

Espinas y Flores



Next meeting: Saturday, May 11th

Speaker: John Trager, Curator of Desert Collections, Huntington Botanic Garden on "Succulents of South Africa"

Pre-Meeting Workshop: Watering with Don Hunt~ 11 AM

Plant (Group) of the Month: Euphorbiaceae with Pam Badger



On the cover: Photo courtesy of Dorothy Sutherland—a macro view of a spider's spiny domain.

Newsletter Created by: Whitney Meier, with the help of many contributors!



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**2019
SUMMER
SHOW & SALE
JUNE 1 & 2**

Balboa Park
Casa del Prado

Open to the Public
Free Admission



Auction - Spectacular Show Plants Rare, Exotic Plants & Handmade Pottery for Sale		
Saturday, June 1	9am – 11am	Member's Only Shopping*
	11am – 5pm	Plant Sale Open to Public
	10am – 3pm	Plant Show
Sunday, June 2 FAMILY DAY	10am – 4pm	Plant Sale & Show
	10am – 1pm	Interactive Planting Activities for Kids!
	1pm – 2pm	Adult Class
	2pm	Plant Auction
*Join online at: https://www.sdcss.net/membership		

2019 Summer Show Plant Classes and Rules can be found online at:

<https://www.sdcss.net/2019-summer-show-sale-info>

May Speaker:- John Trager, Curator of Desert Collections, Huntington Botanic Garden
"Succulents of South Africa"~ Saturday, May 11th



John Trager is Curator of the Desert Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California where he has worked since 1983. Trager's horticultural writings have appeared in the Cactus and Succulent Journal, the Euphorbia Journal, and various other horticultural publications. He is perhaps better known for his photography – over 2000 of his images have been published in numerous textbooks and horticultural journals. John has traveled widely in search of plants (and insects). He holds a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona and earlier studied Botany at UCSB and Santa Barbara City College.

The talk will focus on the succulents of South Africa, as well as provide some insight into the inner workings of curating the Desert Collection. Please come enjoy the presentation and join us in welcoming him on his visit!

President's Message



Our June show and sale is right around the corner. As our biggest event of the year, we are hosting it at Balboa Park in San Diego- a premier destination for both residents and visitors. This event gives us a chance to show off our beautiful, rare and always loved plants. Please bring in show plants! We value novice and intermediate entries.

More importantly this year we are emphasizing our mission to educate the public on cactus and succulents. We plan on having both adult education as well as family/youth activities on Sunday. Bring in your children and grandchildren to introduce them to our wonderful world of succulents! This event highlights our club. Due to high attendance we typically get a huge membership sign-up, which results in a high percentage of retention of renewing memberships.

Thank you for attending, selling, showing plants, and most importantly volunteering.

Jim and Mary Reiser



COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, May 4th

9:00 AM to 1 PM

The ½ acre garden of Dr. Stephen and Barbara Barnes on Mt. Helix. Steps, partially on-grade, not ADA accessible. Wear sturdy shoes. NO PLANT SALES. Parking on street.

ADDRESS: 4829 Beaumont Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941

Situated on ½ acre facing West, this 35-year-old hillside garden features 31 species of aloes (including 15 aloe trees), 5 Dragon Trees, 29 species of cycads, 75 species of bromeliads, 10 species of staghorn ferns, euphorbias, agaves, tillandsias, many rare and endangered plants, and three ponds.



BRAG TABLE

CACTUS

Novice

1st Place: Sherman B.- *Notocactus magnificus* (A)

2nd Place: Antonina Lansarga- *Mammillaria spinosissima* (B)

Intermediate

1st Place: Denise Huntsman-Griffin- *Astrophytum myriostigma* 'Onzuka' (C)

2nd Place: Allen Clark- *Thelocactus hexaedrophorus* (D)

Advanced

1st Place: Don Hunt- *Mammillaria pondii* (E)



SUCCULENTS

Novice

1st Place: Antonina Lansarga- *Adromiscus trifolius* (F)

2nd Place: Sherman B.- *Aloe bellatula* (G)

Intermediate

No entries

Advanced

1st Place: Kelly Griffin- *Tulista pumila* (H)

1st Place: Kelly Griffin- *Agave* hybrid *subcerulata* x *titanota* (I)

2nd Place: Kelly Griffin- *Dudleya albiflora* (J)

3rd Place: Terry and Collette Parr- *Drimia maculate* (K)

Accounting by Denise Huntsman-Griffin

Photos by Whitney Meier



Succulent and Bromeliad Plant Sale



Saturday, May 4th, 9 am- 3 pm

Moving, everything must go!

