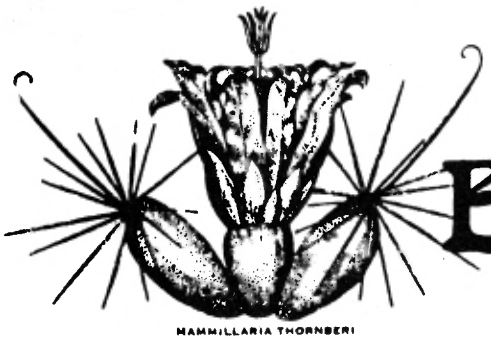


Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XIII, No. 4. April, 1978.

APRIL MEETING DATE: Saturday, April 8th, 1978.

PROGRAM:

HOYAS,CEROPEGIAS, (and a few STAPELIAS)

By Lt. Col. Leo Pickoff

Lt. Col. Leo Pickoff will present an interesting slide program featuring the above named plant types. Leo has promised to give information and advice upon any HOYAS, and CEROPEGIAS (NOT STAPELIAS) that members may care to bring along to the meeting.

IN THIS ISSUE.....

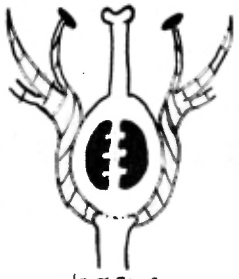
DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE..... APRIL 20th. PLEASE !

Succulent of the Month

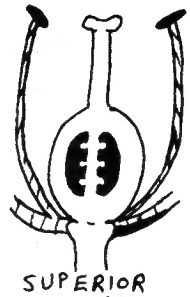
YUCCAS

BY RICK LATIMER

Last month, we examined the families belonging to the Lily order, but following the Lily line down to Aloe. Another of these families, the Amaryllis, is the subject of this month's scrutiny. One point-of-view dictates that the Amaryllidaceae is divided into two subfamilies-the Amaryllideae and Agavoideae. A few examples of some genera presently owing affinity to the former group are Haemanthus, Brodiaea, and Boophane. The Agavoideae contains the the tribes Agaveae, Yuccae, Nolineae, and Dracaeneae. A more recent opinion prefers to place these tribes in their own family-the Agavaceae.



The Agaveae (including Agave and Manfreda) is separateed from the others, because its flowers have inferior ovaries whereas the rest all have superior ovaries(cacti also have inferior ovaries). [Note: In my October description of Euphorbia cyathia I made the mistake of thinking that if a stamen is connected below the ovary, this makes a compound "flower" of both male and female flowers. Actually I was just describing a flower with a superior ovary. What separates a Euphorbia cyathia from a simple flower with a superior ovary is something I have yet to master.] This difference is what originally caused the other tribes to have been placed in the Lily family as seen in older texts. This restructuring is probably reinforced by leaf properties of similar chemistry and structure.



There seems to be little information about what genera are included in the Dracaena tribe, so I will have to make some guesses. Obviously Dracaena belongs here (Africa) as does Cordyline (Polynesia), surely Doryanthes (Australia), probably Xanthorrhea (Australia), and as a long shot, Sansevieria (Africa).

The Succulent-of-the-Month will include all of the following North American plants contained in either the Nolineae or Yuccae. The Yuccae have larger flowers where the Nolineae have small, sprays of flowers.

The genus Beaucarnea is sometimes included in the genus Nolina. The most famous Beaucarnea is B. recurvata from southeast Mexico. One at Huntington Gardens was measured to be 27 feet tall and with a swollen base 8 feet across. The most well known Nolina to San Diegans, is the Dehesa beargrass N. interrata which is endangered. (WHO LOVE PLANTS)

Closely related is Calibanus hookeri from east and central Mexico. Named after the fish smelling monster in Shakespeare's The Tempest, this plant consists of a low, thick, rounded caudex covered with tufts of grass-like leaves. One might think of it as a Beaucarnea stricta that could not decide where to send up its main stem, so it just sent up a bunch of runner-ups. Specimens in the wild have been reported as big as Volkswagons!

