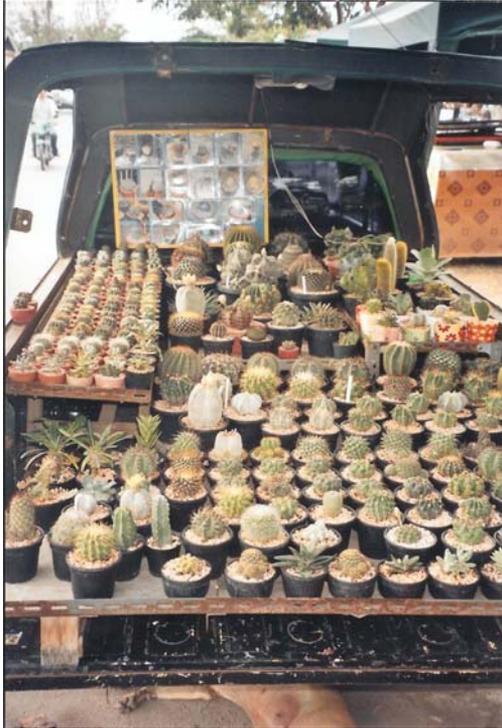


Volume 41 Number 10

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# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

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



**WISHING EVERYONE THE  
HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS!**

Let's Celebrate:  
Saturday December 9, 2006 at Noon  
Room 101 Casa Del Prado  
Balboa Park, San Diego CA

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

The November meeting was a real treat for anyone who missed it. Judging from the turnout, one could draw two conclusions; one, that most of our membership showed up, and two, that we should always have tequila freely available at our regular monthly meetings! Well it's doubtful that the latter will occur, but we are trying to get into the habit of making sure every month's meeting is well publicized. Phillip Soto Mares talk about growing and producing Tequila was highly entertaining, as well as educational. For anyone who missed it, this was an unforgettable program, and we will hope to have Mr. Mares back at future SDCSS functions. I hope everyone who had a chance to sample his wares found them to be as intriguing as I and others in attendance did!

I am always amazed at the quality of local speakers and talent we have right here at our local fingertips. Juergen Menzel's talks are always thought-provoking and thorough, and Pam's talks are always filled with intriguing curiosities, neither of which let anyone down. Both of you are owed huge kudos for tackling such enormous topics, and sailing through so professionally.

December's Holiday Party on the 9th is looking most excellent this year. All the planned activities and so forth will be similar to year's past, with a little extra "oomph!" just for fun. For instance, Mary Whittemore, a professional auctioneer, will be conducting our rare plant auction this year. We're using a new caterer who comes with high recommendations from several of our members. Lee Badger and Tom DeMerritt have been searching the globe for plant gifts and auction plants. Many vendors are donating choice, show-quality specimens for the auction. I sense a good time is nearly upon us!

On the cover: A truckload of cacti awaits some lucky cactophile this holiday season!

*This photo was taken by Jerry and Candy Garner on a recent trip to Thailand at a market in the ancient capital of Ayutthaya. As you can see even in a country known for tropical plants there are still people that are nuts about cacti.*

January's meeting is currently in the works, with Jeff Moore giving us a presentation on his "Undersea Succulent Gardens", and Ric and Marilyn Newcomer kicking off their first season as our "Plant of the Month" folks, with Ric taking on the cactus and Marilyn taking on the succulent. Thanks in advance to all of you who make these awesome meetings possible.

There's still time to sign up to help out with the February Winter Show and Sale. Terry Parr needs about a dozen extra hands to help keep an eye on the show plants, and generally oversee the show area. Since this is only a one-day event and we always try to pack so much activity into one day, we can use all the help we can get with everything from checkout hands, to security assistants, to show helpers answering questions. It seems as if there is a trend of increasing interest in succulent plants in our community, so don't hesitate to get involved or speak up if you're looking for assistance with something or another.

So don't be shy, we are always hungry for your thoughts and expertise. We are looking for FIELD TRIP ideas, be they small or large, close or far (bearing in mind the CSSA Convention this coming May in Seattle, Washington, of course). Our web-page - [http:// www.sdcss.com](http://www.sdcss.com) - is slowly but surely getting a makeover, and we're interested in member's feedback as to what they want to see (both in terms of content and functionality). Programs for 2007- we heard your requests for more hands-on oriented programs, and will be trying to alternate between these and travelogues. Our globe-trotting members are absolutely full of intriguing points of destinations and trips these past few months. Phyllis having been to the Galapagos Islands, and now recently returned from the CSSA South Africa trip. Tom Knapik and Kelly Griffin just returned from an expedition through Bolivian cactus country. I know Joe and Kay Quijada have been trotting the globe too, I just can't remember where! Wow, just between the 5 of you we could probably fill up 10 or 20 hours worth of fascinating travelogue material, but fear not, we'll let you get your feet on the ground for a bit before we start pestering you.

*Mammillaria sanchez-mejoradae*



With the current weather situation here, it's hard for me to think that anyone would want to go anywhere else! Perfect conditions have been the rule for the past month, and so many plants are really responding favorably. Most of the winter-flowering Mammillarias are hitting their stride right now. A little early this year? From a propagator's standpoint it's like an opportunity to maybe squeeze a nice long flowering out of some species that were (if memory serves properly) rather quick last year. I'm thinking some of the pectinate Mammillarias like *M. solisiodes*, *pectinifera*, *sanchez-mejorada*, and *humboldtii* (for instance) were rather quick last year. This year they seem content and determined to "give it the go" for a good long spell. some of these plants are nearly impossible to ever make "too much" seed of.



*Mammillaria melanocentra* ssp.  
*Rubrograndis*

A couple weeks ago I noticed that our local weedy succulent, *Crassula ovata*, was already coming into flower. About 6 weeks earlier than usual, isn't it? I'm also noticing that there seems to be a wider schism between winter growers that grow because of temperature as opposed to those which take their cue from day-length. Part of my fumbling around with a certain inability to properly articulate this difference is due to my own failure to recognize which genera are signaled by which condition, or both. Let me just mention that it seems generally earlier this year, and I'm curious as to what might be the reason for this. If I were to trust the Farmer's Almanac, then it might suggest a colder than average winter on the way. If I attribute the seasonal changes to larger climate changes, then I have to think about global warming.

As always, KUDOS TO EVERYONE for their efforts in keeping the SDCSS such a diverse and compelling plant group!

Best wishes and season's greetings!

Mark Fryer

# HOLIDAY PARTY!

Well, it's that time again - time to get together, celebrate the Holidays, have some good food and drinks, enjoy each others company and get some new plants!



We are excited about the new caterer - she comes highly recommended and with awesome references. We have chosen a menu with something for everyone - so bring a good appetite. Herb Stern will once again set up a bar with all kinds of refreshments so you can come thirsty too! As part of our sharing with each other we have a tradition of doing a "potluck" dessert table - this is optional - have a special dessert you like to prepare or something you want to

bring - please do - we always have an incredible selection of yummy stuff to finish off our meal.

Gift Exchange This is another fun sharing thing many of us have enjoyed over the years. This is optional - if you want to participate, bring a nice plant or plant related item for the exchange - **ONLY ONE ITEM PER PERSON PLEASE**. At some point a committee will select one of the plants as best (this can be a tough job!) that plant will be set aside to be auctioned off later. The person who brought in that plant will get first choice from the remaining plants - and the owner of the plant that person selects then gets a chance to select and so on and so forth until all plants are distributed. As you can see the nicer the plant/item you bring the sooner you will get to choose. So look through your collection and see if there is some lovely plant you would like to gift to a fellow member and bring it to the GIFT EXCHANGE TABLE - be sure your name is on the plant. This is open to guests also so if you are bringing a nonmember guest - let them know!

Gift Plant The Society will continue the tradition of giving each member who attends this event with a gift plant. These plants will be distributed during desserts by lottery. When you arrive be sure to check in at the door to receive your ticket for the drawing. Then take some time to



look over the beautiful selection on plants so you will be able to grab your favorite when your number is called. ( this is a benefit of membership - no gift plants for guests)

Auction For the first time we have engaged a PROFESSIONAL AUCTION TEAM to handle our annual auction. Many of our vendors have donated plants to this auction and Gloria, Paul Steward's mom, donated some wonderful plants from his collection to be auctioned as a fund raiser in his name. We have also procured a number of 'bare root' plants from Western Cactus Growers so come prepared to bid on the best array of auction plants we have ever assembled.

P.S. If you have 1-2 "show quality" plants you would like to donate to the auction - please contact Lee Badger 619.589.1456

If this sounds like way too much fun to miss - be sure to get your reservations in ASAP (call Chris Miller if you have not yet made your reservations) and join us for the "Best Holiday Party" of the Season.

SEE YOU THERE!!



*Euphorbia pulcherrima*  
"Poinsettia"

# THE ANZA BORREGO INSTITUTE

The Anza-Borrego Institute, the educational and research arm of the Anza-Borrego Foundation, is the proud partner of the Wildlife Health Center, University of California at Davis and the Colorado Desert District of California State Parks. Our mission is to promote conservation of this unique and fragile region through land acquisition, interpretation, education, and research. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and every one of our programs supports the park.

Our courses are designed to inspire humans of all ages and backgrounds. We offer programs year round in natural history, Native American culture, archaeology, paleontology, geology, history, and the arts that explore the treasures of these lands in-depth with expert instructors. Learning opportunities are extended through youth programs from fifth grade conservation camps for under served kids and distance on-line learning. To research scholarships, science symposia, and citizen science projects.

We also contribute to important research projects that assist park management in making informed decisions critical to the preservation of these precious resources.

Funding is provided through our operation of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center bookstore, memberships, and contributions.

Individual memberships are only \$25.00. Members receive a discount on all programs and sales items purchased at the ABDSP Visitor Center.

An example of some of the programs being offered this spring: Climate Change, Global Desert Outlook, Traditional Juncus and Pine Basket Weaving Workshop, Traditional Pottery Making Workshop, Mud Caves and Slot Canyons, Forbidden Reefs: The Imperial Seaway, Indio Hills Palms - A Hidden Treasure. This is a very abbreviated example of programs available. All include driving and/or hiking in areas where the average tourist never gets to venture!

At the January meeting I will present more information about the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute and amplify on upcoming programs.

The Institute offers an excellent opportunity to experience first hand one of the most diverse deserts on the planet.

Regards,  
Joseph W Kraatz

# THE LIBRARY CORNER

By Jan and Phil Kent

I just love this time of year, (sound of coffee pouring), don't you Darling? Oh, very much my Love. But then again I could probably say that about every Season.

It's like cats and babies, I love 'em all. Even the ones that aren't mine. Oh your sweet. Tout Sweet! (That's French you know.) Another biscotti my Dear?

Maybe a Danish. Umm,nice cheese Danish.

Autumn is a beautiful time of year. The sunlight is so magnificent out here on the Eastside. Yes that's true, best sunlight in the county. It seems as if all our plants continue to grow. And some are flowering too.

You know Dear Friends, Winter doesn't arrive until December 22nd. And we prepare our Library Corner a month in advance, so we are working (if you can call it " work ", it's more like " pleasuring " ) on this right around Thanksgiving. And so we would Like to express our Thanks for all of the wonderful things we enjoy. We are sure Thankful for, our good Health, all of our Friends, we'd like to mention their names but that would take way too long,all of our little Neighbors around the Lake, what a joy they are to hear and see, our wonderful Vet, Dr. Flores, and also The Founders of Our Great Country, we are so Proud and Pleased to be Americans, I LOVE being an American, and to the Brave Men (like our Dads) who put their Life on-the-line during World War II to preserve our Freedom and that of the rest of the World, each of those guys is in a special place in Heaven.

