

Volume 42 Number 1

January 2007

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



*PROGRAM: JEFF MOORE OF SOLANA SUCCULENTS
“SUCCULENT GARDENS”*

*CACTUS OF THE MONTH: TURBINICARPUS
SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: HAWORTHIA*

Saturday January 13, 2007, 1:00 PM
Room 101 Casa Del Prado
Balboa Park, San Diego CA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

The SDCSS annual holiday party last weekend was a great time for everyone in my immediate vicinity; the kids got a good workout calling our gift-plant numbers and running around the park, we wound up bringing home way too many plants, and no one seemed to go wanting for a lack of food or drink. I only hope everyone in attendance had as good of a time as we did! Kudos and thanks to EVERYONE involved with making this the best holiday party ever: Terry Parr, Lee

Badger, and Tom DeMerritt for acquiring the gift and auction plants, Ed DeLollis for auction plants, all the vendors and anonymous donors

who contributed to the auction plants, MARY WHITTEMORE for being the greatest auctioneer to ever auction our plants; Joe Kraatz for conducting a thorough and exhaustive search of San Diego caterers available for Holiday events for less than \$39.95 per seat, and still having the sanity to help procure and deliver soft-drinks and water to the throngs of festive attendees; Herb Stern, our honorable "cork-dork" for hunting down and securing the fantastic array of libations; Laura DeMerritt for her steadfast longevity at holding the door open and recording who's who's and when; Tom DeMerritt for the aforementioned accomplishments, in addition to

backing up anyone and everyone everywhere all the time; the entirety of the SDCSS board for their sight, fore, hind, and in; Pam Badger for being quick on the draw for certificates and sweatshirts; and the ENTIRE SDCSS MEMBERSHIP for being the best group of folks to spend an afternoon in the park with for the past 12 months !



Holiday party photos by Collette Parr.



On the cover: Jeff Moore's Best in Show and Sweepstakes Awards winning undersea themed succulent garden at the 2002 Del Mar Fair. Cover photo and page 2 photo by Bob Wigand from the website: www.solanasucculents.com

Rudy Lime and Elibet Marshall were this year's honorees as life- member, and distinguished service award respectively. It's always a month or two of consternation among the board members as to who will take these honors home with them. Most years it's especially difficult in a society as large and diverse as the SDCSS to try and reach consensus about individual awards, but this year the choices seemed obvious. Firstly, when it came time for deciding this year's life members, most of us assumed Rudy had already received the award, so it was absolutely unquestionable to give back a little something to this gentle gentleman who has given so much time and energy to this cause over the years. Elibet seemed to not only embody the spirit of volunteerism that we admire, but also her good-natured and candid insights to growing and showing plants made her a shoe-in for our service award for the year. Thanks to both of these special individuals, we are all enriched by their examples!

I'm looking forward to the January meeting. Having been privy to Jeff Moore's program on his succulent gardens at the Huntington Symposium last September, I can assure you all you're in for a treat! These theme gardens have become installations at several San Diego gardens; Quail Botanic Gardens in Leucadia, and Sea World in Mission Bay. Ric and Marilyn Newcomer are kicking off the year with two POM talks that are sure to answer questions and inspire you to look into their subjects a little more closely.



January is a fantastic month for looking forward to the year ahead; perhaps you have a few moments to chip in on a special project here or there? If so, we have plenty of opportunities brewing for the upcoming months. As always, we need volunteers to help out at the wild Animal Park, and we really ought to have a few devotees make a commitment to the Point Loma Native Plant Reserve as well. We are just now beginning our planning for the September picnic and trying to formulate some plans for a few field-trips. Bear in mind the CSSA biennial convention is in Seattle this year. We also always, always, always need extra hands for both our winter show and sale in February, and our annual summer show and sale in June.

Thanks again to all of you, and may you all have a safe and happy holiday season!

Mark Fryer

December 17th, 2006

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: TURBINICARPUS

By Ric Newcomer

The wonderful world of miniatures have 36 recognized members, but not including 7 members of the *Rapicactus* and 9 members of the *Gymnocalyx* which I have not lumped into *Turbinicarpus*, but rather have kept them in their own genus. If space is a problem, then this group is for you.

I have broken them down as follows:

Subseries *Lophophoroide* (6)

Subseries *Loviani* (2)

Series *Macrochele* (3)

Series *Turbinicarpus* (5)

Series *Valdeziani* (2)

Series *Kadenicarpus* (3)

Series *Bravocactus* (2)

Series *Gracilis* (4)

Natural Hybrids (2)

Turbinicarpus X Mombergeri

Turbinicarpus X Gymnocalyx gielsdorffianus

AND

Series *Gymnocalyx*

Series *Vierecki* (4)

Genus *Rapicactus* (5)

Subgenus *Rapicactus*

Subgenus *Lodia* (2)



Turbinicarpus crest



Turbinicarpus clump

Introduction to the new taxa very recently discovered entities, but still being studied: (2)

The majority of *Turbinicarpus* do not exceed 2" and with most plants that is large. Many are overfed and are out of shape, however I have seen some very old specimens that are larger than the 2" but these were in the wetter zones of Mexico and in rich gypsum hills of Galeana in elevations of 1100 - 1500 ft.

