

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 8

September 2013

Events This Month

Annual Picnic

Saturday September 14, 2013
Admiral Baker Field
10 to 2

Coffee in the Garden

Saturday September 28, 2013
Pam & Lee Badger
& Ed Case
Spring Valley
10 to 1:30



Aloes in Madagascar



Badger's Yard

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, another month has just flown by! I felt truly lucky to make it home just in time for the last meeting. I enjoyed the presentation that Brian Kemble and Walker Young gave on their trip to central Mexico. Some truly terrific plants and pictures for sure. I hope we can have them back either separately or together....It was great to see and hear such enthusiasm for these beautiful Mexican plants. Thank you Brian and Walker!

Our picnic is fast approaching. September 14th @ Admiral Baker Field. See you then!!

I will share just a bit about the Madagascar trip. We traveled there at this particular time of year so that one of our teacher friends could go as well..... as it turns out, he didn't go! ~ We did get to see some things in flower that I had not on any of my previous three trips and that was simply to do with the time of year. Most of the *Aloe capitata* forms were in full flower glory and we also managed to see *Aloe suzannae* in flower as well in the wild! Throw in a few Lemurs and you have a party! The trip went smoothly for the most part save the return trip! Madagascar is a wondrous place with some spectacular sights and unfortunately like so many places in the world it is being diminished each and every day.....so sad to see!

Our next regular meeting (ie October) we will have Guillermo Rivera back in town to give us a photo tour of the entire length of Baja California. More to come on that!



I hope summer is being kind to you all and that you are managing to stay cool.

I wanted to share some of the photos from the trip to Madagascar..... a few photos will probably say more..... Hope they translate here!

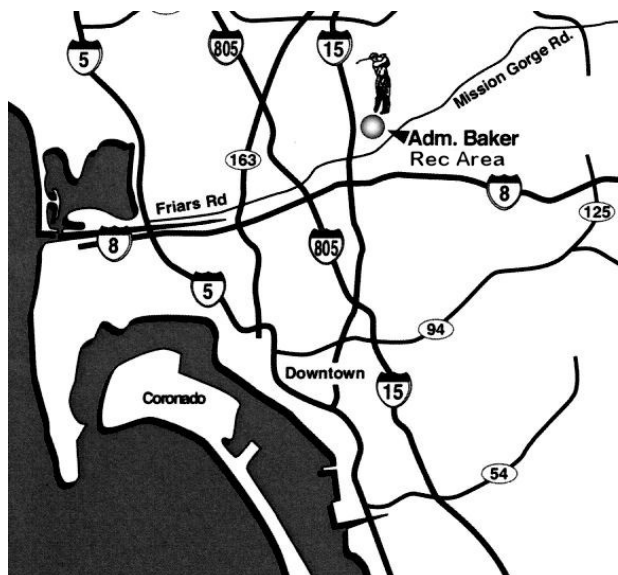
Keep it growing San Diego!

Kelly G

Aloe suzannae



SDCSS Annual Picnic



DIRECTIONS Located one-half mile east of Interstate 15 at the intersection of Friars Road and Santo Road, Admiral Baker RV Park can be reached either from Interstate 8 or Interstate 15.

From Interstate 8 - Exit Mission Gorge Road. Right on Mission Gorge Road to Friars Road and turn left. Continue on to Santo Road and turn right. Make an immediate right onto Admiral Baker Road and follow it down the hill. At the bottom of the hill turn right into the parking lot.

From Interstate 15 - Exit Friars Road East. Follow Friars Road to Santo Road. At Santo turn left. Make an immediate right onto Admiral Baker Road and follow it down the hill. At the bottom of the hill turn right into the parking lot.

Where: Admiral Baker Field Recreation Area, Site 6.
View using Google or at

<http://www.militarycampgrounds.>

When: September 14, 2013.

Time: Volunteers will start prep work at 9.

