

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 55, Number 3

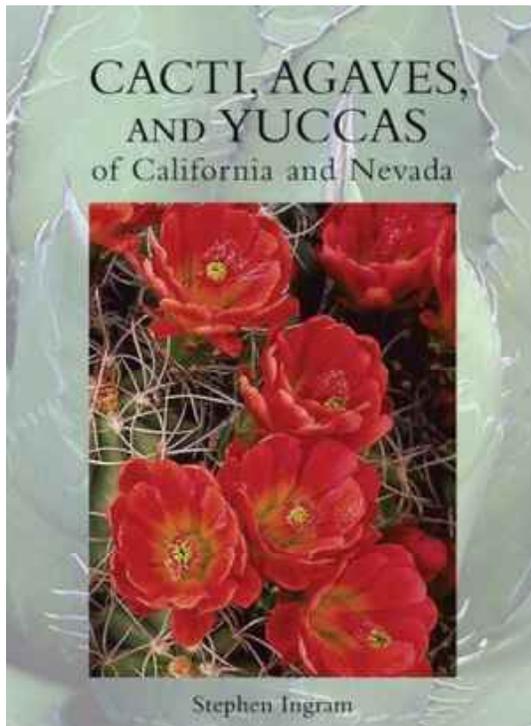
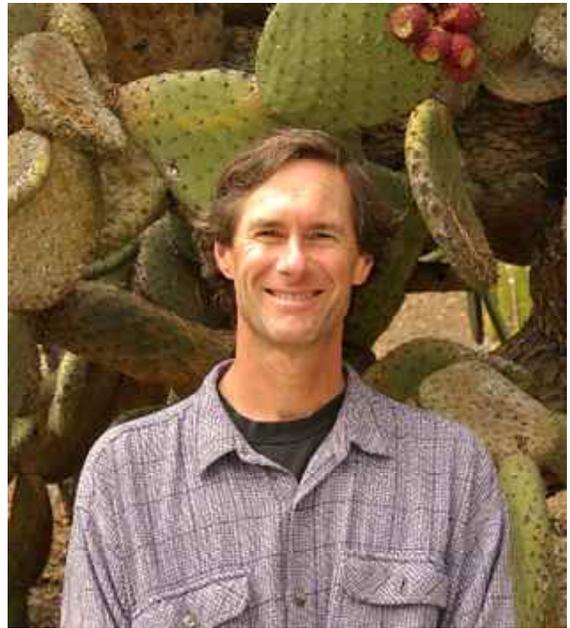
March 2009

The Meeting is the 4th Saturday

March 28, 2009

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

12 Noon!!



“Joshua Trees at Sunset”
Cima Dome, Mojave National Preserve
(photo by Stephen Ingram)

“Cacti, Agaves & Yuccas of California & Nevada”

• Stephen Ingram •

Botanist, writer, and photographer **Stephen Ingram**'s presentation will highlight his new book, "*Cacti, Agaves & Yuccas of California & Nevada.*" Based on his website:

<http://www.ingramphoto.com>

we can expect some truly amazing photography! I am including a few pictures, but these copies will do them no justice at all.

Mr. Ingram's training as a botanist is revealed in his thorough approach to detailing the evolution, natural history and cultivation of the native cactus and succulents of California. He traveled more than 30,000 miles, much of it on remote back roads, to search out, study, and photograph many of our favorite plants, timing his treks into the deserts and other remote areas with the plants' bloom cycles.



Desert Barrel Cactus Nursery
Ferocactus cylindraceus, Mojave National Preserve, CA
 (photo by Stephen Ingram)

"I tend to think of landscapes in terms of habitats for plants and animals, so I try to convey the idea of a 'Living Landscape' in my images. One of my main goals it to help enable people to better appreciate plants and their native habitats, and in so doing, facilitate the preservation of those plants and habitats and associated wildlife."

– Stephen Ingram



Colorado River at Picacho Peak State Park, CA
 (photo by Stephen Ingram)

BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE

REFRESHMENTS

Inacia Mathens

Vicki Broughton

Carol Wilson

Evelyn Voth

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



February Brag Plants

Cactus:

- 1st *Thelocactus bicolor*
Pete Walkowiak
- 2nd *Thelocactus macdowellii*
Andrew Wilson
- 3rd *Matucana purpreo-alba*
Andrew Wilson

Succulents:

- 1st *Agave Uthahensis v. Nevadensis*
Phyllis Flechsig
- 2nd *Veltheimia Bulbs*
Ron Chisum
- 3rd *Pelargonium appendiculatum (3 plants)*
Rudy Lime



Plant-of-the-Month:

Pelargoniums and Stenocactus.

Getting Ready for the May Plant Sale!

Saturday, May 2nd
Sunday, May 3rd

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 March meeting so there will be time to re-pot before the sale.

This event is being organized as a fund-raiser for the Club. We need volunteers! Just a few hours at a lovely site will help raise money for and awareness in the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society! Come on out and lend a hand. Remember, the Board can't do it alone!

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.



Opuntia phaeacantha
(photo by Stephen Ingram)



Weathered wood of a Bristlecone pine
(photo by Stephen Ingram)



Garden Days

Dick Henderson

Garden Day will be the first Saturday, **April 4th**. If you would like to see what all the rain has done for the Garden, Dick and his crew will be glad to show you around.

