

MAMMILLARIA THORNBERI

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XVI, Number 7

July 11, 1981

JULY MEETING

Saturday July 11, 1981

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

Our July meeting will be totally new this year! We will have our first annual Mini-Show, which will be a "warm-up" for our "Mega-Show" on August 29-30. This is a show for all members, and all members should participate. It will be educational as well as fun (as usual). There will be prizes!!! The schedule will be as follows:

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. The show will consist of two groups of people: First Group will be made up of all new members, members who have not participated in past SDC&SS shows and members who have not won blue or first place ribbons in the past SDC&SS shows. Second Group will be made up of the members who have won blue or first place ribbons in past SDC&SS shows.
2. Judges will not be allowed to enter plants in the show. There will be two sets of judges, one set for each group.
3. All participants will bring one cactus or succulent plant only, to enter the show. The size or species does not matter. Bring your best plant with the intention of winning.
4. All plants must be labeled. The genus and species should be on one side of the label and your name on the opposite side.
5. There will be a first, second and third place winner in each group. The two groups will not compete against each other. There will be prizes for each winner.

For the July meeting all members should bring a bag lunch with them (refreshments to be served at noon instead of normal break) and enjoy the park.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS BY TIME

- 11:00 AM - doors open.
- 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon - leave plants at meeting room.
- 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM - members eat and enjoy themselves.
- 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM - committee arranges plants.
- 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM - judges pick winners.
- 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM - A) meeting comes to order.
B) judges announce the winners.
C) two of the judges will discuss why the winners were chosen.
D) the floor is open to the members for questioning the judges and general discussion.
- 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM - the annual plant auction will be held. This special event should not be missed.
- 4:00 PM - meeting is ajourned.

The Judges for the show are:

First Group-Shirley Berry, Joan Johnson, Beverly Kirkegaard, & John Pasek.

Second Group-Madelyn Lee & Lee Phelps

Dr. Phelps will head a discussion on why certain plants won and others did not. Question from the floor are encouraged.

Remember, it only requires one plant (either cactus or other succulent) to enter. Bring a plant, have fun, and compete for a prize.!

NOTE:With the show season rapidly approaching, we need to groom our plants before exposing them to the scrupulous eyes of the Judges. Be sure to remove cobwebs, dead pests, and other distracting foreign matter from spines, leaves, and stems. Also, clean pots and apply a nice, natural covering to the top of the soil. A beautiful plant with immaculate staging cannot be beat!

---Frank Thrombley

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society! We are now twenty years old as of May 6th. Here is a list of our Charter Members:

Mrs. Vine C. Bowers	Mrs. Eunice Merritt
Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Caulk	Mrs. Libby Penn
Mrs. J. G. Fuller	Mrs. Maria Reeder
Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Haddas	Mrs. Flora Schuneman
Mr. & Mrs. D. R. Hardt	Mr. B. A. Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. C. Hardin	Mr. & Mrs. Troy Shipman
Mrs. H. L. Jenkins	Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Taylor
Mrs. Earl Knight	Mr. & Mrs. Roy Toth
Mrs. J. R. Leadaman	Mrs. H. L. Vernier
Mrs. A. A. Lewis	Mrs. Lea Warner
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Wier	

As we can all see, some have stayed with this society, through thick and thin, for the last score. We salute you, Charter Members, wherever you are; but especially those who worked and made this Society what it is today.

An important reminder!!!---membership dues are now only \$4.00 through the rest of the year. This is a new policy adopted by the Board back in January.

Jim Berry has done (to my knowledge) an unprecedented thing ---he has written this Society's first budget! His budget was adopted by the Board in April. Our April balance was \$3476.71. In 1980 we brought in \$12,090.99, but lost \$11,229.88 due to expenses. The real cost is of course much higher, since so much work is donated by many of our members.

