

# Cactos Gorrer

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Club

Volume 70, Number 7

July 2024

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## July's Speaker

**Ernesto Sandoval**



**Topic: A Natural History of Baja California**

**Former manager and curator,  
UC Davis Botanical Conservatory**

**See details on page two.**

## \* Newsletter Team Members \*

Charlyne Barad - Coordinator, Club Info, Speaker pages  
Annie Morgan - Assistant Coordinator  
- Brag Table Winners pages, misc.  
Lorie Johansen - Plant of the Month article  
Winston Chan - Misc. information pages  
Joan Herskowitz - Garden Brag Pages - alt. months  
Brita Miller - Spring Festival Recap, misc.  
Lyn Mardesich - Recap page – TBD  
Wanda Mallen - Proofreader  
Russel Ray - Collator and distribution

## Newsletter Team Openings!

Choose one month to do the recap page(s) for:

Holiday Party, Picnic, Show/Sale or

Jan, Feb, March, May, June, July, Sept, or Nov mtgs.

Or Garden Brag – alternate months.

It takes a team - and we need **YOU!** Training available!

Contact Charlyne or Annie @ [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

## Garden Brag – NEW!!!

As of next month, we will no longer send out reminder emails!

Please submit up to three photos to: [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org) by:

August 4<sup>th</sup> September 8<sup>th</sup> October 6<sup>th</sup>

November 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup>

## Meeting Fourth Saturday, July 27

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: *Espostoa*

## Speaker of the Month: Ernesto Sandoval

### Topic: A Natural History of Baja California



Ernesto has traveled to the Baja California Peninsula over 15 times, beginning in 1995 over winter and spring Breaks. As a photographer, this is one of his favorite lectures because he has amassed a visually enticing collection of photographs from one of his favorite deserts. Boojum, Cardon, and other cacti such as the creeping devil and velvet cactus, elephant trees, Agave, and Dudleya are featured along with succulents such as Pedilanthus macrocarpus. This particular version of the Sonoran Desert features visually stunning landscapes such as the Cataviña boulder field along with a few fog belts where Tillandsia recurvata, 'Ball Moss,' can be

seen growing on succulents and Montevideo Canyon with a Cardon Forest. As always, he will throw in tidbits of horticultural information. He hopes you will be inspired to visit what is probably the lushest desert in the world!

#### Biography:

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and asking questions and seeing answers to why plants grow and look the way they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to various Western garden clubs throughout the year, particularly to succulent clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences and passions of others and his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, particularly gardeners, understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly, "Because that's how you

do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree in botany at UC Davis and working up from student weeder/ waterer to Director over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, and now as a graduate student getting his master's (maybe a PhD??) in horticulture and agronomy at UC Davis.



## June Meeting Re-Cap

Sorry, there's no June meeting recap.  
We need a volunteer for this page!

Thanks!

38<sup>th</sup> Annual *Inter-City*  
**Cactus & Succulent**  
Show and Sale



Over 1,700 plants  
on display

Dozens of vendors  
selling plants, pots,  
supplies

Hosted by the  
Long Beach, Los Angeles,  
and San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Societies

*Pachypodium  
windsorii*

**August 2nd, 2024**  
**Sale 8AM-5PM**

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**August 3rd & 4th, 2024**  
**Show & Sale 8AM-5PM**

**Los Angeles County Arboretum**  
**[www.intercityshow.com](http://www.intercityshow.com)**

 Instagram: @intercityshow

 Facebook Group: intercityshow



# ~ June Brag Table Winners ~ Page by Annie Morgan

## Novice Succulent

1 <sup>st</sup> Chris Barkley	Prometheum rosucavia	- 1
1 <sup>st</sup> Keith Umbreit	Echeveria agavoides	- 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Marlene Walder	Aloe brevifolia	- 3

## Intermediate Succulent

1 <sup>st</sup> Kathy McNair	Haworthia truncata	- 4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Patti Nelson	Euphorbia ritchiei variegata - 5 f. white (syn. Monadenium)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Patti Nelson	Euphorbia ritchiei variegata - 6 (syn. Monadenium)	

## Advanced Succulent

1 <sup>st</sup> John Barkley	Plectranthus ernstii	- 7
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mike Nelson	Cyphostemma 'Fat Bastard' - 8 (C. juttae x C. hardyi, cross by Al Klein @ Botanic Wonders)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> John Barkley	Pelargonium cotyledonis	- 9

