

Mammillaria thornberi

Espinas y Flores

The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Volume 48 Number 3

March 2013



Happenings This Month

Regular Meeting

Saturday March 9, 2013

Balboa Park Room 101 1pm to 4pm

Agenda:

Workshop at 11:30

Spring Pruning by Peter Walkowiak

Plant of the Month

What's a Xeriscape? by Rich Ryan

Program

The Great American Southwest

By Woody Minnich

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sit down to reflect on the great Winter Show and Sale we just concluded, I recall just two days ago looking out into the garden and seeing it covered in white. Yes we did get a rather heavy cloud burst of hail and it confirms that yes it certainly is winter even in Carlsbad! Great time it was for our Winter Show!

Our show went so well because so many of you participated and contributed your skill, effort and talents. What a crew we had with set up guru and Show Chair **Peter Walkowiak** pulling it all together and bringing so many wonderful big beautiful plants. It was fun to be greeted by our greeters **Candy Garner, Kathy Harris, Jennifer Harris** and **Wendy Goldman** even if they were left out in the cold hallway they still had their smiles on!

I was amazed at the number of people we had lined up to buy but we had a well equipped sales team manning the cash registers. Thanks go to **Joe Kraatz, Jim DeForrest, Brita Miller, Jessica McGee, Linda Stewart, Beth Dargan, Michele Heckathorn, Lee Badger, Pat Bryan, Suzy Perkins, Sara Schell, Shelby Katz, Peggy Katz** and **Cathy Clark** for taking care of so many customers... Myself included....How could I resist?

Thank you **Craig La Caille, Ed Worth, Chris Dawson, Steve Harris, Ron Chism,** and **Brian Shepherd** for standing guard for the security needs and crowd control. Everyone that sells or brought plants to show really appreciates the diligence and the watchful eyes you had on things.

I want to thank **Susan Hopkins** for coordinating the volunteers and among other things helping with the inner court yard greeting station and holding area. Also thank you **Susan Lewitt** for taking on the holding area responsibility as well.

In the Kitchen there were many people taking care of us and I wish to thank **Kaja Marcon, Chris McNeill** and **Kayo Beach**. Once again **Pam Badger**.....gotta love that veggie chili ... without you I would not have had a lunch! Yummy!

Helpful question answerers and extra watchful eyes were everywhere. Thank you **Bill** and **Jean O'Daniel** for the smiles and help you provided. **Rick Plant, Sharon Worth** and **Leon Lafreniere** for the sale security.

Alison Baldwin, Rick Bjorkland, Michelle Pickett, Jennifer Harris, Denise Griffin, Annie Morgan, Barbara Hamm, Jerry Garner, Inacia Matheus, Christine Vargas, Tom DeMerritt, and even **Ken Blackford**.....did not think I would see him there! Thanks so much to all of you.

It is true that so many people contributed here and I am certain I will have forgotten to mention someone. Please know that that is my oversight and not that what you did wasn't appreciated. Also, please let me know if you did not get a volunteer script. It is only a token of our appreciation for what you all did.

I want to especially thank **George Plaisted** for always being there and knowing what needs to be done and where to find what we need.

Finally, the Sales Chair, **Chris Miller** what a pillar you are. I feel that you are the brains and organizational wiz of the operation and we are so so lucky to have you in our midst.

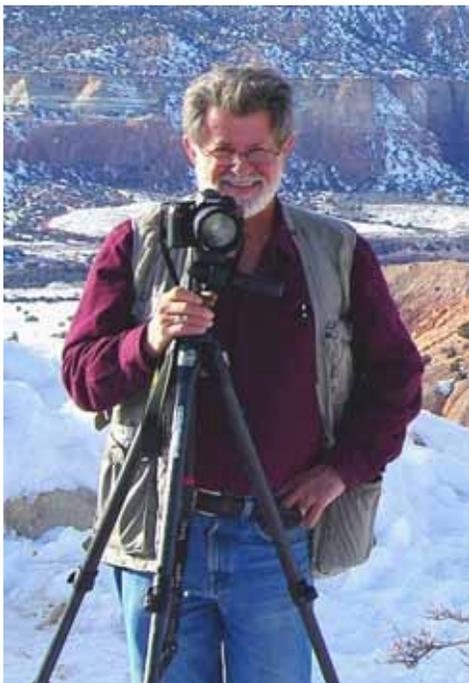
It was a great show and the few minor glitches are small enough not to mention so I will not!

