

ESPINAS Y FLORES



Cryptocereus anthonyanus
photo: Joe & Kay Quijada

Winter Succulent & Blooming Cacti SHOW & SALE

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

Volume 38 Number 1

Saturday January 11th 2003

Plant Sales 9:00 AM, Show Opens 10:00 AM
Room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park



Presidents Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hard to believe we are into the third year of the new millennium.

How great it was to see so many of you at our Holiday Party on the 14th. This festive occasion was the best attended in my memory. It was fun to see new faces amongst the old-timers - hope all you new members had a good time. Speaking of old-timers - what a treat to see Bob Taylor, a founding member of our Society - thanks to Ted for helping him to attend.

Special THANKS to Laura DeMerritt for all her work - she is the moving force behind this party, arranging so many little details including the not so little feast (wonderful food provided by Top Hat Catering.) Herb and Ana Stern did a great job setting up the libations, though I missed his Santa hat! Thanks also to Lee Badger, Tom DeMerritt, and Mark Fryer for procuring the gift and auction plants from growers, Grigsby's, Woody Minnich, and C&J Cactus Nursery - there was a great selection of plants and everyone seemed pleased with their new acquisitions, I know I was! Many people also participated in the gift exchange - thanks to Terry Parr for agreeing to judge the plants - congratulations to Lee for his winning

Cyphostemma! And the desserts! The chefs and gourmets amongst us knocked us out by providing a spread of desserts that was unrivaled anywhere!

The New Year is here and it is time to start planning for our year in Succulents.... Our Fifth Annual Winter Show and Sale will be January 11 in place of our regular meeting. The Show will open at 10:00 AM (sales will begin at 9:00) so look through your collection and bring a few of those beautiful winter growers and give them a chance to show their stuff. This is not a judged show but a great opportunity to show the public some of the succulents that do so well in our climate and look great when other plants are dormant, so PLEASE participate. We can always use helpers so come and volunteer - there will be CHILE!



Carnegiea gigantea
photo: Joe & Kay Quijada

We are planning another Field trip or two this year - if you are interested. We are still thinking of the Getty Museum in combination with somewhere - if you have ideas of good destinations - please let any member of the board know.

I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous 2003!

Pam Badger

F Y I
For Your Information



Many thanks again to **Joe Kraatz** for submitting **Steven Hammer's** excellent article and also for securing permission to print.
Thanks, Joe & Steven.

Joe & Kay Quijada have been hard at work organizing and making available their extensive collection of cactus & succulent photos for use in the Espinas Y Flores. We are always looking for contributions from the membership. Your articles, artwork and photos are greatly appreciated, contact the Editor if you have anything you wish to share.

Get those plants ready for this months **Winter Succulent and Blooming Cactus Show & Sale**. Plant sales open at 9:00 AM and the Show begins at 10:00 AM.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to All

Loaves, Fishes, and Flies

Steven Hammer, Sphaeroid Institute, Vista CA 92084

Asclepiads arc notoriously prone to rot; and the less an asclepiad branches, the more prone it is to swift and total loss. These misfortunes would have large commercial implications if the plants were more popular in the nursery trade. Alas, they are generally

regarded as ephemeral and difficult. (In truth they are neither, intrinsically; but that is another subject.) Nonetheless, there is a perennial market for them. If I may judge by sales

histories, *Pseudolithos* is the most popular genus, followed by *Lavrania* and *Hoodia*, favoring an absurd price structure. Fifteen years ago one could purchase *P. migiurtinus* and *P. cubiformis* (yes, *cubiformis*) for \$50.00 each. During the same period, lovely and subtle *Echidnopsis* species sold for no more than \$3.50. Until recently, the average US price for a lemon-size

