



Cactus Courier

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 71, Number 10

October 2025

What's Inside



Club Info	1
Fall Festival Info	2
Fall Festival Potluck Sign-up List	3
September Meeting Recap	4,5
September Brag Table Winners	6-8
Home Garden Brag Plants	9,10
El Cajon Library POM	11
Tribute to Donors	12
Misc. Club & Meeting Info	13

PCSS Welcomes New Member

Pam Curtis

Fall Festival Indoor Set Up
Friday, October 24, 2025
11:00 - 1:30

Bring tables, canopies, and
show plants to be stored
indoors overnight.

If you can help unload tables, etc.
tell Brita BritaMiller1@gmail.com
Phone or text: 858-776-7216.



Join Us for Our
Fall Festival

Saturday, October 25, 2025

10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church
11450 E. Vista Way
Vista 92084

Member Plant, Pot, and Misc. Sale
Plant Exhibition & Potluck

7:00 - 9:30 a.m. Patio area set up

7:30 - 9:45 a.m. Members bring in their
plants, etc. to show and sell

10:00 a.m. Members only shop
(Cash register opens for sales.)

10:30 a.m. Festival Opens

11:00 a.m. Potluck starts

1:30 p.m. People's Choice winners
announced

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Cleanup everyone!

There will be no exchange
or benefit drawing tables.

Please bring your plants to show.
Everyone loved seeing them in the spring!

Novices are especially encouraged
to show their plants!



PCSS Fall Festival Info

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Member Plants, Pottery, and Garden-Related Items to Sell

- For members who are selling plants, etc., we do the selling for you. Bring clean, rooted, labeled, priced, and attractive potted plants. You may also sell cuttings of plants that are normally sold as cuttings. Plants must have a stick with your name and price. A second stick should have the name of the plant.
- Tip for pricing plants or other items to sell: What would you pay for it?
- We will start setting up the sales tables and canopies outside Saturday morning at 7:00 am. Please bring tables and canopies **with your name on them** 7:00 - 8:30 am. Saturday or 11:30 – 1:30 Friday. They will be kept indoors overnight. Let Brita know if you're bringing tables or canopies. We could use some carts too. BritaMiller1@gmail.com Phone or text: 858-776-7216.
- Bring items to sell 7:30 am - 9:30 am. They **MUST** be labeled, priced, and in place by 10:00 am. Donated plants need sticks that say PCSS along with the price. Free PCSS sticks available.

Plant Show

- The Plant Show tables will be set up indoors Friday. Show plants may be brought from 11:30 – 1:30 Friday or 7:30-9:45 Saturday. They must be in place by 10:00 a.m. Saturday.
- The show will be non-judged with Peoples' Choice Awards for all levels.
- We encourage you to bring plants to show (with a maximum of ten plants per member). We especially encourage novice level participants.
- As always, you must have owned your plant for six months or longer.

Potluck

- Thanks to our generous members, we will have delicious food throughout the day. We will enjoy camaraderie with old and new friends.
- Please bring your potluck goodies no later than 11:00 am. Remember to put your name on all serving dishes and utensils.

Volunteers

- Please contact Eleanore if you have any **show** questions. eleanore.hewitt@gmail.com Phone or text 760-412-2182. For **volunteer** or **sales** questions contact Brita.
- Thank you, volunteers: we can't do it without you! Be sure to sign in and out so you'll get credit towards gift plants at our holiday party in December.

2025 FALL FESTIVAL - FOOD SIGN UP LIST



NAME

Sherman Blench
Robert & Susie Guerra
Chris & John Barley
Suzi Harris
Teri Shusterman

APPETIZERS

Deviled eggs



NAME

Lois Walag
Martina Reed
Lynn Cahill
Libbi Salvo
Linda Sanders

SALADS / SIDE DISHES

Salad



Name

Pauline Wong
Tom McCarter
Robert Kopfstein
Pam Curtis

MAIN DISHES

Turkey chili
Quiche



Name

Lottie Foster
Moni Waiblinger
Candy Garner

DESSERTS



Name

PCSS

BEVERAGES

Bottled water



➤ Please put your name on all serving utensils, dishes, lids, and water bottles!!

