

**San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent Society**

COMMUNIQUE

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

March 2013 - Volume 46, Number 3

**March Meeting:
Thursday,
March 14 at 7:30 pm**

Meetings are held on the
2nd Thursday of the month
at **7:30 pm** in **AYRES HALL**,
Los Angeles County Arboretum,
Arcadia.

Mini-Show Plants:

CACTUS:
North American Opuntiads

SUCCULENT:
Tylecodon, Cotyledon

C & S Workshop:

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

Pelargoniums

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President's Message

Every year I'm fooled into thinking it is already spring due to the nice weather we have this time of year. However, we often receive a surprise cold spell before winter is finally over. I wouldn't put away the frost cloth quite yet.

Our recent Board of Directors meeting was quite productive. First, we are in sound financial health. Second, upcoming field trips were discussed. As mentioned before, we will have our caravan road trip along Powerline Road from Baker, CA to Stateline, NV. on April 6-7. There will be a signup sheet for the trip at the March meeting. Also, we are finalizing a bus trip to San Diego and Vista nurseries in mid-May. Grigsby Cactus Garden is among those nurseries to be visited.

One of the things discussed at the meeting was the study group. The Board felt the name "Study Group" may be a bit intimidating to some of the newer members. Since many of the study groups are focused on hands-on workshops, the Board voted to change the name to "C&S Workshop" in hopes of attracting more members to join the fun.

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February Mini-Show Results

Cactus - *Stenocactus*

Novice

No entry

Intermediate

1st	Louise Stack	Steno.xiphicanthus
2nd	Rita Gerlach	Steno. sp.
3rd	Rita Gerlach	Steno. multicostatus
3rd	Sandy Chase	Steno. sp.

Masters

1st	Pat Swain	Steno. sp. "Palmellas del Valle"
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Succulent - *Haworthia*

Novice

1st	Betty Farfan	H. truncata
2nd	Danielle Duboff	H. mutica
2nd	Daniel Veelik	H. attenuata
3rd	Daniel Veelik	H. attenuata
3rd	Nilda Howard	H. cymbiformis variegata

Intermediate

1st	Ana Wisnev	H. maughanii
2nd	Ana Wisnev	H. truncata variegata
2nd	Ana Wisnev	H. emelyae
3rd	Mike Wisnev	H. Korizata (Kegani x Senegani)
3rd	Hank Warzybok	H. truncata

Masters

1st	John Matthews	H. semiviva
2nd	C & C Arakaki	H. blackburniae
2nd	John Matthews	H. emelyae 'Powdered Sugar'
3rd	C & C Arakaki	H. aranea
3rd	John Matthews	H. 'Bev's Wonder'

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.

President's Message (cont. from page 1)

A special thanks to our February speaker, Kelly Griffin. The fascinating account of his recent trip to Madagascar was well received. We are indeed fortunate to have wonderful, informative speakers such as Kelly available to us.

Speaking of wonderful, informative speakers, this month's speaker will be a special treat for our club. More in this newsletter.

See you at the next meeting.

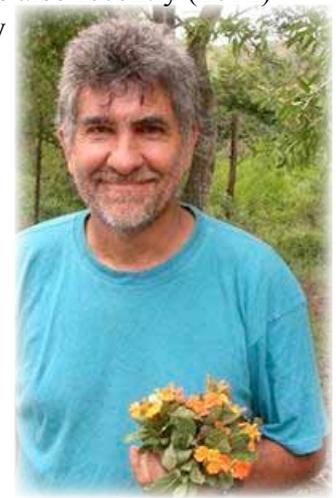
Gunnar Eisel

This Month's Program

Gasterias of South Africa

Ernst van Jaarsveld has been interested in succulents since a young boy collecting and growing succulent plants. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 succulent plant species. He is especially interested in the classification Gasteria and Aloe and other monocotyledonous succulents. His other interests include the Mesembryanthemaceae and Crassulaceae. He is a keen explorer regularly traveling to remote parts of South Africa, Angola and Namibia. Some of the expeditions include rubber canoe expeditions investigating remote river valleys. Ernst also regularly travels abroad and locally lecturing on succulent plants.

