

Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XII, No. 3.

March, 1977.

MARCH MEETING DATE: Saturday, March 12th, 1977.

PROGRAM:

"ON THE THIRD DAY"

A South African Tourist Bureau film on plants of South Africa.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: COPIAPOA.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: HECTIA, DYCKIA, and EPIPHYTIC BROMELIADS.

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COMMENTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

Warren Buckner

Organizations directly reflect their members' interest and willingness to participate. The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society (SDCSS) has for the most part been a healthy organization, with only occasional hiccups of neglect and malaise. Our present officers and board are an excellent group of people, but they must have interest, help, and participation from the general membership. With these introductory statements made, I will get to the point of this article: We need your help!

Two chairmanships must be filled: Regalement and Exhibits. The Regalement Chairman is primarily an organizer and recruiter. This person has primary responsibility for the monthly refreshment table; this includes: (1) procurement of supplies, such as coffee, tea, paper plates, napkins, etc. (2) soliciting member participation in monthly refreshment table by passing around sign-up clipboard, and reminding volunteers. (3) Directing the activities of the regalement volunteers. (4) Storing, maintaining and procuring the equipment necessary for the regalement table, such as coffee urns, tea pitchers, punch bowls, etc.

I have urged the temporary regalement group to spend minimum time in the kitchen, to use disposable items wherever possible, to ask members to bring in cakes etc. on disposable items, such as paper plates and trays, to eliminate washing and cleaning, and possible loss, at the meeting, and to ask members not only to supply "goodies", but also to help in the kitchen for that same month. This is an activity dear to the "heart" (or perhaps just a trifle lower) of most members, but is one that must be "manned". Doris Rake has done this job on a temporary basis for January and February; a new chairman is needed immediately for March.

The other, critical, chairmanship is "exhibits". This chairman is primarily responsible for the Southern California Exposition Exhibit at Del Mar, and for the Annual Open House and Flower Show at Casa del Prado. These two tasks can be separated, if necessary; the latter will be performed by the Board if a suitable volunteer member is not recruited. A complete description of these tasks has been available both on the bulletin board and on the clipboard for the past two meetings. Both events are excellent opportunities for becoming acquainted with other members, for general fellowship, and fun, along with some hard work. I personally have enjoyed the potluck picnics at the Fair, and have found it an excellent method of getting to know my fellow members.

These two chairmanships are vital to our organization, and must be filled if at all possible. However, if you, the members, do not step forward, we will not have these activities; no coffee, tea and cake at the meetings, and no exhibit at the Fair. Remember, you get out of any organization exactly what you put into it!

ALL ABOUT THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.

Ye Lady Ed.

Our thanks go to the following members, who supplied us with the delightful refreshments with which we regaled ourselves last month:

Doris Rake, Gerald Dice, Verna Pasek, Warren Buckner, Marie Fisher, Irene Bass, and Lily Mine.

Particular thanks are due to Doris, who has, on a temporary basis, kindly taken over the Regalement Table for us all, these past two months. We are badly in need of a Regalement Committee - volunteers, please!

PLANT SALES TABLE: We would like to thank the following members for their generous donations to the Table in February:-

Shirley Berry, Madelyn Lee,
Ruth Stockton, Mrs. Cavanaugh,
and one unknown lady.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION:

The members of S.D. Floral Assoc. will have a "Tea and Flowers" show, when Mrs. Ross Alger, a noted flower arranger from Los Angeles, will present her first program in San Diego.

Tuesday, March 8th, 1977, at 1 o'clock.

Casa del Prado, Room 101.

General Public Donation: \$2.00.

EDITORIAL MAIL:

Geoff and I would like to thank all of you "out there" - mostly members who cannot attend our meetings readily - for your very kind comments. As Geoff always says, jokingly: "Send your compliments to the Editor, your complaints to me!" (Isn't he sweet!) Actually, we really haven't had too many complaints, to date, but we are always very happy to receive any constructive suggestions and opinions - not to mention articles, of course. All in all, we are simply delighted to hear from you for just about any reason, so, as they say in 'show biz': Keep those cards and letters coming. We love them!!

