

MAMMILLARIA THORNBERI

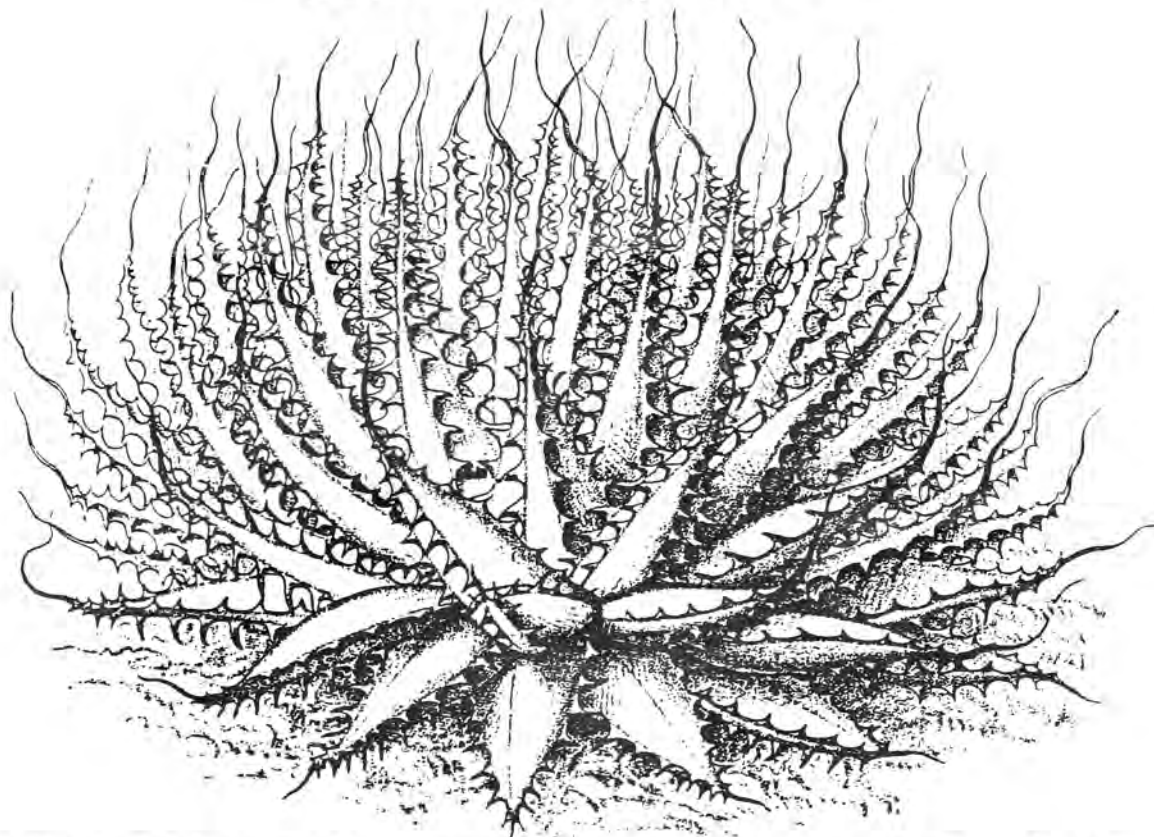
Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, INC.
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER FIVE, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1994 @ 1:00PM

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER SIX, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 4-5, 1994 @ 10:00AM

ANNUAL SHOW AND PLANT SALE June 4 & 5, 1994



San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

ROOM 101

Casa del Prado

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO, CA

Saturday, June 4, 1-5 p.m.

Sunday, June 5, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

OUR FOUNDER
CLEOVIS HARDIN
FOUNDED MAY 6th 1961

and Succulent Society

LIFE MEMBERS

WILLIAM* AND RUTH NELSON
PERSO LEWIS
BOB AND SUZANNE* TAYLOR
WALTER* AND HAZEL* SCOTT
OLIVER* AND SOPHIE LOYLAND
TROY SHIPMAN*
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PHYLLIS FLECHSIG
FLOYD GABLE
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* signifies deceased

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1991-92 MICHAEL BUCKNER
1993-94 JOSEPH BETZLER





PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR 1993 TROPHYS BACK AND GIVE THEM TO SHOW CHAIRMAN JOEY BETZLER @ THE MAY MEETING!!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SHOW & SALE - PLEASE CALL MICHAEL OR JOYCE WITH PREFERRED DAYS & HOURS FOR SHOW SALES ASSISTING - WE NEED CASHIERS, SECURITY HELP, PLANT INFORMATION SPECIALISTS, HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANTS, CLEAN-UP, COOKS & BOTTLE WASHERS!!!!!!!

*** YOUR ORGANIZATION NEEDS YOUR HELP***
*** PLEASE VOLUNTEER***

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETING IN JUNE AS WE HAVE OUR ANNUAL SHOW & SALE. OUR USUAL JULY PICNIC & RARE PLANT AUCTION HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SEPTEMBER. THE JULY SPEAKER WILL BE MYRON KIMNACH, CURATOR EMERITUS OF THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, AND PRESENT EDITOR OF THE CSSA JOURNAL. MYRON'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO MADAGASCAR. WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN ROOM 101, CASA DEL PRADO, ON JULY 9TH @ 1:00 FOR OUR REGULAR MONTHLY SATURDAY MEETING. THE CACTUS OF THE MONTH WILL BE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NATIVE CACTI BY DYLAN HANNON AND THE SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH WILL BE BRACHYSTELMA BY ALAN WEISS.

BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR APRIL 1994:
JUDGED BY SDC&SS LIFE MEMBER FLOYD GABLE

CACTUS:

FIRST PLACE: PHYLLIS FLECHSIG'S *Mammillaria spinosissima*
SECOND PLACE: JOSEPH QUIJADA

SUCCULENT:

FIRST PLACE: KAY QUIJADA'S *Tillandsia stricta*
SECOND PLACE: AMNA CORNETT'S *Echeveria lauii*
THIRD PLACE: AMNA CORNETT'S *Pelargonium crassicaule*

OUR PROGRAM FOR MAY:

SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL, OUR GRANDMASTER, RUDY LIME, WILL GIVE A SLIDE SHOW LECTURE ON ALL OF THE FACETS OF TRAINING YOUR SUCCULENTS IN TRADITIONAL BONSAI FASHION. LEARN TO SELECT PROPER MATERIAL, TRIM ROOTS & STEMS, AND TO WIRE & STAGE YOUR PLANT TO THEIR OPTIMUM POTENTIAL. ALSO, IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A HANDS-ON-WORKSHOP: BRING YOUR HAND CLIPPERS AND COME TO ROOM 101, CASA DEL PRADO - EARLY 10:00AM FOR A WORKSHOP WITH RUDY LIME AND MICHAEL BUCKNER. PLANTS AND SOIL WILL BE PROVIDED - \$10.00 FEE. YOU CAN STYLE YOUR OWN PLANT. WE WILL HAVE ALL SUPPLIES, EXCEPT A DESIRABLE CONTAINER (WE WILL HAVE SOME AVAILABLE FOR SALE) FOR YOUR EDUCATION. THIS SHOULD BE A LOT OF FUN - DON'T MISS OUT. THIS WORKSHOP LIMITED TO TWENTY PEOPLE - SEVEN HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP.

