

# Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
*Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.*

## March Meeting

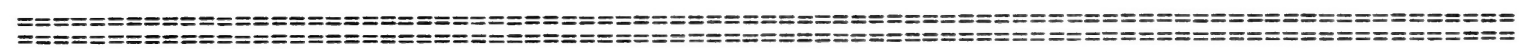
Saturday, March 13, 1982

1:30 pm

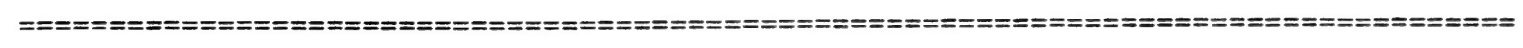
Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

## The Program For March

Woody Minnich of Littlerock, California, will conduct a study of the Genus Mammillaria. He is a professional grower of some 2000 Mamms in his greenhouses in Littlerock. Woody will discuss habitat, cultivation, propagation and identification of this popular genus. This is the first of the top three study programs requested through an interest survey.

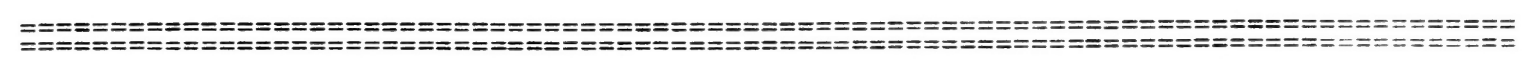


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Deadline for April Issue. . . . March 30

Remember if you have anything for the newsletter- Bring to meeting or send to me before deadline. I try to use everything that is of interest. Mary



Sorry for any and all errors- I'm learning

NEWS OF INTEREST



Bragging Table Winners were:

- 1st - Beverly Kent for her *Euphorbia aeruginosa*
- 2nd - Martin Mooney for his *Euphorbia fruticosa*
- and a tie for 3rd.....
- Phyllis Flechsig for her *Echeveria laui*
- Joan Johnson for her *Crassula "Morgans Beauty"*

New members are:

Joseph and Valera Chenoweth  
Lemon Grove

Evelyn Cork  
Spring Valley

Charles and Maysie Skutt  
San Diego

HELP

HELP

HELP

We need someone willing to take over the library--See Betty Athy

Also thanks to Rick Latimer for donating:

Kakteen Und Andre Sujkulanten by P.J. Redouté

Calendars will be available at the next meeting-- See Betty

Those members who have signed up to bring refreshments for March are:

- Ruth Stockton, Donabelle LaFrance, Eleanor Dice, D. Diener, B. Liner, Rose D'Attilo
- Lee Metzger, Jim Dice, Money Monroe, Sophie Layland, Vangie Englert and Bob Taylor

San Diego Botanical Garden Show Schedule for March

- Mar. 27 & 28 Balboa Park African Violet Show Sat: 1:pm - 5 pm Sun: 10 am - 4 pm
  - Apr. 11 Convair Garden Club Rose Show Sun: 1:pm - 5 pm
- Both are at the Casa Del Prado - Balboa Park

ANZA-BORREGO SPRING BUS SAFARI

A Busload from San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society will leave the parking lot southwest of the Spreckles Organ Pavillion at 8 am on May 15. Sorry we couldn't go in April but the skiers have the buses tied up until May. The fee is \$9.00 each and members will board at 7:50 in the sequence that their money is received by:

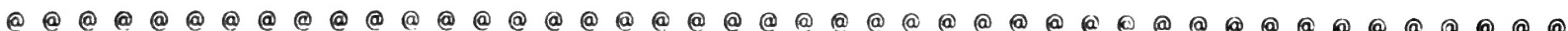
H.W. Buckner  
1744 Englewood Dr.  
Lemon Grove, CA 92045

Our guide will be Jim Dice. Don't forget to bring lunch ,liquids, hat, sunglasses, sturdy shoes and plenty of film for your camera.

We will go out via El Cajon, Lakeside, Ramona, Santa Ysabel, Montezuma Grade with a stop at Culp Valley onto Palm Canyon Campground for lunch. We'll linger at Palm Canyon for the hike up to the springs and palms for the intrepid; the others can hike over to the amphitheater. Return will be via Yaqui Pass, Tamarisk Grove, to Scissors Crossing and then to either Julian or Ocotillo depending on the time and what we can see. Be home about 6 pm.

