



# *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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**Program: Woody Minnich**  
**“Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil”**

**Feature Articles:**

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Plant to Pot”**

**By Jerry Garner**

**“Demise of the Anza-Borrego Wildflowers”**

**By Joe Kraatz**

**Contributions from the Green Committee**  
**Art Cooley, Kathy Harris, Vanessa Nelson**

Saturday, May 8, 2010  
Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chris Miller, President

April 22, 2010



Happy Earth Day. I celebrated by having a solar attic exhaust fan installed, which will lower the temperature in the attic and save on air conditioning this summer. I also pulled a few weeds just to keep in practice. The greenhouse is almost ready to move plants into, so that will be my project for next week.

We had another short meeting in April. The usual team of **Joe Kraatz**, **Lynn Elliott** and **Jim Deforest** set up and handled the sale. **Susan Hopkins**, **Bill** and **Jean O'Daniel**, and **Ken Blackford** helped with setting up the room. **Steve** and **Kathy Harris** opened up the library bright and early. Before 10am the meeting area was doing all the pre-meeting activities that offer so much to our membership.

A few convention team meetings were held at 11am and the full convention team meeting was held at 12pm in Room 104. We worked on budget items for the CSSA Board Meeting the end of April. If you are interested in being on a committee contact **Peter Walkowiak** or myself and we will hook you up with the right team.

**Si Osgrove** treated us to an amazing talk on *Aeoniums* with lots of great example plants. **Guy Wrinkle** took us to Mexico and shared his great pictures.

**Kelly Griffin** did his usual fun and interesting job at judging the Brag Table Plants. We all learn when **Kelly** does this. At the May meeting we will implement a change in how we do the brag table - look for information later in this newsletter.

**Terry** and **Collette Parr** ran the Benefit Plant Drawing and many people went home with new friends. **Michelle Heckathorn** and **Sara Shell** ran the Plant exchange table and some interesting stuff was shared. Please remember that the purpose of the exchange table is to share interesting plants with each other and newer



Brian Sheppard's *Echinocereus reichenbachii albispinus* by **Bev Grant**

members. This is the time of the year that we are thinning out landscapes and most of us have a tendency to not want to throw away anything. Let's make sure that what we bring in is desirable to someone else.

Amazingly the meeting ended at 3pm again.

We started asking for show and sale volunteers at the April Meeting. Please talk to **Susan Hopkins** at the May meeting. We can't put on the kind of events we do without lots of wonderful volunteers. We will have Cashier team training at the May meeting starting at 11:30am. If you are thinking of volunteering for cashier, scanner or courtesy clerk please come. Even if you have done this before it is important that you attend to understand the new process.

We will be taking signups for the trip to the Huntington and the CSSA Show and Sale at the May meeting. The CSSA Show and Sale is the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

We have had several members busy at area events promoting our organization and the June Show and Sale. **Vanessa Nelson**, **Sara Schell**, **Si Osgrove**, **Peter Walkowiak**, **Inacia Matheus**, **Cathy Clark** and I worked our booth at Earth Day last Sunday. **George Plaisted**, **Ken Blackford**, and **Tom DeMerritt** helped with set up. We handed out lots of fliers and signed up a new member and lots of people went home with new plants. The March event at Cuyamaca Water Conservation Garden was supported by **Sara Schell**, **Cathy Clark**, and myself. The April event at the Water Conservation Garden will be supported by **Sara Schell**, **Vanessa Nelson** and **Cathy Clark**. The way you can help promote the June Show and Sale is to share the flier with people you think would be interested. If you want an electronic copy of the flier, download it off the website or e-mail me.

The sale for June is forming up quite well. I currently have 27 vendors signed up to sell and one or two agreements come in every day. So we will have a very broad selection of plants available. This includes some new vendors, which will give us a wider variety of plants. Remember, members only shop from 9am to 10am on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>. The educational feature for the show has been separated out from the show. We are looking for members who would like to do a demonstration or display. Please contact **Pam Badger** or myself if you are interested or have questions.

We will have the first convention t-shirts available for sale at the May meeting

I look forward to seeing all of you at the May Meeting.

