

Cactus Courier

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 69, Number 2

March 2023

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Meeting March 25, 2023

11:00 am—3:00 pm

210 Park Ave Community Center, Escondido

Brag Plants: Plants must be labeled and on the table no later than 11:45 am to be judged.

Exchange and Benefit Drawing tables, Library, and Auction will all be held at the March meeting.



March Program

Bob Webb will present on Haworthias & Gasterias, Gems of the Veld.



Dr. Robert H. Webb is a retired hydrologist from the U.S. Geological Survey. He has been growing succulent plants and cacti for nearly 40 years, conducted research on plant ecology and conservation biology in the southwestern United States for nearly as long, and for the last 15 years has travelled extensively in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula looking for succulent plants. Webb is the

chairman of the [International Sansevieria Society](#). He has described and named 10 species or subspecies of plants, including 2 Agave species from Baja California, Mexico, and 8 Sansevieria species or subspecies from East Africa.

Bob will bring some Haworthia, Gasteria, and Sansevieria to sell.

For more info and a YouTube video, click here:

<https://sfsucculent.org/topics/01-2021/sansevieria-with-bob-webb/>

https://aridlandswholesale.com/about_aridlands.html

https://aridlandswholesale.com/whats_new.html





8th Annual Spring Festival

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Next month we will include all the details.

PLANT SHOW – We will once again have a non-judged Show for *all* levels: novice, intermediate, and advanced. Now is the time to get your plants transplanted, cleaned and ready to show off! If you have never shown a plant before, this is a perfect opportunity to begin in a non-judged show. You will earn two Brag Plant points for every plant shown! Members are limited to no more than 10 plants. As it was so popular in the past, we will again have the People's Choice Award 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. 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 in show area ~ Assist in sales area ~ Assist in workshop area
- ~ Kitchen ~ Other

Bring in your lunch-worthy goodies for our potluck.

Many thanks to those who have already signed up to help. Please let Charlyne know ASAP if you think you'd like to volunteer, show, or sell - even if you're not sure yet.



Refreshment Sign-up for March 25, 2023

Charlyne Barad	Martina Reed
Wanda Mallen	Lois Walag
Moni Waiblinger	Stacy Day
Lyn Mardesich	Libbi Salvo
Kevin Smith	Georgina Chamberlain



From your Board

Here is some news from the March board meeting:

- Because of the high cost of renting the current meeting facility, we have been looking for a more affordable alternative. Robert and Lorie visited Palomar College to check out their meeting rooms. The only room with enough capacity for all of us is a tiered lecture hall. We decided to try holding one meeting there in October. Even though there are steps, the room is fully accessible, with entry on the bottom level. Brag plant, benefit drawing, exchange, and food tables will be located at the bottom for easy access for all. Robert will discuss this in detail at the March meeting. Maybe think fundraising?
- We voted to hold our holiday party at Moni's clubhouse again, but just today (3/13) the clubhouse's board of directors decided no longer to allow outside groups to reserve the room.



2023 Meeting Schedule

- Mar. 25 — Bob Webb, Haworthias & Gasterias, Gems of the Veld
- Apr. 15 — Field trip to Peter W. Plants
(See info in newsletter.)
- Apr. 22 — Spring Festival
- May 27 — Nancy Carol Carter, Kate Sessions
- June 24 — Philippe de Vosjoli, Caudiciforms
- Jul. 22 — Steve Plath, Desert Restoration
- Aug. 26 — Picnic
- Sept. 23 — Jeff Moore, Dudleyas
- Oct. 28 — Members' book reviews
- Nov. 18 — Ivon Ramirez, The Hechtias of Mexico

Social Media

Website: www.palomarcactus.org

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

Email: info@PalomarCactus.org

Facebook admin: [@Palomarcactusandsucculentsociety](#)

Facebook members: [Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group](#)

In Loving Memory—PCSS Members

Don Nelson

Sadly, Don Nelson passed away on Saturday, February 25, 2023. He was a member of PCSS for the past 15 years. He was active as a board member, volunteer, and avid shower of his plants. We will miss his friendly smile, his enthusiasm, and his abundant knowledge of plants. Rest well, our friend.



