

Mammillaria thornberi

Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 48 Number 2

February 2013



Happenings This Month

SDCSS Winter Show and Sale

February 9, 2013

Balboa Park Room 101 and /Front Patio

10 to 4 with members only shopping from 9 to 10

Coffee in the Garden

Rick Bjorklund

February 23, 2013

10am to 1pm

San Diego

Aloes at the Huntington photo by Kevin Hosmer

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It has certainly been cold this January and although it was not unexpected, it was more than I had planned for. I think most of my plants made it through but not without some damage. I know that the *Echeverias* were certainly unhappy about the combination of cold weather sandwiched by the rainy weather.

Most of the plants we love would rather not be so cold but really hate being wet and cold. So keep them dry if at all possible. I hope your plants fared well.

What a meeting! I was told that there were over 150 in attendance. What a great turn out!

Peter Walkowiak's workshop was very well attended. I hope that the skills gained there can translate into some marvelous show plants and that you guys will bring them in to share the beauty.

Greg Starr came all the way from Tucson to give an insightful program into his favorite genus *Agaves*. His fantastic book; *Agaves Living Sculptures* was an added bonus not to mention the opportunity to have the author sign a copy.



The Desert Forum at the Huntington Gardens hosted by the CSSA was a great opportunity to see the gardens. I also had a chance there to visit with some of our members and a few members from other CSSA clubs. It was a great way to spend a Saturday.



The February 9th Winter show is upon us. I am looking forward to seeing all the gorgeous plants you guys are bringing to share. With close to thirty vendors and so many beautiful show plants, this is one event not to miss!

Coffee in the garden at Norm and Linda Swanberg's home was a bit damp but a wonderful experience for those who attended. Norm and Linda have a large piece of property and it is always wonderful to see our favorite plants flourishing in the ground.

As I am sure all of you know, we have a mostly new board for the SDC&SS. I want to thank everyone on the board for stepping up and answering the challenge and I am excited to get to work with all of you on keeping this the best C&S society in the country.....(world?!)

Kelly Griffin

TIME TO GET THOSE PLANTS READY FOR THE SHOW!

By Allen Clark

Our Winter judged show is now less than a week away, and this is the perfect time to be starting the process of selecting which plants to show. To do this, it's important to think about some of the things judges want to see—or don't—when they're screening the show.

The process should start with grooming your plants. Remove all damaged or dead leaves or other structures. While you're doing this, look for any signs of bugs or other “travelers”, dead or alive. If they're alive, spray them and remove the corpses. A Q-tip with some detergent or rubbing alcohol works in most cases. Also, you want to get out your tweezers and remove any of those volunteer weeds, which seem to be thriving after our very wet winter. Spiders have also been very active, so remove all those webs. A small paintbrush works well for this task.

The next thing to look at is your pots. First, they should be clean. Wipe glazed and unglazed pots to remove any dirt or dried salts. For those terra cotta pots, some people use a WD40 solution. For me, a brisk rub with an old washcloth usually suffices.

One last note on watering: this should be completed several days before setup. Leaky pots can really mess up the display area while the show committee is moving the plants around, so please—do your watering well ahead!

Staging is the next consideration. This comprises the choice of pot or other container, along with top-dressing and a rock or piece of wood. Remember that the plant is supposed to be the star of each individual entry. Therefore, the other elements should never upstage the plant. Containers should be the right size and shape. Many growers feel that containers which in some way mimic or reflect the natural habitat of a plant look best. If you're using glazed pots, remember to use color carefully. For example, if you have a *Euphorbia* which has some reddish coloration in the stem or leaves, it's great to use a burgundy pot to add a little “punch”. Likewise, top-dressing is best accomplished with a color of material which does not draw attention to itself. This is NOT the time to use that bright turquoise aquarium gravel which has been sitting dry in the old tank at the back of the garage for a couple of decades. Use a neutral color for most plants. If your container is black, though, you can also use black gravel as top-dressing.

Okay, now all your plants are ready. There are a few more things to do, though. First, remove all the tags from your plants, being sure to make a complete list of what you're entering. If you didn't pick up your entry tickets at the January meeting you can pick them up at the event when you bring your plants. Fill them out ahead of time, if you can, according to the entry schedule which was mailed out with last month's issue of the newsletter. That saves you time during setup on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

Remember that it's not unusual for plants to shift during transit from your home to the show. It's a good idea to carry a small container of topdressing to fix any spillage. It can't hurt to bring a few paper towels, Q-tips and your favorite cleaning compound for any last-minute touching up.



