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ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



**Program: “Container-free Culture of Succulents;
Experiments in Laziness for Everything from
Geophytes to Pachycaul Trees”
by Tim Harvey**

Meet the Member: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

**Saturday October 13, 2007, 1:00pm
Room 101 Casa Del Prado**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

There seems to be a hint of Autumn in the air lately, it must be October. I'm remembering last winter and wondering whether some of my plants have been conditioned for a colder than usual winter, or weakened as a result. Some of the winter growing succulents are already off on a good stride. A lot of the Tylecodons are already finishing up their flowering, and a good number of Conophytum never seemed to fall asleep last summer. I've been feeling sort of guilty about hardening as many of the Aloes as I can all summer, a number of them seemed to find the record chill last winter much to their dislike. The cactus are all strung out, still flowering here and there; Lobivia still searching for spring, the Brazilians all coaxing themselves into full on growth now that their roots have been warm enough for long enough, and the desert dwellers wanting another heat wave with complimentary monsoons. For some reason hibernation sounds better than ever this year!



Hybrid Matucana madisonorum sport

How was our picnic? Well it would have been an absolute disaster without the aid and expertise of our wonderful and humble hosts Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams in the awesome succulent haven of Rainbow Gardens Nursery! Some special thanks to Art Cooley for helping to man the BBQ and get those burgers cranking. Kudos to the auction crew: Peter Walkowiak, Ed DeLollis, Lee Badger, Sara Schell, and everyone who donated plants, books, and related items. My apologies for those who had issues in getting there, and that we didn't manage to gather enough interest to rent a bus for the trip to north county, but we all certainly learned a lot about what worked and what didn't, next year is just around the corner!

On the cover: A small sampling of Ric and Marilyn Newcomer's wonderful collection at their Sun City home.

This month's meeting is set to be interesting; Tim Harvey presenting "Container-free Culture of Succulents; Experiments in Laziness for Everything from Geophytes to Pachycaul Trees". Tim's an exceptional horticulturist with a passion for succulent trees, he's devoted a lot of himself to traveling the globe in search of interesting plants, so we should be in for a treat! Add to this the already typically heavy duty meeting format of brag plants, plant of the month (members this month I think), benefit plant drawing, exchange, and plant sales, and a full day can be at your fingertips!



Picnic revelers



The auction (Photo by Collette Parr)

It's never too soon to start planning. The SDCSS board has almost unanimously decided to pursue making our hosting of the 2011 CSSA biennial as a "green" event, in other words, and event that will have as little negative impact on the environment as possible. As a personal aside, I find this sort of thinking to be very progressive and forward-looking, it is inspiring to think ahead four years to what the common practices may (or may not) be.

Don't forget parking in the park has become next to impossible at certain times of the day, so the earlier you arrive the better. There's fortunately no shortage of things to do around Balboa Park, so make a day of it if you can, and avoid the headaches and hassles so many were subjected to at our last regular meeting.

Can't wait to see you there!

Mark Fryer
September 2007

FYI
(FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

THANK YOU! Room 104 of Casa del Prado now has a new screen like the one in Room 101, thanks to the efforts of John Smeaton, Jeff Wright and Jim Wright of the Bromeliad Society and our own Tom DeMerritt. The screen was paid for by the Bromeliad Society and the Botanical Foundation. As many of you will remember, Room 104 was our alternate meeting place during the upgrade of Room 101 and is where our library normally resides.

TABLE LEFT BEHIND: A black table which folds in the middle was left at the Rainbow Gardens picnic. If this is yours please phone Joe Kraatz at 760-758-7042 and he will bring it to the October meeting.

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

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBIT AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM HAS MADE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR ALL OF US, BUT HERE'S A SUGGESTION TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN FIND PARKING NEAR OUR MEETING:

EACH MONTH, A VERY FEW OF US SHOW UP AT 8:00 A.M. TO SET UP ROOM 101 FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETING. ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO FIND PARKING TO ATTEND THE MEETING IS TO GET THERE EARLY WITH US, LEND A HAND WITH WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THINGS GOING, AND THEN GO AND ENJOY THE PRADO.

