

MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

Espinas y Flores

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

Vol. XII, No. 8.

August, 1977.

August Meeting Date;

Saturday, August 13th, 1977
at 1.30 P.M.

Cactus of the Month: ECHINOFOSSULOCACTUS

Succulent of the Month: ADROMISCHUS

PROGRAM:

A SLIDE SHOW

by: FLOYD GABLE.

Floyd Gable is well-known to all of us for the outstandingly beautiful plants he grows, some of which were seen in his exhibit at our "Open House" in June. He was, in fact, the winner of the "Reuben Vaughn" Award for "Best Exhibit" of the show.

I understand, from Warren, that Floyd's slides will give us close-ups of many of his beautiful plants, besides showing us how he has planned and developed his garden through the years. His program should be an exciting one, with information, and inspiration, for all of us.

FUTURE PROGRAM:

Our English friend and lecturer, Clive Innes, will be giving us his program in October, instead of September, as previously arranged.

Y.L.Ed.

IN THIS ISSUE:

	<u>Page</u>
August Program	1
Cactus of the Month	2
**Change of Programs	3
All about 'This & That'	4, 5
Cactus Cartoon	5
"We Had....."	6
Springtime Bus Trip	6, 7
May Program	7
The Convention	8
Annual "Open House"	8, 9
County Fair	9
The Annual Picnic	9
Country Living	Audrey Johnson 10, 11
Open House	Edith Billmyer 11

Cactus-of-the-Month

Echinofossulocactus

George E. Radwin

Next to the genus Mammillaria, and perhaps also Echinocereus the present genus is the most widespread and diverse in Mexico. However, many things, even its diversity, are subjects of controversy because of the extreme variability of form and spination of ostensibly recognizable species. The tendency of these apparent species to hybridize, often producing forms intermediate in morphology to the parents has made it even more difficult to develop a workable classification of the group. Even the generic name was only recently chosen over the later but mercifully shorter name Stenocactus.

As has happened so often, the type species, E. coptonogonus, is probably the least typical species in the genus. Most species live on rolling, more or less grassy hills throughout the massive central plateau of Mexico. Although subject to differing opinions the number of species of Echinofossulocactus, according to an article on the subject in "Cactaceas Y Succulentas Mexicanas (1969) is approximately thirty-four.

The general appearance of species includes a globular stem (2-5 inches in diameter) with numerous, more or less narrow ribs and flat, often papery spines arising from areoles on them. The moderately large, purple or purple-striped white flowers arise from new apical areoles. A few species offset but most do not, unless injured, such as, as often occurs, when the main head is eaten by goats or other livestock..

Culture of these inhabitants of the grassy hills of central Mexico is quite simple in San Diego. Most or all species will fare well outdoors in our climate and few, if any will suffer, even in sub-freezing temperatures. Most species thrive in a rich, moderately light, porous soil and can take heavier watering than most cacti.

A few exceptional forms have long, twisted spines or exceptionally attractive spine cluster on their bizarre, accordion-like ribs.

References:

- Bravo, H., 1969, El Genero Echinofossulocactus. Cactaceas Y Succulentas Mexicanas 14(1): 11-21, 23.
Bravo, H., 1969, El Genero Echinofossulocactus II. Cactaceas Y Succulentas Mexicanas 14(2): 34-36, 37-46.
Bravo, H., 1969, El Genero Echinofossulocactus III. Cactaceas Y Succulentas Mexicanas 14(3): 59-70.
Bravo, H., 1969, El Genero Echinofossulocactus IV. Cactaceas Y Succulentas Mexicanas 14(4): 83-89.
Marshall, W.T. & T.M. Bock, 1941, Cactaceae. Abbey Garden Press. 220 pp.



CHANGE OF PROGRAMS

Warren Buckner

The August 27th meeting, featuring Dr. Werner Rauh, has been cancelled. Dr. Rauh is returning to Germany on 20th August, according to our contact, Mr. Eron Ray. This meeting was scheduled as the Annual Meeting of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America.

