

ESPINAS Y FLORES



Allen Clark submitted this magnificent photo of an Aloe sp. blooming in the snow on Table Mountain outside Cape Town, S.A. The snow occurred in June, which is the height of their winter season.

HAPPY HOLLIDAYS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY INC.
AFFILIATED WITH THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 12

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH, NOON
ROOM 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Sunday, November 27th,

Season's Greetings, everyone!

What a great turnout we had for our regular November meeting! An action-packed, program heavy day was enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to have enough time to stay through the entirety of the day's programming; plant sales were beyond exceptional as usual, and our attendance was as strong as ever. We are all so lucky to have so many gifted individuals in our ranks- I often wonder if there's any group of plants someone in our society doesn't have first-rate experience growing, be they succulent or not.

Remember we won't be having a regular meeting this month, so we can enjoy the fellowship of this wonderful and diverse society during our annual Holiday Party. This is a catered lunch, and all members will receive at least one gift plant as well by attending, so be sure to sign up in advance (last month's EYF has a sign-up form), or call if you want to show up at the last minute. There are costs associated with this sort of festivity, so there is a nominal attendance fee for members, slightly more expensive for non-members.

There is one "pot-luck" exercise during our annual holiday party, and that's our *sweets and desserts* table, which is traditionally filled pot-luck style courtesy of our member-

ship. If you can make the time and effort to bring in something to share, we can all get stuffed on sweets and goodies while we enjoy our world-renown plant auction and plant-exchange!

Sometimes I think my plants are smarter than I am, especially this time of year when they are so far ahead of the seasonal bell-curves of temperature and light changes. How many years have I acknowledged winter-growers get triggered by just a couple nights of sub-60degF temps and that would be the best time to offer them a wake-up drenching? Quite a few! How many times have actually accomplished this? Not one that I can remember. Seems I usually find myself reacting more than acting, no matter what the conscious idea might have been. These fancy vegetables are smarter than I am!

Our next regular meeting will be in room 104 of the Prado at Balboa Park on Saturday, January 14th, 2006 at 1:00pm. We will be announcing our annual slate of plant talks, programs, field-trips and etcetera at that time. Please let anyone on the board or myself know if you would like to give a plant talk or program, have an idea for a field-trip or a special event you would like the SDCSS to participate in, and we'll be happy to consider it! Just remember:

Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

--Author Unknown

Warm wishes, Mark Fryer



HOLIDAY PARTY GIFT EXCHANGE

This part of our party is strictly voluntary. If you wish to participate, please bring a nice, well-grown plant or plant-related item and put it on the table in front. One item will be selected to start off the auction at the end of the meeting. The member who brought that plant will be the first to choose from the remaining items. As each item is chosen, its giver will be next to select a gift. So.....bring the nicest gift you can to make this feature of our party memorable and special!

HOLIDAY PARTY – 12:00 NOON

POT LUCK DESSERTS
LUNCH PROMPTLY SERVED at 12:30 PM
SPECIAL PLANT EXCHANGE
DISTRIBUTION OF GIFT PLANTS TO MEMBERS
MINI-AUCTION
(NO LIBRARY and NO PLANT SALES)

WE'RE HAVING A TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY BUFFET MENU:

Roast Turkey
Sage Dressing
Mashed Potatoes with Giblet Gravy
Tossed Green Salad
Fresh Vegetable Trays
Cranberry Sauce
Rolls with Butter
Coffee, Tea, Soda, Beer, Wine

MEET THE MEMBER

"ME"

By Pam Badger

Though I had earlier announced there would be no further interviews this year, I thought it would be fun to do a bonus interview - print only - with myself! I have very much enjoyed getting to know some of our members this year through the interviews, and we need an article for the December Newsletter so here goes... It is the day after Thanksgiving and Lee, my long time spouse and partner in various plant businesses, as well as the designer of our landscape is out of town so I decided to focus more on our history with cactus and succulents and the journey we have traveled with them.



Espinas y Flores: How did you get involved in growing succulent plants?

Pam Badger: Wow! that was a LONG time ago. In the early 70's Lee and I were living in San Francisco and plant stores were a big thing - seems they were opening on every corner. Our local store (Sheriff Danny's Plants) had some very cool cactus which had caught my eye. We didn't have much money so thought we would go search out where the plants came from and found a nursery in San Jose called Cactus Macs. Being overwhelmed by all the variety, and knowing nothing about them, we bought what we thought was a great deal - a whole bowl planted with some beautiful

silver plants. They turned out to be jumping cholla cuttings, which weren't even rooted!

EYF: What happened next?

