



Espinas y Flores

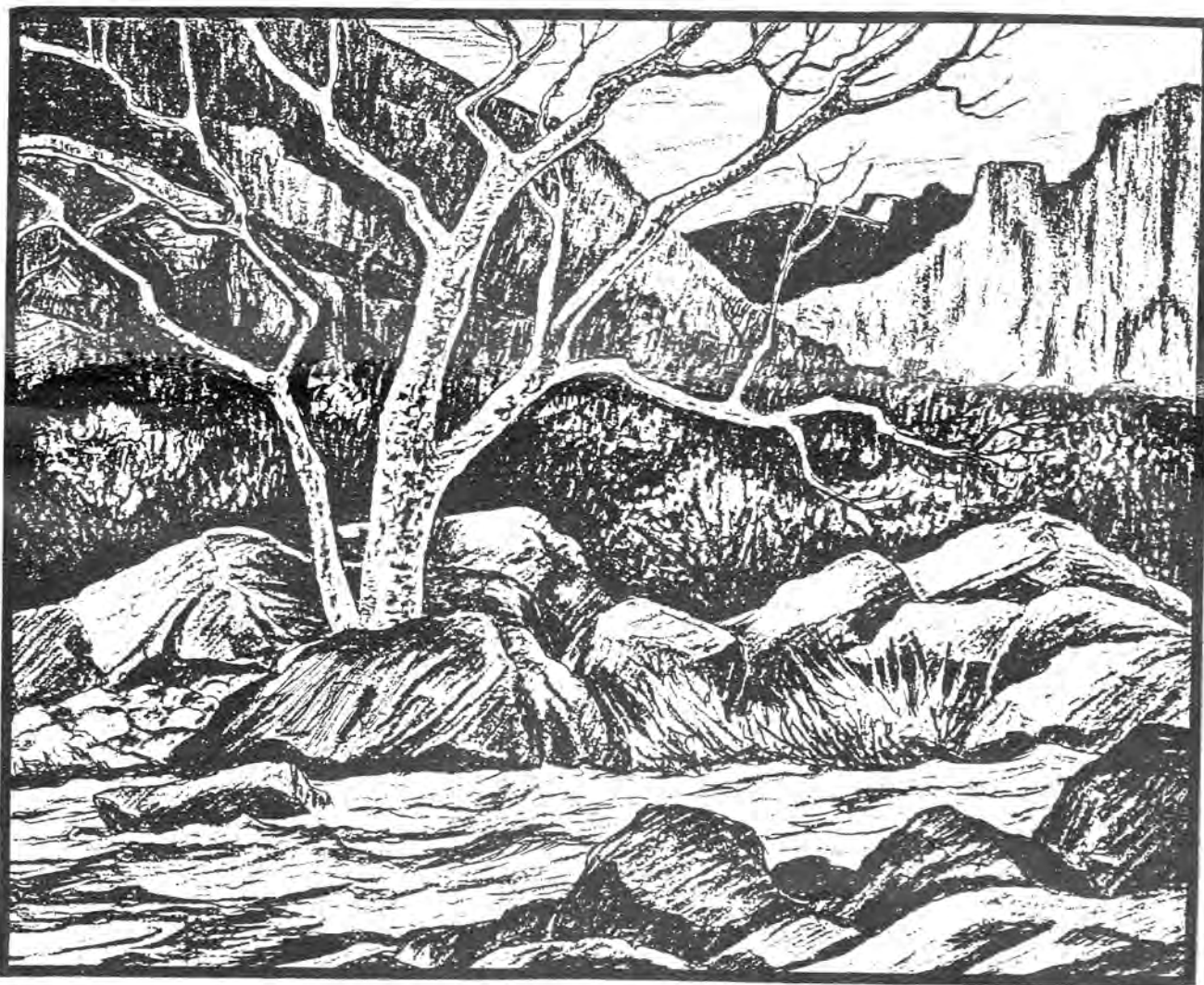
MAMMILLARIA THORNERI

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

VOLUME XXX NUMBER ELEVEN, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1995 @ 1:00 PM

"CACTUS, CANYONS, AND COYOTES"



Our November program will be "**Cactus, Canyons & Coyotes**", by Woody Minnich. This is his newest double projector program featuring a majority of the well know canyons of the Southwest United States, cacti biomes, endemic animal slides, Indian sites, and just sheer photographic beauty. An artistic and educational experience you will not want to miss. Our cover, Sabino Cañon drawing by W. Schaldach from **Path to Enchantment, an Artist in the Sonoran Desert**, 1963, McMillan Company.



