

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society
The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 62, Number 9

September 2016

**DON'T MISS OUR
PCSS 2016 Show & Sale
October 22nd – 23rd
See p. 4 – 5 for details.**

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, Sept. 24th
Park Ave. Community Center
210 Park Ave., Escondido
Brag Plants, Exchange Table, Benefit Drawing
11:00am - 3:00pm

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REFRESHMENTS

1 – Jean O'Daniel	6 – Gloria Medina
2 – Lorie Johansen	7 – Patty Nelson
3 – Susan LaFreniere	8 – Neila Rybicki
4 – Julie Slater	9 – Charlyne Barad
5 – Vickie Broughton	

Click here to visit our webpage:

www.palomarcactus.org

We're on Facebook!

This Month's Presentation: Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila

By Wendell S. 'Woody' Minnich, 2015

Mexico is thought by many to be the richest region in the world for cacti. For all those individuals who travel in search of rare and unusual cacti, their first choice is often Mexico. The Sierra Madre Oriental is considered the center of diversity for Mexican genera, ranging from *Ariocarpus* to *Aztekiums*, *Echinocereus*, *Ferocactus*, *Geohintonia*, *Gymnocactus*, *Mammillaria*, *Obregonia*, *Pelecephora*, *Thelocactus*, *Turbiniacarpus* and many, many more. Because of the plethora of plants found in the states of Tamalipas, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi and Hidalgo, most field workers have just decided to ignore the little explored Coahuila.

For most of us, Coahuila and its neighboring state of Chihuahua were often only used as drive-throughs on our way to the succulent rich south. In recent years, many of the serious plant explorers have started finding new backcountry roads in these two states. These new roads have graciously opened up some of the rarely explored areas to extremely remote regions, and some of these backcountry roads (trails) are not even found on the maps! Coahuila, as close as it is to the USA, actually has some of the least explored and most remote regions in all of Mexico.

On our trip through Coahuila, we drove for many hours without ever seeing other vehicles or back country people. There were no urban or agricultural developments as these wild places are still virtually untouched! The valleys and mountains of these



Echeveria cante in habitat

Presentation description continued:

expanses will surely offer many new species for the field worker willing to do some serious exploring. Near the roads, if you wish to call them roads, I saw only a few dried-up old ghost towns where apparently some tough old Mexicans, probably from the Poncho Villa era, once resided.

From the unknown territories of Coahuila, there have been numerous new cacti and other succulents discovered and rediscovered. The crown jewel of these new plants is the fantastic *Mammillaria luethyi* (top right) . It was lost for over 60 years since its original siting, growing in a rusted tin can on a dusty ranchito porch. All of us exploring Mexico had searched for this very special *Mammillaria*, until only a few years ago, Luethy found it in northern Coahuila. The Sierra del Carmen, which abuts the Rio Grand and the Big Bend National Park, has also been the origin of other new species. Close to this area, we discovered a new, very beautiful *Echinomastus*, or possibly *Gymnocactus*?



Also from this region we found a very handsome red *Sedum* (middle right), as well as *Echinocereus longisetus*, and the northern most of the *Echeverias*, *Echeveria strictaflora*. In a remote dry lake bed, Laguna la Leche, we admired the amazingly cryptic *Escobaria abdita*. Wow, just some of the treasures of Coahuila



Agave pintilla

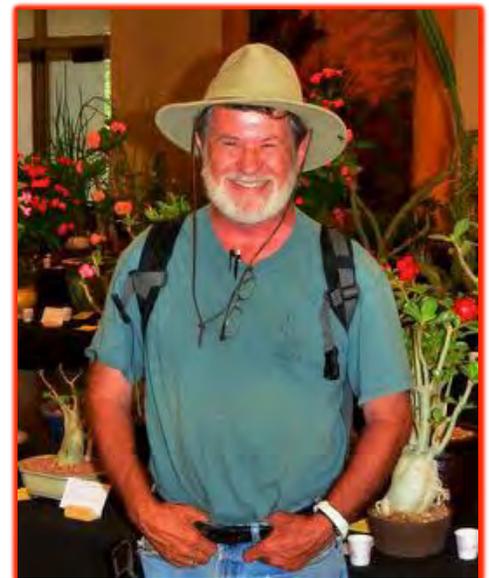
This trip was also to be an adventure in seeing some of the brand new *Agaves*, *Echeverias*, *Astrophytums*, *Echinocereus* and *Mammillarias*. We scored on almost everything we went to see, and never, in the 45 years that I have traveled Mexico, have I seen it so green. **This talk will also feature many cacti and other succulents that have never been seen in books or presentations. Come explore Mexico with me!**



Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich 2015

Woody, as he is commonly called, has been in the cactus hobby for some 45 years and has become well known for his participation in many of the cactus and succulent clubs. He is an honorary life member of nine clubs as well as a life member and Friend of the CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) He has served in almost all positions of leadership from president, to newsletter editor, to show chairman and so on. He is also known for his extensive field work studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen. From these trips and his nursery experience, he has developed an extensive knowledge of the cactus family as well as many of the other succulent genera.

Woody is also known for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken for plant conventions - organizations all over the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico. Woody has also authored a number of articles for various newsletters, the CSSA journal and his photographs are well published. Woody is the creator-originator of the first color version of the CSSA journal "Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur" that also featured show plants, shows and the growers of the pictured plants.



He is also known for his cactus and succulent nursery, Cactus Data Plants. CDP was started in 1975 and is still in operation today. Cactus Data Plants specializes in show specimens and rare cacti and other succulents with particular emphasis in *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Turbincarpus*, *Melocactus*, *Copiapoa*, *Fouquieria*, *Pachypodium*, *Euphorbia*, *Cyphostemma*, *Adenium* and *Adenia*.

Woody and his wife Kathy live in the beautiful mountains south of Santa Fe New Mexico, in a region called Cedar Grove. He has a small 1,200 sq. ft. greenhouse and a few cold frames where he grows his unique plants. He is always on the move and travels frequently to do presentations and shows throughout the western United States. Woody is the proud parent of three children, Leah, Denver and Sarah, all of whom are now grown and out in the big world. Woody is also the proud grandparent of three grandsons, Indiana, Ashton and Logan. He is a retired high school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphic Arts, Architecture, Art and Health.

BOARD BRIEFS

PICNIC & AUCTION – What a fantastic time we had! Over 65 people attended, (a 30% increase over last year,) and there was a delightful assortment of goodies to choose from for appetizers and lunch. Thank you to everyone who brought in food, to Jim Anderson for coordinating the food, Sandy Wetzel and Bruce Barry for setting it up and tidying up afterwards, Kevin Smith for overall assistance, and May Fong Ho for coordinating the monies, plus all the other numerous volunteers who jumped right in to help with all aspects as needed. Plus, thanks go to Brita Miller for coordinating the entire event, and Annie Morgan for coordinating the auction.

The auction was a HUGE success with 47 plants, plus misc. gardening items that were auctioned. We raised over \$830, which will be donated to San Diego Botanic Gardens. As a comparison, last year we had 10 plants and raised \$135 to donate. A giant thank you to the 13 people who brought in plants this year – Jim Anderson, Diana Backer, Mitch Bahr, Phyllis Flechsig, Lorie Johansen, Jerry Kahn, Wanda Mallen, Brita Miller, Annie Morgan, Don Nelson, Jean O’Daniel, Peter Walkowiak, and Stan Yalof! It wouldn’t have happened without you.

OCTOBER SHOW & SALE – Our Annual Show and Sale is on October 22nd – 23rd. See pages 4-5 for information, and look for more details next month. Peter will be doing a staging workshop at our September meeting, just in time for you to go home and get your plants ready to show, and another at his home on October 1st – see p. 6.

