

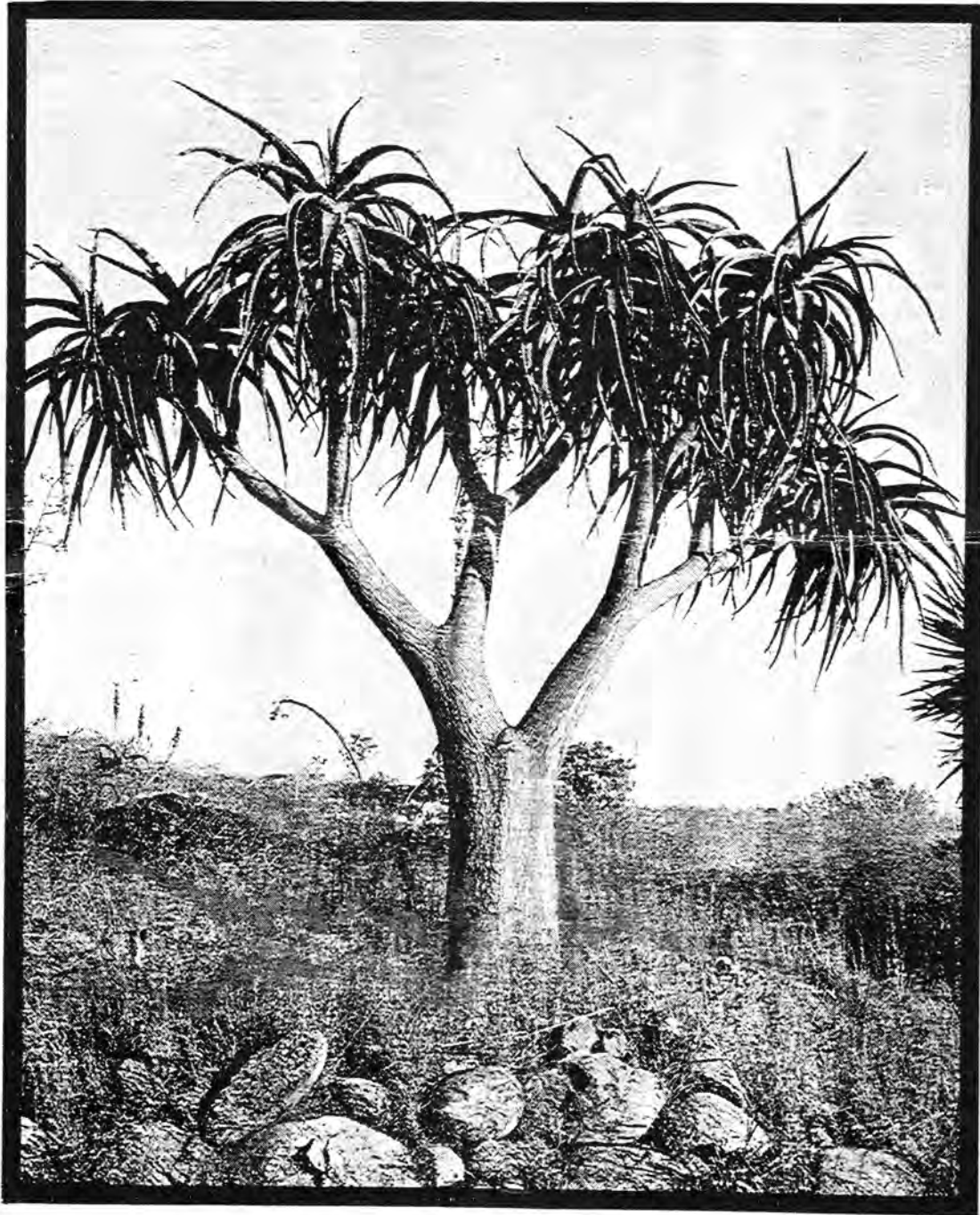
MAMMILLARIA THORBERI

SIGN UP FOR THE BUS TRIP!

Espinas y Flores

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

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER TWO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1994 @ 1:00PM



Aloe bainesii

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: Steven and Rowena Southwell will visit us from "RSVP Nursery" in San Jose. Steve will present a slide show of their recent field trip to "Succulenta" in South Africa, featuring Aloes, Lithops, and Welwitschia. See you there and bring a friend!!!

New Books in the Library

E.E.A. Archibald, The Genus Dioscorea
Tony Allan & Andrew Warren, Deserts - The Encroaching Wilderness
M. Kh. Chailakhyan & V.N.Khrianin, Sexuality in Plants and its Hormonal Regulation
P. Fournier, Les Cactées & Plantes Grasses
Terry Hewitt, The Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents
Fritz Hochstaetter, The Genus Sclerocactus
Dale Kloppenburg, The Hoya Handbook
Charles Lemaire, Iconographie Descriptive Des Cactées
A.A. Obermeyer, Ornithogalum (Bothalia)
Jerzy Rzedowski, Atlas Cultural de Mexico - Flora
J.V. van Greuning, A Synopsis of the Genus Ficus (Moraceae) in Southern Africa

JANUARY BRAG TABLE WINNERS

Judged by: Ed Nolan

CACTI:

FIRST: Shirley Berry's *Mammillaria lindseyi*
SECOND: Alex Cardenas-Murphy's *Mammillaria gracilus*
THIRD: Alex Cardenas-Murphy's *Mammillaria bombycina*

SUCCULENTS:

FIRST: Rudy Lime's bonsai *Pelargonium cortusifolium*
FIRST: Alan Weiss' flowering *Pachypodium decaryi*
SECOND: Sandy Frost's *Rhombophyllum rhombifolium*
THIRD: Kay Quijada's *Echeveria harmsii*

THANK YOU FRANK THROMBLEY for your personal reminiscences that add so much to the history of our organization and the cactus & succulent society at large! A few notes about Gerald and Eleanor Dice and son Jim: The Dices joined the SDC&SS around 1975 and were active participants until Gerald's passing in March of 1984. Gerald was vice president for two years when Martin Mooney was president. All the Dices coordinated the plant sales table and Jim Dice was editor of *Espinas y Flores* 1978-79. Eleanor & Gerald were proud of their son who attended San Diego State University majoring in Botany. Jim was Conservation Director of the CSSA during the difficult transition period of curtailing wild plant collecting. Jim was also Curator of Desert Gardens at the Huntington. He left the Huntington to complete his post-graduate work at State. Currently, Jim is the plant ecologist and Botanist for the California Fish & Game - San Diego, Riverside, Orange, and Imperial Counties. He just recently (August '93) presented a program for us, "The Nolinaceae, with particular emphasis on the genus *Nolina*, his master thesis subject matter. Thank you!

