



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 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
April 2005 Volume 38 Number 4

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 14th. Ten years ago, **Gary James** presented a talk on "The Namib Desert". This month, **Petra Crist** will tell us about the inland regions of Namibia, having spent a month-long field trip there last fall. Her presentation is titled "**In Search of the Big Five - *Cyphostema*.**"

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

CACTI – *Notocactus and Parodia* SUCCULENT – *Single 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 and joy. If you don't have any of this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting.

Study Group: Meetings are held at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive. These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something! Join us on Wednesday, April 20st. This month we will have our annual "Seed Workshop." Materials will be provided, including fresh seeds, pots and potting mix. Under the guidance of experts, we will have a hands-on chance to pot up some of the little dears. (The plants, not the experts!)

Personnel Notices: We sadly report the passing of long time contributing club member **Ellen Low**. She and her husband Bill, who died while traveling home from an out-state cactus event in the early 80's, were active with the club from its beginnings. She attended conventions and participated in the annual field trips to the Baja. She could always be found at the checkout table at our shows, helping with the counting. She belonged to many other clubs in the area, including the Gates Club. Among her close associates were Leo and Lillian Pickoff and Camille Rutkowski. Her fervor for the beauty of all cacti and succulents, and for its pursuit, will be missed.

Personnel Notices: The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members, **Tom Herrera** and **Charles** and **Yvonne Young**. Carefully review the

COMMUNIQUE and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our club!

Expedition-Field Trip to the East Mojave Desert, April 23 & 24, 2005

We are planning to meet early Saturday morning, 8:00am in Baker, under the world's largest thermometer. If you plan to car pool and leave from the Arboretum, it should take you approximately 2 hours. Our President and expedition leader Joe Clements is planning on showing us some of the following cacti: echinocereus triglochidiatus, echinocereus Engelmannii, echinocactus polycephalus, several fero cacti varieties, several mammillaria varieties, several opuntia varieties, and agave utahensis nevadensis. The cacti and wildflowers should be in full bloom. The areas we plan to explore are the Clark Mountains, Kelso Mountains, Cima Dome, Teutonia Peak, and more. The Las Vegas Club may join us. There are other possibilities of visiting the cactus garden at Ethel M's in Henderson or Turner's Nursery in Las Vegas. Joe is looking for your input. Also, there are some rock collecting areas. If you are interested in exploring and camping under the stars, it can be great. However, some of us are planning to spend Saturday night at the Primm Valley Resort & Casino at Stateline, (702) 383-1212 or (800) 386-7867. In either case, please make your own arrangements/reservations. We are also planning a pre-dinner hospitality Party at the PVR&C. For those of you who do not like to get up too early, there is a Royal Hawaiian Hotel, (760) 733-4326, and a Bun Boy Motel, (760) 733-4363, in Baker. Neither is listed in the AAA book. Before you leave to join us, we recommend that you purchase a San Bernardino County map of the area. We hope all of you can attend. More information will be available at the April club meeting, or telephone Jean Mullens at (626) 967-5481.

Bus Trip, Saturday, June 4, 2005

To the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale at the beautiful Balboa Museum and Park. We will leave from the Arboretum. You can bring your own lunch or dine in the café in the park. On the way back we may stop to shop at Tropic World or visit a private cactus & succulent garden. More details will be given later as we are still in the planning stages. There is a sign up sheet if you are interested.

- 10 years ago:** Gary James presented a talk on "The Namib Desert". The Club took their first and only "White Water Bus Trip". The Bus was wider than a small bridge, and longer than the dip across the bridge. It went partly into the water, and was stuck for some time. Members exited onto rocks, and the bus needed a tow truck to get out.
- 20 years ago:** The program was "San Pedro Nolasco" by Woody Minnich. New members included Joe and Carol Wujcik of Fountain Valley! The San Gabriel Show was held this month.

30 years ago: The program was “Bob Blissful Bazaar” where members displayed and sold their specialties to each other. The Annual Show was held at the Huntington, and advanced reservations for each plant were required. There were 31 classes, with the number of Cacti classes being larger than Succulents! Joe Clements was show chair, and Jerry Clements was the registrar.

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

Refreshments: Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments to the March meeting! We need lots of you to help furnish the coffee break table this month! There are openings on the refreshment sign-up sheet throughout the coming year. The sign up sheet will be at the refreshment table.

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, send the information via E-mail to sgvcss@adelphia.net. <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.

Calendar of Events - 2005

- Apr 24th** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA (310-831-1209).
- Apr 23rd-24th** Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum.
- Apr 30th - May 1st** Sunset C&SS Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA (310-822-1783)
- May 7th-8th** Los Angeles Geranium Society Show and Sale, Descanso Gardens (Mothers Day weekend). There will be a selection of species and succulent Pelargoniums at both the show and sale.
- May 15th** Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale, 10-5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- May 15th** Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. (310-831-1209).
- May 21st-22nd** Gates C&SS Show (1-4 Sat, 9-4 Sun) and Sale (9-4 Sat & Sun), Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Glen Avon, CA (909-360-8802).

