

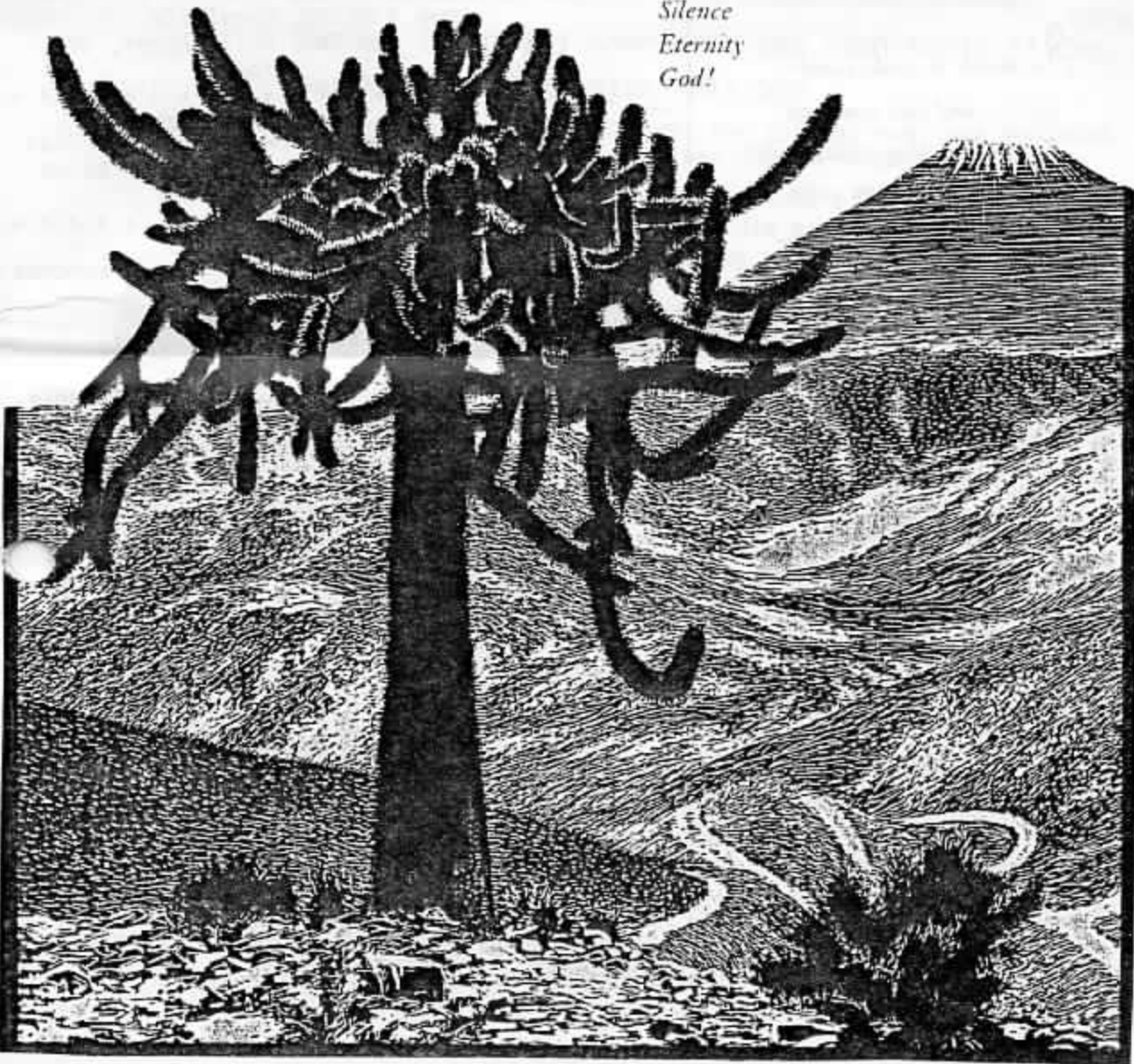
# Newsletter

AUGUST 1986

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ETCHING

*Myriads of flowers trailing o'er the dunes,  
Stinging sand in the tempest's blast,  
Violet haze and blinding light,  
Stars nearby in the deep blue night.  
Silence  
Eternity  
God!*



1986 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

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Field Trips, Carol Kennedy  
Librarian, Bob Causey  
Plant Table, Jim Hanna  
Refreshments, Verna McCarty  
Sunshine, Roz Hancock, 375-3410  
Ways & Means, MaryBelle Wallenhorst, 378-5903

