## South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

# newsletter

JULY 1986 MEETING: Sunday, July 13, 1986 at the South

Coast Botanic Garden

BOARD MEETING: 12:30 P.M. Everyone Invited

REGULAR MEETING: 1:30 P.M. Program & Special Sale

PROGRAM: LEO PICKOFF will present

## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MESEMBS!

Leo's photography is always a delight, as is the speaker himself. Come, learn, and enjoy.

REFRESHMENTS: Jim Hanna, Wanda Langston, Virginia Russell and Eve Workman will join Verna McCarty (645-5009). Thank You!

SPECIAL 1/2 PRICE PLANT SALE: Jim reminds you that club plants not sold at the show will be marked down to 2 price. (And there will be a few which never made it to the show -- from your forgetful editor -- and anyone else who has been growing plants in club pots.) This will be a good opportunity to add fine plants to your collections. COME EARLY!

BRAGGING TABLE: Include some of your mesembs along with your other braggers. Let's keep Bob busy!

VISITORS & GUESTS WELCOME!

AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!!!!!!

South Coast Botanic Gardens 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard Palos Verdes Peninsula

#### SCC&SS 1986 OFFICERS

President - Eleanor Barker First V.P. - Sean Fleming ( Second V.P. - Jim Hanna

Secretary - Dorothy McArthur

Treasurer - Virginia Russell

Garden - Ed Hancock & Doug Rawcliffe

Librarian - Bob Causey

Membership - Norma Holley Programs - Jim Hanna Affiliate Rep - Eleanor Barker Ways & Means - Mary Belle Wallenhorst

#### CREDITS NOT GIVEN ELSEWHERE:

Cover drawing of mesembs by Jenni Lofts and the Faucaria drawing are from the former Cactus & Succulent Journal of Great Britain, V. 39, #3, August 1977. The Cheiridopsis peculiaris drawing by Jackie Panter is also from the above Journal, for May, 1977.

Remaining drawings are from CSIE (Cactus & Succulent Information Exchange), a publication now also gone but not forgotten or unused. The Cheiridopsis purpurasiens is from #1, 1983; the Lithops are from #7, 1984; the Lithops bella are from #5, 1983 and are by Margaret Dennard originally for ZONEMAG Feb. 1981; and the Pleiospilos below is from #3, 1985.

Newsletter Editor is Carol Wujcik,

Please send any information for the August Newsletter before July 25th if possible. Thank you!

> Please wear name badges to the meeting to assist our visitors and new members.

> > \* \* \* \*

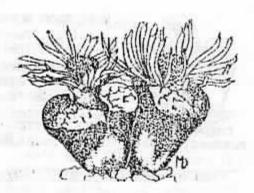
NATURE CREATED TIME SO THAT **EVERYTHING** WOULDN'T HAPPEN AT ONCE! Only sometimes it does anyway.

## 1986 SHOW REPORT

SHOW CHAIRMAN NORMA HOLLEY THANKS ALL WHO HELPED OUT AT THE SHOW. DESPITE SIDEWALK PROBLEMS AND OTHER OBSTACLES, EVERYONE PULLED TOGETHER, AND IT ALL WORKED OUT FINE!

Our judges were: Bill Baker, Joe Clements, Ed & Betty Gay, and Leo & Lillian Pickoff.

Our clerks were: Bob Causey, Gary Duke, Roz Hancock, Carol Kennedy, Doug Rawcliffe, and Dorothy Yakoubian.



Lithops bella

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 1986 MEDAL WINNERS!!

BEST IN SHOW: <u>Euphorbia misera</u>, Jim Hanna

DIVISION I -- THE THREE BEST CACTI (alphabetical order) IN THE SHOW:

Astrophytum capricorne,
C.W. Elliott
Echinocereus purpureus,
Jim Hanna
Gymnocalycium mihanovichii
v. friedrichii,
Jim Hanna



DIVISION II -- THE THREE BEST OTHER SUCCULENTS (alphabetical order) IN THE SHOW:

Aeonium sedifolium,

Jim Hanna

Euphorbia misera,

Jim Hanna

Hoodia gordonii,

Jim Hanna

DIVISION III -- THE BEST ARRANGEMENTS IN SHOW (alphabetical order):

Crassulas in a Shell, Bob Causey Mesembryanthemacae Collection, Ed Hancock

DIVISION IV -- THE BEST MINIATURES IN SHOW:

Cactus: Mammillaria denudata, Ed Hancock Other Succulent: Anacampseros alstonii, Jim Hanna

DIVISION V -- THE BEST COLLECTIONS IN SHOW:

Cactus: Astrophytum Collection, C.W. Elliott Other Succulent: <u>Haworthia</u> Collection, C.W. Elliott

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD: Echeveria 'Alta May'
Dick Kohlschreiber



MORE FROM NORMA: "Every person who entered show plants received 'People's Choice' votes. There were 31 votes in the novice class and 344 votes in the advanced class. Dick Kohlschreiber won the 'People's Choice' vote for Echeveria 'Alta May.' He was also the runner-up with Epiphyllum 'Red Kaiserin.'" Norma said that voting for People's Choice was a hit with the public again this year.

## NOTES FROM OUR '86 SHOW

HOW DO THEY DO IT #2?

whipped look which would incite

envy in the heart of any bonsai

lover. My notes read "telephone

Bob Causey's gorgeous Pachy-

cormus discolor has a wind-

wire." Can this be right?

- Carol

HOW DO THEY DO IT #1?

Stu Bedwell exhibited a "caudiciform" Aloe cilaris. It was the first time 1'd seen such a thing. You'll have to ask Stu how he got his Aloe to caudex like that. How did he do it?

EDUCATIONAL: How does Steve Reinhardt keep his Coastal <u>Dudleya</u> Collection in such good shape? They're grown outside with 1/3 to 1/4 a day of sun at this time of year, with wind protection. The watering schedule "depends."

WEIRD IS BETTER

To the right you see not hieroglyphics, but a sketch of Zanera Myers' flowering Senecio pendulus, the inch worm plant. How does sheget it to do that and then step?!



Most succulents don't look especially graceful, but the cascading Luckhoffia beukmannii grown by Roberta Hanna was a remarkable exception. How does she get it to do that?

SPECIES VARIABILITY: Various
forms of Echeveria
purpusorum were
displayed by Dick
Kohlschreiber,
and all were a
treat to see.
Plus the variations on a
theme were educational.

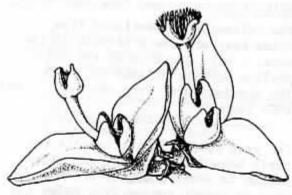
HOW DO THEY DO IT??

SPECIAL DISPLAYS are gifts to the viewing public, and two fine ones were provided by Carol Kennedy & Bob Greenberg. Thank you.

 HOW DO THEY DO IT #3?

Barbara Allen brought her famous twoheaded Aloe aristata variegata to the show. How does she keep it so perfect over time? Why doesn't one head get bigger than the other? Why doesn't her aloe get leaf burn and black spots like mine do? Why oh why?

HOW DO THEY DO IT??????



Cheiridopsis peculiaris (drawn by Jackie Panter)

#### WOW PLANTS!

In no particular order: All the Monadeniums, Dick Kohlschreiber's burnished E. 'Alta May' and his Epi's, Gary Duke's Black Prince Echeveria, C.W. Elliott's Ferocactus, Doug Rawcliffe's Pleiospilos nelii, Barbara Allen's Haworthia marginata (mine doesn't look like that, darn it!) and Euphorbia obesa, Norma Holley's Cheiridopsis candida, and the cacti. Only there weren't very many cacti. WHERE WERE ALL THE CACTI? This Club definitely digs "OTHER SUCCULENTS."

## PACHY narcississima?

A Pachypodium succulentum exhibited by Carol Kennedy looked for all the world like it was hugging itself. But then why not after all? If you're good, you're good!

#### BONSAI

Certain succulents like Echeveria just don't lend themselves to a bonsai look, but Jim Hanna's Echeveria nodulosa is a remarkable exception. How does he do that? And Carol Kennedy's Kalanchoe thrysifolia? How did she get it to do that?

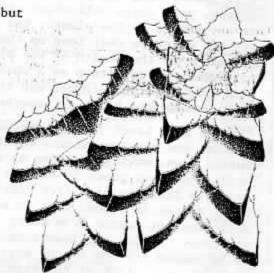
#### MORE BONSAI

Also a revelation were Roz Hancock's exquisite mini-arrangements. Small but surprising ---- Anyone who really looked found tiny gems!

## AND NOW THE FINAL QUESTION!

If Jim Hanna wears all his medals from this year's show around his neck at one time, will he be able to stand up under the weight of them all? Somehow one suspects he'll be able to bear the burden! Congratulations!