P. migiurtinus was \$35.00!

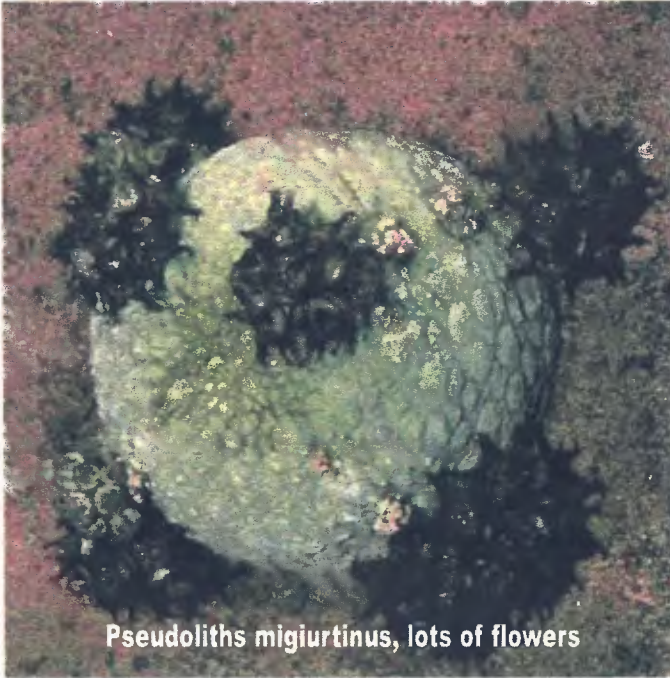
Spurred on by such a grandly sphaeroid carrot, in April 1998 I purchased 500 seeds of *P. migiurtinus*. I promptly sowed the seeds in 4-inch pots, 25 to a pot, covering them lightly

with gravel. Germination took an unnering week, but within a month the seedlings were pea sized. Under the greenhouse conditions which prevail in southern California

(considerable brightness, continuous warmth and feeding, comparatively little humidity) they

thrived. Incidentally, I used no fungicide at any point and lost only a few seedlings.

Within a year the pots were bulging and the plants were nearly as large as walnuts. In early summer they began to flower. Without any stimulus from me, fruits formed on half the plants. I was delighted but puzzled, as



Pseudolithos migiurtinus, lots of flowers

the greenhouses had few obvious visitors. None of the humans knew a corona from a Toyota, gnats and houseflies were few, and yet we had 200 horns, as the proper botanists indelicately call them. By the end of summer 1998 I had enough seeds to give several hundred to Carl Volkers, co-owner of C & J Nursery. Within two years Carl's plants were producing enough seeds to fill 30 flats (16 x 17 inches). His stock plants are now as large and firm as tennis balls, if a bit more knobly. I might

mention that such vegetative celerity is not exceptional, especially with *Cacti*. Given enough warmth, light, and food, *Asclepiads* and *Cacti* behave like the suppressed tropics they are (think of *Pereeskia* and *Fraelia*). Plants which have a natural periodicity (sphaeroid *Mesembs*, bulbs, *Othonnas*) do not fare as well at the ever-flowing trough.

But back to *Pseudolithos* and Manunon. With *P. dodsonianus* the story is the same: ease and fecundity. Perhaps this species is even easier, because it branches from an early age, six months or so, and its fruits are

small but numerous, adorning every shoot. Whatever visits *P. migiurtinus* also visits *P. dodsonianus*, producing a small number of beautiful brown skinned hybrids which have the pyramidal shape of *Whitesloanea crassa*. Ironically enough, the hybrids fetch a much higher price than pure *Pseudolithos*, \$8.00 rather than \$4.50. How the mighty are fallen! Speaking of which: though I do not grow *Whitesloanea crassa* (after stupidly freezing a pair, I gave my surviving

three to friends in South Africa), I do have Barad's *W crassa* x *Huerniopsis decipiens*. It has yet to set any fruits. I will put a piece amongst C & J's burgeoning *Pseudolithos* plantation and see what happens.



Pseudolithos migiurtinus, with fly

* Though I still don't know which insect accomplishes the pollinations. I do know that a solitary *P. migiurtinus* can be self-fertile, likewise *Stapeliopsis neronis*. Under the same conditions, solitary (or multiple) *Lavrancias* have never set seed for me.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a nonprofit, hobby organization (affiliated with the CSSA) created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or a beginner with an interest in unusual plants and flowers. You will receive our publication *Espinas y Flores*, one of the best cacti and succulent newsletters. We produce 11 issues a year. You will get great articles and keep up with club news for the next year.

Our meetings are on the second Saturday of the month (except June and September) and newsletters are received the week of the meeting. We offer knowledgeable speakers who present educational & entertaining programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authors. The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show and Plant Sale occurs the first weekend of June in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. A wide range of succulent plants, ceramic pots, and growing supplies are available during most meetings. There is also a plant exchange table and a library. For more information regarding membership or the club, please write to the address below or look us up on the web at SDCSS.COM.