September Meeting Recap



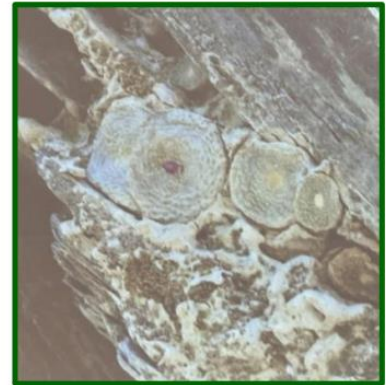
Christy Brenner spoke and showed slides about a month-long trip to the Bolivian Andes. She talked about habitats on both sides of the Andes mountains: desert on the west side and lush jungle on the east side. Some of the habitats were at altitudes up to 15,000 feet.



Map of Bolivia showing habitats west and east of the Andes. (Map not provided by Ms. Brenner.)



Desert habitat adjacent to salt flats.



Cacti thrive in desert environment (left) while Deuteromycota cover a hillside at high altitude (center). Low-growing plants are protected from their harsh environment. (right).



On the lush side of the mountains hillsides and cliffs are festooned with bromeliads, including many tillandsias, and even cacti.



Tillandsias take hold wherever they land, while cacti hang over the side of a cliff.



Auction plants were epic! Gnarled wood, Tillandsia, and other bromeliads sculpture was assembled by Robert and won by Sherman. Gorgeous! Lorie hefted the fabulous huge pot donated by Graciela. What a wonderful donation!

September Brag Table Winners

2025 September Brag Plant Winners

Novice Cactus

1st Lynn Cahill *Opuntia* sp. 1

Intermediate Cactus

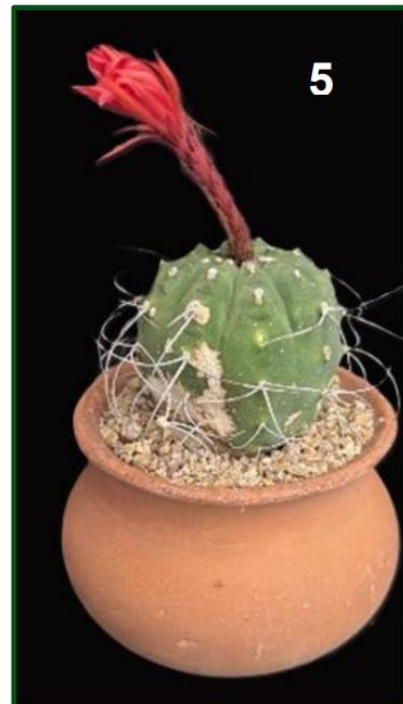
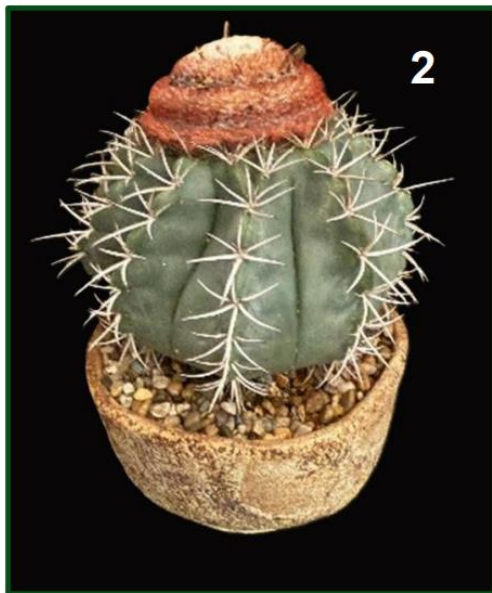
1st Harold Dunn *Melocactus concinnus* 2

