



Espinas y Flores

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

November Meeting

Saturday, November 14, 1981

1:30 pm

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

"South Africa 1980"

Lila Lilly will give a slide program which covers over 1200 miles of plant hunting in South Africa. Lila is probably best known for her succulent nursery in San Rafael, California. She is very knowledgeable and had a most fortunate opportunity to travel as a guest with a South African family. She was therefore privileged to hunt for plants on private property which would have been inaccessible otherwise.

Come and enjoy South Africa.

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Sansevieria: family; Liliaceae?
Agavaceae?

This genera was named for Prince de Sangro of San Severe in Italy. The plants are native to Tropical and South Africa, Madagascar, Arabia and India.

Sansevierias are often rosulate and sometimes fan shaped plants ranging in size from a few inches to a few feet tall. The leaves can be cylindrical, channelled, or flat. A plant may be made up of as many as thirty to as few as one leaf. It divides by producing creeping rhizomes, usually underground, but sometimes from the stem above.

The flowers form on a long stem, either branched or single, and are white, lavender, or greenish in color. They are often scented and very lovely. The fruit is a yellow or orange berry containing 2 to 3 seeds.

Sansevierias are very tough, highly fibrous, long lived plants that adapt to heavy shade or broken sun easily. They are excellent houseplants and will accept a dark location for quite awhile without signs of damage. The plants prefer a rich, well drained soil and a shaded, warm location and a minimum temperature of 50°F in winter. They dislike stagnant moisture and air. Propagation is by leaf cuttings, division, or seed.

There is no lack of enthusiasm when it comes to Sansevieria collectors. Unfortunately information on these plants is limited, often vague, and very often contradictory. In fact the available literature is a mess! There are few botanists who have made a study of these plants and published their findings. There are also a few people who have published their ideas, but probably not studied the plants at all.

The Sansevieria, being a happy illiterate, just sits back and watches us humans run around in circles.

One circle involves just what family these plants belong to. Liliaceae or Agavaceae? Both camps defend their stand with equal vigor, so you just have to decide which you will believe.

Another is the "My-plant-doesn't-look-like-your-plant-with-the-same-name" circle. So many Sansevierias have been passed around for so long that the name you order may not belong to the plant you get. Also these plants have the disquieting habit of going through several different growth forms, some or all of which may flower. So two different looking plants may be the same, but in two different growth forms.

The most popular circle is the 'horts.', variegata, sport, and 'cultivar' one. These are all plants that "looked different" from the parent plant and arrived in the same pot unannounced but certainly eagerly received. They are given names like 'Loop's Pride' or 'Bantel's Sensation' and collectors eagerly acquire all they can find.

In any case, until someone straightenes the mess out, it is a good idea to just enjoy Sansevierias for the wonderful creation they are.

Cactus-of-the-Month

Cereus

F. C. Thrombly

Cereus (sē' -rē-ŭs)

Cereus Group

This genus includes the earliest known columnar cacti. Some of these are tall tree-like with very large crowns and stout trunks. Other species are low-growing freely branching shrubs with slender stems. The ribs are very prominent in the majority of the species and range in quantity from 4 to 8. All have large nocturnal flowers, usually white or pink. The fruit is large, red and fleshy, with black seeds and in most species, edible.

The distribution ranges from the West Indies and North Eastern South America, into Argentina. Despite their tropical origin, they are quite tough and a minimum winter temperature of about 40°F is sufficient.

Most authors credit the naming of this genus to Phillip Miller, when he published his *Gardeners Dictionary*, 8th Edition, in 1768. Phillip Miller, however, gave the credit to P. Hermann, who used the name in 1698. Miller did describe Cactus hexagonus as the first Cereus in his dictionary, which Linnaeus named. Britton and Rose kept the name Cereus hexagonus and made it the type species for the genus. Britton and Rose described 24 species in their publication, *The Cactaceae*, in 1920. C. Backeberg described 46 species in his publication, *Cactus Lexicon*, in 1966.

These plants are all easily grown in cultivation. They are vigorous in their growth and make good under stock for grafting. Huntington Gardens, in San Marino, California, has some species growing in their outside gardens and I believe have flowered them.

There is a species, Cereus peruvianus v. monstrosus, which is quite common in cultivation. It has ribs often broken into irregular tubercles or unevenly grooved with deep longitudinal furrows. They are popular as oddities, and have minor and major cristate forms.

For an interesting article on Cereus trigonodendron by Hans Fittkau, see Page 122 in the May-June 1978 *Cactus and Succulent Journal*.

