

ESPINAS Y FLORES

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Inc
Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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DPbM

Annual Holiday Party
Saturday December 11, 2004
Room 101 Casa Del Prado
Balboa Park, San Diego CA

Presidents Message

Hello everyone, and Happy Holidays! By the time you read this we will be well into the holiday season and looking forward to the HIGHLIGHT of the season - OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY! More on that later...

As you have noticed *Espinus y Flores* has a different look this month. I am sad to report that our editor, Paul Steward has been seriously ill and was unable to put the newsletter together this month. Please keep Paul and his mother, Gloria, in your thoughts and prayers. Paul has done a fantastic job - both editing and printing our newsletter for a couple of years now and we have been spoiled by the wonderful job he has done. If you remember from the last issue - Paul was working on a special issue to commemorate Bob Taylor's 100th Birthday. As you may have heard, Bob Taylor passed away in October, so the issue was to be a memorial. With Paul's illness he was not able to finish the special issue. We have done our best with what we have put together here and hope that Paul will be able to complete the special issue in the future.

Our November meeting was fantastic and as it was my final regular meeting, I was pleased to have things go so well. We had two excellent 'Plant of the Month' talks - Allen Clark speaking on *Adromiscus* and John Durham on *Tephrocactus*. Both genera are great, compact, slow growing species for those of you running out of room for your collection. John and Allen did a good job in illuminating the beauty and uniqueness of their respective plants. Thanks to John and Allen for your efforts!

The program was also a major treat! Our first completely digital program using our new digital projector. Tom DeMerritt and Stan Yalof put together this awesome program of their trip to Madagascar earlier this year. The photography was beautiful and it was so cool to have the names of the plants on the screen! Their colorful descriptions of the people and culture as well as the plants made for a very exciting afternoon. Great job Tom and Stan!! We look forward to that program on Caudiciform trees you promised.

At the November meeting the Board also presented the slate of officers for the coming two year term and this slate was accepted by the members present:

President: Mark Fryer
Vice President: Tom DeMerritt
Secretary: Christine Tratnyek
Treasurer: Chris Miller

Thanks to all of you for taking on these important jobs for our Society. There are a lot of 'nuts and bolts' things that have to happen to make this Society successful and we rely on volunteers, such as these, to make it happen!

President's Message (continued)

As this is my final President's Message, I want to let you know it has been a pleasure and an honor serving in this position. I have come to appreciate all that it takes to make this organization what it is and all the wonderful people who make it work. This is a wholly volunteer effort and I am always impressed by what we accomplish when we put our energies together. I encourage all of you to take an active interest and continue to volunteer and support this wonderful organization!

Holiday Party

We hope many of you will join with us on December 11th. If you have not made reservations - IT IS NOT TOO LATE! You can call Laura DeMerritt (858) 270-5544 and let her know you want to come and bring payment to the event. This is a fun party so plan to participate. The meal will be served at noon but plan to come early, share a libation and check out all the gift plants. We will again be having potluck desserts - so bring something yummy to share.

Other events at the party:

GIFT EXCHANGE: bring a plant or other plant related item to participate. The plants will be looked over by an expert committee and a special plant will be chosen and set aside - the person who brought that plant then gets to choose from the remaining items - and whoever's plant they choose then gets to choose - and so on! So bring a cool item so you get chosen early!

GIFT PLANTS: When you arrive, all members who are paid up get a ticket and there will be a drawing to select from an array of special plants - every member gets a plant!

AUCTION: After everyone gets a gift plant the remaining plants - along with that special fist plant from the exchange - will be auctioned off. There are always some awesome deals to be had so be prepared to bid!

Rainbow Gardens Books Store is Relocating

We've just been informed that Rainbow Gardens Bookshop will be moving to Tucson, Arizona right after Christmas. The new owners will be Kevin & Helen Barber, and they will run the bookstore exactly as it always has been run, including selling at all the Southern California Cactus Shows (including ours).

For those of you who would like to visit the Bookstore in Vista one more time before December 24th, give Chuck or Jerry a call and check on their hours. Their number is: (760) 758-4290, or e-mail at: orders@rainbowgardensbookshop.com. They currently have a nice book sale going on right now of 23 different titles, as well as a 10% discount on anything in their catalog (including their online website at: www.rainbowgardensbookshop.com)

SDC&SS YEAR IN REVIEW

December 2003
Holiday Party



Carol Jean Wolcott and Joe Kraatz were recognized for all their great work as volunteers for our Society.



