

Cactus Courier

The beauty of nature



PAMELA KOIDE HYATT
SPEAKS ON
PROFESSOR WERNER RAUH

PLANT OF THE MONTH: ASTROPHYTUM

By Lorie

»»» READ MORE

The name comes from the combination of the Greek words “aster,” meaning “star” and “phyton,” meaning “plant.”

The name refers to the appearance of the cacti which have multiple ribs arranged in the shape of a star.

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

Location: Escondido Community Center
210 E. Park Ave. Escondido, CA
11:00am- 3:00 pm



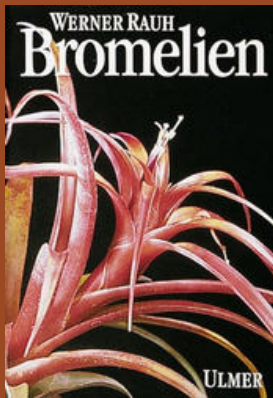
NEXT
MEETING

Pam Koide Hyatt speaks on Werner Rauh

»»» MORE ON PAM

Since starting her nursery Bird Rock Tropicals in 1981, Pam has traveled extensively throughout Mexico, Central and South America, focusing on the genus Tillandsia. These so-called “air plants” are the largest group in the Bromeliad Family. During her travels she has discovered more than a dozen species new to science as well as many natural hybrids. She grows plants from seed and does hybridizing, with some of her creations receiving prestigious awards. In addition, she is very active with the Bromeliad Society and is a frequent speaker at bromeliad conferences and at plant societies, both in the U.S. and abroad. In 2017, Pam began collaborating with Jeff Chemnick, owner of Mexico Nature Tours, to co-lead EcoTours in Mexico to see bromeliads (especially Tillandsias) in habitat.

»»» PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



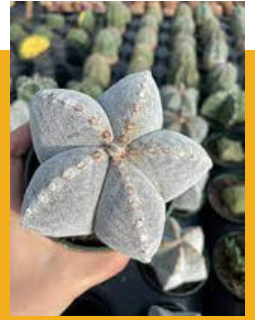
This presentation has two parts. During the first part Pam will discuss the work of Werner Rauh – his books, travels and plant discoveries as documented in the Werner Rauh Heritage Project. The second part will discuss some of her experiences of traveling with him in Peru for nearly one month in 1988. Here we will see many bromeliads and cactus in habitat. She has updated this presentation to include both Bromeliads and Cactus and some more recent images from a trip to Peru in 2019.





Astrophytum

By Lorie



»»» HABITAT

Astrophytum consists of only five accepted species endemic to the Chihuahuan Desert in Mexico and southern Texas. *A. caput-medusae* is still fuzzy where it fits within the genus. Four species are globose to short cylindrical cacti whereas; *A. caput-medusae* has a sprawling, octopus-like look. Many exotic cultivars and hybrids are listed

here: <https://www.cactuseros.com/en/Genus/Astrophytum.html>

»»» LIGHT

To thrive, they need direct light/full sun. Place in a location where it will receive at least six hours of direct sunlight each day and temperatures above 70 degrees. They can tolerate temps below freezing briefly IF the soil is dry.

Astrophytum flower once they've matured which can take up to six years. Each flower blooms for about 2 days but the flowering season can last for months as they bloom in succession.

**EXPERT
ADVICE**
Water sparingly during
winter dormant season
to encourage blooming
during summer

»»» SOIL PREPARATION

Astrophytums are in the family Cactaceae and are native to rocky, mountain slopes, and desert climate. "Desert cacti" require a growing medium that is NOT rich in humus and nutrients. The humic acid formed by the breakdown of humus (compost) will cause root rot for Astrophytums. "Jungle cactus" like *Epiphyllum* or *Schlumbergera* can tolerate more humus and nutrients. Astrophytums require a mineral growing medium with quick drainage. A DIY soil mix: 25% pumice, 25% sand and 50% potting soil will provide the necessary drainage.



Astrophytum

By Lorie



»»» PROPAGATION

Propagate by seed only which can be collected from the dried flowers. The seeds are fragile and have a relatively short shelf life. Be gentle with them and sow quickly after harvesting to have a reasonable rooting chance. Sow in well-aerated soil, then place newly planted seeds in a plastic bag to capture moisture and heat. It can help to soak seeds before they are sown.

»»» PEST DISEASES

Astrophytums are not especially susceptible to pests or diseases. Pests such as aphids, mealybugs, and scale are possible. Root rot can be a common issue in the instance of overwatering.

EXPERT ADVICE

Repot in April to
replenish soil.

»»» REFERENCES

<https://cactiguide.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=38638>

<https://succulentalley.com/astrophytum/>

<https://www.thespruce.com/grow-astrophytum-cacti>

<https://www.llifl.com/Encyclopedia/CACTI/Family/Cactaceae/Astrophytum/>

Community News

San Marcos Library

Aeonium Arabicum Zwartkop Crest

Plant of the month for the San Marcos Library donated by the Palomar Cacti and Succulent Society

Aeonium arboreum 'Zwartkop' Crest

Cresting is a mutation that occurs as the plant grows. Instead of producing more branches or stems, the plant flattens out and creates a wide flat surface. The leaves generally grow along the top of the ridge of this wide growth, and they are very compact.

Member Update

Lifetime member Ron Chisum. Currently resides in OR and OH.



April Member Fair
Get your propagations and plants ready.





Aeonium
tabuliforme



Aeonium
leucoblepharum



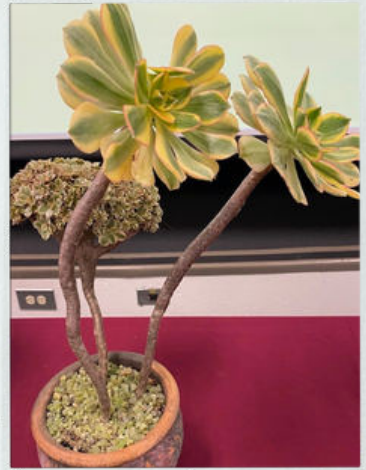
Aeonium sp.



Aeonium
Sunburst



**BRAG
PLANTS**



Aeonium
Sunburst



Operculicarya + Senecio



Daffodil + Sedum



Pelargonium



Sanseveria hallii
variegated



Aloe plicatilis



Pelargonium
triste



Opuntia santa
rita "Dark Knight"



**BRAG
PLANTS**



Rhipsalis
pilocarpa



Mamillaria bombycina



Aloe sp.



Stenocereus
hollianus crest



PLANTS OF THE MONTH



January
AEONIUM



February
ASTROPHYTUM



March
RHIPSALIS



April
FESTIVAL



May
MINI ALOE



June
FEROCACTUS



July
ESPOSTUA



August
PICNIC



September
EUPHORBIA



October
FALL SHOW

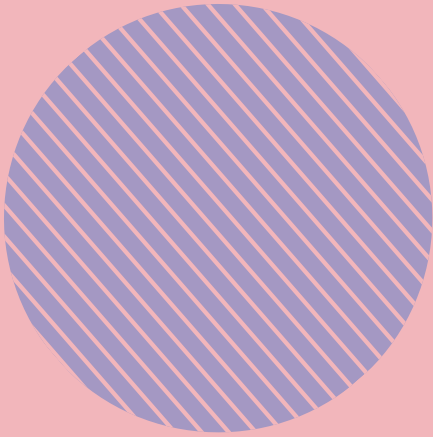


November
CUSSONIA



December
PARTY

Save the date



JAN
27
ARIZONA GARDENS
Director of SDB Garden

FEB
24
WEHRNER RAUGH-
BOTANIST
*Pam Hyatt-Bird Rock
Tropicals*

MARCH
23
SOCOTRA ISLAND
*Woody Minnich-
researcher*

APRIL
27
SPRING FESTIVAL
WORKSHOPS-TBD

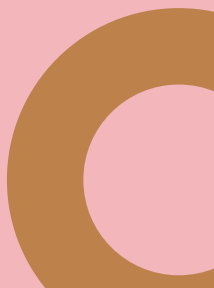
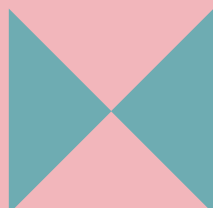
MAY
25
NAMIBIA
*KELLY GRIFFIN-ALTMAN
GROWER*

JUNE
22
COLLECTING
CACTUS/SUCCULENT
*Gunner Eisel-President
CSSA*

JULY
27
SEED PROPAGATION
*Ernesto Sandoval-UC
Davis*

AUG
24
PICNIC
Palomar College

SEPT
28
EUPHORBIA
Tom Glavich-CSSA



Save the date



OCT
26
PALOMAR
SHOW/SALE
SDB Garden

NOV
23
SOIL
*Craig Kolodge-San Pasqual
Soil*

DEC
21
HOLIDAY PARTY
*Escondido Community
Center*

Blank calendar card

Blank calendar card

Blank calendar card

Blank calendar card

Blank calendar card

Blank calendar card