Ernst is a fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is a horticulturist at Kirstenbosch, where he is currently curating the Botanical Society Conservatory. He has also recently (2012) been appointed extraordinary senior lecturer at the University of the Western Cape. He is the author of more than 200 articles (popular, semi-scientific and scientific) and several books. He is a keen explorer and for his latest study (cliff dwelling succulent plants), has visited cliffs throughout southern Africa, of which he is preparing a book.



Club Bulletin Board



Refreshment Signup

Keumsook Hahn
Cindy Arakaki
Yvonne Hemenway

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

Welcome New Members

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

Betty Cordero, West Covina
John Ta, El Monte
Susan Tanahashi, Monrovia
Charles Young, South Pasadena
Carol Randall, Glendale

Cactus & Succulent Workshop

Wednesday, March 20th • Pelargoniums

The Workshop 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.

Mini-Show Judges Signup

Pat Swain
Sharon Sedillo

Pat and Sharon 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.



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 —

North American Opuntia

Cactus specimens (family *Cactaceae*) were among the many plants brought to Europe after the discovery of the Americas. Tournefort (French botanist) first published *Opuntia* as a genus in 1700, however, his plant descriptions were invalid. In 1754,



Opuntia littoralis

Miller (English gardener) described four genera of cacti: *Cactus*, *Cereus*, *Opuntia*, and *Pereskia*; this is considered the first valid description of *Opuntia*.

Botanically, a lot of has changed since then. Presently, the family *Cactaceae* is divided into three subfamilies: *Pereskioideae*, *Opuntioideae*, and *Cactoideae*.

Most recently (1998), the subfamily *Opuntioideae* was comprised of 15 genera. The subfamily *Opuntioideae* are the only cacti with glochids (small, barbed, deciduous spines) and seeds that are completely enclosed within a funicular stalk.

The genus *Opuntia* is widely distributed; *Opuntias* range from southern Canada to Patagonia, across the Andes, and from the eastern Caribbean to the Galápagos Islands. In North America, *Opuntias* primary range habitat is central Mexico, radiating outward; thus *Opuntias* are concentrated in all four North American deserts: Chihuahuan, Sonoran, and Mojave (the "hot" deserts), and the Great Basin desert (the "cold" desert). As *Opuntias* can reproduce via vegetative propagation, their (non-human) dispersion is more widespread, but less dense.

Opuntias of North America are divided into

five genera: prickly pears (*Opuntias*), true chollas (*Cylindropuntia*), club chollas (*Grusonia*), *Nopolea*, and *Consolea*.

[The latter two genera are found only in Florida.]. Our



Opuntia macrocentra

focus is on the genera *Opuntia* in North America.

The genera *Opuntia* has over 180 species, most of which are South American. Focusing on the North American *Opuntia*, there are 31 species, 12-14 additional varieties, and at least seven named interspecific hybrids in the U.S. alone.

Opuntias take advantage of several reproductive strategies: seed (sexual reproduction); cloning or asexual reproduction (vegetative reproduction); polyploidization or adventive embryony ("extra" DNA that can mutate); and interspecific hybridization (hybrid fertility).

Opuntias are shrubby to treelike plants, up to 33 feet in height, some with well-developed trunks. Stems are distinctly jointed, undivided, and comprised of flattened segments or cladodes (shapes: round, ovate, elliptical, cylindrical, rhomboid). Leaves are small and usually fall away early. Areoles are in the axils of the leaves, with glochids, hairs, and spines (which may or may not be absent). Usually solitary flowers are borne on the margins of the stem segments.

The fruit is edible. In fact *Opuntia* plants have been an important food and medicinal source for indigenous peoples for centuries.



Cylindropuntia imbricata

Given the widespread distribution of *Opuntia*, species that can be easily grown in our area are read-

ily found. These plants can be grown in pots, but are best grown in the soil – they thrive in arid, shallow, well-drained soil. They require a sunny position, and are frost hardy in our growing area. (However, plants on northern north-facing slopes subject to prolonged freeze may suffer.)

Opuntias should be regularly watered and fertilized during their summer growing period, particularly if you want them to flower and fruit. Species from the extremes of the north-south distribution should be watered more sparingly at the beginning and end of the growing season, to harden them. These plants do best with cold if kept dry.

For those interested in growing *Opuntias* from seed, be advised that shade is beneficial and sometimes necessary during the critical stages of germination and juvenile development of *Opuntias*.

