

# ESPINAS Y FLORES



*Members Chris Miller & Jeff Harris  
pause for a moment at the SDC&SS Winter Show & Sale*

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

**Volume 38 Number 2  
Saturday February 8th 2003  
1:00 PM**

**Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park**



# Presidents Message

**Y**ou did it again! Congratulations to all of you who put in the efforts to create a wonderful Winter Show and Sale on the 11th of January. Many thanks to all of you - those who helped to publicize the event (I hear Carol Jean Wolcott and Nibby Klinefelter were on the radio talking about the show) - the volunteers who were there early to help set up, the kitchen helpers and the crack cashier team -- it could not happen without you. Very special thanks to Anthony, who is not even a member and spent the entire day assisting with cashier duties!

Thanks also to the vendors who provided a fantastic selection of plants - fortunately I could not get near them until the afternoon, there were just so many people shopping - so I was not tempted to buy too much. Though the Show was not large there were some amazing plants to be seen - thanks to all who made the effort to bring plants to display. All in all it was a great day - and a big effort, especially coming as it does, so soon after the Holidays. **SPEAKING** of which... acting on suggestions by many, the board has voted to move the Winter Show to February starting in 2004!

The Board also did some planning or events coming up this year. We will be participating in the Spring Home/Garden Show - Feb.28, Mar. 1& 2 - we will have a booth to talk to people about succulents and

recruit new members - stop by and visit when you are at the show. On the 4th of May we will be participating in EarthFair, the huge Earth-Day celebration in Balboa Park. This is always a fun day and we welcome volunteers to come talk with people and enjoy the best people watching opportunity of the year! We are also planning a Field trip to the Getty Museum in LA. The date will most likely be the 26th of April - so mark your calendars and save the date for another fun bus trip - look for details in upcoming Espinas y Flores...



Our Summer Show and Sale will be coming up the 7 & 8th of June - it is never too early to start grooming plants or planning for that educational display you have been thinking about.

We are planning to do some special decorating for the show this year - if you have some artistic flair and ideas contact Collette Parr, chair of the decorating committee.

As I write this, it is nearing 80 degrees outside, not bad for the middle of January, and I can practically hear the succulents growing - so I'm off to play with my plants.....

As always, I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions. See you on the 8th of February.

**Pam Badger**



- ◆ Pam Badger's article on ***Succulent Orchids*** and Tom Knapik's article on ***Copiapoa*** have been re-printed in The Eastern Spine, the newsletter of the National Capitol Cactus & Succulent Society in Washington DC. Congratulations.....
- ◆ January 28, 2003 – ENCINITAS – **Twenty-one rare plants worth an estimated \$75,000 were reported stolen from Quail Botanical Gardens early Sunday morning** in the largest theft in the facility's 30-year history. The crime prompted the staff to take the unprecedented step of letting sheriff's deputies patrol the grounds at night. The 20 cycads from Africa and one from Mexico were among a collection of 4,000 plants at the 30-acre gardens. Most of the stolen plants had been donated, but four were on loan from the federal government, which had seized them from smugglers. These were 200 years old and weighed 100 pounds. The plants ranged in height from about a foot to about 4 feet. Julian Duval, the nonprofit gardens' executive director, said the plants were ripped from their roots and hauled a quarter-mile through the property to a vehicle parked outside a 6-foot chain-link fence. The fence was not cut. Duval said the plants were taken by people who knew their worth but he dismissed the idea that it was an inside job. "We feel like we were kicked in the belly," he said. "These plants are a labor of love. This is a personal affront to our staff." The gardens is looking into new security measures but for now will rely on increased sheriff's patrols, he said. Duval hopes the plants will be recovered and alive but said they may be out of the country by now because exotic plant smuggling is an international problem. "These plants are not going to show up next to the stolen televisions at a swap meet," he said.
- ◆ Please remember, if you have a cactus or succulent of the month article or other information for the newsletter. The due date is the meeting prior to its intended publication.....
- ◆ It's never too early to start grooming your plants for the **June Show & Sale.**

# Kalanchoe

by Jeff Harris

My dictionary lists the roots of the name of this genus to be perhaps from the Cantonese words *kaai laan tsoi*, but whatever the origin, there is unquestionably no mystery why these plants are grown the world over. Their beauty of form, texture, color and ease of growth and flowering are appealing and desirable to many a succulentophile, and your author is joyful to find himself in that group. *Bryophyllum fedtschenkoi* v. *fedtschenkoi* was one of my first plants, and through the years and the vicissitudes of plant collection, I've kept my keen appreciation and enjoyment of this genus intact.

