



Espinas y Flores

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

VOLUME XXXI NUMBER TEN, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1996 @ 1:00 PM

VENDA 18[¢]

Aloe globuligemma



Gerhard Marx

D1.4 1990

VENDA 30[¢]

Aloe aculeata



Gerhard Marx

D2.4 1990

VENDA 40[¢]

Aloe lutescens



Gerhard Marx

D3.4 1990

VENDA 50[¢]

Aloe angelica



Gerhard Marx

D4.4 1990

OUR OCTOBER PROGRAM:
Dylan Hannon's Recent Botanical Exploration of Costa Rica

Get ready to attend a very special presentation by Dylan Hannon. Having just returned from an intensive two-week Field Botany Expedition — this program is literally "Hot off the Press"!! Few places on earth are as resplendently beautiful or biologically and botanically diverse as Costa Rica. Dylan traveled with Thomas B. Croat PhD, Curator of Botany for the Missouri Botanical Gardens (the wonderful and educational Shaw's Gardens of St. Louis, Missouri); Dr. Croat is an aroid specialist — Araceae (philodendron family). They traveled for the low elevation tropical rain forests of the Osa Peninsula up to the densely vegetated volcanic mountains — an altitude of over 9,000 feet. Among the fauna: the sloth, the white-faced capuchin monkey, coatimundi (a large rodent), the howler monkey, and exotic parrots e.g. the scarlet macaw. Among the flora: wonderful succulents, orchids, bromeliads, exotic tropicals and epiphytes everywhere.

Many of you already know San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society member (and former San Diego County resident) Dylan Hannon. Presently Dylan oversees horticultural propagation for Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. Formerly Dylan worked for Pacific Horticulture Services (Environmental Impact Studies) with Mitch Beauchamp and for C & J Cactus Nursery where he was in charge of propagation. Dylan, an enthusiastic horticulturalist and plantsman, has written several articles for the CSSA Journal and HERBERTIA - The Journal of the International Bulb Society, as well as, some of the very best Cactus and/or Succulent of the Month articles ever published in *Espinas y Flores!* (We miss him.)

Dylan relates that he has many surprises to share — never-seen-before plants and awesome insects. He shot 17 rolls of film which he will highgrade to a point that keeps us on our heels, but in our chairs! So folks, get ready to fasten your seat belts, one week counting . . . Don't miss it.

Corrections Regarding Last Month's Cover: "The Elephant Tree" by Royce Wood, 1974 is actually a drawing of *Bursera fagaroides*. We noticed this error just a bit too late for press! Additionally, the SDC&SS and *Espinas y Flores* owes a great **BIG THANK YOU** to Bert Singer who owns the copyrights to this fine drawing. We apologize for both of these errors.

Please send your letters, artwork, poetry, Cactus or Succulent-of-the-Month articles, doodles, puzzles, comments, or criticisms, etc. to:

MICHAEL & JOYCE BUCKNER, EDITORS

4822 SANTA MONICA AVENUE, #103

SAN DIEGO, CA 92107

PHONE OR FAX (619) 222-3216

PUBLICATION DEADLINE IS THE 20th of the prior month.

Please help us with a timely delivery by submitting your articles ON TIME!!

* Please note: If you received your September *Espinas y Flores* late, this was due entirely to the unpredictable ravages of U.S. Bulk Mail — the price you have to pay, when you don't want to pay the price. *

☹ This month, however, we unfortunately received both articles and the president's message late — VERY LATE! ☹

Espinas y Flores is the newsletter for the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, a non-profit corporation. It is published monthly with the exception of a combined May-June issue (11 issues per year). All material in the *Espinas y Flores* may be reprinted by non-profit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided that proper credit is given to the SDC&SS *Espinas y Flores* and the author — and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editors. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the editors is prohibited.

The SDC&SS Picnic & Plant Auction was terrific!!! Everyone left with a few new plants — among the fabulous auction plants were several gems grown by **Beverly Kirkegaard** — magnificent offerings! We missed Kelly Griffin & family, Paul Steward, Frank & Marianne Thrombley, Warren & Virginia Buckner and many others — hope we see you there next year! Thanks to **Rick Plant** and **Ted Nelson** for continually arranging to have our "youngest at heart" founding member **Bob Taylor** at our meetings and the picnic, too! We shared a margarita with Bob, a first! Did you sleep well that evening, Bob? We hope so — Joyce sure did! If 90+ year old **Bob Taylor** can make it out to our special functions, everyone who can, should!! Just to see Bob enjoy himself!

And all the work accomplished — Accolades in spades to the many different auctioneers: **Ed Nolan, Joe Quijada, Sandy Frost, Ed DeLollis, Tom DeMerritt, Michael Buckner, Tom Knapik**, and who else? Hats off to **Betty Athy** for procurement and **Beverly Kirkegaard** and **Laura DeMerritt** for accounting and organization of the plant auction. Especially a **BIG THANK YOU** for the best of the best **Tom & Laura DeMerritt** for doing all the big and little things necessary to make this picnic a success: from the paper plates & table cloths to the shade tent set-up and the plant to vehicle delivery service. **Tom & Laura** are hardworking members with principle and integrity — we can always count on them! **Betty Athy** tells us that donations for the auction came from many generous members and supporters. The SDC&SS thanks the following people for their kind generosity:

Altman's Specialty Nursery (Ken & Deena Altman and Bob Reidmueller), Elizabeth Athy, Lee & Pam Badger, Michael & Joyce Buckner, C + J Cactus Nursery (Carl Volkers & Jim Kampwirth), Cooper's Cactus Nursery (John Cooper), Eric DeFrancis, The Chlorophyll Kid (Ed & Debe DeLollis), Carl Dykema, Bruce Edwards, Beverly Kirkegaard, Dorothy Larberg, Martin & Pat Mooney, Joe & Kay Quijada, and Western Cactus Growers (Hans Britsch, Thomas Britsch, & John Pluth). Please let us know if we haven't given you proper credit to others who may have made contributions of time, energy, or plant materials.

