BULLETIN
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CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

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* May 20, 2006 *

Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

12:15 PM

Fig. 1 A pink form of Pelargonium echinatum emerges from between rock crevices.

Fig. 2 Quartz rocks provide a cool root run for Crassula perfoliata and a contrasting background for a bulky Tylecodon paniculatus.

"Some Ideal Gardens"

• Andrew Wilson •

Springtime showers do wonders for our gardens. They have helped a lot this year, but they also have produced a lot of weeds. After an afternoon of weeding we are likely to ask 'Is there a better way?' Of course, you can use pre-emergents, or you can use Roundup or perhaps you can get someone else, whether paid or unpaid, to do the work. It was after such an afternoon recently that I put the same question to myself. The answer I came up with was different: move to Namaqualand. Of course, after putting away the garden tools and relaxing for a while the practicality of the idea lost its appeal but, if escaping the toil associated with sprinklers, weeds and poor garden design were all that mattered, the South African solution would be hard to beat.

The climate is roughly similar to that of San Diego County in a dry year. It is a few hundred miles closer to the equator and its winters, which can be nippy, are very rarely subject to the colder conditions that sometimes occur here. Westerly winds off the Atlantic provide some cooling and the less common off-shore winds may cause hot days even in wintertime. Rain, when it comes, is in winter or springtime. Fog is more common along the coast. These ingredients should make us think of our local conditions.

Unlike California, southern Africa has not undergone the recurrent glaciations that have plagued our recent geological history. The most recent of these events ended only twelve thousand years ago. They have eliminated many of the local species that retreated further south into Mexico, sometimes returning eons later. Glaciations have occurred in southern Africa but not within recent geological times (millions of years). As a consequence, in places like Namaqualand, plants have

developed to endure the continuing dry conditions and have been less subject to the pluvial periods that have come to California, causing many of its plants to thrive when it is wetter. The story is long and quite complex but the result is that in southern Africa much of the vegetation is dominated by succulent plants. In some parts of Namaqualand nearly all plants are succulent.

This brings us to the reasons that ideal gardens can be found there. To a succulent growing audience the reasons are obvious. With almost all plants succulent or geophytic (bulbs, tubers, etc.), there are very few trees and almost no leafy trees. There are annuals that are encouraged by man's activities but few are weeds. Grasses are rare and there are plenty of bulbs. There are also rocky or sandy conditions that suit so many of the thousands of succulent species that grow there. The net result of these conditions is that little debris accumulates. This means there little or no pruning needed other than removal of dead seed heads or dried stems.

I will show and describe a number of natural gardens in the area. Here are a few examples. One is a site on the coast where mesembs, pelargoniums and othonnas grow in the sand and a variety of small crassula-family members grow among brightly colored rockeries. The site offers no shade and the light is very intense but, being on the coast, it remains quite cool. Another location is further inland where partial shade cools daytime temperatures and nighttime mists do bring enough moisture to support a very rich assortment of plants that are densely clustered on sharp rocks. This is a rock garden with both a geologist's color palette as well as a succulent grower's nursery. A third location is perhaps the garden of perfection. There the landscape is beautiful, the paths are of hard granite, which makes strolling through it easy. Flowers of every type, shrubs, bulbs and annuals spring out from between crevices **(Fig. 1)**.

A succulent-dominated garden is a tidy one provided there are no overhanging leafy trees that drop litter and provided seedling weeds or grasses are not allowed to get started. Little watering and fast drainage discourages excessive growth and the need for trimming and pruning. Bonsai-like plants may result. The presence of surface rocks and pebbles offers both cool root runs and color contrasts to low growing plants as well as providing strong background forms for the larger ones **(Fig. 2)**. Examination of how and why this occurs naturally will be one of the topics for discussion. Similar principles may be applicable to most succulent gardens but the succulent scene from Namaqualand is particularly attractive as it is dominated by small plants that retain a good appearance year-round and bloom brilliantly for many months of the year.

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BOARD MEETING • PLANT SALES • BRAG PLANTS • EXCHANGE TABLE

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

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REFRESHMENTS

Vicki Broughton **Lorie Johansen** **Dick Henderson**
Barbara Bowen **Gary Nelson**

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Special Message from the President!

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 membership card and this bulletin prior to claiming your discount. There will be more!

Rainbow Gardens Nursery – Vista
Grigsby Nursery – Vista
Buena Creek Nursery – San Marcos
El Plantio Nursery – Escondido

Best Cactus – 2006 Member Show

2006 Members Plant Show Winners

All the members who brought plants were winners!

Best in Show

Phyllis Flechsig – *"Pachypodium rostulatum"*

Best Cactus

Peter Walkowiak – *"Astrophytum ornatum"*

Best Succulent

Rudy Lime – *"Euphorbia hedyotoides"*

Nostalgia Winner

Marylyn Henderson – *"Euphorbia stellata"*

DIVISION I - CACTUS

Class # 1 – Mammillaria – Small Forms

1. M. spinosissima — Phyllis Flechsig
2. M. zeilmanniane x. wildii — Andrew Wilson
2. M. bocasana — Peter Walkowiak

Novice

1. M. geminispina — Vicki Broughton

Class # 1 – Mammillaria – Large Forms

1. M. matudae — Peter Walkowiak

Class # 2 – Ferocactus, Echinocereus, Echinocactus

2. Thelocactus hexaedrophorus — Peter Walkowiak

Novice

2. Echinocactus grusonii — Mike Regan

Class # 3 – Echinopsis, Notocactus, Parodia, Gymnocalycium

1. Notocactus roselana — Peter Walkowiak
1. Lobivia longispina — Peter Walkowiak
2. Notocactus hortsii

Class # 4 – Astrophytum (CHANGED CLASS)

1. **A. ornatum** — **Peter Walkowiak**
2. A. myrostigma v. fina nuda — Peter Walkowiak

Class #4 – Gymnocalycium (ADDED CLASS)

1. G. mesopetamicam — Peter Walkowiak
1. G. tacauocense — Peter Walkowiak
2 G. phalanzii — Peter Walkowiak

Class # 5 – Miniatures – Rebutias, Turbinocarpus

1. Rebutia marsoneri — Phyllis Flechsig
2. Rebutia perplexa — Peter Walkowiak

Novice

1. Rebutia muscula — Vicki Broughton

Class # 8 - All Other Genera

1. Copiapoa krainziana — Phyllis Flechsig
2. Melocactus erythracanthus — Phyllis Flechsig
2. Matucana haynei — Andrew Wilson

DIVISION II - OTHER SUCCULENTS

Class # 9 – WOODY STEM PLANTS, including: Adansonia, Alluaudia, Bombax, Bursera, Commiphora, Decaryia, Didiera, Fouquieria, Idria, Pachycormas, Operculicarya

1. Commiphora monstrousa — Rudy Lime

Novice

1. Gerrardanthus macrorhizus — Lorie Johansen
2. Mestoklema — Jim Irwin

Class # 10 – SUCCULENT ROOT PLANTS, including: Cucurbits, Fockea, Gerrardanthus, Ipomoea, Mestoklema, Seyrigia, Trichodiadema, Xerosicyos

1. Fokea edulis — Alex Cardenas
2. Fokea tugalensis — Phyllis Flechsig

Class # 11 – SUCCULENT STEM PLANTS, including: Adenium, Brighamia, Cissus, Cyphostemma, Pachypodium

1. **Pachypodium rostulatum** — **Phyllis Flechsig**
1. Pachypodium succulentum — Rudy Lime
2. Jatropha cuneala — Rudy Lime
2. Uncarina roosetana — Peter Walkowiak

OK! Where were the Agaves???

Class # 13 - Aloes

1. Aloe erinacea — Marylyn Henderson
2. Aloe "Sean Red" — Phyllis Flechsig

Class # 14 - Haworthias

1. H. bolusii — Phyllis Flechsig
2. H. mutica var. nigra — Phyllis Flechsig

Novice

2. H. Cuspidata — Darren Irwin

Class # 15 - Gasterias, Sanseverias, Astroloba

1. Sanseveria cylindrica — Peter Walkowiak
2. Gasteria vlokii — Phyllis Flechsig

Class # 16 - Euphorbiaceae – Large Forms

1. **E. hedyotoides — Rudy Lime**
2. E. grandicornis x baruama — Peter Walkowiak

Class # 17 - Euphorbiaceae – Small Forms, Miniatures

1. E. guillmentii — Rudy Lime
1. E. biplurefolia — Peter Walkowiak
1. E. globosa — Alex Cardenas
1. E. esculenta — Phyllis Flechsig
2. E. platyclada — Jean O'Daniel
2. E. obesa x horrida — Peter Walkowiak

Novice

1. E. Flanaganaii — Darren Irwin

Class # 18 - Euphorbiaceae – Leafy Forms

1. E. balsamifera — Rudy Lime
2. E. decaryi — Peter Walkowiak

Class # 19 - Crassulaceae - Large Forms including: Aeonium, Cotyledon, Crassula, Dudleya, Echeveria, Kalenchoe, Pachyphytum, Sedum, Sempervivum

1. Echeveria affinis x runyonii — Marylyn Henderson
1. Sedum frutescens — Andrew Wilson
2. Echeveria "Raindrops" — Marylyn Henderson
2. Dudleya brittoni — Marylyn Henderson