PB: Well, we learned quickly, getting guidance from Sheriff Danny and reading more about the plants. Lee had roots in San Diego where we learned the best plants came from, he made some trips down, meeting Bob Taylor and getting together with a friend from down here to start a business - The Cactus Kid. We would buy plants bare root in San Diego, bring them to San Francisco, pot them up and sell them wholesale to all the plant stores.

How did that work out?

PB: It was great fun and the plants were much in demand. We started making wooden boxes to plant the cactus in - manufacturing them first in the dining room of our flat out by the beach, then moving to the basement and taking over the back yard. In 1973, I met a guy from Sacramento who was big in the plant store thing and wanted to open a plant store in the City. He offered to fix it all up if I would run it. This was lots of fun - and another outlet for the cactus. I remember driving around the City and seeing our boxed cactus in sunny windows all over town.

EYF: We understand you end up moving out of the country to grow cactus - how did that happen?

PB: That's kind of a long story - I'll try to be brief... It started when we got evicted for having, as our unenlightened landlord put it, "too many cactus." Remember how the business had grown around our flat - well the landlord took us to court and got us evicted. We found a house right around the corner with a very cool landlord, Sal Salamanca - a man from Nicaragua, who said we could have all the plants we wanted. He watched us over the next couple of years working the plant businesses and listened to us dream about going to a warmer climate with inexpensive labor and growing the cactus ourselves to send back to the US. One day he said his family had land in Nicaragua - we could all move there and grow the plants. Wow, rarely do you get a chance to have this kind of dream come true - so we went.

EYF: How did that work out?

PB: It was quite an adventure. We sold

most of our collection and sales stock, keeping the best to send down for stock plants. We bare rooted the plants, soaked them in malothian and prepared them to be inspected and shipped once we arrived. We loaded up a big truck with stuff to start a nursery and life, took my brother to help with labor getting started and headed south. We stayed for over two years (my brother left after a few months) and learned what would grow and what would not. We started shipping Tillandsias back to raise money and found some local cactus and succulents to propagate from cuttings. We never did ship cactus back but did make little cactus gardens which we sold to the grocery stores there. This was in 1977 & 78 and unfortunately there began to be quite a bit of civil unrest which ended up in



a civil war - so we decided it was time to come back to the States.

EYF: Sounds traumatic! would you go if you had it all to do over again?

PB: In a flash! I loved the adventure and living in a completely different culture. We lived out in the country, much like the na-

tives - hauling water out of the well, growing our own food, long siestas every day. Something to do when you are young though, and I did not like being in a war zone there at the end.

EYF: Did you get back to growing cactus when you returned.?

PB: Not right away, it took a couple of years to get back on our feet. We did smuggle a few of our prize plants back and started collecting even as we were living in a tiny apartment in Escondido. I started graduate school at SDSU and Lee was back working in the engineering field so we moved to a little place in San Diego near State. Soon we had a little cold-frame in the backyard and the succulents were started taking over. The landlady was starting to look at us funny so we decided to move to our current house in Spring Valley, which we were able to buy and never have to worry about being evicted because of the plants again!



EYF: So you now have a succulent landscape?

PB: It was something I'd dreamed of for years. The many gardens I had visited over the years made me long for a yard of my own filled with these amazing plants that I could walk around and tend whenever I wanted. It is a dream come true

EYF: What do you like best about your garden?

PB: Watching it change - through the sea-

sons and over the years, it is never the same and there is always something happening, whether that is an unexpected bloom, new growth or even a plant dying - it 's all part of the cycle of life.

EYF: What are your favorite plants?

PB: I do love cactus - feros, melos, notos, mams. I have a collection of cereus that I put in the ground that are starting to look very cool. I love the big Pachypodiums in the landscape - they remind me of the boojums of baja. I also love the succulent, drought tolerant orchids... That is a hard question!

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

PB: It wasn't funny at the time, but I bet we are the only people to ever be evicted for having "too many cactus." It just cracks me up!

EYF: How did you get involved in SDC&SS?

PB: In the late 80's some friends of ours who live out in the desert invited us to a meeting, it was very fun. I think Joey Betzler was president and I liked the way he ran the meeting, including many of the members and making us feel welcome. I'm not really sure when we started coming regularly but soon were much involved in working at EarthDay and showing plants at the June Show. This is such a great Society and I feel privileged to be a part of it!

Grand Opening H. Warren Buckner Cactus & Succulent Garden

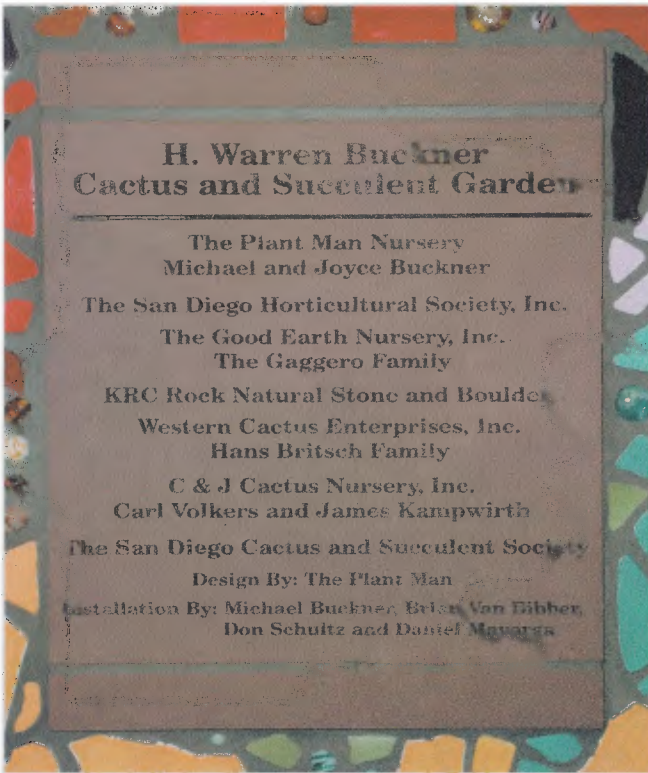


CUYAMACA COLLEGE

By, Pam Badger. Photos by Mark Fryer

On November 15, a balmy Fall evening in East County, a beautiful new Cactus and Succulent Garden was formally opened. As SDC&SS had donated funds towards this project we had been invited to the opening ceremonies and it was fun to see many members present to honor Warren Buckner - a pioneer in the area of water conservation and

long time member of our Society. In amongst the many in attendance



were Petra Crist, Mark Fryer, Elizabeth Glover, Susan Hopkins, Spencer Maze, Jurgen & Bette Menzel, Chris Miller, Rick Plant, George & Jerry Plaisted, and John Williams. Also present was Hans Brischt and his family and of course, Michael & Joyce Buckner and Warren & Virginia Buckner. Michael designed and did much of the work on the garden

and I heard he had just finished with installation the day before!
It is a wonderful garden with lots of big specimen plants and creative rock work. It is set off by some colorful mosaic work depicting the colors and critters of the desert. It was wonderful



maintenance, and irrigation. I encourage all of you to visit this wonderful resource for gardening in our dry climate. And check out the new jewel of a cactus garden!

to see Warren honored for all he has done to promote water conservation for many years.
This Succulent garden is part of a much larger Water Conservation Garden sponsored by local water districts located on the grounds of Cuyamaca Community College in Rancho San Diego. The garden features many ideas and educational exhibits including information on garden design,



Also Known as...

By: Sue Haffner, from "The Cactus Corner News"

Oh, those fun-loving taxonomists - no sooner do we get comfortable with some plant's name than they jump in to change it.

GRAPTOPETALUM BELLUM (AKA = *TACITUS BELLUS*) : This little plant, which has the most spectacular flowers of any others in the Crassulaceae, was discovered by Alfred Lau in 1972. Originally called *Tacitus bellus*, it has been justifiably popular in the plant trade. It was found in a mountainous area, altitude 4,800', on the border of Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico. The compact 2-inch rosettes lie almost flat to the ground, and its clusters of magenta-pink flowers appear in May and June.

In 1981, the Huntington offered *Tacitus bellus* "Superstar" as one of that year's ISI plants (no. 1289). This was a selfed seedling that appeared in the Huntington's collection. It has larger rosettes, greener leaves, deeper red flowers which may appear more than once a year, and has prominent bracts on the flowering stems. It may be that this is the form now most found in commerce. This plant's affinity to *Graptopetalum* was noticed early on, and it was placed in that genus about 15 years ago. Of course, dealers still sell it under its old name, as that's the one most of us know - and, anyway, the nurserymen are as reluctant as we are to change their labels.

Culture of this plant is fairly straightforward, though it needs more shade than others in the family. It is said to

withstand temperatures down to 20. The tightly-packed rosettes are attractive to mealy bugs.

REBUTIA CANIGUERALII (AKA = *SULCOREBUTIA RASUCHII*) : This is a well-known species in cultivation, in spite of its slow growth rate. It appears in several forms - purple-bodied, green-bodied, gold-spined, etc. Its flowers are bright magenta-purple.

All *sulcorebutias* are found in Bolivia, at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 feet. Plants are usually spherical, have long narrow sunken areoles with curved or flattened spines, and tuberous roots. They tolerate higher temperatures and more sunlight than *rebutias*, but cannot withstand as much cold. The tuberous roots make them more rot-prone, if watering is careless.

