

Volume 42 Number 11

December 2007

# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

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



*HAPPY HOLIDAYS everyone!*  
*PLEASE JOIN US FOR the celebration*

Saturday December 15, 2007  
11:00am to 4:00pm  
Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Greetings of the seasonal variety!

Yes, it's that time of the year again, evergreens and colorful dying leaves get all the attention this time of year unless you're a *Zygocactus*, I have to pry the neighborhood kids off the golden barrels convincing them they DON'T make good pumpkin substitutes, and every other word I utter seems to be Bah Humbug. This is, of course, a secret code for "oh no, how much weight will I gain this holiday season." The aloes in the yard are pushing out their colorful buds and a number of winter-flowering cacti are still posing with color; things are beginning to harden down and leaves are dropping everywhere. Dormancy is a wonderful thing when it happens in an orderly fashion, even beautiful when it's exemplified in things like the "polar caps" of *Wollemia nobilis*, here a recently acquired backyard "pine-o-saur." Thinking in hushed and dulcet tones so as not to anger the weather gods, I hope we don't have another record-breaking freeze this year. Last year was enough for a decade, in my opinion.



*Aloe marlothii* in bud 11/18/2007



Familiar faces from the past:  
John Durham and Jeff Harris paid  
a visit in November

Speaking of decades, it seemed a bit like "old home-room night" at the last meeting, didn't it? No, you weren't hallucinating, that actually was Mr. Jeffrey Harris who has recently thrown everything into becoming a genuine Canuk; moving away to Kamloops, British Columbia. When someone like Harris gets this close, there's no reason to delay a trip if you've recently moved to Tucson, AZ, either, so it was double the fun to have John and Susan Durham in attendance as well.

*On the cover: Our hardworking Board clockwise from far left, Jean O'Daniel, Peter Walkowiak, Susan Hopkins, Terry & Collette Parr, Chris Miller, Allen Clark, Chris Tratnyek, Mark Fryer, and Pam Badger. Photo: Bev Grant & Art Cooley.*

So nice to see you! Like it wasn't enough to have out of town visitors, Steve Hammer's program really offered up some beauties; challenging, fascinating, words fail me!! Thanks to everyone for making it a good time and being so patient with a couple of our minor glitches in the beginning. Ric Newcomer's incredible display of unique and one of a kind cacti and succulents was outstanding! The meat of the meeting certainly didn't lack any substance it? HUGE KUDOS to all the usual suspects who went above and beyond the call of duty to bring the meeting to such an exciting and well organized event!!



The President and Steve Hammer  
*Photo: Juergen Menzel*



*Lithops marmorata* SH 572a

Minor details and major undertakings; You may have noticed our last EYF contained a questionnaire to be filled out and turned in at the next regular meeting. What's that you say? You didn't get it completed? Well you've got until the January meeting, where we'll hint further about 2008. Mean what you say and say what you mean; your board is all ears! We have even gone to some effort lately to review and refine the bylaws of the SDCSS, so that every member can involve themselves simply and clearly, and so that those who come after

us as "leaders" will have clear directions and procedures in order to continue to carry the message and fulfill the mission statement of the SDCSS.

Let's get ready to party! As of this writing most everything is ready to roll for this year's X-Mas Social, most importantly Mr. Stern's donning of the fuzzy red hat and becoming the resident "cork dork," and all the usual elves are lining up for a fun-filled afternoon. Look for more information in this issue; remember your exchange plant (s), funds for auction, and designate a driver!!

Well there should be some extra announcements in person at the social, so I'll end here. Hope everyone has a good time for the holidays this year, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting!

Warm wishes,

Mark Fryer

November 18th, 2007

# Holiday Party!

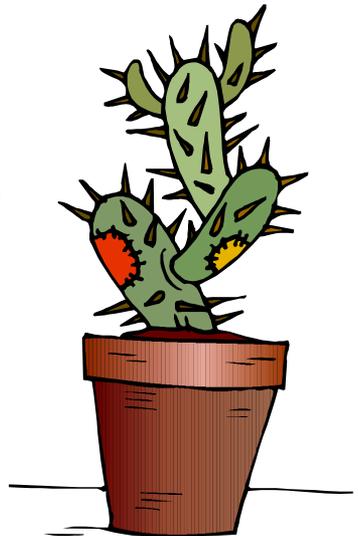
Well, it's that time again - time to get together, celebrate the Holidays, have some good food and drinks, enjoy each others company and get some new plants!