The succulent *Kalanchoe*, a member of the *Crassulaceae* and a genus erected by Adanson in 1763 and split into the three subtribes (based on floral structure and growth habit) of *Kalanchoe* {*Eukalanchoe*}, *Bryophyllum* and *Kitchingia* by Boiteau and Mannoni. Succulent *Kalanchoes* are distributed in South Africa, eastern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Madagascar, the Comoros Islands, Soqotra, the Indian subcontinent and tropical Asia, and can be very generally characterized

by having the following growth forms:

- 1) Arborescent-erect growing shrubs (most of the genus), such as *K. beharensis*, *K. orgyalis*, *K. laciniata*, *B. diagemontianum* and *B. pinnatum*
- 2) Smaller, rambling shrubs supported by adventitious roots, such as the *B. fedtschenkoi* group
- 3) Climbers such as *B. beauverdii*
- 4) Rosette formers such as *K. synsepala* and *K. tetraphylla*

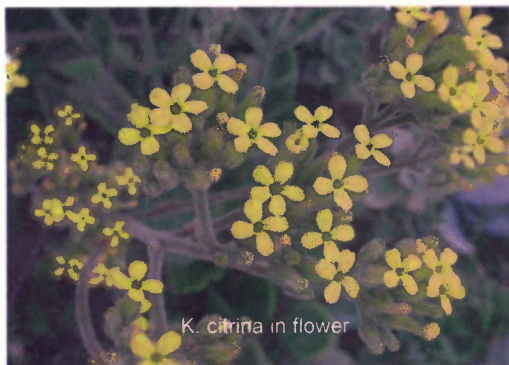


*Bryophyllums* can easily be distinguished by their habit of not seeking peaceful coexistence with other plants in your garden but by striving to rapidly take control of any area beneath

them...but enough proselytizing. They have two distinct characteristics: (1) having pendulous flowers and (2) formation of plantlets in the leaf notches. These adventitious plantlets, when jostled by your garden trowel, the curious cat from next door, or a drop of rain, fall to the ground and become plants

themselves. I have heard 'Mother of Millions' as a kind epithet for *B. delagoensis* (formerly *B. tubiflorum*), *B. diagamontianum*, and a hybrid *Bryophyllum* 'Houghton's Hybrid'. Please don't misunderstand me - I actually do like *Bryophyllums* for their long-lasting, colorful flowers and their sheer tenacity to prosper even in the hardest times, and I should like them a lot more if there were fewer of them living in the front garden. Some less-intrusive *Bryophyllums* are the nicely viney *B. beauverdii*, *B. gastonis-bonnieri* and the gray-to-orange-and-everything-in-between-colored *B. fedtschenkoi* varieties. It is interesting to note that all *Bryophyllums* come from Madagascar.

*Kalanchoe* species that grow well in San Diego include *K. beharensis*, *k. bracteata*, *K. citrina*, *K. orgyalis*, *K. mitijea*, *K. eriophylla*, *K. bracteata*, *K. marmorata*, *K. orgyalis*, *K. pumila*, *K. rhombopilosa* (for you Adromischus lovers, this one looks like a brown/silver Adro), *K. rotundifolia*, *K. synsepala* v. *synsepala* and v. *dissecta* and *K. tomentosa*. I am no doubt missing a few, but if you grow these, you get all sorts of colors both from the plants and the flowers, which can be red, white, yellow, purple, brown and pink.



