

Espinias y Flores

Next General meeting: Saturday, January 12th , 1:00-4:00 pm
Pre-meeting Workshop: Getting Ready for the Show-Jerry Garner
11 am

New member Orientation: - Pat Bryan and Jay Crowley, 12:30 pm

Program: *Fads and Foibles*- Steven Hammer



Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
An Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America



Executive Board

Co-Presidents: Jim and Mary Reiser Secretary: Lyn Mardesich
Vice President: Open Treasurer : Sue Thomas, temporary

Directors

Chris Miller, Denise Griffin, Leslie Sheridan, Tina Zucker, Al Cline,
Don Hunt

Committees & Sub Committees

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Conservation: | Herb Stern |
| Brag table: | Tina Zucker & Denise Griffin |
| Plants of the Month: | Pam Badger |
| Summer/Winter Show: | Kelly Griffin, Bill O'Daniel |
| Historian: | Open |
| 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: | Open |
| Monthly Plant Sales: | Jim Deforest & Melanie Howe |
| Monthly Supply Sales: | George & Jerry Plaisted |
| Benefit Drawing Table: | Tina Zucker |
| Programs: | Kelly Griffin |
| Reception: | Susan Hopkins, Candy Garner |
| 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 |
| Palomar CS Society Liaison: | Brita Miller |

Membership & Publicity

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Membership: | Paul & Carol Maker |
| Newsletter Editor: | Whitney Meier |
| Webmaster: | Kirsten Higgins |
| Publicity: | Christie Lathrop |

Contact SDCSS: membership@sdcss.net *

* To contact newsletter editor, please type "newsletter" in subject line



A new article from the San Diego Zoo, entitled

"Succulents from Africa to Asia," is available online at:

<http://zoonooz.sandiegozoo.org/zoonooz/old-world-treasures/>

Written by Wendy Perkins, with photography by Tammy Spratt.

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Cover photos provided by Kelly Griffin

Pictured: *Titaniopsis* cultivar and two cultivars of *Haworthia*

Pre-Meeting Workshop**Prepping For the Show- 11 AM with Jerry Garner**

Join Jerry Garner at 11:00 a.m. for the Pre-meeting workshop held in the lunch room in Room 101. The June Show and Sale is the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society's most important botanical and social event. It is our opportunity to join with kindred spirits in a weekend of work, camaraderie and presentation to share our fascination of succulent plants with others.



In this month's workshop, we will focus on preparing your plants for the show tables in the June show. I will cover the basics of entering a plant in the show and have a short discussion about filling out the plant entry tickets, as well as where and how to find the plant category information. I will then address pot cleanliness, plant cleanliness (insect control) and plant grooming. We will finish with some basic staging tips for using top-dressing, rocks and plant-to-pot placement to enhance the presentation of the plant.

If you have a plant that you are unsure about showing, bring it to the workshop and we will work on the plant's best presentation. I will bring an assortment of simple tools that can easily be assembled into a plant grooming kit.

I hope this workshop will take some of the worries and mystery out of showing your plants, and encourage you to show them. *We always urge our members to be part of OUR show.*

President's Message



Happy New Year! This is time of year we can reflect on last year and look forward to our new year. We are thankful to all of our members, speakers, and all supporters of our club that lead to a very successful year. Now is a great time to get your garden in order, repot plants and set a plan on goals for the year.

That goal maybe to get that special plant into the show or get seeds ordered. One item all of us should have is to welcome all new members and strengthen old friendships at the club. We moved here from the East Coast 10 years ago and did not have a lot of cactus knowledge. This club changed that in a very positive way. Remember that all of our members are here to learn and to make friends. Say hi and help your neighbor at our next function!

- Mary and Jim Reiser

SAFARI PARK

VOLUNTEER UPDATE



About twelve volunteers regularly work at the Baja Garden and the Old World Garden (OWG). Most of the volunteers work 2-4 times a month (on Tuesday or Friday mornings) at the OWG, while one volunteer works at the Baja Garden. Two volunteers spend Friday mornings in the greenhouse, taking care of donated plants or propagating new ones. In addition, the whole group works as needed on miscellaneous projects for the greenhouse and the shade structure

adjacent to the greenhouse.

Both gardens look marvelous following the rains and we are taking full advantage of the moist ground to plant! The famous cluster of *Aloe dichotoma* is in full bloom, and many other aloes are putting up stalks.

If you have plants or materials to donate, or if you would like to volunteer at the gardens, please contact May Fong Ho at 760-233-3948 or mayfongho@yahoo.com.



Upper left: Volunteer Don Isreal building a table for the shade house.

Lower left and Right: Mary Reiser and Norb Roden, Sherman Blench in the Old World Garden.



Plant of the Month—*Turbinicarpus*



Turbinicarpus is a genus of small Mexican cacti that are fairly un-demanding and easy to grow. They stay small and are ideal for growing in pots. Most of them do have a large taproot, so choosing the right pot is important. Whether you like more spines, less spines, short, long, straight or curly spines *Turbinicarpus* has them all. Despite the small size of the plants, they get large, showy flowers. We'll talk about some of the different plants in the genus, along with pictures of the plants, taproots and flowers. It's definitely worth cultivating an appreciation of these small cactus jewels!

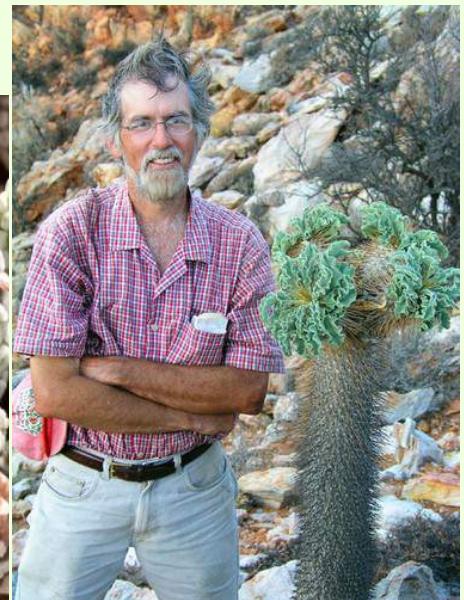
Wendy Goldman

Speaker of the Month- Steven Hammer: Fads and Foibles

Our Speaker this month will be Steven Hammer, world-renowned plant expert and author of many excellent books related to the mimicry succulents of South Africa.

He operates the Spheroid Institute, which grows and sells rare and interesting African succulent plants. This will certainly be an informative and entertaining affair! Please join us for this very special, event.

Photos provided by Kelly Griffin





THE HUNTINGTON

Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

It's time once again for the **Desert Forum** at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA. Since the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is an affiliate member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. So, as a SDCSS member you can receive free admission to the event with your CSSA or SDCSS club badge or membership card! This is a great opportunity to see the wonderful landscape and plants at the Huntington! Transporta-

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 – 9:45 Registration: Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission. In order to receive free admission, you must arrive by 9:45. Late arrivers will need to pay for Huntington admission.

9:00 – 10:00 Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the lower section of the Desert Garden

9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden:** Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory

11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales – (exclusively for CSSA and club members)**

Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - ***please, no early bird shopping, and no shopping after 1:00. Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted***

1:00 – 5:00 **Free Time** Participants are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries from 10:00 to 5:00.

Lunch: *Café 1919* in the visitor center features a variety of sandwiches, salads, and grilled items. **The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan** is a nice option for Asian food **Red Car (coffee shop)**, located near the Store, offers a small selection of pre-made options

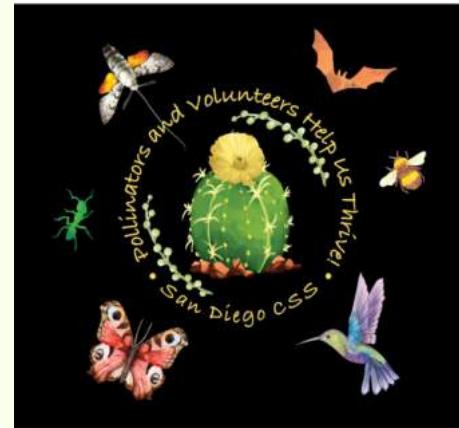
How are Pollinators and Volunteers Alike?

Pollination is defined as the transfer of pollen from the male part of a plant (stamen) to the female part of the plant (stigma). This is how a plant produces fruit and then seeds, thus ensuring a new generation of cactus or other plants. Let's explore how cactus pollination occurs through three flying creatures.

The first example is our insect friend, the bee. When I walk around our garden year 'round I cannot go far without bumping into our flying friends. Pollen is collected in small sacs on their legs as the bees consume nectar. When they go from plant-to-plant bees pollinate the plants. Nectar is the base sugar bees covert to honey, while pollen contains protein and other essential nutrients. Hence, bees and plants need each other to survive. Another extended mutual benefit is that we get to enjoy honey from this achievement!

Next, consider the small birds that have a very high metabolic rate, hovering over flowers, creating their own music- hummingbirds! Wow are they fun to watch as they zoom around only to stop and hover to gather nectar! In our garden they love *Gasterias*, *Haworthias*, and other blooming succulents. Unlike insects, hummingbirds promote more diverse populations because they cover large distances and pollinate many related species. As with bees, bird and plant need each other to survive.

Last to review is the bat. Bats and moths are some of the few pollinators that work at night. Saguars, organ pipe, *Pilocereus*, and *Stenocereus* are examples of night-blooming cactus that need bats to help them move forward in the cycle of life. This is a mutual relationship, as bats gain nourishment from the nectar. Did you know that you could not enjoy tequila without bats? The Blue Agave (*Agave tequilana*), from which tequila is made, only opens at night and has a very high, almost unreachable, flower stalk that can only be pollinated by nocturnal flyers.



Limited availability shirts will be presented to volunteers with threshold hours of service in 2019 (Logo shown above). Pollinators are the theme of our 2019 volunteer T shirt. Volunteers, like pollinators, help us thrive, yet benefit from their service. Our club is like a beehive, bat colony or hummingbird that needs help. Volunteers can receive social benefits, friendships, deeper educational insights and get the satisfaction of building a strong organization.

What can you do?- Jim and Mary Reiser

HOLIDAY PARTY HONOREES



Life Members (Pictured at left)

Bill and Jean O'Daniel have been an integral part of SDCSS for over twenty years. In the past they held board positions, as well as show chair. Currently they mail our newsletter. They get to meetings and events early to help set up. They bring in cash registers, support Paul with the paper products he provides and purchase engravings for trophies and ribbons. They have performed many behind-the-scenes jobs that just needed doing. Jean's *Sansevierias* currently hold the *Sansevieria* trophy. The O'Daniels' thoughts and ideas have helped make us what we are today- a thriving, growing organization.

2018 Volunteer of the Year

Kaija Marcon is a long-time member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. Though quiet and not one to be seen up front talking at the meetings, her gracious presence behind-the-scenes has been there for years, supporting our welcoming atmosphere. Her homemade cinnamon rolls are always a great hit with hungry volunteers at the shows. Her many hours over the years helping in the kitchen have made the wonderful spread of food we all appreciate possible. Thank you Kaija for making this Society the special place it is for so many.

Life Members

Paul and Carol Maker have played a significant role in this organization over the last decade. Carol's plants have set the bar in competition. She has helped Paul through his many jobs. Paul has been the web site developer/master, the membership chair, the newsletter editor, the cash register manager, show results manager, photographer, and developer/printer of many of our paper products. He developed software programs for many of these positions and streamlined (as well as automated) many of our processes. He has helped SDCSS step into the technical age.

