

Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 45 Number 3

March 2010



Program: Guillermo Rivera,

"An exploratory trip to Northwestern Argentina"

Cactus of the Month: Steve Harris

"The Genus *Gymnocalycium*"

Saturday, March 13, 2010
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park

Results From the Winter Show

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



So was the 13th crazy or what? Great show, incredible sales, more food than we could possibly consume, 50 new members, and the most perfect day that San Diego could have given us in mid February. None of this would be possible without our awesome vendors and the incredible volunteers from this organization.

Our set up team Friday night set up canopies and from 9 to 10 set up the tables for the show and sale in room 101. **Jeff Harris, George Plaisted, Steve Harris, Susan Hopkins, Sara Schell, Peter Walkowiak, Ed Case and Cathy Clark** worked to give us an easier set up on Saturday morning.

Saturday morning was semi-controlled chaos that worked. We had a more complex show to set up, a split sales area and 30 vendors to take care of. When 9 o'clock came we were ready for the members only shopping.

Tom DeMerritt and Jim Deforest lead the Cashier Teams of **Sarah Clayton, Katya DeMerritt, Lynn Elliot, Pat Marshall, Cathy Clark, Jessica McGee, Shelby and Peggy Katz, Margaret Gregory, Michele Heckathorn, Janet Svoboda, Catherine Sass, Suzie Perkins, Joe Kraatz, and Terry and Vickie McCune** in moving people through the checkout process. **Art Cooley and Bev Grant** helped shoppers by passing out boxes. **Ken Blackford** was constantly on the move doing treasurably things.

Our greeter did a fine job passing on information assigning up a record number of members. **Cathy Clark** started the day off working the table before she went to work at the registers. **Candy Garner, Joan Lozoya, Jeanette Dutton, Jean O'Daniel, Chris Dawson and Alexandria Devita** held down the fort the rest of the day.



Outdoor canopied sales area

Peter Walkowiak and Steve Harris led their team tin setting up and judging the show in record time. The clerking team consisted of **Judy Walkowiak, Linda Stewart, Joan Lozoya, Michelle Picket, Susan Hopkins, Collette Parr, and Paul and Carol Maker.**

Our security team was awesome. The main challenge we had was the sales area split.

Ron Chisum and Craig Lacaille were incredible in helping set things up. Every time we had a question they helped set requirements. The rest of the patio security, which included **Sharon Wirth, Chris and Melissa Worton, Jerry Markle, Brian Shepherd, Steve and Mrs. Salley**, joined in with lots of energy through the day. The show security volunteers were **Ed Case, Bill O'Daniel, Joan Lozoya, Edward Wirth, Judy and Gene Walkowiak, Kathy and Steve Harris.** Major kudos to **Elizabeth Glover** who worked diligently to make sure the holding table outside stayed under control, a situation complicated by the split shopping areas.

Breakfast and lunch was provided by a team lead by **Vanessa Nelson. Robert Nelson, Patrick Maldonado, Carol Jean Wolcott, Kaija Marcon and Suzie White.** They were wonderful, moving a lot of people through the process. **Vanessa's** pot luck idea worked out well and we had more food than we could eat. We even fed a busload of people that came down from the **San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society.**

The clean up team did a fine job. **Steve and Mrs. Salley** swept the floor free of dirt and grit (a miracle for sure) **Susan Hopkins and Cathy Clark** broke down table boxes, cleared off tables and did most anything that needed to be done. **Susan Lewitt** broke down the extra boxes and carried them away to be recycled. **George Plaisted and Ed Case** broke down the white tables and took care of them. **Ed Case**, once more ended up my hero, he packed up my truck. Bless him, by that time I was walking in circles and was not sure of my name.

So I apologize if I missed someone. Feel free to smack me upside the



Sales Action



Vanessa and Robert Nelson readying food

head and bring it to my attention at the next meeting. Without all of you this could not have been a successful event. So thank you for all you did to support our organization.

So now what? We have a spring lined up with our regular meetings, sales at **Del Mar**, the **Water Conservation Garden**, and **Earth Day**. All of these sales are focused on advertising our **Summer Show** the 5th and 6th of June and exposing as many people as possible to the benefits of growing cactus and succulent plants. So we are looking for people interested in helping us advertise our event. Whenever you find a newspaper or magazine that has an events calendar and we are not in it please send me the information on how to get our information in to that calendar. If you are interested in helping with this let me know. **Tom DeMerritt** is our Advertising Chair, but his time is limited.

The Board is discussing a potential trip to the **Huntington** the end of June for the **CSSA Show and Sale**. If you are interested in riding a bus up and back let me know. Discussion is also underway on a bus trip to the **Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale** in August.

For those of you interested in volunteering at the **Baja and Old World Succulent Gardens** at the **Wild Animal Park**, now is the time. With the alternating rain and warm sunny days the weeds are going berserk and we will need all the help we can get to keep them under control so that we can prepare the gardens for the **CSSA Convention** visit next April. Again contact me if you are interested.

On a sad note **Ron Seidler**, a member who joined last February, passed away on December 31st. Although he was a new member of our organizations he had collected cactus and succulents for many years. There will be a members only sale on March 27th at his home. He had some nice cactus, Euphorbias and other succulent plants that would like to have a new home where they would be cared for with love. If you are interested in going please contact me for directions. I will have them at the regular meeting. The property is interesting and there is a potential for some free cuttings.

So I'm ready for summer. It has rained most of the day and my roof is leaking. I look forward to sunnier months and time spent with all of you.

Chris Miller
26 February, 2010

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

Program

“An Exploratory Trip to Northwest Argentina”

Guillermo Rivera



The presentation will cover several provinces in central and north-western Argentina, from salt flats to high elevation *Puna* habitats. *Gymnocalycium*, *Trichocereus*, and *Parodia* will be well represented among the cactus, as well as some bromeliads and some wildlife.



Many of our Club members have greatly enjoyed traveling with Guillermo on one or another of his several South American adventure trips. He will be leading a tour to Argentina this fall, from November 5th to November 20th. Cost for this trip is \$ 2950 (all inclusive: ground transportation, hotels, meals, park entrance fees, etc), a value that can't be beat. For details, go to www.southamericanaturetours.com

Photos by **Guillermo Rivera**

Cactus of the Month

“The Genus *Gymnocalycium*”

Steve Harris



Edward F. Anderson, in *The Cactus Family* (Timber Press, 2001) places the genus *Gymnocalycium* in the Cactaceae Family, sub-Family Cactoideae, Tribe Trichocereae.

Gymnocalycium species range from Central Argentina north through Paraguay and Uruguay to Bolivia and Brazil.

The name *Gymnocalycium* derives from the Greek *gymnos*, naked, and *calyx*, bud, referring to the smooth flower bud. Five sub-genera are recognized by **Graham Charles** in *Gymnocalycium in Habitat and Culture* (self-published, 2009) based on similarities in the seed structure and the ways the seed pods burst to disperse seed. These sub-genera are Macrosemineum, *Gymnocalycium* (originally *Ovatisemineum*), Microsemineum, Trichosemineum and Muscosemineum.

The first description of a plant which would be ultimately classified as *Gymnocalycium* was by **Haworth** in 1812 of a plant he called *Cactus gibbosus*. This species was combined with *Cactus reductus* and *Echinocactus denudatus* into the *Gymnocalycium* genus in 1844. By the time **Britton and Rose** published *The Cactaceae* in 1922, there were 23 recognized species of *Gymnocalycium*.

The period between World Wars I and II saw a great interest in cacti in Europe, in particular in Germany. A botanist working in Cordoba, Argentina, **Dr. Carlos Hosseus**, sent many examples to **Adolf Haage**, a nurseryman in Erfurt, Germany. The business of cacti became lucrative enough that **Haage** commissioned a trip



G. gibbosum v *chubutense* in habitat on the Valdez Peninsula, Chubut Province, Argentina

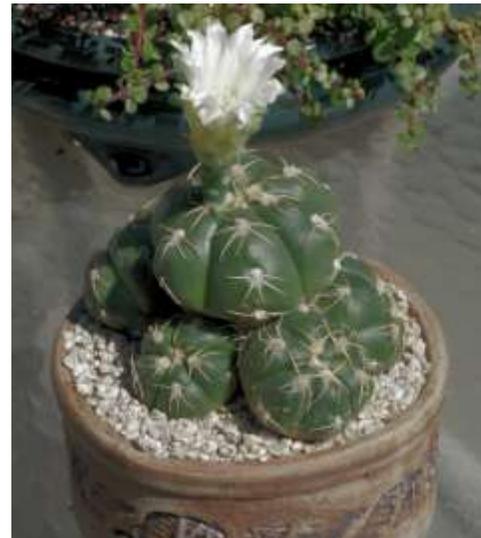
by **Curt Backeberg** in 1930 and 1931 which took him through Peru, Bolivia and northern Argentina. **Backeberg**, unfortunately, was more enthusiastic than botanically accurate. He described several species from plants he discovered in German nurseries which lacked sufficient habitat data. Many descriptions lacked photographs or type plants for Herbarium preservation. A story persists concerning **Backeberg** describing a new species from a moving train car in the Andes.

The result was pandemonium, not only among the *Gymnocalycium* but virtually all genera of South American cacti. When **Backeberg** published *Das Kakteenlexikon* in 1966, he included 83 species of *Gymnocalycium*. Botanists have been patiently sifting through the available reference data to put to rest many of the old, confused names.

After World War II, many botanists were active in the subject of South American cacti, the most accomplished being **Friedrich Ritter**. Strict laws concerning habitat-collected specimens brought many enthusiasts to the local areas to collect seed, which resulted in several other discoveries of *Gymnocalycium* species. At present, **Graham Charles** accepts 56 species.

Many are in the trade, under one name or another. **Miles Anderson's** 2009 catalog includes over 40 species of *Gymnocalycium*, and is a recommended source for plants for your collection.

Gymnocalycium species can generally be broken into two general categories, those that clump and those that usually remain solitary. Clustering species include *G. andreae* and the slightly larger *G. bruchii*, both from the area near Cordoba, Argentina.



G. denudatum

Solitary species include *G. baldianum*, which has flowers of variable color including red; *G. cardenasianum*, a pink flowered variety from Bolivia; *G. denudatum* with bright white flowers from Brazil and Uruguay; *G. erinaceum* with black tipped spines like a hedgehog from Argentina; *G. eurypleurum* from Cerro Leon, Paraguay, which may be

endangered by land clearance in habitat; *G. hossei* from La Rioja, Argentina, sometimes mistakenly called *manzanense*; and *G. oenanthemum* with flowers that start orange and darken to red from Catamarca, Argentina, sometimes mistakenly called *tillianum* or *carmianthum*.



G. saglionis



G. neuhuberi



G. hossei

Other solitary species include *G. pflanzii ssp zegarrae* from Campero, Bolivia, the most northerly of *Gymnocalycium* species, sometimes mistakenly called var. *alpipulpa* or *alpopulpa* or *G. zegarrae*; *G. quehlianum*, notable for its white flower with a red throat from Cordoba, Argentina; *G. saglionis*, the giant of the genus at 12 inches and profuse white to pink flowers, widely spread from Jujuy in the north to Salta, Catamarca and La Rioja further south in Argentina; *G. schroederianum ssp. bayense* from Buenos Aires, Argentina, sometimes mis-labeled *bayensis*, fairly new to the trade and named for the Sierra Bayas; and *G. stenopleurum* from the Gran Chaco of Paraguay, sometimes mistakenly called *friedrichii*, this is the "Star Cactus" with the chlorophyll bred out and grafted onto *Hylocereus* stock.

from Membership Chair



Hello Everyone:

Hope 2010 started off well for you! Just a couple of reminders. First, for people who have renewed their memberships, your new membership cards were printed, and are held by **Ken Blackford**, our Treasurer, for you to pick up at an SDC&SS meeting. So, don't forget to stop by and pick up your new 2010 membership card. Also, the Club By-Laws required me to drop many names from our membership list because of failure to renew during the first two month of the year. If you know anyone who has been dropped, remind them of what a wonderful experience they are missing, not belonging to the Club! They are of course welcome to re-join at any time - at a club meeting or by contacting me. The membership application is included in the **EyF**.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have with regards to our membership. My e-mail is collette.parr@cox.net and my cell phone is 619-384-8849.

Thanks,

Collette Parr

Espinas Y Flores Going Electronic!

The newsletter is available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, www.sdcss.net. Take a look! As a cost-savings measure, all members are being urged to accept an e-mailed version of the newsletter – the cost of color printing and mailing far outweigh the annual membership fee. To cancel your yard copy of the **EyF**, contact the membership chairperson or the newsletter editor. You will be notified by e-mail of the availability of your next issue, the speakers at the next meeting, and other significant announcements. The electronic version will often contain additional color images, but a "smallest size" version with length less than about 1.5 MB will be available for ready downloading. A version containing higher resolution color images will also be available that will not be suitable for dial-up connections.

The due date for submission of all material to be published in EyF will be the second-to-last Saturday of the month preceding the next monthly meeting. All submissions are to be made to the Editors. Please e-mail your articles to Paul & Carol Maker at pdmaker@roadrunner.com.

Winter show results

Novice:

Best Cactus: **Judy Walkowiak**, *Uebelmannia pectinifera*
 Best Succulent: **Gregg DeChirico**, *Euphorbia suzannae*
 Best Winter Grower: **Inacia Matheus**, *Senecio tropaeofolium*

Advanced:

Best Cactus: **Carol & Paul Maker**, *Ariocarpus fissuratus lloydii*
 Best Succulent: **Carol & Paul Maker**, *Tylecodon reticulatus*
 Best Winter Grower: **Peter Walkowiak**, *Euphorbia bupluerifolia*

Best in Show: **Steve Frieze**, *Echinocereus viridiflorus*



The Winners Table. Left to right back row: *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*, *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, *Tylecodon reticulatus*. Left to right front row: *Euphorbia suzannae*, *Senecio tropaeofolium*, *Uebelmannia pectinifera*, *Ariocarpus fissuratus lloydii*.

There were 27 entrants at the Advanced level, and they entered 220 specimens. There were 16 entrants at the Novice level, and they entered 80 specimens. In total, there were 300 plants from 43 people.

Otherwise unaccredited photos are the handiwork of the Editors.

SDCSS HELP WANTED ADS

If you are looking for a way to help here are some ideas:

<p>Volunteers for WAP Gardens: For garden maintenance, new area development, plant identification and to work in the greenhouse</p>	<p>Trophy Chairperson: Someone to manage the Club's many trophies, overseeing their refurbishment.</p>	<p>Trophy Sponsorship: We are in the process of updating trophies and are looking for donations to support the process.</p>
<p>Education Chair: For Summer Show: Put together a program for education during the summer show</p>	<p>Membership Committee Members: To support the membership chair in providing membership services.</p>	<p>Audio Visual Person Duties to include organizing existing equipment, setting up at meetings and advising on requirements.</p>
<p>Ride Coordinator: Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.</p>	<p>Trip Coordinator to coordinate trips, arrange bus contracts, destination requirements, etc.</p>	

Contact **Chris Miller** if you would like to volunteer

Opinions expressed in articles and editorial comments are solely the opinions of the author or the editor and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the SDCSS, the Board of Directors or the organization as a whole. All material submitted to the *Espinas Y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content. All material contained in the *Espinas Y Flores* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations (unless permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the article.) Please send one copy of the printed material to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the express consent of the editor is prohibited.

In memorium

A great man has died. **Reid Moran** served as curator of botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum for many years and defined the genus *Dudleya* for us. His obituary was in the February 2nd issue of the newspaper **San Diego Union Tribune** (you can see it online as www.uniontribune.com and click on NEWS and then go to OBITUARY).

On a personal note, I enrolled in a class in ecology while in middle school in the late 1950s that Dr. Moran conducted, and the impression is still vivid.

Submitted by **David Douglas Buckner**

the conservation chair

Joe Kraatz

Joe reminds us that now's the time to view the incredible flower show out at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. For a full description, see http://www.nctimes.com/entertainment/attractions/article_773b1a2e-1a4f-55de-849a-cdaa27371377.html



For park details, see www.theabf.org

Joe also points out a fascinating article about a startup company in Encinitas, SG Biofuels. They are developing new varieties of the succulent *Jatropha curcas*, and have succeeded in doubling its bio-fuel yield. *Jatropha* oil can now be produced for \$1.39 per gallon or \$58 per barrel. Crude oil now sells for \$80 a barrel. One acre of *Jatropha* can produce 400 of oil. Visit www.sgfuel.com. The article appeared in the North County Times, written by staff writer Bradley Fikes.



From the North County Times article

From the library chair

Don Hunt



If you were to ask me at a meeting, "Don, what's the best cactus book we have?" My brain would immediately go into a spiral something like this.

Do they mean all cacti total everywhere?

No, I don't think that is the ideal format for a book, it would be hard to go into much detail with such a broad generalized topic, better to specialize a little bit.

What group of cactus would I want the book to be on?

Well, a genera is a pretty nice neat grouping if it was large enough to be interesting, but small enough to cover each species with a few pages at least. My genera should be pretty common in culture, a major group. There should be plenty of small pot size species, so that any cactus collector would have a few, but not so large that divisions are interesting only to the taxonomically inclined. If it was from someplace exotic, the locality info would be more interesting. Speaking of locality info, I love range maps. My best of book has to have them as well as distribution details with local conditions for soil, rainfall etc maybe with locality photos that show the terrain and vegetation. Some cactus are more threatened by development than others, so including this in the format is interesting.

What about the format of the book?

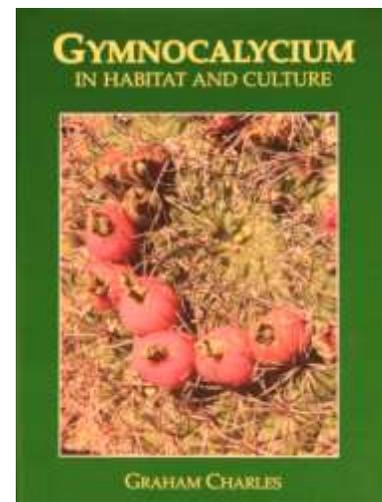
Certainly, lots of pictures. You know what though? I'm still amazed by the difference between habitat grown cactus and cactus in culture. It would be really great if each species had both kinds of pictures

Anything else?

Yeah, we are cactus growers. We must have cultivation info, even if it is British based. Apparently, they are the only ones who still command the written English language.

So, my nomination is **Gymnocalycium in Habitat and Culture** by **Graham Charles**.

I bought a copy of this book for myself, and our library has a copy, which can be borrowed. Be sure and take a look.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 20: "The Incredible Staging Workshop, Plant and Potters Sale" featuring staging exhibitions by Larry Grammer and John Luhn. The Caro Desert Nursery, 9607 East Avenue S12, Littlerock, CA 93543. 661-456-0787. Visit www.CaroDesert.com.

Apr 3: "Exotic Plant Invitational Plant Sale," Palm and Cycad Exchange, 3562 Olive Hill Rd., Fallbrook, CA 92028. For info visit www.palmandcycadexchange.com

Apr 10&11: South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. For info call 310-832-2262

Apr 17&18: Green Scene Plant Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831

Apr 24: Spring Garden Festival, 9 to 4, Cuyamaca College, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cahn, CA 92019. For info call Susan Butler, 619-992-4189

Apr 24: Palomar College Arboretum Beautification Day, 9 to 3. 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069. Coffee and donuts, BBQ sausage lunch, tours, work. To order lunch and for info call Elaine Armstrong 760-744-1150 ext 2644. Visit www.palomar.edu/arboretum

May 1&2: Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. For info call 310-822-1783

May 2: South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, 9am to 4pm, at South Coast Botanical Gardens. For info call 310-833-6823

May 15: Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30th Show and Sale, 9 to 4, Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. For info call 909-360-8802

May 16: Huntington Plant Sale, 10 to 5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. For info call 626-405-2160

