

Volume 44 Number 8

September 2009

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



Program: Kelly Griffin

**“An Adventure to Cedros Island: A Little Known
Jewel of Mexico”**

Plant of the Month:

Peter Walkowiak, “Caudiciforms of Mexico”

Mini Talk of the Month:

Stan Yalof, “The Essence of Cactitude, III”

Saturday, September 12, 1:00pm

Casa Del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

30 August 2009

Boy howdy! August returned with great intensity this week, after it tried to lull us into a false sense of fall on the way. So things are cooking in Santee, as they should be, a hundred and fifteen in the backyard yesterday. Our hottest months are here, good for cactus, rough on humans. So duh, what is more important? I came home yesterday to all kinds of color in the front yard. They love the heat.

We had a great meeting on August 8th. George Plaisted shared information and pictures about *Pelargoniums*. Amazing to find out that the seed came in the animal feed with the pilgrims, was processed through the animal's digestive track, spread by farmers for fertilizer in the new world, and came up as weeds here. Pam Badger gave a great talk on *Melocactus*, with lots of cultural and habitat information, which was a great lead in for Woody Minnich's talk on Brazil.

Our annual Picnic will be at the Wild Animal Park on October 10th from 10 to 4 at the Kapunda Falls Botanical Pavilion, just below the Old World Succulent Garden. The cost will be \$5 per member and \$10 for guests, one guest per member please. Lunch will be catered by the lovely Pam Badger, who informs us that she derives great joy in cooking for us. Since you won't be allowed to bring potluck items through the front gate we will figure something out for dessert as well. See the map and sign up sheet on the detachable center fold..

The Horticulture Department from the WAP is providing us passes for non Zoological Society Members and parking will be free. This is a thank you for us maintaining the Old World Succulent Garden and Baja Garden. This is a great opportunity to spend the afternoon enjoying the gardens and each other's company.

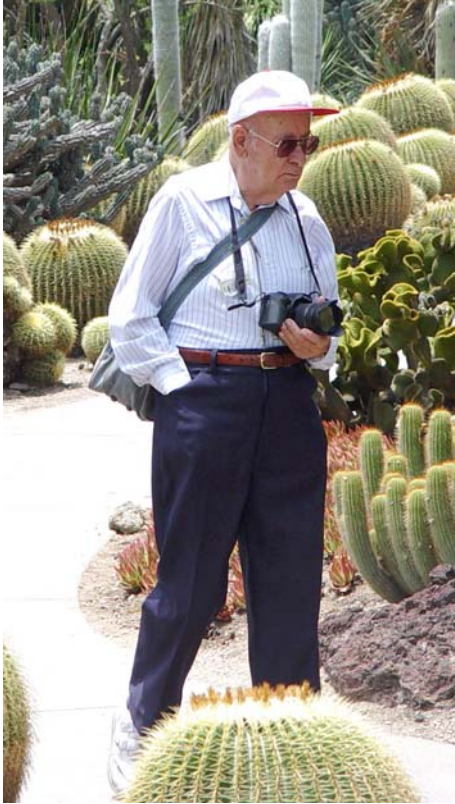
Anyone needing special transportation in the park please indicate that on the registration form so I can set it up with the park.

The club is looking for a volunteer to coordinate rides and carpooling. We have several members who could attend if they had a ride. If you are interested please give me a call or send an e-mail.

We are also looking for volunteers for the Holiday Party Committee.

On the cover: *Agave shawii* ssp *sebastiana* on Cedros Island by Kelly Griffin

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Wilbur Glover. He died last week, one day after his 89th birthday, after a short battle with cancer. He is the gentleman that worked the holding table at the



Above Chris with her *Echinocereus*, by Wilbur Glover. Left: Wilbur Glover at the Huntington.

summer show with his sister Elizabeth. Most of the women in the club have had their picture taken by Wilbur with an *Epyphyllum* bloom. Wilbur made us all look good. I of course had to be different, my picture was taken with a *Echinocereus* in bloom. Wilbur will be missed by us all, please keep Elizabeth in your thoughts and prayers.

