

Volume 43 Number 5

May-June 2008

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



Programs:

Patrick Anderson on his "Fallbrook Succulent Garden"
Guillermo Rivera "Travels Through Brazil"

Meet the Member: Don Patterson
on Hybridizing Epyphylums

Saturday May 10, 1:00pm
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

We had another one of those action-packed meetings last month, too much information and plant material for the average mortal being to absorb properly. Not complaining, just overwhelmed, and primed for May's meeting! We've once again gone over the top with two presentations and a "meet the member" talk to boot, and while I originally thought we should shelve the "meet the member" in favor of the other two presentations, I've been persuaded to simply let all three happen. So it'll be a busy day, and it will be better than ever!!

Pardon my abruptness, but I'm writing this through the benefit of technology in the San Diego Airport, waiting for a flight to Hawaii that's been delayed since 10:0 am this morning. It's now 3:00 something and we're hopeful to be leaving in the next hour or two. Such challenging times we live in these days. (now in retrospect, we spent 13 hours delayed in San Diego, had time for a power nap in Honolulu and are -as of this writing- on Maui enjoying haunts of my childhood and adolescence..)

It's a busy season right now. My yard is almost fully awake in terms of Spring springing, my collection is beckoning to be propagated, and my little seed pans are bursting at the sides and corners. I thinking I'm seeing similar and sometimes worse frost/freeze damage this year than I did last year during our abnormally cold winter.

Considering this is the May issue of EYF, we must be getting ready to have a June Show and Sale soon, so call all your relatives and friends with even a passing interest in these plants and let's get ready for some seriously overt cacto-fascinations!! We've got new cash registers in place for some new volunteers to run, so don't be shy if you've ever wanted to demonstrate your enthusiasm and/or devotion to this society. We also need helping hands in a dozen other areas, so be sure to contact Susan Hopkins (contact info is always on the back of this newsletter for all of your devoted board members) and see where you can help! The SDCSS is like any other organization, you will likely receive proportionately to what you put into the experience.

I must bid you all a fond Aloha for now, and hope to see you all at the May meeting!

Mark Fryer

OUR SPEAKERS

We are once again very fortunate to have two guest speakers this month!

Horticulturist Patrick Anderson is well known for his extensive succulent garden in Fallbrook. His internationally inspired garden has been the subject of many articles and publications, including those of Debra Lee Baldwin.

Tour guide Guillermo Rivera of Cordoba, Argentina has a PhD in botany. He leads expeditions throughout South America to view cacti, bromeliads and wildlife in habitat. The trips offered by his agency may be viewed at www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar



Puna subterreanus. Photo: Mark Fryer

On the cover: Mark Fryer's *Rebutia (Aylosteria) narvacense*

April 2008 Brag Table Winners

Judged by Kelly Griffin

Cactus

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Mammillaria matadae*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Echinocereus fendlerii* v. *kunzlerii*
- 2nd Place, Jerry Garner - *Gymno. bruchii* v. *albispinum*
- 3rd Place, Candy Garner - *Sulcorebutia langeri*
- 3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Lobivia* hybrid

Succulents

- 1st Place, Juergen Menzel - *Decaryia madagascariensis* (1st Place from Madagascar)
- 2nd Place, Pat Bryan - *Albuca spiralis*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Pachypodium succulatum* v. *griequence*
- 2nd Place, Don Hunt - *Euphorbia waringae* (2nd Place from Madagascar)
- 3rd Place, Elibet Marshall - *Euphorbia millii* (3rd Place from Madagascar)
- 3rd Place, Pat Bryan - *Sinningia cardinalis*
- 3rd Place, Judy Walkowiak - *Gasteria* cv *Lilwarty*

FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

Cactus for Sale: We received this note from Mary Kroll: "We had been members of the society and now find that we need to downsize our rather large collection of cacti due to an upcoming relocation out of San Diego. We really hate to part with them but realistically we cannot possibly move them all. We purchased a lot of the cacti at the June Sales over the years and they have gotten a lot of good care and love. I estimate we have about 25-50 that we need to part with." Mary & Jeff live in Tierrasanta and can be reached at 858-268-1233.

Bromeliad Course: Quail Botanical Gardens will offer "The Study of Bromeliads 7:00pm-9:00pm May 15, 22 & 29 and 9:00am-noon May 31. Cost is \$80 for members and \$100 for nonmembers. Advanced registrations is required. Info: 760-436-3036, ext. 206.

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

EPIPHYLLUMS: A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Epiphyllums are beautiful in the Spring, their blooms rival any other found in the garden. Their unusual branches with striking shades of green and undulating shapes are a joy any time of the year. It is easy to see why epiphyllum have become so popular.

In nature Epiphyllum species are found in the rain and cloud forests of Central and South America. Early botanists were thrilled by these plants and their exotic blooms. Widespread popularity was not achieved, however, until three things had been done to “improve” on nature. First, the species all tended to be night-bloomers, opening only late in the evening. Next, the flowers were all short lived, usually a memory by next morning. And finally the species had white flowers. Hybridizers mixed the species Epiphyllum with a variety of other cactus plants to gain the assortment of blossom colors, flower shapes and plant forms that we enjoy today.