Dasylirion flowers are described as being dioecious(!) where

Nolina flowers are incompletely dioecious meaning that the ovaries are abortive in flowers with fertile stamens. I am familiar with two of the Dasylirions. Most attractive from a distance (and supposedly similar looking to Xanthorrhea preissii) is D. longissimum from eastern Mexico. Both Palomar and San Diego clubs had several specimens in the last Fair. D. wheeleri from southeast Arizona is probably the most attractive one close up. Its curving leaves have hooked spines and a pale blue cast.

The genus Hesperaloe (meaning Western Aloe) is contained in the Yuccae. Yucca flowers are spreading where Hesperaloe flowers form a tube-like flower resembling that of an Aloe. Two species come from Texas and Mexico. The flowers of H. funifera are green tinged with purple where those of parviflora are red. A closer related genus to Yucca is Samuela.

The Yucca is the State Flower of New Mexico. We think of them as being native only to Mexico and the deserts of our West, but some are native to the Southeast, an example being Y. filamentosa from Roanoke Island, North Carolina. The most famous Yucca is probably the Joshua Tree or Y. brevifolia. It has greenish flowers and its own National Monument. A Yucca with purplish flowers is Y. endlichiana. A common landscape element in this area is Y. elephantipes which gets quite huge and has a spreading base. The two that are native to this county are Y. whipplei and Y. shidigera. This second, bushy Yucca can be found in the 40th St. canyon just south of Highway 8. The official range of this species is N. Baja to S. Nevada and into W. Arizona. The range of Y. whipplei is Baja to Monterey, Ca. and into N. W. Arizona. This is one of the "Agave" Yuccas in that it is monocarpic. This plant has a great sentimental value for me. A few months after our great back country fire in 1971, I was up in Jamul. Everything was still black except for the granite boulders. However a few plants like the lilacs were beginning to send out new shoots. The crowning example of survival and rebirth was a Yucca whipplei in full bloom. The leaves had been all singed, but the plant had enough strength left to bloom. I was inevitably reminded of Pandora who opened the box to release the evils of the world upon mankind, then opening the box again to release Hope. This plant's common name is Our Lord's Candle.

REFERENCES:

Gentry, Howard Scott, The Agave Family in Sonora, (Wash. D. C.: 1972), pp. 40, 171.

Glass & Foster, Cacti & Succulents for the Amateur, p. 46.

Lawrence, George H. M., Taxonomy of Vascular Plants, 11th ed., (New York:1970), pp. 411, 419.

McDaniel, J. C., "The Typical Yucca Filamentosa", CSSA Journal, Vol. XLVII, 1975, p. 110-111.

Shreve, Forrest & Ira L. Wiggins, Vegetation and Flora of the Sonoran Desert, Vol. I, (Stanford:1964), pp. 352,354,355, & 358.

SPRINGTIME IN THE HILL COUNTRY, WITH ITS SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS.

Audrey Johnson

This morning I found that the sun was actually shining for awhile, and I took the opportunity (between showers) of strolling around the garden to survey the damage. I was hoping, I guess, for some sort of inspiration for this month's article, but could only come up with a mish-mash of impressions, I'm sorry to say.

To start with, I surveyed (near to tears) the utter devastation of our steep, winding, driveway, with its one-time picturesque, leaning, split rail fence, most of which is now lying on the ground. Geoff assures me that this will all be taken care of as soon as the weather clears (?), but, at the moment, I find this hard to imagine!

In an effort to cheer myself up, I then wandered around to the hillside behind the house, and here I found a certain amount of encouragement. We all think of cacti and succulents as surviving with a modicum of water, and yet, after this year's deluge, they have all grown beyond belief. In addition, my aloes and agaves are putting on a brave show of blooms, having produced more flower stalks than ever before. The native dudleyas are, at the moment, huge and beautiful, with just masses of flower stalks and pups, and I am particularly pleased with this state of affairs on <u>their</u> account. (Many of them are those which Geoff and I reclaimed from the land adjoining our property before it was sold!)

