



# Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR SUCCULENT PLANT STUDY

VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER TWELVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1993 @ NOON

## SEASON'S GREETINGS



## HAPPY NEW YEAR



## PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY!

AND PLEASE FILL OUT THE NEW 1994 MEMBERSHIP FORM. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING A NEW MEMBERSHIP /MAILING LIST; PLEASE HELP US BY UPDATING ANY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.

- ★ ARE WE SPELLING YOUR NAME CORRECTLY???
- ★ DO WE HAVE THE CORRECT ZIP CODE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL???
- ★ DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT PHONE NUMBER???

DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING & DINNER PARTY STARTS AT NOON. WE WILL HAVE OUR HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE - IF YOU HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED BEFORE, IT WORKS LIKE THIS:

ANY MEMBER OR GUEST MAY PARTICIPATE; ALL YOU DO IS BRING IN A CACTUS OR SUCCULENT PLANT WHICH IS DESIRABLE. IT SHOULD BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND NICELY POTTED. INCLUDE A LABEL THAT IDENTIFIES THE PLANT ON ONE SIDE AND HAS YOUR NAME ON THE OTHER SIDE. THE FIRST PLANT TO BE SELECTED WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF AT THE END OF MEETING. THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT IN THE FIRST SELECTION GETS FIRST CHOICE FROM ALL REMAINING PLANTS. WHENEVER A PLANT IS SELECTED, THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT IT GETS THE NEXT CHOICE, SO THE MORE APPEALING THE PLANT THAT YOU BRING IN THE EARLIER YOU WILL GET YOUR CHANCE AT THE "GEMS". PLEASE, ONE PLANT PER PERSON. WHAT A TERRIFIC WAY TO GIVE, RECEIVE, AND BROADEN YOUR PLANT COLLECTION ALL AT THE SAME TIME!!

### NOMINATIONS FOR THE SDC&SS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SHIRLEY BERRY  
RICK LATIMER  
KAY QUIJADA

1994-1995

DYLAN HANNON  
ED NOLAN  
MILLE WILLIAMS

### NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by: Steven Hammer

#### CACTI:

FIRST: Tom Knapik's *Mammillaria gracilis monstrose*

#### SUCCULENTS:

FIRST: Brent McCowen's *Aeonium rubra lineatum*

SECOND: Michael Cullen's *Conophytum limpidum*

THIRD: Dylan Hannon's *Othonna* species

Thank you Steven Hammer for an excellent October Program - and welcome as a new member. If any of you are interested in receiving Steven's Special Plant List, his address is:

P.O.Box 72, Belen, New Mexico 87002-0072.

PAGE 2

# A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO:

☉☉ Beverly Kirkegaard for arranging the 1994 Cactus & Succulent of the Month writers/speakers. This is an important educational function of our society (with the writer/speaker often learning the most about their chosen plant species) and it is no small task getting a commitment out of our members!

☉☉ Our regalement committee: Don & Gail Bamber, Stefy Mangold, Marylyn Henderson, Mildred Richter, Lois & Elizabeth Zaranka (we have missed you at our last few meetings), and Laura DeMerritt (who cheerfully steps in to help when all others fail!). It's hard work and we really appreciate you assistance!!! Welcome new regalement committee member Reed Pierce, thank you for volunteering! Now who else out there knows they should be helping???? YOU????



Have you ever wondered what the Cactus or Succulent of the Month was going to be next month or when we have our Annual Show & Sale? This coming year (1994) we have just the thing for you - the editor with the help of a brand new computer @ home and a WordPerfect Seminar @ work has put together a calendar of 1994 Cactus & Succulent Events , with as many dates & times as possible (we will update program events in June issue). A perfect item for your bulletin board or refrigerator door!!



New Catalog from Miles Anderson, "MILES TO GO", P.O.Box 6, Cortara, AZ 85652; phone: (602) 682-7272. We are pleased to see many unusual items including one inch Aztekium ritteri grafted (\$6.50), Mammillaria tayloriorum, named after SDC&SS Life Members Bob & Suzanne Taylor and rarely offered because of it slow growth (6" pots a deal @ \$8.50), Stenocereus (Lemaireocereus) thurberi crests (Organ Pipe Cactus Crests grafted - \$6.50), and Echinocactus grusonii crests (Golden Barrel - thin grafted fans - \$3.50), among many others, mostly cactus.



R.S.V.P. - Another excellent Plant List that you can request with many wonderful anomalies, including Dudley pachyphytum. This is a first time introduction of many rarely offered goodies. Send a business-size self addressed stamped envelope to RSVP Cactus & Succulents, 729 Moonglow Court, San Jose, CA 95123; phone is (408) 578-6772 - say hello to Rowena & Steve for me!



For you Lithops, Conophytums, and other Mesem's fans, a Newsletter from England: "THE MESEMB STUDY GROUP BULLETIN", c/o Steven Brack, P.O.Box 72, Belen, New Mexico 87002; phone (505) 864-3131. Meets informally in the USA; costs \$14.00 a year. Join and Learn.



DEADLINE FOR EyF JANUARY NEW YEAR'S EDITION IS DECEMBER 27,1993. PLEASE SHOW US YOU CARE BY CONTRIBUTING AN ARTICLE, ARTWORK, POETRY, OR PUZZLE!!! THANK YOU!!!



# LETTERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

Dear SDC&SS,

After buying about 20 of your newsletters "Espinasy Flores" from Myron Kinnach's Second-Hand Catalogue and finding such a lot of interesting reading, I would like to join your Society so that I may continue to receive your newsletters. At present I have all issues from Sept '91 thru May of '93. Please let me know if any other back issues are available.

My interests are growing *Haworthias*, *Pelargoniums*, *Sarcocaulons*, *Ariocarpus*, *Mammillarias*, and to a lesser extent *Echeveria* & *Othonna*. I have just started to grow from seed, but am very fast running out of room once the seed needs planting out.

My other interests are Cactus & Succulent literature: books, journals, and also Cactus & Succulent stamps. I also collect dinosaurs on stamps. I have about 10,000 Cacti & Succulent stamps if you include pineapple (*Bromeliaceae*) and Poinsettia (*Euphorbiaceae*) and about 500 Dinosaurs on stamps. A good many of the Dinosaur stamps contain Cycads in the background so there is some tie between the two subjects.