*K. citrina* in flower

There are a number of *Kalanchoe* hybrids and cultivars that are available. The hybrid *Kalanchoe* 'Oak Leaf' (*K. beharensis* x *K. millottii*) is a common landscape plant here. From *Kalanchoe tomentosa* there are the lovely cultivars *K. tomentosa* 'Chocolate Soldier', 'Golden Girl' and 'Super Fuzzy'. The most common *Kalanchoe* one sees in home-improvement garden sections are the many hybridized forms of *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* that have a veritable rainbow of flower colors. Another *K. beharensis* cultivar, selected in the wild by Werner Rauh, is the beautiful *K. beharensis* v. *subnuda*, the leaves of which are nearly or completely hairless and are glaucous. A very attractive plant, and difficult to find. Most of the 100+ species or varieties of *Kalanchoes* listed in Herr Jacobsen's

*Lexicon of Succulent Plants* are not in cultivation, so it's even more delicious when one finds this or other plants that have only been seen in pictures or read about. Other *K. beharensis* hybrids/cultivars include *K. 'Maltese Cross'* (commonly known by the illegitimate name of *K. beharensis* 'Minima') and *K. 'Brown Dwarf'*, which is a possible cross between *K. beharensis* and *K. orgyalis*. *K. 'Brown Dwarf'* is also synonymous with a plant listed in Altman's *Specialty Plants* 1987

catalog as the painfully sweet *K. beharensis* 'Ruptured Lollipop'.



*Kalanchoes* seem to not be bothered by the usual doubly pestiferous scourge of mealy bugs and scale; it's only aphids on the flower buds and flowers that find *Kalanchoes* an attractive base of operations.

I've found a few *Kalanchoes* with variegation. One commonly sees *K. fedtschenkoi* v. *fedtschenkoi* f. *variegata*, and in my collection is a hybridized *K. beharensis* variety with a completely yellow pup at its base. I have no knowledge of any monstrose or crested *Kalanchoes*.

Most *Kalanchoes* are easy to cultivate. Species with thick and/or glaucous leaves should be given more sun and less water. Those that have soft and thin, hairy leaves can be grown in a shaded area and given more water. In either case, *Kalanchoes* come from summer-

rainfall areas but are generally winter-flowers. Flowering is triggered by shorter hours of daylight and cooler temperatures. In fact, many *Kalanchoes* can be made to flower by restricting light to 8 to 10 hours. Longer daylight hours promote vegetative growth. *Kalanchoes* grow well in my garden in my homemade soil mix of pumice, decomposed granite and potting soil but also seem just as happy to grow in almost pure clay, something the North Park area of San Diego has in abundance. Moderate watering in the winter, regular watering in the summer depending on how much sun the plant gets, fertilizing with very diluted fertilizer a few times during the warmer seasons and protection from frost/freezes should ensure vigorous growth and plentiful flowering. As is the case with other plants, the difference between pot-grown and grown-in-the-ground plants is sometimes astounding. I have an unnamed variety of *Kalanchoe marmorata* (it has the same flow-



ers as the common *K. marmorata* but the leaves are unspotted, crenated and the unnamed variety is much taller) whose growth in the ground is leaps and bounds greater than the few that I have in pots.

Unfortunately, the last major work on *Kalanchoes* in print seems to have been printed in 1946, and I've found it in French only, a language I don't speak. However, you might wish to be aware of a number of sites on the Internet that have information or provide us with a forum to talk about these plants, trade information and plants, and generally get a greater understanding *Kalanchoes*:

[www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/6400/kalanchoe/kcontent.html](http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/6400/kalanchoe/kcontent.html) (This is a great site for pictures and individual plant information)

[www.gardenweb.com/forums/cacti](http://www.gardenweb.com/forums/cacti)

[Crassulaceae@yahoo.com](mailto:Crassulaceae@yahoo.com)

[www.bryophyllum.com](http://www.bryophyllum.com)

[www.desert-tropicals.com](http://www.desert-tropicals.com)

In closing, I'd like to ask you to bring in your common and not-so-common *Kalanchoes* in for the February meeting. Please help me illustrate to our club members why these plants should have the popularity that they deserve.

## Bibliography:

1) Lexicon of Succulent Plants by Hermann Jacobsen

2)

[www.crassulaceae@yahoo.com/arc\\_hives](http://www.crassulaceae@yahoo.com/arc_hives)

3)

[www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/6400/kalanchoe/kcontent.html](http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/6400/kalanchoe/kcontent.html)

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# The Cactus Patch

## *Travels With Rob*

**N**ovember is a great time to visit Mexico and catch the *Ariocarpus* in bloom. This last year I traveled there on a plant photography expedition with Mike Navolio and two other friends, Larry Nicholes and Jim Boehmke. We met in Laredo Texas, where we crossed into Mexico, and headed towards the Sierra Madre Oriental and the Chihuahua Desert. We traveled in two cars; always good insurance against possible breakdowns and flat tires. We brought along all our food, camping gear, and detailed maps marked with locations of cacti that had been gleaned from friends and back issues of the Cactus and Succulent Journal.

