



Mammillaria thornberi

Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 47 Number 6

July 2012



JULY MEETING AGENDA

Program: Tom Knapik
"Geometrical Geophytes"

Mini Workshop: Peter Walkowiak
"Soil and Fertilizer"

Feature of the Month: Don Hunt
"Expanded Open Slide Show"

Summer Show Results

Saturday, July 14, 2012, 1pm to 4pm
Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

Plant Sales Begin at 10am
Workshop Begins at 11am

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2 July 2012



Happy Summer! June gloom is with us even in Santee. I got a couple hours in this morning before the sun came out from behind the clouds.

Hopefully you have all recovered from the June Show and Sale. We had a great event and it would not have been possible without all of you, the vendors, the volunteers, the customers and the show participants.

Show table set up on Friday was supported by **George Plaisted, Tom DeMerritt, Jean & Bill O'Daniel**, and **Susan Hopkins**. **Frank Lozoya** went to the storage unit and retrieved the shade cloth and fittings for the sales area and delivered them Friday morning. **Tom DeMerritt** led the shade cloth team through the set up. He had help from **Rich Yorba, Bill O'Daniel, Don Hunt**, and **Lee Badger**. **Don Hunt** did his usual excellent job of setting up the phone line for the credit card machine.

I know there was a group of you that helped with set up through the afternoon and evening, but I am missing some names. You know who you are – thanks.

We had 38 vendors, with a wide variety of plants and pots. The sales total was just shy of record breaking. Without the revenue from this event we couldn't do all the things this organization does. So thank you to the vendors and to all you shoppers out there.

The Sales Team did a great job of moving the traffic through checkout. **Tom DeMerritt** had the registers fine tuned. **Jim DeForest** led the team through both days. Thanks to the following Sales Team members: **Linda Stewart, Cathy Clark, Sara Clayton, Jessica McGee, Shelby & Peggy Katz, Lynn Elliott, Joe Kraatz, Anna & Elena Dembo, Daniel Medina, Katya & Laura DeMerritt, Sue Conroy, Suzy Perkins, Marissa Tate, Jeanette Hernandez, Annie Morgan, Michelle Heckathorn, Pam Badger**, and **Justin Fryer**. A special shout out to **Anthony McFarland** for helping set up tables for the sale. I think they weighed more than he did.

Pam Badger had the kitchen humming and kept us well fed. Thanks to her team of volunteers and thanks to **Bea Erickson, Sharon Wirth, Bar-**

bara Harris, Susan Hopkins, Penny Sommerville, Kienan Parr, Betty Marshall and all the rest of you who prepared dishes for us.

Christine Vargas and **Wendy Goldman** ran the cash registers for the SDCSS shirts and hats on Saturday. **Peter Walkowiak** managed the Auction on Sunday, which brought in around \$900 towards our trophy fund.

Candy Garner headed the greeter team. She had help from **Kathy Harris, Wendy Goldman, Jeanette Dutton** and **Donna Couchman**. Will call, for purchased plants, was covered by **Joan Lozoya** and **Judy Walkowiak**, with a bit of help from others.

Show and Sale Security was managed between **Susan Hopkins** and myself. The following individuals spent time being heroes in orange vests: **Penny Sommerville, Ed Wirth, Jeanne Meadows, Frank Lozoya, Susan Lewitt, Christine Vargas, Anne Grauzlis, Geoff Twitchell, Chris Dawson, Don Moore, Rich & Estelle Ryan, Steve & Libby Salley, Craig LeCaille, John Williams, Steve Harris, and Jerry Caron**.

Saturday morning **Steve Harris** and **Jerry Garner** shifted plants around to balance out the show area. **Susan Hopkins** spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the show area. **Susan** is also the Head Clerk for the judging. Her team included **Bill & Jean O'Daniel, Steve Harris, Cathy Clark, Wendy Goldman, Joyce Schoof, Alison Baldwin, Chris Dawson, Brita Miller, Michelle Pickett, Rick Bjorklund, and Sara Schell**.