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\*\*\*\*\*

*So much to understand—  
Silence and sun and sand;  
Leagues of blue, misty veils;  
Sudden and savage gales;  
Faint call of hidden birds,  
Songs without written words;  
Sinuous coils of snake;  
Gold, with a life at stake;  
Whisper and rustle and—hush!  
Sunset's rich crimson blush;  
Soft trailing robes of night,  
Infinite stars for light;  
Peaceful, yet poised, intense;  
Ageless, alone, immense;  
God's own mysterious land—  
Too much to understand.*



*The above is only a partial list  
of all our hard workers. WE'RE  
A TEAM.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership Chairperson Norma Holley reports  
that we have a new member:

Emily Rader, 664A W. 3rd Street,  
San Pedro, CA 90731, 548-3082.  
Interests are Gen. Cacti & Succulents.

Also please change your address for:

Gary Duke  
1754 Silver Hills Court  
Prattville, Alabama 36067

We welcome Emily, and we wish Gary our best  
for success & happiness in the future. We  
hope Gary will write something for the  
N.L. eventually (once he gets settled)  
about cactus growing down South!

\*\*\*\*\*

—MURRAY SKINNER.

*Above poem is from  
DESERT PLANT LIFE  
September 1935.*

COVER: The drawing is by Christabel King  
and is of *Browningia candelaris*, near  
Arequipa, Peru, with the volcano Misti in  
the background. The drawing is from the  
CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
Dec. 1982, edited by Hunt & Taylor.

*Poem is by Lulu Convis Launer & is from  
DESERT PLANT LIFE, June 1933.*

## AUGUST MEETING

Sunday, August 10, 1986 at 1:30 in the P.M.

*South Coast Botanic Gardens*  
*26300 Crenshaw Blvd.*  
*Palos Verdes Peninsula*

PROGRAM: JOE CLEMENTS OF THE HUNTINGTON WILL PRESENT  
CAUDICIFORMS: PLANTS WITH MIDDLE-AGE SPREAD.

Joe has beautiful specimens and remarkable slides.  
You won't want to miss this one.

REFRESHMENTS: Roz Hancock, Norma Holley, Ede Ryberg, and Jack Wadleigh  
will join Verna McCarty (645-5009). THANK YOU!

PLANT SALES: We expect Joe will be bringing  
plants for sale, and Jim reports that there  
are still two flats of  $\frac{1}{2}$  price sale plants!

BRAGGING TABLE: Don't leave your caudiciforms  
at home! Also bring any bloomers, mystery  
plants or interesting specimens that you have.

VISITORS & GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

MEMBERS: Please wear your name badges.

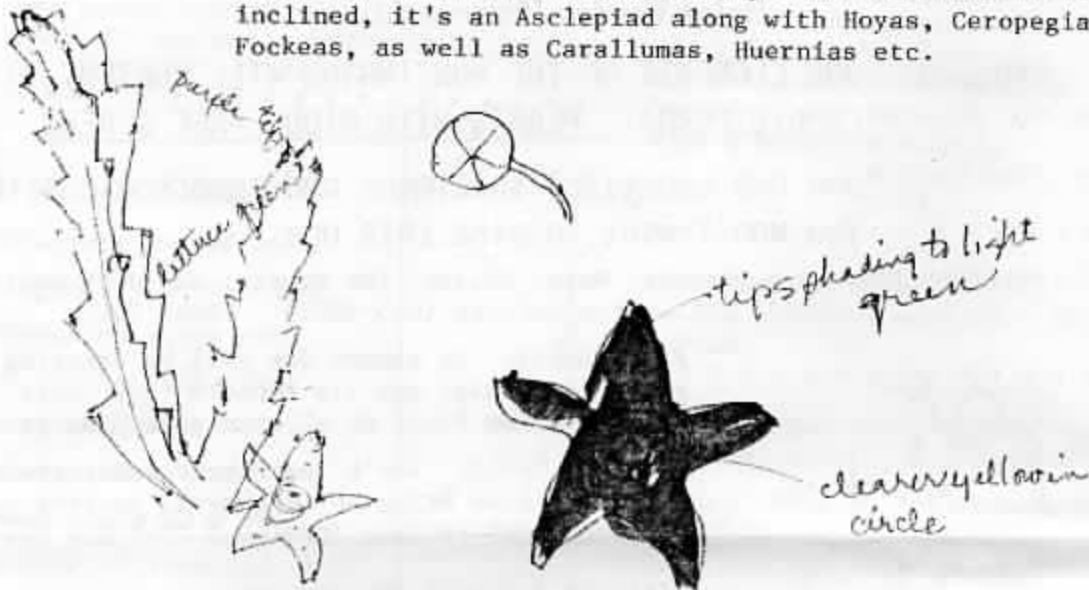
GARDEN: Work on your mounds everybody. It  
will be embarrassing to say the least if Ed  
has to conduct a tour of a weed-ridden cactus  
garden on the 24th.

