

Cactus Courier

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 72, Number 4

April 2026

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WELCOME NEW PCSS MEMBERS

Skyler & Beth Walsh
Rachel Kuypers

Call for Canopies!

Sales tables will all be outside in the courtyard during our Festival. That means that if the day is sunny plants might suffer.

If you have a popup canopy that we can use, please let Brita know.

BritaMiller1@gmail.com

Phone or text: 858-776-7216.

Spring Festival Indoor Set Up
Friday, April 24, 2026
11:00 am – 2:30 pm

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 12th Annual Spring Festival

Saturday, April 25, 2026

10:30 am - 2:00 pm

Grace Presbyterian Church
11450 E. Vista Way, Vista 92084

Members' Plants, Pots, & Misc. Sale
Plant Exhibition
Presentations
Potluck

10:00 am Members only shopping

10:30 am Festival opens to the public

11:00 am Presentations and potluck start

1:30 pm People's Choice winners announced

2:00 pm Festival closes

See detailed schedule on pg. 3

There will be no exchange or benefit drawing tables.

Alternate Projectionist Needed

We are looking for one or two members who are willing to substitute for Russel when he is unable to attend a meeting and run the computer and projector.

There's no need to be a technology expert, Russel will teach you all you need to know.

Please see page 10 for details.

Save Saturday May 23rd for two events!

*Our picnic at Palomar College garden 10 am - 1 pm

* Wanda & Gary's open house, 10 am - 9 pm

Good news - you can attend both!



Spring Festival Info

Plant Show

- The Plant Show tables will be set up indoors on Friday. Show plants may be brought from 11:30 - 2:30 Friday or 7:30 - 9:45 Saturday. They must be in place with the entry slips filled out by 10:00 am Saturday.
- We encourage you to bring plants to show (with a maximum of ten plants per member). Remember you will be competing with members at the same level as you – Novice, Intermediate or Advanced. We especially encourage novice-level participants.
- As always, you must have owned your plant for six months or longer. Plants must be clean and healthy – no insects or disease, and should have top dressing. No wet plants!
- **Do not remove your entry slips as we need them for our tally. Also, do not remove your plants until the People's Choice winners have been announced. If you do so and you are a winner then the runner up will be announced as the winner.**
- If you have questions or need to take your plant(s) home early please contact Charlyne: 858-922-3380 or Charbar6000@gmail.com

People's Choice Awards

- The show will be non-judged with People's Choice Awards for all levels. All members and guests are encouraged to cast ballots for their favorite plant in Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. Cast one ballot in each level.
- **A special difference this year will be the awarding of an honor for Best in Show to the plant with the most votes.**
- To help facilitate a large voter participation, let us, as members, talk up the show and competition when we talk with guests and even each other!

Sales

- If you are interested in selling plants, pottery or garden-related items and have not signed up, please contact Brita (see below). She will provide you with detailed information.

Donating Plants

- If you are planning on donating plants to PCSS Lorie suggests donating plants that are in pots no smaller than 4" and be priced no less than \$4. Please make sure the plants are clean bug and disease free. If you have a number of plants to donate or have questions, please contact Lorie 760-613-1934 or Sherman 760-522-2470.

Volunteers

- If you would like to like to volunteer, please contact Brita: Phone or text: 858-776-7216. BritaMiller1@gmail.com Thank you, volunteers. We can't do it without you!!
- **When you leave, be sure to record your hours on the sign-out sheet so you'll get credit towards gift plants at our holiday party in December.**



PCSS Spring Festival Schedule

Friday

11 am - 2:30 pm

Interior Show and presentation areas set-up
Members can bring in plant donations, tables, Show plants, etc.

