



Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

www.palomarcactus.org



Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Volume 72, Number 10

October 2026

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PCSS Welcomes New Members

Elissa Hayward
Kallie Khademi
Susan Foran

Fall Show & Sale Indoor Set Up
Friday, October 23, 2026
10:30 am - 3:00 pm

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

If you can help, please contact Brita:
BritaMiller1@gmail.com

Phone or text: 858-776-7216.

On Friday from 10:30 to 3:00, please bring your sale and show plants.

On Friday use the side door (facing Sprouts). Do not use the back door where we usually enter.

Join Us for Our Fall Show & Sale

Saturday, October 24, 2026

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Grace Presbyterian Church
11450 E. Vista Way, Vista, 92084

Member Sale - Plants, Pots, Garden Art
Plant Show Member Potluck
Presentation Workshop

- 10:00 am Members only shopping
- 10:00 am Workshop (Members only)
- 10:30 am Show & Sale open to the public
- 11:00 am Presentation
- 11:30 am Member Potluck
- 12:15 am Pumpkin Workshop
- 1:40 pm People's Choice winners
- 1:15 pm Pumpkin Workshop
- 2:00 pm Show & Sale closes

See detailed schedule on page 3.

There will be no Exchange or Benefit Drawing tables.





Fall Show & Sale Info

Plant Show

- The Plant Show tables will be set up indoors on Friday. Show plants may be brought from 10:30 - 3:00 pm Friday or 7:00 - 9:45 am Saturday. They must be in place with the entry slips filled out by 10:00 am Saturday.
- We encourage you to bring show plants (maximum of ten plants per member). Remember you will be competing for People's Choice awards 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, 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 is non-judged with People's Choice Awards for all levels. All members and guests are encouraged to cast ballots for your favorite plant in Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. Cast one ballot in each level.
- An award for Best in Show will go to the plant with the most votes.
- To help encourage 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 with Brita, please contact her (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!!
- **Be sure to sign out at the membership table so you'll get credit towards gift plants at our holiday party in December.**



PCSS Fall Show & Sale Schedule

Friday

10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Interior Show and presentation areas set-up

Members can bring in PCSS plant donations, tables, Show plants, etc.

Saturday

7:00 - 9:00 am

Patio sales area set-up (6:30am for PCSS donation tables set up only)

9:00 - 9:45 am

Members set up their plants to show and sell

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 - 10:30 am

Members only shopping!

10:30 am

Fall Show & Sale open to the public

11:30 am

Potluck (*for members only*)

11 - 11:45 am

Presentation: Mother Nature Winter Surprises

Presenter: Robert Kopstein

Pumpkin Decorating Workshop

Presenters: **Libbi Salvo** and **Stacy Day**

Bring your own smaller pumpkin, a glue gun, embellishments, clippers
small colorful succulents cuttings to share.

A limited number of pumpkins will be available for sale

10:00 - 10:45 am

First pumpkin workshop (members only)

12:15 - 1:00 pm

Repeat of the pumpkin workshop

1:15 - 2:00 pm

Second repeat of the pumpkin workshop

1:40 pm

People's Choice awards announced

2:00 pm

Show and Sale Closes

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Clean up - Everyone please help!



2026 Fall Show & Sale - Food Sign Up List



Name

Sherman Blench
Sara Verlarde

Appetizers

Deviled eggs
Snack cups



Name

Charlyne Barad
Julie Kort
Sheila Grasso
Lois Walag
Patti Nelson

Something lunchworthy

Name

Candy Garner
Suzi Harris
Jeremy Leon Guerrero
Richard Miller

Salad or side dish

Macaroni salad
Salad
Potato salad/fried rice
Cottage cheese & fruit salad



Name

Pauline Wong

Main dish

Turkey chili

Name

Andrei Brauzman
Atom McCarter

Desserts

Cake, fruit bread
Oatmeal raisin cookies



Name

PCSS

Beverages

Bottled water

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

Sorry, there will be no coffee available, so please bring your own.