I look forward to the next meeting and the program by **Mr Minnich**. His programs are always a photo filled adventure and I am sure this will be no exception!

Now is a great time to plant seed so think about trying something new and keep it growing.....see you in March!
Kelly G

The Great American Southwest

Woody Minnich



Nowhere in the world is there a more dynamic and picturesque region than that of the American southwest. This romantic and historical part of the USA is marked with drama from its indigenous peoples and landscapes, to its grandest plants and creatures. For the purpose of this title we are including the seven most cactus and succulent rich states; Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah.

In these seven states there is a wealth of endemic plants and animals. Along with these plants and animals, one will often encounter some amazing and beautiful scenery. Due to the fact that many of our cacti and succulents are found in these unique environments, their special characteristics are frequently developed for adaptation and survival in these harsh places. The geology in this general region is very often tortured and dramatic, and thus the plants, animals and scenery are frequently nothing short of breath taking!

Each state will be addressed with the cacti and succulents that are primarily found in that state. A fair number of the taxa inhabit more than one state, but many species are often found in a geographically small area located only within a single state. These genera include some of the rarest and most difficult to cultivate cacti and succulents to be found in the trade today. Their environments range from extreme cold regions with blazing sun, to high elevations with meters of snow, and from very arid low deserts with furnace like temperatures to Mediterranean-like coastal niches.

We will not show all the recorded species of each genus but will focus on the most unique and classic representatives of the Cactaceae and the many other succulent genera. These genera will include; *Agave*, *Ancistrocactus*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Carnegiea*, *Coryphantha*, *Dasyliirion*, *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Echinocereus*, *Echinomastus*, *Epithelantha*, *Escobaria*, *Ferocactus*, *Graptopetalum*, *Lophocereus*, *Lophophora*, *Mammillaria*, *Neobesseya*, *Neolloydia*, *Nolina*, *Opuntia*, *Pediocactus*, *Sclerocactus*, *Stenocereus*, *Thelocactus*, and *Yucca*. We will also take a look at some of the old plant names and their places, and stories in history.

Adding to the mystique of the Great American Southwest is a wealth of information, from the places where these plants were found to the people who found them. Names like *Coloradoa*, *Navajoa*, *Toumeyia*, and *Utahia* are just a few of the romantic and descriptive epithets used for some of these prized genera. There are many famous explorers and botanists who spent their entire lives to find these unique plants. These people include such prominent names as; Britton, Rose, Engelmann, Benson, Earle, Gentry and Weniger, just to mention a few.

This presentation, The Great American Southwest, is an epic story and view of this magic land. Many people from all over the world have been attracted this special region, and for me, I will be sharing over 40 years of my field work in this most incredible part of our country.

Woody is known for his extensive field work studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen. From these trips he has developed an extensive knowledge of the cactus family as well as many of the other succulent genera.

Woody is also known for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken for plant conventions - organizations all over the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Mexico.



What's a Xeriscape?

by Rich Ryan

For over a year leading up to March of 2009 we removed a green lawn on the west side of our house in El Centro. Today it is an attractive, low water xeriscape of desert plants and trees. The major work was done during the spring of 2009 when all grass was finally removed from the 39 x 23 foot area, borders and path were shaped, and "desert" gravel spread over the space.

