

Espinas y Flores

July 2018 — Vol. 53, No. 7

Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
An affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

JULY 14 — GENERAL MEETING

Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA

10:00am – Sale – Plants, Pottery, & more!

11:00am – A hole-y history of thrift store pottery – Christine Vargas

12:30pm – Orientation for new and prospective members – Pat Bryan & Jay Crowley

1:00pm – General Meeting – Chris Miller

2:30pm – Program Speaker – Greg Krehel, *Echinopsis*



MEETING SNACKS

If your last name begins with
N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, or Z,
please bring a snack to share at the
General Meeting on Saturday, August 11.



Plant of the Month – Al Klein

Operculicarya decaryi, a “Natural Bonsai”

If someone asked what my favorite plants is, *Operculicarya decaryi* would be at the top of the list! I first discovered this plant about 12 years ago, and it quickly became my favorite plant.

O. decaryi originates from Madagascar. Like most plants from this island, it has many unique and exotic characteristics. This plant is a natural bonsai. It grows a thick-fat trunk quickly, and its roots swell to form unique contorted and twisted designs. Trunk texture can vary from semi-smooth to an extreme bumpy-knobby look. This extreme knobby trunk is sought out by collectors, and is also my favorite look. The leaves are very tiny, which work well for that proportional bonsai look. The leaves can vary from green in part shade to a copper-bronze color in full sun.

This is an easy plant to cultivate, with very few pests or diseases, and can be grown from cuttings or seed. *O. decaryi* is dioecious, which means that plants are either male or female blooming. You must have a male and female plant to produce seed! Flowers are tiny, about one-tenth inch in diameter; the seeds are about a quarter inch and turn dark purple when ripe. I prefer to grow from seed since seed-grown plants produce better looking roots which can be exposed



Operculicarya decaryi
Picture by Al Klein

as your plant grows. Also, by choosing parent plants with certain characteristics, seedlings will carry on those traits, like the extreme bumpy trunks.

O. decaryi prefers part to full sun. I grow my plants with some shade or filtered light for part of the day. Keep watered regularly, since it is a tree. I use a well-draining soil with at least 50% inorganics. Fertilize regularly for good growth and health. Avoid freezing temperatures; however, I have heard of plants living after experiencing temps down to 25°F. During the winter they may go dormant, so water less then.

There are several other species of *Operculicarya* which are worth seeking out for your collection, such as *O. pachypus*.

For additional pictures of *O. decaryi* and *O. pachypus*, see pages 9 & 10.

President's Message — Chris Miller

Wow! What an incredible Show & Sale we had this June. Record sales, and lots of blue ribbons and trophies! The Show was enjoyed by all those who participated and attended, and the Sale ran like clockwork. We had 44 vendors who brought their plants, pots, rocks, and driftwood for us to purchase. We all went home with new treasures. I would like to thank all the vendors who participated in this sale. Without your products, SDCSS could not hold the sales we do. The profit from this sale helps run the organization for the rest of the year. You know your vendors, so thank them the next time you see them.

The sale could not have worked like clockwork if not for our incredible Cashiers Team led by **Jim DeForest**. Thanks to their hard work, the line never went past halfway around the corner – six registers working away thanks to **Paul Maker**'s programming them. Many of our cashiers worked all day with light breaks, and some worked both days. If you remember who your cashier was, please thank them and their scanner partners the next time you see them.

Cashier Team members were **Beth Dargan, Brita Miller, Cathy Clark, Denise Griffin, Diana Tigner, Donna Star, Jessica McGee, Linda Stewart, Lynn Elliot, Melanie Howe, Michelle Heckathorn, Pat Bryan, Sara Clayton, Sue Thomas, Susan and Leon Lafreniere, and Winston and Heather Chan**. **Leslie Sheridan** supported the team both days and did a great job as Treasurer throughout the event. After we all went home, Leslie's job goes on to get the money in the bank, pay our vendors, and get her report ready before the Board Meeting.

Chuck Ramey, Norb Roden, Des Brandford, and the rest of their helpers did a great job at the unpaid holding table inside the sale. They held boxes of treasures for people while they shopped, returned unwanted items to the vendors, and just helped move things along.

Security for both the Show and Sale started on Friday. **Brian Shepherd** was a great team leader for all three days. Security Team members worked part or all of one day, and in some cases all three days. Members were **Alan Wilson, Alison Baldwin, Allen Clark, Annie Morgan, Ed Mallari, Herb Stern, John Williams, Julie Dixon, Luis Uraias, Mary Aparicio, Mary May, Michael Fernandes, Mike Loesch, Pat Bryan, Sherman Blench, and Steve Harris**. If you recognize them without their orange vests, thank them for their service to your club.

Our Greeters out front of the sale were led by the ever curious **Candy Garner**. They processed membership applications, passed out badges, admired shoppers' purchases, and answered questions. They were a wonderful first impression for SDCSS. Her team consisted of **Antonina Lansangan, Kathy and Steve Harris, and Wendy Goldman**.

Mary Reiser headed our Educational Talks this year, and did a great job.

Show Chairs **Bill O'Daniel and Kelly Griffin** did a great job. We had a very successful show.

George Plaisted, Bill and Jean O'Daniel, Mary and Jim Reiser, Don Isreal, and Mary Aparicio set up the tables and prepped the room for us to bring in our show plants. **Susan Hopkins, Mary Aparicio, Mike Loesch**, and others helped Friday afternoon, and **Rick Plant, Jerry Garner**, and others helped **Bill and Tom Knapik** set up the Show on Saturday morning.

Susan Hopkins, as Head Clerk, led her Clerks team in supporting the Judges. **Collette Parr** and **Paul and Carol Maker** tallied the votes. **Tom Knapik** jumped in and arranged the Trophy Table, and **Paul Maker** and **Russel Ray** took pictures of the Trophy Winners for the certificates.

Christine Vargas, our Publicity Chair, did an incredible job getting the word out for our Show, including get her and Kelly on TV the Thursday morning before our event, as well as Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The Sunday Auction to support our new Scholarship Program was successful. **Peter Walkowiak** and **Woody Minnich** were the Auctioneers, with support provided by **Wendy Goldman**.

Paul Maker provided his usual support programming the registers and providing the paperwork.

