

Volume 42 Number 7

August 2007

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



**Program: Cacti and Succulents of
San Diego County
by Jon Rebman, Ph.D.**

**Plant of the Month: Strange, Weird and One
of a Kind by Ric Newcomer**

**Saturday August 11, 2007, 1:00pm
Room 101 Casa Del Prado**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Summer is upon us and I just love having all these plant projects going on everywhere. It's finally been warm enough for the epiphytes to take off wherever their adventitious roots will take them, the cacti are flushing flowers in waves of growth and reproduction, and the seasonal succulents are slowly but surely beginning to act like they're alive after our freezing event of last winter. A few things have found new meaning and purpose in my compost pile after months of hoping things might change for the better, I am finding the necessity of more space for things to grow bigger outweighing the tenacious amateur scientist in me. Such a climate we get to grow in!



Mark's closeup of an errant stem of *Echinopsis* 'Haku Jo'

Last month's meeting was a real hoot! Thanks again to Tom Knapik for his impromptu presentation on this year's trophy winners, excellent to have everything laid out like that. Don Hunt and Peter Walkowiak's presentation on one of my favorite groups of Euphorbias was interesting and well thought out. Paul Maschka's program on carnivorous plants was seriously inspiring and very detailed, my son Justin has quite obviously been bitten by the plant bug! Some special thanks are due to Allen Clark for reinventing our library and making it super-user-friendly, his work with the library committee is really paying off. Kudos-!!

Keep your eyes open for picnic information which is officially now streaming in. We are super-lucky in having Chuck and Jerry of Rainbow Gardens willing and able to host this year's shindig on September 8th. We're renting a bus for the first 55 folks who want to ride in leisure to and from, we're running around getting auction plants together, and I know everyone in attendance will be privy to a special occasion. Certainly looking forward to it! We can always use extra hands in checking in at the bus, cleaning up afterwards, et- cetera, so if you

August's meeting is sizing up nicely with Ric Newcomer offering a Plant of the Month talk on new and unusual cultivars he's been collecting over the past years, coupled with our primary talk by Jon Rebman of the SD Natural History Museum discussing cactus and succulent plants of San Diego County. Jon's probably the leading expert on succulent plants of our region, and his field experience is extensive and thorough from the Sonoran desert of Baja California to the Mojave Desert region of southern California.



Lobivia haageana

It's never too early to start planning, and with our hosting the biennial CSSA convention in 2011, now's the time to start! Peter Walkowiak is gathering various and sundry offers for convention space, and we can use all the help we can get in getting our ducks in a row for an event of this size. If you have experience in planning and organizing an event of this size (we can expect between 1000 and 1200 participants if our forecasts are accurate), or if you would like to gain some experience in helping out with something of this nature and size, please contact Peter Walkowiak or any other board member to see where we're at and where we hope to be 6 months from now. I hope every member of the SDCSS will be involved in some way or another, and that all of us have a chance to participate!

Best wishes,

Mark Fryer

Speaker for August

We are most fortunate to have as our speaker this month Jon Paul Rebman, Ph.D. The title for his presentation is: 'The Cacti and Succulents of San Diego County'. An American botanist, naturalist, traveler, explorer, author. He received his B. Sc. Degree at Millikin University, Decatur, IL - and his M. Sc. Degree at Southwest Missouri State University. His Ph.D. degree in botany was obtained at Arizona State University, studying under Dr. Donald Pinkava. Dr. Rebman is currently the curator of Botany at the San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego. His special interest is cacti, especially the genus Opuntioideae of North America - and most especially of Baja, California.

Joe Kraatz

STRANGE, WEIRD & ONE OF A KIND

By Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

This is a program I have been looking forward to presenting. Over the years we have seen the larger genus groups discussed in our 'Plant of the Month' program. However, there are many (over 100) smaller genera comprised of one to five plants. These seem to get overlooked. In most cases, these are some of the most beautiful, strange and weird plants. This program will include both cactus and succulents.

I will be bringing in many of these so that you will be able to judge for yourself. I feel that this program will benefit the newer members as they most likely have not seen these plants at shows and sales, and yes, even we 'older' members can enjoy plants we may not have in our collections.

Some of the plants that I will bring in are over 50 years old, or at least I have had them that long. Many come from the old timers that are gone now and I'm sure some of them were collected back in the 50's and 70's. Some of them are too large to bring in, but I will list them here as worth while collecting. You will see many others in our October 'Meet the Member' program when Marilyn and I will interview each other and show you pictures of our collections and greenhouses.