The following letter was received from C.S.S.A.:-

"The Cactus & Succulent Society of America
(Incorporated) July 11, 1977

CSSA ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, August 14, 1977, 1.30 PM, at the Frances Young Hall of Horticulture, South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. Our fine Affiliate, the South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society, will be graciously hosting this Meeting in connection with their own regular monthly meeting.

A Plant Sale by the Affiliate will commence at 12.30 PM, so come early for this. Short business meetings of the South Coast CSS and of CSSA, will follow.

Our featured Program - "Conservation, Boom or a Bust?" will be presented by Gary Lyons, Chairman, CSSA Conservation Committee. Gary will trace the work on conservation during the past few years with a look to its future. He will also speak on the Endangered Species Act, the International Trade Convention, Permits and focusing in on the impact CSSA has had in shaping the final Rules. This will be a most informative Report to our members who have been trying to find out what is happening on this subject, so important to all.

We will also have Refreshments - "Finger Food". We would appreciate your bringing in something to share - small sandwiches, cookies, cake, chips and/or dips, nuts, cherry tomatoes, pickles, olives, devilled eggs, whatever is your favorite.

The South Coast Botanic Gardens are open from 8.00 AM to 5:00 PM, so come early as this would be a fine time to see this beautiful newer facility of the Los Angeles County Arboreta & Botanic Gardens.

Hope to see you, Sunday, August 14, 1977, at what promises to be a fine Annual Meeting of the Society.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Virginia.

Virginia F. Martin, President.

An Important P.S. - When you receive your July-August 1977 Journal, you will note Announcement of the CSSA Annual Meeting for August 27, 1977. This "Special Program" of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society has been cancelled, as the speaker has advised that he will be unable to meet this commitment."

ALL ABOUT THIS AND THAT....

Ye Lady Ed.

Although these past months have been so packed with Club activities, it seems that, once again, I have not too much information to put into my "This & that" article. The fact is, our good President has done an inspired job of writing up all the highlights of the past Spring and early Summer, about which we have all been waiting to hear. Like myself (when typing up all this fascinating information), I am sure that those of you who did not attend all these functions will very much wish you did!

I, myself, was particularly interested in Warren's spirited account of the trip to the Anza-Borrego Desert Park. Unfortunately, Geoff and I were unable to take part in that one, but, on any future occasions, we intend to be there.

Please, Martin, organize some more of the same; next time you should be able to fill two 'buses, with no trouble at all.

A MESSAGE ABOUT - AND TO - HELEN HEGYI.

I would like to mention here (for those of you who are unaware of this) that our dear friend, and fellow member, Helen Hegyi, is having a miserable time at the moment. She is awaiting, in considerable pain, a trip to Palomar Hospital early in August, where, we hope, surgery will alleviate at least part of her problems.

We all know Helen for her inexhaustible knowledge of the plant world of cacti and succulents. Many of us know her, also, for her humour, joy of living, and courage in the face of the most distressing circumstances.

Hang in there, Helen! We know you can make (and take) it; our thoughts, and prayers, are with you. Need I add that we are all looking forward to the time when you will join us again, your old (sorry, for Helen, that word should certainly read "young") self!!

GROUND RULES for members' plant, pot or supplies sales at monthly meetings are as follows:-

- (1) Members notify the Plant Sales Chairman before the meeting, discuss the material to be offered for sale, and obtain his concurrence that the material does not conflict with the club sales.
- (2) The Plant Sales Chairman will assign a separate table for these miscellaneous sales.
- (3) Twenty-five (25) per cent of the gross (total) sales are to be paid to the Club Treasurer at the close of the meeting.

MESSAGE TO MARTIN MOONEY

Thank you so much for your contributions to the bulletin, Martin.. Unfortunately, I have been unable to include either in this month's issue, for a variety of reasons.

Firstly, the information contained in the C. & S.S. of America's letter, of July 11th, was included in Warren's saga of recent and current events. Secondly, with regard to Patricia L. Donner's article of 24th May: being conservation material, this I was most reluctant to omit, but, as the article had to be printed in its entirety (some five full pages), I had neither the time to type it, nor had I the space to include it in this month's bulletin.

(Cont'd.)

However, during the all-too-short period between mailing the August "EyF" and starting to collect material for the following month, I intend to find time to type the article, in full, so that it will be ready for the September issue.

