BULLETIN
JANUARY 2014

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 60, Number 1 January 2014

The Meeting is the **4th** Saturday

JANUARY 25, 2014

Park Avenue CommunityCenter

210 Park Ave
Escondido, CA 92025

Noon!!

"Winter Growers"

• • Tom Glavich • •

Tom Glavich will give us a presentation of Winter growers from three Mediterranean regions around the world – South Africa, the Mediterranean coast and islands, and the coast of California and Northern Mexico. Cultivation and growing conditions are discussed along with pictures of old friends and rarely seen rarities.

He'll be covering some of the Aeoniums, Dudleyas, Haworthias, Mesems, and Sedums. Since he is like many of us, and there are other passions, he will also talk about some of the winter growing bulbs, including *Lachenalias*, *Narcissus*, and *Calochortus*.

Tom is co-chair of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show, held each year at the Arboretum and the largest event of its kind in the country, and Vice President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of

America. He has grown and propagated a wide range of plants – including succulents, bulbs and bromeliads – for more than 30 years. He is a long-time member of cactus & succulent clubs throughout the Southern California area.

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P h
"Winter Growers"

I found an interesting website with a list of plants that are Winter Growers:

http://www.highlandsucculents.com/culture_guide.htm

Winter Growers – aka: Summer Dormant

Usually referred to as the "winter growers," these genera are dormant during the warmer months of May through August. Their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring while slowing considerably during true winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well especially in the Lily and Crassulaceae families. Tom will be talking about some of the highlighted genera, as well as the bulbs.

Adromischus
Aeonium
Aloe
Anacampseros
Astroloba
Avonia
Bowiea
Bulbine
Ceraria
Conophytum
Cotyledon
Crassula
Dioscorea
Dudleya
Fouqueria
Gasteria
Gibbaeum
Graptopetalum
Graptoveria
Haemanthus
Haworthia

Kalanchoe
Mesembryanthemum
Neohenricia
Othonna
Pachycormus
Pachyphytum
Pachyveria
Pelargonium
Peperomia
Portulacaria
Sansevieria
Sarcocaulon
Sedeveria
Sedum
Senecio
Stomatium
Talinum
Tylecodon

It is important to know that this is **NOT** a complete list, and there are exceptions within the list. These plants were listed on the Bristish CSS site: http://www.oxford.bcss.org.uk/cultivation/winter%20growers.htm

- *Pachypodium namaquensis;*
- *Euphorbia cylindrica, loricata, royleana, regisjubae, balsamifera;*
- *Crassula (especially: alstoni, namaquensis, deceptor, rupestris, ausensis, barbata, mesembryanthemopsis);*
- *Aloe variagata, brevifolia, pillansii, plicatilis, ramosissima, dichotoma;*
- *Hoodia gordonii, pillifera;*
- *Stapelia hirsuta;*
- *Ceropegia fusca, dichotoma;*
- *Umbicilis horizontalis.*

BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE

REFRESHMENTS

During the flurry of activity at the Holiday Party, the Refreshment Sheet wasn't passed around. It is apparently in a *"safe place!"*

Please plan to bring something to share – it really makes the day more fun!

• • • YOUR NAME HERE! • • •

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Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Peter Walkowiak – President & Program Chair & Show Chair

Brita Miller – Vice President

Annie Morgan – *Treasurer*

Your Name Here!! – Secretary

Don Nelson – *Board Member*

Francis Granger – *Board Member* & Exchange Table

Annie Morgan – *Board Member*

Leon LaFreniere – *Board Member*

Kathie Hoxsie – *Board Member*

Your Name Here!! – Board Member

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Dick Henderson – Garden Representative

Brita Miller – Librarian

Vicki Martin – Assistant Librarian

Tina Zucker – PCSS Show & Sale Vendor Coordinator

Bruce Barry – Refreshments & Exchange Table

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

We need an Assistant for the Plant Sales

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair

We still need a **Secretary** to take the minutes. It is a part-time job! Really. And a sit-down one as well!

We also need one more **Board Member**. Remember, we only have 8 Board Meetings a year!

