

Espinas y Flores

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

XIX, Number 4

April 14, 1984

APRIL MEETING

Saturday April 14, 1984

1:30 PM

Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park

PROGRAM

We are going to have a "THREE RING CIRCUS" at our April Meeting!

In one "Ring" will be DAVE GRIGSBY demonstrating the skills and art of GRAFTING!

In another "Ring" will be PHYLLIS FLECHSIG demonstrating how to START PLANTS FROM SEED! How to FERTILIZE! What PLANT MIX to use? How to KILL BUGS AND PLANT DISEASES!

In the third "Ring" DR. LEE PHELPS will demonstrate the beautiful and ancient ART OF BONSAI! Lee will also talk about particular pots for particular plants and how to get your plants "SHOW READY"!

After all these demonstrations are complete, you will have a chance to gather around these EXPERTS and get "hands on" experience in your particular field of interest.

FUN? WE hope so! At least, it will be different and valuable to you!
 NO PLANT OF THE MONTH AND NO BRAG TABLE FOR APRIL!

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DEADLINE FOR MAY - Saturday April 28 - Thanks

Mary

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

George Jennings of San Diego - John A. and Carolyn M. Roth of Oceanside
Milton D. Turner of San Diego

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BRAGGING PLANT WINNERS FOR MARCH

- 1st place Lee Phelps for his *Sinnigia leucotricha*
- 2nd place Dorothy Dunn for her *Mammillaria bombycina*
- 3rd place Warren Buckner for his *Hatiora salicornioides*

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FROM THE KITCHEN

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Richter for donating the cookies for refreshments in March.

Those who have volunteered to bring refreshments for the April Meeting are:
Jan Miller - Bev Kent - Nancy Roth - Helen Brinkley - Carolyn Roth
Dorothy Larberg - Cathy and Sandy Frost

We now have a new Kitchen Crew - "Doc" Lemrow and Warren Larberg - 463-6490

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PLANTS NEEDED

Aloes of size, crassula, Euphorbias, Large Gasterias, Large Jatrophas, Kalanchoes, Geoniums, Pachypodiums and large upright cactus.
Please call me at home after 4:00 P.M. John R. Pasek 271-0515

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FROM THE BOARD

The picnic in July will be held at Felicita Park, Escondido - More later.
We donated \$100 to the Desert Garden Symposium fund at Huntington Garden.
Please give John Pasek 3 weeks notice if you want to sell, on consignment, at the sale table. John has the right to refuse. Plants should be priced and sale ready.

The Board bought the *THE GENUS MONADENIUM* by Peter R.O. Bally for the Library.
Thanks to Ruth Nelson for donation of *CACTI AND SUCCULENTS* by Gunter Andersohn in memory of Bill Nelson (William N.) The board is buying a second copy of this book.

We will buy 2 copies of *THE SANSEVIERIA BOOK* by Hermine Stover

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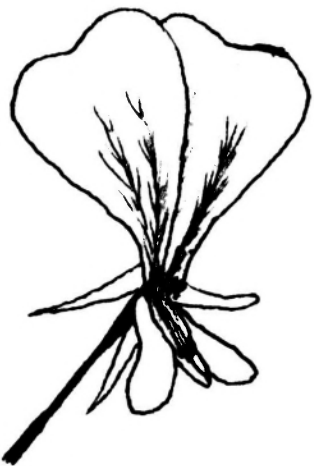
We are open for suggestions for our "rock" cactus garden. Open Yard all the time.
Welcome Visitors - Mr. and Mrs. Harold Richter - 3136 Main St., Otay, Chula Vista
Near 3rd Ave. 422-2588

