

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 3

MARCH, 2006

12
March 6—South Coast Botanical Gardens
1:30 P.M.—General Meeting

PROGRAM LARRY GRAMMAR will demonstrate how to stage cacti and succulents for shows. Larry is "The Expert" in staging. Come and learn from the best. We had great attendance last month so let's do it again! Bring your friends!

PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS—2006

CACTUS ADVANCED	FEB	TOTALS	CACTUS NOVICE	FEB	TOTALS
Duke	1	3	Capaldo	10	10
Fletcher		12	Ponce	3	3

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED	FEB	TOTALS	SUCCULENTS NOVICE	FEB	TOTALS
Duke		2	Capaldo	10	18
Fletcher		6	Hulett	8	8
Gardner		3	Ponce	4	4
Hanna		11			
LaForest		1			

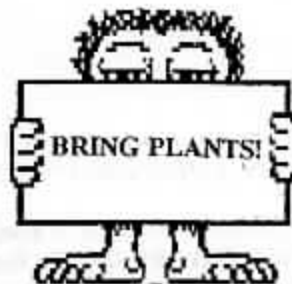
SCCSS OFFICERS: President, Carol Causey (310) 675-5843, 1st V. President, Lowell Howard (310) 533-8778, 2nd V. President, Gary Dulce (714) 377-0064, Secretary, Dale La Forest; Treasurer, Marsha Huebner (310) 533-8778, Show Chairman, Harry Fletcher, (310) 538-4078, Sunshine Hostess, Irma Rennie (310) 375-

PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- There will be two classes of entrants: novice and advanced.
- 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 third showing a plant that does not place.
- There may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.
- Entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of recordkeeping
- At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders, regardless of class.

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANTS OF THE MONTH—2006

	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
March	Cacti of Brazil	Haworthia and Astroloba
April	----- Show Time -----	
May	Lobivia	Echeveria
June	Copiapoa	Senecio and Othonna
July	Rebutia/ Sucreutia	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
September	Cacti of Argentina	Adenium & Plumeria
October	----- Break -----	
November	Miniatures (3 inch max)	Miniatures (3 inch max)
December	----- Christmas Party -----	



**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS
FOR 2006**

- APR. 8 & 9th SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE AT SO. COAST BOTONICAL GARDENS
26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA # 310-832-2262
- APR. 23 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE Info. CALL 310-831-1209
- APR 22 & 23 GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
- May 6 & 7th SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783
- MAY 21 HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160
- MAY 21 EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-831-1209
- JUNE 10th GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND
SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4 SUN. 9 TO 4 —SAT. SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 3 & 4th SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY -SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.—#619-477-4779
- JUNE 30th-
July 2nd CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE—HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES ON THE 1ST THRU THE 3RD
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE 2ND TO THE PUBLIC
- JUNE ? LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- AUG. 19 & 20 21st ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA,CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH
AT 626-798-2430 or GENE OSTER AT 818-998-9306
- SEPT. 2 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 24 LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGEUZ ADOBE
18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 14 & 15 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.

Both *Haworthia* and *Astroloba* are members of the *Asphodelaceae* family (formerly in the *Liliaceae* family). This large family contains dwarf genera such as *Bulbine*, *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* to succulent trees in the genus *Aloe*. The tubular flower structure and rosette type growth form predominate. Most plants are leaf succulents but some have succulent stems.

The classification of these plants is based on the flowers. Understanding the floral anatomy will make the differences between the genera and the sub-divisions within the genus *Haworthia* more easily understood. The protective envelope surrounding the reproductive parts of a flower is called a floral envelope or perianth. The perianth is made up of (from the outside) the calyx made of leaf-like sepals, which serves as protection for the bud, and the corolla, made of petals. The difference between our plant of the month genera lies in the flower. In *Haworthia* the perianth is two-lipped. In *Astroloba* the perianth is radially symmetrical. In both genera the erect flower stalks are thin and wiry, with rather inconspicuous greenish-white flowers. The plants are grown for their interesting succulent leaves which often have bumps, warts, or windows to let light in. The leaves are found in a variety of colors and hues.

Most like filtered light and most are winter growers. They do well with repotting every one to two years. Often, dried, dead roots are found when the plants are repotted. This is common in cultivation and the old roots should be carefully removed when repotting. I have started to add diatomaceous earth to my planting mixture to help combat root mealy bugs.

Haworthia is a large genus of dwarf leaf succulents from South Africa and Namibia. The leaves are extremely diverse in form; the identifying feature separating it from other genera is the two lipped perianth. The genus was named (1809) to honor Adrian Hardy Haworth (1768-1833) who did much initial research on the genus. Classification of the plants is somewhat confusing. This is because: the plants readily hybridize; some species are widespread and variable in form (this means that some plants have been described as separate species when they should not be); the works by Scott and Bayer have conflicting names (evidently there was quite a bit of animosity between the two).

