



MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.
VOLUME XXX NUMBER TWELVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1995 @ NOON

Season's Greetings



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY!

AND PLEASE FILL OUT THE NEW 1996 MEMBERSHIP FORM. PLEASE HELP US BY UPDATING ANY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.

- ★ ARE WE SPELLING YOUR NAME CORRECTLY???
- ★ DO WE HAVE THE CORRECT ZIP CODE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL???
- ★ DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT PHONE NUMBER????

Thank you Woody Minnich for a terrific dual projector program. Woody is a great speaker and an admirable photographer. We really enjoyed this new program.

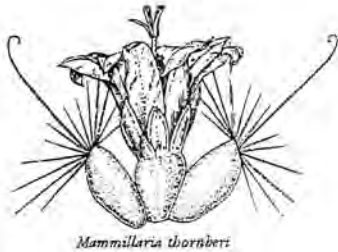


DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING & DINNER PARTY STARTS AT NOON. WE WILL HAVE OUR HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE - IF YOU HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED BEFORE, IT WORKS LIKE THIS:

ANY MEMBER OR GUEST MAY PARTICIPATE; ALL YOU DO IS BRING IN A CACTUS OR SUCCULENT PLANT WHICH IS DESIRABLE. IT SHOULD BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND NICELY POTTED. INCLUDE A LABEL THAT IDENTIFIES THE PLANT ON ONE SIDE AND HAS YOUR NAME ON THE OTHER SIDE. THE FIRST PLANT TO BE SELECTED WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF AT THE END OF MEETING. THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT IN THE FIRST SELECTION GETS FIRST CHOICE FROM ALL REMAINING PLANTS. WHENEVER A PLANT IS SELECTED, THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT IT GETS THE NEXT CHOICE, SO THE MORE APPEALING THE PLANT THAT YOU BRING IN THE EARLIER YOU WILL GET YOUR CHANCE AT THE "GEMS". PLEASE, ONE PLANT PER PERSON. WHAT A TERRIFIC WAY TO GIVE, RECEIVE, AND BROADEN YOUR PLANT COLLECTION ALL AT THE SAME TIME!!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

About our cover: From the November-December 1974 Cactus & Succulent Journal (U.S.), Vol. XLVI, 1974: "The earliest known illustration of *Dracaena draco*, made by the artist Martin Schongauer, sometime between 1469 and 1474, entitled "Flight into Egypt." The resin is shown oozing from the trunk and there is no question that the artist knew of the sources of dragon's blood one hundred years before Monardes was convinced that it came from a plant. (Photo courtesy of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harris Brisbane Dick Fund 1929.)"



Mammillaria hornberi

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

P.O. Box 33181, San Diego, California, 92163-3181

Presidents Message for December 1995

Our Holiday meeting and dinner will be held on Saturday, December 9, starting at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend, though the cost of the dinner is \$10.00 for each person. Please pay in advance, and reserve a spot; those that need assistance in paying please contact a society board member and we will help. Send in your checks for the dinner to our P. O. Box as soon as possible (a form for the dinner can be found elsewhere in this issue). If you want a Gift Plant, please pay your 1996 dues before the December meeting as well. You do not have to purchase a dinner to come to the meeting and pick up your plant. Also, advance due's payment is NOT required to attend the meeting.

Voting will start at about 12:30, if you are a member it is important to attend the meeting and cast your vote for the 1996/97 directors. We have eight folks interested in the positions and only six openings. Pick up your ballots and cast your vote. Also, new life memberships will be awarded.

Dinner will be served at around 1:00 p.m., the Plant Exchange will start when the voting begins and continue while we eat. The Gift Plant drawings will start at about 1:30 and the plant auction will begin after the last ticket is drawn.

The Plant Exchange program will work as usual. Anyone may participate by bringing in a nice plant to give away. The best plants are picked first, several members have received plants that were award winners at our annual show. Gift Plants are available to members that have paid their dues in advance. Tickets will be available at the meeting we will draw and call numbers as usual. You must be present to receive your gift plant.

This year was a rather sad year for the SDCSS. We lost Rick Latimer. The fund that was set up in his honor is growing though. Currently the total is around \$2,000. The following people have contributed to it: Chuck & Dana Adams, Florence Arnold, Harold & Fern Berg, Jim Dice and Mrs. Eleanor Dice, Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams, Phyllis & Art Flechsig, Judith Hannula, Joan & Paul Johnson, Myron Kimnach, Beverly Kirkegaard, Ruth, Jeannette & Thomas Latimer, Seymour Linden, Sy, Sue & Oliver Luu, Larry Mitich, John & Dorothy Pasek, Lee Phelps, Joe & Kay Quijada, Herb & Ana Stern, Jim & Mille Williams, Frank & Marianne Thrombley and Stan & Boecky Yalof.

We have received checks from the following institutions: The San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc., Ricks friends at Sorrento Electronics (his friends from work) and The San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society. Many of you purchased Rick's plants at our annual picnic and auction in September. Your bids totaled approximately \$550 and you will be pleased to hear that these funds have been added to this fund in memory of Rick. I will give full accounting early in 1996. If you still want to contribute, please do so.

I hope that I will be able to call on many of you for help in the coming year, the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society needs your support.

Here's to a Great Holiday and a Better New Year,

Sincerely,

Joey Betelver

Kitty Sabo, Bob Taylor, & Pachgerocereus orcuttii by Frank C. Thrombley

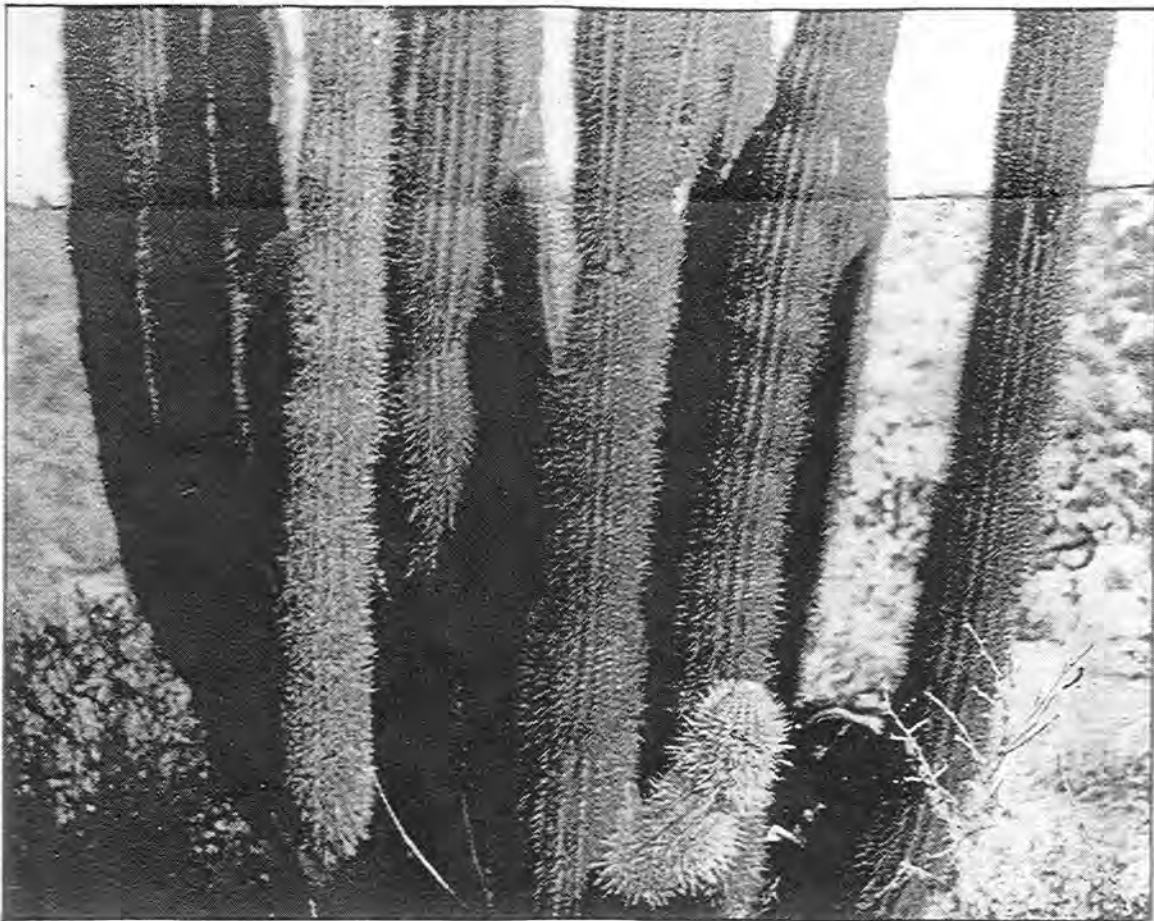
Pachgerocereus orcuttii, a natural hybrid between Bergerocactus emoryi and Pachycereus pringlei, is the first to appear in the nature of things - the first to appear of the three names in the title.