LOTUSLAND BUS TRIP JUNE 18th

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1-2) BP | Jerry & George Plaisted | 23) BP | Anne Stewart |
| 3) BP | Michael Cullen | 24-25) LC | Boecky & Stan Yalof |
| 4) BP | *John Mavis | 26) | *Dennis Miller |
| 5-6) BP | Elizabeth & Wilbur Glover | 27-28) | *Deena & Ken Altman |
| 7) LC | Phyllis Flechsig | 29-30) | *Lee & Pam Badger |
| 8) | *Joe Kraatz | 31-32) BP | Donald & Gail Bamber |
| 9-10) LC | Debe & Edward DeLollis | 33-34) | *Rebecca & John Rodolff |
| 11-12) BP | Michael & Joyce Buckner | 35) | *Betty King |
| 13-14) BP | Tom & Laura DeMerritt | 36-38) | *Kelly, Adele & Sean Griffin |
| 15) | *Judith Hannula | 39) BP | Rick Latimer |
| 16-17) BP | Warren & Virginia Buckner | 40) BP | Elizabeth Athy |
| 18) LC | Alan Weiss | 41) BP | Rick Plant |
| 19) BP | Carol Jean Wolcott | 42-43) | *Kenny & Gloria Graham |
| 20-21) AG | David & Kathe Roberts | 44) BP | Ellen Holman |
| 22) | *Cynthia Carlson | 45-46) | *Dennis & Carolyn Sharmand |
| | | 47) | *Bill Byron |

*** Please Note If there is a * by your name - call Joyce @ 222-3216 - we have a question re: your lunch or your pick-up spot! Thanks - this is gonna be a terrific trip!**

Please start saving small carry-out boxes for our June plant sale on Saturday & Sunday!!! We always run short - Please help out!!!

🌵 NEW MEMBERS 🌵 APRIL-MAY 1994 🌵 WELCOME 🌵 WELCOME 🌵 WELCOME 🌵

LARRY GRAMMER
 RUDOLF PATINO
 ROGER MONTANUS (CALCACTUS)
 JIM & PEGGY BURLEY
 BERNICE LADROOT
 SUE PERKINS
 CATHERINE MCCAMMON

EDSON HENDRICKS
 RICK & MARILYN NEWCOMER
 LYNN ELLIOT
 FRANKIE CABASAL
 SALLY HOLMES
 CAMILLE RUTKOWSKI
 BILL BYRON

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FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE WRITTEN OR INQUIRED ABOUT OUR STEPS TO PRESERVE OUR LIBRARY BOOKS - YOU CAN ORDER LIBRARY SUPPLIES, INCLUDING PROTECTIVE BOOK JACKETS /COVERS FROM:
 GAYLORD BROTHERS, INC. LIBRARY SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT, 1-800-448-6160, BOX 60699, LOS ANGELES, CA 90060 OR BOX 4901, SYRACUSE, NY 13221 FOR YOU EAST COAST AFFILIATE LIBRARIANS.

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MILESTONES & TUMBLEWEEDS

"I expect to pass through this world but once, and good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."
Stephen Grelley

With great sadness that we must write of the passing of Rose D'Attilio. She along with her husband Anthony (Tony) D'Attilio have been SDC&SS members for many years. Rose loved everything that was Natural history related. She had a wonderful collection of succulents, shells and fossils & minerals. For sixty + years she served as both inspiration and foundation for Tony's many talented artistic endeavors. I will always remember fondly her brilliant happy eyes and her lovely childlike smile. Good bye, Rose. We'll miss you.

David Grigsby of Grigsby Cactus Gardens in Vista, also a lover of Natural history and an avid collector of minerals, fossils, and of course, succulents, has passed away after a long bout with Alzheimer's Disease. David was a wonderful supporter of the San Diego organization donating plants and his time freely. He was a Fellow of the CSSA. His kindness and immense cacti knowledge will be missed. Farewell, David.

We are pleased to announce that after triple by-pass surgery Kay Quijada is convalescing well. Hope you are feeling even better than ever soon, Kay! We all look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!! Take it easy now - save those prize-winning Brag Table plants for the June Show!!!

We also hope to see Brent McCowen at the next meeting - Brent we heard through the grapevine that you just did a little hospital time! Hope you are feeling fit and feisty, us usual, now!!

OFFSHOOT BOTANICAL TOURS continues to offer free plant walks in Balboa Park every Saturday as a volunteer service to the public. On the fourth of each month SDC&SS member Susan Hopkins leads the group through the Desert Garden maintained by the park and the artistic ability of Lit Phan and others. Tour starts at the Botanical Building at 10:00 am. Tours are free and last approximately an hour. Tours are cancelled due to rain or lack of attendance - the later we hope never occurs, as this is truly a lovely specimen garden. For additional information contact horticulturist Kathy Puplava at (619) 235-1114.

I am very pleased to announce that the 1997 CSSA National-International Convention will be held at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. It may seem like a long lead time for preparation, but we are already planning and preparing for this auspicious event. Please contact Michael Buckner with you ideas and input. Committees will be forming soon and all volunteers are welcome. Call Michael or Joyce 222-3216.

CALPAW is now on the ballot and will need even more intensive volunteer work to pass. If you can donate any time to help proposition 180 - The California Parks & Wildlife Bill, please call Berth Mckinley @ 270-9573, or Kathryn Lodato, Legislative Advocate for the California Native Plant Society (916) 442-6388. Vote YES on 180 on June 7th, and tell your friends. Proposition 180 provides \$2 Billion statewide for environmental projects - including over \$120 million in San Diego County. If we don't do it now, it may be too late!

JULIAN WILDFLOWER SHOW is now on from May 7th through May 15th from 10:00am to 4:00pm on weekdays, and 10:00am to 5:00pm on weekends. If you have never been - you have missed out - as this is both tremendously educational and enjoyable. For information call 765-2142.

The **CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY of AMERICA** will present its 29th Annual Show & Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens on July 2nd and 3rd. Information can be obtained by calling Show Chairman Joe Clements (714)676-6126 or Duke Benadon (805)526-8620. Sales chairman is Jim Hanna (310)920-3046. This is a major show - one of the very best in the world and should not be missed for its beauty of plant material as well as the artistic staging. This is the first year at the Huntington Botanical Garden. Please participate if you can - don't miss this terrific show!!!!

BALBOA PARK INFO - You can tune your radio to AM1610 for Balboa Park Traveler Information services, parking availability, daily activities, and special events. The construction continues on our Botanical Building with replanting scheduled for this summer; the building should be open to the public in early Fall.

We have a new policing team in the Park, which will be fully implemented this summer, quadrupling the number of officers assigned full time to the Park. The officers will be among the most mobile in the city, as they will be on horseback, bicycles, and in four-wheel-drive vehicles. There has already been a marked decrease in crime in Balboa Park thanks to the combined efforts of the Balboa Park Rangers, the S.D. Police Dept, the U.S.Border Patrol, and the Sheriff's Dept. We are USA's sixth largest city and we are still working hard to become "America's Finest City". Remember when visiting the Park, never leave anything of value visual in your car. Carpool, if you can - what a pleasant way of making new friends.

