

VOLUME 57 • NUMBER 10 • OCTOBER 2022



ESPINAS Y FLORES

MANGAVES • UPCOMING EVENTS • BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

SAFARI PARK UPDATE • MEMBER SECTION & more!

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



ON THE COVER
 “Queen for a Day”
 Photo by Jodi Visoski

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SDCSS SCHEDULE

Our next in-person meeting:
October 8th

Next upcoming meeting:
November 12th, online (tentative)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
Vice President	Chris Miller
Secretary	Donna Roden
Treasurer	John McCann

DIRECTORS

Olga Batalov, Jerry Garner, Jen Greene, Kelly Griffin,
 Denise Huntsman-Griffin, Dean Karras, Al Kline

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Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show	Dean Karras
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	[open]
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Lynn Elliot & Ken Brown
Benefit Drawing Table	Allen Clark & Chuck Ramey
Programs	Kelly Griffin

Reception	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner
New Member Orientation	Patricia Bryan & Jay Crowley
Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement	[open]
Coffee in the Garden Coordinators	Julie Dixon & Chuck Ramey

LIAISONS

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Looking around at my plants this morning, I noticed all the Tylecodeons sprouting leaves, awakening from their Summer dormancy! So I know Fall is just around the corner bringing the growing season for this interesting group of plants.

I was very disappointed to miss the **Picnic!** Following a wonderful trip to The Huntington Library, Museums, and Botanical Gardens for their annual **Succulent Symposium**—which was wonderful—I contracted covid and had to skip the fun of the picnic and silent auction. Many thanks to **Chuck Ramey, Lynn Elliot, Donna and Norb Roden, Jerry and Candy Garner, May Fong-Ho** and others who showed up early to set up and make the day a success. A special thanks to **Christie Lathrop** who organized the food truck—I heard nothing but great reports on the Hawaiian food! I also heard that people enjoyed getting some good deals on plants and pots at the auction. Thanks to the Garners and their neighbor, long-time member, **Carol-Jean Walcott** for their generous donations to the auction, as well as to the person who brought the box of cuttings—I apologize for not knowing who made this lovely donation!



Tylecodon wallichii

This December will see the return of our ever-popular **Holiday Party!** For those who have never attended, this is a super fun get-together; it features a catered meal, pot luck desserts, your favorite beverages (including beer and wine selections), a gift exchange, gift plants for all members, *and* a live auction! So save the date—**December 10th**—and come join in the festivities.

The **San Diego Floral Society**, of which we are an affiliate, is hosting an event on October 22th: **Birds, Bees, Flowers, Trees** (see flyer on page 7 of this newsletter). We will be participating in this with a booth in Patio B, where we hold our sales. I am looking for volunteers to help out—we will have educational displays, children's activities, and plant sales. Please contact me at my email to volunteer or if you are interested in selling plants: pambad1@mac.com.

Our October meeting will be a good one! One of my favorite speakers, **Dylan Hannon**, will be there and he always brings interesting plants to sell. We will also have a new member, **Jodi Visosky**, presenting Plant of the Month on the topic of **Mangaves!** I had the pleasure of meeting Jodi at the beginning of the pandemic when she showed up for some plants I was giving away as I began my landscape makeover; I talked her into joining SDCSS! I am pleased and excited to have a new member participating—may she be an inspiration to you all!

See you on **October 8th**!

Pam Badger

September 23, 2022

SDCSS OCTOBER SPEAKER

Join us Saturday, October 8th for our guest speaker: Dylan Hannon: “Othonnas for the Collector.”



Our Speaker Topic: a brief overview of familiar species (and hybrids) and others that are less often met with in collections. Cultivation requirements, propagation and provenance will be discussed.

About Our Speaker: Dylan was raised in Southern California, where he developed an early interest in a wide range of plant groups. Both his mother and grandmother helped nurture an avid appreciation of plants. He has worked for over 25 years in the botanical garden field, starting as a research assistant to Dr. Thomas B. Croat at Missouri Botanical Garden, working on the taxonomy of Araceae (aroids). He spent nine years as Plant Propagator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA, and has been Curator of Conservatory Collections at The Huntington Botanical Gardens since 2003. In between these posts Dylan worked in the wholesale cactus industry and for consulting firms as a field botanist in the San Diego area. His main interest is the propagation and distribution of cultivated plants, particularly material of known wild origin. These themes run through Dylan's writing, lectures and plant collecting.

See you at the meeting!

PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP: GROWING EUPHORBIAS

The October Pre-meeting Workshop will feature Pam Badger sharing tips on **growing and propagating succulent Euphorbias**. Pam grows a wide variety of Euphorbias both for landscape and in pots. Come and get tips on how and where to grow, soil and fertilizers, watering, pruning and shaping these wonderful, diverse plants.

The Pre-meeting Workshop runs **11:30- 12:00** in **Room 101!**

BECOME AN SDCSS BOARD MEMBER!

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” – William Shakespeare

ELECTION TIME! Every 2 years, according to our bylaws, SDCSS holds elections for the Board of Directors and officers—and this is the year. The four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) have all agreed to serving another 2 years, as have several Directors who have not ‘termed out,’ but we **do** have a couple opening for new Directors. **This is your opportunity to lend your gift to further the work of this Society!**

So what is involved in serving? I’m glad you asked!

1. Attend Board Meetings - we meet online via Zoom on the Wednesday following the regular meeting from 6:00PM-7:30PM.
2. Be willing to share your ideas about how the Society is operating and vote on expenditures and policies
3. Be open to assist in activities of the organization.

This is an exciting opportunity to get to know the people who keep this organization functioning, get a behind the scenes look at what all goes on, and give back to this wonderful community. As an active member for almost 30 years now, I can say it has been a fun, challenging, enlightening, and very worthwhile experience.

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering to run for a position by email at pambad1@mac.com or let me know at the October meeting. I look forward to working with you!

PAM BADGER

SHARE YOUR PASSION!

Have you ever read the *Espinas Y Flores* Newsletter ‘Plant of the Month’ article and thought - “I could do that!” Why not participate by writing a piece for our **Plant of the Month** feature? You don’t have to be an expert!

Pick a genus or species that interests you, do a little research, find or take a few pictures and create an article to share with the club!

Contact Pam Badger to share your plant loves and experience!

Email: pambad1@mac.com

EXTRA T-SHIRT ORDERS

Yay! SDCSS anniversary T-shirts definitely WILL be re-ordered!!!

Final requests will be taken via email or at **October 8th** meeting.

ATTN: if you previously gave Pat a verbal in-person order, PLEASE again send SIZE/COLOR/SLEEVE length re-confirmation via email or at the October meeting!

Please email Pat at paturodel@yahoo.com or text her at **619-381-9498** to reconfirm your order.

UPCOMING EVENTS: COFFEE IN THE GARDEN & PALOMAR SHOW

OCTOBER COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

DATE

October 29th

TIME

8am—3pm

ADDRESS

6840 Veronica Avenue
San Diego 92115

PHONE

(619) 993-6442



Michael Fernandes and his wife Donna will be hosting coffee in the garden on October 29th. There will be other vendors there as well as lots of goodies... hope to see you all there!

2022 Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society!

October 8 & 9 Sat. 9 - 5 Sun. 9 - 3

San Diego Botanic Garden

Ecke Ranch Rd, Encinitas, CA 92024 (off Quail Gardens Dr)

For Directions: www.sdbgarden.org/directions.htm



- ~ See spectacular succulent specimens from around the world!
- ~ Show plant judging is Saturday from 11am - 12:30pm. The public may follow and listen to the judges as they make and explain their decisions.
- ~ All show plants will be available for viewing Saturday and Sunday.
- ~ There will be experts available to answer your questions.
- ~ Specimen plants for the novice or collector and handmade ceramic pots, driftwood planters, decorative rocks, top dressing, etc. will be for sale.

Cost: Free with SD Botanic Garden admission or membership

For more info: Dean Karras gnosishnursery@gmail.com 480-363-4460

Robert Kopfstein rwkopfstein@gmail.com 760-726-8300

PalomarCactus.org

Instagram: [Palomar.cactus.succulent.org](https://www.instagram.com/Palomar.cactus.succulent.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS: SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION presents

BIRDS, BEES, FLOWERS AND TREES

A Celebration of Nature and the Environment

October 22, 2022

10:00am – 4:00pm

Balboa Park

El Prado – Casa del Prado – Village Place

~ FREE Admission ~



DRESS UP (kids and pets too!) in your finest nature-themed attire and join the celebration!



FEATURING

The horticulture, floriculture and eco-friendly personalities, artisans, businesses, community organizations and societies that make San Diego so special.

- Come meet WaterWise Gardener **Nan Sterman**, renowned author, garden designer, garden teacher, and host of KPBS's *A Growing Passion* for a special signing of her latest book, *Hot Color, Dry Garden*.
- Come meet **Ms. Smarty-Plants™** from The Water Conservation Garden and get a prize!

EDUCATIONAL and FUN for ALL AGES!

* Demonstrations * Information * Giveaways * Activities and Crafts *

* Natural History Museum * San Diego River Park Foundation * San Diego Audubon Society * Japanese Friendship Garden * Master Gardeners * Community Gardens and Organizations * and more! *

PLANT SALES!

* Milkweed and Native Plants * Roses * Cactus and Succulents * Orchids * Plumeria * Geraniums * Protea *

WONDERFUL and UNIQUE GIFTS - JUST IN TIME for the HOLIDAYS!

* Pottery * Natural Products * Books * Jewelry * Metal Sculptures * Kokedama * Topiaries *
* Plant and Floral Designs *



For information and a complete list of exhibitors visit sdfloral.org



PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

MANGAVE!



words & photos by Jodi Visosky

If asked what my favorite plant was, it would be hard for me to choose between cacti and Mangaves. Mangaves are a relatively new hybrid which are now becoming available in nurseries. Mangaves fall into the genus AGAVE. They are a cross between Agaves and Manfredas. Historically, Manfredas were not in the Agave genus, so Mangaves were considered an intergeneric hybrid. The experts have now moved Manfreda into the Agave genus, so Mangaves are a cultivar group (group) within the Agave genus. The name “Mangave” was coined in 2005 by three horticulturists to describe a hybrid which was growing at one of their nurseries. The seeds had come from a plant growing in the wild. This “new” unique plant captured the interest of many horticulturalists....many who are friends and coworkers.



PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

One of the 1st named mangaves was called 'Bloodspot'. It was created in Japan by crossing *Manfreda maculosa* with *Agave macroacantha*. Many horticulturists were working on these hybrids in nurseries throughout the USA and different universities. A major milestone happened when a young man named Han Hansen was able to successfully micropropagate them. **Micropropagation** is the process where plants are rapidly produced using tissue culture. Since his breakthrough, Hans has moved to a large nursery in Michigan where he is the director of new plant development. Hans has created thousands of Mangave hybrids by crossing and double crossing and triple crossing different Agaves and Manfredas. He chooses the ones that show the most promise based on size and color and durability and adds those into production. His nursery created a line of Mangaves called "Mad About Mangaves" and each of the plants in the collection has a patent and a really cool name. Some examples are 'Mission to Mars', 'Foxy Lady', 'Bad Hair Day', 'My Dog Spot', 'Purple People Eater' and 'Catch A Wave'. There are about 30-40 in the collection and the number is growing. If you get a copy of each patent, you can see which plants were crossed. Some of the characteristics of the mother plants show through and it is quite easy to guess some of its parentage.



PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

There are other nurseries producing Mangaves and other horticulturists that probably have their own personal hybrids, but for the novice plant collector finding these readily available at nurseries and mail order stores is wonderful. We can now find them at many of the big box stores .



But what is so cool about Mangaves??? The biggest thrill I find is the color. These plants are bred for their wild spots and stripes which change with light exposure. They are easy to grow. They are drought-tolerant and love full sun. Most of them do not have the vicious barb and spines and pokies that some Agaves have. They are said to have the best qualities of each of their parents. Are they monocarpic? This is a tough question for me. To date, many of mine have bloomed, and the parent plant did not die, but it is not as pretty with the cut-off bloom stalk. Most pup readily before or during the blooming phase, so I've never been left without a new plant to continue on.

Mangaves make great container plants. They add lots of color to any garden. Some are fairly cold hardy. They are being experimented with all over the world. I see more and more commercial landscapers adding them to their designs.

JODI VISOSKY

MEMBER SECTION

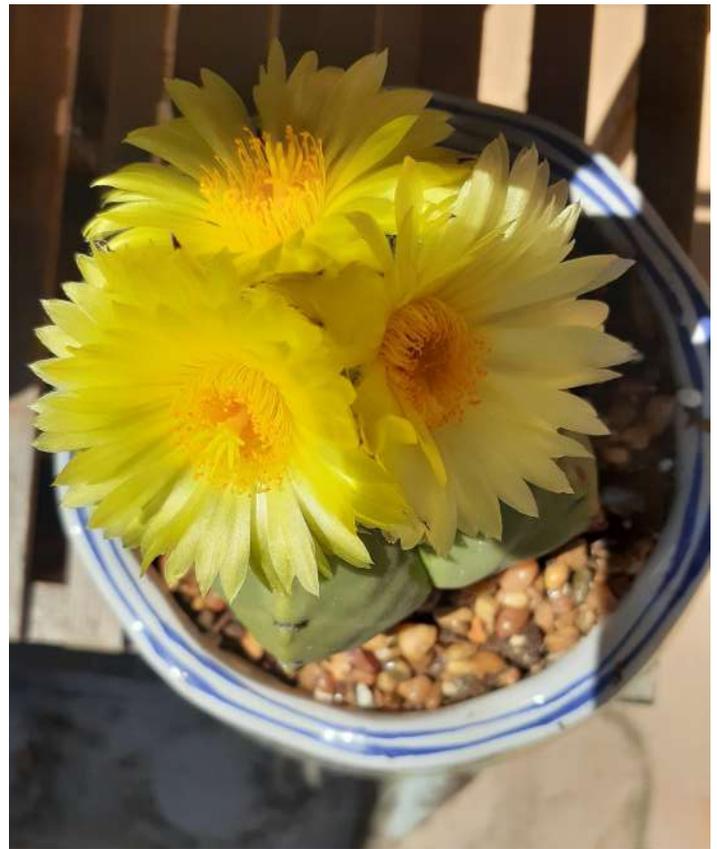
IN MEMORIAM

Bobbie Noel passed away last July after battling an illness for the last year. She has been a member and vendor with SDCSS since I joined in 1996. She was always a smiling face at our sales, and many of you have Bromeliads and Tillandsia in your collection that came from her greenhouse. Her sales tables were always very appealing, with art items mixed with her plants. She was a lovely friend whose positive nature brightened our events. She worked several out reach events in the public where she shared our club info and recruited new members. I will miss her at the upcoming sales and Holiday party.

CHRIS MILLER



Beautiful *Astrophytum* blooms



Patty L.

FINAL SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

Thanks for your patience as we calculated the final tally from our 2023 Summer Show!

Overall Sweepstakes (most points): Peter W. with 134 points and 58 plants entered

High Points with 50 or fewer plants entered: Tina Zucker with 58 points and 32 plants entered

High Points with 25 or fewer plants entered: Terry Parr with 40 points and 18 plants entered

Congrats to all the winners!

MEMBER SECTION



The tropical and rainy weather couldn't keep SDCSS club members down... Thanks to all who came out to enjoy the September picnic at Kate Sessions Park! And a very special thanks to volunteers and Pam Badger, Candy & Jerry Garner, and Carol-Jean Walcott who kindly donated items to auction. Photos and thank-yous from **Donna Roden**.



BAJA GARDEN AT SAFARI PARK UPDATE

The Baja Garden at Safari Park was started in late 1970's, from the vision of the Park's first horticulturist, Jim Gibbons. A special program to exchange plants for education was established; mature plants were collected and transported to start the Baja Gardens. The Garden has been established from the beginning with participations from SDCSS volunteers who now care for the Garden. Our beloved Juergen Menzel had been caring for the Garden for >10 years. For the past 5 years, about 1 1/3 SDCSS volunteers have maintained the Garden, with our Norb Roden being the 1 :) He comes every Tuesday, rain or shine, all the way from East County to North County, and does the heavy lifting. Tom Osborn and Don Jones help as needed. Thank you!



Left: *Fouquieria columnaris* (Boojum Tree); Right: *Pachycereus pringlei* (Cardón)

BAJA GARDEN AT SAFARI PARK UPDATE

In the Baja Garden, there are >100 of Boojum (to 20' tall) and Cardón (to 15' tall). The Boojum is in the same genus as Ocotillo in our desert. Boojum is starting its blooms, while Ocotillo is finishing:



Different blooms: Left: Boojum (*Fouquieria columnaris*); Right: Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*)
 note: The Baja version is Tree Ocotillo (*Fouquieria diguetii*), which looks very similar to our Ocotillo.



The Cardón (shown left) is the tallest cactus—there's one in Baja that measured at 63'. They are bigger and taller than our giant Saguaro cactus with fewer ribs on the stems, more branches near the base of the stem, and capability of growing twice as fast.

This year, our Cardón seem to be quite happy, forming baby branches!

BAJA GARDEN AT SAFARI PARK UPDATE



Another pretty sight is the many Dudleyas (shown above) decorating our big giants. Dudleya seeds germinate during our wet winter season. However, 99.999% of these seedlings cannot survive once the moist season is over, unless they are under the protective shade and moisture funnel of nurse plants. That's why it's highly unlikely to find a Dudleya out in the open ground.



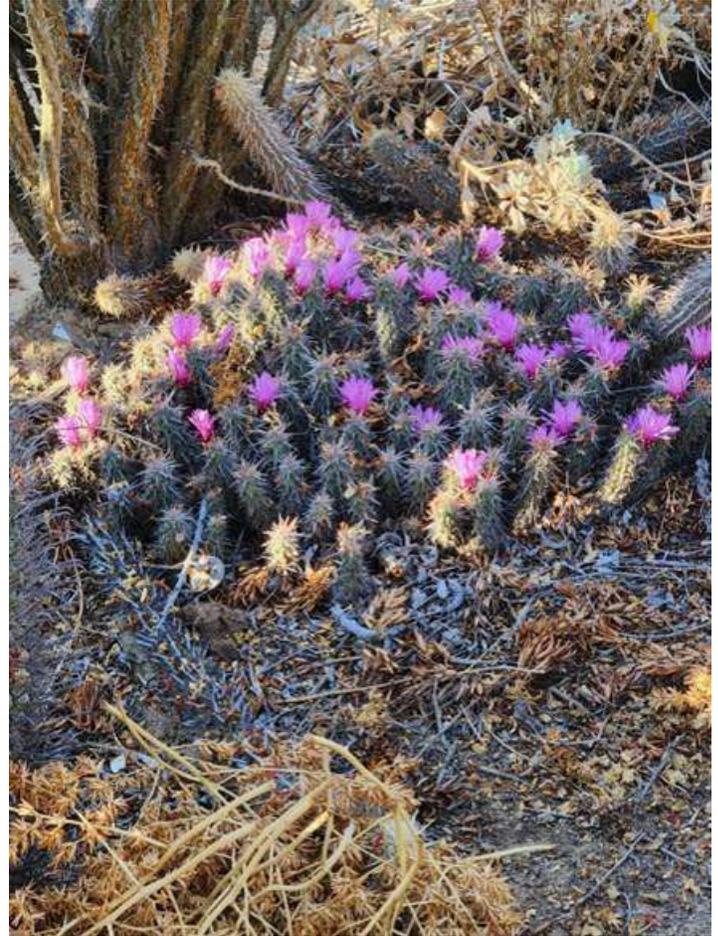
Can you spot it? There's an outhouse in our Baja Garden!!!

3 years ago, one of our long time SDCSS members donated his huge, beautiful, mature collection of cacti to the Safari Park. However, he has one stipulation – The Park needs to take his relic outhouse, and it must be displayed near his donated specimens. Hmm, what to do? It's not unusual to have outhouses in Baja! So we found a spot, surrounded by chollas, etc. so no one would dare to use it. Doesn't it look "natural" ;)

Anyway, the Baja Garden looks lovely, with or without the outhouse! Come visit and enjoy!

A week and a half ago we received a half inch of rain in the gardens. Many of the plants now once again have leaves and don't look so dry. Also some of the cacti decided with the rain they would treat us with some blooms.

BAJA GARDEN AT SAFARI PARK UPDATE



The Biznaquita *Cochemia posegeri* decided to give us a burst of red, and the Casa de Rata *Echinocereus brandegeei* a beautiful array of purple. So we now have a little treat of colors in the garden. (Note: The other garden maintained by SDCSS volunteers is the Old World Succulent Garden, which is right next door.)

If you want to donate or volunteer, please email mayfongho@yahoo.com or text 760-233-3948. Photos and article by M.F. Ho/Norb Roden with permission from the San Diego Zoo/Safari Park.