

# SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 3

MARCH, 2005

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NEWSLETTER

Debra Thaxton  
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BOARD AND SHOW MEETING: Sunday, 1:00 P.M., March 13,  
in the classroom of the South Coast Botanical Gardens.

GENERAL MEETING will follow at 1:30 P.M.. JERRY KRULIK will talk about Organpipe Monument and two of the famous Tucson nurseries: Arid Lands and Bachs. This is a brief auto tour of the famous monument. One of the highlights of the trip was seeing the largest--to his knowledge--crested cactus in the world. Don't miss this fascinating presentation.

MEMBERSHIP: Gary wants to remind you to let him know SOON if there are particular seeds that you want to plant. He will be ordering by the end of March so contact him with your request at (714) 377-0064 or dukebb@earthlink.net.

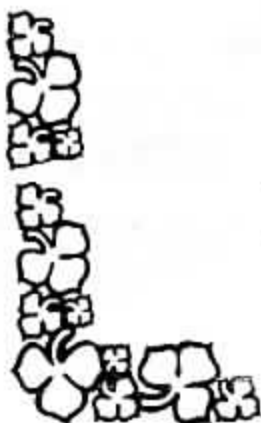
NEW MEMBERS: A hearty WELCOME to our new members!!  
Joe Cocke-417 Calle Mayor, Redondo Beach, 90277  
(310)375-5086

Ed Curlee-21438 Clarella Ave., Lakewood 90715  
(562)809-3243

Dot Miller-71416 El Morro Way, Buena Park, 90620  
(714)521-4179

February totals are not available as of 2/25  
PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS--2005

<u>CACTUS</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CACTUS</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>ADVANCED</u>			<u>NOVICE</u>		
Duke	13	13	Capaldo	6	6
Fletcher	4	4	Crowley	4	4
<u>SUCCULENTS</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SUCCULENTS</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>ADVANCED</u>			<u>NOVICE</u>		
Duke	8	8	Crowley	10	10
Fletcher	4	4			
Gardner	3	3			
Hanna	6	6			



## PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH RULES

At the November meeting the following rules were adopted for the 1999 Plant-of-the-Month (POM) competition:

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- There will be three classes for entrants: advanced, intermediate and novice.
- Advanced and intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, beginners for three months.
- Entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 2 points for third place and 1 point for showing a plant that does not place.
- At the discretion of the judges there may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no third place will be awarded.
- For an entrant to receive points, the entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of record keeping for POM.
- At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

### PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2005

#### CACTI

#### SUCCULENTS

Jan.      Astrophytum

Dudleya

Feb,      Nannukkarua

Gasteria

Mar.      Parodia/Notocactus

Aeonium

-----SHOW TIME-----

May      Gymnocalcium

Bromeliaceae

June      Coryphantha

Mesembryan  
Thenaceae  
(ex conos & Lithops)

July      Favorite Cacti (3)

Favorite Succulents (3)

Aug.      Opuntioideae

Sansevieria

Sept.      Neoporteria/Neochicenia

Pachypodium

-----NO MEETING-----

Nov.      Miniatures (3 in. max)

Miniatures (3 in. max)

-----CHRISTMAS



The genus *Parodia* was named in honor of the Argentinean botanist Lorenzo Raimundo Parodi (1895-1966), and the genus *Notocactus* comes from the Greek word 'notos', meaning south. All species of the two genera come from neighboring countries in South America.

Plants in the genus *Parodia* and *Notocactus* are native to the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The majority of the plants are found in the Andean regions of Argentina and Bolivia and includes many of the choicest and most sought after species of small growing, free flowering globular cacti.

It is difficult and confusing to say just how many species names exist within the genus *Parodia*. Many names have been accumulated in the last 50 years or so due to the incredible variation, particularly in the color, of the flowers and spination of individual species both within and between populations in habitat. As a result of this variation, many of the natural variants have been described as new species or varieties by past authors of cactus literature, adding to the confusion. For the genus *Notocactus*, about 30 species exist in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

To reduce the confusion within the genus *Parodia*, the Argentinean botanists Roberto Kiesling and Omar Ferrari reviewed the genus *Parodia* and published an outline classification of the species endemic to Argentina. In their article, which appeared in the CSSA Journal in 1990, the authors reduced over 50 species to just one species, *P. microsperma* (the type species of the genus), recognizing two subspecies (*ssp. microsperma* and *ssp. horrida*).

Recently, it has been proposed that the genus *Parodia* should include all the species of *Notocactus*. The trend to lump the two genera was recently published in the CSSA Journal, Vol. 67, No. 1. "Argentine Notocacti of the Genus Parodia". The article also describes club member Victor Tureceks' discovery of a new Argentine species which is named after him, *Parodia turecekiana sp. nova*.

*Parodias* are very beautiful and desirable plants which deserve space in everyone's collection. Because these plants come from a tropical climate, warmth and a moist atmosphere are required throughout the year. *Parodia* flowers range in color from red, orange, and yellow and open during the day. The norm for *Notocactus* flowers is yellow, but there are exceptions. Spination is a distinct characteristic of *Parodias* varying in color, length, hooked, and straight. Combine these characteristics with wool and you have something to please every collector!

