

Cactus & Succulent Society

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 70, Number 5

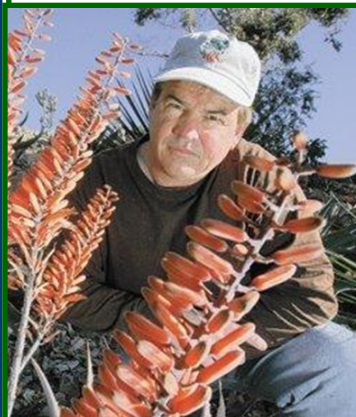
May 2024

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May's Speaker



Kelly Griffin

An Adventure to Namibia

Kelly will talk about his trip to South Africa and Namibia and how to cultivate plants from those areas.

See page two for details.

Important Information

Starting with the May meeting, we will once again be entering the building from the back. That gives us a lot more parking near the entry point.

Meeting Fourth Saturday, May 25

11:00 am—3:00 pm

Community Center, 210 E. Park Ave.

Escondido, CA

- Brag Plant Table: Plants must be labeled and on the table no later than 11:45 am to be judged.
- Benefit drawing and exchange tables and auction will all be held.
- Library will be available. Please return books from prior months' checkout.
- Plant of the month: **Mini Hybrid Aloes**

Newsletter Committee Needed

We're trying out Long Beach Cactus and Succulent Society's model of newsletter by committee. That will save any one person the huge task of doing the whole thing. Each participant will need to do only one section of the newsletter.

Russel Ray will assemble the pages, send them to editors, then to members. He will continue to post it on our website.

Charlyne Barad will coordinate members' pages, maintain the first page, save as PDF, and forward all work to Russel.

Lorie Johansen will continue to write Plant of the Month articles.

Please consider taking part in this project.

Many thanks! eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org

Speaker of the Month: Kelly Griffin

Topic: An Adventure to Namibia



My talk will center on my most recent wonderful trip to South Africa and Namibia. I traveled with Tom Knapik and Joey Betzler to Cape Town South Africa and then made a giant loop from southern RSA up to the Brandberg in Namibia and then back. That is a distance of nearly 1000 miles if you drove directly, of course we did not! We covered some 4500 kilometers (about 2800 miles)

Although this is a travel log, I hope to impart some helpful info regarding the cultivation of the plants from these areas. We found some truly magnificent things including Welwitschias, Aloes, Lithops, Pachypodiums and everything in between. I look forward to sharing this with you all.

Bio:

Kelly is a succulent plant hybridizer, propagator, and avid plant explorer. Like many of us, his interest in plants, and in particular succulent plants, started at a fairly young age.

Since his early exposure, Kelly has traveled to 20+ countries searching for plants, visiting Madagascar 5 times, South Africa 5 times and Mexico 25 plus times to name just a few. He worked as the Curator of Succulents at Rancho Soledad Nursery for 11 years and for the past 12 years he has been working for Altman Plants as Succulent Plant Development Manager.



He has become well known for his hybridizing and has created over 100 succulent hybrids now in the trade, including Aloes, Agaves and Echeverias. His specialty that he is probably most known for are his Aloe hybrids that are 30 years in the making (Pink Blush, Delta Lights, Christmas Sleigh and Coral Fire etc) and some Agave hybrids and selections too (Blue Glow, Snow Glow, Cubic, Black and Blue, Dragon Toes, Spawn, and Crème Brûlée to name just a few). He is also responsible for obtaining seed from many interesting species and propagating the seed for all to enjoy.

Kelly has been a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society since 1992. He has been on the Board of Directors for the SDCSS for as he says, “way too long.” He has served four years as SDCSS President and two years as Vice-President. He was very honored to have been named a Fellow of the San Diego Society.

He currently serves as a director on the board of the National Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is active on the conservation committee and is working on the National convention which comes to San Diego next spring, April 23rd to 27th, 2025.



2024 Spring Festival Wrap-up

By Brita Miller

Our Spring Festival seems to get bigger and better every year. Many thanks to all the members who publicized the event through news media, various clubs, neighborhood flyers, Facebook pages, and word of mouth, especially the Union Tribune announcements.

An extra special thanks goes out to all our volunteers!!! It takes a village and we have a great one. It was wonderful to have so many new volunteers. It's a perfect way to meet and get to know club members.

