

# Espinas y Flores



**Plant of the Month:**

*Rebutia* with  
Tom De Merritt



**Workshop:** Handling Large  
Cactus with Jim Reiser

**Speaker:** Brian Kemble

*South African Aloes*

**This month's meeting:**

Saturday, August 10th







**On the cover:** *Aloe glauca*, courtesy of Brian Kemble.

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

### Send Us Your Pictures!

Do you have a garden to be proud of? Is your awesome succulent/cactus blooming? We want to see it!

Send photos to editor Whitney Meier at

[whitnymeier3@gmail.com](mailto:whitnymeier3@gmail.com) for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter!

## Plant of the Month— *Rebutia* by Tom De Merritt

*Rebutia* is a genus named after a French grape grower and cactus nurseryman, Monsieur P. Rebut. The genus includes globular cacti with very fine spines. Often the plants are very small and difficult to find in the wild, however they are popular in the domestic trade and easy to find there. They shrink in the dry season, swelling up in fall, which is the equivalent of South American spring. *Rebutia* are found in the hills and mountains of Argentina, Columbia and Bolivia, sometimes at high elevations where the sunlight is intense and the air is thin. Never located in the hot flatland areas, *Rebutia* are most often found on sloped rock in shallow substrate, typically only an inch thick. Sometimes they even grow in mossy substrate at the base of a rocky outcroppings, where they can collect moisture from the mountain fog. *Rebutias* are found from 2,000 feet to 10,000 feet elevation, with many fewer numbers at the boundaries of these elevations.

Some *Rebutias* are densely-spined, with higher spine density at higher elevations. This is a natural mechanism to protect the plants from ultraviolet light, which is as harmful to plants as it is to people. The plants can have mild ribs to poorly-defined ribs.

Mid-South American fall season is the best period to locate *Rebutias* in the wild, as they are a prolific flowering genus, making them easier to locate during blooming season. Even in the wild they are brightly colored where the flowers arise from the areoles. Due to the fact that they grow very low to the ground they can be nearly impossible to find when not in flower.

*Rebutias* in the wild are never the robust plants found in the nurseries these days, which are swollen and enlarged from the greenhouse effect.



*R. fiebrigii*,  
courtesy  
of  
Tom  
De Merritt

Most often many heads form for each plant with most rooted on their own. In domestication *Rebutias* have been hybridized for the splendor of the body and flower, often growing into beautiful mounding specimens.

Growing *Rebutias* is not difficult if given the proper conditions. They need to be in a shallow pot, never more than 5 inches deep. They require good air flow as they are susceptible to red spider mite and mealy bug. Air flow helps to mitigate the insects to a great degree. Absolutely keep ants under control as they can transport mealy bug, facilitating their spread. A systemic insecticide is the best method of control as mealy bugs are most often in the roots and nothing else works on spider mites. Isopropyl alcohol is effective against spine mealy and the least toxic of pest remediation methods.

*Rebutias* for the most part prefer to dry out between watering and must be in a well-draining soil. Of course the watering schedule depends on the weather; simply allow to dry between watering and stay dry during cold periods (winter). *Rebutias* thrive with the addition of low nitrogen fertilizer in trace amounts (adding a little acid to the water in the form of vinegar works well too).

Depending on the species and body type those with heavy spination tend to grow best in full sunlight, while those with minimal spination tend to grow best in heavy shade. If the plants exhibit any sun damage quickly move them to a shadier location. Never let them burn as they don't often recover from this condition. However, bright light does enhance the color in the plant and brings on a more compact growth, along with heavier and more intensely-colored spines. A few hours of bright light every day is great, allowing for added shade in the sunnier regions of California, Texas or Arizona.

As a group *Rebutias* are easily propagated by cutting pups off the mother plant with fine scissors, or a very sharp knife. Allow any wounds in the flesh to heal fully before placing in dry soil to encourage roots to develop (typically within 2 weeks). Since *Rebutias* flower profusely they also tend to produce seed profusely and are most often self-fertile.

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## Pre-Meeting Workshop-

Jim Reiser

## Handling Large Cactus

Large, spiny, cumbersome; how do you deal with these cactus. Jim will talk about safety, transplanting, moving and planting your cactus as they get larger. He will be doing a demonstration and no cost raffling of the demo cactus at the end of the program.

Growing from seed tends to produce better plants: often *Rebutia* seedlings just appear in the pots around the green house.

Taxonomy of this genus is complicated and was primarily constructed based on observed flower characteristics, however other characteristics are now being used for classification. Many iterations of lumping and splitting have occurred with this genus, which resulted in classifying 4 sections of the genus; *Aylosteria*, *Mediolobivia*, *Digitorebutia* and *Rebutia*. There are 205 species names recorded within the genus *Rebutia*; of these, only 12 are accepted.

*Rebutia* is a terrific cactus group that is fun to grow, doesn't have difficult spines to deal with, provides great color, can be grown in a small space, can last a very long time and provide the grower with ample pleasure.

