

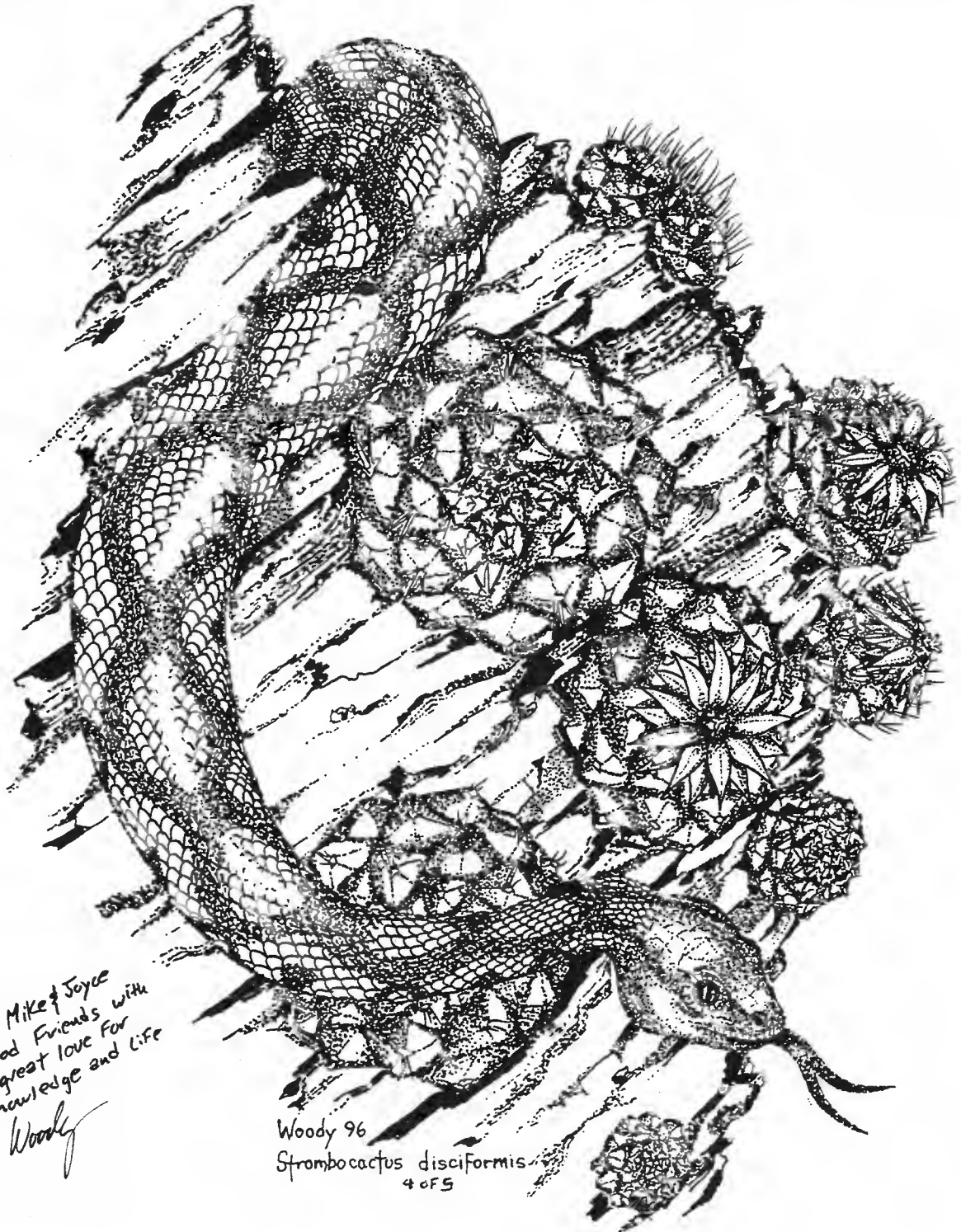
MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

# ESPINAS Y PLANTAS

NEWSLETTER of the SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.

Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

VOLUME XXXII NUMBER THREE, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1997 @ 1:00 PM



To: Mike & Joyce  
Good Friends with  
a great love for  
knowledge and life  
Woody

Woody 96  
Strombocactus disciformis  
4 of 5

# MARCH PROGRAM: WOODY MINNICH

## AAA GUIDE TO MEXICO

### *Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, & Aztekium*

The objective of Woody's most recent botanical program is to present these rare, highly-prized cacti in their natural habitat. Armed with a new camera and some extraordinary lenses, Woody led a botanical tour through northern and central Mexico late last fall — November 1996. The timing of his trip was specifically planned to capture on film these revered cacti genera in flower. Although this program will specifically feature the A's mentioned in the title, it is not limited to only these genera. Several other extraordinary and uncommon Mexican cacti species will be shown in habitat, and whenever possible, in bloom!

Most of us are already acquainted with Woody Minnich, as he has presented several fine programs and judged several SDC&SS Shows over the past few years. Woody and his wife, Kathy, are members of our San Diego Society, and although they live more than three hours away, they manage to attend several meetings every year. Their help setting-up the sales area early Saturday morning for our June '96 Show & Sale was noteworthy and greatly appreciated. Woody is one of those disgustingly cheery morning people—thank God! they are out there—to balance out the night people (*like me!*) Woody has owned and operated Cactus Data Plants Nursery since the early 1980's. His "day job" as a high school teacher contributes to his excellent speaking abilities, but probably not as much as his passion for the subject matter. This should be a very educational and exciting program. Want to impress a friend? This is the program!

**About our cover:** This pen and ink drawing of a *Strombocactus disciformis* being protected by a rattlesnake was drawn by our March speaker, Woody Minnich. Drawing is from the collection of Michael & Joyce Buckner. Thank you, Wendell!

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Please send your letters, artwork, poetry, Cactus or Succulent-of-the-Month articles, puzzles, comments, or criticisms, etc. to:

**MICHAEL & JOYCE BUCKNER, EDITORS**  
**4822 SANTA MONICA AVENUE, #103**  
**SAN DIEGO, CA 92107**  
**PHONE OR FAX (619) 222-3216**

PUBLICATION DEADLINE IS THE 20th of the prior month.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY NELLIE KENNETT!

It was great seeing **Bob Taylor** at our February meeting. Bob is recovering from a broken hip more slowly than he would like; he is now under doctor's orders to stay off his feet! Please send Bob a card — or stop in to visit. His temporary address: **Bob Taylor — Room # 214-B, c/o The Anza Nursing Center, 622 South Anza, El Cajon, CA 92020**. Thank you, **Ted Nelson** for letting us know!

### WARNING \* WARNING \* WARNING!

Presently Our Membership Roster Indicates That There Are About 50 — Yes, Fifty! — 50 Members Who Have Not Paid Their 1997 Membership Dues ☹

☞ Please Check the Address Label on the Back Page of this Issue — NOW!! ✓

★ IF YOU HAVE FAILED TO RENEW—THIS REALLY IS YOUR LAST ISSUE ★

★ Officers and Board Members (*hint! hint!*) — Likewise!! ★

☺ If you find an error on your address label,

Or if you believe that you should be getting this wonderful newsletter for free

Or if you need to defer dues payment until sometime after April 15th ☹

☎ PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY ☎

☞ Otherwise — Get That Check in The Mail!! ☒

Thank you **Beverly Kirkegaard** for typing and writing up the minutes and highlights of January's general meeting. Several members, with less than perfect hearing, commented on how nice it was to read about what went on. The acoustics in our meeting room are not that good to begin with, add a few people shuffling around the library, a speaker who does not want to use the microphone, the French couple at the front door who are looking for the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater, and top it off with tap dance rehearsals upstairs — now you've have a good idea of the noise level at a typical meeting. It is a wonder that anyone hears anything — and it is basically impossible to hear it all!

\* \* \*

We are trying to talk Beverly into contributing a small monthly report of meeting announcements and business, highlights of the cacti & succulent of the month talks only if they were not covered in newsletter article, and, especially relevant to most of us, a synopsis of the program. If you appreciated Beverly's contribution to the February issue — please let her know — maybe we can get her back next month!