THE GENUS WILCOXIA

by Dylan P. Hannon

In common with other cactus genera we have all become familiar with over the years, the various species of *Wilcoxia* have all been recently reassigned to different genera, in this case *Echinocereus* and *Peniocereus*, leaving yet another old friend in the dust-bin of cactus nomenclature. Yet the features emphasized by Taylor (1985) in transferring some of the species of *Wilcoxia* to the rank of section under *Echinocereus* would seem to bear out his assertion that these plants share much more in common than they do apart from each other. These shared similarities include general morphology of the flowers, fruits, seeds, pollen, spination and epidermal appearance of the stems. The most striking differences between *Wilcoxia* and typical *Echinocereus*, i.e., the thin, semi-climbing stems and tuberous roots of the former, being so obviously different and readily observable, have served to perpetuate Britton and Rose's narrow concept of this group as a distinct genus. It is worth noting that the type species of either the genus or section *Wilcoxia*, *E. poselgeri*, was originally described by Lemaire in 1868 under *Echinocereus*, to which standing Taylor has rightly returned it to.

It is important to note that the transfer of three of the species of *Wilcoxia* (see below) to *Echinocereus* does not mean that these taxa are now 'merely' members of the latter genus. The 'hidden' categories of subgenus, section, series, etc., are an important reflection of the care taxonomists take to put things into some sort of order which hopefully reflects the phylogeny, or natural history, of a given group as well as serving to give scientists and layman alike a useful classification scheme. We may still bandy about names such as "*Wilcoxia*" or "*Sulcorebutia*", but it must be realized that such names may be considered to rank below the status of genus by modern standards,



Stem with fruits of *Wilcoxia viperina* var. *tumentosa* from Las Cactaceas De Mexico.

based on more recent research and field work. Probably no one would argue that the cacti have not been overly split into a plethora of genera over the last thirty or so years, and while it could not possibly please everyone, the lumping process goes on. As a qualifier, one is tempted to add "reasonable" lumping, in order to avoid a full pendulum swing back from the previous hair-splitting insanity.

Wilcoxia was conceived in 1909 (Britton and Rose, 1909) and was named for U.S. Army General Timothy E. Wilcox, "for many years an enthusiastic student of plants". For an overview of *Echinocereus*, with diagnostic characters of the various sections, etc., the reader is referred to Taylor (1985). The species treated in this same reference as comprising *Echinocereus* Section *Wilcoxia* are as follows, with notes taken mainly from this same source:

1. *Echinocereus leucanthus* N.P. Taylor (syn. *Wilcoxia albiflora* Backeb.). Mexico: SW Sonora (south of Guaymas) and NW Sinaloa (near Los Mochis), at low elevations near the coast. Root-system dahlia-like; stems very slender, 3-6mm diam., up to 30cm long, with 8 ribs and minute white spines less than 1mm long. Flowers funnelform, 2-4cm long, to 4cm in diameter, interior off-white with brownish and pink highlights.

2. *Echinocereus poselgeri* Lemaire (syn. *Wilcoxia poselgeri* (Lemaire) Britt. & Rose). U.S. and Mexico: S Texas, E Coahuila, N Nuevo Leon, N & SW Tamaulipas, at low elevations and up to 1150m in the Chihuahuan Desert. The type of the Section (or genus) *Wilcoxia*. Root-system dahlia-like; stems firm, 1(-2) cm diam., clambering up to 120cm, with 8-10 ribs and radial spines less than 5mm long (central spine to 9mm long). Flowers funnelform, to 6cm long and 7cm in diameter, sweet scented, interior pinkish magenta. Further synonyms: *W. kroenleinii* A. Cartier, apparently only a higher altitude form (to 1150m) from the Chihuahuan Desert of an otherwise low elevation species;



Large stem and tuber of *Wilcoxia schnollii* from Las Cactaceas de Mexico.

W. tuberosa Kreuzinger, an illegitimate name published in 1935; *W. australis* n.n., a name found in horticulture, of no botanical standing; *W. tamaulipensis* Werd., described in 1938, is tentatively placed here, pending rediscovery of wild material-- based on Werdermann's description, this plant differs from *E. poselgeri* most notably by having 5-10 central spines (vs. central spine single).

3. *Echinocereus schmollii* (Weingart) N.P. Taylor. Mexico: SE Queretaro, at (1200-) 1800m. Rootstock singular, napiform. Stems soft, solitary or sparingly branched, 1.1 (-2)cm diam., 15 (-25)cm long, with 8-10 ribs and soft, hair-like spines to 7mm long. Flowers funnellform, 3.5(-4)cm long, to 5cm in diameter, interior rather pale to bright pink. Synonyms: '*W. nerispina*' hort. ex Backeb., an invalid name, has been placed here in the CITES Checklist (1992).

The remaining species previously grouped within *Wilcoxia* have been placed in *Peniocereus*, as follows:

<i>W. diguetii</i>	= <i>P. striatus</i>
<i>W. lazaro-cardenasii</i>	= <i>P. lazaro-cardenasii</i> *
<i>W. mariana</i>	= <i>P. mariana</i>
<i>W. papillosa</i> Britt. & Rose	= <i>P. viperinus</i>
<i>W. striata</i> (T.S. Brandegee) Britt. & Rose	= <i>P. striatus</i>
<i>W. tomentosa</i> Morelos	= <i>P. viperinus</i>
<i>W. viperina</i> (Weber) Britt. & Rose	= <i>P. viperinus</i> **
<i>W. zopilotensis</i>	= <i>P. zopilotensis</i>

This list is taken mainly from the CITES Checklist, which regrettably does not give authors for published names.

* Also placed under *Neoevansia*. This genus has apparently been sunk wholesale under *Peniocereus*, although the CITES Checklist does not give all epithets formerly described under this name (e.g., *N. diguetii*). Similarly, this article does not attempt to record all combinations published for the genera involved, but rather to account for specific epithets which have been used under the name *Wilcoxia*.

** A further synonym is *Cullmannia viperina* (Web.) Distef.

This second group of species differs from *Echinocereus* Sect. *Wilcoxia* in having flowers with a more slender perianth tube and a pale colored (vs. green) stigma, different pollen, elongate, pointed fruits, much larger seeds, distinct spination and "a conspicuously papillose-pubescent stem epidermis, which appears to be unique within the cereoid cacti" (Taylor, 1985). Interestingly, the dahlia-like root system and the napiform, solitary root morphologies both occur in *Peniocereus* and in Sect. *Wilcoxia*, and in *Peniocereus* diurnal as well as nocturnal flowered species are found. Taylor (1985) notes that the thinner stems and more branched habit (e.g., *P. striatus*, *E. leucanthus*) and thick, fewer stems (e.g., *P. greggii*, *E. schmollii*) apparently correlate with the dahlia-like and napiform roots, respectively.

The cultivation of these plants is not nearly so complicated as is their nomenclature. As with many cacti, they enjoy heat all year round, though they will tolerate frosty winter nights provided they are sheltered in a dry place. In Southern California, an unheated greenhouse is an ideal location. Moderate watering is called for in spring and summer, when the plants are in active growth. Since good flowering is dependent upon healthy, substantial growth during the previous season, it is important to give wilcoxias and their kin ample room for their tuberous roots, and these species benefit in particular from the use of broader than tall pots or, better still, being grown in planter beds in the greenhouse or conservatory, where they can enjoy a free root-run and the climbing stems can ramble through neighboring plants or a supporting trellis and reach up to viewing level to show-off their beautiful flowers. In containers, the plants seem to like being at least a little on the pot-bound side, a preference they share in common with many other cacti. In contrast with most of the other species, *E. schmollii* is a dwarf plant with a napiform, solitary rootstock, and is well suited to cultivation in a small pot. The remaining former wilcoxias, as well as members of *Peniocereus*, will need at least a 6" or 8" pot to grow in when mature.

References for Cactus of the Month can be found on page 13.



Wilcoxia viperina var. *viperina* demonstrating tuberous Dahlia-type tubers.

Alternatively, these rather off-beat cacti can be grafted very successfully, where they tend to branch more readily and become more floriferous. To deal with the very slender stems of these plants, one method for grafting them is to slice stems of the scion lengthwise, then place the half-stem onto the freshly cut stock. By grafting, one is able to bypass the maintenance of the bulky tuberous roots that the plants normally possess, but since this same attribute is to some people one of their more appealing interesting features, this approach may be a trade-off for some folks. And yes, the napiform-rooted species can be at least semi-caudiciformized by gradual exposure and clipping off of secondary roots. The dahlia-rooted types can also have their fascicled roots partially exposed, but such specimens are generally rather unattractive.

Propagation by cuttings presents no problems, and cuts are best made just before the plants break dormancy, in late winter or early spring. Cuttings should be allowed to heal for 1-3 weeks before striking in potting mix, to which some extra material for drainage, such as perlite or pumice, may be added. Growing species of the *Wilcoxia* alliance from seed is not difficult either, with sowing done from late winter indoors to early summer outdoors or under cover. I tend to keep my summer-growing plants, including first year seedlings, very dry in winter, with only a few light waterings during this 3-4 month period, an *E. schmollii* has not appeared to resent this treatment thusfar. With the napiform-rooted species, growing from seed gives a stronger, more attractively formed rootstock than cutting grown plants, much in the same way that it is preferable to grow other caudiciforms from seed, such as *Monadenium magnificum*, various cucurbits, etc. Cutting grown plants will, however, produce swollen roots of interesting shapes within a few years.

As for pests, mealybugs (root, spine and 'normal') are the chief predators of wilcoxias in cultivation, and they can wreak havoc with species such as *E. schmollii*, where they can hide easily among the whitish to blackish hair-like spines. Regular pest management, especially with a mixture of rubbing alcohol and dishwashing liquid (more of the former than the latter!) is generally adequate to keep clean plants clean; doses of stronger medicine, such as Malathion, may be called for when the infestation is more severe. It was interesting at the last meeting to hear Marilyn Henderson relate that she uses rubbing alcohol straight from the bottle to control plant pests, with no ill effects to her plants. I've heard from other growers that this strong formula can cause a burn effect on some plants, especially those with pronounced, thin leaves (*Pachypodium*, *mili*-type euphorbias, etc.). When you experiment with different concoctions at home, especially with common household ingredients available to the average grower, write down what works for you under your

conditions. Equally important, keep track of what doesn't work for you. Include notes on time of year and what species you are using the various compounds on, and what pests you are treating, and send it in to Espinas y Flores. We can learn a lot more from each others' mistakes and successes than we can on our own!

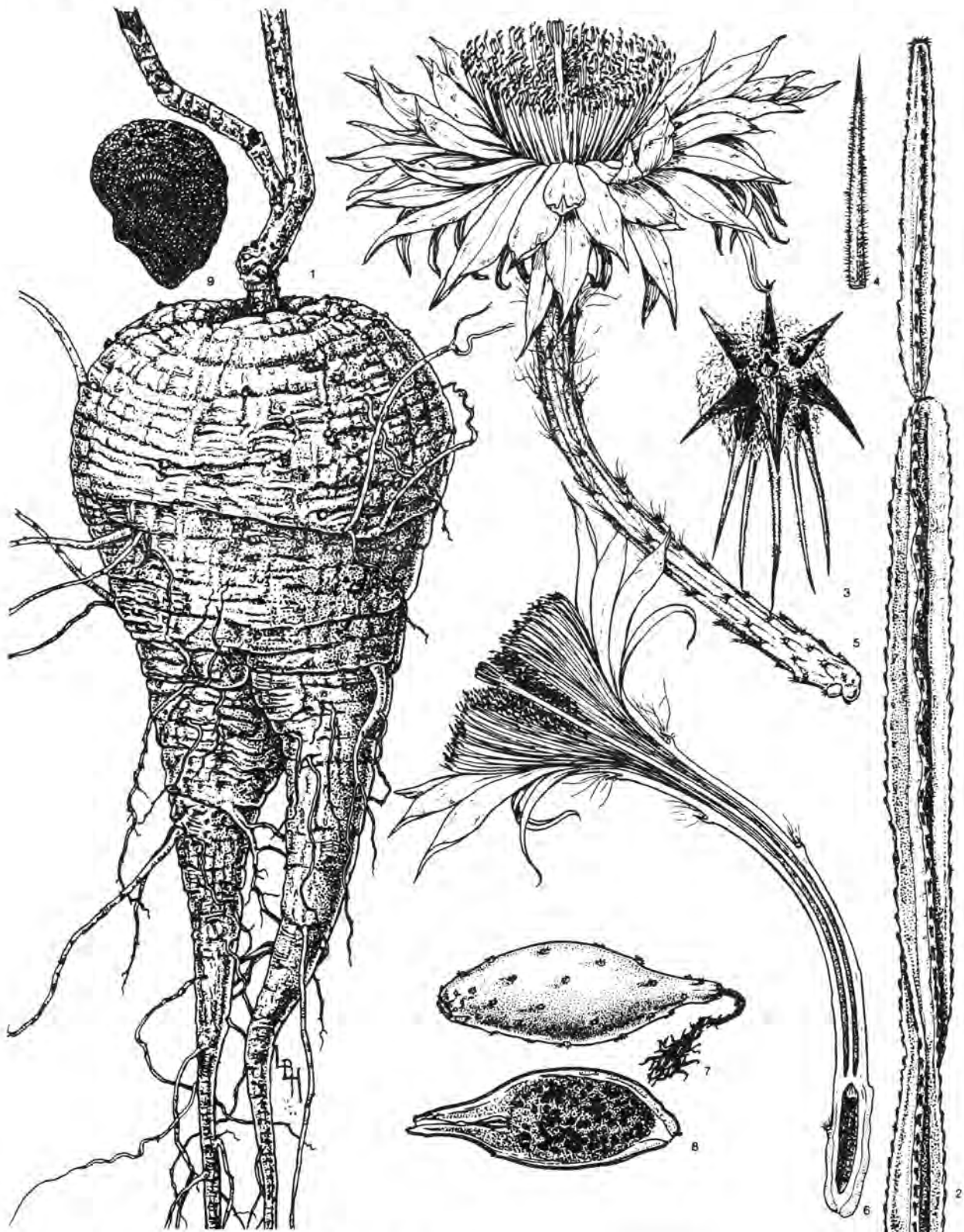


Fig. 631. Desert night-blooming cereus, *Cereus greggii* var. *transmontanus*, $\times 8$, except as indicated. 1, The tuberous root and the slender cylindroid base of the stem, natural size. 2, Strongly ribbed upper portion of the stem, $\times 6$. 3, Areole with spines and wool, $\times 11$. 4, Tip of a spine from lower side of areole, the spine pubescent, $\times 22$. 5, Flower. 6, Flower in longitudinal section. 7, Fruit (red). 8, Fruit in longitudinal section. 9, Seed, $\times 10$.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, our June show is approaching very fast (set-up on Friday June 3rd, open on the 4th and 5th). We need helpers to attend: membership table, cashiers, security people, answer people and other positions. Please help, we plan on making this the best show and sale yet! We will initiate at least one new award this year, maybe two: For the best plant grown from seed and exhibited by its grower, and the 'peoples choice' award. The 'seed grown' award has sponsors, but if someone would like to help financially with the other award please let me know.

