

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 61, Number 12

December 2015

HOLIDAY PARTY 2015

The party is the
3rd Saturday!
December 19, 2015

Park Ave. Community Center
210 Park Ave.
Escondido, CA 92025

11:30 am – 3:00pm

**We Will Eat
About 12:30 pm.
Come Early
and Help Set Up!**

- No Board Meeting
- No Brag Plants
- No Plant Sales
- No Plant Exchange



Photo by Cassidy Interiors in Solana Beach. Used with permission.

NEW & IMPORTANT! ~ Want a seat? Please Sign up! ~

Last year we had 65 attendees and this year we already have 80 signed up, and of those 43 have signed up to bring food. Due to our significantly increased membership we need you to sign up if you are going to attend, and due to space we have a limit of 100 people. So, if you haven't already signed up, please email Annie at info@palomarcactus.org. We also need more food for the big crowd so please let us know what you are bringing.

IF YOU DON'T SIGN UP WE CANNOT GUARANTEE A SEAT, FOOD, OR A GIFT PLANT!



Holiday Party 2015



Eleanore Hewitt will once again be coordinating the party (she'd be happy to pass the torch if anyone wants it!). If you have any questions, suggestions, offers of help or tranquilizers, please feel free to contact her at info@palomarcactus.org.

If you haven't signed yet up and wish to bring something just give her a call.

As is traditional, the Club will be providing the main entree of turkey (yes, there will be more dark meat than white!) as well as coffee and punch. **You supply the rest so sign up if you haven't already!**



Since the Center has virtually no appliances, we need coolers for both cold and hot stuff. One of Eleanore's friends showed her a trick with foil-wrapped bricks heated in the oven – they keep food hot for hours! Any hot trays you may have tucked away in your back cupboards will be much appreciated as well. Don't forget the cords!

The set-up crew should arrive ready to work by 10:30 am. There are tables to set and decorate, and the room could use some holiday cheer. We would appreciate people bringing cut greens or Christmas decorations so we can make the hall as festive as possible. Pine, juniper or Pyracantha would be great – as well as any succulent material you think would fit into the seasonal theme – like Jade if it's in bloom. Please bring them early enough to be used in the decorating.

We welcome spouses or SOs of all our members at the party. I know we would be delighted to meet them. Just remember to sign up for them, too!

PLEASE – REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR NAME ON ALL SERVING UTENSILS AND DISHES. WE WOULD HATE TO HAVE ANYTHING GET LOST IN THE CLEANUP SHUFFLE."

BRAG PLANT WINNERS EARN GIFT PLANTS!

Once again we had a fabulous year of BRAG PLANTS and Plant of the Month! Forty-two members brought their plants to show and share their delight in our favorite hobby. That is an all time record! Each time they brought a plant, they earned one point for bringing in a plant, plus more points were earned for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. Robert Kopfstein brought in plants each month except one and earned an incredible 186 points!

Each person who brought in plants will receive a Gift Plant at the December Holiday Party. Following are the names of those who participated. The person who earned the most points chooses first. Congratulations to:

Robert Kopfstein	Brita Miller	Phyllis Flechsig	Annie Morgan	Stan Yalof
Jeannie Zonana	John Barkley	Jerry Kahn	Victor Zonana	Don Nelson
Lorie Johansen	Mitch Bahr	Fran Komarek	Jean O'Daniel	Chet Reed
Vicki Martin	Susan LaFreniere	Jim Anderson	Beverly Ficuciello	Bill Diangelo
Debby Wanamaker	Christina Harp	Deborah Pearson	Alex Cardenas	Neila Rybicki
Nell McChesney	Maddy Beasley	Harold Dunn	Barbara Launspach	Chris Barkley
Ron Chisum	Libbi Salvo	Paula Deubig	Mike Regan	John Tashjian
Mike Nelson	Janice Thompson	Patti Nelson	Jerre Stafford	Kim Stone
Carol McAllister	Peter Tashjian			

HOLIDAY PARTY

Potluck Sign-Up Sheet

SALADS

Stan Yalof – Broccoli Salad
Jean O’Daniel – Fruit Salad
Maddy Beasley – Bean Salad
Phyllis Flechsig
Debi Stivers
Evelyn Voth
John Tashjian
Tammy Harmon
Brenda Deubig



CRANBERRY / RELISH DISHES

Mike Regan
Stasi Kubrock
Tamara Michel
Paula Deubig



VEGETABLES

Nancy Dunn
Judy Goldman
Lorie Johansen
Kathie Hoxsie
Chris Barkley
Neila Rybicki
Gloria Medina
Bill Diangelo
Marilyn Martineau

