

# CACTUS COURIER

An Affiliate Member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club!

Volume 65, Number 10

November 2019

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Park Ave. Community Center  
210 Park Ave., Escondido  
Brag, Exchange & Benefit Drawing Tables

**11:00am - 3:00pm**

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## **REFRESHMENTS**

1 – Evelyn Voth	8 – Jean O'Daniel
2 – Julie Slater	9 – Don Nelson
3 – Winston Chan	10 – E. Rankuch
4 – Kathie Hoxsie	11 – Garrett Smith
5 – Teri Shusterman	12 – Lindsay Worden
6 – Charlyne Barad	13 – Pauline Wong
7 – Linda Schmalfeldt	

## **2020 MEMBERSHIP** **RENEW NOW!**

For 2020 the DEADLINE to renew memberships to keep receiving a newsletter after February will be February 29<sup>th</sup>.

You may pay at our meetings - November, December, January, or February. Or you may print out a form and mail it in.

Click here to go to a printable Membership Form:

[www.palomarcactus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PCSS-Membership-Form-Single.pdf](http://www.palomarcactus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PCSS-Membership-Form-Single.pdf)

## This Month's Presentation:

### **20 Years in the Atacama Desert**

#### **Land of the Copiapos**

By: Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Similar to the coast of Namibia, the coastal and inland regions of northern Chile, known as the Atacama, are mainly watered by amazing fogs, "the Camanchacas." These fog-fed regions, in two of the driest deserts in the world, have some of the most interesting cactus and succulents to be found anywhere. The Atacama of northern Chile has an endemic genus considered by many to be one of the most dramatic to have ever evolved, the Copiapoa. This ancient genus is also believed to be tens of thousands of years old, and there are those who feel it might well be on its way out! The ocean currents that affect the coastal Atacama have changed considerably over the last hundreds of years, and now its only source of moisture is primarily from consistent dense fogs. Some of these areas rarely, if ever, get rain and the plants that have evolved there live almost entirely off the heavy condensation from the Camanchaca.

There are many different Copiapoa species ranging from small quarter sized subterranean geophytes to giant 1,000-year-old, 300-head mounding clusters. Thanks to Rudolf Schulz's excellent field work and his two comprehensive Copiapoa books, we have all been introduced to these amazing plants. Having worked with Rudolf in Chile, I can honestly



Copiapoa gigantea along the coast north of Taltal, Chile

We're on Facebook! Check out all the new posts from the show!

**NEW!** We are now on Instagram as [Palomar.cactus.succulent.org!](https://www.instagram.com/palomar.cactus.succulent.org/)

Website: [www.palomarcactus.org](http://www.palomarcactus.org) Questions: [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

say that the genus *Copiapoa* is without comparison! Now, having visited Chile numerous times over the last 20+ years, I have become familiar with most all of the representatives of this genus. With this presentation, I hope to taxonomically introduce you to most of the *Copiapoa* species as well as show their relationships and synonyms. Along with the *Copiapoa*, we will also encounter many other genera including the *Neochilenias*, *Neoporterias*, *Eriosyce*, *Eulychnias*, *Trichocereus*, as well as many of the other Chilean succulents. Chile also offers some of the best lunar landscapes, geologic formations, and spectacular beaches to be found in all of South America.

This last August 2018, I had the pleasure of leading a group of 20 crazy cactophiles in seven four-wheel drive trucks. Our objectives were to see most of the fantastic plants and spectacular scenery that are to be found in this the land of the Camanchaca. Most of our group were very young adults (25-35yrs), and they all wanted to see and know how us old timers (Rudolf, Woody, Ritter and Charles) used to do our explorations to the wild and seldom seen places of Chile. Not only did we take them on very bad roads, the kind of dusty, dirty two tracks we used to have to maneuver, we also had them camp out in the middle of nowhere with the scorpions.



