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March 2008

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



Program: Mark Muradian presents
“Bolivia, Gateway to Andean Cacti”

Paul Klaussen presents
“Chilean Rarities”

Saturday March 8, 1:00pm
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

What a great Winter Show and Sale we had! Record numbers all around, the most notable of which was the numbers of willing and able volunteers who made this year's extravaganza especially stress-free and smooth! To the crowds of customers who came to partake of our succulent delicacies I can only say your patience and fortitude was noticed and appreciated by everyone in attendance. Kudos to our chairpeople Chris Miller and Joe Kraatz (Joe we miss you!), and Steve Harris and Terry Parr, you all pulled together an Herculean effort to make things as smooth and understandable as you did. Every year it's like a running joke that everyone shows up with their show plants wondering what Family Division to put things in, but it all eventually gets sorted out. Some notable entrants this year were Peter Walkowiak's large specimens, Dylan Hannon's fascinating rarities, and a wonderful collection display by Michael and Joyce Buckner, with some awesome mineral specimens accenting their botanical gems. Thanks to everyone who brought in their showables for this event!!



Hummingbird resting on a branch of *Euphorbia misera*

We signed up a good number of new members so I want to offer a hearty and sincere WELCOME TO THE SDCSS to you all, and hope to visit with you at the next regular meeting! Bring your enthusiasm and questions and we'll be happy to help!!!

March's meeting is looking to be a serious don't miss event with two top-notch botanical speakers back to back. Mea culpa, I made a mistake a few months back while trying to book up our programs and thanks to Ric and Marilyn Newcomer's last-minute understanding, we'll have a presentation from Paul Klaussen (from the UK) on rarities of Chile since he and his fellow explorers will be finishing up a month-long stint in Baja California and

On the cover: Mark Fryer's Tri-lobed Pleiospilos nelii "Royal Flush"

has just enough time to pop in our meeting before his flight back to London to give us his presentation. Afterwards we'll be privy to Mark Muradian's first-cut presentation on last year's expedition to Bolivia, so get set for some really unique South American cactus adventures!

My yard and collection of succulents continue to amaze me. I don't recall having such an extended floral display in the Aloes as I've had this year, whether it's due to last year's freeze or this year's late season I'm not sure but it sure is neat to have new cross-pollination opportunities! I've been planting out a lot of things I consider to be borderline tolerant of our typically cold/wet winters, namely *Uebelmannia pectinifera* and some Parodias that have unfortunately outlived their usefulness as salable horticultural products. I also planted a bunch of seeds from Joe Kraatz last year that have yielded some interesting seedlings, some nice *Adansonia*s and *Bursera*s, for instance. I hope you're all having as much fun this year as I am with these fantastic and fascinating plants!

See you at the next meeting,

Mark Fryer
February 17th, 2008



My first flowering of
Coleocephalocereus pluricostatus



Uebelmannia buiningii in
flower February 17th

Special plants from the sdcss winter show

<i>Mestoklema tuberosa</i>	Lee Badger
<i>Mesmeb Marlothistellia stenophylla</i>	Peter Walkowiak
<i>Haworthia arachnoids</i>	Don Hunt
Aloe "Little Spikey"	Rainbow Gardens
Aloe "Kelly Griffin"	Eunice Thompson
<i>Euphorbia milli</i> (Giant)	Peter Walkowiak
<i>Urginea maritime</i>	Sara Schell
<i>Agave victoria regina</i>	John Likins
<i>Euphorbia hedyotoides</i>	Rudy Lime
<i>Euphorbia decaryii</i>	Lee Badger
<i>Jatropha cuneata</i>	Rudy Lime
<i>Euphorbia bupluerifolia</i>	Peter Walkowiak
<i>Caroluma actangula</i>	Peter Walkowiak
<i>Digitosigma astrophytum</i>	Juergen Menzel
<i>Astrophytum kikko</i>	Mark Fryer
<i>Dudleya candida</i>	Eunice Thompson
<i>Adromischus cooperi</i>	Sara Schell
<i>Sinningia bulbosa</i>	Dylan Hannon
<i>Pachypodium brevicaule</i>	Chris Miller
<i>Othonna euphorbiodes</i>	Rudy Lime
<i>Pelargonium paniculatum</i>	Peter Walkowiak
<i>Pachypodium namiquanum</i>	Jerry Garner
<i>Sansevieria mlitame</i>	Pam Badger
<i>Sedum clavata</i>	Tina Zucker

Bolivia, gateway to Andean cacti

Presented By Mark Muradian

My presentation will be about my trip to Bolivia. Most of the trip was spent at altitudes above 10,000 feet. This presentation will be different than most because I use high-definition video along with some stills for the format. The title of the program is "Bolivia, Gateway to Andean Cacti." Many genera were seen including Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Lobivia, Trichocereus, Tephrocactus and many more. The program is a mix of culture and habitat; everyone who has seen it has said to me they loved the program.