#### Recommended species:

- P. nivosa* - Globose green body, thick white wool on apex, spiralling ribs, areoles white, with about 18 snow white radial spines, and 4, pure white long central spines, red flower, Argentina.
- P. schwebsiana* - With age, one of the most woolly members of the Cactaceae, spiralling ribs, hooked spines, Bolivia.
- P. scopa v. nova.* - Long snow white spines, yellow flowers, floral remains conspicuous, clusters.
- P. turecekiana sp. nova.* - Much like *P. mammulosus* but has more character. Argentina.
- P. aureispina* - Green globose body, white areole, hooked tan spines, clusters. Argentina.

#### Literature:

- Innes & Glass, CACTI, 1991.
- Brickwood, John., The Cactus File, Vol. 1. No's 2, 3, & 12, 1994 and Vol. 2. No. 4, 1995.
- Kiesling, Roberto, CSSA Journal, Vol. 67, No.1, 1995.

## Succulent of the Month

## *Aeonium*

The genus *Aeonium* is a member of the *Crassulaceae* family, and comes from the Mediterranean area. It is endemic to the Canary Islands, and a majority of the species come from these small islands. There is also a smaller cluster of species from the Cape Verde Islands, and additional species are spread throughout the Mediterranean from Spain and Morocco to the Arabian Peninsula.



The genus is closely related (indistinguishable according to some authors) to *Sempervivum* (houseleeks), another Mediterranean and European *Crassulaceae* genus, and shares most of the same growth and floral characteristics.

The distinguishing characteristics of *Aeonium* are rosettes of leaves, often quite large, in most cases supported on stems. As the plant grows, old leaves are dropped, and leaf scars become visible on the stem, giving it a characteristic texture. Foliage varies in color from yellow green to purple, with many hybrids and cultivars available.

*Aeonium* are among the easiest of all succulents to grow. They are winter growers, perfectly suited to the California climate. They look their best from fall, shortly after the first real rain, through late spring. They will survive in the ground with little or no irrigation during the summer, but prefer some shade to blistering sun. Grown in shade, with occasional irrigation, some species remain good looking almost all summer. Eventually most species become leggy, and benefit from being cut and replanted. *Aeonium* make particularly good bedding plants, being easy to maintain, and slow enough not to become a nuisance. *Aeonium* are a great favorite of both snails and slugs, so periodic inspection and clean-up of dead leaves and stems are required to keep good looking plants.

*Aeonium* also do well in pots, and many varieties make great show plants. Pot culture is as easy as ground culture, with the pots simply being left in the garden for the winter rains, and then maintained into the summer with added shade and more frequent watering. They are tolerant of most potting soils, and require no special treatment. Show plants benefit from frequent repotting, and generally do best without long stems.

Propagation by cuttings is simple. Cuttings can be taken during the growing period, (January is ideal) left overnight to dry slightly, and simply stuck in the ground. The cut stem often sets new heads, and the cuttings almost always root quickly. Propagation by

seed is also possible. The flowers are generally yellow (white and pink are also found), and occur in large showy conical clusters (panicles) but the rosettes that flower die after flowering.

Favorite Varieties include:

*Aeonium lindleyi*, from the Canary Islands tends to be a small shrub with rosettes two or three inches across. The leaves have been reported to provide a relief from burns and pain produced by *Euphorbia* latex. A reference to its use can be found in volume 1 of the *Euphorbia Journal*.

*Aeonium tabulaeforme* from the Canary Islands is a flat growing *Aeonium*, as its name implies, where the geometry of the leaf growth is most evident. Because it is so symmetrical, it is difficult to get into pristine shape for a show. Growers frequently restart it from cuttings in late spring to be ready for early summer shows. In contrast to the way it is normally seen in shows and gardens, this plant grows nearly vertically in rock clefts in habitat.

*Aeonium arboreum*, a Moroccan native, but widespread throughout the Mediterranean, grows to about three feet, with has leaves that start green, but turn to a dark purple with age. *Aeonium 'Zwartkop'* is a selected cultivar from Holland that turns purple earlier. The same plant is also known under about ten different similar spellings.

*Aeonium decorum* another native of the Canary Islands has red edges. A particularly beautiful cultivar is 'Sunburst', which leaves with a green central region, a white outer region and red edges.

*Aeonium urbicum*, also from the Canary Islands produces large rosettes, with oblong, rounded leaves, and sharply pointed tips.

References:

Folsom, D. et al., **Dry Climate Gardening**

Haselton, S., **Succulents for the Amateur**

Jacobsen, H., **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

Sajeva, M. and Costanzo, M., **Succulents The Illustrated Dictionary**

Stephenson, **Sedum - Cultivated Stonecrops**

Tom Glavich, December 1996

**CACTUS  
AND  
SUCCULENT  
SHOW & SALE**

**SAT. & SUN. APRIL 9 & 10, 2005, 9am  
to 4pm**

**SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS  
26300 CRENSHAW BLVD. PALOS VERDES  
PENINSULA**

**SEE outstanding displays by selected growers!  
VOTE for the best!**

**ASK experts how they grow their plants!  
BUY plants from top growers!**

For more information contact Dick Hulett at 310-832-2262 (E-mail [petplants@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petplants@sbcglobal.net)); Carol Causey at 310-675-5843; Jim Hanna at 562-920-3046 or [aloecats1@aol.com](mailto:aloecats1@aol.com).

**DIRECTIONS:** From I 10, take 405 south to Crenshaw, go south on Crenshaw or take 110 south to Pacific Coast Hwy., go west to Crenshaw and turn left.

**A SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY PRESENTATION**

VISA AND MASTER CHARGE ACCEPTED