Near Esmeralda, Chile - *Copiapoa longistaminea* or *C. youngii*



*Copiapoa dealbata* near Carrizal Bajo, Chile



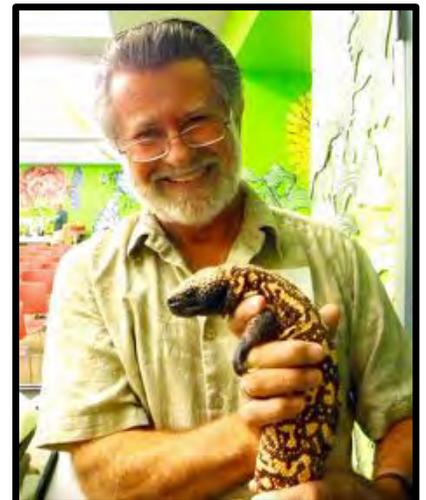
Guajillos Valley, Chile - habitat of *Copiapoa columna alba*

No restaurants, no showers, no beds, and no bar! These camp-outs were exceptional as we could often see, without light pollution, the Southern Cross and the Magellanic Lights until the Camanchaca fog slowly blanketed our campfire discussions. What an incredible trip it was! The energy of the young people and my memories of the last 20+ years in Chile made this an epic adventure, one I will never forget! Join me at the meeting, and hopefully you'll share our exhilarating experience and the overall magic of this wonderful arid region, the Atacama.

## BIO: Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich 2019

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: *Adenium*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Copiapoa*, *Cyphostemma*, *Fouquieria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Lithops*, *Mammillaria*, *Melocactus*, *Pachypodium*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Uebelmannia*, and *Pachycauls* in general.



Woody with a Hela monster, AKA Gila Monster p. 2

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapo" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" by Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of eleven C&S societies. With 49 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.

## ~ NOTICES ~

### LAST CHANCE TO EARN BRAG POINTS FOR 2019 GIFT PLANTS

Bring in your beautiful variegated plants and other Brag Plants to earn more points for the 2019 Brag Plant Contest  
The updated point chart will be in the December Newsletter.

### Coffee in the Garden 11/16

Don't forget to come enjoy the lovely C&S garden at Palomar College this coming Saturday from 10am - 1pm. See last month's newsletter (on our website) for all the details.



## Holiday Party ~ Saturday, December 21



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Please sign up at the November meeting if you are going to attend to make sure you have a seat and that we have enough turkey.

**Julie Slater** is the go-to person this year for signing up to attend AND for bringing food.  
**So if you miss signing up, please contact her.**

~ Eleanore Hewitt will once again be cooking her delicious turkey thighs! Yeah Eleanore!!! 😊

~ Lorie Johansen will be cooking turkey breasts. ~ Peter will be bringing a ham.

**The rest of the menu is potluck so be sure to sign up at the November meeting, or contact Julie ASAP if you're not able to be there, but will be coming to the party.**

### THERE WILL BE GIFT PLANT TABLES GALORE FOR –

**ALL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ~ VOLUNTEERS ~ BRAG PLANT POINT WINNERS!**

~ Evelyn Voth has generously agreed to do the table decorations again this year!

Help is needed in the following areas and you can sign up at the November meeting. If you miss that, please also contact **Julie** if you can help out.

~ **Set-up and Serving** - Starting at 10:30am, we need help setting the tables and then people to help with serving the turkey to speed up the line.

~ **Clean up Crew** - You know the drill. Many hands make light work!



## \*Plant of the Month\* – Variegates By Lorie Johansen

Succulent addicts are suckers for color and colored oddities such as leaves with streaks, splotches, mottled patterns of various hues, etc. This is called variegation. It also refers to different colored margins or veins of a leaf, stripes, spots, and blotches. Whether it is naturally occurring, done through carefully engineered breeding, brought about by certain viruses, or from seasonal or environmental influences, succulents with variegated foliage are like candy for collectors and gardeners alike.

ALL plants need to have some green or partially green leaves in order to contain chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is the pigment responsible for the plant's ability to absorb light to provide energy (food) for photosynthesis. But when its unevenly distributed, it sometimes creates variegation. Whenever you see a green leaf, that's chlorophyll – and when you see different shades of green, or white, yellow edges or markings, etc., that means that chlorophyll is less concentrated in these sections of the plant than in its green parts.



Kalenchoe luciae 'Fantastic', photo by San Marcos Growers, w/permission.



Agave 'victoriae-reginae', photo by Lorie Johansen

Patterns of variegation may be consistent and organized like an agave (right), or they may be random. Another form of variegation occurs when the color change is not due to different pigments within the flesh of the leaf, but due to the greater reflection of light from parts of the leaf. These reflective variegates may have “leaf windows” just under the surface of the leaf, giving a silvery look to the foliage. Also, fine white or silver hairs or markings that form on top of the leaf surface will give it a multi-colored look. Agave victoriae-reginae (left), is an example of a reflective variegated succulent. The intricate white tracings on the leaves are formed by a chalky white substance on the leaf surface. These genetic variegates pass on their look to their offspring.



Agave murpheyi 'Engard', photo by Lorie Johansen

**CULTIVATION:** Variegated succulents that result from the absence of chlorophyll are more sensitive to extremes of heat and cold than a solid green plant and are overall less vigorous than pure green plants. Just as the green pigment protects the plant from sunburn, it also lessens the effects of heat and cold stress,



Kalenchoe fedtschenkoi marginata

so variegated plants can be less cold hardy and heat tolerant. They also tend to grow slower, with a smaller mature size than their solid colored siblings. Additionally, the white/yellow portions of the leaf cannot produce nourishment for the plant so they must have some green to survive. Leaves that have green with other colors (pink, purple, orange, for example), have additional pigments such as carotenoid or anthocyanin in addition to the chlorophyll, and the other pigment colors have taken over and are stronger. These more colorful variegations don't tend to sunburn as easily.

But, ironically variegated plants are less shade tolerant than non-variegated plants. This is because chlorophyll "soaks up" the sunlight to make food. With less chlorophyll the plant needs more light to get the same amount of food, but this means that the more delicate tissues are exposed to the light without any protection. Thus, a good rule of thumb is not to grow variegates in extremely bright or dark situations, or full hot sun. Otherwise, their care is the same as for the normal form of the species. A large well grown variegated of any species is truly an achievement.



Opuntia monacantha variegata

**PROPAGATION:** Variegated plants need to be propagated in a different way to ensure that it passes the variegation on to its offspring. While it is possible that the plant will actually pass on the new coloration, most times it does not. In this case, the only way to maintain the variegation is with stem cuttings or leaf propagation from a variegated leaf.

When variegation of offspring occurs in the wild, it often will not survive. Either it cannot produce enough chlorophyll to support itself, or the solid green portion of the plant will outperform the variegated sections. The tendency for reversion of variegated plants is a protective adaptation to allow the plant to return to a more successful form. It is not possible to reverse the loss of variegation, but if a variegated plant in your collection develops a stem with only green, remove it so it doesn't outperform the rest of the plant and take over.



Euphorbia milli variegata

# SHOW & SALE RECAP



- ◇ What a fantastic event we had overall, and WOW what a show!
- ◇ You made it an incredible success by bringing in 428 beautiful plants and artwork. There were 51 more entries than last year! Wow.
- ◇ It was a fantastic show with all the amazing and diverse plants
- ◇ Visitors were as always extremely impressed with the display; our show takes succulents to a new level, introducing them to very unusual plants that they have never seen before!
- ◇ Volunteers, you were incredible and kept everything running smoothly! See below for details.
- ◇ Our vendors brought a great variety, so there was no shortage of beautiful cactus and succulents, pottery, driftwood, rocks, top dressing, etc. to purchase.
- ◇ Sales were brisk as always. This year we had some serious shoppers who didn't bother with a box, but instead took a cart, parked it and went around shopping. Unfortunately, there was a parking lot of carts in the checkout line, so to avoid this next year, we'll need to find a new "standing zone" for the carts.

**Huge thanks go to Brita Miller for coordinating this very detailed event!**

## Thank You Show & Sale Volunteers!

From Brita Miller ~ Show Chair, Event Coordinator

### WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!!

*I want to give a personal thank you to all the great volunteers:*

- **Setup and/or Breakdown** - Kevin Smith, Richard Miller, Ellen Pankuch, Moni Waiblinger, Russel Ray, Charlyne Barad, Patty and John Merriam, Susan LaFreniere, Dean Karras, Annie Morgan and all the others.
- **Vendor** - Tina Zucker as the Vendor Chair, coordinated with all the vendors, found David, a new cactus vendor. Tina somehow was magically able to get the Sales Area tables and pop-up tents to all fit in despite some serious pre-setup worries.
- **Sales** - Leon LaFreniere, as cashier coordinator and lead cashier, along with Winston Chan, Susan LaFreniere, Harold Dunn, Julie Kort as the rest of the cashiering team. Nancy Dunn, Sherman Blench, Dee Morgan, Dennis Miller scanned, boxed and in general helped the many customers. Pam Dunlap and Moni did a wonderful job manning the Sales area Holding tables. And of course, our treasurer, John Barkley, handled all monies, made the payments, did all the record keeping, etc.
- **Show** - Heather Chan, David Buffington, Michael Nelson, Patty Merriam, Tammy Harmon, Moni and Annie who helped with plant ID, clerking and other Show needs. Bob Schmutz, our security man extraordinaire, along with Brian Magone, Monica Mosack, and Richard. Thanks to our very informative judges, Woody Minnich and Kelly Griffin. We always learn so much from them. *(Did you know we are the only club who amplifies our judges as they judge and lets you listen?)*
- **Welcome & Membership** - Francis Granger, Dennis Miller and Richard did a fantastic job welcoming people and taking care of the Membership Table.
- **Refreshments** - Sandy Wetzel-Smith took care of the food and refreshments so our volunteers, vendors and members didn't go hungry! Jamaye and Gabrielle Despaigne were a fantastic help. Thanks to everyone who brought in all the delicious food that kept us going all weekend!
- **Various Jobs** - Lorie Johansen who spread the word to other garden clubs, Russel, our photographer; and everyone who helped getting attendees to vote for the People's Choice Award, plus all the others who were great at helping with all the other various jobs that came up as the event went along. *Sorry, if I've missed thanking someone. Your help was greatly appreciated!!!*
- **San Diego Botanic Garden** - For publicizing our event. A large percentage of the public who came to our event heard about it through the Garden.

**A huge personal Thank You** to my husband, Richard, who I roped in for all three days of Show & Sale, and for helping out many hours in the weeks before. He also put up with a living room full of empty boxes, banners, parking lot signs, refreshment supplies, tablecloths, membership table material, and all the other Show & Sale items and everything else that might be needed.

# Thank YOU!

# OCTOBER 2019 FALL SHOW ~ WINNER'S TABLE



**Best Novice Succulent**  
Nancy Dunn, *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*



**Best in Show**  
Peter Walkowiak's  
*Fockea edulis*

Left: Best Advanced Succulent  
Candy & Gerry Gardner  
*Operculicarya decaryi*

Right: Best Advanced Cactus  
Russel Ray  
*Ferocactus stainesii* v. *pringlei*



**Best Novice Cactus**  
Dee Morgan, *Ariocarpus fissuratus*



**Best Intermediate Succulent**  
Neila Rybicki, *Calabanus hookeri*



**Best Intermediate Cactus**  
Harold Dunn, *Neoporteria crispa*



# Judge's Choice Awards



**Peter Walkowiak's  
Echinocereus triglochidiatus**



**John Barkley's  
Welwitschia mirabilis, in bloom!**

# People's Choice Awards



**1st Place  
Russel Ray's  
Oreocereus trollii**



**2nd Place  
Peter Walkowiak's  
Ceraria namaquensis**

**3rd Place  
David Carrasco's  
Crassula 'Buddha's Temple'**



# Show & Sale Videos & Photos

Again this year thanks to Russel Ray our Event Photographer, we have still shots and videos of our event. The videos listed below are live links, meaning that you may just click on it and the video will come up. Enjoy!

The videos are:

Show & Sale (all aspects) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXeqswdxfG8&feature=youtu.be>

All Show Entries - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0juWkEBFhI&feature=youtu.be>

Judging – a live segment of the Show Judging - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpK02ffsimw&feature=youtu.be>



**Decisions, decisions!  
Plants, pottery, rocks, driftwood, top  
dressing, galore. So much to choose from!**





There were 428 entries of plants and artwork, 15 vendors, brisk sales but short lines. A great time was had by all!



The WINNER'S LIST from the Show will be in next month's newsletter, with more photos!



# News from the Safari Park

By May Fong Ho

The weather is cooling and plants in the gardens are perking up. Some are kicking off their bloom cycle.

We have received quite a few donations from PCSS and SDCSS members: Al Klein – Botanic Wonders, Erik and Irina Gronborg, Mary & Jim Reiser – Cal Cactus, Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers LLC, and Jean & Bill O’Daniel.

Thank you all very much.



Above: *Haemanthus coccineus* starts blooming.  
Left: *Adenium swazicum* is in full bloom.  
Deer in the park have taken notice too and have started munching on these beautiful flowers.



Hopefully your donated plants will be in ground soon, at Palomar CSG, Old World Succulent Garden, and Safari Park, during the coming planting season.

Photos used with permission of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.



You are invited to the  
**Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**  
coffee in the Topiary Garden

**Sunday, December 8 • 11AM– 3PM**

**Come see what's new**

*Everyone is welcome - invite all your friends*  
119 Valpreda Road, San Marcos CA 92069

Succulent & Ivy Topiary  
Refreshments . Free drawings

**10% off for**  
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

[srtopiary.com](http://srtopiary.com)

## **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**

The North San Diego County C & S Club!

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Click here for a printable form: <https://www.palomarcactus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PCSS-Membership-Form-Single.pdf>:

### **2019 MEETING SCHEDULE**

#### **Speakers & Topics & Plants of the Month**

December 21<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – HOLIDAY PARTY & GIFT PLANTS FOR YOU!

January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Jeff Moore – Spiny Succulents – P of M TBA

\* P of M = Plant of the Month

## **Succulent Eye Candy**



**Faucaria hybrid pink**

## **Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Brita Miller – President, Show Chair, Event Coordinator  
- [president@palomarcactus.org](mailto:president@palomarcactus.org)

**OPEN** – Vice-President – Contact Brita Miller for information.

John Barkley – Treasurer

Moni Wailblinger – Secretary

Peter Walkowiak – Member at Large, Plant Expert

- [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com)

Lorie Johansen – Member at Large, Guest & New Member Ambassador, Plant of the Month Articles

David Buffington – Member at Large, Brag Points

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### **OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

Annie Morgan - Program Chair, Website, Newsletter Editor  
(paid position), [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

Richard Miller – Membership - [Membership@palomarcactus.org](mailto:Membership@palomarcactus.org)

Dennis Miller - Cash Register at Monthly Meetings

Sandy Wetzel-Smith & Bruce Barry - Refreshments

Barbara Raab & Tammy Harmon - Co-Librarians

Kevin Smith - Brag Table

Francis Granger – Exchange Table, Guest & New Member Ambassador

Brian Magone - Exchange Table

Chet Reed - Brag Plant Photographer

Russel Ray - Event Photographer, Website

Nell McChesney - Name Tag Drawing Plants

Libbi Salvo - Monthly Meeting Set-up