I really must mention here one particular letter, which I recently received, from Dr. L.E. Newton, of the University of Science & Technology, Kumasi-Ghana. We are always somewhat awed (and perhaps a trifle nervous) when we mail out our bulletin to such faraway places, and to such knowledgeable people. It was, therefore, a great pleasure to us to learn that our own "E. y F." really does reach its distant destination safely (most times, anyway), and that it is so much appreciated!!

Thank you so much, Dr. Newton, for your kind letter. You will be hearing from me in the not (I hope) too dim and distant future. (A.J.-Y.L.Ed.)

INTEREST-FINDER FORM:

Would you all, please, fill in this form, recently published in our bulletin, and bring it along to the next meeting. Should you be unable to join us at the March "get together", I would appreciate your sending on the form to myself, or to President Buckner. Thank you all for your co-operation.

CACTUS-OF-THE-MONTH
Copiapoa

George E. Radwin

The Atacama Desert of northern Chile is perhaps the driest region on Earth. Surprising as it might seem, there is a comparatively large variety of plants to be found there, especially among the members of the Cactaceae. Although in many parts of the region there has been no rain in recorded history, various species of the cactus genera Copiapoa, Eriosyce, Eulychnia, Horridocactus, Neochilenia, and Neoporteria thrive on west-facing hills in a moderately broad altitudinal belt from 300 to 800 meters above sea level. The moisture upon which these plants depend is derived from persistent fog banks that cover this belt for a large part of each day during at least half of each year (winter). One of the most successful of these groups, judging from the number of distinct species and their prevalence is Copiapoa.

Named after the town and province of Copiapo in northern Chile, this genus is apparently not closely related to other Chilean cacti. Because of the inaccessibility of their habitat, species of Copiapoa have, until quite recently been rarities in collections. Most species are globose or subcylindrical and are most frequently caespitose (offset-forming). Virtually all species are strongly ribbed and stoutly spined and many have a heavy, waxy, yellow or white epidermal coating. Their roots are generally tuberous and are so vital to the plants' survival that without the tuber **most imported** plants will not re-establish and with nothing but a set of tuberous roots, occasionally an entire plant can be propagated. Apical areoles will, under greenhouse conditions produce copious white or cream-colored wool. Blooms are virtually all yellow, in some cases with reddish perianth segments. The blooms are more strongly scented than most cactus blooms; they are diurnal, self-fertile, and may be produced from a single plant over an extended period of time during warm, dry conditions. Young plants differ in form from mature ones; in any case even mature plants of the same species show great variability; thus the many probably superfluous names. In some species or species-groups offset formation is unique in that it involves the offset pushing through the epidermis of the parent plant fully formed with well-developed areoles and spines. These offsets can then be rooted or grafted at a comparatively early stage.

Although they rarely if ever receive rainfall in their native habitat, most Copiapoas can tolerate ample water and will thrive outdoors in San Diego.

Britton and Rose originally assigned six species to Copiapoa in 1921 but the most recent authoritative publications list more than sixty.

There are three or four species-groups based on morphological similarities.

GROUP 1 - contains most species, including C. cinerea and C. haseltoniana, and are characterized by a heavy waxy epidermal coat and heavy spines; offsets are produced directly through the epidermis.

GROUP 2 - contains several small, soft-bodied forms such a C. humilis, C. hypogaea, and C. tenuissima. These are characterized by lacking the waxy epidermal coat, having slender, rather flexible spines, and forming offsets in the conventional manner of cacti.

