

# ESPINAS Y FLORES



**The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Inc.  
Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America**

**Volume 38 Number 8  
Saturday September 13th 2003 11:00 AM  
Harry Griffin Park, La Mesa (details inside)**



# Presidents Message

August, 10, 2003

Yesterday was perfect Succulent weather - hot and dry, especially out here in Spring Valley. The plants in our landscape are looking their best with all the heat, and the night blooming cereus are putting on a show. It was a beautiful summer day in Balboa Park - and our meeting was very "cool." Jeanette Dutton educated us on the wonders of Hoyas. This is a fun genera that varies from leafy to succulent and their "shower of stars" flowers are always a treat. Thanks to Jeanette for a fine presentation. Phyllis Flechsig and Mark Fryer teamed up (though not to their advance knowledge) to cover Discocactus. Phyllis wrote the article and Mark shared his experience with growing these interesting cacti. Good job!

It was a pleasure to have Brian Kemble with us from Northern California. He did a great job judging the Brag Plants and his program of slides and comments, which featured Agaves and other succulent plants from mainland Mexico, delighted all us Agave fans. Next time I visit the Bay Area, I will be sure to make it over to the Ruth Bancroft Botanical Garden and see Brian's handiwork in person!

Joe Kraatz is working on putting together a membership roster to be distributed to the general membership - this is a VOLUNTARY LIST - Joe has passed around a sign up sheet at the last two meeting to gather information you are willing to have

published on this list. He would like to hear from everybody - whether you want to be on the list or not - if you have not indicated your wishes regarding this list - please contact Joe (619-758-7042 or email to:

[plantnut@cox.net](mailto:plantnut@cox.net).

Lee Badger, once again, did a great job organizing the 'benefit drawing. There was a beautiful selection of plants and many smiles from the lucky winners. Special thanks for all who have donated to this drawing. If you have a plant you are wanting to donate for this fundraiser, you can contact Lee at 619-589-1456.

We are planning to produce a Tee Shirt for our Society for our next June Show, so we are having a: TEE SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST. If you have an artistic bent and would like to enter a design - bring it to the October meeting. We are encouraging anyone to try your hand at this and to consider a 'Southern California' theme. We will once gain be having a PIC NIC in place of a meeting in September. The date is the 13th - for complete details see article in the newsletter. This is going to be lots of fun - so lets see you all there!

I welcome any of your questions and comments.

Pam Badger [pambad@earthlink.net](mailto:pambad@earthlink.net)

Cover: *Stapelia variegata*, from the Cape Region of South Africa. From the collection of Joe & Kay Quijada



## PICNIC TIME



There will be no regular meeting in September....

We will instead be having a POT LUCK PICNIC.

DATE: September 13, 2003

TIME: 11:00 AM - or come early and play some frisbee, horseshoes or whatever!

12:00 noon - Lunch - we will have a coals going and be cooking some bratwurst and sausages to share with all. Club will provide drinks, condiments, plates, forks ect. BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALAD, MUNCHIE OR DESSERT.

1:30 - Plant Drawing - Every member in good standing will receive a ticket for the drawing - there will be a beautiful selection of specimen plants and several lucky members are going home with beautiful new plants.

LOCATION: Harry Griffin Park in La Mesa - This is a beautiful, big park with lots of parking close to tree shaded picnic areas. There is a huge lawn, horseshoe pits, walking garden, playground, and special dog area. We will get there early and put up our banner and extra shade - anyone is welcome to come early - 9:00 - to help set up.

(I had mentioned Lake Murray, but that location is not available that day)

DIRECTIONS: Highway 8 -take 125 North, exit Fletcher Parkway. Go straightthrough intersection after exiting - onto Amaya. Tum right on Water Street - two blocks to Milden - left on Milden - at fork in road stay left and follow road until you see our banner. See map on page 4.

# Vacation Spot In A Pot

By Linda Tamblyn

From the "Prickly Press" Kansas City Cactus & Succulent Society

Cactus and succulents are the number one choice for novelty dish garden. They humbly suffer the abuse that comes with that territory. These tough plants even suffer the humiliation of having googly plastic eyes and little strawflowers glued to them. But, with a little forethought and planning, the lowly dish garden can be something much more than just a container full of plants. Its easy to create a miniature Shangri-la in a dish.

