

Volume 43 Number 11

December 2008

# *ESPINAS Y FLORES*

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



Holiday Luncheon  
Saturday, December 13, 12:00pm  
Casa Del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Greetings!

It's been a great four years since I have had the pleasure of serving as your society's president, and now the time has come for me to step down to let the next person have at it. Since she's really done just about everything imaginable for the SDCSS, and is remarkably well organized, you're in great hands with Chris Miller taking the helm for awhile and steering this ship into the future. The SDCSS is a remarkable group of very gifted individuals with a contagious enthusiasm for succulent plants and the wonderful trappings that come along with them. I hope to be able to continue to contribute to the society in the future in some other capacity and I sincerely look forward to continuing to meet with the lot of you at the regular monthly meetings in Balboa Park.



Stephen Ingram and Mark at the November meeting.

Last month's meeting was gas. I always enjoy the challenge of trying to kill a dozen minutes tickling the questions we all share around any given topic, succulents in the landscape being at the forefront of my 5 minute attention span, and hearing your experiences and questions helps stay focused a little longer. Stephen Ingram's presentation on his new book "The Cactus and Agaves of California and Nevada" was a pastoral examination of two richly diverse succulent families native to our backyards, so relaxing and well done. I sincerely hope the concept of native xeriscaping was noticeable. I hope that people will

*On the cover: Agave sp. FO 76 beginning to spike in Mark's front yard.*

seriously consider these native plants and plants with similar needs in terms of situation and culture when they think about developing their own gardens.

This year's Holiday party should be a great time, with everyone making arrangements for awesome gift plants, auction plants, a delicious dinner, and the fellowship of the SDCSS. I unfortunately won't be joining you all this year as we have a family gathering we need to attend in Florida. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting, where we'll be having Buck Hemenway giving us a presentation of a trip to South Africa.

For this year's Thanksgiving, we have been counting our blessings about having healthy children, a healthy family, friends all over the map, and hope for the future. It's is both inspiring and humbling to be privy to the challenges and successes of a group as diverse and talented as the SDCSS, and I am truly thankful for the time we've had to share. I look forward to sharing more; plants, experience, humor, and fellowship.

After so many months without rain it's been a welcome relief to have a couple nights worth of downpours! I always wish I had a greenhouse with a retractable roof for these sorts of events, just roll it back and let everything get washed out with good clean rain water. I did manage to get a few flats of things out in the full-on rain. It's as if rainwater has some magical quality to it, since there almost always seem to be a number of things that get left out in the rain that I would be concerned about them getting wet when the temperature is starting get lower than 60degF, they never seem to sustain any serious damage. Once again the November-December shift is taking place, moving things in and out of exposures, treating things one last time before giving them a rest for a few months, transplanting and bare-rooting things. Seems like a busy time of year for very little in terms of instant gratification. I suppose most of us don't grow these plants for the sake of instant gratification anyway.

Many of the Aloes in my yard are in bud and ready to burst forth for the next couple of months, I can see the hummingbirds staking out their little resting spots. A good number of bulbs are now in full leaf, and a good number are in flower- Massonia, Haemanthus, and the like are all showing off. A good number of winter-flowering Mesembs are flowering as reliably as sunrises. I have a few Agaves that are flowering, which is always interesting and a lesson about whether or not I put something in a proper or reasonable place. I'm proud to say nothing will require a truck and crane to remove once it perishes, and in the case of *Agave nizamensis* it won't die after flowering anyway! Not all Agaves are monocarpic!

Looking forward to seeing you in the new year, and warmest regards,

Mark Fryer  
Thanksgiving 2008

# SDCSS 2008 Elections

The election for 2009 officers and directors was held at the November 8 meeting. Congratulations and many thanks to the following folks:

President	Chris Miller
Vice President	Peter Walkowiak
Treasurer	Ken Blackford
Secretary	Candy Garner

The seven board of directors for 2009 will be: Susan Hopkins, Jean O'Daniel, Frank Lazoya, Don Hunt, Jerry Garner, Cathy Clark, and past president, Mark Fryer.

Officers and directors serve for a two year term.



President Elect Chris and Vice-President Elect Peter

Please address correspondence to:  
The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society  
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# NOVEMBER 2008 BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by Tom DeMerritt

## Cactus

1st Place, Don Hunt - Melocactus  
1st Place, Jurgen Mentzel - *Astrophytum lotusland*

## Succulents

1st Place, Rudy Lime - *Oxalis carnosum*  
2nd Place, Mitch Bahr - *Sarcocaulon vanderietiae*  
2nd Place, Jeff Wright - *Euphorbia obesa*  
(with baby from seed) & delightful collection  
3rd Place, Rudy Lime - *Pelargonium alternans*  
3rd Place, Peter Walkowiak - *Pachypodium lalii var. sanndersii*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Hi, All - Collette Parr, your SDCSS membership chair here! Here's a list of members who have joined our Society since August 11, 2008:

Nicholas Barnes  
Monika Crotta  
Nancy Dimsdale  
Michael Ganster  
Stephen Ingram  
Maria Zirka      McCutchan  
Betty Mae Weber  
Christopher & Melissa Worton

Here's wishing all our new members a great experience with our organization, and a wonderful 2009 in our company. Thanks for your support, and best wishes to everyone for a very happy holiday!

My very best regards to you all!

# 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 having Ruth Henricks back by popular demand as our caterer again this year. 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 -if you have a special dessert you'd 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!!



