

Volume 44 Number 2

February 2009

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



WINTER SHOW & SALE 2009

Saturday, February 14, 10:00am-4:00pm
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

25 January 2009

Greetings from soggy Santee! After ten days of 85 degrees in my backyard I'm a bit pouty about drizzle. But this too shall pass. I can still see the Aloes blooming in the backyard and all the plants are nice and clean so the greens and textures are visually pleasing and gratifying. I know the rest of you are enjoying similar situations.

We've had a very busy and productive January as an organization. Our first significant happening was our Strategic Planning Session (SPS) on January 3rd. The Board gathered at my house and we spent the day working on actions for the future of SDCSS. Please see the article that talks to the work we did. We did some team building activities and the new Board members learned a lot about how this organization works and the history of some of the actions we have taken in the past. The new Board is energized and excited about help the SDCSS grow and become an even better Society to belong to.

On January 10th we had our first regular meeting of the year. The sales set up went smoothly due to the joint efforts of Susan Hopkins, Joe Kraatz, Lynn Elliot, Steve Harris, Bill O'Daniel, Ken Blackford and the vendors that joined us first thing in the morning. Joan and Frank Lozoya ran the Benefit Plant Drawing with efficiency and energy. Michelle Heckathorn and Sara Schell did their usual great job on the Exchange Table.

Kathy and Steve Harris opened the library and with Don Hunt provided great service throughout the day. Due to health issues Allen Clark has resigned at Library Committee Chair. Don Hunt has volunteered to take his place, which makes available another position on the Library Committee. Please see Don or any board member if you are interested in helping out or if you have questions as to duties.

We had our monthly Board Meeting in the kitchen at 11 and got lots of work done. The main focus of the meeting was planning for the Winter Show and Sale. Peter is the Show Chair for this event and his article in this newsletter will let you know what to bring to show. This is an opportunity for all members to share a plant that is too wonderful not to be shared. So please let us appreciate your plants and bring them in to share. We have twenty vendors lined up, with some new faces bringing plants and others bringing pots, so break your piggy banks and get ready for a great day.

*On the cover: The 2008 Show & Sale
Photo: Collette Parr.*

Our Speaker for the meeting, Buck Hemenway, gave us an interesting and informative program on "Granite Caps & Quartz Flats: Treasures of the South African Veld". His pictures were great and he kept us entertained describing the experience of the trip. As with all good learning experiences I have questions I would like answers to because of new knowledge gained. I know more about the confusion of raising these plants, things like summer and winter rains coming from two different oceans, which explains some of my confusion on the terms, summer growers and winter growers from the same country. Plus I am always confused by who's summer is it anyway? So if you would like to write an article on one of those topics, please let Kathy or Steve Harris know. Anyway, great Job Buck and thanks for the token Gasteria!

On January 17th the Huntington Desert Garden had a Desert Forum and we were invited. SDCSS was represented by Wanda Mallen, Gary Vincent, Jean & Bill O'Daniel, Candy & Jerry Garner, Penny Summerville, myself, Janet Svoboda, Phyllis Flechsig, Lee Badger, Ed Case, Peter Walkowiak, Inacia Mathews, Kathy & Steve Harris, and Alison Baldwin. We had a great time walking the Gardens, interacting with people from other cactus & succulent organizations and we did manage to bring home a box or two of plants.

On January 28th the Horticulture Dept at the Wild Animal Park is hosting a volunteer appreciation potluck for the people who volunteer in their gardens. Jim DeForest, Burt Elder, Janet Svoboda, and Peter Walkowiak are planning to attend with me. Volunteering in WAP Old World Succulent Garden and Baja Garden is one way to support the mission of this organization. These gardens allow us to present the plants we love to the public 7 days a week. Our plants are often featured in the Zoo News and we are on their web-site. We worked in the gardens on Saturday 24 January pulling weeds and doing general clean up. The ground is starting look like a green carpet and it is that time of year for me to start requesting your help in earnest. If we get them small, it frees the volunteers up earlier in the year to work on cleaning the bigger items up, identifying plants and developing signage. If you are interested in spending a Saturday morning or two or more with us, let me know. I will need enough notice to add you to the access list.

Succulent plants are in the media, wherever we look. There was a photo spread in San Diego Home & Garden this month on a wonderful succulent landscape. Early in the month there was a quick article in the Union Tribune on Baobob fruit being the "In Fruit for 2009". In the February Sunset magazine there is a picture of the Aloes in bloom at the Huntington. In the latest edition of the Zoo News there was an article on Caudiciform Plants. The plants we love are everywhere, be sure to let the people you talk to know about SDCSS, we are a great resource for anyone interested in all those plants we can't live without.