Listen Hon, do you hear that song..., "children laughing, people passing, greeting smile after smile, and on every street corner you hear, ring-a-ling, ting-a-ling.

It's Christmas time in the City." So until nest time, these are your lovely Librarians, wishing you happiness and success in everything good that you try to do.

God Bless.

# NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by Elibet Marshall

## Cactus

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mark Fryer	<i>Astrophytum</i> hybrid "Superkabuto"
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Deya Wilson	<i>Gymnocalycium</i> (sp.)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Carol Maker	<i>Ariocarpus fusseratus</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Zygocactus</i> hybrid

## Succulent

1 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Brighemia insisens</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Candy Garner	<i>Crassula ausensis</i> v. <i>titanota</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Don Hunt	<i>Pelargonium antidysentericum</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mark Fryer	<i>Albuca namaquensis</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stan Yalof	<i>Sedum frutescens</i>

### CORRECTIONS AND APOLOGIES:

In last month's article on the Canary Islands, one of our highly knowledgeable members pointed out to the Editors that we accidentally reversed two photos. Here are the correct identifications:

*Aeonium lindleyi*



*Senecio kleinia*



# ARIOCARPUS CONTINUED

Do to space limitations in last month's issue, the editors were unable to publish all the amazing *Ariocarpus* photos provided by Juergen Menzel, so here are some more:

*Ariocarpus furfuraceus*



*Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus*



*Ariocarpus trigonus horacekii*



*Ariocarpus trigonus horacekii* in flower



*Ariocarpus scapharostrus angular*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2006

**Dec 9:** SDCSS Holiday Party, noon until we have too much fun!

## 2007

**Jan 9:** 6:30pm-8pm “How We Know the Climate is Changing” by Mark Thiemens of the University of California San Diego, San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, San Diego.

**Jan 13:** 9:30am-12:30pm “Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget”, pre-registration and fee required, Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon, 619-660-0614.

**Feb 10:** 9:00am-4:00pm SDCSS Winter Show and Sale.

**Mar 2-4:** San Diego Spring Home/Garden Show, Fri Noon-7:00pm, Sat 10:00am-7:00pm, Sun 10:00am-5:00pm, Del Mar Fairgrounds.

**Apr 26-29:** Southern California Spring Garden Show, 10:00am-9:00pm Thurs & Fri, 10:am-8:00pm Sat, 11:00am-6:30pm Sun, South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa.

**May 25-30:** CSSA 32nd Biennial Convention at the Seattle Airport DoubleTree Hotel. Reception May 25, presentations May 26, 27, 29, 30 and field trips May 28.



*Opuntia* (sp.) growing on the protective arm of *Carnegiea gigantea*, Saguaro N.P. East. Photo by Kathy Harris.

The due date for submission of article (Plants of the Month) and information on the program/speaker will be the meeting preceding the intended issue (approximately one month ahead of time). The due date for letters, regular columns, brag table winners, and the President's Message will be one week later. All submissions are to be made to the Editors.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES & SUB COMMITTEES

### Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern  
Brag Table: Kay Quijada  
Plants of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer  
Summer Show: Tom Knapik, Phil Kent  
Winter Show: Terry Parr  
Historian: Terry Parr  
Library: Jan Kent & Phil Kent, Allen Clark  
Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

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Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt  
Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Pam Badger  
Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted  
Benefit Drawing Table: Terry Parr, Lee Badger  
Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz  
Programs: Mark Fryer  
Reception: Ethel Standish, Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak  
Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Susie White  
Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

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Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig  
SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted  
SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover  
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