

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 69, Number 5 June 2023

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Timely Info

Members who would like to submit articles and photos to the newsletter, please send them at least three weeks before each meeting. That includes garden brag plant photos and any articles of interest, news of events, etc. Thank you!

June Refreshment List

Annie Morgan Barbara Watze

Lorie Johansen Tammy Granados

Chris Barkley Tom McCarter

Please see last page for info about selling plants at meetings.

Meeting, Fourth Saturday, June 24

11:00 am—3:00 pm

Community Center, 210 E. Park Ave.

Escondido, CA

Brag Plant Table: Plants must be labeled and on the

table no later than 11:45 am to be judged.

Benefit drawing and exchange tables, and auction.
All three will be held at the June meeting.

Library will be available. Please return books from prior months' checkout.

Plant of the month: Echinopsis

Social Media

Website: www.palomarcactus.org

Instagram: palomar.cactus.succulent.org

Email: info@palomarcactus.org

Facebook for admin notices:

@palomarcactusandsucculentsociety

Facebook group for members:

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group

Plant of the Month 2023

July Euphorbia millii

August Picnic

September Tylecodon
October Mini Aloes

November Schlumbergera

June's Speaker Philippe de Vosjoli Subject: Caudiciforms and Pachyforms



Fockea edulis, 'Hottentot Bread'

Philippe de Vosjoli has raised caudiciform and pachycaul plants on and off since the 1970s when he first saw specimens of ant plants (*Hydnophytum and Myrmecodia* species) at Jerry Horne's nursery in Florida. In the 80s, while in graduate school, he partnered with Richard Wagner in a part-time business in Massachusetts that specialized in unusual plants, including caudexed succulents they imported from Africa. After moving to California in 1985 to pursue his interest in developing methods for keeping and breeding amphibians and reptiles, he attended several of the southern California cactus and succulent shows, which reignited his interest in these plants. As an author and publisher of a magazine and over 40 books on the husbandry and propagation of amphibians and reptiles, he decided to try his hand

at writing a plant book on caudiciforms and pachycauls titled *Pachyforms*, which became a category bestseller. During that time, he also befriended Rudy Lime, a pioneer of SOMA (Succulents as a Medium of Art, a term coined by Rudy) and they worked together to co-author the book *Bonsai Succulents*. He has just finished a new expanded edition of *Pachyforms*, which will be released in July. A small number of advanced copies will be available at the meeting.

Pachyforms: An Introduction to some of the most extraordinary plants on planet Earth.

I coined the term 'pachyforms' to describe plants that develop proportionately large and thick bodies, species that include caudiciform (forming caudex-like bodies) and pachycaul (thick trunked/body) succulents. Because many of these plants look otherworldly and like living sculptures, they have become increasingly popular in recent years, often making up a significant portion of cactus and succulent shows and ranking among the best investment plants. In fact, just adding the term caudex in an online plant description will increase the number of views or clicks in social media groups and digital marketplaces (whether the plant actually develops a caudex or not). Despite their popularity, many hobbyists and growers still lack foundational information on these species and the basic knowledge for successfully growing these plants long-term. These are some of the topics I will cover in my talk.

After a brief overview of pachyforms and their names (why some of the outdated names used in horticulture may in some cases be more practical than current scientific taxonomy), my talk will focus on physical and botanical features of these plants and aspects of their ecologies that are important for their cultivation but not widely known. That knowledge can increase long term success

and produce plants with characters that more closely resemble plants in nature. In addition to plants in cultivation, I plan to show plants in the wild photographed by Rob Skillin, a significant contributor to the expanded edition of *Pachyforms*.

In a world undergoing rapid change, we invariably must address the future of pachyforms. Habitat destruction, overexploitation, climate change, poaching, and increasingly restrictive legislation will all impact the future availability of many of these species. The final topic will be: What can we do to prevent many of these species from being lost to the hobby?

