the Show - painting by artist Ralph Massey currently on exhibit at the Petersen Automotive Museum

— John Matthews has a solution if you are running out of space for your plant collection

Running out of room for your collection??? John Matthews, John Martinez and Tim Harvey can be of great assistance. They have space for rent located in SOMIS, an exceptional growing environment. There is a shade cloth structure, hoop house and space for raised beds. Affordable rent and the water is less expensive. Please contact John Martinez 805-523-1389 or Tim Harvey 805-807-5444 for details.



SGVCS&SS LEADERSHIP TEAM - 2010

Buck Hemenway, President
 Horace Birgh, Vice President
 Ana Wisnev, Treasurer
 Irma Juarez, Secretary
 Phil Skonieczki, Board Member
 Karen Ostler, Board Member

Ralph Massey, Board Member
 Bill Gerlach, Board Member
 Patty Caro, Board Member
 Judi Romine, Board Member
 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 minishow. 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 —

Thelocactus and Stenocactus

Stenocactus (sometime still seen as *Echinofosulocactus*) and *Thelocactus* are two smaller Mexican genera, both with fantastic ribs, interesting flowers and wonderful spines.

All *Stenocactus* are spiny plants, collected more for their dense spination and the wonderful curved ribs than their flowers, although the flowers are 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. Good cultivation in a rapidly draining potting mix and frequent fertilization during the growing season will speed this considerably.



Stenocactus sp. ex Huntington
Botanic Garden (HBG 52159)

Stenocactus often grow in grass lands, and some species 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

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

or February, or etiolation or stretching of the body will occur. The narrow ribs, the wooly areoles, and the dense spines are an ideal habitat for mealy bugs. Frequent inspection of the plants will prevent insects 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* are among the first of the cacti to flower, often being in full bloom just as winter ends.

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. However, a few species do stand out.

Thelocactus are spectacularly beautiful cacti with dense multicolor spination, well shaped tubercles, and large colorful flowers. They have been a favorite with collectors since they were first discovered.



Thelocactus bicolor v heterochromus

Thelocactus is a small genus in the cactus family, with only

11 or 12 species. In addition to the species, there are also half a dozen legitimate varieties, and a large number of less legitimate varieties that can be found in reference books and collections. The larger number of questionable varieties is due to variability of some of the species between populations from isolated locations. This in turn is driven by the large geographical range with variable micro-climates.

Thelocactus are found from Southern Texas through central Mexico, mostly in the Chihuahuan Desert, but extending into brush land and thorn scrub in the western parts of its range, and into the Rio Grande Plains region in Texas. *Thelocactus bicolor* has the largest range, extending from central Chihuahua in the west into Texas in the north, and as far south as San Luis Potosi.

Thelocactus are easily grown, tolerant of heat and moisture, but not cold and moisture. They benefit

from protection from being cold and wet, although plants left unprotected during the last several winters survived in good shape. Some species develop fairly large tap roots, and should be planted in deep enough pots to give them room to grow. They are easily propagated from seed, and this is the best way to develop a good collection from different populations. They can also be propagated from offsets, with a cutting allowed to dry, and then replanted. They are sensitive to mealy bug infestations and spider mites, in the same way that all cacti are, but in general are fairly rugged plants.

Tom Glavich June 2010

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Pachypodiums from Madagascar

Pachypodium are members of the *Apocynaceae* or Periwinkle family, and are most closely related to *Adenium*, and more distantly to *Oleander* and *Plumeria*.

Pachypodium are native to only Southern Africa and Madagascar. There are more Madagascan species than there are African due to the geography of the island of Madagascar, with islands of rock outcrops that encourage the development of unique populations of plants, animals and insects isolated from others of the same genus. New species are still being discovered as botanists explore the more remote regions of Madagascar.

The Madagascan species are easy to grow, with the sole difficulty being their sensitivity to cold and wet. If they are protected, either by being brought indoors during the winter, or protected from rain and cold in a cold frame, or even a garage, they will survive and prosper.

Propagation from seed is easy. Seeds are simply placed on good wet potting soil, and germination generally occurs within a week to 10 days. Seeds should be sown in the spring. Protection from direct sun is necessary until the first few leaf pairs have formed, and then gradual movement into strong light, with an increase in fertilizer and water will bring quick and strong growth.

Some Southern California growers are starting seeds and growing *Pachypodiums* in a mix of commercial seed starting mix and pumice or perlite. Some

of the better plants seen in displays are growing in a mix of pure pumice. These two potting mixes are generally supplemented by a time release fertilizer, as well as frequent feedings. Fast growth, along with very healthy root systems have been achieved with the pure pumice potting mix. The mix drains very quickly, and prevents the loss of roots from rot caused by over watering.

All of the Madagascan *Pachypodiums* are worth growing.

