

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 69, Number 1

February 2023

2023 Meeting Schedule

Jan. 28 Robert Kopfstein, Bromeliads
Feb. 25 Peter Walkowiak, Soils
Mar. 25 Bob Webb, Haworthias & Gasterias, Gems of the Veld
Apr. 22 Spring Festival
May 27 Nancy Carol Carter, Kate Sessions
Jun. 24 Philippe de Vosjoli
Jul. 22 Steve Plath, Desert Restoration
Aug. 26 Picnic
Sept. 23 Jeff Moore, Dudleyas
October 29 Members' book reviews
Nov. 19 Ivon Ramirez, The Hechitias of Mexico
Dec. ? Holiday party

Meeting February 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 February meeting.

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

Facebook members: Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group

Field Trip to Rojas Nursery



On Sunday, February 5, around two dozen of us visited the Rojas Succulents and Cacti nursery in Fallbrook, owned by Carlos Rojas and his mom, Rosalina. We oohed and ahhed over their huge collection of colorful and rare succulents and cacti. We toured through several huge greenhouses containing plants of all sizes and colors. Many of us loaded up on new plants with the help of a club discount.

Click here for an interview of Carlos by Debra Lee Baldwin:

<https://debraleebaldwin.com/succulent-destinations/rojas-succulents-nursery-tour/>

One of the many huge greenhouses at Rojas nursery



President's Two Cents Worth



Robert Kopfstein

(There will be no "President's Corner" articles until we have a newsletter.)

To date no one has stepped up to edit the PCSS newsletter Cactus Courier. Until we secure an editor, Charlyne Barad has very kindly volunteered to put out an abbreviated form of our February publication. Many thanks go to Charlyne for subbing in for this very important function of the club.

At our January meeting there was a handout with the schedule of all of the meeting dates and programs for the year 2023. The October meeting was scheduled for a Fall Festival; now there will be an in-house program in which any three members pick a book from the extensive PCSS library and talk about it for 10 minutes. Before the October meeting there will be a handout with guideline questions which will help you organize your presentation. (At the January meeting, using a book from our library on discocactus, I already demonstrated how you might do your brief presentation.)

The purposes of this in-house program are to help members to become more aware of and enthusiastic about the wealth of information available in the books that our faithful librarian Barbara Raab organizes and brings to every meeting. Another reason for this type of participatory activity is to involve members in the successful running of the club: the idea of a "society" is that all have an opportunity to participate. And who knows, you might get some new insights that will make you a better grower of the plants that we all love so much.

Our March meeting program will be "Haworthias and Gasterias: Gems of the Veld." Our presenter will be Bob Webb, owner of Aridlands Nursery in Tucson, Arizona.

February Program



Our speaker this month will be Peter Walkowiak, owner of Peter W Plants, a cactus and succulent nursery in Ramona, California.

His topic will be soils, a key element in successful growing of drought tolerant plants. Peter is a past president of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society.

Tidbits

Seniors, aged 65+ get in free to the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park during the month of February. It's a good time to visit the animals and view the varied luscious plants in their collections.

We desperately need someone to step forward to be newsletter editor. Please consider raising your hand to do that job. For now, we could team up to do the newsletter, if the whole job seems like too much. Thanks! Contact Charlyne: charbar6000@gmail.com

Text: 858-922-3380. or Brita: britamiller1@gmail.com, text: 858-776-7216

Brag Plant Rules Refresher

It's been a while since the rules were posted, so here they are.

If you are showing at the novice level, once you have won more than 10 first place prizes, consider moving up to intermediate level. Whatever your level, you may be encouraged to move up if your plants are beyond your current level.



To show a plant: at a meeting:

- * You must have owned the plant for at least six months.
- * You may not have shown the plant within six months, except at a show.
- * Limit of three plants per member per meeting, except plant of the month.
- * Except during months of January & July, when specifically permitted, plants may not be in plain, nursery-type plastic pots.

Info from Your Board

1. As most of you know, we voted at the **January meeting to hold our usual Spring Festival in April and not try to have a big show and sale** at San Diego Botanical Garden that same month. There just isn't time to do it justice.

2. The board discussed guidelines for judging plants at meetings. We want to form a committee to establish those guidelines. Items to consider include:

- Do we want competitive judging or merit judging? In competitive judging there can be one (sometimes more) plants awarded 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in each category. In merit judging, there is a set of standards, and plants are judged against them.
- How much weight should staging carry? Do we want to include staging in judging, or should it be about the plant itself?
- Can there be more than one plant of the same type in a pot? Now multiples are considered dish gardens.

3. Robert will bring this up at the next meeting. Please consider offering your services for the committee to make those important decisions. Thanks!



2023 January Brag Plant Winners (Sorry, no photos this month.)

Novice Cactus

- 1st Ted Guerrero Mammillaria plumosa
2nd Don DeTar Espostoa lanata

Intermediate Cactus

- 1st Kevin Smith Rebutia perplexa
2nd Lois Walag Rhipsalis pachyptera

Advanced Cactus

- 1st Moni Waiblinger Cactaceae cristate

Novice Succulent

- 1st Keith Umbred Graptoveria hybrid
1st Liz Rozycki Othonna quercifolia
2nd Pat Hammer Euphorbia francoisii
2nd Pat Hammer Dioscoria elephantipes
2nd Ted Guerrero Titanopsis calcarean
3rd Barbara Raab Pachyveria sp.
3rd Don DeTar Euphorbia flanagani clistata

Intermediate Succulent

- 1st Sherman Blench xSyncoregalia 'Galactic Warrior'
1st Libby Salvo Aeonium 'Lily Pad'
2nd Sherman Blench Dyckia sp.
3rd Sherman Blench Kalanchoe humillis

Advanced Succulent

- 1st Russel Ray Euphorbia evansii

Plant of the Month – Novice

Plant of the Month – Intermediate

- 1st Charlyne Barad Aloe sp.
2nd Libby Salvo Aloe somaliensis

Plant of the Month – Advanced

- 1st Wanda Mallen Aloe rauhii cv. White Cloud
2nd Wanda Mallen Aloe castellanae
2nd Wanda Mallen Gasteraloe hybrid
3rd Russel Ray Aloe 'Blue Elf'

Members Honored at Holiday Party



Brita Miller and Annie Morgan were awarded lifetime memberships to honor, and in gratitude for, their many years of service to PCSS. Congratulations, Brita and Annie!



Robert Kopfstein and Harold Dunn were honored for Best in Show at the October show. Robert won Best in Show Advanced Succulent, and Harold won Best in Show Intermediate Succulent. Congratulations to both!



Holiday Party and Photos

What a delightful party we had! Many thanks to Moni for securing her community center room for the party! It was even decorated! Huge thanks go to Eleanor and Lorie for cooking and bringing all that yummy turkey! And, Eleanor, your famous gravy is heavenly! Thank you! Thanks to members who brought a tremendous selection of all kinds of food, Wow!

(See next page for photos)



Thanks to Lorie for these photos!





PLANT OF THE MONTH: Pleasing Pelargoniums

Lorie Johansen

(FYI, Lorie took time out from her trip to do this write-up for us. Thank you, Lorie!)

When you buy a geranium at a nursery, you probably are buying a pelargonium. Taxonomy confusion exists to this day... Pelargonium is a genus within the Geraniaceae family (which also includes geraniums). The flowers are what truly differentiate them from true geraniums. They have five petals, 2 upper petals that differ in color and pattern from the three lower petals. Geraniums have symmetrical flowers with petals that are the same size and shape. Most of the 250 species come from South Africa. Tuberous pelargoniums (50+ species) are of most interest to succulent collectors.

These winter growers should be shaded in their summer dormancy (as in habitat). When leaves appear as temperatures drop, start watering and fertilizing. Let dry out in between waterings which mimics the growing season in South Africa. One grower likes to use tomato fertilizers (1/4 strength twice a month). Flowers start this month. We look forward to enjoying a few flowers and interesting caudex shapes on the brag table this month.



The scented leaves of some pelargoniums are thought to have antiseptic qualities.
Photo from skyviewsucculents.com.



Succulent Pelargoniums (Geraniums)





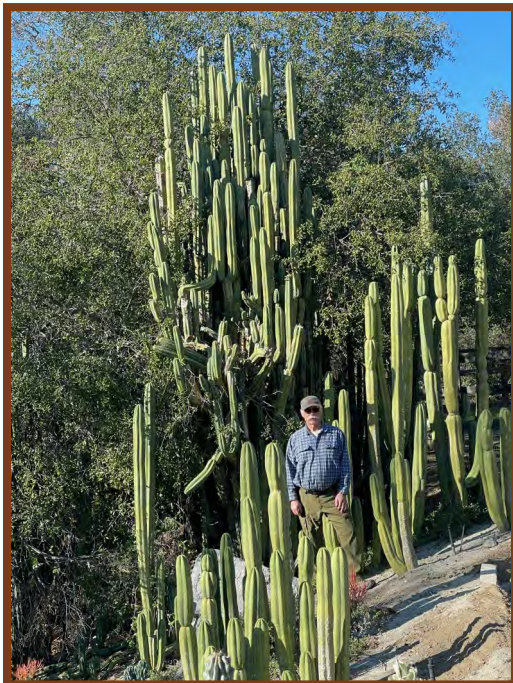
Home Brag Plants



Lorie
Johansen's
Aloe thraskii



Succulent Garden
from Lorie Johansen



Michael Peters's
Trichocereus pachanol,
It's 33 years old!

San Pedro Cactus, 33 years old.



Michael Peters's
Entry to Lizard Rock Gardens



Charlyne Barad's
Pedilanthus bracteatus
(Cutting from Neila and Steve Rybicki)



Charlyne Barad's
Cane Poinsettia
(Cuttings from PCSS exchange table.)



From May-Fong Ho: A huge aloe hybrid at
Old World Succulent Garden, Safari Park



↖ Tina Zucker's
Monilaria moniliformis
↙ *Euphorbia supernans*





Deborah Pearson's Garden



Sherman Blench's
Aloes



Julian Duval's
Strophocactus
wittii



Terri Shusterman's Garden



Martina Reed's
Hatiora salicornioides
Dancing Bones Cactus



Joe Draskinis's
Aloe nobilis in an Amy Rouillard pot



Gary Vincent's *Gasteria Blue Ox*



Wanda Mallen's
Euphorbia antiquorum crest



Wanda Mallen's
Euphorbia clivicola