



# *Espinas y Flores*

*The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society*

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

**Volume 46 Number 7**

**August 2011**



## **AUGUST MEETING AGENDA**

### **Program: Brian Kemble**

“A Feast of Ferocacti –  
A trip to Baja California in May”

### **Plant of the Month: Erik Gronborg**

“Acacias, an Overview”

### **New Book Report: Don Hunt**

“Cacti of Texas In Their Natural Habitat”

### **Monthly Workshop: Chris Miller**

“Propagation—Non Seed, No Cactus”

Saturday, August 13, 2011, 1pm to 4pm  
Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park

Plant Sales Begin at 10am  
Workshop Begins at 11:30am

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



20 July 2011

Happy Summer! Yes is it hotter than Hades in Santee. So I'm getting up early and working before it gets too hot. The night blooming *Cereus* are starting to pop out blooms. I was schuffling around in my nightgown and slippers to catch one in bloom last night and managed a picture. It was shriveling up at 7 this morning.

Our July meeting was low key and relaxed. Our pre-meeting workshop featured **Peter Walkowiak** doing a presentation on pruning. Lots of pointers on how to get that bonsai look which he is so good at. The Plant of the Month was "Repotting" by **Tom DeMerritt**. Lots of information on how and why to repot was shared. I spent Sunday separating and repotting *Gasterias*, to the tune of 5 flats of sale plants as an outcome. Twenty plants down a bazillion left to repot. **Kelly Griffin** did a great job judging the Brag Table. **Doug Dawson** (pictured later) from Phoenix drove over to take us on a trip to South Africa. Great photos and trip description and one *Gasteria* rounded out his talk.

For those of you that are creative, remember that November will feature a faux plant Brag Table. Now is the time to start those creative juices running, flowing, dribbling or whatever they do for you.

We have started receiving donations for the Anza-Borrego fund. For the next two months we are going to do a fundraiser towards the Anza-Borrego fund. SDCSS will match any donation made by a member through the club to Anza-Borrego. Our goal is to donate a total of \$5000 between us. The money will go towards purchasing additional holdings for the park. This supports the conservation part of our charter.

**Paul Maker** sent out the questionnaire and many of you replied. I know it was long and I am so grateful that many of you took the time to respond. The Board will be using your input next weekend for making decisions on where we go from here. Thanks again for your input.

The last thing I want to talk about is the trip to Lotusland in September. What is Lotusland? Check it out at [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org). We are doing this trip together with the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society. Cost will be \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members. This includes bus, lunch and entrance to the estate. Sign up will go until the 13 August meeting. Please see the application form in the newsletter.

Stay cool and let your plants enjoy the heat. See you at the meeting.

**Chris Miller**

Cover: Beautiful spreading *Acacia* provides shade for all! Photo provided by **Erik Gronborg**.

## Lotus I and shots



Top two photos from 2004 SDCSS trip, by **Chris Miller**. The rest from a trip by the editors in 2002 with the SGVCSS



Rock or *Beaucarnea*?



*Jubaea chilensis* and Cactus walk



Lotus ponds



# Plant of the Month “Acacias, an Overview”

Erik Gronborg



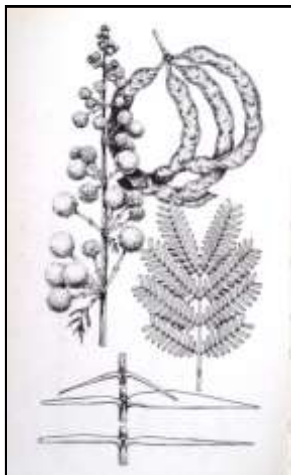
The genus *Acacia* ( now they are at it again, considering breaking the genus into 3 separate genera ) includes more than 750 species of small shrubs and ground covers to large trees as tall as 200 feet. Even though they are not succulents, they should be of interest to you because they are xerophytic and are found in many of the hot and dry parts of the tropic and sub tropic areas of the world, the same places where we find cacti and other succulents. They are in the pea family ( Leguminosae ). Acacias have yellow flowers, ranging from almost white to yellow-orange, looking like small round or cylindrical puff balls, many of them fragrant. From late January to March we can see Acacias turn solid yellow throughout San Diego county. Being in the pea family, the seeds come in numerous shapes of pea pods. *Acacia* trees typi-



*Acacia spectabilis*



*Acacia longifolia*



*Acacia karroo*

c a l l y h a v e feathery or fern like bipinnate leaves with many small leaflets, except for many of the Australian species where the leaves have been replaced with phyllodes, that is expanded leaf stalks.

Almost all *Acacia* trees outside Australia have thorns, from straight, up to four inches long, to small, sharp, and hooked. A small group from Central America have thick hollow thorns, which are inhabited by ants.

