

Espinas y Flores



Next meeting: *Saturday, March 9th at 1 PM*

Speaker: *Wendell S. Woody Minnich: "20 Years in the Atacama: The Land of the Copiapo"*

With special guest- *Cheri Kenney* with the San Diego County Fair Garden Show, who will be talking about an opportunity to represent SDCSS with dish garden fair entries!

Pre-Meeting Workshop: *Understanding the Table*

Please REMEMBER to bring any Vendor, Volunteer or Security Badges from the Winter Show to the next meeting so we can get an accurate count for next year! Thanks for all your help in making the show and sale a success!

Welcome New Members!

Whether you are new or have been around for years,
we are glad to have you in our Club!
New Member orientation before each
general meeting, 12:30 PM



On the cover: *Copiapoa longistaminea* in the Guanillos Valley. Photo courtesy of Wendell S. Woody Minnich

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

Thanks to Scott Shapiro, with Sparkletts, for donating all the water bottles given out at the Show and Sale!

Thanks also to Christine

Vargas for taking the time to pick them up!

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Member, grower and former SDCSS president Kelly Griffin was featured in an article by the New Yorker magazine about plant smuggling. Article is available at: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/california-chronicles/succulent-smugglers-descend-on-california>

Plant of the Month with Brian Shepherd

Astrophytum means "star plant." It is an attractive genus containing only a few species, but many varieties; plenty to be of interest to beginners and experienced growers alike. Most are easily grown. I shall offer hints on cultivation and bring a selection of plants showing various stages of growth. I have a limited supply of free seeds, soil and pots for those interested. See you at the March meeting.



SDCSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

The newsletter, *Espinas y Flores*, is e-mailed to each member household each month. (Paper copy of Newsletter by USPS is not available. Please contact membership@sdcss.net if you have any questions.) Annual dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. For multi-year memberships, simply pay for additional years in advance. *Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.* Those who make a tax-deductible donation of \$2,500 or more are entitled, PATRON

Annual Dues (E-mailed Newsletter) \$15 _____ **(Below, fill in new or changed info only)**

Additional Household Member(s), ea. *** \$5.00 _____ **ADDRESS:**

Lifetime Membership: \$500.00 _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Payment Method: Cash _____ Check # _____

Type of membership: **NEW** **RENEWAL**

Member Information: (Please PRINT to fill in blanks below!!!)

NAME: _____

ADDITIONAL MEMBER NAMES: *** _____

DATE: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

MOBILE PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Payment can be made on-line via the Club website www.sdcss.net, at any club event, or by printing and mailing this form or a copy, along with a check or money order in US funds made payable to SDCSS, to:

SDCSS Membership Dept, c/o May Fong Ho

PO Box 302070

Escondido, CA 92030

*****Don't forget to name the additional members!**

President's Message



Just like that the winter show and sale is behind us. A big thank you to all volunteers who made this both a success and a fun day. We see you and know who you are! March marks the vernal equinox (spring) here in San Diego. This means our days brighten with more light, which for the most part our plants will enjoy. We always wondered what our plants native to the Southern Hemisphere think about this as they are undergoing their Autumnal equinox (fall). Well, everything thrives in San Diego! Keep an eye on our activity calendar. We are focusing on increasing club activities. Coffee in the Gardens have been very well attended and offer both amazing gardens as well as a time to socialize with fellow members. Because of this we are planning field trips including hikes, botanical garden tours, committee meetings and volunteer- specific gatherings. Find something you like and enjoy!

Jim and Mary Reiser

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Brian and Sally Shepherd

Sat. March 23rd. 10am-2pm

Address: 2837. N. Victoria Dr. Alpine.

Ph.(619) 659 9160 or

(619) 743 5130 (cell)



Come join us for coffee, tea, Scottish shortbread and maybe mince pies! You may browse our 1-plus acres, which feature informally planted cacti; some were very small 19 years ago when we moved here. As many of you know I grow most cacti and mesembs from seed in several small greenhouses. I will have a larger selection of sale plants than I bring to the monthly meetings. Hope to see you there!

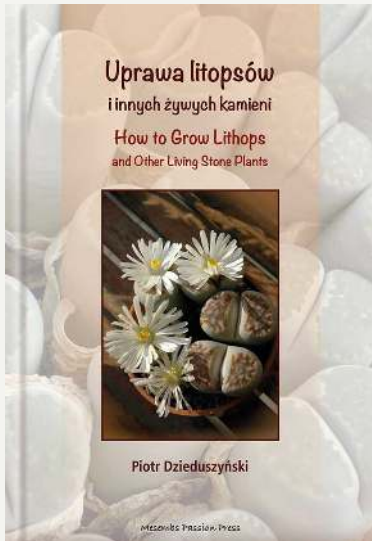
Directions: east on I-8, exit Tavern rd, go left onto Victoria Park Terrace. At the cemetery go left onto Victoria Dr. about 1/2 mile. Our front gate is next to the yellow fire hydrant. There is more parking around the back if you drive 100 yds further on, turn right on Homeward, go to the second house on the right, look for balloons. This is also flat and is easier to walk.



