

ESPINAS Y FLORES



Program

Woody Minnich Presents

A Surprise Program

Everyone knows Woody and his fantastic Programs, don't miss this one

Plants of the Month

Succulent Orchids by Pam Badger

&

Copiapoa by Tom Knapik

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Inc.
Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Volume 37 Number 11
Saturday November 9th 2002
1:00 PM

Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park



Presidents Message

October 13 brought a very busy day in Balboa Park and another great meeting of our Society. Thanks to the Native Plant Society who was hosting a big sale we also enjoyed record plant sales, many guests for the meeting, and a couple of new members. We hope all you visitors enjoyed the meeting and will come back soon! Thanks to Juergen Menzel for his informative talk on Turbinocarpos - I can certainly appreciate this genus as my plant collection takes up more and more room - to have the entire genus and not cover half the table is very attractive. I want to remind those of you who were disappointed that there was no Succulent of the Month - to contact Jeff Harris and sign up to do a talk next year!

Thanks also to all who participated in the Lotusland photo contest - it was fun to see other people's pictures and share with those of you who did not get to go - I'll bet after seeing those pictures you will want to go on the next trip there! What a treat it was to go on safari with Joe and Kay Qui-

jada! Their great photography, winning eye, and knowledge of the plants, animals, and birds, gave me a real sense of what it is like to visit this intriguing part of the world. Thanks Kay and Joe! We had another fun benefit drawing thanks to the hard work of Lee Badger and special donations by Carol Jean Wolcott, Lee Phelps, Shirley Berry - I know there were others but I did not get your names - please let us know when you donate so you can be acknowledged - we appreciate all of you!



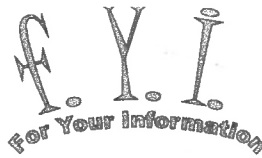
From left to right at Lotusland: Elsie O'Mally, Walter Hirt, Mark Fryer, Virginia Innis, Pam Badger, Janice Byrne, Allen Clark, Lee badger, Collette Parr, Terry Parr, Joe Quijada, Kay Quijada

Remember our Holiday Party will be held December 14 at 12 Noon! We will have a traditional holiday dinner, gift exchange, gift plants, and auction. This is always lots of fun and you are sure to go away with a fine plant or

two so mark your calendars! The cost will be \$10.00 and you can sign up at the next meeting -- this also a good time to renew your dues as many of us are due this time of year - so come prepared to the meeting November 9. As always I welcome you ideas and suggestions.

Pam Badger
pambadge@earthlink.net

Cover Photo: Joe & Kay Quijada with *Welwitschia mirabilis* in habitat on their recent Safari to South Africa



The Zoo will have two representatives at next month's Botanical Garden Foundation meeting. The representatives will be there to detail the expansion plans and answer questions. This is an important event for all community users of Balboa Park!

Date: 11/14/02 Thursday

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Balboa Park Casa Del Prado, Room 101

Announcement: Jim has a 20ft *Euphorbia ingens* he will donate to anyone who will take it. Contact him at (619)427-1279 if you are interested.

You are invited to an open house for the Zoological Society of San Diego Botanical Conservation Center (BCC). The event will be at the San Diego Wild Animal Park on Saturday, November 16, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. To ensure admission you must RSVP by October 18. Your 'emailed' RSVP is preferred, send it to: JBetzler@SanDiegoZoo.Org or call 760-738-5048, and leave contact information. The BCC / Seed Bank area is not generally open to the public. There is some steep walking involved to access the facility. Please let us know if you need special arrangements to get to the location. You must be able to show ID at the Parking Lot ticket booth and again at the North Ticket booth before you enter the Park. The way will be marked with Open House signs near the entrance. This is our second open house and there are some interesting changes to come and see. The main component of this center is the Seed Bank, San Diego's newest seed bank specializing in the native flora of our area. The seed bank is the first permitted Straw Bale Structure in the city of San Diego. The BCC will also be responsible for a plant inventory of the over 1000 acres of undeveloped land within the Wild Animal Park as well as developing a plan to remove several exotic invasive plant species within the Wild Animal Park grounds.

