



PRICKLY NEWS

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2020

NEXT MEETING
Sunday, Feb 9, 2020

Sean Dean Gildenhuys

Haworthiopsis



It is time to start preparing for this year's **Show and Sale** which will be **April 4-5, 2020**, the first weekend in April. Please put this on your calendar.

At the February meeting, we will be recruiting members for various positions. For the Show, you may decide to have a display table, of either artistic or specimen plants. Usually members bring in their best plants or a theme or one species to place on their table. See Carol Knight, Show and Sale Chair, to arrange this. Also, check your plant collection to see if you have some plants you can get ready for the **Society Display Tables**. You will receive a Mini-show point for each plant up to 4 for display plants or 4 points for a display table. If you're new to the society, we will explain in some detail these activities at the meeting.

Our **Society Sales Table** has been a great success for the last 3 years, and we raised substantial money for the Society from member donated plants. Please save cuttings when you repot plants or need to prune back your yard. Put them in clean pots with a name label for the society sales table. Help will be available to identify plant names. It is best to pot them up now so they will be stable for the sale.

Another way you will be able to help will be to provide cuttings for the **Children's Potting Table**. There are so many ways you can recycle extra plants!

Finally, we need your help in **promoting the show** and sale by distributing postcards and informing friends and neighbors. If you have any ideas for publicity, let Anita Caplan know.

Our speaker this month, Sean Dean Gildenhuys, hails from South Africa and will be speaking on Haworthiopsis. Haworthia along with Astroloba, are the succulents of the month for the Mini Show, so bring in your plants to be judged!

See you there!
Maria Capaldo, President

REFRESHMENTS

Thank you...
to those who brought refreshments in January.


Jim Gardner
Maria Capaldo
Marie Bowers
Judy Urnine
Clif Wong


Please bring something yummy to share for our February meeting...


OUR MISSION

We Aim To:
Promote education and cooperation among hobbyists and others interested in the study, culture, and propagation of succulent plants, including cacti. Support the activities of organizations whose goals include the conservation of cacti and succulents in their native habitats.

Learn facts, make friends, have fun!

 [To learn more visit southcoastcss.org](http://southcoastcss.org)

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Haworthiopsis

SEAN DEAN GILDENHUYS



Born in October 1983 (Pretoria) Sean grew up in the town Mbombela (previously Nelspruit), situated in the north-eastern part of the country. It is here in his childhood that Sean developed a keen interest in plants and nature as a whole. In 2002 he returned to Pretoria where he studied horticulture and got his degree.



Reinwardtii kafferdrift to Kapp Kingsmead

Sean has been involved with the Succulent Society of South Africa and has been involved with Gariiep Plants and Kambroo Plants nurseries for the past 14 years. He has a wide interest in plants ranging from succulents to tropical plants, but grows mainly succulent plants for the local and export market.



Fasciata Balkan Rivier Walmier

Botanically Sean is interested in members of the Aloaceae family and has given several presentations on the subject in South Africa, the United Kingdom and Germany. He has also published several articles these plants and other succulent plants topics.



MINI Show Cactus

Epiphytic Cacti

Epiphytic cacti have a place in every collection. They are easy to grow, requiring remarkably little in the way of care, in general have few spines, and many reward the grower with either a spectacular show of flowers, or a year round display of gracefully curving foliage. Epiphytic cacti like a richer mix than most ground loving cacti. A frequently used potting mix includes equal parts of potting soil, bark and pumice. Good drainage in the mix is important for good growth. Regular feeding, and a constant supply of moisture, particularly during the growing season are also important. They all like moving air, and do best outdoors, particularly in the summer. Many will get tip damage if left in temperatures below freezing. In a protected area, they can be left outdoors all winter, and do well with our winter rains.