I am having difficulty acquiring some of the Dinosaur stamps in Australia. I would be most grateful if anyone can give me the addresses of (1) The Thematic Association of America and (2) Philatelic dealers who may be able to help me in obtaining some missing stamps not available in Australia. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Dr. Aleck Selzer M.B.B.S.  
15 Sir Garnet Road,  
Surrey Hills  
Vic., Australia 3127

## AND NEWS FROM STRAWBERRY PRESS....

Dear Michael, Thanks for your note re: Volume 9 (EUPHORBIA). It is almost finished and should be delivered to the printers by Nov. 15th at the latest. It shall be 60% larger than any of the previous journals - thirteen plus major articles crammed with color.

Werner Rauh spent the last week with me, from 8 AM to 10 PM with brief asides for meals (and beer - Werner). We went through the entire succulent flora of Madagascar on slides and text and wrote captions. One of the most extraordinary experiences I have ever had! To see every plant Werner collected and remembered! There will be 2,000 - 2,500 color photographs in each of the two volumes. There will not be another Botanical work like it ever. But maybe the succulent *Asclepiads* - 2 volumes and *ALOES* - 2 volumes will produce the same feelings?

Gordon Rowley's *SENECIO* & *OTHONNA* is almost done as well! Tell Fred Keller. I still have 98 *LEMAIRE'S DES CACTÉES* - I have had a number of loose plates printed and will include two with each book.

Best,

Herman Schwartz, MD  
STRAWBERRY PRESS  
277 Strawberry Lane  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

### "AS I SEE IT" by "Doc" Vaughan

Dr. Ruben V. "Doc" Vaughan, 1886- 1982 was a SDC&SS Life Member and President of our society (1966 -1968). He wrote many articles for *Espinasy Flores* and we hope to reprint a few in the future as they have a special historic and entertaining quality. His autobiography "The Print of my Remembrance" is a tale of living Americana and is in our library, upon special checkout. Fascinating reading about Ol' Doc Vaughan of Avalon, the famous fisherman, Narcotics Officer, Pharmacist, Naturalist, Philanthropist, Radio Personality (Ben Hunter's Nite Owls), and Cactus & Succulent enthusiast. He was the main energy in building the lovely Wrigley Botanical Garden on Catalina Island.

# AS I SEE IT

by "Doc" Vaughan

When I listen to people here in Southern California speak of the "cold weather we're having", I recall my folks and our first winter in Montana, high up in the Rockies in a tiny mining settlement.

We were fresh up from Memphis, Tenn. and we arrived in the mining camp just as winter blew his first icy breath across the plains and into the mountains that closed about us and hid the sun, except for very short intervals each winter day.

Great rows of pines stood row on row, like Napoleon's Grand Arme'e, and each wore white shakos and the branches gloved in white. At night the moonlight kissed the carpet. In the shadows were ebony forms that we children imagined were evil and had to be avoided. In the daylight hours we looked into the heavens and imagined all sorts of animals and ships and other strange things that children can conjour in minds unworried with life and its troubles.

On our arrival, grandpere Vance had many buffalo robes ready for us; they surely did come in handy. They were our only floor covering. They were under the corn-husk mattress and were used over us to keep out the biting chill of below-zero winter. At times the mercury froze in the thermometer and the house exploded as the green lumber shrank and drew the nails out. If the snow had not yet piled high enough around the cabin, then father would shovel it up and around the loosened boards. Father, mother and my sister and I all slept in the bed to avoid freezing, and I yet recall the weight of those great, brown, hairy, smelly hides that were called robes.

Attached to the cabin was a shed. This was a drafty and very cold room where a deer or two, wood and coal were piled and where one removed their great-coats before entering the cabin and bringing in a lot of snow. Mother would take the hatchet and enter the shed and start hacking away at the deer, usually along one leg. The chips would fly all over the place and I would then

gather them and mother would place some vegetables, generally a rutabega, an onion, a turnip or two and place the chips, the vegetables and a lot of snow in a five gallon coal-oil can on the small wood burner stove. As the snow melted, she would add more and after hours of stewing we would all gather around the rough wooden table where a small coal-oil lamp burned. I would stir my portion of the "scouske" (we called it) searching for a bit of pork-belly. In that rigorous climate one craved fat. We seldom had pork products that would sustain life, as the price was high and rail transportation was unreliable.

Getting to and from the "Chicksale" was an adventure. When zero weather and high winds swirled the snow deep into the open out-house and the pages of the Sear's catalog were frozen, it was truly a trip to be made under dire necessity. Between the open excusado was a large woodpile hidden under a blanket of snow, and as grandma or mother retreated from the place of communion, they would nonchalantly gather some pieces of wood into their apron and come stomping into the house and toss the firewood into the box behind the stove. When our father did work, we could and did buy some soft coal that came from a small town nearby, named Belt. The use of coal made the getting up at night to recharge the stove unnecessary. It took fortitude to jump up at night in zero weather and stoke a fire and then bank it.

Those days are long gone into history and mostly forgotten, for we who lived through those rough and rugged years are few. Many are gathered to their fathers, and others are in far-away places as I am now. The ocean at my door softly kisses the sand and sings of the mysteries that she hides; the winds tug softly at the eaves of my cabin and I harken to hear a voice of some loved one long gone who might tell me of what lies beyond.

## The Poison Poinsettia????

"The poinsettia is not highly toxic, but many people believe that eating a small portion of the plant's leaves or colorful bracts could be lethal. This myth may have originated from unsubstantiated rumors of fatal poisoning attributed to ingestion of poinsettia and from appearance of milky sap when the plant's stems are cut. For some people, contact with the plant's sap can produce skin irritation (dermatitis). Poinsettia leaves, like those of many other plants, may cause varying degrees of discomfort if eaten. However, no deaths have been attributed to ingestion of poinsettia, according to Dr. Manoguerra, Director of the San Diego Regional Poison Center. An analysis of reports of exposure to poinsettia received by the New Jersey Poison Center during a three year period, showed 91% of exposures produced no symptoms, 5% resulted in minor symptoms and 4% had symptoms which may have been unrelated. Nausea and vomiting occurred in .02% of cases (Veterinary and Human Toxicology, 1990, Vol.32, pg.368).

