

# Espinas y Flores

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

Volume XXV, Number 5

May 12, 1990

## MAY MEETING

Saturday May, 12, 1990

1:30 P.M.

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

## PROGRAM

## SHOWTIME

with Dr. Leroy Phelps and Madelyn Lee

Lee and Madelyn will present the fine art of preparing and staging cacti and succulents for our annual June show and sale. Members are asked to bring show plants and potential show plants to help prepare these plants for show. There will be ample opportunity for questions.

---

IN THIS ISSUE	Page
News. . . . .	2
Notocactus by Anna Cornett. . . . .	3
Sansevieria by Rick Latimer. . . . .	5
More news. . . . .	7
Show Program. . . . .	Inset

---

Deadline for the June issue of E y F ----- May 26, 1990

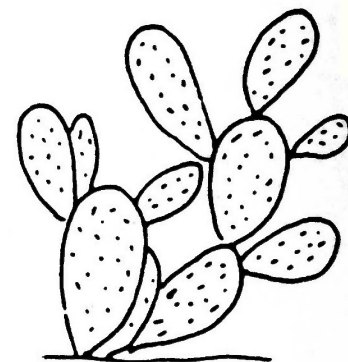
Thanks- Mary

APRIL BRAGGING TABLE WINNERS:

First place: Martin Mooney for his PACHYPODIUM NAMAQUANUM

Second place: Mitch Bahr for his EUPHORBIA SP.

Third place: Mitch Bahr for his PELARGONIUM DASYPHYLLUM



A REMINDER ----MEMBERS - Start collecting good sturdy boxes for the Cactus Show and Sale NOW! June is sooner than you think!! Remember - give a customer a box and they'll buy more plants.

\* Thanks to Frances Johnson for her donation of books to the book sale.

REFRESHMENTS --

I do not have a list of volunteers to bring goodies to the May meeting. Anyone you would like to bring something, it would be appreciated.

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY

May 5 & 6	Heartland African Violet Society 9th Show	Sat: 1pm-5:00pm	Sun: 11am-5:00pm
May 13	San Diego Epiphyllum Society 20th Mother's Day Show		Sun: 11am-5:00pm
May 19 & 20	San Diego Geranium Society 18th Show	Sat: 12pm-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm
May 26 & 27	Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park Show	Sat: 11am-4:30pm	Sun: 11am-4:30pm
June 2 & 3	San Diego Cactus & Succulent Show	Sat: 1pm-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm
June 10	Southwest Hemerocallis Society 17th Show		Sun: Noon-5:00pm
June 16 & 17	Sun Harbor Fuchsia Society Show	Sat: 11am-4:00pm	Sun: 10am-4:00pm
June 23 & 24	San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Show	Sat: 12pm-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-5:00pm
June 30 & July 1	National Fuchsia Society Show	Sat: 10am-4:30pm	Sun: 10am-4:30pm
July 8	San Diego Dahlia Society Specimen Show		Sun: 1pm-4:30pm
July 15	Convair Garden Club 40th Summer Show		Sun: 1pm-4:30pm
July 21 & 22	San Diego Co. Orchid Soc. 4th Summer Show	Sat: 12pm-4:30pm	Sun: 10am-4:30pm
July 28 & 29	San Diego Gesneriad 14th Annual Show	Sat: 12pm-5:00pm	Sun: 10am-4:00pm

Cactus-of-the-Month

THE GENUS NOTOCACTUS

Amna Cornett

NOTOCACTUS IS A genus of small to medium sized cacti whose free-flowering habits and varied and beautiful forms have made them popular with beginning collectors. Their ease of culture and propagation leads many more advanced hobbyists to regard Notocacti with scorn, which is a shame because there are some challenges and many rewards with this genus.

All species of Notocacti are from South America - Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil. N. vorwoerkianus has been reported from Colombia. N. ottonis is very wide-spread, and is found throughout the range. They grow at altitudes up to 2000 meters in areas of surprisingly large rainfall - up to 40 inches a year. Their habitats are varied - among grass in the pampas, on rocky hills and sandy soil, and among and mosses and bromeliads. They have fibrous spreading roots and as would be expected from the high rainfall the pH is usually acid.

There are six sub-genera, some of which were once considered as genera in their own right.

1) WIGGINSIA - pronounced ribs, copious wool on apex and new areoles, flowers fairly small and bell-shaped, berry-like fruit hidden in apical wool. N. acuatus, N. vorwoerkianus, N. arechevaletai.

2) NOTOCACTUS - flowers funnel-shaped, fruit initially soft, later drying and drooping. N. scopa, N. ottonis, N. crassigibbus, N. horsti

3) NEONOCACTUS - flowers bowl-shaped, fruit elongated and breaking open basally, only the lower group of stamens present. (All other subgenera have two groups of stamens) N. mammulosus, N. rutilans, N. floricomus.

