



Sweepstakes Winner

NEW MEETING PLACE

February Plants of the Month:

Cacti: Columnar cacti

Succulents: Gasteria, Haworthia

Save These Dates:

February 7 Annual Aloe Walk at Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center

February 14 – San Diego C&SS Winter Show & Sale

Open Gates

A publication of the
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
February 2015

**NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, February 4,
NEW PLACE - NEW TIME! 7:00 PM**

**AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA. 92374**

From the President:

Now that you all have had a chance to enjoy our new meeting facility, I hope you are now ready for another eleven months of jammed, packed succulent/cactus adventures. Last month had a great turnout of member vendors selling plants. It looks like everyone enjoyed the spacious accommodation of the meeting room. We will have more tables available for those interested in bringing their plants for show or sale. Please limit yourself to one table per member and, if needed, be willing to share tables with another member. As you can see, the kitchen is quite large so feel free to bring some edible treats to share with everyone. Thank you to the last-minute volunteers with kitchen duties and mini-show judges last month. The sign-up sheet for future kitchen duty and mini-show judge still has many open spots for the remainder of the year. Don't be bashful and sign up for one of those months. Remember, volunteers get a free plant for their chivalrous acts of kindness.

Once again this month's newsletter contains many succulent/cactus-related activities worth your attention. The individual CSSA chapter show/sale is starting up for the year so attend as many as you wish or can. Our first of four Redlands Market Night vendor booths for the year will be Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 6 PM. If you wish to sale your plants or just come and enjoy the evening with other members contact me for further detail. A members' home tour is currently in the planning stage. This is always a fun and relaxing chance to experience first hand the marvelous garden creation of our fellow members. Other planned activities include Earth Night in riverside in April 22, 2015, our big annual show and sale in May 15-16, 2015, and the huge CSSA Biennial Convention in June 14-19, 2015. Mark your calendar early. There's enough to keep everyone busy and fun so consider getting involved. Lend us your time, talent, expertise, and succulent passion. More details to come so be on alert.

Please share your thoughts, comments, suggestions, and feedbacks to any of the Board member. This is our club and I know everybody has something itching to say.

Continued pg.-2-

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Leadership Team 2014

Here's another kindly reminder to renew your membership if you have not done so already.

Phuc

February Speaker

Paul Klasson with a HUGE Echinocactus platycanthus



Born in the Netherlands, Paul won his first cactus show at school in 1959. After moving to Great Britain in the 60's Paul has remained very active in the hobby and started exploring the Western Hemisphere for cacti in the early 2000's.

His talk for us is FOG. This was commissioned for the 2014 Convention of the Australian C&S Society, last October. It looks at Fog Deserts visited in

Chile, Baja California and Namibia and at the succulent plants, including cacti, that grow there. The range of plants shown makes for a varied presentation – something for everyone.

2015 CSSA Convention at Pitzer College June 14 – 19 2015

Almost 4 years ago, your Board of Directors voted unanimously to combine forces with San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society and invite the Cactus World to our Inland Empire for the biennial Convention of the CSSA. This will be the 36th Convention stretching back to the 1930's.

Every 2 years the Cactus & Succulent crazies in North America get together to put on an extravaganza of succulent knowledge exchange. We invite the premiere authors and speakers from the world over to give us their best knowledge of their favorite succulent plant genres. Just the chance to have lunch with Ernst Van Jaarsveld, Kelly Griffin, Len Newton, Heidi Hartmann, or to

listen to them expound on some plant topic is worth the chance for every succulent nut.

It is incumbent on our two clubs to host an event that both is pleasing for the participants and interesting as well. The planning for this event has been ongoing for more than 3years.

- We have one extremely interesting facility
- We have speakers invited and confirmed,
- We have Field Trips planned
- We have an Auction ready to go.
- There will be a huge plant sale
- The final sale of bookseller Chuck Everson
- Opening Banquet at the Huntington

Pitzer College presents an extremely interesting venue at which to host this event. The cost of attending a Convention has risen fast over the last 20 years. By going to Pitzer, we have made an effort to reduce the overall cost to the attendee. In addition, for those who have been on campus in the last few years, you'll know that it is now one of the premier display sites for succulent plants in Southern California. Our succulent friends from around the country will be blown away.

So, how do you, a member of the host club get involved? Two ways – pay the registration like any other member of CSSA or VOLUNTEER to help put on the show. **Volunteers (active members of the 2 host clubs) who will commit to at least 10 hours of service in the planning or execution of the event will be able to attend the lectures free of charge.**

We are looking for people to head various committees. They include:

Security
Auction
Closing Banquet
Room Assignment, check in and check out
Opening Reception
Welcome Bags - Eunice Thompson San Gab.)
Printed Program, execution and Sales,
Isabelle Moon (Gates)
Registration

Please see me at the next meeting if your have interest in heading any of the committees listed.

