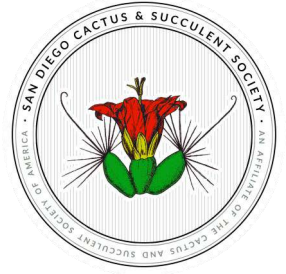


ESPINAS Y FLORES



VOL. 59, No. 12
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NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA



2024 HOLIDAY PARTY // PAPER ART GALLERY // UPCOMING EVENTS //
NOVEMBER FAUX BRAG TABLE RESULTS // ...and more



ON THE COVER

Handmade *Ferocactus* paper sculpture

Photo by **Olga Batalov**

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UPCOMING SDCSS SCHEDULE

OUR UPCOMING EVENT: HOLIDAY PARTY
December 14th

OUR NEXT UPCOMING MEETING
January 11th

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Pam Badger
Vice President	Chris Miller
Secretary	Olga Batalov
Treasurer	Ken Brown

DIRECTORS

Pat Bryan, Luis Gonzalez, Jen Greene, Kelly Griffin, Dean Karras, Georgia Kenney, and Jared Petker

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

Conservation	Herb Stern
Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Pam Badger
Summer/Winter Show	[open]
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	Luis Gonzalez
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	[open]
Monthly Plant Sales	Chris Miller
Benefit Drawing Table	Chuck Ramey
Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner

New Member Orientation	Patricia Bryan & Jay Crowley
Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzels-Smith
Picnic Regalement	[open]
Coffee in the Garden Coordinator	Pam Badger

LIAISONS

Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Foundation	Lynn Elliot
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

MEMBERSHIP, BUSINESS, & PUBLICITY

Membership	Olga Batalov
Business Manager	Donna Roden
Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	Jared Petker
Publicity	Christie Lathrop

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hard to believe this will be my last President's Message! It has been an eventful, exciting, fun, and rewarding 4 years for me, and I have enjoyed seeing changes in my favorite organization—SDCSS.

I took over in the depth of the pandemic after Mary and Jim Reiser were compelled by family issues to move out of San Diego. They finished out their term as Co-Presidents with Zoom meetings before I took over in January 2021. Though the world was still pretty much on lockdown, I wanted to be sure SDCSS stayed a strong and viable society. Thanks to a wonderful Board of Directors, we continued monthly meetings on Zoom and hosted a few "Nursery Crawls" so people could get out, see gardens, and buy plants in a safe manner. Getting back to live meetings was so exciting—though masked and distancing, reconnecting with friends and meeting new members was wonderful. I feel good about how the Society came back strong and has continued to grow. Thanks to all who have made this possible! I especially want to thank **Chris Miller** and **Donna Roden** who have been such a support. When I was diagnosed with cancer in July of 2021, they were there supporting me in the running of meetings and taking over when I had little energy. As I step down I leave the organization in good hands, knowing that Kelly and the new Board are well prepared to lead the club into the future. Best wishes to them all.

I hope all who attended the November meeting had as much fun as I did! The

return of the **Faux Plant Brag Table** was a kick as usual—not as many entrants as in the past, but I hope that new members were inspired by the creative and whimsical spirit of the event and got some ideas for next year! Thanks to all who did participate—what a creative group. As many of you know from my numerous pitches, volunteerism is very important to me, and I was pleased to have **Ralph Moran** step up and do his first Plant of the Month talk! He shared a very special and amazing plant—an ancient *Euphorbia flanaganii* that had belonged to his grandmother—I love plants with a history. Thanks, Ralph! I hope some others will be motivated to participate in this way—it is FUN!

Our main speaker, **Irwin Lightstone** of the CSSA, gave a fascinating talk about plant photography and what can be done with digital processes to make spectacularly detailed pictures—long way from the old Kodachrome days.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Party on December 14—it is a lively, exciting event filled with good food and drink, luscious desserts, and plant, *plants*, **plants**. All members will also receive the beautiful new 2024 SDCSS pin. Make your reservations TODAY!

See you on the 14th!

Pam Badger
November 19, 2024



UPCOMING EVENT: HOLIDAY PARTY!

GET READY FOR OUR ANNUAL DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY—THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR!

- 10:30-11:30:** Check-in socializing, talking plants, checking out the gift plants, gift exchange plants, and auction items.
- 11:30:** Awards ceremony.
- 12:00:** Catered lunch served (vegetarian options available), pot-luck desserts, and gift exchange.
- 1:00:** Numbers will be called for gift plants.
- 2:00:** Silent auction.

MORE DETAILS

Pot-luck desserts: You are invited to bring your favorite dessert to share! Please bring a serving utensil if needed, with your name on it.

Gift Plants: SDCSS provides a free plant to all members. You will be given a ticket when you check in—save it for the drawing!

Gift Exchange (optional): You are invited to bring a plant to participate in the exchange, just put your name on the plant. **How it works:** a panel of judges will select the “Best Plant”, and the owner of that plant then gets first pick of all remaining plants. The owner of the plant they select then picks, and this continues until all plants are gone. Bring only one plant per person! As you might realize, the better the plant you bring, the sooner you get to pick! The “Best Plant” will be included in the Live Auction.

Silent auction: There will be a variety of items donated, along with some amazing centerpieces, which will be auctioned off during the party. Items will have cards to enter your bids. The highest bid at the close of the auction buys the item. If you want to donate an interesting cactus-related item you think someone would like, please bring it along.

Live auction: We will have a wonderful selection of bare-root cactus and other donated plants and items for a Live Auction, just get a numbered plate to participate. This is always lots of fun and the proceeds will be contributed towards the conservation of endangered cacti and succulents.

Tickets are available for purchase [on our website](https://www.sdcss.org).
We need volunteers as well! Join the fun, here:
<https://volunteersignup.org/WBP8W>



2024 CLUB PINS!

Want to show off your love for the SDCSS? Now you can! Through our collectible club enamel pins, with a brand-new design offered every year!

Our newest pin to commemorate 2024 will be gifted, first-come-first-served, to holiday party goers... another great reason to pick up your ticket now for the December festivities!

2024: *Huernia zebrina*

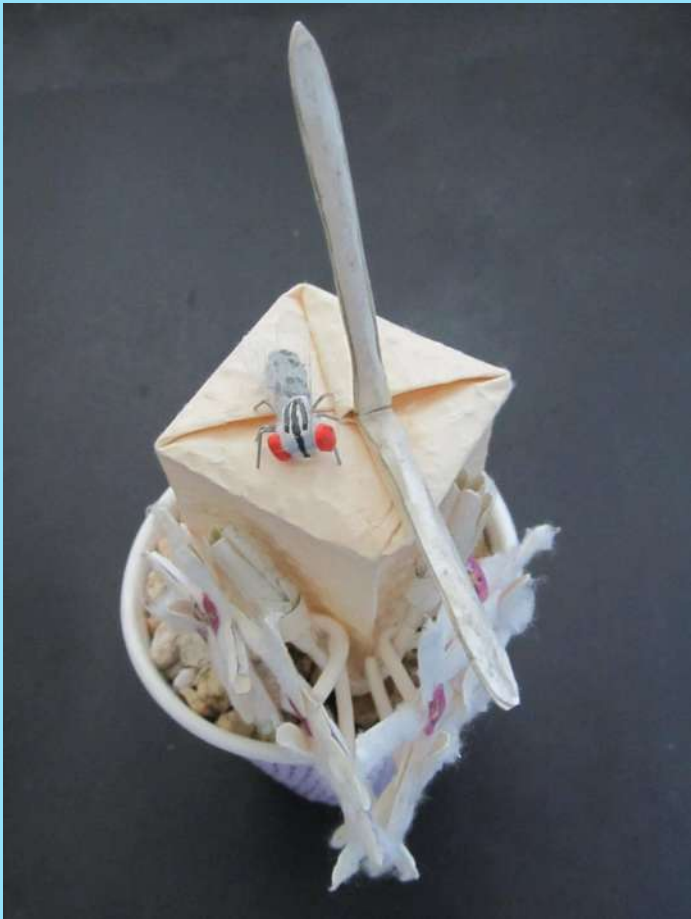
HOLIDAY PARTY: PAPER SUCCULENT ART GALLERY

Please enjoy this gallery of stunning, highly-detailed cactus and paper sculptures by the terrifically talented **Olga Batalov**. This art will be featured as table centerpieces at the **2024 Holiday Party**.

Can't wait to acquire one of your own? You'll have your chance at the Holiday Party auction!



HOLIDAY PARTY: PAPER SUCCULENT ART GALLERY



UPCOMING EVENT

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

WINTER SHOW & SALE: FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025

BALBOA PARK, CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 101 & PATIO

The show is **FREE** and open to the public!

SHOW HOURS

Bring in Plants: Friday 2pm - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 9am
Show open for viewing: Saturday 10am-3pm

SALE HOURS

Members only: Saturday 9am - 11am (please bring proof of membership)
General public: Saturday 11am - 3pm



The 2025 CSSA Convention draws ever nearer!

The SDCSS will be hosting the Biannual CSSA International Convention of Succulent Plant enthusiasts in the Spring of 2025. This is a fun and exciting event, and we will definitely need volunteers to help out in many areas. We will be holding CSSA organizational meetings every monthly meeting at noon before the general meeting (the next one will be in January 2025). If you have special skills and/or experience related to event organizing, or if you just want to find out more about ways to help out, please join us at the next meeting for more information!

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE



MONANTHES POLYPHYLLA

JODI VISKOSKY

**SDCSS members pushed into the realm of the fantastical
for the November Meeting's Faux Brag Table!**

What a stunning display of creativity! Thanks to everyone who shared their gorgeous art, and to judges **Pam Badger** and **Chris Miller** for presenting this very special brag table.

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



CEREUS DUCTIFOLIA // BEST USE OF DUCT TAPE // PAM BADGER

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



PSEUDO(SCLERO) CACTUS PAPYRACANTHUS // **BEST USE OF SCIENTIFIC NAME** // OLGA BATALOV



PSEUDO-PSEUDOLITHOS CUBIFORMIS // **MOST REALISTIC** // OLGA BATALOV

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



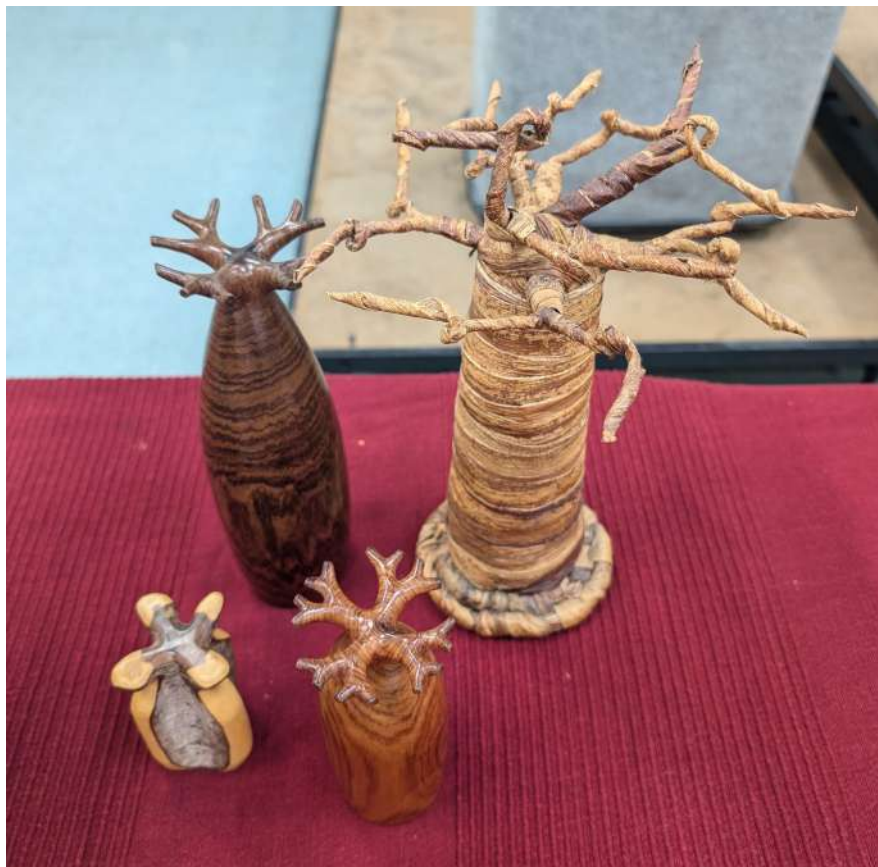
EUPHORDUSTER SPIRALIS X CHENILLEII CV. 'BUNDABERG GINGER' WITH INFLORESCENCE (BRACTS, FLOWERS AND EXPLODING SEED PODS)

BEST POLLINATED // PAT BRYAN

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



LEGO SUCCULENTUM // **BEST PUT TOGETHER** // LUIS GONZALEZ



ADANSONIA GRANDIDIERI "ALLEY OF THE BAOBABS" // **BEST USE OF TRAVEL** // LUIS GONZALEZ

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



"NO WATERING NECESSARY"



BEST USE OF MIXED MEDIA

LAURA HERNANDEZ

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



CROCHET CACTUS *CEREUS CUDDLYENSIS VARIEGATA* // **BEST USE OF FLOWERS** // LIEN LIEU



CROCHET CACTUS *MYRTILLOCACTUS SP.* // **MOST TWISTED AND CUDDLY** // LIEN LIEU

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



OPUNTIA CUTIE PIE-ENSES // **MOST STRIPEY** // BRITA MILLER

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



CEREUS DUCTIFOLIA

BEST AIR FLOW // MIRIAM A. PARENT



CEREUS DUCTIFOLIA

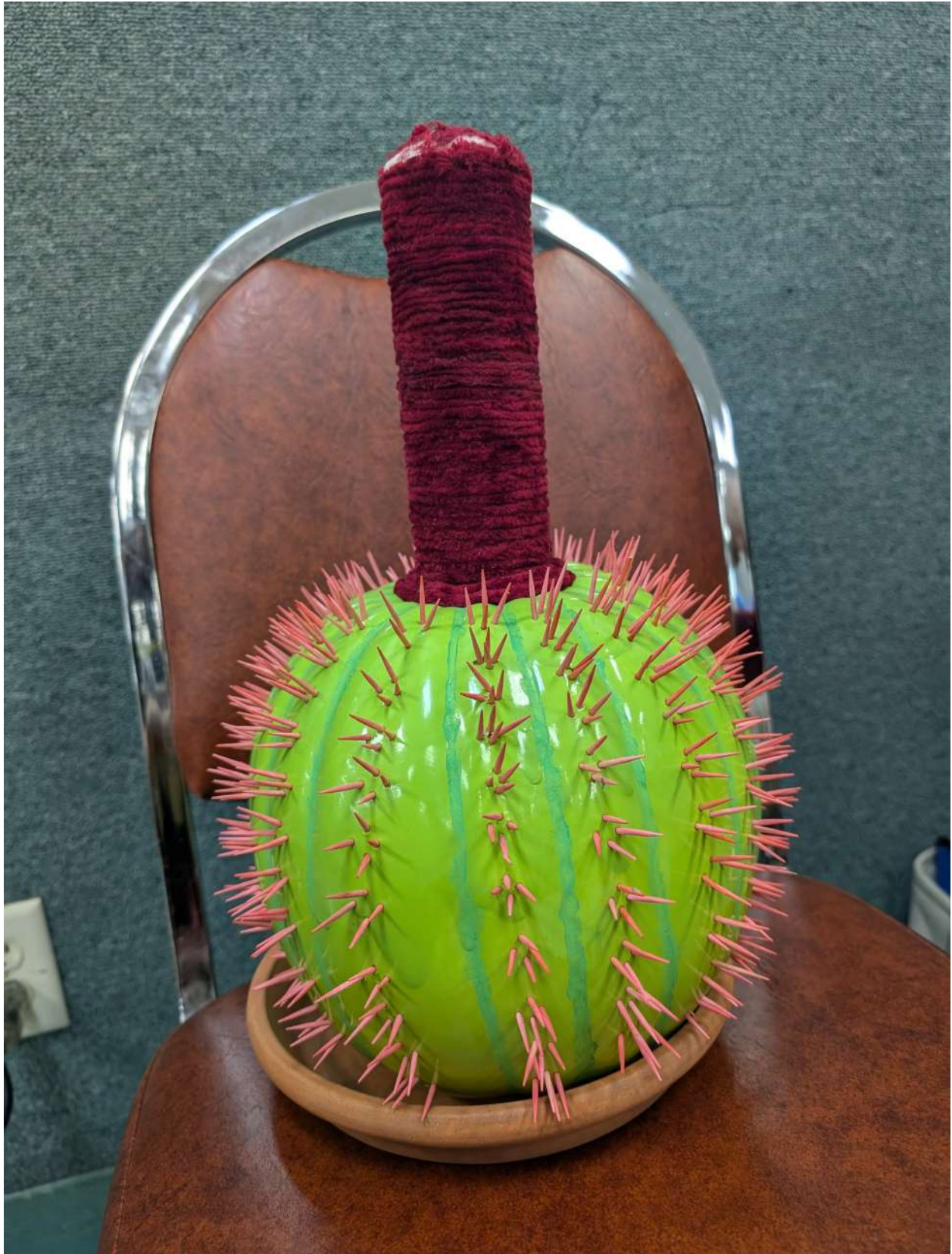
MOST CONFUSING NAME // MIRIAM A. PARENT



PARODIA MAGNIFICA

// **BEST MINATURE** // MIRIAM A. PARENT

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



MELOCACTUS CHENILLEIS NEONAS // **BEST USE OF A BEDSPREAD AND TOOTHPICKS** // CHUCK RAMEY

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



"PEEK-A-BOO CACTUS" // MOST SURPRISING // ANNE SAWYERS

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



'NEEDLE PUNCH WALL HANGING ONE FLOWER AT A TIME' // **MOST CUDDLEYIST** // MONI WAIBLINGER

BRAG TABLE // FAUX PLANT CREATIONS



“MERRY CHRISTMAS” // **MOST SEASONAL** // DONNA WHITAKER