

Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
an Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 50 No 11

November 2015



Mammillaria hernandezii

Photograph by
Irwin Lightstone

November Program:
“Better Spines, Flowers,
and Rosettes,
Improving your
Plant Photography

Regular Meeting,

November 7th, 1:00 pm, Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

Note: This is the 1st Saturday of the month

Pre-Meeting Workshop: Jerry Garner

Selecting Pots for Staging, Practical and Aesthetic Issues

Program: Irwin Lightstone

“Better Spines, Flowers, and Rosettes, Improving your Plant Photography

Plant of the Month: Tom Knapik

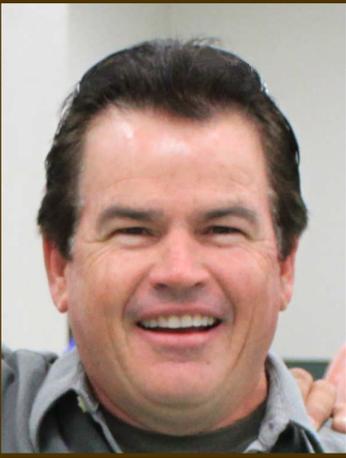
Lophophora, “The Divine Cactus”

New Member Orientation at 12:30. Meet at Information Table

If your last name begins with N through Z, please bring treats for the meeting

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President's Message



I want to offer sincere thanks to Tom Glavich for sharing his trip to South Africa and Lesotho last month. It was a glimpse into a part of Southern Africa that we don't often see. He shared pictures of flowers and bulbs that I am certain more than a few of us now covet.

Our next talk is also a departure for us as it focuses on the aspect of how we can capture the beauty in our gardens, collections and nature. Irwin Lightstone will present a program on the art of photographing our succulent plants. His photos have graced many journal covers and the reason is clear, he knows his stuff. My hope is that from beginner to advanced photographer, you come away from this with an idea and direction on how to do it better. The digital media age has allowed us more opportunity to take photos and many of them at that. Yet I still see some really lousy photos make it into print. If nothing else this will help you FOCUS on what you can do to make yours get "saved" not "deleted." PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING DATE!

Our pre talk will feature Tom Knapik on the genus *Lophophora*. We ask that you bring pictures you may have of this wonderful genus to display. It is certainly a plant of lore but one that we just do not hear so much about. I look forward to it!

Remember to sign up for the Holiday party either on line or at the meeting ASAP. It's great to be prepared for the number of people we have so that we don't come up short!

Not sure about you, but I am kind of looking forward to the upcoming winter. I know that the prediction is for much rain so I am trying to prepare for keeping the things that like it dry, dry, and the winter growers that like it wet....not too wet but the heat this year has been a bit much for me. It has got me seriously considering air conditioning! My plants for the most part seem to be doing well with it. I hope your gardens are happy and that you get out in them!

I include just a one photo glimpse of Part 3 *Mexico ~ Hunting the elusive ones* coming in the next issue.

See you all on Nov. 7th!

Kelly G



Agave albopilosa

November Meeting Brag Table ~ Faux Cactus and Succulents

The Brag Table at the November meeting will be full of Faux (fake) plants made by members. This is your chance to get creative and develop plants that are fun and a bit twisted, not unlike the real ones. An example would be Oreocereus made of Oreo cookies. In the past we've had plants made from pipe cleaners, Legos, origami, blown glass, balloons and just about anything you can imagine. So look around for interesting elements, start imagining, and knock our socks off!

Here are the Rules:

1. No obvious plant material can be used
2. "Plants" should be staged
3. Plant name must be Latin (have fun with this!).
4. For example, if you use Q-tips, you might want to call your plant "Spinocereus Qtipii"
5. The more uncommon the materials, the better!
6. Artistic license is encouraged

Please participate!

The more plants we have, the better. Have fun with it!! Who knows, if you win, your special plant could make the cover of the newsletter, almost as good as making the cover of Time magazine!



November Pre-meeting Workshop

Selecting Pots for Staging, Practical and Aesthetic Issues
Presented by Jerry Garner

In the November pre-meeting workshop we will look at the issues involved in selecting a particular pot for the staging of cactus and succulent plants. There will be a brief history of how and why cactus and succulent staging evolved. We will look at materials, shapes, sizes, finishes, and how they combine to accentuate a plant being prepared for the show bench. There are issues of practicality; what is the best pot to keep the plant happy in your growing conditions. Also, there are issues of aesthetics; does a particular pot enhance the qualities of the plant and present those qualities to the viewer. How does positioning the plant in the pot affect the visual dynamics of the presentation.

