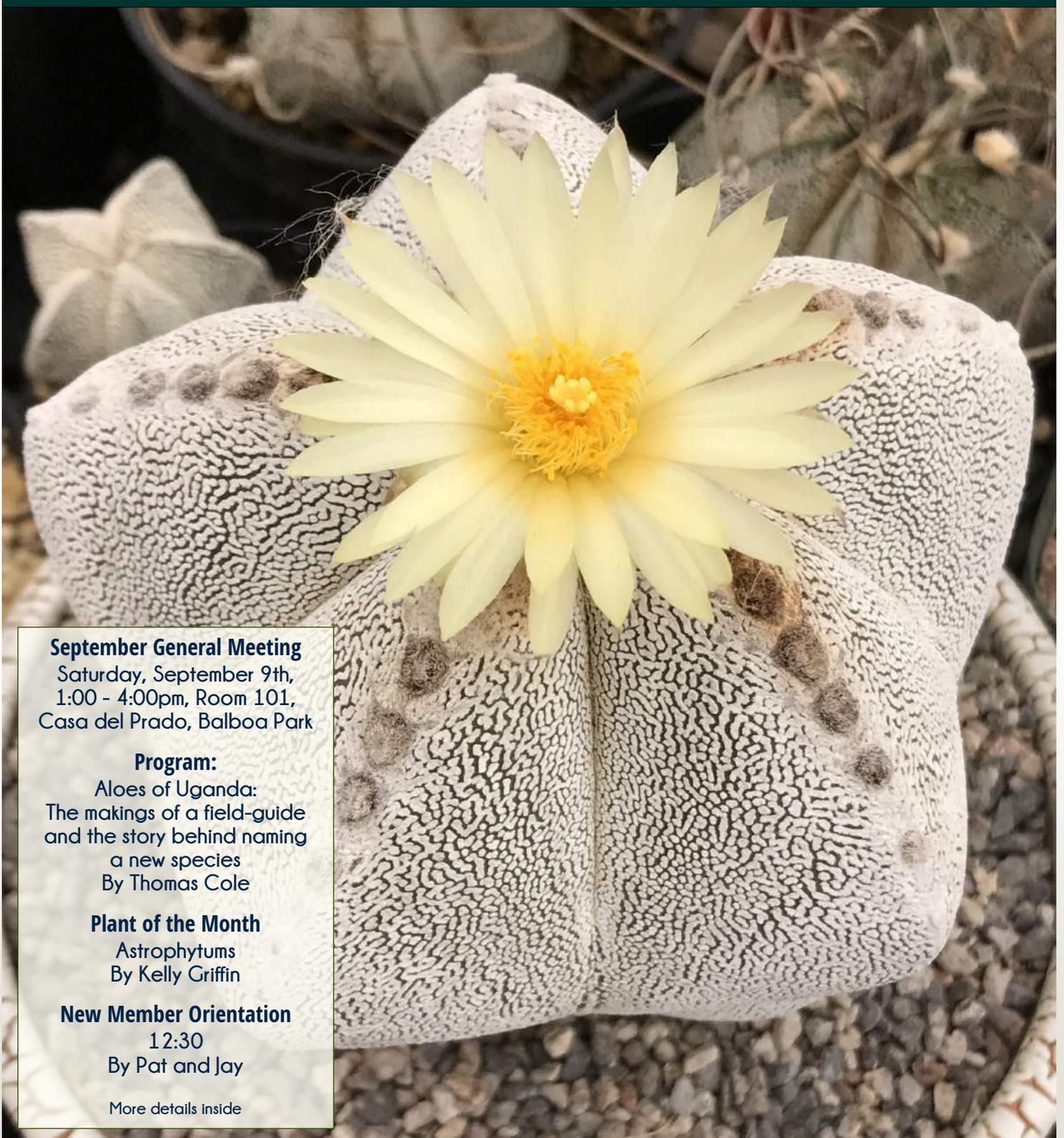


# Espinas y Flores

Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society  
An affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America



## **September General Meeting**

Saturday, September 9th,  
1:00 - 4:00pm, Room 101,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

