



Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

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August 2010



Program: Todd Masilko
“Travels in Yemen and Socotra”

Plant of the Month: Pam Badger
“*Sansevierias*”

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“The Way We Were Circa 1968 Part I”

Plant Profile: Ed DeLollis
“*Polaskia chichipe*”

Saturday, August 14, 2010, 1:00pm
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

25 July 2010



What a wonderful morning. I was kind of grouchy about the morning overcast until we had the better part of a week of summer (well over 100 degrees at my house). I am really enjoying the cool mornings now! I was sitting out yesterday watching a hummingbird have an intensive feast of my *Adromischus*. If you have trouble with your *Adromischus* plants getting leggy, like I do, put them in hanging pots. Mine are much happier than they were and the hummers love them. One of the birds wanted to battle for supremacy of the patio the other day. Between the *Gasterias* blooming on the shelves and the hanging *Adromischus* in flower, he didn't want me passing through. It is like you can hear them buzzing Mine! Mine!



I was out front this morning pulling weeds from between the Boojum trees and the *Ferocactus* (not for the faint of heart) and turned around and found justification for growing *Crassulas*. I love red.




Adromischus and *Crassula*. Chris Miller

What a nice meeting we had in July. Lots of members came to listen to **Art Cooley** give an interesting talk about *Dudleyas*. Sometimes a little historical background makes you go hmmm and now we know why

Cover: *Adenium socotranum* by **Todd Masilko**.

everyone leaves Cornell University. His display was wonderful. **Matt Maggio** gave a very informative talk on pests and I am now on an eradication mission. Also it made me hyper-aware of my lack of attention. It seems like they are everywhere!!! But there are fewer of them than there were two weeks ago.

7. Aphids	
Detectability:	1
Virulence:	5
Resistance factor:	2
Host Range:	3
Damage:	2
Treatment:	2
Total:	15



Matt Maggio evaluates the aphid threat.

The brag table competition is now in three categories, novice, advanced and professional. Each category has first second and third prizes for cactus and for succulents. Everyone has an opportunity to win some plants buck to spend at our sale. Last meeting I had \$22 worth of plant bucks left over at the end of judging. This is a great opportunity to get feed back on your plants and staging techniques and get some credit towards more plants, not to mention oohs and awes from your fellow club members. So bring your plants in. Judging takes place at 12:30 so be sure to get there on time.

Our usual group of incredible volunteers were at the meeting to make sure everything went smoothly. Please thank them next month and let them know how much you appreciate the things they do for you. We are always looking for more volunteers and there is no better way to get to know other club members than to volunteer. Please take a look at the Help Wanted Ads to see if there is something you are interested in doing.

The location for the September picnic is still up in the air, but plan for an outing on the 11th of September. We will choose a park in the county, hopefully central to most of you. The usual plan is the club provides the meat and drinks. The attendees provide side dishes and deserts. If you are new to the group this is another way to get to know other members. We will have our usual silent auction with plants donated by members. This helps offset the cost of the event. So think about a plant you have that would make a good auction plant.

I have been setting up a booth for SDCSS at the Santee Farmer's Mar-

ket selling plants to raise funds for the Wild Animal Parks gardens that we maintain and talking to people about SDCSS. If you have Wednesday afternoons free and want to come visit or help let me know. It is from 3 to 7 on Mission Gorge Road. If you hit Magnolia going east, you have gone too far.

Board Elections are around the corner and **Allen Clark** is the Nominations Chair for this year. We have a few Director positions open. Contact Allen if you are interested.

Remember to bring your succulent cuttings to the August meeting. Things that would look good in a succulent center piece.

Succulent Symposium at the Huntington on September 4th is just around the corner. It is a day of talks on Succulent Plants, with a chance to walk through the conservatory and the gardens. I am still waiting on a program, but I have heard that one of the speakers will be **John Lavranos**. Members who have given plant of the month talks have earned a scholarship to this event. Please let me know if you intend to go. I will publish the program as soon as it is available.