On a brighter note, congratulations to the newlyweds Rudy and Perigina Lime! You can tell who Rudy is, he's the guy with the ear to ear grin.

The reason we haven't seen Nibby Klinefelter, former newsletter editor and hat wearer extraordinaire, at meetings for the last several months is that she underwent back surgery a few months back and is in physical therapy now. She is recovering and hopefully we will see her soon.

Joe Kraatz is building a contact list for members. See his announcement on page 9.

Tina Zucker is looking for local nurseries and landscapers that use succulents for a list we will have available at our shows and sales and post on our website. It is preferable that they be members of the organization or provide discounts for our members. If you are interested please contact Tina or myself. She currently has set up discounts with the following nurseries who are willing to offer a 10% discount: Andersons La Costa Nursery, Solana Succulents, Cedros Gardens, The Plantman, and Succulents.us – that's Tina at her Solana Beach and Vista locations. Just show your membership card.

Any organization is only as strong as the people's relationships in the organization. One of the best things about the SDCSS is that, while we have a shared love for succulent plants, it's the people we keep coming back for. It's an honor for me to be part of such a great group of people.

AUGUST 2009 BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by Phyllis Flechsig and Mark Fryer

Cactus

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Discocactus horstii*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Buiningia brevicylindrica longispina*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Turbinocarpus klinkerianus*

3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Discocactus araneispinus*

Succulents

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Adenium swazicum*

2nd Place, Phyllis Flechsig - Three *Sedum* Dish Garden

2nd Place, Kelly Griffin - *Decarya madagascariensis*

3rd Place, Kelly Griffin - *Agave potatorum* cv. 'Cubic'

3rd Place, Andrew Wilson - *Tylecodon schaeferanus*

Submitted by Candy Garner

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

AN ADVENTURE TO CEDROS ISLAND, A LITTLE KNOWN JEWEL OF MEXICO



The goal of this trip was to see one of the prettiest Dudleyas (*Dudleya pachyphytum* above) and stunning Agaves (*Agave shawii* ssp. *sebastiana* see cover). We managed that and so much more on the trip down and the trip home. The talk will cover so many of the highlights including Pachycormus, Ferocactus (*Ferocactus chrysacanthus*, right), and so much more!

Kelly Griffin



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Caudiciforms of Mexico

By Peter Walkowiak, SDCSS Vice President

August, 2009

I was asked to do the plant of the month at the last meeting, so I asked "What is the plant of the month?" Mexican caudiciforms was the reply. My initial thought was that this was not a big group of plants, okay, I will do it. As the day went on I kept coming up with more genera that would fit into this topic. I went from three to twenty two genera walking around my yard and doing a little research and I am sure there are more. I have plants in sixteen of the twenty two. Here is the list of genera that I have compiled:

<i>Aesculus*</i>	<i>Beaucarnea*</i>	<i>Bombax*</i>
<i>Bursera*</i>	<i>Calibanus*</i>	<i>Carya*</i>
<i>Cissus*</i>	<i>Cistanthe</i>	<i>Coccinia*</i>
<i>Cyrtocarpa</i>	<i>Dioscorea</i>	<i>Euphorbia*</i>
<i>Ficus*</i>	<i>Fouquieria*</i>	<i>Ibervillea*</i>
<i>Ipomoea*</i>	<i>Jatropha*</i>	<i>Matelea*</i>
<i>Pachycormus*</i>	<i>Peniocereus*</i>	<i>Sedum</i>
		<i>Yucca</i>



Fouquieria columnaris near El Rosario,
Baja. Courtesy Tom Glavich

For all genera with an asterisk I have at least one species in my collection, which has a total of forty one species. This category has turned out to be a large and diverse group of plants that defies any simple way to cover in a brief article. The choice of plant of the month was made because the scheduled speaker, Guy Wrinkle, was going to give a talk on Mexican succulents, focused on caudiciforms. Unfortunately, Guy went in for brain surgery last week and will not be doing his talk next month.

SDCSS Annual Picnic

When: Saturday October 10th

Time: 10 to 4

Location: San Diego Wild Animal Park
Kapunda Falls Botanical Pavilion

Cost: \$5 for members
\$10 for guests (one guest per member please)

Cutoff for registration: 1 October 2009

Lunch menu: Chicken
3 salad options
Some options for vegetarians
Dessert
Soda and water

Name(s): _____

Number of members: _____ X \$5 = _____

Number of guests: _____ X \$10 = _____

Total Paid: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Zoological Society Member: yes _____ no _____

Need transportation from the entryway of the park to Kapunda Falls? _____

Bring form to September meeting or mail to me before the 1st of October.

Chris Miller
10042 Waynecrest Lane
Santee CA 92071

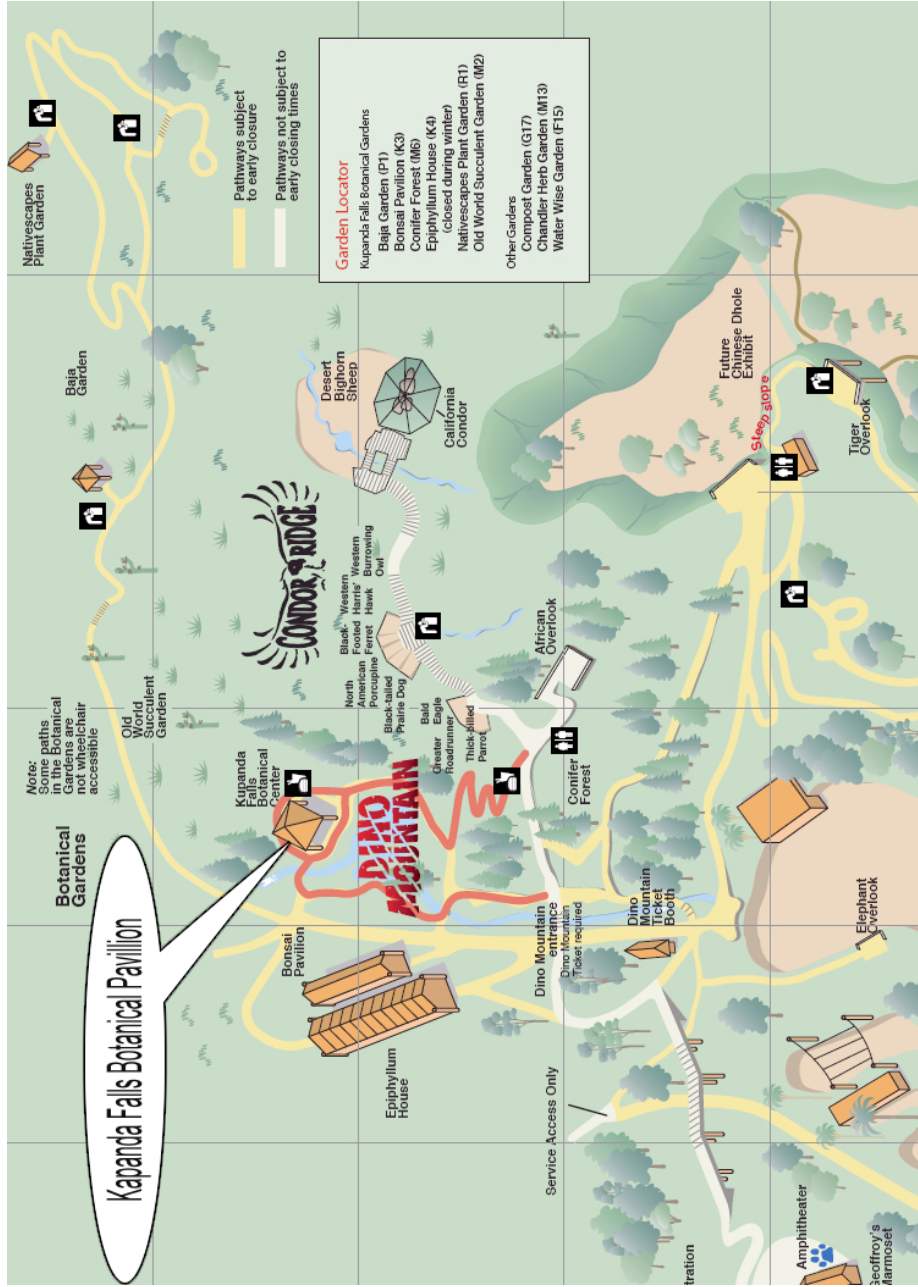
Tours of the Garden will happen before and after lunch. After lunch our speakers Julia Etter and Martin Kristen, from Mexico, will be doing walking tours through the Baja Garden talking about the plants.