CSSA SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM – Our club paid for four members (must have volunteered in the past year) – Annie Morgan, Bruce Barry, May Fong Ho, and Ruta Caldwell – to attend the event. There were 8 speakers with lots of excellent information shared. Everyone also had a chance to shop at the Huntington Succulent Nursery – a rare opportunity to acquire some unusual plants for excellent prices. Make sure to volunteer in the coming year so you can be in the raffle for next year’s event.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - STAGING WORKSHOP

STAGING is the manner in which the plant is displayed. It includes arrangement of the plant, pottery, top dressing, rocks (optional), and cleanliness of all aspects. Pots may be ordinary terra cotta, quality ceramic (preferred), or even plastic if necessary, but they must be in good condition - no chips, cracks) or visible debris. The pot should be of a complementary size, shape, and color for the plant. Remember, you are displaying the plant, not the pot. The pot should always subtly enhance the plant. *The plant should be approx. 2/3 of the width of the pot, or larger.*



~ OCTOBER 22nd & 23rd 2016 SHOW & SALE ~

Saturday: 9am to 5pm

Sunday: 10am to 3pm

San Diego Botanic Garden

230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

SHOW CHAIR MESSAGE – By Brita Miller

Our annual Show and Sale is just around the corner, and we expect another year of record sales, increased number of show plants entered, and attendees. For a successful event we need your favorite plants entered in the Show so now is the time to pick out the plants you would like to show, do your transplanting, pruning, and clean them up as needed. Getting them ready now will allow your plants have to settle in and put on some new growth.

Again, we will have three levels - Novice, Intermediate and Advanced with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons at each.

- **Novice** is for the more casual or beginning collector who has won 10 blue ribbons or less.
- **Intermediate** is for those beyond Novice, but not yet Advanced.
- **Advanced** is typically a long-term grower/collector whose plants are exceptional.



TIPS TO MAKE SHOWING YOUR PLANTS MORE SUCCESSFULLY!

- **Pot type** - Have plant in nice pot. If you have the option of several pots, pick the one with color and/or texture that enhances your plant so it stands out in a crowd. Plastic detracts from plants, but if it is an exceptional example of the plant and that's your only option, show it anyway.
- **Pot size** - Have plant in the right size pot, If you have it in a pot that you are waiting for it to grow into, wait until next year to show it, or repot it just for the show.
- **Plant Placement** - It is best to have the plant centered in the pot, unless it is growing towards one side, balance is key. You may also offset your plant if you include accent rocks(s), or it is a bonsai.
- **Top Dressing** - Top dressing is important for two reasons: 1) It helps pull the presentation of the plant and pot together, and 2) It protects the soil from drying out.
- **Clean Plants** - Plants must be clean, so do take the time and get out your tweezers so you can get all those dead leaves, flower, weeds, and other debris. It is better to bring fewer clean plants than lots that need TLC.
- **Healthy Plant** - Take care of any bug problems now. Do not enter any plant showing evidence disease. Any plant showing evidence of either will be disqualified and removed. (We had problems with this last year.)
- **Watering** - Please water plants a day or two before bringing them into the Show. The pot must be dry on the outside. There is nothing worse than water running out of the plant and getting the entry cards wet. Your entry may be disqualified if your card is so wet we can't read it. (We also had problems with this last year.)

Novice and Intermediates - We really need YOU to bring in your CACTUS too, as those categories are often empty. It may be an easy way to win a ribbon!

As always, to have a successful event, we need a variety of volunteers. Would YOU like to help?

**Contact Show Chair Brita Miller @
eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org**

with any questions about the Show OR volunteering.

ABBREVIATED PLANT SHOW RULES

Below are *some* of the basic rules. The complete list of rules, including labeling and categories, will be included in the October newsletter.