Here is a link to an excellent article on caudiciforms and pachyforms https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/files/2017/01/FatPlants-new.pdf

Dioscorea elephantipes
'Elephant's Foot/Turtle
Back'

PLANT OF THE MONTH JUNE 2023: ECHINOPSIS: Gender/Genus Dysphoria Lorie Johansen



Echinopsis oxygona

I will attempt to explain the genus confusion. The word Echinopsis was proposed by Karl Linney in 1737. Derived from the Latin "echinos" = hedgehog or sea urchin, and "opsis" = appearance, a reference to the plants dense coverings of spines. Initially, it was used to classify relatively small cacti that fit this description and didn't include columnar cacti. Most columnar cactus then belonged to the genus Cereus. The genus Trichocereus has been in use since 1909 with the genus first being proposed in 1905 as a subgenus of the Cereus genus. In 1974 a botanist named Friedrich concluded that Trichocereus and Echinopsis flowers were of the same type. His argument was that the ovary and floral tube lacked spines but possessed hairs, had a diffused type of nectary and two series of stamens. Due to Friedrich's conclusions, all species in the Trichocereus genus were reclassified into Echinopsis

In the years that followed there have been several criticisms of this taxonomy change. Supporters of the Trichocereus classification argue that columnar cactus should not be lumped into the same genus as the small, clumping species that Echinopsis is typically known for. Molecular biology researchers continue to explore the differences between these species to try and present a scientific justification for reclassifying the columnar varieties back into Trichocereus or another distinct genus. Echinopsis range from very small, flattened-globose plants to quite large, treelike giants. As a result, there is a long list of synonymous names for many of the species. Some synonyms refer to other synonyms that refer to a subspecies of some seemingly distinct species.

To add more confusion, Lobivia is included in the genus Echinopsis. However, it is not at all uncommon for growers to use all three names in discussion even if their labels read Echinopsis. This usage reflects the inexact situation that the larger, columnar members are distinguished as Trichocereus while Lobivia includes a select group of smaller, not-as-spiny plants which typically flower from low on the plant. This leaves the bulk of plants referred to as Echinopsis to be mostly spiny, ribbed, globose plants. The reclassification also caused some naming clashes. Prior to the merge Echinopsis bridgesii and Trichocereus bridgesii were both classified as distinct species. When Trichocereus bridgesii had to be reclassified it had to take on an entirely new name, which is why it is now called Echinopsis lageniformis.

Echinopsis is widespread in central South America and includes well over a hundred species. In cultivation since the 1800s, the straight species has its own appeal, with a wide range of characteristics, but the dazzling hybrids are BIG, BOLD, AND BRIGHT! What ties these plants together are the very large, showy flowers which are all very similar in structure – funnel shaped, with hairy/wooly scaled floral tubes that give rise to hairy, globular fruit filled with a soft, mushy pulp. The flowers seldom last more than a single day and may be diurnal or nocturnal depending on the species. The stunning 4-8" flowers that can appear in waves from April to October. As plants mature, fuzzy buds appear around the crown and along the vertical ribs. These rest in a "waiting period" until prime conditions spur on a flush of growth. The buds can respond to

heat and water within days and will burst open in unison on warm mornings. Luminous, sweetly scented, and ethereal, each bloom seems to be lit from within. Colors span the rainbow, from vivid red and pink to sherbet-toned pastels and sunflower yellow.

Cultural Requirements: These summer growers appreciate full sun, excellent drainage, and fertilizer in the summer. Allow them to dry out in between thorough waterings. They are generally pest and disease free providing the soil mix is fast draining and watering practices are followed to prevent rot.

Offsets tend to cluster around the base of the mother plants which provide the opportunity to propagate. Repot and divide in the growing season.



Echinopsis huascha

RESOURCES:

https://www.finegardening.com/article/growing-echinopsis-in-the-southwest

https://cactiguide.com/cactus/?start=120&genus=Echinopsis&species

https://succulentalley.com/echinopsis/

https://cactusculture.com.au/learning-centre/trichocereus-or-echinopsis?rq=echinopsis