Epiphytic cacti are all easily propagated from either cuttings or seed. Cuttings can be taken any time the plant is in active growth, spring being best, but any time during the summer and early fall will also work. Thin stemmed epiphytes, such as most of the *Rhipsalis* can be plant immediately. Thicker leaved genera should be allowed to dry for a day or two before planting. Cuttings must be placed in moist potting mix, and kept in the shade for at least a month, but best until active new growth appears. When taking cuttings, remember that the plant will have to live on the stored energy in the stem, and a larger piece, within reason, is better than a small one. *Schlumbergia* (*Zygocactus*) can be easily propagated from cuttings, but for successful rooting, two segments need to be used rather than one.

Seed from many of the epiphytic cacti are hard to come by. One or two species are occasionally offered by the CSSA seed bank. For those with an interest in hybridization, many epiphytes are easily pollinated and cross pollinated both within genera, and across genera. Fruit set is frequent. When the fruit turns color and hardens, it can be harvested, the seeds removed, cleaned, and stored until the following spring.

Some choice genera:

Disocactus is a small genus, with flat stems. Native to Guatemala and Honduras. This species can remain small and produces beautiful flowers. It is cold sensitive. The genus has recently been expanded to include other genera.



Schlumbergera truncata



Hatiora salicornioides



Disocactus



Celenisereus anthonyanus



Epiphyllum anguliger



By Tom Glavich



FEBRUARY

MINI Show Cactus

Epiphyllum is a genus that has been the source of hundreds if not thousands of colorful hybrids. The basic night blooming summer blooming species have been hybridized with *Aporocactus* and *Trichocereus* to produce a dazzling array of colorful species. The first big hybridization effort took place in the 1890s, with others following in the 1920s and 1930s. Many spectacular hybrids were created, most lost during World War II. Southern California has been one of the recent hotbeds of hybridization of this species, with spectacular hybrids appearing from the backyards of some gifted plantspeople in San Diego, Palos Verdes and Los Angeles.

Rhipsalis is a species native to Central and South America, Tropical and West Africa, Madagascar and Ceylon. It is the only genus of cacti native to the Old World and Asia. The Old World populations are a separate subspecies of *R. baccifera*, and differ in the number of chromosomes. This is an incredibly variable genus, with flat leafed forms, twisting thick stems, pencil thin stems, seaweed like forms, all with small white flowers and small white berries. It is easy to grow, and is tolerant of Southern California outdoors conditions all year, with protection required only from the coldest nights and hot sun. Particularly good species include *R. mesembryanthemoides*, which resembles the growth of the shrubby mesembs of South Africa. *R. quellebambensis* is a narrow stemmed, frequently branched species, resembling the splashes from a waterfall more than a plant. (It is now a subspecies of *R. baccifera*.) *R. purpusii* has long flat leaves, decorated for a good part of the year with either white flowers or white fruit.

Schlumbergia are the Christmas Cacti, popular the world around, easily grown indoors and out. This genus has seen the work of many hybridizers, and spectacular reds, whites, pinks, and mixes of the three can be found every year near the holidays.

Other great genera include *Aporocactus*, *Hattoria*, *Hylocereus*, *Wittia*, *Nopalxochia*. There are dozens of obscure genera (many now moved into *Disocactus*) that are uncommon except among the specialist collector. They all have their charm, and an opportunity to collect any epiphytic cactus with a generic name you are unfamiliar with should never be passed up.

Epiphyllum, Rhipsalis, Schlumbergia



Rhipsalis crusiformis



Rhipsalis baccifera



Epiphyllum hybrid



Epiphyllum 'Acapulco Sunset'



Epiphyllum guatemalense



Epiphyllum 'Lemon Custard'



Epiphyllum



Epiphyllum oxypetalum



By Tom Glavich



MINI Show Succulents

Succulent: Haworthia, Astroloba

Haworthia are native to South Africa, and grow in a winter-rainfall, Mediterranean environment not very different from Southern California. Most are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the winter and spring. Many will grow year round, if given sufficient water. They are in flower now, and some species will remain in flower into the summer. However, the flowers are small and generally off-white and not particularly notable. Haworthias are grown for their beautiful leaf shapes and colors.

