

# CACTUS COURIER

An Affiliate Member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

## Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club!

Volume 65, Number 6

June 2019

### NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Park Ave. Community Center  
210 Park Ave., Escondido  
Brag, Exchange & Benefit Drawing Tables

**11:00am - 3:00pm**

We're back at our regular location!

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### REFRESHMENTS

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Julie Kort    | 7 – Sherman Blend    |
| 2 – Barbara Raab  | 8 – Evelyn Voth      |
| 3 – Prapa Taylor  | 9 – Moni Wailblinger |
| 4 – Ellen Pankuch | 10 – Lindsay Worden  |
| 5 – Farrell Smith | 11 – Barbara Watzke  |
| 6 – Neila Rybicki |                      |

[www.palomarcactus.org](http://www.palomarcactus.org)

We're on Facebook!

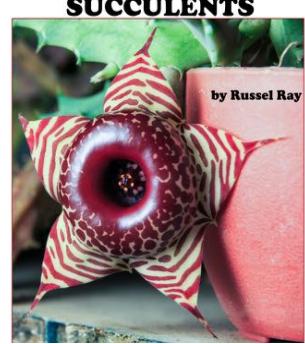
Questions: [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

2018 Newsletters are now on our website!  
2014 – 2017 will be added in the next week.



### This Month's Presentation: **NATURE'S GEOMETRY**

Russel Ray's presentation will explore nature's geometry in plants by looking at the Fibonacci sequence found in many cacti and succulents. What is this Fibonacci Sequence and why is it so special? Russel will show many examples of this astounding design in nature, and after his presentation you won't look at plants and flowers the same way again!



He will briefly show this mathematically, specifically the golden ratio created by the Fibonacci sequence of numbers, in addition to the golden angle, the reverse golden angle, the golden rectangle, and the golden spiral, all derived from the Fibonacci number sequence. He will share many photos of plants that demonstrate the amazing geometry.

As part of his presentation, Russel will bring a display of plants from his collection which show examples of how the Fibonacci number sequence shows up in ways such as the number of ribs on a *gymnocalycium* and the number of thorns in a saguaro areole.



**Our Plant of the Month will be SPIRAL PLANTS so do bring in yours!**

See p. 3 for a list of examples.

**Russel will be presenting a special poster to the person whose plant he feels best exhibits spirals!**

**L to R:**  
*Cereus forbesii* cv. *spiralis*,  
*Aloe polyphylla*,  
*Mammillaria pringlei*

**Bio:** Russel was born in 1955 in Kingsville, Texas and in 1961 moved to Brigham City, Utah; it was there he became fascinated by nature. His nextdoor neighbor, Mrs. Larson, was his first grade teacher and she had beautiful plants in her yard. One day she gave him a "heartleaf ivy," *Philodendron cordatum*, and that single plant, which he still has, started his attraction to plants.

Then in 1965 he moved to Kingsville, TX to live with his paternal grandmother. In September 1966 his grade school principal asked for volunteers to learn photography. The school provided Nikon cameras, a darkroom, supplies and adult supervisors for the darkroom, and most importantly, free entry to all school events, including football, baseball, basketball, and tennis (his four favorite sports). Russel was an easy sell, and that was his start in photography, which has led to his literally taking millions of photos!



Then in September 1968 Russel took botany and his teacher, Mrs. Bajza, presented a slide show of many beautiful plants, all growing in her gardens. When he got home that afternoon, he asked his grandmother if he could have a small garden in her yard. He was expecting a loud and definitive, "NO!". However, he and his grandfather had installed central heating and cooling earlier that year, so his grandmother gave him the 100-sq ft section where the cooling condenser was located. Nothing would grow there because of the hot air blowing from the condenser. Being depressed, Russel went over to visit his best friend, Richard, where he and his parents listened to him complain and then invited him to go with them to the Rio Grande Valley the coming weekend to visit nurseries. They turned out to be specialized cactus and succulent nurseries. He was mesmerized and Richard's parents allowed him to pick out plants that he liked and bought them for him. After creating a rock wall surrounding the cooling condenser which forced the hot air up, he could plant his new plants. Eventually they grew and bloomed, and that was the start of his fascination with cacti and succulents.

His math addiction came about because he had been good with numbers from a very early age. During his senior year in high school, he won the South Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition in math for his presentation, "Tips & Tricks to Help You with Math", and went on to the statewide UIL competition in San Antonio where he came in second. First place was taken by a senior girl from Dallas for her presentation, "Fibonacci Numbers & Nature." Her presentation resulted in his combining his three loves of photography, nature, and math, which you will see in his presentation.