The most frustrating part of any trip to Mexico is getting through

Continued on page 9

# Eriosyce

by Ric Newcomer

In 1994, Fred Kattermann revised and amplified the works of Backeberg who in 1958-62 separated those plants into Eriocyce, Islaya, Horridocactus, Neochilenia, Neoporteria and Pyrrhocactus, except for Eriosyce which was excluded from any revision of this South American group. Kattermann believed that all of these species are related and should be lumped together, which he has done in his book, "Eriosyce". The book is very well done but is not complete according to many, because of the redefining of the species to 34. I have well over 60 different names on my plants. I for one, have not lumped my names into Eriosyce but prefer to keep them as they are. (This is one man's preference ~~~ mine!)



*Eriosyce (Neoporteria) var. subgibbosa*

The broadened concept of Neoporteria, taking in Neochilinia, Islaya, Horridocactus, Pyrrhocactus and the less commonly seen nowadays generic names Chileorebutia, Reicheocactus and Thelocephala has gained in acceptance, although

there is some reluctance on the part of commercial purveyors of seed and plants to lose the names completely. The answer for the discerning collector is perhaps to use the former generic, now sub-generic, name in brackets, to distinguish the different categories, which are clearly identifiable, e.g. Neoporteria (Islaya) islayensis, or Neoporteria (Neochilenia) dimorpha.

Neoporteria in the narrow sense comprises very densely spined plants found in central and northern Chile, the spines obscuring the body and usually incurving to form an interlaced basketwork at the apex of the globular to short-columnar plants, through which the bicoloured flowers at the top push with difficulty. The petals are arranged so that an inner layer remain fairly close to the stigma and stamens, straight or slightly incurving, with the outer petals standing away from them and recurving; mostly the colors are varying shades of pink, often paler or yellow.



low towards the base of the petals.

Neochilenias, from the western side of the Andes in Chile, have generally less dense spination, showing the dark pigmented plant bodies and have pastel colored, wide, funnel-shaped flowers, opening broadly, also coming from the center growing point. Islayas, from southern Peru and northern Chile, are strongly spined in well defined, vertical ribs. Slow-growing, they form globular to short-columnar, small plants, with spiky petalled, yellow flowers from the center.



*Eriosyce (Neoporteria) var. nigrihorrida*

Horridocactus, from central and northern Chile on the west of the Andes mountains is less well defined, and Backeberg differentiates

them from *Pyrrhocactus*, mainly by their flowers and fruit – sparsely woolly compared to quite densely woolly and/or bristly *Pyrrhocactus*.

*Pyrrhocactus*, as indicated, is not easily differentiated from *Horridocactus*, coming from east of the Andes in western Argentina. Spe-

cies formerly allocated here are generally globular, later shortly columnar, slow growing, strongly spined, with usually yellow flowers. The combination of these genera makes even more sense when the synonymies, as shown in brackets for each species, are looked at, with different views as to their placing being taken by different authorities.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments at our February meeting on lumping these various genus together!

#### References:

- Pilbeam, John. 1987. "CACTI FOR THE CONNOISSEUR"
- Kattermann, Fred. 1994. "ERIOSYCE"

the confusion and lines of the Mexican customs bureaucracy, changing money, and taking care of last minute details like getting ice and car insurance. But by midmorning we were speeding south towards Monterey on one of the fast, new (and expensive!), toll roads that are making travel there so much easier than just a few years ago. In much less time than I could have believed, we were past Monterey, past Saltillo, and climbing the grade to the high plateau of central Mexico. It was there that we left the highways, and took small, often unpaved roads into the remotest parts of rural Mexico.

