

VOLUME 58 • NUMBER 05 • MAY 2023



ESPINAS Y FLORES

**SPEAKER DOUBLE FEATURE: EPIPHYLLUM HYBRIDS & RHIPSALIS
OLDEST PLANT • BRAG TABLE RESULTS • SUMMER SHOW & more!**

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



ON THE COVER

Epiphyllum 'Mango Tango'
hybridized by Don Patterson

Photo by Patricia Neal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message pg 3

Summer Show notice pg 4 • May Speakers pgs 5 - 6

May Coffee in the Garden pg 7 • In Memoriam pg 8

Member section pg 9 • Oldest Plant pgs 10 - 11

April Brag Table results pgs 12 - 21

Upcoming Society & Affiliate Events pg 22

SDCSS SCHEDULE

Our next event:

May 13th

Next upcoming event:

SDCSS Summer Show & Sale: June 3rd & 4th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
Vice President	Chris Miller
Secretary	Olga Batalov
Treasurer	John McCann

DIRECTORS

Pat Bryan, Candy Garner, Jerry Garner, Jen Greene,
Kelly Griffin, Dean Karras, and Jared Petker

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Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show	[open]
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Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	Luis Gonzalez
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Chris Miller
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

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Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Garden	Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation	Lynn Elliot
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! It looks like Spring, though I'm still waiting for some warmer nighttime temps so my Euphorbias will root! Hope you are enjoying all the massive flower displays that followed our near-record rainfalls.

I was excited that so many of you came out for our first ever **Garden Tour** on April 1st. I welcomed many new and old members to my revitalized garden, though due to rain and other obligations, I did not have it as prepared as I had hoped—definitely a work in progress! I heard many positive comments about the other two gardens as well. Thanks to **Jodi Visosky** and **Mike Fernandez** for opening their gardens to make this event a success. If you have an idea for a tour with gardens near you, let's talk about another tour.



Our April meeting was fantastic! More people attended than since before the *you-know-what*. And many new members...very exciting for me. It was a beautiful day and the park was packed, but many of you braved the traffic to attend, and it was worth it! The pre-meeting workshop with **Dean Karras** of **Gnosis Nursery** demonstrated many tips for repotting and staging plants...thanks Dean! **Jen Greene**, who was delayed with traffic and parking, arrived just in time to team up with **Brian Shepard** to do a fascinating presentation on *Astrophytum asterias*. What an interesting species! So many forms. I hope to see some more variants from all of you who grabbed some of Brian's seeds! For the main talk, *Melocactus* took the stage in **Guillermo Rivera's** presentation, which featured many wonderful photos of one of my favorite plants. Thanks to all of you who showed up and participated in our many activities including the Brag Table, Benefit Drawing, and Plant Exchange.

Our May meeting is going to be exciting! For the first time ever we are partnering with our sister organization, the **Epiphyllum Society**, for a joint meeting. As it is Mother's Day weekend, they will be having their Annual Sale in the patio on Saturday and their Show on Sunday. People attending the sale will be invited to our meeting to listen to two speakers provided by the Epi Society featuring **Epiphytic cactus**. We are modifying our schedule a bit so we can finish on time, as they will be setting up their show when we leave. There will be no pre-meeting workshop and no benefit drawing, but be sure to **bring your Brag Plants and items for the exchange table**.

So, come early and add to (or start) your Epiphyllum collection, check out our expanded sales, and enjoy Springtime in Balboa Park before hearing some new speakers discuss this fascinating and unique family of cactus.

Our **June Show and Sale** is also just around the corner! Be sure to pick up your entry cards and show schedules at the May meeting so you can be fully prepared. We will have more information and volunteer sign-ups as well. Bring any questions you have about entering plants in the show and volunteering...we have answers!

Pam Badger

April 20, 2023

2023 SUMMER SHOW AND SALE

IT'S GOING TO BE BIG.

THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PRESENTS
2023 SUMMER SHOW AND SALE
Sat June 3 & Sun June 4, 2023

See incredible out-of-this-world succulents and cacti from around the world and shop for unique plants from dozens of plant vendors and local artisans.

Free admission, with early-bird access on Saturday for members!

