

BULLETIN
JUNE 2015

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 61, Number 6

June 2015

The Meeting is the **4th** Saturday

JUNE 27, 2015

Park Avenue Community Center

**210 Park Ave
Escondido, CA 92025**

Noon!!!



• • Mark Fryer • •

“Propagation Workshop”

Mark Fryer started growing succulents several decades ago. His agriculture background stems from his grandparents, 6th generation Oregonians, and his folks who were also avid gardeners. Mark's first exposure to succulents was at a family friend's specialty nursery where one winter day he came home with his first miniature cactus garden having been advised to keep it dry until spring, after which a good watering would insure an amazing array of flowers. It was put it in the attic and promptly dehydrated and died. Thus his first attempt was a miserable failure, but there was something about it that kept gnawing at his imagination.

Fast-forward a couple decades and Mark was living in Milwaukie, Oregon, where again he came across a cactus, which he bought and staged on his windowsill. After a couple weeks it flowered, and completely knocked his socks off! This started him asking around where he could find and learn more, and he was directed to the ***Oregon Cactus and Succulent Society***. He met Bill Beaston who became his naturalist mentor of the Pacific Northwest high deserts, where they travelled extensively looking at the native *Pediocactus* and *Opuntias*. He soon discovered a little backyard nursery called "Banana Gardens" run by a fellow named Burl Mostul who had a serious succulent addiction. Bill taught him how to grow stuff from seed, using lights on 24-hour cycles, and grafts. They were building an Echinocereus reference collection with collectors from all over the world at a 3000 sq. ft. greenhouse in NW Portland. The Banana Gardens nursery grew, quadrupling seemingly overnight, and became Rare Plant Research. The OCSS hosted the CSSA conference in 1990, and by then it was too late. He was working at Rare Plant Research part-time, and on the Echinocereus reference collection every weekend. Things were changing, and as jobs came and went, the plants were always his pivot point.

In 2000 Mark moved to San Diego and in 2003 went to work for C&J Cactus nursery in Vista doing sales, propagation, and whatever else needed doing. That job lasted five years and was a magical time for his cactus and succulent passions.

Mark's program, ***"Propagation Workshop,"*** will focus on some hands-on cultivation and propagation techniques including seed production and sprouting and grafting. He will be bringing along some projects and some plants to share, and will look forward to hearing what members are up to in their propagation, including challenges and solutions. Mark knows many PCSS members and very much enjoyed sharing his old "from the bench" slide show a few years ago. This time he wants to get dirty and see if we can't have some fun with this amazing group of plants!



PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE



REFRESHMENTS

Vicki Broughton

Annie Morgan

*How sad! The Refreshment Sheet didn't get filled out! (It is NOT lost! I promise!)
But we do need more refreshments – we need to uphold our reputation for hospitality!*



Plant of the Month

- Hechtia, Dyckia, Deuterocohnia, Puya •
...*Robert Kopfstein*...

These South American terrestrial bromeliads have been a favorite with hobbyists for generations. They are related to Pineapples and Spanish moss. But for our purposes, we will be looking at the ones closer to the succulent territory.

Abromeitiella was a favorite, but modern DNA analysis has changed that. We must now use “*Deuterocohnia*.” (Heavy sigh...)

Most bromeliads are native to tropical regions. They originate from Florida to Brazil in moist, forested regions and are primarily native to Mexico. This home range gives Hechtia special adaptations that make them tough and allows them to handle conditions other bromeliads will not.

Hechtia can be found natively in areas that are primarily arid. They thrive in bright, sunny deserts. Hechtia are not succulents, but they can be treated as such. They do not hold water in their tissue the way true succulents do. Instead, they slow their growth when water is not available.

Hechtia are heavily armed with marginal spines and require great care when handling. They are terrestrial and grow on desert hillsides and rocky slopes alongside cactus and are truly xerophytic, withstanding long periods of drought and extreme variations in temperature. The flowers of this genus are mainly insignificant and nearly always white in color. Hence, they are usually grown for their glossy foliage rather than their flowers.

– Melanie Dearing

In the wild entire hillsides may be covered with mounds of this plant, several feet in diameter. This specimen (*D. brevifolia*) was over one foot across. As the mound grows, the interior turns into a mass of dead leaves and roots. In fact, large mounds don't even need a pot as long as the root mass receives water.