Selecting plants with similar culture requirements is the key to a successful planting. Most cactus like a cool and dry winter rest while most non-cactus succulents appreciate a bit more warmth and moisture in the winter. Generally speaking it is best to use all cactus or all succulents in one dish. Even then, individual requirements must be carefully considered. Sure, a *Pereskia* and a *Lobivia* are both cactus but they wouldn't make good room-mates (there would be all that fighting over the thermostat and the water bill). If one of the plants in a dish garden dies or falters though replacing it is not that difficult.

Choose all the elements - container, plants, rocks, topdressing, etc. - carefully. First, be absolutely sure to keep all elements of the design in proportion to create a natural look. And, use restraint in the number of plants so that each one retains its individuality and unique form. Cactus and succulents offer plenty of choices for texture and

that adds another dimension of interest. Create harmony in your miniature garden by repeating materials like rock or pebbles. Building around a focal point helps draw the eye into the scene. A variegated or brightly colored plant can be the focal point but an interesting rock, piece of wood or small piece of statuary may better provide the cohesiveness needed to create a scene.

With the technicalities of design and culture as a springboard, imagination and creativity can go wild. A desert scene is a traditional choice but don't rule out other possibilities. A tiny Japanese garden could be created with a pygmy Joshua tree (*Sedum multiceps*) and *Aeonium decorum* or a small crassula. Young *Dorstenias* planted among "cliffs" of volcanic rock would make a great Mars landscape. Just for grins, create a "box of chocolates" with small ball type cactus in a rectangular container. Like chocolates, creating these little jewels can be addictive.

Keeping these little ecosystems in top form calls for minimal maintenance. Prune back plants that become too large or leggy. Replace them if they become unruly or if they just sit and sulk. On the other hand, don't pamper the plants with lots of fertilizer so they grow themselves out of a job. Dust the plants with a soft brush when needed or, if the container has drainage, let the desert in a dish enjoy a spring rain after the long winter. Water carefully if

there is no drainage hole. And, always be vigilant for meales and other marauders before they try to claim squatters rights in little landscape.

Now all that's left to do is enjoy these tiny utopias. Use them as a table centerpiece at dinner. Grace the coffee table with one of these petite creations when company is coming. Display one (or two) on your desk at work. Keep several dish gardens so one can spend a few weeks in the limelight while the others tone up in more perfect conditions. Then, indulge the senses anytime, anywhere with your own little vacation spot - in a pot.

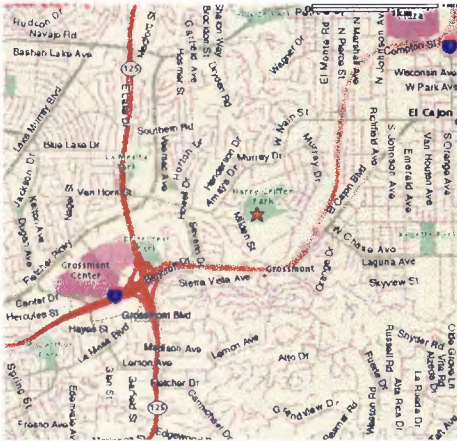
# August Brag Plant Winners

## CACTUS

- 1st - *Neoporteria laui* - Don Patterson
- 2nd - *Gymnocalycium pirarataense* - Lee Badger
- 3rd - *Echinopsis melanopotomica* - Don Patterson

## SUCCULENTS

- 1st - *Trichocaulon* sp. - Don Patterson
- 2nd - *Crassula capetella* ssp. *tryrisifolia* - Donne Willett
- 2nd - *Hoya multiflora* - Marylyn Henderson
- 3rd - *Ceropegia multiflora* - Phyllis Flechsig
- 3rd - *Portulaca molokiniensis* - Kelly Griffin



**Harry Griffen Park  
9550 Milden Street  
La Mesa CA 91941**



# Namaqualand Wanderings

By Kim Hamilton  
From the Australia C&S Western Suburbs Cactus Club Journal

During August 2000, Pat Dixon and myself decided to travel to South Africa for the Succulenta 2000 conference, to be held in Cape Town at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. We decided that seeing that we had traveled all that way we may as well see some of the country as well, for this reason we signed up for the post conference tour to Namaqualand.

