

ESPINAS Y FLORES



Program

Landscaping With Succulents

Michael Buckner

Combined Cactus & Succulent of the Month

Balboa Park Desert Garden

John Mellein & Lit Phan

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

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Volume 39 Number 7

Saturday July 10th 1:00 PM

Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Presidents Message

June 20th, 2004

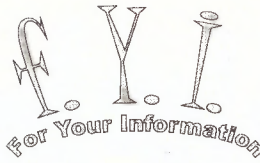
WHAT A GREAT SHOW! Congratulations to all the winners! It was wonderful to see so many new exhibitors bringing in their plants and going home with Blue Ribbons and Trophies. Many people commented to me that it was the best show they had seen anywhere and all the many of you who pitched in should be very proud. Beside the many awesome plants, the addition of Joe Kraatz's post card displays and, B.J. Miller's photography made for a beautiful room. The other displays and exhibits also contributed so much - adding an educational and whimsical element much to the delight of the many people who viewed the show. Thanks to Tim Nomer, Lee Badger, Chris Miller, Joey Betzler and of course Joe for all the work you put into bringing in these great display and exhibits!

The whole weekend went pretty smoothly, thanks to the massive efforts of all who volunteered. From the Friday morning set up, to the chaotic bringing in of the plants and getting the layout reshuffled and all the tags made, to the evening crew organizing and reorganizing, to the Saturday crew who handled the judging, clerking, counting and hanging of the artworks, I am again amazed by the amount of work that goes into this show. Special thanks to Tom Knapik, George Plaisted, Susan Hopkins and all the clerks, Chris Miller, Collette and Terry Parr, Jurgen Menzel, Lee Badger, Paul and Betty Whitaker,

Thalia Crisenzo, John Williams, Joe and Kay Quijada, Allen Clark, Ethel Standish, Phil and Jan Kent, Elizabeth and Wilbur Glover, Marylyn Henderson, Elibet Marshall, Mr. Ed, Steve and Kathy Harris, Jim Paradowsky, Caroline McCullaugh, Laura Demeritt for arranging the tables, and others I know I have missed, who made such an awesome effort in bringing this show together.

The sale was also a massive effort with many of you pitching in to process near record sales over the two days. This event is the main fund raiser for our Society and without this huge effort we would not be able to do all that we do. Big thanks to Tom Birt, Joe Kraatz, Spencer Maze, Carol Jean Wolcott, Michelle Heckathorn, John Durham, Susan Wunderlich, Cena Martin, Steve Szalnay, Herb Stern Anthony McFarland, and all the others who pitched in with the cashiering duties who have already been mentioned. Thanks also to all our vendors. We know it gets chaotic at times and we appreciate your patience, flexibility and for pitching in moving tables in and out. We are working on new procedures which should help things move even smoother in the future. Thanks for bringing so many awesome plants to show as well as sell.

Thanks to all who helped out with 'feeding the multitudes' over the two days, especially Kay, Debbie,



South America Cactus Expeditions

My name is Guillermo Rivera, I am from Cordoba Argentina, and organize trips and expeditions in northern Argentina to see cactus in their habitat. More than 100 species of cactus were seen in our last tour in October 2003. Sixteen people, (Americans and French), participated in our last expedition. Twelve days, all inclusive 925 Euros (ground transportation, hotels, park fees, all meals included),. Please visit www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar for additional information, itinerary, list of species and dates. You can contact me directly at rivera@intecar.com.ar

**Thank you
Guillermo Rivera
South America Cactus Expeditions**

President's Message continued

Kaija and the crew over in 104.

There was so much done to make this event a great success and I would like to especially mention Jeff Harris for being there and doing everything that was needed and anyone else who pitched in that I have missed mentioning, it's not that I don't notice, but my mind got displaced over the weekend!

All in all it was a great weekend - as much fun as I can imagine having working 12 hour days for three straight days - and it is because you are such a great group of people to work with - THANKS!!

We have a very exciting announcement! We now have a DIGITAL PROJECTOR to use for our presenta-

tions. BJ Miller, husband of Chris Miller, our treasurer, procured this donation from the Navy. It has been used in teaching and is a good, industrial projector. We can look forward to some exciting digital presentation in the future! Thanks to BJ and the Navy!

In place of our normal 'plants of the month,' this month we are to be treated to a presentation by John Melein and Lit Phan, gardeners in Balboa Park, talking about the history, development and care of the succulent gardens in the Park. This should be very interesting so be sure to come to the meeting on July 10th.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or suggestions.

