

Cactus Courier

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 69, Number 3

April 2023

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A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS, ANONYMOUS DONOR!

Because of a very generous contribution from an anonymous member donor, we will be able to maintain our meeting place at the Escondido Community Center for the next three years! We are tremendously grateful and appreciative of the member's generosity that will enable us to continue to use the venue that works so well for our group!

Thank you!

9th Annual Spring Festival

Saturday, April 22, 2023

10:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Community Center, 210 Park Ave., Escondido
You will be able to wander freely between activities.

Member Plant and Misc. Sale

Plant Exhibition

Workshops

Potluck

9:00—9:30 a.m. Morning volunteers bring in their show & sale plants.

9:30—10:15 a.m. Members set up their plants to show & sell.

10:30 a.m. Festival Open. Cash register opens for sales.

11:00 a.m. Workshops and potluck start

2:00—3:00 Cleanup

See detailed schedule on pg. 3

There will be no exchange table, benefit drawing table, or library.

Important Request !

We need a photographer or photographers for the day. Please let Charlyne know ASAP if you are willing to help with this.

Thank you!



Member Plant, Pottery, and Garden-Related Items Sale

Thanks to members who signed up to sell. We have room for one more seller. Contact Charlyne if you want to be added to the list. We do the selling for you; just bring clean, rooted, and attractive potted plants.

- Bring items between 9:30 am—10:15 am. They should be labeled, priced, and in place by 10:30 am.
- You will need to have **two plant sticks per plant**.
 - One stick must have your name and the price
 - The second stick should have the name of the plant.
 - Plant sticks will be available for sale, 8 for \$0.50.
- Tip for pricing your plants: What would you pay for it?
- If you are going to donate plants for the club to sell, you must use sticks that say PCSS. We will have PCSS sticks available. You just need to add the price onto the stick.
- You may also sell plants that are usually sold as cuttings, nice clean pots (not plastic), and other new or newer garden-related items, including artwork. You must attach a plant stick or label with your name and price on it.

Plant Exhibition

We will have a non-judged show for all levels, so it will be simpler for all involved.

- **We really need you to bring plants to show. We especially encourage novice level participants.**
- **Each plant will earn two Brag Points**, so the more you bring in, the more points you will earn!
- As always, you must have owned your plant for six months or longer
- You may bring plants that you have recently shown, even if you have won.
- All entries must be labeled and on a table by 10:30 am.
- Again, we will have a **People's Choice Award** for each level. Each winner will receive a certificate, so bring in your most popular plants.

Workshops will start at 11:00 am.

As always, workshops will run consecutively so you won't miss a thing! See page three for details.

Potluck

Thanks to our generous members, we will have lots of delicious food throughout the day. We will enjoy camaraderie with old and new friends. Please bring goodies for everyone to enjoy! See list on pg. 4.

Volunteers

Thank you, volunteers; we can't do it without you! Come enjoy the fun and camaraderie. If everyone helps a little, we'll have a great time. Please contact Charlyne if you have any questions.

charbar6000@gmail.com. Call or text:;; 858-922-3380



PCSS Spring Festival Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 Setup (This is instead of Friday afternoon setup.)

9:00 - 9:30 am Morning volunteers bring in their show and sales plants

9:30 - 10:15 am Members set up their plants to show and sell

10:15 am Show entries MUST be in place on table, entered and labeled.

Plants for sale should be priced and on the tables.

10:30 am Festival open

Cash register open for sales

Refreshments available

11 - 11:45 pm Workshop: “Summer and Winter Growers”

Presenter – Robert Kopfstein

11:50 am - 12:30 pm Workshop: “Succulent Potpourri - Practical Tips”

Presenter – Pauline Wong

12:30 - 1:00 pm Break

1:00- 1:45 pm Workshop: “Creative and Exciting Ways to Plant Succulents”