Lunch will be ready around 11:30

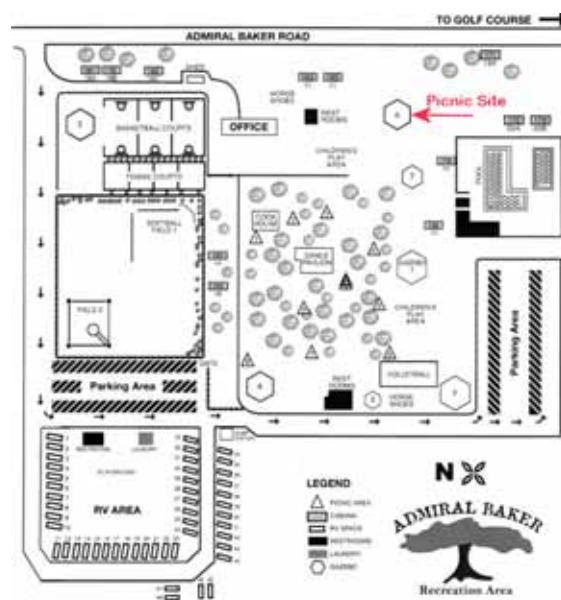
Bring: Side dishes, deserts, finger food. The Club will provide tri tip, hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and drinks.

RSVP: If you haven't already signed up, send **Chris Miller** an E-mail at c.miller@cox.net or call her at 619-258-9810 to let her know if you are coming and what you are bringing. We need to have a general idea of numbers so we can buy enough meat, etc.

There are plenty of tables in the picnic area and lots of lawn around it for us to gather. The picnic is a great way to get to know each other better and catch up with old friends.

The board decided to keep things easy for this picnic so we will not be having a silent auction.

Thanks to Paul Maker for revising the write up and scanning the maps and directions.



2013 & 2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep14: SDCSS Picnic

Sep 22: Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA. Info: 310-922-6090

Nov 2 & 3: San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 9am-4pm, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

Dec 14: SDCSS Holiday Party in Room 101, The Prado, Balboa Park

Feb 8: SDCSS Winter Show and Sale, Room 101 and courtyard, Prado Bldg, Balboa Park 9 to 4

Special Coffee in the Garden - 2 Fer!

By Pam Badger

You are invited to a Coffee in the Garden “SPECIAL” as you have the opportunity to visit Two Gardens in Spring Valley.

Please join us at the home of Lee and Pam Badger for coffee and treats on the decks over looking our 1/4 acre hillside landscape featuring mature specimens of cactus, succulents, palms and other tropicals from Madagascar, South Africa, and Baja. Tour Lee’s collection in the greenhouse and perhaps purchase a few plants to take home. 40% of plant sale proceeds will be donated to the Seva Foundation which works to restore vision in developing countries.



We do live on a hillside and there is little parking at the house level. Plan to park on the streets below and walk up about 30 yards to the house.

As a special bonus, Ed Case, who lives at the other end of the block is also inviting people to come by either before or after Coffee and see what he has achieved in the past 5 years planting succulents around the property that has been in his family since the early years of Spring Valley. Some of you know Ed as the guy who is always working hard, helping out, and picking up a

wide variety of little plants. He has taken all those little plants and planted them in a natural rock garden amongst old, mature specimens that have been there for decades, as well as ones he has picked up while working around the county. The result is a fantastic, eclectic, hard grown, rustic landscape with treasures in every nook and cranny.



So join us at the Badger’s for refreshments and tours either before or after visiting Ed’s garden.

Date: September 28th, 2013

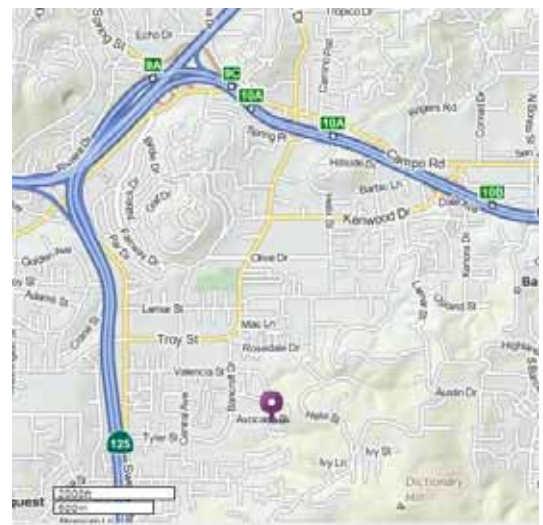
Time: 10:00-1:30

Addresses:

Badgers 9105 Avocado St, Spring Valley, 91977

Ed Case 3948 Granada, Spring Valley 91977

Call 619-589-1223 if you get lost



August 2013 Brag Table Winners

Judged by Walker Young & Brian Kemble

CACTUS

Novice

None

Intermediate

- 1st Place, Carol Maker – *Lobivia glauca*
2nd Place, Candy & Jerry Garner – *Copiapoa marginata*
3rd Place, Carol Maker – *Mammillaria parkinsonii*



Advanced

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Echinocereus sciurus*
2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Sulcorebutia steinbachii*
3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Mammillaria parkinsonia*



SUCCULENTS

Novice

- 1st Place, Wayne Dameron – *Haworthia*
2nd Place, Wanda Mallen – *Agave Blue Glow* cv. Snowflake
3rd Place, Wanda Mallen – *Euphorbia tortirama*



Intermediate

- 1st Place, Rick Bjorklund – *Echeveria 'Lucita'*
2nd Place, Penny Sommerville – *Pseudolithos migiurtinus*
3rd Place, Rick Bjorklund – *Duvalia parviflora* (blooming!)



Advanced

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Pelargonium cotyledonis*
2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Tylecodon schaeferianus*
3rd Place, Kelly Griffin – *Agave potatorum* (extreme form)



Submitted by Candy Garner



Madagascan Aloes

The genus *Aloe* has a very large distribution, ranging from South Africa through tropical Africa to the Mediterranean, and stretching across the Arabian Peninsula into India. There are two major centers of biological diversity, Southern Africa and Madagascar. Both centers have species that have heads that range from an inch or less in diameter, to tree-like species that define the landscape. Although the South African species have been in cultivation for hundreds of years, they tend to be cultivated as species or as landscape plants, with relatively few hybrids becoming generally available outside of South Africa.

Some of the Madagascan species have cryptic or ornate leaf patterns that made early impressions on collectors and hybridizers. The small size of some species was also attractive to those who wanted to produce pot plants for table top or garden decoration.

Madagascan *Aloe* cultivation is generally easy. The plants are more cold-sensitive than the South African species, to be expected given their habitat is more tropical. They are also more sensitive to out of season watering, doing better with some protection from cold and wet conditions. Most species will do fine in Southern California, with just protection from continued winter wet. Our normal winter night temperatures result in little more than leaf tip browning.

All *Aloes* are subject to *Aloe* mite. This is normally discovered when the flower stalk appears distorted and almost crested. This flower stalk should be immediately removed, and the plant either discarded (the preferred method) or immediately treated with a strong miticide. Hummingbirds and insects will spread this mite through an entire *Aloe* collection and should be taken seriously. The smaller *Aloes* are occasionally home to mealy bugs, easily seen as white fuzz near the center of the plant. These are easily cured with any insecticide or repeated washing and soaking.



Aloe pseudoparvula



Aloe 'Winter Sky'

The long blooming racemes of brightly colored *Aloe* flowers are attractive to sunbirds in Africa and hummingbirds in the West. When in bloom, hummingbirds will visit every few minutes, going from plant to plant and yard to yard, fertilizing hundreds of flowers as they make their rounds. Aloes readily hybridize not only with other *Aloes*, but also with *Haworthia* and *Gasteria*.

Pictures of four Madagascan *Aloes* accompany this article. The first is *Aloe pseudoparvula*. This species and the very similar *Aloe parvula* are often used in hybridization. The wonderful surface texture often makes it through the genetic process and appears in second and third generation hybrids. The second is *Aloe 'Winter Sky'*, a hybrid between a Madagascan and African *Aloe*. The third one is *Aloe divaricata*, a representative of the shrubby *Aloes*.



Aloe divaricata



Aloe parvula

Madagascar Aloes cont.



These make wonderful landscape plants with sparse inflorescences with a dark red flower. It is generally out of season with most of the African *Aloes*, and makes a welcome addition to garden color.

