



Mammillaria thomberi

# Espinas y Flores

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

## And the winners reap their rewards!



Winners at the SDCSS June Show receiving their certificates at the July club meeting are (from left): Denise Huntsman-Griffin, Tina Zucker, Jürgen Menzel, Jean O'Daniel, Don Hunt, Candy Garner, Jerry Garner, Peter Walkowiak, Terry Parr, Collette Parr, Steve Salley, and Kelly Griffin.

— Paul Maker photo

## August meeting highlights!

**August's regular meeting will be the second Sat., Aug. 8, 1:00 p.m.** Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

**New Member Orientation:** 12:30 p.m. just before the meeting, in Room 101.

**The Pre-Meeting Workshop is at 11:00 a.m. on the patio:** Chris Miller will do a hands-on talk about how to make more without seeds

**Snacks at the July meeting:** If your last name begins with N through Z, please bring a snack to the meeting!

**Program Speaker: Matthew Maggio** will talk about cactus and succulent diseases and how to control them. See the preview on page 3.

**Plant of the Month** discussion will be led by Chris Dawson, talking about seed germination.

**Denise Huntsman-Griffin**, our hard-working reporter, helps us get to know fellow club member, **Peter Walkowiak** a little bit better. See page 4.

**Peter Breslin** reports on a trip to research *Cochemiea halei* on three islands in Baja California Sur, Mexico. See pages 6 and 7.



Photographer and succulent grower Collette Parr shot this nice photo of *Aoenium* 'Plum Purdy' during the pre-meeting plant sale at the July meeting. Come to the SDCSS August meeting, and bring your camera!

Opinions expressed in articles and editorial comments are solely the opinions of the author or the editor and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the SDCSS, the Board of Directors or the organization as a whole. All material submitted to the *Espinas Y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content. All material contained in the

*Espinas Y Flores* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations (unless permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the article.) Please send one copy of the printed material to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the express consent of the editor is prohibited.



Kelly Griffin

## President's message

I hope you didn't miss Nan Sterman's presentation at the July meeting on succulent garden companion plants! Great program! Thanks to Nan! If you want to see more, check out her *Growing Passion* program on KPBS!

I want to apologize for missing out on thanking a few volunteers at the June Show and Sale (ok more than a few!). Please know that you are **greatly** appreciated,

and that my omission is just that. It was **all of you** that made the June Show and Sale a record breaker!

The July meeting was a full one, largely because of trophies and awards presentations from the June Show. Thanks for your patience; the meeting was longer than usual!

The Brag Table blossomed into a bounty of absolutely beautiful plants at the July meeting! I'm pleased so many members participated, particularly in the intermediate category. With the plethora of plants, we may not have given your plant the attention it deserved (and the meeting was running long anyway), so please keep on participating in the Brag

Table! We'll be able to recognize and discuss your plant(s) in future meetings. For sure...!

We discussed at the SDCSS Board meeting how we can help make our society run smoother. One thing we are going to try is to help our volunteers and direct them to the right place for their skills and the clubs needs. Please, if you are reading this, consider what task you might be able to help with. If you are not sure what that task might be, at least be open to a friendly face when they ask you to tackle a need.

Our August mini program or "plant of the month" is going to be from Chris Dawson on seed growing! If you haven't started some cacti or succulents from seed, you will probably find inspiration during the talk!

Our next program features a rare but welcome appearance of Matt Maggio of Rainshadow Succulents. He is a master cultivator and will be addressing the topic of plant diseases, something that we should all know more about at least if we want to be better growers! He is a very knowledgeable plantsman. I am sure he will impart some of his experience to all of us. He will also likely bring some of his strange and wonderful plants to sell. Don't miss this! See you on August 8th.

— Kelly

## Speaker and event schedule for SDCSS in 2015

**August 8:** Matthew Maggio, Diseases/TBD

**Sept. 12:** Annual Picnic Location TBD

**October 10:** Tom Glavich, Succulent Plant Cultivation/TBD

**Nov. 7\*\*\*:** Irwin Lightstone, Succulent Plant Photography Exposition/TBD

**Dec. 12:** Holiday Gathering!

**\*\*\* Please note, this date is on the FIRST Saturday of the month due to an unavoidable room scheduling change.**

## Cactus and succulent calendar of upcoming events for 2015

**Aug. 8-9:** 30th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the L.A. County Arboretum, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Info: Call Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-714-1052.