Anne Keegan, March 2013

Sources: The Cactus Family, Anderson; and, “Opuntia Cacti of North America – An Overview” J. P. Rebman and D. J. Pinkava, Florida Entomologist 84(4), December 2001

All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH —

Tylecodon, Cotyledon

Tylecodon (Toelken 1978) and *Cotyledon* are genera in the family *Crassulaceae*. [Prior to 1978, only the genus *Cotyledon* existed, so earlier published plant descriptions refer only to *Cotyledon*.] There are about 50 species in both genera; more are in *Tylecodon* than *Cotyledon*.

The genus *Tylecodon* (an anagram of *Cotyledon*)



Cotyledon undulata

was created to account for distinctions in flowers and leaves. *Tylecodon*'s have spirally-arranged leaves which are deciduous (in our sum-



Tylecodon bucholzianus

mer); *Cotyledon*'s leaves are alternately arranged and (mostly) evergreen.

Tylecodon and *Cotyledon* are mostly shrubby plants with showy leaves. Most species available in the trade are from southern African, yet species range from Saudi Arabia and central Africa southward to South Africa.

Tylecodon and *Cotyledon* are winter growers in southern California. Plants actively grow from late fall to early spring; they are dormant in summer. They are generally easy to grow in southern California.

Species vary in size from miniature (an inch) to large (nine feet). Some species form pachycauls (i.e., exhibit a swollen trunk) if pruned correctly.

All species are poisonous (but apparently not immediately to pollinators).



Tylecodon wallichii

Reactions range from mild (e.g., skin irritation) to lethal (e.g., meat from poison-ingested animals may become lethal). As a result farmers eradicate the plants in habitat (particularly *T. wallichii*).

While cultivation of *Tylecodon* and *Cotyledon* is easy, watering during dormancy differs. *Tylecodons* prefer little to no water during dormancy (depending on size), while *Cotyledons* prefer some water during dormancy. Many of the smaller species have some

shade in habitat, so they should be shaded here, too.



Tylecodon paniculatus

Some species get leggy and others require hard pruning to develop a caudex (e.g., *T. paniculatus*).

Plants can be propagated via seed or stem cuttings. If you are new to growing plants in either genus, ask a seller about how to care/grow/cultivate

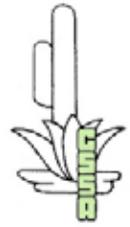
these plants. Advice can also be sought at an SGVC-SS workshop.

Anne Keegan, March 2013

Sources: A Handbook of Succulent Plants H. Jacobson; Succulent Flora of Southern Africa, D. Court

All pictures courtesy of Buck Hemenway

Thank you to Anne Keegan 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.



CSSA Corner

The CSSA Convention is coming up fast. Members have until May 1st to book at the early rate which shows a \$100 discount. Remember, Austin, Texas, June 15 - 20. You can register online at www.cssa2013.com. We hope to see you all there!

The 2013 CSSA Show and Sale is fast approaching as well. It will be held at the Huntington Library and Gardens in San Marino, CA from June 28-30. Are your show plants ready?

Buck Hemenway
Ph: 951-360-8802
Fax: 951-360-0829



South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society 41st Annual Show and Sale

- Beautiful displays
- Expert advice
- 1000s of plants for sale

April 13-14, 2013
9 am to 4 pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

Entry free with paid admission to garden: adult \$8; senior/student \$6; child 5-12 \$3; under 5 free.
www.southcoastcss.org

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 pm — Study Group, PELARGONIUMS. 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.

April 13 and 14, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society 41st Annual Show & Sale at South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Information available at www.southcoastcss.org.

April 20 and 21, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Green Scene Plant Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton.

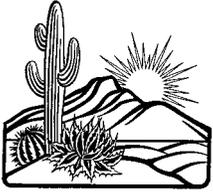
Sunday, April 28, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm — Huntington Plant Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino.

Sunday, May 5, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. For information call 310-833-6823.

May 4 and 5 — Sunset Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. For information call 310-822-1783.

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

	Cacti of the Month	Succulent of the Month	Study Group
Jan.	White Spined Mammillaria Clusters	Small Aloes - less than 12" across	Tips, Tools & Techniques
Feb.	Stenocactus	Haworthia	Conophytums
Mar.	North American Opuntiads	Tylecodon, Cotyledon	Pelargoniums
Apr.	Eriosyce, 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 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**.