

Volume 43 Number 8

September, 2008

# *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!***

***SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13  
AT HARRY GRIFFEN PARK, LA MESA  
10:30AM***

***MAP ON PAGE 8***

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Greetings!

What a fun August meeting! To have such awesome POM speakers followed by timely words of wisdom from our group of professional growers was timely and informative. I don't know about you, but I find myself propagating an awful lot this time of year, and it's always great to hear as many viewpoints as I can. Lots of nice plants for sale, good turnout and nice to have out of town aficionados visiting to boot. Thanks to everyone for making it a special day!



Special thanks to Ric Newcomer and Rudy Lime on their Plant of the Month talks. These two gentlemen have such a plethora of experience and wisdom between them. To discuss such popular genera as Copiapoa and Pelargonium in cultivation, requires one have some serious commitment to growing for a significant period of time to even begin to tackle the subjects. Ric's Herculean efforts in bringing such a fascinating and beautiful smorgasbord of big, healthy Copiapoas out for all of us to enjoy is a really special task. Thank you so much for your dedication and efforts, Ric, you have been a real asset to this society (and others!) Pelargonium in the succulent sense is a treat of it's own, but Rudy seems to turn the genus in to a succulent feast, both challenging and delighting our plant taste-buds with some of the lesser-grown caudiciform plants. Thanks to both of you for your brief and enlightening talks!

George Plaisted, Peter Walkowiak, Ric Newcomer, Phyllis Fleschig, and Juergen Menzel all contributed to our understanding of watering, potting, staging, fighting with and loving our objects of desire in a more precise manner. Great questions and comments from the crowd, as everyone gets into the act; so now my BIG QUESTION to all of you: Would you like to do something like this on an annual basis WITH a few planned demonstrations? I ask, because we've been getting good turnouts at the demonstrations during the June show and sale, and there are a good number of members who are otherwise too busy to see them. So think it over and let the board member closest to you know what you think!

*On the cover: Three of the organizers of the borderfield cactus dig stand by truck #1 filled with hundreds of Ferocactus viridescens. Photo: Mark Fryer*

It's summer, it's time for a picnic! We'll have details in this issue from the Badgers about where we're meeting, and pretty much everything is taken care of, just remember to bring a Frisbee, sunscreen, water, and whatever you signed up to bring. Looking forward to it!



The weather seems to have turned hot and muggy around here pretty solid now for the past couple of weeks and my plants are really digging it. I'm still shocked at how hard last winter was on everything, not so much the cold but the duration of the cold, the effect seems to have made a few things really reluctant to wake up at their normal wak-

ing time. Finally after May, June, July, things seem to be 'on the move' again. Something else I've noticed which I keep attributing to the past couple of winters, is that it seems like a lot of Fall growing things are already dipping their toes into the growing season. I sure like the heat, though, it's got my Adeniums and Astrophytums going where I like to see them. I'll certainly be happy if things can stay like this for another couple of months!



Mark's *Adenium obesum*  
MDF Red

We've got speakers lined up for the next couple of meetings, but we could use a couple volunteers to do POM (Plant of the Month) talks for October. It's a great way to familiarize yourself with a topic of your choice, and I promise no one will bite you! Thanks in advance for your consideration and I look forward to seeing you all at the September Picnic!

Sincerely,

Mark Fryer  
August 16th, 2008

*August meeting photos: Collette Parr*

# AUGUST 2008 Brag Table Winners

## Cactus

Judged by Phyllis Flechsig

1st Place, Mark Fryer - *Copiapoa Cineurea*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Matucana*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Pterocereus aurantiaca*

3rd Place, Terry & Collette Parr - *Echinocereus reichenbachii*

3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Denmoza rhodcantha*

## Succulents

Judged by Juergen Mentzel

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Euphorbia bupluerifolia*

2nd Place, Mark Fryer - *Boophane haemanthiodes*

3rd Place, Peter Walowiak - *Euphorbia genandriana*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Oscar Ramos and Sara Parent  
Therese James

*Ferocactus viridescens*, also known as the Coast Barrel Cactus, at Cabrillo National Monument.

Photo: [CactiGuide.com](http://CactiGuide.com)



# FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

**Free succulents to good home:** *Aloe vera*, yucca of all sizes, jade, and agave—all great plants for landscaping fire prone areas. Please call Linda Pearce, 858-453-1463. She is in the University City area.

**Volunteers Needed:** It's already time to start planning our annual Christmas party. We'll be asking for volunteers at the picnic. Please start thinking about ways you might like to help out.

**LoJack for Cacti:** Sometime in the near future, Saguaro National Park plans to inject microchips the size of a grain of rice into some of its roadside saguaros to deter thefts. The microchips would be inserted with a hypodermic needle and could theoretically last up to 100 years. The chips are read with a handheld reader.