Where is Namaqualand you ask? Namaqualand lies in the west of South Africa, and spans two provinces, Western Cape and Northern Cape. The area extends from the Orange River, southwards to the Ofifants River; eastwards from the sea to just east of Springbok, Garmoep and Kliprand; and to the foot of the Bokkeveld Mountains; and then to Vanrhynsdorp. The area covers 55,000m<sup>2</sup> in total. Namaqualand can be divided into five geographic regions. The flat plains of the Knersvlakte in the south; the granite hills of the Hardeveld; the Kamiesberg uplands; the sand expanse of the Sandveld; and in the north-west the Richtersveld.

Namaqualand lies within the winter rainfall area of South Africa, and is often covered with fog and dew, which makes the mornings quite cool. The fog fortunately lifts mid morning on most days.

We did not see all that Namaqualand had to offer, with only seven days to explore, but our days were

jammed packed with plenty of plant spotting and making new friends among the other travelers. For a couple of days I could not work out why my neck and shoulders were so sore. Then it hit me; we were always looking down for plants and I always had a camera around my neck! The best investment I made before leaving Cape Town was a vest with heaps of pockets. It got a lot of use over the next week.

DAY 1. August 26th

We began at our hotel in Cape Town, where our mini bus turned up to load ourselves and our luggage for the trip. We also meet the other travellers in our group, and met our guide Robin Fransen and our driver Dries. The other people in our group, were from England, USA, Mexico, South Africa and Australia.

We left Cape Town around 8.00 am for our journey northwards along highway 7, towards our first overnight stay at Clanwilliam. Our first stop was about 100 km from Cape Town, at Eendekuil, a small community just off the highway. Here we found our first of many *Mesembs*, the queer *Diplosoma retroversum*. These plants were found on a quartz hill near the centre of town. The locals were very surprised to see a bus load of people with their heads down. We left this site after 20 minutes and proceeded onto Clanwilliam to drop of our trailer of

bags, and pick up our lunches. We then set off to through Pakhuispas, along the edge of the Cederburg Wilderness Area. Our first stop along here was alongside of Lois Leipoldt's (a doctor, poet and author) grave site. One of the first plants we spied was a Aloe hybrid. We then started to clamber over boulders and through prickly bushes. The climb was worth it though, here we found several species of *Conophytums*, *Adromischus* and a *Crassula*.

Further along the road we stopped at a spot that had an embankment with what looked like *Masonias* on them, but they turned out to be *Whiteheadia bifolia*, which had just finished flowering. We climbed the small embankment and found several species of euphorbia, and a couple of *Quaqua mammillaris* in fruit.



**Aloe dicotoma**

Crossing the Doring River we stopped at a farm, near Doringbos, which housed within its environs a wealth a succulent species including *Tylecodons*, *Othonnas*, *Adromischus* and others. It was here that we ate our lunch and then passed any leftovers to the local workers from the farm, which was well received. We probably spent at least an hour here, scrambling over hills and finding all sorts of succulent plants. We then headed back to Clanwilliam for dinner and bed.

After a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs, which we soon got sick of, we set out northwards again, this time towards Vanrhynsdorp. We only had a couple of plant stops on this day. The first stop was on the road to Graaf-Water, with *Argyroderma subulatum* then onto an area known as the Knersvlakte, the premier site of quartz fields. This was a exciting stop, we spent at least an hour here, walking over small hills. This area was bounded by a road on one side and a railway fine on the other. We found heaps of plants here including: *Conophytums*, *Monilaria*, *Crassula*, *Cheiridopsis*, *Tylecodon*, etc. Further towards Vanrhynsdorp, we stopped for lunch alongside the road, with an abundance of *Lachenalias*, members of the *Hyacinthaceae*, in flower. These are little bulbous plants, with beautiful flowers.

That afternoon we spent at the Kokerboom nursery, in Vanrhynsdorp. This was a great place for looking around, especially for the *Stapeliad* lover. I found huge specimens of *Hoodia*, *Trichocaulon*, and other *Stapeliads*, all in flower or fruit. There were also large specimens of *Aloes*, *Cheiridopsis* and other *Mesembys*. After several hours at the nursery we made our way back to our Bed & Breakfast, where it was discovered that we were to be separated into three different B&B's. This did not go down all that well with the organisers, but there was little we could do about it.

Pat and I spent the night at the Troe Troe B&B, the home of Gerrit & Gretchen van Zyl

### DAY 3. August 28th

Another breakfast of bacon and eggs we were again on our way northwards. This was to be a long day in which we covered approximately 257 kms. Our first stop was along highway 7, about 20 km north of Vanrhynsdorp. We encountered *Argyrodermas* and *Dachylopsis* once again on quartz. The next stop was a little further down the road at an area called Douse-the-Glim. This is an area again on quartz, just off highway 7. Here we spied *Oophytumnanum* in flower, which was a nice contrast against the white of the quartz. Also with the *Oophytums* were *Dachylopsis* and *Argyroderma*. At this spot we also had to watch where we put our feet, otherwise you ended up standing on a plant. I walked around on tippee toes.

The next stop was at Bitterfontein. Once again we encountered several species of *Conophytums* and one species of *Euphorbia*, also *Argyrodermas*, and *Crassulas*. We then continued on to Garies, the heart of Namaqualand, and home to one of the best wildflower displays in the country (after a good rain season). We dropped off our trailer here and then headed off east towards Witwater. On the way to Whitwater we stopped along Studerpass for another excursion amongst the boulders. Here we spied more *Lachenalias*, *Conopytums*, *Anacampseros* and *Cotyledon orbiculata*. We decided this would be a good spot for lunch (cheese and ham sandwiches again!). Then we continued on to Whitwater. Among the plants we found here

were *Ruschia*, *Cotyledon*, *Cheiridopsis* and *Antimna*. We were to continue further to Platbakkies but our driver, Dries, was worried about the state of the road and doing damage to the bus, so we returned to Garies and picked up the trailer and continued on to Springbok for our overnight stay.

### DAY 4. August 29th

Finally a day where we could chose what we could have for breakfast. We ordered but it took about 45 minutes before we got our food. Today would be a good day for plant spotting. When we got on our way we headed north towards Steinkopf and the border with Namibia. Our first stop was approximately 32km north of Steinkopf, in area near the Blesbaerg Mine (crystal). Amongst our finds here were *Saracaulon crassicaule*, *Euphorbia namaquensis* and a few shrubby *Mesembs*, we also had a visitor at this stop, someone's dog. No-one saw where he came from, and as soon as we got back on the bus he took off again. The next stop was back towards Springbok, about 20 km away from the first stop, the area looked like it had been used a rubbish dump at some time. I would rate this spot as the best spot of the whole week. We spent at least an hour and a half here. Amongst our finds here were, *Conophytums*, *Crassulas*, *Trichocaulon*, other *Stapeliads*, *Avonia* and the only *Lithop* we saw all trip. The whole group split into little groups and went exploring, when someone found anything interesting we called for the others. We probably found more plants this way.

We then headed west of Steinkopf, amongst the finds here were *Aloe framesii*, *Euphorbia dregeana*, *Cono-*



*phytum elepticum v neobrownii*, *Drosanthemum hispidum* and other shrubby *Mesembs*. Our next stop was the lunch stop, (yes cheese and ham sandwiches, some over cooked sausages and a hard boiled egg). We had this under the shade of some gum trees, and a ruined house foundations. It seemed someone decided to build a house, or something, and then decided against it. It was nice to sit in the shade, with the temperature being in the high 20's. After lunch we were on the road again, this time we stop at an area known as Bulletrap. At last we

finally stopped an area with numerous *Aloe di-cotoma*, we also found some *Bulbine* species. The last stop of the day was at Concordia, which is just north of Springbok. Climbing over boulders again we found *Cono-phytums*, *Cras-sula*, *Adrornis-chus* and *Anacampseros*.

Several of the men decided to go climbing higher to look for more plants, I think they only found one aloe, I was glad I didn't join them. We overnighted in Springbok again.

DAY 5. August 30th.

The day started with an early morning telephone call from home, as today was my birthday. Once again we got to order what we wanted for breakfast, but had to wait 30 minutes or

more for the food to arrive. We started to head back down highway 7, towards Cape Town. Our first stop was the wildflowers at Skilpad, at Kamieskroon. We were, unfortunately, a little too early and the flowers weren't all open. They still put on a great display, with many different daisy-like flowers, but also in amongst the flowers were *Pe-largoniums*, *Babina* and some *As-clepaids*. As we were leaving more different coloured daisy-like flowers were opening.