National Floriculture Trade Association, SAF, collaborated with faculty from Ohio State University in 1970 to scientifically determine whether there was any foundation to the allegation that the poinsettia is a poisonous plant. At the conclusion of the research work by Robert Stone and W.J. Collins, members of the academic faculty of entomology at Ohio State University, the research paper on the poinsettia entitled "Euphorbia pulcherrima: Toxicity to Rats" was accepted for publication in *Toxican*, 1971, Volume 9, pg. 301-302, Pergaman Press, printed in Great Britain on February 25, 1971. The study established that the rat, when given unusually high doses of various portions of the poinsettia, shows no mortality, no symptoms of toxicity, and no changes in dietary intake or general behavior patterns. Based on other animal experiments, researchers estimate that

about 1¼ pounds of poinsettia leaves, (500-600 leaves), would have to be eaten by a 50 pound child to produce significant symptoms. (WINECK, CL. *Clinical Toxicology*, 1978, Volume 13, Issue 1, pg. 27-45).

To protect the public from even a remote possibility of danger from the poinsettia and other floral products, SAF has stressed that children should be warned to put nothing in their mouths except food products. They should be taught respect for all potentially hazardous substances, including medicines, cleaning agents and pesticides."

--by Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor, reprinted from San Diego Chapter C.A.N., December 1992 Bulletin - DIALOGUE, Official Publication of California Certified Nursery Professionals







### POINSETTIAS: EARLY HISTORY AND VARIETIES

*Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd., the poinsettia, is a member of the botanical family *Euphorbiaceae* said to have been named for King Juba's physician. The genus *Euphorbia* is large, containing some 700 to 1000 species. It is characterized by a single female flower, without petals and usually without sepals, which is surrounded by individual male flowers all enclosed in a cup-shaped structure called a cyathium. Upon the cyathium, one to four or more glands are borne.

The showy red portion of the plant, popularly referred to as the flower, consists of modified leaves or bracts. While each individual leaf is correctly a bract, common usage has designated the entire showy portion as the bract or bracts.

Other members of the same genus are such plants as scarlet plume, *E. fulgens*; snow-on-the-mountain, *E. marginata*; crown of thorns, *E. splendens*; *E. epithymoides*, known commonly as *E. polychroma* and many other commonly seen succulents.

While the poinsettia is the symbol of Christmas in many parts of the world now, it was cultivated by the Aztecs in Mexico before Christianity came to the Western Hemisphere. The plant, native to the area near present day Taxco, was called Cuetlaxochitl by the Indians. Because of its brilliant color, the flower was a symbol of purity. It was highly prized by Kings Netzahualcoyotl and Moctezuma, but because of climate could not be grown in their capital, which is now Mexico City.

The Indians also had practical uses for the plant. A reddish purple dye was made from the bracts. From the latex, a medicinal preparation was made. It was used to counteract fever.

During the Seventeenth Century, a group of Franciscan priests settled near Taxco. Because of its color and holiday blooming time, they began to use the flower in the Fiesta of Santa Pesebre, a nativity procession. This custom was described by Don Hernando Ruiz de Alarcon, in a letter to his brother, Spanish playwright Don Juan Ruiz de Alarcon. Don Hernando was a resident of Taxco at the time.

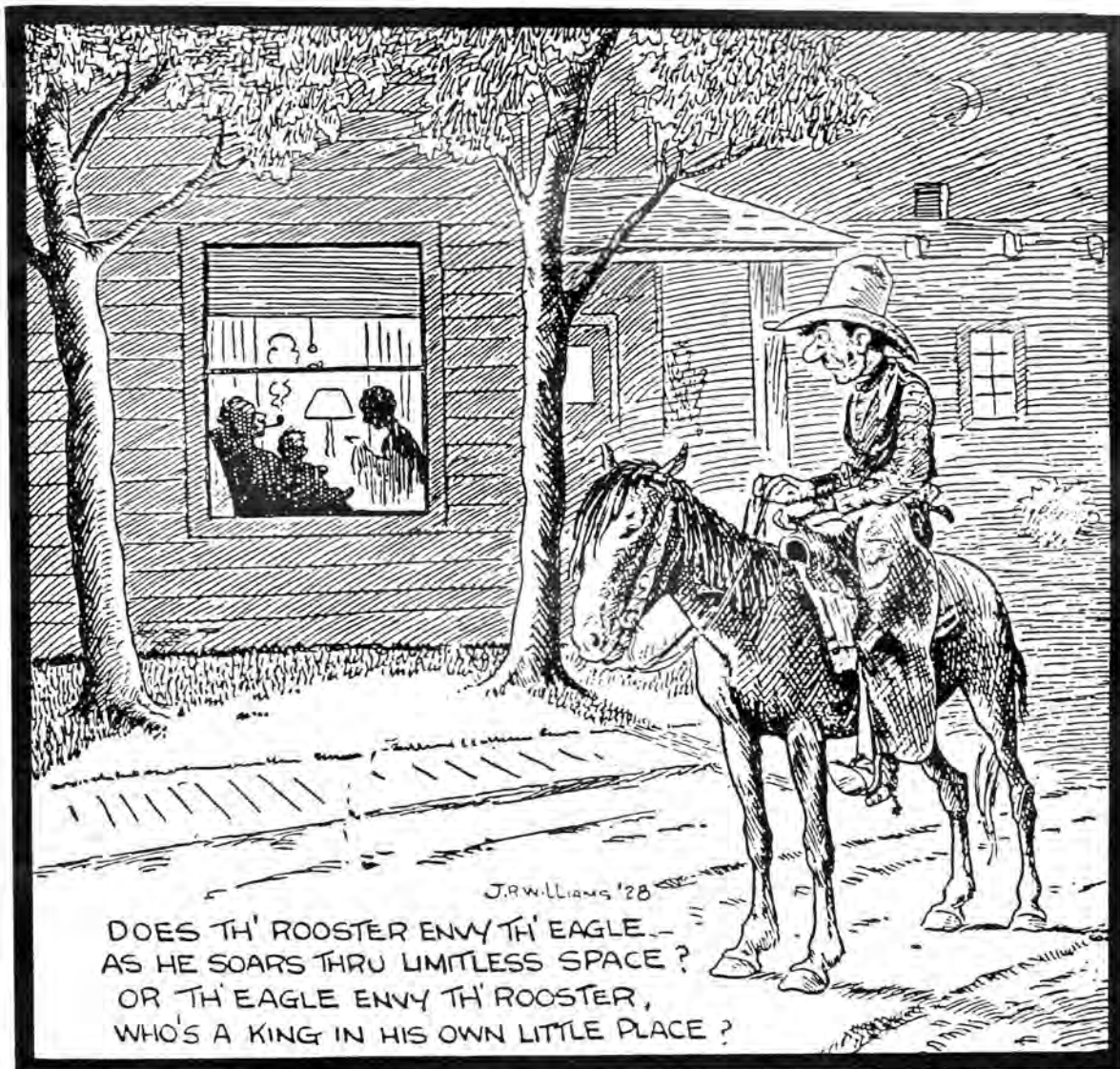
Juan Balme, a botanist of the same period, mentioned the plant in his writings. He described it as having large green leaves, and a small flower surrounded by bracts, almost as if to protect it. The bracts, he said, turned a brilliant red. Balme also found the plant flourishing on the slopes and in the valleys near Cuernavaca.

