

**Volume 42 Number 3**

**March 2007**

# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

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



**Program: Dylan Hannon “Seed Propagation  
of Cacti and Succulents”**

**Cactus of the month: Rebutia, Sucrebutia  
Succulent of the month: Dyckia, Tillandsia and  
other Bromeliads**

**Saturday March 10, 2007, 1:00pm  
Room 101 Casa Del Prado  
Balboa Park, San Diego CA**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Day, 2007

Salutations, my fine fellow xeric plant loving friends,

What an incredible winter show and sale!!! We had a great turnout of folks in the SDCSS, the first time I can remember having more hands than tasks a couple of times, with people asking what they could do to help out. One of the more creative crew were Art Cooley and Bev Grant who started following people around with empty boxes helping them figure out what they wanted to fill them with and telling people about the SDCSS. I think that is so much the nuts and bolts of how and why we have plant societies; to share with others who've been bitten by the bug of interest in these plants, to help extend and express that interest to the community at large, and to offer our cumulative knowledge and resources to those people and institutions that come after us. So many people to thank for their dedication and service to the society, and so many of you shine so brightly during our annual shows and sales, it might behoove me to mention the types of service to our organization.

Firstly, kudos to our board of directors, without whom we would have no committees to manage this sort of an affair; our Sales Chairs Joe Kraatz and Chris Miller, our Show Chairs Terry Parr and Andrew Wilson, Tom DeMerritt handling publicity, Susan Hopkins handling volunteers, Pam Badger and crew for lunch, and Don Starr for an excellent and surprisingly refreshing breakfast/brunch. Our vendors are absolutely fantastic, with Miles Anderson traveling all the way from Tucson to serve us up some wonderfully delicious succulent plants, to us "local yocals", it is a never-ending source of fascination and makes for a little bit of Christmas in February for those of us who can't ever seem to get enough of these interesting little gems.

Finally, I have to say to everyone who shows up so faithfully in February for whatever the weather might bestow upon us, THANK YOU! You are the ones who keep the SDCSS a viable operation and help us to bring you hopefully educational and entertaining monthly meetings, and a venue for those of us who have outgrown the ordinary in terms of plants and the various and sundry things we \*think\* we need to grow them in. Thank you thank you thank you!

*On the cover: An unusual, offsetting form of *Ferocactus cylindraceus* in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park area. Photo by Allen Clark.*

The recent freeze damage has now become all to evident in some areas that might have otherwise not been so evident. It's always oddly comforting to find that other growers have the same sorts of observations, first thinking (hoping) I've dodged a bullet, only to find the initial freeze hasn't really done it's damage until a week or two later. Of course cactus are so often like this, taking what seems like a millennia to mature and weeks after a sustained injury to finally succumb and (possibly) die. Some of the hardier cacti species are now showing buds like I haven't seen in short duration living in this climate. I hope we can share our observations over the coming months as things work themselves out.



*Astrophytum* hybrid  
"Kabuto miracle"

Some sad news to report that Virginia Innis has died as the result of an auto accident, hopefully we'll have more information in this issue, she was a really nice lady who always added a touch of class to our regular monthly meetings and she will be missed.



*Lithops optica rubra*

Our March meeting looks to be full of information with Dylan Hannon, curator of tropical plants and conservatory collections at Huntington Gardens, giving us a program on seed raising cacti and succulent plants. Dylan has traveled extensively and has spent the vast majority of his life communicating with the vegetable kingdom in some manner or another, as either passive observer or assertive propagator, so be sure and bring your questions. Peter Walkowiak will be tackling the genera Rebutia and Sulcorebutia, which is no small task just differentiating between the two.

We're almost set on some field-trip ideas for the year ahead, along with possible venues for the annual September picnic. If you have any additional ideas or suggestions, please be sure and corner your local board member and have them bring it to one of our board meetings, or come yourself if you're interested in seeing the decision making process in action.

