

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 2006



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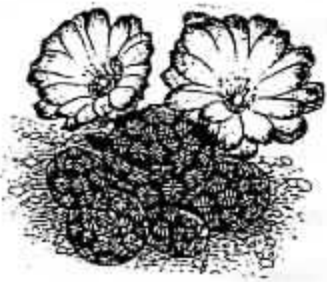
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GENERAL MEETING: Sunday, January 8, 2006, 1:30 P.M. in the classroom of South Coast Botanical Gardens. **WOODY MINNICH**, of Cactus Data Plants, Will start out our new year by speaking and showing slides on yet another of His great trips. Woody is always a fascinating speaker and nearly always Brings a few excellent and rare plants for sale. Let's give Woody a big Welcome!!!

REMINDER: Competition in the Plant-of-the-Month increased last year over The previous year. Thanks to everyone for participating! Let's increase it Again this year by each person bringing at least two plants to each meeting. It is always interesting to see all the plants and it's an easy and enjoyable Way to learn more about the wonderful world of cacti and succulents! !

LAST CHANCE to have your name included in the 2006 roster of members! Be sure to submit your membership renewal this month!



DUES: Are your dues paid yet? In case you have forgotten, fill in the form below, make out a check (\$10 for one; an additional \$2 for each extra family member), and send it to **MARSHA HUEBNER**, 1043 E. Joel, Carson, 90743. Make the check payable to **SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**.

MEMBERSHIP _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____

PLANT OF THE MONTH RULES

- * A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- * There will be two classes of entrants: novice and advanced.
- * 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 third showing a plant that does not place.
- * There may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no place will be awarded.
- * Entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of recordkeeping
- * At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANTS OF THE MONTH—2006

	CACTI	SUCCULENTS
January	Echinocereus	Hybrid Alocs
February	Ferocactus	Crassula
March	Cacti of Brazil	Haworthia and Astroloba
April	----- Show Time -----	
May	Lobivia	Echeveria
June	Copiapoa	Senecio and Othonna
July	Rebutia/ Sucoecutia	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite Cacti (3)	Favorite Succulents (3)
September	Cacti of Argentina	Adenium & Plumeria
October	----- Break -----	
November	Miniatures (3 inch max)	Miniatures (3 inch max)
December	----- Christmas Party -----	



The Virtual Gardener #1

By Dale La Forest

January 2005

Are you a virtual gardener? Well, I am. I obtain and share a lot of information using my computer. There are many ways to do this. For the next several issues, I will share my discoveries with you. And perhaps you will share your thoughts with me. Although it's important to touch and look at your plants, if you have a computer and haven't used it to amplify your passion for cactus and succulents, you're missing out on a terrific experience.

Do you keep a list of your plants? If it's not in a computer, I'd be willing to bet you find it a frustrating chore. I maintain a **computerized list** of all my plants using a program familiar with almost everyone who has a home computer – Microsoft WORD. I try to include with each plant name which plant family it belongs, where and when I obtained it and – rarely I confess – where that person got it back to the original collector, including where in the world it grows. I am also starting to research and include the name of the person who collected and named the plant. This is especially useful in the *Sansevieria* genus where several collectors in the 19th and early 20th century used the same name for different plants – resulting in much confusion among collectors. Although to be sure, sometimes the plant no longer exists in the wild. Cultivars and chimerae present their own documentation issues. It took me many years to discover that a given plant can have many variegated forms, so keeping track of this information is important.

WORD lists are easy to edit and sort, although I would like to find a free botanical dictionary that can be imported into WORD. WORD also allows users to insert photos into the text. I have done this for my *Sansevieria* collection using my digital camera. The resulting document is 18 pages with 1-3 photos per page. When I want to print it, I usually take it to a printer like Kinkos because I can use a better quality paper than I normally use in my printer and – although I'm not sure – I think it's cheaper than using up my printer's black and color cartridges.

Maintaining such a list can be time consuming and frustrating because, plants do what they do and often produce offsets and occasionally die (this is always my fault). Multiple plants of the same species present a documentation problem. There are ways of solving this. Perhaps the easiest is just to number all plants. I am about to enter this stage now. If you are using a system other than numerical, please tell me. You may wonder why bother to go to the trouble of maintaining a list. For me, it is a place I can store information about my plants and also nearly eliminates the purchase of duplicate plants, which can be a problem when you have a few hundred of them.

If you have comments about this article, suggestions for future articles, or you'd like to start exchanging email contact me by e-mail at dlaforest@socal.rr.com.

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS
FOR 2006**

- FEB. 11TH SAN DIEGO WINTER SHOW AND SALE
RM. 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO
- APR. 8 & 9th SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW &
SALE AT SO. COAST BOTONICAL GARDENS
26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA # 310-832-2262
- APR. 23 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE Info. CALL 310-831-1209
- APR 22 & 23 GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
- May 6 & 7th SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. #310-822-1783
- MAY 21 HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDEN 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160
- MAY 21 EPIPHYLLIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-831-1209
- JUNE 10th GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th SHOW AND
SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4 SUN. 9 TO 4 —SAT. SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 3 & 4th SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY —SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.—#619-477-4779
- JUNE 30th-
July 2nd CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE —HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDENS AT 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES ON THE 1ST THRU THE 3RD
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE 2ND TO THE PUBLIC
- JUNE ? LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.
SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- AUG. 19 & 20 21st 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. 2 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 24 LONG BEACH CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION AT DOMINGEUS ADOBE
18127 SO. ALAMEDA ST. COMPTON (DOMINGUEZ HILLS) CA.
- OCT. 14 & 15 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE— LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.

Echinocereus is one of the earliest recognized genera of Cacti; first described in 1848 by George Engelmann from a plant collected in 1846 in what is now New Mexico. The type species (the first one found, and after which the genus is named) is *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, a widespread species with a distribution that ranges from Southern Wyoming, South Dakota, and Kansas to Eastern New Mexico. As the name suggests, it has brilliant green flowers. *Echinocereus* species can be found throughout the Western United States, and the range of species stretches through the American west and through Northern and Central Mexico to about Mexico City.

As might be expected from a genus covering such a large range, *Echinocereus* are extremely varied in form, ranging from nearly spineless green balls such as *E. knippelianus*, to very spiny short columnar species such as *E. engelmannii*, to pencil thin sticks such as *E. poselgeri*. Along with the variation in form, there is an enormous variation in natural environment, ranging from Northern Prairies, where the plants are hidden in grass, and regularly exposed to rain, snow and freezing temperatures, to Southern Baja, where the rains are seasonal, the plants more exposed to the sun, but never to really cold temperatures. Many of the species are quite variable, and exhibit different spination and flower colors depending on where they are found. As a result, a large number of species were named. These are being reduced to a more conservative 30 to 50 species.

Most *Echinocereus* have spectacular flowers, giving rise to such common names as Claret Cup, Strawberry Cactus, Calico Cactus. These common names are often attached to more than one species. *Echinocereus* flowers erupt through the skin, leaving scars. Offsets also erupt through the skin.

Almost all the species need strong light and warm temperatures to grow well and flower. Some are quite easy, but most have somewhat fragile root systems that are prone to rot. They often benefit from being slightly underpotted. Good drainage is a must.

Propagation from seed is fairly easy. Seed germinates in a few days to about two weeks in warm weather, as long as soil mixture is kept moist. Once germination occurs, the seedlings need to be moved to an environment with moving air. They need to be kept damp until they have hardened off.

Propagation from cuttings can be done, but particular attention needs to be paid to cleanliness. Use of Rootone, or another rooting compound containing a fungicide helps the success ratio.