**Sep 5: Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium.** All day at the Huntington.

**Sep 6: Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction,** Noon to 5 p.m., Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA 90615. Info: 310-922-6090.

**Oct 24-25: Palomar Show and Sale,** Sat. 9 a.m. to 5p.m., Sun.

Continued next column

### Continued from previous column

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., San Diego Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens RD, Encinitas CA, Info: 858-382-1797 hciservices@gmail.com.

**Nov 7-8: San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

Want to help?

## Notice: SDCSS is looking for someone willing to manage the fun and interesting Brag Table!

### Brag Table Job Description

- Create and print various signs
- Create, print, and cut entry forms
- Create, print, and cut coupons for winners
- Encourage participation;
- Attend monthly meetings by 10 a.m. to position signs on each of the three tables;
- Collect winning entry forms after winners are announced;
- Create list of winners and plant names

**Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.**

(619) 258-9810 c.miller@cox.net

Have you been hankering for a special cactus or succulent? Advertise in EyF's new Classified Ads feature, or have us make a display ad for you! Got one to sell? Do it here! Contact Meg Ryan, Editor, at valleywomenmagazine@roadrunner.com.

August program speaker

## ▶ Battling the bugs: Discerning, identifying and combating succulent plant diseases

Featuring **Matthew Maggio**

Succulent nurseryman, landscape designer, hybridizer

The seeds of my life in the dirt were sown alongside those of my first vegetable garden, planted at the age of six in the sun-drenched San Fernando Valley, in Los Angeles, Calif. One youthful morning, I wandered into the front yard of my next door neighbors while they were planting what were first revealed to me as succulents; *Aeoniums*, *Kalanchoe*, *Agave attenuata* and some Night Blooming *Cereus* were among the new curiosities. That first encounter was the spark that eventually consumed my parent's entire backyard — save the patio furniture — in a kind of desertification. I found my groove early and one that diverged from my peers' interests. The only video game console I would ever own sat abandoned, collecting dust while my makeshift shelves collected plants, my fingernails collected dirt, and my supple hands collected spines.

The first institutional commitment to my passion came at twelve, when joining the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society. What followed was a fundamental shift from an after-school hobby to a horticultural curriculum paid in tuition. By 2005, I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Horticulture and Crop Science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, but the education did not cease on graduation day. I've since devoted countless waking hours sharpening my skills as a producer of succulents, and additional hours at rest dreaming about which varieties to hybridize next!

My approach to working with the plants has become ever more scientific and rigorously hands-on. I fancy myself as more of a grower than a collector, assuming time on my side.

Travel is also fancied while young. With much to be learned from observing plants *in situ*, adventures to exotic succulent

habitats in Baja California, South Africa, Namibia and Madagascar are significant to my background. In addition, business and commerce are instrumental to my plant passion, yet I don't grow plants in order have customers; I have customers so that I can grow plants.

Together with my soon-to-be wife, I operate Rain Shadow Designs, which offers less common succulent *taxa*, new cultivars and landscape design services. Landscaping helps fulfill the creative artist streak in me, and perhaps the truest expression of my work can be seen at Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona del Mar, Calif., where I curate the succulent garden on a part-time basis. Succulents in my world, though, are definitely a full-time gig.

My presentation at

the SDCSS August club meeting will be titled: "Mushroom for Discussion, Disease Management for Succulents." Despite 20-plus years of experience cultivating succulents, plant pathogens present an ongoing challenge to my endeavors. They — primarily fungi — constitute the number one killer in my nursery and collection. Some fellow succulent enthusiasts will likely identify. Lengthy first-hand experience battling pests and diseases, as both a succulent nurseryman and hobbyist, coupled with formal training in the area of pest management, have prepared me for this talk. I'm now ready to share my knowledge of discerning, identifying and combating succulent plant diseases with each of you. Graphic slides of putrid, decaying plants will be shown; various control practices and management strategies will be discussed. Concepts will be emphasized over minutia.