Poinsettias were first introduced into the United States in 1825 by Joel Robert Poinsett. While serving as the first United States ambassador to Mexico, he had occasion to visit Taxco, and found the flowers growing on the adjacent hillsides. Poinsett, a botanist of great ability, had some plants sent to his home in Greenville, South Carolina.

After supplying his own greenhouses, he distributed plants to some botanical gardens and to some horticultural friends, including John Bartram of Philadelphia. Bartram, in turn, supplied the plant to Robert Buist, a nurseryman, who first sold the plant as *Euphorbia poinsettia*. The botanical name had already been given by a German taxonomist in 1833 as *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ex Klotz. of the Spurge family of *Euphorbiaceae*. The name *poinsettia*, however, has remained the accepted name in the English speaking countries. . . .

The modern era of poinsettia culture really starts with the introduction of the seedling variety OAK LEAF. This seedling was reported to have been grown originally in Jersey City, New Jersey by a Mrs. Enteman in 1923. From 1923 until the early 1960's all of the principal varieties of any commercial importance were selections of sports from this original OAK LEAF seedling, most of them having been selected and developed by Paul Ecke of Encinitas, California."

from THE POINSETTIA MANUAL published by Paul Ecke, Jr, Paul Ecke Poinsettias, Encinitas, CA c.1971





# MEMORABLE MOMENTS

## Christmas in Rosarito, Baja

### by Frank Thrombley

We left San Ysidro and crossed the border into Baja, Mexico at 6:00 AM. It was January 4th 1990, a cool clear morning and our three truck caravan was on its way.

The bottom line of this short story will be: A great Christmas party for the children of Rosarito and a fun trip for all of us.

Our Caravan included Tom Parks, Pat Hennieke, Bill & Diane Crowley with their 3 month old son Nicholas, Bob Herbst and Frank Thrombley. This is the fifth annual Christmas party for the children of Rosarito which takes place on January 6th, the King's Day or the gift giving day. Rosarito is approximately 400 miles from the San Ysidro border. We travel 260 miles the first day, travelling through agricultural areas that provide many vegetables for U.S. consumption. Although all of Baja is desert country, two thirds of the peninsula is within the Sonora Desert ecosystem. This narrow agricultural strip of land that follows the Pacific Ocean supports many towns and people with its produce.

The "slabs" is our first camp of the trip. It is the site of an old copper mine. Tom named this camp because of the dozen cement slabs that were the foundations for the small houses built for the workers of this mine. It is approximately 30 miles below El Rosario and 4 miles east of Highway One. This area is in the upper regions of the Central Desert of Baja. The highway turns inland at El Rosario and winds inland through this great Central Desert.

The degree of enjoyment one obtains from plants and from the ecosystem of which they are part is heightened by familiarity. Tom's favorite *Fouquieria columnaris* (Boojum) is in this area and this year it is outstanding. It is so green that the color of the trunk & branches cannot be seen at a distance of 25 feet. In fact all the Boojums are lush with a verdant coat of green leaves. Pat and I, simultaneously, said that these were truly the Mexican Christmas trees. Rain, of course, is the answer, but how much rain and when did it come is the question. Probably two rain storms at least went through here with the first one about a month ago. The ground is still filled with moisture and this area will be green quite awhile. The ground cover at the camp is similar to a brown ½" crushed stone. The small washes and even the hillsides are covered with this aggregate.

It is our first night on the desert. We have had a spaghetti supper with Tom's homemade sauce--very good. Bob Herbst started a campfire earlier and Bill Crowley is feeding it with dead Agave stumps. These stumps burn rapidly and generate alot of heat. It is going to be cold this first night.

The desert has a great fascination for me and I like it in all of its moods and forms. As the desert enters the night it might be my favorite time in my favorite place; the skies are almost clear and the entire Universe puts itself on display for me, alone.

Breakfast is finished, the sun is drying the frost on the sleeping bags and we are preparing the party bags. All 80 bags have an apple, orange, and bag of candy. Forty of the bags are then completed with notebooks, pencils, erasures and pens for the school children. The balance receive animal cracker boxes and cuddly stuffed figures or animals for the pre-school children.

We arrive at Rosarito at 3:00 PM and what a joy to see some of the children running out to greet us.

The party begins this first night with "S'mores" and movies. Bob Herbst has started another campfire, this one in the dirt road in the village. Diane Crowley is making a favorite snack, "S'mores". The children roast marshmallows and take them to Diane who places it with a portion of chocolate bar between two graham crackers and the kids cannot get enough! (ed. Hence the name: Some more) The movies are next and for the next hour parents and children are very attentive. The films have a sound track with the Spanish language being used.

## CHRISTMAS IN ROSARITO continued...

The next day is Saturday, the 6th of January and a beautiful day for the party. At noon we start to serve food to the children and others. They consume: 230 hot dogs, 5 gallons of punch, 64 lbs. of fruit salad, one half gallon of relish, and two bottles each of ketchup and mustard.