POTATOES

Victor Zonana – Potato Salad
Patti Nelson – Sweet Potatoes
Tina Cord – Mashed Potatoes
Annie Morgan – Sweet Potatoes
Eleanore Hewitt – Mashed Potatoes
Janina – Sweet Potatoes w/Apples
? – Baked Potatoes



ROLLS / BREAD

Don Nelson – French Bread
Maurilia Bernal
Martha Hansen



STUFFING

Julie Slater – double
Robert Kopfstein
Jenna Schultz
Brita Miller

DESSERTS

Annie Morgan – Pecan Pie
Peggy Regan – Apple & Persimmon Cake
Linda Schmalfeldt – Holiday Cake
Mike Regan – Pumpkin Pie
Vicky Broughton – Date Nut Roll
Mary Hansen
Carol Carrillo
Beth Bradsher
Deb Pearson
Diane Baker



SET-UP / SERVING - start @ 10:30am

Eleanore Hewitt
Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Jean O’Daniel
Gloria Medina
Brita Miller

CLEAN UP

Eleanore Hewitt
Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Judy Goldman
Lorie Johansen
John Barkley

EVERYONE!!!

We definitely need LOTS of the goodies that make the holiday meal extra special for everyone. Drop me a phone call or an email if you’d like to bring something but couldn’t sign up in advance.

- Eleanore



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had another excellent talk by Woody Minnich, thank you Woody! As always he had an extremely well done presentation and took us through some beautiful parts of South Africa showing us many wonderful and unique plants in habitat, and he also gave tips for growing the plants locally. The program was recorded so if you weren't there it will be on YouTube in the future. We will keep you posted and share the link when it is available.

HOLIDAY PARTY – YOU MUST SIGN UP ~ In order to make sure we have enough seats, food, and gift plants we need everyone who is planning on coming to sign up. This party is potluck with the club providing the turkey, so all you need to do is bring a favorite dish or dessert. Please sign up for attendance and the potluck by contacting Annie Morgan at info@palomarcactus.org by Monday, December 14th.

BRAG & VOLUNTEER & MEMBER GIFT PLANTS ~ We will have tables of gift plants for all three at our Holiday Party! See the article further along in the newsletter for the list of Brag Plant participants. If you have volunteered during the course of the year we will also have plants for you. Plus, for all members in attendance at the party there will also be a gift plant!

NEWSLETTER CHANGE ~ Starting in January our mailed newsletters will be in black and white. We have evaluated our costs discovered that the \$10 we charge for a mailed copy does not come close to the actual cost of printing color copies, so this will save the club hundreds of dollars yearly. Most members, around 90%, receive email copies now so this only affects a small number of our members.

MEMBERSHIP ~ Our club has grown dramatically over the last year. We started last January with approx. 125 members and now at the close of the year we have 179! I welcome all the new members to our club. The room is now filled with such positive energy at each of our meetings and numerous speakers have commented on the positive feel. I am excited about our upcoming year!

FIELD TRIP ~ Don't miss the notice about the annual CSSA day at Huntington Gardens and the field trip that PCSS and SDCSS are coordinating. We will have the signup slips available at the party.

**Happy Holidays,
Peter Walkowiak**

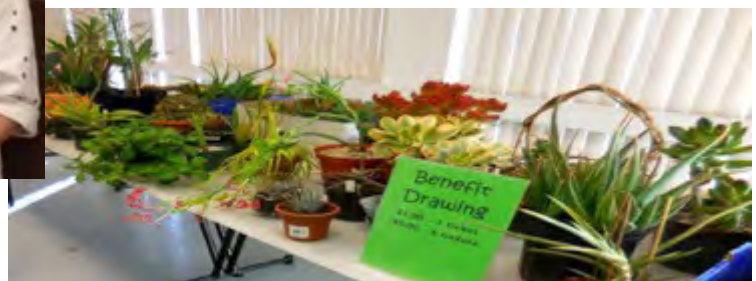
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Four of our October Show winners receiving their awards. L-R: Peter Walkowiak, Lorie Johansen, Robert Kopfstein, and Neila Rybicki



Woody Minnich judging the Brag Plants and taking time to explain the finer points of what makes a winner, and how to improve growing practices.



The Benefit Drawing table was full of great choices!

