

# CACTUS COURIER

*Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society*

Volume 62, Number 1

January 2016

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Park Ave. Community Center  
210 Park Ave., Escondido**

Brag Plants, Exchange Table, Benefit Drawing - as usual!

**11:30am – 3:00pm**

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**Click here to visit our webpage:**  
[www.palomarcactus.org](http://www.palomarcactus.org)

**We're on Facebook!**

## **This Month's Speaker**

**Peter Walkowiak**

### **Relandscaping with Succulents Beginning to End – The Do's and Don'ts**

Peter will be giving his perspective on relandscaping with succulents from a landscaper and designers point of view. There are many well-done succulent landscapes, but there are also a large number of poorly executed jobs that are being installed these days. With his many years of experience to draw on you will be taken through a step-by-step process that will break the whole project down. There are a number of phases that must be followed so that you do not waste your money or time. These are:

- 1) Site evaluation
- 2) Landscape design
- 3) Hardscape
- 4) Soil preparation
- 5) Plants and boulders
- 6) Irrigation
- 7) Final design elements

Each phase has many steps that will be detailed in the talk and handout provided.

In the talk Peter will take us through several jobs from start to finish, as well as showing current pictures of the gardens. You will see the before, during, and finish of each landscape. Each step and stage will be explained using the pictures to go with the narration. Although he no longer does landscaping, he feels that all the knowledge he has should be shared with everyone who is considering redoing their yard as a succulent landscape.

## **Peter Walkowiak's Bio**

Peter's interest in plants started as a child of five when he was amazed at the beauty of roses and the taste of blackberries right off the vine. As a teenager he did yard work for neighbors to make some money and had his own vegetable garden. In 1980 he went to Cal Poly Pomona and graduated in 1985 with a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture. Since then he has worked for and run a number of wholesale nurseries before starting his own landscape and consultation business.

His fascination with succulent plants started in college when he saw a friend's amazing *Bombax ellipticum*, and he soon started his own collection. It has grown from those early days to well over 1,500 plants at this time. Peter's main succulent interests center on the fat plants, caudiciforms, cacti and euphorbias.

Ten years ago Peter started propagating plants from his own collection, which he had acquired over the previous 25 years. This led to the current business that has been a part of his life long dream, PW Plants, having his own nursery.

He currently serves as President of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society, is on the board of the San Diego CSS and CSSA. He is Show Chair for the two yearly shows for SDCSS, and Co-chair for the Intercity Show, the largest succulent show in the world. Peter also participates in many other shows in the southwest from Phoenix to Los Angeles.



# Succulent Landscape Roadmap

## 1) Site Evaluation

- a) Determine north, south, east and west. Shady and sunny areas may vary greatly in different seasons
- b) Microclimates; where does the prevailing wind blow, thermal slopes, reflected heat etc. Plan accordingly; take advantage of those special spots.
- c) Noxious weeds; the main three to look out for are Nut grass, Bermuda grass (summer growers) and Bulb Oxalis (winter grower). These must be eradicated during their growing season before any work can begin. This is very important.

## 2) Have a plan

- a) What is your objective? Look, style, colors?
- b) How will you use this yard? Entertainment, trails, paths, maintenance?
- c) Make a budget based on plan. This should include site preparation, hardscape, soil preparation, plants, irrigation, lighting and accents (boulders, rock, gravel, art)
- d) Do research on your plant choices, how big, special needs, spreading etc. Plants in the wrong place can cause you many headaches down the road. Choose focal plants first then build around them. Taller plants to the back and shorter to the front.

