SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 8 AUGUST, 2005

GENERAL MEETING: Sunday, August 14, 1:30 P.M., in the South Coast Botanical Gardens classroom. GARY JAMES will show slides and describe his latest trip to Namibia. Gary, an excellent speaker, is Dean Emeritus of Mathematics and Science at Orange Coast College. Gary will just be returning from the Cactus and Succulent Society Convention in Phoenix and he may be bringing some plants available for purchase at our meeting. Let's give Gary a big welcome!!!

CONDOLENCES: Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of DICK HULETT who died Tuesday, July 19. Dick and his wife, Lupe, shared interest in cacti and succulents both as a hobby and a business. Dick won many prizes on his well-staged and outstanding plants and promoted interest in cacti and succulents through leadership not only in our own Club but several other Southern California clubs as well. For a number of years, Dick has enthusiastically served as chairman of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale.

Personal expressions of sympathy may be sent to Lupe Hulett, 737 N. Leland St., San Pedro, 90732.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2005

AUG. 20 & 21	18TH 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. 3	HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
SEPT. 25	LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGEUZ ADOBE 18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
OCT. 15 & 16	SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE--- LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.

PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH RULES

At the November meeting the following rules were adopted for the 1999 Plant-of-the-Month (POM) competition:

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- There will be three classes for entrants: advanced, intermediate and novice.
- Advanced and intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, beginners for three months.
- Entrants will receive 6 points for first place, 4 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 ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS--2005

CACTUS ADVANCED	JULY	TOTAL	CACTUS NOVICE	JULY	TOTAL
Duke	12	56	Capaldo		18
Fletcher		22	Crowley	10	41
LaForest		1	Hutchison	2	2
			Ponce	12	23

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED			SUCCULENTS NOVICE		
Duke	6	22	Capaldo		18
Fletcher		17	Crowley		39
Gardner	3	16	Hutchison	13	13
Hanna	9	43	Ponce	2	4
LaForest		7			

PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2005

Aug.	Opuntioideae	Sansevieria
Sept.	Neoporteria/Neochicenia	Pachypodium
----------NO MEETING----------		
Nov.	Miniatures (3 in. max)	Miniatures (3 in. max)
----------CHRISTMAS		

Opuntia and its Relatives

The Genus **Opuntia** Miller, 1768, belongs to the subfamily Opuntioideae (one of the three subfamilies of the Cactaceae). The name is said to originate from a thistle-like plant in the region of the Opuntiani, a Greek tribe.

Five genera in this subfamily are generally recognized by all authors: **Pereskiopsis** and **Quiabentia,** which exhibit permanent leaves; **Pterocactus,** which flowers from the tip of its cylindrical stems and has unique winged seeds; **Tacinga**, a bushy plant of rambling pencil-thick stems with unique flowers; and the genus **Opuntia** itself, consisting of plants with jointed stems, glochids, and deciduous leaves. While the first four of these genera are quite easily recognized and described, the genus Opuntia exhibits an extreme diversity of size, form, structure and flowering behavior, to the extent that many authorities divide it up to form several smaller genera, while others, being more conservative, maintain it as a single diverse genus, often recognizing some of the more specialized forms as subgenera. Because of these differences of opinion , it is impossible to define the genus without ambiguity. In the broad sense (e.g. sensu Benson) The genus Opuntia consists of shrubs, trees, and creeping plants 5cm to 8m high with jointed stems. Definitive characters of the genus include:

glochids (very fine barbed spines) in the areoles adjacent to the spines.
leaves usually present in young shoots or stems, but fall off early except in some species
flowers borne laterally, close to the end (terminal in some species) of the joints on a short tube. Stamens are sensitive and fold inward when touched, then curve back after a few minutes. Petals are yellow, golden, red, wine-colored; usually satin-like, glossy. Stigma lobes yellow or green.
jointed stems cylindrical, flattened, or club-shaped

Opuntias have been used for centuries by native americans for food (prickly pears, nopales), drink, building material and fiber, and still continue to be so used in many areas. In some regions the flat padded opuntias (Platyopuntias) are used as animal food.

If we accept the genus in its broadest sense, we find its distribution to have the greatest range of any genus in the cactus family, from Southern Alaska and Canada to the tip of South America, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coasts; with representatives in nearly every ecological zone except perhaps the Amazon Basin. Many have become naturalized in other areas of the world: Hawaii, Africa, Australia, etc. where they grow profusely, sometimes displacing native vegetation.

