

south coast
Cactus & Succulent
society

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 1986

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard
Palos Verdes Peninsula



AGAVE CULTURE

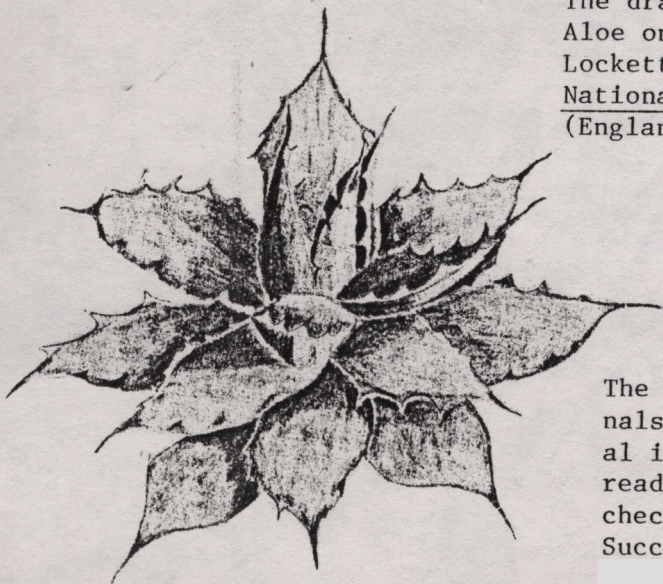
Agaves are a cinch to "culture". In fact, you'd be pretty unique if you could kill one. (Not that it can't be done). Agaves like a rich mix, liberal feeding and watering, and lots of rootroom; but they will take much rougher treatment. You know you have to finally repot when the plant roots become so large they lift the plant up and out of its pot -- or if they split the plastic. Many take sun culture, and many are hardy in our area.

Agave spines can really get you -- and they can leave an infection behind. I use hydrogen peroxide when punctured. Those plants near where people or pets walk get their spines tipped with pruners; but show specimens are set back out of attack range.

For landscape uses you can live with, you can't beat the spineless Agave attenuata, both the green & blue (Huntington) forms. But for spure sculptural beauty, there's nothing more beautiful than a huge recurving specimen of Agave americana, any form; but this plant must have room, the kind of room most of us can't provide. But when allowed to develop -- oh wow!

There are small Agaves which are easily domesticated, including A. stricta dwarf, A. pumila, and A. parviflora.

Agaves are monocarpic; that is they die after flowering and fruiting from their terminal growing point. But they usually leave lots of progeny behind as offsets, as offsets on the flowering stalk, and of course as seed.



The drawing to the left (and also of the Aloe on the next page) is by Mrs. Jean Lockett and appeared in the December 1981 National Cactus & Succulent Journal (England). It depicts Agave horrida.

Illustration on front cover is Agave americana 'Marginata' by Darwin Schutzer-Weissmann and is from The Cactus & Succulent Journal of Great Britain, Feb. 1978.

The societies of the above two journals have merged. Their new journal is quarterly and makes good reading. To subscribe, send a \$15 check made out to British Cactus & Succulent Society and send to G.

Check with P.O. for 1st class postage. → 448

FEBRUARY MEETING

WHEN: Sunday, February 9, 1986 at 12:30 P.M. for the board meeting and 1:30 P.M. for the regular program and meeting.

WHERE: South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula.

PROGRAM: BILL BAKER OF CALIFORNIA GARDENS WILL PRESENT A SLIDE TALK ON "THE CACTI OF BOLIVIA AND PERU". BILL HAS MADE MANY TRIPS TO STUDY CACTI IN HABITAT. HE'S ALSO INTERESTED IN BROMELIADS, OTHER EXOTICS, AND OF COURSE THE OTHER SUCCULENTS.

REFRESHMENTS: Margaret Brennan, Peggy Cody, Sean Fleming and Norma Holley will be joining Verna McCarty (645-5009).
THANK YOU!

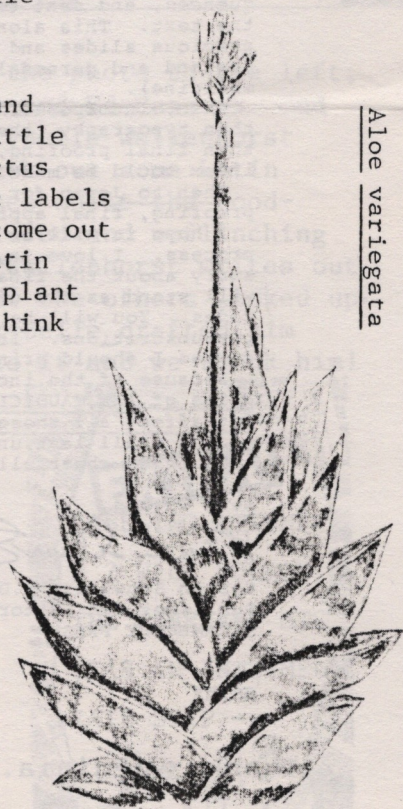
BRAGGING TABLE: There's no excuse (well almost none) to not bring some bloomers. The winter bloomers are at it and many cacti seem to think it's spring.

PLANT SALES: We hope Bill Baker will bring plants for sale. Also MaryBelle will be bringing the General Store!

AFTER THE MEETING: Co-Chairmen Ed Hancock and Doug Rawcliffe hope all of you can stay a little bit and help further the labeling of our cactus garden at South Coast. Pick up some plastic labels from MaryBelle, bring your own pencil, and come out to the garden to identify what you can by Latin name. Stick the plastic tag in next to the plant (including in front of labeled ones if you think they're wrong) and later permanent labels can be made with point of origin data added. Those who don't know their Latin from their Greek or whatever can weed and cheer on the rest.

1986 OFFICERS

President - Eleanor Barker
1st V.P. - Sean Fleming
2nd V.P. - Jim Hanna
Secretary - Dorothy McArthur
Treasurer - Virginia Russell
Show Chairmen - Bob Causey, Norma Holley
and Carol Kennedy



Aloe variegata

Virginia Russell provided the following letter (and tale of woe) to all those South Coasters who prepaid for the long-awaited caudiciform book:



STRAWBERRY PRESS

227 Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley, California 94040
(415) 958-1017

A Note about "THE CAUDICIFORM BOOK" - (A Story of Production Pains)

As you know I began advertising "THE CAUDICIFORM BOOK" about a year ago. At that time, in my innocence, I had hoped to have it completed and in your hands by Christmas, 1985.

Little did I know of the problems. One, of course, was Volume III of THE EUPHORBIA JOURNAL, which took a good deal of time and effort in early 1985 (each Journal has to be the best we are capable of at the time).

The second series of problems revolved about THE CAUDICIFORM BOOK itself. Gordon Rowley's text is wonderful (and he is remarkably prompt and responsive), but the problems of transcription and proofing between England and California took a good deal of time.

Then the photographs. I had originally planned with Gordon and Ron a book containing about 300 color plates. Very expensive, but beautiful. We ended up with over 700 color slides from Gordon, Ron, and many other contributors from all over the world. These had to be pared down to 500 slides (all glorious, needless to say). Then the slides had to be labelled, sequenced, and sent to Gordon who wrote the captions and inserted them into the text. This alone was quite a story since the cost of shipping these precious slides and insurance was enough to have enabled me to fly to England and personally deliver them (I didn't have the time..I'm practicing medicine).

Then, incorporating the captions, notations, new material Gordon added, then typography, then the book composition with color plate/text synthesis, then final proofing, correlating pages and photos so that a comprehensive index could be made.

Then to Japan for printing and probably two to three exchanges for color proofing, final approval, shipping and distribution.

I hope it will be in your hands by March/April/May 1986. A long and arduous process. I love it, but feel sorry about the delay. But, I do not feel sorry about the final product which I think will be monumental and which will stand as the unique base reference for Caudiciforms for several decades. You will be delighted. Incidentally, I am grateful for your early subscriptions. It enables me to get some sort of handle on the number of copies I should print (another story I shan't burden you with).

Because of the increased size and great increase in cost, the publication price of THE CAUDICIFORM BOOK shall be \$60.00 rather than \$50.00. This will not affect all those who have subscribed at \$45.00. The subscription period shall last until the Book is out. This may help cushion the delay.

Comments cheerfully received.

Best wishes,

Herman Schwartz, M.D.
Publisher and Editor
STRAWBERRY PRESS

HS/hf

Thanks Virginia.



← Not a Caudiciform

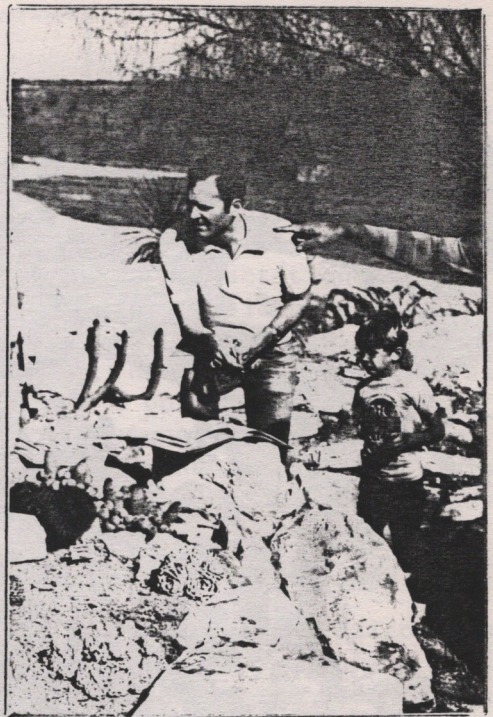
LABELING OUR CACTUS GARDEN PLANTS: ATTEMPT # 1!

On Saturday morning, January 25, a small dedicated group of South Coasters gathered at our Garden to begin permanent labeling of our "exhibits". Of all the plants needing labels, the ones in a botanic garden are perhaps of greatest importance.

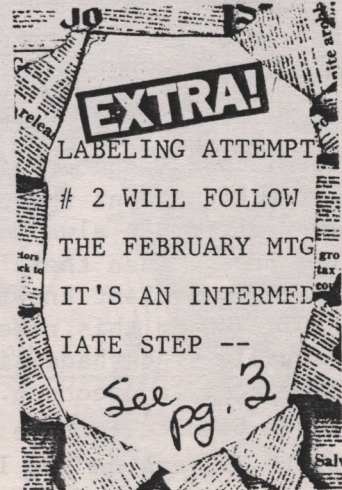
Because plastic labels break up, the permanent labels are of zinc and are sunk many inches into the cactus beds. Grease pencils are used for the marking.

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To the right you can see Gary Duke, who brought his own assistants to work in the early morning sun. It was a beautiful day to labor in a garden.



In the photo to the left, Roz and Ed Hancock and MaryBelle Wallenhorst check out some Latin names while the good-natured and unflinching Ed Wallenhorst writes out what the others looked up. MaryBelle drafted him into it and we thank him!





To the left we see a typical Mound Person on very own mound...this one dedicated to those of the cactus world -- the Opuntias. But the Pears need little sympathy; they are hardly to wither away. In fact Doug Rawcliffe know have his "hands full" in more ways than one these vigorous plants in bounds.

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Below, Steve Reinholdt researches a plant for proper Latin name and its point of origin. recently donated a number of Dudleyas to the and Dick Kohlschreiber donated many of his b species and hybrid Echeverias (all labeled!) Garden also. Many others have donated plant including Barbara Allen. Thank you to all!

By the way, Steve showed an almost overwhelming determination to sink his labels to the n'th degree even if it meant major excavation! No kid or bird is going to dislodge his labels.

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We all had a number of books to work with, but recent nomenclature changes aren't always reflected in these. Then there's Aloe vera, which is a plant known to the public under this name. But it's actually A. barbadensis and is so listed in Jacobsen. But it would be nice to have room to write A. vera on the label as well.



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Steve
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If someday in the far future our papers & photos of the "Mound People" and the "Cactus Garden" are unearthed, will future sociologists think we were practitioners of some curious religion? If so then they may interpret the photo to the left as a portrait of a shining young "god" illuminated by the morning sun - with its worshipers & attendants in the background.

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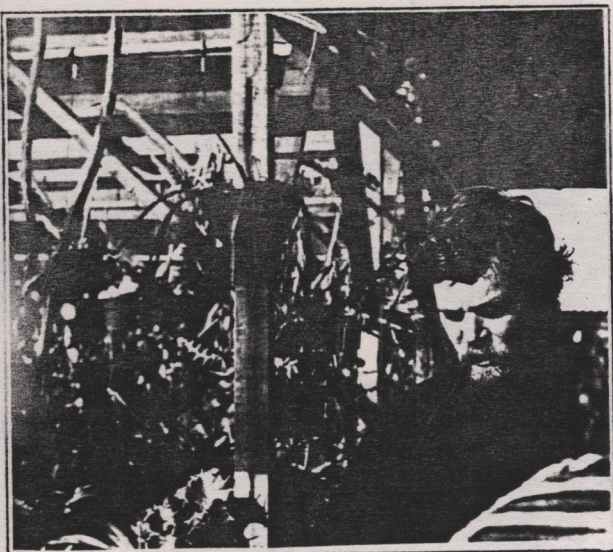
Below is your editor, who when faced with all those blank labels had her mind go correspondingly blank of all the Latin names she ever knew. And those she could remember, she couldn't spell. Nor could she find them in the books.