Haworthia in general are tolerant of almost any potting mix, 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. An application of time release fertilizer in late winter will improve growth from late winter and early spring rains. Healthy Haworthia generally have stiff thick white roots. When repotting, it's important to inspect the roots for mealy bugs, and for old, dried brown or hollow roots, which are often the source of infection or rot. These should be removed back to healthy tissue.

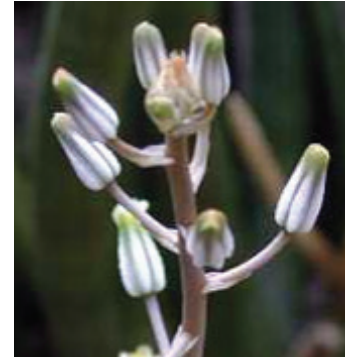
Astroloba

It should come as no surprise that the genus *Astroloba* is closely related to *Haworthias* since they also inhabit South Africa and look similar to the columnar *Haworthia*, but are separated by the fact that their flower is regular shaped instead to have the characteristic 2-tipped corolla of the *Haworthias*. There is no evidence that the two genera have natural hybrids.

Cultivation is similar to *haworthia*, although perhaps slightly drier. Many *Astroloba* are slow to grow and to offset. They take very little frost, and need a good drainage.



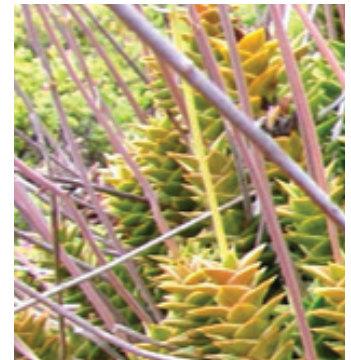
Astroloba spiralis



Astroloba flowers



Astroloba herrei



Astroloba foliolosa



Astroloba bullulata



Astroloba congesta



Astroloba corrugata



Haworthia retusa



Based on an article by Tom Glavich



MINI Show Succulents



Haworthia maxima



Haworthia marginata



Haworthia fasciata



Haworthia magnifica



Haworthia bayeri



Haworthia coarctata



Haworthia cymbiformis

Succulent: Haworthia



Haworthia xiphiophylla



Haworthia paradoxa



Haworthia truncata



Haworthia mirabilis



Big Haworthia for fun

Latin Lookup

Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)?
The meanings of latin plant names on the previous pages
– from <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botany/>

anguliger [an-GYOO-lih-ger] Bearing hooks.

baccifera [bak-IF-er-uh] Bearing berries.

Disocactus [dy-soh-KAK-tus] From the Greek dis (twice) isos (equal) and cactus; referring to the equal number of sepals and petals of the flower.

Epiphyllum [ep-ih-FYE-lum] Upon the leaf, referring to the flowers appearing to bloom on the leaves.

guatemalense [gwa-teh-mah-LEN-see] Of or from Guatemala, Central America.

Hatiora [hat-ee-OR-uh] An anagram of Hariota, another genus, named for Thomas Hariot, 16th century British mathematician and cartographer in America.

hybrid [HY-brid] A cross between two plants resulting in a plant that differs in one or more genes from the parent plants; sometimes Latinized to hybridus, -a, or -um.

oxypetalum [oks-ee-PET-al-um] Sharp petals.

laeta [LEE-tuh, LAY-tuh] Happy, vivid.

phyllanthoides [fil-lan-THOY-deez] Resembles Phyllanthus (from the Greek meaning flower leaf, as it appears to flower from a leaf like stem).

Rhipsalis [RIP-sa-lis] From the Greek rhips (wicker-work, plaiting) referring to the pliable branches.

salicornioides [sal-eye-korn-ee-OY-deez] Resembles Salicornia, (from the Greek sal, salt and cornus, horn; referring to the hornlike branches of the saline plants).