## ~ NOTICES ~

### THANKS ERNESTO!

Once again Ernesto presented a very informative program, this time on how cactus grow as they do! This link is to the slides from his presentation: <https://app.box.com/s/qgc4vbmwkq3j09hv52r1hhmweqfyccdd9/file/453687803118>. To see them, click on the link, then look at the top of the white section to the right and click on Download. It is a large file, 110 MB so be patient. And of course it only has the photos, and does not include the text of his talk.

### JUNE MEETING LOCATION

This month we will be back meeting at our usual place, the Escondido Community Center. The East Valley Community Center worked out well, but it will be nice to be back home.

### SECRETARY

Moni Waiblinger has agreed to fill the Board position of Secretary as Annie Morgan found it was necessary to step down at this time.

### THANKS ANNIE!

Thanks go to Annie Morgan for her seven years on the PCSS Board, first as a Member at Large, then as Treasurer for one year, and lastly as Secretary for the last 5 ½ years. Your hard work and dedication were greatly appreciated and you will be missed.

### MONTHLY SPEAKERS

Please note that we now have speakers lined up for the balance of 2019. We are pleased to have several of our own talented members speaking, including this month! You can see the full list of speakers and presentation topics on the last page of this newsletter.

### PICNIC (NO AUCTION) IN AUGUST

Please note that we will be having our picnic as usual! However, the board decided that **there will be no the auction this year.**

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR - NO PCSS EXHIBIT THIS YEAR

Our board decided not to do an exhibit at the fair this year as the fair modified their categories and we would have been competing with amateur garden landscape displays. This is very different from an enclosed display of container plants as we did the last two years when competing against other garden club displays of container plants. Thus it was decided it was best to just skip doing an exhibit.

## PCSS SD COUNTY FAIR YOUTH GARDEN DISPLAY AWARD

We did however give a youth award once again for the “most appropriate and best use of succulents and cacti in a youth-designed garden display.” Annie and Russel Ray were the judges and couldn’t make a decision on the winner, so they tied two gardens for first. Our award was to be for \$50 but we had an anonymous member donor raised it to \$100. When two winners were chosen, the donor covered both winning entries at \$100 for each award! Thanks so much to our anonymous donor, and congratulations go to Fallbrook High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) and Valley Center FFA for their youth-designed winning gardens!

## **Plant of the Month ~ Spiral Plants**

We would love to see your plants that have spirals! Such plants exhibiting well-defined spirals include species of aeonium, aloe (especially *A. polyphylla*), ariocarpus, astrophytum (*A. myriostigma f. spiralis*), cereus (*C. forbesii cv. spiralis*), eriosyce, euphorbia (*E. spiralis* & *E. caput-medusae*), gymnocalycium, mammillaria (*M. pringlei*), neochilenia (*N. hypogaea*), notocactus, rebutia, sedum ('Spiral Staircase'), stenocereus (*S. gummosus v. spiralis*), strombocactus (*S. disciformis*), sulcorebutia, gasteria, haworthia ..... and more. (Google “spiral cactus” and “spiral succulents”).

**Russel will be presenting a special poster to the person  
whose plant he feels best exhibits spirals!**



## **OLD PCSS NEWSLETTERS WANTED ~ Pre 2006**

As we have mentioned, we are working on adding copies of past newsletters to the Newsletter section on our website. Russel Ray will be adding the balance of 2014 through 2018 in the next week, and our current edition should be on the website about eight days before the next meeting from here on out.

We need your help with 2005 and earlier editions that you may have tucked away. We will need to borrow them briefly to make a xerox copy, and can then either return them at the next meeting or mail them back. Or, if you don't want to part with them you may have copies made yourself and bring them to Annie at any meeting. Russel will then scan them into the website.

Please email Annie Morgan at [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org) if you have questions or can help us out, or just bring them to a meeting.



## **BRAG TABLE WINNERS**

Novice Cactus

- |                       |                 |                                     |    |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----|
| <u>1<sup>st</sup></u> | Nell McChesney  | Echinopsis                          | #1 |
| <u>2<sup>nd</sup></u> | Rebecca Wooster | Mammillaria elongata<br>golden star | #2 |
| <u>3<sup>rd</sup></u> | Rebecca Wooster | Opuntia                             | #3 |

## Intermediate Cactus

- | <u>Intermediate Cacti</u> |                  |  |    |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>           | Moni Waiblinger  | <i>Pereskia grandiflora</i>                        | #4 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>           | Kevin Smith      | <i>Chamaelobivia</i><br>'Rose Quartz'              | #6 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>           | Neila Rybicki    | <i>Echinopsis</i>                                  | #7 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>           | David Buffington | <i>Echinocereus viridiflorus</i><br><i>v. cana</i> |    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>           | David Buffington | <i>Disocactus flagelliformis</i>                   | #8 |

## Advanced Cactus

- |                 |              |                       |     |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Russel Ray   | Mammillaria           | #9  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | John Barkley | Rebutia mentosa       | #10 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | John Barkley | Sclerocactus whipplei |     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Russel Ray   | Parodia               | #11 |

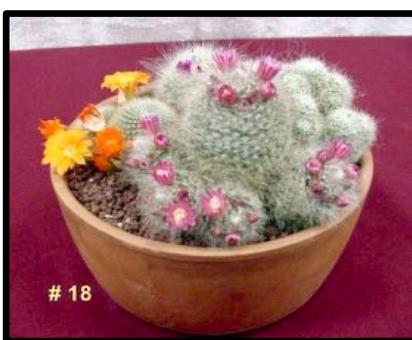
## Intermediate Succulent

- |                 |               |                                       |     |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Brita Miller  | Crassula 'Gollum'                     | #12 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Neila Rybicki | Fockea Edulis                         | #13 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kevin Smith   | Kalenchoe thrysiflora<br>'Flap Jacks' | #14 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Brita Miller  | Aeonium                               |     |

## Advanced Succulent

- 1<sup>st</sup> Russel Ray Euphorbia ankarafansiensis

## Novice Dish Garden



# Garden Brag Photos

Share a section of your garden, a plant that bloomed in between meetings, or one that is too large or heavy to bring to the Brag Table. You earn 1 Brag Point for emailing photos and 2 points for each one published.

Email or text them to Annie at:

[newslettereditor@palomarcactus.org](mailto:newslettereditor@palomarcactus.org) or 760-803-8948.



Below: Kevin Smith's Chamaelobivia 'Rose Quartz' above at our 5/18 meeting, and below four days later with over 40 blooms open!



Above: Ron Chisum's 9 ft. tall Puya alpestris with 10 bloom stalks (some are hiding), the most ever after our bountiful rains!

John Barkley is shown in the photo to the right for a height reference.

Left: a close up of one flower – and yes, that's the actual real color!



Far Right: Lorie Johansen's Epiphyllum's beautiful white bloom.

Center: Annie Morgan's Lobivia arachnacantha's 2+'' blooms on a 1 1/2" plant, with 8 more blooms ready to pop out.





Right: A small section of Russel Ray's cactus garden with lots of blooming cactus.



Above and right: Moni Waiblinger's Euphorbia millii hybrids with their huge and gorgeous blooms!



## CSSA Annual Show & Sale ~ June 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 10am - 5pm

### The Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA,  
626.405.3504

Plant Sale is 6/28 - 30, 10 - 5pm,  
Show is 6/29 - 30, 10 - 5pm

Free admission for CSSA Members & affiliate C&S Society members, i.e. PCSS members

#### **NOTE to C & S Club members:**

For free admission you must wear your C&S (PCSS) club name tag, AND a special sticker issued by your society's CSSA rep. (Annie), or by contacting Show Chairperson Barbara Hall @ 818-368-6914 or [ibcjhall@aol.com](mailto:ibcjhall@aol.com)

Hundreds of Advanced level award-winning show plants will be on view.  
Plants and related items will be available for sale.

*More info and photos at:*

<http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/cssashow/index.html>



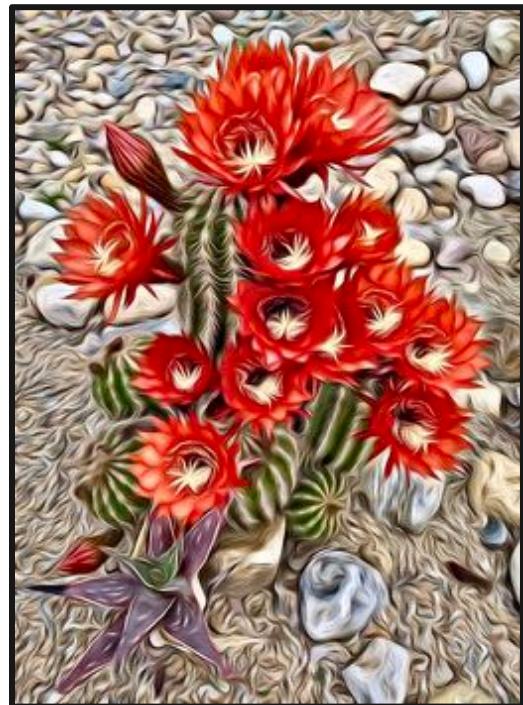
See Annie at our June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the sticker for free entry, show entry forms, or any questions.