Now for those of you that just want to do more for the society there is the Del Mar Fair. Again this year we will be exhibiting as the SDC&SS. The area this year will be larger and will be a garden theme. Talk with Michael Buckner about plans and to find out where you can help. We won many of the possible awards for displays in our division and plan on doing so again.

The 1997 Cactus and Succulent Society will hold its 1997 convention in San Diego. The convention will be at the Town and Country Hotel complex in Mission Valley. Workers will be needed in 1995 to start the ball rolling on the details.

Have I used the word volunteer yet? Well we have several people that have been working consistently at the Baja Collection and I will mention them Chris Jensen has been doing a great job on the annual cruciferous herbage eradication (he has been weeding). Actually so has Stan Yalof and his wife Boecky. Stan, Boecky and Chris; thanks for the outstanding effort. Others are welcome, just call me.

Not to distract from the Baja collection, but . . . the Aloe collection has been taking shape as of late thanks to Dylan Hannon's contribution of over 20 Aloe specimens. Also, thanks are due to Phil Favell for his advice and the Staff of the Wild Animal Park. They could use some enthusiast helpers too (no Chris you have to stay with the Baja collection).

Kelly Griffin and I shucked seeds a few weeks ago for several hours. Kelly is in charge of our seed exchange (he started it). I learned that *Fouquieria (Idria) columnaris* seeds are very small. He also lectured me on the evils of storing seed in plastic bags and containers. Do not do it, use something that breathes so the fungi do not grow. At this time our seed exchange is open to anyone. Seed can be traded or packets are available for \$ 0.50 each.

This seed exchange goes along with our new sales policy:

The San Diego and Cactus and Succulent Society encourages the propagation and culture of succulent plants and their conservation. In order to promote these goals the society will not allow the sale of field collected materials at its functions. All sellers at SDC&SS events will insure that the stock for sale is of cultured plant material.

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society wants to reward growers for making the

The President's Message continued

effort to propagate and increase the number of plants in the world. By joining with us our members will recognize your effort in conservation and propagation of these fascinating plants.

If you would like to sell items at our annual sale please contact an officer or board member, and we will send you a package

Now a word about communication via e-mail; There is a group of over 100 people (and growing) that are exchanging information on the internet. There are people in the UK, New Zealand, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Japan and the US that are exchanging messages. The topics range from diatomaceous earth, plant pests, various genera to conservation. To sign up you have be able to receive e-mail (if you do not know what it is ask). Then send this exact one line message out over the internet:

address: listserv@opus.hpl.hp.com
one line message: subscribe cacti_etc firstname lastname

The subject field is unimportant and the program figures your address automatically. Substitute your first and last name. There is no charge to sign up, you just need the equipment or accesses to it. Want to learn more about this system call, write or e-mail me (jabetzler@aol.com). We have Bob Jewett and his associates to thank for maintaining this system.

Lastly, I was saddened to here of the passing of David B. Grigsby on Saturday April 16th. I learned a lot from him over the years and he was a good man. I will miss his wit and laugh.



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE EDITORS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: M & J BUCKNER, ESPINAS y FLORES, 4822 SANTA MONICA AVENUE, #103, SAN DIEGO, CA 92107 Newsletter editors whom we exchange with - please input this new address ASAP - we miss hearing from you!!! Thanks!

Each issue of Espinas y Flores has a SDC&SS June Show & Sale Poster - Please post it in your workplace or other suitable location where it can be seen by many new potential members & cactophiles - Thank you!!!



References for Cactus of the Month - the Genus Wilcoxia by Dylan Hannon

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SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: TREE ALOES

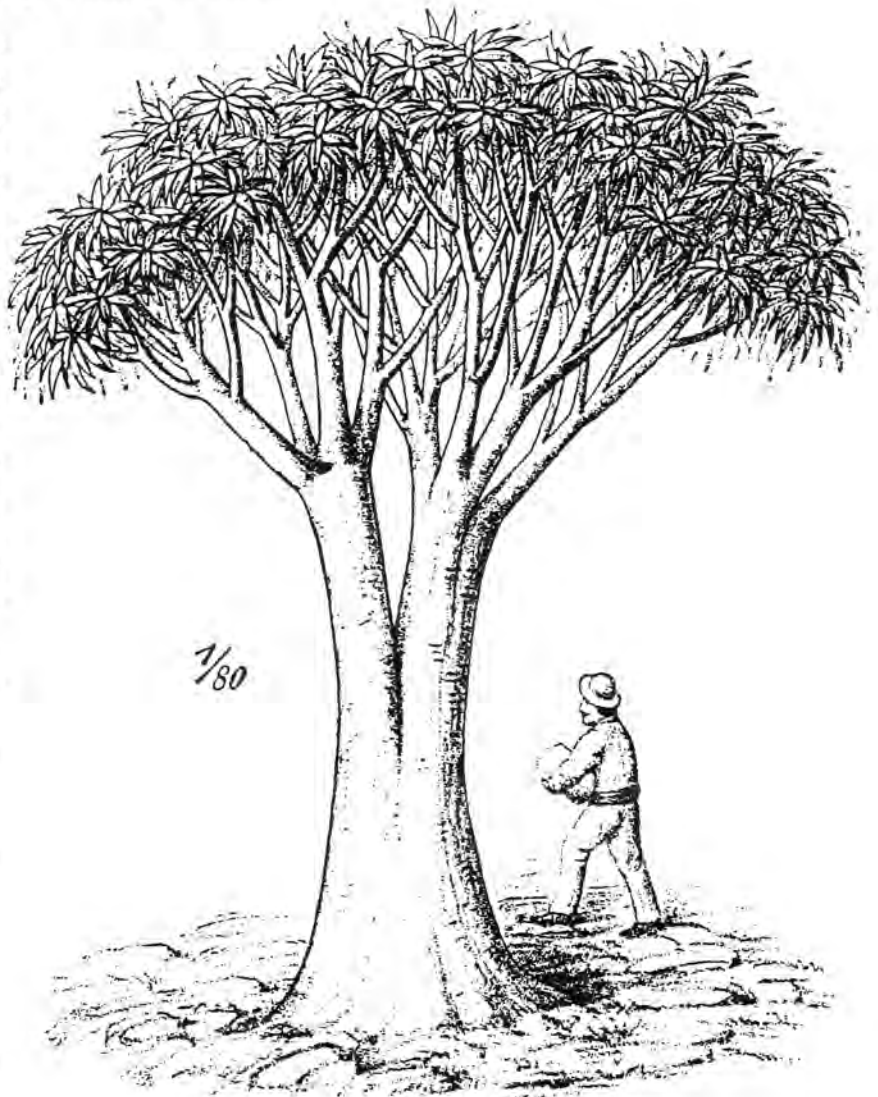
by Philip Favel

Of all the seemingly endless variety of plants that gardeners in southern California have to choose from, there is perhaps no genera as showy, as easy to grow or with more variation than the genus *Aloe*. With over 380 species now described and more being discovered all the time, Aloes are truly the monarchs of the garden. Aloes range in size from rosettes the size of a silver dollar to trees 60 feet tall.

Undoubtedly the most stately of the genus are the tree Aloes. There are numerous tree Aloes from the Republic of South Africa north into Namibia and along the East Coast of Africa north to the Arabian Peninsula. A number of beautiful species also arise on the island of Madagascar. This article will discuss a few of the more common tree Aloes.

The tallest and perhaps the most majestic of all the Aloes is *Aloe bainesii*. Specimens in South Africa can reach to nearly 60 feet, however, in southern California gardens these tree Aloes are usually 30 feet or less. *Aloe bainesii* is a massive plant and specimens need to be given lots of room. Not only is this a tall plant, but a wide and much branched species with a very fat trunk. It often grows in wooded areas and receives considerable summer rain and heat. In the landscape, plants enjoy generous summer irrigation, but must have good drainage. *Aloe bainesii* flowers in winter; colors range from bright clear pink through salmon to orange.

Aloe dichotoma is another fascinating tree Aloe that will attain considerable proportions. Specimens of the species can reach up to 20 feet tall and are endemic throughout portions of the winter rainfall region from Namibia south into the Republic of South Africa. *Aloe dichotoma* is easy to grow but mature plants must not be watered during the summer. As this is an Aloe from a winter rainfall region plants want to have a dry resting period in the summer and will invariably rot if this rule is not followed. Good drainage is also important. This species flowers in mid-winter and the perianthus are a bright lemon yellow.



Aloe bainesii *dyer* described originally in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* (1874). Illustration from *Das Pflanzenreich, Liliaceae-Asphodeloidae-Aloineae* by Alan Berger, a rare book published in German in 1908. Collection J & M Buckner.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: TREE ALOES

Similar to *Aloe dichotoma* but much less common is the gorgeous *Aloe pillansii*. In its natural habitat huge, gaunt specimens dot the hills and mountains from the Richtersvelt across the Orange River into Namibia. Individual specimens can reach 30 feet, but 20 feet is more common. To the gardener, *Aloe pillansii* presents some challenges. Like its relative *Aloe dichotoma* it is a winter grower. It is also much slower in growth and less tolerant of overwatering. *Aloe pillansii* flowers in spring and the pendant inflorescence carries a multitude of bright yellow flowers.

Gardeners are probably most familiar with *Aloe ferox* and its close relative *Aloe candelabrum*. Both species are very similar and when not in flower are difficult to tell apart. *Aloe candelabrum* typically has longer more vase-shaped leaves and the perianthus have white tips whereas in *Aloe ferox* the tips are brown. Both species are very easy to grow and respond well to generous summer water and fertilizer. In winter they can tolerate a fair amount of frost without damage.

Aloe marlothii and *Aloe spectabilis* are another pair of Aloes that are common in southern California gardens. It is virtually impossible to tell these species apart until they flower. The rosettes are identical. Both have deeply channeled leaves with numerous prickles on the top as well as the bottom surface. *Aloe spectabilis* has yellow to yellow-orange flowers that grow upright on a massive inflorescence. The tip of the perianthus is glossy black. *Aloe marlothii* also has a massive inflorescence but the flowers grow upright like birds sitting on a clothes line. Both species are easy to cultivate and flower readily from mid-winter through spring. They enjoy a rich, well drained soil with ample summer water.

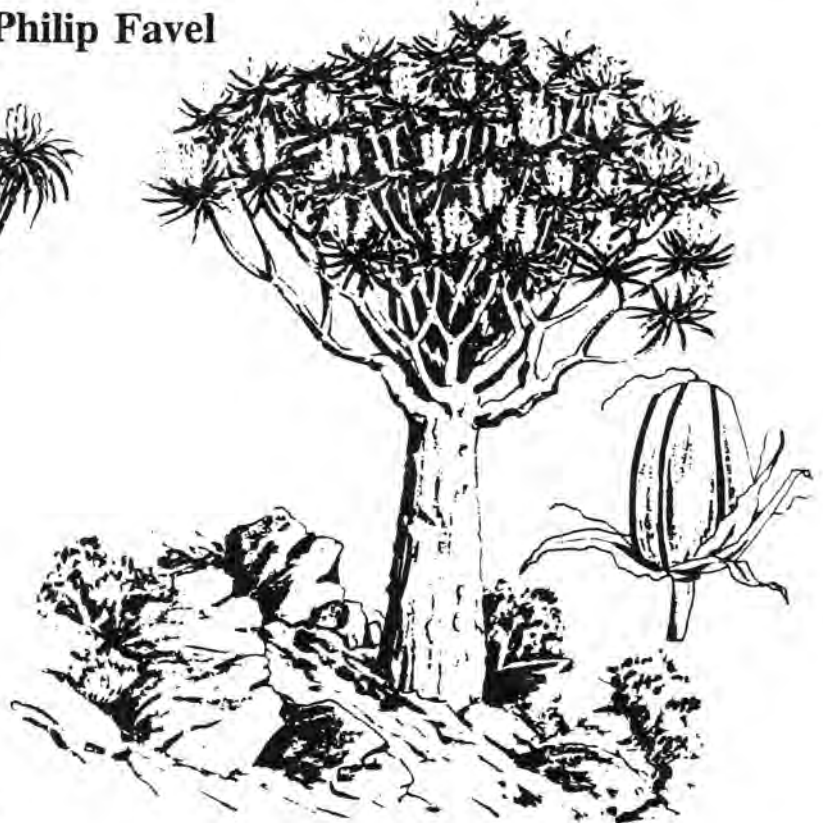
On the island of Madagascar there are several lovely tree Aloes. One of the most eye-catching is *Aloe vaombe*. This tall Aloe has shiny dark green leaves during the summer growing season. During winter when plants are at rest and flowering, the leaves often turn a rich reddish color. This in combination with the very bright reddish orange flowers makes for a fabulous sight. *Aloe vaombe* cannot tolerate much cold, but otherwise is easy to grow. It enjoys a fair amount of summer water and a rich well-drained soil.

With the increasing popularity of Aloes it is hoped that many more succulent enthusiasts will use tree Aloes in their landscapes.

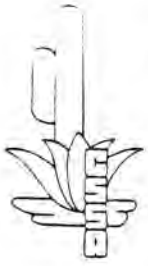
by Philip Favel



ALOE BAINESII Th. Dyer



ALOE DICHOTOMA Masson



THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA
(INCORPORATED)

A NON-PROFIT TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

Section of Plant Biology
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

19 April 1994

Michael Buckner
4822 San Monica Avenue, #103
San Diego, CA 92107

Dear Mike,

It was great seeing you at the Town and Country resort last week and to witness your unbridled enthusiasm for the upcoming 1997 CSSA convention. The Town and Country is such a great facility and it will help make the '97 convention a memorable one.

During our round table discussion at the Lanai Coffee Shop following our tour of the facilities, you presented a list of activities that the CSSA could (and should) do in conjunction with the conventions and at other times, too. I was very impressed with what you presented. Great thinking and foresight on your part! Since these ideas should not be allowed to die on the vine, I strongly recommend that you type up that list and send copies to Mary Jo, Seymour, Richard, Chuck Hanson, and me, among others.

As historian I would be involved in some of the projects on your list, namely the oral histories. I checked with a man who heads the oral history project at UC Davis. Several oral histories have been made with some of the old guard professors. Unfortunately there are no printed guidelines to assist in making an oral history, but I jotted down several pertinent points to consider when making an oral history as we talked on the phone. I will go to his office in a few days to look at a couple of books that may contain useful information. I will also call Dick Blanchard, a retired librarian and a friend, who has been involved in making one-hour oral histories. I feel he will have good advice for us.

