



Mammillaria thornberi

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume 48 Number 10

November 2013



Nothing to do with the talks this month, but a great picture of Kelly in Socotra

Events This Month

Pre Meeting Workshop

Cheap & Easy Winter
Protection For Your Plants
Hoop Houses, Lean-tos, & Cold
Frames
By Peter Walkowiak
11 to 12

New Member Orientation

Wendy Goldman
12:30

Regular Meeting

Saturday November 9, 2013
Room 101, the Prado
Balboa Park
1 to 4

Bug of the Month

Cochineal
By Christine Vargas

Program

Aloes of Northeast Africa
By Tom Cole

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Thanksgiving! Well perhaps that is a bit early. Certainly not as early as Home Depot was with the Holiday stockings and tree decorations that appeared this year. The beginning of October ~ really?!

Thanks Guillermo for a wonderful program on Baja. It was almost as good as being there. If you think you might want to see the plants in person, please feel free to contact Mr. Rivera on his website: www.southamericannaturetours.com

Our plans for the Holiday Party are in place.....Santa has made his list and checked it twice! Be sure to save the date: December 14th and sign up as well. Don't forget to groom that nice gift exchange plant too!

Our November 9th meeting's program is from a speaker we have not heard from before. He is none other than Tom Cole from up Santa Barbara way. Tom is a confirmed *Aloe* enthusiast who's job takes him to the place where his passion can run free... at least on the down time. Any free time he does have is spent climbing hills and cliffs in Africa exploring for *Aloes*. He has recently described two new species. Please join us for a trip and a half to Africa!

Our Brag Table this month will be the phony baloney Faux plants. It is a chance for you to be even more creative than usual! Just conjure something up and bring it in....its a little bit like dressing up for Halloween only with plants! Should be fun!

The rains are going to be here soon and the nights are getting cooler. Your summer growers and winter growers are swapping the job duties. Pay attention to what is happening. You may need to relocate some plants to keep them from having a cold and wet winter.....many cactus in particular do not want wet feet when it gets cold. Give them the winter off and keep them on the drier side.

See you on the 9th!
Kelly Griffin

Faux Cactus and Succulent Brag Table

The Brag Table at the November meeting will be full of faux 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 have had plants made from pipe cleaners, Legos, origami, blown glass, ballons and just about anything you can imagine. So start imagining and knock our socks off! The ground rules are:

- No obvious plant material used
- Staged
- Pest free
- Plant name must be Latin based
- The more unlikely the materials the better
- Artistic license is encouraged



Legocereus millerii

Please participate, who knows, if you win your special plant could make the cover of the newsletter, almost as good as making the cover of the Rolling Stone!

Program: Aloes of Northeast Africa

By Tom Cole

Tom will focus on the *Aloes* of Northeast Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia). While not attempting to be an exhaustive view of all the aloes in the region, this presentation will highlight close to 75 species of *Aloe* Tom has encountered in more than ten years of work, living and travel in north-east Africa, including 2 new species he recently described from Uganda. *Aloe wanalensis* and *Aloe butiabana*.

Tom Cole is a Santa Barbara native who has parlayed ten years of time with humanitarian work and plant research in Africa into an important local resource for succulent plants and garden design. Cole operates Cold Spring Aloes, a specialty nursery offering over 200 species of *Aloe* and other succulents.

Tom creates award-winning designs, often in artistic collaboration with architects such as Jeff Shelton, matching succulents to the architecture and hardscape in a dramatic and playful way. Tom's mission is to take this *Aloe* expertise to broaden people's understanding of the potential of succulents to achieve a more vibrant and colorful vision for their gardens.

Tom has spent 20 years in sustainable agriculture, livelihoods and community development work, with over 8 years of field experience in sub-Saharan Africa. His focal areas are in urban agriculture, food production system design, organic horticulture, agricultural extension, permaculture, natural resource management, livelihoods, economic strengthening and strategic marketing interventions.

He also works as a Strategic Philanthropic Advisor for several private foundations, helping to guide strategy and funding decisions in a range of program areas: global health, agriculture and sustainable food systems, and K-12 education. Previously he worked as the Africa Region Food Security and Livelihoods Advisor for Save the Children US, the Coordinator for Save the Children International's Africa Pastoral Initiative and Save the Children in Uganda's (SCiUG) Program Development Director

Thomas has a Masters degree in Humanitarian Assistance from the Friedman School of Nutrition at Tufts University and is a 5-time world Frisbee champion.

If your last name starts with N-Z please bring snacks to the next meeting

2013 & 2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 14: SDCSS Holiday Party in Room 101, The Prado, Balboa Park

FEB 8 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, WINTER SHOW AND SALE BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA—INFO 858-382-1797

MAR. 28-30 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE. FRI. AND SAT. MAR. 28-29 9-5PM SUN. MAR. 30th 12-4PM 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357

Bug of the Month: Cochineal

By Christine Vargas

Have you ever wondered what that white fuzzy stuff is on your *Opuntias*? Well it has a colorful history dating back to the 1500's! Spanish conquistadors in central Mexico learned how valuable it was as a fabric dye and took it back to Spain where it quickly became so prized that it was more valuable than gold!

Ships laden with it were sought after and plundered by other countries as Spain tried to hold the monopoly on it's distribution. The expression "caught red-handed" comes from the days of cochineal theft. Products made from this "fuzzy stuff" or **cochineal** are still being used today.

The "fuzzy stuff" is actually made by a scale insect called *Dactylopius coccus* and it is indigenous to Mexico and parts south. Even today there are farms in the area around Oaxaca, Mexico that grow cochineal as an industry and it is exported all over the world.

Cochineal insects have the ability to convert *Opuntia* into carminic acid - a red dye used in food coloring, cosmetics, liquor, paint, and textiles. In the mid-1800's aniline or petroleum-based dyes were discovered and were less expensive to manufacture. Consequently the cochineal industry suffered until it was discovered that the aniline dyes were purported to be carcinogenic and linked to hyperactivity in children. Cochineal has seen a resurgence in popularity since then.

Learn more about this insect at our next Plant of the Month presentation by Christine Vargas.



Old World Succulent Garden Request

The volunteers at the Safari Park Old World Garden would like to add variety to the gardens. If you have extra *Aloes*, *Euphorbias*, or other succulents that are natives of Africa or Madagascar, please notify us. We will make arrangements to collect them and see if they can be included in the gardens. Please contact May Fong Ho at 760-233-3948 or Susan Lafreniere at 760-317-5764.

Library Update and Fine Amnesty

On October 19th Don Hun, Paul and Carol Maker, and Chris Miller spent the day in Room 104 at Balboa Park barcoding the Library. What that entailed was putting two bar code stickers on each book, then scanning that booking number into the library data base. This include inputting several books to update the data base. They worked from 9 to 4 with a break for lunch. What this means to you is that at the November meeting we will start check in and out books with the bar coding. You will need your badge with the bar code on it to check out a book. Aha! That's why they made those stinking badges!

The active cabinet was barcoded to a total of 380 books. We will need to barcode the incoming checked out books at the meeting. If you have any due or overdue books checkout please bring it back to the November meeting. We will wave all fees in November for past due books.



October 2013 Brag Table Winners

Judged by Guillermo Rivera & Kelly Griffin

CACTUS

NoviceE:\SDCSS October 2013 Meeting\staph2.jpg

- 1st Place, Craig La Caille – *Obregonia denegrii*
2nd Place, Craig La Caille – *Strombecactus disciformis*
3rd Place, Craig La Caille – *Mammillaria candida*

Intermediate

- 1st Place, Candy & Jerry Garner – *Mammillaria nejapensis*
2nd Place, Brian Shepherd – *Echinocereus maritimus*
3rd Place, Brian Shepherd – *Ariocarpus fissuratus mix*

AdvancedE:\SDCSS October 2013 Meeting\staph2.jpg

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Ariocarpus retusus v. furfuraceus*
2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Ariocarpus retusus montrose*
3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Ariocarpus retusus*

SUCCULENTS

Novice

- 1st Place, Jacky Rynicki – Log Dish Garden
2nd Place, Pat Bryan – *Bombax eliptica*
3rd Place, Michael Jarcho – *Crassula milfordiae*

Intermediate

- 1st Place, John Barkley – *Welwitschia mirabilis* (fem.)
2nd Place, Candy & Jerry Garner – *Euphorbia francoisii*
3rd Place, Candy & Jerry Garner – *Pachycormis discolor*

Advanced

- 1st Place, Kelly Griffin – *Pachypodium namaquanum x succulentum* hybrid
2nd Place, Collette Parr – *Echeveria 'Raindrops'*
3rd Place, Kelly Griffin – *Agave Blue Titanota* – "Lion Head"



Submitted by
Candy Garner

Photos by Paul Maker





Pre Meeting Workshop Cheap & Easy Winter Protection For Your Plants Hoop Houses, Lean-tos, Cold Frames

In this workshop I will discuss various strategies for protecting your plants from rain and cold, going over the pluses and minuses of each type of structure. There are many factors that determine what will work best for an individual collector. Among the factors that will determine what is best for you are ; the space, location, permanent or temporary, windy, cold, functionality, ease of installation, and cost.

I will discuss types of materials used for each type, how to assemble, what not to do, and tips for making it easy. I will have sample materials for each to help demonstrate how they go together and hand outs showing drawings of each, and what parts and tools are needed to complete your own mini greenhouse and where to purchase the parts you need.

The last part of the Workshop will show how you can provide emergency heating to your plants should you need it. I recommend that you always have this on hand so that you can have peace of mind at a moments notice.

All these structures I have used in the past so I am very familiar with each one and their pluses and minuses. Also, having worked in greenhouse nurseries doing greenhouse maintenance and construction I have real life experience.

Peter Walkowiak



Kathy Harris, one of our Librarians and a past newsletter editor, had her hip replace on October 24th and came through with flying colors. She is home recovering. I figure she'll be tap dancing in no time.

Holiday Party Sign up

Our December meeting will be our annual Holiday Party. There will be gift plants, a plant exchange, an auction and the Wine Guy will be doing his thing. We will also have death by desert. You can sign up and pay for the Holiday Party on our website, at the November meeting or by mailing the payment to Chris Miller at 10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee CA 92071. The cutoff for signing up will be December 7th.

| Names of People attending | Member \$20 | Non- Member \$25 |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
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| | | |





Meet Your President, Kelly Griffin

By Denise Huntsman-Griffin

A day in the life of succulent expert, hybridizer, propagator and plant explorer, Kelly Griffin might go this way. He starts with the morning in the tissue culture lab, afternoon buying seed for the nursery from another plant star, then pre-dinner conversation about the latest Agave book (commenting on each pretty plant, saying where it comes from or who created it and pointing out the errors of course). Dinner, a break! Baseball conversation! After dinner, looking at Facebook pictures of plants and planning his next three plant trips.

With the knowledge Kelly has, you would think that he started studying plants at a young age and indeed that was the case, at age 12. But what you might not know about Kelly are his other areas of interest, accomplishment and expertise. Kelly's first job was at NurseryLand at age 15! (Yes, he said he was older to get his foot in the door). Kelly has a degree from UCSD in Physics. Kelly raised three boys; two now in college and one in law school. Kelly was a little league coach for 10 years so he could spend more time with his boys and coach them as well. Other areas of expertise: landscaping, photography, speaking, scuba diving (Instructor), cyclist (category 3) and advanced snow skier. During Kelly's life he has traveled to 20+ countries, visiting Madagascar 4 times and Mexico 30+ times covering 26 Mexican states. Kelly's father worked for United Airlines which allowed for many family trips. Kelly's mother worked as a florist for a time when Kelly was a kid. When you put the two together, this equals, "Kelly, Plant Explorer." Plant related jobs have included NurseryLand, a landscaping business, Rancho Soledad Nursery for 11 years and currently he works for Altman's Plants as Succulent Plant Development Manager.



Kelly became famous for his hybridizing and is responsible for over 100 succulent hybrids now in the trade, including *Aloes*, *Agaves* and *Echeverias*. His specialties that he is well known for are his *Aloe* hybrids that are 20 years in the making (Grassie Lassie, Sean Red, Pink Blush and Coral Fire to name a few) and some *Agave* hybrids (Blue Glow, Cubic, and Crème Brulee to name a few). He is also responsible for collecting seed from many species in the wild and propagating the seed for all to enjoy. Some of these plants would not be well represented in the trade if not for Kelly going to their locality and collecting the seed, *Agave parrasana*, *Agave albipilosa* and *Echeveria cante* as well as others.

Kelly joined the San Diego CSS in 1992 and since then has made many contributions including being in charge of programs for most of the last 10 years getting wonderful speakers, judging of the shows, has written articles for the newsletter, assisting with audio visual needs and now being the current President. Kelly is also currently Co-Chair of programs for the CSSA. Speaking engagements Kelly has done for other clubs include: clubs all over California, Arizona, Las Vegas, Denver, Bromeliad Societies, the San Diego Horticultural Society, The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA), The Cactus and Succulent Society of Australia (CSSA) and has also spoken at The Huntington Symposium.

If you would like to discuss plants with Kelly, see him at the meetings or talk openly with him and other plant experts on the forum XericWorld.com.

P.S. Kelly says he does not approve of this message (but it is true!)

Why should I go to monthly meetings? I just enjoy the sales. Ten Reasons to Go!

For those of you that have joined to attend our sales early or have been meaning to make it to a meeting but haven't I'd like to share why you should go.

1. Share your hobby with like minded people
2. Great programs and small talks
3. A judged brag table in three different categories
4. A wonderful library and a friendly group of librarians waiting to help you
5. Potting supplies for sale at reasonable prices
- 6 A snack at break time to tide you over to dinner
7. A Benefit Drawing for interesting plants
8. Plant exchange, where you trade your stuff for other peoples stuff
9. Plant and pottery sales that start at 10
10. A pre meeting workshop on various topics

PS: It's a great place to learn, get your questions asked and make great new friends and remember you can't have too many plants.