Don at the March 2022 meeting with his spectacular Mangave on the brag table



Don loved crested plants and went to great strides to bring this one to the brag table. It was so tall that it had to hang out the window with padding under and around.

He gave me a lovely Kalanchoe var. subnuda 'Blue Slick' that is growing well. When I walk by his plant, I am reminded of his kindness and generosity.

—Lorie Johansen

John Tashjian

1921 – 2022

Sadly, we lost John on Thanksgiving day last year at the age of 101. He and his son, Peter, joined PCSS in the mid 1970's. John had a great smile and a wonderful personality. He will be greatly missed.

John was a World War II Navy aviator and then a Marine fighter pilot. After the war he was a fire fighter for 20 years. His passion was herpetology. He enjoyed traveling around the world photographing some of the rarest species and had one of the largest herpetological photograph collections in the world.



John had a wide variety plants and enjoyed succulents from all over the world. He liked to learn about their natural history and enjoyed their beauty. He particularly liked plants that got very large. He loved the Furcraea macdougallii that Peter planted for him. He also enjoyed propagating plants.

February Presentation by Peter Walkowiak

At our February meeting, Peter Walkowiak, horticulturist and grower, demonstrated how he assembles his soil mix for cacti and succulents. He gave his formula as 60% perlite or pumice, 20% decomposed granite (and 20% compost. (See next page.) He thoroughly mixed all ingredients to completely coat the perlite. He cautioned us never to pack the soil around the plants to ensure drainage.

Not only was his demonstration interesting and useful for us cacti and succulent enthusiasts, but the plants he chose to demonstrate re-potting were all glorious specimens!

Click here to read an article about Peter from the *Ramona Sentinel*

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/ramona-sentinel/lifestyle/story/2020-02-19/landscaper-shares-tips-for-gardening-with-cactus-and-succulents>



Soil and Fertilizer for Succulents

Peter Walkowiak, B.S. Horticulture, PW Plants

There are three ingredients for my soil mix. You can substitute other materials and those will be listed below. There are three materials to avoid, peat moss, sand and coir (coconut husk). Both peat moss and coir are not composted and when they do they turn to muck. Sand compacts and does not dry out or allow good air penetration.

Soil Mix

- 60% Perlite #3, substitute pumice; this should be completely wetted and mixed. Do not remove fines unless excessive. If you use Perlite, be sure to use top dressing because Perlite floats to the top.
- 20% Compost, substitute good potting soil, I get my compost from the green recycling at the local dump, they use just greens, no manure
- 20% DG (decomposed granite); use 1/8 screen to remove gravel from fines. Gravel is for top dressing and fines for the soil mix.

Mix DG and compost together. Add this to the WET perlite and mix till blended and no white is showing from perlite. To achieve this, you may need to add more water. When no white Perlite is showing, soil is ready to use. Always use moist soil and never water newly transplanted succulents.

Fertilizer

10-30-20 Growmor water soluble fertilizer

White vinegar, 2 tablespoons per gallon, PH of 6.0 to 6.5

Increase nitrogen in the early spring and late summer, decrease during heat waves, mid summer and winter.

Field Trip to Peter's Nursery

Peter W. Plants

The Conejo CSSA club of Ventura County will be touring my nursery and collection on April 15th starting at 10 am. I am inviting the Palomar club to join us for a wonderful tour of my plants and nursery.

You can shop in the nursery and view the plants in my collection. My collection is one of the largest in California. You may take as many photos as you want, but do not touch or move plants. The only plants for sale are in the nursery in the lower section.

The nursery is on a slope and is not handicapped friendly. I will give a 20% discount on all sales over \$100. Prices are according to pot size, 4" square are \$15, 6" round are \$30, and 6" square are \$40.

My address is 404 Lor Lar Lane, Ramona, 92065.

You Tube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlt0bwroUqY>



President's Corner

March 2023

Robert Kopfstein

When I first started to consider doing a brief biographical sketch of Alexander von Humboldt I really had only an inkling of how complex an intellect he in fact was. In various readings in biology and geography I had run across references to his scientific writings and his research, and occasionally Humboldt would be a part of a name of a plant, animal, or place. But when I began looking into information for this article I was amazed at the accomplishments of this 18th and 19th century polymath, a person who not only has a depth but an incredible breadth of knowledge.

