

Volume 44 Number 11

December 2009

# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

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



**ITS THE ANNUAL CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY!!**

**Saturday, December 12, 12:00pm  
Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park**

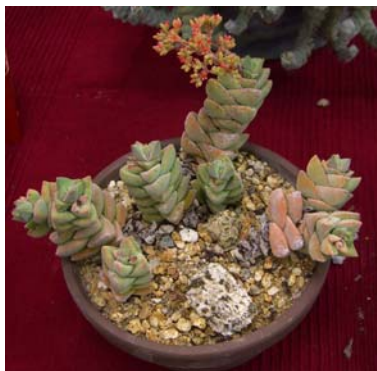
# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving Day, 2009

Since my daughter is cooking this year I have plenty of time to write my message to you. First and foremost I hope you all had plenty to give thanks for today, I know the Millers do. It has been a good year for us and for SDCSS. SDCSS has one hundred more members this year than we have had over the last ten years. Our shows and sales have been very successful and our meetings are attended by more people. The rest of San Diego County has become very interested in our kind of plants and we are seeing more and more of them in the landscape. What that means to me is I get to enjoy my hobby no matter where I go. Too cool!

Our November meeting was upbeat, busy, different, fun and interesting. **Cathy Clark** and **Ken Blackford** handled the membership and Holiday Party sign up table and did a great job. **Jim DeForest**, **Lynn Elliot** and **Joe Kraatz** were hoppin' at the sales table. **Michelle Heckathorn** and **Sara Schell** ran the exchange table with their usual flair and control. **Collette** and **Terry Parr** managed the Benefit Drawing and provided opportunities for even more plants for members to take home. **Rudy Lime** put out the snacks and coffee for the Break. **Susan Hopkins** greeted members, guests and curiosity seekers as they came in the door. **George Plaisted** worked the supplies table. **Kathy** and **Steve Harris** and **Don Hunt** maintained the library, allowing all of you the opportunity to check out books over the holidays. **Tom DeMerritt** wrestled the audio visual equipment into control. **Bill O'Daniel** helped with set up. A large group of vendors provided a wide array of opportunities for us to be parted from our mad money. These members do this every month. They spend the meeting making sure that the rest of the members have a positive experience and I very much want to thank them for all they do.

**Pam Badger** did a great job judging our Faux Plant contest. I was over whelmed by the response. What wonderfully creative people we have in our organization. From the action packed Car Crassula to the blown glass Staphelia it was great. It was requested by many members that we do this again next year so we will. **Andrew Wilson** gave a great talk on stacking *Crassulas*, which was followed up this week by an article in the CSSA Journal by **Fred Dortort** on *Crassula*: Stacks, spirals and spires. **Don Hunt** did a two sentence presentation on *Thelocactus*, with a plea for presenters for next



year. He will be filling out next years schedule at the Holiday Party so start thinking about what you would like to talk about in 2010. Remember, one of the benefits of giving a presentation is we pay for your admission to the Succulent Forum at the Huntington in September.

Our guest speaker was **Irwin Lightstone** and his talk was on macrophotography. It was very interesting and he had lots of incredible examples of his work to share. There were many questions after his talk and he has offered to answer them by e-mail if you didn't get a chance to ask him at the meeting. His recommendations appear later in this issue.

For those of you who would like to learn the basics of how to use your digital camera **BJ Miller** is offering to do mini seminars before our meetings. We will schedule a couple early next year. Watch your newsletters for the time and dates.

Our Winter Show and Sales is coming up in February. We already have 20 verified vendors and we are now in search of volunteers for everything. If you are interested in working the sales area we will ask you to sign up at the Holiday Party. We want to do some training prior to the start of the January meeting and we need to know how many people to provide for. So look for the sign up list at the Holiday Party.

Sharon Wirth has volunteered to be our Archivist and is currently going through my old newsletters compiling data. Look for her at the Holiday Party and thank her for volunteering!

Volunteers make this organization a great one. In a growing organization there is always a need for more volunteers. See the Want Ads in this newsletter to see if there is something special you would like to volunteer to do. If you have ideas about other ways you can help let me know.