Unlike San Diego, El Centro and Imperial Valley are under the illusion that their water is unlimited so green

lawns are *de riguer*. The reasons we decided to install desert landscaping are our love of the desert and a desire to reduce water usage. Our models were the numerous city desert landscapes we had seen in our travels to Tucson and Phoenix. I even brought back a pocketful of red gravel from nearby the Heard Museum in Phoenix to make sure we had the correct topping.

To be honest, I believe the grass removal, the initial and most difficult step, took us over two years during several starts and stops. Our friend, Carl Bell, U.C. Agricultural Extension, San Diego, had recommended a solarization technique which involves: 1. roto tilling the grass lawn, 2. leveling the dirt bed, 3. soaking it several times, while, 4. covering it with thin, transparent plastic, and 5. enclosing the ends. The principle is to literally bake the soil and kill all grass roots down to 2 feet. Wind was our enemy turning the plastic sheeting into flapping sails. When friends suggest converting another part of our grass lawns into a desert scape, I ask them to volunteer to remove the grass, and I'll gladly plant cactus. I have no takers.

My wife, Estela, and I did not do this alone. We hired a contractor to do rototilling and leveling, and in 2009 another to lay wooden forms enclosing the xeriscape and shaping a winding pathway. The next and critical step was to lay weed control fabric, "guaranteed for 20 years." After it was installed, it was realized that the black side was not up. Turns out it doesn't matter. The weed cloth really works. Then the crushed gravel was delivered and dumped: 6 yards of red gravel and 1 yard of decomposed granite, common DG, that's often seen on garden pathways. All of this had to be spread and leveled. At some point digging out grass, and leveling dirt, and very tired, I must have dropped my cell phone, but we called and never heard it ring. If a cactus answers hang up.

Then the fun began: planting. The entire layering process of gravel, weed cloth and dirt is cut open. The earth is dug out to the necessary depth, the plant inserted, and the previous steps are reversed. Sometimes cutting strips of weed cloth to surround the new plant is useful before replacing the gravel topping to insure a tight anti-weed lock. I do not add any soil amendment to the clay soil. The plant must be able to exist in the native soil.

The garden started with the existing *Cereus Peruvianus* and Texas sage that were up against the west side of the house along which is a drip irrigation line. Both are blooming, the *Peruvianus* in mid-May producing large white flowers. A Feathery *Senna* was planted next to the Texas sage, and the yellow flowers complement the tiny purple flowers of the sage. A dominant feature of the garden is a Chilean mesquite that offers protective shade during our harsh summer months when 112 degrees is not uncommon. Under the mesquite are planted a clutch of smaller *Agaves* and *Espositoa*. A large blue *Agave* is planted in full sun along with recent acquisitions (SDC&SS December auction): a *Denmoza rhodacantha* with reddish brown spines, a well named artichoke *Agave* (*Agave parryi* var. *truncate*), and a toothpick cactus (*Stetsonia coryne*) that may one day outgrow its place in the garden. Rocks from numerous desert hikes along with some larger, purchased "Arizona" rocks accent the plants.

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What's a Xeriscape? continued

One of my favorites is a double trunk *Palo Verde* that blooms bright yellow flowers in the spring. It has numerous, feathery branches and adds a different, dancer-like shape to the garden. Through trial and error I have come to rely on plants native to Baja California: *Opuntias*, *Agaves*, and golden barrels. Various *Ferocactus* and *Mammillaria* round out the garden. It is a "work" in progress. I don't paint; I plant. Happy gardening.



Librarian's Report

Don Hunt

I have to admit it, I'm no traveler. I really am interested, but want someone else to do all the hard work. I enjoy the programs and slide shows that are presented at our club meetings and even read up on the topics. One of the primary areas of interest for us is South Africa. It's such a unique place, being bordered by 2 major oceans, a super dry deserts and mountains. The area has a lot in common with Southern California, being at the same latitude number (south instead of north). It requires some knowledge of where the plants we keep come from in Southern Africa, since they have such a range of conditions in close proximity. There can be winter rain areas, summer rain areas, very dry conditions, very wet conditions, even snow. No wonder we got 3 new books on South Africa. First is a very good general look called Succulent Flora of Southern Africa by Doreen Court.. It's a quick look at a lot of plants. It will give a general idea of the kinds of plants that grow in the specialized environments. If you're not familiar with the region, I'd recommend this book as it will help you know how to select and care for many of the plants we like to grow.