The two sets of issues present a wide assortment of possibilities for plant staging. The trick is to find a meeting point where the grower, the plant and the viewer are rewarded in the outcome.

Upcoming Events

November 07: (FIRST SAT. OF THE MONTH!!)
SDCSS Monthly Meeting. Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA.
(858) 382-1797. www.sdcss.net.

December 13: SDCSS Holiday Party (in lieu of Monthly Meeting). Balboa Park,
Room 101, San Diego, CA. 858-382-1797. www.sdcss.net.

Better Spines, Flowers and Rosettes, Improving your Plant Photography.

Bring clarity and insight into your images.
Learn a few important techniques to strengthen your images.

Biography: Irwin Lightstone

After 29 years practicing trial law, Irwin Lightstone closed his law firm to concentrate on his photography. Irwin is president of the North Texas Cactus and Succulent Society, past president of the Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies, and a former vice president of the Fort Worth Cactus and Succulent Society. He led numerous photographic seminars throughout the state including , San Diego, Tucson, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth, Plano, Kerrville, McKinney, and Dallas and was a featured speaker at the Gulf States Photographic Conference. Additionally, he led programs sponsored by the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Arboretum and the International Photography Hall of Fame, the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. His photography has won numerous awards and is often featured in the Cactus and Succulent Journal. Recently, many of Irwin's images of the artifacts of war in the book were featured in *Exotische*. Irwin was formerly the Director of Photography at the Wilson History and Center. He published Succulent *Abstracts and Absurdities* in black and white. Presently, he is working with Steven Hammer on the new mesemb book.



Crassula species

Irwin lives in Dallas with his wife, Robin, his two children, one cat and several thousand plants.

**Coffee in the Garden at the Miller's
November 14th 2015
10am to 1pm**

It's been another year and the plants are bigger, and the pool has finally been filled in. The garden is a continuing work in progress and it's fun to plant new plants. We'll have treats and BJs great coffee and a chance to enjoy each other's company. For those of you who haven't been here it can be a great example of what not to do and what to do when planting succulent plants.



There will be plants for sale. Lots of *Gasterias*, *Haworthias*, *Sansevieria*, and *Aeoniums* at the start of their growing season and other plants too. November is the perfect planting time for winter growing succulents. I also have lots of small to medium sized clay pots that will be for sale.

**10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee
Call (619) 258-9810 if you get lost.**

52 east to Mast. East on Mast to Cuyamaca (left), go one block and turn right on Beck, down 6 blocks and turn left on Waynecrest Lane We are in the middle of the block on the left.

Look for the cactus.

8 east to 67 east. Exit at Magnolia/Prospect. East on Magnolia for lots of stop lights. Left on El Nopal. Up 3 blocks and turn left onto Waynecrest Lane. Halfway down the block on the right.

Look for the cactus.



Brag Table Winners

Cactus / Novice

- 1st: Sue Thomas - *Acanthocalycium violaceum*
- 2nd: Melanie Howe - *Rhipsalis horrida*
- 3rd: Sue Thomas - *Thelocactus lausseri*

Cactus / Intermediate

- 1st: Tina Zucker - *Monvillea spegazzinii* crest
- 2nd: Denise Griffin - *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*
- 3rd: Brian Shepherd - *Coryphantha bumamma*

Cactus / Advanced

- 1st: Peter Walkowiak - *Mammillaria theresae*
- 2nd: Peter Walkowiak - *Ariocarpus confusus*
- 3rd: Peter Walkowiak - *Ariocarpus lloydii* x *retusus*

Succulents / Novice

- 1st: Maria Becker - *Haworthia* sp.

Succulents / Intermediate

- 1st: Tina Zucker - *Monadenium ritchiei*
- 2nd: Sara Schell - *Huernia* cv. 'Sea Cucumber'
- 3rd: Tina Zucker - *Cattleya* orchid

Succulents / Advanced

- 1st: Peter Walkowiak - *Adenium boehmianum*
- 2nd: Peter Walkowiak - *Conophytum pellucidum* x *lithopoides*
- 3rd: Kelly Griffin - *Aloe* cv. 'Christmas Sleigh'