Hope to see you there,
Joey Betzler

Joseph A. Betzler Plant Conservation Specialist
Botanical Conservation Center / Seed Bank
San Diego Wild Animal Park
15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA, 92027-7017 USA
Phone: 760-738-5048 | FAX: 760-796-5612 | JBetzler@SanDiegoZoo.Org
http://www.sandiegozoo.com/conservation/fieldproject_seed_bank.html

COPIAPOA

BY TOM KNAPIK

In May and June of 2003, the *copiapoaphiles* of the world will be assembling in Chile for what is being called the Copiapothon. They will be visiting and photographing the best known *Copiapoas* sites and seeking out the more obscure populations and looking for new species. COUNT ME IN!!



Copiapoas sp. from El Cobre
may be a new species

For those of you who are not familiar with the *Copiapoas* genus, you are missing out on one of the easiest and attractive plants in the *Cactaceae*. These beautiful plants with their white/bluish epidermis and black spines are stunning. They thrive in cool moist conditions which would usually turn other cacti to mush. Some of the nicest plants I've seen in a collection are grown less than a mile from the coast in the

Monterey area.

These coastal conditions are very similar to the habitat *copiapoas* grow in throughout Chile. The entire genus lives within a narrow strip of land just miles from the ocean. They obtain their moisture from the coastal fog, not rain. They grow in a desert called the Atacama and it is one of the driest places on Earth. There are some localities that have never recorded rain and look like the surface of Mars.

The entire genus evolved recently along the west side of the Andes in what is now exclusively Chile. They are continuing to evolve and in my opinion several types have not stabilized into one distinct form making it very difficult to identify different species. Some forms from the coast to the San Ramon Valley up to Mt. Perales blend one into another forming a biological cline. These "complexes" are much more recognizable by their locality rather than the species they belong to. For those advanced col-



Copiapoas tenebrosa
(a spineless form from San Ramon Valley)

lectors who are adding the rarer plants to their collection, locality of the plants or seed is very important. Schulz and Kapitany sold seed packages of 50 localities several years ago and those plants are now a decent size, expressing those unique characteristics of that local population.



Copiapoa sp. KK #624

Many plants grown in our country were originally obtained from Karl Knize who still has a nursery near Lima, Peru. Many of these plants were collected because they represented the most extreme forms of a population and look quite different from the typical plants. They were given a K.K. number and Karl has produced a catalog listing all the corresponding localities. These plants are prized among collectors.

A good source of information on *Copiapoa* was published by Graham Charles and titled **The Cactus File Handbook #4: Copiapoa**. It gives a good description of the most recognizable species. Fred Katterman is in the process of writ-

ing a book on all Chilean cacti. The difficulty separating species from forms and hybrids has delayed its release, but it should be out in a year or two. Carlo Doni, an Italian copiapophile and editor of the Italian **Cactus Co.** journal, published a list and description of all the species and synonyms known in the literature in **Piante Grasse #4 vol. 11**. To date, it is the most comprehensive coverage of the genus, unfortunately it is all in Italian. The original work by Ritter in **Kakteen in Südamerika**, still serves as a source of valuable information and controversy. Two species in the Botija Valley have not been positively identified even though they are quite distinct and should have been observed by Ritter, yet he gave no clear description of them.

One of the best general books on the genus was written by Rudolf Schulz and Attila Kapitany titled **Copiapoa in their Environment**. It combines a travel log structure with species distributions and environmental information and served as a guide on both of the trips I took to Chile. It is Rudolf that has set the itinerary for the Copiapoon. Anyone interested in these fantastic plants is welcome to meet up at the designated spots on specific days to explore the Chilean countryside with experts in the field. I hope to see you there!

Please bring any *copiapoas* that you are growing to the next meeting so all can see the special qualities of this genus.

