

# Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
*Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.*

Vol. XII, No. 7.

July, 1977.

JULY MEETING DATE: Saturday, July 9th.

PROGRAM:

POT-LUCK PICNIC AT BOB AND  
SUZANNE TAYLOR'S.

(Map and Details on Page 3.)

\*\*\*\*\*

IN THIS ISSUE:

		<u>Page</u>
July Program		1
About This & That...	Ye Lady Ed.	2
San Diego Wild Animal Park	Jim Dice	2
Picnic Details		3
A Strange Year for the Plants	Audrey Johnson	4 & 5
M.E. Reporting	Geoff Johnson	5 & 6
Cactus Cartoon	Walter R. Scott (Scotty)	6
Succulent-of-the-Month (June)	Madelyn Lee	7
Saga of Border Field (Part II)	Jim Dice	8
Notes from Quail Botanical Gardens	Audrey Johnson	8
Board Members and Officers		9

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE: July 19th, 1977 - PLEASE!

SPECIAL NOTE,

It seemed to me that this month, particularly, I should have more news than usual to report. On the other hand, due (I imagine) to holidays, and work connected with our Annual Open House and our Exhibits at the Del Mar Exposition, most of my contributors have deserted me. I would, therefore, particularly like to thank Jim Dice, "Scotty" and Geoff, all of whom came to my aid in my time of need!

By this time most of you will have learned of the great success of this year's "Open House", and, of course, of our victories at Del Mar!! Next month I am hoping to receive more extensive accounts of these two great events.

REGALEMENT

Our thanks to the following members who provided the refreshments at our June meeting:-

May Andrews	Nancy Hulshizer
Sophie Loyland	Alberta Uliden
Angela Ledbetter	Marcille Barfield
Audrey Johnson	Ruth Richardson

PLANT SALES TABLE

The Plant Sales Table would especially like to thank the following people for their assistance before and during our June Open House: Warren Buckner, John Pasek, and Ricky Latimer.

We would also like to thank Rose D'Atillio, Joan Johnson, Shirley Berry, and a couple of other nice ladies whose names we didn't catch, for their contributions to the Plant Sales Table at the June meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Inadvertently, part of Madelyn Lee's article on ANACAMPSEROS was omitted from last month's "EyF". For the benefit of those members who might be interested, we are repeating "Succulent-of-the-Month" (June) in its entirety in this issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

