

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 57, Number 11

November 2011

The Meeting is the 3rd Saturday!

November 19, 2011

Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

Noon!!



*The Idealized Potting Bench...
...I bet no one's actually looks like this!*



Tom De Merritt



"The Power of Repotting"

•• Tom De Merritt ••

The subject of repotting may seem trivial but it is the essence of keeping your plants healthy beyond their normal trend of degrading from a perfect environment, e.g. green house grown with constant trace fertilization. Many classical collectors repot the loved plants immediately after newly obtaining them. This often insures the placement of the new plants into known soil mixtures, top dressing and pots.

All plants in pots will require repotting at some point. Soil in a pot becomes consumed and even toxic over time. How often repotting is beneficial depends on the plant, growing conditions, type of soil and pot.

On average every 3 years is a good interval but anywhere between 2 – 5 years should be considered a minimum.

Cactus and succulents alike benefit from repotting although the frequency required for succulents is typically greater than that of cactus.

Over time root growth often extends over the drain hole or holes and this leads to the degradation of the plant health. Plants always need drainage and if the plants roots block the drain hole, the root structure will begin to rot and die. Drainage is the most important factor in growing plants in pots.

Successful growers of cactus and succulents have regular repotting schedules so emulating the practice reaps good rewards.

Repotting often entails going up in size but not always. If the size is to be increased it is recommended to only by 1 pot size.

Repotting requires removing the plant from its original pot. Removing a root bound plant from a pot can present many challenges. A simple butter knife functions well for this task. Insert the knife at the edge of the pot and drive down freeing the plant from the interior surface of the pot. When the interior surface is free, grasp the plant with gloves or a small rope to pull the plant from its captor.

Often turning the plant upside down with another pot holding the plant facilitates its removal from the old pot. At this point the root structure should be broken up, any old dead or degraded roots should be completely removed. Never be afraid to remove degraded or dead roots, as this will allow the plant to grow new roots and establish new paths to draw in moisture and nutrients.

A full inspection of the root zone should be made at this time. If root mealy bug is seen through the indication of white webbing, dipping in an insecticide should be considered. All of the soil in the pot should be discarded. After rotted roots are discovered and removed, the plant should be left out 2-3 days to allow the rot areas to dry out. After repotting, the plants should not be watered for 3-5 days to allow for any broken roots to heal before any moisture is introduced to the pot. The new soil to be used should be of a homogenous mix from top to the bottom of the pot. A common practice is to place a screen or rock at the bottom of the pot to prevent soil from escaping. Following years of review I have come to the conclusion that this is a mistake. Soil can be compressed and when

compressed it can cover rather sizable holes. Screen or rock at the drain holes becomes wet and this initially will encourage root growth over this area. When the root growth inevitably covers the screen or rock covering the drain hole the ever-important function of drainage is inhibited. In turn this begins the painful cycle of plant health decline. Leave the soil homogenous from the top to the bottom and insure the drain holes have nothing other than soil covering them.

Because the bottom of the pot is the wettest due to gravity, drainage is very important. If the pot doesn't have sufficient holes to allow for easy drainage, additional holes should be made with a drill to improve this condition.

Post potting, a very important step is to provide a top dressing to the surface of the soil of about 3/8-inch thickness.

The benefits of the top dressing can't be overstated. Top dressing provides a protective insulation factor to the delicate surface roots of the plant. Another enormous benefit of top dressing is to allow the surface soil to stay porous. Without top dressing the soil surface becomes hard and dense – not allowing water to flow through. Top dressing with pebbles or grit preserves the porosity of the soil surface.

When the newly repotted plant is first watered it should be a thorough watering insuring at that time that the drainage is complete. The plant should not be watered again until mostly dry.

Repotting can provide big benefits for the forthcoming growing season and is worth the effort of the maintenance. **So do not procrastinate!**

At the next meeting any member can bring in a single plant in need of repotting. The club will be providing the assistance, soil and top dressing for an interactive demonstration and discussion around repotting.



Tom has been growing cactus since he was 15 years old starting at the Sunset Desert Gardens and Green Thumb nurseries. He's been one of the judges for our Plant Shows numerous times. He's traveled extensively everywhere succulent plants grow: Mexico, Central and South America, and Madagascar. Tom has an interest in all plants and favors anything, which can tolerate neglect.



BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE


REFRESHMENTS

Don Nelson Alice Sommers Mike Regan
 Katy Cain

••• YOUR NAME HERE! •••

September Plant of the Month

“Othonna”



❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

2011 Members Plant Show Winners

All the members who brought plants are winners!

Best in Show



***Operculicaria decaryi* – Rudy Lime**

Best Cactus



***Mammillaria perez de la rosa* – Peter Walkowiak**

Best Succulent



***Fouquieria fasciculata* – Rudy Lime**

Nostalgia Winner



***Adenium arabicum compacta* – Peter Walkowiak**

DIVISION I - CACTUS

Class #1 – Mammillaria

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <i>M. perez de la rosa</i> | Peter Walkowiak |
| 2. <i>M. spinosissima</i> | Peter Walkowiak |
| 2. <i>M. perpella</i> | Peter Walkowiak |

Class #2 – Echinocereus, Ferocactus, Echinocactus

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <i>Coryphantha macromeris</i> | Peter Walkowiak |
| 2. <i>leuchtenburgia princeps</i> | Peter Walkowiak |

Class #4 – Echinopsis, Notocactus, Parodia, or any similar genera

1. *Uebelmannia pectinifera* C&J Garner

Class #6 – Rebutia, Lobivia and related species

1. *Sulcorebutia mentosa* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Sulcorebutia rauschii* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Rebutia mescula* Peter Walkowiak

Class #7 – Ariocarpus and Turbinocarpus

1. *Ariocarpus retusus* v. *furfuracea* x *lloydii*
Peter Walkowiak
2. *Ariocarpus retusus* Peter Walkowiak

Novice

1. *Strombocactus disciformis* Robert Kopfstein

Class #8 – Epiphyllum, Selenicereus, Rhipsalis, and other epiphytes

1. *Rhipsalis capilliformis* Phyllis Flechsig

Class #10 – All Other Genera

1. *Matucana aurantiaca* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Melocactus coccineus* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Oroya psuedoperuviana* Peter Walkowiak

DIVISION II - OTHER SUCCULENTS

Class #11 – WOODY STEM PLANTS including: Adansonia, Alluaudia, Bombax, Bursera, Commiphora, Decarya, Didiera, Fouquieria, Idria, Pachycormas, Operculicarya, etc.

1. ***Fouquieria fasciculata*** Rudy Lime
2. *Pachychormis discolor* Julian Duval
2. *Fouquieria columnaris* Peter Walkowiak

Novice

1. *Didierea trollii* Robert Kopfstein

Class #12 – SUCCULENT ROOT PLANTS including: Cucurbits, Fockea, Gerrardanthus, Ipomoea, Mestoklema, Seyrigia, Trichodiadema, Xerosicyos

Novice

1. *Fockea edulis* Red Bernal

Class #13A – SUCCULENT STEM PLANTS including: Adenium, Brighamia, Cissus, Cyphostemma, Pachypodium

1. *Adenium arabicum compacta* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Adenium swazicum* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Adenium somalense* Peter Walkowiak

Class #13B – SUCCULENT STEM PLANTS: Pachypodium

1. *Pachypodium griquense* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Pachypodium succulentum* Peter Walkowiak

Class #14 – Agave, Furcraea, Nolina, Yucca

1. *Agave marmorata sport* C&J Garner
2. *Agave utahensis* v. *nevadensis* Phyllis Flechsig

Class #15 – Aloes

1. *Aloe plicatilis* Julian Duval
2. *Aloe sinkatana* Phyllis Flechsig
2. *Aloe* x. 'Black Beauty' Phyllis Flechsig
2. *Aloe compressa* C&J Garner

Novice

1. *Aloe cameromi* Brita Miller

Class #16 – Haworthia, Astraloba, Gasteria

1. *Gasteria vlokii* Phyllis Flechsig
2. *Haworthia springbokvlakensis* Phyllis Flechsig

Class #18 – Euphorbiaceae – Large Forms – species with mature height of over 3ft. ingens, tirucalli, trigona, etc

1. *Euphorbia stenoclada* Terry Parr

Class #19 – Euphorbiaceae – Small Forms – species with mature height under 3ft. obesa, resinifera, inermis, etc.

1. *Euphorbia esculenta* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Euphorbia gymnocalycioides* C&J Garner
2. *Euphorbia flanniganii* Peter Walkowiak

Novice

1. *Euphorbia mammillaris variegata* Red Bernal

Class #20 – Euphorbiaceae – Small Leafy Forms – milii, decaryi, etc.

1. *Euphorbia hedyotoedes* Rudy Lime
1. *Jatropha cuneata* Rudy Lime
2. *Euphorbia francoisii* C&J Garner
2. *Monadenium magnificum* Peter Walkowiak

Class #21 – Crassulaceae – Large Forms, including: Aeonium, Cotyledon, Crassula, Dudleya, Echeveria, Kalenchoe, Pacyphytum, Sedum, Sempervivum

1. *Echeveria fimbriata* Tina Zucker
2. *Aeonium atropurpureum* Tina Zucker

Novice

1. *Crassula* Robert Kopfstein
2. *Portulacaria* Robert Kopfstein

Class #22 – Crassulaceae – Small Forms – Species with mature height less than 12 in. not counting inflorescence

1. *Cotyledon buckholziana* C&J Garner
2. *adromischus marianiae hallii* D&J Craig
2. *Sedum multiceps* Tina Zucker

Novice

1. *Dyckia* 'Polar Bear' Robert Kopfstein
2. *Dyckia marnier-lapostollei* X Robert Kopfstein

Class #23 – Bromeliads including: Deuterocohina (formerly Abromeitiella), Dyckia, Hechtia, Orthophytum, Puya, etc.

1. *Hechtia Hybrid* Phyllis Flechsig

Class #24 – Mesembryanthemums: Conophytum, Lithops, Mestoklema, etc.

1. *Monilaria moniliformis* Phyllis Flechsig
2. *Titanopsis primosii* Peter Walkowiak

Class #25 – Asclepiads, including Hoodia, Hoya, Stapelia, etc

1. *Pseudolithos cubiformis* C&J Garner
2. *Rhytidocaulon subscandens* D&J Craig
2. *Stapelianthus pilosus* D&J Craig

Class #26A – All Other Genera including Asteraceae

1. *Ficus palmeri* Julian Duval
2. *Ficus palmeri* Julian Duval
2. *Boophane dustichia* Peter Walkowiak

Class #26B – All Other Genera including Geraniaceae (Pelargonium)

1. *Sarcocaulon vanderietiae* Rudy Lime
1. *Pelargonium cotyledonis* Peter Walkowiak
2. *Pelargonium carnosum* Peter Walkowiak



DIVISION III – SUCCULENT GRAFTED, CRISTATE & MONSTROSE PLANTS

Class 28 – Any Variegated Plants of any Succulent Class, Genus and Size

- 1. *Agave lophantha variegated* Phyllis Flechsig
- 2. *Aloe nobilis variegata* Terry Parr

Novice

- 1. *Aeonium Cultivar* Britta Miller

Class 29 – Grafted Plants of any Succulent Class, Genus and Size

- 1. *Ficus palmeri* Rudy Lime

Novice

- 1. *Euphorbia lactea* Britta Miller

DIVISION IV – DISH GARDENS

Class #31 – Dish Gardens – more than one plant per dish

- 1. Brita Miller

DIVISION V – COLLECTIONS

Class #32 – Collections – Minimum of three, maximum of ten plants of the same genus

- 1. *Madagascar Euphorbias* Phyllis Flechsig
- 2. *Adromischus* Phyllis Flechsig

DIVISION VI – SUCCULENT BONSAI

Class #33 – Any Succulent Plant in a Bonsai Style – Classical or Unconventional

- 1. *Operculicaria decaryi* **Rudy Lime**
- 1. *Operculicaria decaryi* Rudy Lime
- 2. *Euphorbia misera* Peter Walkowiak
- 2. *Jatropha cineria* Peter Walkowiak

Novice

- 1. *Beaucarnia recurvata* Red Bernal



Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Vicki Broughton – President

Peter Walkowiak – Vice-President

Libbi Salvo – Secretary

Dennis Miller – Treasurer & Membership Co-Chair

Bruce Barry – Board Member

Dick Henderson – Board Member & Garden Chair

Chris Barkley – Board Member

John Barkley – Board Member

Don Nelson – Board Member

Brita Miller – Librarian

Ron Chisum – Refreshments & Speakers

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair



2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

19 November Joslyn Center

NOTE!!! 3rd Saturday !!

17 December Joslyn Center

NOTE!!! 3rd Saturday !!

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033
Membership Application

I/We wish to join/renew membership in the
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

\$20.00 Single Membership
\$25.00 Dual Membership (Same Address)
(1/2 price after June 30th)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to:
"Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society"
P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033



San Diego Horticultural Society

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org



Monday, December 12, 2011 – 6 pm
Ben Gill
"Growing Proteas in Your Garden"

Ben Gill is the founder of California Protea Management and Founding Director of the California Protea Association. Ben will speak about the magnificent members of the proteaceae family, which traces its lineage back some 300 million years, and still provides among the most stunning plants and cutting flowers in gardens today.

Ben will discuss how to grow *Proteas* including location, soil preparation, variety selection, irrigation, fertilization, mulching, shaping, pruning and harvesting. Along the way, Ben will share with us some observations and experiences accumulated through his extensive international projects and travels.



Time to plan!



December Holiday Party! !



The date will be Saturday, December 17th
(that's the 3rd Saturday of the month). Spouses
and SOs are always welcome.

As in the past, the Club will supply the
turkey (extra dark meat!). We are asking the
members to bring their favorite side dishes. You
know the drill!

This Club knows how to eat!
And we always have a splendid time. Come join us!



Past Palomar C&SS member **Bob Mitchell** would like to sell his cactus collection. He says it's time.

The collection is comprised of a number of *Ariocarpus* – some quite old that he bought from Pete Gammarano, and some he raised from seed. There are also a few rare *Ferocactus*, some *Geohintonia*, and other assorted oddities. Some of these plants would win or place at a show.

He'd like to sell the whole collection in one lot for \$350 or so.

He lives within 2 miles of the Joslyn Center, so it would be convenient to view the plants either before or after a meeting. We are going to handle this via email through Eleanore at:

Eilidh@roadrunner.com

Contact me and I will make sure Bob gets your contact info.



Pottery and Craft Sale at UCSD in La Jolla

While we were chatting at the Plant Show and Sale last month, the subject of pottery came up. There were so many wonderful examples in the Show to drool over.

It turns out there is a very nice craft sale at the **UCSD Craft Center** in late November. This is a good source of interesting and affordable pottery.

The dates are Monday, November 28th from noon to 6pm through Thursday, December 1st from 10am to 6pm.

I will admit the parking is very **iffy** – actually, that's an understatement. If you are interested in details on getting there, or about parking, please feel free to contact me directly, and I will email you maps.

This link should work:

<http://crafts.ucsd.edu/>

There is a link on that site for a map. They have the parking all the way east at the Gilman Parking structure. There is some parking right along the dog-leg near the center (P113 – **NOT** P112), but that lot is tiny and usually full.

Take the La Jolla Village Drive exit west off the 5. Stay in the right lane. Take the 2nd right and merge onto Gilman Drive to the right. Try taking the 2nd left to see if there are any spots in the P113 lot - just don't expect any! When you are unable to find a spot, get back onto Gilman Dr and go east (left) to the parking structure. It

will be at the light and on your left. There are meter spaces on the ground level.

We also talked about masonry bits and power drills to make holes in interesting pots. It works!



The San Diego plant world lost a wonderful friend when long-time Palomar C&SS member **Reese Brown** passed away in October. He was a lovely person, a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. He was so very generous to all of us in the Club with his time and his plants. His expertise in Euphorbias always stood us in good stead at the Fair: he would walk around and identify them all with such ease.

I will remember him with great fondness. Please join me in sending condolences to his wife Claudia and their family.



Holiday Party

Sign-Up Sheet

CRANBERRY or RELISH DISHES

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____



VEGETABLES

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____



DESSERTS

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____



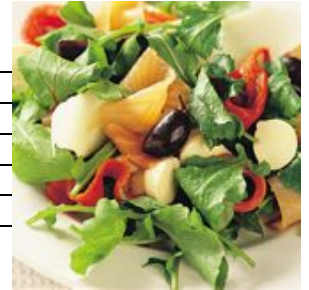
POTATOES, SWEET POTATOES, or STUFFING

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt – Mashed Potatoes
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____



SET-UP CREW

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____



SALADS

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____



SERVING CREW

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

ROLLS/BREAD

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

CLEAN-UP CREW

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) **ALL OF US!**