Presenters – Moni Waiblinger & Libbi Salvo

1:45 - 3:00pm Clean up - *please help as we must be out by 3:00pm!*





Spring Festival 2023 Food Sign up List



Below is the list of members who signed up to bring food to share. If you didn't have a chance to sign up, please feel free to bring a dish to share. As this is a slightly longer day, and a more relaxed format, we'll have tables set up so we can sit around, eat, and socialize. Please bring lunch-worthy items to share.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of Dish</u>
Moni Waiblinger	Pasta Salad
Lyn Mardesich	Veggie Salad
Eleanore Hewitt	Baked Beans
Susan Duey	Meatballs (crockpot)
Pauline Wong	Turkey Chili
Farrell Smith	Salad (?)
Barbara Watzke	Dessert
Prapa Taylor	Salad
Tammy Granados	Chili
Paul Benold	Broccoli Salad
Libbi Salvo	Corn Pudding
Bernie Mases	Dessert
Candy Garner	Surprise
Sherry Hunga	Surprise
Charlyne Barad	Quiche
Charlie Ballard	Chicken Salad



March Meeting Recap

What a meeting it was! Our speaker was informative and delightful; our turnout was grand; our brag plants were spectacular, our auction plants were treasures; and both our exchange and benefit drawing tables were packed with highly desirable treasures! Wow! Many thanks to members for bringing a huge assortment of desirable plants to share, and special thanks to Candy Garner for donating adorable cactus earrings to sell for benefit of PCSS!

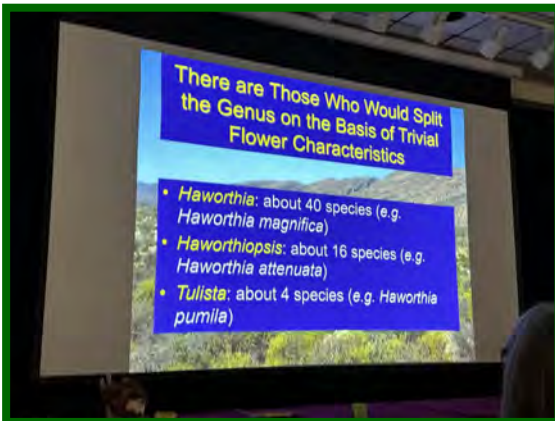
AND, we are thrilled to welcome four new members! Hearty PCSS welcomes to Charlie Ballard, Paul Benold, Bernie Mases and Tory Massie.

Bob Webb spoke and presented a slide show on Gasteria and Haworthia both in their native habitats and in cultivation. He spoke about the challenges of classifying Haworthia, including some of the controversy in doing so.

Bob's slides included awesome photos of plants in both genera .

Before his talk, Bob and Toni had a delicious assortment of Haworthia, Gasteria, and Sansevieria for sale. They had a long line of enthusiastic purchasers.

Be sure to check out Bob and Toni's website for information about their nursery and for very useful growing tips. https://aridlandswholesale.com/about_aridlands.html



Bob Webb presented a highly informative, and often humorous, talk about Haworthia and Gasteria.



2023 March Brag Plant Winners

Many thanks to Michelle Leung for preparing Brag Plant pages!

Intermediate Cactus

1st Charlyne Barad *Mammillaria plumosa*—1

Advanced Cactus

1st Moni Waiblinger *Mammillaria polythele*—2

Novice Succulent

1st Keith Umbreit *Aeonium decorum*—3

2nd Don DeTar *Euphorbia mammillaris* - 4

Intermediate Succulent

1st Paul Benold *Haworthia attenuata*—5

1st Paul Benold *Gasteria acinacifolia*—6

1st Paul Benold *Gasteria obliqua* 'Lawyers tongue' - 7

2nd Pauline Wong *Echeveria colorata*—8

3rd Paul Benold *Gasteria* cv. 'Little Warty' (*G. batesiana* x *G.* cv. 'Old Man Silver') - 9

Advanced Succulent

1st Robert Kopfstein *Yucca endlichiana*—10

2nd Moni Waiblinger *Sedeveria* 'Blue Elf' - 11

3rd Wanda Mallen *Gasteria* sp.—12

Plant of the Month – Intermediate

1st Charlyne Barad *Albuca spiralis*—13

Plant of the Month – Advanced

1st Lorie Johansen *Albuca spiralis*—14

Bowl Garden – Intermediate

1st Libby Salvo various species—15











News You Can Use

From Lorie Johansen: The 7 Best Plant Identifier Apps for iPhone and Android

<https://www.businessinsider.com/guides/tech/plant-identifier-app#:~:text=Plant%20identifier%20apps%20are%20plentiful,PlantNet%20are%20completely%20free%20options>

