

Volume 43 Number 4

April 2008

ESPINAS Y FLORES

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



Program: Kelly Griffin On His Trip to Madagascar

Cactus of the Month: Ferocactus by Stan Yalof

Succulent of the Month: Monadenium by Peter Walkowiak

Saturday April 12, 1:00pm

Casa Del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Last month's meeting certainly wasn't for the faint of heart or less than hard-core cactus fanatic, was it? Wow, what a ton of information! I have to thank both of our speakers for setting some kind of a new record in disbursing information about -a continent- and bringing home the sights and sounds of far away places. Paul's program on Chile certainly became expansive to start including Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico and Baja California! Much more than any of us anticipated, but the display of flags of countries he has traveled through the past several months is inspiring, to say the least. To have Mark Muradian bring motion and sound to Bolivia, animating and moving us through his use of video was absolutely stunning! I understand there were a number of members in attendance who were a bit overwhelmed by the amount of information and duration of our presentations, but I assure you my intent in organizing this was to seize the moment and secure as much quality as possible, and I was pleasantly surprised at the overall professional presentation from everyone, and a huge thanks to everyone in attendance for putting up with our minor technical difficulties in getting things going, I hope you agree it was worth it.



Clowning around John Durham's backyard with a *Ferocactus acanthodes* during a recent trip to Tucson.

In April you can expect things to get back to normal for a month with two plant of the month talks and Kelly Griffin's presentation on his latest trip to Madagascar. We'll kick things off with Peter Walkowiak discussing that fascinating segment of the Euphorbiaceae, the Monadeniums. Following this will be Stan Yalof talking about one of the most taken for granted genera of cacti, *Ferocactus*. Following our standard refreshment break and benefit plant drawing, Kelly Griffin will give us his insight to the Island of Madagascar, a program I've heard from dozens of people how excellent it is, heck I can hardly wait!

On the cover: Mark's Caralluma socotrana in bloom.



Crassula mesembryanthemoides

Did I just say April? Yepper-oonies, it's already spring again. It's been a couple years since any of my plants around here have had to sustain any hail damage, but last weekend's deluge certainly left it's mark - or should I say marks - all over everything. Of course being the borderline 'organic' guy that I am I thought it would be great to take some things out of my little greenhouse and let them have the forecasted rain we were supposed to

get. You can imagine how happy I was to be awakened at 5:00am in the morning to the sound of pea-sized hail stoning my slumbering beauties their first day out of their sheltered winter resting place.

Oh no, no, no! Fortunately no damage that most of these forsaken phorbs can't grow out of eventually, but I must say I tire of always saying, "Oh well, they'll grow out of it eventually..." Of course it's not all doom and gloom, there are copious buds on the cacti, and oddly enough a number of Mammillarias and Echinofossulocactus are still flowering away in spite of their icy beatings. A couple things really had me concerned, things I had frankly forgotten about leaving out, *Euphorbia abdelkuri*, for instance, came through unscathed- some tiny seedlings of *Euphorbia suppressa* didn't show the slightest tinge of discoloration, and aside from some underpotted plants getting tossed about in the wind, no real casualties.

June is busting out all over (oh my children love it when I sing Broadway tunes, especially first thing in the morning)! Yes, it's never too soon to start planning, and if you've ever thought about running one of those crazy cash-registers at our annual June Show and Sale, now's the time to contemplate further since I think the cash- register gods are ready to take your desires and make them into reality. See an article here about getting involved (and trained) and think what you can do for your club, it's how this whole thing works!! Don't worry if you can't or don't want to run the registers, there are oodles of other possibilities you can help with, everything from helping vendors to setting the staging of the show plants, to helping with the care and feeding of tired volunteers and vendors, just get involved!

All for now and I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting!

Mark Fryer
St Patrick's Day, March 17th, 2008

Ferocactus, Cactus of the Month

As told to Stan Yalof by
Juan Goldenbarrel

Juan: I am an *Echinocactus grusonii*, known in the trade as a golden barrel cactus. We Echinus use to be a large genus until those #@!*\$!! taxonomers Britton & Rose removed most of our taxa and placed them in the genus *Ferocactus*. Ay yai yai, we have been depopulated!

Stan: This is sad!

Juan: Now, hardly anyone pays us a mind, but those #@!*\$ Feros! They've gotten studies by B & R, field work by George Lindsay, books, DNA studies... deeeepressing! Now there are only nine of us Echinus left. There is *texensis*, *horiz* ...

Stan: I sympathize, maybe I can hear your story some other time, but I need info for a talk on Feros that I plan to give to the SDCSS.

Juan: Ay Caramba, again with the Feros. Why couldn't they lay DNA on us. We *Grusoniis* are quite gorgeous what with hairy pates, fuzzy flower buds, yellow flowers, and classic straight spines.

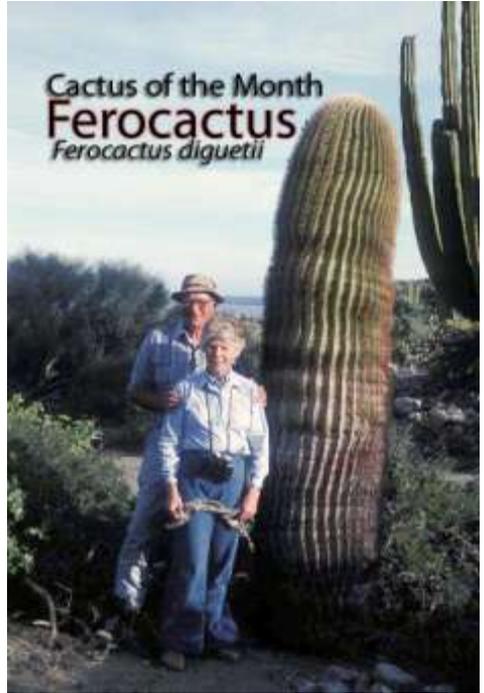
Stan: There are so few *Echinocactus* species left that your DNA tree would be more like a twig.

Juan: Alas, how true. Hmn, how about this? Why make a special deal of Feros. Why not do other taxa, like *Mammalaria*, hmm?

Stan: With their 500 members, their tree would be more like a thicket. Feros, with 30-plus species are a convenient size for science, at least for now.

Juan: Alas, unfortunately true! You know, we *Grusoniis* and the Feros have similarities and share a common ancestor. They started near me.

Stan: Did they hang around here?





Juan: There are still a few around: flavovirens, robustus, but they mostly went away.

Stan: Where?

Juan: Up the valley of Mexico, hemmed between Sierra Oriental and Occidental, all the way up to Utah.

Stan: Quite a few spilled into Baja California.

Juan: And that's another story! Baja was still attached as they migrated. As it split from the mainland it left Fero colonies on the Baja tierra and the islands to develop in isolation. And develop they did into unique, and I think ugly forms.

Stan: That wasn't kind! Any suggestions about what I should talk about?

Juan: To me, I would find fascinating the movement and evolution of some of the Fero species as they migrate northward, guided by topography, and changing along the way.

Stan: Sounds good, old timer. Adios.

Juan: Don't forget us Echinols!

Stan will be doing a talk with a short slide show on the Genus Ferocactus.

Madagascar

Presented by Kelly Griffin



The presentation will be on a trip I made last year to Madagascar. I spent a month traveling the country side looking for flora and fauna. I found plenty of bothLemurs, Aloes, Chameleons, Kalanchoes, Snakes, Alluaudias, Palms and Pachypodiums. Madagascar is a fantastically beautiful and very friendly albeit extremely poor country.

I currently am employed at Rancho Soledad Nurseries as the curator of xerophytic plants. It is one of the largest Nurseries in Southern California specializing in rare and unusual Palms.

MONADENIUMS

Our Succulent of the Month for April is the genus *Monadenium*, presented by Peter Walkowiak. *Monadenium* species are found in East Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. *Monadenium* are members of the Euphorbiaceae family and are succulent shrubs. Several species have spiraling tuberculate stems while others have a fairly plain stem structure. Inflorescences are borne at the stem apices, and the lobes and glands are fused together.

Most *Monadenium* species are low shrubs of one to two feet in stature, although *M. elegans*, *M. spinescens* and *M. torrei* are more tree-like and can reach 10 feet in height.

From *Succulents: The Illustrated Dictionary*, by Maurizio Sajeve and Mariangela Costanzo. –S. H.

DESERT ROAD TRIPS: Boyce Thompson Arboretum

by Candy and Jerry Garner

Boyce Thompson Arboretum, located one hour east of Phoenix, is a 320- acre botanic garden specializing in plants from the arid regions of the world. Founded in 1924 by industrialist Boyce Thompson, the garden has over 3000 arid land plants that can be viewed from 3 miles of trails. What makes this garden really special is its location at the base of Picketpost Mountain. In the North American sections of the garden it is hard to tell where garden ends and the native desert begins. Of note to the cactophile are the displays of large specimen cactus. A small man made lake provides an oasis that draws wild life from the surrounding desert and provides good birding opportunities. We spent a most enjoyable afternoon wandering the paths.



Where: East of Phoenix on Hwy 60 near the town of Superior.

Plant sales: A large selection of cacti, succulents, drought tolerant and native plants are sold to help support the arboretum. Plants range in size from seedlings to ready for landscaping. Several nice cacti migrated to California with us.



Note: Food service is limited. Picnic areas are available so bringing your own might be a better option.

Admission: \$7.50 for adults.

Hours: Sept. - Apr. 8 am to 5 pm
May - Aug. 6 am to 3 pm

For more information: btarboretum.org

Please address correspondence to:
The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
P.O. Box 33181
San Diego, Ca 92136-3181

SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR

Our program for April is by Kelly Griffin on Madagascar. The flora and fauna of this isolated island in the Indian Ocean are unlike anywhere else on earth. If you look at a map, it appears that if you somehow moved Madagascar to the east-southeast, it would fit like a jigsaw puzzle into the coastline of Mozambique on the African mainland.

Madagascar seems to have split from the African mainland many millions of years ago. Many families, genera and, in some cases, individual species are shared between Madagascar and Eastern and Southern Africa. But there are also entire families of succulents that seem to have evolved since the split.

An entire family, the Didiereaceae, is found only in Madagascar. The two genera, the *Alluaudia* and *Didierea*, are very similar to the *Fouquieria* genus, including our native Ocotillo (*F. splendens*) and occupy roughly the same niche in nature.

Other families are well represented in Madagascar. The Apocynaceae family includes many species of *Pachypodium*, including the Madagascar Palm, *P. lamerei* which seems to thrive in the greenhouse at the Wild Animal Park especially well. If you would like a *Pachypodium lamerei* for your collection, Chris Miller will be happy to fix you up. Other species of *Pachypodium* are found in Southern Africa.

The Crassulaceae are represented by several species of *Kalanchoe*, including the fuzzy leaved *K. tomentosa* found in many San Diego gardens and *K. tubiflora* which volunteers so readily in my yard that it is almost a weed (hey, I said almost!). In the Cucurbitaceae family are found the genera *Seyrigia* and *Zygocycos*, which are unique to Madagascar.

Many species of Euphorbiaceae are found in Madagascar, including the Crown of Thorns (*Euphorbia milii*) which is especially popular among collectors. The Liliaceae family is represented by several species of Aloe. Other families represented are the Anacardiaceae (*Operculicarya decaryi*), Asclepiadaceae (*Ceropogia*, *Cynanchum* and *Stapelanthus* species), Compositae (*Senecio crassissimus*) and Pedaliaceae (*Uncarina decaryi*).

Madagascar is also fascinating because of what is not there. The Mesembryanthemaceae family is not found on Madagascar but is widespread in Southern Africa. The Portulacaceae family is not found on Madagascar but is represented just across the channel in Mozambique.

Most of my research involved *Succulents: The Illustrated Dictionary*, by Maurizio Sajeve and Mariangela Costanzo.

Please look around your collections. You may have Madagascan species and not be aware of where they come from. If you do, please consider bringing them in for our Brag Table. Everyone would enjoy seeing examples of the plants in the program. - S.H.



Mark Fryer's *Astrophytum myriostigma* crest, up close and personal

BOOK REVIEW

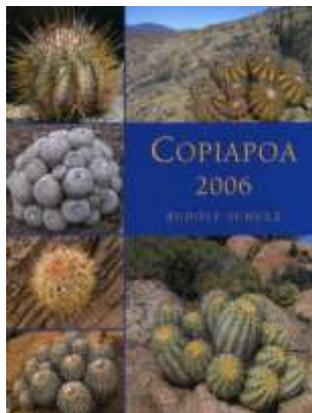
"Copiapoa 2006" by Rudolf Schulz Reviewed by Mark Fryer

It's not just Copiapoaphiles who need to check out this book. Plant lovers, geology buffs, and persons with an interest in perhaps one of the most compelling genera of cacti in one of the most compelling places on earth, Chile, equally must add this book to their library.

While the author's previous title, "Copiapoa in their Environment" (coauthored with Attila Kapitany) gave a generous overview of this complicated and variable genus, Copiapoa 2006 stands alone as a more robust field guide, a more mindful study, and a more complete overview of the genus. It assumes (even recommends) we've already got a grip on the basics of what makes a Copiapoa a Copiapoa, and trusts we've already decided they're special. The only thing lacking in this newer version of the previous study was the inclusion of seed with habitat data that the first book contained. Yes, the first book had an offer of habitat-collected seeds with GPS data to the first hundred or so purchases, as nice a perk as any cactophile could want. After some personal conversations with the author several years ago, he chagrined at the lack of feedback from anyone about how well the seeds germinated or what plants were ever grown out of the seed offer. Assuring I would be different I was lucky to receive what left-overs there were from the offer, but I hate to admit I still haven't made the sowing and compiled anything new to his interest. This year I will, I'm going to make it a priority. Anyway, I digress...

I really like the layout of the chapters in this book, keeping the geographic references to the first six chapters, giving us a good feel for the allopatry between Chanaral and Huasco, Izcuna to Caldera. The chapter "Then and Now" focuses us on the growth of specific plants over decades in some cases, just shy of a decade in others. To demonstrate how stoic these plants really are, we truly get a feel for the plants in habitat, "warts and all" this time around.

My only criticism of the book is that the chapter "Photographic library" doesn't contain any full-page prints, but rather succumbs to multiple shots on every page, which is also true of the entirety of the book, which sort of leaves me wondering, "why the large format if there are no large photos?"



The infectious enthusiasm and unbridled desire to go trekking through the arid wilds of Chile in search of these plants has become paramount in this new book, and even a brief read is enough to have one on the phone to their booking agent for flights south to Santiago and points in between. It's refreshing to avoid the standard pitfalls of these books which are quasi-monographical, to not go into dolling out cultural information (it will be wrong for 80% of it's readers anyway), or challenging the status quo of cactus taxonomy or (god forbid) nomenclature. Thanks go out to Rudolph Schulz for giving us a book designed to inspire our craft of growing and appreciate the treasures of our planet's flora.

Off the shelf

By Allen Clark

I'm happy to be able to say that we have at last completed the job of collecting the *CSSA Journal* and *Espinas y Flores* in bound volumes. These books will be stored in the cabinets along the wall in Room 104, which the club bought several years ago. In the near future, the membership will have access to these materials. If you wish to check out a particular volume, you'll be able to request that it be brought over to Room 101. We will require notice in advance of the date, as other groups use Room 104 while we're in 101. We'll be working out the details to make this system work, and I'll provide more information in a future issue.

Unfortunately, there is no updated cumulative index of the *CSSA Journal*. The main bookcase does include a copy of the old one, which will be held for quick reference only rather than for circulation. The *CSSA* hopes to be able to produce an update in the future, but at present the project is on hold.

My next topic is a more "fun" one: purchases and acquisitions for 2008. If you know of a new book that interests you, please let me know the author and title, so we can add it to our list of possible additions to the library.

Happy Spring!

March 2008 Bragg Table Winners

Judged by Paul Klaussen and Mark Muradian

Cactus

- 1st Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Lobivia wrightiana*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak (?) – *Neopoteria multicolor*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Acharagma roseana*
- 3rd Place, Jurgen Menzel – *Neowerdermannik vorwerii*
- 3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Stenocactus multicosatus*

Succulents

- 1st Place, Mystery grower – Mystery ID *formensis*
- 2nd Place, Peter Walkowiak – *Euphorbia inermis v. buttonae*
- 2nd Place, Mystery grower – Mystery ID *formensis (Foukia edulus?)*
- 3rd Place, Judy Walkowiak – *Veltheimia bracteosa*

(note: “mystery” references missing information at collection time)

Fyi (for your information)

Palomar CSS News: The Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society will hold it's annual Members Plant Show at the Joslyn Senior Center, 210 Park Ave. Escondido, at noon, on April 26th. This is an educational show where the judges will discuss the plants being judged. This years judges are: Tom DeMerritt & Kelly Griffin. It is recommended that you get there early, as the show will start promptly at noon.

Snacks for the Break: Members with last names beginning with N through Z, please bring a snack to share at the break.

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.

2008 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by: *The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society*

JUNE 7th and 8th

At The Casa Del Prado, Room 101 and
Patio, Balboa Park

**Strange and exotic plants from the far
corners of the world gathered together
for your viewing amazement!!**

Courtyard sale of choice specimen plants
for the novice and collector as well as
handmade stoneware planters and pots!!

