

# CACTUS COURIER

*Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society*

Volume 55, Number 2

February 2009

The Meeting is the 4th Saturday

**February 28, 2009**

**Joslyn Senior Center  
724 N. Broadway, Escondido**

**12 Noon!!**



Kelly Griffin (not actually in Mexico in this photo!)



Agave chazaroi – Tequila, Jalisco  
Vertical cliff-face!

***“Traveling Through the Mountains of Jalisco”***

**• Kelly Griffin •**

We will hear about **Kelly Griffin's** most recent foray to Mexico. He traveled with Brian Kemble of the Ruth Bancroft Botanical Garden and Jesse Villalvazo from Rancho Cielo Garden. They drove into the mountains in the Mexican state of Jalisco and found many interesting plants in the wild including *Agave geminiflora*, *Agave chazaroi*, *Echeveria colorata* etc. Of course they stopped many places on along the way to Jalisco and that too was quite exciting, so he will be sharing that part as well.

He is currently working for **Rancho Soledad Nurseries** in Ranch Santa Fe where he wears many hats. But perhaps the most exciting part of the work he does is being able to travel to distant places and study new and little known plants. If you have a

chance, please come check out this excellent nursery. They are located at 18539 Aliso Canyon Road in Rancho Santa Fe.



**BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**Beth Bradsher**

**Patricia Frederick**

**Lynn Coppes**

**Red Bernal**

**Teri Schmidt**

*We could use a few more snacks! We had a GREAT response last month!*



**January Brag Plants**

**Cactus:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Mammillaria spinosissima*  
Andrew Wilson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *M. spinosissima* "Unispina"  
? Who brought this one?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *Neoporteria crista*  
Pete Walkowiak

**Succulents:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Bowiea volubilis*  
Rudy Lime
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Marlothistella stenophylla*  
Phyllis Flechsig
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Adromiscus hirtipes*  
Rudy Lime



**Plant-of-the-Month:**

*Pelargoniums and Stenocactus.*



*Pelargonium alternans*  
(aka: *Pelargonium microphyllum*)



*Echinofossulocactus xiphacanthus*  
(aka: *Stenocactus crispatus*)

## Getting Ready for the May Plant Sale!

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**At the Palomar College Arboretum**

Vicki wants to remind you that the Sale Committee needs donated clay pots, dish garden pots, and hanging pots for the sale. Please bring them to the February meeting so there will be time to re-pot before the sale.

Lorie Johansen has stressed that we need to clean up the rescued plants and pot them up as nicely as possible. They will reflect on the Club. We hope that each member could also propagate 4-5 nice plants to add to the Sale. Our plant vendors will be selling their fine specimens and donating 25% to the Club. The committee will meet for about 30 minutes after each regular meeting so do come join us.



Purple Sand Verbena



Speaking of “*all this rain...*”

### **Desert bloom: With recent rains, Anza-Borrego is ready to show its colors**

(North County Times – PAM KRAGEN)

With a little help from Mother Nature last week, wildflower season in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is about ready to bloom.

February and March are blooming season in the 600,000-acre park for a vast array of wildflowers, including purple sand verbena, brittlebush, popcorn flower, brown-eyed primrose, Phacelia, forget-me-nots, spectacle pods, Fremont pincushions, chicory, chupa roses, rock daisies, ocatillos, sun cups, monkey flowers, dune primroses, dandelions, filarees, desert lilies, desert sunflowers and numerous others.

The blooms usually hit their peak for two weeks during that two-month period, but predicting the exact moment to plan your trip is about as easy as guessing when the notoriously fickle swallows will return to San Juan Capistrano each year. However, park officials say the first blooms have already opened, and the peak should hit in a few weeks.

Rain is the key element in germinating the flower seeds, and intermittent showers during the past month, as well as a heavy rainstorm last weekend (for a total season rainfall of 4 inches) have ensured a strong and lasting wildflower season that should continue into early April.



### ***Garden Days***

***Dick Henderson***

I expect Garden Day will be the first Saturday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to see what all this rain has done for the Garden, Dick and his crew will be glad to show you around.



Euphorbia Tropical Fiesta “Peachy”

The only party-poopers may be hungry caterpillars or a heat wave, but rangers are optimistic for a colorful March.

Desert lovers can call the park's recorded Wildflower Hotline for a pre-recorded flower report, (760) 767-4684.



### The Deep Psychology of Unsustainable Design – How Sustainable Practices Change Our Ideal Landscape

On Monday, March 9, 2009, Los Angeles landscape designer **Pamela Berstler** presents an eye-opening talk about **sustainable gardening**. Open any contemporary shelter or design magazine and you are likely to find at least one example of “garden eye candy,” the green, glossy, airbrushed moment of garden “perfection” your real garden at home will never replicate. Manufacturers of unsustainable landscape products, such as fossil-fuel-based chemical additives, gas-powered equipment, and water-guzzling plant material, advertise their products in both trade publications and through box-store promotions using those same images of garden “perfection.” Berstler will discuss the deep psychology behind the current generally accepted ideal of a beautiful or luxurious garden, explore how we perpetuate this ideal to the detriment of the environment, and contemplate the future of gardens as natural and sustainable environments. Challenge your own preconceptions of man-made landscape beauty and whether or not the word “perfection” ever could be aptly applied to resource-depleting and climate-inappropriate gardens. The evening starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar. Parking is free and everyone is welcome. Admission is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Ample free parking available.



### OBSERVATIONS

Ron Chisum

The statewide drought is still with us, despite the recent rains. I noticed that almost all the garden clubs have scheduled speakers that address reduced water irrigation systems and drought tolerant plants.

In recent months I have taken out 5 trees from my orchard, primarily old and unproductive. This has opened an area for me to plant more succulents that have outgrown their pots. I will wait to plant them until the weather warms and the soil is no longer saturated from the rain. This is to reduce the risk of root rot.

Our overall attendance at meetings has been going up. Part of this is public awareness, but lots of credit is owned to our officers and board. They have been working hard to keep PCSS exciting, educational, and fun!

I hope everyone is potting up a few plant that can be donated to our upcoming plant sale in May. This could be an excellent fundraiser for our club, and we need your help.

Any questions or tips for this column are always appreciated.

– Ron



*Yucca rostrata* at Rancho Soladad Nursery



*Agave celsii v. Nova* at Rancho Soladad Nursery



**Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**

**Vick Broughton – President**  
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**Peter Walkowiak – Vice-President**  
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**Lorie Johansen – Secretary**  
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**Dennis Miller – Treasurer & Membership Co-Chair**  
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**Bruce Barry – Board Member**  
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**Dick Kubiak – Board Member**  
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**Dick Henderson – Board Member & Garden Chair**  
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**Doug Frederick – Board Member**  
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**Mary Kaho – Board Member**  
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**Brita Miller – Librarian**  
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**Ron Chisum – Refreshments & Speakers**  
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**Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair**  
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**2009 MEETING SCHEDULE**

28 February Joslyn Center

28 March Joslyn Center

25 April Joslyn Center

16 May Joslyn Center

**NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!**

27 June Joslyn Center

25 July Quail Garden

August NO MEETING!

26 September Joslyn Center

24 October Joslyn Center

21 November Joslyn Center

**NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!**

20 December Joslyn Center

**NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!**



The March *Cactus Courier* will be your last issue if you haven't renewed for 2009!

**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