- All paid members of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society may enter plants in the Show.
- You must have owned your show plants for at least six months.
- Plants must be clean, (no weeds or debris) and healthy (no insects, disease or pesticide odor). Any plants showing evidence of either will be disqualified.
- There may only be one plant per pot, unless it will be entered as a dish garden.
- The judges make their decisions based on:
 - Condition - 80% - (condition of plant, degree of maturity, difficulty of cultivation)
 - Staging - 15% - (pot, top dressing, cleanliness, overall presentation)
 - Nomenclature - 5% - (accuracy of identification, spelling)



Haworthia
Candy & Jerry Garner



Aeonium Kiwi
Best in Show
Julian Duval



Mammillaria
Lorie Johansen
Best Cactus - Intermediate



Opuntia
Annie Morgan

FYI – BRINGING IN YOUR SHOW PLANTS

- There will be entry cards at September meeting so you can get them prepared in advance.
- Please try to bring in your Show plants on Friday, 10/21 from noon - 5pm. It really helps us with setting up the Show, and it will be easier if you need help figuring out the names and getting them into the right categories.
- Saturday morning can be very hectic to say the least.
- We will have people and books available to help you identify plant genus and species on Friday, Noon - 5 and Saturday morning, 8 - 9:30am.



All photos on this page are from PCSS 2015 October Show



Kalanchoe
May Fong Ho

Peter Walkowiak ~ PeterWPlants

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 17th, 2016 ~ 10:00am to 3:00pm

***** 😊 BBQ Party to follow 😊 *****

- Please R.S.V.P. for BBQ (contact info below)
- You've seen some of my plants at various shows, but there are many more to see and many of you have indicated an interest in seeing the entire collection.
- Sales inventory is available as well. (\$50 & up 20% discount - \$150 & up 30% discount)
- We will provide snacks and iced tea. However, when the party starts.... I'll have the beer chilled, some pork on the smoker and chips & salsa ready. If you'd like something with more spirit, please feel free to bring it along

Location:

Escondido, CA 92026

email: hciservices@gmail.com

Directions: (TRUST THESE DIRECTIONS, not Google maps, MapQuest or phone GPS)

1. 15 freeway, exit El Norte Pkwy which is 1 mile north of highway 78
2. Right turn from northbound - head east
3. Left turn from southbound - head east
4. Seven Oaks Rd - immediate RIGHT turn (frontage road)
5. Borden Rd - 1/4 mile - LEFT turn
6. Avocado Ave - 1/2 mile - LEFT turn

~ this is the tricky part....

7. 1/4 mile on Avocado Ave there is an unmarked cul-de-sac.
The house on the corner has a white block wall about 2 feet high.
This IS PART of Avocado Ave, not a different street.
8. Turn left up this cul-de-sac.
9. At the end of the cul-de-sac there are two parallel driveways on the right.
Ours is the one on the right.
10. We will have a sign at the bottom of the driveway indicating 1172.
11. Park in the cul-de-sac, if you pull nose-in at the front of the dirt hill, we can fit more cars.



STAGING WORKSHOP - GETTING YOUR PLANTS READY FOR THE SHOW

Peter Walkowiak will be conducting a Staging Workshop on Saturday, October 1st at noon at his house/nursery, with a BBQ Social afterwards. (See directions above.) He will teach techniques to help you enhance the beauty and form of your show plants. You provide the plants and pots you would like to stage and he will provide soil and top dressing. He will first demonstrate several of his own then will help you with yours.

There will be space for about 20 club members, aimed at those who want to show plants at our October Show. *RSVP by talking to Peter at the September meeting or by e-mail at: hciservices@gmail.com.*

