## **CACTUS COURIER**

#### Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 64, Number 1

January 2018

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Sat., January 28th

Park Ave. Community Center 210 Park Ave., Escondido

Brag plants, Exchange Table, Benefit Drawing

11:00am - 3:00pm

### **Membership Renewal Time**

It's that time of year again!
Renewals will be accepted until
the end of March, after which
you will be removed from the
membership and newsletter
lists. Cash, checks, & credit
cards are accepted at meetings.

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## REFRESHMENTS

- 1 Jean O'Daniel
- 2 Heather Chan
- 3 Winston Chan
- 4 Charlene Barad
- 5 Christine Hays
- 6 Nancy Dunn ..... and YOU!

Click here to visit our webpage:

www.palomarcactus.org
We're on Facebook!

#### This Month's Presentation:

#### **Soft Succulents**

By: Jeff Moore

Jeff's book talk will covers the major players in the nebulous category of 'soft succulents', which include aeoniums, echeverias, dudleyas, crassulas, sedums, senecios, kalanchoes, and a few more obscure soft, non-spiny groups. These plants all have a certain soft and colorful 'feel' about them, and many are used in the dish garden/ plant combination movement, which will be discussed as well, but we will be looking more at the plants themselves than all the fun things you can do with them.

The soft succulents in my book are for the most part not that rare (there are exceptions of course), and are generally easy to grow in our climate. You might consider most of these plants as the pretty and colorful 'girlie foo -foo' succulents, which they mostly are, but beauty can't be denied. They are popular for a reason.

Not included are succulents that can be seen as 'soft', (non-spiny), but are more in the collector realm as stand-alone container specimens, such as adeniums, fockeas, dorstenias, and many other 'plant show' plants.

Jeff will be bringing copies of his new book to sell, and in addition will be selling plants. Come early for the best Selection!









Jeff Moore has owned and operated Solana Succulents in Solana Beach for 25 years - a succulent nursery with both rare and more common succulent plants for sale. He does a small amount of

succulent landscaping and consulting as well.

Jeff has been writing books and giving presentations in support of them for the past 3 years. His first book was *Under the Spell of Succulents*, which offers an overview of the hobby of playing with succulents. It was followed by *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation*, which really drills down on those two groups and their relatives. His third and newest books is called *Soft Succulents*.

Jeff has been married to Lori, his wife of 30 years, and they have two young adult sons - one working in technology in the Bay Area, and the other is a sophomore at Cal Poly.

Neither is particularly interested in plants (yet). Jeff still self-identifies as a surfer, but is having trouble with the standing up part in his old age.



## ~ NOTICES ~

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS**

At our December meeting we held our yearly elections. We have worked on getting terms organized so that multiple officers and Members-at-Large don't term out at the same time, and with this election we now have that worked out. Results were:

Peter Walkowiak – President – 1 year term

Brita Miller – Vice President – 2 year term

Annie Morgan – Secretary – 1 year term Jim Anderson – Member at Large – 2 year term

- Our two other Members-at-Large, Francis Granger and Mike Nelson each have one year left on their term.
- The Treasurer position is OPEN and needs to be filled ASAP. Contact Brita if you are interested and would like more info.

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Now is the time to renew your club membership for 2018. There is a form you can print and mail in on the back page, or forms are available at meetings. Starting last year, we now ask that ALL RENEWALS BE submitted BY THE END OF MARCH, as that cuts down greatly on the amount of work our Membership Chair, Richard Miller has to do working on the spreadsheet and newsletter email list. So, if you have not renewed by the end of March your information will be removed from the rooster and newsletter lists. If you renew at a meeting you may use CASH, CHECKS, or a CREDIT CARD.

#### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We will once again be printing up a Member Directory that will be available at the April meeting, once all membership renewals have been received. If you signed up to be in the Directory last year we will continue to include you, unless you let Annie know otherwise. If you'd weren't included last year and would like to be added, please indicate on the Membership Form which information you'd like to have included. If you have already renewed your membership without filling in that section, just fill in a new form, cross off the section about payment, and just fill in your name and what information you'd like included in the Directory. Please contact Annie if you have any questions.

#### MEETING EFFICIENCY

Our meetings have been running overtime and we have been going over our rental hours. So, starting in January we will follow our schedule more closely and we will work harder on providing notice that we are about to start. We are hoping members will then be seated quickly. If people are still up talking when we start, we ask that you stop talking so that everyone can hear.