Potting service will be available along with
cultural information

SHOW HOURS:

Saturday June 6: 10am to 3pm
Sunday, June 7: 10am to 4pm
(Judging will be after 3pm Saturday)

SALE HOURS:

Saturday, June 6: 10am to 5pm
Sunday, June 7: 10am to 4pm

SDCSS Members only shopping on Saturday from 9
to 10

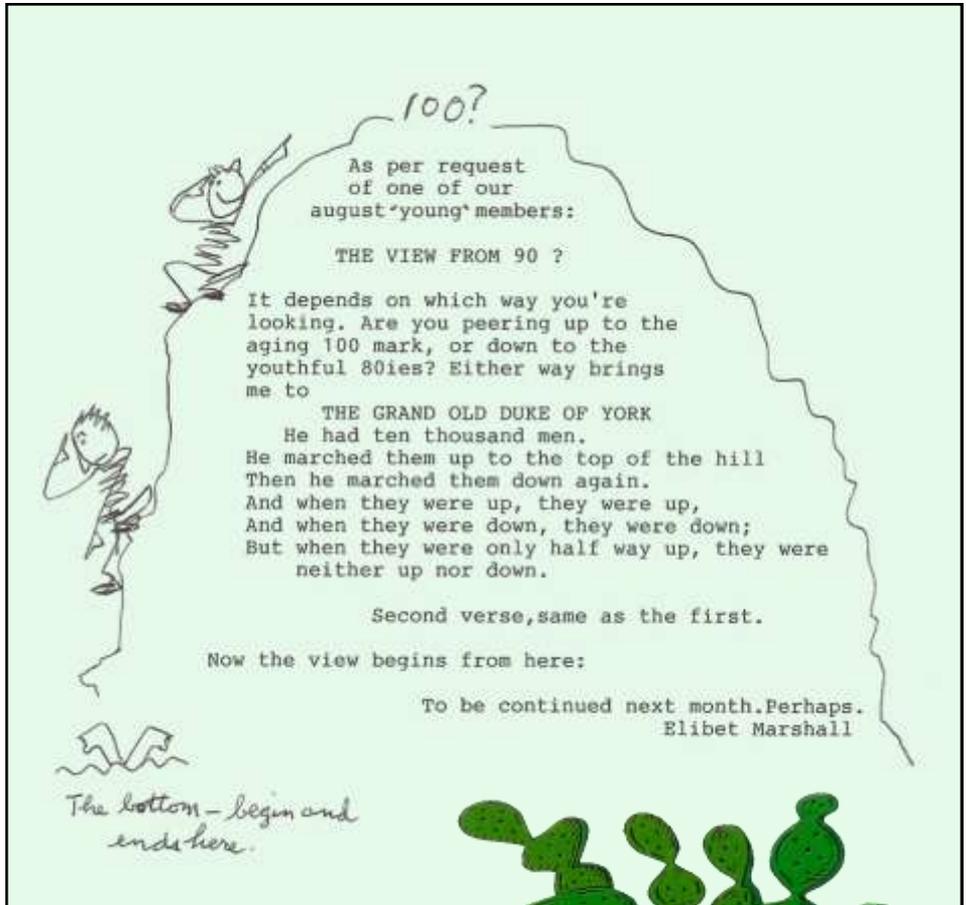
**For additional information please phone
619-462-1805 or 760-758-7042**

Or visit: www.sdcss.com



A view from a 90 year old cactus

By Elibet Marshall



UPCOMING EVENTS

2008

Apr 19-20: Coronado Flower Show. Please bring in your entrees on Friday, April 18, 4-7pm or Saturday morning 7am-9am. The entrees will be judged. Info: Jeanne Bowers at (619) 435-5474 or coronadoflowershow.com. Jeanne is in charge of the cacti & succulent display.

Apr 20: EarthFair 2008, 10:00am-5:00pm, Balboa Park.

Apr 26: Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show, 12:00pm, Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido

Apr 26: The 15th Annual Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden, 9:00am-3:00pm, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, info: 619-660-0614 or email info@TheGarden.org.

May 3-4: Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Rm, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, info: 310-822-1783.

May 17-18: Annual Spring Garden Celebration "Garden of Senses" at the San Diego Zoo, 11:00am-3:00pm, info: sandiegozoo.org.

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

Jun 7-8: SDCSS Summer Show & Sale. Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park.

Jun 14: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 9:00am-4:00pm, Jupupa Mountains Cultural center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, info: 909-360-8802.

Jun 14-15: Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, info: 818-363-3432.

Jun 27-29: CSSA annual Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, Sam Marino, info: 626-405-2160 or 2277. Plant sales are Jun 27-29, show opens to the public Jun 28-29 .

2009

Apr 10-15: The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's convention, Tucson, AZ.

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

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Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

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Brag Table: Candy Garner

Plants of the Month: Ric & Marilyn Newcomer

Summer Show: Tom Knapik

Winter Show: Terry Parr

Historian: Terry Parr

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Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

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Auction & Holiday Plants: Lee Badger & Tom DeMerritt

Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott

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Benefit Drawing Table: Collette & Terry Parr

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Programs: Mark Fryer

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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

SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller

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