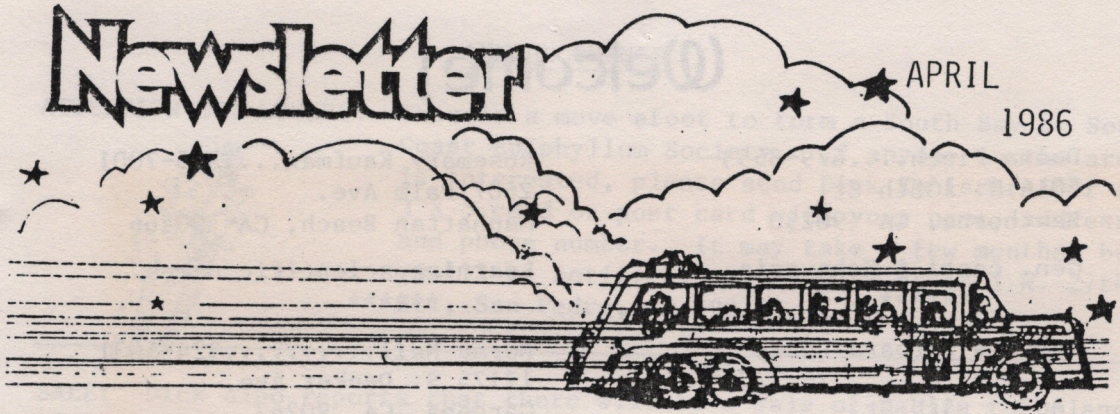


# Newsletter

APRIL

1986



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## *South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society*

### SPRING ANNIVERSARY FIELD TRIP

BUS TRIP TO CACTUS RANCHITO, CALIFORNIA GARDENS, & HURST  
EPI CENTER (for info on these see back cover).

SUNDAY APRIL 13, 1986 -- 8 A.M. SHARP!!!

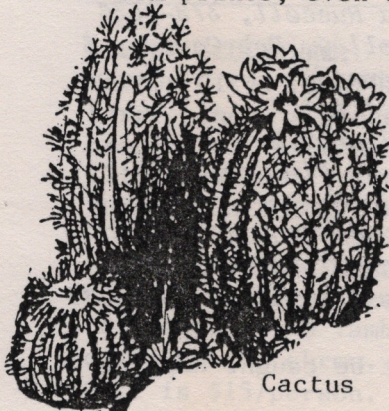
Meet in the parking lot of the South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Be there BY 8 A.M. DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND! Bus returns by 5 P.M.

**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.

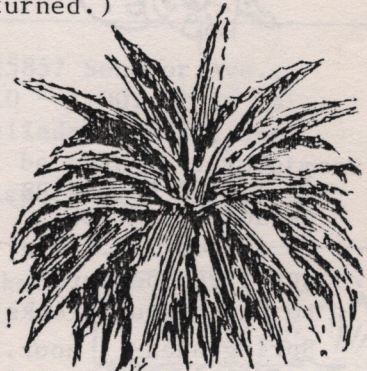
**BRING:** A brown bag lunch and drinks, comfortable clothes, sun block, camera, etc. etc. and of course money for all those great plants just waiting for you to take them home. (As your editor won't be able to go, if any of you take some good, clear photos, close-up and well-lighted, we might be able to use them in our N.L. Copier doesn't seem to harm prints, even color prints. They'll be returned.)

**REMEMBER OUR SHOW:** June  
7th & 8th, **SETUP** the 6th.

- Start potting up your donation plants - cuttings! See Ed for pots & tags.
- Zanera Myers won our flyer cover drawing contest. Congratulations!
- Weed your mounds!



Cactus



Dyckia



# Welcome!

Donna Finch....

Gen. cacti & Echeveria  
\*\*\*\*\*

Lyman & Barbara Losey

Gen. cacti, Echeveria  
Euphorbia  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Janet Raymond

Gen. cacti & succulents  
\*\*\*\*\*

Eleanor Valenzuela...

Gen. cacti & Echeveria

Rosemary Kaufman....

Learning scientific names  
\*\*\*\*\*

Norma Nall.....

Gen. cacti, succulent geraniums,  
Landscaping, medicinal uses  
\*\*\*\*\*

A. G. Talley.....  
& Roz Bruning

Gen. cacti & succulents  
\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to our South Coast  
cactus club! We hope you'll  
be joining us for the bus  
trip. Please introduce your-  
self as a new member and let  
us get to know you.