Our Kitchen Crew was led by **Pam Badger** and **Sandy Wetzel-Smith**. Their helpers — **Kaija Marconn, Robin Leon**, and others — took great care of us. Thanks so much to all of you who brought dishes to share with the rest of us. At days end on Sunday, **Cathy Clark** was straightening out our kitchen, getting things ready for next month, and trying to figure out what to do with the water cases that were left. This after working on the Cashier Team all day both days.

Our box situation was labor intensive both days. **Brita Miller** set things up on Friday, and that supported us the first two hours. Then we scrambled, found some flattened boxes in Room 104, and over Saturday and Sunday I drafted several different people to tape boxes together. So thanks to all of you who said yes and helped us out. Brita was there at the end to haul off what cardboard we had left.

Clean up had some great people helping out. **Bill and Jean O'Daniel, Susan Hopkins, Michael Fernandes, Chuck Ramey, Rick Plant, Don Israel**, and others worked to clean up our mess.

This event could not have happened without all of these wonderful volunteers. I may have missed a name or two, and you have my apologies if that happened; feel free to beat me up about it. It takes volunteers to make the world go round, and you people are the best ever! Those of you who didn't receive your thank-you coupons, find me at the July meeting. I am looking forward to our meeting in July when we all can get together in a more relaxed environment and just enjoy being together and talking about plants. See you then.

If you still have your volunteer, security, or vendor badge, please bring them to the next meeting. We will need them for the February Show & Sale.

Chris Miller

July workshop – Christine Vargas

A Hole-y History of Thrift Store Pottery

Have you ever wished you could purchase a piece of stoneware or ceramic in a thrift store, garage sale, or estate sale to use as a planting pot.....but there were no drainage holes? Now you'll be able to take them home and drill your own!

The fantastic clay art you buy for your show pots can continue, but now the possibilities are endless for a more affordable alternative for the orphan plants you leave at home!

Join Christine Vargas for a short seminar on how to pick out a pot, select and buy drill bits, and drill the holes of your dreams!



Showing your plants

Show rules for the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society state that the plant must have been in your possession for at least six months and that the plant must be identified. It's the identification part that can be problematic for many of us, notwithstanding our love for our cacti & succulents. For example, I have been collecting and growing these plants since 1966; rarely did I know their names, certainly not their botanical names. I have attempted to find out my plants' name by joining various Facebook groups, the best of which, for this purpose, is the [Cacti & Succulents Identification](#) group. With 37,125 members from throughout the world, it doesn't take long for someone to identify my unknown plant. Couple that someone's identification with Google Images, and I can decide whether that someone is right or wrong. If I'm not quite satisfied, I can continue to ask questions, often finding that two different names are simply old names and new names for the same plant.

Another route you can take is simply bringing your plant to a meeting. There are many people who can identify your plant or point you in the right direction. From there you can make use of the SDCSS library and look up your plant. Then it's just a matter of making your plant show-worthy with a great pot and lots of tender loving care between now and show date.



Executive Board

Chris Miller, President
Mary Reiser, Secretary
Kelly Griffin, Vice President
Leslie Sheridan, Treasurer

Directors

Antonina Lansangan, Candy Garner,
Christine Vargas, Jerry Garner, Jim Reiser,
Sue Thomas, Tina Zucker

Committees & Subcommittees

Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants.....	Kelly Griffin
Benefit Drawing Table.....	Collette Parr, Kienan Parr & Terry Parr
Brag table	Tina Zucker, Denise Griffin
Conservation	Herb Stern
Grants	Jerry Garner
Exchange Plants & Seeds.....	Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell
Historian.....	Russel Ray
Library.....	Don Hunt
Monthly Plant Sales	Jim Deforest, Lynn Elliott
Monthly Regalement.....	Cathy Clark
Monthly Supply Sales.....	George Plaisted & Jerry Plaisted
Nominations	Open
Orientation for new/prospective members.....	Pat Bryan & Jay Crowley
Picnic Regalement.....	Open
Plants of the Month	Don Hunt
Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins, Judy Walkowiak
Show Auction Manager.....	Peter Walkowiak
Summer/Winter Show.....	Kelly Griffin, Bill O'Daniel
Workshop Coordinator.....	Pat Putis

Liaisons

Baja & Old World Gardens, Safari Park	May Fong Ho
Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep.....	Rick Bjorkland
Palomar C&S Society Liaison	Brita Miller
SD Botanic Garden	Phyllis Flechsig
SD Botanic Foundation.....	George Plaisted
SD Floral Association	Jeanette Dutton

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Publicity.....	Christine Vargas
Webmaster.....	Kirsten Higgins

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Meet a Member – Denise Huntsman-Griffin

Susan Hopkins, Retired Senior Chief Petty Officer and dedicated volunteer

Susan Hopkins is a long-time member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society and one of our society's helpful and friendly volunteers. Susan has had a life of service, hard work, and adventure. Her military career has taken her to Washington D.C., New York, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, California, Hawaii, and Atsugi, Japan. By the time she retired from the Navy, she had made it to Senior Chief Petty Officer, which is the eighth out of the nine enlisted ranks. Advancement to this level requires a certain amount of time in service, superior evaluation scores, and peer review, and needs to be approved by a selection board. It is the first promotion based entirely on proven leadership performance. Those who make it to this level only make up 2½% of the total enlisted force (which is in the top 4% of the enlisted ranks). Great work, Susan!

Susan's 22-year career in the Navy began in 1964. She attended Photography School in Pensacola, Florida, first Class A and later Class B (advanced). Her first duty assignment was the Naval Reconnaissance and Technical Support Center in Washington, D.C., where all of the work was classified. She was granted secret clearance, and her job was to process intelligence photography and analyze the information it provided. She once processed film from the camera system in the U2 spy plane, the aircraft that took pictures of Russian missile sites in Cuba! Her next assignment was Naval Air Station Lemoore, California (in the Central Valley), which was a training base for pilots going to Vietnam. There she took and processed portrait photos as well as photos of ceremonies, memorial services, crimes scenes, and sometimes even accidents when the pilots crashed the planes during practice. In 1970, she went to instructor training school for four weeks in Norfolk, Virginia, and from there to Recruit Training Command at Bainbridge, Maryland. There she was the company commander for four recruit companies where they trained recruits on naval history, how to march, how to wear the uniform, how to salute, and Navy etiquette. Next, she returned to Pensacola for Motion Picture School where she learned to be a camera operator, where she learned to set lighting, do scenes, and do television productions. Her next duty station was VFP-63 (a photo squadron) at Naval Air Station Miramar in San Diego, where she worked at the Photo Lab in the portrait studio. Following that, she was