Mark's *Massonia pustulata* in bud

# *Cylindropuntia fulgida*

The Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) is the marquee cactus in the Sonoran Desert in general and in Saguaro National Park in particular. But, as in any ecosystem, there are many other species of plants there as well.

The Saguaros dominate the rocky hill-sides, but down in the washes are found magnificent stands of Jumping Cholla (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*). Also known as Chain-fruit Cholla, many of the Sonoran Desert animals and insects depend on it's flowers, fruit and fallen joints. The Saguaro itself often sprouts up from a mother thicket of Jumping Cholla. Pack rat middens are sometimes almost entirely constructed of fallen joints from the Jumping Cholla.



The Jumping Cholla can attain heights of 15 feet, but Kathy and I found the pictured specimen to be pretty impressive. Since I am a bit over six feet in hiking boots and straw hat, you can see that this one is between eight and nine feet tall. We found this one in the Eastern section of Saguaro National Park on a trail easily accessible from the adjoining neighborhood.

Jumping Cholla are found over a vast range from Southern Arizona, through Sonora and as far south as the State of Sinaloa, Mexico. They are abundant in their range and are not considered threatened. However, because of their importance in the Sonoran Desert ecosystem, I would consider this to be an excellent indicator species of the overall health of it's environment.

The other cactus easily spotted in the picture is the Engelmann Prickly Pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha* var. *discata*), also found in great abundance in the Sonoran Desert. We watched a "sunder" of Javelina munching the pads, spines and all.

If you attend the CSSA Convention in Tucson this coming April, make time to visit either section (or both!) of the Saguaro National Park. The Western section is minutes from the convention site, and can be combined with a visit to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The Eastern section is a bit further on the other side of Tucson, but the views from the loop road are breathtaking. The weather in April should be absolutely perfect. Kathy and I will see you there! – S. H.



The Huntington Botanical Gardens  
invites CSSA members and affiliate  
clubs to a free DESERT FORUM

On Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Rain or Shine

**- SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -**

- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M.            **REGISTRATION**  
Assemble and sign in at the Entrance Pavilion  
Bring your club name badge or CSSA membership card  
Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag)  
to be transported to the Teaching Greenhouse
- 10:00 – 12:00 Noon        **TOUR OF THE DESERT GARDEN**  
Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout  
the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory Aloes will  
be flowering
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.        **WELCOME, REFRESHMENTS & LUNCH**  
Proceed to the Teaching Greenhouse  
Pick up sack lunch that you dropped off at Registration  
Light snacks and beverages will be served  
CSSA Welcome Table: Laurel Woodley  
Note: Visitors have two other lunch options:  
- Huntington Café (no reservations required), or  
- Tea Room (advance reservations required: 626-683-8131)
- 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.        **PLANT SALE**  
Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 P.M.  
Cash, checks and credit cards accepted  
Plants may be stored in the Teaching Greenhouse after  
purchase until end of day (with your name written on the tags)
- 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.        **FORUM**  
Proceed to Ahmanson Classroom  
Led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom  
Q&A session to follow
- 1:00 – 4:30 P.M.        **FREE TIME**  
Attendees are free to tour the gardens and galleries until  
closing time

# Fyi (for your information)

**Volunteers needed:** The Baja Garden at the Wild Animal Park is in need of someone to weed and maintain the greenhouse. Please contact Chris Miller if you can donate your time to help out. The volunteers meet on Saturday mornings.

**New book by Miles Anderson:** Frequent seller and exhibitor from Tucson at SDCSS events, Miles Anderson, will be coming out with a new book in late January. *The Complete Illustrated Guide to Growing Cacti and Succulents: Everything you need to know about identifying, buying, siting, care and maintenance* (hardcover) is available for pre-order at a discount from [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).



**Propagation class:** The Water conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College will present Plant Propagation Made Easy, Jan 17, 9:30am - 12:30pm.

From their website: *Learn the secrets of the professionals, and get your plants for free. Everything you'll need to know about how to make new plants from cuttings will be taught by Connie Beck, experienced nursery manager and landscape designer. Learn successful techniques for preparing, storing, and planting seeds. Bring samples of plants and seeds to propagate. Pre-registration is required. \$30 members/\$40 non-members. The Garden is located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).*



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.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2008

**Dec 13:** SDCSS Holiday Luncheon, 12:00pm.

## 2009

**Feb 1:** Environmental Fair at Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) 9:00am - 12:00pm. includes showing the film "The Story of Stuff," Two speakers - Richard Anthony from Zero Waste San Diego and Doug Kalal will give a lecture on "30 great drought tolerant plants". Vendors will be present, including plant sales. 9001 Towne Centre, Dr. San Diego, CA 92122.

**Feb 14:** SDCSS Winter Show & Sale, 9:00am-4:00pm, Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

**Mar TBD:** California Friendly Plant Sale, at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

**Apr 10-15:** The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's Biennial Convention, at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa, Tucson, AZ.

**Apr 25:** Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

**Jun 6&7:** SDCSS Summer Show & Sale.

**Jun 25-28:** CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.



Mark's *Lophophora*  
sp. crest

# 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
Secretary: Christine Tratnyek	(619) 461-0737	cactuswren45@cox.net
Alt. Secretary Joe Kraatz	(760) 758-7042	plantnut@cox.net
Treasurer: Chris Miller	(619) 258-9810	c.miller@cox.net

## Directors

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George Plaisted	(619) 583-9551	
Jean O'Daniel	(858) 486-9363	tu01@cox.net
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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