

# ESPINAS Y FLORES



## May Program

### **Botanizing in Madagascar**

**A not to be missed Program presented by Guy Wrinkle**

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

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SATURDAY MAY 12TH 1:00 PM & JUNE 3RD, 4TH 2006, (SEE DETAILS INSIDE)  
ROOM 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK

# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

*Easter Sunday, 2006*

**G**reetings!

Another fantastic meeting was enjoyed by all in attendance this April with our own Kelly Griffin and Peter Walkowiak giving nice short talks on "Agaves and kin" and "Gymnocalycium" respectively. Russell Wagner, our speaker for the day, combined two programs into one on the spur of the moment, and seemed to thrill the audience with his travelogue and insights with the various plants focused on in his talk. Once again, our over-burdened table of brag plants, benefit drawing plants, and exchange plants kept stride with an exceptional collection of plants for sale. I know I'm not the only one present who couldn't resist "just a few more goodies" for the collection.

Thanks to everyone who makes our regular monthly meetings tick; Joe Kratz, Jeff Harris, Jan and Phil Kent, Chris Miller, Tom DeMerritt, all the plant vendors, George Plaisted, and everyone on the regalement and welcoming committees. A special welcome to Judy Walkowiak for showing up early to pitch in and help greet people at the door.

A few things percolating that everyone should be made aware of as soon as possible:

**Field Trips:** We're planning now for next year, besides Huntington/CSSA oriented events, our own Joe Kraatz came up with idea of doing a day-long field trip over to the Anza Borrego and going on an off-road desert excursion via an outfit called "California Overland", who agreed to a much discounted amount if we can get enough members committed to going. You can learn more about their tours at the May meeting as Joe will bring along some brochures. They have an "under construction" website at: <http://californiaoverland.com/> if you're eager to get a glimpse in advance.

For some reason it got overlooked last year, but for everyone who does a Plant of the Month talk, or a program, and is a regular SDCSS member in good standing, we would like to reward your volunteer efforts by paying your admission to this year's Succulent Plant Symposium, usually held in September at the Huntington. This event is usually a day-long lecture series relating to some technical aspects of succulents, their habitats, and/or current or

*Cover Photo: Guy Wrinkle*

*Haworthia limifolia- A new form the Paris Dam in Natal which is now in the process as being formally described. It is somewhat like variety striata and never offsets, at least not in nature.*

*President's Message Continued.....*

ongoing scientific research on various plants. Usually there are a number of lectures followed by an evening presentation and mid-day rare-plant auction. We will update you all as it gets closer, and hope to see a good number of SDC&SS members in attendance!

Well it's a full issue, so there's no point in me rambling on about the horticultural delights and nightmares I've been experiencing on a daily basis now for the past few months. Suffice to say I'm reaching the point of exhaustion chasing around trying to keep enough water on hungry babies waking up thirsty and trying to harden off seedlings without dehydrating them to death in the mean-time.

Here's hoping all of your plant adventures are as stimulating and exciting as you want them to be, and we all enjoy the abundance and glory of a wonderful spring and summer growing season!

Mark Fryer



Euphorbia corollata



*As featured in the San Diego Union,  
Julian Journal and Borrego Sun  
"Explore the Amazing Anza-Borrego  
Desert in Authentic Open-air Military  
Vehicles!"*

*Two, Four and Eight Hour California  
Desert Adventure Tours  
Overnight Excursions  
Special Events and now featuring:  
Julian Area Wine Tasting Tours!*



**Brag Table Winners for April 2006:  
Judge: D. Russell Wagner**

**Succulents**

1st - *Gasteraloe hybrid*

Mark Fryer

2nd - *Euphorbia milii*

Elibet Marshall

2nd- *Pachypodium succulenta* var.  
*griquense*

Peter Walkowiak

3rd- *Caralluma soelenophora*

Mark Fryer

3rd- *Aloe hybrid collection*

Kelly Griffin

**Cactus**

1st- *Astrophytum 'Super Kabuto'*

Mark Fryer

2nd- *Gymnocalycium bruchii*

Chris Miller

3rd- *Notocactus buenecheri*

Peter Walkowiak

3rd- *Gymnocalycium baldianum*

Mark Fryer



Here are some sites you all might enjoy: Joe Kraatz

Eating agaves:

<http://www.recordgazette.net/articles/2006/04/21/entertainment/03entertainment.txt>

Desert plants and wild life symbiosis:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/123450>

Fucreas:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/123450>

The Agave Page. Great photos:

<http://www.succulent-plant.com/agave.html>

Incredibly beautiful cacti and succulent photos:

<http://www.terrageria.com/pictures-subjects/desert-plants/>

**The due date for submission of articles (Plants of the Month) & Information on the Program/ Speaker will be the meeting preceding the intended issue (approximately one month ahead of time). The due date for letters, regular columns "brag table" winners and the Presidents Message will be one week later. All submissions are to be made to the Editor.**

# THE LIBRARY CORNER



**H**ello to all our fine feathered friends. This is Janis Kent and I'm Philip Kent, and we would like to wish all our faithful listeners a bright and shiny San Diego morning. Good morning, Precious. Good morning, Darling. And a good morning it is! So where shall we begin today? Well, I think I'll start (sounding of coffee pouring) with a donut and a bagel. Ooooo, me too. Here you are, Dear. Thank you, Darling, you're a wonderful Husband. Why, thank you Dear, and you are a wonderful Wife!

It's so nice now that Spring has come. It's beautiful. All the new flowers blooming and the plants start-

ing new growth. And all the new babies appearing around the lake. Oh what a blessing to see them, they're so precious. Yes, the baby Blue



Heron (he or she has so much energy and is just a little chatterbox). And the baby Wood Ducks are so cute, the baby Geese are so brave venturing out to swim, and the baby White Pelicans are such a sight to see. Yes, we could just go on and on. We've spotted a mating pair of Hooded Orioles. And Laura and Tom have a Mourning Dove nesting in a tall succulent alongside

their house. And Pam mentioned that she has a sweet little red-headed House Finch nesting in her yard. I'm sure it must bring her a special kind of joy to see it. Yes, Darling, it must. Pups of all varieties popping up everywhere.

Darling, that reminds me of something Dear Mr. Paul Steward mentioned the other day. Oh yes, that's right. He said, "For a very good discussion/opinion regarding the use of the terminology sub-species vs. variety, see Lymon Benson's 'Cacti of the United States and Canada.' It is located either in the preface or the introduction of the book. I do not have it available to me at this time but I know we have it in the library . . . . Cheers, Paul."

I so enjoy his insights and thoughtful comments. Yes me, too. I'll bet he's a cat lover. Without a doubt. We'll have to look for Mr. Benson's book. Do you think it's in the database? We shall see.

So Dear, what beauties do we have flowering around the yard? Oh, I love the big white flowers of the *Echinopsis hammerschmidii*. And I love the large lemon yellow flowers of the *Parodia leninghausii*. And the tiny little white and pink flowers of our two *Mammillaria elongata*. The tubular purple-red flowers of the *Coleocephalocereus purpureus* and the greenish-white flowers of the *Pilosocereus glaucescens*. And the white-striped, purple-violet flowers of the *Stenocactus crispatus*. The yellow spike flowers of the *Aloe elegans*. And the cute little red flowers of the *Euphorbia milii*. They remind me of the wing patches on the red-winged Blackbirds that flock around our feeder. Sometimes there will be 20 or more. It's remarkable to see the bril-



liant red streaks as they all fly by. Isn't it something that the colors in nature are repeated among the flora and the fauna? Yes Dear, it is truly remarkable.

Darling, have you seen the pups on the *Opuntia microdasys*? There are so many, I don't know how they will all fit together once they get bigger. Yes, it's so crowded and since it's the crested form, the leaves are wide and clubby. We'll have to watch it and see how it develops. Yes, that will be interesting. Also, have you seen the little snowball-like pups on the *Espositoa melanostele*? They've been growing since Christmas. That's appropriate.

