



Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 69, Number 10

November 2023

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November Speaker

Our November speaker (via Zoom) will be Dr. Ivon Ramirez. Her topic will be **The Hechtias of Mexico.**



Note: No further speaker information was available at time of newsletter publication. If more information becomes available before the meeting, you'll be notified by email.

Meeting, THIRD Saturday, November 18

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: **Schlumbergera**

Speakers, etc. Schedule

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

Dec. 16 Holiday party (No brag plant, exchange, benefit drawing tables or library.),

PCSS Club News and Info

PCSS Renewal Time!

For those of us who love PCSS (and who doesn't!) it's 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

Holiday Party Decorations

Sherman Blench will again be managing decorations for our holiday party. She said that she has two boxes of very few decorations and would love to have members help provide more and help set them up on the day of the party. If you have decorations to share and/or can come early, around 10:30, the day of the party, please contact Sherman at sblench2022@gmail.com.



Holiday Party Info

As you know, our holiday party will be held on December 16 at our usual meeting place. Family members are welcome to join you as we come together to celebrate.

At the November meeting look for the following sign-up lists:

- ◆ Party Attendance Sign-up. If you plan to attend, we need you to sign up and write the number of people in your party. That way, we will set enough places and buy enough gift plants for all members.
- ◆ Food Contribution List. As always, our meal is potluck, so your dish helps make it a meal to remember!
- ◆ Party Volunteers List. There are many things to do including set up, kitchen help, decorations, clean-up, gift plant set up.

Food Sign-up for the November 18, 2023 PCSS Meeting

Mary Ellen Chancos	Finger Foods	Susan Duey	Meatballs
Kristie DeTar	Salad – Green	Charlyne Barad	Chicken Nuggets
Barbara Watzke	Dessert	Jerome Kahn	Walnuts
Prapa Taylor	Dessert	Bernie Mases	Salad
Tammy Granados	Dessert	Martina Reed	Sandwiches
Lois Walag	Salad	Susan Turner	Deviled Eggs
Alex Clark	Pasta	Deborah Pearson	Cookies

Potluck



PCSS Elections Slate of Candidates

Just as we have each year, we will hold our election for board members at the holiday party. Your slate of candidates so far is:

President (2-year term) David Buffington

Vice President (1-year term) _____

Treasurer (2-year term) Terri Shusterman

Director at Large (2-year term) Brita Miller

If you would like to fill one of these positions, feel free to enter your name in nomination. Notify Robert or reply to this newsletter's email.



Correction to October Newsletter:

Moni's September brag plant cactus is misidentified as *Cephalocereus senilis*. The correct identification is *Oreocereus trollii*.

PCSS Members' Library

From Barbara Raab

Did you know the following list of books are available at the meetings? Perhaps you cannot find something on the internet, but you may find it in these reference books.

Members and guests may visit the library table when doors are opened until the meeting ends.

Booklets (stapled) Title	Author(s)	Published	Pages
ALOES for greenhouse and indoor cultivation (Handbook No. 3)	Noble	1976	52
ALOES OF RHODESIA, The Field Guide to the (Bundu Series)	West	1974	95
CALANDRINIA (Includes other species)	Edited by Board of . . .	1980	88
CRYPTANTHUS - One of the Bromeliad Family	Dorr	1977	30
GYMNOCALYCIUMS (Handbook No. 5)	Putnam	1978	71
GYMNOCALYCIUMS	GINNS (edited by)	1967(?)	44
HAWORTHIAS, The First Fifty	Pilbeam	1970	40
LITHOPS (Handbook No. 4)	Fearn	1981	69
MAMMILLARIAS, 50 Choice (No. 1 of a series)	Fearn	1976	68
MAMMILLARIAS, Interesting Newer	Maddams	?	39
MESEMBS, Growing the	Storms	1976	24
REBUTIA, The Genus, 1895-1981 (No. 2 of a series)	Fearn	1981	80
SANSEVIERIA IN CULTIVATION IN AUSTRALIA - Adelaide Botanic Gardens Handbook 2	Swinbourne	1979	48
TILLANDSIA, Genus - The World's Most Unusual Air Plants	Isley III	1977	16

PCSS Reference Library List

The list below was provided by our club library manager, Barbara Raab.