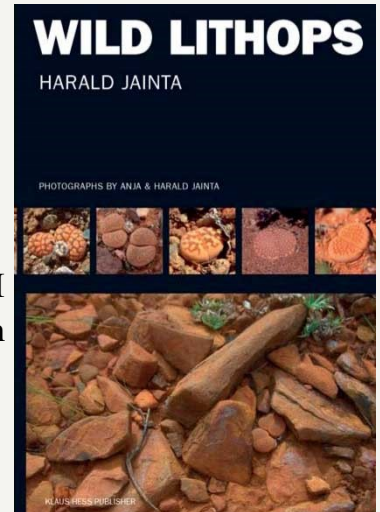
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New Books in the Club Library

No matter how advanced you are in your plant collecting journey, space becomes a real issue. If you only have one window sill, really small plants look very attractive. Maybe one of the small succulents with the worse reputation for being difficult to grow are Lithops. With that in mind, I have 2



new books to help with your success. First up, we must get you interested in the genus. To that end, I offer *Wild Lithops*, by Harald Jainta. Published in Germany, it's all in English. Almost 500 pages, lots of very good close-up photos all in habitat. No cultivation clues are included, other than climate diagrams and location data. Surprisingly, this is not a dull book. The writing is detailed, but engaging, with numerous field explorer stories.



In complete contrast, yet on the same subject, we have *How to Grow Lithops and Other Living Stone Plants* by Piotr Dzieduszyński. Printed in side-by-side Polish/English, it's all about cultivation. Poland is as far north as Vancouver. No lucky success here. We'll have to take his advice and adjust it for our climate. The cultivation methods he describes are quite detailed and easy to follow. The book has a month-to-month description of the growing cycle. Part 3 is an overview of selected mesembs with growing advise. Pretty good book- I think I need to buy a copy for my own library.

Don Hunt, Librarian

March 2019 Pre-Meeting Workshop: Understanding the Table 11am

George Plaisted, Supplier of Useful Plant Supplements, Assisted by Stan Yalof

George for years and years has been involved with plants and plant societies, including the SDCSS.

He will discuss:

His background

How he got into the supply business

The societies he is involved with.



He provides materials largely for potted plants.

These include:

Minerals, such as calcium, carbon, ...

Organic fertilizers

Inert supporting media.

He will discuss their uses.

Stan Yalof will talk briefly about plant nutrients, the elements for growth.

Y'all come.

Winter Show Ribbon Winners!



A. Peter Walkowiak– *Pachypodium brevicaule* x *densiflorum*– President’s Choice

B. Arnold Chaney- *Trichocereus camarquensis* ‘crest’- Judge’s Choice

C. Candy and Jerry Gardner- *Agave parviflora*– Judge’s Choice

D. Woody Minnich- *Uebelmannia pectinifera*- President’s Choice

E. Matt Maggio- *Pachypodium namaquanum*- Judge’s Choice

F. Mary and Jerry- *Ceraria namaquensis*- Judge’s Choice

G. Candy and Jerry Gardner- *Gasteria excelsa*- Judge’s Choice

I. Keith Taylor- *Mammillaria bertholdii*- Judge’s Choice

J. Kal Kaminer- *Astrophytum caput-medusae*- Chairman’s Choice

K. Peter Walkowiak- *Ceraria namaquensis*- Chairman’s Choice

Featured below: *Left:* Our volunteer cashiers really shined! *Middle:* Many photographers enjoyed capturing photos of the show plants. *Right:* Peter Walkowiak talks show plants with fellow plant enthusiasts.



2019 WINTER SHOW AND SALE WINNERS



Best Succulent - Advanced- Don Patterson *Euphorbia decaryi* X *cylindrifolia*



Best Winter Grower- Advanced - Alison Baldwin- *Gasteria armstrongii*



Best Cactus - Advanced- John Williams-*Copiapoa columna-alba*



Best In Show - Peter Walkowiak- *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*



Best Succulent- Novice Shawn Soutiere- *Pachyphytum compactum*



Best Winter Grower-Novice- Antonina Lansangan- *Aloe castilloniae*



Best Cactus - Open- Jim and Mary Reiser- *Copiapoa cinerea*



Best Succulent- Open- Matt Maggio - *Aloe pearsonii*

20 YEARS IN THE ATACAMA, THE LAND OF THE COPIAPOA

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Program speaker for : Wendell S. Woody Minnich

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery **Cactus Data Plants** since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: *Adenium*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Copiapoa*, *Cyphostemma*, *Fouquieria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Lithops*, *Mammillaria*, *Melocactus*, *Pachypodium*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Uebelmannia*, and *Pachycauls* in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his **high energy** and **creative spirit**. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of eleven C&S societies. With 49 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.