## Plant of the Month – Ferocactus

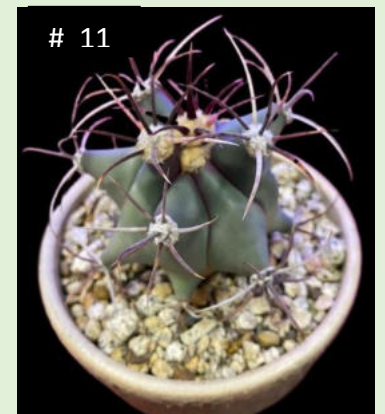
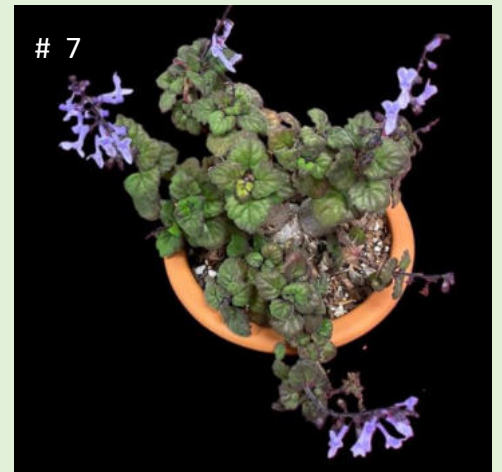
Novice – no entries

### Intermediate

1 <sup>st</sup> Charlyne Barad	Ferocactus latispinus	- 10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Harold Dunn	Ferocactus emoryi	- 11

### Advanced

1 <sup>st</sup> Moni Waiblinger	Ferocactus latispinus	- 12 (#12 shown on next page)
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# June Brag Table Winners - Continued

## Novice Cactus – no entries

### Intermediate Cactus

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Smith Echinopsis chamaecereus - 13  
 (syn. Chamaecereus silvestrii)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy McNair Parodia scopa - 14  
 (syn. Notocactus scopa)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin Smith Melocactus levitestatus - 15  
 (syn. M. diersianus)

### Advanced Cactus

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Barkley Leuchtenbergia principis - 16  
 1<sup>st</sup> John Barkley Mammillaria sp. - 17  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Moni Waiblinger Stenocactus multicosatus - 18  
 (syn. Echinofossulocactus multicosatus)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Moni Waiblinger Echinopsis sp. - 19

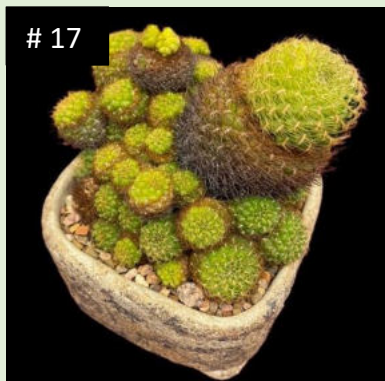
## Novice Dish Garden – no entries

### Intermediate Dish Garden

- 1<sup>st</sup> Esper Batara Lithops - 20

### Advanced Dish Garden

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Nelson Lithops - 21  
 2<sup>nd</sup> John Barkley Mammillaria hybrids - 22





# Plant of the Month

## ESPOSTOA

By Lorie Johansen



*Espostoa lanata*, Peruvian Old Man Cactus  
Photo by Steve von Steen, from Spain

Espostoa is a genus of columnar cacti, comprising 16 species from southern Ecuador and Peru and residing at an altitude between 2000' to 8000'. The genus is named after Italian-born Nicolas E. Esposito (1877-1942), a renowned botanist from Lima, Peru.

The most notable feature of Espostoa is the presence in most species of dense, white "hair" that covers the stems giving them a soft, fuzzy appearance. But don't be quick to pet it as you will painfully discover the numerous sharp spines arranged on many small ribs which circle the columns. These spines are all concealed by the innocent-looking white "hair". The woolly hairs of the cephalia have been used for pillow filling in Peru. One wonders how they separate the spines from the wool.

Another trait of Espostoa that is seen in sexually mature stems is the flower-bearing lateral cephalium. This is an area along the sides of the stems that produce especially dense wool and/or bristles out of which the flowers are produced. These stems are brown, gray or white. The nocturnal flowers are cup or bell shaped, typically 1-2 inches in diameter, and are mostly white or rarely reddish purple. Espostoa cacti produce sweet and juicy fruit, adding to their appeal.