I promise an educational experience that will benefit both novice and advanced growers alike!



# BYOB!

It would be terrific if, when attending meetings and planning to do a little shopping ahead of time, you would **Bring Your Own Box** (or maybe two!). Seems like the club is always short of them...

## Meet a Member

# Peter Walkowiak: More than meets the eye

By Denise Huntsman-Griffin

There is more to Peter Walkowiak than his exotic, trophy-winning, Dr. Seuss-type plants that he's so well known for. And there's more behind that winning smile. Peter has been a member of the SDCSS for 12 years and has been on the Board of Directors for ten. He has also been a member of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society for 11 years and is currently their President, this being his fourth year. He is the chair of the Summer and Winter Shows for both clubs and has been for ten years. He is also the co-chair for the Inter-City Show which takes place at the Los Angeles Arboretum each year. In addition, he is also one of the Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

He specializes in growing and selling caudiciforms, euphorbias and other exotic succulents. He is involved in about 15 show and sales per year across the southwest. Occasionally, he will have club tours of his home nursery, and once a year he has an open house. He sells his plants wholesale and his business is called PW Plants.

Peter enjoys his nursery and has several breeding programs, selectively breeding to get particular forms of bonsais and dwarfs with *Fockea edulis*, *Pachypodium succulentum* and *bispinosum* and *Pelargonium carnosum*. I heard that some of his *Adeniums* that he's had for years are so heavy that one person cannot lift them. Peter won five trophies and three Judge's Choice ribbons for plants he showed in our Summer Show this year, which is not unusual for him. Peter also does some landscape consulting and designing. For the San Diego and Palomar clubs, he has written several articles for the newsletters. For San Diego, he puts on a workshop for every meeting he is in town.

Peter's father, Gene, who was also an SDCSS member, was in the military when Peter was born in Spain. The family moved to the U. S. when



Peter Walkowiak  
— Collette Parr photo



A *Bombax ellipticum* tree grows in Collette Parr's home's front garden. — Collette Parr photos



Peter was three, later moving to California when he was nine. When Peter was a young child and he and his family lived on the east coast, he remembers his mother, Judy, also an SDCSS member, having roses and remembers her bringing dogwoods out of the woods. Peter had his own vegetable garden at age ten. Judy then had a business selling house plants when

Peter was in high school. The plants always fascinated him; he loved to watch them grow and had a collection in his room. He went on to earn a horticultural degree from Cal Poly Pomona with a focus on soil science. When he saw a friend's *Bombax ellipticum*, "That started it," he said.

In addition to his parents, Peter has two sons, Peter, 29, and Jeremy, 27, who both live in San Diego. And he is engaged to Inacia.

Besides having wonderful show plants for our shows, educating us about growing plants, and impersonating Vanna White for our auctions, Peter has done more than many may know. He was also a model for several years in his late 30s and early 40s. He mainly modeled for catalogs such as *Flight Suit* and *Country Irrigation*. See! Something you probably didn't know about Peter! He has done more than plants!

For wholesale plants from Peter, he can be contacted at [peter@peterwplants.com](mailto:peter@peterwplants.com). If you want to see something precious, check out Debra Lee Baldwin's YouTube video called, "Matthew visits Mr. Peter's Nursery" with Peter showing his nursery to eleven-year-old succulent prodigy Matthew Wong.

## Want to have some fun?

You can practice to enter the show next year by participating in the monthly Brag Table competition! Just bring in a plant and see what happens!