Warren Buckner

There will be a reminder next month



## Succulent-of-the-Month

### Sedum

F. C. Thrombley

Sedum (sē'-dūm)

Family: Crassulaceae

The genus Sedum is very large in number with 600 species known. Their habitats cover the Northern Hemisphere and range through mountainous regions in other parts of the world.

Their size ranges from tiny mat-forming types, like Sedum dasyphyllum, to shrubs 2 to 3 feet tall, like S. praeltum, and tree types like S. oxypetalum. They are best known, however, for their propensity for clinging to rocky habitats. Consequently, they make excellent rockery, dish garden or pot plants. Many species have colorful foliage which becomes more intense in bright light or full sun. With the exceptions of a few, full sun will keep them compact in their growth habit.

The flowers of Sedums may vary somewhat, but they are all small and more or less star-shaped in form. Although they are individually small, the blooms are massed together in flattish or domed heads called Corymbs, which makes them collectively as conspicuous as a single large flower. This is important for pollenization for the Corymbs provide a landing place for the butterflies, bees and other insects. The nectar is then accessible to the shortest proboscis. The bees are by far the most efficient pollinizers, however, Sedum spectabile is planted in temperate region gardens to attract butterflies. The flower colors range from white through yellow to pink and red.

Sedums like a well drained soil which is not very rich. The Mexican tree types, S. oxypetalum and S. frutescens, grow in soil pockets on lava beds and must have good drainage to survive. A good practice when potting is to add extra pumice or sharp sand in the compost mix. In general, they are easy to root and grow, presenting no problems in cultivation. The one exception that comes to my mind is Sedum hintonii, a collector's piece from Mexico, is not easy to adapt to cultivation for long. Starvation, however, intensifies the compactness of habit and whiteness of leaves. This is also one of the Sedums that should not be grown in direct sun.

Some of the hardy species are Herbaceous Perennials, with leafy shoots that die down to an underground rootstock in winter. Sedum siebaldii, from Japan, does this. The most succulent of the genus are the tender species from Mexico and North America.

#### References used:

Gordon Rowley, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York

(CONTINUED)

Dorothy Dunn wrote an article entitled "Sedums", for the October 1981 issue of California Garden. The following are facts gleaned from her article.

- The name Sedum is taken from the Latin word Sedare - "to assuage or soothe"; the juicy leaves were apparently at one time used as a soothing application for aches and pains.
- Sedum burrito, a plant of unknown origin, puzzled collectors until 1977, when Dr. Reid Moran of the San Diego Natural History Museum, determined that it was a new species closely related to, but distinct from, Sedum morganianum.
- Myron Kimmach (Huntington Gardens), in 1976 found and collected a new species, Sedum suareolens, a lovely echeveria-like plant.

## Giant cactus fells shooter who felled it

By Ward Harkavy  
Republic Staff

A 27-year-old north Phoenix man shot a saguaro Thursday afternoon and was killed when it fell on him, authorities said.

Maricopa County sheriff's deputies said David M. Grundman of 3932 W. Kaler Drive reportedly fired at least two rifled slugs from a 16-gauge shotgun at a 26- to 27-foot saguaro and started to shout, "Timber!"

He only had enough time to say "Tim —" before a 23-foot section of the cactus fell and crushed him.

Deputies said Grundman already had felled one saguaro, an act that is considered a high misdemeanor because the cactuses are protected.

Grundman and a friend, Joseph Suchochi, who gave officials the same address as Grundman, were in the desert two miles north of Arizona 74, just west of Lake Pleasant, deputies said.

The incident occurred about 3:30 p.m., they said.

Suchochi was not charged with destruction of the cactuses.

Grundman's body was taken to the Maricopa County medical examiner's office, where an autopsy will be conducted.



## Cactus-of-the-Month

### Mammillaria Haworth

Frank C. Thrombley

Mammillaria (mām-ī-lā'-rī-ā)

Group: Mammillariae

The genus Mammillaria is predominately of Mexican distribution. Its range does extend to Colombia and Venezuela in South America with a few species that are endemic to that region. In the West Indies, there are two species also endemic to those islands. The species found in the United States range from South-Central Texas westward through Southern New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California. All of the species found in the United States are also found in Mexico. If one were to be asked where a specific specie of Mammillaria originated, he would be safe in saying Mexico. There are more than 300 species native primarily to Mexico.

