

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 66, Number 1

January 2020

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, January 25th

**Park Ave. Community Center
210 Park Ave., Escondido**

Brag plants, Exchange Table or Benefit Drawing

11:00am – 3:00pm

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Refreshments

**With all the fun at the
Holiday Party everyone
forgot to sign up.**

**We'll be hungry so please do
bring in goodies!**

www.palomarcactus.org

We're on Facebook!

We're on Instagram as

Palomar.cactus.succulent.org

Questions - email:

Info@PalomarCactus.org

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
are due now! See the
Notices on p. 2 for details.**

This Month's Presentation:

Spiny Succulents

By Jeff Moore

Jeff will speak about his new book, *Spiny Succulents*, which is a follow-up to the yin to the yang of the last book on soft succulents. It covers cacti, euphorbias, pachypodiums, alluaudias, terrestrial bromeliads, and a few other succulent-adjacent xerophytes, most but not all spiny. While he can't cover all of each family or genus in one book, this one tries to show cultivated examples of the most prominent cacti, euphorbias, pachypodiums, alluaudias, xerophytic bromeliads, cycads, and other mostly spiny plants.

The presentation basically follows the flow of the book, and he will offer insights on the plants as he goes, and as always will be happy to answer questions. This new book is 350 pages with 1500 images and is a delight to read.

Join us in welcoming Jeff back for another colorful, educational, and entertaining presentation. Jeff will bring all of his books to sell/sign, plus he will have plants to sell.

Spiny Succulents

*Euphorbias, cacti, and other sculptural
succulents and (mostly) spiny xerophytic plants*



Jeff Moore has owned and operated Solana Succulents, a retail nursery in Solana Beach, since 1992. He has gained notoriety for landscapes at the Del Mar Fair and Home Shows, and particularly for his “undersea” succulent gardens. Jeff grew up in Southern California and is married with two grown sons. He has written a series of four engaging books about the world of succulents in cultivation in the past four years.



~ Notices ~

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

At our December meeting we held our yearly elections. Results were:

~ John Barkley – Treasurer - 2-year term

~ Peter Walkowiak – Member at Large - 2-year term

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you to everyone who renewed in November and December! Remember, we now ask that ALL RENEWALS BE SUBMITTED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. **So, if we have NOT received your renewal by then your information will be removed from the roster and newsletter lists, you will no longer receive newsletters, and you will not be included in the Membership Directory!** There is a link to the form that you can print and mail in on the back page, or forms are available at meetings. You may renew at a meeting with CASH, CHECK, or a CREDIT CARD.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Once again, we will be printing up a Membership Directory that will be available at the March meeting, after all membership renewals have been received. Please indicate on the Membership Form which information you'd like to have included. Please contact Annie by 2/29/20 if you have any questions.

INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK

Russel Ray is now regularly posting photos of YOUR plants from our Brag Table on Facebook and Instagram. His posts will list the plant name and the name of the person whose plant it is, so if you do not want your name included please email him at russelrayphotos@gmail.com. We hope you will start following us on both sites.

~ On FB look for Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society. Right now, only our admin can post, but we are working on developing a new site where you too can post!

~ For Instagram go to Instagram.com, then enter [palomar.cactus.succulents.soc](https://www.instagram.com/palomar.cactus.succulents.soc) to see our posts and post yourself.

YEARLY CALENDAR - ALWAYS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER

FYI – our meeting schedule for the year is always on the back page of each newsletter issue. Also, always on the back page is a box listing the next few months' Southern California events, and this is updated monthly. Additionally, Brita and Annie's contact info are also always on the back page.

FREE ENTRANCE FOR SENIORS, 65 OR OLDER, TO THE SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY!

Don't miss the notice on the page 10 about this great opportunity!

Attention All Members

It Takes a Village to Keep Our Club Going Strong

Be part of the Village and meet your neighbors by volunteering!

Many of our members have said that they have enjoyed meeting others through volunteering. That being said, I'm looking for volunteers to assist with the following:

- People to help with the Spring Member Festival in March - setting up the Plant Show, setting up the Plant Sales, monitoring the Workshops, and doing write-ups for the newsletter.
- A number of people have asked about how to purchase our club tee-shirts. We need someone to find a new vendor, take orders, etc. You do not need to do the artwork.
- Purchasing the 4" plants that are given out at the Name Badge Drawing at our monthly meetings.
- A "Coffee in the Garden" coordinator who helps find members who would like to show off their gardens.
- Be back-ups, such as helping with the setup for our monthly meetings.

I will have more volunteer opportunities listed later for the August Auction, Fall Show & Sale, and Holiday Party.

As many of our members have busy lives traveling, taking care of aging family members and other activities, they are reluctant to commit to volunteering for a larger job or ongoing activity. To meet this situation, I can and have split several of the jobs into smaller tasks for those who don't feel comfortable doing it all or don't have the time. I have already set up job-sharing tasks for those of you who can't attend meetings on a regular basis.

Also, it would be great if we could find a core group of volunteers for each event, each person doing their own task, plus back-up persons, with a coordinator who could make sure everything is on track. I have written simple job/task descriptions to help with this to make it easy for you.

Please let me know if you have some time to share. We can't do it without you!

Brita - Event and Volunteer coordinator



Volunteers of the Year AWARD

"Monthly Meeting Team"

This year it was hard to come up with one person only to be Volunteer of the Year. We really had a group of people who help with our monthly meetings which wouldn't run as smoothly or be as enjoyable as they do without them. They do so many wonderful jobs throughout the day.

We all thank you, thank you, thank you!!

You make a difference!

MIA Photo - Did you take a group photo of the Volunteer Monthly Meeting Team at the Holiday Party? If so, please email or text them to Brita so we can publish it next month.

Holiday Party Recap!

By Brita Miller

Our Holiday Party just seems to get better and better. Thanks goes to Julie Slater who took over the duty of keeping the food and attendance lists up to date. This was no easy feat as calls and emails kept coming in up to the evening before, ending up with 107. We usually have 5 or 10 who don't make it, but not this year - we had a record of 118 who showed up! Last-minute table shuffling was needed to fit everything and everyone in. Fortunately, we had enough delicious food.

A special thanks goes to all the volunteers who helped make this event memorable. Starting with Mike and Patty Nelson who helped me transport all the gift plants - two SUVs full; Evelyn Voth for bringing in her fantastic collection of reindeer, and to everyone who chipped in setting the tables. More thanks to Eleanor Hewitt and Lorie Johansen for the delicious turkey, gravy, to Peter Walkowiak for the great smoked ham, and to everyone else who took the time and effort to make the rest of the meal. Sandy Wetzels-Smith, Jamaye Despaigne, Ellen Pankuch and the rest of the volunteers that got the food out. And thank you to everyone who stayed to clean up in record time!



Eleanore's gravy is the best in the west!



- ~ Cooking with a smile!
- ~ Checking out the deserts!
- ~ A lovely holiday center piece!
- ~ Handmade succulent earrings!
- ~ Santas galore!
- ~ Picking just the right gift plant!
- ~ Gift plants galore!
- ~ Reindeer decorations – oh so cute!
- ~ Enjoying a delicious meal!





AWARD

At our December meeting **Annie Morgan** was presented with a special **“Many Hats” Award** for “her 7 years of dedication and service as Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Field Trip Coordinator, creating our business cards, coordinating our club t-shirts, coordinating the Del Mar Fair exhibit, website design and maintenance, consummate volunteer for the Spring Festivals and Annual Fall Show and Sale, and much more!”



Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent presented Annie with a beautiful handmade cardinal whirligig as a thank you gift for all she has done for the club. This beautiful gift will be placed in a special place in her garden.

7th Annual Spring Member Festival - Saturday, March 28, 2020

Our **SPRING MEMBER FESTIVAL** is coming up soon! It is a fun event with a variety of interactive activities.

MEMBER PLANT SALE - Do you have some extra plants you would like to sell? This is a great venue to do just that. Start getting them ready now - repot, trim, etc. so they look their best for potential buyers. You may also sell other garden-related items during this sale. PCSS handles all the money and sends you a check, so you don't have to stay by your items for sale.

WORKSHOPS - We will have interactive workshops on topics related to the care and growing of succulents.

TIME TO SOCIALIZE - This is also a great time to socialize with friends and meet other members. There have been so many comments about what a fun time people had at this less structured 'meeting'. You won't want to miss out!

PLANT SHOW - As we did last year, we'll have a non-judged Show for all levels. We'll have the People's Choice Awards for all three levels and double Brag Points once again!

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN IN WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO SUCCULENTS OR HAVE BEEN GROWING THEM FOR MANY YEARS.
SEE FINAL DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.



AN INVITE TO LORIE'S GARDEN WONDERLAND!

As promised, Lorie Johansen would like to offer new and newer members, and older members too, to come visit her garden. Please contact her at info@palomarcactus.org with which days work for you. Bring your clippers and containers to take cuttings home with you. Wear sturdy shoes to walk their two-acre property



Plant of the Month – Opuntias

By Lorie Johansen

Opuntia, commonly called **prickly pear**, is a genus in the Cactaceae family. It is the most widespread of all genera in the cactus family with 300+ species, many being edible. The genus occurs naturally throughout North and South America from Canada, down to the Caribbean, and to the south into Argentina. However, they are now found world-wide as it has escaped cultivation and has naturalized even to the point of being classified as a noxious weed. Many species are native to Southern California and Baja California where it grows in our coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. The common name nopal is Spanish, and is used commonly in Spanish-speaking regions. Nopal is also used to refer to the edible pads.



A local coastal species, *Opuntia littoralis*

Opuntias have flat paddle-shaped stem segments called cladodes that grow one on top of the other. The edges and flat surfaces of these cladodes are covered with areoles, which are small areas that have spines, both large and the tiny easily detached spines called glochids. Many Opuntia species have large spines in addition to the glochids, but some are armed only with masses of glochids. Glochids appear to be soft or fuzzy, but anyone who does touch them immediately regrets doing so. When we had to clear an area for our PV panels, it was where the Opuntia garden was located. I invited neighbors to come and harvest. Unfortunately, I got a voicemail from my poor neighbor who brushed up against the red fuzzy glochids. She was perplexed and challenged as to how to remove the red furry fuzz on her arm that was quite irritating. Duct tape was her best friend! You may also apply white glue, let it dry and then peel it/them off slowly.

Cultivation: Most are found in warm, dry climates like the Southwest although there are some cold-hardy varieties such as the Eastern prickly pear *O. humifusa*. They can be as petite as 6-12" to 10-15' tall trees. Flower color varies by type, usually yellow, red or purple. Their edible fruit colors can also vary in shades of red, green and yellow orange. They require full sun, well-draining soil and are extremely drought tolerant and can exist on rainfall.

Propagation: Wear long sleeves and thick gloves when harvesting. A pair of tongs can be handy to hold the pad while cutting it off at a joint with a sharp knife. After allowing the pad to callus over, transplant in well-draining moist soil and don't water for a month. Do not plant too deep or they may rot. Prop up the pad with supports until rooted. Let the soil dry out completely before watering again. When planting in the landscape, be aware of mature size. Plant in areas without paths and walkways.

Pests and Diseases: Opuntia are generally pest free, but if growing conditions are compromised, they can be vulnerable to leaf spot, black spot, bacterial soft rot, and viruses. One of the most common problems that may develop is the Cochineal (*Dactylopius* sp.) scale insect that feed on opuntia. They produce fluffy white cottony wax that hides their bodies as they feed on the cactus and protects them from the elements (drying out, in particular) and from predators. The fluffy wax also serves as a sail to float on the wind and take the bugs to a new patch of cactus. They produce carminic acid that also helps protect them from predation, especially from ants. The carmine dye, which is red, was prized in the 15th century for coloring fabrics and is still used today. Scraping the scale off (carefully, to avoid the sharp cactus spines) and disposing of them may be possible with a small infestation. You might also be able to wash them off with a water under pressure.

Resources:

<https://www.gardendesign.com/succulents/prickly-pear.html>

<https://www.opuntiads.com>

<https://www.americansouthwest.net/plants/cacti/opuntia.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cochineal>

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/many-kinds-nopal-cacti-there-73818.html>

<https://www.opuntiads.com>

<https://www.wildflower.org/expert/show.php?id=9592>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=OPPO



Illustration by Mary Emily Eaton from 'The Cactaceae', showing the most commonly eaten species, *Opuntia ficus-indica*



Austrocyllindropuntia cylindrica, AKA Eve's Needle, gets quite large over time with 2" spines



Opuntia chlorotica var. 'Santa Rita' with purple pads (when planted in full hot sun), has beautiful yellow flowers



A rare *Opuntia monocantha* / *cochenilifera* variegata

2020 So. California Cacti & Succulent Events

Jan. 11 - 12

San Gabriel C&SS Show & Sale

Sat. 9am - 4pm, Sun. 9am - 3pm
LA county Arboretum, 310 N. Baldwin, Arcadia,
Info: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957,
John Matthews 661-714-1052

Feb. 8

San Diego C&SS Show & Sale

Balboa Park, Rm 101, San Diego
Info: 858-382-1797

March 19 - 21

Orange Co. C&SS Spring Show & Sale

Thurs. 6pm - 9pm, Fri. 9am - 7pm,
Sat. 9am - 5pm, 1000 S. State College Bl.
(Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim,
Info: 657-549-0702

April 4 - 5

South Coast C&SS Show & Sale

9am - 4pm, South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes,
Info: <http://www.southcoastcss.org>

April 19

Conejo C&SS Plant Sale

9am - 4pm, 558 N. Ventura Park Road,
Thousand Oaks,
Info: www.conejocss.com
OR onejocss@hotmail.com

April 26

Huntington Plant Sale (all types)

10am - 5pm, Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, Info: 626-405-3504

May 2 - 3

Sunset C&SS Show & Sale

Veteran's Memorial Center, Multi-Purpose Room
Sat. 10am - 5pm, Sun. 10 - 4pm
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, Info: 310-822-1783

May 3

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale

9am - 4pm, South Coast Botanical Gardens
Info: 310-833-6823

May 8 - 9

Gates C&SS Show & Sale

9am - 4pm, Redlands Church of Nazarene,
1307 E. Citrus Ave. Redlands, Info: 909-910-9195,
www.gatesscss.com

May ?

Long Beach CC Show & Sale Info: 626-201-5529

May 24 - 25

Central Coast C&SS Show & Sale

24th 10am - 5pm, 25th 10am - 4pm
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo
Info: terrieivers@gmail.com

June 6 - 7

San Diego C&SS Summer Show & Sale

Balboa Park, Rm 101, San Diego
Info: 858-382-1797

June 13 - 14

Los Angeles C&SS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

Show & Sale, Sat. 9am - 4pm, Sun. 9am - 3pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, Info: www.lacactus.com

June 26 - 28

CSSA Annual Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd.,
Santa Marino - Plant Sale is 6/26 - 6/28, 10am-5pm
Show is open: 6/27 - 28, 10am - 5pm
Info: 626-405-3504

July 17 - 18

Orange County C&SS Summer Show & Sale

Fri. 12 - 7pm, Sat. 9am - 5pm, 1000 S. State College Bl.
(Anaheim United Methodist Church), Anaheim
Info: 949-212-8417

Aug. 15 - 16

35th Annual Intercity Show & Sale

9am - 5pm daily, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430,
or John Martinez 805-390-2139

Sept. 5

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium

All day at the Huntington, cost approx. \$100
Info: 626-405-3504

Sept. 12

Los Angeles C&SS Fall Sale

Sepulveda Garden Center, 9am - 4pm
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, Info: www.lacactus.com

Sept. ?

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction

Info: 626-201-5529

Oct. 10 - 11

Bakersfield C&SS Show & Sale

Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun. 11 - 3pm
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th St., Bakersfield
Info: 661-831-8488

Oct. 24 - 25

Palomar C&SS Fall Show & Sale

Sat., 9am - 5pm, Sun. 10am - 3pm
San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr.
Encinitas, Info: eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

Nov. 6 - 8

Huntington Fall Plant Sale (all types)

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road,
San Marino, Info: 626-405-3504

This is the only month the ENTIRE calendar will be in the newsletter, so print the page for reference, or go to our website which will have the entire list on the So, California Events page. (The website will be updated by 1/25.)



San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
2020 Winter Show & Sale

Saturday, February 8th
11 am - 4 pm
Rm 101 Casa del Prado,
Balboa Park

**Exotic cacti, succulents and
 handmade pottery for Sale**

**Spectacular specimen plants
 on display at the Show**

**Club members are admitted to
 the sale from 9:00 am-11 am for
 "Members Only Shopping"**

Membership Application/Renewal Form on reverse side

Open to the Public
www.sdcss.net

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

The North San Diego County C & S Club!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Click here for a printable form: <https://www.palomarcactus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PCSS-Membership-Form-Single.pdf>

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speakers & Topics</u>	<u>Plants of the Month</u>
February 22 nd	Kelly Griffin – Agaves	Agaves – dwarf
March 28	Spring Member Festival	Your show plants!
April 18 th	TBA	Lobivia
May 23 rd	TBA	Pelargoniums
June 27 th	TBA	Adenias
July 25 th	TBA	Pachypodiums
August 22	Picnic & Auction	Your auction plants!
September 26 th	TBA	Ariocarpus
October 24-25 th	Fall Show & Sale	Your show plants!
November 21 st	Woody Minnich – TBA	Plants w/pots 4" or smaller
December 19 th	Holiday Party	Gift plants for you!

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brita Miller – President, Show Chair, Event & Volunteer
 Coordinator - president@palomarcactus.org**

OPEN – Vice-President – Contact Brita Miller for information.

John Barkley – Treasurer

Moni Wailblinger – Secretary

**Peter Walkowiak – Member at Large, Plant Expert
 - hciservices@gmail.com**

**Lorie Johansen – Member at Large, Guest & New Member
 Ambassador, Plant of the Month Articles**

David Buffington – Member at Large, Brag Points

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OTHER VOLUNTEERS

**Annie Morgan - Program Chair, Website, Newsletter Editor
 (paid position), info@palomarcactus.org**

Richard Miller – Membership - Membership@palomarcactus.org

Dennis Miller - Cash Register at Monthly Meetings

Sandy Wetzel-Smith & Bruce Barry - Refreshments

Barbara Raab & Tammy Harmon - Co-Librarians

Kevin Smith - Brag Table

**Francis Granger – Exchange Table, Guest & New Member
 Ambassador**

Brian Magone - Exchange Table

Chet Reed - Brag Plant Photographer

Russel Ray - Event Photographer, Website, AV

OPEN - Name Tag Drawing Plants

Libbi Salvo - Monthly Meeting Set-up



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 7, 2020

Seniors Free at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Throughout February

Throughout the entire month of February, adults ages 65 and up are invited to visit the San Diego Zoo Safari Park for free! During Seniors Free month, Safari Park guests will get the chance to observe amazing creatures, experience a fun day with family and friends, and learn how everyone can help animals through conservation. Senior guests can present their ID at the Safari Park to gain free admission. For more details about Seniors Free, visit [SDZSafariPark.org](https://www.sdzsafari.org).

San Diego Zoo Safari Park, 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027.

Seniors 65 years of age and older will be offered free admission at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park from Feb. 1 to Feb. 29, 2020. The Safari Park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Feb. 16–18, when the Park will be open until 6 p.m.

At the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, more than 1 million guests each year see animals in herds of mixed species, in expansive habitats. Safari tours offer savanna views of African and Asian animals, and trails take visitors to experience Australian and North American habitats—plus, there are opportunities for up-close encounters and unique behind-the-scenes perspectives. Known for its leadership in rhino conservation, the Safari Park is home to the Nikita Kahn Rhino Rescue Center, which is devoted to groundbreaking work to bring back the northern white rhino. To learn more, visit [SDZSafariPark.org](https://www.sdzsafari.org), or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).