Any members who wish to donate a few plants to the V.A. Hospital for their annual sale in November, please bring them to the November meeting. The money raised during this annual event goes directly toward the purchasing of those special little extras, such as: hobby supplies, personal care & grooming products, stamps & stationery, special books, tapes, puzzles, and many other amenities for bedridden and wheelchair bound Veterans. Please don't forget to bring in a few small plant donations for the V.A. Hospital Annual Sale — Michael & Joyce Buckner will collect donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated — plants are always sold!

Thank you, Ruth Richardson

Don't let the short days and post Holiday Blues get you down!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER HORTICULTURIST TOUR GUIDE AT BALBOA PARK.

Free walking tours are conducted every Saturday beginning in 1996 mid-January. The City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department is looking for volunteer Horticulturists to give these tours. The **Desert Walk** will be the fourth Saturday of each month. The History Walk is on the first Saturday of each month; the Tour del Dia featuring a tour of seasonal color meets on the fifth Saturday - beginning for 1996 in March. The Palm Walk is on the second Saturday, and the Tree Walk is on the third Saturday - these tours are ongoing now (November 1995) through Thanksgiving; no reservations are required; if you are interested meet in front of the Botanical Building @ 10:00 am. If you would like to learn more and would consider volunteering as a guide: Please contact Mike Ruiz (619)235-1121 or ask Michael Cullen (*he's @ our plant sales table*) during the next meeting.

Carmen Hammond a one-time long-distance SDC&SS member has successfully relocated in Escondido. She decided to bring with her only a few very special plants, which she shipped via FED EX. Remembering all the wonderful specimens displayed and for sale at one of our June Shows - she now looks forward to acquiring new and exciting succulents. Carmen wanted to especially thank: Edward DeLollis, Paul M. Steward, Michael & Joyce Buckner for writing her, and last but not least, especially **Alan Weiss** who telephoned her. She "salutes" the SDC&SS with a check for \$100.00 to be used in the Research Fund in memory of Rick Latimer. Thank you, Carmen! Welcome Home! We look forward to making your acquaintance at our November meeting. We have many SDC&SS members who reside in the Escondido area - soon you will be ridesharing with new friends.

Looking for that perfect Christmas present for your favorite Cactophile? How about a subscription to **THE CACTUS FILE — THE MAGAZINE FOR GROWERS OF CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS**. This is a terrific publication and for amateur hobbyist it is far more readable (*less scientific*) than the CSSA Journal. Basic subscription for one year (4 issues) is \$30 surface mail or \$34 airmail. Write to: The Cactus File, Cirio Publishing Services Ltd, 24-25 Shamrock Way, Hythe, Southampton SO45 6DY, England; telephone (01703) 842150; fax (01703) 207264. Copies and back issues of The Cactus File are available through Rainbow Gardens Bookshop, Vista, CA — Chuck Everson & Jerry Williams (619) 758-4290.

Some other very interesting subscriptions for 1996:

CUCURBITS — The "Cucurbit Network" is an organization dedicated to promoting conservation and understanding of the *Cucurbitaceae*. The newsletter is published twice a year, featuring items of interest to the Cucurbit enthusiast. The *Cucurbitaceae* family of plants has many wonderful succulent species. Yearly subscription \$10, payable to: The Cucurbit Network, P.O.Box 560483, Miami, FL 33256.

PEPEROMIAS — "The Gazette" is a news bulletin of the Peperomian and Exotic Plant Society (PEPS). It features articles and excerpts from Robins (CSSA Round Robins). Yearly membership dues are \$7.50, send check payable to: PEPS c/o Anita Bauden, 100 Neil Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70131.