References used:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Backeberg, Curt | 1977 <i>Cactus Lexicon</i> | Blandford Press, England |
| Britton & Rose | 1937 <i>The Cactaceae</i> | Dover Publication, N.Y.C. |

Results of the interest survey, held earlier in the year, for a study program for a single genus.

<u>Genus</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Genus</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Euphorbia	12	Ceropegia	4
Mammillaria	8	Ariocarpus	3
Ferocactus	6	Sulcorebutia	3
Notocactus	5	Gymnocalycium	3
Crassula	4	10 types	with 2
		13 types	with 1

Points were calculated by assigning 2 points for the first choice and 1 point for second choice, and adding them together. It is interesting to note that Euphorbia and Mammillaria were in the category of first choice only. Ferocactus, however, had one first choice and four second choice votes.

We will attempt to have study programs on the first three in the listing in 1982.

F. C. Thrombly

Bragging Table winners for October were:

1st	Dorothy Dunn	Parodia penicillata
2nd	Phyllis Flechsig	Graptoveria "Silver Star"
3rd	Betty Athy	Anacampseros comptonii

FOR STROLLERS AND HIKERS: Two nature loops with shaded exhibits and a guide book to the animals, plants and features of the landscape along the way, are now open at the Living Desert Reserve. New trails branching off from the loops offer two options for hikers: panoramic Eisenhower Mountain or a rugged desert canyon. Nature loops and trails are open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM until May 31, 1982. 47-900 Portola, Palm Desert. (714 346-5694.)

Dear Gardening Friends,

You are cordially invited to attend the Quail Gardens Docent Society Open House on Wednesday, November 18th from 10-12 in the Ecke Building.

We'll be discussing the upcoming Docent Classes and Projects for 1982. Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT ACTIVITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY...

BEFORE THE CHARTER

...OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Part IIb: Fifty Years Ago in the Journal

CONTINUED:

The meeting adjourned in time for members to examine rare specimens in the McCabe Gardens, and also visit the Knickerbocker and Stromquist Cactus Gardens. We found Mrs. Neff Bakkers a well-informed young woman who had chosen the management of a cactus business as one way of satisfying the desire for an out-of-door life, and who admitted the most zealous study of the monthly Journal.

One most instructive visit was made to Escondido and the several propagating houses of Mr. W. I. Beecroft. Mr. Beecroft will long be remembered as the introducer of the sensational and beautiful new Neomammillaria hahniana to the cactus lovers of the United States. The hour spent in his reserve house, where importations are kept for propagation only and can not be marketed, was all too short. It contained many choice and rare plants, but our interest in the columnar cereus, especially the "haar-kakteen", centered in a single fine specimen of Pilocereus hoppenstedtii, and a group of the exquisitely beautiful Cephalocereus palmeri. There was also a fine stand of C. senilis, but the finished beauty of the C. palmeri, with every silvery hair in place, suggested a distinguished military officer mingling with hoary peasantry. Mr. Beecroft is preparing to move to a higher and frostless area, and currently offers some excellent bargains in field specimens of Cerei. If sold at a bargain price, they could not be delivered, but Mr. Beecroft would assist purchasers their plants on a truck or trailer.

In the February of 1931 issue of the Journal (II:8, p. 417), the then Secretary of the CSSA, W. M. Ketteringham, listed the scheduled dates of all the CSSA meetings for that year. The February meeting was to be held at the Los Angeles Public Library on Saturday evening, the 28th, at 8:00 p. m. The other meetings were to be:

March 20 - Pasadena Public Library
April 26 - Palm Springs
May 10 - Huntington Gardens
May 21-24 - The Annual Show
June 21 - Long Beach
July 19 - San Francisco

* September 6 - San Diego *
September 27 - Santa Barbara
October 23 - Los Angeles Public Library
November 20 - Pasadena Public Library
December 18 - Los Angeles Public Library

In the June 1937 Journal(VIII:12, P. 193), there were again some Cactus and Succulent Society of America meetings listed:

Sunday, July 4th, 11:00 a. m.

Knickerbocker Nursery (Mrs. Bakkers), 6065 Bach St.,
Market Street Extension, San Diego Ca. Picnic
lunch in the outdoor livingroom. Our Hostess
will provide punch and ice cream.
McCabe Cactus Gardens, 6721 Imperial Ave., San Diego.
Constance Bower's Nursery, 2412 L St., San Diego.
La Estrella Nursery, 3613 41st St., San Diego.
Cactus and Succulent Gardens, Balboa Park, San Diego.
Soledad Gardens, Alta Vista St., Pacific Beach, Ca.

