Espinas y Flores

MAMMILLARIA THORNBERI

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

Volume XXIII, Number 2 February 13, 1988

FEBRUARY MEETING

Saturday February 13, 1988

1:30 P.M.

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

"TREASURES OF THE HUNTINGTON"
with John Trager

John Trager is from the Huntington Gardens and will be showing slides of the Gardens at its best. It is sure to be very beautiful and informative as well.

\+ +
\+ +

IN THIS ISSUE Page

\+ +

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE -- February 26 --

NEWS NEWS NEWS - - - - - -

Welcome to New members - - - - -

Paul Barklay - Alpine Chris Carsola - San Diego Mike Kuebler - Bonita

+ +

JANUARY BRAGGING PLANT WINNERS.....

1st Place - Joey Betzler for his Kalanchoe tetraphylla

2nd Place - Lit Phan for his Ficus nitida

3rd Place - Dorothy Dunn for her Haworthia viscosa

+ +

Those who have volunteered to bring refreshments are:

Elibet Marshall Marie Pearce Joan Johnson
Margaret Gallik Susan Clements Mark St. Clair
Robyn Natwick Verna Pasek Peg Hilliard
Phyllis Sheldon Susan Barker Ethel Standish

Thanks in advance

+ +

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Feb.	6 & 7	San Diego Camellia Society 41st Show	Sat: 1pm-5:00pm	Sun:10am-4:00pm
Feb.	20 & 21	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. "Mini" Show	Sat:Noon-4:30pm	Sun:10am-4:30pm
Feb.	27 & 28	Ohara Chapter of San Diego 11th Show	Sat:11am-4:30pm	Sun:10am-4:30pm
Mar.	5 & 6	San Diego Daytime African Violet 7th Show	Sat: 1pm-5:00pm	Sun:10am-4:00pm
Mar.	18,19,20	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. 42nd Spring Show		
		(Scottish Rites Mem. Bldg. -Mission Valley)	Preview:	Fri:7pm-10:00pm
		Admission: $3.00	Sat: 9am-9:00pm	Sun: 9am-5:00pm
Mar.	19 & 20	Ikebana International 20th Exhibit/Show	Sat:11am-4:30pm	Sun:11am-4:30pm
Mar.	26 & 27	Balboa Park African Violet Club 13th Show	Sat:Noon-5:00pm	Sun:10am-4:00pm

All Shows are held at Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park unless otherwish indicated.

+ +

TWO MORE SDCSS MEMBERS ADMITED TO IOS (IOS - International organization for Succulent Plant Study.)

At the recent IOS Inter-Congress Meeting held at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California, two SDCSS members were accepted as members into the IOS. They are FRED A. HUTFLESZ and R.G. LATIMER JR. This increases the number of SDCSS in IOS to five. The other three are: Dave Grigsby, Seymour Linden, and Larry Mitich. This also increases the number of IOS members in San Diego County to three: Hans Britsch, Dave Grigsby, and Rick Latimer. The objects of the IOS shall be to promote the sutdy and conservation of succulent and allied plants and to encourage international cooperation amongst those interested in them.

Killing Cactus and Other Succulents

The Haworthia Magnifica Complex

This and several future columns will compare Bruce Bayer's, John Pilbeam's, and Charles Scott's taxonomic treatments of the individual species of the genus Haworthia, with the hope of reducing the confusion caused, or alleged to be caused, by the different approaches. Comments will be repetitive of the cited authors only to the extent necessary to discuss and contrast their work, i.e., go to their books for the basic poop. Other comments are intended to share with the reader some of this writer's experiences and frustrations in acquiring and growing the plants.