## 1986 OFFICERS

President.....Eleanor Barker,  
First V.P.....Sean Fleming,  
Second V.P.....Jim Hanna,  
Secretary.....Dorothy McArthur,  
Treasurer.....Virginia Russell,  
Show Comm.....Norma Holley, Bob Causey, &  
Carol Kennedy

\* \* \* \* \*

CSSA Affiliate Rep....Eleanor Barker  
Publicity.....Sean Fleming  
Programs.....Jim Hanna  
Membership.....Norma Holley,  
Newsletter Editor.....Carol Wujcik,



It's almost  
time to Spring  
ahead! When you  
go to bed Sat. nite  
April 26, be sure  
to reset your clocks.

Spring ahead 1 hour.

On April 27, Sun., DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS! Don't be caught napping.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION EPI LOVERS! There's a move afoot to form a South Bay or South Coast Epiphyllum Society. If anyone in the area is interested, please send Dick Kohlschreiber a 3 X 5 card or post card with your name, address and phone number. It may take a few months, but you'll be notified. Write Dick at [redacted]



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SALE: Dick also reports that there will be a sale of Dahlia roots and plants plus succulents and bromeliads at his home on Sunday, April 6, from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. Raffle & refreshments. The address is above. Call [redacted] if you need directions.

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CACTUS SALE: BIG PLANTS! Plants included are Euphorbia millii splendens, 2 Opuntias, Large Cereus Crest, Euphorbia grandicornis large, small Aloes, Euphorbia candelabrum large, Echinocactus grusonii, Cleistocactus, Haworthia cuspidata, Epiphyllums, Sansevierias.

Robert Meloston  
[redacted]

To inquire or make appt., please call neighbor Carol Kennedy 679-6021 between 8 & 9 at nite or before 7 A.M.

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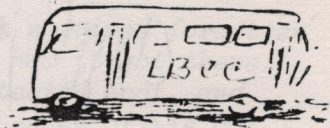
NEW LOCATION: If you're familiar with the unusual plants of all kinds grown by the GLENDALE PARADISE NURSERY, you'll be interested in their new retail location. It's called DESERT TO JUNGLE NURSERY and is located at 3211, W. Beverly Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640, 213-722-3976. Hours are Wed - Sun 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. From the 60 Fwy (Pomona) exit on Findlay or Garfield and head south ½ mile to Beverly Blvd.

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LIVING SCULPTURE: There's an "Open Garden" at [redacted] Sunday April 6 from 10 - 1:00. This is Barry Landau's place, and featured will be bromeliads, orchids and tropicals. At other times Living Sculpture will be open by appointment (from the South Bay Bromeliad Associate's newsletter, THE INFLORESCENCE, April, 1986).

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BUS TRIP TO CACTUS DATA PLANTS: If you would like to join the Long Beach Cactus Club on its bus trip to Woody & Tamra Minnich's nursery, please contact trip chrmn. Bill Hagblom, [redacted] Cost is \$15/person. Date is Sun. April 27, 8AM.



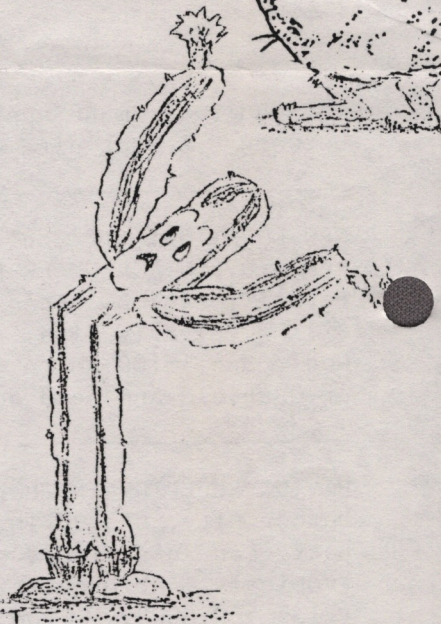
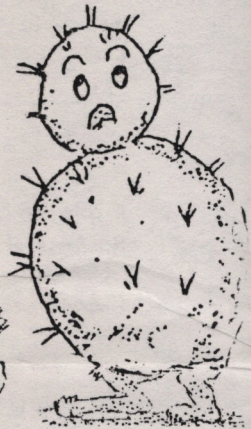


THINGS THAT FALL  
FROM THE SKY UPON  
THE OUTDOOR CACTUS  
COLLECTION BELOW:

Huge Eucalyptus branches  
from the neighbors tree,  
Red, brown, & tan droplets  
from the neighbors' paint  
sprayers,  
Baseballs from next door,  
Tennis balls ditto,  
Bird droppings,  
Seeds (from butter-beaked  
birds),  
Bread bits & dry dogfood --  
birds again,  
Feathers,  
Dust & grunge (the old lady  
and old men cacti really  
are dirty old ladies and  
dirty old men - literally),  
Frost (ok, so frost  
"settles" rather than falls),  
Hail,  
Leaf litter, &  
Pollution.

