

CACTUS COURIER

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

Volume 66, Number 2

February 2020

**IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! RENEW YOURS BY FEBRUARY 29TH
TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER AFTER THIS MONTH.
CASH, CHECKS, & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED AT THE MEETING!**

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, February 22
Park Avenue Community Center
210 Park AVE, Escondido
Brag Plants, Exchange Table, Benefit Drawing
11:00am - 3:00pm

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This Month's Presentation: **Whoaaa Mexico!** By Kelly Griffin

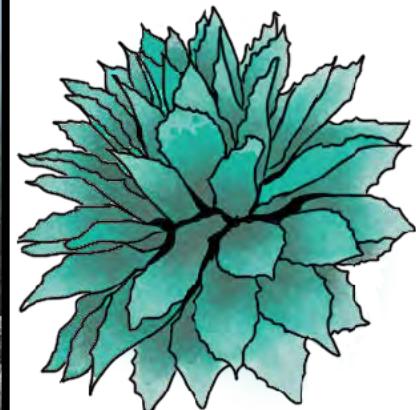
Kelly will be speaking about his latest adventure into Mexico, with a decidedly Agave tilt and emphasis. He will, of course, also be sharing other interesting plants he encountered as well.

continued on next page



Refreshments

Jerome Kahn - Jean O'Daniel
Kathie Hoxie - Charlyne Barad
Gloria Medina - Martina Reed



www.palomarcactus.org
We're on Facebook!
We're on Instagram as
Palomar.cactus.succulent.org
Questions - email:
info@PalomarCactus.org

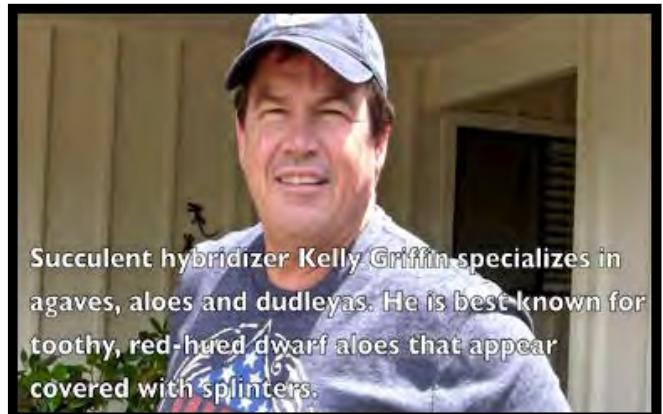


Kelly Griffin is recognized for being a succulent plant hybridizer, propagator and avid plant explorer. His interest in plants, particularly succulent plants, started at a fairly young age (11). Since then Kelly has traveled to 20+ countries, visiting Madagascar 5 times and Mexico 40+ times, covering 28 of the 32 Mexican states. His father worked for United Airlines which allowed for many, many family trips. His mother worked as a florist for a time when Kelly was a kid. When you put the two together, this equals, "Plant Explorer." Besides working at NurseryLand, he had a landscaping business, worked as the Curator of Succulents at Rancho Soledad Nursery for 11 years and he is currently working for Altman's Plants as Succulent Plant Development Manager.

He has become well known for his hybridizing and is responsible for over 100 succulent hybrids now in the trade, including Aloes, Agaves and Echeverias. His specialty that he is well known for are his Aloe hybrids that are 30 years in the making (Pink Blush, Delta lights,

Christmas Sleigh and Coral Fire, etc.) and some Agave hybrids and selections too (Blue Glow, Snow Glow, Cubic, Black and Blue, Dragon Toes, Spawn, and Crème Brûlée to name just a few). He is also responsible for obtaining seed from many interesting species and propagating the seed for all to enjoy in cultivation.

Kelly has been a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society since 1992. He has been on the Board of Directors for the SDCSS for more than 10 years, 4 of which he was President and 2 as Vice-President. He was honored to be named a Fellow of the San Diego Society. He also serves on the board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.



Succulent hybridizer Kelly Griffin specializes in agaves, aloes and dudleyas. He is best known for toothy, red-hued dwarf aloes that appear covered with splinters.

Photo by Debra Lee Baldwin

~ NOTICES ~ Brita Miller, President

THANK YOU JEFF MOORE

Once again, Jeff presented a great program with beautiful photos, this time about spiny succulents. Who knew there were so many? If you missed his presentation or want to see all his photos, the club purchased his book for our library.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL and DIRECTORY

The 2020 Membership Directory will be emailed out the first week of March to all members. Please remember that the information contained in this is for member use only, and is not to be shared without getting specific permission from the member whose information you want to share. We will have a few printed copies at the March meeting for members who do not have printers. **IF WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL BY 2/29 YOU WILL NOT BE INCLUDED.**

VOLUNTEERS

We need a publicity person(s) to get the word out in newspapers, other plant clubs, etc. about our club and our events, especially the Fall Show & Sale. Please contact Brita (see last page) if you are interested.

DON'T FORGET!

Safari Park is free for those over 65 for the month of February. Please bring ID and see the January PCSS newsletter on the website for details.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

As you might have heard, January was Annie Morgan's last newsletter. Annie has done an amazing job over the past 4 years putting together a fantastic newsletter, a labor of love.

She is now passing the torch on to Monica Mosack, a newer member with lots of computer experience. Welcome aboard to our family of volunteers, Monica!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 11

Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent

will once again be treating us to a Coffee in the Garden!

Mark your calendars now

as you definitely won't want to miss out!





7th Annual Spring Member Festival

Saturday, March 28, 2020

It's that time of year again when we get to socialize with old friends and make some new ones. Plus, it's a great event for those just starting out with succulents, and for the more experienced collectors who have been collecting for awhile.

Next month we will include all the details.

PLANT SHOW - As it was a success last year, we'll again have a non-judged Show for all levels. Advanced members, we need your specimen plants as everyone else loves to see what we can hope to grow. Now is the time to get your plants transplanted, cleaned and ready to show off! Due to limited space, we ask members to bring in no more than 10 plants. You will earn 2 Brag Plant points for every plant shown! As it was so popular last year, we will again have the People's Choice Award, one for each level!

MEMBER PLANT SALE - This is for those of you who have some plants, pots and/or garden-related items you would like to sell. Now is the time to get them ready, and we do the selling for you. You will receive 80% of the sales price and the Club receives 20%.

WORKSHOPS - We will hold interactive workshops on the care and cultivation of succulents and cactus, picking the right pot, etc. These presentations will help you learn some of the basic tricks on growing your plants that are seldom found in one book, and our experts will be able to answer your questions.

TIME TO SOCIALIZE - Our members really like to have extra time to socialize with old friends and make new ones. So even if you don't have plants to show or sell, come and join in the fun! We will have a potluck lunch as usual with tables to sit at with your friends.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? - We can't do it without you. For those who helped the last few years - remember how much fun we had? For new members - this is a great way to get to know other members and to learn more about the club. Some volunteer positions are:

- ~ Setup and take down ~ Assist at show or sales areas
- ~ Kitchen ~ Assist with plant identification
- ~ Bring in your goodies for our potluck

Please let Brita know ASAP if you think you'd like to volunteer, show, or sell - even if you're not sure yet. [Brita @ eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:Brita@eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)



Intermediate Plants



Busy Cashiers and Customers



Ron Chisum's Workshop

Brag Plant Winners

Intermediate Cactus

1 st Harold Dunn	Neopoteria crispa	#1
2 nd Kevin Smith	Rebutia fabrisii	#2
3 rd Moni Waiblinger	Mammillaria zeilmanniana	#3

Advanced Cactus

1 st Russel Ray	Mammillaria	#4
2 nd John Barkley	Tephrocactus	#5

Novice Succulent

1 st Patti Nelson	Astroloba herrei	#6
2 nd Patti Nelson	Haworthia cymbiformis	#7
3 rd Gloria Medina	Senecio stapeliiformis	#8

Intermediate Succulent

1 st Moni Waiblinger	Aloinopsis malherbei	#9
2 nd Moni Waiblinger	Kalanchoe eriophylla	#10
3 rd Libbi Salvo	Gasteria	#11

Advanced Succulent

1 st Robert Kopfstein	Dudleya anthonyi	#12
2 nd Mike Nelson	Trichodiadema bulbosum	#13
3 rd Robert Kopfstein	Dudleya	#14
3 rd Loria Johansen	Gasteraloe 'Green Ice'	#15

Novice Dish Garden

1 st Tammy Harmon	variety of succulents	#16
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Advanced Dish Garden

1 st Russel Ray	succulents	#17
2 nd John Barkley	Austrocylindropuntia vestita, +3	#18

Novice Plant of the Month

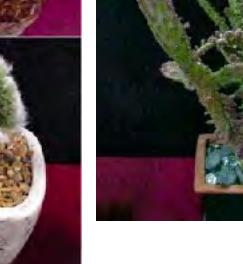
1 st Tammy Harmon	Opuntia	#19
2 nd Tammy Harmon	Opuntia	#20
3 rd Charlyne Barad	Opuntia 'Eve's Needle'	#21

Intermediate Plant of the Month

1 st Jerome Kahn	Opuntia	#22
2 nd Heather Chan	Opuntia vestita	#23
3 rd Moni Waiblinger	Opuntia vestita	#24

Advanced Plant of the Month

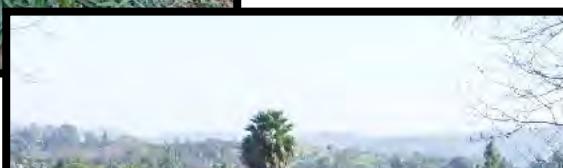
1 st John Barkley	Opuntia erinacea	#25
2 nd John Barkley	Cylindropuntia ramosissima	#26



You're invited to a
POTLUCK IN THE GARDEN
of Bill Modi and Linda Forsey

Sunday, March 8, 11AM - 2PM

Bill Modi and Linda Forsey are hosting a pot-luck lunch in Escondido on Sunday, March 8. Just under one-half acre with fruit and nut trees, grapes, cactus and succulent garden, rose garden, lots of vines, ferns and more!! We're always looking for more rusty garden art. Two lovable, outdoor tortoises for all to pet and ride – bring helmets!



Plant of the Month – Dwarf Agaves By Lorie Johansen

Dwarf agaves are fun and easy to collect as they don't take up much room so you can have a collection of beautiful plants in a small area. There is not a strict definition of maximum size so for our purpose we will focus on those that don't get much larger than 12" in diameter at full size. These smaller agaves are less vulnerable to the agave snout weevil, although they are vulnerable to agave mite.

Cultivation: After securing a nice pot and planting your new compact agave, there is little work to do to maintain them. Water, minimal fertilizer and removal of the dead leaves (the hardest part) is pretty much it. It is important not to overwater, not to water the crown directly, and to provide adequate light and good air circulation.



Bulbs - the baby agaves that grow on some agave bloom stalk may be used for propagation

Propagation: The methods are much the same as for larger agaves -removing pups, growing by seed, coring, or removing bulbils from the bloom stalk. To remove pups from the mother agave when planted in the ground it may be easiest to gently lift the mother with a shovel or trowel and then pull off the pups. If planted in a container, it may be easiest to take the plant out of the pot, remove the pups, replant the mother. Then pot up the babies and you have gifts!



Agave lophantha 'Quadrivittata' which averages 12" wide, provides prolific pups for propagating



Carefully remove these pups and their roots to propagate this type of pup

leaves, they cause a light yellow-tan disfiguration. If left untreated, the plant will decline and eventually die. They may be controlled by using insecticidal soap or a broad-spectrum insecticide. Chemicals should be applied in early morning or late evening when the bugs are most active. Several applications may be needed for complete control.

Agaves that are stressed are more susceptible to soft scale (Coccid spp.) Neglected plants are most vulnerable and should be inspected regularly for signs of all pests. By the time the scale is discovered, the plant may be irreparably damaged. If left untreated, the scale will eventually kill the plant or cause enough cosmetic damage to make the plant unattractive. If the scale is only attacking an individual plant, discarding the plant is the best control. When large groups of plants are infected, apply judicious sprays of a systemic insecticide which is absorbed and moves within plants. When the insect feeds on the plant, they die. (Systemic insecticides should not be used on plants that bloom regularly as there is lots of controversy on their part in the decline in bees.)

Agave mite (aka eriophyid mite) has been making its way through botanic gardens, nurseries, and wholesalers throughout the Southwest US, and slowly to the rest of the country and beyond. They are not insects and can only be observed with a magnifying glass or microscope. The mite may be the most troublesome of all pests as it's very difficult to eradicate and attempts to do so are time consuming and can be costly. There are extensive discussions about how to treat the mite with excellent id photos of the mite. See resources below.



Agave mite damage

Resources:

<https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/3740>

<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1399.pdf> (discusses pests and diseases)

<http://www.agaveville.org/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=6187> extensive discussion about agave mite and treatment with excellent ID photos of mite damage



Agave 'Kisho Kan' gets up to 12" tall and wide



Agave titanota dwarf 'Super Claw'



Agave utahensis var. nevadensis is one of the smallest, slowly growing to 6-8" tall by 10-12" wide



Agave victoriae-reginae 'Golden Princess', a very slow growing agave up to 1' tall x 1.5' wide

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>

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Speakers & Topic	Plants of the Month
March 28	Spring Member Festival	Your show plants!
April 18	Gary Duke - What kind of cactus is it?	Lobivia
May 23	Ron Chisum - Succulent Plants of the Galapagos Islands	Pelargoniums
June 27	Al Klein - Fat Plants	Adenias Peter
July 25	Walkowiak - Staging	Pachypodiums
August 22	Picnic & Auction	Your auction plants!
September 26	Jeff Chemnick - Seldom Seen Succulents	Ariocarpus
October 24-25	Fall Show & Sale	Your show plants!
November 21	Woody Minnich - TBA	Plants w/pots 4" or smaller
December 19	Holiday Party	Gift plants for you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19 - 21

Orange Co. C&SS Spring Show & Sale

Thurs. 6pm - 9pm, Fri. 9am - 7pm

Sat. 9am - 5pm, 1000 S. State College Blvd,

(Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim,

Info: 657-549-0702

April 4 - 5

South Coast C&SS Show & Sale

9am - 4pm, South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verde,

Info: <http://www.southcoastcss.org>



Volunteers of the Year 2019

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brita Miller - President, Show Chair, Event & Volunteer Coordinator - 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

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

David Buffington - Member at Large, Brag Plants

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Annie Morgan - Program Chair, Website info@palomarcactus.org

Monica Mosack - Newsletter Editor monicaatpcss@gmail.com

Richard Miller - Membership - membership@palomarcactus.org

Dennis Miller - Cash Register at Monthly Meetings
Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry,

Jamaye Despaigne & Ellen Pankuch - 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, AV

Tammy Harmon - Coffee in the Garden

Julie Kort - Name Tag Drawing Plants

Libbi Salvo - Monthly Meeting Set-up

Succulent Eye Candy



Dudleya Photo by Monica Mosack