

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number 7

July, 2004

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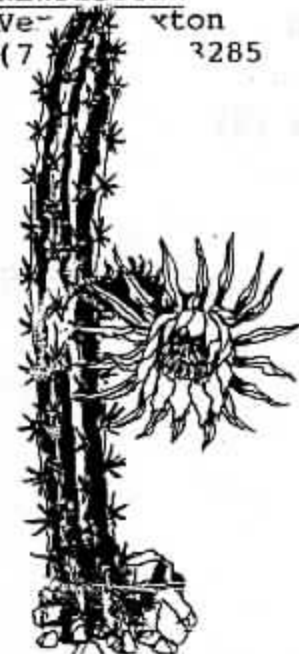
GENERAL MEETING: Sunday, July 11, 1:30 P.M., South Coast Botanical Gardens Classroom. This will be a hands-on planting party. You bring any seeds or seed pods you have collected (preferably this year). To whet your interest, I will bring some seed collected from my plants, some field-collected seed, and a few I have ordered such as: agave ornithobroma cyphostemma elephantopus ferocactus wislizenii micranthocereus auri-azureus neoraimondia arequipensis weingartia trolli species

In addition, I will furnish: with red flowers
2X2" square black plastic pots (4 pots per member); you buy more if you need more or bring your own)
cactus potting mix from Home Depot (you are welcome to bring your own soil mix)
10x12x2.5" aluminum trays for putting soil in and potting
plastic sandwich baggies
sand blasting grit for topping

If someone thinks of something I have forgotten, call me at (714)377-0064 several days before our meeting. Let's have some fun and share our expertise and seeds! Gary Duke

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2004

- JULY 1,2,3** CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE - HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANT SALES ONLY ON THE 1ST,
THIS IS A FREE DAY
- AUG. 14 & 15** 17TH ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH
AT 626-798-2430 or GENE OSTER AT 818-998-9306
- SEPT. 4TH** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON.
- SEPT. 26** LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGUEZ ADOBE
18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 16 & 17** SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.





PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH RULES

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- Advanced entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, novices for three months.
- Advanced entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 5 points for second place, 4 points for third place and 2 points for showing a plant that does not place.
- Novice entrants will receive 4 points for first place, 3 points for second place, 2 points for third place and 1 point for showing a plant that does not place.
- At the discretion of the judges there may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no third place will be awarded.
- For an entrant to receive points, the entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of record keeping for POM.
- At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the four highest cumulative point holders in both the advanced and novice classes.

PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2004

| | <u>CACTI</u> | <u>SUCCULENTE</u> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| March | Ariocarpus | Euphorbia Caupiciform |
| April | - - - - - SHOW TIME - - - - - | |
| May | Copiapoa | Sedum |
| June | Crest/Montrose/ Vaaruegate | Crest/Monstrore/ Variegate |
| July | Cereus and other Columars | Kalanchoe/Cotyledon |
| August | Favorite Cacti (3) | Favorite Succulents (3) |
| September | Turbinicarpus | Dwarf Aloes |
| October | - - - - - NO MEETING - - - - - | |
| November | Miniature (3) under 3 inches | Miniature (3) under 3 inches |
| December | - - - - - CHRISTMAS PARTY - - - - - | |



PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS

| <u>CACTUS</u> <u>ADVANCED</u> | <u>JUNE</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>CACTUS</u> <u>NOVICE</u> | <u>JUNE</u> | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Duke | | 25 | Capaldo | 6 | 6 |
| Fletcher | 3 | 32 | Crowley | | 6 |
| Hulett | 11 | 17 | LaForest | | 9 |
| | | | Lam | | 6 |

| <u>SUCCULENTS</u> <u>ADVANCED</u> | | | <u>SUCCULENTS</u> <u>NOVICE</u> | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|------------------------------------|---|----|
| Duke | | 8 | Capaldo | 7 | 11 |
| Fletcher | 8 | 26 | Crowley | | 7 |
| Gardner | | 5 | Gardner | | 16 |
| Hanna | 4 | 26 | Hemingway | | 8 |
| Hulett | 6 | 6 | Honore | | 3 |
| | | | Hutchison | | 8 |
| | | | LaForest | 8 | 15 |
| | | | Lam | | 3 |
| | | | Ponce | | 10 |
| | | | Warzybok | | 7 |