For an excellent catalog of pre-used books specializing in botany and ornamental horticulture: CATALOG 22 - CACTI, SUCCULENTS & BROMELIADS. Write to Brooks Books, P.O.Box 21473, Concord, CA 94521; (510)672-4566.

WE STILL HAVE SOME SPACE AVAILABLE FOR LOTUSLAND SDC&SS BUS TRIP EXTRAVAGANZA

You may have noticed the article in **SUNSET Magazine** featuring the **LOTUSLAND GARDENS**. This is your opportunity to tour these historical and memorable accomplishments. Fred Keller, editor of the Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society newsletter and Espinas y Flores contributing writer is a docent @ Lotusland. He is looking forward to our visit - how wonderful to have someone so knowledgeable in cactus & succulents conducting this tour.

WHERE: "Few other gardens on earth can match the artful eccentricity of Lotusland, a 37 acre estate garden in Montecito, near Santa Barbara. Here, extraordinary plants from around the world are displayed with unconventional grandeur among such novel garden ornaments as large hunks of uncut amethyst. It's a garden that could happen only in Southern California: heavenly climate made it possible for the late Madame Ganna Walska, an eccentric Polish opera diva with seemingly unlimited resources and an unleashed passion for plants, to create this horticultural treasure."* This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

We shall travel in an air-conditioned Scenic Cruiser with restroom. Lunch and softdrinks will be provided in Santa Barbara at a pleasant park or near Abbey Gardens Nursery, if we have time to visit this noteworthy Cactus & Succulent nursery before our 1½ to 2 hour guided tour. After the docent tour we will have private time to view the estate and environs on our own.

WHEN: Saturday, June 18th. Bus will leave promptly @ 7:00 am from the parking lot behind the Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, San Diego. An additional pick-up will be at the CalTrans Park & Ride Lot @ the La Costa Exit off of Hwy 5 @ 7:30 am. Bus will leave Lotusland @ 4:00 pm and we should arrive back in San Diego between 7:30 & 8:00 pm.

WHO: The first forty-nine SDC&SS members to send their checks to: SDC&SS - LOTUSLAND, P.O.BOX 33181, Hillcrest Station, San Diego, CA 92163. Price is \$40.00 per member; \$50.00 for non-members - as they will become members! This cost includes: A Safe Relaxing Bus Trip & tip for our driver, a box lunch*, ample liquid refreshments, and the Entry Fee to Lotusland.

In June the gardens will be at their very best and the weather should be perfect. For more information you may call Michael Buckner @ 222-3216.

* Please specify your sandwich preference Standard Sub, Turkey & Swiss, or Vegetarian, and whether you prefer Diet drinks, Ice Tea, or Classic Coke; there will also be fruit, condiments, chips & cookies for dessert! You may wish to bring additional bottled water and/or a thermos of Coffee.

* **SUNSET The Magazine of Western Living, Feb 1994.**

ANZA BORREGO PEAK BLOOM NOTIFICATION

As I write this - it is raining hard on-shore at an angle to reflect perpendicular to my view window. I pick up my recent "Sand Paper", the newsletter of the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Society, and read . . . "Every year about this time, park staff and volunteers begin the spring rite of trying to predict when the wildflowers will bloom and what kind of year it will be. Will it be a year to be included in our oral tradition like the years of the Drought? or the Spring of 1992? or the March Miracle? (remember our incredible bus trip to the Living Desert in '92, the wild flowers were wild!) So far as Chuparosas (*Beloperone californica* or "Hummingbird Bush") are beginning to bloom, we are still hoping for more winter rains - the essential ingredient for desert wild flowers.

Now for the closure of this ramble on a rainy February day. If you would like to be personally notified of the peak bloom period in our wonderful and accessible desert biosystem, send a stamped self-addressed postcard to: Wildflowers, P.O.Box 299, Borrego Springs, CA 92004. The card will be mailed back to you approximately two weeks prior to the expected peak bloom. Let it rain.... Michael

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Michael,

I'm aware of and use the CSSA Seed Exchange - I think it's great! In conjunction with that, I would like to make it easier to get seed and allow those who have extra seed or seed that have no use for to "recycle" it before it becomes useless.

I propose having a seed bank within our club. Through the newsletter, make the members aware that they can bring in their extra or leftover seed to exchange or donate. Whatever seed is not used by the membership could then be forwarded on to the CSSA.

As it is now, you have to write to the CSSA for the listing and the exchange process requires packaging, addressing and mailing since the only benefit is credit, I feel many might not participate. I can only wonder how much seed is left in the pod with a less than one in a thousand chance for germination or worse yet dying a slow lonely death in some dark envelope.

I am willing to coordinate this Seed Exchange using the same format as Peg has with the CSSA Seed Depot except it would be on site at our meetings. This would be a plus for all who participate. Let's face it, it is alot easier to pop off a seed capsule or two on your way to a monthly meeting than it is to sit down and write, package and mail your seeds to Oregon or elsewhere. I'm willing to bet this will put more seed in the soil!

Thank you for your consideration,
Kelly Griffin

editor's note: How do you members feel about having a seed exchange @ the meetings? Are you guilty of "slow death by forgotten envelope seed torture"? Why not bring in some seeds to the meeting - we'll set Kelly up next to the plant exchange table.

CSSA NEWS - Tucson Board Meeting & Arizona Trip by Michael Buckner

Our SDC&SS president, Joseph Betzler, has been appointed to the Cactus & Succulent Society of America board of directors. This position incidently opened up because long-time board director (and long-time SDC&SS member & supporter) Dr. Larry Mitich moved to the vice president position under new national president Mary Jo Gussett.

Joey and I attended the CSSA January meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in Tucson, site of the 1995 CSSA National-International Convention. Friday night the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society (president Dick Wiedhopf) hosted the meeting featuring Seymour Linden presenting his slideshow "Adventures in Somalia". The CSSA board meeting was held on Saturday morning followed by afternoon visits to several open greenhouses in the area: Miles Anderson's "Miles' To Go Nursery", John & Dorothy Pasek's "Plantas del Sol" and Dan Bock's nursery. Saturday night was a Mexican restaurant dinner with the whole group of about fifty people comparing notes, anecdotes and even limericks.