We started back down highway 7, towards Cape Town. We were treated for lunch today with a two course meal and some sparkling wine at the local town of Garies. This also gave us a chance to buy some souvenirs, and local crafts that were available at the local community centre. Back on the road and we headed for Nieuwoudtville, which was over Bok-keveldberg moun-tains. This was a



**Euphorbia namaquensis**

quiet drive with most of us snoozing after our liquid lunch and exhaustion.

We crossed the mountains along VanRyhns pass, and managed to find a spot to pull over to take in the beautiful view, and also some plant spotting. We encountered *Tylecodon*, *Cotyledon* and *Crassula* again. We also passed the site where a tourist bus had gone over the edge of the mountain a few months earlier.

We arrived in Nieuwoudtville and were once again spread amongst three or four boarding houses, although these were all owned by the one person. After a lovely three course dinner, we watched a video made by the owner of the lodge about some *Amaryllidaceae*, a *Brunsvigia* I think, that had flowered during autumn. These plants only flower every couple of years. We were also told that where we were staying was considered a hamlet, not a town.

#### DAY 6. August 31st

We awoke to the 'hamlet' without water. We all got up ready to have our showers, and to our dismay there was no water. This did not go down to well. To top it off we encountered our first day of rain. After another breakfast of bacon and eggs we were off. Our first stop was Loeriesfontein Windmill Museum and Nieuwoudtville waterfall, along the Willems River. We all got out in the drizzle and went for a walk. Here we encountered *Tylecodon walchii*, *Aloe comptonii* and a *Massonia* sp. The array of plant species again *Anacampseros*, *Haworthia decipiens*, *Notechidnopsis framesii*, and other genera of *Stapeliads* were found here and the *Stapeliad* buffs were again satisfied.

For something different today we were treated to lunch at a cafe in Calvinia. This was another welcome change from the cheese and ham sandwiches which we were getting used to. After having our fill of lunch it was back into the bus, and this time we headed towards Ceres. A quick stop along the roadside and we spotted *Aloe variegata* in amongst the grass. Further inspection of the area did not yield

very much more, only another couple of aloe's like the one we had seen. Back onto the bus and further down the road we stopped at another promising area. We spied *Euphorbia multiceps* and another species of *Conophytum*.

The day was starting to get a bit long, so we headed back to our 'hamlet'. Luckily when we arrived we finally had some water and were able to have a welcome shower to help warm up. Dinner was another traditional three course meal.

#### DAY 7. September 1st.

This was our final day and we headed out from Nieuwoudtville lodging and back on the road to Cape Town. We stopped for a photo at the top of Vanrhynspas, with the fog clouds hanging over the valley below. Then we continued on our way. Once the fog cleared we stopped for another photo, this time of our travelling group, as we were to leave one in Vanrhynsdorp. After dropping Stewart off, we continued down highway 7.

A quick stop was taken to view *Euphorbia loricata* growing along the roadside, near the Clanwilliam dam. We had yet another restaurant lunch at then continued on to Cape Town. We were dropped off at our hotel at about 4.00 pm in the afternoon, where some travellers had to quickly get their luggage sorted out, for they had flights for this night.

Pat & I stayed another night in Cape Town before heading out to Johannesburg with a four hour stop over, before boarding our plane for the long trip back to Australia.

# Upcoming Events

2003

**August 30 Twentieth Succulent Plants Symposium**, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino CA. Info: 626-405-2160 or 2277

**August 31 CSSA Board Meeting**, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino CA.

**September 12–14 Kansas City C&SS Show and Sale** Jacob L. Loose Park Garden Center at 52nd and Warnall, Kansas City MO. More details from Judy Pigue 816-353-8203 or e-mail her at [jjcactus2142@msn.com](mailto:jjcactus2142@msn.com)

**September 13–14 Houston C&SS Show and Sale** Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway, Houston TX. Contact Hank Andresen 713-436-1734 or e-mail him at [hand1609@hotmail.com](mailto:hand1609@hotmail.com)

