



Mammillaria thornberi

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume 49 Number 11

December 2014



African Sunbird hanging out in flowers of *Aloe polyphylla*, photo by Kelly Griffin

SDCSS Holiday Party

December 13, 2014 in Room 101 Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. We start gathering at 10:30, lunch will be served around noon.

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.



President's Message

I would like to give a huge thank you to Jon Rebman for his presentation on Baja. We are very lucky to have so much knowledge and talent in our town! If you missed out on this, you have another chance as he will be one of the key presentations at the CSSA Convention in Los Angeles this coming June.

Well, the holidays are upon us! Our Holiday party is the next gathering on December 13th. We will have food, friends, gift plants and fun. If you have not signed up for this, do so on the website or send Chris Miller a check. It is important that we know how many are coming so that we get the planning right on the food and plants.

Please bring a dessert, a plant for exchange (optional) and your smiling self!

How it works, if you have signed up and paid, you will receive a gift plant and the holiday dinner. The gift plants are given out by raffle. You will receive a coupon at the door and when your **number is called**, you get to select your favorite from the 100's of "Gift" plants.

Additionally, we have the Plant Exchange Table. You should bring something special that you are willing to set free, you put your name on it and when someone selects yours, you get the next choice. It is important to note that it does not have necessarily have to be a plant but it should be something special. The sooner yours is selected, the better choice you have. Its up to you. PLEASE announce loudly the name on the plant or gift you choose so we keep this going during the party.

We will have really neat weird and special gift plants supplied by: CT plants, Peter Walkowiak plants, Petra Crist, Grigsby's, Huntington Botanical Garden, Steven Hammer's Spheroid institute, Altman's and KG plants.

We still need some help in a couple of areas: Newsletter Editorship and Brag Table Administrator. If either of these sound like something you might like to help your club with, let's talk about it.....see Chris or Kelly and we can tell you more.

Remember: Sign up for the Party, make or bring a dessert (not desert!) and bring a special plant or gift to trade if you want to participate in the Exchange.

See you all on the 13th

Kelly Griffin

More poly photos



Aloe polyphylla in the Wilds of Lesotho

Last month, we had the good fortune to visit a very special place, Lesotho. It is a small country that is bordered completely by the Republic of South Africa. This small mountainous place is the habitat for an exceptional plant, *Aloe polyphylla*, the spiral *Aloe*. I made the trip with the Brian Kemble and Walker Young the Curator and Asst. Curator at Ruth Bancroft Botanical Garden.

We flew to Johannesburg and rented a 4x4 then made the long drive to the mountains of Semonkong near to 8000 ft ele. where we were to stay. The following day we rode by horseback further into the mountains to get high enough to see the plants we were seeking. We were very lucky to find them in new full flower. They are truly a sight to behold and there were many plants. The plants are also showing signs of reasonable recruitment and that was nice to see young plants along with the enormous adults.



The plants are also seen planted in front of many of the dwellings in the mountain countryside. They are thought to ward off bad spirits and so they are often taken from the hillside and relocated but this has not exhausted the natural populations at this point. Also, I should say they do quite well there as the relocation is to the same general area that they occur in. This is not the case in general for this plant.

Culturally, *Aloe polyphylla* is notoriously difficult unless you live in a place that has the right conditions for its growth or you can provide for those conditions. It is a high alpine and it likes bright sun but not heat. It can take freezing temperatures and even gets snowed on. So places with cool temps ~ growing in full sun and plenty of water but sloped and well drained soil is ideal. In Southern California if you live close to the ocean, you have a better chance to keep it growing. The inland areas just get too

hot in the summer for it to survive long term. I have seen marvelous plants in cultivation in the bay area in San Francisco and additionally some spectacular plants in Melbourne Australia where it was sunny, cool, moist and planted in good draining soil.

Most people rot this plant but usually what happens first is the small roots dry out and die from a lack of water and then after that it rots. The assumption made from this is you overwatered it but more likely, you treated it like the rest of your *Aloes* and under watered it. The rot was the secondary problem and rather the root loss from too little water was the first. **TO GROW THIS....COOL TEMPS (< 80) BRIGHT LIGHT, PLENTY OF WATER, GOOD DRAINAGE**

I am including some pictures from this part of the trip.

Kelly Griffin



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! Rumor has it that Santa is hanging out at Sea World or is that Herb?



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 "The Wine Guy" 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 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 This year Kelly, Peter and Ed will run the Annual Holiday Auction. We have received a donation 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 Peter or Kelly and let them know.

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. Cut off will be the 10th of December.

You can sign up and pay for the Holiday Party on our website or by mailing the payment to Chris Miller at 10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee CA 92071. The cutoff for signing up will be December 10th.



Faux Plant Brag Table

Judged by Pam Badger & Chris Miller
Notes from Pam



Rhipsalis 'Toxic Waste'
Best Use of Toxic Material
Michelle Heckathorn
Note: Way to light up my life!



Rusty viro (Rustoadae)
Best Use of Recycled Material
Antonia Lansorgan
Note: Fertilize with Rustolium



Yippe-ki-ey ...
Cowboyenses gigantea
Best Lost Opportunity & Use of Denum
Art Cooley with Bev Grant
Note: One half of a tall drink of water



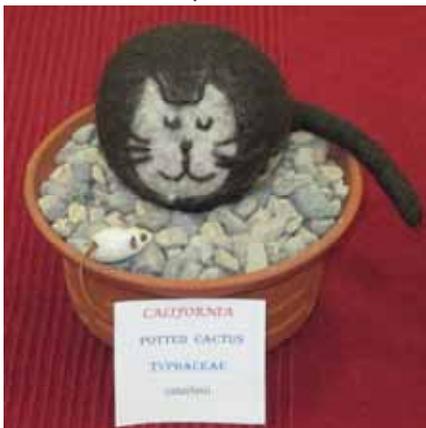
Origami pyramedii var needum
Most Mature
Jean O'Daniel
Note: 4th and last year—so how did you get it to bloom for the meeting



Aquacereus echinonoodlei
Family Ziptieaceae
Most Zippy
Pat Bryan
Note: Tie me up!



Stenocereus crest var. menzeli seedling
Warmest
Juergen Menzel



Typhaceae catalinii
Most purrfect



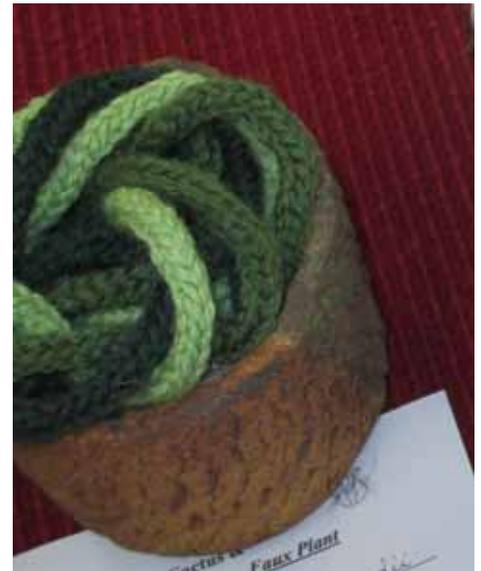
Creperocactus geometricus medio
'Blueberry filled'
Most Delicious
Rick Bjorklund
Note: Invite me to Breakfast!



Stapelia textilana
Best Fly Food & Most Smelly
Donna Couchman



Haworthia erectious
Most Protective
Lianna Camp
Note: Chris was speechless



Euphorbia cordii var. *woolii*
Best Use Yarn
Jerry Garner
Note: Spin me one!
Photographer apologizes for lack of balance.

A special thanks to all of you for you wonderful creativity year after year. I am green with envy for all your wonderful talent.
Chris



Agave kichiokan mediopaintas
Best Agave
Jennifer Harris
Note: Judges Choice: Pam loves Agaves!