PCSS Library Reference Collection - 2023

Available for reading at meetings. Reference books may not be checked out.
Email pcss.librarian@gmail.com to request a book.

Hardbound books			
Title	Author(s)	Published	Pages
AGAVES - Species, Cultivars & Hybrids	Spath & Moore	2021	356
ALOES - The Definitive Guide	Carter (et al)	2011	219
ALOE & AGAVES In Cultivation	Moore	2016	335
ALOES, GARDEN - Growing and Breeding Cultivars & Hybrids	Smith & Figueiredo	2015	193
BAOBABS of the World - The upside-down trees of Madagascar, Africa & Australia	Petignat & Jasper	2015	112
CYCADS, THE	Whitelock	2003	374
CRASSULAS IN CULTIVATION	Higgins	1964	78
CRASSULACEAE, Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants	Eggl	2001	458+
ECHEVERIA CULTIVARS	Schulz & Kapitany	2005	207
ERIOSYCE (Cactaceae) - The genus revised and amplified	Kattermann	1994	176
GIBBAEUM HANDBOOK (The) - A Popular Genus of Highly Succulent Plant. . . South Africa	Nel	1953	117
HAWORTHIA AND ASTROLOBA - A Collector's Guide	Pilbeam	1983	167
HAWORTHIA, THE GENUS - A Taxonomic Revision	Scott	1985	150
HOYA BASICS A Beginner's Guide to Growing and Caring for Hoyas	Kloppenburger	1999	44
LITHOPS (Pages of color photos at back of book)	Sprechman	1970	57+
LITHOPS - Flowering Stones (Limited printing - Volume 540)	Cole	1988	254
LOBIVIA - Vol I, 64 pgs.; Vol. II, 128 pgs.; Vol. III, 192 pages	Rausch	1975	384
MAMMILLARIA - A Collector's Guide	Pilbeam	1981	165
MESEMBRYANTHEMACEAE, THE Genera of the (Color illustrations & distribution maps)	Herre	1971	316
MONADENIUM, The Genus -The (Includes 32 Plates in natural size)	Bally	1961	111+
PACHYCAUL & CAUDICIFORM PLANT Vol I, A Guide to Growing (PACHYFORMS)	de Vosjoli	2004	319
PEDIOCACTUS NAVAJOA TOUMEYA, The Genus	Hochstatter	2007	283
PELARGONIUMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (Illustrations by Ellaphie Ward-Hilhorst)	van der Walt	1977	50
RHIPSALIS - An Introduction	Rezaei	2013	26
RHIPSALIS & LEPISMIUM ("Limited Edition of 2000 copies")	Supplie	2007	144
SANSEVIERIA BOOK (The) (First Edition)	Stover	1983	72
SANSEVIERIA TRIFASCIATA VARIETIES (The) - A Presentation of all Cultivated Varieties	Chahinian	1986	109
SEDUMS (edited by JA Hart & TC Wrigley)	Hart	1971	55
SEMPERVIVUM & JOVIBARBA HANDBOOK (The)	Mitchell	1973	44
STAPELIADS IN CULTIVATION	Lamb	1957	154
SUCCULENTS IN CULTIVATION - Breeding New Cultivars	Rowley	2017	248

The info below is from Tom McCarter. Sorry that the newsletter is so late, but you still have one day to enjoy the pottery show.

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2023 Fall Patio Show

9/8/2023



San Diego Potters' Guild

FALL PATIO SHOW

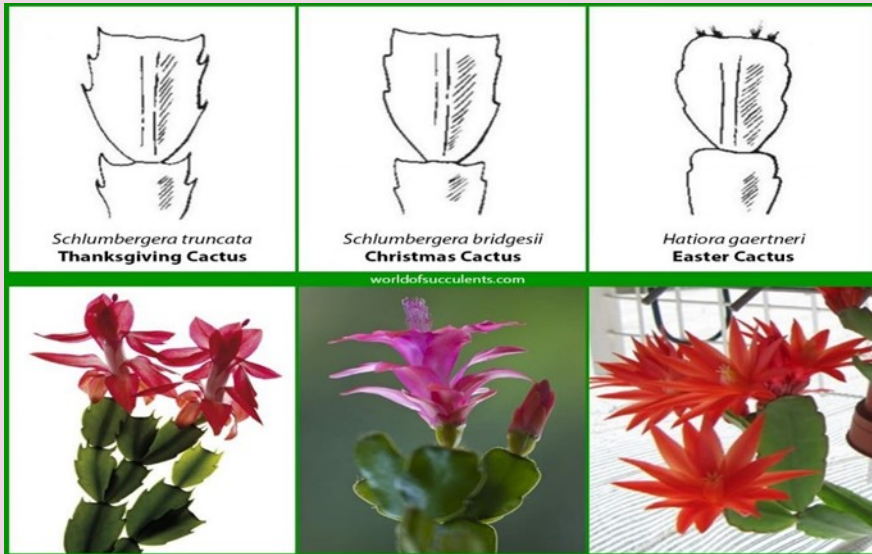
November 11 & 12
10am - 4pm



Each year on the second full weekend in June and the second full weekend in November the San Diego Potters' Guild holds a semiannual show that fills up the entire patio of the Spanish Village. Each potter brings in a load of new work from their home studios and displays it on the patio. The Fall Show runs from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. It is a unique opportunity to get to know the guild members and ask them questions about their work.

Plant of the Month: Schlumbergera

Lorie Johansen



There are Schlumbergera for all occasions: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and more!

Christmas cacti have been given as holiday gifts since the second half of the 19th century. Charles Lemaire, a French botanist, named the genus Schlumbergera in 1858, commemorating Frédéric Schlumberger, who had a collection of cacti at his French chateau.

Schlumbergera truncata (Thanksgiving cactus) was cultivated in Europe starting in 1818, and *S. russelliana* was introduced in 1839. The two species were deliberately crossed in England, resulting in the hybrid now called *Schlumbergera* × *buckleyi*, first recorded in 1852, the true Christmas cactus.

Schlumbergera gaertneri (Easter Cactus) was first described in 1884. The name honors the Gaertner family, early settlers in Brazil. The genus is small with less than 10 species (but thousands of cultivars) that are native to the coastal mountains of southeastern Brazil, growing mostly in high altitude, moist forests where conditions are relatively cool, shaded, and humid. In the wild, they grow either on moss-covered tree branches (epiphytic) or in rock crevices filled with decayed leaves and other vegetation (lithophytic), rather than in the ground.

These plants are true members of the Cactaceae family even though they bear little resemblance to other species of cacti adapted to desert heat. They have photosynthetic stems rather than leaves and areoles rather than branches. The species are daylength sensitive, initiating flowers as daylengths and seasons change.

Schlumbergera truncata blooms earlier, usually in November, (hence “Thanksgiving cactus”) with stem segments that have pointed teeth and flowers with yellow pollen. *Schlumbergera bridgesii* blooms later, often in December or January (hence “Christmas cactus”) has rounded stems with symmetrical teeth and flowers with pink pollen. *Schlumbergera gaertneri* (formerly classified as *Hatiora gaertneri*) blooms in the spring, around Easter, and again later in the year has very rounded stem segments with small notches along the edges at the areoles.

These three cacti species are members of the group called leaf cacti. The flowers are produced from notches in these stems or from the tips. The fuchsia-like flowers last a long time and are usually pink; but modern hybrids include white, red, yellow, orange, and purple varieties.

Cultural Requirements:

These plants are easy to grow and will bloom for the holidays if the following conditions are provided:

- Place in bright indirect light, watering only when the soil is dry to one inch below the surface.
- Use filtered water or leave water out overnight before watering as they can be sensitive to water with a high calcium content. Water thoroughly until the water drips through the drainage hole, then let the plant drain before returning the pot to its drainage saucer. Never let the plant stand in water.
- Don't fertilize or repot while blooming.
- In June, pinch back the stems to encourage branching and more terminals for flowers. Flower buds will only form on undamaged stem segments.
- They also require cool nighttime temps (50-55 degrees) and 12+ hours of darkness starting in mid-September. If the continued period of darkness is interrupted by light, even for a short amount of time, the plant may drop its flower buds.
- Reduce water as growth slows but when flower buds appear, gradually increase water and provide temps between 60-65 degrees. Flower buds may also drop if the plant is exposed to drastic changes in temperature.
- After bloom, let them rest for a couple of months by keeping them in environs around 55 degrees and water lightly until new spring growth appears. Fertilize these summer growers monthly. Dilute fertilizer to half strength. Stop in late summer to encourage fall flowering.

Schlumbergera prefers to be root-bound, because they prefer dense root growth resulting in more blooms. Repot them about every 4-5 years in the spring after bloom. Choose a fast-draining mix containing 60-80% potting soil and 20-40% perlite. They are relatively disease-free unless overwatered. If the plant turns reddish, it indicates too much sun, lack of phosphorus, or lack of water. *Schlumbergera* usually remain in flower for four to six weeks and then enter a rest period, followed by a new growth cycle.

After blooming, prune and shape the plant. You can use the pruned sections to propagate new plants. Allow the cut ends to callus for a few days, and then insert them about 1" deep in moist, clean potting mix (5 cuttings in a 6-inch pot). Cover the pot with a clear plastic bag to create a more humid environment like a mini greenhouse. Make sure the bag doesn't touch the cuttings.

When properly cultivated, they can live to be 100+ years old just like a human centenarian! Think BLUE ZONES for cacti.... (book by Dan Buettner—a must read for humans who desire a long health span).

Resources:

<https://worldofsucculents.com/thanksgiving-christmas-easter-cactus/>

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=50947>

<https://www.thesill.com/blog/christmas-cactus>

<https://www.schlumbergera.net/schlumbergera-cultivars/>

Thanksgiving Cactus vs Christmas Cactus vs Easter Cactus

Sunny Home Gardens



Thanksgiving Cactus
Schlumbergera truncata
broad, pointy leaves



Christmas Cactus
Schlumbergera bridgesii
scalloped flat leaves



Easter Cactus
Hatiora gaertneri
rounded scalloped leaves
with soft hairs



October Meeting Recap

PCSS members enjoyed another interesting and informative meeting with our two awesome PCSS member speakers, Wanda Mallen and Kevin Smith.



Wanda spoke about our plant of the month, Hoyas. She brought plants from her extensive collection and told us how she cares for them and protects them in winter. She shared her plant sources: "I've bought plants from Canopy Plants, Steve's Leaves, and most of all from Unsolicited Plant Talks. They are the most expensive, but have the biggest selection and the best quality plants. I also got a cutting on Etsy.

"For beginners, Hoyas can be found at Armstrong, Green Thumb, and sometimes Home Depot and Lowes."

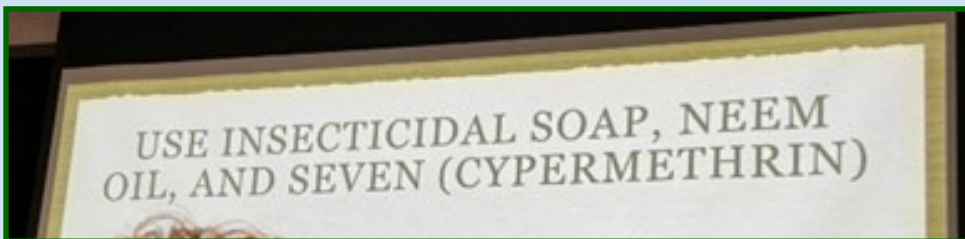


While Wanda spoke, Russel took pictures.





Kevin presented an extensive slide show depicting many types of pests we can encounter in our succulent gardens and ways to eliminate them. He included animal, insect, fungi, microbe, and plant pests.



Kevin said that he prefers to use natural and environmentally friendly products, but sometimes harsher chemicals become necessary.



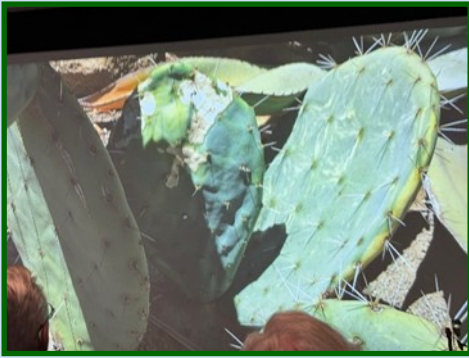
Agave Snout Weevil



Plant pest: Kalanchoe daigremontiana, 'Mother of Millions'



Info for those wishing to visit the Palomar College Cactus and Succulent Garden.



Snail damage



Aphids/Psyllids



Agave Snout Weevil
Grubs



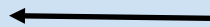
Cochineal insects
On Opuntias



Scale



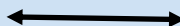
Aloe Mites



Aloe Mites
closeup



Aphids symbiosis
with ants



October Brag Plant Winners

Novice Cactus

1st Susan Turner Parodia sp. 1

Intermediate Cactus

1st Jerome Kahn *Astrophytum miriostigma* 2

2nd David Buffington *Turbinicarpus pseudopectinata* 3

Advanced Cactus

1st Russel Ray *Mammillaria compressa* 4

2nd Russel Ray *Mammillaria bombycinea* 5

3rd Kathy McNair *Mammillaria plumosa* 6

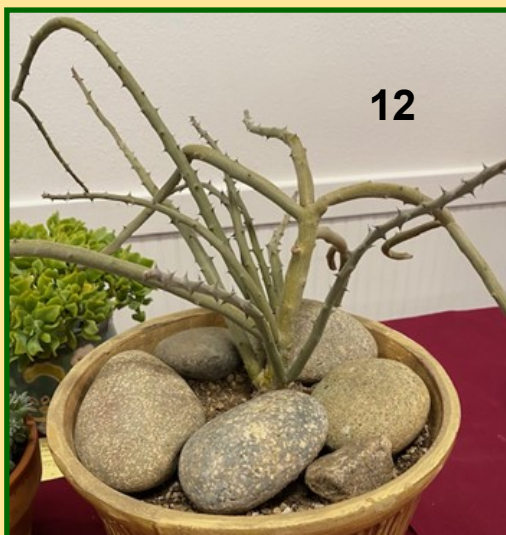
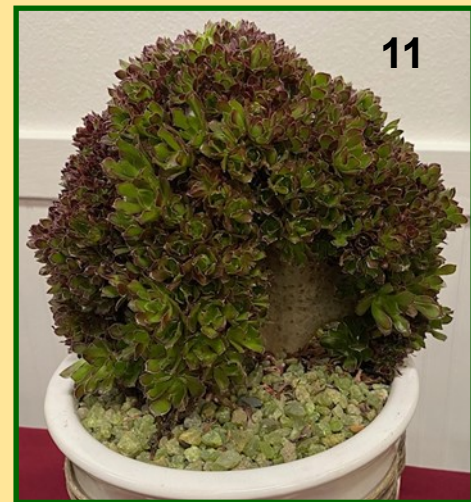


Novice Succulent

- 1st Liz Rozycki Kalanchoe synsepala 7
- 2nd Barbara Raab Aloe 'Christmas Sleigh' (Kelly Griffin hybd.) 8
- 3rd Susan Turner Faucaria bosscheana 9

Intermediate Succulent

- 1st Jerome Kahn Stapelia gigantea 10
- 2nd Charlyne Barad Aeonium 'Velour' crest 11
- 3rd Jerome Kahn Alluaudia d umosa 12



Advanced Succulent

- 1st Moni Waiblinger *Stapelia paniculata* v. *scitula* 13
- 2nd Kathy McNair *Haemanthus albiflos* 14
- 3rd Russel Ray *Euphorbia* sp. 15

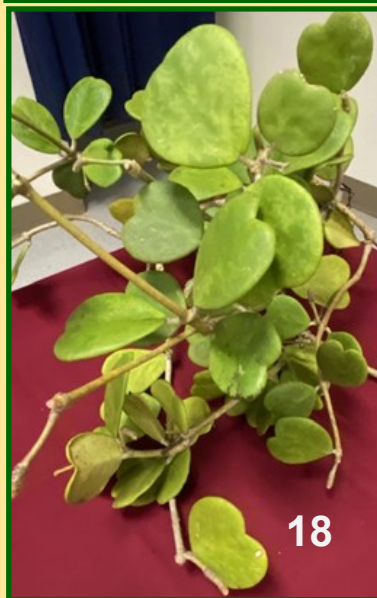


Novice Plant of the Month

- 1st Alex Clark *Hoya carnososa* crest 16

Advanced Plant of the Month

- 1st Moni Waiblinger *Hoya* sp. 17
- 2nd Moni Waiblinger *Hoya curtisii* 18
- 3rd Moni Waiblinger *Hoya* sp. 19



Dish Garden – Novice

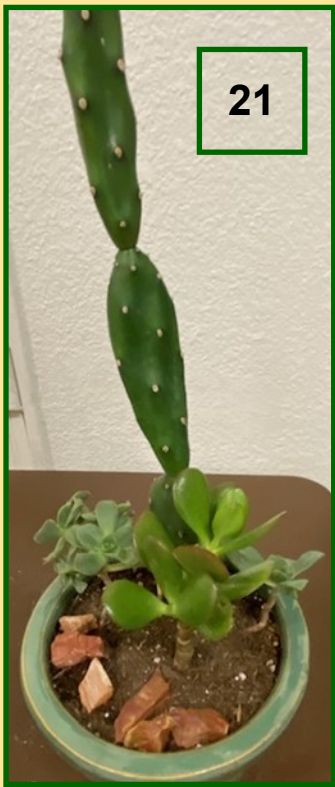
- 1st Kristie DeTar *Lithops salicola*, *L. lesliei* 20
 2nd Susan Turner *Crassula argentea*, *Opuntia* sp., *Aeonium* hybd. 21

Dish Garden – Intermediate

- 1st Patti Nelson Succulents 22
 2nd David Buffington *Schlumbergera* sp. Collection 23
 3rd Lois Walag Mixed succulents 24

Dish Garden – Advanced

- 1st Russel Ray Dish Garden 25
 2nd Russel Ray Dish Garden 26
 3rd Russel Ray Dish Garden 27





Home Garden Brag Plants



Norb Roden's

Epiphyllum sp.



Golden Cleistocactus
winteri



Bernie Mases's

Aloes with
flaming
inflorescence





Moni Waiblinger's

Schlumbergera truncata) 'Thanksgiving Cactus'



Charlyne Barad's tiny Lithops with its first flower.



Candy Garner's

Hyacinthoides
(aka *Scilla*) *linguata*



Conophytum
minutum



Charlyne Barad's
Faucaria tigrina

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,

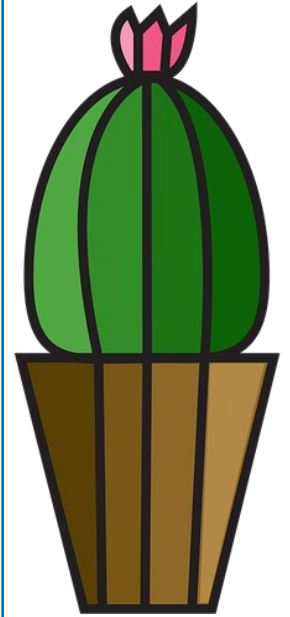
Library—Barbara Raab librarian@palomarcactus.org

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