

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 59, Number 7

July 2013

The Meeting is the 4TH Saturday!

July 27, 2013

They 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!!



“Soil Workshop” Show and Tell

•• Peter Walkowiak ••

PCSS President **Peter Walkowiak** will be doing a demonstration of re potting cactus and succulents.

The proper soil mix is the key to having success at growing your succulent plants. Consider it the foundation of growing healthy vigorous plants; just like the foundation of a building it is important to its

longevity. Requirements of a good soil for growing succulent plants are: good and fast drainage, large and small pore spaces, water and nutrient retention. At first glance you would think that this is a contradiction. It is not; each is important and is inter-related. Success relies upon the balance and relationships these have with one another.

In this workshop I will explain the science behind what makes a soil successful. What does not, and why. What components of the soil work in harmony, and which materials or components do not and should be avoided. Having completed many years of trying various materials through experimentation I have developed a soil that I believe is perfect for growing your succulent plants. Through this experimentation the materials used, the ratio of materials, and the mixing techniques, the three important criteria have been met.

During this workshop I will demonstrate the proper techniques, ratios and materials for making this perfect soil mix for your succulents so you can go home, use this and have greater success than you have ever had.

At the conclusion of the workshop there will be soil for everyone to replant one plant. To be fair and so everyone can replant one plant, I will restrict the pot size to 6 inches for the new pot size. You will need to bring one plant and pot to the workshop and the pot in which it will be transplanted. I will provide top dressing. This part of the workshop will be hands-on: I want you to do the transplanting and I will watch and give advice. I want you to see how this soil works for you and how much better they grow. I will also provide a soil handout that you can take home. Please water plants on Friday before bringing to the workshop.



From top/clockwise – Granite stone, pea gravel, fine gravel, perlite, soil and the final potting mixture.



BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE



REFRESHMENTS

Annie Morgan

Jean O'Daniel

Lorie Johansen

Beverly Ficuciello

Mike Regan



Brag Plants – June

Plant of the Month

Andrew Wilson *Tillandsia* “Showtime”
Andrew Wilson *Tillandsia cacticola*

3rd Robert Kopfstein *Copiapoa tenuissima* Graft

Advanced Cactus

1st John Tashjian *Rhipsalis sp.*

Novice to Intermediate Succulents

1st Jerre Stafford *Aeonium sp.*

Novice to Intermediate Cactus

1st Lorie Johansen *Leuchtenbergia principis*
2nd Mike Regan *Gymnoclycium sp.*



Advanced Succulents

- 1st Ron Chisum *Echeveria* "Lotus"
- 1st Mitch Bahr *Operculicarya decaryi*
- 2nd Ron Chisum *Echeveria* "Cupeña"
- 2nd Rudy Lime *Portulacaria afra*



One of our past members (Loie Marsula' Jeromin) has a large Agave coming into bloom. Her address is [redacted] "The agave is visible from the street – we are at the end of a cul-de-sac and it will not be a problem if members want to view the plant. This plant is a pup I got on a visit to the Palomar College garden in 1996 or 1997. I am very excited about watching it bloom – it is very unexpected."



2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

27 July	Park Ave Community Center
24 August	San Diego Botanic Garden (<i>Quail</i>) PICNIC
28 September	Park Ave Community Center
26 October	San Diego Botanic Garden (<i>Quail</i>) SHOW & SALE
23 November	Park Ave Community Center
21 December	Park Ave Community Center
NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!	



Plant of the Month

• • **Euphorbia** • •



SUMMER BUS TRIP

We are planning a bus trip this summer to the **Intercity Show and Sale** at the Los Angeles Arboretum – the largest show of its kind – on Saturday, August 17th.

Details are not yet finalized, but we will certainly be leaving early in the morning. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting; or send Peter an email to reserve your spot. We will be doing this in conjunction with the San Diego Club.



