

ESPINAS Y FLORES



Epicactus cv. 'Rick Latimer'. Rick Latimer was an active and longtime member of SDCSS until his untimely death approximately 10 years ago. This plant formerly from the collection of Gerry Williams and Chuck Everson of Rainbow Gardens is growing in the garden of Joe & Kay Quijada. Many members still fondly remember Rick.

PROGRAM

Greg Starr of Starr Nursery in Tucson, AZ., is giving us a presentation he's titled "Agaves as seen through Rose Colored Glasses, a look at Taxonomy, Horticulture, and Habitat".

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Meet The Member - Meet the Landscape

Pam Badger Interviews Chris Miller. Join us for this Second in the Series

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY INC.
AFFILIATED WITH THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA
VOLUME 39 NUMBER 7

SATURDAY JULY 9TH, 1:00 PM
ROOM 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

July 19th 2005

Greetings and Salutations!

With Summer officially due to start in just a few days now, it is with much relief and enthusiasm that I begin the annual ant attack and weed-whack in the yard

What an incredible Show and Sale we had! After last year, I wondered how it could possibly be any bigger or better. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our vibrant volunteers, we managed to once again break our previous year's sales record and fine-tuned the show process to make participation all the more enjoyable for members and guests alike. Kudos to our Show and Sale Chairman Tom Knapik, and his assistants Terry Parr and Lee Badger, and everyone who contributed their time and energy into making this one of the best Cactus and Succulent Shows anywhere on the planet!

Everyone involved with getting an event of this magnitude launched for a two day festival of succulence deserves an enormous thank you. From the steadfast and reliable Mr. and Mrs. William Glover watching over purchased plants while folks visit and view the show plants, to the intensely tireless Joe Kratz and his team of hard-core cashier fanatics manning the front lines of the sales area, everyone in between is hustling and bus-

ting to assure every little thing is taken care of. Don Hunt's creative and beautiful Trophy Pots brought many an envious eye and comments were overheard exclaiming, "We could WIN one of those? I should show some more plants!" Peter Walkowiak made a fantastic showing of enormous, beautifully staged specimen plants that took numerous trips back and forth from his domicile to install in the show area.

Some of us on the board were a little nervous about some of the changes we had made regarding some regular 'nuts and bolts' factors involved with show and sale, and while the majority seemed to help alleviate some of the pain and strain we've all come to expect at this annual event, others might have gone a bit smoother. Please don't be shy about contacting any of us on the board (our phone numbers are posted on the back of your newsletter) if you have any concerns, comments, or criticisms. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to everyone who participated and made this year's show and sale bigger, better, and brighter than ever!

Since our total sales this year will have earned the SDC&SS more than enough to cover our expenses and maintain our current prudent reserve financially, we all have the opportunity to make some serious financial contributions to some worthy causes.

The Anza Borrego Foundation (<http://www.theabf.org>) is looking for

Cover: Epicactus cv. 'Rick Latimer'



MAY BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Cactus:

- 1st Place: *Gymnocalycium saglionis*
Lee Badger
2nd Place: *Echinocereus tayopensis*
Mark Fryer
3rd Place: *Notocactus leninghausii*
Lee Badger

Succulents:

- 1st Place: *Pachypodium succulentum*
Rudy Lime
2nd Place: *Pachypodium bispinosum*
Peter Walkowiak
3rd Place: *Pachypodium succulentum*
v. griquense
Peter Walkowiak

President's Message Continued.....

assistance in purchasing some holdings within the park's boundaries, one of which is extremely rich in its native cacti diversity. Our own Herb Stern will be sharing a video presentation with us about the goals and achievements of this unique foundation at the July meeting.

The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College
(<http://www.thegarden.org>)

is soliciting for financial assistance in a new xeric garden installation being designed by our own Michael Buckner, and named for his Father, Warren. Both Michael and Warren are past Presidents of the SDC&SS, and both consummate plantmen.

