

# CACTUS COURIER

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

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## A SUCCULENT

# Opportunity

BY SANDY WETZEL-SMITH

The drought in San Diego provided a rare chance to change the average resident's appreciation for cacti and succulents around homes and in neighborhoods. As recently as a decade ago, most front yards and neighborhood park areas were comprised of traditional lawns, flowers, trees, and hedges. The high cost of water and the increasing restrictions on daily use for irrigation really helped change people's perspective...especially when they started seeing the many different types of cacti and succulents and how really beautiful they are in the garden. On top of that, it turns out that these plants are fire resistant so that even drives up their value more.

The offset is now that cactus and succulents are better known, significantly more admired, and much more often used in landscape design...the more their cost has climbed.

I had an opportunity about a year and a half ago to help start up an idea in my neighborhood to plant succulents in our shared 'open areas' that could effectively be 'free' to 'very low cost' if we

contributed the plants propagated from cuttings, pups, and seeds gathered from our existing gardens. I actually had to present the idea to the HOA Board, get permission, and then provide the plants.... but they said yes, so a neighbor and I decided to take on the project. Like everyone else in our Club, I had a lot of propagated succulents and was able to put together about 175 rooted plants that could be planted in one of the open areas.

[www.palomarcactus.org](http://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](http://Palomar.cactus.succulent.org)

**Questions???**

email: [info@PalomarCactus.org](mailto:info@PalomarCactus.org)

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### **CANCELLATION**

### **PCSS OCTOBER**

**FALL SHOW AND SALE  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**



*potted succulents for replanting in communal areas  
Photo by Brita Miller*

## A SUCCULENT OPPORTUNITY

(CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

Over the last 18 months, they have grown (lucked out on the rain days) and they are hearty and attractive. About four months ago, I was asked by the HOA if I could help do a second project in a separate open area. Several of us put together another 200 or so succulents (Agaves, Aloes, Aeoniums, Jade, etc.). They are growing and it looks like another successful project. I think there are a few more open areas and it appears that I don't even have to ask permission if we provide the plants and make sure it works...what a surprise.

In any case, we get to have the kind of landscape plants we like...and I've had some really neat chances to have some of the neighborhood kids volunteer to help. They end up asking about the types of succulents, their names, how you propagate/root the cuttings, and then they get to see them grow. Several of my neighbors have taken an interest in succulent gardens and are actually changing their yards to incorporate all kinds of our favorite plants. They are learning about how easy it is to maintain these gardens and how fun it is to grow such a wide variety of really beautiful specimens.

Given our current "we'll get through this together" commitment to neighbors and friends, this may be a perfect time to see if you could do this in areas in your neighborhoods. Luckily, it's an outdoor activity we can do with masks and social distancing. You could provide plants and start gardens by teaching neighbors and kids...and we'll end up having something really wonderful to look back on when we get through this stressful time.



*succulents in the neighborhood*  
Photos by Brita Miller

## VIRTUAL Brag Plants

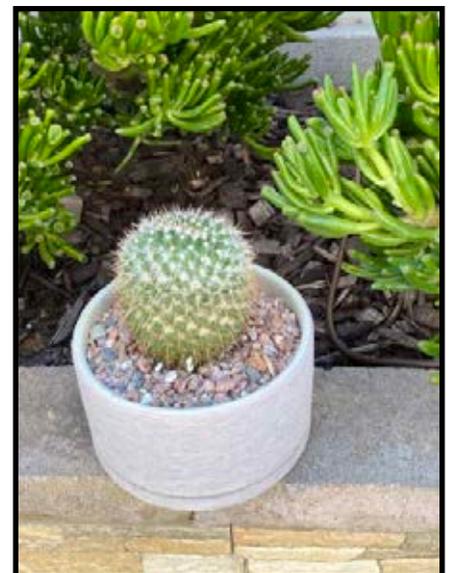
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*Sempervivum*  
Photo by Marcy Singer



*Hoodia gordonii*  
Photo by Ron Chisum



*Mammillaria*  
Photo by Heather Chan

VIRTUAL  
*Brag Plants*  
(CONT. FROM PAGE 2)



*Petropentia natalensis*  
Photo by Heather Chan



*Opuntia vestita f. cristata*  
Photo by Heather Chan



*Crassula pellucida* 'Calico Kitten'  
Photo by Jamaye Despaigne



Cactus  
Photo by Lindsey Worden



*Trichocereus spachiana*  
Photo by Heather Chan



*Haworthia limifolia*  
Photo by Heather Chan



*Euphorbia mammillaris f. variegata*  
'Indian Corn Cob'  
Photo by Jamaye Despaigne

# VIRTUAL Garden Brags

(CONT. ON PAGE 8)



