

# Espinas y Flores



**NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**

**PLANT SALE STARTS AT 10**

**PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP: 11 AM- PETER WALKOWIAK- SOIL**

**SPEAKER: ERNESTO SANDOVAL, FORMS AND FUNCTIONS OF  
CACTI AND SUCCULENTS INSIDE AND OUT, ALONG WITH OTHER  
DESERT DWELLERS!**



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*On the cover:* A bare root *Cintia knizei*, a rare dwarf cactus from the High Bolivian Andes. Photo courtesy of Ernesto

Sandoval.

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



# Don't Faux-get

## The November Brag Table Is Different

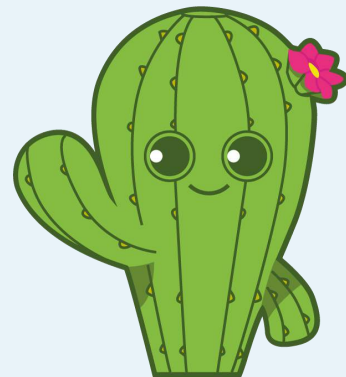
Remember to bring your faux succulent or cactus for this month's brag table! Harness your crafty skills and make a plant of any materials, aside from plant matter. Examples of materials used in the past are: pipe cleaners, Legos, balloons, paper, pipes, etc. Don't forget to invent a clever scientific name to go with it!



We are looking for fresh faces to fill club volunteer positions. After a few years on the job, some of our volunteer members are moving on. As much as we hate to see this happen, we are also excited at the thought of passing opportunities on to other members.

Below are open positions. No experience is necessary. You will be met with open arms and all the help and training you may need.

1. Newsletter editor
2. Web master
3. Show/sale volunteers
4. Secretary
5. Pre-meeting workshop coordinator



Please consider being a part of the best volunteer team in the cactus and succulent world!



## President's Message

This time of year we sense fall because extreme temperatures are moderating. Mother Nature still reminds us that we need to be prepared. The drop in humidity and increased wind associated with the Santa Ana effect in California can lead to deadly fires. Our thoughts are with our friends in Northern California. Cactus make an excellent barrier as part of your landscape design. Also, cleaning, pruning, and removing dead vegetation keep your garden both attractive and protective of your home as well. There are many articles on the web on use of cactus, succulents, and hardscape to buffer against fire dangers. Lastly, as we evolve and learn about our changing environment think about your own plan including evacuation, water, possibly a generator etc. Please reach out to your board for any constructive input or questions you have and enjoy your garden!

Jim and Mary Reiser



## Plant of the Month

### A Growing Obsession with Echinopsis Cactus

By Brent Wiganad

*Echinopsis*, known as "Torch Cactus," is a diverse group of species and inter-genetic hybrids.

*Echinopsis* are easy to grow and produce some of the largest and most diverse flower colors in the cactus world; like orchids you may become addicted!



My name is Brent Wigand and I live in Wildomar, California and have been a special education teacher for over 20 years. I find the beautiful flowers to be a great distraction from my professional life. In my spare time I maintain a nursery of cactus and succulents on my two acre farm. I have been growing succulents since I was 5 years old, but only stumbled across these amazing cactus hybrids about 12 years ago while at the Western Cactus growing fields in Valley Center. Based on the picture, that day changed me as I quickly became addicted to collecting, growing, and now hybridizing these magnificent plants. Surprisingly *Echinopsis* readily cross with *Trichocereus pachanoi* types as well as *Lobivia*, *Cleistocactus*, *Hildewintera*, and a few other genera. *Echinopsis* are easy to care for, using just a few basic tips for growing success. This workshop will focus on recent hybridization of *Echinopsis* cactus, as well as how to care for and maintain a collection of plants in pots or in the ground.



# FORMS AND FUNCTIONS OF CACTI AND SUCCULENTS INSIDE AND OUT, ALONG WITH OTHER DESERT DWELLERS!

Saturday, November 9th

With Ernesto Sandoval



Ernesto will be sharing his understanding of the way succulents and other desert plants are adapted to surviving drought in desert and other dry environments. He'll cover Biology (how they work overall) Anatomy (How they're organized on the inside), Morphology (how they're organized on the outside, and Ecophysiology (how all the parts above work together) to make the plants adapted to their often challenging lives.

## As usual Ernesto will bring an assortment of plants, mostly hardy succulents, to offer for sale!

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals as well as Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.



He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity- filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language

of Botany, but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort. Please join us in welcoming him on November 9th!