Last year several of us went to the Huntington for their Desert Forum on the third Saturday in January. They are offering the same event this year and we have organized a bus trip in partnership with the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society. See the flier in this newsletter for more information. It was a great trip last year. The Aloes were incredible and the gardens were cool enough to spend a lot of time in. It is also an opportunity to meet members of other clubs and get to know them.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Party.

**Chris Miller**



Holiday Festivities 2006, Photos by Collette Parr

## MEMBERSHIP CONTACT ROSTER DONE

**Joe Kraatz**

The roster is complete! It will be distributed at the Holiday dinner and subsequent meetings.

## REMINDER FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

As 2009 draws to a close, I want to remind everyone that most memberships in the SDC&SS expire at the end of this calendar year. Please fill out a membership renewal form to accompany your payment. The forms will be available at the December and January meetings. Note that this is the same form that is on the reverse of your newsletter mailing coversheet.

It would be so helpful if you renew prior to the close of the year, and I encourage you to do so. I also would like to remind everyone that you can pay for as many years membership in advance as you like. Then you don't have to think about this again for as many years as you pay forward. Remember to check above your name on your newsletter label to see your expiration date. It will always be printed there. However, if you have any questions at all about your membership, please feel free to contact me either by e-mail ([collette.parr@cox.net](mailto:collette.parr@cox.net)) or by cell phone (619-384-8849).

Best wishes,

**Collette Parr**

SDC&SS Membership Chair

## GREEN COMMITTEE

A Green Committee has been established to plan how the 2011 CSSA Convention that SDCSS is hosting can be the greenest convention possible. We are soliciting members, friends and anyone else who comes across this note for your good ideas. Helping Hands are also always welcome. If you have a great, green idea for our convention, please feel free to contact our Committee co-Chairs, **Art Cooley** and **Kathy Harris**, or any of the other members, **Pat Bryan**, **Cathy Clark**, **Steve Harris** or **Chris Tratnyek**. If you are reading *ESPINAS Y FLORES*, we know you have an interest in treading lightly on our environment. Thanks!

# HOLIDAY PARTY

Well it's that time again - time to get together, celebrate the Holidays, have some good food and drinks, enjoy each others company and get some new plants!

We are excited about having **Ruth Henricks** back by popular demand as our caterer again this year. We have chosen a menu with something for everyone - so bring a good appetite. Herb Stern "The Wine Guy" will once again set up a bar with all kinds of refreshments so you can come thirsty too! As part of our sharing with each other we have a tradition of doing a "potluck" dessert table - this is optional - if you have a special dessert you'd like to prepare or something you want to bring - please do - we always have an incredible selection of yummy stuff to finish off our meal.

Gift Exchange This is another fun sharing thing many of us have enjoyed over the years. This is optional - if you want to participate, bring a nice plant or plant related item for the exchange - **ONLY ONE ITEM PER PERSON PLEASE**. At some point a committee will select one of the plants as best (this can be a tough job!). That plant will be set aside to be auctioned off later. The person who brought in that plant will get first choice from the remaining plants - and the owner of the plant that person selects then gets a chance to select and so on and so forth until all plants are distributed. As you can see the nicer the plant/item you bring the sooner you will get to choose. So look through your collection and see if there is some lovely plant you would like to gift to a fellow member and bring it to the GIFT EXCHANGE TABLE - be sure your name is on the plant. This is open to guests also so if you are bringing a nonmember guest - let them know!

Gift Plant The Society will continue the tradition of giving each member who attends this event with a gift plant. These plants will be distributed during desserts by lottery. 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 on 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)

Volunteer Drawing This year we will give members who have volunteered over the last twelve months tickets for their own special drawing. Peter Walkowiak has purchased some very special plants for this drawing.

Auction Again this year we have engaged a PROFESSIONAL AUCTION TEAM to handle our Annual Holiday Auction. Many of our vendors have donated plants to this fundraiser auction. We have also procured a number of 'bare root' plants from Western Cactus Grow-

ers so come prepared to bid on the best array of auction plants we have ever assembled.