It's interesting to me how mankind manages to gradually turn his attention from self preservation to noticing the world around him. This is evident in the history of plant collecting. When early explorers came to new territory, their initial interest had to be edible and profitable plants. As these needs were satisfied, they were able to collect and send home interesting plants. We acquired a book called The Smallest Kingdom; Plants and Plant Collectors at the Cape Of Good Hope that documents this progress. It's very nicely illustrated with period artwork. It will appeal to that limited group among us that are interested in both plants and general history. Also connected to succulent plants and their history with mankind is Medicinal Plants of South Africa (multiple authors). I've always found it interesting that the chemical composition of plant material would interact in beneficial ways with people. I get a plant doesn't want to be eaten, and so works out a poison, but why would such a huge range of pharmacological properties? Who knew our common pickle weed would treat sore throat?

Our library already had an impressive collection on South Africa, and now we've added 3 more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 22-24: Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale. Fri. 22nd and Sat. 23rd 9am -5pm, Sun. 24th 12-4pm. 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim CA. Info: 562-587-3357

Apr 13 & 14: South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. Info: 310-832-2262

Apr 20 & 21: Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA.

Apr 27: South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, 9am To 4pm, South Coast Botanical Gardens. Info: 310-833-6823

Apr 28: Huntington Plant Sale, 10 to 5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino CA. Info: 626-405-2160

Jun 1-2: SDCSS Annual Summer Show and Sale

CSSA Convention



The Austin Cactus & Succulent Society would like to invite you to Austin, Texas for the 2013 CSSA Convention. It will be held June 15th through 20th at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol. The Sheraton is located in the heart of downtown – within walking distance of many Austin attractions.

All members of the Society are invited to join in the gathering which will feature world renowned authors and experts in the field of Cacti & Succulents. The web site for the Convention is located at <http://cssa2013.com>.

SDCSS 2013 Winter Show

SDCSS had a great Winter Show with 344 total plants entered by 45 members. Those members took home 83 Blue Ribbons, 76 Red Ribbons and 76 Yellow Ribbons. Plus the trophies listed below. We can't have a show without participation so thanks to all of you who took the time to bring in your wonderful plants. For Ribbon Winner's names please see the listing on the website.



Trophy	Winner	Plant
Best in Show	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Mammillaria perezdelarosae</i>
Best Cactus, Advanced	Carol & Paul Maker	<i>Ariocarpus retusus furfuraceus</i>
Best Succulent, Advanced	Matt Maggio	<i>Aloe castilloniae</i>
Best Winter Grower, Advanced	John Mathews	<i>Othonna euphorbioides</i>
Best Cactus, Novice	Tapio Haaparanta	<i>Mammillaria vetula gracilis</i>
Best Succulent, Novice	Tapio Haaparanta	<i>Euphorbia obesa</i>
Best Winter Grower, Novice	Geoff Twitchell	<i>Othonna macrosperma</i>



Photos by Paul Maker





Research/Conservation Grant Program

By Jerry Garner, Grant Chair

Late last November the Officers and Directors of the SDCSS approved the start of a Grant Program that will further enhance our commitment to the preservation and knowledge of cactus and succulents. Funding for support grants, from \$500 to \$1500, will be made available to help assist SDCSS grantees participation in their research, or conservation, of dry land plants and/or habitats. In creating this grant program the Board of the SDCSS is hoping to broaden our mission plan of educating the public about succulent plants and the conservation issues surrounding them. The recipients of the grants will be obligated to share the results of their work to the SDCSS general membership in a timely manner.