sent to Quality Control School for a temporary duty assignment of ten weeks at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Afterwards, she returned to Miramar and ran the Quality Control Lab where they monitored the chemistry every day at the Photo Lab. In 1977, she was assigned to the Naval Air Station facility in Atsugi, Japan, which is a joint U.S. and Japanese base. She filled in for three months as an officer-in-charge of the Photo Lab there when the officer retired. Next assignment was Fleet Composite Squadron 1 at Naval Air Station, Barber's Point, Hawaii, where she ran the Photo Lab. In 1982, she was ordered to the Pacific Fleet Audio Visual Command at NAS Miramar. It was there that she retired from the Navy in 1986.

While in Washington, D.C., Susan spent time at the Smithsonian museums and Arlington National Cemetery, visited memorials, and went to the Washington Senators baseball games. While stationed in California, she visited San Francisco, Petaluma (the town that survived the deadly 1906 San Francisco earthquake), Bodega Bay (where Alfred Hitchcock's movie "The Birds" was filmed), San Simeon

(where the hilltop mansion called Hearst Castle is located), Pismo Beach (which is located on the Central Coast and is known for its wineries and many beaches), and the Sequoia National Forest (in the southern Sierra Nevada mountains). While in Bainbridge, Maryland, she attended the 1971 World Series. In Orlando, Florida, she watched a night launch at Cape Canaveral and was one of the very first visitors to Disney World when it opened! While in Japan, she explored The Ginza (the main shopping district in Tokyo), visited medieval castles, rode the Shinkansen (Bullet Train) to Hiroshima, and climbed Mount Fuji! She also visited Hong Kong for four days. While in Hawaii, she visited the Island of Kauai and Father Damien's Leper Colony on the island of Molokai.

After retirement from the Navy, Susan worked for two years at the Aerial Photo Bank in San Diego and attended Mesa Community College, earning an AA degree in Selected Studies and a certificate in Landscape Technology. She worked at a lawn maintenance company for five years. After this, she worked for longtime SDCCS members Michael and Joyce Buckner for ten years at The Plant Man shop in Old Town, a specialty shop which sold succulent plants.



Susan has family throughout the country, a nephew in Poway, and a good group of friends, some being ex-military. She and her friends socialize, have pool parties, and play games like Mexican Train, an interesting domino game. She likes to read and do crossword puzzles, as well. She has a small collection of cacti, among which are her favorites, Mammillarias, Rebutias, and Oreocereus. She has Agaves and Aloes and other succulents and is working on putting in an Agave bed in her front yard.

A long-time and dedicated club member, Susan joined SDCSS in 1992 after attending her first meeting. For SDCSS, she is a Greeter at our monthly meetings, signing in members and guests, and handing out information. She is the Volunteer Coordinator, signing up volunteers for our show and sales, and other events, and is the Chief Judge's Clerk for the shows. She has helped set up our society's displays at the Del Mar Fair, as well. She's also been volunteering for OffShoot Tours in Balboa Park since 1991. They give free walking tours that include a Palm Walk, a Tree Walk, and a Desert Walk. And, interestingly, Susan has recently started volunteering for the San Diego Police Department doing Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP). We are very fortunate to have this worldly person and experienced volunteer in our club!



Chris Miller on a tour of New Mexico nurseries with other SDCSS members requesting that there be no entries in the diary.

Volunteer Appreciation 2018 is here

Volunteers are the backbone of our club. Through your hard work at the meetings, workshops, community outreach, and show and sales, you make our club an outstanding organization in San Diego.

The July meeting is a special day for us. SDCSS gets the honor to thank each of you for your hard work and generous contributions that makes our club a success. We could not do it without you.

Please join us for lunch and cake from 11:30-1:00, followed by a gift for all volunteers, and raffle prizes.

Do not miss it!!! We look forward to celebrating with you.

Balboa Park's Adopt-A-Plot program – Russel Ray

Every month when I get the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting, I find this:

Key Concepts	
Vision	To become the most respected and recognized Cactus and Succulent Society
Mission	To promote knowledge, study and interest in cacti and succulent plants through educational programs, public exhibits, a public garden, and sharing of this common interest.
Purpose of Meeting	To conduct the business of the SDCSS

While I was walking around Balboa Park taking pictures, I stumbled upon several small plots in Balboa Park that had Adopt-A-Plot signs in them, like the one at right. It was still



a couple of weeks before a Board or General Meeting, so I contacted Balboa Park to find out where the SDCSS Adopt-A-Plot was located since I wanted to visit it. SDCSS does not participate in the Adopt-A-Plot program.

Tom Basso, an SDCSS member, and I met with representatives of Balboa Park and Friends of Balboa Park to find a plot that SDCSS might be willing to adopt. I asked the representatives to show Tom and me the biggest plot that needed adopting. They showed us the "1935 (Old) Cactus Garden" behind the Balboa Park Club. The garden has been seriously neglected since the Great Recession when both staff and budget were cut at Balboa Park. It would be a significant undertaking, one that could not be accomplished overnight, and probably not even in one or two years. I believe it is exactly the type of project the SDCSS could handle and one which definitely would be in line with our Vision and Mission stated above.

I have heard two contrary points of view. One is that SDCSS already is doing a big project at the Old World Garden in Safari Park. That's true, but Safari Park's mission is vastly different from Balboa Park's mission, SDCSS meets each month in Balboa Park, and the weather for us older people is vastly different between the two Parks. Second is that SDCSS is *volunteer poor* even with 700 members. Granted probably 10% of those 700 are people and organizations that don't participate in physical activities, but perhaps SDCSS is *volunteer poor* because it doesn't have enough activities, or varied activities, or activities in varied locations. It is hard for me to believe that an organization that can put on something like the 2018 Summer Show & Sale is *volunteer poor*. I sincerely believe we need more activities and more varied activities in more varied locations. To that end, I proposed to the Board of Directors at the June 13 meeting that SDCSS adopt the 1935 (Old) Cactus Garden, and I created a video presentation. The Board voted to let the membership decide, so this matter probably will be brought up at the July general meeting. Here's the video presentation: <https://youtu.be/3GCK1XmgwoM>

I will be at the meeting to answer any questions.