See you at the Winter Show & Sale!
Chris

FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

San Diego River Garden: Doug Taylor from the San Diego River Garden sent SDCSS this note: "We look forward to working with your society on getting a succulent area established. I'd be happy to meet somebody from your group at the site (at their convenience) and give them a little tour and discuss any recommendations. My cell number is 619-207-8215."



River Garden volunteers hard at work.

Every Sunday Morning 7AM - 9AM we meet at the San Diego River Garden located at 3270 Camino Del Rio N in Mission Valley. The River Garden is a new project for the River Park Foundation. The "regular crew" gets together

to tend this 5 acre site and talk about plans for the future. You are welcome to come by and help or just say hello. For more information, contact Richard or Rob at 619-297-7380."

Desert Wildflower Hotlines: It's getting to be that time of year when the highly anticipated wildflowers begin to bloom in our desert. Two conditions usually create a substantial bloom – late summer/fall or March rain. Here's two phone numbers you may call to get the status of the wildflower bloom in our local deserts:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park 760-767-4684
Coachella Valley Area (the Living Desert) 760-346-5694

Quail Botanical Gardens is Seeking Donated Plants: Quail is looking for plants suitable for their new Children's Garden which will be built on four acres of land acquired from the City of Encinitas adjacent to the Gardens along Quail Gardens Drive. They would like the following: fruitless olive trees like Swan Hill Olive, large Aloes, specimens of *Beaucarnia* species: *B. stricta*, *B. gracillia*, and *B. guatemalensis* with a caudex the size of a basket ball or larger, Epiphytes that like full sun. If you can help please call Dave Ehrlinger, Director of Horticulture at 760-436-3036 ext 211 or email him at derllinger@qbgardens.org.

Jim Hanna Health Update: Chuck Everson from Rainbow Gardens Books sent along this note: "On the 9th of January Jim had open heart surgery. A single bypass was performed. We went to see him on Tuesday of this week at the Lakewood Regional Medical Center (hospital). He came through the operation very well. He was sitting in a chair when we arrived, and we stayed an hour. Jim was lucky. It could have been much worse. Roberta is doing fine. The incision was the long one up and down his chest. They were going to take a vein from his leg, but instead found one near his shoulder once they opened him up---thus saving another cut into his body and lessening the chances of infection. Jim's lifestyle will be changing a little. No more chili burgers, chili dogs, chili omelets, cokes, cokes, cokes, and no more salt. He's not too happy about that. And he said he would slow down "a little". I think he values life more today. He's thinking of attending the San Diego 1-day winter show on Valentine's Day, depending on how he feels."

Salads and deserts for the Show & Sale lunch: Once again, Pam Badger will be whipping up a mouth watering lunch to help keep our energy up while working the show. She only asks for us to please bring a salad and/or dessert to share.

JANUARY 2009 - BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by Dr. Buck Hemengway
Recorded by Candy Garner

Cactus

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Neoporteria crispa*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Mammallaria pectinata*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Mammallaria lauii v. sabdaeta*
- 3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Mammallaria spinosissima*

Succulents

- 1st Place, Rudy Lime - *Adromischus marianae v. herrei*
- 2nd Place, Alison Baldwin - *Pleiospilos nelii* "Royal Flush"
- 2rd Place, Rudy Lime - *Drasanthemom crassum*
- 3rd Place, Kelly Griffin - Aloe cv. 'Star Fire'
- 3rd Place, Peter Walowiak - *Aloinopsis rubralineata*
- 3rd Place, Rudy Lime - *Othonna euphorbiodes*

2009 WINTER SHOW TIME!

The Winter Show is upon us, time to look through your collection to find that happy plant or two, your favorite or those that you are proud of. Many plants look their best this time of year such as pelargoniums, othonnas, others that are dormant have a different look such as color change perhaps, that make them interesting this time of the year. This show has been getting larger and more exciting every year, to keep this happening I need you to bring in your special plants. As the show grows some small changes need to be made, the show will still be by family, the cactacea will be divided into North and South American species. The show will be judged, the three judges will be selected from those attending (\$25 plant credit each), judging will commence at the beginning of show. I will act as tie breaker. Award categories are the last area of change this year. I have given this some serious thought since I was volunteered for the job last week, so here it is:



Show plants 2008
Photo: Collette Parr

Blue Ribbon for family	\$10 plant credit
Best Novice	\$25 plant credit
Best Cactus	\$25 plant credit
Best Succulent	\$25 plant credit
Best of Show	\$75 plant credit

Only one plant per award category. All decisions are final. Plant credits are good for the winter show and sale only. A color dot will be provided for novice plant ID cards.

This is a reminder that this is your first chance to start earning credits towards the volunteer benefit drawings to be held at the end of the year. This year we have a full slate of vendors and promises to be a super sale to go along with a wonderful show, this will be exciting.

Your Show Chair and VP,
Peter Walkowiak

Co-Chair and Editor,
Steve Harris

CALIFORNIA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE CONTEST NOW UNDERWAY

Now is your chance to show off that water-wise cacti and succulent garden and possibly win a \$500 gift certificate for a local nursery! The California-Friendly Landscape contest is now accepting entry forms for 2009. Our drought and fire prone communities offer the home gardener and professional landscaper a unique opportunity to showcase their expertise creating curious and colorful succulent gardens.

Rules, entry forms are available at www.landscapecontest.com. Entry forms must be submitted by April 6.

Judging of water-wise landscapes will be based on the following elements:

Overall attractiveness:

curb appeal; aesthetic color, form, texture; creative and environmentally sensitive use of hardscape

Appropriate plant selection:

California-friendly plant palette; functional turf; functional landscape, meets needs of owners

Design:

energy efficient use of tree canopy, permeable ground cover, shady and sunny areas in landscape; firewise landscape, as needed

Appropriate maintenance:

mulch; weeds kept to a minimum; plants neat, tidy and attractive

Efficient methods of irrigation:

designed to reduce runoff; appropriate irrigation equipment for plant material; water consumption appropriate to area

As you may remember, SDCSS members Jean and Bill O'Daniel, with the help of our very talented Peter Walkowiak, won the "Best-in-District" award for the City of Poway in 2008.

For ideas and classes to create your own water-wise garden please visit:

The Water Conservation Garden at
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W. in El Cajon,
go to www.thegarden.org,
or call (619) 660-0614.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

By Chris Miller

On January 3rd we held a Strategic Planning Session (SPS). The following Board members were present: Peter Walkowiak, Jerry and Candy Garner, Ken Blackford, Cathy Clark, Susan Hopkins, Jean O'Daniel, Frank Lozoya and Don Hunt. Also present were Steve Harris as Newsletter Editor and Bill O'Daniel as facilitator. The underlying theme for the day was "How can we make this a better organization for our members?" "How can we make meeting more fun, informative and meet our member's needs?" We used the 2007 Member Survey as part of the input.

During the course of the day we developed the foundation for running the SDCSS for the next year and beyond. The first thing we did was review the purpose statement from the SDCSS Bylaws. It proved to be perfect for use as a mission statement.

MISSION: To promote knowledge, study and interest in cacti and succulent plants through education programs, exhibits public, public gardens, and sharing of this common interest

After discussing and accepting the SDCSS Mission Statement, we held discussion on what we wanted the Vision for the organization to be. The primary question being what do we as a group want to look like in 2011? The discussion was distilled down to the following statement:

VISION: To become the most respected and recognized Cactus and Succulent Society

Once we reached consensus on the Vision we were ready to move on to a goal that would focus our activities towards achieving the Vision. The BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) should be achievable, yet drive us to do what needs to be done. So we discussed, defined, refined and finally agreed to a statement. We liked the word Rally, because of its indication of activity.

BHAG: Rally public interest & SDCSS participation to support the CSSA Convention in 2011

With the BHAG in place we brainstormed Strategies to accomplish the BHAG. In any one year an organization can only take on so many things so we decided on 4 specific areas to focus our energy.

STRATEGY 1: Develop a culture of Volunteerism (Owner: Susan Hopkins)

STRATEGY 2: Build and maintain an active membership (Owner: Frank Lozoya)

STRATEGY 3: Improve promotion of SDCSS (Owner: Ken Blackman)

STRATEGY 4: Improve all sales venues (Owner: Chris Miller)

Once the Strategies were locked in we broke into four groups and brainstormed the actions we need to take this year to work toward achieving the BHAG. We reviewed the inputs as group and decided on Strategy Owners. Each Strategy needs an owner to head the efforts of the individuals carrying out the actions to achieve the Strategies. Each one of their owners is looking for team members to support the actions that need to be done.

If you have any questions please contact any member of the board. If you are interested in working with one of these groups or have suggestions please contact the Strategy Owner. We cannot achieve our Vision without the help and support of everyone in the organization.



Reception area, 2008 Show & Sale

Photo: Collette Parr

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

FREE DESERT FORUM

By Chris Miller

On Saturday 17 January several carloads of SDCSS members made the journey to The Huntington and received free admission to the Desert Forum. The day included a wonderful tour through the Desert Garden, including the Conservatory, with members of the Staff strategically placed to help answer questions. We had a lovely stroll through the garden, with everyone in my group making sure I didn't miss a single Gasteria. Hey what are friends for? The Aloes were magnificent and the size of the plants in the garden is amazing.



We stopped to eat lunch in the Teaching Green House. We brought our lunches and the Huntington Staff provided some snacks and drinks. It was great eating in the greenhouse among all kinds of interesting hanging plants and great company.

After lunch we toured some of the displays and collections. I personally took a walk through the new Chinese Garden and it is impressive and very different from the Japanese Garden. At one o'clock the plant sales open up and there was a mad but civilized dash for sales plants. I did manage to find a Gasteria hybrid I don't have called "Bronze Knuckles". I can't wait for it to grow up so I can see it's true shape and color!

At two o'clock we had a meeting in the Ahanson Classroom led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom. He discussed the current and future activities that are impacting the Desert Garden. They are currently installing a gas heating system throughout the Desert Garden. San Marino gets a bit cooler than we do in the winter and there is a fear of losing the whole garden, as the temps get cooler. They were installing gas lines the day we were there and there were also some heaters in place already. They are installing the kind of heater that you see in patios. The idea is to have a box to slide the heater towers into for the winter and remove them in the summer. Overall cost of the entire project is going to be around \$300,000.



They are currently planning on building a new conservatory for Desert Plants, making a more interactive teaching experience, similar to their Conservatory for Botanical Science. They are looking for suggestions on how to design it so if you have ideas we can get you contact information.

All in all it was a glorious southern California day of 80 degrees with a light breeze and a wonderful garden to visit – it doesn't get any better than this, and I highly recommend that more of you join us next year!

WHATISIT???



OK all you cacti and succulent lovers, it's time to exercise those brain cells! Welcome to the first edition of WHATISIT???

Can you guess the plant? The answer will be in the March EyF.

Photo: Juergen Menzel

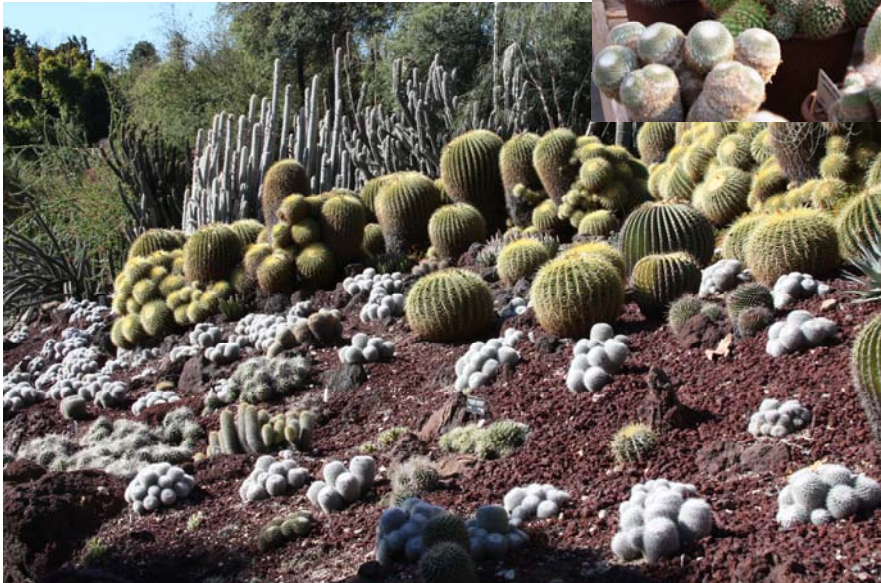
More photos from the Huntington:



Above - A sampling from the greenhouse Sulcorebutia collection.

Right - More amazing cacti from the greenhouse collection.

Below - Along one of the many paths in the Desert Garden.