**Cactus May Help Diabetics:** Mexican researchers have found that the consumption of nopal (prickly pear cactus) may help lower blood sugar in non-insulin-dependent diabetics and lower LDL cholesterol. 250mg per day was the recommended dose used in one study. Mexicans have historically eaten the high fiber, low calorie nopal for blood sugar control. Here's a yummy recipe:

## **NOPALITOS WITH HAMBURGER SAUCE**

3 small onions, chopped  
1 small bell pepper, chopped fine  
1 tsp parsley  
1 can tomatoes  
1 cup NOPALITOS  
1 pound ground beef  
2 tsp chili powder  
Salt & pepper to taste



Brown onions, bell pepper and ground beef in a skillet for a few minutes, stirring with a fork to break the meat into bits. Add remaining ingredients and simmer gently for 45 minutes.

Note: This Hamburger-NOPALITOS sauce is excellent on spaghetti, rice, potatoes, and frankfurters.

Joyce L. Tate,  
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society

*From the Cactus and Succulent Society's Cactus Cookbook, compiled by Joyce L. Tate, the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc., 1971.*

# Borderfield Cactus Dig

By Mark Fryer

For those of you unfamiliar with the area along the border near the coast, here's a description from the official State Parks website:



"Encompassing 2,500 acres, the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (Tijuana Estuary) is the endpoint of the Tijuana River Watershed. It consists of the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Border Field State Park, Navy lands, Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, and San Diego City property. Designated as a Research Reserve by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, it is one of 27 reserves in the country devoted

Several weeks of preparing the site by mapping out plants, features of interest, and potential archaeological items resulted in thousands of flags indicating where plants were already painted and ready to be dug.

to education and research. The Tijuana Estuary and Border Field State Park (located inside the Reserve boundaries) are scenic remnants of old coastal California. This Reserve is co-managed by California State Parks, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and San Diego County Parks. Visitors come here to hike, bike, picnic, and ride horses."

Sometimes, they might also come to dig cactus, but only with permission and only due to impending devastation of course!

About a month or so ago I got a call from a ranger at Border Field State Park asking about advice in relocating a number of cacti and succulents growing in the path of the new US/Mexico border fence. We had several conversations about the technique of removing plants from habitat properly, and what steps need to be taken to help reestablish cacti and succulents when situations arise that necessitate such drastic solutions. Trying to remove all the plants would require a large number of trained people, somewhere to house the plants, and a plan to introduce them to other areas of the park once the construction was complete. Of course I was interested in the SDCSS helping out as much as possible. A particularly difficult aspect of this effort was that the call for participation and volunteers would have to be kept rather quiet, so as not to create a stir in the community. Anytime you're dealing with something





Don Hunt removes earth around a *Ferocactus viridescens* while a CNPS volunteer paints a white stripe to indicate where south is on a plant, so as not to burn the plant in transition.

as controversial as the border, and the fence itself, you're going to get a lot of attention and potentially, a lot of people showing up with lots of differing agendas. Everyone wanted to save the plants, no one wanted to cause a media circus. A number of organizations were called to attention, and many of us put out feelers to those who could be called upon in short order to show up and dig plants for a few hours.

The new "triple-fence" that's being constructed

between us and our southerly neighbors is adding approximately 500 yards of width to the existing fence through the State park, which unfortunately means it will run smack-dab through a number of coastal-scrub hillocks covered in a number of interesting native succulents. Part of the plan in constructing this new border is to level the hillocks and fill in the little arroyos so as to create a larger flat area that can be more closely scrutinized by Border Patrol and Department of Homeland Security agents. If there is a silver-lining to this change for the plants, it at least might restrict truck, motorcycle, and foot traffic to an area that isn't full of interesting native plants.



The border fence as it stands today, from the US side:

*Ferocactus viridescens*, *Mammillaria dioica*, *Bergerocactus emoryi*, *Cylindropuntia whipplei* v. *serpentinus*, *Cylindropuntia prolifera*, and *Dudleya edulis* all grow in such great abundance in this little area that it is almost impossible to traverse some of these gullies and hillsides without stepping on plants of all of these genera. In addition to the sensitive plants in the area, there are also known to be sensitive species of insects, snakes, reptiles, and potentially, important archaeological finds.

Fortunately for all of us, the rangers involved all hold a strong ethic of stewardship, and together they created a team of volunteers that included botanists, herpetologists, entomologists, and archaeologists, with an additional 75+ people enthusiastic about preserving the species found natively in this small area. They got the word out that the bulldozers were on the move, and we all amassed on July 26th, prepared for being pricked, sun burned, bit,



Where the fence meets the surf.

and/or whatever. The effort was successful, and some 2000+ plants were removed and sequestered before their eventual reestablishing. Out of all the SDCSS members I could think of to help out, it was Mr. Don Hunt himself who accompanied me to the dig.



*Mammillaria dioica*

For me personally, it was interesting to have such knowledgeable folks around identifying the bugs and reptiles, pointing out the archaeological finds and sharing their enthusiasm and experience with this delicate and unique habitat that surrounds here in San Diego.

Border Field Park and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve are two of the most interesting wild places in our State, and I heartily encourage those of you who haven't been there to visit sometime, it's well worth it!

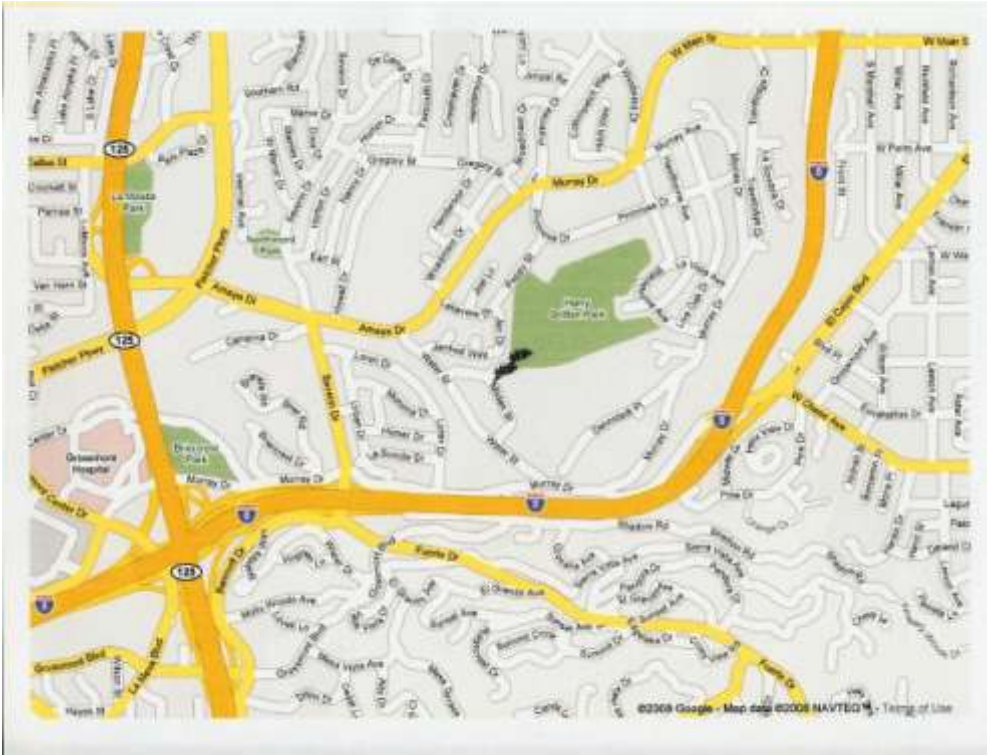
Please address correspondence to:  
The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society  
P.O. Box 33181  
San Diego, Ca 92136-3181



# Sdcss picnic 2008

Join us Saturday, September 13 at La Mesa's beautiful Harry Griffen Park, 9550 Milden Street.

From 125 North or South, take Fletcher Parkway exit. Proceed across Fletcher Parkway onto Amaya Drive. Turn right on Water Street, left on Milden and park will be on the left.



Bring your favorite appetizer, side dish or desert.

Also, don't forget we will be having a silent auction to raise funds to offset costs. Please bring A NICE PLANT to donate (tax deductible!).

See you there!

# UPDATE FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Just a reminder to everyone that you can pay your next year's membership, along with the remainder of the current year's membership if your membership is expiring this year. We are converting all memberships to annual memberships, so all memberships will now terminate at the calendar year end. As a matter of fact, you can pay for as many years in advance as you like! Our regular dues are \$15./year/individual/year; add \$5./year for each additional household member. These regular memberships' newsletters are sent bulk rate mail. For an additional \$5./year, you may have your newsletter sent first class mail, ensuring that it will be delivered each month with all your other first class mail.

So, for example, if your membership runs out in the month of September, here's how the calculation would work: Since there are now 3 months left in 2008, the cost of renewing your membership for this year (and only good for this one month) is \$3. If you were to pay for 2009 in advance, the cost for bulk rate mail would be \$15., making the total to be paid in September for a membership that received bulk rate mail \$18. (\$3. + \$15.). However, if you wanted to add your wife/husband/partner to the membership, it would be an additional \$5., making the total to be paid \$23. (\$3. + \$15. + \$5.). But then, you realize you would be getting your newsletter faster and ensuring it always arrive (see explanation on wrapper of this newsletter for reasons why bulk rate mail is sometimes not delivered), so now your total would be \$28. (\$3. + \$15. + \$5. + \$5.).

Think about this, and renew for several years at a time! It saves you the trouble of remembering to renew each and every year you wish to, and I only have to update our database one time for as many years as you renew, plus our treasurer time in dealing with multiple payments rather than just one.

Hope to see each and every one of you at our annual picnic this month!

Warm regards,

Collette Parr

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

## 2008

**Sept 12-14:** San Diego Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Friday 11:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm, Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm.

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

**Oct 4&5:** Garden Festival at the Wild Animal Park, "Fall Into Bloom", 9:00am-4:00pm Saturday & Sunday.

**Oct 25:** California Friendly Gardening Festival, 9:00am-3:00pm, at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

**Nov 8&9:** San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

**Dec 6&7:** Orange County Show & Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, 10:00am-4:00pm. Info: 714-870-4887.

## 2009

**Apr 10-15:** The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's convention, Tucson, AZ. See [www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org) for details.



Steve and Allen gaze at a small selection of Ric Newcomer's extensive Copiapoa collection.

*Photo: Collette Parr*

# San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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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

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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