

# CACTUS COURIER

*Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society*

Volume 56, Number 2

February 2010

The Meeting is the 4th Saturday

**February 27, 2010**

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

**12 Noon!!**



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



*Echeveria laui*



*Ariocarpus scapharostrus*

***“Veracruz and Beyond”***

**• Kelly Griffin •**

**Kelly Griffin's** latest and greatest program is titled "Veracruz and beyond." It is an account of the trip he made along with Brian Kemble, Miguel Chazaro and David Jemeno to the Mexican state of Veracruz in October of last year.

"Our plan was flexible and we spent several days traveling to several other places straying from convention. We visited parts of Puebla, Oaxaca to see *Echeveria laui* and even a stop over in Nuevo Leon to catch the flowering of *Ariocarpus scaphostrus*, an obligate fall bloomer.



Brian Kemble



Miguel Chazaro



*Agave attenuata variegata form*  
...note spots from the recent hail

I am currently the curator of succulent plants at **Rancho Soledad Nurseries** or as I call it Plant Disneyland! It is located in Rancho Santa Fe (*at 18539 Aliso Canyon Road*). We have two display gardens and many, many interesting plants. We are updating our web page so look for it at:

[www.ranchosoledad.com](http://www.ranchosoledad.com)

Also check out the new on-line succulent plant forum: **Xericworld.com**

I have posted some of my pictures there to share and there is so much information exchange about these plants we love. It's definitely worth a look."



*Aloe ortholopha*

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

### REFRESHMENTS

Teri Schmidt

Nell McChesney

Jean O'Daniel

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

### January Brag Plants

#### Cactus:

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Neoporteria nidus-senilis*  
Peter Walkowiak
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Mammillaria lauii v. subducta*  
Peter Walkowiak
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *M. spinosissima*  
Peter Walkowiak



#### Succulents:

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Pachycormus discolor*  
Mitch Bahr
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Euphorbia obesa x horrida* (from seed)  
Peter Walkowiak
- 2<sup>nd</sup> *Portulacaria afra*  
Rudy Lime



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

**February**

Cactus – *Turbinocarpus*



*Turbinocarpus Pseudopectinatus*

Succulents – Small mesembs: *Titannopsis*,  
*Aloinopsis*, *Nananthus*



*Titannopsis primosii*



*Nananthus vittatus*



**March**

**Cactus – *Thelocactus***

**Succulents – African *Pachypodiums***

Volunteers are needed to do the **Plant of the Month** in **June**. The only requirement is a willingness to talk about any succulent plant that you love and wish to share with other members. You can do one Plant of the Month, cactus or succulent, or both. If you are interested, contact Peter Walkowiak.



***Garden Days***

*Dick Henderson*

Garden Day will be the first Saturday, **March 6<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.

**Getting Ready for the**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plant Sale in May!**

**At the Palomar College Arboretum**

Vicki wants to remind you that the Plant Sale Committee needs clay pots, dish garden pots, and hanging pots donated 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 members could also propagate some nice plants to add to the Sale. Our wonderful plant vendors will be selling their fine specimens as well.

***From Lorie:***

***Hi Libbi, Susan, and Bert,***

***Thank you so much for making beautiful dish gardens with me. It was wonderful to toast to a great day with freshly squeezed juice and warm sunshine. I will take before and after photos of the 35+ dish gardens so you can see the progress. It made all the difference to have so much help.***



*Aloe ortholopha flower – Kelly Griffin*



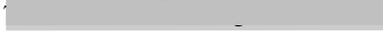
Lorie pointed me to a lovely write up in the January *San Diego Home and Garden* about PCSS member, renowned botanical artist Irina Gronborg. She is considered one of the Stars of San Diego! Her website has excellent examples pictures of her work, and also some pictures of their lovely garden in Solana Beach.