From Charlyne: iPhone has a built-in plant identifier that can be accessed according to info in this link: <https://www.livingetc.com/news/apple-visual-look-up>

Or use Google Lens <https://www.androidpolice.com/ways-to-access-google-lens-android/>

From Brita: Brita maintains our lost and found, so if you accidentally leave an item at a meeting, contact her.

From Wanda & Gary: Save the date for Coffee in the Garden on Saturday, May 20 !

Remember, 10:00 a.m. this Saturday, April 15, is our field trip to Peter's nursery, 404 Lor Lar Lane, Ramona, 92065.

Calling all photo enthusiasts!



We are in need of an official PCSS photographer to take pictures at meetings and events, and to photograph brag plant winners and entry slips for the newsletter.

All members are invited to take photos at meetings, etc., and send them to Charlyne for the newsletter. Thanks!



These *Haemanthus coccineus* (April Fools Paintbrush) were photographed by Lorie Johansen. in Cape Jervis, South Australia



San Diego Floral Association (SDFA)

As Robert mentioned at a recent meeting, PCSS has a membership in SDFA. I wrote to them asking for the link to their online newsletter and will publish it here as soon as they provide it.

Their website can be accessed at www.sdfloal.org

SDFA Quarterly
Meeting and Program
April 19, 2023
1:30 p.m.

THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

Join us to enjoy a special program and tour of
The Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon.

Free and Open to SDFA Members and Friends
Learn More SDFLORAL.ORG



President's Corner

April 2023

Robert Kopfstein

Various scientists and researchers have speculated since studies published in 1888 about the origin and development of the plants we call cactus (or cacti, if you prefer).

Currently there are more than 2,000 classified species of cactus. This branch of the plant kingdom apparently evolved when the climate of the earth changed during the Cenozoic Period: it became cooler and drier 30-50 million years ago, almost yesterday in geologic reckoning. Exactly how this emergence of the cactus family came about is open to speculation; there are no fossil records to trace the progression of the changes from the earliest ancestors of the genus *Pereskia*, which has both leaves and spines, to our modern genera of cactus.

We do know that these evolutionary changes happened after the American, Asian, and African continents drifted apart. As a result, cacti are exclusive to the Americas (one exception) and they range from western Canada to the tip of South America. The first that Europeans saw of cactus was when Christopher Columbus brought back samples of *Melocactus* from one of his voyages to the Caribbean. Along with the *Melocactus*, he also introduced the pineapple to Europe.

Like the pineapple almost all of the cacti are terrestrial; that is, they are plants that have roots that demand soil in order to thrive. But about 10% of the species are epiphytic.

In general, epiphytes are truly unique. Unlike most plants they are not dependent on growing in soil. Instead, they prefer growing in the tree canopy attached to the branches of – usually – mature trees. And unlike their terrestrial cousins they live in an environment that can get up to 400 centimeters (almost 158 inches) of rain per year. The rainforest where the epiphytic cacti live are often at altitude: 900-1500 meters (2500-4500 feet), located in Central and South America.

Some of the tree-dwelling genera, members of the sub-family cactoideae, include:

- Disocactus
- Epiphyllum
- Hatoria
- Lepismium
- Rhipsalis (The largest genus in this group)
- Schlumbergera
- Zygocactus

Rhipsalis oblonga;





Zamia pseudoparasitica

These genera join a plethora of other epiphytes in the forest canopy. There are ferns, bromeliads (including the well-marketed “air plants” which really are tillandsias, a genus of the bromeliads), orchids, lichens and mosses, and one cycad (*Zamia pseudoparasitica*).

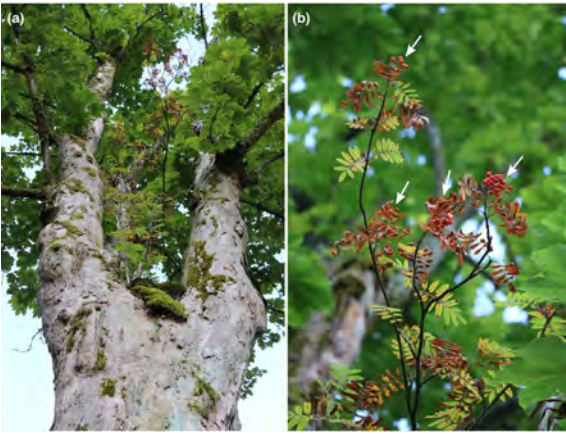
It is appropriate that the cycad has a species name that translates to “false parasite” because unlike parasites such as mistletoe, the epiphytes take nothing from the host plant. They simply use it as a perching

structure. This is not to say that epiphytes are totally benign; if enough of them are clinging to a branch, the sheer weight of the epiphytes can break that branch, and the whole lot comes crashing to the forest floor where likely most of the epiphytes will rot.

So how did a whole contingent of earth-growing cacti wind up living many feet above the ground, detached from soil nutrients, water and the stability afforded by a well-developed root system? There are multiple hypotheses how this came about, and there are multiple advantages and disadvantages to abandoning terra firma for a life in the tree canopy.

Clearly, in a rainforest the higher you go the more light there is. This is a big advantage. In the trees a plant is safe from grazers and browsers. On the downside there is less water; a tree branch or crotch cannot retain moisture like soil can. There are fewer nutrients readily available and there are wider fluctuations in the temperature. However, epiphytes have evolved to compensate for these negatives. The bromeliads have “tanks” to store water. The cacti have fleshy stems. The cacti have developed two kinds of roots: those that attach to the branch, and those that hang free to absorb ambient moisture. The bromeliads have specialized cells (trichomes) on their leaves that take in both water and nutrients. And last, cacti, orchids and bromeliads have the feature of Crassulacean Acidic Metabolism: they can manufacture food for themselves at night when the atmospheric conditions are less harsh.

If the epiphytic cacti are descended from terrestrial species, how did they manage to get up in the tree canopy in the first place? No one is absolutely sure how this came about but there is an idea that may be feasible. Epiphytes come in two varieties: obligate and accidental. The obligates are obliged to live attached to another structure. It could be a tree or even a rock and sometimes a wooden fence post or a rock.



Accidental Epiphytes

Accidental epiphytes can survive rooted in the earth, but if a seed happens to find itself in a hollow or a crotch of a tree where there is enough soil-like debris, it can take root and survive. In tropical Mexico I have seen opuntia growing twenty feet up in a tree.

Once you get a group of these accidental epiphytes high up in the canopy, over a very long period they could have evolved features that make living permanently in the canopy, scores of feet above the ground below possible..

And it is not any tree that will attract epiphytes. Botanists have noted that it is the old growth trees that attract the most epiphytes. This is because old trees have more branches, thus more crotches and angles; they also have more surface area, and there is increased possibility of cavities – perhaps caused by physical damage over the decades. Trees that go deciduous are also more likely to harbor epiphytes. Older trees are much more likely to have lichens and moss on their bark. The moss and lichen function as a welcome substrate for the trapping and germination of the seeds of cacti, bromeliads, and orchids. Therefore, if you go into a secondary or tertiary growth forest, you will likely see few epiphytes. When loggers select the oldest and largest trees, they not only are removing the forest’s patriarchs, but they are obliterating entire communities of epiphytes and the birds, reptiles and insects that depend on them for survival.

While they are not entirely safe from human predation, terrestrial cacti tend to thrive on land that is not suitable for development. Rocky soil, steep slopes, and ravines are not the best places for agricultural exploitation or to build houses, commercial buildings, or golf courses. Plus, desert areas are famous for extremes in temperature and scarcity of water. But even those limitations are not enough in the technological age of air conditioning and water imported for hundreds of miles. So even this “waste” land is under human threat.

