

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 64, Number 9

September 2018

NEXT MEETING

Sat., September 22nd

Note: This is a bit early in the month so mark your calendar so you don't forget!

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

Brag plants, Exchange Table, Benefit Drawing

11:00am – 3:30pm

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REFRESHMENTS

- 1 – Kevin Smith
- 2 – Vivian Folmer
- 3 – Lorie Johansen
- 4 – Gloria Medina
- 5 – Charlene Barad
- 6 – Barbara Launspach
- 7 – Sherman Bench

Our WEBPAGE is finally up and working once again!

However, some pages are still being revamped, as noted.

www.palomarcactus.org

We're on Facebook!

Email info@palomarcactus.org for general or specific information.

This Month's Presentation Succulent Bonsai

By Al Kline

Growing succulents as "bonsai" is fun and rewarding. This presentation will go over the care of bonsai, focusing on succulent bonsai. True bonsai has very specific parameters. When creating succulent bonsai, it is difficult to follow traditional rules. With succulent bonsai we are still trying to capture the look of mature plants from the wild, in a container, and a smaller version of that plant. Traditional bonsai enthusiasts would cringe at hearing us dare call these creations bonsai! There have been attempts to come up with a new name for these creations, however none have caught on as of yet. In any case this is an art form that has its roots from traditional bonsai, so for now we will refer to them as succulent bonsai. Growing succulent bonsai is very rewarding. Many succulents exhibit features of mature old specimens at a young age. As with all bonsai, it is amazing that these plants can live in such a small container with so little soil. This is the main factor in the "dwarfing" of these spectacular plants.

The presentation will cover the importance of soil. Soil mixes for bonsai should be well draining, just as the general soil mixes are for succulents. I would recommend a mix with at least 50% inorganic materials, such as perlite or pumice. For more specifics go to: <http://www.botanicwonders.com> and click on the boxes titled "Succulent Bonsai Care" and "Succulent Care" on the first page.



Above: Bonsaied Ficus
Left: Assorted Succulent Bonsai



As always, don't skimp on your soil! It is amazing how little soil is needed to grow a plant. I have some plants with about 1.5" of soil depth in a small diameter pot! The soil becomes a solid mat of roots. This limitation is what causes that "fat" compact look we are seeking.

Watering is very important with succulent bonsai. Because of the small container and soil mass, your plants will require more attention when it comes to watering. During the summer months in California, I may water every three days. My plants have direct sunlight only part of the day. Occasional feeding with a good plant food will keep your plant in good health and growth. Make sure your fertilizer is applied dissolved in water, otherwise you may get some burning. Some of your plants may need little or no water certain times of the year. Make sure you know your plant, and if it goes dormant, etc.



Above: *Bursura simplicifolia*
Right: *Pelargonium cotyledonis*

If you plan to do succulent bonsai, you will want to build a stockpile of various supplies. I like to have a selection of pots. This way I can choose the "perfect" pot for my plant, the right color, size, etc. Whenever you see a cool pot buy it. One day it will be the right pot for that special plant. I do the same for gravel, rocks and driftwood. This way when you have the urge to create a bonsai everything is at your fingertips. You will be amazed at what you can do, and how great your bonsai will look! Botanic Wonders has a selections of all these supplies.



Al Kline's interest in the natural world started in his childhood. Growing up in Chicago he would make regular visits to the Field Museum of Natural History, and read many books on the natural sciences. His favorite hobbies were growing exotic plants like cacti, and collecting fossils, minerals, and insects.

After moving to California at the age of 17 he found his passion in plants and was amazed at the great diversity and beauty of the flora of California. While attending California State Polytechnic University in Pomona where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture, with emphasis in landscape design and retail nursery management, Al was employed by South Shores Nursery in San Clemente, California,

After graduation he was hired by Rogers Gardens in Corona Del Mar, California. Within a year he was promoted to Nursery Manager. Al then had the opportunity to start a new business as he was asked to help open a nursery-gift shop in Escondido, California, called Canterbury Gardens and Gifts, where he soon became a partner in the business. After 35 years there, Al recently retired. Consequently, he is now running his own nursery business, Botanic Wonders, full time, his true passion! Botanic Wonders, in Vista, specializes in growing and selling of rare and exotic plants, including cycads, plants for succulent bonsai and other rare succulents.



Al in the conservatory at Botanic Wonders in Vista



Plant of the Month ~ Monadenium

The genus Monadenium belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae, and in fact there is currently discussion about classifying them all as Euphorbias. There are 50 or so species of Monadeniums and three different types - perennial succulent, bushy, and arboreal types. Among the genus you will find some that look like small palms, while others have the stem covered with small tubercles on which the inflorescences sprout directly. This type of plant grows mainly in eastern or tropical Africa, in countries such as Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. It is important to note that like Euphorbias, they have a milky sap that can be quite poisonous in certain species.

Succulent Monadeniums can more or less be classified into three distinct types of growth forms.

- Some plants are characterized by succulent stems with small, semi-succulent leaves at the tips near the growing points. Examples of these types of plants are Monadenium lugardae, M. ellenbeckii and M. guentheri.
- Some forms have thick bushy stems covered with semi-succulent leaves. These include Monadenium torrei, M. elegans and M. spinescens.
- A small number have small tuberous roots with thin semi-succulent stems and leaves such as Monadenium stoloniferum, M. coccineum and M. rubellum.
- However, a number of plants have a combination of two forms such as succulent stems and tuberous roots. Examples of these are Monadenium magnificum and M. arborescens. In common with most succulent Euphorbias, Monadenium flowers are often small and insignificant, but they can be quite colorful in some species.

Following are growing tips for the Monadenium:

- **EXPOSURE:** When grown in a greenhouse it wants exposure in full light, with low humidity (depending on species), if possible. Outdoors they do fine in semi-shaded areas, to full sun, again depending on species.
- **TEMPERATURE:** Being a desert plant during winter they want to be dry and will take colder temperatures if dry.
- **WATERING:** Water only during its growing season, starting in spring. Stop watering during the winter and protect from rain. Occasional spritzing during very dry weather is fine.
- **SOIL:** In pots grow them in standard soil for cactus. Peter's soil recipe is great. In the ground moderately fertile soil that is well draining as they do not want to be wet in winter.
- **FERTILIZE:** Fertilize monthly in their growing season, using low-nitrogen fertilizers.
- **REPOT:** The need for repotting is extremely variable according to the species considered.
- **REPRODUCTION:** Sow seeds at approximately 68 ° in spring, or make stem cuttings and root them in spring or summer.



Monadenium guentheri



Monadenium ritchiei



Monadenium elegans



Far Left: Monadenium rubellum
Middle: Monadenium spectabile
Above: Monadenium ellenbeckii



Auction & Picnic ~ Recap & Thanks!

What an eventful day we had - enjoying all the delicious food, socializing, and looking over 216 plants and other items up for auction. Yes, 216! This was 164 more than last year with the new Silent Auction!

- First thank you to everyone who brought in food, drinks, coolers, etc. to provide our delicious lunch! Huge thanks go to our volunteers who we couldn't have managed without. Sandy Wetzel Smith as always handled the potluck setup flawlessly and other members jumped in and helped her with set-up, clean-up, etc.
- Quite a few volunteers stayed all day from 9:30am, or before, including Jim Anderson, Kevin Smith, Mike Nelson, Lorie Johansen, Moni Waiblinger and her friend, John Barkley, Russel Ray, and of course Annie and Brita.
- Kevin Smith helped Jim Anderson transport and then unload the large number (50+) of plants and pots from a donation the club had received, then helped as needed throughout the day.
- Jim Anderson created a spreadsheet to organize all the auction items, and while it has some glitches due to the incredible number of items to input, it was invaluable for the data it produced in the end. Mike Nelson helped Jim Anderson check in the auction items and keep track of data as the live auction occurred. John Barkley, our treasurer, handled payments calmly during the rush to check out.
- Lorie, Moni (and her friend) spent a total of six hours cleaning up all the plants and pots. May Fong Ho helped clean and then led a group of people who organized all the silent auction plants and other items. Russel Ray helped check in and place auction plants, took photos, and helped as needed.
- Other volunteers including Bill O'Daniel, Susan LaFreniere, and numerous others jumped in to help when needed. We know we have missed listing some of you and your efforts were greatly appreciated. Annie Morgan oversaw the auction, Peter Walkowiak was our live auctioneer, and Brita Miller, our club event coordinator, masterminded the entire event.



For the third year in a row our auction was an incredible success and this year's topped last by a significant amount. We are still working on the financial details and will share the specifics next month.

We couldn't have done it without donations from the following:

Jim Anderson	Lorie Johansen	Peter Walkowiak	Gary Vincent
Steve Toth	Mike Nelson	Jean O'Daniel	Pam Dunlap
Wanda Mallen	Brent Wigand	Phyllis Flechsig	Don Nelson
Kevin Smith	John Barkley	Robert Kopfstein	Russel Ray
Julian Duval	Harold Dunn	Susan LaFreniere	Annie Morgan
Brent Wigand	Cynthia Robinson		

We want to give special thanks and sincere apologies to those who purchased auction items and then had to wait longer than expected to pay. We sincerely appreciate your patience in waiting and realize it was an inconvenience. Basically, we unexpectedly received an abundance of items for our silent auction and were not prepared for the huge amount, and so many of them came in all at once near the end.



One of TWO birdhouses that Gary Vincent custom made and donated.

~ Rest assured that we have already made plans for major changes and improvements next year!



Top to Bottom & Left to Right - Mike Nelson & Jim Anderson checking in plant slips, members enjoying the delicious potluck in the cooler weather on the coast, Moni Waiblinger and friend cleaning pots and plants, some of the over 50 plants in the Live Auction, Julian Duval explaining the unique plants he donated, members browsing the over 140+ Silent Auction goodies, Annie Morgan auctioning one of the two beautiful birdhouses donated by Gary Vincent, Peter auctioning Life Auction items.



FALL SHOW & SALE ~ October 27 - 28

Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: 10am to 3pm

San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

SHOW CHAIR MESSAGE - By Brita Miller

Our Fall Show and Sale is just around the corner, and we expect another year of record sales, wonderful show plants entered, and many admiring attendees. For a successful event, we need you to enter your favorite plants. Now is the time to pick out the ones you would like to show, do your transplanting, pruning and clean them as needed. Getting them ready now will allow your plants to settle in and put on some new growth.

There are now four levels – Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Professional. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded for Novice, Intermediate, Advanced. Professional (Peter and ?) will be for display only.

- **Novice** is for the more casual or beginning collector who has won 10 ribbons or less.
- **Intermediate** is for those beyond Novice, but not yet Advanced.
- **Advanced** is typically a long-term grower/collector whose plants are exceptional.
- **Professional** is for VERY ADVANCED EXHIBITORS of many years. (Peter & ?) **NEW**



TIPS TO MAKE SHOWING YOUR PLANTS MORE SUCCESSFUL!

- **Pot Type** - Have your plant in nice pot. If you have the options of several pots, pick the one with color and/or texture that enhances your plant so it stands out in a crowd. Plastic detracts from plants, but if it is an exceptional example of the plant and that's your only option, show it anyway, but do top dress it nicely.
- **Pot Size** - Have plant in the right size pot. If you have it in a pot that you are waiting for it to grow into, wait until next year to show it or repot it just for the Show. Your plant should take about two-thirds of the width of the pot with more vertical plants often being an exception.
- **Plant Placement** - It is best to have the plant centered in the pot, unless it is growing towards one side. Balance is the key. However, you may also offset your plant if you include accent rock(s) or it is a bonsai.
- **Top Dressing** - Top dressing is important for two reasons: 1) It helps pull the presentation of the plant and pot together and, 2) It protects the soil from drying out.
- **Healthy Plant** - Take care of any bug problems now. Do not enter any plant showing evidence of disease. Any plant showing evidence of either bugs or disease will be disqualified and removed.

NOVICE & INTERMEDIATES - We really need YOU to bring in your CACTUS too, as those categories are often empty. It's often an easy way to win a ribbon!

There will be entry cards available at September's meeting so you can fill them out in advance

As always, to have a successful event,
we need a variety of volunteers.
Would YOU like to help?

Contact Show Chair Brita Miller

at EventCoordinator@PalomarCactus.org

with questions about the Show or volunteering.



Just part of the many Euphorbias in the 2017 Show

ABBREVIATED PLANT SHOW RULES

Below are some of the basic rules. The complete list of rules, including labeling and categories, will be included in the October newsletter.

- All paid members of Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society may enter plants in the Show.
- **You must have owned your show plants for at least six months.**
- Plants must be clean, (no weeds or debris) and healthy (no insects, disease). Any plants showing evidence of either will be disqualified.
- There may be only one plant per pot, unless it will be entered as a dish garden.
- The judges make their decisions based on:
 - Condition - 80% - (condition of plant, degree of maturity, difficulty of cultivation)
 - Staging - 15% - (pot, top dressing, cleanliness, overall presentation)
 - Nomenclature - 5% - (accuracy of plant identification, spelling)

NEW - Starting this year we will be awarding **Brag Points** - double points no less, to those who show!
This is to thank and reward members who make the trip over to Encinitas for our big SHOW!



Top Row - L: Driftwood, etc. & Tillandsias for sale, R: The 2017 Winner's Table, Middle Row - L: Beautiful rocks for sale, C: Our Judges, Kelly Griffin & Woody Minnich studying a cactus, R: More Euphorbias - how do they decide, Bottom Row: L: So many different types of Pachypodiums, R: The crowd following the judges (with microphones) as they discuss their decisions – such an educational experience and unique to our club's Show



Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

The North San Diego County C & S Club!

Membership Application

Membership: Please a category

New Member **OR** Renewal

Annual Dues w/color email newsletter \$20

Additional Household Members + \$ 5

Engraved PCSS Name Badge + \$ 6

Total _____

PLEASE PRINT! We must be able to read it!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY Please which, if any, we may include:

_____ Phone # _____ Email _____ City _____ OR _____ None

Forms available at meetings, just bring a check or cash to a meeting, or print one out and mail it in.

Make checks payable to PCSS.

Credit cards accepted at meetings.

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society or PCSS
P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Walkowiak – President

Brita Miller – Vice President, Meeting Set-up & Take Down, Show Chair, Event Coordinator, Volunteer Coord. Librarian,
eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org,

John Barkley – Treasurer

Annie Morgan – Secretary, Program Chair, Print Publicity, Website, Gift Plants, Business Cards, FB admin., Newsletter Editor (paid position)

Francis Granger – Board Member, Member/Guest Ambassador

Mike Nelson – Board Member, Brag Table Points

* * * * *

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Vicki Martin – Co-Librarian

Richard Miller – Membership

Kevin Smith – Brag Table Setup

Bruce Barry & Sandy Wetzel-Smith – Refreshments

Brian Magone – Exchange Table

Lorie Johansen – Guest/New Member Ambassador

Chet Reed – Brag Plant Photographer

Nell McChesney – Name Tag Drawing Plants

Membership Table

Meeting Set -up – Libbi Salvo

Cash Register at Monthly Meetings – Dennis Miller

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EVENTS

September 15th - Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction,
12 - 5pm, Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach,
Info: 562-631-5876

San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Was 11/10 - 11/2018 - has been rescheduled for January 12th & 13th

9 - 4 both days, LA County Arboretum, 310 Baldwin

Arcadia, Info: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957, John Matthews

2018 PCSS Meeting Schedule Speaker & Topic ~ Plant of the Month

September 22nd - - - - Al Kline – Succulent Bonsai
- Monadenium

October 27-28th - - - - Annual Show & Sale @ San Diego Botanic Gardens
- Your Show Plants!

November 17th - - - - Woody Minnich - The New, Rare & Seldom Seen
Cactus of Mexico
- Mammilarias - straight & hooked spines

December 15th - - - - Holiday Party!!!
- Gift Plants Galore for You!



How do you get over 30 plants to the Auction in ONE trip? Here is Lorie Johansen's Jeep strategically packed! You can't even see all the smaller ones tucked in here and there.