As for the really large cacti planted up here, they have grown to truly tremendous size this year, and some of them are falling over from sheer weight alone. With a gillion "pups" to be removed and planted, and the large cacti to be split up and spread around, there is a great deal of work to be done (weather permitting) in the next few weeks.

The intermittent sunshine which we have enjoyed recently has, I must admit, done a lot towards brightening up the garden scene. The ice plant, of course, was the first to respond to the sun's rays, whereas our geraniums, of which we have several areas, had (until recently) responded with only tremendous growth and hundreds of buds, but very little colour. In the last day or two, however, the flowers have begun to open up, and we are looking forward to a real burst of colour any time now. My roses, fuschias and camellias, which suffered from the dry weather last Summer and Fall, have all thoroughly enjoyed their dousing, of course, and are presently blooming and in very fine shape. And so it goes on.... some plants have benefitted (our trees and bushes particularly) more than others, but, as I believe I said before, most members of the plant world have survived a lot better than many man-made objects which I could mention!!

Oh, two more 'gripes' I forgot to mention: SNAILS have gathered in unbelievable numbers, and devoured many of my special Echevarias, and choice Aoeniums Canariensis, which really made me mad! Geoff and I will be "after" these little beasts this weekend. As an additional trial, we had to call in the "L'il Stinker" service once again, to pump out our overflowing septic tank. Since we had already had this done in late Fall or early Winter last year, we needed the hassle (and expense) like a hole in the head, but it had to be done, and that was that! Did someone say: "Disaster Area"? I'm beginning to believe they're right!

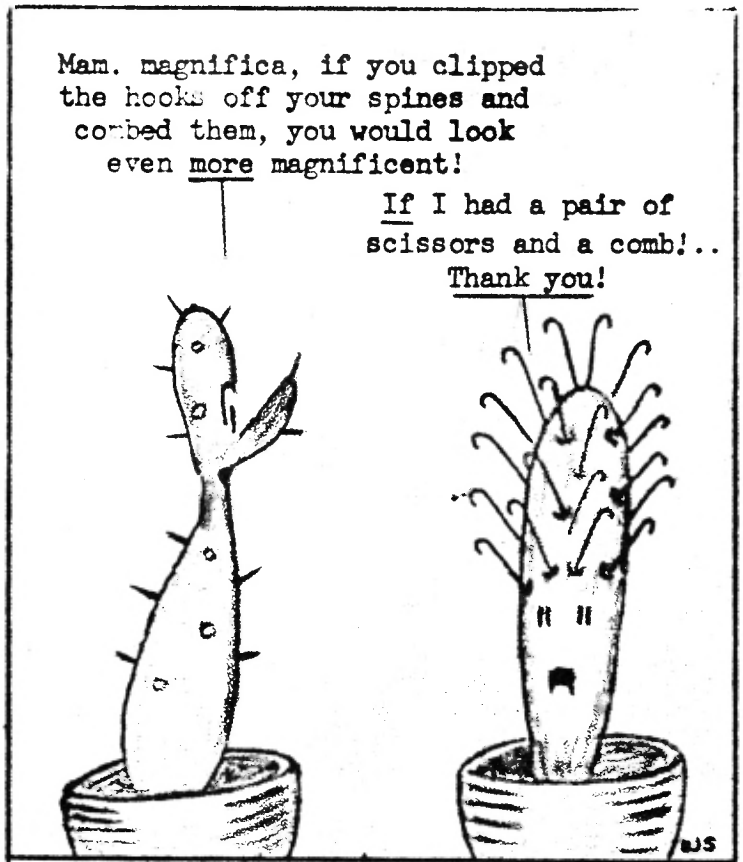
One way in which we may all benefit after the heavy rains is by the enjoyment of the spectacular display of wildflowers which we may expect this year. I, for one, intend to make for the desert, with camera, some time soon and enjoy them to the full - I think we all deserve it.