# ▶ July Brag Table winners!

Judged by Kelly Griffin  
and Nan Sterman

## CACTUS

### Novice

**1st Place**, Sue Thomas – *Thelocactus bicolor v. schottii*

**2nd Place**, John & Ethelene Owen – *Ferocactus emoryi v. covillei*

**3rd Place**, Sue Thomas – *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*

### Intermediate

**1st Place**, Candy & Jerry Garner – *Copiapoa marginata*

**2nd Place**, Bev Grant – *Gymnocalycium asterias*

**3rd Place**, Jim DeForest – *Echinopsis cristata*

### Advanced

**1st Place**, Peter Walkowiak – *Echinocereus subinermis v. luteus*

**2nd Place**, Jürgen Menzel – *Hamatocactus hamatacanthus*

**3rd Place**, Phyllis Flechsig – *Pterocactus tuberosus*

## SUCCULENTS

### Novice

**1st Place**, John & Ethelene Owen – *Agave lophantha* 'Quadricolor'

**2nd Place**, Maria Becker – *Echeveria minima*

**3rd Place**, Melanie Howe – *Manfreda sileri*

### Intermediate

**1st Place**, Tina Zucker – *Pseudolithos cubiformis*

**2nd Place**, Alison Baldwin – *Echeveria* 'Neon Breakers'

### Advanced

**1st Place**, Peter Walkowiak – *Jatropha cathartica*

**2nd Place**, Phyllis Flechsig – *Haemanthus humilis*

**3rd Place**, Mark Fryer – *Gasteria* selection

— Submitted by Chris Miller



Sue Thomas's  
*Thelocactus bicolor v. schottii*  
— Paul Maker photo



John & Ethelene Owen's  
*Ferocactus emoryi v. covillei*  
— Paul Maker photo



Sue Thomas's  
*Mammillaria perezdelarosae*  
— Paul Maker photo



Candy & Jerry Garner's  
*Copiapoa marginata*  
— Paul Maker photo



Bev Grant's  
*Gymnocalycium asterias*  
— Paul Maker photo



Jim DeForest's  
*Echinopsis cristata*  
— Collette Parr photo



Peter Walkowiak's  
*Echinocereus subinermis v. luteus*  
— Paul Maker photo



Jürgen Menzel's  
*Hamatocactus hamatacanthus*  
— Collette Parr photo



Phyllis Flechsig's  
*Pterocactus tuberosus*  
— Paul Maker photo



John & Ethelene Owen's  
*Agave lophantha* 'Quadricolor'  
— Paul Maker photo



Maria Becker's  
*Echeveria minima*  
— Paul Maker photo



Melanie Howe's  
*Manfreda sileri*  
— Paul Maker photo



Tina Zucker's  
*Pseudolithos cubiformis*  
— Paul Maker photo



Alison Baldwin's  
*Echeveria* 'Neon Breakers'  
— Collette Parr photo



Peter Walkowiak's  
*Jatropha cathartica*  
— Paul Maker photo



Phyllis Flechsig's  
*Haemanthus humilis*  
— Paul Maker photo



Mark Fryer's  
*Gasteria* selection  
— Paul Maker photo

**THANKS** to everyone for bringing in a plant! Do it again in August. It's fun, and maybe yours will be a winner next time you try!

# Cactus endemism heaven

By Peter Breslin

Traveling down the Baja California peninsula, as one zigzags from the Pacific coast to the Sea of Cortez and back again, one eventually reaches Ciudad Constitución. A bustling commercial center and the last sign of major civilization until La Paz in the tropical Cape Region, this is also the turn for the side road that goes 36 miles (60 km) to the fishing town of Puerto San Carlos. Approximately in the center of the coastal areas of the vast Magdalena Plains region that reaches from San Juanico in the north to south of El Conejo, San Carlos is a friendly town and a great place from which to embark on a trip exploring the islands.

Bahía Magdalena hosts at least eight species of cacti endemic to the region. Five of these species are island endemics or near endemics, with the centers of their populations occurring on the archipelago of islands in the Pacific, stretching from barrier islands near Puerto Adolfo Lopez Mateo, south through Isla Magdalena, to Isla Santa Margarita opposite Punta Chale. The eight cactus endemics: *Cochemiea halei*, *Cylindropuntia ciribe*, *Cylindropuntia santamaria*, *Echinocereus barthelowanus*, *Ferocactus santa-maria*, *Lophocereus gatesii*, *Opuntia pycnantha* and *Stenocereus eruca*. Of these, the island endemic or near endemic species are *Cochemiea halei*, *Cylindropuntia santamaria*, *Echinocereus barthelowanus*, *Ferocactus santa-maria* and *Opuntia pycnantha*. A very dense and healthy population of *Stenocereus eruca*, the well known “creeping devil” cactus, also occurs on Isla Magdalena.

