SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER, 2005

September ll—South Coast Botanical Gardens
12:30 P.M.—Board Meeting—all are welcome
1:30 P.M.—General Meeting
Program: Kelly Griffin, SOUTH AFRICA'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF PLANTS

Kelly Griffin will talk about his recent CSSA trip to South Africa. His trip was a fantastic foray into some of the neatest plants the world has to offer. Everything from our favorite succulent, Aloe, and Mesembs to Proteas, bulbous plants and everything in between. Since he spent a month there, he has many new photos to share and I think a little something for everyone…should be fun! Kelly works for Rancho Soledad Nurseries in Rancho Santa Fe (858) 756-3717 and I'm sure he will bring some fantastic plants to sell. Let's give Kelly a big welcome!! Gary Duke

MEMBERSHIP: REMEMBER, there will be no newsletter and no meeting in October. Our next meeting will be November l3.


Cynthia Robinson

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2005


Judy Pigue

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.

SCCSS OFFICERS: President, Carol Causey (310) 675-5843, lst V. President, Lowell Howard (310)533-8778, 2nd V. President, Gary Duke (714)377-0064, Secretary, Sandra Fletcher (310)538-4078, Treasurer, Marsha Huebner (310) 533-8778, Sunshine Hostess, Irma Rennie (310) 375-3790, Refreshments, Gloria Crowley, (310) 547-3661, Newsletter, Vera Thaxton, (760) 564-3285

CSSA 2005 CONVENTION IN RETROSPECT by Vera Thaxton

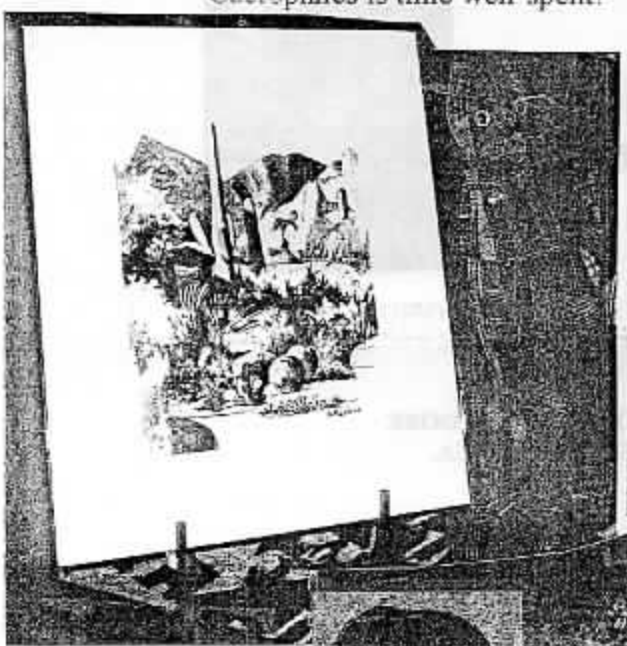
Have you ever wondered what goes on at a CSSA Convention? I have and since the 2005 Convention was in Scottsdale—just a half tank of gas from home—I decided that this was the year for me to check out the situation and I'm glad I did! There were many Friendly people, le, not just from S. Calif and Arizona, but Canada, England, and even Australia. Needless to say, everyone shared an interest in cacti and succulents.

The Convention program was filled with a wide variety of presentations concerning Various aspects of cacti and succulents, e.g. "A Succulent Soiree Through Socotra" And "Designing Spectacular Succulent Gardens". Workshops of various Kinds were scheduled in the evening hours and one entire day was devoted to field Trips. Between meetings, there were plants of many descriptions, books, and art Reflecting Southwestern, Native American, and c and s themes available for ad-Miration and purchase.

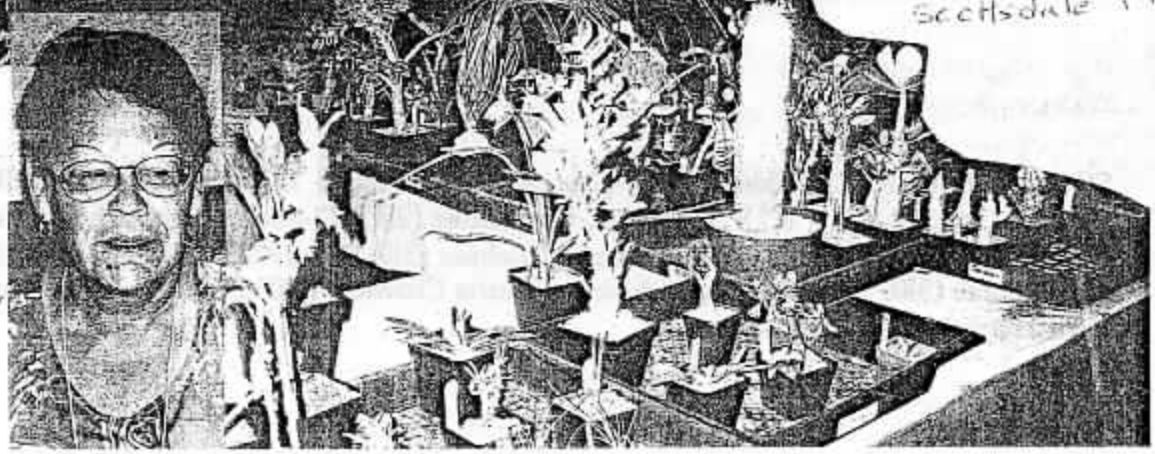
There were a few S. Coast members at the Convention: JOE WUJCIK, JIM and ROBERTA HANNA, WOODY MINNICH, and I enjoyed the various events, but It was unfortunate that more of the membership were not present. Learning about Cactus and succulents increases your understanding not only of plants and their Habitats, but the human culture and conditions surrounding them. It is an altogether Fascinating subject!

The next CSSA Convention will be in Seattle, Washington, May 27-30, 2007. Do I rcommend that you plan to participate? YOU BET!!! A vacation spent with 300 Cactophiles is time well-spent!

Native costume ... Socotra - ... by speaker Mark Muradian



Entrance to Scottsdale Plaza Resort

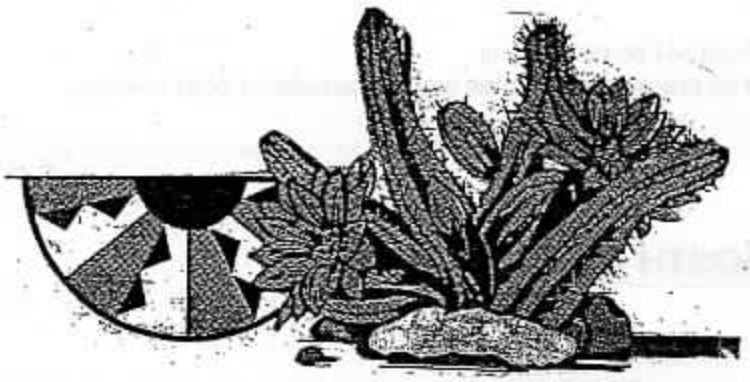


↑ Artwork on sale

A tiny portion of the plants on sale. Roberta Hanna added sales totals.

PLANTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2005

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



Mark Muradian and his pottery (Fresno) CSSA convention

Sluder Succulent Donation

The Sluder Succulent Collection becomes a part of The Living Desert plant collection

This past winter Norma and Darrell Sluder of Rancho Mirage donated over 300 potted cacti and succulents to the Garden Department. This impressive collection is the by product of their lifelong interest and passion for plants. Temporarily housed at the South Nursery, plant propagator Bob Linstead will tend to their needs until the time when many of these plants can become part of an enhancement of the cactus collection adjoining The Palo Verde Garden Center. Among the many fine specimens of succulents and well tended gardens one plant stood out, literally, from the rest – a 25 foot tall African ocotillo, *Alluaudia procera*. This rare find was made all the more exciting when Mr. and Mrs. Sluder agreed to donate the plant to The Living Desert. On May 23 with the aid of Price's Crane and an extra long cradle designed for moving large saguaros the alluaudia was re-located to its new home in the Madagascar Garden, its native land. Amidst other African ocotillos, various other members of the Didiereaceae family, aloes, pencil trees and Madagascar palms the new addition looks right at home. The scale of the garden instantly changed, the 'I can't wait feeling' settles in as the promise of two dozen smaller alluaudias is realized and the dream of a towering forest of these incredible plants is one step closer.

Alluaudia procera

Foxpaws – 9/05

SELECTING THE RIGHT POT FOR YOUR PLANT

Decide what makes your plant special. Consider the plants:

- Color
- Surface texture
- Shape

Be sure you have a practical pot:

- Will the pot drain well?
- Does the plant fit well – does it fill the pot but still have room to grow?
- Can you easily remove the plant after it grows?
- Will the pot work with your other pots?

Joe Wajcik
SCCnss

PL ANT 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 I 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 by presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

PLANT OF THE MONTH TOTALS -- 2005

CACTUS ADVANCED	AUG	TOTAL
Duke	12	68
Fletcher	1	
LaForest	6	7
Gardner	2	2

CACTUS NOVICE	AUG	TOTAL
Capaldo	8	26
Crowley		41
Hutchison		2
Ponce		23
Thaxton	7	7

SUCCULENTS ADVANCED		
Duke		22
Fletcher	6	23
Gardner	3	19
Hanna	9	52
LaForest		7

SUCCULENTS NOVICE		
Capaldo	8	26
Crowley		39
Hutchison		13
Ponce		4

Cacti of the month - *Neochilenia/Neoporteria*

by David Tufenkian

These globular to sometimes elongate plants are popular because of their interesting spines and bodies. Often the plant bodies have dark coloration: from dark brown - to purple - to black. The spines can vary from thin and twisting to stout and straight: there are a few plants that lack spines. They have wool and bristles at the base of the flowers. The flowers are adapted to hummingbird and bee pollination. The ones that are funnelform 'prefer' bees while the more tubular ones 'prefer' hummingbirds. Many of the flower colors are very intense and bright. Distribution: from central Chile, with its southernmost limit near Concepción at 37°S, to southern Peru, where it reaches the Rio Omas at 14°S, and eastward into north-west Argentina, from Mendoza to Salta.

This group of interesting cacti has recently undergone a name change. Curt Backeberg was a 'splitter' and between 1958 & 1962 separated this group of plants into *Eriosyce, Islaya, Horridocactus, Neochilenia, Neoporteria and Pyrrhocactus.* In 1966, Donald & Rowley 'lumped' the above genera back into *Neoporteria,* except for *Eriosyce.* Fred Kattermann conducted fieldwork from 1977 to 1986 and in 1994 published ERIOSYCE: THE GENUS REVISED AND AMPLIFIED. (This is an excellent book which should be added to our club library.) Based on this fieldwork and the use of Scanning Electron Microscopy he feels these plants should be united into one genus. Because the name *Eriosyce* was 'older' than *Neoporteria,* the proper name of the genus is *Eriosyce.* In addition to the above mentioned genera, included into this expanded concept of *Eriosyce* are *Chileorebutia* and *Thelocephala.*

The old genus names are likely to persist for some time as collectors and nursery-people don't like change and want to use as many names as possible to describe plants that are identifiable from each other. Kattermann does divide the new genus into two sections, with subsections:

Section *Eriosyce*
- subsections *Eriosyce, Islaya* and *Pyrrhocactus*

Section Neoporteria
- subsections *Chileosyce, Horridocactus* and *Neoporteria*

For detailed information about the distribution and differences between the plants see his book. Another big plus in Mr. Kattermann's book is the documentation of accepted names and synonyms. The following is information about the 'old' genera.

The 'old' genus *Neoporteria* (named for the Chilean entomologist-Carlos Porter) include very dense spined plants whose spines usually incurve to cover the body of the plant. These spines form a dense mesh at the apex of the plant through which the bicolor flowers appear. The flowers typically remain only half open. The narrow petals are pink-carmine and occur in two layers. The inner petals remain close to the stigma

and stamens and curve inwards while the outer petals stand away from the inner ones and recurve.

Neochilenias generally have less dense spination and their dark pigmented bodies are easily seen. The wide, funnel-form flowers open broadly and are pastel colored.

All these plants require good light and should not be exposed to prolonged cold temperatures. Our plants have been exposed to brief temperatures in the high 20's without problems but were 'hardened off' and kept dry. Some species are sensitive to excess water and can be grafted but that is usually not necessary here in southern California. Some of the plants have fibrous roots and some have tuberous, fleshy roots. They should not be overpotted or they may rot.

We have many local growers that do a great job growing these plants. One exceptional source for these plants is Anne Shein in Marina, California. She grows most of her plants from seed and specializes in South American plants. You may have recognized her name on many prize winners at the July, CSSA show.

Some favorite plants (with the 'old names listed')

Neoporteria chilensis - Unlike many of the others, these plants tend to have dense, yellow spines. The wide funnel-form flowers are red, sometimes with a white center (v. *chilensis*) or yellow tinged red (v. *albidiflora*).

Neochilenia napina - This is a slow growing, tuberous rooted, miniature species with a dark body. The funnelform flowers vary from yellow to reddish. Kattermann describes 2 subspecies and 2 varieties.

Neoporteria senilis - and its subspecies are all interesting. They have hairlike spines that can be tortuous or straight. The color of the spines can vary from white, grey, yellow, brown or even black. The flower buds are red; opening carmine red in various shades.

Neoporteria villosa (aka *Neoporteria cephalophora*) - grows into a short columnar plant with time. It has many hairlike spines, but some of the spines are stiffly needlelike and are brown or black in color.

Literature Cited:

Backeberg, CACTUS LEXICON, 1976
Innes & Glass, CACTI, 1991
Kattermann, ERIOSYCE; THE GENUS REVISED AND AMPLIFIED, 1994
Pilbeam, CACTI FOR THE CONNOISSEUR, 1987

Succulent of the Month - *Pachypodium*

The genus *Pachypodium*, in the *Apocynaceae* (Periwinkle) family, contains approximately 180 genera and around 1500 species. Most of these are tropical trees, shrubs, and climbers. Common non-succulent genera include the *Nerium* (oleander) and *Vinca* (periwinkle). Succulent genera in the *Apocynaceae* are *Pachypodium, Adenium*, and *Plumeria*. The *Apocynaceae* is closely related to the *Asclepidaceae* family (which contains the tribe *stapelieae*). Many members of the *Apocynaceae* have the two horned seed pod (follicles) which characterize the *Asclepidaceae* family.

Both *Adenium* and *Pachypodium* are rewarding genera to grow. They have showy flowers and interesting growth forms. Several of them have thick, fattened trunks which caudiciform specialists prize. In fact, the name *Pachypodium* means thick or stout foot in reference to this growth form. Seed and spine differences are used to separate the two genera. Plants in the genus *Pachypodium* have spines and their seeds have a tuft of hair at only one end. Members of the genus *Adenium* lack prominent spines and their seeds have a tuft of hair at both ends.

Plants from the genus *Pachypodium* are found in Africa and Madagascar. Some species have become so common that they are sold in grocery stores as houseplants. Others are extremely rare and are sometimes available as seedlings through specialty growers. Another source for these plants is to grow them from seed. The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) has a seed depot for members. The 1992 list has 16 different types available.

Most *Pachypodiums* do not tolerate cold temperatures and should be protected. During the winter dormant period most species lose their leaves and should not be overwatered. It is important to give them some water to keep the roots alive but too much water will cause rot. Other important cultural needs are to provide good air circulation and good drainage. Bright light in the summer is a must if you want a nice squat plant.

AFRICAN SPECIES

Pachypodium succulentum (succulent) and *P. bispinosum* (twin spined) grow in the Cape area of South Africa. When not in flower they are virtually impossible to tell apart. In habitat, the large caudex (swollen base) is underground 70 % of the time and only low tangled shoots are seen. In cultivation the caudex is often raised to discourage rotting. *P. succulentum* is hardy and can be propagated from root divisions. The white to pink flowers have a narrow tube (salverform) and are moth pollinated. *P. bispinosum* is the most free flowering of all *Pachypodiums* and its wider tube (funnelform), purplish-white flowers are bee pollinated.

Pachypodium namaquanum (from Namaqualand) is found in a small area in northwestern South Africa and southern Namibia on either side of the Orange river. In habitat, this slow grower forms thick tapered trunks (which often branch) to over 6 feet tall. Fierce, needle-like spines in threes cover the trunks. The heads all lean to the light (northwards) and they are a popular photography subject; especially in silhouette. Natives call them 'half-mens' meaning almost human. Elongated, purplish, funnelform flowers occur at the top of older specimens.

Pachypodium lealii (after Fernando da Costa Leal, the Portuguese cartographer) forms bottle shaped, erect trunks to 20 feet tall. It is found in northern S.W. Africa and southern Angola. The white, broad flowers are reported to be sweet smelling.

Pachypodium saundersii (after Sir Charles Saunders, the discoverer) was considered a subspecies of *P. lealii* because of its similar flowers and fruits. However, it is found in eastern Africa, (Mozambique and Zimbabwe), which is over 1000 kilometers from *P. lealii* and has a different growth form. Mature plants of *P. saundersii* have a main stem that is wider than tall (up to 4 1/2 feet tall and 3 feet wide). Flowers are similar to *P. lealii* but are tinged with purple. Leaves of *P. saundersii* are glabrous (have no hairs) but in *P. lealii* have fine hairs.

MADAGASCAR SPECIES

Pachypodium lamerei (after Lamere, whose collection provided the type material) is common and fast growing. In habitat, it grows to 25 feet. Its trunk is covered with spines in threes and it has narrow, glossy, long leaves. The nice white flowers are scented. At least two varieties have been described.

Pachypodium geayi (after M. Geay, the discoverer) is similar to *P. lamerei*. It grows to 30 feet in height and along with *P. lamerei* shares the common name; 'Madagascar Palm'. *P. geayi* has a fine grey-silvery look to the stem and spines. The leaves tend to have a pink midrib, and unlike P. lamerei are covered with fine fuzz or hairs.

Both *P. rutenbergianum* (after Rutenberg, first collector of specimens) and *P. sofiense* (from beside the river Sofia) are tree like species up to 25 feet tall. They are fast growing but not as popular because their stems are not as 'fat' as other species and outgrow most collections quickly. At least two varieties of *P. rutenbergianum* have been described.

Pachypodium rosulatum (rosulate referring to the tufted leaves), *P. horombense* (from the Horombe mountains) and *P. densiflorum* (densely flowered) are separated by different flower characteristics. When young they all have flask shaped stems that branch after flowering. Old plants in habitat have stems that are wider than tall (up to 3 feet across). They all have rich yellow flowers. There are several varieties of *P. rosulatum* and *P. densiflorum*.

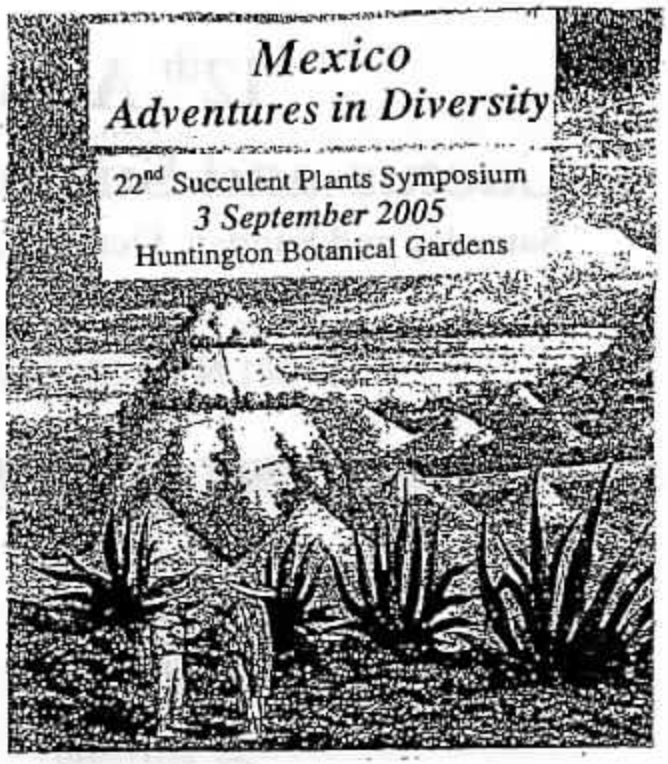
Pachypodium baronii (after Reverend R. Baron, Missionary to Madagascar 1872-1907) is characterized by spectacular red flowers that can last several days. *P. baronii v. baronii* grows up to 6 feet tall and has a less swollen base than variety *windsorii* (after Windsor Castle - A mountain in northern Madagascar). *Pachypodium baronii v. windsorii* is very desirable for collections because of its smaller size and squat form.

The rare *P. ambongense* (from beside the river Ambongo) forms a flask shaped stem up to 3 feet tall and has white flowers. Also quite rare is *P. decaryi* (after M. Decary, the discoverer). It has an almost smooth swollen base as its small spines drop off with the leaves. It has large, white scented flowers.

The last, but one of the most interesting species, is *P. brevicaule* (short stemmed). In habitat, it grows on quartz rock in full sun. The slow growing plant body is very compressed and old specimens have been described as looking like rock, piles of potatoes, or having a cow-dung-shape. To succeed in growing this species pay attention to careful watering and provide lots of warmth. It has brilliant yellow flowers.

Literature:

Court, 1981, Succulent Flora of Southern Africa
Rauh, 1984, The Wonderful World of Succulents
Rowley, 1978, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents
Rowley, 1983, The Adenium and Pachypodium Handbook
by David Tufenkian



Program includes:

Angel Salvador Arias Montes, Jardín Botánico Exterior, Instituto de Biología, U.N.A.M., México, D.F., *Cacti of Mexico: An Overview of the Pachycereeae of North America*

Hilda Julieta Arreola Nava, Instituto de Botánica y Zoología, Universidad de Guadalajara, Zapopán, México, *Phylogeny of the Genus* Stenocereus

Patrick Griffith, Montgomery Botanical Center, Miami, Florida, *Origins of a Cactus Crop:* Opuntia ficus-indica

Martín Mata Rosas, Lab. Cultivo de Tejidos Vegetales, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Xalapa, Veracruz, México, *Conservation and Propagation of Mexican Cacti through Tissue Culture in Mexican Botanical Gardens*

Jon P. Rebman, San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, *Exploring the Diversity of Baja California*

Jose L. Villaseñor, Herbario Nacional, Instituto de Biología, U.N.A.M., México, D.F., *Do Life Forms in Mexican Cactaceae Follow Geographical Patterns?*

Julia Etter and Martin Kristen, Atotonilco el Alto, Jalisco, Mexico, *Mexico, Wild and Beautiful – A Photographic Journey through a Plant Paradise* (Presentation follows dinner)

Time:

Registration and continental breakfast, 8:30 a.m. Program, 9:00 - 5:00, includes speaker presentations, silent auction, Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory special hours, refreshments, and lunch. Dinner (optional), 6:00 p.m.

Location:

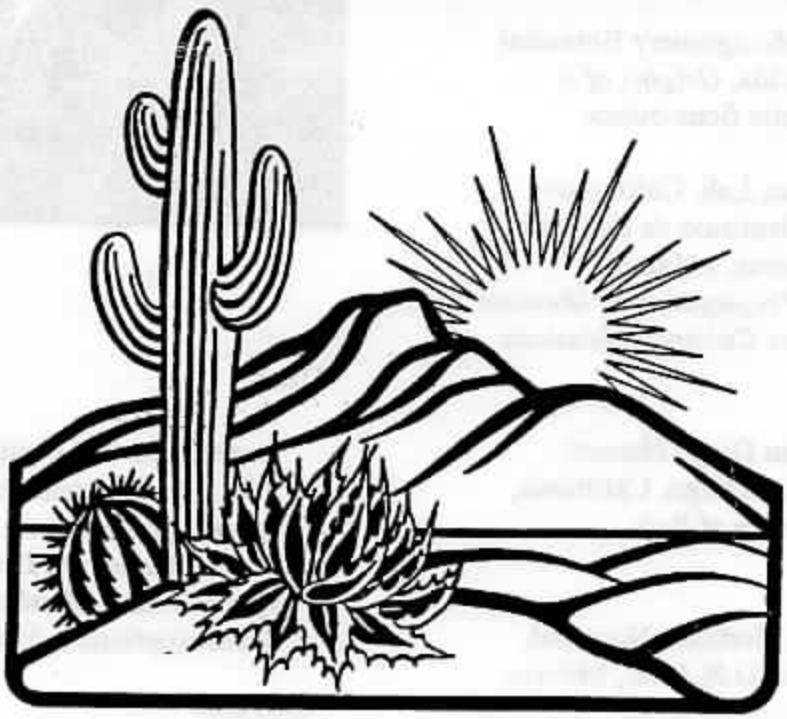
Friends' Hall
Huntington Library,
Art Collections,
Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108

12th Annual Winter
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Saturday and Sunday, October 15th & 16th, 2005 from 9 to 5 each day

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden.
301 N. Baldwin Avenue. Arcadia, CA

Featuring winter growing succulents throughout the world!



Presented by The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

We are expecting one thousand show specimens to be on display and many unique and hard to find plants will be available to purchase from some of California's finest growers!

For more information please call...
Vince Basta, Show Chairman (714) 267-4329, Jim Hanna, Sales Chairman (562) 920-3046, Bill Gerlach (626) 332-8008, Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430, Woody Minnich (661) 944-2784.
Email cactoholic@sbcglobal.net