**Left:** A Boojum Tree, or *Fouquieria columnaris*. **Right:** A close-up of *Pachocereus pringlei* aka Cardon Cactus.



# October Brag Table Re-

## CACTUS

**Novice:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mohamad- *Uebelmannia pectinifera* (A)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Norb Roden- *Neoporteria nidus* var. *senilis* (B)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Olga Batalov- *Trichocereus* hybrid (C)

**Intermediate** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Chuck Ramey- *Lobivia wrightiana* (D)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chuck Ramey- *Opuntia* species (E)

## Advanced

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Brian Shepherd- *Ariocarpus lloydii* var. 'Major' (F)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Brian Shepherd- *Ariocarpus bravoanus* (G)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Don Hunt- *Thelocactus matudae* (H)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Brian Shepherd- *Ariocarpus scaphirostris* adult and offspring (I)

## SUCCULENTS

**Novice:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Sherman Blench- *Euphorbia obesa* (J)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Olga Batalov- *Cephalopentandra ecirrhosa* (K)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Kit Lynch- *Euphorbia mammillaris* (L)

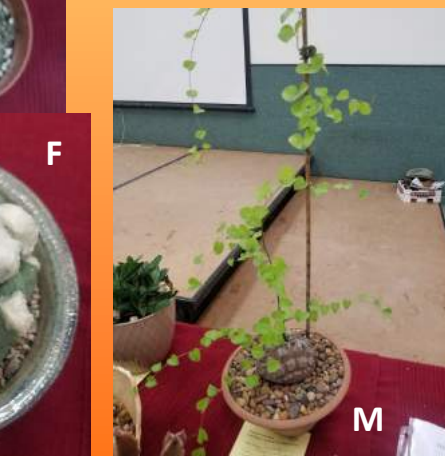
**Intermediate:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bev Grant- *Dioscorea elephantipes* (M)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chuck Ramey- *Aloe* cv. 'Putty' (N)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Bev Grant- *Stapelia gigantea* (O)

## Accounting by

Denise Huntsman-Griffin





## Twenty Years of Volunteers of the Year

(Part One)

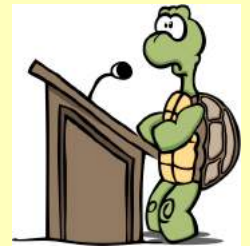
by Denise Huntsman-Griffin, Director and Club Historian

**VOLUNTEERING IS REWARDING AND FUN- THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS ONE CAN PITCH IN.** Help is always needed at the show and sales either by cashiering, helping set-up, being security or bringing boxes. At the monthly meetings you can volunteer by doing a Workshop or a Plant of the Month presentation. If you want to contribute to the collective direction of our club, then you might want to consider becoming a Director on the board or an Officer. So many people have donated their time and skills over the years to this club's success. I want to recognize some of them here. The following members were recognized as the Volunteer of the Year over the last twenty years. (Note: There were two years where this award was missed. It's also important to note that it's very likely that the volunteers listed have done way more activities for the club than are listed here and that many are still very active).



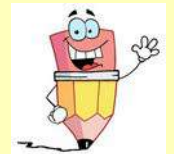
Starting with the year **2000**, **Tom Birt** was made Volunteer of the Year for implementing our original barcode scanning cash registers and barcode systems. This resulted in faster moving lines at our show and sales, less mistakes being made at the registers and vendors getting paid faster. No longer did volunteers need to collect the tags from the plants and pots and later add up the totals for each vendor, which was very time consuming. Tom had also been a Director on the board and was in charge of the library.

In **2001**, **Kelly Griffin** earned this recognition for setting up the monthly speakers (Programs) and for speaking to the club many times himself. Kelly was also on the Conservation Committee, was the CSSA Affiliate Representative and did the Seed Exchange. Kelly has always brought many plants to the meetings and shows and was always generous with sharing his knowledge and plant material. Kelly continues to do Programs to this day and contributes to the club in many other ways.



For **2003**, the Volunteers of the Year were **Carol Jean Wolcott** and **Joe Kraatz**. Carol Jean earned hers for working various positions at the sales over the years, helping in the kitchen and making sure volunteers were fed. She also promoted the Winter Show on a radio spot. Joe earned his for doing the Monthly Plant Sales. Also he was one of the volunteers who had to sort all of the sale tags before the barcode system was implemented. Additionally, he used to manually do the credit card sales and he made our signs that advertise our show and sales that we still use today.

**Susan Hopkins** was the **2004** Volunteer of the Year for clerking for the judges at the Summer Show and for being the Balboa Park Desert Garden liaison. At some point she began managing Reception at the monthly meetings. Susan is still doing all of these things to this day.



In **2006**, **Elibet Marshall** earned this recognition for her helpful information in growing and showing plants. She gave members great pep talks before the shows, encouraging them to listen to their plants, that the plants will let you know if they want to go to the show or not. She also drew cartoons that were published in our newsletters. For a very interesting article written about Elibet by Bev Grant, see the September 2009 issue of our newsletter.

For **2007**, **Chris Miller** earned the title for volunteering at the then-named San Diego Wild Animal Park Baja and Old World Gardens. She also worked the sales at the show and sales, helped with the library and was the club Treasurer (no easy job). She has since been President, Vice President and is now a Director on the board.



In **2008**, **Pam Badger** was Volunteer of the Year for being a Director on the board, organizing the Field Trips making food for those field trips and making food for volunteers at the show and sales. Speaking of food, she would also bring her layered bean dip to the monthly meetings. Pam also mailed the newsletters and worked the booth in the park for Earth Day. She says she got the sympathy vote that year due to still managing to bring the main courses of food to the yearly picnic even though a few days before that she broke her arm, a bone in her face and had a mild concussion when her big dog caused her to fall down while chasing a small dog.