*Echeveria 'Afterglow' and friends*  
Photo by Monica Mosack



*Euphorbia trigona rubra*  
Photo by Heather Chan



*Echeveria 'Dusty Rose', Sedum dasyphyllum minor, Graptopetalum paraguayense*  
Photo by Monica Mosack



*Opuntia*  
Photo by Lindsey Worden



*Copiapoa*  
Photo by Deborah Pearson



*Echinocereus*  
Photo by Ellen Pankuch



*Echinopsis*  
Photo by Deborah Pearson



*Parodia magnifica*  
Photo by Deborah Pearson



*Stapelia*  
Photo by Lindsey Worden

## RIGHT PLANT

# Right Place

BY MONICA MOSACK

Leon and Susan LeFreniere have created a spectacular front yard succulent paradise. In the photo on the left, taken April 2015, agaves, yucca, aloes, and cacti are petite and widely spaced. Five years later, May 2020, the garden has matured and specimens have moved in and taken over as evidenced by the right photo. (Photos by Susan LeFreniere.) Planting decisions made when these beauties were young have ensured that as they grew they had all the light and room they needed to thrive while maintaining a balanced look. Flourishing plants and less work for the gardener are the rewards of careful research and planning before digging. When adding new succulents to your space consider the following questions:

### SIZE

How big is this thing going to grow? How does this plant reproduce? How much work do I want to put into wrangling pups?

### SOIL

Do I have sand, clay, loam or silt? What is the pH of my soil? How do I amend the soil I have to benefit my plants? How deep is the soil in this bed? Can I mound soil to provide more space for vegetation? How can I use rocks, hardscape and plants to prevent erosion?

### WATER

What kind of irrigation do I have? Does this plant need sprinklers, subterranean drip, me with a watering can, or no supplemental water at all? Do I need to keep plants in pots so they can be moved to protect them from a spring deluge?

### LIGHT

Can this plant handle full sun or shade? What is the path of the sun through my space at different times of the year? Do I need to keep this specimen in its pot and move it around to determine where it grows best? Can I create a microclimate in my yard that will enable this plant to succeed?

### TEMPERATURE

What temperature range does this plant prefer? Is my area prone to frost or heat waves? Am I willing and able to put up shade, cover plants, or move them indoors to protect them from extremes in temperature?

### COMPANIONS

What is the growth pattern of this thing? Does it tolerate the water needs of my succulents? Is it going to need to be cut back to a stump at some point in the year? If so, what is my strategy to camouflage a regenerating plant so my garden still looks great? Is it going to drop leaves all over my understory plants? What is my strategy for the removal of dead leaves?

### DESIGN

Does my garden have a theme? Do I use specific colors or shapes in my yard? How does my yard look throughout the seasons? How does this plant fit in?



# VIRTUAL

# Coffee in the Garden

(CONT. ON PAGE 7)

Welcome to our garden. Comments and suggestions are very welcome. Sincerest thanks to members of PCSS and SDCSS for all of their past and ongoing information and assistance. We consider our home garden to be designed and growing in large part through many members' sharing of their knowledge, experience, and strong, healthy resilient plants. Perhaps you'll see your pots and plants or their children in the the virtual garden photos. Almost all were obtained from exchange tables or club gifts and sales. Thank you ❤️

*Heather and Winston Chan*

*(Photos by Heather Chan)*



VIRTUAL  
*Coffee in the Garden*  
(CONT. FROM PAGE 6)



# VIRTUAL Garden Brags

(CONT. FROM PAGE 4)



*Opuntia*  
Photo by Bill DeAngilo



*Echinocereus grusonii* 'Golden barrel cactus',  
*Abronia angustifolia* 'Purple Sand Verbena',  
*Lobularia merittima* 'Sweet Alyssum', agave  
Photo by Deborah Pearson



*Aloe levransii* from Yemen  
Photo by Ron Chisum



*Agave, opuntia, aloe, Portulacaria afra*  
Photo by Lindsey Worden

# PCSS FALL (OCTOBER) SHOW & SALE HAS BEEN CANCELED

**Here is how to reach some of the vendors from the Show & Sale.**

Some vendors are not listed as they are only doing wholesale.

**Dean Karras**  
**Gnosis Nursery**  
Specializing in cactus and succulents

**Tina Zucker**  
**Succulent Gardening**

**Lisa Rocks - Lisa Brosseau**  
Staging rocks and fossils

**Cactus Data Plants - Woody Minnich**  
Woody doesn't have a catalogue, but is happy to try and assist collectors and will answer email requests for mail order.

**Port Town Pottery**  
by **Regina Fernandez**



Some of our family of vendors in 2017

## 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>

## SUCCULENT *Eye Candy*



*Calvin and Oscularia deltooides*  
Photo by Lindsey Worden



*Crafty Succulent*  
Photo by Susan LeFreniere

## **PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

### **OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

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

Monica Mosack - Newsletter Editor - [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,

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



*Opuntia*  
Photo by Deborah Pearson