On a sad note, we have just learned that there will be no more **Cactus File** publications. This is kind'a like loosing an old friend. **The Cactus Files**, published in England, always offered a refreshingly different view point from our own domestic **CSSA Journals**.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Aleta Antoinette, Craig Binnis, Pete Boudriault (*Editor of The Eastern Spine - Newsletter of the National Capitol, Bowie, MD*), Alan Drew (*from Wilmington, MA*), Diana Goforth (*past newsletter editor for SD Horticultural Society*), Jeffrey Hamann, Cielo Hansen, Jeffrey Harris, Almuth Solomon Hayes, Michele Mochno Higgins, Phyllis Kennedy, Pam Koide, Atsuhiko Kubo, Mary Lou Lisenbe, Paul R. Maschka, Mike Masterson, Christine Miller, Charlotte Mitich (*spouse to CSSA President Dr. Larry Mitich*), Audrey Musil, Collette & Terry Parr, Dan Richardson, Jerilyn Sober, Ann Stiko (*sorry girls, looks like Tom has a wife!*), Dick Thompson, and Pamela Waters. We also have one new member who refuses to have his (or her) name published — we'll just refer to "him" as the Hermit from Arizona!

**Nibby Klinefelter** writes to us about **Sophie Loyland**: "Sophie was generous with her time, and energy, and renowned for her pastries. She and Oliver would have plants by the hundreds for sale at the meetings — all to benefit the society. Sophie raised window plants, as she spoke their language."

We also received a postcard from **Dylan Hannon** — in Hawaii, no less. He says, "Aloha! Having a great time touring nurseries and botanical gardens. Lot's of good things at Lyon Arboretum" Our answer, "You lucky dog! Now pay your dues! We don't want you to miss out on even one issue of EyF!"

**March 14 - 16: Wildflowers of the San Felipe Desert - Overnight Expedition** - Friday 7:00am - Sunday 7:00pm; lead by **Jon Rebman, PhD**; \$85 - you must provide for your own transportation, food, and camping gear; primitive (*no facilities*). Contact **SDMNH @ (619) 232-3821 #203**.

**March 14 - 16: Anza-Borrego State Park: Hale-Bopp Comet/Spring in the Desert Family Camp-Out** (*co-sponsored by Nursery Nature Walks*) Dave Wyman & Kathy Burke - botany by day / astronomy by night; \$95/adult, \$75/child<16; contact **SDMNH @ (619) 232-3821 #203**; tent camping only; no RV's.

**March 15-16: Insect Show @ Quail Botanical Gardens** - at Quail Botanical Gardens (619) 436-3036.

**March 15 - 23: Anza-Borrego Foundation Week** - First Time Offered - A tour of Carrizo Impact Area (closed to the public). Nature Walks - Bird Watching - Hikes. There are eight different very interesting field trips offered in this program. Costs range from \$15 to \$50 per person. Call (619) 767-0446.

**March 22: Living Desert Bus Field Trip** 8:00am-5:30pm; lead by Barbara Baterson-Rossi; \$48 - admission fee included, bring sack lunch, water, etc. Contact **SDMNH @ (619) 232-3821 #203**.

**March 25 - 26: Urban Pest Management Conference & 38th Annual Entomology Conference @ University of CA, Riverside** - For information call (909) 787-5806 or email: [judy.leonard@ucr.edu](mailto:judy.leonard@ucr.edu).

**April 11 - 13: The 72nd Annual Coronado Flower Show sponsored by Coronado Floral Association** Plant registration Friday 4-6pm or Saturday 7-9:30am; Show all day Saturday & Sunday; plant pickup 4pm Sunday; please contact Donald D. Bloom @ (619) 437-8445 with any questions regarding plant entries; a copy of 1997 show schedule will be at the librarian's table @ the March meeting. This terrific event features youth section exhibits (*30 trophies awarded - preschool through high school*), map for touring Coronado's top ten home /condo fronts (*Better Homes & Garden Trophy*), live entertainment (*The 1997 Theme is "Let There Be Music"*), refreshment booths, book & craft sales, and many educational exhibits & programs, as well as, a fantastic flower show (*orchids, roses, cut flowers - 31 categories, floral arrangements, bonsai, cactus & succulents, potted plants, etc.*). Don't miss the Wild Flower Display!!

**April 12-13: South Coast Cactus and Succulent Show & Sale**, to be held at the Southcoast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula. This is an open show; set-up Friday, April 11, 3:00-9:00pm; Sale 9:00am-4:30pm; Show noon-4:30 Saturday, 9:00am-4:30pm Sunday. Please contact SDC&SS Members **Dick & Lupe Hulett @ (310) 832-2262** for additional information.

**April 20: Earth Day / EarthFair in Balboa Park** - If you would like to help with the SDC&SS exhibit for this event, please contact **Stan Yalof @ (619) 743-1560**. For general info (619) 496-6666.

**April 20: Wildflower Wagon Ride and day at Warner Hot Springs Ranch** - instructor: Pat Flanagan; \$35 - bring your own lunch, water, etc.; wagon ride 10:00am - Noon; use of hot mineral pool, tennis courts, & hiking trails for the afternoon; children 6 years & up with adult. Contact **SDMNH @ (619) 232-3821 #203**.

**May 2 - 5: In Search of an Extinct\* Cactus in Baja California - Overnight Expedition** - Friday 7:00am through Monday, 7:00pm; lead by **Jon Rebman, PhD**; \$110 - transportation, food, water, camping gear not included; camping sites at the giant boulder fields near Catavina - this is a truly magnificent area, thick with Boojums, Cardons, and fantastic Pachycormis Trees! Contact **SDMNH @ (619) 232-3821 #203**.

\* It has been noted by both **Woody Minnich** in his 1996 program and by **Michael Buckner** at the January 1997 meeting: **This species of cactus is not nearly as "extinct" as represented in CSSA Journal!**

**May 15 & May 17: Native Orchids of San Diego County** - Thurs 7:00-9:00pm, Field Trip Sat 8:00am-4:00pm; instructor: Bud Close; \$29; contact **SDMNH @ (619) 232-3821 #203**.

**May 31 - June 1: San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale** - Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Show set-up on Friday, May 30, 10am - 8pm. Show schedule will be included with the May-June issue of *Espinas y Flores* - Show is open (*you need not be a SDC&SS member to enter plants in the show*). For information re: plant sales, please contact **Betty Athy @ (619) 469-7647**.



## President's Message - March 1997

I want to thank Joey Betzler for conducting the February general meeting in my absence. Thanks, also, to Mark Dimmitt for his outstanding presentation on Adeniums, and to Ed DeLollis and Michelle Heckathorn for their Cactus & Succulent-of-the-Month presentations. It takes much time, energy, and research to compile such excellent articles — add to that the courage to speak in front of a crowd! Please let these enthusiastic volunteers know just how much we appreciate their efforts.

Several important announcements were made at the February meeting. Ed DeLollis accepted appointment to the board of directors. He will be filling the vacancy (*through 1997*) created when I was elected president. We welcomed Ed to the board, confident that his vivid imagination and enthusiasm will be desirable additions to our society's governing body. Stan Yalof discussed our involvement in the Balboa Park Earth Day event scheduled for Sunday, April 20th. Stan also mentioned two Baja camping tours sponsored by the San Diego Museum of Natural History and lead by Jon Rebman PhD occurring March 14 - 16 and May 2 - 5. Further details on all three of these events appeared in February's FYI and will also be published in this issue.

This issue of *Espinas y Flores* has a flyer promoting our theme design contest for the CSSA Convention this summer. If you have only one creative bone in your body, or know someone else who does — I encourage you or your friend to participate. The winner will be selected by a panel of judges and awarded \$200. The winning design will grace T-shirts, posters, bags, mugs, book makers, etc.. These items will be sold at the convention to financially support our club. This is the SDC&SS's only means of raising funds during the convention.

Also, included in this issue are the Board's proposed changes to the SDC&SS Bylaws. Please take time to read them over. All members will be asked to vote on them at the March 8th general meeting. If you agree with the changes, then we can approve them all at once. However, if any point troubles you, we will need to vote on each article one at a time. If, after having read the proposed changes, you have any questions or need clarification regarding any of the points brought up, please feel free to call me, or any board member. A lot of work has been put into this document, so let's do it justice and be prepared. Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Knapp*

# The Monthly Benefit Drawing

Our February table provided us with some fascinating plants. Among the noteworthy was the **Black Flowering *Pelargonium lobatum*** which, according to Joey Betzler who has seen this plant in the South African wild, has a *cinnamon-like* fragrance. Also, there was a beautiful ***Turbinocarpus pseudomacrothele var. krainzianus***, which was already perfectly potted — a ready-to-go "show plant"! Terrific stuff.

We had fifteen lucky winners, and the benefit donations added \$97.50 to the society's treasury. Many thanks to **Betty Athy** for donating (almost half of the plants on the table!): ***Fockea edulis***, ***Mammillaria bocasana*** "Fred", ***Euphorbia millii*** "Rainbow" (a Hummel hybrid), ***Echeveria*** "Culibra", ***Aeonium*** species, and ***Echinocactus grusonii***. Thanks also to **Ted Alford** for donating one of his wonderful pots.

Remember, **Betty Athy @ (619) 469-7647**, is our Benefit Table Treasure Hunter *Extraordinaire*, one tough job! She (and all of us) would love to see you donate one of your nurtured darlings . . . please give her a call.

Many Thanks, **Kay Quijada**

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## BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY 1997: JUDGED BY MARK DIMMITT

SUCCULENT:	FIRST PLACE:	Rudy Lime's <i>Pelargonium triste</i>
	SECOND PLACE:	Rudy Lime's <i>Pelargonium ferulaceum</i>
	THIRD PLACE:	Beverly Kirkegaard's <i>Conophytum placidum</i>
CACTUS:	FIRST PLACE:	Shirley Berry's <i>Mammillaria mieheana</i>
	SECOND PLACE:	Beverly Kirkegaard's <i>Turbinocarpus pseudopectinatus</i>
	THIRD PLACE:	Marilyn Alford's* <i>Mammillaria gracilis</i>
		* (Brought in by husband, Ted!)

**\$200**

## **ART CONTEST**

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is sponsoring a theme design contest for the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Convention to be held at the Town and Country Hotel on July 5-11, 1997. This contest is open to all. Entries should illustrate cacti and succulent flora or unique San Diego features or a combination of the above. Original artwork must be submitted on an 8 1/2 by 11 in. sheet of paper. The design can be black and white or color and may include the following, **"Cactus and Succulent Society of America's 27th Biennial Convention hosted by the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society July 5-11, 1997"**. More than one entry is acceptable and should be mailed to **S.D.C.S.S. PO Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181** or Faxed to **619 569 8510**. All entries must be received by **March 31**. The winner will be contacted and awarded **\$200** with the results to be published in the May newsletter. Entries will not be returned unless a SASE is included. The S.D.C.S.S. will reserve all rights to the winning design.

**Be a part of this great event and  
submit an entry**

# SOPHIE LOYLAND

BY WARREN BUCKNER

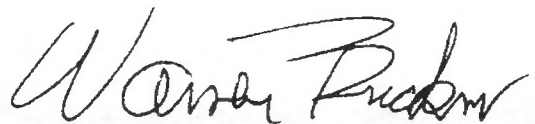
Sophie and Oliver Loyland were among the first group of San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society "Life Members". The Loylands were both large happy "Swedes" who loved succulent plants. They were enthusiastic helpers on the SDC&SS Del Mar Fair Flower Show Exhibit each summer, and could always be found assisting and participating with the early SDC&SS Show & Sale each spring. Sophie and Oliver were willing to help on any and all projects involving the society.

One of the first projects that I remember them participating in was the 1968 planting of a "Cactus Garden" at the San Diego Mission on Friars Road. Plants for this garden were contributed by SDC&SS members, with the majority coming from Bob Taylor's gardens. Under Jim Stalsonberg's\* guidance, we planted a forty by ten foot garden on the east side of the Mission. Sophie and Oliver came early and stayed late, digging-in sand and compost and manning a pair of wheelbarrows. The only remaining living and still active SDC&SS members to participate in this project are, or course, Bob Taylor, Nibby Kleinfelter, Michael Buckner and myself, I believe!

Sophie was justifiable famous for her lavish dinners. And in my mind, she will always be fondly remembered for the wonderful cookies, cakes, and pies that she served at the SDC&SS board meetings and at the meeting (*a forerunner of the present Holiday Dinner*) which the Loylands hosted each December at their West Montecito Way residence in Mission Hills. With Sophie's good cooking, this was truly a growing club — both literally and figuratively!

My favorite memory of Sophie occurred at the first board meeting that I attended in the home of Hazel & Walter Scott, when Walt Greenwood was elected president of the SDC&SS. I had hardly recovered from my astonishment that although Walt had been elected president, the SDC&SS board had elected their own chairman, Walter Scott. The Loylands arrived late to this meeting. All the overstuffed couches and chairs and all the dining room chairs were occupied. Hazel Scott, a rather spare petite woman, scurried into the bedroom and brought out a couple of chairs. The one she offered Sophie must have been her own favorite, an antique delicate Queen Ann. Sophie took one look at it and announced loudly, "My God! No! I'll crush that poor thing!"

Oliver died of a stroke many years ago. Sophie continued to attend meetings for a few years, but had been in a convalescent home for about the last five years. She and Doris Rake were special friends of Virginia and I. The four of us enjoyed an occasional dinner out at the Casa del Ray Moro. This is truly the end of an era, and we shall miss this lovely exuberant lady.



\* Jim, an early president of our society, was employed by the city of San Diego as park supervisor for Balboa Park. He excelled at landscaping and gardening and his special interest was, yes, cacti and succulents.



# CACTUS OF THE MONTH

## THELOCACTUS

BY RIC NEWCOMER

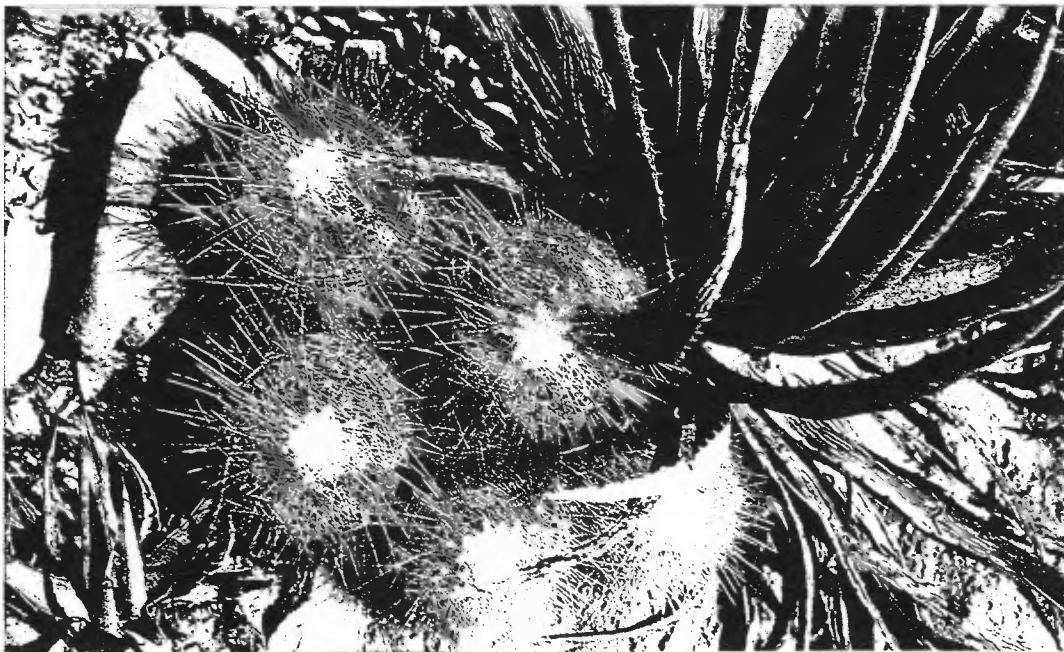
"*Thelocactus* has for a very long time held a fascination for me as a cactus enthusiast, and some of these plants are the most beautiful.