Tom De Merritt

**President's Message** Recently we signed up for a news streaming service that offers hundreds of publications, from newspapers to magazines. When I searched the term "succulents" whoa and behold; hundreds of articles popped up! Subjects spanned a vast range of topics, including mini succulents, Japanese landscape design with succulents, bunny succulents, and incorporating cactus and succulents into almost anything (table settings, rock art, terrariums....even your workplace to make your employees more productive). One article was entitled "The Most Popular Succulent You Never Heard Of"... Kalanchoe really?

We are always looking for a new trends in the cactus world: what we found was that cactus and succulents ARE the trend. So dig in and enjoy your succulent plants with relish! As we are now in full summer swing, enjoy your plants exhibiting their true succulent capabilities to store much-needed moisture in order to endure our hot and dry months!

Jim and Mary Reiser

## Summer Show and Sale Factoids

Benefit auction proceeds of \$1132 to support our scholarship awards

6 educational/exhibit displays entered into show, including a well-prepared conservation exhibit on Anza Borrego

Azania sales to support public garden of \$1349

Cactus and succulent workshop for children and young adults: approximately 175 people attended

657 Entries into our show, with a dramatic increase in cacti



Total sales of approximately \$128,449



*Winners of the Summer Show and Sale: Left to Right: Herb Stine, Mike Nelson, Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Kelly Griffin, Sherman Blench, Pam Badger, Jim Garner, Christine Vargas, Candy Garner, Tina Zucker, Terry Parr, Collette Parr, Mary Reiser and Jim Reiser: Not pictured: Brian Shepherd, Al Klein, Dean Karros, Don Hunt, Peter Walkowiak, Jennifer Harris, Miles Anderson, Kate Boris and Bill Shagena.*



# July Brag Table (Dish Garden)

## Winners



1. Judi Walden (*Crassula* 'Buddha's Temple')
2. Robert Mosack (*Sempervivum* 'Green Wheel,' *Sedum dasyphyllum* 'Minor,' *Echeveria agavoides*, *Sedum pachyphyllum* 'Jelly Beans', *Echeveria* 'Tippy' and *Sedum rubens* 'Lizard')
3. Whitney Meier (Under the *Sedum*)
4. Don Israel
5. Donna Roden (Under the Sea)
6. Whitney Meier (Gnome and Garden)
7. Chris Miller (Elephant Forest)
8. Joan Herskowitz (Crown of Thorns)
9. Carol Mefford (*Echeveria* 'Crimson Tide,' *Sedum rubrotinctum* "Pork and Beans" and *Sedum morganianum* 'Burrito')
10. Ginger Steketee
11. Sherman Blench





1. Brit Miller
2. Pam Badger
3. Judy Pumpfrey
4. Linda Sanders
5. Chris Gleason
6. Jim and Mary Reiser (Christmas in July)
7. Michelle Heckathorn
8. Guillermo Marrujo
9. Sherman Blench
10. Chuck Ramey
11. Kelly Griffin (Fun Aloes)
12. Monica Mosack (*Kalanchoe orgyalis* (Copper Spoons), *Gasteraloe* 'Green Ice' and *Adromischus alstonii*)





## Coffee in the Garden

*Succulent Gardening by Tina*

Succulent plants for sale

&

*Jerry's handmade ceramic pots*

552 Seabright Lane, Solana Beach

Saturday August 17th 10am ~ 3pm

*When you RSVP we can let you know about any changes*

We're bringing larger plants from our Vista nursery  
and special collector Echeverias for Echeveria lovers

Thousands of plants to choose from  
So please come, you'll be glad you did!

Please tell a friend and invite them to come too.

We would appreciate that!

Thank you from Tina & Joe

**Succulent Gardening**

a picture is worth a thousand words

so please visit our website: [www.succulents.us](http://www.succulents.us)

Email [succulentsus@gmail.com](mailto:succulentsus@gmail.com)

858 342 9781



**Save the Date: Coffee in the Garden in September will be on September 22nd at Pam Badger's house. More details to come closer to the date in our next newsletter.**



## August Speaker

**Brian Kemble**

**South Africa's Left Coast**

With generous support from the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Brian Kemble was able to travel to South Africa in 2016 to study *Aloe glauca*, visiting numerous localities to photograph and take notes on the plants and their flowers. This species occurs up and down the west coast of the country, from the wetter areas in the south to the dry expanses of Namaqualand to the north. In his presentation, he will show photos of the many succulent plants encountered along the way, as well as the aloes he was in search of.

Brian is the Vice President of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society, a board member of the CSSA, and the curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, CA. He has been seeking out and photographing succulent plants in their habitats for many years.