The March 7th Garden Day found Ron Chisum and May Fong Ho helping Dick with our main asset. If you haven't seen it this Spring, now is the time!



OBSERVATIONS

Ron Chisum

The water cutbacks are an almost certainty now. I bought a few "end caps" to replace some of the sprinkler heads in my orchard and succulent garden. I have watered some plants in the past because I enjoyed the growth and bragging rights of having a few cacti and succulents in the 20 ft. range. Now, the plan is to give them just enough summer water to keep them alive and healthy. I have even forgone my summer vegetable garden.

I was a little disappointed in the number of people that signed up to help at the May plant sale. We really need the participation. We also need more plants, so, I hope you are taking the time to propagate or set aside some plants for the sale. All of our costs keep sneaking upward. Postage, speakers, supplies for the kitchen, etc. never seem to be cheaper. One bright spot is an increasing new membership. I was very pleased with the presentation by Kelly Griffin. His photography and speaking skills are outstanding, and I thoroughly enjoyed his presentation.

This past weekend I stopped by Home Depot and Longs. It was obvious that a palm nursery had gone out of business. There were palms, cycads, and

beaucarnias in 5 Gal. pots for \$15 a pot. The vegetable 6-packs on the other hand had gone up in price. A trip to Grangetto's showed that the price of fertilizers was still way up in spite of the drop in oil prices. Expect more nurseries to "bite the dust" with the increased overhead and drop in sales.

For those interested in propagating variegated Agaves, I recently learned how several nurseries are approaching the challenge. The easiest way is simply to remove offsets. Unfortunately, some Agaves do not offset. Another possibility, if you can get access to the stem, is to make some cuts into the surface of the stem. This can induce pups to form on the stem. Finally, if the Agave species produces bulbils, give the plant plenty of water and fertilizer causing rapid growth and flowering. Some plants like Agave weberi, will bloom in 4 to 5 years instead of the normal 15 to 20 a hard grown plant takes to bloom. Note, that the seeds will usually produce a normal plant. Leave the stalk up until the bulbils form and then plant the ones with the best color. So far there has been poor results using tissue culture to produce variegated plants.

I hope to see you at the April picnic at the Palomar College Cactus and Succulent Garden.

– Ron

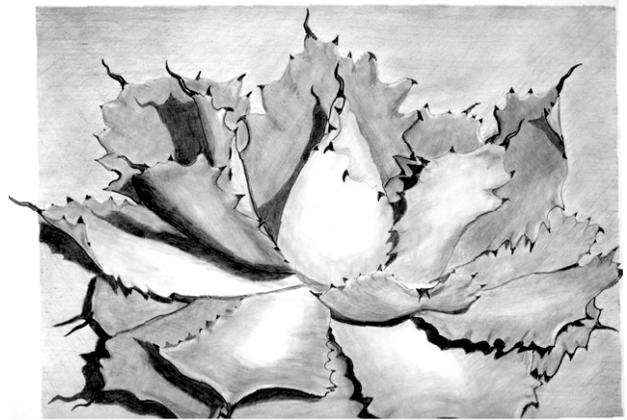


I would like to brag a little for **Ron Chisum** – he had the opportunity to put together a very nice display of his paintings recently at the Joslyn Senior Center. We have been lucky to be able to put some of them in the Courier, and I will continue to do so as long as he keeps painting! Keep them coming, Ron!



Painting by Ron Chisum

And one of my favorites...

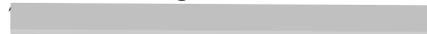


Sketch by Ron Chisum

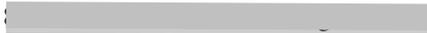


Officers • Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

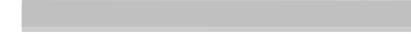
Vick Broughton – President



Peter Walkowiak – Vice-President



Lorie Johansen – Secretary



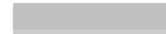
Dennis Miller – Treasurer & Membership Co-Chair



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



2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

*In May, November and December
We meet the third week of the month
All other months we meet the fourth
Except in August when we don't
Do remember, do remember!*

– Andrew Wilson

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 !!



“Engagement:

How to be a Part of Your Native Plant Garden”

On Monday, April 13, 2009, native plant enthusiast **Mike Evans**, owner of **Tree of Life Nursery** in San Juan Capistrano, will talk about connecting to nature in your own back yard. California native plant gardens provide much more than just outdoor decoration. Since the native plant garden is “sustainable” by design, it functions as a whole rather than as a sum of parts. Everyone who visits the place, especially the people who made it happen, immediately feel they are a part of the whole at a very intimate level. This unique connection often starts with the diverse forms of wildlife that find the garden: song birds, hummingbirds, butterflies, pollinating insects, lizards, frogs, and other species that give us delight. These engaging outdoor experiences make our lives richer. Mr. Evans will consider the value of all this for everyone, especially kids, and examine real-life

examples and discuss the practical techniques needed to get “nature” to fit into a small garden space.

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.



Tree of Life Nursery
33201 Ortega Highway
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
<http://www.californianativeplants.com/>



This issue of the *Cactus Courier* is 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