



Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

Volume XXII, Number 10

October 10, 1987

OCTOBER MEETING

Saturday October 10, 1987

1:30 P.M.

WILD ANIMAL PARK

Cake, coffee and punch will be served. If you want a lunch, you may either bring one or buy at the Park.

Map to the special entrance and parking on the next page. You will not have free entrance or parking anywhere else.

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DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE - - - SEPTEMBER 23, 1987

I'm going on a vacation, so I need copy early.

Thanks Mary

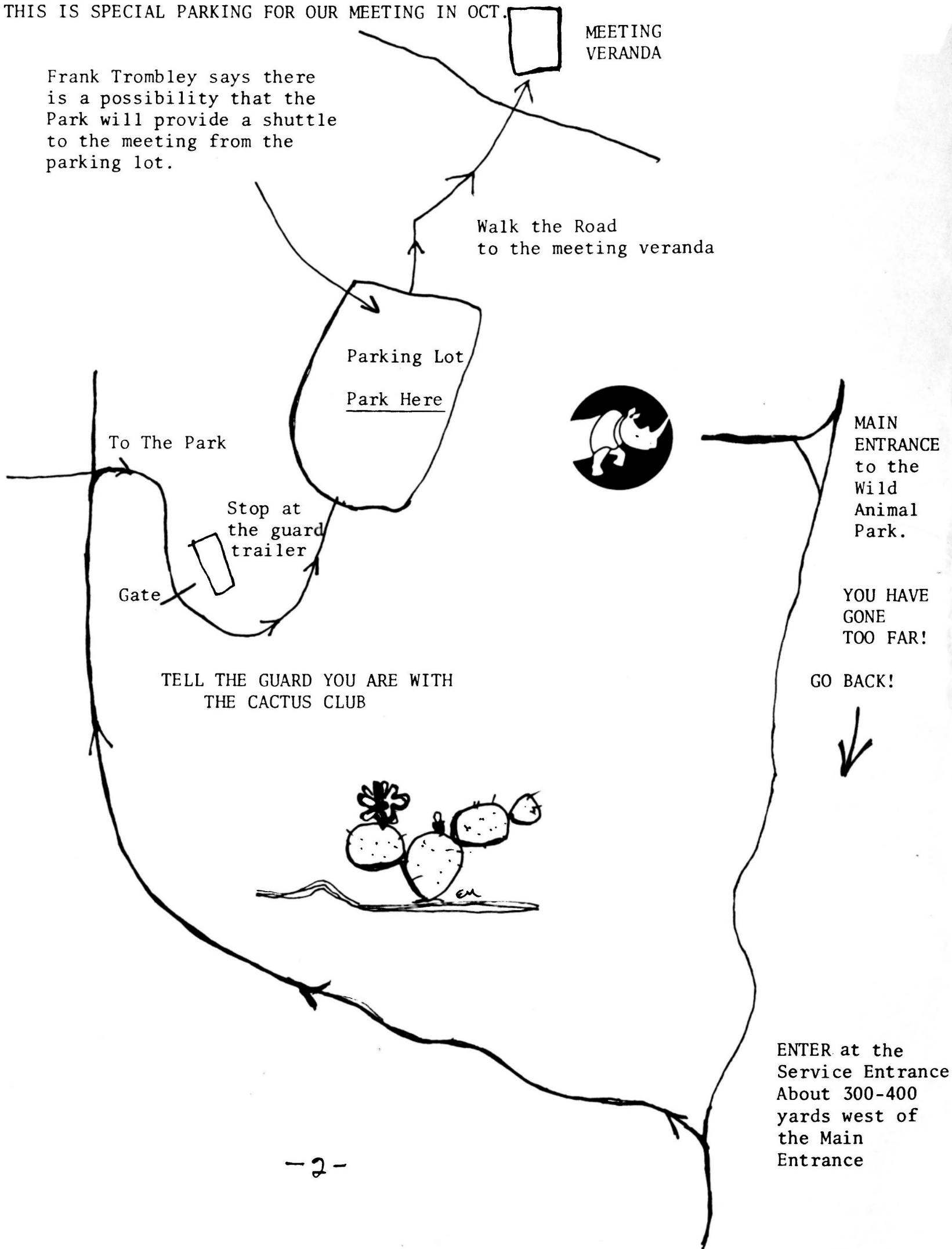
This month, I received two items to be forwarded to other members. If you need an address, call, I will be glad to give this information.

PLEASE NOTE

MAP TO THE PARKING LOT AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK

THIS IS SPECIAL PARKING FOR OUR MEETING IN OCT.