Recent work by Kelly Griffin of Escondido and Karen Zimmerman of the Huntington, as well as several others have given us a wealth of named and unnamed hybrids. The next ISI offering of the Huntington should offer some spectacular new hybrids. Look for it in the March-April issue of the CSSA Journal or on the Huntington web site. Several club members, assisted by untold numbers of hummingbirds have also produced some interesting seedlings. *Aloe* 'Medium Well Done'

is a perfect example of the work of Kelly Griffin. Look for even more wonders in the near future. The golden age of *Aloe* hybridization is just beginning.

Reprinted from **San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter**

Succulent of the Month January 2009

Tom Glavich December 2009

Some pictures from Tom and some borrowed shamelessly from the internet

Huntington Symposium Trip Report

By Chris Miller

August 31st found Steve Harris, Candy & Jerry Garner, Kelly & Denise Griffin, Chris Vargas, Rick Bjorkland, Bill & Jean O'Daniel, Andrew Wilson, Peter Walkowiak and myself in San Marino at the Huntington listening to a very interesting group of speakers. Panayoti Kelaidis from Denver Botanic Gardens was the opening speaker and we enjoyed him as much as we did when he spoke at San Diego earlier this year. Raul Puente-Martinez from the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix talked about Tree *Opuntias* and after lunch Root Gorelick, the new editor of *Haseltonia* gave a wonderful presentation on The Cactus Cephalium—the platypus of plants. It was a great brain teaser that made you go humm? The other speakers talked to *Opuntias* and Bulbs. Something for everyone. We had a great Greek lunch and BBQ for dinner. The greenhouse was opened at the end of the afternoon session, so with beer to cool us off, we shopped until dinner.

There was also a silent auction where a nice selection of plants, books and pots were available to bid on.

The after dinner speaker was Gideon F Smith from South Africa who spoke on the diversification *Aloes* and their kin. Since the first of the year there have been three different papers that are re-classifying these plants. The main plant types mentioned were grass *Aloes*, tree *Aloes*, *Astrolobas*, and the harder skinned *Haworthias*. Lucky for them they left the *Gasterias* alone. His theory is that it will take over 20 years to get the name changes accepted, unless of course they change again. I figure in 20 years I'll be 84 and won't give a hoot what you call my plants, so I won't be changing my tags soon. All three papers were published in BCSS or *Alsterworthia Journals*..

Overall a great time was had by all. You can have your Symposium paid for next year by giving a Plant of the Month talk next year. See Don Hunt if you are interested in doing so.

Number 9 of the Cactus Explorer is ready to download free from:

<http://jwf.r.mailjet.com/redirect/s5vvtj19l5v7yf5028yh93/www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>

The file size of No.9 is about 12MByte so please be patient while it downloads.

I hope you enjoy this issue. We welcome articles about hunting for plants, reviews of genera or species, historical literature, and pictures of unusual plants in culture.

The Cactus Explorer!

Graham Charles

Cactus and Succulent Journal on DVD

By Don Hunt

With the addition of CSSA Journal on CD we have expanded our plant researching capabilities. What better way to write up our new addition to the library, than to use it in writing an article. I have the 4 oldest DVDs, so starting with the newest of those, 1979-93, I opened the DVD and find that I can access each individual issue in it's original form with pictures or can view all of them together in a text only form which provides for a search all feature. Since I'm not browsing, but looking for something specific, I give it the old shift f and get an excel search box. I type in Madagascar and find 383 references. I can tab quickly through them to see that many are linked to plants for sale or species that I'm not currently interested in. The link at the bottom of the page will take me to the title page of that journal and since I made a note of the page number, I can go directly to that article. Since the Cactus and Succulent Journal is a publication with scientific standing, many of the articles still represent current understanding and description of obscure and not otherwise published species. As an example, I'm not aware of a published work specifically on *Cyphostemma*, an interesting group of plants. Some of that genus are sculptural tree/shrubs and others are vines. If I saw an unknown species for sale, I might want to know about it beforehand. A search in this DVD gives me 38 hits, some of which will be not directly related, but you get the idea.