## 36th Annual Succulent Plant

### Symposium

Huntington Botanic Garden

Saturday, August 31st, 2019

8:30 AM– 5 PM

Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, CA 91108

(626) 405-3504

(626) 405-3501 FAX

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_ x \$85.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Speakers-

**Andrew Siekkinen**, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California. *Exploring Succulent Bromeliads: in the Field, in the Garden and in the Lab.*

**Alberto E. Areces-Mallea**, La Marquesa Botanic Garden, Guaynabo, San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Cacti of the West Indies: The Endemic Genus Leptocereus*

**Ron Kaufmann**, San Diego, California. *Why Can't We All Just Get Along? Fostering Beneficial Relationships Between Botanical Gardens and Succulent Plant Collectors*

**Karen Zimmerman**, Cambridge, Great Britain. *Cacti of Peru: from the Pacific Coast to the High Andes*

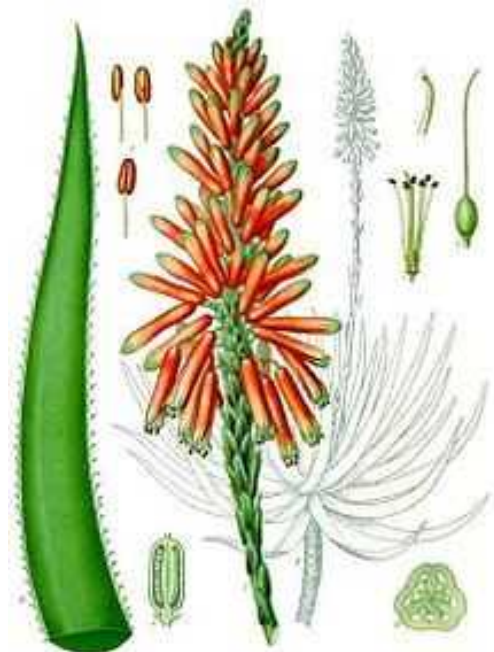
**Time:** Registration and continental breakfast, 8:30 a.m. Program in the Ahmanson Classroom from 9-5:00, including silent auction, lunch, succulent plant sales and a reception

**Registration:** \$85. Deadline: August 27th. Send registration form and a check (payable to the Huntington) or credit card information to: Succulent Plant Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd,

San Marino, CA 91108

You may also fax credit card info, along with registration form, to (626) 405-3501, or call (626) 405-3504 to pay by phone.

Form available at: <http://media.huntington.org/uploadedfiles/Files/PDFs/Succulent-Symposium-form.pdf>





## MEMBER APPRECIATION

### FIELD TRIP!



### SDCSS MEMBERS!

Mark your calendars for our September 14th picnic/meeting. We will be touring the world renowned Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers in Rainbow! Lunch will be provided after the tour and there will be plants for sale for anyone who is interested. \$10/pp. Places are limited- reservations WITH payment must be received by September 1st to guarantee a spot. Signup sheets will be out at the July and August meetings or RSVP to [sblench2015@outlook.com](mailto:sblench2015@outlook.com).

### About Resendiz Bros Growers:

Ismael “Mel” Resendiz and his brothers, Porfirio, Raul and Ramon were farmers in various regions of Mexico. With the advent of a job with Zorro Protea Farm in Vista in 1978 came the chance for them to learn about protea, Australian and South African flowers. Mel moved his way up in the company, eventually becoming a co-owner of Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers.



## Sad News

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of a friend and long time club member Don Patterson. Don passed away last week after an illness with liver cancer.

In Don's memory, there will be a plant auction at the August meeting. Thanks to Melanie Howe we will auction 5 specimen plants from Don's collection. The proceeds will go to support our scholarship fund.





## Seeking New Volunteers!

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers! Below are the descriptions of all the fun to be had with two open positions!

Are you a people person who enjoys helping to organize educational events? We are seeking a **Workshop Coordinator** to.....



- ♦ Source informative and “hands on” practical workshop programs for monthly meetings. The goal is to both increase knowledge and grow cactus and succulents more successfully.



- ♦ Ask for volunteers for 2020 starting at the Christmas party



- ♦ Send e-mail reminder to presenter



- ♦ Ask presenter for short summary or outline of topic for newsletter editor



- ♦ Take pictures if you are in attendance (not mandatory)

Do you enjoy seeking out plant treasures to share? We are seeking an **Auction Director** to.....



Prior to Christmas Party, Winter Show and Summer show source and or solicit donation plants and pots to auction



♦ Highlight these donation plants with a brief note for newsletter and Presidents for meeting announcement. You will also interface with scholarship coordinator to highlight where monies are going.



♦ At actual auction keep listing of plants, work with cashiers on handling of plants to successful bidder on payment.



♦ Coordinate with auctioneer

## MEET THE LIBRARIAN



Some members of the club may not have noticed the strange bearded fellow next to the large box to the left of the podium before the meetings. His name is Don Hunt and he's our chief (not only) librarian. He really wants to help you find out about your interesting plants! He's a genuine bibliophile and makes effort to know about the books in the library.

Our club has been collecting books diligently for quite some time now and has an excellent collection. We certainly have something that will help you learn about your plants. Not only that, but the club allows you to check the books out and take them home. Please bring them back at the next meeting!

**If you have questions about your plants, (and who doesn't?) stop by and visit Don. He would be happy to help you find a book to check out.**