Congratulations to Monte Woodworth and Mary Sorrentino who tied the knot in September. Their plant collections look marvelous together! Welcome to marital bliss!

"A happy marriage results when both parties get better mates than they deserve." -UNKNOWN

Condolences to Judy Hannula whose husband, Walter, passed away after many years of illness. **Walter Hannula** did not share a fondness for succulents with his wife, but he always enjoyed our Christmas - Holiday Banquet. Our thoughts are with you Judy.

Longtime SDC&SS **Chuck Dreasher** past away September 12th. Although legally blind, Chuck still dabbled with succulents and assisted with the plant exchange table. Chuck, who retired after 22 years of active duty with the Marine Corps, survived more than three years in Japanese prison camps during World War II; in 1992 he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and heroism. Chuck had a special affection for *Aeonium zwartzkop*, the black "Desert Rose".

Plant donations for the V.A. Disabled Holiday Bazaar will be collected by **Ruth Richardson** at the October meeting. Please peruse your collection and make a contribution. In the past few years the plants donated by the SDC&SS and society member's have been very much appreciated and have added "life" to this annual fundraiser — Ruth says these plants are always the first items sold. All of the money raised by this event goes toward the purchase of personal grooming items, reading & writing materials for these disabled bedbound veterans. Additionally, this year the San Diego Chapter will be hosting the Wheelchair Olympics, so they will need more support than ever. For additional information please call **Ruth Richardson at (619) 281-9267**.

Feel like a Field Trip? Check these out! Visit a Nature Preserve:

- ☉ **Desert Tortoise Natural Area** - KERN COUNTY - *Open sunrise to sunset.*
Walk self-guided nature trails to see wild tortoises and other reptiles. Info: Desert Tortoise Committee, P.O.Box 2910, San Bernardino, CA 92406; (909) 884-9700.
- ☉ **Sand Ridge Preserve** - KERN COUNTY - *Open sunrise to sunset.*
See the rare Bakersfield cactus and other points of interest on a self-guided nature trail. Info: (619) 378-2531.
- ☉ **Santa Cruz Island Preserve** - SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - *Day Trips to the Island.*
Cost \$49 per person. Reservations: (805)642-1393.
- ☉ **San Diego State University Ecological Reserve** - RIVERSIDE CNTY - *Saturdays, 9:00am & 11:00am.*
Conservancy staff-led tours of southern California's last free-flowing river. Moderately rugged 1.5 mile hike overlooking the Santa Margarita River and Temecula Gorge. Space is limited. Info: (909)699-1856, extension #9.
- ☉ **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve** - SAN BERNARDINO CNTY - *Wednesday - Sunday, 7:30am - sunset.*
Birding at its best; walk through cottonwood & willow in the high desert. Info: (619) 363-7190.
- ☉ **Coachella Valley Preserve** - RIVERSIDE COUNTY - *Open sunrise to sunset.*
See sand dunes, mesas, and twelve palm oases. Migrating birds. Visitor center open Monday through Saturday, 9:00am to 5:00pm. Info: (619)343-1234.
- ☉ **Dos Palmas Oasis** - RIVERSIDE COUNTY - *Open sunrise to sunset.*
A low-elevation desert habitat at the base of the Salton Sea. Info: (619)393-0066.

Tuesdays, October 1st through October 22nd: Life in the Desert — an evening lecture series at Quail Botanical Gardens — the Ecke Building, 7:00pm to 8:30pm; cost is \$6 per lecture or \$22 for the series (\$5 and \$18 for Quail Garden Members). Oct 1 — **Joey Betzler** "African Deserts and Plant Families"; Oct 8 — **Monte Woodworth** "Baja California's Plant and Animal Life"; Oct 15 — **Ed Nolan Ph.D** "The Making of a Desert: The Life and Geology of Anza-Borrego"; Oct 22 — **Stan Yalof** "Where Did Deserts Come From? How Did Life Learn to Live There?"

Registration and information, call (619) 436-3036.

October 12th - SD Native Plant Society Sale: Come early to our October meeting and purchase a native plant for your yard. The sale will be held in the Casa del Prado courtyard directly in front of Room 101 (*our meeting room*), Balboa Park, San Diego from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

October 19 & 20 - The San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society's Winter Show & Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA, 10:30 to 4:30 - \$7.50 entrance fee to the Huntington - for more info: David Tufenkian (818) 794-3082.

October 26 & 27 Quail Botanical Gardens Annual Plant Sale — 9:00am to 3:30pm (*Pre-sale for Members Only on Friday, Oct 25th, 4:00pm to 6:00pm*). Plants from over 100 nurseries and growers. Educational presentations on California Native plants, cacti & succulents, fruit trees, ferns, etc. Demonstrations on composting, succulent wreaths, baskets, roses, dried plant material, and other garden related items. There will also be many activities for children and a wide variety of food items — home-baked goods, drinks, sandwiches, jams & jellies, and herbs for sale.

November 2 - 3: Anza-Borrego Caravan Field Trip - for information regarding this trip or a November 16-17 trip to Rainbow Basin, Calico & Mojave Cacti, you may contact **Carol or Joe Wucjik** by phone (714) 963-3146 or e-mail CAWUJCIK@aol.com.

PRESIDENTS FOR OCTOBER 1996

As of this writing our club has 388 members. About 188 of these are single members. The remaining are two members in a single household. This number fluctuates from month to month due to new members and the loss of those that do not renew. Unfortunately some people forget to renew their memberships. Everyone can see when their membership expires by looking at mailing label on the address portion of this newsletter. The code is year/month that your dues expire, i.e. 1997/01 would indicate that your dues expire in January of 1997. If there is a message asking you to renew; this indicates that your membership payment is due now.

