

# CACTUS COURIER

Affiliate Member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America



## Speaker: Woody Minnich

Presentation: Socotra

Socotra is one of the three most exciting islands in world. Along with the Galapagos and Madagascar, Socotra offers some of the most unique and endemic plant and animal life to be found anywhere.



## March Meeting

Date: March 23 2024

Location:  
210 Park Ave.  
Community Center  
Escondido, CA

Time: 11-3:00 pm

Please visit our website  
for more info:

<https://www.palomarcactus.org/>

## Plant of the Month: Rhipsalis

by Lorie Johansen

Rhipsalis is in the Cactaceae family. Even though Rhipsalis is a cactus, it needs more watering than desert cacti.

Jungle cacti require excellent drainage, morning sun, afternoon shade and less water in the winter when they are dormant.



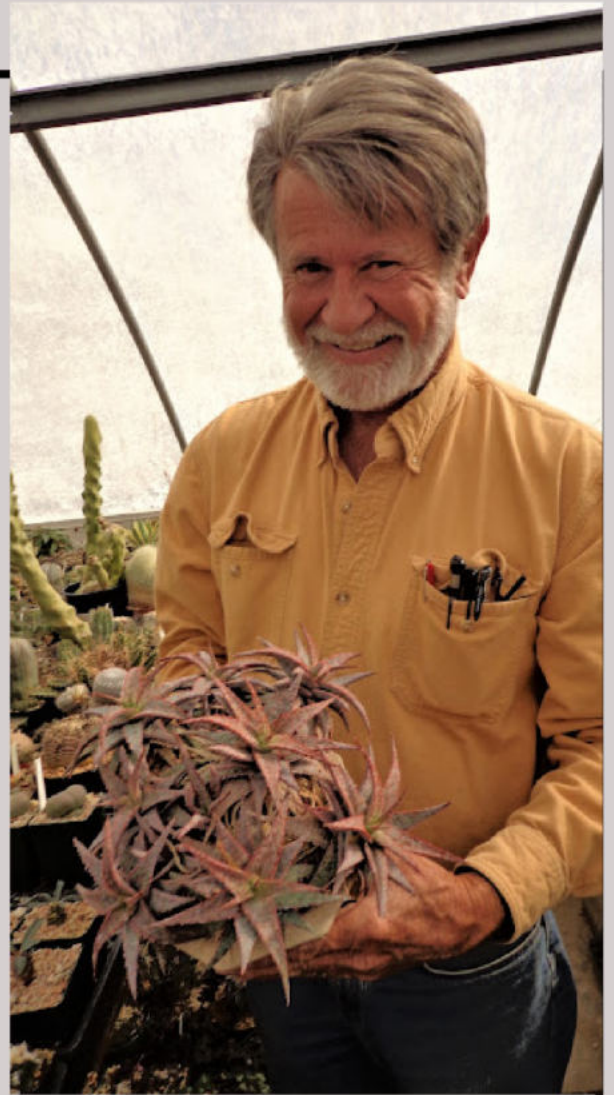


# WOODY MINNICH

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's.

He has published numerous articles and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" by Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world.



## SOCOTRA

The seasons vary from extremely hot and wet to warm and dry, and often the dense fogs dominate most of the island. The island is primarily calcareous uplifts and limestone plateaus with only one mountain range

Due to agriculture many of the plant populations have been pushed back to inaccessible regions where people or herbivores cannot go.





# Rhipsalis

By Lorie Johansen

*Native range is parts of central America, the Caribbean and northern regions of South America. Most of the approximately 35 species are native to Brazil. The exception is Rhipsalis baccifera which is also native to tropical Africa, Madagascar and Sri Lanka. This is the only species naturally occurring outside the Americas. It's the largest and most widely distributed genus of epiphytic cacti. They are commonly called mistletoe cactus*



## 1 Requirements

If in morning sun, water until the water runs out of the bottom of the pot and only water when the top few inches of dirt are dry.

If in complete shade, keep it on the dry side. They prefer warm tropical temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit and are not tolerant of frost. During the dry months of winter, some growers like to provide extra moisture with a room humidifier as they like considerably more humidity than the typical desert cactus.

## 2 Repotting

Report every 3-4 years and use a general cactus mix. Most are either lithophytic (grows on rocks) or epiphytic (grows on trees) with a shallow root system and can, therefore, be potted in shallower pots, not requiring as much room and soil mix as plants with more vigorous roots. As a result, they can withstand being pot bound. Terracotta pots are recommended to allow the roots to "breathe" more, as they would in habitat. Spring to summer is the best time to propagate.

## 3 Pests

Check regularly for any signs of aphids, red spider mite, mealy bugs, and thrip. The most common pest Rhipsalis tends to suffer from are mealy bugs, usually due to lack of air flow.

## 4 Pruning

Late dormant season is best for pruning Rhipsalis and enhancing growth. You can propagate the cuttings in moist cactus mix or in water. Watch this short video by Australian David Fripp to see his amazing collection and how easy it is to make more with cuttings:

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/rhipsalis/11612694>



## References

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/rhipsalis-mistletoe-cactus/>

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

<https://rhipsalis.net/species/>

Dutch Nora Goosen displays exquisite close-up photos of the species:

<https://ngoosen.fotki.com/cactaceae/rhipsalis/?view=roll#1>

I would like to acknowledge Jim Anderson who introduced me to this wonderful genus. When he visited for a garden tour, he brought at least 20 species – all with proper id.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH SAN MARCOS

## *Neoporteria multicolor*

This cactus is endemic to Chile at altitudes from 350 to 2000 meters above sea level.

This species is no longer abundant due to illegal collection and land conversion for agriculture and urbanization which degrades the habitat surrounding the species.

This summer growing cacti enjoys excellent draining soil, needs to dry out in between waterings, and needs sun to maintain its dark spines and flower.





White alyssum pops out with every rain- like snow drifts.

Red sage, white alyssum, and hard to see, pale purple sand verbena around the unknown name agave.

Assorted agave, sea squill, bougainvillea, purple people eater ice plant

The very good rainy season will mean a very colorful spring



debra  
pearson



★★★★★ Best Quality

NEW  
WINNERS  
EVERY  
MONTH

# STOCK UP ON THE TROPHY TABLE!!



MELOCACTUS

H.Chan



MAMMILARIA

K.Smith



HAWORTHIA

P.Nelson



M.LONGIMAMMA

J.Barkley



LAPEIROUSIA

C.Garner



STENOCEREUS

M.Waiblinger



SANSEVERIA

R.Kopfstein



ALOE

L.JOHANSEN



DISOCACTUS

J.Anderson