Pam Badger pambadge@earthlink.net

The Balboa Park Desert Garden

By John Mellein

The Desert Garden was established at its present location in 1916. It is located on the east side of Park Boulevard and north of the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden. It is the third large succulent garden in Balboa Park. There was probably a small succulent garden that no longer exists which was planted when the park was first developed. The first and second gardens were developed in 1935 for the California Pacific International Exposition as the Aloe-Agave Garden and the Cactus Garden. These two gardens were not well maintained during the five years that Balboa Park was taken over by the Navy during the Second World War as a Navy Hospital. The Aloe--Agave Garden was built to honor Kate Sessions by the San Diego Floral Association. This garden was located on North Park Boulevard and was removed when Park Boulevard was realigned in the 1960's. The Cactus Garden is still located behind the Balboa Park Club. The Cactus Garden has been refurbished and now contains many beautiful mature specimens of Aloe, Agave, Yucca, Euphorbia, and cacti. Many Protea have been added to this garden. In 2001, the

California Conservation Corps restored the historic trail that connected this garden to the Palm Canyon trail. The Desert Garden is the third and largest succulent garden in Balboa Park.

Plans were approved to build a 2.5 acre Desert Garden at Park Boulevard and Zoo Place in August 1975 by the Balboa Park Committee and construction started in 1976. Roger DeWeese was chosen as the landscape architect by the City Council. He had a complex project plan that transformed the existing area. The site was a flat terrace that ended in a cliff. The plateau was bulldozed to a gentle slope which eliminated the steep cliff by moving 12,000 cubic yards of soil. A mound of earth was piled at the bottom of the slope to make a low area where a simulated dry streambed and dry lakebed were created by bringing in sand, cobblestone, and large rocks. Placement of the rocks was very important and photos were used of various desert scenes to capture just the perfect settings. Some of the boulders were made into benches. In the last 28 years some of this detail



has been lost with boulders moved and sand and cobblestone settling into the native soil. Fescue was hydro seeded to stabilize the soil and keep the weeds out until the desert plants were established. Most of the fescue died in a few years and what remained was sprayed with herbicide.

DeWeese designed the garden in bands. The first band is along Park Boulevard and was planted in lawn and trees. The second band, parallel to the first and east, was planted with larger trees as a barrier to the street traffic. This band was followed by a low fence made of adobe bricks and huge boulders, A series of paths follow. These paths start at Park Boulevard or the Rose Garden and can eventually be followed into Florida Canyon. DeWeese also envisioned a trellis made of eucalyptus logs to protect shade-loving succulents, educational and scientific displays, and a small education center - all of which never were developed.

The Desert Garden was designed to display the plants as they would be found geologically and not necessary geographically. Euphorbias from Africa are grow-

ing next to Cereus from South America- Both have adapted to very similar conditions of low rainfall and temperature extremes.

Many of the large plant specimens that were planted in the Desert Garden came from the City Nursery according to Bob Murphy who was the Nursery Supervisor at this time. He said specimens also came from the old Cactus Garden and what remained from the Aloe-Agave Garden. Some native barrel cacti were transplanted from the city land fill. Many plants were grown from seed and cuttings at the city nursery. Plants were also donated by many nurseries and the community.



Aaron Wright is the current Grounds Maintenance Worker II in the Desert Garden today, but many city staff and volunteers have helped develop this garden. Lit Phan worked in this garden for over 10 years and transformed it to a work of art, John Pasek was instrumental in planting this garden from the beginning and donated many plants.

In September of 2000 a group of experts from various

fields helped to update and correctly label the plant collection in the Desert Garden. Each plant species was assigned a number and the experts debated on taxonomy until an agreement was made or not made on the correct scientific name. Sadly only a few of these labels remain, but photos of each specie and the plant inventory remain.

In 2002 Robert Ressler, then of the Stockton Cactus and Succulent Society, donated a large privately owned columnar and other tall cacti collection to Balboa Park for the Desert Gar-



den. The park would welcome participation from the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. Several groups are interested in working together to designate Balboa Park as an accredited botanical garden.



den. these cacti are being planted on the east facing slope of this garden as they reach a good size to survive.

According to Kathy Pulpava, the Balboa Park Horticulturist, the future plans for the Desert Garden include a self guided tour brochure. The entire plant collection in this garden needs to be relabeled and a map made with each plant assigned an identification number. Future plans also include a once-a-year volunteer work party to help park staff clean up the Desert Gar-

The last 28 years have proved the success of this wonderful succulent garden and that it is a continuous project that is improving with time. This garden is featured an the forth Saturday Offshoot Tour for free (February through November). The tour meets at 10:00a.m. at the Balboa Park Visitor Center in the House of Hospitality. The Desert Garden is maintained by the City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department and is open free to the public 365 days per year.