You know, Dear, I think the sun here on the East Side is really accelerating the growth of the plants. Oh, yes, Darling, I know. The *Peruvianus monstrose* has three large arms like your biceps. They seem to have appeared overnight. Well, I have been taking my vitamins! And the *Oreocercus fossulatus*, well what can I say, it's amazing. The plant is going to be huge.

Speaking of huge, this is really big. You know, Hon, that powdery blue Echeveria, the one with the pointy leaves, well, the name of this particular variety is 'Blue Heron.' You don't say! Yes, like the new babes in the tree. Flora and fauna, how precious.

Well, until nest time,  
Your lovely Librarians J J

# GYMNOCALYCIUM...

## ONE HECK OF A GOOD.... DOG ! ?

By Pam Badger

In 1976 when Lee and I were getting ready to move to Central America to start our adventure in 'Cactus Ranching,' Lee got the wonderful idea that we needed a ranch dog to take along. On one of his trips to San Diego to purchase succulents for our business he came across what he considered to be the perfect dog. At one of the nurseries he visited he met a beautiful Great Dane, fawn in color, delicate and well behaved who had recently given birth to a litter of pups. Looking over the litter of six week old pups the girls looked much like their mother, however there was one male who was clearly bigger and chunkier than the others. In the course of a conversation with the owner, Lee learned that the sire of the pups was a St Bernard, which accounted for the size of this male puppy. Well, Lee fell in love with the puppy and though he was short on cash to make an offer, he had a truck full of beautiful cactus he had acquired at Western Cactus Grow-



ers. As the woman looked over the plants she was quite taken by a beautiful *Gymnocalycium saglione*, about 10 inches in diameter with a full ring of pink/white flowers - she fell in love with the plant and a deal was struck - one puppy for one plant.

Lee had not shared any of this with me so when he got back home in San Francisco he had quite a surprise for me. He told me to close my eyes and hold my arms out then placed the pup in my arms, with my eyes closed I could only think - 'why did he bring me a lamb?' I was quite surprised when the 'lamb' turned out to be a this amazing puppy. At six weeks he was over 25 pounds and when full grown tipped the scales at almost 200 pounds with all the height of a Great Dane and the girth of a St Bernard. After hearing the story of how Lee got him, we decided we had to name him Gymno! He was a great dog and a fine ambassador on our travels, never failing to draw a crowd of giggling children and amazed adults - many of whom thought he was a lion because of his

size and fawn coloring. So the genus *Gymnocalycium* always holds a warm spot in my heart when I think of Gymno - the awesome dog.

*Gymnocalycium* - the cactus genus are also wonderful and easy plants to grow. Native to Argentina, *saglionae* is one of about 35 known species in South America. It is a solitary barrel growing up to 12 inches in diameter and in habitat grows slowly to about three feet in height. Its pinkish white blooms appear throughout the growing season and are followed by red fruit making this a colorful plant much of the year. Commonly called "chin cactus" because of the globular tubercles from which sprout short recurving spines. The name is from Greek - *gymnas* meaning bare and *kalyx* meaning bud - referring to the glabrous flower buds of the species.



## A Few Words On Our Speaker

Guy Wrinkle teaches biology and related subjects such as human anatomy, genetics, molecular biology and ecology at the college level in the Los Angeles area of Southern California. In addition to this he runs a nursery in the same area which specializes in cycads, caudiciform plants, rare succulents and other exotics. He has traveled and done extensive fieldwork in these areas, including twelve trips to Africa and Madagascar, several to Mexico, Central and South America as well as several countries in Europe. Two of the trips to Mexico were to find special Bromeliads. Once to the Toluca area to find *Tillandsia super-insignis* and once to Michoacan to find *Hectia glauca*.

He also has written several articles of a botanical nature in various journals, written a book on cycad culture and gives slide illustrated lectures to horticultural and natural history societies. His lecture "Succulent Treasures of the Winter Rainfall Area of South Africa and Namibia" was given at the 2001 Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America which was held on Los Angeles California and his two Power Point presentations on the Science and Art of Growing Plants was given at the 2005 CSSA Convention in Phoenix Arizona. He can be contacted at:  
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# One of my favorite plants

by Peter Walkowiak

One of my favorite plants in my collection is *Adenium swazicum* var. *oleafolia*, (an intermediate form between *A. swazicum* and *.oleafolia*) When in college a friend of mine introduced me to pachyforme plants. I purchased this plant in 1982 in a 4 inch pot and have been growing this plant for 24 years. It is now 26 inches tall and 18 to 20 wide, this variety grows very slowly, only 1 to 2 inches per year. I have had a *A. swazicum* for 6 years and it has almost equalled my *v. oleafolia* in size. *A. swazicum* has a leaf that is 4 inches long, a flower to 2 1/4 wide and dark pink, while *v. oleafolia* has leaves of 1 1/2 to 2 inches and pink flowers 1 3/4 wide.

I find *swazicum* the easiest of the *Adeniums* to grow, especially here in San Diego. *Swazicum* goes deciduous, which greatly reduces the chance of grey mold fungus (*Botrytis*), in the winter. They are also quite cold tolerant, going down to 25 degrees here in Poway before damage starts to occur. If kept dry. They grow best where they will receive sunlight for most of or all day with plenty of heat. Flowering period is from early August to late November, a span of 4 months. Leaf drop occurs in mid October with only

flowers remaining for the last month or so. When in full bloom, Sept. to Oct., the flowers almost obscure the rest of the plant.

This year I am finally staging this plant for judging for the upcoming summer shows. I have been keeping it warmer this winter in the hope that it will be in flower for the June show. Note the seed pods, I crossed it with *Arabicum compacta* and *Obesa shada*, last year I crossed *v. oleafolia* and *v. swazicum* and now have seedlings for sale.



# One plant I like is *Echinocactus grusonii*

**O**ne plant I like is *Echinocactus grusonii*. Even though we see it in many gardens and other places around town, the *Echinocactus grusonii* is basically extinct in the wild. Its origins

are Mexico and it was very plentiful at one time. But, one day they built a dam and flooded the valley where it mainly grew, destroying its habitat.

intense here. When the sun shines on it, I really enjoy the richness of the golden color. Sadly, the bright golden spines darken with age

Now generally, the *Echinocactus grusonii* appears as a solitary plant, but sometimes you can find them as many-headed varieties with 2, 3, 4 or more heads. My understanding of the many-headed plant is that this develops from seed cultivation and that, like blue eyes and blond hair, is a genetic quirk. I really enjoy and treasure my *Echinocactus grusonii* which I have in both the solitary and quirky form. The solitary one is really big and magnificent. The many-headed one is just so cute.

Jan Kent

The *Echinocactus* (genus) *grusonii* (species) grows in the shape of a ball, but it is also referred to as a barrel. The *grusonii* has a very pretty dark green skin and yellow or golden-colored spines. Around the top of the plant the spines have fine hairs or a creamy-colored wool around them and form the shape of a ring that looks like a crown. The golden color is especially



# UPCOMING EVENTS

2006

**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

**Sept 2nd:** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, all day at HBG; These have been going on for years; There is a fee for this, they include tours of special areas, meal and plant auction. Renowned speakers from all over the world give talks.

**Sept 24th:** Long Beach CSS club annual auction at Dominguez Adobe, 18127 So. Alameda St, Compton, CA (Dominguez Hills)

**Oct 14 & 15th:** San Gabriel CSS Annual Show & Sale, at LA County Arboretum, exit Baldwin off 210, Arcadia, CA. And be sure to leave time to tour the grounds, it will have cooled down this time of year.

# Espinas Y Flores

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## Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Conservation: Kelly Griffin  
Education & Exhibits  
Brag Table: Kay Quijada  
Plants of the Month:  
Mark Fryer  
Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Chris Miller  
Winter Show: Phil Kent  
History: Terry Parr  
Liaison  
Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins  
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Kelly Griffin  
Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig

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Picnic: Laura & Tom DeMerritt