

CACTUS COURIER

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

Volume 68, Number 7

July 2022

JULY SPEAKER - JULIAN DUVAL

"Succulents Inspired by Bonsai"

Julian Duval is a native of the Chicago area and has a life long fascination for animals and plants. Right out of high school he got a job at the Brookfield Zoo as a keeper in the reptile house. Julian worked at Brookfield Zoo for seven years in various roles eventually becoming a marine mammal trainer. He then moved to New Mexico where he attended New Mexico State University and graduated with a BS degree in Wildlife Management. He then took a position as a Peace Corps Volunteer and spent 3 1/2 years and helped open the national zoo in Santo Domingo. After the DR, Julian moved to Guatemala where he led the opening of another zoo. He then moved to Indianapolis where he spent 15 years, met his wife Leslie, served as Vice President of Zoological and Botanical Collections, helped to create and open a \$64M new zoo for Indianapolis. In 1995 Julian and Leslie moved to Encinitas where he became the first Executive Director of the then Quail Botanical Gardens. Julian spent 24 years as head of what eventually became the San Diego Botanic Garden where he was able to expand the garden, add many new exhibits and establish a secure financial base for SDBG.



July 2022 Meeting Information

Fourth Saturday, July 23, 2022

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Park Ave. Community Center, Escondido (No access through the back gate.) Masks are encouraged but not required.

Refreshments: You are invited to bring a ready-to-serve snack or dish.

The Plant of the Month is Senecio.

Brag Plant Table: Plants must be labeled and on the table **no later than 11:45 am** to be judged. Please bring no more than 3 plants.

Exchange, Benefit Drawing and Library Tables: Yes

Auction: Yes

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Julian is now retired but maintains a relationship with SDBG as San Diego Botanic Garden President CEO Emeritus. Julian and his wife Leslie live in Vista where Julian is absorbed in his own private garden. Julian considers himself a most fortunate person. He has a wonderful life partner in Leslie and, for him, each one of the jobs he has had in his career has been his dream job.

Julian Duval



"Succulents Inspired by Bonsai"

(CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

Julian's talk entitled "Succulents Inspired by Bonsai" will include how he got into growing plants that are outside the realm of classic bonsai but are clearly related from the esthetics of plant appreciation. He will talk about growing plants with which he has had the most success. He will also relate some of the techniques for displaying succulent plants in attractive ceramic pots that make them look like they could be bonsai. Many of the cultural and display techniques he will share come from those who do grow classic bonsai plants.



Photos by Julian Duval



Congratulations, Keith!



PCSS member Keith Umbreit is the winner of the 2022 WaterSmart Landscape Contest sponsored by the City of Oceanside. His lush landscape is so beautiful and healthy. It exemplifies the innovative and environmentally sustainable landscape.



Left: 2021, Right: 2017
Photos by Keith Umbreit

8th Annual Spring Festival Recap and Photos

ARTICLE BY CHARLYNE BARAD / PHOTOS BY BRITA MILLER & LORIE JOHANSEN

It was great fun getting together with other members and guests for our June 25th Spring Festival after the COVID-forced hiatus! The event was filled with many members and guests happily admiring show plants, shopping for new plants and related items, and enjoying informative and inspiring workshops.

A huge thank you to our many, many volunteers who worked hard to set up Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, manned the kitchen, cash register, holding table, members' table, and took on the many other jobs that made the event the great success that it was! Special thanks to photographer, Monica Mosack, for providing lasting images of the fun!

Thank you to everyone who brought plants to show – they were most impressive and great models of what we succulent enthusiasts can aspire to! Thank you to everyone that brought plants to sell. It was great fun shopping, and the bargains were irresistible! Many thanks to those who donated plants to the PCSS benefit table. The club earned \$100 from that table.

A special thank you goes out to our wonderfully talented and knowledgeable workshop presenters who provided us with important information for our own growing. We loved seeing Pat Hammer's adorable topiaries and learning her tricks and tips to make and keep them growing happily! We were impressed with all the steps that it takes to build her topiary foundations even before the plants are added.

Jerry Garner's workshop on choosing the right pots and using proper planting methods provided much-needed information to enable us to keep our beloved plants happy and growing successfully. It was wonderful viewing and being able to purchase his gorgeous and very practical pots, too!