4) ERIOCACTUS - stems up to a meter tall, apex wooly and slanted. Flowers widely bell-shaped, fruit dry and breaking at basal opening. N. schumannianus, N. leninghausi, N. magnificus, N. claviceps.

5) BRASILOCACTUS - ribs divided into many tiny tubercles, densely covered with fine spines. Flowers very small and simplified. N. haselbergi, N. graessneri

6) BRASILOPARODIA - a recent and somewhat controversial addition to the genus based on habitat, form, and flower and seed structure. N. rechensis, N. brevihamatus, N. bueneckeri, N. alacriportanus

Many of the early descriptions of Notocacti were not very detailed, and the localities imprecise. Since many species are naturally variable



this has led to a great multiplicity of names. Pilbeam lists one hundred species with 65 varieties and forms. The genus does seem to be overdue for re-evaluation. N. ottonis is variable over its huge range and may be con-specific with linki, tenuispina, uruguayensis, acutus and many others. It has been suggested that N. mammulosus be combined with submammulosus, floricomus, pampeanus, and maybe werdermannianus. All of the Gymnocalyoid group - N. crassigibbus, uebelmannianus, and arachnitis are a very close group, while the Wigginsias - which now includes twenty-two species- could be reduced to three or four. I personally find all the Setacei- N. apricus, concinus, tabularis and about thirty others- almost impossible to tell apart. Hopefully someone is working on this problem.

Notocactus flowers are gorgeous, and almost invariably yellow. N. horsti, however, is orange, while N. rutilans is pink, N. herteri is red and N. uebelmannianus is purple. I have also seen some fantastic shades of salmon, peach, crimson, golden orange, and scarlet. They must be hybrids and it would be interesting to know how they came about.

Most species are quite obliging and will take a lot of abuse without dying, but will look a lot better with adequate water, fertilizer, and slight shade. Even so, some will turn corky at the base- N. horsti and herteri especially, while others such as N. rutilans seem to reach a certain size and stabilize by reabsorbing the base. Occasionally they will lose their roots and never regain their vigor. Spider mites seem to love N. graessneri and root mealy bugs are always a possibility if a plant seems to be failing.

#### References

- Bleck, Mary 1971. Notocactus (Schumann) Berger Cactus and Succulent Journal Vol. XLIII : 192-196.
- austein, Erik. 1986. The Cactus Handbook.
- Mace, Tony. 1978. Notocactus
- Pilbeam, John. 1987. Cacti for the Connoisseur.

#### OBITUARY

WE are distressed to hear of the recent loss of our long time member Bill Low. He passed away the day of our April meeting. Even though he lived a long distance away in Simi Valley, he and his wife Ellen often came down to our meetings. In recent years, he was one of our program chairmen. Some of the speakers that came from a long distance, he drove them down for us. He will be sorely missed.

#### SHOW TROPHIES

Please bring back the Show trophies at this meeting. Then you can have more room in your car for more plants to show in June!

---Rick Latimer, Show Chairman





Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii'

## Succulent-of-the-Month

### SANSEVIERIA

by Rick Latimer

Back in the summer of 1972, I was lucky enough to be touring through Europe. The Netherlands was a special delight, as every window had a row of potted plants with flowers. Once in a while I would see cacti and other succulents such as "crown of thorns". No two plants were ever alike. Consider the shock when we crossed the border into Belgium and all there was were rows and rows of Sansevieria trifasciata. The monotony was broken up by a few variegated clones here and there.

Experiences such as this, and the fact that this species is a commonly used house plant ("common" being a very dirty word), gave this plant a poor reputation in this society. Indeed, if my memory serves me, it was at our March 1972 meeting that Julianne Rice tried to give a brief talk on this species, and that the audience re-action was one of "oh those plants - junk!"

However, there are many variations on this single species that are quite worthy. One of them is 'Bantel's Sensation', which was originated back in St. Louis back in 1927 and patented #796 in July 1946. It was sold by the Sieloff Floral Company, employer of Gus Bantel. This clone has vertical white stripes that alternate with the dark green crossbanding. Another beauty is 'Lillian True' with yellow stripes. Then there are the "birdnests" or Hahnii forms such as 'Gold Hahnii' and others. The oddest one of this type turned up at Loop's Nursery in Jacksonville, Florida in 1964. Discovered by Alex Korsakoff, this very compact plant with dark growth has acquired the name 'Loop's Pride'. I have found it to be frost tender.

The renaissance for this genus occurred in November 1981 when Madelyn Lee had it as the plant of the month. We found out that there were all kinds of succulent species such as S. desertii, sulcata, or singularis. Also other beauties such as S. kirkii var. pulchra came into the lime-light. And of course, we have had a category in our shows devoted to this genus since 1982. Not all of them as easy to grow as one might think either. Although they seem to be pest free, overwatering can kill them.

