

# CACTUS COURIER

*Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society*

Volume 52, Number 11

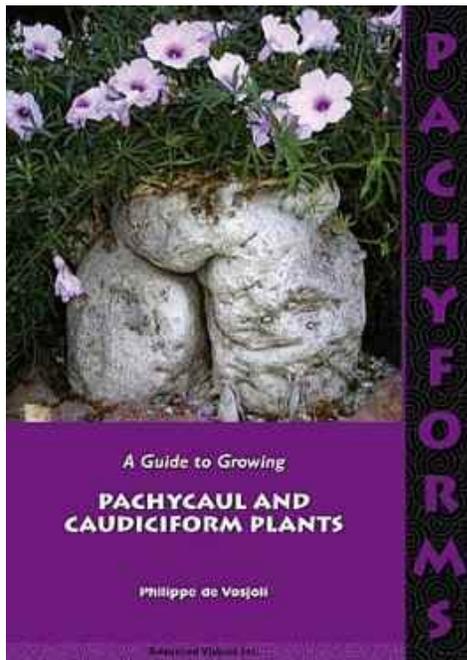
November 2006

**The Meeting is the 3rd Saturday**

**November 18, 2006**

Joslyn Senior Center  
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

**12:15 PM**



*Pachypodium rosulatum v. baroni*  
photo by Flavien & Audrey



from "SucculentsOnLine.com"

***"Sculptural Pachyforms"***

**• Philippe de Vosjoli •**

**Philippe de Vosjoli** has been growing

and propagating unusual plants as a hobby for over

25 years, with a focus on species that develop sculptural forms. Today's presentation will focus on the cultivation of various pachyforms and related topics, including conservation and the future of the hobby.

In the 1980's while in graduate school in Massachusetts, he started a part-time plant nursery with 10,000 square feet of greenhouses. He later moved to California and decided to make a career out of his other passion: finding ways to successfully keep and breed amphibians and reptiles.

With more than a million books in print, he is the best-selling author of over twenty titles on reptile care and vivarium design. *Pachyforms* is his first venture into horticultural writing. He used several photos of Rudy Lime's plants to help illustrate his book. Another book, *Pachyforms 2* co-authored with **Rudy Lime**, should be available early next year. If you enjoy Rudy's plants and want to learn more about "sculptured" plants, this is a wonderful opportunity.



P. baroni v. windsorii  
Plant & Photo by Susan Amoy



P. baronii , Highland Succulents, Ohio



P. rosulatum v drakei, Highland Succulents, Ohio

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

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

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



*Plant of the Month*

**“Agave”**



Agaves are a genus of the Family Agavaceae with roughly 18 genera including Yucca, Manfreda, and Furcraea. Some botanists would also lump

Nolina and Dasyilirion into the group, but they have not succeeded in universal acceptance. Agaves were once classified in the family Liliaceae, but most references now put them in their own family.



The most numerous species occur in Mexico although their endemic range extends from the desert southwest through Central America and into tropical South America. These plants are mostly monocarpic (flower once). They reproduce from one to three ways: seeds, bulbuals, and offsets.



Taxonomy has long been a challenge. There can be significant variations within species and a number of named species are of unknown origin. European explorers brought many plants back to Europe in the 19th century where they were propagated and later returned to North America for their ornamental value.



Howard Gentry's book, Agaves of Continental North America is considered the best reference on Agaves. He lists 136 species. Many plants have been used for fiber, eaten as a vegetable, or the juice cooked and fermented into wine and tequila. The toxic alkaloid in its flesh is heat labile. Both eye and hand protection should be worn when cutting these plants. The alkaloid is also found on the surface of the spines, causing more pain than the physical picture alone. The Agave's biggest pest is the Agave Weevil, which lays eggs producing 1 ½ to 2 inch grubs which eat out the center of the plant. The weevils definitely prefer to eat some species over others. The grubs are considered a delicacy and pan frying is the most popular form of preparation. Yummy.

If you have any unusual specimens of Agave, Manfreda or Furcraea please bring them to the meeting.



**“Monthly Saturday Workday”**

Richard and the Garden Committee are re-establishing the **Monthly Workdays** starting in October. 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.

**October 7, 2006**

The major job was to review the boxes of books that were in storage. The crew divided the books into 3 categories:

- 1) Items held for the Club Library.
- 2) Items for the Sale Table
- 3) Items for the Trade Table

Attendees were Lori Johansen, Bruce Barry, Frank Granger, and Dick Henderson.

**November 4, 2006**

Another good day. We priced the Book Sale Items. Some of the Sale Table items will be available at the November meeting. We then cleaned and weeded most of the paths in the Garden.

Attendees Bruce Barry, Frank Granger, our Librarian Brita Miller, and Dick Henderson. Jonathan Eastman couldn't make the Saturday meeting, but came out to work in the Garden on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**December 2, 2006**

Come join the crew on the 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm.



**OBSERVATIONS**

– Ron Chisum

I am thrilled to see new faces at our meetings. Our membership has grown this year. I would ask that long term members go out of their way to greet and get acquainted with these new members. They frequently have lots of questions and may need a little encouragement. We are coming up on the end

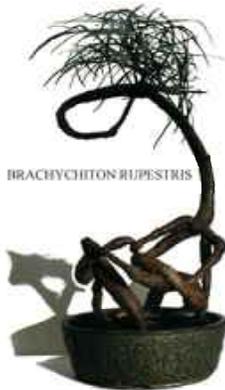
of the year and need more participation in all the ways that keep us functioning: Officers, board members, kitchen help, plant sales, etc. Most of these positions don't require very much time, but have significant effect on the viability of our club. PLEASE lend us a hand so we can continue to grow!

I have started moving my summer growing potted cacti and succulents up under the eaves of the house or onto my covered porch. We may be in for a wetter than normal winter and this greatly reduces the risk of rot.

Happy growing – RON



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 16<sup>th</sup> (that's the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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