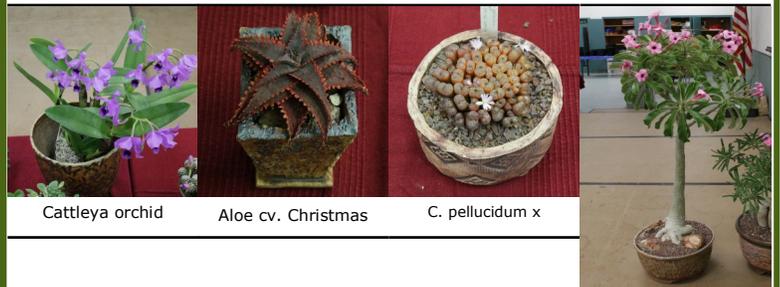
Acanthocalycium Rhipsalis horrida Thelocactus Monvillea spegazzinii



M. perezdelarosae Coryphantha bumamma Mammillaria theresae Ariocarpus lloydii v.



Ariocarpus confusus Haworthia sp. Monadenium ritchiei Huernia cv. Sea



Cattleya orchid Aloe cv. Christmas C. pellucidum x

Adenium boehmianum



Recipe of the Month - Prickly Pear Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup PRICKLY PEAR puree or juice
- 2 - 3 drops red vegetable food coloring
- 2 tablespoons lime juice (lemon is OK)
- 1 tablespoon butter

Blend together sugar, cornstarch, salt, lime juice, and Prickly Pear juice or puree. Cook over medium high heat, until thickened and clear. Blend in butter and coloring. Heat a few minutes longer.

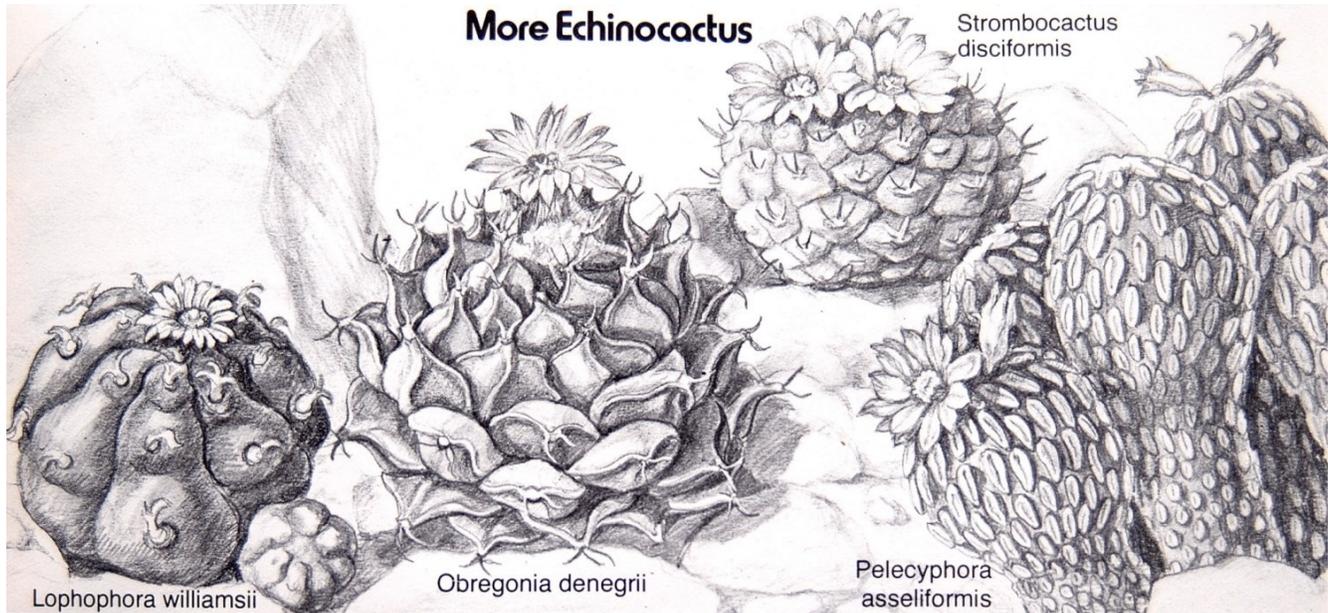
May be served on pound cake, ice cream, or frosted white cake.

Crushed pineapple may be added. Increase cornstarch to 1 1/2 tablespoons and add a 9 ounce can of undrained crushed pineapple.

THE DIVINE CACTUS

BY TOM KNAPIK

My interest in cacti began with a trip to a friend's attic where she was growing succulents under lights. Within the week I purchased a Sunset book called, Cactus and Succulents that featured a drawing of the living rock cacti which included *Lophophora williamsii*.



Cacti are already extreme plant forms adapted to dry environments, but these living rock plants looked like sea creatures to me with few or no spines and mushroom/artichoke like qualities. I could not believe my eyes when I came across one of these plants at a local nursery back in 1982, only to find out later that in California Lophophora are prohibited. With a little digging I found the California law explaining the status of Lophophora.

Health and Safety Code - HSC

DIVISION 10. UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT [11000 - 11651]

(Division 10 repealed and added by Stats. 1972, Ch. 1407.)

CHAPTER 6. Offenses and Penalties [11350 - 11392]

(Chapter 6 added by Stats. 1972, Ch. 1407.)

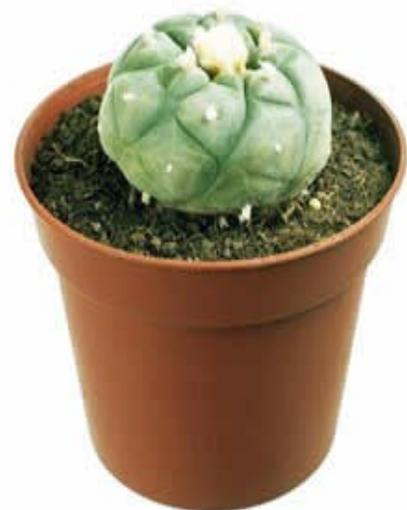
ARTICLE 3. Peyote [11363- 11363.]

(Article 3 added by Stats. 1972, Ch. 1407.) **11363.**

Every person who plants, cultivates, harvests, dries, or processes any plant of the genus *Lophophora*, also known as peyote, or any part thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not more than one year or the state prison.

(Amended by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1139.)

Another website, Peyote.net, posts the following statement to those interested in the plant, "Recreational use of peyote is prohibited in all of the states and territories and by federal law. Recreational users of peyote may face large fines or even jail time if caught. Additionally, the sale and production of peyote for non-religious purposes is also against the law in the United States. Although not discovered nearly as often, peyote growers are usually treated the same way by law enforcement as marijuana growers.



Continued.....

Although ceremonial use of peyote was also illegal at one time, the United States now exempts this type of peyote use as legal. However, legal peyote use is restricted to the Native American Church. The distinction does not extend to other Native American groups that use peyote in religious ceremonies. As such, a number of religious peyote growers and users have been targeted and prosecuted by local law enforcement agencies. For example, the Peyote Foundation in Arizona was raided by local officials in 1998. Other Native American groups continue to strive for the legalization of peyote, but have not been successful thus far.”

The United State does not distinguish between those that want to use these plants for a religious experience and those that would like to grow the plants because they are unusual, unique, and in my opinion, beautiful. Other countries do not have the same approach and cactus enthusiasts can buy, grow, and sell them. I saw some wonderful plants in collections in Italy, Czech Republic, and Japan.

I decided that owning these beautiful cacti was a risk I did not want to take, so I focused on habitat photography. I planned a trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas to see and photograph *Ariocarpus fissuratus* and *Epithelantha bokei* in habitat. During my pre trip research I found that *Lophophora* had been recorded near Chilicotal Mountain. I dedicated a day to traveling there and hunting for the plant. After several hours of bushwhacking and finding nothing, I decided to head back to my rental car. Just before I got to the dirt road where I was parked, I noticed a light blue green colored plant beneath a bush. There it was !!!

Lophophora williamsii, in all its glory, along with a few seedlings. I could not have been more thrilled. I looked for others in the surrounding area and found none. I did find a huge outcrop with a bedrock metate on the top. It was a deep smooth hole formed by grinding with another rock over many years. I also found many shards of rock that may have been the byproduct of making arrowheads. Then it hit me. Perhaps it was not a coincidence that this area was frequented by natives and that they may have been

using the peyote for ceremonial purposes. Later, I read that in 2005, researchers used radiocarbon dating and alkaloid analysis to study two specimens of peyote found in archaeological digs from a site called Shumla Cave No. 5 on the Rio Grande in Texas. The results dated the specimens to between 3780 and 3660 BC. This indicates that native North Americans were likely to have used peyote for at least five and a half thousand. My next excursion to find the plant came when



the World Bromeliad conference was held in Houston, Texas. I planned a few days in Rio Grande City to look for *Astrophytum asterius*. While visiting the US Fish and Wildlife office, I met up with a rancher who said he didn't have *Astrophytum* growing on his property, but he did have *Lophophora*. He gave me permission to look around and it didn't take long before I found some small heads under a bush. He mentioned that most on his ranch had been topped by peyote collectors. They would cut the main head at ground level and if the tap root survived, it would produce small offsets. He said his brother once saw a pickup at a gas station with the bed half full of collected peyote buttons.