Plants are herbaceous perennials with short thick, sometimes stoloniferous rhizomes. The leaves may be solitary, arranged in a fan or a rosette. Leaves may be flat in the less succulent species to round in the more succulent species. Some species have sharp tips, so watch out, but none are as dangerous as some of the yuccas or agaves. The fragrant flowers are tubular and are often whitish with some being pale purple, green, or pink. They appear in clusters or are solitary. The fruits are small berries with few seeds.

Plants may be propagated by seed, rootstock division, or by leaf cuttings. Some plants eventually destroy the pots that they are in.



On one of his expeditions, the late, great Frank Horwood found an old Trematosperma species that was completely rotted out on the inside and it had a Sansevieria growing inside. Species are native to southern and tropical Africa and all the way up to Somalia, over to Arabia and in India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. The closest succulent relatives are probably the Dracaenas. The genus is named for Raimond de Sangro, Prince of San-Severo (born Naples 1710, died 1771), although some believe the honor belongs to Pietro Sanseverino, Prince of Bisignano in whose garden the plant may have been the first to have been observed with both flower and fruit.

REFERENCES:

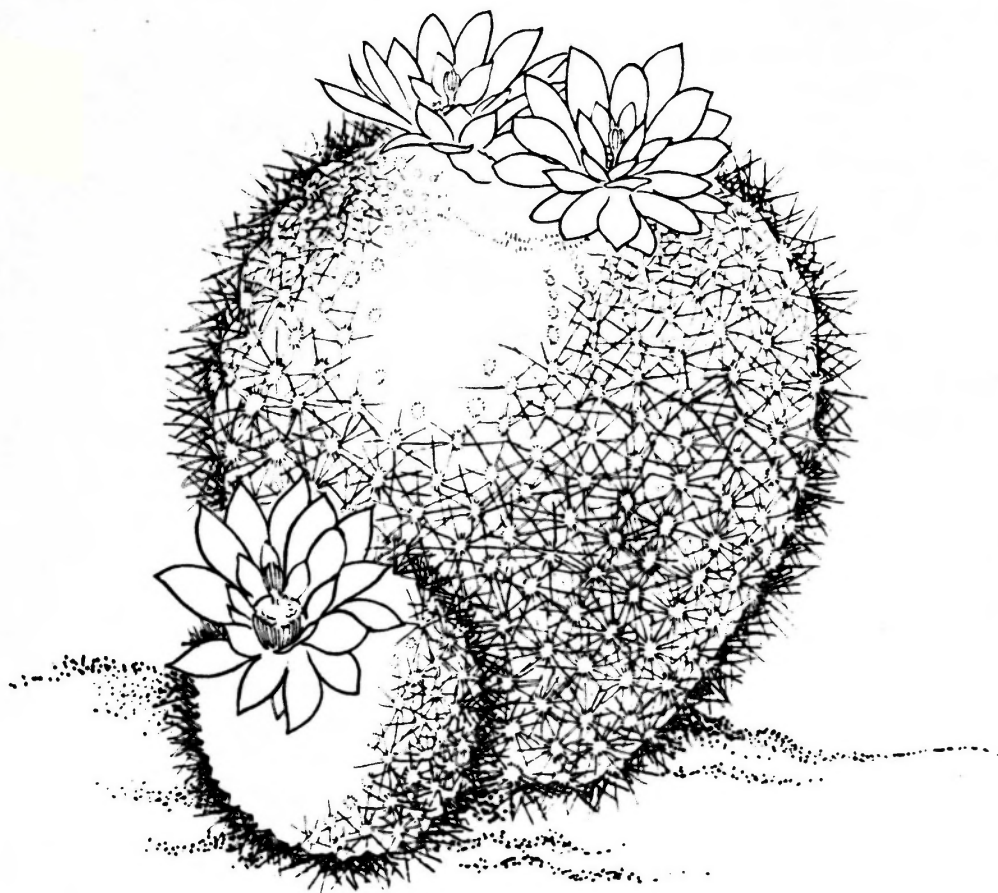
- B. Juan Chahinian, The Sansevieria trifasciata Varieties  
Ladislaus Cutak, "All About Sansevierias", Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin (LIV:6) 6/66  
Sansevieria, National Botanic Gardens, Lucknow, India  
Hermine Stover, The Sansevieria Book  
Robert F. G. Swinbourne, "Sansevieria In Cultivation in Australia", Adelaide Botanic Gardens Handbook #2  
and  
Frank Horwood, "Succulent Safari to Africa" Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Journal (XLVI:5)  
Frank Niedz, Sansevieria Bibliography