## 3) Getting started

- a) Demolition and cleanup – Remove all plants, trash and existing hardscape. Remember to save anything that could be used again such as broken concrete for dry stack wall.
- b) Hardscape first - You may have soil displacement at this stage, think ahead and place it where you will need it later, don't move it twice or dump it, use it. Remember to place irrigation drainage and other underground utilities before hardscape.
- c) Soil preparation – I recommend 4" inches of compost be spread out and then rototilled in. You may need to use a jackhammer with clay spade if soil is hard to loosen it. Proper soil moisture is very important at this time. Too dry and soil is hard and dusty. Too wet and you make adobe. Once the compost is spread water it in. Water well if soil is dry to start. Wait till the following day to rototill or do any digging. Once soil is rototilled do not wet soil with a hose. Use a sprinkler in the evening to moisten for next day if soil gets to dry.
- d) Grading – Make the shape and contours you want, riverbeds, hills, basins. Start at hardscape edge at lowest point such as sidewalk and work to the back. You want negative space in front so grade should start at 1-2 inches below edge. Move soil to high points
- e) Plants and boulders – Finish hard irrigation lines, lighting and power. Do all trenching and backfill. You must start with the largest plants and boulders at this time. They will have the biggest soil displacement plus it is easier when you do not have to worry about tromping on the smaller plants. Plant the midsize plants next as well as smaller boulders. Drip irrigation main lines and low voltage lines are next. Plant remaining plants except flattened plants; these will be planted with top dressing. Run drip emitters to each plant, do a check (run system) then bury.
- f) Watering plants – If you need to water before you finish do so by turning the hose to a trickle and set by the plant that needs to be watered until well wet. Never water or spray plants or soil after planting. Water plants the day before planting and one week after.

## 4) Finishing touches

- a) Topdressing – The color and texture of the gravel you use will affect the outcome so choose carefully. Soil must be covered be it mulch, gravel or DG. Once the soil is covered you may use a hose and water as needed. This is for all raised areas.
- b) Dry streams and negative space – Rounded gravel works best, should be different but complimentary.

Stand back and admire your hard work.



## President's Message

The Holiday Party was a great success with over 90 participants and tables of wonderful food and desserts. There were three sections of over 200 assorted plants and all members in attendance received a gift plant. Brag Plant participants also selected a specimen plant, and volunteers were honored for their service with a plant as well. Some members walked away with three plants! This could be you next year. It is very easy, bring Brag Plants to regular meetings and earn points, volunteer at meetings and events, and then attend the Holiday Party. A big thank you to the many wonderful volunteers who helped make this event run so smoothly.

I will be the speaker this month and the topic is landscaping with succulents. Many members and the public in general are converting their yards to succulents to save water and reduce maintenance. I have 15 years of experience in landscaping and will show you the necessary course of action to successfully convert your yard to succulents. Unfortunately many people have landscapers/gardeners that are doing the installations incorrectly and this eventually costs needless extra money and work because the proper planning and preparation is not considered before the job is started. This talk will cover from the beginning planning to the final touches. There will be a handout and a Q&A afterwards.

Peter Walkowiak



Hummel's Sunset



Hobbit



Compactum



Ripple Jade



Silver Dollar



Variegata



Gollum

## Plant of the Month – **JADE PLANT**

***Crassula ovata***, commonly known as the **jade plant**, is a succulent plant with small pink or white flowers. It is native to Mozambique and to the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa, and is a common houseplant worldwide.

The jade plant is an evergreen with thick branches. It has thick, shiny, smooth, leaves that grow in opposing pairs along the branches. Leaves are a rich jade green, although some may appear to be more of a yellow-green. Some varieties may develop a red tinge on the edges of leaves when exposed to high levels of sunlight. New stem growth is the same color and texture as the leaves, but becomes brown and woody with age. Under the right conditions, they may produce small white or pink star-like flowers in early spring.

The jade plant is also known for its ease of propagation, which can be spurred by clippings or even stray leaves which fall from the plant. Jade plants propagate readily from both with success rates higher with cuttings. In the wild, propagation is the jade plant's main method of reproduction. Branches regularly fall off wild jade plants and these branches may root and form new plants.

The jade plant is well known for its bonsai capabilities, since it forms a bonsai very easily when pruning is done correctly. Many who learn bonsai begin with a jade plant, since they are durable, easy to put through the bonsai process, and attractive. **Information taken from Wikipedia.**

# OUR HOLIDAY PARTY - A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



DELICIOUS FOOD! FANTASTIC COMPANY! A RECORD CROWD!

GIFT PLANTS GALORE – BRAG, VOLUNTEER, AND MEMBER GIFTS!

SO MANY PLANTS, WHICH ONE TO CHOOSE?



# January 2016 News of the Gardens

By Susan LaFreniere

Make time to find all that's blooming when you visit gardens that club members support. Aloes are the big superstars at the moment and for weeks to come. But Ocotillos of the Fouquieriaceae family have new buds at the tips of their branches too. So much to see!