In addition, thanks to my most recent trip there, funded in part by a research grant from the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, a new locale for the “Creeping Devil” was found near the southern end of Isla Magdalena. Also, an interesting and very sparsely distributed *Ferocactus* was found on Isla Santa Margarita that is of unknown relationship to the other *Ferocactus* species in the area.

Many of the endemic cactus species listed above are highly desirable in cultivation. Growers are attracted not only to the rarity of these plants, but also to their unique forms and flowers. Cactus fans appreciate the unusual spines of *Echinocereus barthelowanus* and its deep purple flowers, the vibrant red zygomorphic flowers with hot pink or magenta stigmas of *Cochemiea halei*, the gangly growth form of *Cylindropuntia santamaria* or the fierce spines of *Ferocactus santa-maria* and *Stenocereus eruca*. Some of these endemics can pose challenges for even the advanced grower, however. After a few trips exploring the habitat, one gets a stronger sense of why the plants are sometimes difficult to keep alive, let alone make flourish.

The soil in which these plants grow is among the poorest soils you will find anywhere. Rocky, gritty, very fast draining and drying, very low in any organic content, the soil is typical of both a coastal sandy environment and a relatively new island habitat where the only thing creating soil is physical weathering. On Isla Magdalena, serpentine is very common and is a well known limiter of plant colonization. Serpentine also drives plant adaptation and endemism, and future research will help clarify its precise role in creating the high rate of endemism on the islands. In addition to this poor soil, the plants tend to colonize slopes and rocky outcrops more densely. The mountainous islands in Bahía Magdalena have steep slopes, deep sea canyons and washes and very rocky ridges. So, for many of the species listed above, a very gritty, rocky, fast draining and quick drying growing medium helps keep them happy. As for the unusual “Creeping Devil,” grow it in a large flat pan or a big patch of flat ground, in coarse rocky sand.

Precipitation is scarce in this region and on the islands, with the exception of winter rain that occasionally soaks the soil on cool days and intense, often hurricane-force storms that slam the coast in summer and fall. However, preliminary research shows that regular fogs coming in



*Cochemiea halei* on a high, rocky ridge looking out over the Pacific side of the Isla Magdalena.



Flower detail for *Cochemiea halei*.



*Cylindropuntia santamaria* with lots of new growth and flower buds



Bright yellow flower of *Opuntia pycnantha*



*Echinocereus barthelowanus* growing in typically rocky, poor soil

from the cool Pacific may play a major role in the health of the endemic cactus populations. In cultivation, fog conditions can be difficult to recreate, but misting can help. Generally, these are fairly low water plants that are prone to rotting. *Cochemiea halei* in particular is easy to kill in this way. The habitat suggests leaving it rather dry most of the spring and summer except for some thorough drenching periodically, misting to cool it off in the morning or evening to mimic the fog effect, and, if your climate is warm enough, providing some winter water.

*Opuntia pycnantha* is one of the easier plants to grow among the endemics and seems to have some tough genes. Growers in Arizona have weathered their patches through 17 degrees F (-8 degrees C), temperatures much lower than those experienced in habitat. In general, the region does not experience freezing temperatures in winter, but local residents around San Carlos tell me there are occasional cold snaps down to almost freezing. The San Diego climate should provide great conditions for many of the endemics, although protection from excess rain (one can hope!) might be necessary for the more rot-prone species.

The endemics of Bahía Magdalena present a fascinating assemblage of rare and unusual plants, well worth collecting for their spines, growth forms and flowers.

## Preliminary research on the demography, dispersal and site colonization of *Cochemiea halei*, a rare endemic cactus of the Bahía Magdalena region of Baja California Sur

By Peter Breslin

Thanks in part to a research grant from this society, I was able to make an expedition in May of 2015 to Islas Magdalena and Santa Margarita in Bahía Magdalena, Baja California Sur. The goal was to further the field studies I'm engaged in for the Ph.D. program in Environmental Life Sciences at ASU, in which I enrolled at the ripe old age of 53. I've been informally exploring the Baja peninsula and mapping occurrences of rare endemics there for the past 20 years, but I finally decided to switch gears from a 26-year career teaching high school English and mathematics and focus exclusively on research in the *Cactaceae*.

Generally, I am fascinated by the high rate of endemism on the Baja California peninsula in the family *Cactaceae*, as well as the comparison of island endemics with their nearest peninsular relatives. Sometimes, the island floras are obviously analogous mirrors of nearby peninsular assemblages, but other times, islands present immediately visible contrasts. How did various endemic species first colonize? How long ago? What is the plant species biodiversity on a particular island, and how does this reflect on the biogeography of the island and the region in which the island occurs? What are the plant population genetic dynamics of isolated island endemics? These and many other questions provide grist for several different Ph.D.s, let alone one.

My specific interest is in understanding the species distribution, biogeography, population structure, population genetics and evolution of the genus (or subgenus) *Cochemiea*. A fascinating group endemic to the Baja peninsula, with unclear taxonomy and little known plant biology, *Cochemiea* was originally erected as a genus by Walton in 1899, with the type species being *Cochemiea halei*, originally described by Brandegee as *Mammillaria halei* in 1897. From this taxonomic history, one can see immediately the controversy over this group, enduring now for 116 years. Is *Cochemiea* best considered as a genus or as a subgenus of *Mammillaria*? Mor-



Above: Flowers of *Cochemiea halei*.

Right: *Cochemiea halei* is shown growing across distinctly different habitats and soil types.

— Peter Breslin photos

phological characters, perhaps especially the uniquely zygomorphic “hummingbird pollinated” flowers of *Cochemiea*, seem to indicate that it is a distinct group. Phylogenetic work conducted by Butterworth, Sanchez-Cota and Wallace from the early 2000s, however, seems to indicate that *Cochemiea* forms a sister clade to *Mammillaria*. Other studies have been inconclusive or have relied on small sample size and a small number of markers.

Whether valid as a distinct genus or not from the perspective of the monophyly of *Mammillaria*, there are also enduring questions regarding the various *taxa* within the group. In the past, five *taxa* have been recognized: *Cochemiea poselgeri*, *Cochemiea halei*, *Cochemiea maritima*, *Cochemiea setispina* and *Cochemiea pondii*. Guzmán proposed combining *C. maritima* and *C. setispina* under *C. pondii* as subspecies in 2003. Limited or no molecular or morphological evidence was presented to justify these combinations, however.

A significant goal of my research is to develop a clearer phylogenetic picture of the relationship of *Cochemiea* to *Mammillaria*. Another goal is to better understand the radiation of the *Cochemiea* group across the peninsula, in particular by developing microsatellites for the group and conducting large-sample population genetic studies across the range of the group, comparing the most cosmopolitan *taxon*, *Cochemiea poselgeri*, to the relatively restricted isolates of the rest of the group.

This particular trip was focused on establishing study sites for *Cochemiea halei* on Islas Magdalena and Santa Margarita, mapping its distribution and

See Research, page 8





A pollinated flower on *Cochemiea halei* grows a seed pod.

— Peter Breslin photo

### Research continued from page 7

surveying the species on these islands in a demographic protocol. Three study sites were selected on each island, within which were mapped three 100-meter transects. Within those transects, the populations of *C. halei* were counted and categorized according to demographic class, based on the number of stems. This is a protocol often used by plant population biologists to get a picture of the population

structure, demographic distributions of size classes and site selection preferences. Preliminary results from this data indicate some interesting features of the populations of *C. halei*.

— The population structure is very heavily weighted toward larger individuals, with approximately 80 percent of plants in classes three to five, with a number of stems ranging from 15 to 50-plus.

— Recruitment seems very low, with only about five percent of plants in class one, with one or two stems.

— *C. halei* is relatively abundant across distinctly different habitats and soil types and highly varied slope orientations and directional orientations on the islands.

This combination of a population structure of mostly large individuals of relatively dense abundance, adapted to a wide variety of conditions, poses some interesting questions. What are the factors leading to low recruitment? How has the population in general managed to establish and remain viable to old age for many individuals? How has dispersal across the islands occurred and at what approximate rate? What are the pollination vectors, and what is the flower-to-fruit set ratio? Are the island populations under threat from loss of genetic diversity due to inbreeding depression? Does the large number of senescent or nearly senescent individuals coupled with low recruitment mean the species is phasing out, in spite of its high relative abundance?