May all
your weeds
be
wildflowers

COLUMNAR CACTI

SGVCCS Cactus of the Month, March 1997

Usually we separate our plants by taxonomic group, however there are several notable exceptions: caudiciforms, oddities (monstrose &/or crested plants as well as variegates), and the columnar cacti. The columnars look like they belong together, however they span both continents of the "New World" and have developed from several evolutionary lines within the *Cactaceae*. Some are relatively primitive (ie. *Pachycereus*), some are not (ie. *Micranthocereus*). Relationships are being determined today with DNA and nomenclature is therefore in flux. Dr. Rob Wallace and crew are hard at work on this and have begun publishing their findings (*Cactaceas y Suculentas Mexicanas*, the Mexican Journal, 1996). More taxonomic (and name) changes will also be published through IOS in the next decade. Is *Neoraimondia* related to *Pachycereus* despite the geographic gap? Might be. Watch for the name changes, but stay cool. Try to convince yourself the name game is fun. A name is just a tool after all, and you can still use the old ones.

Most columnars are taller than wide, perhaps ten times taller than wide, but such plants as *Buiningia* (now *Coleocephalocereus*) are usually included, though some may be almost as wide as tall. On the other hand, many *Echinocereus* species are often many times taller than wide, yet they form a distinct group, and so are not included. How big are the columnars? Giants, such as the well-known saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) or the cardon, (*Pachycereus pringlei*) come first to mind, but there are miniatures as well. Even the "big guys" start out as seedlings, which often make fine additions to a collection, even though they won't flower for years.

When columnars are judged, they are sometimes divided into North and South American species, but this month's grouping will include both. Knowing where your plant grows in the wild, however, can be helpful in understanding culture. Many Brazilian species, tend to like it warmer than, say, *Espositoa*, and will tolerate humidity. *Neoraimondia*, from the mountains of Peru and Bolivia, doesn't like humidity and may scar in cold damp. (See listing below for locality info.)

Judging also must take into account degree of maturity; size alone won't necessarily make one plant better than another. *Arthrocerus* includes true miniatures, forming many heads over time. They can flower and grow happily on a windowsill. *Pachycereus pringlei* (the cardon), if entered in a columnars' class, will be a seedling, or at least no more than a "toddler," so will likely be outclassed by more mature ceroids. But maybe not. If your "baby" is hard to grow well and is a wonderful specimen, it may win. So whether they are young giants or gnarled ancient "tall trolls," bring them! Let us enjoy the variety within this diverse group.

The word "ceroid" sounds as if it were describing something, well, spacey, from the days of Flash Gordon. You don't remember Flash Gordon? OK, Star Trek. Or Star Wars. "Columnars" isn't much better as a word. And "tall guys" is a sexist term. Oh well. We can call them "Cerei," but "*Cereus*" is a specific serious taxonomic group of columnars. We'll stick with "columnar," or when feeling frisky, "tall ones."

Generally, culture of columnars isn't too difficult unless you are growing under fluorescent lights. Then they will need to be grouped by height. Most of us, however, are lucky enough to be able to access real sun, on a windowsill, in a greenhouse, under lath, or right outdoors. If outdoors, watch for yellowing or sunburn as the sun shifts -- columnars can burn quickly if hot sun strikes vulnerable skin. When moving plants about, keep the orientation to the sun the same.

Underpotting will help keep the big ones a bit dwarfed; however, all will benefit from occasional repotting as well as feeding. Keep in mind that those wanting to get big are like trees -- their growth can be astonishing. Nevertheless, most of us have no trouble growing columnars for

years in sizes small enough to bring to shows, as long as the plants are in clay or ceramic to counterbalance their top weight.

In fact, it's a shame more columnars don't come to shows. Newspaper or cardboard wrapped around the plant to make a protective covering, even a splint, will be useful, and wedging the tall one against a seat or van siding may be all that's necessary to keep plants and people safe from even the most spiny columnars. As you drive, watch out for whip lash, never recommended for any living creature in transport.

Why grow columnars? See them backlit in the am or pm and you don't need to ask. Some of the columnars have wonderful spination. With others its the areoles. Some of the tall species are among the most beautiful of all cacti -- tall golden-spined blue-bodied columns, some with flowing white hair -- standing straight and reaching to the heavens. Spectacular.

Why does a cactus want to grow tall rather than as a small ball nestled between rocks? Maybe to maximize sun. Maybe to get above the animal "browse" line. Maybe to get flowers nice and high for the bats or hummingbirds, depending on the pollinator. There are certainly risks: falling over in high winds or ground erosion, sun scorch, and other dangers from exposed heights. Many seedlings of these tall growers start out in protected spots, often under "nurse" plants, which in time they may overwhelm. As seedlings, some have super heavy spination, then develop tough skin and drop the spines on their trunks. Some columnars remain single columns, others branch along the stem or from the base, and still others climb, arch, hang, or creep along the ground (ie. *Stenocereus eruca*, the "creeping devil"). There are many variations on the columnar theme.

