

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 54, Number 12

December 2008

The Meeting is the * * **third** * * Saturday

December 20, 2008

Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido

11:30 am



We Will Eat About 12:30 pm. Come Early and Help Set Up.

No Board Meeting • No Brag Plants • No Plant Sales • No Plant Exchange

❄️ *Holiday Party* ❄️

❄️ 2008 ❄️



Eleanore Hewitt will be coordinating the party (again!) this year. If you have any questions, suggestions, offers of help or tranquilizers, **please** feel free to give her a call at home [REDACTED], or on her cell [REDACTED]. If you didn't sign up and wish to bring something, just give her a call.

As is traditional, the Club will be providing the main entrees of turkey and maybe ham. Plates, cups and cutlery will also be provided.

The set-up crew should arrive ready to work by **11:00 am**. There are tables to set and decorate, and the room could use some holiday cheer. We would appreciate people bringing cut greens or Christmas decorations so we can make the hall as festive as possible. Pine, juniper or pyracantha would be great – as well as any succulent material you think would fit into the seasonal theme. Please bring them early enough to be used in the decorations.

We welcome the spouses or SOs of all our members to the party. I know we would be delighted to meet them.

**PLEASE – remember to put your name on ALL serving utensils and dishes.
We would hate to have something get lost in the clean-up shuffle.**



HOLIDAY PARTY

Sign-Up Sheet

CRANBERRY or RELISH DISHES

- 1) Mike Regan
- 2) Florence Robbins
- 3) Reese & Claudia Brown
- 4) Dick Henderson
- 5) Martha Hanson



VEGETABLES

- 1) Mort Fairfield
- 2) Don Nelson
- 3) Beth Bradsher
- 4) Evelyn Voth
- 5) Lorie Johansen
- 6) Frances Granger



DESSERTS

- 1) Peggy Regan
- 2) Carol Wilson
- 3) David Haven
- 4) Betty Pearce
- 5) Vicki Broughton



POTATOES, SWEET POTATOES or STUFFING

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt – Mashed Potatoes
- 2) Stan Yalof
- 3) Maddie Beasley - Baked
- 4) Chris & John Barkley
- 5) Alice Somers
- 6) Pat Frederick
- 7) Mike Regan



SET-UP CREW

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt
- 2) Don Nelson
- 3) Lorie Johansen – Greenery
- 4) Stan Yalof
- 5) Vicki Broughton
- 6) Doug Frederick



SALADS

- 1) Phyllis Flechsig
- 2) Teri Schmidt
- 3) Gloria & Joseph Danna
- 4) John Tashjian
- 5) Jean O'Daniel



ROLLS/BREAD

- 1) Jacob Bennett
- 2) Maurilio Bernal
- 3) Mary Kaho
- 4) Ralph Kubiak

SERVING CREW

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt
- 2) Ralph Kubiak
- 3) Vicki Broughton
- 4) Pat Frederick
- 5) Doug Frederick

CLEAN-UP CREW

- 1) Eleanore Hewitt
- 2) Red & Connie Bernal
- 3) Ralph Kubiak
- 4) Vicki Broughton
- 5) Pat Frederick
- 6) Doug Frederick
- 7) Vicki Martin
- 8) **ALL OF US!**



November Brag Plants

Cactus

- 1st *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanu*
Peter Walkowiak
- 2nd *A. retusus*
Peter Walkowiak
- 3rd *Cereus "Blue Ming Thing"*
Rudy Lime



Succulents

- 1st *Crassula hirtipes*
Rudy Lime
- 2nd *Monadenium richiei*
Peter Walkowiak
- 3rd *Kalanchoe beharensis* - Don Nelson
Euphorbia obesa – Ron Chisum
Othona Bullet Trap – Peter Walkowiak



OBSERVATIONS

Ron Chisum

I think we had an excellent year. A big “Thank You” and “Job Well Done” for our officers, board, and everyone else who put in time and effort to make us a viable and fun garden club. I was especially thrilled to see so many new faces at our meetings. Now that we are entering our rainy season it is time to look around and protect some of our plants. Quite a few do not like “cold wet feet.” I have some plants that have raised soil rings at their bases for easier summer watering. I take a shovel full of dirt out of the downhill side of the ring to prevent excessive water accumulation. I also move many of my potted cacti and winter dormant plants under the eave of the house, or into my greenhouse. My next project is to scatter a thin layer of straw on my slopes. Years of careful weeding have left bare slopes that could easily erode. This is also a time to enjoy blooming Aloes. I should have 7 or 8 species in bloom by Christmas.

Mike and Peggy Regan have reported seeing bugs on Opuntias and Cereus cacti. *Narnia femorata*, a grayish-brown bug, similar in shape to an assassin bug, but with more prominent back legs. It is a sucking insect that can scar plants. I have seen them on my *Cereus peruvianus* and *Echinocereus grusonii*. They have not been a particular problem for me on my landscape plants, but they can cause problems with show

plants. Insecticidal soap is reported to work well on them. A significantly bigger problem for me this year has been Cochineal scale. Some varieties of this bug are now fairly resistant to common insecticides. It is not their direct damage that is the problem. They can infect some opuntias with a rot (probably bacterial) that is capable of killing the plant. I will have to remove a 12 ft. high tree opuntia in the next few weeks because of this problem. I was unable to control tiny cochineal scale that appeared in tiny grooves in the brown bark-like surface of the main trunk of the plant. Next, an arm of the plant fell off, revealing rot which had spread to the central core. Game over. Finally, keep an eye out for Agave weevils. They attack agaves and fucraeas, especially if they are drought stressed. This past week I noticed an agave that had some wilted leaves. How can this be, after the recent rain? I dug it up, pulled off the lower leaves and found a 1/4 inch diameter hole near the base of the plant. I pulled off a couple more leaves and found a mature weevil at the bottom of the hole. After killing the weevil, I dusted the wound with a little sulfur and replanted the plant. Sometimes you find a weevil grub at the bottom of the hole. Same procedure. I have saved several plants this way. I do not like saturating outdoor plants with systemic insecticides. If the plant is too infested or damaged to be saved, I cut off the leaves and dispose of the base of the plant in a plastic bag. I do not want the remaining weevils left around to attack more of my plants.

– RON



Garden Days

Dick Henderson

On December 6th, Dick Henderson and Carol Wilson worked on the Garden. Several people from Palomar College also wandered around taking in the joys of the Garden.

The next meeting will be on **Saturday, January 3rd** – come out and join Dick (and probably Carol as well!).



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



Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Vick Broughton – President

Peter Walkowiak – Vice-President

Lorie Johansen – Secretary

Dennis Miller – Treasurer & Membership Co-Chair

Bruce Barry – Board Member

Dick Kubiak – Board Member

Dick Henderson – Board Member & Garden Chair

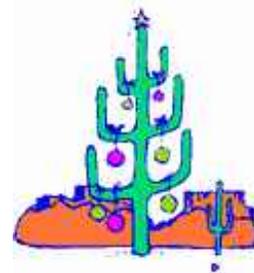
Doug Frederick – Board Member

Mary Kaho – Board Member

Brita Miller – Librarian

Ron Chisum – Refreshments & Speakers

Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair



I would like to apologize for my error in the last Cactus Courier. I mistakenly used November 20th instead of the proper date of the 22nd. That should teach me not to use last year's edition as a template! I hope no one was thrown too far off.

- Eleanore

The Huntington Botanical Gardens
invites CSSA members and affiliate clubs to a free

DESERT FORUM

On Saturday, January 17th 2009
Rain or Shine

– SCHEDULE OF EVENTS –

- 9:30 – 10:00 AM REGISTRATION
Assemble and sign in at the Entrance Pavilion
Bring your club name badge or CSSA membership card
Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag) to be transported to
the Teaching Greenhouse
- 10:00 – 12:00 Noon TOUR OF THE DESERT GARDEN
Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert
Conservatory
Aloes will be flowering
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM WELCOME, REFRESHMENTS & LUNCH
Proceed to the Teaching Greenhouse
Pick up sack lunch that you dropped off at Registration
Light snacks and beverages will be served
CSSA Welcome Table: Laurel Woodley
Note: Visitors have two other lunch options:
– Huntington Cafe (no reservation required), or
– Tea Room (advanced reservations required: 626-683-8131)
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM PLANT SALE
Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 PM
Cash, checks and credit cards accepted
Plants may be stored in the Teaching Greenhouse after purchase until the end of
the day (with your name written on the tags)
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM FORUM
Proceed to Ahmanson Classroom
Led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom
Q&A session to follow
- 1:00 – 4:30 PM FREE TIME
Attendees are free to tour the gardens and galleries until closing time

This flyer was sent to us by the CSSA affiliate person to be passed along to everyone in the club. If you've never been to the Huntington, this would be an excellent opportunity.