

Volume 41 Number 9

October 2006

# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

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



*Program: Global Warming*

Saturday October 14, 2006 at 1:00 pm

Room 101 Casa Del Prado  
Balboa Park, San Diego CA

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 18, 2006

Greetings!

No one got seasick, no one was abducted by pirates, it didn't rain, and I think pretty much everyone had a good time on our first ever harbor cruise as picnic event! My kids were pretty excited, and I did notice a few older kids seemed to be having a pretty good time, too. Funny thing to be as far removed from cactus and succulents as we were, and yet we all seemed to have a good time. Now if we can get a cruise down to the gulf islands maybe we can combine cactus sightseeing with our annual September picnic. Huge kudos to Joe Kraatz, Chris Miller, and Pam Badger for all their hard work in organizing and coordinating this year's picnic!



Meanwhile, as we are having a mild Santa Ana condition, I'm finding so many of my winter-growing things waking up hungry, and the summer growers just keep cruising on the heat and irregular (now) watering. "Must get my oils in order," I keep chanting to myself as I peruse the Echinocereus and Mammillarias that will be wanting to go limp and dry in the next month or two for a month or two. I am ready on a few species of the winter-flowering Mamm's, and some other things. Aloes, Adromischcus, and Anacampseros are all getting thirsty already. I was just noticing a nice crop of Massonia waking up and unfurling it's warty leaves. Wow, I have some serious loads of seeds to clean for October sowing!

There's been so much going on the past couple months, it will be great to get back to a regular meeting in Room 104 in October. I'm really looking forward to the presentations from Dr. Cooley, Ms. Kym Hunter, and Michael Buckner. I know it's probably going to be too much for a quick meeting, but global warming is such an important topic. I hope everyone comes away with a better understanding of the issues we're all facing, and sense of empowerment over the things we can do to have a positive impact.



Several of us who gave plant talks last year were treated to this year's Succulent Plant Symposium at the Huntington Botanic Gardens in early September. The range of

*Cover Photo: Cochemiea poselgeri by Juergen Menzel. Taken at the Baja Garden of the Wild Animal Park in early August, 2006.*

lectures, garden tours, and plant sales were absolutely breathtaking, and it was a great opportunity to see friends old and new. I enjoyed the ethnobotanical slant apparent in this year's lectures. There were also some interesting new findings presented on the theory of evolution specific to the genus *Puya* (which parallels a lot of the current thinking on the cactaceae radiating north from South America), and specific to the Sonoran desert. Our own Jeff Moore gave an awesome presentation on his "Underwater" Succulent gardens, a presentation we're hoping Jeff will do for the SDCSS this coming year. The symposium is always a long day of succulent appreciation, but so well worth the cost of admission! Just remember that if you agree to give a POM talk on either cactus or succulent, you will be reimbursed for your entry fee!



Speaking of Plant of the Month, I'm so pleased to announce that Ric and Marilyn Newcomer have agreed to take on this monumental task for next season, it sounds like we're going to have an exciting slate! Huge thanks go out to Ric and Marilyn for their professional input and always awesome knowledge about cacti and succulents!

We also owe some huge congratulations to Kelly Griffin on his recent marriage!! And but also, enormous kudos are due for his stalwart coordination of our monthly programs over the past years, his input and efforts will be sorely missed for the next year while the board tries to fill this task.

This past weekend we had a presence at the Fall Home and Garden Show at Del Mar, thanks to Joe, Chris, Steve, Sara, and everyone else who chipped in. I'm sure they're all going to be sore and tired so we should all be generous with tenderness and caring! Thanks you guys, you are really the best!!

If you're sitting back and feeling like you're kind of on the sidelines, maybe you are! Get involved! We have volunteer opportunities all over San Diego County, and are always looking for people willing to commit to helping maintain public gardens in Balboa Park, Point Loma, The Wild Animal Park, Palomar College, Quail Botanic Gardens, and others! Even if all you can commit to is a few hours once every other month, you'll find a huge demand for your service! We also have plenty of needs around the SDCSS. Remember, what you get out of your experience with the SDCSS is directly proportional to what you put in to it!