Look forward to seeing you at the March meeting,

Mark Fryer

# REBUTIA AND Sul corebutia

By Peter Walkowiak, Horticulturalist

Rebutia's were named in 1895 after a 19th century cactus dealer, P. Rebut. Later, Backeberg separated Sulcorebutia from Rebutia because he felt there were significant differences in this group from eastern Bolivia to warrant this change. The major difference Backeberg noticed is a narrow, oblong areole with a slight depression forming a groove, Sulco is from Latin sulcus, meaning furrowed or grooved. In Rebutias,



*Sulcorebutia menesesii*

the tubercles are rounded and arranged evenly, where as in Sulcorebutia the tubercles are rhomboid and arranged spirally. The spines in Rebutias are short and brittle, while Sulcorebutia have longer, harder flexible spines. Rebutia's flowers have axillary hairs and spines on the bud scales and Sulcorebutias do not. The last major difference between these closely related genera is Rebutias have a smaller rounded apex on each head. 1/2 to 1-1/2 inches, while Sulcorebutias have a larger depressed apex up to 4 inches across.



*Rebutia pygmaea*

These plants are found in Bolivia and Argentina on the eastern slopes of the Andes between 5 and 13 thousand feet. The climate in this area is cool and very dry in the winter and warm with some rain during the summer. The bodies of these cacti are globular or short cylindrical stems with most forming sizable clusters in time. These cacti bloom in the spring to early summer in several pulses that can be quite spectacular in shades of white, purple, red, orange, or yellow.

The care of these cacti is fairly straight forward, keep them dry in winter and water them during the growing season as needed, allowing the soil dry between waterings. Fertilize during the growing season with a low nitrogen, high potassium and phosphorus fertilizer, I use Vigoro all purpose soluble.

Two pests that afflict these cacti are spider mites and mealy bug. There are two types of mealy bugs, the spine and root mealy. The spine mealy is easily spotted, their white bodies attach themselves to the spines or apex of the plant. Root mealy's live on the root system and can only be detected by unpotting and examining the root system, tell tale signs are white residue on inside of the pot or roots. Both types cause a loss of vigor and death by secondary infection. Mites cause a scarring, distortion and loss of spines in the apex, causing a disfigurement that takes several years to grow out. To control these pests I use a systemic, Ortho Systemix, in the spring, 3 times, 10 days apart.



*Sulcorebutia rauschii*

Do the spraying of cacti in the evening just before dark. With root mealy, I check roots when ever I repot or new plants to prevent introduction. If discovered I remove old soil, wash in soapy water and then treat with systemic insecticide.

Please bring in your favorite Rebutia or Sulcorebutia to share with the club and further enhance the presentation for the plant of the month.



*Rebutia christinae*

*Photos: Panos & Stavros*

# Bromeliads are Succulents?

By Tom Knapik

Well, not all of them. But, several genera have adapted to an arid existence by developing fleshy leaves. That water storage is crucial for the plants survival in some of the driest places on Earth. These characteristics make them ideal companions to the "other" succulents we grow. Below is an article by Penrith Goff (S.E. Michigan Bromeliad Society) on Succulent Bromeliads. He introduces these unusual plants to the succulent grower and provides some valuable information on their origins, characteristics, and their cultivation.

One of the best-kept secrets among succulent enthusiasts is the existence of succulent bromeliads. At least that's the impression I get after glancing at a few of the books on succulents. The fact that many writers give them very little attention or none at all-probably reflects a certain lack of appeal. Their flowers do not dazzle like Mesembryanthemums, there are no elephantine caudexes among them and as to far-out form, and they simply can't compare with the extra-terrestrial denizens of the African desert. Still, they do have an appeal of their own. Hybridizers have been enhancing this appeal, so that there are a number of very handsome hybrids available. In general, they are very tough, drought resistant plants which make ideal houseplants and which (properly acclimated) can be put out in the summer without fear of sun damage. The following paragraphs will introduce a few of major genera.

Bromeliads began as terrestrials. Most of them, in their struggle for light, moved from the dark forest floor up into the canopy. As they evolved, they developed a reservoir or "tank" in the center of their rosettes, in which they stored water from rain to rain. They began to depend more on their leaves than on their roots for the procurement of water and nutrients. The atmospheric Tillandsias, the true "air plants," began to use their roots *only* as a holdfast to bark or stone. Some (e.g. Spanish moss) stopped producing roots at all under ordinary circumstances. Some bromeliads to be sure were quite happy with their forest floor habitat. The beautiful earth stars (cryptanthus) flourished in the dank and deeply shaded environment. They did not develop a tank because they didn't need one. One Cryptanthus species however, *C. warasii*, was forced to adapt to a more rugged way of life. *C. warasii* survived under arid and sunny conditions that would quickly have killed off any of its rain forest cousins. It adapted by developing thickened leaves (a tank would have been useless!) in which it could store water and armed it self with teeth to keep animals at bay. In short, it became a succulent.



