



Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXIII, Number 6

June 11, 1988

JUNE MEETING

Saturday June 11, 1988

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DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE _____ June 25

Thanks, Mary

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PICNIC AND PLANT AUCTION

COME TO THE ANNUAL SDC&SS PICNIC !

Day: June 11, 1988

Time: 10:30 to 11:00 am - Eat at 12:00 NOON TILL -----

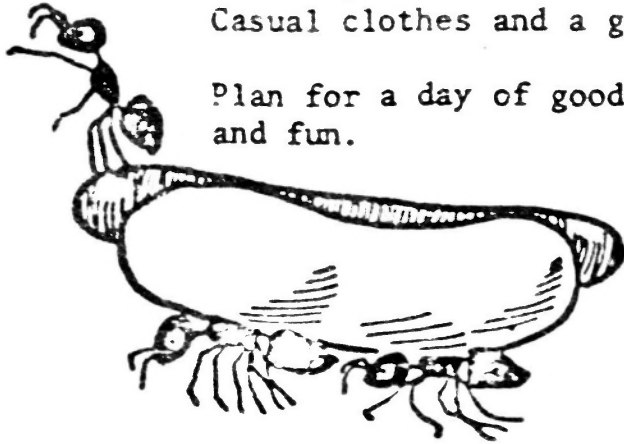
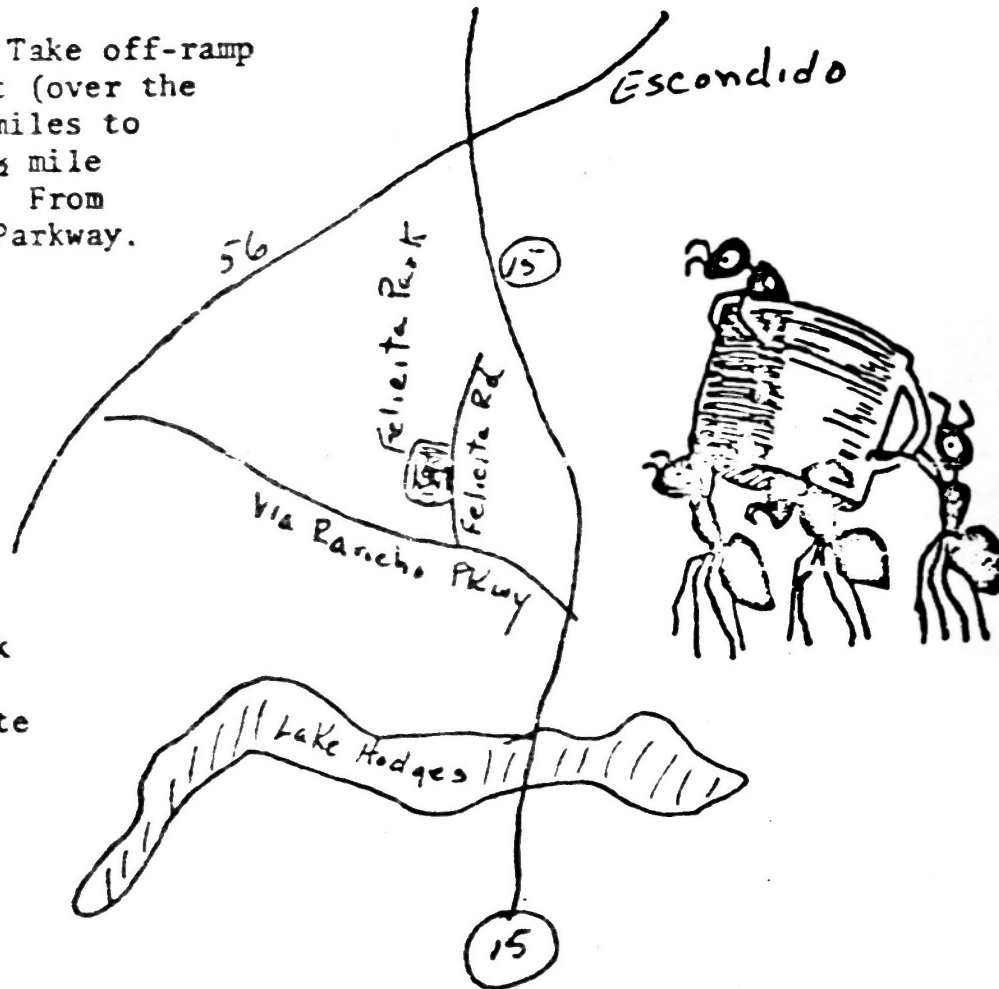
Place: Felicita Park - Map at right