Acanthocalycium - Brazil
Acanthocercus - Mexico to Central Am.
Acharagma - Mexico
(*Coryphantha*, *Escobaria*?)
Arrojadoa - Brazil
Austrocactus - Chile
Aztekium - Mexico
Blossfeldia - Argentina
Browningia - Bolivia, Peru, Chile
Cintia Knizei - Bolivia
Cohemia - Mexico
Denmoza - Argentina
Echinomastus - USA , Mexico
Epithelantha - USA

Geohintonia - Mexico
Lasiocercus - Peru
Leuchtenbergia - Mexico

Lophophora - USA , Mexico
Mila - Peru
Neolloydia - USA , Mexico
Neowerdermannia - Peru, Chile
Oroya - Peru
Ortegocactus - Mexico
Polocyphora - Mexico
Polaskia - Mexico
Pygmaeocereus - Peru
Strombocactus - Mexico

Although this list is by no means complete, it gives you an idea of the smaller and overlooked genera. After going through our collections, this is what I came up with.

Now to address the succulents ~ there are so many wonderful succulents, I really just got into these in the last few years. Marilyn has been collecting many of these for some time now, so I will borrow a few of hers to bring in too, 'with her permission, of course'!

Abromeitiella - Argentina, Bolivia
Aloinopsis - South Africa
Astroloba - South Africa
Bombax - Mexico
Bowiea - South Africa
Calibanus - Mexico
Carruanthus - South Africa
Diosorea - South Africa
Didierea - Madagascar
Dolichos - Namibia
Frithia - South Africa

Greenovia - Canary Island
Haemanthus - South Africa
Mitrophyllum - South Africa
Kedrostis - Africa
Nycteranthus - South Africa
Operculicarya - Madagascar
Pseudolithos - Somalia
Trichocaulon - Namibia
Trichodiadema - Africa
Welwitschia - Angola
Xerosicyos - Madagascar
Zygosicyos - Madagascar

Here again this list is not complete but will give you an idea of the overlooked succulents that can add beauty to your collection. I will admit that many will be difficult to locate but the search is well worth while.

Marilyn and I are still looking for Plant of the Month volunteers for cactus or succulent in 2008. Several have stepped forward but we still have some openings. I will read off a few suggestions at the August meeting. Please take a turn ~ it's a great way to learn more about your plants from the research you will do and from your fellow members participation.

I look forward to seeing all of you, and please ask questions. I will answer them if possible and if I can't, I'm sure another member will.



Calibanus hookeri

More weird and wonderful next page! →



Echinocactus grusonii crest

Pseudolithos miqirtinus



Ipomoea holubil

Book Review

ARIOCARPUS et cetera,
The special, smaller genera of
Mexican cacti, By John Pilbeam &
Bill Weightman

Reviewed By Ric Newcomer

In my opinion only a grade of excellent can be given to any and all publications by the authors. This book is no exception!

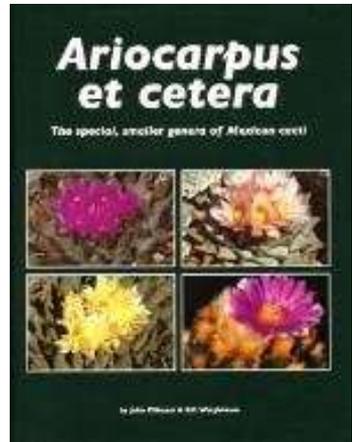
The introduction is clean and to the point with Mr. Pilbeam expressing his view-points on name changing, and in some cases, complete genera being moved into another. To quote Mr. Pilbeam, 'my plant labels remain unchanged'. As do mine.

His comments on cultivation, as always are very easy to follow, but Here again he is writing from the UK. His checklist is complete and easy to follow and continues into the subgenus.

Photographs by Bill Weightman are as always beautiful and clear. I enjoyed this book and will look into purchasing it as it has everything I am looking for in these genera. Mr. Pilbeam takes you into the sometimes overlooked and the difficult ~~ or perhaps I should say the 'challenging' genera.

When I was asked to do the review on this book, I was very excited to do so, but didn't realize until I got home, that this book covers my program in August, which is, 'Strange, Weird and One of a Kind'. These are the plants I am bringing in and discussing. Timing is everything!

If you enjoy the unusual, then you will enjoy this book. Thank you Allen, for the opportunity to read and review this work by John Pilbeam and Bill Weightman.