Balboa Park Desert Garden - San Diego Botanic Garden  
San Diego Zoo Safari Park Baja Garden and Old World Succulent Garden



## WEBSITE HELP WANTED

We need someone to take over maintaining our website and are looking for someone who is familiar with Word Press. This job only takes about 30 minutes a month, and then 2-3 hours once a year. Initially you would work with Annie Morgan, and then transition to doing it independently. Please contact Annie to discuss this if interested.

## MEMBERS SELLING PLANTS OR RELATED GOODS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Did you know that you as a member are welcome to sell plants or related goods at our monthly meetings? You don't have to have any special permits or licenses, just quality items to sell. *Plants must be clean, dry and pest-free. They must be planted (no bare root).* The club handles collecting and paying the sales tax, and we do take a 20% cut. A check is mailed to you a week or so after the meeting with your proceeds.

In order to sell you must have two plant sticks in your plant, one for the buyer, and the second for the club to remove so we know who the money goes to. The buyer's stick should include the name of the plant and the price and having your name is always nice, and the second stick must have your name and the price. Plant sticks must be at least 1/2" wide by 3" long in order for our treasurer to easily keep track of them.

If you're interested, check out the sales table so you see how it's done and then get yours ready. Contact Leon LaFreniere at [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org) if you have any questions.

## BRAG PLANTS

If you haven't ever brought in a plant for our **Brag Plant** table it's time to give it a try! It's a great way for you to share some of your collection and for others to see some beautiful plants. I'm sure you've spent time enjoying those brought in by others so join in and share yours with us. It's easy!

Choose a plant in bloom, something unusual, or just a favorite, then pretty it up and bring it in. Fill in the simple form and place it in the correct section, i.e. Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced, and either Cactus, Succulent, or Plant of the Month. See Brita or Lorie for help in completing the form and placing your plant.

The plants are judged and you earn points toward a beautiful gift plant at our December Holiday Party. Points are earned as follows: 1 for bringing a plant in, plus 3 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 1 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plus get your name in the newsletter for each winner you bring in!

PLANTS MUST BE LABELED AND  
ON THE TABLE NO LATER THAN 11:45am

## REFRESHMENTS

The sign-up did not get passed around at our Holiday Party, so we need people to bring in food to share so we don't go hungry!



3<sup>RD</sup>

# ANNUAL SPRING MEMBER FESTIVAL

Saturday March 26, 2016

Our Spring Member Festival is a fun event with a variety of interactive events - a mini show, workshops, and members selling plants or other garden items. This event was designed for all members, but particular emphasis is on what the many new members who are just starting our hobby would enjoy.

We hope you will join in whether you are new to succulents or have been enjoying this relaxing pastime for many years. This is just a brief introduction and next month's newsletter will have all the details.

**PLANT SHOW** - This is primarily for the novice and intermediate and is a great dress rehearsal for our more formal October Show. However, we love members who show at the advanced level to bring in their beauties too, as they are always such a treat to view. All plants will be judged similar to the Brag Plant table but with additional categories. Plus you also earn points like when you bring in Brag Plants - *except they are doubled*. Now is the time to start looking at which plants you would like to show.

**MEMBER PLANT SALE** - Do you have some extra plants you would like to sell? This is a great venue to do just that. Start getting them ready now - repot, trim, etc. so they look their best for potential buyers. You may also sell other garden related items during this sale. PCSS handles all the money and sends you a check, so you don't have to stay by your items for sale.

**WORKSHOPS** - We will have interactive workshops on topics related to the care and growing of succulents. Are there topics that you would like to learn more about? Please let Brita Miller know if you have any suggestions.

**TIME TO SOCIALIZE** - This is also a great time to socialize with friends and meet other members. The last two years there have been so many comments about what a fun time people had at this less structured 'meeting'. You won't want to miss out!



## Congratulation to PCSS members Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent!

San Diego Magazine did an article, including photos, on Wanda and Gary's gorgeous Fallbrook garden in the November 2015 issue. Google "San Diego Magazine Wanda Mallen" to see a copy.

