

Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 46 Number 6

July 2011



JULY MEETING AGENDA

Program: Doug Dawson "Northern Cape of South Africa"

Plant Topic of the Month: Tom De Merritt "The Power of Repotting"

> New Book Report: Don Hunt "Cultivation of Boswellia"

> **Monthly Workshop: Pruning**

Results from the Summer Show

Report on Show Auction

Saturday, July 9, 2011, 1pm to 4pm Casa Del Prado, Room 101 Balboa Park

Plant Sales Begin at 10am Workshop Begins at 11:30am

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

25 June 2011

love June. First, I had a birthday 5 days ago. Second, the morning overcast lets me do the heavy stuff in the morning without overheating, and I still get hot summer afternoons out here in Santee. We also have our wonderful Show and Sale the first of the month and I get to be lazy the rest of the month. For my birthday **BJ** bought me exactly what I wanted. A sump pump and a 35 gallon garbage can. I know you say I am a woman of simple needs, but it is the foundation for **Ric Newcomer's** watering system. I have used it twice and am very happy.

The convention week went very well and I would like to thank all of you who participated again. I can't even begin to express my pride in this organization and it's members. As **Kelly Griffin** says, our club rocks!!!



Members who volunteered at the CSSA Convention are being acknowledged.

Riding on the tail of the convention, the show and sale was a solid success. I'd like to thank our cashiers with dealing well with the new layout and surviving freezing all day Saturday and part of Sunday. We will take our lessons learned and improve even more next year. I'd also like to thank our vendors. Without your participation we could not afford to do all the great things this club does.

Pam Badger fed us well, considering they finished her kitchen remodel the Thursday before the Show. It looks wonderful by the way. **Vanessa Nelson** ran the Exhibit area in the courtyard and was Vana White for the Auction.

Peter Walkowiak went through his paces to pull together a great Show. **Ed Case** is again the hero of the hour. He helped **Peter** load the truck at his house, unload it at the park, and load it at the park. He also helped with security on Sunday and anywhere else there was a need.

Tom DeMerritt ran the team setting up the shade cloth over the sale area, programmed the registers, and ran a register. The family **DeMer-**

Cover: Trophy Winners at the 2011 SDCSS Summer Show. From top left, clockwise: Best Epiphytic Cactus, Terry & Collette Parr, Rhipsalis hoelltiana. Best Pachycaul, Peter Walkowiak, Ipomea platense. Best Novice Cactus, Catherine Clark, Thelocactus rinconensis. Best Miniature, Jeff Harris, Echeveria "Doris Taylor" cristata. Best Opuntieae, Don Hunt, Tephrocactus paediophylus.

ritt has a significant time and energy donation to every summer sale. Usually being the first ones there and the last to leave.

Jim Deforest led the cashier team on to victory, which means they finally got to go home. **Susan Hopkins** managed the clerking teams at the Judging. **Melissa Worton** took **Chris**' place on Saturday and ran the security team.

For all the rest of you that volunteered, thank you. This kind of event cannot happen without your support. Please see **Susan Hopkins** if you did not receive your thank you at the Sale.

Jerry Garner and **Don Hunt** put together a very nice Auction Sunday at 2pm. **Woody Minnich** was the Auctioneer. Some of us spent money we hadn't planned on but brought home treasures. The high point of the Auction was the plant donated by **Joe** and **Kay Quijada**, a *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*. We made over \$900 for the Anza-Borrego fund.

Which reminds me, that for the next two months we are going to do a fund raiser for the Anza-Borrego fund. SDCSS will match any donation made by a member through the club to Anza-Borrego. Our goal is to donate a total of \$5000 between member and club matching donations. The money will go towards purchasing additional holdings for the park. This supports the conservation part of our charter.

Paul and Carol Maker will be sending out a survey by separate e-mail in the next day or two. The survey will support a Strategic Planning session that the Board will participate in at the end of July. Our current Goal was to put on a great convention. Been there, bought the shirt. Now we need something new to focus on for the rest of this Boards Term, which is 18 months. We welcome your input. For those of you that don't have e-mail and wish to fill out a survey, call me and I will mail you a copy. Or pick one up at the July meeting. I would like responses back by the July meeting so that we can put the information into a useable form.

The last thing I want to talk about is the trip to Lotusland in September. (visit www.lotusland.org). We are doing this trip together with the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society. Cost will be \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members. This includes bus, lunch and entrance to the estate. Sign up will go until the 13 August meeting. Please see the form in this newsletter.