**T-S**HIRTS - We still have five t-shirts for sale with the 2017 agave design, all men's large, but of course they fit women too. Colors are 3 in Sapphire, 1 in Hunger Green, and one in Forest Green. Shirts are \$16 plus tax.

YEARLY CALENDAR - ALWAYS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER - FYI — our meeting schedule for the year is always on the back page at the bottom of each newsletter issue. Also, always on the back page is a box listing the next few months So. California events, and this is updated monthly.

**NEW** – Brag Point Totals to be Listed in Newsletter - Many clubs list a running total of member's Brag Plant Point in their newsletters each month. Our Board has decided to do this, hoping to develop some competition and increase the number of plants brought in each month. However, we will be listing them only three times a year, in April (after our Spring Festival Show), in July, and in December.

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## **Holiday Party Fun Photos!**





Left: A gift to Eleanore Hewitt to thank her for cooking the delicious turkey thighs and gravy each December. We found out she has been doing this for an UNBELIEVABLE 30 YEARS! Thank you again Eleanore!







Above: Peter presenting Board Members with thank you gifts for all their hard work! Leon did your plant meet the smell test?







Left: Brita receiving a gift from the Board, presented by Annie, for all her work in coordinating and running our very successful October Show & Sale! Congratulation on another recordbreaking year!













Above Some of Evelyn Voth's oh-socute reindeer decorations, and Lorie sharing a photo of her just cooked delicious Cajon spiced turkey breasts that she provided for our party

Left some of the over 150 Brag, Volunteer, and Member Gift Plants that were handed out at the party!

If you weren't there you missed out!

## **Plant of the Month ~ Dudleya**

**Dudleya** is a genus of succulent consisting of approximately 45 species which grow in western North America – California, Baja California, with a few in Oregon and Arizona. Surprisingly, many plants in the Dudleya genus were formerly classified as Echeverias. Their fleshy leaves occur is rosettes, ranging from green to gray, and the numerous species offer a dizzying array of leaf shapes, sizes, habits, and flower colors for the garden. The flowers are on vertical or inclined stems up to 3' tall, but usually shorter. One of the common names for *Dudleya* is "liveforever," which speaks to the ability of this genus to thrive on neglect, although they do not look their best during their summer dormancy. Some species reputedly live as long as 50-100 years, others a "mere" twenty.

Dudleya species are widespread in their range, typically found in rock outcroppings, cliff faces, or road cuts, where their leaves help them store water in a setting too dry for most plants. When planting, Dudleya should be placed at an angle to allow accumulated water to drain from the nest like center of the plant, thus preventing rot. Dudleyas grow in sun or part shade.

Garden forms of dudleyas come in two distinct types: branching and unbranching. Both are ideal for succulent and rock gardens. Branching species develop multiple rosettes that form low, tufted colonies, while unbranched species produce a solitary rosette. The colony types make good groundcover in the front of a border, and rosettes types make excellent container specimens and focal points in beds. If you will be showing your plants, don't touch the leaves as it will mar the white powdery coating they have, and additionally, the branching rosette species will develop dead leaves each year, and you need to decide whether to leave them or remove them, just be consistent once you choose which.

In most of their native habitats Dudleyas receive no water in summer, therefore, it is important to give them limited water in the garden. But plants which are grown in sandy soils or containers are exceptions, and will benefit from infrequent summer watering as long as the soil is well draining. When the rainy seasons comes they reawaken from their drought-induced dormancy. Their shriveled leaves plump up quickly, growth resumes, and flowering occurs during the next spring or summer.

- Click on the first link to read an excellent article about Dudleyas which includes more cultural details, pests, and information on the few species that are reliably available to purchase.
- > Click on the second link for Dave's Garden article: *Dudleyas: California's Native Succulent Gems*: http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/dudleys-for-the-garden/

https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2318



Dudleya brittonii Giant Chalk Dudleya

Native to Baja California



Dudleya candida Chalk Rose

Native to Coronado Island and the coast of California



Dudleya pulverulenta, Chalk Dudleya, Chalk Lettuce

Native to San Luis Obispo south to Baja California



Dudleya caespitosa, Coast Dudleya

Native to along the coastline from San Francisco to Los Angeles

# NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED? HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO MOVE UP?

