BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2006

CACTUS COURIER

Newsletter of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

Volume 52, Number 9 September 2006

The Meeting is the **3rd** Saturday

September 16, 2006

Joslyn Senior Center
724 N. Broadway, Escondido

12:15 PM

Aztekium ritterii (S. Dupal)

Whitesloanea crassa
Photo by Mark Fryer

"From *Aztekium* to *Whitesloanea* ...a succulentophile's journey into commercial growing"

• Mark Fryer •

Mark Fryer of ***C & J Cactus Nursery*** in Vista will be speaking this week. He tells me the talk to could simply, "Behind the scenes at C&J Cactus Nursery."

He is currently lead propagator at C&J Cactus Nursery. Prior to this stint in commercial cactus and succulent growing, he worked at Rare Plant Research and tried starting his own backyard cactus and succulent nursery off and on again for a number of years in Portland, Oregon. He was a member of the Oregon C&S Society from 1988 through 2000, serving as President from 1992 through 1996. In February of 2000 he moved (courtesy the computer engineering firm he was employed with) to San Diego. C&J offered him some part-time work back in July of 2002, and he's been there ever since, wearing many hats and trying his hand at every aspect of the commercial wholesale nursery business.

Whitesloanea crassa

Aztekium hintonii

Whitesloanea Hybrid

REFRESHMENTS

Guess what? I don't have the list! (Big surprise.)
Please be generous.

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OBSERVATIONS

– Ron Chisum

Those of you that did not attend either of our last two meetings really missed out. Quail Garden was at least 25 degrees cooler than Escondido and the Ecke Building was air conditioned. The "Under Sea" succulent garden has matured and is spectacular.

The day of the Palomar Garden picnic was delightful. Richard Henderson has done wonders with the garden. It looked great. The weather cooperated with a nice cool breeze. There were plenty of free plants to choose from and, as always, plenty of outstanding food. Richard led a tour of the garden and Tony Rangel led a tour of the arboretum. We are always in need of help to keep the garden in good shape. Give Richard a call if you can help.

During this summer heat, I have tried to watch out for my plants, being careful to be sure they did not burn up from too much sun, or dry up from lack of water. Unfortunately, I over-did it with two of my favorite plants, and Adromischus marionae and Aloe polyphilla. I had purchased both of them from Phyllis Flechsig seven or eight years ago. (Sorry, Phyllis!) They had grown up to a mature size and looked quite hardy. The first to go was the Adromischus. Root rot spread at a remarkable speed, turning the whole plant to mush. I had raised the Aloe out doors in the shade of a deciduous tree. Polyphilla is a challenge. It grows in Africa on a mountain, tolerates snow and gets most of its water from snow melt. It likes good drainage and can burn up from our inland sun. In my effort to keep it cool, I over watered it and now my 16 inch diameter plant has gone to compost heaven. After an appropriate mourning period, I'll find replacements and try again. There are some plants that need to be left on the dry side during the summer. Hope you can learn from my mistakes. [RAC]

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2006 Meeting Schedule

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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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.