Island investigations: Research into the evolution and ecology of rare and endangered cacti of Baja California – Peter Breslin

The research I have been conducting for the past four years of the PhD program in Environmental Life Sciences at Arizona State, supported in part by the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society research grant program, has focused almost entirely on the genus *Mammillaria* in Baja California and adjacent regions. I have zeroed in on a particular interest in the ecology and evolution of a group of plants sometimes separated into the genus *Cochemiea*, and the island endemism of the Bahía Magdalena region. Three years ago, I wrote an article for this newsletter sharing with the SDCSS some of the goals for my future research, in which I outlined:

“A significant goal of my research is to develop a clearer phylogenetic picture of the relationship of Cochemiea to Mammillaria. Another goal is to better understand the radiation of the Cochemiea group across the peninsula, in particular by developing microsatellites for the group and conducting large-sample population genetic studies across the range of the group, comparing the most cosmopolitan taxon, Cochemiea poselgeri, to the relatively restricted isolates of the rest of the group.”

It's been a very busy three years, and, thanks in part to the research grant program of the SDCSS as well as the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, I have been able to log a total of nearly four months in the field gathering data. In collaboration with Dr. Lucas Majure at the Desert Botanical Garden, I've gotten whole genome sequence data for all known species of *Mammillaria* in Baja California and adjacent regions of Sinaloa, Sonora, Arizona, and California. We are currently developing detailed maps of their evolutionary relationships. I've recorded climate data and other environmental variables for a habitat suitability study of *Cochemiea halei*, the highly restricted endemic cactus of Bahía Magdalena. I've collected several dozen population samples of that same taxon to investigate the effect of the highly fragmented island landscape on gene flow. I've been able to get repeated measures of populations of *C. halei*, as they develop over time, in order to better understand the extinction risk and the effect of microclimates created by landscape features. Each of these projects will result in an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The larger goals of this research are twofold. First, I want to contribute to the explosion of highly detailed new data on the evolutionary relationships and biogeography in the family *Cactaceae*. New gene sequencing and data analysis methods have made possible a much higher degree of insight into these questions. Connected with this insight, a larger picture of the evolution, dispersal, and adaptations of the cactus family is beginning to emerge. Secondly, I want to make clear what the most effective methods and analysis are for understanding the complex ecology of the *Cactaceae*. A 2015 study found that the cactus family is the fifth most endangered group of plant or animal families on Earth. A great many of the endangered species of cacti, roughly 80%, occur as highly restricted endemics in fragmented habitats, so I am hoping my specific research into the dynamics of *Cochemiea halei* can be useful for botanists studying many other endangered cacti. A combination of efficiency, low cost, and strong understanding of habitat ecology will be the best way forward to conserve our favorite plants.

The work in Baja California has been challenging. The main island where I have been gathering data, Isla Magdalena, is without services and is almost completely wild. There is a small fishing village there, but otherwise there is no human footprint. When I go to the island to do field work, I bring all of my water, food, camping supplies, and necessities. Most field seasons have involved many nights at three widely separated locales: Cabo San Lazaro, Puerto Magdalena, and Punta Arena. These locales have provided significant



Cochemiea halei growing in pure serpentine rock on a high ridge on Isla Magdalena.



The desolate southeastern end of Isla Magdalena called Punta Arena.



Flower detail of *Cochemiea halei*, adapted for hummingbird pollination.



Cabo San Lazaro, at the far northwestern end of Isla Magdalena.

sample coverage over the complex island. New discoveries have included a possible new *Mammillaria* species or subspecies, a possible new taxon in the genus *Ferocactus*, greatly expanded ranges for many of the endemic cacti, quantification of the impact very small-scale environmental effects on the vegetative assembly, and a clearer understanding of the relationship of the island taxa to their peninsular relatives.

None of these advances in understanding would have been possible without the generous support of the SDCSS. The research grant program is essential for many reasons, not least of which is the general difficulty in obtaining funding for botanical field work. As I head toward defending my dissertation, probably in 12-18 months, I've appreciated the continued support that has also made possible a deeper analysis of data generated in the lab. I look forward to presenting some of my conclusions to the club in the future.

Dear Succulent Society,

I wanted to provide some of the images we took from the amazingly popular succulent show earlier this month at Balboa Park. Feel free to use for anything. Just wanted to pass them on.

Best regards, Nancy Rosas Asare



Links – Compiled by Russel Ray

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

2018 Summer Show & Sale

- Setup, Friday, June 1: <https://youtu.be/y1msLZjPAj4>
- Saturday, June 2: https://youtu.be/eixyE8z_xDo
- Sunday, June 3: https://youtu.be/VrhHRtu_sBo
- Video of the Show: <https://youtu.be/PuB6xI7ko74>
- Video of the Sale: <https://youtu.be/MxUPQGoqQq0>
- Taking & Making Great Pictures
(Russel Ray Photos workshop presentation, June 2)
<https://youtu.be/4ivYSKcx24s>

Balboa Park Adopt-A-Plot program

<https://youtu.be/3GCK1XmgwoM>

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

2018 San Diego County Fair Exhibit

https://youtu.be/U_wu7URFTCU

Online Encyclopedias and such

[The Cactus Explorers Club Journal](#)

[The Encyclopedia of Cacti](#)

[The Encyclopedia of Succulents](#)