Most *Acacia* species are in Australia, but there are smaller groups in southern Africa and south and central America, including some in the Sonoran desert. The two best known, which can be

seen in Anza Borrego are *Acacia farnesiana* and *A. greggii* (the cat's claw *Acacia* )

Some *Acacias* provide useful products. In addition to firewood and fence posts, two African species have for centuries provided Gum Arabic. A few have attractive wood used for furniture, the most important being the Hawaiian Koa wood.

Almost all the ornamental *Acacia* trees grown in San Diego gardens and nurseries come from Australia. A few of them:

- Acacia longifolia*, the most common, a small, fast growing bushy tree.
- Acacia redolens*, fast growing prostate shrub used as a ground cover along freeways.
- Acacia baileyana*, graceful tree with fern like leaves. One variety, *A. baileyana*, var. *purpurea* has new purple leaves.
- Acacia cultriformis*, the Knife Edge *Acacia*, has phyllodes like small triangular knife blades.
- Acacia stenophylla*, the Shoe String *Acacia*, an open tree with 8-10 inch long narrow leaves.

Occasionally specialty nurseries will have other interesting *Acacias*. Two sources are San Marcus Growers and Australian Native Plants Nursery in Ventura.

Sources:

- T. H. Everett:** *Living Trees of the World*
- Benson & Darrow:** *Trees and Shrubs of the Southwestern Deserts.*
- Daniel H. Janzen:** *Costa Rican Natural History*
- Davidson & Jeppe:** *A field Guide to the Acacias of Southern Africa*
- Marion H. Simmons:** *Growing Acacias* ( Australian ) and GOOGLE

Photos provided by Erik Gronborg

## Monthly workshop “Propagation—Non Seed, No Cactus”

Chris Miller



This month's mini-workshop will be a demonstration of the splitting and repotting of succulents—one plant into many! **Chris** will have several plants at hand, and many more when she is done. It will be held prior to the regular meeting in the patio outside Room 104, beginning at 11:30am.

## Program “A Feast of Ferocacti – A trip to Baja California in May”

Brian Kemble



**Brian Kemble** has been growing succulents since the mid-seventies. He is the vice-president of the Institute for Aloe Studies, a board member of the San Francisco S&C Society ([www.sfsucculent.org](http://www.sfsucculent.org)), and curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden ([www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)). He has been to South Africa five times, Namibia three times, and Madagascar once, to see the plants in their native habitats. He has an interest in aloe hybrids, and he has created many of these over the years.

Brian will be giving a presentation about a trip he took through northern and central Baja California in May 2011. This time of year features lots of ferocacti and dudleyas in flower, along with the spectacular landscapes of this wonderful peninsula and the usual array of Boojums, Elephant Trees, agaves, etc.



*Dudleya pulverulenta* with bloom K. Griffin

## Electronic Espinas Y Flores

The newsletter is available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net). Take a look! All members are urged to accept the e-mailed version of the newsletter in lieu of a bulk-mailed hardcopy. 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 extra color images not found in the hardcopy**, and a high resolution version, from which fully detailed images can be downloaded, is also available. Further, updates and errors found in the hardcopy are corrected in the electronic version. To cancel your hard copy, contact the membership chairperson **Collette Parr** at [collette.parr@cox.net](mailto:collette.parr@cox.net).

## New Library books

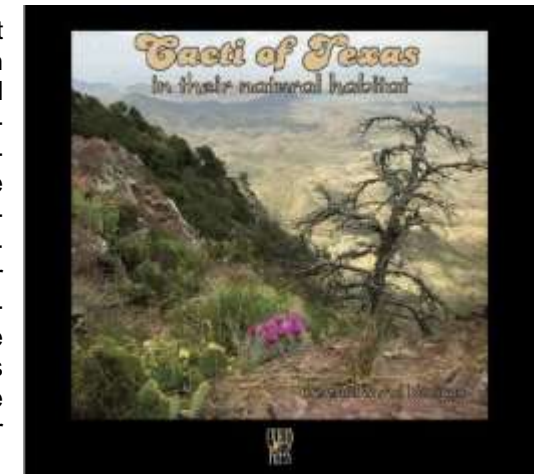
Reported by **Don Hunt**

### “Cacti of Texas In Their Natural Habitat” by **Gertrud and Ad Konings**



A few years ago I remember listening to a couple of club members discussing a field trip to Texas to look at cacti. I have seen programs on Mexican and South American cactus trips, but honestly, I didn't know if Texas had many interesting cacti or not. Surprisingly, a good number of Texas cacti are not particularly common in culture even though they may be stunning. Usually that means they aren't easy to keep.

There is only a small amount of information about each species, but some very good general cacti info at the beginning of the book and location maps at the end. The pictures are quite nice, taking up the entire page, leaving no boundary. Smaller detail photos are then included over the top of the larger picture. Each species has at least a whole page with many getting the center fold treatment.



I always try to judge things by what they try to be and not what I wish they were. The book, *Cacti of Texas* is somewhat of a hybrid format in my opinion. It's really in a coffee table layout, being almost 12 inches square, easier to read laying flat on a table. I think it does that very well. My first reaction when I saw the book was, “This is a beautiful book.” There are some excellent photos showing both the plants and the habitat. It covers the cacti of Texas pretty well, I think, as there are over 200 species included. It makes me want to look for some sleeper cacti for my collection, if not travel throughout Texas to see them. If you like cacti, but don't know *Ancistrocactus* from *Escobaria*, this is the book for you.

### **Snacks for the Break:**

If your last name begins with N-Z please bring a snack to share at the break.

## Shots from the July Meeting



Summer Show Trophy Winners and Providers. Left to right, standing: **Jean O'Daniel, Mary Sasso, Terry Parr, Elibet Marshall, Juergen Menzel, Cathy Clark, Terry and Candy Garner.** Kneeling, **Peter Walkowiak**



Novice entries on the July Brag Table



## Open House At the Home of Peter Walkowiak and Inacia Matheus



Saturday, August 20th, 2011.

Time: 1:00 pm - until everyone's too pooped to party.  
Please R.S.V.P. (contact info below).

You've seen some of my plants at various shows, but there are many more to see and many of you have indicated an interest in seeing the entire collection. Sales inventory is available as well.

We will provide snacks, lemonade and iced tea. If you'd like something with more spirit, please feel free to bring it along.

Location:

1172 Avocado Ave

Escondido, CA 92026

Peter's Ph# 858-382-1797

Inacia's Ph# 760-415-5105

E-mail: [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com)

Directions (TRUST THESE DIRECTIONS, not maps)

15 freeway, exit El Norte Pkwy which is 1 mile north of highway 78

Right turn from northbound - head east

Left turn from southbound - head east

Seven Oaks Rd - immediate RIGHT turn (frontage road)

Borden Rd - 1/4 mile - LEFT turn

Avocado Ave - 1/2 mile - LEFT turn

This is the tricky part...

1/4 mile on Avocado Ave there is an unmarked cul-de-sac. The house on the corner has a white block wall about 2 feet high. This IS PART of

Avocado Ave, not a different street. Turn left up this cul-de-sac. At the end of the cul-de-sac there are two parallel driveways on the right.

Ours is the one on the right. We will have a sign at the bottom of the driveway indicating 1172. Park in cul-de-sac, if you pull nose in at the front of the dirt hill, we can fit more cars.

(This is the first of what we hope will become a regular "Coffee in the Garden Program," — tours of members' gardens — on the third Saturday each month. Watch the EyF for future opportunities to visit some wonderful gardens and plant sites. If you are willing and able to host such a visit, please contact **Chris Miller** at [c.miller@cox.net](mailto:c.miller@cox.net) with your specifics—date, permitted group size, etc.)

## 28<sup>th</sup> Succulent Plants Symposium 3 September 2011 Huntington Botanical Gardens

**Program includes:**

**Mark a Dimmit**, Tucson, Arizona, *What is a Succulent: An Attempt at a Scientific Definition*

**Nancy J. Vivrette**, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara California, *Identifying Ice Plants: A Case for the History Detective*

**Kathy Musial**, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marion California, Chile's *Semiarid North – The Norte Chico*

**Brian Dorsey**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, *Systematics of the Xerophytic and Succulent Euphorbia*

**Tim Harvey, Todd Masilko and John Trager**, Southern California, *Namibia in 3T*

The dinner speaker will be:

**Steven Hammer**, Sphaeroid Institute, Vista California, *Music of the Sphaeroids*

**Time:**

8:30am Registration and continental breakfast

9am to 5pm Program in Friends' Hall also includes silent auction, Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory special hours and Lunch

6 pm Dinner (Optional) (Registrants who do not sign up for dinner are welcome to return for the final presentation)

**Registration:**

Symposium \$75.00

Dinner \$25.00

Deadline for registration is August 29th. The Huntington cannot guarantee meals for late registrants. Send registration form and a check (payable to The Huntington) or credit card information to:

Succulent Plants Symposium  
Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino CA 91108  
(626) 405-3504, FAX (626) 405-3501

**Symposium Registration Form:**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**For those of you who gave a plant of the month presentation this year we offer a scholarship and will pay your way.** Please contact Chris Miller if you are interested in going. We will try to arrange car pools.

### Trip to Lotusland September 10<sup>th</sup> (in lieu of regular meeting)

Bus will leave from Balboa Park around 8am making a pickup stop at the Escondido Seniors Center at about 8:45am, returning around 8pm.