A somewhat logical subdivision can be made between opuntias with cylindrical stems (the cylindropuntias or chollas), those with flattened stems (platyopuntias or prickly pears), and those with club-shaped stems (corynopuntias or sphaeropuntias or club chollas). Further, there appears to be a somewhat natural distinction between the opuntias of North America, and those of South America, the dividing line running approximately from Southern Peru through Brazil. The cylindropuntias of North America have sheathed spines, those of South America do not. The platyopuntias and sphaeropuntias show a disjuct distribution, there being no sphaeropuntias in central or northern south america, and no platyopuntias in the amazon basin or central peru. The opuntias of the Galapagos are of the Northern type. Based on these structural and geographic differences at least 13 genera have been erected out of Opuntia at one time or another. If you cannot locate your species under 'Opuntia' in your favorite reference, try looking it up under one of the following: Austrocylindropuntia, Brasiliopuntia, Consolea, Corynopuntia, Cylindropuntia, Grusonia, Marenopuntia, Maihueniopsis, Micropuntia, Nopalea, Puna, or Tephrocactus.

Most familiar opuntias are large and stately, often constituting the dominating features of the landscape. The very features which make these plants so attractive in their habitat, their size and dominating features, make them a problem in the home garden or greenhouse, therefore they are rarely grown except as landscape plants, and even more rarely exhibited. Opuntias are generally easy to grow; except for the tropical forms, most can tolerate a cold winter in Southern California. They grow relatively rapidly and appreciate a good supply of water in the spring and fall. It is possible to maintain many of the moderate sized opuntias as small plants for a while in pots, and one will occassionally see beautiful specimes of O. erinacea v. ursina, O. basilaris, O. fulgida v. monstrose, or O. violacea, but these will soon outgrow their container and need frequent pruning. There are, however, several smaller species which make good container plants, including some of the tephrocacti, corynopuntias, and Pterocactus.

Some representative types:

Austrocylindopuntia. South American cylindrical types. Spines not sheathed. Chollas
O. subulata (large persistent leaves), O. pachypus, O. vestita.

Cylindropuntia. Northern cylindrical types. Spines sheathed. Chollas.
O.echinocarpa, (silver cholla), O. spinosior (cane cholla) O. imbricata (tree cholla), O. bigelowii (teddy bear cholla), O. leptocaulis (christmas cholla), O. ramosissima (diamond cholla). The latter two are among those referred to as 'pencil chollas' because of the small diameter of their stems.

Corynopuntia. Dense clumps of small, clavate shoots (club chollas). USA, Baja Calif., Mexico.
O.invicta, O.stanlyi, O.schottii, O.moelleri

Marenopuntia. A cholla with a terminal, sunken flower. Fruit develops in stem. Swollen taproot. Mexico (Sonora). One species, O. marenae. Makes a good show plant when small.

Grusonia. A cylindropuntia in which the tubercules are fused to form continuous ribs.
Mexico (Coahuila). O. bradtiana.

Opuntia. Plants with flattened stems (also known as Platyopuntias or prickly pears). O.erinacea (Mojave prickly pear), O.basilaris (beaver tail), O.phaeacantha (Engelmann prickly pear), O. chlorotica (pancake pear), O. lindheimeri (Texas prickly pear), O. macrorhiza (Plains prickly pear), O. violacea (purple prickly pear), O. ficus-indica (mission cactus).

Nopalea. Tree-like platyopuntias. Specialized flowers: petals erect, filaments projecting. Fruit is a juicy berry. Spines without sheaths. Mexico to Panama.
O. auberi, O. cochenillifera

Consolea. . Tree-like. Cylindrical trunk with flattened branches. Continuous primary growth results in lack of jointed appearance of main stem.[also found in Brasiliopuntia] W.Indies.
O. falcata, O. rubescens.

Tephrocactus. South American clumping cacti or mound cacti with clavate or ovoid stems.
O. darwinii, O. glomeratus, O. articulatus, O. paediophilus, O. weberi. Make good show plants.

REFERENCES:

Benson, Lyman. 1982. The Cacti of the United States and Canada
Backeberg, C. 1976. Cactus Lexicon
Britton, N.L. and Rose, J.N. 1937. The Cactaceae, 2nd edition
Cullman,W, E. Gotz & G. Groner. 1986. The Encyclopedia of Cacti

Charles Spotts. 4/97

Succulent of the Month

Sansevieria

Dracaenaceae

The genus *Sansevieria* is a member of the ~~*Agavaceae*~~ family. (Other succulent genera in the ~~*Agavaceae*~~ family are ~~*Agave, Beaucarnea, Calibanus, Dasylirion, Furcraea, and Nolina*~~) Because of their ease of culture they have become popular houseplants. Many species can grow in that 'dark' corner of the house where nothing else would even think of growing. They tend to be tolerant of drought and will shrivel when quite dry but soon plump up again when watered. No matter how tolerant they are of neglect, these plants will flourish with care. Good drainage is a must and with root room the plants will grow more quickly. Frost is a killer for these plants and they should be protected. Too much water probably should be avoided but they are amazingly tolerant of much abuse. Propagation is ~~usually done~~ by rooting of leaf cuts and pups.

