

Espinas y Flores

Newsletter of the San Diego
Cactus & Succulent Society
An Affiliate of the Cactus
&
Succulent Society of
America



**Next general meeting
is November 10th**

**November Speaker Topic
Propagation of Succulents from
Seed with Ernesto Sandoval**

Executive Board

President: Chris Miller Secretary: Mary Reiser
Vice President: Kelly Griffin Treasurer: Leslie Sheridan

Directors

Jerry Garner Antonina Lansangan Jim Reiser
Sue Thomas Christine Vargas Tina Zucker
Candy Garner

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Conservation: Herb Stern
Brag table: Tina Zucker & Denise Griffin
Plants of the Month: Open
Summer/Winter Show: Kelly Griffin, Bill O'Daniel
Historian: Open
Grants: Jerry Garner
Library: Don Hunt
Exchange Plants/Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Annual sales: Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants: Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager: Open
Monthly Plant Sales: Jim Deforest & Melanie Howe
Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted
Benefit Drawing Table: Collette & Terry Parr
Programs: Kelly Griffin
Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak
Monthly Regalement: Cathy Clark
Picnic Regalement: <OPEN>

Liaisons

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Rick Bjorkland
SD Botanic Garden: Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation: George Plaisted
SD Floral Association: Jeanette Dutton
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens: May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison: Brita Miller

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Membership: Paul & Carol Maker
Newsletter Editor: Whitney Meier
Webmaster: Kirsten Higgins
Publicity: Christine Vargas

Contact SDCSS: membership@sdcss.net *

* To contact newsletter editor, please type "newsletter" in subject line

Table of Contents:

President's message.....	3
November Speaker	4
Safari Park News.....	5
Brag Table Results.....	6
Pre-Meeting Workshop.....	7
Upcoming events.....	8

Cover Photo by Whitney Meier



Cactus Explorer 22 is now available online for free at:

<http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>

Pre-Meeting Workshop Volunteers



We want to thank everyone who volunteers to conduct monthly Pre-meeting Workshops each month. Everyone enjoys learning more about cacti and succulents, and we are always looking for volunteers who can share their knowledge with other members. If you want to be

considered for a future workshop, please contact Pat Putis, Workshop Coordinator, at hbs@sover.net. If you would like a list of possible topics, please let me know and I will be happy to e-mail the list to you. Thank you for your continued help and involvement.

Below: Jerry Garner speaking for October's Pre-Meeting Workshop on Plant Staging for Shows.





President's Message

We had a very nice Coffee in the Garden at my house last Saturday. Thank you all for coming out and liberating some pots and plants from my garden.

Special thanks to **Antonina**, who acted as cashier for the first two hours.

Since this is my second to the last President's Message, I would like to thank all the people who have supported this organization over the years. If I named all of you there wouldn't be room in the newsletter for anything else. The time and energy that all of you have contributed to SDCSS has made it the successful Society that it is. So thank you very much for all you have done to make our meetings and events a success!

We are still looking for a Treasurer, Secretary and two Directors. The new board is forming up to be upbeat and positive: it looks like a good group of people to work with. There are lots of ideas forming and I think the new Board will grow the Society even bigger and better. If you would like to be a part of the next board talk to a current board member. We are also looking for a Membership Chair, a Cash Register Manager, a Sales Chair and other positions. They all have current volunteers in place and are willing to train incoming volunteers. Please join us to make this great organization even better.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the November meeting.

Chris Miller

In Memory of Christine Tratnyek

April 1945 to October 2018

From her niece: When I was growing up, my omni-present Auntie Chrissy was for me, a benevolent spirit of adventure and curiosity.....a knower of things – sophisticated things! Latin nomenclature things! – A champion of the natural world and an enthusiastic guide to discovering its wonders. Chrissy would point out birds while we hiked in the desert and teach me how to emulate their calls (or, much tougher, to keep still) so as to draw them out of hiding. I was endlessly fascinated by her far-flung travels. I always felt lucky to get to travel with her and my parents, even though she saved the truly exotic destinations (Madagascar! Mongolia! The Sub-Antarctic Islands!) for herself and the birds she sought there. She had already been on so many adventures by the time I came around; one of the joys and pains of being her niece was discovering that there was always more to her (more that was just hers) that she didn't need to share. I wish she were here to share more with me, and everyone else who is endlessly fascinated by her now. I wish I could ask her more about her adventures, about the things in her life that made her happy: her pets, her plants and the books she was reading. I can't. We can't. We can only strive to be as adventurous, curious, knowledgeable and joyful as she was every day. We are so, so lucky to have had her in our lives.