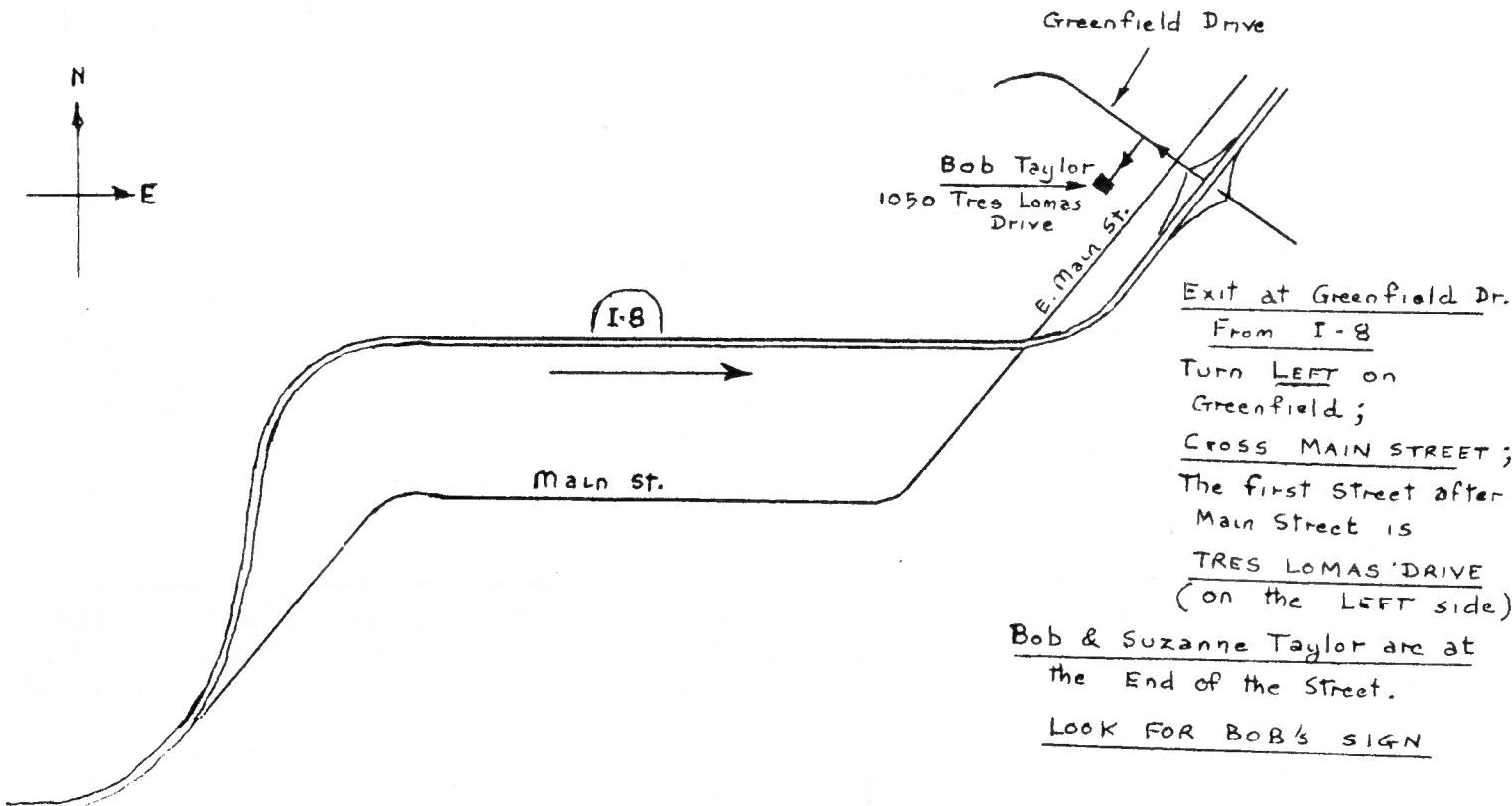
SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC, FOLKS.

News of: THE SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK. Jim Dice

The San Diego Wild Animal Park has embarked upon an ambitious plan to greatly expand their native plants landscape section. Plans call for the inclusion of representative samples of fourteen different plant communities, from the Redwood Forest to the Creosote Bush Scrub of our Colorado and Mojave deserts. Also to be included are areas representing the vegetation of Baja California and Mexico. Anyone with any plants or expertise which they might be willing to volunteer, please contact Frank Escobedo of the Park, at: 747-8702.

ANNUAL JULY PICNIC - SATURDAY,  
JULY 9TH.

AT: Bob and Suzanne Taylor's  
1050 Tres Lomas Drive,  
El Cajon, California.



All north-south freeways (I-5, I-15, 163, 125, 67, 54 and 94) cross the I-8 freeway to El Cajon. From any interchange, go East on I-8 to the Greenfield Drive off-ramp.

THIS IS A POT-LUCK PICNIC. Bring a dish for at least 6 people. Bring your own chair, table, plate, silverware, and glass or cup. Coffee will be served by the club.

We all look forward to this picnic as it gives us a chance to visit old friends and meet new ones.

Bob has picked out some of his beautiful plants to be auctioned to the members after lunch, and he will be more than happy to demonstrate the art of Grafting to any members who are interested.

Visitors please note: Tours of the Taylors' garden will be conducted after the picnic. Please STAY OUT of the gardens until that time.

EVERYONE! COME AND ENJOY A GOOD PICNIC AND A BEAUTIFUL DAY!