2014 MEETING SCHEDULE

25	**January**	**Park Ave. Community Center**
22	February	Park Ave. Community Center
22	March	Plant Sale – Park Ave. Center
26	April	Park Ave. Community Center
17	May	Park Ave. Community Center
	NOTE ! ! ! 3rd Saturday ! !	
28	June	Park Ave. Community Center
26	July	Park Ave. Community Center
23	August	Picnic & Auction SD Botanic Gdn
27	September	Park Ave. Community Center
25, 26	October	San Diego Botanic Garden **22**
	November	Park Ave. Community Center
20	December	Park Ave. Community Center
	NOTE ! ! ! 3rd Saturday ! !	

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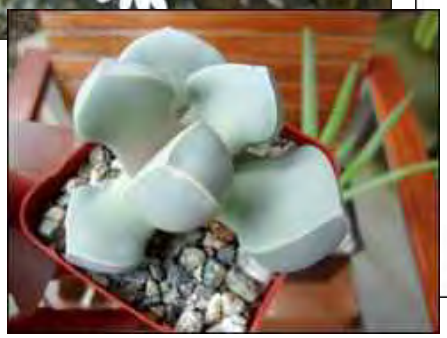

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

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

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Los Angeles Times
October 2013

THE GLOBAL GARDEN
By Jeff Spurrier

Euphorbia obesa, often called the baseball plant or the baseball cactus, has a stitching-like pattern that is the source of its name.
(Ann Summa)

Playing ball with this succulent…

With baseball plant, throw a curve into your windows!!
garden

In the spirit of the season, meet the baseball plant, sometimes sold as the baseball cactus, so named for the ribs that resemble the stitching on a ball.

For some gardeners, it's a catch: slow growing, pest resistant, drought tolerant and undemanding -- a tiny, thornless, living sculpture that could be forgotten for months on a windowsill.

Those ribs (often numbering eight, but sometimes more) become more pronounced with age along with the plaid pattern of the skin. Although the plant is sometimes called a cactus, it's actually a succulent, in the Euphorbia genus (Euphorbia obesa).

The baseball plant has been around for more than a century. A few decades after it was discovered in the eastern cape of South Africa in the late 1800s, the baseball plant was harvested in the wild nearly to extinction. Government regulation protected the plant in the wild, and commercial growers found it was easy to propagate, bringing down the price. But the plant's populations in the wild have not fully recovered.

The appeal? "It looks like a plant from outer space," says David Bernstein, owner of California Nursery Specialties in Reseda. "Each plant is unique. Some look like hot air balloons, some look like baseballs."

The baseball plant provides an introduction to succulents as well as a hands-on lesson in plant sex and pollination. It is dioecious, meaning plants are male or female, so you need one of each. With a fine-tipped brush, transfer the pollen from the male onto the flowers of the female. (The difference will be obvious.)

The fruit emerges like a tiny diamond where the flower had been, developing into a small pod that, when ripe, will burst with explosive force, scattering seed for yards in all directions.

"It sounds like a cap gun," Bernstein says.

He puts little gauze caps on his plants to catch the harvest; other collectors put the entire plant in a box with a mesh top. There are no more than three seeds per pod, so you don't want to lose any -- each easy to start as a new plant.

As the plant matures, the baseball starts looking like a football -- more oval than round. The plant likes shade or dappled bright light; it hates being cold or wet.

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• • 2014 • •
Southern California Events

February 8
San Diego C&SS Winter Show & Sale
Casa del Prado 101, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
858-382-1797
www.sdcss.net

March 28-30
Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, 562-587-3357
www.occss.org

April 12, 13
South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, 310-378-1953
www.southcoastcss.org

April 27
Huntington Plant Sale
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino

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LA Times
August 2013

THE GLOBAL GARDEN
By Jeff Spurrier

Hoyas can be Surreal

In the world of succulents, the hundreds of species and cultivars of the Hoya genus stand out. They are in the milkweed family, second only to orchids in the diversity of their flower forms and shapes.

Lowland tropicals, Hoyas are native to Southeast Asia, densely vining beneath the canopy in the rain forests of New Guinea. Cultivated by enthusiasts for hundreds of years, some of the most exotic Hoyas come from the wilds of the Philippines. And yet you will find avid Hoya collectors as far off as Sweden.

Echo Park gardener Mary Steffens says she adores Hoyas because they are "surreal."

"Each type has a different flower," she says. "I don't know what the flower will look like for some of them."

She gestures at a cluster of tiny, waxy white blooms, shiny like porcelain, some sporting a single droplet of nectar. The plant hangs in the corner of her greenhouse, where the air is humid and the light bright but diffused.