We all start as Novices entering plants on the Brag Table and in an official show. But when is it time to move up? There are some basic rules, sometimes you just know, and occasionally the Board will suggest it's time.

The rules for official shows for moving from Novice to Intermediate. When you have won ten blue ribbons it's time to move up to intermediate. Technically that should include all official shows you enter. We have many members that belong to PCSS and San Diego C&SS and may show in both. Clubs do not necessarily keep track of how many ribbons you have won, (not enough volunteers), so it is up to you to keep a record. In the beginning, as a novice, it is easy as most of us keep those treasured ribbons and we know just how many we have won, thus, the first jump is usually an easy decision.



But what about moving from Intermediate to Advanced? Are the rules as hard and fast? Well, yes and no. For some, after 10 wins as the intermediate level it is clear that your plants are advanced. People who fit in this group likely have been collecting longer than they have been showing, and have more mature and difficult species to grow. For these members, if the move is not made voluntarily it will be suggested by thee Board that based on official rules it is time to make the jump.

For others, it may take several or many years. This can depend on multiple factors, such as from the type of plants you choose to collect – easy to grow and keep nice looking vs. those with more challenging requirements and knowledge overall. Plus, the amount and level of care you give them will also make a difference. To a judge, a beautiful, but ordinary and easy to grow plant is not going to win a first place as an advanced entry. Whereas a simple looking cactus may be difficult to grow successfully and while it may be ordinary looking may earn a first-place ribbon.

**NEW** – <u>Starting this year we will be adding a fourth category called Professional at our October Show.</u>

This category will be for those who grow professionally, possibly for those who have been showing for decades and won many awards, and for those who feel they belong at this highest level, and might sweep the awards if included

with the Advanced entries, i.e. Peter Walkowiak.

Brag Table - Here you enter at the same level as in an official show. If it's the only place you enter then you will probably start as a novice, and then you'll have to decide when you're ready to move up. Do pay attention to the above rules in making your decision. You'll probably know when it's time!

You must use the same level for all plants you enter in any event anywhere.

Whatever level you show at, look at it as an honor when it is time to move up. Hopefully, you are ready and want the challenge of competing with those who are also in your own skill set. It is scary at first as the competition is a bit tougher, but if you are ready that means you're doing a great job in growing and caring for your plants.

Additionally, starting this year we will be announcing in the newsletter when someone moves up a level so others can congratulate you and you can feel the pride of your achievement!



## **Member's Garden Brag Photos**

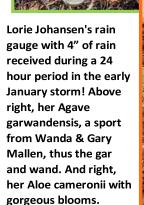
Share a section of your garden, a plant that bloomed in between meetings, or one that is planted, or too large or heavy to bring to the Brag Table. Email them to Annie at: <a href="mailto:info@palomarcactus.org">info@palomarcactus.org</a>. or text them to her at <a href="mailto:Please do include the plant names as others are interested!">Info@palomarcactus.org</a>. Please do include the plant names as others are interested!

We're starting a new year so here are a few suggestions for taking your best photos. I know it's long, but please do read them if you plan to take photos and send them in for publication. Contact Annie w/ questions.

- Make sure the sun is out, and is shining on the side of your plant from which you are taking the photo.
- Photos taken in the shade rarely work well for publication, so try taking them at a different time of day, or on a different day if needed.
- > Sometimes you can't get a decent shot because of where the sun is in the sky, and that changes from morning to late afternoon, If that's the case, will the plant still look good at another time of day. Try several times of day and see which looks best.
- Where the sun is in the sky will also change with the seasons. You may have a plant that when the sun moves south for winter is never in bright sun. If not, try your best to find a spot from which to shoot it that will show the beauty that you see. Or perhaps you'll have to wait until the sun moves north. Unfortunately, sometimes that isn't possible as the plant only looks it's best during oneseason.
- Look at what's behind your plant. Will it detract from the plant being the star of the photo? Is there a fence with things behind it that will distract? Will your plant even show up as the main item in the photo. If so, can you take it from a different angle?
- Before you snap your photo, look through the lens and see what else may be in the picture. Do you have unsightly pots, patio chairs, perhaps empty or broken pots, kid's toys, etc. And don't forget to look for weeds.
- Remember, that you might look at your photo on your computer full size and think it's beautiful. But will the detail that makes it a Garden Brag Plant show up when it's reduced in size?
- Make sure your shot is in focus, and retake it until the part you want to stand out is sharp.
- > I do play with each photo, cropping, adjusting lighting, color density, etc. to bring out the best. But I can't work magic without a sophisticated photo program, which I don't have, and can't afford.