Dean Karras, clearly a talented and enthusiastic plant grower, showed us many ways to stage our plants for shows. He cleverly incorporated ways to mimic each plant's natural growing environment within each pot. We also benefitted from learning about which fertilizers and other elements to maximize our plants' growth and beauty!

As in the past few spring festivals, there was no judging of show plants, just People's Choice Awards for each level. Thank you to all members that voted for your favorites! This year's winners were: Novice – Liz Rozycki, Intermediate - Ted Guerrero tied with Annie Morgan, and Advanced – Jerry and Candy Garner tied with Lorie Johansen.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of this year's festival was the great camaraderie from getting to visit with other members and partake of a delicious lunch. Many, many thanks to all who brought delicious food to share!



Liz Rozycki & Pat Hammer



Liz Rozycki's
Cyphostemma Cirrhosum
People's Choice Winner



Ted Guerrero &
Annie Morgan
People's Choice Winner



Lorie Johansen &
Aeonium arboreum 'Schwartzkopf' cristata
People's Choice Winner



Jerry & Candy Garner &
Operculicaria decaryii
People's Choice Winner

(CONT. ON PAGE 4)

8th Annual Spring Festival Recap and Photos

(CONT. FROM PAGE 3 - PHOTOS BY MONICA MOSACK)



Ted Guerrero's Dish Garden
Crassula suzannae, *Crassula 'Baby's Surprise'*,
Crassula 'Tom Thumb'
People's Choice Winner



Jerry Garner & Handmade Pots



Sherry Hunga & Dean Karras
Photo by Lorie Johansen



Liz Rozycki's Dish Garden
Anacampseros, *Sedum*, *Aeonium*,
Pachyphytum



Lorie Johansen's *Gasworthia 'Hayashi'*



SPRING FESTIVAL *Show Plants*

Novice Cactus

Liz Rozycki
Marlene Walder

Mammillaria vetula ssp. gracilis
Tephrocactus articulata v. diadematus
Tephrocactus articulata v. papyracanthus

Intermediate Cactus

Charlyne Barad

Oreocereus trollii
Parodia haselbergii ssp. haselbergii
Mammillaria karwinskiana (formerly M. nejapensis)
Pilosocereus aureispinus
Coryphantha retusa
Mammillaria sp.

Heather Chan

Harold Dunn
Kevin Smith

Advanced Cactus

Moni Waiblinger

Oriocereus ritterii

Novice Succulent

Pat Hammer

Aloe castilloniae
Euphorbia francoisii
Sedum sp.

Liz Rozycki

Cyphostemma cirrhosum
People's Choice Winner - Novice

Marlene Walder

Aloe aristata
Crassula ovata 'Gollum'
Haworthia attenuata

Intermediate Succulent

Charlyne Barad
Heather Chan

Euphorbia obesa
Euphorbia lactea cristata
Euphorbia caput-medusae
Fockea edulus

Annie Morgan

Crassula ovata 'Hobbit'
People's Choice Winner - Intermediate

Kevin Smith
Lois Walag

Euphorbia tithymaloides 'Zig Zag'
Gasteria batesiana
Echeveria sp.
Aeonium 'Gold Medal'
Aeonium 'Lily Pad'
Crassula orbicularis v. rosularis
Echeveria agavoides 'Ebony'
Haworthia resenaiana



Moni Waiblinger's
Drimopsis dolomitica



Pat Hammer's
Topiary



Lois Walag's
Aeonium 'Lily Pads'



Russell Ray's
Operculicaria decaryii



Kevin's Smith's
Mammillaria sp.

SPRING FESTIVAL Show Plants (CONT. FROM PAGE 5)

Advanced Succulent

Candy & Jerry Garner **Operculicaria decaryii**
People's Choice Winner - Advanced
 Pleiospilos compactus
 Euphorbia francoisii

Loria Johansen **Aeonium arboreum 'Schwarzkopf'**
cristata
People's Choice Winner - Advanced
 Aloe sp.