We took in a little under \$6000, a thousand more than last year. The club netted \$1710.70 of which \$730.50 came from plants and pots donated to PCSS. Thank you, donors!

At one point there were at least 24 people sitting around the two long tables chatting with friends and enjoying some of all the great food members brought for the potluck. Thank

you, Sandy and Bruce, for organizing the kitchen and making sure all the food was plated and ready to eat.

Barbara Raab did a great job filling in for Richard Miller at the sign-in/membership table.

This year we added 12 feet more of sales table space by moving the cashiers outside, and we were still short on table space.



One can never have too many pots or plants!

The lady below: did she buy the plant or the pot first? ↓



Sale



Ken Brown, our cash register guru, Susan Snow, a new volunteer, Teri Shusterman, our wonderful treasurer and Chris Barkley are enjoying a break in the action. Not shown is Harrold Dunn who has been boxing for the last 10 years. He must be taking advantage during the lull to do a little shopping himself.

By moving the cashiers out to the gazebo we had a much better flow of people and plants. A bonus with entering through the back it was closer to the parking lot and made carrying the plants and pots so much easier.



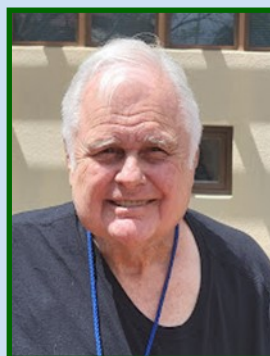
Waiting in line to see what the damages are. Or, "Yes, honey, I do need all these new plants!"



Windy Chen, Sara Velerde helping customers. Someone got a prize tillandsia!



Pam Dunlap, Ed Lopez, and Susan Deuy (not shown) at a rare quiet moment at the unpaid hold table.



Bob Schmutz



Stan Yalof, PCSS member since the mid-1970's

People's Choice Award Winners



Chris Barkley
Novice
Pelargonium
echinatum



Jeff McNair
Intermediate
Fouquieria fasciculata



Julian Duval
Advanced
Tie win for Ficus palmeri (on
the left), and Calibanus
hookeri (on the right)

Show

Our show tables were wonderfully resplendent with delightfully weird, magnificent plants, lovingly grown by PCSS members.



Workshops



May Fong Ho really worked the power drill to make holes in pots. Julie Kort assisted her.



Charlyne Barad showed how to tame the dragon—fruit, that is.



David Buffington shared his experience and knowledge of growing succulents and keeping them healthy.



Russel Ray generously donated all the supplies for attendees to make their own terrariums.



Mary Tighe-Velardi, Dean Karras, Patti Nelson, Brian Magone, among others, had a great time making succulent terrariums.

Plant of the Month

MINI HYBRID ALOES WITH ENORMOUS ATTRACTION

Lorie Johansen



Aloe 'Krakatoa '

These aloes are referred to by several descriptives: star aloes, fantasy aloes, tabletop aloes, eccentric dwarf aloes, or “Kelly Griffin-type” aloes. All seem to do best in containers versus in the ground, are stemless with a rosette of thick, tapering leaves and tubular flower on long, slender stems much like Haworthia blooms. Many are complex hybrids involving a dozen of Madagascan and South African aloe species crossed, re-crossed, and crossed again! The results are very colorful and extraordinary looking plants with fanciful and fun hybrid names like ‘Orange Marmalade,’ ‘Purple People Eater,’ ‘Raspberry Ruffles,’ ‘Snowstorm,’ ‘Secret Agent,’ ‘Goldfish,’ ‘Crunchy,’ and ‘Rascal.’

The history of breeding mini aloes began with John Bleck’s hybrid A. ‘Pepe’ in the early 80’s but didn’t attract much attention until the early 2000’s. The names in the industry include Kelly Griffin (Rancho Soledad Nurseries, Xeric Growers and Altman Plants), Karen Zimmerman (The Huntington Botanical Gardens), Dick Wright (Dick Wright Nursery), Larry Weisel (Altman), and Nathan Wong (private Hawaiian grower).

Karen Zimmerman was fond of aloes but hadn’t paid much attention to their hybrids. Then noted plant breeder, Kelly Griffin, donated a couple of his aloe hybrids to an auction at The Huntington’s 2002 Succulent Symposium, and her professional

life changed course. She fell in love and started generating hybrids by taking the pollen from one aloe (using a fingertip or a pencil) and applying it to the stigma of another. Once tagged with relevant information including the seed and pollen parent, date, and number of flowers pollinated; she then waited for the pods to ripen, collected the seeds, and grew them to see what she bred.

She applies a cultivar name only to the plants that achieve the characteristics she’s after. Often, if a plant merits a name, it’s distributed through The Huntington’s ISI (International Succulent Introductions). ISI propagates and sells new or rare succulents to collectors, nurseries, and institutions. Income earned from sales supports the program.

Introducing a plant into the program requires a starting crop of roughly 100 to 200 specimens. Using traditional methods, the process can take a decade or longer. But since 2008, The Huntington has used its on-site tissue culture lab to



Aloe ‘Green Sand’

shorten the span to a year or two. When Zimmerman breeds a winner, she now hands over a part of her plant to the tissue lab. Technicians mass-produce the plant for distribution. The result is identical to what one would get using traditional propagation methods.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:



Aloe descoingsii x haworthioides

In nature, smaller Aloe species often grow partially shaded by rocks or other vegetation. Hence these types are well suited for growing under lower light conditions, though at least several hours of bright light daily are still needed for ideal growth, more colorful leaves, and more reliable flowering. There are many types of small species and hybrids from which to choose; some can be happy growing slowly for years in a 4" pot, while others will eventually grow to fill an 18" container, with every size in between. Many species produce offsets and eventually will form an attractive clump; others stay solitary. Cuttings root readily.

Plant in pots with drainage holes in a well-draining soil mix. Aloes are very waterwise in habitat where roots can search for moisture. When they are prisoners of pots, they depend on you to water thoroughly until water comes out of the drainage hole, then don't water again until the soil dries out. The same rings true with nutrients; therefore, fertilize during the growing season. Protect from temperatures less than 32 degrees and greater than 95 degrees.

One pest that can ruin your mini aloe collection is the dreaded mite. It is an eriophyid mite known as *Aceria aloinis* and is only visible using a microscope. They are worm-like with only two pairs of legs and are poor crawlers, with their primary method of population spread being by the wind. They can also be spread by other creatures such as birds or bees and humans transporting infected plants or cuttings. While feeding on plant tissues, this microscopic relative of the spider injects a chemical into the plant that causes masses of warty growths on leaves, stems, and flowering stalks. This mass, called aloe cancer, wart, or gall, will often grow around the tiny insects, protecting them from the outside world while they happily feed on the rapidly growing tissues and lay eggs. Until these strange growths appear on an aloe, it is impossible to know that the mites are present. The best way to protect a collection from becoming infested is to remove any affected plants from your collection as soon as you see warts or galls forming. Put the infected plants in garbage bags and throw them away. Some serious collectors quarantine newly purchased aloes like Jay Vannini (Exotica Esoterica website):



Aloe 'Green Sand'

“A greater problem with alooids and agave-family plants in general is that many respected nurseries and public gardens have eriophyiid mites in their collections. While efforts are made to keep this issue under control in some of the entities, my faith in them with regard to their plants being mite free is nil. Two-spotted spider mite infestations are more ubiquitous and easier to detect and control but also can be a problem. I have not onboarded any plants from either family for several years but had extremely strict (and lengthy) quarantine + spray protocols when I was building up my collection.”

Considering recent PCSS sale purchases of hybrid aloes, I decided to quarantine them from my collection. Better to be safe than sorry.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.exoticaesoterica.com/magazine/a-field-guide-to-the-fantasy-aloes>

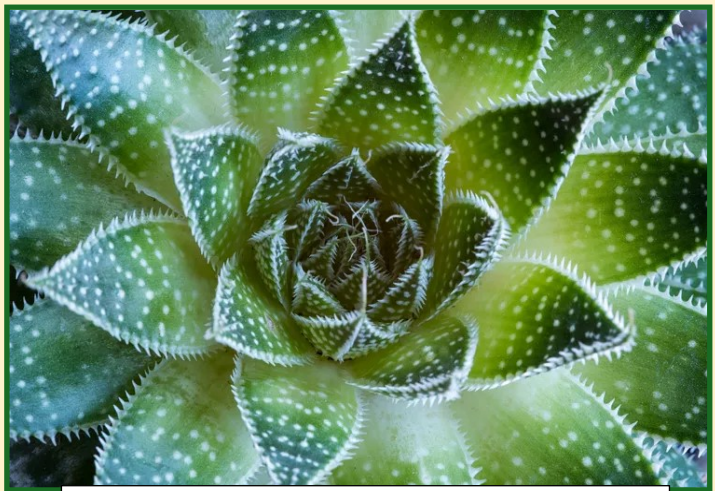
<https://huntington.org/verso/fantasy-aloce-hybrids>

<https://debraleebaldwin.com/succulent-plants/dwarf-aloes/>

<https://www.thegardener.co.za/the-gardener/aa/mini-aloce-guide/>



Aloe juvenna



Aloe aristata 'Lace Aloe'



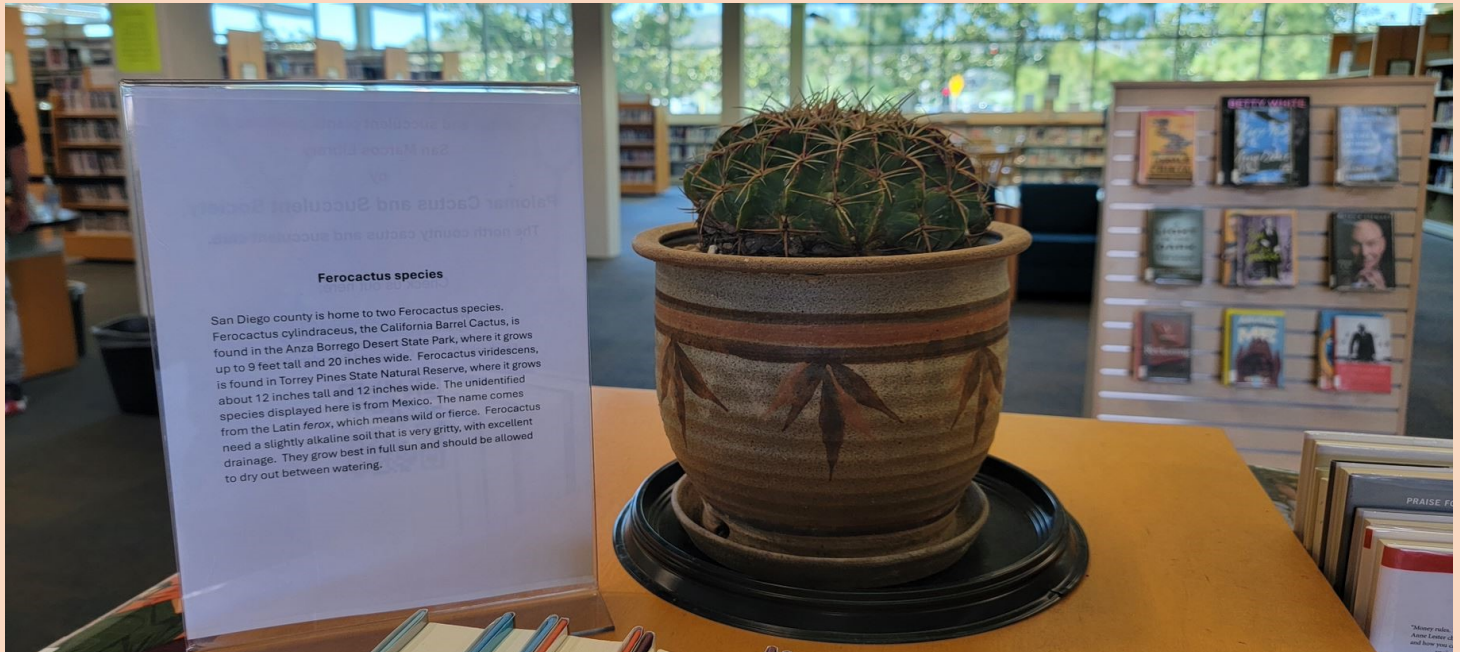
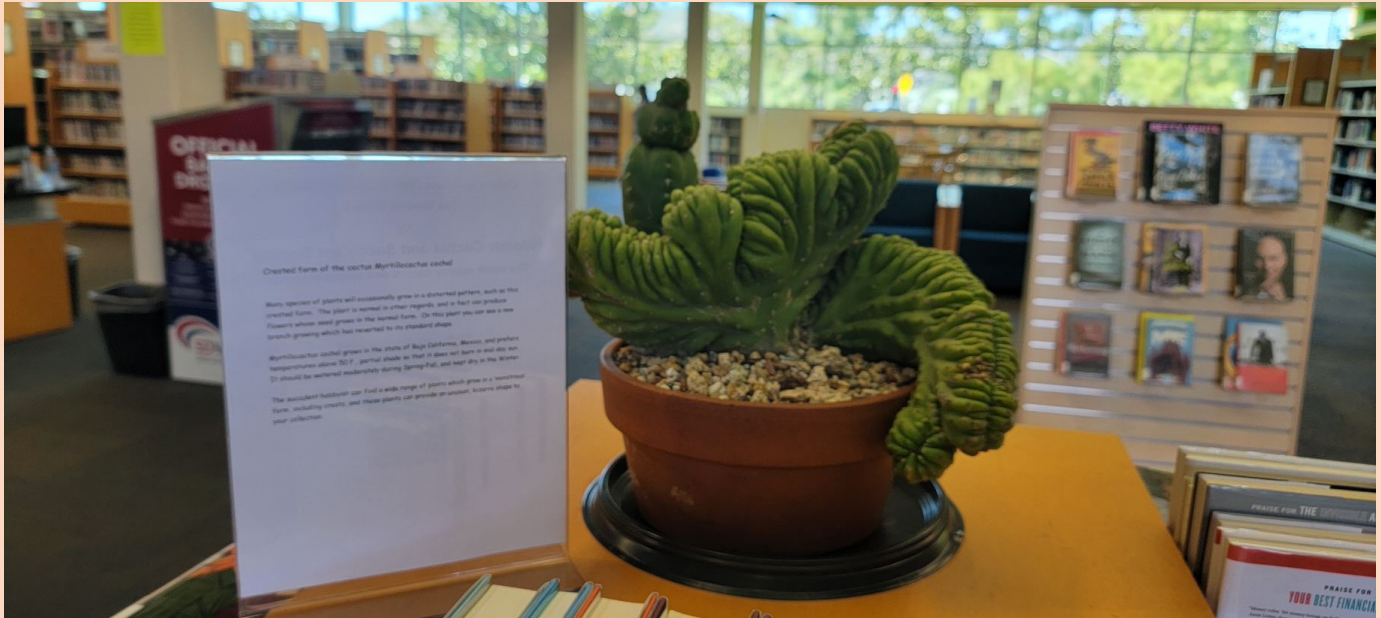
Aloe nobilis
'Golden Toothed Aloe'



Ales brevifolia
'Short-Leaf Aloe'

San Marcos Library Plant of the Month

This month we continue to support San Marcos Library's Plant of the Month program with the April plant (top) from John Barkley, and the May plant (bottom) from David Buffington.



The branch manager of the San Marcos Library would like a volunteer to teach a succulent craft class (10-12 people) on Wednesday, June 5th from 1-2 p.m. They can reimburse for modest expenses. I can supply you with the succulents.

The topic is your choice. Here is an idea using palm fronds as a planter for succulents: <https://www.instructables.com/Creating-Succulent-Wall-Art-On-Palm-Debris/> If you are interested, please email: info@palomarcactus.org.



Home Garden Brag Plants



Deborah Pearson's
Trichocereus cacti



Deborah Pearson's
Bromeliad that she
got from PCSS
benefit drawing table.



From Deborah Pearson:
"Within a week, this flower
spike grew 8 feet into the
oak tree."



Stacy Day's dish gardens in homemade pots.

Pot on left made of Hypertufa, pot on right from wine corks.



Lorie Johansen's
Sonchus palmensis

PCSS Thanks Marcia Gutierrez of the Bradsher Family!

The Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society owes a big thank you to Marcia Gutierrez for the donation of the plant collection of her parents Sam and Beth Bradsher, who were members of our group for many years. Beth Bradsher passed away two years ago, and Sam died last January.

The collection included many plants that had been grown in containers for decades. They included varieties of oreocereus ("Old Man Cactus") from South America, euphorbia, grusonia ("Golden Barrel"), kalanchoe, echeveria, and more. One of the cacti (*Oreocereus trollei*) was grown by the Bradshers for over 40 years; it is so large that it took three people to move it.

Included as well in the donation were ceramic and terracotta pots. In all the retail value of the donation is in excess of \$2000. It is good to know that the plants so lovingly cared for by the Bradshers will go to homes that will appreciate their beauty and continue to nurture them for years to come.



Karen Kopfstein measures a huge *Oreocereus*, 'Old Man of the Andes', which is part of the Bradshers' collection.

Wanda and Gary's Coffee in the Garden

Who: Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent **When:** Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10 -3

Where: 3856 Cedar Vale Way, Fallbrook. There's plenty of street parking

Wanda Mallen and Gary Vincent will be opening their garden for the club to visit again this year. The above-average rainfall of the past two years has led to amazing growth in the garden (and lots of weeds, of course!). As always, we are adding plants and redoing, trimming and enjoying getting to live here among nature's beauty. Wanda has become obsessed with hoyas and mangaves, so there are expanded and new vignettes of these plants.

By popular request, Carlos from Rios Succulents will be selling his wonderful selections, both for the novice and the experienced collector. Wanda will have some items from her collection as well.

We hope you will come and please also invite any friends, neighbors or relatives you'd like to.



MAY COFFEE IN THE GARDEN



GET READY FOR SPINE TIME.

THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PRESENTS:
THE 2024 SUMMER SHOW AND SALE
Sat June 1 & Sun June 2, 2024
at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park

See incredible out-of-this-world succulent and cacti from around the globe, and shop for unique plants from dozens of plant vendors and local artisans. Free admission, with early-bird access on Saturday for members!

TIMES & DATES

SATURDAY	9am – 11am	members sale (membership card required)
	11am – 5pm	sale open to the public
	10am – 3pm	show times
SUNDAY	10am – 4pm	sale open to public
	10am – 4pm	show times

The show is open to anyone who grows succulent plants, and there is no limit to the number of entries per class or the number of classes entered.

Detailed show information and membership info available at upcoming meetings, in our newsletters, and on our website www.SDCSS.net

2024 PCSS Meeting and Speaker Schedule		
Date	Speaker	Topic
May 25	Kelly Griffin, Altman Growers, succulent plant development, hybridizer	Adventure to Namibia
Jun. 22	Gunnar Eisel, President CSSA	Collecting Cactus and Succulents, the collectors and the American Landscape
Jul. 27	Ernesto Sandoval, former curator, UC Davis Conservatory	Propagation of succulents from seed
Aug. 24	Picnic at Palomar College	
Sep. 28	Tom Glavich, CSSA board member	Exploring Euphorbias
Oct. 26-27	Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale SDBGarden	
Nov. 23	Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils	Soils
Dec. 21	Holiday Party, Escondido Community Center	



PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Board of Directors

President - David Buffington president@palomarcactus.org
Vice President - Kevin Smith
Past President, program, plant auction - Robert Kopfstein
Treasurer, meeting cashier - Teri Shusterman treasurer@palomarcactus.org
Secretary, meeting cleanup - Moni Waiblinger
Members at Large - Brita Miller, Lorie Johansen, Charlyne Barad

Other Volunteers

Event Coordinator - Charlyne Barad, eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org
Asst. Event Coordinator Brita Miller, eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org
Newsletter - TBD info@palomarcactus.org
Membership - Richard Miller membership@palomarcactus.org
Assistant treasurer - Liz Rozycki
Meeting setup - Brita Miller eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org , Libbi Salvo, Kevin Smith
Brag table setup - Kevin Smith,
Brag Plant tally - David Buffington
Brag plant photography - Annie Morgan, Asst. - Lorie Johansen
Guest & New Member Ambassador & Plant of the Month - Lorie Johansen
Refreshments - Sandy Wetzel-Smith, Bruce Barry
Exchange table - Brian Magone
Benefit Drawing table - Martina Reed, Stacy Day
Library - Barbara Raab librarian@palomarcactus.org
Publicity - Tom McCarter, Barbara Raab
Website - Annie Morgan info@palomarcactus.org , Russel Ray
A/V - Russel Ray

Social Media

Website: www.palomarcactus.org

Instagram: [palomar.cactus.succulent.org](https://www.instagram.com/palomar.cactus.succulent.org)

Email: info@palomarcactus.org

Facebook group for members:

Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group

2024 Plants of the Month

Aeoniums	(January)
Astrophytum	(February)
Rhipsalis	(March)
FESTIVAL	(April)
Hybrid Mini Aloes	(May)
Ferocactus	(June)
Espostoa	(July)
PICNIC	(August)
Euphorbias	(September)
FALL SHOW	(October)
Cussonia	(November)
PARTY	(December)