From San Diego - North on I-15. Take off-ramp at Via Rancho Parkway and go west (over the highway I-15) Approximately 1½ miles to Felicita Road, Turn RIGHT. Go ½ mile to entrance of park on the LEFT. From the North - turn off Via Rancho Parkway. Area #4 will have the San Diego Cactus and Succulent sign in View.

NOTE: There will be "Door" prizes and an Auction.
Auctioneer - Lee Phelps

Please Bring - A Pot luck dish enough for eight (8). Your favorite beach chair (or use park benches)
Casual clothes and a good appetite

Plan for a day of good food and fun.



Show Schedule

June 4 & 5	San Diego Cactus & Succulent Show	Sat: 1pm-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm
June 12	Southwest Hemerocallis Society 15th Show		Sun: Noon-5:00pm
June 18 & 19	San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Show	Sat: Noon-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm
July 10	San Diego Dahlia Society Specimen Show		Sun: 1pm-4:30pm
July 17	Convair Garden Club 37th Summer Show		Sun: 1pm-4:30pm
July 23 & 24	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. 3rd Summer Show	Sat: Noon-4:30pm	Sun: 10am-4:30pm
July 30 & 31	San Diego Gesneriad 12th Annual Show	Sat: Noon-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm

RULES of the SOCIETY for some meeting ACTIVITIES

Leroy N. Phelps, Junior Past President

I have been asked by the Board of Directors to write this article to refresh the memories of our members concerning some of our meeting activities. These standards have been established over the years, and I'm adding nothing new.

The Plant Exchange Table: this table is provided for a free exchange service among our members using ticket drawings. Anyone may bring a plant(s) or plant-related materials for which they will receive one ticket. At the end of the meeting, numbers will be drawn and the individual may select one item from the table. After all tickets are drawn, anyone may select from the left-overs in an orderly fashion. The plants or other materials should be in presentable condition (and the person in charge may refuse messes!). Plants may be potted, bare-root (put the root-ball in a bag) or cuttings. Please, bring good cuttings--don't bring all your trimmings that should have gone in the trash.

The Cactus and Succulent of the Month: our main educational attraction. This is the way I began learning about cacti and other succulents when I joined 20+ years ago. The plants of the month are published for the year in January, and a feature article is written each month in Espinas y Flores. No prizes are given, but I believe participation in this part of the program is one of the most rewarding benefits in the Society.

The Bragging Table: it's just that! A plant that is in particularly good form that month is one to be bragged about. Any member may bring one or two cacti or succulents for this competition each month. They should be of show quality. They are plants which are not that month's cactus or succulent of the month. The plants are judged by the Emcee, and first, second and third awards will be given at the judge's discretion. The names of the winners will be published, and each will be given an extra ticket for the plant drawing at our Christmas meeting. No matter how many times a member wins during the year, only one extra ticket will be given. People who win the first prize each month is given a preferred ticket. Those people should still bring plants each month, but they cannot be in competition. A separate display table will be provided for those plants.

Plant Sales: a service of the Society to provide plants not readily available locally. The person in charge purchases plants and related materials (either outright or on consignment) to be sold at our meetings. We as a Society are not in the nursery business, so don't expect plants that are readily available in the City. Look for the unusual or the exotic! Individual sales are not permitted under park rules.

Christmas plants: for many years the Society has given each member in attendance at the December meeting a high quality cactus or other succulent at no charge. The money to purchase them comes from the profits of the plant sales table. (The entire dues goes to pay for the bulletin you are reading--no profit there!). Because of the difficulties involved, only those members in attendance get a plant. This rule has been reaffirmed by the Board every year. Members who actively participate in the work of the Society are given first preference in the plant drawing. Please notice that holding an office in the Society is not sufficient to gain preference--you must work!