How big can a columnar cactus be? According to Gibson & Nobel's Cactus Primer, *Pachycereus weberi* of southern Mexico and *Cereus jamacaru* of Brazil are both tall and massive, some of which "... would weigh in excess of ... about 25 tons. This is more than the weight of a large humpback whale." Do the columnars have woody skeletons for support? Yes.

Again, why grow columnars? Many are beautiful. Many flower when small. Many of those flowers are awesome. There are bright lipstick shapes, huge night blooms among the most gorgeous in the plant kingdom, and there are tiny psychedelic-colored waxy flowers. The columnars provide height -- an upright form to add variety to your "garden." Not that the small "ball" cacti aren't wonderful, but there needs to be punctuation, and what better than an exclamation mark.

Which species to bring to POM? If it's columnar -- but not an *Echinocereus*, *Chamaecereus* (now *Echinopsis*) or an epiphyte -- bring it!

by Carol Wujcik

FAVORITES: *Arrojadoa*, *Micranthocereus*, *Arthrocareus*, *Cleistocactus*, *Borzicactus*, *Espostoa*, *Pilosocereus*, *Cereus*, *Neoraimondia* (for the areoles!), *Cephalocereus*

ALSO:

Acanthocereus (Brazil, Venezuela,
Caribbean region generally)

Armatocereus (Columbia, Ecuador, Peru)

Arthrocareus (Brazil), mini

Arrojadoa (Brazil)

Austrocactus (Argentina, Chile)

Azureocereus (see *Browningia*)

Bergerocactus (MX [= Mexico], US)

Borzicactus (Peru)

Brachycereus (Galapagos)

Brasilicereus (Brazil)

Browningia (Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay,
Peru)

Carnegiea (MX, US)

Cephalocereus (MX)

Cephalocleistocactus (Bolivia)

Cereus (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia,
Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay,
Venezuela)

Cipocereus (Brazil)

Cleistocactus (S. America)
 incl. some Borzicactus
 Coleocephalocereus (Brazil)
 Escontria (MX)
 Espostoa (Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru)
 Espostoopsis (Brazil)
 Eulychnia (Chile)
 Haageocereus (Chile, Peru)
 Harrisia (Argentina, Brazil, Caribbean,
 Columbia, Paraguay, US)
 Lasiocereus (Peru)
 Lemaireocereus (see Stenocereus)
 Leptocereus (Caribbean, Peru)
 Lophocereus (MX, US)
 Loxanthocereus (see Cleistocactus)
 Machaerocereus (see Stenocereus)
 Micranthocereus (Brazil)
 Myrtillocactus (MX)
 Neobuxbaumia (MX)
 Neoraimondia (Bolivia, Peru)
 Pachycereus (MX, US)
 Peniocereus (Caribbean, Middle America,
 MX, US)
 Pilosocereus (Brazil, Caribbean, MX, S.
 America, US)
 Piptanthocereus (Bolivia)
 Polaskia (MX)
 Pseudopilocereus (see Pilosocereus)
 Pygmaeocereus (Peru)
 Rathbunia (MX)

Samaipaticereus (Bolivia)
 Stenocactus (Caribbean, Middle America, MX,
 US)
 Stephanocereus (Brazil)
 Stetsonia (Argentina, Bolivia)
 Thrixanthocereus (Peru)
 Trichocereus (Argentina, Bolivia, Peru)
 Weberbauerocereus (Chile, Peru)
 Weberocereus (Caribbean, Middle America)
 Wilcoxia (see Echinocereus)

LITERATURE: Hunt, CITES Cactaceae Checklist (for nomenclature, location, etc.)

