

Espinas y Flores



Welcome New Members!

Whether you are new or have been around for years, we are glad to have you in our Club! New Member orientation before each general meeting, 12:30 PM

Please REMEMBER to bring any Vendor, Volunteer or Security Badges from the Winter Show to the next meeting so we can get an accurate count for next year! Thanks for all your help in making the show and sale a success!



March speaker: Woody Minnich “Cactus and Succulent Conservation Around the World”



On the cover: Aloe pillansii near Cornelskop, Richtersveld S.A. **Table of Contents:**

Lower right: *Cintia knitzii* from high in the mountains of Bolivia.

Newsletter Created by: Whitney Meier, with the help of many contributors!

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Thanks to Scott Shapiro, with Sparkletts, for donating all the water bottles given out at the Show and Sale!



Please welcome our new Publishing Editor for Espinas y Flores, Der-shing Helmer! Der-shing is a comic editor, artist and owner of Shingworks, creator of Mare Internum and the Meek. Der-shing (and husband Jared) moved to San Diego in mid-2019, and became interested in succulent plants soon after. A novice enthusiast, Der-shing loves caudex plants and the genera *Dorstenia* and *Pachypodium* in particular. We look forward to seeing her creative vision in future issues!

Executive Board

Co-Presidents: Jim and Mary Reiser Secretary: Mary Reiser
 Vice President: Open Treasurer: Mitchell Hubbard

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Chris Miller, Denise Griffin, Whitney Meier, Tina Zucker,
 Al Cline, Don Hunt

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 Show Auction Manager: Open
 Monthly Plant Sales: Jim Deforest & Melanie Howe
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 Reception: Susan Hopkins, Candy Garner

Monthly Regalement: Open

Picnic Regalement: Open

Coffee in the Garden Coordinators: Julie Dixon and Chuck Ramey

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 CSSA Affiliate Rep: Rick Bjorklund
 SD Botanic Garden: Phyllis Flechsig
 SD Botanic Foundation: George Plaisted
 SD Floral Association: Jeanette Dutton
 SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja
 & Old World Gardens: May Fong Ho
 Palomar CS Society Liaison: Brita Miller

Membership & Publicity

Membership: May Hong Fo
 Newsletter Editor: Whitney Meier
 Webmaster: Open, interim May Fong Ho
 Publicity: Christie Lathrop

Contact SDCSS: membership@sdcss.net *

* To contact newsletter editor, please type “newsletter” in subject line

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Sonoran XIII Conference

Friday April 24, and Saturday April 25, 2020

Great Expectations for an

Excellent Educational Weekend!

The Sonoran Conference will be held at [Hotel Tucson](#) 475 N Granada Avenue, Tucson, 85701 ([map](#)).

Friday April 24, 2020:

Plant Sale for **TCSS members and Sonoran Conference**

attendees only, from 5 - 7pm in the parking lot of Hotel Tucson. **Each sale will have a 15% discount** applied at the register.

NO TCSS Rescue Plants will be available during this sale.

Saturday April 25, 2020:

There will be [speakers](#), [workshops](#), [vendor sales](#), TCSS cactus rescue plant sales, [silent auction](#), an excellent lunch, dinner and drinks!

All plant sales including TCSS cactus rescue plant sales will be open to the public on Saturday April 25, 2020! **TCSS members receive a 10% discount** on all plant sales.

[Preliminary Sonoran XIII Event Schedule](#)

For another view on the information for the Sonoran XIII Conference, see [this page](#).



SDCSS Meeting Schedule

10 am Plant & Pottery Sale • 1-4 pm Meeting

Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

2020 Jan 11 • Mar 14 • Apr 4 • May 9 • Jul 18

Aug 8 • Sep 12 • Oct 10 • Nov 14 • Dec 12 (Holiday Party)

Show and Sales

Winter February 8, 2020

Summer June 6-7, 2020



Safari Park – Baja Garden & Old World Succulent Garden

Thanks to donors and volunteers, we have been very busy picking up & planting donated specimens:



4' Tall *Pachypodium namaquanum*



4' tall *Cephalocereus senilis* & 3' tall *Aloe dichotoma* (2 planted)
Pachycereus pringlei (Cardon)



Lots and lots of blooms:



Aloe vanbalanii



Pachycereus pringlei (Giant Cardon) *Fouquieria diguetii*



We have a lot more visitors after the opening of the Australia Walkabout – 100's a day instead of 10's, from 1 year old to 100 years old.

If you want to donate or volunteer, please email mayfongho@yahoo.com or text 760-233-3948.
Photos and article by M.F. Ho with permission of the San Diego Zoo/Safari Park.