In the last month, between the two of us, D'erdra Smothers and I have sent out about 100 letters to prospective members and past members that have let their memberships lapse. We have targeted other societies as well. *Espinasy Flores* is one of the best cactus and succulent newsletters. And other non-profit organizations may use information published here as long as they follow our publication guidelines (outlined in the front of our newsletter).

With the approval of the Executive Board, I have appointed a nominating committee for the upcoming elections. You will be asked to elect new officers for the 1997-1998 term. The nominating committee consists of Shirley Berry (756-3659), Martin Mooney (427-6796) and Kay Quijada (282-5919). If you have questions for the committee or wish to run for an office please contact one of the members. Your involvement in this society is essential!

Even if you do not want to run we always need your help. I had several nice comments during the annual show and sale by visitors from the L. A. Area. One person said "Your club sure has a lot of help from all of the members during the show." I am always heartened when I see what occurs during this annual event. The last several years that I have been Show Chair I have been one of the last to leave. And, I have really appreciated those that were there till the late hours. Mike Cullen and Tom Knapik stay late, and I have a memory of Laura DeMerritt telling the exhausted and sweaty Tom Sitko to leave! Tom S. helped many of the vendors and show entrants pack up their plants at the end of the day. He is a quiet individual and it is members like him that give us our good reputation. Without all of your involvement this society would be less.

Speaking of involvement, Laura and Tom DeMerritt, did a commendable job at organizing the Picnic this year. Thanks also to Elizabeth Athy for organizing the auction plants. It was a grand day with some great food. Those of you that have not paid for your plants please call Beverly Kirkegaard as soon as possible. Next year we are planning on a different location for this annual event.

Next year will find us with a complicated agenda, we will have a show and sale starting on the last day in May and five weeks later we will be hosting the 1997 CSSA convention. I hope that you can help with one or both events. The biennial conventions are quite fun and our society will be able to raise money selling items there. We will need ideas for our sales area: T-shirts, jewelry, pins etc.. Our club meeting is scheduled for July 12, we will have some great speakers to choose from and a few extra guests. Please call Martin Mooney or me if you want to be involved. The cactus and succulent world will be watching us, let's give them a great time.

Stan Yalof has organized a series of talks at Quail Botanic Gardens on deserts. I gave the first talk on South African plant families, Monte Woodworth will present Baja California and Ed Nolan will speak on a subject close to home, the Anza-Borrego. Give Stan a call for more information.

The Garden Festival at the Wild Animal Park (WAP) will be held on October 12 & 13. Please come to our meeting on Saturday then go and enjoy the Garden Festival on Sunday! This event gives the WAP volunteer groups a chance to display their plants and raise funds for their respective gardens. The Baja Collections/Old World Succulent Garden volunteers will have a section here. Hope to see you there.

As the weather cools off I hope that you will be able to come out to the Wild Animal Park to help with the outdoor plantings. We have the largest Baja succulent plant garden that there is. Many of the Boojums (about 100 of them) are growing well and the other plants are in good shape as we go into the cooler part of the year. We need help planting, replanting, erosion control and of course weeding. This garden will be one of the field trip options during the CSSA convention, please give me a call.

Thanks,



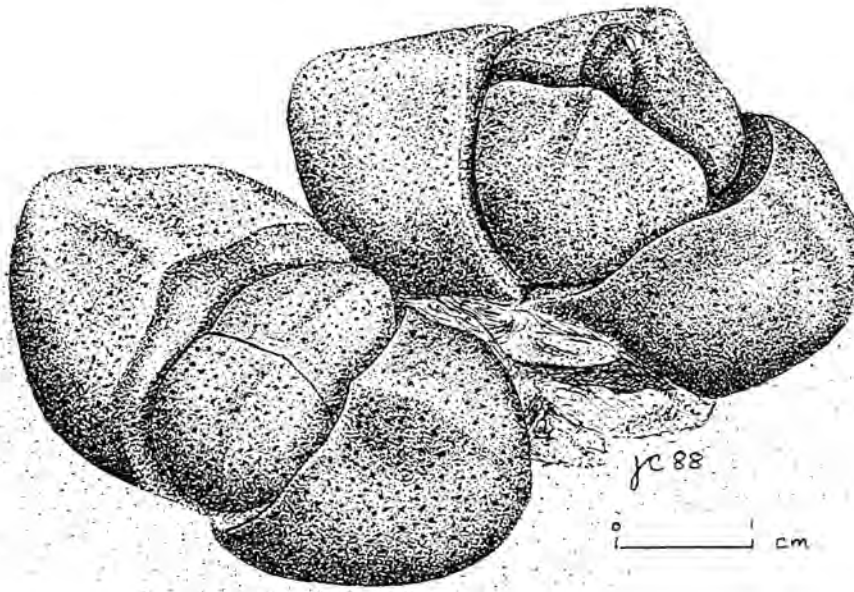
MESEMBS, GLORIFIED ICEPLANT OR WORTHY COLLECTIBLES? SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH BY KELLY GRIFFIN

I hope I can convince you of the latter and along the way convey some things you may not know about the "vygies" as they are known by many South Africans. The family is a rather large one to say the least. A third of Jacobsen's Lexicon of Succulent Plants is dedicated to them and although I haven't counted them I would guess they probably do constitute a third of the succulents other than cacti. Most are familiar with the ice plant seen along side of many a San Diego freeway and hillside, *Carpobrotus edulis*. Actually, *Carpobrotus edulis* has become so prevalent in this area — some consider it to be a native. The interesting mesembs hail from the African continent with the greatest concentration coming from South Africa.

Many of us have watched a mesemb, or two, turn to mush seemingly over night. Usually this is due to watering at the wrong time of year. The successful growing of most mesembs requires that you acknowledge some sort of dormant period. This means a time that you water them very little, if at all. Now if this coincides with the weather patterns we have, then they will grow nicely here but if it does not, well = ROT!

If success is desired with the more difficult mesembs than you have to provide some shelter from heavy rains and good drainage. I might add that as an experiment I planted some Lithops ("Stone Plants") in the ground outside in Encinitas; they survived two winters here before I re-planted them in pots. I learned two things from this:

- (1) They get lost in the garden as they look like gravel.
- (2) The snails find them easier to get to.