Once again, my apologies, Martin - please keep the information coming!

Ye Lady Ed.

STOP PRESS:

July 28th - Helen's surgery took place a little earlier than I had anticipated; in fact, she had it this morning.

Later, I learned that she had come through it all remarkably well, and, when Geoff and I visited her this evening, she seemed (although uncomfortable) in the best of spirits. However, I'm sure that a little moral support from the Club would be greatly appreciated.

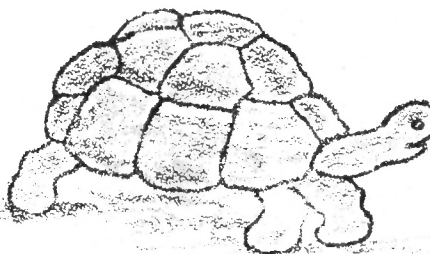
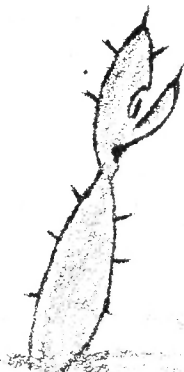


DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
AUGUST 15TH, 1977.

Your Editors are taking a vacation, starting August 19th. We will prepare the September issue from materials received by August 15th, before we go on vacation, and Warren has volunteered to take care of printing and mailing, with the help of some volunteers (we hope!). So - rally round, folks, and get your contributions in early this once, PLEASE!

Had you ever given thought to growing spines for protection instead of carrying armor plate?

Thanks my desert friend but turtles wore armor before cactus grew and when the threat is past we just amble away.



ARMOR -vs- WEAPONS

"WE HAD...."

Warren Buckner

A few months back one of the old timers ruminated to me: "Club doesn't seem as active as she used to be". I don't remember my answer at that moment, but today's answer to the thorny old gent would be: "If it gets any more active, I'll have to give up sleep!" These past few months have been a grand way to cure insomnia; no time for sleeping.

We had a full 'bus load enjoying springtime in our back country.

We had the delightful ladies from South Africa, Cynthia Giddy and Barbara Jeppe.

We had the Seventeenth Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America at Tuscon.

We had our annual Open House and exhibit at Casa del Prado.

We had a busy, hectic and successful exhibit at the County Fair, more grandly known as the Southern California Exposition.

We had our annual picnic and plant auction at Bob and Suzanne Taylor's Cacti Nursery.

We've had a grand time this year!

SPRINGTIME BUS TRIP TO THE
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

The 'bus trip on 23rd April to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was an unqualified success, with a full bus and Bill Knerr, our knowledgeable guide. Bill was ably aided by our Activities Chairman, Martin Mooney, commenting on geological formation, and odd facts. Did anyone else know that a tropical storm like Inez moves more sand, rock and earth than man has in his total history? After a few more observations on the age of the geological formations and mineral composition of various rocks, Katherine MacDonald's query was: "How does he know all these things?" Beats me, Katy, maybe you could ask Pat - she knows him better than the rest of us. Anyone wanting a full report on the flowering trees, shrubs, cacti et al should contact Bill Knerr, or Joan Fleer, she took copious notes all day.

My pictorial log follows:-

On the coastal hills, early in our trip, the Yucca whipplei was sending up spectacular columns of creamy white, tinged with purple, truly "Our Lord's Candle". Did you know that the petals are tasty in a salad?

Echinocereus engelmannii, with a few magenta funnel-shaped flowers at Lookout Point and scattered through the desert, about two weeks short of their peak bloom. The succulent, spherical, red, sugary fruit gives this cactus its common name, Strawberry Cactus.

Opuntia basilaris, the Beavertail, was present everywhere in the desert, with its iridescent orchid to rose-coloured flowers. I'll bet the flowers are visible at night on this beauty.

(Cont'd.)

At Lookout Point, we found a dudleya, in full bloom, on the shady side of a big rock growing out of a crack three feet about ground level, perfect drainage. I didn't recognize the species, I very rarely do, but appreciated the velvety gray green succulent rosettes. This genus, named after the late great botanist, Dudley, of Stanford University, is one I have learned to appreciate over the years; wish more material was available on this member of the succulent family.