Curt Backeberg set up *Sulcorebutia* in 1951 to accommodate a group of species that were somewhat different from *Rebutia*. Controversy erupted almost at once about this new genus, as well as the closely-allied *Weingartia*, as Backeberg was a notorious "splitter". Were these morphological distinctions enough to justify a new genus? Apparently not, as current taxonomists (mostly "lumpers") have slam-dunked all the *sulcos* and *weingartias* into *Rebutia*. The true believers can complain all they want, dig in their heels, engage in rear-guard actions, refuse to change their labels, set up a web site, etc., etc. But, when it comes down to it, you should just enjoy your plants. And the plants don't care what we call them (or do they?)

THE LIBRARY CORNER



Dear Friends,

The present system of “organizing” books for the library is not working and is frustrating many people. Thus, it’s time for a change. Today we are going to talk about how the Dewey Decimal System is used to organize library information. Our precious library and her users will truly benefit from this method of organizing books, making it easier to arrange and retrieve them.

The system is properly known as the Dewey Decimal Classification System and the Dewey Decimal Number is generally thought of as a book’s “call number.” A book’s call number is really a unique address, similar to your zip code + 4 used by the Post Office for identifying a specific location. The call number is made up of two parts: (1) the Dewey Decimal Classification Number and (2) something known as the “Cutter Number” or “book number.”

Now Dewey employs ten main classes that are divided and further divided and divided some more in an effort to progress from the general to the very specific. “Dewey” uses numbers exclusively, with the decimal point helping to refine specific divisions. “Cutter” makes use of an alphanumeric code made up of letters, numbers, and more letters. They work in tandem to arrange books in a common sense way.

Now if all this sounds a little complex and scary, the thing that makes it easy to implement and fun to work with, is the fact that one need only follow along “digit-by-digit” to make use of the system and know how to locate a book. Digit-by-digit is the key. The “Dewey” system lumps materials on the same subject together to make items easier to find on the shelves.

So we are going to develop and implement call numbers for the books and other materials in our library based on the “Dewey” system. By deweying this our library will be a sight to behold and a joy to use. No more frustrations, no more confusion. So bear with us as we get our library in order.

Your lovely librarians,
Jan and Phil Kent

UPCOMING EVENTS

2005

October 15 : Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies Fall Seminar/ Dallas Arboretum/ 8 am - 5 pm /contact Harold Messmore at 972-313-1710 or Messmore97@aol.com for more info.

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

November 2nd: Epiphyllum Society Meeting; LA Arboretum; Tim Nomer will give talk on Digital Photography of Plants – Taking Good Pictures, Organizing and Cropping Pix, Framing & Making Displays If you missed this talk two years ago at OCCSS, and can make it, you're welcome to stop by.

November 12th: SDCSS General Meeting & Plant Sales

December 10th: SDCSS Holiday Party, details in this issue.

2006

Feb 11th: San Diego CSS Winter Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park; sdcss.com

April 8 & 9th: South Coast CSS Show & Sale, at So. Coast BG, 26300 Crenshaw, PV; 310-832-2262

April 22 & 23rd: South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale; same addr; info call: 310-831-1209

May 6 & 7th: Sunset CSS Show & Sale, Veterans Mem. Ctr, 4117 Overland, Culver City 310-822-1783

May 21st: Huntington Plant Sale, 10-5pm, Huntington BG, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino; 626-405-2160

May 21st: Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale; Los Angeles County Arboretum; 310-831-1209

June 3 & 4th: San Diego CSS Summer Show & Sale; Room 101, Casa Del Prado, SD; 619-477-4779

June 10th: Gates CSS 29th Show & Sale; Sale: Sat, Sun 9-4; Show opens 1pm Sat. after judging; Jurupa Mountain Cultural Center; 7621 Granite Hill; Glen Avon: CA 909-360-8802

June 30: July 2nd: CSSA Annual Show & Sale – Huntington Gardens, Plant sale June 30, July 1st, 2nd; Show July 1st, 2nd; Huntington BG, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino; 626-405-2160 or 2277

June or July? LACSS Show & Sale at Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, CA info: 818-363-3432; Set in lovely community garden, just off 101 freeway a couple exits west of 405. Will probably be combined with bromeliad society show.

Aug 19 & 20th: 21st Annual Intercity Show & Sale at the LA County Arboretum; Largest Cactus & Succulent show in world; Long Beach, LA CSS and SG CSS clubs work together on this show. Info 818-998-9306

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Standing Committees & Sub Committees

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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
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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 submission 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.