Bruce Bayer's H. magnifica complex consists of seven varieties, five of them reduced from species status. Each variety is appreciably different from the next, but, with the exception of magnifica v. maraisii, the differences within each variety are not great. It can be difficult at times, however, to distinguish between some magnifica clones and some of its near neighbor, H. mirabilis. In cultivation, the floral differences between the two species seem to be less obvious than Bayer describes and therefore less helpful (or maybe my bifocals just are not doing the job). This "incredibly variable" magnifica group is characterized by "dark-green color, small size, short green-lined buds and flowers," and the peculiar shape of the bud tips. The complex is found in the south-west Cape region of South Africa, about the same degree of southern latitude as San Diego is in the north, and extends from near the coast to as far as fifty miles inland.

John Pilbeam, in his guide, follows Bayer. There are no differences.

Charles Scott, however, approaches this group of plants quite differently. He maintains H. magnifica v. magnifica but raises it to species level. He also restores H. magnifica v. atrofusca to species status, a move easy to sympathize with since in appearance it differs considerably from the other members of Bayer's complex and does not readily fit Bayer's thumbnail description of the group. The rest, including the v. maraisii sub-complex, he dumps into a recreated H. asperula, a name introduced by Haworth himself but which in Bayer's view now "appears to be a dreadful source of confusion" and which Bayer equates with H. retusa. Scott also adds to H. asperula several other independent species. They all have in common, he wrote, "numerous raised concolorous tubercles on the end-area of the leaves." This may be true, but to this collector, it is not adequate grounds for the combination.

A few comments and fewer facts on the complex members:
1. H. magnifica v. magnifica: It is generally dark green,

but there are lighter green clones which appear to be "good" plants. Although described as having unusually long acuminate leaf tips, this is not usually true of forms available here. It is exceedingly difficult at times to distinguish the variety from the dark green, rough-surfaced forms of H. retusa.

2. H. magnifica v. atrofusca: Its dark reddish-brown coloring (in good light) make it both striking and atypical of its cousins. It grows at the pace of a slow snail and seldom offsets. Expensive, if you can find it.

3. H. magnifica v. major: It is one of the beauties of the genus, but is is also hard to find and expensive if you find the right one. All the information I can assemble on the variety suggests that most of the plants offered here under this name are H. magnifica v. magnifica or a hybrid. (Have Bayers's and Pilbeam's pictures in hand when you are looking at the plant and with the latter consult only the color photo.) The variety intergrades with H. emelyae, producing another handsome form. If you look for the intermediate, keep in mind that a nursery hybrid may not be the same.

4. H. magnifica v. maraisii: This variety appears to constitute a complex in itself, comprising a number of species and varieties of which most were described by Karl von Poellnitz in the 1930's, without much knowledge on his part of their relationships in the field. Their common characteristic is that the rosettes are small, under two inches, but the leaves may be retused, gently recurving, or semi-erect, and the shades of green in the leaf may vary. It is easy to confuse some its forms -- all of them attractive -- with one or more forms of H. mirabilis.

5. H. magnifica v. meiringii: Two forms have been available, differing mainly in the size of the rosettes. The smaller one is under one inch at maturity, and it is most attractive. The larger form is almost identical with some H. herbacea forms, and it is not until the floral differences can be seen that they can be safely separated.

6. H. magnifica v. notabilis: The name means noteworthy, but it really is not, except to the haworthia nut. Not generally noted, there are at least two forms. The one usually offered has fairly strongly toothed leaf margins, while the other is generally described as smooth but acquires (in my experience) scarcely noticeable teeth on the margins. Be careful when purchasing: One clone offered under this name does not at all resemble available pictues and may be a hybrid.

7. H. magnifica v. paradoxa: Generally a dark green, it has one form in which the underside of the leaves is a beautiful purple, with the color extending softly and slightly into the upper leaf surface as well.

8. H. asperula: As noted, this is Scott's name for all of the magnifica complex except v. magnifica and v. atrofusca. Scott also includes in the species H. pygmaea, H. maculata, and H. pubescens, all quite different forms for which Bayer maintains or gives species status. H. asperula, Scott wrote, "is characterized by the numerous raised concolorous tubercles on the end-area of the leaves." Whether that shared characteristic is sufficient to justify Scott's H. asperula

species is at best debatable; given the many differences between the forms, the argument is strong that the combination is not justified. Plants available here under this name usually turn out to be H. retusa, H. pygmaea, or possibly a hybrid. From a collector's viewpoint, it is a name best ignored, even if it should not be forgotten.