Bombax ellipticum
 Echeveria 'Dusty Rose'
 Gasteria carinata v. verrucosa
 Gasteria 'Kaya'
 Gastworthia 'Hayashi'
 Graptopetalum 'Fred Ives' cristata
 Haworthia retusa
 Haworthia truncate cv. 'Lime Green'
 Kalanchoe rhombopilosa

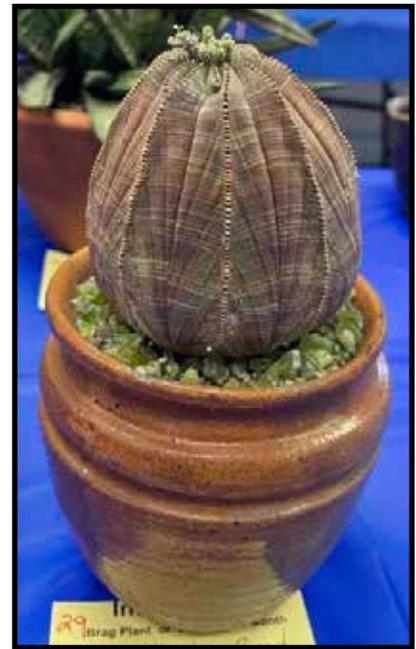
Russel Ray Operculicaria decaryii
Moni Waiblinger Aloe aculeata
 Aloe 'Swordfish'
 Delosperma echinatum
 Drimiopsis dolomiticus
 Echeveria agavoides 'Lipstick'
 Echeveria sp.
 Haworthia cymbiformis v. planifolia
 Hoya bella
 Portulacaria afra
 Xerosicyos danguyi

Dish Garden - Novice

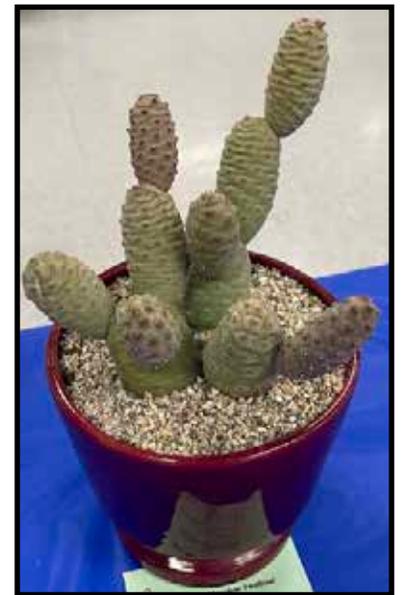
Pat Hammer Mixed succulents
Liz Rozycki Anacampseros, Sedum, Aeonium,
 Pachyphytum

Dish Garden - Intermediate

Ted Guerrero Crassula suzannae, Crassula 'Baby's
 Surprise', Crassula 'Tom Thumb'
People's Choice Winner - Intermediate



Charlyne Barad's
Euphorbia obesa



Marlene Walder's
Tephrocactus articulatus v.
papyrcanthus



Jerry & Candy Garner's
Operculicaria decaryii ***People's Choice Winner***



Heather Chan's
Mammillaria najapensis



Harold Dunn's
Coryphantha retusa



JULY 2022

President's Corner

BY ROBERT KOPFSTEIN

The principal objective of any plant would seem to be to grow: roots, leaves, stems, flowers, fruit, seeds. Yet many plants go dormant for periods of time, either during the summer or the winter season.

The word dormancy is derived from the Latin verb *dormire* which means to sleep. And just as when we sleep, our biological functions do not cease altogether; they just slow down. So also in plants; when they enter a period of dormancy, their cellular functions are still operating, but at a considerably slower pace. In certain cases it is readily apparent that a plant is dormant.

Probably the most showy example of dormancy is with the deciduous trees of the northern climates. The "fall color" as the leaves lose their chlorophyll and turn brilliant red or gold has become a remarkable sight. Even here in California our Liquidambar and Gingko trees give us quite a display.

With succulents and cactus dormancy is often more subtle. True, some succulents will go deciduous. In late fall/early winter the Cyphostemmas and Pachypodiums will drop their leaves. In summer the Kleinias will do the same. But some succulents do not exhibit their dormancy. For example Agaves, Lithops, and Echeverias are winter dormant, but they do not obviously show it, as do the summer dormant Aloes, Aeoniums, Gasterias, and Senecios.