TIMES & DATES

SATURDAY	9am—11am	members only sale (membership card required)
	11am—5pm	sale open to the public
	10am—3pm	show times
SUNDAY	10am—4pm	sale open to public
	10am—4pm	show times

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

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



SDCSS MAY SPEAKERS (YES—DOUBLE SPEAKERS!)



Jerry Moreau

Eddie Huey

Join us **Saturday, May 13th** for TWO awesome guest speakers: **Jerry Moreau** presenting “**New Epiphyllum Hybrids**” before the break, and **Beth Jackson** presenting the work of **Linda Sinkovic** in her talk “**Rhipsalis and Related Genera**”.

Our 1st Speaker Topic:

New epi hybrid flowers are being introduced every year and some of them are spectacular! While California has always been a center of epi hybridizers and nurseries, there are hybridizers in Sweden, Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Many of their introductions are now included in our collections and are much sought-after plants.

About Our 1st Speaker:

Jerry is our Coordinator for the Epiphyllum Collection at the Safari Park. He has served as president, newsletter editor and has won many awards at our Mother’s Day Show.

1st Speaker schedule:

Jerry will be presenting his talk before the break, so please join us then!



'Claritty's Happy Hippy' hybrid and photo by Svante Lundqvist



'Iguaza Falls' hybridized by Richard Klug

Don Crain



'Kiwi Divine Intervention' hybrid by Yvonne Brunton

Don Crain

SDCSS MAY SPEAKERS (YES—DOUBLE SPEAKERS!)



Rhipsalis campos-portoana

Ralf Bauer

Linda Sinkovic is a member of SDES who now lives in Santa Cruz. When Linda lived here in San Diego she helped establish our collection of epiphytic plants at the Safari Park. In addition, she has a large collection of epiphytic plants which she moved with her to Santa Cruz. Most importantly Linda completely revised and updated the 'Species of Epiphytic Cacti' section for the Epiphyllum Society of America's 'Registry of Species and Hybrids'.



Rhipsalis puniceodiscus

Ralf Bauer

2nd Speaker schedule:

Beth will be sharing Linda's work with us after the break. Reminder that we will have a brag table judging, but will not have a benefit drawing this month, so our break will be shorter than usual.

Our 2nd Speaker Topic:

The presentation covers *Rhipsalis*, *Lepismium*, *Hatoria*, *Rhipsalidopsis* and *Schlumbergera*. It includes some history and is filled with superb photos. The presentation has been updated for 2023 by its author Linda Sinkovic.

About Our 2nd Speaker(s):

Beth Jackson is a member of both SDES and SDCSS. She is SDES' membership coordinator, judges' clerk for the Mother's Day Show, works with the Epiphyllum Collection at the Safari Park, and is a co-register for new Epiphyllum hybrids for the Epiphyllum Society of America.



Beth Jackson with 'Beth Jackson' hybridized by D. Obayashi
Derek Obayashi



Linda Sinkovic

Jerry Moreau

MEMBER SECTION

2023 Spring Garden Tour



Want to see some unusual, interesting plants?



View this *Acacia glaucoptera* and much more at Gary and Wanda's open garden event.

You will find collections of different types of plants grouped together, as well as many trees and specimens throughout the two-acre botanical wonderland in Fallbrook.

There is a new tropical garden in one of the "rooms" in the shaded area – it needs to live in the greenhouse in colder months but is now out and showing off in the warm weather. And, of course, with all the rain we've had there is spectacular growth and flowering all over.

Carlos from Rojas Succulents will once again be selling plants and there will be some of Gary's birdhouses and other surprises!

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023

Time: 9:00 to 2:00

Address: 3856 Cedar Vale Way, Fallbrook, CA

IN MEMORIAM: SANDRA MARIE FROST

REMEMBERING SANDRA

Sandra “Sandy Frost was a native of San Diego and lived in the county her entire life.

She was born September 12, 1953 at Mercy Hospital and passed away very peacefully on April 8, 2023 at age 69. Sandy lived most of her life in Point Loma.

Animals were a very important part of her life. She had quite a collection of pets over the years. Sandy had dogs, lots of cats over the years, frogs, snakes and geckos. Feeding hummingbirds also brought her great delight.

For decades, Sandy was a member of both the San Diego Zoological Society and the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. Entering her plants in shows was something that she greatly enjoyed and she won numerous ribbons over the years. She and her sister were regulars for several years at our meetings. Carol Jean Wollcot remembers Sandy as devoted to our club. She was always the first one to send out Christmas cards and birthday cards.

Services on May 9, 2023 at El Camino Memorial Park at 11 A.M.

Donations can be made to the San Diego Humane Society in her memory.

HERBIE

*Rhipsalis oblonga*

Ralf Bauer

MEMBER SECTION



Ferocactus in flower at Joshua Tree NP

Olga Batalov



Opuntia basilaris in flower at Joshua Tree NP

Olga Batalov

MEETING SNACKS?

Members with last names beginning with A-L are encouraged to bring snacks to the May meeting.

We all enjoy having some treats during the break at the meeting. Thanks to all have been bringing in goodies. I have heard comments that the table is often heavy with sweets, so I am challenging folks to bring a bit more variety! Thanks!

PAM BADGER

PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS!

Looking for Steven Hammer's book on Lithops or Philippe de Vosjoli's Guide to Growing Pachycaul and Caudiciform Plants, but when you come to a meeting you leave disappointed because the books haven't been returned? The SDCSS Library is here to support everyone's love for cactus and succulents. Please return your books in a timely fashion so others get a chance to enjoy them. We'd rather not have to impose fines so let's keep books circulating. We will be conducting an inventory of our book cases this Summer. Thanks for your cooperation and support in keeping our library resources available to all.

LUIS GONZALEZ

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?

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: pambad1@mac.com

SDCSS ONLINE

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/sdcss

TWITTER: SanDiegoCactus

INSTAGRAM: #sdcss

WEBSITE: www.sdcss.net

OLDEST PLANT



Mammillaria spinosissima

Pam Badger

Those of you who have visited my garden know I have numerous old, large specimens - huge *Dracena dracos*, towering Alluadias, massive Golden Barrels, and Aloes that touch the sky. On several occasions, visitors have inquired “which is the oldest plant?” They are surprised when I show them a relatively small *Mammillaria*. This is a plant with a history!

In the early 1970's, not long after we discovered our mutual love of cactus, my husband, Lee Badger, and I started a wholesale cactus business. Living in San Francisco during this time, plant stores were popping up in every neighborhood. Little store fronts crammed with hanging pathos, rubber trees, colorful coleus and numerous other house plants seemed to be on every other street. Scouring these stores in search of cactus proved futile. Lee, who had lived in San Diego for years and had many friends still living there, started looking for cactus and succulents on his visits. During his search for plants he met Bob Taylor (a founding member of SDCSS) who began selling him plants to bring back to The City. As Lee took the plants around to the plant stores, the merchants went wild - something new to bring people into their shops. Soon Bob Taylor was running low on plants to sell Lee and told him about Hans Britsch and Western Cactus—this started a boom in our business newly named “Cactus Kid.” Lee began making monthly trips to Vista, returning with a Chevy Carryall packed with banana boxes filled with bare root cactus. By this time we were making planter boxes out of redwood bender board and planting up the cactus in the garage of our rented flat. Once planted, we would drive around to the various shops and sell them - it was lots of work and tons of fun.

OLDEST PLANT



Mammillaria spinosissima in the garden

Pam Badger



"The Cactus Kid"!

Pam Badger

Back to the original question about the oldest plant. When Lee would visit his friends in Pacific Beach he would pay a call to Joey at "Hairshapes," sometimes even getting a haircut. In talking about the Cactus Kid business, Joey said he would like a cactus for his shop window. On his next trip south, Lee took Joey a sweet little *Mammillaria spinosissima*, neatly staged in one of our redwood boxes.

In 1976, Lee and I went on an adventure which took us to Nicaragua for a few years—leaving the Cactus Kid business and the retail store which had grown from it—to grow succulents in Central America. If you remember any news from the late 70's, a civil war began brewing in Nicaragua which necessitated our eventual return to California in 1979. Settling back in San Diego (as my home town of San Francisco was too cold after being acclimated to Central America) we ended up at our home in Spring Valley. We had gone back to visit Joey and get haircuts, and noticed the *Mammillaria* overflowing its

box in the window. Joey, who was doing some remodeling and had young children, offered the plant back to us. When we built the current landscape the Mamm found its home in the ground. Now, 50 years later it is still thriving—the oldest plant in my garden.

If you look closely, to the upper right of the plant you can see the ancient stems left as the *Mammillaria* grew.

Home sweet home!

PAM BADGER

APRIL 2023 BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

SDCSS members came through and shared lovely winter plants at the April meeting's Brag Table, judged by Kelly Griffin!

Thanks for participating in the brag table! Remember, we have a Brag Table every meeting. Novices have a great chance of winning club bucks, so why not give it a try? We'd love to see your plants!

BRAG TABLE: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Bergeranthus* sp.

Miriam Parent



2nd: *Gasteria baylissiana*

Linda Stewart



3rd: *Euphorbia jansenvillensis*

Jared Petker

BRAG TABLE: NOVICE SUCCULENT



Euphorbia polygona

Miriam Parent



Sempervivum tectorum

Miriam Parent



Aeonium dodrantale

Juan Diaz



Euphorbia polygona

Ron Labaco



Aeonium 'Sunburst' crest

Ron Labaco

BRAG TABLE: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Haworthiopsis coarctata*

Chuck Ramey



2nd: *Euphorbia anoplia*

Chuck Ramey



3rd: *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*

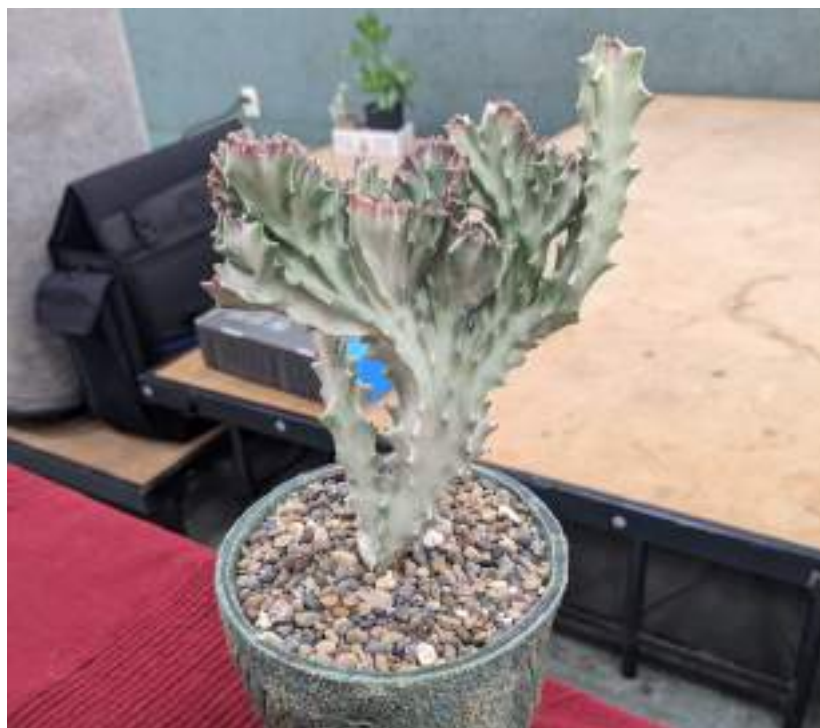
Bev Grant

BRAG TABLE: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



Aloe 'Wildfire'

Chuck Ramey



Euphorbia lacteal

Chuck Ramey

BRAG TABLE: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Sarcocaulon patersonii*

Peter Walkowiak



2nd: *Euphorbia hamata*

Peter Walkowiak



3rd: *Dudleya* hybrid

Pam Badger



Euphorbia fusca

Peter Walkowiak

BRAG TABLE: NOVICE CACTUS

1st
PLACE



1st: *Astrophytum asterias* 'Super Kabuto'

Reggie E. Salazar

2nd
PLACE



2nd: *Rebutia* sp.

