



Mammillaria thornberi

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume 48 Number 6

July 2013



Happenings This Month

Regular Meeting

Saturday July 13, 2013

Balboa Park, Room 101, 1pm to 4pm

Agenda:

Pre Meeting Workshop at 11:00

Soil Workshop

By Peter Walkowiak

Plant of the Month

A Few Euphorbias

By Andrew Wilson

Program

Succulents of the Canary Islands

By Joël Lodé



Dracena draco
(Dragon Tree)



Aeonium urbicum



Euphorbia canariensis

Plant pictures by Paul Maker

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hey what another great Summer Show we had and we somehow made it through it all. This spectacular is truly bigger than life and I continue to marvel at how it all comes together.

I want to thank **Christine Vargas** and **Tom DeMerritt** for their work on publicizing our event. Somehow, **Christine** even managed to get live television coverage from KUSI! Thank you to **Bev Grant** and **Art Cooley** for getting up so crazy early to help make the publicity appearance happen.

I wish to thank so many who helped in the set up and running of this event. The always friendly greeting duties handled by **Candy Garner**, **Kathy Harris**, **Wendy Goldman**, **Sandy Wetzel-Smith**, **Jeannette Dutton**, and **Donna Couchman**.

Thanks to **Bill & Jean O'Daniel**, **Tom DeMerritt** and his shade cloth crew for being at the Show bright and early to set up. The set up and Show Chair **Peter Walkowiak** for all the hours organizing and directing the show and who was there on Friday and still there late taking it down long after it was over. Thank you

A shout out to our Show clerks too.....**Sara Shell**, **Suzy Perkins**, **Denise Griffin**, **Wendy Goldman**, **Bill & Jean O'Daniels**, **Jennifer Harris**, **Steve Harris**, **Rich & Estella Ryan**, **Alison Baldwin**, **Sandy Wetzel-Smith**, and **Ken Blackford** and **Collette Parr** for tabulating the results. .Show coordination ~ **Susan Hopkins** and **Geoff Twitchell** for their part in making the judging go smoothly

The tough crew that handled the register duties.....what a difficult job that can be when you have record sales to boot. Thanks **Joe Kratz**, **Michele Heckathorn**, **Cathy Clark**, **Pat Marshall**, **Beth Dargan**, **Jim DeForrest**, **Peggy & Shelby Kaatz**, **Denise Griffin**, **Brita Miller**, **Pam Badger**, **Pat Bryan**, **Alice Holmes** and **Tom 'De Man' Demerritt!**

A big thank you to all those that helped with Security, **John Williams**, **Chris Dawson**, **Frank Lozoya**, **Ed & Sharron Wirth**, **Ron Chisum**, **Libby Salley**, **Brian Sheppard** (next time you can leave your Agave home!) Also **Geoff Twitchell**, **Craig La Caille**, **Judy Walkowiak**, **Penny Sommerville** and **Richard & Estella Ryan**....Great work! Thank you to **Joan Lozoya** for watching over will call.

The Kitchen Crew headed up by the unflappable **Pam Badger**—thanks for feeding us!

To **George Plaisted**, **Jerry Garner** and the **O'Daniels** for roaming, directing and answering questions and helping out in so many areas...THANK YOU!

Finally, **Chris Miller** for yet another great Sale event! Chris, what a trooper....bad back and all! thanks for all you do and especially for cutting me slack on this ridiculously late contribution to the newsletter!

Anyone I missed....It is on me....You are much appreciated ~ just let me know OK? Also if you did not get your script for your volunteer effort, See me at the next meeting and we will fix that!

At our July meeting we will have a special event, We will have Joël Lodé originally from France, he has lived in the Canary Islands for a number of years and he will share his knowledge on the succulent plants of these Islands. He has written an excellent book on this same subject as well. We have not had a speaker cover the plants from the region that I know of. By the way, Most of the *Aeoniums* come from the Canaries as well as some very interesting succulent *Euphorbias* (*canariensis*) and *Ceropegias* (*dichotima* and *fusca*) and not to forget the giant Dragon trees ~ *Dracena draco*. He was a speaker at the CSSA national convention in Austin TX this past month and we are very lucky to have the great fortune to have him speak here in San Diego.

Tell your friends and be sure to mark the calendar for July 13th!

Kelly Griffin

Plant of the Month

A Few *Euphorbias*

by Andrew Wilson



We're talking about *Euphorbias*, just a few of them. It's no surprise that we're not going to discuss the whole family; the subject is too vast. It may be a surprise, however, why we're talking about the ones selected. The main reason is that I was introduced to them by Reese Brown, a great *Euphorbia* enthusiast for many years. This is not a memorial statement to him, but a reminder that by sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge of plants with others you may cause the interest in them to outlive all.

The secondary reason is more mundane. The species chosen have several features in common. All are from Madagascar and all are best treated as container plants in our climate. They are also some of the very small number of succulents that I still grow in containers. For reasons of time, care requirements and appearance, succulents (cacti and non-cacti alike) reside in my garden these days only as specimens planted out. That is the other reason why I selected these few euphorbias to bring here today. They can still be transported!

Euphorbia decarya ssp. spirostacha



Of the three species, let's start with the one that comes from south east Madagascar, an area with warmth all year. Our season is a little cooler and drier but substantial rain does fall all year, averaging 5 inches per month. This little plant never gets above a foot tall but can spread laterally with its stoloniferous, underground stems. It is hardy enough to be left outdoors all year but I do not recommend planting it out on account of our occasional wet winter periods. It may survive, but may not look well. As a potted plant you can easily enjoy the details of its crinkled leaves that change from green to purple with the temperature and moisture level. Its roots are near the surface and are like stolons. The plant can be grown in a wide, shallow container if you make sure not to let it go dry for much time.

Euphorbia millotii

The next species comes from the northwest of Madagascar, well inside the tropical region. It is a much leafier species, which is hardly surprising in view of the high rainfall there. It gets over 80 inches per year, mostly in the warmer months. The beauty of this species is the coloring of the deep green leaves with purple undersides that provide color all year. On first seeing it, many are surprised that it is a *Euphorbia*. It cannot take frost but, if kept fairly dry in winter it will accept chilly nights without damage. I grow it in an unheated sunroom. Once it starts to grow it will take water more frequently and, in summer, one good watering per week is needed. I grow it in a mix that is a little more moisture retentive than was used for *E. decarya*. It flowers several times a year as long as you keep it in active growth. It is easily propagated in summer from cuttings rooted in a sandy pumice mix. You can take those from the stems you trim back to keep it in the desired shape.



A Few *Euphorbias* (cont)



Euphorbia pauliani

The third species is not commonly grown. That's not because it is difficult to grow or not beautiful to look at. More likely it's because it is hard to find. Like the preceding one, it comes from the northern regions of the island at near sea level. It occurs in warm tropical conditions, so it's hardly surprising that it accepts a cultivation treatment similar to what *E. millotii* enjoys. Like many tropical *Euphorbias* that occur at low altitudes and moist conditions its leaves are large. The spines on its branches are arranged spirally and its flower panicles are comprised of tiny flowers with long pedicels. It is an elegant plant, definitely one for the connoisseur. There are a few lines in the *Euphorbia Journal* about it but, apart from that there seems to be no source to provide much more detail. I can simply add that, like humans, it does enjoy its beverages in summer. One day somebody should try crossing it with *E. millii*.

Planting out almost all my succulent plants has saved me a lot of work. I do miss the pot-filled benches now and then, but the loss is soon overcome when I recall the hours once spent repotting and watering them or arranging for someone to take care of them when I'm away. These Madagascan *Euphorbias* are pretty tolerant plants. They don't seem to get pests, suffer from soil problems or demand repotting each year and, unless you want to bring them to meetings they don't require handling, which is an important issue for some people. Despite their tropical origins they really present no special problems as long as you keep them from freezing. Growing just a few choice potted plants within or close to your residence provides adequate care-giving satisfaction. *Euphorbias* like these can occupy that role. Why not try?

Intercity Show & Sale Bus Trip

If you are interested in attending the Intercity Show and Sale on August 17th, Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society is hosting a bus trip. For more information contact Peter Walkowiak at hciservices@gmail.com or sign up at the July Meeting.

New Member Orientation

By Wendy Goldman

Welcome new members! We're glad to have you in the club. To help you get the most out of your club membership, we're having a new member orientation at 12:30, right before the regular meeting. Learn about the resources available to you as a club member, what activities the club offers, and more. Ever wondered how the exchange table works? Come find out. All are welcome.

Program - Succulents of the Canary Islands

By Joël Lodé

Joël Lodé is a naturalist/adventurer originally from Nantes, France, the home of Jules Verne. Perhaps inspired by Jules Verne's adventures, he has traveled extensively around the world on many adventures, including an around the world bicycle trip that started in 1975.

He publishes the quarterly journal *International Cactus Adventures* and manages the website *Cactus-Adventures.com*. Recently, he has written several books including *Succulent Plants of the Canary Islands*, *Succulent Plants of Socotra* and *A Cactus-Adventures Handbook*. Joel will guide the upcoming CSSA tour of the Canary Islands in 2014.

Convention Trip Report

by Chris Miller



We had a great time mid June in Austin. The speakers were great. Kelly and Todd Masilko co-chaired the speakers for the event. SDCSS sponsored travel expenses to bring Attila Kapitany to the convention from Australia and his talks were wonderful. His first talk was on Roadside Travels in Australia, showing wonderful Australian Succulents (we have his book in the library). The second talk was on Baob and Bottle Trees. I picked up a set of 6 pamphlets on Australian plants (including bottle trees) for our library.. Steven Hammer spoke about selection for best plants when hybridizing and about his new book Mesembs The Titanopsis Group. Ernst van Jaarsveld took us Cliff Climbing to look for succulents in South Africa.. Other international speakers included Joël Lode, Giuseppe Orlando and Len Newton



Tuesday was tour day and lots of the attendees went on day walks in the wilds of Texas. The Plant Auction on Wednesday night was well attended. The Affiliate Meeting on Tuesday discussed the convention coming up in 2015, which will be held at Pitzer College in Claremont California.

To the left is the gate at the Zilker Botanical Gardens in Austin, the photographer compared it to Wanda Mallen's Gate



Attila Kapitany with me at the Closing Banquet (my birthday party)

I almost read my way through the Closing Banquet. I received a phone call from Buck and ran down for a late dinner. After dinner there were announcements and then Buck Hemenway announced that it was my birthday. They rolled in a cake, sang me the song, I blew out the candles, and we all had two desserts. It was a very pleasant end to a very nice week.

2013UPCOMING EVENTS

July 26-28: Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale. Friday, July 26th 9am to 5pm, Saturday July 27th 9am to 5pm, Sunday 28th 12-4pm. 1000 S. State College Blvd., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA, Info 949-212-8417

Aug 17 & 18: 28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm. 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Info. Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364

Aug 31: Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, All Day At The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

Sep14: SDCSS Picnic

Sep 22: Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA. Info: 310-922-6090

Nov 2 & 3: San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 9am-4pm, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

