

Cactus Courier

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 72, Number 5

May 2026

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WELCOME NEW PCSS MEMBERS!

Emma Almendarez,
Andrei Brauzman,
Sheila Busch,
Valerie Lerner,
Jan Maiden,
Donna Metz,
Debbie & Neil Weber.

PCSS thanks Kent Scott
for his Ocotillo level donation!

URGENT REQUEST

We are badly in need of someone to take over audio/visual services at our monthly meetings!!

Russel will no longer be able to do that essential job, but he will train his replacement at the next couple of meetings.

You don't have to have any prior experience or knowledge of the equipment, just a willingness to learn.

If you didn't already reply to the group email, please send your offer of help to: charbar6000@gmail.com

Remember, no regular meeting in May because of our annual picnic

May 2026 Potluck Picnic

Saturday, May 23, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The picnic will be held at the

Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden
Palomar College, Comet Circle, San Marcos 92056

- Palomar Garden is on the south-east 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.

No Brag, Exchange, Benefit Drawing, or Sales Tables.

Please bring a potluck dish to share

Important: Please bring your own folding chairs, as none will be provided.

More info on pages 2 & 3.



Also happening on May 23
Wanda & Gary's open house, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.
See information on page 4.

They're opening an hour earlier than usual so we can attend both events!

Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden

May 23, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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 still 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.

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.



COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, May 23, 2026



Who: Wanda Mallen & Gary Vincent
Date: Saturday, May 23, 2026
Time: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Address: 3856 Cedar Vale Way, Fallbrook, CA

Welcome to Gary and Wanda's botanical adventure! We have been here 27 years and started the garden from scratch. Now we have a wide variety of plants, from cactus and succulents to Australian and South African natives and bromeliads, lots of trees and much more. There is a greenhouse with tropical exotics, rooms with African natives and tropical palms, a woodland garden, a conifer garden and places to sit and take it all in.

As in previous years, we will have Carlos from Rojas Succulents selling his wonderful succulents, both plants for beginners and the more advanced collector.

There is plenty of street parking and the garden is level and easily walkable so the physically challenged will be fine. Hope to see you then!

Page by Winston Chan

Plant donations to PCSS

In the last couple years, the plant donations to PCSS have kept on increasing with and more beautiful plants and thus greater sales. This spring we took in \$3,611. That does not include the 20% that we take from the member sales, greatly increased.



Donors

- Mike Peters, pictured, takes the grand prize at donating approximately 125 one-gallon plants which filled 3 vehicles! Sheila, Laura, and Lorie took them home, spruced them up for sale with top dressing, ID and price tags. Mike bought some of the plants he had donated.
- Many thanks to Keith Umbriet's nephew, Ian for all the plant donations from Keith's collection. Keith will live on in many gardens.
- Kevin Smith brought perfectly groomed plants with ID and price tags, approximately 100 plants.
- Jamie Straub donated most of her collection as she couldn't take them with her to Arizona.
- Pauline Wong and Wanda Mallen both donated beautiful plants.
- Julian Duval brought several interesting Euphorbia cuttings as well as potted species. Many thanks to Julian's friend, Tom Osborn for the wagon of plants he donated.
- Robert Kopstein always has interesting variety in the succulents he donated.
- Bill DiAngelo brought a flat of his 2" potted succulents. His plants are popular and always sell fast.
- On the morning of the sale, Nick and Esper bought plants from the last sale and a huge box of Dragon Fruit cuttings with a lovely color photo of the flowers and a description of the plant. We offered them up in a FREE box and every cutting was taken.



- There are others who may have placed plants for sale on the PCSS tables unbeknownst to us, your contributions are appreciated.
- Some of the many plants donated to PCSS and cared for by our volunteers ready to go to new homes.



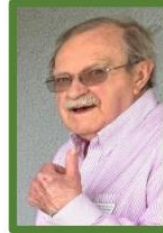
Teri Shusterman and Charlyne Barad wrote a poem for Jamie Straub about How we feel about her and all the great things she has done for the club.
"Jamie we will miss you!"



Festival Sale

A very special thank you to all the volunteers who helped put the Festival together and made it such a success!!!

Francis Granger greeting visitors. Richard Miller checking in members.



"The line starts back there."



Tables, with a great variety of plants, pot, and garden art are ready for the first shoppers.



New member Andrei Brauzman's table.



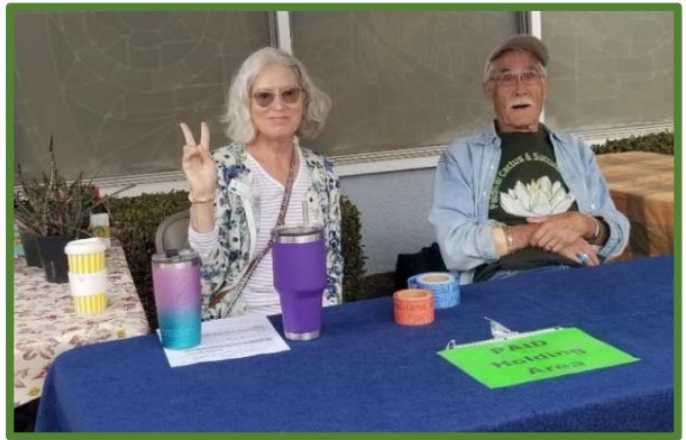
Barbara Rab ready to watch plants as members and guests look at the show and listen to the presentations.

Fortunately, the rain and hot sun stayed away, making for a pleasant day.





Leslie Duval and John Barkley waiting for the first plants to watch over at the "Paid Hold" table.