Paul & Carol Maker and **Collette Parr** tallied the scores on the computer program that **Paul** developed.

The Show Chair was **Peter Walkowiak**. The Judges were **Mark Fryer, Kelly Griffin, Michael Buckner, Woody Minnich, Andrew Wilson** and **Gary James**.

We also had great help on the cleanup. I'd like to thank anyone whose name I missed. You all work so hard to make us one of the best organizations out there. We are admired near and far and you are the reason for that.

Our Coffee in the Garden in June was at **Bea & Dick Ericksen's** home. They are wonderful hosts and have a very different, fun, garden from what you have seen so far. **Dick** has a great train-scape, which fascinated all of us. (See the photos on pg. 7.) There were interesting succulent plantings, nice potted plants, a lovely rose garden and wonderful snacks. Our next outing will be to **Tom & Laura DeMerritt's**. They have a landscape that was planted a while ago, so there are some very mature and interesting plants. See the notice further on in the newsletter for details.

Candy & Jerry Garner and I visited the CSSA Show and Sale at the Huntington Garden in Pasadena last weekend. The show had some

Cover: Trophy winners at the Summer Show. Top left: Best Succulent, **Rudy Lime's** *Operculicarya decaryi*. Top right: Best Novice Succulent, **Kienan Parr's** *Echeveria peacockii* variegated. Center: Best Novice Cactus, **Penny Sommerville's** *Lobivia* sp. Bottom left: Best Succulent Bonsai, **Michael & Joyce Buckner's** *Ficus lutea*. Bottom right: Best Agave, **Don Hunt's** *Agave potatorum* cv "Cobie"

wonderful plants on display and the sale featured many of our favorite vendors. So we spent a nice weekend with friends and plants. We also visited the reopened Japanese Garden and enjoyed it. The Huntington's Succulent Symposium is coming up September 1st. We will share details as soon as they are available. Anyone who gives a Plant of the Month or Workshop in 2012 is eligible to go with SDCSS paying the entrance fee.

December this year will be the last month for many of our existing officers and directors. We have a two term limit on positions and most are termed out. The Nominating Committee has been established and I am the Chair. If you have an interest in being involved with this organization at the board level or know someone you think would be an asset to the board please let me know.

The board is looking for ideas for the picnic in September. If you have any thoughts let me know.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all mid July, it should be a great meeting. Stay cool.

Chris Miller

Program

Tom Knapik

"Geometric Geophytes"



A look at the amazing little gems under our feet. Adaptive strategies, habitat characteristics, and growth design will be discussed. Images from Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and the U.S.

Tom Knapik was born and raised in Saratoga County in Northern New York. He moved to California where he attended and graduated from Humboldt State University in 1981 with a degree in Biology and Zoology. While visiting a college friend in 1982, he saw a small succulent collection that changed the direction of his life. He moved to San Diego where he started teaching for the city school district and worked part time for David Grigsby.

Tom became a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society and eventually became more involved as program chair, board member, president, and then newsletter editor. He was the annual show chair for 12 years. His interest in succulent plants has taken him to countries all around the world. He has photographed succulent collections in England, Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Thailand, Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand. Tom has photographed succulents in habitat from Mexico, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, and the U.S.

Feature of the month

Don Hunt

Expanded Open Slide Show



This next club meeting, in place of our regular Plant of the Month presentation, there will be an "Open Slide Show". We have a few presenters already, but this is an opportunity for one and all to bring 3 to 5 slides showing what interests them most for presentation to the entire club. This is a great opportunity to share plants in your landscape, plants in other people's landscape, plants too big to transport, plants too delicate or expensive to transport. You could get our club's experts to comment on plant culture or lack thereof. In short, this is what we make of it, and I hope you will bail me out on this since I went out on a limb and convinced the club board that you would participate and this would be a benefit. Just kidding, it should be fun. Bring your pictures to the library table before the meeting and we will load them. We can handle any media you'd like, such as memory stick or even the card out of your camera.

