

VOLUME 58 • NUMBER 10 • OCTOBER 2023



ESPINAS Y FLORES



X. P. T. 23 • LITHOPS CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AFRICA
SEPTEMBER BRAG TABLE RESULTS • UPCOMING EVENTS & more!

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



ON THE COVER

Welwitschia mirabilis

and members of the Ex-Presidents

Tour of South Africa and Namibia, 2023:
Joey Betzler, Kelly Griffin, and Tom Knapik

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s Message pg 3 • Upcoming speaker pgs 4 - 5

2023 Holiday Party pg 6 • Treasurer position pg 6

Oct Coffee in the Garden pg 7 • 2024 Winter Show pg 8

Plant of the Month feature pgs 9 - 12

September Brag Table results pgs 13 - 20

SDCSS SCHEDULE

Our next in-person meeting:

October 14th

Upcoming nursery crawl event:

November 11th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEES & SUB COMMITTEES

Conservation	Herb Stern
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	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	Lynn Elliot
SD Floral Association	Jeanette Dutton
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

MEMBERSHIP, BUSINESS, & PUBLICITY

Membership	May Fong Ho
Business Manager	Donna Roden
Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	Jared Petker
Publicity	Christie Lathrop

CONTACT SDCSS

membership@sdcss.net

CONTACT EyF EDITOR

eyf.editor@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in articles and editorial comments are solely the opinions of the author or the editor, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the SDCSS, the board of Directors, or the organization as a whole. All material submitted to the *Espinas y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content and shared on the club’s social media with attribution. All material contained in the *Espinas y Flores* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations unless permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the article. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the express consent of the editor is prohibited.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, and welcome to Fall! This can be an exciting time in the garden as the winter-growing plants begin to emerge from their summer dormancy. This is a good time to start looking at your collection to determine which plants are winter growers as we plan for our February show and sale. This show was created to showcase winter-growing plants. We are currently revising our plant list for this show—as show space is more limited, we need to really focus on these plants. If you remember last February, the show space was very cramped (which is a good thing), however, we want to limit the show to true winter growers. To help our member in identifying winter-growing plants, we will be holding educational workshops on this topic in January.



The July meeting, though smaller than our regular meetings as it was held in Room 104, was very interesting. It was fun to have former SDCSS president Tom Knapik there to judge the brag plant table and introduce our guest speaker, **Pamela Koide Hyatt**. Pamela, of Bird Rock Tropicals, gave a wonderful talk about the late Professor Werner Rauh, who did a massive amount of research on plants, especially Bromeliads and succulents all over Africa and South America. She talked about the many plants he identified and collected for research. With the current sensitivity about collecting plants from the wild—which is very much discouraged and often illegal—some people may have been surprised in regards to the extensive collecting that Professor Rauh did. What needs to be understood is the difference between careful academic collecting for knowledge and indiscriminate collection for profit. These days, due to technology, very little sanctioned collecting is carried out, as photos and tissue culture can provide data needed to research and categorize new plants.

July also featured a Plant of the Month double feature presented by our Newsletter editor, Der-shing Helmer, on succulent Euphorbias of the Americas. Being a fan of these plants, I was fascinated by this presentation. Thanks to Der-shing for another wonderful presentation! Those of you who attended the September meeting heard that we, SDCSS, have been invited to host the CSSA National Convention in 2025. This is a large event which brings people from all over the world together for field trips, workshops, speakers, sales, auctions and other events over three days.



Tylecodon paniculatus dinterii putting on winter growth
Pam Badger

Many members present seemed very excited about this possibility and I am please to announce that the Board voted to **accept** this invitation. Planning is already starting and there will be many volunteer opportunities, so stay tuned!

October promises to bring another fun meeting. Tom Knapik will be our main speaker, which I am happy about, as Tom has lots of knowledge and is always an interesting speaker. There will be sales, our library, an exchange table, brag plants, the benefit drawing, and Kelly will be giving a talk about conservation efforts. Gunnar Eisel from the CSSA and Chair of the 2025 Convention will be on-hand to talk about the convention and answer any questions you have.

I look forward to seeing you **October 14**, back in Room 101, for a great meeting!

Pam Badger
September 22, 2023

SDCSS OCTOBER SPEAKER

Join us Saturday, September 9th for our awesome guest speaker **Tom Knapik** on the talk “X. P. T. 23”



Crassula columnaris in bloom

Tom Knapik

Our Speaker Topic: “When I pursued a bachelor’s degree in biology at Humboldt State University, in northern California, three 5 unit classes in botany were required. They were plant morphology, plant physiology, and plant taxonomy, all of which held very little interest for me. Dr. Metzler’s plant tax course involved slide images illustrating the diversity of the plant world. What woke me up during a particular 7:30 AM presentation, was a plant that looked otherworldly, *Welwitschia mirabilis*, as seen on the cover image. When my niece saw this picture, she called it “octopus of the desert”. An apt description. Learning about this plant lit a flame of curiosity that two years later led me to the succulent plant world which has had a profound effect on my adult life.

Over the 40+ years since that class, I have had a lingering desire to see that plant in habitat. Thankfully, I have two close friends that had the same idea floating in their heads as well. Joey Betzler and I produced the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society newsletter

for three years in the late-1990s. Kelly Griffin and I have traveled to Chile, Bolivia, and Mexico on succulent plant expeditions. We all have been past presidents of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, hence the title of my program, The Ex-Presidents Tour of South Africa and Namibia. (X. P. T. 23)

The program will be a travel log of the plants, places, and people we encountered on the 2 1/2 week trip through those countries. We covered 3000+ miles in that time and managed to avoid snakes and arrest for jumping fences, although we did get a lecture from a few local authorities. We met some amazing people, visited beautiful places, and photographed fantastic plants during our adventure. We all had seeing *Welwitschia* in habitat as our #1 goal, but I had *Aloe erinacea* and *Adenia pechuelii* as my #2 and #3, both of which we were able to see in habitat.

We learned about the vastness of the Namib desert and the harsh conditions these plants are barely able to endure. We were surprised that they are under attack from poaching by foreign entities. Removing these botanical treasures from habitat has created many logistical problems that I’ll discuss. I learned that a degree requirement all those years ago has led to a fantastic life experience with two close friends, creating memories that I will carry the rest of my life. **Come join me for a photographic presentation of our adventure on Oct. 14, room 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park.**

SDCSS OCTOBER SPEAKER

About Our Speaker: I was born and raised in Northern New York. I moved to California in 1976 where I attended U. of San Diego for 2 years. I transferred to Humboldt State University where I graduated in 1981 with a degree in Biology and Zoology. While visiting a college friend in 1982, I saw a small succulent collection that changed the trajectory of my life.

I moved back to San Diego in 1984 where I started my teaching career and worked part time at David Grigsby's cactus nursery and C & J's cactus nursery. I became a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society and eventually got more involved as program chair, board member, president, and newsletter editor. I was the annual show chair for 12 years.

My interest in succulent plants has taken me to countries all around the world. I've photographed succulent collections in England, Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. I've have photographed succulents in habitat from Mexico, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, U.S. Virgin Islands, and now South Africa and Namibia. I also met my wife Carol through the hobby, showing how much these plants have shaped and enriched my life.

About Our POM: Kelly Griffin will present on Lithops Conservation in South Africa. Read his article in this newsletter!

See you at the October 14th meeting!



Setting up camp

Tom Knapik

MEMBER SECTION: UPCOMING EVENTS

the december holiday party!

SAVE THE DATE: December 9th 2023!

Our traditional Holiday Party will be back in full swing this year!

We will begin gathering @10am for socializing, drinks, and checking out the gift, exchange, and auction plants. Start thinking about the plant or other related item you will bring for the gift exchange. Remember, the better the item you bring, the sooner you will be able to choose!

Cost is \$35.00 members, \$38.00 guests (only members receive gift plants).

Purchase a ticket at the October meeting or online [here](#).

FIND FULL DETAILS ONLINE AND IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS!

SDCSS TREASURER POSITION: OPEN!

We're seeking a volunteer for a PAID Treasurer position within SDCSS!

A qualified Treasurer candidate will be organized, financially minded, Quickbooks proficient, familiar with Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and have cash management experience.

This position has a monthly stipend of \$200. Tasks during normal operations:

1. Manage bank accounts
2. Cut checks to vendors as needed
3. Record transactions in Quickbooks as incurred
4. Quarterly CA Sales Tax Returns
5. Compile annual financial statements and send to Tax Prep Team.
6. During club sales: manage cash before, during, and after events as needed
7. Provide monthly bank report to Club Board for Board Review and Approval.
8. Must be available Wednesday after the monthly club meeting for a Zoom board meeting.

If interested, please contact us at membership@sdcss.net

MEMBER SECTION: COFFEE IN THE GARDEN AT THE MILLER'S

When: October 21, 2023

Time: 10am to 1pm

Where: 10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee CA

Phone: 619-258-9810 (call if you get lost)

Come see what has changed and what has grown even bigger. This is a chance to see some mistakes I have made and what a lot of stuff looks like in the ground. Yes, the backyard is still dirt. We'll have treats and BJ's great coffee, and a chance to enjoy each other's company.

I will have plants and pots for sale. I have lots of terracotta pots free to a good (or bad) home.



Directions: 52 East to Mast. East on Mast to Cuyamaca (left), go one block and turn right on Beck, down 6 blocks and turn left on Waynecrest Lane. Middle of the block on the left. Look for the cactus.

8 East to 67 East. Exit at Magnolia/Prospect. East on Magnolia for lots of stoplights. Left on El Nopal. Up 3 blocks and turn left on Waynecrest Lane. Halfway down the block on the right. Look for the cactus.



MEMBER SECTION: UPCOMING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

WINTER SHOW & SALE: FEBRUARY 10, 2024

BALBOA PARK, CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 101 & PATIO

The show is FREE and open to the public!

SHOW HOURS

Bring in Plants: Friday noon - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 10am

Show open for viewing: Saturday 10am-3pm

SALE HOURS

Members only: Saturday 9am - 11am (please bring proof of membership)

General public: Saturday 11am - 3pm

GET INVOLVED IN THE WINTER SHOW!

Did you enjoy our June Show and Sale? Are you ready to step up and take a more active role? **Chris Miller**, our VP and Chairperson of the Sale, is looking for an assistant / trainee. Chris has been running the sale for 20 years and has it down to a science, which is why our sales go so smoothly. She is looking for someone to train and begin learning this position. Chris is a great mentor and is looking for someone with good organizational and people skills to eventually take over and carry on for a few years.

If interested, please contact

Chris: c.miller@cox.net

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFO UP-TO-DATE

Don't miss out on important news from us!

Over the years, many of our members have changed their emails and mailing addresses. We'd like to update our catalog of membership info to have all of your correct emails and addresses for reaching out to you in the future. This easy survey takes just moments to fill out.

Thanks for helping us keep your records up-to-date!

[PLEASE VISIT THIS LINK TO GET STARTED](#)

PLANT OF THE MONTH

LITHOPS CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

BY KELLY GRIFFIN



Lithops terricolor Cole 134. Note the three-leaved plant

Kelly Griffin

On a recent trip to South Africa—or I should say, the first of many mini side-adventures of our trip to Namibia—we managed to stop and visit a little nature reserve just outside of the town of Prince Albert. My compadres were none other than Tom Knapik and Joey Betzler, whom most of the club members know well. We jokingly referred to this trip as “the presidential tour,” as we had all served at one time or another as presidents of the SDCSS.

The Wolwekraal Nature Reserve manages to protect a number of areas in and around Prince Albert that are the abode of some pretty interesting flora. *Bijlia cana* (now *B. dilatata*) and *Glottophyllum nelii* are but a few of the many succulent plants that grow in this region.

One of the plants of interest to me was the population of *Lithops terricolor* (C134) that grows on the flat, rocky ground not too distant from town. We checked in at the reserve and told them that we would like to see the Lithops plants and to take photos. It wasn’t awfully long until the director Sue Milton-Dean drove up and greeted us. After pleasantries, she offered to accompany us to the site. She is incredibly knowledgeable about the flora and fauna of the area and was extremely helpful to us. We saw many plants that you would perhaps not expect to see on a relatively short hike, including *Rhombophyllum*, *Glottophyllum*, and, of course, the aforementioned *Lithops terricolor*. *(continued after the photo galleries)*

PLANT OF THE MONTH



Lithops terricolor is a brown bodied plant with darker brown spots and as you might guess fits well into the like colored stoney substrate. The flowers are most often bright yellow.

Kelly Griffin



I have grown many Lithops from seed and on occasion I have observed an odd three lobed plant. Normally they form leaf pairs, but sometimes you get a weird one. This occurs at a fairly small percentage and I suppose in some species perhaps more than others, but regardless, it is something like one in a hundred to one in a thousand. I have had the good fortune to see five or six species in the wild, but they are always difficult to find and the populations observed tend to be more in the tens of plants rather than hundreds.

