

Cactus Corner

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 69, Number 8

September 2023

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2023 Meetings, etc. Schedule

11:00 am—3:00 pm

Community Ctr, 210 E. Park Ave, Escondido

Sept. 23 Jeff Moore, Dudleyas

Sept. 23, Succulent pumpkin workshop

October 28, Kevin Smith, Pests in the Succulent Garden & Wanda Mallen, Hoyas

Nov. 18 Ivon Ramirez, The Hechtias of Mexico
(Zoom)

Dec. 16 Holiday party

A Note about Pumpkin Availability

As of today's writing (9/10) Trader Joe's, Sprouts, and Walmart have pumpkins for sale.

September Excitement!



Starting at 10:45 at the Sept. meeting, create a gorgeous pumpkin centerpiece just in time for the fall holidays!

Moni and Libbi will show us how it's done

Here's what you'll need:

- A pumpkin, your name on bottom
- Plant clippings, & some to share if you have enough
- Glue gun, if you have one, preferably low heat (Be sure your name is on it.)
- Glue sticks
- Any embellishments you wish to add such as berries, ribbons, silk flowers etc.
- Club will provide Sphagnum moss & additional cuttings.

Moni said that even if you didn't sign up for the pumpkin project, it's ok to bring and decorate one.

Just please try to bring plant clippings.



September Speaker: Jeff Moore

Topic: Dudleyas

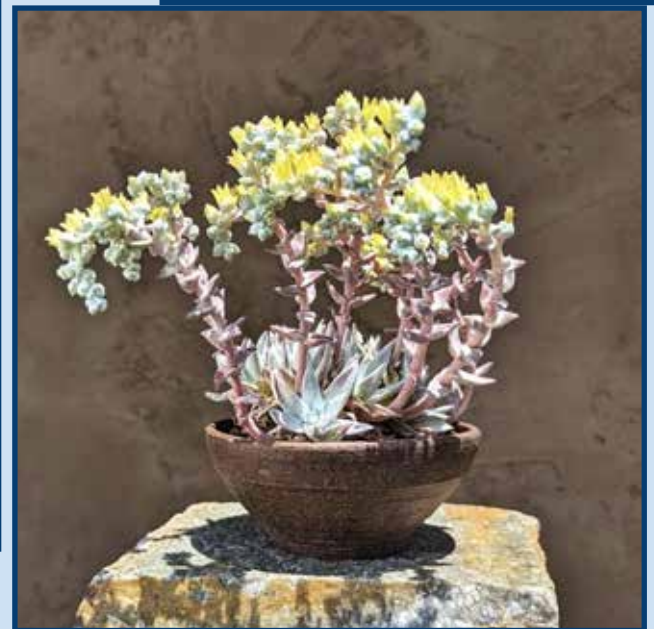
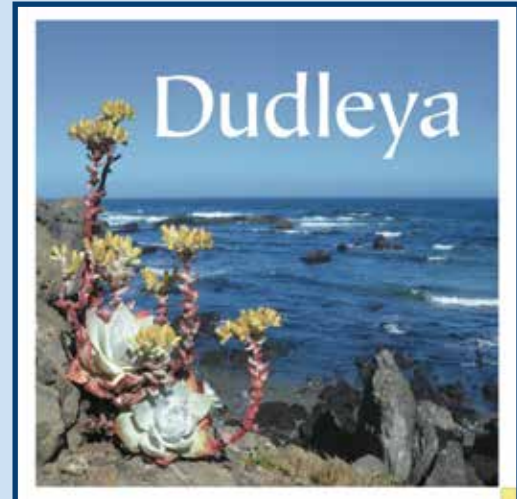


My talk and PowerPoint presentation will follow the flow of the new *Dudleya* book that I have co-written with Jeremy Spath and Kelly Griffin (projected book arrival date will hopefully be December 2023). It will cover most, if not all, of the currently described species of this California and Baja genus. Images will show plants in habitat as well as cultivation, with advice on growing plants in captivity and an emphasis on conservation.

Images were taken by all three authors as well as contributors from the Dudleya community. Kelly and Jeremy have visited and photographed nearly all species *in situ*—most of the habitat photos are quite stunning,

often with beautiful ocean or cliffside backdrops.

Bio: I have owned and operated Solana Succulents near San Diego for over 30 years. This *Dudleya* book will be my sixth succulent book.