SUCCULENT-OF-THE-MONTH

Pelargonium and Sarcocaulon

by Rick Latimer

The Geranium family includes only five genera: Geranium, Erodium, Monsonia, Sarcocaulon, and Pelargonium. The feature common to all five genera is the typical elongated fruit, which has five sections with one seed in each. The popular names of "Cranesbill" (from the Greek geranos) or "Stork's Bill" (from the Greek word pelargos) derive from the shape of the fruit. The Geraniaceae consists of herbs widely distributed in temperate and subtropical regions. The leaves are lobed or compound and arranged alternately on the stem. The genus Geranium has about 400 species. The flower is regular with ten fertile stamens and like the next three genera has no nectar spur. The genus Erodium (erodios, Greek for Heron's Bill") includes about 60 species, most of which are distributed around the Mediterranean Sea. The flowers are also regular (symmetrical), but with only five fertile stamens. A common weed in our area is E. cicutarium with small purple flowers. When the seeds fall off the parent plant, they dry out and form corkscrews, which drill the seed into the ground. The genus Monsonia was named in honor of Lady Anne Monson, a great grand-daughter of Charles II of Great Britain. The genus includes about 40 species widely distributed on the African continent (although some are native to India as well). The flowers have fifteen fertile stamens and are symmetrical. The genus Sarcocaulon is restricted to southern Africa in its native state, occurring in the drier regions of Cape Province, RSA, Namibia, and Angola. The stems are succulent and often have persisting spiny flower stalks. The flowers are the same as the last genus. The genus Pelargonium has about 200 natural species and numerous artificial hybrids (often incorrectly called 'geraniums'). Most of the species are native to South Africa, but others come from the island of St. Helena (P. cotyledonis), tropical Africa, Syria, Australia, Madagascar, and a few other islands in the Indian Ocean. Of importance is the fact that the flowers of this genus are zygomorphic (although not always obviously so), with a nectar spur, and with not more than seven of the ten stamens being fertile.



flower of
P. tetragonum

The succulent members of the genus Pelargonium do not have succulent leaves (although the leaves that they do have are found in a wide range of shapes including the typical palmate geranium leaf and foliage that looks like parsley), but they do have succulent stems and/or tubers. Of the stem succulents, there is a degree of variation. First, there is P. tetragonum with thin succulent stems that has stem segments that alternate and give this plant the common name 'zig zag' geranium. (P. praemorsum also zig zags, but it is not very succulent.) Then there are the woody plants such as P. alternans and P. hystrix. Some of the outstanding stem succulents (that make excellent bonsais) are P. carnosum, P. crithmifolium, P. echinatum, P. dasyphyllum, P. klinghardtense, P. paniculatum, and P. spinosum. Some of the outstanding tuberous species are P. lobatum (with black flowers), P. leipoldtii, P. luridum (flowers range in color from white to red and yellow to yellow green), P.

caffrum (one of the frilly petaled flowered pelargoniums), P. oblongatum, P. pulverulentum, and P. schizopetalum (also frilly flowered ranging in color from yellow to yellow green to brownish purple). The species of this genus have some practical uses as well. The majority of Pelargonium species are used in their native habitat as cures as remedies against dysentery and diarrhoea. (Also Geranium incanum is used as a remedy for venereal disease.) P. radula and some closely related species are used in the manufacture of perfume (they contain geranium oil).

The genus Sarcocaulon derives its name from the Greek words sarx and kaulos combined to mean "fleshy stalk". The local common name is "bushman candles", because the translucent bark on the plants is inflammable due to being impregnated with wax. (one species was analyzed and found to contain a resin that was 18% petroleum ether, 54% alcohol, .6% volatile oil, and .85% a gummose substance and traces of magnesium.) The dead bushes of some species are used as firewood. When a bush is dug out, it may take longer than a year for one to dry out. The plants are leafless during the dormant period, which like the genus Pelargonium is our summer. The color of the flowers are yellow, white, pink, or red to purple. The dead flower stalks remain, forming "spines". Since the time Wilna Johnson donated our Pelargonium and Sarcocaulon trophy, all of the winners have been Sarcocaulons: S. vanderietiae, S. patersonii, and S. peniculinum. (So the score is Pelargonium (0) - Sarcocaulon (3), any comments on the odds for this year?) Two other outstanding species are S. inerme and S. crassicaule (= burmanii & spinosum).

REFERENCES:

- B. P. Barkhuizen, Succulents of Southern Africa.
 Derek Clifford, Pelargoniums.
 R. O. Moffett, "The Genus Sarcocaulon", Bothalia (12:4) June 1979.
 J.J. van der Walt, Pelargoniums of Southern Africa, Vs. I & II.

"Palomar Showcase"

The coming California Garden Clubs' Convention will be held at the Hyatt Islandia Hotel in San Diego (Mission Bay) from April 23 through April 26, 1984. We have been asked to put in an exhibit representing the cacti and other succulents. The other garden clubs will put in exhibits as well. The exhibits will be indoors, and the rooms locked afterhours. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to put in the best exhibit that will be there - Rick Latimer - phone 697-4100.