July's meeting is looking quite interesting with another "Meet the member" forum (you all said you enjoyed the last one) featuring our own tireless troubadour Chris Miller, who will no doubt wax poetic on the idiosyncrasies of her personal plant fixations. As I mentioned earlier, Herb Stern will fill us in on current happenings out in the Anza, and what we can do to get involved and help. Our featured program will be a world-class nurseryman and certified Agave fanatic, Greg Starr of Starr Nursery in Tucson, AZ., giving us a presentation he's titled "Agaves as seen through rose colored glasses, a look at taxonomy, horticulture, and habitat".

Sounds like another DON'T MISS IT meeting to me, hope to see you all there!!

Warm regards,

Mark Fryer

Meet The Member - Meet The Landscape

By, Pam Badger

Ln this, the second in our series of interviews with members, we are featuring Chris Miller and her garden in Santee. Chris has been a member of our Society for over 7 years. She is currently our treasurer, a vital and time consuming job - especially this past week as she sorted out the record sales from our annual sale last weekend. She is also in coordinates the volunteers at the "Old World Succulent and Baja Gardens" at the Wild Animal Park. She does an awesome job making sure the gardens are kept up as well as selling plants propagated at the Gardens to raise money for improvements in the Gardens.



I spoke to Chris at her Santee home on a typical 'June gloom' afternoon, as the sun slowly burned through we got a taste of the warm summer days to come.

Espinas y Flores: How did you get in-



involved in growing succulent plants?

Chris Miller: My first experience with succulent plants was in Rota, Spain where BJ [husband] and I were stationed for about five years. The climate there is very Mediterranean - much like here; soil conditions and weather are perfect for succulents. I started adopting plants, agaves from the roadside, aloes, opuntias, and cereus to put around our place. I planted them around the perimeter to keep kids from our yard. I got one real spiny cactus that stuck me bad, from then on it was in my blood.

EYF: When was that?

CM: In the early 70's. From there we moved to San Diego in the early 80's and lived in Navy housing in Murphy Canyon. Again I started scrounging succulents and collected several aloes and an aeonium that are still with me. I Stared serious collecting in the early 90' when we moved to this house in Santee.

What was your inspiration to begin

planting a landscape with these plants?

The hill behind the house was covered with "freeway flowers," which look great for about one month out of the year, the rest of the time they are nothing, they had to go. In Santee, unless you are home every day to water, succulents are the way to go.

EYF: What did you use to prepare for planting?

CM: We basically had very little money at the time and feeding the kids took precedents so I didn't do much to it - clear, dig, plant - if lived - good! It is a fairly steep slope - I started at one end striping the ground, replacing with any succulents I could scrounge or get cheap at Home Depot. The soil is mainly clay and rock and planting on a hillside the water runs right off so drainage has never been a problem.

EYF: How do you handle watering?

CM: There are sprinklers on the hill, everything else is hand watered. I water thoroughly about once a week in the Summer - sometimes more often on the pots during hot spells. It regularly gets over 90 in summer, and 80's in Winter, if the Winter is dry, I'll use the sprinklers about once a month.

EYF: Do you use fertilizers?

CM: I have a hose end attachment - 'Easy Flow Fertilizer Injector', which I use whenever I water to deliver a low amount of fertilizer.

EYF: What was/is your greatest challenge in landscaping with cactus and succulents?

CM: I planted things too close together - things got bigger than expected and end up crowding each other.

EYF: So what do you do?

CM: LAUGHS - nothing yet!

EYF: What do you consider the benefits of growing succulents?

CM: You end up with a lush looking yard with out all the work of foliage landscape. The variety of colors and textures and shapes are amazing. There is always something beautiful going on - blooms, new growth, interesting seed pods.



EYF: How has your landscape evolved over time?

It's gotten real BIG - there are those tree aloes, I got them at Home Depot in little pots - guy said it would get big - now they are about 3 1/2 feet across and starting to get tall. I had no good shade areas so about three years ago I put in 55 feet of raised bed along the side of the yard. It is raised up a little over two feet along the drainage for the hill. This area stayed too wet for succu-



lents so I built the bed. It is made of cinder block mortar in the back and the front is stacking blocks. It is filled with a soil mix of 50% decomposed granite, 25% top soil and 25% black lava - on base of about 6 inches of gravel. In the sunny end I planted cactus - cereus and feros. In shade, aloes, haworthias, gasterias some Sansevierias in pots. Was fun to get these in the ground.

