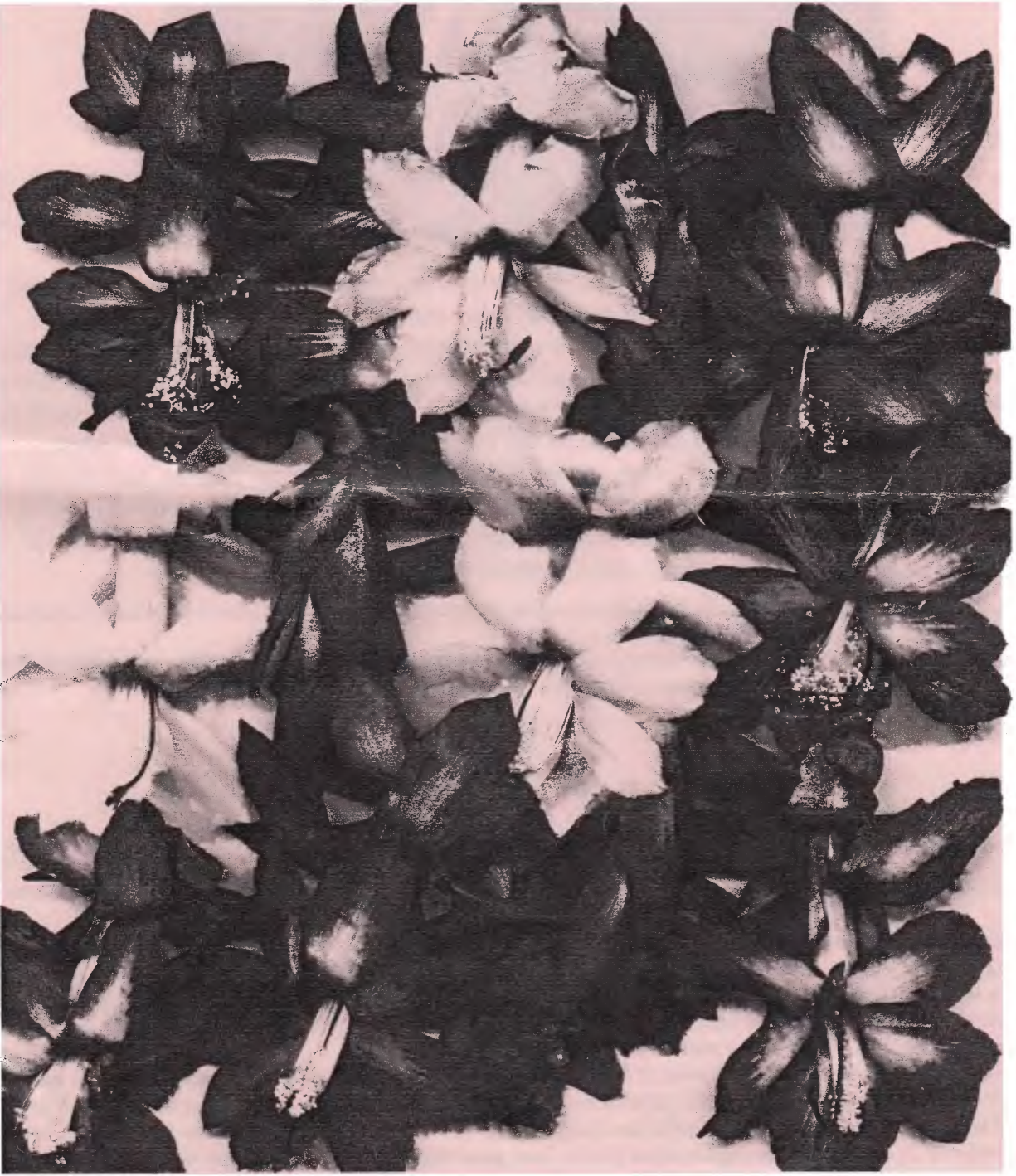


Espinas y Flores

Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc.
Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America
Volume 35, Number 12, Saturday, December 9, 2000 at Noon