GROUP 3 - contains two or three forms with soft white or yellow bristly, hair-like spines and deep purple-green bodies (e.g. C. kranziana, C. scopulina)

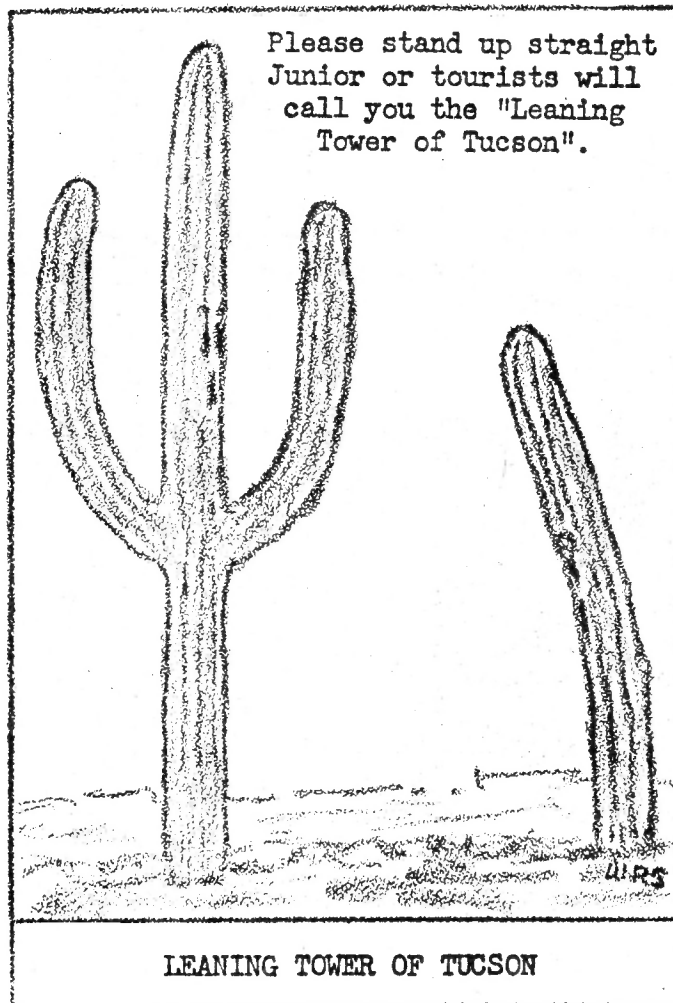
GROUP 4 - Described as Pilocopiapoa, this group contains only P. solaris (Copiapoa ferox) with hair on the flower tube.

REFERENCES:

Bleck, M., 1972, Copiapoa Br. & R. Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.) 44: 239-242

Marshall, W.T. & T.M. Bock, 1941, Cactaceae. Abbey Garden Press, Pasadena, 220 p.

Rundel, P.W., 1976, Succulents in the coastal fog zone of Northern Chile. Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.) 48: 269-271.



HECTIA, DYCKIA, and epiphytic Bromeliads.
Family: BROMELIACEAE.

The Hectia, from Mexico and Texas, and the Dyckia, from South America, are two interesting terrestrial members of the Bromeliad family.

The Hectia's foliage is mainly dark green, or silver, 'though some species are reddish or yellow. A beautiful example of the 'silver' type of this genera is: Hectia Marnier-Lapostolli.

Dyckias are generally smaller than the Hectias, but offset profusely, and form large 'mats'. The leaves are green or silver, and the flowers are yellow or orange. Dyckia fosteriana and the red and silver cultivar Dyckia Ladis-Cutak are both beautiful and desirable.

Both genera flourish in poor soil, with little or no special watering or care. They love full sun, and acquire bronze and reddish tints to their leaves. The rosettes are formed of slender, pointed, firm-textured leaves that have teeth sharper than "jaws". Either or both of these genera would make a fine low fence that not even a fool or crazy man would cross.

There are so many types, kinds, and genera in the Bromeliad family that they could not all possibly be included here.

The epiphytic types of this family do not grow in the ground, but have a "host" they grow on. They are not a parasite, but use a tree limb or branch as support, and obtain their moisture and food from the mist or rain and debris that collects on their host.

They are also rosette type plants, and the glossy leaves are often brilliantly coloured, especially near flowering time. They are found throughout South and Central America, and in the Southern United States.

Tillandsias are probably the best known member of this group. The famous 'Spanish Moss' is the small, chain-like Tillandsia Usnioides. Most Tillandsias are covered with a silverish scale-like coating that absorbs both nourishment and water from the mists, rain and fog. The plants prefer indirect sunlight and good air circulation. They are very easy to care for. No pot is necessary. Mount them on a piece of wood or bark with monofilament fish line, glue or a staple through the roots. Dip them in a bucket of water, with quarter strength fertilizer once every two weeks, and spray them down in very dry weather.

Guzmania, Wittrockia, Androlepis, Giesnelia, Stereptocalyx and Neoregelia all are genera in the Bromeliad family with species that are epiphytic.

Most of this type have a "cup" in the center of the plant that holds water. The foliage can be plain green, red, or almost any colour. Some have stripes, some have spots. Some have teeth, some have smooth edges. The flowers form in the "cup" on the plant, and are often bizarre and beautifully different.

This type of plant is usually potted in a mix of bark, sharp sand, and leaf mold. They are mostly tropical plants, and require some humidity, temperatures above 45 degrees F., and light shade. They appreciate a wetting down in dry weather, and enough water to keep their 'cup' full and soil moist.

Bring one of your plants to the meeting.

THE WILD ANIMAL PARK, in
beautiful SAN PASQUAL.

Audrey Johnson

It was some five years ago when Geoff and I first learned of our proposed move to Southern California, and it was not too long after that that we heard of the Wild Animal Park, at San Pasqual, which was then just opening up. Geoff, at this time, was making frequent trips back and forth to his new location in Rancho Bernardo, and he brought back glowing accounts of the new venture.

Right then, of course, we didn't realize how fortunate we were to be in the location of our future home, which is so close to beautiful San Pasqual, and the fascinating Wild Animal Park. Inevitably, just as soon as we had settled into our new house, we decided we just had to pay it a visit. That Winter (four years ago) was a cold and wet one, so that the conditions for our trip were not of the best. Despite adverse weather conditions, however (it was a cold and windy day), we thoroughly enjoyed that first visit, and I, for one, looked forward with excitement to watching the entire vast area improve and mature with the years!

With our new, rocky, hillside house and garden to organize and all the many and varied Southern California activities to pursue, the Johnson family was kept very busy for quite a while. Consequently, it was quite some time before we returned to the Park, when - lo and behold - we found that things had grown, and improved, beyond recognition! We all know how plantings just seem to sit sometimes, and then suddenly "take off" - well, this is exactly what has happened to the Wild Animal Park. Besides the exotic plants which have recently developed into small jungles (with equally exotic birds), there is now very adequate parking for cars, many very interesting hiking trails (a monorail for the less energetic visitors), a number of fascinating shows, concerning birds and animals, and many more delights. Words fail me to describe all the enjoyment and entertainment to be derived from a visit to the Wild Animal Park. With its beautiful encircling backdrop of rolling hills and mountains, the Park, on a sunny day, has to be seen to be believed; a visit is worth the effort, a thousandfold!!

I was particularly pleased to be reminded by Jim Gibbons, Horticulturist at the Wild Animal Park, on my last visit, that all the millions of gallons of water used in the Park are completely and continually recycled. Also, he assured us, that all the refuse from the animals and all other sources goes into a giant compost heap, and this is used to enrich the soil in which grows all those beautiful plants. This is surely conservation in its truest and most satisfying form!

SHOW OF CACTI & SUCCULENTS AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK.

I shall not quickly forget the last three day holiday week-end at the Park. The weather was perfect, and the number of visitors going through the gates was some 27,000, I understand. The Park was looking at its very best, and both workers in the Park and the visitors were equally delighted.