A VISIT WITH JEFF MOORE

By Pam Badger



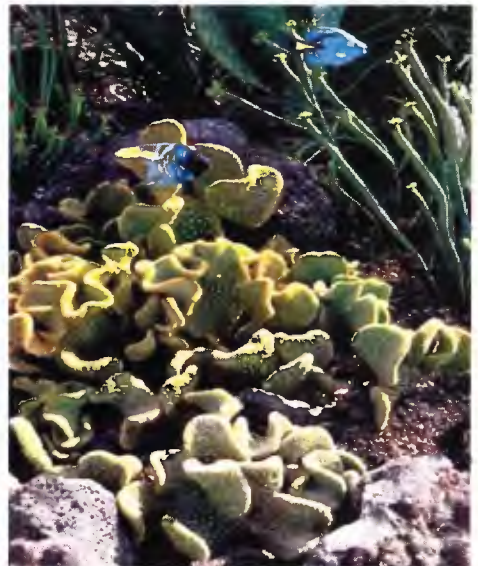
Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents is a member of our Society and though we don't see him often at meetings, he keeps up with what we are up to. On June 19th I spoke to Jeff about his trip to Philadelphia last March to participate in the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show - the biggest flower show in the world.

Espinas y Flores: How did you happen to end up taking a couple of tons of succulents to Philadelphia in winter?

Jeff Moore: After viewing my "Underwater" display at the Del Mar Fair a couple of years ago, my friend, Pat Hammer of Samia Rose Topiary suggested that I submit this display to Philadelphia. It was accepted and though I was a bit hesitant, they made it worth my while to take the challenge.

EyF: What did it take to move all those plants?

JM: An 80 ft, temperature controlled





truck. I was concerned about the danger of freezing and the low light during the process of packing and moving the plants - there was the real risk of losing many plants. When they offered to purchase all the plants I brought, that made the deal.

EyF: What was the biggest challenge?

JM: First I had to gather a great deal of plant material - the many crests, Echeverias, sticks of fire - then staging them somewhere away from customers so they would not be bought. The wrapping and packing had to be done quickly at the last to minimize their time in the dark.

EyF: How many plants did you take?

JM: Lots! About \$22,000 worth - wholesale. Ended up I had way more than was needed, especially the smaller plants. I sold some of the plants to various Cactus Club people there (they have one of the largest Succulent Societies in the country,) and gave away the rest to use for fundraising.

EyF: How would you characterize the reaction of the people there?

JM: People were very excited. The lighting they did was very theatrical and people were quite amazed - often standing three deep to get a look.

EyF: What was your favorite reaction to the exhibit?

JM: I love to hear the reaction of scuba divers who say it is just like diving on coral reefs.

EyF: What did you learn from this experience?

JM: I was really hesitant to do this. The risk of moving all the plants, lots of work, and I wasn't sure it would lend any publicity for my shop here. As it turned out there was an article in the Union Tribune here and then a two line mention in the NY Times - there are a lot of people here who read the Times - and that was great exposure! I am very glad that I did it - you only live once - and I found out that it is really quite an honor to do this show!

Check out Jeff's latest creation at the Del Mar Fair, and visit him at his shop, Solana Succulents, 355 North Highway 101, Solana Beach.



TITANOPSIS

By Eric Driskill
Henry Shaw C&SS
St Louis MO

South and Southwest Africa are the home of the genus *Titanopsis*, with its 8 species of dwarf clump-forming plants. The species have variously colored leaves with rough, fissured, pimply ends, and they form low, clustering rosettes. Yellow flowers are produced in autumn. They grow quickly from seed and require a porous compost and careful watering, being kept dry in the winter and spring resting period. It is a very rewarding succulent and can be cultivated on windowsills in the home. *Titanopsis* also tolerate intense heat and heavy frost.

Titanopsis are truly impressive plants, with unique leaves. Being a dwarf, you won't have to devote much space for an impressive representation of the genus. *Titanopsis* would make a great plant to enter in the Mini Succulents class of the show.

Titanopsis calcarea is the best-known species, with whitish tubercles at the tips of blunt leaves. They are propagated from seed or by division of larger clumps. You can also purchase a mature plant from various nurseries.

For a really odd succulent that is sure to be a conversation piece, find a *Titanopsis* to add to your collection whether it is in a greenhouse or windowsill.