The Editors – Tom Knapik and Joey Betzler



Photo by Kay Quijada

As I leaf through the past years issues of our newsletter, I am impressed by the number of talented writers we have in our club. I want to thank each and every one of them for their efforts. They have made the newsletter interesting, informative and one of the best around. They include; Stan Yalof, Ric Newcomer, Phil Bunch, Kelly Griffin, Ross Shumway, Andrew Wilson, Chris Miller, Phyllis Flechsig, Joey Betzler, Pam Badger, Tom Birt, Michele Heckathorn, Joe Quijada, Tom De Merritt, Shirley Berry, Alan Weiss, and Ed DeLollis. I want to also thank Jeff Harris for arranging the Cactus and Other Succulent topics throughout the year. I want to also thank Kelly Griffin for his Program introduction and Tom De Merritt for his Presidential Messages. Last but not least, I want to thank Joey Betzler for his insight and dedication to the newsletter and the club. I could not think of a better partner to meet the deadlines and other issues of assembling a quality newsletter. Tom Knapik

Front Cover: Christmas Cactus Collage

Please send your letters, artwork, poetry, Cactus or Succulent of the Month articles, puzzles, comments, or criticisms, etc. to:

Tom Knapik
4669 71street
La Mesa, CA 91941
Phone (619) 462-1805 e-mail eyf 2000
FAX (858) 569-8510

Newsletter submissions are due before the 14th each month unless other arrangements are made.

Espinas y Flores, the newsletter of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated, P.O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181, is published monthly with the exception of a combined May-June issue (11 issues per year). Newsletter circulation is approximately 350, with an additional 20-30 issues going to educational institutions, botanical societies, cactus and succulent nurseries, local publications, related natural history events, exhibits, and other interested groups or individuals upon request. Subscriptions are \$15 per year for bulk mail within the U.S.A.

Opinions stated in the articles and editorials of *Espinas y Flores* are solely the opinions of the authors or editor and do not necessarily represent the opinions of other SDCSS members, the Board of Directors, or the organization in general. All materials submitted to *Espinas y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content. All material in the *Espinas y Flores* may be reprinted by other nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided that: proper credit is given to the SDCSS, *Espinas y Flores*, and the author. Please send one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization of publication without the permission of the editor is prohibited. Volume 35, Number 12, Published Nov 28, 2000.

PREIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER 2000:

Our Holiday meeting and luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 9th, starting at NOON in RM 101. Everyone is welcome to attend! The cost of the lunch is \$10.00 for each person, (a five-dollar decrease over last year's price). Please pay in advance and reserve a spot. Send your check for your lunch to our P.O. Box, post marked no later than Dec. 1, as we'll need to give the caterer and Gift Plant procurers a final count. We will continue with our past tradition of Potluck Desserts, I suggest you bring a plate of your favorite holiday dessert goodies to share. Along with the luncheon and potluck desserts, *everyone who pays for their lunch* will receive a gift plant. If you have any questions, please call me at 858-270-5544. This event is truly a festive occasion, let's celebrate this past years successes together.

Please check in for the lunch as soon as you come in the door. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Tickets for the Gift Plants will be available at the meeting when you check in for lunch, (we're going to have some very special plants this year). The Holiday Plant Exchange will be conducted during lunch, Gift Plant's during dessert. We'll draw and call numbers as usual. We will need volunteers for this event so please contact me.

I would like to encourage all to participate in the **Holiday Plant Exchange**. Any member or guest may participate by bringing in a nice plant to give away and in return will acquire another fantastic plant in exchange! All Holiday Exchange Plants must have a label that identifies the plant, with your name on the back of it. The plant exchange program works like this: The first plant selected will be auctioned off at the end of the meeting. The person who brought in that plant gets first choice of all the plants on the table. When a plant is selected that lucky person, (owner of that plant), gets the next choice. This is a lot of fun and a good way to share your wonderful plants. The best plants are usually picked first but remember, beauty is in the eye of the beholder! Several members have received plants that were *award winners* at our annual show.

This is my last president's message as I'm completing my term after 3 years as president and an additional 3 years before that as vice president. It has been a pleasure for me to serve this organization and I'll continue to serve as past president, which has a 2-year obligation as a voting officer position. We as an organization, need to sound off and cheer our outgoing Treasurer whom has worked harder than any other officer because the job demanded it. Herb Stern has graciously given four important years and provided a professionalism that was a stabilizing influence to the functioning of our club. Herb balanced our books each month and prepared a meticulous statement for review each board meeting. **Thank you Herb!**

I'd like to give a SPECIAL THANKS to ALL who have contributed their precious time and energy to the Club this past year - this is a **REMARKABLE Organization** and I'm proud to be a member.