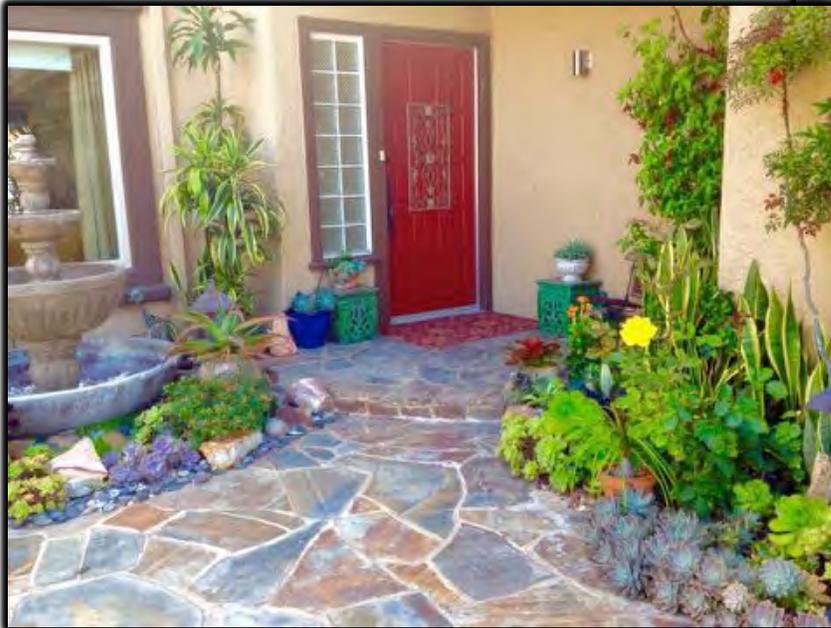
Between now and then think about what plants you want to show and how they may be staged. Look for pots, rocks and natural items to use in your creation. The fun comes in making those ideas become reality.

Members' Brag Garden or Plant Photos

Share a section of your garden, a plant that bloomed in-between meetings, or one that's too large or heavy to bring to the Brag Table.

Published photo receives 3 Brag Points; those who email in photos receive 1 point.

Email photos with plant names to Annie at:
info@palomarcactus.org.



These gorgeous vignettes are all from the incredible front yard areas of Marcy Singer's home.

POPULATING THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH SUCCULENTS

By Brita miller

My husband and I live on a street which gets a lot of foot traffic, people walking their dogs or just out for exercise. The last few years I have put out cuttings from my garden and leftovers from our meetings. As so many people stop by and pick up these plants, I have made a "paver stand" with a sign, shade cloth, and bags to carry cuttings home. I have at least 15 "regulars" that stop by. I can even tell, by now, if their stopping by in their car to check on what is new or actually parking. Some even lament that they don't get there early enough. Sometimes I offer to take them through my garden to see if I can find some cuttings for them. People find that getting free plants helps them started creating their own succulent garden.

My next project is to visit some of these gardens to see how the "babies" have grown. There is a strip of land on the other side of our house is what I call "no man's land" where we have been planting extra Opuntia and Agave. And with no HOA, it's our part of a neighborhood beautification project. This way we get our neighbors to start using succulents to save water, have less brown lawns and help during the fire season. Maybe this can give you an idea or two for your neighborhood, (Hopefully your neighbors and HOA allow it.)



ALL PLANTS GET TAKEN. THERE ARE NEVER ANY LEFTOVERS!

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Walkowiak – President & Co-Program Chair

• hciservices@gmail.com

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

• eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

Leon LaFreniere – Treasurer, Membership

• info@palomarcactus.org

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

info@palomarcactus.org

Francis Granger – Board Member, Member/Guest Ambassador

Mike Nelson – Board Member, Brag Table Points

Carol McAllister – Board Member, Monthly Meeting Volunteer

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OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Vicki Martin – Co-Librarian

Bruce Barry & Sandy Wetzel-Smith – Refreshments

Dennis Miller – Plant Sales & Benefit Drawing

Tina Cord – Meeting Setup, etc.

Brian Magone – Exchange Table

Lorie Johansen – Guest/New Member Ambassador

Chet Reed – Brag Plant Photographer

Nell McChesney – Name Tag Drawing Plants

Kathie Hoxsie – Monthly Meeting Publicity

May Fong Ho – Website

2016 So. California Event Calendar

Nov. 5-6

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

9am-4pm,

LA County Arboretum, 310 N. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA,

Info. Manny Rivera 626-780-6957

or John Matthews 661-714-1052

2016 PCSS MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	SPEAKER / TOPIC	PLANT OF THE MONTH
22, 23 October	ANNUAL SHOW & SALE AT SAN DIEGO BOTANIC (QUAIL) GARDEN IN ENCINITAS - YOUR SHOW PLANTS!!!	
19 November	Brian Kemble - Gasterias	Gasteria
17 December	Holiday Party!	GIFT PLANTS FOR ALL



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