

Cactus Garden

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 71, Number 8

August 2025

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Remember, no regular meeting in August because of our potluck picnic.

August 2025 Potluck Picnic

Saturday, August 23, 2025

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The picnic starts at 10:00, but garden will be open at 9:00 for a cool morning look.

At the

Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden

Palomar College, Comet Cir, San Marcos 92056

- Palomar Garden is on the southeast corner of Palomar College at the corner of Mission Ave. and Comet Circle Dr.
- Park in Lot 3, which is to the right as you enter the campus. **Note changes on page 3.**

No Brag, Exchange, or Sales Tables or Library

Please see food sign-up list on page 4.

Important: Please bring your own folding chairs. None will be provided.

Lots more info on pages 2&3.



PCSS WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

MARY BENTLEY

VAL FUJIHARA

Fall Festival Show and Sale

Our October 25 fall festival is right around the corner. The board voted to make it a show and sale only without presenters or plant judging.

With the help of your personal sales and your donations of plants to PCSS, our spring festival was a glowing success! We would love to repeat that success this fall with our best sales ever.

It's time to pot up the succulents you are going to sell yourself or donate to PCSS to sell.

Here is what sells:

- Well rooted plants that fill out the pot
- Top dressing
- A clean pot void of dirt and cobwebs

Thanks in advance for getting your plants ready for another successful sale.



Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden

August 23, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

An option: The garden will be open at 9:00 for members wishing to look around when it's cool.

This year we will once again visit and picnic at the Cactus & Succulent Garden at Palomar College. In 1962, our club's members designed, funded, and planted this garden, and members have done most of the caretaking since then. In 2011, PCSS donated the plants to the college.

Currently, Kevin Smith, a PCSS lifetime member, spends many hours each week maintaining the garden - adding to the plant collection and doing the never-ending pruning, watering, and weeding. If you haven't seen the garden (or seen it lately) you are in for a real treat! Some of the special plants you can see when visiting are Aloe ferox, Aloe cameronii, Euphorbia ingens, and Cholla sp.

Kevin has once again offered to lead a tour of the garden. Last year's tour was very interesting and we learned a lot!

Location - The garden is on Palomar College grounds on the corner of Comet Circle Dr. and Mission Ave. Park in Student Lot 3 as always, but unfortunately the lower half of the lot closest to the gate is now occupied by a construction company that is doing a project on the main campus. (Please see photos and map on next page.)

The upper half will be available for us to use, but the walking distance will be longer. Kevin will shuttle the larger, heavier items in his truck to the back gate near the picnic area. Members will still be able to enter the garden through the front gate.

Restrooms on the main campus will be available in the O building which is near the new football stadium. The emergency restroom in the garden shed will also be available.

Also, as was done last year, Kevin will have potted plants to give away free to the members (one plant per member). They will be on a table near the picnic area.

The ground is a little uneven and there is one slight hill.

As you know, hats and sunscreen are highly recommended.

Seating -There will be no chairs available, so please bring your own.

Food - Please bring one of your favorite dishes. See page 3 for the food sign-up list.

For more information about the garden, check out these links:

<https://www.palomarcactus.org/palomar-college-garden/>

<https://www.palomar.edu/facilities/cactus-garden/>

(If the links don't open when you click on them, either hold down *control* and click on the link, or right click on the link and select "open hyperlink.")



When you approach Comet Circle Drive to turn into the college, you will see this signage.



Drive past the construction fencing.



When the construction fencing ends, you will be able to park here.

Driving Directions

From I-5 and the coastal communities: Take Highway 78 east to the Las Posas Road exit in San Marcos. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right on Grand Avenue and right again onto Las Posas Road. Take Las Posas Road north, crossing the Sprinter tracks and turning right onto Mission Road. Go straight to Comet Circle and turn left. Parking lot 3 will be on the right. .

From I-15 and the inland communities: Take Highway 78 west to the Las Posas exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Las Posas Road. Take Las Posas Road north, crossing the Sprinter tracks and turning right onto Mission Road. Go straight to Comet Circle and turn left. Parking lot 3 will be on the right.



AUGUST 23rd PICNIC AT PALOMAR COLLEGE GARDEN

FOOD SIGN UP LIST



Name

Nick Van Der Westhuizen
Lynn Cahill
Michele Travis
Libbi Salvo

APPETIZERS

Samosas
Pretzel Crisps
Surprise
TBD



Name

Julian & Leslie Duval
Graciela Conde
Suzi Harris
Lois Walag
Robert Kopfstein
Robert & Susie Guerra

SALADS / SIDE DISHES

Potato Salad
Fruit Salad
Dill Lettuce Salad
Salad
Cucumber salad
Coleslaw



Name

Charlyne Barad
Hisako Coombes
Harold Dunn

MAIN DISHES

Chicken Legs
Sweet Potato Noodles
Box of Fried Chicken



Name

Esper Batara
Debi Buffington
Lyn Mardesich
Debra Lee Baldwin

DESSERTS

Fruits
Brownies
Palmiers
TBD



Name

Lorie Johansen

BEVERAGES

Bottled water



- There is no electrical power in the Garden. Bring a cooler to keep your food cool until we eat or put hot bricks in the cooler to keep your food warm.
- Remember to put your name on all serving utensils, dishes, lids, and water bottles!

July Meeting Recap

Photos & Pages by Charlyne Barad

Our July meeting featured two awesome speakers, many wonderful and bizarre (those terms are synonymous, right?) plants, and a delicious repast.



Sherman conducted the meeting like a pro!



Lorie welcomed new members.



Yummy!



A large and interested audience enjoyed two engaging presentations.



Judges Julian and Mike revealed and explained brag table winners.



Julian Duval talked behind a row of his fabulous bonsai succulents.



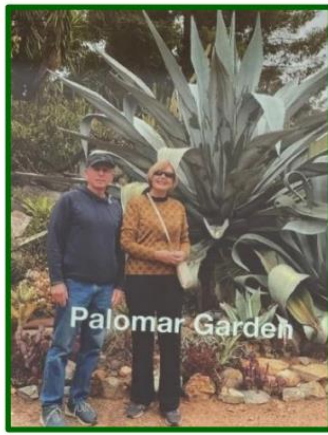
Julian shared how he grew and pruned his *Bursera fagaroides* into the bonsai shown above left.



Check out the glorious Adenium bonsai!



Julian explained that we should start succulents to be bonsai in the ground until they reach desired thickness and shape. Then they can be pruned and potted.



Protective barrier around a plant to keep hungry critters at bay.

Debra Lee Baldwin presented a slide show about the Palomar College Succulent Garden founded by PCSS. You can find her video about it at:

<https://debraleebaldwin.com/succulent-landscape/see-a-60-year-old-succulent-garden/>



These are some of the sights we'll see at our picnic Aug. 23.
You can see that the plant on the right gets more sun on one side than the other.



More PC sights with Kevin pointing out interesting features.
Come to the picnic and take his tour!

It might look like Debra's having fun, but that little cactus is stuck in her finger!

+++++

ERROR – Last month these two plants were shown with the wrong attributions. They are pictured and identified correctly here.



3rd John Barkley *Pereskia grandifolia*



1st John Barkley *Parodia rudibuenekeri*

July Brag Table Winners

2025 July Brag Plant Winners

Novice Cactus

- 1st Teri Shusterman *Parodia magnifica* 1
2nd Jamie Straub *Ferocactus hamatacanthus* 2
3rd Jamie Straub *Mammillaria elongata* 3

Intermediate Cactus

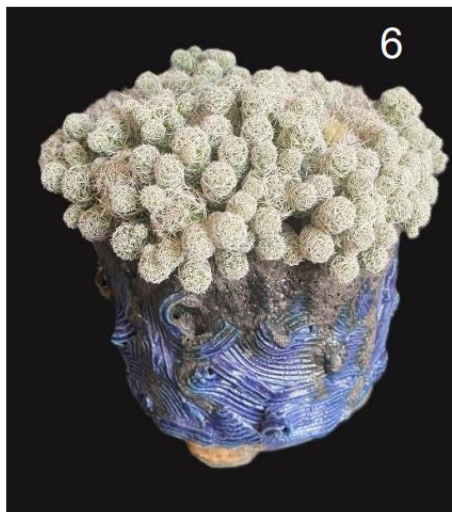
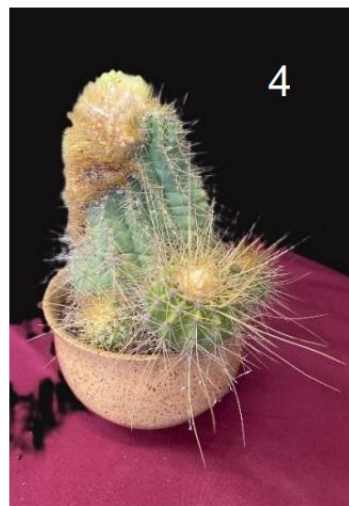
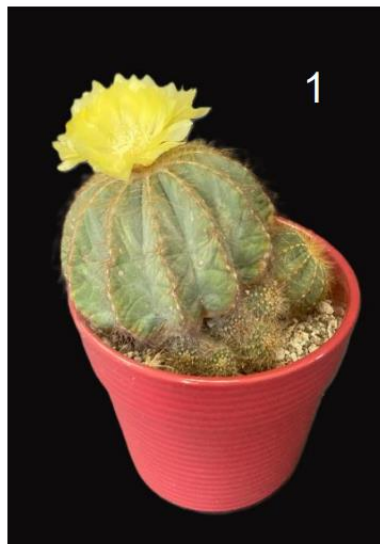
- 1st Kathy McNair *Coleocephalocereus aureus* 4
2nd Kathy McNair *Mammillaria plumosa* 5
3rd Norb Roden *Mammillaria gracilis* v. *fragilis* 6

Advanced Cactus

- 1st Candy & Jerry Garner *Copiapoa marginata* 7

Photos by Winston Chan. Photo helpers Libbi Salvo. & Heather Chan

Pages and photo editing by Charlyne Barad



July Brag Table Winners, Cont.

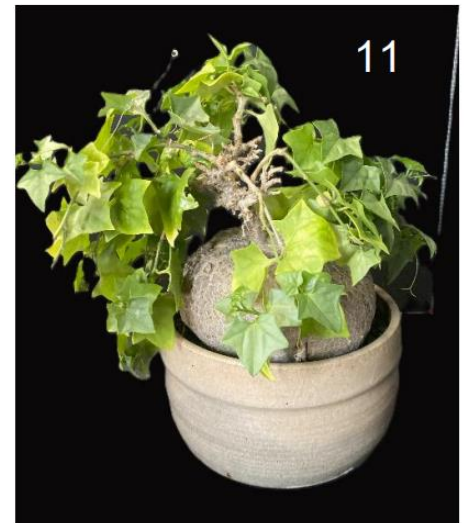
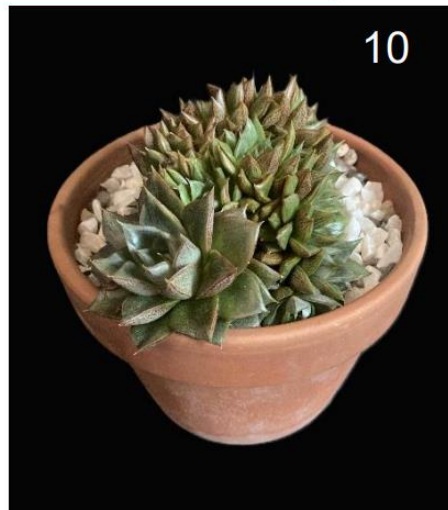
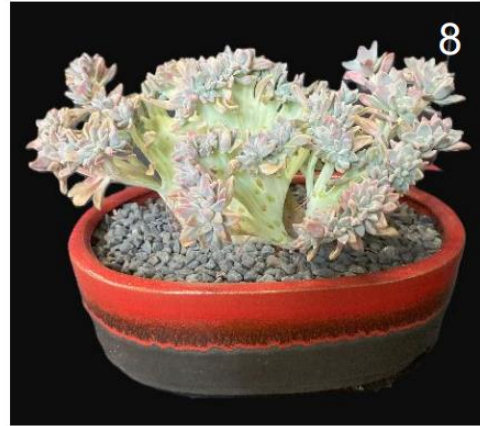
2025 July Brag Plant Winners, Cont.

Novice Succulent

- 1st Lynn Cahill *Grapopetalum paraguayensis* 8
2nd Lottie Foster *Kalanchoe beharensis* 9
3rd Jamie Straub *Echeveria purposorum*
Crested 10

Intermediate Succulent

- 1st Jeff McNair *Gerrardanthus*
Macrorhizus 11
1st Jeff McNair *Bombax ellipticum* 12
1st Harold Dunn *Portulacaria* sp. 13
2nd Libbi Salvo *Euphorbia* sp. 14
(Continued next page)



July Brag Table Winners, Cont.

2025 July Brag Plant Winners, Cont.

Intermediate Succulent, Cont.

3rd Harold Dunn *Eulophii petersii* 15

Advanced Succulent

1st Candy & Jerry Garner *Operculicarya decaryi*
16

2nd Wanda Mallen *Euphorbia francoisii* 17

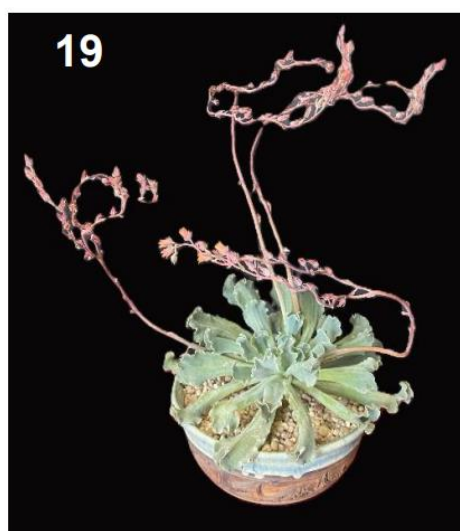
3rd Robert Kopstein x *Dychonia* 'July' 18

Plant of the Month – Novice

1st Debra Lee Baldwin *Echeveria* 'Blue Curls' 19

2nd Jamie Straub *Echeveria* 'Party Dress' 20

3rd Jamie Straub *Echeveria purposorum* crest 21



July Brag Table Winners, Cont.

2025 July Brag Plant Winners, Cont.

Plant of the Month – Intermediate

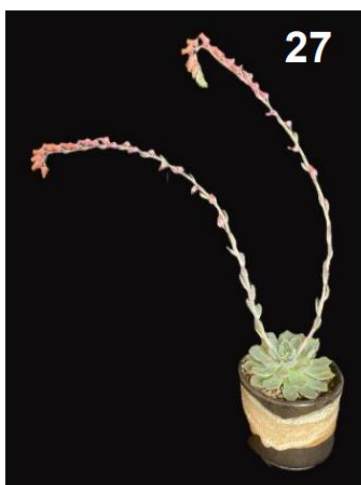
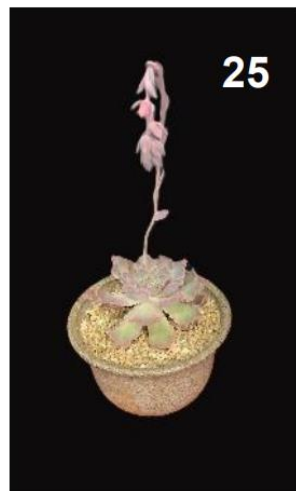
- 1st Patti Nelson Echeveria hybd. **22**
2nd Pauline Wong Echeveria nodulosa **23**
3rd Lois Walag Echeveria setosa v. diminuta **24**

Plant of the Month – Advanced

- 1st Lorie Johansen Echeveria hybd. **25**
2nd Lorie Johansen Echeveria hybd. **26**
3rd Lorie Johansen Echeveria 'Mazarine' **27**

Dish/Bowl Garden - Novice

- 1st Debra Lee Baldwin **28**
Adromiscus maculatus, A. cristatus, Haworthia
venosa ssp. tessellata
2nd Jamie Straub Pachyveria glauca, Echeveria
pulvinata, Sedum pachyphyllum, S. adolphii **29**



HOME GARDEN BRAG PHOTOS

By Russel Ray

Share an especially nice section of your garden, a plant that bloomed between meetings, or a plant that is too large to bring to the meeting. Earn 2 points for each published photo, maximum of 6 points. Send submissions to info@palomarcactus.org.

PLEASE NOTE FUTURE SUBMISSION DATES:

2025: The third of each month

2026: The third of each month



Crassula falcata
Joan Herskowitz



Echeveria 'Sea Dragon'
Pauline Wong



Acanthocalycium spiniflorum
Russel Ray



Echeveria agavoides
Martina Reid



Crassula 'Baby's Necklace'
Jamie Straub



Cotyledon pendens
Lorie Johansen



Adenium hybrid
Lorie Johansen



Bruni Dragon Fruit
(*Hylocereus stenopterus* x
Hylocereus undatus)
Nick Van Der Westhuizen



Crassula falcata
Francis Granger



Cyphostemma juttiae
Susan Snow



Lobivia schileana
Suzi Harris



Echeveria runyonii
Lottie Foster



Echinopsis
E. grandiflorus
Lynn Cahill



E. terscheckii





Crassula falcata
Norb Roden



Adenium sp. (grafted)
Norb Roden



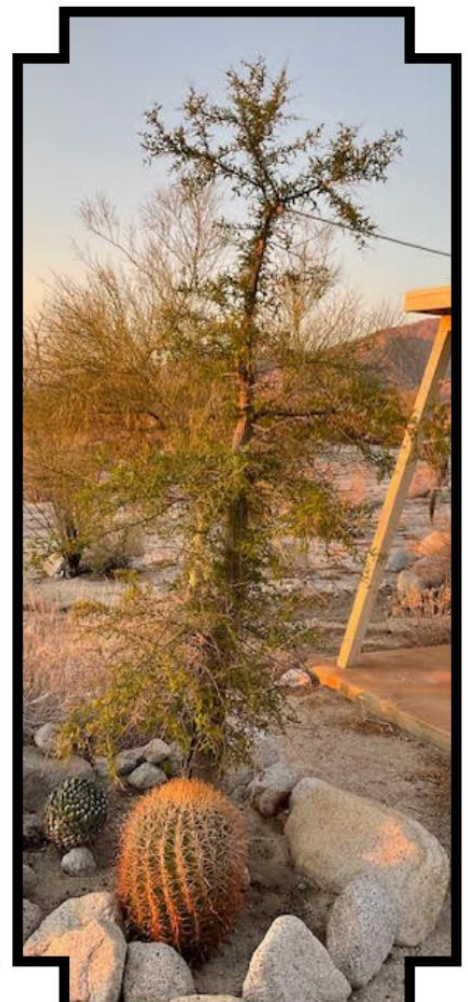
Lophocereus schottii
Kathy McNair



Didierea madagascariensis
Jeff McNair



Pachycereus weberi
Jeff McNair



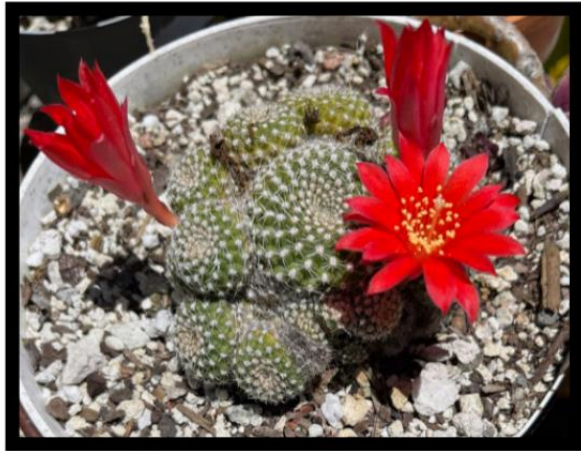
Operculicarya decaryi
Kathy McNair



Astrophytum myriostigma
Jamie Straub



Euphorbia millii
Annie Morgan



Rebutia krainziana
Joan Herskowitz



Echinocereus sp
Russel Ray



Puya 'Ed Hummell'
Christina Sangster



San Marcos Library

September Plant of the Month

Sponsored by Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Kroenleinia grusonii

by Russel Ray



Kroenleinia grusonii, previously known as *Echinocactus grusonii*, (Golden Barrel cactus), is native to the Mexican states of Querétaro and Hidalgo. Wild populations in Mexico were adversely affected in the 1990s as a result of poaching and the creation of the Zimapán Dam and reservoir in Hidalgo.

Although it is a very adaptable species, in its natural habitat it grows in rich, volcanic soil on well-draining, sunny slopes, and can be found at altitudes up to 4,600 feet. A single plant can grow up to 3¼ feet tall and 3 feet in width, so they really can look like a golden barrel. The golden barrel cactus also likes to create large clumps. It is among



the most popular cacti in collections and in landscaping, and has become quite popular as an architectural accent plant in contemporary garden designs. Flowers are yellow and appear around the top of the plant during the summer.

The golden barrel cactus is considered one of the easiest cactus to care for, and is a relatively fast grower in warm climates. They are happiest with an average minimum winter temperature of 54°F but can tolerate brief periods of lower temperatures



down to 18°F if provided with adequate cover and frost protection. As with most succulents, the golden barrel cactus survives with less water in winter. Water pooling around the plant can lead to root rot and death of the entire plant.

Despite being endangered in its native Central Mexico, *K. grusonii* can be found in many countries on several continents in both non-native wild populations and private and public gardens. In the United Kingdom, the golden barrel cactus has gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. Nursery growers in the United States regularly report it as one of their top selling plants.

The plant on display here belongs to me (Russel Ray, the author) and is about 8 years old. It was a single head when I planted it. It has been grown outdoors and has been subject to high temperatures of 118°F and low temperatures of 28°F, as well as rainfall of 36" to 79" annually, so I have planted it in very well-draining soil.



Event by [Waterwise Botanicals](#)

32151 Old Hwy 395, Bonsall, CA, United States, California 92003

Duration: 2 hr

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Join us for a fun and informative day focused on fire safety and preparedness for your home, garden, and property!

☀ What to Expect:

- Fire safety tips & preparedness info
- Learn about Fireproof “Hot Shots” plants
- FREE Kids "Fire Garden" DIY Craft
- Local community heroes (firefighters, paramedics & more!)
- Delicious food, photo ops & family fun

This is a free, family-friendly event—a great way to learn how to protect your property while connecting with local heroes and your community.

Mark your calendars and bring the whole family!

Free
Compost Workshop

Featuring compost pile and vermicomposting tutorials
Discover the secrets to turning food scraps into garden gold!
Whether you're just starting out or are a seasoned green thumb, this free, fun, and informative workshop is for everyone interested in sustainable gardening.

 **Saturday, September 13**
8:30—10:00 am

 Scan to Register

Questions? Contact City staff at
recycling@escondido.gov or call
(760) 839-6216



Here are two
free classes
from
Escondido
Water Smart

Free
WaterSmart Landscape Class

Join the City of Escondido's Environmental Programs Division for a Design Seminar! This hands-on seminar will walk you through the process of planning and designing an appealing outdoor space that saves water and requires less maintenance.

 **Saturday, September 6**
10:00 am

Questions? Contact City staff at
water@escondido.gov or call
(760) 839-4071

 Scan to Register



Tribute to Our Donors

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

Anonymous
Stan Yalof
Sandy Wetzel-Smith

Saguaro Level (\$500 & Above)

2024

2025

Anonymous (2)
Mike & Nancy Peters

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	Julian Duval & Debra Lee Baldwin Succulent Bonsai & Palomar College Succulent	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](https://www.instagram.com/palomar.cactus.succulent.org)

Email: info@palomarcactus.org

Facebook group for members: Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group