EYF: What plants do the best in your garden?

CM: Here in Santee, agaves grow great, aloes, opuntias - be careful about the ones which get big - they will take over. Euphorbias grow well. Under a shade tree, echeveria, mesembs and of course, gasterias.

EYF: Which plants have been most problematic in your landscape?

CM: I don't get along well with lithops, but they are not in the landscape. Everything does real well - if I know a species has a frost problem - I don't put it out.

EYF: What is your "dream plant," the one that has eluded you?

CM: I just procured it! - a new hybrid - gasteraloe "hogworts" - so very cute!

EYF: What are your favorite plants?

CM: That would be Gasterias. I like the shapes, textures, colors, flowers - and they LIKE me!

EYF: Do you have a favorite story related to succulents?

CM: The first Gasteria I ever bought, saw it in little Nursery. I picked up what I thought was a weird aloe. I asked how much for the aloe - he said it was Gasteria , but I had never heard of them, so I bought it. I still thought it was some kind of weird aloe - till I joined the club and someone straighten me out. There was also the time I backed into a Opuntia in the Baja garden - but I don't want to go there.

EYF: Do you have a favorite succulent garden in San Diego (public or pri-



vate)? What do you appreciate about that garden?

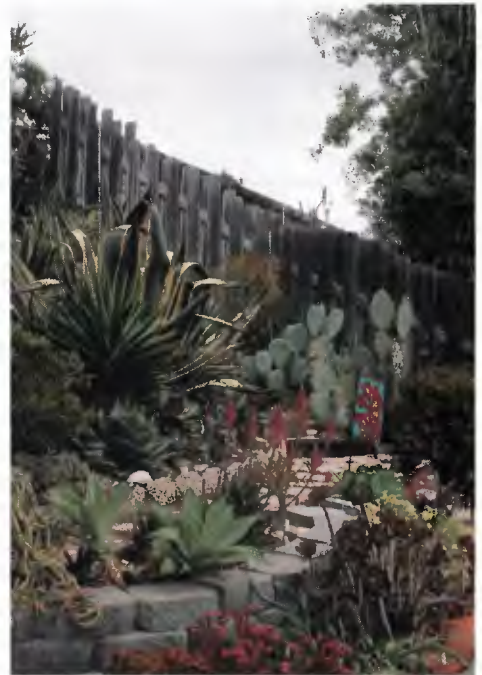
CM: That would have to be the Old World Succulent garden at the Wild Animal Park, where I spend all my Saturday mornings. Our Society took on the responsibility to maintain this and the Baja Garden and I volunteered about six years ago. I find it very satisfying to maintain that size of a garden, people come by and ask us questions and thank us for what we do. The sheer size of these gardens is amazing - you would have to travel the world to



see these plants in habitat.

Thanks Chris, it has been a pleasure talking with you.

And thanks to BJ Miller for the photos.





Notes from an Interested Bystander,

I cannot begin to tell you how happy I was about this year's Show and Sale, so I'll limit it to a few ill-chosen words. Due to the hard work, determination, planning and forethought of the Usual Suspects, we were able to put on what I consider our best Show and Sale yet. It has never gone more smoothly, in my experience. >From Friday through Sunday, the many new ideas that were employed this year were, for the most part, very successful. From the nighttime judging to the C&S demonstrations, from the wonderful Show displays to the vendor setup, all of this and more really coalesced into a most excellent week-end.

All of you who participated in the Show, and particularly all of who worked on behalf of the Club, my tam o' shanter is off to you. You should be proud of a job well done.

Jeff Harris
Former President of Vice, Always a Factotum

New Members at the Old World Succulent Garden

By, Chris Miller

Met two of our newer SDCSS members and the newest volunteers in the Garden at the Wild Animal Park. This is Richard and Sarah Yorba from Ramona. They have been out pulling weeds three Saturdays with plans to come out and pull more. Saturday June 11th they brought a friend named Tom and really moved through an overgrown area.