None of these forms are difficult to grow, and only the usual cautions need be heeded. Keep them in strong (but not full sun) light to ensure good coloring and form and be careful with watering, especially in the hot summer months when they may go dormant and in the cold winter months when their water requirements are lessened.

- Bob Kent

YOUR GIFT IS FOREVER

Whether you donate land or dollars, your gift will be treasured by all who love Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, now and forever.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is _____ for a _____ membership.

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual & Family	$10.00	Contributing	$250.00
Sustaining	25.00	Donor	500.00
Supporting	50.00	Life	1,000.00
Patron	100.00		

Gifts to assist any of the specific undertakings of the Association are gratefully received. All such contributions to the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association are deductible for income tax purposes.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH

UEBELMANNIA AND BUININGIA

Uebelmannia and Buiningia are two interesting cactus genera that are not closely related to each other but that are both native to the same part of the world: the state of Minas Gerais in southeastern Brazil. The climate there is warm all year, very hot in summer (our winter), though cool at night because the land is a high plateau, with most of the rain in the summer months. The plants--or those that are left, for their habitat is being destroyed at a great rate--live in very rocky areas, and often have lichens growing on them, as the humidity is high.

The genus Uebelmannia was first set up by the late A.F.H. Buining. He caused quite a sensation among cactus collectors when he imported the first plants of Uebelmannia pectinifera into Europe in 1966. It was then, and remains now, one of the most beautiful and distinctive of all known cacti. Buining named the genus for Werner Uebelmann, a Swiss nurseryman. The first Uebelmannia to be discovered had been named as a Parodia, P. gummifera, by Backeberg and Voll in 1949, but had not fitted well into that group. To this day there are only five species, and one variety, in the genus Uebelmannia. All are small, globular plants with sharp ribs and fairly short spines. Flowers are small and yellow, borne on the top of the plant, and fruits are very small and soft, sometimes enveloped in wool. The seeds are small also. These plants have an unusual type of epidermis that has a granular appearance and an outer layer of clear "windowed" cells.

Most of the known species are very uncommon in collections, through sheer difficulty in obtaining them or in keeping them alive once they are obtained. The first Uebelmannia known, U. gummifera, is a beautiful multi-ribbed plant with very short spines, but it is seldom seen in cultivation. Inge Hoffman reports finding it growing in Brazil in pure quartz sand--no humus! U. buiningii is a small, excruciatingly slow-growing plant with a dark brownish-red pebbly epidermis; it does bloom at a small size, at least. U. flavispina has many ribs and gold spines. U. meninensis has many ribs and rather wild spines pointing in all directions and is another plant that grows in pure quartz sand in the wild; this fact may account for its being hardly in cultivation. But at least we can all grow the most beautiful one of all, U. pectinifera, which has become available first through grafting of seedlings and more recently on its own roots. It is a lovely dark-skinned plant that every cactus grower should have. Grafted plants will flower in a few years; flowering goes on for a long time, though the flowers are not very showy.

The genus Buiningia, also from Minas Gerais in Brazil, started out as Coleocephalocereus aureus, described by Ritter in 1968. It is now known as Buiningia aurea. Glass and Foster have

referred to the genus as a cross between a Cephalocereus and a Melocactus! The plants are globular to begin with, and the cephalium (an area of thick wool from which flowers and fruits are produced) begins to grow at or near the top of the plant, but as the plant grows, the cephalium grows on one side of the stem. Eventually the plants become fairly tall, like a cereus. Only three species are mentioned in reference books: B. aurea, with long golden spines; B. brevicylindrica, forming a cluster of yellow-spined thick stems to one foot high; and B. purpurea, with reddish-brown spines and purple flowers. The first two have yellow-green flowers.