### **Program:**

Aloes of Uganda:  
The makings of a field-guide  
and the story behind naming  
a new species  
By Thomas Cole

### **Plant of the Month**

Astrophytums  
By Kelly Griffin

### **New Member Orientation**

12:30  
By Pat and Jay

More details inside

**Executive Board**

President: Chris Miller Secretary Mary Reiser  
 Vice President: Kelly Griffin Treasurer Leslie Sheridan

**Directors**

Jerry Garner Antonina Lansangan Jim Reiser  
 Sue Thomas Christine Vargas Tina Zucker  
 Open

**Committees & Sub Committees**

Conservation: Herb Stern  
 Brag table: Tina Zucker & Denise Griffin  
 Plants of the Month: Don Hunt  
 Summer/Winter Show: Kelly Griffin, Bill O’Daniel, Tom Knapik  
 Historian: Terry Parr  
 Grants: Jerry Garner  
 Library: Don Hunt  
 Exchange Plants/Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell  
 Annual sales: Chris Miller  
 Auction & Holiday Plants: Kelly Griffin  
 Show Auction Manager: Peter Walkowiak  
 Monthly Plant Sales: Jim Deforest & Lynn Elliott  
 Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted  
 Benefit Drawing Table: Collette, Kienan, & Terry Parr  
 Programs: Kelly Griffin  
 Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak  
 Monthly Regalement: Cathy Clark  
 Picnic Regalement: <OPEN>

**Liaisons**

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins  
 CSSA Affiliate Rep: Rick Bjorkland  
 SD Botanic Garden: Phyllis Flechsig  
 SD Botanic Foundation: George Plaisted  
 SD Floral Association: Jeanette Dutton  
 SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens: May Fong Ho & Juergen Menzel  
 Palomar CS Society Liaison: Brita Miller

**Membership & Publicity**

Membership: Paul & Carol Maker  
 Newsletter Editor: Sue Thomas  
 Webmaster: Kirsten Higgins  
 Publicity: Christine Vargas

**Contact SDCSS:** membership@sdcss.net

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Astrophytum flower by Kelly Griffin



**On the Cover:**  
*Astrophytum myriostigma*  
 ‘Onzuka’

by Kelly Griffin.

**October Brag Table....**

There are only a couple of months left to prepare your Faux plant for the October Brag Table. A “Faux Plant” is any cactus or succulent made from anything but plant materials. Examples of materials used in the past are: pipe cleaners, Legos, balloons, paper, pipes, etc.. Use your imagination and have fun with it.



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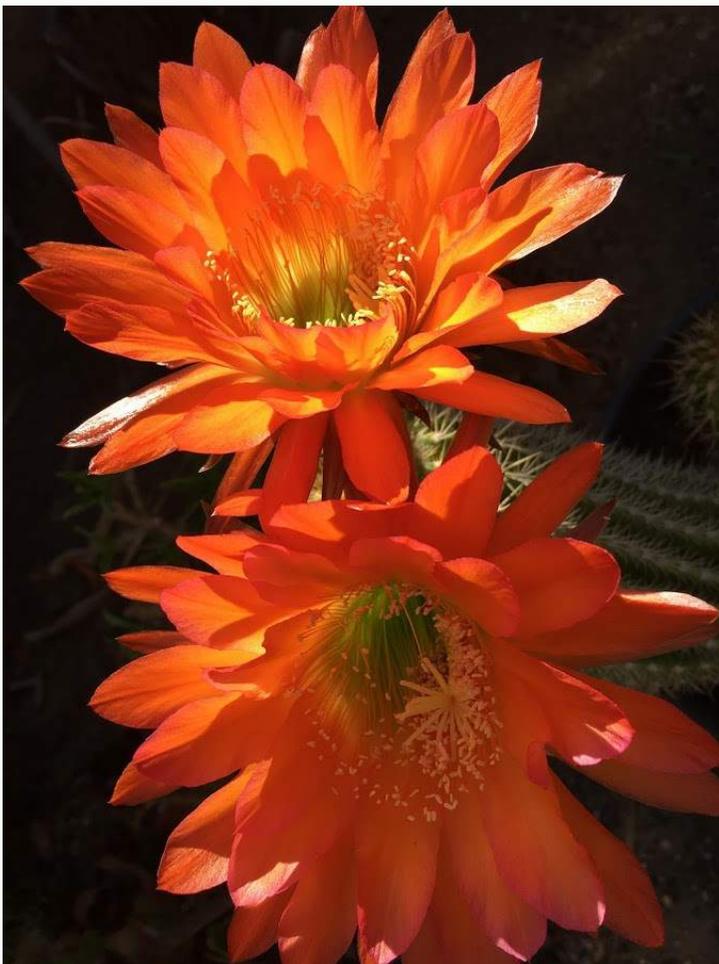
## President's Message