Echinopsis chamaecerus

2023 May Brag Plant Winners

Intermediate Cactus

1st Kevin Smith Gymnocalycium baldianum—1

2nd David Buffington Frailea pygmaea v. gloriosa—2

3rd David Buffington Turbinocarpus pseudopectinatus—3



Advanced Cactus

1st Robert Kopfstein Lobivia saltensis—4

2nd Lorie Johansen Echinopsis chamaecereus—5





Novice Succulent

1st Keith Umbreit Pelargonium carnosum—6

2nd Pat Hammer Gasteria sp.—7

2nd Don DeTar Euphorbia mammillaris—8

3rd Pat Hammer Haworthia emelyae — 9









Intermediate Succulent

1st Charlyne Barad Echeveria agavoides 'Ebony' - 10

2nd Charlyne Barad Crassula nudicaulus 'Devil's Horns' - 11

2nd Pauline Wong Echeveria colorata —12

3rd Kevin Smith Adromischus triflorus—13

3rd Paul Benold Gasteria 'Little Warty' - 14











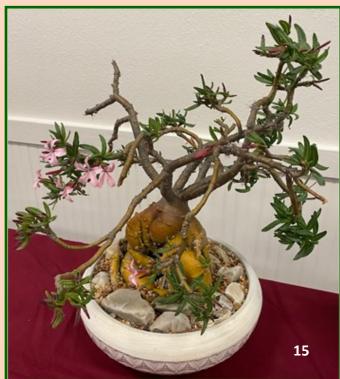
Advanced Succulent

1st Moni Waiblinger Pachypodium succulentum—15

2nd Mike Nelson Euphorbia enlopa—16

2nd Mike Nelson Sinningia leucotricha—17

3rd Mike Nelson Euphorbia inermis—18





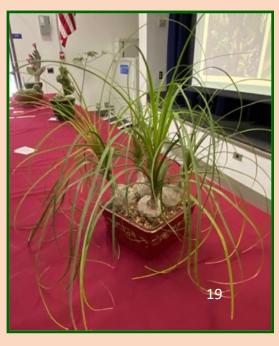




Plant of the Month - Advanced

1st Moni Waiblinger Beaucarnia recurvata—19

2nd Lorie Johansen Beaucarnia recurvata—20





<u> Dish Garden – Intermediate</u>

1st Kevin Smith Echinolobivia Hybrid, Rabeia albinota,

Trichodiadema densum, Titanopsis calcarea, & Stomatium sp.—21

<u>Dish Garden – Advanced</u>

1st Moni Waiblinger Euphorbia—22





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President's Corner

June 2023 Robert Kopfstein

In last month's President's Corner the focus was on the cacti of the Caribbean region. This month my intent was to feature the succulents that are endemic to that same semi-tropical and tropical region. However, I was surprised to discover that there are few indigenous succulents in the Caribbean. The plant community consists mainly of sedges, grasses, herbaceous flora, shrubs and trees. The bulk of the succulents in the Americas call Mexico, Central and South America home.

There is an exception: agaves. In the Caribbean region there are many species that are native. If you google "List of Agave Species" you will find an extensive listing of the named agaves of the western hemisphere—like cacti, agaves are exclusively new world plants. Counting roughly there are 44 named species that are native to the Caribbean (In my count I excluded the coasts of Mexico, Central America, Venezuela and Columbia). So agaves constitute a significant presence of succulent plants in the Caribbean.

The word agave is derived from the Greek "agauos" which translates as "illustrious noble" which is a reference to the prodigious inflorescence produced by these monocarpic succulents. Being center bloomers, once they flower, they slowly decline and die, but not before they produce either scads of seed, or hundreds of plantlets, or several pups or offsets.

Agave was first listed as a separate genus by Linneaus (Cart Von Linne) in 1745 in his book *Hortus Upsaliensis*. Linnaeus was a professor at the University of Uppsala in Sweden, and he is credited with devising the binomial system of nomenclature: Genus (always capitalized) and species (not capitalized).

A partial list of agaves includes:

Agave angustifolia, "the Caribbean agave," a plant found throughout the Caribbean as well as Mexico, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. More on this economically important plant later.

Agave anomala Trel, found in Cuba, San Salvador Island, and the Bahamas.

Agave eggersiana an endangered species found near St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. This agave is threatened by tourist development—hotels, golf courses and the like, as well as feral pigs and goats.



Agave eggersiana

Agave cacuiTrel found on Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Isla Margarita and northern Venezuela.

Agave acularis Trel found in Cuba.

