

# 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 5

May 2019

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**This is a week early!**

**NOTE  
TEMPORARY  
LOCATION  
ADDRESS!**

**2245 E. Valley Parkway  
Escondido, 92027**

Brag, Exchange & Benefit Drawing Tables – **YES!**

**10:30am - 3:00pm**

## In This Issue

Speaker Information	p. 1-2
May Meeting Location Info	p. 2
Plant of the Month	p. 3
Garden Brag Photos	p. 4
Stamp Unveiling Ceremony	p. 5
CSSA 2019 Conference Info	p. 5
Misc. Show & Sale Flyers	p. 6
Misc. Club Info, Calendar, etc.	p. 7
Succulent Eye Candy	p. 7

## REFRESHMENTS

**The Refreshment Signup  
Sheet went missing!  
But we will be hungry so  
please do bring in goodies.**

**THANKS!**

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

**We're on Facebook!**

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

**Note that our newsletters are now  
on our website. The current  
month's edition is posted about 10  
days before the meeting.**

## This Month's Presentation:

"Forms & Functions of Cacti and Succulents Inside  
and Out, Along with other Desert Dwellers!"

By Ernesto Sandoval

Ernesto will be sharing his understanding of the way succulents and other desert plants are adapted to surviving drought in desert and other dry environments. He will cover Biology (how they work overall), Anatomy (how they are organized on the inside), Morphology (how they are organized on the outside), and Ecophysiology (how all the parts above work together) to make the plants adapt to their often challenging lives.



As usual, Ernesto will bring an assortment of plants, mostly hardy succulents to offer for sale!





**Biography:** Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking answers to questions as to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals as well as Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western garden clubs throughout the year and particularly to succulent clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and/or water-loving landscapes to drought-tolerant and diversity-filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.



## MAY 18 MEETING LOCATION

Our meeting place for May will be the:  
**East Valley Community Center**  
**2245 East Valley Pkwy, Escondido, 92027.**

Look for the large sign on the south side of the road.

- The meeting schedule will be the same.
- Our speaker will be selling plants!

### **As usual WE WILL HAVE OUR:**

- **BRAG TABLE**
- **EXCHANGE TABLE**
- **BENEFIT DRAWING TABLE**

**But, we WILL NOT HAVE OUR LIBRARY.**

**You may however bring back your library books.**



# Plant of the Month - In Your Face Flowers - ECHINOCEREUS By Lorie Johansen

Who doesn't love BIG, fun, fanciful flowers ranging from neon pink to scarlet to translucent browns and greens blooming from spring to early summer? Unlike many cacti, the smaller size of these "hedgehog" cacti make them manageable in the ground or in containers so they are perfect for collectors. Why are they commonly called hedgehog cactus? Their short, spiny stems resemble hedgehogs. Ancient Greek "echinos" means hedgehog or porcupine and the Latin "cereus" which means candle, hence the genus name Echinocereus.



Photo by Isabelle Moon  
Echinocereus dasyacanthus x coccineus

There are approximately 70 Echinocereus species native to the United States and Mexico which grow in an amazing range of habitats from very rocky places to Ponderosa forests to coastal plains. They grow in low elevation deserts to mountainsides 8000' or higher, and in the US as far north as South Dakota. The species are cold hardy and tolerate temperatures as low as -9.4 °F, but only in very dry conditions.

Echinocereus rarely get taller than a foot and all have cylindrical, ribbed stems growing in clumps, with a single very old plant possibly having up to one hundred stems. Some such as *E. pulchellus* (left) and *E. subinermis* (middle left) have more globular stems. Others such as *E. berlandieri* (far right) and *E. salmianus* (middle right) have more conical stems and are spinier. There can be a tremendous amount of variation within a species so identification can be especially tricky in some instances.

Flowers can exceed 3" in diameter and erupt through the epidermis of the stem as do new offsetting stems.



They have many rows of petals and typically close at night. Spines are always straight and are arranged along vertical ribs, but there is variation among species. Some are dramatic and fierce covering the plant stem intensely so that the plant is barely visible. Most have evenly distributed, moderately sized spines, some have very colorful spines in alternating pattern, others have comb-like spines, and some are nearly spineless.