All my best to everyone!

Mark Fryer  
September 2006

# F.Y.I.

(For Your Information)

**HEARTLESS PLANT THEFT:** For those who have not heard, Rudy Lime, our long time member and Succulent Bonsai Master, had numerous of his large specimen show plants stolen from his property in the past month. You are all familiar with his style and even some of the plants in question, as he has shown them numerous times at our shows and meetings. If you see any plants you suspect may be Rudy's - in stores or nurseries, at the swap meet, at garage sales or even on line, PLEASE contact Lee Badger 619-589-1456 as he is working with Rudy and the police to try and recover the plants. THANKS.

**CSSA REPRESENTATIVE:** Kelly Griffin has moved on and the position of CSSA Affiliate Representative is open. Please see Mark Fryer if interested.

**SNACKS :** Last names N through Z - please bring snacks for the October meeting.

## JULY BRAG TABLE WINNERS

### CACTUS

1ST Place: Mammillaria mazatlanensis

**Peter Walkowiak**

2nd Place: Gymnocalycium marsoneri

**Jerry & Candy Ganer**

3rd Place: Mammillaria fraileana

**Peter Walkowiak**

3rd Place: Tephrocactus mandragora

**Allen Clark**

### SUCCULENTS

1st Place: Tillandsia ehlersiana

**Kelly Griffin**

2nd Place: Adenium swazicum

**Peter Walkowiak**

2nd Place: Pachypodium lamerei variegata

**Kelly Griffin**

3rd Place: Dorstenia foetida x crispa

**Lee Badger**

3rd Place: Eulophia petersonii

**Ken Blackwood**

## AUGUST BRAG TABLE WINNERS

### CACTUS

1ST Place: Lobivia oxyblatria

**Peter Walkowiak**

2nd Place: Lobivia marsoneri

**Peter Walkowiak**

2nd Place: Mammillaria mazatlanensis

**Andrew Wilson**

3rd Place: Mammillaria multidigitata

**Andrew Wilson**

### SUCCULENTS

1st Place: "God of the Agave" Poptillo technique artwork

**Alex Cardenas**

2nd Place: Operculicaria decaryi

**Rudy Lime**

3rd Place: Tromotricha engleriani

**Lee Badger**

3rd Place: Unacarina abbreviata

**Phyllis Flechsig**

# Global Warming

By Art Cooley

Global Warming is arguably *the* environmental issue of the century. *National Geographic's* editor-in-chief recently prefaced a feature story on the issue by saying, "I can live with some cancelled memberships. I'd have a harder time looking myself in the mirror if I didn't bring you the biggest story in geography today." *Business Week* (Aug 04), *National Geographic* (Sept 04) and *Time Magazine* (Apr 5, 06) all have feature articles on the effects of global warming. And only those who have been asleep for a long time will be unaware of Al Gore's movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Finally, global warming is becoming a major issue in the mainstream press and in the public's mind. The country needs a national conversation.

To start that conversation, seeing *An Inconvenient Truth* would be a good start. Tim Flannery, Director of South Australian Museum and Professor at the University of Adelaide, has written *Weather Makers*. It has received excellent reviews including one in the Union Tribune (see their website).

San Diego's Mission Valley Rotary Club has set up a separate organization called Understanding Climate Change with a website ([understandingclimatechange.org](http://understandingclimatechange.org)) which explains the science behind the climate change issue, much of which is written by scientists from UCSD and Scripps.

Environmental Defense has been a leader in helping craft policies that would reduce greenhouse gases. Its website ([environmentaldefense.org](http://environmentaldefense.org)) offers a fun quiz on your knowledge of global warming, a way to calculate your carbon footprint and links to many articles about both the science of climate change as well as legislative initiatives around the country. California is a national leader in these legislative initiatives.

Glaciers are melting at an increasing rate, ice caps are shrinking, carbon dioxide levels are at their highest levels in the last 660,000 years, wildlife is moving to higher latitudes and higher elevations, storms are increasing in intensity and frog species are going extinct. This is but a short litany of the serious effects caused by excessive carbon burning. It is imperative that we, as citizens, inform ourselves of the effects of climate change and ask our political officials to pay attention and to devote their energies to this colossal global experiment before it is too late.



South Cascade Glacier, Washington

Art Cooley, naturalist, *Lindblad Expeditions*; co-founder, *Environmental Defense*; Adjunct Prof. *Stony Brook University*.

# Remembrances of Paul Steward

By Stan Yalof

Paul died on August 7<sup>th</sup>, age 50. He was my friend for a dozen years. I was enriched by his wry humor, his botanical knowledge, and his computer know-how.

He was the editor of *Espinas et Flores* for several years, ranting when inputs weren't received and plugging in fillers for gaps. As his illness progressively incapacitated his other abilities, editing of this paper became increasingly important to him.

Previously he was president of the Palomar CSSA for two years, turning out its fine newsletter. As a computer wizard he helped me put together some complicated articles.

He was involved in the garden at Palomar College as well as the Wild Animal Park (WAP) "Baja" Garden. I first met him at the WAP about a dozen years ago. He had absorbed the job of coordinator of volunteer and set up his office within the greenhouse. He was there five days a week, laying out tasks for about ten of us. Fellow volunteers included Frank Thrombly, Carl McLeod, Rudy Lime, Alex Cardenas, Bob and Helen Stanley, and others whose names are not recollected. Together we watered, rebuilt the greenhouse, planted, removed alien plants and trees, put in irrigation, propagated thousands of plants, and raised money with plant sales.

Frank Thrombly donated his *Ferocactus* collection to the garden, which we augmented with our own collecting trips and trades. Paul was behind this, having been intrigued by this group of plants. There were no books on these plants but Paul located a Ph.D thesis written decades before by George Lindsay. He suggested a visit to George in the bay area. Four of us, including Rudy Lime, and Reese Brown flew up and met with George, a marvelous-marvelous man. With his help Reese and I updated, augmented, and published his work, thanks to Paul's instigation.

Paul and I became involved in defending Alfred Lau against unsubstantiated rumors of pederasty. The CSSA had issued a ban on Lau lectures. Lau and Charley Glass and Woody Minnich are the remnants of Chihuahuan desert plant explorers, but Lau exceeds them with a long plant discovery list. Paul sniffed out documents and witnesses and we put together a thick portfolio of evidence in Lau's behalf.

Paul also was a fine cook. When at the WAP he created great feeds for an extended family of volunteers using a portable grill and paraphenalia. Other memorable cooking adventures took place in motorhome travels and elsewhere. In his last months he disclosed a passion for Kalmata olives with ciobatta bread. Over time we brought 15 pounds of olives for his delection. Other cooking stories are reserved for a private telling.

To the end he was cared for by his mother Gloria and comforted by visiting friends and his beloved Rhodesian Ridgeback, Keeper.



# LIBRARY CORNER

By Jan and Phil Kent

Hello to all our fine feathered friends. This is Janice Kent and I'm Phillip Kent and we would like to wish you all a bright and shiny San Diego morning. Well Autumn has finally arrived and I must say that I do love the color change of the leaves. While lounging under our big Mulberry bush, sharing some of our favorite things, a big breeze blew off some of the leaves. So it looks like I'll be doing some leaf raking soon. But that's okay for I do love that big Mulberry bush.

By the way, the Library is coming along nicely, but we have to remind all of our Dear Friends that there are a number of Overdue Books out. So, please do us a favor and scour your cabinets and bookcases and, Heavens-to-Betsey, bathroom shelves, and uncover those Overdue Books and return them by the next meeting or two. Yes, it's very important that you do. For next time we may have to publish a list of the Overdue Books and their Borrowers !!! We'll call it The Scarlet List and you don't want to have your name on it.

Okay, so, before we continue with today's Show, I think we should tell our Fine Feathered Friends about the little contest we are going to hold. Yes Darling the one we talked about last night over dinner. It will be fun huh. Uh huh!

Okay, so listen carefully everyone and here is what you have to do. On a small piece of paper, print very neatly, the name of the town where the world famous Chaffee Zoo is located, and the Genus and species of the Fruitless Mulberry Tree. Put your name on it, too. Then give them to your Lovely Librarians at the SDCSS meeting in October. The first Gal and Guy whose name we pull out of a hat, Jan's Pillbox and Phil's Cowboy, with the correct information, will win a really super terrific prize. Ooooo I love surprises. Almost as much as you love Kittens, my Love. Yes, I adore those little faces. I can feel the pulses quicken already as they scour the Internet and their bookshelves for the necessary stuff. Yes, they'll be the envy of all their friends. I know I'd be positively green (and pink, like a Lilly Shift). Yes like a Lilly Shift.

Before we conclude today, we want to mention that we recently lost two lovely, lovely acquaintances. One was the delightful and charming and selfless Mr. Paul Steward, a man with whom we shared many, many enjoyable conversations, and some of life's little secrets. And the other was our wonderful little neighbor, the handsome Black Swan, ( *Cygnus atratus* ), who was always looking so enchanting in his black formal wear. We will certainly miss each one's special treats.

So until nest time, these are your lovely Librarians wishing you happiness and success in everything good that you try to do.

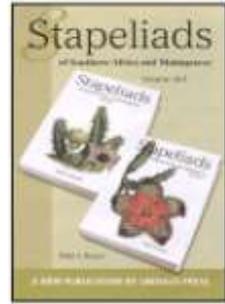


# BOOK REVIEW

## STAPELIADS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

Peter V. Bruyns

Umdaus Press, Capetown 599 pages



This is a gorgeous and comprehensive two-volume monograph on a group of plants which have been called the orchids of the succulent kingdom.

The author includes classification tables, and discussion of the morphology of plants, as well as their pollination biology. A section on biogeography includes tables, color habitat photos, and material on the ecology of these plants.

Also extremely helpful is a section on the cultivation of these plants, including growing media and repotting techniques, propagation from seeds and cuttings, and the management of diseases. Most helpful is the fact that the cultural information is NOT keyed to what works in South Africa or the United Kingdom.

The author has included charts and tables throughout the work. First is a systematic key for the entire tribe of Ceropegiae, to which these plants belong. The genera are discussed alphabetically, each including a description, history and analysis, as well as distribution and habitat information.

Each species discussed includes the diagnostic features, relationship to other species, and history of the discovery of the species. Valuable supplements include fine line drawings of plant and flower, photos of different known varieties and forms, and distribution maps.

Volume I follows the introductory material with detailed discussion of the different genera from *Australluma* to *Orbea*. Volume II continues, with *Pectinaria* through *Tromotriche*, plus a few hybrids.

This is an invaluable work for anyone with an interest in this fascinating group of plants.

Reviewed by Allen Clark

# WHAT'S THE STATUS?

## The Power Line Through Anza-Borrego Controversy

By Joe Kraatz

I am sure that by now most of our membership is aware of SDG&E's plan to build a high voltage power line from southern Imperial County to western San Diego county. This line will go through the Anza-Borrego park on 130 foot towers. To say that this project is becoming controversial is an understatement! SDG&E claims that this link is needed to bring power from renewable energy sources to growing areas in the western part of San Diego county. It will also be able to supply power on those days that the state is suffering from a heat wave so that customers do not experience brown outs or black outs. The cost is huge, estimated at 1.5 billion dollars.

Proponents of this line say that it is necessary to avoid blackouts so as to maintain stability in the availability of electrical power to western San Diego county.

Opponents to the line sight what will happen to the Anza-Borrego desert. These 130 foot towers and lines will be visible from more than 90,000 acres of the park. Roads will have to be built to each tower site with the resultant destruction of habitat. The claim that the energy will come from renewable resources is highly suspect. Geothermal has been tried in Imperial County and so far is not been economically feasible. Many believe that SDG&E really wants the lines so that Mexico will build polluting power plants across the border and sell this power to SDG&E cheaply. Also, if western San Diego county needs power then that is where power plants should be constructed. Cost of three power plants is less than this line from Imperial County.

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society has spent thousands of dollars over the past few years to help purchase inholdings in the park so as to maintain its integrity and habitat. Anza-Borrego is considered the most important desert park in the world. It's diversity compares to no other. For years the park has been constantly assaulted by those who do not believe in ecological integrity such as off-roaders and those who believe that tract homes would be an asset. Never mind the fact that the Anza-Borrego has only one water source and that is it's aquifer.

There was an interesting letter to the editor in this mornings San Diego Union: 'our Anza-Borrego is our Grand Canyon, how would Arizona feel if someone wanted to build such an eyesore and ecologically unsound power line across the Grand Canyon?'

The Sierra Club has asked our club to join with them in opposing this line. At the October 14th meeting we are going to see if there is a consensus by the members present to get involved in this effort.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2006

**Oct 14 & 15th:** San Gabriel CSS Annual Show & Sale, at LA County Arboretum, exit Baldwin off 210, Arcadia, CA. Be sure to leave time to tour the grounds.

**Oct 14 - 15:** Garden Festival at the Wild Animal Park.

**Oct 21: 9am-3pm** Cuyamaca College Water Conservation Garden California Friendly Gardening Festival. Purchase drought tolerant plants, learn about the newest irrigation technologies, and hear talks on water-wise gardening, home composting and more. *Free Admission and parking.*

**Oct 28: 9:30am-11:00am** San Diego Horticultural Society free mini workshop, "Landscapes minus Lawn". 9601 Ridgehaven Ct., Kearney Mesa. No reservations required.

**Nov 4: 9:30am-4:00pm** San Diego Horticultural Society Fall Plant Sale, Bernardo Winery, 13330 Paseo del Verano Norte, Rancho Bernardo

**Dec 9th:** SDCSS Holiday Party, noon until we have too much fun!

## 2007

**Feb 10th: 9:00am-4:00pm** SDCSS Winter Show and Sale.

**May 25-30:** CSSA 32nd Biennial Convention at the Seattle Airport DoubleTree Hotel. Reception May 25, presentations May 26, 27, 29, 30 and field trips May 28.



*Pachycereus pringlei* at the Wild Animal Park Baja Garden. Photo courtesy Juergen Menzel.

The due date for submission of article (Plants of the Month) and 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 President's Message will be one week later. All submissions are to be made to the Editors.

# San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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## Standing Committees & Sub Committees

### Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Kelly Griffin  
Brag Table: Kay Quijada  
Plants of the Month: Mark Fryer  
Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Phil Kent  
Winter Show: Phil Kent, Terry Parr  
Historian: Terry Parr  
Library: Jan Kent & Phil Kent, Allen Clark, Chris Miller  
Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell  
Seed Exchange: Kelly Griffin

### Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: Collette Parr  
Mailing: Jean & Bill O'Daniel  
Annual Sales: Chris Miller  
Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt  
Monthly Plant Sales: Jeff Harris & Joe Kraatz  
Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted  
Benefit Drawing Table: Terry Parr, Lee Badger  
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz  
Programs: Kelly Griffin

Reception: Ethyl Standish  
Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Susie White  
Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

### Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins  
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Kelly Griffin  
Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig  
SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted  
SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover  
SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller  
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