Saturday

7:00 - 9:00 am

Patio sales area set-up

9:00 - 10:00 am

Members set up their plants to show and sell

10:00 - 10:30 am

Members only shopping

10:00 am

Show entries MUST be in place on tables, entered, and labeled
Plants for sale should be priced and on the patio tables

10:30 am

Festival Show and Sale open to the public

11:00 am

Potluck *(for members only)*

Presentations:

11 - 11:40 am

“Cactus and Succulent 101 Plus”

Presenter: Julian Duval, former President/CEO San Diego Botanic Garden

11:45am -12:30pm

“Basic Pots”

An overview of pot features and their uses in growing succulent plants

Presenter: Jerry Garner Kobe Clayworks

12:30 - 1:00 pm

Break

11:40 am

People’s Choice awards announced

1:00 - 1:45 pm

“Whimsical Dish Gardens”

Creating dish gardens with found and thrift store items

Presenter: Libbi Salvo

2:00 pm

Festival Closes

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Clean up - *Everyone please help!*



2026 SPRING FESTIVAL - FOOD SIGN-UP LIST

Think lunch rather than snacks for this event



<u>NAME</u>	<u>Bringing</u>
Tom McCarter	Frittata
Robert Kopfstein	Taco casserole
Charlyne Barad	Sandwiches
Candy Garner	Cheese
Sally Luedeman	Chicken salad sandwiches
Pam Curtis	Salad
Annie Morgan	Chicken salad



<u>NAME</u>	<u>Bringing</u>
Lois Walag	TBA
Robert Guerra	TBA
Teri Shusterman	TBA
Julian & Leslie Duval	TBA
Liz Rozycki	TBA
Patti Nelson	TBA
Hisako Coombs	TBA
Esper & Nick	
Van Der Westhuizen	TBA
Stacy Day	TBA



<u>NAME</u>	<u>Bringing</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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

A number of members signed up to bring food, but hadn't decided what to bring when the sign up sheet went around. Also, some said the sheet never got to them. No problem, our members always make and bring delicious food for our Festival potluck for throughout the day. We always enjoy camaraderie with old and new friends.

March Brag Table Winners

2026 March Brag Plant Winners

Novice Cactus

1st Marlene Walder

Mammillaria hahniana 1

2nd Lottie Foster

Acanthocereus tetragonus 'Fairy Castle' 2

3rd Lynn Cahill

Echinopsis chamaecereus 3

Intermediate Cactus

1st Norb Roden

Echinocereus fendleri 4

2nd Norb Roden

Neoporteria nidus v *senilis* 5

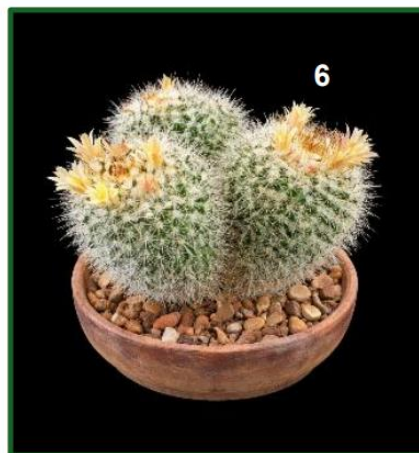
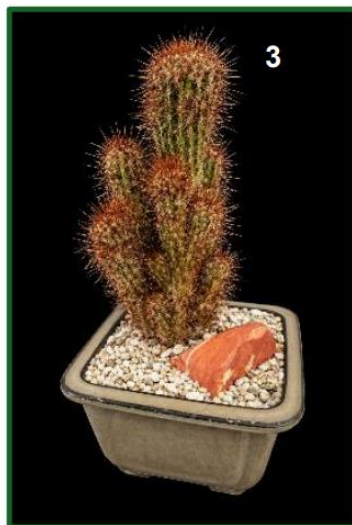
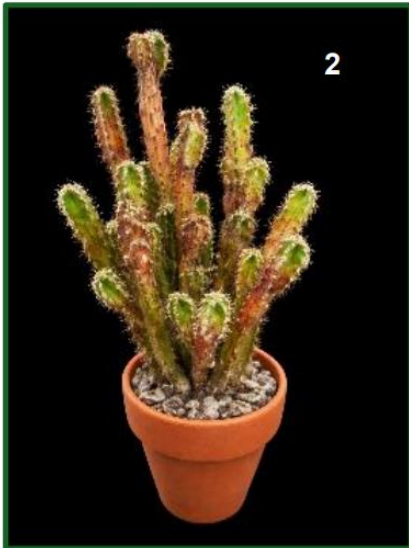
Advanced Cactus

1st Candy & Jerry Garner

Mammillaria karwinskiana 6

1st Moni Waiblinger

Pereskia grandifolia subs. *violacea* 7



March Brag Table Winners Continued

Advanced Cactus Continued

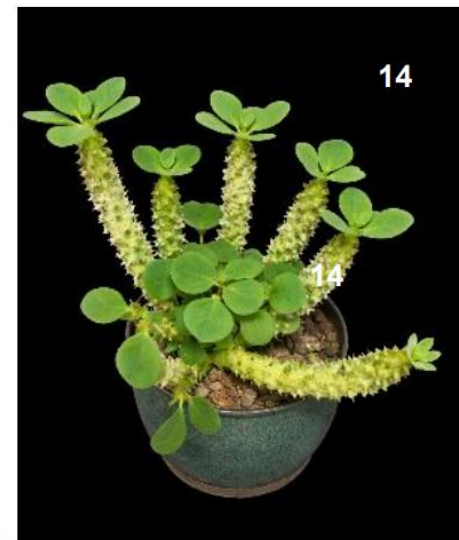
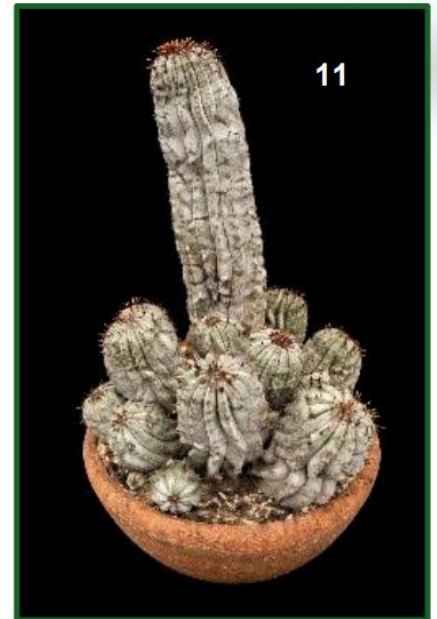
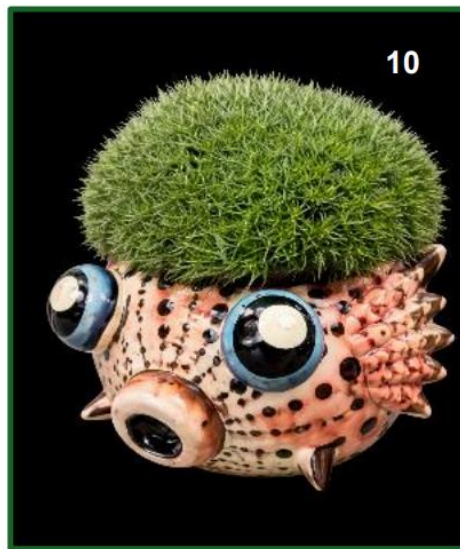
- 2nd Moni Waiblinger *Stenocactus ochoterenanus* 8
 3rd Jeff McNair *Thelocactus rinconensis* 9

Novice Succulent

- 1st Donna Roden *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* 10
 2nd Lynn Cahill *Euphorbia polygona* 11
 3rd Lynn Cahill *Echeveria agavoides* 12

Intermediate Succulent

- 1st Patti Nelson *Haworthia limifolia* var. 13
 2nd Patti Nelson *Monadenium* sp. 14



March Brag Table Winners Continued

Intermediate Succulent Continued

3rd Charlyne Barad

Sansevieria sp. 15

3rd Patti Nelson

Adromischus cristatus 16

Advanced Succulent

1st Lorie Johansen

Dyckia marnier-lapostollei 17

1st Moni Waiblinger

Albuca spiralis 'Frizzle Sizzle' 18

2nd Mike Nelson

Monadenium ritchiei 19

2nd Mike Nelson

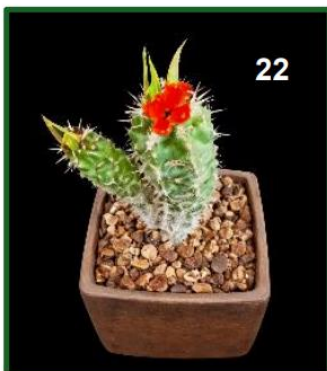
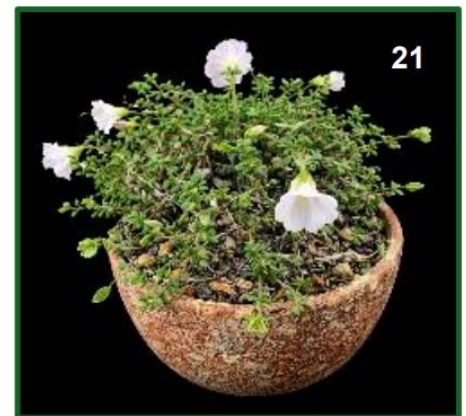
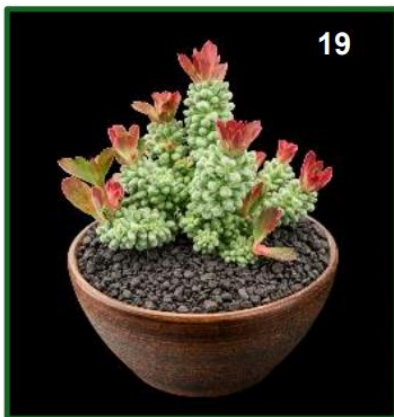
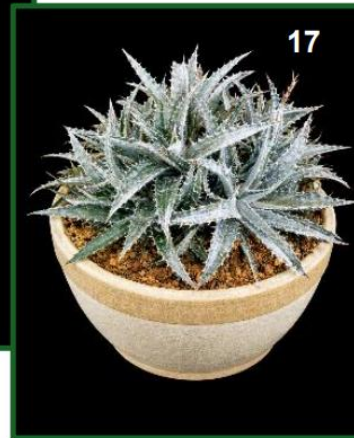
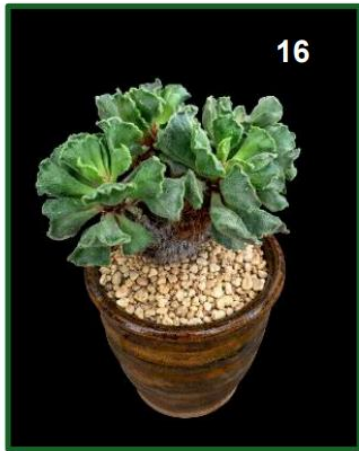
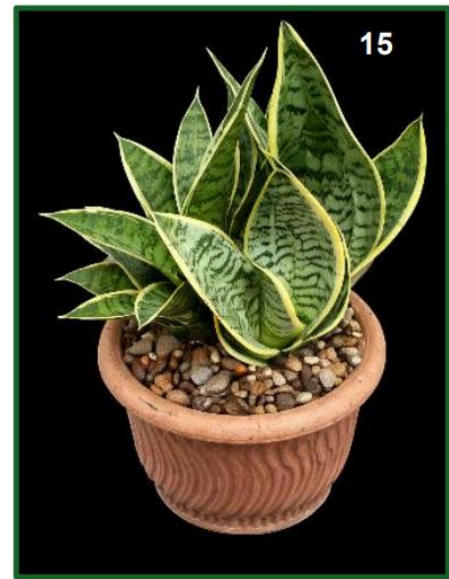
Euphorbia flanaganii 20

3rd Candy & Jerry Garner

Sarcocaulon vanderietiae 21

3rd Robert Kopfstein

Euphorbia antharafant Sinensis 22



March Brag Table Winners Continued

Plant of the Month – Novice

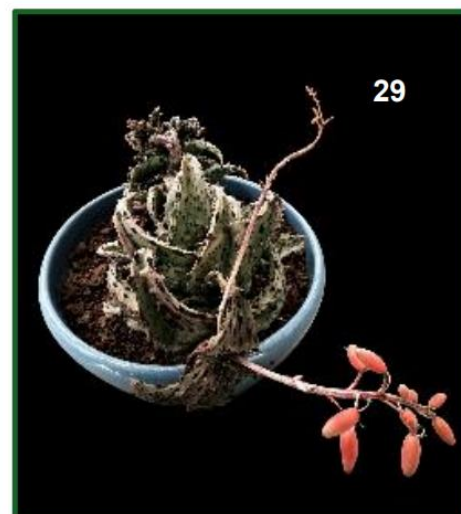
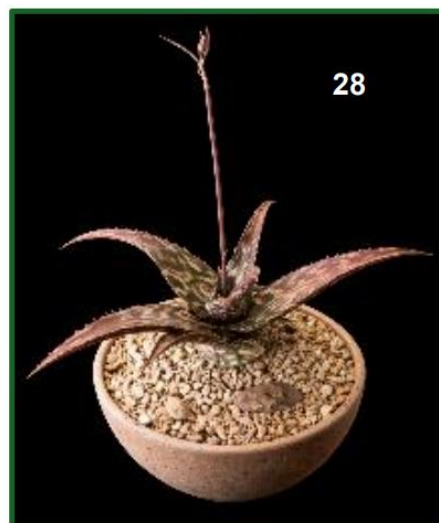
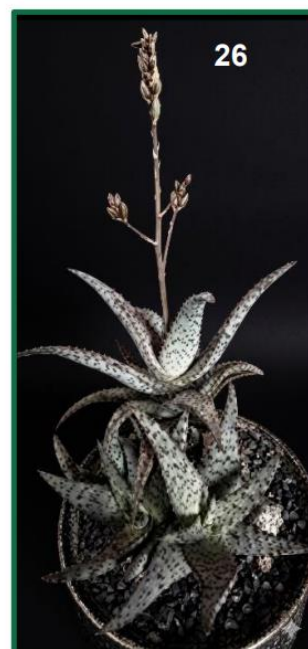
- 1st Lynn Cahill *Aloe cameronii* 23
2nd Marlene Walder *Aloe striata* hybrid 24

Plant of the Month – Intermediate

- 1st Lois Walag *Aloe antandroi* 25
2nd Patti Nelson *Aloe* sp. 26
3rd Sherman Blench *Aloe betsileensis* 27

Plant of the Month – Advanced

- 1st Mike Nelson *Aloe somaliensis* 28
2nd Kathy McNair *Aloe castilloniae* 29



March Brag Table Winners Continued

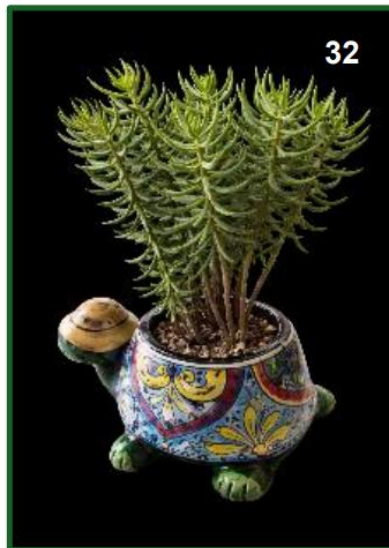
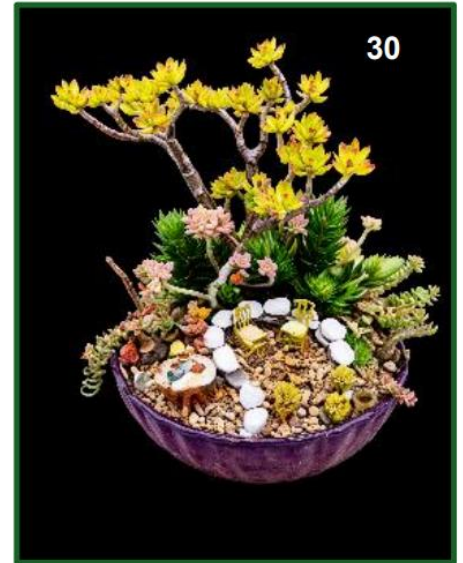
Dish/Bowl Garden - Intermediate

1st Libbi Salvo Dish garden, various 30

Dish/Bowl Garden – Advanced

1st Mike Nelson *Euphorbia flanaganii* 31

2nd Kathy McNair *Crassula tetragona* 32





Just for Fun



With apologies to Adam Rettig, doesn't his cool home garden brag plant look like something Dr. Seuss might have created; or perhaps he resembles the old Muppet character, Beaker, assistant to Professor Honeydew.



March Meeting Recap



Our March speaker, Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents, told us that after making multiple California speaking trips in support of his books, he gained an even greater appreciation for the quality of growers, nurseries and botanical gardens in the Golden State. His presentation showed photos of succulent and cactus plants found at various growers, gardens, and succulent sites from Northern California down to Baja. (Travel photos courtesy of Jeff Moore.)



Our auction often has large, heavy items that Lorie handles with ease. The mega crock auctioned off last month gave her a workout!

Wasn't this blowfish pot the perfect place to house Donna Rodden's *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*?! Can Hootie be far behind?



New member, Art Schadeberg, and semi-new member, Lottie Foster are much appreciated for helping out in the kitchen at the holiday party and at meetings. When you see them there, give them a word of thanks and a thumbs up!

Speaking of meetings... We have an important job to fill.

Our technology guru, Russel Ray could use an alternate to fill in when he can't attend a meeting, so we need a member or two to step up to run the computer and projector in his absence.

If more than one member comes forward, we can always have a substitute at the ready when needed.

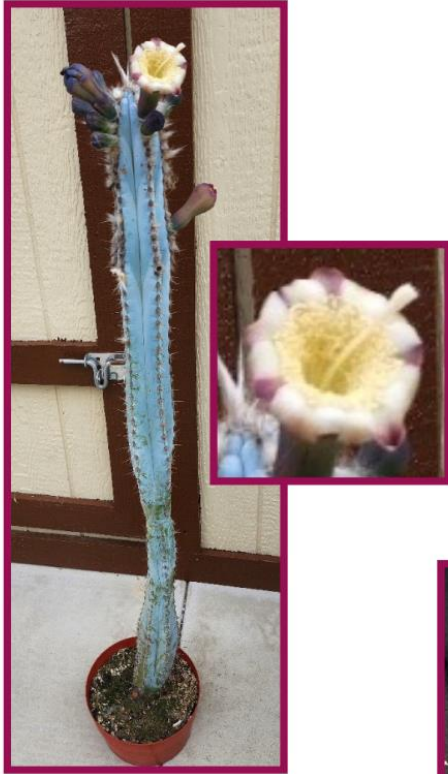
There is no need to be a technology whiz either. Russel will train you on everything you need to know.

We all enjoy the wonderful slide shows our presenters bring, so please help keep them dazzling us. Thank you!

HOME GARDEN BRAG

by Joan Herskowitz

Share an especially nice section of your garden, a plant that is in the ground, a plant that bloomed between meetings, or one that is too large to bring to the Brag Table. Earn 2 points for each published photo. You may send in a maximum of two photos. Send submissions to: jmherskowitz@yahoo.com. SUBMISSION DATES IN 2026: 1st day of each month.



Pilosocereus pachycladus (Left)
Aporophyllum hybrid (Above)
Norb Roden



Notocactus magnificus
Lorie Johansen



Pseudobombax ellipticum
Adam Rettig



Echinopsis 'Peace Eros'
(Schick hybrid)
Adam Rettig



Quesnelia testudo (bromeliad)
Lorie Johansen



Escobaria vivipara
Kathy McNair



Euphorbia spiralis
Joan Herskowitz



Agave americana
Chet Reed



Agave desmettiana
'Variegata'
Joan Herskowitz



Alluaudia procera
Kathy McNair



Euphorbia lactea
'Cristata'
Tom McCarter



Opuntia polyacantha
Jeff McNair



Aloe vera
Jeff McNair



Pilosocereus sp. with
garden bug
Deborah Pearson



Astrophytum hybrid
Deborah Pearson



Cereus peruvianus f. *monstrose*
Chet Reed



Crassula nudicaulis
(Devil's Horn)
Stacy Day



Echeveria 'Ramillete'
Stacy Day



Adenium obesum
Teri Shusterman



Aloe marlothii
(young plants)
Tom McCarter



Euphorbia tirucalli
Bill Modi



Hoya carnosa
'Compacta'
Lois Walag



Aloe striata
Lottie Foster



Aloe striata
Lynn Cahill



Thelocactus bicolor
Lynn Cahill



Dudleya brittonii
Christina Sangster



Potted dyckias and hechtias
(terrestrial bromeliads)
Wanda Mallen

El Cajon Library Plant of the Month

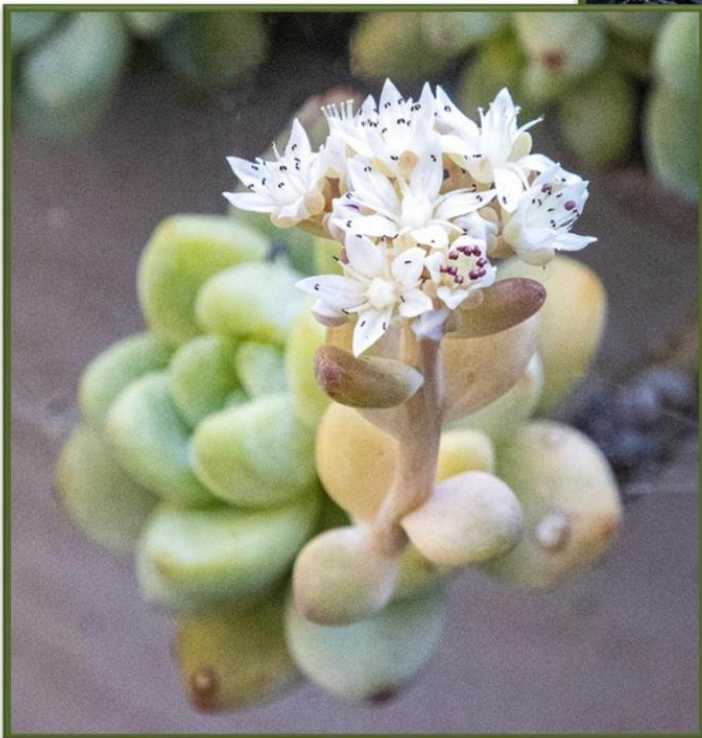
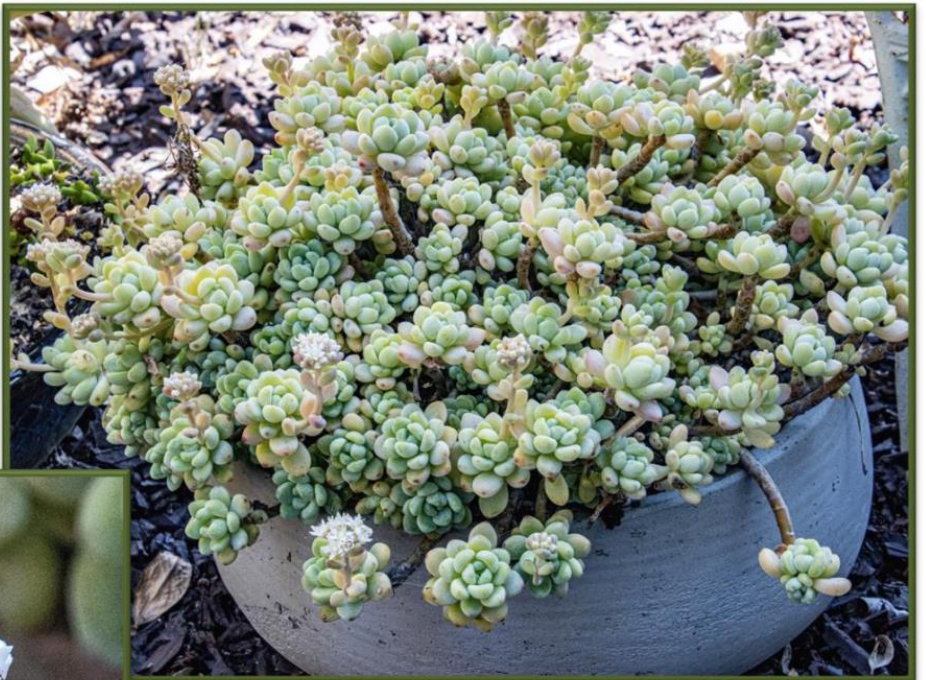
Sponsored by Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Sedum clavatum

by Russel Ray

Sedum clavatum is known only from one locality, the gorge of the Tiscalatengo River in the vicinity of Villa Guerrero, an area in the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt southeast of Nevado de Toluca in the southern part of the state of Mexico. There it grows along the cliffs of the canyon.

Sedum clavatum was named in 1975 although it was described in detail in 1959 and called the "Sedum of the Tiscalatengo Gorge." It is an attractive, small succulent groundcover in the *Pachysedum* group forming compact clumps or mats to four inches tall with long, creeping stems developing over time. The stems lose their leaves as they lengthen but are usually covered by younger stems so the plant can look like a solid mat of attractive frosty blue-green rosettes. Small, white star-shaped flowers appear in mid to late Spring or early Summer. The white flowers can take on a pink hue as they age.



This plant is 8 years old and belongs to Russel Ray. It gets 8-16 hours of sun each day, and annual rainfall from 15" (2022) to 70" (2019, yes 70", not a typo). Soil is a 40/60 mix of organic/pumice. Because my plant is outside with no protection whatsoever, this is one of my few pots that has a drainage hole. I do not fertilize it, leaving it to rainfall to do that. It has survived low temperatures of 28°F for three consecutive nights and highs of 100°F to 118°F for 41 consecutive days in 2020.

2026 MEETING DATES, PLANT OF THE MONTH, SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Dates	Plant of the Month*	Speakers & Topics
Jan 24	Echinopsis 	Diana Lindsay, Plants in Anza Borrego used by native peoples
Feb 28	Hoya 	Marie Sinovich, Desert animals of Anza Borrego
Mar 28	Aloe 	Jeff Moore, Succulent road trip — Gardens from San Francisco to San Diego
Apr 25	None	Spring Festival/Sale
May 23	None	Picnic at Palomar College
Jun 27	Opuntia 	Woody Minnich, Pachypodiums
Jul 25	String succulents 	Nan Sterman, California-Dreamin' — Gardening in a Mediterranean climate
Aug 22	Euphorbia 	Antonio Rangel, The gardens at Palomar College — Landscaping for education and conservation
Sep 26	Astrophytum 	Dylan Zoller, Jewels of the Brazilian highlands
Oct 24	None	Fall Festival/Sale
Nov 21	Schlumbergera 	Cristy Brenner, Cactus adventure in Argentina and Chile
Dec 19	None	Holiday Party 

***We are doing something different this year in that the plant of the month has been chosen from lists of birth plants (similar to birth stones).**



PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Board Members & Officers

President - Joe Cobb president@palomarcactus.org
Vice President - Sherman Blench
Treasurer - Teri Shusterman treasurer@palomarcactus.org
Secretary - Moni Waiblinger
Director at Large, Assistant to the Treasurer - Liz Rozycki
Director at Large - Julian Duval
Director at Large - Martina Reed
Director at Large & SDCSS Liaison - Brita Miller



Other Volunteers

Event Coordinators - Charlyne Barad, Brita Miller eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org
Spring & Fall Festivals Chair - Brita Miller
Show Chair - Charlyne Barad Plant Donations - Lorie Johansen Sales - Brita
Membership - Richard Miller membership@palomarcactus.org
Publicity (print) - Tom McCarter (online) - Lou Harris SDCSS Liaison - Brita Miller
Website & Club Email Management - Annie Morgan, Russel Ray
www.palomarcactus.org, info@palomarcactus.org

Monthly Meetings:

Monthly Meeting Set Up - Brita Miller, Lorie Johansen, Charlyne Barad
Monthly Meeting Clean Up - Brita Miller, Liz Rozycki, Moni Waiblinger, Gracelia Conde
Brag Table Set Up - Libbi Salvo, Jamie Straub, Barbara Raab
Brag Table Judging Team - Mike Nelson, Wanda Mallen, Debra Lee Baldwin, Annie Morgan
Brag Table Photographer - Charlyne Barad, Libbi Salvo
Brag Table Point Tally - David Buffington Garden Brag Point Tally - Annie Morgan
Refreshments - Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry
Program Coordinator, Plant Auction - Robert Kopfstein
Meetings Sales Cashiers - Teri Shusterman, Liz Rosycki
Meeting A/V - Russel Ray
Exchange Table - Brian Magone Benefit Drawing - Martina Reed
Visitor & New Member Ambassadors - Lorie Johansen, Brita Miller
Name Badge Drawing - Julie Kort
Additional Meeting Volunteers - Gracelia Conde, Stacy Day, Sherry Hunga-Moore

Newsletter Team:

Annie Morgan - Co-Coordinator, Charlyne Barad - Co-Coordinator
Russel Ray - Plant of the Month, Library Plant of the Month, Collator & Distributor
Joan Herskowitz - Garden Brag Page
Brita Miller - Spring & Fall Festivals and Holiday Party Recaps, misc.
Winston Chan - Miscellaneous Pages
Wanda Mallen - Proofreader