While you're at the library table, check out the new books. **Agaves** by Gregg Starr and **Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates**. By Leo Chance.

SUMMER SHOW PLANT AUCTION

Peter Walkowiak



The auction was a great success, bringing in almost \$1,000 for the trophy fund. I want to thank everyone involved, donors, volunteers and bidders. Next year the auction will go back to the old format and will benefit the Anza Borrego Foundation.



Above: Some of the more interesting auctioned plants. See page 7 for more auction action.

may 2012 Brag Table Winners Judged by Kelly Griffin



CACTUS



Novice

- 1st - **Bea Ericksen** – *Cephalocereus senilis*
- 2nd - **Bea Ericksen** – *Parodia wernerii*
- 3rd - **Pat Bryan** – *Echinocereus viereckii v. morri-calii*

Intermediate

- 1st - **Carol Maker** – *Aztekium ritteri*
- 2nd - **Allen Clark** – *Parodia scopa*
- 3rd - **Don Hunt** – *Mammillaria theresae*

Advanced

- 1st - **Peter Walkowiak** – *Lobivia arachnacantha v. occulta*
- 2nd - **Peter Walkowiak** – *Mammillaria theresae*
- 3rd - **Phyllis Flechsig** – *Copiapoa tenuissima*

SUCCULENTS



Novice

- 1st - **Jim DeForest & Chuck Ramey** – *Monadenium ritchiei*
- 2nd - **Cathy Clark** – *Scilla*
- 3rd - **Pat Bryan** – *Kalanchoe tomentosa cv. "Chocolate Soldier"*

Intermediate

- 1st - **Don Hunt** – *Agave leopoldii variegata*
- 2nd - **Lee Badger** – *Pachy-podium succulentum*
- 3rd - **Candy & Jerry Garner** – *Pseudolithos eyelensis*

Advanced

- 1st - **Peter Walkowiak** – *Aloe 'Red Ridge' KG*
- 2nd - **Peter Walkowiak** – *Euphorbia obesa*
- 3rd - **Peter Walkowiak** – *Euphorbia viguieri v. caparianus*

Submitted by **Candy Garner**



Workshop Peter Walkowiak "Soil and Fertilizer"



The most often asked question I get is "What soil do you use?" In this workshop I will demonstrate what I do to mix soil. I have experimented with many different soil mixes, with mixed results. Some did decently, but some I am still regretting to this day. I found what is important are the ingredients and method in which they are mixed. I will show all steps involved to get a fast draining, stable mix that you're succulents will thrive in. At the end of the workshop you can use the remaining soil to repot you're plants, so bring a plant to repot with the pot it is to be planted in.

I will discuss the use of a syphon-x, the use of fertilizer and the importance of PH. Happy plants are healthy plants. See you at 11:00am.

Editor's note: An informative article on "Soil Structure" can be found in EyF Vol. 2 No. 3, March 1967, available at www.eyflibrary.com.

Espinas Y Flores Digitization Paul Maker and Sharon Wirth



All back issues of *Espinas y Flores* have now been digitized by **Paul Maker**. **Sharon Wirth** has completed extracting information from all issues of the EyF. This searchable data-base together with the back issues of EyF are now online and can be viewed at www.eyflibrary.com. This information provides a powerful and valuable reference tool for club members researching many, many plant species and the activities of our club. In addition, DVD's containing all this and more have been prepared. They are available for \$5 along with other Club merchandise at the monthly meetings.

Snacks for the Break:

If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a snack to share at the break.

2012 summer show Trophy winners

Best Cactus	Carol & Paul Maker	<i>Ferocactus glaucesens nuda</i>
Best Novice Cactus	Penny Sommerville	<i>Lobivia sp.</i>
Best Epiphytic Cactus	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Rhipsalis cruciforme</i>
Best Mammillaria	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Mammillaria perbella</i>
Best Opuntieae	Don Hunt	<i>Opuntia clavata</i>
Best Succulent	Rudy Lime	<i>Operculicarya decaryi</i>
Best Novice Succulent	Kienan Parr	<i>Echeveria peacockii variegated</i>
Best Agave	Don Hunt	<i>Agave potatorum cv.</i>
Best Aloe	Kelly Griffin	"Erin's Fire Cracker Better Than Sean Red"
Best Echeveria	Kienan Parr	<i>Echeveria lilacina</i>
Best Euphorbia	Peter Walkowiak	<i>E. caput-medusa</i>
Best Mesembryanthemum	John Mathews	<i>Conophytum minimum</i>
Best Pachycaul or Caudiciform	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Adenia glauca</i>
Best Pelargonium or Sarcocaulon	Michael & Joyce Buckner	<i>Sarcocaulon vanderietiae</i>
Best Sansevieria	Jean O'Daniel	<i>Sansevieria pinquicula</i>
Best Baja Plant	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Ficus palmeri</i>
Best Mexican Plant	Carol & Paul Maker	<i>Ariocarpus retusus v. retusus</i>
Best San Diego Succulent	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Euphorbia misera</i>
Best Graft	Carol & Paul Maker	<i>Aztekium riteri</i>
Best Miniature	Jennifer Harris	<i>Avonia quinaria alstonii</i>
Best Seed Grown Plant	Matt Maggio	<i>Hoodia juttae</i>
Best Succulent Bonsai	Michael & Joyce Buckner	<i>Ficus lutea</i>
Most Artistic Display	Susan Lewitt	Photos
People's Choice	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Adenia glauca</i>
High Point (not more than 50 entries)	Candy & Jerry Garner	
Sweepstakes Trophy	Peter Walkowiak	

JUDGES' CHOICE RIBBON WINNERS



Candy & Jerry Garner	<i>Monadenium ritchiei</i>
Carol & Paul Maker	<i>Lobivia densispina crest</i>
Cathy Clark	<i>Notocactus magnificus</i>
John Williams	<i>Denmoza rhodacantha</i>
John Williams	<i>Eulophia petersii</i>
Mark Muradian	<i>Calibanus hookerii</i>
Mark Muradian	<i>Mammillaria spinosis-sima</i>
Michael & Joyce Buckner	<i>Drimia zebrina</i>
Miles Anderson	<i>Euphorbia cylindrifolia x dendroides</i>
Rick Bjorklund	<i>Agave gypsophila</i> "Ivory Curls"
Rick Bjorklund	<i>Echeveria</i> "Morning Light"
Steve Mediano	<i>Cyphostemma juttae</i>



Best Pelargonium or Sarcocaulon, **Michael & Joyce Buckner's** *Sarcocaulon vanderietiae*

Coffee in the garden For July 21

Tom and Laura De Merritt



Laura and I moved into our home in 1992. We had already been members of SDCSS since 1982, the year we were officially married. The area was a consideration for growing as West Clairemont / Bay Park has one of the mildest climates in the county. This has served to be a detriment as well as a blessing. Detrimentially speaking we can't grow cactus as well as we'd prefer as the moisture from the ocean / bay doesn't bode well for cactus. Cactus generally prefer a longer and dryer thermometer. Succulents on the other hand seem to prefer the milder conditions.



The yard has never had anything traditional such as grass. Many of our plants are grown from seed and we have the ground pretty well packed. We look forward to seeing all of you for Coffee in the Garden from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, July 21. Our address is 3163 Brillden Court, San Diego and our phone is (858) 270-5544.

Directions: From I5, go east on Balboa Ave. to north (right) on Morena Blvd. to east (right) on Avati Dr. to west (left) on Brillden Ct.