Agave missianum from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Agave maria-patriciae, A very small population exists in the oak forest in the mountains of the Sierra de Monte de Oro in the Mexican state of Veracruz which borders the Caribbean.

Agave caribaeicola Trel which is native to the West Indies. The species name means Caribbean dweller.

Agave arubescens from Aruba.

Agave bahamana Trel from the Bahamas.

Agave harrisii Trel from Jamaica.

Many more Caribbean species of agave exist, and it is interesting to note that some of the species names are derived from place names in the Caribbean region.

You may have noticed above the notation Trel after the species name of some of the agave listed. This indicates that the botanist William Trelease (1857-1945) was the one responsible for scientifically describing the plant. Trelease is credited with describing over 2500 taxa, including 192 names of agaves, 60 of which are still recognized as valid. He authored the book *Agave in the West Indies* in 1912. This book is still available in reprint and is considered a classic. (The other study of agaves is by Howard Scott Gentry, *The Agaves of Continental North America*, usually referred to simply as "Gentry.") Trelease was the director of the Missouri Botanic Garden 1889-1912 and subsequently became a professor and researcher at the University of Illinois, 1913-1926.

Practically speaking, agaves are an important part of the economy. Agave sisalana, possibly a hybrid of agave angustifolia, originated in the southernmost state of Mexico, Chiapas, according to Gentry. This plant is the source of sisal, which has a myriad of industrial uses, the primary ones related to rope and twine. Interestingly the main producers are in Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya, and Madagascar. This agave clearly has global importance.

It is difficult to talk about the influence of agave on society without mentioning tequila and mescal. The distilling of the fermented juice of the roasted "bola" or base of the agave has



Agave maria-patriciae

become a major industry. For tequila the agave is A. tequiliana, a medium sized blue species that is a very attractive plant. Its cousin agave angustifolia, however, is also very important.

In the mountains east of Hermosillo, the capitol of the state of Sonora, is a small town called Bacanora, founded in 1627, which gives its name to a liquor which is potent enough that Boeing or Airbus might consider it as an alternate fuel for their jumbo jets. When we first visited Bacanora in the mid-1990's there was no hotel, no restaurant, no supermarket, but the distillate of the local "maguey" or agave (A. angustifolia, the Caribbean agave) was quite well known. But to buy any of this local aquardiente you had to go knock on the door of the local bootlegger, who sold it in two liter recycled Coca-Cola bottles.

One of the locals introduced us to Bacanora with a special infusion of uvalama fruit (Vitex mollis). The uvalama tree grows wild in Sonora and Sinaloa and it is used medically as an anti-inflammatory. It is the size of a large cherry and has the flavor of a plum, slightly acidic.

Since the year 2000 the Mexican government has recognized Bacanora as an official "domaine" just like Tequila. No other region can use the name. So now you can buy Bacanora, plain, aged, or infused at your local liquor store. Just be sure to keep the liquid away from any open flame . . .



Wanda and Gary's Garden Tour

On May 20, many of us partook of Wanda and Gary's kind invitation to tour their magnificent garden. We entered on a driveway lined with an assortment of fascinating plants, each one in perfect condition and interspersed with delightfully whimsical sculptures and Gary's cleverly made birdhouses.. Read on for a synopsis from Wanda about how their amazing garden came to be.

From Wanda: We were living in Orange County and looking for a change and more land to grow more plants. I read an ad in the L.A. Times for a new development in Fallbrook which featured onestory homes, minimum 1-1/4 acre lots and no HOA. We checked it out and weren't sure until the house we are now in fell out of escrow and the sales agent thought it would be perfect for us. She was right.

Somehow we were never daunted at the prospect of landscaping a two-acre blank slate, we just dug in. The first year Gary set about building a greenhouse and several shade structures, both for human comfort and to expand the possible plant palette. The greenhouse was needed because we discovered that being in a low spot, frosty winters were to be expected. A wall was installed for privacy along Gird Road, a gate was commissioned with a local artist, and the house was painted by Gary its current terra cotta hue, which turned out to be a great backdrop for plants.

Early on we focused on putting in trees, somehow intuitively knowing that they were important to ground the garden, provide shade, and just use up some of all that space! We joined several garden clubs to learn more and made frequent visits to local nurseries just to see what caught our eye. We did some research that whatever we bought was cold hardy as that was a major concern. Early on we covered what we thought were sensitive plants, like aloes, but in recent years we have forgone doing that and the plants have all survived, so now we only protect some of my tropical plants that need to be in the greenhouse

I believe that a basic part of making a garden interesting is to make it visually appealing by using different levels, adding rocks of all sizes, including boulders, and of course garden art and color. I discovered I have an eye for doing this and it has been a lot of fun. Gary does the heavy lifting of planting, putting in the irrigation and maintaining the garden, which is basically a full-time job.

Anyone with specific questions about particular plants or anything else is free to contact me at wandamallen@roadrunner.com.







Wanda and Gary's Garden Tour

Everything in Gary and Wanda's garden bespeaks an artist's touch and hours of devoted care to plants, grounds, and accessories. From the dazzling entry gate, an art installation in itself, to the meticulously tended plants and carefully laid out grounds, everything is perfection. Wanda and Gary were very gracious hosts, accompanying us through their backyard wonderland and explaining how they grew their exceptional collection of cacti and succulents, how they were grouped, and how their growing environments were designed to meet the requirements of each species.



Colorful gateway to Wanda and Gary's succulent Garden of Eden



A welcoming committee of elegant cacti



This colorful roadrunner guided our eyes to luscious eye candy cacti clustered irresistibly along the driveway.



An assortment of paths beckoned us to explore the magical garden.



One could almost hear this little choir sing!



One of Gary's fanciful birdhouses overlooks a bevy of happy barrel cacti, while a dragon protects an armful of Monkey Tail cacti.



The garden is filled with serene places to relax in glorious settings.



Wanda and Gary's artistic abilities are evident in the many vignettes throughout the garden.



And then there were the magnificent plants!



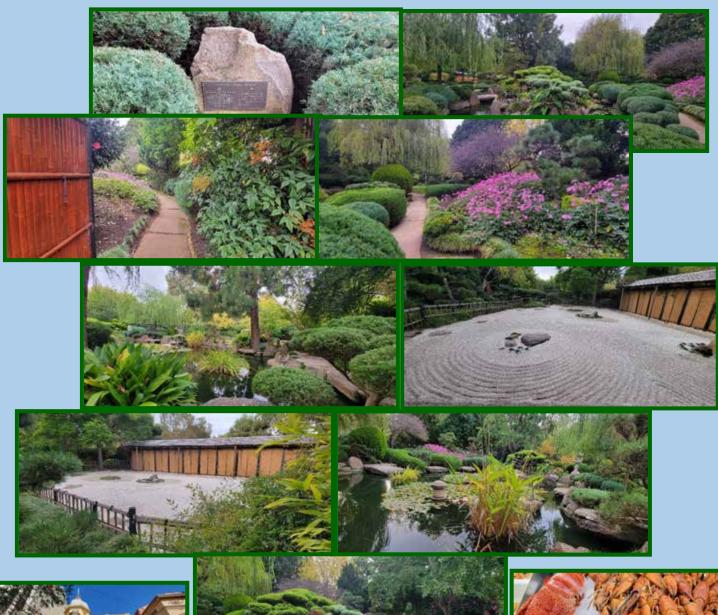
Amazing Australia/Himeji Gardens in Adelaide

Lorie Johansen



Our love affair with Australia began in 2019 with a month-long trip to Queensland. Since then, we have returned twice with the most recent trip exploring Victoria and South AU. I would like to share the beauty through the gardens we explored.

Adelaide is a marvelous walking city with lovely gardens within large parks. We were walking through Park 18, one of the southern parts of the Adelaide Park Lands and came upon the Himeji Gardens. A gift from Adelaide's sister city, Himeji; it's a traditionally styled Japanese Garden that opened in 1985 with traditional Japanese Garden principles, but with adaptation to the Adelaide climate and plant availability.



