

# CACTUS COURIER

*Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society*

Volume 59, Number 2

February 2013

The Meeting is the 4<sup>TH</sup> Saturday!

**February 23, 2013**

They've gone and changed the name!  
It's now called the

**Park Avenue Community Center**

210 Park Ave  
Escondido, CA 92025

**SAME building, new name and address!**

Formerly Known as...  
*Joslyn Senior Center*  
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

**Noon!!**



## *“Pachycauls in the Wild and the Garden”*

•• Todd Masilko ••

**Todd Masilko** is a native of North Dakota but has lived in southern California for the past 17 years. He has a background in Industrial Design and is currently an instructor in the Interaction Design and Industrial Design departments at Pasadena's Art Center College of Design and runs a Pasadena based product design consultancy. Todd has been an enthusiastic grower of cacti and succulents for nearly 10 years and is a member of the San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society. In addition to growing plants, he is a photography enthusiast. Over the last several years, he has traveled to observe and photograph plants in

habitats in the Canary Islands, Yemen and Socotra, Namibia, Baja California and mainland Mexico, as well as California and the southwestern United States.

This talk will feature a selection of distinctive **Pachycauls** and **“Fat Plants”** from Baja California and mainland regions of Mexico, Yemen, Socotra, and Namibia. Topics include the climate and ecology of the natural areas where these species grow wild, and observations on the cultivation of plants from each of these regions in Southern California gardens.



**BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**Beverly Ficuciello**

**Vicki Martin**

**Gloria Medina**

**Betty Falc**

**Evelyn Voth**

**Doris St. John**

**Vickie Deleo**

**Stan Yalof**



**Brag Plants – January**

**Novice to Intermediate Cactus**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jerre Stafford      *Mammillaria sp.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Regan        *Mammillaria sp.*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> John Barkley      *Neoporteria sp.*

**Novice to Intermediate Succulents**

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Barkley      *Pelargonium carnosum*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brita Miller        *Agave victoria-regina*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brita Miller        *Aeoneum schwartzkoff*

**Advanced Succulents**

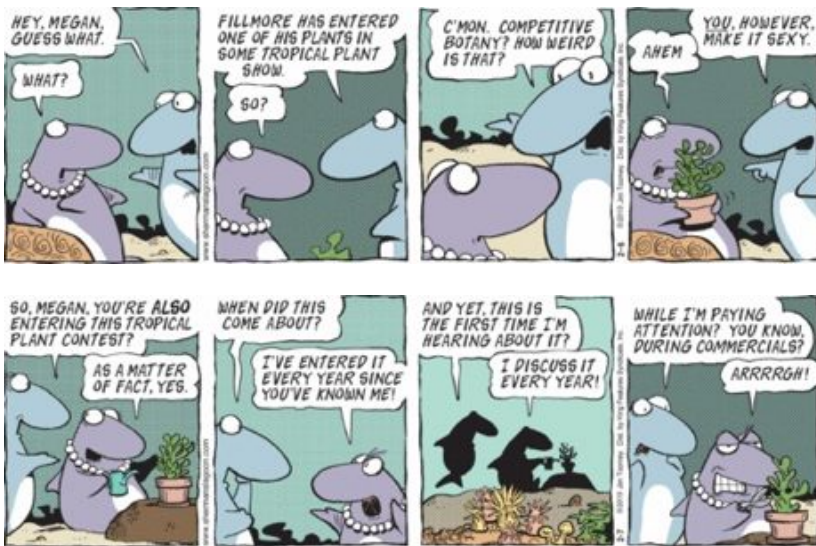
- 1<sup>st</sup> Mitch Bahr         *Ceraria fruticulosa*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phyllis Flechsig   *Dyckia hybrid*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Phyllis Flechsig   *Euphorbia groenwaldii*



**Plant of the Month**

- February      *Haworthia*
- March         No PoM: PLANT SALE
- April          *Echeveria*
- May            *Astrophytum*
- June           *Bromeliads*
- July            *Euphorbias*
- August        No PoM: PICNIC
- September   *Caudiciforms, Pachycauls*
- October       No PoM: PLANT SHOW & SALE
- November    *Ariocarpus*
- December    No PoM: HOLIDAY PARTY

