February 5, 2015

Speaker- Karen Zimmerman

 Program: Aloes on My Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids One Generation at a Time

Karen Zimmerman is the succulent plant propagator for the desert plant collections at the Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens. She has been with the Huntington for nearly 14 years where she started as a part time volunteer. She has cultivated a love affair with cacti and other succulents since 1994 and has a large collection at home in pots and in the ground. Besides her work caring for the large collections and keeping her volunteers busy and happy, she enjoys hobbies including nature/macro photography and creating ‘fantasy’ aloe hybrids. She has had 7 aloe hybrids published and distributed through the International Succulent

Introductions and many photographs published in the CSSA Journal, a few books and a photography magazine.

This beautiful illustrated program will include creating collectable "fantasy" aloes with colorful, toothy, and textured leaves through breeding, one generation at a time.

Bonus Presentationt Saturday February 21, 2015 9am Meet and Greet 10AM Program

Speaker Paul Klaassen Program "Fog"

In 1997, Paul made his first trip to Cactus Country. This trip fired up a passion to see cacti in their habitat rather than in pots at home. Since then, Paul has explored for cacti and other succulents in their habitats in South Africa, Namibia, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Cuba and USA. He travels, writes internationally on the subject of cacti. His own private collection includes over 3,500 cacti. He is a member of the British Cactus & Succulent Society, Succulenta (Dutch/Belgian Society), the Cactus & Succulent Society of America and the Mammillaria Society. Paul has co-authored with Keith Grantham, The Plantfinders Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents. He has also published “Cactus Trip Diaries” and other publications.

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Many of my cactus trips were to the Atacama Desert in Chile, the driest place on earth. Many of the places are so dry that life can only be sustained by regular sea fogs. The Vizcaino Desert in Baja and the Namib Desert in South Africa are located on the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and also are considered Fog Deserts. This presentation explains the features of these deserts and looks at the cacti and other succulent plants that have adapted to live there. Similar environments but very different plants!