



# COMMUNIQUE

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.  
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia  
**March 2004 Volume 37 Number 3**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The program for March will be given by Karen Ostler and is entitled "Growing and Showing the Winter Succulents". Karen will have slides and specimens to show us, and will tell about the rearing and artful exhibition of her succulents. A knowledgeable aficionado, she's been and avid admirer, grower, and exhibitor of C&S for two decades.

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**Plants of the Month:** (see the attached write ups)

**CACTI – *Opuntiaceae***

**SUCCULENTS – *Haworthia***

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride & joy.

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**Study Group:** Join us on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Our topic will be *Gymnocalycium*. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive. These exciting meetings feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something!

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**Refreshments:** No one at all signed up to provide goodies for this month's meeting. Therefore we could use a few volunteers to bring stuff in. There is a sign-up sheet located at the refreshment table. Please do sign up so that people will know how much to bring in. Our thanks go to everyone who brought things for the January meeting. With no one committed to bring those in, we received a surfeit, and lots had to be trucked away after the meeting

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**Personnel Notices:** Two of our favorite members are leaving the area and will be lost to the Club. Leo and Lillian Pickoff, steadfast members since the beginning, are moving to Texas to be nearer to their family. A plaque bearing the inscription:

"To Leo and Lillian Pickoff in thanks for their many years of friendship and service.

From their friends in the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society"

will be presented to them at the coming meeting. See the 'Calendar of Events' for an announcement of an auction of their fabulous C&S collection, to be held at their home on March 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be conducted by Woody Minnich.

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**10 years ago:** Joey Betzler gave a talk on "Shiprock."

**20 years ago:** Seminars on "Preparing Plants for Show" and "Care of Cactus and Succulents" were given by Joe Clements, Fred Hutflesz, Woody Minnich and Peter Sharp. New members included Joe and Carol Wujcik.

**30 years ago:** Ted Taylor gave a presentation on "Those Blooming Stamps", consisting of Cactus and Succulents as portrayed on postage stamps around the world. Joe Clements, the Vice President, started organizing the Study Group.

(Thanks go to Tom Glavich for providing this interesting feature)

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**2004 DUES ARE DUE!** To continue to receive the COMMUNIQUE and to be included in the 2004 Roster, your dues - \$12.00 for individuals or \$15.00 for a family at the same address - must be paid through December 2004 or beyond by March 31, 2004. Check the bottom of the address label on your most recent COMMUNIQUE for the date through which your dues have been paid. That information is also included in the E-mail sent to you announcing the on-line availability of the COMMUNIQUE (if you have subscribed to that program). Your dues can be paid to our treasurer, Rita Gerlach, at the meeting or by mail to: SGVC&SS Membership, 719 S. Albertson, Covina, CA 91723-3302. If there is any information in the 2003 roster that needs to be corrected, contact Bill Gerlach, who is presently compiling the 2004 edition. He can be reached at the next meeting, by phone at 626-332-8008 or by E-mail to [wjgerlach@cs.com](mailto:wjgerlach@cs.com).

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**Get Your COMMUNIQUE Online:** If you would be content to view the COMMUNIQUE on-line and not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy, enter your name and E-mail address on the sign-up sheet available on the front table at the meeting, or send the information via E-mail to [sgv\\_css@verizon.net](mailto:sgv_css@verizon.net).

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**SGVC&SS Online:** <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> is the Club's web site. If you or someone you know has internet access be sure to have a look. The pages were authored and are maintained by Gunnar Eisel who has done a great job in creating an informative and classy site. You can also download a version of the COMMUNIQUE complete with color photos. Look for the COMMUNIQUE link at the site's main page.