Originally found in Africa and Asia; they are now found throughout the world. They are not just grown as ornamental houseplants but have important economic value as sources of fiber for the textile industry. They also have had an important role in the life of African natives: *Sansevieria aethiopica* is used primarily as a source of fiber, but is also used as a remedy for diarrhea and hemorrhoids in South Africa. *Sansevieria thyrsiflora* has been used for many purposes including relief of earache and toothache, a cure for hemorrhoids and worms, binding fractures, for miscarriages, in a rainmaking ritual, and as a protective charm when someone has been struck by lightening.

While the many forms and color patterns of the leaves are amazing, the pleasant scent of the flowers are among my favorite reason for growing them.

Identification of a particular plant can be quite difficult. The last big key was published by N. E. Brown in 1915 with 54 listed species. Since then many new species have been found and some of the original plants are now not in culture. Another confounding factor is that the juvenile growth of many species look very different than the adult form. Many species have juvenile growth forms that are similar and do not acquire their adult look until several years have passed. This makes identification difficult to say the least.

A brief note on *Sansevieria* leaves. The cross sectional shape of the leaf is often used for identification. The species that have succulent (not flat) leaves are further classified depending on what kind of a channel (groove) and the shape of the edges of the channel (sharp of round) in the leaf. The arrangement of the leaves on the stem is also important. In some varieties the leaves spiral in a helical manner called helicoidal while in others the leaves are arranged in one plane; called distichous. In some mature plants

the leaves are isolated (only one leaf). Coloration and striations are also important.

Plants with flat shaped leaves are divided into green or brown categories based on the color of the border and tip of the leaves. Besides coloration, the size and surface texture of the leaves are important.

Last year saw the start of "THE SANSEVIERIA JOURNAL" published by Juan Chahinian and Arnie Mitchnick. Juan wrote "THE SANSEVIERIA TRIFASCIATA VARIETIES" and Arnie runs Northridge Gardens. (Arnie was at Vendor Night last month) If you would like to subscribe, make checks out to Trans Terra and mail to Trans Terra, 9821 White Oak Ave., Northridge, CA 91325. (Cost is $10 plus 83 cents tax).

Selected Species:

S. cylindrica and *S. cylindrica v. patula* both have distichous leaves. *S. cylindrica v. patula* has leaves curving at the base while *S. cylindrica* has leaves that are almost straight.

S. fischeri This plant was previously known as *S. singularis*. In 1986 the 'correct' name of the plant was revealed in an article published in the Kew Bulletin by W. Marais. This common plant has a very interesting growth pattern. The juvenile growth has multiple leaves with broad channels. As the plant matures the growth becomes more erect until the mature growth is a single leaf (isolated growth form) that is broad at the base and tapers toward the apex.

S. kirkii and *S. kirkii var. pulchra* are in the flat, brown leaved category. They have wide leaves with wavy edges. *S. kirkii* has grayish-green leaves over 80 cm in length. *S. kirkii var. pulchra* has brownish-green leaves not over 50 cm in length.

S. pinguicula is a slow growing gem that frequently wins awards at the shows. The short, thick, non-cylindrical leaves are arranged in a helicoidal manner and it can be propagated by aerial stolons.

S. trifasciata is a green, flat leaved species that gives rise to a whole group of varieties and cultivars. It has the common name 'Mother in Law Tongue'. These are the common plants seen in markets and have a huge economic value as houseplants. They tend to be divided into large and compact varieties with the large growers having narrow leaves up to 60 inches in length. The dwarf growers have broad leaves that grow in a rosette and often have 'Hahnii' in their names (ie. 'Golden Hahnii' or 'Hahnii Golden Green'). The most common one is probably *S. trifasciata var. laurentii* which has a yellow banding on the edges of the leaves. See Juans' book for more information about this group of plants and for propagation/cultural data.

