

Mammillaria thomberi

Espinas y Flores

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

Volume 49 Number 1

JANUARY 2014



Monthly Meeting
January 11, 2014

1 to 4pm

Program

A Trip to Cuba

Kelly Griffin

Bug of the Month

Agave Weevils

Peggy Katz

Pre Meeting Workshop
11 to 12

Winter Growers

Peter Walkowiak

Coffee in the Garden

Rick Bjorklund

January 18

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President's Message



The Holidays are almost in the rear view mirror and I am looking forward to the New Year. I wanted to say a big Thank You to Rancho Soledad Nurseries for donating the nice Agaves we had for our holiday plant table. I omitted that earlier as I did not know it was going to happen. Super support and we are just plain and simple..... lucky!

I think we had a truly terrific selection and hats off to everyone that contributed to this going so well. The auction went smoothly too.....Thanks Peter, Ed, Joe and everyone else that participated in making this so successful.

The winter show is fast approaching and will be here in just a month and one half. Get your winter growers ready (and anything else that looks great) and lets do this!

I can only hope that your stockings were full of spines and that Santa left some nice pottery under the tree. This wish only applies to plant people!!!

See you for our trip to Cuba in January!

Kelly G

Cathy Clark 2013 Volunteer of the Year



Cathy Clark has been a very quiet force for good in The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. She started out volunteering at the SD Zoo Safari Park, pulling weeds, cleaning up plants and planting succulents. She has regularly supported Azania sales by setting and breaking down sales. She has worked as part of the cashier team at our sales and participated in the shows. She was a Director on the SDCSS Board for 4 years.

She took over as Regalement Chair a few years ago and is responsible for your coffee and snacks at the meetings. She also supports during meetings as a Sales Clerk. She is the Merchandise Chair, responsible for the T-shirts, hats, visors and other stuff we sell. Her tireless efforts lead to our organizations success.

Nobody does it better. Be sure to thank Cathy next time you see her.

Number 10 of the **Cactus Explorer** is ready to download free from:

<http://jwf.r.mailjet.com/redirect/l8rdtdm68b61ygngjmmx2n/www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>

Sorry that this issue is late. I have been travelling in South America!

We welcome articles about hunting for plants, reviews of genera or species, historical literature, and pictures of unusual plants in culture

Happy New Year!

Graham Charles

No.11 is planned for February 2014.

Glorious clump of Melocactus on cover, Photo by Kelly Griffin

Program A Visit to Cuba

By Kelly Griffin



This past year, I was asked to speak at the IOS congress which was held in Cuba. I had the opportunity to see quite a bit of the flora while there not to mention the sights and people. It is a unique country and one which I feel very fortunate to have had the chance to see and experi-



ence. The *Melocactus*, *Agaves* and the *Tillandsias* that are endemic there were exceptional. We managed a short trip to Pinar del Rio to see the endemic *Cycad* there as well. I look forward to sharing this Island and its plants with you.

In addition to coordinating programs and being on the board of the SDC&SS, I am currently working as a Succulent Plant Development Manager for Altman Plants located in Vista California.

With our Winter Show and Sale coming next month we have a need to fill the following positions. If you are interested please talk to Chris Miller at the meeting. We will also have the volunteer signup sheets available then.

Help Wanted: In order to run an organization the size of SDCSS we need lots of volunteers. It is a great way to get to know other people in the organization and to give back to SDCSS. We have several positions that need you.

We are forming a Committee for the Sale to help spread the work and responsibility. The following openings are available:

Box Czar: to round up boxes and manage their availability during the event

Sale Security Chair: to manage the volunteers providing security to the sale

Signage Chair: to develop and post signs for the sale

Sales Volunteer Chair: to recruit and manage the volunteers working the sale

These people plus Jim DeForest as Cashier Team Chair and Chris Miller as Vendor Liaison and Committee Chair will form the committee.

The SDCSS Board received many suggestions after the last sale. While the sale was a success with outstanding sales, we can always improve the experience for our members and customers. This committee will work to make that happen. Contact Chris Miller if you are interested.

Aloe in Bev Grant's garden





Life Member, Phyllis Flechsig

By Denise Huntsman-Griffin



Phyllis started out growing everything from seed, at first specializing in cacti, in particular, *Epiphyllums*. Phyllis has created several well-known and popular epi hybrids. Some of the cultivars she is noted for you might be familiar with: the red and white epi hybrid called 'Clown' or the orange one called 'Three Oranges.' She also created a yellow one called 'Vista Gold' and recently a multi-colored, ruffled one called 'Phyllis's Fancy.' There is also a new one named for her. You can see all of these and her other cultivars pictured on the Epiphyllum Society of Americas's website: epiphyllumsociety.org. Besides cacti, she became interested later on in other succulents, especially *Aloes*, and continues to grow them.