Cash only

Shelves, pots, potting bench, 10 X 20 shade structure, tools, patio table and much more

4655 ½ Idaho Street San Diego, CA 92116

For more information contact Sara Schell at seschell1@aol.com

BYOB- bring your own boxes. :-)

The Amazing World of the Succulent Species of the Euphorbiaceae

By Pam Badger

As I sit surrounded by 6 of the 10 volumes of **The Euphorbia Journal**, published by Strawberry Press between 1983 and 1996, I am a little overwhelmed by the sheer volume of material available on these fascinating plants. Where do I begin?? So I went to Vol. 1 and will quote from “A Short Introduction to Euphorbiaceae” by Gordon Rowley:



“...the Euphorbiaceae: a large shrubs, herbs, and annuals cen-

with hardy representatives like the weedy spurges spreading into cool and temperate regions. The family is divided into around 300 genera comprising over 5,000 species in all, although as we shall see, only a fraction of this total is of interest to the growers of succulent plants.”

and diverse assemblage of trees, tered mainly in the Tropics, but

That being said, he goes on to state that if a proud grower has a collection of 100 succulent euphorbias - this is only the tip of the iceberg!

Only 5 of the 300 genera are of interest to collectors: *Euphorbia*, the largest and most specialized, *Monadenium*, *Synadenium*, *Pedilanthus*, and *Jatropha*.

I have been impressed by these plants due to their wide variety of shapes, forms, colors, and strange flowering habits. They are great plants for drought-tolerant gardens and most are fairly easy to propagate. I look forward to sharing some of my favorites, along with growing tips during our May meeting.

CSSA UPDATE

With the rise in cactus and succulent visibility and popularity, CSSA is increasingly significant and relevant. CSSA has committed to a 3-session strategic planning process to look at CSSA's mission, organization and structure, and future directions. The first of these productive sessions occurred at the January 20 board meeting.



Plans are well in place for the biennial convention in *San Luis Obispo* on **July 17 – 20**. As always, the show promises to provide education, inspiration, temptation, and warm camaraderie. Check out the website at www.cssaconvention.com, where you can see the speaker list, field trips, and make your reservations. There will also be a CSSA Affiliates Meeting during the convention. See you there!

The CSSA Annual Show and Sale is scheduled for **June 29 and 30** at The Huntington Botanic Garden. Plan to enter your plants in the competition, get some fabulous buying opportunities, and attend the dinner auction.

Apparently there might be some confusion about the Southcoast CSS show and sale. The correct dates are April 6-7 at the Southcoast Botanical Garden.



Thanks to the work of Bob Jewett and others CSSA now has some of the 2015 convention presentation videos at Pitzer College and almost all from Tempe 2017 available. Most are 45 minutes. The videos are available at this website:

<http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/cssaarchives/ConventionVideos.html>

Rick Bjorklund, SDCSS CSSA affiliate representative

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 6TH MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Hello club members. July is the month when we get to take a collective breathe. Our hard work for the year is behind us. You know what that means; it's **celebration** time!

The board gets the honor of thanking each of you for your hard work and generous contributions that make our club a success. We could not do it without you. We have a special day planned for the July meeting.

Do not miss it!!! We are starting the meeting at 12:00- that's an hour early. Why? Because we have three internationally recognized speakers for our main program.

Please join us for lunch, which will be served at **11:30**

12:00- Meeting starts

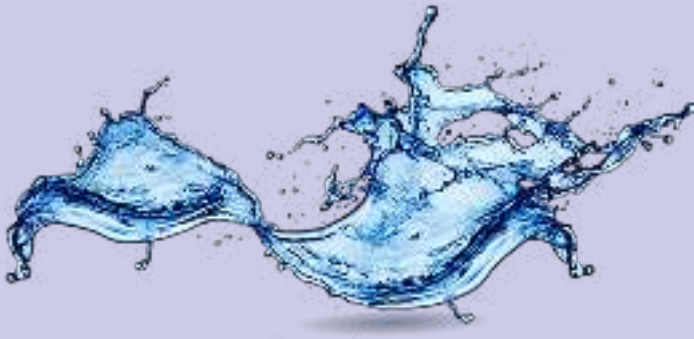
12:30- Atilla Kapitany will present *Succulents Down Under*

1:30- The special brag table--- Only Dish Gardens Allowed

2:15- Julia Etter & Martin Kristen talk about Guadalajara plants

We look forward to celebrating with you.