## Program

### “Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil”

Wendell (Woody) Minnich



The Rio Grande Do Sul is the most southern state in the country of Brazil. It is bordered by the Atlantic to the east and the countries of Uruguay and Argentina (Paraguay) to its north and west.

This seldom seen region of Brazil is rich in Cacti, Bromeliads, succulents and other unusual plants and animals. Because of its very moderate climate, rolling hills and deep barrancas, the RGDS is also full of fascinating birds and some of the most iconic of the *Cactaceae*. Many a fascinating explorer, such as Uebelmann, Horst and Ritter, roamed this secret place, where many of our most well known cacti are to be found. This region is the center of the distribution of the *Parodias* (*Notocactus*, *Brasilicactus*, *Brasiliparodia*, *Malacocarpus* and *Eriocactus*) and *Fraileas* as well as some of the *Gymnocalyciums* and *Echinopsis*.

An interesting parallel to South Africa, this primarily winter rainfall region has a wealth of fascinating plants from bulbs to cacti. We will walk in the footsteps of some of the most dedicated field explorers and see much of what they experienced over the past 100 years from this wonderful region, the Rio Grande Do Sul.

(A brief biography of Woody appears in the electronic version of this month's *EyF*, viewable at the club website [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net).)

## BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by **Kelly Griffin**



### Cactus

1st Place, Brian Shepherd - *Echinocereus reichenbachii albispinus*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Echinocereus viereckii v. morricalii*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Mammillaria theresae*

3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Echinocereus coahuilensis*

3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Neochilenia nigripina*

### Succulents

1st Place, Rudy Lime - *Pachypodium 'Arid Lands'*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Pachypodium succulentum*

2nd Place, Phyllis Flechsig - *Fouquieria (Idria) columnaris*

3rd Place, Jim DeForest - *Aeonium nobile*

3rd Place, Jim DeForest - *Aeonium sp.*



Submitted by **Candy Garner**

## THE SDCSS SUMMER SHOW

Peter Walkowiak, Summer Show Chair



It's hard to believe that the summer show is just a little over a month away. Last year's show was very successful, with over 800 show plants and great help from volunteers to make it happen. This year will be no different. To make this



Trophy Table, 2009 Show

by **Collette Parr**



Example Trophy Pots for 2010 Show by **Jerry Garner**

show great we need you to participate in the show, clean up your favorite plants, do any pruning now, it's time to start getting them show ready. The goal this year is to have 1,000 show plant entrants; this should be possible since we have over 400 members, that's two to three plants per person. I will be bringing about 150 show plants and the Newcomers I heard are planning on bringing 40, that's almost 200. I want to encourage all members to participate, it's a lot of fun and there is nothing like winning your first blue ribbon or trophy. Trophy and Judge's Choices will also receive a trophy pot to be handed out at the June meeting.

There are some changes to the summer show schedule that I will highlight here (see last month's newsletter for complete show details.) First, the *Euphorbias* have been totally redone and expanded; this will allow greater participation and clarity between classes. I have done some minor changes to the *Cactaceae*, grouping some together and expanding others. I have added two new categories, Winter Show Mini Pots and Anything Goes. The Winter Show Mini Pots category is for those of you who participated in the Winter Show and received a mini pot. There will also be a brag table at the May meeting for your staged mini pot in three divisions, Novice, Advanced and Open. It will be fun to see what

you have done. The Anything Goes category is, as the name implies, an open category - the use of nontraditional materials, pots, etc.- in a creative way to show case your succulent plants. This should be a lot of fun.

One other point of interest for this year is we will have two 10x4 ft. structures for hanging plants. We will now be able to display our epiphytic cacti, *Hoyas* and other succulents that need to be hung in order to display them properly. There will be space for about 30 plants, plus or minus, depending on size.

The one last thing, we need volunteers for setup on Friday. Friday morning will be show setup, setting tables, table covers, show categories from 8 to 10. The rest of the day people bringing in plants will need assistance, from 10am to 9pm. I will be there from 8 to 6 or 7. Friday afternoon they will need help putting up the shade cloth for the sales area. Saturday morning I will need volunteers to help organize the show plants according to division before show opens that morning. We also need volunteers for show security both days. There will be a sign up sheet at the May meeting for those who would like to volunteer.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your plants at our Summer Show and Sale.

