



# CACTUS JUICE

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NEWSLETTER OF THE  
SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

March 1984

COME TO THE MEETING!

When: Sunday March 11 at 1:30 PM

Where: South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos  
Verdes Peninsula, close to the Pacific Coast Highway.

Who: Everyone - visitors and guests always welcome!

Why: To see-hear the program and everything else below -

Program: The Club is proud to present Victor Turecek who will share with us his latest trip to Argentina, habitat for many of our most beloved cacti and succulents. Mr. Turecek, who was born and educated in Argentina, is a bilingual teacher in the LA school system. He's well known in the cactus world and lectures and judges both here and abroad. He returns often to Argentina. Those who were at the National Show last July saw his remarkable display of Argentine cacti.

Refreshments: Verna McCarty reports we can look forward to goodies from Zanera Myers, Kenneth, Marilyn, Daniel and Darren Paschen, Val Oleson, and Dorothy Yakoubian. Thank you!

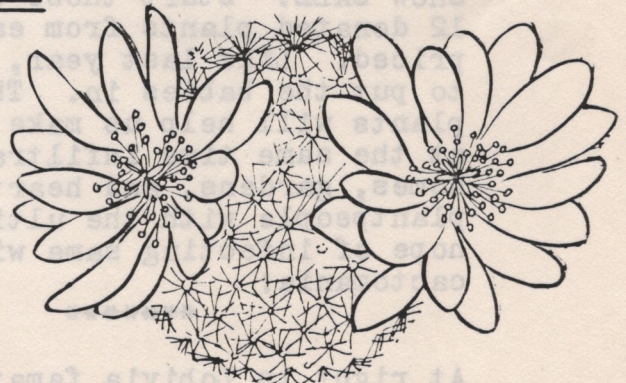
Plant of the Month: Eve Workman has recruited Bob Causey who will continue our series on epiphytic cacti - with 3 monotypic genera: Chiapasia, Nopalxochia, and Rhipsalidopsis. If all this is Greek to you, Bob will translate - and tell you how to pronounce these tongue twisters!

Bragging Table: Bring your pretties to share! Many are blooming and others are gorgeous even without bloom. And if you have a question or unidentified plant, bring it!

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ED. NOTE: The above TITLE OF THE MONTH was suggested by Anonymous (because the editor didn't see who it was!) and beat out "The Gasteria Gazette" by a trollii hair. "The Cactus Juice" was chosen because it packed a little more punch! - Carol Wujcik, Editor

Cactus illustrations this month are from The Cactus Coloring Book by Stefen Bernath Dover Pictorial Archive Series.



The above mini-gem is  
Rebutia deminuta from  
Argentina!



MARCH MEETING INFO. CONTINUED

Post Meeting Weeding Party: This is the one postponed from last month! Cries of "Help, we're drowning in a sea of weeds!" can sometimes be heard emanating from the succulent garden when the South Coast Botanic Garden is very, very still.

Dress: Comfy - casual. Gardening Gloves and maybe a jacket or sweater recommended - in case!

Entertainment: Seeing how our garden grows - once we've cleared enough weeds to see the plants!

Plants for Sale: We'll have these again at the meeting to help members increase their collections.

Next Month: Guy Wrinkle will be taking us to S. Africa - April 8.

Show Biz:

CONTEST!

We need drawings for the front cover of our 14" show flyer! Drawings reproduce best if black and white - pencil or ink - without shading. Size - a bit smaller than 8½ X 11, but copiers can reduce the size if needed. Drawing can be serious or humorous, plant can be singular or in a crowd, it can be planted in a pot or with roots exposed, or plant can be shown held by rabid cactophile. If Olympic theme used, the word Olympic and the symbol cannot be used, but the idea could still be suggested.

Bring drawings to the meeting this Sunday. We'll decide and there'll be a small prize; but the real reward will be the GLORY! Are there any artists out there? Go for it!

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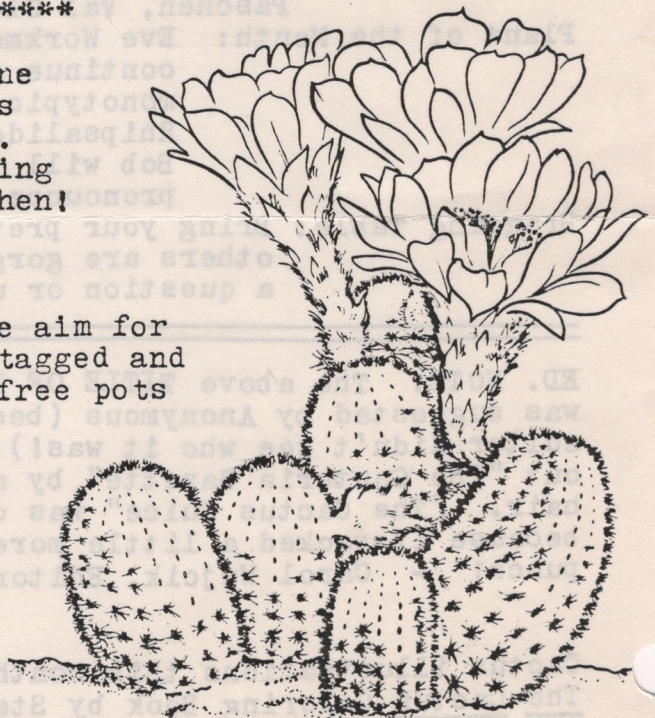
Show dates are definitely set for June 16 & 17 with setup the 15th. This is one week later than we had hoped for. President Carol Kennedy will be handing out more information Sunday. More then!