I hope you are all enjoying my birthday month, I share it with several members including **Elibet Marshall**. I look forward to seeing all of you in July, where we can have a nice relaxed meeting and enjoy each other and the plants.

Chris Miller

Plant Topic of the Month

"The Power of Repotting" Tom De Merritt



I he subject of repotting may seem trivial but it is the essence of keeping your plants healthy beyond their normal trend of degrading from a perfect environment, e.g. green house grown with constant trace fertilization. Many classical collectors repot the loved plants immediately after newly obtaining them. This often insures the placement of the new plants into known soil mixtures, top dressing and pots.

All plants in pots require repotting at some point. Soil in a pot becomes consumed and even toxic over time. How often repotting is beneficial depends on the plant, growing conditions, type of soil and pot. On average every 3 years is a good interval but anywhere between 2-5 years should be considered a minimum.

Cactus and succulents alike benefit greatly from repotting although the frequency required for succulents is typically greater than that for cactus. Over time root growth often extends over the drain hole or holes and this leads to the degradation of the plant health. Plants always need drainage and if the plant's roots block the drain hole, the root structure will begin to rot and die. Drainage is the most important factor in growing plants in pots.

Successful growers of cactus and succulents have regular repotting intervals so emulating the practice reaps good rewards.

Repotting often entails going up in size but not always. If the size is to be increased it is recommended to only by 1 pot size.

Repotting requires removing the plant from its original pot. Removing a root -bound plant from a pot can present many challenges in getting the plant out of its pot. A simple butter knife functions well for this task. Insert the

knife at the edge of the pot and drive down freeing the plant from the interior surface of the pot. When the interior surface is free grasp the plant with gloves or a small rope to pull the plant from its captor. Often turning the plant upside down with another pot holding the plant facilitates this removal from the old pot. At this point the root structure should be broken up, any old degraded or dead roots should be completely removed.



Never be afraid to remove degraded or dead roots as this will allow the plant to re-grow roots and establish new paths to draw in moisture and nutrients.

A full inspection of the root zone should be made at this time. If root mealy bug is seen through the indication of white webbing, consideration of dipping in an insecticide should happen. Also, if any root mealy bug is found, all of the soil in the plant should be discarded. When rotted roots are discovered and removed, if any rot remains the plant should be left out for 2-3 days to allow for the rot areas to dry out. Post repotting, the plants should no be watered for 3-5 days to allow for any broken roots to heal before any moisture is introduced to the pot.

The new soil to be used should be of a homogenous mix from top to the bottom of the pot. A common practice is to place a screen or rock at the bottom of the pot to prevent soil from escaping. Following years of review I have come to the conclusion that this is a mistake. Soil can be compressed and when compressed it can cover rather sizable holes. Screen or rock at the drain holes becomes wet and this initially will encourage root growth over this area. When the root growth inevitably covers the screen or rock covering the drain hole the ever-important function of drainage is inhibited. In turn this begins the painful cycle of plant health decline. Leave the soil homogenous from the top to the bottom and insure the drain holes have nothing other than soil covering them. Because the bottom of the pot is the wettest due to gravity, drainage is very important. If the pot doesn't have sufficient holes to allow for easy drainage additional holes should be made with a drill to improve this condition.

Post potting, a very important step is to provide a top dressing to the surface of the soil of about 3/8's inch thickness. The benefits of the top dressing can't be understated. Top dressing provides a protective insulation factor to the delicate surface roots of the plant. Additionally another enormous benefit of top dressing is to allow the surface soil to stay porous. Without top dressing the soil surface becomes hard and dense not allowing water to flow through. Top dressing with pebbles or grit preserves the porosity of the soil surface.

When the newly repotted plant is first watered, it should be a thorough watering insuring at that time that the drainage is complete. The plant should not be watered again until mostly dry.

Post repotting can provide big benefits for the forthcoming growing season and it is worth the reward of the maintenance. So do not procrastinate in this necessary action.

At the next meeting any member can bring in a single plant needing repotting and the club will be providing the assistance, soil and top dressing for an interactive demonstration and discussion around repotting.

