

Volume 43 Number 2

February 2008

# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

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



## Winter Show & Sale

Saturday February 9  
10:00pm to 4:00pm  
Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Greetings!

It's hard to believe it's already time to prepare for our annual winter show and sale, but I'm happy to report a nice level of enthusiasm among everyone involved! I'm quite confident with the caliber of our general membership we'll all have a good time with this intense one-day show and sale, be sure to sign up to help or simply come on down and support your local cactus society!

If you missed the last regular meeting you missed an interesting dichotomy between George Plaisted discussing cultivation in pots and Tim Harvey discussing cultivation in the ground. What's right for you and your plants? Everyone and everything's different and dependent on the area we grow in, right? Where are you pushing the envelope? Have you had any other startling epiphanies noticing how well your "rare" Euphorbias do in the ground here in San Diego? Kudos to both George and Tim for helping us all gain some interesting perspectives!



*Ferocactus peninsulae* at the  
Living Desert Museum:

We hear you loud and clear! The results from some of your "How are we doing?" surveys are making their way around the executive board member's ears and I am listening intently. I think it's absolutely awesome how this group has matured and how it's transforming into a neat umbrella for so many different aspects of this fascinating and rewarding hobby. I hear plant rescues and educational efforts just percolating on the back-burner and I sincerely hope these become tangible realities in the very near term.

On the cover: *Lithops gracilidelinanta*. Photo by John Durham from the 2005 Winter Show & Sale

Tip-toe through the field trips.. there's a lot of demand for some field trips this year, and we're looking at several different ideas. As a matter of fact, I'm writing to you from Palm Springs at this very moment, having spent the day at the Living Desert Museum yesterday, a trip over here would be well worth it. While the Madagascar garden at the Living Desert Museum was devastated by the freeze last year, it's encouraging to see a number of large specimens coming back to life after looking devoid of life last year. There's an almost notable pattern to the die-off of Alluadia, which were installed in a mass planting, and quite a few stumps of Pachypodium species around them. The garden endured 4 days of freezing temperatures, 3 nights of which were sub-zero. Still a few of the larger specimens of Moringa seemed to fare much better than smaller representations of the same species, so I was noticing some of Tim Harvey's observations about older, larger plants being more frost-resistant than smaller ones.



Mark's front yard January 2008:

Few ventures plan to fail, but many fail to plan. Hopefully the SDCSS and the CSSA aren't two of the latter! When it comes to the SDCSS hosting the biennial CSSA convention in 2011, we're beginning to contemplate some of the more aggregate aspects while the finalist Hotels continue to pitch for our business. Now's the time to start contemplating what you might want to participate in, speakers you want to hear, places you want to visit, et-cetera. If you've never attended a convention like this before, you'll have an opportunity to get an advanced viewing next year in Tucson.

My yard is turning into an ocean of flowers with hummingbirds darting hither and yon, bees buzzing like little power tools working overtime and an unbelievable blue sky above. Life is good! Best wishes, and happy hunting at our Winter Show and Sale,

Mark Fryer, January 2008

# HISTORY OF THE WILD ANIMAL PARK'S BAJA AND OLD WORLD SUCCULENT GARDENS

*Reprinted from an open letter to the SDCSS membership from Paul Steward in which he discusses the development of the Baja Garden or "Baja Hill"*

Dear Members,

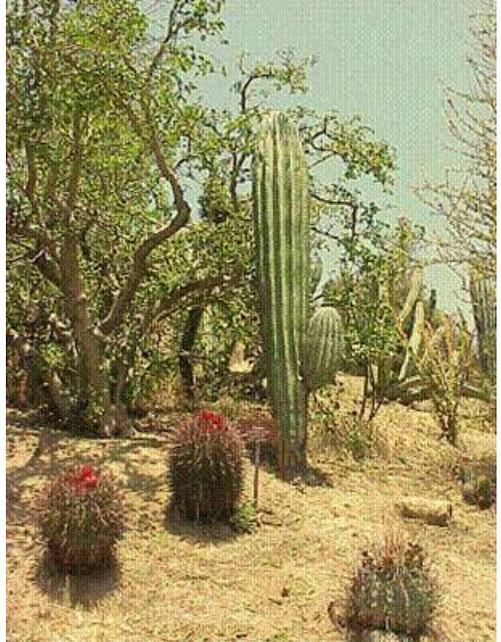
Some time ago I undertook the responsibility to address some questions and concerns regarding the SDCSS's participation and involvement in the Baja and Old World Succulent Gardens at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in San Pasqual.

First let me provide you with a brief history of the (Baja) Garden and SDCSS involvement. This history was provided by Frank Thrombly, who as many of you know is one of the Founders.