**September 20-21 The Cactus & Succulent Society of the Monterey Bay Area** will hold their semi-annual show & sale in the courtyard of Jardines Restaurant, 115 Third St., San Juan Bautista. For more information call Ruth Pantry at (831) 758-6645 or e-mail [pantry@montereybay.com](mailto:pantry@montereybay.com)

**September 28 Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction** at Dominguez Adobe, 18127 S. Alameda St., Compton (Dominguez Hills) CA

**September 29–30 4th Arizona Highlands Garden Conference**, Payson, Arizona. Organized by the local Master Gardeners, this conference is especially for those who grow their plants at the higher altitudes of northern Arizona from 3500 foot upwards including areas which receive snow every winter. **Mary Irish** is the keynote speaker on **Hardy Agaves**. Details from Christopher Jones 928-425-7179 or e-mail him at [ckjones@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:ckjones@ag.arizona.edu)

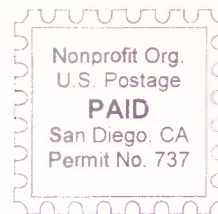
**October 11–12 Orange County C&SS Show and Sale**, Fullerton Arboretum

**October 11–12 Central Florida C&SS Plant Sale** in conjunction with the Botanical Gardens at USF in Tampa, Florida, off Fowler Avenue. 10am to 4pm. Contact Vicki Hunter at 1-800-226-2527 ext. 448

**October 17–18 9th Xeriscape Conference: Water: Our Future ... Our Legacy.** Our two confirmed water keynoters are: **Dr Peter Gleick** and **Amy Vickers**. **Dr Gleick** is President of the Pacific Institute and author of *The World's Water 2002-2003*. He will open the conference on Friday with a report on the global water situation. **Amy Vickers**, of Amherst, Mass., is author of the *Handbook of Water – Use and Conservation* and will keynote the Saturday session. We have also invited **Governor Richardson** to kick-off the conference on Friday morning. Other confirmed speakers include: **Dr Katherine Gleason**, Chair of the Landscape Architecture Department, Cornell University, who has excavated ancient gardens in the Mediterranean to reveal their structure for utilization of water; **Tom Swetnam**, Director of the Tree Ring Lab at the University of Arizona; **Mike Kernodle**, former USGS hydrologist who studied New Mexico water availability; **Doug Bennett**, formerly with Albuquerque Water Conservation Office and now implementing conservation measures in Las Vegas, NV; Additional speakers will be announced soon. For more information visit our web site. Register early on our secure web site—<http://www.xeriscape.nm.com> (All major charge cards) At the Albuquerque Convention Center and Exhibit Hall. Fee for the 2-day conference will remain \$100.00. This fee includes program materials, lunch both days and access to the exhibit hall where we plan on about 100 booths/exhibitors! Mail registration to Xeriscape Council, PO Box 14311, Albuquerque, NM 87191. More details from Scott Varner—e-mail: [scott@xeriscapenm.com](mailto:scott@xeriscapenm.com)

**October 18–19 San Gabriel Valley C&SS Show and Sale**, LA Arboretum.

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### **Standing Committees & Sub Committees**

Conservation: Joey Betzler & Kelly Griffin  
Education & Exhibits  
Brag Table: Shirley Berry & Kay Quijada  
Plants of the Month:  
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Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Jeff Harris &  
Susan Hopkins  
Winter Show: Ed DeLollis  
History: Terry Parr  
Liaison  
Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins  
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Kelly Griffin  
Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig  
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George Plaisted  
San Diego Floral Association:  
Elizabeth Glover  
San Diego Wild Animal Park Baja California  
Garden & Succulent Collections:  
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Library: Tom Birt & Phil Bunch

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Plants: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell  
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Annual Sales: Tom Birt  
Auction & Holiday Plants:  
Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt  
Benefit Table: Lee Badger  
Monthly Plant Sales:  
Jeff Harris & Joe Kraatz  
Monthly Supply Sales:  
George & Jerry Plaisted  
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Stan Yalof  
Programs: Kelly Griffin  
Reception: Ethyl Standish  
Regalement  
Monthly: Lee Badger, Rudy Lime &  
Stefy Mangold  
Picnic: Laura & Tom DeMerritt