Descending into the desert, the Fouquieria splendens were waving their red wands at the bus with the stands of red, spined, yellow-flowered Ferocactus acanthodes drawing "oohs" and "aahs" from the passengers at each turn of the road as we headed downhill to Borrego. Bloom spikes with an occasional yellow inflorescence of the Agave deserti were beginning to appear, with the sharp-eyed catching a glimpse of the buttercup flowers of stray clumps of Mammillaria diocia. The Agave deserti put on a truly magnificent display on the desert floor in the vicinity of Agua Caliente Springs Park, with hundreds of flower spikes in full bloom.

Palm Canyon picnic area was hot and dry, a great place to send my sinuses; really think I ought to treat them to about three months of therapy a year, say January, February and March! The shade ramadas were a great place for lunch, but the contrast was too great for amateur photographers; blew most of a roll of film with beautifully exposed backgrounds and under-exposed foregrounds. Only the hardy and fleet of foot made it up the trail to the springs and palm grove, Washingtonia filifera; five or six made it, I think - too hot to keep count. Along the trail up the dry stream bed, the Desert Willow was displaying pale purple tubular flowers, about an inch long and wide. Strange looking flowers for a willow; checking it out, I found that common names can really be deceiving; Desert Willow is Chilopsis linearis, a member of the Bignonia Family, or trumpet flower family.

Our stops at Yaqui Pass and Box Canyon gave us a chance to admire the beauty of the Anza-Borrego Desert. ~~What~~ a weird, savage land this must have seemed to Captain Pedro Fages, from the Presidio at San Diego, and then Juan Bautista de Anza, searching for a route from Sonora to Monterey in the 1770's! For those who would like more historical information on this area, I would recommend:

"Our Historic Desert", text by Diana E. Lindsay, edited by Richard F. Pourade, and published by Copley Press.

MAY PROGRAM

The sunburn had just started to peel when Cynthia Giddy and Barbara Jeppe, of South Africa, arrived at the Mooney's, on May 4th and 5th, for their program at our monthly meeting. The bubbly Cynthia was, as always, a delight, with beautiful slides of the Aloes of her Nursery, and superb slides of the Cycads from everywhere. Barbara Jeppe's breath-taking slides of the flowering desert of southwest Africa was aptly named: "Namaqualand - Land of Living Jewels".

An added fillip were the beautiful water colours which Barbara brought for sale at the Tucson Convention. Two butterflies that seem poised for flight are on display on Lee Phelp's walls, and a Conophytum portrait that you want to reach out and touch has a happy home with Mike Buckner.

(Cont'd.)

THE CONVENTION

Then came the "Convention". Driving over on Sunday, May 15th, we were delighted to find the Saguaro, Carnegia gigantea, displaying white crowns of flowers, and miles and miles of pure yellow landscape where the Palo Verdes were in full flower. Approximately twenty San Diegans attended the Convention, and a good time was had by all. Julianne Rice has promised to write up the meetings, therefore I'll mention only a few highlights.

Standing in the lobby waiting for a banquet to begin, I was struck by the thought that, within twenty feet, there were eight people who had been honored by having a cactus or succulent named for them: Charles Glass, Frank Horwood, Dudley Gold, Hernando Sanchez-Mejorada, Kitty Sabo, Suzanne Taylor, and Ed and Betty Gay. That's quite a thrill for a guy who is, at best, an amateur gardener!

The high points among the programs for me were:-

the beautiful slides of Baja by Dr. R.R. Humphrey;

John Donald, of England, who, while discussing Borzicactinae, professed to be a lumper rather than a splitter, and then put into words a philosophy that I would heartily endorse - "If you like a plant, then grow it, don't worry about its bloody name!"

Larry Mitch's fascinating pictorial biography of Britton and Rose;

Frank Horwood's slides of the fascinating succulents of north-east Africa;

Cynthia Giddy's scary lecture on the toxicity of common succulents; and

a repeat of Barbara Jeppe's beautiful pictures and slides of Namaqualand.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

We hadn't unpacked when the 'phone started ringing about our annual Open House and Show on June 4th and 5th. Julianne Rice did a tremendous job as chairman of this show, and deserves a standing ovation for her efforts from the entire club. Seventeen exhibits, varying from one to three tables, were lovingly set up on Friday night and Saturday morning.