Bruce Barry, one of Scott Malcom's best customers, deciding which plants he wants to add to his collection.



Heather Chan going over paperwork to help keep the Festival running smoothly.



Looks like Julian Duval with Candy and Jerry Garner are having a good time.



Moni Waiblinger at her table and Lorie Johansen with a prize cutting.



Adam Rettig (right), our top seller and newer member, speaking with a customer.

Scott Malcolm and Rachel Kuyper (new member) round out the top three member sellers.



Shoppers patiently wait in line to pay for their great finds.



Windy helping a customer.



Even with two cash registers going, the line was long, which kept our fantastic cashier team: Ken Brown, Teri Shusterman, Lynn Cahill, Windy Chen, and Liz Rozycki very busy.

Festival Show



Members bringing in and setting out their beautiful show plants.



This table encourages members who are novices with what they too can do with their plants.



Such a great variety of plants on the Intermediate level table!



Pauline Wong's beautifully grown Aeonium.



Stacy Day's whimsical entry
Crassula nudicaulis
commonly known as
Devil's horns.

Charlyne Barad's
Graptopetalum opalina



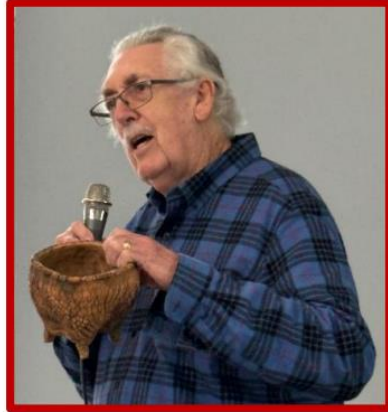
The plants on the
Advanced level
table were amazing!



Eleanore Hewitt counting the ballots
for the People's Choice awards.

Festival Presentations

Jerry Garner was great at explaining and showing what makes a good pot. He talked about pot size and type, holes, and glaze.



Julian Duval was highly informative and very engaging. He provided valuable strategies that we all can all use in growing succulents.



Libbi Salvo is very adept with a glue gun.



Libbi needed both hands so Laura Fish helped with the mic.



A cup of succulent tea anyone?



What a beauty! Don't you wish you could take this one home?



Some of all the tools and cuttings needed to create the fabulous dish gardens.



A free-floating watering can and nozzle, how did she do that?



Spring Festival People's Choice Winners



Libbi's magnificent dish garden won both the People's Choice, Intermediate award and Best in Show!
Congratulations, Libbi!



Lynn's Tephrocactus and Debra's Aloe cv 'Swordfish' tied for People's Choice, Novice award.
What beautifully grown plants!



Mike's Pachypodium species s/b succulentum with gorgeous flowers won the People's Choice, Advanced award.

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.



Echinopsis 'Flying Saucer'
Christina Sangster



Echinopsis 'Rose Quartz'
Christina Sangster



Cotyledon pendens
Lorie Johansen



Dyckia fosteriana
Tom McCarter



Aloe camperi
Lottie Foster

Trichocereus grandiflorus
Chet Reed





Echinopsis hybrid
Lottie Foster



Quesnelia arvensis (bromeliad)
Tom McCarter



Echinopsis hybrid
Deborah Pearson



Echinocereus engelmannii
Deborah Pearson



Echinopsis mamillosa
Chet Reed



Dish Garden with **Dudleya cymosa**, **Tacitus bellus** & **Crassula managuensis**
Joan Herskowitz



Aeonium sedifolium
Joan Herskowitz



Hoya sp.
Martina Reed



Trichocereus grandiflorus
Martina Reed



Echinopsis sp.
Jeff McNair



Parodia sp.
Jeff McNair



Ferocactus fordii
Kathy McNair



Ferocactus emoryi
Kathy McNair



Epiphyllum hybrid
Wanda Malen



Garden Vignette with
Echinopsis 'Flying Saucer'
Wanda Malen

El Cajon Library Plant of the Month

Sponsored by Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Euphorbia stenoclada

by Russel Ray



Euphorbia stenoclada (picture at left of plant loaned by Russel Ray) is a species of plant in the family *Euphorbiaceae* and is related to the common Christmas poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. It is native to Madagascar and the Mozambique Channel Islands in subtropical or tropical dry forests, subtropical or tropical dry shrubland, and rocky areas. It is threatened by habitat loss.

Its common name is Silver Thicket; new growth is fairly pliable but hardens into rigid, flattened blue-gray to silver stems with spines at the tips. Seen regularly as an upright, much branched, large leafless succulent shrub or small tree about 6 feet tall although it is capable of growing to 12 feet tall or more by 4 to 6 feet wide. The plant seen here is five years old.

With age, it can develop into a gnarled trunk small tree with a rounded head of spiny growth. The flowers, technically called cyathium (plural cyathia), include bracts, nectar glands, groups of reduced male flowers, and a reduced female flower. Flowers appear in the spring and are small, dark reddish purple, and are held at branch tips. The fruit is small, rounded green, and lightly hairy.

Plant in full sun or light shade in a well-drained soil. The foliage stays greener when grown in shade but in full sun has a nice, silver color. Water occasionally/infrequently in spring and summer. Reliably cold hardy to around 30°F and tolerant of short duration freezes a couple degrees below that, with damage noted in the mid-20°s.



Euphorbia stenoclada is described by some as a curious and attractive plant but by others as dangerous or forbidding because of its sharp spines and sap. As with all euphorbias, *Euphorbia stenoclada* oozes a milky, latex sap when damaged or cut. Contact with the sap may cause severe skin dermatitis in some. Possible temporary blindness can occur if the sap is gotten into the eyes; seek medical treatment immediately if that happens.

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