Many thanks to Kelly Griffin for running the last meeting for me while I sat on the couch blowing my nose, and to Denise Griffin for taking multiple trips to make sure our speaker showed up in time to entertain and educate. Thanks to Mark Fryer and Jürgen Menzel for judging the brag table, and to our all our great volunteers for making the meeting run like clockwork.

As we hit our warmest time of the year, be sure to keep your plants and yourself hydrated. We are planning our November picnic and December Holiday Party. They will both be fun and we are coming up with some ideas for adding to the interaction at those events. They are both a great way to get to know each other better. More info in next month's newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting. Since we are moving the Faux Plant Brag Table to October this year, be sure to bring you best live plants for this month's Brag Table. ~ Chris Miller



*Trichocereus 'Arizona Sunset'* by Sue Thomas

### September General Meeting

Saturday, September 9th, 1:00 - 4:00,  
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

**Pre-Meeting Workshop:** None scheduled

**New Member Orientation:**

12:30, by Pat and Jay

**Plant of the Month:**

**Astrophytums** by Kelly Griffin (see page 5)

**Program:**

**Aloes of Uganda** by Thomas Cole (see page 4)

**Plant Sales Open from 10:00 - 4:00**

### Addendum:

#### August POM on Caudiciforms by Tina Zucker

Tina Zucker presented a Plant of the Month talk on Caudiciforms, at the August general meeting. She wanted to make the details of her presentation available to those who were not present and all who are interested in knowing more about these amazing plants. Below is a link to the PDF files in Dropbox. It will be available until August, 2018. If you are viewing this newsletter in hardcopy, you may type the URL directly into your search engine.

Direct link: Click [HERE](#)

URL: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qoft85g9s3pe9mx/AABcnLdNOsSV39CiJIUfRzV4a?dl=0>

## September Program

### Aloes of Uganda: The makings of a field-guide and the story behind naming a new species.

By Thomas Cole

Thomas has spent more than 20 years in sustainable agriculture, livelihoods, community development and humanitarian response work. Presently based in Santa Barbara, he has many years field experience across Sub-Saharan Africa- with significant time in Mozambique, Uganda and Ethiopia. His focal areas are in urban agriculture, food production system design, post-conflict recovery, organic horticulture, agricultural extension, permaculture, natural resource management and livelihoods. He spends much of his spare time in these countries climbing the odd mountain and researching succulent plants, primarily aloe, euphorbia and sansevieria.



Thomas currently works as an agroecology and drought management advisor for global USAID food security programs, and provides technical agricultural support for numerous communities recovering from conflict and disaster. Previously he worked as the Africa Region Food Security and Livelihoods Advisor for Save the Children. In Santa Barbara, he is the co-owner and operator of Cold Spring Aloes, a small botanic



garden, succulent plant nursery and award-winning garden design business.

He is the co-founder of African Women Rising, a community-based organization empowering thousands of women in post-war Uganda. He is also founding partner and VP of sourcing and sustainability for Kaibae, a lifestyle company harnessing the nutritional potential of lost crops. For the last 10 years he has also worked as a Strategic Philanthropic Advisor for several private family foundations, helping to guide strategy and investment in a range of program areas including global health, sustainable agriculture and alternative basic education models.



