

Volume 43 Number 6

July, 2008

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



**Program: Stuart Riley 'Nurseries, Shows and More -
from Across the Atlantic'**

**Succulent of the Month: Don Hunt 'Euphorbia Taxonomy'
Cactus of the Month: Terry Parr 'Columnar Cacti'**

**Saturday, July 12 1:00pm
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Another great show and sale, everyone! We could never come close to the kind of success we've been having over the past several years, breaking sales records and attracting record crowds, without the dedicated service of all our dedicated volunteers. Kudos to all of you!! It seems to me to be getting easier and easier each year, more people getting involved, and having certain preparations in place well in advance. You are a truly amazing group of people! I'm looking forward to reports from our show and sales chair-people in the coming weeks.



Jeff and Mark kept the Summer Show & Sale running smoothly.

Photo: Pam Badger

Now that we've made a few bucks, let me mention a little about our mission. Over the past several years the SDCSS has donated volunteers and funds to help preserve and procure plants and habitat throughout San Diego County. From the Anza Borrego State Park to the Wild Animal Park, we have an immense territory of environmental regions, with varying degrees of need. Please let those of us on the board know if you have any pet projects or donations you want to see the SDCSS involved with. We have some issues with our greenhouse at the Wild Animal Park that need to be resolved. The SD Natural History Museum and Dr. Jon Rebman can always use our support for the SD County Plant Atlas, The State of California is scrambling down at Border Field trying to salvage a great number of acres worth of sensitive C&S species in the path of the new border fence. The Anza Borrego State Park always needs help, and throughout the county we have a responsibility to the community to be available for information exchange in this time of peaked curiosity about these plants. We also have a biennial convention coming up in the next few years, and we need funds to help secure venues, speakers, and tours. So consider this an early, early warning system: we need all hands on deck as soon as possible!

It is with great sadness I have to say we've lost one of our warmest, friendliest members, Spencer Maze. Spence was super gregarious and always wanted to know how the kids were doing and was always encouraging all of us to take

care of one another along with our plants. He had an incredible interest in plants in general, and cacti and succulents in particular. He was one of a number of people I came to really look forward to seeing every month, and later working with him on the board of directors , he was always there with where to get the best deal on what ever we were in the process of purchasing. He took great joy in gardening with C&S plants, and he had started a xeric garden over the past few years which he was always sharing with so many of us. He will be sorely missed.

July's meeting appears to be a full agenda, with Stuart Riley from the UK comparing nurseries, clubs, and shows from the UK to our typical scenes around here, and Don Hunt and Terry Parr tackling both the Cactus and Succulent of the month. I'm visiting the high desert of central Oregon, and will be flying back as you are all winding up the regular meeting so will have to wait until the August meeting to see you all again.

August we have a couple tentative speakers and some desire to have a cultivation workshop, just have a bunch of growers bring in some hands-on demonstrations so we can all get dirty, plant and repot things, and enjoy the fellowship of the SDCSS. September is traditionally our annual picnic, and I think this year we're hoping to combine a small sort of fieldtrip with it. More details in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Mark Fryer
Summer Solstice 2008

PROGRAM NOTES

Stuart and Jane Riley live on the Sussex Coast in the UK and have been visiting the US every two years since the early 1980s. Over the years Stuart has visited the cactus shows and meetings in Balboa Park but this will be the first time he has given a program in San Diego. Stuart has been growing cacti and succulents for over 30 years and is a keen hobbyist as well as having a small cactus nursery in the UK. Over the years he's given programs in the UK and Europe and judged both the US and UK National Shows. His main interests in the hobby are now mainly succulents (part of the natural ageing process!) especially haworthias, gasterias, agaves and aeoniums and in particular anything variegated or unusual hybrids. The program in July will be his first digital program and will show how the cactus hobby in Europe differs from in the US with an assortment of photos from travels around the UK and Europe over the past year. Stuart and Jane look forward to seeing some familiar faces on their trip to San Diego in July.

On the cover: July speaker, Stuart Riley

MAY 2008 Brag Table Winners

Judged by Pam Badger

Cactus

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Notocactus roseolutes*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Gymnocalycium asterius*
- 2nd Place, Candy Garner - *Rebutia perplexa*
- 3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak (?) - *Lobivia saltentis*
- 3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Rebutia mescala*

Succulents

- 1st Place, Elibet Marshall - *Dudleya candida*
- 2nd Place, Judy Walkowiak - *Adromiecus cratspulii*
- 2nd Place, Rudy Lime - *Pachypodium 'Arid Lands'*
- 3rd Place, Phyllis Flechsig - *Aloe arenicola*
- 3rd Place, Judy Walkowiak - *Graptopetalum pentandrum*

FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

Membership News Update: The SDC&SS now has membership cards available for all current members. To obtain one, all you need to do is send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope. My address is: 7924 Grape Street, La Mesa, CA 91941-6323. You can also stop by the Benefit Drawing table at our regular monthly meetings where I can provide one to you. I am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in person when you come and request an SDC&SS membership card from me, and I can put more faces to the names with which I am so familiar! A membership card is now required in order to check out our wonderful library books! - Collette Parr, SDC&SS Membership Chair

Condolences: Our hearts go out to member, Bev Grant, on the loss of her mother, Ruth Marx.

Snacks for the Break: Members with last names beginning with N through Z, please bring a snack to share at the break.

SPENCER MAZE

Sadly, as Mark mentioned in the President's Message, the SDCSS has lost one of its longtime and most active members, Spencer Maze. The following obituary was submitted to us by Spencer's family:

"Spencer Morrow Maze Jr., aged 80, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on June 4, 2008 as a result of pancreatic cancer. Spence is survived by his wife Joan; daughter Michelle Phelps and her husband Joe; son Spencer III and his wife Mary; and three grandchildren Alan, Brian, and Grace.

Spence was born in Gilroy, CA on May 27, 1928 and served in the Army during the Korean War working in cryptographics. He attended UC Berkeley, was a member of Theta Xi fraternity, relocated, and graduated from San Diego State University in Business Administration. He settled briefly in Mission Hills, and later La Jolla.



Spence owned and operated Chevron service stations in Pacific Beach, and Lakeside. He was a past member of The Rotary Club of Pacific Beach and The University Club. Spence's life was characterized by his love for his neighbors, children, and nature.

In recent years, Spence shared his love of plants with the community through his work as a San Diego Master Gardner. He cherished the opportunity to volunteer in their School Gardening programs, which introduce children to the joys of gardening. He was also a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach, and the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society."

Spence was a vital part of our club and he will surely be missed.

EUPHORBIA TAXOnomY

By Don Hunt

In the eighteenth century, the system of nomenclature we use to classify living organisms was invented by a Swede, Carl Von Linne, commonly referred to by a Latinized version of his name, Linnaeus. The Linnaean system is based on class, order, genus and species, the binomial (two part) name being genus and species. However, in the world of cactus and succulents this is not always the case. We will shorten a genus, species, subspecies, or variety to genus/ variety, the rest being implied. By understanding the reasoning behind the grouping or division, we learn about certain observations about the plant that the taxonomist has taken into consideration when making his naming system. The cactus genus name *Gymnocalycium* means “naked calyx”, meaning the flower bud. Knowing this helps to identify the group. Knowing a plant is a euphorbia tells you exactly nothing, except don't eat it or get it in your eyes.

As a freshly converted cactophile, I listened with amusement to expert discussions of the “lumpers and splitters”. For every classification conflict, there is some observed fact which must be weighed against other characteristics, and so the plant is described in relation to similar plants. Linnaeus was aware that a system of classification must be based on fixed, well-defined characteristics. Gross morphology in the vegetative parts can be misleading, so the genera are defined by the number, proportion, and position of the parts of the flowers and fruit.

Biological taxonomists attempt to construct a classification that is hierarchical; that is, each level of classification is inclusive of all the levels below. Also all member of the same level should share the determinative structures.

This seems reasonable, but in actuality Wikipedia lists 38 systems of plant nomenclature. There are at least 4 systems attempting to deal directly with euphorbias, but only the “Lexicon of Succulent Plants” 1974 by Hermann Jacobsen, is generally available, and in English.

Jacobsen organizes the genus euphorbia into 28 groups based primarily on morphology, not sexual parts. Generally speaking there really isn't any consistent methodology in the divisions. For group 11 the determinate is the persistent flower stalks and single, not divided, trunk. Groups 14 and 15 are the “medusa” groups, the division being a mostly subterranean or mostly exposed caudex. He divides Madagascan species strictly by geography, but includes all euphorbia with slender green stems in group 4, including African, South American, Australian, etc.

As a collector of interesting plants, it really doesn't matter that evolutionary taxonomists have been unable to deal with euphorbias as well as cactus. Any attempt to link the euphorbias into one coherent group would have to account for so many unique variations it would be a massive challenge, to say the least. Still, I find the Lexicon interesting, if only on a “if you like this, you may also like these” basis.

