

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDENS
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula

August 1984 NEWSLETTER

COME TO THE AUGUST MEETING!

When: Sunday, August 12, at 1:30 PM

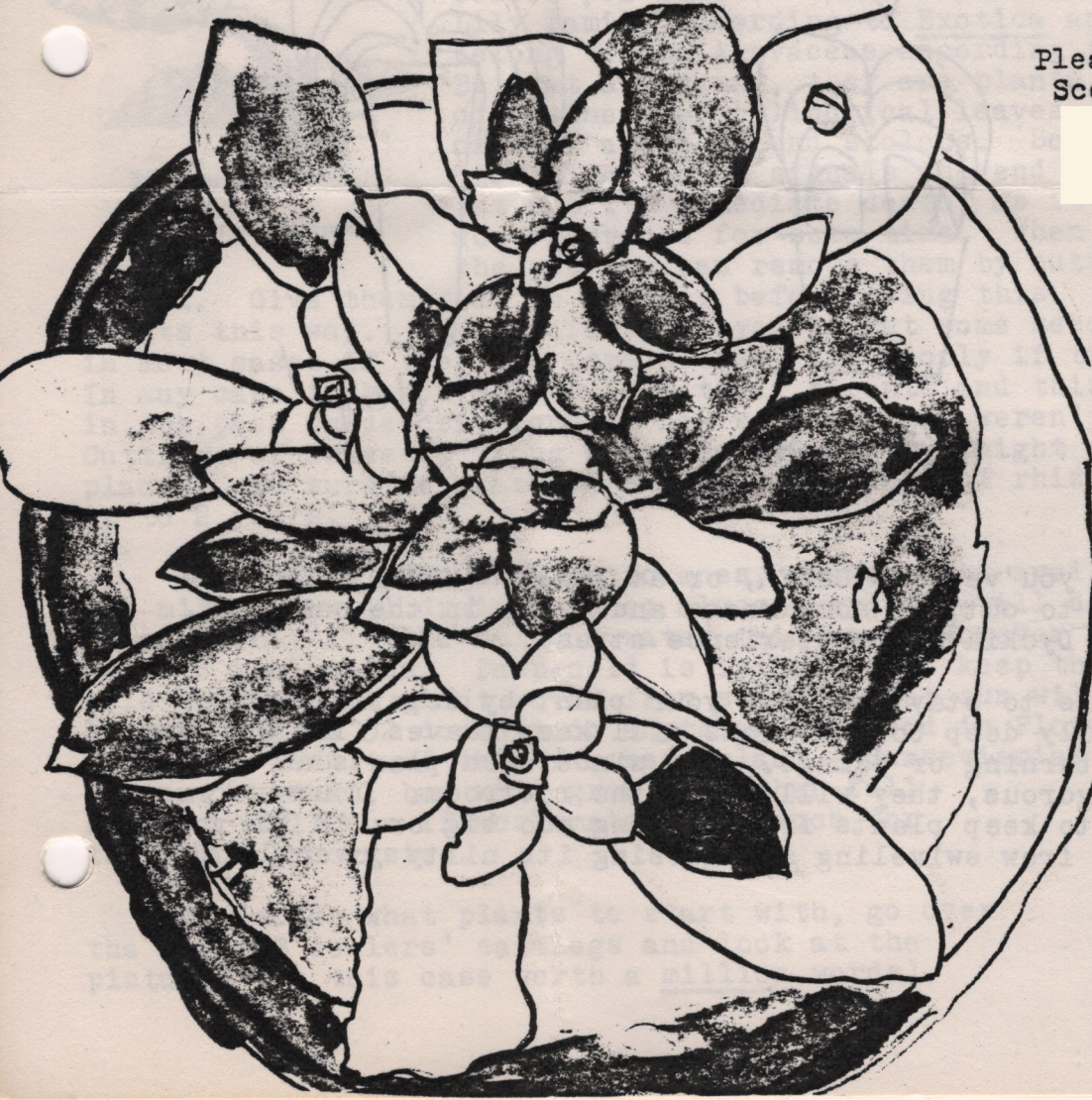
Program: Henry Varney will present a pictorial saga of his trip to Bolivia and Peru with Myron Kinnach of the Huntington, Seymour Linden, Bill Baker, and John Donald. Their travels not only led them through remote arid regions in search of Sulcorebutias and other terrestrial cacti, but into more tropical looking areas in search of some interesting epiphytic cacti. Come see a bit of Bolivia as well as some of our cacti run to earth, so to speak, while living wild and free in their homeland.