The procedure for the grant application is as follows:

The applicant may request a copy of the formal terms of the grant from the secretary of the SDCSS. (We will have formal grant terms available on the SDCSS web site in the near future.)

After agreeing to the grant terms by submitting the application the applicant will submit a formal written grant proposal application to the Secretary of the SDCSS.

The secretary will then submit the application to the Grant Advisory Committee.

The Committee will review the proposal, make its recommendation, and forward the application to the full Board of the SDCSS. The full Board will approve or deny the grant as it sees fit. The applicant will be notified of the decision as soon as practical.

In closing, the Board would like to encourage members with a research or conservation interest to pursue these grants. It is a most important way of advancing our hobby.

The Cactus Explorer by Graham Charles

By Chris Miller

Several times a year I receive an e-mail from Graham Charles announcing his next publication of the Cactus Explorer. This is a 50 to 60 page journal that is free. He will send you a notice too if you e-mail him at Graham Charles graham.charles@btinternet.com. If you don't want to e-mail him, but do want to see the journal it is available at <http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>

From Graham:

Number 7 of the Cactus Explorer and the cumulative index 1-7 are ready to download free from: The file size of No.6 is about 15MByte so please be patient while it downloads.

I hope you enjoy this issue. We welcome articles about hunting for plants, reviews of genera or species, historical literature, and pictures of unusual plants in culture.

Adverts of plants for sale, societies, events, books etc. are all free. Just send the text and a picture to me. We now have thousands of downloads for each issue



We'll Miss You Nibby

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of Nibby Klinefelter. She has been an integral part of SDCSS since the 60's. When I first became a member she was in the front row in colorful clothes and hats and was a bright spot in the meeting. In 2011 she was made a Life Member and honored for her many contributions which included being a newsletter editor.

Future Coffee in the Garden Events

If you are interested in sharing your wonderful garden with other members let me know. The schedule is pretty open for the rest of the year. If you would like to see another member's garden make the suggestion and I can check to see if they were interested. If this is a program you would be interested in managing let me know. Chris Miller— c.miller@cox.net

What's the Status? Baja & Old World Succulent Gardens

By Chris Miller

It's Spring and that means rain and sun and weeds galore! We need to set up some work parties for the gardens that we maintain at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park in Escondido. We have a few volunteers that regularly go up and work to maintain the gardens, but this time of year makes it impossible to be ahead on the work. I'd like to set up some **Saturday and Tuesday work parties** to give the regular volunteers a hand and get the weeds under control before they are taller than the plants. I'm thinking **March 16th and 19th** for a start. I will need names 3 days before each event so that I can get an access list to the Park. We will start around 8 and work for 4 hours at most. You will need to bring gloves, water and whatever tools you use to weed with.

If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis I can get you the information to do that. For those of you that live in apartments or condos and dream of a bigger yard this is your chance. You get to work in a beautiful area full of plants you love and have a great sense of satisfaction at the end of the day to see how much your efforts have improved the area.

E-mail me or stop and see me at the meeting if you are interested.



South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society 41st Annual Show and Sale

- Beautiful displays
- Expert advice
- 1000s of plants for sale

April 13-14, 2013
9 am to 4 pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

Entry free with paid admission to garden: adult \$8; senior/student \$6; child 5-12 \$3; under 5 free.

www.southcoastcss.org

Bev Grant's Trip to Berkeley



UC Berkeley Botanical Garden



Boalt Hall Law Library on USB Campus



Show photos by Paul Maker



Cactus in Winter Show



Can't make money without a great sales team and great customers!

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 Editor. Please e-mail your articles to **Chris Miller** at c.miller@cox.net.



SDCSS Winter Show & Sale February 9th, 2013

It takes a lot to make a successful show and sale. Thank you to the vendors, the volunteers and the customers for making this a great event!!!

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

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San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

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