For these three days, my local (and our sister Society) Palomar C. & S.S., put on one of their recurrent shows of beautiful

plants, which was immensely appreciated by the visitors. By the end of each day, we were all quite hoarse from answering all the enquiries and questions posed by our appreciative audiences. The Show was organized by our own talented, and indefatigable, Kathryn McDonald, and there were beautiful specimen plants displayed by Helen Hegyi, as well as the many other brilliant and knowledgeable members of Palomar. John Myers (who is now President of Palomar C. & S.S.) was also untiring in his efforts, besides displaying his lovely plants. Your "Lady Ed." had a more "down-to-earth" exhibit for the young people, and other amateurs (like herself!). I must admit that I was amazed at the number of interested, and interesting, comments.

Kathryn, assisted by many of the "leading-light" members of Palomar, produced a delightful cactus and succulent garden, complete with trickling fountain, which was greatly admired, and our own Scotty (Walter R. Scott) displayed photographs of his beautifully flowering plants and some of his delightful cartoons. Altogether, we felt, our display was a huge success, and I, for one, enjoyed every minute of it!

At one time or another, all of us were asked where such plants as we were displaying could be purchased, or acquired, and I must admit that I referred many of the visitors to San Diego and Palomar C. & S.S., and to the coming Plant Sale (on May 1st) at Quail Botanical Gardens, where we hope to have many of them for sale. But you will be hearing more from me about this sale during the coming weeks.....

At a time like this, it occurs to me how fortunate we are to be able to participate (in however small a way) in such worthwhile projects as the Wild Animal Park and the development of Quail Botanical Gardens, which cannot help becoming more beautiful (and more educational) with the passing years.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS - SPRING
PLANT SALE - SUNDAY, MAY 1ST.

Audrey Johnson
Publicity Chairwoman
Quail Botanical Gardens

MAY DAY!

This year, particularly, I would like to remind all of you well in advance of the Spring Plant Sale at Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas. It will be held on: Sunday, May 1st, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's sale will be slightly different from previous ones, as it will concentrate more on plants grown by members of the ever-increasing number of Clubs associated with Quail Gardens. Therefore, please, fellow members, start collecting and potting your cuttings in good time. They have to be at the Gardens several days before the sale (for inspection), but more of that later.

I would like to add here an apology for the great confusion caused by our very successful Christmas Bazaar at Quail Gardens, and a promise that it will not happen again. So overwhelming was the response

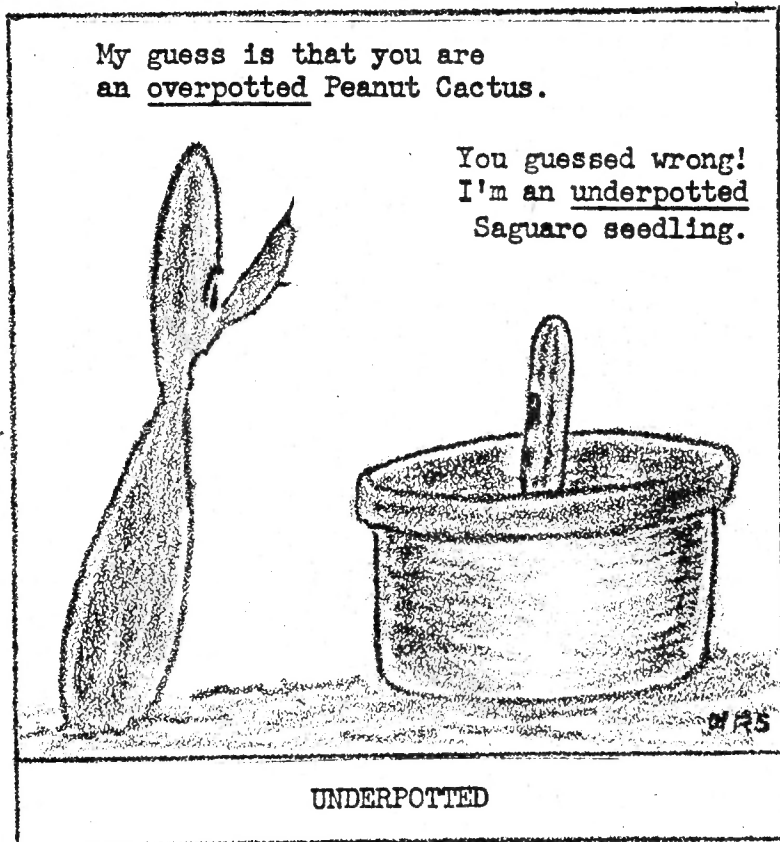
to our advertising campaign, that we received complaints from the Police (for blocking the roads), the gardeners (for restricting their activities), and from both visitors and workers (for obvious difficulties with the plants, etc.). This time we hope to make things a great deal easier for everyone. There will be a "Way In" and a "Way Out" for parking cars, and the same for selecting plants and gifts at the boutiques. Our poor, overworked cashiers will be outside the plant-selecting area, and may be contacted on the "Way Out" route. All in all, we hope to be much better organized this time, so - please bear with us!