A few years ago, I was in Mexico in the state of Jalisco just south of Puerto Vallarta. The region is called Cabo Corrientes and it is lush with plant and animal life. To make a living the local ranchers are clear cutting the forest to create pasture for cows. In one such field I saw a lone old tree with a huge canopy. The tree was completely covered in epiphytes, cacti, orchids, bromeliads, totally isolated in a sea of grass. It appeared to me as if it were a lifeboat, jammed with disparate survivors, clinging to their last best hope for life.

For more info: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ecm.1527?af=R>



Garden Brag Plants



Eleanor Hewitt's Kumara plicatilis



Deborah Pearson's ice plant



Deborah Pearson's red and orange flowered
Trichocereus grandiflorus





From Tom McCarter (clockwise from top left)

Dudleya pulverulenta (Chalk Dudleyea)

Mangave Blazing Saddles

Austrocylindropuntia subulata
'Cristata' (Crested Eve's Needle)



Aloe striata from Russel Ray's garden



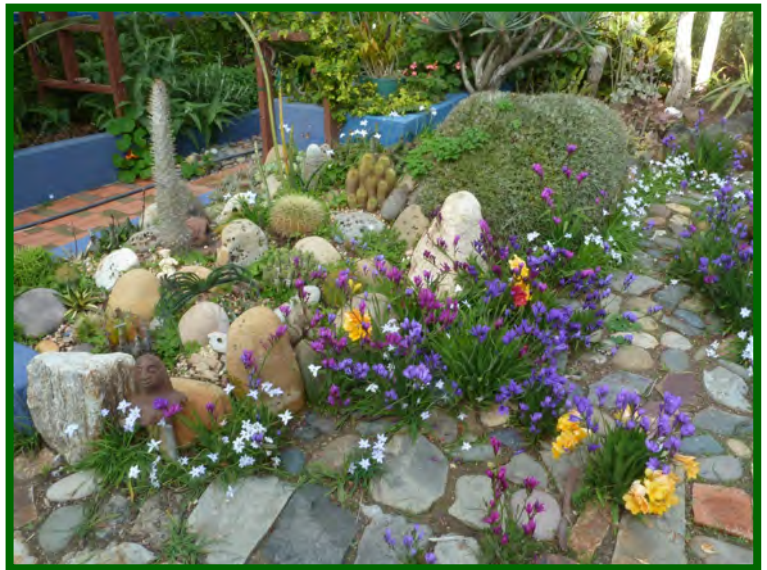
Bernie Mases standing next to his Aloe Tree



Martina Reed's **Acanthocereus tetragonus** (Fairy Castle Cactus)



Erik Gronborg's 10 foot tall Aloe thraskii against storm clouds



Erik Gronborg's The annual spring bloom of the naturalized Babianas and Freesias in the field

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 Rozycki
 Secretary—Moni Waiblinger
 Members at Large—Charlyne Barad, David Buffington, Lorie
 Johansen Event Coordinator/Newsletter—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—gnosishnursery@gmail.com
 Library—Barbara Raab
 Membership—Richard Miller



2023 Meetings, etc. Schedule

Apr. 15, Peter Walkowiak, open house & sale
 Apr. 22 Spring Festival
 May 20 Wanda & Gary Coffee in the Garden
 May 27 Nancy Carol Carter, Kate Sessions
 Jun. 24 Philippe de Vosjoli, Caudiciforms
 Jul. 22 Steve Plath, Desert Restoration
 Aug. 26 Picnic
 Sept. 23 Jeff Moore, Dudleyas
 October 29 TBD
 Nov. 19 Ivon Ramirez, The Hechtias of Mexico
 Dec. ? Holiday party

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

The North San Diego County C & S Club!

Membership Application

Membership: Please a category

New Member **OR** Renewal

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues w/color email newsletter	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues after June 30 th half-price	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Household Members	+ \$ 5 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Engraved PCSS Name Badge	+ \$ 7

Cash Check Charge **Total** _____

PLEASE PRINT! We must be able to read it!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY Please which, if any, we may include:

City Phone # Email **OR** None

Bring form & check or cash to a meeting, or mail it in.

Make checks payable to PCSS

Credit cards accepted at meetings.

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society or PCSS

P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033