

# Newsletter



OCTOBER 1985

BUS TRIP TO ALTMAN'S AND TROPIC WORLD: Sunday Oct. 13, 1985

8 AM Sharp!!

Meet in the parking lot of the South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Be there BY 8 AM. Don't be left behind! Bus returns by 5 PM.

IMPORTANT: If you haven't yet signed up, or haven't yet signed up a friend or relative; or if you did sign up but now can't go, CALL CAROL KENNEDY AT 213-679-6021. She must have an accurate list. As of Oct. 3, there were 29 signed up for a 46 person capacity bus, so there's room for visitors and guests.

South Coast

Cactus &  
Succulent  
Society

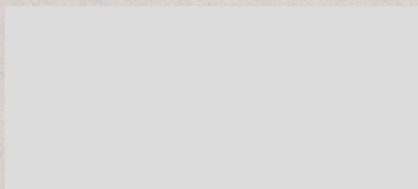
BRING: A brown bag lunch and drinks, comfortable clothes, sun block, camera, etc. etc. and of course money for all those great plants just waiting for you to take them home.

QUESTIONS? Call Carol Kennedy.  
STUDY GROUP WILL RESUME IN NOVEMBER.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER:

Hugh Powers



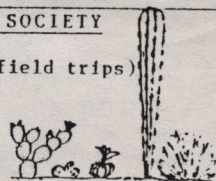
main interest: succulents

ELECTION REPORT: The slate will be presented to the members on the bus, and then will be printed in the Nov. newsletter.

SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

South Coast Botanic Garden (excepting field trips)  
 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard  
 Palos Verdes Peninsula, Ca. 90274  
 Phone 377-0468

Second Sunday of each month, 1:30 PM



CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1985

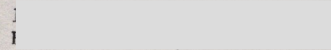
	Area Code 213 except where noted
President.....	Carol Kennedy,
First VP.....	Ed Hancock,
Second VP (Programs) .....	Jim Hanna, 9
Secretary.....	Dorothy McArthur
Treasurer.....	Virginia Russell,
Show Committee.....	Norma Holley, Bob Causey, Carol Kennedy, Joycelyn Yee

NEWSLETTER Editor.....Carol Wujcik, 714-963-3146

Please send N.L. info., articles or corrections to:



Optimistic



MEMBERSHIP: Please contact Norma Holley,  
 Avenue, Torrai

HAPPY HALLOWEEN  
 TO ALL US CACTOPHILES

If Thanksgiving is known popularly as 'Turkey Day', is Halloween in the desert 'Vulture Day'?



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



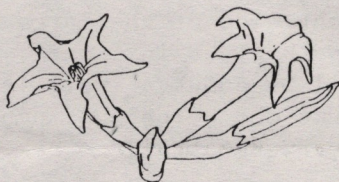
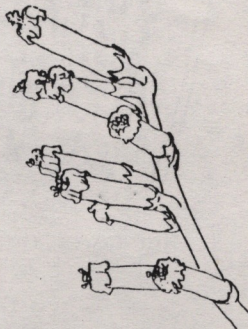
- October 13, Sunday: Our Bus Trip to Altman's and Tropic World. Grigsby's was to be included but they don't wish tour groups on Sundays. Altman's will be our first stop, and that's where we'll eat lunch. For more info. see cover of this NL.
- October 16, Wednesday night at 7:30 PM: San Gabriel Valley C & S Society STUDY GROUP will resume meetings on the third Wed. of each month at 7:30 PM at the San Gabriel Recreation Center, 324 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel. The Rec. Center is off to the front and right side of the large auditorium (with marquee). Most park right in front. The topic for Oct., appropriately, will be about -- well let's just say everything about herbariums and herbarium specimens you always wanted to know about but were afraid to ask.
- October 18 - 27, 10AM - 6PM: The Los Angeles Garden Show at the LA Arboretum on Baldwin in Arcadia. (Opposite the racetrack). Theme: Water in the Garden. But there will be cactus dealers including Cactus Ranchito.
- October 20, Sunday: Orange County Cactus & Succulent Soc. Bus Trip to Cactus Ranchito (Ed & Betty Gay), and then Bill Baker's California Gardens. \$8. Call to see if there's still room. Leaves from Lohman's Plaza in Fullerton probably at 8 AM. Best to check. Contact Anita Carr, Treasurer, \$15 for 2 people. <sup>BRING</sup> Bag lunch, drinks etc.
- November 16, Saturday: BUS FIELD TRIP TO ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK in Borrego Springs. San Gabriel Valley C & S Soc. Call after Oct. 10 but before Oct. 20 if you would like to see if there's room on the bus for non-San Gab. mbrs. Bus leaves 7:00 AM sharp from the Arboretum in Arcadia and returns at 6 PM or so. <sup>BRING</sup> Bag lunch, drinks. Cost is \$15 for non-mbrs. Check should be made out to SGVC&SS. Contact Mildred Titmus;  
Ca. 90042 -- phone: ;



