

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 52, Number 10

October 2006

The Meeting is the **4th** Saturday

October 28, 2006

Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

12:15 PM



Resplendent Quetzal



Costa Rica Park Map



Cloud Forest

“Ecological Trip to Costa Rica...”

• Kay & Joe Quijada •

Kay and Joe Quijada have graciously agreed to take us along on their trip to Costa Rica. Well, actually, they went on the trip – we will be seeing their fabulous photographs. They had the opportunity to join a trip in February sponsored by the San Diego Audubon Society.

They started in the capital of San Jose, visited the Caribbean lowlands, headed up into the Cloud Forests to look for Resplendent Quetzals, and then head west towards the Pacific Ocean to look for American crocodiles in the Carara Biological Reserve.

One of the places they visited was the Braulio Carrillo National Park, 80,000 acres of virgin forest, and the Organization for Tropical Studies' field station, La Selva, in the lowlands of northeastern Costa Rica.



Cloud Forest



American Crocs
Photo by Tom Williams

Kay says the trip was bromeliads, birds and rain.



Bromeliad



Bromeliads in the Trees

Ecotourism: "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people."

BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE

The October 2006 Board Meeting will take place in the Annex off the Main Room at **** 10:30 am ****

<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>		
Dick Henderson	Vicki Broughton	Mike Regan
Beth Bradsher	Patricia Frederick	Jean O'Daniel



OBSERVATIONS

– Ron Chisum

Fall is finally here and I am enjoying spending more time outside with my plants. In my experience, this is the best time of year to plant large cactus cuttings directly into the ground. Give the cuttings at least a week of dry rest in the shade to form a callus over the cut. Plant your cuttings in soil that will drain, and do not water them in. If you feel compelled to water, wait at least a couple of weeks. I've had great success just letting the winter rains do their magic. I find a similar technique works well when transplanting large succulent plants with roots. Inevitably some roots are cut or damaged and immediate watering creates a growing ground for rot. Let the plants have a couple of weeks to heal over damaged areas.

We continue to be a little short handed in the kitchen and could use a regular volunteer to help out. Also, now that the heat is over, a visit to the Palomar Cactus Garden should be considered. Stop by, pull a few weeds, and enjoy the diversity of all the beautiful plants.

Give Richard Henderson a call, he opens the gate almost every day. – RON



Plant of the Month

- Ron Chisum

The family *Burseraceae* has 17 genera and about 540 species know as the "torch-wood" or "incense tree" family. The three best know genera that are: *Boswellia*, *Bursera*, and *Commiphora*.

Boswellia thurifera (frankincense) is cultivated in North East Africa and the Arabian peninsula for its aromatic resinous sap.



[Drawing from Wikipedia]

Bursera is a genus of 40 species. They are flowering shrubs to trees growing in temperate to tropical regions from southern United States to Argentina. They are strongly aromatic and drought tolerant. Some species produce a gummy sap called COPAL, which has been used medicinally and also burned as incense. There are six species found in Baja California: *epinnata*, *cerasifolia*, *filicifolia*, *hindsiana*, *microphylla*, and *odorata*.



Bursera microphylla

Commiphora are 185 species of trees and shrubs found in Africa, Arabia and the Indian subcontinent. They are most noted for their fragrant resins which are used in medications, perfumes, and incense. The most famous of these are: *C. myrrha* (Myrrh) and *C. opobalsamum* (Balm of Gilead).



C. myrrha



Myrrh Crystals

Most of these plants can be trained and grown as attractive caudiciforms, and a pinched leaf's fragrance always attracts attention. **Please, if you own any of these plants, bring them to this month's meeting so we can learn more about them.**



Richard and the Garden Committee are re-implementing the “**Monthly Saturday Workday**” starting October 7th. The plan is to gather the first Saturday of each month.

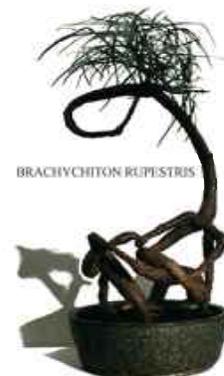
This will provide an opportunity to visit/work in the Garden. Donations of specimen plants would be more than welcome. Richard can give you a letter for the tax-deductible donation.



August was a tough month for San Diego County cactophiles.

Paul Steward, long-time member, past-president, and past-editor of the *Cactus Courier* of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society passed away after a long illness. Paul was active for decades in both the Palomar and San Diego clubs, bringing energy and talent to both groups. He will be much missed. I have happy memories of the wonderful picnics he organized.

A different kind of trouble hit Rudy Lime in August. Someone broke into his yard and stole 18 of his spectacular show plants. We have been graced over the years to have seen many of them as Rudy has been generous in bringing these wonders often to meetings and shows.



These small photos do no justice to the plants, but as you are out and about, whether at garage sales, rummage sales, swap meets, nurseries, plant shows, or even on-line, please keep an eye out. The police have been brought in as they are very valuable. Lee Badger 619-589-1456 is working with Rudy and the police to try to recover them. If you see any of his plants for sale anywhere, call Lee.



Time to plan!

❄️ ❄️

December Holiday Party! !

❄️ ❄️

The date will be Saturday, December 16th (that's the **3rd Saturday** of the month). Spouses and SOs are more than welcome.

As in the past, the Club will supply the turkey and ham. We are asking the members to bring the side dishes. We are attaching a blank copy of the sign-up sheet for your convenience.

This Club knows how to eat! We always have a splendid time. Come join us!



2006 Meeting Schedule

- 28 October Joslyn Center
- 18 November Joslyn Center
NOTE!!! 3rd Saturday!!
- 16 December Joslyn Center
NOTE!!! 3rd Saturday!!



2007 Membership dues are due in December. Don't let your subscription lapse!

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033
Membership Application

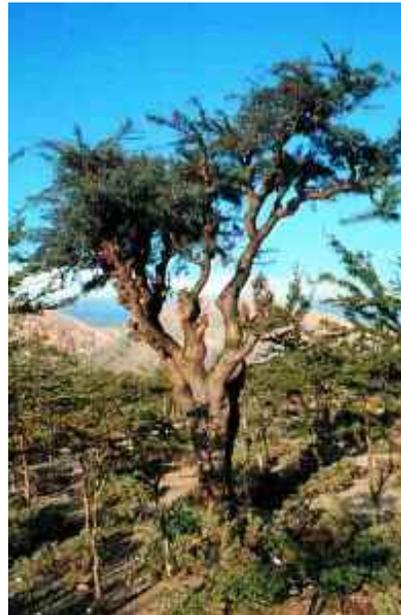
I/We wish to join/renew membership in the
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
\$15.00 Single Membership
\$20.00 Dual Membership (Same Address)
(1/2 price after June 30th)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to:
"Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society"
P.O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033



Boswellia



Cloud Forest