In the last few years I have been fortunate to see many of these in their natural surroundings in Mexico and they have impressed me even MORE, as they are truly magnificent plants in the wild."

The above is quoted by John Pilbeam from the preface of his new book, "*Thelocactus*". I would change a few words, such as "in the last 20 years", referring to my own experiences with this genus. John says he has seen many *Thelocactus* in their natural surroundings; I have also seen many throughout Mexico and Texas. And John and I agree they are truly magnificent plants in the wild but I also think they are wonderful plants to have in your collection.

I will be bringing field collected plants from the 1970's as well as seed grown plants so you can see the difference.

The genus was set up by Britton and Rose in 1922 and placed in their Tribe *Cereae*, subtribe *Coryphanthanae*. Britton and Rose's definition of this subtribe is worth repeating: "Terrestrial, spiny, low cacti, mostly globose, sometimes cylindric, rarely elongate, 1-jointed, solitary or cespitose, tuberculate. The tubercles numerous; tubercles usually arranged in spirals; juice watery



*Thelocactus macdowellii*, in habitat, growing with *Agave lechuguilla* in Huasteca Canyon, north of Monterey, Coahuila on the border with Nuevo León, Mexico.

## Thelocactus, cont'd.

or milky; flowers always solitary at areoles; either at top or side of plant, but never at spine-areoles large or small, regular; ovary naked or bearing a few scales; fruit a green or red indehiscent berry; seeds small brown or black. *Thelocactus* ovary more or less scaly, flower campanulate with short tube, none of spines hooked, tubercles not deeply grooved, fruit scaly."

Their more detailed definition of the genus is as follows:

"Cacti of medium size, globular or somewhat depressed, spiny, often densely so; ribs few, low or even indefinite, divided into large, often spiraled, tubercles; flowering from near center of plant, borne on very young tubercles, rather large for the subtribe, campanulate, diurnal; scales on ovary usually few, their axils naked; fruit so far as known dry, dehiscent by a basal pore; seeds black, finely tuberculate, with a large basal hilum."

The generic name, as they explained is from the Greek, *thelo* meaning nipple, referring to the prominent tubercles, which are a more prominent feature than the often indistinct rib structure of these plants."

Britton and Rose placed 12 species beneath this genus. Backeberg recognized 17 species and a further eight varieties. Glass and Foster recognized 10 species in 1977. Anderson in 1978 finished up with 11 species and 7 further varieties.

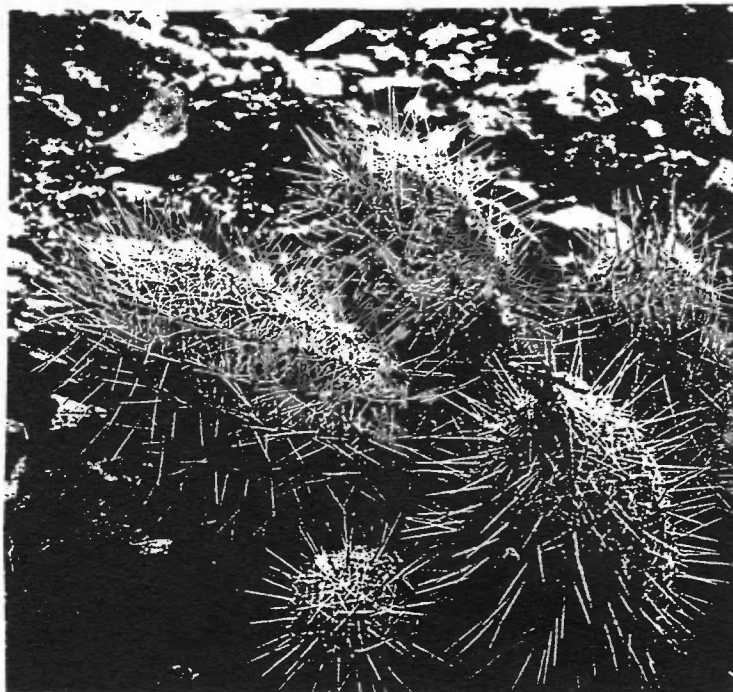
I have found *Thelocactus* easy to grow but very slow except for *T. bicolor*. This could explain why *T. bicolor* is the most common *Thelocactus* found in nurseries.

It is very important to repot every year or at least every other year. Waiting longer will slow down the growth. It is suggested that transplanting be done in the winter with dry soil and disturbing the roots as little as possible. This way the growth will not be slowed down.

We use 40% supersoil with 60% perlite and gravel added for good drainage. After March, watering starts every other week with a high potash fertilizer, picking up to every week in April with trace elements added until October.

The *Thelocactus* are kept in our lower shade house with the *Coryphanthas*, *Escobarias* and *Mammillarias*. They are protected from the rain with a clear plastic roof which keeps out 50% of the hot sun rays in the summer and keeps the rain off the plants in the winter. However, all 4 sides are open for ventilation.

*Thelocactus* can take nearly freezing



*Thelocactus bicolor* var. *bolaensis*, in habitat, at the type locality, Cerro Bola, Coahuila, Mexico.

## *Thelocactus* by Ric Newcomer cont'd

*Thelocactus*, cont'd.

temperatures if they are completely dry at the root and have been dry for a while. I am including a list of *Thelocactus* species and varieties:

- T. bicolor* with 9 varieties
- T. buekii*
- T. conothelos* with 2 varieties
- T. ehrenbergii*
- T. flavispinus*
- T. fossulatus*
- T. hastifer*
- T. heterochromus*
- T. hexaedrophorus* with 9 varieties
- T. krainzianus*
- T. lausseri*
- T. leucacanthus* with 3 varieties
- T. lloydii*
- T. longispinus*
- T. lophothele*
- T. macdowellii*
- T. nidulans*
- T. phymatothele*
- T. pottsii*
- T. rinconensis* with 3 varieties
- T. sanchezmejoradai*
- T. saussieri*
- T. schwarzii*
- T. setispinus* with 6 varieties
- T. tulensis* with 2 varieties

### References

Pilbeam, John. *Thelocactus*.  
Cirio Publishing Services Ltd.  
1996



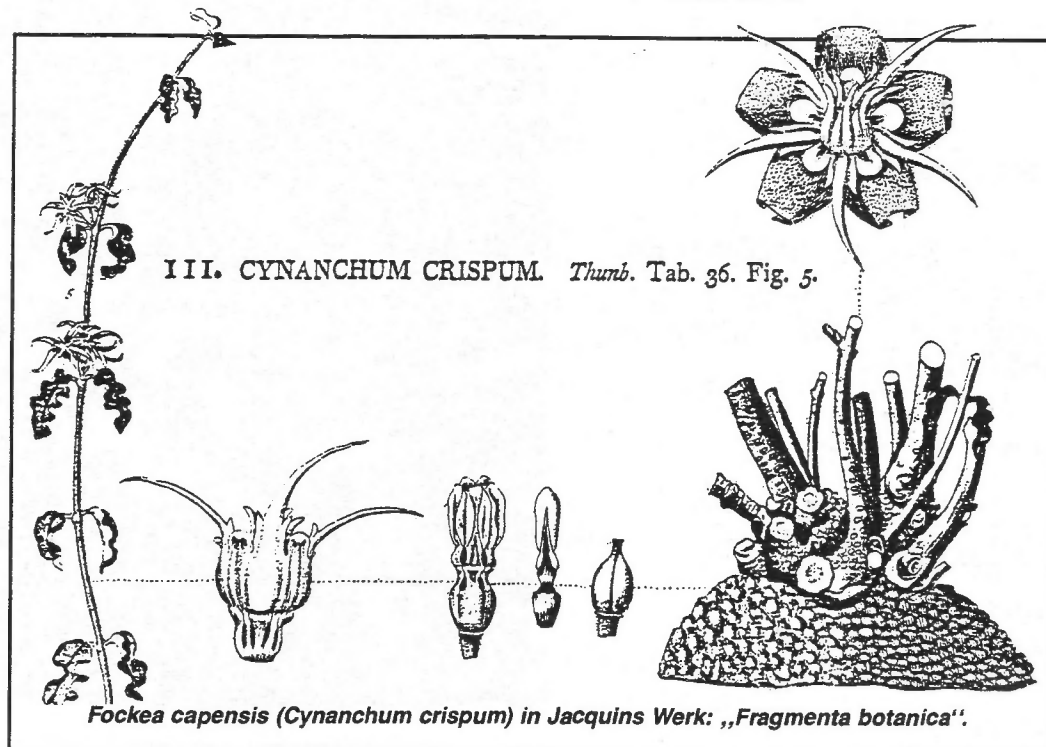
*Thelocactus rinconensis* var.  
*rinconensis*, in habitat.



*Thelocactus lausseri*, in  
cultivation.

# SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: *FOCKEA*

## BY MICHAEL BUCKNER



The family of the milkweeds known familiarly as the wax plants and the butterfly plants, is amazingly varied, complex and enigmatically beautiful. The Taxon comprises many succulent plants particularly in the tribe *Stapelieae*, the starfish flowers, well known by collectors of succulent plant anomalies. Taxa included in this large family are the interesting genera *Ceropegia*, *Brachystelma*, *Raphionacme*, *Cynanchum*, *Sarcostemma*, *Hoya*, and the wonderful massively caudiciform *Fockeas* of the tribe *Marsdenieae*.

The genus *Fockea* was erected to accommodate *Fockea capensis* (endl.) (K. schum.), in 1838 by Endlicher. The plant being described was the world's oldest potted specimen plant: this *Fockea capensis* has resided in the collection at Schönbrunn Palace Gardens, near Vienna, for almost 200 years, where it still flourishes today. This famous veteran of botanical history was field collected in South Africa by

Thunberg in 1794 and described as *Cynanchum crispum* Thunb. *Fockea* is named for an obscure plant physiologist, Dr. Gustav Waldemar Focke of Bremen, who published his botanical observations in a number of papers between 1832 and 1845.

These South African endemic fockeas are all remarkable in being caudiciform chamaephytes, which means that they possess a large turnip-shaped root or subterranean stem tuber. This tuber is made up of spongy parenchyma tissues capable of becoming engorged with water during the rainy season and then storing this precious commodity for use during the dry arid seasons, or years of prolonged drought, if necessary. Some fockeas have been found in nature weighing close to 100 pounds, and it has been determined from field studies in the Veld of the Karoo that fockeas grow slowly to great ages — two hundred years, or more.

Succulent of the Month: *Fockea* by Michael Buckner continued . . .

Fockeas in their youth usually grow in the shade of companion plants, trees and brushes like *Commiphora* species, *Terminalia prunioides* (Purple Pod), *Euclea undulata* (Guarri Bush), and *Euphorbia pentagona*. As they mature, the fockeas send up scandent twining, straggling or erect aerial stems, which can become so dense they sometimes strangle the support shrub to death. At other times, when rain has been scarce, fockeas are hardly detectable in the field. During times of severe drought they have the advantage of dropping (aridity deciduous) their leaves and dehiscing stems and branches. The tubers can stay alive for years and years, although their size and weight decrease appreciably.

The leaves are all simple and opposite, but vary in size and dimension. Some have entire and flat margins, while others have undulating and strongly crisped margins. The leaves are variable in many extended populations, which leads one to believe that there are many different species. As many as eleven species have been reported. Many of the intermediate conditions and variances can be assigned to geographic ecotypes of one highly alterable species. The matter of species verification still needs much field substantiation at this time to clarify the problematic taxonomy.

The flowers of the fockeas are typically bisexual, greenish white, regular, and nearly inconspicuous, with some exceptions. It is reported in Namibia, that *Fockea angustifolia* and its variety, *Fockea angustifolia* var. *volkii* have a spectacular flower, with

corolla lobes reaching up to 30mm in length. Also the long-petalled flowers of *Fockea angustifolia* from the northern areas (Botswana and Zimbabwe) have elaborate collars fringing the lobes of the corona. (G.D. Court, July 1987).



*Fockea multilora*. Drawn in the field in South West Africa by Yvert van Wijk. This stubby species lacks the thickened twining stems often encountered in mopane woodland. The plant is shown, also a flower branch and a caterpillar which feeds on it.

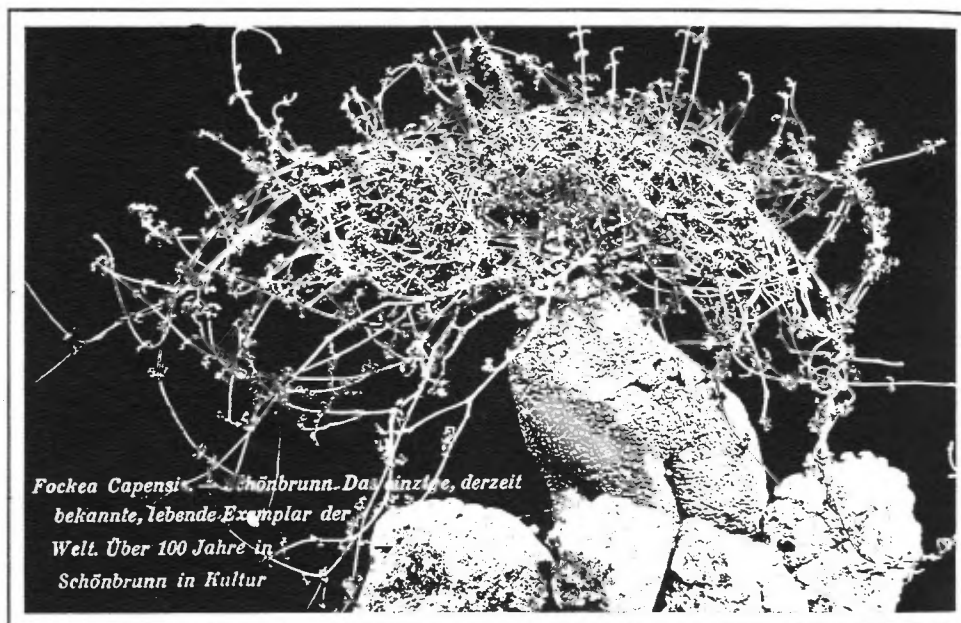
Reproduced from ASKLEPIOS 40, July 1987.

The spider-like flower of *Fockea comaru* is subsessile (almost without stalk) on a pedunculate cymose (a flat topped or round-topped determinate inflorescence, in which the terminal flower blooms first) cluster. I have not been able to determine fragrance, although my plants are visited by numerous small wasps and flies, and have glistening nectar. It is reported that the flowers of *Fockea edulis* are scented. Also, *Fockea tugelensis* is supposed to have a delicate, sweet scent reminiscent of jasmine (Jackson, 1973).

Although Gordon Rowley states in **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents** (1987, Strawberry Press) that, "The genus *Fockea* is now considered to contain about eleven species of which five are native to South Africa and the remainder to tropical and East Africa," most field researchers (in the modern era of taxonomic lumping) believe that there are five variable species and some questionable varieties as deduced when *Fockea* was revised in 1981 by G. D. Court's masters of science thesis at Rhodes University of South Africa.

In his thesis Court includes: *Fockea multiflora*, *Fockea sinuata*, *Fockea edulis*, *Fockea angustifolia*, *Fockea crispa*, and *Fockea comaru*, the latter being questioned as a southern representative of the phenotypically varying *Fockea angustifolia* complex. Court also mentions one variety of *angustifolia*, *Fockea angustifolia* var. *volkii*. *Fockea crispa* has, according to Nigel Taylor of Kew Gardens, been corrected to *Fockea capensis*.

In the United States plants have always been rare in collections until quite recently. In this decade *Fockea edulis*, *Fockea multiflora*, and *Fockea crispa* have become expensively available. Several fockeas have been distributed by the ISI (International Succulent Introductions which is now housed and distributed from the Huntington Botanical Gardens), including *Fockea crispa* (ISI 1757), *Fockea multiflora* (ISI 1758), and *Fockea edulis* (ISI 543). Burl Mostul of Rare Plant Research (New Mexico) has made available several species including *Fockea angustifolia*, and Chuck Hanson of Arid Lands Greenhouses (Arizona) has offered a few uncommon species.



*Fockea capensis* from a postcard published on occasion of the cacti exhibition at Schönbrunn in 1929. The legend reads '... The only living example known in the world at present. In cultivation a Schönbrunn for over 100 years.'

## Succulent of the Month: *Fockea* by Michael Buckner continued

Recently, Ernst Speks of Exotica, Erkelenz-Golkrath, Germany has made the unobtainable *Fockea comaru* available along with many other botanical rarities, albeit expensive. I have yet to see this species represented in any collection.

Fortunately for the many of us caudiciform lovers, these boulder-like plants are relatively easy of culture. A coarse gritty, well-draining soil medium that insures fast drainage along with providing warmth and dryness in the cold winter months is an absolute necessity. A complete low nitrogen fertilizer used in the spring insures good growth and ample foliage. An intermittent scalping of the scandent stems or a mechanism for twining foliage growth, such as, a driftwood branch or small trellis helps to keep the plant in form, subjective to the grower's preferences, of course. Propagation is easy from fresh seed, and growth of the common species is relatively rapid—filling a 6" pot in two to three years. Propagation can also be accomplished by keeping stem cuttings moist and warm. I have not tried this, since seed is proficiently available from my own plants. Good growing to all.

### Literature consulted:

Court, G. D. "*Fockea Endl — An African Genus*", ASKLEPIOS 40, July 1987, pp 69 - 74.

Harris, J. G. and W. H., PLANT IDENTIFICATION TERMINOLOGY - AN ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY, Spring Lake Publishing 1954.

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Jackson, A. O., "*Notes on a Transval Kambro*", ALOE, vol.II no.1, March 1973. pp 20-21

Marloth, Rudolf, "*Fockea*", FLORA OF SOUTH AFRICA, vol. 3, 1932.

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Mostul, Burl, *Rare Plant Research Plant List*, 13245 S.E. Harold, Portland OR 97236.

Hanson, Chuck, *Arid Lands Greenhouses Plant List*, 1360 W. Bilby Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746.



THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
PRESENTS ITS 27<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 5-11, 1997, IN SAN DIEGO

**C**OME JOIN THE FUN IN WONDERFUL SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, JULY 5-11, 1997, FOR THE CSSA'S MOST exciting convention yet! The convention will be held in the attractive Town and Country Hotel located in the Mission Valley area of San Diego. Situated

We continuously strive to enhance our convention program. We have added an additional day to the length of the convention to accommodate our new enlarged program. The convention starts off early on Sunday, July 6, with a special, not to be missed, bus/field trip to the CSSA National Show at the famous Huntington Botanical Gardens of San Marino, California. Later that evening, enjoy mingling with old friends at the "Welcome to San Diego Party" around the pool. The lectures begin first thing on Monday morning at 9:00 am and continue into the evening each day except Wednesday.

Take a look at the names in our speakers list: Steven Hammer, Dr. Ted Anderson, Steve McCabe, Sheila Collenette, Rudy Lime, Prof. Mats Thulin, Tony Miller, John Lavranos, Dr. Larry Mitich, Dr. Seymour Linden, Dr. Graham Williamson, Dr. Pierre Braun, Prof. James Mauseth, John Trager, Dr. Jerry Barad, Bob Jewett, Mac Clarke, Phil Peck, Jon Dixon, Myron Kinnach, and Dr. James Henrickson. You won't want to miss this!

We have also expanded the number of Wednesday bus/field trips from two to four. One will take you on a tour of the commercial succulent plant nurseries of north San Diego County (note: no plant sales). Another is to explore the wonders of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. We are also planning a special trip to Punta Banda, a distinct succulent plant habitat located in Baja California south of Ensenada. The fourth trip is to the famous San Diego Wild Animal Park with its extensive succulent plant gardens.

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THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
1997 CONVENTION PROGRAM

Saturday, July 5

12:00-5:00PM Registration

Sunday, July 6

9:00AM-5:00PM Registration

8:00AM-5:00PM Trip 1: CSSA National Show at the Huntington Botanical Gardens

8:00-10:00PM Welcome to San Diego Party

Monday, July 7

8:00AM-5:00PM Book and plant Sales

9:00-9:45AM Steven Hammer (USA). Adromischus and Tylecodon: An Underview

10:00-10:45 Dr. Ted Anderson (USA). The Cacti of the Galapagos Islands

11:00-11:45 Steve McCabe (USA). Dudleyas from Baja to Oregon

1:00-1:45PM Sheila Collenette (UK). Travels in Arabia

2:00-2:45 Rudy Lime (USA). Bonsai Succulents

3:00-3:45 Prof. Mats Thulin (Sweden). Plant Life in Arabia Felix

4:00-4:45 Tony Miller (Scotland). Succulents of Socotra - New Discoveries

6:30-9:00 Opening Banquet and Keynote Speaker

John Lavranos (Portugal). Madagascar: A Vanishing



Tuesday, July 8

- 8:00AM-5:00PM Book and plant Sales  
9:00-9:45AM Dr. Larry Mitich (USA). Movers and Shakers of the Succulent World, Part II  
10:00-10:45AM Dr. Seymour Linden (USA). Adventures in Sudan  
11:00-11:45AM Dr. Graham Williamson (South Africa). Trials, Tribulations, Colors, and Textures  
1:00-1:45PM Dr. Pierre Braun (Germany). Cacti of Brazil, Part 1  
2:00-2:45PM Prof. James Mauseth (USA). Cacti of South America, from sea to the mountain tops  
3:00-4:45PM John Trager (USA). Cultivation and Propagation Panel  
7:00PM - CSSA Rare Plant Auction. Dr. Gerald Barad, Chief Auctioneer, and Steven Hammer, Chief Procurer

Wednesday, July 9 - Free Time and Bus Field Trips

- 7:00AM-4:00PM Trip 2: North San Diego County Succulent Plant Growers Tour (includes a box lunch)  
7:00AM-4:00PM Trip 3: Huntington Botanical Gardens  
7:00AM-4:00PM Trip 4: Punta Banda, habitat tour in Baja California, south of Ensenada, (includes a box lunch)  
8:00AM-3:00PM Trip 5: Trip to the Wild Animal Park in San Diego  
8:00AM-5:00PM Book and plant Sales at the Town & Country Hotel  
6:00-6:45PM Phil Peck (USA). San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Those Glorious Epiphyllums  
7:00-10:00PM Affiliate Meeting, Rosalie Gorchoff, Affiliate Chairperson, and Presentation by Deni Plath of the 1999 Las Vegas Convention Site.

Thursday, July 10

- 8:00AM-5:00PM Book and plant Sales  
9:00-9:45AM Jon Dixon (USA). Members' Collections  
10:00-10:45AM Dr. Gerald Barad (USA). Growing the Stapeliads  
11:00-11:45AM Dr. Graham Williamson (South Africa). A Succulent Beauty  
1:00-1:45PM Myron Kimnach (USA). Cacti that Live in Trees  
2:00-2:45PM Dr. Ted Anderson (USA). Field Studies of Rare Mexican Cacti  
3:00-3:45PM Tony Miller (Scotland). Succulents of Oman - New Discoveries  
4:00-4:45PM Steve McCabe (USA). Succulent Flora of the California Channel Islands  
7:00-7:45PM Newsletter Editors Meeting, Mac Clarke, Chair  
8:00-8:45PM Cacti\_etc Meeting (USA). Bob Jewett  
9:00-9:45PM Round Robin Meeting, Mac Clarke, Chair

Friday, July 11

- 8:00AM-5:00PM Book and plant Sales  
9:00-9:45AM Sheila Collenette (UK). Some Succulents from Dhofar and Djibouti  
10:00-10:45AM Dr. Pierre Braun (Germany). Cacti of Brazil, Part 2  
11:00-11:45AM Steven Hammer (USA). New Mesemb Hybrids, Lobrids and Cultivars  
1:00-1:45PM Prof. Mats Thulin (Sweden). Botanical Treasures in the Horn of Africa  
2:00-2:45PM Prof. James Mauseth (USA). Why are cacti so weird and how did they get that way?  
3:00-3:45PM Dr. James Henrickson (USA). Anatomical Adaptations of Cacti  
4:00-4:45PM John Lavranos, (Portugal). Namibian Excursions  
7:00PM - Farewell Party. Hosted by the San Diego Epiphyllum Society

Saturday, July 12

- 6:00AM-NOON Morning Departure from San Diego

REGISTRATION FORM - YOU MAY MAKE A COPY AND MAIL, FAX OR E-MAIL IT TO THE CSSA.

TYPE OR PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS ONLY

First Name & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Fax/E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a CSSA Affiliate Delegate? (please circle) yes / no  
 List one local succulent society or club that you belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

A registration applicant can join the CSSA and save on the registration fees at the time he/she sends in the application. An applicant can also register his/her spouse/partner at the CSSA member rate if they are enrolled as a CSSA associate member.

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
NEW CSSA MEMBERSHIPS (JOIN AND SAVE)			
CSSA MEMBERSHIP - DOMESTIC		\$ 35.00	
CSSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR SPOUSE/PARTNER		\$ 10.00	
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM -			
CSSA MEMBERS		\$165.00	
NON-CSSA MEMBERS		\$225.00	
<u>LATE REGISTRATION, CSSA MEMBERS</u>			
<u>AFTER 4/15/97</u>		\$195.00	
<u>AFTER 5/15/97</u>		\$215.00	
NOTE - NO REFUNDS AFTER 5/15/97			
DAILY REGISTRATION - NUMBER OF DAYS:		\$ 45.00/DAY	
DATES ATTENDING:			
FIELD TRIPS AND FAREWELL PARTY			
SUNDAY, JULY 6, 1997 - THE CSSA'S NATIONAL SHOW:			
TRIP 1 - CSSA SHOW AT THE HUNTINGTON		\$ 35.00	
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1997 - CHOOSE			
TRIP 2 - NORTH COUNTY NURSERY TOUR		\$ 35.00	
TRIP 3 - HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS		\$ 35.00	
TRIP 4 - PUNTA BANDA, BAJA HABITAT TOUR		\$ 35.00	
TRIP 5 - WILD ANIMAL PARK		\$ 35.00	
FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1997			
FAREWELL PARTY		\$ 35.00	
TOTAL DUE (PLEASE ADD UP THE AMOUNTS AND FILL IN THIS BOX) .....			\$ .

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE CSSA. TO MAKE THIS FORM ACTIVE YOUR CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE THE DATES LISTED ABOVE FOR LATE REGISTRATION. CREDIT CARD USERS, PLEASE ADD THE INFORMATION BELOW:

MasterCard or Visa only. Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be faxed, mailed or compose an e-mail to the CSSA Treasurer listed below.  
 To pay for the 1997 CSSA Convention in San Diego please send payment to: CSSA Treasurer,  
 Mindy Fusaro, CSSA Treasurer/convention Registrar, P. O. Box 35034, Des Moines, IA 50315-0301, USA. Fax:  
 (515) 285-1523. E-Mail: MPFUSARO@AOL.COM or Visit our web page at WWW.HPL.HP.COM/BOT/CSSA

**Note:** This form will not reserve your room at the Town and Country Hotel. You must do this directly with them. The convention dates are July 5-11, 1997. If you need more information on the Hotel, contact a CSSA representative.

## Revisions to Our Bylaws - March 1997

Our bylaws have undergone several changes over the years. Revisions were approved in 1977 and 1988. The changes in 1988 helped us establish our nonprofit status. The proposed 1997 version clarifies and improves the rules that govern our society, and have been approved by the executive board.

A summary of the changes follows (the full text of the bylaws with deletions and additions is listed on the following pages):

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES, Section 2. The word, "demonstrating", was added to the second sentence. Section 3. The current policy of SDCSS allows members to join the club at any time, from that date they receive a years worth of membership privileges. The following proposal is recommended by the board to reflect this policy: "Membership shall lapse if not renewed within one month of a members anniversary date."

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS, Section 1. An "s" was added to the word "year" to make it plural. It now reads ... "two calendar years" ... and in Section 5. a similar error was corrected and an "s" was added to the word "record" so it reads ... "detailed records of income" ... . Section 6. of the old bylaws apply to the officers and directors (which is defined as the executive board) so it was moved down to ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD. Changes to this section are explained there.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD, Section 6. The words "the same" were added to the statement: "No officer or director shall hold more than one elective office nor shall any officer or director be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.". The board thought that this would take some of the ambiguity out of this statement. Some interpreted this as 'in the same office' others read it as 'never being able to serve as a director or officer again'.

The following changes to ARTICLE VII and ARTICLE VIII, are to enable SDCSS to hold its elections in November instead of December. Also, it changes the way the nominating committee is appointed.

ARTICLE VII - NOMINATIONS, Section 1. The date that the nominating committee is appointed moves to August and the executive board becomes responsible for appointing this committee. With these date changes the committee must submit a list of nominees by the October meeting. In Section 2. nominations from the floor are also to be held in October. This will allow all of the nominees to be published in the November newsletter.

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIONS, Section 1. Elections shall be held at the November meeting. This is the final step in the process of moving the elections to the November meeting.

ARTICLE X - STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 1. These changes reflect the current policy for standing committees and set up our plant exchange to include seed exchange as well. The last change ends the sentence, and reiterates that the president may form other committees as needed.

This is the last correction to the current proposed changes approved by the executive board. These amendments are submitted to the members for their approval as outlined in Article XII of the bylaws.

Respectively submitted by the Executive Board

## ***BYLAWS OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY***

### ▶ **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of the Society shall be San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.

### ▶ **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

It shall be a non-profit organization formed to promote knowledge, study and interest in cacti and succulent plants through educational programs, public exhibits, a public garden and sharing of this common interest.

### ▶ **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

Section 1. Any person or organization interested in cacti and other succulents shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Life membership shall be recommended by the executive board and conferred by majority vote of the members present at the regular meeting. Life membership in the society may be granted to a member **demonstrating** long and devoted service or outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge in succulent plants. Life members shall have all the rights and privileges of the society and shall not be required to pay dues.

Section 3. Annual dues shall be paid at the rate recommended by the executive board and confirmed by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting. Membership shall lapse if not renewed ~~by the February meeting~~ **within one month of a members anniversary date**. Reinstatement to regular membership will only be made by full payment of annual dues to the treasurer.

### ▶ **ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of the society shall be president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Their term of office shall be two calendar years and they will be elected on even numbered years.

Section 2. The president shall be the administrative officer of the society and shall preside at all meetings of the society and executive board. The president shall appoint such committees as may be needed to carry out the functions of the society on a continuing basis and other such committees as may be needed for special activities or for specific purposes.

Section 3. The vice president shall preside at the board meetings of the society and the executive board in the absence of the president. In the absence of both the president and vice president, a meeting chairperson shall be chosen by the executive board.

Section 4. The secretary shall record the minutes of the society and executive board meetings.

Section 5. The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies and keep current and proper detailed records of income, disbursement and cash; and be prepared to present a monthly summary at all regular meetings. After the last meeting of the year he or she shall prepare a written summary of the society's finances for the year which shall be examined by the executive board acting as an audit committee.