President's Message

Positive “reflection”... what a great winter show and sale. It was truly fun. We had a record amount of novice entries into our show, a huge influx of new members and great sales.

And most important- we could not do it without our strong volunteer base! Thank you so much. It was inspirational to see newer members working alongside long-time members to create a success. Now as we enter springtime many of our plants will start showing off with growth, flowers and overall health. Let's look “forward” and show off. Remember we are a club that has a common interest in cactus and succulents.

Try to make the most out of your club. Why not bring in a plant for the brag table and come early to our workshop? During break say hello to someone new. Ask them what their favorite plant is. Learn, teach and make a friend.

See you in March!



Jim and Mary Reiser

Cactus and Succulent Conservation Around the World

Presentation 2020

Wendell S. Woody Minnich

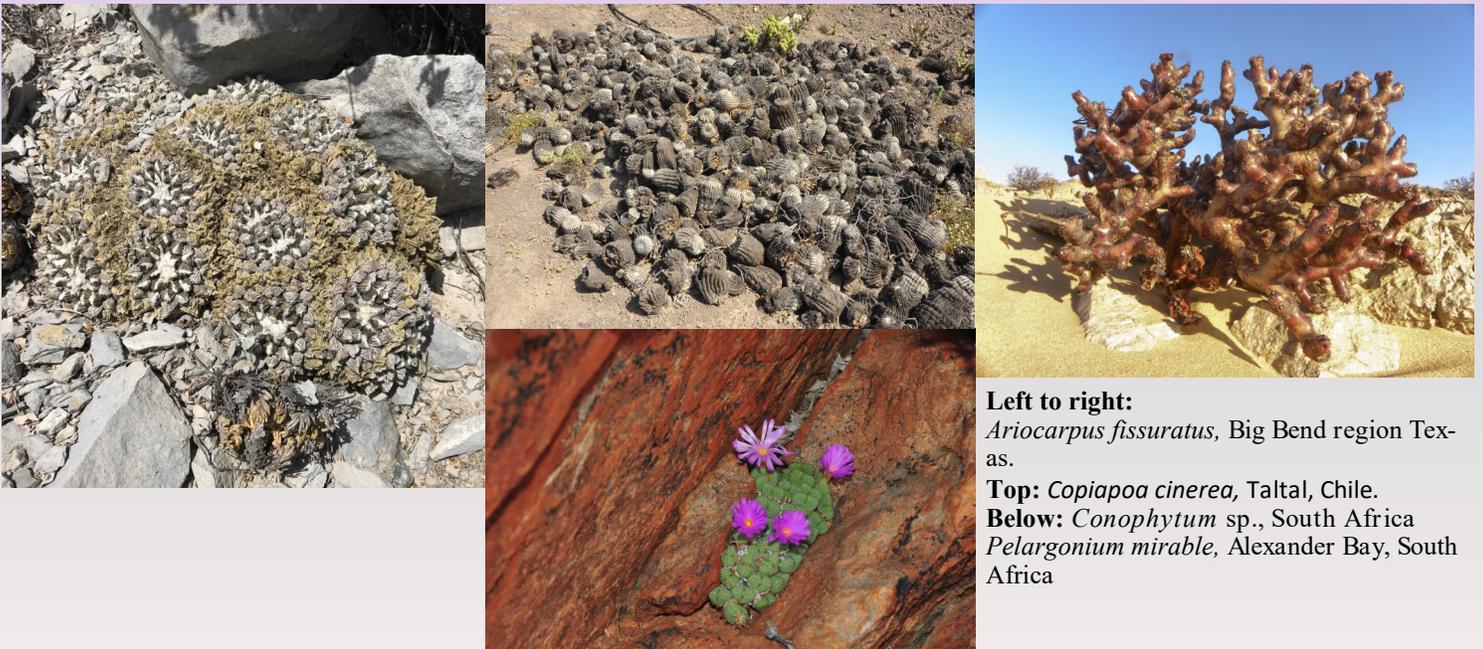
Never has there been a time when conservation of our cacti and other succulents has been more urgent! Due to many factors, our precious succulents, as well as many other plants and animals, are now facing severe problems. When traveling around the world in succulent-rich regions, I have observed an amazing increase in the devastation of habitats and the illegal removal of many rare and endangered species of cacti, succulents, and other plants and animals. Not only are we losing these very special and unique plants, sadly enough, we are aggressively destroying many valuable and irreplaceable habitats. Our desires to urbanize and agriculturally develop great numbers of virgin environments have only produced severe ecosystem imbalances, thus the extinction, at a most rapid rate, of many of the world's most beautiful and fascinating plants and animals.

There are many cacti and other succulents that are becoming very valuable to the collector's egos and appetites. Generally, these plants and animals are those that we have a difficult time producing in the nursery. Due to their rarity in cultivation, they often demand high dollars in the trade. Also, because many of these special species take extremely long periods of time (10s to 100s of years) to develop their wonderful character, it is not commercially feasible for growers or breeders to produce them. The unscrupulous collector will often spend huge sums of money to get these unique and rare specimens. And with the demand and dollars being high, it has become more and more common for commercial collectors to find ways to acquire these special plants and animals. Now, with the internet being a very popular method of acquiring merchandise, our rare and endangered cacti and other succulents are being sold internationally with very little, if any, controls being enforced.

The countries that are most affected with cactus and succulent problems are: Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, Socotra, Somalia, South Africa, Peru, and the United States. All of these countries have well-intended conservation programs, but most do not have the funds available to properly enforce their laws or monitor their endemic species. In this presentation you will see many of the cacti and other succulents that are considered threatened or endangered, and what has happened to place them in this perilous position.

Although, it may appear as if there are many difficult problems on the horizon, we shouldn't give up! It is really encouraging to know there are many positive things we can all do to help resolve our current plant and animal issues. A few simple efforts we can make are: do not buy field-collected plants or animals, support the artificial propagation of rare or endangered species, support our nurseries who produce artificially-grown material, modify our current international treaties to become modern, demonstrate our appreciation for artificially-produced plants, and help our enforcement agencies to better stop illegal collecting and the sale of wild grown plants.

Our world is getting smaller and smaller, and as our human population continues to increase, we ALL need to do our part to help protect our amazing world of plants, animals, and habitats. Conservation is not a spectator sport. Please speak out when and where you can, as the future generations of all things depend on us.



Left to right:

Ariocarpus fissuratus, Big Bend region Texas.

Top: *Copiapoa cinerea*, Taltal, Chile.

Below: *Conophytum* sp., South Africa

Pelargonium mirabile, Alexander Bay, South Africa

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Brief Biography of

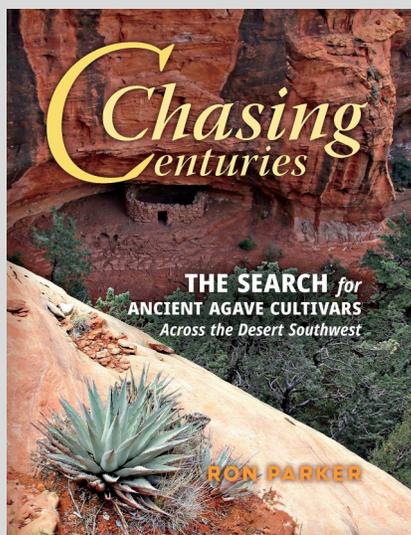
Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show-quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: *Adenium*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Copiapoa*, *Cyphostemma*, *Fouquieria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Lithops*, *Mammillaria*, *Melocactus*, *Pachypodium*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Uebelmannia*, and *Pachycauls* in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of eleven C&S societies. With 49 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.



Book Report

Chasing Centuries: The search for ancient agave cultivars across the desert southwest.

By Ron Parker

A very interesting, well-researched book detailing the ancient peoples of the Arizona deserts and their association with cultivated agaves as a food source. The author doesn't shy away from presenting scientific explanations of the data, but does it in a straightforward manner that is interesting to follow. There are 12 naturally-occurring *Agave* species in Arizona. Of these, 3 species, their hybrids and cultivars are found growing in proximity to the remains of Native American settlements. These cultivars are all mid-sized and produce large heads with soft leaves that are easily cut. I recommend this book to anyone interested in Agaves at all, as the pictures are excellent and presented with clear text explaining the details of the plant. It's interesting to think about how people could have adapted to the conditions of living in the Arizona Desert for thousands of years and the evidence of their lives they left behind.

I recommend this book; it's in my library as well as the club library.- Don Hunt, SDCSS librarian

Plant Topic of the Month– Bug with Tom Demeritt



As most of us know the health of our plants depends on keeping the insects at bay and this article is intended to speak to new, less toxic methods of controlling the bugs.

The 1st thing to think about is **air flow** as good air flow reduces the insects at large so if possible, place the plants in spaces that have good air flow. Many methods such as these can be used to increase air flow: open spaces between plants, unblocking areas next to the plants by removing clutter to just making openings in the greenhouse or growing space.