## Sherman's Lagoon



### Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Peter Walkowiak – President

Chris Barkley – Vice-President

Libbi Salvo – Secretary

Vicki Broughton – Treasurer

Ron Chisum – Program Chair

Dick Henderson – Board Member & Garden Chair

Bruce Barry – Board Member & Exchange Table

Don Nelson – Board Member

John Barkley – Board Member & Refreshments

Francis Granger – Board Member & Exchange Table

Stan Yalof – Board Member

Brita Miller – Librarian

Vicki Martin – Assistant Librarian

Dennis Miller – Raffle & Plant Sales & Membership Co-Chair

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair

Annie Morgan – Spring 2013 Plant Sale

### 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

<b>23 February</b>	<b>Park Ave Community Center</b>
23 March	<u>SALE</u> - Park Ave Community Center
27 April	Park Ave Community Center
18 May	Park Ave Community Center
<b>NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!</b>	
22 June	Park Ave Community Center
27 July	Park Ave Community Center
24 August	to be determined
28 September	Park Ave Community Center
26 October	San Diego Botanic Garden ( <i>Quail</i> )
23 November	Park Ave Community Center
21 December	Park Ave Community Center
<b>NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!</b>	



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • FEBRUARY 2013**

Another meeting is upon us and we now have our plant of the month schedule set for the year. The plant of the month for February is Haworthias. This is a popular genus for novice and advanced growers, with many forms and varieties available for us to grow and enjoy. You will earn points for every plant you enter as plant of the month or brag plant entries, 6 points for a first, 4 for second, 2 for third and a point for all other entrants. There are three categories, cactus, succulents and plant of the month and each of these are divided into advanced and novice, so there are many opportunities to score points. I want to see the brag table full at this next meeting, no entries equals no points. The points will be accrued and at the Christmas Party a plant give away will take place with the highest point earner getting first choice. I will bring plants in for display but will not be apart of the judging, I want you to get all the points.

Our Spring Plant Sale is coming next month and we need volunteers in many areas, signage, registers, plant donations, and set-up and clean-up. All volunteers will be rewarded with a discounted price for the bus trip the Intercity Show and Sale that is held at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. The trip will be on Saturday the 17th of August. Sign up sheets will be available to you to sign up at the meeting. We also need you to bring food to share, there will be a potluck for everybody to enjoy. If you have tables or pop ups for us to use they will be greatly appreciated.

**Todd Masilko** is our speaker this month. I have seen several of his presentations and he is a very good speaker. I had the honor of going on a trip to Baja California with him and his wife three years ago and had a memorable experience. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the CSSA (Cactus and Succulent Society of America)

**Peter Walkowiak, President**





The **35th Biennial Convention** of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America will be held in Austin TX, from June 15 - 20, 2013. 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>.

Volume 85 begins with an account of exploration in Mexico by Julia Etter and Martin Kristen. So far, two new species (an *Echeveria* and a *Sedum*) have been described as a result of their work, named in honor of the authors in the recently published **Haseltonia 18**. Here they tell us more about the extremely challenging terrain around the Rio Piaxtla as well as other plants seen in the area, several of which still await better understanding. Socotra is once again difficult to travel to, after a short period when tourists could visit relatively freely. Despite the current difficulties, the intrepid Alain Rzepecky managed to find a new arborescent *Euphorbia* species, described here and accompanied by spectacular habitat images. The second new species described in this issue is a member of the genus *Eriospermum* from near the Orange River area in Southern Africa. Graham Williamson provides some beautiful drawings to illustrate the finer points of this plant. *Euphorbia schoenlandii* and a Kelly Griffin hybrid *Aloe* 'Red Ridge' feature in Duke Benadom's Superb Succulents article. Jeff Chemnick provides an in-depth guide to the *cyad* genus *Dioon* as it occurs in Oaxaca, in an article held over from the Special Edition on the CSSA tour to that state, which came out in 2012. Finally, Elton Roberts' article on the genus *Micropuntia* is sure to be the first encounter for many with this fascinating group of plants, and again he provides an alternative and informed view of current taxonomy.



## Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033  
*Membership Application*

I/We wish to join/renew membership in the  
**Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**

**\$25.00 Single Membership**  
**\$30.00 Dual Membership (Same Address)**  
(1/2 price after June 30th)

There is a **\$5 discount** on the fees if you choose to receive your newsletter by email-only. Save money, leave a small carbon footprint, and reduce Eleanore's workload!

**Please print! We have to be able to read it!**

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

"Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society"  
P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033



**•• 2013 ••**

### **Southern California Events**

March 22-24

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale  
First Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 S State College Blvd., Anaheim  
[www.occss.org](http://www.occss.org)

April 13, 14

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale  
South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes  
[www.southcoastcss.org](http://www.southcoastcss.org)

April 20, 21

Green Scene Plant Sale  
Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd, Fullerton  
[www.fullertonarboretum.org](http://www.fullertonarboretum.org)

April 28

Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale  
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626-405-2160

May 4, 5

Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Veterans Memorial Center, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver  
City

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

May 12

San Diego Epiphyllum Society 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day  
Show & Sale

Casa del Prado Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego

[www.sandiegoepi.com](http://www.sandiegoepi.com)

May 17, 18

Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 32<sup>nd</sup> Show and Sale  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr,  
Riverside 92509

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

June 1, 2

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

[www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

June 8, 9

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino

[www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)

since "Tillys" take between 6 and 25 years to mature from seeds. They have also introduced many incomparable hybrids to the marketplace that exhibit tremendous hybrid vigor, growing much larger with correspondingly larger blooms that either parent. The almost limitless combination of different shapes presents an unprecedented opportunity to create fabulous new shapes, colors, and sizes.

Paul's talk will cover why tillandsias can grow with no soil, how they can survive weeks with no watering, cutting edge techniques to present and grow them indoors and out, what to look for when buying them, the best places to find them, which species have wonderfully fragrant flowers, and where the future of ornamental horticulture is going. Paul's presentation will include marvelous close-up photos of tillandsia species, cultivars, and hybrids.

The evening starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. Parking is free and everyone is welcome. Admission is free for SDHS members and \$10 for non-members. Before the lecture, a plant expert will discuss one exceptional plant (a "Hot Hort Pick") that is a star in the garden.

For more information, call (619) 296-9215 or visit [www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org](http://www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org).



SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



**March 11, 2013**

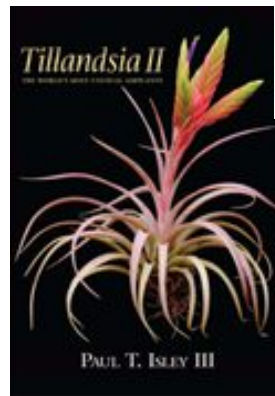
**• • Paul Isley • •**

***Tillandsias – The Cutting Edge for  
Ornamental Horticulture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

On Monday, March 11, 2013, the San Diego Horticultural Society welcomes Paul Isley, professional tillandsia grower and hybridizer. He has more than 40 years' experience in the field, is co-owner of Rainforest Flora, Inc. and has authored two books, *Tillandsia* and *Tillandsia II*.

Paul was introduced to tillandsias (a.k.a. "air plants") while a student at UCLA in the 1960's. He was fascinated by these incredibly unique looking plants that grew with no soil, could take temperatures down to freezing, could go a month without watering, and rehydrate when dried out by submerging under water over night.

Paul and his partner, Jerry Robinson, started Rainforest Flora, Inc. 38 years ago and they are now the world's largest *tillandsia* grower, hybridizer, and distributor, producing 100% of its inventory. They last imported plants in 1993, which is quite an achievement



<http://www.ranchosantafereview.com/2012/08/15/a-ranch-resident%E2%80%99s-story-shirley-berry/>

## A Ranch resident's story: Shirley Berry

*Writer's note: So many people in this community do not see all of the history that Rancho Santa Fe holds. Many of its residents have lived here for decades and have stories to tell. As a young person, I've always been intrigued by the generations that have come before me and what they have to offer. I am writing this column to help spread the stories of our community's long-time residents.*

*By Chris Rellas, TPHS senior*

To the untrained eye, succulents may seem simple and almost lifeless; the mark of a sweltering desert. But to RSF's Shirley Berry, the water-retaining plants open up a world of wonder, a world often under-appreciated by others.