2011 summer show Trophy winners

	•	_	
Best Cactus	Juergen Menzel	Echinocactus laui	
Best Novice Cactus	Catherine Clark Terry & Collette	Thelocactus rinconensis	
Best Epiphytic Cactus	Parr	Rhipsalis hoelltiana	
Best Mammillaria	Peter Walkowiak	Mammillaria perbella Tephrocactus paediophy- lus	
Best Opuntieae	Don Hunt		
Best Succulent	Peter Walkowiak	Adenia glauca Euphorbia flanaganii Medusae	
Best Novice Succulent	Mary Sasso		
Best Agave	Jerry Williams	Agave victoria reginae variegated	
Best Aloe	Peter Walkowiak	Aloe "Red Ridge, K.G."	
Best Echeveria	Don Patterson	Echeveria "Ebony"	
Best Euphorbia	Peter Walkowiak	Euphorbia pseudoglobosa	
Best Mesembryanthemum Best Pachycaul or Caudici-	Peter Walkowiak	Titanopsis primosii	
form Best Pelargonium or Sarco- caulon	Peter Walkowiak	lpomea platense	
	Peter Walkowiak	Pelargonium cotyledonis	
Best Sansevieria	Jean O'Daniel Michael & Joyce Buckner Michael & Joyce Buckner	Sansevieria pinguicula	
Best Baja Plant		Bursera microphylla	
Best Mexican Plant		Bombax elipticum	
Best San Diego Succulent	Peter Walkowiak	Euphorbia misexia	
Best Graft	Juergen Menzel	Blossfeldia subterranea Echeveria "Doris Taylor"	
Best Miniature	Jeff Harris	cristata	
Best Seed Grown Plant	Juergen Menzel Michael & Joyce Buckner	Yavia cryptocarpa Strerculia rupestris	
Best Succulent Bonsai			
High Point (< 50 entries)	Candy & Jerry Garner		
Sweepstakes Trophy	Peter Walkowiak		

JUDGES' CHOICE RIBBON WINNERS



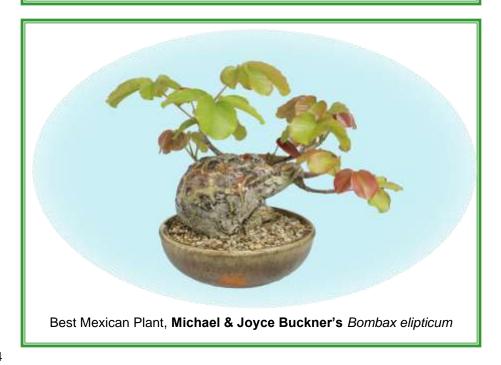
Alex Cardenas Arnold Chaney Catherine Clark Don Hunt Don Hunt John Mellein Mark Muradian **Mark Muradian Bobby Noel Bobby Noel Peter Walkowiak Peter Walkowiak Peter Walkowiak**

John Williams

Ariocarpus "Godzilla" Echinocactus grusonii **Candy and Jerry Garner** Ceraria namaquensis Euphorbia schizacantha Mammillaria magnifica Euphorbia flanaganii crest X Ferobergia Mammillaria sp. Aeonium "Sunburst" Haworthia reinwardtii Collette and Tarry Parr Rhipsalis hoelltiana Euphorbia meloformis Dudleya edulis Mammillaria mazatlanensis

Eulophia petersii

Portulacaria



May BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by Kelly Griffith

CACTUS

Novice

1st Place, Susan Lewitt - Mammillaria elongata crested

Intermediate

1st Place, Candy & Jerry Garner - Tephrocactus geometricus

3rd Place, Don Hunt - Parodia gigantea

Advanced

1st Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - No plant tag 2nd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - No plant tag

3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - No plant tag



Novice

1st Place, Ken Blackford - Umbilicus

Intermediate

1st Place, **Elibet Marshall** - *Dudleya* sp.

2nd Place, Elibet Marshall - Gasteria sp.

2nd Place, No name on plant tag- Aloe imalotensis

3rd Place, Candy & Jerry Garner - Euphorbia stellata

Advanced

1st Place, Peter Walkowiak - Pachypodium horombense

2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak - Pachypodium succulentum

3rd Place, Phyllis Flechsig - Ceropegia fusca

3rd Place, Phyllis Flechsig - Senecio fulgens



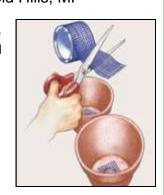
Submitted by Candy Garner

Container drainage-hol e covering Michael Stolnicki, Bloomfield Hills, MI

I use self-adhesive fiberglass drywall joint tape to cover the drainage holes in the bottoms of all my clay and plastic pots. This mesh tape is available in rolls at building-supply stores. A small square cut from the roll is the perfect size to cover the holes of most pots. It sticks to the inside of the pot well and prevents soil from

From *Fine Gardening* 88, pp. 14 Photo/Illustration: **Michael Gellatly**

being washed away.