P.S. If you have 1-2 "show quality" plants you would like to donate to the auction - please contact Lee Badger 619.589.1456.

If this sounds like way too much fun to miss - be sure to get your reservations in ASAP (call **Chris Miller** if you have not yet made your reservations) and join us for the "Best Holiday Party" of the Season. Cut off will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

**SEE YOU THERE!!**

## **CSSA 2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is hosting the national society's Bi-Annual Convention, The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) in 2011. This event is not just a national convention but is an international convention, with attendees from Asia, Africa, Europe and So. America. This is a chance for us to show the world of succulent enthusiasts who we are. There are many ways and opportunities for us to impress and shine in the eyes of the world. To accomplish this goal we will need to have SDCSS members volunteer to participate in one of the convention committees. The convention committees are key to having a well run, memorable and dynamic convention. To volunteer just contact the committee chair of the committee that you would you would like to contribute to.

HOST COMMITTEE: **Pam Badger**, pambad1@mac.com

SALES COMMITTEE: **Chris Miller**, c.miller@cox.net

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE: **Frank Lozoya**, (619) 463-9190 or (619) 698-6708

TOURS AND TRIPS COMMITTEE: **Janet Svoboda**, j.svo@cox.net

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: **Michelle Heckathorn**, MHeckathor1@cox.net

GREEN COMMITTEE: **Art Cooley**, apcooley@san.rr.com

### **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

**Peter Walkowiak**, Convention Chair

# DESERT FORUM

The Huntington Botanical Gardens invites  
CSSA Member and Affiliate Clubs (that's us) to a FREE  
Saturday – January 16, 2010

## 9:30 to 10 am Registration

Assembly and registration at the entrance pavilion. (Bring your club name badge, ID card, or Newsletter, to identify you as a member) (If you bring a sack lunch please write your name on the bag and it will be transported to the teaching greenhouse for later consumption)

## 10 to 12 am Tour of the Desert Garden

Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory. Aloes will be flowering.

## 12 to 1:30 pm Refreshments, Sale and Lunch

Light snacks and beverages will be served in the teaching greenhouse. Sack lunch; or visitors may go to the Huntington Café (no reservations required).

Tea Room – Reservations required several days prior (626) 683-8131.

Plant Sale in Desert Nursery

## 2 to 3 Talk

Welcome by Jim Folsom

Information related to the CSSA

Location: Ahmanson Classroom

Topic: The Future of the Desert Garden

## 3 to 4:30 Free Time

Visitors are free to tour the Gardens and Galleries on their own until closing time

Location is 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

Web site: [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)

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*			*
*	ELIBET'S	<i>I had a little bird</i>	*
*		<i>and her</i>	*
*	CORNER	<i>name was</i>	*
*		<i>Enza. I</i>	*
*		<i>opened the</i>	*
*		<i>window</i>	*
*		<i>and</i>	*
*		<i>Influenza.</i>	*
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### SDCSS Bus Trip to the Desert Forum

Cost will be \$25 a person to cover cost of bus and light snacks on bus

7 am departure from Balboa Park parking lot behind the Organ Pavilion, be there by 6:45 please.

7:30 am stop in Escondido (location to be announced). Please let us know when you register which location you will be at.

Return will be leaving the Huntington by 4 to get back to Balboa Park by 7.

SDCSS has 30 seats available on the bus. If we have more people than seats we will work on car pools for the rest.

### Huntington Desert Forum Sign up Sheet

Name(s)

---

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Phone number

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Pick up location: \_\_\_\_\_ Balboa Park \_\_\_\_\_ Escondido

Amount Paid    \$25 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

# NOVEMBER 2009 FAUX PLANT

## BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by Pam Badger

### Cactus

Most Illuminating - **Chris Dawson** - *Cara-illumina* hyb.