These are just a few of the questions I will work to answer through ongoing research on the islands, as well as regarding *Cochemiea* across the peninsula. I hope that the research will eventually be useful to conservation planners and managers charged with understanding the population genetics and species distributions of rare endemic plant species.

## Shopping fun at the SDCSS meetings!



(Above) The plant sales area at the July meeting of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society was full of great buys and some unusual plant offerings! And the perfect handmade ceramic pot could be there, too. Arrive at the August meeting ahead of the meeting's start time of 1:00 p.m. to give yourself some time to treasure hunt. Try to remember to bring your own box to get your purchases home!

— Collette Parr photo



(Above and right) Plants and pots abound at every meeting of SDCSS!

— Paul Maker photos





## San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

### Executive Board

President: **Kelly Griffin**  
 Vice President: **Chris Miller**  
 Secretary: **Jennifer Harris**  
 Treasurer: **Leslie Sheridan**

### Directors

**Peter Walkowiak**  
**Rick Bjorklund**  
**Kienan Parr**  
**Christine Vargas**  
**Jerry Garner**  
**Brian Shepherd**  
**Wendy Goldman**

### Standing Committees and Subcommittees

#### Education, Conservation and Exhibits

Conservation: **Herb Stern**  
 Brag Table: TBD  
 Plants of the Month: **Don Hunt**  
 Summer Show: **Peter Walkowiak**  
 Winter Show: **Peter Walkowiak**  
 Historian: **Terry Parr**  
 Grants: **Jerry Garner**  
 Library: **Don Hunt, Steve and Kathy Harris**  
 Exchange Plants and Seeds: **Michelle Heckathorn and Sara Schell**  
**Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales and Supplies**  
 Membership: **Paul and Carol Maker**  
 (760) 212-9659 pdmaker@roadrunner.com  
 Mailing: **Jean and Bill O'Daniel**  
 Annual Sales: **Chris Miller**  
 Auction and Holiday Plants: **Kelly Griffin**  
 Monthly Plant Sales: **Jim DeForrest and Lynn Eliott**  
 Monthly Supply Sales: **George and Jerry Plaisted**  
 Benefit Drawing Table: **Collette, Kienan and Terry Parr**  
 Publicity: **Christine Vargas**  
 Programs: **Kelly Griffin**  
 Reception: **Susan Hopkins and Judy Walkowiak**  
 Monthly Regalement: **Cathy Clark**  
 Picnic Regalement: **Bill O'Daniel, Steve Harris**  
 Hospitality: **Sara Schell**

### Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: **Susan Hopkins**  
 CSSA Affiliate Rep: **Peter Walkowiak**  
 SD Botanic Garden: **Phyllis Flechsig**  
 SD Botanical Garden Foundation: **George Plaisted**  
 SD Floral Association: **Jeanette Dutton**  
 SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja and Old World Gardens: **May Fong Ho**

**Editor: Meg Ryan** (760) 353-0623 valleywomen-magazine@roadrunner.com

**Webmaster: Collette Parr** collette.parr@cox.net

**Web Site:** www.sdcss.net

Please address correspondence to:  
 The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society  
 P.O. Box 33181  
 San Diego, CA 92136-3181



Kelly Griffin



Peter Walkowiak



Chris Miller



Rick Bjorklund



Jennifer Harris



Kienan Parr



Leslie Sheridan



Christine Vargas



Jerry Garner



Brian Shepherd



Wendy Goldman



Collette Parr



Meg Ryan

## 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 \$10 a year. Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.

### Annual Dues

(E-mail Newsletter) \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Paper Newsletter) Add First class delivery \_\_\_\_\_  
 USPS \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 U.S. 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)

## What is the "Benefit Drawing?"

The club has tickets at every meeting which can be purchased for \$1 each or six for \$5. The stub is tossed into a rolling tub, and during a meeting break, tickets are drawn. When (or if) your ticket is drawn, then it's your turn to select a plant from the table of plants available. There are usually about 25 plants to select from. Proceeds benefit SDCSS. Join the fun! Buy your tickets before the meeting begins. Collette, Terry and Kienan Parr run the event monthly!