As I think I have mentioned before, this has been a weird year for weather - in Escondido, at any rate. And yet, I have recently heard similar comments from friends who garden anywhere from along the coastal areas to those situated somewhere between our hills and the ocean, so maybe it is not entirely my imagination! It seems that the poor, long-suffering, plant world has become a trifle confused by all these unusual weather conditions, and many of the plants are working on a slightly different schedule from their usual one. Sometimes this is good, and sometimes bad, but, all in all, I have found it rather interesting.

Perhaps I should give some examples. Most of our varieties of ice-plant, for instance, have not performed at all well this year, although this could be due to a sort of accumulative lack of rain over the past year or two. On the other hand, my "succulent" geraniums (particularly the vining ones) have really gone to town with growth and colour. Apparently, they rather enjoy the dull, cloudy, coolish weather which seems to have seeped in from the coast recently.

The performance of my fuchsias has particularly thrilled me this year. I have always loved their exotic and gorgeous blooms, and, right now, they are really excelling themselves in growth and flowers. They are doing beautifully in our lathhouse, on the north side of the house, despite our usual gusty winds, which blow almost perpetually from all directions. I have started quite a collection of fuchsias since purchasing one plant from Stubbs Nursery at the Christmas Sale at Quail Gardens. This is the plant I mentioned before as having been in bloom ever since, and, at this moment, it is blooming more strongly than ever. All the rest of my fuchsias were bought from Stubbs, and they are all doing equally well, so I can't speak too highly of these particular growers. While making a purchase last week, I was honoured (by Linda and Clint Engledow, who run the nursery) with a sneak preview of some of the gorgeous plants they are grooming for the Del Mar Fair this year. It will be a spectacular display, that's for sure, and I hope that, by the time you read this, that many of you will have seen and enjoyed it, as we plan to do!

Before reluctantly leaving that delightful fuchsia nursery, I would like to share yet another happy incident with those of you who (like myself) are bird lovers. As we dragged ourselves away from the huge, and very special, hanging baskets of flowers of every conceivable colour, I was attracted by the sound of a happy twittering of many small birds nearby. Upon investigation, I found, not too far away (erected in and around some small, bushy trees) an aviary containing quite a number of little finches, of varying sizes and colours. I was particularly interested to notice that these busy little creatures had chosen to build their own nests in the tree branches enclosed in the aviary, rather than use the nesting areas provided for them. The tiny, baby birds, sitting on the perches, were just "out of this world"! And so, now I am freshly enthused about a long-delayed project - that of starting an aviary of my own. I just hope that Geoff is equally enthusiastic, as I shall need HELP!

(Cont'd.)

To return to our very own, and ever-faithful, cacti and succulents - particularly those growing in the ground on the hillside above the house. This Spring, these self-reliant "characters" have been producing many more blooms than usual, and of much larger size and better quality. It could be that this has come about with their extra growth and maturity of the past three years or so, but I really don't feel that this is the entire story. Our native dudleyas, too, have excelled themselves in size and performance, and make beautiful silvery splashes and accents of colour amid the surprisingly varied colours of the other cacti and succulents. They (the dudleyas) seem to be delighted with their protected, and yet completely natural, environment, and we are equally delighted with them!

Perhaps the biggest thrill of all, this year, has been the blooming (at last) of the ocotillo which Geoff and I transported to our hillside, from the garden of a friend, who lives at Salton Sea, some 2½ years ago. Some of you may remember my article: "Brown-bagging the Ocotillo", which I wrote for "Espinasy Flores", about 2 years ago. Anyhow, until recently, we had watched our precious ocotillo very carefully, with varying hopes and fears. At times it would appear to be flourishing, and cover itself with bright, green, leaves. Later, all the leaves would fall off, and it would look more dead than alive. Of course, no flowers! Recently, we began to notice strange things happening to certain branches of this strange plant, and now, lo and behold, two of those branches, at least, are producing blooms. What an unexpected thrill! Needless to say, we are now all set to take pictures of this (to us) exciting event - weather permitting, of course!!