Dudleya



Dudleya farinosa Britton & Rose

Shelf life is, possibly indefinite

Dudleya farinosa was described by Nathaniel Lord Britton and Joseph Harlan Rose in 1903. The plants are typically found on rocks just above the zone of the crashing waves from Monterey County, California, north to as far as Contra Costa County, Oregon, with the type locality being near Carmel Bay, Ca. They can be very striking and sturdy plants in their native zones, and will produce a scarlet red inflorescence, topped with pale yellow-petaled flowers. Beauty can sometimes be a curse, as in recent years *Dudleya farinosa* has become very desirable in the succulent trade, to the point that many localities have been targeted by unscrupulous poachers. In fact, several notable arrests have been made following the illegal collecting of these plants (see page 12). Though mature plants can have quite an amazing beauty, once they are dug up they typically begin a slow death, or at least become a shadow of how they once appeared.

Dudleya

Despite this plant's specific name referring to its white and powdery appearance, there are quite a few green populations of this plant. Similar to the green forms of *D. distans*, green *D. farinosa* can take on a beautiful red blush around the spring/summer blooming season, as seen below in both color forms along the Northern California coast.



Dudleya farinosa acquires much of its beauty from cold salty Pacific Ocean breezes, cool nights, and wet winters—elements that are almost impossible to mimic fully in cultivation, unless you are fortunate to live in such an area. Growing *Dudleya farinosa* from seed is easy and rewarding, and you'll be gifted with much stronger plants, better suited to cultivated conditions. Many California native plant nurseries now offer excellent *D. farinosa* plants, and this species is also one of the easiest ones to grow well in cultivation, either in the ground or a decorative vessel. Applaud to those growers, as their offerings take a lot of the poaching pressure off the spectacular areas they inhabit. Let's keep those lands and plants the special places they are for future generations to appreciate, and grow stable plants from seed.

Dudleya farinosa forms a stem of approximately 1-3cm, typically branched, reaches 4-20 cm across with green to very glaucous leaves. The petaloid leaves up to 33 mm are bracts on a 30-55 cm inflorescence, branching, and holding pale yellow petals from June to August. Chromosomes: 2n=44



Being a *Dudleya* enthusiast goes way beyond the aesthetic appreciation of the beauty of the plants alone. It is also about where they grow and getting out to see and photograph them. *Dudleya* field expeditions can take you to some magical places—the sea cliffs above the Big Sur coast, remote rocky outcrops along the Baja coastline, the Channel Islands, island seascapes, deserts, even the high Sierra Nevada. *Dudleya* spotting is sort of like an Easter egg hunt—exciting when you see them and a great excuse to get off the couch and out there into what's left of our west coast natural habitat.

Left: *Dudleya* complexes along the Big Sur cliffs. Photo by Tyson Chandler. Right: A lovely *Dudleya farinosa* near San Quentin, Baja California. Photo by Julian Dowd

Dudleya



Left: *Dudleya farinosa* (aka *D. abjecta*) up cascades displays many years of slow growth. Above: *Dudleya farinosa*. Below left: *Dudleya farinosa* green form with *D. rubra* and *D. violacea* variegata in northern Baja. Facing page: *Dudleya farinosa* near Punta Banda.



In Loving Memory of Pat Hammer



In early September, we lost our friend, fellow plant lover, and talented artist. Pat's artistry in making her amazing topiaries was unsurpassed. She won Best in Show for her dog topiary at our 2022 October Show.



Best in Show honors went to this cutie.

From Liz: She loved her garden! Every plant had a history, story, or memory associated with it. She always said it gave her such pleasure to gaze at her yard and to be able to work in it.

She was enthralled with her "Italian Garden Goddess" - her name for the last life-sized piece she did. She was so appreciative of her frame maker and the artistry he showed, especially the adornment on the goddess's copper apron!



BRAG PLANTS, PLANT OF THE MONTH & GARDEN BRAG PHOTOS

RULES & INFORMATION

PCSS members are eligible and encouraged to enter their plants!

This is a great way to show plants before entering them in the Spring Festival in April and the Annual Show.

➤ **Categories:** Cactus, Succulents, Dish Gardens, and Plant of the Month.

