

# CACTUS COURIER

*Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society*

Volume 58, Number 5

May 2012

The Meeting is the 4th Saturday

**May 19, 2012**

**Alta Vista Gardens**

1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista

10 am to 4 pm

## PLANT SALE

Sponsored by  
**Palomar Cactus &  
Succulent Society**

**Saturday May 19  
10am – 4pm**

Alta Vista Gardens  
1270 Vale Terrace Drive  
Vista, CA 92084

**10 AM**

**Basics of Growing  
Succulents Lecture  
by Peter Walkowiak,  
President, PCSS**

**12:30 PM**

**Tour of Garden and  
Art by Bryan Morse,  
President/CEO of  
Alta Vista Gardens**

On-line directions to Alta Vista Gardens at

<http://www.altavistagardens.org/html/directions.html>

**We need lots and LOTS of extra plants for the Sale!!**  
**Lorie suggested everyone bring ONE extra plant each to make a good showing...**



**PCSS Sale at Alta Vista Gardens — 1270 Vale Terrace Drive Vista CA 92084**

**Saturday, May 19, 10:00 am – 4:00**

- From Route 78 take the **Vista Village Drive** exit and travel **North**.
- Vista village Drive changes name to **East Vista Way**.
- Turn right on **Vale Terrace Drive**.
- Continue past the Main Entrance and **turn left at the Second Entrance to Brengle Terrace Park**, continue past the Senior Center and follow to the **TOP of the hill**.
- Turn left at the '**Welcome, Alta Vista Gardens**' sign and left again.
- Follow the road around towards the Garden House Headquarters. Sales areas will be visible.



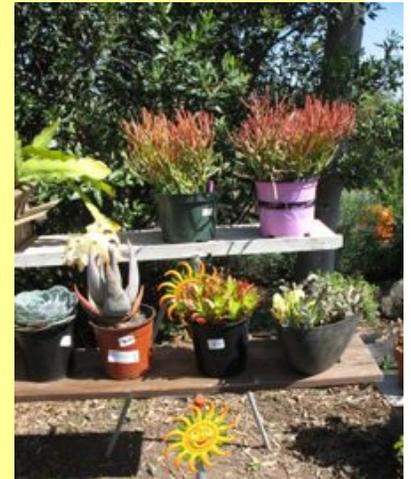
# WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!!!

Prep Crews, Pricers, Cashiers, Plant Consultants, Roving Security, Teardown & Clean-up...

We need also need boxes for the Sale Plants. And Tables or Shelves if possible.

Contact Lorie Johansen with offers of that help! \_\_\_\_\_

*(Bring your own chairs!)*



**There will be a Potluck PICNIC for Members and their guests.**

*(This will not be open to the public.)*

Eleanore has promised to bring a Flan! *(Maybe even a Chocolate one, too.)*

Eleanore will bring the Picnic Dry Goods (plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, etc), and she requests you bring a **dish to share**. Bring the food in coolers if necessary – remembering that hot dishes will stay hot in separate coolers *(who knew!?)*  
We will provide drinks.

Drop her a note \_\_\_\_\_ if you can bring something.

*Don't forget that chair!*



## 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

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

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair



## 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

**19 May Alta Vista Gardens, Vista**

**NOTE !!! 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday !!**

23 June	Joslyn Center
28 July	Joslyn Center
25 August	to be determined
22 September	Joslyn Center
27 October	San Diego Botanic Garden (Quail)
17 November	Joslyn Center

**NOTE !!! 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday !!**

15 December Joslyn Center

**NOTE !!! 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday !!**



For those of you who remember working at the Del Mar Fair, I found this lovely description of the Club's efforts a number of years ago. (FYI, that photo taken of my husband pulling spines out of my rear has been carefully destroyed!)

## **Impressions of the 1978 Del Mar Fair**

Written for the newsletter by Betty Wollrich

Starting in March, weekly conferences with Bob Lamp (manager of the Fair Garden Display) brought constant changes in plot dimensions. Finally, in May, Bob found himself in a bind when San Diego did not enter. So Mildred [Gregory], Katie [Macdonald] and I looked each other in the eye – took a deep breath – and suggested we provide our own competition. “Great” said Bob and we were off and hauling. Eight gardens this year and \$2300 in premiums. Guess we are going to need it.

First off, Katie suggested floating arrangements in the fountain. That was one Succulent Garden. To let you in on a secret – these arrangements were sitting on 16-inch cement blocks in that 30-foot fountain! And in spite of, or because of the water splash, held up marvelously and grew and grew. But one judge informed us these were not “aquatic” plants.

We have Jim Gibbons and the Wild Animal Park to thank for the 7-foot rounds that were used as platforms. There were the ends of electrical cable spools – torched apart, faced with benderboard, covered with plastic and topped with small gravel. Cantilevered over the pond, displaying specimen cactus in red Mexican pots, they made a good showing. Mildred outdid herself making up the large dish gardens that were set out on the dichondra. I thought they looked extremely well and thought provoking. And the dichondra, lush and green, covering all ground area to the water's edge, made a cool garden setting for harsh plant material. Verde del Sol Nursery in Escondido provided these tremendous variegated *opuntias* that marked the limits of the two Cactus Gardens. Lamp provided all those gorgeous *yuccas*.