And finally, please don't be offended if I ask you to retake your photo(s) or just can't use them. I can usually tell when I receive a photo if it will work or not, but I typically try them all on the page before I contact you to retake them. And at times, unfortunately I have to reject a photo that I'd like to share, because it just doesn't work.



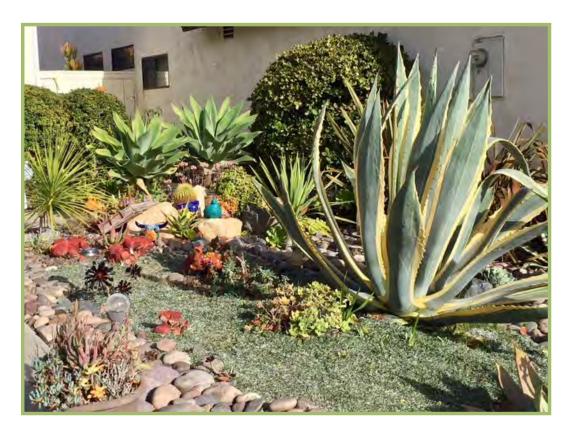








John Tashjian's Aloe distans in beautiful bloom, and his Staphelia flower (from his Holiday Party Gift Plant) that bloomed with such an unusual color.





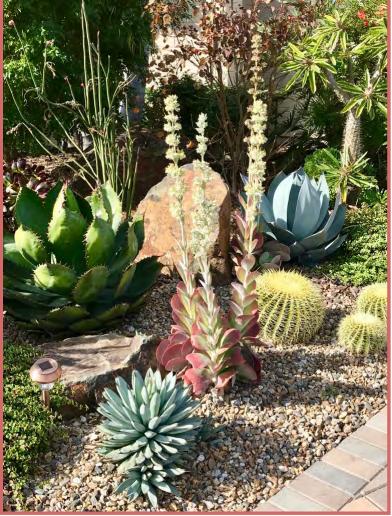
Top: Annie Morgan's Aloe mutabilis

Bottom: A section of Annie's yard showing color, texture, and 3' tall Kalenchoe flapjack blooms.

Above: A beautiful section of Vivian Follmer's yard.

Below: John Tashjian's Aloe marlothii





## News From the Safari Park Gardens By Janet Morgan

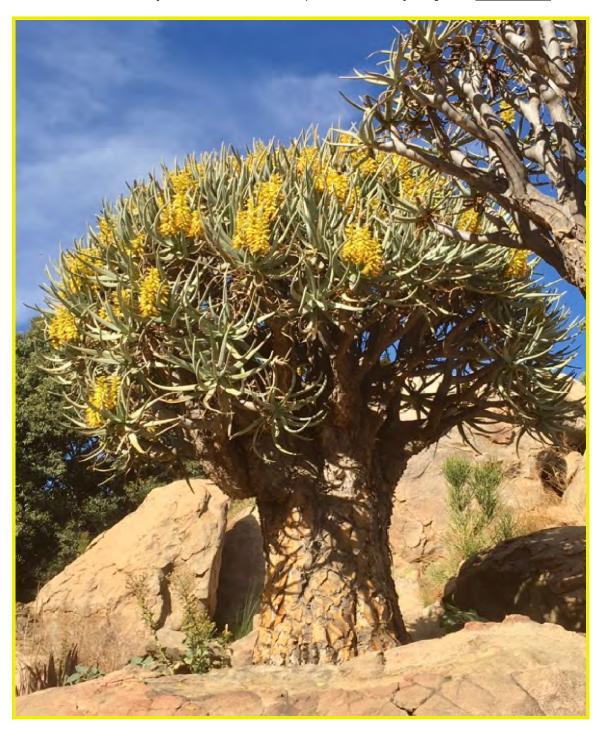
The volunteers have been adding new plants to the Safari Park Old World Garden (OWG) during November and December. The lack of significant rainfall so far this fall makes it more difficult to decide when to plant our new additions. However, many plant donations have been waiting to go into the ground and we decided to continue to irrigate and take advantage of the cooler weather. Speaking of irrigation, anyone with an interest or expertise in irrigation systems is welcome to provide suggestions or volunteer their time as we rework the OWG's irrigation system this winter.