**1979:** The decision to establish a Garden of Baja Endemic Plants was made and permits were submitted and subsequently obtained from the Mexican Government.

**1980:** The first collecting trip took place in the spring. Frank Thrombly, Jim Gibbons, John Pasek, and Dorothy Dunn, members of the SDCSS were the first to participate. John also helped to plan the location and layout of the garden. Spring and summer were also spent clearing the Garden area in preparation for planting. Participants were: John and Verna Pasek, Dorothy Dunn and Frank Thrombly. Fall the second collecting trip took place. John Pasek, Dorothy Dunn and Frank Thrombly were participants.

**1981 to 1985:** Usually four collecting trips were made each year. SDCSS members who participated were: John Pasek, Dorothy Dunn, Tom Parks, Joe Clements, Bud Aubuchon, Jerry Bratmiller, Bill Miller, Ron & Joan Miller, Rick Latimer, Madlyn Lee, Frank Thrombly and many others. It is evident that the membership of the SDCSS was clearly in the forefront of this project.



*The Garden as depicted on the cover of the SDCSS Baja Flier*

**1985:** The Baja Garden lacked a major path so that it could be opened up to the public. Tom Parks, Bud Aubuchon and Frank Thrombly constructed a path (wheel chair accessible) with a stone base and retaining walls during this summer. The SDCSS donated \$500 for a 4 inch water line that went under the path and irrigation valves.

**1986:** A foot bridge from the conifer forest to Baja Hill was completed. Martin Mooney represented the SDCSS cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony. The SDCSS had their general Meeting during this celebration.

**General to the Present time** (when the letter was written, date unknown): Throughout this time the following SDCSS members have participated in the planting and the care of the Garden: Jim Gibbons, Pat & Martin Mooney, John & Verna Pasek, Bud & Mary Abuchon, Joseph, Susan & Chris Clements, Bill & Diane Crowley, Ron & Joan Miller, Marianne & Frank Thrombly, Joseph Betzler, Jerry Bratmiller, Warren Buckner, Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig, Beverly Kirkegaard, Richard Latimer, Rudy Lime, Tom Parks, Paul Steward, Alex Murphy, Gillian Belding, Elizabeth & Brent Ashy, Stan Aloof, Bob Herbs, Chris Jensen, Dan Kennedy, Dylan Hannon, Kelly Griffin, Marylyn Henderson, Herb Stern, Susan Hopkins, Derith Hughes and Phillip Flavell. (I'm sorry if I missed anyone)

As you can see the SDCSS has been involved from the beginning and in very large way. In addition to Baja Hill and the Old World succulent garden we also maintain an extensive greenhouse collection and serve as a C.I.T.E.S. (USDA, PPQ) designated "Plant rescue Station".

Largely due to Frank Thrombly the Wild Animal Park also is home to an extensive reference collection of *Ferocacti*. With duplicate specimens in habitat and in the greenhouse this collection when complete should

be of interest worldwide. Some of the projects underway are: 1) The construction of an "Arroyo" type display adjacent to the large palapa. 2) To increase the amount and augment the education value of signage.



*Photo by Juergen Menzel*

# My Account of the Baja Garden

By Chris Miller

In the late 1980s the Old World Succulent Garden was planted. I assume it was planted with donated material from the Park and our members. By the late 1990s when I started my volunteering the garden was overgrown with Broom, Buckwheat and a wide assortment of persistent local weeds. Carl McLeod was volunteering in the greenhouse and we had just re-roofed the greenhouse. Joey Betzler was the liaison with the Park and spent a segment of most meetings begging for volunteers just like I do now.

I spent the first year clearing part of the Old World Garden and John Stanley was hacking away at the large bushes in the Baja Garden. The following year (1998, I think) the Park started construction on the condor exhibit. Joey and park personnel moved a large number of plants that were in the way of the construction. This plant relocation enhanced the transition area between the two gardens. As the Condor Exhibit was opening the Park threatened us with taking over the maintenance of the area from the SDCSS. Joey put out the call to arms at a General Meeting and the next weekend 8 people came out to help. Eugene Orth, Marcy Leyman, Marty Zirkel, Laura & Tom Demeritt, and Juergen Menzel were among them. Over the next few months we usually had 4 to 6 people out clearing the area. We were so good at it that the Horticultural Department voiced some concerns about how much we had cleared. We made some gigantic piles.

In the years that followed the Park has been delighted with our efforts. Bert and Nancy Elder were a significant force during the time they volunteered with Bert re-terracing the lower Old World Garden and planting additional *Aloes* and working to redirect run off from storms. Nancy's help in the garden and the greenhouse was wonderful. Jeff Harris donated lots of *Aloes* and a few *Euphorbias* when he was required to down size his stockpile of plants with sharp parts.

Dick Kessler spent some time studying the *Ferocactus* in the greenhouse and hopefully we will see his work one day. Peter Walkowiak has spent some time in the last year putting in a drip system in the Old World Garden so I don't have to spend time dragging around 150 feet of hose.

Others showed and up and forged they way through the weeds. Some came once or twice and some gave us lots of Saturdays. Among them were Dan Rosen, John Durham, Kirsten Wiles, Mike Livingston & Deb, Patricia Payne, Sam Wilshire, Ron & Bev Street, Tom Stiko, Stan Yalof, Sara & Richard Yorba and Carol Moss. A thousand pardons if I have missed anyone.

For the last three Springs, when the weeds have gotten out of control Juergen's wife Beate and sister-in-law Roswitha Enright have come out and pulled out huge amounts of weeds. It is truly awesome to watch those two work. Juergen has maintained the Baja Garden pretty much on his own for years now. He pulls weeds so that he does not disturb the Ocotillo and Boojum trees that are volunteering where ever they feel like. He has installed a drip system in the greenhouse and is well known for not letting me make excuses for not going to the Park (with the exception of this fall).



Our current volunteers, besides Juergen, are Janet Svoboda and Jim Deforest, with Peter still working on the drip system. They do a great job, but they will need help to get past this spring growth.

Winter rains bring a green carpet of invasive weeds.  
*Photo by Juergen Menzel.*

With the convention coming in 2011 we need to get the gardens in tip top shape so we can show them off to the rest of the CSSA world. Upcoming projects I would like to see are:

1. An area for American cactus that are not from Baja (we have several in the greenhouse).
2. Reopen the path from the water garden through the Baja Garden.
3. Replant the *Agave* Garden (that would be on that path). We have several *Agaves* that Frank Thrombley donated 4 years ago.
4. Put signage up for the plants in both gardens.

Find a volunteer that would be willing to take on the greenhouse management. It is not a once a week type of effort.

All of the above will take an investment in SDCSS volunteer's time. The members involved now cannot do it all. So volunteer once, once a month, every Saturday, whatever! Just volunteer! We are currently working 8 to 12 on Saturdays, but other hours and days are okay too. This is a great way to meet other members, learn about the plants, work in a large garden and have fun. If you are interested e-mail me at [c.miller@cox.net](mailto:c.miller@cox.net) or call me at 619-258-9810.

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

# CACTI AND SUCCULENTS IN BHUTAN

By Jerry Garner

On our latest vacation, Candy and I visited the country of Bhutan. It is a small country, about the size of Switzerland, located in the southern Himalayan Mountains between India and Tibet. We were surprised to see cacti and succulents commonly grown in many locations. *Euphorbia milii* was seen growing up to 8000 ft. It is thought that the thorny *E. milii* wards off evil spirits, so it is often found on temple grounds and near the entrances to homes. This is just further proof that cactus and succulent culture has a worldwide following.



*Dzong, (translated means fortress, monastery or government center), Wangdue Prodrang when built in 1638 was surrounded by plantings of Opuntia to help with its defense. The Opuntias still thrive.*

*Opuntia in the Punakha valley.*





*Opuntia* growing below the dzong, at 4000 ft.



*Agave Americana* v. *marginata* next to a granary in the Punakha valley, at 4500 ft.



*Euphorbia* and *Agave* with a chorten (reliquary).



Garden detail with *Euphorbia*, *Agave* and cacti in Paro, at 7200 ft.

# SDCSS Winter Show & Sale

*saturday, FEBRUARY 9, 2008*

*SHOW & SALE TIMES 10:00 am to 4:00 pm*

We are looking forward to seeing you and your plants at our winter show. While this show emphasizes the display of winter flowering plants such as Mesembs and Aloes, we encourage you to bring in all variety of your prize succulent plants - flowering or not, since we display the plants by family and hope show a full spectrum of diversity. So bring in that odd-ball family member (plants that is) between 8:00 and 9:00. Doors open to the public at 10:00.

The Winter Show is more casual than the summer show, with an educational emphasis and informal judging. Coupon prizes will be given for exceptional plants.

We thank our many volunteers, and Chris Miller for her usual great job in coordinating the vendors and set-up. Feel free to come early to help out those volunteers who have already signed up. Tip-off time for helpers is 8:00 AM, and consider donating a food item to the kitchen for volunteers to munch on.

So, come enjoy the show, where you can also look over and purchase a wide range of plants offered by our dedicated vendors.