The exhibitors were:-

Lee Phelps, Floyd Gable, Joan and Paul Johnson, Doris Rake, Pat and Martin Mooney, Virginia and Warren Buckner, Betty Athy, Richard Latimer, Audrey and Geoff Johnson, Verna and John Pasek, Marcia and Tom Hamecher, Ruth Stanton, Mae Andrews, Herbert Hewitt, Eleanor and Gerald Dice, Sophie and Oliver Loyland, and a joint exhibit by Harriet Sopp and Francis Johnson.

(Cont'd.)

This year the Board of Directors decided to purchase perpetual trophies, and to bring in outside certified judges. Kitty Sabo came down from Woodland Hills and tackled the judging chore by herself; after an hour and a half of examining exhibits and plants, she declared the job an impossible one, and then finally awarded trophies as follows:-

Ruby Falk Award for "Best Succulent" to Lee Phelps;

Phillip Corliss Award for "Best Cactus" to Joan Johnson;

Reuben Vaughn Award for "Best Exhibit" to Floyd Gable;

Hazel and Walter Scott Award for "Most Artistic Exhibit" to Betty Athy and Richard Latimer; and

A C.S.S.A. plaque for "Best Educational Exhibit" to Warren Buckner.

Kitty's comment was:- "Gee, I wish I could make at least six more awards - this is an excellent show with beautiful plants."

Special thanks are due to Eleanor and Gerald Dice, and their son, Jim, who not only put in a beautiful exhibit, but also manned the plant sales tables for two days; Mae Andrews, who put in the turtle exhibit and then brewed coffee for the exhibitors, helped on Saturday, and then repeated on Sunday, with snacks also; and many, many thanks to "Granny Anne", "Chairperson extraordinaire".

Some of the plants exhibited went direct to

DEL MAR for the COUNTY FAIR. As the Open House exhibit came down, the work had already started on our three exhibits (Cacti, Succulents and Grafts) at the Fair. Tom Hamecher, Ricky Latimer, and Betty Athy teamed for a truly outstanding and beautiful exhibit. Various members dropped in during the week preceding the opening, on June 21st, to bring plants, groom plants, and help on the exhibit. With a picnic lunch on Saturday, the big push was mounted over Saturday, Sunday and Monday, with the last whisking of a stray clod off the floor of the Succulent Exhibit at 3.45 p.m. on Monday, with judging to start at 4 p.m.

Our Firsts for the Succulent Exhibit and the Graft Exhibit plus a Second, hotly disputed by our chairpeople, for the Cacti Exhibit, earned the San Diego C. & S. Society the Fair's Special Award for outstanding Cacti & Succulent Exhibitor. I'll bring it to the next meeting for you all to admire.

After an all-out effort on July 5th, the exhibit was torn down, and the plants returned to their owners, before sundown. By noon the area that had been a thing of beauty the previous evening looked like the site of trench warfare in World War I.

By the time all the spines had been pulled out of fingers, and before all the strained muscles had returned to normal, it was time for:

THE ANNUAL PICNIC

As usual, this was a glorious day, with good food, much talk, and fine plants to bid on. Our gracious hosts, Bob and Suzanne Taylor, were their usual hardworking and delightful selves - wonderful people to visit on a warm July afternoon.

Good food, good friends, and good fellowship - enough said; we've had a grand time these past few months.

Somehow, this month, I don't feel that my thoughts will be quite as romantic as usual when I write about our life in the beautiful hill country surrounding Escondido! The fact is, lately part of our time has been taken up by dealings with the "Lil' Stinker", which, as you may have guessed, is a firm which takes care of the cleaning out of septic tanks!

By the time we had discovered the two areas to be pumped out, half of our patio deck had been removed, and the manoeuvring of the pumping truck up and around our steep driveway was something to see and quake over!! Thank goodness that chore is over for the next three years.

