

Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 46 Number 2

February 2011



ANNUAL WINTER SHOW AND SALE

Saturday February 12

10am to 4pm

In Room 101 and Adjacent Patio

Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Members Only Shopping 9am to 10am

In this Issue:

Stan Yalof - Cacti, The Divine Proportion,
and the Stock Market

Juergen Menzel - A Sad Story

Collette Parr - Membership Report

Peter Walkowiak - 2011 Winter Show

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

28 January 2011



I am as happy as a pig in mud. The sun is out and I just opened the house to air it out. While my poor brother in New Jersey thinks he has entered a new ice age, I am working on my tan. Not that I would rub it in. There are odds and ends in bloom around the yard. The *Mammillarias* are starting to pop. Some *Aloes* on the hill have a wonderful orange can-



delabra going for them. Cactus in the front yard have some blooms. Some of the *Aeoniums* have nice yellow stalks and the rare *Kalanchoe tubifolia* is showing off its red bells. Lots of friends to visit in my garden.

Speaking of Gardens, those of us who ventured north to the Huntington on January 15th had a wonderful time. Most of us came home tired from a busy day, with a box of new plants. The *Aloes* were breath taking and it was a glorious day for walking in the Conservatory and Desert Garden. Special thanks to **Pam** and **Lee Badger** for putting together and hosting the bus group.



The January meeting was an easy-going successful event. We had a nice assortment of plants and pots for sale. **Phyllis Flechsig** gave us a nice presentation on succulent *Senecios*.



Mark Fryer judged the Brag table and brought **Rudy Lime** up to pick his brains on how he grows his plants. **Kelly Griffin** gave a wonderful slide presentation on *Aloe* flowers that had most of us drooling.

Our Winter Show and Sale is scheduled for the 12th of February. We are going to try something different this year. The Show will be outside under a canopy. This leaves the entire Room 101 for sales. We hope that it makes a better experience for everyone. I had a volunteer signup sheet at the January meeting, but it still has some gaps so if you are interested in volunteering drop me an e-mail at c.miller@cox.net. We will need additional security in the Show area and we need cashier teams for three registers. We will also need people to sign up members. We will have our usual members -only shopping from 9 to 10.

If you paid your dues in January and do not have a membership card yet, stop by the table out front and pick up a pass for the members only shopping. If you haven't renewed that would be a good time to do so.

With the CSSA Convention just around the corner we are swinging into overdrive. The volunteer teams met with **Buck Hemenway** (CSSA Convention Chair) before the January meeting and updated him on our progress. I also briefed the CSSA Board on the 16th of January. We are making significant progress in all areas of planning. We are currently looking for some sponsors to financially support the convention. We will also be selling advertising space in the Convention Program. I am looking for some energetic volunteers to help with this. The information is also available on our website and was in the last issue of the CSSA Journal.

If you are a CSSA member you should have received the Convention Brochure in the mail recently. If you are not a member they will be available at the February Show and Sale. Early registration is going to be extended until the 28th of February. While the CSSA printed and folded the brochures, a work party at my house on the 17th of January put address labels and mailing tabs on them. Special thanks to **Susan Hopkins**, **Candy Garner**, **Jim DeForest** and **Peter Walkowiak** for giving up part of their day to help me complete 2,100 brochures in one day. I really don't want to do that again soon.

We are looking for a Treasurer for the new board. The outgoing treasurer is willing to do a multiple month turn over so you don't have to do everything at once and it will be a great learning relationship. If you are interested in knowing what the job entails please contact me.

The web page is coming along nicely. We are looking for member nurseries and landscapers that would like their information on our web page. If you have input or recommendations for our web page please let **Candy Garner** know at cgarner1@yahoo.com. Please use 'Web Page' on the

subject line of the e-mail.

The SDCSS 50th Anniversary T-shirts are ready for sale at the February Show. The ball caps will also be available.

Enjoy the sunshine and your gardens.

Chris Miller



Photo Credits:

Bus Trip - **Pam Badger**

Tee Shirt - **Dave Miller**, Art by **Richard McNeill**

Remainder - **Chris Miller**

WHAT'S THE STATUS

Old World Succulent Garden and Baja Garden

Chris Miller

Due to a wet fall and early winter and lots of January sunshine the weeds at the park are on steroids. Lots of help is needed and the complication of the Zoo's Volunteer program has slowed us down a bit. If you are interested in volunteering you need a badge, in order to get a badge you must attend a two hour training session. Volunteers may register for these sessions either online (www.sandiegozoo.org/volunteer) or by phone (619-231-1515 ext. 4030).



Weeds!

Photo by **May Fong Wu**

I would like to pull together two clean up days where anyone who wants to can come out and help for just those days. The first one will be February 26th, with the second on in March. If you are interested please e-mail or call me. I will need to get a one time visit list to the Park well ahead of time.

At this stage the more bodies we throw at the weeds, the better!

A Sad Story

Related by **Juergen Menzel**



I went to the late **Bob Taylor's** garden in El Cajon today in order to take a photo of a *Neoraimondia* I remember having seen there five years ago. Surprisingly I found out that the huge lot, belonging to the Wells Fargo Family, was not vacant any more as expected. But the young present residents were so kind as to allow me to enter and take photos of some plants.

It was a very sad experience indeed. The plants I was looking for were both dead. And the huge *Aloe dichotoma*, the biggest I have ever seen, was dead also. Only huge *Myrtillocactus cochal*, some *Yucca* and a *Fouquieria macdougalii* were still in good shape and thriving.



Aloe dichotoma and one of the *Neoraimondia* (left background) in July 2006



The *Aloe dichotoma* now



The *Neoraimondia* now



Remains of a 2nd *Neoraimondia*

Photos by **Juergen Menzel**

Article of the Month

Cacti, the Divine Proportion, and the Stock Market

Stan Yalof



A must for visitors to Barcelona is the Sagrada Familia Church, which after over a century is inching closer to completion (Fig. 1). Designer Antoni Gaudi fashioned its elements from the geometric forms of nature. The supporting columns for the eighteen towers were based on tree roots, then raised to their heights, beginning with an eight-sided polygon and double twisting as in a cactus helicoid (also in sunflowers, pineapples, etc), gaining sides and strength with height. The helicoid pattern follows the growth of most plants and is described by the Golden Angle of 137.5 degrees. Also following this angle is the logarithmic spiral of the chambered nautilus. Gaudi used this spiral in his stairwells and elsewhere.

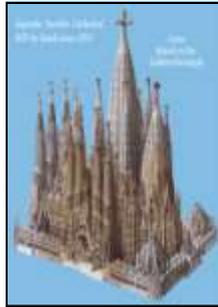


Fig. 1

Some months ago I gave a brief talk on the mathematic patterns of life, cacti in particular. I talked about some ideas that had been kicking around since the 6th Century BC, including the Golden Ratio of 1.618 and its associated Golden Angle of 137.5 degrees, both related to the Fibonacci sequence of 1,1,2, 3, 5, 8, 13 ... Every number of the sequence is the sum of the two preceding numbers. The Golden Ratio, its Angle, and the Fibonacci sequence are cousins, each being translatable into the others.

Fibonacci was a 12th Century Italian mathematician who is credited with introducing the Arabic system as a replacement for calculating with Roman numerals. As a recreational mathematic puzzle he computed the population increase from a single pair of rabbits generation by generation (Fig. 2).

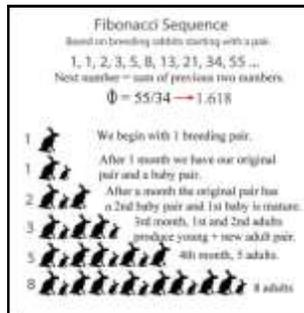


Fig. 2

The natural world has a predilection for Fibonacci. In the garden, the number of petals on most flowers averages such a number: Lily and iris have three petals; the pink and the buttercup have five, the marigold 13, the aster 21, and daisies 55 or 89. Fibonacci numbers and the

Golden Angle, as I pointed out in my talk, control the delightful spiral arrangements of sunflowers, pineapples, pinecones, and the pattern of areoles around the body of a cactus (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

The growing tip of plants (apical meristem) typically initiates a bud every 137.5 degrees around the tip. Deviations cause deviants, such as a crest. Last spring, in Anza Borrego, Bruce Barry and I came across an *Opuntia basilaris* in flower. The pad seemed normal (perhaps wasn't) but the flower was crested, growing not from a point but from a line (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

Why do many of us find such deviant *phytoplegic* plants of interest? The UCSD neurologist Professor V.S. Ramichandran opines that we humans are never satisfied with ordinary appearances, but have an inherent built-in bias toward exaggerating and modifying features considered important. Hence the big breasts and bottoms and distorted limbs of some primitive art (Fig. 5). But we need look no further than ourselves. Every outward part of our bodies is commonly modified and exaggerated from top to toe tip. A break within modest bounds in the rhythm of order, as for crested plants, can be aesthetic.



Fig. 5

We have Fibonacci ratios in our bodies; the ratios between our knuckle to first finger joint and from there to the finger tip (Fig. 6), and the ratio of the thigh (hip to knee), to the calf (knee to ankle) (Fig. 7). The last ratio is very important in women's shoe fashions where it is deemed necessary to stretch the ratio of thigh to calf from the normal 1 to 618 by an illusion with high heels. By angling the instep and ankle to the vertical, the illusions are created of longer legs and a longer calf (Fig. 5 and 7).

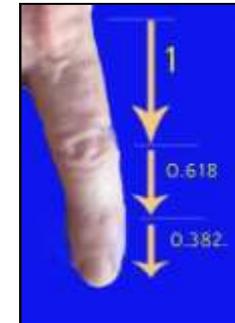


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

A few days ago I received a financial paper from my stock broker. Reading through, there was a section devoted to Fibonacci analysis involving

the ratios of ups and downs, peaks and valleys. It applied the ratio 1 to .618 to something named "Support and retracement levels." It cryptically reported: "Market was stalling between 1044 and 1150 according to both Fibonacci and chart resistance." An illustrative chart was included (Fig. 8).

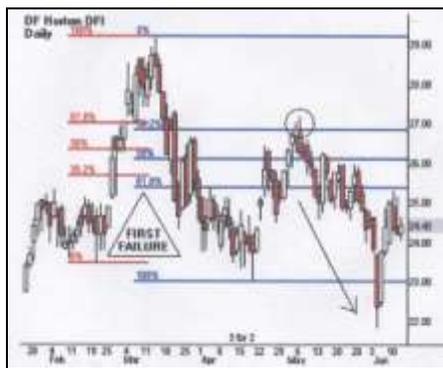


Fig. 8

Math weaves through our world at the most basic and the highest levels, often explaining the commonplace.

Here's looking at Euclid!

January 2011 BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by **Mark Fryer**

CACTUS

Novice

1st Place, **Rich Ryan** - *Copiapoa humilis* (grown in El Centro)

Advanced

1st Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Neoporteria bicolor*

2nd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Dolichothele albescens*

3rd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Mammillaria gracilis*

SUCCULENTS

Novice

1st Place, **Alison Baldwin** - *Aloe sp.*

Intermediate

2nd Place, **Tina Zucker** - *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*

Advanced

1st Place, **Don Hunt** - *Aloe* hybrid "Kelly Says"

1st Place, **Rudy Lime** - *Othonna macrosperma*

2nd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Senecio fulgens*

3rd Place, **Peter Walkowiak** - *Titanopsis primosii*

Submitted by **Candy Garner**



(If your award has been accidentally omitted please let me know so an addendum may be made in the next issue.)

2011 WINTER SHOW

Peter Walkowiak, Show Chair



Our Winter Show has grown since its inception, and with this growth it has evolved to become a judged show with awards for the winners. This year will be no different, major changes this year are that the entire show will be held outside on the patio under a big tent and that a plaque will be awarded to "best of" winner's in March with a picture of their plant on it. Our sale and show has grown so much that we were competing for space last year - it was crowded!. Moving the show outside will make it 'front and center,' not hidden at the back of the room. Lighting and access will be better. This will provide much needed space for both the show and the sale areas. The greater exposure the show will get should draw many more people and heighten interest in what we are doing at SDCSS.

The judges for the show will be **Mark Fryer** and **Kelly Griffin**, both well known and knowledgeable SDCSS members. The judging will be open so that the public can watch and listen - weather permitting. If the weather is bad there will be side walls on three sides to protect the show plants which will not allow for viewing from the outside. If the weather is good, the sides will be open and the outside will be cordoned off for plant security but will allow the public to watch and listen to the judging. Judging is from 10:30 to 12:00.

There are a large number of plants that are ideal candidates for entry to the winter show. The obvious are the winter growers: *Dudleya*, *Tylecodon*, *Pelargonium*, *Aeonium*, *Othonna*, *Mesemb*s etc. Many plants are winter bloomers, examples of these are *Pachypodium succulentum*, *Senecio* and many cacti such as many *Mammillaria*, *Stenocactus*, *Neoporteria*. Many plants change color in response to cold conditions or are naked. Losing their leaves allows better viewing of their stems and trunk.



See the January issue of the Newsletter for the Plant List and Show Schedule, Awards, and Rules

BEST OF SHOW in 2010
Echinocereus viridiflorus
by **Steve Frieze**

Report from the Membership Chair

Memberships Soars and *Espinas y Flores* Goes Digital

Terry & Collette Parr



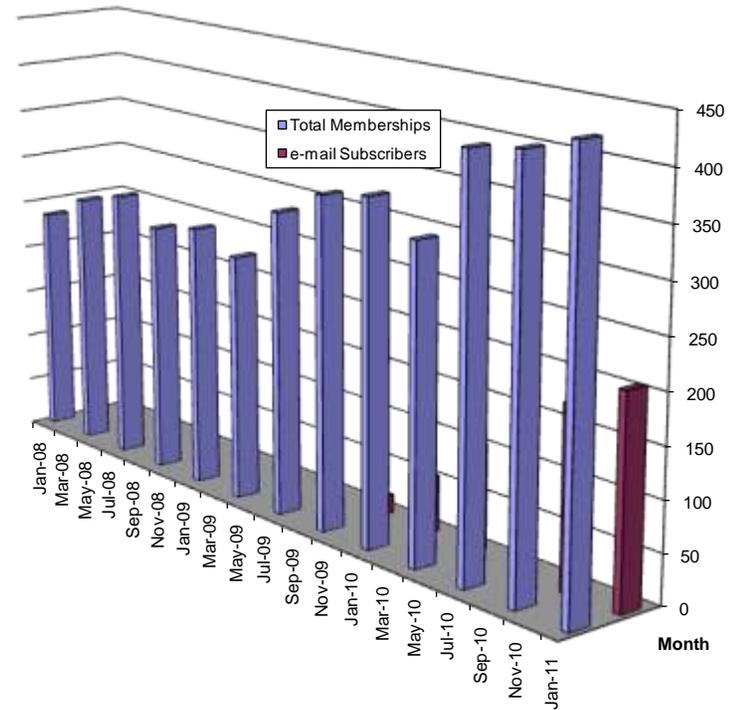
For years, the number of SDC&SS members has remained in the 200 to 300 range. In 2008, however, proactive leadership, vigorous promotion, and new ideas on reaching out to potential newcomers created a surge in new memberships, nearly doubling from 235 to 436 - an increase of 85% as of January 1, 2011. Many of the memberships are families or households with more than a single member, so that the number of currently subscribing members has now reached 566, surpassing the 500 mark in May, 2010.

Commencing in September, 2009, the SDC&SS offered to send our monthly newsletter (*Espinas y Flores* [*EyF*]) via e-mail to members with computers, granting an inducement of \$5.00 in reduced membership fees, and thereby saving time, paper and money for the SDC&SS. In just 15 months, 208 of the 436 memberships (48%) have chosen this option. Thank you to all who have elected the e-mail option! Let's go **Green!**

The accompanying figure graphically shows the trend of increased membership and e-mail subscriptions to the *EyF*. An interesting feature of this graph is the increase in membership following our Summer Show and Sale in June, as evidenced by the increase of nearly 100 members between May and July in 2010. Offering early access to the sale has led to on-the-spot membership sign-ups prior to the shows. More than 40 sign-ups on the morning of our Summer Show and Sale occurred last year. Clever idea, those of you on the Board of Directors! Another obvious trend shown in the graph is the drop in membership after January, as many members do not renew their memberships before they are due January 1. Once the *EyF* quits arriving (after 3-months *gratis* delivery), former members are inspired to re-enlist, especially before the June Summer Show and Sale. Ah, human nature at work! **So get those memberships renewed today!**

Many thanks to our talented and dedicated members of the Executive Board, Board of Directors, committee members, and enthusiastic individuals who comprise our membership that make our SDC&SS so successful.

SDCSS Memberships 2008 - 2011



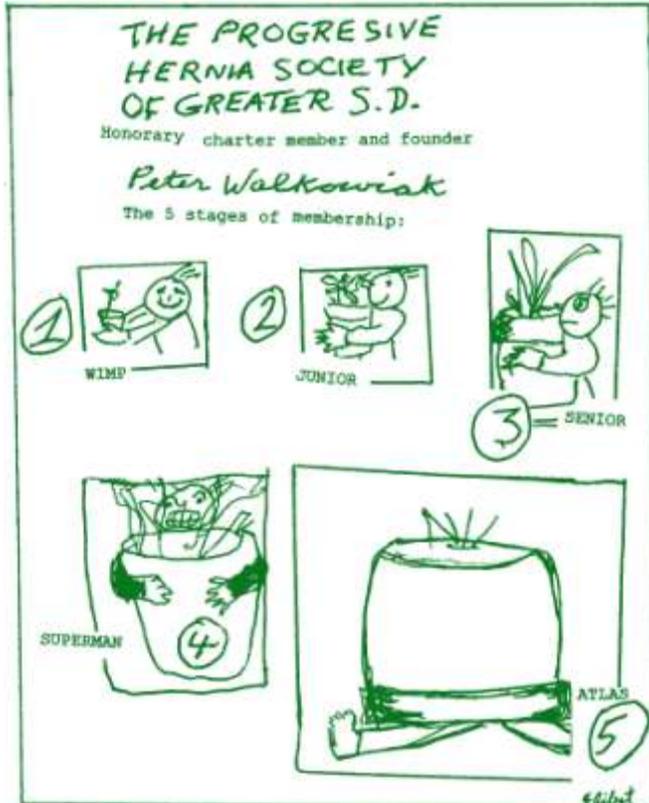
Announcing

The San Diego Home Gardening Seminar 27 Horticultural Classes and Market Place

Sponsored by: Master Gardener Association of San Diego County & University of California Cooperative Extension
When: Saturday, April 2, 2011, 7:30 am to 3:15 pm
Where: University of San Diego
5998 Linda Vista Rd.
Pre-registration: Begins online Monday, January 31, 2011 at www.MasterGardenersSanDiego.org
Cost: Pre-registration: \$15.00 per class or \$40.00 for all 3 class sessions
Day of Seminar: \$20.00 per class, at the door

(See the above link for complete details)

ELIBET'S Corner



El ectronic Espinas Y Fl ores

The newsletter is available for viewing and downloading at the Club website, www.sdcss.net. Take a look! All members are urged to accept the e-mailed version of the newsletter in lieu of a bulk-mailed hardcopy. Each month, you will be notified by e-mail of the availability of your next issue, the speakers and events at the next meeting, and other significant announcements. The electronic version contains extra color images not found in the hardcopy, and a high resolution version, from which fully detailed images can be downloaded, is also available. Also, any errors found in the hardcopy are corrected in the electronic version. To cancel your hard copy of the **EyF**, contact the membership chairperson **Collette Parr** at collette.parr@cox.net.

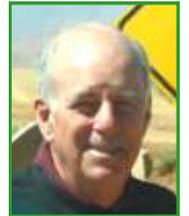
SDCSS HELP Wanted ADS

If you are looking for a way to help, here are some ideas:

Show Co-Chairs for the Winter and Summer Shows to assist Peter Walkowiak with planning, setup, etc	Ride Coordinator: Point of contact for those members who need a ride to meetings and those willing to give rides.	Trophy Sponsorship: We are in the process of updating trophies and are looking for donations to support the process.
Education Chair for Summer Show: Put together a program for education during the summer show	Membership Committee members to support the membership chair in providing membership services.	Trip Coordinator to coordinate trips, arrange bus contracts, destination requirements, etc.

Contact **Chris Miller** at c.miller@cox.net if you would like to volunteer or for more information on what the job entails. There isn't a better way to get to know other club members than volunteering!

CSSA Corner February 2011
Buck Hemenway, Convention Chair



The biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America is coming up fast. Early registration allows for a \$100 discount, but must be made by February 15, 2011 to qualify. Don't miss the best presenters anywhere and the social fun of a World-Wide C&S gathering. There will be field trips, plant workshops, a Judges Workshop, Newsletter Editors meeting, Affiliates meeting among all of the other activities. Remember, San Diego, April 24-30, 2011.

The New Year is here and it is time to renew subscriptions to the CSSA Journal. Do it soon so as not to miss the first issue of 2011.

Opinions expressed in articles and editorial comments are solely the opinions of the author or the editor and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the SDCSS, the Board of Directors or the organization as a whole. All material submitted to the *Espinas Y Flores* for possible publication may be edited in form and content. All material contained in the *Espinas Y Flores* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations (unless permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the article.) Please send one copy of the printed material to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the express consent of the editor is prohibited.

The due date for submission of all material to be published in EyF will be the second-to-last Saturday of the month preceding the next monthly meeting. All submissions are to be made to the Editors. Please e-mail your articles to **Paul & Carol Maker** at pdmaker@roadrunner.com.



The Magnificent Huntington Garden

Photo by **Chris Miller**



Wonderful Raffle Table Plants At January Show



Lots of Plants For Sale at January Show

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 19: Annual Potters Sale and Master Growers Invitational Auction. Sales 9am till dark, auction starts at 1pm. Potters: Joe Wujcik, Debbie and Charlie Ball, Karenn Ohlinder, Steve Pate. Master Growers: Vince Basta, Larry Grammer, Karen Ostler, Elton Roberts, Dave Tufenkian, Rene Caro, Tom Glavich. At Caro Desert Nursery, 9607 E. Avenue S12, Littlerock, CA, 93543, (661) 456-0787. www.CaroDesert.com, Pat-tyCC4@yahoo.com.

Apr. 9-10: South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Bl., Palos Verdes, CA. Info: 310-832-2262.

Apr. 16-17: Green Scene Plant Sale at The Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA.

Apr. 24-29: Cactus and Succulent Society of America Convention, San Diego, CA. Mission Valley Marriott Hotel. See included announcement, or go to www.cssainc.org

May 1: South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, 9am to 4pm, at South Coast Botanical Gardens. Info: 310-833-6823.

May 7- 8: Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale at Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info: 310-822-1783.

Mark your calendar now! CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



April 24 - April 29, 2011
Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley
San Diego, California

Watch for future updates
www.cssainc.org

Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Confirmed Convention Speakers

Myron Kinnach - Banquet

Debra Baldwin

Tom Glavich

Andrew Hankey

Tom Knapik

Julia Etter/Martin Kristen

Marlon Machado

Todd Masilko

Jackie Poole

Guillermo Rivera

Karen Zimmerman

SDC&SS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$15.00 per calendar year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. Newsletter is E-mailed. Mailed paper copies of the newsletter are available for an additional \$5 a year. *Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.*

Annual Dues – (E-mail Newsletter) \$15.00 _____
First class delivery USPS (Paper Newsletter) \$5.00 _____
Annual Dues – International (Paper) \$30.00 _____
Additional Household Member(s) \$5.00 _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Member Information: (Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!!!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____

Zip + 4: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell/FAX: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Additional Household Members:

Do you want to receive E-mail notifications of Club events and issues?
Yes _____ No _____

Mail this form or a copy, along with a check or money order payable in US Funds to SDCSS to:

**SDCSS Membership Department
c/o Collette Parr
7924 Grape Street
La Mesa Ca 91941-6323**

If joining in months other than January, use the following to calculate your Annual Dues at \$1.25 a month: Feb - \$13.75, Mar—\$12.50, Apr - \$11.25, May— \$10, Jun—\$8.75, Jul—\$7.50, Aug—\$6.25, Sep—\$5, Oct—\$3.75, Nov—\$2.50, Dec—\$1.25. For First Class mail, use \$1.66 a month.
(Rev. C-1, 2010-10-05)

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

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

Directors

Steve Harris
Don Hunt
Jerry Garner
Cathy Clark
Kelly Griffin
Vanessa Nelson
Mark Fryer (ex-President)

Standing Committees & Sub Committees

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: **Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern**

Brag Table: **Candy Garner**

Plants of the Month: **Don Hunt**

Summer Show: **Peter Walkowiak**

Winter Show: **Peter Walkowiak**

Historian: **Terry Parr**

Library: **Don Hunt, Chris Miller, Jeanette Dutton, Steve & Kathy Harris**

Exchange Plants & Seeds: **Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell**

Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies

Membership: **Collette Parr**, collette.parr@cox.net

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: **Kelly Griffin**

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**

SD Botanic Garden: **Phyllis Flechsig**

SD Botanical Garden Foundation: **George Plaisted**

SD Floral Association: **Jeanette Dutton**

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

Editors: **Paul & Carol Maker**, pdmaker@roadrunner.com

Webmaster: **Gunnar Eisel**

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