Schlumbergera [shlum-BER-ger-uh, shlum-ber-GER-uh] Named for Frederic Schlumberger, 19th century French gardener and cacti collector.

Selenicereus [sel-ee-nih-KER-ee-us, sel-ee-nih-SER-ee-us] From the greek selene (moon) and cereus (torch, candle), referring to its nocturnal blooming habit.

Astroloba [ass-TROH-low-buh] From the Greek astron (star) and lobos (lobe); refers to the star-spreading lobes of the perigon.

bayeri [BAY-er-ee] For M. Bruce Bayer, 20th century South African agricultural entomologist, Haworthia specialist, plant collector, gardener, and former curator of the Karoo National Botanic Gardens, Worcester, RSA.

coarctata [koh-ARK-tay-tuh] Crowded.

congesta [kon-JES-tuh] Congested, crowded.

corrugata [kor-yoo-GAH-tuh] Wrinkled.

cymbiformis [sim-BIH-for-miss] Boat-shaped.

fasciata [fash-ee-AY-tuh, fas-kee-AY-tuh] Bound together.

foliolosa [foh-lee-oh-LOH-suh] Having small leaves.

Haworthia [ha-WORTH-ee-a] Named for Adrian Hardy Haworth, 19th century British botanist.

herrei [HER-ray-eye] Named for Dr. Hans Herre, 20th century botanist and expert on South African succulents.

magnifica [mag-NIH-fee-kuh] Magnificent.

marginata [mar-jen-AY-tuh, mar-jeh-NAH-tuh] Margined.

maxima [MAKS-ih-muh] Largest.

mirabilis [mih-RAB-ih-liss] Wonderful.

paradoxa [par-uh-DOKS-uh] Strange, anomalous.

retusa [re-TOO-suh] Rounded and notched tip.

spiralis [spir-AH-liss] Spiralled.

tenuis [TEN-yoo-iss] Slender, thin.

truncata [trunk-AH-tuh] Cut off.

<https://davesgarden.com/guides/botany>



MINI Show Plants Calendar



Mini-show Plants for 2020-2021

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| February | Epiphytic Cactus | Haworthia, Astroloba |
| March | Echinocactus | Agave, Manfreda, (inc. x Mangave) |
| April | SHOW & SALE | SHOW & SALE |
| May | Notocactus, Parodia | Euphorbia (not from Madagascar) |
| June | Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cyllindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia | Cissus, Cyphostemma |
| July | Melocactus | Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia) |
| August | Astrophytum | Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum |
| September | Ariocarpus, Obregonia | Adenium, Adenia |
| October | Copiapoa | Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyveria |
| November | Crested and Monstrose | Crested and Monstrose |
| December | HOLIDAY POTLUCK | HOLIDAY POTLUCK |
| January 2021 | Mammillaria - Hooked Spines | Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.) |



SCSS Mini-Show January 2020 Results



Can you match up the winning plants ?

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Open Cactus | 1 st | Jim Gardner | <i>Mammillaria geminispina</i> |
| | 2 nd | Maria Capaldo | <i>Mammillaria orcuttii</i> |
| | 2 nd | Gary Duke | <i>Mammillaria crucigera</i> ssp. <i>tlalocii</i> |
| | 3 rd | Gary Duke | <i>Mammillaria geminispina</i> |
| | 3 rd | Jim Gardner | <i>Mammillaria bahniiana</i> |
| Open Succulent | 1 st | Gary Duke | <i>Aloe castilloniae</i> |
| | 2 nd | Maria Capaldo | <i>Aloe dorotheae</i> |
| | 2 nd | Sally Fasteau | <i>Aloe</i> 'Safari Rose' |
| | 3 rd | Sally Fasteau | <i>Aloe</i> 'Jeff Karsner' |
| | 3 rd | Sally Fasteau | <i>Aloe</i> 'Prime Time' |
| Intermediate Cactus | 1 st | Coni Nettles | <i>Mammillaria gracilis</i> |
| | 2 nd | Coni Nettles | <i>Mammillaria spinosissima</i> |
| | 3 rd | Bernard Johnson | <i>Mammillaria plumosa</i> |
| Intermediate Succulent | 1 st | Bernard Johnson | <i>Aloe</i> 'Hellskloof Bells' |
| | 2 nd | Coni Nettles | <i>Aloe castilloniae</i> |
| | 2 nd | Ted Johnson | <i>Aloe</i> sp. |
| | 3 rd | Bernard Johnson | <i>Aloe</i> KG hybrid |
| | 3 rd | Ted Johnson | <i>Aloe brevifolia variegata</i> |
| Novice Cactus | 1 st | Jim Tanner | <i>Mammillaria spinosissima</i> |
| | 2 nd | Diane Cottrell | <i>Mammillaria gracilis fragilis</i> |
| | 3 rd | Jacob Youssefzadeh | <i>Mammillaria carmenae</i> |
| | 3 rd | MA Bjarkman | <i>Mammillaria</i> |
| Novice Succulent | 1 st | Jacob Youssefzadeh | <i>Aloe conifera</i> |
| | 2 nd | Martin Dorsey | <i>Aloe laeta</i> |
| | 2 nd | Jacob Youssefzadeh | <i>Aloe raubii</i> |
| | 3 rd | John Nisewanur | <i>Aloe</i> |
| | 3 rd | John Nisewanur | <i>Aloe</i> |

Please note that points were awarded for plants on display at the Show & Sale.
The points (max 4 per participant) were added to the Cactus totals.

The tables on page 10 show the current standings for the three classes
(Open, Intermediate, and Novice) as of January 11, 2020.

Photos of winners above in order left to right: *Mammillaria spinosissima*, *Aloe conifera*, *Mammillaria gracilis*,
Aloe 'Hellskloof Bells', *Mammillaria geminispina*, *Aloe castilloniae*



JANUARY

SCCSS Mini-Show January 2020 Standings

[Click here for sortable standings](#)

| Novice Class | Cactus | Succulents | Total | Intermediate Class | Cactus | Succulents | Total | Open Class | Cactus | Succulents | Total |
|---------------------|--------|------------|-------|--------------------|--------|------------|-------|----------------------|--------|------------|-------|
| Bjarkman, MA | 2 | 0 | 2 | Johnson, Bernard | 3 | 9 | 12 | Capaldo, Maria | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Bjerke, Martha | 0 | 1 | 1 | Johnson, Ted | 1 | 7 | 8 | DeCrescenzo, Phyllis | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Cottrell, Diane | 3 | 6 | 9 | La Forest, Dale | 2 | 2 | 4 | Duke, Gary | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Dorsey, Martin | 0 | 5 | 5 | Neely, Jade | 3 | 3 | 6 | Sally Fasteau | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| Nisewanur, John | 0 | 4 | 4 | Nettles, Coni | 11 | 6 | 17 | Gardner, Jim | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Tanner, Jim | 7 | 1 | 8 | | | | | Woodley, Laurel | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Youssefzadeh, Aya | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Youssefzadeh, Jacob | 2 | 11 | 13 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

SCCSS Mini-Show Rules

A Mini-show is scheduled for all meetings except April (Show and Sale) and December (Holiday Potluck) as a way for members to show their prized plants and staging skills; and for everyone, especially novices to learn how to grow and show theirs. Lists of eligible plants are printed in the newsletter and on our Society's website.

There are three entry classes: Novice, Intermediate and Open. New members may enter at any level, but once a level has been entered members may not regress to a less advanced class.

There are two plant categories, Cactus and Succulent.

Up to three entries per member may be entered in each category.

Exhibitors must be club members in good standing and present at the meeting. One member's name representing a household must be used unless plants are grown and shown separately. We trust you.

Any container may be used, including plastic. The containers and plants must be free of pests and disease. Only one plant/container is permitted but this includes rosettes/offsets/pups connected by

rhizomes, stolens, and above ground clusters. Dish gardens are an exception if they are the category of the month.

Novice and Intermediate entries must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months, and open class entries for one year.

Usually our speaker (as an unbiased expert) will be asked to judge, but if the speaker is a Society member, one or two members who are not showing will be asked to judge. Remember, judges may not be experts and usually judge based on how well the plant is grown and staged. The following point system is used.

1st place – 6

2nd place – 4

3rd place – 2

Entries not disqualified receive 1 point.

After the November meeting, point totals will be reviewed by the Board. Novice and Intermediate members with more than 64 points or with at least 6 first place awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate or Open class if their entries show them qualified. This is a subjective judgment.

RE-POTTING SPINY SUCCULENTS BY MARIA CAPALDO

Re-potting Spiny Succulents

I have heard from many in our Society that they are not particularly fond of spiny succulents and shy away from anything with spines. We just had a talk on Jeff's new book on succulents with spines and our plant of the year is a spiny one soon to need repotting. So, I thought I would write an article on some safe ways to re-pot a spiny plant.

To start, one needs gloves that will protect you from spines. I like a gauntlet; the cuff is long and suede and the hand is either lamb or goat skin. However, don't assume that you can handle the plant with the bare glove, since almost no glove is completely impervious to spines. If by chance it hits the hand or wrist, you are somewhat protected.



First, empty the top dressing from the pot. It's always a good idea to water the plant a day or 2 before repotting it. This may loosen up the roots for you. If the plant is completely stuck to the pot, start by using a long weeding tool between the pot and soil and loosen the plant that way. If the spines are too close to the pot to accomplish that, you can try inserting a hose into the bottom hole of the plant and spraying it with water to dislodge the plant. Tapping the pot, or squeezing the pot if it's plastic may also work.



Wrap the base of the plant in paper covered with packing material or a towel. If there is a space between the base of the plant and the pot, that is the best place to start the wrap. Try to arrange some leftover covering so you can easily grab it without touching the plant. Then when the plant is loose in the pot, unearth it by raising it up and lift it into its new container which has been prefilled with soil mix. Settle the plant and fill in the soil around the plant. By having the plant wrapped, you also keep the spines clean from soil as you fill up the pot with soil.

For a small to medium size plant, you may use 3 chopsticks arranged around the base of the plant to keep the plant in the desired position and to raise the plant if needed. For large plants, large carpet scraps are a good tool to protect you and the plant. Clean the plant with long tweezers or brush to remove debris. Then, add the top dressing with a spoon, again keeping your hands away from the plant.



Have fun!

Upcoming Events

[Click here for Full List](#)



SAN DIEGO
Cactus & Succulent Society

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society – Winter Show & Sale
February 8, 2019 - 11am - 4pm

Balboa Park, Room 101
1549 El Prado
San Diego, CA 92101 United States

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
619-232-5762

More information:
858-382-1797
<https://www.sdcss.net>



Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society - Spring Show and Sale

Start: March 19 @ 6:00 pm
End: March 21 @ 5:00 pm

Anaheim United Methodist Church
1000 S. State College Bl.
Anaheim, CA 92806 United States
Phone: 562-587-3357
Website: <http://occss.org>

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society
Phone: 562-587-3357
Website: <http://occss.org>



Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society

Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale

Friday, April 3, 9am-5pm
Saturday, April 4, 9am-5pm
Sunday, April 5, 9am-4pm

Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix
1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008 United States

Dorrance Hall & Boppart Courtyard,
Show and Sale open to the public
Friday, April 3, through Sunday, April 5.
<https://centralarizonacactus.org/show-sale/>

[For more information and to learn more](#)

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