Buck

Plants of the Month 2015

	Cacti	Succulents
February	Columnar Cacti	Haworthia/Gasteria
March	Notocactus/ Parodia	Dudleya
April	Echinocactus/ Ferocactus	Miniature Agave
May	Best Staged Cactus	Best Staged Succulent
June	Astrophytum	Pachypodium
July	Photograph	Photograph
August	Rebutia/ Sulcorebutia	Caudiciform/ Pachycaul
September	Miniatures	Miniatures
October	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates	Crests/Monstrose/Variiegates

Coming Cactus & Succulent Events

- FEB 14 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society , Spring Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA—INFO 858-382-1797
- MAR. 27-29 Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society, Spring Show & Sale
Sale Friday and Saturday, March 27 & 28 9 – 5:00 PM; Sun March 29 12-4PM
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357
- April 11 -12 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale;
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes CA
Info: 310-378-1953
- April 26th Huntington Plant Sale, 10 til 5:00 PM
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
Info: 626-405-2160
- May 3 South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, 9 AM til 4 PM
South Coast Botanic Garden
Info: 310-833-6823
- May 2 & 3 Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room; 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City CA
Info: 310-822-1783
- MAY 15-16 Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
Friday & Saturday May 15 & 16 9:00 - 4:30
at Landscapes Southern California Style
450 E Allesandro Blvd, Riverside, CA
Info: 951-360-8802

Columnar Cacti

Buck Hemenway

For the purpose of our Mini-Show, these will be all cacti that tend to grow as upright stems, whether they are solitary (one stem) or multiple stems ramifying from the base of the plant or single or multiple stems branching higher up. Any plant genus that ends in the word cereus (aka "ceriod"), such as *Oreocereus*, *Pachycereus*, *Trichocereus* etc, is part of this group. We will include all of the upright growing *Echinopsis* (for the most part the old *Trichocereus*), *Cleistocactus*. Basically any cactus that tends to grow relatively tall and relatively skinny.

The plant that we are most familiar with is the Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) which is the largest growing of the columnars in the United States. The Cardon (*Pachycereus pringlei*) grows prolifically in Northwestern Mexico and on the Baja Peninsula. Both of these plants are very easy to grow in our Inland climate as long as they are planted in very well draining soil. They both grow in the Sonoran desert and as such need some added summer water here, but can be left alone the rest of the year. They and most of the very large "ceriods" can do well with one good watering per month from July through October when they are good sized.

The group tends to be pest free. Just a little inspection once or twice a year will show any evidence of scale or mealy bug.

They tend to have very large, and shallow root systems. We always water the areas in which they grow with overhead sprinkling so they can gain as much root growth as possible.

Transplanting of nearly all columnar cacti should be done in the heat of the year (from May through September). We do not water the large ones at all during the first summer/winter after planting. They have plenty of reserve energy to begin new root growth before our rainy season.

Many of them grow at extreme altitudes in the Andes and their connected mountain ranges. Our weather tends to be a little too hot, but most adapt well after a season or two.

The blooms are huge and trumpet shaped on many. The fruits on all are edible and normally delicious. Wait until they begin to turn red or purple in the case of *Myrtillocactus*.

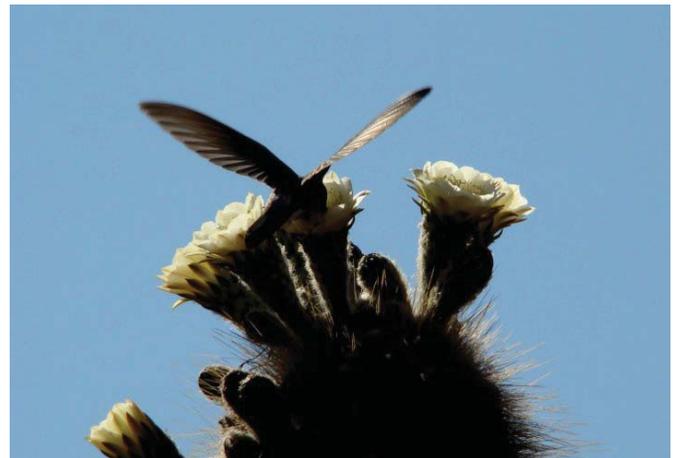
The most satisfying plants in our landscape are the large columnar cacti.



Our friend Ed takes a picture of a very large *Oreocereus celsianus* at 13,000 ft elevation.



Echinopsis poco at 11,700 ft elevation



Giant hummingbird drinks from *Echinopsis atacamensis* ssp. *pasacana* flower at the ruins at Tilcara Argentina

Succulent of the Month, February 2015

Haworthia, Gasteria

By: Buck Hemenway

As we have learned from our study of Aloe, the genera *Haworthia* and *Gasteria* are closely related and included in the same large family Xanthorrhoeaceae.

These genera grow exclusively in Africa and mainly in South Africa. They grow in the Karoos of South Africa as well as some of the areas with greater rainfall in the south and east of the country.

There is a lot of discussion about the relationship of species in *Haworthia*. We should expect a reorganization of the genus in the next 10 years or so.

The *Gasteria* genus is due a reorganization. Ernst van Jaarsveld is working on a book that should be published soon.

Haworthia plants tend to be smallish rosettes up to about 12" in diameter for the largest. *Gasteria* are generally larger plants than *Haworthia* many of which do not form rosettes, but the leaves stay in ranks which is known as "distichous" growth botanically.

Most of the plants in this group are opportunistic growers. This means that under mild conditions they will grow any time of the year. We find blooms on them year around based on individual species. They do not like very cold or very hot weather. Withholding water in the coldest and hottest times of the year will help the growth of these beautiful plants.

Flowers on *Haworthias* are not useful in describing species. They resemble each other closely. We use the growth habit of the plants for classification almost exclusively.

Flowers on *Gasterias* are more varied and quite showy. The shape of the flowers is how the genus got its name. They all look like little stomachs.

Both genera are very susceptible to our common pests, particularly mealy bugs. Common in *Gasterias* is a black spot fungus. This is a pest that can infect an entire collection in short time if not controlled. One should use a broad based fungicide to kill the fungus. The black spots will not disappear, but the fungus will not spread further.



Haworthia attenuata



Haworthia retusa cv. *Chocolate*



Gasteria bicolor

From: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
14278 Desert Rose St
Hesperia, CA 92344