Literature Cited:

Juan Chahinian, THE *SANSEVIERIA TRIFASCIATA* VARIETIES, 1986
THE *SANSEVIERIA* JOURNAL. Volume 1, numbers 1-4, 1992
Bruce Hargreaves, RATIONS AND IRRITATION; SUCCULENT USE IN KANYE, US Cactus & Succulent Journal, Vol. L, number 3, 1978.
Hermann Jacobsen, LEXICON OF SUCCULENT PLANTS, 2nd Ed., 1977

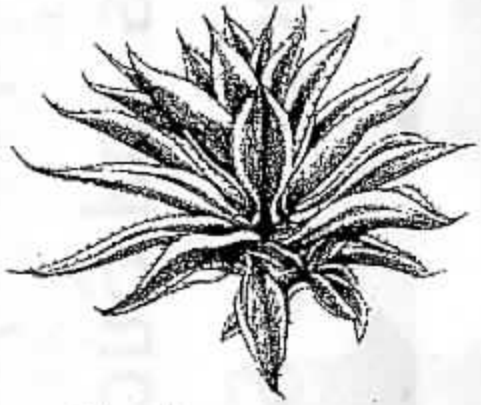
David Tufenkian

LACSS

Saturday, July 30 &
Sunday July 31, 2005

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society



Agave meridensis variegata 'Joe Hoak'

Saturday 9:00 – 5:00

Sunday 9:00 – 4:00

Free Admission

Sepulveda Garden Center

16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino Calif

For Show Information call Artie (818) 363-3432

Bar-B-Que and Auction at 5:00 July 30th at the Garden Center. Reservations must be made by July 21st

BROMELIAD SHOW & SALE

PRESENTED BY

THE SOUTH BAY BROMELIAD ASSOCIATES

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING

Sales from members private collections and commercial vendors

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
AUG 6 & 7, 2005

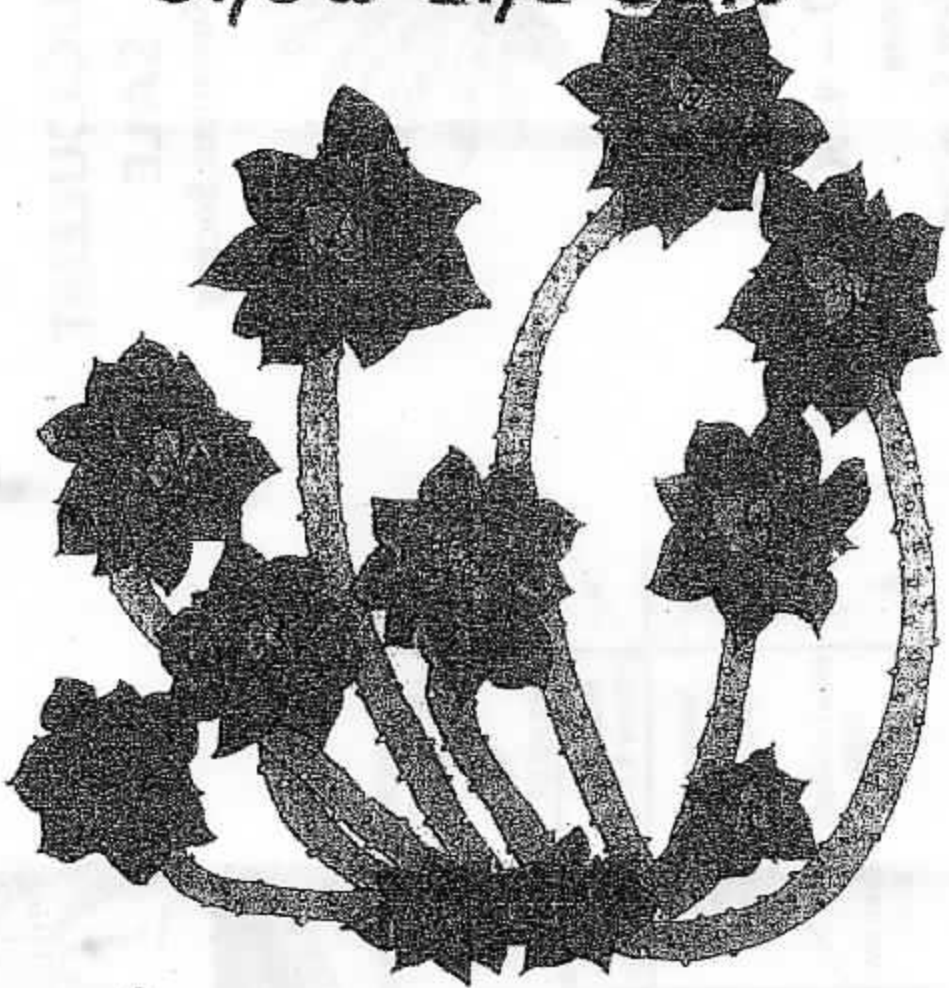
AT

Rainforest Flora Inc
19121 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance CA 90503

SHOW HOURS SAT. NOON-4:30
SUN. 10:00-4:30

SALES HOURS SAT. 10:00-4:30
SUN. 10:00-4:30

20th Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale



August 20 & 21, 2005

Los Angeles County Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia

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