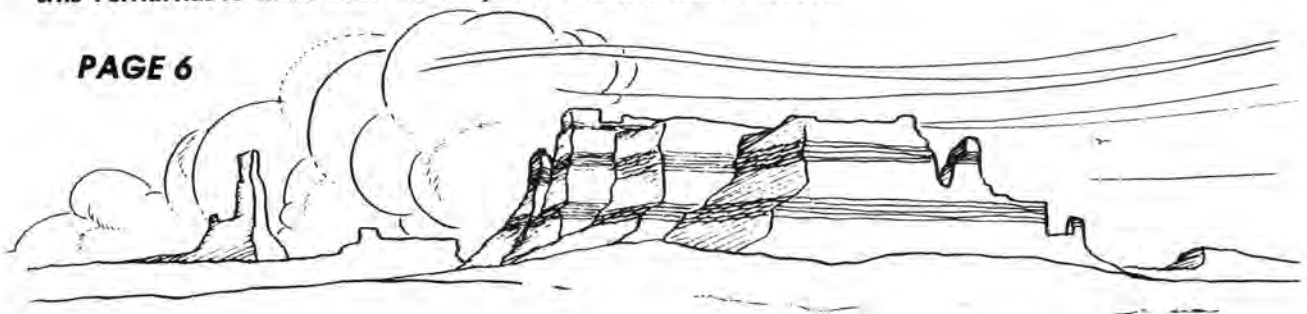
Sunday was a special fieldtrip to several pristine cactus and succulent habitats on BLM land. We viewed endangered cacti and breathtaking scenery with many wonderful plants including: Jatropha cordifolia, Bursera microphylla, Echinocactus horzonthelonius, Ferocactus acanthodes, Ferocactus wislizenii, Echinocereus engelmannii variety nicholii, many Opuntias and of course Saguaros. Excellent sack lunches and drinks were graciously provided by the Tucson club - THANK YOU!! Our knowledgeable guides were Gene Joseph of "Living Stones Nursery" and Chuck Hanson of "Arid Lands Greenhouses". Joey & I traveled the four-wheel drive enclave with David Tufenkian - Great Driving David! - in the only non-four-wheel drive vehicle. We all had to pile-out a few times to help get over the depressions!

Myron Kimmach (your CSSA Journal editor) and Larry Mitich (who is also the CSSA historian) made for interesting travel-log and botanical conversation. We all wondered who Nichol of Opuntia nicholii (and several other species) was. Therefore I relate the following taken from the late W. Hubert Earle's Cacti of the Southwest, 1963:

"NICHOL, A.A., was with the University of Arizona, then with the Arizona Fish & Game Department then with Stanford Research Institute before retiring. Opuntia nicholii L.Benson, 1959."

Sunday evening was a farewell to many friends and a sound well-earned sleep from the day's adventure. It was also, unfortunately, the night of the disastrous Los Angeles earthquake. Joey and I camped out in the desert north of Wickenburg at Shiprock Mountain. Arising at dawn (34°!) we explored this wonderful desert biosystem marking the northernmost range of Yucca rostrata as it introgresses with Yucca brevifolia in this transitional Sonoran-Mojave region. Plants photographed included Dudleya saxosa var. aloides, Nolina microphylla, Juniper californica (beautiful driftwood style natural bonsais growing elegantly out of the rocks at the highest elevation), Opuntia basilaris, Castilleja chromosa (Indian Paintbrush in bloom), Acacia greggii (Cats Claw), and a Mahonia species. Joey is preparing a program on this remarkable area that we may view in the near future.

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CACTUS OF THE MONTH: OREOCEREUS

by Phyllis Flechsig

Oreocereus, which means "mountain cereus" or "mountain candle," is a genus of white, hairy, columnar cacti native to the mountains of Peru, Chile, Bolivia, and northern Argentina. The genus is properly a part of the large umbrella group called Borzicactus, along with such genera as Matucana, Hildewintera, and Bolivocereus. The reason that these genera and a number of others have been joined is that grouping into a single genus depends not on the shape of the plant but on the type of flower, fruit, and seeds that it has, and all these share a flower type that is long, bilaterally symmetrical, and zygomorphic, as is, for instance, a snapdragon flower. In Oreocereus the flowers are pink, red, or purple and bloom in the daytime. The plants grow very slowly and are covered with long spines and much white hair. The areoles are relatively large. Although Backeberg lists six species there are probably only four valid ones: O. celsianus, O. fossulatus, O. hendriksenianus and its variety densilanatus, and O. trollii. Of these, O. fossulatus has the least amount of hair; it is not commonly seen in collections. O. celsianus is next hairiest, with a long pink flower; O. trollii is thickly covered with white hair, but its flower is much shorter and deeper in color. O. hendriksenianus v. densilanatus has the thickest coat of all, is the tallest and possibly the fastest to grow of this group. In nature, in the Andes Mountains, they endure harsh growing conditions and very low temperatures; the thick white coats may help to keep them warm inside as well as preventing sunburn. Branching is from the base; they do not get very tall--about one to two meters at most.

These are easily grown and make handsome plants in a collection. Where drainage is good they may be grown out in the landscape. In time, they will branch from the base. As they do not branch very readily, they must be grown from seed, but this is not hard to do, and tiny cacti covered with their characteristic white hair are fun to look at.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

Backeberg, C. 1976. *Cactus Lexicon*. Blandford: London.

Dunn, D. 1988. Oreocereus and Morawetzia, *Espinasy Flores*, vol. XXIII, no. 11, p. 6.

Cullmann, W., E. Goetz, & G. Groener, 1986. *The Encyclopedia of Cacti*. Alfabooks, Dorset, Eng.

✓ REMINDER TO FLOYD GABLE: Please bring any plants of this group that you can.



REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS - FEBRUARY

Elizabeth Glover
Joan Fleer
Cindy Wead
Don Patterson
Brett McCowen

Bruni Scheffler
Mille Williams
Stuart Parvin
Kay Quijada
And You!!

AND A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO BROUGHT REFRESHMENTS IN JANUARY - AND TO DON BAMBER, RUDY LIME & TOM DEMERRITT FOR SETTING UP, MAKING COFFEE, ETC AND THEN CLEANING UP AFTERWARDS!!!!
GOOD JOB GENTLEMEN!!!!!!