The later volumes will be useful to anyone searching for information beyond standard library fare. The earlier volumes, well, I don't know. They have historical value. If you are interested in botanical history, come get um. I opened up the first ever issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal volume 1 1929. There's an article about a flower show in Pacific Beach where Kate Sessions displayed 10 *Aloes*, 6 *Mesembrys*, 4 *Echevarias* and a "gorgeous *Euphorbia splendens* with hundreds of beautiful red blossoms". Wait, then there's this. "*Mammillaria hahniana* is by far the most beautiful of any of the *Mammillarias*. The plant on exhibition at the Pacific Beach Flower Show in a glass case was nearly three inches across and three inches high, globular with pure white hare one and one-half to two inches long spreading out on the ground." Based on an article in the same issue, the advice for "Best Soil for Cactus" recommends "one-half sharp sand, one-fourth good peat, one-fourth black loam; to this added about one-twentieth as much pulverized charcoal." Even considering the controversial nature of potting mixes for cactus, I doubt anyone in our group would recommend this mix. In conclusion, the older issues of these journals are entertaining and the newer ones are informative, why not check one out for yourself. You only need a club membership and a DVD player on your computer.

A Call to All Artists

The SDCSS would like to test the waters to find out how much interest there would be in designing a line of prints for T-shirts by, for, and about the SDCSS and the plants we love. If you think you have the talent and motivation for such an endeavor, by then all means drop us a line or send in your submissions to c.miller@cox.net and I will forward it to our Chair for this project.. Any nice graphic of a succulent plant, plants, or landscape will be considered but of special relevance would be, of course, San Diego county native plants and scenery. We look forward to hearing from you!



The July/August CSSA Journal

By Tim Harvey

The relationship between fauna and flora, in particular that between hummingbirds and *Echeveria rosea*, is the subject of the issue's first article by H. David Jimeno Sevilla and colleagues. Catherine Phillips then provides a fascinating insight into the travels and discoveries of Baron Wilhelm Karwinski in the early 19th century, beautifully illustrated with contemporary photographs from the field as well as historic botanical art. Bill Thornton's thought-provoking article on propagation of endangered species illustrates the difficulties involved in ensuring the safety of some of the world's rarer plants, and highlights strategies that have been successful for a couple of them. The Mojave Rock Ranch is the subject of Maureen Gilmer's photo essay. Stunning photography and an equally impressive landscape demonstrate what can be achieved under less-than-ideal circumstances. Making sure we know what is in our collection is important, particularly for plants grown outdoors, where birds, wind and visitors can result in the loss of labels. Bill & Jeanette Mustacich's practical approach will be of use to many. Duke Benadom's *Superb Succulents* tackles the frequently interchanged genera *Adenia* and *Adenium*, with two beautiful examples. Finally, Tom McCoy and John Lavranos introduce us to a new species, *Aloe barbara-jeppeae* from South Africa, named in commemoration of the author Barbara Jeppe. Despite problems with invasive exotic species becoming widespread, there are still new taxa to be found in Southern Africa. The penultimate issue for 2013 will be an extra large one, covering the 2012 CSSA field trip to Argentina.

New SDCSS Website

Be sure to visit our newly revised website. Paul Maker spent the last couple of months revising and updating our website. With Collette Parr and Paul Maker managing the content I know we will stay more up to date and be able to provide you with more information.

Hopefully in the next month or so we will be able to offer renewing your membership on line. Paul is working fast and furiously on it.

Rarely is it About the Cactus

By Art Cooley

Usually it is all about the birds. Desecheo Island, however, has changed the narrative. None of this makes any sense so far, so let me explain.

After Columbus, the exploration of the earth began in earnest. Ships plying the oceans viewed islands as 'provisioning stations' as well as acquisitions for the ships' home nations. Pigs, goats, and cattle were left on islands to reproduce and provide future visitors with fresh food. Inadvertently, rats were introduced. On some islands, cats and even rhesus macaques, were left on islands. Needless to say they multiplied and diminished the endemic species but still mankind's concerns was mostly about the birds.