PCSS Spring/Fall Show & Sale - Seller Information

(formerly Spring/Fall Festivals)

- Only current PCSS members can sell at the Show & Sale.
- Do you have some extra potted plants you would like to sell? They must be rooted, clean, disease and bug-free. You can also sell cuttings of plants that are usually sold as cuttings, new or clean used pots, or other new or used garden-related items.
- We will do the sales for you, so you don't need to be at your table all day if you don't want to. You will receive 80% of the sales price and PCSS will receive 20%. PCSS will handle the sales tax.
- You will need to double tag your plants, which means **one plant stick must have your name, initials, or other business name and the price of the plant.** The price plant sticks are how Teri Schusterman, the treasurer, determines how much each seller is owed. The second stick should have the name of the plant if you know it.
- Plant sticks are available for sale, 15 for \$0.50 at monthly meetings and day of the sale.
- PCSS doesn't use barcodes at these sales.
- Tips for pricing your plants - what would you pay for them? Also, remember to factor in the 20%. If you are selling some of your own plants – do you want to price them low in hopes of selling most of them, or do you keep prices higher and rake home unsold plants save for another day.
- How much table space do you need? Table size – 3 ft., 6 ft., or 8 ft. or more than one table?
- Do you have your own table(s) you can bring? If so, what size?
If you bring your own tables be sure to clearly label them so there is no mix up.
PCSS may not have enough tables for everyone, if you can borrow one from a friend, that would be helpful.
- Bring your table(s) between 7am and 9am. Bring your plants, etc. between 8am and 9:45am. If you have more plants, etc. that can fit on the table(s) please put under the tables.
If you plan on putting large plants on the ground next to your table, please let Brita know so she can allow space for them. All items for sale should be labeled, priced, and in place by 10am.
- **PCSS members can shop early - from 10am to 10:30 am.**
The Festival is open to the public from 10:30am to 2pm.
- There will be two Hold tables.
An "Unpaid Hold" table by the meeting room entrance. Customers can leave their unpaid plants, etc. there for about two hours. If the plants are not picked up within that timeframe they will be returned to the sellers.
There will be a "Paid Hold" table near the exit. As customers exit, they will be asked to show their receipt (like at Costco).
- If you wish to sell or have any questions you must contact ASAP
Brita Miller at 858-776-7216 BritaMiller1@gmail.com.

September Meeting Recap



Dylan Zoller's presentation topic was, "The Jewels of the Brazilian Highlands." His slide show presented examples of Brazil's varied landscapes and wide variety of cacti, succulents, and bromeliads.



Discocactus pseudoinsignis grows in almost sterile quartz sand to provide drainage, avoid competition from intrusive plants, and to protect it from sunburn.

After Dylan walked up this steep hill, it rained making the slope slippery. He had to make his way down seated.



Dylan saw many plants growing between rocks.



Imagine a field full of Melocacti!



September Brag Table Winners

2026 September Brag Table Winners

Novice Cactus

1st Lynn Cahill Cleistocactus samaipatanus 1

Intermediate Cactus

Advanced Cactus

1st Kathy McNair Coleocephalocereus aureus (**Best in Show**) 2

2nd Kathy McNair Copiapoa esmeraldana 3

Novice Succulent

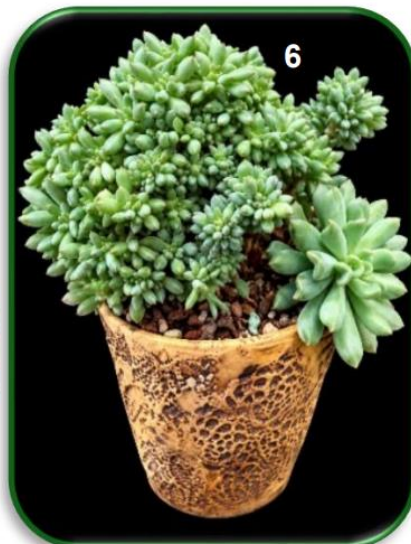
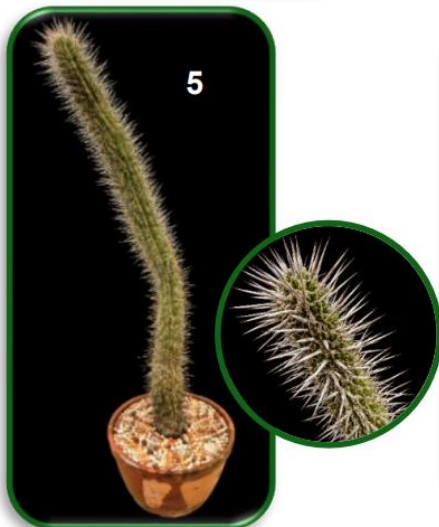
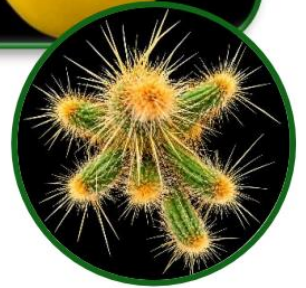
1st Lynn Cahill Haworthia sp. 4