Preeminent Pachypodiums



Pachypodium brevicaule - a trophy winner at the 2009 Winter Show

Pachypodium brevicaule, shown above, is a ground hugging, nearly flat caudiciform, the shortest of all the species. It comes from east side of Madagascar, near the middle of the island. The knobby top growth hides roots that anchor it to the soil.

Pachypodium baronii v *windsorii* comes from a peak named Windsor Castle in the northernmost part of the island. It is a small species, with a bulbous base. Its larger cousin, *P. baronii* v *baronii* grows 200 miles further down the coast, and is larger, growing to 6 feet in the wild. Both of these are sensitive to both over and under watering.

Pachypodium geayi is a southern species, similar in appearance to *Pachypodium lamerei*, but more robust. It is the largest member of the genus, growing in a few instances to 30 feet. Like *P. lamerei*, it is a fast grower, but is less tolerant to cold. The main visible difference is the fine coating of hair or down on the spines, and when in flower, the completely different flower.

Pachypodium horombense, known also as *P. rosulatum v. horombense*, is a Southern species, with a wide base. It is the queen of the Madagascar *Pachypodiums*, with many people agreeing that this is the most beautiful. It takes a place of honor as one of the oldest plants in the Huntington Conservatory. It is relatively easy to grow. It has open yellow flowers that are easily pollinated by bees, and forms a robust pachycaul trunk even as a young seedling.

Pachypodium lamerei is the best known of all the *Pachypodiums*, available as a “Madagascar Palm” in florists, home centers and even supermarkets. It grows quickly, reaching 12 inches within a year if well maintained (lots of food and water). It tolerates indoor life well, and is popular as a house plant. It is grown in the San Gabriel Valley in the ground with quite a bit of success, reaching flowering size in about 6 or 7 years. Several cultivars have been created, with more robust trunks, or lower and more frequent branches. It grows in the South and West.

Pachypodium rutenbergianum is the opposite of *P. brevicaule*, reaching for the sky, even as a young seedling. It grows from the northernmost tip to the South East of the island, but in spite of this wide distribution is fairly difficult to grow. It likes warmth, but the roots will shrivel and die if kept too dry in the winter. The tips will freeze and rot, even in the mild winters of the San Gabriel Valley.

Tom Glavich June 2010

**Madagascar
*Pachypodiums***

ambongense

baroni

v. baroni

v windsorii

bicolor

brevicaule

decaryi

densiflorum

v. densiflorum

v brevicalyx

geayi

horombense

lameri

rosulatum

v rosulatum

v eburneum

v gracilis

v. inopinatum

rutenbergianum

v. rutenbergianum

v. meridionale

v sofiense



Pachypodium lamerei at the San Diego Wild Animal Park



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.



Refreshment Signup

These club members have signed up to provide refreshments at our July meeting.

Yvonne Hemenway

Mary Aparicio

Lorraine Lutz

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 17, 11:00 am, — San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Picnic at Pitzer College. Maps are available online. See write-up below.

July 23 - 25, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton. Contact Vince Basta at 714-267-4329 for more information or visit www.occss.org.

August 14 and 15 — 25th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. For more information call Tom Glavich at 626-798-2430 or John Matthews at 661-297-5364.

September 4, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm — Huntington Botanic Gardens Succulent Symposium. Symposium fee is tentatively set at \$75 which includes lunch. Fee for optional dinner presentation is \$25. Reservations are required and will be accepted beginning in August.

September 26, 12:00 noon — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction. 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez.

Annual Club Picnic

Saturday, July 17th is our annual Club Picnic. Again this year Joe Clements is opening up the beautiful botanical gardens of Pitzer College in Claremont just for us. We will have our traditional games (Opuntia Toss and Water Balloon Toss), prizes, picnic feast, and auction.

Setup starts at 11:00 am. We plan to eat around 12:00 noon. Come early to have plenty of time to stroll through acres of cacti and succulents and admire the gardens. A map to the picnic grounds is in the newsletter.

The Club will provide fried chicken, water and soft drinks. Members are asked to bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share with others. Remember to bring your own serving utensils. Please sign up at the July meeting so we have an idea of how much chicken to purchase.

The auction is a great way to add to your collection or sell some of your extra specimens. Club members can auction up to **three show-quality plants**. Club gets 25%, seller 75%. Come and join the fun and games!

2010 Plant-of-the-Month and Study Group Topics

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
July	Thelocactus, Stenocactus	Pachypodiums from Madagascar	Staging
Aug.	Favorite Cactus	Favorite Succulent	Copiapoa
Sept.	Astrophytum	Bursera, Commiphora	Mammillaria
Oct.	Ariocarpus	Sansevieria	Tips and Tricks for Successful Growing
Nov.	Opuntia	Asclepiad	Winter Seed Workshop