Enjoy your gardens

Chris Miller

SDCSS HELP Wanted ADS

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

Web Content Manager to work with the web master on the SDCSS site. For information transfer.	Ride Coordinator: Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.	Trophy Sponsorship: We are in the process of updating trophies and are looking for donations to support the process.
Education Chair: For Summer Show: Put together a program for education during the summer show.	Membership Committee Members: To support the membership chair in providing membership services.	Trip Coordinator to coordinate trips, arrange bus contracts, destination requirements, etc.
Show Co-Chairs for the Winter and Summer Shows to assist Peter with planning, setup, etc.	Merchandising Manager for t-shirts, hats, bags. Setting up at meetings and sales, managing inventory.	Security Coordinator for show and sales to manage volunteer shifts.

Contact Chris if you would like to volunteer or for more information on what the job entails. There isn't a better way to get to know other club members than volunteering!

Program

“Travels in Yemen and Socotra”

Todd Masilko



August's program will feature the plants and habitats of Yemen and Socotra. Yemen is rich in both succulent plant life as well as historic architecture. The program will show photos of a wide range of plant habitats as well as the architecture and people of both mainland Yemen and the island of Socotra.

The flora of Yemen contains many species of *Aloe*, *Euphorbia*, *asclepiads*, and other succulents, including a few that are widely grown in Southern California collections. It is certainly a country I would not have visited had it not been for an interest in succulent plants. Socotra needs no introduction to fans of plants such as *Adenium socotranum*, *Draceana cinnabari*, *Dorstenia gigas*, and the many other unique species found there. Though it is much more accessible than in years past, it is still a place that most Americans do not get the chance to visit.



Photo by **Todd Masilko**.

All photos are from a trip taken in December of 2007 with a group of fellow succulent plant enthusiasts. The itinerary consisted of two weeks on the island of Socotra and one week traveling on the mainland of Yemen. This was a wonderful trip and I am excited to have the chance to share photos and experiences with the San Diego club.

plant of the Month

Sansevierias

Pam Badger



I fell in love with *Sansevierias* long before I knew that their blooms have the ability to transform a warm summer evening to a wondrous, magical show. I awoke on an early July morning recently to the exotic perfume of *Sansevieria kirki kirki* and was inspired to share this experience.

Sansevieria is a group of about 60 *Agave* related species from India, Indonesia and tropical Africa. *Sansevierias* have a rich history of folklore and new science. These plants have a rich history of cultivation. In China, it was kept as a treasured houseplant because the Eight Gods bestowed their eight virtues on those who grew them. These virtues include long life, prosperity, intelligence, beauty, art, poetry, health and strength. The plants were kept near the entrances inside the home so that the eight virtues could pass through. These plants also were placed in fine restaurants, herbalists, acupuncturists, doctor's offices, accountant's offices, banks, shrines, monasteries, and even in rice paddies. More recently, NASA has included *Sansevierias* in experiments on using plants to clean air in enclosed environments.

Sansevierias are Old World relatives of *Agaves*, found primarily in the deserts of Africa and Asia. They currently belong to the family *Ruscaceae*, a family that also includes the *Beaucarneas* and *Dracaenas*. At one time they were put in the Lily family, and then moved to the *Agaves*.

Sansevierias are succulent plants - they have strong, stiff, almost plastic-like, succulent leaves that erupt right out the ground from the roots or rhizomes. There are no stems or trunks. Many species, if not most, are naturally variegated being banded, striped or mottled to varying degrees. Some have thin, flat, upright leaves while others have nearly cylindrical, arching or straight, spear-



like leaves that end in sharp points. They vary in size from less than 6" tall to over 8' in height.

Sansevierias' flowers are white on an unbranched spike, vaguely reminiscent of a hyacinth. They are often scented, particularly in the evening. They are propagated by seeds, suckers or leaf cuttings.



Generally slow growing and tolerant of low light and little water, tough smaller varieties of *Sansevierias* make ideal plants for small indoor spaces such as offices and apartments. The larger varieties are great in drought aware landscapes and gardens of S. California as well as in pots in the home, office or patio. Plant them in shady areas where they can spread and fill in with dramatic shapes and textures. As a summer treat, look for the bloom



spikes and bring them indoors to enjoy their spicy, sweet scent filling the nights. Whether in pots or in the ground, they are tolerant of long periods of drought and prefer to dry out well between waterings.