"If you look at a rose bush, you appreciate it because of its flowers, but it has no real form. But cacti and other succulents are beautiful in their shape," Berry said. And one glance at her backyard could easily attest to her claim. Filled with potted succulents and a sizable greenhouse, her yard is a haven for the spiny plants. Unlike the manicured lawns of many of the homes in the area, Berry's house is a testament to the wilderness, a silent nod of respect to nature.

"When we moved here, it was absolutely stark and we loved it," she says as she talks about herself and her late husband. "He only loved plants because I loved them. He was just a good person and very loved in the community."



*Shirley Berry standing with her various planted succulents.*

As she walks around her yard, Berry is able to describe every plant in detail, discussing their name, where they are from and simultaneously pulling fallen leaves out of their prickly stems. She is not only appreciative of the beauty of succulents, but also remarkably well-read in the subject. She is sharp, resourceful, and always ready to relate her artistry in the garden with the happenings of the outside world. She knows when her plants need less

sun, more water or to be planted in a larger pot. But she also understands nature and the role people play in it.

After she checks on her plants, she walks beneath a large pine tree and refills a water bowl she sets out for the squirrels, birds, and other animals that pass through her yard every day. "The other very important factor in my life is my appreciation of animals. I'm in constant wonder and delight. In fact, I can't imagine a home without an animal," she says, as she sits in her living room, her two siamese cats circling below the couch. To her, and the wildlife that visits her yard, her home is a sanctuary, a peaceful and uninterrupted place to go. Even her plants seem to be at peace, alive and well despite the intense heat. And with every new factoid or story, it seems as if Berry is an expert in the field.

But her interests did not spur from professional desires. An art teacher by profession, Berry spent a good portion of her life as head of the Newport Harbor High School art department, a position that allowed her to spread her love of painting to young people. "Art is a great avenue for exposing your reactions to life around you and how it affects you." As she aged, though, painting became harder and harder for her. And so, her plants became her new art form; a way for her to continue painting landscapes. "The forms of plants are so beautiful," she says. "They are a great sculptural form. And when you put plants together, it's how they complement each other." And her plants are just that. With special care, she views them as sculptures, carefully pruning them and making sure that they are growing in the right direction.

Her love for plants has not, however, been limited to her backyard. Long active in the RSF Garden Club, she is a member of the San Diego, Palomar, British, and African Cactus and Succulent Societies, as well as a winner of multiple succulent sweepstakes and shows. Now, though, she says that she has cut her succulent collection down. A yard that used to house thousands of succulents is now home to only a fraction of the plants she used to care for. She even parted with half of her succulent book collection. Still, her cabinets are filled with neatly-marked reference books, magazines, and slides, a testament to her knowledge of and passion for plants. "Find something you love to do," she says. "And that will lead you to success."





## Alan Mahlke's Dragon Fruit



Alan sent this a while ago, but I needed to find room to share it! (Eleanore)



There is a nice little video from *This Old House*. It would be a good one to share with beginners.

### “How to Choose and Care for Succulents”

*This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook shares tips for maintaining lush and lively succulent plants, such as cactus.

<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/video/0..20288427.00.html>



*Secret Garden*



From the Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter

## Mexican Queretaro-style lentil soup with nopales... Sopa de lentejas con nopales estilo Queretaro

Karen Hursh Graber

Adapted from Dianna Kennedy's *The Essential Cuisines of Mexico*, contains characteristically Mexican ingredients such as nopales, fresh green chiles and cilantro.

- ! cup brown lentils, rinsed
- 6 cups water
- ! pound nopal cactus pads, cleaned and diced
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1 large green onion, quartered
- ! pound tomatoes, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- " cup finely chopped onion
- 1 fresh jalapeno chile, or 2 fresh serranos, thinly sliced
- 1 cup chicken broth
- " cup chopped cilantro

Place the lentils and water in a large soup pot, bring to a boil, lower heat and cook until the lentils are mushy.

Separately, boil the nopales with salt and the scallion until the nopales are tender. Drain, discard the scallion, and rinse the nopales.

Blend the tomatoes and garlic to make a puree and set aside.