Pleiospilos nelii

Succulent of the Month: MESEMBS by Kelly Griffin continued . . .

The Lithops and the Conophytums are the best mimicry plants around and of course much has been written about these. There are quite a few easy-to-grow "abuse tolerant" mesembs that do not get much attention. I have chosen to write about some mesembs that are more forgiving regarding care.

The odd named *Pleiospilos* (pleio = full and spilo = spot) which flower here in late summer and early fall. These "Split Rocks" number some thirty species, although the plant most often seen is a probable *Pleiospilos bolusii* hybrid. *Pleiospilos nelii* looks like a large green split golf ball. These plants usually grow in south and southwestern Africa among rocks that look just like them.

Faucaria, the "Tiger Jaws", come in many sizes and shapes. The *Faucaria tuberculosa* is as the name implies tuberculate* (translation: lumpy, bumpy) and is always a favorite. These two species are for the most part "summer growers". Easy to grow and easy to acquire. Who has not had one in their collection at one time or another?

Glottiphyllum, the "Tongue Leaves", are a terrific group of plants. Some of my favorites are *Glottiphyllum pygmaeum* — which is, as you could probably guess, a pygmy. Another *Glottiphyllum* that I have and hope is in flower at the time of our meeting is *Glottiphyllum fragrans*. This mesemb has the most delightful fragrance you can imagine — and with any luck, you may not have to.

Cheiridopsis is another group of fairly easy to grow plants of which there are many. By far, *Cheiridopsis candidissima* is the most common. One of my favorites — mainly because of its name — *Cheiridopsis cigarettifera*. *Cheiridopsis* are primarily winter growers.

Other than some on again off again variegated Lithops, the only variegated mesembs I know of are *Rhombophyllum nelii*, which is *Faucaria* hybrid. Another variegated mesemb — *Glottiphyllum linguiforme*. Any others?

In the "Don't Throw That Out — It Is Not Dead" category we have **Mitrophyllums** and **Monilarias**. Both of these go completely dormant in the summer months and can be easily slayed if watered at this time. Or thrown out, if you have some clean freak emptying all your "dead" pots. These plants are truly beautiful in growth, but are sadly overlooked because they look dead for a good part of the year. Additionally, they are seldom seen in succulent shows, because these shows usually occur in the spring and summer seasons, when they are dormant and dead looking.

Another nice mesemb is the monotypic, *Lapidaria margaretae*. This plant comes from Namaqualand in an area which normally receives only two inches of rain each year. It can be a difficult plant to grow; I have found that if you grow it in a warm greenhouse it takes quite a bit more water.

Let me concede that I have barely scratched the surface and let me also ask that you bring in your favorite mesemb (conos and lithops included) to show off and share. Let's fill the table!!

* tuberculate - bearing small tuberlike swellings or projections.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Membership

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit, hobby organization created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people (and plants) with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or beginner with an interest in unusual plants and flowers.

Regular meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park at 1:00 p.m. (One may come as early as noon to socialize.) Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership plus \$5.00 for each additional member at the same mailing address; mailings are sent at bulk mail rate. International memberships, including Mexico and Canada, are \$20.00 (surface mail only). Dues are payable at time of joining, and in January of each succeeding year; for new members that join during our June show or at other times during the year, prorated membership dues can be paid in November/December to complete the succeeding year.

Members receive our monthly publication *Espinas y Flores*, are entitled to library check-out privileges, and may partake in activities. We offer knowledgeable speakers who present educational & entertaining programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authors. The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show and Plant Sale occurs the first weekend of June in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. A wide range of succulent plants, ceramic pots, and growing supplies are available at favorable costs during most meetings. There is also a plant exchange table and a seed library /exchange. All members will be consistently encouraged to contribute and participate in our many functions.

For more information regarding membership, please call Elizabeth Glover,
Membership Committee Chairperson at (619) 264-6769.

- Yes, I (we) wish to become 1996 - 1997 member(s) of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.
(Membership active for one full year — eleven issues of *Espinas y Flores*; dues may be prorated to complete 1997.)
- Yes, I (we) wish to renew our San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society membership (1997).

NAME: _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP + 4: _____

PHONE / FAX / E-MAIL: _____

DO YOU KNOW THAT FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$5.00 PAID ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES — YOU CAN HAVE *Espinas y Flores* DELIVERED BY FIRST CLASS MAIL INSTEAD OF BULK MAIL??

- Yes, I (we) wish to pay an additional \$5.00 for First Class Mail - U.S.A only.

SEND THIS FORM TO:

SDC&SS - Treasurer, P.O.Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181

New Members Welcome!!

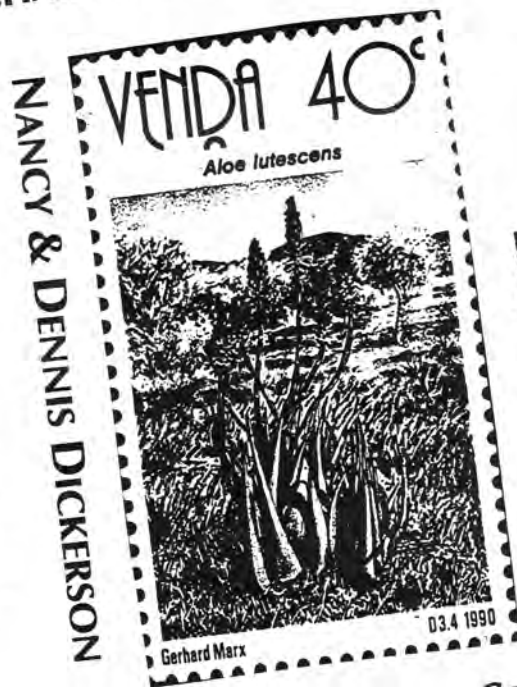
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NELLIE AMONDSON
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CACTI OF THE MONTH: THE TURBINIES

by Tom Knapik

I ordered my first *Turbinicarpus* fourteen years ago and grew it on my window sill in northern New York. It was *Turbinicarpus schwarzii* and it survived my window culture and a three-week road trip when I moved to San Diego. What was once a single headed plant now has 19 heads. Quite a sight when in flower.

This hardy group of cacti are usually well represented in cactus collections, because they are easy to maintain in a well drained soil mix, have distinctive spination, take up little space (a real bonus for many plant enthusiasts) and regularly produce beautiful blooms.

Turbinicarpus are easy to grow from seed, and within two years you will have a small mature (flowering) plant. This makes obtaining and growing all currently known species relatively easy.

New *Turbinicarpus* recently discovered in Mexico has brought some of the excitement back to obtaining and growing cacti as opposed to other succulents. At the 1995 CSSA Convention in Tucson Charlie Glass, who is currently working in Mexico at CANTE, stunned the audience with several in habitat photographs of these new finds. Some discoveries were made by locating limestone and gypsum outcroppings on geological maps, which was followed by a trip to the site and a search of the area. An interesting way to find new species! My personal favorite of these new species was *Turbinicarpus alonsoii* which was named for the young man, *Jose Alonso Garcia Luna* of CANTE,

who discovered the plants.

Turbinicarpus alonsoii appeared to be a small *Ariocarpus* or *Obregonia* with broad flat triangular tubercles. It may take a few years, but species likes this will eventually be available through various dealers and nurseries.

I have been able to purchase several already from Mesa Garden. Steven Brack has cultivated plants of *Turbinicarpus javernigii* and *Turbinicarpus hoferi*. I have also obtained two new varieties, *Turbinicarpus krainsianus* var. *minimus* and *Turbinicarpus pseudomacroechele* var. *lausseri*.



TURBINICARPUS PSEUDOMACROCHELE
(Backeb.) Buxb. & Backeb.

TURBINICARPUS LOPHOPHOROIDES
(Werd.) Buxb. & Backeb.



Cactus of the Month: *Turbinicarpus* by Tom Knapik continued . . .

Woody Minich, who operates Cactus Data Plants, always has a good selection of the well known species of *Turbinicarpus*. Recently, Woody has set seed of *Turbinicarpus swodoae*, so look for this new species in his next catalog.

If growing from seed is your special interest, then ordering a catalog from Köhres** in Germany will make your year — especially, if you like *Turbinicarpus*! Köhres lists several species that I have never heard of; the plants have not yet been described in any American journal. You can now purchase seeds of:

Turbinicarpus bonatzii, *Turbinicarpus lilineoidus*, *Turbinicarpus rioverdensis*, *Turbinicarpus* species "El Hizache", *Turbinicarpus* species "Negrita", and *Turbinicarpus spacellatus*.

These may represent varieties of well known species, however, the data on them is limited to European journals.

In the genus *Turbinicarpus* field data is vital for evaluating the issues of new species, subspecies, varieties, and forms. It was in 1937 that Buxbaum and Backeberg recognized this genus of small distinctive species which inhabited the Chihuahuan Desert of north central Mexico. Since then the genus has grown to include species from *Normanbokea*, *Neolloydia*, and *Gymnocactus*. There is no doubt that *Gymnocactus* and *Turbinicarpus* are very closely related. Some taxonomists currently combine them; growers and hobbyists tend to keep them separate.



TURBINICARPUS PSEUDOPECTINATUS
(Backeb.) Glass & Foster
Syn: *Normanbokea pseudopectinatus* Kladiwa
& Buxb.; *Pelecypora pseudopectinatus*
Backeb.



TURBINICARPUS LAUI Glass & Foster
Syn: *Strombocactus laui* (Glass & Foster)
Mays; *Neolloydia laui* (Glass & Foster)
E. F. Anderson

A solitary, dull-green sub-globose species up to 2½ in high, 1½ in wide. It has five to six ribs divided into prominent rhomboidal tubercles, three or four to a spiral and up to ½ in high. Minute areoles bear about six glassy-white spines ½–¾ in long. Flowers are diurnal in early summer, white or pinkish and up to 1½ in long. Requires a bright position; a permeable, mineral and enriched compost; minimum temperature 55°F. Mexico (San Luis Potosi).



Illustrations from *CACTI* by Clive Innes & Charles Glass, Portland House, NY, 1991