2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

27 June	Park Ave. Community Center
25 July	Park Ave. Community Center
22 August	Picnic & Auction SD Botanic Gdn
26 September	Park Ave. Community Center
24, 25 October	San Diego Botanic Garden (<i>Quail</i>)
21 November	Park Ave. Community Center
<u>NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!</u>	
19 December	Park Ave. Community Center

NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!



Echinopsis subdenudata 'Fuzzy Navel'



Cactus Haiku

(Stan Yalof)

Drought Adapting

Water come
Water go
Sip fast
Make it last.

Drought Avoiding

Here today
Gone tomorrow
Short time
Edge is narrow.

Heat Withstanding

Panting heat
All around
Gain relief
CAM & C4
And underground.

May Brag Plants

NOVICE CACTUS

1 st	Chet Reed	<i>Rebutia</i>
2 nd	Jeannie Zonana	<i>Rebutia</i>
3 rd	Beverly Ficuciello	<i>Rebutia</i> grafted

INTERMEDIATE CACTUS

1 st	Lorie Johansen	<i>Mammillaria plumose</i>
2 nd	Robert Kopfstein	<i>Opuntia</i>
3 rd	Robert Kopfstein	<i>Oreocereus</i>

NOVICE SUCCULENTS

1 st	Jerry Kahn	<i>Euphorbia</i>
2 nd	Victor Zonana	<i>Euphorbia</i> 'corn cob'
2 nd	Fran Komarek	<i>Adromischus cristatus</i>
2 nd	Jeannie Zonana	<i>Kalanchoe</i>
3 rd	Beverly Ficuciello	<i>Senecio</i>

INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENTS

1 st	Robert Kopfstein	<i>Hechtia aff argentic</i>
2 nd	Lorie Johansen	<i>Echeveria</i> crested-fasciated
3 rd	Lorie Johansen	<i>Gasteraloe</i> 'green ice'

NOVICE DISH GARDEN

1 st	Libby Salvo
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INTERMEDIATE DISH GARDEN

1 st	Annie Morgan	<i>Faucaria</i>
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Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Peter Walkowiak – President & Program Chair & Show Chair
• hciservices@gmail.com

**Brita Miller – Vice-President & Librarian
& Event Coordinator**
• Eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org.

Leon LaFreniere – Treasurer

Annie Morgan – Secretary & Website & Publicity
• publicity@palomarcactus.org

Francis Granger – Board Member & Exchange Table

Mike Nelson – Board Member

Carol McAllister – Board Member

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Vicki Martin – Assistant Librarian

Tina Zucker – Show & Sale Vendor Coordinator

**Bruce Barry & Gloria Medina
Refreshments & Exchange Table**

Dennis Miller – Benefit Drawing & Plant Sales

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Chair



Dyckia fosteriana 'Cherry Cola'

• • 2015 • •

Southern California Events

June 26-28

50th Annual CSSA Annual Show & Sale (and AUCTION!!)
Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA
www.huntington.org/

July 24-26

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society
Summer Show & Sale
First Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 S State College Blvd,
Anaheim, CA
www.occss.org

August 8, 9

30th Annual Intercity Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale
LA County Arboretum, 301 S. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA
www.arboretum.org/

September 5

Succulent Symposium
Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA
www.huntington.org

September 6

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd, Long Beach, CA
www.lbcss.org/

October 24, 25

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale
San Diego Botanic Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Rd, Encinitas, CA

November 7, 8

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
LA County Arboretum, 301 S. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA
<http://www.sgvcss.com/>



Puya chilensis

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

The North San Diego County C&S Club

Membership Application

Membership: Please ✓ a category:

New Member _____

Renewal _____

*There is a \$10 charge if you receive your newsletter by U.S. Mail
Save a tree, and \$10!*

_____ Single Membership \$20

_____ Additional Members + \$5

_____ Printed Newsletter sent by U.S. Mail + \$10

_____ 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



Brag Plant Photos Update

In the excitement of adding new categories to our Brag Plants, we got ahead of ourselves. We realized that, for now, we have too many categories to manage.

We now have two:

- Photos of single plants that are in the ground. There can be other plants in the photo, but only the named plant will be judged.
- Photos of single plants in pots too large or heavy to bring to the monthly meeting.

Submission deadline is still November 1. You can email your photos to info@palomarcactus.org or bring them to a meeting. Be sure to include your full name and contact information, whether you're a novice, intermediate or advanced, and the plant name.

Please continue to bring in or email Mike Nelson photos of your garden, including plants that are in bloom. Last month Vicki Broughton brought in some photos of her beautiful garden. Currently, we are trying to come up with a good way to show the emailed photos at our monthly meetings.



What Is This Thing Called Succulent?

~ Stan Yalof ~

On our plant sale table you can find examples of about 28 families of plants: Aloes, asclepiads, cacti, mesembs, and so on. We refer to them as succulents, which the dictionary defines as 'juicy'. Succulence is not a botanical term and definitely does not apply to many of the plants on sale and in our gardens. What this collection of plants has in common is an ability to withstand the stress of drought through a variety of strategies. I covered some of these strategies in various talks. They include water storage, drought avoidance such as flowering quickly and disappearing, disposing of leaves, underground storage, CAM* and C4 metabolism.

The use of the word **Succulent** to describe a class of plants is misleading. Many 'juicy' plants would die if briefly separated from water and underground tubers include potatoes and onions and beets (a cactus 2nd cousin), not yet on the plant table. What we call Succulents are more properly called **Xerophytes**. I don't expect a name change to the Xerophytes Society, but it would be logical. Phyllis Flechsig's Succulent definition, 'Any plant that we collect and grow', agreeably covers the plant sale table and its novel introductions.

Strategies to avoid thermal and water stresses are the stuff of life, handled differently and cleverly by plants and animals. Examples: the amniotic egg, the shedding of leaves in the autumn.

Hail to thee O Cacti, toughest of the xerophytes, out there through the seasons, withstanding sun for hundreds of years without cracking, divested of leaves, sacrificing photosynthetic ability for the xeric life.

*CAM = Crassulacean Acid Metabolism
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crassulacean_acid_metabolism

Our Speaker in July will be the noted local author, artist, photographer... **Debra Lee Baldwin**



Photo by Candy Suter
→



(Debra sent me a **ton** of fabulous photos! I am having trouble picking just a few to tease you!)

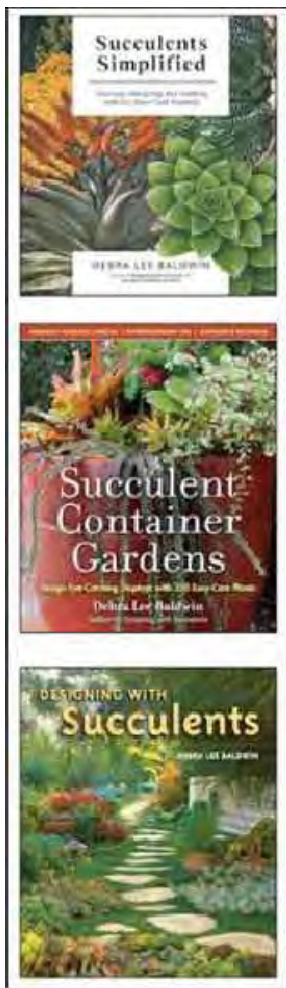
"Stunning Succulent Front Yards"

Debra Lee Baldwin's specialty is showing how succulents can be used to enhance gardens, landscapes and containers.

"I've seen lots of succulent gardens, but none can compare to those in Southern California," Debra says. "We have the ideal climate, knowledgeable designers, and numerous succulent specialty nurseries. Landscapers and homeowners have a vast assortment to choose from." She adds that the ongoing drought and recent water restrictions have caused water-thirsty lawns to fall out of favor, making succulents of all sorts surge in popularity, especially as front-yard plants.

If you're wondering what to plant instead of grass, or simply hope to improve the look of your garden, **"Stunning Succulent Front Yards"** is a presentation you won't want to miss.

Before and after the meeting, Debra will sign and sell her three books: *Designing with Succulents*; *Succulent Container Gardens*; and the most recent, *Succulents Simplified*.