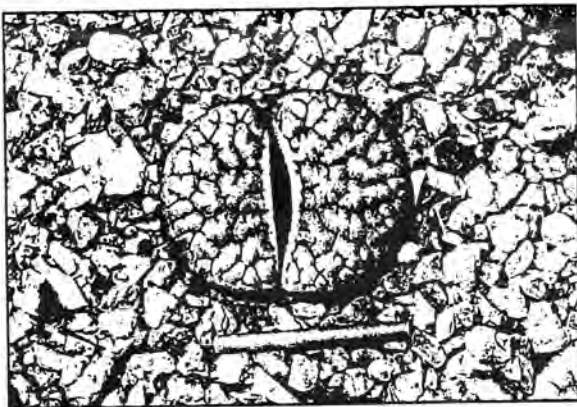
SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: LITHOPS -- ROCKS THAT BLOOM!

by Kelly Griffin

I first "found" Lithops in the pages of a magazine House Plants and Porch Gardens. It was quite a discovery. Ed Storms was listed as a plant source and from him I received my first Living Stones. Needless to say, I was hooked! At the time I was living in Illinois - a fairly inhospitable place for man, beast, or plant. My poor Lithops were forced to rely on fluorescent lights for sustenance. Since that time, House Plants and Porch Gardens has ceased publication, Ed Storms has passed away, and I have returned to sunny California. I'm glad to be here, but Ed Storms is sorely missed.

Lithops are native to South Africa, as are many of our favorite collectable mesembs (*Aizoaceae*). They are found primarily in mineral soils with a pH range from 4.5 to 10.5. Average rainfall ranges from 10 to 25 inches annually. Desmond Coles lists 35 species of Lithops with a total of 135 different when you count subspecies, varieties, and cultivated varieties. This does not include the variable "C" numbers within the species or subspecies. For example, *Lithops gracilidelineata* lists four collection numbers: C261, C373, C374, C309. Each are from different colonies with slight differences in color pattern or size, but essentially all *L. gracilidelineata*. When you include these, your selection expands to around 300 to 400 different plants.

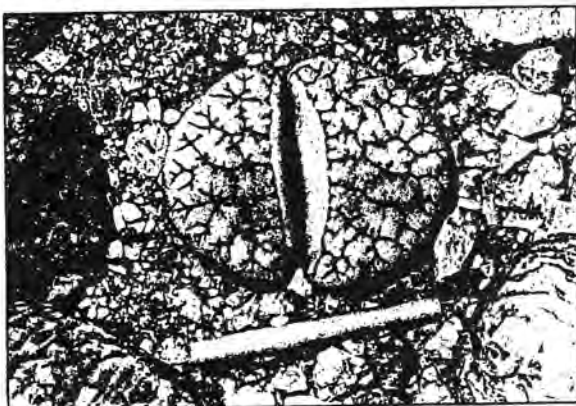
var. gracilidelineata, C261



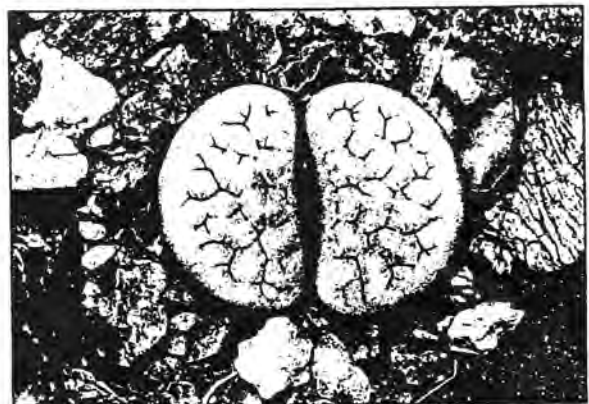
var. gracilidelineata, C373



var. gracilidelineata, C374



var. gracilidelineata, C309



from Desmond T. Cole, Lithops - Flowering Stones

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: LITHOPS by K. Griffin

Lithops consist basically of two fused leaves and a tap-like root with a few small fibrous surface roots. As it ages, it forms clumps of paired leaves in most species. Some Lithops species remain single bodied plants for many, many years, like *Lithops psuedotruncatella*.

The growth cycle of the genus is triggered by precipitation and day length. Lithops being winter growers for the most part parallel the Aloes.

On my plants, the flowering starts in fall, around October and early November. Flowers push out between the leaf pairs and cover the plant when fully open. The flowers fully open between 1:30 and 4:00 in the afternoon. Probably, this is the time most favorable for pollination, either as courtesy to a specific pollinator or when the pollen is ripe and the flower most receptive. The flowers will continue opening and closing for approximately ten days or until I tickle them with a paint brush, in which case the flower starts withering in a day or so. I always thought Lithops to be self sterile, but Steven Hammer says they are not -- so, I defer. I do know when I have only one flower of a particular species, I do not get much seed and the pods look rather small.

As the pods ripen, the old leaf pairs begin to shrivel and split open further, a good sign to lay-off on water as the new leaves absorb the moisture from the old ones. You do not need to worry much about watering until the old leaves have been absorbed and are paper-like.

CULTURE

Water

Water kills, or at least invites Rot over to dinner! If you water at the wrong time or fail to keep water off of them during prolonged rainy periods, you will suffer some loss of plants. Depending on weather conditions, water every two to four weeks during active growth: in the fall, before and during flowering and after they have absorbed the old leaf pairs.

Light

Lithops like a lot of sun, but watch the transition from a low-light situation to high-light. In bright light they will scorch if the air movement is inadequate.

Temperature

Although some Lithops will tolerate temperatures to 20°F, like most succulents, the do not like to be frozen! On the upper end of the temperature range, they will tolerate 120°F with adequate air movement.

Soil

The soil mix I use is 50% pumice, 10% coarse sand, and 40% Supersoil, which seems to work fine.

Fertilizer

A very dilute low nitrogen fertilizer works best for me.

Propagation

Primarily by seed, also by division of older clumps.



Aplomado Falcon—John Felsing

DR. ADOLPHE WISLEZENUS - The Naturalist

by Frank Thrombley

Dr. Adolphe Wislezenus---- who was this romantic scientist? Wislezenus was a Medical Doctor of Zurich, having had to flee his native Germany because of political liberalism. He practiced in Paris and New York, then moved to Illinois and then to Missouri. A competent Geologist and a Naturalist of high standing. He had made the Oregon Passage as far as Fort Hall in 1844-45 and wrote a book about that venture. In the spring of 1846 he decided to investigate the Flora and Fossils of the Southwest. He was then to travel with Albert Speyer, a Prussian Jew and well established trader, who was traveling under the protection of a Prussian passport. Albert Speyer was taking two wagonloads of arms and powder from Independence, Missouri, which the Governor of Chihuahua had the foresight to order.