Pilbeam, Cacti for the Connoisseur (always a useful reference)

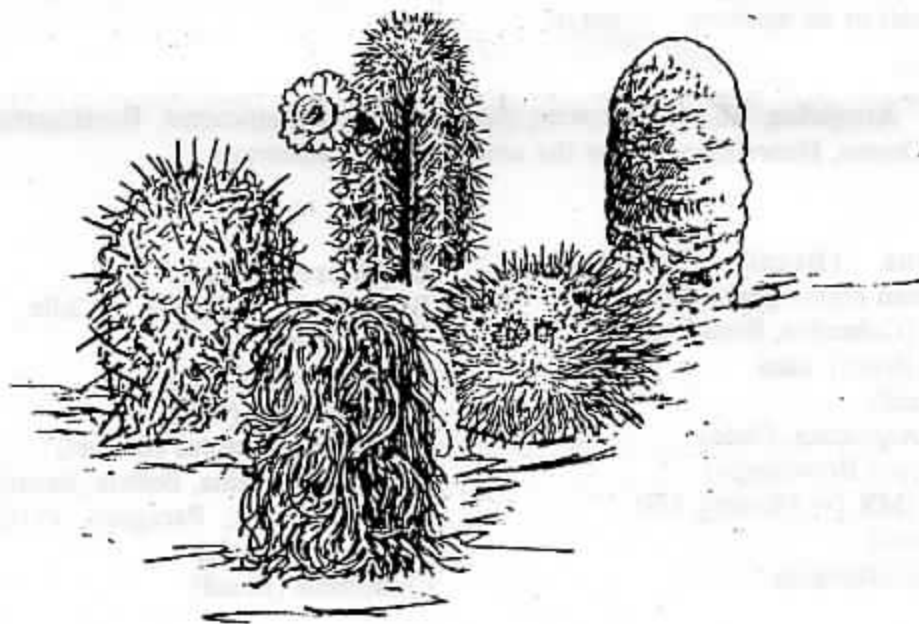
Hoffmann, Cactaceas En la flora silvestre de Chile (There are more than Copiapoas in Chile)

Gibson & Nobel, Cactus Primer

Rowley, Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents (& Cacti)

Innes & Glass, Cacti

DRAWING: Hairy "old men" (& one "old lady") from The Point, May 1990, newsletter C&S Soc. of Washington (state), Ted Van Velzen, editor, with permission.



Succulent of the Month

Kalanchoe and Cotyledon

Kalanchoe and *Cotyledon* are genera of leaf succulents in the *Crassulaceae* Family. Both are winter growers, and generally look their best in late winter and early spring. They are closely related to two other genera, *Adromischus* and *Tylecodon*, and many members of all four families were originally described as *Cotyledon*.

Kalanchoe is a pan tropical genus, with a large number of species in Africa and Madagascar, with significant (but less well known) populations in Socotra, India, tropical Asia, Indonesia, and a few in Central America. *Kalanchoe* is by far the most widely propagated and grown succulent plant in the world. It is produced by the millions as a winter houseplant all over the world. The most popular of all is *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*, from a cloud forest on Mount Tsaratanana in northeastern Madagascar. Cultivars with red, yellow, orange and even purple flowers developed from this species are produced each year by vegetative propagation in large commercial nurseries and sold in florists, supermarkets and garden shops. It is virtually indestructible, and grows and blooms through the winter in heated apartments, offices, etc. with little care. It eventually gets leggy and stops blooming, and is generally thrown out during a spring cleaning.

Kalanchoe care in Southern California is generally very easy. They are winter growers, and do well outside in our rains. A few of the more tropical species are sensitive to cold, but most tolerate anything we get without more than a few dropped leaves. Most of the species sold in florists will do well as bedding plants in local gardens. Producing a show quality plant requires a bit more work. Pruning, and pinching of growth tips to encourage side growth is required to get a full bodied plant. Since most of the cultivated species come from the cloud forests of Madagascar, they never go through long periods of dryness, and require some watering and moisture even during their summer dormant period.

Propagation is easy. Take a cutting. Stick it in some potting soil. Success is virtually guaranteed. Seed is rarely available, but is also easily grown, and sows well in the fall. Growth is fairly rapid, and flowers during the next winter can generally be expected.

Cotyledon is also a genus of mostly shrubby plants with showy leaves. The genus is centered in Africa, stretching from South Africa to Saudi Arabia. *Cotyledon* generally come from drier and hotter regions than *Kalanchoe*.

Cultivation is again easy. Many of the species are under-shrubs, and do best with a little shade in the summer. Propagation is similar to *Kalanchoe*, but a little more care must be required to ensure that they are actively growing before taking cuttings. They prefer a drier rest during the summer.

Plants of Note:

Cotyledon ladismithiensis has green leaves resembling small paws, with red edges when given enough sun. If the growing tips are pinched frequently, it will eventually grow into an imposing shrub. It is easily propagated from stem cuttings.

Cotyledon undulata is a shrub with wavy, white pruinose leaves and thick stems.

Cotyledon sinus-alexandri is a widely available miniature plant with small green egg shaped deciduous leaves. It clumps with time, but never gets much more than 4 inches tall.