In the last few decades, however, as seabird populations especially declined dramatically, folks worried about how to rid the islands of their introduced species. In the last decade or so, rats were eliminated from Rat Island in the Aleutian Chain. Cats were removed from Ascension Island in the South Atlantic. Goats were removed from Guadalupe Island 150 miles west of Baja, CA. The list of islands, where removals have been successful, is significant and endemic species are recovering but mostly it is still about the birds.



Desecheo Island lies in the Mona Passage, the gap between the Dominican Republic on Hispaniola to the west and Puerto Rico to the east. A century ago, it is believed, uninhabited Desecheo had the largest brown booby colony, about 15,000 birds, in the world. In 2009 none nested there. Today brown boobies and other seabirds are returning because goats were successfully removed in 2010, and recent efforts to remove rats and rhesus macaques in 2012-13 are awaiting confirmation of success. And, today it is not just about the birds.



In 2003 only nine higo chumbo plants, *Harrisia portoricensis*, a columnar cactus, were found on Desecheo. In 2010 after the goats and the majority of the rhesus macaques were removed, survey teams with Island Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service counted 33 thriving plants of this species. Higo chumbo lives on two other islands, Mona and Monito, both also predictably in the Mona Passage. Returning a healthy cactus population to Desecheo means an increase for *H. portoricensis* from two to three islands upon which the entire world wide population of this species exists.



The narrative of what species are saved on islands by removing introduced species now includes plants and specifically a cactus. One wonders if on other islands where introduced species have been removed, if even more cactus and succulents have benefited from removal of introduced species. Could it be that if as much attention were given to plants as were to birds we might have a more complete picture of the benefit of removing introduced species from island ecosystems?

Art Cooley

6320 Avenida Cresta, La Jolla, CA 92037 858-454-0550

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

Help Wanted: In order to run an organization the size of SDCSS we need lots of volunteers. It is a great way to get to know other people in the organization and to give back to SDCSS. We have several positions that need you.

We are forming a Committee for the Sale to help spread the work and responsibility. The following openings are available:

Box Czar: to round up boxes and manage their availability during the event

Sale Security Chair: to manage the volunteers providing security to the sale

Signage Chair: to develop and post signs for the sale

Sales Volunteer Chair: to recruit and manage the volunteers working the sale

These people plus Jim DeForest as Cashier Team Chair and Chris Miller as Vendor Liaison and Committee Chair will form the committee.

The SDCSS Board received many suggestions after the last sale. While the sale was a success with outstanding sales, we can always improve the experience for our members and customers. This committee will work to make that happen. Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.

Plant Rescue

I get several e-mails a month from people looking for new homes for plants both in the ground and in pots. Usually the plants are large. If getting information on these kinds of plants interests you let me know and I will pass on the information. Chris.

Zoo Safari Park Greenhouse & Old World Succulent Garden

We have received an estimate and drawings from Conley Greenhouses for the greenhouse we want to build behind the Old World Succulent Garden. The greenhouse would support the Old World Succulent Garden and the Baja Garden. I met with Cary Sharp the 23rd of July and requested a grant to cover the costs that we don't have the money for. Once the Zoo finishes reviewing the drawings and decides on permits, etc. we will start looking for volunteers for framing and pouring the cement foundation and erecting the greenhouse. The current plans include a 30' by 48' floor plan. The area originally promised for the greenhouse is still available.

Susan Lafreniere, with assistance from May Fong, is developing a data base of plants in the Old World Succulent Garden. She is currently working on the Aloes. If you are interested in helping with this project we need people who are knowledgeable about *Aloes*, *Euphorbias* and *Pachypodiums*. If you want to learn about those plants that works too. Part of job involves identifying the plant on site and part involves research. We will use this data base for signage for the garden and to support accreditation of this Garden. Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.



Aloe conifera near Ivato



Lemur



Ring tailed Lemur in Isalo



Adansonia rubrostipa



Aloe intermedia near Ihosy



Aloe capitata var *quartzitcola*

More pictures from Kelly Griffin's trip to Madagascar

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**

(Rev. E-2, 2012-11-13)

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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SD Botanical Garden Foundation: **George Plaisted**

SD Floral Association: **Jeanette Dutton**

SD Zoo Safari Park Baja & Old World Gardens: **Chris Miller**

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