The age of mathematics and science begins in earnest in the 17th century, and by the 18th century, the “Age of Reason,” it is in full swing. Science and the scientific method develop into what we are now experiencing in the

science-based approach to our view of the world.

I am speaking here of the majority of people. Granted, there is a contingent of the human race that still emphatically rejects provable data and substitutes myth, fantasy, and sadly outright falsehoods for reality. The Flat Earth Society is alive and well.

Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich Alexander, Baron von Humboldt was born Sept. 14, 1769 and died just short of his 90th birthday on May 6, 1859. His lifespan witnessed the transition from the classical period with its admiration of balanced structure and of all things Greek and Roman, to the Romantic Age with its love of Gothic architecture and its stress of the importance of emotion and the splendor of nature in its wild state.

The idea of a “Renaissance Man” is perhaps embodied in the life of Humboldt: he was a geographer, a naturalist, an explorer, a geologist, a prolific author, a diplomat, an early conservationist, and a proponent of Romantic philosophy as well as of science. He was friends with a wide variety of personalities and he influenced scientists like Charles Darwin and Harvard professor, Louis Agassiz. Thomas Jefferson invited him to stay at the newly built White House to share the maps Humboldt had made of the Louisiana Purchase territory.

Humboldt’s botanical geographical research laid the groundwork for the field of biogeography. From 1799 to 1804, financed by King Charles IV of Spain, he traveled throughout South America, Mexico, Cuba, and North America, climbing the 19,000 foot volcano Chimborazo in Ecuador – without oxygen tanks – to catalog the changes in vegetation with altitude. He worked on cacao plantations, noting that clear cutting the rainforest was causing the climate to change for the worse. He created a detailed map of the central part of North America which was very useful to the Jefferson government because of its recent purchase of this land from Napoleonic France. After their meeting Jefferson wrote, “I consider him the most important scientist whom I have met.”

The all-inclusive approach to all things in the universe was a key part of Humboldt’s Romantic viewpoint. He is considered the father of ecology and of environmentalism, and the term “Humboltian Science” means that everything is interrelated and can be scientifically measured.

Combining geography, biology, geology, and meteorology, he proposed that the world we see around us is the product of the interactions of all of these fields of study.

Humboldt published more than 36 books, the most famous being *Kosmos* (4 volumes in German), which explains his holistic approach to the study of the universe. Some of his other works are in French; he preferred to live in Paris because of the intellectual climate there. In his later years he was recalled to Berlin by the king of Prussia to work for the government as a mining expert and diplomat.

But this did not confine Humboldt to the technical studies of geology. He became friends with the poets Goethe and Schiller, and his influence on art, especially painting, was significant: Fredrick Church's massive oil on canvas, "Heart of the Andes," is based on Humboldt's discoveries and dedicated to the scientific genius. Unfortunately Church completed the painting just days before Humboldt's death.

In 1829, at the invitation of Tsar Nicholas I, Humboldt traveled over 9600 miles by horse-drawn coaches for eight months through Russia, later publishing the scientific results of his travels. He later would write at age 60, "I still walk very lightly on foot, nine to ten hours without resting, despite my age and my white hair."

Today there are more than 300 plants, animals, places that bear Humboldt's name. Here is a partial list – scientific names omitted:

<u>Plants</u>	<u>Insects</u>	<u>Animals</u>	<u>Geographical features</u>
lily	butterfly	penguin	Humboldt Bay (CA)
orchid	beetle	squid	Humboldt Sink (NV)
geranium		hummingbird	Humboldt Glacier (Greenland)

<u>Place Names</u>	<u>Astronomical features</u>	<u>Universities, Colleges, and Schools</u>
Humboldt County (CA)	Mare Humboldtianum (on the moon)	Humboldt State University (CA) Humboldt U. (Berlin), founded by him and his brother

There are eight U.S. States with towns named Humboldt.

"Eureka": A Prose Poem" by Edgar Allan Poe, is dedicated to Humboldt, and his book *Kosmos*.

There are statues of Humboldt in Havana, Berlin, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Central Park, NY, Mexico City, St. Louis, Stanford U. and the Canary Islands.

Films about Humboldt: *Measuring The World* (2012), *Home From Home* (2013)

In 1859 Humboldt was named Hero of the Nation by then President, Benito Juarez, who himself was quite a notable person.