Kalanchoe beharensis is a variable large leafed plant from Madagascar. There are several unusual shaped and colored cultivars available, including 'Fang' and 'Oak Leaf'. The leaves are often felt-like, with a mixture of green and brown.

Kalanchoe fedtshenkoi is another variable species, common in the florist trade as well as succulent shows. There are many varieties and cultivars, and several interesting variegated forms as well. It has blue-purple to gray to white leaves, depending on the cultivar. It is weak stemmed, and is often grown as a sprawling or even hanging plant.

Kalanchoe rhombopilosa is a small plant, reluctant to branch, with dense beautiful gray leaves covered with red spots and lines.

Kalanchoe schizophylla is a climber, looking more like a vine than a shrub. The stems grow up to 20 feet, and the leaves are extremely variable with age, so much so that leaves only a few feet away on the same stem look like they come from different plants.

Kalanchoe tomentosa is a wonderful densely leafed shrub. The leaves are green and white and feel as if felt covered. When given enough light and water, the edges turn red or brown. It is easy to grow poorly, but very hard to grow well.

Kalanchoe uniflora is another climbing species. In spite of its name, the flowers occur in groups of three, with many groups per plant. It is naturally epiphytic, and is happiest as a hanging plant.

References

H. Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

W. Rauh, **Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar**

G. Rowley, **Name that Succulent**

M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich February 1999

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

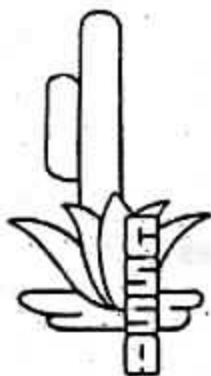
Cactus & Succulent Show/Sale

JULY 1, 2 & 3

SALE: Thursday, Friday & Saturday
OPENS: 10:30 am

SHOW: Friday & Saturday
OPENS: 10:30am

(Free Admission to Show and Sale)



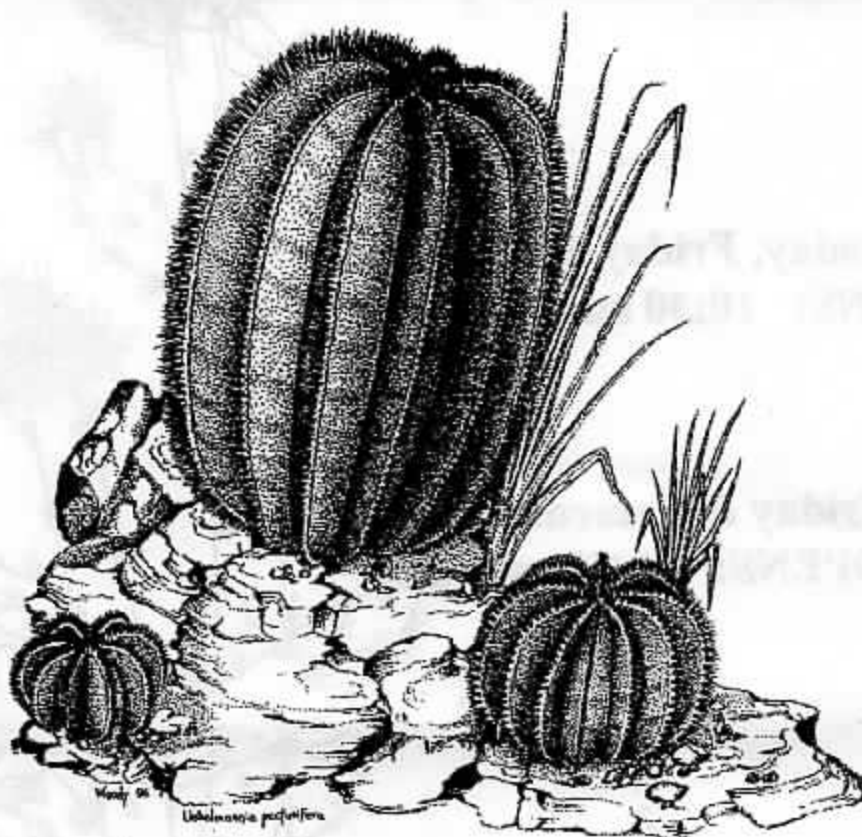
**Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108**

For Information: (626) 405-2100

19th Annual Inter-city Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Sat. and Sun. August 14 & 15, 2004 9 to 5

Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA



Information, Please contact Tom Glavich 626-798-2430
Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078 Gene Oster 818-998-9306

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