Photos by Pam Badger

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

July 2010 - BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by
Matt Maggio and Kelly Griffin

CACTUS

Advanced

1st Place, **Phyllis Flechsig** - *Ferocactus chrysacanthus*
(seed from Cedros Island, 9/85)

SUCCULENTS

Novice

1st Place, **Judy Walkowiak** - *Adromischus spheros phyllus undulatus*

2nd Place, **Judy Walkowiak** - *Euphorbia millotii*

3rd Place, **Pat Bryan** - *Graptopetalum bellum*

Intermediate

1st Place, **Lee Badger** - *Kalanchoe 'Pink Butterfly'*

2nd Place, **Lee Badger** - *Cyphostemma*

3rd Place, **Lee Badger** - *Tylecodon x Leucothry*

Advanced

1st Place, **Kelly Griffin** - *Aloe 'Erin's Firecracker'*

2nd Place, **Kelly Griffin** - *Aloe tomentosa* species

3rd Place, **Kelly Griffin** - *Echeveria unciiculata?* (monkey claw)

Submitted by **Candy Garner**



Phyllis Flechsig's lonely
Ferocactus chrysacanthus



Art Cooley showing The Gambia 'Cactus' stamp featuring a *Dudleya*
Photo by **Bev Grant**

ELIBET'S Corner

What kind of fitness exercises could you possibly recommend to an aging centipede who needs to strengthen her leg muscles?

Like for instance push-ups. And what quota of legs should be up when the others are down?

In the next installment we will deal with a simplified version of these exercises to fit the skimpy and miserly two legs you were rationed.



Left: 8 **Kelly Griffin** Aloes and *Haemanthus humilis*. Center and Right: Raffle Table plants—wonderful!. Above Right: *Dudleya* inflorescence on the Novice Succulent Brag Table

The Way We Were Circa 1968

By **Nibby Klinefelter**



PART I

“The Public Is Welcome,” concluded the announcement in the San Diego Union for the meeting of the Cactus and Succulent Society in Balboa Park — at the very moment I was looking for a garden club to join, after moving to San Diego in 1967.

At that time Cactus and Succulent meetings were held in the Floral Association Building adjacent to the Houses of Hospitality. The building is now the Gift Shop. And the surrounding walls have been demolished. I joined at that meeting mentioned in the Union, once I found the elusive Floral Association Building. The Vietnam War was raging and not yet history. So different then was a uniformed military presence everywhere in the Park, when we went to meetings, and when I went to my job at Balboa Naval Hospital in SOQ, Sick Officers Headquarters.

The format of our meetings was much the same as it is now. There was the Plant Exchange Table, the Cactus-of-the-Month Table and the Succulent-of-the-Month Table. I do not remember a Bragging Table nor Refreshments until we moved to our present more spacious quarters in Room 101 in Casa Del Prado after its renovation. However, nearing 89, my memory is not entirely reliable.

But I do remember that **Walter ‘Scotty’ Scott** was responsible for many of our Programs with important specialists, such as **Charlie Glass** and _____, editors of the prestigious Society in the Sky of the Cactus and Succulent World, The Cactus and Succulent Journal of America. **Scotty** was accorded the title Wagon Master for arranging many field trips to Nurseries, to the Huntington gardens, to Baja, and even to a cactus and succulent show in Phoenix requiring two days each way for our caravan. The most memorable Field Trip **Scotty** arranged was for **Bob Taylor** to lead us from his home in El Cajon (so early there was frost on the ground) to Tecate to Ensenada and to Tijuana, ending with steaks at Victor’s—is that restaurant still open? It was one of those heavenly days where Time expands. **Bob** had spots where we could dig at will, although the plants had to be fumigated before entering San Diego. Everything progressed beautifully except for four flat tires for **Warren Buckner**, despite his having bought new tires for the jaunt. He hadn’t reckoned on an inept mechanic mis-fitting them.