Thanks, Tom Knapik

SUCCULENT ORCHIDS

BY PAM BADGER

Orchids are not usually the first plants that come to mind when you think of Succulent Plants, and some people may argue that they are not really succulents because they do not appear in Jacobsen's Lexicon of Succulent Plants, but I have found several that thrive around our place, which makes them succulents in my book because everything else dies here!

Let me start by saying that I am no expert when it comes to Orchids and do not have many. As most people are, however, I am attracted to these beautiful and varied plants and have picked up a few over the years that are particularly succulent in nature and very easy to grow. They flower readily with blooms that can last for months on end - it is easy to see how some people get so attached to these plants that they will risk life and limb, not to mention the big bucks, to acquire these plants.

Though orchids are generally collected for their blooms, some of them are quite stunning even when not in bloom - and these are the ones I tend to be attracted to for their succulent nature. They may have fat, robust pseudobulbs or leathery, drought resistant, leaves and stems and thrive side by side with cactus and other succulents. My collection includes:

Oncidiums - I have a couple of

different varieties - hybrids with names like 'sugar baby' which I picked up at Trader Joe's about six years ago. These are very easy to grow and send out large sprays of bright yellow flowers in the spring and fall. The older they get the larger the pseudobulbs get. They can be grown in pots in a loose, medium orchid mix, they seem to like it best when really crammed into the pot and overgrown. In fact I have not transplanted mine for years and may never - when they get top heavy I just stick that pot in the next larger pot - and the orchids seem to be perfectly happy. I also stashed some of these in the top of a staghorn fern and wired some on a log with some bromeliads and they are all happy and bloom regularly.

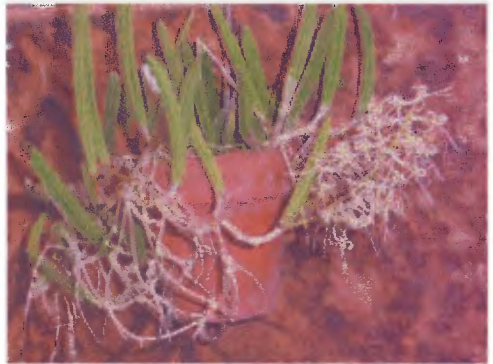


Oncidium "sugarbaby"
&
Encyclia hanburii

Encyclia - I have an *E.hanburii* which I purchased at Santa Barbara Orchid Farm about eight years ago. I

am quite fond of the round, fat, wrinkled little pseudobulbs and it has bloomed for me every year for the past five years. *Encyclias* are among the easiest orchids to grow and have amazing summer blooms which last for many months. For years they were classified as *Epidendrums* and were commonly called "bulb epis." They are also called "butterfly" orchids after the wing shaped blooms.

lighted this last Spring when I thought it was going into bloom - 8 spikes emerged from the soil around the plant - but it turned out to be all new pseudobulbs. They have all gotten to full size and the plant is really crammed in the pot - now maybe it will bloom. I did see this plant in bloom at the Huntington - it was so overgrown it had broken out of its 5 gallon tub and the bloom spikes were about six feet tall with clouds of tiny, cream colored flowers. It is easy to see how they got their name, which translates as good, beautiful plume!



Eulophia - The spectacular *E. petersii* has been popular around our Society for a few years now (I remember bidding up to \$50. for a small one at our picnic several years ago before loosing it to a higher bidder) and there are usually a couple in our show. Their stout rugged pseudobulbs, and leathery, gray- green leaves make them a great addition to any succulent collection. I have one now in a ten inch pot and quite large. I was quite de-

Dendrobiums - This is the second largest genus of orchids with over 1000 species. They are mostly epiphytes from Asia and the South Pacific. As there are so many they have a wide range of cultural habits. I have two species that are VERY different from each other. *D. speciosum* is a large, deep green, leafy orchid with long, hard, succulent stems. I have had this plant for years, having acquired it at the San Diego Orchid Society show and sale many years ago when one of it's kind

won Best in Show. Mine is in a ten inch pot, getting quite large, but has not yet bloomed. At the other end of the scale is a *D. wesselli* which I got in Hawaii last December. This tough, leathery little plant, growing all over a three inch clay pot, displayed a spray of delicate, curly whitish blooms this Summer which had a sweet, light fragrance morning and evening.