Although epiphyllums are a true cactus, they are not found in arid desert environments but in humidity rich jungles where they may receive as much as 160 inches of rainfall each year. This much moisture would drown most terrestrial cactus plants, but epiphyllums have evolved into epiphytic plants, plants which live on the surface of other plants. Unlike parasites, epiphytes take their nourishment from the environment and not from their host plant. Epiphyllums use their roots to anchor in place, usually in the crotch of a tree where some organic debris has accumulated and decomposed. These organic deposits are light and coarse, admitting plenty of oxygen to the roots. Moisture is taken up through the plant roots but also enters the epiphyllum through large pores in the flesh.

Few epiphyllums are grown as epiphytes by hobbyists. Most are grown as terrestrial plants in hanging containers, with the roots placed in gallons of potting soil. However, care must be taken to ensure that the epiphyllums special needs are met.

Today we find epiphyllums in more and more gardens. There are over 7,000 registered hybrids. They are every color but blue. They range in size from miniatures of 2-3 inches to extra large flowers of 15 or more inches across. Epiphyllums are available in many nurseries as cuttings, small rooted plants or mature plants. Meetings of epiphyllum societies usually feature plant and cutting sales and a host of epiphyllum nurseries offer mail-order sales.

(From *Epiphyllum Basics II*, by Sean Minogue, published as a pamphlet in 1989. Your humble editor strongly recommends this reference for the beginning epiphyllum collector, if you can find a copy. We got our copy from Chuck Everson of Rainbow Gardens.)

SHOW TIME!

Our annual show and sale is right around the corner and we all need to get ready. Bring in as many cacti and other succulents as you can. If you really want to contribute to the show - develop a display; just let me know how many tables you'll need. Entry cards will be available at the May meeting. If you won a trophy last year and took it home, please bring it back. If you make a list of your plant entries it will help you keep track at the end of the show. Bring in those empty boxes for our sales area. If you are interested in selling plants, please contact Chris Miller our Sales Chair. You must obtain a bar code number before the deadline or you will not be able to sell at our event.

The show schedule is printed with this edition and there are some aspects of which to be aware. The specialty division IV has trophy awards that have been donated over the years. If you wish to enter your plant in one of these categories, it will not be considered for another division trophy. For example, if you have a fantastic *Mammillaria* from Baja, decide which trophy you want your plant to be eligible to win; best *Mammillaria* or best Mexican plant, because it cannot be both. We do this to simplify the judging process (which takes hours) and to spread the wealth. We had more than 600 entries last year and I know we can increase our quantity and quality.

Also, we got some positive feedback regarding our change in judging time. We will open at 10 AM Saturday morning with an un-judged show. At 3 PM the room is cleared and the doors are closed and the judging begins. We open at 10 AM Sunday morning with the awards next to the plants and the trophy winners on the head table. Perhaps it will be one of your plants this year that makes it to the head table. The competition will be fierce so I wish you all good luck.

We will be offering several workshops during the show. If you would like to see a potting demonstration, learn how to graft, build a succulent wreath, or grow that plant bigger than you ever thought possible, then stick around. I'm developing the schedule and it will be available at the May meeting. So, tell a friend, bring your neighbor, call your relatives, this is a show not to be missed! As always, we need your help and participation to make this a huge success. See you there, Tom Knapik

TIME TO GET THOSE PLANTS READY FOR THE SHOW!

Our big annual judged show is now less than a month away, and this is the perfect time to be starting the process of selecting which plants to show. To do this, it's important to think about some of the things judges want to see—or don't—when they're screening the show.

The process should start with grooming your plants. Remove all damaged or dead leaves or other structures. While you're doing this, look for any signs of bugs or other "travelers", dead or alive. If they're alive, spray them and remove the corpses. A Q-tip with some detergent or rubbing alcohol works in most cases. Also, you want to get out your tweezers and remove any of those volunteer weeds which seem to be thriving after our very wet winter. Spiders have also been very active, so remove all those webs. A small paintbrush works well for this task.

The next thing to look at is your pots. First, they should be clean. Wipe glazed and unglazed pots to remove any dirt or dried salts. For those terra cotta pots, some people use a WD40 solution. For me, a brisk rub with an old washcloth usually suffices.

One last note on watering: this should be completed several days before setup. Leaky pots can really mess up the display area while the show committee is moving the plants around, so please—do your watering well ahead!

Staging is the next consideration. This comprises the choice of pot or other container, along with topdressing and a rock or piece of wood. Remember that the plant is supposed to be the star of each individual entry. Therefore, the other elements should never upstage the plant. Containers should be the right size and shape. Many growers feel that containers which in some way mimic or reflect the natural habitat of a plant look best. If you're using glazed pots, remember to use color carefully. For example, if you have a euphorbia which has some reddish coloration in the stem or leaves, it's great to use a burgundy pot to add a little "punch". Likewise, top-dressing is best accomplished with a color of material which does not draw attention to itself. This is NOT the time to use that bright turquoise aquarium gravel which has been sitting dry in the old tank at the back of the garage for a couple of decades. Use a neutral color for most plants. If your container is black, though, you can also use black gravel as top-dressing.