# Photo Fun

## TURN YOUR PHOTOS INTO PAINTINGS

BY ANNIE MORGAN

Not all of us have the skills to paint a beautiful agave from a photo or an actual plant in our garden. But that doesn't mean you can't have beautiful paintings of a photo you love. Luckily, these days there are many computer, phone, and iPad, etc. apps that you can use to turn photos into all kinds of styles of artwork, including paintings. They range from free to relatively inexpensive, to costly. The more expensive the more features. Right is a photo from Susan LaFreniere that I used SuperPhoto (free) on my iPad to turn it into a painting.



Left is a photo (left) of a barrel cactus, taken by Russel Ray, which he used SnapArt (\$99) on his phone to create a painting, shown below the photo. This style painting is subtle, but softer than the photo.

But don't just stop at succulents or even just paintings. Below are some of my Princess KatKat that I did with apps on my iPad and iPhone. The first is a basic photo, the second is a painting created in Portrait Painter (free), and for the others I used SuperPhoto (free) to create what they called 'stylize' and a 'stroke sketch'.

Some of the programs will only create a painting but others have many, many artistic options!



There are also many apps for computers. I am sure you have heard of Photo Shop (\$9.99/mo.) which has LOTS of capabilities, but there are others such as Prisma which has more than 300 painting styles to apply to photos. Some apps have trial versions so you can test them first.

Here is a link to an article with information about more programs:  
<https://expertphotography.com/turn-photos-into-paintings-apps/>. Have fun!

## **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**

[The North San Diego County C & S Club!](#)

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

[Click here or go to: <http://www.palomarcactus.org> for a form.](#)

### **2019 MEETING SCHEDULE Speakers & Topics & Plants of the Month**

July 27<sup>th</sup> ----- Tammy Harmon – “Do’s & Don’ts when Planting Cactus and Succulents in Your Landscape”  
In place of P of M\* we will have a short talk on “TAXONOMY – How do Plants get their Names” by Erik Gronborg

August 24<sup>th</sup> ----- Annual Picnic at San Diego Botanic Garden

September 28<sup>st</sup> - Linda Bresler – “Companion Plants for Succulents”  
P of M\* – TBA, and Packing your Plants to Bring to a Show - Demonstration

October 26 - 27 - - FALL SHOW & SALE  
AT SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS IN ENCINITAS

November 23<sup>rd</sup> - - Woody Minnich – “20 years in the Atacama Desert” & P of M\* TBA

December 21<sup>st</sup> - [3rd Saturday](#) – HOLIDAY PARTY & GIFT PLANTS FOR YOU!

\* P of M = Plant of the Month

### **Succulent Eye Candy**



## **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Brita Miller** – President, Show Chair, Event Coordinator  
858-776-7216 • [president@palomarcactus.org](mailto:president@palomarcactus.org)

**OPEN** – Vice-President – Contact Brita Miller for information.

**John Barkley** – Treasurer

**Moni Wailblinger** – Secretary

**Peter Walkowiak** – Member at Large, Plant Expert  
[hci@services@gmail.com](mailto:hci@services@gmail.com)

**Lorie Johansen** – Member at Large, Guest & New Member Ambassador, Plant of the Month Articles

**David Buffington** – Member at Large, Brag Points

• •

### **OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

**Annie Morgan** - Program Chair, Website, Newsletter Editor  
(paid position), [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

**Richard Miller** - Membership

**Dennis Miller** - Cash Register at Monthly Meetings

**Sandy Wetzel-Smith & Bruce Barry** - Refreshments

**Vicki Martin** - Co-Librarian

**Kevin Smith** - Brag Table

**Francis Granger** – Exchange Table, Guest & New Member Ambassador

**Brian Magone** - Exchange Table

**Chet Reed** - Brag Plant Photographer

**Russel Ray** - Event Photographer, Website

**Nell McChesney** - Name Tag Drawing Plants

**Libbi Salvo** - Monthly Meeting Set-up

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **June 28-30 ~ CSSA Annual Show & Sale**

Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, Plant Sale is 6/28 - 6/30, 10am - 5pm daily, Show is 6/29 - 6/30, 10am - 5pm, Info: 626-405-3504 (See Annie at the June Meeting for free tickets.)

#### **July 17-20 ~ CSSA Convention – SOLD OUT**

San Luis Obispo, CA Info: CSSAConvention.com

#### **July 26-27 ~ Orange County C & S Society Summer Show & Sale**

Fri., 7/26 Noon - 8pm, Sat., 7/27 9 - 7pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, Info: 949-212-8417

#### **August 10-11 ~ 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercity Show & Sale**

9 - 5pm daily, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430, or John Martinez 805-390-2139

See our website, [Palomarcactus.org](http://Palomarcactus.org), for the January 2019 newsletter with the complete list of events for 2019.

Left: Agave Titanota from Tepitazonga Oaxaca, Black and Blue aka Blue Ball. Photo by Kelly Griffin, from FB, used with permission.