Dec 14: SDCSS Holiday Party in Room 101, The Prado, Balboa Park

May 2013 Brag Table Winners

Judged by Kienan Parr



CACTUS

Novice

1st Place, Pat Bryan – *Echinocereus reichenbachii caepitosus*

2nd Place, Jennifer Harris – *Ferocactus emoryi*

3rd Place, Jennifer Harris – *Oreocereus trollii*

Intermediate

1st Place, Penny Sommerville – *Echinopsis colorubra*

2nd Place, Bev Grant – *Echinocereus*

3rd Place, Bev Grant – *Gymnocalycium*

Advanced

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Weingartia newmanianus*

2nd Place, Brian Shepherd – *Opuntia pottsii*

3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Mammillaria longimamma*



SUCCULENTS

Novice

1st Place, Jay Crowley – *Eulophia petersii*

2nd Place, Debra Titus – *Dudleya hassei*

3rd Place, Debra Titus – *Euphorbia horrida*

Intermediate

1st Place, Bev Grant – *Euphorbia ingens* (?)

2nd Place, Badger – *Pachypodium brevicaule*

3rd Place, Candy & Jerry Garner – *Pseudolithos mccoysi*

Advanced

1st Place, Phyllis Flechsig – Dish Garden

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Ficus brandesii*

2nd Place, Phyllis Flechsig – *Gerrardanthus macrorrhizus*



Submitted by
Candy Garner



Photos by Paul Maker



Membership Information —New ID Cards Available

In an attempt to promote lots of friendly, even educational banter amongst members at meetings, the Board authorized permanent, laminated ID cards for everyone! They are now available at the Membership Desk at all meetings and from the Membership Committee at all events.

Play the Name Game!



Do you have succulents or cacti that you would like to know the name of? Or, are you good at identifying names of plants? If so, the Name Game plant table is just for you! Bring your plant to the meeting and members will try to identify it for you. Plants should be free of diseases and pests. There will be a sheet of paper for each plant. All members are encouraged to check the plants on the Name Game plant table and write the name of the plant if they know it along with their own name for reference purposes in case the owner wants to chat more about the name. If it is your plant you may find several different thoughts on the paper for your plant's name and may need to do more research but hopefully it will steer you in the right direction. If your plant is too large to bring to the meeting you can email Rick Bjorklund at Plantguyrb@cox.net a picture of your plant and it will be projected during the meeting for thoughts on its identity. Hopefully this will be an opportunity for members to help members and further our mission of learning, teaching, and appreciating succulent plants!

Soil Workshop by Peter Walkowiak



The proper soil mix is the key to having success at growing your succulent plants. Consider it the foundation of growing healthy vigorous plants, just like the foundation of a building it is important to its longevity. Requirements of a good soil for growing succulent plants are: good and fast drainage, large and small pore spaces, water and nutrient retention. At first glance you would think that this is a contradiction. It is not, each is important and is inter related. Success rely's upon the balance and relationships these have with one another.

In this workshop I will explain the science behind what makes a soil successful. What does not and why. What components of the soil when in harmony work and which materials or components that do not and should be avoided. Having completed many years of trying various materials through experimentation I have developed a soil that I believe is perfect for growing your succulent plants. Through this experimentation the materials used, ratio of materials and mixing techniques, the three important criteria have been met.

During this workshop I will demonstrate the proper techniques, ratios and materials for making this perfect soil mix for your succulents so you can go home, use this and have greater success than you have ever had.

At the conclusion of the workshop there will be soil for everyone to replant one plant. To be fair so that everyone can replant one plant I will restrict the pot size to 6 inches for the new pot size. You will need to bring one plant and pot to the workshop and the pot in which it will be transplanted. I will provide top dressing. This part of the workshop will be hands on, I want you to do the transplanting and I will watch and give advice. I want your to see how this soil does for you and how much better they grow. I will also provide a soil handout that you can take home. Please water plants on Friday before bringing to the workshop. See you at 11 am in the patio.