The second Succulent Garden was also cantilevered rounds. For these – and the other 3 gardens – we managed to rustle up enough stoneware pots to make a rather different presentation. Did you notice how few plants were actually planted in the entire display? However, the rounds were spaced rather far apart so that making a contiguous garden took on certain problems of continuity. I rather imagine that the judges and clerks became somewhat confused with our garden perimeters.

The two Graft displays were centered – one around Katie's “Art of Grafting,” the other spotlighting her elephant “Jewels of the Garden” with Mildred's huge *Echeverias*. Cooper's Cactus loaned us most of the small grafts. [Phyllis] Flechsig had been maturing the large grafts given over the years by Bob Taylor. Together they made a decorative display – which is difficult as grafts are a stilted presentation at best.

The last two gardens competed with non-succulent materials. Katie's “Wildlife Carousel!” featured planted

animal pots and crested plant forms – this in a category of ‘New Plant Trends with Showmanship.’ It was a blithe presentation of succulent plants and took a red ribbon.

The last garden “Avid Avocation” for hobbies and collectors with garden structure featured a gazebo, furnished by Lamp, and imaginative plant holders built by [Chuck] Holtzer from motorcycle crates. This garden was rather a catchall for many specimen plants. I trust you all saw the unusual display of an *Agave bracteosa* in bloom – from Taylor. The assortment of large *Dudleyas* from Mildred, [Dorothy] Dunn and [John] Tashjian. Dish gardens from Macdonald and Mildred. Beautiful *Rhipsalis* from [Emma] Stephens. Did you note the crested *Monvillea cavendishii* from Ben’s Plants? Enough vibrant expression of our hobby to win a Blue Ribbon in competition with exotic bromeliads and, to some, more elegant, artistic or beautiful plants of genera other than Succulents.

And after it all was in and the Fair open, our thanks to Flechsig, [Elsie] Levesque and [?] Holst, who spelled each other to keep our display in sparkling condition. Thanks also to members who participated, who volunteered their husbands, who dusted plants and lent moral support, who make this thing of the Fair a fun and exciting experience.

-Betty Wollrich



## 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



## The San Diego Bromeliad Society

**Show & Sale**

**9am to 4pm**

**May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Balboa Park**

The San Diego Bromeliad Society will be holding its annual Show & Sale in Room 101, Casa del Prado on the **Memorial Day weekend**.

There will be plants on exhibition and on sale and there will be demos on how to grow these low water-need plants. Come early to find better parking!

[http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)



## Celebration at the Palomar Garden

Text & Photos from Stan Yalof

Our garden party at Palomar College was swell in many ways. The PCSS Garden was formerly transferred to the college. Dick Henderson's skill has brought his work and those of his horticulturist predecessors and helpers to a fine art. There were many happy plants, many richly displaying their flowers. PCSS is also to be congratulated for creating this superb facility. And the work is endless.

Our president Peter and Vicki organized plant gifts and exchanges and an auction. It was fun. Old yard rusty wheelbarrows got good prices and will enjoy a new life with plantings. A *Fockea crispa* showplant and some other fine plants were sold, fattening the PCSS coffers. Plant gifts were generously bestowed, including flats of *Aloe thraskii* and others.

Tony Rangel, head of the Palomar College Arboretum and Wayne Armstrong, Palomar College Professor and plant explorer proudly led a tour of their efforts in shaping this plant park. Palomar is fortunate in having such talent. After all of these excitements it was necessary to take some sustenance. Elaine Armstrong arranged a delightful lunch with a variety of sandwiches, beverages, and cookies. Thanks, Elaine!



## EVENTS

### May 26 & 27

Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA, 805-473-0788 <http://centralcoastcactus.org>

### June 2 & 3

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA from 9:00 til 5:00 each day. [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

### June 2 & 3

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale. Sierra Vista Mall, Shaw and Clovis Avenues, Clovis, CA, Saturday 10:00 - 6:00, Sunday 11:00 - 4:00  
Info: [www.fresnocss.org](http://www.fresnocss.org)

### June 9 & 10

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society; LACSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival and Sale. Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA, [www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)

### June 28 thru July 1

CSSA Annual Show & Sale  
Huntington Library & Botanic Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Sale Friday — Sunday. Show: Saturday & Sunday 9:00 til 5:00.



Cinematographer Louie Schwartzberg filmed a movie for DisneyNature on pollinators and flowers. **John Tashjian** sent a link to a short YouTube video that is quite lovely. It's among the most extraordinary nature footage of any sort that I've ever seen.

[www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4?rel=0](http://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4?rel=0)

**WINGS OF LIFE** presents the unsung heroes of the global food chain. You will witness, as never before, fantastic journeys that are full of wonder, drama and beauty. There is a fragile ecosystem, essential for sustaining life on the planet. Now threatened by mankind, this is a chance to see their world as never before. Visually stunning and emotional, the story is told from the flower's point of view. For the first time ever, you will witness a world hidden from the naked eye—and it will be an experience you will never forget.

Our life on Earth depends on the little things that we take for granted—bees, bats, butterflies and hummingbirds. But you can't tell the story of pollinators without telling the story of the greatest biological event that occurred on our planet 135 million years ago – the invention of the flower. Delicate and graceful, the flowers are not content to be the ultimate symbol of beauty. Quite the contrary, their bright colors and their exotic flavors are intoxicating wonders that attract pollinators, literally making them drunk with desire. It is a complex, beautiful dance of seduction upon which a third of our crops rely on for survival. It is a dance without which we could not survive.