

# Cactus Courier

## Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 70, Number 6

June 2024

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June's Speaker

Gunnar Eisel

The Folklore, Enchantment, and Evolution of the C&S Hobby  
Attend to learn about the curious set of events that have shaped our hobby to the present day.

See page two for details, and complete topic.

### Important Reminder

**We are once again entering the building from the back. That gives us a lot more parking near the entry point.**

### Newsletter Committee Update

We still need members to take the following pages:

Recap of prior month's meeting. \_\_\_\_\_

(Jan) Recap of holiday party \_\_\_\_\_

(Sept. ) Recap of picnic \_\_\_\_\_

(Nov.) Recap of Annual Show and Sale \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Brag Plants \_\_\_\_\_

Recap of Miscellaneous events (coffees in the garden, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please consider taking part in this project. If we don't get member participants, those sections will not appear in the newsletters.**

**Many thanks! To offer help, reply to:**

[eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

### Meeting Fourth Saturday, June 22

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: Ferocactus

# Speaker of the Month: Gunnar Eisel

## Topic: The Folklore, Enchantment, and Evolution of the Cactus and Succulent Hobby from 1889 to the Present Day



The allure of cacti and succulents has fascinated people for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. However, unlike some other horticultural endeavors, the collecting and fostering an interest in the C&S is fairly new. This program focuses on the people, the changing American landscape, and a curious set of events that have shaped our hobby as we find it today.

Bio: Gunnar Eisel's interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with opuntia glochids. His

interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.

Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at California State University Los Angeles (CSULA), California State University Fullerton (CSUF), Whittier College, Fullerton College, and Citrus College. He recently retired as a full-time music theory and history of music professor at Citrus College in Glendora, CA where his students were occasionally subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid cactus and succulent collector, he served as Executive Director of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) for 15 years and as President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.



Photo from CSSA website



# May Meeting Recap

By Charlyne Barad

Kelly Griffin presented a talk and slide show about his trip to Namibia and South Africa to see Aloes and many other wonderful plants. He is always an inspiring speaker, and his photos are superb. BTW, Annie asked him what kind of camera he uses, and he said he took all the photos with his phone!



Kevin carried heavy potted plants up and down the aisles so we could see the auction plants close up.

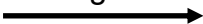


Mike and Annie showed brag plant winners.



Robert auctioned off wonderful plants, including some from the Bradsher family.

The exchange table was fairly bursting with plants and cuttings to share! Not shown here are two "help yourself" tables with even more cuttings.



The Benefit Drawing table held many collection-worthy plants!

Please sign up to do this page. I was not able to do it justice this month!

Thanks!

[eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

# FEROCACTUS—BARRELS OF FUN AND SPINES!!!!

By Lorie Johansen



*F. acanthodes*

Painting by Ron Chisum, chosen as  
CSSA Convention logo in 2011.

Hailing from the deserts of North America and Mexico, Ferocactus thrive under harsh sun and minimal rainfall. Its Latin name literally means “ferocious cactus,” referring to its large, robust and often hooked spines. The spines develop on the globular body of the cactus, along very marked ribs, colored in a bright green, though sometimes the body can be pale green, tending to greyish with age (just like us). Only after several years will you be able to admire its beautiful flowers of multiple colors which tend to form a ring around the top of the plant. When they are pollinated, they form lemon yellow fruits and keep their dried petals even when they are ripe. Despite extremely slow

growth, they are quite ornamental from an early age thanks to their unmistakable spines, which can vary dramatically in color, even on the same plant. The shape is usually large and round up to 10’ tall, but a few remain small and manageable.

Some of the 30+ species form clumps.

This genus has been nicknamed "The Traveler's Friend" due to the belief that these "living barrels" are reservoirs of fresh drinking water in the hot arid deserts just waiting to be tapped into by a parched visitor. While this idea is quite romantic, it is not recommended to drink this water as it is far too alkaline and may worsen the effects of dehydration. A far better source of water can be found in the flattened leaf-like pads of *Opuntia*. The Ferocactus flowers of the plant were collected and eaten dry or fresh, and the tiny black seeds were ground and eaten as well. Fishing hooks can be made from the spines. The tunas may be eaten, and some Native Americans used this plant for candy.

## CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:

Choose a location that receives direct sun during all or most of the day. They will eventually lean into the sun instead of growing precisely upright. Plant in a fast-draining soil, let dry out completely in between waterings and no need to fertilize as they thrive in poor and arid soil. They cannot tolerate freezing temperatures for extended periods, which typically cause them to yellow, bleach, then slowly die. Mealybugs can be a pest to reckon with as described in this vlog:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5V9PNBPK64>.

Propagation is usually from seeds, but clumping species such as *F. robustus* and *F. glaucescens* can be propagated by removing a rooted offset and planting it.





## REFERENCES:

<https://cactiguide.com/cactus/?genus=ferocactus>

[https://calscape.org/plant/Ferocactus-cylindraceus-\(California-Barrel-Cactus\)/gallery](https://calscape.org/plant/Ferocactus-cylindraceus-(California-Barrel-Cactus)/gallery)

<https://trexplants.com/blog/care-diary-ferocactus-macrodiscus>

<https://www.giromagi.com/en/shop/ferocactus>



*F. cylindraceus* (Russel Ray)



*F. cylindraceus* (Lorie Johansen)



*F. macrodiscus*  
(David Buffington)



*F. gracilis* (Russel Ray)

# May Brag Table Winners

By Annie Morgan

## Novice Cactus

- |                 |                 |   |     |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Charlie Ballard | <i>Tephrocactus articulata</i>                            | - 1 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Barbara Raab    | <i>Hatiora gaertneri</i><br>(syn. <i>Rhipsalidopsis</i> ) | - 2 |

## Intermediate Cactus

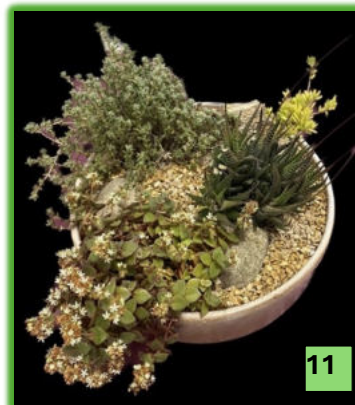
- |                 |               |  |     |
|-----------------|---------------|--|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Norb Roden    | <i>Parodia</i> (syn. <i>Notocactus</i> )<br><i>concinna</i> v. <i>gerbalitoensis</i> | - 3 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jerome Kahn   | <i>Echinopsis</i> hybrid<br>(syn. <i>Chamaecereus</i> )                              | - 4 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kathie McNair | <i>Rebutia arenacea</i><br>(syn. <i>Sulcorebutia</i> )                               |     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Norb Roden    | <i>Rebutia heliosa</i>   | - 5 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Kevin Smith   | <i>Gymnocalycium</i><br><i>mihanovichii</i>  | - 6 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Kathy McNair  | <i>Gymnocalycium</i> sp.   | - 7 |

## Advanced Cactus

- |                 |                 |                                 |      |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Moni Waiblinger | <i>Echinocereus pentalophus</i> | - 8  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Russel Ray      | <i>Mammillaria petterssonii</i> | - 9  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | John Barkley    | <i>Mammillaria</i> sp.          | - 10 |

## Advanced Dish Gardens

- |                 |                 |                  |      |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Russel Ray      | Mixed succulents | - 11 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Moni Waiblinger | Mixed succulents | - 12 |





## Brag Table Winners Continued

### Intermediate Succulents

|                 |              |   |     |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Patti Nelson | <i>Echeveria agavoides</i><br>'Ebony'               | - 1 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Jeff McNair  | <i>Fouquieria purpusii</i>                          | - 2 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Pauline Wong | <i>Graptoveria</i> 'Fred Ives'<br>cv. Albert Boynes | - 3 |

### Advanced Succulents

|                 |                 |  |     |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Mike Nelson     | <i>Caralluma acutangula</i>              | - 4 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Mike Nelson     | <i>Bursera fagaroides</i>                | - 5 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Moni Waiblinger | <i>Pachypodium</i><br><i>succulentum</i> | - 6 |

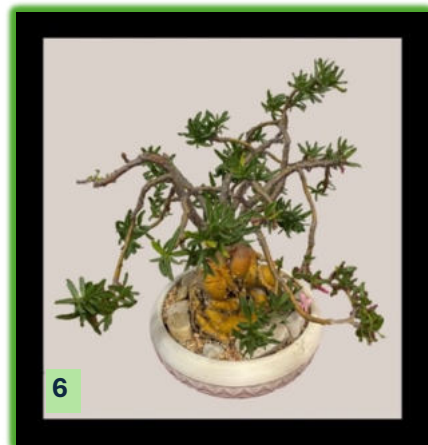
### Plant of the Month – Mini Hybrid Aloes

#### Intermediate

|                 |              |                          |     |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Libbi Salvo  | <i>Aloe</i> 'Oik'        | - 7 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kevin Smith  | <i>Aloe</i> 'Sunrise'    | - 8 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Patti Nelson | <i>Aloe</i> 'Candy Cane' | - 9 |

#### Advanced

|                 |                 |                          |      |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Lorie Johansen  | <i>Aloe</i> 'Blizzard'   | - 10 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Moni Waiblinger | <i>Aloe castilloniae</i> | - 11 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Lorie Johansen  | <i>Aloe</i> 'Pink Blush' | - 12 |

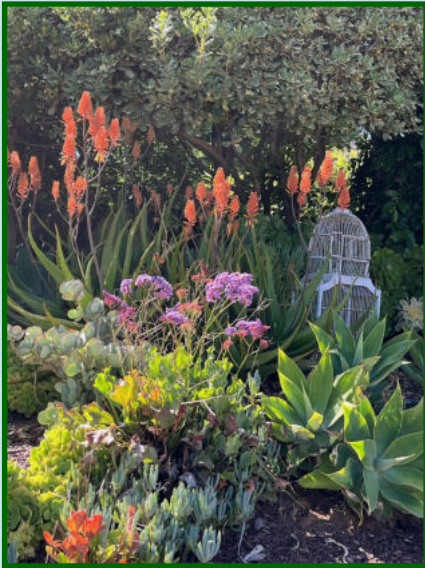




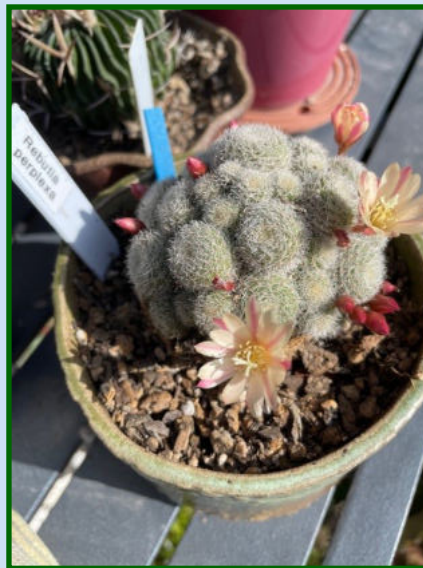


# Home Garden Brag Plants

By Charlyne Barad



Libbi Salvo's  
lovely succulent garden



Pam Dunlap's  
*Rebutia perplexa*



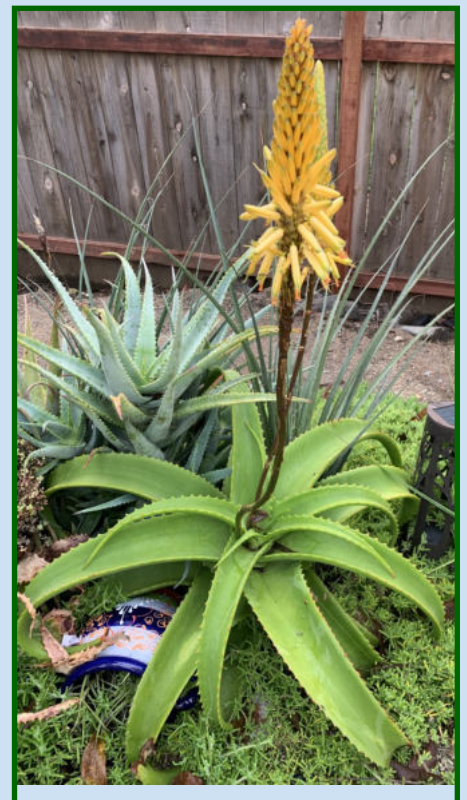
Pam Dunlap's  
*Mammillaria matudae*



Martina Reed's  
*Oscularia deltoides*



Martina Reed's  
*Aeonium canariense*



Tom McCarter's  
*Aloe vanbalenii*  
(with yellow flower)





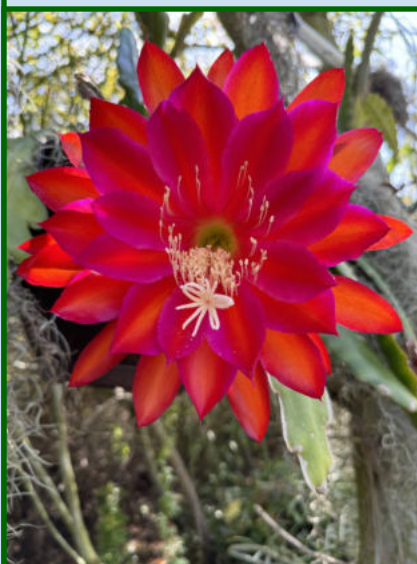
Joan Herskowitz's  
*Echinopsis oxygona*



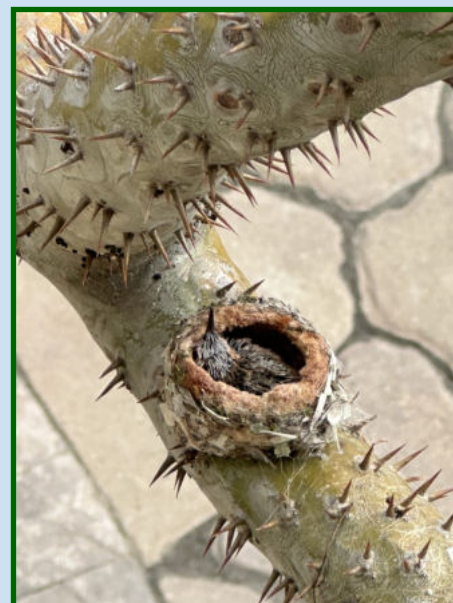
Joan Herskowitz's  
*Echeveria setosa*



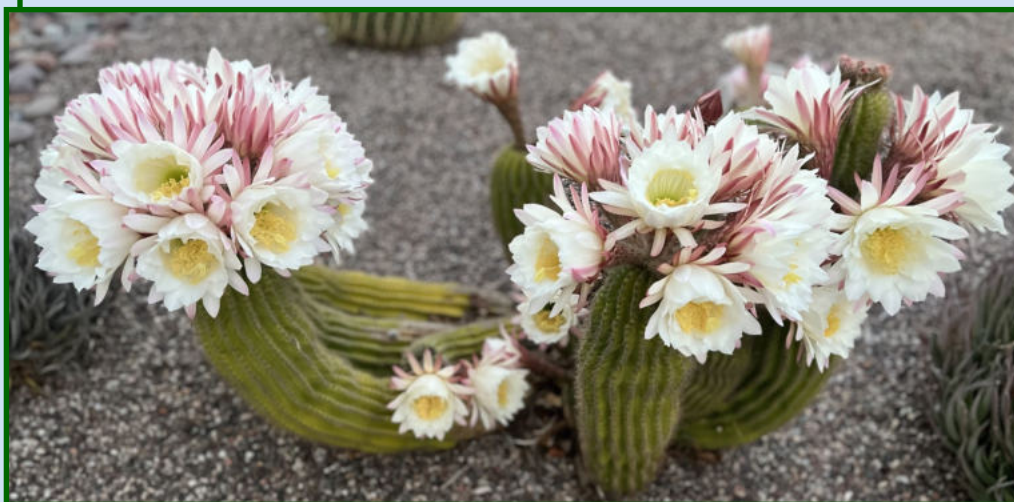
Joan Herskowitz's  
*Euphorbia lambii*



Patty Nelson's  
two different *Epiphyllum* sp.



Baby hummingbird on Lorie's  
neighbor's *Pachypodium*



From Tony Nareshni





Norb Roden's  
Euphorbia bourgaeana  
'Truffela Tree,' green flowers



Norb Roden's  
Aeonium 'Sunburst'



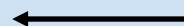
Norb Roden's  
Notocactus turecekianus



Norb Roden's  
Mangave 'Kaleidoscope'



Wanda Mallen's  
Cotyledon pendens



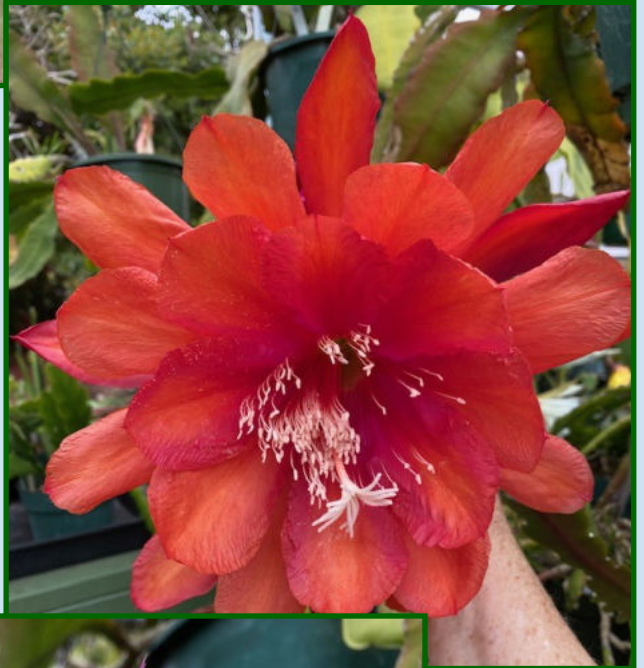
Lori Brandt's  
Echinopsis  
candicans  
'Argentine Giant'







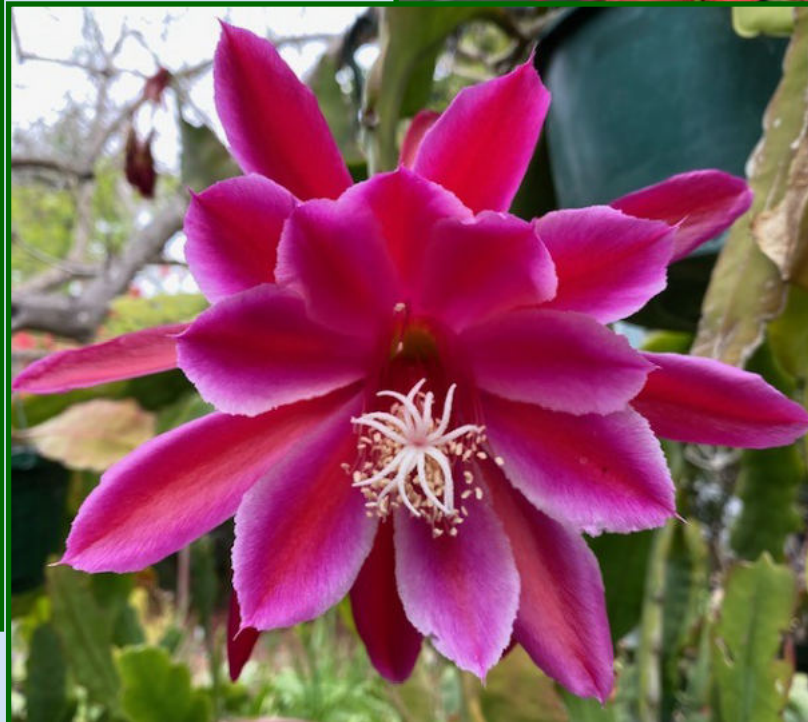
Epiphyllum 'Coral Fantasy'  
hybridized by Phyllis Fleshig



Epiphyllum sp.  
hybridized by  
Phyllis Fleshig



Lynn Cahill's  
Myrtillocactus  
geometrizans, crested



Epiphyllum sp.  
hybridized by Phyllis Fleshig





Yellow blooming Trichocereus  
at Palomar College  
From Kevin Smith



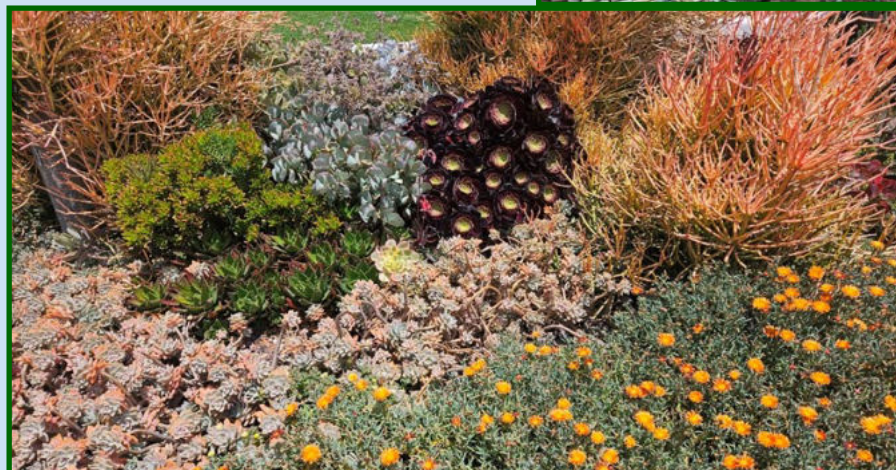
Pink blooming Echinocactus  
at Palomar College  
From Kevin Smith



Sara Velarde's  
garden, including  
handmade  
ceramic  
mini-totems

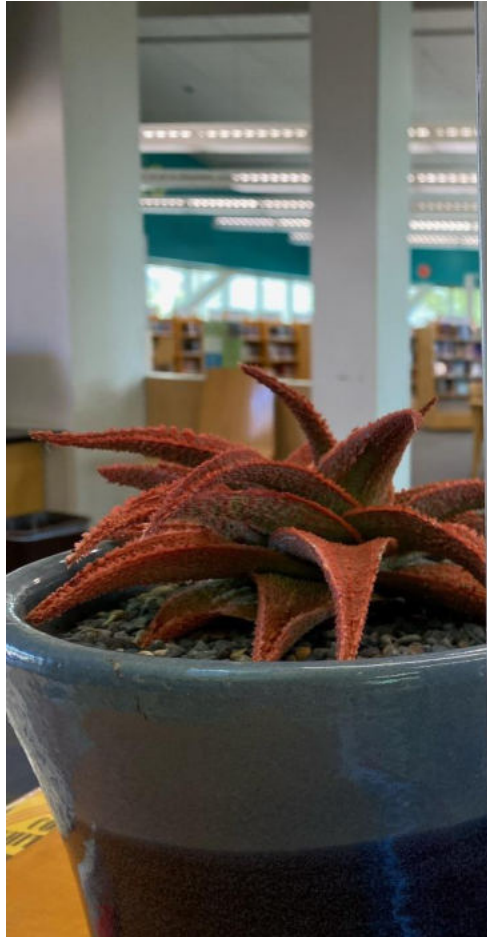


From Keith  
Umbriet's garden.





## SAN MARCOS PLANT OF THE MONTH JUNE 2024: Aloe 'Green Sand' by Lorie Johansen



### ALLURING ALOES

Most people recognize the word aloe in conjunction with the therapeutic, cosmetic, and medicinal properties of the leaf sap of *Aloe vera*. This is a commonly cultivated plant widely available almost anywhere plants are sold. Aloes have been the subject of hybridizers for years, and some amazing, almost unbelievable hybrids are available through specialty succulent plant nurseries and online. There are many hundreds of hybrids and they come in all sizes, from landscape specimens to tiny miniatures. Previously it required many years to propagate selected hybrids by normal vegetative techniques. Today, desirable hybrids are quickly propagated in tissue culture labs.

This is a hybrid miniature called Aloe 'Green Sand' or Aloe 'Vito' is a Kelly Griffin creation.



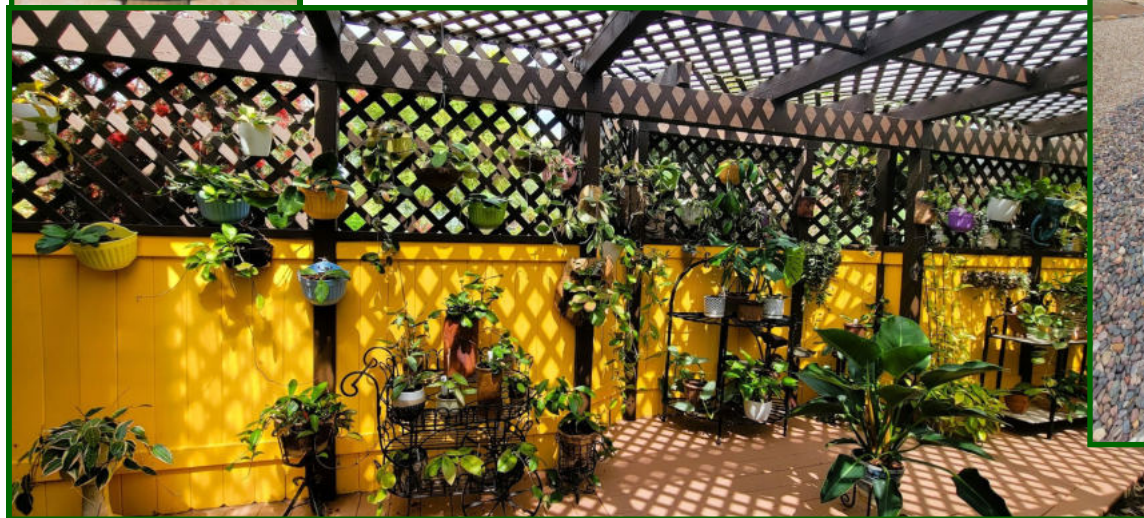


# Garden Tour at the Home of Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent

Once again, Wanda and Gary invited us to tour their magnificent garden!

Page by  
Charlyne  
Barad.

Photos by  
Lorie  
Johansen.



**Wanda's Fabulous Hoya Collection**

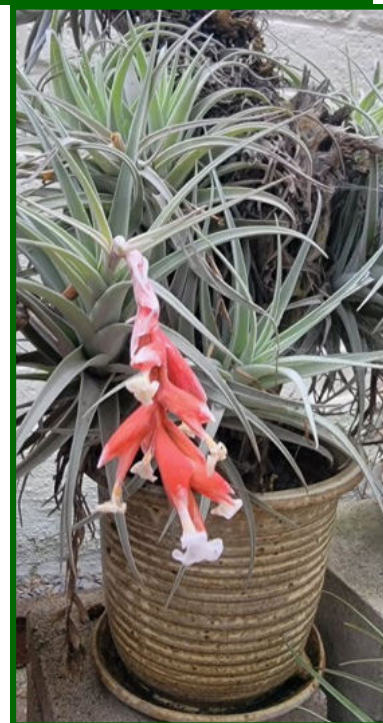
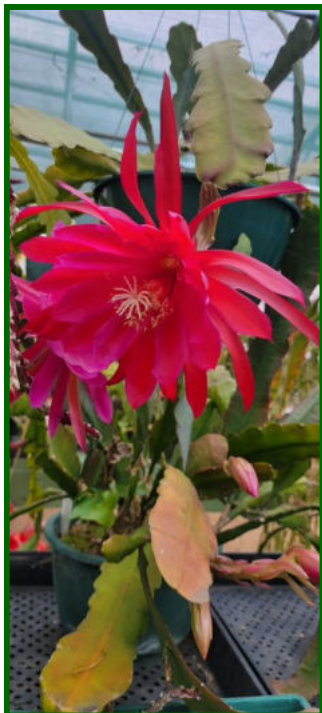


# Coffee in the Garden at the Home of Phyllis & Katrin Flechsig



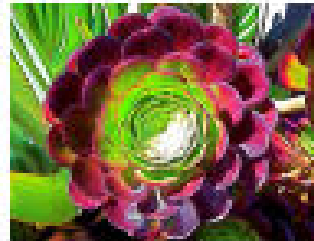
Page by  
Charlyne  
Barad

Phyllis's daughter, Katrin, shared Phyllis's gorgeous greenhouse and magnificent hybrid epiphyllums with us.



# PCSS ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

October 26 & 27, 2024



## SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN

- Opportunity to show your plants in the San Diego Botanic Garden's beautiful conservatory
- Lots of vendors selling exquisite plants for all levels of collectors.
- Plant judging with a chance to listen to the judges' reasoning
- Free admission to PCSS volunteers and plant showers
- Potluck food for PCSS members
- Now is the time to prepare your plants for the show!

**As always, our show runs on the efforts of volunteers. Please sign up to take part when we ask for volunteers. Thank you!**

### **Another note of importance...**

Robert Kopfstein has requested that we ask members to suggest names of potential speakers for our meetings. If you know of possible speakers, please send their names to:

[info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)



## Upcoming Cactus & Succulent Affiliate Society Events

CSSA Annual Show and Sale, June 28 – 30, 2024

Held at The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens

By Winston Chan







## Your Newsletter Team ... So Far



Many thanks to members who have agreed to take part in creating our newsletter. We still need more hands raised to help!

NL Coordinator [Charlyne Barad](#)

Meeting & club info (Page 1) [Charlyne Barad](#)

Speaker of the Month, info and photos from speaker [Charlyne Barad](#)

Recap of the last month's meeting – photos w /captions, etc. [Available](#)

(January) Recap of holiday party – photos w/captions, etc. [Available](#)

(May) Recap of Spring Festival – photos w/captions, etc. [Brita Miller](#)

(September) Recap of picnic – photos w/captions, etc. [Available](#)

(November) Recap of Annual Show and Sale – photos w/captions, etc. [Available](#)

(Feb, Mar, Apr, Jun, Jul, Aug, Oct, Dec) Brag Plant Winners – photos, names of person and plant. [Annie Morgan](#)

Plant of the Month – article w/photos and captions [Lorie Johansen](#)

Garden Brag Plants – photos w/plant and submitters' names. [Available](#)

San Marcos Library Plant of the Month Update [Lorie Johansen](#)

Misc. club notices – i.e., Coffee in the Garden invitations, other clubs' event notices, CSSA misc. Arrange on pages with occasional headings and comments. [Winston Chan](#)

### Back Page(s)

Board Member info box, volunteer info box, newsletter committee members box, membership info box w/link to website form to print, upcoming PCSS meetings box w/meeting dates, speakers, topics, Plants of the Month, compile pages, post on website. [Russel Ray](#)

**Please pitch in to help produce what has become our highly respected newsletter, *Cactus Courier*. In this case it really does take a village!**

**Contact Charlyne at** [eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

**Or Annie at** [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)



| 2024 PCSS Meeting and Speaker Schedule |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Date                                   | Speaker  | Topic   |
| May 25                                 | Kelly Griffin, Altman Growers, succulent plant development, hybridizer | Adventure to Namibia  |
| Jun. 22                                | Gunnar Eisel, President CSSA   | Collecting Cactus and Succulents, the collectors and the American Landscape |
| Jul. 27                                | Ernesto Sandoval, former curator, UC Davis Conservatory                | Propagation of succulents from seed   |
| Aug. 24                                | Picnic at Palomar College C&S Garden                                   | Food, Fun, and Glorious Plants!   |
| Sep. 28                                | Tom Glavich, CSSA board member   | Exploring Euphorbias  |
| Oct. 26-27                             | Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale SDBGarden    | Your Show Plants!   |
| Nov. 23                                | Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils                                | Soils   |
| Dec. 21                                | Holiday Party, Escondido Community Center                              | Gift Plant Galore!  |





## **PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

### **Board of Directors**

President - David Buffington [president@palomarcactus.org](mailto:president@palomarcactus.org)

Vice President - Kevin Smith

Past President, program, plant auction - Robert Kopfstein

Treasurer, meeting cashier - Teri Shusterman [treasurer@palomarcactus.org](mailto:treasurer@palomarcactus.org)

Secretary, meeting cleanup - Moni Waiblinger

Members at Large - Brita Miller, Lorie Johansen, Charlyne Barad

### **Other Volunteers**

Event Coordinator - Charlyne Barad, [eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

Asst. Event Coordinator - Brita Miller, [eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

Newsletter Coordinator- Charlyne Barad (See list of team) [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

Membership - Richard Miller [membership@palomarcactus.org](mailto:membership@palomarcactus.org)

Assistant Treasurer - Liz Rozycki

Meeting Setup - Brita Miller [eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org) , Libbi Salvo, Kevin Smith

Brag Table Setup - Kevin Smith,

Brag Plant Tally - David Buffington

Brag Plant Photography - Annie Morgan, Asst. - Lorie Johansen

Guest & New Member Ambassador & Plant of the Month - Lorie Johansen

Refreshments - Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry

Exchange Table - Brian Magone

Benefit Drawing Table - Martina Reed, Stacy Day

Library - Barbara Raab [librarian@palomarcactus.org](mailto:librarian@palomarcactus.org)

Publicity - Tom McCarter, Barbara Raab

Website - Annie Morgan [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org) , Russel Ray

A/V - Russel Ray

### **Social Media**

**Website:** [www.palomarcactus.org](http://www.palomarcactus.org)

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

**Email:** [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

**Facebook group for members:**

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group

### **2024 Plants of the Month**

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Aeoniums          | (January)   |
| Astrophytum       | (February)  |
| Rhipsalis         | (March)     |
| FESTIVAL          | (April)     |
| Hybrid Mini Aloes | (May)       |
| Ferocactus        | (June)      |
| Euphorbia         | (July)      |
| PICNIC            | (August)    |
| Euphorbia         | (September) |
| FALL SHOW         | (October)   |
| Cussonia          | (November)  |
| PARTY             | (December)  |