



MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
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PROGRAM:

Lee Phelps, PhD of Microbiology and Immunology, will present "How to Start a Succulent Bonsai". Fortunately, we have a member who is not only talented but very knowledgeable in the special field of bonsai. We have enjoyed Lee's mature bonsai plants in the past. This month he will demonstrate how to start trimming and shaping a plant into this artistic form. The plants he works with will be donated to attending members.

April 10th, 1976, 1:30 pm, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CACTUS OF THE MONTH : Parodia.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Kalanchoe.

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MEMBERSHIP: The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Dues: \$ 5.00 annually, due in December of each year.
Single copy of E y F : \$ 0.50.

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, 1:30 pm, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, unless otherwise indicated. Board convenes after the general meeting.

Deadline for May publication is April 16th, 1976.

FAVORITE PLANTS

Harry D. Stewart
Reprinted from CSIE
July '74

Sometimes a collector can still discover highly unusual plants in discount stores and department stores. One such unusual plant which I discovered in a discount garden store some years ago is Carruanthus caninus. The plant has highly succulent gray-green leaves, which are toothed in a manner similar to a Faucaria species. My plant rests in winter when it is kept very dry. During this time the upper leaf surfaces become quite concave. In spring and summer the plant may be kept fairly moist without danger. In the summer or early fall Carruanthus will bear 1½" or 2" yellow flowers. After emerging from a completely dry rest for four months, my plant produced its first flower during the second week of May. Propagation is by cuttings and seed. The plant is native to Cape Province, Africa.

One of the most unusual plants in my greenhouse was given to me by a good friend. I have not found Cussonia kraussiana listed in any of my books, although Jacobsen's DAS SUKKULENTEN LEXIKON lists three species which are native to tropical Africa and Madagascar. These plants must be kept in a warm greenhouse. In the winter I keep C. kraussiana fairly dry. Under these conditions the caudex becomes slightly spongy to the touch. In the spring and summer the plant is watered at regular intervals, and the caudex becomes quite firm. The plant seems to be a fairly rapid grower, and its unusual form almost always attracts attention.

Euphorbia cooperi is still uncommon in collections, although it is a beautiful plant and more tolerant of neglect than are most of the other species in this genus. I received E. cooperi as an unrooted cutting three years ago. In a month's time the plant had rooted, but it refused to make new growth. During the spring of the next year it produced one new segment. Last year it refused to do anything. Such behavior appears to be very unusual since the plant is reported to grow over thirty feet tall in the wild and to grow readily in cultivation. Perhaps this year shall be different, for the new growth began immediately upon the resumption of watering this spring. Even though this plant has not proven to be a rapid grower in my collection, it is highly valued.

Haworthia ferox is one of my favorite Haworthias. Its stiff rosette consists of many tapering, bristled leaves bearing tiny teeth. The leaves also bear hemispherical tubercles on both sides. While the flowers, like those of most of the genus, are not particularly distinguished, the plant itself is quite an individual. Unfortunately, it does not appear to offset readily, for my plant has remained a single rosette for two years. This species should be protected from the hot, burning sun and should be kept moist while in growth during the spring and summer. I found during this past winter that water does not appear to damage Haworthias to a great extent. This species, along with about thirty-five others, was planted last summer in the ground bed of my greenhouse. At that time I was unaware that this part of the bed was rather low. During a winter deluge the water came through into the greenhouse and flooded the floor to a depth of several inches. Subsequent heavy rains did the same thing.

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PARODIA

Another in the group of southeastern and south-central South American globular cactus genera that include Notocactus, Frailea, Uebelmannia, and Blossfeldia, Parodia is distributed through northeastern Uruguay, northern Argentina, Paraguay, southern Bolivia, and southern Brasil. As with these other related genera, these plants are primarily found under shrubs or other foliage so that, regardless of temperature, they are protected from direct sunlight. Indeed, Parodias left exposed in greenhouses will burn quite readily.