2nd Kathy McNair *Rebutia arenacea* 3

3rd Jeff McNair *Stenocereus hollianus* 4

Advanced Cactus

1st John Barkley *Gymnocalycium* 5
 hypopleurum



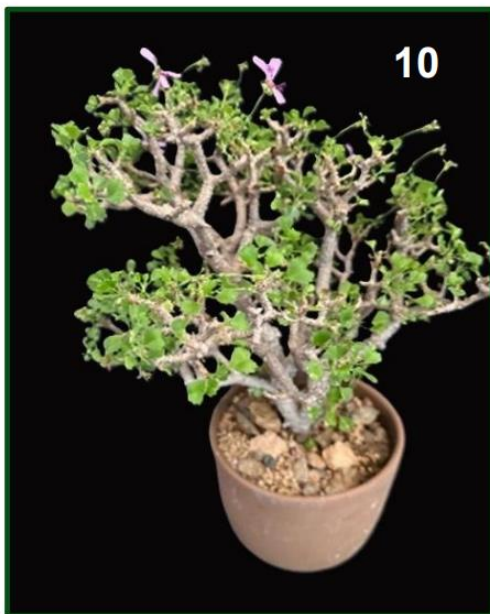
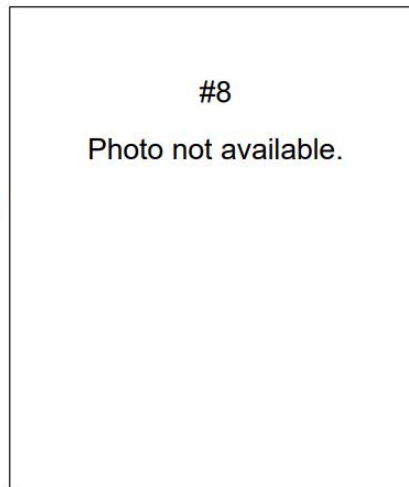
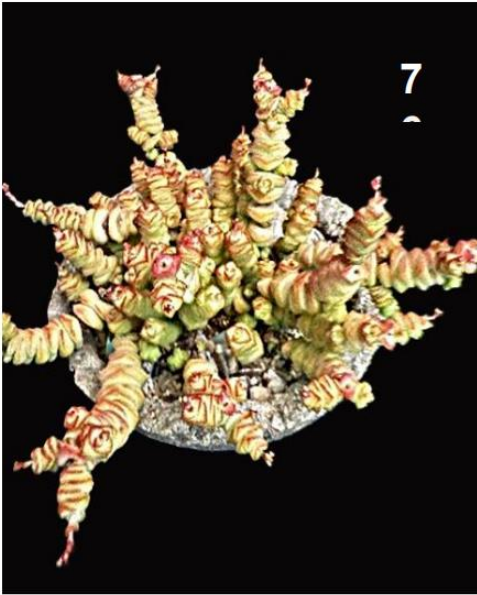
September Brag Table Winners Cont.

Novice Succulent

- 1st Keith Umbreit Euphorbia 6
submammillaris pfersdorfil
2nd Lynn Cahill Crassula perfoliata v. falcata 7
3rd Joe Draskinis Crassula tricolor 8

Intermediate Succulent

- 1st Jeff McNair Sarcocaulon 9
vanderietiae
2nd Chris Barkley Pelargonium 10
xerophytom
3rd Pauline Wong Echeveria sp. 11



September Brag Table Winners Cont.

Advanced Succulent

1st Candy & Jerry Garner Pseudolithos 12
migiurtinus

2nd Wanda Mallen Gyrocarpus americanus 13

3rd Wanda Mallen Euphorbia poissonii 14
variegata

Plant of the Month – Novice

1st Keith Umbreit Aeonium 'Kiwi' crest 15

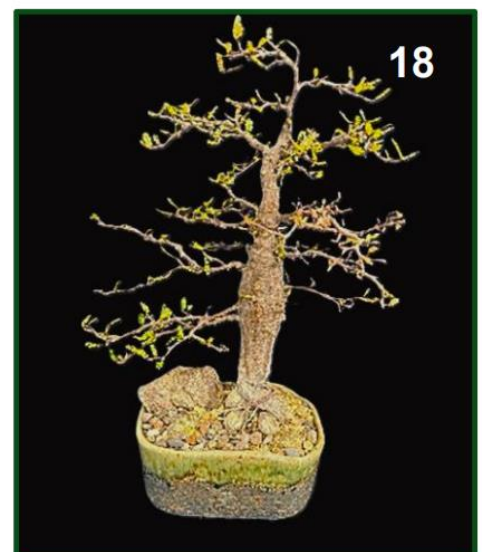
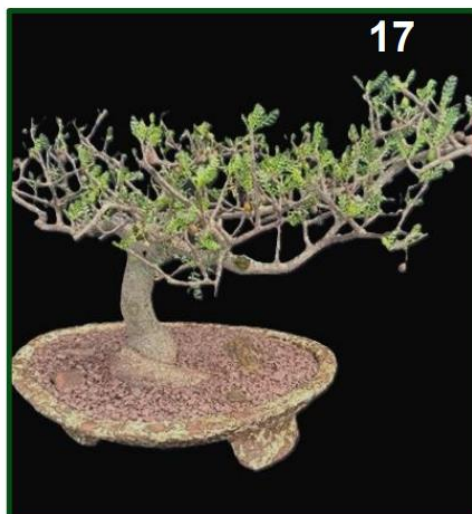
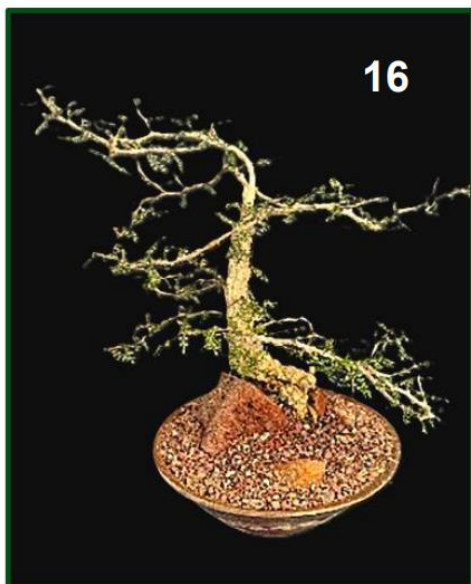
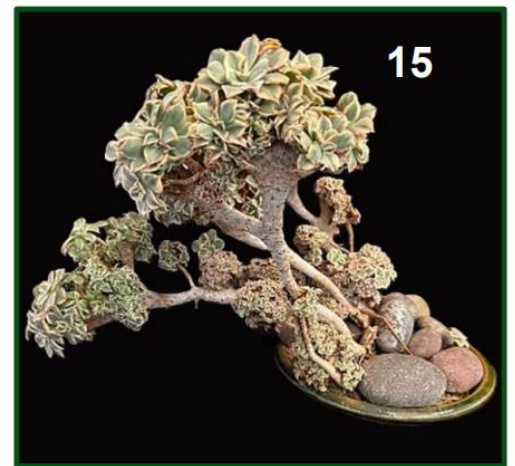
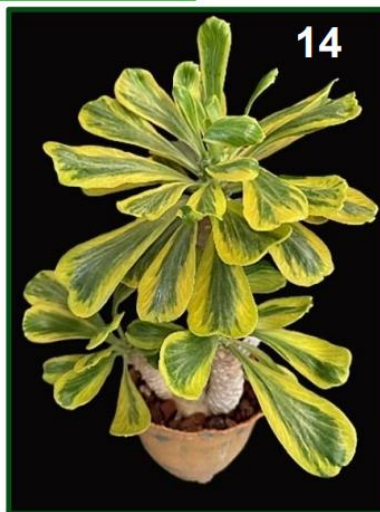
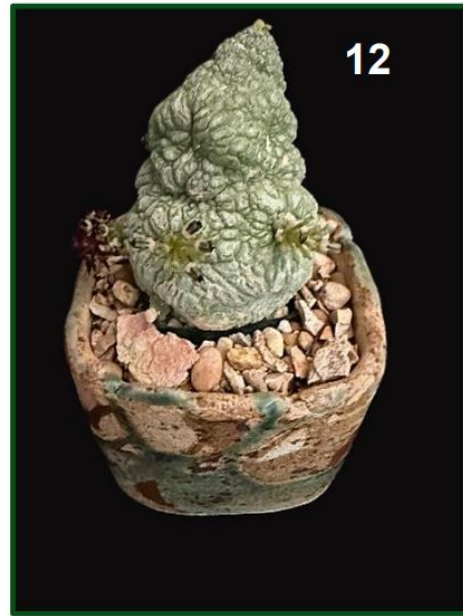
Plant of the Month – Intermediate

1st Patti Nelson Operculicaryi decaryi 16

Plant of the Month – Advanced

1st Mike Nelson Bursera microphylla 17

2nd Candy & Jerry Garner Operculicaryi 18
decaryi



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: jmherskowitz@yahoo.com by the 3rd day of each month.



Adenium obesum
Julian Duval



Manfreda sp.
Tom McCarter



Echeveria nodulosa
Tom McCarter



Ibervillea sp.
Joan Herskowitz



Echinopsis hybrid
Kathy McNair



Lily Pond Dish Garden
Jan Bayer



Astrophytum hybrid
Joan Herskowitz



Portulacaria afra
Susan Snow



Echinopsis oxygena
Susan Snow



Cleistocactus sp.
Jeff McNair



Pachycereus pringlei
Jeff McNair



Euphorbia lactea cristata
Kalanchoe orbiculata (below)
Lynn Cahill



Ferocactus latinuspinus
Charlyne Barad



Opuntia polyacantha
Kathy McNair



El Cajon Library

October Plant of the Month

Sponsored by Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Melocactus matanzanus

by Russel Ray



Melocactus matanzanus is native to the north-central area of Cuba. It is a popular and desirable species throughout the world as an ornamental plant. The common name for this cactus is "Turk's Cap," and the plant on display here belongs to Harold Dunn (thank you, Harold).

Melocactus matanzanus can reach a height of 3½ inches as well as a diameter of 3½ inches. There usually are at least 8 ribs, and the thorns are brownish-gray or white. The central spine is up to 2 inches long and the 5 to 8 radial spines are 1¼ to 2 inches long.

When the plant reaches maturity, a cephalium grows on top, a globose structure covered with reddish-brown bristles (picture at right). The cephalium can be



up to 3½ inches tall by 2½ inches in diameter, and is where the flowers (left picture below), fruits (middle picture below), and seed pods (right picture below) will form. The flowers are carmine and can be up to 2 inches long.



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
Robert Kopfstein

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

Anonymous (2)

2025

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 smaller
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	Christy Brenner The Cacti of Bolivia	Bonsai C & S
Oct. 25	Fall Festival	None
Nov. 22	Philippe de Vosjoli Topic: TBA	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 to the Treasurer — **Liz Rozycki**
Director at Large, SDCSS Liaison — **Brita Miller**
Director at Large — **Martina Reed**

Monthly Meeting Volunteers

Coordinator — **Brita Miller**, eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org
Membership — **Richard Miller**, membership@palomarcactus.org
Brag Plant Table — **Libbi Salvo, Jamie Straub, Barbara Raab**
Brag Table Judging Team — **Mike Nelson, Wanda Mallen, Debra Lee Baldwin**
Brag Table Photographers — **Charlyne Barad, Libbi Salvo**
Brag Plant Tally — **David Buffington**
Benefit Drawing — **Martina Reed**
Exchange Table — **Brian Magone**
Program, Plant Auction — **Robert Kopfstein**
Audico/visual — **Russel Ray**
Meeting Sales — **Teri Shusterman, Liz Rozycki**
Name Badge Drawing — **Julie Kort**
Guest & New Member Ambassadors — **Brita Miller, Lorie Johansen**
Additional volunteers who keep meeting running — **Sheila Grasso, Graciela Conde**

Newsletter Team

Charlyne Barad — Coordinator, Club Info, Speakers, Meeting Wrap-up, Brag Table Winners
Annie Morgan — Reviewer, misc.
Russel Ray — PCSS Plant of the Month, Plant of the Month for San Marcos and El Cajon libraries,
Newsletter Collator and Distributor
Winston Chan — Miscellaneous Information
Joan Herskowitz — Garden Brag Plants
Brita Miller — Spring Festival, Fall Festival, Holiday Party Recap, misc.
Wanda Mallen — Proofreader

Other Volunteers

Publicity — **Tom McCarter, Lou Harris**
Librarian — **Barbara Raab**, librarian@palomarcactus.org
Website — **Annie Morgan**, info@palomarcactus.org, **Russel Ray**

Volunteers Needed

Refreshments
Assist at meeting with setup, bringing in plants, etc.
Assist at meeting in kitchen and with cleanup
If you have specific talents or interests, PCSS could use your help!

Social Media

Website: palomarcactus.org
Instagram: palomar.cactus.succulent.org
Email: info@palomarcactus.org
Facebook group for members: Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group