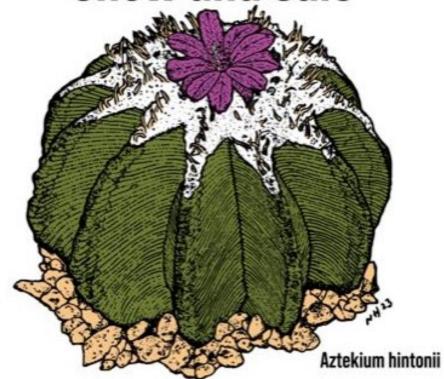


Pedestrian mall that is iconic in Adelaide



Popular yabbies, like mini-lobsters

Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale



August 4th, 2023 - Sale 8AM-5PM August 5th & 6th, 2023 - Show & Sale 8AM-5PM

Los Angeles County Arboretum - www.intercityshow.com

Hosted by the Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Societies

Instagram: @intercityshow Facebook Group: intercityshow
We encourage you to bring your own box to the sale



2023 CSSA Upcoming Activities

JUNE 16-18 SAN FRANCISCO SUCCULENT & CACTUS SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE

Fri. member-only preview, Info. schedule & details at www.sfsucculent.org San Francisco County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122

JUNE 23-25 CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE – RESERVATIONS REQUIRED SAT-SUN

Plant sales start June 23 thru June 25 10am-5pm Show opens June 24 thru June 25 10am-5pm Info. Reservations- www.huntington.org, Show/Sale- call Nick Renteria 323-428-2215 Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

JULY 12-16 CSSA CONVENTION INFO. www.cactusandsucculentsociety.org

JULY 21-22 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SALE

Fri. Noon-6pm,Sat. 9am-4pm Info. call 657-549-0702 1000 S. State College Bl.,(Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA

AUG. 4-6 INTER-CITY SHOW AND SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Info. www.intercityshow.com or call 805-264-6262
Plant sales 8am-5pm daily, Show open 8am-5pm Aug. 5-6
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

SEP. 2 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM

9am-3pm RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Info. Reservations- www.huntington.org, Symposium-call 626-405-3571 Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

OCT. 1 LONG BEACH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION

1pm-3:30pm Info. call 714-553-6914 Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA

OCT. 10 CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE 9AM-4PM

558 N. Ventu Park Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 Info. www.conejocss.com or conejocss@hotmail.com

NOV. 3-5 HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED SAT-SUN

10am-5pm Info. Reservations- www.huntington.org, Sale call 626-405-3571 Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

Webinars

The CSSA website lists several webinars. For info about them please see their website.

https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/

Current Board and Volunteers

President—Robert Kopfstein—president@palomarcactus.org

Vice President—Dean Karras gnosisnursery@gmail.com

Past President, Meeting set-up—Brita Miller

Treasurer—Teri Shusterman treasurer@palomarcactus.org

Assistant Treasurer—Liz Rozycki

Secretary—Moni Waiblinger

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

Event Coordinator/Charlyne Barad eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

Newsletter—Charlyne Barad, Michelle Leung eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

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 & Plant of the Month—Lorie Johansen,

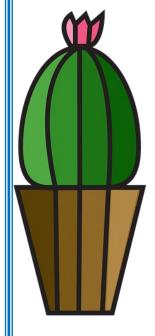
Instagram—Dean Karras—gnosisnursery@gmail.com

Library—Barbara Raab librarian@palomarcactus.org

Membership—Richard Miller

Refreshments—Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry

Website—Annie Morgan, Russel Ray





2023 Meetings, etc. Schedule

Jun. 24 Philippe de Vosjoli, Caudiciforms and Pachyforms

Jul. 22 Steve Plath, Desert Restoration

Aug. 26 Picnic

Sept. 23 Jeff Moore, Dudleyas

October 28, TBD

Nov. 18 Ivon Ramirez, The Hechtias of Mexico

Dec. 16 Holiday party

Members Can Sell Plants at Meetings

- Plants must be potted, clean and pest-free.
- Use two sticks per plant.

You must have 1 stick with your name and the sale price

There should be a 2nd stick with the plant name

Other related items must have a stick or tag that can be removed by the cashier for accounting purposes

To donate proceeds to PCSS, write PCSS instead of name on price stick.

- The seller will be sent a check for the 80% of their sales.
- PCSS will receive 20%...
- PCSS will collect CA sales taxes...
- Place items on the cashier's table..