Adrian Haworth established the genus in 1812, deriving the name from the Latin term, Mamilla, which means "nipple". This alludes to the tubercles of the plants which are arranged in spirals downward from the apex in both clockwise and counter-clockwise directions. The tubercles are variable in form and arranged in intersecting spirals which are, in general, a diagnostic character of the relative species. There are no ribs on these plants.

A genus of plants mostly clustering or branching, low, globular or oval, or cylindrical and sometimes much elongated. Some will stay solitary throughout their lives, and others will form very large clustering mounds. Their sizes range from:

Mammillaria saboae: Body remaining small, simple or offsetting, from 1/2" to 1" high.

Mammillaria guerreronis: Body cylindric, 2 1/2" dia. by 30" high and caespitose.

The spines are arranged in various positions within the areole at the apex of the tubercle. Some species bear only central spines and others bear only radial spines, while most species have both. The variation in spine size and structure is often influenced very strongly by the environmental conditions as well as the hereditary factors, hence the spine count as a species separation factor is in many cases an artificial division and individual members of a species will often overlap these arbitrary limits. The central spines may be either straight, bent or hooked at the tip, but the radial spines are nearly always stright, or at most, only slightly bent in their over-all length.

The flowers arise from the axils (depressions between the tubercles) and not from the areoles. The flowers are variable in size, but mostly small, colors ranging from white to yellowish to red. The flowers appear in a ring, from the axils of the previous years growth, and never from the apex of the plant. The club-like fruits of the flowers appear from the axil at maturity and are green to red in color. It is not uncommon to have a ring of flowers and a ring of fruit on a plant at the same time - a very pretty sight.

The Mammillaria genus is further divided into two divisions. The sap that is found in the tubercles has been used as one of the major dividing factors. One fairly well defined group of species has a nearly clear to amber-colored or so-called watery sap while the other group has a whitish or so-called milky sap. The group with the watery sap is in the HYDROCHYLUS division. The group with the milky sap, which is not found in any other member of the cactus family, is in the GALACTOCHYLUS division.

Most species are of easy cultivation in any good loamy soil. As a general note I would recommend a moderately rich but well drained gritty soil. Due to the wide distribution, some of them inhabit cold hilly regions, or the plains of the prairies, and at times covered with snow. Others inhabit areas with sandy soil, or even a soil stony and gritty. Most of them prefer half shade during the hottest period of summer. In their native habitat a great majority of these plants are afforded partial shade from grasses and dried up wild annual plants which grow around them. They adapt very well to pot culture, but one should be aware that they will not tolerate stagnant water.

To study and grow these fascinating plants with their various forms could be a lifetime with many happy hours. What a hobby!

References used:

- Backeberg, Curt, 1977, Cactus Lexicon, Blandford Press, England  
Borg, J., 1976, Cacti, Blandford Press, England  
Craig, R.T., 1945, The Mammillaria Handbook, Abbey Garden Press  
Pasadena, California

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NOTE: FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT HAVE UN-NAMED MAMMILLARIAS, BRING THEM TO THE MARCH MEETING. WOODY MINNICH WILL TRY TO IDENTIFY THEM FOR YOU.

BE SURE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING - A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE GENUS MAMMILLARIA AND SEE 100 PLANTS OR MORE. BRING SOME OF YOUR FAVORITES FOR ALL OF US TO ENJOY.

MORE NEWS OF INTEREST-----

The Recreation Therapist at Sharp Rehabilitation Center is looking for assistance of any kind that our members would be willing to offer. Donations of pots, planters, gardening tools and plant cutting would be greatly appreciated. Also, if there are any individuals who would be interested in assisting or volunteering that would be appreciated. Address: Sharp Rehabilitation Center

7901 Frost Street, San Diego, CA 92123  
Attention: Nancy Whitman, R.T.R.

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Zoo horticulturist Ernest Chew has organized a series of Saturday morning meetings he calls "Botany for Breakfast," designed to acquaint the early-rising gardener and plant lover with the Zoo's vast plant collection. Each one-hour talk will be preceded by a continental breakfast and followed by a plant tour.

Palm trees, flowering trees and rare epiphytes of the orchid, fern, bromeliad and succulent families are the first three topics picked for the Botany for Breakfast series. There will be time for questions at each meeting.