Okay.....now all your plants are ready. There are a few more things to do, though. First, remove all the tags from your plants, being sure to make a complete list of what you're entering. Of course, you will have picked up your entry tickets at the May meeting and filled them out according to the entry schedule which is mailed out with this issue of the newsletter. That saves you time during setup on Friday evening.

Remember that it's not unusual for plants to shift during transit from your home to the show. It's a good idea to carry a small container of topdressing to fix any spillage. It can't hurt to bring a few paper towels, Q-tips and your favorite cleaning compound for any last-minute touching up.

Finally, it's time to enjoy the show. We've made some changes this year, so be sure to read elsewhere in this issue for details. - Allen Clark

SDCSS AT EARTHFAIR 2008

By Pam Badger

We had a great time at EarthFair 2008. Met lots of people, sold lots of plants. Many thanks to Volunteers - Lee Badger, Ed Case (new member), Sara Schell, Chris Miller, Peter Wolkowiak, Si Osgrove, Susan Hopkins and Tom Knapik who stopped by in the morning to help set up. And you members that stopped by who don't come to meetings - hope to see you at a meeting soon!

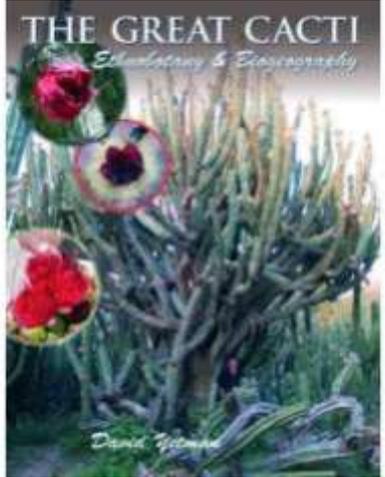


The due date for submission of article (Plants of the Month) and information on the program/speaker will be the meeting preceding the intended issue (approximately one month ahead of time). The due date for letters, regular columns, brag table winners, and the President's Message will be one week later. All submissions are to be made to the Editors.

BOOK REVIEW

The Great Cacti: Ethnobotany and Biogeography by David Yetman, The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 2007.

Root Gorelick reviewed this book in the March – April 2008 issue of *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, in which he takes Dr. Yetman to task for being too adaptationist. To quote Dr. Gorelick, “An adaptationist perspective may be commonplace and acceptable for an ethnobotanist or social scientist, but is anathema to contemporary organismal biologists.”



Huh? Dr. Yetman IS a social scientist, and clearly is not attempting to write another encyclopedic collection of biological descriptions. In fact, he references Britton and Rose extensively, as well as the updated information collected by Edward Anderson in his book, *The Cactus Family*. What Dr. Yetman has accomplished is a magnificent work of popular ecology, looking into the relationship between columnar cacti and native peoples.

The Southwest is the fastest growing region in the United States, and many newcomers as well as lifelong residents have great interest in the natural world surrounding them. This is the audience I believe Dr. Yetman had in mind; the same folks who make his long-running show, *The Living Desert*, a Public Television staple. This book will go far in educating the public on the social importance and relative fragility of these cacti and the need for maintaining their environment.

I have to agree with Dr. Gorelick on his criticism of the maps in the book. The distribution maps lack detail and reference points and do indeed appear to be incorrect when compared to the text.

All in all, I would highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the columnar cacti in particular or in the Natural History of the Southwest in general. It would make a particularly fine gift to a young person just being caught up in the magnificence of our neck of the woods. – S. H.

Collector or Grower

Submitted by Jean O'Daniel

Collectors like rare plants

Growers like plants which grow

Collectors like large mature Ariocarpus and the like

Growers like seedling Ariocarpus and like to watch them develop

Collectors seldom overwater

Growers love to water

Collectors grow plants 'hard'

Growers grow some plants hard and others lush, often to see how things will develop

Collectors have a preferred potting mix, often of secret composition

Growers tinker around with mixes and will often have several of the same plants in different mixes

Collectors like square pots, usually kept close together

Growers like all kinds of pots Collectors seldom enter shows

Growers love shows, or would like to enter but are too worried that their plants are not good enough

Collectors talk about field numbers, varieties, subspecies

Growers often talk about potting mixes, diseases and bugs

Collectors often claim they do not have mealie bugs ... they are blind, liars, or both

Growers fuss with plants

Collectors amass plants

... Which are you? ...



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008

May 17: Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Meeting, Joslyn Center, 210 Park Ave., Escondido, 12:00pm.

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 28: Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Meeting, Joslyn Center, 210 Park Ave., Escondido, 12:00pm. (Note change to 3rd Saturday).

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.

July 25-27: Orange County Summer Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton. Show and sale Friday 12pm-4pm, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm. Info: 714-870-4887

Aug 16-17: 23rd Annual Intercity Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Info: Tom Glavich, 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall, 818-368-6914.

Aug 30: Huntington Gardens Succulent Symposium, all day at the Huntington.

Sept 28: Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, 12:00pm.

2009

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

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

Directors

Pam Badger	(619) 589-1223	pambad1@mac.com
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, tstiko@gmail.com