A heartfelt thank you to a donor who gave us 31 cacti and 4 succulents this month. The cacti will go to the Safari Park for ground landscape and the succulents will go into the OWG.

A reminder that the OWG and the Baja Garden are closed to the public until the development of the new Australian area, located directly below the gardens, has been completed. With the addition of the new plants as well as some new rock topdressing the OWG garden will have a fresh look when it reopens.

As always, if you have plants or materials to donate, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact May Fong Ho at

The photo is of a blooming aloe dichotoma. The photo was taken at the Old World Garden and is used by permission of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.



## San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Winter Show & Sale
Saturday, February 10th, 10 – 4pm

Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park



## **Plant and Pottery Sale**

Rare and Unusual Cactus & Succulents Landscape Plants for Arid Gardens Beautiful Handmade Pottery Free! Public Welcome!

## The Show

Unusual and Exotic Plants on Display Plants from around the World Novice to Expert Growers

## COFFEE IN THE GARDEN PARTY

## For PCSS, SDCSS, & SDHS Members

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Hosted by Rick Bjorklund, a PCSS member, Kevin, and with James Chambers of Rocksmith Nursery as a Special Vendor

We are excited to host our Garden Party again! As many of you know, we removed a swimming pool and pond over a year ago and added large raised planters. We hope you will come see how the succulents and cacti have grown since then - they love the crushed lava/compost planting mix.

The planters include a large collection of Mesembs, Haworthias, Gasterias, miniature Agaves, and other succulents on the smaller side. Most have appreciated being liberated from the pots they had been in for quite some time. For example, a Caesalpinia cacalaco that had been 6" for many years is now well over 6' tall. We've enjoyed being able to see the smaller succulents at a better height and have recently added three more planters, one of which is primarily composed of cacti. And, as always, January promises to be a peak aloe bloom time with newer varieties blooming each year, which we anticipate as eagerly as a child waiting for a beloved holiday to arrive.





This year, we are excited to have a special vendor who has awesome plants, many of which you will find in our gardens. James Chambers, owner of Rocksmith Nursery in Valley Center, California, has been an avid plant grower for over 25 years and has specialized in Sansevierias, Aloes, Agaves, and other rare succulents. The nursery currently has a large assortment of rare and unusual varieties of Sansevierias, with natural habitats ranging from South Africa to Ethiopia.

Unlike the usual selection of Sansevieria trifasciata, commonly known as the "Snake Plant" or "Mother-in-law's Tongue", the collection at Rocksmith Nursery focuses on many Sansevieria species that are rarely or never seen in cultivation. The Sansevieria plant forms range from tall, thin and green wispy leaves, to super blue and very thick and rigid flat fans. A diverse display of Sansevierias and other succulents will be offered for sale (cash only), and James will give talks about Sansevierias at approx. 11am & 1pm.

- We have extended the hours to allow for Mesembs to join the party this year, as they tend to start blooming around 1 or 2pm.
- We will have baked goods and appetizers as well as beverages available.
- Some of our propagated plants will be available for sale along with landscape sized cuttings/divisions.
- Since we have moved quite a few plants from pots, there will be a large number of pots for sale ranging from small to larger, both by artistic and amazing potters and some of a commercial nature. There is likely to be some gardenrelated items for sale and others that simply need to live at a new home.







# 2018 CSSA Affiliates Southern California Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb. 10th

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Winter Show & Sale, Balboa Park Rm 101

Info: 619-990-2051

March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

**Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society** 

Spring Show & Sale, Thurs. 6 - 9pm, Fri., 9 - 7pm,

Sat. 9 - 5pm, 1000 S. State College Bl.,

Anaheim United Methodist Church,

Info: 562-587-3357

April 7th - 8th

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

9 - 4pm both days, South Coast Botanical Gardens

26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes,

Info: <a href="mailto:heidihusnak@gmail.com">heidihusnak@gmail.com</a>, or <a href="http://southcoastcss.org">http://southcoastcss.org</a>

April 29<sup>th</sup>

**Huntington Botanical Gardens Sale** 

10 - 5pm, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

Info: 626-405-3504

May 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, Veteran's Memorial Center

Garden Room, Info: 310-822-1783

May 6<sup>th</sup>

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale

9 - 4pm, South Coast Botanical Gardens

Info: 310-833-6823

May 11th - 12th

Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

9 - 4:30pm both days,

Info on location call: 909-910-9195

May 19th - 20th

Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale

10 - 4pm both days, Rancho Los Alamitos

6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach, Info: 562-631-5876

May 26th - 27th

**Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society** 

Annual Show & Sale, 10 - 4pm both days,

Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo,

Info: 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org

June 2nd - 3rd

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Summer Show & Sale, Balboa Park, Rm

101, Info: 858-382-1797

June 9th - 10th

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society

Plant Show & Sale, Sat., 9 - 4pm, Sun., 9 - 3pm

Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd.,

Encino, Info: www.lacactus.com

June 29th - Jul 1st

CSSA Annual Show & Sale - Huntington Botanical

Gardens, Plant Sale  $29^{th}$  -  $1^{st}$ , Show opens  $30^{th}$  10 - 5pm,

1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, Info: 626-405-3504

July 19th - 21st

**Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer** 

Show & Sale, Thurs., 6 - 9pm, Fri., 9 - 7pm, Sat., 9 - 5pm

1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim United Methodist Church

Info: 949-212-8417

August 11th - 12th

33rd Annual Intercity Show & Sale at the LA County Arboretum

9 - 5pm daily, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430, John Martinez 805-390-2139

September 1st

**Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium** 

All day at the Huntington, Info: 626-405-3504

September 15th

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction, 12 - 5pm

Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach

Info: 562-631-5876

October 13th - 14th

Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

 $Sat.,\,10\text{ - 5pm, Sun.,}\,11\text{ - 3pm, St. Paul's Church,}$ 

2216 17th St., Info: 661-831-8488

October 27th - 28th

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Fall Show & Sale

Sat., 10 - 5pm, Sat., 10 - 3pm, San Diego Botanic Gardens

230 Quail Gardens Rd., Encinitas,

Info: eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

November 10th - 11th

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

9 - 4pm both days, La County Arboretum, 310 No. Baldwin, Arcadia, Info: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957, John Matthews

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## **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society** The North San Diego County C & S Club! **Membership Application** Membership: Please ✓ a category New Member\_ \_\_ OR Renewal\_\_ \_\_\_ Annual Dues w/color email newsletter \$20 Additional Household Members + \$ 5 Engraved PCSS Name Badge Total \_\_\_\_ PLEASE PRINT! We must be able to read it! City/State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY Please ✓ which, if any, we may include: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #\_\_\_\_\_Email \_\_\_\_City OR\_\_\_\_\_None Bring form & check or cash to a meeting, or mail it in.

Make checks payable to PCSS

Credit cards accepted at meetings. **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society or PCSS** P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033

#### **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Peter Walkowiak – President

Brita Miller – Vice-President, Show Chair, Event Coordinator

Leon LaFreniere – Treasurer

Annie Morgan – Secretary, Program Chair, Publicity, Website, Newsletter Editor (paid position)

Francis Granger – Board Member, Member/Guest Ambassador

Mike Nelson – Board Member, Brag Table Points

Jim Anderson – Board Member, Website, Publicity

#### . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . **OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

Vicki Martin – Co-Librarian Richard Miller – Membership Bruce Barry & Sandy Wetzel-Smith – Refreshments Brian Magone – Exchange Table Lorie Johansen – <u>Guest/New Member Ambassador</u> Chet Reed – <u>Brag Plant Photographer</u> Nell McChesney – Name Tag Drawing Plants

2018 PCSS MEETING SCHEDULE ~ Speaker & Topic ~ Plant of the Month ----TBA February 24th-----~ Your Show Plants!

June 23<sup>rd</sup>-----

Paul Isley - All About Growing Tillandsias July 28th----

May 19th - 3rd Saturday ----- TBA

October 27 - 28 -----Annual Show & Sale @ San Diego Botanic Gardens in Encinitas

November 17th - 3rd Saturday - Woody Minnich

December 15th - 3rd Saturday - HOLIDAY PARTY!!!

- Tillandsias ~ YOUR PLANTS TO BE AUCTIONED! ~ Your Show Plants!

~ GIFT PLANTS FOR YOU!