Best Use of Brass - **Don Hunt** - *Fauxercerus brassispinus* ssp *green glaze*

Best Use of PVC - **Joe Kraatz** - *Garnegia plastissimus*

Best Use of Yoga - **Elibet Marshall** - *Infelix fatum elibetensis*

Best Use of Legos - **Chris Miller** - *Legocereus squarossa*

Best Origami - **Jean O'Daniel** - *Origamiopsis* 'Nova'

Best Use of Feathers - **Vanessa Nelson** - *Gymnocalycium*  
"Featherly googlia"

Best Use of Spaghetti - **Chris Tratnyek** - *Papyrus origamii* ssp *spachettiences*

Interesting Use of Shakespear - **Erik Gronborg** - *Calibanus hookeri*  
'Shakespeare'

Best Use of Tic Tacs - **Vanessa Nelson**- *Pediocactus* "Tic tac  
googlia"

Oldest Cactus - **Penny Sommerville** - *Pincushionaceae* "Old Man  
Cactus"

Special Desert Dish Garden - **Candy Garner** - *Saguaro plastica*  
*verde*

Most Tasteless - **Peter Walkowiak** - *Penicereus* sp.

Best Graft and Wine - **Carol Maker** - *Vinocereus fuzzii*



Most Illuminating



Best Use Of Yoga



Best Origami

## Succulents

Pam's Favorite Pipe Cleaner - **Chris Miller** - *Ripsillius rosulatus*

Most Metallic - **Jeffrey Shobar** - *Wirensis Metalae*

Most Eyes in Succulent - **Vanessa Nelson**- Bonsai *Ficus Benjamina*  
"Natasja goggly"

Best Use of Drinking Straws - **Candy Garner** - *Euphorbia longifolia*  
cv "Sticks of Fire"

Best Use of Rocks - **Phyllis Flechsig** - Living Stones

Best Use of Malachite - **Penny Sommerville** - *Malachitebeadaceae*  
"String of Pearls"



Best Use Of Pipe Cleaners



Best Use Of  
Drinking Straws



Best Use Of Rocks

## Special Categories

Best Psychedelic Painting - **Ron Chisum** - *Stapelopyhora Yalofsii*,  
*Stapelia orbea* x *Lophophora williamsi* hyb.

Most Kinetic - **Stan Yalof** - *Car crashula*

Most Eclectic - No name - Missing ID form



Best Psychedelic Painting



Most Eclectic

Submitted by **Candy Garner** (who did the best she could)

To view pictures of **all** the Faux Plants, go to the on-line version of  
this month's *ESPINAS Y FLORES*..

## IRWIN'S HINTS FOR BETTER PLANT PHOTOGRAPHY

There are three elements of a good photograph: good subject, good lighting, good composition. When the elements reinforce each other, the photo becomes stronger.

Before focusing on your subject, choose your background. With the possible exceptions of subject blur and incorrect exposure, more pictures are ruined by incompatible backgrounds. Often, you need only move an inch or two.

The camera points in two directions. The lens reveals your insights and sensitivities, much as it shows the qualities of the subject. Therefore, focus the photographer before you focus the camera.

Successful images are often a visual journey. Use emphasis/deemphasize tools to heighten impact by controlling eye movement through the picture. Bright areas, fine detail, areas of high contrast, complementary colors, leading lines, and sharply focused areas can draw the eye through the picture.

Avoid extremely light areas on the edge of the image. They draw your eye off the photo.

The tendency of beginners is to seek a static balance by centering the image. For example, in many flower images a symmetrical flower is centered like a bullseye. Although it is counterintuitive, moving the image off-center and using your weight, color intensity, contrast and other devices to create a more dynamic balance.

Digital is cheap. Try several approaches. Experiment.

The difference between a snapshot and a photograph is the amount of thought and care that went into the image. Slow down. It takes time to see what is in your frame. Use a tripod. Not only will your camera be more finely focused; the photographer will be too.

Midday sun casts harsh shadows, desaturates color, and is usually ugly light. Modify it by adding light to the shadows (reflectors or fill flash), diffusing the light (white cloth) or shooting in the shade or on the shady side of the plant.

Overcast days and window light are often good for soft lighting

with saturated color.

Learn to look at your histogram to judge exposure. Where the graph continues off the page, tones are cut off leaving detailless white or detailless black.

"If your picture isn't good enough, you're not close enough," Robert Capa. Plant photography often demands that Capa closeness. Heighten visual impact by filling the frame with your subject.