Cultivation: We will discuss the following at the meeting. Potting mix, watering, feeding, repotting and exposure.

Potting Mix: My suggestion here, the good, the bad and the mistakes I have made with mixes and water. I will show you our mix that has been successful.

I will be bringing 20 different specimens that we can also discuss, plus a few of the *Gymnocalycium* and hybrids.

Marilyn and I would appreciate any of you who would be willing to do the Plant of the Month to contact us at 951-672-3074 or see us at the meeting.

Photos by the author.

PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION: The Future of SDCSS in Television

By Peter Walkowiak

A couple of months ago I was watching a program called "Down to Earth" on Public Access Television and I had a brainstorm, why couldn't our club do something like this. I thought about this idea for a couple of weeks weighing the pros and cons of this possible endeavor. On the pro side I came up with these:

- Increase our exposure to the general public.
- Increase our membership, keeping our club healthy and vibrant.
- Allow members who missed a meeting to recap events from that meeting via P.A.T., web site or from DVD.
- Can be downloaded to our web page.
- We can have a video archives as a part of our library.

On the con side:

- Time and effort.
- Cost.

On the issue of cost, I contacted PAT and they informed me that since SDCSS is a nonprofit organization there are no broadcast fees or other charges. All they require from us is to follow rules provided in the pamphlet they sent me and format. With that item resolved, that leaves us with time and effort. This part can be broken down into two distinct areas, filming of the meeting and editing and producing. In order for this to become reality I need help from the membership. I need volunteers to do the filming of the meetings, for this I need at least three positions filled; one primary and a couple of backups. Any members who have a digital video camera and experience or want some are encouraged to signup. Your name will be in the credits. I will supervise the editing and production of each program. My eldest son has volunteered to do the editing and formatting, he is very excited about doing this. I will also need backups in this position, a Mac and software is a plus.

I am very excited about this endeavor with P.A.T. I feel this will greatly enhance and enrich our club so please volunteer. You can e-mail at hciservices@gmail.com or talk to me during the meeting.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: HAWORTHIA

By Marilyn Newcomer

The genus *Haworthia* are currently members of the *Aloaceae* family. This large family contains the genera *Aloe*, *Astroloba*, *Gasteria* and *Haworthia*. They have fascinated botanists and plant lovers from the time of their first introduction into Europe in the last of the seventeenth century to the present day. They are becoming the favorite subject of many succulent plant collectors. All the fascination of these aloe-like succulents is in their varied growth forms. They are dwarf leaf succulents, extremely diverse in form. However, most *Haworthia* have the rosette growth form. They are winter growers.

They are generally easy to propagate from leaves and are very proliferous, forming clumps of offsets which, in turn, can form their own clumps. However, when starting by leaves, make sure you carefully pull the leaf off to include the base of the leaf.

They are endemic to the southern most parts of the African continent, the majority of the species are found in the Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa, with only a few species occurring outside of that Province.

Often within populations, there is variation in the measurement of leaves, number of flowers, and other features. This is often due to changes in the plant environment. The following characteristics are most important.

1. Root System. The plant consists of a thick rootstock, which may be short or long, from which numerous fleshy roots arise. These roots draw the plant gradually into the ground as the stem elongates at the top.

2. Leaf Character. A large proportion of *Haworthia* species have soft succulent leaves, usually pale green. Others have firm, stiff leaves, usually dark green. Leaves may be tubercled or smooth, toothed or smooth on the margins, horizontal or at right angles. Some plants withdraw into the ground and some enfold themselves into a compact little body during the hot summer months, when the old leaves dry up, forming a protection for the inner leaves. Hair-like teeth seem to play a prominent part in the protection of plants from excessive sunlight.

3. Flowering Time. The flowers of *Haworthia* are on tall, thin, erect flower stalks. Each species has its own flowering season which may be influenced by weather conditions. They flower July-April, most commonly in October and November.

Frost is a killer of *Haworthias* and this, combined with freezing temperatures, must be avoided if they are to be successfully grown. They can tolerate a minimum of 40 degrees. *Haworthias* grow under bushes in their natural habitat, which provides summer shade and, at the same time, allows access to sunlight in winter. Some prefer rocky outcrops, while others grow amongst stones, under stones on flat lands or on rough stoney hillsides. Some withdraw completely into the soil to avoid fierce sunlight, while others withdraw partially, so that only the tips of the leaves become scorched. It is therefore necessary



Haworthia emelyae



Haworthia lockwoodii

that small plants be given some form of protection in the form of shade cloth or fibre-glass sheeting. While they need to be grown under protection, it is essential sufficient light can penetrate. Also, under a fibre-glass roof, they must have sufficient ventilation. They do well on a table outside if they are protected from the sun with shadecloth as our area can be extremely hot! I found they can tolerate colder weather than 40 degrees - temperatures in the 30's in our area if protected from frost. However, mine are not subjected to rain, as some are soft plants.

As for watering *Haworthias* in cultivation, they require a resting period when watering is limited, but not completely withheld. As with other species, we assume that in the wild, plants have to exist for months or even years without water. But what is not always taken into account is the fact that in the wild there are additional factors which also assist the plants in their struggle for survival, agents which can never be perfected in cultivation. However, in continued drought, large numbers of *Haworthias* die in the wild.

I will discuss my watering program at our meeting, as well as my soil conditions.

I hope many of you will bring in your plants to share as we all have different experiences with them and I am eager to learn from others!



Haworthia truncata

Photos by the author.

The Library corner

By Jan and Phil Kent

Hello to all our fine feathered friends. This is Janice Kent and I'm Phillip Kent and we would like to wish you all a bright and shiny San Diego morning.

We were going to publish a Scarlet List of you who have overdue Library Books, but, our laptop "computer" crashed again and so you have another month's reprieve.

In the meantime, how about a little contest game. Yes? Yes! Okay. So.

Ya know, instead, how 'bout we do this. You good people, and you know who you are, Santa did too, how about you jot down on a piece of paper your ideas and/or suggestions on how we could possibly make our Library a better and more enjoyable Library. Ummm, how 'bout that? So, go ahead and do that and bring them with you to the January 2007 meeting and give them to us, your Lovely Librarians, and we'll see what we have.

Sounds good. Because it would be nice to hear from you and see what you like. Or *what* you're like. That would be interesting, too. We hope you had a lovely and meaningful Christmas and are looking forward to an exciting and adventure filled New Year! We enjoy sharing these little bits of time with you.

So until nest time, these are your lovely Librarians wishing you happiness and success in everything good that you try to do.

REMINDER!

Winter Show and Sale

Saturday: February 10th, 2007
Room 101, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
10 AM till 4 PM

Book Review

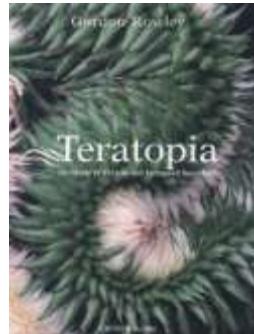
By D Russell Wagner.

Teratopia: The World of Cristate and Variegated Succulents

Gordon Rowley

Cactus & Co., Italy; 287 pages

Having so often delighted us with his prolific pen, it should be no surprise that the new offering from Gordon Rowley is so fine. But the very subject matter of *Teratopia*—variegates, crests and monstrose succulent oddities—guarantees that surprises are to be found here on every page. Rowley presents, in thematic galleries, the most comprehensive collection of teratological succulent photos ever assembled in between brief chapters dealing with all that is known about how these monsters are found (wild freaks), born (crosswired defects), created (Frankenplants), or kept going in our collections (by any means possible!). And he focuses not on one-off freaks but rather on plants that any teratophile can obtain and grow: those that offset prolifically, come true from seed, root readily from cuttings, or can be cut up and grafted for the twisted benefit of all.



Rowley's penchant for clear and clever prose makes you wish there were more to say on this subject. Still, there is much to learn. From historical accounts of variegated aeoniums known only from paintings and the ah ha! moments like when you finally understand why some sansevierias are so ever-changingly variegated, to the delight in finally finding names for a few of the way-out weirdos in your own collection, this book delivers!

Warts here are few. The pictures, largely gathered from amateur photographers, are of surprisingly high quality; only a few are printed larger than their quality quite merits. To correct but a minor oversight, might I coin another word to add to Rowley's list: teratotrope, to describe the majority of succulentists with at least a leaning toward monster plants. They will find this book every bit as useful and fascinating as the true teratophile. And while teratophobes may shun it, I look forward to a second edition printed on self-inflating Moebius strips.

Submitted by Allen Clark and published here with the author's permission.

WHAT'S THE STATUS?

Global Climate Change Updates

By Art Cooley

The Global Climate Change lecture series at the San Diego Natural History Museum continues on January 9th with "How do we know the climate is changing?" by Dr. Mark Thiemens, from the University of California, San Diego. The lecture starts at 6:30 pm. Further the SD Natural History Museum is offering a showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" with every general admission ticket.