## Volunteers

Susan Hopkins, Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteers are the people who make our shows and sales successful.

There are many benefits to being a volunteer at one of our events.

You interact with fellow club members and make new friends. You learn how the show and sales areas are set up. You learn how the sales are organized. You learn the show categories. We have some great vendors. You will meet and get to know them. If you volunteer as a judge clerk, you meet the judges and learn the criteria used for judging show plants. This is knowledge you can use in preparing your plants for shows. Meeting and helping the public learn about cactus and succulents can be a fascinating experience. There are people with all levels of knowledge and curiosity about these plants. Your name will be mentioned in the newsletter, you'll receive a coupon for a discount on your next club purchase. You could be voted in as volunteer of the year.

Volunteering is a lot of hard work, but can be a fun educational experience. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Please volunteer and make our show and sale a great success.

## The Challenge: Think differently

Art Cooley, Green Committee Co-Chair



AB32, passed in 2006, attempts to solve a problem by thinking differently about how to reduce the effects of global warming. Responding to this threat, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) mandates that California reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Now two Texas-based oil companies are the major funders in an attack on AB32. These oil companies and their supporters are putting a proposition on the ballot in November to delay the implementation of AB32, a move that would reverse an already impressive trend toward a greener economy. California Clean Energy Standards have turned our state into the national leader in green technology. Between 1990 and 2006, green technology businesses in California grew by 84 percent. In 2009, California received \$2.1 billion in private investment/venture capital for clean energy technology and related fields, five times more than any other state. According to a recent University of California study, AB32 would generate 112,000 jobs and increase the state's economy by \$20 billion. If the opponents of AB32 win, shame on us!

The passage of this initiative to delay AB32 would be a huge step backwards, potentially crippling the expansion of one of California's fastest growing economic sectors. It would, as well, have a chilling effect on our nation's effort to develop renewable energy businesses and would put us at a distinct disadvantage to China's burgeoning effort to capture the largest portion of this emerging market. Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, who is working hard in a bipartisan effort to develop a comprehensive bill with Senators Lieberman (I-CT) and Kerry (D-MA), said on Jan 21, "Every day that we delay trying to find a price for carbon is a day that China uses to dominate the green economy. With 20 million jobs at stake globally, China poured \$440 billion into clean energy last year. Our only hope to match them is the bipartisan climate and clean energy jobs bill." We must be progressive thinkers and support the world's future.

The SD Cactus and Succulent Society hosts the 2011 National Convention/CSSA a year from now. Every effort is being made to make it a green convention. While our contribution is modest, our efforts have convinced the Marriott Hotel, our convention site, to plant cactus and succulent plants in their plant borders in time for our convention. Transformations start with small steps and thinking in new ways. Repealing AB32 is a 20<sup>th</sup> century idea not a 21<sup>st</sup> century one.

***"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."*** Albert Einstein

## Water Conservation Landscaping

Kathy Harris, Green Committee Co-Chair



With ongoing drought in the southwest, water restrictions and increasing water rates, homeowners and businesses alike are becoming increasingly aware of the rising costs associated with traditional lawn landscaping. Water conservation landscaping, or xeriscap-ing\*, provides a cost saving alternative.

For beginners looking for low water landscaping ideas, tips, planting suggestions, and other information, the websites below provide good starting points:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:

<http://www.bewaterwise.com>

The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College:

<http://www.thegarden.org>

The San Diego County Water Authority:

<http://www.sdcwa.org/manage/conservation>

The United States Department of Agriculture:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/watercon>

The United States Department of Energy:

[http://www.energysavers.gov/your\\_home/landscaping](http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/landscaping)

\* From wikipedia.org: "Xeriscaping and xerogardening refer to landscaping and gardening in ways that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental irrigation. It is promoted in areas that do not have easily accessible supplies of fresh water, and is gaining acceptance in other areas as climate patterns shift."

The Green Committee would like feedback from our **EyF** readers concerning the usefulness of this information. Our goal is to provide additional water conservation landscaping information, such as websites not listed here, at the CSSA Convention in 2011. Please contact the Green Committee Chair, **Art Cooley** at [apcooley1@san.rr.com](mailto:apcooley1@san.rr.com) and myself at [harriskd@cox.net](mailto:harriskd@cox.net) if you can provide additional information.

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

## The Advantages of Solar Energy

Vanessa Nelson, Green Committee



Ever since the ancient times, the struggle to harness the infinite power of the sun has been a struggle for humans as we attempt to find effective sources of energy. Ancient civilizations realized the power of the sun and idolized it as their god as they used the immense power of the sun to heat their homes which was essential to their survival. In today's age the usage of solar energy is virtually limitless. Everyone from the ordinary person powering outdoor floodlights to top scientists at NASA are using solar energy as a new form of cheap, clean, and reliable form of energy.

There are many benefits to solar energy that make it a far superior source of energy compared to other conventional forms of energy. First Solar energy is completely renewable as sunlight is abundant nearly everywhere on our planet. Secondly, solar energy is environmentally friendly as it gives off no emissions of any kind. There are many other benefits that prove that



solar energy is a very profitable and beneficial to our ever-advancing society where the demand for energy will eventually supersede our ability to produce electricity by current methods of production. The usage of photovoltaic cells to power the average household is becoming more of a reality as the cost of installation is becoming more affordable thanks to improvements in technology and the rise of environmental awareness.

The following useful links offer an array of information from a detailed map of solar energy systems to programs that offer financing to install such systems. California Solar Initiatives offers rebates to encourage consumers to install solar systems in their homes and offer many more reasons benefits from "Going Solar."

<http://sd.solarmap.org/solar/> <http://www.ecoproactive.org/>  
<http://www.energy.gov/energysources/solar.htm> <http://pge.com/solar/>  
<http://energycenter.org/index.php/incentive-programs/california-solar-initiative>

## Feature article

### “Cactus and Succulent Plant Staging - Plant to Pot” Jerry Garner



The assumption here is that your plant is ready for its' coming out party. With care you have raised the plant to a state that you are proud of and it's now time to show it to the world. Let's look at the pot aspect of staging. But first a couple of side notes.

First, it should be said that in European succulent groups' plants are not staged. It is usually forbidden to enter show plants in anything other than their plastic nursery pots. This may come from an attitude of the sanctity of the plants, or maybe growing sun loving plants in the European climate is enough of a challenge in itself. It may be that in Europe there is an emphasis on the “craft” of horticulture while in the US, we are more concerned with the “art” of horticulture. While you may certainly enter your plant in a plastic pot in a US succulent show, you will not see many awards unless you have extremely rare plants exquisitely grown. It does happen, but not often.

The second side note is the aberration to our notion that the pot staging enhances the plant. In Asia, particularly China, families have been handing down favored planters for many generations. These pots, often hundreds of years old, are revered family heirlooms. In this case plants are chosen to enhance the pot. The plant/pot staging may not seem quite in balance until one learns that the pot is five hundred years old and carries the aesthetics from that time. It's about the pot, not the plant.

These two side notes aside, let's look at the plant to pot relationship in today's succulent world. As we are influenced by Asian aesthetics, particularly Pensai, the pot becomes an integral part of the plant presentation.

First, the pot has to provide a suitable environment to grow the plant. For instance, plants with taproots don't respond well in shallow pots and large plants don't thrive if seriously under potted. If there are inadequate drainage holes, succulents will suffer. While many plant to pot growing problems can be ameliorated by increased attention and manipulation in cultivation, it is easier to



provide a nurturing foundation to begin with.

Once you have the shape and size of the pot in mind, the next step is to think about the look you are trying to achieve. One needs to think a little more than “I want my plant to look nice.” How do you want your plant to look nice? Do you want it look nice in a bold contemporary way? How about as a pleasing sculptural design? Or maybe as a little slice of nature with the plant in its habitat? In all of these there is one guiding principal, it's about the plant. The pot adds to the plant, it is holding the plant up to the world. In the best cases the plant and the pot join to present a coherent pleasing sculpture to the viewer.