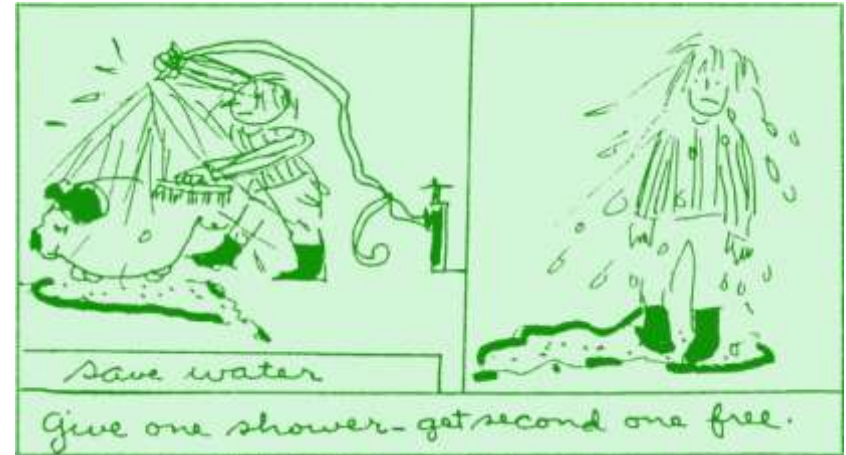
Photos from June coffee in the garden

Bea & Dick Ericksen



Photos provided by club member Kevin Hosmer

El ibet's corner



UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 14:** SDCSS regular monthly meeting.
- July 27-28:** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale. Friday July 27th Noon Until 7, Saturday July 28th 9 To 5 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA. Info: Vince Basta 714-267-4329
- Aug. 11:** SDCSS regular monthly meeting.
- Aug. 11 & 12:** 27th Annual Intercity Show & Sale, 9 to 5, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or John Matthews 661-297-5364
- Sept. 1:** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, all day, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- Sept 15:** SDCSS picnic.
- Sept. 23:** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, noon, 18127 South Alameda St., Rancho Dominguez, CA
- Oct. 13:** SDCSS regular monthly meeting.
- Nov. 3 & 4:** San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

Action at the auction



Clockwise from top left: Auctioneer **Woody Minnich** extorts one more bid. The Bidders. Auctioned items: caudiciforms; cactus-wood lamp; *Deuterocohnia*. **Peter Walkowiak** presents the next plant to be auctioned.

Photo delights



Above: *Trichocereus* hybrids blooming. Left - found in a Tucson greenhouse by Jerry Garner. Right - found in the editor's back yard. Below: Precarious Raindrop Gems, contributed by Joe Kraatz.



photos from the show and sale



Left, top to bottom: Show room waiting to open; Scurrying buyers; Blooming *Euphorbia*; Carved *Thelocactus*. Right, top to bottom: Paying customers still buying; Patterned caudex. Photos by **Dustin Faddis** www.dustinfaddis.com.

Electronic Espinas Y Flores

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 hard-copy. 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. Further, updates and errors found in the hardcopy are corrected in the electronic version. To cancel your hard copy, contact the membership chairperson **Collette Parr** at collette.parr@cox.net.

SDCSS WANT ADS

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

Strategic Team Members to support the Strategy Owners in initiating changes in SDCSS	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.
Tour Chair to arrange Coffee in the Garden tours on a monthly basis	Workshop Chair to run workshop program, set up speakers and topics	Trophy Chair to maintain trophies and oversee their refurbishment
Volunteers for WAP Gardens: For garden maintenance, new area development, plant identification and to work in the greenhouse. Our next project will be to build a greenhouse and we hope to start later this fall	Holiday Party Decorating Committee Members: to help decorate for the Holiday Party.	

Contact **Chris Miller** if you are interested.

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.

Otherwise unaccredited photos are the handiwork of the Editors.

SDC&SS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Dues are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. Newsletter is E-mailed. **Mailed paper copies 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 \$ _____

Check **ONE** for type of membership: **NEW** _____ **RENEWAL** _____

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 wish 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**

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: **Cathy Clark**
 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 Zoo Safari Park Baja & Old World Gardens: **Chris Miller**

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