WELCOME GUESTS & NEW MEMBERS.  
INTRODUCE YOURSELVES. DON'T  
BE SHY; DON'T WAIT FOR THE OTHER  
GUY!

Illustration is of Dioscorea (Testudinaria)  
elephantipes, a caudiciform plant easily  
raised from seed and which produces  
climbing stems with heart-shaped leaves.  
In nature the caudex may reach a diameter  
of 1 m. in the ground. Pencil drawing is  
by Jean Lockett and is from the National  
Cactus & Succulent Journal, V. 36/4, Dec. '81  
England.



The following sketch for identification purposes was sent by Nancy Birnbaum, who's so talented that even her throwaway drawings on scrap paper are good! The plant is probably Orbea variegata, perhaps better known as Stapelia variegata. It's one of Leo's "Little Stinkers," which may be as good a name as any! For the botanically inclined, it's an Asclepiad along with Hoyas, Ceropegias, Fockeas, as well as Carallumas, Huernias etc.




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ATTENTION EPI LOVERS: The South Bay Epiphyllum Society has been born (germinated?) thanks to the efforts of South Coaster Dick Kohlschreiber. It meets here at the Garden on the second Tues. of the month at 7:30 P.M. Thus far there are about 30 members. Dues are \$5 per family. If you think you'd like to find out more, visit a meeting or talk to Dick on Sunday.

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CLARIFICATION: In last month's newsletter, I wrote that Loran "Whitelock suggested that one reason cycads are popular with cactus growers is that both tend to be spiny and appeal to masochists!" Actually Whitelock was comparing cacti to cycads, although it may be that some cactus growers are indeed as "spiny" as their plants. Certainly all (cacti, cycads, & growers) are lovable, superior creatures, and if some are spiny, well...maybe we all can use a little protection in this challenging world..

# THANK YOU!

The day they received the honorarium from our Club, Tandra and Woody Minnich called to thank everyone. Needless to say they were much surprised, much delighted, and much overwhelmed! So I'll pass on their big THANK YOU to everyone for caring so much!

\*\*\*\*\*

Ed Hancock wants to thank the UNKNOWN MEMBER or members who cleaned up orphan bed #8 in our Garden. That bed has the barrels etc. in it. So whoever you are, THANK YOU!

\*\*\*\*\*

As editor, from time to time I enjoy using material from the past -- such as the poems from the 1930's from DESERT PLANT LIFE. This publication was filled with good stuff and thrived through the war years into the 50's. Oldtimers like Ted Taylor and Mace Taylor and Waldie Abercrombie and others who are still going strong contributed to it. The Skinners also wrote for DPL, and I regret never having met them. But thanks to Bob Causey who loaned me his library of these old publications, I had the chance to read some of what they wrote. I reproduced what I liked or thought interesting, and every so often you may find something from 50+ years ago in these pages. THANK YOU BOB. Carol

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Gymnocalycium hybopleurum* v. *feroclor*

Carla Wolter's splendid drawing of this *Gymnocalycium* clearly shows the fierce sword-like spines which interlace closely over the body and project prominently as centrals from the areoles. Not an easy plant to handle without gloves, but easy to grow and well worth growing, it is readily raised from seed and flowers reliably once it is three or four years old. Like most *Gymnocalyciums* it is a trouble-free plant which is tough and undemanding. It should be watered from spring to autumn and grown in a good gritty compost. My own plants generally flower in June or July. The flower can be white or white with a pink tinge. This *Gymnocalycium* comes from Cordoba, Argentina. It was first described by Backeberg in 1965 and was distinguished by him as a variety of *G. hybopleurum* by the very strong spines which change in colour from grey to reddish brown when wetted. How far such a distinction really justifies calling this plant a separate variety is very much a matter of opinion.





Below is a challenge created by Janet Marlow for the NATIONAL CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL, V31/4, 1976.