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 Again this year we have engaged a PROFESSIONAL AUCTION TEAM to handle our Annual Holiday Auction. Many of our vendors have donated plants to this fundraiser auction. 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!!

## November Brag Table Winners

Judged by Jeff Harris and John Durham

### Cactus

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Mystery Grower – Mystery Plant (form disappeared)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Coryphantha bumammer*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Juergen Menzel – *Mammillaria hernandezii*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Eriocyce crispa*

### Succulents

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Brighamia insignis*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Kelly Griffin – *Aloe cv. Sandpaper*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Othonna quercifolia*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Kelly Griffin – *Albuca spiralis* (aff?)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Mystery Grower – *Oeceoclades roseo variegata*

*Cactus 1st Place Winner please identify yourself to Candy Garner or the Editors so we can give you credit!*

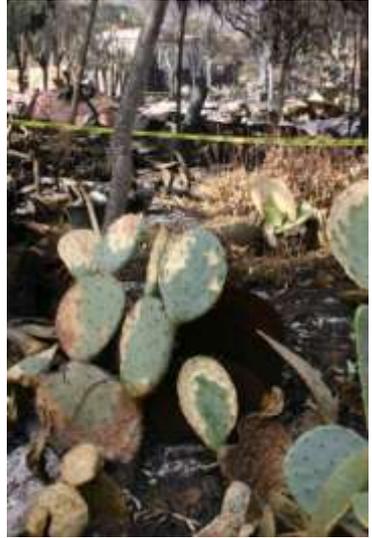
# succulents save homes!

Pam Badger submitted this enlightening email from Debra Lee Baldwin concerning the October wildfires:

Last week, Suzy Schaefer, owner of the garden on the cover of my book, *Designing with Succulents*, emailed me: "Succulents saved our home. The fire came within 6 feet of the house, but the garden saved the house from burning."

I went there and saw how wildfire had blackened palms and eucalyptus in the canyon adjacent to the Schaefer's Rancho Santa Fe home and, sadly, consumed a house across the street. A stand of *Aloe arborescens* had shielded the corner of the Schaefer house closest to the canyon; the plant cooked but did not catch fire.

In the south Escondido community of Del Dios, an area hit hard by wildfire, I saw aloes, agaves, jade, ice plants and prickly pear cactus still green near homes reduced to ashes. And no wonder -- succulents, which by definition are plants with fleshy leaves and stems, are like well-sealed water balloons.



Opuntia and burned lot



Aloes and burned wall

This past week, the Associated Press interviewed me on using succulents for firewise landscaping, and I wrote an article on the subject for the *Los Angeles Times* (Home section, Thurs. Nov. 8).

I'm also pleased to announce that *Designing with Succulents*, which was released in April, is going into its third printing.

Very best regards,

Debra Lee Baldwin



Fire burned near a path, stopping at the succulents.



The *Agave attenuata* and *Opuntias* are still standing and green.

# FROM THE CSSA: Promotional Article e (2007, No. 2)

The major events on the 2007 Calendar for the CSSA are now past, the CSSA biennial convention in Seattle in late May and the annual CSSA Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Garden in late June. The convention, though not well attended, was greatly enjoyed by attendees and was clearly a success in many ways. We can't thank the Cascade Society enough for all they did to make the convention successful. The CSSA Show was the most spectacular in many years and the accompanying sale broke all previous records.

However, the CSSA Journal, lavishly illustrated in full color, keeps appearing every other month and according to recent survey results, it is the most valuable asset of membership for most CSSA members. Journal editor Russell Wagner continues to do a superb job with the Journal and I would like to briefly review the contents of Volume 78 (2006) so all you affiliate club members who don't yet belong to CSSA can see what you are missing by not having your own personal copy.

A feature article in the January-February issue is a special conservation report by Jan Emming entitled "The Threat that Invasive Weeds and Wildfires Pose to Our North American Desert Biomes." Part 2 of this series deals with the Saguaros of the Sonoran Desert, the quintessential North American cactus. The same issue also contains two articles on terrestrial bromeliads (a recent interest of mine), *Hechtias* in Mexico and *Dyckias* and other genera in Brazil. These plants fit nicely into any succulent collection.

Much of the March-April issue is devoted to John Lavranos and his legacy of botanical discoveries. A wonderful cartoon of John by Gerhard Marx graces the cover. This issue is traditionally eagerly awaited by subscribers, as it contains the ISI plant offerings for the year.

