

Volume 42 Number 8

September 2007

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



IT'S SDCSS PICNIC TIME!

Rainbow Gardens Nursery

1444 E Taylor St, Vista

Saturday September 8, 10:30am

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and salutations!

Huge thanks to Jon Rebman and everyone in attendance last month. I was really inspired by Jon's talk about the plant atlases. During his talk I kept thinking that if you would have told me 10 years ago we would have projects like this going on, using 500+ volunteers accessing information over the internet and updating in real time each other's work all the while having access to full herbaria for confirmation, well, it's really amazing how fast things change when we apply technology.

Best wishes go out to Ric Newcomer who was willing to be with us, but had to deliver a kidney stone instead! We'll all be looking forward to Ric's presentation at a later date.

Everyone ready for a picnic? Unfortunately couldn't arouse enough support for leasing a bus from Balboa Park to Rainbow Gardens in Vista. We thought about gathering volunteers to rent 10 and 12 passenger vans to pick folks up from all directions, but have instead opted for the traditional phone tree and some scrambling to get everyone who wants to be there, there. Don't worry, everything will work out! We've got some interesting things in store and the plant/book auction should be a must-see! If you haven't been to Rainbow Gardens before, you're in for a treat! I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!

While we're talking about seeing each other, I hear a rumor there are a number of committees forming and some forward thinking plans being laid. Just think, you could go from being a passive participant to an active member with one simple decision! We have an enormous amount of volunteer opportunities, and there are no shortage of commitments that can be made for everyone's sake. The payoffs are multitudinous!



On the cover: Jeff Harris and Pam Badger get ready to demonstrate their barbeque skills. Photos of past picnics by Collette Parr.



Things in my collection this summer are just popping at the seams! I keep finding myself fascinated with new and unfamiliar plants, and lately it seems like there just aren't enough daylight hours to finish all the projects I begin nearly every day. Harvesting fruits from plantings five years old and thereabouts is

probably the neatest thing for me this year. Successes and failures are both tremendous opportunities for tactile experience and knowledge. Things I could have been told, read about, or even formally trained in are sprouting and flowering and germinating in my various growing conditions.

Looking forward to hearing from all of you,

Mark Fryer,
August 2007

*Mark's photo of
Tylecodon shaefferianus
in flower 8/17/2007.*



Corrections and apologies: In the August issue, Mark's photo of "Lobivia haageana" was actually Gymnocalycium armatum.

August Bragg Table Winners

Judged by Lee Badger

Cactus

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Luechenbergia prenceps*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Lobivia haulfenensis*
- 3rd Place, – Peter Walkowiak - *Mammalaria frailiana*

Succulents

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Euphorbia esculenta*
- 2nd Place, Rudy Lime – *Surrea pigmaea*
- 2nd Place, Pam Badger – *Agave nizardensis*
- 3rd Place, Mark Fryer – *Euphorbia posonii*

CACTUS GEMSTONE ARTWORK



Joe Kraatz submitted these pictures of very unusual, but relevant works of art:

“Today I was at the Gemological Institute to see their Tanzanite display. However, these two pieces really caught my eye. They are by a French artist, Pierre Touraine, from France who moved to the Southwestern United States in the 1930’s. He was so taken with the region that he changed his entire focus to southwestern themes. He died many years ago at the age of 76.

These cacti are of 24 carat gold with rubies and diamonds. One sits on agate the other on turquoise. The smaller is about 3" and the larger about 4". I had never seen anything like this. It was difficult to photograph because I couldn't use flash since they are in a glass case.”



ELECTIONS COMING UP

Board of Directors Nominating Committee

By Pam Badger

At the Board meeting on August 15, I volunteered to head the Nominating Committee for this year. The committee will also include Allen Clark and Peter Walkowiak.

The Board of Directors play an important role in our Society. They meet nearly every month with the Executive Board to keep the Society running. They oversee all the little details which come together in Espinas y Flores, monthly meetings, the library, annual picnic, Holiday Party, Web site, field trips, and the Shows and Sales in February and June. It may seem like all these events just happen but it takes lots of coordination, planning and creativity as well as team work and cooperation.



It has been my pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of volunteers who make all this work. If you are interested in becoming a part of this dynamic process, please come and talk to one of the nominating committee at the picnic or contact us by phone or email (our contact information is always on the back of EyF).

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates at the general meeting for approval at the October meeting and accept nominations from the floor (members must agree to be nominated) and elections will be held at the November meeting.

It is YOUR Society so if you are interested in what happens or want to see changes - get involved!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST MONTH...

DIRECTIONS TO the PICNIC

Since there was some confusion with the map provided in the August newsletter, Mark Fryer kindly provided these directions to September's get-together:

Rainbow Gardens Nursery
1444 East Taylor Street
Vista, CA
(760) 758-4290



FROM I-15:

Take Gopher Canyon Road Exit;

Go WEST on Gopher Canyon Road (up the hill) until it ends (approximately 4.5 miles) at East Vista Way.

TURN LEFT (South) on East Vista Way, proceed through the next two lights (approximately 2 miles).