"Someone with a small collection of cactus and succulent plants has used a fugitive ink on the labels. In a short time he finds that in every case most of the name has disappeared, and only a few letters remain. All is not lost, however, because the plants are arranged such that the initial letters of the generic names, taken in order, spell out a 'familiar' phrase. Can you insert the missing letters, indicated by asterisks, in the list of names below?" Answers on inside back cover.

On the preceding page, the Gymno is by Carla Wolters and is from the BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL for March of 1986. Notes are by E.W. Putnam.

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 Y \* \* \* A \* \* \* L \* \* \* N \* \* \* A \* \* \*

RARE BULBS & OTHER S. AFRICAN PLANTS ON SALE: IRVINE

The U.C.I. Arboretum is having its rare bulb sale on Saturday, August 23. Come early if you're interested in a *Massonia* (two-ranked blistered-looking leaves nearly flat to the ground -- inflorescence cradled between leaves). There will also be Aloes, species Pelargoniums, Lantana (a beautiful low-growing golden one.)

As of the first of August, many S. African succulents & bulbs were resting; but in full glorious flower were some large *Pachycormus discolor* (Baja not S. African!), *Pedilanthus macrocarpus*, *Idria*, *Sarcocaulons* (in the ground), and *Fouquieria dighetti*. The little *Fenestraria* in the ground continues to survive.

On one bed is a small garden sculpture -- a triangle made of two other not-quite-touching triangles. Prof. K. said once that like some students, they never quite get it all together.

I'm not sure of the time of the sale -- probably 9 or 10 AM. Call if you want to be sure, (714) 856-5833. To reach the Arboretum from the 405 (San Diego Fwy), take the Jamboree exit towards the coast. Turn left onto Campus Drive, and then take the first right onto the small unnamed road that leads to the Arboretum and other UCI bldgs. The Arboretum will be on your left. Watch for signs as to where to park.

MOSTLY ENGLAND PAGE

GORDON ROWLEY IN THE BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL for June 1986 writes:

"After many attempts to refine a clumsy terminology, in my new book I use 'caudex' in a broad sense for any sort of more-than-usually swollen stem/root axis, but speak of the 'caudiciform syndrome' in reference to the life form of a *Kedrostis* or 'Elephant's Foot' -- a relatively small group of plants combining the swollen perennial reservoir with slender, deciduous, climbing aerial shoots. Thus carrots and cyclamens have a caudex, but lack many features of the caudiciform syndrome: xeromorphy, climbing habit, and so on...."

"There is certainly room for many interpretations of these wonderful and little understood plants. I only hope that contributors do not bog down in futile arguments over 'when is a caudex?' and 'how much water makes a succulent?'"

(Note: I understand the caudiciform book is not yet out. Maybe for the holidays? Have faith cactophiles!)

Below is a letter to the editor of the BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL for March 1986:

More CAM plants

In the September 1985 issue of the *Journal* is an interesting article by A. C. Groenhol on Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM). A common dogma is that CAM is restricted to xerophytic plants, but recent research is suggesting that arid conditions are not essential to produce CAM plants.

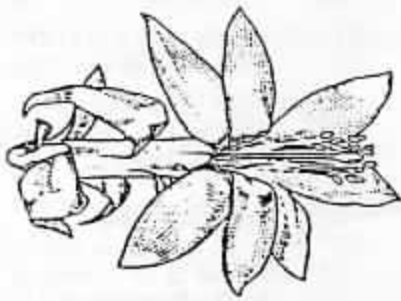
Succulent plants do not have exclusive use of CAM, as seen with the grain legume *Cicer arietinum* (Santakumari *et al* 1979). Even less so with recent studies that show aquatic plants have CAM. *Isoetes* species and *Littorella uniflora* have this type of metabolism, which may seem puzzling at first sight since they do not live in arid habitats. CAM however is not an adaptation to aridity but an adaptation to environmental limitations which affect photosynthesis. Aquatic plants with CAM appear to live in habitats where there is a shortage of inorganic carbon (Boston and Adams 1985).

As time goes by and more plant species are screened for CAM, one expects that while the majority of such species will be xerophytic, there will be some species living in habitats which are anything but arid. It may well be that CAM is a multi-purpose adaptation useful for circumstances where photosynthesis is limited by environment or nutrient shortage.

References

- BOSTON, H. L. and ADAMS, M. S. (1985) *Seasonal diurnal acid rhythms in two aquatic CAM plants*. *Oecologia* 65: 573-579.  
SANTAKUMARI, M., REDDY, C. S., REDDY, A. R. C. and DAS, V. S. R. (1979) *CAM behaviour in a grain legume, chickpea*. *Naturwissenschaften* 66: 54-55.