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### **Calendar of Events - 2004**

- March 27<sup>th</sup>** Potter's Sale at CDP. See last page for details.
- March 28<sup>th</sup>** Pickoff Auction, 3002 Sugarloaf Drive, Riverside. 9am to close.
- April 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>** South Coast C&SS Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula.
- May 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>** Sunset C&SS Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City.
- May 16<sup>th</sup>** Huntington Library and Botanical Garden Spring Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>** Gates C&SS Show and Sale, Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon.
- June 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** San Diego C&SS Show and Sale, 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.
- July 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>** CSSA Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Garden, San Marino. Sales are only on the 1<sup>st</sup> which is a free day at the Garden.
- July 10<sup>th</sup>** Tentitive date for the Club Picnic, to be hosted again by Jean Mullens at her home. Put the date on your calendar!
- August 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.
- September 4<sup>th</sup>** Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA.
- September 26<sup>th</sup>** Long Beach Cactus Club Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 S. Alameda, Compton.
- October 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** SGVC&SS Winter Show, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. **NOTE THIS DATE CHANGE!!**
- December 18<sup>th</sup>** The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar too!

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## February Plant-Of-the-Month Results:

### Cacti – Single-Headed *Mammillaria*

### Succulents- *Pachyphytum & Graptopetalum*

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#### Beginner

|                  |                           |                                   |                 |               |                    |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| t1 <sup>st</sup> | Roy Dodson – Horace Birgh | <i>M. rodantha</i>                | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Oscar Flores  | <i>P. species</i>  |
| t1 <sup>st</sup> | Oscar Flores              | <i>M. heydery v. hemispherica</i> |                 |               |                    |
| t2 <sup>nd</sup> | Roy Dodson – Horace Birgh | <i>M. nejapensis</i>              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Barbara Nolan | <i>G. superbum</i> |
| t2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jim Schlegel              | <i>M. dixanthrocentron</i>        |                 |               |                    |
| t3 <sup>rd</sup> | Roy Dodson – Horace Birgh | <i>M. pringlei</i>                | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Mike Romero   | <i>species</i>     |
| t3 <sup>rd</sup> | Jim Schlegel              | <i>M. pilensis</i>                |                 |               |                    |

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#### Intermediate

|                 |                        |                          |                 |                   |                |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Carol Maker            | <i>M. tesopacensis</i>   | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Antoinette Koltaj | <i>species</i> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Ron Young              | <i>M. apozolensis</i>    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Antoinette Koltaj | <i>species</i> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Joanne & Bernie Wilner | <i>M. perezdelarosae</i> |                 |                   |                |

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#### Advanced

|                 |                    |                          |                 |                    |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Gene & Laura Oster | <i>M. muhlenpfordtii</i> | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Gene & Laura Oster | <i>G. filiferum hyb.</i> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Rita Gerlach       | <i>M. johnsonii</i>      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Gene & Laura Oster | <i>G. bellum</i>         |
|                 |                    |                          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Rita Gerlach       | <i>P. compactum</i>      |

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#### Masters

|                 |              |                        |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Bill Hagblom | <i>G. pachyphyllum</i> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jim Hanna    | <i>P. compactum</i>    |

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### CSSA Promotional Article (2004 #1)

There have been some changes recently with respect to CSSA publications as a number of you may already be aware. **Russell Wagner** is the new editor of the **CSSA Journal**. **Tom Glavich** has been interim newsletter editor for November/December 2003 and January/February 2004. Our new newsletter editor **Peter Boekenthien** will begin his editorship of *To the Point* with the March/April issue. We are sure that they will continue the high standards set by **Myron Kimmach** and **Carol Clapp**, respectively.

Two CSSA sponsored overseas field trips are scheduled for 2004, a **Madagascar trip** with **John Lavranos** as tour leader in May and a trip to **Chile** to visit *Copiapoas*, etc., in habitat scheduled for October/November. Being able to participate in these trips is one of the many benefits of CSSA membership. Yet another benefit of membership is access to our **Seed Depot**, which makes available to members seeds of rare succulents at very reasonable prices. This benefit should appeal to all you seed growing aficionados out there. Attendance at our **biennial conventions** is yet another membership benefit and our 2005 convention in **Phoenix** in the heart of cactus country, promises to be one of the best ever. More details will appear in subsequent articles as convention plans develop. The CSSA website will also provide updates. For a complete list of other CSSA services to members, see the listing in any issue of the CSSA newsletter, *To the Point* or go to the CSSA website <http://www.cssainc.org>. Membership information is available at both the above-mentioned sites.