All these plants grow in the wild in very rocky areas along with bromeliads and terrestrial orchids. Most are out in the open or in crevices in the rocks, where a small amount of humus may have accumulated. This habitat tells us that the plants want perfect drainage! Although they experience heavy rainfall in summer, they never stay damp for long, and they may stay dry all winter. We can use this environment as a general guide--you do not have to pot your plants in pure quartz! Propagation is from seed for Uebelmannias; from seed or offsets for Buiningias.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

Backeberg, C. 1976. Cactus Lexicon. Blandford, England.

Bleck, M. 1973. Uebelmannia Buin. Cactus & Succulent Journal, vol. 45, p. 99-102.

Hoffman, I. 1986. Brazil: Cacti the hard way. CSJ, vol. 58, p. 13-20.

Cullmann, W., E. Goetz, and G. Groener. 1984. The Encyclopedia of Cacti. Alphabooks, England.

PLANT SUPPLIES

To those members interested in purchasing fertilizer: Vita-grow (also known as Watch-us-grow) will be offered at meetings in pint, quart, and gallon units. It is **required** that you bring your own container, matching one of the three sizes mentioned above. Five gallon quantities are available but you must call me two weeks before a meeting to arrange delivery.

I will also entertain suggestions for other supplies to be offered at our meetings. Before spring comes around I would like to have some new ideas of what the members want. I may not be able to fill all your requests but any input will be appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people that help me at the plant table; Curt, Mitch and Carl (plus others). They make the job easier and are rewarded at the end of the year. These volunteers make our club what it is, the best. If you want to become an active member in our society I urge you to volunteer for a position in some aspect of our club.

Thanks,

Sincerely, Joey Betzler

1168 23RD Street

San Diego, CA 92102-1918

Phone (619) 239-0804

THE PLANT of THE MONTH

by Walter Scott

A plan to name a Plant of the Month has been tentatively agreed upon by your new officers, directors and editor to spotlight and promote particular plants each month throughout the year. It is believed that December affords a propitious month to initiate the program, and very appropriately it so happens that the Christmas Cactus is a natural for the start of the program. As everyone knows who grows and observes succulents, they come to the apex of their beauty and growth during a particular month or season; and something to behold.

It is hoped that club members will join in this endeavor: If you have the plant in your collection other members of the club would enjoy seeing it, so bring it to the meeting and display it on the "Bragging Table". It is believed at this time that the owner of the best display may be rewarded in a modest way each month, although the admiration of others will be rewarding in itself. Of Course yor get to keep your own prize plant.... and for those who do not possess the Plant of the Month this will provide an opportunity to start a year-round collection and hobby; as each month passes and plants accumulate, your collection may well be termed a succulent Zodiac. An accumulation of a plant each month will afford many hours of enjoyment...this venture will grow on you, and surely you will grow with it.

Also it was thought possible for the Club to present the Plant of the Month(not your prize of course) to a first time visitor to the meeting in order to promote interest in our club and activities. The visitor would be on his own each month thereafter. The presentation would afford the original incentive or motive; and who knows, it just could be that a small gift plant might develop into a prize specimen later on. We urge you to join in this program.

A descriptive write-up of the Plant of the Month will be excerpted from authoritative sources and run concurrently in your publication so that you and others may have basic and fundamental knowledge of it:

CHRISTMAS CACTUS (Zygocactus truncatus)

Close to the hearts of many is a,group of epiphytical plants with a series of stubby spineless glossy green succulent stems called Christmas Cactus, so named because the apex of its blooming period comes during our"Holiday Season". Christmas Cactus was introduced to the world from the Organ Mountains in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1818 by Adrian Hardy Haworth, an English botanist and collector. This group is comprised of three genera: Zygocactus,Schlumbergera and Epiphyllopsis.