Continued.....



After seeing the plant in habitat a few times, my interest turned to taxonomy. I read Edward Anderson's book, Peyote, the Divine Cactus, and realized the specimens I had seen were *Lophophora williamsii*. He identified this as a wide spread and variable species. Another much further south, with a much smaller range, was *L. diffusa*. Anderson's book was published in 1980 and since that time many cactus enthusiasts have visited many more areas and analyzed many more populations. A 2005 article in Kaktusy by Bohata, Mysak, and Snicer identifies four species of Lophophora. They are; *L. williamsii*, *L. fricii*, *L. koehresii*, and *L. diffusa*.

Another species was added in 2008 by the same group named *L. alberto-vojtechii*. For more information about the various species and their characteristics, attend my presentation on the genus at the SDCSS meeting on November 7, one week earlier than usual.

Since this plant is still illegal to own,

PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY LOPHOPHORA PLANTS IN TO THE MEETING.

However, if you find a picture from the internet or any image you may come across of Lophophora, print it out and bring it to the meeting. Put it on the head table with no name listed. I will be sharing many images I have found of this very unique genus.

Announcements



Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, submissions for the December issue Espinas y Flores, must be received no later than Monday, November 16th. Please send material to: Sue Thomas, suethomas1313@gmail.com

Have fun! Meet new people! Volunteer!

SDCSS is looking for someone to fill the following positions:

Brag Table Coordinator:

Create and print various signs; Create/print/cut entry forms; Create/print, cut coupons for winners; Encourage participation; Attend monthly meetings by 10:00 am to position signs on tables; Collect winning entry forms after winners are announced; Create list of winners and plant names. Contact Chris Miller if interested (619) 258-9810 c.miller@cox.net

Webmaster

We are looking for a new Webmaster. If you have the skills and the interest, please talk to Wendy Goldman at the next meeting or email Paul Maker, pdmaker@roadrunner.com

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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 Wendy Goldman (619) 917-6288 moxadoc@yahoo.com

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Herb Stern
 Brag table: Tina Zucker & Denise Griffin
 Plants of the Month: Don Hunt
 Winter Show: Peter Walkowiak
 Summer Show: Peter Walkowiak
 Historian: Terry Parr
 Grants: Jerry Garner
 Library: Don Hunt, Steve & Kathy Harris
 Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

Sales, Meetings, Supplies, Programs

Annual sales: Chris Miller
 Auction & Holiday Plants: Kelly Griffin
 Monthly Plant Sales: Jim DeForrest & Lynn Elliott
 Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted
 Benefit Drawing Table: Collette, Kienan, & Terry Parr
 Programs: Kelly Griffin
 Reception: Susan Hopkins/Judy Walkowiak
 Monthly Regalement: Cathy Clark
 Picnic Regalement: Chris Miller

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 SD Botanic Garden: Phyllis Flechsig
 SD Floral Association: Jeanette Dutton

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Peter Walkowiak
 SD Botanic Garden Foundation: George Plaisted
 SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens: May Fong

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Kelly Griffin Chris Miller Jennifer Harris



Leslie Sheridan Peter Walkowiak Rick Bjorklund



Kienan Parr Collette Parr Wendy Goldman



Brian Shepherd Paul Maker Susan Hopkins

SDCSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member.

Newsletter is E-mailed. Mailed paper copies are available for an additional \$10 a year.

Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.

Type of Membership. Please check one: New _____ Renewal _____



Annual Membership Dues (E-mail Newsletter): \$15.00 _____

Add First class delivery USPS (Paper Newsletter) \$10.00 _____

Annual Dues – International (Paper): \$30.00 _____

Additional Household Member(s) \$ 5.00 _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Member Information: (Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City and State:** _____

Zip + 4: _____ **Phone Number:** (____) _____

Cell/FAX: (____) _____ **Email Address:** _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Do you wish to receive E-mail notifications of Club events and issues? Yes _____ No _____ Mail this form or a copy, along with a check or money order payable in US Funds to SDCSS to: SDCSS Membership Dept, c/o Paul Maker 1245 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078