One must remember that Mexico claimed all of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California in 1846. They also did not recognize the Independent Republic of Texas. President Polk, however, in 1846 decided that this territory should belong to the United States. The inevitable was the war between the U.S.A. and Mexico.

We next pick up Dr. Wislezenus in March of 1847, at Chihuahua. He had been held in custody, including some of the traders from Independence. They had been 'held' under guard for six months in the small silver town named Cosihuirachi. The doctor was said to be very bored in this poverty stricken town, he tried to botanize but it was a barren country. Colonel Dinophan, leading The First Missouri Volunteers, won a decisive three hour battle about fifteen miles north of Chihuahua on February 28th and occupied the city by March 1 or 2. During this battle the traders, including Dr. Wislezenus were freed to fend for themselves. The doctor then went to the city of Chihuahua to meet with the Doniphan's army of poorly dressed and ragged looking First Missourians. He joined up as their surgeon. They stayed there through March and most of April. The army then marched south to the oasis of Parras and on to Saltillo, Monterey and back to the Rio Grande at what is now Brownsville, Texas. Dr. Wislezenus did botanize during this march and as we know had a number of plants named for him in his honor. He also wrote a book about this venture entitled "Memoir of a Tour of Northern Mexico".

This narrative does not fully answer the question originally asked, but it does give one an insight of a true adventurer.

Source of information: THE YEAR OF DECISION by Bernardo DeVoto
Houghton Mifflin Co, Boston, c.1942

editor's note: Dr. Adolphe Wislezenus is commemorated by having in his honor many plants named after him for his accomplishments. Among them: *Ferocactus wislizeni* and *Quercus wislizenii*, California interior live Oak.

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society **Five, Ten, Fifteen, Twenty, Twenty-five, & Thirty Years Ago** by Rick Latimer

1964: There is very little information in the Historian's records for 1964 - no membership list and the first publications were not until the following year. The only officer I have records of in the President William Hoffman. Nearly all the information present concerns the Del Mar Fair. This society won the Cactus Trophy; we have a picture of it being presented by Burr Clouette. Palomar C&SS came in second and the North County Nurserymen came in third. In the succulent displays Palomar C&SS came in first, Cleoves Hardin came in second, and the SDC&SS came in third. In the rock garden displays the SDC&SS came in first and Mrs. Lee Gardner came in second. The Grand Award Trophy for the 1964 Flower Show went to George F. Evans of Pacific Beach. Although I do not know if he was a SDC&SS member at that time; he was a member later.

1969: In this year we had at least 125 members. Some of the out of town members were Dr. Larry Mitich (then of Fargo, North Dakota), Dr. Len Newton (then of Kumasi, Ghana), and Ed & Betty Gay of Tarzana, California. I have a hand drawn card from the Indianettes of San Diego de Alcalá Mission, for society members who worked on the Mission Cactus Garden. Members who worked on this project included Warren & Michael Buckner, Jim Stalsonberg and Oliver Loyland. In the Fall 1969 issue of The Asklepion (66:2) (the magazine of the $\phi\beta\pi\text{-}\theta\kappa\psi$ medical fraternity) SDC&SS member Dr. Philip G. Corliss has an article titled "Growing Cacti and Succulents as an Hobby". At the CSSA Convention in Pasadena there was a beautiful display from this society, but without credit to individual member(s). The Plants-of-the-Month for 1969 were: Jan-*Mammillaria hahniana* & *Senecios*, Feb-*Notocactus leninghausii* & *Crassula orbicularis*, Mar-*Aporocactus flagelliformis* & *Haworthia coarctata*, Apr- Arrangements, May-*Rebutia miniscula* & *Titanopsis calcarea*, Jun-*Brasilicactus haselbergii* & *Hereroa dyeri*, Jul-*Epithelantha micromeris* & *Hoya carnosae*, Aug-*Opuntia vulgaris variegata* & *Callisia fragrans*, Sep-*Cochemia poselgeri* & *Agave shawii*, Oct-*Dolichothele longimamma* & *Caralluma europea*, Nov-*Malacocarpus sellowii* & *Schwantesia ruedebuschii*, and Dec-*Schlumbergera russelliana* & *Gasteria maculata*.

Since 1969 was the 200th birthday of San Diego, the San Diego Floral Association asked that all the affiliates have open houses (some societies had already been holding open houses for many years). The SDC&SS had its "Open House Cactivity" on May 25th, making this our first plant show. Club members brought in 110 plants. It was estimated that there were over 300 visitors, including those from Ireland, Alaska, Paris, New Mexico, Ohio, Minnesota, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. At the Del Mar Fair the SDC&SS came in second for the Cactus & Succulent display and first in the Grafts exhibit. Late in the year SDC&SS President Walt Greenwood accepted on behalf of the society a "Loving Cup" presented by the San Diego County Supervisors for our participation in the 200th anniversary activities. The other officers of the SDC&SS were: 1st VP Bob Fletcher, 2nd VP Oliver Loyland, Treasurer Olivia Fletcher, Secretary Nibby Klinefelter, Board of Directors Warren Buckner, Bill Nelson, Walter Scott, Perlso Lewis, Ruth Nelson (Librarian) & Jim Stalsonburg (Editor) and Reuben "Doc" Vaughan was elected President Emeritus and Honorary Life Membership.

Among the programs given that year were: Dr. P. Corliss - slide show of Mediterranean & Black Seas cruise; P. Steveson's program "How to Enjoy your Cactus without Getting Stuck"; Bob Taylor's "Grafting"; "Sedums" by Ruth Stanton; and "Cactus Flowers" by Dr. Leroy Phelps.

1974: The officers for this year were: President Loyal J. Bibby, 1st VP Martin Mooney, 2nd VP Rick Latimer, Treasurer John A. Korver (later replaced by Madelyn Lee), Secretary Frances Langer, Past President William Nelson, Board of Directors Dr. L. Phelps, Wilson Wells, Oliver Loyland, Ione Hubner, Warren Buckner, & August Pfeiffer; Editor Walter Scott, Librarians Edith Werner, Pat Mooney, & Helen Hegyi, Reception Edith Billmyer & Lucille Beckfield, and Regalement Jean & Leta Hapeman and Nita Cotten. The year started out with the SDC&SS, Palomar & Imperial Valley C&SSs hosting the CSSA for a special Plant-o-Rama. There was a potluck noon luncheon organized by Julianne Rice; at 1pm CSSA President Bill Lockwood gave opening remarks followed by several short programs, many given by SDC&SS members.

The January issue of Espinas y Flores featured an article on *Arequipa* by Francis J. Borg of Paola, Malta. In the February issue Dr. George E. Radwin started his Cactus-of-the-month articles with *Ferocactus*, Mar-*Gymnocalycium*, Apr-*Notocactus*, May-*Parodia*, Jun-"Newly described species since 1967", Aug-*Thelocactus*, etc., Sep-*Astrophytum*, Oct-Cereoids, Nov-*Mammillaria*, and the December Christmas issue came in color.

From April 1 to May 1 there was a succulent plant exhibit in our downtown library. The exhibitors were Warren Buckner, Joe Bibbey, Martin Mooney, and Walter Scott. The SDC&SS Open House - Plant Show was May 11-12. (Your historian did not participate because he was on an Epiphyllum tour in Los Angeles). There are pictures of this show in the CSSA Journal on page 237. At the Del Mar Fair the SDC&SS took three 2nd place ribbons. Your Historian remembers working alone one night til the early hours setting up this cactus garden exhibit. Our July picnic was held at the Taylor's Cactus Garden. The July issue of Espinas y Flores Bette Baker began her series of member's garden visits. With the historic IOS Congress in Santa Barbara from Sept 10-15, the SDC&SS enjoyed hearing for the first time John Lavranos on August 31st and Cynthia Giddy on September 21st.

1979: The officers were: President Tom Hamecher, 1st VP Rick Latimer, 2nd VP Carl McLeod, Recording Secretary Beverly Kirkegaard, Corresponding secretary Amna Cornett, Treasurer Joan Johnson, Board of Directors Shirley Berry, Perlso Lewis, John Pasek, & Dr. Leroy Phelps; with Betty Athy as Librarian and Jim Dice as Editor. Dr. Ronald Monroe did the Cacti of the Month and Rick Latimer did the Succulents of the month. They were: Jan-*Acanthocalycium* & *Kalanchoe*, Feb-*Borzicactus* & *Senecio*, Mar-*Thelocactus* & *Haworthia*, Apr-*Arthrocerus* & *Pedilanthus*, *Jatropha*, *Monadenium* & *Synadenium*, May- *Buiningia* & "Carpet Mesembs", Jun- *Pediocactus* & *Dioscorea*, *Ipopoea*, *Solanum*, *Cissus*, *Cyphostemma* & *Dorstenia*, Aug- *Echinocereus* & *Stapeliads*, Sep- *Discocactus* & *Sedum* and satellite genera, Oct- *Wilcoxia* (Jim Dice) & *Peperomia*, *Batis*, *Coleus*, etc, and Nov- *Oroya* & "Shrubby Mesembs".

In the March issue of Espinas y Flores Dr. Monroe began his series of articles "Pests of Succulent Plants" and in the September issue Marcia Monroe began her series of member interviews starting with Floyd Gable. The July picnic was again at the Taylors. Members displayed plants at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in Nairobi Village for the "Green Thumb Show" on Feb 17-19. Floyd Gable was show chairman for our June 2-3 Open House. In August the program was a rare (for us) showing of a film rather than our usual slide show. The film shown was BAOBAB: Portrait of a Tree narrated by David Attenborough. Our otherwise only out-of-town speaker this year was Walter Wasura, except for the special May 4th meeting with Brian Lamb. On the anniversary of the SDC&SS's eighteenth birthday - May 6th, your Historian was featured in Ada Perry's column with color pictures of Epiphyllum hybrids (all actually from my neighbor Ray Arnold's collection).

1984: History repeated itself when of the society's 23rd birthday there was a similar article again with color pictures of Epiphyllum flowers in the San Diego Union's Garden section. This time the article was by Betty Newton and all the flowers were from my collection. As there is a hill on the west side of my yard, there was insufficient sun in my yard for Betty to take the picture included. This picture was taken on the center strip of Lake Murray Boulevard as the traffic sped by! In February the general membership approved the publication of Dr. Mark Donnell's book Sclerocactus - unfortunately this book and other planned books never happened. Rick Latimer and Frank Thrombley represented the SDC&SS at the California Garden Club's Convention Show at the Islandia Hotel on April 23-26. The picnic was July 14th at Felicita Park. We had several excellent programs with out-of-town speakers: Victor Turecek, Myron Kimnack, Kitty Sabo, Peg Spete (July article on *Peperomias*), Inge Hoffman, Dave Philips (August article on *Monadeniums*), John Bleck, Dr. Arthur Gibson, and Walter Wasura. 1984 officers were: President Frank Thrombley, 1st VP Dr. Leroy Phelps, 2nd VP John Pasek, Recording Secretary Susan Clements, Corresponding Secretary Robert Kent, Treasurer Warren Buckner, Past Pres Rick Latimer, Board of Directors Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig, Madelyn Lee, Joe Clements, Bud Aubuchon, and Verna Pasek, with Jack Schlotte as Librarian, Frank Thrombley as Show Chairman, and Mary Aubuchon as Editor.

1989: Out-of-town contributors were Gary James, John Trager, David Hardy, Sean Hogan, Juan Chahinian*** spelling**, and Michael Vassar. Lit Phan was featured in a San Diego Union article on June 16th; his wonderful exhibit at the Del Mar Fair sparked interest in bonsai style succulents. The officers for this year were President Chuck Adams, VP Mitch Bahr, Secretary Jeanette Dutton, Treasurer Dana Adams, Board of Directors Dorothy Dunn, Cathy Frost, Mad Lee, Bob Marder, Rudy Lime and John Pasek; Mary Aubuchon was Editor, and Rick Latimer Librarian.

❖ A NEW SUCCULENT GARDEN IS GROWING UP AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK ❖

About fifteen years ago the San Diego Wild Animal Park was in its infancy. A dry and dusty place, with only a few gardens, among the first was the Baja Hill and the Aloe garden. Plant material for the Aloe garden was sent from all over the world: the latest discoveries, seedlings and special selections. These accessions were added to the west facing slope near the parking lot (this area is best viewed from the monorail on the last leg of its journey). The plants in these areas will be transferred to a new garden forming near the Baja Hill.

On Monday the 24th of January Phil Favell and I wondered out into this area. Phil has a good knowledge of the Aloes and was interested in the plantings. His enthusiasm was contagious, apparently there are several plants here that have never been recollected and some prized selections. We marked about fifty plants to move to the new area. Then we went to view the new home of these specimens and were happy to see the diversity of features and the size of the area.

The area is between the conifer plantings and the Baja Hill. It is located on a south facing slope, with soils that are fast draining with rock outcrops. This site has a lot of potential, but it needs some planning and personnel to carry out the plans. **We need some enthusiastic volunteers to help with the plan.** Those interested in this area will not have to wait 10 or five years for the plants to develop; all the material is mature! The challenge will be to transplant and care for these specimens while they reestablish.

❖ If you would like to help please call:

Cary Sharp, horticulturist, Wild Animal Park 738-5035 ❖

❖ Thanks!

Joey Betzler, Baja Hill volunteer 239-0804 ❖

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

by Frank Thrombley

The year was 1979 and it was June. The SDC&SS Show and Sale is upon us and this year (my second entry in this event) I am ready.

During the 1978 show I studiously made mental notes as to what plants won the blue ribbons. My interest was cacti only and in 1976 I had purchased a nice blue *Pseudopilocereus azureus* from Grigsby Cactus Gardens. It was now 30 inches tall with no scars on the blue body - a sure winner for the Best Cactus in show of 1979.

Floyd Gable was show chairman that year and he accepted my request to help set the show up. This gave me the opportunity to 'eyeball' all cacti entered in the show. By late afternoon I felt very confident with my entry; maybe I should just take the trophy home that night!

Two gentlemen, Gerald Dice and his son Jim, have just arrived with quite a few plants. One of which was transported in a six-foot carton. Gerald and Jim, the epitome of gentle people, always willing to help and give of themselves. How many can remember Gerald and Eleanor, his wife, helping at the sales table each month; always smiling and answering questions about plants. Remember the bus trips to Anza Borrego with Jim Dice telling us about every plant growing in that desert. Isn't it nice that our memory bank can let us relive the good times? In helping Gerald and Jim to unload the plants, the large carton held my interest. Jim allowed me to help him unpack the plant from the box and there it stood.

Gerald had grown a perfect *Cleistocactus ritterii*. This plant branches

from the base and although the body is green the dense covering of white spines gives the appearance of an all white plant. Further the stems are no larger than one inch in diameter. The branches are not decumbent and this plant was exceptional in that the five foot branches stayed upright without support.

After setting the plant in its proper place, which was next to my "Blue Gem", Jim went on to set-up his display of plants on the tables for collections and educational purposes.

Needless to say the *Cleistocactus ritterii* won the trophy for the Best Cactus in the show. (It did not fall off the table, nor break any branches - I controlled myself.) Jim Dice won the CSSA Educational Plaque for his display that year and Eleanor certainly had to be proud of her two men.

The show ended, the plants were taken home and the picnic was held in July. At the August meeting, Gerald gave me a cutting of his trophy winning *Cleistocactus*. He made quite a few cuttings and distributed them to interested members. My cutting rooted and grew, but I could never grow it to its potential. Jim told me recently that there are still plants in the greenhouse, at his mother's home, from the original *Cleistocactus ritterii*.

Gerald was not only the epitome of a gentle person, but a sharing person who was always willing to give of himself. Sometimes, one wonders if there has been a passing of an age dominated by families who were well-mannered, literate, genteel, selfless, and often kindly.

FROM ALL CORNERS
by Shirley Berry



You may wonder why the salinity problem in soils and water is being so relentlessly pursued by this columnist. Well perhaps the scarring and scabbing on *Lobivias* and *Trichocereus* and the withered ends of your *Leuchtenbergia principis* are not the results of sun or annoying garden pests, but merely excess alkalinity!

The University of California in its publication "The U.C. System for Producing Healthy Container Grown Plants" describes experiments in reducing salinity in their mixes. Briefly described, the results found that salts are removed rapidly from sand, and that the addition of organic matter retards salt removal, even though it may improve permeability. Surprisingly (to me) peat retards salt removal and fir bark causes greater salt retention than peat.

If there are sources of salinity such as excess fertilizer or a high PH in your irrigation water, leaching needs to be frequent and heavy. The booklet tells us that combatting the salinity problem is more easily accomplished with the U.C. type fine sand mixture. Their suggested five basic mixes are as follows: (1) 100% fine sand; (2) 75% fine sand and 25% peat; (3) 50% - 50% sand and peat; (4) 25% sand and 75% peat; (5) no sand 100% peat.

As you may easily see, most of these mixes are not useful to succulent culture. Perhaps the second mixture could be adapted adding, or course, the necessary balanced nutrients. The most important nutrients are hoof and horn, or blood meal, potassium nitrate, potassium sulfate, single superphosphate, dolomite lime, and gypsum, proportions varying with each mix.

A formula closer to our horticultural interests is the "J.I." compost. If you read the British and European publications and catalogs you come across this term quite frequently. The John Innes Horticultural Institute in England demonstrated that a single soil mixture with minor modifications could be used for growing a wide range of plants. Their basic formula for potting is as follows: 7 parts composted medium loam, 3 parts peat, and 2 parts coarse sand.

Added to this is hoof and horn meal, superphosphate, sulfate of potash, and calcium carbonate (lime). However, the variability from region to region of "composted medium loam" makes the formula not of practical value here in this country.

Gunther Andersohn in his very informative book, *Cacti and Succulents* claims that the decisive factor for growing healthy plants is the PH value which was discussed in a previous article. Here the emphasis is on a coarse grained structure for optimum aeration. He suggests adding any of the following to achieve this end: pumice gravel, perlite, quartz, sand, lava slag and lava sand (found on the Mexican uplands and the Canary Islands). Fortunately, our source for pumice and lava products can be acquired more locally.

When you have composed a potting mixture you feel is suitable, fill a container with it and water the mixture. If it is properly proportioned, water should run right through---- immediate in and out is the key to a successful mix for good cacti and succulent health.

WISE AND OTHERWISE

Michael Buckner

There was a young lady named Bright
Whose speed was far faster than light;
She went out one day,
In a relative way,
And returned on the previous night.



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By professor A.H. Reginald Buller, F.R.S. onetime professor of Botany at the University of Manitoba and world-wide authority on fungi. Dr. Buller also wrote a sequel to "Relativity" which we quote here for the amusement of Dr. Larry Mitich, who quoted the above in the middle of the Tucson desert. So, for Larry and Chuck, who also quoted some nice limericks that best be left out here

To her friends said the Bright one in chatter,
"I have learned something new about matter:
My speed was so great,
Much increased was my weight,
Yet I failed to become any fatter!"