When I first decided to do a biographical sketch of Alexander von Humboldt, I had no idea of the amazing complexity of the man. Obviously a genius, his interests and accomplishments stagger the imagination. In this short essay I have included only some of his voluminous accomplishments. Yet today he is not particularly well known. One writer has suggested that this is because our time is an age of “the expert,” who is a specialist in one thing only. Universalists are regarded as superficial dilettantes. Also Humboldt’s prose tends to be “flowery,” too poetic and literary for today’s bare bones writing style. And apparently there is also a racist element involved: because of the two world wars, anything German fell out of favor.

Nevertheless, the man and his ideas and accomplishments speak to the remarkable capacity for the human brain to explore, synthesize, codify, and record for posterity the elements that comprise our planet.



Scenes from Humboldt Redwoods State Park, CA
<https://humboldtredwoods.org/>



Statue of Alexander von Humboldt in front of Humboldt University, Berlin



Humboldt and Jefferson: Transatlantic exchange of knowledge and ideas. View a YouTube video about Humboldt & Jefferson:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Plant of the Month

ALBUCA (aka Slime Lily)

Lorie Johansen



Albuca spiralis

Albuca is a genus of approximately 150 species belonging to the Hyacinthaceae family. All species grow from bulbs, and most have a dormancy period after flowering when they lose their leaves. The flower scape is unbranched, and most species only produce one scape per growing season. They grow in the southwest Cape and northwards into Namaqualand, South Africa. The genus also extends into tropical Africa and Arabia, where there are comparatively fewer species.

There are two types of flowers in the genus, the upward facing variety and the nodding variety. The tropical African species, on the other hand, have flowers on such short pedicles that the only position they can hold is sideways. The flower colors



Albuca nelsonii

from white, yellow, and green and can be embellished with a green stripe down the middle of each outer sepal. Although there is not a great diversity in the shape of the flowers, there is a fascinating range of leaf forms. Some species have rather uninteresting foliage, others have such unusual leaves that they could be grown as a foliage plant in their own right. Leaves can be boat-shaped, coiled into corkscrew shapes like *A. spiralis*, or narrow and wavy like a slithering snake. The stem is sheathed in leaves with a linear blade and is generally fleshy and sappy with a mucus-like juice, hence the common name "slime lilies." They can grow three to four feet tall with a slightly smaller width.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:

The most important requirement for Albuca care is superior drainage, so use a well-draining soil. The regions to which they are native are not known for consistent moisture. Constant watering at planting is necessary to mimic the rainy season, but after that, light watering is all that is necessary when caring for Albuscas. Place in part to full sun. Fertilize in early spring with an all-purpose bulb food. After bloom, foliage will yellow and wilt. This is the time to cut back the spent foliage. They are summer dormant and will sprout leaves in the winter; hence they are winter growers. Diseases and pests are generally not a problem. Overwatering can cause fungal issues.

PROPAGATION:

Most species are easily raised from seed. Fresh seed often germinates within a week of sowing, with excellent germination rate. The seed is short lived and probably needs to be started within six months for good germination. One notable exception is *Albuca bracteata* which produces bulblets. You can let them grow until they detach from the mother plant or remove them and plant them on top of the soil; do not bury them. An interesting side note: Polysaccharides extracted from *Albuca bracteata* have been reported to exhibit antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-tumor properties. The synergistic interactions between many such plant-derived products and chemotherapeutic drugs have been linked to improved therapeutic efficacy.

RESOURCES:

<https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Albuca>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/albuca/>