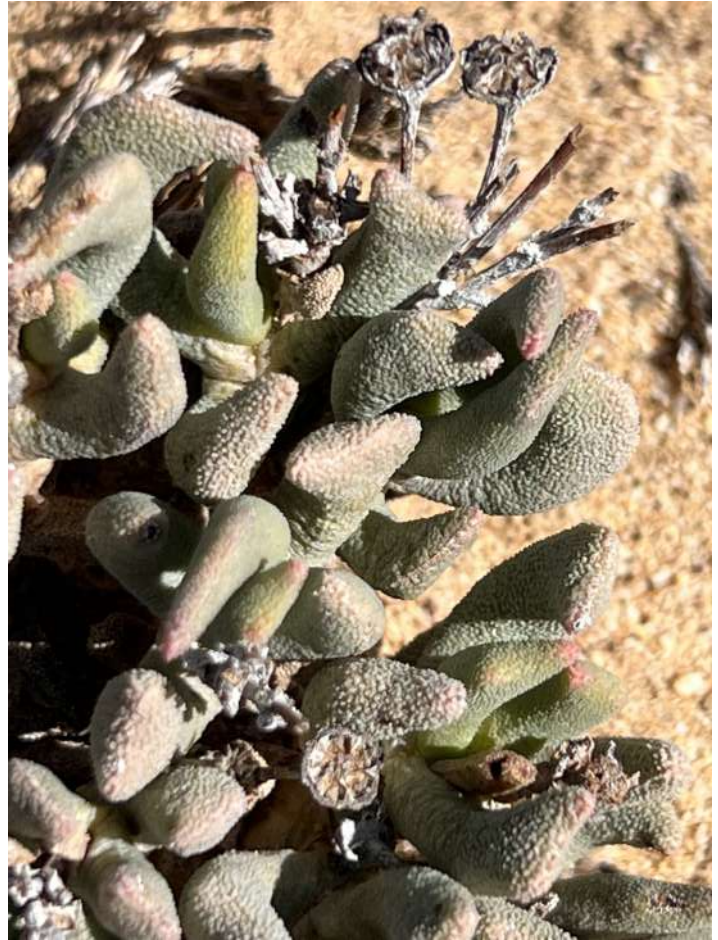
This is not to say that the populations are actually that small, but rather, you have to look hard to find them and you don't see that many unless they are pumped up with good rains or in flower. On this visit, we found a three-leaved *Lithops terricolor* in the veld (as pictured)...it was a rare—as well as cool thing—to see!

Kelly Griffin

PLANT OF THE MONTH



Bijlia cana (dilatata) with two flowers Kelly Griffin



Rhombophylla nelii Kelly Griffin



Cultivated Lithops seedlings, with a three-leafed baby among them Kelly Griffin

PLANT OF THE MONTH

We exchanged contact information and then parted after a short but enlightening visit. Subsequently, while meandering across Namibia, the three amigos got to talking about how we might be able to contribute to the conservation work at the reserve. We made an inquiry to Sue as to how we might assist the work they are doing. She sent us back a very modest proposal to assist in the protection of the habitat. The proposal was for several solar-powered nature cameras that could monitor the population in the hopes that this curtails the collection and degradation of their habitat. The cameras ping a cell phone and allows the reserve to see if any harm is being done. The site is easily accessible, but also close enough so that it is only a minute or two away for the nature reserve workers. It is a mystery to me why a field collected plant would be so desirable when Lithops are so easy to grow from seed, but this still seems to be the case.

We presented this proposal to the SDCSS board earlier this year, and they approved to fund half from the conservation fund. I also proposed it to the CSSA conservation committee, and they funded the rest of this proposal.

I am happy to report to you that the reserve proposal has been fully funded, and the cameras are in place and working well. “Wolwekraal” means “wolves’ corral,” but comes from the name of the farm on which the reserve now exists. There are some interesting animals living there, including aardvarks and chameleons.

For more information on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve, please visit wcro.co.za.

KELLY GRIFFIN



Glottophyllum nelii in flower

Kelly Griffin

SEPTEMBER 2023 BRAG TABLE WINNERS GALLERY

SDCSS members came through and shared lovely winter plants at the August Meeting's Brag Table, judged by Tom Knapik.

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

Matalea cyclophylla by Jodi Visosky

BRAG TABLE: NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st: *Matalea cyclophylla*

Jodi Visosky

BRAG TABLE: NOVICE SUCCULENT



2nd: *Echeveria elegans* crest

Chris Gleason



3rd: *Aloe erinaceae*
Ruben Villasenor

BRAG TABLE: INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st: *Dudleya* sp.

Peter Hagopian



1st: *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*

Peter Hagopian

BRAG TABLE: ADVANCED SUCCULENT



1st: *Euphorbia misera*

Pam Badger

BRAG TABLE: NOVICE CACTUS



1st: *Tephrocactus papyracanthus*

Ruben Villasenor

BRAG TABLE: INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st: *Cylindropuntia* sp.
Peter Hagopian



2nd: *Neoporteria islayensis* fma. *molendensis*
Peter Hagopian

BRAG TABLE: ADVANCED CACTUS



1st: *Tephrocactus geometricus*

Grow Margo



2nd: *Myrtillocactus geometrizans*

Grow Margo