WEB SITE REVIEW

By Don Hunt

Succulent Euphorbias

<http://www.euphorbia.de/indexe.htm>

Here is a website I have bookmarked and used frequently. The website is in German and English. Of course having a German author gives it special authority. It seems to me the most advanced European growers are very advanced indeed. It has 2360 photos of 502 different species, subspecies, varieties and forms of the genera Euphorbia, Cnidoscolus, Monadenium, Jatropha, Pedilanthus, Phyllanthus and Synadenium according to its headers. The website is divided into a section on the plants with data to habitat, growth form, cyathia, cultivation, rarity, pests and diseases. Also a section on cultivation with 147 more photos. Soil, water, feeding, light, heat and raising from seed are covered in detail with attention to species specific information. Information on cuttings, rescue of rotting plants is included in another section.

I have used it the most to help identify some of the dwarf euphorbias that are very similar and need careful examination of the cyathia. The photos are very well done by my rank novice standards. Many of the cyathia subjects are so small, it's difficult to appreciate. I frequently use this website, in addition to the Euphorbia Journals when I am looking at euphorbias in catalogs or on Ebay. Frequently, the picture a seller may have of a seedling doesn't give me a good idea of the plant if I'm not familiar with it at all. Lots of great plants are so rare/unusual that I need a quick comprehensive collection of pictures and information. This website really helps.



The morning rush, 2008
Winter Show & Sale.

Photo: Colette Parr

SUPPORT WATER SMART GARDENING *and* BEAT THE CROWD

The Spring Home/Garden Show Invites You To
An EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW GARDEN PARTY
Benefiting THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN*

Meet the Garden *the* Master Designers

Thursday Evening Feb 26, 2009
7:00pm to 10:00pm
Bing Crosby Hall
Del Mar Fairgrounds

Join us to preview and meet the Spring Home/Garden Show Garden Masters, see the awards, and enjoy light fare. Festive Attire Requested.
Cost for tickets is \$40 per person.

To purchase tickets please visit

<http://www.springhomegardenshow.com/Pages/ShowFeatures/PreviewGala.htm>

Tickets only available on-line

To contact us please send an email to previewparty@sandiegohomegardenshows.com or for further information please call 858-519-0855. Your reservation will be held at the door. Doors open at 6:30pm.

* The Water Conservation Garden is a free public garden dedicated to educating and inspiring the public to save water in their landscapes. Learn more at: www.thegarden.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2009

Feb 14: SDCSS Winter Show & Sale, 9:00am-4:00pm, Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Mar 14: California-Friendly® Plant Sale at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, www.thegarden.org.

Apr 10-15: The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's Biennial Convention, at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa, Tucson, AZ.

Apr 25: Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, www.thegarden.org.

May 2&3: Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Verterns Memorial Center, Garden Room. 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. Info: 310-822-1783.

May 9: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show , Sale and Green Faire, 9:00am-4:00pm, Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon.

May 17: Huntington Plant Sale, 10:00am-5:00pm, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Info: 626-405-2160.

Jun 6&7: SDCSS Summer Show & Sale.

Jun 25-28: CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Info: 626-405-2160 or 2277.

Aug 15&16: 24th Annual Intercity Show and Sale. L.A. County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall 818-368-6914.

Oct TBD: California-Friendly® Gardening Festival at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, www.thegarden.org.

The due date for submission of articles for Plants of the Month, information on the program/speaker, letters, regular columns, brag table winners, and the President's Message will be the 15th of each month preceding the next issue. All submissions are to be made to the Editors. Please email your articles to Kathy at harriskd@cox.net and Steve at steveharris3@cox.net.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Chris Miller (619) 258-9810 c.miller@cox.net
Vice President: Peter Walkowiak (858) 382-1797 hciservices@gmail.com
Secretary: Candy Garner (858) 560-5047
Treasurer: Ken Blackford (858) 272-7617 kjblack@pacbell.net

DIRECTORS

Susan Hopkins (858) 272-8897
Jean O'Daniel (858) 486-9363 tu01@cox.net
Frank Lozoya (619) 463-9190
Don Hunt (619) 659-3033 don_hunt@mitel.com
Jerry Garner (619) 560-5047 jgarner@ucsd.edu
Cathy Clark (619) 741-6262 csc4@cox.net
Mark Fryer (ex-President) (619) 795-1020 kaktussy@cox.net

STANDING COMMITTEES & SUB COMMITTEES

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern
Brag Table: Candy Garner
Plants of the Month: TBD
Summer Show: Tom Knapik
Winter Show: Peter Walkowiak
Historian: Terry Parr
Library: Don Hunt, Chris Miller, 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: TBD
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