Keep up the good work and the enthusiasm!

Sincerely,

Larry W. Mitich

The
**Epiphyllum Society
of America**

cordially invites you to attend the

**35th Annual
Flower Show**

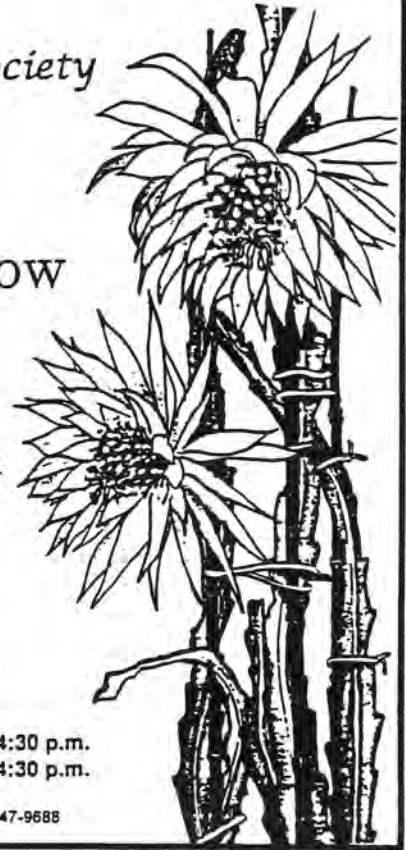
Sunday, May 22, 1994

**Los Angeles
County Arboretum
Ayers Hall
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, California**

- ✓ Plant & Cutting Sale
- ✓ Ongoing Demonstrations on Epiphyllum Culture
- ✓ Commercial Growers' Displays
- ✓ Photographic Presentations

**Show Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sale Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

For additional information call: (818) 447-9688



THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Seymour Linden, 1535 Reeves St., Los Angeles, CA 90035
310-556-1923

April 25, 1994

Bob Reidmuller
Altman Plants
3742 Blue Bird Canyon Rd.
Vista, CA 92084

Dear Bob:

I recently (4/15) visited your facility with Michael Buckner and several members of the CSSA Board of Directors. We enjoyed seeing part of your huge and successful cactus and succulent growing operation. Certainly the most impressive we have seen - ever!!

Thank you for your courteous reception. Some of us would dearly love to come back with a little more time to sample a few seedlings and to see your other facilities. We hope that we can call on you again.

It was very exciting to see such a huge operation. Many of us remember the bromeliad nursery and Deenas offering of a few succulents and cactus. Please convey our sincere congratulations and thanks to the Altmans as well.

We will have our 1997 Convention at the Town and Country in the summer of 1997 and perhaps we can visit once again.

Sincerely,

Seymour Linden,
Corresponding Secretary

cc: Michael Buckner, Dr. Barad.

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**The Huntington Botanical
Gardens
20th Annual
Benefit Plant Sale**



**SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1994
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**New and unusual shrubs, trees & vines
Outstanding selection of cacti & succulents
Great roses, old and new**

**A wide selection of choice and unusual perennials and herbs
Bamboos, bromeliads, bulbs, orchids, houseplants, palms, ferns and tropicals**



**New this year: a selection of excellent
garden hand tools**

A preview sale for Huntington support groups will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For information on joining one of our support groups, please call (818) 405-2290. Memberships also available at the door.

Also new this year and available after April 15, by mail or in our bookstore, will be a descriptive catalog of many of the unusual plants which we have offered for sale over the last 20 years. To obtain a catalog by mail please send \$3.50 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling to Plant Sale Catalog, The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

TRAVELS OF THE TIRELESS TERMITES

VISITING RAINBOW GARDENS AND C & J CACTUS GROWERS

by Stan Yalof

On March 10th, Michael Buckner, Rick Plant, and I met up at Rainbow Gardens in Vista. Owners, Chuck Everson & Jerry Williams, were not there that day, however, Chuck had left some surplus technical books and pamphlets some written in Japanese, for the Packrat Buckner Library. [ed.note: where do you think we get all those great illustrations?]

Michael bought some books from their extensive bookstore. Rainbow specializes in Epis', Hoyas, and related hanging plants, but of late has been expanding their succulent selections with reasonable priced Euphorbias, Crassulas, and exotica. Michael selected some arboreal cacti and a variety of large Kalenchoe. I bought a variety of Aloes and a handsome *K. beharensis*.

We were ready for lunch at nearby Chic's, a flavorful chicken emporium. During our power lunch, we Termites chatted, looked over books, and planned for the SDC&SS's Del Mar Fair Exhibits. I passed articles to Michael for possible inclusion in Espinas y Flores. As Termites, we call this "tunneling" rather than networking, schmoozing, klatsching, etc.

Recharged, we drove a mile to C & J Cactus Growers, an abbreviation for owners Carl Volkers and Jim Kampwirth. C & J are commercial wholesale growers of succulents, with a heavy emphasis on Cactus. Like all the growers I have met, they are knowledgeable and love their occupation. Phyllis Flechsig once mentioned to me that these gentlemen have the skill to make rare species common.



'these gentlemen have the skill to make rare species common'

C & J have about a dozen large greenhouses and perhaps 100 or so cold frames. The greenhouses include two specimen stock houses, a heated germination house, a clump plant house, and growing houses. Emphasis is on flats of 3" to 4" pots, but biggies are sometimes available inside and outside. As you look through the houses you encounter many wonderful plants with a wild variety of flowers. Many of the plants are endangered - thanks to Carl and Jim they are receiving needed propagation. Jim does the pollinating, spending several hours each day tickling pollen from the stamens of his flowering charges with a pocketful of tufted paint brushes. This goes on day and night. Jim mentioned that he can detect and identify many of the plants by the odor of their flowers. Interesting!

TRAVELS ... continued by S.Yalof. . . .

I would guess that Mammillaria make up the greatest variety of their species. God must have loved Mammillarias most, because She made so many of them.

These are busy people. I was only able to pick up scraps on their work. I know that they started about 20 years ago, are generous in disseminating their knowledge, and enjoy most of their work, with the possible exception of filling our endangered species forms. Carl does the sowing and was working about the growing grounds during the day.