SDCSS HELP Wanted ADS

Contact **Chris Miller** at <u>c.miller@cox.net</u> if you would like to volunteer or for more information on what the job entails. There isn't a better way to get to know other club members than volunteering!

Show Co-Chairs for the Winter and Summer Shows to assist Peter Walkowiak		
Winter and Summer Shows		
to assist Peter Walkowiak		
with planning, setup, etc		

Ride Coordinator: Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.

Trophy Sponsorship: We are in the process of updating trophies and are looking for donations to support the process.

Education Chair for Summer Show: Put together a program for education during the summer show

Membership Committee members to support the membership chair in providing membership services. Trip Coordinator to coordinate trips, arrange bus contracts, destination requirements, etc.

Trophy Table
At
The 2011 Summer
Show





the Conservation Auction

Jerry Garner

On Sunday afternoon during our annual show and sale, we held the first, and hopefully not last, conservation

auction. Net proceeds of \$916.00 were raised to benefit the Anza Borrego Foundation for land acquisitions. **Don Hunt** and I would like to thank all of those who participated in the auction, either though your donations or your bidding at the auction. You are the ones that truly made the auction a success.

For those of you who missed the auction, you missed out on a great opportunity to acquire a great plant for your collections at very reasonable prices. Among the many fine plants up for auction I would like to point out a few to give a sense of the



Foreground table holds plants for the auction

quality and diversity of the donations. **Joe** and **Kay Quijada's** *Deutero-cohnia brevifolia* (that huge mound at the rear of the table) was spectacular. **Phylis Flechsig's** *Copiapoa cinerea*, a very old plant, beautifully grown. **Don Hunt's** *Fockea crispa* in a special Don Hunt pot. **Mark Fryer's** beautiful *Adenium obesum* 'Shada'. And last, for the sake of brevity, **Matt Maggio's** *Fouquieria shrevei*, very rarely seen in cultivation. These plants, and many more like them will be showing up on the show benches in the near future for their new owners.

I can't over emphasize the unique opportunity that auctions such as this give to the plant collector. These were the plants that you want your three inch potted plants to grow up into. These were plants that you see in the plant books, not on the sales benches. Many of the plants were rare to the plant trade and seldom seen in any size. A telling sign was how many of the plants were won by people who had also donated plants to the auction. As I said before, the auction was a success for desert conservation. It was also a success for those who raised the quality of their collections. If we continue to hold auctions in the future, I encourage everyone to stop by, see some wonderful plants, and possibly add a new plant to your show collection.

In closing I would like to especially like to thank **Woody Minnich** for his help as auctioneer. He kept the proceedings light with funny asides and knowledgeable banter, keeping the mood festive and the bidding flowing. Again, thanks to all who participated.

Monthly workshop **Pruning**

I his month's mini-workshop will demonstrate the art of pruning as it applies to bonsai plants and to the maintenance and repair of both cacti and succulents. It will be held prior to the regular meeting either in the patio outside Room 104 or indoors if the patio is unavailable. It will begin at 11:30 am.

Shots from the Show and Sale



Sales area activity



Opuntia littoralis, Jean O'Daniel



Rebutia sanguinea, Peter Walkowiak



Notocactus Ieninghausii, Dan Patterson

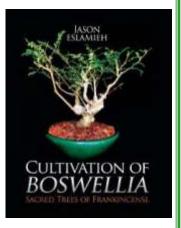
New Library books

Reported by Don Hunt

"Cultivation Of Boswellia" by Jason Eslamieh



We acquired a few new books this month, which I'll try to detail as time goes by. First up, Cultivation Of Boswellia by Jason Eslamieh. As you probably already know, Boswellia is the old world equivalent of the familiar Bursera family of Mexico and Southwestern US. There are 19 described species of Boswellia divided between dry tropics and humid tropical regions. Dry tropical species from Yemen, Socotra and Somalia are of particular interest to us because the culture is very similar to the plants we are already growing. The soil media the author describes is right at home with us.



Boswellia is the source of the frankincense of antiquity and was considered more valuable than gold. It was the primary trade commodity for the Arabian Peninsula further back than 1000 BC. Boswellia is generally endangered in its native habitat, largely due to grazing livestock. Propagation of these plants should be a priority in cultivation. Boswellia trees now are becoming available but are still more difficult to come by and much more expensive than Bursera or Pachycormis. For the collector looking for something special though, this might be it.