Heat the oil in a small skillet, add the onion and chile, and cook until just soft. Add the tomato puree to the onion mixture and cook until almost dry. Add this mixture to the lentils, along with the chicken stock and nopales, and cook, covered, for 20 minutes. Stir in the cilantro.

Serve in soup bowls with hot tortillas or warm bolillos (soft Mexican rolls). Serves 6 as a first course.



# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SPRING PLANT SALE

Sponsored by the ~ *Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society*

Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ 10 am to 4 pm

Joslyn Senior Center, Escondido

Our sale is only six weeks away and final preparation are under way. THANKS SO MUCH to everyone who has signed up to donate plants, help with the sale, and bring food for the potluck.

There have been changes in our plans at the Senior Center. Due to increased crime and the police moving the homeless out of nearby Grape Day Park, all plants will now have to be brought to the center on Saturday morning instead of Friday. Thus we need 1 or 2 more volunteers for Plant Transportation, plus we still need more help with Signage and Roving Plant Consultants.

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING AND CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN HELP OUT.  
CONTACT ANNIE MORGAN (INFO BELOW) OR SIGN UP AT THE 2/23/2013 MEETING.**

★ **PLANT TRANSPORTATION** ~ Friday and Saturday, 3/22 & 23 – pick up plants on Friday afternoon, keep in trucks overnight, bring to center on Saturday @ 8 am.

1 or 2 truckloads from Libbi's house in San Pascual      1 or 2 truckloads from Lorie's house in Vista  
1 - Mike Regan    2 - Larry Mummy    3 - \_\_\_\_\_    4 - \_\_\_\_\_

★ **SIGNAGE HELP** ~ THE SUCCESS OF THE SALE DEPENDS A GREAT DEAL ON OUR SIGNS!

WE ARE DOING EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY, BUT LOCAL SIGNS BRING IN LOTS OF CUSTOMERS.

1) We need 1 or 2 people who know Escondido to figure out how many are needed and where to place signs. 2) We may need to 1 or 2 more signs made. 3) We need 1 or 2 people to place/remove signs the day of sale.

1 - Mike Regan,    2 - Stan Yalof,    3 - \_\_\_\_\_    4 - \_\_\_\_\_

★ **Roving Plant Consultants & Security** ~ 10 am – 1 pm    and    1 – 4 pm

1 - Bruce Barry    2 - \_\_\_\_\_    3 - \_\_\_\_\_    4 - \_\_\_\_\_

★ **SHADE STRUCTURES** ~ We may not need these, but want to know who has them in case of a heat wave.

1 - Don Nelson    2 - \_\_\_\_\_    3 - \_\_\_\_\_    4 - \_\_\_\_\_

**The following are (almost) COVERED!!! THANK YOU!**

Set up – Francis Granger, Don Nelson, John Barkley, Stan Yalof

Cashiers - Brita Miller, Vicki Broughton      Sales Table Help / Membership Table - Francis Granger, Kathie Hoxsie

Tear-down/Clean-up - Bruce Barry, Gloria Medina, Don Nelson, Francis Granger, Beverly Ficuciello

Tables - Peter Walkowiak - 5 tables    Libbi Salvo - 4 tables    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANT DONATIONS** ~ It's not too late to sign up to DONATE PLANTS! The more quality plants the better. You can bring plants to the next meeting and we'll babysit them, or deliver them to the sale.

Thanks to the following, including four more people, who have signed up to donate plants!

- |                         |                  |                 |                |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ○ Larry & Beler Bourget | Phyllis Flechsig | Francis Granger | Lori Johansen  |
| ○ Robert Kopfstein      | Leon LaFreniere  | Nell McChesney  | Britta Miller  |
| ○ Don Nelson            | Libbi Salvo      | Jerre Stafford  | Alfred Ventura |
| ○ Karen Warner          | Peter Walkowiak  | Stan Yalof      | YOU            |

**POTLUCK** ~ Thanks to those who signed up in January. You can still sign up at February's meeting, or just bring some food!

**BOXES!!!** – We need boxes and paper bags brought to the sale. Broken down boxes are fine.

A Volunteer Schedule with times, etc. will be sent to volunteers the week of the sale. Let us know if you can't fill your spot. Contact Annie Morgan, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ regarding volunteering, plant donations or questions.