Kapanda Falls Botanical Pavilion

Botanical Gardens

Note:

Some paths in the Botanical Gardens are not wheelchair accessible



Garden Locator

- Kupanda Falls Botanical Gardens
- Baja Garden (P1)
- Bonsai Pavilion (K3)
- Conifer Forest (M6)
- Epiphyllum House (K4)
- Epiphyllum House (K5)
- Epiphyllum House (K6)
- Nativescapes Plant Garden (R1)
- Old World Succulent Garden (M2)

Other Gardens

- Compost Garden (G17)
- Chandler Herb Garden (M13)
- Water Wise Garden (F15)



- Black-footed Hawk
- Western Screech Owl
- American Osprey
- Western Hawk
- North Porcupine
- Phainopepla
- Black-tailed Roadrunner
- Bald Eagle
- Greater Roadrunner
- Thick-billed Parrot
- California Condor

- Desert Bighorn Sheep
- African Overlook
- Tiger Overlook
- Elephant Overlook
- Future Dhole Exhibit

- Old World Succulent Garden
- Baja Garden
- Nativescapes Plant Garden

- Kupanda Falls Botanical Center
- Bonsai Pavilion
- Epiphyllum House
- Dino Mountain entrance
- Dino Mountain Ticket Booth
- Amphitheater
- Jeffrey's Larmoset

- Service Access Only
- Conifer Forest
- Sleep Slope

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Beaucarnea recurvata grove in bloom at Lotus Land. Courtesy Buck Hemenway

I will bring in as many plants as I reasonably can, and discuss their care and cultivation. If you have any questions on their care or cultivation, have some Mexican caudiciform that you are proud of, or you need a name for your plant, bring it to the meeting. Caudiciforms, or fat plants, are one of my favorite groups of plants and before I was asked to do this talk I had not realized just how many come from Mexico. The oldest plant in my collection is a *Beaucarnea recurvata* that I have had since the early seventies. It had fourteen flower spikes this year. It bloomed for the first time two years ago with three spikes.

ESPINAS Y FLORES GOING ELECTRONIC!

This month's issue of our newsletter will be available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, www.sdcss.com. 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. As a trial, if you would like to receive the EyF by e-mail, as well as by mail, for the rest of the year, please send word to your newsletter editors at pdmaker@roadrunner.com. Beginning in 2010, you will have a choice as to how you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter, either electronically or by regular mail.

MINI TALK

The Essence of Cactitude Part III: The Magic & Mystery of Cacti

By Stan Yalof, August, 2009

A long long time ago, more than 100 million years by some reckoning, South America separated from Africa and drifted westward about 1/4 inch per year. A relative of *Talinum*, a small undistinguished plant related to *Anacampseros*, found itself on South America after that landmass rifted apart. This was to become the ancestor of cacti. How pleased it would be today to see how its progeny have multiplied into 2,000 species, adapted to drought, burning sun, steamy jungles, and alpine conditions as it spread across the New World.