** G. Köhres — Cacti Seeds & Tillandsias, Wingertstrasse 33, D-6106 Erzhausen/Dormstadt, Germany.

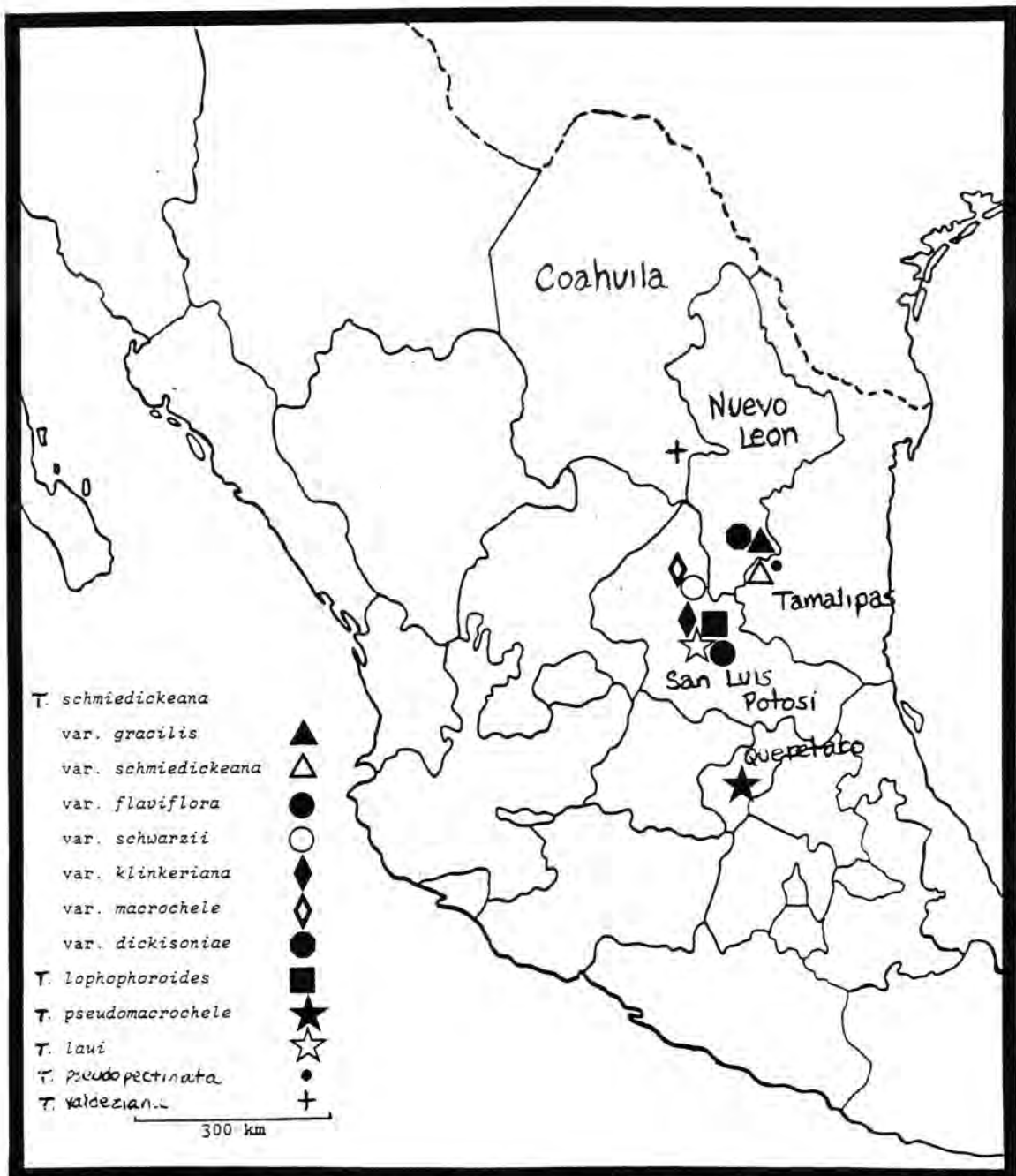
Cactus of the Month cont.

To help you separate the closely related species or varieties of *Schmiedickeanus*, I have included a key done by Edward F. Anderson in a Bradleya paper on *Neolloydia* published in 1986. I have also included a geographical map done by Anderson from the same article showing the distribution of the well know species of *Turbinicarpus*.

KEY TO THE VARIETIES OF *N. SCHMIEDICKEANA*

1. Tubercles clearly higher vertically than broad 2
- Tubercles not higher vertically than broad 4
2. Spines thickened and spongy; tubercles tapering rapidly to the tip, more or less conical 3
- Spines flattened and paperlike; tubercles tapering gradually to and flattened at the tip, not clearly conical 12a. var. *gracilis*
3. Stems dull green; spines twisted, not curved towards the apex; flowers white to magenta 12b. var. *schmiedickeana*
- Stems grey-green; spines not twisted, curved towards the apex; flowers white 5
4. Tubercles conical 12c. var. *flaviflora*
- Tubercles low and more or less flattened 12d. var. *schwarzii*
5. Tubercles pointed at the tips, 5-8mm high vertically 12e. var. *klinkeriana*
- Tubercles obtuse or rounded at the tips, 2-5mm high vertically 6
6. Tubercles rounded at the tips; spines 0-4, commonly 3, thick and spongy 12f. var. *macrochele*
- Tubercles obtuse at the tips; spines >10, not thick and spongy but somewhat flexible 12g. var. *dickisoniae*

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ALFRED B. LAU - A MOST REMARKABLE MAN

If you missed Dr. Alfred Lau, you missed an opportunity of a lifetime to meet one of the true pioneers of New World Cactus & Succulent study. Dr. Lau's "South American Cactus Log" was a feature of the CSSA Journal for several decades. These logs recorded his succulent research in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, and Central America. He also writes for botanical periodicals in Germany, England, India, Malta, Czechoslovakia, and Monaco. Dr. Lau has discovered and described over fifty new species of plants. He has kept meticulous field notes of his findings, discoveries, and re-discoveries, along with documentation regarding lumping, splitting, soil types, terrain, and elevations.

The following is a list of some plant species which have been named after Alfred Lau.

From Mexico: *Echeveria laui*; *Coryphantha laui* - Coahuila; *Echinocereus laui* - Sonora; *Epiphyllum laui* - Chiapas; *Mammillaria laui*, *M. laui* var. *dasyacantha*, *M. laui* var. *subducta* - Tamaulipas; *Turpinicarpus laui* - San Luis Potosi; and *Mammillaria anniana* - Tamaulipas, which was named for Anna Lau, his wife.

From South America: *Lobivia laui* - Bolivia; *Copiapoa laui* - Chile; *Neoporteria laui* - Chile; *Lobivia backebergii* var. *laui* - Peru; and many many others.

Dr. Lau is also well known and admired for his humanitarian work. Presently, he teaches and operates a school and orphanage for Mexican indigenous Native American boys in Veracruz, Mexico. His students assist in his explorations and research. Many of the young men that he has helped have gone on to attend college and become scientists, doctors, teachers, botanists, and role models for their villages. All of the honorarium money paid for the programs that Dr. Lau has been given goes toward the room, board, medical care, and education of these boys. Even at 68 years of age, Dr. Lau would rather sleep on the floor of a supporter than to spend \$40 for an unnecessary hotel room.