Originally described by Haworth as Epiphyllum truncatus, a name still applied to it in error; Zygocactus truncatus is considered the mother of Christmas Cactus and gained great popularity in Europe by the mid 1800's due largely to the efforts of one G.Gardner, and English collector. The generic name is derived from the greek word Zygon-meaning Yoke-which eluds to the branches forked like the linkages of a yoke, and the Greek word Kaktos-self explanatory,we hope. The species or specific name truncatus refers to the cutoff or square cut appearance of the stems. (con't x page)

PLANT OF THE MONTH (con't)

Z. truncatus is found in its native habitat on limbs and crotches of trees and shady craggy shelves in hilly places along with orchids, ferns and bromeliads. The stem segments are 1½ to 2 inches long, ½ to ¾ inch broad, and flat with 2 to 4 acute teeth on each side; the upper tooth always being more pronounced. (However, there is a considerable variation in the number and shape of the teeth in Hybrid forms) Flowers, liken to a bird in flight, up to 3 inches in length vary in color from rose pink, red, claret, to violet. Blooms last approximately 15 days; full grown plants may have as many as 200 or more at the same time.

These plants are easy to grow provided a few modest requirments are satisfied. Rich well drained soil is preferable; but because they are primarily tree dwellers where there is very little compost, they will thrive in very loose material. Avoid direct sun...shaded and cool invironment best. It is a good indoor as well as outdoor plant in this area, and because of its pendulate nature goes well in hanging baskets. Water generously during growing season; periodically using well balanced fertilizer ..liquid or granulated..growers dry them slightly when shoots have developed fully, which is usually September, this is conducive to flower bud formation. After flowering the plants do not begin to grow immediately, but rest for a few weeks.

This group grows readily from cuttings...at least two or three stem segments should be a minimum. The cuttings should be taken early in the year so that by September they are established enough to bloom at Christmas. They are frequently grafted and do extremely well on stock of Pereskia, Selenicereus, and Opuntia.

Schlumbergera(named for Frederick Schlumberg, an amateur student of botany) differs very little outwardly from Zygocactus The flower tube is shorter; the teeth on the stems are not as pronounced; and it generally blooms later(Jan-Feb). Two well known species are ...russelliana and bridgesii.

Epiphyllopsis also varies little from the other two. The stem segments are smoother and have long bristles at the joints. The plant is more floriferous; the flowers being more open and the blooming period is much later(Mar-April), hence has earned the name "Easter Cactus". The best known species is gaertneri.

There are many hybrids of all the above genera with diffinet flower color variations too numerous to name here. The Christmas Cactus group is sometimes referred to as Crab Cactus...the stem shoots are reminiscent of crab's claws.

WALTER R. SCOTT died on Dec. 11, 1987 at age 85. He was the guiding light when our society <u>almost</u> dissolved in late 1965 because of internal disorder. When the officers resigned en masse, "Scotty" began the "Executive Board who were dubbed the "wailing wall."

Among the many things he also organized were trips around the county and L.A. County in which he was "Wagon Master."

Lt. Scott served the S.D. Police Dept. and was the founder of the police lab and was a fingerprint expert. We will miss him. Perlso Lewis

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Guenter Andersohn, Cacti and Succulents (2)

Donated by Dorothy & Warren Iarberg:

Sunset Books, Bonsai
Hermann Jacobsen, Succulent Plants

Donated by Brunhilde Scheffler:

Euphorbia Vs. I-III (purchased by SDCSS)
A. F. H. Buining, Discocactus
CSSA Journals Vs. 53-57

Ordered by Shirley Berry:

Aloe Vs. 10-24 (being bound)

Other Additions:

Teiji Itoh, The Gardens of Japan
William T. Stearn, Botanical Latin
Euphorbia V. IV (2)
Stanley Schuler, ed., Simon & Schuster's Guide to Cacti and Succulents
Hortus Third

Ordered or Coming Out:

Ernst van Jaarsveld, Gasteria
Desmond Cole, Lithops (2)
Marga Leue, Epiphyllum
Harry Johnson's Catalogues 1960-68 (being bound)