I am a third-generation farmer from the Fresno area and have been into cacti for over 20 years. I will be bringing some of my pottery to sell at the meeting.

FYI

(FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

Mexican Cacti Poaching on the Rise: Several articles in the news lately have highlighted the decimation cacti trafficking has caused to the Mexican land. Rare and endangered specimens are being plundered to satisfy hungry collectors who only want desert grown plants or, in the case of *Peyote*, for its hallucinogenic effects. Texas is a collecting and shipping point for the illegal plants. Cacti advocates are pushing for a law similar to the one in Arizona where wild collected plants must be tagged to let buyers know the plants are legally rescued. Be cautious with anyone offering to sell you rare Mexican cacti.

Vendors Needed for EarthFair: If you are interested in selling plants at the 2008 EarthFair in Balboa Park, Sunday April 20, please email Pam Badger at pambad1@mac.com.

Snacks for the Break: Members with last names beginning with A through M, please bring a snack to share at the break.

CACTI OF BOLIVIA AND CHILE

By Steve Harris

As mentioned by Mark Fryer in his President's Message, we are really fortunate to have two programs this month, the first by Paul Klaussen on the rarities of Chile (he gets to go first because he has a plane to catch home to London) and the second a video presentation by Mark Muradian on an expedition last year to Bolivia.

Bolivia and Chile are a study in contrasts. Bolivia is land-locked and is for the most part a large plateau rising into the Andes. High is the one word to best describe the country, which borders the highest navigable lake in the world (Lake Titicaca), has the highest rail line in the world, and the highest airport with scheduled service at La Paz. Chile rises from sea level up to the spine of the Andes very rapidly, and there are parts of Chile that are less than 70 miles wide. The word to describe Chile is "steep". Very few places in the world offer an opportunity to traverse so many ecosystems on a Sunday drive.

As a consequence, these two programs are going to show cacti (and other interesting plants) from widely varied climatic conditions. Bolivia has cacti that grow virtually right up to the Andean glaciers at over 10,000 feet elevation, while Chile has cacti that survive on the edge of the Atacama Desert, purportedly the driest place on Earth.

Bolivia is the home range of virtually all species of *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia*, as well as representatives of *Echinopsis*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Lobivia*, *Oreocereus*, *Parodia*, *Tephrocactus* and other genera. Bolivia is home to two magnificent columnars, *Neocardenasia* (or *Neoraimondia*) *herzogiana*, which can reach 50 feet in height, and *Stetsonia coryne*, which approaches 30 feet in height. Smaller columnars are also found.

Bolivia is home to the single species genera *Cintia*, found only in the province of Nor Cinti, which gives it its generic name. *C. knizei* is found to 13,000 feet in elevation, one of the highest ranges of cacti, or any other plant for that matter. Bolivia is also home to *Quiabentia pflanzii*, a bushy, very primitive cactus. Cacti may have first evolved nearby in present-day Peru.

If there is a typical genus to Chile, it is the *Copiapoa*, some of the most beautiful cacti in South America. *Copiapoa* species are found as columnars (*C. cinerea* and *C. uhligiana*), globulars (*C. hypogea* and *C. krainziana*), and as mound-forming (*C. coquimbana*). Another genus endemic to Chile is *Neochilenia* (hence the name), which is closely related to *Neoporteria* and *Horridocactus*. They are so closely related, in fact, that some botanists put the whole bunch

under *Eriogyne*. DNA samples may eventually sort it out. Personally, I like the name *Horridocactus curvispinus*, which is so descriptive of the plant that once you have met one, you are likely never to forget it!