Yes, I/We wish **JOIN** or **REJOIN** the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.
(circle one)

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, COUNTRY & ZIP+4: _____

PHONE/FAX/E-MAIL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Do you know that for an additional \$5.00 paid on your membership dues - you can have *Espinas y Flores* delivered by first class mail, instead of bulk mail?

Check here and add \$5.00 to your dues payment, if you are far away you will receive our newsletter faster.

Dues are \$15.00 per person, \$5.00 for each additional person in the same household for (bulk rate USA), add \$5.00 for First Class Delivery (optional). International dues, including Mexico and Canada, are \$30.00 (US funds), additional members as above.

Thank you for joining the SDCSS

SEND THIS FORM TO: SDCSS - Treasurer/Membership, P. O. Box 33181,
San Diego, CA 92163-3181

Upcoming Events

2003

January 11th SDC&SS Winter Succulent & Blooming Cactus Show and Sale. Plant sales begin at 9:00 AM, Show opens at 10:00 AM. Room 101 Casa del Prado. Balboa Park, San Diego.

February 21 - 23 C&SS of New Zealand AGM and Convention. Wellington, New Zealand at the Angus Inn, Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand. Info from Frances Verity at verity@actrix.gen.nz

May 18 (Sunday) Epiphyllum Society of America's Show and Sale. Ayers Hall, Arboretum of LA County, Arcadia CA. Information: www.epiphyllum.org

June 1 Toronto C&S Club Show and Sale at Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Sunday 10am - 4.30pm. Information from Dave Naylor 905-877-6013 or e-mail him at naylor@unforgettable.com

June 14-19 (Sunday through Thursday) CSSA 30th Biennial Convention, St Louis MO hosted by the Henry Shaw Cactus Society.

In 2003, the Henry Shaw Cactus Society will host the 30th Biennial CSSA Convention in St. Louis. From the welcome reception on June 14 to the farewell party on June 19, prepare for a full schedule of education and fun. Enjoy hunting plants at the BIG cactus sale, too. (No sales on field trip days.) Sunday and Monday are "Succulent Days," with over a dozen presentations by noted speakers. Sunday's special banquet speaker is Missouri Botanical Garden Director Peter Raven, who will discuss endangered cacti of the United States. Tuesday features field trips to Missouri Botanical Garden, Forest Park attractions, Cass Bonsai Garden -- even a riverboat cruise. Wednesday and Thursday resume with "Cacti Days" and more informative programs by a group of international scholars and botanical experts.

July 5-6 CSSA Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino CA.

August 30 Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino CA. Info: 626-405-2160 or 2277

August 31 CSSA Board Meeting, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino CA.

2004

C&SS of New Zealand AGM and Convention, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Info from Frances Verity at verity@actrix.gen.nz

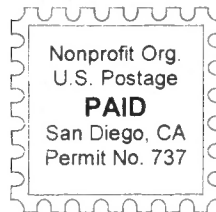
August 21 British C&SS National Show, Spalding Exhibition Centre, Springfields, Spalding, Lincs, England.

November (3-week tour tentatively planned for November 2004) CSSA Tour to Chile, home to Copiapoa, Eriosyce, Eulychnia and others. See more details on page 31. Watch for further announcements. Contact: Dan Mahr

2005

Early August CSSA 31st Biennial Convention, Phoenix AZ in air-conditioned comfortable hotel.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Inc.
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Espinas & Flores

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Treasurer: George Plaisted (619) 583-9551
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Spencer Maze (858) 454-1870
Terry Parr (619) 460-9111
Herb Stern (619) 223-9134

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Conservation: Joey Betzler & Kelly Griffin
Education & Exhibits
Brag Table: Shirley Berry & Kay Quijada
Plants of the Month:
Lee Badger & Jeff Harris
Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Joey Betzler &
Kay Quijada
Winter Show: Ed DeLollis
History: Terry Parr
Liaison
Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Kelly Griffin
Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig
San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation:
George Plaisted
San Diego Floral Association:
Elizabeth Glover
San Diego Wild Animal Park Baja California
Garden & Succulent Collections:
Chris Miller
Library: Tom Birt & Phil Bunch

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Mailing: Pam Badger & Jeff Harris
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Plants: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Seeds: Kelly Griffin
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Annual Sales: Tom Birt
Auction & Holiday Plants:
Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt
Benefit Table: Lee Badger
Monthly Plant Sales:
Jeff Harris & Joe Kraatz
Monthly Supply Sales:
George & Jerry Plaisted
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Stan Yalof
Programs: Kelly Griffin
Reception: Ethyl Standish
Regalement
Monthly: Lee Badger, Rudy Lime &
Stefy Mangold
Picnic: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