Photo by Paul Maker

2013 Winter Show and Sale

Peter Walkowiak
Winter Show Chair



The Winter Show is just around the corner - February 9th. We will be accepting entries from 4pm till 8pm on Friday, February 8. The show will be in the courtyard, where it was held last year, under a 30 by 30 tent. The courtyard is locked up at 8pm and any plants left there will be safe and secure. I will be there until the gates are locked. Plants also can be entered between 8am and 10am on Saturday morning.

Chris Miller
Sales Chair



Plant sales are open to the public from 10 to 4. Members only shopping is from 9 to 10. In order to shop you will need your membership card. We will also have a membership list on hand if you can't find your card. If you owe dues you can take care of that Saturday morning. Fill out the form from the newsletter ahead of time to speed up the process.. We have 29 vendors signed up with a wonderful variety of plants and lots of different pots. Also if you are going to spend the day there find the holding area and leave your plants there rather than standing in line in the morning.



Boxes for February Sale

Our usual source for boxes at our sales will no longer be providing boxes. Please bring boxes for your own use and some for other customers to the February Sale. Boxes shouldn't be too small or too big and solid enough for plants. We will have tape to put boxes together if you bring them flattened.

Volunteers Needed for Winter Show and Sale



The Winter Show is almost here. To have a successful show we need volunteers. There are a number of jobs available, all of them important. One of the most important is show security. Last year one of the show plants was stolen. We need help setting up on Friday night. Show and sales security on Saturday. To assist with the judging, we need judge's clerks. Many of you are wonderful cooks, so please volunteer to bring in some food for the luncheon. The info table needs to be manned. Sales don't happen without some good sales assistants. When it's over on Saturday afternoon, we need a cleanup crew. Think about where you'd like to help out and sign up at by e-mailing Chris Miller, c.miller@cox.net.

Susan Hopkins
Volunteer Coordinator



CSSA Convention

The Austin Cactus & Succulent Society would like to invite you to Austin, Texas for the 2013 CSSA Convention. It will be held June 15th through 20th at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol. The Sheraton is located in the heart of downtown – within walking distance of many Austin attractions.

All members of the Society are invited to join in the gathering which will feature world renowned authors and experts in the field of Cacti & Succulents. The web site for the Convention is located at <http://cssa2013.com>.

Upcoming CSSA Journal

Tim Harvey
CSSA Journal Editor



Volume 85 begins with an account of exploration in Mexico by Julia Etter and Martin Kristen. So far, two new species (an *Echeveria* and a *Sedum*) have been described as a result of their work, named in honor of the authors in the recently-published *Haseltonia* 18. Here they tell us more about the extremely challenging terrain around the Rio Piaxtla as well as other plants seen in the area, several of which still await better understanding. Socotra is once again difficult to travel to, after a short period when tourists could visit relatively freely. Despite the current difficulties, the intrepid Alain Rzepecky managed to find a new arborescent *Euphorbia* species, described here and ac-

companied by spectacular habitat images. The second new species described in this issue is a member of the genus *Eriospermum* from near the Orange River area in Southern Africa. Graham Williamson provides some beautiful drawings to illustrate the finer points of this plant. *Euphorbia schoenlandii* and a Kelly Griffin hybrid *Aloe* 'Red Ridge' feature in Duke Benadom's Superb Succulents article. Jeff Chemnick provides an in-depth guide to the cycad genus *Dioon* as it occurs in Oaxaca, in an article held over from the Special Edition on the CSSA tour to that state, which came out in 2012. Finally, Elton Roberts' article on the genus *Micropuntia* is sure to be the first encounter for many with this fascinating group of plants, and again he provides an alternative and informed view of current taxonomy.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 22-24: Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale. Fri. 22nd and Sat. 23rd 9am-5pm, Sun. 24th 12-4pm. 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim CA. Info: 562-587-3357

Apr 13 & 14: South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. Info: 310-832-2262

Apr 20 & 21: Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA.

Apr 27: South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, 9am To 4pm, South Coast Botanical Gardens. Info: 310-833-6823

Apr 28: Huntington Plant Sale, 10 to 5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino CA. Info: 626-405-2160

Jun 1-2: SDCSS Annual Summer Show and Sale

Coffee in the Garden



Rick Bjorklund's home;
4728 Allied Rd, San Diego, CA 92120
February 23, 2013, Saturday, 10am to 1pm

I've been working on my yard since purchasing my house in 2004. I had grown tropicals and *Bromeliads* while living in Los Angeles prior to moving to San Diego and you can see remnants of those collections along with some unusual shrubs such as *Crotalaria agatiflora* (canary bird bush) for which a pair of Orioles return to each year when nesting and *Podachaenium eminens* (daisy tree) which blooms with immense heads of white flowers. I have yet to get my *Heliconia* to bloom, unfortunately.