I grow all my orchids outside, on the covered patio or under an umbrella on the deck. They get filtered sun and good air circulation. They all dry out between waterings and get diluted fertilizer with every watering all spring and summer and into the Fall if they are blooming. I bring them inside to enjoy the blooms and this does not seem to bother them - I think they like to show off. So, keep an eye out for some of these fun and amazing plants and try some amongst your other succulents!



mixed *Oncidium*s

CSSA

As you have probably figured out by now, these occasional affiliate newsletter articles are aimed at affiliate club members who are not members of CSSA. We are, of course, hoping that a number of you will actually join CSSA. Membership at \$35 a year is a real bargain these days. Your club doubtless has membership application forms available.

There are many reasons for being a member of CSSA in addition to being a member of your local club. First of all you will get your own copy of the CSSA Journal and newsletter six times a year. These publications are full of valuable information for the dedicated cacto-

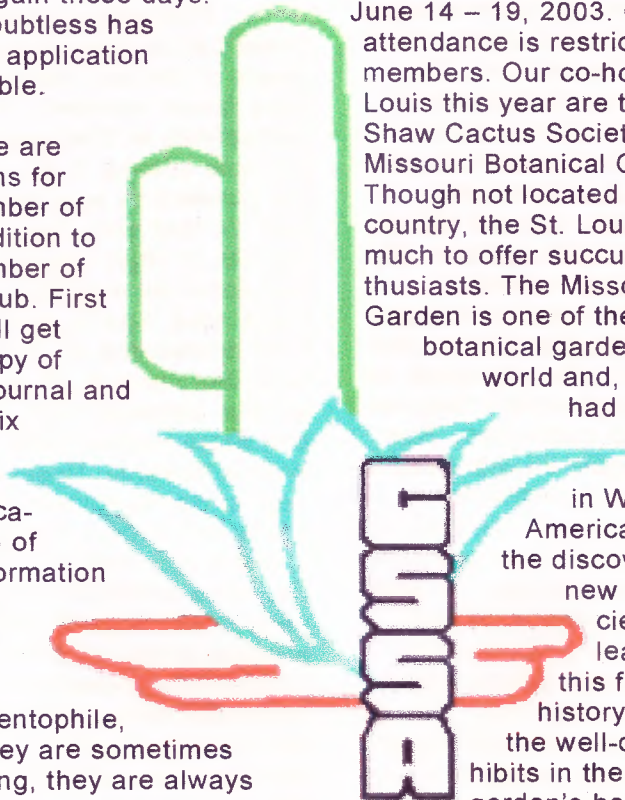
phile/succulentophile, and while they are sometimes late in arriving, they are always well worth the wait. In addition, as a member of CSSA you will have access to the Seed Depot, the Round Robins, the CSSA Slide Show Library, and be able to participate in CSSA field trips in the USA and abroad. You will also have the opportunity to compete

for one of the Herman Schwartz travel grants to visit one of the succulent plant rich areas around the globe.

By joining CSSA for 2003, you will be able to attend our biennial convention to be held in St. Louis, Saturday through Thursday June 14 – 19, 2003. Convention attendance is restricted to CSSA members. Our co-hosts in St. Louis this year are the Henry Shaw Cactus Society and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Though not located in cactus country, the St. Louis area has much to offer succulent plant enthusiasts. The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the premiere botanical gardens of the world and, of course,

had a prominent role in plant exploration in Western North America leading to the discovery of many new cactus species. One can learn much of this fascinating history by visiting the well-designed exhibits in the Botanical garden's herbarium, an opportunity that will likely be available to convention attendees.

The convention itself is to be held at the Marriott Saint Louis Airport Hotel, an extremely convenient venue for travelers to the



city. Located in the center of the country, St. Louis can be reached relatively quickly and inexpensively from either coast. The hotel itself has all the amenities expected of a first class hotel.

