

CACTUS COURIER

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

Volume 67, Number 2

August 2021

2021 AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION

This Saturday, August 28, 2021
12pm - 2:30pm

(Note: no access to the building before 11am)

The Escondido Community Center mask policy -
Masks will be worn in the building at all times.

There will be no Refreshment Table. Please bring your own snacks. Water will be provided. There will be the Exchange Table and Brag Plant Table, but no Benefit Drawing.



AUGUST 2021
President's Corner
BY ROBERT KOPFSTEIN

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Finally.
At last.

After seventeen long months the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society will have an in-person meeting at our regular meeting place. Many other societies have conducted Zoom get-togethers during this trying time of pandemic lockdowns; however it is not the same as physically getting together.

What is missing in these electronic meetings is the human social elements that come from in-person contact with our fellow human beings. Much of our communication comes from subtle sources: body language, facial clues, spontaneous verbal feedback, not to mention handshakes and hugs. Interacting with a computer screen is a wholly different experience.

In a recent op-ed essay by a public school teacher, the author lamented the condition of his students returning after months of sitting alone in front of their computers instead of gathering at the schools with teachers and their fellow students. Students now, instead of being interactive, rambunctious, even loud and over-animated, sit dumbly in their seats: no wisecracks, no interjections, no talking. He calls them "Zoombies."

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www.palomarcactus.org

We're on Facebook!

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group is the location for YOU to post your photos of plants, gardens, ask for ID, etc.

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society is for Admin only to post notices, etc.

We're on Instagram as

Palomar.cactus.succulent.org

Questions???

email: info@PalomarCactus.org

President's Corner

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There is a certain energy that comes from groups congregating. Not only is there an exchange of ideas, but there also is an enthusiasm that makes meetings a creative learning experience.

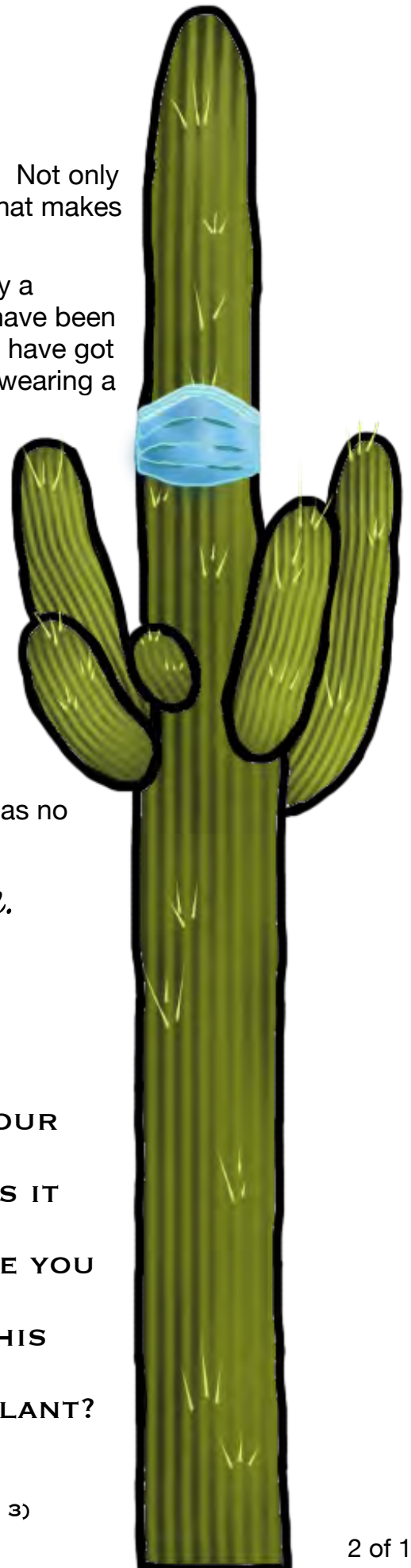
But that experience should also be safe, for everyone. It is likely a reasonable assumption that most – if not all – of our members have been fully vaccinated against this troublesome virus. And even if you have got the "jabs," given the infectious capabilities of the Delta variant, wearing a mask indoors in a group setting makes a whole lot of common sense. Using the data from medical studies, researchers have discovered the virus load from nasal swabs from patients with the Delta variant are 1000 times greater than the samples taken from patients who contracted the original form (alpha) of the virus. To say the Delta form of COVID is more contagious is a gross understatement. So wearing a mask to our upcoming meeting will not only help protect you, but your fellow members. 'Nuff said.

Now to the meeting: There will be no speaker because PCSS has no treasurer to write a check to pay the speaker's fee.

*Instead, we will do an in-house program.
We will need four people to bring their
favorite plant to the meeting, and in
5-10 minutes explain:*

1. WHY IS THIS YOUR FAVORITE – OR ONE OF YOUR FAVORITES?
2. WHAT KIND OF PLANT IS IT, AND WHERE DOES IT GROW NATURALLY?
3. WHERE DID YOU GET IT, AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD IT?
4. WHAT ARE THE GROWING CONDITIONS FOR THIS PLANT IN YOUR GARDEN?
5. IS THERE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS PLANT?

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President's Corner

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If you plan on volunteering to do one of these four presentations, please e-mail me at rwkopfstein@gmail.com ASAP. If there are more than four volunteers, I will keep a list for a possible reprise at some future date.

Also please keep in mind that there can be no plant sales or purchases at the meeting: we cannot collect money because no one has volunteered to be treasurer.

There will be a plant of the month, and brag plants, as well as a plant exchange.

If the situation remains as it is and no one steps up to be treasurer, our meetings will be very different, and the club will suffer for it. Income will remain at zero.

When dues are payable, there will be no one to collect them. The annual show and sale can only be a show, so there will be no income from the sale.

If anyone wishes to join PCSS they cannot because there will be no one to collect the dues. And eventually we will not be able to pay the fees for the use of the senior center -- there will be no one to write the check. As a result we will have no place to meet. To top it all, without a treasurer, we will lose our non-profit status.

This society has been thriving for more than 55 years. What a pity it would be to just throw it all away.



VIRTUAL Brag Plants

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Aeonium decorum 'Sunburst'
Photo by Pauline Wong



Orostachys furusei
Photo by Moni Waiblinger

VIRTUAL
Brag Plants
(CONT. FROM PAGE 3)



Cactus sp.
Photo by Bill Modi



Graptosedum 'California Sunset'
Photo by Pauline Wong



Gymnocalycium sp.
Photo by Lorie Johansen



Adromischus filicaulis
Photo by Moni Waiblinger

VIRTUAL
Brag Plants
(CONT. FROM PAGE 4)



Barrel Cactus
Photo by Robert Kopfstein



Huernia reticulata
Photo by Moni Waiblinger



Stapelia
Photo by Moni Waiblinger



Faucaria tigrina
Photo by Monica Mosack



Cactus sp.
Photo by Bill Modi

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pereskia

BY LORIE JOHANSEN

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Pereskia, a small tropical genus native to the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, is named after Nicolas-Claude Fabri de Peiresc, a 16th-century botanist. Unusual among cactus, Pereskia species have broad leaves and long stems. Scientists believe that the original cacti were like Pereskia in this regard and that other cacti lost their leaves as an adaptation first to epiphytic conditions and then to dry conditions. Pereskia is a cactus genus that is most unlike all other members of the family. Other than the defining characteristic of spine-bearing areoles and some floral characteristics, this genus does not resemble most cacti.



Pereskia sp.
Photo by Bill Modi



Pereskia sp.
Photo by Bill Modi

According to Matt Candeias (In Defense of Plants website): “As it stands right now, taxonomists recognize two clades of Pereskia - Clade A, which are native to the Gulf of Mexico (this group is currently listed under the name *Leuenbergeria*) and Clade B, which are native to regions just south of the Amazon Basin. This may seem superficial to most of us but the distinction between these groups has a lot to teach us about the evolution of what we know of as cacti.

Genetically speaking, the genus Pereskia sorts out at the base of the cactus family tree. Pereskia are in fact sister to all other cacti. This is where the distinction between the two Pereskia clades gets interesting. Clade A appears to be the older of the two and all members of this group form bark early on in their development and their stems lack a feature present in all other cacti - stomata. Stomata are microscopic

pores that allow the exchange of gases like CO₂ and oxygen. Clade B, on the other hand, delay bark formation until later in life and all of them produce stomata on their stems. The reason this distinction is important is because all other cacti produce stomata on their stems as well. As such, their base at the bottom of the cactus tree not only shows us what the ancestral form of cactus must have looked like, it also paints a relatively detailed picture of the evolutionary trajectory of subsequent cacti lineages. It would appear that the ancestor of all cacti started out as leafy shrubs that lacked the ability to perform stem photosynthesis. Subsequent evolution saw a delay in bark formation, the presence of stomata on the stem, and the start of stem photosynthesis, which is a defining feature of all other cacti.”

In the wild, these plants are typically found among other trees and shrubs and their presence is not immediately apparent. In flower, the shrubs can be quite brilliant and individual flowers are reminiscent of a wild rose, hence the common name rose cactus.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pereskia

BY LORIE JOHANSEN

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P. grandiflora can grow to twenty feet tall in the tropics. The plant has broad leaves and typical clusters of cactus spines along the stems. Flowers are large, pink, and similar in appearance to a single rose. It grows well in part shade in a moist, well-drained soil.