Speaking of donated time---we have some positions to be filled by willing members. We need a new Editor, San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation Representative, and an Activities (Cactivities) Chairman. This is an excellent chance for those members who wish to become more active, to work closer to some really wonderful people! We should decide if we want to do anything more than we usually do at our Christmas Party (for our 20th).

COMING SHOWS

July 5	San Diego Dahlia Specimen Show	Sun: 1-5 p. m.
July 12	Convair Dahlia Show	Sun: 1-5 p. m.
July 25 & 26	San Diego Gesneriad Show	Sat: 12-5 p. m. Sun: 10-5 p. m.
Aug. 1 & 2	San Diego Dahlia Show	Sat: 2-5:30 Sun: 10-5:30

AND---(see next page)



The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

16th Annual

CACTUS & SUCCULENT Show and Sale

Fri. Sat. Sun.
July 3-4-5

9am-4:30pm
daily



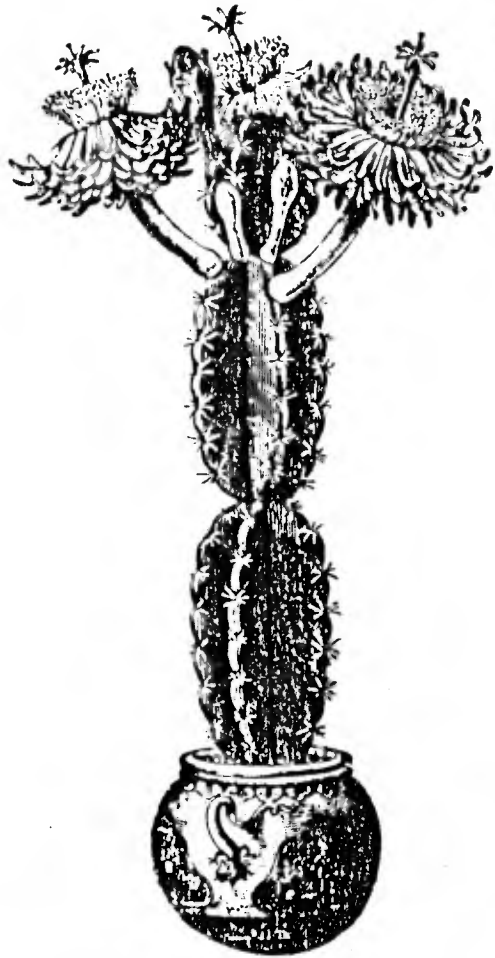
L. A. State and County Arboretum
301 No. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia

For information call 213 3990635 evs.

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society's

ANNUAL

PLANT SHOW & SALE



A. BLANK

CASA DEL PRADO/BALBOA PARK

AUGUST 29 & 30, 1981

SHOW: ROOM 101-

TWELVE TO FIVE, SAT.

TEN TO FIVE, SUN.

SALE: ROOM 102-

TEN TO FIVE, BOTH DAYS

FREE ADMISSION



CONSERVATION
ANOTHER LOOK AT WHY

A panel discussion on conservation was held at the 1981 CSSA convention in New Mexico. The theme of the discussion, as I interpreted it, was "Control of Plants for the Welfare of Mankind". What does that mean, or maybe we should just ask why?

Dr. Edward F. Anderson, CSSA Conservation Chairman, led the discussion with the following observations. The cactus crisis is only one aspect of reckless killings, for indeed it includes many species of vegetation and animals. The causes are many, but the primary reasons are:

1. The human population pressures - man has expanded his habitat rapidly in the western states and is continuing to do so. This brings new suburbs to our cities, new roads and highways and a bigger demand on our environment.
2. The environment is changing with the demand on our earth for shale oil, coal and new minerals. The western states are certainly in the middle of these changes.
3. Destruction of native habitat by recreation vehicles is a factor. Not only is the soil disturbed, but vegetation and animals are killed as well.
4. Collecting plants and animals (especially cactus in North America) by commercial business has taken a heavy toll. Dr. Anderson told of visiting one locality in Mexico in 1961 which had a forest of Encephalocarpus. A group of Swiss hired the local people to strip these plants for shipment overseas, and in 1967 when revisited, there wasn't a single plant left over 1" in diameter. In our western states the results of cactus rustling has placed Pediocactus species on the endangered list and is rapidly depleting the Astrophytum populations.