Ruth Hendrix was also thanked for her continuing efforts to provide the meals for the Holiday feast, as well as her community work. Thanks for all you do!



Left to Right: Ruth Hendrix, Paul Maker (Carol not pictured) and Kaija Marcon.

HOLIDAY BASH 2018



- This was not the party to miss. The food, drink, (thanks **Herb Stern**) events, and most importantly the 130+ club members and friends in attendance created a festive holiday mood. The table decorations were a huge hit! They sold like hot cakes at the silent auction. Special thanks to the team of volunteers who worked many weeks creating these beautiful keepsakes: **Jennifer Harris, Christine Vargas, Chuck Ramsey, Bev Grant, and Donna Roden.**
- Putting on a party of this size is a not as easy task. Planning starts several weeks out with **Chris Miller** contracting the caterer. Then comes gift plants acquisition, set-up, including cash registers, kitchen, coffee, desserts, auctions, and lastly clean up and close up. None of this could be accomplished without our dedicated friends and volunteers including **Jim Deforest, Melanie Howe, Bill & Jean O'Daniel, Pam Badger, John Williams, Chris Miller and Cathy Clark.**
- In the spirit of giving this holiday we recognize those people for providing gift plants: **Ed DeLollis, and the Britsch family, Steven Hammer, and Petra** for the unique plants. Thank you **Peter Walkowiak, Tina Zucker, and Kelly Griffin** for resourcing the plants and bringing them to all of us. Our potters were busy working their magic for the pots that many of us have added to our collections: **Don Hunt, Jerry Garner, Joe Wujcik, and Christine Vargas.** The Silent auction was a hit with the one of a kind birdhouses donated by **Gary Vincent.** Thank you **Chris Vargas** for organizing the auction, and **Peter Walkowiak** for auctioneering. In summary, through all of your generosity the club raised over \$2700 for our scholarship fund.
- Please forgive us if we did not mention each and every person who helped out. This club is full of so many wonderful volunteers and we appreciate everyone of you.
- See you at the next party!!!!- Paul and Mary Reiser

Top left, clockwise: Members checking out the plant exchange table. Kelly Griffin describing an Agave up for grabs at our live auction. Our silent auction table filled with handmade paper mache centerpieces.

Lower right: One of the many beautiful paper mache centerpieces put together by volunteers! **Lower left:** Jim Deforest and Melanie Howe enjoying the festivities.



Coffee in the Garden/Garden Party at Rick and Kevin's place

4728 Allied Rd, San Diego 92120

Sunday 1-20-2019 from 10am to 2pm

619-229-1125

We are hosting our annual succulent and cacti garden party on Sunday, January 20, 2019. Aloes should be in full bloom, mesembs should be continuing the show they began in December, and a number of Crassulas and Echeverias should also be in bloom. Plants in our raised beds continue to mature and we have added a number of *Haworthias* and caudiciform plants. We recently added a *Sansevieria* raised bed.

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Although our property is a modest size, we have attempted to use the space as fully as possible. Most plants are labeled in case you want to know what plant to look for at various club sales, vendors, or online to add to your garden. We hope our party is an opportunity for homeowners considering a waterwise landscape, to envision how to add succulents to their property.

We will have goodies to eat, beverages, and a few plants, pots, rocks, and garden related items for sale (cash only, please). Whether you have attended before or this might be your first visit, we hope you will drop by to see and chat about succulents and cacti, and make some new friends!



**San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
2019 Winter Show & Sale**



**Saturday, February 9th,
Rm 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Shop for exotic cactus and succulent
plants and handmade pottery**

**Spectacular specimen plants
on display at the show**

**Club members are admitted to the sale
at 9:00 am, for "Members Only Hour"**

**Open to the Public
www.sdcss.net**

Photo: *Agave potatorum* (Oaxaca, Mexico) by Kelly Griffin