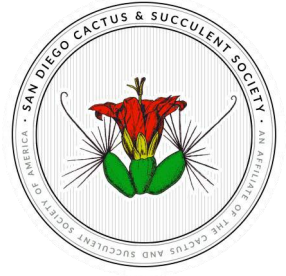


ESPINAS Y FLORES



VOL. 60, No. 12
DECEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA



HOLIDAY PARTY // UPCOMING WINTER SHOW & SALE //
MEMBER SECTION // NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Dorstenia gigas, still in flower

Photo by Der-shing Helmer

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UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

UPCOMING HOLIDAY PARTY EVENT!

December 13th

FIRST MEETING OF 2026 (3RD WEEK!)

January 17th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Summer/Winter Show	[open]
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Webmaster Jared Petker

General Club Publicity Christie Lathrop

Show & Sale Publicity Patricia Bryan & Emily Shuffield

CONTACT SDCSS

membership@sdcss.net

CONTACT EyF EDITOR

eyf.editor@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful gathering we had in November! The room was full, the conversations warm, and there was so much delightful knowledge to take home. A heartfelt thanks to **Josh Allen** for sharing his expert tips on growing and hybridizing Aloes and other succulents — and for whisking us away on a vivid armchair tour of Baja!

Warm thanks as well to **Emily Shuffield** for her beautifully crafted Plant of the Month program on Avonia. Her presentation was thoughtful, polished, and perfectly timed —we appreciated every moment.

Our upcoming meeting will be our cherished [holiday gathering](#) — a warm, friendly feast to close out the year together. If this is your first time joining us for this celebration, take a peek at the outline in this newsletter so you know what to expect. Come for the laughs, the company, and perhaps a new plant or pot to add a little sparkle to your collection. Feel free to bring a nice one to trade, too — it's all part of the season's joy.

If you're able, please bring a small treat to share. Everything else will be provided, and the table is sure to feel extra special with your contribution.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for our first gathering of the new year — the January 2026 meeting will be held on the third **Saturday, January 17th**. A fresh year, a fresh start, and more time together to look forward to.

As for the parking situation, there's no new "Debbie Downer" news to share —The silver lining is that any changes won't begin until after the new year, giving us a little breathing room.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone that contributes to making this club what it is. From the setups to breakdowns to just the shared hellos and smiles, you make it all truly worthwhile!

I'm truly looking forward to gathering with you all on December 13th. Let's share stories, laughter, and a comforting lunch as we wrap up the year together. Until then, may your days feel a little brighter and your plants a little greener especially the winter growers!

All the best,

Kelly Griffin

November 28, 2025



UPCOMING EVENT: HOLIDAY PARTY!

GET READY FOR OUR ANNUAL DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY—THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR!

10:30-11:30: Check-in socializing, talking plants, checking out the gift plants, gift exchange plants, and auction items.

11:30: Awards ceremony.

12:00: Catered lunch served (vegetarian options available), pot-luck desserts, and gift exchange.

1:00: Numbers will be called for gift plants.

2:00: Silent auction.

MORE DETAILS

Pot-luck desserts: You are invited to bring your favorite dessert to share! Please bring a serving utensil if needed, with your name on it.

Gift Plants: SDCSS provides a free plant to all members. You will be given a ticket when you check in—save it for the drawing!

Gift Exchange (optional): You are invited to bring a plant to participate in the exchange, just put your name on the plant. **How it works:** a panel of judges will select the “Best Plant”, and the owner of that plant then gets first pick of all remaining plants. The owner of the plant they select then picks, and this continues until all plants are gone. Bring only one plant per person! As you might realize, the better the plant you bring, the sooner you get to pick! The “Best Plant” will be included in the Live Auction.

Silent auction: There will be a variety of items donated, along with some amazing centerpieces, which will be auctioned off during the party. Items will have cards to enter your bids. The highest bid at the close of the auction buys the item. If you want to donate an interesting cactus-related item you think someone would like, please bring it along.

Live auction: We will have a wonderful selection of bare-root cactus and other donated plants and items for a Live Auction, just get a numbered plate to participate. This is always lots of fun and the proceeds will be contributed towards the conservation of endangered cacti and succulents.

Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members, and are available for purchase at the November meeting or [at this link on our website](#).



2026
Boophane disticha

2026 CLUB PINS!

Want to show off your love for the SDCSS? Now you can! Through our collectible club enamel pins, with a brand-new design offered every year!

Our newest pin to celebrate 2026 will be gifted, first-come-first-served, to holiday party goers... another great reason to pick up your ticket now for the December festivities!

UPCOMING EVENT: WINTER SHOW AND SALE

THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PRESENTS
2026 WINTER SHOW & SALE
Saturday February 14th, 2026
 at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park

See incredible out-of-this-world succulent and cacti from around the globe and enjoy rare plants and pottery from dozens of plant vendors and local artisans. Best of all, **FREE ADMISSION** and early-bird access for members!

TIMES & DATES

FRIDAY	noon — 8pm	vendor setup times in Room 101
	4pm — 6pm	Friday show setup
SATURDAY	8am — 10am	Saturday Show setup
	9am — 4pm	Sale Room 101 open to the public
	10am — 4pm	Show open to the public

The show is open to anyone who grows succulent plants, and there is no limit to the number of entries per class or number of classes entered!

Detailed show and membership info available at upcoming meetings, in our newsletters, and at our website www.SDCSS.net



LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

What could be more fun than sharing the joy of succulents with the public? Be a part of the Winter show and sign up for your favorite role from our [online volunteer sheet](#) or at the January meeting.

UPCOMING EVENT: WINTER SHOW AND SALE CATEGORIES

DIVISION I: CACTI (CACTACEAE)	
Name	Class
Ariocarpus	1
Astrophytum	2
Aztekium, Epithelantha, Obregonia, Ortegocactus, Pelecyphora, Strombocactus	3
Coryphantha, Escobaria, Neolloydia	4
Turbincarpus (Gymnocactus), Stenocactus (Echinofossulocactus)	5
Echinocereus	6
Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Hamatocactus, Leuchtenbergia, xFerobergia	7
Mammillaria with hooked spines	8
Mammillaria with straight spines	9
Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Thelocactus	10
Melocactus	11
Blossfeldia, Coleocephalocereus (Buiningia), Discocactus, Frailea, Uebelmannia	12
Copiapoa	13
Gymnocylindrium	14
Acanthocalycium, Echinopsis, Lobivia	15
Eriosyce (Horridocactus, Neochilenia, Neoporteria, Pyrrhocactus)	16
Parodia (Notocactus)	17
Rebutia (Salicicactia, Weingartia)	18
Matucana (Submatucana), Oroya	19
Opuntioideae: Austrocylindropuntia, Consolia, Cylindropuntia, Grusonia, Miqueliopuntia, Opuntia, Pereskia, Pterocactus, Tephrocactus, Tunilla, etc.	20
Columnar Cacti: Arrojadoa, Bergerocactus, Browningia, Carnegiea, Cephalocereus, Cereus, Cipocereus, Cleistocactus, Espostoa, Micranthocereus, Myrtillocactus, Neobuxbaumia, Oreocereus, Pilosocereus, Pachycereus, Peniocereus, Stenocereus, Stetsonia, Trichocereus, etc.	21
Epiphytic Cacti: Disocactus, Epiphyllum, Hatiora, Hylocereus, Lepismium, Rhipsalis, Schlumbergera (Zygocactus), Selenicereus, etc.	22
Other Genera - Any Other Cactus	23
Cactus, Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	24
Crested & Monstrose Cacti	25
Variegated Cacti (with 50% or More Variegation)	26

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS	
Name	Class
AIZOACEAE (MESEMBRYANTHEACEAE)	
Lithops	27
Conophytum, Lapidaria, Dinteranthus	28
Other Mesembs without prominent roots or trunks: Faularia, Pileosiplos, Titanopsis, etc.	29
Other Mesembs with prominent roots or trunks: Aloinopsis, Mestoklema, Trichodiadema, etc.	30
AGAVACEAE	
Agave, Yucca	31
Calibanus, Beaucarnea, Nolina	32
APOCYNACEAE	
Adenia, Pachypodium	33
Adenium	34
Stapeliads with succulent stems: Hoodia, Orbea, Pseudolithos, Stapelia, etc.	35
Caudiciform Stapeliads: Fockea, Gonolobus, Petropentia, Raphionacme, etc.	36
Ceropegia, Hoya, Dischidia	37

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS	
Name	Class
ASPHODELACEAE	
Aloe - species	38
Aloe - hybrids	39
Gasteria	40
Haworthia (Haworthiopsis, Tulista), Astroloba	41
ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE): Leptosyne (Coreopsis), Othonna, Senecio (Kleinia), etc.	42
BROMELIACEAE: Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Hechtia, Tillandsia, etc.	43
CRASSULACEAE	
Adromischus	44
Aeonium, Greenovia	45
Cotyledon, Tylecodon	46
Crassula	47
Dudleya	48
Echeveria	49
Graptopetalum (Tacitus), Pachyphytum, hybrids (xPachyveria, xGraptoveria)	50
Kalanchoe	51
Sedum, Sedum hybrids (xSedeveria)	52
Sempervivum (Jovibarba)	53
CUCURBITACEAE: Cephalopentandra, Corallocarpus, Dendrosicyos, Gerrardanthus, Ibervillea, Kedrostis, Momordica, Xerosicyos, Zygosicyos, etc.	54
DIOSCOREACEAE: Dioscorea	55
Sansevieria (DRACAENACEAE)	56
EUPHORBACEAE	
Euphorbia medusa types	57
Euphorbias with leaves and spines	58
Euphorbias with leaves and no spines	59
Euphorbias with spines and no leaves	60
Euphorbias with neither leaves nor spines	61
Endadenium, Monadenium, Jatropha, Pedilanthus, Synadenium	62
GERANIACEAE: Monsonia, Sarcocaulon, Pelargonium, etc.	63
PORTULACACEAE (MONTIACEAE, DIDIERACEAE, ANACAMPSEROTACEAE, TALINACEAE): Anacampseros, Alouada, Avonia, Ceraria, Didiera, etc.	64
Succulent Bulbs: Albuca, Boophane, Bowiea, Bulbine, Haemanthus, Ledebouria, Massonia, Veltheimia, etc.	65
Other Caudiciforms: Boswellia, Bursera, Commiphora, Cyphostemma, Dorstenia, Ficus, Fouquieria, Ipomoea, Moringa, Operculicarya, Pachycomus, Pseudobombax, Pyrenacantha, Sesamothamnus, Sinningia, Uncarina, etc.	66
Other Genera - Any Other Succulent	67
Succulent, Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	68
Crested & Monstrose Succulents	69
Variegated Succulents (with 50% or More Variegation)	70

DIVISION III: OTHER	
Name	Class
Dish Gardens (Two or more plants in the same pot)	71

UPCOMING EVENT: WINTER SHOW AND SALE ALPHA LIST

Name	Class	Name	Class	Name	Class
Acanthocalycium	15	Epiphyllum	22	Orbea	35
Adenia	33	Epithelantha	3	Orchids	67
Adenium	34	Erioseya	16	Oreocneme	21
Adromischus	44	Escobaria	4	Oroya	19
Aeonium	45	Euphorbia	21	Ornithoglossum	3
Agave	31	Euphorbia medusa types	57	Other Genus - Any Other Cactus	23
Alibica	65	Euphorbia with leaves and spines	58	Othonna	42
Alseodora	64	Euphorbia with leaves no spines	59	Pachycereus	21
Aloe - hybrids	39	Euphorbia with no leaves or spines	61	x Pachyveria	50
Aloe - species	38	Euphorbia with spines no leaves	60	Pachyrrhizus	66
Anacampseros	64	Faucaria	29	Pachyphyllum	60
Anacarpus	1	x Ferberia	7	Pachypodium	33
Anajados	21	Ferocactus	7	Parodia	17
Asterobla	41	Ficus	65	Pedilanthus	62
Astrophytum	2	Fockea	36	Pediocactus	10
Austrocylindropuntia	20	Fouquieria	66	Pelargonium	63
Avonia	64	Frailea	12	Pelecyphora	3
Aztekium	3	Gasteria	40	Pericallis	21
Beaucarnea	32	Gonolobus	54	Pereskia	20
Bergencactus	21	Gonolobus	35	Petalonia	36
Blechnum	12	Graptophyllum	50	Phyllocactus	21
Boraginaceae	63	x Graptocarpus	50	Phyllophila	29
Boussingaultia	66	Grewia	45	Pseudobombax	66
Bowiea	65	Grusonia	30	Pseudolithos	35
Browningia	21	Gymnocactus	5	Pterocactus	20
Bursera	12	Gymnocyclops	14	Pyrenacantha	66
Bursera	65	Haemanthus	65	Pythocactus	16
Bursera	66	Hamulocactus	7	Raphanocarpus	38
Cactus - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	24	Haltia	22	Rebutia	18
Calceolaria	32	Haworthia	41	Rhipsalis	22
Carnegiea	21	Haworthia	41	SANSEVIERIA	56
Cephalocereus	21	Hedera	43	Sarcocaulon	63
Cephalopentandra	54	Hoodia	35	Schubertia	22
Ceraria	64	Homidacanthus	16	Sclerocactus	10
Cereus	21	Hoya	37	Sedum	52
Ceropegia	37	Hylotelephium	22	Sedum hybrid (xSedum)	52
Cipocereus	21	Iberis	54	Selenicereus	22
Cleistanthus	21	Iponomea	66	Sempervivum	53
Coleocephalocereus	12	Jatropha	62	Senecio	42
Commiphora	66	Jovibarba	53	Sesamothamnus	66
Conophytum	28	Kalanchoe	51	Sinningia	66
Conocarpus	20	Kedrostis	54	Stapelia	35
Copelata	13	Kleinia	42	Stenocactus	5
Corallorhiza	54	Laportea	28	Stenocereus	21
Coronilla	42	Ledebouria	65	Strobilium	21
Coryphantha	4	Lepidium	22	Strombosaurus	3
Cotyledon	46	Leposyre	42	Subulnaria	19
Crassula	47	Leuchtenbergia	7	Succulent - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	68
Crested & Monstrose Cacti	25	Lithops	27	Sulcorebutia	18
Crested and Monstrose Succulents	69	Lobelia	15	Synadenium	62
Cryptanthus	43	Mammillaria with hooked spines	8	Tactus	50
Cycads	67	Mammillaria with straight spines	9	Tephrocactus	20
Cylindropuntia	20	Masonia	65	Thelocactus	10
Cyphodactylus	66	Melocactus	11	Tillandsia	43
Dendroica	54	Mesodonta	30	Tillandsia	29
Dierkeia	64	Micranthocereus	21	Trichocereus	21
Dinteranthus	26	Miquelopusia	20	Trichodactylus	30
Disocoreia	65	Monarda	54	Tulipa	41
Dischidia	37	Monardella	62	Tunisia	20
Disocactus	12	Monsia	63	Turbicarpus	5
Dish Gardens (two or more plants in the same pot)	71	Moringa	65	Tylecodon	46
Diocactus	22	Myrtillocactus	21	Uebelmannia	52
Dorstenia	66	Neobuxbaumia	21	Uncaria	66
Dudleya	48	Neochloa	16	Variagated Cacti (50% or more variegation)	30
Dyckia	43	Neolloydia	4	Variagated Succulents (50% or More variegation)	70
Echeveria	49	Neoportia	16	Veltheimia	65
Echinocactus	7	Notia	32	Wengelia	18
Echinocereus	6	Notocactus	17	Xerochloa	54
Echinolobocactus	5	Oreocneme	3	Yucca	31
Echinopsis	15	Opuntia	66	Zygocactus	22
Enadenium	62	Opuntia	20	Zygocorys	54

MEMBER SECTION



A stunning crested California Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*) in Anza Borrego. ([Check out more of Olga's photos here!](#) —ed.) **OLGA BATALOV**

The SDCSS monthly newsletter welcomes and appreciates essays, photography, artwork, and similar contributions from its members.

If you have a contribution related to cacti and succulents that you'd like to share with the club, please let us know, and you could see your work in a future issue.

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact the editor:

eyf.editor@gmail.com

CLICK TO VISIT US
ONLINE!



Connect with your fellow members and be featured in the newsletter... The editor of the newsletter would love to hear from you! Answer these questions and YOU might appear in a future issue!

1. Your name:
2. How long have you been a member of SDCSS?
3. What is your favorite succulent to grow (pics welcome!)?
4. What is your favorite memory from being in the club?
5. What plant topic should people chat to you about when they see you next?