Dr. Anderson ended by stating that people are not fond of regulations and we, the hobbyist, are unable to cope with "growing from seed".

Dr. Ronald Monroe, a member of the board of directors of CSSA and chairman of conservation for San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, addressed the group next. He stated that conservation is a science that requires us to use the plants for the benefit of the scientist and hobbyist, as well as saving them for future generations. There are no easy answers, just wise decisions. Regulations are needed, and are needed now, in all of our states.

Kent Newland, of the Boyce-Thompson Southwest Arboretum, ended the discussion with a brief talk on random destruction by vandalism, and what role the Cactus & Succulent Society of America could play in conservation. He then stated that the one best thing that all of us could do to help is to encourage the propagation of endangered species. He then noted that Abbey Garden of



Carpinteria, California is the first commercial organization to be issued a permit by the Federal Fish & Game Office to propagate from field collected endangered species for shipments to the hobbyist. In my opinion, this is certainly the way to collect. For who is better than the professional nurseryman to propagate and distribute?

This is just a synopsis of an hour long discussion, but all of us must be concerned, for the results effect us all.

--- F. C. Thrombley

NEWS OF INTEREST

Members who wish to show plants at our August Plant Show, should obtain their entry tags at this or the next meeting. If these tags are filled out already when they are entered, a lot of time will be saved and there will be no bottle-neck at the door. ---Martin Mooney

We wish to welcome the following new members:

Bob & Lois Burks (California Epi Center), Vista
Carol P. Douglas, San Diego
Dorothy J. Dunn, Oceanside
Nancy Johnson, Vista

---Joan Johnson

We have pots for any member who needs them to use for plants donated for sale at our annual show. These pots are two sizes: 2 3/4" and 3 3/4 ". We wish to thank Shirley Berry, Donna Dixon, and Marsha Monroe for the plants they donated at our last meeting for the sales table!

---John Pasek

An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will make a better soup!

---H. L. Mencken

----THE PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE IS JULY 22----

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT ACTIVITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY...

BEFORE THE CHARTER

...OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Part I: Soledad Gardens Nursery

The first part of this article is from the March 1947 issue of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Journal (19:3) and may be found on page 47. The author is Latislaus Cutak who once wrote monthly columns titled "Spine Chats".

During my California sojourn last year, I dropped in on a fellow by name of Lewis A. Walmsley, who operates the Soledad Gardens in Pacific Beach, a suburb of San Diego. It was rather late in the afternoon and dusk was very far off, but a chance to see his nursery was gotten before darkness fell and put an end to our tour of the premises. I now wish that Mrs. Betty Harris had taken me there earlier in the day, for there was so much to see and inspect. It is true that weeds were running riot in some part of Soledad, but what else could the owner do when help was not available? Mr. Walmsley faced the same problems that other nurserymen throughout the country were experiencing.

However, to get to the point of my story, I'd like to mention that there are lots of nurserymen who are in the business just for the sake of making all the money they can and won't propagate any item unless it is a continuous sell-out. The collector of novelty and rare plants cannot hope to acquire additions to his collection from such sources. On the other hand, there are nurserymen who love all kinds of plants and keep them from year to year even though they have never been profitable. Such a man is Mr. Walmsley. I saw more fascinating things at Soledad Gardens than at many other places. This fellow has proved that some plants that have never been considered a commercial variety will show real promise when one learns to propagate them and adapt them to particular use.