Novice

1. Kalenchoe previfera — Jim Irwin
2. Graptopetalum paraguayense — Vicki Broughton
2. Crassula otata — Brita Miller

Class # 20 - Crassulaceae - Small Forms (see Class 19)

1. Adromischus marianne v. herrei — Phyllis Flechsig
2. Crassula pubescens ssp radicans — Rudy Lime

Novice

1. Crassula plovii — Brita Miller

Class # 22 - Lithops & other Mesembryanthemums

1. Tricodiadima bulbosum — Rudy Lime

Class # 23 - Stapelias and other Asclepiads

Novice

1. Hoodia gordonii — Jim Irwin

Class # 24 - All Other Genera including Compositae

1. Bowiea volubilis — Rudy Lime
1. Veltheimia bracteata — Lorie Johansen
2. Scillia violecea — Peter Walkowiak
2. Sarcocaulon herrei — Peter Walkowiak
2. Secamone sp. — Rudy Lime
2. Jacartia herdebriana — Rudy Lime
2. Sarcocaulon herrei — Rudy Lime

Class # 25 – Miniature Plants, Any Genus

1. Avonia alztonii — Rudy Lime
1. Aloinopsis schooneesii — Dick Kubiak
2. Sanseveria sp. — Jean O'Daniel

DIVISION III - SUCCULENT GRAFTED, CRISTATE & MONSTROSE

Class # 26 – Variegated Plant, Any Genus

1. Ferocactus sp. — Alex Cardenas
2. Portulacaria afra — Rudy Lime

Class # 27 - Grafted Plants of any Succulent Class, Genus or size

1. Ficus palmeri — Rudy Lime

Class # 28 - Crested and Monstrose Plants – Succulents & Cactus

1. Euphorbia milii "Thai Hybrid" — Rudy Lime
2. Agave titanota — Alex Cardenas
2. Echeveria "Pappy's Rose" — Marylyn Henderson

Novice

1. Sempervivum sp. — Jim Irwin

DIVISION IV - DISH GARDENS

Class # 29 - Dish Gardens

1. Mixed Echeverias — Marylyn Henderson
1. Portulacaria afra — Rudy Lime
2. Mixed Echeverias — Narylyn Henderson

Novice

1. Giant Lithops — Jim Irwin
2. 3-Leaved Lithops — Jim Irwin

DIVISION V - COLLECTIONS

Class # 30 - Collections - 3 or more, Same Genus

1. Portulacarias (w/variegates) Rudy Lime
2. Gymnocalycium Peter Walkowiak

DIVISION VI – SUCCULENT BONSAI

Class # 33 – Any Succulent Plant in a Bonsai Style - Classical or Unconventional

1. Pachycormus discolor Rudy Lime
2. Pachycormus discolor Alex Cardenas

DIVISION VII - NOSTALGIA

Class # 34 - Best of Class/Best of Show - Past Five Years

1. **Euphorbia Stellata** **Marylyn Henderson**
2. Copiapoa cinerea Phyllis Flechsig

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The 2006 Board of Directors

President:	Richard Henderson	
Vice-President	**Vicki Broughton**	
Program Chair	**Ron Chisum**	
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Correspondence:	Dennis Miller	
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Director:	Dick Kubiak	
Director:	Jonathan Eastman	
Director:	Doug Frederick	
Director:	**(Your Name Here!)**	
President ex officio	Eleanore Hewitt	

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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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2006 Meeting Schedule

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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2006 Del Mar Fair

June 10th through July 4th

As in years past, a great deal of fun can be had by all. Some participation by many makes more fun and less work. If you come to the fair and no one is there – look at the exhibits and do something – smooth dirt, clean plants, place plants where you think they look right and dig them in. The design is not set in concrete – we will place plants as they arrive.

If you have any size truck, van or station wagon that can transport plants, please let Bruce know. He have to get plants from places other than the Garden and will need all the help he can get.

Please come and pitch in. Come one, come all. If you can't lift a plant, that's OK, bring a soft paint brush and sweep out the cobwebs and pine needles. (Don't forget your gloves !)

May 20-21 First Weekend of Access
Come to the Fairgrounds -- contouring and reorganizing dirt. Bring shovels, rakes and **GLOVES !**

May 27-28-29 Work Weekend
Planting crew at the Fair installing plants. (Don't forget those gloves!)

June 3-4 Last Work Weekend
Planting crew at the Fair installing plants. We will be numbering and labelling all the plants this weekend, so this is the LAST opportunity to bring plants. We will finish up the groundcover and the bark. Bring soft brushes and tweezers for final plant grooming.

Wednesday, June 7 The Gardens MUST be ready for Judging by 10 AM!

Wednesday, July 5 Teardown! We MUST get all our plants OUT by that evening!

Contact Bruce Barry ' with offers of help and plants.