September 4, 5 & 6

Labor Day field camping trip into Baja California.

September 17 to October 3

Annual Cactus & Succulent Show at the Los Angeles Coun-
ty Fair, Pomona.

---Rick Latimer

The Summer Bee

The summer bee clings lovingly
To frugal bloom, so fleetingly.
Its waxen petals opening wide,
revealing stamens inside.
Now he seeks another flower,
To linger there
Within her shining bower,
On wings translucent
High he flied
Lost in the depth of warm blue skies.

Joan Ashurst

Remember the deadline for the December issue of the newsletter is
November 30. The absolute deadline is December 2.

News of Interest

We welcome the following new members for October:

Roberta Steele, Dennis and Barbara Macaulay and we have been asked to send a copy of the newsletter to the Henry Shaw Cactus Society of St. Louis, Mo.

The following members have signed up to furnish refreshments at the November meeting:

Phyllis Flechsig, Joan Fleer, Helen Brinkley, Margaret & Harry Blake, Judy Hannula, Jamie Miller, Marianne Thrombley, Diane Stolze, Jean Parks, Jennie Wesley, Marcelle Barfield, Alberta Widen.

At this months meeting there will be an introduction of the candidates for the board of directors. Election is at the December Meeting.

Thanks and appreciation to Bob Taylor, Jim Dice and Gerald Dice for donation plants to sell at the October meeting.

The December meeting is a party, so there is no library, no plants of the month, no program and no exchange table for December meeting.

You must be present to receive plants at the December meeting. That includes any winners. Explanation of how the exchange works follows.

December Plant Exchange

For the past two years our December plant exchange has proved to be a popular event at our Christmas meeting. For those of you who are new and those who have forgotten, here is how it works.

Each member who wishes to participate will bring in a good looking plant of some maturity in an attractive (or at least, clean) container with the name of the plant on one side of the tag and owner's name on the other. Please bring only one plant for this event. This plant will be put on the Christmas Plant Exchange Table. If I am the one to start it off, I shall choose a plant I'd like for myself and call out the name of the donor. That donor will next select a plant he wishes to own and call out the name of that donor. You can see that the earlier the lovely plant you brought for the table is selected, the better the chance you will have for choosing a plant earlier in the game.

The plants brought in for this should be cleanly potted and of attractive quality. Good size specimens would be appropriate, unless of course the plant is miniature in nature, then the small size would be fine.

Even if you don't want to be involved in this, come to our December meeting anyway and receive a free plant which is your annual gift for membership in our Club.

Shirley Berry

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Officers

President - Rick Latimer	
5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, CA. 92041	463-1655
1st V. Pres. - Frank Thrombly	
16333 Roca Drive, San Diego, CA. 92128	487-5544
2nd V. Pres - John Pasek	
10283 Covina Place, San Diego, CA. 92126	271-0515
Recording Secretary - Beverly Kirkegaard	
10009 Bonnie Vista, La Mesa, CA 92041	463-2801
Treasurer - Joan Johnson	
3599 Via Zara, Fallbrook, CA. 92028	728-7317
Corresponding Secretary - Anna Cornett	
3905 Ibis St., San Diego, CA. 92102	292-5426
Immediate Past Pres. - Tom Hamecher	
996 Terrace Crest, El Cajon, CA. 92020	440-6245

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Athy, Shirley Berry, Dr. Ronald Monroe
Martin Mooney, Lee Phelps & Phyllis Flechsig

Committees

Activities:

Audit: James Berry

Conservation: Dr. Ronald Monroe

Education:

Cacti - Frank Thrombly and Dr. Ronald Monroe

Succulents - Madelyn Lee and Dr. Leroy Phelps

Exhibits:

Bragging Table - Shirley Berry

Historian: Rick Latimer

Library: Elizabeth Athy, Ruth Nelson and Caroline Miller

Membership: Joan Johnson

Open House: Martin Mooney

Plant Exchange Table: John Roth

Plants & Supplies Table: John Pasek and Gerald and Eleanor Dice

Programs: Frank Thrombly

Publication: Rick Latimer

Reception: Rose D'Attilio and Perlso Lewis

Regalement: Nancy Roth

Representatives:

Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek

Quail Botanical Garden - Audrey Johnson

S. D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Elizabeth Glover

S. D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$7.00 per family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

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