**Section 1:  
Adromischus**



**Section 2:  
Boreali**



**Section 3:  
Brevipedunculati**

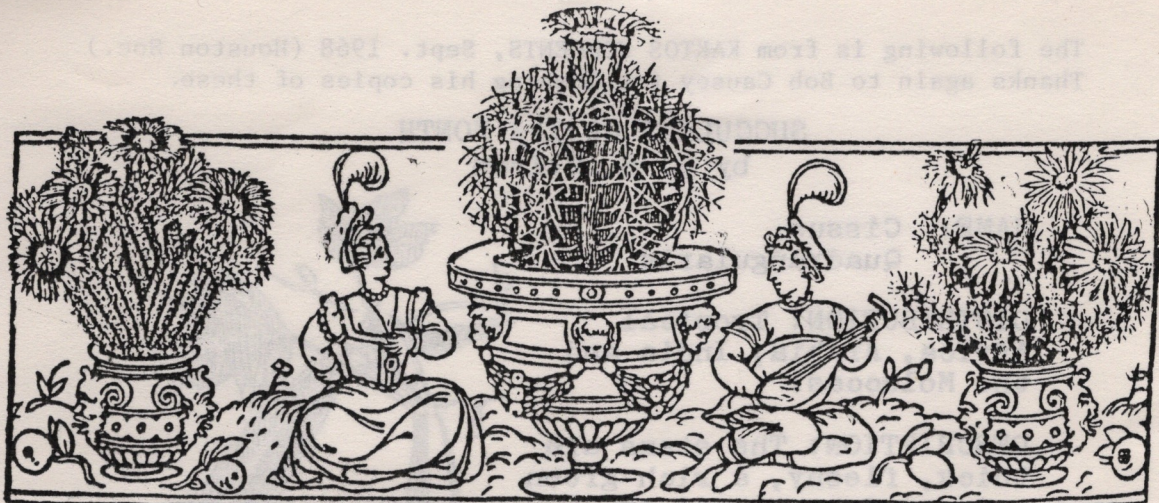


**Section 4:  
Inscisilobati**



**Section 5:  
Longipedunculati**

At our September meeting, Henry Varney presented a beautiful slide show on ADROMISCHUS. Pictured above are the drawings of the inflorescences representing the five sections. This will help you identify species. However not all species fit perfectly into a section, and even within a species there is tremendous variation - just like with people Henry said. But you don't have to know the names to love and grow these little jewels. Keep in mind that when the growing stem transforms itself into a flowering stem, it's time to hold back on fertilizer etc. The plant will soon rest. It will tell you when it's ready to grow by branching and starting growth. Generally, Henry thinks of his plants as winter growers, which works well with our California climate. Adromischus likes lots of light, but can be grown on a sunny windowsill. Propagate from leaves. Again, remember that species can show amazing variety, and some even have juvenile and adult forms. All this is what keeps taxonomists busy. Meanwhile we growers admire and enjoy all their forms. If you would like to try propagating unusual species and forms, write Cathryn Mangold, PO Box 1998, Rancho Santa Fe, Ca. 92067 and include \$1 for her mail order listing.



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SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDENS CACTUS MOUND PEOPLE! Don't forget your mound! Don't abandon it to weeds. And if you can name and identify any plants, please do so. Also, keep planning. What do you want in your mound? Please call Ed Hancock or Doug Rawcliffe if you have questions, suggestions, or if you're uncertain as to which is whose mound, etc. That's Ed at 213-375-3410 and Doug at 213-377-5030.

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Thank you to our nominating committee: Doug Rawcliffe, Mary Belle Wallenhorst, and Harry Geiger. We'll know the fruits of your labors on the bus trip.

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We regret to report that Mildred Titmus of the San Gabriel and Long Beach Clubs had an arson fire in her garage. She lost the garage, her car, and much property including some plants. However, she herself is fine. But as a result she is planning to move to Hawaii to be near her son. She doesn't know yet if she can bring her collection, but meanwhile she is selling her front yard in-ground plants. Some of these are big and some small. To inquire, please call her at [REDACTED]

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A chelated iron treatment will open up and acidify your soil mix, especially if your plant has been potted in it awhile. The chelated iron will help break down salts so they can be flushed from the soil mix. Use it in Oct. so the rains, or your watering, can flush out the salt buildup. Of course, if you've just repotted all your plants in fresh mix this summer..... Anyone actually accomplish this feat? (Concentrated iron can stain by the by.)

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The bus drawing on the back cover is by Jane Walker (minus the "South Coast" of course) and is taken from the Aug. 1985 CACTUS DIGEST of the Henry Shaw Cactus Soc. (St. Louis).

The following is from KAKTOS KOMMENTS, Sept. 1968 (Houston Soc.)  
Thanks again to Bob Causey for loaning his copies of these.

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

by C. B. Gilman

NAME: *Cissus*  
*Quadrangularis*

DISTRIBUTION: Tropical  
Africa, Arabia, India and  
the Moluccas.

DESCRIPTION: The stems are  
thick, fleshy, a rich green  
and are four-winged or  
angled, as indicated by the  
specific name, and are much  
constricted at the nodes.

It climbs by means of tendrils, is mostly gla-  
brous (smooth, not hairy or rough), and often  
nearly leafless. When leaves are in evidence  
they are small, herbaceous, three-lobed and  
green.



BLOOMS: Blossoms are green and the fruit is  
inedible red berries.

HORTICULTURE: SOIL: 1/3 loam, 1/3 sharp sand,  
1/3 humus with small amount of lime and sheep  
manure or guano. SUN: Full sun or bright light.  
WATER: Frequently during the summer months. It  
will survive drying out, but drops its leaves  
under that condition.

REMARKS: The generic name *Cissus* is the Greek  
name of ivy, and the specific name *quadrangu-*  
*laris* refers to the four-angled stem. This genus  
belongs to the family Vitaceae which also in-  
cludes the grape. It is best grown on a support  
of some kind and without too much handling as it  
breaks easily at the nodes. However, if broken,  
it roots readily in sand and grows quite rapidly  
and one is thus always assured of an ample sup-  
ply of plants. Being a tropical plant it must be  
protected from frost.

REFERENCES: BAILEY'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HORTICULTURE  
and EXOTICA.



Below are two goodies from the old National Cactus & Succulent Journal (England). The first is from June 1979, and the second from Sept. 1973.

And now folks, in honor of the season, we have some HERBARIUM HORROR STORIES - or... LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE!

## Why Herbarium Curators Grow Old Before Their Time

by D. C. Speirs

It seems that while a good number of people are striving to grow succulents, there are also quite a few others trying to kill these photosynthetic oddities. The latter are herbarium curators; the keepers of dust and dryness and the librarians for Linnaeus and Co.

Succulents create problems in drying because the water contained within them is 'bound water', not easily released from the cells while the plant is living. The waterproof epidermis serves to slow down or stop any evaporation from the plant, desirable in habitat but not in herbaria. Any number of methods have been used to kill the plants including boiling in hot water and soaking in chromo-acetic acid, formalin-acetic acid, denatured alcohol or 5% potassium hydroxide (Grier 1922).

Once the succulent is deceased, the problem is what to do with it. Field workers cannot usually spare time and energy to convert fleshy, spiny plants into herbarium specimens. Such work involves splitting the plant lengthwise, if it is fairly flat (e.g. *Opuntia* pads), and scooping out the flesh, then packing it in salt to remove any excess water. Cylindrical species require cross-sectional slices. Spines are obviously difficult to press and the specimen could well end up in a box or be pickled in a jar (Dawson 1963). One unique method is to let the specimen rot. Rowley (1972) has tried this in the case of *Uebelmannia*. For all methods, a few photographs of living specimen are desirable.

And why do herbarium curators grow old before their time? Could it be because of flowering *Portulaca* specimens being placed in a press and removed in fruit? Or could it be the *Opuntia* which produced etiolated shoots that grew right out of the press (Savile 1962)?

The classic story of herbarium horror involves *Lewisia rediviva*. *Lewisias*, like sempervivums, have one root in the alpine garden and another in the succulent greenhouse. *L. rediviva* received its specific epithet from Pursh because of its remarkable tenacity (Anon 1863). A root of a herbarium specimen, showing signs of life, was planted out in a Philadelphia garden and grew. In England, at Kew, two-year-old herbarium specimens were still sending out leaves. One specimen, immersed in boiling water, flowered 1½ years later. Very disconcerting indeed!

### References

- ANON *Lewisia rediviva*. Bot. Mag. Tab. 5395, 1863.  
DAWSON, E. Y. *How to know the cacti*. Publ. by W. C. Brown Publ., Iowa, pp 11-13, 1963.  
GRIER, N. M. *Preparing succulent plants for rapid drying*. The Amer. Botanist 28: 67-70. 1922.  
ROWLEY, G. D. *Respect for the dead*. Nat. Cact. Succ. J. 27: 39, 1972.  
SAVILE, D. B. O. *Collection and care of botanical specimens*. Canada Dept. Agric. Publ. 1113: 23-24, 1962.

*Nat. Cact. & Succ. J., Vol. 34/2*

ROWLEY REPORTING: THE AGONY COLUMN! "I once dispatched a *Faucaria* to the next world by "conducting" it off the windowsill while helping Sir Thomas Beecham bring new fire to the record of Bizet's Carmen. Now I read that Joyce Hillmer lost her *Echeveria subrigida* when it "was eaten by the neighbor's goat" (*N.Z. Cact. & Succ. J.* XXV:28, Apr. 1972). Are there even more startling and unusual ways, I wonder, in which succulents made their exit from this world? Have you ever exploded a *Conophytum*? Has your *Melocactus* been hijacked to Cuba? Did your 'Mexican Firecracker' go off after reading its own label? Maybe we should open our own agony column..."

The following is from KAKTOS KOMMENTS, Feb. 1971.  
Aloe drawing to the right is by C. Blanton, and  
below is Roy Hoke's

THE CACTUS HOBBY IS:

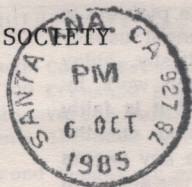
1. Having 99% of your seedlings damp off;
2. Devising ways of removing thorns from your hands, head, and other parts;
3. Regretting your neighbors' cats' affinity for the loose soil of your cactus beds;
4. Wishing you had built your greenhouse just two feet longer;
5. Covering and uncovering your tender plants in blustery weather;
6. Discovering what a generous lot many collectors are;
7. Meeting other cactophiles;
8. Feeling that lump in your throat when you see your first bloom of the season -- or seeing a night-blooming cereus at any time!
9. Writing this stuff;
10. Looking at pictures and slides of rare plants you never hope to collect.



AND...

Going with your friends on the SCCSS Bus Trip!

SOUTH-COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER



FIRST CLASS !!!

*Norma Holley*

