

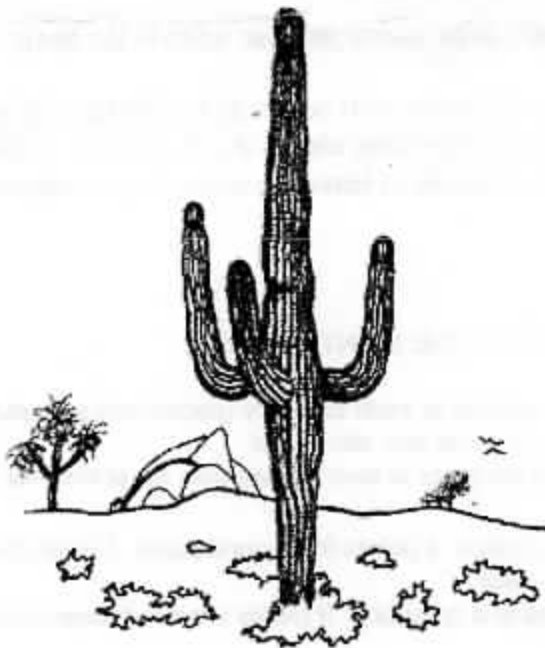
*SOUTH COAST CACTUS
AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY*
NEWSLETTER

Mar
2009

2009 - SHOW and SALE

SAT. & SUN. MARCH 7th & 8th, 9 am to 4 pm

South Coast Botanical Gardens - 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. PV Peninsula



NOTE: The show is free, but there is an entry fee to the gardens which are 6 miles south of I-405

- see** *outstanding plants and displays!*
- Ask** *experts how they grow their plants!*
- Buy** *rare & unusual plants!*
- Vote** *for your favorite displays!*

For More information

President - Dale La Forest
(310) 618-9886
Show Chair - Jim Gardner
(310) 378-1953
Vendor Coord - Jim Hanna
(562) 920-3046

Visa & MasterCard Accepted

President' Message for March 2009

It's *SHOW TIME!*

If you have been a member for a few years, I encourage you to take a little time to circulate and talk to new members and visitors. Offer to help or give a member a break if you see them working hard. This is one of the few times during the year that we find ourselves in a position to carry on an extended conversation with other members – take advantage of it.

If you are a new member, I hope you are planning on bringing in one or two of your plants for the Club table. If so, you should select a plant (big or small makes no difference) that "looks good" to you. Look at it closely to ensure it's pest free. Lupe will ask you to remove it if she finds so much as a single mealie bug. <Grin> Also it should be in a fancy pot. Usually plants look their best when there is 1/2 - 1" of space between the plant and edge of the pot, although this applies mostly to globular shaped plants like cacti. Covering the soil with a nice gravel will ensure visitors will take a second look and perhaps take a photo. Finally, know the name of your plant. There will be Entry slips where you can write in the name. And be sure to remove the tag.

As usual, lunch on Saturday and Sunday will be pot luck with the club providing ham, coffee/tea and bottled water. If you want something else to drink, bring it. Although lunch is provided mainly for the people who are unable to leave the show, any member who drops by is welcome.

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
2009 PLANTS OF THE MONTH**

2/16/2009

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents
Caplan	6		Capaldo	17	2
Dunn		6	Duke	5	4
Lewis	4		Gardner		8
Luhnow	2		Woodley	4	16
Mason		6			
Ross	2				
Tanner J.	6				
Tanner K.	2				

MAMMILLARIA SENILIS (OR, MAMILLOPSIS SENILIS)

Mammillaria senilis is a popular and distinctive plant, one with blossoms so spectacular that John Pilbeam chose it as the photo on the dust jacket of his 1999 monograph on the genus. The exceptionally large crimson flowers offer an outstanding contrast to the dense, white glassy spines of the plant.

First published in 1850, it was described from a non-flowering plant. When the collected plant flowered a few years later, it was obvious that the blossoms were somewhat unlike those of the mammillarias that plant hunters were discovering every year in Mexico. This led to some disagreement as to whether it needed to be in a genus of its own, and in 1923 Britton and Rose established the genus *Mamillopsis*. Those of us who have been in the cactus hobby for some years still think of this plant as *Mamillopsis senilis*. This stood until David Hunt revised *Mammillaria* in 1971, dropping *senilis* back into the larger genus, much to the consternation of some hobbyists. Pilbeam writes that, while most now accept this revision, "every time it flowers for me I feel my doubts rising like indigestion."