Dr. Lau's program on Agaves which he gave for the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society on September 28th was extremely informative and interesting. We wished we could have also seen his presentations on Palms & Cycads, Orchids, and Bromeliads. We were honored with a private slide show featuring the plants and people of India, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Borneo, New Guinea, Australia, the Philippines, and various botanical gardens and special locations in Europe. It was indeed an honor to meet this remarkable man.

P.S. Thank you Eleanor Hewitt (program chairperson), Paul Steward (president of Palomar C&SS), and the entire membership of the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society, for extending an invitation for Dr. Lau's program on Agaves to SDC&SS members! Your hospitality was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Joyce Buckner

Beverly Kirkegaard is preparing the Cactus and Succulent of the Month schedule for 1997. If you are interested in writing an article and making a presentation at one of our meetings next year — please contact Beverly at the October meeting or telephone her at (619) 670-1035.

Writing a Cactus or Succulent of the Month article is a terrific way for you to learn more about that genus, species, or plant type of special interest. **Which is the reason why you joined this Society in the first place!** Don't be shy — it can be a lot of fun! We have noticed that the First-Timer's articles are often the most creative and informative!! Please remember: if you make this commitment — your complete & legible (or on disk) article is due no later than the 20th of the prior month.

**"Ask not what disease the person has,
but rather what person the disease has."**

(attributed to) William Osler

YES, I've been sick. I have lost weight — then gained it back — a thyroid condition. I have been poked, prodded, scanned, nuked, tapped for blood, medicated, and examined. Graves Disease — to tell you the truth — I'm damn tired of it — so is Joyce! **NO**, I'm not dying — not even close! Actually, I am told that I'm on the "up swing", though it feels more like a "slow boat"! Thank you, for your calls, cards, and concern.

Sincerely, *Michael Buckner*

Confessions of a Rookie Judge!

by Joe Wujcik

"Cada quien tiene su forma de matar a pulgas."

Everyone has their own way of killing fleas.

MEXICAN PROVERB

All I could do was look around and wonder how I got myself into this. I am sitting at the Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show judge's dinner with people like Lee Phelps, Charles Spotts, Gene Joseph, Janet Huckaby, Woody Minnich and others (experts all) and I'm supposed to be one of them! I'm the rookie (also known as the novice) judge.

The novice judge is someone getting their first major judging experience. And the Inter-City Show is a tough place to start. This year there were 2,396 plants to be judged by six pairs of judges.

I have liked, studied, acquired and collected succulent plants for many years — especially *Gasteria* and *Haworthia*. But I am thought of as the potter . . . Okay, I'll admit it — right now, I'm thinking of myself as a potter and wondering, "How did I get myself into this?"

Fortunately, the show made things easy for me:

- * a run-through at a previous show to give me confidence,
- * a good mentor judge to guide me, and
- * a good crew (clerks) to help me through the evening.

Although Woody Minnich and I judged the art and craft categories at the San Jose show last year, I did not think he was serious when he asked me to judge the Inter-City Show. However, he took me through the succulent portion of this year's San Jose show and requested my comments on the plants. Then Woody tested me: giving me some slight misinformation, he wanted to see how I would respond. In addition, he arranged for me to precede the judges at the Orange County Club Show to see how my opinions would mesh with those of that group of top judges — Larry Grammer, Jim Hanna, and Woody Minnich. This experience gave me the confidence to attempt the unknown.

At the Inter-City Show, the novice judge is paired with an experienced "mentor judge", an expert who is also, hopefully, a patient guide. I drew Michael Buckner, who is well suited for this assignment. He knows his plants, and thus is able to spot inaccurate name tags, and to identify those plants which are more difficult to grow. Michael expresses his opinions clearly, so the novice judge can easily understand why he chooses one plant over another. He also listens well and was open to this novice judge's choices. He made the evening easy.

An efficient (hard-working, yet stealth) crew of clerks was also tremendous help. Our clerks were headed by Sandy Chase. Sandy is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Although the clerks are not supposed to express an opinion on the plants, she and her crew did express encouragement and strived to keep things moving along — which is essential for judging such a large show.

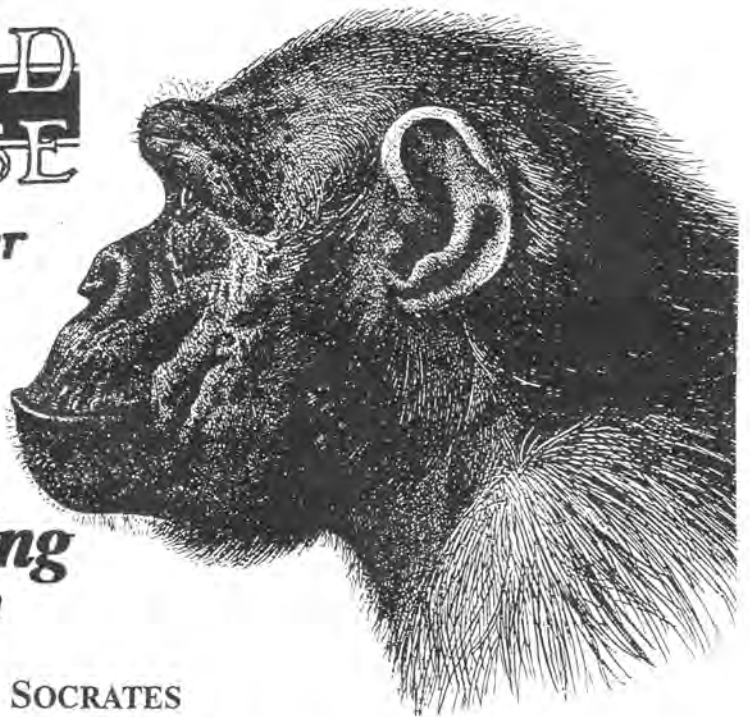
At the end of the evening, all six succulent judges — Michael Buckner, Fred Gaumer, Janet Huckaby, Gene Joseph, Lee Phelps and I, Joe Wujcik - Rookie Judge, conferred regarding the "Best Awards and Trophies"; later the six cactus judges — Beverly Kirkegaard, Steven Plath, Steve Southwell, Charles Spotts, Victor Turecek, and Carol Wujcik joined us for selecting joint awards. In all cases, my opinion was sought and listened to. My vote counted as much as anyone else's!