Other species found in Chile include *Eriogyne aurata* (also known as *E. ceratistes*), which is a beautiful barrel-shaped cactus that can be found over a wide range of elevation, from 1,000 to 9,000 feet, in habitat. Chile is home to *Opuntia miquelii*, similar to our local cholla, *Trichocereus chilensis*, a columnar of legendary height that really only attains about 8 feet, and *Trichocereus skottsbergii*, a shrubby species once classified as *Echinopsis* which grows in incredibly harsh conditions in the coastal desert.

Most of my research involved *The Complete Encyclopedia of Cacti*, by Rudolf Schubert and Libor Kuntze. This reference is handily broken down by geographic area. Other information was gathered from David Yetman's new book, *The Great Cacti, Ethnobotany & Biogeography*.

Please look around your collections. You may have Bolivian or Chilean species and not be aware of where they come from. If you do, please consider bringing them in for our Brag Table. Everyone would enjoy seeing examples of the plants in the two programs.



Mammillaria dioica in the Baja Garden at the Wild Animal Park. The Baja Garden is always looking for volunteers to help with maintenance. If you are interested, please contact Chris Miller.
Photo: Juergen Mentzel.

Book review

Haworthia Revisited: A Revision of the Genus
by Bruce Bayer



This particular *Haworthia* book to me has been a valuable resource for the care and especially the identification of the many different species of this genus. The beginning of the book explains about a lot of history of the genus, and contributions by various people to the contents of the book, not very interesting at all. The only interesting section in this part of the book is the one written by Steven Hammer on the care and propagation of the Haworthias. He goes into detail about watering, soil requirements, and types of propagation. The instruction for seed propagation are very informative. Definitely a section worth reading and following, because it works!

In the identification section, Bayer breaks the genus into three subgenera: *Haworthia*, *Hexangulares*, and *Robustipediculares*, all based on differences in the flower structure. On each species, he gives you the origin of the name of the species, descriptions of the species and varieties, and a map with the occurrences of all varieties of that particular species. Also there are excellent color photos of the various species and varieties either in habitat or in cultivation. This makes it in my opinion a valuable identification tool for those who are not taxonomists for it lets you see the differences between each variety in the species at each location.

All these details make this book a definite resource and must read for any *Haworthia* lover, or just any person wanting to know more than they ever wanted to about Haworthias.

Reviewed by Michelle Heckathorn

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.



Haworthia herbacea var
herbacea

Haworthia X 'Kegazato" F2



Haworthia blackburniae



Harworthia odettae

Photos: Michelle Heckathorn



KAIJA'S ENCHANTED GARDEN

Photos by Art & Kaija Marcon



Last fall, the Editors were invited to take a peek at member Kaija Marcon's fabulous garden. Kaija definitely takes her plant collecting seriously as along with landscape plants typical to the San Diego Area there are numerous varieties of cacti and succulents tucked into every corner of the yard. Kaija is in the process of landscaping her front yard with cacti and succulents as well. A plant treat awaits you around every curve of the pathway winding through her garden. Thank you Kaija and Art for sharing your home with us!



UPCOMING EVENTS

2008

Mar 15: California Friendly Plant Sale at the Water Conservation Garden, 9:00am-3:00pm, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, info: 619-660-0614 or email info@TheGarden.org.

Apr 19-20: Coronado Flower Show. Please bring in your entrees on Friday, April 18, 4-7pm or Saturday morning 7am-9am. The entrees will be judged. Info: Jeanne Bowers at (619) 435-5474 or coronadoflowershow.com. Jeanne is in charge of the cacti & succulent display.

Apr 20: EarthFair 2008, 10:00am-5:00pm, Balboa Park.

Apr 26: The 15th Annual Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden, 9:00am-3:00pm, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, info: 619-660-0614 or email info@TheGarden.org.

May 3-4: Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Rm, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, info: 310-822-1783.

May 17-18: Annual Spring Garden Celebration "Garden of Senses" at the San Diego Zoo, 11:00am-3:00pm, info: sandiegozoo.org.

May 18: Huntington Plant Sale, 10:00am-5:00pm, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, info: 626-405-2160.

Jun 7-8: SDCSS Summer Show & Sale. Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park.

Jun 14: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 9:00am-4:00pm, Jupupa Mountains Cultural center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, info: 909-360-8802.

Jun 14-15: Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, info: 818-363-3432.

Jun 27-29: CSSA annual Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, Sam Marino, info: 626-405-2160 or 2277. Plant sales are Jun 27-29, show opens to the public Jun 28-29 .

2009

Apr 10-15: The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's convention, Tucson, AZ.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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