Oh well, as they say (whoever 'they' are): "You gain a few, and you lose a few...", and this seems particularly appropriate where gardening is concerned. But then again, that's what keeps our interest "growing" (please pardon my pun!). For myself, all I can say is that, just as I become really discouraged with one particular area of my garden, I move on to the next, and find that wonderful things are happening, and I am hooked all over again. Anyway, there's always another season, and another year ahead, and who knows what may happen then.....surprise, surprise!

#### M.E. REPORTING

Geoff Johnson

When Ye Lady Ed and I delivered our plants to the Fairground, it was just 8 days before the opening date - and there stood Rick Latimer, all on his own, trying to work out the basic layout design for the succulent portion of our exhibit! After working with Rick for a couple of hours (and scouring the woodpile near the entrance for the basic materials Rick ~~decided~~ we needed), some semblance of the idea he had in mind began to take shape. Nevertheless, it was obvious that many back-breaking hours of work lay ahead before our exhibit would be ready for the show!! Where was the labour coming from? Unfortunately, my own work schedule was such that I was unable to return at any time during the following week, but Rick, himself, was confident that Club members would rally round to give him the help he needed.

(Cont'd.)

Obviously, Rick's confidence was more than justified, since, out of this chaos (with the help of many dedicated members of our Club) came our truly beautiful display of cacti, succulents and grafts. Heartfelt thanks are due from all of us to those wonderful people who gave, unstintingly, of their time and effort to help Tom Hamecher and Rick Latimer produce these prize-winning displays!

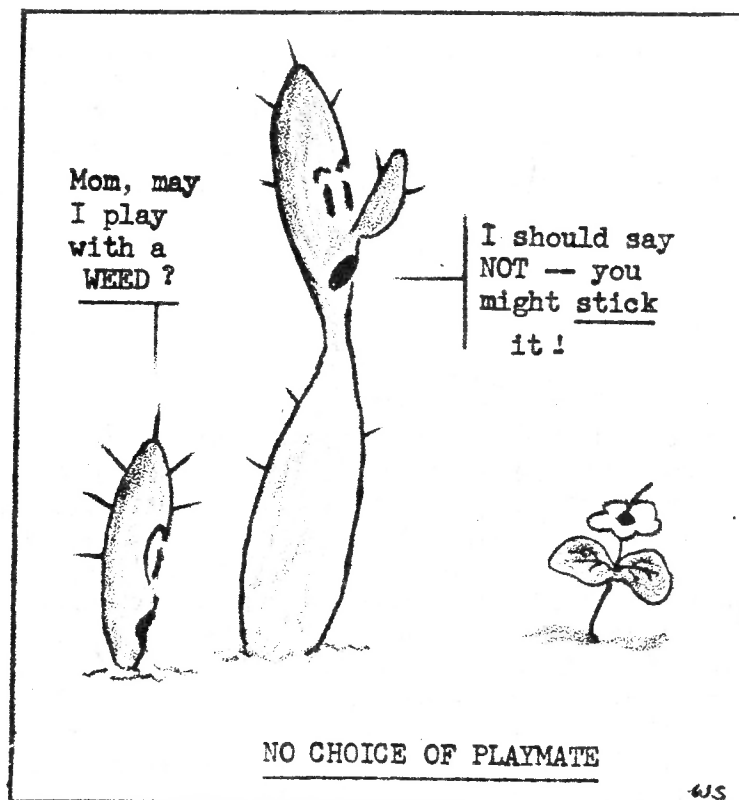
Yes, this year San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society was the happy recipient of no less than two (2) Blue Ribbons - one for Succulents and one for Grafts.

Our sister Society, Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society, received a Blue Ribbon for their beautiful Cactus display, and yet another for a Special Exhibit, depicting the use (almost exclusively) of succulents for a wedding. This lovely and unique display was designed by our own Kathryn MacDonald, who (like ourselves) belongs to both Societies.