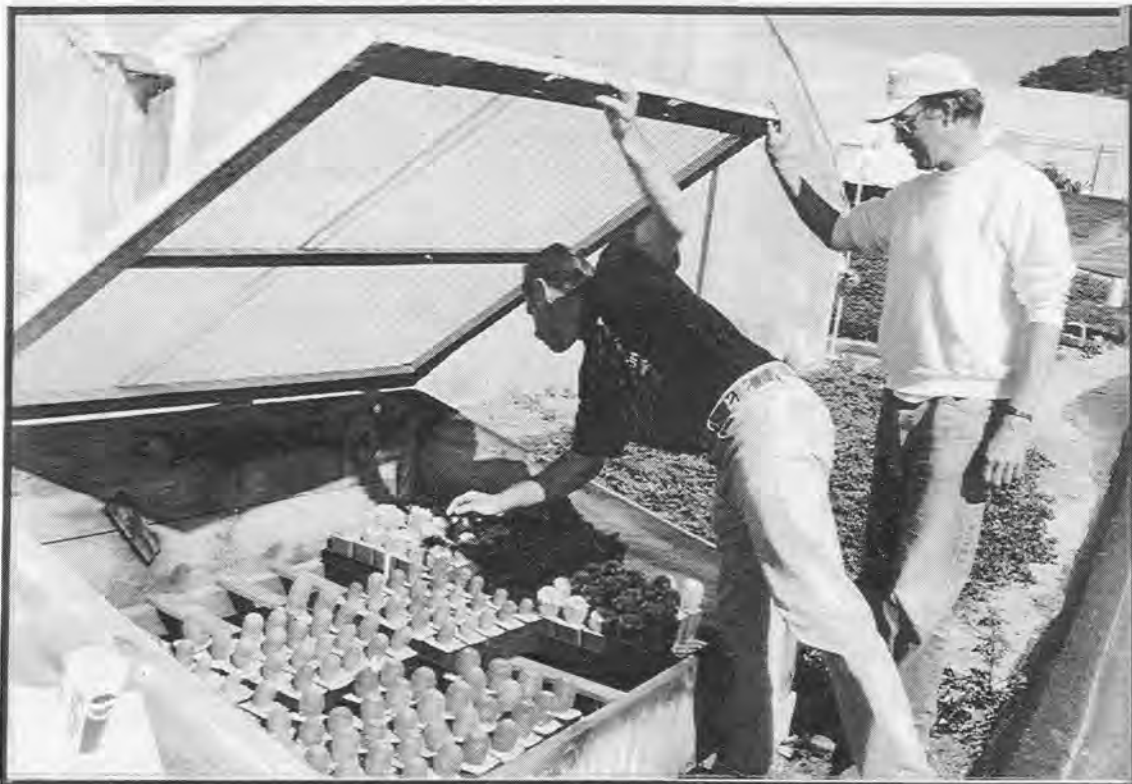
We visited C & J on two separate days. Buckner filled Rick's pickup with a load of plants for the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society's June sale each time, drawn from blitzkrieg visits through houses and coldframes. I received a large *Quiabentia*, which bristled with toothpick length stiletto needles and glochids on numerous sidearms now separately potted. Formidable, it is the Tyrannosaurus Rex of cacti! It had one other defense that I was soon to learn about. When lifting it from my car, several arms detached from momma and reattached to me! I keeps coming!

Possible the most interesting part, from dramatic viewpoint of a Tireless Termite visit to C & J is the checkout ritual. In this rite, we appear at the office with a load of flats and specimens and a listing. Some plants in the houses are NFS: stock, rarities, on breeder loan, personal collection . . . usually not labeled as such, to entice the unwary. Michael usually pushes the envelope by including several in the load. Carl or Jim usually snatch it back. For example, Michael found an unblemished huge and venerable *Haworthia truncata* Jim asked, "Where did you get this?"

"In the lower house."

And to the plant, Jim protectively speaks, "Don't worry, he can't have you!"

The subject of *Quiabentia* and other primitive cacti wove into the conversation and Jim took us over to see a prime example, a *Calymmanthium* which had crowded across a greenhouse corner. Jim assured us that the flowering was very unusual. Book descriptions I consulted were scanty, mentioning only that there are two species from Peru and Bolivia, several spine sizes exiting the areolas, and a unique characteristic among cacti of having flowers with a double perianth. Jim graciously gave me a 30 inch pup which had broken off the mother plant and had rooted from it's head. I would like to learn more about this interesting cactus. Can any of you readers further enlighten us?



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

by Frank Thrombley

The annual June Show and Sale is with us again and so: It is time for myths, fantasies, and facts.

Some of us believe in the story that those who show plants in clay or ceramic pots will win awards - and that plants in plastic pots are inferior to their cousins in those other pots. This is certainly a myth.

There are some of us who believe that bigger means better in showing plants. This surely is a fantasy! I can attest to this fantasy.

Alright Frank, how about the facts!

In the late 1970's and early 1980's the SDC&SS had a member who lived in the metropolis of the Los Angeles basin. Henry Varney is his name and he decided to show his plants in the 1981 show. [*editor's note: Henry Varney is still a member!*] Henry had a Volkswagen 'bug' to transport his plants and arrived on the Friday before the show to properly place them. I was busy and therefore did not help or observe this activity. Henry Varney won the Sweepstakes Award that year and won by a large point margin.

Yes, you guessed correctly, all of Henry's plants were in plastic pots. However, the best is yet to come his pots were in the Class A pot size - all his plants were in three inch and four inch plastic pots. Further, all top dressing was decomposed granite. That year Henry Varney certainly showed us all what can be done. I did have the opportunity to help in putting his plants

back in the VW. He had removed the back seat and had all plants in milk crates which stacked neatly in that small space.

Want more facts?

How many of you remember Betty Athy's great Lithops, which always won blue ribbons? Those Lithops were potted individually in small pots and displayed with pride and joy.

Marylyn Henderson in 1993 won the Best Succulent of the Show and the Best Echeveria in Show with her plant in a plastic pot. She then showed the same plant at the Tri-City Show at the Los Angeles Arboretum and won the Echeveria Award for the Best in Show.

Thanks to Henry Varney, Betty Athy, and Marylyn Henderson for dispelling those myths and fantasies.

Friends, the annual show is an opportunity for all of us to participate in helping the SDC&SS to display our hobby with pride and enthusiasm. I serves as an educational and enjoyable pastime for all who attend. It helps to sell plants at the sale, which in turn helps to replenish the Society's bank account. And it sparks enough interest among many - that they start attending our meetings and join our Society. All of us should bring in at least three plants to show. Don't worry about the competition, as participation has its own rewards and often awards, too! Just think 276 members time 3 plants - WOW! what a display that would be.

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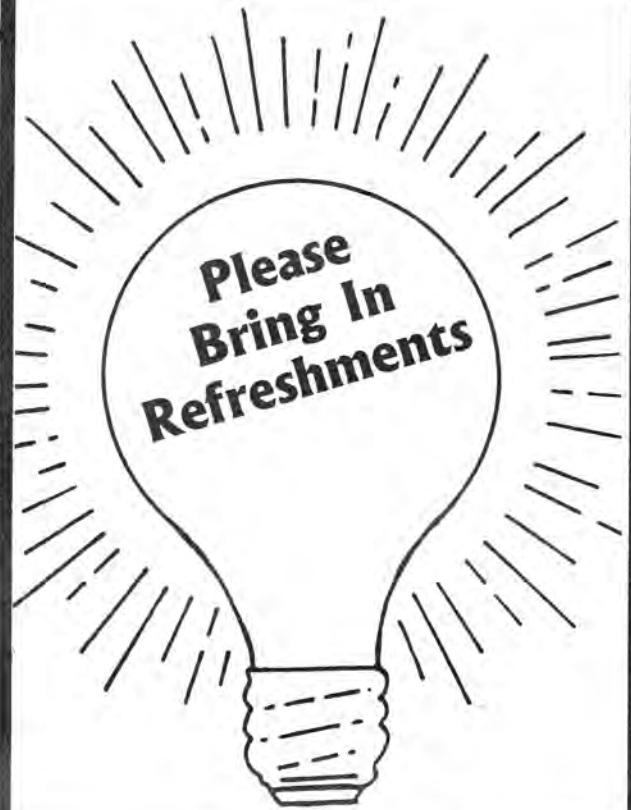
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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated is open to all persons interested in growing cacti or other succulent & exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held at 11:30 AM prior to general meetings. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1.00 per copy sent within the U.S.A.; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00 - 3 mailings per year. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Fax available - please call editor @ (619) 222-3216

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