The treasurer shall establish an account in the name of the society in a bank approved by the executive board. The president and secretary shall also be made signatories to the account and shall act for the treasurer in the absence of the treasurer or for other valid reasons.

A mutually approved procedure for the approval of expenditures and allocations of the funds shall be established by the treasurer and president with the approval of the executive board.

~~Section 6.~~ [moved to **ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD** Section 6.]

### ▶ **ARTICLE V - DIRECTORS**

There shall be six elected directors. Their term of office shall be two calendar years and they shall be elected on the odd numbered years.

### ▶ **ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1. The executive board shall consist of six directors, the elected officers and shall include the immediate past president as an ex officio. The executive board shall be responsible for establishing the general policies required to carry out the objectives of the society and shall be empowered to act in the name of the society between meetings.

**ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD - *continued***

- Section 2. The executive board shall meet not less than once each quarter year upon two weeks notice of the president or a majority of the executive board members.
- Section 3. Six members of the executive board shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 4. Any member of the executive board who fails to attend two consecutive meetings may be removed from the executive board.
- Section 5. Any member of the executive board, including the president of the society, may be removed from office by a two thirds vote of the members of the executive board, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- Section 6. No officer or director shall hold more than one elective office nor shall any officer or director be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

▶ **ARTICLE VII - NOMINATIONS**

- Section 1. Not later than the regular ~~October~~ **August** meeting each year, the ~~president~~ **board of directors** shall appoint a nominating committee by majority vote. The committee will consist of not less than three or more than five members, and designate one to be a chairperson. The committee shall recruit one or more candidates for each office and each directorate due to be filled. The committee shall submit a written list of nominees to the members at the ~~November~~ **October** meeting.
- Section 2. Nominations from the floor at the ~~December~~ **October** meeting shall be accepted provided the member being nominated is present and gives his or her consent to the nomination or, if not present, has given his or her written consent to the nomination prior to the meeting.

▶ **ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIONS**

- Section 1. Elections shall be held at the ~~last meeting of the year~~ **November meeting**.
- Section 2. Newly-elected officers and directors shall take office at the end of the December meeting.
- Section 3. Should any office or directorate become vacant during the year, it shall be filled by the executive board.

▶ **ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS**

- Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held on the second Saturday afternoon of each month, unless otherwise scheduled.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be scheduled by the president or by a majority of the executive board upon two weeks written notice to the members.
- Section 3. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of 40 people of the voting power, represented in person.

▶ **ARTICLE X - STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Section 1. The standing committees of the society shall be: ~~education~~, conservation, education and exhibits, history, liaison, library, membership, plant and seed exchange, plant sales and supplies, programs, publicity, reception and regalement ~~and~~. The president may form such others as may be deemed necessary to conduct the business of the society.
- Section 2. The president of the society shall appoint all committees. The president shall also be an ex-officio member of each, except the nominating committee.
- Section 3. All committees shall have duties and responsibilities as outlined by the president and approved by the executive board
- Section 4. Reports shall be made by the committees as required by the president and the bylaws of the society.

▶ **ARTICLE XI - RULES**

Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall govern all points not covered by these bylaws.

▶ **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

The bylaws may be amended by recommendation of the executive board and a two-thirds vote of the membership present at the next meeting following the presentation in writing of the proposed amendment(s).

- 
- Proposed revisions presented to the membership in March of 1997.

# WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Michael Buckner

## Give Yourself a Huernia Grow Asclepiads.

— Official T-Shirt of the I.A.S.,  
(International Asclepiad Society)



### The Gentle Art of Stapeliad Watching

There are folk who have a notion  
That a free and frank devotion  
To the poor stapeliad  
Must be viewed as just too sad!

Huernia and Huerniopsis,  
Orbea and Orbeopsis,  
Caralluma, Trichocaulon,  
Names like this are most apallin'.

Shakespeare said a rose would smell  
By any other name, as well.  
Alas! The poor stapeliad  
By any name it smells as bad!

And even if their flowers show  
A sign of beauty, here's the blow.  
Such beauty's in beholders' eyes,  
Stapeliads attract the flies!

Thus say the folk who denigrate  
And simply cannot generate  
Happy feelings, nothing glad,  
For the poor stapeliad.

by Norma Hughes, Bulawyo, Rhodesia  
(from *ASCLEPIADACEAE* #18, Dec '79)

My own views on the nature of caudiciform plants and their evolutionary relationship with succulent plants were presented in print several years ago (Newton, 1974) . . . Briefly, I do not consider the tuberous plants that we call caudiciform to be succulent. I regard tuberous plants and succulent plants as representing two entirely different kinds of morphological specialization, having arisen from independent lines of evolution. A tuber is a starchy food-storage organ (in different plant groups derived from root tissues, stem tissues, or both) from which herbaceous shoots arises in the growing season. A stem-succulent has mucilaginous water-storage tissues in the stems, which are enlarged to accommodate the extra volume of the storage tissues.

Not only are the tuberous plants and stem-succulent plants different in structure, but they differ also in their mode of ecological adaptation. Both represent adaptations for surviving unfavorable seasons, in most cases a long dry season. Succulent plants can survive long periods of drought because the stored water prevents desiccation of the tissues (assisted by anatomical and physiological features that need not be detailed here). Tuberous plants, however, are drought evaders. The shoots die during the unfavorable season and new ones grow each year, at the expense of some of the food stored in the tuber.

L. E. Newton "*On the Evolution of Life Forms*",  
*asklepios* #26, September 1982.

# WISE AND OTHERWISE

## ONE NEVER KNOWS

A man from Djugga was married to two women and loved one of them much more than the other. One day his favorite wife fell sick. The other woman, who had always been very jealous, thought that this was a good opportunity to get rid of her hated rival. So she went over to the sick woman, who was lying in pain, and asked her, with feigned compassion, "How are you? Are you feeling better?"

"I'm afraid not," replied the other.

The jealous woman said, "Don't worry. I know of a medicine that will bring you relief."

The sick woman answered, "Spare your trouble; it isn't worth it. I'm afraid there's no help for me any longer."

The medicine the jealous woman had in mind was in reality a root which she had seen near the river and tasted, and which she had found so bitter that she was sure it was poisonous. She went down to dig out some of this root, took it to the sick woman, and boiled it up for her. The woman thought it was very good when boiled and asked for more. Soon thereafter, believe it or not, she felt much better. Her cramps stopped, and her head no longer spun.

When the jealous wife returned, she asked, "How are you now, my dear?"

"I am so grateful to you," was the answer. "I know I would not be alive now were it not for your medicine. Where did you find it?"

And so, it became known all through the land what a good medicine this root was. More and more people ate of it and found it extremely beneficial. It was not long before people planted it in their own gardens and harvested it regularly.

And so, you never know . . . !

— Tanganyika from *AFRICAN FOLK TALES*. 1963, edited by Charlotte & Wolf Leslau, The Peter Pauper Press, Mt. Vernon, NY.

For many years I have had a plant in my laboratory that each year is the scene of a remarkable performance. The star-shaped flower of this plant stinks of carrion. Soon after it has opened and allowed its unpleasant smell to flow out, flies arrive, scramble around for a while, and finally lay their eggs in the middle of it. This cactuslike African plant (*Stapelia*) has played a trick on the flies. With its dark-red color, the flower also looks rather like rotting meat, and it is entirely conceivable that its covering of hairs contributes to the success of the imposture as well. For the fly, this encounter has a fatal outcome; the larvae that hatch die of starvation. But the plant is pollinated by the fly as it crawls about. Here there is no question of life together for mutual advantage, of symbiosis. The plant is effectively a parasite of the fly.

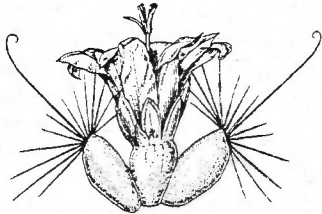
— Friedrich G. Barth from *Insects and Flowers - The Biology of a Partnership*. 1991, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

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