Frank Trombley says there is a possibility that the Park will provide a shuttle to the meeting from the parking lot.



7/7/87

CACTUS OF THE MONTH, July, 1987

ARIOCARPUS Scheidweiler

At present, according to Dr. E.F. Anderson and Dr. Lyman Benson, the Genus Ariocarpus is represented by two subgenera, Roseocactus and Ariocarpus, six species and four varieties, all from the Chihuahuan Desert of the United States and Mexico.

The Chihuahuan Desert includes southeast Arizona, southern New Mexico and western Texas in the United States; and in Mexico the area from the Rio Grande south through the Mexican states of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosí, Querétaro and Zacatecas, and from the Sierra Madre Oriental on the east to the Sierra Madre Occidental on the west. There is an absence of winter rains, with very hot, dry spring months. The hottest month is June, just before the summer rainy season of July through September. The period of the most plant growth and flowering is normally just before or at the end of the rainy season.

The species of the genus occur almost always only on limestone or on limestone soils formed by deposits of calcareous materials from the Sierra Madre Oriental, itself of cretaceous limestone, porous and full of organic materials. The vegetation is largely xerophytic thorn and desert scrub.

The genus Ariocarpus is commonly divided into two subgenera, Roseocactus and Ariocarpus (including the species of the old Anhalonium). The stems of both are usually unbranched and depressed with a flattened or rounded top and imbricated tubercles radiating in several rings, forming a rosette. The tubercles are tough and hard, ± triangular with ± vestigial areoles, either a central furry groove, a terminal or subterminal woolly point on the tubercle's upper surface, or lacking. The flower portion of the areole is usually hidden in wool at the base of the young tubercles. The flowers are diurnal and appear from the woolly center of the plant in most species, but occasionally they are found in a rosette around the center, in Sep-

THE GENUS ARIOCARPUS, p. 2

tember through December. Seed pods mature in late spring.

The species of the subgenus *Roseocactus* feature an areolar groove from which the flowers appear, saucer or cup-shaped, 1 to 2" wide and magenta in color. Ripe fruits are brown and fleshy and the seeds are shiny black.

There are three species and varieties:

1. A. fissuratus:

Its body is grey green to brownish in color, 2 to 5 inches in diameter. The tubercles are very fissured and convex and the flowers, up to 2 inches wide, are light magenta. The habitat includes west Texas, and northern Mexico in the states of Coahuila, Zacatecas and San Luis Potosí.

2. A. f. var. lloydii:

It's much more robust and taller than the species, up to 4 inches tall and 2 to 6 inches in diameter, with tubercles rounded laterally, rarely deeply fissured. It is found on limestone hills from Parras, Coah. to Concepción del Oro, Zac. in north central Mexico.

3. A. kotschoubeyanus:

Its body is grey green and flat at ground level, up to 3" in diameter, with flattened tubercles having a groove on the upper surfaces. Its flowers are magenta. It is found in the north Mexican states of Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí and Querétaro in dry lake beds, where they withdraw into the soil in the hottest part of the year.

The species of subgenus *Ariocarpus* have no lateral grooves on the upper tubercle surfaces. Tubercles are obviously divergent on rounded plants + erect with ± pointed apices. The flowers are magenta, white or yellow; fruit whitish, pinkish or greenish.

4. A. retusus:

It's grey green in body, up to 10" in diameter and 4½" tall, with variously shaped, crowded tubercles, erect and ± smooth, but not fissured. Its flowers are up to 2" wide, usually white

with occasional reddish midribs, fruit white, occasionally greenish. Its habitat is limestone hills or sometimes gypsum flats from north of Saltillo and Monterrey south to Hacienda de Cedros, Zac., Matehuala, SLP, and the Valley of Jaumave, Tamps. It is the first species to have been described and the type of the genus.

5. A. furfuraceus:

The plant body is grey green, similar to *A. retusus* but taller and smaller in diameter, and lighter grey with large, woolly areoles at the end of its tubercles.

It probably should be *A. r.* var. *furfuraceus*, and it's not listed in any of my major sources all. But it does appear in Backeberg's "Cactus Lexicon", p. 70, though as he describes it, *A. furfuraceus* is really *A. F.* var. *rostratus*, with woolly areoles, not glabrous, and with white to rosy flowers up to 2" in width. It comes from the N. Mexican state of Coahuila, location not given. I also found it in Borg, p. 261., and in a couple of places in the Mexican journal, "Cactaceas y Suculentas mexicanas".