Titanopsis primossi



Titanopsis calcarea

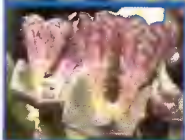
June Show & Sale Hilites



Above: flower cluster on *Monadenium echinulatum*; RSPV; Left: closeup of red striped flowers

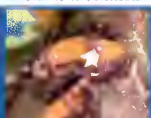
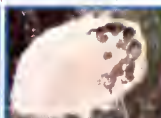
Top: Trophy table San Diego CSS 2004

Below: *Myriocactus sp. ex MK (KNS) kelly* Below left: cut caudex showing hollow passages used by ants, right: fruit and flowers on stem, bottom: stems & caudex



Summer Show Hilites

Below: Lovely red spines on *Ferocactus covillei*; Fryer



Above left, right: *Puroserpens caca*; caudex & stem looping several feet; Fryer. Below: mature stem at top, bottom: immature stem (left) closeup



Left: Div III, 75 yellow flower; Far Right: purple, yellow, both Divs; Patterson collector

Right: Large cluster of *Rebutia macrantha*; BA; Flechsig, SA



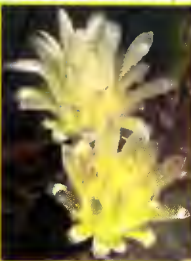
Left: *Sibbaldiana maculosa*; asterion, 2A; Ferguson, 1st

SDCSS 2004 Summer Show

Right: *Coryphantha cornifera*, 1BB; Fryer, 2nd

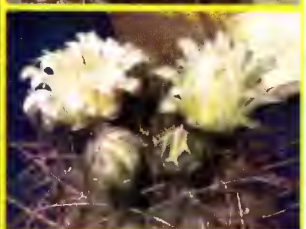
Div I: Cactus Flower Clusters

Right: *Rhipidocactus calycium*; SA; Chas Miller



Left: *Lobivia lylei*; Parents; BBS, 7B; Fryer, 3rd

Far Right: Multiple open and budding; *Cylindropuntia*; SA; Chas Miller



Upcoming Events

2004

July 1 - 3 : CSSA Show and Sale at HBG Plant Sales are July 1, 2 and 3. Plant Show is July 2 and 3 only. Hours for both events are 10:30a.m. - 5:00p.m. Parking & Admission to Plant Sale and Show are free. (Special note: admission to Huntington Bot. Gdns is free on July 1). For more info. contact: Jim Hanna at: aloecats1@aol.com.

July 17 - 25 Henry Shaw Cactus Society will hold its Annual Show and Sale at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Opening at noon on Saturday July 17 it will be open daily until Sunday July 25 during the hours from 9am until 5pm. Both show and sale will be in the Orthwein Floral Display Hall at the MBG. Details from Bob Harris at bobharris@accessus.net or Pat Thomann at prt@charter.net

August 14-15 Houston C&SS Annual Show and Sale. Free Admission to (judged) show of cacti and succulents. Rare and unusual plants for sale. Children's drawing contest (prizes!). Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr, Houston, Texas. Hours 10am-5pm each day. Contact Hank Andresen for more details. Tel: 713-436-1734 or e-mail him at hand1609@hotmail.com

August 20 - 22 : 14th Eastern C&S Conference at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Plymouth Meeting PA. Hosted by the Philadelphia C&SS. While you're there, enjoy Longwood Gardens and Morris Arboretum, world-class museums and a brand new baseball stadium. For more info contact Co-chairpersons, Rita Hojnowski 856-227-0599 ritabhøj@comcast.net or Elayne Toizer e-mail: atoizer@aol.com or tel: 215-233-2965 Succulent Lovers, Unite!!!

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

September 4 : 21st Huntington Symposium at Huntington Botanical Gardens.

September 5 : CSSA Board Meeting, Huntington Botanical Gardens. (Ahmanson Classroom).

Mid-October : CSSA Tour to Chile, home to Copiapoa, Eriosyce, Eulychnia and others. See itinerary in last issue of To The Point.

2005

January 15 : CSSA Board Meeting at Huntington Botanical Gardens

April 16 : CSSA Board Meeting at Huntington Botanical Gardens

July 1 - 3 : CSSA Annual Show and Sale at Huntington Botanical Gardens

August 5 - 11 : CSSA 31st Biennial Convention, Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Phoenix, Arizona Host Club: The Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society Special Rate for Rooms \$89 per night (Normally \$300)

Convention Chairman, Duke Benadom Program Chairman, Leo Martin e-mail: leo1010@attglobal.net Confirmed speakers already include Sheila Collette, Chuck Hanson, John Lavranos, Mark Muradian, Gard Roper, Guy Wrinkle.

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