See you there! Call me if you have any questions,  
619-460-9230.

Terry Parr, show Chairperson

Steve Harris, show co-Chairperson

# Conversion to Annual Dues

You may have heard that SDC&SS Board of Directors recently approved a changeover to annual dues. What this means is that all memberships will now begin in January and will expire at the end of December of each year.

In order to convert all memberships over to this system, it was decided that, **for this year (2008) ONLY**, memberships will cost \$1.00 per month. So, if you renew in, say, March, your membership renewal will cost \$10.00 for 2008. If you have already renewed, please consider the difference between what you paid and this year's reduced rate as a donation to the club.

The idea behind the annual membership period instead of our current system is two-fold: (1) No one ever has to wonder when your membership expires, and (2) Revenue from membership renewals can be expected at the same time thus helping with cash flow.

According to the new By-Laws, the grace period for keeping the EyF coming to your house while you are remembering to pay is two months ("Membership shall lapse if not renewed within two months of expiration."). I've allowed three months in the past, but must abide by the rules set forth in the By-Laws.

As always, please contact me at 619-460-9111, or e-mail me at [collette.parr@cox.net](mailto:collette.parr@cox.net) if you have any questions and I'll be happy to clarify anything that may be unclear.

Collette Parr  
SDC&SS Membership Chair



Peter gives advice on plant selection and care at last year's Winter Sale and Show.

*Photo: Collette Parr*

# January 2008 Bragg Table Winners

Judged by Tim Harvey

## Cactus

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Juergen Menzel – *Gymnocactus saueri* v. *septentrionalis*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Carol Maker – *Obregon denegrii* cactaceae
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Juergen Menzel – *Turbinicarpus nieblae*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Don Hunt - *Neoporteria nidus senilis*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Terry & Collette Parr – *Mammillaria polythele* 'Pico'

## Succulents

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Rudy Lime – *Othonna herreie*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Phyllis Flechsig – *Haworthia limifolia* variegated
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Don Hunt – Aloe cv "Kelly Griffin"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Candy Garner – *Cephalophyllum alstoni*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Don Hunt – *Senecio kleiniaeformis*

FYI  
(FOR

Plants from the  
2007 SDCSS  
Show & Sale

Photo:  
Collette Parr

YOUR



The due date for submission of article (Plants of the Month) and information on the program/speaker will be the meeting preceding the intended issue (approximately one month ahead of time). The due date for letters, regular columns, brag table winners, and the President's Message will be one week later. All submissions are to be made to the Editors.

# FYI

## (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

**A Sad Note:** Dr. Herman A. Schwartz has passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He was 87. Dr. Schwartz practiced oncology at Kaiser Medical Center in San Francisco, but his real love was plants. Dr. Schwartz was a fixture in the CSSA and provided the capital for the Schwarz travel grant for a number of years so that interested people who might not otherwise be able to afford traveling in foreign countries to study succulent plants in habitat would have some financial help in doing so. He founded the 14-acre Marin-Bolinas Botanical Gardens, one of the largest collections of succulents in the world which he jokingly referred to as "Schwartz's Folly". He also founded Strawberry Press, publishing 16 volumes on succulents.

**Rudy Lime Honored in the North County Times:** Rudy was recently the subject of an article for his collaboration with Philippe De Vosjoli on the book *Bonsai Succulents*. The article mentions how Rudy stumbled upon a SDCSS show and joined our society. He was inspired to use his bonsai expertise to cultivate bonsai succulents. We all know the outcome as Rudy's plants are wonders to behold.

**Vendors Needed for EarthFair:** If you are interested in selling plants at the 2008 EarthFair in Balboa Park, Sunday April 20, please email Pam Badger at [pambad1@mac.com](mailto:pambad1@mac.com).

**Home & Garden Show Volunteers:** If you would like to volunteer as a sales assistant at the SDCSS table at the Spring Home & Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, please contact Sara Schell. In the past, we have been able to attend the event free since we are given vendor status.

### **Great News from the San Diego River Conservancy:**

#### **Nearly One Mile of River Trail Starts Construction**

The [Mission Valley Greenway Initiative](#) which will connect Fashion Valley Road east to the Stadium is the next project in Mission Valley. This is a multi-phased project which has become a high priority project with the start of construction announced recently.

This trail will be constructed with pervious materials which makes it more friendly for the environment. The City of San Diego is the lead for this project which will cost nearly \$2.5 million. \$2 million of the funding came from a grant from the Resources Agency of the State of California, made possible by the support of the San Diego River Conservancy.