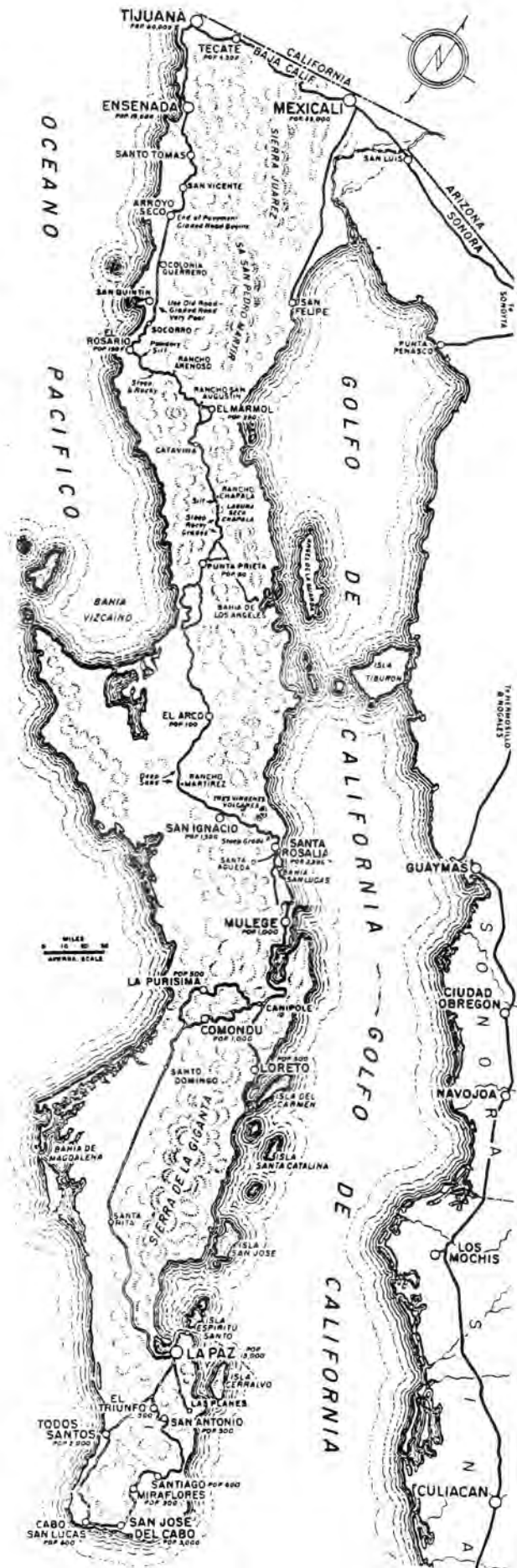
The children are then organized in work parties to clean up the discarded plates, napkins, knives, forks, cups, and spilled food.

Tom is Santa Claus for this next event. He sits in the center of a ring of children with the party bags at his sides. The pre-school children are first and Santa gives each one a bag as they greet him. Two bags are not required. The school kids go through the same process and this time only one bag is not needed. Good planning, only three bags out of 80 are extra.

Every year Tom photographs each child, using a Polaroid Camera. This year is no exception and so they are all lined up for this next phase of the party. This is fun to watch for some are shy, or smiling hams, and some are very serious. They push, shove, laugh, and all are excited to see themselves appear on the Polaroid film.

This year Pat Hennieke, in preparation for the party, decided to build a puppet theater. With the help of Bill Crowley, her brother, she did just that. She purchased at least six hand puppets, painted & decorated the puppet theater, and made curtains for the stage. It was simply a brilliant idea and a masterpiece of craftsmanship. It was also very successful in entertaining the kids. The last event for the afternoon was a puppet show put on by one of the women, who was born in this village. She had the audience responding to the puppets, laughing all the time and enjoying themselves very much. At the end of the show Pat gave the theater and puppets to the teacher of the small school in Rosarito. A special thanks to Pat.

In the evening the movies were shown again. This time just prior to the film we gave each person, adults & children, a large Brownie, with walnuts on them. Marianne Thrombly baked them and they were saved for just this occasion. We then showed another hour of movies. Before the children left their chairs, Diane Crowley gave each one a Christmas stocking filled with goodies. Diane made these up and it was certainly a good way to end the party.



Rosarito sits on a Basaltic plain approximately eight miles from the Pacific Ocean. "Soils in this area are derived largely from Basaltic Rocks, the remains of which still characterize the region as prominent, isolated, dark-colored conical hills and mesas."\*

These plains, mesas, and bajadas are in the foothills of the southern portion of the Sierra De Calamajue Y San Jose. The high mountains in this area are between 3,000 and 5,300 feet. The plant life on these plains are directly influenced by the Pacific Ocean with its fogs & moisture laden breezes. Some of the primary plants for the succulent enthusiast are: *Pachycormis discolor*, Boojums, *Bursera hindsiana & microphylla*, *Ferocactus gracilis & gracilis var. coloratus*, Opuntias, *Mammillaria dioca & blossfeldiana*, *Machaerocereus gummosus*, Yuccas, Agaves, *Tillandsia recurvata*, and *Ramalina testudinaria & ceruchis*.

Many of the *Ferocactus* in the immediate area are in the six foot high range. Four years ago we measured an eight foot *Ferocactus* on the road to San Borja. In 1983 we found one which measured ten feet on the same road. It has since gone down in a storm. This year we found hundreds of single headed *Mammillaria blossfeldiana* plants. It had rained here on December 25th and the plant life was just beginning to show the results of the much needed water. The Boojums and *Pachycormis* were just starting to show (or grow) their leaves. The *Mammillaria blossfeldiana*, however, were pushing their heads through the soil and were certainly a delight to find. What a show of flowers these will be.

On Sunday morning we clean up and repack the vehicles for our trip home. Our first stop after leaving Rosarito, was to see our friend, Eliodoro. Eliodoro lives a mile north of Desengano Gold Mine ruins. He has lived here for 20 plus years and is an integral part of the desert life. Verna Pasek has given us a suitcase filled with shirts, socks, a jacket and jars of candy for this hermit of 78 years. He shares his coffee with all of us along a gift (he collects from the desert) to each and we are on our way again.

We stop for the night at El Arenoso, we call it dead cow camp for reasons that do not need explanation. This is a good camping area, a forest of *Pachycereus pringlei* (Cardon) with many Boojums interspersed. This site is west of our first camping site and is very green also, although the first camp was ever more verdant. Bob Herbst has made another warm campfire and the evening is once again cold, crisp and very clear. As the sun disappears the silhouettes of the skyline and plants are outstanding. As I slide into my sleeping bag I think about our trip, the good times and know that tomorrow we will be home.

One could write of many incidents that arise naturally in the continuity of our trip. However, I would be remiss if I did not relate a truly rememberable incident. Diane & Bill's baby Nicholas was loved by all of the villagers. He was held and cuddled by many and seemed to like it. On Sunday morning a male adult in the village was walking around, with the baby in his arms, and showing him to others. He also remarked about his bald head and then went into his mother's house with Nicholas. When he returned Nicholas was sitting up in his arms wearing a black curly haired wig. .... "Hey Mom and Dad! What do you think of my new look?"

This was the first time in nine years of my camping in Baja that Jim Gibbons was not with the group. His new job demanded his time this year, but we certainly missed him. The "we" includes all of his friends in Rosarito, too. Jim is a real friend, loved by all.

A great Christmas party for the children of Rosarito and a fun trip for all of us.

Frank Thrombley Jan. 1990

\* Robert R. Humphrey from THE BOOJUM AND ITS HOME, c.1974







## **LOTUSLAND**

### **SDC&SS BUS TRIP EXTRAVAGANZA**



**WHERE:** A full day at Lotusland, the once private 37 acre estate in the Montecito section of Santa Barbara. Overcoming local opposition and regulatory & zoning restrictions, Lotusland began its first public tours November 15, 1993. Luckily, our vice-president, Michael Buckner, had the foresight to reserve one day for us - arrangements were made several months ago and June 18 was the first Saturday available! Presently Lotusland is booked through 1995. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Judith Sims writes, "Like Madame Walske herself, her garden is flamboyant and passionate, a botanical collection of operatic proportions."

We shall travel in an air-conditioned plush Scenic Cruiser with restroom and VCR screens. Lunch and softdrinks will be provided in Santa Barbara at a pleasant park or near Abbey Gardens Nursery, if we have time to visit this noteworthy Cactus & Succulent nursery before our 1½ to 2 hour guided tour. After the docent tour we will have private time to view the estate and environs on our own.

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 18th. Bus will leave promptly @ 7:00 am from the parking lot behind the Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, San Diego. An additional pick-up will be at the CalTrans Park & Ride Lot @ the La Costa Exit off of Hwy 5 @ 7:30 am. Bus will leave Lotusland @ 4:00 pm and we should arrive back in San Diego between 7:30 & 8:00 pm.

**WHO:** The first forty-nine SDC&SS members to send their checks to: SDC&SS - LOTUSLAND, P.O.BOX 33181, Hillcrest Station, San Diego, CA 92163. ( No checks will be accepted at the December or January meeting to avoid any confusion as to who paid first! And in the event that we have more reservations than we have seats - postmarks will be checked.) Price is \$40.00 per member; \$50.00 for non-members - as they will become members! This cost includes: A Safe Relaxing Bus Trip & tip for our driver, a box lunch\*, ample liquid refreshments, and the Entry Fee to Lotusland.

**Please note:** June 18th is the only date we, as a group could gain entry in 1994, and much of 1995 is already sold out, so don't procrastinate! (Michael & I are sending our checks in today!) In June the gardens will be at their very best and the weather should be perfect. For more information you may call Michael Buckner @ 222-3216.

\* Please specify your sandwich preference  Standard Sub,  Turkey & Swiss, or  Vegetarian, and whether you prefer Diet drinks, Ice Tea, or Classic Coke; there will also be fruit, condiments, chips & cookies for dessert! You may wish to bring additional bottled water and/or a thermos of Coffee.

# Ganna Walska LOTUSLAND

PAGE 13

Lotusland is a 37 acre estate situated in the foothills of Montecito, to the southeast of the City of Santa Barbara. The estate was preserved by Madame Ganna Walska, who owned the property from 1941 until her death in 1984. During her ownership, Madame Walska improved upon existing gardens and created new landscapes that comprise the unusual and exotic collections of Lotusland. Previous owners of the estate include important early nurseryman Kinton Stevens, who operated a commercial nursery on the property and planted many of the older specimens still found at Lotusland.

The non-profit Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation, a present owner of the property, operates the estate with the goal of preserving and enhancing the plant collections, fostering increased knowledge of the rare plants at Lotusland, and contributing to conservation efforts worldwide.

Lotusland's thirteen distinct gardens present a variety of different botanical environments from all corners of the world, ranging from the desert cacti and succulents to the jungle loving ginger and banana trees. The various gardens include:

The **Aloe Garden**, with over 130 species of Aloes, centers around an abalone shell pond with cascading water from giant clam shells. In the **Blue Garden**, towering Chilean wine palms and blue atlas cedars are planted in a dense ground cover of blue fescue, presenting a pale blue appearance. The **Bromeliad Gardens**, two separate areas displaying masses of bromeliads under coast live oaks, encompass nearly 20 genera of bromeliads. The **Cacti and Euphorbia Gardens**, clustered along the historic main entrance, present Old and New World plants on either side of the drive, while the **Succulent Garden** contains caudiciform and pachycaul succulents.

The **Cycad Garden**, one of Lotusland's premier displays, was listed as the world's second best Cycad collections in a public garden last year. It includes over 400 specimen cycad plants, many of which are endangered worldwide.

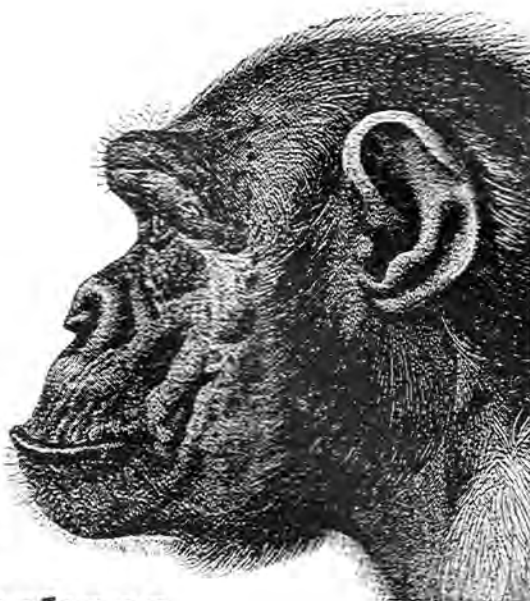
The **Epiphyllum Garden**, which provides a tropical atmosphere with hanging orchid cacti, also contains masses of ginger and ornamental banana trees. The **Fern Garden**, adjacent to the swimming pool, includes large staghorn ferns beneath oak trees, Australian tree ferns, pygmy palms and accents of Begonia species and cultivars. The **Fruit Orchards**, containing common citrus and stone fruit trees, as well as some unusual varieties of kumquats, limequats, guavas, persimmons and plumcots, welcome visitors who arrive at Lotusland by the staff entrance on Ashby Road.