Just before the third light (Arcadia) you'll see East Taylor Road.

TURN LEFT on East Taylor Way, nursery is on your left.

FROM I-5:

Take Hwy 78 East to Escondido Avenue

Go North (to Vista) on Escondido Avenue until it ends at East Vista Way.

TURN RIGHT on East Vista Way, proceed through numerous lights approximately 3 or 4 miles. Look for Arcadia Street (past Foothill Avenue /Albertson's Shopping Center on your right). East Taylor Street is the next street past Arcadia.

TURN RIGHT on East Taylor Way, nursery is on your left.

Please bring outdoor or folding type chairs if possible.

BASICS OF SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

By Steve Harris

Many species names are actually Latin words or epithets which describe certain characteristics of the plant. When you become familiar with what some of these epithets mean, it will be easier to make mental associations of the way a plant looks and the species name. Some common descriptive epithets in the cactus and succulent world are:

Alb, albi, albo, in compound words signifying white. *Cereus albicaulis*.

Albus, white. *Haageocereus albus*.

Argentatus, -a, -um, silver or silvered. *Lobivia argentea*.

Articulatus, -a, -um, segmented or jointed. *Opuntia articulata* (Paper Cactus).

Attenunatus, -a, -um, attenuated or pointed. *Agave attenuata*.

Columnaris, -is, -e, column in shape. *Idria columnaris* (Boojum).

Compactus, -a, -um, dense. *Corypantha compacta*.

Contortus, -a, -um, twisted. *Sclerocactus contortus* (Devil's Claw Cactus).

Discolor, of two colors. *Mammillaria discolor*.

Elegans, elegatulus, -a, -um, elegant. *Opuntia elegans*.

Elongatus, -a, -um, elongated or stretched. *Mammillaria elongata* (Lace Cactus).

Fasciatus, -a, -um, linked or bound together. *Haworthia fasciata* (Zebra Haworthia).

Ferox, vicious, having sharp thorns or spines. *Aloe ferox* (Cape Aloe, Red Aloe).

Fissuratus, -a, -um, fissured. *Ariocarpus fissuratus* (Star Cactus).

Flagelliformis, -e, flagellate in form. *Aporocactus flagelliformis* (Rat's Tail Cactus).

Floribundus, -a, -um, free-flowering. *Rhipsalis floribunda*

Fragrans, fragrant. *Harrisia fragrans* (Fragrant Woolly Cactus).

Gigantea, giant. *Carnegiea gigantea* (Saguaro).

Gracilus, -is, -e, graceful or slender. *Mammillaria gracilis* (Powder Puff).

Horizonthalonius, -is, -e, prostrate; flat. *Echinocactus horizonthalonius* (Eagle Claw).

Horridus, -a, -um, very thorny or prickly. *Ferocactus horridus*.

Humilis, -is, -e, very dwarf. *Aloe humilis* (Hedgehog Aloe, Spider Aloe).

Obesus, -a, -um, succulent; bloated. *Adenium obesum* (Desert Rose).

Ornatus, -a, -um, ornate. *Astrophytum ornatum* (Bishop's Cap Cactus).

Pubescens, downy. *Opuntia pubescens*.

Striatus, -a, -um, striped. *Peniocereus striatus*.

Superbus, -a, -um, superb. *Parodia superba* (Tom Thumb).

Tormentosus, -a, -um, very woolly or furry. *Kalanchoe tormentosa* (Pussy Ears).

Variegatus, -a, -um, variegated. *Aloe variegata* (Tiger Aloe).

Vulgaris, -is, -e; vulgatus, -a, -um, common; not rare. *Opuntia vulgaris* (Barbary Fig).

Species Descriptions continued:

This, of course, is just a sampling. There are many good references available in the SDCSS Library to explore the Latin roots to many of our species names. Several good references are available in the trade, if you are inclined to arm your personal library with a Botanical Latin book. My sources, as usual, were the excellent works *The Hutchinson Dictionary of Plant Names: Common & Botanical*, compiled by Harold Bagust, and *The Cactus Family*, by Edward F. Anderson.

Fyi (for your information)

ON THE MEND: Ric Newcomer sent along this thank you for thinking of him during his illness:

Would you please be kind enough to place in the newsletter a Thank You to the club for the get well card and good wishes because of my absence this month due to my surgery. We hope to see you all at the picnic and will reschedule my August plant of the month talk for next year. Again thanks to all.

Ric Newcomer



Echeveria gibbiflora var.
carunculata photo by
Sara Schell.