Jun 4th-5th	San Diego C&SS Show and Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101 Casa del Prado, San Diego, CA (619-477-4779).
Jul 1st-3rd	CSSA Show (2 nd -3 rd) and Sale (1 st -3 rd), Huntington Botanical Garden, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA (626-405-2160 or 2277).
Aug 5th-11th	31 st Biennial CSSA Convention, Scottsdale, AZ. For complete details, visit http://www.cssainc.org/convent.html
Aug 20th-21th	18 th Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA (626-798-2430 or 818-998-9306).
Sep 3rd	22 nd Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
Sep 25th	Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction, Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St, Compton (Dominguez Hills) CA.
Oct 15th-16th	SGVC&SS Winter Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia CA.

March Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results:

Cacti – <i>Echinocereus</i>			Succulents – <i>Adromischus</i> and <i>Crassula</i>		
Beginner					
1 st	Mike Green	<i>E. napimiensis</i>	1 st	Oscar Flores	<i>A. herreri</i>
			2 nd	John Matthews	<i>A. sp</i>
			3 rd	John Matthews	<i>C. volkensii</i>
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Intermediate					
1 st	Barbara Nolan	<i>E. laui</i>	1 st	Barbara Nolan	<i>C. Morgan's Pink</i>
2 nd	Barbara Nolan	<i>E. triglochidiatus</i>	2 nd	Dick Tatman	<i>C. sarcocaulis</i>
			3 rd	Barbara Nolan	<i>C. Morgan's Pink</i>
			3 rd	Barbara Nolan	<i>A. phillipsiae</i>
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Advanced					
1 st	Frank Nudge	<i>E. adustus</i>	1 st	Rita Gerlach	<i>C. Morgan's Pink</i>
2 nd	Carol Maker	<i>E. rigidissimus</i>	2 nd	Frank Nudge	<i>A. poellnitzianus</i>
		v <i>rubrispinus</i>			
3 rd	Frank Nudge	<i>E. stramineus</i>			
<hr/>					
Master					
1 st	Karen Ostler	<i>E. viridiflorus</i> v <i>nova</i>			
2 nd	Karen Ostler	<i>E. viridiflorus</i>			

Announcement: The **Garden Conservancy's 2005 Los Angeles Open Days** are upon us. A total of 16 private gardens will be open on **Sunday, April 24** in Pasadena and **Saturday, May 7** in Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica. On each day, discount ticket booklets and Open Days Directories will be available at the following lead gardens:

Sunday, April 24th Pasadena---Sunset Magazine's Demonstration Garden at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden at 301 North Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia. (Use entrance in the middle of the east side parking area from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for 7 gardens in Pasadena).

Saturday, May 7^h West Los Angeles---Greystone Estate Park at 905 Loma Vista in Beverly Hills from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for 9 gardens in Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica.

Please save the dates to visit these amazing and diverse gardens. In addition to the usual astounding variety of horticulture such as California native plants, Mediterranean plants, grasses, spring bulbs, tropical foliage, fruit, succulents, etc., this year's tour features private gardens that beautifully complement the architecture of their homes from traditional to contemporary, including a Greene and Greene bungalow, a Sylvanus Marston Georgian brick and a Roland Coate Tuscan villa.

The Garden Conservancy is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to garden preservation and the appreciation of gardens as living works of art. For more information about membership, preservation activities and to pre-purchase an Open Days Directory and discount tickets, call toll free, 888-842-2442 (9a.m. to 5p.m., EST) or visit www.gardenconservancy.org. Admission is \$5 per garden and gardens are open rain or shine.

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: sgvcss@adelphia.net or via post to: Paul Maker, 1245 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078-4816. 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 SGVCSS 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

Cacti of the Month April 2005 – *Notocactus and Parodia*

Notocactus and *Parodia* are now generally considered to be the same genus, and in modern references, all *Notocactus* have been moved into *Parodia*. The original distinguishing characteristic was the red stigmas in the flowers of *Notocactus*, and the yellow stigma in those of *Parodia*. The distinguishing characteristic between the two genera were redefined over time as more and more intermediates were discovered, eventually becoming a minor difference in the attachment of the seed to ovary.

Parodia has swept up several other genera, and is likely to grow and swallow a few more as botanical and genetic studies continue.



Notocactus magnificus entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Paul and Carol Maker

Nonetheless, the two are separate in many seed catalogs, in older reference books, in our shows, and in most of our collections.

Both *Parodia* and *Notocactus* are South American Cacti, with the centers of the genera in Brazil and Argentina, but with members throughout the Eastern side of the Andes. All are easy to grow, growing freely in the spring through the fall, and going more or less dormant in the fall. Some will flower in mid winter, and given their native environment, most do better given a little water year around. Some of the more tropical species need protection from colder weather to prevent scarring, but most will take normal Southern California winters without protection.