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The **2009** award went to **Michelle Heckathorn** for consistently working the Plant Exchange Table at the regular meetings and cashiering at the show and sales. Michelle also had done Plant of the Month talks on Haworthias and Sansevierias and took great pictures of the show and Brag Table plants. She continues to cashier at the show and sales and to work the Plant Exchange Table and we appreciate her!



And in **2010**, **Jim Deforest** earned this award for helping to care for the San Diego Wild Animal Park Old World and Succulent Garden and being the Head Cashier at sales and monthly meetings. Head cashier at the sales takes patience and Jim has that! He also participated by bringing in show plants, boxes for the sales and baked goods.

We have so many wonderful volunteers who help work the show and sales in February and June, the monthly meetings as well as other activities that go on throughout the year. Volunteering is a great way to connect with others in the group and learn about plants. Being a Club Officer or Director is also a way to participate and help to make this club run smoothly. We currently have some openings if you would be interested in joining us. We are looking for a **SECRETARY**, which would involve attending monthly board meetings and taking notes. We also need a new **WEBMASTER**, which involves making sure the club's website is updated. And, in January 2020 we will need a new **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**. There are other spots open and there is always room for volunteers at the show and sales. Anyone on the board would be happy to help you find something you might be interested in. We would love to have you join us and to get to know you better!

## 2 NEW AND VERY EXCITING BOOKS

By Librarian, Don Hunt

We all know and appreciate Jeff Moore's books, but he's has really outdone himself with his newest creation, *Spiny Succulents*. A casual flip, just looking at picture is the better part of an hour.....350 pages! I don't think there is a better general introduction books ever printed on our subject. The photos really pop and take full advantage of (as we all know) a naturally photogenic subject. I think Jeff's books are really some of the best at presenting sharp, well composed, color balanced photos of any books on my shelf. This is a physically large book and there are lots of large, well-presented photos.

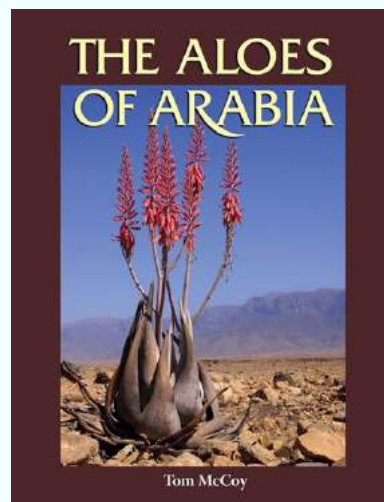


Being a nursery operator for as long as he has, the information accompanying the pictures is done in a conversational mode that makes for easy reading. As Jeff says himself in the preface, "I'm shooting at a mark between informational and inspirational." My critique is that this is plant porn of the very highest order. My advice is that you should buy this book yourself, rather than waiting to check it out from our library. I did and I don't even have bookshelf space for it.

Second book is just as good, but very different. *The Aloes of Arabia* by Tom McCoy is also a physically large book, running over 400 pages. Rather than covering a large subject, like Jeff does, this book covers only 50

species. This is really an in-depth look at the subject. Geography, climate, history, location maps, (my personal favorite). Each species gets 6 or more pages! Great full page (9x12) photos. As a habitat-centered reference work, there are no cultivation notes. Some of these aloes I know are in cultivation, others I have never heard of. It's already placed one on my want list, though. I predict this book will be hot with the aloe nuts, but worth a check out at least for any xeric aficionado.

Yeah, I bought this one too.



# HOLIDAY PARTY

**Saturday, December 14th, 2019, at 10:00 am, Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park**

**\$22 per member or guest**

**Food and Drink:** A delicious lunch will be served around noon. There will something for everyone! Herb Stern, "The Wine Guy" will set up the bar. In the spirit of sharing, we will also have the traditional "Potluck Dessert Table." If you have a special dessert you would like to share, please do! This is optional but always a much appreciated finish to our meal.

**Gift Exchange:** Another fun way of sharing is to participate in the Gift Exchange. If you and/or your guests would like to participate, bring a nice plant or plant -elated item (one per person please), and place it on the Gift Exchange Table. Make sure your name is on your plant! A committee will have the tough job of selecting the "Best Plant", which will then be set aside for auction. Whoever brought the Best Plant will have first choice of the remaining plants, and the owner of *that* plant selects a plant, and so on until all of the Gift Exchange items are distributed. As you can imagine, the nicer the plant YOU bring, the sooner you get to choose.

**Gift Plant:** The Society will continue the tradition of giving each *member* who attends this event, a gift plant. They will be distributed by lottery, during desserts. 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 of 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).

**Auction:** Come prepared to bid on "show quality" plants at the annual Holiday Party Auction!! Up for bid will be bare root plants donated again this year by Western Cactus Growers, along with beautiful specimens donated by our own members. If you have 1-2 "show quality" plants you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Peter or Kelly and let them know.

**Too much fun to miss! You can register at our November meeting, or on our website at <https://www.sdcss.net/payment> or send a check to Chris Miller, 10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee, CA 92071. We hope to see you at the party.**

