

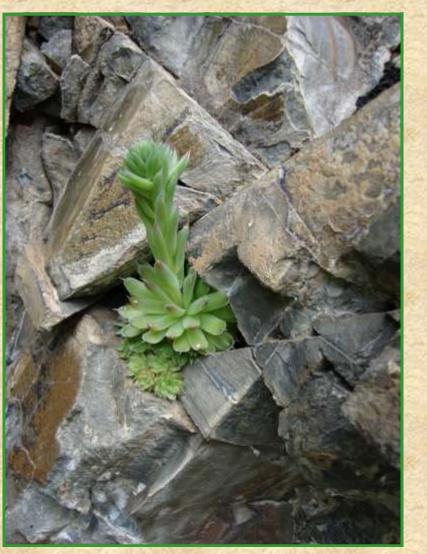
Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 47 Number 10

November 2012



NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA

Program: Panayoti Kelaidis "Rocking With Spiny And Succulent Plants"

Plant of the Month: Pam Badger "Sansevierias - An Adventure in Form and Function"

Workshop: Peter Walkowiak "Bondage and Torture - The Art of Succulent Bonsai"

> Feature Article: Ed DeLollis "No More Secrets, Part One"

Open Mic Slide Show: Don Hunt Slides from Members, Bring Some In!

Saturday, November 10, 2012, 1pm to 4pm Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

> Plant Sales Begin at 10am Workshop Begins at 11:30am

November Coffee in the Garden: Brian and Sally Shepherd

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 29, 2012



I am sitting here in 80 degrees and clear sunshine worrying about my brother in Central New Jersey. This is another reason to live in California, not much weather and we can grow whatever we want.

The October meeting was a wonderful gathering of like minded people on a lovely fall day. The Native Plant Society had a sale going on in the patio, which helped with our sales, so everyone won. Due to illness **Peter Walkowiak** did not give his Workshop on Plant Bondage and plans to do it at the November meeting. Our usual cast of characters set up and manned the meeting with their usual flair. **Joe Kraatz, Lynn Elliott, Jim DeForest** and **Cathy Clark** handled sales. **Cathy Clark** got the snacks and coffee out. **Susan Hopkins** and **Judy & Gene Walkowiak** greeted people coming in the door. **Kathy & Steve Harris** and **Don Hunt** worked the Library. **Michelle Heckathorn** ran the Exchange Table. **Kienan** and **Collette Parr** ran the Benefit Drawing Table. **Tom DeMerritt** hooked up our audio/visual stuff.

Don Hunt led a cast of a few who shared their pictures of plants and places. This is a feature we want to do every month, so bring your digital pictures to the meeting or e-mail them to **Don**. As **Elibet Marshall** would say "Your plants want to come in and be admired!"

Juergen Menzel gave a wonderful slide show on *Thelocactus*. **Buck Hemenway** took us to places we've never been to see plants we've never seen. Once again he's in the dog house due to lack of *Gasterias*.

He promises next time. Still some wonderful memories and pictures shared from a great trip.

Our Coffee in the Garden in October had a Halloween theme and some of our members came in costume. Judy & Gene Walkowiak were wonder-



Partying at Walkowiak's

Photo by **BJ Miller**

Cover photo: Orostachys spinosa in Kazakhstan, provided by Panayoti Kalaidis.

ful hosts. The food was great, the plants were amazing and the company was wonderful. We all had a really nice time. For November join us in Alpine for a completely different yard.

Please remember that our **Brag Table** at the November meeting will be for **Faux Plants** (see rules below). Be creative and share a little craziness with your fellow members.

Our annual **Holiday Party** will be on the first Saturday of December (December 1^{st}) due to Christmas on the Prado, or whatever they call it now, being held the 7^{th} and 8^{th} . See details later in the newsletter.