*C. warasii* typifies the succulent bromeliads. It is a rosette of many leaves spiraled around the central axis; it forms new offshoots in the leaf axils, soon forming a clump. It could be taken for an Aloe or Agave when it is not on bloom. However, instead of being hoisted on a lofty stalk, its flowers are nestled in the center of the rosette like all Cryptanthus. Like *C. warasii* the succulent bromeliads often resemble

an Agave, Aloe or Haworthia. One difference is in the leaf surface. The scales or trichomes which produce the silver banding and the often velvety surface characteristic of many bromeliads are found also in the succulent bromeliads. *C. warasii* despite its tough looking exterior is velvety to the touch. The leaves of *C. warasii* are edged with well-defined teeth (cf. the fine teeth of its rain forest relatives). The leaves of succulent bromeliads are usually armed, often viciously.

Unlike their epiphytic relatives the succulent bromeliads develop a prodigious root system and require good-sized pots in order to grow well. Many of them tolerate full sun. Although they are succulent they require a good deal of water during the growing season. During the winter they are best kept, like other succulents, on the dry side at cooler temperatures. Some can get through the winter with no watering but most need to be watered occasionally, especially if they show signs of dehydration. They may be fertilized during the growing period but weakly as with other succulents. Their character is best developed under "hard" cultivation: lots of light, moderate water, little fertilizer.

The following list is limited to succulent terrestrial bromeliad species which can grow under the same conditions as cacti and other desert succulents, often growing in company with them in their natural habitat.

Cryptanthus: Approx. 32 species. Succulents among the Earth Stars are the exception: *C. warasii*, as described above, and *C. bahianus*, which, though not as succulent as *C. warasii*, flourishes in sun and sandy soil.

Deuterocohnia: Approx. 14 species. *D. brevifolia* and *D. lor-entziana* (formerly *Abromeitiella*) form large mats or cushions of small rosettes in the Argentinian and Bolivian Andes. Their tubular green flowers (1"+) emerge from leaf axils. *D. longipetala*: mat-forming rosettes with 4"-12" leaves, flowers borne on a stalk 2 1/2'+ high. If left uncut, will bloom again in following years (unique among bromeliads!).



*Deuterocohniabrevifolia*

Dyckia: Approx. 121 species. Native to arid regions of Brazil and found also in neighboring countries to the southwest. Winter temperatures down to low 40's. Clump- or mat-forming with small yellow, orange, or red flowers borne on a short stalk (but *D. remotiflora* has a 12"- 16" stalk). Seed borne in capsules.

Encholirium: Approx. 29 species native to dry areas in northeast Brazil. Similar to Dyckia in habit. Flowers green or yellow-green. *E. spectabile* named for its inflorescence, 16" long, covered with 1 " yellow flowers.

Hechtia: Approx. 48 species native to Mexico and found also in southern U.S., Guatemala, and Honduras. Inflorescence intricately branched carried on long stem. Flowers white, green yellow-green, pink. Blooming shoot does not die immediately after blooming. This together with prolific pupping produces large clump: *Hechtia tillandsiodes* (ca. 12" diam.) has soft gray leaves and like Tillandsias (air plants) *no teeth*.

Orthophytum: Approx. 24 species native to Brazil, so-named (ortho+phytum=straight plant) because at maturity (in some species) the stem carrying the inflorescence also bears normal leaves, giving the plant an upright appearance. *O. foliosum* is 2' high. *O. saxicola* does not develop tall stalks. It covers rock with mats of 4-6" rosettes, its white flowers nestled between leaves.

I'll have some these genera at the next meeting but definitely bring in any that you have from your collection to share with the other club members.



# WINTER SHOW STIPEND WINNERS

This years show had monetary stipends issued to some of the choice entries. The stipends were in the amount of \$ 10, \$5 and \$3 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place selections.

While the winter show is not a formally judged show this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running the club has decided to award stipends to participants. This effort has been instituted to encourage and reward members for their hard effort of bringing their prize plants and helping out the club. It is another effort the board has started to make members participation a positive experience.

The selections were made by 5 judges, Tom Knapik, Dylan Hannon, Terry Parr, Mark Fryer, and Tom De Merritt. The selections were made on judges preferences with no formal criteria applied. The awards were made to each of the primary categories.

Winners:

## Crassulaceae Family

1<sup>st</sup> place *Tylecoden reticulatus*  
2<sup>nd</sup> place *Dudleya candida*  
3<sup>rd</sup> place *Echeveria* cv. "Etna"

**Paul and Carol Maker**  
**Elibet Marshall**  
**Collette Parr**

## Euphorbiaceae Family

1<sup>st</sup> place *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*  
2<sup>nd</sup> place *Euphorbia* cv. "Twinkle-Twirl"  
3<sup>rd</sup> place *Euphorbia brevirama*

**Peter Walkoviak**  
**Peter Walkoviak**  
**Miles Anderson**

## Geranaceae Family

1<sup>st</sup> place *Pelargonium radicum*  
2<sup>nd</sup> place *Sarcocaulon crassicaule*  
3<sup>rd</sup> place *Pelargonium antidysentericum*

**Dylan Hannon**  
**Terry Parr**  
**Don Hunt**

Apocynaceae Family

- 1<sup>st</sup> place *Adenium arabicum*, compact form
- 1<sup>st</sup> place *Pachypodium bispinosum*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place *Pachypodium succulentum*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place *Pachypodium cactipes*

**Peter Walkoviak**  
**Peter Walkoviak**  
**Peter Walkoviak**  
**Peter Walkoviak**

Aizoaceae Family

- 1<sup>st</sup> place *Marlothistella stenopylla*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place *Monilaria chrysoleuca*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place *Rabiea difformis*

**Peter Walkoviak**  
**Tom Knapik**  
**Peter Walkoviak**

Aloeaceae Family

- 1<sup>st</sup> place *Aloe erinacea*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place *Gasteria batesiana*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place *Hawarthia truncata* cv. "Chancey"

**Phyllis Fleshig**  
**Jerry Williams**  
**Arnold Chancy**

Cactaceae Family

- 1<sup>st</sup> place *Astrophytum asterias*  
cv. "Superkabuto"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place *Ariocarpus fissuratus*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place *Mammillaria marksiana*

**Miles Anderson**  
**Paul and Carol Maker**  
**Jerry Williams**



Photo: Collette Parr

# About Growing Cactus & Succulents from Seed

By Lou Kilbert, Ph.D., Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society

The first question is Why do it? There are several answers, but the two most important are: 1) some of us have a strong need to nurture our fellow creatures. To us, there is a special joy that comes from taking a tiny seed and caring for the resulting plant for several years through to adulthood.

The first flowering of the plant you raised can give you an unbelievable high! About 30 years ago, I grew a packet of mixed *Gasteria* seed. I still have the one that I fell in love with, a *Gasteria disticha* var. *tuberculata*. It is soft reddish-green in color with white spots; the form is what intrigues. The leaves are distichous (lie one on top of the other in single file) and about halfway up, they bend back (reflex) in a most graceful way, like a ballet movement. The end of the leaf again curves up slightly.

2) Nature has created a marvelously diverse world for us to live in. Uniformity of type is an aberration of the human imagination (or lack thereof!) I'll give two examples: *Sedum tatarinowii* grew readily from seed and flowered in the fall of the same year. The plant produces ¼" leaves shaped like a little hand and colored blue with a powdery blue coating. It does well in shade or full sun with adequate water and good drainage. It produces a very large cluster of pale, whitish-pink, star-shaped flowers. Of the 20-25 seeds that I planted, about a dozen made it to maturity. Most of you know of my fondness for variegated plants. One of these seedlings is variegated yellow on the edges, not spectacular, but special to me and cannot be purchased from anyone! Another seedling has deep, rose pink (almost red) flowers. Thus from about 20 seed, I now have two plants unobtainable in any other way.

The second case in point is set of *Haworthia emelyae* var. *uniondalensis* (appears to be close to *H. bayeri*) that I grew from seed. It was a small packet, and I had no idea what to expect: they had been labelled *H. uniondalensis* which meant nothing to me at the time. Of the 10 seeds planted in November of 1995, I have 4 nice sized plants (1 3/4"; adults get to be 3" in diameter). The leaves of these plants are matt, dark, deep forest green with flat, transparent, bullate windows (bullate = covered with what appear to be tiny bubbles) at the ends. I am sure that if I could read Chinese calligraphy, the characters that nature draws on the faces of each leaf would read "hope, prosperity, longevity, etc." However, in particular, one seedling is variegated with bright, creamy white that is pink at this time of year. The beauty of this seedling is beyond cost if you could find another like it.

The second question is What to grow? Beginners might want to start with fast growers that come from large seed. *Euphorbia* seeds are very large and easy to handle; they grow fast in the summer months.

Aloe seeds are large to very large; easy to handle, and the plants grow fast. *Agaves* are easy from seed, but slow to grow. Mesembs are hard to handle because the seed is very fine and the seedlings start out tiny, but they grow fast, and, depending on the species, produce a good sized plant in a short time (there are even annual Mesembs!) Of the cacti, *Opuntias* have large, easy to handle seed and grow quickly, but the seed may take two to three years or more to germinate. Some people nick the seed with a knife or sand the edge a little to try to break the seed's dormancy. *Notocactus* and *Gymnocalyciums* have good-sized seed and grow quickly. I've had them flower in two or three years. *Rebutias* have smaller seed but have flowered for me after only one year of growth. *Lobivias* are easy but may take five years to flower. *Astrophytums* have good sized seed and you get some interesting variation between the seedlings. These are just suggestions, I'm sure that I've forgotten some that would be equally good for beginners.

A third question is When to grow? Almost any time of year is OK for the experienced grower. The beginner should stick with spring sowing. Even if a mature plant has a dormancy period, once the seedling is growing, keep it growing for a minimum of one or preferably two years. I keep learning. Those *H. unioendalensis* seed should have been planted in early summer. Plants that only grow in winter may not germinate until the following late fall or winter if you plant their seed in the spring. Summer growing plants seem to be less fussy about the time of year.

Many people grow their succulents and cactus under lights for 16 hours a day the first year to try to keep them going a full twelve months. Some plants with a strict winter dormancy may go to sleep in the fall no matter what you try to do! That why it's important to start early in spring. If you plant too late, the little seedling will not have had enough time to put away enough stuff for the long dormancy period. Patience is the key to the plant world, but its never too late. Why don't you start now trying to grow some of your favorites from seed?

*Reprinted from the CSSA Archive.*

# Fyi

(For your Information)

The SDCSS has experienced several deaths in the past few weeks:

Long time member, Virginia Innes, 80, died from complications resulting from a car accident on February 12 in Point Loma. Because of her love for gardening and flowers, Virginia made many, many contributions to the plant world during her long and interesting life. She served as president of the San Diego Floral Society from 1969 to 1971, was a master floral design judge, a floral design instructor, a landscape design instructor, and practiced the Japanese art of flower arranging, Ikebana. Virginia belonged to the Flower Arrangers' Guild, was active in the Arts Alive program and wrote for California Gardens Magazine. She and her husband, Donald, loved to sail and founded The San Diego Sailing Club. Virginia was known for her vast knowledge on many subjects such as history and sports, as well as plants. A walking encyclopedia, she knew the Latin name for just about any plant and enjoyed stumping those attempting to throw trick questions her way.

George Plaisted lost his mother, Ethel Plaisted, on February 9. She was 97 years old.

Our hearts are with your families.

**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 beginning with A through M, please bring a snack to share at the break.

# OUR ARID BACKYARD PARADISE

By Allen Clark

Some months ago, I had a conversation with a friend who owns property just south of Anza-Borrego. He was in the midst of a dispute with a new neighbor who was busily bulldozing the desert floor. This person asked, "What's your problem? There's nothing out here!"

I would challenge any person with a similar attitude to simply sit down and watch and wait for some of the *nothing* to move! Plant and animal life is abundant everywhere in the desert, and needs only a willingness to see it.

Most people who live in San Diego for any period of time hear about the Anza-Borrego Desert Wilderness, which lies only a couple of hours' drive from



*Justicia californica*

home. A trip through the mountains to this destination really is a remarkable experience in late winter and early spring, particularly if we are so lucky as to get a rainy winter.

As the temperatures warm up in late February, plants begin their brief flowering season, which lasts more or less through April. They seem to be individually triggered to emerge from dormancy at a certain point. I found that a succession of trips at roughly weekly intervals provided the best opportunity to enjoy the full experience.

On one trip, I had parked by the side of the road and walked back to get a closer look at a clump of chuparosa (*Justicia californica*). It's fortunate I was carefully examining the loosened dirt as I was walking, or I'd not have noticed a very strange plant protruding from the undisturbed soil. It resembled a morel mushroom, about four inches tall, studded with small deep-purple flowers with white margins. It is shown in Jepson's



*Pholisma arenarium*



*Opuntia basilaris*

Desert Manual as *Pholisma arenarium*, and listed as rare. It is a member of the family Lennoaceae, and described as a root parasite. The large tuber remains entirely subterranean, producing the strange funguslike inflorescence above ground.

I made a careful note of its location, but have been unable to find the plant on several return visits over subsequent years. The area had been radically changed by flash floods after our rainy winter two years ago.

Apart from this one excitingly unique sighting, my visits rewarded me with a great variety of more common desert beauty. The tall, spiny ocotillos are everywhere, and on sloping hillsides clumps of *Ferocactus cylindraceus* are numerous. Other eye-catching cacti include *Echinocereus engelmannii* and *Opuntia basilaris*.



*Ferocactus cylindraceus*

Two of the bird species found in the Anza-Borrego are closely identified with cacti and other thorned vegetation.

The Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) is always common where there are thorny trees. These tiny grey birds have yellow heads, are year-round residents. They are somewhat more difficult to spot than their ellipsoid nests, which are placed in the outer branches of shrubs or trees. The nests bristle with spines, and are entered only through a single tiny hole at one end. Because these birds maintain their nests year-round, the only indicator of egg-laying is a spike in parental activity between late March and early May, as the adults return to the nests with insects and other food for their young.

Perhaps the bird most strongly associated with cacti in the Anza-Borrego is the Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* ssp. *anthonyi*). This bird has the distinction of being the largest wren in North America. They are handsome birds, basically brown, with strong barring on the wings. As the nickname implies, these birds favor large stands of prickly pear and cholla as nesting sites. These host plants are most commonly found on hillsides with good drainage; they do not thrive in the alkaline soil of the valley floor. This subspecies has also been observed to nest in Mojave yucca, palo verde and some ocotillo.

The Cactus Wren's unique nest is hollow and football-shaped, and has a small entrance at one end. The interior of the nest is furnished with feathers which also protrude through the neck of the opening. Recently a turkey was killed in the desert, and all the nearby nests sported turkey feather collars. These wrens are true opportunists!

It's also worth some silent waiting (and cautious observation) for the reptile life of the desert. The Common Chuckwalla (*Sauromalus ater*) and Desert Iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*) are two of the lizard species present. It's a good idea to keep a watchful eye out for any of the vipers, as some of them are poisonous: notably the sidewinder rattlesnake (*Crotalus cerastes*).



When planning your trip(s), it is helpful to call the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitors' Center in Borrego Springs for an update on the status of the desert bloom. The number is: (760) 767-4205. When I called, I actually reached a live park ranger rather than a voicemail menu or a recorded message. The landscaping includes interpretive nodes about the desert and about most of the plant species represented. A useful website is: [www.anzaborrego.statepark.org/](http://www.anzaborrego.statepark.org/)

This wilderness really is a unique one to our area, and is the only known habitat to certain flora and fauna. The Anza-Borrego region is currently under pressure from the ever-expanding ambitions of "developers" who want to offer us more and more crackerbox communities spreading in all directions. Further threats come from the agencies which develop and regulate electrical power for our entire region. SDG&E.'s currently planned Sunrise Powerlink Project directly threatens the pristine Anza-Borrego Desert State Park by cutting through it. Such an action has never occurred, anywhere in the United States; if successful, it sets a disastrous precedent. At a hearing held in Borrego Springs on February 8 of this year, more than 500 people attended. The vast majority spoke against the project. Nonetheless, the outcome is anything but sure. Our congressional representatives, both state and federal, need to hear from us about this issue.

*All photos by the author with the exception of *Pholisma arenarium*, credited to Lawrence R. Heckard, from the Jepson Desert Manual.*

*Note from the editors: If you are planning to visit the Anza-Borrego area Route 78 may be closed between Scissors Crossing and Yaqui Pass Road from Mar 6-Apr 30 for work on the San Felipe Bridge. The off-roaders are fighting the closure so dates may change. Check with the ABDSP Visitors' Center before traveling if you are planning to use that route .*



# Global Climate Update

By Art Cooley

## **U.S. Climate Action Partnership**

On January 22, ten U.S. based international corporations and four national environmental organizations announced the formation of the US Climate Action Partnership (website is [www.us-cap.org](http://www.us-cap.org)) to urge the administration and Congress to adopt an emissions trading program for the country. Jeffrey Immelt, the Chairman and CEO of General Electric said, "These recommendations should catalyze legislative action that encourages innovation and fosters economic growth..." This is the latest in a series of efforts at local, state and regional levels to address global warming and calls on the Federal government to be a participant.

## **A Lecture Series: "Global Climate Change: Perspectives and Solutions"**

The San Diego Natural History Museum has been presenting a lecture series on global climate change which started in October. So far, four lectures have occurred and three remain. All lectures are given at the Museum starting at 6:30 P.M. in the Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan Theater. The last one was so well attended that extra chairs were put in the lobby and the lecture was watched by the overflow on a TV screen so you might want to be early. (Please note that changes have been made in the schedule and now Dr. Oppenheimer will speak in May and Dr. Prather will speak in April.)

## **Tuesday, March 13**

"Realizing a Clean Energy Future: The Power of Local Government to Effect Change"

Ron Sims, County Executive of King County, Washington State

Ron Sims has pioneered a clean energy program in his County and will relate efforts to achieve the dual strategy of reducing greenhouse gases while increasing energy efficiency.

## Tuesday, April 10

“Climate, Air Pollution and Human Health”

Dr. Kim Prather, UCSD

UCSD leads a worldwide effort to better understand the link between air pollutants and climate while improving techniques to measure the amount and the effects of aerosols in the atmosphere.

## Tuesday, May 15

“Global Warming: Where Do We Go From Here”

Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, Princeton University

Dr. Oppenheimer was, before he moved to Princeton, Environmental Defense’s chief scientist in charge of charting a course to cope with global warming. His talk will focus on what science tells us about the effects of warming and what public policies we should adopt to cope.



*Photo: Jeff Harris’ rare Opuntia Pachypus, submitted by Juergen Menzel.*

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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

2007

**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.

**Mar 17:** The Water Conservation Garden California Friendly® Plant Sale, 9:00am-3:00pm, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614.

**Mar 25:** Anza-Borrego Natural History Association 9th Annual Desert Garden Tour, 9:30am-4:00pm. Tickets \$18 for nonmembers, \$14 for members, available at the Borrego Desert Nature Center. Info:760-767-3098.

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

**Apr 21:** Encinitas Garden Festival, 10:00am-4:00pm, this year will feature gardens of Olivenhain, tickets available from the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce, info: 760-753-6041, \$20 in advance, \$25 the day of the event.

**Apr 22:** Earth Day 2007, Balboa Park, 10:00am-5:00pm.

**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.

**Apr 29:** South Bay Epiphyllum Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, info: 310-833-6823.

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

**Jun 2-3:** San Diego CSS Summer Show & Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, info: 619-477-4779.

**Jun 9:** Gates CSS Show and Sale , 9:00am-4:00pm, Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr., Glen Avon, info: 909-360-8802.

**Jun 9-10:** Los Angeles CSS Show and Sale, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, info: 818-363-3432.

**Jun 29-Jul 1:** CSSA Annual Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, info: 626-405-2160 or 2277, plant sales July 6-8, show July 7-8.

**Aug 18-19:** Intercity Show and Sale, L.A. County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall 818-368-6914.

**Sep 2:** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium.

**Nov 10-11:** San Gabriel Valley CSS Show and Sale, L.A. County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

**Dec 1-2:** Orange County CSS Show and Sale, 10:00am-4:00pm, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, info: 714-870-4887.

# San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

## Executive Board

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## Standing Committees & Sub Committees

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Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern

Brag Table: Kay Quijada

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Winter Show: Terry Parr

Historian: Terry Parr

Library: Allen Clark, Chris Miller, Don Hunt, Jeanette Dutton

Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

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SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover

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

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