THE SANSEVIERIA JOURNAL — Dedicated to promote and strive to disseminate all possible data, hitherto unpublished on *Sansevieria*. Annual subscriptions (*twice a year - March & September*) are \$12.50; checks payable to **Trans Terra**, 18618 Erwin St., Reseda, CA 91335, (818) 344-4096, editor, B. Juan Chahinian.



Christmas on the Prado will be on Friday & Saturday, Dec 1-2. If you have never attended this many faceted event, mark your calendar! Christmas on the Prado occurs simultaneously at all your favorite Balboa Park locations. There is food, live entertainment, displays by many educational organizations (*including plant societies*), good cheer and all the museums open their doors throughout the evening.

YOUR 1996 SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!

Please check your address label: if the number featured just above your name states "1996/01", this means that the January issue of *Espinas y Flores* should be your last unless you renew. If your label states "1995/##" — Shame on you! Get out your checkbook and pay your dues — Now! If you are receiving your issue "comp" — Please consider becoming a real member — Come on now! We know you can afford it! For inquiries regarding your membership and change or correction of address, please contact Elizabeth Glover @ (619) 264-6769. Elizabeth is our Bulk Mail Angel — this is a tedious and time consuming job accompanied by all the hazards of never ending Redtape and surly postal workers. We are very lucky to have her — when you see her at the next meeting, please thank her.

We received a very nice letter from Robbin Baza of the Tucson C&S Society. Robbin has been looking for *Cephalocereus leucocphalus*. She ran across a photo of this plant in a catalog of *Pilocereus leucocphalus* from Knickerbocker Nursery, San Diego, 1963. She was hoping that perhaps a SDC&SS member knows what became of the plant. If you have any information that might assist this pursuit please write to: Robbin Baza, 4709 N. Laird Way, Tucson, AZ 85705, phone: (520) 293-5968. Her letter has a P.S.: "P.S. It's never too early for me to make some contacts in preparation for the 1997 CSSA Convention."

The San Diego Horticultural Society will be hosting a FALL GARDEN TOUR featuring gardens and nurseries of La Mesa and environs on Sunday, November 19th. Tickets are \$12 for non-members (\$10 for SDHS members); for reservations please send check (payable to SDHS) and a self addressed stamped envelope to Laurie Bussis, P.O.Box 515, Cardiff, CA 92007. For additional details Laurie's number is (619) 944-1448.

The Cactus of the Month is *Parodia*, but unfortunately the article by Joe Clements did not arrive in time for this publication. We will run it in the December issue. But please bring specimens of *Parodia* to the meeting for an elucidation by Joe.

**BRAG TABLE WINNERS FOR OCTOBER 1995:
JUDGED BY KELLY GRIFFIN**

CACTUS:

FIRST PLACE: Don Patterson's *Ariocarpus retuses*
SECOND PLACE: Kay Quijada's *Gymnocalycium torulosum*
THIRD PLACE: Michael Buckner's *Cereus peruvianus spiral sintorse*

SUCCULENT:

FIRST PLACE: Michael Buckner's *Orostachys fimbriata crest*
SECOND PLACE: Phyllis Flechsig's *Pachycormis discolor*
THIRD PLACE: Joe Quijada's *Ceropegia dichotoma*

TRICK OR TREAT! IS IT YOUR TURN TO CONTRIBUTE REFRESHMENTS??

Thank you Don Bamber, Laura DeMerritt, Stefy Mangold, Gail Bamber, Rudy Lime and anyone else who has been assisting with the refreshment table. We really appreciate the hard work!!!

On September 8, 1995, Jim Stalsonburg died of cancer after a short illness. He was 62 years old and is survived by his wife Lois and daughter Kelly Owens. Many of you won't remember Jim, as he has not been active in SDC&SS for many years. But for the old-timers, you, like myself will never forget him. Jim was SDC&SS President in 1970. In 1967 he was newsletter editor — he gave our newsletter its present name *Espinas y Flores*. Jim coerced me, at the tender age of 21, into taking over the editorship which I did for two years.