December this year will be the last month for many of our existing officers and directors. We have a two term limit on positions and most are termed out. The Nominating Committee has been established and I am the Chair. If you have an interest in being involved with this organization at the board level or know someone you think would be an asset to the board please let me know.

Get your collections and gardens ready for winter. It is coming, believe it or not.

Chris Miller

Faux Cactus and Succul ent Brag Table

I he Brag Table at the November meeting will be full of **Faux Plants** made by members. This is your chance to get creative and develop plants that are fun and a bit twisted, not unlike the real ones. An example would be Oreocereus made of oreo cookies. The ground rules are:

No obvious plant material used Staged

Pest free

Plant name must be Latin based

- The more unlikely the materials the better
- Artistic license is encouraged

Please participate, who knows, if you win your special plant could make the cover of the newsletter, which is almost as good as making the cover of the Rolling Stone!



2010's 'Best Use of Bed Spread', *Saguaro chenillensis* created by **Juergen Menzel**

Program Panayoti Kelaidis "Rocking With Spiny And Succulent Plants"



We Cactus and Succulent lovers usually grow our plants in pots, or on xeriscapes that often feature a boulder or two. But Rock Gardeners have long known that more carefully crafted rock gardens can often provide niches that allow us to cultivate more challenging plants with ease.

As a card carrying rock gardener for almost half a century (and a succulent lover for just as long) I have incorporated over a thousand kinds of succulents into the various gardens I have built and worked in. I have found that cacti and succulents seem to perform best on rocky habitats, and especially in the recently developed technique called crevice gardening.

I will share some of my 33-year experience at Denver Botanic Gardens where I have helped develop the cactus and succulent collections (both indoors and out).

Through careful garden design we have cultivated nearly 200 species of mesembs successfully outdoors, as well as Othonna, Anacampseros, South African Euphorbia and several hundred kinds of cacti from both north and south America.

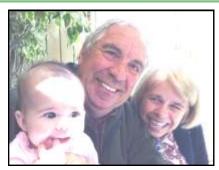


Delosperma lavisiae by Panayoti Kelaidis.

Thumbnail by Woody Minich.

Coffee in the garden Brian and Sally Shepherd

2837 N. Victoria Drive, Alpine, CA 91901 10am to 1pm November 17



Believe it or not, I bought my first cactus when I was six years old and living in England! Thanks to the wonderful resources on cacti around the world written by Edgar & Brian Lamb, my enthusiasm and my collection arew until I built my first greenhouse in Scotland (all glass - no such thing as acrylic back then, and essential for growing cactus in that weather). We lived right on the edge of the River Ness (of Loch Ness Monster fame!). In 1981 Sally and I and our three young children moved back to the States and ended up in southern California - cactus heaven compared to Britain. We moved to Alpine in 1998 and were fortunate to find a property with 1.25 acres – plenty of room for cactus and fruit trees. At this point we have four greenhouses – some devoted to seedlings, others to collections, and still another to air-plants and other succulents (my latest source of creativity). I only joined the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society about four years ago. Working in a hospital lab means working a lot of weekends so it can be tough to attend, but I really enjoy learning and meeting my co-aficionados. I grow a lot of plants from seed, so I will have seedlings and cuttings for sale.

Sally and I look forward to seeing all of you for Coffee in the Garden from 10am to 1pm on Saturday November 17. Our address is 2837 N. Victoria Drive, Alpine, CA 91901, and our phone number is (619) 659-9160.

Directions: From 8 East, exit Tavern Road and go left over the freeway onto Victoria Park Terrace. Follow the road till you come to a t-junction at the Alpine Cemetery. Go left, follow Victoria Drive for about 0.4 of a mile until you reach 2837 on your right – we will have balloons on the gate, just drive in..