Similar to the coast of Namibia, the coastal and inland regions of northern Chile, known as the Atacama, is mainly watered by amazing fogs, "the Camanchacas." These fog-fed regions, in two of the driest deserts in the world, have some of the most interesting cactus and succulents to be found anywhere. The Atacama of northern Chile has an endemic genus considered by many to be one of the most dramatic to have ever evolved, **the Copiapoa**. This ancient genus is also believed to be tens of thousands of years old, and there are those who feel it might well be on its way out! The ocean currents that affect the coastal Atacama have changed considerably over the last hundreds of years, and now its only source of moisture is primarily from consistent dense fogs. Some of these areas rarely, if ever, get rain and the plants that have evolved there live almost entirely off the heavy condensation from the Camanchaca.



The Atacama Expedition 2018: Our team of 20 with our *Copiapoa columna-alba* T-shirts in-habitat.

Continued from Page 5: “20 Years in the Atacama: The Land of the *Copiapoa*”

There are many different *Copiapoa* species ranging from small quarter sized subterranean geophytes to giant 1,000-year-old, 300-head mounding clusters. Thanks to Rudolf Schulz's excellent field work and his two comprehensive *Copiapoa* books, we have all been introduced to these amazing plants. Having worked with Rudolf in Chile, I can honestly say that the genus *Copiapoa* is without comparison! Now, having visited Chile numerous times over the last 64 years, I have become familiar with most all of the representatives of this genus. With this presentation, I hope to taxonomically introduce you to most of the *Copiapoa* species as well as show their relationships and synonyms. Along with the *Copiapoa*, we will also encounter many other genera including *Neochilenia*, *Neoporteria*, *Eriosyce*, *Eulychnia*, *Trichocereus*, as well as many of the other Chilean succulents. Chile also offers some of the best lunar landscapes, geologic formations, and spectacular beaches to be found in all of South America.

This last August 2018, I had the pleasure of leading a group of 20 crazy cactophiles in seven four-wheel drive trucks. Our objectives were to see most of the fantastic plants and spectacular scenery that are to be found in this the land of the Camanchaca. Most of our group were very young adults (25-35yrs), and they all wanted to see and know how us old timers (Rudolf, Woody, Ritter and Charles) used to do our explorations to the wild and seldom-seen places of Chile. Not only did we take them on very bad roads (the kind of dusty, dirty two tracks we used to have to maneuver) we also had them camp out in the middle of nowhere with the scorpions. No restaurants, no showers, no beds, and no bar! These camp-outs were exceptional, as we could often see, without light pollution, the Southern Cross and the Magellanic Lights until the Camanchaca fog slowly blanketed our campfire discussions. What an incredible trip it was! The energy of the young people and my memories of the last 20+ years in Chile made this an epic adventure, one I will never forget! Join me at the meeting, and hopefully you'll share our exhilarating experience and the overall magic of this wonderful arid region, the Atacama.

Copiapoa serpentisulcata gold spend form, north of Chanaral



Upcoming Events

Remember there are two **Coffee in the Gardens** in March: **March 2nd** Coffee in the Garden at Tina and Joe Zucker's garden (details in February newsletter issue) as well as **March 23rd** at Brian and Sally Shepherd's garden (see page 3).

SAVE THE DATE: Coffee in the Garden April 6th, join us for a revisit to Gary Vincent and Wanda Mallen's botanic wonderland in Fallbrook. Details to come in April newsletter.

Field Trip To the Phoenix Plant Show and Sale! We are planning a trip to the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society's Show and Sale in Phoenix, AZ on April 5th and 6th, 2019. Trip includes tour of the Desert Botanical Garden and Boyce Thompson Garden tour. Admission to show and sale (\$25), as well as to Boyce Thompson Garden (\$15) will be covered by the club for SDCSS members. Hotel and transportation costs not included. Email calcactus11@aol.com for more information and itinerary.

Photos of Desert Botanical Garden, courtesy of gold-star.com and experiencescottsdale.com





Hashtag (#) Highlights

What our members and the general plant public have been saying about SDCSS on Instagram!



nicole_pulido_ • Follow
Casa Del Prado

nicole_pulido_ Latest haul. .



angella.sterling • Follow

angella.sterling My small but growing Sansevieria collection 🍀💕 picked up my second #whalefinsansevieria this weekend at the #sandiegocactusandsucculentsociety show 📍 #plantmom #houseplants #urbanjungle #davekinsey #sansevieria #snakeplant #plantcollection #iloveplants



the_wonderful_world_of_p_ • Following
Balboa Park

the_wonderful_world_of_plants My first show/sale !! Found some great plants #succulents #cactus #sdcss #sandiegocactusandsucculentsociety #aloe #gasteraloe #ariocarpus #sansevieria #balboapark #succulentsofinstagram



encantoplantlady • Follow

encantoplantlady Best day ever 🍀 So thankful to be apart of the #sandiegocactusandsucculentsociety I don't know what took me so long to join the succulent elite. Come join us! I got soooo many new treasures today. I get to be around so many amazing mentors. Feeling so blessed. I have sooo many stained glass agaves now. 🍀

bekyescalator • Following
San Diego, California

bekyescalator #HaworthiaObtusa, perhaps a #YamadaBlack? From the incredible collection of the #SDCSS members who hosted the Coffee In The Garden event last weekend. #Haworthia #LeafWindows

codyclouddesign • Follow

codyclouddesign Cacti Light Dish

#cacti #cactus #succulents #originalpiece #balboaparkshow #sandiegocactusandsucculentsociety #planter #pot #art #lavarock #retro #porcelain #mammillaria #lava #tiki #plantitas #patina #repurpose #design #earthy #organic #fusion #plants #cactus 🍀 #cactuslovers #cactusworld #cactusofinstagram #flow



curtis_sd • Following

curtis_sd These babies get us into the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society's winter sale on Saturday an hour and a half early. And membership supports a great group of succulovers. #sdcss #aloe #succulents #succulove #winterblooms #aloeflowers #succulentsofinstagram



2019 Winter Show Results	Participants	Total			Ribbons Won			
		Plants	Score	Trophys	Judges	1st's	2nd's	3rd's
GRAND TOTALS	46	339	562	9	11	112	81	64

NOVICE CLASS	9	25	52	2	1	15	3	1
Biggart, Tom		6	0			0	0	0
Burns, Rachel		3	8			2	1	0
Cardenas, Alejandro		1	3		1	1	0	0
Cobbledick, Bruse		1	3			1	0	0
Lansangan, Antonina		3	9	1		3	0	0
Plaisted, George		1	3			1	0	0
Siegal, Sandy		5	11			2	2	1
Soutiere, Shaun		3	9	1		3	0	0
Steketee, Ginger		1	3			1	0	0
Wetzil-Smith, Sandy		1	3			1	0	0

INTERMEDIATE CLASS	13	106	207	3	0	42	30	21
Aparicio, Mary		10	19			3	4	2
Badger, Pam		8	15			3	1	4
Baldwin, Alison		6	17	1		5	1	0
Patterson, Don		10	25	1		5	5	0
Ramey, Chuck		8	19			5	1	2
Ryan, Rich		1	1			0	0	1
Salley, Steve		6	11			1	3	2
Schell, Sara		6	11			1	3	2
Shegena, Bill		16	41			10	5	1
Sommerville, Penny		5	7			2	0	1
Walag, Lois		9	9			1	2	2
Williams, John		4	8	1		2	1	0
Wong, Pauline		17	24			4	4	4

OPEN CLASS	24	208	303	3	10	55	48	42
Aach, Susan		6	3			0	1	1
Bourget, Larry		1	3			1	0	0
Cardenas, Alejandro		1	3			1	0	0
Chambers, James		7	8			1	2	1
Chaney, Arnold		8	18		1	2	6	0
Duey, Steve		6	2			0	1	0
Fernandes, Mike		5	6			1	0	3
Garner, Candy & Jerry		11	19		2	3	3	4
Howe, Melanie		7	10			2	2	0
Hunt, Don		9	15			3	2	2
Kaminer, Kal		7	3		1	1	0	0
Klein, Al		6	11			2	2	1
Maggio, Matt		6	10	1	1	2	2	0
Minnich, Woody		6	11		1	2	1	3
Muradian, Mark		6	7			0	2	3
Noel, Bobbie		6	0			0	0	0
Parr, Terry & Collette		6	2			0	0	2
Plant, Rick		7	5			0	1	3
Reiser, Jim & Mary		21	33	1	1	6	4	7
Shepherd, Brian		16	34			8	3	4
Taylor, Keith		26	41		1	7	7	6
Walkowiak, Peter		14	32	1	2	7	5	1
Williams, Jerry		6	7			1	2	0
Zucker, Tina		14	20			5	2	1