➤ **Levels:** plants will be judged at each level in each category. Levels are:

- **NOVICE** - for the more casual or beginning grower who has won 10 blue ribbons or less. Use **GREEN** entry slips.
- **INTERMEDIATE** - for the collector who is beyond Novice, but not yet Advanced. Use **YELLOW** entry slips.
- **ADVANCED** - for the long-term collector whose plants are exceptional. Use **WHITE** entry slips.

All plants MUST be in place and labeled by 11:45am to be eligible for judging.

- There will be members there to help you with the category and names of your plants if you are not sure.
- Entries must be in the possession of exhibitors for at least six months.
- One plant per pot unless entered as a dish garden.
- Plants must be clean – no weeds/debris, healthy – no insects or disease, and should have top dressing.
- A plant is **not** eligible if it has won 1st place (Brag Plants, Spring Festival or Annual Show) in the past six months.
- Members may enter five plants at a time.
- You may show a nice plant in a terra cotta, ceramic or decorative plastic pot, but **NO nursery pots**.
 - ❖ Judges consider how containers and staging affect the overall presentation in their decisions.
 - ❖ Twice a year, January and July, judges will ignore the plant's pot and staging and judge strictly on a plant's merits. During those two months only, you may show in a clean plastic nursery pot.

➤ **GARDEN BRAG PHOTOS - for the Newsletter**

This non-judged category is to share your plants at home that are in the ground, in pots too large to bring in, or those that bloom in between meetings. This is also the place to share special sections of your garden or greenhouse, as members love to see what you have done to give them ideas for their own gardens.

Send photos to Charlyne Barad, charbar6000@gmail.com. Please include your name, the plants name(s) and other information to be included. Also, please check the spelling online so that Charlyne doesn't have to. Photos may be cropped and will be used at the discretion of the newsletter editor.

➤ **Point Structure for Entries and Winners**

- **Brag Plants** - 3 points for 1st place ~ 2 points for 2nd place ~ 1 point for 3rd place ~ *plus* 1 point for just entering
- **Garden Brag Photos** - 2 points for each photo that is published, up to three plants.

Note: Occasionally, the PCSS Board may request that a member move up to the next level up (i.e., from Novice to intermediate), because of the excellent quality of their plants. This is to keep the playing level fair and not dissuade other members from entering their plants.

➤ **GIFT PLANTS** - Members who earn 5+ points will receive a gift plant at our December Holiday Party! Those with the most points will get first choice, so the more plants you bring in, the more likely you will receive the gift plant of your choice.



Plant of the Month—Tylecodon

Lorie Johansen



Tylecodon is a genus of 45+ species in the Crassulaceae family native to South Africa and Namibia. They occur in habitats that vary from the rocky coastal shores, rock crevices in mountainous terrain, and sandy, hilly terrain. The name comes from the Greek words “tylos,” meaning “callus,” and “kodon,” meaning “bell,” referring to the shape of the flowers.

All species were formerly included in the genus Cotyledon. Tylecodon is an anagram of the original genus which was split in the 1970’s mainly because of leaf arrangement. In Cotyledon, leaves are arranged in opposite, decussate pairs (pairs of leaves follow each other at right angles). Tylecodon leaves show a spiral arrangement and are deciduous in the summer.

Tylecodon paniculatus, locally known as the botterboom ('Butter Tree') is famous for its fat, gnarled trunk that can be cut with a dinner knife. This perennial succulent shrublet has stout, peeling baobab-like stems up to 4 feet, occasionally to 10 feet tall, making them the largest of the genus. The bright green, paddle-shaped leaves appear after flowering. Flowers are borne in clusters towards the tips of the thick, fleshy stems, and branched stems with nodding, urn-shaped flowers. Flower color varies from greenish-orange through bright orange to dark red or purplish red. With time, the main trunk becomes very thick and is characteristically greenish-yellow to olive green and covered with a thin, peeling, yellow, papery bark. During the hot summer months, it conserves energy by photosynthesizing through the stems. It has a weak and shallow root system for its size.

Tylecodon exhibit great variation in adaptive strategies for coping with a dry environment. Some species occur on sheer precipices, well out of reach of game and browsing stock. There are a few geophytic species of Tylecodon that protect themselves from desiccation in the dry season by hiding underground. Tylecodon are also adapted to avoid animal predation by being poisonous and must be kept away from animals. Some Tylecodons are eradicated by South African farmers to protect livestock and, therefore, are endangered in their habitat.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:

Perfect for beginners, Tylecodon are not difficult plants to grow and are relatively free of diseases and pests. They can easily be cultivated outdoors in warm to temperate, winter rainfall regions where frost is not severe. The dwarf species, however, are better cultivated indoors, containerized and kept in a greenhouse where water and temperatures can be controlled. Plants are best cultivated in a well-drained, sandy, mineral-rich soil. Water them sparingly in winter and less to almost nothing in summer.

They can survive direct sunlight exposure without any problems but will grow beautifully when in partial shade. They are winter growers and will look best then. Use liquid fertilizer sparingly in the winter.



Lorie's specimen

Tylecodons are easily propagated from stem and leaf cuttings or seed. Stem cuttings are best taken during the autumn and should first be allowed to dry in a cool place for a few days.

REFERENCES:

<https://worldofsucculents.com/grow-care-tylecodon/>

<https://www.giromagicactusandsucculents.com/tylecodon-giromagi-cactus-succulents/>

<https://asucculent.com/31-types-of-popular-tylecodon-pictorial-guide/>

http://www.lilife.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Crassulaceae/33415/Tylecodon_paniculatus



Tylecodon paniculatus in habitat



Tylecodon nolteei (From the Web)



Julian Duval's Tylecodon paniculatus
Just waking up.



Tylecodon reticulatis (From the Web)

shows urn-shaped flowers

Plant of the Month Photos from Members—Thank You!



From Keith Unbreit



David Buffington's
Tylecodon paniculatus (dormant)



John Barkley's

Left: *T. paniculatus* , Right: *T. walichii*



From Russel Ray

Left: *Tylecodon dinteri*

Right: *Tylecodon paniculatus*.



August Picnic Recap



What a delightful day it was! We had great company and delicious food in a glorious setting! We all owe a debt of gratitude to Kevin Smith for facilitating the event. Kevin got permission from the college for us to use the area. He rounded up large tables and folding chairs for our use. He also spent lots of time cleaning up the area of debris from Hurricane Hillary. It was Kevin that cleaned out the tool shed and made part of it into a bathroom. Without his efforts, we would have had to walk over to the campus just to use a restroom. He volunteers around 20 hours/week pruning, planting, and cleaning up around the plants. Recently, water has been turned off at the garden because of construction on campus, so he has been carting water there from his home. Kevin even brought several boxes of cuttings from the garden for PCSS members to take home. Thank you, Kevin!





Kevin guided us on a walk through the garden.



1962-2011
 Palomar Cactus and Succulent Garden
 was designed and planted by the founding members of the
 Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society:
 Mitch Beauchamp, Al Chamberlain, Allis De Rego, Gilbert Garcia,
 Mildred Gregory, Alfred Hansen, Mrs. Augusta Hansen,
 Charles E. Harbison, Helen Hegyi, Orie Ims, Dorothy Miller,
 Elmer Peterson, and Fred Servatius.
 Their efforts will be forever appreciated.

The Garden was funded, maintained and expanded for 49 years
 under the supervision of dedicated PCSS members who served as
 managers and organized member volunteer workdays. Among
 those managers we thank: Art Holden, Katie Macdonald, Al
 Resnick, Betty Wollrich, and Garden Manager Richard Henderson
 who has dedicated 15 years of service to the Garden since 1997.

The thousands of specimens contained within the Garden were
 donated by the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society in 2011. We hope
 that the Garden will continue to expand and flourish for students, staff,
 faculty and the public to enjoy for many years to come.





Ye famous shed!



History of the Huntington Gardens

Robert Kopfstein

According to the Bible (Genesis), gardening goes back to the beginning of mankind. Adam was apparently given the task of having dominion over all of God's creation, especially a garden that He had planted "eastward in Eden."

Fast forward some millennia and as a gift to his wife Amytia, Nebuchanezzar (605-562 BCE) built an eighty-foot, five-story structure out of brick which he planted with exotic specimens from all around the known world. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon became one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Unfortunately, it was destroyed in an earthquake in 226 BCE, and all that remains is an archeological site about 60 miles south of Baghdad.

In the 14th century AD under the patronage of the emperor, a famous garden designer and Buddhist monk named Muso Soseki planted a moss garden around the Kokedera temple in Kyoto, Japan. There are 120 types of moss growing in this garden, and it is still a very popular place for tourism as well as a designated world heritage site.