Talking of Lil' Stinkers reminds me.... Last night, as Geoff watered our steep hillside garden, down the steps (towards me) came running one of our own little stinkers, a baby skunk. Needless to say, I retreated hastily to the other side of the house (just in case), but there were no after effects, fortunately. Perhaps our little visitor was too young to know what his elders would have done to us under the circumstances!

I wondered later whether that baby skunk had been up to investigate and admire his stone replica, which stands at the top of one flight of steps, side by side with that of another of my old friendly enemies, the squirrel? My latest hobby - that of collecting stone duplicates of all my little local friends of the bird and animal world - is proving to be an absorbing one, and I am thoroughly enjoying it. Recently, I was fortunate enough to discover an elderly (retired) gentleman in nearby San Marcos, who makes the most delightful stone statues, fountains, bird baths, small animals and birds. He is a real local character, it is a joy to chat with him, and he is going to provide me with a fountain for my little pool (at last!) at very reasonable cost. The whole business is rapidly becoming yet another of my fascinating and rewarding pastimes: but if I pack any more of them into my already crowded schedule, I'll never get next month's bulletin on its way to all of you, so I'd better stop right here!!

More about this weird year for plants.

When writing about the peculiar growing conditions of 1977, I believe I forgot to emphasize the oleander, one of my particular favourites. This year, for some reason or other, my collection has excelled itself in growth and beauty. I wonder whether anyone else has found the same thing? I am particularly enjoying "Cherry Ripe", with its tall, graceful growth, masses of large, red, single flowers, and, most of all, its truly delicious fragrance. "Cherry Ripe" stands quite close to our front door, protects us from the hot sun, and very definitely helps to disguise certain other country smells which assault our nostrils at times. No wonder it is my favourite!

My beautiful fuchsias, I'm sorry to say, have eased off considerably during the recent very hot weather. Nevertheless, with less, and smaller, blooms than earlier in the season, they are still holding their own sufficiently to make a nice splash of colour in the lath-house. My tuberous begonias? Well, these plants (which normally flourish under much more humid conditions) are still making up their minds whether to bloom, or just fade away. I await their decision with impatience!

(Cont'd.)

Meanwhile, back on the hillside, the cacti continue to do much better than usual, and we have had all sorts of flowers on plants which hitherto have refused to bloom. There is just one problem at this time of year - even cactus flowers find it hard to take the heat and brilliance of the sun here in Escondido, and one has to be continually on the alert in order to be able to admire (and sometimes photograph) them before they have faded away - all too quickly.

Oh well, at this time of year we hillbillies can never expect too much from our gardens.... Right now, I think perhaps I'd better feed my ever-hungry baby blue jay, Ikie (named for Mikey, of Life Cereal fame - the boy who will eat anything!), and throw some water around to my poor parched plants. Afterwards, it's off for a "dip in the briny" for the Johnsons! Come on in, the water's fine!!

A FURTHER REPORT ON OUR ANNUAL
"OPEN HOUSE".

Edith Billmyer

Our beautiful display of cacti and succulents, in June, on the numerous tables, was enjoyed by over 1,200 persons, many of whom remarked that they had never seen anything so fantastic!

Julianne rice's "Around the World" plaque and table (even two old shoes filled with succulents!) received an Honorable Mention.

Floyd Gable's table was so fascinating that people just couldn't believe it.

Doris Rake's unusual pots were very interesting.

Ricky Latimer's display of spun plastics was gorgeous.....

All in all, it was out best show ever, and we heartily thank the Clubs that made it such a success. The tables certainly showed the public what beauty there is in cacti and succulents, and they were all very impressed. I was at the door, and many people stopped to thank us for giving them the opportunity to learn more about our Society.

WRAP-UP

"M.E."

With all the contributions received for this issue of "E.Y.F." space seems to have run out and we apologize for not having room for our regular last page of "Board Members and Officers." The only change from the previous issue is an address change for our Corresponding Secretary, Betty Athy. Betty's new address is:

3990 Apore, La Mesa, Ca. 92041

AND SO TO BED.....30

Audrey Johnson
1226 Citracado Pky.
Escondido, CA 92025
Address Correction Requested