Here is Herb the Wine Guy and his lovely assistant, Mrs. Stern. What you may not know is that Herb spends the rest of the year searching for just the right wines for our Holiday Party.



We had a great time, enjoying the great company, food and gift plants. The desserts were wonderful and most of us went back for seconds!



January 2004

We held our regular meeting and the board finalized plans for the Winter Show and Sale.

February

We had a great Winter Show and Sale, with sales over \$8,000 and lots of great show plants shared.



Cactus Jordi and Susan Wunderlich discussing something important.

The Board had a lessons learned discussion at the Board meeting and next years show will be even better.

March

Both the Garden Volunteers and SDCSS had booths at the Garden Festival at Del Mar Fair Grounds. (Chris Miller, Joe Kraatz and a host of others spent 3 days selling plants and sharing about succulents and our organization.



Woody playing with a snake



Kelly Griffin's violent technique for seed collection.

In March Juergen Menzel, Kelly Griffin and Woody Minich took a trip to Mexico with a group of other enthusiasts.

April

Pam and Lee Badger, Chris Miller, Jeff Harris, Tom DeMerritt, and Si Osgrove participated in the Earth Day event at Balboa Park. We sold plants and talked to people about succulent plants and our organization.

May

Who could forget Michelle Hickathorn's wonderful Haworthia presentation, with all her pots



Painted the same color! (Editor's note "I wish I had thought of that!")

June

The Annual Show & Sale was a great success with \$30,000 in sales over the two days.



We had close to 700 entries. Lots of ribbons were awarded to wonderful plants



Wonderful, smiling volunteers made it all possible!

While most of us were busy with the show and sale, Tom DeMerritt,

Phil Flavel, Stan Yalof, and Ross Schumway were off on a trip to Madagascar.



At the Board Meeting in June we had a major lessons learned session and the outcome of that session is a more structured way to put on our show. We have new committees for all aspects of the show. More to come as the next show approaches.

July

More than 40 of us got on a bus for a trip to the Huntington for the CSSA Show and Sale July 3rd.



Above Bobbie Noel and Sara Schell admire the trophy table



Wilber Glover with his camera in the Cactus Gardens

August



The newest Mr. Fryer, our youngest member, showed up for a meeting.

September

Over 35 SDC&SS members and guests took a bus trip to Lotusland to visit the new Dunlap Cactus Garden. (Below)

October

Over the Halloween weekend the Baja Volunteers participated in the Garden Festival at the Wild



Animal Park. The festival is used as a fund raiser for the gardens and to develop awareness. Again we sold plants and shared information about succulent plants and the SDCSS. *Chris, Susan W. and Tom DeMerritt* are shown, other volunteers for the event include



November

Kay and Joe Quijada and Woody Minich were off on an Argentina adventure during our November meeting and we are all looking forward to the pictures when Woody does the presentation in January at our meeting.!

Photo Credits: Pictures from the March Mexico trip are by Juergen Menzel. Tom DeMerritt provided the Madagascar group photo. The Huntington photos and the Lotusland photo were provided by Chris Miller. John Durham provided the rest for this article.

Brag Table Plants

Thanks to all who participated at our November meeting. Unfortunately we didn't get a list of who won. So you have our apologies and please enjoy the award chits!

CSSA 2005 Convention

August 5-11 in Phonex Arizona

Is there any interest in attending the convention as a group? Traveling as a group in a caravan or carpool is a possibility. If you are interested please e-mail Chris Miller at c.miller@cox.net

Plant of the Month

Jeff Harris is looking for volunteers to write articles and give talks on the Plant of the Month. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge or increasing your knowledge of a plant type by research, this is a great way to do it.

Please contact Jeff at (619) 294-5708 if you are interested.

Please give Jeff more support than our new President Mark Fryer gave him at one of our meeting this year



Cathryn Mangold 1911- 2004

Few people really understand plants the way that we do. You may call it obsession or perhaps it is a connection that we have with the plants that others cannot comprehend. I do know that it unites us. I also know that I had that spoken and mostly unspoken understanding with Cathryn Mangold. She was a great inspiration to me personally. I cannot tell you how many times her name came up in my travels, with regard to her plants that she had shared so freely, with so many people. I would be willing to bet you all have a plant or two that had made its way from her garden even if you did not know it. While I was traveling in South Africa on the other side of the world, someone asked if I knew her and if could I get information about a collection they had gotten ex C. Mangold.

She was always - sometimes painfully direct but I must say the honesty was particularly endearing to me. As I have found out in life, even those you think are the closest to you aren't always so straight forward.

I hope to describe the little white flowered *Dudleya aff cymosa* that I found in her honor as *Dudleyas* were one of her dearest favorites. (*CSSA journal* vol 76 num 5)

The plant world is a better one because she was here. I will miss her greatly! I extend my best to her family.

Kelly Griffin

The picture is of Cathryn and her late husband Vernon



Bob Taylor (1904-2004)

Lee and I first met Bob in the early 70's. We were living in San Francisco and had been bitten by the "cactus bug." There was a thriving houseplant business burgeoning in San Francisco at the time with plant boutiques opening on every corner around the city. We started a wholesale business supplying cacti to these shops. Lee had some roots in San Diego and began making monthly trips down here to purchase plants and bring them to SF and sell to the shops. Bob Taylor was the first grower Lee had contact with. When our business took off as demand soared, Bob referred us to Hans Brischt and the cactus farms of North County. We would still always get out several times a year to see Bob at his place in El Cajon and marvel at his energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of the plants we had so recently been smitten with. Always generous with his time and knowledge, Bob was the ultimate 'Ambassador of Cacti.' When we became active in SDC&SS in the early 90's Bob still attended meetings regularly - and always made it to the Holiday Party to get his free plant! We miss you Bob!

Pam Badger



Photo by Collette Parr

What's the Status?

By Chris Miller

Old World Succulent & Baja Gardens

The SDCSS maintains the Baja and Old World Succulent Gardens at the Wild Animal Park. After four years of active volunteer activity the gardens are a wonderful place to spend time. The first year was heavy-duty brush removal, clearing areas that had been overgrown for several years. In the following years we have planted in both gardens, kept the weeds at bay, and Bert Elder and Tom DeMerritt have worked at terracing parts of the Old World Succulent Garden. We are actively involved in the club's plant sales, at meeting and shows, and have \$6,000 in the bank for supporting future garden initiatives.



If you take a walk in the gardens this week you will find, *Aloes* and *Euphorbias* in bloom, the Boojum Trees and *Ocotillo* in leaf, and the rest of the plants are plump from the rain. Juergen does almost all the weeding in the Baja Garden by hand and says that there are lots of Boojum, *Ocotillo* and *Ferocactus* volunteer seedlings in the garden. The Baja Garden is over 25 years old and the plants are very mature. The Old World Succulent Garden is not as old, but we still have some nice mature *Aloes*, *Euphorbias* and *Pachypodiums*.

We have a handful of volunteers that come one to three times a month to work in the garden. We need more to keep ahead of the weeds and to start the improvement projects we need to do. One of the first orders of business needs to be identifying and making signs for plants along the trail, so that the gardens are more educational. We need someone to maintain the *Agave* Garden. We have several *Agave* in the greenhouse that need to be planted out.

The greenhouse needs a cleanup day and we have plants in the ground around the greenhouse that need some care. We also need some carpentry work done in the greenhouse.

So there is a lot to do and we can always use more help. Volunteers work at their own pace, doing what they can do. If you want to volunteer once in awhile or adopt an area to maintain, you will be welcomed! If you are interested call me at (619) 256-9810 or e-mail me at c.miller@cox.net



San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

President: Pam Badger (619) 589-1223
Vice President: Jeff Harris (619) 294-5708
Secretary: Christine Tratnyek (619) 461-0737
Treasurer: Chris Miller (619) 258-9810
Ex Officio: Tom DeMerritt (858) 270-5544

Directors

Lee Badger (619) 589-1223
Jeannette Dutton (619) 239-8476
Allen Clark (858) 576-0380
John Durham (619) 233-8935
Spencer Maze (858) 454-1870
Terry Parr (619) 460-9111
Herb Stern (619) 223-9134

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Conservation:: Joey Betzler & Kelly Griffin
Education & Exhibitbits
Brag Table: Kay Quijada
Plants of the Month: Lee Badger & Jeff Harris
Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Jeff Harris & Susan Hopkins
Winter Show: Ed DeLollis
Historian: Terry Parr
Library: Phil Bunch, Jan Kent & Phil Kent
Membership: Collette Parr
Mailing: Pam Badger & Jeff Harris
Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Seeds: Kelly Griffin
Plant Sales & Supplies
Annual Sales
Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt
Monthly Plant Sales: Jeff Harris & Joe Kraatz
Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Stan Yalof
Programs: Kelly Griffin
Reception: Ethyl Standish
Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Allen Clark, Stefy Mangold
Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Kelly Griffin
Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted
SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover
SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller
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