The Huntington Gardens

[A walk through the Desert Garden](#), Friday, June 29

[Selection of plants in the CSSA show](#), Friday, June 29

Facebook – Group & number of members

- [All About Succulents](#), 1,357
- [Aloe & Echeveria & Crassulas & Aeonium](#), 19,820
- [Aloe Family](#), 2,823
- [C&S Hobbyists](#), 596
- [Cacti and succulents educational group](#), 17,295
- [Cacti & Succulents Identification](#), 37,125
- [Cacti and Succulent Site](#), 6,137
- [Cactus and Succulent Marketplace](#), 7,774
- [California Succulents Anonymous](#), 2,004
- [Conophytum , Lithops & Mesembs](#), 10,732
- [Enter the Aloe](#), 3,724
- [Euphorbia Milii](#), 297
- [Hatiora, Schlumbergera, Rhipsalis and more](#), 699
- [Jade Plants - Crassula Arborescens & Ovata](#), 6,178
- [Planet Agave](#), 9,007
- [Planet Aloe](#), 9,572
- [Planet Cactus](#), 13,403
- [Planet Caudiciform](#), 5,327
- [Planet Jade Tree](#), 1,943
- [Sempervivums, Sedums & Succulents](#), 7,535
- [Simply Succulents](#), 898
- [Stapeliad Specialists](#), 967
- SDCSS member Kal Kaminer is Admin
- [Succulents & Cacti Collectors United States](#), 23,960
- [Succulents Cacti and Carnivorous Paradise](#), 20,160
- [The Aloe Underground](#), 1,940
- [The Trichocereus Community](#), 9,641
- [Trichocereus Lophophora & Ariocarpus](#), 9,154
- [World of Succulents](#), 482,126

News from the Safari Park's Gardens – May Fong Ho

Major work was performed in May on a portion of the Old World Garden that we're calling the "Under See Garden." Assisted and overseen by Jeff Moore, the OWG volunteers placed 6,000 pounds of lava pot rocks, planted numerous "Under See"-type succulents, and applied a dark top dressing to the area.

The Old World Garden with the new "Under See Garden" currently is closed, so we will keep you up to date about when it is open again.

With the recent Walkabout Australia exhibit opening, the Baja Garden is now open and on full display from the new walkway that connects the Australia exhibit to the garden path. Given the proximity to the new exhibit, we anticipate more visitors will enjoy the gardens.

As always, if you have plants or materials to donate, or if you would like to volunteer at the gardens, please contact May Fong Ho at 760-233-3948 or mayfongho@yahoo.com.

At right are two of the nicer plants in the "Under See Garden." Photo taken at the Old World Garden and used by permission of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.



Quote of the Century

*"There are many ways to grow cacti and succulents,
and we'll never agree on which way is best."*

Gunnar Eisel, General Manager, Cactus and Succulent Society of America,
May 19, 2018, at the general meeting of the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society.

UPCOMING CACTUS & SUCCULENT EVENTS

- 🪴 **July 14 — San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society general meeting**
Plant & Pottery Sale, 10:00 a.m. 🪴 **Pre-meeting Workshop, 11:00 a.m.**
New Member Orientation, 12:30 p.m. 🪴 **General Meeting, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.**
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 🪴 sdcss.net
- 🪴 **July 19, 20 & 21 — Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale**
July 19, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. 🪴 July 20, 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. 🪴 July 21, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S State College Blvd, Anaheim CA 🪴 949-212-8417
- 🪴 **August 11 — San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society general meeting**
Plant & Pottery Sale, 10:00 a.m. 🪴 **Pre-meeting Workshop, 11:00 a.m.**
New Member Orientation, 12:30 p.m. 🪴 **General Meeting, 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.**
Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 🪴 sdcss.net
- 🪴 **August 11 & 12 — 33rd Annual Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale**
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. both days 🪴 Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin, Arcadia
intercityshow.com 🪴 626-821-3222
- 🪴 **September 15 — Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction**
Noon–5:00 p.m. 🪴 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 🪴 562-631-5876
- 🪴 **October 13 & 14 — Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**
October 13, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. 🪴 October 14, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2216 17th Street, Bakersfield 🪴 661-831-8488
- 🪴 **October 27 & 28 — Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**
October 27, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. 🪴 October 28, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas 🪴 britamiller1@gmail.com
- 🪴 **November 10 & 11 — San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale**
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. both days 🪴 Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin, Arcadia
Manny Rivers, 626-780-6957 🪴 John Matthews, 661-714-1052

Plant of the Month – Additional pictures

Picture 1 (Al Klein) – Specimens in the nursery



Picture 2 (Al Klein) – *Operculicarya* fruit



Picture 3 (Al Klein) – Specimen with raised roots



Picture 4 (Al Klein) – Crazy cool bumpy trunk



Picture 5 (Al Klein) – Staged specimen with wonderful ball-shaped trunk



Plant of the Month – Additional pictures

Picture 6 (Russel Ray) – *Operculicarya* flower and buds



Picture 7 (Russel Ray) – *Operculicarya decaryi* leaves



Picture 8 (Russel Ray) – *Operculicarya pachypus* leaves



Picture 9 (Russel Ray) – *Operculicarya decaryi*



Picture 10 (Russel Ray) – *Operculicarya pachypus* grown from seed



Thank you all for joining me for “Coffee in Jürgen’s Garden” on May 19. Special thanks for your very generous donations (more than \$500!) on behalf of the Anza-Borrego Foundation. The Foundation received the cheque with great appreciation. I’m sure Jürgen would have been very grateful, too.

–Beate Laura Menzel

EDITOR’S NOTE

Effective immediately, if you need to contact me about any newsletter item or concern, please use this email address:

russelrayphotos@gmail.com

All other email addresses used in the past should be permanently deleted since I no longer have access to them.

WOW!
Beautiful dragonfly on a succulent flower.
Picture provided by Annie Morgan.



Coffee in the Garden – July 21 & 22 at the home of Chuck Ramey & Jim DeForest

Saturday, July 21, 10:00am to 2:00pm & Sunday, July 22, 9:00am to Noon

4466 Cherokee Ave, San Diego

Since we have received several requests from friends who will be unavailable on Saturday, we decided to extend Coffee in the Garden to Sunday, as well. So if you can't stop by on Saturday, please feel free to visit on Sunday morning from 9:00am to Noon.

Chuck bought his Normal Heights home in 1995, and the property has gone through much transformation. Jim moved in December 2011, bringing 250+ container plants. The front yard is full of sun-loving cacti and summer dormant succulents. Our back yard is shaded by bamboo and a bay laurel tree that Chuck planted in 1996. Today, that bay laurel provides shade for a major portion of the back yard. To make room for all of the container plants, we installed several shelving fixtures along the north property line fence. Chuck planted three types of bamboo along the south edge of the back yard to block the view of the two-story apartment building next door. Our back yard is our little piece of paradise. We have a great selection of cacti, succulents, tillandsias, and carnivorous plants for you to enjoy while visiting.