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

Website: www.sdcss.com

Book review

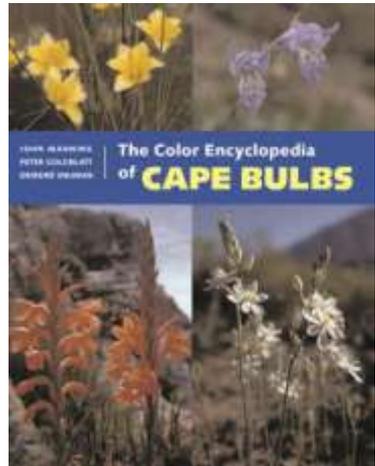
The Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs (Timber Press, 2002)
J. Manning, P. Goldblatt and D. Snijman

Reviewed by Andrew Wilson

The Cape Province of South Africa is a mecca for bulb enthusiasts. The richness of the Cape flora is well-known, particularly for its succulents and proteas, but its contribution to the world of geophytes is probably even greater. In this book we read that even with a conservative definition of Cape geophytes at 1183 species, this “represents the richest concentration of bulbous plants anywhere in the world”.

The authors are well known, not only for their prior publications on the South African flora and on bulbs of Africa, but also for their contributions to taxonomy. They cover the history, climatic and ecological changes as well as the propagation and cultivation of these plants. They describe each of the 1183 species with sufficient detail to enable identification by the knowledgeable reader. They also provide a very large number of high quality shots, not only of many of these species, but of the environments they come from. The writing is clear and consistent. Do not expect to find many interesting anecdotes to lighten the load. This is not a book of light entertainment but it is thoroughly readable and intended primarily as a reference. While not a book for the beginner, even a beginner will find much to enjoy in reading a few pages and thumbing through the color images.

The taxonomic changes that were wrought by two of these authors have led to complaints within the bulb world. The genus *Homeria* has ended up under *Moraea*, *Homoglossums* are now included within *Gladiolus*, *Synnotia* is now lumped with *Sparaxis*. Within several genera many species names have changed. This is not the place to discuss the rationales used for changing them but the reader can start with the index where those changes are clearly shown.



Continued next page →

Book Review continued:

Is there anything to criticize? Not much. Some line drawings would have been useful but, more important, here are descriptions that I found missing. The genera *Trachyandra* and *Bulbine* are not included because 'they are more usually treated by gardeners as succulents'. For this readership, on reading that line, I feel the need to add an exclamation mark! Geophytic perlargoniums are also excluded, presumably for similar reasons. Of all the exclusions, that of the *Oxalis* species, some 600 to 800 of them, is the most grievous. Had these three genera been included the claims for the richest concentration of bulbs in the world would have been even stronger. No explanation for their absence is given. I have heard from one authority that the *Oxalids* were excluded either because of taxonomic uncertainties or because the book was nearing 500 pages without them. In either case, it is an unfortunate loss, and one that reduces the value of 'encyclopedia' used in the title.

The book is well printed and solidly bound; it has clear text and quality images. The cover price is near \$60 but, at Amazon, I found it was obtainable for \$42 including shipping and, as an internet purchase, no taxes were applied. At this price it is excellent value. No other book exists with the level of detail that is provided.



Peter, Rob and Phil (back to camera) at the 2007 Intercity Show and Sale. Photo by Allen Clark.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2007

Sep 2: Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium.

Sep 18: San Diego River Coalition Anniversary Celebration, 5:30-8:30pm, Riverwalk Golf Clubhouse, Mission Valley. Info and to RSVP: richard@sandiegoriver.org or 619-297-7380.

Sep 29 & 30: Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies Symposium Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas. Info/registration: www.sdhortsoc.org or 760-295-7089. In conjunction with this event, the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon will be hosting free supplemental events on **Sep 28** starting at 10:00am. At 11:00am, the Garden will have a tour of the Cactus and Succulent Garden lead by designer Michael Buckner. Address: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon.

Oct 6: The Garden Festival at the Wild Animal Park.

Oct 13: California Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale, 11:00am-3:00pm (10:00am opening for members), Casa del Prado courtyard, Balboa Park.

Oct 27: California-Friendly® Gardening Festival, 9am-3pm, The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: www.thegarden.org or 619-660-0614.

Nov 3: San Diego Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale, 9:30am-4:00pm, Rancho Bernardo Winery, Paseo del Verano Norte, Rancho Bernardo.

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.

Dec 15: SDCSS Holiday Party

2008

Feb 9: SDCSS Winter Show & Sale.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

President: Mark Fryer	(619) 795-1020	kaktussy@cox.net
Vice President: Tom DeMerritt	(858) 270-5544	armonde@pacbell.net
Secretary: Christine Tratnyek	(619) 461-0737	cactuswren45@sbcglobal.net
Alt. Secretary Joe Kraatz	(760) 758-7042	plantnut@cox.net
Treasurer: Chris Miller	(619) 258-9810	c.miller@cox.net
Ex Officio: Pam Badger	(619) 589-1223	pambad1@mac.com

Directors

George Plaisted	(619) 583-9551	
Jean O'Daniel	(858) 486-9363	tu1@sbcglobal.net
Peter Walkowiak	(858) 382-1797	hciservices@gmail.com
Collette Parr	(619) 460-9111	collette.parr@cox.net
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

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 & Lynn Elliott

Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted

Benefit Drawing Table: Collette & Terry Parr

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

Editors: Steve & Kathy Harris, (619) 334-7200, steveharris3@cox.net & harriskd@cox.net. Please email both of us.

Webmaster: Tom Stiko, stiko@sbcglobal.net.