Phyllis has volunteered since the 1990's at The San Diego Botanical Garden and is still a docent there. She propagates succulents for their gift shop nursery. She is also a co-instructor for people interested in becoming docents (there are several classes on plants that one needs to take).



Phyllis sells plants (from her backyard nursery) at meetings of the Palomar and San Diego clubs, as well as the big sale in June for our club and, formerly, the big sale in July for the CSSA. From 1978-1988 Phyllis had a mail-order catalog and shipped plants all over the country. This came to an end when her husband retired and they decided to do some traveling. Occasionally she had

bought wholesale plants and resold them, but now only sells through the clubs and grows every plant she sells from cuttings or seed.

Phyllis has been a member of our San Diego club since 1980 when Tom Hamacher was president. Besides selling plants at the club, Phyllis used to arrange for, write, and talk about the Plant of the Month with former member Dorothy Dunn Pasek. Phyllis was on the board of directors back when Rick Latimer was president. Before that she had become a member of the Palomar club and then had decided to see what was going on in the San Diego club. Back then there wasn't much overlap in membership, she said.

In the summer shows for our San Diego club, Phyllis has won several awards. "Best Epiphytic Cactus Plant" for 1985, '89, '92, '93 and '94. "Best Opuntieae" for 1995. "Best Aloe in Show" for 1985, '94, 2002 and 2005. And, "Best Echeveria" for 1988.

A native Californian like her mother, Phyllis was born in Berkeley and grew up in the Bay Area. She has lived in San Diego County since 1953 and in Encinitas since 1960. Besides growing succulent plants and gardening, she does a lot of knitting. Phyllis worked as a copy editor on scientific publications at UCSD for several years and is also a good proof-reader. She was married

nearly 50 years to Arthur, a marine biologist, who died 10 years ago. They have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. About Arthur, Phyllis says, "He was a great handyman and I miss him." Arthur built Phyllis two greenhouses, a shade house and plant stands and "anything else I needed" she says.



Holiday Party socializing

Bug of the Month Agave Weevils

By Peggy Katz

The desire for water-wise landscapes has prompted many gardeners to plant *Agaves*, *Furcraeas* and *Yuccas*. These plants are attractive and draught-tolerant, but anyone who grows them should be aware that they can be killed by certain weevils.

The larvae of *Scyphophorus acupunctatus* feed on *Agave* and *Furcraea* species and the larvae of *Scyphophorus yuccae* feed on *Yuccas*. The weevils seem to prefer some plant species more than others. They also may be more likely to attack plants that are stressed or growing poorly due to over irrigation, poor soil drainage, or a coastal location that is cool and wet.

Both weevils are rather large beetles, about 5/8 inch long (17mm), smooth, black and fully-winged with grooved wing covers. They do not fly very well, and can occasionally be seen, from March to July, walking among and feeding on the leaves of their favorite host plant. The weevils have chewing mouth parts at the end of a long down-curved snout which females use to bore into the flower stocks or stems where they deposit eggs. When the eggs hatch, the larvae, which look like white grubs, tunnel deep into the center of the plant causing the plant's foliage to wilt and collapse. When the larvae mature, they pupate and later emerge as adults to mate and begin the cycle again.

Plants that are severely damaged should be removed and destroyed to keep the infestation from spreading to near-by host plants. If a plant is small, it may be possible to salvage it if it is not severely damaged.

To do this, dig the plant out of the ground and remove any damaged lower foliage. Then, cut through the stem retaining the top portion of the plant that still looks healthy. Check the base of the cut stem for larval tunnels and remove any larvae that are present using long forceps or a similar tool. Put the plant in a shady location for a few days until callous tissue forms on the cut stem. Then, re-root the cutting by replanting it in well-drained soil.

Identifying weevil-infested plants before they die can be difficult. Susceptible plants can be protected with a preventative soil drench containing the systemic insecticide imidacloprid. Gardeners can buy Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub insect control (with 1.47 percent imidacloprid). You can use as little as one tablespoon of the insecticide in two gallons of water. Apply it in late February or early March. This seems to provide good control of the weevil in my East San Diego County landscape.