Fee for Botany for Breakfast classes is \$5.50 (\$4.75 Zoo Admission for non-members extra) Includes breakfast. Advance registration is required and can be made by contacting the San Diego Zoo Education Department at (714) 231-1515, ext. 226.

Schedule:

"The Palms of the SD Zoo," Sat. March 27, 8 a.m. by Ernest Chew, SD Zoo horticulturist.

"The Flowering Trees of the SD Zoo," Sat. April 24, 8 a.m., by Dan Simpson, S.D. Zoo arborist.

"The Epiphytes of the SD Zoo," Sat., May 22, 8 a.m. by Michael Bostwick, S.D. Zoo orchid specialist.

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News from the LIVING DESERT RESERVE

SPRING DESERT PLANT SALE, Sat. April 3, 9 am to 2 pm; Sunday, April 4, 9 am to noon, featuring native desert trees, shrubs, flowers and ground covers and low care house and patio plants difficult or impossible to find in commercial nurseries. On the Irvine Patio at the Living Desert Reserve, 47-900 South Portola, Palm Desert. for Information: (714) 346-5694.

EXHIBIT of odd and unusual live native desert plants, illustrated with interpretive text and graphics, in the Johnston Greenhouse viewing window throughout April. The exhibit is free with admission to the Living Desert Reserve: Adults \$2.25; children 16 and under free with an adult; Sr. Citizens \$1.50 on Tuesdays only. Open 9 to 5 daily. CALIFORNIA CRITICAL NATURAL AREAS EXHIBIT THROUGHOUT April in McCallum Hall.

FREE with admission to the Reserve.

SPRING HOLIDAY EVENTS Sunday April 4 through Sunday, April 11, Including landscape watercolor classes for children and adults; papier mache; desert landscaping; nature walks; live desert animal close-ups; films and an early morning hike into Living Desert Canyon. Fees and reservations required for some activities; Other free with admission to the Living Desert Reserve; Call for a complete schedule of events. Call this number for ALL information (714) 346-5694

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Thanks and appreciation to Bill Miller and Shirley Berry for donating plants at the February meeting.

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REMEMBER---Our picnic on July 10, That! a Saturday .Our club will furnish the liquid refreshments.

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Speedy recovery to Carl McLeod who had surgery not long ago. I could not find out details at press time.

# SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

President - Rick Latimer	5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, CA 92041	463-1655
1st V. Pres. - Frank Thrombly	16333 Roca Drive, San Diego, CA 92128	487-5544
2nd V. Pres. - John Pasek	10283 Covina Place, San Diego, CA 92126	271-0515
Recording Secretary - Beverly Kirkegaard	10009 Bonnie Vista, La Mesa, CA 92041	463-2801
Treasurer - Joan Johnson	3599 Via Zara, Fallbrook, CA 92028	728-7317
Corresponding Secretary - Amna Cornett	3905 Ibis St., San Diego, CA 92103	291-6426
Immediate Past pres. - Tom Hamecher	996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, CA 92020	440-6245

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Warren Buckner, Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig  
Madelyn Lee, Dr. Ronald Monroe, Dr. Leroy Phelps

## COMMITTEES

Activities: Warren Buckner  
Audit: James Berry  
Conservation: Dr. Ronald Monroe  
Education:  
    Cacti - Frank Thrombly, Dr. Ronald Monroe and Mark Donnell  
    Succulents - Madelyn Lee, Dr. Leroy Phelps and Dorothy Dunn  
Exhibits:  
    Bragging Table - Shirley Berry  
Historian: Rick Latimer  
Library: Elizabeth Athy, Ruth Nelson and Caroline Miller  
Membership: Joan Johnson  
Open House: Frank Thrombly  
Plant Exchange Table: John Roth  
Plants & Supplies Table: John Pasek and Gerald and Eleanor Dice  
Publication: Mary Aubuchon -- 427-3388  
Reception: Rose D'Atillio and Perlso Lewis  
Regalement: Nancy Roth  
Representative:  
    Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek  
    Quail Botanical Garden - Audrey Johnson  
    S. D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Elizabeth Glover  
    S. D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek  
Liaison & Publicity - Amna Cornett  
Orientation - Nellie Kennet

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meeting are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$7.00 per family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60 Cents.

Editor  
Mary Aubuchon  
1058 5th Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 92011

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