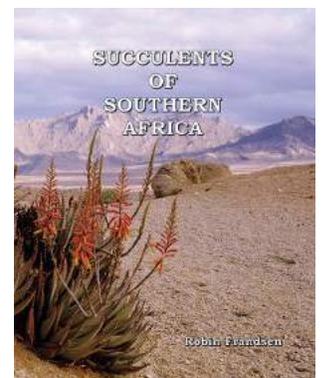
Thomas has a Masters degree in Humanitarian Assistance from the Friedman School of Nutrition at Tufts University (US) and is a 5-time world Frisbee champion. In the last 5 years he has described three new species of aloe from Uganda (*Aloe wanalensis*, *Aloe butiabana* and *Aloe lukeana*), and is a co-author of a *Field Guide to the Aloes of Uganda*.

This talk will focus on the 24 aloe taxa found in Uganda and the journeys behind mapping and cataloguing all that is currently known about them. The audience will be led through the development of the recently published *Field Guide to the Aloes of Uganda*, and will learn some of the details involved in the process of naming a new species.

### Book Report by Don Hunt **Succulents of Southern Africa** by Robin Frandsen

We've been waiting for this book to come out since the beginning of the year, maybe before that for some of us. Kelly bought into the prerelease from the publisher and got the club (and himself) listed in the Editions. Thanks, Kelly. Now, we knew this book was 500 pages and 2500 pictures, so we had our hopes high. That's an ambitious book, trying to make a decent representation of all the succulents of Southern Africa. Not just South Africa. That's a challenging undertaking. It could be argued that it's too much to cover well in one volume. The mesembs alone are 120 pages. What can't be argued is that this is a heaping helping of plant porn. A preliminary flip through this book

will take an hour. Sure, the pictures are small. The descriptions are minimal. No info like growing/flowering season. No maps. Some of the pictures are doctored, and there are errors that even yours truly can spot. Almost all the pictures are habitat, where they are not is noted. This book will be very popular with the checkouts. If you score a checkout, I expect it back the next opportunity. There will be copies available through the usual retailers, but not for very long I think. I think this book will sell out, and maybe not go to a second printing.



Plant of the Month

# Astrophytums ~ Stars among the Cacti

By Kelly Griffin

I was at first enamored by the geometric sculptural shapes that this genus displays. From the smallest golf ball sized *Astrophytum asterias* to the grand golden spined *Astrophytum ornatum*, they are inspiring.



I realized when Brian Kemble was talking about these plants in his Mexico presentation at our last meeting that he had referenced the beautiful yellow flowers with red throats, I wanted to share and elaborate so much so that I jumped at the opportunity. OK truth be told, I backed into this but with enthusiasm none the less.

I have long enjoyed this genus for its relative ease of growth, its interesting and unique forms and probably the most interesting feature ~

tremendous variation within each species. I have had the great fortune of seeing most if not all the species in the wild and that for me is a little bit like seeing your favorite music group live....you just have to be there but once you see them you become a fan for life.

- The species are
- A. myriostigma
  - columnare
  - strongylogonum
  - myriostigma
  - tulense
  - quadracostata (fm tricostata)
  - fm nudum
  - A. capricorne
  - aureum
  - capricorne
  - niveum
  - kraussii (based on spines, flower pure yellow)\*
  - A. coahuilense
  - A. ornatum
  - ornatum
  - fm mirabelli
  - A. asterias
  - A. caput-medusae

So there are six "accepted" species and lots and lots of forms. These forms occur in the wild and are different but perhaps not enough so to stand alone but certainly enough to warrant ssp. or

forma names so we can delineate them. More on this when I have a picture to point to. In addition to all these forms, there are a number of plants that are not of wild origin, that have come to light in horticulture and are

well worthy of attention. Most notably the Onzuko types that have unusual snowflake like patterns and sometimes chevrons on the ribs that are very attractive. They are grown from seed so considerable variation occurs.

Astrophytums do hybridize and this has given rise to many cultivars to enjoy. Not all species will hybridize with other species or at least do not do so freely, But just because I could not do it does not mean it can't be done. Even so, there does seem to be some incompatibility between some of the species.