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SHOW SALE: Start those cuttings! We aim for 12 donated plants from each member, tagged and priced. Like last year, there'll be free pots to put the babies in. The donated plants will help us make money and at the same time infiltrate the homes, gardens, and hearts of plantpeople with the ultimate hope of infecting same with cactomania!

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At right is *Lobivia famatimensis* from Bolivia and Argentina.





## BROMELIADS & CACTI: Form, Color, and a Way with Water

by Carol Wujcik

Sculptural balls, columns and flaring rosettes.....bright greens, soft grays sun-tinged rose or purple.....mottling, variegation.....bright reds and pinks.....dramatic spines.....amazing flowers topping the brilliant plant bodies.....you can find all these in the plant world, but especially in the two worlds of Cacti & Succulents and of Bromeliads.

The similarities are not just of form and color, but also of character and culture. For these are plants adapted to unusual and difficult conditions, where rain is either meager or hard-to-hold. Swaying on a tree or clutching a rock, a Bromeliad won't have a supply of soil moisture to tap. Water must be trapped and stored in other ways. One method is to "cup" the water - the bigger the cup to hold moisture and humidity and the tougher the leaves, then the more erratic the water supply probably is. Cacti and Succulents store their water inside. But both are big on dew! The Cactus picks up moisture on its spines, and drips and drops on the ground are absorbed. Epiphytic Bromeliads absorb dew and air moisture through tiny scales - if a plant is white with these you can bet it leads a bright, dry life and must work to bring in the little air moisture available! Many of these plants appear powdered or silvery, and not all are epiphytes. Some are terrestrials like most of the succulent plants and therefore have an active root life. The dry growers of both types of Bromeliads sometimes live right alongside or even on cacti!

In The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Cacti and Other Succulents by J. Riha and R. Subik, there's a picture of *Tillandsia recurvata* growing on a columnar cactus. Also pictured are the delicate *T. ionantha*, the clump forming *Abromeitiella brevifolia*, silvery and spiny *Dyckias* and *Hechtias* - the last three being terrestrials and showing more leaf succulence than most Bromeliads. All of this means that there are Bromeliads you can grow with (or above!) your Succulents. They all need the big D - perfect drainage. If you're a cactophile, chances are you'll like Bromeliads too!

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There will be a World Bromeliad Show and Sale June 20 - 24 at the LAX Hilton. You'll see beautiful plants in a sumptuous setting! See Stan Oleson for more details.

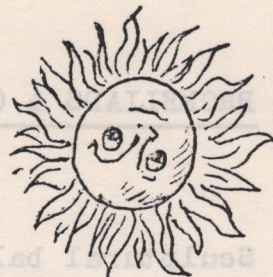
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Our member Al Doyle has a special interest in *Hechtias* and *Dyckias*, and he has young plants for sale which he brings to Bromeliad Club meetings. Ask him about them if you are interested.



The above article is from the South Florida Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter, May 1982 - with a few changes by the author.





FIRST CLASS MAIL

South Coast Cactus and  
Succulent Society Newsletter  
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### OPUNTIA SALMIANA

This is one Opuntia we all have a chance of blooming in a pot when about a foot high - PLUS it's not as lethal as its brethren, the Chollas. All are *Cylindropuntias* and don't have the pad shape of what we may think of as the typical Opuntia. But even the *Cylindropuntias* have those evil little glochids. Anyone who doesn't intimately know glochids hasn't hung out with cacti very long.

*O. salmiana* enjoys sun and lots of water during the growing season. Joints become easily detached and will root, making a nice full specimen. It's from S. America including Argentina, so Victor Turecek can answer questions about its lifestyle in the wild!

Sources: E. Lamb's Cacti and Other Succulents, Blandford Press, 1955, p. 25, V. 1.

Also, G. Ashley's The Punctured Thumb, 101 Productions, 1977, p.95.

Picture at right shows strange new pest - called the "Paperclip Beastie." - crawling up stem. Frequents photocopier habitats.