San Diego County Plant Atlas Project: better understanding our native succulents and other local plant species too

By Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D.
Curator of Botany
San Diego Natural History Museum

San Diego County, California is an internationally recognized hotspot of biological diversity that is being threatened by urbanization. Yet, the floristic diversity has not been fully documented, leaving agencies and land managers with a limited amount of scientific data along with mounting responsibilities for conservation and informed decision-making.

The San Diego County Plant Atlas is a multi-year project designed to improve scientific knowledge of regional plants through better documentation of the flora of San Diego County by training volunteers from the community (parabotanists) how to properly survey, collect herbarium-quality voucher specimens, and record field data about plants in natural areas throughout the County. Consequently, this project will foster the public's awareness and respect for local natural history, increase our scientific collections of the regional flora, and provide essential botanical data on the distribution, variation, and diversity of the plants found in San Diego County.

Since its inception in August 2003, the project has developed a website (www.sdplantatlas.org) to assist parabotanists and provide an outlet to the public, designed an efficient system for online data submission and delivery of specimens to the Museum, added over 26,000 new voucher specimens for the County (including more than 200 new county records and one putative new taxon) that are fully databased and with exact geographic coordinates, created online floristic search processes and resources for mapping plant distributions. The Atlas project has secured various financial grants and contracts to support its development and operations, has conducted 33 training classes, and has recruited over 500 volunteers to facilitate the project.

Member News of Note

By Steve Harris
Photos by Collette Parr

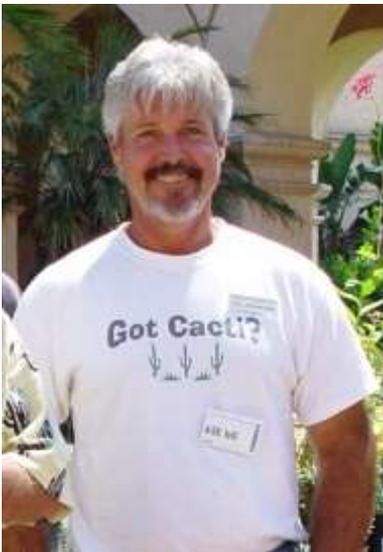
One of our members, Andrew Wilson, contributed an article on mesembs titled *Boys of Summer* to the July – August 2007 issue of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, published by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

I found Andrew's article to be informative and entertaining with just the right amount of technical discussion. It is really a pleasurable read, and I hope everyone has a chance to peruse his article in the *Journal*.

Great job Andrew! The editors will be bugging you often for articles now that we know you have such a gift for prose!



Andrew Wilson



Peter Walkowiak

Also, the July – August 2007 issue of *To the Point*, the newsletter which comes with the *Journal*, has a picture from the CSSA Convention in Seattle this past May on page 113 which features our CSSA Affiliate Representative, Peter Walkowiak. Thanks for representing the SDCCS! Peter is looking for volunteers to help him with the planning of the 2011 CSSA Convention, which will be hosted by our club here in San Diego.

BASICS OF BOTANICAL DESCRIPTIONS

By Steve Harris

So, you have checked out one of the various scientific tomes from our SDCSS library, or you have really gone over the edge and actually bought one for your home library. What on earth do all of these names and dates mean?

Some entries have a whole series of names, generally in ascending order of the year the name was first used. Most genus and species, especially in the world of cactus, have been pulled back and forth, with each new generation of botanists seemingly determined to re-write the entire classification scheme. Some come full circle, back to the name the first pioneering botanist assigned.

According to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the scientific name of every plant must be accompanied by the name of the first author to have adopted it after 1753, the year in which Linneaus' *Species Plantarum* was published, which was the first botanical encyclopedia and based on the binomial system of nomenclature established by Linneaus' earlier work, *Systema Naturae*.

The name (or abbreviation) which follows the binomial is that of the author who classified the species. If a species is later re-evaluated and transferred to a different genus, the original species name is retained and the original author's name appears in parentheses, followed by that of the author responsible for the reclassification.

Britton and Rose established the genus *Neomammillaria*, which they considered distinct from the genus *Mammillaria* established by Haworth, and included in this genus the species *lantana*. The formal description was ***Neomammillaria lantana* Britton and Rose 1923**. The genus *Neomammillaria* was subsequently abolished, and Orcutt placed *lantana* in the genus *Mammillaria*. Thus, the formal description becomes ***Mammillaria lantana* (Britton and Rose) Orcutt 1926**.

Unless the name first attributed to a species is invalidated, all subsequent names do not supersede it and are merely considered synonyms. In the case of our *Mammillaria lantana*, it is now not recognized as a distinct species and is now classified as an earlier described species, ***Mammillaria supertexta* Martius ex Pfeiffer 1837**.

Continued next page→

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.

In *The Cactus Family* by Edward F. Anderson, this species is found as:

***Mammillaria supertexta* Martius ex Pfeiffer 1837**

Neomammillaria lantana Britton and Rose 1923, *Mammillaria lantana*
(Britton and Rose) Orcutt 1926

Mammillaria martinezii Backeberg 1952

Thus, all of the newer names are now considered just synonyms of the name originally attributed in 1837, coming full circle in about 170 years!



July Bragg Table Winners

Judged by Andrew Wilson

Cactus

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Gymnocalycium schickendantzii*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Lobivia saltensis*

3rd Place, Jerry Garner – *Gymnocalycium pflanzii alpipulpa*

Succulents

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Uncarina rosetana*

2nd Place, Rudy Lime – *Portulacaria afra*

3rd Place, Allen Clark – *Echevaria havasii*

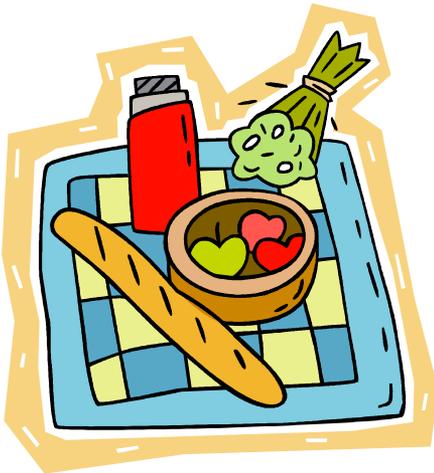
Please address correspondence to:
The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
P.O. Box 33181
San Diego, Ca 92136-3181
Website: www.sdcss.com

September Picnic

It's hard to believe but it is already time for our September outing in lieu of our regular meeting. This year the date is Sept. 8. We will be meeting at Rainbow Gardens in Vista at 10:30 AM.

There will be hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixings, along with chips, sodas and water. Attendees are requested to bring side dishes: salads, appetizers, deserts. If you wish you may bring beer or wine and we will have coolers with ice to keep your libations cold. No hot side dishes, please.

We have chartered a bus with a pickup point at the old Naval Hospital in Balboa Park for those who would prefer not driving (Park Blvd and Presidents Way) at 9:30 AM returning approximately at 5 PM. The bus is 55 passengers and will be filled on a first come basis at \$16.00 per person. For those bringing side dishes and/or plants for the auction there is plenty of room in the luggage storage on the bus (just be sure to put in a box so there are no tipping or spills). There is a mail-in form in this issue of Espinas or you may register and pay at the August meeting. Please be aware that this is definitely on a first come basis so mailing is highly recommended. For further information please phone me at 760-758-7042.



Besides the picnic there will be a tour of the nursery. Also Rainbow has a wonderful used book store with some real goodies. There will also be a plant auction.

Joe Kraatz

September bus trip mail-in payment form:
Please mail this form to:

PICNIC

C/O SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PO BOX 33181
SAN DIEGO, CA 92163-3181

You may also bring this form with your payment to the August meeting. Please remember that the bus is on a first come basis and must be paid for at time of making reservations. If you have any questions please phone Joe Kraatz at 760-758-7042.

Name/Names _____

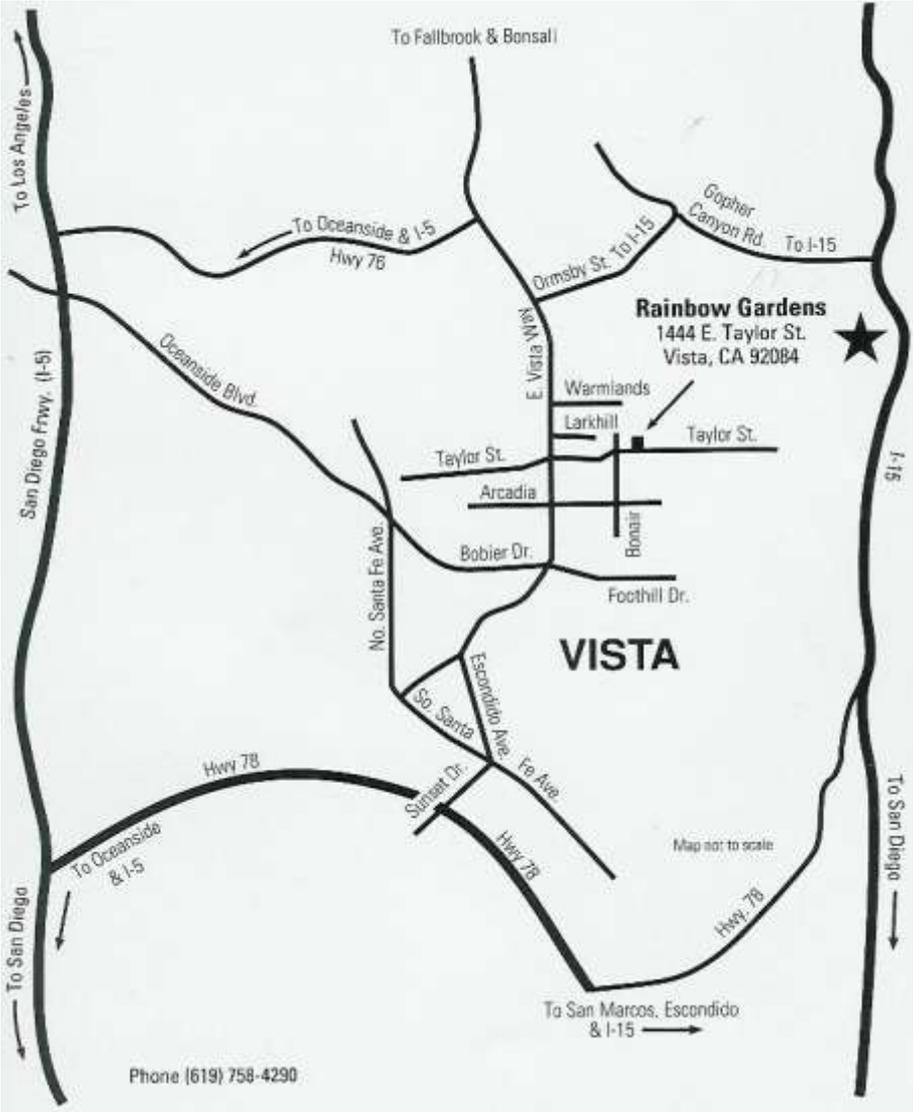
Contact Phone Number: _____

Number riding _____ X \$16.00 per person = _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Date of receipt of payment _____

Map to rainbow gardens For those driving to the OUTTING



UPCOMING EVENTS

2007

Aug 18-19: Intercity Show and Sale, L.A. County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall 818-368-6914.

Sep 2: Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium.

Nov 10-11: San Gabriel Valley CSS Show and Sale, L.A. County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

Nov 11: Borrego History Preservation Day, 9:00am-3:00pm, various locations in Borrego Springs, speakers and site visits, info:

<http://www.abdnha.org> or call the Borrego Desert Nature Center at (760) 767-3098.

Dec 1-2: Orange County CSS Show and Sale, 10:00am-4:00pm, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, info: 714-870-4887.

2008

Feb 9: SDCSS Winter Show & Sale.

FYI

(for your information)

PARKING ALERT: Just a reminder that the Dead Sea Scrolls are still on exhibit at the Natural History Museum and still attracting throngs of visitors. Again this month, you may want to arrive for our program a little earlier than usual to avoid the parking crunch.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The San Diego River Park Foundation and The Friends of Mission Valley Preserve are looking for interested volunteers to help with watering and general care of their native plant garden. The garden is located near Friars Road and Napa Street and close to the Morena trolley station. Their website is <http://www.sandiegoriver.org/MissionValleyPreserve.htm>.

AND MORE VOLUNTEER OPORTUNITIES: Chris Miller and her band of super hardworking gardeners are always looking for volunteers to help us maintain the Baja Garden at the Wild Animal Park. Please contact Chris for info.

SNACKS: Last names beginning with A through M, please bring a snack to share at the break.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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Susan Hopkins	(858) 272-8897	
Tom Knapik	(619) 462-1805	tkn1234@aol.com

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern
Brag Table: Candy Garner & Steve Harris
Plants of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer
Summer Show: Tom Knapik
Winter Show: Terry Parr
Historian: Terry Parr
Library: Allen Clark, Chris Miller, Don Hunt, Jeanette Dutton, Steve Harris
Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: Collette Parr
Mailing: Jean & Bill O'Daniel
Annual Sales: Chris Miller & Joe Kraatz
Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt
Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Pam Badger
Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted
Benefit Drawing Table: Terry Parr, Lee Badger
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz
Programs: Mark Fryer
Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak
Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Susie White
Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt
Hospitality: Sara Schell

Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Peter Walkowiak
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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