Charles Orcutt, editor of San Diego's The West American Scientist, had visited El Rosario, Baja in 1886 and first collected a branch of this hereto unknown cactus.

In 1900, Katherine Brandegee described it as a new species under the name of Cereus orcuttii in Zoe, a west coast biological journal.

Reid Moran of the San Diego Natural History Museum, recognizing the plant as an intergeneric hybrid, correctly gave this species its present name.

Bob Taylor is the second to appear in the natural order of things. Bob found one of the approximately six plants that grew in the southeast area of El Rosario. This was after the re-discovery of this species by Senora Dona Anita Espinosa's father-in-law.



Base of plant of *Pachycereus Orcuttii* as observed in wilds south of El Rosario. April 4, 1950.
Photograph by Mr. Gordon A. Marsh.

Alas, instead of staying with the order of my three names in the title - I have strayed and just introduced others into this narrative. Therefore, I will digress further and tell you of the "Lost & Found" episode.

The last record of Orcutt's cactus was in 1908 when a flower and bud were taken to the Herbarium of the U.S. National Museum. At that time Botanists became interested - but the plant could no longer be found in habitat. It became the "Lost Cactus".

In December of 1949, Charles Harbison went to El Rosario and showed pictures of the plant to Anita Espinosa. She asked her father-in-law, if he could find it and being a good father-in-law, as all of us are, he did. See the 1950 July-August issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal for a picture of Anita on the cover.

Bob Taylor found one of these hybrids after this rediscovery in 1950. He took cuttings and grew them in his nursery. He gave a rooted plant to the Wild Animal Park in 1980 for the Baja garden at the park. In 1988 he gave another cutting, of this hybrid, to the park - this cutting was grown in the greenhouse and then planted in the garden in 1994.

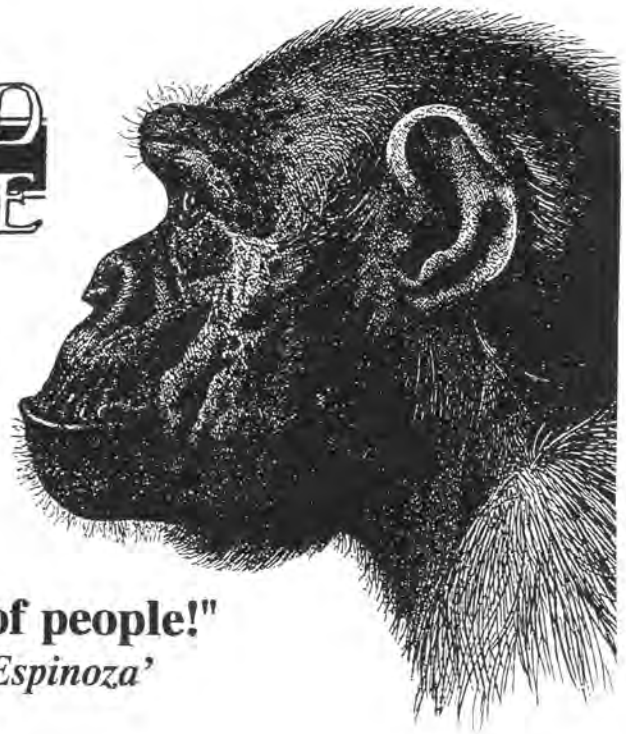


Kitty Sabo, the first name in our title and certainly not the last name in our thoughts, now enters this tale. Kitty was given a cutting of this hybrid by Dona Anita Espinosa in 1968 at El Rosario. Kitty grew this plant in her greenhouse until November 1995 - then she dug it out of the ground (in the greenhouse) and donated it to the Wild Animal Park.

Señora Anita G. Espinoza holding cutting of *Pachycereus Orcuttii* later donated to Huntington Gardens. Photographed by Mr. Thor Nielsen.

WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner



"Bad roads, good people;
Good roads, all kinds of people!"

Dona Anita Espinoza'

Sansevieria ehrenbergii: Uses. This species is harvested in the largest quantity in Ethiopia (Huffnagel, 1961). Its fiber is used for making ropes in several countries including Ethiopia. The plants produce edible gum. Strecker (on the label of his specimen, *Strecker s.n.*, deposited at K) provided the following information about the species. At Hamar, the fibers are made into soft brushes/brooms for cleaning houses and sleeping hides. The fibers are also used as straps for carrying water gourds and to tie up bundles, for example sorghum. Beads are made from the stony fruits. Rhinos feed on the leaves of this species. The sharp points at the end of the leaves cause a bad infection when they get under the skin. The leaf is wrung and the juice put on the wound and this prevents it from swelling. The leaf is heated over fire and cooled off until warm; then the juice is wrung into serious wounds such as lion bites. Around the Omo River (Gamo Gofa), when a warrior kills an enemy, he cuts off the enemy's penis. If the enemy is a man a strip of the [*Sansevieria ehrenbergii*] leaf is threaded through the trophy (only the skin is taken), and made into a loop to hang around the killer's neck. If the enemy slain is a woman or if the killer is unable to cut off the penis, a piece of leaf is cut and a hole is made in it through which the *Naja* is threaded; this is said to represent the penis of the slain. In burial rituals, a strip of leaf is threaded through the end of a long leather rope which is placed in the dead man's lap; the strip of leaf is said to be the man's penis. A strip of the leaf is threaded through a hole in a woman's nose when she continuously refuses to sleep with her husband, the hole in her nose is made for this purpose. The plants are erected around graves. They are also used to make a windbreak for a sick person or a woman who has just given birth when they are far from home. Little girls take the young leaves and bang the tip until a bunch of fibers spread out; this is their [doll] child and the fibers are its hairs.

from **The Genus *Sansevieria* Thunb. in Ethiopia - A Contribution to the Flora of Ethiopia** by Demel Teketay, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Article published in **THE SANSEVIERIA JOURNAL**, vol.4 September 1995, no.2. Written consent must be obtained to reproduce - **Trans Terra**, 18618 Erwin St., Reseda, CA 91335; phone (818) 344-4096.

Thank you Juan Chahinian, Editor!

"What, pray tell, would I buy? There is nothing out here that is not free for the asking. Can you buy a sunrise? Is there a price to the exhilaration we feel from the thunderstorm that rages outside? Nature is the truest democracy, and not the richest man in the world is served a grander sunset than the beggar."

— Michael Furtman —

RED SALMON, BROWN BEAR

The fact remains that the people who profess to know about these things and to love them haven't the vaguest notion of how to see nature. They don't know where to find it, they don't know how to experience it, and if they demonstrate the existence of it they do so on a field trip which is more a social outing than a field trip. If anything, they do more damage to nature by their activity than they do if they never brought the kids out at all. The point is that people should find these things out for themselves. You shouldn't have to go to some expert to know that if you look here or there you'll find something. You're there — look! It's as simple as that.