Peruvian Old Lady (*E. melanostele*) is a columnar cactus covered with gold spines and a thick, woolly coating that resembles hair. Growth is slow at about one inch a year and can eventually sprout new branches from its base if given enough space and sunlight. It's rare to see this species in bloom, but its 2" white flowers are specially adapted to close in rainstorms and reopen when dry. In the wild this Espostoa can reach over 6' tall at maturity but stays much smaller in a pot.

Peruvian Old Man (*E. lanata*) is a large cactus with densely hairy stems, initially columnar, developing branches and becoming tree-like with age. It can grow up to 23 feet tall and 8 inches in diameter. The stems are cylindrical, with 18-25 sharp ribs lined with clusters of spines. The ribs and spines are mainly hidden by a woolly coat. Each areole bears 30-40 spreading, needle-shaped, up to 3 inches long, reddish or yellowish-brown radial spines that turn gray as they age.

The Peruvian Old Man cactus resembles the Mexican Old Man Cactus, *Cephalocereus senilis*. However, it doesn't have spines like its South American counterpart. Interestingly, there is a Peruvian Old Lady Cactus that only reaches 6 feet tall and 4 inches in diameter and grows very slowly at one inch per year.

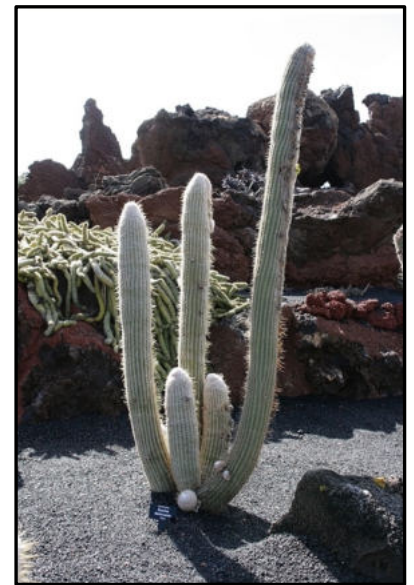
**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:** Being large columnar species, these plants do not grow nearly as vigorously in pots as they do in the ground. Plants tend to quickly fill the pots becoming pot bound and then growth slows to a crawl. As such, these plants rarely, if ever, reach maturity meaning they don't produce the cephalium and subsequently, do not flower. Planting directly in the ground may result in plants forming a grouping of stems that will eventually flower.

Like most cacti, Espostoas require a sunny location and well-drained soil. In summer during their growing season, they appreciate fertilizer and wetter conditions. In winter, they are dormant and do not tolerate long periods of frost.

**PROPAGATION:** Espostoa can be successfully propagated by cuttings and seeds. The seeds are quite easy to germinate. Their main requirements include high humidity levels, free-draining soil mix, and enough water, light, and nutrition.

Resources:

<https://cactiguide.com/cactus/?genus=espostoa> <https://worldofsucculents.com/grow-care-espostoa/> <https://www.plantsucculents.com/posts/espostoa>



*Espostoa melanostele*  
Peruvian Old Lady Cactus





# Home Garden Brag Plants

By Charlyne Barad



Lori Brandt's Echinopsis sp.



Deborah Pearson's Echinopsis 'Edwardian Lady'



Deborah Pearson's Echinopsis sp.



John Barkley's  
Tillandsia





Keith Unbreit's *Aeonium urbicum*



Deborah Pearson's  
"Echinopsis and Friends"



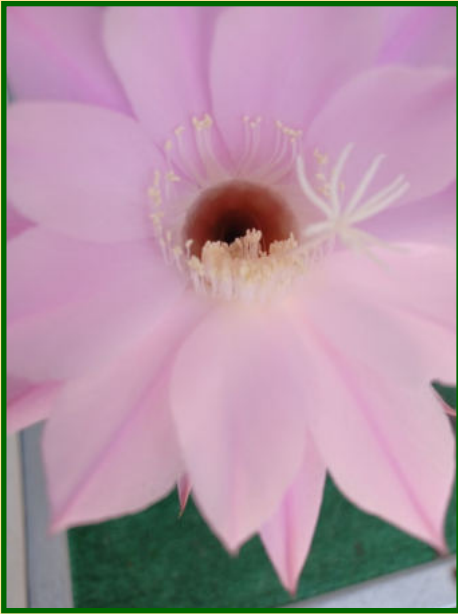
Keith Unbreit's *Aeonium arboretum*  
(center)



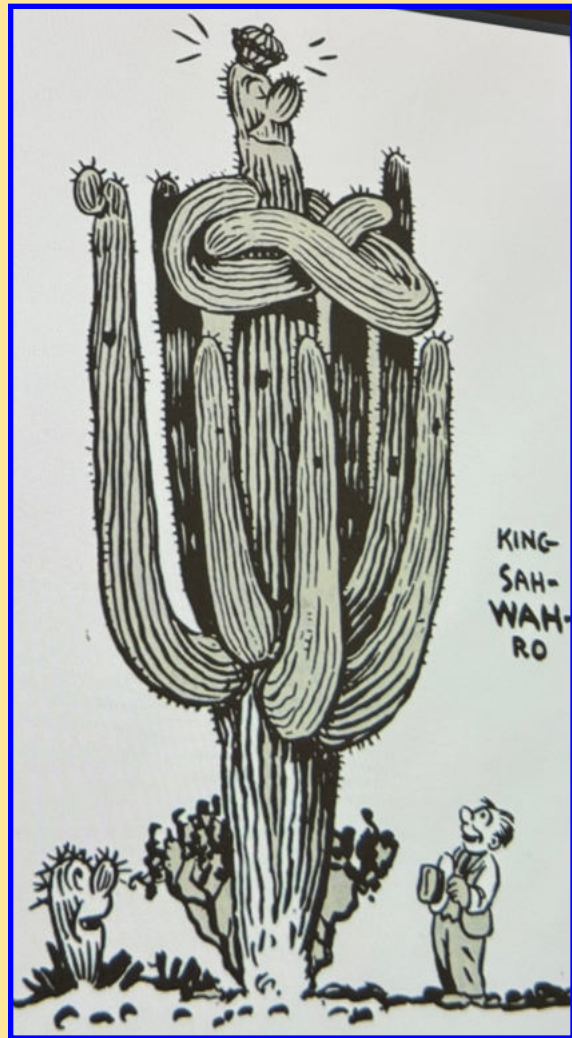
Marlene Walders's  
*Euphorbia millii*, 'Crown of Thorns'







Marlene Walder's  
Echinopsis in bloom





# San Marcos Library Plant of the Month

By Charlyne Barad

This month Julian Duval lent his *Beaucarnea recurvata*, 'Ponytail Palm' or 'Elephant's Foot Palm' to the San Marcos Library for their plant of the month program. Thank you, Julian!



Plant on Display

Ponytail or Elephant Foot, (*Beaucarnea recurvata*)

The Ponytail has been a popular nursery plant for many decades for its durability and adaptability. It is native to Mexico in the state of Veracruz. It can handle a light frost so is a popular landscape plant. They can get large such as the specimen in the photograph below which is about 70 years old at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Miami Florida. However they grow well in pots and even adapt to indoor conditions where the leaves tend to grow much longer in lower light as in the potted plant here in the library. The only downside is that indoors if cats are present they find the long leaves irresistible. Seems to be like kitty dental floss for them.



Info Poster that Accompanies Plant



# PCSS Fall Show and Sale



**October 26 & 27**

**At the Magnificent**

## **San Diego Botanical Garden**

**We NEED PCSS members to volunteer their talents and time to make the show a success.**

**You'll have an opportunity to sign up to help at our July and September meetings. Sign-up sheets will be circulated and will also be available on the membership table.**

**Working the show and sale is great fun in a gorgeous environment, and you'll get free admission to the garden!**

**Among the jobs available will be: set-up, clean-up, security, cashiers, plant boxers, paid hold table, check entry cards, help carry in plants (Friday), ID plants, make plant category cards, set out: table cloths – ropes - category cards, help in kitchen, membership table, place signs & placards, photographers, exhibitor registration, people's choice awards, and many others.**



## **NEW Board Meeting Decisions** **of Import for Members!**

- ~ **Kitchen Help Needed!** – Our incredible refreshment team - Sandy and Bruce - need more help! It does need to be people who can help out consistently, or be willing to coordinate with other volunteers when you are unavailable. See Charlyne or Sandy at the meeting to sign up help!
- ~ **Name Tag Plant Drawing** – As of this month we discontinued this as plant cost have gone up over 60%! We love that so many of members wear their name tags! Thank you!
- ~ **Newsletter Delivery Dates** – Starting this month, newsletters will be emailed out the Friday eight days prior to that month's meeting. This is necessary as a newsletter committee takes more time to coordinate. However, in months with major events, e.g. Spring Festival and Fall Show & Sale, it will still come out on the Wednesday ten days prior to the meeting.
- ~ **Fall Show & Sale Ribbons** – Ribbon costs have risen sharply the last few years. Thus, the large ribbons we present on the Winner's Table will now be placed for display only, and will remain the property of PCSS. Afterwards they will be removed and reused.
- ~ **Assistant Treasurer Position** – At the July board meeting this position was made an official Board of Directors position. Welcome aboard Liz Rozycki!
- ~ **August Picnic** – New Start Time! – Due to the high temperatures in mid-summer, starting this year, we will now begin our picnic at 10am.
- ~ **November & Holiday Party Date Changes!** – Because of the way dates fall this year, our November meeting and the Holiday Party will now be on the FOURTH Saturday, not the third! *Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out!*



# Congratulations Alice & Tom McCarter!

## Vista Irrigation District

### Winners of the 2024 Water Landscape Contest

The Waterscape Landscape Contest is an annual event open to customers of 12 participating Water Agencies. This year, the winner for the 2024 Vista Irrigation District contest were Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society members Alice and Tom McCarter. Following is an excerpt from the letter they received from the Vista Irrigation District's Board of Directors and a photo of their front yard.

Dear Mr. McCarter,

I am pleased to inform you that the Vista Irrigation District has selected your property as the winner of its 2024 WaterSmart Landscape Contest.

By entering the WaterSmart Landscape Contest, you help us provide our customers with ideas and guidance on how to reduce their own outdoor water use by installing attractive and efficient water wise landscaping.

The Vista Irrigation District's Board of Directors would like to recognize your efforts by presenting you with an award including a \$250.00 gift certificate to a local home supply store at the July 17, 2024 OR August 7, 2024 Board meeting

Thank you and again congratulations.

Sandra Sanchez

**Water Conservation Specialist** Vista Irrigation District



Page by Winston Chan



PCSS 2024 Meeting and Speaker Schedule		
Dates	Speaker	Topic
Jul. 27	Ernesto Sandoval, former curator, UC Davis Conservatory	A Natural History of Baja California (a change)
Aug. 24	Picnic at Palomar College C&S Garden	Food, Fun, and Glorious Plants!
Sept. 28	Tom Glavich, CSSA board member	Exploring Euphorbias
Oct. 26-27	Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale SDBGarden	Your Show Plants!
Nov. 23	Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils	Soils
Dec. 21	Holiday Party, Escondido Community Center	Gift Plants Galore!

## **PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

### **Board of Directors**

President - David Buffington [president@palomarcactus.org](mailto:president@palomarcactus.org)

Vice President - Kevin Smith

Past President, program, plant auction - Robert Kopfstein

Treasurer, meeting cashier - Teri Shusterman [treasurer@palomarcactus.org](mailto:treasurer@palomarcactus.org)

Assistant Treasurer—Liz Rozczyk

Secretary, meeting cleanup - Moni Waiblinger

Members at Large - Brita Miller, Lorie Johansen, Charlyne Barad

### **Other Volunteers**

Event Coordinator - Charlyne Barad, [eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

Asst. Event Coordinator - Brita Miller, [eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org](mailto:eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org)

Newsletter Coordinator- Charlyne Barad [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

Assistant Newsletter Coordinator—Annie Morgan [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

Membership - Richard Miller [membership@palomarcactus.org](mailto:membership@palomarcactus.org)

Meeting Coordinator- Brita Miller Setup: Kevin Smith , Libbi Salvo

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 Wetzels-Smith, Bruce Barry

Exchange Table - Brian Magone

Benefit Drawing Table - Martina Reed, Stacy Day

Library - Barbara Raab [librarian@palomarcactus.org](mailto:librarian@palomarcactus.org)

Publicity Coordinator- Tom McCarter,

Website - Annie Morgan [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org) , Russel Ray

A/V - Russel Ray

### **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)

### **Social Media**

**Website:** [www.palomarcactus.org](http://www.palomarcactus.org)

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

**Email:** [info@palomarcactus.org](mailto:info@palomarcactus.org)

**Facebook group for members:**  
Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Group