Photos from Brian Shepherd

Plant of the month

Pam Badger



"Sansevierias - An Adventure in Form and Function"

Sansevierias are a diverse species related to Dracaena

and if you have observed the inflorescence of each, you will note similarities. Endemic to the south of Africa, they thrive in our Southern Cali-

fornia climate. There has been little research into the genus and it's long history of cultivation throughout the word has led to much hybridization, further complicating identification of individual plants. Though this identification process is a favorite occupation of collectors, propagators, and scientists alike, the casual collector is attracted to their variety of form, versatile function, tenacity, their surprising blooms, and how they lend themselves to miniaturization. I am talking about myself here, of course - I have been a lover of these amazing plants for years.

Having spent my formative years in the San Francisco area. I was aware of Sansevieria trifasciata v. Laurentii. The tall, slender, yellow and green variegated plant also known as 'mother-in-law's tongue,' and 'snake plant,' is a common fixture in the Asian businesses as they are traditionally presented at the opening of a business as a gift of 'good luck.' They are prized in feng shui as a hardy indoor plant with an upgrowing nature, long life and strength. They are great for freshening the air and can live in al-



The inflorescence of S kirkii v kirkii.



The biggest and smallest Sansevierias

most any interior environment. Their blooms are fascinating, unfolding

over days or weeks, scenting the night and early morning with their exotic scent.

Sansevieria do fine in most soils. Heavier, clay soils need less water and may lead to more vibrant colors and stronger leaf structure. They are tolerant of dry conditions and can live in offices with low light and low humidity. They should be allowed to dry well between thorough water-ings. More water is OK when they are actively growing and the weather is warm.

Propagation is easy through a variety of methods including: 1) Leaf propagation: 2) Stolons or offsets; and 3) Seeds.

Most Sansevieria are relatively slow growing so the process requires a good dose of patience. They do not like to be damp when the temperatures fall below 45 degrees - not usually a problem in San Diego. Some of the varieties have rounded, rigid leaves as an adaptation to drier environments where others have flatter somewhat softer leaves and can benefit from a bit more water and lower light levels.

There are not many source books or information on Sansevieria though you can find many great pictures on the internet. Our library has two books including <u>The Splendid Sansevieria</u> by **Juan Chahinian** which I used in writing this article.

Workshop

Peter Walkowiak



'Bondage and Torture - The Art of Succulent Bonsai'

When you view a succulent plant show you see many styles utilized to display plants in a way to highlight and enhance the plants character. In this workshop I will discuss the various techniques used to train plants through pruning, wiring and potting to alter shape, character and perception of the plant being viewed. The goal is to give the plant a feeling of great age and size in a miniature format. We use many of the same techniques used for centuries in the Orient to give the plants a weathered, aged look that they may get through many years of adverse conditions in nature. I will demonstrate directional repotting, bending and wiring, pruning and scaring to develop a sense of age and beauty. I will work with several plants in this workshop and try to demonstrate as many of these techniques as I can. Please bring in a plant you would like help with. Time permitting, I will get you started on your own succulent bonsai. See you at 11am at the torture workshop.

Hol iday Party! Saturday December 1, 11am

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 our meal.

<u>Gift Exchange</u> 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!

<u>Gift Plant</u> The Society will continue the tradition of giving each member who attends this event 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. This year's plants come from nurseries far and wide and some truly exotic ones will be available. Take some time to look them over 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)

<u>Auction</u> Again this year we have engaged a PROFESSIONAL AUCTION TEAM to handle our Annual Holiday Auction. We have received a donation of 'bare root' plants from Western Cactus Growers 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 26th of November.

SEE YOU THERE!!

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Holiday Party Sign-Up Sheet

Members \$20, Non-members \$25

NAME	AMOUNT	MEMBER	NON- MEMBER

Bring your payment and form to the November meeting or, if you are not going to attend the meeting, send it to Chris Miller, 10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee CA 92071

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Rare Rare-Book auction

The SDCSS club library will be auctioning off 2 rare sets of books at its Holiday party. We have duplicate copies of both Dyer, White and Sloane, print date 1941, *The Succulent Euphorbiaceae* viewable at http://cactiguide.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=15066 which is a 2 volume set, and also White & Sloane's 1937 3 volume set *The Stapelieaea*. These are both very rare sets and rarely seen offered for sale

Memberships about to expire

Many of you have memberships that will expire December 31, 2012! Members are strongly urged to forego the mailed, hardcopy version of *Espinas Y Flores*, and accept only the e-mailed version. The cost of membership remains \$15 per year for E-mail, \$20 for mailed hard copies. New membership forms are on the back of the hard copy cover sheet and can be found in the electronic version. Your renewal payment should be accompanied by the properly filled out form and received by December 31,

Feature article, part one E. D. DeLollis "No More Secrets"

In 1961 *The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society* was formed by people fascinated by those denizens of the desert that so enchanted them. The organization is, in 2012, the largest such club in the world with over 600 Members dedicated primarily to the collection and study of those plants that thrive and bloom in arid lands. The members want to know how to grow these exotic plants. There follows a recounting of some novel, if not to say controversial, ideas and findings on this topic.

It turns out that a major block of information about how biology really works was not commonly available in the early 70's, and would require the most persistent and exacting of investigations. If James Bond was 007, then Peter Tomkins and Christopher Bird were 008 and 009. In 1973 these two British secret agents came out with a most profound book—*The Secret Life of Plants*. That same year, as a pimply-faced college kid studying Plant and Soil Science, I read the book of little-known facts and anomalous phenomenon about plants that had been uncovered by the two sleuths and convincingly chronicled in the 400 page tome.

Houseplants hooked up to lie detectors were sentient beings who felt shock if their owners were threatened - plant responses to different forms of music - responses to electromagnetism and un-measurable cosmic radiation - Plants had memory! Two thinkers viewing the same information presenting opposing views: Darwin taking the mechanistic approach that life had to balance mathematically, chemically and physically. While at the same time, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, philosopher and Germany's most famous poet, (also recognized as the father of morphology---how plants change) felt that there was a spiritual basis to life and plants.

One thing that I remembered of the book, having lived on a lake, played hockey and ice-fished, was the story of the Hunzas, a tribe from the mountains of Afghanistan who would cut two holes in the ice forty feet apart, dive into one and swim under the ice through the frigid water and emerge through the second hole for sport!

Much of this stuff went over my head, but the work of Lady Eve Balfour and Sir Albert Howard in England, and J. I. Rodale in the USA, as champions of organic farming, where something is put back into the soil and no inorganic chemicals are used to produce superior food, were ideas I considered, but let fall by the wayside as my career began working for companies who grew ornamental flowers or plants. I hardly used my education on the job, where fertilizer was used to grow plants fast, and pesticides solved any problem that might crop up. Lush conditions for plants attract pests who also like lush. Treating and preventing pests required brand-name chemicals most often used in pairs. I looked in the literature and found that we have over 800,000 pesticides produced by the same corporations who make fertilizers. It reminded me of the line from *Firesign Theatre* where they gave a world history and "...tiny edible plants sprang up in rows, giving birth to generations of pesticides and other small dying creatures..."

Radionics is a science first used by Pennsylvania farmers after the advent of television. Insects would eat their corn crop which they could protect with the expense of pesticides. The farmers experimented by directing waves of different frequencies onto their crop, while leaving a fraction untreated as control. They found a specific frequency that caused the pests to lose interest in their lush ears of corn, while simultaneously the control plot was ravaged by insects and birds alike. Radionics was successfully used by more and more farmers as the seasons of the early fifties went by. The USDA agent for their county wrote an article extolling the efficacy of this new method..."that should be used by all farmers". Pesticide salesmen were told that their product was no longer needed. A USDA higher-up, informed of this, forced the agent to rescind the article-to say that he was wrong-that the method did not work. The famers stopped using this method and the company providing the technology went out of business. I wish that more research would be done in this promising field, but I guess it would take bread out of the mouths of the numerous pesticide concerns...

Matter and energy are interchangeable according to Einstein, and numerous scientists have studied the field of energy ever enveloping earth, notably Nicola Tesla and Wilhelm Reich. Tesla, backed by J. P. Morgan, was able to pull electrical energy out of this field and into wires to supply multiple outlets. Morgan pulled his support when Tesla told him that he could not charge money for this "free energy".

Wilhelm Reich was Freud's protégé and through years of psychoanalysis found people were deficient in energy that they normally absorb directly from this enveloping field. He built metal-lined boxes that accumulated what he termed "Orgone Energy". Reich demonstrated this to Einstein who agreed it was a true energy, but inexplicably never offered his support. Later, Reich built metal-lined walk-in units, where people could sit for 20-30 minutes to absorb life-invigorating energy. These units were called cancer cabinets after many a sick patient was cured of that grotesque malady. Reich showed that all living things use this energy including the many types of cacti he studied in New Mexico. Reich died in federal prison after our government banned his technology and he ignored them.

[Read the exciting conclusion in 'No More Secrets Part Two' next month!]

October brag Table Winners Judged by Phyllis Flechsig

CACTUS

Novice 1st - Rich Ryan – Espostoa lanata (Old Peruvian Man) 2nd - ??? – Trichocereus crest 3rd - Ed Wirth – Leuchtenbergia principis

Intermediate

1st - **Don Hunt** – Copiapoa cinerea 2nd - Candy & Jerry Garner – Copiapoa rupestris 3rd - Candy & Jerry Garner – Mammillaria decipiens

SUCCULENTS

Novice 1st - Jennifer Harris - Aloe vera "Green Sand" 2nd - Jennifer Harris – Echeveria 3rd - Jennifer Harris – Aloe vera "Pink Blush"

Intermediate

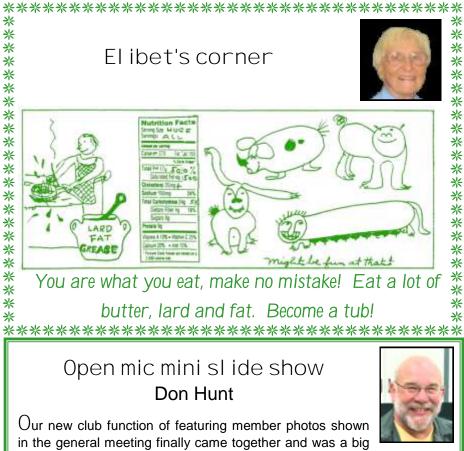
1st - Cathy Clark – Brighamia insignis 2nd - **Bev Grant** – *Dioscorea elephantipes* → 3rd - **Don Hunt** – *Euphorbia namibensis*

Advanced 1st - Rudy Lime - Fouquieria purpusii

Submitted by Candy Garner







hit! I'm sure you will want to bring 3-5 digital pictures to the next meeting to share, so remember to drop them off early at the library table as we will have to limit our time to 20-25 minutes. We can handle pictures on a CD, DVD, memory stick, or even off the camera's memory card. With the rains just starting, it would be interesting to see some before and after wake up shots of your plants. Anything you'd like to share.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 1: SDCSS Holiday Party! Starts at 11:00am, dinner at12 noon, in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Gift plants, auction, gift exchange, FOOD and DRINK! Come meet your co-succulent lovers! Jan. 12: Regular SDCSS monthly meeting Feb. 9&10: SDCSS annual Winter Show and Sale.

Snacks for the Break:

If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a snack to share at the break.