Most succulents are "opportunistic growers," that is, they prefer temperate weather conditions. This explains why the plants slow down when it is cold and the light is less, but what about the summer sleepers? This habit of aestivation is usually because in their native habitat the conditions are so hot and dry that attempting to carry on with normal growth would probably doom the plant.

*Succulents and cactus
can either be summer
or winter growers.
Why is this so?*



Aeonium rubrolineatum in April
Photo by Monica Mosack



Aeonium rubrolineatum in August
Photo by Monica Mosack

So what are the major factors in why a plant slows (often drastically) its normal metabolic activity?

1. Temperature fluctuation. Cold and heat are major controllers of how plants react to their environment. For example, we think of cactus as thriving in the blistering heat of very arid locations, yet, when the temperature hits 80 degrees F. most cactus stop metabolizing.

2. The photo period. Light or lack of it has a profound effect on plants. In the case of succulents the CAM (crassulean acidic metabolism) runs the show. Without getting into all the chemistry of the process, when the nights are longer, and the nocturnal chemical reactions produce more of a concentration of certain compounds, this triggers reactions in the plants—including flowering. So plants can sense—and react to—how long the nights are.

3. Water availability. For those of us who live here in Southern California the rainfall pattern is very important. Our part of the world is somewhat unusual because we have a Mediterranean climate with wet winters and dry summers. Only five areas on the planet have this weather pattern: Southern California, the Mediterranean regions, eastern South Africa, western Australia, and Chile. As a result, if we grow winter-dormant succulents we have to be very cautious to keep them protected from rot during our wet, cold winters. These plants come from hot and wet summer, cold and dry winter climates.

What happens to a succulent when it is dormant?

The growing tip—the meristem—receives little or no growth-stimulating signals from the plant, so you can observe that no new tissues or leaves are being produced. Photosynthesis is reduced, but not stopped altogether, but this is not readily observable.

Sometimes the onset of dormancy will trigger flowering. Many species of barrel cactus will flower only when the temperature drops and the hours of sunlight become fewer. Apparently the beginning of dormancy signals the plant that it is time to reproduce.

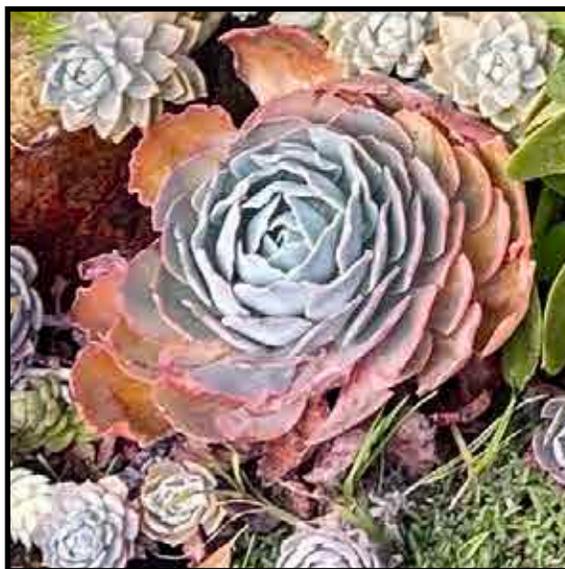
One thing not affected by dormancy is the color of succulent plants. As long as there is minimal light the color is sustained even during the plant's resting period.

For the grower it is important to remember that dormant plants still need tending; it is just that they need less of everything:

- They still need adequate light.
- Water should be reduced by at least one half, but not completely withheld.
- Use no fertilizer.
- Do not repot or transplant during the dormant period. You could injure root tissue and the plant cannot repair the damage, so rot could attack the delicate root tissue.



Echeveria 'Blue Sky' in March
Photo by Monica Mosack



Echeveria 'Blue Sky' in September
Photo by Monica Mosack

In my garden I have several large potted winter dormant specimens, so if it looks like we are going to have any substantial rain—unfortunately not a problem in recent years—I wrap the pots in plastic garbage bags to keep the roots reasonably dry. Most of these plants can take the cold, but they cannot take being wet and cold.

Growing succulents and cactus is usually fairly easy. The plants are normally very resilient as long as the grower tries to provide an environment as near as possible to their native habitat. If you have winter-dormant succulents in your collection, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with where and how they grow in the wild. As a reminder to yourself you might flag your summer/winter-dormant specimens either with a note on the plant tag or by using color-coded tags, for example green for summer growers, blue for winter growers.