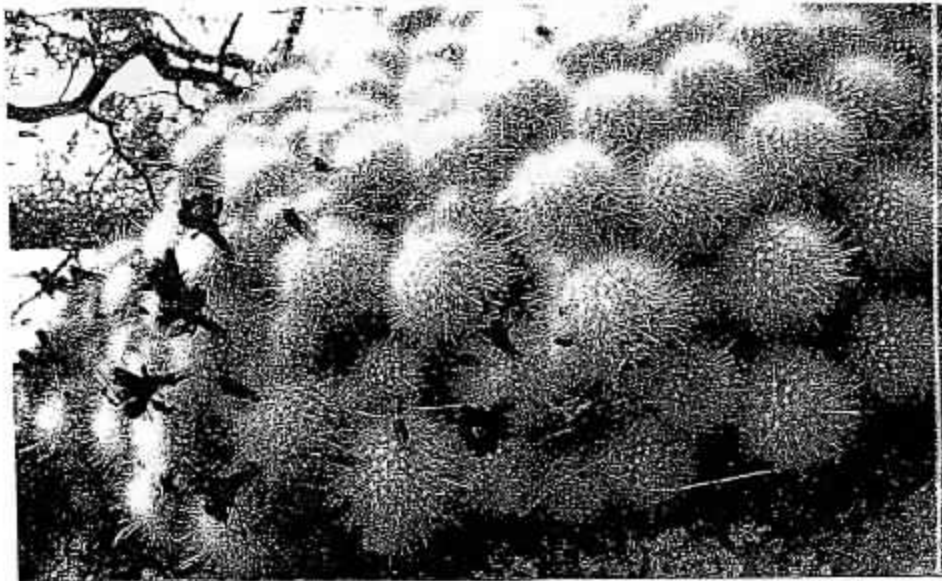
It is a high-mountain species growing in pine forest in northern Mexico, especially in the Sierra de Bolanos, in the states of Jalisco and Durango. The globular, hooked spined plant starts out as a single head on top of a rock or on a ledge. Over time, it expands to a small colony and eventually large colonies are formed in some cases hanging down in cascades. The habitat is remote, one not much visited by botanists, but plants are readily accessible near El Salto along the Durango-Mazatlan highway.

The species flowers in late winter or early spring, usually by March. Pilbeam writes that he has seen a variation in flower color—various shades of red to orange and even a white-flowered form. (In fact, there is a photo of the white-flowered plant in his book.)

Since habitat elevation is from 7,000 to 9,200 feet, the plants can take quite a bit of cold. Elton Roberts says that, if dry, the plants can take temperatures down to 10 degrees. "For those who live where the winter temperatures dip into the upper 20s only a time or two, you can get by with giving a light drink. Being from those elevations the plant is forming buds for early spring blooming and the drink helps. In the heat of summer use caution watering as the plant goes dormant. I know a lot of collectors that have killed the plant in the summer and wanted to know why. When plants are dormant, be it in the winter or summer, they do not need to be watered. If you want to keep your plant happy make sure that you keep the soil acidic. To keep the dense spination give as much light as you can."

As, yes—those beautiful white, glassy spines: beware of getting too close to them. Those books grab your sleeve and won't let go. Elton writes: "I have seen several women who wore sweaters to a cactus nursery walking around with hooked spined mamms hanging from the sweater. It is easier to dislodge one of these from your fingers than to remove it from a sweater." After several such encounters, I made sure my plant stays in the back of the shelf, out of harm's way.

Sue



Mamillopsis senilis, Sierra de los Huicholes, Jalisco, Mexico (Photo: M. J. Chazaro)

SOCOTRO: February program in review—Presented by Todd Masilko, recorded by Philip Ross, Secretary; and edited by Vera Thaxton, Newsletter Editor

Socotro is an island located in the Indian Ocean north of Madagascar off the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula and Somalia. The entire island was awarded the status of World Heritage Site in 2008, however it has yet to appear on the tourist radar screen. Todd was a participant in a 2007 trip led by Phil Hayne of Great Britain; he was accompanied by Kelly Griffin, Woody Minnich, Paul Mitchell and two local guides.

The locals in Socotro are primarily simple fishermen and farmers who have had very little contact with the outside world. Some children were startled when they saw a foreigner remove his dentures and all are leery of a proposed resort development. The island has beautiful beaches and is renowned among scuba divers.

Todd's slide presentation included myriads of genera seen in habitats ranging from coastal plains to the limestone plateau to the Haghier Mountains: adenium, cucumber tree, dorstenia, dragon's blood tree (which has medicinal and pigment uses and can be 500 to 1000 years old); aloe, euphorbia, echidnopsis milleri (a rare, hilltop plant) and kalanchoe. Also on the island are fascinating non-succulents such as lichens in the fog belt, several species of frankincense trees, orchids, conifers, and begonias. Many of the plants bear the species name 'socotrana' and are unique to the island.

The travelers observed a variety of animal life including tarantulas, scorpions, and Egyptian vultures, as well as ubiquitous feral goats that threaten the growth of young plants.

Todd's presentation of this little-known but very interesting location was well-received by all that were present.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the 2005 National Convention in Scottsdale, Mark Muridian mentioned that one member of their group was a blond woman. Whenever she appeared, the children of the area would gather around her. They were fascinated by her blond hair and thought that if they washed their hair often enough, they too would be blond.



**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2009**

- FEB. 14 SAN DIEGO WINTER SHOW AND SALE 9AM to 4PM
 RM. 101 CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO
- MAR. 7 & 8 SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW &
 SALE AT SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS
 26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA INFO. 310-832-2262
- APR. 10-15 CSSA CONVENTION, WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT & SPA,
 TUCSON, AZ. FOR MORE INFO. GO TO-- WWW.CSSAINC.ORG
- APR 18 & 19 GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
 1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
- MAY 3 SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE—9am to 4pm
 SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS
 INFORMATION CALL-310-833-6823
- May 2 & 3 SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
 VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
 4117 OVERLAND AVE. CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 17th HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
 GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
- MAY 17th EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM, ARCADIA, CA 310-670-8148
- JUNE 6 & 7 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY —SHOW AND SALE
 BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO.--#619-477-4779
- MAY 9 GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 29th
 SHOW AND SALE—SAT. 9 TO 4
 JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE
 GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 909-360-8802
- JUNE 13 & 14 LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
 SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BL., ENCINO, CA.
 SHOW INFORMATION-CALL 818-363-3432
- JUNE 26-28 CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE —HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
 626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JUNE 27TH THRU JUNE 29th
 THE SHOW OPENS ON THE JUNE 28th THRU JUNE 29th TO THE PUBLIC
- JULY 24-26 ORANGE COUNTY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE—AT THE FULLERTON
 ARBORETUM, 1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA
 SHOW AND SALE FRI 12pm to 4pm SAT. & SUN. 10am to 4pm. INFO. 714-870-4887
- AUG. 15 & 16 24th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE-LA COUNTY ARBORETUM
 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA. INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH
 AT 626-798-2430 or BARBARA HALL AT 818-368-6914
- AUG. 29 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
 ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT 27 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
 18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA—12PM
- NOV. 7 & 8 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
 SHOW AND SALE—LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- DEC. 5 & 6 ORANGE COUNTY SHOW AND SALE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
 1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
 SHOW AND SALE OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM, FOR INFO. CALL 714-870-4887

UPDATED 9/17/08

Incredible Show Plant Auction

The Mike Hackett Succulent collection will be
Up for Auction on Saturday March 21th
at the Caro Desert (CDP West) Nursery

**

Some of the genera represented include;
Operculicarya, Pachypodium, Bursera, Commiphora, Aloe, Euphorbia,
Pachycormus, Sarcocaulon, Tylocodon, Adenium,
Cyphostemma, Adenia, Dorstenia, Zygosicyos, Cibirhiza, Boswellia, Agave,
Haworthia, Dendrosicyos, Abromeitiella and many, many more!

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Put this date on your calendar for a very special day!
*Not only will this auction be special, but **The Caro Desert (CDP West)** will be hosting the **8th Annual Potters Sale**, featuring 4 fantastic potters, Joe Wujcik, Mark Maradian, Karen Ohlinder and a surprise potter. Also, this is your chance to get your first look at the Caro Desert Nursery and get some of their great plants. Lunch and beverages will be available and, if you wish to socialize with Mike, the Potters and the Caros, stay for the evening barbeque at the nursery.*

**

For more information, please contact:
Patty & Rene Caro Desert (CDP West) 9607 Ave S-12 Littlerock, CA 93543
661-456-0787 Nursery website www.CaroDesert.com
Woody Minnich 505-281-5884 or 661-406-9816;
For auction list: cactusdata@msn.com