A few tips on plant to pot matches:

The brighter the color the harder the match; this doesn't mean that it can't be done, it's just much harder.

Glossy pots are harder to match than satin or matte pots.

Comic pots turn your plants comedies.

Symmetric plants, think agaves or globular cactus, do well in either round or square pots.

Pots with abstract patterns or designs tend to not hold the eye on the pot and

shift it to the plant.

Conversely, pots with recognizable designs tend to draw the eye to the pot. If you like pots with recognizable designs or patterns, try to keep the design against the background and contrast on the subtle side.

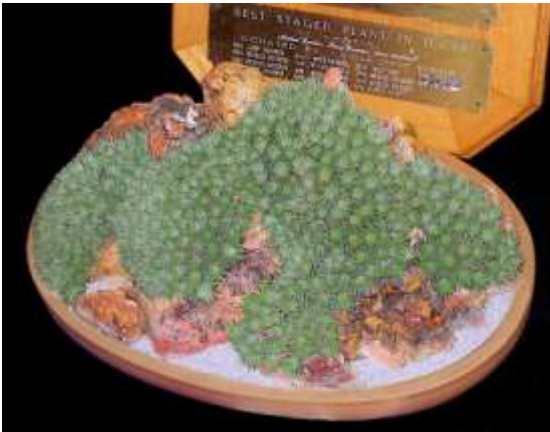
Look at the color of the pot against the color of the plant; does it compliment or detract.

Highly ornamented, frilly pots are a hard match with the stark rugged features of many succulents.

A stunning pot requires an equally stunning plant.

Look at displayed plants with a critical eye. What is trying to be achieved? Was it successful? Do YOU like it? After looking at a lot





All photos provided by **Jerry Garner**, taken at the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show

told me, if you're doing the hobby right the value of the pots will be greater than the value of the plants. Even, if I might add, the pots are secondary to the plants. Have fun and good growing!!

of displayed plants you will have a feel for what is exciting to you. Develop those feelings.

Don't stage your plants blindly. Have an idea of what you are trying to achieve.

My last bit of advice comes from me as a potter. Don't be afraid to buy nice pots. They will probably outlast the plants that you put in them. Or as a well respected grower once

## 2010 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by: *The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society*

### JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

At The Casa Del Prado, Room 101 and Patios, Balboa Park, San Diego

**Strange and exotic plants from the far corners of the world gathered together for your viewing amazement!!**

Patio sale of choice specimen plants for the novice and collector as well as handmade stoneware planters and pots!!

Inner patio - Informational and Educational displays, Demonstrations and Talks on water wise gardening

Potting service and cultural information will be available.

#### SHOW HOURS:

Saturday, June 5 10am to 3pm  
 Sunday, June 6 10am to 4pm  
 (Judging will be after 3 pm Saturday)

#### SALE HOURS:

Saturday, June 5 10am to 5pm  
 Members only shopping 9 to 10 on Sat  
 Sunday, June 6 10am to 4pm

For additional information please visit:  
[www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)



### ELIBET'S Corner



*A centipede was happy quite  
 until a toad in fun, said  
 "Pray which leg goes after which?"  
 which worked its mind to such  
 a ditch - it lay demoralized  
 in the ditch!  
 Considering how to run.  
 - author unknown -*



*Editors' note: attributable to Mrs. Edward Craster (1871).*

### The 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 being urged to accept the e-mailed version of the newsletter in lieu of a bulk-mailed hard-copy. To cancel your hard copy of the **EyF**, contact the membership chairperson or the editor. Each month, 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 contains additional color images, and a high resolution version. Also, errors found in the hardcopy version are corrected in the electronic version.

### Membership Cards

If you haven't already done so, remember to pick up your new membership card at the meeting! **Ken Blackford**, our Treasurer, is in possession of a thick stack of unclaimed cards.



