

Cactus & Succulent

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

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October 2023

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October Speakers



As you'll see on page two, our October speakers will be our own Kevin Smith and Wanda Mallen.

Kevin will talk about pests in our succulent gardens. With his vast experience, both in his home garden collection and tending Palomar College's succulent garden, Kevin has lots of tips and tricks to share. Please feel free to bring questions about your own garden pest travails to ask for Kevin's advice.

Wanda will speak on our plant of the month, Hoyas. Those of us who went to Wanda and Gary's open garden know that she has a large collection of fabulous Hoyas and abundant experience growing her thriving plants. Just as with Kevin's talk, you are welcome to ask questions to tap into Wanda's expertise.

Meeting, Fourth Saturday, October 28

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 will all be held.
- Library will be available. Please return books from prior months' checkout.
- Plant of the month: **Hoyas**

Plants of the Month 2023

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| October | Hoya |
| November | Schlumbergera |

Speakers, etc. Schedule

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

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

Dec. 16 Holiday party

October Meeting Speakers



This month we are lucky to have talks by two of our extremely knowledgeable members. Kevin Smith will talk about garden pests, and Wanda Mallen will talk about Hoyas, our plant of the month.

Here's a bio on Kevin in his own words:

My name is Kevin Smith (pictured on left). I grew up in north San Diego County and went to school in Vista. I also attended Palomar Junior College for two years and then transferred to the University of Idaho. I've always had an affinity for the outdoors and natural sciences, so I majored in botany and graduated with a B.S. degree in Botany. Upon graduation I sought employment with federal and state agencies with the desire to work in the field of wildlife preservation and environmental impact studies. While sending out applications to these agencies I began working for the Vista School District in the operations and maintenance department. Things never materialized for the government positions, so I continued employment with the school district. I didn't stop my education in natural sciences as I took several classes at Palomar College. One class in particular was my favorite, a study of native plants in San Diego County. This class included several field trips which gave me hands on experience.

After retiring from the school district, I began doing volunteer work for the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation. Shortly after that Brita asked me if I would volunteer working at the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Garden as I had been a member of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society for several years. I took on the challenge and it has been a great experience giving me a chance to learn more about the growing and care of these types of plants.

My Life with Plants by Wanda Mallen



My fascination with plants started about 35 years ago with a visit to a bromeliad show and sale in Orange County. From there I added succulents which necessitated a move because I needed more space to grow them. Along the way I also became interested in palms, conifers, Australian natives and tropical plants, all of which are part of my garden today. My latest passion is Hoyas. I've long had a few of the common ones that you can buy in the local nurseries, but I discovered there were many more when I was online about a year ago on the Paradise Found website looking for some succulents and saw they had a category for Hoyas. Well, that was the beginning, because they probably had about 40 different kinds and from there I've discovered other online sources, including one that has close to 500 plants

I look forward to sharing some of these wonderful, easy-to-grow plants with you.

PCSS Club News and Info



PCSS Renewal Time!

For those of us who love PCSS (and who doesn't!) it's almost time to renew our memberships. As you probably recall, the board voted to increase **dues to \$35.00**—a bargain for a year of cactus pleasure and succulent excitement!

Dues are due no later than Dec. 31, and may be paid anytime from now until the end of the year. You may pay at meetings or send a check by mail to:

PCSS, P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033

PCSS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Jerome Kahn and Ruta Caldwell

Jeff and Kathy McNair

Stephanie Robbins

October Meeting Refreshment Sign-up List

Thanks to the following members who signed up to bring food to the meeting. We still need a few more folks to chip in. It helps a lot if most of us bring lunch-worthy dishes, since that is lunch for most of us. Thanks!

Participants so far:

Charlyne Barad

Patti Nelson

Suzi Harris

Susan Duey

Annie Morgan

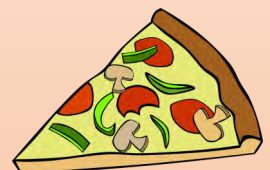


Prapa Taylor

Lois Walag

May-Fong Ho

Barbara Watzke



Plant of the Month: Hoyas

Lorie Johansen



Commonly called wax plant for its thick waxy leaves, this genus was named by botanist Robert Brown, in honor of his friend, botanist Thomas Hoy. Hoya is a genus of 200–300 species (some say 600-700) of tropical plants in the Apocynaceae family, sub-family Asclepiadoideae. Most are native to Asia including India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia, with great diversity of species in the Philippines, Polynesia, New Guinea, and Australia. Many grow in a vine pattern and come in light green to deep green colors. Leaves may be waxy, fuzzy, heart-shaped, oval, or resemble a string bean. Umbels with star-shaped flowers are common flora characteristics often with enjoyable fragrances. With minimal proper care, they can live 20+ years, a perfect genus for the beginner.

One of my favorite species is *H. carnosa* 'Compacta' commonly known as Hindu rope plant, porcelain plant or Krinkle Kurl. It's native to India where it grows on other plants. Each leaf folds in half and then curls back on itself in waves that turn the draping stems into pendulous ropes. This Hoya offers clusters of star-shaped blooms that all Hoyas are known for – when they finally bloom, that is. Each plant is a one-of-a-kind sculpture.

Cultural Requirements:

These summer growers require bright indirect light or morning sun and are very slow growers. Hoyas don't ask for much beyond well-draining soil and the warm, humid conditions that many tropical flowers crave. They don't like wet feet or heavy soil as many grow as epiphytes in nature. They enjoy 50° F+ temperatures during the growing season. Lightly feed (diluted fish emulsion or compost tea) in the spring, summer, and fall. Withhold during the semi-dormant season of winter.

When Hoyas finish blooming, DON'T deadhead the flower stalk, as it may produce new flowers. Removing the stalk forces the plant to produce a new stalk, which delays blooming and wastes the plant's energy. Hoyas like the security of a snug pot, and plants that are a bit root-bound will flower more prolifically than when overpotted.

Hoyas are vulnerable to sapsuckers like aphids, mealy bugs, scale insects, and spider mites. The aphids can be commonly seen near the flowers, while the mealybugs can be seen on the leaves. Sharp sprays of water to remove pests followed by horticultural oil or neem spray ought to suffice. You can also use insecticidal soap with warm water. Here is a definitive guide on addressing any questions or challenges you may have: https://www.lovethatleaf.co.nz/blogs/plant-care-guides/Hoya-tips-tricks-beginners-trouble-shooting?_pos=1&_sid=f111373d7&_ss=r

Propagate Hoyas with stem cuttings in the spring or summer when the plant is actively growing. Fill a pot with a well-drained potting mix, water well, then set the pot aside to drain until the potting mix is evenly moist but not saturated. They can also be rooted in water. Read more at Gardening Know How, Hoya Propagation Methods: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/vines/Hoya-wax-plant/Hoya-propagation-methods.htm>

No doubt, after wonderful Wanda's presentation, you will develop a Hoya collection/addiction. Be patient and enjoy!



https://www.lovethatleaf.co.nz/blogs/plant-care-guides/Hoya-tips-tricks-beginners-trouble-shooting?_pos=1&_sid=f111373d7&_ss=r

Resources:

<https://worldofsucculents.com/genera/Hoya/>

<https://www.ohiotropics.com/2020/04/17/Hoya-obovata-care/>

<https://omysa.com/blogs/planting-101/how-to-care-for-your-Hoya-plant#:~:text=Pests%20and%20Problems,oil%20to%20kill%20these%20pests>

<https://youtu.be/gHYHngbApWg?si=FxLPd7srXQcXaPBg>

(Sorry, everyone, no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get the text to wrap around the photos. That's why most of them are on this page. - Charlyne)



Wanda's
Sweetheart Hoya



Hoya in bloom



Hoya macgillivrayi



Hoya carnosa
'Compacta'

Hindu Rope Plant

September Meeting Recap

Our September speaker, Jeff Moore, presented a slide show and talk about Dudleyas. His new book, *Dudleyas*, is due out around the first of the year. Many of the slides he showed were photos from his book and show plants in their habitats, often with glorious scenery behind them. Jeff's talk progressed from north to south, discussing Dudleyas that grow in those latitudes.

He discussed the following terms which seem worthwhile to know:

Cremnophytic plants - Any plant that is adapted to growing on cliffs, especially in crevices . From the Greek, "cremnos" meaning *cliff*.

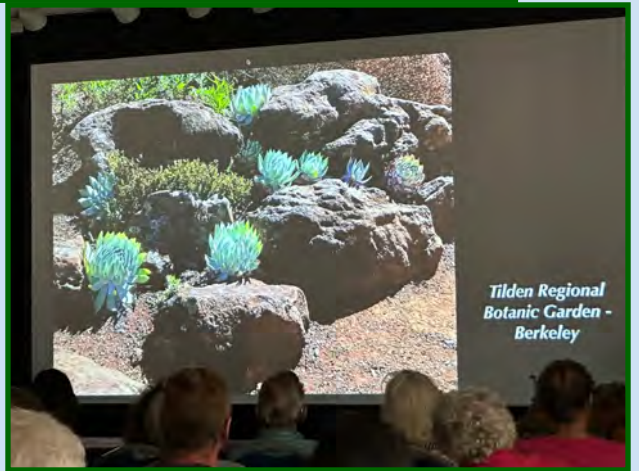
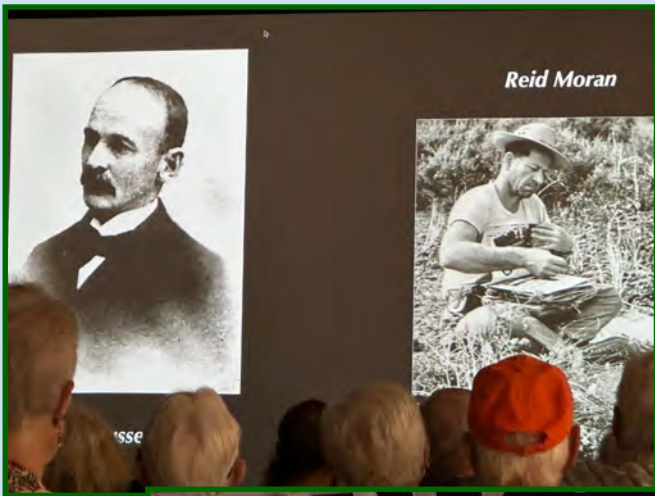
Saxicolous plants - Plants inhabiting or growing among rocks

Lithophytic plants - Lithophytes are **plants that grow in or on rocks**. epilithic lithophytes grow on the surfaces of rocks, while endolithic lithophytes grow in the crevices of rocks.

Psammophytic plants - Plants that grow in sandy and often unstable soils, as on a beach.



More of Jeff's slides. Note the gorgeous photos!



Our September meeting, as always, was well-attended and had lots to offer us xerophiles!



Barbara, our librarian, always has informative books for us to check out. Thank you!



Jeff Moore sold some plants and books.





Pumpkin/Succulent Project

Moni and Libbi taught us how to decorate pumpkins with succulent cuttings.



Look
at
what
we did!



You can tell by our
smiles how much
fun we had!
Thank you, Libbi
and Moni!





September Brag Plant Winners

By Michelle Leung

Novice Cactus

1st Deborah Pearson *Opuntia* sp. - 1

Advanced Cactus

1st Moni Waiblinger *Cephalocereus senilis* – 2

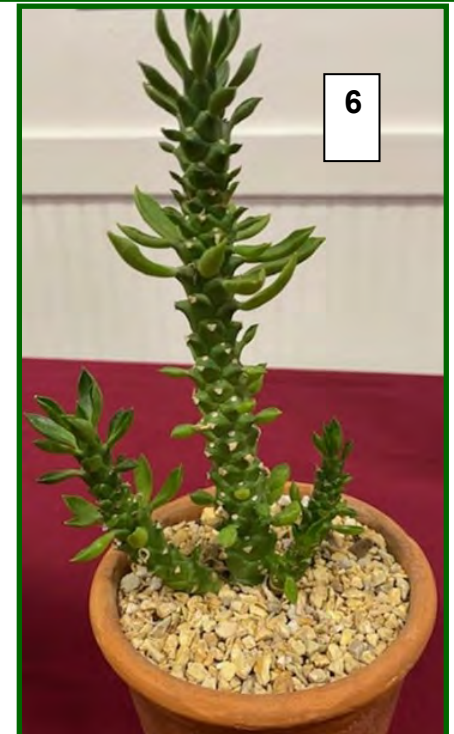
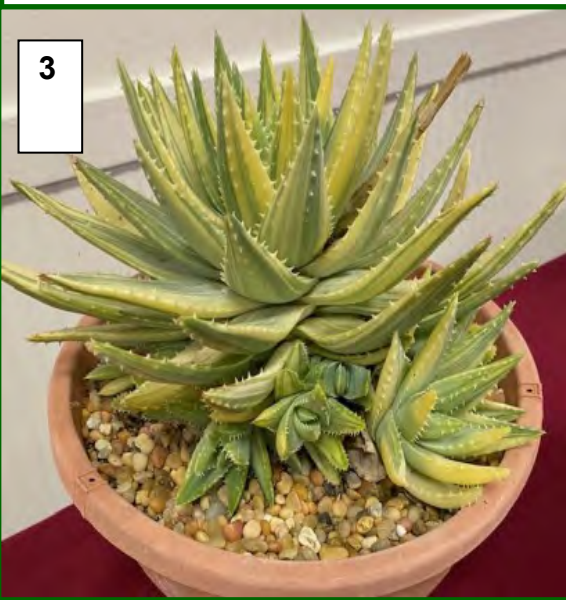
Novice Succulent

1st Marlene Walder *Aloe perfoliata* - 3

2nd Marlene Walder *Echevaria* sp. - 4

3rd Marlene Walder *Agave potatorum* - 5

3rd Barbara Raab *Euphorbia ritchiei* (formerly *Monadenium ritchiei*) - 6

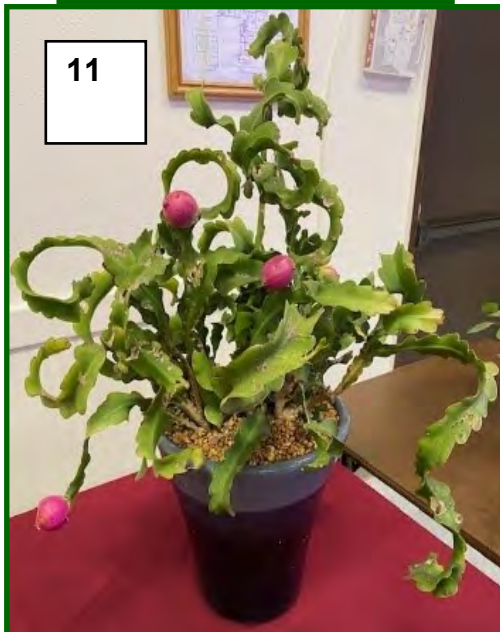


Intermediate Succulent

- 1st Kevin Smith *Haworthia venosa* - 7
- 2nd Libbi Salvo *Euphorbia caput-medusae* - 8
- 2nd Libbi Salvo *Stapelia orbea* - 9

Advanced Succulent

- 1st Jerry Garner *Euphorbia poissonii* variegate -10
- 2nd Moni Waiblinger *Epiphyllum guatemalensis* f. *monstroze* - 11
- 2nd Lorie Johansen *Adromischus cristatus* - 12



Advanced Succulent

3rd John Barkley *Plectranthus ernstii* - 13

Intermediate Plant of the Month

1st Harold Dunn *Tylecodon paniculata* – 14

Advanced Plant of the Month

1st John Barkley *Tylecodon buchholzianus* -15

Dish Garden – Intermediate

1st Libbi Salvo mixed - 16



San Marcos Library's Plant of the Month Program

This month features Libbi Salvo's glorious dish garden!



Paid Ad

SUCCULENT GARDENING by Tina

Thank you for sticking with me throughout the years and helping me to donate proceeds to SD Communities. We will again donate to a local organization.

Talented Aloe hybridizer Kelly Griffin & Potter extraordinaire Jerry Garner will bring beautiful Aloes and Ceramic pots

OPEN GARDEN, PLANTS & POTTERY

Friday October 20th ~ 10am ~ 4pm
Saturday October 21st ~ 12:30pm ~ 5pm
552 Seabright Lane, Solana Beach

I will be selling some of my own SPECIMENS, Aloes, Caudiciforms, Euphorbias, Adromischus, Gasterias & MORE

WE GROW SUCCULENTS
succulentsus@gmail.com
858 342 9781

Cacti and Succulents Grow in Harsh Environments

Robert Kopfstein



Leuchtenbergia

People often think of cacti as plants living in the desert environment where rainfall is scarce and the desert sun relentlessly bakes the landscape. This idea is not at all far from the truth, however the relationship between plants and their environment is complex, and there are many factors that come into play in the survival strategies that make xerophytes successful in such a challenging place.

Shade is a key component of these survival strategies. We think of cactus and succulents as being sun lovers, and this notion is correct to a point. When plants are mature and well-rooted in the ground, they are capable of withstanding more of the extremes that their natural habitat may experience. But the situation with seedlings is entirely different: because their biomass is so much less, and their root systems are

underdeveloped they need protection from the extremes of heat and cold that characterize the desert.

Most cactus seedlings in nature are dependent on “nurse plants” for shelter from the intense rays of the sun and the harsh dry wind. Often these nurse plants are creosote bushes (*Larrea tridentata*) or other shrubs that are already established. The shrubs provide filtered sun and a windbreak so that the tender seedlings do not desiccate, and their more delicate photosynthesizing tissues do not burn.

In a garden setting the cacti and succulents face a similar situation. We often buy small specimens of plants not only because the price is affordable but many of us enjoy seeing the “babies” we have acquired grow into larger, healthy specimen plants. These two-, four-, and six-inch plants need a degree of protection from the hottest part of the day, and they also need to adapt to their new environment. Likely they were mass produced in either a greenhouse or a lath house, so to place them immediately in the hot direct sun will cause them extra stress: quite possibly they are already stressed by being moved from their original environment.

More recently I have left my newly purchased plants in the containers they come in for a week or two. I used to re-pot them as soon as I brought them home, but after hearing several expert growers speak about how plants can be adversely affected by any change in the environment, I now try to keep those changes to a minimum. One easy way to maintain stability is not to change the potting medium immediately. If you are planting the specimen directly in the ground, it might be best to keep the plant in its original container in a protected area for a week or two and then put it in the ground, saving as much of the soil of the pot to put into the hole you have dug for the plant. On new plantings a dose of fish fertilizer or compost tea mixed with kelp solution can add beneficial soil bacteria and can help kick start root growth so the plant can re-establish itself.

As for sun exposure, there is a 10am to 2pm rule of thumb. It is best to give sensitive plants some protection when the sun is directly overhead. Morning and later afternoon sunlight is not as intense, and plants are less likely to be stressed or damaged if they have some shade during the hottest part of the day. Once cactus and succulent plants are acclimated and established, they can then better tolerate the more intense midday sun.

Some cacti and succulents, however, prefer a degree of protection all day long. In my personal experience I have had issues growing *Hechtia glauca*, a terrestrial bromeliad from southern Mexico, and *Leuchtenbergia principis*, an agave-looking cactus. In both cases the plants survived, but they looked bedraggled, with burn spots and a generally unhappy appearance.

In habitat both plants grow in full sun. But there is one important difference: they grow in the ground. Mine were both potted specimens, and there is a significant difference in the stress level of a plant in the ground (where the roots are cooler, and the moisture level is more uniform). With their root systems confined, above ground level, in a container exposed to the heat of the sun, potted specimens are subject to far more stress.



Hechtia glauca

In both cases I moved the plants. The *Hechtia glauca* went into my shade structure under 55% shade cloth. The trade-off was the plant looked much happier—no brown spots and leaf tip burn. The downside was that it lost some of its stressed-induced color and it became greener. For some reason we humans prefer plants that are any color but green, the color of the chlorophyll that occurs naturally in the leaves—and sometimes stems—of almost all plants.

The *Leuchtenbergia principis* is in a spot that gets filtered sunlight through the leaves of another plant. Online, if you check out *Leuchtenbergia*, the advice is that it likes full sun, all day long. This may be true if the cactus is planted in the ground, but my experience with two potted specimens is that they seem to prefer some protection from the midday sun.

If you search the internet for cactus and succulents that like shade, there are websites that provide lists of possibilities. These sites are geared more for growers who live in cold climates and who are forced to keep their plants indoors for at least seven months of the year. Some of the suggestions are as follows:

Shade Cacti

Golden Barrel—*Echinocactus grusonii*. However, on the same page under Cultivation it says clearly “Golden Barrel requires full sun.”

Beaver tail cactus/Prickly pear cactus—but under growing tips:

“Exposure: full sun.”

Mistletoe cactus—*Rhipsalis baccifera*. This one really does prefer shade.

Claret cup cactus—*Echinocereus coccinus*. Produces vibrant red flowers and can thrive in partial shade.

Easter cactus/Christmas cactus. These are perennial favorites that like some shade.

Shade Succulents

Recently I returned from a trip back East where I spent some time in a variety of nurseries checking out what was available. There were very few cacti, but lots of succulents in two-, four-, and six-inch pots. All these plants have to be brought indoors by mid-October and remain there until mid-May. Some of these include:

- Sansevieria species
- Echeveria—There are many hybrids, and the shelves were full of them.
- The Panda Plant—Kalanchoe tomentosa
- Zebra Haworthia
- String of hearts—Ceropegia woodii
- String of pearls—Senecio rowleyanus
- Hoya species

Clearly the succulents are much more adaptable to shade and lower light conditions, but there are cacti that also can adapt to shade, and some species actually prefer some protection from the sun.

My very first plant was a columnar cactus which never was identified. I bought it in Ohio at Woolworth's 5 and 10 cent store in 1955 for fifteen cents. For thirty years it grew successfully in a pot until it was about five feet tall. When my father died it went to a relative who with good intentions watered it daily until it rotted.

The cacti and succulents have shown their amazing adaptability, growing in a wide array of environments from bone dry deserts like the Atacama Desert in Chile, to the rainforests of Central America. They even survive the well-meaning attentions of us humans.





Home Garden Brag Plants



Lorie Johansen's succulent pumpkins.



Keith Unbreit's *Portulacaria.afra*

I have taken *Portulacaria afra* (elephant food) and used it to make a living wall out of a plain block wall. All of this was made from a single cutting I got from a friend.



Erik Gronborg's

Euphorbia caput-medusae



Erik Gronborg's

Abromeitiella lorentziana with close-up





Bernie Mases's Yucca and Aloe



Julian Duval's
Adenium obesum



Julian Duval's
Hoya archboldiana



Julian Duval's *Bursera microphylla*



Julian Duval's
Pachycormis discolor



Norb Roden's
Rhipsalis lipisium cruciforme



Lois Walag's
Cynanchum socotranum



Deborah Pearson's
Urginea maritima
'Sea Squill' bloom



Moni Waiblinger's
Ananas comosus



Moni Waiblinger's
Epiphyllum

Moni Waiblinger's
Grafted Moon Cactus *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* Yellow



Current Board and Volunteers

President—Robert Kopfstein—president@palomarcactus.org

Vice President—Dean Karras gnoisnurseries@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,

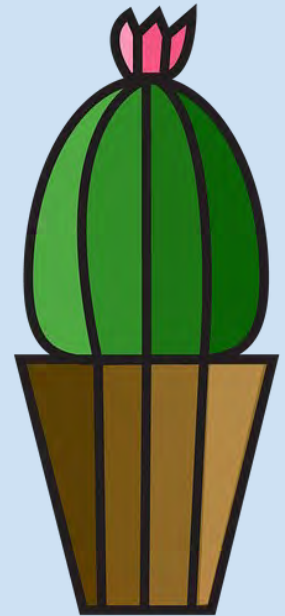
Library—Barbara Raab librarian@palomarcactus.org

Membership—Richard Miller

Refreshments—Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry

Website—Annie Morgan, Russel Ray

A/V—Russel Ray



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



Humor from Lorie:

How pumpkins procreate