Best Regards and Happy Holidays. Sincerely, Thomas De Merritt

WINTER SHOW INFO

Hello succulent fans! Your next chance to show off is on Saturday, January 13, 2001. Our fourth annual winter show and sale will again feature the expanded 'brag table'. Actually we will have about ten tables for the show and our goal is to have about one hundred plants on display. What kind of plants should our members bring? This is a good question during the coldest time of year when not much is growing. Ideally, we should have mature examples of the small plants our vendors will be selling at the front of the room in the bountiful sales section. Many types of succulents could be used here including, but not limited to, cactus, aloes, euphorbias, othonnas, bulbs, caudiciforms, or any specimen succulent plants that you are proud to have grown. Since it is nearly impossible to reach me by phone, members interested in showing their plants in this non-competitive exhibit, should send a postcard (please underline) with your name and a list of the plants to:

Ed DeLollis 916 Judilyn Drive Vista, CA 92083

These postcards will be kept on file and will allow us to have an idea of how much space to give to each category of plants that will be represented. This system will provide the means for an orderly setup of the show on the morning of the event, where pre-made placards will denote each category. If you don't send a postcard, you can still show your plants, but you will be sharply scolded by the organizing-police that will be present. All of this having been stated, we look forward to an outstanding display of plants that day that will be a source of pride and inspiration for all who attend.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

■ **DECEMBER** — 2000 —

9 SDCSS Holiday Party. Please see page 7 for details. **IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHECK IN THE MAIL BE DECEMBER 1, 2000.**

■ **JANUARY** — 2001 —

8 Kelly Griffin talks to the San Diego Horticultural Society about plant hunting in Mexico, more info. 760-630-7307

13 SDCSS Winter Show and Sale. If you need to make arrangements to sell or help with our fund raiser: call Tom Birt at (858-452-0389) To help with the Show call Ed DeLollis at (760-945-7892). Your help is vital in making this day a successes.

■ **FEBRUARY**

7 Take a horticultural tour of South Africa at San Diego Horticultural Society meeting, more info. 760-630-7307

■ **MARCH**

13-16 C&SS of the ACT, SUCCULENTICON 2001, Canberra. Info Annette & Mike Smith, PO Box 484, Mawson ACT 2607, 02 6386 2984, mmsmith@dynamite.co.au

■ **JUNE**

2-3 SDCSS Spring Show and Sale

30-1 CSSA Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gdns, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino CA.

■ **JULY**

1-6 CSSA Convention, Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard St, Woodland Hills CA.

Please note that this is the correct date—some Affiliate newsletters are still reporting erroneous dates!! see www.cssainc.org/convent.html for details

FYI FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION FYI FYI

⇒ The Old Gringo has passed away. From a Navy Submariner to one of the fabulous Baja Garden Volunteers at the Wild Animal Park Tom Parks will be missed. These past years have found him living in Merida, Mexico, the capital of Yucatan. Tom had a life long passion for Mexico. I had the privilege of knowing him from my early days as a Baja Garden Volunteer. I visited Tom when he was living in Bahía de los Angeles, and he introduced me to some of the most interesting sites on the peninsula. Take a look at his web site: <http://www.geocities.com/oldgringo.geo/home.html> and you will get an idea of his life long interests for people and places. There are links to his navy career, Baja, Merida and the Wild Animal Park. His son helps to maintain these pages and here are some of his words about his fathers memorial presence on the web. "These pages are now much more than pictures and text about a man and his passions. They will forever more stand as a requiem to who this man was! In death, just as he did in life, Tom Parks will stand for love of country, family, all mankind and finest of traditions. I contemplated changing Tom's words out of the first person, but elected not to do so. As you read on, listen for what lies beneath these web pages ... and you will be both moved and entertained by a great man!" [associate editor]

⇒ Carrying on the tradition of Tom Parks, **Baja Garden Volunteers** were awarded a plaque at a luncheon at the Wild Animal Park in recognition of their work on the garden. Other volunteer garden representatives were honored similarly. Unlike other groups the Baja Garden crew was singled out for a task ... to help in the production of a virtual tour of the Baja Garden by March of 2001. How appropriate to add our presence to the web, maybe to link up again with Tom's Page. More about this project later.