Walmsley comes from a family that has always been interested in plant and animal life of all kinds. He tells me that their yard was full of flowers in the summer and the house full of plants in the winter, while bird houses were located all over the place. Lew's father was the author of what was known as the "Walmsley Game, Bird, and Fish Law" adopted by the Missouri Legislature and which served as a pattern for most of the wildlife protection laws in the country.

Lewis Walmsley was born in Kansas City, Mo., and attended public schools in that town. As a youngster he did not have very good health, so he made the most



of it to avoid school, which he very much disliked. Often he tramped in the woods and fields and earned his first spending money collecting tadpoles and snails for pet shops. He collected insects and reptiles and had a yard full of boxes and tanks where they were confined. It wasn't a bit unusual for his mother to find the bathtub full of garter snakes. After quitting school, Lewis worked in greenhouses, nursery and Park work, and for four years served as Supervisor of Trees and Shrubs in the Park Department of Kansas City. In 1927, he started his own nursery and landscape business and two years later moved to California. In 1930, he was Superintendent of Parks and City Forester for the City of San Bernardino. Then he embarked on a matrimonial venture with Miss Faye Thomas and in 1931, the newlyweds moved to Pacific Beach where they started a cactus nursery and have continued it ever since, except for side ventures into other lines of plants. The Walmsleys pioneered the use of cactus wood for cactus and succulent planting and also the long distance shipping of planted dish gardens and arrangements to the wholesale trade. Practically all of their sales are to florists and nurserymen in every State of the Union, Alaska, Canada, and to several foreign countries. While they do not wish to develop a retail business, the Soledad Gardens are always open to plant lovers and they do make some retail sales as a matter of courtesy to visitors.

In addition to his interest in plants, Lewis has always been interested in politics and national economy. For a number of years he wrote a political column for his local paper, The North Shore Sentinel, and at present is working on a booklet dealing with taxation, currency, and peace problems.

In the Sept.-Oct. 1951 issue of the CSSA Journal (23:5) on page 168, the Walmsleys ran this ad:

...For many years we have building up stocks of rare, tropical, and foliage plants...(particularly) Silver Variegated and Green Crassulas, Aloes, Gasterias, and Haworthias, in variety. Due to a shortage of trained labor, we are going to dispose of our entire Cacti and Succulent stock, with the exception of the varieties mentioned above. Only surplus stock of Aloes, Gasterias, Haworthias, and Crassulas will be included in the sale...The stock includes many flowering sized Specimen Cacti previously reserved for seed production. Hundreds of thousands of Succulents (will go) including many unusual varieties, rare hybrids, and large specimens suitable for landscape work.

The address of Soledad Gardens was 5250 Alta Vista Street (described as "On hill one mile north of Brown Military Academy"). Evidently the Aloe hybrids, such as Walmsley's Bronze, originated from this nursery. Have any of our members have any memories of Soledad Gardens?

---Rick Latimer



San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Athy, Shirley Berry, Dr. Ronald Monroe
Martin Mooney, Lee Phelps & Phyllis Flechsig

Committees

Activities:

Audit: James Berry

Conservation: Dr. Ronald Monroe

Education:

Cacti - Frank Thrombly and Dr. Ronald Monroe

Succulents - Madelyn Lee and Dr. Leroy Phelps

Exhibits:

Bragging Table - Shirley Berry

V.I.P. (Very Important Plants) Table - Sandra Buck

Historian: Rick Latimer

Library: Elizabeth Athy, Ruth Nelson and Caroline Miller

Membership: Joan Johnson

Open House: Martin Mooney

Plant Exchange Table: John Roth

Plants & Supplies Table: John Pasek and Gerald and Eleanor Dice

Programs: Frank Thrombly

Publication:

Reception: Rose D'Attilio and Periso Lewis

Regalement: Nancy Roth

Representatives:

Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek

Quail Botanical Garden - Audrey Johnson

S. D. Botanical Garden Foundation -

S. D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent 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 pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$7.00 per family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

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La Mesa, CA 92041

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