The annual picnic was held at **Bob** and **Suzanne Taylor’s** home and Nursery on top of a hill in El Cajon. Bob always demonstrated grafting as he had great skill in the art. Something that we did in the 60’s and 70’s

was to enter the Del Mar County Fair with three exhibits: cactus, succulents, and grafts. Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society provided stiff competition. While it entailed a lot of work, it was a great deal of fun being behind the scenes, watching the Fair come alive. O the camaraderie of it all!

Maintaining a succulent garden at the Wild Animal Park as the Society now does must afford the same satisfaction.

The newsletter *Espinās Y Flores* was edited by **Jim “Jimbo” Stalsonburg** in 1968. It was printed in the messy gelatin process of ditting. The Society bought a rather complicated machine just short of a Xerox, which we used to roll out the pages until Xeroxing became more cost effective. Little did I know my son **Ben** was printing Protest leaflets with it. The present editors, **Paul** and **Carol Maker**, have been blessed with computer skills. There is talk of going online, abhorrent to this computer illiterate member. Technology tramples on.

So far as I know, we had a Library from the beginning. Once we almost lost it when **Scotty**, in an overly generous mood, promised our Library to the Botanical Society when we all moved to Casa Del Prado. Fortunately, it all worked out well, for we all recognized that **Scotty** was the backbone of our society. He had been an important FBI Agent before his retirement, and took on multiple jobs. **Scotty** and his wife **Hazel** were very active in any capacity where they were needed; she specialized in hanging baskets of succulents, winning many prizes. They outfitted a van to carry them to many cactus and succulent shows around the area.

Since we were a much smaller organization 42 years ago, it was more feasible than now to allow guests and new members to choose a plant from a selection provided for that purpose. A very nice welcoming gesture---I was too late for my first meeting to choose a plant. Regardless of the many many plants harvested from the Exchange Table, I still miss getting that one special introductory plant!

When I joined in 1968, **‘Doc’ Vaughan** was President of Cactus and Succulent. He was known as “The Old Night Owl” for he broadcast a radio talk show from Catalina Island. A gracious and pleasant man, he presided with distinction, but retired at the next election.

Jim Stalsonburg was then elected President, and I was Secretary. And we had a real good time! **Jim** later became one of the Supervisors of Balboa Park, and was instrumental in laying the foundations for the Society to host its annual and spectacular cactus and succulent show. Jim had been Editor of the Newsletter before being President. The position then went to **Michael Buckner**, a young sprout of **Warren** and **Virginia Buckner**. After a year he relinquished the job to me. Later **Scotty** became Editor and embellished the paper with his own

clever cactus cartoons. Years later when I rejoined, **Michael** and his wife **Joyce** edited the newsletter for an appreciable time in a breezy, informative and entertaining manner. **Virginia** and **Warren Buckner** contributed a lot to our Society—including **Michael**. When **Warren** retired from the watering system in San Diego, he designed a garden for native and other plants requiring little water. His garden was highlighted by a river-rock dry stream bed.

My 12-year old son **Benjamin** also did sketches for my succulent-of-the-month articles, and my mother **Elaine Niehaus** enjoyed membership as well, for she was a superb gardener.

Of course we have many more members now, but I remember when our 100th and 101st members joined, an event covered by the Union with a photo, later one of the first photos to appear in *Espinas Y Flores*. They were the **Mooneys**, **Martin** and **Pat**, who quickly became involved in various activities.

Our first vendors were members **Sophie** and **Oliver Loyland** who went to Vista to buy cactus and succulents wholesale, which they lugged to all the meetings, lugging home again any unsold plants to care for until the next meeting—all profits to Cactus and Succulent. It was a lot of work for this happily married couple of impressive years. They also hosted many Board Meetings.