For any serious cactophile-succulentophile, the guts of the convention are the various speaker programs. Leo Martin has put together an excellent roster of speakers covering every aspect of the hobby, from hard-core science to travelogues to succulent culture for amateur collectors, etc. The speakers roster includes several old time favorites from past conventions including inveterate plant explorers John Lavranos and Sheila Collenette, who will talk on their travels to exotic venues. My University of Texas colleague, James Mauseth, voted most popular speaker at the San Diego Convention in 1997, who will speak on cactus botany and what it teaches us about cactus cultivation. Rob Wallace will regale us with tales of succulent plant classification based on analysis of DNA (ask him about the botany of beer – another of his areas of expertise). In addition there are a number of new speakers that I'm really looking forward to hearing. Space allows me to mention only a few. One of the new speakers includes Roger Brown, well known to many of us through his cultivation articles in the CSSA newsletter *To the Point*. Joe Clements, a fellow board member, will speak on growing cacti from seed, and Bob Kent (one of the truly superb growers of Haworthias) will give a talk on how to grow these wonderful plants. Also, Jon Rebman will talk about

the cacti of Baja California and Gideon Smith of South Africa, co-author of the *Guide to the Aloes of South Africa and Regions of Floristic Endemism in Southern Africa*. The latter is a wonderful book, destined to become a classic of succulent plant biogeography. Some of the other topics to be covered include sansevierias, epiphytic cacti, succulent bonsai techniques, winter-growing mesembs, and winter-hardy cacti.

The folks at the Henry Shaw Cactus Society are well aware of the fact that many of us have family members who are not cactophiles so they are trying to promote coming to St. Louis for the convention as a family vacation. To that end, they are publicizing lots of other interesting sites and activities available in the St. Louis area. Space prevents me from mentioning all of them all here, but there is, of course, the famous Gateway Arch, the Mastodon State Historic Site, the Shaw Nature Reserve, Grant's Farm, the Sophia Sachs Butterfly House, the Stone Hill Winery, Brewery tours and the very fine St. Louis Zoo. For more information about these various offerings as well as other aspects of the upcoming St. Louis Convention, please see recent and upcoming issues of *To the Point*, the CSSA newsletter. You may also want to visit the CSSA website (<http://www.cssainc.org/convent.html>), which is updated regularly, for additional information.

I wish you all good growing,

Bob Barth, Publicity Chair,

Upcoming Events

October 4-11 The II International Congress on Cochineal and Natural Dyes in Guadalajara, Mexico. For more information go to www.congresograna.go.to This is organized by the International Cactus Pear Interest Group.

October 9-11 III Simposio Internacional Sobre la Flora Silvestre en Zonal Aridas will take place in the city of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. Details: Dra. Carmen Saenz H., Depto. de Agroindustria y Enologia, Facultad de Ciencias Agronomicas, Universidad de Chile, Casilla 1004, Santiago, Chile. Tel: 56 2 6785730 FAX: 56 2 6785796 e-mail: csaenz@UCHILE.CL

October 12 Texas Association of Cactus & Succulent Societies' Fall Seminar hosted by North Texas C&SS, Dallas TX Contact Bob Barth at 512-327-1173 for more details or Michael Rupe at 512-440-7817 or e-mail him at epur@att.net

October 12-13 Central Florida C&SS Sale and Show in conjunction with the USF Botanical Gardens/Plant Clubs. Contact - Mitch Kessler 813-264-5614 or e-mail him at mkessler@kesconsult.com, or Vicki Hunter at bezaleelitsog@aol.com - note identify for inquiries re: CFC&SS in subject line.