I can highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to add these legendary plants to their own collection. It has a great deal of information on culture. It appears the author has been successfully propagating these plants for a good number of years. He has some observations that will be of general interest as well, especially regarding the effects of low barometric pressure. He does a very good job at completely dealing with his subject, both in terms of the culture and natural habitat. I think for that reason you should probably just buy this book yourself and not check it out of the library at all. Come by the library table and take a quick look, I think you'll agree.

Snacks for the Break:

If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a snack to share at the break.

Trip to Lotusl and

September 10th (in lieu of regular meeting)

Bus will leave from Balboa Park around 8 am making a pickup stop at the Escondido Seniors Center at 8:45 am, returning around 8 pm.

Cost will be \$60 for members of both San Diego and Palomar Cactus and Succulent Societies \$70 for non-members.

Name	E-mail	Phone	Paid

Cost of trip include bus, lunch and entrance fee to estate. Any questions contact Chris Miller at 619-258-9810



El ectronic Espinas Y Fl ores

I he newsletter is available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, www.sdcss.net. Take a look! All members are urged to accept the e-mailed version of the newsletter in lieu of a bulk-mailed hard-copy. Each month, you will be notified by e-mail of the availability of your next issue, the speakers and events at the next meeting, and other significant announcements. The electronic version contains extra color images not found in the hardcopy, and a high resolution version, from which fully detailed images can be downloaded, is also available. Further, errors found in the hardcopy are corrected in the electronic version. To cancel your hard copy of the <code>EyF</code>, contact the membership chairperson <code>Collette Parr</code> at collette.parr@cox.net.

Extra pictures









Top: Advanced Cactus Brag Table, May Mid Left: Gymno. multiflorum, Arnold Chaney Mid Right: Plants for Sale! Left: Volunteers Jim Deforest & Cathy Clark Below: Senecio fulgens, Phyllis Flechsig



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1-3: CSSA Annual Show and Sale at The Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Info: 626-405-2160 Or 2277. Plant Sales July 1-3, Show July 2-3. Free to the public.

July 29-31: Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale. Sale: July 29 –31,10am to 4pm, Show: July 30-31, 10am to 4pm at The Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, CA. Info: 714-267-4329.

Aug 13-14: 26th Annual Intercity Show and Sale at LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Info: 626-798-2430 or 661-297-5364.

Sep. 3: Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium All Day At The Huntington.

Sep. 10: SDCSS Trip to Lotus Land! See Details on Earlier Pages!

Sep. 25: Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction at 18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA. 12pm.

Nov. 5-6: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

Dec. 2-4: Orange County Cactus and Succulent Winter Show and Sale. Sale: Dec.2-4 10am to 4pm, Show: Dec 3-4 10am to 4pm at The Fullerton Arboretum. 1900 Associated Rd. Fullerton. CA. Info: 714-267-4329.

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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 Editors. Please e-mail your articles to **Paul & Carol Maker** at pdf pdf pdf <a href="mailto

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 First class delivery USPS (Paper Newsletter) \$5.00 Annual Dues – International (Paper) \$30.00 Additional Household Member(s) \$5.00
Amount Enclosed \$
Check ONE for type of membership: NEWRENEWAL
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 Department c/o Collette Parr 7924 Grape Street La Mesa Ca 91941-6323

(Rev. D-1, 2011-04-12)

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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President: Chris Miller

Vice President: Peter Walkowiak Secretary: Candy Garner Treasurer: Ken Blackford Directors
Cathy Clark
Steve Harris
Don Hunt
Jerry Garner
Kelly Griffin
Vanessa Nelson

Mark Fryer (ex-President)

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Education, Conservation & Exhibits
Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern

Brag Table: Candy Garner
Plants of the Month: Don Hunt
Summer Show: Peter Walkowiak
Winter Show: Peter Walkowiak

Historian: Terry Parr

Library: Don Hunt, Chris Miller, Jeanette Dutton, Steve & Kathy Harris

Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: Collette Parr, collette.parr@cox.net

Mailing: Jean & Bill O'Daniel

Annual Sales: Chris Miller & Joe Kraatz

Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt

Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott
Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted
Benefit Drawing Table: Collette & Terry Parr
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz

Programs: Kelly Griffin

Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak Monthly Regalement: Cathy Clark & Susie White Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

Hospitality: Sara Schell

Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins

CSSA Affiliate Rep: **Peter Walkowiak** SD Botanic Garden: **Phyllis Flechsig**

SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted

SD Floral Association: Jeanette Dutton

3D FIOIAI ASSOCIATION. Jeanette Dutton

SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller

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