6. A. agavoides:

It has a brownish green body growing barely above ground level, flattened on top and from 1½ to 3" in diameter. The tubercles are divergent, flacid and not erect. They are not fissured nor incurved, but with large woolly areoles part way down the tubercles, which are 4 times longer than wide. Flowers are to 2" wide and bright magenta. This species is found only on one rocky limestone hill at 4000 ft el. near Tula, Tamps.

7. A. trigonus:

The plant has a yellowish grey green body, growing slightly above ground level. It is rounded on top, from 2 to 10" tall and up to 12" in diameter, with erect and sharply pointed tubercles, smooth and incurved with no areoles at the tips. The flowers reach 2" in diameter and are a bright yellow. Fruit is a white or greenish berry. Its habitat is on limestone hills from north of Monterrey south to the Valley of Jaumave, southwest of Ciudad Victoria, Tamps at 1500-3400 ft.

8. A. scapharostrus:

Its body is dark grey green, growing barely above ground level.

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± rounded, up to 3" tall, up to 3" in diameter with erect, bluntly pointed tubercles, incurved and smooth. There are no areoles at the tips. The flowers are 1½ to 2" wide and magenta; the fruit is greenish. Its habitat is limestone hills and mountains of west central Nuevo Leon at 2700 ft elevation. It is known from only the one location south of Monterrey.

All species require added limestone or gypsum in the soil for good health and normal growth, but I find that when grown in pots with restricted root run, they also require some protection from midsummer sun in the form of high shade in the afternoon as well as moderate watering in warm and hot weather & complete dryness in the winter months. In addition, to me it's a fascinating and rewarding genus to grow!

References cited in order of amount of information gleaned:

- E.F. Anderson, "Taxonomic Revision of Ariocarpus",
Cactus & Succulent Journal, v. 37, p. 39-49, 1965
- Lyman Benson, "The Cacti of the United States and Canada", 1982
p. 861-864
- Curt Backeberg, "Cactus Lexicon", 3rd edition, 1976
p. 69-70
- Clark Champie, "Some Interesting Living Rocks"
Cactus & Succulent Journal, v. 39, p. 88-91, 1967

Joan Johnson

Killing Cactus and Other Succulents

A number of us who have grown cactus for some years, determined to leave no stone unturned in our mastery of the hobby, have with diligence and perseverance uncovered a number of subtle but no less certain ways of killing a prized plant. It seems appropriate from time to time to share that art. The title of this column is not without significance.

Apart from taking a first in a cactus show, one of the most effective, albeit often slow, methods is overpotting. And one of the beauties of this method is that a number of growers, including one intimately known to my wife, never seem to learn how effective this trick is. Hence it can be used again and again.

Overpotting consists of placing a plant which has gone beyond the seedling size into a pot where there is a gap of an inch or more between the plant and the inside edge of the pot. Sometimes. All it takes on some occasions is a gap of one-half inch.

One does this when the plant has been growing so fast that you have had to repot it twice in one growing season and a third round is in sight. Or when you have a plant that is particularly nasty to handle and you say "Aha! We'll just let it grow into that pot." Or when you don't have a pot the right size. Or a dozen other reasons.

And what then happens is that the plant sits there. And sits. And sits. At best growth comes to a jarring halt. At worst the plant slowly dies, and after (usually) two years either rots or dries up. And leaves room for a new plant on the bench.

The why of it is probably a matter of water and nutrients. In a clay pot, the water seems to flow around the edges of the roots, and the soil dries out before the roots can reach it. In a plastic pot, maybe it is because the soil, without roots to absorb the water, stays too wet. But we do not need to know why when it is only results that we are after.

Please note the above is applicable primarily to cactus. It may not work with a number of the "other" succulents, particularly if really good drainage is provided. Those haworthias with pencil-thick roots, for example, often benefit from pots larger than the plant size would suggest.

A brief comment on a different subject, aloe mite: If you have an aloe which looks like it might be cresting or becoming monstrose, it is probably aloe mite. The experts tell me there is nothing for this but to destroy the plant. If the infection is small, you may be able to cut out the infected part, or if there is a uninfected offset, keep that and throw away the rest of the plant. Otherwise, get rid of it.

Bob Kent

FROM THE BOARD.....

It was the decision of the Board to once again hold our Annual Christmas Dinner in December. This function will take place on December the 12th.

It was also agreed that next year's picnic will be held at Felicita Park on Saturday, June 11, 1988, one week following the Annual Show and Sale which will take place on June 4 and 5.

It is also time to appoint a Nominating Committee for the 1987 elections. See ARTICLE IV of our BY-LAWS below.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of the Society shall be: President, First Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and six (6) Directors.