# Demise of the Anza-Borrego Wildflowers

By Joe Kraatz



For the past few years I have been confused as to the lack of wildflowers in the Anza-Borrego desert valley. Previous to 2010 the rainfall patterns and temperatures were normal and then this year (2009-10) the rainfall was much above normal with warm temperatures. This should have produced a bumper crop of the endemic annual wildflowers. But this was not to happen. I had my suspicions that something was amiss and the problem was not being disseminated to the general public. I was correct.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> I went to the Anza-Borrego visitors center to meet with a few of the docents of which I had an appointment and my worst fears were realized.

Let me give you a brief history of an invasive species of plant that is destroying all of the wildflowers in the desert southwest. This invasion is occurring in the desert valleys of which the soil is composed of deep sands.

In the 1920's a large project of importing choice cultivars of date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) was underway. The Coachella Valley was the perfect area for establishing plantations of these palms. Date palms require a minimum of 90 days of 100-degree temperatures to successfully produce fruit. The Coachella Valley climate was not much different than North Africa.

Since date palms do not come true from seed the only way to get the best-named varieties was to import the pups that form at the base of the palm. However, this was a serious error because botanists at the time didn't realize the ramifications. The soil was not washed from the palms. They were simply packed into crates with their native soil and arrived in the Coachella Valley.

In 1929 a strange Mustard plant started to appear throughout the Coachella valley. Upon examination it was determined to be the Sahara Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*). Not much attention was paid to this new arrival.

Quickly the Sahara Mustard began to spread. First throughout the Coachella Valley and then into western Arizona. Then north into the southern Mojave. Now into the Anza-Borrego desert! This is the last area for which it has taken hold. It is spreading at the rate of hundreds of acres per month in the Borrego valley. This has turned out to be its favorite

habitat: proper rainfall and temperatures along with deep sandy soils. The bonus for this species is that it has no competition!! Then to add insult to injury they are a fire hazard. Upon the production of their copious seed they quickly dry. This mustard is extremely flammable and burns rapidly and very hot. Fire has never been a problem in this valley but that has now changed. Because of the intense heat from a fire the seeds of endemics near the surface will be destroyed.



Sahara Mustard. Photo by Mark Dimmitt , from link cited below

In the not too distant past we could go to the Anza-Borrego valley north and east of the town and see fields of wildflowers to the horizon (I remember those years). This will probably never occur again.

Let me give you a brief history of this invasive species. Endemic annual wildflower species in the desert are very specific as to their germination requirements: sufficient rainfall, temperatures, and very important: sunlight.

The Sahara Mustard has no requirements. It germinates upon the first rainfall and grows rapidly. It completely smothers the surrounding sands. Since they block the sunlight, the endemics do not germinate. Each year that this invasive thrives it destroys more of the seeds of the endemic annuals.

Sahara Mustard has no pests. Its seeds are mucilaginous (they stick to native animals). When dry they are disseminated by dust devils and sandstorms. Each plant produces about 10,000 seed, which have a viability of about 10 years!!

Research is being done to see if there is a natural predator for this plant but it is very difficult. Since it belongs to the same family as cole crops, etc. any control would have the potential of endangering agricultural crops in the U.S.

Needless to say, the Anza-Borrego desert does not like this information to become widely available since their economy greatly relies on tourists. A truly sad situation.

The only bright spot is that it is confined to the very sandy soils in the



THEN 1998



NOW 2005

These two scenes were both photographed in the northern end of the Mohawk Dunes in western Arizona. In 2005 Sahara mustard covered 70-90% of the surface area at this location. Almost no native wildflowers bloomed here in 2005. From cited link.

valley. This mustard does not succeed in the slightly higher elevations of the alluvial plains because the soil is too rocky and does not retain moisture. These are the areas where you see the *chollas*, *Ocotillos*, etc.

Let's hope that something can be done in the near future. This is just another example of the dangers when transporting non-endemic species.

For an example of this plant's destructiveness please visit the following website:

[http://www.desertmuseum.org/invaders/invaders\\_saharamustard.htm](http://www.desertmuseum.org/invaders/invaders_saharamustard.htm)



*Fouquieria splendens* (Ocotillo)



*Opuntia basilaris*

## some good news from Anza-Borrego

As attested to by these photos taken by **Bev Grant** on a recent trip to the desert, these native succulents have not yet succumbed.