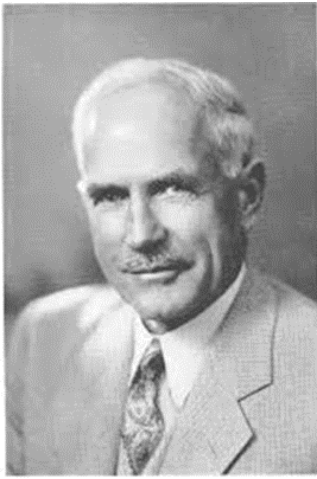
Lancelot "Capability" Brown

Capability Brown (1716-1783) happens to be one of my favorite landscape designers, not because I am particularly fond of English gardens, but because of his name. At baptism he was given the name Lancelot, but when he would visit the country estates of the very wealthy, he would comment that the land had "capability," so much so that people began to call him Capability Brown.

He became England's foremost gardener, designing more than 170 parks, surrounding country estates, many still in existence today.

By the 1760's he was earning the equivalent of more than one million dollars per year. King George III appointed him master gardener at Hampton Court Palace in 1764.

Obviously, it helps if horticulturists and gardeners have a wealthy and powerful patron. William Hertrich (1878-1966) must have known this rule of thumb, because shortly after he immigrated in 1901 to the United States from Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany, he applied for a gardener position at the Los Robles Ranch near Pasadena. The ranch had been bought by Henry E. Huntington in 1903, and his neighbor George Patton Sr. was not only his real estate business partner, but he was overseeing the running of the ranch. Patton hired Hertrich in 1904 and he ultimately became the superintendent of grounds and buildings.



William Hertrich

In 1908 Hertrich became a U.S. citizen, living on the Huntington ranch in housing for the employees. His salary must have been hefty because his monthly rent was \$200 while the other employee's rents ranged from \$20 to \$50 per month.

In 1927 Huntington died and was buried with Arabella, his wife, in a marble tomb on the property. When he first hired Hertrich, he told him that the ranch was his "to play with for the rest of his life," and so Hertrich took him up on the offer, staying on as superintendent until he retired in 1948, and as curator emeritus until his death in 1966. During

his long tenure at the Huntington estate, Hertrich oversaw the planting and development of a series of gardens: the lily ponds, the rose garden, the herb garden, the palm collection, the Japanese garden, and of course, the desert garden.

At the beginning, the idea of a desert garden was ill received by Henry Huntington. Coming originally from upstate New York, the whole idea of odd and spiny plants growing in an arid environment was not his idea of a beautiful garden: gardens are supposed to be lush, green, bursting with flowers. But Hertrich persisted and finally convinced Huntington to allow him to put in a small demonstration cactus and succulent garden on a part of the estate that had poor soil and was not really suitable for any of the plantings that were then part of the master plan. From this modest beginning the xeric plant collection has grown into one of the best in the world.

The Huntington desert garden is now 115 years old, and it is one of the largest (ten acres) and oldest xerophyte collections in the world. There are over 5,000 species representing 24 families of plants, the most significant genera being:

Aloe – 200 species, making this the largest collection outside Africa
Terrestrial bromeliads – especially some huge clumps of puya that in bloom are quite a spectacle

Cacti – one specimen of *Cereus xanthocarpus* weighs 20 tons and is more than 125 years old. 500 golden barrel, the best display in the world, many from seed planted in 1915

Sedum

Euphorbia

Yucca – including the largest *Yucca filifolia* in the world

Beaucarnia – some of the oldest in cultivation

Echeveria

Crassula



Many of the smaller and more cold-sensitive cacti and succulents are displayed in the desert conservatory which houses 3,000 specimens. This is one of my favorite sections of the desert garden because you can see the plants up close on the benches. The downside is that this facility is open to the public only on weekends when there is a volunteer present to keep an eye on the plants, and especially, on the visitors.

Huntington Gardens Cactus Garden

The Huntington Library, Art Galleries, and Gardens is in San Marino which was one of Huntington's planned garden communities. As a real estate developer, Huntington envisioned upscale and well-landscaped suburbs. To that end he enabled Hertrich to landscape the town, planting trees on lots as well as along the streets. It is no accident that Allen Ave, the road that leads to the main gate, is lined with mature Ginkgo biloba.