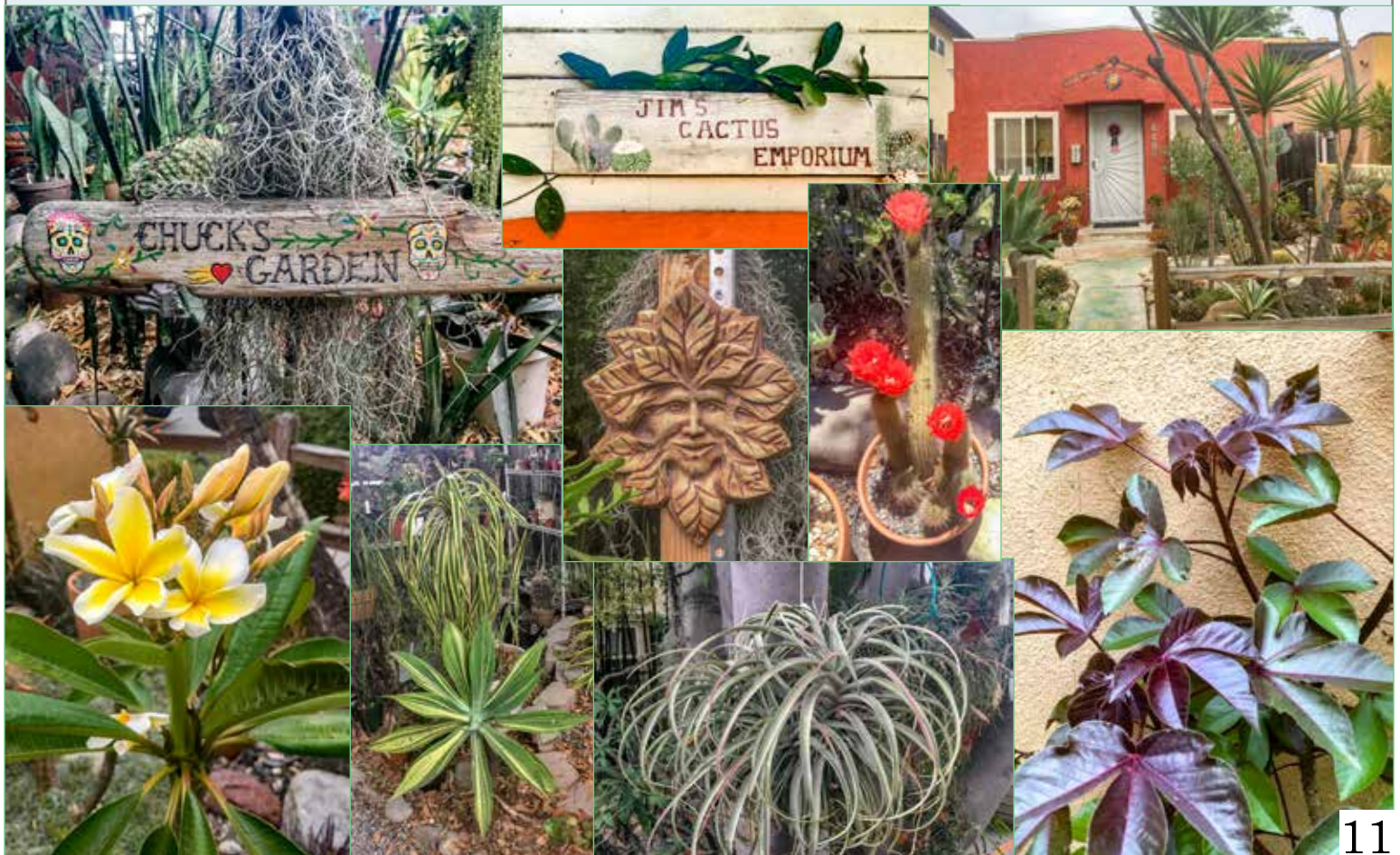
Please be advised that our property is small with narrow, uneven walkways and gravel paths. Our home may be difficult for those with limited mobility.

We will have several plants for sale in the driveway. Many are cuttings which we have propagated throughout the year, with some larger potted plants and a wide selection of tillandsias. Please bring CASH as there will be no access to credit/debit sales.

We are located at 4466 Cherokee Avenue in Normal Heights. The easiest way to get to us is by taking the Adams Avenue exit from the Interstate 15. Go west on Adams Avenue to the first traffic signal, which is Cherokee Avenue, and turn left. Vons and Rite-Aid are on the corner of Cherokee. We are 2½ long blocks south of Adams Avenue on the right. The closest cross street is Monroe Avenue. Street parking may be limited on our block but there are usually more spaces available near the intersection of Monroe and 37th just to the east.

NOTE

There are two Coffee in the Gardens this month. Kind of. Chuck & Jim's is the SDCSS Coffee in the Garden, and Erik & Irina Gronborg's (see page 12) is actually the Palomar C&SS Coffee in the Garden. Erik & Irina also are SDCSS members. The notice about Erik & Irina's Coffee in the Garden was submitted to the SDCSS newsletter by Annie Morgan, who also holds membership in both societies.



Erik & Irina Gronborgs' ~ Coffee in the Garden

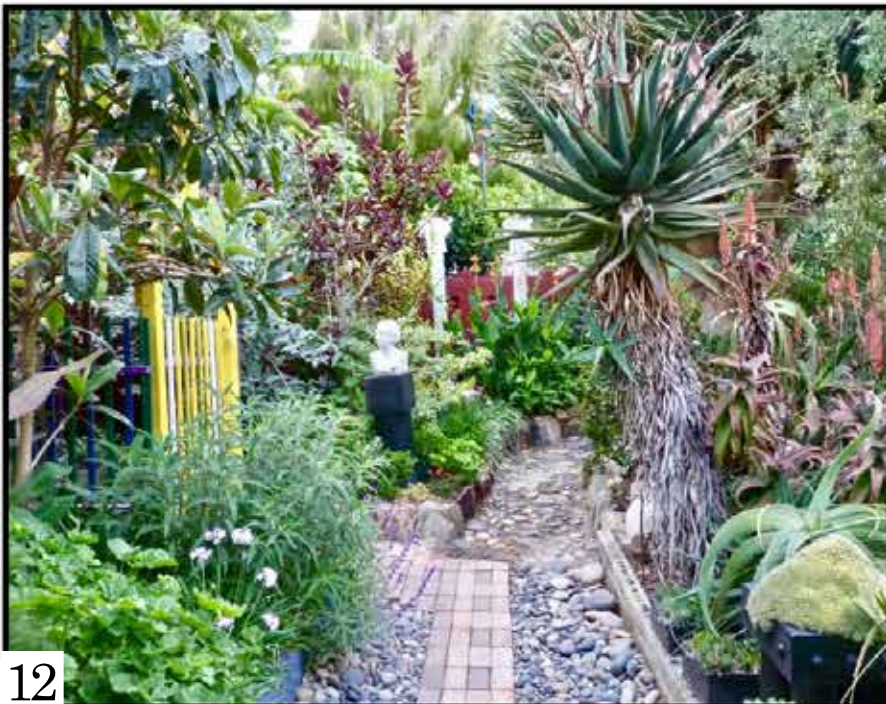
Saturday, July 21, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