<https://www.hillviewhardyplants.com/albuca-national-plant-collection/>

Info from Members

An Opportunity from Tom McCarter

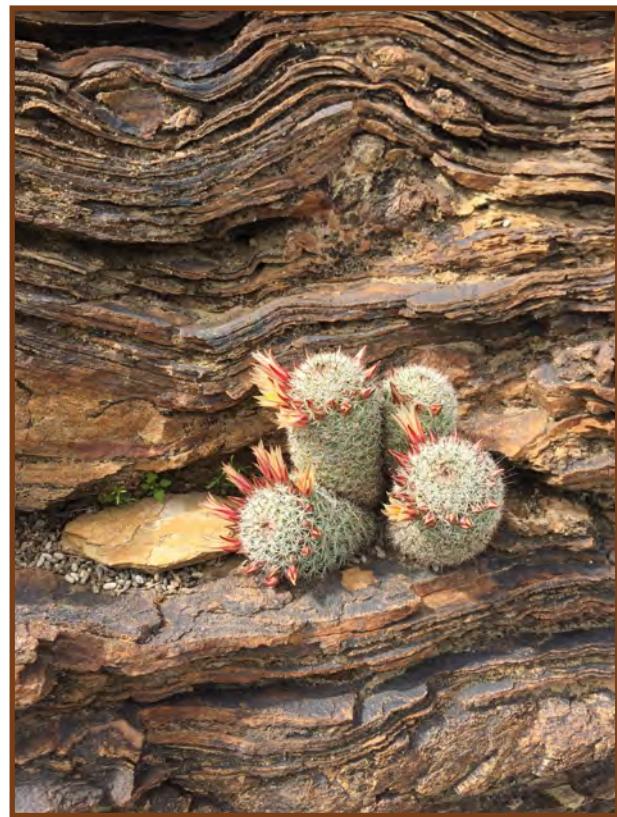
These Water Smart Landscape Contest links were provided by Tom McCarter. Check out the sites for info on how to enter, tips, etc.



<https://landscapecontest.com//>

<https://landscapecontest.com/rules-entry/>

Desert cactus photos from Kevin Smith



I saw this plant out at Anza Borrego State Park recently. Thought it was interesting as it is growing out of a very strange rock formation. A geologist friend of mine said the rock formation is sandstone that developed 300+ million years ago under what is now the Pacific Ocean. The plant is *Mammillaria dioica*, I believe.



Garden Brag Plants



Julian Duvall's Aloe marlothii.
It's been in the ground 20 years.



Lorie Johansen's
Pelargonium



Lorie Johnsen's Euphorbia caput medusae 13 years ago and today.



Lorie Johansen's
Kalanchoe
fedtschenkoi
variegata



Tony Rowe's
Euphorbia
Polygona (African
Milk Barrel).
Grown from a
single 2018 cutting



Joah Herskowitz's

Aloe sp.

Variegated Foxtail Agave



Joan Herskowitz's

Euphorbia lambii

Aeonium pseudotabuliforme
or Aeonium 'Green Platters'



Lorie Johansen's

Pleiospilos nelli

"Royal Flush"

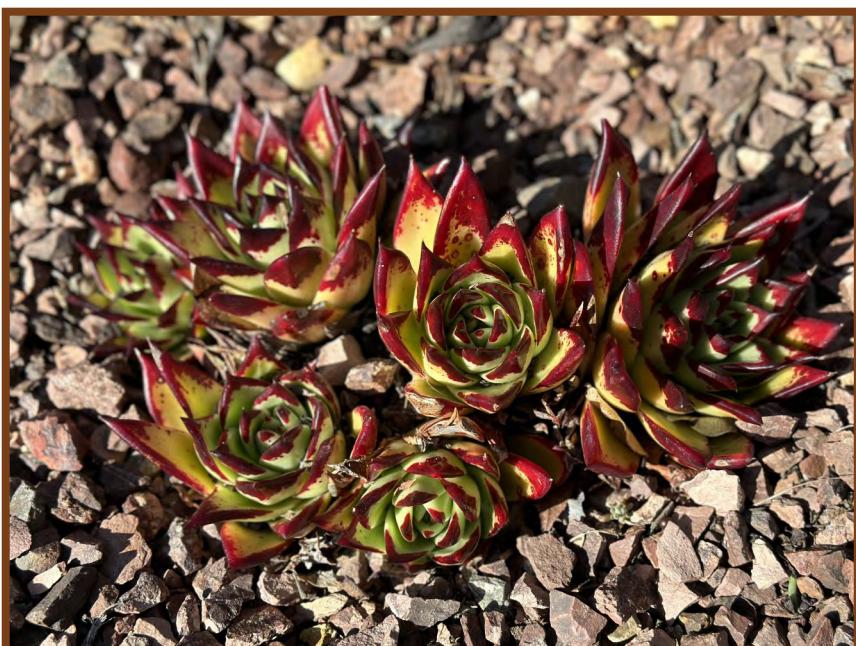
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Lois Walag's Rhipsalis rhombea



Michelle Leung's front yard garden bowls.