⇒ Want to go to Beliez? Contact Stan Yalof 760-743-1560, about his mid-January 10-day trip. There are a few more spaces available. The description of the trip, in Stan's words: We will fly and drive through Belize. We will go through the Toledo rainforest with a Mayan guide; visit the Tikal (Guatemala) archaeological & nature zone, spend a night at the Jaguar Paw Inn, and end up at a resort in Ambergris Caye for snorkeling. Noted plant explorer Alfred Lau will accompany us until Ambergris. Probable total cost is \$1,800-\$1,900.



Tom Parks called himself "The Old Gringo". 1921–2000. Here he sits on the rocks of Baja

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please send in your dues for next year - most of us need to renew by January, 2001.

Please check your mailing label and see when your membership expires. If it is 2001/01, your membership expires in January and you need to renew as soon as possible to avoid missing the February newsletter. If the date is 2001/03, you can still renew now and you will have a new expiration date of 2002/03. If you renew early you will always get credit for a years worth of membership. It never hurts to pay early. We know that you are familiar with what our Societies activities, but please pass this form on to others that may be interested. By doing this we have grown to over 300 members.

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a nonprofit, hobby organization (affiliated with the CSSA) created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or a beginner with an interest in unusual plants and flowers.

You will receive our publication *Espinas y Flores*, one of the best cacti and succulent newsletters. We produce 11 issues a year. You will get great articles and keep up with club news for the next year.

Our meetings are on the second Saturday of the month (except June and September) and newsletters are received the week of the meeting. We offer knowledgeable speakers who present educational & entertaining programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authors. The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show and Plant Sale occurs the first weekend of June in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. A wide range of succulent plants, ceramic pots, and growing supplies are available during most meetings. There is also a plant exchange table and a library. For more information regarding membership, please call Joey Betzler, Membership Chair, at (619) 569-8510 or send e-mail to jabetzler@aol.com.

Yes, I/We wish JOIN (FOR THE FIRST TIME) OF REJOIN (PAY FOR THE NEXT YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP).
NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, COUNTRY & ZIP+4:

PHONE/FAX/E-MAIL:

Dues are \$15.00 per person, \$5.00 for each additional person in the same household for bulk mail rate, USA, add \$5.00 for First Class Delivery (optional). International dues, including Mexico and Canada, are \$30.00 (US funds), additional members as above.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for joining the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

*Make checks payable to: SDCSS and SEND THIS FORM TO:
SDCSS - Treasurer/Membership, P. O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181*

CACTUS CLUB LAYERED BEAN DIP

by Pam Badger

For the last couple of years, I have been bringing the bean dip to monthly meetings and various club functions on a fairly regular basis. People have asked me for the recipe and I rattle off the ingredients but have never written it down. I thought it would be a good time as the holiday season is upon us to share this secret recipe with everyone. This is a good dish to take to potlucks because there is never anything left over and if you make it in an aluminum throw away pan, you don't have to worry about bringing anything home. So.. Happy Holidays!

Makes one 8" x 8" pan of dip

1 14 1/2 oz can of refried beans
3/4 cup grated cheddar cheese
1 cup tomato salsa, drained
1 bunch cilantro
1 package taco seasoning

1 8 oz can sliced ripe olives
1/2 pint guacamole
4 green onions
1/2 pint sour cream

- 1) Chop onions and cilantro together in food processor.
- 2) Mix sour cream and taco seasoning together.
- 3) Layer ingredients in pan in order listed or whatever order suits your fancy.

If you prefer hot dip choose "hot" salsa, guacamole, and taco mix. If you prefer milder dip, move to the Midwest!

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30 PM
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Satellite Wagering Bldg.