Notable Species

Echinocereus brandegeei - clustering, long needle like spines, medium sized pink flowers (from Baja California)

Echinocereus delaetii - spines are reduced to white hairs. Flowers are pink to purple, with a very obvious green stigma. One of the more difficult to grow. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus engelmannii - from the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. A clumping species with stems 2 to 3 inches thick with generally light tan spines and rose like flowers.

Echinocereus knippelianus - dark green body, with slightly lighter ridges, nearly spineless, clustering, and slow. Lots of pale pink flowers. Sensitive to over watering. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus nivosus has dense white needle like spines, with a dark green body. It clumps freely, and has large pink flowers, with bright green stamens. If this plant wasn't natural, it would be in bad taste. (from Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus poselgeri was formally *Wilcoxia poselgeri*, and is one of several tuberous rooted species that have above ground pencil thin stems. They have bright pink flowers, and make an odd sight and an interesting addition to any collection. (from Texas, Coahuila, Mexico)

Echinocereus rigidissimus - columnar, with bands of red, pink and cream spines. A classic, and a frequent show winner. Every collection ends up with one sooner or later. (from Arizona, New Mexico, Northern Mexico)

Echinocereus schmollii, like *E. poselgeri*, was once a *Wilcoxia*. It has wider stems, and larger flowers.

Echinocereus sharpii, discovered in 1971 by club member Peter Sharp near La Ascencion in Nuevo Leon, is one of the more difficult to grow, and infrequently seen in cultivation.

References

- N. L. Britton & J. N. Rose, *The Cactaceae*
- C. Innes and C. Glass, *Cacti*
- J. Pilbeam, *Cacti for the Connoisseur*
- Cullmann, Gotz & Groner, *The Encyclopedia of Cacti*
- S. and L. Brack, *Mesa Garden Seed List, January 1998*

Tom Glavich April 1999

Succulent of the Month

Hybrid Aloes



Figure Aloe 'Lizard Lips' (J. Bleck hybrid)

The long blooming racemes of brightly colored *Aloe* flowers are attractive to sunbirds in Africa and hummingbirds in the West. When in bloom, hummingbirds will visit every few minutes, going from plant to plant and yard to yard, fertilizing hundreds of flowers as they make their rounds. Aloes readily hybridize not only with other Aloes, but also with *Haworthia* and *Gasteria*.

This has brought a wealth of named and unnamed hybrids, many occurring naturally where two or three species grow together, many man made, many of 'garden origin'. The classical references on *Aloe* are **The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar** and **The Aloes of South Africa**, both by G.W. Reynolds. In **The Aloes of South Africa** in particular, each species is followed by a list of naturally occurring hybrids. Some of these have been collected, and many reproduced, and are now in collections world wide.

Hybrids of "Garden Origin" are those produced by natural cross pollination, or a gardener with a

small brush and a short memory. Many of these hybrids are of species that are geographically distinct, and grow together only in the gardens of *Aloe* collectors. They are often found plants, not only hybridized naturally, but sown by the wind and nurtured without human intervention, until they are big enough to be noticed. This casual method of hybridization has produced some strikingly beautiful plants, many of which are now cultivated on their own merits.

Some of the best hybrids have been created by John Bleck of Santa Barbara. Typical of one of his complex hybrids is *Aloe* 'Grande' an ISI release of 1995. This hybrid is (*A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula*) x [(*A. albiflora* x *A. bellatula*) x (*A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula*)]. This means that four separate species were used in making this hybrid. In the first round, two hybrids were created, *A. albiflora* x *A. bellatula* and *A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula*. These hybrids were then crossed to make a second generation, and finally, this second generation was hybridized with one of the original pairs. In each generation a number of hybrids were created, and selections with the best characteristics were then used to make the following generation. The second cross of *A. descoingsii* x *A. parvula* may well have been a different plant than the first.

A second hybridizer, working with slightly large scale plants is R. Grim of San Jose. He uses *A. sinkatana*, *A. harlana* and *A. jucunda* to make beautiful speckled and glaucous hybrids, about 8 inches across.

Succulent of the Month

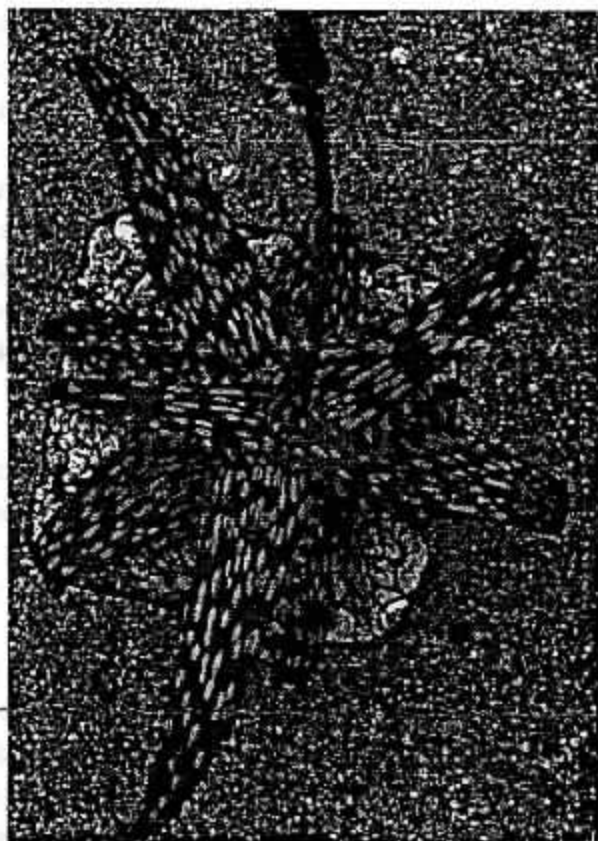


Figure A. sinkatana x jacunda R. Grim hybrid

Finally, an Australian hybridizer, David Cummings, (the originator of *Gasteria* 'Little Warty') has produced a number of beautiful plants using some of the same starting material as John Bleck, but with very different results. Typical of his work is *Aloe* 'Elga' [(*A. jucunda* x *A. jacksonii*) x (*A. millotii* x *A. bellatula*)] His hybrids are hard to find, but pictures can be found in the **Haworthiad**

Aloe Hybrids worth collecting:

Aloe 'Grande', *Aloe* 'Pepe' [*A. descoingsii* x *A. haworthioides*], *Aloe* 'Lizard Lips' [(*A. descoingsii* x *A. calcairophila*) x *A. bellatula*], *Aloe* 'Cha Cha'

Hybrid Aloes

{(*A. descoingsii* x *A. jucunda*) x [*A. descoingsii* x (*A. parvula* x *A. boiteau*)]}, *Aloe* 'Hey Babe' [*A. descoingsii* x (*A. bakerii* x *A. parvula*)] are all representative of John Bleck's extensive hybridization program. Every plant in his series of hybrids is worth finding and growing. They all wonderful, small plants, great for a table top collection, and well worth entering in any of our shows. *Aloe* 'Lizard Lips' has been a show winner many times.

Aloe 'Doran Black' is a spectacular hybrid, and has appeared on our raffle table a few times in the past year. It is a complex cross, created By R. Wright. Parentage is unknown.

Aloe 'Tegelberg's Triumph' appears to be a hybrid between *Aloe aristata* and *Aloe erinacea*.

Grim Hybrids appear to be mostly unnamed, with only the parentage given. Larger than the others they are spectacular additions to any garden.

Only a few could be listed here. There are dozens worth collecting, almost all small and all easily grown.

References

The Haworthiad

Cactus and Succulent Journal

G. W. Reynolds, *The Aloes of South Africa*

G. W. Reynolds, *The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar*

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

Tom Glavich December 2000