Plant of the Month: Poinsettia

Refreshments: Goodies will be provided by Eleanor Barker, Jim Hanna, Jane Keller, and Virginia Russell, who will join chairperson Verna McCarty,

Bragging Table: Bring as many as you can tote! Sale Plants? Yes!

Please welcome new member
Scott Sikes



The original drawing pictured to the left is by member Dorothy McArthur. Actually the pix is a pastel, but it reproduced well in black and white!

Question - What cactus name is an anagram for "Bolivia"?

Newsletter editor is Carol Wujcik,

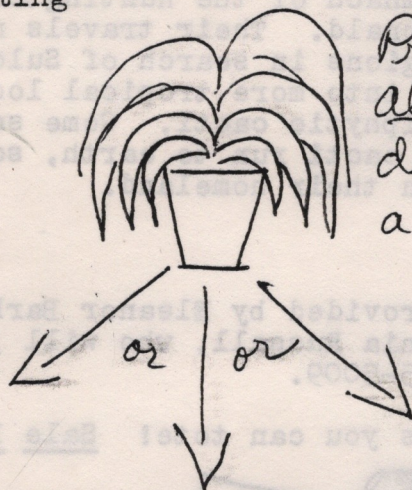
Ca. 92708. Contributions of articles, drawings, cultural tips, snappy one-liners and tall cactus tales welcomed!

REPOTTING THE UNRULY ROSETTE

Carol Wujcik

Anyone who's grown a terrestrial bromeliad like *Hechtia* or *Dyckia*, or who dotes on *Aloe suprafoliata* (the Aloe with two-ranked leaves when young) knows that once the leaves grow over the sides of the pot, they make repotting a real nuisance. When confronted with an underpotted *Aloe suprafoliata*, the tendency is to tell it, "Not now, I've got a headache." But procrastination only makes matters worse.

There are three repotting solutions, thus:



Pretend this strange drawing is *Aloe suprafoliata* desperately in need of a new home.



Cut off all leaf tips!



Pot high!

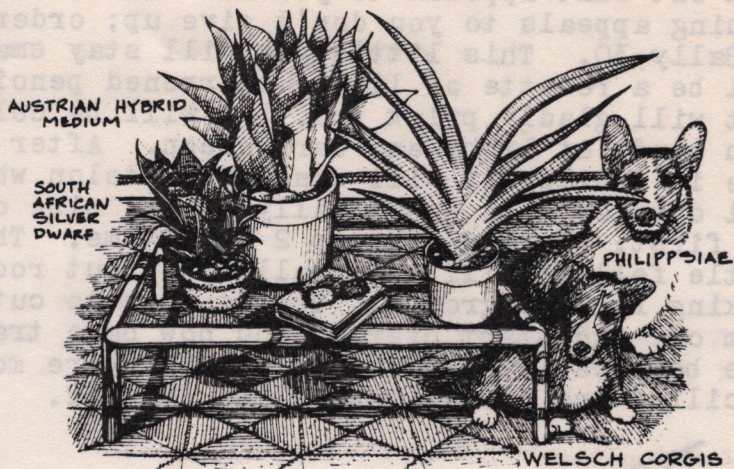


Pot deep!

Whichever you choose, you've got "UGLY", or at least, "WEIRD"! One way out of the dilemma is to cut off some roots and repot in the same pot, however, your Aloe or *Dyckia* will experience stress.

The real secret is to stay ahead of your plant by repotting in wide but not necessarily deep bowls. This will keep leaves flat and may help prevent leaf tip burning or damage. And since such plants as *Dyckia* or Aloe are vigorous, they will enjoy the rootroom. Your only problem then will be to keep plants from getting too big or, in the case of *Aloe suprafoliata*, from swiveling and losing its nifty juvenile shape!

The following SANSEVIERIA article comes from the S. Florida Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter, Feb. 1983. The author, Stu Cramer, lives in Fort Lauderdale and has been a succulent enthusiast for years. Low temperatures there aren't too different from ours; but it can dip below 32 degrees occasionally, more often inland. Three drawings marked Cramer are his; the rest are from Hermine & Roger Stover's Endangered Species Catalog, with permission (see postscript).



SANSEVIERIAS FOR THE SUCCULENT COLLECTOR

Stu Cramer

Welcome to Sansevieria collecting. I believe that to be a successful Sansevieria collector one should have first graduated from the fun of collecting Euphorbs, Pachypodiums, caudiforms, and cacti, and should be looking for a more challenging group, and that is the case with Sansevierias.



KIRKII V. PULCHRA

First of all you should know a few things about them before you start. Sansevierias are said to belong to the Lily family according to Exotica and Tropica, but they belong to the Agavaceae according to Jacobsen's Lexicon. Be that as it may, they are plants that grow up as tufts of leathery or cylindrical leaves, from underground rhizomes or above ground stolons. Sometimes they end up flowering, which signals the end of that particular growth, but not its immediate death, as it will continue to produce offshoots for some time. When new plants appear in the pot you can remove them by cutting them free of the

parent. Give them time to develop before doing this. You'll get lots of plants this way. If you are lucky you'll get some seeds. These germinate well in most cases if they are common ones, and poorly if they are rare. Figures! In any case they won't look like their parents and this condition has resulted in the past in descriptions of new species that weren't. So the plot thickens! Cuttings of leaves 3" long which have dried overnight will also produce new plants. Be sure to plant up end up. Cuttings of rhizomes take much longer, up to 2 years.

I use clay pots or plastic ones, whatever is available, but I make sure the mix is a well draining one; almost anything will do, even cypress bark mulch. They'll take lots of water this way. However there are a couple of ways to kill a San. Damp-cold is lethal, so I keep them dried out in really cold weather. A plant moved from shade to hot sun will get a bad sunburn, also lethal. Below 32 doesn't do anything any good in Florida and I have seen dead Sans as a result of this farther inland. Sansevierias like a part shade, part sun environment, but will grow in either full shade or full sun if acclimated. So much for their idiosyncrasies.

To decide what plants to start with, go over the C and S dealers' catalogs and look at the pictures (in this case worth a million words).

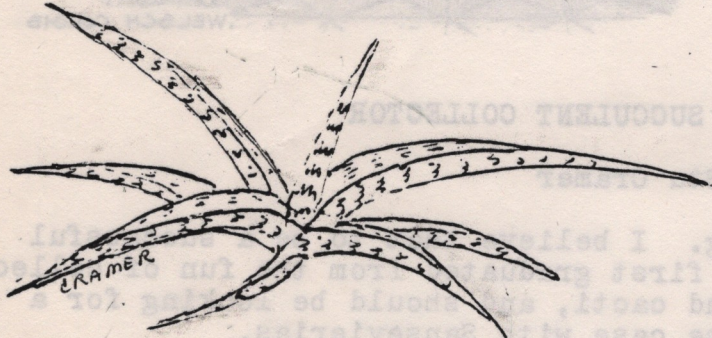


SCABRIFOLIA

Pick out what appeals to you and order. If nothing appeals to you don't give up; order S. sp. Bally-30. This little gem will stay small, will be a rosette of little sharpened pencils that will gladly prick you, but will be colored with bands of light and dark green. After you have it awhile, it will send up a stolon which will develop into a new Bally-30 the size of the first. It may send up 2 at a time. These little fellows will eventually send out roots looking for the ground. That's when to cut them off and start over as you now have trading material. Plants that do this have been called "hedge-hogs." There are more of this kind, Kenya or Kenya #1, gracilis, and a real gem called FKH-432.