The **Japanese Garden**, surrounding a large manmade lake that blooms in the summer with water lilies and lotus flowers, is bordered by other plantings such as ginkgo trees, magnolia trees, azaleas, sago palms, and sculpted Japanese maples and pines. A handmade Shinto shrine completes the setting of this garden. The **Theater Garden**, at the end of the central main lawn of the estate, presents an amusing mini-amphitheater with a backdrop of Podocarpus, borders of African boxwood, an audience of miniature 18th century statues called "grotesques." The **Topiary Garden**, surrounding a giant clock, is occupied by topiary figures in the likeness of elephants, rabbits, oompa-loompahs, and dolphins.

Madam Walska created a choice environment for aquatic plantings in the **Water Garden**, which exists today in what was the estate's original swimming pool. Included in this garden are Egyptian lotus, giant and other water lilies, and a large stand of papyrus.

Ganna Walska Lotusland presents an artistic landscape display to visitors, while preserving some of the most unusual plants in the world. The gardens are scheduled to open to the public in the fall of 1993. Garden tours will be given Wednesday through Saturday at 10 A.M. and 1:30 P.M., and will be available only by advance reservation. The number of visitors to Lotusland will be limited on a daily and annual basis, in order to preserve the unique estate character of the gardens. Please call (805) 969 3767 for more information on how to visit the exotic gardens of Madame Ganna Walska.

"TO KISS A MUG  
THAT'S LIKE A CACTUS  
TAKES MORE NERVE  
THAN IT DOES PRACTICE  
BURMA-SHAVE" (1950)



## WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner

PAGE 14

"There is no character, howsoever good and fine, but it can be destroyed by ridicule, howsoever poor and witless. Observe the ass, for instance: his character is about perfect, he is the choicest spirit among all the humbler animals, yet see what ridicule has brought him to. Instead of feeling complimented when we are called an ass, we are left in doubt."

--Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar from PUDD'NHEAD WILSON by Mark Twain, Penguin Books, first published 1894

"If it is true that the sun, the seasons, the waters, and human life itself go in cycles, the inference is that "there is time for all things," something different to be done at each stage of the cycle..... Only when we realize that nothing is new can we live with an intensity in which everything becomes new."

--Northrop Frye, literary critic, as quoted in WISDOM of the ELDERS, Honoring Sacred Native Visions of Nature by David Suzuki & Peter Knudtson, Bantam Books, c.1992

"The genus *Mesembrianthemum* is popular in the western US as a ground-cover, producing such a dense mat of fingering foliage that it has earned the popular name 'carpet-weed' and 'witches' fingers'. Recent botanical studies have wrought a redistribution of sections of this genus and some of the South African members are now placed in the genus *Sceletium*. Two of these species, *S. expansum* and *S. tortuosum*, have long been used by the Hottentots of Karroo, South Africa, as a stimulating narcotic. The roots of these species are smoked and chewed creating a stimulation which is not identical with, but comparable to that produced by chewing the leaves of *Erythroxylon coca*, the only source of cocaine. Known under the names *kanna*, *channa*, *gawgoed*, and *kougoed*, the root contains two alkaloids responsible for the stimulation and subsequent depression, mesembrine and mesembrenine. While these may seem to be attractive stimulants their limited popularity is attributed to the numerous toxic side effects such as headache, listlessness, loss of appetite and the aforementioned depression. Reported hallucinogenic effects have not been established under laboratory conditions; however this attribute may be the result of confusion between *Sceletium* and a related genus *Nananthus*. *S' Keng-Keng* is the name by which a number of South African tribesmen, especially the old Griquas, know *Nananthus albinotus* which they pulverize in its entirety as a hallucinogenic additive to their smoking tobacco or snuff. A chemical analysis of *Nananthus albinotus* has yet to be accomplished."

---NARCOTIC PLANTS by William A. Emboden Jr, The Macmillan Co., c.1972



# WISE AND

**The bird, a nest,  
The spider, a web.  
The people, Friendship.**  
Old Chinese Proverb



"If there were no plants we would not be here. We breathe in what they breathe out. It's as simple as that."

Keetoowah, Cherokee teacher

"With the turning of the earth, the sun comes up on fields, forests, and fjords of the biosphere, and everywhere within the light there is a great breath as tons upon tons of oxygen are released from the living photochemical surfaces of green plants which are becoming charged with food storages by the onrush of solar photons. Then when the sun passes in shadows before the night, there is a great exhalation as the oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) is burned and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pours out, the net result of the maintenance activity of the living machinery."

--Howard T. Odum, system ecologist, ENVIRONMENT, POWER and SOCIETY, pub. John Wiley & Sons, NY, c.1971

"If you fall into a pit and three uninvited guests land later on top of you, welcome them cheerfully!"

I Ching

# OTHERWISE

"The gift is to the giver, and comes back most to him---it cannot fail...."

Walt Whitman

"For the adult the expensive gift is the proof of deep love. But the child judges from a completely different point of view. The cost of a gift hardly counts for anything. Love's proof, for him, is intuitively perceived in the inspiration which has guided the giver, in the proof of ingenious and imaginative forethought, in the pleasure which he obviously must have had in seeking out such a judicious choice."

Paul Tournier



## PLEASE HELP US PRESERVE OUR LIBRARY

Being a member of the SDC&S Society allows you to utilize our remarkably large and EXTENSIVE library. Many of the books which you have available for your research and reading are expensive, rare, and/ or out-of-print. We would like to educate and inform you of our policies, so that future members (2050?) will have access to this vast field of wonderment. Rick Latimer and Michael Buckner have successfully encapsulated most all of our books in protective dustjackets of mylar plastic sleeves. NOW IT'S UP TO YOU, each of you, who avail yourselves of our important library books to help us preserve our library.

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**EDUCATION!!!!**

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

"BOOKS ARE THE LEGACIES THAT A GREAT GENIUS LEAVES TO MANKIND, WHICH ARE DELIVERED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, AS PRESENTS TO THE POSTERITY OF THOSE WHO ARE UNBORN."

