

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

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March 2007

March 24, 2007

Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

Noon!



Too many choices! (California Cactus Center)



This technique works – even for 3rd graders!



“Getting Ready for the Big Show”

• Peter Walkowiak •
• Don Hunt •

Don Hunt and **Peter Walkowiak** will be doing a potting demonstration with cacti and succulents. They will talk about pot selection and how it relates to staging of the plant being transplanted; width, height and color. They will also discuss top dressing and ways to finish your plant-scape that will give you a sense of balance and beauty. Peter will bring 8 to 10 plants for this demonstration. With each of these plants he will

briefly describe why he chose the pot and top dressing, methods of transplanting and handling to be used. This demonstration should be helpful for those interested in showing plants in our upcoming show.

Don specializes in wheel-thrown exotic pots with very beautiful and colorful glazes. He is a master at glazing.



BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE

The March 2007 Board Meeting will take place in the Annex off the Main Room at **** 10:30 am ****



REFRESHMENTS

Lorie Johansen	Beth Bradsher	Evelyn Roth
Red Bernal	Brita Eranst	Martha Hanson Roxanne Nelson

Ron Chisum has asked the members to step up and help him in the kitchen. Two or three people can get the refreshments prepped and on the tables for your enjoyment!



January Brag Plants

Cactus:

- 1st *Mammillaria mendeliana*
Carol Maker
- 2nd *Mammillaria lauii v. subducta*
Pete Walkowiak
- 3rd *Neoporteria multicolor*
Andrew Wilson



Succulents:

- 1st *Othonna sp.*
Rudy Lime
- 2nd *Euphorbia suzanne*
Rudy Lime
- 3rd *Pacypodium succulentum*
Pete Walkowiak



Painting by Dorothy Byer

Succulents:

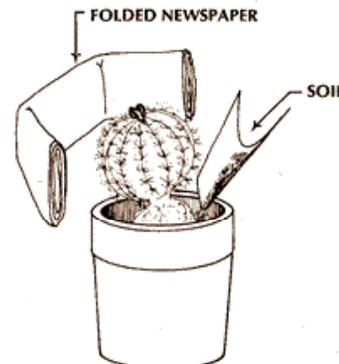
- 1st *Othonna retrorsa*
(Anonymous)
- 2nd *Pelargonium sericifolium*
Andrew Wilson
- 3rd *Euphorbia aeruginosa*
Pete Walkowiak



February Brag Plants

Cactus:

- 1st *Neoporteria bicolor*
- 2nd *Stenocactus multicosatus*
- 3rd *Stenocactus obvallatus*
Pete Walkowiak



AVOID CACTUS SPINES by handling plants with folded newspaper. Potting soil can be safely poured around roots from a paper chute.

Garden Days

Dick Henderson

February

We had sunny weather for both of our Garden Days in February. Club members Frank Granger, John Tashjian, and Dick Henderson cleaned the *Opuntia ficus indica* area and garden paths. We also had several visitors plus a plant give-away. The visitors included teachers and students from Palomar College and a teacher from the San Marcos Middle School.

March

The Garden Committee cleaned and weeded the large *Opuntia* and *Dudleya* gardens. The garden paths were also weeded and restoration was begun. Attending were: Frank Granger, Carlos Daub, Jooeon (Jewel) Park, Ron Chisum, Jessica Sanchez, David Solomon.

The next Garden Meeting will be
April 7th from 11 am to 2 pm



There is still one more spot open on the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society **Board of Directors for 2007**. We would love to include you in the running of the Club. The Board meets only 8 times a year – the rest are either summer or holiday events. Come on, you can do it!

The Board of Directors is still looking for a **General Board Member**. This is a “sit-down” job with only eight meetings during the year. If you think you’d like to lend a hand, please let the Board know.

The 2007 Board of Directors

President:	Richard Henderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice-President	Vicki Broughton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program Chair	Ron Chisum	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Sec:	Mary Kaho	<input type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence:	Dennis Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer:	Vicki Broughton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director:	Royal Akin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director:	Dick Kubiak	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director:	Jonathan Eastman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director:	Doug Frederick	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director:	(Your Name Here!)	<input type="checkbox"/>



It's Time to Get Ready !!



April 2007

Members' Plant Show



The **April Plant Show** is **NEXT MONTH!** We will have a plant raffle (one ticket per person) for the club members that participate in the show. Start by picking out your best plants, check pot size versus plant size, quality of the pot, position of the plant, remove dead leaves or other appropriate grooming. A little work now will pay big dividends and make you proud the day of the show.



Plant of the Month

YUCCA



Yucca baileyi var. navajoa



Yucca brevifolia

The genus *Yucca* is related to several other groups of plants including *Agave*, *Hesperaloe*, and *Nolina*. They are polycarpic with one exception, *Yucca Whipplei*. They vary from grass like plants (stemless) to trees. The leaves generally have smooth edges (a few have serrated edges) and nearly half of the species have a sharp spine at the leaf tip. There are nearly 50 recognized species and more recently they have been hybridized to create colorful landscape plants which have a variety of leaf colors and stripes. They range from the central United States down to Central America. The stemless or short stem varieties are more common in colder climates. The tree forms are more common in warmer areas. There is even one unusual species, *Y. lacandonica*, that is an epiphyte, growing in tropical trees in the state of Chiapas.

Yuccas are pollinated by a group of moths that have a special relationship with the plant. While the moth pollinates the flower, it lays a limited number of eggs. The larvae feed on the seedpods and seeds, but leave plenty of seeds for plant reproduction. The flowers are generally white to creamy white. The buds may have streaks of magenta. The petals have a leathery texture. Both the flowers and the seedpods of some varieties were eaten by native peoples. The leaves contain fiber, which can be used for weaving baskets. Some species have a sap which acts like soap. Other species have edible roots, (not to be confused with an unrelated tuber named Yuca.)

Please bring in some of your yucca plants, or a few leaves to help demonstrate the variety of this interesting family.



2007 Membership dues are past due!

A red star on your mailing label means it's the last one.

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
\$15.00 Single Membership
\$20.00 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



2007 Meeting Schedule

24 March	Joslyn Center
28 April	Joslyn Center
19 May	Joslyn Center
<u>NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!</u>	
23 June	Joslyn Center
28 July	<u>Quail Garden</u>
25 August	<u>Palomar Garden</u>
22 September	Joslyn Center
27 October	Joslyn Center
17 November	Joslyn Center
<u>NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!</u>	
15 December	Joslyn Center
<u>NOTE !!! 3rd Saturday !!</u>	



OBSERVATIONS

Ron Chisum

The recent cold snap caused considerable damage, both commercially and in varying degrees to our member's collections. If you got hit, let your needs be known. Many of our members would be happy to share cuttings to help replace valued plants. A wait until April would be prudent.

The City of Escondido has decided to charge us by the hour for the use of the Joslyn Center. We are officially using the facility from 11:30 to 2:30. To hold down the cost, we will try to start the meeting promptly at 12:00 and keep the coffee break down to 15 minutes so we can allow our speakers their full time.

It's time to start getting your plants ready for the **April 28 PC&SS Show**. We had one of the best shows ever last year! Spectacular plants! I was disappointed in the number of people who actually brought plants. Remember, bring in a plant, participate, and get a raffle ticket that allows you to take home a plant. (One ticket per person.)

Finally, with spring comes the usual weeding and grooming, necessary to keep the garden looking good. Richard Henderson can always use a hand at the Palomar garden. There was minimal freeze damage and after to most recent rain, it looks very good.

Lorie Johansen gave me a wonderful tip. She places bamboo chopsticks in some of her pots to act as a moisture meters. The trick is to eliminate variables. Small pots dry faster than large pots. Clay dries faster than plastic. Plants in the sun dry faster than ones in the shade. You simply pull out the chopstick and look at it. If it's dry, time to water. If it's wet, wait. The chopsticks will eventually rot and need replacement. Bamboo holds up the best.



Southland Cactus Calendar

Apr 7th & 8th

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes, CA. Info call 310-832-2262

Apr 22nd

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, Same Address as above, Info call 310-831-1209

May 5th & 6th

Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info call 310-822-1783

May 20th

Huntington Plant Sale 10am - 5pm at the **Huntington Botanical Gardens**, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Info 626-405-2160, www.huntington.org

May 20th

Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA. Info 310-831-1209

Jun 2nd & 3rd

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Balboa Park, RM 101, San Diego, CA. Info 619-477-4779



SHOWS AND JUDGING

By Dorothy Dunn

Exhibiting your plants in a show can be fun, stimulating, and very educational. If it is a competitive show, judged by discerning and knowledgeable plant experts, it becomes even more challenging and exciting. It's also very gratifying to overhear strangers ooh-ing and ah-h-ing over your "pampered darlings" which you have (hopefully) groomed and dusted to perfection for their public appearance. Unfortunately, many of us hesitate to enter plant shows because of a lack of information concerning just what constitutes a "show-worthy" plant. So - the purpose of this article is to acquaint the timorous uninitiated with a few basic guidelines in preparing plants for a show. Remember, first of all, that judging is a very individualistic, opinionated, and often subjective process, and that rarely will any two judges ever see the same plant in the same way on any given day. A plant which sends one judge into paroxysms of delight may be passed over almost without comment by another.

The criteria most often followed in cactus and succulent shows is the CSSA (Cactus and Succulent Society of America) Judging Scale, which is as follows: Condition = 70%; Staging = 15%; Size and Degree of Maturity = 10%; Nomenclature = 5%.

The condition of a plant relates to general culture. How well has the plant been grown and cared for? Condition reflects on the grower's ability to assess a particular plant's needs to maintain characteristic, healthy growth. Is the plant etiolated (too green and lanky, indicating too much shade and/or fertilizer)? Is it sunburned, scarred, discolored, or diseased? Is the growth uniform and even? Are there any signs of mealy-bugs, scale, or ants? An experienced judge will note immediately and automatically all of these things, because an experienced judge knows what the plant should - ideally - look like. (In some shows, plants are judged "against perfection" as opposed to being judged against each other).

Staging is the manner in which the plant is displayed, and includes pots, top dressing, and cleanliness. Pots may be ordinary clay, stoneware, ceramic, or even plastic, but they must be in good condition (no chips or cracks) and they must be clean (no alkali encrustations, algae, dirt clinging to the pot, etc.). The pot should be of a complementary size, shape, and color for the plant: no garish, shiny colors or elaborate designs, and no fanciful, overly ornate or "too-cute" shapes. Remember, you are displaying the plant, not the pot, and while the pot should always subtly enhance the plant, it should never overwhelm or detract from it in any way. The judges will, however, take the overall effect into consideration. The plant must, of course, be straight and centered in the pot. Top dressing is optional, but generally adds to the well-groomed effect. It may consist of clean gravel, small, natural-looking pebbles, lava rock (scoria), coarse sand or decomposed granite. Aside from being neat-appearing, top dressing is also beneficial to the plant; it keeps the soil from caking and cracking, conserves moisture, and discourages weeds. Here, as with the pot, it should never detract from or clash with the plant. If you choose not to use a top dressing, the soil around the plant should be clean and fresh-looking and free of weeds or debris. The plant itself should be as immaculate as you can possibly make it - no spider webs and/or (worse!) spiders, no snail tracks and/or (worse!) snails, etc., ad nauseum, and it should be cleaned of hard water marks on the leaves or body, and be free of dust, dead leaves and other debris. Dead blooms should be removed unless they have been left on the plants for the purpose of setting seed.

A large, relatively mature "specimen-size" plant, if well-grown, will always take precedence over immature or seedling plants. This is where Size and Degree of Maturity come in. It is especially satisfying to display a plant you have successfully grown from a seedling into a handsome and mature specimen. Due to the recent emphasis on conservation and endangered species, most judges tend to cast a somewhat jaundiced eye on obviously collected plants, and there is some discussion about disqualifying them altogether. Most show rules also require that the plant must be grown by the exhibitor for at least six months prior to the show, and some judges feel that the plants shown should ideally reflect the end result of several years of painstaking effort on the part of the grower. Rarity, and how difficult the plant is in cultivation, although not listed in the judging scale, can also be factors with individual judges, especially when all other points (condition, staging, etc.) are virtually equal. A very rare or difficult to grow plant is bound to influence most judges. *[note from the editor - a common but beautifully grown plant can still take the prize over a rare but not quite perfect plant].*

Nomenclature has to do with the proper labelling and correct botanical name (including spelling) of the plant. Even though it counts for only 5%, you should make every effort to provide the correct name for your plant. When in doubt, if all else fails, it is probably better to label it - for example - simply Mammillaria species, rather than to give it an erroneous specific name, or worse yet, an ambiguous common name such as "Pincushion Cactus." Labels should be clean, neat, and inconspicuous, if used. (Many shows use entry cards instead of labels). The owner's name cannot be visible to the judges.

So, now - start making plans to cart your favorite (and most delectable) plants off to the next show with confidence, relax and enjoy it, and try to accept with grace and suitable modesty the compliments and ribbons which are sure to reward your efforts.