Charlyne Barad's
Echeveria agavoides ebony

Charlyne Barad's
Aeonium urbicum
Salad Bowl



2023 February Brag Plant Winners

In order to save space, where there were no entries in a category, the category is not listed.

Intermediate Cactus

1st Heather Chan *Mammillaria najaensis* - 1

Advanced Cactus

1st Alan Chamberlain *Mammillaria celsiana* (45 years old) - 2

2nd Robert Kopfstein *Eriocye senilis* v. *multicolor* (formerly *Neopoteria multicolor*) - 3

3rd Moni Waiblinger *Ferocactus emoryi* - 4

Novice Succulent

1st Kristie DeTar *Echeveria agavoides* - 5

2nd Kristie DeTar *Dudleya brittonii* - 6

Intermediate Succulent

1st Kevin Smith *Gasteria glomerata* - 7

2nd Kevin Smith *Gasteria* sp. - 8

3rd Heather Chan *Euphorbia lactea* crest/variegated - 9

Advanced Succulent

1st Julian Duval *Dioscorea hemicrypta* - 10

2nd Moni Waiblinger *Myrmecophytum selebicium* - 11

3rd Moni Waiblinger *Dioscorea elephantipes* - 12

Plant of the Month – Intermediate

1st Harold Dunn *Pelargonium carnosum* - 13

Plant of the Month – Advanced

1st John Barkley *Pelargonium cotyledonis* - 14

2nd Robert Kopfstein *Pelargonium ferulaceum* - 15

3rd Robert Kopfstein *Pelargonium xerophytum* - 16

Bowl Garden – Advanced

1st Moni Waiblinger *Pelargonium*, *Sedum*, *Haworthia* - 17



1



2



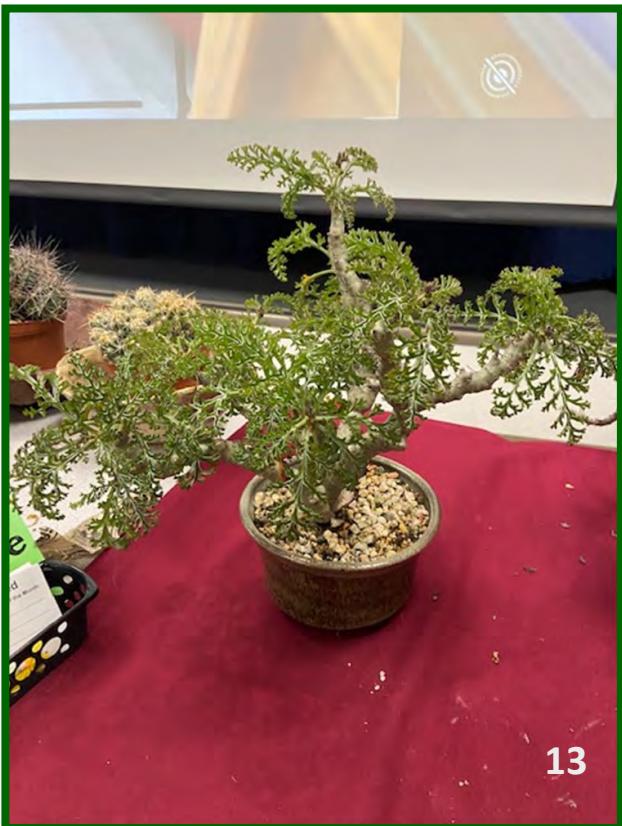
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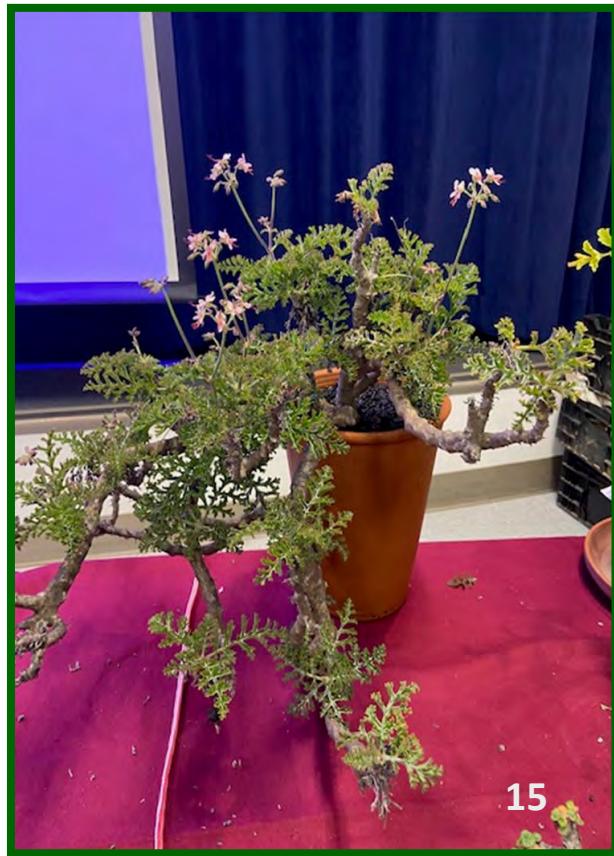