All in all, we felt that the Judges must have had a tough time making their decisions since, to us, all the displays were so exquisitely designed, with all those hundreds of plants groomed to such perfection!

And where did all our gorgeous plants come from? Undoubtedly from the prized collections of many of our most dedicated members, too numerous to mention. You know who you are, so - give yourselves a pat on the back for the part you played in this year's wonderful show!!

P.S. I couldn't agree more! Likewise, hear, hear!! Ye Lady Ed.



ANACAMPSEROS

Family: Portulacaceae.

The fifty-nine species of this interesting succulent family originate mainly in South West, Central, and East Africa. One species comes from Australia. The small plants grow in sand-filled depressions on limestone rocks, or in gravel 'pans' in bush country. A good part of the time they are covered with sand and only when a branch elongates to flower can they be seen. The flowers are white, pink, or carmine red.

The genus is divided into four sections: AVIONA, ANACAMPSEROS, TUBEROSAE, AND ROSULATAE.

The most species occur in the section ANACAMPSEROS. The plants have thickened roots and fat fleshy leaves. They are generally rosette-shaped, and offset profusely to form mats. The leaves are often covered with fine hairs, or have bristly hairs in the leaf axils. Plants in this section like rich, sandy soil, and good light, but not full sun. They should be kept moist in summer and a little dry in Winter.

A. COMPTONII is one of the smallest plants in the succulent world. Tiny, club-shaped leaves sprout out of its half-inch tuber. The small size, and the lovely red flowers, make this a real prize in any collection.

A. RUFESCENS and A. TOMENTOSA are also in this section. They are very typical, with their rosettes of hair covered thick leaves.

The species in the AVIONA section are the most unusual and interesting members of the genus. They are mostly tuberous-rooted, and the silver-white scale-like leaf covers, called stipules, are the most striking characteristic of this section. The branches of the plants elongate before producing the one-inch flower.

A huge specimen of A. ALSTONII can be three inches across the tuber, but the stipule covered branches will only be about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch tall. A. PAPHYRACEA does not have a tuber, but the three inch tall, quarter inch stems, arch up and back down like a silver paper fountain.

The plants in this section are not the easiest to grow. Keep them in as small a pot as possible. A very porous soil is necessary. Water lightly in Summer, and just enough in Winter so the roots don't die back. As much light as possible, and greenhouse conditions are definitely recommended.

The section TUBEROSAE has only one species; A. AUSTRALIANA. As the name implies, this plant is from Australia. One of the few succulent plants from this country. It has a large subterranean tuber, and such small leaves they are almost invisible.

The last section, ROSULATAE, also has only one species, A. DIELSIANA. This small rosette-shaped plant is usually covered with fine hair when young.

Let's see how many species of Anacampseros we have in the San Diego Club. Bring your plants to the next meeting.



THE CONTINUING SAGA OF BORDER FIELD -  
PART II.

Jim Dice

Although the destruction of Dudleya attenuata ssp. orcuttii at Border Field State Park, reported in last month's "Espinasy Flores", remains an inexcusable error on the part of the State Department of Parks and Recreation, officials of the Department have recently acted to prevent similar occurrences in the future, and to change some of their landscaping plans for the park.

On May 24th, in response to complaints lodged with the State Parks Department by the State organization, and the local Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, a civil engineer with the State Parks Department in Sacramento flew to San Diego for a meeting with CNPS representative Mitch Beauchamp. As the result of this meeting, several alterations were made in the landscape plan for the new developments at Border Field. The changes include the substitution of Torrey Pines for Aleppo Pines, the inclusion of specimens of Ferocactus viridescens, Berberocactus emoryi, and Agave shawii, and the partial replacement of the destroyed population of Dudleya, on the slope above the road cut, with as many of the "bulldozed" plants as can be saved and propagated. (On June 2nd, a volunteer effort by CNPS salvaged approximately 400 individual starts of the damaged population of Dudleya attenuata ssp. orcuttii, most of which were unrooted.)