2013 Trophy Winners

Best <i>Agave</i>	Brian Shepherd
Best <i>Aloe</i>	Matt Maggio
Best Baja Plant	Jürgen Menzel
Best <i>Bursera</i>	Kelly Griffin
Best Cactus	Peter Walkowiak
Best <i>Echeveria</i>	Jerry Williams
Best Epiphytic Cactus	Terry & Collette Parr
Best <i>Euphorbia</i>	Peter Walkowiak
Best Graft	Chris Dawson
Best <i>Mammillaria</i>	Peter Walkowiak
Best <i>Mesembryanthemum</i>	Inacia Matheus
Best Mexican Plant	Jürgen Menzel
Best Miniature	Alex Murphy
Best Novice Cactus	Mary Sasso
Best Novice Succulent	Inacia Matheus
Best <i>Opuntieae</i>	Don Patterson
Best Pachycaul or Caudiciform	Peter Walkowiak
Best <i>Pelargonium</i> or <i>Sarcocaulon</i>	Peter Walkowiak
Best <i>Sansevieria</i>	Jean O'Daniel
Best Seed Grown Plant	Jürgen Menzel
Best Succulent	Steve Salley
Best Succulent Bonsai	Miles Anderson
High Point (< 50 entries)	Candy & Jerry Garner
Most Artistic Display	Alex Murphy
People's Choice	
Sweepstakes Trophy	Peter Walkowiak



Our show had 68 participants entering a total of over 665 plants with 283 blue ribbons awarded. Thanks to all of you who participated.

For those of you who missed Kelly and Bev on Good Morning San Diego before the Show here are the links.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EMo8ILTyyA&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Efn0Uvb5EY&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBpqRYBNNQI&feature=youtu.be>

Show Photos by Collette Parr





SDCSS June Show and Sale. Friends, acknowledgement and some strange things.



Photos by Collette Parr

Future Coffee in the Garden Events

If you are interested in sharing your wonderful garden with other members let me know. The schedule is pretty open for the rest of the year. If you would like to see another member's garden make the suggestion and I can check to see if they were interested. If this is a program you would be interested in managing let me know. Chris Miller— c.miller@cox.net

Help Wanted: In order to run an organization the size of SDCSS we need lots of volunteers. It is a great way to get to know other people in the organization and to give back to SDCSS. We have several positions that need you.

We are forming a Committee for the Sale to help spread the work and responsibility. The following openings are available:

Box Czar: to round up boxes and manage their availability during the event

Sale Security Chair: to manage the volunteers providing security to the sale

Signage Chair: to develop and post signs for the sale

Sales Volunteer Chair: to recruit and manage the volunteers working the sale

These people plus Jim DeForest and Tom DeMerritt as Cashier Team Chairs and Chris Miller as Vendor Liaison and Committee Chair will form the committee.

The SDCSS Board received many suggestions after the last sale. While the sale was a success with outstanding sales, we can always improve the experience for our members and customers. This committee will work to make that happen. Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.

Wanted: Webmaster for the SDCSS Website. Gunnar Eisel developed and has maintained our website for several years now. He is the CSSA Business Manager and is very busy. We would like to replace him so that he can take care of his CSSA duties. If you are interested in becoming the SDCSS Webmaster contact Chris Miller or Paul Maker.

SDCSS September Picnic

The Picnic will be held at Admiral Baker Field. Signup forms and information will be in the August newsletter. Mark September 14 for a day of fun and food with other people crazy for cactus and succulents! This is another way to get to know other members.

SDCSS will provide the meat and drinks, attendees provide the side dishes and deserts (the most important part!)



Plant Rescue

I get several e-mails a month from people looking for new homes for plants both in the ground and in pots. Usually the plants are large. If getting information on these kinds of plants interests you let me know and I will pass on the information. Chris.

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 _____
 (Paper Newsletter) _____
 First class delivery USPS \$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 Dept
 c/o Paul Maker
 1245 San Pablo Drive
 San Marcos CA 92078-4816**

(Rev. E-2, 2012-11-13)

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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Pat Marshall
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Chris Dawson
Kienan Parr
Geoff Twitchell

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