Pumice for Your Potting Soil

It turns out it is possible to find **pumice** for your potting soil locally. **DRY STALL** is produced for use in horse stalls to control mud, but it is a perfect additive for cactus and succulent potting mix. Your Friendly Editor™ obtained a 40-pound bag from Mary's Tack & Feed in Rancho Santa Fe for

only \$13. (She has no financial connection there!) Check the tack & feed stores close to you.

From one of the other companies: “Pumice has a variety of characteristics making it useful throughout your garden. Providing excellent aeration to the soil, it loosens heavy clay soil and retains moisture well. It won't break down, compact or rot, giving your roots the space they need. Along with these characteristics, ...Pumice will also make it easy to control nutrients; will not provide a host to fungi, nematodes, insects, etc; is easily leached; has a neutral pH; and does not give off any offensive odors.”



NOAA's National Weather Service

Heat Index
Temperature (°F)

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	108	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

- Caution
- Extreme Caution
- Danger
- Extreme Danger

The weather is getting HOT!! Now is a good time to make sure you're taking care of yourself while you're in the garden.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/heat/index.shtml>

Heat-Related Illness Symptoms and First Aid

HEAT CRAMPS

Symptoms:

- Painful muscle cramps and spasms usually in legs and abdomen
- Heavy sweating

First Aid:

- Apply firm pressure on cramping muscles or gentle massage to relieve spasm.

- Give **sips** of water, if nausea occurs, discontinue water

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Symptoms:

- Heavy sweating
- Weakness
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Weak pulse
- Possible muscle cramps
- Dizziness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fainting
- Normal temperature possible

First Aid:

- Move person to a cooler environment
- Remove or loosen clothing
- Apply cool, wet cloths
- Fan or move victim to air conditioned room
- Offer **sips** of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue water. If vomiting continues, seek immediate medical attention.

HEAT STROKE (or sunstroke)

Symptoms:

- Altered mental state
- Possible throbbing headache, confusion, nausea, dizziness, shallow breathing
- High body temperature (106°F or higher)
- Skin may be hot and dry, or patient may be sweating
- Rapid pulse
- Possible unconsciousness

First Aid:

- Heat stroke is a severe medical emergency. Summon emergency medical assistance or get the victim to a hospital immediately. Delay can be fatal.
- Move the victim to a cooler, preferably air-conditioned, environment
- Reduce body temperature with a water mister and fan or sponging
- Use fan if heat index temperatures are below the high 90s
- Use extreme caution
- If temperature rises again, repeat process
- Do **NOT** give fluids



A different kind of potting...

Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Peter Walkowiak – President & Program Chair

Chris Barkley – Vice-President

Libbi Salvo – Secretary

Vicki Broughton – Treasurer

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

Annie Morgan – Board Member

•••••

Dick Henderson – Garden Representative

Brita Miller – Librarian

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

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair



We are getting ready to design the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society website!

Preliminary work is starting on an official website for the Club. Among other things, we would love to put lots of

photographs up on the site. Please send me your photos along with a note indicating you give us permission to use them.

We will want pictures of members, too. We'll make sure to get permission to put those up as well.

If you have favorite websites, I believe we can install active links to go to them. So send those along.



If you can translate this, we need you!



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

August 17 & 18

28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale

9am to 5pm daily

LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA

Info: 626-798-2430 or 661-297-5364

September 7th

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium

All Day

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 626-405-2160 or 2277

September 22nd

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction

Rancho los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd, Long Beach, 90615

Info: 310-922-6090

November 2 & 3

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Soc. Show & Sale

9am to 4pm daily

LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA



Ride-Around Garden Motorized Dump Cart

Minimum Bid \$650

Modified and donated by Royal Akins

Proceeds to the Palomar CSS

Features: Electric Start

Stereo radio

Rear tilt-dump (cleverly designed by Royal)

Spare tire

Comments: Simple operation, Good body and cushions, Battery may need future replacement. Available for inspection in Escondido. Delivery at cost.

Market value \$1,500+ est.

Submit inquiries and bids to the PCSS Board of Directors.



These are active links within the PDF. Just click on them. It may take a little while for your browser to load them.

Repotting Tutorials...

http://www.sacredcactus.com/propagation5_repotting.htm

http://www.greenculturesg.com/articles/may06/may06_cacti_potting.htm

<http://birdsandbloomsblog.com/2013/04/23/a-virtual-potting-demonstration>

Making Your Own Potting Soil...

<http://cactiguide.com/article/?article=article8.php>

Repotting a Large Golden Barrel Cactus...

<http://www.bambooandmore.info/2011/02/repotting-large-golden-barrel-cactus.html>

Mini Garden...

<http://lifeonthebalcony.com/breath-freshener-turned-mini-garden>



DAVE'S GARDEN

<http://davesgarden.com/>

I subscribe to this free online gardening newsletter. They send out interesting articles written by members. I urge you to look into it.



Cinnamon – Spice for life

By LariAnn Garner

After my experience with aspirin and the beneficial aspects of using it to help plants fight off infections, I mused about other naturally occurring substances or products that might have similar uses. In my searching for information about this, I found out about the use of **cinnamon** powder to stop the progress of rot on infected tubers. Of course, I had to try this for myself to see if there was anything to it. After all, cinnamon is readily available, you don't need a pesticide applicator's license to use it, and your pets are in no danger if you do use it.

So when I saw rot spots showing up on a large *Alocasia* rhizome, I ran for my shaker of cinnamon powder, cleaned off the rotted or diseased tissue and then applied the powder liberally, pressing it onto the wound to make sure it stuck there. It sure smelled nice, but the real test was going to be after a few days, when I found out if the rotting stopped, or if it progressed.

How Sweet It Is!

The next day, I was out inspecting the wound for signs either way. To my delight, the wound was dry and showed no signs of further rotting. Days and weeks later, the wound was dry and apparently healed. Since then, I've had the opportunity to try this remedy with several different tuber-rotting situations, and it has worked each time.

When you find that a favorite plant has a tuber, corm or rhizome that is showing signs of rotting, the first step is to clean the affected area thoroughly, being certain to remove any diseased or rotted tissue down to where all you see is firm healthy tissue. At this point you can wash the wound with hydrogen peroxide if you wish. Alternatives would be a 10% solution of chlorine bleach (9 ounces water plus 1 ounce bleach) or a surface sterilant solution that contains quaternary amine compounds (I know, not something you are likely to have, but if you work in a hospital, lab or restaurant, they may have some). One common source could be in a Mouthwash such as Crest Pro Health in which the active ingredient is cetyl pyridinium chloride. After this cleaning, dry the wound area and then apply the cinnamon powder liberally, pressing it to the raw exposed area so as to be sure the powder has covered and adhered to all of the area. The most important part of the preparation is to be sure you have removed all diseased or rotted tissue from the affected area. Even if you do not do the surface sterilization, the cinnamon powder can still work magic.

Help for more than just your plants

Cinnamon, or *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, is a small evergreen tree that hails from Sri Lanka, and has a history of being used as a medicinal herb. In most cases, cinnamon was used as a curative for human illnesses and as an anti-spoiling agent for foodstuffs. More information on the history and uses of cinnamon can be found at www.herbwisdom.com. Modern research has demonstrated that cinnamon does indeed contain active biochemical components that exhibit antifungal and antibacterial properties when tested in vitro, meaning in the test tube or petri dish environment.

A dusting of spice

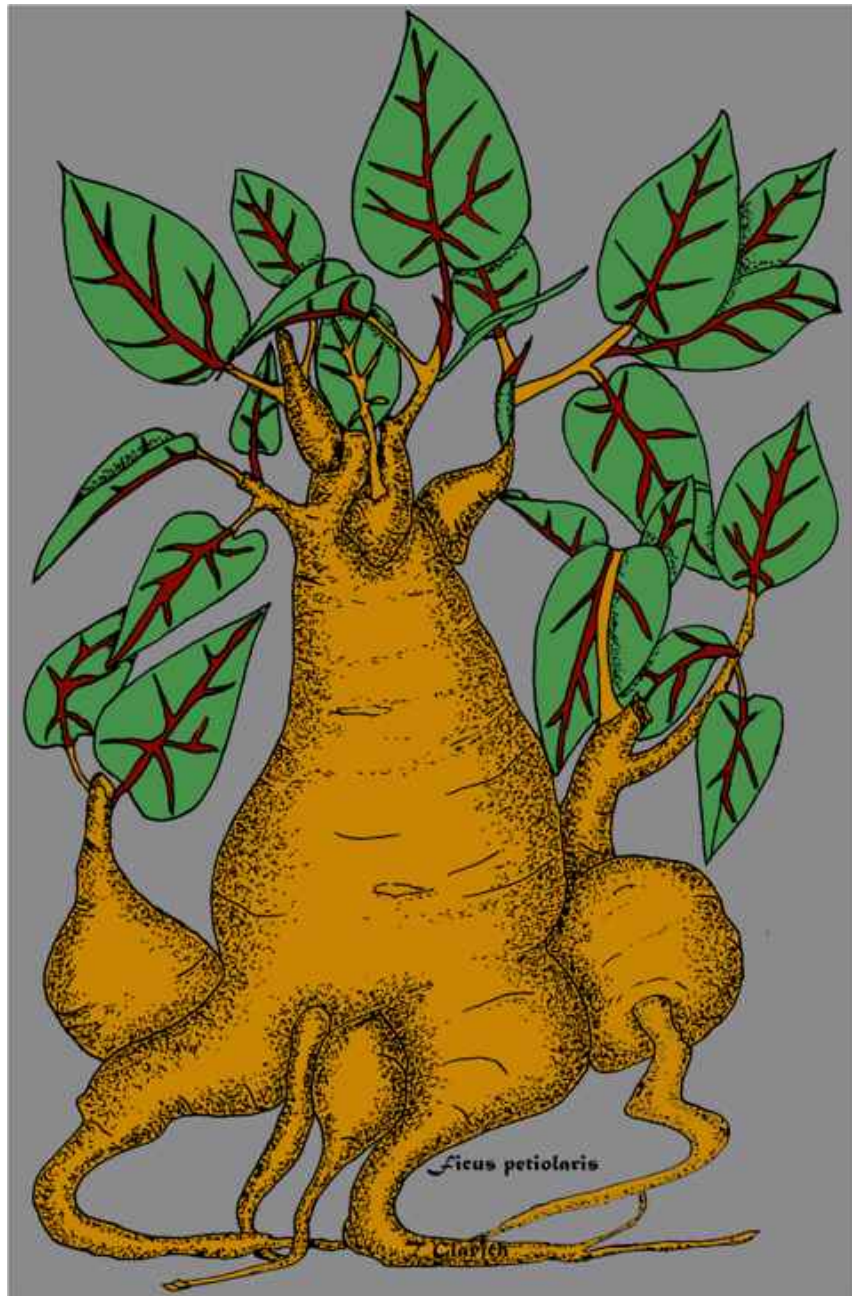
However, for our purposes as gardeners, our concern is that cinnamon can help in our struggle to keep our prized plants from being preyed upon by fungi and bacteria, especially the rot-causing kind. As a result of my having had positive results in using cinnamon, I even use it when packaging a tuber, corm or rhizome for shipping to someone, especially if any wounds are present. So often I have removed a smaller offset from a larger plant and there is an open wound. Even though this wound is not infected, the cinnamon can serve well as a protectant, covering and drying the wound while preventing any fungal or bacterial invasions. You may even try powdering your newly sown seed trays as a

preventive for damping off. The price is certainly right, so why not give it a try?

There are also articles out there suggesting the use of cinnamon to stop ants. I'm willing to try anything at this point! – Eleanore



**28th Inter-City Cactus and Succulent
Show and Sale
August 17 – 18, 2013 9am – 5pm**



**Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia**

626-821-3222