

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 53, Number 6

June 2007

The Meeting is the **4th** Saturday

JUNE 23, 2007

Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

NOON !



(Photos from Ms. Baldwin's website)



“Designing With Succulents”

• Debra Lee Baldwin •

Our program will be a slide presentation and book signing by the noted local author and artist **Debra Lee Baldwin**. She will present materials from her new book *“Designing With Succulents.”* The book comes from years of experience growing succulents in North County.

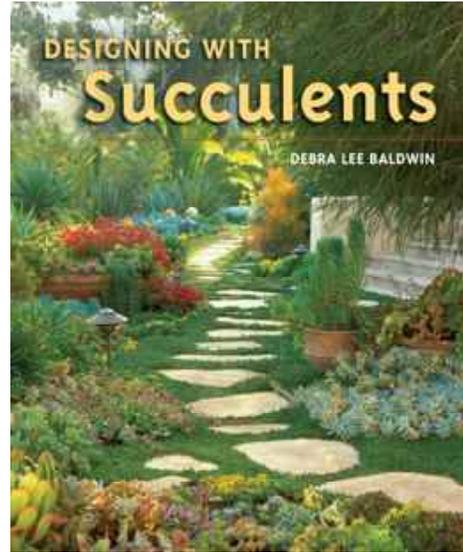
There was a review of the book in Tineke Wilder's garden column in the North County Times on June 8th. I especially liked the quote: “Why settle for boring when you can have beautiful?” I think that defines our fascination with cactus and succulents.

She will discuss many of her design philosophies such as grouping plants, not arranging them in rows; careful use of ground covers; continuity when using pots of succulents; don't use just one of everything – that isn't harmonious.

Her website at:

<http://www.debraleebaldwin.com> contains a great deal of interesting information, including her six favorite plants: red-and-teal *Kalanchoe luciae*; *Crassula perforata*; multicolored *Graptoveria* “Fred Ives;” yellow-and-green-striped *Agave americana*

“marginata;” yellow-pink-and-green *Aeonium*
 “Sunburst;” and the neon-bright blooms of *Calandrinia grandiflora*.



BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE

REFRESHMENTS

Martha Hanson Phyllis Flechsig Gloria Kendall Teri Schmidt

(This looks a bit skimpy! Please bring something to share!)

May Brag Plants

[Oops! I didn't get the list! Look for the names next month.]



The Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society **Board of Directors** meets for about an hour before the regular meetings. 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 2007 Board of Directors

President:	Richard Henderson	██████████
Vice-President	Vicki Broughton	██████████
Program Chair	Ron Chisum	
Recording Sec:	Mary Kaho	
Correspondence:	Dennis Miller	██████████

Treasurer:	Vicki Broughton	██████████
Director:	Royal Akin	██████████
Director:	Dick Kubiak	██████████
Director:	Jonathan Eastman	
Director:	Doug Frederick	
Director:	Peter Walkowiak	



2007 Meeting Schedule

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
	NOTE!!! 3rd Saturday!!
15 December	Joslyn Center
	NOTE!!! 3rd Saturday!!



Garden Days

Dick Henderson

July

The Garden Committee will meet twice in July to prepare for the **July 28th Picnic** in the Garden. Be sure to put this event on your calendar.

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Frank Granger, Doug Frederick, Susan Snow, Jooweon (Jewel) Park, and Dick Henderson did general clean-up and trimming along the paths throughout the Garden at the **June 2nd Garden Day**.

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The next Garden Meetings will be **Saturday, July 7th and Sunday, July 15th** from 11 am to 2 pm



“Grow Them From Seeds...”



Growing plants from seeds offers many rewards. It almost seems instinctual for man to enjoy growing things from seed. The process is not very difficult. In some cases you will have to do a little research first to improve your odds of success. But in the end, you can end up with plants that might be difficult or near impossible to get any other way. Also, you may encounter new forms of an old, familiar plant. Earlier this year I visited Kelley Griffin and looked at nearly 200 seed grown *Agave titanota*. I was familiar with the white-spined, green form offered at several nurseries. To my amazement there were many blue forms, some with white spines and some with black. Some had twisted spines with shorter, wider leaves. The diversity was marvelous.