May 16: Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA. For info call 310-670-8148

May 22&23: Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale, 10-4, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA. For info call 805-237-2054, or visit www.centralcoastcactus.org

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

President: Chris Miller
Vice President: Peter Walkowiak
Secretary: Candy Garner
Treasurer: Ken Blackford

Directors

Susan Hopkins
Jean O'Daniel
Steve Harris
Don Hunt
Jerry Garner
Cathy Clark
Mark Fryer (ex-President)

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern
Brag Table: Candy Garner
Plants of the Month: Don Hunt
Summer Show: Peter Walkowiak
Winter Show: Peter Walkowiak
Historian: Terry Parr
Library: Don Hunt, Chris Miller, Jeanette Dutton, Steve & Kathy 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: Kelly Griffin
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
SD Botanic Garden: Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Garden Foundation: George Plaisted
SD Floral Association: Jeanette Dutton
SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller

Editors: Paul & Carol Maker, pdmaker@roadrunner.com

Webmaster: Tom Stiko

Web Site: www.sdcss.net

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

Guillermo Rivera photos from Argentina



Guillermo with *Lobivia bruchii* in the valley of Tafi del Valle



A local scene



Parodia ???



Cleistocactus species



Gymnocalycium species



Mahinuenopsis pentandri



More locals, near Tilarca



Rebutia jajoina

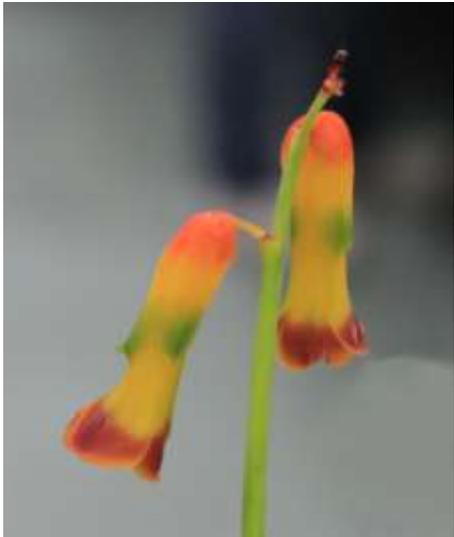
Shots from the winter show



Showpiece cacti



More cacti



Lachenalia alooides v. quadricolor



Many succulents



Succulent corner



The monsters!



Agave central

SDCSS Board and Directors



Left to right: Susan Hopkins, Candy Garner, Kathy Clark, Peter Walkowiak, Jean O'Daniel, Steve Harris, Chris Miller, Jerry Garner, Don Hunt, Ken Blackford.



Bad Gollum!! Sit in the corner!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per **calendar** year for each additional household member. One newsletter, *Espinas y Flores*, is sent per household each month (bulk rate mail OR E-mail). First Class delivery is available for an *additional* \$5.00 to cover the cost of postage. Be apprised that as of January 2011, dues will increase to \$20 for those who wish to receive the newsletter by USPS. Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.

Annual Dues – USA (bulk rate)* \$15.00 _____
 First Class delivery USA (optional) \$ 5.00 _____
 Annual Dues – International \$30.00 _____
 Additional Household Member(s) \$ 5.00 _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check ONE for type of application: NEW _____
 RENEWAL _____

Check ONE for type of newsletter delivery: USPS _____
 E-mail** _____

(Please use PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP + 4: _____
 PHONE: _____
 FAX /CELL: _____
 E-MAIL:** _____

ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

Do you wish to receive E-mail notifications on club events and issues?
 Yes _____ No _____

Mail this form, along with a check or money order made payable to SDCSS in US funds to:

**SDCSS Membership Department, c/o Collette Parr
 7924 Grape Street
 La Mesa, CA 91941-6323.**

*If joining in any month other than January, use the following to calculate your dues at \$1.25/month: February - \$13.75; March - \$12.50; April - \$11.25; May - \$10.00; June - \$8.75; July - \$7.50; August - \$6.25; September - \$5.00; October - \$3.75; November - \$2.50; December - \$1.25.

**If specifying E-mail delivery, you must fill in an e-mail address