You may feel that all the above rules are a bother, but believe me, this Society has functioned so well with them over the years that they are well worthwhile! They make the meetings so much more fun.

4-15-88 one day trip to Arroyo San Carlos, Baja, California

The purpose of this trip was to find Echinocereus pacificus. The title, therefore, could have been one with this plants name included. It was with great delight, however, when we soon found many species of plants which were very healthy and apparently growing vigorously.

Tom Parks and I left San Diego at 8:30 AM and after a few fish tacos in Ensenada, turned east at 10:30 AM on the dirt road which parallels the Rio San Carlos. The river, or wash, does not have running water at this junction. The surrounding area is agricultural, with crops growing on an alluvial level plain. This plain was formed, through the age of time, by the west drainage of the Sierra Juarez, i.e. that portion which drains into the Rio San Carlos.

At the distance of 3 miles the alluvial fan has narrowed appreciably and the road is at the base of one of the foothills. We stopped at a small, little used, stone and sand quarry to examine the plants on the hillside. There were Mammillaria dioica in abundance, large clumps, very healthy and a delight to see. The Echinocereus maritimus had a good green color to the stems as opposed to those seen along the Pacific coast. The sizes varied from small to very large clumps and with know visible sign of dying or dead stems in the clumps. Some of these plants were just forming flower buds. There were Ferocactus viridescens in this area which had very bright red spines, good looking plants. Opuntias, Machaerocereus gummosus, the first of large populations of Myrtillocactus cochal, Dudleya, and many more interesting plants were growing here.

Bahia de Todos Santos is visible from this first stopping point but the Arroyo is now starting to take shape with foothills on both sides. In another mile the Rio San Carlos has running water and a major operating sand quarry appears in the center of the road. The road disappears in this quarry but the Arroyo bears North and the road reappears. The elevation is gradually

changing and the plant life is also changing as we start to climb. There are a variety of deciduous trees including large Sycamores. The California Live Oak tree is growing here and stands out with its dark green leaves and large arms. As we progress up the Arroyo the road crosses the fast moving waters quite a few times and the South facing slopes change again with its lack of deciduous trees. After driving a total distance of 8.3 miles from the junction at the highway we stop next to a small Olive orchard. We walk through the orchard and climb a very sharp rise on a rock outcropping. Tom is in the lead and like the mountain men of the 1830's he lets out a W-A-G-H! Whoooo --- Yeeee.

The Echinocereus pacificus clumps are growing all through these rocks. The clumps range in size from a few stems to 50 or 60 stems. All of them had flowered and the flowers that were pollinated set seeds. The flowers are relatively small for the Genus Echinocereus. They are about 1" in diameter and bright red with green stigma lobes, very distinctive and very colorful. On all the plants observed, up to 50% of the flowers had not set seed pods. The seed pods, which were formed, were still green but seemed to have matured. They were full of black seeds. We did collect seeds. The plants in this area were just as healthy and vigorous as the plants at the first stop. However, one should have the ability of a mountain goat to climb the steep loose rock faces.

Nigel P. Taylor, botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, places Echinocereus pacificus as a varietal status to Echinocereus polyacanthus, i.e. Echinocereus Polyacanthus var. pacificus. Lyman Benson, Emeritus Professor of Botany at Pomona College, Claremont, Calif., gives this plant a varietal status also. Although he did not describe it in his book, 'The Cacti of the United States and Canada', he placed it with Echinocereus triglochidiatus.

The cylindrical form of Ferocactus viridescens, growing to 3 foot in height by 16 inches in diameter, was found here by George Lindsay in 1955. We did find cylindrical forms, the tallest being 1½ feet by 9 inches in diameter. When one is used to the

forms, of this plant, in San Diego, this is indeed a pleasant surprise.

Nature at its best this day; but alas, the sun has gone beyond its meridian for us and we must go home.

