



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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Membership	May Fong Ho
Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	[open]
	Interim, May Fong Ho
Publicity	Christie Lathrop
	membership@sdcss.net*

*to contact the newsletter editor, please type "newsletter" in the subject line

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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 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		Fern Pans	
Size	Per 100	Doz.	Each	Size	Per 100	Doz.	Each	Size	Per 100
1 1/2"	\$0.08	1 1/2"	.....	.....	.....	1 1/2"	.....
2"	2"	.....	.....	.....	2"	.....
2 1/2"	2 1/2"	.....	.....	.....	2 1/2"	.....
3"	3"	.....	.....	.....	3"	.....
3 1/2"	3 1/2"	.....	.....	.....	3 1/2"	.....
4"	4"	.....	.....	.....	4"	.....
4 1/2"	4 1/2"	.....	.....	.....	4 1/2"	.....
5"	5"	.....	.....	.....	5"	.....
5 1/2"	5 1/2"	.....	.....	.....	5 1/2"	.....
6"	6"	.....	.....	.....	6"	.....
7"	7"	.....	.....	.....	7"	.....
8"	8"	.....	.....	.....	8"	.....
9"	9"	.....	.....	.....	9"	.....
10"	10"	.....	.....	.....	10"	.....
12"	12"	.....	.....	.....	12"	.....
14"	14"	.....	.....	.....	14"	.....

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.

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

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



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
Drimys 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 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



Neoporteria nidulus

Whitney Meier



Echinopsis in bloom

Eli



Aloe striata

Ron Chisum



Euphorbia lambic

Joan Herskowitz

Succulent mix

Michael



Aloe Hercules sunset

Don Hunt