REMEMBER THAT THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS WILL BE OVER AT THE END OF DECEMBER. HOWEVER, OTHER MUSEUMS WILL BE HOSTING OTHER WORTHY EXHIBITS, SO PARKING WILL ALWAYS BE A CHALLENGE. VOLUNTEERISM SUCH AS THIS WILL LIKEWISE BE AN OPEN-ENDED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

Notes from our cssa representative

By Peter Walkowiak, Horticulturist and
2011 Convention Committee Chair

Raffle Notice : Westin Hotel Gift Certificates

The SDCSS is hosting the 2011 CSSA convention and we are in the process of site selection. The selection has been narrowed down to two hotels, the Marriot Mission Valley and the Westin Horton Plaza. The Westin is hosting the 2009 convention in Tucson at the Westin La Paloma Resort. The Westin is very interested in hosting the 2011 convention as well and have donated to our club two, two day gift packages. one for Horton Plaza [exp,12/31/2008] and the other for La Paloma, Tucson [exp. 9/302008]. These gift certificates have a value of \$500.00 and will be raffled off at our Oct. meeting. The winners will need to write a short article about their stay at these hotels that will benefit other members when they attend these conventions. Good luck.

Succulent Plant Symposium 2007

This was the second symposium I have attended at the Huntington put on by the ISI. The theme this year was One Hundred Years of Succulents, in celebration of the 100th year of the Huntington Botanic Garden. The talks focused on the evolution and development of three botanic gardens, the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Cape Town, South Africa by Ernst van Jaarsveld, the Ruth Bancroft Garden, Walnut Creek, Ca., given by Brian Kemble and the Huntington, with talks given by John Trager, Gary Lyons and Myron Kimnach. This was a well attended event, with many attendees from out of state or country. I highly recommend participating in these kind of events, there is lots of information and knowledge to be gathered, people to meet and network with. In addition to the talks, there are three catered meals, you can enjoy the gardens and library, take a tour through the conservatory and visit the nursery to purchase plants. The SDCSS will pay your fees if you write an article or do a talk. such as plant of the month. The club is always looking for articles and ideas for our newsletter and talks. I had a fantastic time this year as well as last year, my biggest regret was the lack of SDCSS members in attendance, just two, me and Kelly Griffin. I will be attending next year and I hope that many of you join me for a fun educational time.

MEET THE MEMBERS:

RIC and MARILYN NEWCOMER

By “Us”

In place of our usual 'Plants of the Month' articles and program, our October meeting will include a discussion and slide show of our gardens and greenhouses. We hope you will find this interesting as we discuss landscaping with cacti and succulents, the benefits of a greenhouse, cultivation, and increment weather. We experience all these things at our home here in Sun City on the southern edge of Riverside County. If you think you have 'weather' ~~ wait until you hear about ours! We have been married 16 years and our interest in plants varies as you will hear and see.



For four years Ric and I were responsible for bringing in the Cactus and Succulent of the Month at the Gates CSS in San Bernardino. This involved writing each article and bringing in and discussing many plants each month ~~ but we loved doing it. Also until recently, we were members of the San Gabriel CSS.

Ric started collecting cactus in 1956 when he purchased his first plant, a 25 cent *Mammillaria celsiana* at Handy Dandy hardware store. This was the start of his collection. In 1960 he met Roger Montana and the two of them started making trips into Baja and Mexico where they would team up with Hans Britsch, who would later start Western Cactus. On one of those trips Ric met Ed and Betty Gay with Charles Glass and Gil Tegleberg. They would become close friends and swap plants and stories. It was Gil who got him started in the South American plants, along with help from Argyll Smith. Ric's collection has many plants over 50 years old. His collection of Copiapos is one of the largest and most complete. Ric has other favorites including *Neoporteria*, *Astrophytum* and *Melocactus*.

Marilyn didn't go on trips to Baja with 'cacti legends' but instead raised 5 children, helped develop several avocado ranches in Fallbrook and had a keen interest in tropical plants and flowers. Thirty years later I lost my head over a die hard cactophile. He was so anxious for me to go to Cactus Nurseries with him and he would buy whatever I liked (which at that time were the white and yellow fuzzy Mammillarias!) When we got home he would put them on the shelves with his cacti. This went on for several months until I decided there was something wrong with this picture! I confiscated them and started my own collection. My absolute favorites are my Haworthias, followed closely by my Gymnocalyciums ~~ and then my Mammillarias. (and I love my Avonias too!)