The lead article in the May-June issue discusses the succulent riches of the Ankarana Special Reserves in Madagascar. Irwin Lightstone discusses new technologies for close-up photography of succulents and Brian Kemble shares some stunning photos of *Agave guadalajarana*. The first article in a new series by Elton Roberts entitled "Home Grown: Cactus Tips from a Master Grower" appears in this issue. This well-illustrated series discusses the horticultural requirements of various (mostly cactus) genera, some of which are notoriously difficult to grow successfully in cultivation.

In addition to another article in the "Home Grown" series, the July-August issue features two articles by Root Gorelick on cactus localities in New Mexico, and a description of an extraordinary new species of *Rhytidocaulon* from Somalia whose flowers have strange spider-web-like hairs across the corona. In the September – October issue we find a delightful South African travelogue by Sue Hakala, winner of a Schwartz travel grant, which allowed her to visit that land of succulent riches for the first time. Another major article in this issue

covers the diverse globose cactus community of a site in Argentina's Cordoba Province. The November – December issue is a special issue twice the size of a normal issue devoted to pendent and cliff-dwelling succulents from all over the world, many of which do beautifully in cultivation in hanging baskets.

Features appearing in most issues include the Research and Conservation Report by Donna Woodward, Succulents on Stamps by Peg Spaete, and book reviews by various authors. A number of important succulent publications were reviewed in the Journal in 2006, including *Ferocactus* by John Pilbeam and Derek Bowdery, *Grass Aloes in the South African Veld* by Charles Craib, *Echeveria Cultivars* by Lorraine Schulz and Attila Kapitany, *Stapeliads of Southern Africa and Madagascar* by Peter Bruyns, *Teratopia: the World of Cristate and Variegated Succulents* by Gordon Rowley, and *The New Cactus Lexicon* by David Hunt and others. All of these volumes are valuable additions to anyone's succulent library.

Good growing,

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# Lights, Camera, ACTION! ... **AN ANALOGY**

By Bev Grant

Hollywood 'banks' on its stars...Clint, Denzel, Meryl, Angelina, Forrest, Antonio, Julia and Jerry. In November, Jerry Seinfeld's "Bee Movie" earned \$26 million in one week's ticket sales. It's not unusual for \$10-20 million to be paid a 'star' for a single performance. And the individual cost to attend one of these mega-million dollar blockbusters at Landmark, Pacific or AMC theaters? A whopping \$8-10 is the admission price for an approximately 110 minute movie. For additional theater profits and consumer enjoyment there's also the \$3.75 diet Coke and the \$5.75 container of popcorn. Yikes, approximately \$20 for, at most, 2 hours of entertainment. And, if you're very lucky, the movie was worth the cost. But, was it really good value?

Now consider the SDCSS.... We have our 'stars' too! Mark, Chris, Collette, Peter, Bill, Chris (another) Jean, Susan, Allen, Terry... and MORE!! Plant sales on a stellar month for members can reach several thousand dollars. And the sale of sales/show of shows in June takes in almost \$30,000 for members and vendors. Monthly meeting attendance often reaches 100. And the program starts as early as 10 AM for those hoping to 'score' a succulent that's not in their collection...and entertainment continues 'til almost 4 PM--5 hours of purchasing, business meeting, plant of the month, brag table, benefit drawing, professional power-point presentations (exotic plants/locations), and the exchange table, too! Oh, and virtually complimentary sugar-highs at the 'regalia' table, too! And, the price of admission to this entertainment? Yearly dues: \$15. Divide by 12. That's \$1.40 per monthly event (even less when member parties are factored in). Definitely worth the cost; definitely good value!!

But it seems that I've over looked the salaries of SDCSS 'stars.' Our meetings are 'directed' by dedicated, devoted, delightful pros. At the recent special executive board meeting, 4 hours were spent reviewing and refining the "By-laws." There are monthly board meetings, lasting hours. Organizational committee meetings to assure that speakers/presentations are assigned monthly, etc. Lots of ETC. It's a second or third job for many of our officers and board members. What is the motivation? Certainly, part of the motivation is the love of cacti and succulents. Another factor has to be the love of the 'community' they've helped to create. Their salaries? Member thanks, smiles, extra volunteers, compliments.