Talinum cafferum, cactus ancestor?

But why were the family Cactaceae so adaptable? What were their strategies and tactics? And, who are they?

Cactaceae belong to the plant order *Caryophyllales*, which includes *Nyctinagaceae* (bougainvillea) and *Phytolaccaceae* (beets). The color pigmentation of this order uniquely depends on

the chemical betalain rather than anthocyanin used by other flowering plants. As a result, colors are limited to shades of red, akin to beets and bougainvillea. For those that may recall my talk on the hallucinogen peyote, betalain is manufactured as a side business and although unique to *Caryophyllales* is not unique to cacti.

What else is different about cacti? Most have green stems, the better to harvest sunlight. Most, but not all. *Pereskia*, considered an ancestral form of cacti, has bark. Others are green or have delayed bark formation. And many plants are similarly green so we can't consider this a distinguishing feature.

Many are juicy, i.e., succulent, but not all.

Cacti face the stress of irregular rain. They compensate with many outward clever adaptations such as flexible ribbing, reduction or elimination of leaves, waxy coatings to reduce water loss, and so on. But the cleverest changes are physiologic involving water conservation and the agony of heat shock. But these are strategies occasionally used by other kinds of plants. Cacti use a variety of tactics not only for survival but to enhance their fitness, braving conditions of Hadean heat and frigid mountain heights.

So, what is uniquely cacti, the feature that no other plant family has? ***Attend and find out.***

Cactus Haiku

Drought Adapting

*Water come
Water go
Sip fast
Make it last*

Drought Avoiding

*Here today
Gone tomorrow
Short time
Edge is narrow*

Heat Withstanding

*Panting heat
All around
Gain relief
CAM C4
And underground*


MEMBERSHIP CONTACT ROSTER

Joe Kraatz


It has been a few years since the membership contact roster was updated so I thought it was about time to complete a new one. At the August meeting I had the attendees sign up for their inclusion in the roster and we had a great response.

This roster is for members only and has the phone number and/or the e-mail addresses. This is strictly on a voluntary basis. If you do not wish to be included that is fine. At the September meeting I will again pass around the sign up for those that weren't there in August. If you wish to be included and cannot attend the meeting please contact me, Joseph Kraatz, phone 760-758-7042 or e-mail plantnut@cox.net. If you decide to use e-mail put in the subject line: Members Roster. Please give me your full name, telephone number and/or e-mail. If you have any questions don't hesitate to give me a phone call.

ELIBET'S CORNER



Elibet Marshal,
Courtesy
Bev Grant



Our road thru life is rough at times, with hills that dip and rise: but this all helps one's character. It needs the exercise. - author unknown.

The due date for submission of all material to be published in EyF will be the 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.

DEL MAR FALL HOME & GARDEN SHOW

September 18, 19, 20

The SDCSS is again participating in the Del Mar Fall Home/Garden Show! We are looking for volunteers to help out in the booth offering people information about membership, plant care and assisting with plant sales. There is even some room if you would like to sell some of your plants but we ask that you be there the full 3 days of the event if you want to sell. Your parking at the fair ground will be reimbursed to you and it is a good way to see the Home/Garden Show for free. It is a very relaxed atmosphere and can be a fun time. We need volunteers for all 3 days. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Sara Schell at (619) 795-3035 or seschell1@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

2009 UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 18-20: Del Mar Fall Home & Garden Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA.

Sep 27: 12 pm. Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA.

Oct 10: SDCSS Annual Picnic 10am to 4pm! At the Wild Animal Park. See centerfold.

Nov 7-8: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. For information call Manny Rivera at 626-793-6917.

Dec 4-6: Orange County CSS Winter Show and Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. For information call 714-870-4887.

Dec 12: SDCSS Holiday Party!

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