We have been invited for a special treat to visit and explore the garden of SDCSS members, artists Erik and Irina Gronborg. They moved to this house in 1976 and started what has become an award-winning garden, visited by groups, local and from throughout the country. There are decades old cacti, mature succulents, multiple other plant collections, a large old Chorisia tree Erik planted from seed - and so much more. Their garden is divided into a number of separate areas so that they could create their interpretation of the classical gardens they visited. It is their joint work of art, always changing. They love the plants but equally important are the painted walls, the pool with goldfish and water lilies, different pavements, wood trellises and furniture, and Erik's sculptures that all add bright color and texture throughout the garden.

Light refreshments will be offered.

The Garden was recently featured on Nan Sterman's TV Show, 'A Growing Passion - The Art of a Garden'. Here is a link to that segment, which only gives a taste of their amazing garden:

<http://agrowingpassion.com/episode-603-the-art-of-a-garden>



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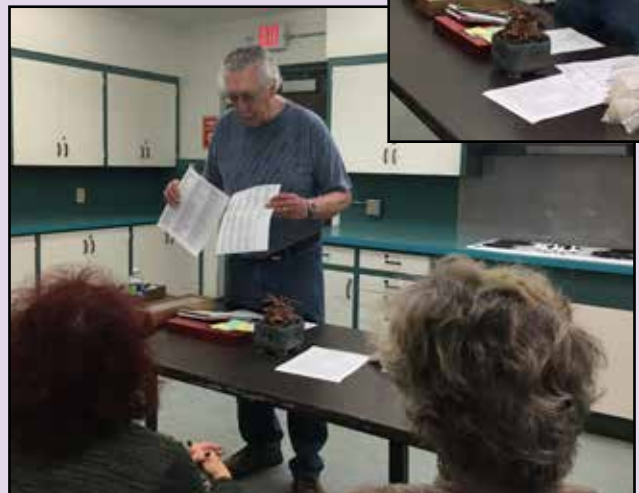
Hi, I'm Jude with Living Art Designs. I'm an award-winning landscape designer. I design and maintain succulent, native, and other low-water plant gardens. My prices are reasonable. Please contact me at jude@livingartdesigns.org. Also visit my web site at livingartdesigns.org.

Where's That?

8954 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego.
Pictures by Russel Ray Photos.



Need help getting your plants and their containers ready for a show? Jerry Garner is a great resource. Following are pictures from Jerry's May workshop on "Prepping for the show." Pictures provided by Pat Putis.



Share your succulent expertise at the Safari Park – Susan LaFreniere

Hundreds of visitors a day! The San Diego Zoo Safari Park's Baja and Old World Gardens are getting huge exposure now that the new Walkabout Australia experience has opened. An ADA path now winds through the lower Baja Garden. For those guests who can navigate them, two short flights of stairs now lead up to the main Garden Trail. Forty to fifty visitors an hour now explore the gardens, translating to hundreds of people per day.

The Park is creating Garden Information Ambassador positions, which can be filled by CSS members with succulent knowledge. You will be located IN the gardens, explaining garden history, the differences among the gardens, and talking about the plants and conservation. Information Ambassadors contribute 60 hours each year or more. This is a great opportunity to be among the plants we love, without the need for all the physical work. Training to become a Safari Park Information volunteer is required.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Complete an online application, indicate on your application you are interested in the Garden Information Ambassador position.
- Attend and complete orientation.
- Complete a scavenger hunt of the Safari Park.
- Complete two mentor sessions.

You get to talk with people from all over the world, be surrounded by a peaceful beautiful environment, have access to the Park, earn free tickets to the Zoo/Park for friends or relatives, and share the wonders of succulents. For more details on volunteering [click here](#), or contact Monica at the Volunteer Services office at 760-796-5698.



From the pages of history – Russel Ray

I have been reading past issues of the SDCSS newsletter, beginning with Volume 1, Number 1, from August 1965. To an avocational historian like me, they are fascinating.

The first thing that got my attention was an article on page 3 of Volume 1, Number 1, about Taylor's Cactus. The address was stated as 1640 E. Main Street in El Cajon. I live a mile from there. It's nothing but a vacant lot full of weeds (Figure 1), crumbling asphalt (Figure 2), and abandoned parking lots (Figure 3) for Kaiser Permanente, a company still located there; more about Kaiser Permanente shortly.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



There also is a nice collection of what probably is *Salsola tragus* (Prickly Russian Thistle, or tumbleweed; Figure 4). The property is at a heavily used intersection, and since moving out here I had always wondered why a significant portion of Main Street is left in such a state of deterioration.

One of my special interests in my photography business is "Then & Now" pictures, so I started a search for old pictures of Taylor's Cactus. I spent many hours at the San Diego History Center and in the Knox House Museum (280 S. Magnolia Ave., El Cajon) with the kind folks of the El Cajon Historical Society. I got some leads, but no pictures. Next I found the searchable content of all the SDCSS newsletters. I found additional information about Taylor's Cactus, including the address of their residence since Robert ("Bob") & Suzanne Taylor hosted many SDCSS events at their home throughout the years.