Section 2 - Term of Office

a. The term of office for all officers shall be for two years and they shall be elected in even-numbered calendar years.

b. The Directors shall be elected for a term of two years and they shall be elected in odd-numbered calendar years.

c. Each officer and director shall serve until a successor has been elected.

d. The term of office for all officers and directors shall begin at the close of business of the Board meeting following their election.

e. No officer shall hold more than one elective office nor shall an officer be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in an office.

Section 3 - Elections

a. The elections shall be held annually at the regular December meeting of the Society.

b. The elections shall be by ballot unless there is but one candidate; if that is the case the candidate may be elected by voice vote, show of hands, or standing.

c. Nominating Committee

1. A Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than three, nor more than five, members. They shall be appointed by the Executive Board prior to the regular October meeting of the Society.

2. A Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the President from those selected by the Board.


3. The Committee shall report candidates for office to the Society at the regular November meeting.

4. Nominations from the floor shall be solicited, providing the nominee is present, and agrees or has given prior written approval, to the nomination.

Section 4 - Filling Vacancies

Any vacancy in an elective office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of; Richard Latimer, Chairman
Joan Johnson, Sandy Frost, and Ernest Angus.



Walter J. Moore

NEWS NEWS NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - - - -

Joe Quijada - San Diego
Mark & Susan Nagle and sons - Alpine

Mrs. JoAnne L. Morton - Ocean Hills, CA
Sophia Winnard - San Diego

- - - - -

SEPTEMBER BRAGGING PLANT WINNERS.

- 1st Place -Rudy Lime for his Pelargonium trieste
- 2nd Place -Martin Mooney for his Cotyledon bucholziana
- 3rd Place - Joey Betzler for his Caralluma quadrangula

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PLEASE NOTE:

The reception committee have only 4 people signed up^{x0} have name tags made. They must have at least 10 to make an order. Please see either Perlso Lewis or Ethel Standish.

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THANKS to Doris Rake for her donation of plants to the cactus garden at the park.
Anyone interested in sharing plants, get in touch with John Pasek - 284-1744

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SHOWS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Oct. 3 & 4	Balboa Park African Violet Soc. Fall Show	Sat:10am-4:00pm	Sun:10am-4:00pm
Oct. 17 & 18	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. Fall "Mini" Show	Sat:Noon-5:00pm	Sun:10am-4:30pm
Oct. 24 & 25	Sogetsu School of Ikebana Show	Sat:11am-4:30pm	Sun:11am-4:30pm
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	San Diego Tropical Fish Soc. 17th Show	Sat:Noon-6:00pm	Sun: 9am-4:30pm
Nov. 22	Sumi-e Painting & Ikebana 12th An. Show		Sun:11am-4:00pm
Dec. 4-5-6	San Diego Floral Assoc. Christmas Show (Christmas on the Prado)	Fri: 5pm-9:00pm Sat:11am-9:00pm	Sun:11am-4:00pm



SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President - Martin Mooney
97 K Street, Chula Vista, 92011 427-6796
Vice President - Bud Aubuchon
1058 5th Avenue, Chula Vista, 92011 427-3388
Secretary - Beverly Kirkegaard
10009 Bonnie Vista, La Mesa, 92041 463-2801
Treasurer - Susan Shepherd
4537 Cochise Way, San Diego, 92117 274-4291
Immediate Past President - Dr. Leroy Phelps
4094 36th Street, San Diego, 92104 280-9690

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shirley Berry, Jerry Brattmiller, Cathy Frost
John Pasek, Joe Clements, Chuck Adams

COMMITTEES

Auditor: James Berry
Bragging Table: Madelyn Lee
CSSA Affiliate Rep.: Cathy & Sandy Frost
Education: Cacti - Phyllis Flechsig
Succulents - Dorothy Dunn
Historian: Rick Latimer
Library: Rick Latimer
Membership: Susan Shepherd
Picnic: Hannah Nachman
Plant Exchange Table: Mmes. Lemrow & Larberg
Plants & Supplies Table: Joey Betzler

Publications: Mary Aubuchon / 427-3388
Reception: Perlso Lewis and Ethel Standish
Regalement: Warren Larberg and Doc Lemrow
Representatives:
Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek
Quail Botanical Garden - Phyllis Flechsig
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Elizabeth Glover
S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek
Liaison & Publicity: Cathy & Sandy Frost
Program: Joan Johnson
Jim Dice
Joe Clements

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and ~~exotic~~ plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$8.00 per single member ~~per year~~, \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

Editor
Mary Aubuchon
1058 5th Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 92011



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