So... lights, camera, ACTION! It's our turn to 'raise their salaries' by remembering to personally say thanks for the first rate entertainment, knowledge and friendship they've provided us in 2007!

PS: And, if you've always wanted to be a STAR, there are numerous opportunities for you to shine by becoming a board member or officer yourself. Volunteer. Share ideas. Help with the 2011 Convention. It's show time!

# Off the shelf

By Allen Clark



Izzat © 1941



Happy Holiday to all you succulophiles! It has been a productive year for the library, as our small committee has made strong and steady progress in improving our collection, and making it easy for the entire membership to access it.

Our case is better organized than I can ever remember seeing it, to make it easier for you to find information or help on a particular type of plant or cultural problem. By the time you read this, we will have updated our bound issues of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's journal (A membership is an excellent gift to yourself at this time of year!), and we will soon finalize a way to make the individual bound volumes available to you.

SDCSS's primary mission is to promote knowledge and enjoyment of this large and diverse group of plants. Your library is a valuable way for you to build your growing skills and derive lots of satisfaction from those little seedlings you buy in our sales area at monthly meetings and shows. I have also noticed that the fellowship aspect of the club has begun to build around our open case, as newer members talk there with our more experienced growers and get guidance into our many holdings.

At our Holiday Party, the library will be donating a few special volumes to the Auction. Proceeds from these items will go directly to the library fund to help us to continue our efforts. One book is Cactus Culture for Amateurs, published in 1903 by W. Watson, who was an assistant curator at Kew Gardens in England. The cover is embossed and color-stamped, with a lovely design we no longer see in book bindery. The engraved plates are lovely. You'll have fun tracing the taxonomy from its state in 1903 to the present, as more than a century of lumping and splitting has taken place.

Also up for bidding will be duplicate copies of the Euphorbia Journal, Vols. 2 and 3, as well as a few more surprises. So...plan to examine our auction items before we eat, and plan on getting some truly special gifts.

The very best wishes for a peaceful holiday season from Jeanette Dutton, Steve Harris, Don Hunt, Chris Miller, and myself!

# fyi (for your information)

**The Huntington's Desert Gardens turned 100 years old in 2007:** In 1907, Henry E. Huntington and his grounds superintendent, William Hertrich, planted about 300 specimens of cacti on a half acre hillside on his estate. By 1930, the collection had grown to 12 acres and also included rare succulent specimens from around the world. Today the Desert Garden holds nearly 50,000 plants representing 3,000 specimens. If you have not visited the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens it is well worth the trip up to San Marino for any plant lover. For more information visit their website at [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org).

**Beware of fake tequila:** For the past six years, phony tequila has been infiltrating the marketplace. The impostures are moonshine made from sugarcane, spiny agave, sword agave, and sometimes the actual blue agave. Under international trade law only blue agave spirits from certain parts of Mexico may be called tequila. To make sure the tequila you buy is the real thing, visit the website [www.crt.org.mx](http://www.crt.org.mx) for more information. Thanks for the warning, Carol Jean!

### **Water Conservation Garden classes that may be of interest to cacti & succulent enthusiasts:**

Beyond Xeriscape - Gardening for Sustainability, Sat, 12/8, 10am-12pm.

Designing with Cacti and Succulents (with our own Michael Buckner), Sat 12/15, 1-3pm followed by a plant sale.

Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget, Sat 1/5, 9:30am - 12:30pm.

For fees and more info ca 619-660-0614, or visit their website: [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org)  
The Water Conservation Garden  
12122 Cuyamaca Drive West  
El Cajon, CA 92019

**The Baja Garden is losing a dedicated volunteer:** Carol Moss is relocating to Bakersfield and the Baja Garden Volunteers are losing an enthusiastic volunteer and a special friend. We wish her success in her next endeavor!



Carol doesn't mind getting dirty.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH 2008

Compiled By Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

JANUARY - - George Plaisted: Pots, Soils and all you need to know!

FEBRUARY - Winter Show

MARCH - - - - Ric and Marilyn Newcomer (from Oct. 2007):  
"Meet the Member"

APRIL - - - - Stan Yalof: Ferocactus  
Peter Walkowiak: Monadenium

MAY - - - - - Pending  
Don Patterson: Epyphylum

JUNE - - - - - Show

JULY - - - - - Terry Parr: Columnar Cactus  
Don Hunt: More Euphorbias

AUGUST - - - Rudy Lime: "Meet the Member"

SEPTEMBER - Picnic

OCTOBER - - Ric Newcomer: The Other Copiapoas  
Michael Buckner: Echeveria

NOVEMBER - Ed DeLollis: Cactus in the Landscape  
Mark Fryer: Succulents in the Landscape

DECEMBER - Holiday Party

Ric Newcomer (left) interviewed Don Patterson for a "Meet the Member" presentation in 2007.