Monsterous Crest
Best Use of Plastic Bags
Deya Wilson
Note: Have Mark Fryer cut it up & graft it!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

December 13: SDCSS Holiday Party starts at 11 in room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

February 14, 2015: SDCSS Winter Show and Sale, room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park



Uebelmannia confuse var. *funfurii*
Most Cuddly
Candy Garner
Note: Give me a hug!



Gymnocalycium crystalballioides var. "Windows to your soul"
Most Esoteric
Sara Schell
Note: Explore your cactus soul!



Cardon en El Cajon
Toiletto sucio cepillo
Most Scary
Maria Becker
Note: to celebrate Dias de las Muerto (Day of the Dead) Oct 31-Nov 2



Most Fuzzy



Elibetana multicolor priki
Most Elibethian
Elibet Marshall
Note: By our most mature member!



Echinocereus noelii w/ variegated stem
Best Holiday Theme
Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent
Note: So that is where all the forks went!



Cereus glovegastus deflate-us
Most Overwatered
Jennifer Harris



*Squirto perriergiea
carnegiea*
Most Refreshing
Bev Grant
Note: Most activity in
one display.



News From the Safari Park Gardens

There is word that the much anticipated plant labels for the Old World Garden *Aloes* will be available shortly!
What a delightful Christmas gift that would make.

We would like to sincerely thank several people from SDCSS and/or PCSS who have donated a wide variety of plants in recent weeks:

Peter Walkowiak, Lorie Johansen, Lee Badger and Chris Tratnyek

Among the plants donated are:

Didierea trollii, *Moringa* tree, *Adenium*, *Pachypodium*, *Othonna*, *Tylecodon*, *Adansonia digitata* aka Baobob tree and *Euphorbia* species too numerous to mention them all.

We are looking for:

Bismarkia nobilis palms, *Dyckia*, *Gasteria*, *Dypsis decaryi*, *Aloe dichotoma*, *Cycads*, "tree" and "shrub" plants, groups of *Aloes* - up to twelve plants of the same species, *Tylecodon* and *Cotyledon*.

Contact May Fong Ho May 760-233-3948 mayfongho@yahoo.com or
Susan LaFreniere 760-317-5764 susanlafreniere@gmail.com

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 \$10 a year. Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.**

Annual Dues (E-mail Newsletter) \$15.00 _____
 (Paper Newsletter) _____
 First class delivery USPS \$10.00 _____
 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 Dept
 c/o Paul Maker
 1245 San Pablo Drive
 San Marcos CA 92078-4816**

(Rev. E-2, 2012-11-13)

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

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Executive Board

President: **Kelly Griffin**
 Vice President: **Chris Miller**
 Secretary: **Jennifer Harris**
 Treasurer: **Christine Vargas**

Directors

Peter Walkowiak
Pat Marshall
Rick Bjorklund
Chris Dawson
Kienan Parr
Geoff Twitchell

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**
 Grants: **Jerry Garner**

Sales, Meetings, Plant Sales & Supplies
 Membership: **Paul & Carol Maker** pdmaker@roadrunner.com
 Mailing: **Jean & Bill O'Daniel**
 Annual Sales: **Chris Miller & Joe Kraatz**
 Auction & Holiday Plants: **Kelly Griffin**
 Monthly Plant Sales: **Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott**
 Monthly Supply Sales: **George & Jerry Plaisted**
 Benefit Drawing Table: **Collette, Kienan & Terry Parr**
 Publicity: **Christine Vargas**
 Programs: **Kelly Griffin**
 Reception: **Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak**
 Monthly Regalement: **Cathy Clark**
 Picnic Regalement: **Bill O'Daniel & Steve Harris**
 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**

Editor: **Chris Miller** (619) 258-9810 c.miller@cox.net
 Webmaster: **Collette Parr** collette.parr@cox.net



Early December Sunrise in Tucson by Steve Plath