Coffee in the Garden Rick Bjorklund & Kevin Hosmer January 18th 10 to 1



Those of you that have previously visited know I collect plants, LOTS of plants (which then led to lots of pottery). I don't think I've met a different form of *Agave titanota* I could resist. My partner, Kevin, believes I've never met ANY plant I didn't like. I collect; Kevin propagates . . . a terrible combination for the effect upon available garden-

ing space. As a result, succulents are tucked in everywhere. I've reorganized the front yard a bit to put together similar or related plants since last year. Combinations include *Agave* 'Blue Glow' with siblings *A.* 'Sun Glow' and *A.* 'Snow Glow' rubbing shoulders and a chunky *Cheiridopsis* snuggling up. Nearby is an island planting of five different *Agave titanotas*. Not to be outdone, *Agave* 'Joe Hoak' has been blooming for a few weeks and *A. mitis variegata's* bloom scape looks like a giant asparagus stalk as it has yet to open it's still-developing buds.

Bicolored aloes are center stage right now – including red and yellow *Aloe lutenscens* and similar *A. cryptopoda* whereas *A.* 'David Verity' is red and cream. I suspect *A. aculeata* will be opening by then as well as *A. spicata* with its golden candles and the yellow *A. betsileensis* and *A. ericetorum*. Neon red *A. cameronii* and *A. vaombe* should be opening as well. A number of newer *Aloes*, purchased during euphoric romps



through Tucson nurseries, are more established in the back garden on the upper slope. Check out 4'+ wide *Aloe pruinosa*, an ugly duckling when small in the nursery but an absolutely stunning near-black beauty with lime green spots in the garden. Many of the mesembs should be blooming in the afternoon, including various *Faucarias* (look for the red one), *Delospermas*, and others; various

Nananthus and a tiny *Rhinephyllum* are Kevin's favorites. Many of these are incorporated in Kevin's community planters which he does in an artistic manner in my opinion.

As before, most things are labeled. If you can supply the names of unlabeled plants please let us know. I'll be busy baking for the event and beverages will be available. Kevin will gather up some of his propagated plants for sale.

Address is 4728 Allied Road in San Diego. Just past Zion on Mission Gorge Road.



Come Take a Look at the Safari Park's Old World Garden!

By Susan Lafreniere



The flowers are starting to bloom. The first ones are *Aloe arborescens* and *Adenium swazicum*. From January through March, the *Aloe* colors will range from red-orange to orange, and then yellow.



The garden has filled in because of the many plant donations we have received.

* **Scott Grier** of the San Diego club gave us a large *Didieria trollii* which looks great next to *Alluadia procera*. It is commonly known as an Octopus plant and is from Madagascar.

* **Mort Fairfield** of the Palomar club donated a load of *Urginea maritima* bulbs; they are the green-leaved plants in the picture. Its common name is Sea Onion, and they are originally from north Africa and the Mediterranean region.

* **Peter Walkowiak**, member of both clubs, helped us identify the *Euphorbias* and donated several flats of plants including *Othonna*, *Euphorbia*, and several other plants.

* **Lorie Johansen** of the Palomar club let us roam her acres and pick what we wanted! Among the dozen plants we chose are many *Euphorbias*, *Crassulas*, and *Aloe* cuttings.

* **Dick Henderson** of the Palomar club has given plants to many, many people over the years. For the Old World Garden he has recently brought *Pachypodium*, *Euphorbia*, *Haemanthus*, and an *Aloe rubroviolacea* that is getting ready to bloom.

* **Kelly Griffin** came to ID more than 50 *Aloes*.

We sincerely thank our donors for their plants and expertise.

We are up to four regular volunteers working in the gardens now: **May Fong Ho**, **Susan LaFreniere**, **Dick Henderson**, and **Julie Kort**. Members from the San Diego club also come to help periodically. Contact May at 760-233-3948 or Susan at 760-317-5764 if you have plants that originate from Africa, Madagascar, the Canary Islands, or the Mediterranean to donate.

We will determine if they can be used and will arrange to get them.

Call us also, if you would like to help in the planting, watering, weeding, and record-keeping.

Plants are being identified in a database for the purpose of labeling them and to get the garden accredited.

Thank you for passing the word!

Dick Hendersen among the *Aloes* in their winter red



Didieria trollii



Euphorbia coerulescens



Cactus & Succulent Calendar of Upcoming Events for 2014

Jan 18: CSSA Gathering At the Huntington see notice in electronic version of newsletter

Feb 8: San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Winter Show & Sale Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, Ca—Info 858-382-1797

Mar. 28-30: Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale. Fri. And Sat. Mar. 28-29 9-5pm Sun. Mar. 30th 12-4pm. 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, Ca, Information Call 562-587-3357

Apr 12-13: South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, Ca Info: 310-378-1953

Apr 18, 19 & 20: Sonoran X Conference Hotel is Tucson City Center Inn Suites Conference Suite Resort • 475 N. Granada Avenue, Tucson, Arizona. See [Http://Tucsoncactus.Org/Pdf_Files/Sonoran_X_Conference_Event_Schedule.Pdf](http://Tucsoncactus.Org/Pdf_Files/Sonoran_X_Conference_Event_Schedule.Pdf) For Conference Details

Apr 19-20: Green Scene Plant Sale—At the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, Ca 92831

Apr 27: Huntington Plant Sale, 10 To 5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, Ca. 626-405-2160

May 4: South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show And Sale--9am To 4pm, South Coast Botanical Gardens, Information Call-310-833-6823

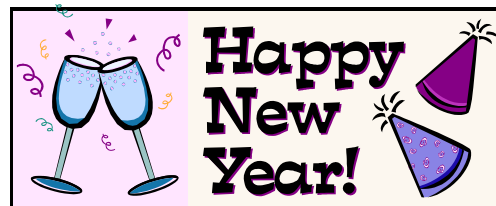
May 3-4: Sunset Cactus And Succulent Society Show And Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, Ca. Info. 310-822-1783

May 16-17: Gates Cactus And Succulent Society 33rd Show & Sale Fri & Sat 9-4:30 Pm Info. 951-360-8802

May 17-18: Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale, 10am-5pm, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, For Info. Call 310-922-6090 —www.lbcss.org

May 24-25: Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale (10-4pm), Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, Ca – Info. 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org

June 7-8: San Diego Cactus And Succulent Society Summer Show And Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, Ca. Info: 858-382-1797



Where are they now? This picture was taken at a Huntington Succulent Symposium around ten years ago.



Palomar-PCSS & San Diego- SDCSS FIELD TRIP to the CSSA's Day at Huntington Gardens

**Saturday, January 18, 2014
Huntington Gardens, San Marino CA**

Following are details regarding the trip. Contact Annie Morgan @ mamx54@gmail.com or 760-803-8948 (10am–6pm) for questions.

Bus Pickup: San Diego – 7:30am in the parking lot behind the Organ Pavilion
Escondido – 8:00am at the Park 'N Ride Lot #11, 871 No. Broadway, Escondido

Bus Return: Return to the drop off location at 4:15 pm. The bus will leave at 4:30 pm. Allow time to get your plant purchases stowed away. The bus does have a restroom. PCSS & SDCSS will handle tipping the driver. Expected return times are: Escondido – 6:30 pm, San Diego – 7:00 pm

Entrance Fee: Members of PCSS or SDCSS = **\$FREE**

Field Trip Cost: \$40 - This year we are requiring payment in advance to avoid last minute cancellations.

SDCSS members may give a check made out to PCSS to Chris Miller or Annie Morgan at our 11/9/13 or 12/14/13 meeting.

PCSS members please give a check made out to PCSS to Annie Morgan at our 11/23/13 or 2/21/13 meeting.*

Or, you may mail a check made out to PCSS to: Annie Morgan, 2726 Obelisco Ct., Carlsbad, CA 92009

Note: If you cancel at least 10 days in advance you will receive a full refund.
If you cancel within the last 7 days prior to the trip you will receive half the cost as a refund.
If you cancel the day of the trip, or don't show up, you will receive no refund.

Water & Snack: PCSS / SDCSS will provide a bottle of water and a snack for the way up and back. You may bring your own drinks and snacks but **no glass** is allowed on the bus.

Lunch: Due to major construction at the gardens there is no place to store coolers with our usual catered box lunches, or room to eat them in the buildings as before. So you have several options:

The Rose Garden Tea Room will be open – cost is \$29.50 plus tax. Reservations are required. Call 626-683-8131 at least 2 weeks in advance, Wednesday through Monday between 9am and 4pm.

The Café is a combination of self-serve and made to order, all with outdoor patio seating. Menu includes a variety of sandwiches and grilled items, fish tacos, and quesadillas, salads and homemade soups, and baked goods. Drinks are also available. Cost: approx. \$4 - 10

The Chinese Garden Tea Room Shop is now open and has a selection of delicious entrees located in the Chinese garden. For menu details: <http://www.huntington.org/huntingtonlibrary.aspx?id=1220>

Bring your own lunch and keep it with you in your bag.

Plant Purchases: There will be a holding area inside for your plant purchases, and carts we can use to haul them out to the bus. From there they will be put in the luggage storage area for the trip home.

Link to a map of The Huntington: http://www.huntington.org/uploadedFiles/Files/PDFs/groundsmap_051613.pdf

*(PCSS members who worked at the Spring 2013

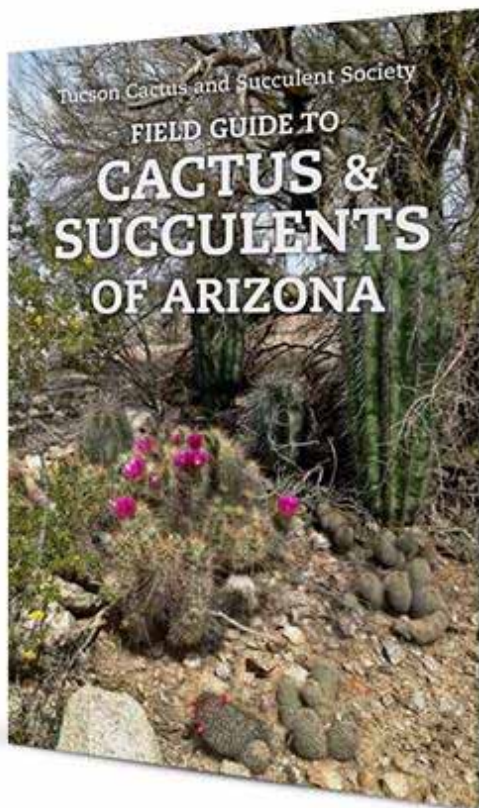


SDCSS Holiday Party
Pictures by BJ Miller

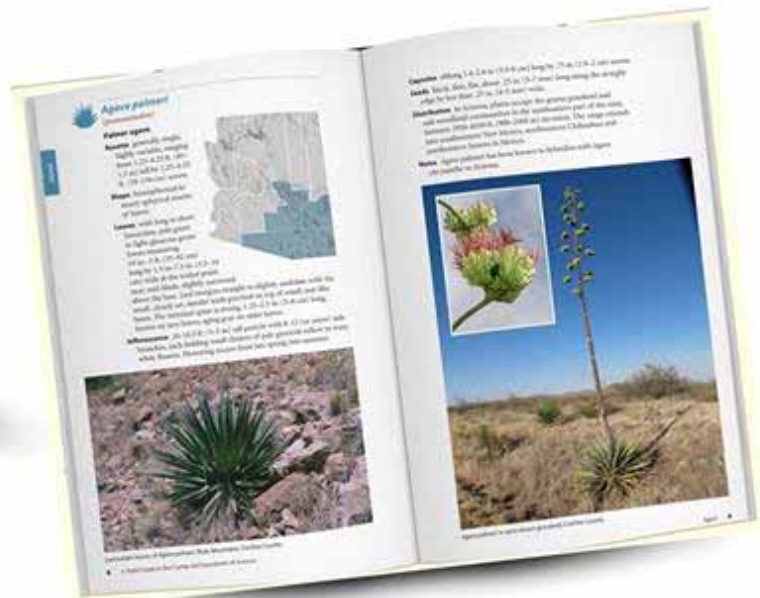


SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN EARLY 2015!

The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society Presents
**FIELD GUIDE TO
 CACTUS & SUCCULENTS
 OF ARIZONA**



- This book will be the definitive identification and distributional source for the cactus and succulents that occur within Arizona.
- Written, photographed, illustrated and produced by TCSS members.
- Pre-order your copy during the annual membership renewal period in December.



The author/photographers are experts in field research who have traveled and re-traveled hundreds of back road miles to establish not only species distribution but also to capture that rare moment of glowing fluorescence.



PETER BRESLIN began growing and studying cacti and succulents at age 10, in the inhospitable climes of Pennsylvania. Four decades later, after migrating west, he still has the cactus bug. He worked for Santa Fe Greenhouse/High Country Gardens as a cactus and succulent propagator and has done extensive field work in Arizona and the American Southwest, as well as Sonora and Baja California North and South. His articles and photographs have appeared in Cactus & Co. and The Cactus and Succulent Journal. He holds a BA in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD and is currently pursuing a Master's in mathematics at Arizona State University.