October 12-13 Orange County C&SS Show and Sale Fullerton Arboretum CA

October 12-13 C&SS of Tulsa Fall Sale, Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa OK

October 18-20 13TH EASTERN C&S CONFERENCE

The Holiday Inn, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Hosted by the National Capital C&SS. Speakers, Show and Sales, banquet, evening mixer, rare plant auction. Speakers confirmed are: Myron Kinnach on Socotra and Peru, Dan Mahr - Succulent Trees plus another talk to replace the one on the 2002 trip to Madagascar which was canceled; Woody Minnich - Aztekium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum; Atacama Desert after rain; and Steven Hammer on Mesembryanthemum and Haworthias. Plant Show, plant sales, pots and curios at great prices. Conference starts with a Friday evening mixer. Saturday will consist of speakers with a banquet Saturday evening followed by the Rare Plant (and related items) Auction. Sunday will be a half day with speakers and a panel discussion on growing winter hardy plants in the northeastern USA. Registration mailed by June 1 is \$90; Jun to Sept 15 is \$100; after Sept 15 \$120. Banquet \$35. Help the club and pay less by getting in your reservation early. Call the Holiday Inn Gaithersburg MD on 1-301-948-8900 and mention the 13th Eastern C&S Conference to receive the special room rate of \$89 per night.

Information: <http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/conference.html>

Registration Form: [http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/Final version Registration form 2.doc](http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/Final%20version%20Registration%20form%202.doc)

For more details contact Lee Miller at LeeMiller@erols.com, or call him on 202-232-0629 (home) or 301-436-1950 (work)

October 19-20 San Gabriel Valley C&SS Show and Sale LA County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA

October 19-20 C&SS of California Show and Sale at Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland CA See September 7-8 for contact details.

2003

February 21 - 23 C&SS of New Zealand AGM and Convention. Wellington, New Zealand at the Angus Inn, Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand. Info from Frances Verrity at verrity@actrix.gen.nz

May 18 (Sunday) Epiphyllum Society of America's Show and Sale. Ayers Hall, Arboretum of LA County, Arcadia CA. Information: www.epiphyllum.org

June 14-19 (Sunday through Thursday) CSSA 30th Biennial Convention, St Louis MO hosted by the Henry Shaw Cactus Society.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Inc.
P.O. Box 33181
San Diego CA 92163-3181



Espinas & Flores

Editor: Paul Steward
(858) 486-0535
manuscripts and mail to:
12620 Tustin Street
Poway CA 92064-6037
psteward@pacbell.net
eyf2000@aol.com

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Executive Board Members

President: Pam Badger (619) 589-1223
Vice President: Jeff Harris (619) 294-5708
Secretary: Laura DeMerritt (858) 270-5544
Treasurer: George Plaisted (619) 583-9551
Ex Officio: Tom DeMerritt (858) 270-5544

Directors

Lee Badger (619) 589-1223
Phil Favell (760) 471-8944
Mark Fryer (619) 299-3429
Joe Kraatz (760) 758-7042
Spencer Maze (858) 454-1870
Terry Parr (619) 460-9111
Herb Stern (619) 223-9134

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Conservation: Joey Betzler & Kelly Griffin
Education & Exhibits
Brag Table: Shirley Berry & Kay Quijada
Plants of the Month:
Lee Badger & Jeff Harris
Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Joey Betzler &
Kay Quijada
Winter Show: Ed DeLollis
History: Terry Parr
Liaison
Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Kelly Griffin
Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig
San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation:
George Plaisted
San Diego Floral Association:
Elizabeth Glover
San Diego Wild Animal Park Baja California
Garden & Succulent Collections:
Chris Miller
Library: Tom Birt & Phil Bunch

Membership: Collette Parr
Mailing: Pam Badger & Jeff Harris
Plant & Seed Exchange
Plants: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Seeds: Kally Griffin
Plant Sales & Supplies
Annual Sales: Tom Birt
Auction & Holiday Plants:
Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt
Benefit Table: Lee Badger
Monthly Plant Sales:
Jeff Harris & Joe Kraatz
Monthly Supply Sales:
George & Jerry Plaisted
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Stan Yalof
Programs: Kelly Griffin
Reception: Ethyl Standish
Regalement
Monthly: Lee Badger, Rudy Lime &
Stefy Mangold
Picnic: Laura & Tom DeMerritt