Some species have edible fruit such as *E. engelmannii* (above far left, fruit & spines right) with a flavor described as strawberry and vanilla. You can see a significant stand of this cactus at Anza Borrego State Park (on the hillside east of the San Felipe monument overlooking Highway S-2, ½ mile north of Scissors Crossing). This particular echinocereus has five recognized varieties in California. It is also called the Calico Cactus because of spine colors which vary from shades of white to dark brown on the same plant. The longest spine on a plant is up to 3" and is always white. The flowers are magenta, pink, and sometimes lavender and purple. Note the spines on the Calico Cactus and on its fruit in the photo.



**CULTIVATION:** Requirements include full sun for best growth and flower, excellent drainage as the root structure is weak and prone to rot. A cactus mix soil and infrequent watering during the summer months with diluted fertilizer will result in healthy growth. In the winter months, they want to rest and need very little water, if any. In the ground, plant in masses for the best effect. Well-drained gritty soil is a must in pots or in the ground.

**PROPAGATION:** Echinocereus can be propagated by offsets or from seed. For offsets, remove a small plantlet from the mound, let callous and carefully put in cactus soil. Keep barely moist until rooted. Stemming varieties can be seed sown in the spring and will germinate in about two weeks. During this period keep the container moist and warm. Potted echinocereus do not need frequent repotting due to their slow growing nature, but when repotting handle them gently to prevent root damage.

**PESTS AND DISEASES:** Echinocereus are vulnerable to aphids, mealybugs and scale. A strong blast of water is your first defense. A toothpick or skewer stick can be used to get insects off when there are many spines. This can require tremendous patience and may be considered a new form of meditation... You can also spray with 70% isopropyl alcohol. Spray in the morning and in the shade. Root mealybugs can also be an issue. They suck plant juices from the roots causing the plant to look pale. Some people choose to bag and trash the plant, or you may wash off the roots carefully. A root soak may be done before repotting the plant.

# 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.

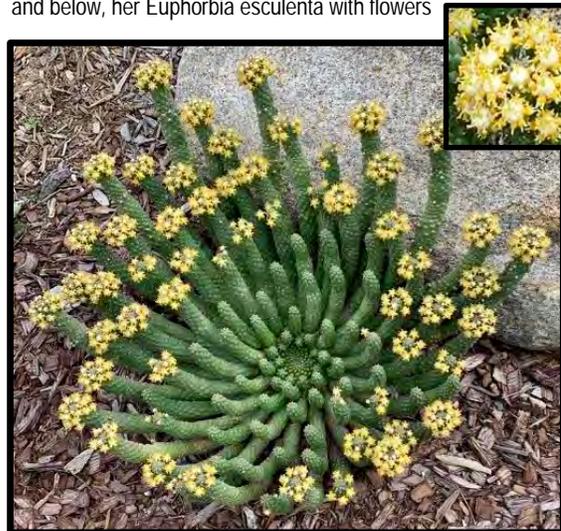
Email to Annie at: [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org), WITH your name AND the plant name.



Above: Susan LaFreniere beautiful cactus bloom, and below, her *Euphorbia esculenta* with flowers



Above & left: Russel Ray's *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* and a closeup of its 1/8" stem and 3/16" flowers  
Below: Ron Chisum's *Echinopsis* 'Flying Saucer'



Center: Patty Merriam's *Echinopsis oxygona*  
Left & above: Lorie Johansen's *Adenium obesum*, AKA Desert Rose, & *Echinocereus coccineus* AKA Scarlet Hedgehog  
Right: Annie Morgan's 14" *Aeonium* flower stalk



# U.S. Post Office Cactus Stamp Unveiling Ceremony

## Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden ~ April 15<sup>th</sup>

It was a beautiful day with the Garden at its best! Many attendees had never before been to the Garden and enjoyed having a chance to visit. Everyone enjoyed looking at the large poster (below) with photos from when the Garden was first started in 1962 by our club. Thanks to Vicki Broughton and Eleanore Hewitt for finding many of the photos, and to Vicki for helping Brita put the poster display together. It will be on display at our May or June meeting.



**FOREVER CACTUS FLOWERS**  
Commemorative Forever Stamp  
**Stamp Unveiling Ceremony**  
Monday, April 15, 2019 ~ 11:30am  
PALOMAR COLLEGE  
CACTUS & SUCCULENT GARDEN  
1140 W Mission Road  
San Marcos CA 92069

**HONORED SPEAKERS**  
**Joi Lin Blake, Esq.**  
Superintendent President Palomar College  
**Lisa Baldwin**  
San Diego Postmaster  
United States Postal Service  
**Anthony Rangel**  
Grounds Services Supervisor Palomar College  
**Christine Carmichael**  
Marketing Manager  
United States Postal Service  
**Unveiling**  
Acknowledgements & Closing

Cacti cultivated at  
Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden

Each Cactus Flowers Forever stamp depicts the floral display of one of these ten cacti: *Opuntia engelmannii*, *Rebutia minuscula*, *Echinocereus dasyacanthus*, *Echinocereus poselgeri*, *Echinocereus coccineus*, *Pelecyphora aselliformis*, *Parodia microsperma*, *Echinocactus horizontalis*, *Thelocactus heterochromus* and *Parodia scopia*. Cacti also may have common names, with some varieties having several different names in popular use.  
Cactus flowers generally occur singly, although many separate blossoms might appear on a plant at the same time. Flowering occurs at different times of the year and even different times of the day or night. Most cactus flowers are large and flamboyant, with colors of white, red, pink, orange or yellow.



Link to website: [CSSAConvention.com](http://CSSAConvention.com) where you can get detailed information and register.

Cactus and Succulent Society of America  
2019 Biennial Convention  
July 17-20, 2019  
*Succulents: Conserving our Treasures*  
San Luis Obispo, California

2 0 1 9  
S U M M E R  
S H O W & S A L E  
J U N E 1 & 2

Balboa Park  
Casa del Prado

Open to the Public  
Free Admission

# San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society



*Ariocarpus fissuratus* 'Godzilla'  
Rarest Plant in Show - Kal Kaminer

## Auction · Spectacular Show Plants Rare, Exotic Plants & Handmade Pottery for Sale

Saturday, June 1	9am – 11am	Member's Only Shopping*
	11am – 5pm	Plant Sale Open to Public
	10am – 3pm	Plant Show
FAMILY DAY Sunday, June 2	10am – 4pm	Plant Sale & Show
	10am – 1pm	Interactive Planting Activities for Kids!
	1pm – 2pm	Adult Class
	2pm	Plant Auction

\*Join online at <https://www.sdcss.net/membership>, or submit form on reverse

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

**2019  
SHOW  
& SALE**

**MAY  
25&26**

**13TH ANNUAL CACTUS & SUCCULENT  
SHOW & SALE** *Free Admission*

Ludwick Center  
884 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA (corner of Hill St.)

Saturday, May 25th, 2019 — 10 am to 5 pm  
Sunday, May 26th, 2019 — 10 am to 4 pm

Experts will be on hand to answer your questions.  
There plants and handmade pottery for sale.

**CASH, CHECK & ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED**

For more information log on to [www.CentralCoastCactus.org](http://www.CentralCoastCactus.org)  
or Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Bromeliad Show & Sale time!

**San Diego  
Bromeliad  
Society**

presents  
its annual  
**SHOW &  
SALE**

**Saturday & Sunday • June 8 & 9**  
Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 101, 10:00 - 4:00  
[SanDiegoBromeliadSociety.org](http://SanDiegoBromeliadSociety.org)

**L A C S S  
DROUGHT  
TOLERANT  
P L A N T  
FESTIVAL**

SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER  
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO 91316

**SATURDAY JUNE 8TH, 2019 9:00AM-4:00PM**  
**SUNDAY JUNE 9TH, 2019 9:00AM-3:00PM**

## Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

The North San Diego County C & S Club!

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Click below for a printable Membership Application:

<http://www.palomarcactus.org/membership/>

### 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

#### Speakers & Topics & Plants of the Month

May 18 <sup>th</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Ernesto Sandoval – Succulents of So. Africa - with Growing Tips & Echinocereus
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> - - - - -	Speaker TBA & P of M TBA
July 27 <sup>th</sup> - - - - -	Speaker TBA & P of M TBA
August 24 <sup>th</sup> - - - - -	Annual Picnic at San Diego Botanic Garden
September 21 <sup>st</sup> - - -	Speaker TBA & P of M TBA
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 & P of M TBA
December 21 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	– HOLIDAY PARTY & GIFT PLANTS FOR YOU!

## Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brita Miller – President, Show Chair, Event Coordinator**  
[eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

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

**John Barkley – Treasurer**

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

**David Buffington – Member at Large**

• • • • •

### OTHER VOLUNTEERS

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

**Lorie Johansen - Guest & New Member Ambassador,  
Plant of the Month**

**Richard Miller - Membership** [membership@palomarcactus.org](mailto:membership@palomarcactus.org)

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

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

**Vicki Martin - Co-Librarian**

**Kevin Smith – Brag Table**

**Francis Granger & Brian Magone – Exchange Table**

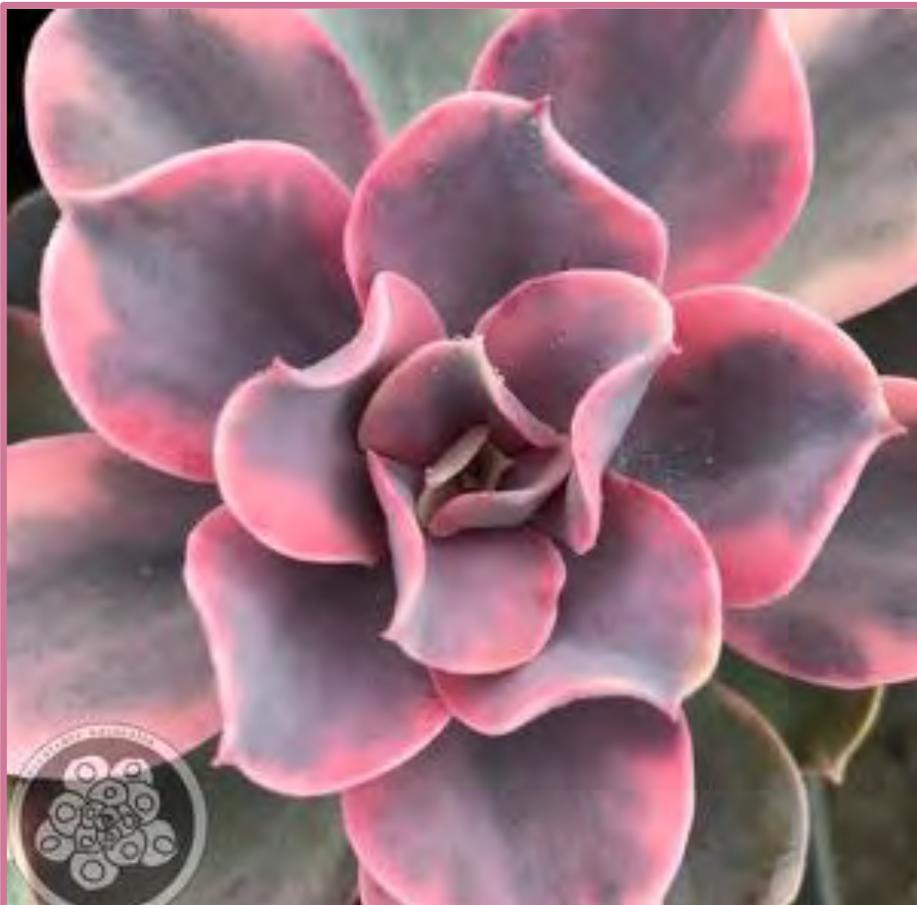
**Chet Reed – Brag Plant Photographer**

**Russel Ray – Event Photographer, Website**

**Nell McChesney – Name Tag Drawing Plants**

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

## Succulent Eye Candy



Echeveria 'West Rainbow' – photo from Succulents Australia

## Upcoming California Events

**May 25-26 Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale** 10 - 4pm,  
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo,  
Info: 805-237-2054, [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)

**June 1-2 San Diego C & S Society Summer Show & Sale**  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego,  
Info: 858-382-1797

**June 8-9 San Diego Bromeliad Society Show & Sale** 6/8 9 - 5pm, Sun., 10 - 4pm,  
Balboa Park, Room 101,  
Info: Morlane O'Donnell [morlaneodonnell@att.net](mailto:morlaneodonnell@att.net)

**June 8-9 Los Angeles C & S Society Drought Tolerant Plant Festival & Show & Sale**  
Fri., 6/8 9 - 4pm, Sat., 6/9 9 - 3pm, Sepulveda Garden Ctr., 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino,  
Info: [www.lacactus.com](http://www.lacactus.com)

**June 28-30 CSSA Annual Show & Sale**  
Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino  
Plant Sale is 6/28 - 6/30, 10- 5pm daily,  
Show is 6/29 - 6/30, 10-5pm,  
Info: 626-405-3504