Here is a brief list of the two types of growers:

Summer Dormant

- Kalanchoe
- Haworthia
- Aloe
- Cotyledon
- Gasteria
- Crassula
- Aeonium
- Adromischus
- Senecio
- Pachyphytum
- Pachycormus
- Dudleya
- Fouqueria
- Pelargonium

Winter Dormant

- Lithops
- Agave
- Euphorbia
- Echeveria
- Pachypodium
- Sempervivum
- Alluaudia
- Bursera
- Calibanus
- Didieria
- Plumeria
- Operculicaria
- Jatropha
- Adenium



Dudleya sp. in March
Photo by Monica Mosack



Dudleya sp. in July
Photo by Monica Mosack

Senecios

JULY PLANT OF THE MONTH BY LORIE JOHANSEN

There are 1000+ different types of Senecio plants, with around 100 of them being succulents. Most succulent species are native to South Africa. They are classified in the Asteraceae family (daisy family) along with their succulent relatives Othonna, including *O. capensis*. Some of their unique attributes are adaptations to their semi-arid habitats including powdery and felt-like coatings to protect them from over-exposure to the sun while long, trailing stems allow them to cover more area in search of water.

These resilient, intriguing plants can trail, spread as groundcovers or grow into big shrubby plants, depending on their size and shape. Some species grow wild and are known by names such as groundsel or tansy ragwort. Linnaeus named the Senecio genus in 1753. "Senecio" is from the Latin, "senes", "old man", and refers to the pappus hairs at the apex of the seeds.

Senecio Strings Galore: Bananas, Dolphins, Tears, Pearls & More...

In 1997, some of the best-known succulent plants in the Senecio genus moved to a new genus called Curio. Today, many are known by both genus names. The genus is toxic and is especially problematic for livestock, as ingestion may cause fatal liver disease when eaten in large amounts over a long period of time. The pollen is also toxic and may affect honey produced by bees that forage on the blooms. Plant with great care if

you have children, pets, or livestock.

Senecios can be classified into 5 major types – cascading, shrub, fuzzy white, blue ground cover, and upright snakes:

1. The “cascading species” include all the strings:

S. radicans/string of bananas is a tough and easy to maintain plant that loves full sun. I have one in a hanging basket that I forgot about for months. I just watered it profusely and it’s already coming back to life!!!! It is more tolerant of shade and moisture.



Senecio peregrius
Photo by Mini Waiblinger

S. peregrinus/string of dolphins prefers dappled light. This unique formation is a cross-pollination of two plants, *S. rowleyanus* (string of pearls) and *S. articulatus* (hot dog plant). As the vine gets longer, it will supply you with more leaves until you have an entire ocean of jumping dolphins! In the summer, small star-like white and pink flowers appear.

S. rowleyanus/string of pearls can be more sensitive to watering than other succulents. Too much, and the “pearls” will burst. The pearls grow best in dappled light or early morning sun.

S. herreanus/string of tears is a chubby striped species that produces cinnamon-scented, trumpet-shaped white flowers during the spring and summer. They are equipped with clear leaf windows allowing more light to get in. When you peek in the window, you will see that the interior of the leaf has fine purple stripes.

S. macroglossus/variegated wax ivy has daisy-like flowers in the summer and yellow-green foliage. It has shiny, waxy leaves that resemble those of English Ivy but without the headache of spider mites or other pests. In bright sun, the white stems and leaf edges blush a beautiful pink and purple that creates a lovely contrast with the green. In 2002, it received the Royal Horticultural Society’s Award of Garden Merit for its spectacular foliar variegation.



Senecio herreianus
Photo by Lorie Johansen

Senecios

(CONT. FROM PAGE 10)

2. The “shrub species” do well in the ground. I got a small cutting of *S. barbertonicus* many years ago. Now I have large shrubs (4' x 4') that are heavily mulched with no irrigation beyond what mother nature provides. Absolutely beautiful greenery all year round and lovely yellow flowers in early spring.