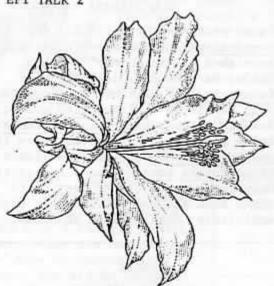
AND A FINAL CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR '86 SHOW PARTICIPANTS. THANK YOU!



Faucaria

drawn by Sheila Galbraith

EPI TALK 2



EPICULTURE continued from last month.

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

"We grow epiphyllums primarily for their beautiful flowers, and side growth is never going to bloom as well as growth coming from below the soil line until after the plant has become rootbound and sturdy enough to support this additional growth.

"Whether the plant is hanging or trellised, there are certain things you should look for with either one.

If the hanging plants are above your head, they should be lifted down so you can inspect them carefully. Check the plants for scale. If you find any, wash it off with soap suds or rubbing alcohol; then treat the plant with a soak in Cygon 2E, which is a systemic insecticide. The roots will take it up and it will go into the branches, killing any new scale that hatches or any you may have missed. If you see any ants busily running around, they are almost a sure sign that they are infesting the plant with mealy bugs, either among the branches or in the roots. They will travel from one plant to another, and if you are not alert to their danger, your whole collection can be infected. The ants themselves don't do any damage to the plants; the mealy bugs they spread around and deposit are the culprits that feed on the roots and tender branches to the detriment of the health of the plant. Use either malathion or Cygon to Use either as a soak rather than as a spray to be sure the kill them. soil is saturated." (Never use inside, and never bring a Cygon-treated plant inside the house or greenhouse. Follow all instructions on the label)

"If the work bench is some distance from where you are working with the plants, you can improvise a working space by turning an empty trash barrel upside down, moving it along as you go from plant to plant. Remove any weeds that have grown in the pot, particularly the invasive oxalis that seems to like the nice rich potting mix we use for our epiphyllums. A screw driver is a good tool to help pull it out by the roots, and weeds will come out easier from among the roots of the plant if the soil is go and damp. Remove any leaves or debris that has collected. If the winter rains washed out any of the soil you can "top off" the plant with a layer of fresh mix. Look at the branches of the plant to see if any of them have broken through the midrib from their own weight. If the branch still looks

green and healthy, rescue it and use it to start a new plant. Trim out, about an inch above the soil, any branch that may have started to die back, which is a natural attempt of the plant to shed unproductive growth. Dieback can start anywhere on the branch, the tips, the edge, even in the middle, but the entire branch should be trimmed away. This is a weak branch and should be discarded; no part of it will make a good cutting.

"If you don't see any fresh new growth, your plant may need to be repotted, or potted on. If you can't remember, consult your records to find out how old the plant is, how long it has been in this same container with the same potting mix. I've heard people say they have plants that have been in the same container, same mix, for fifteen years or more. While this illustrates how hardy our plants really are, I don't think it is anything to brag about. Five or six years without repotting is certainly long enough." (Growers here suggest a two year limit as a general rule for succulents - are epi's different?)

"Plants in small containers may have outgrown their home and need more room, more soil, to continue their growth. Loosen them from the pot by running a knife between the soil and the sides of the pot, remove them from the container, place them in a larger pot on a layer of fresh mix, hold them suspended while you fill in around the sides with mix, disturbing the roots as little as possible. Have the soil line

approximately where it was before, a little deeper into the soil is all right, but don't expose any of it that was previously covered. This process is called "potting on." Do not water for a couple of weeks, then gradually resume regular watering."

-to be continued in Aug.



Article to the right is from the Dec. 1981 National Cactus & Succulent Journal from England.

#### Old saw-new cuts

Every year I prune back long, thin, hard shoots on my three small specimens of Ceraria truticosa to keep them dwarf. Having seen them as sprawling shrubs in Namaqualand I prefer them as bonsai specimens. And every year for about a decade I have been planting the cuttings in hopes of rooting them. Not one ever has, despite trying the usual tricks of a hormone dip and different media, acld or alkaline. Heidelberg University apparently has similar problems, overcome by grafting on Portulacaria afra, which roots easily.

This year I recalled an old tip passed down the nursery trade and tied the cuttings together into a tight bundle with soft string. It worked! Within a month in the propagator roots were forming. I have never seen a scientific explanation for this particular piece of folklore, Perhaps there is a release of hormone at the cut surface that runs together locally and reaches the threshold level to trigger root formation. Or could it be a gas effect, like the ethylene from ripening fruit. Certainly nurserymen plant bundles of twigs of hard-wooded shrubs to root them in this way. So how about some trials from members to see if it works for other succulents? Who's going to be first to strike Fockes crisps cuttings, or Pachypodium succulentum? I shall watch "Members' Corner" hopefully for results.

Nut. Cact. & Succ. 1., Val. 36/4.

## CYCADS, LORAN WHITELOCK, & AUSTRALIA

- Carol

Although they're very much still with us, evolving away along with all us modern "lifeforms," cycads are commonly known as the dinosaurs of the plant world. Many look heavy and tropical, and in one form or another they existed ages ago. Cycads are more or less cone-bearing plants, some of which otherwise bear a resemblance to palms, others to ferns. Once you're tuned in, however, cycads mostly look like cycads. Aesthetically they go well with bromeliads, orchid cacti and ferns. Culturally, they're happy with many succulents. Geographically they're at home in the warm weather regions of both the old and the new worlds, including Australia.

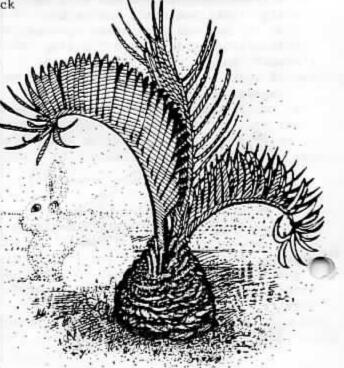
The Australian cycads were featured last year in a talk given by Loran Whitelock before the L.A. Arboretum Foundation members. Mr. Whitelock is a landscape designer who years ago became enamored of cycade and has traveled the world seeking them out. He has a huge private collection of cycads, and propagates and sells them as well. He had a hand in creating the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden at the Arboretum on Baldwin Ave. Yet although the Prehistoric Garden includes cycads, not once did Whitelock mention the word "dinosaur" in his talk.

During the thousands of miles traveled in Australia, he did however reach what the Australians call "the back of beyond." Whitelock's primary goal was to photograph plants in habitat for the book he's working on -- cycads of the world. (It will include cultural information).

In Australia (which Whitelock says has not been well-worked botanically) most cycads grow under Eucalyptis cover. Some colonies seed heavily only every 5 to 10 years or so -- bumper crops!

Australia has 4 genera of cycads: Bowenia, Cycas, Lepidozamia, and Macrozamia.

The cycad drawings, including the Encephalartos natalensis to the right, are by Hermine Stover for the 81-82 Endangered Species Catalog, with permission. For further information on the nursery, please write 12571 Redhill, Tustin, CA 92680. The drawings don't necessarily represent Australian species.





Some are small, some huge (to 70 feet), some have cones weighing 80 pounds, some have underground tubers (to protect from drought and fire), and some have their "trunks" above the ground. Some are in tropical rainforests, others grow in desert conditions. (In fact, camels are used in dry central Australia).

One of the most gorgeous cycads is a silvery furry (tomentose) beauty called Cycas calcicola (Myspelling of the species name may be incorrect). However it's spelled, the species name refers to

the calcium in its environment. For Mr. Whitelock it was love at first sight of this fuzzy Cycas. You probably won't find it in distribution,

but one day ...! Let's hope.

After the presentation on the Australian cycads, Mr. Whitelock answered questions on local conditions, culture, and his own experiences with this group of plants. First of all, there is no local cycad society, although there is a national one in the U.S., and also in some other countries. New Zealand has a society (but no endemic cycads), and of course Australia and S. Africa have societies as well. Mr. Whitelock has found that all his traveling (and questions) have stirred up local interest -- a fortunate by-product of his work.

What literature exists is mostly technical with little horticultural advice he feels. Mr. Whitelock hopes to help fill the void, but he's finding that countries are getting dangerous faster than he can get in to study the plants, so he's not sure when he'll have all his information and photos completed. For example, there are areas of Mozambique he wouldn't dare go into. A friend told him to not be a perfectionist but to hurry up and publish, or else his book won't get out because he'll be shot dead.

Meanwhile Mr. Whitelock offers the following cultural advice:

WATER & DRAINAGE: Because cycads have fleshy roots and because a mature plant will have almost as much mass below ground as above, drainage must be excellent. It's best to water more often rather than have a waterretentive soil mix. Rot is a danger -- especially if roots get too dry, then get watered, then guess what? Right, rot. If the roots do get too dry, then you will want to allow rerooting in slightly damp conditions. No wet feet. Resume normal culture once you're sure your cycad has rerooted.