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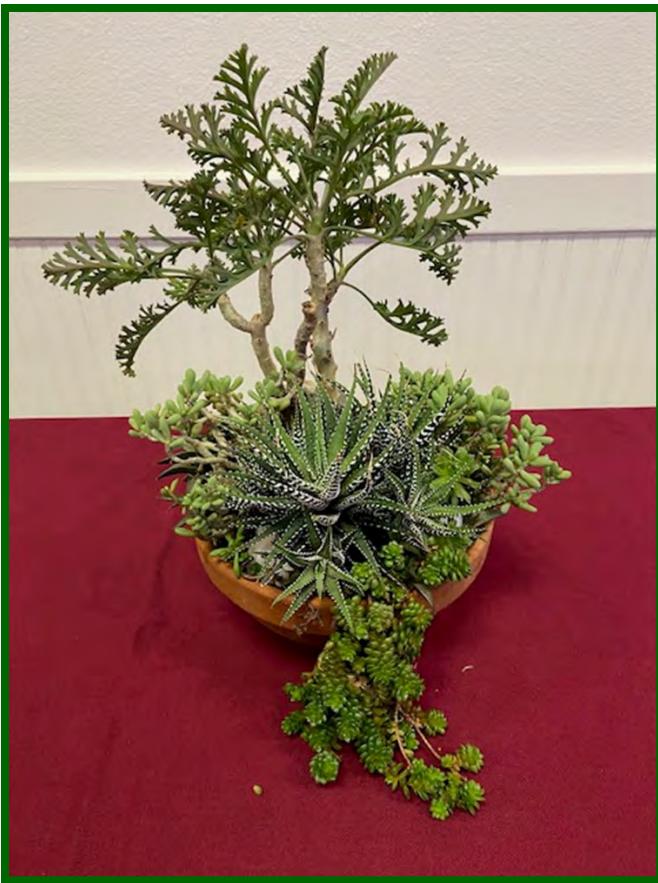
14



15



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Current Board and Volunteers

President—Robert Kopfstein—president@palomarcactus.org

Vice President—Dean Karras

Past President, Meeting set-up—Brita Miller

Treasurer—Teri Shusterman

Assistant Treasurer—Liz Rozscki

Secretary—Moni Waiblinger

Members at Large—Charlyne Barad, David Buffington, Lorie Johansen

Event Coordinator—Charlyne Barad

Brag Points—David Buffington

Brag Table—Kevin Smith

Cash Register at Monthly Meetings—Teri Shusterman & Dennis Miller

Exchange Table—Brian Magone

Facebook - Annie Morgan—info@palomarcactus.org

Guest & New Member Ambassador—Lorie Johansen,

Instagram—Dean Karras—gnosisnursery@gmail.com

Librarian—Barbara Raab

Membership—Richard Miller

Name Tag Drawing Plants—Julie Kort

Newsletter Editor—Charlyne Barad & Michelle Leung

Photographer—Lorie Johansen

Plant Expert—Dean Karras—gnosisnursery@gmail.com

Plant of the Month Articles—Lorie Johansen

Programs—Robert Kopfstein

Refreshments—Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry

Website—Annie Morgan, Russel Ray