T. J. Walker

WISE AND OTHERWISE

Yea, I am one with all I see,
With wind and wave, with pine and palm;
Their very elements in me
Are fused to make me what I am.
Through me their common life-stream flows,
And when I yield this human breath,
In leaf and blossom, bud and rose,
Live on I will . . . There is no Death.

— Robert Service —

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"Nature is a great traveler, but she never gets away from home; she takes all her possessions along with her, and her course is without direction, and without beginning or end. The most startling contradiction you can make expresses her best. She is the sum of all opposites, the success of all failures, the good of all evil."

— John Burroughs —

This issue the last one for 1995 is dedicated to Rick Latimer.

Bruni Scheffler wrote to me this summer. She said that there is a saying in German, "Yung stirbt - wure die Götter lieben."

"He who dies young is loved by the Gods."

One should never complain about growing old - not everyone is granted that privilege.

Wisdom of the West

"The coyote watched the first sunrise
He's watched several million more
He'll watch the last with a tear in his eye
As he thinks back on days of yore"

There's a lesson known to all who've been
A part of the winter, the snow and the wind
Who've known the world in the freshness of spring
Marveled at the flowers, heard the birds sing

This lesson is a treasure that all may attain
Who know not the wet but the joy of the rain
Who've walked in the mountains, felt the snow fall
And have felt not the cold but the joy of it all

The westerner knew with each season that came
That the cold and the heat were just part of the game
He enjoyed the eagle that sailed high above
The bear at the creek in the land that he loved

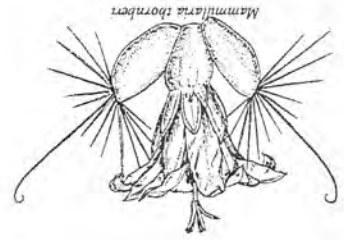
Though the eagle took a chick, or the bear took a foal
He knew this was only a part of God's goal
He might shoot the bear, for denying him food
But if the bear got away, he still knew life was good

He learned to accept it the best way he could
To go on with life, as he knew he should
He learned there was no good or bad in the land
Only the touch of the Almighty's hand

If we love mother earth and treat her with care
All of her treasure in bounty she'll share
But cut down her forest and kill off her game
You'll kill your grandchildren by that act of shame

If you kill the forest, the deer, too, will die
And then all the rest while we wonder why
We must learn the lesson not to burden the land
With more of our children than her riches can stand

"The coyote watched the first sunrise
He's watched several million more
He'll watch the last with a tear in his eye
As he thinks back on days of yore"



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181

Espinas y Flores

Editors: Michael and Joyce Buckner · (619) 222-3216
 4822 Santa Monica Ave #103, San Diego, CA 92107

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

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Standing Committees and Sub-Committees

Conservation:

Joey Betzler and Kelly Griffin

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Brag Table - Shirley Berry
 and Kay Quijada
 Del Mar Fair - Tom DeMerritt,
 Marylyn Henderson, Susan
 Hopkins, Herb Stern and John
 Williams

Plants of the month -

Beverly Kirkegaard
 and Phyllis Flechsig
 Show - Joey Betzler, Tom Knapik
 and Beverly Kirkegaard

History: Alan Weiss

Liaison:

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 CSSA Affiliate Rep.
 - Michael Buckner
 Quail Botanic Gardens
 - Phyllis Flechsig
 San Diego Botanical Garden
 Foundation - George Plaisted
 San Diego Floral Association
 - Elizabeth Glover
 S.D. Wild Animal Park's Baja
 Collections - Frank Thrombley

Library:

Elizabeth Athy, Amna Cornett
 and Tom Birt

Membership:

Elizabeth Glover (264-6769)
 and D'erdra Smothers

Plant and Seed Exchange:

Plants - Sara Schell
 Seeds - Kelly and Sean Griffin

Plant Sales and Supplies:

Annual Sales, Auction & Holiday Plants
 Elizabeth Athy, Paul Steward,
 George Plaisted, Tom DeMerritt,
 Ed Nolan and Rick Plant

Monthly Plant Sales - Michael Cullen,
 Marylyn Henderson, Gloria
 and Kenny Graham

Monthly Supply Sales - George
 and Jerry Plaisted

Publicity: Tom DeMerritt

Programs: Michael Buckner

Reception:

Laura DeMerritt and Marylyn Henderson

Regalement:

Monthly Meetings - Gail & Donald
 Bamber, Stefy Mangold and Rudy Lime
 Picnic - Tom and Laura DeMerritt

- Other Committees -

Correspondence: Virginia Inns

Host Society Chairman for 1997 CSSA Convention:
 Martin Mooney (427-6796)

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are \$1.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Fax available - please call editor at (619)222-3216 for number.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT & SOCIETY
PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER: ELECTION OF 1996-1997 DIRECTORS
DINNER PROMPTLY SERVED AT 1:00 PM
PLANT EXCHANGE
MEMBER AWARDS
DISTRIBUTION OF GIFT PLANTS TO MEMBERS
MINI-AUCTION
NO LIBRARY AND NO PLANT SALES

HOLIDAY BUFFET MENU:

ROAST TURKEY WITH SAGE DRESSING * MASHED POTATOES WITH GIBLET GRAVY
* HOT BUTTERED CORN * TOSSED GREEN SALAD WITH TOMATOES AND CHOICE
OF DRESSINGS * RELISH TRAY OF FRESH VEGETABLES * CRANBERRY SAUCE *
ROLLS & BUTTER * COFFEE * SOFT DRINKS * WINE * AND PUMPKIN PIE

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SDCSS

PLEASE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION, To:
SDCSS, P.O. BOX 33181, SAN DIEGO, CA 92163-3181

Please reserve Holiday Dinners for Members @ \$10.00 per Member:

MEMBER NAME _____

MEMBER NAME _____

Please reserve Holiday Dinners for Guest(s) @ \$10.00 per Guest (Sorry, No Gift Plant for non-members or members who have not renewed their membership through 1996).

GUEST NAME _____

GUEST NAME _____

THE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1995, MEETING IS IN THE USUAL ROOM. THE MEETING BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON - HOLIDAY DINNER TO BE SERVED AT 1:00 P.M. WITH THE PLANT EXCHANGE DURING DINNER. GIFT PLANTS FOR ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING DESSERT.



San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Membership

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit, hobby organization created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people (and plants) with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or beginner, who loves unusual plants and flowers. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. BRING AN INTERESTED FRIEND.

Regular meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park at 1:00 p.m. (One may come as early as noon just to socialize or obtain a parking space easily.) Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership with an additional \$5.00 for each additional member at the same mailing address. The dues are payable at time of joining, and January of each succeeding year; for new members that join during our June show or at other times during the year, prorated membership dues can be paid in January of succeeding year. Members receive our monthly publication Espinas y Flores, are entitled to library check-out privileges, and may partake in our many field trips and other activities. We offer knowledgeable speakers at our programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authorities. We have a number of shows each year, especially our Annual Show and Plant Sale in June. We have a wide range of plants and supplies for purchase at favorable costs at most meetings. We also have a plant exchange table and monthly door prizes. All members will be consistently encouraged to contribute and participate in our many functions. Please join us and help us grow.

For more information, call Elizabeth Glover @ (619) 264-6769.

- Yes, I (we) wish to become 1996 member(s) of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.
- Yes, I (we) wish to renew our San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society membership (1996).

NAME: _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DO YOU KNOW THAT FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$5.00 PAID ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES – YOU CAN HAVE *Espinas y Flores* DELIVERED BY FIRST CLASS MAIL INSTEAD OF BULK MAIL??

- Yes, I (we) wish to pay an additional \$5.00 for First Class Mail .

SEND THIS FORM TO:

SDC&SS - Treasurer, P.O.Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181