There must be a Murphy's law to cover the phenomenon of forgetting names one knew the day before as well as one's own (well almost)

There's a corollary, seen somewhere (can't remember that either), which states that the most interesting, fascinating exhibit in any botanical garden, zoo, or museum will be the one without a label. Or if it has one, it will be unreadable.



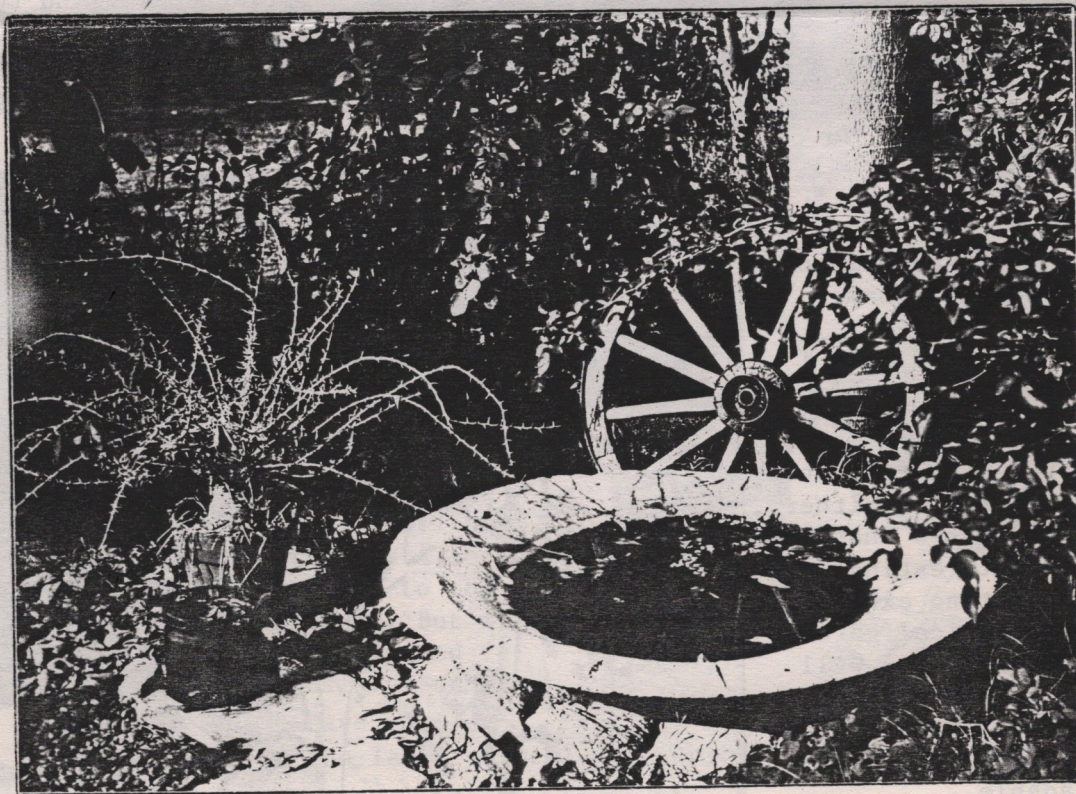
SOMETHING ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Pictured to the left is Bill Baker in one of his many plant houses, and in the photo below you can see a small part of his eclectic garden, which features all kinds of plants (including succulents of course) and other neat things from lanterns to benches to horses (live) to manhole covers and stone agaves set in the walkways.

Although not a retail nursery, Bill says he's often home on Saturdays, so if you call first for an appointment, you might be able to visit. REMEMBER TO CALL FIRST!

The address is 18552 Erwin Street in Reseda. And the phone number is 818-344-4856. Reseda of course is in the San Fernando Valley not too far from the Gays and other nurseries.



SOUTH COAST CACTUS
AND SUCCESSION SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING: SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9 AT 12:30!

BIRTH OF THE CACTUS

In the midst of her garden,
Sat Eve, with a sigh,
She gazed toward heaven,
A tear in her eye.

"I'm begging your pardon,
My Lord," she lamented,
"There is something amiss,
I feel discontented.

My Eden is shady,
Too lush and too green,
There's something that's missing,
A sun sculptor's dream."