[http://www.irinagronborg.com/Irina\\_Gronborg/Star\\_of\\_San\\_Diego.html](http://www.irinagronborg.com/Irina_Gronborg/Star_of_San_Diego.html)

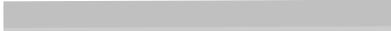


**Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society**

**Vicki Broughton – President**



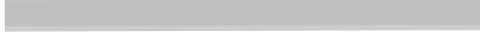
**Peter Walkowiak – Vice-President**



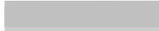
**Lorie Johansen – Secretary**



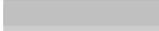
**Dennis Miller – Treasurer & Membership Co-Chair**



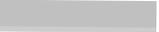
**Bruce Barry – Board Member**



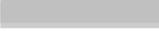
**Dick Kubiak – Board Member**



**Dick Henderson – Board Member & Garden Chair**



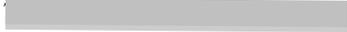
**Mary Kaho – Board Member**



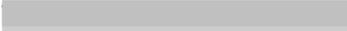
**Brita Miller – Librarian**



**Ron Chisum – Refreshments & Speakers**



**Eleanore Hewitt – Newsletter & Membership Co-Chair**



***OBSERVATIONS***

• Ron Chisum •

For now, the rain has been a blessing. The winds were a little scary, but so far, leaf cleanup has been the only

problem. My outdoor winter growers are lush and happy. I put a couple of trash cans under the eave to collect rain water. The plants in the green house really appreciate it. I talked to my friend Paul Reisman, the supervising ranger at Anza-Borrego state park. I asked him for a prediction for the spring bloom. “The peak will probably be starting the last week of February and last 3-4 weeks. It could be shorter or longer depending on temperatures and if there is more rain. I think it will be a good year unless we are completely overrun by ‘Sahara Mustard,’ an invasive species that seems to be taking over the desert the last few years.” Bottom line, this is a good year to give it a try. The weather should be cool, and the scenery spectacular, and a hike will justify a slice of pie in Julian on the way home.

The oceanography book that went missing last meeting was recovered. “Thanks” to all those who helped.

– Ron



**Gardening club and Dominguez Rancho Adobe enjoy a prickly relationship**

...The Long Beach Cactus Club has been maintaining a garden at the ranch since 1974...

By Laura Randall



Dominguez Rancho Adobe's stunning cactus garden maintained by members of the Long Beach Cactus Club.

(Axel Koester / For The Times)

It was a Sunday afternoon in 1974 when a black-suited Claretian missionary known as Father Pat walked into the monthly meeting of the Long Beach Cactus Club looking to make a deal.

Turn the sunny dirt patch next to his home at Dominguez Rancho Adobe into a cactus garden, Father Patrick McPolin said, and you can use the state historic site's carriage house for all of your future meetings.

Members of the club, who had been convening in a small room at the Angelo M. Iacoboni Library in Lakewood, didn't think twice. They started targeting specimens from their home gardens for transplanting, and they talked local nurseries into donating cuttings of prized aloes and

succulents. Some members contributed shovels and rakes; others hauled in truckloads of dirt and lava rocks from the western Mojave to line the paths.

Thirty-six years later, their small but thriving cactus garden is as much a part of Dominguez Rancho Adobe as the six-room 1827 hacienda, the rolling hills and the rusty farm equipment that remain from its days as a cattle ranch and one of the first Spanish land grants in California. Located in an industrial area near the south edge of Compton, the ranch is now a historical museum run by the heirs of the original owner, Juan Jose Dominguez.

Small in size, the garden is unusual for public cactus gardens in Southern California because it was started by volunteers, said Tom Glavich, vice president of the Pasadena-based Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Whereas others, including Rancho Santa Fe in Claremont and Rancho Los Alamitos in Long Beach, have professional paid staffs, Glavich said, Dominguez Rancho is still maintained by the 77-year-old Long Beach club.

“It’s really an achievement and a mark of distinction for a public garden to be maintained solely by volunteer labor,” he said.