Bob Taylor was a founding member not only of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society but also of the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society. The first newsletter states that Taylor's Cactus "is best known because of its long establishment and quality reputation." It also states that "Taylor's probably offers the largest commercial selection of mature specimen cacti plants in the United States." That made me think that, perhaps, there were aerial photos of the area during construction of Interstate 8. Nothing. The best I have come up with so far is my own trek to 1640 E. Main Street; the actual address no longer exists, and the lots numbered from 1620 to 1690 are shown in public records as belonging to Kaiser Permanente since 2002. Remember that Bob Taylor died in October 2004. I parked on the street and walked around taking the pictures in Figure 1-4. Then I headed over to the address of their home, 1051 Tres Lomas Drive. That address also no longer exists. Google Street View and Google Earth, however, provided some fascinating information. First, the Google Street View

Figure 4



Figure 5



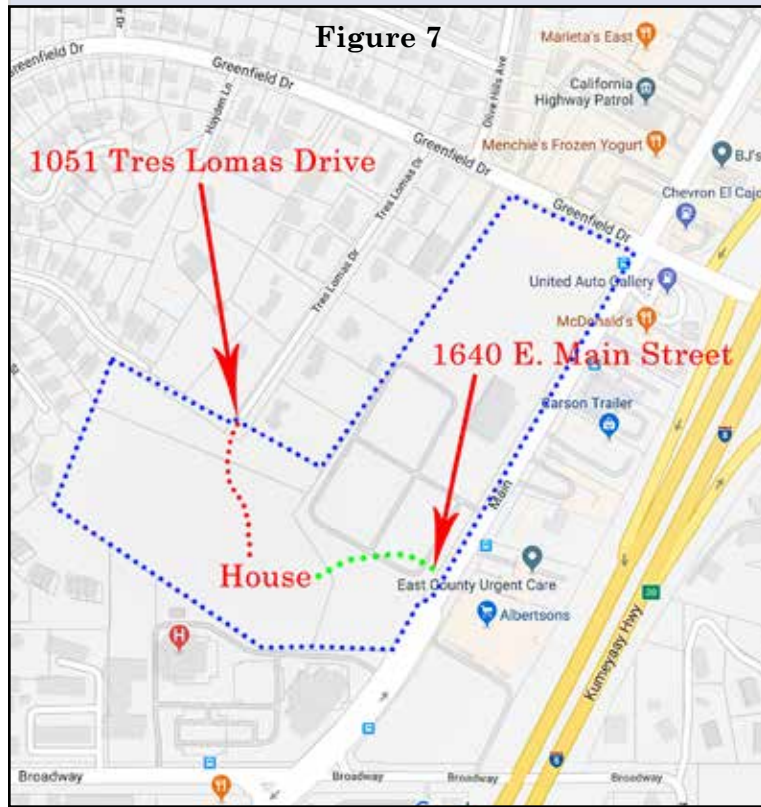
I have searched the public tax records that are available online but have not found any information about what happened to the property in the years shortly before or after Bob Taylor died in 2004 so all I can do is guess at the boundaries of their home property and those of Taylor's Cactus. In the process of wondering, I took a screen shot of the area in Google Maps and placed identifying information on the map (Figure 7). Since the house at 1051 Tres Lomas Drive

shows a mailbox with "1051" on it, and one can see that there is a long dirt road leading up to a house (Figure 5 and inset). The Google Street View was taken in June 2011. Is that the Taylor's home up there? Also, in the Google Earth view (Figure 6), one can see the dirt road to the house, but the house and any other buildings are no longer there.

Figure 6



overlooked the nursery address of 1640 E. Main Street, I wondered if there was a private road leading from the cactus nursery down below to the house up on the hill (see green dotted path on Figure 7). Once that was done, I decided to superimpose Figure 7 on Figure 6, which gave me Figure 8.



In looking at Figure 8, I'm wondering if there were greenhouses to the left of the house and the public nursery down below the house, accessed by an entrance at 1640 E. Main Street.

Since my husband is a Realtor, I also have access to old MLS listings and additional tax records that typically are not available to the general public. Nothing.

I plan to visit the Tax Assessor's office to see if they can help me determine what happened to this property. A plat map and legal descriptions of the boundaries for both the home and the nursery would be awesome.

I'm also looking for, perhaps, a Grand Opening for Taylor's Cactus. I mean, what company doesn't

have a Grand Opening? And surely there must be some pictures somewhere of this cactus nursery that "probably offers the largest commercial selection of mature specimen cacti plants in the United States." I'm hoping that continued research through the SDCSS archives, the Journal of San Diego History, archives at Balboa Park, and possibly even the Journal of the CSSA will provide me with additional information and pictures. Oh, how I want pictures of what had to have been a fantastic nursery for its time.

Perhaps throughout my discussion here you were thinking, "I know that name. Where do I know that name?" Is it possible that you have some pictures or articles about the Taylors and Taylor's Cactus? If so, please share them with me so that I can share them with SDCSS through the newsletter.

You also might recognize Robert & Suzanne Taylor because the "Best Graft In Show" is the "Bob and Suzanne Taylor Award" (Figure 9). Bob was an expert at grafting cacti and succulents, leading several workshops for SDCSS and writing several articles, some of which I believe appeared in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.



Best in Show

At press time, I have pictures of the Best in Show winners from the 2018 Summer Show but I don't have the names of the winners or the names of the plants. I understand that certificates are scheduled to be handed out at the General Meeting on July 14. Names and pictures, then, will be published in the August issue of the newsletter.



An interesting graphic found in a Facebook group. I was able to go to the web site, find the graphic, contact the appropriate people, and request permission to use it in our newsletter. Permission granted!

A PAIR & A SPARE

What's Wrong With My Succulent...?



Leaning Towards Light
~Not enough Sunlight



Shriveled leaves
~Underwatering



Rotting
~ Overwatering



Yellowing Leaves
~ Overwatering



Black/Brown Spotting
~Overwatering



Dull Color
~Too much Sunlight

Three pictures by Russel Ray Photos from the CSSA show at The Huntington Botanical Gardens on Friday, June 29. For more pictures in a slide show video, [click here](#).



**Contributions
to the August
newsletter
should be
submitted by
midnight on
July 22. That's
a Sunday. If
you start now,
you'll have all
that weekend
to finish!**

I think you would
make a great officer for the
San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
for 2019.

Positions are open for
President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,
and several Directors.

Volunteers also are needed for
workshops and programs.

I hope you will consider
volunteering to help the
San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
that we all have come
to know and love.

