

Volume 43 Number 7

August, 2008

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



Program: ‘Cultivation/Propagation Workshop’

Succulent of the Month: Rudy Lime

**Cactus of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer
‘The Other Copiapoas’**

**Saturday, August 9 1:00pm
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

I hope everyone's been having a great summer! My family had a little get-together in Central Oregon during last month's meeting, so I unfortunately couldn't make it. My sincere thanks to Tom DeMerritt, Chris Miller, and everyone on the board who pitched in to help emcee and take care of my usual meeting duties. I had great hopes of visiting some of my favorite Pediocactus habitats while up there, but we had

a little accident while traversing the bike paths at Sunriver which landed my mom at the local emergency room. If you ever break bones, it's best to do it in the nearby vicinity of a ski resort, where there are fortunately no shortage of orthopedic doctors around! Little Justin wasn't about to be outdone by his grandmother's two broken wrists and broken shoulder, the next to the last day of our vacation he broke his wrist rough-housing with another kid he met at the resort. All in all it was a great relaxing time, but too many emergency room visits and no Pediocactus visits. Next time, to be sure.

Instead of having a traditional presentation for August's meeting, we'll be conducting a round-table, panel, do-it-yourself cultivation/propagation workshop; so bring in your questions, demonstrations, mystery plants, mystery diseases and pests (in sealed plastic bags or photos only, please!), and enthusiasm for some fellowship and fun with our favorite plants. Ric Newcomer will also be giving us a brief presentation on some of the lesser known Copiapoas, so between these two presentations and everything else on our "ordinary" slate, expect a full day. We'll also be coordinating everyone for our upcoming annual September picnic.

A few weeks ago I spent a few hours with a few folks concerned about some changes taking place down along the border in an area along the southern edge of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, an area being 'given' to the jurisdiction of the border patrol and the department of homeland security to erect a new border fence. Among the 50 odd acres of coastal desert scrub are pockets ripe with native cacti and succulents. The state folks are



Adenium Obesum

On the cover: Mark Fryer's Copiapoia cinerea seed ex CSSA seed depot 1994

looking to move and preserve as much of the native flora as we can manage in whatever time frame we have before the area gets flattened for the fence. Well, this article appears to be too late in getting your attention, so I'll have to rely on whomever might be tuned in on e-mail to see if there's anyone skilled and available next weekend for a final harvesting, but I did want you all to know that between the SDCSS and the California Native Plant Society, there will be volunteers trying to salvage what cacti we can. I am also mentioning this because I would love to have a list of people interested in getting involved with these sorts of efforts before they appear rather than scrambling once the bulldozers roar to life. For those of you who haven't visited this intriguing area, you're missing out on one of the best kept secrets in the whole of San Diego County, check it out sometime!

As the lazy days of summer loit on by I'm impressed at my plant's abilities to withstand and even flourish in spite of my almost complete neglect; the summer solstice seems to always turn an abrupt corner for some of the unnatural flora occupying my little corner of the world. A few things gave up the ghost while I was off with the family on vacation, but probably as much due to my fevered "I've got



Haworthia truncata 'sakai 162'

to water everything before I go" hang-up than anything. People are always offering to water while I'm gone, which is nice, but I'm reluctant to let them unless we're going to be gone for longer than a month. Something I've noticed about growers is that there seems to be two distinctly different types of waterers, those who would prefer to lose a plant to over-watering and those would lose one to under-watering. I like to think I'm in the latter camp, but find as much death and destruction as a result of a heavy hand with the hose. Watering is a great topic for our upcoming propagation workshop, I'm constantly learning and challenging and relearning the basics of applying H₂O, it's a never end source of fascination to other viewpoints!

I look forward to seeing you all in August!

Mark Fryer

July 2008 Brag Table Winners

Judged by Stuart Riley

Cactus

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Copiapoa humilis*

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Copiapoa baraquensis*

3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Mammallaria mazatlanensis*

Succulents

1st Place, Carol Jean Wolcott - *Adenium* cv "Black Ruby"?

2nd Place, Kelly Griffin - *Aloe* cv "RFG"

3rd Place, Kelly Griffin - *Aloe* cv (missing form w/name)

FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

Condolences: Nancy Elder has past away. Nancy and her husband, Bert, have supported the SDCSS for many years and were volunteers at the Baja Garden at the Wild Animal Park.

Green Note: The Editors use recycled paper and cartridges to print our newsletters.

New Coffee Maker: The old coffee pot finally gasped its last breath so Chris Miller and Steve Harris have purchased a new, double burner Bunn coffee maker for our meetings. We will always have fresh coffee!

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

PICNIC TIME!

September 13, 2008

By Pam Badger

We are going to have a PICNIC in September! After investigating several locations the committee has chosen Harry Griffin Park in La Mesa. We will secure a great spot by getting there early - easy access, lots of tables, grills, shade trees and large expanses of lawn for frisbee or whatever. There are Horse Shoe pits near by if anyone has shoes - we will reserve them also!



SDC&SS will be providing meat (how does grilled tri-tip sound?) and veggie burgers for the veggies as well as condiments, breads, drinks plates and utensils. Plan on bringing a side dish or dessert, a chair, an appetite, frisbees, and whatever to make it a fun day. There will be a sign-up list at the August meeting for dishes so we get a good mix of goodies. If you are not coming to the meeting - please let Chris Miller know you are planning to attend so we

can get a count for food and supplies.

We are also planning a small, silent auction as a fund raiser to offset costs. We are requesting DONATIONS of plants - so if you have an 'extra' nice plant that you would be willing to donate (we will give you a receipt - you may be able to get a tax deduction!) it will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to SDC&SS.

There will also be some 'door' prizes so be sure to check in and get a ticket -- you may go home with a nice prize.

SO - SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 13. We will begin gathering at the Park about 10:30 and serve lunch about 12 noon. So come enjoy some good food, plants and best of all - GREAT COMPANY!

After you enter the park - continue straight - as the road turns we will be on the right. Questions?? contact Pam pambad1@mac.com

THE OTHER COPIAPOAS

By Ric Newcomer

Much has been written about *Copiapoas* and several travel logs have been shown. All of these talks have been outstanding as well as the many trips to Chile. Unfortunately I missed going on two of those trips, much to my dismay, when problems came up that I had no control over.

In 1961 I had the pleasure of meeting Ed and Betty Gay, two of the nicest people I have ever known. At the time I was not interested in *Copiapoas* due to the many trips to Baja and Mexico that I was going on. My collection consisted of all Mexican and USA plants which I still have and hold dear to my heart. BUT, in 1968 this was to change when I met

Argyle Smith, who had as many *Copiapoas* as anyone I knew. I bought a couple from him, and that was it – I was hooked! And of course they were *Cinereras*, common at the time and very small seedlings. Little did I know that 40 years later those would still be quite small compared to plants in other genera I acquired at the same time.



Copiapo krainziana var. *scopulina*—Gay 1968

It was in the same year, as I recall, that I would again meet up with Ed and Betty Gay – this time at the home of Gil Tegelberg. What a day this turned out to be. I came home with several nice un-named and seldom seen *Copiapoas* that were large and collected. Now I was really hooked! Through the years I would meet up with Dave Grigsby and Jim Petri and I acquired many plants from these two. Now my collection was growing to about 100 – but I wanted MORE and the Gays keep feeding that habit until we lost track of one another in the 80's.

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.

However, it was a freak stop at the Cactus Mart in Yucca Valley in 1994 I made a great discovery. While walking around and looking in every corner and under benches I found treasures from the Gay collection – labeled and mature in many cases. We bought them all – what a find! These would be my favorites.

We had the pleasure of meeting Anne Shein at the CSSA sale in 1996 and we struck up a



Copiapo hypogaea var. hypogaea
Gay 1961



Copiapo cinerea haseltonia var. elongata
Grigsby 1961

am sure you will enjoy seeing these plants as they are some that are not readily available or obtainable. I am not going to tell you names here, or how to care for them. But feel free to ask questions at the meeting. Perhaps you will get hooked too!

How fortunate we were to have all these wonderful pioneers in our hobby. And how truly blessed I was to know many of them and call them my friends and mentors.

friendship and have visited her nursery and home many times. I have been fortunate enough to find several varieties at her nursery that I did not have in my collection.

I have 362 *Copiapoas* in my collection with some of the very rarest, again seldom seen or heard about and it is some of these that I will be bringing to the meeting to share with you. And even though you may not collect *Copiapoas*, I

Famil y Landscapes

By Art Cooley

An old adage says ‘you can’t choose your parents.’ Alternatively, no parents, no offspring. And, you are wondering, what does this have to do with plants. Try to think siblings. Twins, maternal or fraternal, are a treasure trove for psychologists. The idea is to find some twins, trace their lives for decades, compare their fortunes and you might know something about the old conundrum, ‘Nature or Nurture.’ Even siblings can be studied, similarly, with satisfying results. So, you’re still wondering what this has to do with plants?

For starters, let’s focus on what a family is. You wouldn’t think we would have to do that since we all are part of a family, but plants are a tad different. First, a little taxonomy, that dry science of Carl von Linne (aka Linnaeus). Flowers, considered to be primitive and, therefore, the least changing part of a plant over time, are used to decide which plants are related. Mustards are in the Cruciferae family so named because the flower forms a cross with its four petals. But, taxonomists can’t leave well enough alone; they decided that all family names should end in –aceae so Cruciferae became Brassicaeae. This family called both the mustard and cabbage family and, by either name, includes many food plants like cabbages, Brussels sprouts, broccoli (Bush #1’s favorite!), watercress, rutabaga (what a name), kohlrabi (another doozy), and horse radish. Also in the family is the sea rocket, rich in vitamin C, and the subject of this essay.

The sea rocket in the genus, *Cakile*, lives in the harsh environment above high water line but seaward of dry land. In this well drained, often sandy soil, it ekes out a living in surroundings every bit as harsh as those of many cacti or succulents. (Could we call them caculents? Jeff Harris has another name!) Small, inconspicuous flowers bloom on this scraggly plant with swollen stems which are a minimalist requirement for a succulent and, hence, a prerequisite for admission to the newsletter.



When pollinated, the flower produces two seeds, an inner one and an outer one. The inner seed is in a compact coat firmly attached to the parent plant. When the plant dies, this seed falls close to its parent, and receives a favorable habitat to germinate in the next year. The ‘apple doesn’t fall too far from the tree,’ so to speak.

The outer seed, however, is delicately attached to its inner sibling and is contained in a spongy, expanded coat which floats. When the seed matures, it detaches and the next high tide washes it away. It lands as a “pioneer” somewhere else, often many, if not hundreds of miles away. Indeed, the first

flowering plant that grew on the island of Surtsey, a new island created in 1967 off the south coast of Iceland, was a sea rocket! Will the pioneers survive? Who knows? Will they be as successful as their stay-at-home sibling? Most every family has a black sheep, a wanderer, a 'break the mold' kind of person. Sound like any family you know?

The Great Lakes sea rocket, another *Cakile*, shown in recent research, can recognize its kin with its tender roots. So, if, as it sends out its tender rootlets, it recognizes a close relative, it immediately withdraws its roots from competing for local resources with its kin. If, on the other hand, it recognizes non-kin it grows its root structure rapidly gobbling up the resources from its unrelated competitor. So, how do they do it? It is uncertain but they seem to be able to sense chemicals that indicate their relatedness. Would we be able to do this? Only if we were the Hatfields or the McCoys! Scientists view this continuing conundrum with wonder and so do we.

We love plants for many reasons: they have beautiful flowers, lovely foliage, and nifty designs. Each day creative observers of plants and their behavior offer us new reasons to wonder about how remarkable plants can be. In the end, to paraphrase a father speaking about his family to a friend in the Broadway musical, *Fantasticks*, 'Plant a carrot and you get a carrot, have a kid and you never know what you have...?' Ah, the joy of the diverse 'family landscape'!



2008 June Show trophy & plaque winners from left: Elibet Marshall, Judy Walkowiak, Rudy Lime, Chris Miller, Pat Bryan, Peter Walkowiak, Don Hunt, Jean O'Daniel, Terry Parr. Photo: Collette Parr

From the cssa archives: the seven quickest ways to kill your cacti and succulents

By Lyle Moomaw

Any number of books, pamphlets, flyers and newsletters are dedicated to showing you how to keep your valued plants alive and healthy. What they fail to point out is that even if you do all the right things, you can still manage to turn your botanical baby into composting material. The opposite of what keeps a plant alive is not necessarily what keeps it from becoming a memory. With this in mind, here are a few myths you should plain put out of your head.

Myth 1. DON'T ASK QUESTIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE WHO GROW THAT PLANT.

Just because they've got gargantua in the greenhouse doesn't mean they actually KNOW anything about growing that plant.

Myth 2. PUT YOUR PLANT ON A FIXED WATERING SCHEDULE.

Why water it when it needs it? After all, it's going to use the same amount of water despite the monsoon last week or the five days of 110 degree weather since you watered last.

Myth 3. ASSUME THAT THE PLANT IS HAPPY WHERE YOU FIRST PUT IT.

That cold, gloomy corner on the north side of the basement NEEDS that agave to brighten things up, and by golly, you can make it grow there despite what centuries of evolution have adapted that plant to do.

Myth 4. DON'T INSPECT YOUR PLANTS TOO CLOSELY.

Three months of unnoticed mealybugs aren't really going to bother anything, are they? And my, my,-that sun scar really sets off the green of the nonshriveled leaves, don't you agree?

Myth 5. NEVER BUY LITERATURE ON THE PLANTS YOU GROW.

These things are written by eggheads for eggheads. Besides, you should enjoy the challenge of keeping your plants alive.

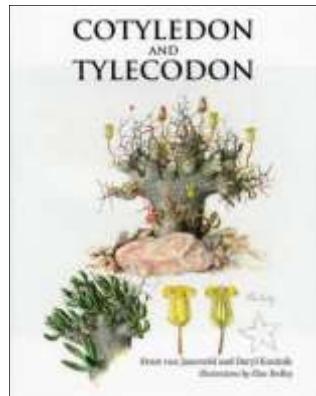
Myth 6. USE WHATEVER SOIL IS AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPLANTING.

If I dump enough fertilizer into that peat muck, Mr. Opuntia will be just fine.

Continued on page 13:

Book Review

Cotyledon and Tylecodon by Ernst van Jaarsveld and Daryl Koutnik, published by Umdaus Press (South Africa) with (exquisite) illustrations by Elise Bodley, 156 pages with either an illustration, photographs or maps/graphs on every page save two and the front matter. The book includes a Foreword, Preface, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Distribution and Ecology (including associated succulents in the growing area), Cultivation (all aspects), Ethnic Uses and Poisonous Properties, and for each a section titled, History, Description of the genus and Keys to species. These are followed by the Glossary, References, Index to Plant Names and Subscribers.



This new book to our Library is such an enjoyable visual reference book and is so well thought out and organized. Even if you are not immediately interested in either of the genera it's well worth reading for the elegant and sensitive illustrations, careful style, documentation and history offered to the reader via old photographs and text. I believe plant lovers to be a group of visually-oriented people. Think of your favorite cactus or succulents. Then think of what sculptural forms and range of colors come to mind. This book will reward the reader with a wealth of these images of plants in the wild, documenting each location and giving complete information for either the lay reader or an expert in the horticulture field. The layers of information presented in the same sequence were easily digested. I was particularly pleased with the inviting layout, history and Latin definitions as I am still adding words to my memory.

I first looked at each page and read about each photograph, illustration, graph or map. I then returned to the beginning with my reading brain in gear and first stopped at the Poisonous properties section of which I needed reminding. I next read about each plant that we have in our collection and made mental notes of others I may want to add.

Each section for each variety in the two genus covers the references utilized, Synonyms if any and the Latin reference in English then follows a Description, Diagnostic features, Distribution and ecology including Flowering time for southern Africa, Cultivation and lastly the (history of each) Discovery.

The photos of the authors make me believe they may be in their prime and I'm hopeful they may decide to write further books on other genera using this same reader-friendly and relevant style.

Reviewed by Candy Garner

OFF THE SHELF

By Allen Clark



Izzat © 1941

At our June show, we always pick up some new members. I'd like to welcome all of you, and to invite you to visit our library, which is housed in the rolling clamshell case in the front left corner of room 101. Our library is our chief educational resource to help all of our members enjoy and grow in their understanding of the unique and wonderful plants which have attracted our interest.

To make the library work, we do have some policies and procedures:

CHECKING OUT BOOKS:

Books will be checked out only to members of the SDCSS whose dues are currently paid.

No member shall have more than 2 books checked out at one time. If a member has committed to prepare a program for the SDCSS, or to write an article for EyF, an exception may be made at the discretion of the chair of the Library Committee.

Books are to be checked out for one month only, EXCEPT when the library is unavailable at the next meeting (February, June, September and December).

If a member wishes to renew a checkout, he/she must physically bring the book to the librarian, who will check it back in. If no other member present at the meeting wishes to check it out, it will be renewed. Renewals **will not** be arranged by telephone or e-mail.

Overdue fine is \$1 per book per month, effective as of the meeting of April, 2007.

ACQUISITIONS:

If you learn of a book which you feel would be a good addition to the library, please suggest it to any member of the Library Committee. Your suggestion will be considered and discussed by the Committee. Please DO NOT purchase books without first talking with the Committee.

Please address correspondence to:
The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
P.O. Box 33181
San Diego, Ca 92136-3181

DONATIONS:

The library committee will gladly consider donations of books. The caveat is that the book will be added to the collection at the library committee's discretion, based on whether it is current and in good condition, and on whether we already have another copy. The committee reserves the right to sell other donations, with proceeds to be added to the library fund.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Allen, Don, Jeanette, Steve, and Chris.

Cuttings

by Dick Kohlschreiber
The Epi-Gram Palos Verdes, CA, July 2003

This is a good time to make cuttings and to plant cuttings. We have always recommended planting your cuttings directly in your planting mix. Be sure to let the cuttings callous for at least a week before you plant them. Don't put them into too large of a pot. For most cuttings, I like to use a 3 ¼ inch pot. Be sure to not water the cuttings until you're sure they have developed roots. Be sure to put a plant stake with the cutting in case the name comes off the cutting.

This is also a good time to make cuttings on your Schlumbergera (Christmas Cactus) or Rhipsalidopsis or Hatiora (the Easter Cactus). I have really been having good luck by taking a Schlumbergera cutting and dividing it into individual segments or joints. I let these joints callous for at least a week and then plant them in pots of vermiculite. I like to keep the vermiculite moist and in a short time, you'll have roots on each segment. I'll bring some of these to the next meeting. Your Schlumbergera plants should be showing new growth now and if they don't, you may have root problems. If your plant is wilting at all, the roots are bad. Don't water these plants because that just makes the root situation worse.

If you have a Schlumbergera plant that is growing nicely, don't be in a hurry to plant it in a larger pot. They seem to do better if they are crowded. If I have a plant that is doing well in a 3 ¼ inch pot, I'll move it up to a 4 inch pot before I put it in a 5 or 6 inch pot.

If you live in an area where it really gets hot, keep the Schlumbergera in a cool shaded area. They do not like really hot weather.

I have had a lot of flowers on the Easter Cactus and very often after the bloom, they fall apart. You can plant the joints that fall off if you don't let them dry out too much.

Continued from page 9:

Myth 7. TREAT ALL OF YOUR PLANTS ALIKE.

They're all green, right? And they've all got leaves, sort of. Hey, the plant has grown hard all of its life and now it's time to relax and get the African violet treatment.

Obviously this isn't everything bad that you can do to your plants, but it's a good start. If you can avoid killing your plants quickly, you can usually correct whatever may be killing them slowly. But, when all else fails, call another CCSS member and commiserate together. I'll bet they know someone who killed a plant just like yours.

Lyle Moomaw, former CCSS member

Cactus recipe of the month

Prickly pear ice

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
2 tsp unflavored gelatin
1 cup pineapple-grapefruit juice beverage
2 cups prickly pear puree
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lemon juice
2 egg whites



Combine sugar and gelatin with the pineapple-grapefruit juice; heat until the gelatin is dissolved. Add the prickly pear puree and lemon juice; cool. Turn into a refrigerator freezing tray. Set the refrigerator controls at the lowest temperature. When the combination has frozen until mushy, remove to a bowl and beat well. Beat egg whites with salt until stiff, but not dry; fold into prickly pear mixture. Again freeze until mushy; beat again. Freeze until firm. Makes about 1 quart.

D'Arriago Brothers Packing Co. (Lo Bue)
Salinas, California

*From the Cactus and Succulent Society's Cactus Cook Book,
Compiled by Joyce L. Tate, 1971*

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008

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

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

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

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

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

2009

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



Along came a spider! At the Wild Animal Park's Baja Garden a disturbed tarantula climbed out of its den as Juergen turned on the spigot for a drink of water.
Photo: Juergen Mentzel.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern

Brag Table: Candy Garner

Plants of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

Summer Show: Tom Knapik

Winter Show: Terry Parr

Historian: Terry Parr

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

Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: Collette Parr

Mailing: Jean & Bill O'Daniel

Annual Sales: Chris Miller & Joe Kraatz

Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt

Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott

Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted

Benefit Drawing Table: Collette & Terry Parr

Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz

Programs: Mark Fryer

Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak

Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Susie White

Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

Hospitality: Sara Schell

Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Peter Walkowiak

Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig

SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted

SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover

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

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