FERTILIZER: Cycads respond to fertilizer and will generally grow much faster in cultivation than in the wild.

SUN: Seedlings need some shade or they'll cook. In the wild, seedlings grow under bushes etc. For mature or older plants, there's a general rule of thumb: Narrow hard leaves -- give more sun. Broad leaves -give more shade.

PESTS: Scale and mealies are the biggest problems. Oil-based insecticides can burn new growth, so Mr. W. uses diazinon wettable powder.

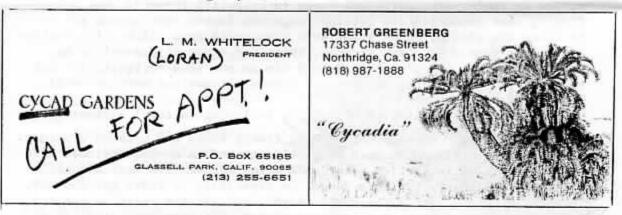
POTS: Underpotting is OK although too topheavy a pot can tip, especially in the wind. (True true!) Taprooted types eventually push their way up and out of the pot (like some cacti and succulents we know and love). Sooner or later you know you have to repot!

p.H.: Most cycads like it a little acid, but normal plant culture suits most. They're not too fussy.

TEMPERATURE: Most cycads do well here in southern California, especially the S. African ones. Many take a little frost and are generally pretty tough.

You may have noticed that much of the above cultural advice applies to succulents. In fact, in a talk to Sunset Society members, Mr. Whitelock suggested that one reason cycads are popular with cactus growers is that both tend to be spiny and appeal to masochists! In any event, if you grow succulents well, you should succeed with cycads.

Mr. Whitelock's card is included here for those interested in purchasing cycads. Cycads may sometimes be purchased at other nurseries, including of course Bob Greenberg's Cycadia.



POSTSCRIPT: My own experience is quite limited where cycads are concerned, which won't stop me from writing about the five I grow. All are fairly tough, but they do occasionally seem to fall into a cone-bearing mode -- when they seem to resist sending out a new crown of leaves (which they supposedly do once a year or so -- eventually the old leaves dry up, often leaving the hardened leaf bases as protection). Although my methods are totally unscientific, it may be

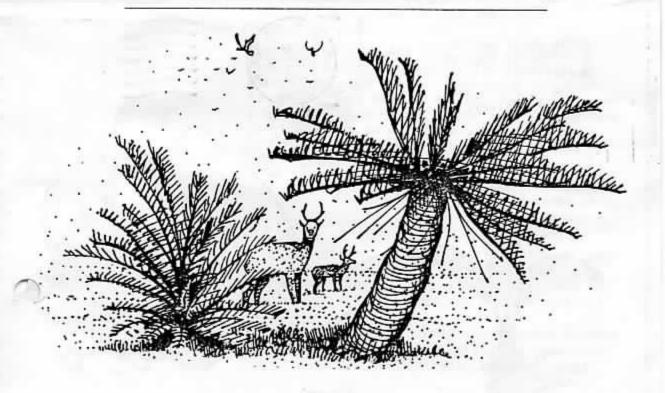
that the ten drop starter solution of Superthrive (vit.hormone additive) in a gal. of water helps snap them out of their reproductive frenzy. Last year the gorgeous new leaves emerged about a month after they received the solution - but perhaps this was coincidence. Perhaps it's unhealthy. Certainly, they shouldn't receive more than one starter solution.

New leaves are difficult to describe, but crown is an apt word. They don't unfurl like ferns, but, well, like cycads. The cones by the way, can be very beautiful in some species, geometrical, colorful, and fuzzy. My plants generally produce small furry brown cones -- attractive but not remarkable. I don't know if my plants are male or female. Cycads are dioecious.

When you repot you will notice weird growths on the roots. Don't panic as I almost did when I first saw them. These are nitrogen-fixing nodules, not root knot nematodes!

Although I've had no trouble using Cygon on my tycads (cygon is oil-based), I haven't used it on young growth. I use it mainly as a soil drench.

My first cycads in Florida came with large Fla. red scale. Not knowing what to do, I cut off all the leaves. It worked. The "storage" trunk eventually sent forth a new crown minus the scale. But this was shock treatment and only the desperate should subject their plants to it.



Inside is an article on Australian cycads, plus some suggestions on cycad culture...hence the illustrations of these interesting plants. All of which has nothing to do with our program scheduled for this Sunday:

mesembs! This group of fascinating plants includes Lithops and other rock-mimicry succulents. Don't miss it! Cycas SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER USA 22 Norma Holley

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:

Boiteux, Leo

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

Los Angeles, CA 90044

Catania, Susan & John...

Euphorbia, Fouquieria, Portulacaria, Bonsai

Long Beach, CA 90804

Dowling, Jean...

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Greenberg, Robert...(818)

Cycads

Northridge, CA 91324

Kubis, Tony

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Miller, Judy & Ivey, Sue

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

Torrance, CA 90502

Photography

Stryker, Mary & Williams, Kristin Gen. Cacti

& Succulents

Rolling Hills Ests., CA 90274

Wurmbrand, Harry

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

Rebutia

### WELCOME!!!!!

Also, our Affiliate Chairman (CSSA) has requested we send our newsletter to her:

Gussett, Mary Jo...(713) 4

Houston, Texas 77031

PLEASE ADD THIS SHEET DIRECTLY TO YOUR 1986 ROSTER. THANK YOU!

#### THE THIRD HUNTINGTON SYMPOSIUM ON SUCCULENT PLANTS Saturday, 20 September 1986 Friends Hall, Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

#### SCHEDULE

			-
8:00 -	8+55	Registration - Coffee and pastries to be served.	-20
8:55 -	9:00	WELCOME and INTRODUCTION - Myron Kinnach, Huntington	
9:00 -	9:30	Botanical Cardens; silent plant suction throughout day.  A NEW MEMBER OF MAMMILLARIA SERIES LONGIFLORAZ - Wendell S.	6 3
→···	****	Minnich, Littlerock, CA.	0 1
9:30 -	10:00	REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF MANMILLARIA DIGICA - James Dica, San	10
		Diego State University.	0'>
10:00 -	10:50	ANATOMY OF MANNILLARIA - James D. Mauseth, University of	10+
		Texas, Austin.	2 5
10:50 -		Coffee Break	4 12
→ <sup>11:10</sup> -	12:00	HANHILLARIA: THE LEGACY AND THE CHALLENGE - David R. Hunt, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.	PH
12:00 -	1:00	Nox lunch (included in the registration fee) in the Palm Carden.	+ B
12:30 -	1:30	Tours of the Desert Garden and the Desert Garden Conservatory (optional).	· 5 -
1:30 -	2120	TRITERPENES IN THE SUCCULENT EUPHORBIAS - Paul G. Mahlberg. Indiana University, Bloomington.	82.
2:20 -	3:10	SPINY SUCCULENT TREE SPECIES OF EUPHORBIA & THEIR RELATION-	200
$\rightarrow$	10000	SHIPS - Susan Carter, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.	-0 -
3:10 -		Refreshments on the Garden Terrace.	00
3:45 -	4:55	HYDROCARBONS FROM PLANTS - Melvin Calvin, University of	1+
4:55 -	5.00	California, Berkeley, CLOSING COMMENTS - Myron Kimnach.	V 1
5:00 -		Plant auction results & free time.	3 A
6:00 -		Wine and chesse social on the Carden Terrace.	Jr 3
6:30 -		Optional Dinner Banquet	7 6
7:30 -		Panel Discussion: CONSERVATION AND SUCCULENT PLANTS, Bruce	_<
	0.30	MacBryde, U.S. Fish & Wildlife: James Dice, Cactus &	4
		Succulent Society; Seymour Linden, CSSA President; others.	3 8
Deadline	for adv	ance registration is 10 September 1986. Receipt of	2
registra	tion for	ns and checks will be acknowledged by mail.	9
Please n	ote: The	registration for includes the box lunch. You may register	5-
for the	optional	banquet or dine in Pasadena. A list of hotel/motel	5 ~
acconnod	ations a	nd restaurants will be provided on request.	11/1

S.C.C. 45.5.

#### REGISTRATION FORM (Please Print)

For further information please telephone or write: Daryl Koutnik, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Harino, CA 91108. (818) 405-2163.

Name		
Address		
city	State	zip
ADVANCED REGISTR — (\$35.00 after 10	MATION FEE September 1986)	\$30.00
- (\$25.00 after 10	AT THE HUNTINGTON September 1986)	\$20.00
	TOTAL ENCL	OSED:

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