Lien Lieu

3rd
PLACE



3rd: *Gymnocalycium baldianum*

Sergio Lopez

BRAG TABLE: NOVICE CACTUS



Mammillaria tetrancistra

Sergio Lopez



Gymnocalycium horstii

Tatiana Church



Myrtillocactus geometrizans elite crest

Sergio Lopez



Epithelantha micromeris

Suzy Foran



Notocactus uebelmannianus

Lien Lieu

BRAG TABLE: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



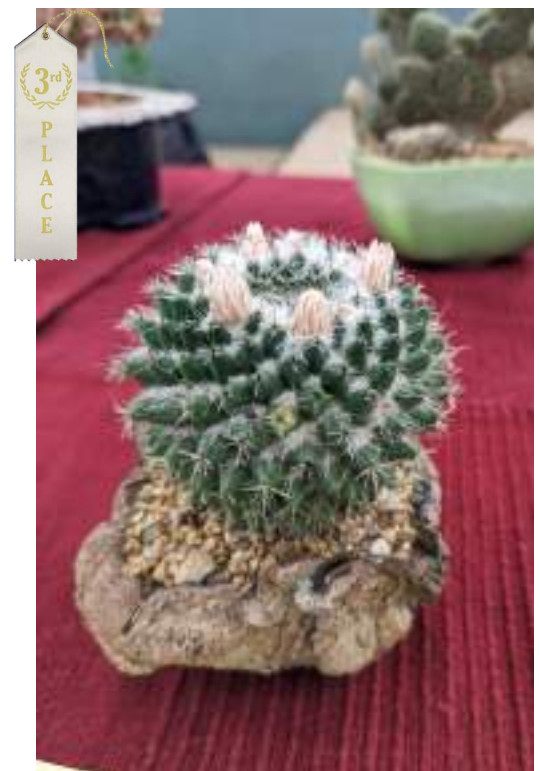
1st: *Melocactus azureus*

Peter Hagopian



2nd: *Cumulopuntia sphaerica*

Chuck Ramey



3rd: *Mammillaria* sp.

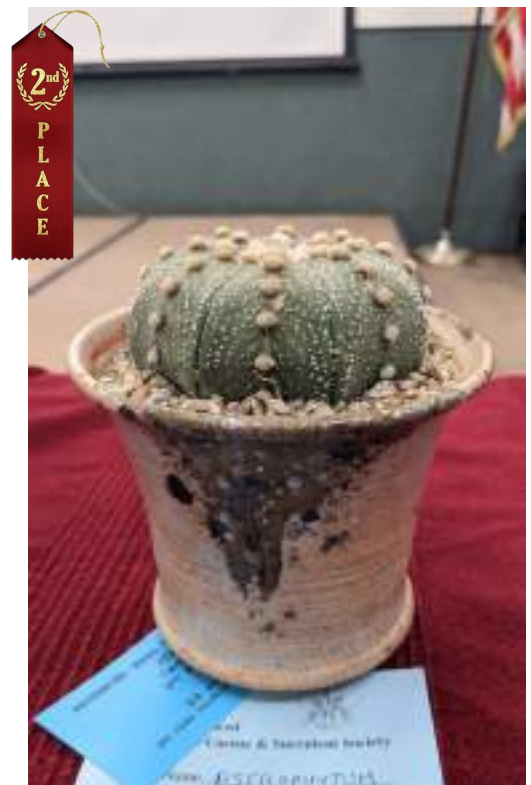
Chuck Ramey

BRAG TABLE: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Echinocereus reichenbachii*

Peter Walkowiak



2nd: *Astrophytum asterias* 'Super Kabuto'
hybrid

Brian Shepherd



3rd: *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* var. *inermis*

Peter Walkowiak



Echinocereus boyce-thompsonii

Peter Walkowiak

UPCOMING SOCIETY AND AFFILIATE EVENTS



Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 48th Annual Sale

Plant Sale – Friday & Saturday, May 12–13, 2023

Exhibit Show – Saturday, May 13, 2023

9:00am – 4:00pm Both Days

Redlands Church of the Nazarene

1307 East Citrus Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374

FREE ADMISSION

Thousands of rare and unusual cacti and succulents for sale.

Learn growing tips from professional growers about drought-tolerant plants.

Unique handmade ceramic pottery for your plants.

www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com

(909) 910-9195



Cactus and Succulent Society of America 2023 Biennial Convention

July 12 to 16, 2023

Succulents with Altitude Colorado Springs, Colorado



2023 CSSA Convention in Colorado Springs, CO

The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society invites you to the CSSA 39th Biennial Convention in beautiful downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado. The convention is from July 12 to July 16, 2023, with field trips on July 13th. This year we will also feature an optional field trip prior to the convention. There will be excellent speakers, plant and pottery vendors, live auction, and silent auction, local sales area, an opening reception, and awards banquet.