FYI CONTINUED:

The project is expected to be completed as early as July of 2008. Imagine being able to ride or walk four miles from Dog Beach and the Ocean along the River Trail without the need to cross any roads! With the completion of this section, Sefton River Park located at the west end of Hotel Circle Place will be linked with the Mission Valley Preserve, Mission Bay Park and the Pacific Ocean by the San Diego River Trail. Other projects are underway or in planning in Mission Valley, Santee and Lakeside.

If you are interested in working on River Trail or other projects, contact Rob Hutsel, River Park Foundation Executive Director, at 619-297-7380 or rhutsel@sandiegoriver.org.

Congratulations to everyone for their efforts!

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## CACTUS RECIPE OF THE MONTH JUNGLE JUICE (FOR YOUR SWEETIE)

1-1/4 to 1-1/2 lbs Epiphyllum fruit  
1/2 lb sugar  
2-1/2 pints boiling water  
1/2 tsp yeast  
1 orange  
1/2 yeast nutrient



Make starter: To the juice of 1 orange  
add 1 tsp sugar and 1/4 tsp yeast; stand 2 days to get working.

Wash and cut up fruit. Pour on boiling water, add sugar, stand overnight. Add starter, remainder of yeast and yeast nutrient. Let stand 5 days, strain into jar. Squeeze surplus juice out of fruit and leave to ferment.

After 2 months strain again to get rid of sediment. Add a little more sugar to taste if wine is too dry. Ferment to finish, then bottle.

*J. Metcalf, The National Cactus & Succulent Society of England  
From "The Cactus and Succulent Society's Cactus Cook Book", compiled by  
Joyce L. Tate, 1971.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2008

**Feb 29-Mar 2:** Spring Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Friday 11:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm. Info: 858-350-3738 or [www.sandiegohomegardenshows.com](http://www.sandiegohomegardenshows.com).

**Mar 15:** California Friendly Plant Sale at the Water Conservation Garden, 9:00am-3:00pm, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, info: 619-660-0614 or email [info@TheGarden.org](mailto:info@TheGarden.org).

**Apr 20:** EarthFair 2008, 10:00am-5:00pm, Balboa Park.

**Apr 26:** The 15th Annual Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden, 9:00am-3:00pm, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, info: 619-660-0614 or email [info@TheGarden.org](mailto:info@TheGarden.org).

**May 3-4:** Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Rm, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, info: 310-822-1783.

**May 17-18:** Annual Spring Garden Celebration "Garden of Senses" at the San Diego Zoo, 11:00am-3:00pm, info: [sandiegozoo.org](http://sandiegozoo.org).

**May 18:** Huntington Plant Sale, 10:00am-5:00pm, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, info: 626-405-2160.

**Jun 7-8:** SDCSS Summer Show & Sale. Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park.

**Jun 14:** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 9:00am-4:00pm, Jupupa Mountains Cultural center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, info: 909-360-8802.

**Jun 14-15:** Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, info: 818-363-3432.

**Jun 27-29:** CSSA annual Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, Sam Marino, info: 626-405-2160 or 2277. Plant sales are Jun 27-29, show opens to the public Jun 28-29 .

## 2009

**Apr 10-15:** The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's convention, Tucson, AZ.

# San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

## Executive Board

President: Mark Fryer	(619) 795-1020	kaktussy@cox.net
Vice President: Tom DeMerritt	(858) 270-5544	armonde@pacbell.net
Secretary: Christine Tratnyek	(619) 461-0737	cactuswren45@sbcglobal.net
Alt. Secretary Joe Kraatz	(760) 758-7042	plantnut@cox.net
Treasurer: Chris Miller	(619) 258-9810	c.miller@cox.net

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George Plaisted	(619) 583-9551	
Jean O'Daniel	(858) 486-9363	tu1@sbcglobal.net
Peter Walkowiak	(858) 382-1797	hciservices@gmail.com
Collette Parr	(619) 460-9111	collette.parr@cox.net
Susan Hopkins	(858) 272-8897	
Tom Knapik	(619) 462-1805	tkn1234@aol.com

## Standing Committees & Sub Committees

### Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern

Brag Table: Candy Garner

Plants of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

Summer Show: Tom Knapik

Winter Show: Terry Parr

Historian: Terry Parr

Library: Allen Clark, Chris Miller, Don Hunt, Jeanette Dutton, Steve Harris

Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

### Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: Collette Parr

Mailing: Jean & Bill O'Daniel

Annual Sales: Chris Miller & Joe Kraatz

Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt

Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott

Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted

Benefit Drawing Table: Collette & Terry Parr

Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz

Programs: Mark Fryer

Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak

Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Susie White

Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

Hospitality: Sara Schell

### Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Peter Walkowiak

Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig

SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted

SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover

SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller

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