Joseph Addison, 1711

## SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY 1994 CALENDAR

1994 - MONTH - 1994	CACTUS OF THE MONTH	SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH	PROGRAM	EyF/SPECIAL EVENTS
January 8 @ 1:00	<i>Peniocereus pterocactus</i> - Joey Betzler	<i>Bursera</i> - Rick Latimer	<b>B. Juan Chahinian</b> - Sansevieria Safari to Kenya	Winter care?
February 12 @ 1:00	<i>Oreocereus</i> - Phyllis Flechsig	<i>Lithops</i> - Kelly Griffin	<b>Steve &amp; Rowena Southwell</b> - Aloeland, South Africa	Keep those cards and letters, and contributions coming in!!
March 12 @ 1:00	<i>Uebelmannia</i> Kay Quijada	<i>Gasterias</i> - Marylyn Henderson	<b>Ed Nolan</b> - Anza Borrego Desert	The Good, <b>THE BUG</b> & The Ugly - INSECT ISSUE
April 9 @ 1:00	Growing Cacti (and Succulents) from Seed - Dorothy Byer	<i>Cycads</i> , Companion Plants - Alan Weiss	Bill Baker - Southern Mexico Rare Plant Exploration	Third Annual <b>LIVING DESERT BUS TRIP</b>
May 14 @ 1:00	<i>Wilcoxia</i> - Dylan Hannon	Tree <i>Aloes</i> - Philip Favell	PREPARING PLANTS FOR SHOW - BONSAI WORKSHOP- <b>Rudy Lime</b>	MAY-JUNE SHOW - <b>LOTUS LAND BUS TOUR</b> in June
June 3 SHOW SET-UP June 4 @ Noon to 5:00 June 5 @ 9:00 to 5:00	C & S SHOW - Chairman: Joey Betzler <b>PLEASE HELP</b>	C & S SALE - Plant Sales Chairman: M.S. Buckner <b>PLEASE HELP</b>	DEL MAR FAIR EXHIBITS- Please Volunteer	SHOW: "Light a Fire under our Members" ISSUE
July 9 @ 11:30 thru late afternoon!	PICNIC - Chairman: Tom DeMerritt	AUCTION & POT LUCK <b>FUN, GOOD &amp; DELICIOUS</b>	PICNIC - Kate Sessions Park - same as 1993 !	<b>CSSA SHOW JULY 4TH @ LA ARBORETUM</b>
August 13 @ 1:00	Growing Miniature Cacti -Joe Quijada	<i>Welwitschia</i> - Martin Mooney	Program to be announced - Awards Ceremony	2nd Annual <b>Summer Sex</b> Issue - <b>INTER-CITY SHOW BUS TRIP</b>
September 10 @ 1:00	Southern California Native Cacti - Dylan Hannon	<i>Brachystelma</i> - Alan Weiss	To Be Announced	HUNTINGTON ANNUAL SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
October 8 @ 1:00	<i>Copiapoa</i> - Tom Knapik	<i>Cussonia</i> & Other Succulent Aralias - Michael Buckner	To Be Announced	Nominations for 1995 thru 1996 Officers
November 12 @ 1:00	<i>Arrojadoa</i> - Joe Clements	Canary Island Succulents - Phyllis Flechsig	To be Announced	We're sure to think of something!!!!
December 10 @ NOON	HOLIDAY BANQUET	HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**PROUD TO BE A MEMBER, EAGER TO PARTICIPATE!!**



**PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER: HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DINNER PROMPTLY @ 1:00 PM  
SPECIAL PLANT EXCHANGE  
SIGN UP OF VOLUNTEERS FOR EDUCATION & REFRESHMENTS  
DISTRIBUTION OF GIFT PLANTS TO MEMBERS  
MINI-AUCTION  
NO LIBRARY AND NO PLANT SALES**

**HOLIDAY BUFFET MENU:**

**ROAST TURKEY WITH SAGE DRESSING  
MASHED POTATOES WITH GIBLET GRAVY  
HOT BUTTERED CORN  
TOSSED GREEN SALAD WITH TOMATOES  
TWO CHOICES OF SALAD DRESSING  
RELISH TRAY OF FRESH VEGETABLES  
CRANBERRY SAUCE  
ROLLS AND BUTTER  
COFFEE, TEA, SODAS OR WINE  
APPLE OR PUMPKIN PIE**



**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**S.D.C. & S.S.  
MRS. LAURA DE MERRITT  
C/O S.D. CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 33181  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92163-3181**

**DEAR LAURA,  
YES! PLEASE RESERVE HOLIDAY DINNERS FOR MEMBERS @ \$10.00 PER MEMBER:**

**MEMBER NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RESERVE HOLIDAY DINNER FOR GUESTS @ \$10.00 ( SORRY, NO GIFT PLANT FOR NON-MEMBERS).**

**GUEST NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH MEETING BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON - HOLIDAY DINNER TO BE SERVED AT 1:00 - PLANT EXCHANGE DURING DINNER, GIFTS PLANTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING DESSERT.**

## ***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, who loves unusual plants and flowers. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. BRING AN INTERESTED FRIEND.

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 just to socialize or obtain a parking space easily.) Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership with an additional \$5.00 for each additional member at the same mailing address. The dues are payable at time of joining, and January of each succeeding year. Members receive our monthly publication Espinas y Flores, are entitled to library check-out privileges, and may partake in our many field trips and other activities. We offer knowledgeable speakers at our programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authorities. We have a number of shows each year, especially our Annual Show and Plant Sale in June. We have a wide range of plants and supplies for purchase at favorable costs at most meetings. We also have a plant exchange table and monthly door prizes. All members will be consistently encouraged to contribute and participate in our many functions. Please join us and help us grow.

For more information, call Laura De Merritt, Treasurer: 270-5544.

- Yes, I (we) wish to become a 1994 member(s) of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.:
- Yes, I (we) wish to renew our San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society membership through 1994.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

# SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

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239-0804  
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222-3216  
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291-6426  
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571-5127

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VISITORS WELCOME

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 33181  
Hillcrest Station 102  
San Diego, CA 92163-3181



Editors - Joyce & Michael Buckner  
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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated is open to all persons interested in growing cacti or other succulent and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held at 11:00 AM prior to general meetings. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, and \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1.00 per copy sent within the U.S.A. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Incorporated. Fax available - please call editor @ (619) 222-3216

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