It was a heady experience for a rookie judge. Thanks to everyone for making it a positive and rewarding one!

WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner

**"Seeking
and learning
are in fact nothing
but recollection."**



SOCRATES

"We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started — and know the place for the first time!!"

T. S. ELIOT, FOUR QUARTERS

"To know the world, one must construct it."

CESARE PARESE

"For my own part, I think it no small Pleasure that Nature is so extensive and variable in her Works, that a bare Discovery of them is more than the whole World can compass; and that the Mind of Man, which naturally loves Novelty, has the grateful Opportunity of being placed in the midst of such a boundless Variety."

RICHARD BRADLEY, Pioneer student of succulents, in *A Philosophical Account of the Works of Nature*, London 1721,22 — as printed in foreword of **FLOWERING SUCCULENTS** by Gordon Rowley, c. 1959.

SUCCULENT SOCIETIES — "Fret not to roam the desert now . . ."

Are succulent collectors mad? Yes, I suppose they are — the advanced cases, at least — mad with enthusiasm for a hobby that gets more consumingly interesting the more deeply one gets drawn into it. Many addicts remain sober and sane to the end, but most advances in knowledge are made by the fanatics. I have never tried to deny a sort of madness about succulents — after all, the first time you are seen nursing an *Opuntia* on the bus or picking up coloured pebbles for *Lithops* pans from a rubbish tip people are bound to raise their eyebrows in derision or dismay. And there is no more boring company in this world than someone who is quite, quite sane and orthodox about everything!

It comes as a surprise to some to learn that there are special societies catering for lovers of succulent plants: they react as if it were something to be hushed up rather than shared with friends.

FLOWERING SUCCULENTS by Gordon Rowley, Living Color Publications, Great Britain, copyright 1959.

"The universe is not only queerer than we imagine, but queerer than we can imagine."

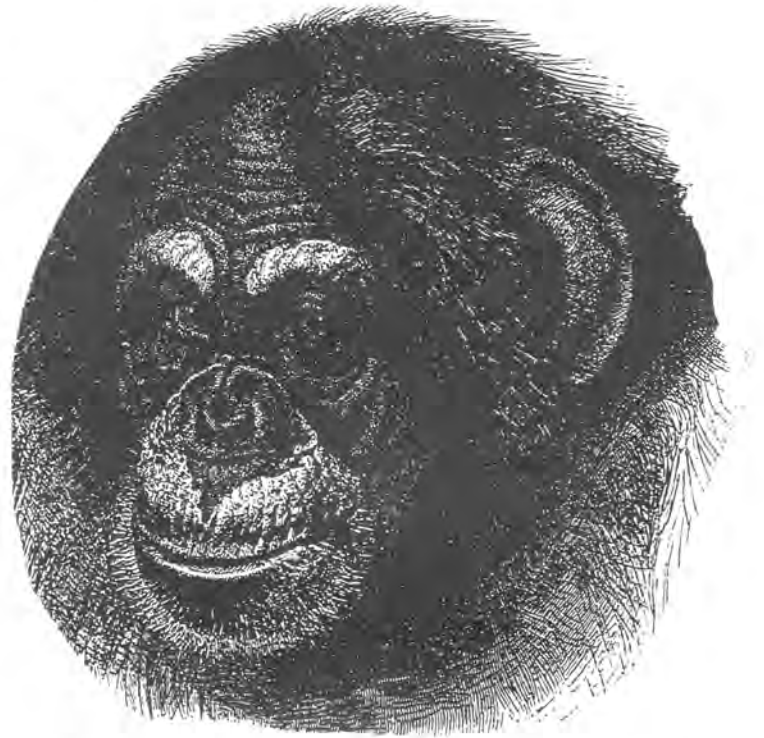
J. B. S. Haldane

How Little I Know

Within the order of evolution as usually drawn
Life "occurred" as a series
Of fortuitous probabilities in the primeval sea.
It could have been sent or "radiated" there.
That is, the prime code
Or angle and frequency modulated signal
Could have been transmitted
From a remote stellar location.
It seems more likely
(In view of the continuous rediscovery of humans
As fully organized beings
At ever more remote historical periods)
That the inanimate structural pattern integrity,
Which we call human being,
Was a frequency modulated code message
Beamed at Earth from remote location.
Man as prime organizing
"Principle" construct pattern integrity
Was radiated here from the stars —
Not as primal cell, but as
A fully articulated high order being,
Possibly as the synergetic totality
Of all the gravitation
And radiation effects
Of all the stars
In our galaxy
And from all the adjacent galaxies
With some weak effects
And some strong effects
And from all time.
And pattern itself being weightless,
The life integrities are apparently
Inherently immortal.

You and I
Are essential functions
Of Universe
We are exquisite syntropy.
I'll be seeing you!
Forever.

R. Buckminster Fuller, 1966



**WISE AND
OTHERWISE**

D'où venons nous?

Que sommes nous?

Où allons nous?

Where have we come from?

What are we?

Where are we going?

PAUL GAUGUIN, 1897

**"The cure for boredom is curiosity.
There is no cure for curiosity."**

ELLEN PARR

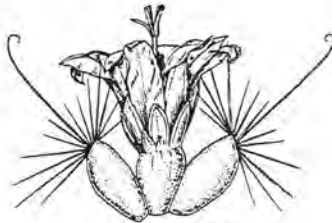
***"We have learned all the answers, all the answers:
It is the question that we do not know."***

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

**The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc.
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Mammillaria thornberi

Espinas y Flores

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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except June, Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are \$1.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Fax available - please call editor at (619)222-3216 for number.