*Photo: Collette Parr*



# *Garden Tour/Open House*

Sunday, January 13, 2008

3210 Red Mountain Heights Drive

Fallbrook, Ca. 92028

11:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

Please join us for a delightful self-guided  
tour of the late Walter Hirt's fabulous  
Garden Collection of many Specimen  
Cacti and Succulents.

Food and refreshments will be served  
Free of charge.

Directions: from San Diego: Go North on I-14 to off on Mission Rd.  
Go left at top of ramp and follow Mission Rd. toward Fallbrook heading  
West. Go right on Willow Glen, and veer to right at "V" in road. Go right  
at Red Mountain Heights Rd. and go up hill the property.

In addition to viewing the wonderful grounds, please feel free to  
also view the home. It is currently on the market, offered at \$899,000

For more info. please call SDCSS member,  
Jill Marie Thorburn, at 760-535-2998

UPCOMING EVENTS

# Garden Tour/Open House

**Dec 15:** SDCSS Holiday Party, 11:00am-4:00pm.

Sunday, ~~2008 (Temporary)~~ January 13, 2008

**Feb 9:** SDCSS Winter Show & Sale, 9:00am-4:00pm, Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

3210 Red Mountain Heights Drive

**Apr 12-13:** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palms Verdes, info: 310-832-2262.

Fallbrook, Ca 92028

11:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

**Apr 19-20:** Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd, Fullerton, CA 92831.

Please join us for a delightful self-guided

**Apr 27:** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, info: 310-832-6823.

tour of the late Walter Hirt's fabulous

**May 3-4:** Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room 1, Overland Ave, Culver City, info: 310-822-1783.

garden collection of many specimen

Cacti and Succulents.

**May 18:** Huntington Plant Sale, 10:00am-5:00pm, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, info: 626-405-2160.

Food and refreshments will be served

**Jun 7-8:** SDCSS Summer Show & Sale.

Free of charge.



Directions: from San Diego: Go North on I-15 to off on Mission Rd. Go left at top of ramp and follow Mission Rd. toward Fallbrook heading West. Go right on Willow Glen, and veer to right at Red Mountain Heights Rd. and go up hill the property.

The Board discusses the SDCSS Bylaws at the home of Bev Grant and right of way. Thank you to Bev & Paul.

In addition to viewing the wonderful grounds, please feel free to also view the home. It is currently on the market, offered at \$899,000

For more info. please call SDCSS member,

Jill Marie Thorburn, at 760-535-2998

The due date for submission of article (Plants of the Month) and informa-

# San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

## Executive Board

President: Mark Fryer	(619) 795-1020	kaktussy@cox.net
Vice President: Tom DeMerritt	(858) 270-5544	armonde@pacbell.net
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Alt. Secretary Joe Kraatz	(760) 758-7042	plantnut@cox.net
Treasurer: Chris Miller	(619) 258-9810	c.miller@cox.net

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George Plaisted	(619) 583-9551	
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Peter Walkowiak	(858) 382-1797	hciservices@gmail.com
Collette Parr	(619) 460-9111	collette.parr@cox.net
Susan Hopkins	(858) 272-8897	
Tom Knapik	(619) 462-1805	tkn1234@aol.com

## Standing Committees & Sub Committees

### Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern

Brag Table: Candy Garner

Plants of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

Summer Show: Tom Knapik

Winter Show: Terry Parr

Historian: Terry Parr

Library: Allen Clark, Chris Miller, Don Hunt, Jeanette Dutton, Steve Harris

Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

### Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: Collette Parr

Mailing: Jean & Bill O'Daniel

Annual Sales: Chris Miller & Joe Kraatz

Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt

Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott

Monthly Supply Sales: George & Jerry Plaisted

Benefit Drawing Table: Collette & Terry Parr

Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz

Programs: Mark Fryer

Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak

Monthly Regalement: Rudy Lime, Susie White

Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

Hospitality: Sara Schell

### Liaison

Balboa Park Desert Garden: Susan Hopkins

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Peter Walkowiak

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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