Since the October meeting, Mayor Sanders has committed San Diego to Mayor Nickels program of reducing greenhouse gases to 7% below 1990 levels the same as required under the Kyoto Treaty. As of December 8th, 339 cities have joined this program. A congratulatory note or email to Mayor Sanders would be a good idea:

MayorJSanders@sandiego.gov.

Some members have asked about carbon offsets. This is a program which allows one to calculate the amount of carbon that one burns in a year, your carbon footprint. When you have calculated this, you then buy from an organization that is capturing carbon in some manner an amount equal to your footprint. If you go to websites for the major environmental organization like Environmental Defense, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, you can find a place where by answering a few questions about how many rooms you have in your house, how many miles you drive a year, etc. it will calculate the monetary cost of your carbon footprint. It will also offer you website options where an organization will accept your money equivalent to your carbon footprint and agree to sequester or save that amount of carbon. This program doesn't reduce the amount of carbon released into the world but it does make one carbon neutral.

And finally, rebates for installing solar power for residential homes will begin January 1 and run on a descending scale for a decade. Answers can be found at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov, or at www.sdenergy.org. The phone is 858-244-1177.

The due date for submission of article (Plants of the Month) and information on the program/speaker will be the meeting preceding the intended issue (approximately one month ahead of time). The due date for letters, regular columns, brag table winners, and the President's Message will be one week later. All submissions are to be made to the Editors.

Fyi

(For your Information)

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED: The SDCSS has been asked to provide a member to give a talk about cacti or the desert to a group for developmentally delayed adults. The PEERS (Pride, Education, Environment, Relationships & Self Esteem) meet in Santee on Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:00. Date would be your choice. Great opportunity to promote the SDCSS. Please contact Steve or Kathy Harris for details.

BOXES NEEDED: Our meetings are in need of boxes for the sales area. These can be any where from 8" X 12" up to 2' x 2'. For ease of transport the boxes can be broken down. We have the necessary tape to reassemble. Shoe boxes and beer flats are also excellent. Also, our sales people are running out of handled paper bags. Any members who might have these please bring to the meetings. We have storage so number is no problem. Please see Joe Kraatz.

SNACKS: Last names N-Z—your turn to bring snacks to the January meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2007

Jan 13: **9:30am-12:30pm** "Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget", pre-registration and fee required, Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon, 619-660-0614.

Feb 10: **9:00am-4:00pm** SDCSS Winter Show and Sale.

Mar 2-4: San Diego Spring Home/Garden Show, Fri Noon-7:00pm, Sat 10:00am-7:00pm, Sun 10:00am-5:00pm, Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Apr 7-8: South Coast CSS Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, 310-832-2262.

Apr 22: South Bay Epiphyllum Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 310-831-1209.

Apr 26-29: Southern California Spring Garden Show, 10:00am-9:00pm Thurs & Fri, 10:am-8:00pm Sat, 11:00am-6:30pm Sun, South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa.

May 25-30: CSSA 32nd Biennial Convention at the Seattle Airport DoubleTree Hotel. Reception May 25, presentations May 26, 27, 29, 30 and field trips May 28.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

President: Mark Fryer	(619) 795-1020	kaktussy@cox.net
Vice President: Tom DeMerritt	(858) 270-5544	armonde@pacbell.net
Secretary: Christine Tratnyek	(619) 461-0737	cactuswren45@sbcglobal.net
Alt. Secretary Joe Kraatz	(760) 758-7042	plantnut@cox.net
Treasurer: Chris Miller	(619) 258-9810	c.miller@cox.net
Ex Officio: Pam Badger	(619) 589-1223	pambad1@mac.com

Directors

George Plaisted	(619) 583-9551	
Jean O'Daniel	(858) 486-9363	tu1@sbcglobal.net
Peter Walkowiak	(858) 382-1797	hciservices@gmail.com
Collette Parr	(619) 460-9111	collette.parr@cox.net
Susan Hopkins	(858) 272-8897	
Tom Knapik	(619) 462-1805	tkn1234@aol.com

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern

Brag Table: Kay Quijada

Plants of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Phil Kent

Winter Show: Terry Parr

Historian: Terry Parr

Library: Jan Kent & Phil Kent, Allen Clark

Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: Collette Parr

Mailing: Jean & Bill O'Daniel

Annual Sales: Chris Miller & Joe Kraatz

Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt

Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Pam Badger

Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted

Benefit Drawing Table: Terry Parr, Lee Badger

Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz

Programs: Mark Fryer

Reception: Ethel Standish, Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak

Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Susie White

Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Peter Walkowiak

Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig

SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted

SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover

SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller

Editors: Steve & Kathy Harris, (619) 334-7200, steveharris3@cox.net & harriskd@cox.net. Please email both of us.

Webmaster: Tom Stiko, stiko@sbcglobal.net.