She has other Hoya plants outside, including *Hoya carnosa* (a variety called Compacta), also known as Hindu rope, but none is in strong sun. They are able to take a few hours of direct morning sun, but they thrive in dappled light or bright indoors locations.

The bouquet and texture of the flowers are worth the wait. The star-shaped flowers come in a rainbow: pink, yellow, orange, burgundy, near-black, white. The leaves may be furry or fleshy, shiny or matte, heart-shaped or oval, large as a plate or small as a penny.

Hoyas are tree climbers that like fast-draining, almost soilless conditions. In the wild, Hoyas can stretch 100 feet up to the canopy.

"They don't need much to grow in," says John Trager, curator of the desert collection at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino. "The roots serve as anchoring as much for nutrition."

The biggest pests are the mealybugs that thrive in humid greenhouse environments. Rather than flush the bugs with water, Trager suggests taking the potted plant outside and blasting the sticky, cottony residue of the bugs with compressed air.

A hidden benefit if you can keep the plant happy indoors: *Hoya carnosa* is one of five "super ornamentals" that remove volatile organic compounds such as benzene and toulene from indoor air, according to a 2009 University of Georgia study.

You can find Hoyas at Sunset Nursery and most places specializing in succulents, such as Dream Garden, 6751 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, 323-465−0161. The Huntington will probably have Hoyas for sale at its annual Succulent Symposium on Aug. 31. Another good source: **Rainbow Gardens Nursery in Vista**.

Once you've got your Hoya, it should be planted in a light mix, half perlite or vermiculite, and half potting soil.

Hoya can be easily propagated by putting a section of vine with at least two internodes -- the cut end dusted with growth hormone -- inside a plastic zipper bag with some moist growing medium, like sphagnum moss. Be patient; it could take weeks.

The plants are great for hanging baskets. Wherever you plant it, check for mealybugs regularly and don't skimp on the water. It's almost impossible to overwater a properly planted Hoya.

Another tip: After the flowers drop, ***don't deadhead a Hoya.*** Leave the spent flowers. The spurs where the flowers emerged will get a new flush the next year.

John Trager shows the sticky nectar of a *Hoya kerrii*

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Come take a look at the Safari Park's Old World Garden!

The flowers are starting to bloom. The first ones are *Aloe arborescens* and *Adenium swazicum*.

From January through March, the aloe colors will range from red-orange to orange, and then yellow.

The garden has filled in because of the many plant donations we have received.

- **Scott Grier** of the San Diego club gave us a large *Didieria trollii* which looks great next to *Alluadia procera*. It is commonly known as an Octopus plant and is from Madagascar.
- **Mort Fairfield** of the Palomar club donated a load of *Urginea maritima* bulbs; they are the green-leafed plants in the picture. Its common name is Sea Onion, and they are originally from north Africa and the Mediterranean region.
- **Peter Walkowiak**, member of both clubs, helped us identify the *euphorbias* and donated several flats of plants including *Othonna*, *Euphorbia*, and several other plants.
- **Lorie Johansen** of the Palomar club let us roam her acres and pick what we wanted! Among the dozen plants we chose are many *euphorbias*, *crassulas*, and *aloe* cuttings.
- **Dick Henderson** of the Palomar club has given plants to many, many people over the years. For the Old World Garden he has recently brought *Pachypodium*, *Euphorbia*, *Haemanthus*, and an *Aloe rubroviolacea* that is getting ready to bloom.
- **Kelly Griffin** came to ID more than 50 aloes.

We sincerely thank our donors for their plants and expertise.

We are up to four regular volunteers working in the gardens now. May Fong Ho, Susan LaFreniere, Dick Hendersen, and Julie Kort. Members from the San Diego club also come to help periodically.

Contact May or Susan at info@palomarcactus.org if you have plants that originate from Africa, Madagascar, the Canary Islands, or the Mediterranean to donate.

We will determine if they can be used and will arrange to get them.

Call us also, if you would like to help in the planting, watering, weeding, and record-keeping.

Plants are being identified in a database for the purpose of labeling them and to get the garden accredited.

Thank you for passing the word!

Dick Henderson

The latest issue of the **free journal**

"Cactus Explorer"

…is now available to download. If you haven't had a chance to look at these, I strongly recommend you do so. The editor, Graham Charles, and his team have put a HUGE amount of work into them.

http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm

Palomar Cactus • 2014

January

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December

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