Chris will be missed terribly by her brothers, Alan and Tom, her sister-in-law Evelyn, her niece Claire and all her friends, peers, neighbors and coworkers (especially from the San Diego County Polinsky Children's Center, The San Diego Zoo, the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, and the San Diego Audubon Society). Information on a memorial will be forthcoming.

From Chris Miller: Christine was the Secretary on the Board when I started as Treasurer. She had been a part of SDCSS for quite a while at that time. She competed in shows (always with interesting, well-staged plants) and volunteered where she could even though she was working at the Zoo on Saturdays. We will all miss her.





November Program

Propagation of Succulents from Seed with Ernesto Sandoval

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking answers to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California and elsewhere, since that group of plants is his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, understand why and how plants do what they do. When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to the Director over the last 23 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He's long left the "mow, blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory (many of them succulents). Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and/or water-loving landscapes to drought-tolerant, diverse gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. By helping people understand the workings of plants he hopes to help better understand how and why our plants do what they do, as well as how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

Ernesto and company have been experimenting with various techniques for propagating succulents from seed and want to share these techniques/tips for better seed germination. If you haven't tried growing from seed or if you are looking for ways to perhaps increase your success rate, Ernesto thinks you'll appreciate this visual tour of propagation of plants such as *Welwitschia*, *Aloe*, *s Cacti*, *Dorstenia*, *Othonna*, *Mesembryanthemums*. and more.

And yes, I'll definitely bring some plants to sell of all sorts!

Plant & Pottery Garden Fair

Saturday, November 17th, 9am - 1pm



Vendors will be ready to wow you with beautiful succulents often unseen in nurseries... as well as handmade pottery to plant them in!

Just in time for fabulous, one of a kind, **Holiday gifts!**

To be held in the front garden of
Christine Vargas
1730 Huey Lane, Alpine 91901
(619) 249-3032

Light Refreshments Served

Vendors

Melanie Howe - Succulents
Jim Deforest-Succulents
Sue Thomas-Succulents and Pottery
Brian Sheperd-Cacti
Julie Dixon-Pottery

James Chambers - Succulents
Christine Vargas-Succulents and Pottery
(Vendors will handle their own sales; most cannot accept credit cards-Please bring plenty of cash.)

Directions from San Diego

• Hwy 8 East to Tavern Exit • Turn Right onto Tavern, proceed thru 2 traffic lights and continue for 1 mile • You will see Alpine Lutheran Church on your right, and Huey Lane will be your next Right • As you turn onto Huey, the museum and its dirt parking lot will be on the left. Park there and walk the short distance to my house on the paved, level road • I will have my golf cart available for return to your car with purchases!



Those of you who attended the Oaxaca presentation by Rick Bjorklund and Christine Vargas and expressed an interest in going - now's your chance! Christine is planning a Dia de los Muertos tour from the end of October through early November 2019.

Please contact

christinevargas@hotmail.com with your email address and phone number ASAP.

Safari Park News



It's planting time at the Safari Park's Old World Garden. Many plants that have spent the summer in the greenhouse will be planted over the coming months. Recent additions to the garden include a large *Pachypodium namaquanum* specimen and several rare yellow-flower Birds of Paradise. In addition, two large bowls of donated euphorbias have been set in place near the walkway.

Several volunteers helped to erect the shade house adjacent to the greenhouse. This additional area allows us to keep many more plants under good conditions for an extended time.

Norb Roden, a volunteer at the Baja Garden, has been hard at work removing wild buckwheat and dodder, which have reached into several areas of the garden, as well as cutting back brittle bush.

If you have plants or materials to donate, or if you would like to volunteer at the gardens, please contact May Fong Ho at 760-233-3948 or mayfongho@yahoo.com.

CACTUS

Novice:

- 1st Place: Olga Batalov- *Ferocactus latispinus*(4)
 2nd Place: Norb Roden- *Tephrocactus articulatus* (2)
 3rd Place: Olga Batalov
Hildewintera colademononis

Intermediate:

- 1st Place: Chuck Ramey- *Monvillea spegazzinii* (3)
 2nd Place: Rick Plant- *Mammillaria spinosissima* (5)
 3rd Place: Sue Thomas- *Gymnocalycium* sp.