"The ancient Mexicans, while they propitiated the gods of maguey, cultivated and coddled maguey incessantly. They cleared the wild land and put agave into it. They opened up a new and nurturing environment with varying habitats and ecologic niches for the random variants of the gene-rich agave genus. The cultivators made agave a home on the deep productive soils and in time provided water and manure. They protected the plants from weedy trees. They selected the genetic deviates of high production by planting the vegetative offsets. Agave species multiplied into more varieties than man has been able to characterize and count. Generally, that is what man did for agave in this Mesoamerican symbiosis.

In return agave has nurtured man. During the several thousand years that man and agave have lived together, agave has been a renewable resource for food, drink, and artifact. As man settled into communities, agave became fences marking territories, protecting crops, providing security, and ornamenting the home. Agave fostered in man the settled habit, attention to cultivation, and the steadfast purpose through years and life spans, all virtues required by civilization. As civilization and religion increased, the nurturing agave became a symbol, until with its stimulating juice man made it into a god. The religion and the god have gone, but agave still stands as a donor species of the first water. Among the world's crops, are there others that have played a more useful and as bizarre a role? If we are to ask more of agave, we must give it attention and growing room."

Agaves of Continental North America by Howard Scott Gentry, 1982, Univ. of AZ Press

WISE AND

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"A man's interest in a single bluebird is worth more than a complete but dry list of the fauna and flora of a town."

-- Henry David Thoreau

"I think that a man who wants to write in the twentieth century makes a great mistake if he doesn't begin by reading *The Origin of Species*"

Basil Bunting



OTHERWISE

"Man's slaughter of these organisms (Barrel Cactus) could be more easily excused if it had been limited by even such uses of them, but it has not been. The very appearance of them apparently invokes a reaction in modern man, and he has turned his weapons on them in a frenzy of destruction. It is as though before their formidable majesty he developed an inferiority complex which issued in an urge to kill. The extent of this factor in the slaughter of the buffalo is easily seen, but few realize that it has played a big part in the disappearance of the barrel cactus.

One of the few places where I have seen a stand of old barrels (ed., *Ferocactus wislizeni*) was in a small canyon so deep in the Franklin Mountains that a mountain lion shadowed us as we proceeded up it. Here I found myself on a steep slope with several dozen fine old cacti up to four feet tall in view at the same time. But I had arrived there a week or so too late. As I moved from one to another of these old monarchs, each perhaps half a century old, I found that each had been neatly decapitated or else the apex split open by one deft stroke of a machete or some such instrument. The exposed flesh of each one was melting away in the heat. Since then that canyon is a sad place to anyone knowing what was needlessly destroyed.

I did not understand the reason for such a destruction until some time later when I stood and observed people filing through the cactus house of the New York Botanical Garden. Here I saw a man push against the fence which protected the plants and, gesturing excitedly toward a beautiful old barrel cactus, roar for the benefit of his young son, "Look at that big, ugly, ----- thing!! God, if I could only get at it, you'd see how I'd fix it! I'd tear it apart!!" Only then did I realize how such great organisms have been sacrificed to the ego of modern man."

from *CACTI of the SOUTHWEST - Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana* by Del Weniger, University of Texas Press

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Membership

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit, hobby organization created to stimulate interest in succulent plants. This society brings together people (and plants) with a common interest for the purpose of educating the public about the beauty and uniqueness of these remarkable plants, encouraging proper collecting and maintenance of the plants through preservation of native habitats and horticultural propagation, and to foster good fellowship. You are invited to join our society, whether you are an expert, amateur, or beginner, who loves unusual plants and flowers. **VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. BRING AN INTERESTED FRIEND.**

Regular meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park at 1:00 p.m. (One may come as early as noon just to socialize or obtain a parking space easily.) Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership with an additional \$5.00 for each additional member at the same mailing address. The dues are payable at time of joining, and January of each succeeding year. Members receive our monthly publication Espinas y Flores, are entitled to library check-out privileges, and may partake in our many field trips and other activities. We offer knowledgeable speakers at our programs; many are world renowned scholars, botanists, explorers and authorities. We have a number of shows each year, especially our Annual Show and Plant Sale in June. We have a wide range of plants and supplies for purchase as favorable costs at most meetings. We also have a plant exchange table and monthly door prizes. All members will be consistently encouraged to contribute and participate in our many functions. Please join us and help us grow.

For more information, call Laura De Merritt, Treasurer: 270-5544.

- Yes, I (we) wish to become a 1994 member(s) of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.:
- Yes, I (we) wish to renew our San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society membership through 1994.

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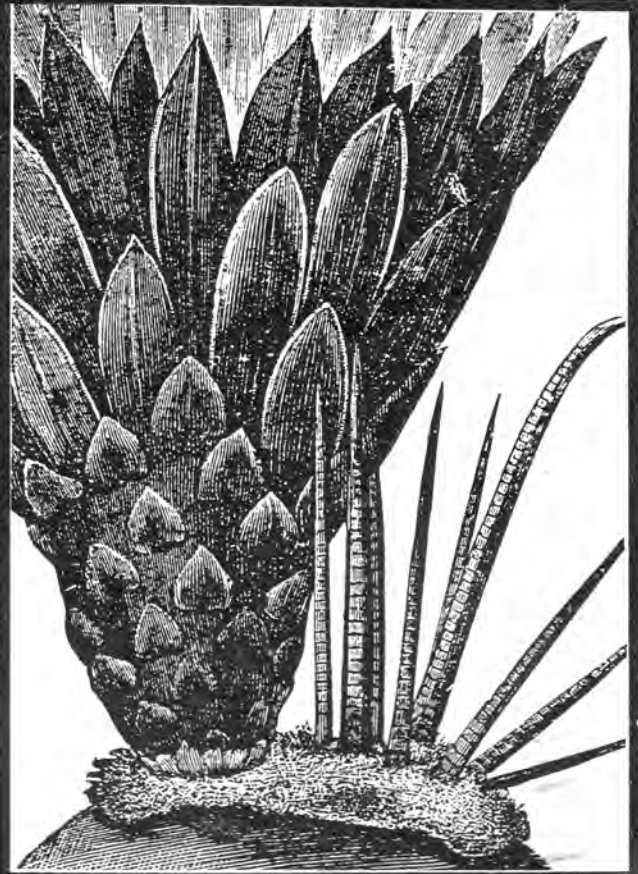
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The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Incorporated is open to all persons interested in growing cacti or other succulent and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held at 11:30 AM prior to general meetings. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, and \$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. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Incorporated. Fax available - please call editor @ (619) 222-3216

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