

Cactus Courier

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 71, Number 6

June 2025

What's Inside



Club Info.	1
June Meeting Speaker	1
Spring Festival Thank You	2
Spring Festival Recap	3-8
SF People's Choice Winners	9
Home Garden Brag Plants	10-12
PCSS at SDCSS Show & Sale	12
Plant of the Month	13
San Marcos Library Plant of the Month	14
Call to Arms	15
Tribute to Donors	15
Misc. Club & Meeting Info	16,17

June's Speaker:

Jim Anderson

Anza-Borrego Desert, How It Got Here



This month's talk will be on the Anza-Borrego Desert but not in the context that you might expect from a cactus and succulent society. It will be the kickoff of an animal-vegetable-mineral exposition of the Anza-Borrego Desert and Salton Trough area. It ultimately will be part of a three-talk series covering varied aspects of the fascinating

Anza-Borrego Desert, a transcendent zoologic, botanic, geologic and topographic marvel in our own backyard. Jim Anderson will explain the geologic and tectonic forces that formed this unique part of North America. He is an off-and-on 10 year-ish member of PCSS. His interests are euphorbias, haworthias, epiphytes, opuntias, and any cactus/succulent that looks like it came from another planet. Over that same time period, Jim has renounced his fixation on the Mojave Desert and Owens Valley, developed during his undergraduate geology days at UCLA, and acquired an enthusiasm for the Anza-Borrego Desert which he will share with us. Jim lives in Vista with his 4WD Toyota Tacoma.

**Meeting Fourth Saturday, June 28,
11:00 am—3:00 pm
Grace Presbyterian Church, 1450 E.
Vista Way, Vista**

- Brag Plant Table: **Plants must be labeled and on the table no later than 11:30 am to be judged. Please note the earlier time.**
- Benefit drawing and exchange tables and auction will all be held.
- **Plant of the month: Parodia.**

PCSS IS HAPPY TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:



**Chris Dawson
Erica Heisler and Barry Niman
Elle Schubert
Kent Scott
Brian and Constance Youens.**



For Sale!

**Several cactus & succulent books will be available for sale at monthly meetings.
All are in good condition.**

Dear PCSS Members,



Thank you, everyone for a delightful, engaging, and profitable Spring Festival! Our treasurer, Teri, said we had gross sales of \$5,995, of which we netted \$1,966, our greatest Spring Festival earnings ever. We had 105 guests, up from 70 last year. Five of them are now new PCSS members! We all know the adage that begins with, "It takes a village..." Spring Festival was evidence that our PCSS village is an enthusiastic, talented, and generous village indeed!

Many thanks to members who helped set up indoors Friday afternoon, arrived super early Saturday morning to set up outdoors, and stayed late to clean up. Saturday morning members carted tables out into the courtyard, set them up, covered them with plastic, and filled them with donated plants. In the afternoon, members folded tables – stacking those belonging to members and moving those belonging to the church indoors. They took down canopies, packed up plants, boxes, cash registers, etc. and loaded everything into vehicles. Everyone worked hard to make the area look like we were never there. Lorie even brought a leaf blower to blow away every last scrap of plant material.

We are grateful to members who brought tables and canopies for us to use. The response to our request for tables was tremendous! Joe Cobb brought nine!

Speaking of generosity, thank you, everyone who propagated and donated plants for PCSS to sell. The number of donated plants was mind-blowing – far, far more than ever before! Some of the plants were re-potted, cleaned up, and top-dressed by Lorie, Sherman, Jamie, and Kevin to make them even more attractive and ready to sell.

Thank you to everyone who brought plants, pots, etc. to sell. The courtyard was bustling with happy shoppers!

The number of donated plants was almost matched by the amount of food everyone brought to share – wow, what a feast! Huge thanks to Sandy and Candy for organizing the kitchen and making sure all the food was plated and ready to eat. They worked hard to clean up afterwards, leaving the kitchen spotless!

Special thanks to our cashier team: Teri, Ken (from SDCSS), Liz, Lynn, Windy, and Winston! They handled shoppers' purchases with efficiency and grace. Shoppers left with their prized plant bargains securely packed and padded in boxes for a safe ride home.

Our wonderful speakers Wanda, Debra Lee, and Russel engaged and delighted attendees with richly informative presentations on topics of wide interest. Thank you all!

Many thanks to publicity chairs, Lou Harris and Tom McCarter and to all members who publicized the event through news media, various clubs, neighborhood flyers, Facebook pages, and word of mouth. Thank you, Debra Lee for writing about our event in your newsletter and website. You drummed up lots of interest! Our guests signed in and indicated where they learned about the event. Their varied answers showed that all our publicity sources were effective.

The show plants that everyone brought were magnificent! Visitors ooh-ed and ahh-ed at the vast array of beautiful and bizarre plants that were on display. One visitor said that our show was more impressive than one she had seen at the Botanical Garden! Thank you, everyone for a glorious and profitable show!

With gratitude,
Brita and Charlyne



↕ All buckled in for the trip to the Show.



SHOW



Notice the beautiful new tablecloths. Many thanks to Jamie Straub for making and donating them!



So many beautiful plants.
It is hard to choose a favorite.



Peter - Great plants - Great Friends -
Great food What more could you ask for.



Joan talking about one of her plants for sale.



Not "Where's Waldo", but where's Harold?
How many photos can you find him?

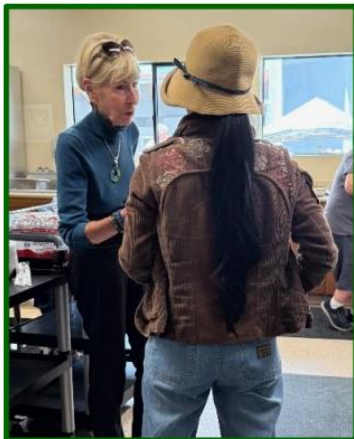


Wonderful pots everywhere!



New member, Jan, sports the coolest hat at Spring Festival!

Catching up with friends.



Sandy



Patty Candy Wanda



Spring Festival Wrap-Up



PLANT SALES

Pages by Brita Miller



Getting tables set up and ready for plants.



Sheila pricing donated PCSS plants.



Long line of tables full of plants donated by PCSS members.



Unlike other Costco shoppers, Brita shops only for boxes!



Windy, Ken, Liz, and Teri. Lynn and Winston not pictured.



Mike and Patty join other shoppers



"I think I need a bigger box."



"Decisions, decisions!"



Lottie managing the Paid Hold table.



Happy shoppers waiting to pay.



The cashiers and boxers provided service with a smile.



Wanda Mallen Euphorbias to Know and Love

PRESENTATIONS



Part of Wanda's amazing collection of Euphorbias.

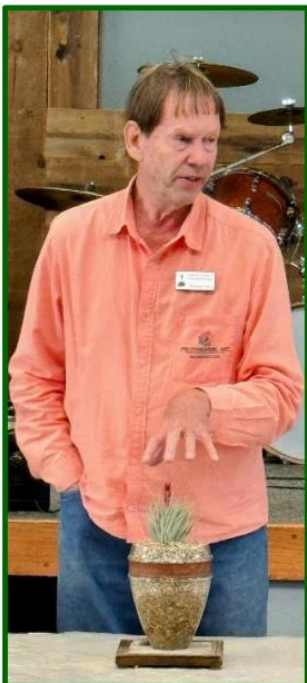


Wanda shares reasons why she loves them so much.



Wanda sharing
tips with a guest.

Russel Ray Keeping Tillandsias Happy



Russel shares his way to keep
"air plants" happy and healthy.



Above are some of the pots he has created for
Tillandsias and other plants.

Debra Lee Baldwin

Aeoniums: Easy-Care, Gorgeous Garden



A great crowd eagerly learning Debra's techniques to make a beautiful container garden.



Oasis Nursery generously donated the beautiful Aeoniums



The gorgeous end result!

REFRESHMENTS



PCSS members went all out with their homemade food! Thank you!



Where else can you find potato salad in bloom?



Spring Festival People's Choice Winners

Page by Charlyne Barad. Plant research by David Buffington



Novice, 1st Place, Liz Rozycki, *Bowiea volubilis*

Bowiea, commonly known as **climbing-onion**, is a genus of bulbous, perennial, succulent plants that thrive in dry and desert regions of eastern and southern Africa, ranging from Uganda to South Africa. It is native to a region stretching from Kenya to Cape Province. It is the 14th most commonly sold medicinal plant in South Africa, used to treat various health conditions. Due to massive harvesting, populations of this plant have been significantly reduced. Because of its high content of potent cardiac glycosides, it is highly poisonous, and deaths of humans and other animals after ingestion are attributed to cardiac arrest. Due to its unique appearance, it is cultivated as a houseplant. The genus contains a single species, ***Bowiea volubilis***, named after the nineteenth-century British plant collector at Kew, James Bowie. The specific epithet means *twisting* or *winding* in Latin. (Copied from Wikipedia)

Intermediate, 1st Place, David Buffington, *Dioscorea elephantipes*

Dioscorea elephantipes, the **elephant's foot** or **Hottentot bread**, is a species of flowering plant in the genus *Dioscorea* of the family Dioscoreaceae, native to the dry interior of South Africa. It is a deciduous climber. It takes the name 'elephant's foot' from the appearance of its large, partially buried, tuberous stem or caudex, which grows very slowly but often reaches more than 3 m (10 ft) in circumference with a height of nearly 1 m (3 ft 3 in) above ground. This tuber can weigh as much as 700 pounds (318 kilograms). It is rich in starch, whence the name 'Hottentot bread,' and is covered on the outside with thick, hard, corky plates. Primarily a winter grower, it develops slender, leafy, climbing shoots with dark-spotted, greenish yellow flowers in winter (May or June in habitat). The flowers are dioecious, with male or female flowers occurring on separate plants.



Advanced, 1st Place Candy & Jerry Garner, *Euphorbia poissonii* –

Euphorbia poissonii, also known as ***Euphorbia poissoni*** and, incorrectly, as ***Euphorbia poisoni***, is a highly irritant and toxic succulent member of the large and varied spurge family of plants. It is native to northern Nigeria, where local farmers extract its latex for use as a pesticide. Its powerfully irritant and pain-producing nature mandates use as a fencing plant. It is known to the Berom people of the Jos area as pyùlúp. They transplant it to their compounds where it is regarded as protection against witchcraft. It is named for French botanist Henri Louis Poisson, who formally described other *Euphorbia* species.

Toxic activity

In addition to a variety of irritant phorbol-type esters, the latex contains resiniferatoxin and tinyatoxin, two closely related highly irritant resiniferonol-type esters. The most active toxin, resiniferatoxin, binds to pain receptors in the same way as capsaicin but much more powerfully. It stimulates the neurons to fire repeatedly, causing pain.

Due to its selective nature of binding and killing pain receptors while leaving other nerve cells intact, resiniferatoxin is currently being researched as a possible treatment for chronic pain (Copied from Wikipedia)



HOME GARDEN BRAG

By Joan Herskowitz

Share an especially nice section of your garden, a plant that bloomed in between meetings, or one that is too large to bring to the Brag Table. Earn 2 points for each published photo. Please submit a maximum of two photos to: info@palomarcactus.org. **SUBMISSION DATES FOR 2025:** June 8th, July 6th, Aug. 3rd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd, and Dec. 1st.



Tom McCarter's
Strophocactus testudo



Tom McCarter's
Aeonium canariense



Moni Waiblinger's
Echinopsis sp.



Christine Sangster's
Epiphyllum 'Mystic Magic'



Christine Sangster's
Echinopsis hybrid



Moni Waiblinger's
dish gardens

HOME GARDEN BRAG (CONTINUED)



From Kelly Griffin, President of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
Agave albopilosa



Aloe hybrids



Pamela Dunlap's
Mammillaria matudae



Pamela Dunlop's
Euphorbia bupleurifolia



Joan Herskowitz's
Sinningia cardinalis



Deborah Pearson & Chet Reed's
cactus plants in their garden



Susan Snow's
Beschorneria yuccoides

HOME GARDEN BRAG (CONTINUED)



Susan Snow's
Yucca filamentosa



Joan Herskowitz's
Epiphyllum hybrid



Lois Walag's
Hoya obovata



Shoppers explore
PCSS table's plant
pulchritude.

Huge PCSS thanks are due to Sherman Blench, Lori Johansen, and Jamie Straub for managing our sale at the SDCSS show and sale on June 7 & 8! They collected and cared for our plants, set up Friday, manned the table Saturday and Sunday, then packed up and carted away the remaining plants.

Additionally, Jamie and husband Larry helped with the breakdown on Sunday, transported plants to their house, then to Lori's on Monday. Sherman and Lorie were grateful to have their help as they both were exhausted after the three-day show and sale event.

According to Sherman, PCSS netted \$823.50 after being charged 25% holdback of \$292.50 and table rental fee of \$54.



Jamie & Lorie help a
happy shopper.



Jamie and helper friend, Sheri, after unloading plants at Lorie's house. Their generously given time and effort were rewarded with plant cuttings and freshly picked fruit.

Hi back, Suzi!
We hope you
enjoy the
Tillandsia-filled
ladybug that you
bought.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Parodia

by Russel Ray

Parodia is a genus of flowering cactus plants native to the eastern slopes of the Andes in northwestern Argentina and southwestern Bolivia, and in the lowland pampas regions of northeastern Argentina, southern Brazil, eastern Paraguay, and Uruguay.

There are about 65 species, many of which have been transferred from *Eriocactus*, *Notocactus*, and *Wigginsia*. They range from small globose plants to columnar plants up to three feet tall. All are deeply ribbed and spiny with single flowers at or near the crown. Some species produce offsets at the base. *Parodia* are quite popular in cultivation. Many sources say that they have problems if the temperatures fall below 50°F, but all of mine (pictures below) have survived temperatures down to 28°F.



Plant names, left to right from top:
P. scopa,
P. magnifica, *P. buiningii*, *P. warasii*,
P. chrysacanthion, *P. leninghausii*,
P. penicillata, *P. leninghausii*.

San Marcos Library

July Plant of the Month

Sponsored by Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Euphorbia lactea 'cristata'

by Russel Ray



Euphorbia lactea 'cristata' hails from Africa and is commonly known as the coral cactus. Despite the common name, it is not a cactus. Instead, it is a unique hybrid of two succulent species. Along with its striking appearance, it can be found in shades of green, blue-gray, or whitish-green.

Many succulents can die from excessive care and watering, and *Euphorbia lactea 'cristata'* could be a poster plant for beauty without excessive care and watering. Let the soil completely dry out between waterings; if in doubt, give it a little more time before watering again. Provide less water in a humid location and indoor space. In the spring and summer, during the active growing season, water the plant deeply once the top 2 to 3 inches of soil feel dry, typically every 1 to 2 weeks. Ensure that the pot has drainage holes to prevent root rot, as coral cacti are highly sensitive to standing water. In the fall and winter, the plant enters dormancy, and watering can be reduced to once every 3 to 4 weeks, or only when the soil is completely dry. Overwatering during this period can cause root rot. Avoid splashing water on the plant as moisture trapped in the crest grooves can lead to fungal issues. Use a watering can to direct water toward the soil. Wilting or shriveling leaves indicate underwatering while yellowing or soft stems suggest overwatering.

Coral cacti grow up to 2 feet tall and 16 inches wide. Flowers appear in the summer and spring, are small and inconspicuous, typically vibrant pink and purple, and appear in clusters along the edges of the crested stems.

They prefer moderate humidity but adapt well to low humidity, making them ideal for indoor spaces. Avoid placing plants near cold drafts, air conditioners, or heaters, as sudden temperature fluctuations can stress the plant. To keep the plant healthy indoors, ensure bright indirect light and avoid overly humid areas like bathrooms unless there is sufficient airflow.

Coral cacti thrive in bright, indirect light, making them perfect near an east- or south-facing window indoors. Rotate the plant occasionally to ensure even light exposure to prevent leaning. Direct sun for prolonged periods can scorch the ruffled crest, so diffuse the light if needed. Artificial grow lights can supplement light needs in rooms with limited natural light. Coral cacti thrive at consistent temperatures between 60°F and 85°F.

When placed outdoors, put them in a shaded or partially shaded area where they receive morning sunlight and are protected from intense afternoon rays. A spot with 3 to 4 hours of gentle sun works best, especially during summer. Direct exposure to harsh sunlight for extended periods can burn the crest and cause discoloration. Gradually acclimate the plant outdoors to sunlight to prevent shock.

Coral cacti grow well in USDA hardiness zones 10-11 where the warm, tropical climate matches their needs. In these zones, they can tolerate outdoor humidity levels but still require protection from heavy rain and extreme sun; partial shade and well-draining soil are needed. If temperatures drop below 50°F, bring them indoors as coral cacti are not frost-tolerant.

A small amount of NPK fertilizer once a year in spring will do wonders for your plant's health and growth. Mealybugs and scale are its most problematic pests.

The plant on display here through July belongs to Moni Waiblinger. Thank you, Moni!



YOUR cactus and succulent society needs you!
This is a call to arms seeking the nerds and geeks
among us, our families, and our friends.

We are seeking to get better established on
Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and whatever else is out there
that might bring us in some younger members.

Although we have at least two Facebook pages and one Instragram,
getting them to do what we want and need them to do is problematic.

If you have such expertise or know someone who does, please contact Russel Ray.

There will be benefits (free plants, pizza, burgers & fries?)
involved for those who can help us.



Thank you, Generous Members!

Crassula Level (\$100 – \$249.99)

2024 (for 2025)

Lorie Johansen
Charlyne Barad
Liz Rozycki
David & Debi Buffington
Sandy Wetzel Smith
Anonymous

2025

Anonymous (4)
Ron Chisum
Debra Lee Baldwin
Phyllis Flechsig

Ocotillo Level (\$250.00 - \$499.99)

2024

Julian & Leslie Duval
Candy & Jerry Garner
Lynn Cahill & Joe Cobb

2025

Mike & Nancy Peters
Anonymous
Stan Yalof
Sandy Wetzel-Smith

Saguaro Level (\$500 & Above)

2024

2025

Anonymous (2)

Other amount

Woody Minich (2024)

2025 MEETING DATES, SPEAKERS & TOPICS, PLANT OF THE MONTH

<u>DATES</u>	<u>SPEAKERS & TOPICS</u>	<u>PLANT OF THE MONTH</u>
Jan. 25	Scott Sandel So. Africa, Karoo, Cape area to Namibia	Mammillaria
Feb. 22	Russel Ray Succulent Terrariums	Miniature C or S - pots 4" or less
Mar. 22	Andy Cuffel of Cuffel Farms Topic: TBA	Stacked Crassula
Apr. 26	Dylan Zoller Brazil – orthophytums, xeric plants	Bromeliad
May 24	Spring Festival & Sale	None
June 28	Jim Anderson Anza-Borrego Desert, How It Got Here	Parodia
July 26	Brandon Bullard, Desert Theater Nursery Professional Growing of Cactus & Succulents	Echeveria
Aug. 23	Annual Picnic Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden	None
Sept. 27	Philippe de Vosjoli Topic: TBA	Bonsai C & S
Oct. 25	Fall Show & Sale – TBD	Pachypodium (if no Show & Sale)
Nov. 22	Christy Brenner The Cacti of Bolivia	Monstrose, Crests
Dec. 20	Holiday Party!	None



PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Board of Directors

President — **David Buffington**, president@palomarcactus.org

Vice-President — **Sherman Blench**

Treasurer, Meeting Cashier — **Teri Shusterman**, treasurer@palomarcactus.org

Secretary, Meeting Cleanup — **Moni Waiblinger**

Director at Large, Assistant Treasurer — **Liz Rozcycki**

Director at Large, SDCSS Representative — **Brita Miller**

Director at Large — **Martina Reed**

Other Volunteers

Event Coordinator — **Charlyne Barad**, eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

Assistant Event Coordinator — **Brita Miller**, eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

Membership — **Richard Miller**, membership@palomarcactus.org

Brag Plant Table — **Lorie Johansen, Sherman Blench**

Brag Plant Tally — **David Buffington**

Brag Table Judge — **Mike Nelson**

Brag Table Photographers — **Annie Morgan, Charlyne Barad, Lorie Johansen**

Refreshments — **Bruce Barry, Sandy Wetzel-Smith**

Benefit Drawing — **Martina Reed, Annie Morgan**

Program, Plant Auction — **Robert Kopfstein**

Meeting Sales — **Teri Shusterman, Liz Rozcycki**

Name Badge Drawing — **Julie Kort**

Guest & New Member Ambassadors — **Brita Miller, Lorie Johansen**

Newsletter Team

Charlyne Barad — Coordinator, Club Info, Speakers, etc. pages

Annie Morgan — Pages on Brag Table Winners, reviewer, misc.

Russel Ray — Pages on Plant of the Month and San Marcos Library Plant of the Month,
Newsletter Collator and Distributor

Winston Chan — Pages on Miscellaneous Information

Joan Herskowitz — Pages on Garden Brag Plants

Brita Miller — Pages on Spring Festival and Holiday Party Recap, misc.

Wanda Mallen — Proofreader

Publicity (print) — **Tom McCarter**

Librarian — **Barbara Raab**, librarian@palomarcactus.org

Website — **Annie Morgan**, info@palomarcactus.org, **Russel Ray**

A/V, PCSS Plant of the Month, San Marcos Library Plant of the Month — **Russel Ray**

Additional volunteers who keep meetings running — **Moni Waiblinger, Brita Miller, Libbi Salvo**

Volunteers Needed

Bring refreshments

Assist at meetings with set-up, bringing in plants, etc.

Assist at meetings with clean-up

If you have specific talents or interests, PCSS could use your help!

Social Media

Website: www.palomarcactus.org

Instagram: palomar.cactus.succulent.org

Email: info@palomarcactus.org

Facebook group for members: Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group