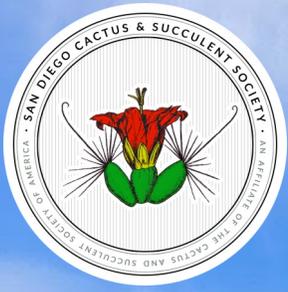


VOLUME 55 • NUMBER 12 • DECEMBER 2020



ESPINAS Y FLORES

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

**HOLIDAY VENDOR
LIST • SDCSS
VOLUNTEERS OF
THE YEAR
...and more!**

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

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ON THE COVER

Ron Chisum & Kelly Griffin in front of Ron's *Furcraea macdougallii*. The flower spike is a week old and will grow taller

Photo by Ron Chisum

SDCSS SCHEDULE

December club webinar:
None! see you in January

January club webinar:
January 9th 2021

Upcoming meetings:
DECISION PENDING

HERE TO HELP

In need of assistance due to COVID?

Contact:

Tina Zucker at
(858) 342-9781

- or -

Al Klein at
(760) 519-9987

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents Jim & Mary Reiser
Secretary Mary Reiser
Vice President [open]
Treasurer Mitch Hubbard

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Monthly Regalement Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner
Picnic Regalement Kathy Clark & Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Coffee in the Garden Coordinators [open]
Julie Dixon & Chuck Ramey

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Chris Miller, Denise Griffin, Whitney Meier, Tina Zucker, Al Klein & Don Hunt

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CSSA Affiliate Rep Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Garden Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation [open]
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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Library Don Hunt
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Annual Sales Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager [open]
Monthly Plant Sales Jim DeForest & Melanie Howe
Monthly Supply Sales Jerry Plaisted
Benefit Drawing Table Allen Clark & Chuck Ramey

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Newsletter Editor Der-shing Helmer
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Interim, May Fong Ho
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this year comes to a close we have a some thoughts. This holiday is really unique as we are staying safe by not having large gatherings. It is a time of thanks and reflect on the past year. We encourage all to stay connected to one another. A message, phone call, or simple giving gesture can brighten someone's day.



This year as a board we could not decide on just two volunteers of the year. While the pandemic curtailed our general meetings and the summer show and sale it also meant we had to adapt. We needed to establish events that we could do safely for our membership. Three volunteers stepped up and went above and beyond our expectations. They ensured that we presented either a virtual meeting and speaker experience or embellishing and expanding our newsletter and website. This club has deep roots with a strong membership, long history, a generous volunteer base. The club is located in one of the top locations to grow and care for our plants and each other. When the time comes it will be so fun, almost like the first meeting you ever attended.

Lastly, our board and Co-Presidents term has ended. We have fully retired and moved up to Oregon. We have had a blast in our ten years with the club. Meeting you and becoming friends while discovering the cactus world will always be part of us. This is not a good bye, as we are still members, and most likely you will see us drop in and sit next to you at some club meeting in the future.

Until then ...

Jim and Mary

BE A PART OF YOUR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY!

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Have you ever read the *Espinaz Y Flores* Newsletter 'Plant of the Month' and thought - "I could do that!" or "I wish they would do one on my favorite plant!" ?? Well, here is your chance - we have numerous months open for 2021 for you to participate by writing a piece. You do not have to be an expert! You don't have to know much at all! You get to pick a genus or species that interests you, do a little research, find or take a few pictures and, create a brief, or long article. This is a great way to learn more about something you have an interest in and share that interest with others.

GARDEN TOURS

Do you have a large, amazing desert landscape? or a small, beautiful succulent garden? or a patio filled with potted plants you love? Share them with us! You can choose to create a 5-10 minute slide show to present at one of our virtual meetings, or do a photo essay for the Newsletter - or both! We would love to see your plants. Please sign up to share and be more active in your SDCSS!

Contact Pam Badger: pambad1@mac.com



Echeveria pulvinata 'Ruby Blush'
Tina Zucker

SDCSS WEBINARS



Our webinar series is taking a break for December, but join us in the 2021 new year on **Saturday, January 9th** at 12:30pm PST for our next webinar, featuring a talk by guest speaker **Joe Stead** (pictured left)!

Stay tuned for more info, and have a great holiday and New Year!

FIND US ONLINE

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/sdcss

TWITTER: [SanDiegoCactus](https://twitter.com/SanDiegoCactus)

INSTAGRAM: [#sdcss](https://www.instagram.com/sdcss)

WEBSITE: www.sdcss.net

JAN BRAG TABLE

The virtual Brag Table returns in Jan!

Submit your photos by **Dec 18, 2020** to eyf.editor@gmail.com to be included in our first friendly competition of the new year.

SUBMIT TO EyF!

Do **you** have a stunning succulent, a garden in bloom, a topic of interest, or anything else that you'd like to share?

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are accepting submissions for photos, articles, comments, and other materials of interest to the club from SDCSS members in good standing. **To submit content, please contact the editor at:** eyf.editor@gmail.com

We are currently interested sharing virtual Member Garden Tours! This would be a multi-photo feature, with a brief descriptions of notable plants and landscapes from your cactus and succulent garden! If you are interested in giving your fellow members a tour, write to eyf.editor@gmail.com with the subject: **"Member Garden Feature"**



A fanciful "Sherriff" guarding member Kaija Marcon's cactus garden

Kaija Marcon

SDCSS HOLIDAY EVENT VENDOR LIST

THE SDCSS HOLIDAY EVENT: DEC 11-13!

Thanks to all who RSVP'd for our complimentary holiday vouchers! We hope you enjoy spending your gift at one of our wonderful local vendors. We're using the next few pages to give each vendor a chance to describe the great items they will have available, and give instructions on how you can visit them safely.

A reminder: Vouchers and Brag Table Club Bucks will be mailed on Dec 3rd to all members and/or households, and should be received by **December 10th**. We'll send a reminder email about vendors on December 2nd. If you experience any issues receiving your vouchers, simply send an email to us at membership@sdcss.net and we'll help you out.

Please note that your voucher must be used completely with one vendor; no change will be given for redeemed vouchers.



Sample voucher shown above. Actual voucher will be printed on two-tone cardstock.

SUCCULENTS BY TINA ZUCKER & POTS BY JERRY GARNER

Available dates: Dec 11th & 12th
Appointment info: see below
Phone: (858) 342 9781
Email: succulentsus@gmail.com

Description: My succulent passion ranges from unusual caudiciforms, *Echeverias* and specimens, to everyday succulents. I am a grower who adores succulent plants in all families. I have hundreds for you to choose from with a particularly large selection of *Echeverias*. I am addicted to succulents. They speak to me. So, come on out on Friday and Saturday, December 11th & 12th so my plants can speak to you too.

Jerry and Candy Garner will be joining me at my home selling Jerry's pots. His pots have a lot to say. Jerry has been hand building his pots since 2008. He started building pots when he couldn't find a pot to fill his need and the rest is history. Each pot he makes has a unique color, size and shape.

Please email, call, or visit bit.ly/1220potsnplants so we can set up a special appointment time for you.

We no longer ship, but our website is still up so please visit our website www.succulents.us and see the possibilities.

GNOSIS NURSERY

Available dates: Dec 11th – 13th
Appointment info: no appointment necessary
Address: 663 Highway 78 in Ramona, CA 92065
Phone: (480) 363 – 4460 (text ok)
Email: Gnosis.Nursery@gmail.com

Description:
 At **Gnosis**, we specialize in rare, seed-grown succulents and other xerophytes with an emphasis on cacti (especially *Trichocereus*), South African aloes, and agaves.

Contact us by phone or email for an appointment.

MIKE FERNANDEZ

Available dates: contact for info
Appointment info: contact for info
Phone: (619) 993-6442 (text ok)
Email: mfdbaj@gmail.com

Description:
Mike is a long-time succulent collector who grows specialty plants from seed. Please contact him by phone or email for an appointment.

SDCSS HOLIDAY EVENT VENDOR LIST

PAM BADGER: SUCCULENT CITY SPRING VALLEY

Available: Dec 11th – 13th

Appointments: see info below

Phone: (619)-589-1456

Email: pambad1@mac.com

Description:

Succulent City is a true “backyard nursery.” My late husband, Lee, and I moved here in 1984 and started this nursery soon after that. We had been collecting, growing, and selling plants since 1972 - first in San Francisco, then Central America, before landing in Spring Valley. I took over in 2016 after Lee’s passing and my retirement; I love being back to propagating and sharing my passion with others.

I have over 50 species of Euphorbias - from larger specimens suitable for landscaping, to smaller, rarer plants for collectors. I also have numerous other succulents including *Kalanchoes*, *Agaves*, *Aloes*, *Sansevierias*, *Tylecodons*, and others. I will have some special deals for members to take advantage of with their Holiday Voucher and ‘Plant Bucks.’ I look forward to welcoming you to my nursery.

Contact me to schedule a time for your visit **December 11-13**. I welcome groups up to 5 people for 1 hour time slots.

PW PLANTS & DON HUNT POTTERY

Available: 9am-4pm, Dec 12th only

Appointments: no appointment necessary

Address: 404 Lorlar Lane, Ramona 92065

Phone: (858) 382-1797

Description:

PW Plants by Peter Walkowiak is normally a wholesale nursery, only by appointment, specializing in succulents that must be seed grown. We will be open to SDCSS club members for an open house on **December 12th** from **9am - 4pm**, no appointments needed. In addition to this, **Don Hunt** will be selling some of his great pots on the patio. Fresh firing, lots to choose from.

Some of the genera that I grow are *Adenium*, *Euphorbia*, *Fockea*, *Raphionacme*, *Monadenium* and many others. The nursery consists of a 3,000 sq.ft. greenhouse and another 5,000 sq.ft. of open tables.

In addition to the nursery, I have 2,000 sqft. open tables and 3,000 sqft. Conservatory greenhouse that houses my very large plant collection of over 2,000 plants. Guided tours will be given for those you want to see the extensive collection. The collection consists of cacti, caudiciforms, Euphorbias, pachycauls and many more.

BOTANIC WONDERS

Appointments: see info below

Address: 533 Mar Vista Dr, Vista Ca

Phone: (760) 519-9987 (call or text)

Website: Botanicwonders.com

Description:

We are a Nursery specializing in rare and exotic plants including Succulents, Cacti and Cycads. We grow and sell well over a hundred different species and carry a nice selection of pottery.

We ask that customers call, text or email for an appointment to visit our retail store. We also ask that all customers wear face masks and practice social distancing guidelines while at the nursery.



CONGRATS TO THE SDCSS VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!

TINA ZUCKER

By Chris Miller

Tina is a long term member of SDCSS. As a vendor she has expanded all of our collections and has been one of our major income sources over the years. She has shared her plant knowledge willingly and improved our knowledge of how to raise our plants. She has been a Director on the Board for the last four years, giving her time and attention to those meetings. With COVID-19's impact on the SDCSS meetings Tina has worked hard to initiate the Zoom process for both our Board Meetings and our Regular Meetings. She proposed holding the regular meeting by Zoom. She has accomplished all the support work around the meetings, setting up the contract with Zoom, sending out notices, moderating and expanding the meetings attendance to other organizations. The Board's focus through this time has been on how to maintain contact with the members and how to serve them the best that we can, and Tina has been a major part of making that possible.



MAY FONG HO

By Mary Reiser

May has been a vital part of SDCSS for over 10 years. Within the club she holds many positions and wears a variety of hats. Her longest ongoing job has been working in the Old World Garden at the Safari Park. She is in charge of organizing and scheduling a group of over 15 volunteers. She personally mentors every new volunteer. She researches specimen plants, sources, and procures them to create a spectacular cactus garden.

Over the past 2 years as members have retired, she has taken on additional duties for the club. She is the membership manager, with tasks ranging from collecting dues, maintaining the data base, and answering members questions and emails. She single-handedly maintains the club website. If she doesn't have enough on her plate, this year during COVID she took on the task of printing, collating and mailing the clubs newsletter so that our members stay connected to one another during isolation. Volunteers like May are the glue that holds our club together. Thank you May!



DER-SHING HELMER

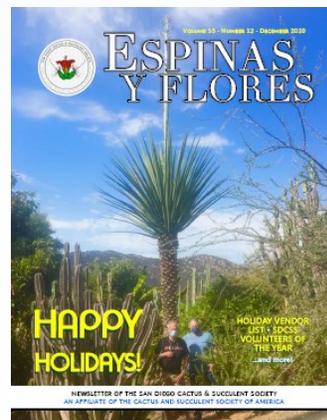
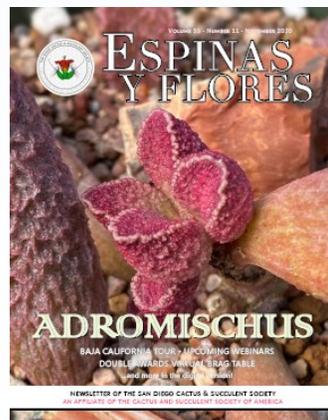
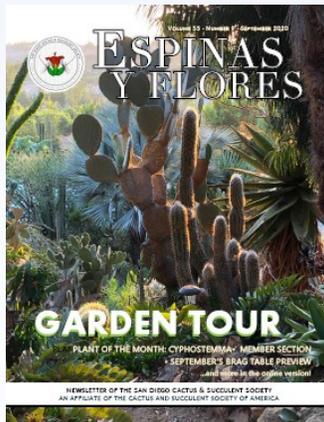
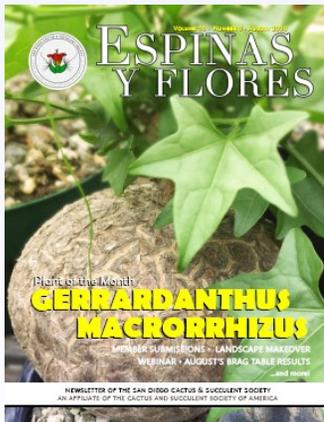
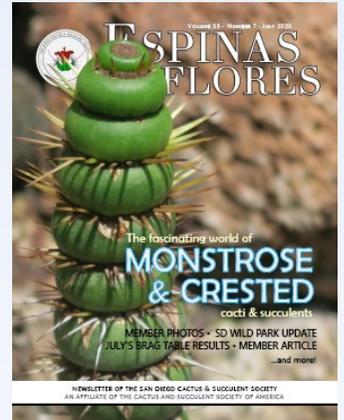
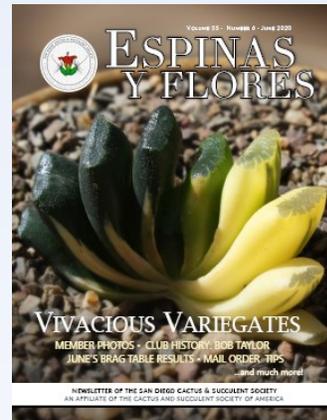
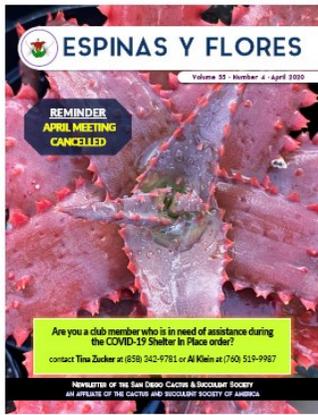
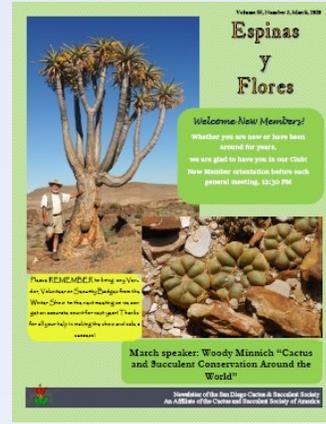
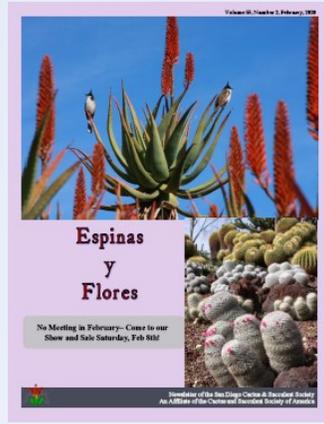
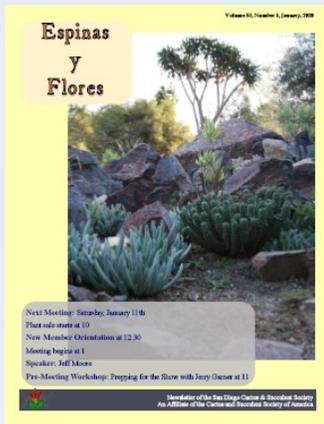
By Tina Zucker

Der-shing joined our club in August of 2019 and jumped right in to become the newsletter editor. Der-shing is an award-winning science-fantasy and educational comic artist from the Bay Area. She is the creator of the Ignatz-winning science-fantasy web comic *The Meek*, the science-fiction web comic *Mare Internum*, and editor of the *Alloy Anthology*. We are so fortunate to have her as our newsletter editor.

Her desire and passion for succulent plants is matched by her incredible creative and artistic ability. She jumped into the position of Newsletter Editor and learned all that had to be learned. She has been a delight for the board to work with. She expanded the newsletter to a 40-page project monthly during the COVID virus, with the lack of in person meetings. She took care of uploading all the Brag table photos and text to go with it. Der has been willing to do whatever we needed her to do and we are so lucky that she came along and jumped in as a volunteer making a big difference for so many. For this she has been nominated as a volunteer of the year!



2020 EYF COVER GALLERY



See you in 2021!