Presents

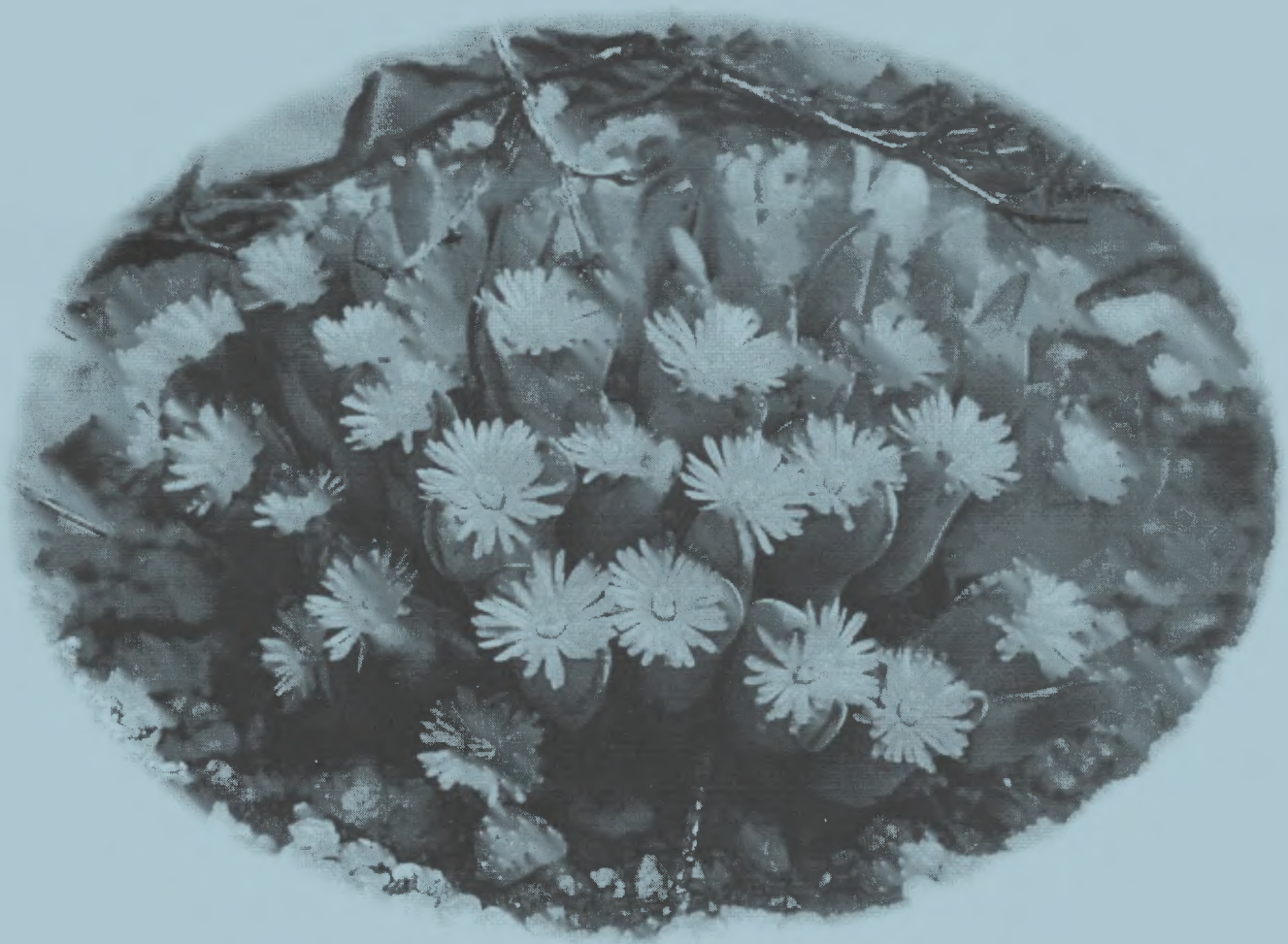
A WINTER SUCCULENT AND BLOOMING CACTUS

> > > SHOW AND SALE < < <

ONE DAY ONLY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2003

Show 10 - 5 & Sale 9 - 5

Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park San Diego, California



FREE ADMITTANCE — EVERYONE WELCOME