The administration of the CSSA continues to be concerned about membership numbers which have been fairly stagnant in recent years. We are far from the only organization facing this problem. We now have a **Membership Committee** whose task it is to address this issue. As I have mentioned before, the more members we have the more benefits we can offer our membership. In the coming months the committee will be kicking around a number of ideas for increasing our membership and we are certainly open to any suggestions that might occur to readers of this article. I would definitely appreciate any feedback on the issue of CSSA membership and ways to increase it. Please feel free to contact me by E-mail ([b.barth@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:b.barth@mail.utexas.edu)) or snail mail (602 Terrace Mountain Drive, Austin, Texas 78746). Bob Barth, Publicity Chair, CSSA Board of Directors

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If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the COMMUNIQUE, please forward the info to me at the address below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice.

Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: [sgv\\_css@verizon.net](mailto:sgv_css@verizon.net) or via post to: Paul Maker, 2235 Canyon Road, Arcadia, CA 91006. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the COMMUNIQUE. Material in the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society COMMUNIQUE may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCCS and the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cactus of the Month March 2004 – *Opuntioideae*



Opuntia flower

The Cactus family is divided into a number of subfamilies. The *Opuntioideae* is one of these sub families. The *Opuntioideae* covers the largest geographical range of any of the sub-families, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas. It is naturalized on every continent except Antarctica. It is a pest and a noxious weed in many places, and is displacing native vegetation in parts of Africa, Madagascar and Australia.

The first plants that come to mind when one thinks of *Opuntia* are the flat padded plants, seen everywhere, or the spiny cylindrical *Cholla* common to the local hillsides and deserts. The *Opuntioideae* family offers much more, and some unusual as well as common forms are described below.

Propagation of all *Opuntias* is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires

patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator required. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds from the same plant sometimes germinating in days, and sometimes not for months.

Handling of *Opuntias* is somewhat of a problem. They are notorious for their well placed sharp spines, and nearly invisible glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help, and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.

### Plants worth knowing

*Opuntia*. the most widespread of the genera, has a number of great species for the collector.

*Opuntia basilaris*, a local native, can hold its own with any of the more exotic plants listed below.

*Opuntia burrageana*, native to Baja California forms low mounds of sharply spined cylindrical stems. It's beautiful in the field, but a hazard to the careless hiker.

*Opuntia compressa* grows as a native plant as far north as the Pine Barrens of

New Jersey. It's a native of well drained soils of the Eastern United States.

*Opuntia erinacea*, another California native gets long white spines that resemble hair.

*Opuntia microdasys*, particularly the very common small white form is really a spectacular plant. If this were hard to grow, it would be in every collection and in every show.

*Opuntia pachypus*, a native of Peru, is the only columnar *Opuntia*. It's rarely seen, and hard to grow.

*Opuntia ramosissima* gets long slender shoots, each about the width of a pencil, covered with wicked spines.

*Opuntia violacea v. santa rita*, is gets a beautiful purple, offset with black spines.

*Pereskia* looks like a *Pereskia*, and more like a tropical shrub than a cactus, with long leaves and thick stems. It's native to the tropical regions of Southern Mexico and Guatemala; there are about 12 species.

*Pereskia porteri* is often used as a grafting stock for small seedlings. It is not cold tolerant, and tends to get scabby and lose its leaves in the winter in Southern California.

*Pterocactus* is a Argentine geophytic genus, with deciduous brown stems coming from a convoluted and interesting tuberous root. The stems are easily rooted, which is fortunate, since they are even more easily detached, whenever the

plant is moved. The roots grow quickly, and can be raised every year or two to make a spectacular plant.

*Pterocactus tuberosa* is the most commonly seen species, but others have recently become available.

*Puna* is another mostly Argentine geophytic genus, related to both *Pterocactus* and *Tephrocactus*. Large subterranean roots are topped by small usually globular heads. *Puna bonnieae*, discovered in 1990, is just coming into cultivation.

*Quiabentia zehntneri* is bushy shrub that looks like a cross between an *Opuntia* and a *Pereskia*. It is native to Brazil, and has stems, and oval leaves. It requires humidity and warmth, and is rarely seen in cultivation

*Tephrocactus*, again Argentine, is a genus of very variable cacti. Species vary considerably, from the very spiny *Tephrocactus stramria* to the paper spined *Tephrocactus articulata* to the nearly spineless *Tephrocactus inermis*. *Tephrocactus* are probably the most collected of the *Opuntioideae*, and there is even a *Tephrocactus* study group for the true fanatics. They make small, neat plants, and a good collection can be kept in a reasonable area.

References:

Britton and Rose, **The Cactaceae**  
Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**  
Erik Haustein, **The Cactus Handbook**

Tom Glavich February 2004

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month March 2004 – *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. Most are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the early autumn and spring through early summer.



*Haworthia venosa* ssp. *tessellata* entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by D. Hulett

The genus *Haworthia* is generally divided into retuse and non-retuse forms for shows. This month, the entire genus of *Haworthia* is welcome. We hope to have a great display of all the wonderful shapes, textures and colors that *Haworthia* can exhibit.

*Haworthia* are notable for their variety of appearance. Almost all of the species have varieties, forms, cultivars, and plants propagated from selected individuals. It is possible to develop a large collection of *Haworthia* with remarkable variation in shape, texture and form. Bruce Bayer's **Haworthia Revisited** is the best guide to forms, 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.

Most of the plants in this genus offset easily, and propagation is easy from offsets. 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 December. The trick with *Haworthia* seed is to get enough growth on the seedlings to allow them to survive their first summer dormancy. Most losses are due to heat and dry weather rather than over watering.

*Haworthias to Hoard:*

*Haworthia comptoniana* is a large, smooth topped plant that offsets slowly. The leaves are triangular, and flat topped, covered with a pattern of lines that occasionally break down into patterns of fine white dots. Each clone has a different pattern.

*Haworthia cooperi* is a fast growing species, with a 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.

*Haworthia lockwoodii* is one of a number of thin leaved forms. The species with thin leaves can take little water when dormant. The leaves curl around the growing tip, and the outer leaves turn brown as the growing tip is protected from the increasing heat of the summer.

*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 slightly rough at the edge.



*Haworthia truncata* entered in the 2003 CSSA Show by D & E Tufenkian

*Haworthia truncata*, shown in the picture is a superb plant. Easy to come by, it is 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 wonder patterns of white on green-gray have been developed and propagated.

*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**  
J. Pilbeam, **Haworthia and Astroloba, A Collectors Guide**  
M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich February 2004  
Pictures by T. Nomer

# **Cactus Data Plants**

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Potters Sale**

### **Sat. March 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 5:00**

**Presenting three fine potters, all featuring  
unique cactus & succulent containers**

### **Don Hunt**

From the San Diego area, specializing in wheel thrown exotic shapes  
with very beautiful and colorful glazes

### **Mark Muradian**

From the Fresno area, specializing in hand built Iron wash pots with marvelous engraved  
patterns of rustic character

### **Joe Wujcik**

From the Fountain Valley area, specializing in wheel thrown textured and glazed pots to  
match the uniqueness of the succulent plants. Joe with his years of experience (33 years)  
has become the master at matching the needs for the presentation of our sculptured  
specimens.

*Please join Joe in celebrating his 1/3 of a century as a potter.*

Each of the potters will be presenting some of their first new offerings for the Spring of  
2004. Do not miss out on this opportunity to get first pick from each of these wonderful  
potters. All the potters have indicated that they will be giving discounts for larger quantity  
purchases. We hope to see you at this years sale and CDP wishes to thank you for  
making each of these annual potters sales such great successes.

**Cactus Data Plants also invites you to see our  
wide selection of new and unusual plants, many at  
discounted prices, for this Sale. We *are fully stocked!***

Cactus Data Plants, 9607 E. Ave. S-12, Littlerock, CA 93543  
For more Info, ask for Woody at 661-944-2784, cell 661-406-9816