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

Join us for a guest speaker, plant raffle, plant display.
Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- ☞ Monthly 26-page newsletter
- ☞ Seed & plant swap
- ☞ Trips to outstanding gardens
- ☞ Video and book library
- ☞ Local garden tours
- ☞ Annual Garden Party
- ☞ Discounts on special events

Upcoming Meetings:

January 8: Plant Hunting In Mexico with Kelly Griffin
February 12: Horticultural Tour of South Africa
March 12: Outstanding Gardens of San Francisco

Outstanding Garden Exhibits:

~~~~The Garden Masters: Exposition 2001~~~~

March 2 - 4, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Home/Garden Show  
springhomegardenshow.com

**Information: (760) 630-7307 or  
sdhortsoc@home.com**

<http://groups.sandiegoin Insider.com/sdhs/>  
[www.srtopiary.com/sdhortsoc.html](http://www.srtopiary.com/sdhortsoc.html)

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**PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 9, 2000  
HOLIDAY PARTY – 12:00 NOON – RM 101  
POT LUCK DESSERTS**

**LUNCH PROMPTLY SERVED 12:30 PM  
SPECIAL PLANT EXCHANGE  
DISTRIBUTION OF GIFT PLANTS TO MEMBERS  
MINI-AUCTION  
NO LIBRARY and NO PLANT SALES**

**HOLIDAY BUFFET MENU:**

- ❖ CLASSIC CAESAR SALAD
- ❖ WON TON CHICKEN SALAD
- ❖ GARDEN FRESH VARIETY SALAD
- ❖ PASTA SALAD
- ❖ VEGETABLE PLATTER
- ❖ DINNER ROLLS
- ❖ CHILI
- ❖ HOMEMADE SOUP

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR RESERVA-  
TIONS POST MARKED BY DEC. 1**

**FOR DESSERT, POT LUCK – OUR TRADITION.... please  
bring something sweet and delicious**

Please mail as soon as possible to make your reservation, make checks payable to **SDCSS**. MAIL TO: SDCSS, P.O. BOX 33181, SAN DIEGO, CA 92163-3181

Please reserve a Holiday Lunch for Member(s) @ \$10.00 per Member:

MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve a Holiday Lunch for Guest(s) @ \$10.00 per Guest (Sorry, No Gift Plant for non-members or members not purchasing a lunch)

GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

The Plant Exchange will be conducted during the luncheon, GIFT PLANTS during dessert. NOTE: This would also be a good time to renew you dues!

Issue Highlights

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**San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc.**

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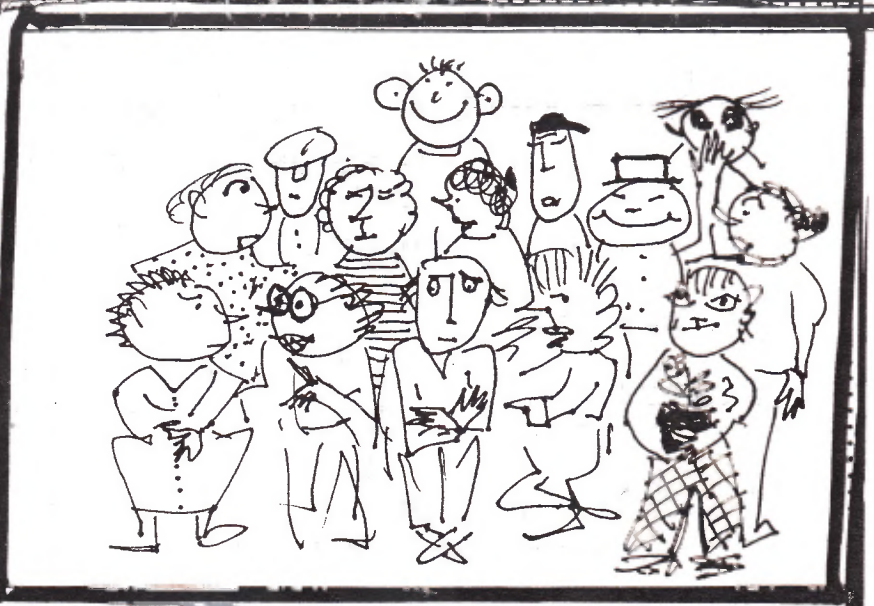
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Kelly Parrott  
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*We failed to get your names when this picture was taken. Please identify yourself. We need this info. for our records, thank you.*

The SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except June, Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$15.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional (associate) member within the same household. Single copies of *Espinas y Flores* are \$2.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$30.00. Affiliated with the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. The **New** SDCSS Web Page is: SDCSS.COM - please take a look and give feedback to the webmaster.