Ants are at the top of the list for most intrusive and insect promoting creatures as they have symbiotic relationships with other insects. Ants farm the secretions from aphids and mealy bugs and transport them to high-yield spaces for farming. Many controls for ants exist these days, necessitated by the explosions of Argentine Ants in Southern California. These ants colonize into many small colonies which make the controls more difficult than just dealing with a single large colony. I look for the telltale ant trails and try to locate their source.

A very good tool for colony control is Terro Liquid Ant Baits, \$5.41 for a 6 pack on Amazon. I place these along a perimeter where the worker ants travel and can take the bait back to the nest. These are good as they're colony killers and seem to last a long time. Patience is needed as it can easily take 2 weeks to take care of a colony. Immediate remediation is fine with the Ortho Home Defense product, which comes in 1 gallon containers for \$7.97, available at any Home Depot, Lowes or Amazon. This product comes with its own sprayer and the gallon seems to last for a year and is a California-graded safe insecticide as low toxicity. It is unscented and very effective for immediate results into nests and trails. I only use this product in the morning or evening when there's no wind. I wear gloves and also wash carefully after using. Showering is the best option after using, which after working in the yard in the morning isn't a tough decision.

Next action for ants is my most common remediation and least toxic method used commonly during the dry summer months. During the dry periods of the summer ants in my yard often move into the larger pots, when moisture is needed for the ants. I often find the ants in my pots when watering as the ants often scramble out of the pot and present themselves, which is the best time to remediate right away. They also farm fungus and obtain moisture from the roots of the plants. This is when I use my 20 year old 3 gallon tin watering can, put in a tablespoon of Dawn Dish soap, fill the can with water trying not to create suds, and soak the infested pot. This works great, the plants have no issues with the Dawn Dish soap and it's a very effective method for ants in a pot, low cost, no toxins and easy to apply. Following ants is a plethora of insects that predate upon our plants.

A big issue for succulent growers is **mealy bugs**, which have 2 distinct types- spine mealy and root mealy bugs. For spine mealy I use regular Isopropyl Alcohol, also keep a spray bottle of this around. A better tool for mealy bugs is Natria Insecticidal Soap. Natria is available on Amazon for \$8.99 a 24 oz spray bottle. I like this product as it's non-toxic, also effective for aphids, spider mites and white flies.

For root mealy bug stronger methods of control are required and I grudgingly use a systemic control. Discovery of root mealy is really only achieved by removing the plants from the pot and examining plant roots and soil. Systemic insecticides are drawn into the plants from the roots and kill the insects when they suck on the juices of treated plants. Systemic insecticide are much safer these days and quite effective. Liquid systemic insecticides are easy to

mix with water and water into the plants however, they're expensive to use, \$20 for a 16oz container. I've discovered a much lower cost systemic that's also longer lasting and also effective, Bayer Advanced 2 in 1 Rose and Flower Care systemic which is \$19.99 for a very large 12 lb container. Another benefit is it's a fertilizer and systemic.

To use this product on succulents one has to change the normal manner of application as with Roses it's granules are applied liberally around the rose plant, which is watered often and trace amounts are leached off with every watering. With succulents, watering is much less often and therefore a different method of application is required. Here again I use my trusted 20 year old 3 gallon tin watering can, put in a half a cup, fill with water and let sit for half a day, stir with a stick before watering into the affected plants. This method allows for a higher concentration of the systemic to be watered in to account for the fewer watering intervals. Note the granules don't completely break down so multiple soakings in the same watering can is required for this method. Caution to not breath any of the dust when pouring the granules from container into the watering can is a must, it's not much, however, simple precautions are just common sense when handling any toxins.

Next bug to talk about is a tough out (as they say in baseball terms). **Scale** is the hardest of insects to deal with and typically hits hard surface succulents like Gymnocalyciums, Opuntias and Haworthias. They have an oblong shape, are less than 0.05 inches long and glue themselves to hard surfaces. Systems are effective against these, however can take longer to work than desired. A good tool for scale is an old product- Neem Oil, which is available in a Spray 32 oz bottle for \$9.97 on Amazon.

I like the Bonide product which also has a Fungicide-Miticide & Insecticide. The Fungicide I have used on some of my *Tephrocactus* and it's worked well. Another tool for scale is something many of us have at home (don't laugh), WD40.

Yes, you read correctly, WD40 works better than anything on scale however, it has to be used ONLY on hard epidermal plant surfaces (no herbaceous fleshy plants can tolerate WD40 and these types generally don't get scale anyway). I have had some cactus with bad infestations of scale and used WD40 quite judiciously, small amounts only, and it works wonders. WD40 is actually a penetrate liquid as opposed to a lubricant so, it penetrates under the scale's hard surface and immediately kills it. A few days after application I wash the plants with a little dilute solution of Dawn Dish soap and it works terrific.