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR APRIL AND MAY

Apr. 15	Convair Garden Club Rose Show	Sun: 1pm - 5pm
Apr. 21 & 22	Exotic Plant Society Show	Sat: 11am - 5pm Sun: 11am-5pm
Apr. 28 & 29	San Diego-Imperial Co. Iris Show	Sat: 12:30-5pm Sun: 10am-5pm
May 5 & 6	San Diego Bonsai Spring Show	Sat: 10am - 5pm Sun: 10am -5pm
May 13	San Diego Epiphyllum Show	Sun: 11am - 5pm

Cactus of the Month

Copiapoa

(Derived from Copiapo, a town and province of Chile)

Robert Kent

Cacti of the genus *Copiapoa* are distributed only throughout a narrow coastal strip (generally from sea level to about 2200 - 2400 feet in elevation) in North Central Chile. They are generally described as growing in a harsh land with virtually no rainfall and depending on heavy sea fogs for their moisture. Ritter refines this, however, writing that "They grow only in a mild climate without harsh extremes and without or almost without night frosts. They are found only in areas with occasional winter rain and with summer drought." Ritter reports that he has also found *copiapoa solaris* eastward of the fog zone and describes it as growing luxuriantly where other cacti, if their seeds do germinate, perish.

Ritter believes that the origin of the genus *copiapoa* lie in the area where it now grows. The genus, in his view, arose out of the general which in earlier geologic time spread over the lower, milder area of northern Chile. He opines that *copiapoa*s have no near relationship with any other genus of cactus living today. This is a blessing for collectors, as taxonomists, faced with *copiapoa*, have thus not been able to indulge themselves in their game of unending switching of plants among genera, a practice which plagues so many other cacti.

Britton and Rose established the genus in 1922, referring to it some fourteen species of *echinocactus* which they reduced to six species of *copiapoa*. There has apparently since been little tinkering with the genus itself. One change was Ritter's creation of the genus *pilocopiapoa* (happily accepted by Backeberg who saw it as Ritter's acceptance of his, Backeberg's beliefs) for the one species of *copiapoa solaris* because of the hairiness of its ovaries, tubes and fruit. Ritter subsequently, however, returned *C. solaris* to the genus *copiapoa*, deeming it a subgenus of *copiapoa*.

If the genus itself stands strong and firm, identification of individual species is another matter. Species fixing of *copiapoa* should give solid employment to untold generations of splitters and lumpers. The number of species (in all fairness undoubtedly aided by new discoveries) has gone from Britton and Rose's six to Borg's nine, Backeberg's fifty-five and down to Ritter's forty-six, with undoubted stops inbetween. In partial explanation, Backeberg commented that "It would seem that within the relatively restricted area of Chile there must once have been quite a small number of ancestral species which, in the course of time, hybridized and gave rise to transitional forms, thus making the determination of species an often difficult task. In some cases widely differing forms occur in any sowing from seed, even the spine characters varying widely..." To these problems must be added both the variations which may arise out of differences in soil, microclimate or elevation and the often great difference in appearance between plants growing in habitat and propagated in the greenhouse.

Ritter splits the genus into five sections, based largely on the size, shape, and color of the body, roots, and ribs. The plants themselves may be globose or cylindrical, and some species offset to form enormous clusters containing hundreds of heads. They rarely dichotomize but occasionally form crests. A mature plant may range from several inches to three or more feet in height. Flowers grow out of the apex, which will often produce white or cream-colored wool, and are usually yellow, sometimes with a bit of red. Roots may be turnip-like or fibrous. Ribs are often strong and beautifully colored-black, brown, or white. Plants may be floury white, grey, or various tints of green. Many have a frosty coating which provides protection from the sun and which may be wiped off. According to Ritter, dissemination of seed is performed only by ants (not the wind), which are attracted by the sweetness of the fruit. Copiapoa are found most often in granitic, allieviol soil. Some may grow together without hybridizing (columna-alba, longistaminea, and esmeraldanal while others readily hybridize in the field (cinerea and haseltoniana).

Cultivation of copiapoa in the San Diego area is not difficult. Good Drainage, a light situation (becareful of sunburn if plants have not been accustomed to direct sunlight), and watering and fertilizing throughout the growing season will produce healthy plants. (This writer has had fewer "fatalities" with copiapoa than with virtually any other cactus geneus.) The beauty of the hard-grown appearance of the plants in habitat is difficult if not impossible to duplicate in cultivation for those who wish to try. Dr. Ron Monroe suggests only "occasional feeding with a low nitrogen fertilizer (2-10-10 or 5-10-10) and lots of bright light."

Sources consulted

1. Katteen in Suedaweika, Vol. 3, Friedrich Ritter
2. Cactus Lexicon, Curt Backeberg
3. The Cactaceae, Vol. 3 Britton and Rose
4. A previous cactus-of-the-month paper on copiapoa by Dr. Ron Monroe
5. Ed and Betty Gay and their magnificent copiapoa collection



San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

17th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Daily
APRIL 20, 21, 22, 1984 - In addition to the plant sales, a selection of books will be available as well as pots, planting mix and other plant supplies.

Our members are invited to attend a preview sale on the evening of Thursday April 19th, starting at 7:30 p.m. Please use the Arboretum entrance located just behind the exhibit hall.

L.A. State and County Arboretum - 301 No. Baldwin, Ave., Arcadia, CA

From Jim Dice

Please thank the Society Members for the beautiful flower arrangement and all the thoughtfulness that they have shown my family during this time. If there are any questions about making a donation in my fathers names, the family suggests the following:

- (1) The Cactus and Succulent Society of America Conservation Fund
c/o Martin Mooney
- (2) Huntington Botanical Gardens - Desert Garden Fund
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108
- (3) American Cancer Society, 2251 San Diego Ave., Suite B-150
San Diego, CA 92110

REMEMBERING GERALD DICE

Frank Thrombley/Soc & SS

Night never had the last word.

The dawn is always invincible.

Hugh B. Brown

As I think of Gerald, I believe his cheerfulness, willingness and thoughts are best expressed by Alfred Lord Tennyson's Poem:

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me ,
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark,
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

To all those who have lost a loved one in the last few months, our hearts go out to you.
--

SARCOCAULONS

The succulent sarcocaulon
With wee rounded leaves
and vicious spines,
Protecting the plants from hungry creatures,
And the delicate cream-white
Five petalled flowers held high
Above the spiny stems,
And open only for one day.
Surely the Sleeping Beauty,
With castle enclosed by thorny briars,
Was never better guarded.

Taken from the South African Pelargonium and
Geranium Society Summer Journal, (December)
Thanks to Wilna Johnson

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OFFICERS

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1st Vice President - Dr. Leroy Phelps 4094 - 36th Street, San Diego 92104	280-9690
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Corresponding Secretary - Robert Kent 16206 Rostrata Hill, Poway 92064	485-6104
Immediate Past President - Rick Latimer 5990 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa 92041	697-4100

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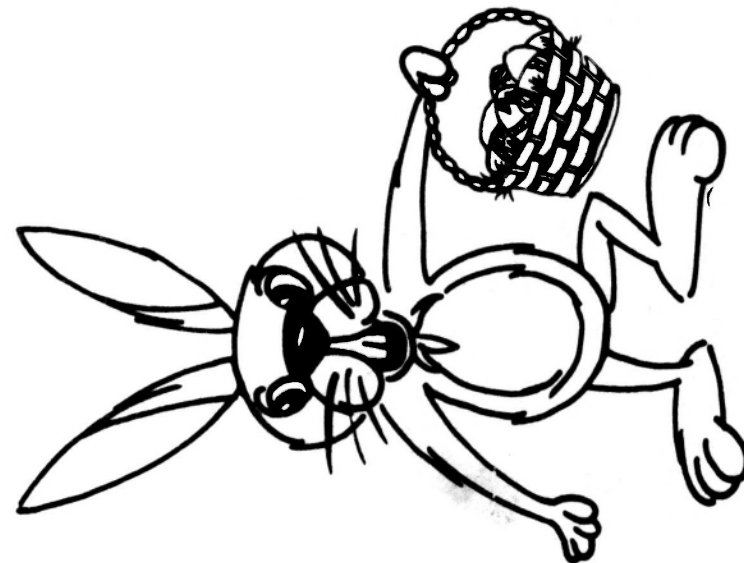
Dorothy Dunn, Phyllis Flechsig, Madelyn Lee
Joe Clements, Bud Aubuchon, Verna Pasek

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Conservation: Dr. Ronald Monroe
Education: Cacti - Frank Thrombley and Dorothy Dunn
Succulents - Rick Latimer and Dorothy Dunn
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Reception: Perlso Lewis and Ethel Standish
Regalement:
Representative:
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Quail Botanical Garden - Phyllis Flechsig
S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation - Elizabeth Glover
S.D. Floral Association - Verna Pasek
Liaison & Publicity: Robert Kent
Orientation:

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 \$8.00 per single member per year, \$2.00 for each additional member of a household within a family. Single copies of Espinas y Flores are 60 cents.

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