Cost will be \$60 for members of both San Diego and Palomar Cactus and Succulent Societies \$70 for non-members.

Name	E-mail	Phone	Paid

Cost of trip includes bus, lunch and entrance fee to the estate.

# July BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by **Kelly Griffith**



## CACTUS

Novice

- 1st Place, **Jim DeForest** - *Leuchtenbergia principis*
- 2nd Place, **Alison Baldwin** - *Turbinocarpus klinckevianus*



Intermediate

- 1st Place, **Carol Maker** - *Ariocarpus fissuratus*
- 2nd Place, **Carol Maker** - *Copiapoa laui*
- 3rd Place, **Brian Shepherd** - *Echinocereus rigidissimus*



Advanced

- 1st Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Sulcorebutia mentosa*
- 2nd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Mammillaria spaerica*
- 3rd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Acanthocalycium violaceum*



## SUCCULENTS

Novice

- 1st Place, **Bev Grant** - *Echeveria 'Allegra'*
- 2nd Place, **Bev Grant** - *Pachypodium succulentum*
- 3rd Place, **Jim DeForest** - *Monadenium ritchiei*

Intermediate

- 1st Place, **Lee Badger** - *Euphorbia francoisii*
- 2nd Place, **Candy & Jerry Garner** - *Aloe pseudoparvula*
- 3rd Place, **Lee Badger** - *Euphorbia cylindrica tubifera*

Advanced

- 1st Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Euphorbia inermis v. huttoniae*
- 2nd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Avonia alstonii*

Submitted by **Candy Garner**



## ELIBET'S Corner



Greetings to all you nice people!  
 This is to give you notice that the view from up here in my 95<sup>th</sup> year, does not actually feel so "up-here-ish" but more like that I've arrived: "down-down-ish."



## SDCSS HELP Wanted ADS

Contact **Chris Miller** at [c.miller@cox.net](mailto:c.miller@cox.net) 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!

<b>Show Co-Chairs</b> for the Winter and Summer Shows to assist <b>Peter Walkowiak</b> with planning, setup, etc	<b>Ride Coordinator:</b> Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.	<b>Trophy Sponsorship:</b> We are in the process of updating trophies and are looking for donations to support the process.
<b>Education Chair</b> for Summer Show: Put together a program for education during the summer show	<b>Membership Committee members</b> to support the membership chair in providing membership services.	<b>Trip Coordinator</b> to coordinate trips, arrange bus contracts, destination requirements, etc.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 29-30:** Orange County Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale at the Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA. Fri. 7/29 Noon to 7pm, Sat. 7/30 9am to 5pm.

**Aug 13-14:** 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercity Show and Sale at LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Info: 626-798-2430 or 661-297-5364.

**Sep. 3:** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium All Day At The Huntington.

**Sep. 10: SDCSS Trip to Lotus Land! See Details on Earlier Pages!**

**Sep. 25:** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction at 18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA. 12pm.

**Nov. 5-6:** San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

## Cssa Corner August 2011

Those who live in the western US should be planning to attend the Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens on September 3, 2011.

The annual meeting of the Society was held on July 2 at the Huntington Library. President, **Laurel Woodley** recapped the last year's activities which included the successful Convention in San Diego in April. It's not too early to begin planning to attend the next Convention in April 2013.



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.

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](mailto:pdmaker@roadrunner.com).

Otherwise unaccredited photos are the handiwork of the Editors.

## Extra photos for e-mail folks



July speaker, **Doug Dawson**.



**Peter Walkowiak** *Mamm. spaerica*



The **WHOLE** raffle table at the July meeting, and the ticket seller/taker **Collette Parr**



**Tom De Merritt** expounding upon the virtues of re-potting at the July meeting



**SDC&SS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

Dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. Newsletter is E-mailed. **Mailed paper copies are available for an additional \$5 a year.** Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.

Annual Dues – (E-mail Newsletter) \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 First class delivery USPS (Paper Newsletter) \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Annual Dues – International (Paper) \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Household Member(s) \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check **ONE** for type of membership: **NEW** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Information:**  
 (Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Household Members:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you wish to receive E-mail notifications of Club events and issues?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form or a copy, along with a check or money order payable in US Funds to SDCSS to:**

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

**(Rev. D-1, 2011-04-12)**

*San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society*

**Executive Board**

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

**Directors**

**Cathy Clark**  
**Steve Harris**  
**Don Hunt**  
**Jerry Garner**  
**Kelly Griffin**  
**Vanessa Nelson**  
**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**, [collette.parr@cox.net](mailto:collette.parr@cox.net)  
 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: **Cathy Clark & 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 Botanical Garden Foundation: **George Plaisted**  
 SD Floral Association: **Jeanette Dutton**  
 SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: **Chris Miller**

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Webmaster: **Gunnar Eisel**

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