Pre-Meeting Workshop: Watering with Don Hunt

I'm going to discuss watering plants. Pretty simple, you say. Everything can be made more complicated with a little work. I'm going to discuss PH and it's effect on C&S, rain water vs tap water and what actually happens when you dump water on the plant. I'll bring a PH meter, samples of acidifying agents, we'll measure runoff and conclude how much water the various media have absorbed. If you talk to 3 "experts" (the quotations are for the purpose of including myself), you'll get 4 different opinions about soil mix. Since that the purpose of watering, we'll touch on that.

Since I am an expert on pots, I'll go over my opinions about pots and which plants are best suited to what shape pots as well.



SAFARI PARK NEWS



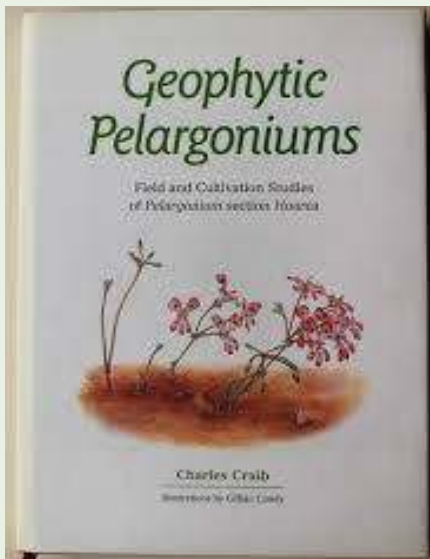
Dudleya is gorgeous right now at the Baja Garden. They like to tuck under other plants – the so-called nurse plants. You can find many beautiful *Dudleya brittonia*, embellishing big barrel cactus and boojum trees.

Come enjoy the Gardens, or weed with us ;)

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.

Photos by M.F.Ho with permission of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.





Book Review: Geophytic Pelargoniums

Charles Craib

Illustrations by Gillian Condy

By Don Hunt

I mention the illustrator because the book is entirely illustrated with original art work done in line and water color. There aren't any photographs at all. The artwork is exquisite and really the high point of the book. The subject of earth-loving (geophyte) winter growers from South Africa is somewhat esoteric. They do well in our collections. Having a selection of winter growers is an excellent idea to keep our hobby interesting year round. I would consid-

er these advanced collector plants, meaning it's a mistake to invest the time to find them, let alone the expense to acquire them, since they are relatively rare in the trade, without some research into the natural growing conditions and requirements. This book supplies my requirements for range maps, culture advice and general history to be very interesting to the right discriminating collectors. This book is very beautiful and you should check it out for that reason, but not many people are going to keep these plants.

Upcoming Events

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| May 11th | <i>San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting, Rm 101 Plant sale starting at 10 AM, 11 AM Pre-meeting workshop, 12:30 New Member Orientation, 1:00 PM Meeting Commences, 2:30 Guest Speaker</i> |
| May 25-26 | Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA
Info: 805-237-2054 |
| June 1-2 | <i>San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA</i> |
| June 8-9 | Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society, Clovis Veterans Memorial District, 808 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA |
| June 29-30 | CSSA Annual Show and Sale, The Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino |
| July 6th | <i>San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting, Rm 101 Plant sale starting at 10 AM, Lunch at 11:30 AM, Meeting Commences early at 12:00, 2 guest speakers and a dish garden brag table</i> |
| July 17-20 | CSSA 2019 Convention in San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 |
| August 10th | <i>San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting, Rm 101 Plant sale starting at 10 AM, 11 AM Pre-meeting workshop, 12:30 New Member Orientation, 1:00 PM Meeting Commences, 2:30 Guest Speaker</i> |
| August 10-11 | Annual Intercity Show and Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA
Info: Tom Glavich: (626) 798-2430 or Artie Chavez (818) 482-8795 |
| August 31 | Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, The Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA, Info: (626) 405-3504 |