They volunteered to help put up the shade cloth for the Show and entered 3 plants as novices and won 3 third place ribbons.

So be sure to thank them for their hard work at the next meeting. You might even think about coming out and joining them.



It's another record year, Thanks to you.

The news of the success of our show is spreading and continues to attract new members and many costumers. We set a new one-day total and overall financial record. Our sales area has expanded and our show had some added attractions in the form of a few well-attended workshops. I want to thank **Pam Badger, Carmen Hammond, Sara Schell, Rudy Lime** and **Juergen Menzel** for their presentations.

The number of plants entered in the show dropped a bit, but at 591 en-

tries, we still managed to fill the room. I want to give special recognition to Peter **Walkowiak** for the massive plants he entered, **Rudy Lime, Pam Badger, Joe Kratz,** and **Chris Miller** for their wonderful displays that add so much to our show. It is a special effort by those individuals who have so many other responsibilities before and during the show. We should all feel so very lucky that they are members of this great club.

Prior the show day some members put in many extra hours to make it successful. Tom and **Laura De Merritt, Joe Kratz, Anthony McFarland, Tom Birt, Terry Parr, Pam** (great job on the food prep.) and **Lee Badger, Mark Fryer, Susan Hopkins,** and the awe-

some **Chris Miller. Juergen Menzel** won the highpoint trophy and I thank him for the fifty prize winning plants he brought in. These individuals form the backbone of our show and I want to let the general membership know how important they are to this event.

I also want to thank all members helped during the show: **Alan Clark, Wilbur and Elizabeth Glover, Jeff Harris, Ethel Standish, Kienan Parr, John Williams, Kay and Joe Quijada, Michelle Heckathorn, John Durham, Spencer Maze, Herb Stern, Carol Jean Wolcott** and any other members

who worked the sales area. I would like to thank our judges **Miles Anderson, Ric Newcomer, Petra Crist,** and **Jeff Moore** and all our clerks organized by **Susan Hopkins** for their great work. What an amazing team! I also want to

thank **Don Hunt** for the wonderful personalized trophy pots. I know many members who will be trying harder next year to win one of them.

Going into this show, we made some major changes. We would like your feedback regarding the Sat. afternoon judging, workshops, sales area, etc.. At the next meeting, we'll de-brief for a while so come with your ideas. Thanks for all those who participated and helped in any way they could. The dedication of our members to the show makes this the special event that it is; the **BEST Single Club Cactus and Succulent Show in the country.** Show Chair,

Tom Knapik



UPCOMING EVENTS

2005

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 Collenette, Chuck Hanson, John Lavranos, Mark Muradian, Gard Roper, Guy Wrinkle.

August 20, 21st: Intercity Show & Sale, 18th annual; LA Arboretum 626-798-2430, 818-998-9306

Sept 3rd: 21st Annual Succulent Symposium; Huntington Gardens

Sept 4th: CSSA Board Meeting, HBG

September 25th: Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction; 18127 So. Alameda St, Compton CA

October 15,16: San Gabriel C&SS Winter show & sale; LA Arboretum; 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA

Editors Note: News of the passing of long time member and consummate Plantswoman Dorothy Byer reached my desk too late for inclusion in the combined May-June Newsletter, and is belatedly included here.



Dorothy Byer, 79

VISTA - Dorothy Byer, 79, died Monday, April 25, 2005, at her home.

She was born May 22, 1925, in Tyrone, N.Y She was an artist of fine arts and crafts.

Mrs. Byer is survived by her husband, Marshall Byer of Vista; daughters Judith Freeman, Linda Byer and Deborah McLaren; sister Shirley Canada; and two grandchildren. A graveside service was held at 10:30 a.m. , April 28, at Riverside National Cemetery, 22495, Van Buren Blvd. in Riverside with Rabbi David Barnett officiating.