If you really start growing these plants you will probably end up with the books by Scott, Bayer and Pilbeam. Pilbeam's book is relatively inexpensive and he seems to try and be somewhat impartial. Bayer's work is very useful with a taxonomic key. Scott's book is full of information and excellent habitat photos but is more expensive than the others. Also, in Scott's book the plants are arranged by Section and not alphabetically and that makes things a little harder to find. Basically, there are three subgenera in the genus based on the shape of the perianth. These are then broken up into about 8 sections and 12 subsections. This is too complex to fully review in this short write up. We had an excellent study group on the genus which discussed the different groups.

Astroloba is a small genus from the Eastern Cape that is distinguished by the actinomorphic (radially symmetric) perianth. The overlapping, stiff leaves are arranged in 5 straight or spiralling rows up short stems. Cultivation is the same as plants in the genus *Haworthia*. Most of these plants do not interest me as they tend to take on rather leggy growth habits. However, an old, well grown clump can be spectacular. As with *Haworthia*, hybrids with other genera are common.

Some of my favorite plants are:

H. arachnoidea is widespread and variable. It has narrow, uniformly plain green leaves with hairs on the leaf margins and keel. It is not fast growing. The variety *gigas* is larger and has a yellow-gold coloration. Resembling *H. arachnoidea* are *H. aranea* and *H. bolusii*, both of which are choice, but slow growing plants. *Haworthia bolusii* has two varieties: v. *bolusii* and v. *blackbeardiana* (larger and more vigorous). Don't overhead water these plants as this may cause the centers to rot. The tips of old leaves tend to die back which is normal. Judges should take this into consideration. Two other species that form rosettes with leaf tips that die back are *H. semiviva* and *H. lockwoodii*.

H. cymbiformis forms large clumps of light green rosettes. It is easy to grow and found in many collections. The variegated forms are extremely popular.

In the Section *Retusae* are many popular plants with fat, flat topped leaves. These include *H. comptoniana*, *H. emelyae*, *H. magnifica*, *H. mirabilis*, *H. pygmaea*, *H. retusa*, and *H. springbokvlakensis*. Some of these have several cultivated varieties or forms that are choice and sometimes quite expensive. Many of these have windows, lines or nets on the upper leaf surface that form interesting patterns. Some have frostings of silver or reddish pigment.

The Section *Fenestratae* has two choice, but slow growing, plants. *Haworthia maughnii* forms rosettes of flat topped, rounded leaves. The flat topped leaves of *H. truncata* are somewhat rectangular shaped. Instead of a rosette, the leaves are in a distichous arrangement (two opposite rows). The form *crassa* has fat leaves while f. *tenuis* has narrow leaf tips. At the CSSA San Francisco Convention one program showed some Japanese collections of several hundred plants that consisted of only these two species!

Haworthia koelmaniorum and the closely related *H. limifolia* both have triangular, spreading leaves that recurve. The bumpy leaves of *H. koelmaniorum* are dark reddish-brown when grown in proper light. It tends to be solitary and can be a real show stopper!. The every popular *H. limifolia* has many forms. They have green leaves with prominent ridges or bumps and readily clump.

Haworthia scabra and *H. sordida* are both interesting plants with narrow, rough-surfaced leaves. They both can have dark coloration. Pilbeam refers to *H. sordida* as "the Neogomesia of Haworthias" and "If grown well it has a dark reptilian beauty..".



Flowers of subgenus *Haworthia*

H. mirabilis subsp. *mirabilis*



Flowers of genus *Astroloba*



A. aspera var. *aspera*

Pictures from HAWORTHIA AND ASTROLOBA - A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE by John Pilbeam

References:

- M. Bayer, THE NEW HAWORTHIA HANDBOOK, 1982
- Ernst van Jaarsveld, THE SUCCULENT RICHES OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA AND THEIR ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES, in Aloe, (24), No. 3 & 4, 1987
- John Pilbeam, HAWORTHIA AND ASTROLOBA - A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE, 1983
- Rowley, NAME THAT SUCCULENT, 1980
- Charles Scott, THE GENUS HAWORTHIA - A TAXONOMIC REVISION, 1985
- Smith, Hobson, et al, SOUTHERN AFRICAN SUCCULENT PLANTS - AN UPDATED SYNOPSIS, in Aloe, (30), No. 2, 1993

Cacti of the Month

Brazil is an enormous country, with habitats that range from the Amazon to dry scrub lands, to the Atlantic Montane forest, to mountains. Cacti are found everywhere, all finding a unique niche in which to thrive.

Brazil is ancestral home of all cacti. The most primitive genus of cacti, *Pereskia* comes from the warm humid tropics of Brazil. This genus includes plants that are barely succulent, with flowers more like roses than many better known cacti. It's growth habit is more like a shrub, and in Brazil, it is often used as a street tree or hedge.