When shooting macros, depth of field can be very thin. To maintain sharp focus, make sure all key elements are the same distance from the lens.

Test focus stacking to extend your depth of field. Try free sample versions of Helicon Focus (<http://heliconsoft.com>) and ZereneStacker 2 (<http://zerenesystems.com>)

Enjoy yourself. It shows.

Contact information:

**Irwin Lightstone**

[radiantimages@sbcglobal.net](mailto:radiantimages@sbcglobal.net) (email)

[RadiantImagesPhotography.net](http://RadiantImagesPhotography.net) (website)

Fine art photography, individualized instruction, workshops.

## ESPINAS Y FLORES GOING ELECTRONIC!

This month's issue of our newsletter will be available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net). Take a look! As a cost-savings measure, all members are being urged to accept an e-mailed version of the newsletter – the cost of color printing and mailing far outweigh the annual membership fee. Beginning in 2010, you will have a choice as to how you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter, either electronically or by regular mail.

## SDCSS HELP WANTED ADS

If you are looking for a way to help here are some ideas:

<b>Winter Show:</b> Need volunteers for security, meals, greeting, set up and clean up.	<b>Cashiers, Scanners and Boxers:</b> For Winter show. Sign up this month. We will train at January meeting.	<b>Trophy Sponsorship:</b> We are in the process of updating trophies and are looking for donations to support the process.
<b>Education Chair:</b> For Summer Show: Put together a program for education during the summer show	<b>Membership Committee Members:</b> To support the membership chair in providing membership services.	<b>Ride Coordinator:</b> Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.
<b>Volunteers for WAP Gardens:</b> For garden maintenance, new area development, plant identification and to work in the greenhouse	<b>Trip Coordinator</b> to coordinate trips, arrange bus contracts, destination requirements, etc.	<b>Audio Visual Person</b> Duties to include organizing existing equipment, setting up at meetings and advising on requirements.

Contact **Chris Miller** if you would like to volunteer

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 *Espinass Y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content. All material contained in the *Espinass 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec 12:** SDCSS Holiday Party!

**Feb 13:** SDCSS Winter Show and Sale

**Apr 10&11:** South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. For info. call 310-832-2262

**Apr 17&18:** Green Scene Plant Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831

**May 1&2:** Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. For info. call 310-822-1783

**May 2:** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, -9am to 4pm, at South Coast Botanical Gardens. For info. call 310-833-6823

**May 15:** Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30<sup>th</sup> Show and Sale, 9 to 4, Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. For info. call 909-360-8802

**May 16:** Huntington Plant Sale, 10 to , Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. For info. call 626-405-2160

**May 16:** Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA. For info. call 310-670-8148

**May 22&23:** Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale, 10-4, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA. For info. call 805-237-2054,  
[www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)

**June 5&6:** SDCSS Summer Show and Sale

**June 12&13:** Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA. For info. call 818-363-3432

**June 25-27:** CSSA Annual Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. For info call 626-405-2160 or 2277. Plants sales June 25-27, show is 26-27. Free to the public.

The due date for submission of all material to be published in EyF will be the second-to-last Saturday of the month preceding the next monthly meeting. All submissions are to be made to the Editors. Please e-mail your articles to Paul & Carol Maker at [pdmaker@roadrunner.com](mailto:pdmaker@roadrunner.com).





Desert Dish Garden



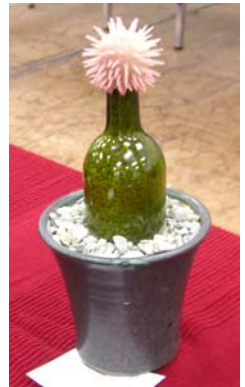
Most Metallic



Best Use Of Bass



Most Eyes



Best Graft



Livingstones



Best Use Of Chianti



Best Use Of PVC



Most Kinetic





Best Use Of Money



Oldest Cactus



Best Use Of Legos



Best Use Of Tic-Tacs



Best Use Of Malachite



Best Use Of Candles



Interesting Use Of Shakespeare



Best Use Of Feathers



Most Tasteless

All Photos of Faux Plants are by the Editors