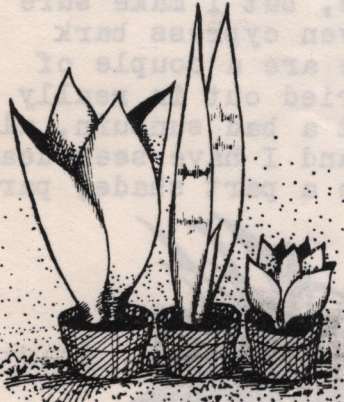
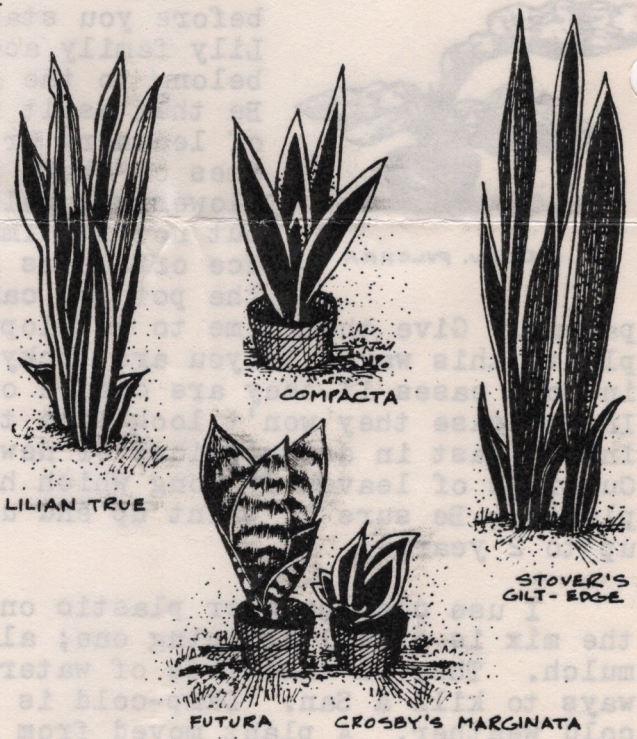
SSP 'KENYA' (VD)



S. Kenya #1

If you like larger and flashier plants look for the cultivars of the old Mother-in-Law's Tongue, *Sansevieria trifasciata* and the yellow edged variety called *laurentii*. Some of the cultivars are extraordinarily beautiful when properly grown. S. Bantel's Sensation is an upright white striped variety worthy of note. This should be available in nurseries. Notable

also are the two varieties called gold-eana and *compacta*, both with wide golden side stripes on dark black-green leaves up to 2' long which stand upright. 'Moonshine' has an all-silver leaf which turns dark green with age, but leaf cuttings of this which try to revert back to the original parent are called 'Moonshine' reversions and are very colorful in green on green designs. Some, of course, are better than others. *Sansevieria hahnii* is a well-known plant everywhere. This little fellow has been thru the mill as far as cultivars are concerned. There are silver *hahnii*, golden *hahnii*, and all kinds of combinations and variants to look for. You could make a hobby of these alone.



PLATINUM PRINCESS AUSTRIAN HYBRID TALL SILVER HAHNII

Sansevieria parva is a rather common one that has foot long leaves that start as a petiole, widen into the leaf and again narrow to a soft green point. There are enough of these leaves to make it nice. But another buy along the same lines is *S. dooneri* - prettier, daintier, and you'll like it better because of the better markings. Plant this or *parva* in a wire basket of sphagnum moss and water daily. Eventually the rhizomes will develop into new plants. A basket grown thus for several years

is a real conversation piece and is guaranteed to afflict some friend with the Sansevieria bug.

I got interested in Sansevierias only about a year ago and since I do a lot of trading I soon had a nice collection going, to which I have added with purchases of those not otherwise available. Every now and then you can come by a sport that isn't in the books and if you save it, separated from its parent, and make it multiply, there is always the chance it will come true and there you would have a new one. Leaf cuttings can do this, too. The USDA even crossed some in looking for a better "bow string hemp." The cross was between trifasciata and desertii and the hybrids are sometimes found in nurseries - which helps to confuse the issue no end as these crosses aren't in the "Books".

Speaking of books, get the following (or borrow them):

Sansevieria, by K.D. Morgenstern. Sells for around \$50; has about 170 small pictures which are good, not all accurate, no word descriptions and is all of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick including the hard cover. High price is because of the non-existent demand.

Brown's Monograph on San. You can only get a Xerox copy as it is long out of print, mostly descriptions, but not too technical, and a few line drawings and

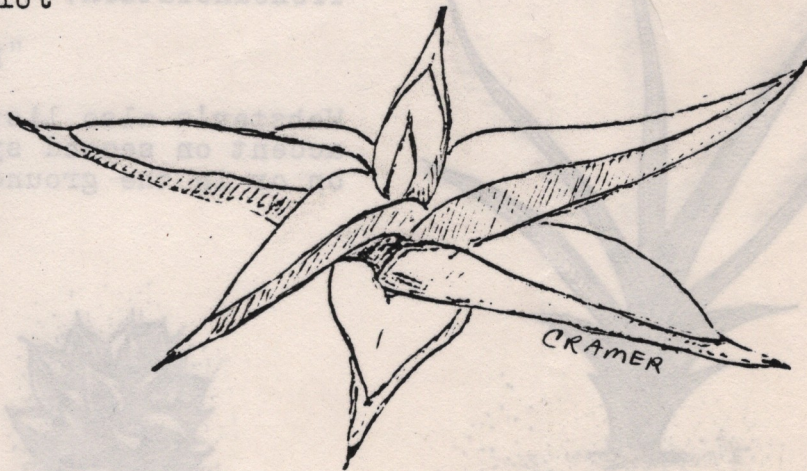
a long key which I find difficult.

Swinbourne's Sans. in Cultivation in Australia. Nice little handbook well worth having. Drawings and descriptions.

Then there's Exotica and Tropica and Jacobsen's Handbook and the Lexicon. Unless you are a botanist verbal descriptions will only help to confuse you. I like to rely more on pictures, then at least I can say it "looks like plant x on page y of such and such; then if that ever gets identified correctly, you can name it. Needless to say at this point you can see that I'm trying to tell you that a lot of confusion exists regarding identifications!

Stu Cramer
2709 N.E. 25th Ct.
Fort Lauderdale
Florida 33305

(Catalogs like Endangered Species and Grigsby's are tremendously helpful for the illustrations. Abbey Garden and Singers also carry lots of Sansevierias. See next page for info. on End. Species. Ed.)



S. Pinguicula - thick leaved, all green
(almost Jade Green)



S. Soldeana

Postscript: Sansevieria drawings not marked Cramer are from Hermine & Roger Stover's Endangered Species, 1981-1982, Catalog. They have lots & lots of Sansevierias listed and drawn, including two bearing Lillian True's name. Address is 12571 Redhill, Tustin, Ca. 92680, 714-730-6323. I believe the current catalog plus 4 other newsletters/year cost \$5.



DOONERI

DEPARTMENT OF "WATCHA SAY?"

terrestrial - noun - a plant which grows on the ground with roots doing their thing in good old earth.
adjective - also terrestrial.

epiphyte - noun - a plant which hangs out on trees or other objects "up in the air".
Roots are primarily for holding fast, but they may find goodies intree crevices etc. adjective - epiphytic.

lithophyte - noun - a plant which scrambles about on rocks and likes to be between a rock and a hard place.
adjective - lithophytic.

saxicolous - adjective - also refers to the rock livers.



ARBORESCENS SULCATA

Some adaptable plants can be terrestrial, epiphytic and saxicolous.

Pronunciation: "phyte" is pronounced fīte.

"phytic" is pronounced fitik

Webster's also lists another word - terricolous - accent on second syllable (rik) meaning to live on or in the ground.



GLAUCCOUS BLUE ARBORESCENT SPECIES



GOLD HANNII



GRANDIS

CULTURAL TIP: The Granite Connection

During the informative and enjoyable program on Chile by Ed and Betty Gay last month, we learned that the addition of 50% granite to the soil mix will help the spine coloration of some Copiapos and other Atacama Desert plants used to growing among granite rocks in the wild.

UPCOMING SHOWS:

September 8 & 9

The Sunset Succulent Society Show and Sale
Sat. 12 - 5 and Sun. 10 - 5
The Garden Room Veterans Memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Ave., at Culver, in Culver City
For more info call 453-2894 or 399-0635



SINGULARIS

September 15 & 16

Northern California Inter-City Show and Sale
The Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society, host
CSSA members or CSSA Club members in the West may
participate. It's in the City College Cafeteria.
For info. write Chairman Edith Puckett, 209-439-4548,
1663 W. Dovewood Ln., Fresno, Ca. 93711

RECIPE: The following is Mary Belle Wallenhorst's recipe for a "finger food" dessert treat, which was snapped up during our anniversary party.

SUGARED WALNUTS

2 cups sugar, 1 cup water, 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
Cook the above to soft ball stage, or to ALMOST hard ball stage.
Add: 1 tsp. vanilla. Stir.
Add: 2 cups (plus) walnuts.. Stir till it starts to set.
Dump out onto a cookie sheet and separate nuts. Cool and pack air tight to hold.



LIBERICA PF #136



HEIDELBURG



KU SEED #2



SHAMVA #1 & #2



LOOP'S PRIDE
WITH MARGINS.



LILIAN TRUE'S
WHITE-STRIPED GIANT



MANOLYN