Just a few years ago I tried planting my first succulent seeds. An *Agave* in my yard had seed pods. I collected some seed. I purchased some weed free potting mix, mixing it 50/50 with some perlite. Put some moistened mix in a 5x8" plastic tray (with drainage holes) I had salvaged from a microwave meal. I tapped down the soil gently. Then I planted the seeds on the surface. I then gently poured $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch of coarse sand on top. I watered the tray gently. Let it set an hour. Then put the tray inside a plastic bag and sealed it with a twist tie. I placed it in a kitchen garden window where it stayed warm and had plenty of light. In a few weeks little green sprouts were popping up. I let them stay in the bag until the plantlets were about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, and then took off the bag and started watering them every few days with a dilute water-soluble fertilizer. After they were $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across I moved them to individual 2" pots. Later I tried cacti and multiple other plants. Most of the time I had success, but a few learning opportunities came along. Here are a few comments:

Know the plant. Is it a summer grower or winter grower? Most winter growers need to be planted in the Fall or at least cooler weather. Summer growers seem to be more flexible but also have a higher tendency to damp off if they get cold. Big seeds tend to be easier than small seeds. *Dudleya* (winter grower) seeds for instance are like small dust particles. They can be sown by putting them into a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water and then pouring the water over the sand in the "mother pot".

Keep things clean. Use plastic containers that are clean. Use new or heat sterilized potting mix and perlite. Algae and water molds can kill seeds and seedlings.

Fresh seeds have a higher germination rate. How you store seeds is important. I have had good success using paper coin envelopes in my refrigerator. Remember to be patient. Some seeds take a long time to germinate. The plants that have hard or waxy seed coatings may need to be sanded or filed to allow moisture access to start the germination process.

Fortunately the vast majority of seeds do not need exotic treatment.

Where to get seeds: join the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and they have a seed bank. Also on the Internet go to cactus-mall.com and click on "seeds". There is a whole list of seed sellers. I have had great success with seeds from Mesa Garden. You owe it to yourself to give it a try.

– Ron Chisum

Additional note from Phyllis Flechsig:

"I don't find Dudleya all that hard to plant – just grind the pods through a fine tea strainer, and sprinkle the seeds onto the medium with thumb and forefinger, like adding a pinch of salt to the soup."



Southland Cactus Calendar

June 30 – July 1

CSSA Annual Show & Sale

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA. Info: 626-405-2160 or 2277. Open to the public.

August 9 (Thursday) 2:30 p.m.

Garden Talk & Plant Sale

"The (Huntington) Desert Garden at 100"

Journey back in time to the early days of The Huntington's spectacular Desert Garden in a slide lecture by curator Gary Lyons, who will explore the garden's colorful history. Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA.

August 18 – 19

22nd Annual Intercity Show and Sale

LA County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. Hundreds of plants will be on display at the annual inter-city show sponsored by the Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Societies. Exotic cactus and succulents typically found in deserts, jungles and mountain highlands, and some that are rare and endangered in their native habitat, will be featured. Seminars on how to grow cactus and succulents and how to landscape with drought resistant plants will be scheduled. Quality plants from local and out-of-state growers, and related plant materials, will be for sale throughout the show. Books on care and collecting will also be for sale. Call Tom Glavich: 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall: 818-368-6914.

September 1

24th Annual Succulent Symposium

International speakers lecturing on conservation, biology, taxonomy, and collection management. Plant Auction. Register by August 20th 626-405-3504. Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA.



The Del Mar Fair Garden...

Bruce Barry got the Fair staff and some donated effort by a KRC Rock crane operator to put in the dirt and rocks. He and Ron Chisum got some filler plants from Western Cactus. The majority of the plants were loaned from Peter Walkowiak, Ron Chisum, and Richard Henderson. Gloria Kendall and David Graff loaned the use of their trailer so Bruce and Ron could transport all the plants and a yard and a half of top dressing rocks to the Fair. Ron's truck and the trailer totaled up 268 miles when everything was in. Dennis Miller and Bruce planted the plants. Ron, Bruce, and Don Nelson placed the top dressing and installed the excellent laminated display signs prepared by Vicki Broughton, and Royal Akin contributed opuntias and part of the display regarding Luther Burbank.

"Pachyform II" by Rudy Lime and Philippe de Vosjoli is now available. At least half the photos from Rudy's collection.