Intermediate Succulent

1st David Buffington Alluaudia montagnacii 5

2nd Pauline Wong Echeveria runyonii 'Topsy Turvy' 6

3rd David Buffington Mestoklema arboriforme 7



September Brag Table Winners Continued

Advanced Succulent

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st Mike Nelson | <i>Bursera microphylla</i> 8 |
| 2 nd Kathy McNair | <i>Sarcocaulon vanderietiae</i> 9 |
| 2 nd Jeff McNair | <i>Fouquieria formosa</i> 10 |
| 3 rd Jeff McNair | <i>Albuca spiralis</i> 11 |

Plant of the Month – Novice

Plant of the Month – Intermediate

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st Harold Dunn | <i>Astrophytum capricorne</i> 12 |
| 2 nd Norb Roden | <i>Astrophytum asterias</i> 13 |



September Brag Table Winners Continued

Plant of the Month – Advanced

- 1st John Barkley *Astrophytum caput-medusae* 14
2nd John Barkley *Astrophytum ornatum* 15
3rd John Barkley *Astrophytum asterias* 16

Dish/Bowl Garden - Novice

Dish/Bowl Garden - Intermediate

Dish/Bowl Garden - Advanced

- 1st Candy & Jerry Garner
 Euphorbia poisonii, *Sinningia* sp., *Lachenalia* sp. 17
2nd Kathy McNair *Aloe brevifolia* hybrids 18

***Display Only – Not Judged:** arrived too late for judging.

- Andrei Brauzman *Astrophytum capricorne* 'Buffalo'
Andrei Brauzman *Astrophytum myriostigma* 'Kikko'
Andrei Brauzman *Astrophytum myriostigma*

***Non-Judged plants not photographed**



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 DEADLINE: 1st day of each month.



Euphorbia cyathophora
(wild poinsettia)
Erik Gronborg



Aloe traskii
Erik Gronborg



Cereus forbesii spiralis
Moni Waiblinger



Kleinia patraea
Tom McCarter



Euphorbia milii (red & peach varieties)
Deborah Pearson



Gymnocalycium magalothelon
Kathy McNair



Aloidendron dichotomum
Tom McCarter



Aeonium haworthii with cat
Stacy Day





Echinopsis hybrid
Jeff McNair



Stapelia gigantea
Jeff McNair



Stapelia gigantea
Martina Reed



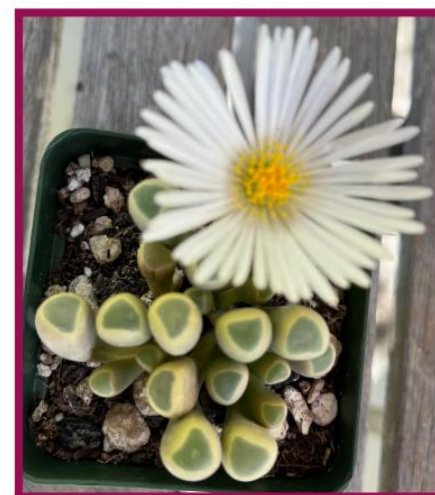
Echinopsis aurea
Suzi & Lou Harris



Ferocactus latispinus
Kathy McNair



Agave attenuata 'Ray of Light'
Joan Herskowitz



Fenestraria rhopalophylla
Joan Herskowitz



Crassula perforata
Lorie Johansen



Cleistocactus colademononis
Stacy Day



Selenicereus undatus
Lorie Johansen

El Cajon Library Plant of the Month

Sponsored by Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Astrophytum ornatum cv. *Spiral*

by Russel Ray



Astrophytum is a genus of six cactus species; *Astrophytum asterias*, *Astrophytum capricorne*, *Astrophytum coahuilense*, *Astrophytum caput-medusae*, *Astrophytum myriostigma*, and *Astrophytum ornatum*.

Astrophytum is a genus that seems to be very easy to hybridize because there are many cultivars (cv.) available throughout the nursery trade. The cultivar here, *Astrophytum ornatum* cv. *Spiral*, belongs to Russel Ray.

The natural geographic range is primarily concentrated in the Chihuahuan Desert region and parts of the Tamaulipan thorn-scrub, stretching across northeastern/ central Mexico and a tiny portion of the Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas in the United States. Originally, these plants were found throughout Texas and Mexico, but much of the original habitat has been destroyed. In their natural range, they are low growing cacti that are commonly found in the shade of other plants. Wild plants are very well camouflaged and grow nearly half submerged in substrate, often covered by sand.

Plants are easy-to-cultivate summer growers (May through the end of September). In winter, they do best when kept almost entirely dry, especially if night time

lows will be approaching freezing. Use a very well-draining mix; good drainage is essential. Plants can tolerate brief periods below freezing if kept dry. Fertilize very little. Dilute to half concentration and apply only during the growing season. A low nitrogen fertilizer can be used about once a month. Limited supplemental fertilizer seems to lead to the best appearance in older plants. Propagation is through seeds; they bloom frequently during the summer and produce plentiful seeds.

Plants generally like bright, indirect light. Most species and cultivars, if not all, have huge yellow flowers. However, some species take many years before they bloom, but when they do, the wait will have been worth it.



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

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).

October 24 — Fall Festival and Sale

Plant of the month: None

Speaker: None

November 21

Plant of the month: Schlumbergera

Speaker: Cristy Brenner, Cactus adventure in Argentina and Chile



December 19 — Holiday Party

Plant of the month: None

Speaker: None

PREVIOUS MEETINGS IN 2026

January 24

Plant of the month: Echinopsis

Speaker: Diana Lindsay, Plants in Anza Borrego used by native peoples



February 28

Plant of the month: Hoya

Speaker: Marie Sinovich, Desert animals of Anza Borrego



March 28

Plant of the month: Aloe

Speaker: Jeff Moore, Succulent Road Trip - Gardens from San Francisco to San Diego



April 25 — Spring Festival and Sale

Plant of the month: None

Speaker: None

May 23 — Picnic at Palomar College

Plant of the month: None

Speaker: None



June 27

Plant of the month: Opuntia

Speaker: Antonio Rangel, The gardens at Palomar College - Landscaping for education and conservation



July 25

Plant of the month: String succulents

Speaker: Nan Serman, California-Dreamin' - Gardening in a Mediterranean climate.

August 22

Plant of the month: Euphorbia

Speaker: Woody Minnich, Pachypodiums



September 26

Plant of the month: Astrophytum

Speaker: Dylan Zoller, Jewels of the Brazilian highlands



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 Show & Sale Chair & Sales - Brita Miller
Show & Presentations - Charlyne Barad
Plant Donations - Lorie Johansen, Sherman Blench
Membership - Richard Miller membership@palomarcactus.org
Publicity (print) - Tom McCarter (social media) - Lou Harris
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, Graciela Conde
Brag Table Set Up - Libbi Salvo, Barbara Raab, Stacy Day
Brag Table Judging Team - Mike Nelson, Debra Lee Baldwin, Wanda Mallen
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
Meeting Sales Cashiers - Teri Shusterman, Liz Rosycki
Meeting A/V - Ken Brown
Exchange Table - Brian Magone Benefit Drawing - Martina Reed
Visitor & New Member Ambassadors - Lorie Johansen, Brita Miller
Name Badge Drawing plants - Julie Kort
Additional Meeting Volunteers - Stacy Day, Lottie Foster, Laura Fish

Newsletter Team

Charlyne Barad - Coordinator, Speaker, Club info, Meeting Recap, Brag Table Winners
Russel Ray - Plant of the Month, El Cajon Library Plant of the Month, Collator & Distributor
Joan Herskowitz - Garden Brag Page
Brita Miller - Spring & Fall Show & Sale and Holiday Party Recaps, misc.
Winston Chan - Miscellaneous Pages
Wanda Mallen - Proofreader