Frank Thrombley

Pests of Succulent Plants

Part XIV. Weeds

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

It is rather common knowledge that in habitat, succulent plants commonly grow with other plant species, and as a matter of fact, without these companion plants giving protection and shade to a seedling after germination, it is safe to say that the seedling's chance of survival could be less than zero. However, succulent plants grown in containers pose a completely different situation, and weeds growing with them are offensive to view and potentially a problem to the well-being of the succulent plant(s) desired.

Systematics -- Weeds are simply plants out of place and what is one man's weed is another's collectible. Such plants belong to numerous families, and they may be plants accidentally introduced from abroad (and of special interest and a tenacious problem because they have few natural enemies) or they may be common weed plants found in home gardens that take advantage of pot-culture. Some of the most common weeds found growing with succulent plants are:

Green algae (from using white plastic pots).....	<u>Chloroplia</u> sp: Paraarchegoniophytera
Spurge.....	<u>Euphorbia setiloba</u>
Dandelion.....	<u>Taraxacum officinali</u>
Red-seeded dandelion.....	<u>T. laevigatum</u>
Bur-clover.....	<u>Medicago hispida</u>
Sweet clover.....	<u>Melilotus indicus</u>
Red clover.....	<u>Trifolium pratense</u>
Alsike clover.....	<u>T. hybridum</u>
Filaree.....	<u>Erodium obtusiplicatum</u>
Filaree.....	<u>E. botrys</u>
Filaree.....	<u>E. cicutarium</u>
Mouse-ear chickweed.....	<u>Cerastium vulgatum</u>
Common chickweed.....	<u>Stellaria media</u>
Chickweed.....	<u>S. graminea</u>
Bindweed.....	<u>Convolvulus arvensis</u>
Morning glory.....	<u>Convolvulus</u> sp.
Oxalis.....	<u>Oxalis corniculata</u>
Bermuda buttercup.....	<u>O. pes-caprae</u>
Bermuda grass.....	<u>Cynodon dactylon</u>
Crab grass.....	<u>Digitaria sanguinalis</u>

Plant damage -- Mainly, weeds are a direct nuisance and distract from the staged beauty of potted plants. Succulents in habitat or those grown under field conditions will necessarily have to compete with weeds for nutrients and moisture, but this is of minor consequence in most cases because such soils are usually rich in nutrients and rain water normally percolates downward with dissolved minerals, etc., more than satisfying the food requirements of the succulents on the downward side

of hills or mountains. However, pot culture is a different situation. Water continually leaches out nutrients and carries them out of the pot thereby creating a problem when weeds are also present. Competition for nutrients and moisture or lack of space from crowding could cause stunted growth, reduce or stop flowering and even induce disease by weakening the plant to the point that it is easily attacked by a pathogen or by maintaining too high a humidity at the base of the plant so that fungi will proliferate. Too, weeds also hide foraging insects, snails and slugs from view until considerable damage has been done.

Biology -- The biology of any of the so-called weeds are so widely variable and different that it is not wise nor necessary to consider them in this regard. What is important, however, is to realize that most weeds are similar to succulent plants in being dicotyledinous; only the grasses mentioned above are monocotyledinous. Thus, most weeds are anatomically and physiologically similar enough to the succulents that a chemical control is impossible.

Control -- As one might expect, it is necessary to remove weeds from pot-grown succulent plants and that such removal must be by "hand picking" because chemical herbicides used to control weeds would also kill the succulent(s). Fortunately, in most cases, it is necessary only to remove weeds in the spring of the year, leaving the major portion of the year with weed-free, healthy plants.

References

Munz, Philip A. 1973. A California Flora. University of California Press, Los Angeles. 1681 pp.; combined edition with supplement, 224 pp.

MAY BRAGGING PLANT WINNERS.....

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1st Place | - Rudy Lime for his <i>Bowiea volubilis</i> |
| 2nd Place | - Lit Phan for his <i>Bursera</i> sp. |
| 3rd Place | - Dorothy Dunn for her <i>Mammillaria bocasana</i>
v. <i>roseiflora</i> |

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$8.00 per single member per year, \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

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