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

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Diego, CA
Permit No. 737

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: Mark Fryer (619)795-1020
Vice President: Tom DeMerritt (619) 270-5544
Secretary: Christine Tratnyek (619) 461-0737
Treasurer: Chris Miller (619) 258-9810
Ex Officio: Pam Badger (619) 589-1223

Directors

Lee Badger (619) 589-1223
Jeanette Dutton (619) 239-8476
Allen Clark (858) 576-0380
John Durham (619) 233-8935
Spencer Maze (858) 454-1870
Terry Parr (619) 460-9111
Herb Stern (619) 223-9134

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Conservation: Kelly Griffin
Education & Exhibits
Brag Table: Kay Quijada
Plants of the Month:
Jeff Harris

Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Jeff Harris
Susan Hopkins & Allen Clark
Winter Show: Ed DeLollis & Allen Clark
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: Phil Bunch, Phil & Jan Kent,

Allen Clark & Chris Miller
Membership: Collette Parr
Mailing: Pam Badger & Jeff Harris
Plant & Seed Exchange
Plants: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Seeds: Kelly Griffin
Plant Sales & Supplies
Annual Sales: Lee Badger & Terry Parr
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: Ethel Standish
Regalement
Monthly: Allen Clark, Rudy Lime &
Suzie White

The due date for submissions of articles will be the meeting preceding the intended issue (approximately one month ahead of time). The due date for letters, "brag table" winners and the "Presidents Message" will be one week later. All submissions are to be made to the Editor.



Tephrocactus articulatus
var. *papiracanthus*



Pterocactus
guameri



Tephrocactus geometricus



Machaerocereus
gummosus spiralis
closeup of spiral
stem spines



Neochilenea occulta large cluster
with lots of flowers



Astrophytum digitostigma
capit-medusae with flower buds
grafted on *Pereskia*



Gymnocalycium sp.
Sierra Madre



Centia knezei proliferating
multiple heads as a graft

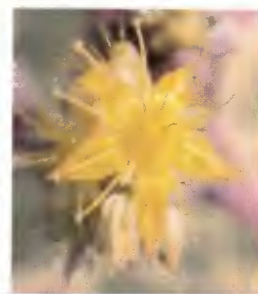
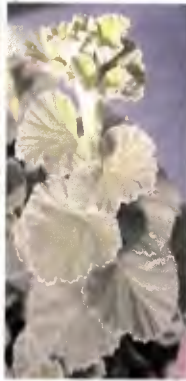


Machaerocereus gummosus
spiralis (center stem) showing
normals also



Gymnocalycium baldianum
monstrosum

SDCSS 2005 June Show Cactus Hilites

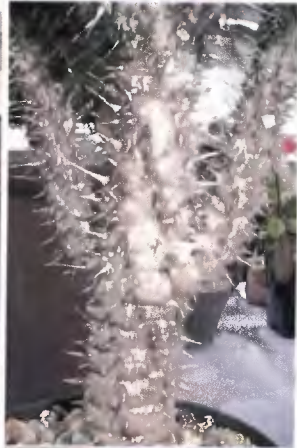


Pelargonium reneforme; Above: whole plant in interesting rock; center: new grown; right: closeup purple flower cluster

Right: *Sedum pachyphyllum* leaf cluster; Above right: flower



Below: *Adenium obesum* flower closeup; center: whole plant



Right center: *Euphorbia didierioides* hybrid thorny stem; below: closeup flower

SDCSS June 2005 Succulent Flowers



Composite Photos Credit: Tim Nomer

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

Espinas Y Flores is the newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Incorporated. P.O Box 33181 San Diego CA 92163-3181. Published monthly with the exception of the combined May-June issue (11 mailings per year) Newsletter circulation is approx. 275 with 20-30 issues going to educational institutions, botanical societies, cactus & succulent nurseries, local publications, related natural history events & exhibits and other interested groups and organizations. Subscriptions are \$15.00 per year (individual), \$5.00 each additional family member same household, bulk mail within the U.S.A.

Opinions expressed in articles and editorial comment are solely the opinions of the author or the editor and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the SDCSS, the Board of Directors or the organization as a whole. All material submitted to the *Espinas Y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content. All material contained in the *Espinas Y Flores* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations (unless permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the article). Please send one copy of the reprinted material to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the express consent of the editor is prohibited.

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

San Diego, CA
Permit No. 737