Another common group of pests typically infesting our succulents are **aphids** and **spider mites**. Spider mites like soft surface succulents. These mites are so small they're difficult to detect. Quite faint webbing can be an indicator while most often very small red dots on a discolored surface is the common signature. For these most of the above-mentioned methods work, Ortho Home Defense for a quick effective remediation, Isopropyl Alcohol which can be effective however, requiring more application to the Insecticidal Soap or Neem Oil.

The key to insect control is first, good old fashion observation, look closely as insects tend to camouflage and hide under spines, ribs and surfaces.

Many folks have their own tried and true insect remediation methods so the monthly talk will be an open forum sharing methods.



Show Winners



Advanced Best Cactus

Denmoza rhodacantha

John Williams



Best Novice Cactus

Copiapoa cinera

Jose Raimos



Advanced Best Succulent

Pelargonium sp.

Shawn Soutiere



Novice Best Succulent

Dorstenia gigas

Der-shing Helmer



Advanced Best Winter Grower

Drimia maritima

Shawn Soutiere



Best in Show

Euphorbia esculenta

Peter Walkowiak



Novice Best Winter Grower

Aloe suprifoliata

Olga Batalov



Open-Best Cactus

Mammillaria cristata Crested

Matt Maggio



Open-Best Succulent

Pachypodium makayense

Peter Walkowiak

WINTER SHOW 2020



Top to bottom, left column: Judges Woody Minnich, Paul Walkowiak and Kelly Griffin voiced their opinions in the live judging portion of the show.

Judging in action, complete with an avid audience.

Librarian Don Hunt and publicity manager, Christie Lathrop check out some of the dish gardens.

View of our sale, which includes cacti and succulents for sale and pottery.

Top to bottom, right column: We had a great turnout of members as well as guests to view the show, which featured many new novice entries!

View of some of our show plants in the *Echeverria* and *Aeonium* categories.





NOVICE

Name	Plants	Points
Soutiere, Shawn	13	30
Chimento, Julia	14	28
Batalov, Olga	10	15
Ramos, Jose	7	12
Patterson, Lisa	5	12
Meier, Whitney	5	11
Steketee, Ginger	4	9
Greene, Jennifer	4	5
Blench, Sherman	3	5
Munoz, Victor	3	3
Patterson, Ray	2	3
Bourget, Bebe	1	3
Dameron, Wayne	1	3
Goehring, Sarah	1	3
Helmer, Der-Shing	1	3
Roden, Norb	1	3
Patterson, Anisa	1	0

2020 WINTER SHOW RESULTS

ADVANCED

Name	Plants	Points
Shepherd, Brian	15	35
Walkowiak, Peter	13	33
Zucker, Tina	19	32
Hunt, Don	11	23
Karras, Dean	19	22
Klein, Al	12	22
Badger, Pam	10	16
Maggio, Matt	6	13
Chaney, Arnold	6	12
Garner, Candy & Jerry	11	11
Minnich, Woody	6	10
Reiser, Jim & Mary	8	9
Howe, Melanie	7	9
Williams, Jerry	6	9
Noel, Bobbie	7	8
Plant, Rick	6	8
Salley, Steve	6	8
Chambers, James	6	7
Aach, Susan	6	5
Craig, Darryl	6	4
Biggart, Tom	6	0

INTERMEDIATE

Name	Plants	Points
Wong, Pauline	20	33
Pancner, Carol	14	26
Aparicio, Mary	9	23
Baldwin, Alison	8	21
Taylor, Keith	7	21
Ramey, Chuck	10	18
Shagena, Bill	8	16
Williams, John	6	16
Soutiere, Shawn	6	13
Heckathorn, Michelle	8	6
Heckathorn, Debra	3	6
Ho, May Fong	1	3
Clark, Allen	1	2
Ryan, Rich	1	1
Morgan, Dee	1	0



You're invited to a
POTLUCK IN THE GARDEN
of Bill Modi and Linda Forsey
Sunday, March 8, 11AM - 2PM

Bill Modi and Linda Forsey are hosting a pot-luck lunch in Escondido on Sunday, March 8. Just under one-half acre with fruit and nut trees, grapes, cactus and succulent garden, rose garden, lots of vines, ferns and more!! We're always looking for more rusty garden art. Two lovable, outdoor tortoises for all to pet and ride – bring helmets!

1212 Destree Road
Escondido , CA 92027
760-580-3254 (cell)



Save the Date: Coffee in the Garden for April will be April 11th at Wanda Mallen's house in Fallbrook, from 10:00 AM– 2:00 PM.