Top row, Sacramento C&SS. An entry garden in Rancho Santa Fe with succulents in pots.

Right, top: Paul and Carol Maker's front yard, designed by Jeff Moore

Right, bottom: Kelly Griffin's front yard

You Don't Get Something for Nothing

Stan Yalof

God was taking an inspection of his handiwork. "Gabriel, this desert air is bracing, and that oxygen is exhilarating! A fine creation, if I do say so."

Fluttering off to the side, Gabriel, answering (in Aramaic), "Austere, but oh, so lonely."

"It is that, and a lot better than brambles. But I see some action over there. Give a look."

Returning, "A lot of sheep and camels herded by some nomads."

"Ah, nomads, those must be the Hebrews. They send up plenty of offerings."

"And you gave them Chosen Persons status."

"We worked out a covenant."

"They seem to be wandering aimlessly."

"People who wander aimlessly are not necessarily lost."

A voice wafted up from below, "Chosen people! Why not chosen plants? All that oxygen is our doings!"

"Eh, Wot?"

"Sir it is coming from some small plants, impudent small plants if I say so."

"I'll hear them out." "What tribe be you plants?"

One of the plants answered, "We call our tribe *Talinum*..."

Another spoke, "...and we're seeking a covenant as chosen plants!"



Figure 1: *Talinum cafferum*

"Hmm, another covenant, this is unprecedented, we just don't give these things out. One has to pay a price..."

"...a price, what kind of price?"

"Well it depends. My chosen people had to follow the code and... give up a portion of their male member..."

"...not only don't we have a male member, but we are hermaphrodites."

"Well what can you offer?"

Gabriel whispered, "They've got roots."

God nodded, "How about your roots?"

"Can't do that, they feed us."

"Well, how about that green stuff, leaves...?"

Gabriel nodded, "A brilliant riposte, Sir!"

One of the *Talinums* protested, "But we need those. They make oxygen and sugars..."

"Take it or leave it. You don't get something for nothing." Gabriel smiled approvingly.

"Just the leaves?"

"Drop the leaves, and also those leafprops!"

"Branches, Sire."

"Give us a moment to talk this over." The *Talinums* conferred and a few minutes later they hailed the deity, "This is tough, But we agree, drop leaves, drop branches."

"Ha! Good luck, Chosen Plants."

Among themselves, one of the *Talinums* asked, "How will we survive without our leaves and branches?"

"Did any of us hear that we couldn't have green stems? I surely didn't. And if we shrink the branches and call them spines...?"

"That should pass. But some types of *Talinums* won't truck with this covenant bizz."

"Well, if that's their mojo they can stay *Talinum*. We are new. We are the Spiny!"

.....

Notes: 1. Spiny translates in Greek to cacti.

2. *Talinum cafferum* has been identified in two studies as ancestral to *Cactaceae*. The latest study by Ocamp@Columbus, Figure 2, below, shows this relationship. Also, molecular clock estimates of *Cactaceae* origin places it around 30 to 40 MYA. There is also a South American relative, *Talinum brasiliensis*. It is my contention that the rise of the Andes cordillera brought about the origins and speciation of cacti.

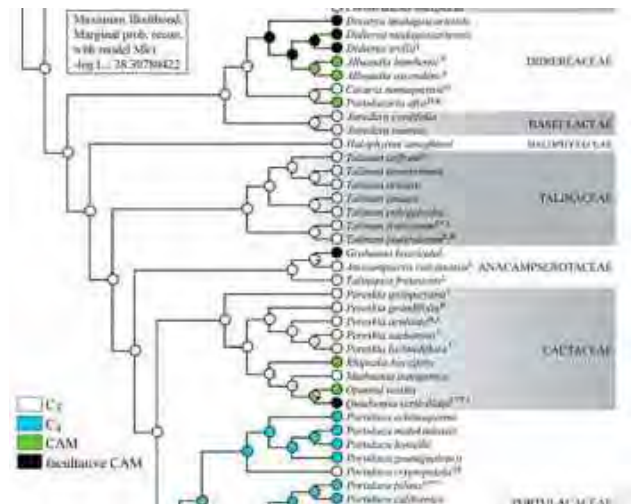


Figure 2: DNA derived *Cactaceae* family tree.