### Permutations in Paradise

The one constant in a 2-acre Fallbrook landscape is that it's never the same

BY MARY JAMES - San Diego Magazine, November 2015



### IUCN Red List STUDY: 31% OF WORLD CACTUS THREATENED

Illegal trade contributes to placing cacti among world's most threatened species

MEXICO CITY

About a third of the world's cactus species are threatened with extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature warns in a new report. The study evaluated 1,478 species and determined that 31 percent are endangered due to factors such as the conversion of wilderness areas to farming and ranching, urban development and the harvest of cactus seeds and plants for trade and private collection. "We show that cacti are among the most threatened taxonomic groups assessed to date ... demonstrating the high anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity in arid lands," said the report, which was published in the journal Nature Plants.

It identified hotspots of endangered cacti across the Americas, from the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul and parts of neighboring Uruguay north to the Mexican states of Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Oaxaca and Puebla.

Salvador Arias, cactus curator at the National Autonomous University of Mexico's botanical garden, said a third of the country's 700 or so native species are at severe risk for survival and called the Situation "alarming."

He said the greatest threat comes from destruction of habitat for crops and cattle. Second is illegal collection, often by aficionados who take seeds or plants to sell in European countries.

"These plants belong to the so-called exotic plants, which have ornamental value for people around the world," said Arias, who was involved in putting together the report. "How did (the plants) make it there (Europe)? We can simply say through illegal extraction."

Scientists say cacti are important elements of desert ecosystems as sources of food and water. They're also a source of nourishment and building materials for local human populations.

From the Associated Press, November 30, 2015

Following is a link to the full news release: <http://www.iucn.org/?21955/Illegal-trade-contributes-to-placing-cacti-among-worlds-most-threatened-species--IUCN-Red-List>



Poachers threaten Mexico's cactus

# The FIELD TRIP is this Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>!

There is still room, but no time to mail in your information and payment.  
Contact Annie by Thursday, 1/14 if you are interested.



## Palomar-PCSS & San Diego-SDCSS FIELD TRIP to the CSSA's Day at Huntington Gardens in San Marino, CA Saturday, January 16, 2016

Once a year CSSA, Cactus & Succulent Society of America, provides a FREE day at the Huntington Gardens for members of CSSA affiliate clubs. This is an excellent opportunity to tour the spectacular gardens spread across 120 acres.

Here is a link to a map of The Huntington: [http://www.huntington.org/uploadedFiles/Files/PDFs/groundsmap\\_051613.pdf](http://www.huntington.org/uploadedFiles/Files/PDFs/groundsmap_051613.pdf)

Following are the details. Contact Annie Morgan for questions.

**Bus Pickup:** San Diego – 7:30am in the parking lot behind the Organ Pavilion  
Escondido – 8:00am at the Park 'N Ride Lot #11, 871 No. Broadway, Escondido

**Bus Return:** Return to the drop off location at 4:15pm. The bus will leave at 4:30pm. Allow time to get your plant purchases stowed away. Expected return times are: Escondido ~ 6:30pm, San Diego ~ 7:00pm

**Entrance Fee:** Members of PCSS or SDCSS = \$FREE

**Field Trip Cost: \$35** - A bargain! Payment in advance is required and must be received by January 8<sup>th</sup> in order to insure that we have enough signed to go. Use the form below to sign up and include your email and phone #.

**Note:** *If you cancel at least 10 days in advance you will receive a full refund. If you cancel less than 4 days before the trip, the day of the trip, or don't show up, there is no refund.*

- SDCSS members may give a check **made out to PCSS** to Brita Miller at the Holiday Party.
- PCSS members please give a check **made out to PCSS** to Annie Morgan at our Holiday Party.
- OR, you may mail a check made out to PCSS to: Annie Morgan.

**Water & Snack:** The trip cost includes a bottle of water and a snack for the way up and back.

**Lunch:** There are now multiple venues in the gardens to eat.

- The Coffee Shop has grab-and-go sandwiches and salads in addition to coffee, tea, pastries, etc.
- The Café serves brick-oven pizzas, pasta, salads, soups, sandwiches, and daily featured specials.
- The Rose Garden Tea Room – Reservations are required - Call 626-683-8131 or book online, at least 2 weeks in advance, Wednesday through Monday between 9am and 4pm. Cost is \$31 plus tax
- The Rose Garden Patio - Offering the self-serve convenience of grab-and-go sandwiches and snacks, the Rose Garden Patio is a place stop to relax and enjoy light refreshments on a shady patio.
- The Chinese Garden Tea Room Shop is now open and has a selection of delicious entrees.

**Plant Purchases:** You will have the rare opportunity to shop the succulent nursery area where there are often some less common plants for excellent prices, so come prepared. There will be a holding area inside for your purchases, and carts we can use to haul them out to the bus. From there they will be put in the luggage storage area for the trip home.

# 2016 Event Calendar

## Feb 13

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA  
Info. 858-382-1797

## Mar. 18-19

Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale  
Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm, Fri., Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> 9am-7pm, Sat., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> 9am-5pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church)  
Anaheim, CA, Info. 562-587-3357

## Apr. 9-10

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale  
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,  
Palos Verdes, CA  
Info. 310-378-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>

## Apr. 24

Huntington Plant Sale  
10 to 4:30, Huntington Botanical Gardens,  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.  
Info. 626-405-3504

## May 1

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale  
9am To 4pm South Coast Botanical Gardens,  
Info. 310-833-6823

## Apr. 30, May 1

Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale  
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room  
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA,  
Info. 310-822-1783

## May 13-14

Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 34th Show and Sale  
Fri & Sat 9-4:30pm, At Land Scapes Southern California Style  
450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, CA  
Info. 951-360-8802

## May 21-22

Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale  
10-4 pm, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA  
Info. 562-631-5876

## May 28-29

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

## June 4-5

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society - Summer Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA  
Info: 858-382-1797

## June 11-12

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale  
11<sup>th</sup> 9-5, 12<sup>th</sup> 9-3:30  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA.  
Info. [www.lacss-show.com](http://www.lacss-show.com)

## July 1 - 3

CSSA Annual Show & Sale  
Huntington Gardens - 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.  
Plant Sales July 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>, Show July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
Info. 626-405-3504

## July 22-23

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale  
Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> 6-8pm, Fri. July 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am-7pm, Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> 9am-5pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church)  
Anaheim, CA Info. Call 949-212-8417

## Aug. 13-14

31st Annual Intercity Show & Sale at the LA County Arboretum,  
9am-5pm daily - 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.  
Info. Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795

## Sept. 3

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium  
All day at The Huntington  
Info. 626-405-3504

## Sept. 10

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction  
12-5pm, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA  
90615, Info. 562-631-5876

## Oct. 8-9

Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale  
Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4, East Hills Mall, Center Court, 3100 Mall View  
Road, Bakersfield, CA 93306  
Info. 661-831-8488

## Oct. 22-23

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale  
Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4, San Diego Botanic (Quail) Gardens,  
230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas, CA 92024  
Info. - Brita Miller at [EventCoordinator@PalomarCactus.org](mailto:EventCoordinator@PalomarCactus.org)

## Nov. 5-6

San Gabriel Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale  
9am-4pm, LA County Arboretum, 310 No. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA,  
Info. Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052



# Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

The North San Diego County C & S Club!

## Membership Application

Membership: Please ✓ a category:

New Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual dues w/color email newsletter \$20  
\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Household Members + \$ 5  
\_\_\_\_\_ Engraved PCSS Name Badge + \$ 6  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT! We must be able to read it!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Bring form & check or cash to a meeting, or mail it in.  
Make checks payable to:

**Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society or PCSS**  
P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033

# Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Peter Walkowiak – President & Program Chair

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

Leon LaFreniere – Treasurer, Membership

Annie Morgan – Secretary, Website, Publicity

Francis Granger – Board Member & Exchange Table

Mike Nelson – Board Member

Carol McAllister – Board Member

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Fran Komarek – Librarian

Vicki Martin – Assistant Librarian

Tina Zucker – October Sale Vendor Coordinator

Bruce Barry & Sandy Wetzel-Smith – Refreshments

Dennis Miller – Benefit Drawing & Plant Sales

## 2016 PCSS MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are at the Park Ave. Community Center in Escondido unless noted.

23 January

27 February

19 March – **Note 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** - - - - - **SPRING MEMBER FESTIVAL**

23 April

21 May – **Note 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

25 June

23 July

27 August - - - - - **PICNIC & AUCTION at SD Botanic Garden**

24 September

22, 23 October - - - - - **ANNUAL SHOW & SALE at SD Botanic Garden**

19 November – **Note 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

17 December – **Note 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** - - - **HOLIDAY PARTY**

