

South Coast

Cactus & Succulent Society

Meeting
February 10, 1980
at 1:30 P.M.
at the
South Coast Botanic Gardens
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

ATTENTION: Former and current Show Chairmen, Plant Co/Chairmen, all those who have contributed to our past shows, and anyone who is ready to lend a most needed and welcome hand at this year's show.

WE NEED TO GET TOGETHER preceeding our regularly scheduled February meeting at 12:30 P.M. Locating and inventorying supplies on hand from last year's show, setting aside funds for purchasing plants for our sale, and selecting books for sale at the reception table are some of the decisions that need to be made. Please, please attend. Get involved! (One of our basic purposes of the club is to engage in competitive showing and exhibiting.)

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: The Caribbean Sea, referred to as an arm of the Atlantic Ocean bounded by the West Indies, South America, and Central America and lying in the Tropic of Cancer, is full of islands with varied histories and colorful cultures. Member Henk Worries will

take us through his most recent travels as he presents

slides of the natural vegetation with emphasis on the spectacular coral reefs, shoals, and marine life.

FEBRUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH: Pacypodium will be presented by Eleanor Barker. A member of the Apocynaceae family, species in this genus can rightfully be described as queer vegetation.

FEBRUARY REFRESHMENTS will be provided by Frances Bruce, Virginia McNeel, and Val Oleson.

LAST MONTH: The thrilling film adventure through the Southern California arid basin, "The Great Mojave Desert"; was on loan through the Torrance Library System. Gary and Pam Wissinger showed the film that was compiled by National Geographic as a walking tour by a Welsh traveler discovering the unique region. An area that was once submerged by huge prehistoric lakes, it is now home to a highly evolved species of fish, wild burros, sheep herds, the remains of many an ore/mineral mining boom towns, and a functioning opera house. Some of our members relived their trips and experiences in that spectacular desert. Others were intrigued with new places to visit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Last notice for payment of 1980 dues. Memberships are now \$4.00 per individual for one year, with each additional member of the same household joining for an additional \$1.00. See our Membership Chairman, Stella Stubbe, at our up coming meeting. The amount of dues was under consideration because of rising printing and postage costs. This was announced in January. Members who paid their dues previous to the change are on their honor in being asked to make up the difference.

Lomans is expanding and having a sale through the month of February featuring discounts of 20-30% off the usual prices. They are open on weekends only. Interested in Lithops? See Rowena Thompson at our meeting. The club is placing an order with Ed Storms in Texas. A catalogue will be available for members to view and make their selections.

The Bromelia Club (meeting at the Gardens) will have a special lecture on pesticides March 2, at 1:30P.M., presented by Pierce College Professor Deming Williams.

PACHYPODIUM

FAMILY: Apocynaceae

NATIVE HABITATS: Dry regions of Southern Angola, S.W. Africa; Gr. Namaland; Cape Province; L. Namaqualand; Madagascar

Not all Pachypodiums are succulent. They are erect shrubs or trees, sometimes a thick trunk with spirally arranged leaves and armed with spines. Some are low caudiciforms. The flowers are terminal, some without pedicels ("stems"), others at the tips of leafless stems. They have a small calyx, the corolla is turbinate (spiral, whirling), and they appear at the beginning of the growing period, thus the plant is frequently leafless when it blooms.

Some are rather hardy, growing outside the year round in Southern California, but others need protection from temperatures below 15°C (40°F). They require Sandy, rocky, well drained soil. Keep them dry in winter and moist in hot weather. Use an acid type fertilizer. Propagation is usually from seed, but some will grow from cuttings.

Some available or soon to be available:

P. brevicaule BAKER; Madagascar. Low caudiciform. Grows in pure quartz. Yellow flowers.

P. geayi CONST. et BOIS; Madagascar. Tree, 8-10 meters (25-35 ft). Spindle-shaped, rarely branching at base, very spiny, white flowers. Can tolerate 32°F if dry.

P. lamieri DRAKE; Madagascar. Fleshy stem to 2½ meters (8 ft). Somewhat spiny, white flowers.

P. lealii var. saundersii; So Africa. 4½ feet. Fleshy, branched. flowers white with red stripes.

P. succulentum DC.; Cape Province. Short thick caudex, tuberous roots, Ramose branches from upper half of caudes, they are spiny Flowers pink.

P. baroni var. baroni; Small, extremely succulent. Red Flowers.

P. lamieri ramosum

P. rosulatum gracilis

P. bispinosum

P. rutenbergianum

P. succulentum x bispinosum

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Robert Greenberg

Hermann Jacobsen, A Handbook of Succulent Plants, Volume Two