I became enamored with succulents about ten years ago due to their striking architecture as well as the intricate flowers that some have. Like many of you, I haven't met a succulent I don't like, and you can see that I have been introduced to different kinds at various times as observed by my growing collections of various ones which started with *Aloe* and *Agave* and quickly moved to *Echeveria*, *Aeonium*, *Crassula*, *Kalanchoe* and more recently *Gasterias* and *Haworthias*. I also have a number of terrestrial *Bromeliads* including *Dyckia*, *Hyechia*, and *Puya* left over from my *Bromeliad* days. As you can see, I favor the concept of abundance so my place involves being a lab to experiment with growing various plants, a garden for beauty and relaxation, as well as a small home nursery and propagation space. I am especially fond of anything with fragrance and was delighted to find many *Senecios* and some *Alucas* are wonderfully fragrant, although I wish all of mine were but, alas, some are not.

I have close to a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre. The front yard has the more mature plants, especially *Aloe* and *Agave*, and I hope the *Aloes* will still be in bloom. The back yard is a large collection mostly of succulents in pots, of which I've been propagating, although I have a few newer beds on the upper slope. I plan on beginning to hybridize soon as it will be fun to see what happens. Much of my yard is a lab rather than a landscaped garden. To that end I am trying mesembs in the landscape as I find the changing colors of *Cheriodopsis* fascinating and I can imagine mass plantings of *Faucarias* and others.

I am sure there will be weeds around as my place is far from immaculate. In fact, it is somewhat Darwinian in approach although I work on increasing my ability to grow culturally demanding plants which for me mean some mesembs and anything with spines (since I tend to like to water—but the tiny South American *Opuntias* have been calling out to me lately). I even have managed to grow a few *Echinopsis*.

Please feel free to come by. I would love to chat plants with you, and although most of mine are labeled I am eager to learn the names of the ones that I do not know

(labeled with sp. for species until I can get them properly identified) and to correct any mislabeled ones.





January 2013 Brag Table Winners

Judged by Greg Starr and Kelly Griffin

Submitted by Candy Garner

CACTUS

Intermediate

- 1st Place, Jerry & Candy Garner – *Mammillaria huiwilopochtlii*
2nd Place, Jerry & Candy Garner – *Mammillaria albescens*
3rd Place, No Name – *Turbinicarpus lophophoriodes*

Advanced

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Sulcorebutia rauschii*
2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Mammillaria pilcayensis*

SUCCULENTS

Novice

- 1st Place, Kevin Hosmer – *Aloe longistylla*
2nd Place, Michael Jarcho – *Crassula radicans* “Red Sea”
3rd Place, No Name – *Bombax elepticum*

Intermediate

- 1st Place, Alison Baldwin – *Pleiospilos nellii*
2nd Place, Bev Grant – *Dudleya* hybrid
3rd Place, Don Hunt – *Euphorbia pentops*

Advanced

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Othonna* ?
2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Euphorbia decaryi* hybrid
3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Bombax elipticum*
3rd Place, Jim DeForest & Chuck Ramey – *Aloe krapohlana*

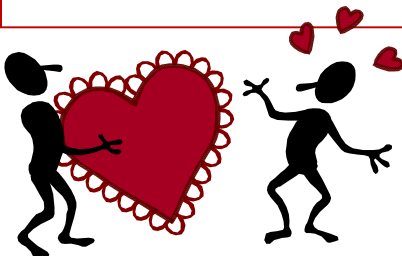


Photos by Paul Maker



Future Coffee in the Garden Events

If you are interested in sharing your wonderful garden with other members let me know. The schedule is pretty open for the rest of the year. If you would like to see another member's garden make the suggestion and I can check to see if they were interested. If this is a program you would be interested in managing let me know. Chris Miller— c.miller@cox.net



I hope you have a wonderful romantic Valentine's Day
Chris

CSSA Affiliate Open House at the Huntington



Above & Below photos by Kevin
Hosmer



The rest of the views
by Christine Vargas



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 Editor. Please e-mail your articles to **Chris Miller** at c.miller@cox.net.

SDC&SS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. Newsletter is E-mailed. **Mailed paper copies are available for an additional \$5 a year. Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.**

Annual Dues
(E-mail Newsletter) \$15.00 _____
(Paper Newsletter) _____
First class delivery USPS \$5.00 _____
Annual Dues – International (Paper) \$30.00 _____
Additional Household Member(s) \$5.00 _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check **ONE** for type of membership:

NEW _____ **RENEWAL** _____

Member Information:

(Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____

Zip + 4: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell/FAX: _____

E-mail Address _____

Additional Household Members: _____

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 Dept
c/o Paul Maker
1245 San Pablo Drive
San Marcos CA 92078-4816**

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San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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