Dale Speirs  
Box 6830, Stn. D  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2P 2E7



### EPI TALK 3

EPICULTURE continued from last month.

The following is continued from Velma Featherstone's article in the Sept. - Oct. BULLETING of the Epiphyllum Soc. of America, 1983. The drawings are from the Sept. - Oct. 1982 issue.

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"Larger plants may be in as large a container as you want, but they need a new lease on life with fresh mix to continue to produce new growth. Remove a hanging plant from the container, put it into a bucket, the sides of which will support the growth, and fill the bucket with water. Gently swish the plant around to remove all of the old soil. Then cut away with scissors or clippers any dead or broken roots, replace in the same container after washing it with a bleach solution to be sure it is clean, and add new soil that is just barely damp. Repotting is not a procedure that can be done hurriedly; be careful to fill in among the roots with the new mix so that you don't leave any air pockets. Gently tapping the pot on the bench will help to settle the mix around the roots. Treat it gently to avoid damaging the small feeder roots. And again, let it rest before watering.

"Trellised plants should be carried to the potting bench so they can be laid flat to avoid breakage. If you are going to repot a trellised plant, gather the branches together and use a temporary tie to hold them, place them flat on the ground while you wash off the old soil with a gentle stream of water, then proceed with repotting as for a hanging plant. If a trellised plant doesn't need to be repotted, it may need a taller trellis to support the growth. Be generous and use a trellis tall enough to allow for increased growth. Don't use one just the height of the branch; in a week or two you may look at it and find that it has shot up above the top of the trellis, especially if this is one of the plants you repotted into fresh mix. While you are doing all this refurbishing, you can trim out the old, tired growth. You will soon learn to recognize the kind I mean. Ask yourself if a particular branch looks like it will ever produce a flower. If it looks scroungy, don't hesitate to remove it; don't just prune it back.

"While moving a plant from one container to another, be careful to re-attach the name tag; and if the writing is getting dim, heavy it up so that it is legible. When you return the plants to their places, change their positions, turn them around from where they were facing before. This is especially important with hanging plants since all plants grow



toward the source of light. Turning them will help to prevent them from growing in one direction, getting lopsided. Try to hang them so the containers are level; you may need to readjust the wires. When you water, you don't want the water to run over one edge before it has time to penetrate the soil, leaving the roots to dry out.

"Remember the key sentence, 'If you don't see any fresh, new growth, your plant may need to be repotted or potted on.' Experience has made me into a firm believer that whenever a plant seems to be in trouble, setting still and not growing, you need to take a look at the roots. An epiphyllum can surprise you. It may survive for quite a long time after the roots have rotted off, before the rot creeps up the branches; and you won't know unless you uproot the plant. If you find that this is the case, you can still save a prized variety by making cuttings and starting it over again, being sure to remove any sign of rot in the midrib, letting the cuttings 'heal' before potting. They may not root as quickly as healthier cuttings, but at least the plant is not lost entirely. After you have completed this maintenance procedure, you will be so proud of your plants; they will look so beautiful!"

Velma Featherstone.



HERE COME THE JUDGE:



CSSA is moving towards certification of cactus show judges. The process will begin with the grandfathering of a number of "experts". To be grandfathered, however, you must be processed this year. The man in charge is Joe Clements, our speaker. So if you have questions or would like an application, see Joe this Sunday.



Stick around!



by Eleanor

by Peg Spaete



The DESERT DICTIONARY below is by Charley Hunt and is from the Desert Plant Life for July 1934. (not exactly Webster's)

**BARRANCA** The ridges formed by water cutting ditches & gulches in alluvial fans of canyons.

**DRY LAKE** Any level spot of hard clay, where signs of water occupancy are at hand.

**MOUNTAIN** Any height, if steep & rocky. If not steep & rocky, but low, then perhaps a hill.

**DESERT RAT** Any old guy, seedy clothes, needing a shave & a hair cut who can brag about not being into town for 60 years.

**NEWSPAPERS** The printed lies of a lot of ignoramuses.

**MINE** Any hole in the ground, any hole into the side of a hill, any place where there is a lot of rock to be dug out.

**GOOD ROAD** One a goat can follow.

**FAIR ROAD** One a goat must be careful on.

**POOR ROAD** For snakes only.

**ROAD** Any sign of past travel that starts out in the direction you are going.

**AUTOMOBILE** 1919 and earlier Ford. Some early Studebakers with square hoods, 1916 perhaps.

**SOAP** Unknown. Don't mention it.

**MOON** The boys in the hills of Nevada make it and run it from Searchlight Nevada, to Nipton, Calif. No penalty for possession of still in Nevada. Yah, makes it nice.



**WHISKEY** Anything that will burn your throat.

**JUMPING CACTUS** Well, yes, after a few shots of desert hootch, most everything jumps.

**LOS ANGELES** The promised land. "Always kinda thought I'd like to go there sometime. Mebbe get a chance next four-five years. Ain't only been out here sence the Yurrupeen war."

MISSING LETTERS

- Turbinicarpus macrochele
- Hoodia gordonii
- Escobaria tuberculosa
- Notocactus ottomii
- Agave americana
- Tillandsia calcarea
- Islaya grandis
- Othonna capensis
- Neohenricia sibbettii
- Aztekium ritteri
- Lithops salicola
- Cotyledon orbiculata
- Ariocarpus retusus
- Conophytum parvillorum
- Tavaresia barklyi
- Uebelmannia pectinifera
- Sempervivum tectorum
- Aloe aristata
- Neoperleria villosa
- Didymaotus lapidiformis
- Schwantesia ruedeuschii
- Utahia sileri
- Crassula barbata
- Cheiridopsis pillansii
- Urbina agavoides
- Lobivia cinnabarina
- Echeveria harmsii
- Nananthus vittatus
- Toumeyia papyracantha
- Stomatium ermininum
- Oroya neoperuviana
- Copiapoia coquimbana
- Idria columnaris
- Euphorbia resinifera
- Trichodiadema densum
- Yucca filamentosa



# Welcome NEW Members

FROM ELEANOR:

"THAT'S NOT MY JOB"

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

\*\*\*\*\*

L.A. Times  
Aug. 1, '86 →

## Windstorm Fells 78-Foot Cactus— Tallest in World

CAVE CREEK, Ariz. (UPI)—The world's tallest cactus, a 78-foot armless saguaro, toppled during a windstorm and died, a former forest ranger says.

"It was a beauty all right, but now she's gone," said Frank Casanova, a former ranger with the U.S. Forest Service.

The giant plant, estimated to be about 150 years old, is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest cactus in the world.

"It was so big, I suppose the wind finally took it," Casanova said Wednesday.



**KEEP  
TRUCKIN'**

UNCERTAIN SUN: Although the summer has so far been mild, there's no guarantee it will stay that way. If the winds and humidity die, the sun may become fierce. Watch your plants for yellowing & check to see if you need to water more often. This may prevent sun scorch and its scars.

\*\*\*\*\*

CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR

AUGUST						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 10, Sunday, 1:30 P.M., OUR REGULAR MEETING, FEATURING JOE CLEMENTS ON CAUDICIFORMS.

August 23, Saturday, UCI Arboretum Rare Bulb Sale. THIS IS A CORRECTION AS TO DATE.

August 23 & 24, Sat. & Sun., Santa Barbara C & S Soc. Show & Sale. Please see current Sunset Mag. or our special calendar supplement for 1986 shows & sales.

August 24, Sunday, 2:00 P.M., SUNDAY IN THE GARDEN at South Coast Bot. Garden featuring a walking tour through OUR CACTUS GARDEN led by our members. More from Ed on this at the meeting.

Sept. 18, Special speaker at the Sunset Soc.: Susan Carter of the Royal Bot. Gardens, Kew, England. 8 P.M. Thurs. night, Joslyn Hall, Lincoln Park, 7th & Wilshire, Santa Monica. This will be a different talk from the one to be given at the Huntington.

Sept. 20, Saturday, the 3rd Huntington Symposium on Succulent Plants, featuring Mams & Euphorbs. (from England -- Hunt & Carter), all day. Please see last month's supplement.

1987: May 2 & 3, S. Bay Bromeliad Assoc. Show & Sale at S. Coast. ditto , Sunset Soc. Show & Sale, Culver City.

ALSO COMING UP IN 1987, THE CSSA CONVENTION IN TEMPE (Phoenix) ARIZONA!

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
 NEWSLETTER  
 10860 El Mar Avenue  
 Fountain Valley, CA 92708



FIRST CLASS  
 FIRST CLASS



Norma Holley  
 2971 Toledo Street #220  
 Torrance, CA 90503-7340

"MY SOUL CAN FIND NO STAIRCASE TO HEAVEN  
 UNLESS IT BE THROUGH EARTH'S LOVELINESS"  
 - Michelangelo