3. The “fuzzy white” senecios: *S. Haworthia* is a unique plant with a white, felted covering. This small shrublet has curved, chunky leaves covered with a thick white wool. It rarely blooms but it can produce yellow, pompom-shaped flowers. Over time it can grow tall, leggy stems, but it re-roots readily from stem cuttings.

4. The “blue ground cover” senecios include *S. mandraliscae*. A visually appealing plant, Blue Chalk Sticks maintains a true blue color and looks great all year round. A fast grower, this delightful plant will quickly spread to form a carpet-like effect and fill in a large area requiring no maintenance, no water, no nothing. I have it growing happily with total neglect near PV panels on a hot dry slope.

5. The “upright snake” senecios include *S. stapeliiformis* and *S. articulatus*, both with interesting markings and look like sticks. *S. stapeliiformis* is a pencil-like succulent that is slow growing, reaching up to 10” tall, and remains upright long term. *S. articulatus* is a deciduous species that forms a somewhat sprawling clump 7-14” x 10” or wider and spreads by tubers which form an underground anchoring system. The plant is leafless when dormant in the summer. The stems look like green sausages about as thick as a finger. During winter each sprouts a little tuft of leaves and then they grow another segment. So, from looking like a sausage with a topknot it ends up looking like a string of sausages with topknots! The stems store water for long periods. They are protected by a waxy coating to retard water loss. The inflorescences are disk-flowers with an unpleasant rather repugnant odor and are pollinated by beetles and flies.

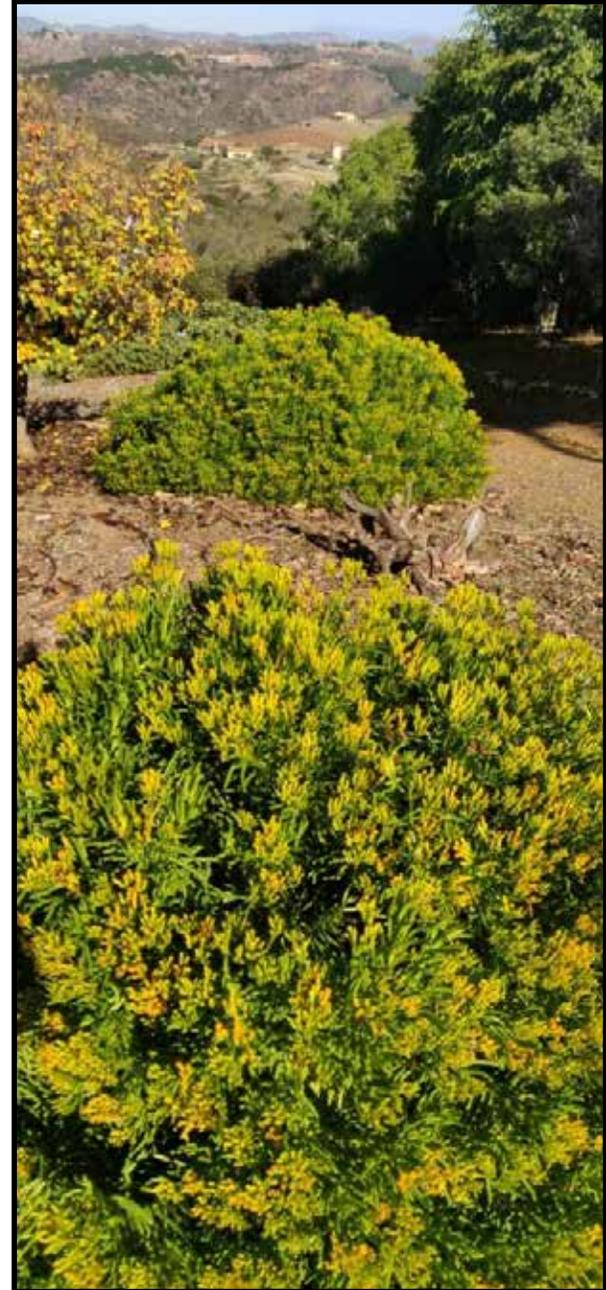
CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS: This genus is the perfect beginners’ genus requiring little care beyond occasional irrigation, fertilizer is unnecessary, and a well-draining soil mix. Water when dry. Few pests bother Senecios, but they can occasionally be affected by scale and mealybugs. Treat with neem oil or an antibacterial soap solution.