P. aculeata, also called the Barbados gooseberry, is a rambling shrub or vine that is native to the Caribbean and South America. This cactus begins its life as a leafy shrub and then uses vine-like branches to climb and expand. It has the unique ability to spread quickly and use other vegetation to anchor itself to. It can easily re-grow from leaves and stems that fall to the ground making it an invasive species banned in Hawaii and South Africa. It has pale yellow to red flowers which become round or oval golden yellow or orange-hued fruits which are soft and juicy with inedible seeds. The fruits are tart, high in acidity and high in nutritional content. The leaves can also be used as food. Variegated forms are available.

P. bleo is a shrubby species from Central America. In habitat, it can reach twenty feet but is rarely seen that tall in cultivation. The flowers resemble rose blossoms, are often orange but may be yellow to red in color. The alien-looking fruits are spherical, flat on one end and are yellow and sour which can be used in a savory salsa. In addition to the fruit the edible leaves can be consumed raw or cooked as greens. The leaf contains high antioxidants with anti-cancer, anti-tumor, anti-rheumatic, and anti-inflammatory properties. Compared to *P. grandiflora*, it has larger leaves with a corrugated upper surface. As with *P. grandiflora*, its stems are spiny. It grows in a moist, well-drained soil in part shade.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:

Pereskia are not difficult-to-grow plants and can be grown where temperatures allow. They love light and the sun especially during the flowering phase. The ideal is to place them in a position where they receive the sun, but not in the hottest hours of the day which could burn the leaves. They have no major problems with maximum temperature, but the minimum must not drop below 40 degrees. During the spring-summer period, irrigation ought to be generous, but without leaving the soil soaked. It is also important that it is dry on the surface before proceeding with subsequent irrigation. During the autumn-winter period the irrigations must be reduced to the point of having the soil almost dry. As with most cacti, they can be ignored and still flourish.



Pereskia sp.
Photo by Lorie Johansen

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PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pereskia

BY LORIE JOHANSEN

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PROPAGATION:

Pereskias can easily be propagated by cuttings. Snip off pieces a few inches long, treat with rooting hormone and plant in a well-draining mix. They can take a long time to root. Be patient and keep them in a warm moist area.

Be forewarned, they get tall and their spines, which are often hidden by the leaves, are a force to be reckoned with. Handle with care.

RESOURCES:

<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2018E%26ES..129a2020S/abstract>

<https://cactiguide.com/>

<https://www.indefenseofplants.com/>

<https://www.mondopiante.com/>

<https://urbantropicals.com/>

<https://worldofsucculents.com/>



Pereskia sp.
Photo by Lorie Johansen

Garden Brags

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Aloe buhrii
Photo by Robert Kopfstein



Aloes & Cacti
Photo by Lorie Johansen

Garden Brags

(CONT. FROM PAGE 8)



Amber and hand-built pondless waterfall
Photo by Linda Schmalfeldt



Aloe sp.
Photo by Linda Schmalfeldt



Ferocactus sp.
Photo by Lorie Johansen



Agave nayaritensis
Photo by Robert Kopfstein

CELEBRATING OUR *New Members*

Photos by Lorie Johansen



Gabby & Jamaye



Gabby, Jamaye & Tia



Terrell

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Robert Kopfstein - President, Show Chair
president@palomarcactus.org
- Don Nelson - Vice-President
- Brita Miller - Past President
- OPEN - Treasurer - Contact Robert Kopfstein
- Moni Waiblinger - Secretary
- Peter Walkowiak - Member at Large
- Lorie Johansen - Member at Large, Guest & New Member
Ambassador, Plant of the Month Articles
- David Buffington - Member at Large, Brag Plants

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

- Monica Mosack - Newsletter Editor
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- Richard Miller - Membership
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- Annie Morgan - Website and Facebook
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- Dean Karras - Plant Expert, Instagram
gnoisnurseries@gmail.com
- Dennis Miller - Cash Register at Monthly Meetings Sandy
Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry,
- Jamaye Despaigne & Ellen Pankuch - Refreshments
- Barbara Raab - Co-Librarian
- Kevin Smith - Brag Table
- Francis Granger - Exchange Table, Guest & New Member
Ambassador
- Brian Magone - Exchange Table
- Chet Reed - Brag Plant Photographer
- Russel Ray - Photographer, Website, AV
- Julie Kort - Name Tag Drawing Plants
- Libbi Salvo - Monthly Meeting Set-up

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/2020/02/Membership-Form.pdf](https://www.palomarcactus.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Membership-Form.pdf)