The garden sits on the north edge of the 13-acre property. A striking swath of arid exotica borders an expansive lawn, site of a significant battle of the Mexican-American War in 1846. Two swollen ponytail palms sit near the entrance, kept company by Mexican barrel cactuses, South African aloes and clusters of red-tinged jade plants.

Nothing is labeled, and a few pale gray specimens in the back appear close to death, but the garden does boast its share of showpieces, according to its curator, Eunice Thompson. A green *Agave titanota* sprouts a 6-foot-high spike expected to break into spectacular yellow bloom this month. A floss silk tree (*Chorisia speciosa*) studded with thorns anchors one side of the garden. A hybrid aloe tree from South Africa – a cross between a rare *Aloe dichotoma* and a larger *Aloe barberae* – stands more than 30 feet tall in another corner, its highest dark-green leaves lost in blue sky. “It’s a statement,” Thompson said.

McPolin, now 93 and living in a convalescent home, wanted to start the cactus garden as a nod to Gregorio Del Amo, husband of Maria Susana Delfina Dominguez, a descendant of the original owner, said Alison Bruesehoff, executive director of Dominguez Rancho Adobe.

Del Amo, a horticulturist, liked to bring plants from all over the world in the early 20th century, and “if they grew at the ranch, he put them in his nurseries,” she said.

The Claretian missionaries, whose retirement home had been a seminary for Catholic priests, also may have been inspired by the small desert garden on the grounds of San Gabriel Mission, said Joe Clements, director of the arboretum at Pitzer College in Claremont and former Desert Garden curator of the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino.

“Throughout the 1920s, cactus gardens were popular,” he said. The devoutly Catholic Dominguez family “probably

had seen the one at the San Gabriel Mission many times,” he said, and created a satellite garden based on that.

The Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum ([dominguezrancho.org](http://dominguezrancho.org)) and its grounds are open for free guided tours every Wednesday and Sunday as well as the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the month. On a recent weekend, docents led visitors through the thick-walled hacienda while Long Beach Cactus Club members raked gravel and pulled weeds outside. Then they headed to the carriage house for a lecture by master grower Gary Duke.

“This is not a pampered garden,” curator Thompson said. “It is a labor of love.”

Los Angeles Times, February 6, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/features/home/la-hm-dominguez6-2010feb06,0,2452545.story>



## 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

27 February	Joslyn Center
27 March	Joslyn Center
24 April	<i>To be determined</i>
22 May	Joslyn Center
26 June	<i>To be determined</i>
24 July	Joslyn Center
28 August	<i>To be determined</i>
25 September	Joslyn Center
23 October	Joslyn Center
20 November	Joslyn Center

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

18 December	Joslyn Center
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**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

**The March Cactus Courier will be your  
last issue if you haven't renewed for 2010!**

*Time to take care of it now!!!*

## The San Diego Horticultural Society

**Spring Home/Garden Show**

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**March 5, 6, 7, 2010**

**Del Mar Fair Grounds**

DISCOUNT Admission Coupon for our members

Discount code **EBNP**, which they can use when they order their tickets on-line at Spring Home/Garden Show at:

**<http://www.springhomegardenshow.com/EBNP/>**

Our members are welcome to copy this coupon and give it to their friends, sharing the fun along with the discount!

One of our visitors asked me if I had a source for **pottery**. I bet there is someone out there who knows. I've had relatively good success at Home Depot. Just avoid the teal pots! Cactus look silly in them. And cactus are very serious. (*Succulents, not so much...*)

Hey! Where is that Lemon Bar recipe from January?

It was a big hit, and if you are willing to share, we would love to have it.

I have been working on the email Newsletter project for several months. (I am getting better, really!) For people who are having trouble opening the PDFs I send, check to see if you have the free "**Adobe Reader**" application. Macs use "Preview." My geek (aka, my husband) says the link is:

**<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>**