ROB ROMERO got the cactus bug during the New Mexico CBSS show and sale in 1991. There he met Steven Brack of Mesa Garden and the adventure began. He quickly joined the NM Society eventually becoming president. A job opportunity came along with Tucson as the destination and the rest is history. Rob travels several times a year to see plants in habitat and has been all around the southwest of the U.S. and most of Baja, Mexico. He likes to grow many species with emphasis on US and Mexican plants. Growing from seed is a favorite part of the hobby.

GREG STARR was born in Tucson, Arizona and is the author of two books, Cool Plants for Hot Gardens and Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers. Greg has written several horticultural articles about landscape plants for the journal Desert Plants. He travels throughout the desert southwest and Mexico to photograph cacti, succulents and any other interesting plant in habitat, also to help him better understand the plants and their interaction with each other and the surrounding environment, all the while searching for new plants that can be used in xeric landscapes. Greg lectures at various venues throughout the west primarily on unique desert landscape plants and the fabulously sculptural agaves.

VONN WATKINS was first introduced to cactus and succulents while growing up in North Carolina. Many years later he enrolled at East Tennessee State University and during his time in Johnson City, Tennessee he began studying, propagating and growing cacti and other succulents from seed. As a resident of Arizona he has traveled throughout many western states and Mexico, exploring and recording numerous observations on cactus and other succulents. He has been Vice-President and Program Director for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society over 10 years. He has a great interest in the genus *Cylindropuntia*, *Opuntia*, *Echinocactus* and *Ferocactus*, and continues to gather further knowledge about those plants. Vonn received a BFA in Graphic Design and Photography from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Additional TCSS member contributors include Matt Johnson, Margaret Pope, Mark Demitt, John Durham and Thomas Stauff

TCSS Field Guide to Arizona Cactus and Succulents

As you may know, the TCSS book project is in the works. *The TCSS Field Guide to Arizona Cactus and Succulents* is an important updated treatment of the taxonomy, distribution and status of these Arizona native plants and the first comprehensive undertaking of the subject in 30 years. The team of contributing writers, editors and support staff, all TCSS members, are providing all the documentation, photography and artwork featured in the book. Scheduled for release in early 2015, this publication embodies the TCSS charter of education and conservation.

Now is an opportunity to help support this outstanding publication with your donation. As we all know, botanical publications can be expensive, so to keep this book affordable and available to everyone, we need your financial support. Consider the expertise and experience of the authors, the quality of the photography and artwork, along with the dedication of the production group when you make your decision. You will be making a contribution to a project that, not only promotes education and conservation, but also will stand as an important reference for years to come.

Donor levels start at \$100 and each donor will receive a copy of the book and their name in print.

Make all donations payable to TCSS.

Opuntia Level

\$100

Mammillaria Level

\$500

Ferocactus Level

\$1000

Peniocereus Level

\$2500

Saguaro Level

\$5000

Crested Saguaro

\$10,000

Please send donations to the
Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

PO Box 64759

Tucson AZ 85728-4759

A Call to All Artists

The SDCSS would like to test the waters to find out how much interest there would be in designing a line of prints for T-shirts by, for, and about the SDCSS and the plants we love. If you think you have the talent and motivation for such an endeavor, by then all means drop us a line or send in your submissions to c.miller@cox.net and I will forward it to our Chair for this project.. Any nice graphic of a succulent plant, plants, or landscape will be considered but of special relevance would be, of course, San Diego county native plants and scenery. We look forward to hearing from you!

Why should I go to monthly meetings? I just enjoy the sales. Ten Reasons to Go!

For those of you that have joined to attend our sales early or have been meaning to make it to a meeting but haven't I'd like to share why you should go.

1. Share your hobby with like minded people
2. Great programs and small talks
3. A judged brag table in three different categories
4. A wonderful library and a friendly group of librarians waiting to help you
5. Potting supplies for sale at reasonable prices
- 6 A snack at break time to tide you over to dinner
7. A Benefit Drawing for interesting plants
8. Plant exchange, where you trade your stuff for other peoples stuff
9. Plant and pottery sales that start at 10
10. A pre meeting workshop on various topics



PS: It's a great place to learn, get your questions asked and make great new friends and remember you can't have too many plants.



Photos by Paul Maker