All the species are easy to grow from seed. Seed is available for nearly all the species, generally with variants from specific localities. The seed germinates readily and can grow into a show quality plant in just a few years. Vegetative propagation of the clustering types is easy as well. Cuttings taken during the late spring and early summer root readily and show new growth before the season is over.

The main cultural difficulties encountered with these plants are the ones common to all cacti, mealy bugs, spider mites and fungal spots. Mealy bugs can be kept away by keeping the plants clean and keeping ants away from the pots. Spider mites can appear anytime. A periodic hosing of the plants will help keep them away as well. Fungal spots and creeping crud growing from the base can be kept at bay by keeping the plants in growth as much as possible, by fertilizing regularly, and keeping

the growing area clean and debris free to allow as much free air movement as possible.



Parodia chrysacanthion entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by David and Eileen Tufenkian

Noteworthy Notocactus

Notocactus leninghausii from Rio Grande do Sul Brazil is easy to come by, and with patience and care becomes a very impressive species. It is nearly columnar, offsetting from the base, with short yellow spines. The growing tip always leans towards the sun (much more so in California than in its native Brazil). Give it root room and lots of fertilizer to grow and spread.

Notocactus magnificus from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and shown above. Easy to come by, easy to grow, and lives up to its name. Spectacular even as a single head, it clumps with time for a very impressive display. Like all the Notocactus, a reliable bloomer.

Notocactus ottonis, widespread in South America from Southern Brazil to Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. This species exists in many forms. Look for a dark purple form that turns green when growth starts in

spring. This species clumps readily, even when small.

Notocactus uebelmannianus another species from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil has thick rounded ribs, the crown and the areoles all have lots of white wool. It has white spines and red flowers.

Particular Parodias

Parodia chrysacanthion from Jujuy Argentina shown above is a solitary globose species, with great spines.

Parodia maassii has dense spination, often colored. It is native to Southern Bolivia and Northern Argentina.

Parodia penicillata from Northern Argentina has very dense radial spines that stick out from the body. A very unusual species that is easy to grow. This another species whose growing point always points towards the sun, giving the plant a leaning appearance. This can be avoided by frequently turning the plant, or it can be emphasized as part of the unique character of the species.

Parodia turecekiana, named after our own Victor Turecek, comes from western Uruguay, and Northern Argentina. A great species that is readily available.

References:

- E. Anderson, **The Cactus Family**
- J. Pilbeam, **Cactus for the Connoisseur**
- C. Innes & C. Glass **Cacti**

Tom Glavich March 2005
Photos by T. Nomer

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month April 2005 - Single *Haworthia*

Haworthia, along with *Aloe* and *Gasteria* are part of the *Aloaceae* family. *Haworthias* 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. They look their best in mid spring, with April and May being their best months.



Haworthia margaritifera (*minima*)

Most *Haworthias* grow in clumps, particularly in cultivation. A few species tend to be singles, and some species will grow for years as singles before finally putting out a few offsets. The single headed species are this month's topic. Almost all *Haworthias* will offset if they live long enough.

Haworthias are notable for the extreme variability of appearance with locality. There are intergrades between two, three and more species as the species gradually (or episodically) change from one to another. Although this has led to a great

deal of angst and argument among botanists, it has given the plant collector an incredible wealth of interesting and beautiful plants to choose from.



Haworthia marginata

There are roughly sixty species, however there is widespread disagreement on the meaning of the word species as applied to *Haworthia*. Almost all of the species have varieties, forms, and cultivars. 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.

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 rarely bothered by insects, except for occasional mealy bug attacks. Ants will make nests in pots with *Haworthia* and these will often have root mealy bug problems as well. When this occurs, the best thing to do is completely unpot the plant, wash the roots(and spray with insecticide if root mealy bugs are seen), and then repot in a clean mix. Move the plant to a new location for a few weeks to prevent reinfestation.

Propagating the single headed species is more difficult than the quick clumpers. Most can be propagated from leaves, with the leaves taken from near but not at the growing tip. Alternatively the growing tip can be cored, forcing the plant to offset, or the plant can be quartered. Seed can be produced for the fainthearted, but more than one clone is needed, and care to avoid accidental hybridization is needed.



Haworthia x pumila

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 limifolia and in particular variety *limifolia* will stay as a single plant for several years, before beginning to pup. The washboard appearance of this *Haworthia* makes it a very collectable plant. The variegated forms of this cultivar are often spectacular.

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 minima, shown on the previous page usually stays a single in cultivation. There are several varieties in cultivation, all with variations in the size, texture and density of the spotting. This plant is more often seen in cultivation as *Haworthia margaritifera*

Haworthia marginata shown on the previous page is a very slow growing species. It needs very bright light, and grows to fill an 8 inch pot as a single headed species.

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 March 2005