Columnar cacti

By Terry Parr

Touring through the arid habitats of the American southwest and central and south America, it is the columnar forms of cactus that create the mindful images and impressions of desert habitat.

While several genera of smaller clumping and globular forms (e.g., *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Echinocereus*) are more widely known, commercially available, and collected, many species of columnar cacti are relatively easy to grow and commercially available, making an attractive addition to pots on the patio or in the ground in your landscaped succulent garden (Fig. 1).

An excellent website devoted to columnar cacti has been established by Tony Mace of the United Kingdom, in collaboration with Bob



Fig. 1. Bob Ressler's front yard in Stockton, CA



Fig. 2. *Oreocereus trollii*

Ressler of Stockton, CA, found on the web at: www.columnar-cacti.org. They list 55 genera, focusing on the larger forms, including unbranched and candelabra tree-like species, and including clumping as well as recumbent species that sprawl on the ground. Edward Anderson, in his comprehensive 2001 monograph "The Cactus Family," synonymized many of these genera under broader generic group definitions, based primarily upon revisions to taxonomy agreed upon by the International Cactaceae Systematics Group. Most notable is the placing of *Borzicactus* into the genus *Cleistocactus*; inclusion of *Azureocereus*, *Gymnocereus* and *Castellanosia* into the genus *Brownin-gia*; inclusion of the many species of *Trichocereus* into the now broady defined genus, *Echinopsis*, and assignment of the all *Lemaireocereus* species into various other genera, mainly *Stenocereus* and *Pachycereus*.

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We did it Again!

By Tom Knapik, Show Chair

Thank-you all for bringing in some fantastic plants and making this one of the best shows ever. You did this in spite of the high gas prices and a sagging economy. Each year I wonder about the quality of the show and each year I am amazed at the turnout. Many members brought forth some



amazing plants both in quality and quantity and made the show a huge success.

I wish to thank our judges for their time and deliberations on over 640 plant entries. Jim Hanna and Joe Clements judged cacti and Chris Barnhill and Betty Athy judged the other succulents. Their

work was smooth and efficient. I also want to thank all the clerks, organized by Sue Hopkins, who were right there, by their sides the entire time. Those growers fortunate enough to be recognized by the judges with a trophy were given a beautiful show pot thrown by Joe Wujcik. Ironically, this year Joe won a trophy and got to take one of his pots back home.

We all need to recognize the behind the scenes work of so many amazing members who form the backbone of our show and club. Chris Miller our sales chair, Tom & Laura DeMerritt, Pam Badger, and Terry and Collette Parr worked countless hours and perform vital roles in the success of our show. Our very own Jeff Harris lent a hand while visiting San Diego with his wife. It was great to see him again. Thank-you all for the work that you do!

Our workshops during the show were well attended, very educational, and interesting. Rudy Lime spoke about succulent bonsai, George Plaisted gave a talk on soil mixes, Pam Badger showed how to repotted plants. Peter Walkowiak gave an interesting talk on the fertilizers he uses to grow those giant plants, and Mark Fryer did a grafting demonstration, having a few lucky participants actually graft plants. He also did a guided tour of Balboa Park's succulent garden on Saturday. Finally, Sara Schell gave a very well attended talk on succulent wreath craft on Sunday. Thank-you all, you add an important dimension to the show, educating the public about this interesting hobby. Great job everyone!



Displays add so much to our show by educating and inspiring the other members and public about our hobby. Thank-you Pam Badger, Rudy Lime, Jerry Williams and Chuck Ever-son, and Rebecca Aldrich for your hard work and effort putting together and transporting your beautiful displays. This year the 'Herculean award' goes to Peter Walkowiak once again. He not only entering the largest plants, but also the most. We would have had 153 less plant without him.

I'd like to recognize a few other individuals for their contribution to the show. Juergen Menzel generously entered approximately 50 spectacular plants mostly in the non-competitive category. I'd like to thank B.J. & Chris Miller for entering many beautiful framed images of succulents and Joe Kraatz for lending us the

Succulent postcard collection. They compliment the plant entries so well and add an artistic side to our show. I'd also like to thank all the vendors, not only for offering a vast assortment of great plants, but also for entering some real special plants in the show. Your combined contribution adds approximately 160 plants to our show. Thank-you all!

With respect to our sales workers, I'll let Chris recognize those individuals at the registers, checkout line, and information booth. We all thank them for their efforts and appeal to other members to help out next year. Thank-you to Wilbur and Elizabeth Glover who worked all day, both days checking plants and Sara Schell who managed member sales late Friday night.

This is a great show because of the participation of those mentioned above and all the other members who contributed their effort, energy, and plants. We do it because we love the plants and we chose to share that passion with the public during this very special event. We always



need more help and we'll be discussing ways to improve at the next general meeting in July. So, bring your ideas, and your volunteer spirit and be part of the largest single club cactus show in America.

Photos: Collette Parr

Thanks from the Sales Chair

By Chris Miller

We had record breaking sales at this years June Show for many reasons. One was the wonderful plants and pots that our vendors had for sale. So special thanks go out to Don Hunt, Joe Wujcik and Mark Muradian for their great pots, To Terry and Collette Parr, Juergen Menzel, Tina Zucker, Jerry Williams, Arnold Chaney, Si Osgrove, Rick Plant, Phyllis Flechsig, Miles Anderson,



Michael and Joyce Buckner, Mark Fryer, Rudy Lime, Lee Badger, Sara Schell, Daniel Varise, and Peter Walkowiak for bringing a great selection of plants. An especially warm welcome to Matthew Maggio and Steven Frieze for joining us and bringing their great plants down from the LA area. Mark Muradian's large cactus cuttings added another dimension to the items available. Rebecca Aldrich's art added a bit of wistfulness and Mr. Fertilizer was on hand to share lots of tips on soil, fertilizer and treatment of pests, he left some great items for the Benefit Drawing Table at our next meeting. Thanks also to Charles Everson who stepped up and provide books and t-shirts to round out the plant related products offered.



The second element for success at the sale was the time and energy invested by our great team of volunteers! Even though we had record sales this year, the lines were shorter than past years and the lines went much faster. Lynn Elliott ran the credit card machine with style for all four registers, so no special lines to get upset for not being in. Cena Martin, Jim Deforest, Pat Bryan, Michelle Heckathorn, Yulia DeMerritt, Katya DeMerritt and Tom DeMerritt were cashiers

extraordinaire, moving people through the lines at a crisp pace. They had support from scanners, unboxers, and boxers, Joan and Frank Lozoya, Janice Burns, Jessica McGee, Shelby Kaatz, Kayo Beach, Art Cooley, Bev Grant, Stan Yaloff, Catherine Clark, Jerry Garner, Janet Svaboda, Pat Marshall, Daniel Varise and returning member Jay Sandler. Most of these people volunteered for a two hour shift and spent most of the day working!

The information booth provided lots of good information. Steve and Kathy Harris, Peggy Katz, Jeanette Dutton, Candy Garner, Sara Schell, Sandy Frost and Ken Blackford represented the SDCSS, recruited, advised and gave out some cactus in the process. They also took care of me, providing lots of support while I ran around, trying to be in too many places at one time. Also to be thanked for being in his usual "the guy to fill the need" role was Jeff Harris. His wonderful support Friday, Saturday and Sunday made everything go smoother.

The shade cloth crew, from set up on Friday, Tom DeMerritt, Don Hunt Jeff Harris, Jerry Garner, Mark Fryer, Lee Badger and Richard Yorba, provide just the right amount of shade, combined with a great weekend to make the sales area near perfect. You may

have noticed the DeMerritt name a few times here. Tom and Laura were instrumental in the success of the entire weekend, from setting up the show tables, the shade cloth, the cash register area, programming the registers and filling in everywhere. We could not have carried this off without them.



If I missed you, I am sorry, you are still very appreciated. Thank all of you for being so cooperative and good to one another. It made the sale and show a great experience for all of us.

Photos: Collette Parr



A bow of appreciation goes out to Elizabeth and Wilber Glover. As usual they ran the will call area with precision and style.

OFF THE SHELF

By Allen Clark



Izzat © 1941

The shelves will be groaning by the time we get all the new books loaded into the case for the July meeting. We placed an order from Rainbow Gardens Bookstore in Tucson, and then added three more titles at our show. Here's what you have to look forward to:

Gentry's Rio Mayo Plants (Martin, Yetman et al.)

Cacti of Eastern Brazil (Taylor and Zappi)

Melocacti of Cuba (Rigerszki, Delanoy et al.)

The World of Hoyas: A book of pictures (Kloppenburg and Wayman)

Cotyledon and Tylecodon (van Jaarsfeld and Koutnik)

Haworthia Update Vol. 1 (Bayer)

Aeonium (Schulz)

Australian Succulents (Kapitany)

Ferocactus (Pilbeam and Bowdery)

Cacti of the Trans-Pecos & Adjacent Areas (Powell and Weedon)

High and Dry (Nold)

Hardy Succulents (Kelaidis)

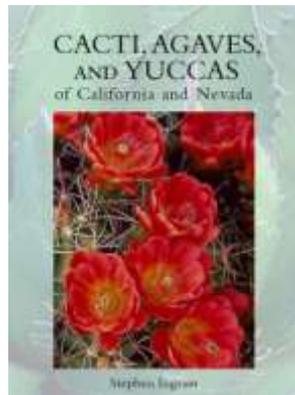
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The due date for submission of article (Plants of the Month) and information on the program/speaker will be the meeting preceding the intended issue (approximately one month ahead of time). The due date for letters, regular columns, brag table winners,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

Book Review

"Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada" Stephen Ingram, Cachuma Press 256 pages; 262 color photos; 16 watercolor botanical illustrations; 52 range maps; appendices; bibliography; key to the genera; glossary; index.

My first thought when I heard about this book was, "Oh no, not another pretty coffee-table book about cactus that will only serve as an expensive dust-collector near my wife's catalog collection." I was pleasantly surprised to the contrary to find in this title a well-organized field guide with outstanding habitat photography and a logical design and layout.



Stephen Ingram's luscious photography is obviously influenced by Ansel Adams' composition, and it rarely falls short of the desired effect to capture time as well as place. I can only imagine the number of shots needed to capture that one essential shot of some of these plants, the author clearly demonstrates his dedication to his subject. While some of the lesser known forms and variants of some of the cacti aren't given ink, one can't really complain since the range maps include the potential of stumbling across them if you're given to getting out in the brush and studying the plants in the wild, and besides, we don't really want to advertise the whereabouts of some of these cryptic forms lest they be whisked away to some dreary little greenhouse in Czechoslovakia. Several good appendices showing relations between taxon and geography, scientific names of non-featured species (yay!), and even a comparative examination of the chollas in California and Nevada make for a number of useful tools in this book.

Mr. Ingram is currently speaking around California and recently presented this work along with an incredible display of his photography set to music at the California Native Plant Society's San Diego chapter, a wonderful program that I hope we will be able to host in the coming months at the SDCSS. He is also schedule to present at Quail Botanic Gardens on July 27th at 2:00pm, and at the Huntington Botanic Gardens Succulent Symposium on August 30th.

This will be a welcome addition to anyone's library with an interest in the local flora, and anyone with an interest in the Cacti and Agaves of California and Nevada absolutely must have this book!

Reviewed by Mark Fryer

Columnar Cacti continued:

If the Systematics Group revisions are accepted, Mace and Ressler's list of columnar cacti is reduced from 55 genera to 35 genera.

Systematics aside, there are a diversity of species, with a wide range of color, form, spination and size for collectors and growers in the San Diego area. The most diverse groups, with many species available from local growers and nurseries include *Oreocereus*, *Cleistocactus*, *Cereus*, *Pachycereus*, *Pilosocereus*, *Stenocereus*, *Espostoa*, *Browningia* (= *Azureocereus*) and *Haageocereus*. Some, such as the south American *Espostoa* and *Oreocereus* (Fig. 2), are noted for their dense white wool; others, such as *Browningia* and *Pilosocereus* (Fig. 3) for inclusion of species with beautiful glaucous blue coloration. Species of *Haageocereus* and *Micranthocereus* (Fig. 4) contain members with attractive golden spination.



Fig. 3. *Pilosocereus fulvinatus*



I will bring representative species of the aforementioned genera, and additional species from other genera, to the July 12 SDCSS meeting for presentation on the topic of "Columnar Cacti."

Fig. 4. *Micranthocereus auri-azureus*

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008

July 25-27: Orange County Summer Show and Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton. Show and sale Friday 12pm-4pm, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm. Info: 714-870-4887

Aug 16-17: 23rd Annual Intercity Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Info: Tom Glavich, 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall, 818-368-6914.

Aug 30: Huntington Gardens Succulent Symposium, all day at the Huntington.

Sept 28: Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, 12:00pm.

Nov 8&9: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

Dec 6&7: Orange County Show & Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, 10:00am-4:00pm. Info: 714-870-4887.

2009

Apr 10-15: The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's convention, Tucson, AZ.



Mediolobivia steinmannii , a body obscured by flowers. Photo: Mark Fryer

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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Winter Show: Terry Parr

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SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted

SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover

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

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