Back to Brian's assertion about the nice red throated yellow flowers. *A. capricorne*, *A. coahuilense* and *A. asterias* do indeed have red throated flowers. Alternatively, the *A. myriostigma* and forms along with *A. ornatum* and the newest one of the group (formerly *Digitostigma*) *A. caput-medusae* have pure yellow flowers. Brian showed a habitat photo of *Astrophytum myriostigma* which should have pure yellow flowers but was at the time not in flower. Had it been, it would not have motivated me to do this plant of the month talk. Clearly there are some losers and winners here but I'll let you be the judge.... It seems trivial ~ the interesting point is that this particular distinction has some merit in terms of hybridization. The red throated flowers cross with other red throated ones better and likewise yellow with yellow. Exceptions are of course the rule *A. kraussii* is a great little plant that I got seed of from Jurgen Menzel. It looks like a *Astrophytum capricorne* aureum but with finer spines and a **pure yellow flower**. *A. capricornes* typically have red centered flowers, this one does not..... I know nothing about its origin or if it occurs naturally in Mexico so I still have things to learn with this genus.



If you are new to growing this group., you might not want to start with *A. asterias* as it is more prone to rot and root meally and therefore more difficult.

Please bring your favorite one in and let's celebrate Astrophytums!



## News from the Safari Park's Gardens



An update regarding upcoming activities and future plans for the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Old World Garden (OWG) was presented recently at the July SDCSS board meeting.

There are now 13 active OWG volunteers (6 from SDCSS, 2 from PCSS and 5 from the Park), so more time and energy can be spent on improvements to the garden. We'd like to focus on the OWG

on aloes, and collect and show as many aloe species as possible in the garden and potentially in the new greenhouse. As of today, we have ~130 aloe species in the garden. There are an estimated 600 species of aloes in total, which is a manageable but still very diverse genus as a collection. They can be 2" small or 40' tall. We have a lot of aloe experts within the SDCSS and PCSS clubs. Together, we have a chance to build the most comprehensive aloe collection in the US. We'll continue to work with Kelly to get access to aloe species with data. We'll also continue to collect and plant aloe hybrids in our "Hybrid Corner" of the OWG. Other ideas for the OWG include creating an area with plants endemic to the Madagascar area and working with Jeff Moore on an "Undersea" garden.

We're looking forward to moving into a new greenhouse in September. Initially the greenhouse will be used to propagate and nurture plants. In the future we hope to use the greenhouse to house the more delicate aloes and allow visitors entrance to the greenhouse. A shadehouse will be built near the greenhouse likely in 2018, and will be used to house our collection of large cacti, as well as propagate some African trees and bushes.



Finally, accession of our collection is 80% complete thanks to the work of several volunteers, including William Kadonaga, who has proved invaluable due to his knowledge of our mapping and data collection system. We hope to get the garden accredited in the next two years.

### Requests:

We'd like to obtain a large amount of chunky, light-colored, decomposed granite for use around our plants in the OWG. This material would look better and appear more natural than the wood chip mulch we currently receive from the Safari Park. Donations are gladly accepted! As always, if you have plants or materials to donate please contact May Fong Ho at (760) 233-3948 or [mayfongho@yahoo.com](mailto:mayfongho@yahoo.com).

Photos were taken at the Old World Garden and are used by permission of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park

## We Want YOU!

*"I am only one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything,  
but I can do something.  
And I will not let what I cannot do  
interfere with what I can do."*

– Edward Everett Hale

We are looking for fresh faces to fill club volunteer positions. After a few years on the job, some of our volunteer members are moving on. As much as we hate to see this happen, we are also excited at the thought of passing opportunities on to other members.

Below are open positions. No experience is necessary. You will be met with open arms and all the help and training you may need.

1. **Director:** Help plan and make decisions on behalf of the club. Attend monthly meetings.
2. **Newsletter editor:** Design and create the monthly club newsletter. Attend monthly board meetings. Should be comfortable on computers. A small stipend offered.
3. **Publicity Chair:** Help promote bi-annual show/sale events. Contact media, distribute flyers, follow up on leads, etc..
4. **Regalement:** Help coordinate and set up food for meetings and special events. We have a team already in place, we need additional help.
5. **Show/Sale volunteers:** We would like to build our list of "regulars" who are available to help in various capacities for the Winter and Summer Show/Sale events.

Please consider being a part of the best volunteer team in the cactus and succulent world!

If you are interested or just want to know a little more about these positions, please email us at: [membership@sdcss.net](mailto:membership@sdcss.net) or talk to Susan Hopkins at the next General Meeting.

## Thank You!

# August Brag Table Winners

Tallied by Denise Huntsman-Griffin

Photos by Tina Zucker

## CACTUS

### Novice

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Norb Roden- *Tephrocactus articulatus* var. *diadematus* (1)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Norb Roden- *Tephrocactus articulatus* var. *papyracanthus* (2)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Heather Chan- *Cephalocereus senilis* (3)

### Intermediate

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Penny Sommerville- *Obregonia denegrii* (4)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Julia Chimento- *Opuntia vestita* x *subulata* crest 'Roller Coaster' (5)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Chuck Ramey- *Opuntia zebrina* (6)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Bev Grant- *Oreocereus trollii* (7)

### Advanced

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kelly Griffin- *Ferocactus* x *leuchtembergia* (8)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jurgen Menzel- *Neolloydia conoidea* (9)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Brian Shepherd- *Echinocereus maritimus* (10)

## SUCCULENTS

### Novice

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Barbara Paicopules- *Dyckia dawsonii* (11)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Linda Stewart- *Tylosema fassoglensis* (12)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Angelica Villa - *Euphorbia spirosticha* (13)

### Intermediate

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bev Grant- *Operculicarya decaryi* (14)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chris Dawson- *Adenium obesum* (15)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Julia Chimento- *Sansevieria cylindrica* (16)

### Advanced

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kelly Griffin- *Adenium obesum* (17)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Kelly Griffin- *Aloe castillonae* (18)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Kelly Griffin- *Aloe* cv. KJG 072 (19)



## CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPT. 2 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM, ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON 626-405-3504
- SEPT. 24 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION -12-5PM, RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615, INFO. 562-631-5876.
- Oct. 7-8 BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE SAT. 10-5---SUN. 11-3 ST. PAUL’S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADDMISSION & PARKING, INFO 661-8318488
- OCT. 28-29\* PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS, 230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, EN CINITAS, CA, INFO: BritaMiller1@gmail.com 858-776-7216.
- NOV. 4-5 SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am-4pm BOTH DAYS, SHOW AND SALE -LA COUNTY ARBORE TUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-10
- NOV 11 **SDCSS Members: Due to the unavailability of our normal meeting venue, the club Summer Picnic will be held in November instead of September, at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas**
- DEC 9 **SDCSS HOLIDAY PARTY**

### Mark your Calendar for these upcoming Club Special Events....

Faux Plants Brag Table - At the General Meeting, October 14th  
 Club Picnic - Saturday, November 11th, San Diego Botanical Garden  
 Club Holiday Party - Saturday, December 9th, Balboa Park  
 More details to come

### Coffee in the Garden

There is no Coffee in the Garden event schedule in the month of September.  
 The next Coffee in the Garden will be held at Ric Newcomer’s on October 28th.  
 Details will be posted in the October issue of Espinas y Flores.

#### SDCSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

The newsletter, *Espinas y Flores*, is e-mailed to each member household each month. Annual dues (e-mailed newsletter) are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. **First class delivery of a paper copy of the newsletter is available for an additional \$10.00 within USA or \$25 for international delivery, to cover the cost of printing and postage.** Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.

Annual Dues (E-mailed newsletter): \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 USA Delivery of Printed Copy (optional) \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 International Delivery (optional) \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Household Member(s) each: \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City and State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/FAX: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email 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 in US Funds, payable to SDCSS to:

SDCSS Membership Dept, c/o Paul Maker