BULLETIN
MARCH 2006

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 52, Number 3 March 2006

March 25, 2006

Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

12:15 PM

"14 Days in the Galapagos Islands"

• Kay Quijada •

Kay Quijada took this trip arranged by a retired San Diego Zoo photographer, some years ago. Guided by an Ecuadorian biologist, 14 curious nature lovers visited 14 different islands from humid beaches, razor-sharp lava fields, up to the cool highlands, in the full heat of late summer. After 2 weeks of hiking through rough lava terrain searching for strange darwinian wildlife and bizarre Dr. Seuss-looking Opuntia and Daisy trees, her athletic shoes were in a state beyond repair. Her 2-week home and refuge from the sunbaked land with its sea-swimming and cactus-eating dragons was the somewhat luxurious 65-foot fishing boat-turned tourist "yacht" called "Yate Amigo."

Join us for a visit to the enchanted islands 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador in South America.

Blue-footed Booby

Sombrero Chino

Opuntia for Lunch

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BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE

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

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REFRESHMENTS

Lorie Johansen Beth Bradsher B.J. Pearce
Dick Henderson Brita Miller

Special Message from the President!

Richard Henderson has arranged a special treat for the Club: the following nurseries have agreed to give PCSS members a 10% discount on most items. See the nursery manager for items not covered. The nurseries also ask that you show your PCSS card and this bulletin prior to claiming your discount.

Buena Creek Nursery – San Marcos

El Plantio Nursery – Escondido

He tells me there are more to come!

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February Brag Plants

Cactus:

1st *Mammilaria spinosissima*
– Ron Chisum

2nd *Mammilaria sinelares (tough handwriting)*
– Andrew Wilson

Succulents:

1st *Othona retosa*
– Rudy Lime

2nd *Agave titanora Crest*
– Alex Cardenas

3rd *Secamare (?)*
– Rudy Lime

Next Month ! !

April 2006 Members' Plant Show

The **April Plant Show** is NEXT MONTH! Pick out your best plants, check pot size versus plant size, quality of the pot, position of the plant, remove dead leaves, and other appropriate grooming. A little work now will pay big dividends and make you proud the day of the show.

There will be special awards for the top three plants. Best of Show ($50), Best Cactus ($25), Best Succulent ($25). In order to spread the joy, only one monetary award per person. Don't forget the entrants' plant raffle (one ticket per person) where all entrants win.

– Ron Chisum

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There is still one more spot open on the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society **Board of Directors for 2006**. 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 2006 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:	**(Your Name Here!)**
President ex officio	Eleanore Hewitt

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2006 Membership dues are due!
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

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Opuntia echios, So. Plaza Island

2006 Meeting Schedule

25	March	Joslyn Center
22	April	Joslyn Center
20	May	Joslyn Center
	NOTE ! ! ! 3rd Saturday ! !	
24	June	Joslyn Center
22	July	Quail Garden
26	August	Palomar Garden
16	September	Joslyn Center
	NOTE ! ! ! 3rd Saturday ! !	
28	October	Joslyn Center
18	November	Joslyn Center
	NOTE ! ! ! 3rd Saturday ! !	
16	December	Joslyn Center
	NOTE ! ! ! 3rd Saturday ! !	

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OBSERVATIONS

Ron Chisum

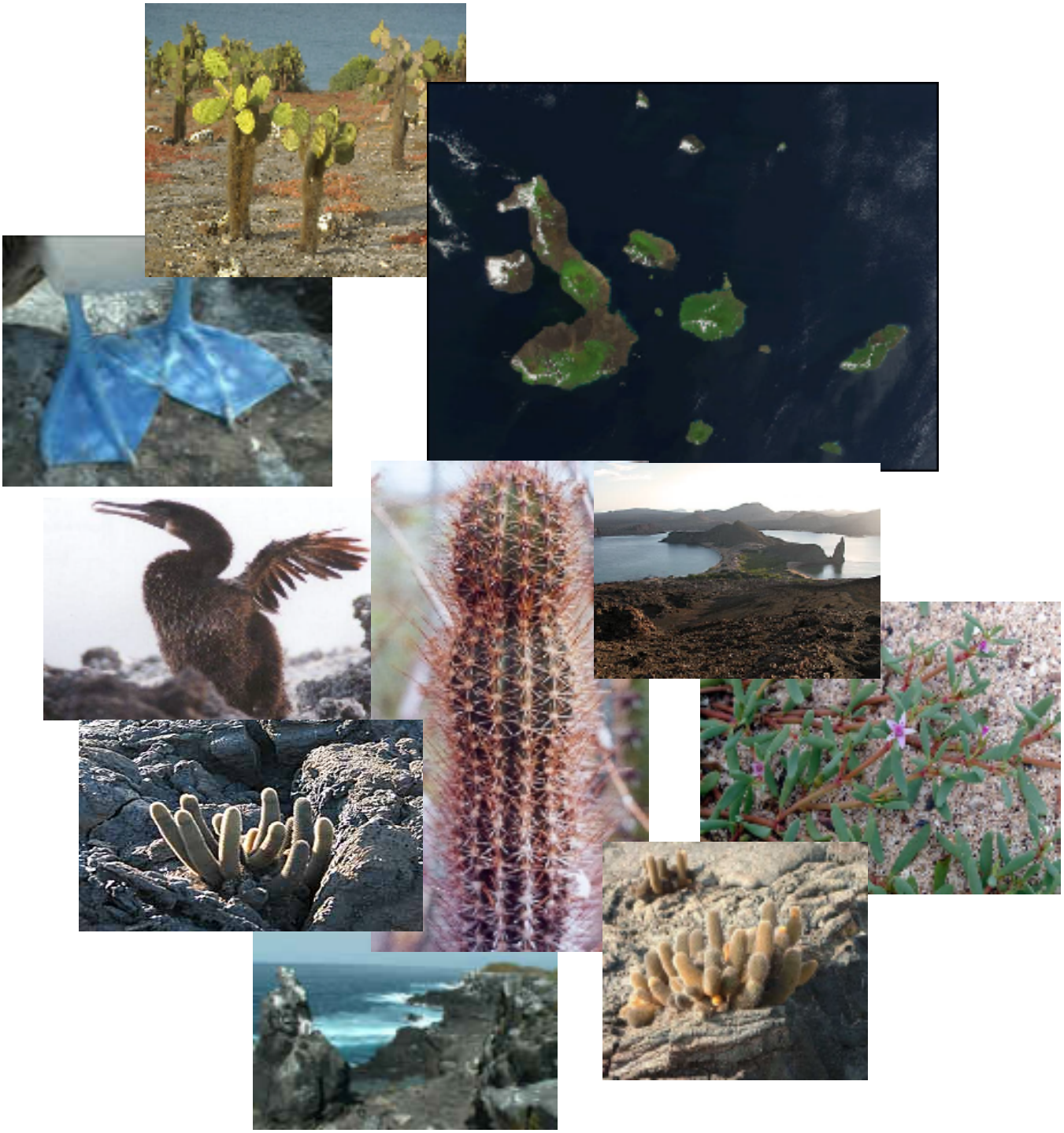
Richard Henderson reports that last month a Palomar College Photography Class came over to the Cactus and Succulent Garden. Led by Professor Will Gullett, the group experimented with light, shadow, contrast, and unusual shapes presented by the plants. We hope to encourage both the Art and Biology Departments to make more use of our beautiful plants.

During the intermission of the Feb. meeting, additional options for soil mixes were discussed. Rudy Lime uses about 50% perlite in his mix instead of pumice. Steve Toth uses equal parts perlite and vermiculite, plus coarse sand, instead of pumice. All of these options allow for good drainage. The perlite mix is very light weight and Rudy uses stone-grit top dressings to keep it from washing out of the pot when watered. Rudy gets his perlite at Aztec Perlite

in Escondido. Steve gets his materials at Home Depot.

We could use another regular helper in the kitchen. Also, I need two clerks to help the judges at the April Plant Show. When you help out, both you and the Club benefit.

Tip of the Month:

Our plants don't do well with cold wet feet. Move them onto the porch or under the eaves of your house until it warms up. Keep them on the dry side to prevent rot.

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