Photos by Paul Maker

Future Coffee in the Garden Events

If you are interested in sharing your wonderful garden with other members let me know. The schedule is pretty open for the rest of the year. If you would like to see another member's garden make the suggestion and I can check to see if they were interested. If this is a program you would be interested in managing let me know. Chris Miller— c.miller@cox.net

Help Wanted: In order to run an organization the size of SDCSS we need lots of volunteers. It is a great way to get to know other people in the organization and to give back to SDCSS. We have several positions that need you.

We are forming a Committee for the Sale to help spread the work and responsibility. The following openings are available:

Box Czar: to round up boxes and manage their availability during the event

Sale Security Chair: to manage the volunteers providing security to the sale

Signage Chair: to develop and post signs for the sale

Sales Volunteer Chair: to recruit and manage the volunteers working the sale

These people plus Jim DeForest as Cashier Team Chair and Chris Miller as Vendor Liaison and Committee Chair will form the committee.

The SDCSS Board received many suggestions after the last sale. While the sale was a success with outstanding sales, we can always improve the experience for our members and customers. This committee will work to make that happen. Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.

A Call to All Artists

The SDCSS would like to test the waters to find out how much interest there would be in designing a line of prints for T-shirts by, for, and about the SDCSS and the plants we love. If you think you have the talent and motivation for such an endeavor, by then all means drop us a line or send in your submissions to c.miller@cox.net and I will forward it to our Chair for this project.. Any nice graphic of a succulent plant, plants, or landscape will be considered but of special relevance would be, of course, San Diego county native plants and scenery. We look forward to hearing from you!

Zoo Safari Park Greenhouse & Old World Succulent Garden

We have received an estimate and drawings from Conley Greenhouses for the greenhouse we want to build behind the Old World Succulent Garden. The greenhouse would support the Old World Succulent Garden and the Baja Garden. I met with Cary Sharp the 23rd of July and requested a grant to cover the costs that we don't have the money for. Once the Zoo finishes reviewing the drawings and decides on permits, etc. we will start looking for volunteers for framing and pouring the cement foundation and erecting the greenhouse. The current plans include a 30' by 48' floor plan. The area originally promised for the greenhouse is still available.

Susan Lafreniere, with assistance from May Fong, is developing a data base of plants in the Old World Succulent Garden. She is currently working on the Aloes. If you are interested in helping with this project we need people who are knowledgeable about *Aloes*, *Euphorbias* and *Pachypodiums*. If you want to learn about those plants that works too. Part of job involves identifying the plant on site and part involves research. We will use this data base for signage for the garden and to support accreditation of this Garden. Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.



Save The Date

**Desert
Creations**

Spectacular End of the Year Sale

***Date: Saturday, November 23^d
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM***

All cactus and succulent Club members are invited to
this once a year opportunity

Save at least 20 percent on all plants

Local clubs receive 10 percent back on the total purchase (not
including taxes) made by members.

The above price reduction covers hundreds of plants from Madagascar
and Africa - Euphorbia, Adenia, Pachypodium, etc.

**Located in the San Fernando Valley
15914 Rayen Street North Hills California 91343**

**Directions: Exit the 405N Freeway at Nordhoff (go west after exiting for
approximately two blocks, turn left on Haskell and then right on Rayen –
(look for the cactus garden on the South side)**

Call (818) 482-8795 for additional information

SDC&SS 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 \$5 a year. Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.**

Annual Dues
(E-mail Newsletter) \$15.00 _____
(Paper Newsletter) _____
First class delivery USPS \$5.00 _____
Annual Dues – International (Paper) \$30.00 _____
Additional Household Member(s) \$5.00 _____
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check **ONE** for type of membership:

NEW _____ **RENEWAL** _____

Member Information:

(Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____

Zip + 4: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell/FAX: _____

E-mail 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 92078-4816**

(Rev. E-2, 2012-11-13)

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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Brag Table: **Candy Garner**

Plants of the Month: **Don Hunt**

Summer Show: **Peter Walkowiak**

Winter Show: **Peter Walkowiak**

Historian: **Terry Parr**

Library: **Don Hunt, Chris Miller, Jeanette Dutton, Steve & Kathy Harris**

Exchange Plants & Seeds: **Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell**

Grants: **Jerry Garner**

Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: **Paul & Carol Maker** pdmaker@roadrunner.com

Mailing: **Jean & Bill O'Daniel**

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Auction & Holiday Plants: **Kelly Griffin**

Monthly Plant Sales: **Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott**

Monthly Supply Sales: **George & Jerry Plaisted**

Benefit Drawing Table: **Collette, Kienan & Terry Parr**

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Programs: **Kelly Griffin**

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Picnic Regalement: **Bill O'Daniel & Steve Harris**

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SD Zoo Safari Park Baja & Old World Gardens: **Chris Miller**

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