Then out of the silence
Came a Presence so vast,

"Weep not, as I saved
My best for the last,"
Spoke the Heavenly Voice
On the wind's sweeping rush,
And the Lord gifted Eve
With.....THE DESERT CACTUS!

(The above was originally titled "Ode to the Bromeliad" before your Ed. got hold of it and changed it a bit. No author was given. It appeared in the South Florida Bromeliad Society's N.L., 2/86, which credited it to the Caloosahatchee Brom. Soc. N.L., Sept. 1985.)

SOUTH COAST CACTUS
AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING: SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9 AT 12:30!

Board Meeting

To the right we see
South Coasters, still
nursing wounds suffered
from the cactus garden,
presenting revised show
schedules to Bob Causey.



Now we see
Bob not
appreciating
the corrections.
revisions!

Just kidding
folks! This will
NOT happen to us.
We handle our
discussions in a
mature, rational &
civilized manner.



COME TO THE BOARD MEETING AT 12:30 THIS SUNDAY.
EVERYBODY WELCOME! IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE
BOARD, (WHATEVER, WHOEVER THAT IS!) IT'S OUR
CLUB. COME, AND BRING SHOW SCHEDULE SUGGESTIONS. *and anything else!*

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY - Aloes should be blooming at the Huntington. A good show.

FEB. 9th - Sunday - 12:30 Board mtg. (Ours)
1:30 Our regular mtg.
After the mtg. we'll label more plants in the garden.

FEBRUARY

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23	24	25	26	27	28	



FEB. 16 - Wed. 7:30 PM - The San Gabriel Valley Soc. Study Group meets.
Topic: Identification. Bring 5 or 6 succulents to identify. Open to visitors. Meets at the San Gabriel Recreation Ctr., 324 Mission Drive in San Gabriel. Consult map or ask a SGVC & SS member for directions.

MARCH - Watch (listen?) for desert bloom reports. The weather should be pleasant for visiting Joshua Tree, Anza-Borrego etc.

APRIL 13 - Sunday - Our bus trip.

Next month we're planning a special newsletter insert listing the 1986 shows in our area. (We hope).

DON'T FORGET OUR LIBRARY. USE IT!

PRIVATE PLANT SALE: Virginia Shambeau still has lots of succulents for sale. Call first to arrange a time to visit -- that's LaVere & Virginia Shambeau, 8354 E. Woodlawn St., San Gabriel, Ca. 91775. 818-286-6583. Many of the plants are greenhouse grown, others are on benches outside, and some are landscape succulents.

N A G N A G N A G

If there's a circle in red around Nag Nag Nag, then your editor has not yet received word you've paid your dues for 1986. Since she can't believe deep in her heart that you don't want to renew, she's sending this one last Newsletter to you! (Nag Nag Etc.)

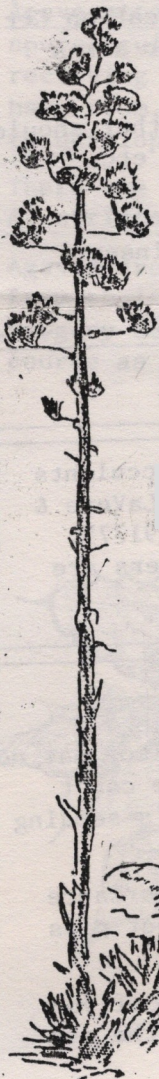
If you repent, contact Norma Holley, [redacted] Ca. [redacted] or see her at the meeting. Dues are \$5/member plus \$1 each additional member 12 years of age or older.

And thank you to all those who've already renewed! About 70 of you so far. You'll be receiving membership books this month at the mtg.

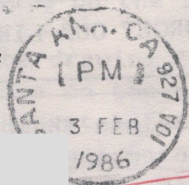
THE AGAVES, better known
as the CENTURY PLANTS,

die after flowering - but they
don't necessarily wait 100 years
to send up their remarkable
bloom spikes. They range in
size from tiny miniatures to
giants. Most are from the
desert S.W., Mexico, and the
associated islands. Economically
useful, they also make handsome
landscape plants - if you tip
their spines, or better, plant them
away from people & pets.

Drawings are by
Lad Cutak for the
Henry Shaw St. Louis
Society back in the 50's
or 60's. Flower stalk to the
left is of Agave parryi "as
sketched on Mingus Mountain in Arizona!" Above gigantic Agave
is drawn from one of the Huntington's massive specimens.



SOUTH COAST CACTUS &
SUCCULENT SOCIETY



FIRST CLASS

Norma Holley