PROPAGATION: Senecio plants can be grown from either seed or cuttings. Seeds require warm temperatures (55 F.) and constant moisture to germinate. Cuttings are easier and faster. Cut during the growing season, early spring to fall. Root in sandy soil in containers.

RESOURCES:

<https://balconygardenweb.com/best-senecio-varieties-types-of-senecio> https://csuvth.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/Plants/Details/41

http://www.llifl.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Asteraceae/18917/Senecio_articulatus <https://gardenswhisper.com/string-of-tears-senecio-herreianus-care/> <https://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com/Yellow%20Enlarged%20Photo%20Pages/senecio%20atratus.htm>



Senecio barbertonicus
Photo by Lorie Johansen

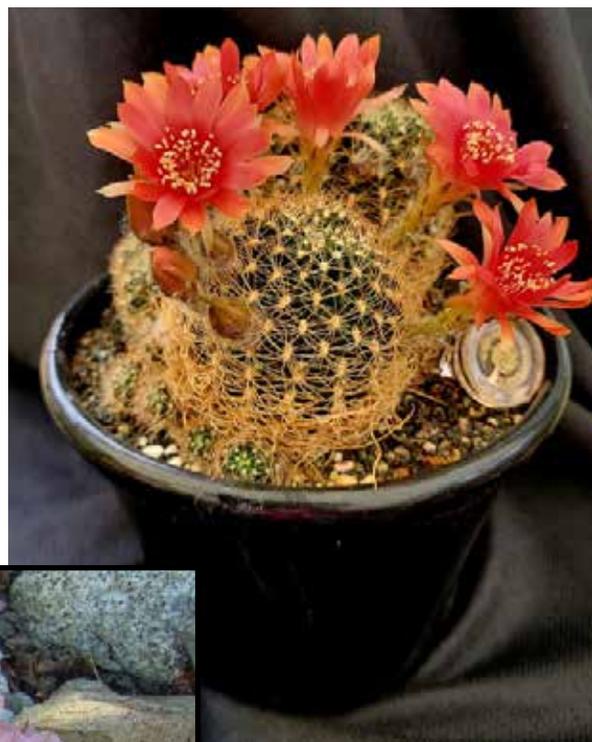
JULY
Garden Brags



Parodia sp.
Photo by Deborah Pearson



Aeonium 'Sunburst'
Photo by Monica Mosack



Lobivia schieliana
Photo by Lorie Johansen



Echinopsis sp.
Photo by Deborah Pearson

Mammillaria sp.
Photo by Deborah Pearson

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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Ambassador, Plant of the Month Articles

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Sandy Wetzell-Smith, Bruce Barry - Refreshments

Barbara Raab - Librarian

Kevin Smith - Brag Table

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Brian Magone - Exchange Table

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INTERCITYSHOW.COM @INTERCITYSHOW / @SGVCSSCLUB



**ARBORETUM
MEMBERS
FREE!**

36TH ANNUAL

INTER-CITY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED. AVAILABLE AT ARBORETUM.ORG



**9AM-5PM
AUG
5,6,7**

**SALE 8/5-7
SHOW 8/6-7**



OVER 1400 PLANTS ON DISPLAY!

RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS & POTS FOR SALE

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/2021/10/PCSS-Membership-Form-Rev-10-23-21.pdf>

Social Media

Website: www.palomarcactus.org

Instagram: [Palomar.cactus.succulent.org](https://www.instagram.com/palomarcactus.succulent.org)

Email: info@PalomarCactus.org

Facebook for admin notices:

[@Palomarcactusandsucculentsociety](https://www.facebook.com/Palomarcactusandsucculentsociety)

Facebook group for members to post:

[Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group](https://www.facebook.com/PalomarCactusandSucculentSocietyGroup)

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Date - Speaker and Topic - Plant of the Month

August 27th	Picnic	
September 24th	Crystal Eckman	Melocactus
	Melocactus species,	
	Propagation and Culture	
October 8-9	Show & Sale (tentative)	
November 19th	Ron Parker	Tephrocactus
	Chasing Centuries: Ancient	
	Anthropogenic Agave Cultivars of AZ	
December 17th	Holiday Party	