Wherever you look in Mexico there are interesting succulents and cacti. Every stop is different and exciting, but for me, the real thrill of the trip was finding both *Ariocarpus bravoanus* v. *bravoanus*, and v. *hintonii*. These two plants are so new that they are virtually unknown in the US. But just as good was *Turbinicarpus alonsoi*, which took us into entirely new terrain for me - misty pine mountains, and deep, deep gorges, where we also saw *Mammillaria schiedeana* and *Bombax ellipticum*. We found several other interesting *Turbinicarpus* sites, many *Ariocarpus retusus* locations, and an **A. agavoides** hill that was new to me (we were helped with that one by a shepherd - it helps to have a Spanish speaker along). The *A. agavoides* were flowering, as were the *A. scapharostus*. And we scouted out an amazing location for *A. trigonus* containing hundreds of plants. We never did find the limits of that population. We also saw *Obregonia*, many different Mamms, Feros, Corys, Thelos, Gymnos, Astros, and a *Neolloydia*. Thinking back on it, its hard to believe that we could see all that in just over a week. Oops, forgot to mention *Calabanus*!

Not to mention *Aztekium ritteri*, and various *Burseras*, *Cycads*, **Yuccas**, and **Agaves**. Mexico is just that way- incredible.

We saw some of the destruction caused by illegal collecting. (**ALL cacti collecting in Mexico is illegal.**) On an isolated hilltop, after a long climb, we were only able to find a few plants of *Turbinicarpus panarotoi*. But evidence of collecting abounded, and it was plain to see how the greed of commercial collectors had nearly stripped this hill of its recently discovered new species. Populations of other plants seemed to be having better luck. I had been concerned especially about the *Ariocarpus bravoanus* v. *bravoanus*, which I had heard had come under heavy collecting pressure. But the colony we found seemed intact, as did that of v. *hintonii*. There also seemed to be a shift in the attitudes of some of the Mexicans we met. Whereas at times in the past I had been met by villagers attempting to sell me plants from gunny sacks they had filled, at several locations on this trip the locals were protective of the plants, and suspicious of our intentions. This is a good development.

The trip was wonderful. The weather was good, we had no hassles with the authorities, and we were so successful in finding the plants. It was a first for Mike, but I'm sure, not the last. And already, I'm starting to put together a mental list of plants and destinations for next time.

**Rob Skillin**

\* Article courtesy of the CSSA Newsletter Archives.

# Upcoming Events

2003

**January 11th** **SDC&SS Winter Succulent & Blooming Cactus Show and Sale.** Plant sales begin at 9:00 AM, Show opens at 10:00 AM. Room 101 Casa del Prado. Balboa Park, San Diego.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.epiphyllum.org)

**June 1** Toronto C&S Club Show and Sale at Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Sunday 10am - 4.30pm. Information from Dave Naylor 905-877-6013 or e-mail him at [naylor@unforgettable.com](mailto:naylor@unforgettable.com)

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

*In 2003, the Henry Shaw Cactus Society will host the 30th Biennial CSSA Convention in St. Louis. From the welcome reception on June 14 to the farewell party on June 19, prepare for a full schedule of education and fun. Enjoy hunting plants at the BIG cactus sale, too. (No sales on field trip days.) Sunday and Monday are "Succulent Days," with over a dozen presentations by noted speakers. Sunday's special banquet speaker is Missouri Botanical Garden Director Peter Raven, who will discuss endangered cacti of the United States. Tuesday features field trips to Missouri Botanical Garden, Forest Park attractions, Cass Bonsai Garden -- even a riverboat cruise. Wednesday and Thursday resume with "Cacti Days" and more informative programs by a group of international scholars and botanical experts.*

**July 5-6** **CSSA Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino CA.**

**August 30** **Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino CA.** Info: 626-405-2160 or 2277

**August 31** **CSSA Board Meeting, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino CA.**

2004

*C&SS of New Zealand AGM and Convention, Palmerston North, New Zealand.* Info from Frances Verrity at [verrity@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:verrity@actrix.gen.nz)

**August 21** **British C&SS National Show, Spalding Exhibition Centre, Springfield, Spalding, Lincs, England.**

**November** (3-week tour tentatively planned for November 2004) **CSSA Tour to Chile, home to Copiapoa, Eriosyce, Eulychnia and others.** See more details on page 31. Watch for further announcements. Contact: Dan Mahr

2005

**Early August** **CSSA 31st Biennial Convention, Phoenix AZ** in air-conditioned comfortable hotel.

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George & Jerry Plaisted  
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Programs: Kelly Griffin  
Reception: Ethyl Standish  
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