Parodia species range from small to moderately large (2-8 mm in diameter) and are globular to briefly cylindrical. Most species are non-caespitose and bear numerous tuberculate ribs with long, hooked or straight, and often wildly twisted spines originating from the areoles. The smallish flowers occur apically and are yellow, orange, or red. Flowering and most growth occur in late spring and summer. Although Parodia species can be divided into those with "large" seeds and those with small seeds, most species have quite small seeds and many have seeds so minute that they are called "dust-like". This feature, combined with slow propagation from seeds and the rarely offsetting nature of most species may explain the limited number of species propagated widely.

Culture generally presents few problems if the soil medium used allows extremely good drainage. The only problems with Parodias are their susceptibility to fungal infection if kept too wet and the tendency to burn as noted above.

In recent years the number of species and named varieties has increased at a rapid pace. When the genus was first described by Spegazzini in 1923, only three species were assigned here; in 1945 Borg listed 28 species; Backeberg listed 130 species in 1962. Since that time numerous names (ostensibly good species) have been added to this list through the work of plant-explorers such as Frederic Ritter and the late Martin Cardenas.

Favorite Plants, cont'd:

The Haworthias turned a beautiful, bright green and began flowering in late winter. The plants were firm, and apart from one or two burst leaves on the windowed species (caused, no doubt, from their absorbing too much water), most plants were in better condition than they had been previously, when I watered only to prevent the leaves from dying back from lack of moisture. Haworthia ferox appears to be one of those species which benefit from more water in the winter.

Tephrocactus articulatus var. inermis should be included in every collection. This plant is a member of a group which has almost globular stem segment. In time it will form a clump. The earlier name, strobiliformis, means shaped like a pine cone, and the nearly spineless segments do bear a great resemblance to such cones. The stem segments are dark blue-gray, and like most blue-gray cacti, it is a slow grower. This Tephrocactus requires good light and cool, dry conditions in the winter.

KALANCHOE

Family CRASSULACEAE

This interesting group of plants actually circles the world: Africa, Madagascar, South Arabia, India, China, Malaysia, and Tropical America. With Over 200 species this is not the largest genus of plants, but its confused nomenclature has caused some interesting discussions.

At one time there were three separate genera:

KALANCHOE (kal-an-koh'-ee) with erect flowers (i.e.: K. tomentosa).

BRYOPHYLLUM (bry-oh-fi'-lum) with pendent flowers and often producing plantlets along the edge of mature leaves (i.e.: K. mon-gini, K. tubiflora).

KITCHINGIA (ki-ching'-ee-ah) with pendent flowers and the antlers attached to the upper flower petals (i.e.: K. complanata, K. peltata).

In 1907, R. Hamet, in his monograph of the genus, placed all three names under Kalanchoe. Today most botanists generally accept this classification. The same three names were kept as SECTION names, and here is where the problem begins.

Like cities, plants in a genus are divided into 'sections'. Here in San Diego we have 'Old Town', 'Balboa Park' and 'Mission Bay'. The genus Kalanchoe has the 'sections' Kitchingia, Bryophyllum, and Kalanchoe. You can call your 'Bryophyllum' by that name if you want to, as long as you know that it is a Kalanchoe.

Kalanchoes come in many types and sizes. From the tree-like K. beharensis, through the bush-like K. blossfeldiana, to the vine-like K. jongmansii. The leaves can be felt-covered, (K. tomentosa), or spotted, (K. marmorata), or covered with white powder, (K. pumila).

Most species flower freely in the winter months, and the white, pink, yellow or scarlet flowers last a month or more. The felt-leaved plants like full sun, but most other species prefer some shade. Protect them from frost in the winter and give a little less water when they are in flower.

The plants are mostly easy to grow and very easy to propagate from cuttings or leaves. In fact, the species that produce plantlets along the edge of the leaves can become a weed and difficult to control.

Bring some of your Kalanchoes in for a visit. Let's see how many kinds we have here in San Diego.

GARDEN HINTS

The Government Printing Press supplied the following excellent garden hints in "Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday" using products supplied by Mother Nature.

Keeping The Bad Bugs Out. . .Naturally

An invasion of aphids on your fruit trees or an encampment of slugs around your lettuce patch needn't send you running to the nearest garden shop for one of many broad-spectrum insecticides. Our grandparents raised bountiful gardens without the use of pesticidal chemicals, and there are many lessons we can learn from them about sensible stewardship of the land. The information that follows was prepared in the hope that more people would concern themselves with living environmentally sound lives by helping to restore the the natural balance to their environment. . . and still have bumper crops of more healthful, better-tasting fruit and vegetables.

I. *Interplanting*

Border planting and interplanting crops in specific combinations can help eliminate many varieties of insect pests from your garden.

- *Marigolds*: Rid the soil of nematodes and Mexican bean beetles. Grow marigolds where tomatoes and eggplant are to go the next year. In the fall, dig in the plant residue or leave as a mulch through the winter. The factor that kills the worms is produced slowly in the roots of the plants and gradually released into the soil. Therefore, the good effect of interplanting marigolds may not show the first year.
- *Nasturtiums*: Deter aphids, squash bugs, striped pumpkin beetles. Grow between vegetable rows and around fruit trees.
- *Rosemary*: Deters cabbage moth, bean beetles, carrot fly. Plant around your vegetable garden.
- *Sage*: Deters cabbage moth, carrot fly. Plant with rosemary, cabbage and carrots; keep away from cucumbers.
- *Chives*: Keep Japanese beetles at a healthy distance from raspberries and grapevines.
- *Onions*: Deter most pests.
- *Mint*: Deters white cabbage moth and ants. Plant alongside members of cabbage family.
- *Soybean*: Shields corn from chinch bug. Plant in alternate rows with corn.
- *Garlic*: Repels aphids from roses, fruit trees, cabbages. Plant the cloves near these flowers, fruits and vegetables.

II. *Homemade Insecticides*

Common plant oils, foodstuffs and household items can be extremely effective in the treatment of insect infestations. They can be used as sprays, dusts, bait or as rinses and baths.

To make a spray from plant oils, chop or grind plant and add equal part of water; strain, if necessary; and mix with emulsifiers, such as fish oil and liquid soap. As oil tends to separate out, use the spraying solution as soon as possible.

- A *strong soap and water* solution sprayed on affected plants will rid them of aphids and mites.
- *Garlic oil* spray is effective against onion flies, aphids, thrips and ermine moth. (Onion and chive solutions are also effective.)
- *Mineral oil* applied to corn silk with an eyedropper (wait until silks have turned brown) will eliminate corn earworms.
- Some organic gardeners have discovered that insecticides can be made from *local plants*, often weeds, that are resistant to the infestation. Ask a local organic gardener for advice on types of plants to use.
- *Table salt* sprinkled on slugs and snails is lethal.
- *Hot pepper, salt and sour milk* spray has proven effective on cabbage maggot.
- Shallow saucers of *beer* sunk to soil level lure slugs to their death.
- *Coriander and anise oil* emulsified can be used to kill aphids and mites.
- *Hot pepper* spray works well on ants, spiders, tomato worms and caterpillars.

CEREUS-LY SPEAKING

A very attractive arrangement of plants at the March meeting was displayed by Jeannie Merrill filling one table while Doris Rake and Vie Siegert shared one table displaying an equally attractive arrangement.

And again, as every month, a thank you to the Regalement Committee for some delicious goodies: Jean and Leta Hapeman, Jeanne Hoffman, Nellie Kennett, Rick Latimer, Ruth Larson, Verna Pasek and Dorothy Ronske.

Of special interest is the "1976 Carlsbad Holiday Flower Show", Saturday, April 24, and Sunday, April 25, presented by the Carlsbad Garden Club at the Plaza Camino Real, Highway 78 and El Camino Real, Carlsbad, upper level, West end. There will be a large cacti and succulent division, sponsored by the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society. Categories are: Cacti, including normal individually potted specimens, crested or monstrose, grafted and collection; Succulents other than Cacti, including normal individually potted specimens, crested, grafted, variegated and collection. Dishgardens, Miniature Landscapes, Bonsai, Caudiciforms, Hanging Planters and Arrangements displaying cacti and succulents will also be featured. Entries will be received Friday, April 23, 5 to 9 pm, and Saturday, April 24, 7:30 to 9:30 am, judging to take place promptly at 10 am, April 24. For further information with regards to the individual classes please contact Mrs. Arthus Wollrich, 4150 Skyline Rd., Carlsbad, 92008, Tel. 729-3184; or Mrs. William Barlow, 5039 Tierra del Oro, Carlsbad, Te. 729-2433.

Audrey Justus, one of our active members, underwent surgery and at last report is on the way to recovery. It is always encouraging to receive get-well cards; here is her address: 4840 Circle Drive, San Diego, Ca., 92116.

Among special events to look for in the near future are: possibly a walking tour through Quail Garden instead of our regular May meeting at Balboa park. Hopefully, details will be available at the April meeting. Also, the San Diego Zoological Society is offering special botanical tours of the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park. These tours are privately conducted and are not available to the general public. The collection of exotic plants almost rival the collection of animals. This tour could be a group activity arranged through our Society or you may wish to join other groups. For information and reservation please call Mrs. Mary Lou Umland, Group Services Office, San Diego Zoo, P.O. Box 551, San Diego, Ca. 92112, Tel: 714--234-5151.

Our on-again, off-again cactus garden at Balboa Park appears to be on again at this time. As details become available you will be kept informed.

Arrangements for the DelMar Fair are getting along fairly well: Perlso Lewis reports she has the workers and the plants but NO CHAIRPERSONS. In order to be a chairperson, all you have to do is boss other people. How about it, any volunteers?? Once again, Perlso's phone number: 583-9085.

Our monthly plant sales table is in need of donations. If you have a couple of extra potted plants looking for a home, please bring them with you.

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SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Officers

PRESIDENT - Martin L. Mooney, 97 K Street, Chula Vista, Ca. 92011 427-6796
1ST V.P. - Madelyn Lee, 2310 Bella Vista, Vista Ca., 92083 1-727-1364
2ND V.P. - Reed Pierce, 3525 Wilshire Terrace, San Diego, Ca. 92104 291-1994
SECRETARY - Doris F. Rake, 4410 38th Street, San Diego, Ca. 92116 282-1722
TREASURER - Russel Evans, 3115 Nile, San Diego, Ca. 92104 284-5859
CORR-SEC. - Jeanie Merrill, 9306 Mesa Vista, La Mesa, Ca. 92041 469-6014
PAST PRES. - Loyal Bibbey, 490 Citrus Ave., Imperial Beach, Ca. 92032 423-5133

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1-year term: H. Warren Buckner and August Pfeiffer
2-year term: Mary L. Birchell and Perlso Lewis
3-year term: Shirley Berry and Thomas Hamecher

COMMITTEES FOR 1976

ACTIVITIES - Perlso Lewis
EDUCATION - Madelyn Lee, Succulents, Dr. George E. Radwin, Cacti
EXHIBITS -
LIBRARY - Edith Werner, Pat Mooney, Helen Hegyi and Mike Johnson
MEMBERSHIP - Russel Evans
PLANTS AND SUPPLIES - Reed Pierce
PROGRAMS - Madelyn Lee
PUBLICATION - Augie Pfeiffer, 5163 E. Bedford Dr., S.D., Ca. 92116, 280-4444
RECEPTION - Lucile Beckfield and Edith Billmyer
REGALEMENT - Jean and Leta Hapeman
Rep. to S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anders
Rep. to S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

Cereus-ly Speaking, cont'd:

Ruth Stanton sends word that she is moving and has to sell many of her plants. She wants Society members to have first choice and invites anyone interested to get in touch with her: 3156 Harding, Carlsbad, Tel.: 714--729-6022 before 9 am and after dark.

THE BARTER BOX

This is a new addition to the monthly bulletin that has been on the editor's mind for some time. Space permitting and on a first come first serve basis this column will publicize "Buy - Trade - Sell" items pertaining directly to our hobby.

Nellie Kennett - 477-7857
buy or trade
Ceropegia ballyana and C.fusca

Shirley Berry - 756-3659
has 7 binders for ASPS
Journals, Vol. 1-7 --
will sell for \$ 5.00 or
trade. (Fri-Sun).

Cont'd back page

The Barter Box, cont'd:

Bill Nelson - 298-3349

will trade: Selenicereus Pteranthus;
Trichocereus, var.
Harrissia regelii
2 other Cereus.

Good sized, in tubs.

For: good clay pots, all sizes down to 4 inch.

~~Augie Pfeiffer~~

~~5163 E. Bedford Drive
San Diego, Ca. 92116~~

~~Address correction requested~~