THE BIRDS: My indoor bird friends have continued to be good company for me during the long rainy days. Fred, the cockatiel, and I whistle up a storm along with the radio on dull mornings. Maybe one day we'll put on an act together - meanwhile, we enjoy ourselves, and it certainly helps to cheer things up a little.

As for my dear, dumb little zebra finches, they are still wrecking their cage, and playing at building a nest, with no results so far. Mrs. Z.F. flops out on the floor of the cage, in a horribly, harrassed fashion, periodically and appears to concentrate fiercely. Usually, at these times, the father-to-be hovers anxiously nearby, and quite often gets a peck from his bride for his trouble, but I think he means well! Anyhow, they're still trying, and maybe it takes a bit of practice to lay an egg. At the moment we are trying to be <u>patient</u>....

And so, fellow members, my up-to-the-minute advice to you all is to do what I am doing: pick up your plants from wherever they have landed, and start getting them ready for all the Spring Shows. They, and the good weather, will be here sooner than you think.

Ye Lady Ed.



PLANT GROOMING

Cactus-of-the-Month

Coryphantha

Dr. Ronald E. Monroe

The genus Coryphantha (top flower) was proposed in 1868 by Lemaire for a group of mammillaria-like cacti which did not quite "behave systematically" as true Mammillaria (Britton and Rose, 1937). Since that time there have been rather sincere feelings in this subject by numerous "experts": as Coryphantha by Borg (1959) and as Mammillaria by Weniger (1974) both of whom merely interpreted the results of other workers' findings.

The Coryphantha are small, ribless, tuberculate cacti, single or caespitose and often forming large clumps, with central spines (1-10) straight, curved, hooked or twisted and surrounded by straight radials (5-40). Flowers are usually large and showy (and so are those of several Mammillaria spp.), borne on new growth at the top of the plant (those of Mammillaria spp. are on old growth and usually form a "ring" around the top 1/3 of the plant), originate at the base of the upper side of the tubercle and are connected to the spine-bearing part of the areole by a narrow felted groove (in Mammilaria spp. the flowers originate down between the tubercles, never from the spine-bearing areoles, nor are they obviously connected to the tubercles in any way). So, Coryphantha or Mammillaria? Most current authors (and IOS) do consider them separate genera despite some minor problems concerning flower structure, seed morphology and presence or absence of the felted groove--no doubt about it though, they are closely related.

Currently, Coryphantha consists of 77 species and 24 varieties with about 18 species and 8 or so varieties occurring in North America and the remainder scattered from northern to central Mexico. In North America they are found from Alberta, Canada, to California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas (then on into Mexico per se) and in the most inhospitable types of environment (from very hot to extremely cold and damp).

The most common plant in collections, C. vivipara, also has the widest range (Oregon and Alberta to Minnesota, south to Southern California, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona) and the greatest variation in flower color (pink, violet, red, lavender or yellow). One variety in this group, however, C. vivipara v. alversonii, has fantastic colored, dense spines and could easily be collected for that reason only; unfortunately, they are rare in collections and seem to thrive on adverse conditions and killed by "kindness".

Other plants in the genus worthy of collections are C. minima (small plants with red flowers), C. strobiliformis (white flowers), C. missouriensis (yellow flowers), C. ramillosa (beautiful lavender flowers), C. sneedii (pink flowers), C. robertii (red flowers) and C. cornifera (large yellow flowers).

Propagation is usually by seed and some consider this to be a difficult task while others claim instant success. Propagation via cuttings is also popular with some growers and is actually not too difficult to accomplish. Established plants like full sun as a rule and a soil mixture of super soil-sand (1:1); some prefer to add extra gritty sand and no advice can be presented against this practice as the plants appear to do best in a well-drained root

substrate. Water and fertilizer given as required during plant growth is advisable and keeping the plants just moist the rest of the year a must--C. vivipara v. alversonii should be kept bone-dry during the heat of summer for adequate rest and well-being.

Healthy plants appear to be bothered very little by pests, but spraying with Cygon · 2E as required will alleviate most pest problems should they develop (spray only if necessary!).

References

Anonymous. 1974. Species catalogue for the cactaceae. Ashingtonia.

Borg, J. 1959. Cacti. Blanford Press, England; pp. 351-363.

Britton, N. L. and J. N. Rose. 1937. The cactaceae. Dover Publ., Inc., N.Y.; Vol. IV, pp. 23-51.

Venning, F. 1974. Cacti. Golden Press, N.Y.; pp. 146-151.

Weniger, D. 1974. Cacti of the southwest. University of Texas Press, Austin; pp. 110-143.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS — Audrey Johnson

I would like to remind all of you to start potting up your plants for the "Fun and Funds Festival", which is to be held at the Gardens on Sunday, May 7th. Each year our Spring Plant Sale becomes more widely known and enjoyed by greater numbers of garden lovers, and we need more and more plants to sell to them. This year we hope to make our Sale the biggest and most successful ever! As I'm sure you all know, all profits from our Sales go towards the improvement and development of Quail Botanical Gardens, and they are invaluable in helping to make them more beautiful year by year.

Regarding our beautiful and spectacular waterfall, which we had hoped to have completed in time for the "Fun and Funds Festival". the inclement weather this Winter has slowed things down considerably. There is talk, at the moment, of delaying the grand opening ceremony until next Fall, and I shall be passing on further news about this as time goes by. This promises to be a really great occasion, and we would like to have every one of you join in the celebration, if you can possibly manage it.

Audrey Johnson
Trustee and Publicity
Chairwoman
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

SPRING FUN TIME

Martin L. Mooney

U.C.L.A. and HUNTINGDON BOTANICAL GARDENS.
Date: 20th May, 1978. Time: 7.00 A.M.
Charges: $6.00 per person.

The 'bus will depart from the Organ Pavilion, South, Parking Lot in Balboa Park at 7 A.M. We will pick up North Co. passengers at I-5 and S-12 (Palomar Airport Road) at 7.20 A.M. Arrive U.C.L.A. Botanical Gardens 9.30 A.M., and we will have until 11.30 A.M. to see the Gardens. 11.30 to 12.30 Lunch. Bring a sack lunch, or eat in the Cafeteria across the street from the Gardens. Depart for Huntington Gardens at 12.30 P.M., arrive there at 1 P.M. We will have three hours at Huntington, departing at 4 P.M., arriving back in San Diego at 6 P.M.

At the U.C.L.A. Gardens, our host will be DAVID VERITY. Last November, our program: "Aloes, Cultivated and Wild", was by Mr. Verity.

At Huntington Gardens, we hope to have GARY LYONS as our host. Gary is the Conservation Chairman for C.S.S.A., and he, also, gave us a program, in September.

GABLE - LATIMER GARDEN TOURS:

On the 29th April, 1978 From 10 A.M. to 12 A.M.	Floyd Gable's garden will be open to members of our Society.
From 1 to 2 P.M.	Richard Latimer's garden will be open.

We are indebted to Floyd and Richard for opening their gardens to us. Please stay within the times, and remember that we are their guests. If you haven't seen these two gardens, you are in for a real treat. If you have, the treat is even better.

PERLSO'S BARTER BOX

Perlso Lewis

FROM DR. RONALD MONROE:

My main interest is the Asclepiad group: Trichocaulon, Echidnopsis, Hoodia, Caralluma, Duvalia, Pectinaria, Piaranthus, Stapelia, Stultitia, Stapelianthus and Huernia. Please no hybrids - but would like to make a trade if one has a valid species that is not listed in Abbey Garden Catalogue, 1977, or you may have a plant I do not have.

Please contact: Marcia Monroe, or
Ron Monroe at the meetings.

FROM RON ULMAN - 295-9380.

Have Haworthias, will trade.

FROM VANGIE ENGLERT - 469-5832.
4824 Schuyler
LA MESA, Ca. 92041.

WANT: "Rosetta" - Dwarf Epiphyllum, listed in old Johnson's Catalogue.

ABOUT THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.. Ye Lady Ed.

LIBRARY:

Information obtained from our esteemed and hard-working librarians informs us that there were 83 books checked out of the Library in February, 1978 - the highest number ever!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Our President, Warren Buckner, asked me to mention that the Club is in need of a representative to the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation. Representatives, also, are urgently needed to head up the Fair effort this year. IF WE ARE TO PARTICIPATE, we need a Chairman for each of the exhibits immediately. Volunteers -- please contact Warren at the April meeting, if not before!

NAME TAGS:

Perlso Lewis would like to remind new members to contact her if they require name tags. Price: $2.00 each.

REGALEMENT FOR APRIL:

The following members have signed up for refreshments at the April meeting:-

Ron Baines	Marianne Thrombley
Beverley Kirkegaard	Alberta Widen
Marcelle Barfield	Rosemary Robilotta
Marcia Hamecher	Angela Burdis
Audrey Johnson	Angela Ledbetter

A big "Thank you" to those members who provided the delectable refreshments at the March Meeting!

T.T.F.N. Ye Lady Ed.

JUNE OPEN HOUSE

Betty Athy

The time is here again to begin setting aside, and potting up, plants for our Annual Show, Open House and Plant Sale on June 3rd and 4th.

The Club will provide plastic pots to those members who wish to start, or pot, plants that will later be contributed to the sale table. The pots are 2¼" and 4".

If you need pots to put your plants and cuttings in, please contact me at 469-7647.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	H. Warren Buckner	1744 Englewood Dr., Lemon Grove, Ca. 92045.	469-1391
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	Thomas Hamecher	996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, Ca. 92020.	440-6245
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	Gerald Dice	3354 Mohican Ave., San Diego, Ca. 92117.	276-2589
RECORDING SECRETARY	Doris F. Rake	4410 38th Street, San Diego, Ca. 92116.	282-1722
TREASURER	Russel Evans	3115 Nile St., San Diego, Ca. 92104.	284-5859
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Elizabeth Athy	3990 Apore Street, La Mesa, Ca. 92041.	469-7647
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Martin L. Mooney	97 K Street, Chula Vista, Ca. 92011.	427-6796

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shirley Berry — Joan Johnson — Richard Latimer
Perlso Lewis — John Pasek — Dr. Leroy Phelps

COMMITTEES

ACTIVITIES: Martin L. Mooney
EDUCATION:
CACTI: Dr. Ronald Monroe and Anthony D'Atillio
SUCCULENTS: Richard Latimer and Madelyn R. Lee
EXHIBITS:
FAIR:
OPEN HOUSE: Frances Johnson and Harriett Sopp
LIBRARY: Edith Werner
MEMBERSHIP: Russel Evans
PLANTS & SUPPLIES: Gerald Dice
PROGRAMS: Tom Hamecher
PUBLICATION: Audrey & Geoff Johnson ('Phone: 745-5773)
RECEPTION: Perlso Lewis and Edith Billmyer
REGALEMENT: May Andrews, Pat Elkington and Katherine McDonald
HISTORIAN: Richard Latimer
AUDIT: Paul Johnson and James Berry
CONSERVATION: Dr. Ronald Monroe
PLANT EXCHANGE: Ione Hubner, Harriett Sopp and Frances Johnson
REPRESENTATIVES:

San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation	
San Diego Floral Association	Verna Pasek
Quail Botanical Gardens	Audrey Johnson
Balboa Park Desert Garden	

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing Cacti, other Succulents, and Exotic Plants.

Dues are $6.00 annually. Single copies of Espinas y Flores $0.50.

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month, 1.30 p.m. in Room 101 of Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (Exceptions noted in Espinas y Flores.

Executive Board Meeting after the General Meeting.

AND SO TO BED...30