NOVEMBER BRAG PLANT WINNERS

Novice Cactus

- 1st Jeannie Zonana Mammillaria ritteriana
- 2nd Nell McChesney Mammillaria spinosissima
- 3rd Victor Zonana Neoporteria nidus var. senilis

Intermediate Cactus

- 1st Lorie Johansen Mammillaria plumose
- 1st Lorie Johansen Schlumbergera buckleyi
- 1st Robert Kopfstein Mammillaria fragilis
- 2nd Lorie Johansen Denmoza erythrocephala
- 3rd Brita Miller Oreocereus trollii
- 3rd Brita Miller Rhipsalis cereuscula

Novice Succulents

- 1st Jerry Kahn Orbea variegata
- 1st Vicki Martin Echeveria
- 2nd Jerry Kahn Plectranthus caninus
- 2nd Neila Rybicki Euphorbia xanti
- 3rd Jerry Kahn Euphorbia

Intermediate Succulents

- 1st Robert Kopfstein Hechtia

Plant of the Month – Pachypodium Novice

- 1st Neila Rybicki Pachypodium brevicaule grafted
- 2nd Jerry Kahn Pachypodium lamerei

Intermediate

- 1st Robert Kopfstein Pachypodium griquense



Victor Zonana



Vicki Martin



Jerry Kahn



Lorie Johansen



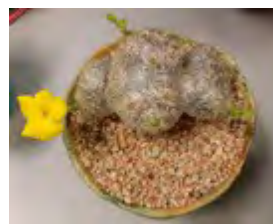
Brita Miller



Robert Kopfstein



Stan Yalof



Phyllis Flechsig

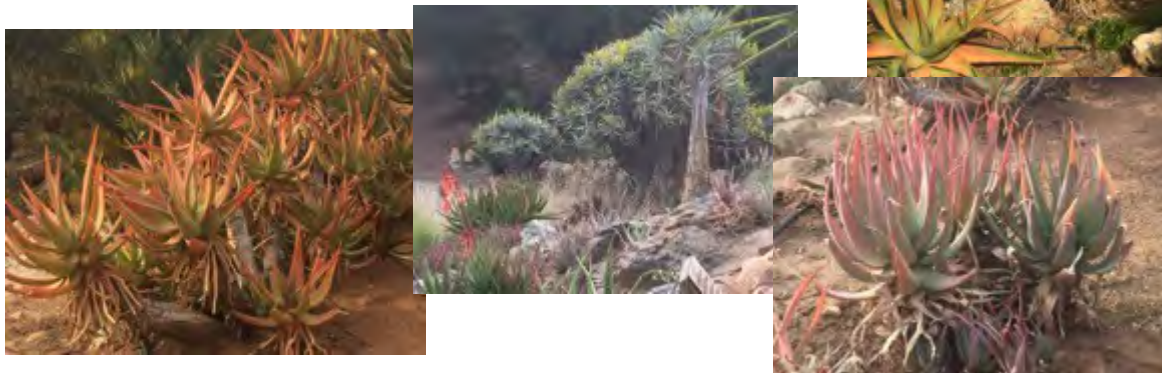
Plant of the Month I Pachypodium



News from the Gardens at The Safari Park - Happening Now - By Susan LaFreniere

* Since it is cooler, the plants are showing their colors and we plant every week. Would you like to get involved? Becoming a volunteer for only the gardens (not the animals) has been simplified by the Safari Park: just attend a half-day orientation meeting at the Zoo. Volunteers can visit both parks AND earn free passes for friends and family. Join us!

* We love to get plant donations. Plants that come from Africa, the Mediterranean area, mid-East, Madagascar, or the Canary Islands will fit into the Old World Garden. We recently got 6 tree aloes, *Aloe ferox*, *Aloe vaombe*, a multi-headed *Aloe plicatilis*, and *Aloe africana*, plus *Aloe striata* from Brandon Bullard of Desert Theater Nursery in Escondido, a breath-taking 7+ acres of planted and potted cactus and succulents. To donate, contact Safari Park liaison May Fong Ho at info@palomarcactus.org.



THE HUNTINGTON GARDEN ~ FIELD TRIP

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

DESERT FORUM

Saturday, 16 January 2016

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 9:00 – 10:00 | Registration – in front of new visitor entry area
Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission |
| 9:00 – 11:00 | Desert Garden
Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory. Aloes will be flowering |
| 11:00 – 1:00 | Plant Sales
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - <i>please, no early bird shopping</i> . Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted |
| 1:00 – 4:30 | Free Time - Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:30 |



Palomar/PCSS & San Diego/SDCSS **FIELD TRIP** to 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 covering 120 acres. Here is a link to a map of The Huntington: http://www.huntington.org/uploadedFiles/Files/PDFs/groundsmap_051613.pdf

Following are the details. Contact Annie Morgan at info@palomarcactus.org 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 4:15 pm. The bus will leave at 4:30 pm. 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 8th 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 5 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.

