

# ESPINAS Y FLORES

Volume 55 · Number 4 · April 2020

**REMINDER**  
**APRIL MEETING**  
**CANCELLED**

**Are you a club member who is in need of assistance during  
the COVID-19 Shelter In Place order?**

contact **Tina Zucker** at (858) 342-9781 or **Al Klein** at (760) 519-9987

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

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The COVID-19 virus has changed our daily routines.

We have spoken to many people and there are a range of feelings, opinions, and other discourse. Please walk out to your garden or favorite cactus/succulent and be surprised by the wonder of nature and how they adapt, overcome, survive and thrive. We will miss you at our next meeting but look forward to our next gathering when it is appropriate to do so. So take this time to access your plants. Do they need repotted, fertilized, or otherwise protected from our recent rain? Research something you can share with us. Accomplish something that this downtime now allows us to do. We love pictures; especially with a caption. Send us one, or many. Are your cacti on a staycation with you?

Be safe, stay positive, and see you soon.

*Jim and Mary*

## ON THE COVER

*Aloe sp.*

Photo by **Kelly Griffin**

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## HAPPY SPRING FROM THE MILLER HOUSE AND GARDEN

I spent the first sunny day this week potting up cuttings that have been on the bench since the end of November. I finally got the potting bench cleaned off enough to start potting things I want to vs have to. Now all I need are a few sunny days. Currently Lake Miller is in place. Luckily I have enough cement in place to walk around it. My mesembs are putting out great color and fat juicy leaves and some of my cactus are starting to bloom. I went out earlier and pulled a few dead plants out and hopefully over the next few days I can replace them with some good sized mamms waiting to go in the ground. As an extrovert, forced down time for me is painful; I can't seem to stop working. At least some housekeeping and yard keeping is getting done, and I am still managing to read a book a day (luckily I have a bunch to choose from). I miss all of you and look forward to when we can get together again.

For now go out and talk to your plants, Elibet always said hers talked back.

Chris Miller

## DON HUNT'S POT THOUGHTS

FLOWER POTS

Standard Pot	1/2 Pot	Hanging Pot	1/2 Pot
Size	Per 100	Doz.	Doz.
1 1/2"	..... \$9.00	..... 10	..... 10
2"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
2 1/2"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
3"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
3 1/2"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
4"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
4 1/2"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
5"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
6"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
7"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
8"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
9"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
10"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
12"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10
14"	..... 10	..... 10	..... 10

Half Pots. — Fine for cultivation of bulbs, 6 inches, 20c; 7 inches, 30c; 8 inches, \$1.40; 10 inches, \$2.00 per doz.; 12 inches, 30c, each; 14 inches, 50c, each.

Seed Pans, 4 inches. Per doz. \$1.50.

Three-quarter Pots (Azalea Pots), 6 inches, per doz. 50c; 7 inches, per doz. \$1.00; 8 inches, per doz. \$1.75.

Fern Pots, 5 inches, per doz. 50c; 6 inches, 75c; 7 inches, \$1.00; 8 inches, \$1.50.

Hanging Pots, with Saucers attached, 30c, each.

Wire Hanging Baskets.

Each	Doz.	Each	Doz.
5 in. 25c.....	\$2.50	12 in. 40c.....	\$4.00
10 in. 30c.....	\$3.00	14 in. 50c.....	\$5.00

personal opinion (is there any other kind?) is that there is no such thing as “overpotted” in the sense of growing the plant. Aesthetics and show bench appearance are another matter, but a well grown plant will always have a healthy root system. This is difficult to achieve in a 3” pot. The reason 3” pots exist (IMO) is for the commercial grower to get a crop of plants from seedling to sales table economically. Once the plant is purchased, taken home and given a chance to acclimate to the new environment, it (probably) should get into a bigger pot and one with your own soil mix.

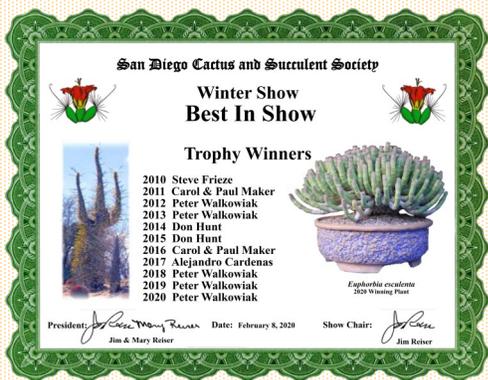
Since I've probably made 1000 pots by now, I've been thinking for a while about writing a series of articles about pots for “our plants.” If encouraged, I'll move on to other types of pots, but let's start with the most ubiquitous of all: **the plastic pot**, or as we affectionately refer to them “Jurgen Show Pots”. The most appealing reason for using these is that they are cheap. If we need to sacrifice the pot to ease a plant's transition, it's no loss. Typically, transplanting out of a plastic pot is not a challenge. Due to the flexible nature of the pot, it's easy to dump the entire mass of soil and roots in one shot. Obviously more difficult as the pot goes up in size, but still easier than any other type of pot. This is a primary consideration when the plant is an aggressive grower, such as an agave. **If the plant is in a rapid growth phase, the plastic pot is probably the best choice.** I always think of these as “grow out pots.”

It's difficult to discuss pots without a dissertation on soil, but I'll refer that for another time. Suffice it to say, the soil mix and especially drainage factor must be considered in matching a plant to the pot. My

The square plastic pots are particularly appealing if the object is to max out the bench top population. The flat bottoms allow watering from the bottom. If the square pots are packed into a tray of some sort, the water will be captured and reabsorbed as the pot dries out. This is particularly good for rooting cuttings and new sprouts.

All plastic pots are designed for commercial use. If you are able to find pots that are deeper than the standard, those would be my recommendation for most applications except cacti, for which I favor a shallow and wide pot. The bottom line is that we grow so many different types of plants under the cactus and succulent umbrella that it's difficult to make generalizations. Success demands that the plants' requirements, growing form, seasonal variations and so forth, are taken into account in the selection of pot, as well as other inter-related considerations.

Don Hunt



**BEST IN SHOW**

Peter Walkowiak  
*Euphorbia esculenta*

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

Congrats to the SDCSS Winter Show 2020 winners

Normally the Award Certificates would be presented in person at the March meeting, but seeing as we've been thwarted by unforeseen circumstances, we'll try the next best option: a virtual awards ceremony!



**BEST CACTUS OPEN**

Matt Maggio/ RSD  
*Mammillaria cristata crest*



**BEST CACTUS INT**

John Williams  
*Denmoza rhodacantha*



**BEST CACTUS NOVICE**

Jose Ramos  
*Copiapoa cineria*



**BEST SUCCULENT OPEN**

Peter Walkowiak  
*Pachypodium makayense*



**BEST SUCCULENT INT**

Shawn Soutiere  
*Pelargonium sp.*



**BEST SUCCULENT NOVICE**

Der-shing Helmer  
*Dorstenia gigas*



**BEST WINTER GROWER OPEN**

Peter Walkowiak  
*Pelargonium cotyledonis*



**BEST WINTER GROWER INT**

Shawn Soutiere  
*Drimia maritima*



**BEST WINTER GROWER NOVICE**

Olga Batalov  
*Aloe suprafoliata*

**A view of the garden**

Don Jackson



Although the club will not meet in April in order to preserve the safety of our members, we can continue to stay connected and share in our love of cacti and succulents.

We asked for members to send in photos of their gardens and blooming plants, and you delivered! You can continue to send your photo submissions to [dershing.helmer@gmail.com](mailto:dershing.helmer@gmail.com) with your photo attachment, your name, as well as the name of your photo or plant.



**Boophone in flower**

Tina Zucker

# ~ MEMBER ~ PHOTO GALLERY

The news may seem quite doom and gloom, but spring still brings us beautiful blooms!

A huge thanks to folks who emailed to share their garden and notable plant photos for April, please keep them coming as we continue to love and safely share our plants from home.

Hope to see you again soon... until then, please stay safe and healthy!



*Echeveria peacockii*  
in own 3-d printed pot  
Sarah Goehring



*Neoperteria nidulus*  
Whitney Meier



*Echinopsis* in bloom  
Eli

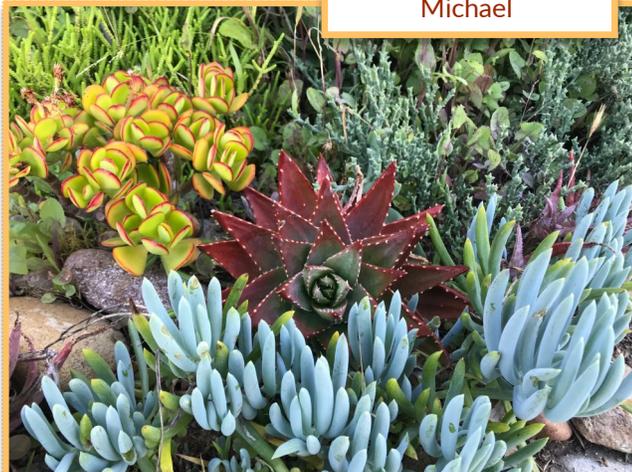


*Aloe striata*  
Ron Chisum



*Euphorbia lambic*  
Joan Herskowitz

Succulent mix  
Michael



*Aloe Hercules* sunset  
Don Hunt