Electronic Espinas Y Flores

The newsletter is available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, www.sdcss.net. Take a look! All members are being urged to accept the e-mailed version of the newsletter in lieu of a bulk-mailed hard-copy. Each month, you will be notified by e-mail of the availability of your next issue, the speakers and events at the next meeting, and other significant announcements. The electronic version contains additional color images, and a high resolution version, from which fully detailed images can be downloaded, is available. Also, any errors found in the hardcopy version are corrected in the electronic version. To cancel your hard copy of the *EyF*, contact the membership chairperson or the editor.

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.

Otherwise unaccredited photos are the handiwork of the Editors.

Plant profile

Polaskia chichipe

By **Ed DeLollis**



Polaskia chichipe is a columnar, branching cactus of Central Mexico. Mature plants have lime-green stems up to six inches thick with ten areole-laden ribs. Areoles feature 5-7 ¼" long radial spines and a single ½" long central spine of a flat silver color that create a striking contrast

to the darker green body. Young seedlings are gray and spines are indistinct, but *Polaskia* is a rapid grower, reaching branching size in three years. When grown in ground beds, twice weekly watering and several fertilizer applications during the warm



Polaskia chichipe from www.infojardin.com

months further accelerate growth. A fully mature plant may be fifteen feet tall and almost as wide due to the numerous branches. Reports of large plants in the landscape falling over due to the immense weight of these branches as well as the shallow root systems lead us to remind people that these tumbles could be avoided by withholding fertilizer and allowing rainfall to be the sole irrigation for any well established plant. By not storing a lot of excess water it would be better able to endure the coldest temperatures we have here in the southwest. In any case fallen plants could be propped up with no harm done. Cuttings can easily be taken as a form of pruning. This pleasingly ornamental plant will give off good vibrations for decades. *Polaskia* should be given ample space and provides a sharp silhouette against an edifice or would stand alone as a centerpiece to be viewed from all angles. Because of its low expense and prolific branching growth it could be used to form an ornamental hedge for security as well as privacy. Although the name has been clumped into *Stenocereus*, we follow **Curt Backeberg's** lead and call it *Polaskia* to distinguish it from other columnar cacti. (Editors note: The New Cactus Lexicon, **D. Hunt**, retains *Polaskia chichipe*.)

Shots from the Meeting



Lee Badger's winners, *Kalanchoe* 'Pink Butterfly' and *Cyphostemma*



Nice Novice Succulent



Art Cooley's *Dudleya* exhibit



Lower: **Lee Badger's** *Tylecodon* winner



Dudleya brittonii that got TLC



Dudleya brittonii in habitat, Box Canyon, Anza Borrego, 1998

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 14&15: 25th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. For info call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364

Sept. 4: Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, all day at the Huntington

Sept. 26: Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 So. Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA, 12 pm

Nov. 6&7: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, address above.

Dec. 3-5: Orange County Cactus and Succulent Winter Show and Sale. Sale: Dec.3- 5, 10 to 4. Show 4&5, 10 to 4. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated rd, Fullerton, CA. Contact Vince Basta 714-267-4329

Mark your calendar now! CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



April 24 - April 29, 2011
Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley
San Diego, California
Watch for future updates
www.cssainc.org

Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Confirmed Convention Speakers

Myron Kinnach – Banquet	Tom Knapik	Jackie Poole
Debra Baldwin	Julia Etter/Martin Kristen	Guillermo Rivera
Tom Glavich	Marlon Machado	Karen Zimmerman
Andrew Hankey	Todd Masilko	

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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 _____

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

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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

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

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Vice President: **Peter Walkowiak**
Secretary: **Candy Garner**
Treasurer: **Ken Blackford**

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

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Education, Conservation & Exhibits

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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**, collette.parr@cox.net

Mailing: **Jean & Bill O'Daniel**

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Auction & Holiday Plants: **Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt**

Monthly Plant Sales: **Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott**

Monthly Supply Sales: **George & Jerry Plaisted**

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Reception: **Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak**

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Hospitality: **Sara Schell**

Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: **Susan Hopkins**

CSSA Affiliate Rep: **Peter Walkowiak**

SD Botanic Garden: **Phyllis Flechsig**

SD Botanical Garden Foundation: **George Plaisted**

SD Floral Association: **Jeanette Dutton**

SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: **Chris Miller**

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