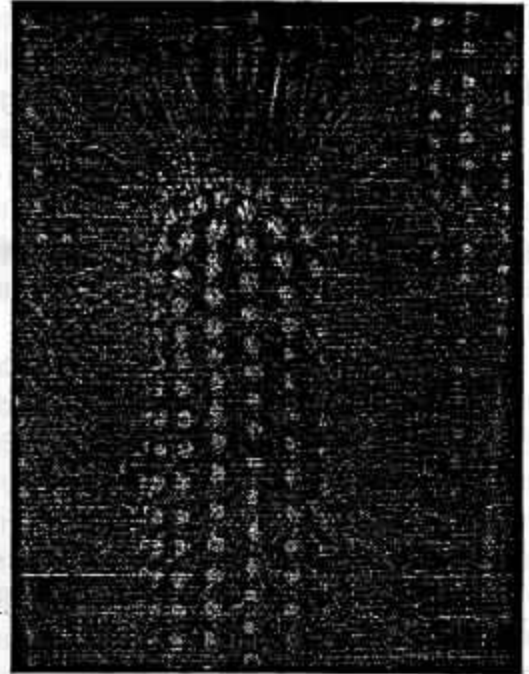
Moving slightly up the tree of complexity is *Quiabentia*, closer to an *Opuntia*, but still with the leafy, shrubby appearance of a primitive member of the cactus family. Also in the *Opuntia* sub-family are many cylindrical leafed and flat pad species, many rarely seen in collections. *Opuntia salmiana* is a cylindrical stemmed species, only a bit away from *Quiabentia*. Others (*O. palmadora*, *O. inamoena*) become more and more in appearance to the *Opuntias* we are used to seeing.

Brazil is home to a wealth of ceroid forms, and is particularly rich in the genus *Pilosocereus*. *P. aureispinus* is densely spined with short yellow spines. It is a robust and quick grower, generally only getting a few feet tall before braching from the base. *P. magnificus* is a beautiful light blue with gold spined edges. A spectacular plant, particularly when lit by early morning or late afternoon sun.

The most collectable of the Brazilian cacti are the globular cacti. The most spectacular of these are *Melocactus*, mostly from the state of Bahia, and *Uebelmannia*, mostly from the state of Minas Gerais. *Melocactus* grow for about 8 to 15 years, before reaching maturity and starting a cephalium, containing all the flowers and fruits. Many of the species have cephalia that are a brilliant red or orange color, often on a blue body. The best

Cacti of Brazil

known and easiest grown of the *Uebelmannia* is *U. pectinifera*. All of these are difficult, and all require protection from cold and wet to avoid scarring.



Micranthocereus aureus

Other Brazilian genera include *Micrathocereus*, *Notocactus*, *Parodia*, and *Frailea*, all closely related, and all sometimes incorporated into *Parodia*. These three genera have a number of fascinating species, worthy of any collection. The partial list on the next page contains a selection of the more popular and interesting Brazillian cacti.

References:

Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**
Haustein, E. **The Cactus Handbook**
Zappi, D. **Pilosocereus**

Micranthocereus aureus Photo by T. Nomer
Plant grown by T. Glavich

Cacti of the Month

Austrocephalocereus

dybowskii
purpurea

Buiningia

aurea
brevicylindrica
purpurea

Cereus

azureus
jamacaru

Coleocephalocereus

aureispinus
estevesii
fluminensis
goebelianus
luetzelburgii

Discocactus

bahiensis
boomianus
heptacanthus
horstii
insignis
magnimammus
placentiformis
tricornis

Echinopsis

eyriesii
multiplex
oxygona

Frailea

asteroides
horstii
pygmaea

Gymnocalycium

buenekeri
denudatum
horstii
tudaе

Hatiora

salicornioides

Melocactus

azureus
bahiensis
concinus
estevesii
warasii
zehntneri

Micranthocereus

auri-azureus
densiflorus
streckeri

Notocactus

caespitosus
concinus
fuscus
crassigibbus
erinaceus
fuscus
graessneri
haselbergii
herteri
horstii
leinghausii
magnificus
ottonis
scopa
uebelmannianus
warasii

Opuntia

estevesii
inamoena
palmadora
salmiana
saxatilis

Pereskia

aculeata
bahiensis

Cacti of Brazil

Pilosocereus

albisummus
aurilanatus
barbadensis
braunii
cristalinensis
flexibilispinus
glaucochrous
superflocosus
werdermannianus

Pseudopilocereus

fulvilanatus
glaucescens

Quiabentia

zehntneri

Rhipsalis

capilliformis
crispata
cereuscula
grandiflora
mesembryanthemoides
pentaptera

Schlumbergia

gaertneri
opuntioides
truncata

Tacinga

braunii
funalis

Uebelmannia

buiningii
gummifera
meninensis
pectinifera

**SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SHOW AND SALE FOR 2006**

SAT. & SUN. APRIL 8th & 9th, 9am to 4pm

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