Jim was an astute teacher and traveling companion in the old days of Baja California and Sonora exploration. He prided himself "a lowly dirt gardener" and had a tremendous landscape garden sense of design. His raised bed gardens of cacti, aloes, and succulents were a sight to behold. His parents, Eve and Harry Warn were also active SDC&SS members back in those days. Jim chaired many a project, including some truly spectacular Del Mar Fair Exhibits and the Cactus Garden at the old Mission de Acala.

Jim resided in San Diego county for 40 years and was employed by the City of San Diego as Balboa Park Supervisor for 20 years. Upon his retirement he specialized in designing local gardens, many which were award winning and featured in national magazines.

Charismatic and fun-loving, Jim was an incredible auctioneer. He promoted people to their best, because he was always giving his best.

Michael Buckner



Two Ex-Presidents, on the left Walt Greenwood (1969) and Jim Stalsonburg (1970). Jim has just auctioned off a Bob Taylor multi-graft *Gymnocalycium*. In the old days Jim was our official auctioneer and the summer picnic was always held in the opulent garden nursery of Bob and Suzanne Taylor. *Photo courtesy of H. W. Buckner*

Paul M. Steward
12629 Tustin Street
Poway, Ca 92064-6037
(619)486-0535

16 August 1995

San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
P.O. Box 33181
San Diego, Ca 92168-3181
Board of Directors/ Open letter to Membership

Dear Members,

Some time ago I undertook the responsibility to address some questions and concerns regarding San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society's participation and involvement in the Baja Garden and the Old World Succulent Garden at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in San Pasqual.

I would like to begin with a history of the garden provided by Frank Thrombly which details the garden from it's beginning and the many members of the Society who have helped to make it possible.

1979- The decision to establish a Garden of Baja Endemic Plants at the San Diego Wild Animal Park was made. Applications for permits to allow collecting were submitted to the Mexican Government and subsequently obtained.

1980- The first collecting trip took place in the Spring. Frank Thrombly, Jim Gibbons, John Pasek and Dorothy Dunn were the first members of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society to participate.

1981 to 1985- Usually four collecting trips were made each year. Society members who participated were: John Pasek, Dorothy Dunn, Tom Parks, Joe Clements, Bud Aubuchon, Jerry Bratmiller, Bill Miller, Ron & Joan Miller, Rick Latimer, Madelyn Lee, Frank Thrombly and many others. It became evident that the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Membership was clearly in the forefront of this project.

1985- The Garden lacked a major path so that it could be opened up to the public. Tom Parks, Bud Aubuchon and Frank Thrombly constructed a (wheelchair accessible) path with a stone base and retaining walls durring this summer. The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society donated \$500.00 for irrigation valves and a 4" water line that went under the path.

1986- A foot bridge from the Conifer Garden to "Baja Hill" was completed. Martin Mooney representing the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society cut the ribbon at the Dedication Ceremony and the Club had their Monthly Meeting during this Celebration.

General to Present- Throughout this time the following San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Members have participated in the collecting of plants, planning, planting and care of the Garden: Jim Gibbons, Pat & Martin Mooney, John & Verna Pasek, Bud & Mary Aubuchon, Joseph, Susan & Chris Clements, Bill & Diane Crowley, Ron & Joan Miller, Marianne & Frank Thrombly, Joseph Betzler, Jerry Bratmiller, Warren Buckner, Michael Buckner, Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig, Beverly Kirkegaard, Richard Latimer, Rudy Lime, Tom Parks, Paul Steward, Alex Murphy, Jiliann Belding, Elizabeth Athy, Brent Athy, Millie & Jim Miller, Stan Yalof, Bob Herbst, Rick Plant, Chris Jensen, Dan Kennedy, Dylan Hannon, Kelly Griffin, Marilyn Henderson, Herb Stern, Joe Stead, Mike Chapman, Dan Kennedy, Susan Hopkins, Derith Hughes, Phillip Favell, Richard & Camille Horak. (there are of course many more). The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society has been involved in a very

large way.

The past year has seen the creation of an "Old World Succulent Garden" that includes rare aloes, euphorbias and several species of pachypodium. Work is underway on an interpretative exhibit depicting a typical "Baja Arroyo". The San Diego Wild Animal Park is also a C.I.T.E.S. (Congress on the International Trade of Endangered Species), United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.), Plant Protection and Quarantine (P.P.Q.), Designated Plant Rescue Station. The Ferocactus Reference Collection (Largely the work of Frank Thrombley) continues to grow and is nearly complete, with duplicate specimens in simulated habitat and in the greenhouse. Some of these plants along with their collection data will be used by Dr. Robert Wallace and Hugo Cota in DNA studies on the genus. The volunteers have recently begun planting an Agave Garden which already contains some 60+ species. Much of this plant material was donated by Frank Thrombley and Alex Murphy. Pollination/ seed collection and vegetative propagation of cacti and succulents will be accelerated in the coming year. Seed collected last year was donated to the S.D.C.& S.S. and offered to the membership or forwarded to the C.S.S.A..

The future looks bright, 14 months ago there were but 5 regular volunteers. As of this writing that number has grown to some 12 members. Elizabeth Athy, Brent Athy, Alex Murphy, Joey Betzler, Ron Austin, Paul Steward, Jillian Belding, Marilyn Henderson, Bob Herbst, Rudy Lime and Richard & Camille Horak participate regularly. Frank Thrombley who recently retired from the Garden will be missed by all. His 16 years as Founder and volunteer in the Garden should serve as an inspiration to us all and be worthy of note.

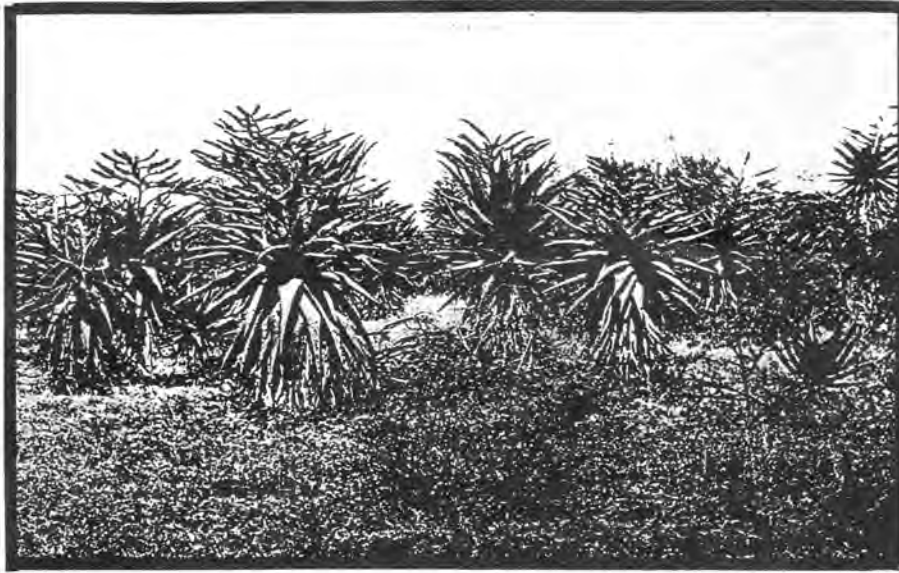
Preparations are underway for participation in the annual "Garden Festival" which will take place in October. The greenhouse currently houses the Society's sale plants and are cared for by the volunteers. The Greenhouse Collection is also a source of plant material for educational programs and research.

Many other projects are in the planning stages and I would hope that the Board of Directors of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society will recognize the worthiness of this endeavor and pledge to support it to the fullest extent possible.

kindest Regards



NOTES ON THE ALOES OF NORTHEAST AFRICA BY PHIL FAVEL



Aloe marlothii forest in the Transvaal. (Rauh)

When one thinks about the genus *Aloe* what first comes to mind are the very showy species growing in southern Africa. It's difficult to imagine anything more attractive than a hillside of *Aloe marlothii* or a garden containing stately specimens of *Aloe dichotoma*. It's true, that for sheer numbers, the Republic of South Africa has the most, but northeast Africa contains many of the rarest, the most unusual and beautiful species of Aloes.

Northeast Africa comprises five countries: Ethiopia, the tiny independent country of Djibuti, the Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Situated just north of the equator this region lies well within the tropics. Consequently the climate is mostly hot with sparse and erratic rainfall. There are many sizable mountain ranges in this region and it is here in these cooler and moister highland areas, that many of the Aloes grow.

One of the tallest and most beautiful of all the Aloes is *Aloe eminens*. This massive species grows in northern Somalia, in the mountainous country near the Gulf of Aden from 4,500 feet to 6,000 feet. It bears a striking resemblance to *Aloe bainesii* from southern Africa, but upon closer observation is quite different. The flowers are dark reddish-orange and of a dissimilar shape than the pinkish flowers of *Aloe bainesii* and the leaves of *Aloe eminens* are fatter and shorter. It is also more frost tender. A large tree of *Aloe eminens* growing at the Huntington Botanical Gardens was cut down several years ago by a freeze while the *Aloe bainesii* growing in the same garden were untouched.

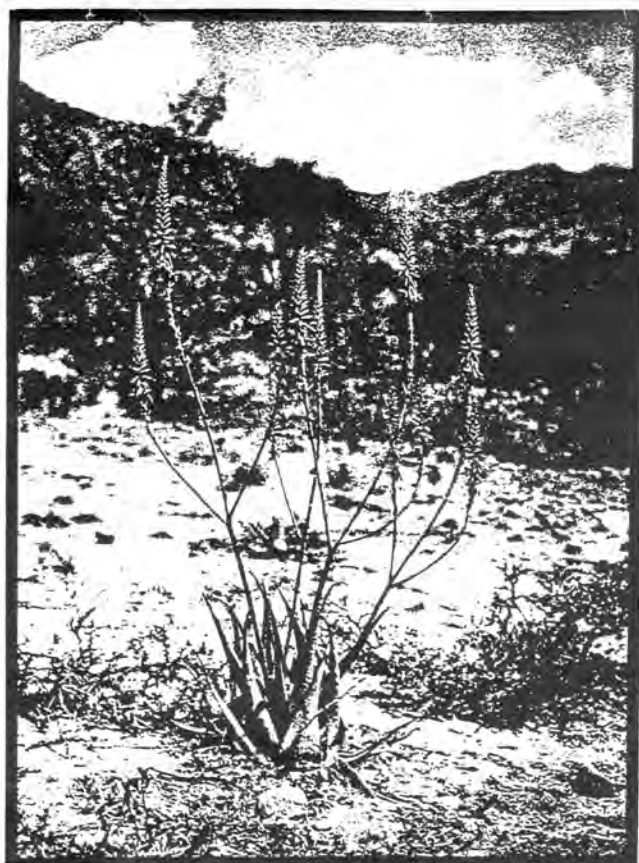
In northeast Africa is found a very curious group of Aloes that have hairy flowers. This is a unique characteristic found also in many of the Aloes from Arabia. Perhaps the most well known is *Aloe tomentosa*. This is a very striking species which flowers in summer here in California. The flowers resemble hundreds of pussy willows! Other Aloes with beautiful hairy flowers are: *Aloe molderana*, *Aloe pubescens*, *Aloe tricosantha*, and *Aloe citrina*.

NOTES ON THE ALOES OF NORTHEAST AFRICA by Phil Favel continued . .

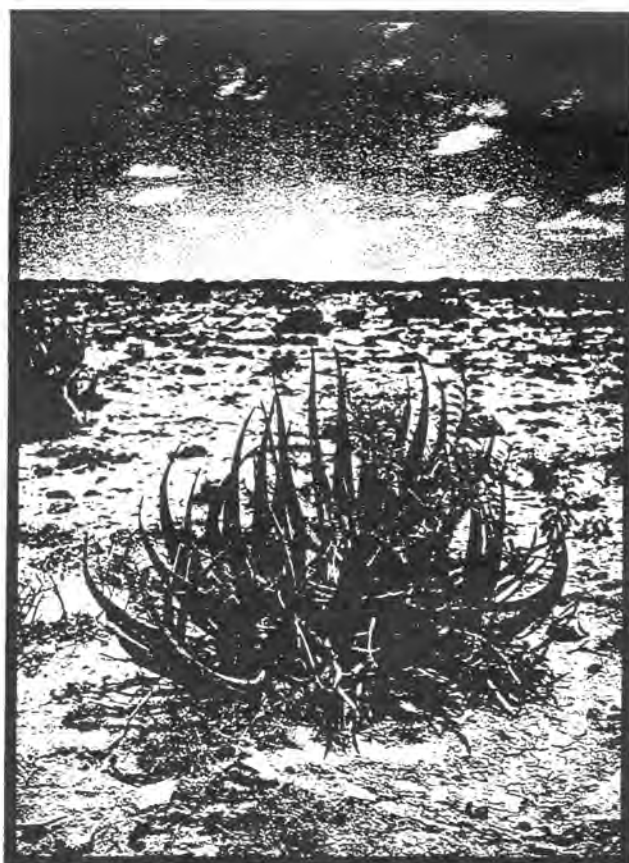
Another fascinating group consists of plants entirely devoid of spines. Most of these are rarely encountered in cultivation. The most noteworthy is *Aloe scobinifolia* from Somalia. This rather smallish, tidy little Aloe has light green leaves with a rough texture similar to sandpaper. The flowers are especially lovely ranging in color from yellow, orange to scarlet. *Aloe bruneostriata* is a recent addition to the Aloes of this region. This is also an Aloe that is rather low growing and forming nice clumps. The leaves have a peculiar marbled pattern with dark green striations. *Aloe inermis* is a close relative of *Aloe bruneostriata*. It differs in having thicker leaves with a rough texture. Flowers are a light butter cream yellow. One of the most beautiful Aloes of all is *Aloe breviscapa*. This is a species with large wine-red bell shaped flowers and leaves that have a strange grayish lavender color.

The cultivation of these Aloes is easy. Since many of them are smaller they can be grown successfully in containers. However, since this is a tropical region plants are more frost sensitive than Aloes endemic to South Africa. Additionally many of these beautiful species resent much rain during the winter when they tend to be dormant. If grown in the garden, extra drainage is advisable.

Unfortunately due to limited space this is but a very small sample of the very rich and diverse Aloe flora of northeastern Africa. Try growing some of these beautiful and unique Aloes in the greenhouse or garden. They are easy and very rewarding.



Aloe trichosantha (Reynolds)



Aloe breviscapa (Reynolds)

MOONBOW

The 1986 whale season was ending. I had just driven the last guests to Loreto where they caught the plane back to the States. The plane left in the morning, so I drove back to San Ignacio and out to the lagoon, which is no small drive. The sky was gray and threatening to rain; this was not a pleasant thought as we were breaking camp and packing the trucks.

I was planning to return to San Ignacio by nightfall. I arrived back at camp that afternoon expecting things to be ready to load into my truck. But things were not ready — not packed — some tents and gear had not even been broken down so that we could pack them! I was thinking to myself, "What were they doing in camp while I was driving our last guests to Loreto?" After all, we had a plan — or at least I thought we did. Once I arrived, it became important to get everything packed and into the trucks. Without much of a break from the long drive, I started to pack things into my truck. We worked all afternoon, and because most of the food and kitchen equipment was already packed we had only snack food to eat while doing this heavy work.

The sun was setting — or what I could see of the sun was disappearing. The cloud cover and fading light was making it difficult to see our work. We were hungry and because we weren't getting good nutritional value from the junk food we were eating (sugar highs and lows). We were also getting sloppy tired. It's at this point that emotions get really touchy and people do not think clearly and rationally.

We finally finished packing at about 8:30 — raw nerves and sugar carbohydrates can move mountains. All I wanted to do was sleep, but Piet had already decided — we were to make it to town come hell or high water. Off we drove into the night over the horrible rocky dirt road. This is a three hour drive under normal conditions; our vehicles were packed to the hilt. I settled in for the duration and because I was so tired my eyes started to play tricks on me. It was starting to drizzle, and the full moon was making attempts to cast its eerie light through holes in the clouds thereby illuminating the gently falling mist in front of me. Driving under these conditions takes a lot of concentration. My exhaustion increased my susceptibility to hallucinations.

We had CB radios but no one really felt like talking; for the most part we were driving in silence. There were two people in each of the other trucks, but I was driving alone — alone with my wandering mind. Staring into the headlight zone, negotiating the ruts and seeing the glistening rocks on the road, I was catching glimpses of tree branches passing overhead as we traversed arroyos. Suddenly large whitish figures appeared in front of me. Startled I would gasp and hit the brake — but there was nothing there. I'd rub my eyes, blink, breathe and go on. A little while later it would happen again — and again — and the shadowy figures turned into people in the road. Ghosts that I tried my best not to hit, but I drove right through some of them! I called on the CB to tell the others about what was happening to me, though I'm not sure they believed me. Finally I could no longer concentrate on the road. I informed the others by CB — we were stopping for a break.

MOONBOW by Monte Woodworth continued . . .

Out of the truck and into the fresh damp air, I started to regain my senses — it was not raining where we were, but we could see light rain ahead in a moonlit area miles away. As we watched the clouds shifted to allow the moonlight to fully flood the area. Slowly, as if created by a theater projection, a rainbow began to appear. The rainbow kept growing until it was nearly a complete arc. At first I could not believe my eyes having just run over many a hallucinated person. Relieved I noticed we were all watching this very real 'moonbow'. This was the most extraordinary rainbow phenomenon I have ever seen. All the colors normally seen in a daytime rainbow were present, except they were subdued into soft pastels — the tempered affect of the sun's light reflected off the moon. I was in awe — we all were in awe. I'm sure this phenomenon must have occurred elsewhere, but I have never heard of it. I'm very happy to have observed a once in a lifetime occurrence — all conditions being just perfect — what a privileged experience.

Rejuvenated by the sighting of the 'moonbow' we continued our drive to San Ignacio. We were still tired and driving was no less easy, but we endured. Arriving past midnight was a little too late for dinner and a little too early for breakfast. We got rooms at the La Pinta and fell into a much needed sleep. I don't know about the others, but I slept like a baby and . . . of course, had wonderful dreams of 'moonbows'.

Monte Leon Woodworth, August 1995



WISE AND OTHERWISE

by Michael Buckner

"This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the rough earth rolls."

John Muir

Mountains should be climbed with as little effort as possible and without desire. The reality of your own nature should determine the speed. If you become restless, speed up. If you become winded, slow down. You climb the mountain in an equilibrium between restlessness and exhaustion. Then, when you're no longer thinking ahead, each footstep isn't just a means to an end but a unique event in itself. *This* leaf has jagged edges. *This* rock looks loose. From *this* place the snow is less visible, even though closer. These are things you should notice anyway. To live only for some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountains which sustain life, not the top . . .

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig

Paul Ehrlich has an analogy for those who contend that, because ecologists cannot say precisely how many species are endangered, it is premature to be alarmed about the putative impending collapse of biodiversity. "[It is like] saying that people should not be overly concerned about the burning down of the world's only genetic library because the number of 'books' in it is not known to within an order of magnitude, and fire modelers disagree on whether that level of destruction might take fifty years," he wrote recently in a letter to *Science*. "Apparently a few scientists would never call the fire department unless they could inform it of the exact temperature of the flames at each point in a holocaust."

Does It Matter? THE SIXTH EXTINCTION - PATTERNS OF LIFE AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANKIND by Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin, c. 1995, Doubleday, NY

"All the water that has ever been or ever will be is here now. It sits, it runs, it rises as mist. [It falls as piss.] It evaporates and falls again as rain or snow . . . You cannot pollute a drop of water anywhere without eventually poisoning some distant place."

Michael Furtman

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Espinas y Flores

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- Other Committees -

Correspondence: Virginia Innis

Host Society Chairman for 1997 CSSA Convention:

Martin Mooney (427-6796)

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, Inc. is open to all persons interested in growing cacti and other succulent plants. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except Sept. and Dec.) at 1:00 PM in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Executive Board meetings are open to all members; call any officer or director for the time and location. Annual dues are \$10.00 per single member per year, \$5.00 for each additional member within the same household. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are \$1.00 per copy sent within the USA; foreign subscriptions are \$20.00. Affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Fax available - please call editor at (619)222-3216 for number.