In addition to the landscaping changes, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has decided to include CNPS in all of their future Environmental Impact Report review processes in hopes of halting any similar acts from occurring.

These recent actions of State Park officials are encouraging, to say the least, even though, as mentioned above, the original error remains inexcusable. It is hoped now that the increased awareness of park officials, together with the addition to the EIR review policy resulting from this affair, will prevent any occurrences of this type in the future.

NOTES FROM QUAIL BOTANICAL  
GARDENS.

Audrey Johnson

Educational Program.

All the things you ever wanted to know about growing the beautiful and exotic orchid, and somehow didn't get around to finding out..... well, perhaps not quite all, but you will certainly obtain a great deal of helpful information about growing these fascinating plants if you attend the next educational program sponsored by the Trustees of Quail Botanical Gardens.

Date:	Sunday, July 17th, at 2 p.m.
Place:	The Ecke Family Building, Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas.
Program:	"The Wonderful World of Orchids".
Speaker:	Mr. David Grimes.

After Mr. Grimes' most interesting lecture, there will be a break for refreshments, followed by a 'Question and Answer' period. As an added treat, a stroll through the Gardens is suggested, with particular attention to the shade plant areas, where many of these beautiful plants may be seen blooming profusely, out of doors, under the trees. Don't miss this enjoyable afternoon!



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: H. Warren Buckner, 1744 Engelwood Dr., Lemon Grove, Ca. 92045. 469-1391  
FIRST V.P.: Tom Hamecher, 996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, Ca. 92020. 440-6245  
SECOND V.P.: Gerald Dice, 3354 Mohican Ave., San Diego, Ca. 92117. 276-2589  
RECORDING SEC. Doris F. Rake, 4410 38th St., San Diego, Ca. 92116. 282-1722  
TREASURER: Russel Evans, 3115 Nile, San Diego, Ca. 92104. 284-5859  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Betty Athy, 7220 Baldrich St., La Mesa, Ca. 92041. 469-7647  
PAST PRESIDENT: Martin L. Mooney, 97 K St., Chula Vista, Ca. 92011. 427-6796

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One year term: John Pasek and Perlso Lewis  
Two year term: Shirley Berry and Julianne Rice  
Three year term: Joan Johnson and Ricky Latimer

COMMITTEES FOR 1977

ACTIVITIES: Martin Mooney  
EDUCATION: Madelyn Lee - Succulents.  
Dr. George E. Radwin - Cacti (Research).  
Tony D'Atillio - Cacti.

EXHIBITS:

Fair CACTI - Tom & Marcia Hamecher  
SUCCULENTS - Rick Latimer and Betty Athy.  
GRAFTS:  
Open House Julianne Rice

LIBRARY: Edith Werner, Pat Mooney and Helen Hegyi  
MEMBERSHIP: Russel Evans  
PLANTS & SUPPLIES: Gerald Dice  
PROGRAMS: Tom Hamecher  
PUBLICATION: Audrey and Geoff Johnson (Tel No. 745-5773)  
RECEPTION: Edith Billmyer and Perlso Lewis  
REGALEMENT: May Andrews, Pat Elkinton, Nancy Hulshizer and Katherine McDonald

HISTORIAN: Ricky Latimer  
AUDIT: Paul Johnson  
CONSERVATION: Dr. Ronald Monroe  
PLANT EXCHANGE: Ione Hubner  
REPRESENTATIVES:

San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation - Rose D'Atillio  
San Diego Floral Association - Verna Pasek  
Quail Botanical Gardens - Audrey Johnson  
San Diego Park Desert Garden -

MEMBERSHIP

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing Cacti, Other Succulents, and Exotic Plants.

Dues: \$5.00 annually, due in December of each year.  
Single copy of Espinas y Flores: \$0.50.

MEETINGS:

The second Saturday of each month, 1.30 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, unless otherwise indicated.  
Board convenes after the general meeting.

Audrey Johnson  
1226 Citracado Pky.  
Escondido, CA 92025  
Address Correction Requested