Members Share

May-Fong Ho's High Altitude Discoveries



May-Fong Ho saw this mossy succulent in Tibet at 17,000 ft elevation.



May-Fong Ho saw this succulent At 15,000 ft. altitude at a lakeshore on a Tibet high plateau where there is extremely thin atmosphere, intense UV radiation, and low humidity

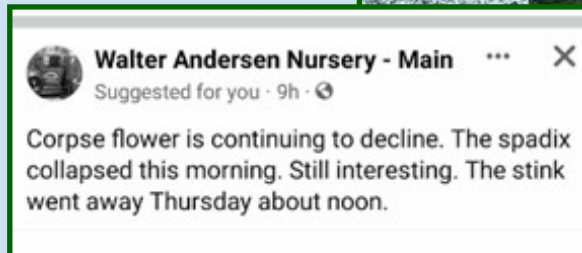
Members Share

Corpse Flower at Andersen's Nursery



After the picnic, Michelle Leung and Charlyne Barad stopped at Andersen's Nursery in Poway to look at what was left of the corpse flower. The flower was closed, but was still magnificent at around four feet tall. Mercifully, it no longer stank. An Andersen's employee said that while it was open, it smelled up the entire large indoor area of the nursery!

Below right is a posting by Andersen's showing the next step in the flower's progression.



San Marcos Library's Plant-of-the-Month Program

As you know, Lorie Johansen is heading up our participation in the San Marcos Library's plant program. This is the third month that we've participated, and Lorie lent the library her *Fockea edulis*. Below you see her fascinating plant prominently displayed with an explanation sign and some enthusiastic library patrons admiring it. Thank you, Lorie!



The plant attracted some attention as soon as it was put on display!



Lorie Johansen's *Fockea edulis*



Two young library patrons were bemused by the exotic, odd-looking plant. We surely are expanding folks' knowledge of their world!

And...



If you were at the July meeting, you remember Lorie's telling us that the San Marcos Library also has a seed program to teach children about planting and caring for seeds as they grow into new plants. The photo here is of some seeds already donated for the program by Bill Modi. Thank you, Bill!

If you have some seeds to add to the library's planting program, please bring them to the September meeting. Lorie is also coordinating the seed program and will deliver the seeds to the library.



Home Garden Brag Plants

Sorry, friends, I goofed. In my email I said that home garden brag plants earn one point each, but as you'll see in the Brag Plant Guidelines on the previous page, each plant earns two points each. That's an even better deal! - Charlyne



Keith Umbreit's

Aeonium urbicum 'saucer plant'

Per Keith, "It started in a 3-inch pot I got at a plant sale."



Charlyne Barad's
Dragon Fruit



Lorie Johansen's
Echinopsis sp.



Lois Walag's *Rhipsalis clavata*



Lorie Johansen's *Adenium obesum*



Mary Ellen Chanco's Garden



Deborah Pearson's 'Texas Ranger Bush', planted in her 500 lb. dish garden to shade cacti.



Deborah Pearson's
Peniocereus serpentinus

Deborah Pearson's
Epiphyllum oxypetalum
'Lady of the Night'



Bottom left: Joan
Herskowitz's
Stapelia grandiflora



Bottom right: Joan
Herskowitz's
Sempervivum arachnoideum

Current Board and Volunteers

President—Robert Kopfstein—president@palomarcactus.org

Vice President—Dean Karras gnosishnursery@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

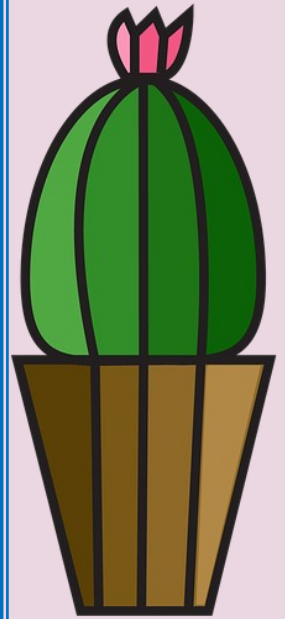
Library—Barbara Raab librarian@palomarcactus.org

Membership—Richard Miller

Refreshments—Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry

Website—Annie Morgan, Russel Ray

A/V—Russel Ray



**PCSS welcomes new member
Christine Madden!**

Social Media

Website: www.palomarcactus.org

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

Email: info@palomarcactus.org

Facebook group for members:

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group