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photos for the el ectronic eyf





Coffee in the Garden at **Walkowiak's** Upper Photos by **BJ Miller, bottom photo by** Gloria Alexanderson



El ectronic Espinas Y Fl ores

I he newsletter is available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, <u>www.sdcss.net</u>. Take a look! All members are urged to accept the e-mailed version of the newsletter in lieu of a bulk-mailed hard-copy. Each month, you will be notified by e-mail of the availability of your next issue, the speakers and events at the next meeting, and other significant announcements. The electronic version contains extra color images not found in the hardcopy, and a high resolution version, from which fully detailed images can be downloaded, is also available. Further, updates and errors found in the hardcopy, contact the membership chairperson Collette Parr at collette.parr@cox.net.

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SDCSS WANT ADS If you are looking for a way to help, here are some ideas:				
Club Treasurer. This important Club Office will be vacated at the end of the year. No financial experience needed, only a stickto-it attitude!	Ride coordinator : Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.	Strategic Team Members to support the Strategy Owners in initiating changes in SDCSS		
Trophy Chair to maintain trophies and oversee their refurbishment	Workshop Chair to run workshop program, set up speakers and topics	Tour Chair to arrange Coffee in the Garden tours on a monthly basis		
Volunteers for WAP Gardens: For garden mainte- nance, new area development, plant identification and to work in the greenhouse, Our next project will be to build a greenhouse and we hope to start later this fall		Holiday Party Decorating Committee Members: to help decorate for the Holiday Party.		
Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.				

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

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 pdf.

SDC&SS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM	San i
Dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each ad- ditional household member. Newsletter is E-mailed. Mailed paper cop- ies are available for an additional \$5 a year. Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.	Executive Boar President: Chris Vice President: F Secretary: Cand Treasurer: Ken F
Annual Dues – (E-mail Newsletter) \$15.00 First class delivery USPS (Paper Newsletter) \$5.00 Annual Dues – International (Paper) \$30.00 Additional Household Member(s) \$5.00 Amount Enclosed \$ Check ONE for type of membership: NEWRENEWAL Member Information: (Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)	Standing Comn Education, Cons Conservation: Jo Brag Table: Can Plants of the Mo Summer Show: I Winter Show: Pe Historian: Terry Library: Don Hu Exchange Plants
_Name:	Sales, Meetings, Membership: Co Mailing: Jean & Annual Sales: Cl Auction & Holida Monthly Plant Sa Monthly Supply S Benefit Drawing Publicity: Tom D Programs: Kelly Reception: Susa Monthly Regaler Picnic Regalere Hospitality: Sara
Do you wish to receive E-mail notifications of Club events and issues? Yes No Mail this form or a copy, along with a check or money order payable in US Funds to SDCSS to: SDCSS Membership Department c/o Collette Parr 7924 Grape Street La Mesa Ca 91941-6323	Liaison Balboa Park Des CSSA Affiliate R SD Botanic Garc SD Botanical Ga SD Floral Associ SD Zoo Safari P <u>Editors</u> : Paul & (<u>Webmaster:</u> Gur <u>Web Site:</u> <u>www.s</u>

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Directors Miller **Steve Harris** Peter Walkowiak Don Hunt y Garner Jerry Garner Blackford Cathy Clark **Kelly Griffin** Vanessa Nelson Mark Fryer (ex-President) nittees & Sub Committees ervation & Exhibits be Kraatz & Herb Stern dy Garner nth: Don Hunt Peter Walkowiak ter Walkowiak Parr nt, Chris Miller, Jeanette Dutton, Steve & Kathy Harris & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell Plant Sales & Supplies llette Parr, collette.parr@cox.net Bill O'Daniel hris Miller & Joe Kraatz y Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt ales: Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted Table: Collette & Terry Parr eMerritt & Joe Kraatz Griffin In Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak nent: Cathy Clark ent: Laura & Tom DeMerritt Schell sert Garden: Susan Hopkins ep: Peter Walkowiak len: Phyllis Flechsig rden Foundation: George Plaisted ation: Jeanette Dutton ark Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller Carol Maker, pdmaker@roadrunner.com nnar Eisel dcss.net

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