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

- Barbara J. Barton, Gardening by Mail III  
Doreen Court, Succulent Flora of Southern Africa  
Howard Scott Gentry, Agaves of Continental North America  
G. W. Reynolds, The Aloes of South Africa  
The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar  
Gordon D. Rowley, Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents  
Paul C. Standley, Trees and Shrubs of Mexico, Parts I-III  
South African Wild Flower Guides 2-5:  
Audrey Moriarty, Outeniqua Tsitsikanma & Eastern Little Karoo  
Mary Maytham Kidd, Cape Peninsula  
Jo Onderstall, Transvaal Lowveld & Escarpment  
Lee Burman & Anne Bean, Hottentots Holland to Hermanns  
National Research Council, Lost Crops of the Incas  
doanted by Carl Dykema:  
Cactaceas y Suculentas Mexicanas (X:4) 10-12/65

The Librarian thanks Shirley Bahr for entering the entire library list onto computer disk!!!! Finally there is a list accessible to any member.

---Rick Latimer, Librarian



Above: *NOTOCACTUS HASELBERGII* (Scarlet ball).  
Brazil. A compact, white-spined species requiring a sunny location and average soil with moderate watering in summer. This plant needs a long, dry winter rest to ensure flowering, but provide slight warmth. All species of *Notocactus* are good house plants, flowering readily without elaborate care. The vivid red-orange flowers of this species appear in midsummer.

#### BRAGGING TABLE

A plant that is in particularly good form that month is one to be bragged about, and well grown plants are always appreciated by members of the Society. Any member may bring one or two cacti or succulent plants to the brag table each month. They should be of show quality. They need not be the Cactus or Succulent of the Month. All plants will be judged by the Chairman of the Bragging Table or a designated representative. First, second and third awards may be given at the Judge's discretion. The names of all award winners will be published in *Espinas y Flores*. The first award winner will be given an extra preferred ticket at the Christmas gift plant drawing. Members who have already won a first award may not enter any more plants for the rest of the year. This is to allow other members a chance to win an extra ticket. Members who have already won a first award are encouraged to continue to bring plants to the Bragging Table. Their entries will be evaluated by the judge, but no awards will be made.



# SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## OFFICERS

President - Chuck Adams  
7305 Rock Canyon Drive, San Diego 92126 530-2551  
Vice President - Mitch Bahr  
4945 Diane Court, San Diego 92117 571-0912  
Secretary - Jeanette Dutton  
1330 31st Street, San Diego 92102 239-8476  
Treasurer - Dana Adams  
7305 Rock Canyon Drive, San Diego 92126 530-2551  
Immediate Past President - Dr. Leroy Phelps  
4094 36th Street, San Diego 92104 280-9690

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joey Betzler, Dorothy Dunn, Beverly Kirkegaard  
Madelyn Lee, Rudy Lime, Mark St. Clair

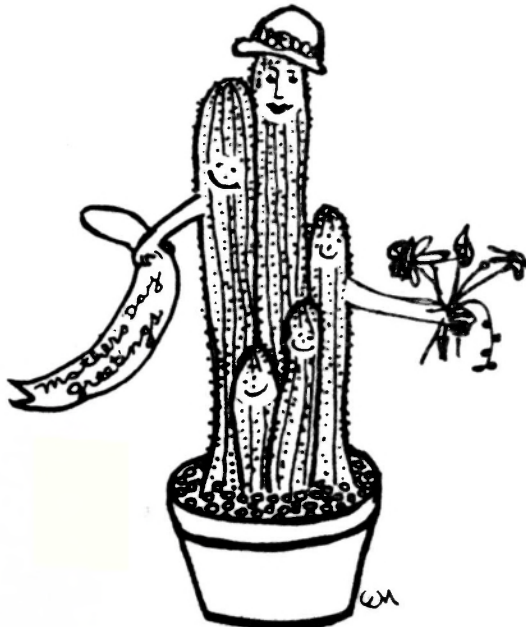
## COMMITTEES

Auditor -  
Bragging Table - Madelyn Lee  
CSSA Affiliate Rep - Cathy & Sandy Frost  
Education: Cacti - Phyllis Flechsig  
Succulents - Dorothy Dunn  
Historian - Rick Latimer  
Membership - Dana Adams  
Picnic - Vacant  
Plant Exchange Table - Mmes. Lemrow & Larburg  
Plants & Supplies Table - John Pasek  
Show - Rick Latimer

Publications - Mary Aubuchon 427-3388  
Reception - Periso Lewis & Ethel Standish  
Regalement - Diane & Bill Crowley  
Representatives:  
Balboa Park Desert Garden - John Pasek  
Quail Botanical Garden - Phyllis Flechsig  
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Kathy Van Arum  
S.D. Floral Association - Elizabeth Glover  
Program - Joe Clements

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society 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 1:30 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Board of Directors meetings are held after the general meetings. Annual dues are \$8.00 per single member per year, and \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within the family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60¢.

Editor  
Mary Aubuchon  
1058 5th Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 92011



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS