

Eleanor Barker
President

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION: The Nominating Committee will make its report and nominations from the floor will be asked for. Since members do not have the benefit of the Committee report yet, anyone who has someone in mind that he thinks would be a good officer should get in touch with that person and see if he would accept a nomination. Election of officers will follow.

PROGRAM: Ed Gay will present a program about cristate and monstrose plants he and Betty have come across in their travels. It's a sure bet to give the soul with a bit of wanderlust a bad case of itchy feet! We have had the pleasure of Ed and Betty's company before, and we look forward to seeing them again.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: At one time Echinocactus seemed to cover just about any globular cactus in Southern U. S. and Mexico that wasn't in the Mammillaria group. Then they were divided up, some put back? and where are they now? Bob Causey will shed some light on this mystery.

LAST MONTH: The Club went on a bus trip to the Desert Gardens Nursery in Riverside. The Brown family and Mrs. Halverson, the former owner, who is affectionately called "Super-boss", all made us very welcome. We were greeted with smiles, coffee, punch and donuts. The gardens were beautiful and the nursery had a good selection of plants. It was a grand day for all, and we all thank the good people of Desert Gardens Nursery for a wonderful visit. And when the bus broke down and we were standing on the side of Harbor Freeway, it was still party atmosphere with adventure added! Of course, we all knew that rescue was only minutes away in the form of another bus, and we were early enough and close enough that we wouldn't be locked out of the South Coast Botanic Gardens with our cars parked inside!

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:

Josephine Castro, [redacted], Los Angeles, Ca, 90066. Phone: [redacted]
Mrs. Jack Gates, [redacted], Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca, 90274

BRAGGING PLANTS **** WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE **** REFRESHMENTS **** PLANT TABLE

ON CONSERVATION AND THE PROPOSED NEW RULES

There are three articles in the September-October Cactus and Succulent Journal and more in the most recent Affiliate Reporter concerning proposed rules to become law regarding endangered and/or threatened species. They concern the collector most immediately in that propagation by nurserymen would be so wound up in expensive paperwork they would be driven out of business. When the professionals are gone, the layman's largest source of seeds and plants is gone and our hobby will become threatened, endangered, and/or extinct! Part of the difficulty is that the authors of the rules believe we are still at the point of 85% mortality rate with seed growing instead of 85% plus surviving to become saleable plants. Thus their contention is that propagation by seed is not a viable means of propagation. These rules would restrict the movement of seeds, roots and vegetative parts of endangered and/or threatened species whether collected or propagated by man. Since it is easy to tell a field collected plant from cultivated plants, there is no valid reason to restrict all plants of the species in question. In reality, these proposed rules extend this to include plants that resemble the ones that are to be restricted on the grounds that the officials responsible would not have the expert knowledge to distinguish the species that accurately. Therefore such a phrase would be necessarily included to protect the specific species in question -- and the officials and their department?

In discouraging the propagation of these plants, some species are even more likely to become extinct because they are endangered in their native habitat but thriving under cultivation! Where would the Ginkgo be if it had not been planted and cared for at Buddhist temples? Extinct -- as scholars had thought it to be until discovered under cultivation in China and Japan!

We have supported -- and still support -- protection of endangered and/or threatened species. But it is important that research be done (another area which would be under severe strain of mountains of paper) and it is important that these plants be propagated as a backup to nature. Some provision for the collection of some seed should be made. Most plants produce many times more seed than will ever survive in nature.

The paperwork must be realistic -- as it is, it resembles keeping pedigrees on every plant and its care -- and cultivated plants must be distinguished from collected plants. (Cultivated meaning propagated by man.) To work, it must be a good law. A bad law will

encourage "bootleg plants", prices we couldn't afford even if we wanted to encourage such an industry (which we don't) and many plants ending up in the collections of people who specialize in the "exciting" collection of anything contraband -- people who don't even know how to care for them.

Read the articles -- in our library and perhaps some members who subscribe to the Journal could bring their copies so others could take a quick look at the meeting. These magazines are not on newstands, so are not replaceable. If some are brought, please see that ^{THEY} gets back to the owners before the meeting is over and in good condition as ^{THEY} came. Learn what you can about these proposed rules, and as they move through "the channels", they will be in the hands of the followings:

Mr. Thomas S. Kleppe, Sec. of the Interior

C. St. (between 18th and 19th), N. W.
Washington, D.C., 20240

and

Mr. Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director
Fish and Wildlife Service,
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036

Senator Philip A. Hart, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Environment

Committee on Commerce, U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Congressman Robert L. Leggett, Chairman
Subcommittee on Fishes and Wildlife

Conservation and the Environment
Room 1334, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Now