Despite difficulties, it was most gratifying to realize the ever-growing interest in Quail Botanical Gardens (the crowd was the biggest ever), and the considerable profits derived from the sale are, as always, being used for the further beautification of the Gardens.

Quail Gardens are always delightful, but never more so than in the Spring. Two particularly interesting occasions upon which to visit them, during the coming weeks, come to mind:

- Sunday, March 6th - The opening of our first Nature Trail.
- Sunday, March 20th - Arbor Day - Program: "Wildlife in the Far North", by Mr. Kenneth Fink, a nature photographer. Time: 2 p.m.

I hope to see you there.



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT - H. Warren Buckner, 1744 Engelwood Dr., Lemon Grove, Ca. 92045. 469-1391
- FIRST V.P. - Tom Hamecher, 996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, Ca. 92020. 440-6245
- SECOND V.P. - Gerald Dice, 3354 Mohican Ave., San Diego, Ca. 92117. 276-2589
- RECORDING SEC. - Doris F. Rake, 4410 38th St., San Diego, Ca. 92116. 282-1722
- TREASURER - Russel Evans, 3115 Nile, San Diego, Ca. 92104. 284-5859
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Betty Athy, 7220 Baldrich St., La Mesa, Ca. 92041. 469-7647
- PAST PRES. - Martin L. Mooney, 97 K St., Chula Vista, Ca. 92011. 427-6796

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- One year term: John Pasek and Perlso Lewis.
- Two year term: Shirley Berry and Julianne Rice.
- Three " " : Joan Johnson and Ricky Latimer.

COMMITTEES FOR 1977

- ACTIVITIES - Martin Mooney.
- EDUCATION - Madelyn Lee, Succulents.
Dr. George E. Radwin, Cacti (Research).
Tony D'Atillio, Cacti.

EXHIBITS

Fair: CACTI:
Open House:

SUCCULENTS:

GRAFTS:

- LIBRARY - Edith Werner, Pat Mooney and Helen Hegyi.
- MEMBERSHIP - Russel Evans.
- PLANTS & SUPPLIES - Gerald Dice.
- PROGRAMS - Tom Hamecher.
- PUBLICATION - Audrey and Geoff Johnson.
- RECEPTION - Perlso Lewis.
- REGALEMENT -
- HISTORIAN - Ricky Latimer.
- AUDIT - Paul Johnson.
- CONSERVATION -
- PLANT EXCHANGE - Ione Hubner.

REPRESENTATIVES TO:

- San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation - Rose D'Atillio.
- San Diego Floral Association - Verna Pasek.
- Quail Botanical Gardens - Audrey Johnson.
- San Diego Park Desert Garden -

MEMBERSHIP:

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing Cacti, Other Succulents, and Exotic Plants.

Dues: \$5.00 annually, due in December of each year.
Single copy of Espinas y Flores - \$0.50.

MEETINGS:

The second Saturday of each month, 1.30 p.m.,
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, unless otherwise indicated. Board convenes after the general meeting.

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE:

March 21st, 1977.

AND SO TO BED.....30.

Audrey Johnson
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Address Correction Requested