## SDCSS HELP Wanted ADS

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

<b>Volunteers for WAP Gardens:</b> For garden maintenance, new area development, plant identification and to work in the greenhouse.	<b>Trophy Chairperson:</b> Someone to manage the Club's many trophies, overseeing their refurbishment.	<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>Audio Visual Person</b> Duties to include organizing existing equipment, setting up at meetings and advising on requirements.
<b>Ride Coordinator:</b> Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.	<b>Trip Coordinator</b> to coordinate trips, arrange bus contracts, destination requirements, etc.	Contact <b>Chris Miller</b> if you would like to volunteer.

## Brag Table Changes

We will now have three categories for competing at the Brag Table each month. They are the same divisions that we have for our summer show.

Novice – Green Cards – (fewer than 10 blue ribbons won in competition)

Intermediate – Yellow cards (Ten or more blue ribbons)

Advanced – blue cards (professional and advanced growers)

The brag table will be judged before the meeting starts to save time, so you must have your plants at the meeting by 12:30.

First, second and third coupons will be awarded in each category for succulents and for cactus.

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).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 15:** Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)

**June 5&6:** SDCSS Summer Show and Sale

**June 12&13:** Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society "Drought Tolerant Plant Festival," 12<sup>th</sup> 9 to 5, 13<sup>th</sup> 9 to 3:30, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, CA. For info call Sandy Chase 818-367-0864.

**June 25-27:** CSSA Annual Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. For info call 626-405-2160 or 2277. Plant sales June 25-27, show is 26-27. Free to the public.

**July 23-25:** Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale. Sale July 23-25 10 to 4. Show July 24&25. 10 to 4. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, CA. Contact Vince Basta 714-267-4329

**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



Mark your calendar now!  
CSSA 2011 CONVENTION  
April 24 - April 29, 2011  
Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley  
San Diego, California  
Watch for future updates  
Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

## Biographical sketch

### Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly called, has been in the cactus hobby for some 40 years and has become well known for his participation in many of the cactus and succulent clubs. He is an honorary life member of seven clubs as well as a life member of CSSA. He has served in almost all positions of leadership from president, to newsletter editor, to show chairman and so on. He is also known for his extensive field work studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout the United States, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Africa, Yemen and Socotra. From these trips he has developed an extensive knowledge of the cactus family as well as many of the other succulent genera.

Woody is also known for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken for plant conventions - organizations all over the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Mexico.

He is also known for his cactus and succulent nursery, Cactus Data Plants. CDP was started in 1975 and is still in operation today. Cactus Data Plants specializes in show specimens and rare cacti and other succulents with particular emphasis in *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Turbincarpus*, *Melocactus*, *Copiapoa*, *Fouquieria*, *Pachypodium*, *Euphorbia*, *Cyphostemma*, *Adenium* and *Adenia*.

Woody and his wonderful wife Kathy now live in the beautiful mountains south of Santa Fe New Mexico in a region called Cedar Grove. He has a small 1,200 sq. ft. greenhouse where he grows his unique plants. He is always on the move and travels frequently to do presentations and shows throughout the western United States. Woody is the proud parent of three children, Leah, Denver and Sarah, all of whom are now grown and out in the big world. Woody is also the proud grandparent of three grandsons, Indiana, Ashton and Logan. He is a retired high school teacher of 32 years and he taught Graphic Arts, Architecture, Art and Health.



Kathy and Woody in Patagonia

# Staging examples and Pots from Jerry Garner



# brag table, Anza-Borrego shots

Courtesy **Bev Grant**



Peter Walkowiak's *Mammillaria saboe*



Peter Walkowiak's *Neochilenia nigripina*

Peter Walkowiak's *Echinocereus viereckii* v. *morricalii*



*Ferocactus cylindraceus*



Ocotillo in the Desert

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**(Please use PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)**

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FAX /CELL: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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

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, [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: 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 Botanical 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](mailto:pdmaker@roadrunner.com)

Webmaster: Tom Stiko

Web Site: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

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