Advanced:

- 1st Place: Candy and Jerry Garner
Mammillaria voburnensis (1)
 2nd Place: Don Patterson
Gymnocalycium andreae var.
longispinum (9)
 3rd Place: Brian Shepherd
Echinocereus barthelowanus

SUCCULENTS

Novice:

- 1st Place: Chris Gleason- *Euphorbia mammillaris* (10)
 2nd Place: Norb Roden- *Euphorbia schoenlandii* (6)
 3rd Place: Pat Bryan- *Pseudobombax ellipticum*

Intermediate:

- 1st Place: Sue Thomas and Jim DeForest- *Euphorbia* sp. (8)
 2nd Place: Rick Plant- *Aloe* cv. 'Snowstorm'
 3rd Place: Chuck Ramey- mixed *Huernia* hybrids

Advanced:

- 1st Place: Brian Shepherd- *Tavaresia grandiflora* (7)
 2nd Place: Kelly Griffin- *Aloe castilloniae* (11)
 3rd Place: Kelly Griffin- *Lithops karasmontana*



October Brag Table Winners

Accounting by Denise Huntsman-Griffin
 Photos by Whitney Meier





Don't Faux-get

The November's Brag Table Is Different

Remember to bring your faux succulent or cactus for this month's brag table! Harness your crafty skills and make a plant of any materials, aside from plant matter. Examples of materials used in the past are: pipe cleaners, Legos, balloons, paper, pipes, etc. Don't forget to invent a along with a clever scientific name to go with it!

Pre-Meeting Workshop: Seed Workshop by Brian Shepherd

11 AM, Before General Meeting

Cacti and succulents are fun to grow from seed. Although you do need a little patience and background knowledge, they can grow surprisingly quickly. Join me at 11am at the November meeting to learn more. New members are especially welcome. I will have handouts, free seeds and growing medium, and a limited supply of small pots and seed trays at cost for attendees. Let's go through the steps for success together!



Astrophytum coahuilense seedlings.

November Plant Info of the Month: "Rock" your potting mix! With Rick Bjorklund



I've been searching for a good potting mix for some time, leading me to talk with several people (including a volcano owner) ! Everyone seems to have their preferred mix. This brief talk will explore various gravel/grit products available for you to consider in "rocking" your potting mix, such as pumice, decomposed granite, scoria/crushed lava, calcined clay (Turface), and various types of sand as well as sourcing tips so you can become your own potting mix rock star!

Presented during General Meeting at 1:00

HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 15th, 2017, at 11:00 am, Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

Food and Drink: A delicious lunch will be served around noon. There will something for everyone! Herb Stern, "The Wine Guy" will set up the bar. In the spirit of sharing, we will also have the traditional "Potluck Dessert Table." If you have a special dessert you would like to share, please do! This is optional but always a much appreciated finish to our meal.

Gift Exchange: Another fun way of sharing is to participate in the Gift Exchange. If you and/or your guests would like to participate, bring a nice plant or plant related item (one per person please), and place it on the Gift Exchange Table. Make sure your name is on your plant! A committee will have the tough job of selecting the "Best Plant", which will then be set aside for auction. Whoever brought the Best Plant will have first choice of the remaining plants, and the owner of *that* plant selects a plant, and so on until all of the Gift Exchange items are distributed. As you can imagine, the nicer the plant YOU bring, the sooner you get to choose.

Gift Plant: The Society will continue the tradition of giving each *member* who attends this event, a gift plant. They will be distributed by lottery, during desserts. When you arrive, be sure to check in at the door to receive your ticket for the drawing. Then take some time to look over the beautiful selection of plants so you will be able to grab your favorite when your number is called. (this is a benefit of membership - no gift plants for guests).

Auction: Come prepared to bid on "show quality" plants at the annual Holiday Party Auction!! Up for bid will be bare root plants donated again this year by Western Cactus Growers, along with beautiful specimens donated by our own members. If you have 1-2 "show quality" plants you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Peter or Kelly and let them know.

Too much fun to miss! You can register at our November meeting, or on our website at <https://www.sdcss.net/payment> or send a check to Chris Miller, 10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee, CA 92071. We hope to see you at the party.



2018 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 3-4 **SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am-4pm BOTH DAYS**
Show and sale - LA County Arboretum, 310 No. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA
Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052

DEC 15 **SDCSS Holiday Party, Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. More details to come.**