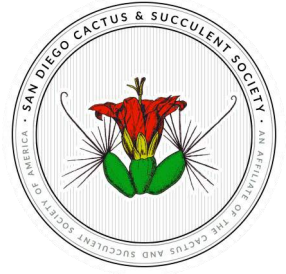


ESPINAS Y FLORES



VOL. 59, No. 04
APRIL 2024

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



PEDIOCACTUS // APRIL SPEAKERS & PRE-MEETING TOPIC //
MEMBER SECTION // MARCH BRAG TABLE RESULTS // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Pediocactus-winkleri

Photo by Benjamin Mohler

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UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

OUR UPCOMING MEETING
April 13th

FOLLOWING MEETING
May 11th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
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Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show	[open]
Historian	Jerry Garner
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	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 Coordinator	Pam Badger

LIAISONS

Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
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SD Botanic Foundation	Lynn Elliot
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 and Happy Spring! As I sit under a blanket awaiting afternoon showers, it doesn't feel a lot like Spring, however the deciduous trees now in full leaf and the abundance of flowers all around the county assure me Spring is here. Mean while I am eagerly waiting for the nighttime temperatures to get up to 60 so I can start propagating my Euphorbias; history has taught me to not even take cutting as they are very slow to root, even in warmer temps, if they have not woken up first. I must be patient and wait for warmth.

Our March meeting was quite fun and interesting, featuring two talks which captivated those in attendance. First **Jared Petker** talked about Euphorbias and their variety of "spine" structures—so different from the Cactus! Then our main speaker, **Ricardo Ramirez Chaparro**, led us on an adventure as he sought the elusive *Mammillaria luethi* in habitat. If you have ever gone looking for a rare plant you know how frustrating it can be, though all the other cool plants and animals you see along the way make the seeking exciting. The fantastic pictures he had when he finally found it in bloom made us realize why he worked so hard to get the rare glimpse of this plant in full flower...so beautiful!

The March meeting also brought the first of our **organizational meetings for the CSSA Biannual Convention**, which we will be hosting in April of 2025. It was great to see so many members interested in working on the planning

of this event and volunteering once it is here! **These meetings will continue each month at our meeting, 12:00 in Room 101. Please join us and bring your ideas, skills, and enthusiasm!**

Coming up in April we are starting off with a **Coffee in the Garden at Brian Shepard's** place in Alpine. If you haven't been to Brian's garden, be sure and save the date - **Sunday April 7** - details in this EyF. Besides having a beautiful, large garden, Brian grows many cactus from seed, and always has a good variety of plants for sale. Brian is also a gifted artists and has prints and original artwork for sale. **Christine Vargas** will



Browningiana hertingiana Mar 2024 Pam Badger

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT.

be on hand with some of her hand-crafted pottery as well. And if that is not enough—Brian also likes to bake, and always has plenty of goodies to snack on. Hope to see you there!

Our April meeting will be on the 13th, and promises to be interesting. **Olga Batalov**, our Secretary and Membership Chair, will be giving a Plant of the Month talk—I'm not sure of the topic yet, but know there will be some great photos, as Olga is a gifted photographer! Our main speaker will be a representative from the IUCN—**International Union for Conservation of Nature**—who will be discussing threatened species and ways we can all help with the conservation of endangered plants. **Brita Miller** will be doing a pre-meeting workshop on packing show plants for transporting them to sales; remember, we have a Show coming up in June and we want you to feel confident about bringing in your plants. We will have all our regular events as well: plant and pottery sales, Brag Table, Benefit Drawing, and library. We all enjoy snacks at the break, so if you haven't brought in anything to share for a while, please consider bringing something to add to the snack table. Thanks in advance!

See you April 13!

Pam Badger
March 23, 2024



Cleistocactus strausii "Silver Torch" Mar 2024

Pam Badger

GET READY FOR SPINE TIME.

THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PRESENTS:
THE 2024 SUMMER SHOW AND SALE

Sat June 1 & Sun June 2, 2024

at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park

See incredible out-of-this-world succulent and cacti from around the globe, 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 (except when closed for judging)
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

UPCOMING 2024 SUMMER SHOW AND SALE

Our annual June Show and Sale is just two months away - June 1 & 2.

Time to start getting ready!

Vendor contracts have gone out – if you plan to sell and have not gotten or returned your contract, contact Chris at c.miller@cox.net ASAP.

If you plan to show plants (which we hope you will), now is the time to start looking at your collection and selecting your best plants to show. If your plant needs repotting, do it now so they are well established in June. Entry cards will be available at the April and May meetings...so much easier to have them filled out before the event. There are 3 categories: **Green** cards for **beginners**; **Yellow** card for **intermediate** - when you have won 10 blue ribbons at show; and **Blue** cards for **open**: professional growers, and those who want to compete at that level.

The categories for competing entries are:

GREEN cards for exhibitors that have won 10 or less blue ribbons in a recognized cactus and succulent show.

YELLOW cards are for participants that have won more than 10 blue ribbons

BLUE cards are for vendors and anyone that wishes to compete in this category. Awards will be selected from any category.

The image shows three entry cards side-by-side, each with a different color: green for 'BEGINNER', yellow for 'INTERMEDIATE', and blue for 'OPEN'. All cards are for the 'SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY'. Each card has a logo of a cactus and a person. The forms include fields for 'EXHIBITOR NAME', 'ADDRESS', 'CITY', 'DIVISION', 'CLASS', and 'VARIETY'. There are also checkboxes for 'FIRST', 'SECOND', and 'THIRD' place awards.



For those of you who have not shown plants before, or would like tips on the best way to transport your plants, there will be a **Pre-Meeting Workshop by Brita Miller** (wrapped cacti, anyone?) on best ways to pack plants at the April meeting: check out Britta's presentation at **11:30 in the kitchen**.

As those of you who have previously participated as volunteers already know, this is a fun and exciting event to be a part of. There will be sign-up sheets at the April and May meetings with a variety of ways to participate, so be sure to attend and sign up for your favorite volunteer position!

PAM BADGER

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER



APRIL 13 SPEAKER
MICHIEL PILLET
“COMMON-SENSE CACTUS
CONSERVATION IN THE 21ST
CENTURY.”

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Michiel (Mich) Pillet is the Program Officer for the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group hosted by the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at The University of Arizona in Tucson, a member of the IUCN SSC Succulent Plant Illegal Trade Task Force, and a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Conservation Committee.

Dedicated to cactus conservation, he studies the impact of climate change on cacti. He became interested in cacti as a teenager growing up in Belgium, where he had a small cactus collection. When Michiel moved to Tucson in 2016, things quickly got out of hand. In 2021, he opened a conservation-focused cactus nursery, Prickly Prospects, which focuses on ethical propagation of the most endangered species. He is involved in conservation projects with several botanical gardens. He believes strongly in the importance of holistic conservation management including both research in the field, as well as safeguarding the future of cacti by cultivating them. While he tries to avoid picking favorites, he's partial to columnar cacti, Brazilian species, and opuntia.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER TOPIC

Cacti are one of the most endangered groups of organisms on the planet, besieged by poaching, habitat destruction, and climate change. Properly conserving our prickly friends in this changing world requires a paradigm shift in the way we view conservation, as well as increased collaboration between stakeholders from all levels of society.

**ABOUT OUR POM & PRE-MEETING TALKS**

Join us just before the meeting for **Brita Miller's** pre-meeting demo, “Ideas for Packing and Traveling with Show Plants” and for **Olga Batalov's** POM presentation on *Pediocactus*.

[SEE YOU ON APRIL 13, 2024!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL COFFEE IN THE GARDEN**Who:** Brian & Sally Shepherd and Chris Vargas**When:** Sunday, April 7th from 9 am – 3 pm**Where:** 2837 North Victoria Drive, Alpine 91901**Phone:** (619) 743-5130 or (619) 609-6579

Directions: Take 8 East, exit Tavern Rd. Go left up Victoria Park Terrace, turn left at the cemetery onto N. Victoria Drive. The house is about ¼ mile on the right. Continue past the house and take the next right onto Homeward Way. Ours is the second house on the right – plenty of street parking.



Spring is finally here! Come and visit our low water-requirement garden which features over an acre of cacti, succulents and other drought tolerant plants. The garden is a pleasure to walk through! There are also two greenhouses containing a selection of small cactus and succulent plants which will be for sale.

Chris Vargas will be selling some of her beautiful pottery creations.

Prints of some of Brian's original paintings will also be for sale.

Coffee, soft drinks and snacks available.

Cash or Venmo will be accepted.

SPINY STRUCTURES OF THE GENUS EUPHORBIA

COLD TOLERANT MINIATURE CACTI
OF THE GENUS *PEDIOCACTUS*

ARTICLE BY OLGA BATALOV

While planning for my December return trip to the Grand Canyon, which was not snowed in this time, I turned to iNaturalist to see what cacti I could expect to see there. One species caught my eye, since it was a genus I had not even heard of. It was *Pediocactus peeblesianus* and all observations were on the far northeastern edge of the Grand Canyon that we had no hope of reaching during our trip, but that got me into digging deeper.

Pediocactus is a small genus, closely related to, and at times lumped in with, *Sclerocactus* and *Turbinicarpus*. All of the species except *Pediocactus simpsonii* are rare, highly localized endemics that are protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act. They tend to be very cold tolerant, with some of the most northern ranges found in the cactus family. *Pediocactus* comes from the Greek *pedion*, meaning plains, due to where the first species was identified in the high mountains of what was once part of Kansas but is now central Colorado. Most of the species are actually found at high altitude, where the nighttime temperatures get very cold at night, while also experiencing low humidity. Because of this, despite their genus name, they are commonly referred to as mountain ball cacti. Due to their specialized needs, they can be difficult to keep in cultivation. Seed can also be difficult to obtain due to their protected status, and propagation via seed is not without its challenges.

Pediocactus bradyi, also known as the Marble Canyon cactus, has a distribution limited to northwestern Arizona near Marble Canyon, which is north of the Grand Canyon and just southwest of Page, AZ. It only grows in soil made up primarily of Kaibab limestone chips. These are small plants maxing out at 2.5" tall that sometimes cluster, but they shrink into the ground for most of the year, making them even harder to find even though they are fairly common in the area. They are evenly covered but not obscured by short, thin cream-colored spines. In the spring, they have 2" wide peach, pink or yellow flowers.

*Pediocactus bradyi*

ANDREW DUDLEY

SPINY STRUCTURES OF THE GENUS EUPHORBIA

Pediocactus despainii, also known as the San Rafael Swell cactus, is found only in the San Rafael Swell in Emery County, Utah - just north of Capitol Reef NP. It grows at the edge of pinyon-juniper forests. Plants measure about 2" tall by 3" wide, and again tend to shrink into the ground during the heat of summer and cold of winter. They have 1" wide pale yellow to salmon-pink flowers in the early spring. This species has thin, straight spines that can be as long as 2 inches on older plants, a distinguishing characteristic that can completely cover the body.

Pediocactus knowltonii is a critically endangered (IUCN Red List) species that ironically is also one of the easiest to grow in cultivation, although seeds are hard to come by. This species does not shrink down into the soil in the summer and winter. It is a tiny plant, usually under 1" tall, with clusters of tiny spines on the tips of the tubercles and 1" pink flowers that tend to form as buds in the fall only to open in the spring. It is limited to habitat above 6500 feet in elevation flanking the Los Pinos River in northwestern New Mexico, growing in a mixture of river rock and humus. This habitat is now fenced off due to previous heavy field collecting and threats from nearby drilling for oil and gas. It is only known from the type locality, which is privately owned and managed as a Nature Conservancy preserve. In cultivation, this species does not need a dry summer rest period.

Pediocactus paradinei, the House Rock Valley cactus, is also endangered (IUCN Red List). It is found in House Rock Valley, just north of the Grand Canyon North Rim, growing at 7000 feet elevation in limestone soils and sharing its habitat with grama grass, sagebrush and juniper. It also shrinks into the ground in the summer, fall and winter, becoming impossible to find. This species can also have long spines with age, thick and silver in this case and up to an inch long. Inch-wide light pink to yellow flowers form at the top of the plant.

Pediocactus peeblesianus has short, twisted, corky, white spines on a 2" wide body with lemony-yellow ½ inch wide flowers. This species has two disjointed populations: *ssp. fickeiseniae* with a wider distribution but still within the boundaries of the Grand Canyon (the one I found in my search), and *ssp. peeblesianus* with a limited distribution in the Holbrook area to the east. They grow in very rocky, alkaline soils. They can be grown in cultivation as grafted plants, but die quickly when grown on their own roots.

Pediocactus sileri, also known as the gypsum cactus, grows only in Pipe Springs National Monument (cont'd)



Pediocactus sileri

ANDREW DUDLEY

SPINY STRUCTURES OF THE GENUS EUPHORBIA

*Pediocactus nigrispinus*

ANDREW DUDLEY

(cont'd from previous page)

in northwestern Arizona. This plant can branch and reach up to 10" tall and 4" wide, with primarily short white radial spines and some thicker brown to black spines. Flowers are ~1" wide and do not open fully because of the spines. It grows only in gypsum soil, and does not shrink into the soil as much as the other species do.

Pediocactus simpsonii, the mountain ball cactus, was the first species described and has the most widespread range, including New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada as well as up into Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon. As such, it is not federally protected and, coupled with its relative ease of culture, the most common of the genus in commerce. Flower color, spine length, spine color and plant size vary across its range. It can infrequently cluster, with each head reaching up to 5.5" tall and wide. Spines usually, but not always, fully cover the body of the plant. Most have pink flowers, but whites, reds and even purples have been observed. In some areas, it can grow above altitudes of 11,000 feet, and it is generally found growing in areas above 7000 feet. *Pediocactus nigrispinus* is typically considered a variety of *Pediocactus simpsonii*, and is found in dry areas of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho; it tends to have darker spines. Standard cactus mixes are suitable for growing this species, and a dry summer rest is not required.

*Pediocactus nigrispinus*

ANDREW DUDLEY

SPINY STRUCTURES OF THE GENUS EUPHORBIA

*Pediocactus winkleri*

BENJAMIN MOHLER

Pediocactus winkleri is only known to grow in a limited range in Wayne County, Utah in the vicinity of Capitol Reef NP. It was the last of the species to be discovered and described in 1979, due to its highly cryptic nature and remote location. Like most of the other species, it shrinks into the soil for most of the year. Spines do not fully cover the body of the plant, which is slightly taller than wide at 2.5" x 2" with ½ inch salmon to pink flowers. Grafted plants, when available, are easier to grow than own root plants. It endures temperatures of 105°F in the summer and -30°F in the dead of winter.

OLGA BATALOV

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- [1] Chance LJ. *Cacti & Succulents for Cold Climates, 274 Outstanding Species for Challenging Conditions*. 2012. <https://nrmrareplants.unm.edu/node/127>

PHOTO SOURCES:

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MEMBER SECTION

MEETING SNACKS

We all enjoy gathering every month and spending time with each other before the meeting, during the meeting... and at the break! Unfortunately, there has been a decline of participation in the snack table this year.

Any members who can help out by bringing a small contribution of snacks (such as fruit, crackers, cookies, sweets, or other similar items), the club would be most appreciative. Thank you for helping us make our gatherings – and even our snack breaks – extra special!



Aeonium 'Starburst' goes wild

Pam Badger



Dudleya saxosa ssp. *aloides* in a crevice at Joshua Tree National Park on a rainy day!

Der-shing Helmer

JANUARY BRAG TABLE



MAMMILLARIA DIOICA

CHUCK RAMEY

SDCSS members shared a full table of plants at the March Meeting's Brag Table!

Thank you for bringing in your incredible plants, and thanks to Novice and Intermediate judges Denise Huntsman-Griffin and Kelly Griffin, and Advanced judges, our March speaker Ricardo Ramírez Chaparro and his collaborator Sebastian.

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



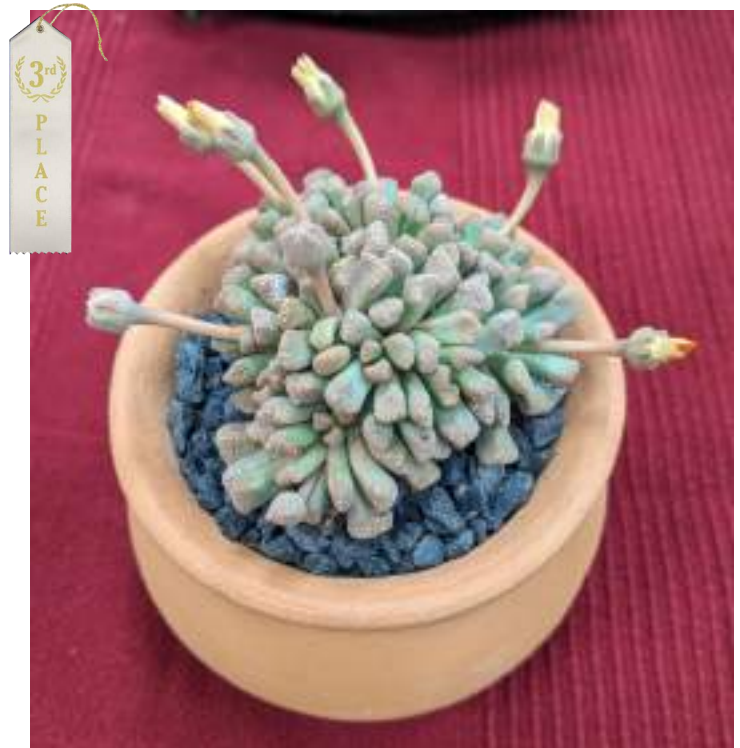
1ST: *EUPHORBIA ALLUAUDII*

MIRIAM A. PARENT



2ND: *DRACAENA SP.*

LIEN LIEU



3RD: *TITANOPSIS SP.*

TRICIA BOSTARD

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE SUCCULENT



AEONIUM ARBOREUM

MIRIAM A. PARENT



AEONIUM SP.

MIRIAM A. PARENT



DUDLEYA SP.

LIEN LIEU



ALOE HUMILIS

MIRIAM A. PARENT

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1ST: *EUPHORBIA FEROX*

JARED PETKER



1ST: *ALOE 'WILDFIRE'*

CHUCK RAMEY

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

2nd
P
L
A
C
E



2ND: *HAWORTHIA SP.* CHUCK RAMEY

2nd
P
L
A
C
E



2ND: *EUPHORBIA ENLOPA* HEATHER CHAN

3rd
P
L
A
C
E



3RD: *EUPHORBIA JAPONICA* JARED PETKER

3rd
P
L
A
C
E



3RD: *EUPHORBIA LACTEA CRESTED* HEATHER CHAN

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



EUPHORBIA PERANGUSTA

JARED PETKER



AGAVE ISTHMENSIS X TITANOTA

PETER HAGOPIAN



AGAVE SHAWII MONSTROSA

PETER HAGOPIAN



ARGYRODERMA FISSUM

CHUCK RAMEY

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



ALOE SP.

JAY CROWLEY



EUPHORBIA TRIACULIATA

JARED PETKER



CRASSULA CONNATA

MELANIE HOWE

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st
P
L
A
C
E

1ST: ALOE ERINACEA

KELLY GRIFFIN



2nd
P
L
A
C
E

2ND: PELARGONIUM XEROPHYTUM [NO NAME]



3rd
P
L
A
C
E

3RD: ECHEVERIA COLORATA VARIEGATA KELLY GRIFFIN

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



CRASSULA LANUGINOSA

NAOMI OROSZ



GREENOVIA 'PANDORA' [NAME UNAVAILABLE]



AEONIUM 'SUMBURST' [NAME UNAVAILABLE]

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED SUCCULENT



ADROMISCHUS MARIANAE

KELLY GRIFFIN



AGAVE CV. BRITTLESTAR X

KELLY GRIFFIN



AGAVE 'SNAIL SNACK' X BGLow

KELLY GRIFFIN

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE CACTUS

1st
P
L
A
C
E



1ST: MAMMILLARIA SP.

TRICIA BOSTARD

2nd
P
L
A
C
E



2ND: MAMMILLARIA ELONGATA

MIRIAM A. PARENT

3rd
P
L
A
C
E



3RD: PARODIA LENINGHAUSII

SAM/LYN

BRAG TABLE // NOVICE CACTUS



ECHINOCEREUS RIGIDISSIMUS

MIRIAM A. PARENT



ECHINOCACTUS TEXENSIS

MIRIAM A. PARENT

BRAG TABLE // INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1ST: *MAMMILLARIA HAHNIANA*

CHUCK RAMEY



2ND: *MAMMILLARIA LONGIMAMMA*

CHUCK RAMEY



3RD: *GYMNOCALYCIUM SPEGAZZINII*

PETER HAGOPIAN

BRAG TABLE // ADVANCED CACTUS



1ST: *NEOPORTERIA NIDUS SENILIS*

BRIAN SHEPHERD



2ND: [TAG/PLANT UNAVAILABLE]



ASTROPHYTUM ONZUKA HYBRID

KELLY GRIFFIN



3RD: *NEOCHILENIA HUASCENSIS*

JEN GREENE

[PLANT UNAVAILABLE]