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 bring your \$\$\$. There is a holding area for your purchases, and carts we can use to haul them to the bus. From there they will be put in the luggage storage area for the trip home.



SIGN-UP

Name(s) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email _____

Club – circle one: PCSS SDCSS

Winter Growers? Summer Growers? What's the Scoop?

We first learn that succulents grow in warm weather and are dormant in winter. While this is true for the great majority of those we call summer growers, many of our succulents are dormant during the warmer spring and summer months of May through August and wake up in the winter. We call these winter growers. These are plants that are originally from the Mediterranean climate areas in coastal South Africa (in the opposite winter season of the U.S), and some from California and Northern Baja California.

These winter growing succulents “rest” during the hottest part of the year and grow during the cooler months of fall, winter and early spring. They need more water than they did in the summer. But watch out as in a rainy year plants may stay too wet. The problem is that the water isn't evaporating as quickly either, so beware of wet roots and root rot. This is why a good, well-draining soil is so important and is defined by water rapidly passing through the soil, with no lingering of water on the surface after water wand is taken away.

For these winter growing plants their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring, and they slow down considerable during true (cold) winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well, especially those in the Lily and Crassulaceae families. Most winter growers want just enough water to stay alive in summer months.

Following is a list of winter growers:

Adromischus, Aeonium, Aloe, Anacampseros, Astroloba, Avonia, Bowiea, Bulbine, Bursera, Ceraria, Conophytum, Cotyledon, Crassula, Dioscorea, Dudleya, Euphorbias (some) Fouqueria, Gasteria, Gibbaeum, Glottiphyllum, Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Haemanthus, Haworthia, Kalenchoe, Monanthes, Neohenricia, Othonna, Pachycormus, Pachyphytum, Pachyveria, Pelargonium, Peperomia, Portulacaria, Sansevieria, Sacrocaulon, Sedeveria, Sedum, Senecio, Stomatium, Sulcorebutia rauschii, Talinum, Tylecodon



Aeonium mardi gras winter colors. Photo by Candice Suter



Aloe in winter bloom



Cotyledon's winter flowers.



Kalenchoe thyrsiflora



A Tip From Ron Chisum About Dealing with El Nino

I have a nice slope in my back yard and through many years I have sprayed or pulled most of the weeds that shared my succulent garden. I worry about erosion every winter when we might get substantial rains. This is an El Nino Year and there is both hope and a threat of substantial rains. Every fall I buy one or two bails of straw to sprinkle on the slopes of my denuded landscape. It slows down the water movement across the slopes and stops erosion. The straw breaks down and by next summer, exists only in my memory. Please consider this as an option to control erosion.



A Tribute to Eleanore

From John Tashjian

Eleanore;

I'm really sorry that you're giving up the newsletter.

I first learned of PCSS back in the seventies when I met Mildred Gregory while she was working in the Palomar College Cactus Garden, along with members Katy Macdonald, Betty Woolridge, Helen Heggie, Dorothy Dunn and some others, most of whom have passed on. Our meetings were held in a classroom at the college, and sometimes in the cactus garden.

I also spent some time in the Herpetological Society, the Palm Society, the Bamboo Society and the California Rare Fruit Growers. I must say that none of their newsletters came close to matching the quality that you have given to that of this organization.

We have been very fortunate to have you doing the job. Any of the members who pay any attention and think about it must realize what an extraordinary job you have done and for the long time you have done it. You have earned your retirement. Enjoy it. I for one, will miss your touch, but will support and encourage whoever takes on the big job that you are leaving.

With all best wishes from a long time member,

John H. Tashjian

ELEANORE THE EDITOR RETIRES

She's done a job that's at the top
For more than twenty years

She gave the news and all the views
For all our eyes and ears

Of the cactus club with not a flub
Told all there was to hear

She was always free with quality
Of news from far and near

The words were right the pictures bright
And the information clear

She gave the best and earned a rest
Now we all will shed a tear

Eleanore Hewitt is gonna do it
She may now relax and have a beer.

Epic poetry by
'Henry Wadsworth Shortfellow'
August 2015