We hope you will join us at the meeting and feel free to ask any questions.

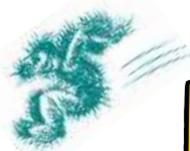


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OFF THE SHELF

By Allen Clark



Izzat © 1941



Well, folks...summer has been an active time for your library committee. Collectively, we have been participating in the work of the club, settling parental estates, firing kilns, landscaping our yards, replacing vehicles, and even managed to get in a little reading. Fantasy, British crime procedurals, P.G. Wodehouse and other mental floss provide a deserved vacation from library duties.

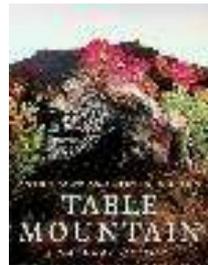
In the waning months of the year, we will be filling out the back issues of *Espinay Flores* and the *CSSA Journal* and having them bound. They will be stored in the built-in cases which the club acquired in room 104 some time ago. They'll be indexed and that index will be made available to the membership for use in a way we haven't decided yet.

Not all of the reading we've done has been escapist in nature. One of the impulse buys we made at the June show is reviewed below. This is very definitely a coffee-table book as opposed to a reference book, but is very definitely worth taking a look at and checking out of your club's library.

TABLE MOUNTAIN: A Natural History
By Anton Pauw and Steven Johnson
Fernwood Press, Johannesburg, 2002 reprint

Reviewed by Allen Clark

This reprint of a 1999 publication not just the flora of one small but spectacular part of South Africa, but also the geology, topography and habitat for birds, insects, reptiles and mammals.



The organization of the book is somewhat challenging in that it is not systematized in any particular way. Specific plants, creatures and microhabitats are discussed in sidebars throughout the book, which leads to a disjointed reading experience. However, the photography is breathtaking.

If anyone is planning a trip to South Africa, this volume is worth taking a look at to help plan your itinerary.

CACTI AND SUCCULENT CONSERVATION

By Steve Harris

In 1976, the international community came together in The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, known as CITES. More than 130 nations now participate as signatory members. More famous perhaps for international regulation of the trade of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, CITES also lists cacti and succulents in the current appendices.

You may have noticed the reference to CITES in the plant descriptions found in many of the field guides and other books about plants. Generally, the botanical description will include reference to CITES Appendix I, II, or III.

Appendix I organisms are considered to be at serious risk as a result of international trade, thus trade in these organisms between signatory countries is banned.

Appendix II organisms may be threatened by excessive amounts of trade, but trade is permitted with appropriate licenses, various kinds of monitoring, and certain controls.

Appendix III is used by countries that want to control trade in certain organisms not currently listed in either of the other appendices.

Approximately 50 cactus species are listed in Appendix I of CITES because of serious threat by not only trade, but loss of habitat and other reasons, as well. It may come as a surprise that ALL OTHER CACTI species are listed in Appendix II.

In the United States, we also have the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which lists plants and animals as endangered (bordering extinction) and threatened (extinction possible in the foreseeable future). Approximately 30 cacti native to the United States are listed in the latest list from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

One of the most important things we as the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society do is educating the public on our subject plants. An important part of our education program should be to inform the public that many species of cacti and succulents are in danger of extinction in the native habitat. All of us should strive to make conservation a part of our message, especially our concern over field collected specimens.



Joe Kraatz sent the Editors these extremely interesting pictures of this rare and highly unusual cacti grouping, spotted while on exhibition to the wilds of a Chicago Macy's. Steve Harris has suggested to Joe to name this new species *Pseudocactus styrofoamus* variety *caltransii*. However, the other Editor thinks that this truly proves that some people have nothing better to do.....!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2007

Oct 6 & 7: The Garden Festival at the Wild Animal Park.

Oct 7: 2nd Annual Garden of Art Sale, 11:00am-4:00pm, 4872 Lorraine Drive, San Diego 92115 (Talmage area). Info: Collette Parr 619-384-8849.

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 17: SDCSS Board Meeting, 6:00pm, the DeMerritt's house.

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.

Jun 7-8: SDCSS Summer Show & Sale

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.

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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

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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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