CSSA Journals Needed:

1970(#5), 1978(#5), 1982(#1), & 1974(1)

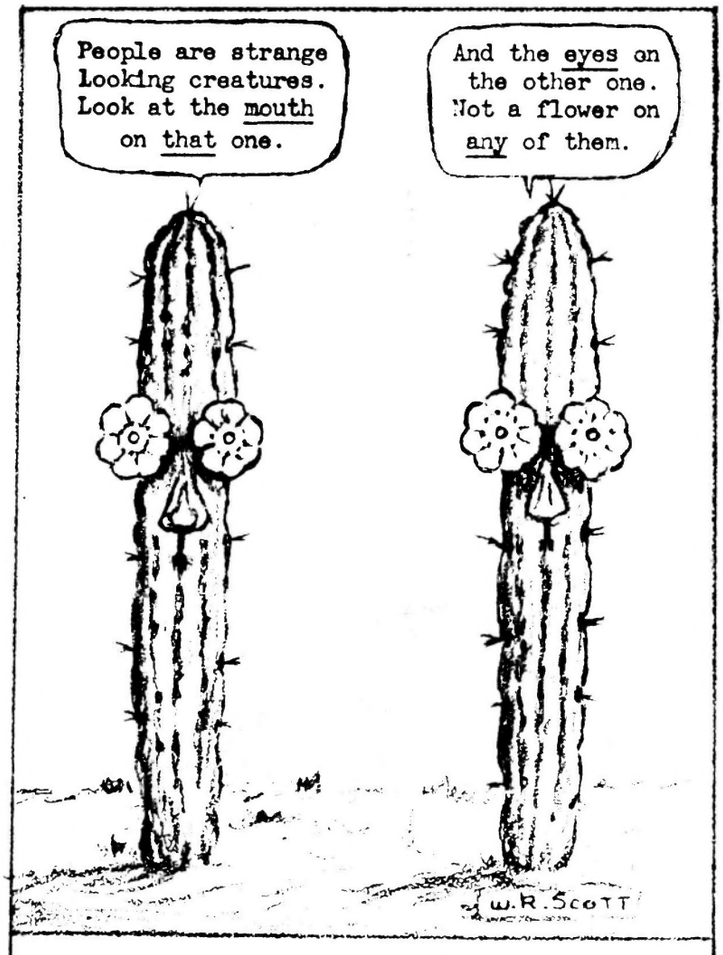
---Rick Latimer, Librarian

In Memory of Walter Scott

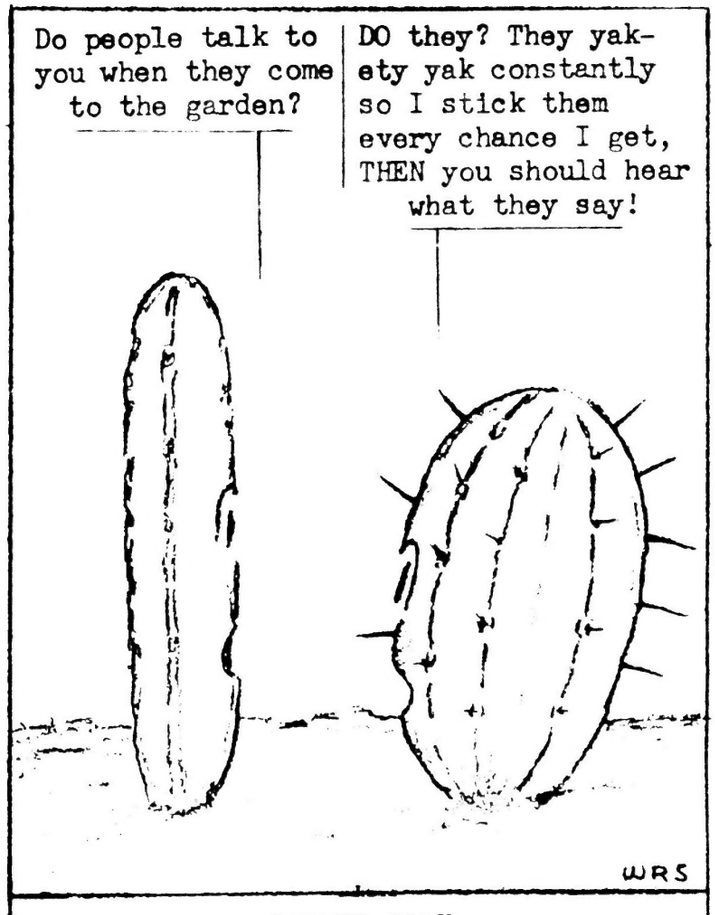
The following article was the first "Plant-of-the-Month article published in Espinas y Flores (Volume 1, Number 1) in December 1966. Written by the late Walter Scott, we reprint it here in his memory:

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 1988

CACTI	OTHER SUCCULENTS
JAN. Monotypic Genera--Dorothy Dunn	JAN. Trichodiadema/Mesto-klema--Rick Latimer
FEB. Buiningia/Uebelmannia--Phyllis Flechsig	FEB. Haworthia--Bob Kent
MAR. Pediocactus--Joan Johnson	MAR. Echeveria--Dorothy Dunn
APR. Mammillarias with Large Flowers--Phyllis Flechsig	APR. Lithops--Volunteer
MAY Epiphyllum/Disocactus--Rick Latimer	MAY Stapeliads of NW Cape Province--Joey Betzler
JUNE PICNIC	JUNE PICNIC
JULY Frailea/Blossfeldia--Phyllis Flechsig	JULY Euphorbia--Madlyn Lee
AUG. Gymnocalycium--Shirley Berry	AUG. Caudiciform Asclepiads--Lee Phelps
SEPT. Copiapoa--Dorothy Dunn	SEPT. Bursera/Pachycormus--Dorothy Dunn
OCT. WILD ANIMAL PARK	OCT. WILD ANIMAL PARK
NOV. Oreocereus--Dorothy Dunn	NOV. Caudiciform Cucurbits--Dorothy Dunn
DEC. CHRISTMAS PARTY	DEC. CHRISTMAS PARTY



Cereus observations



GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President - Martin Mooney
97 K Street, Chula Vista, 92011 427-6796
Vice President - Bud Aubuchon
1058 5th Avenue, Chula Vista, 92011 427-3388
Secretary - Beverly Kirkegaard
10000 Bonnie Vista, La Mesa, 92041 463-2801
Treasurer - Susan Shepherd
4537 Cochise Way, San Diego, 92117 274-4291
Immediate Past President - Dr. Leroy Phelps
4094 36th Street, San Diego, **92104** 280-9690

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shirley Berry, Dorothy Dunn, Cathy Frost
John Pasek, Rudy Lime, Chuck Adams

COMMITTEES

Bragging Table: Madelyn Lee
CSSA Affiliate Rep.: Cathy & Sandy Frost
Education: Cacti - Phyllis Flechsig
Succulents - Dorothy Dunn
Historian: Rick Latimer
Library: Rick Latimer
Membership: Susan Shepherd
Picnic: Martin L. Mooney
Plant Exchange Table: Mmes. Lemrow & Larberg
Plants & Supplies Table: Joey Betzler
Show: Rick Latimer

Publications: Mary Aubuchon / 427-3388
Reception: Perlso Lewis and Ethel Standish
Regalement: Diane and Bill Crowley
Representatives:
Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek
Quail Botanical Garden - Phyllis Flechsig
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - ~~Kathy~~ Van Arum
S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek
Liaison & Publicity: Cathy & Sandy Frost
Program: Joan Johnson
Jim Dice
Joe Clements

The San Diego Cactus & Succlulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are $8.00 per single member per year. $2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

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

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS