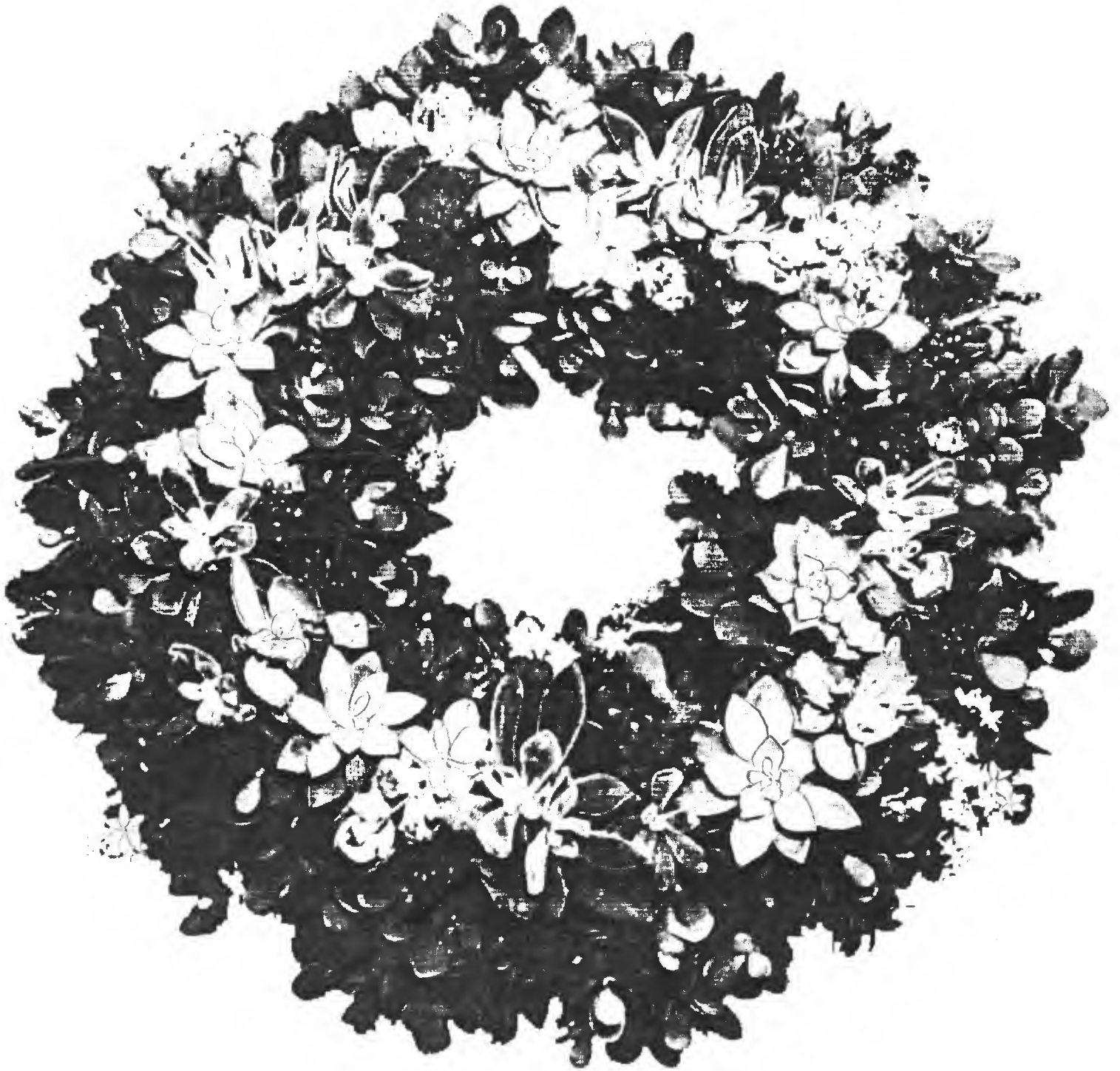


# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc.

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 34, Number 11, Dinner: Saturday, December 11 at Noon.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOOD LUCK IN THE  
ROARING 2000S

## EDITORIAL

This issue has a large gamut of subjects in it and has been planned for quite a few months. It covers a basic club function — our holiday party, which has evolved over the years. We no longer have elections in December. It took years of planning to free the holiday party from elections. This change originated with feedback we received when I was President, and has been followed by each administration since.

One of the biggest changes to the SDCSS will take place as the year changes to 2000, the dues will finally go up by \$5.00 for our basic membership (see page six). This topic has been debated at board meetings almost as long as changing the election month. We need this increase to run our club better. So often the budgets are tight as we go into the annual show and sale. We have managed over the years but expenses have gone up as inflation has eaten away at our club treasury.

I am sitting here looking over *Points of Interest*, the newsletter of the Colorado CSS. They are having a difficult time filling officer vacancies. At this time they do not have a President, elect and two other key positions. Be thankful that we do not have such problems and take note, YOU do make a difference! Please participate and spread out the work load. We have a great club and one of the comments that I have heard about SDCSS is the wonderful membership participation, keep it up. On page ten, you should find your name. These names represent all the people that receive our newsletter. A valuable asset to us, without you SDCSS would not exist. Currently there are about 360 members! If you are not listed please call the membership chair.

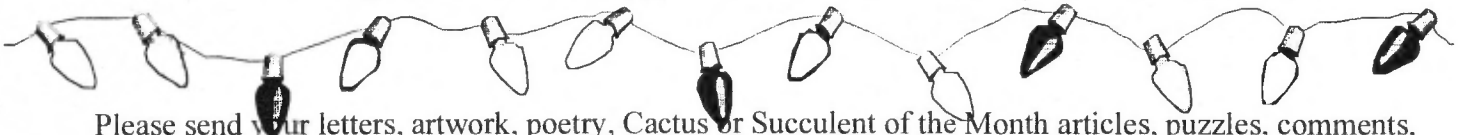
I thought a conservation theme would be appropriate for the last issue of *Espinas y Flores* of the 1900s. This subject has been in the works for about three to four months. The plants that we hold dear are becoming rare and extinct in habitat. What can we do about this? Lately, I have been dealing with this issue on a big project at work and I believe I have had an effect. I asked Steven Hammer to write a special article for *Espinas y Flores* on this topic. I hope that it makes you think about the plants we have available to us as hobbyists. I wish that we could see good material that was propagated by seed for sale in nurseries, but alas we are not there yet! I would urge you to purchase propagated material or cuttings when ever possible! If you are not sure, ask where it is from. SDCSS has been taking an active approach since 1992, when we adopted a policy of only selling nursery propagated materials at club functions. This maybe a tough approach but we hope to share other ideas and views in *Espinas y Flores* next year on this important topic.

This issue is also devoted to two other important aspects of our club. Our holiday dinner and plant exchange is coming up, if you have not signed up yet and want to, there may be time ... *quick* turn to page 5! There is an announcement for our winter show on January 8, 2000. Please participate and lend a hand to Ed DeLollis. He is our show coordinator and charter chairman for the Winter Show. See the inside back cover for the flier and his phone number. Call him today.

There is also a fine article by Sara Schell on making succulent wreaths. The cover is explained there, I hope that you enjoy this. Tom De Merritt has written about his trip to the big bend and the problems he observed in habitat. Damage by domesticated animals, to the habitat of cacti and other plants, is a serious issue and adds to the theme of this newsletter.

Lastly, assisting with the SDCSS newsletter has been a real pleasure. Tom Knapik has been working hard to keep *Espinas y Flores* to the same high level that we have all enjoyed, I hope that you like it. We need some more help though! If you have an interest in helping and have access to a computer and e-mail please write to Tom. We need help with the collection of events for the calendar, FYI, and some proofreading.

Wishing You and Yours a Happy and Safe Holiday — Sincerely the Associate Editor



Please send your letters, artwork, poetry, Cactus or Succulent of the Month articles, puzzles, comments, or criticisms, etc. to:

**Tom Knapik 4669, 71 Street, La Mesa, CA 91941**

Phone 619-462-1805 Fax 858-569-8510 E-mail eyf2000@aol.com

Newsletter submissions are due before the 14<sup>th</sup> each month, unless other arrangements are made.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER 1999



Our Holiday meeting and dinner will be held on Saturday, December 11, starting at NOON. Everyone is welcome to attend! The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 for each person, (a one dollar increase over last years dinner). If you have not made reservations already Call Herb Stern at 619-223-9134 to reserve your space – see page five for more details. Because our Potluck Desserts have been such a success we are suggesting you bring a plate of your favorite holiday dessert goodies to share. Along with the banquet and potluck desserts, everyone who pays for their dinner will receive a gift plant. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 858-270-5544. This event is truly a festive occasion, let's celebrate this past years successes together.

Please check in for the dinner as soon as you come in the door. Dinner will be served at 1:00 PM. Tickets for the Gift Plants will be available at the meeting when you check in for dinner. Gift Plant distribution will begin once everyone has been served their dinner. We will draw and call numbers as usual. We'll need some volunteers for this event so if you'd like to volunteer please contact me.

Each year we also have a **Holiday Plant Gift Exchange** that I would encourage all to participate in. Any member or guest may participate by bringing in a nice plant to give away and in return will acquire another fantastic plant in exchange! All Gift Exchange Plants must have a label that identifies the plant and has your name on the back of it. The plant exchange program works like this: The first plant selected will be auctioned off at the end of the meeting. The person who brought in that plant gets first choice of all the plants on the table. When a plant is selected that lucky person, (owner of that plant), gets the next choice. This is lots of fun and a good way to share your wonderful plants. The best plants are usually picked first, but remember, beauty is in the eye of the beholder! Several members have received plants that were *award winners* at our annual show.

I'd like to give a SPECIAL THANKS to the to ALL who have contributed their precious time and energy to the Club this past year – this is a **REMARKABLE Organization** and I'm proud to be a member.

Best Regards and Happy Holidays. Sincerely, Thomas De Merritt

### HOW TO MAKE A SUCCULENT WREATH

by Sara Schell

I saw my first succulent wreath about ten years ago. "What an ingenious idea" I thought. I puzzled over how they managed to put this thing together. Since then, I've talked to numerous people and asked lots of questions and the following is what I've come up with as a good approach to tackle the making of a succulent wreath.

First, you need a frame. They have ready-made frames made of strong wire at flower supply shops. They come as semi circles so you'll need to wire two together. Next, get some sphagnum moss and some potting soil. I would recommend soaking the moss first for better manageability. Line the inside of the wire frame with moss, creating a groove for the potting soil inside with moss surround-

continued on page 9

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

— 1999 —

## ❖ DECEMBER

- 11 SDCSS Holiday Dinner Noon to 5:00 PM. (see FYI for a bit more information).

— 2000 —

## ❖ JANUARY

- 8 SDCSS 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Show and Sale 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Call Ed. DeLollis, 760-945-7892  
29 CNPS Field Trip to Mission Trails Regional Park, call Kay Stewart, during work hours at 619-234-2668 or [www.san.rr.com/cnpssd](http://www.san.rr.com/cnpssd) for more events

## ❖ FEBRUARY

- 25-28 Southeastern Conference Info. SFCSS Inc., PO Box 161407, Miami FL 33116, e-mail [sflacactus@aol.com](mailto:sflacactus@aol.com)

## ❖ MARCH

- 5-12 **Philadelphia Flower Show, one of the largest shows of its kind in the USA.**  
21 Midwest C&SS Show & Sale, Botanical Garden of Greater Cleveland, Noon to 5:00 PM Call Penny Chaikin for more info., 216-381-2525, 1556 Sheffield Rd., South Euclid OH 44121

## ❖ APRIL

- 30 **South Bay Epi. Soc. Show**

## ❖ MAY

- 5-7 Sonoran 3 Conference, Tucson C&SS, info Cactus Carol Clapp, e-mail [kitfox@azstarnet.com](mailto:kitfox@azstarnet.com).  
6-7 Sacramento C&SS Show & Sale. Info Dorothy Williams 916-967-7988  
6-7 Sunset Succulent Soc Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Bldg., 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City CA. Info Rosalie Gorchoff, show coordinator 310-822-1783  
13-14 San Jose C&SS Show & Sale. Info Carole Keeton 406-773-9277  
14 San Diego Epi Soc Show, 9:00 AM, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA.  
20 Carmichael C&SS Show & Sale. Info Pearl Lemkuil 916-483-4496  
20-21 Gates Show & Sale  
21 Epi Soc of America Show & Sale, Ayers Hall, Arboretum of Los Angeles County.

FOR MORE C&S INFO. SEE: [WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/CSSA/EVENTS.HTML](http://WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/CSSA/EVENTS.HTML) OR [WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/EVENTS.HTML](http://WWW.CACTUS-MALL.COM/EVENTS.HTML)

## FYI FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION FYI FYI

- The SDCSS Holiday Party is approaching if you have not signed up and want to go see the page 5 now!
- **SDCSS Winter Show reminder:** Please get those winter growing and flowering plants groomed and growing. We are looking to a bigger and better show than our previous events. The show will be January 8, 2000! Call Ed DeLollis for details and offer to help, see inside back cover for more details.
- Thanks are due to **Dorothy Larberg** she has donated several plants for our plant auction, after the Holiday Dinner.
- **San Diego Natural History Museum** Photography Exhibit – Desert & Sea: Visions of Baja untill January 9, 2000
- Please lend your support to the **San Diego Children's Garden Project at Quail Botanical Gardens**. Call 760-436-6792 or go to [www.qbgardens.com](http://www.qbgardens.com) and find out how you can help with this important project.
- The **San Gabriel Valley CSS** had a very successful Winter show. They put on their sixth show with 850 plants entered. SDCSS members: **Woody Minnich** and **Marylyn Henderson** were award winners.
- Last but not least, the Editors are **looking for an assistant**. We need someone that has a computer and e-mail. Duties would be to help with the Calendar and FYI sections as well as some proofreading.

PROGRAM for DECEMBER 11, 1999  
HOLIDAY BANQUET  
POTLUCK DESSERTS  
DINNER PROMPTLY at 1:00 PM  
SPECIAL PLANT EXCHANGE

\*LIBRARY AND PLANT SALES UNAVAILABLE\*

**HOLIDAY BUFFET MENU:**

*Roast Turkey/Ham*

*Sage Dressing*

*Mashed Potatoes with Giblet Gravy*

*Caesar Salad*

*Fresh Vegetable Trays*

*Cranberry Sauce*

*Rolls with Butter*

*Coffee, Tea, Sodas or Wine*



**WE'LL CONTINUE ON WITH PAST "TRADITION" AND HAVE A  
POTLUCK DESSERT, SO PLEASE BRING SOMETHING DELICIOUS,  
ONE OF YOUR SPECIALTIES TO SHARE!**

You must have sent in your reservations by December 1. If you have not and want to go please call Herb Stern at 619-223-9134 to reserve your space and pay at the door. You must call Herb to reserve your space before Dec. 8.

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SDCSS.**

THE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON  
HOLIDAY DINNER TO BE SERVED AT 1:00 PM – PLANT EXCHANGE  
BEGINS AT 12:30 PM and CONTINUES THROUGH DINNER. GIFT  
PLANT DISTRIBUTION WILL BEGIN ONCE DINNER HAS BEEN  
SERVED.

# MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING — HELD NOVEMBER 13, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM in Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa. The following announcements were made:

- ⊙ This years Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in place of our annual monthly meeting. It will start at Noon with an excellent catered hot sit-down dinner to be served at 1:00 PM The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 for each person, (a one dollar increase over last years dinner). Please pay in advance and reserve a spot. We'll have a Potluck Dessert table, please bring a plate of your favorite holiday dessert goodies to share. Along with the banquet and potluck desserts, everyone who pays for their dinner will receive a gift plant.
- ⊙ A motion was made to elect the following as Board of Directors for term (2000-2001): Pam Badger, Ed DeLollis, Joe Kraatz, Spencer Maze, Terry Parr and Kelly Parrott. This motion passed unanimously. A Special Thanks to Betty Athy, Tom Birt and Stan Yalof for serving on the Board of Directors the past few years — you all did a splendid job and will be missed.
- ⊙ Membership dues will be raised, effective 1/1/00 to \$15 for each person and \$5 for each additional person in the same household. A motion was made before the membership and after a discussion was held the motion passed with a majority vote. A motion was also made the club allocate \$750 next year for library books. This motion also passed with a majority vote.

## PLANTS OF THE MONTH

The Cactus of the Month, Rare Cactus of Mexico was presented by Woody Minnich. What can we say, Woody did not disappoint us, his was an outstanding program. Jeff Wright presented an excellent program of the "Making of Weird Pots" for "Weird Plants". Thank you Jeff for such an interesting and creative program.

### Brag Plant Winners:

#### CACTUS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place = Pam Badger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = Don Patterson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = Don Patterson

#### SUCCULENTS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place = Rudy Lime
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = John Barclay
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = Phyllis Flechsig



## GRIGSBY CACTUS GARDENS

"Growing plants for you since 1965"

**Come visit us!!!**

**We have a wide variety of plants  
for the enthusiast**

#### Hours:

Tues.-Thurs.(call for appointment) 8am to 3pm  
Fri. and Sat.(no appointment needed) 8am to 3pm  
Closed Sun. and Mon.

Plants make great holiday gifts!

2354 Bella Vista Drive  
Vista CA 92084-7836  
760/727-1323 fax 760/727-1578

## Membership Corner

**Welcome New & Renewing Members::**

**Michael & Olga Breaux**



**Al & Rachel Evans**



**Simone Ferber & Catherine Cosner**



**Roberta Froome**



**Paul Mayberry**



**Pail & Betty Whitaker**

Please check the front label of your newsletter for a message or the expiration date. If the date is 2000/01 this is your second to last issue. Please renew early to avoid the 2000 rush, it will be appreciated!

# CONSERVATION AND THE COLLECTING OF EVIDENCE

by Steven Hammer

To me the most striking thing about the debate over collected plants and their introduction into horticulture is that it ignores something obvious, practical, and embarrassing. We – all of us, you, me, all the businesses and gardens I know or know about, all the sensibly or manically manicured private collections – already have too many plants! Too many, that is, to manage them to a fraction of their potential. Emphasis on the newest, the latest, the sexiest, the biggest, the rawest, distracts us from the enormous potential of what we already have or could have had.

The legacy of past importations, good or bad, massive and modest, is vast.

What has it left us with? Well, most of the plants are dead. The loss which one notes in examining records of botanical gardens (or private collections) is staggering. It is also inevitable. Collected plants are raw material: they cannot last in their original form. That doesn't mean they need to be replaced by further wildlings! Many of the plants have survived in one or another guise – directly (as cuttings) or indirectly, as cultivated seed-stock, but the original plants die. Bouquets die too, that is their function; they produce a temporary joy. (If they were permanent we'd soon tire of them, as we do of the ever-fresh ever-insipid strawberries foisted on us year-round by the breeders at a dozen agricultural colleges.) In one of its most important functions, succulent horticulture has just the same role as floriculture, longer-lasting perhaps, but not essentially different.

To argue that the joyously diverting function of plants needs to be satisfied by the repeated re-introduction of rare and/or new species would be absurd. The same joy can be had from either a new population of an old *Haworthia*, or a new cultivated variant; for many of us the actual pleasure is the same. It is a “new” plant, a new friend, and a new organism to work with in either case. In the case of the cultivar, the joy sometimes has a tincture of guilt (it's not a “real” plant: it won't teach me anything), which is a silly puritanism derived from – what? From an aping of scientific herbarium practice? From a

worship of locality information, the supposed Rosetta Stone? (From this, of course, derives the fear of data-obliterating hybrids.)

In Japan, until quite recently, data wasn't in fashion at all; plants were cultivated for their singularity and beauty, not for the details of their province or their presumed relationships. And it is no accident that this aesthetically oriented mentality produced great plant breeding (and, alas, an over-collection of raw material). The necessity of introducing new species is often no more than hype (as is, all too often, the perceived

newness  
itself!).

Some  
species will

never be good additions to our repertoire; they do not need repeated tests. How many blind dates can we handle?

I am not saying that the scientific value of data and of new taxa should be ignored, not at all, only that we should consider the proper applications of data, and its generally oblique relevance to scientific and nonscientific potted collections. We must also consider the cost of data. To publish each speck of available data makes the approximately 170 known *Conophytum pellucidum* populations more tempting, individually and collectively, and thus more vulnerable to over collecting. (I suppose one could also argue that the extra data spreads the risk, 170 small hits being better than one huge attack; perhaps this has some truth too.)

One can well ask: with 170 populations already in cultivation, do we need more? Cultivators certainly don't need more. Do I, as the resident would-be *Conophytum* taxonomist, need more? One can also ask: do even 170 potted collections provide enough insight into the nature of *C. pellucidum* as it behaves and diversifies in nature? I used to think so, and still think they can provide a rough and highly symbolic guide, but the more I look at plants in habitat, and the more I compare them with the samples we cherish in pots, I see an enormous disparity of information. The best place to study plants in all their glorious complexity is *in situ* [in habitat]. This takes time, logistical support, legal mechanisms, imagination, and again, time. Large-scale

sampling is no substitute for it, even if it were ecologically wise or legally permissible.

However, one can learn much from sowing wild seed. For example, I had about twenty wild seeds of the lovely variant of *Adromischus marianiae* known as Bryan Makin and the resultant seedlings have told us a lot! Within three years they provided evidence, which would have been invisible in habitat, where conditions are so harsh (or so specific) that certain traits are suppressed. Some long-leaved seedlings resemble *A. geyeri*, some chunky ones are clearly

arrived mummified, but they did arrive. In the 1950's things accelerated radically (explaining the flurry of new *Lithops* species, Dr. de Boer wrote: The Auto) and we all grew spoiled on our spoils. We expect instant access to novelty, and resent interruption and delay.

I now look at it the other way: each new plant dooms an old one, crowding it out; and each new shipment (licit or illicit) invites further regulations. Bureaucrats need things to regulate and if they don't have them, they will subdivide their territory and expand their existing traumas;

**Ideally – apart from phytosanitary concerns – I don't think there should be any regulation whatsoever of the sale of small greenhouse-born seedlings, propagation being international; the law should concern itself solely with the gross movement of collected plants.**

*A. marianiae* var. *hallii*, some are essentially var. *immaculatus* rich with spots, and some have the rough-margined traits of variety *kubusensis*. In habitat only the spotted *A. hallii* aspect was obvious. Thus I have always thought of seeds as the most instructive and least harmless way to collect, though even there I would advocate caution.

Another legacy, this one psychological: for many years we in the hobby (and in the profession too, if you count those of us who are both collectors and describing taxonomists) had it easy: new material flowed like butter in August. This was particularly true in the 1950's and 1960's, the period after the introduction of airmail and before the enthronement of regulations. Even in the 1920's and 1930, plants moved freely if slowly; Schwantes was forever complaining that his *Glottiphyllum* shipments

that is their nature! I don't actually mind regulators – a chef needs his or her stove, an exhibitionist needs his or her zipper, regulators need their lists – it is only that they should admit a statute of limitations: everything introduced pre-1995 is already hopelessly difficult to regulate, already too much entrenched in horticulture. Inevitably, everything introduced post-1999 will be given a closer scrutiny, especially with an increasing awareness of the “national” ownership of resources, a new response to a late strain of imperialism. Ideally – apart from phytosanitary concerns – I don't think there should be any regulation whatsoever of the sale of small greenhouse-born seedlings, propagation being international; the law should concern itself solely with the gross movement of collected plants. But of course that notion is too practical.

EvF

## The Monthly Benefit drawing

Our November benefit drawing table, our last one for 1999, proved to be excellent. We added a welcome \$61 to our treasury, and a smile to our treasurer's face. The revenue from our Benefit Table for 1999 totaled \$363 ! How's that for good news! Of course, we did it with everyone's support; participants, donors, and of course, our loyal, hard working plant procurer, and seeker of superior specimens...Betty Athy. Many thanks Betty!

Thanks to our generous November donors: Tom Anglewicz for (2) *Aloe* sp. plants, Betty Athy for *Cyrtanthus spiralis* and *Lachenalia 'Romanus'*, Shirley Berry for *Euphorbia hedyotoides*, C & J Cactus for *Euphorbia millotti*. Jeff Harris for a 15 gallon water storage container. Joe Quijada for 5 issues of "The Amateurs' Digest", Carol Jean Wolcott for *Euphorbia × lomi 'Somona'*, and, Jeff Wright for (3) of his handmade pots.

Congratulations and thanks to you all for your enthusiastic support this year. Hope to see you at the Holiday Party,

Thanks, *Kay Quijada*



# CONSERVATION FROM A CASUAL VIEW

By Thomas De Merritt

On a recent trip that took me from El Paso South to Del Rio, Texas I had the opportunity to view quite a bit of the Rio Grande cactus country. Big Bend and everything north to the Quitman Mountains, approximately 200 miles, is a cactus lover's haven. From Sanderson, Texas South to Del Rio, for approximately 120 miles the landscape changes dramatically.

With my reference guide book in hand, "10,000 Miles Hunting Cactus in Texas" by Dr. Ed Maddox, I had many localities listed as hot spots.

Sadly, since this reference book was published in 1984, much has changed in the region south of Sanderson. The majority of the change is due to goat ranching. Unfortunately, the goats have come close to completely denuding the region of its natural plant habitat.



One problem, as I see it with this region, is how ranchers protect their livestock. A local rancher, who allowed us access through his land, shared with me that four mountain lions have been killed on his property alone this year to protect the goats.

Another problem is wild pigs..... I witnessed pigs everywhere in this region. They're approaching epidemic numbers and aren't only of the Javelina variety, a variety which is semi endemic to the area, but include feral pigs as well. The pig populations have exploded as the pigs natural predators have been eliminated by ranchers.

These pigs will eat anything! Feral pigs and boars are deemed by the state to be such a problem this year that hunting these animal is allowed year round, with no limitations. The end result is the very region referenced to be lush with cactus is pretty much absent of everything with the exception of various Opuntias and Echinocereus stramineus.

To the west and north of Sanderson, Texas goat ranching thins out and cattle ranching takes over. This, by comparison, is much less intrusive to the environment.

My personal feeling is we need to elect officials who will carry the torch of concern and continue to pass legislation that protects the flora and predator type fauna.



continued from page 3

ing the outside. You may use fishing line to keep things in place. Now you should be ready to plant the succulents.

There are many types of plants you can use and you will need a large amount of them. I recommend smaller species that can be cut back and will regenerate to fill holes. Crassulas, Sedums, Sempervivums, and small Echeverias work well. I've also seen Kalanchoes, Haworthias, some mesembs, and Rhipsalis used effectively. Your plant pieces should have a little bit of stem so you can stick them in holes made in the moss. It will take a few weeks for everything to root in well enough to hang on a wall or door. In the mean time, keep the wreath warm, in a well-lit area, and a bit moist. After the plants are well rooted hang it up and water more regularly. As the plants start to grow out just prune them back as needed for the look you want. Have fun!

[Editors note: I want to thank Cactus King Nursery for letting us illustrate our cover with one of their beautiful wreaths. They are available for sale at their nursery.]



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SALES 9 - 5

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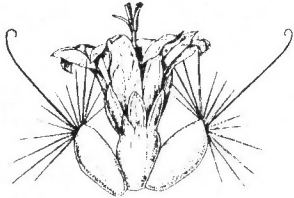
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A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY AUTHOR AND PLANT EXPERT  
STEVEN HAMMER WILL START AT 2:00 PM.

*The art work is from the cover of the March-April 1984 Cactus and Succulent Journal, from a water color  
by Ellaphine Ward-Hilhorst of *Glottiphyllum muirii* and *Faucaria felina*.*

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