Email your answers and a photo of yourself and/or your favorite plant to eyf.editor@gmail.com

MEMBER SECTION



A 24-page illustrated article profiling SDCSS member **Debra Lee Baldwin** will appear in the Winter 2025 issue of the CSSA Journal, available now: ***"Capturing beauty, cultivating trends: Debra Lee Baldwin's succulent journey"***, a title suggested to Debra by CSSA Journal Editor Peter Breslin at the April convention. The article describes how, during Debra's journalism career, articles, bestselling books, newsletter, website, and videos helped launch and increase awareness of succulents among the gardening public.

Authoring her book *Designing with Succulents* resulted in Debra doing articles about succulents for *Better Homes and Gardens* and *The Wall Street Journal*, being quoted by national publications, and speaking at horticultural venues from Florida to Hawaii.

In the CSSA article, Debra includes excerpts from her book, *Succulents Simplified*. One page shows the late Don Hunt staging *Fockea edulis* in one of his art pots at a San Diego show and sale; another, Kelly Griffin standing beneath the arching inflorescence of *Agave 'Blue Flame'*.

Photos include those of Debra's own garden, well-groomed succulents in art pots, professionally landscaped gardens, and new cultivars developed to meet the growing demand. The article also tells how drought and wildfire concerns have boosted the plants' popularity.

If you haven't already joined the CSSA, you might find this article of interest. More information about the CSSA and purchasing CSSA journals available at the [CSSA website](https://www.cssa-journal.com/).

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



**BAOBAB SCULPTURE
HAND-CREATED BY
LUIS GONAZLES**

Thanks for contributing to the Faux Plant Table!

Another year, another amazing selection of fantasy succulents from club members! Enjoy the gallery of creative works, their interesting nomenclature, and—of course—special awards from the judges. Thanks for participating, and we'll see your (real) brag plants in January!

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



POOPER CRACKCLEENII "TOILET ROLL CHOLLA"

CHUCK RAMEY

"BEST USE OF TOOTHPICKS"

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



PERROCEREUS BADGERENSIS

PAM BADGER

"BEST USE OF METAL"

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



GEOCORKUS TIESPIRALIS

PAT BRYAN

"BEST USE OF SPRINGS"

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



AGAVE PLASTINOTA

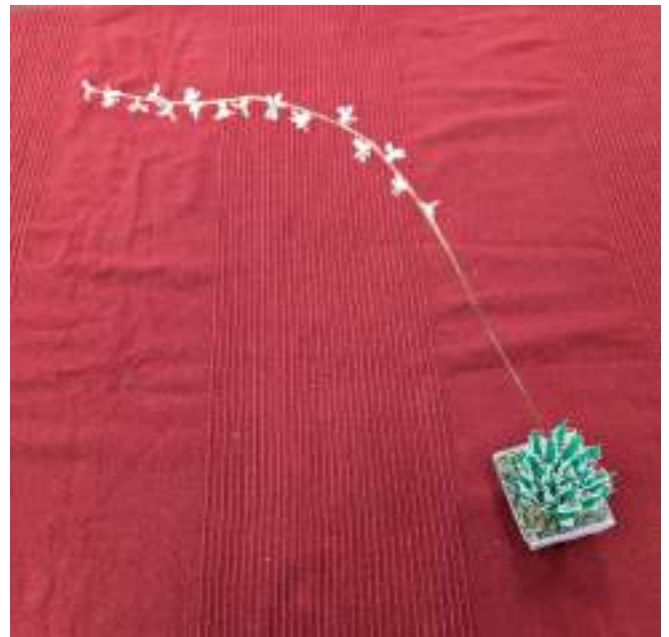
KELLY GRIFFIN

"BEST USE OF BEING LAZY"

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



PAPIER ROSIE



OLGA BATALOV

"PRESIDENTIAL AWARD!"

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



EUPHORBIA WAXIDERMIS

OLGA BATALOV

"MOST ARTISTIC"

SPECIAL EVENT // FAUX PLANT TABLE



ADANSONIA GRANDIDIERI SCULPTURE

LUIS GONZALES

"BEST USE OF MANY TALENTS"