BUT ALSO

Moonbeams,  
Starlight &  
Sunshine! Especialy sunshine!

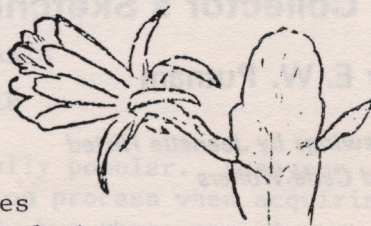


*Carol  
12/21/70*

Drawings (doctored up a bit) are by  
Walter R. Scott for the 1968 and  
the Feb. 1970 ESPINAS Y FLORES  
of the San Diego Society.



SOME EPI CREDITS: The drawing to the right is by Eleanor Barker, for a '76 S.C.C.S.S. Newsletter, and the drawings on a previous page & also the inside back cover are from the Huntington's Annual Reports. And the following paragraph comes from an '84 BULLETIN OF THE EPIPHYLLUM SOC. OF AMERICA thanks to Dick Kohlschreiber. The advice applies to all potgrown plants especially if they don't look happy:



from EPICULTURE by Velma Featherstone

Remember the key sentence, "If you don't see any fresh, new growth, your plant may need to be repotted or potted on." Experience has made me into a firm believer that whenever a plant seems to be in trouble, setting still and not growing, you need to take a look at the roots. An epiphyllum can surprise you; it may survive for quite a long time after the roots have rotted off, before the rot creeps up the branches, and you won't know it unless you uproot the plant. If you find that this is the case, you can still save a prized variety by making cuttings and starting it over again, being sure to remove any sign of rot in the midrib, letting the cuttings "heal" before potting. They may not root as quickly as healthier cuttings, but at least the plant is not lost entirely.

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THE WILL TO LIVE:

A NEW WAY WITH CUTTINGS

- by J. Metcalf

First take your cutting, for example -- a pup from an Echinopsis, and throw it carelessly on the compost heap. Add liberal quantities of grass cuttings and any other vegetable waste that will rot down.

Forget it for 8 months or so until the heap is completely decomposed. In the spring make a trench about one spit deep and add a good layer of compost to the bottom. Plant potatoes and leave until the crop is ready for lifting. Dig up the crop carefully, and with luck you will find your cutting still firm and green.

My own cutting had been discarded in the waste bin and transferred to the compost heap. It did survive all the above-mentioned maltreatment, which demonstrates the type of rough usage our plants can endure.

In recognition of its tenacity to live, it now has a place of honor in the propagating frame. Long may it flourish.

*The above is from the BRADFORD BRANCH BULLETIN, November, 1968 -- England.*

*(Ed. note: I had a small potted Tacitus bellus which survived forgotten in a closet for 6 - 8 months. Don't even ask why or how it got there. But hideous tho it looked, I put it outside in a protected spot, and now it's a handsome cluster growing happily over the edges of its pot.)*



# A Collector's Sketchbook

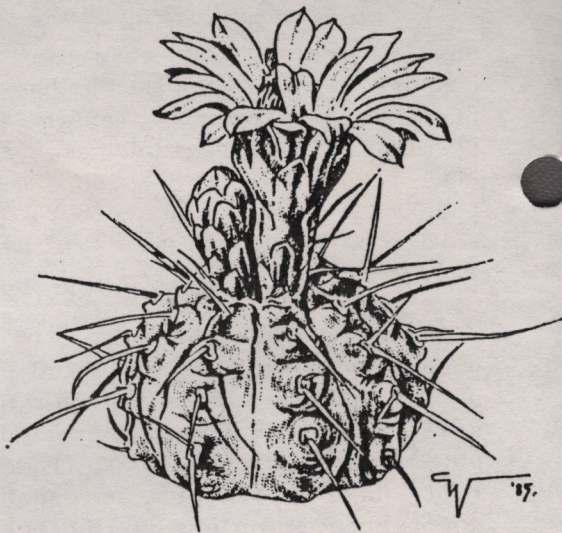
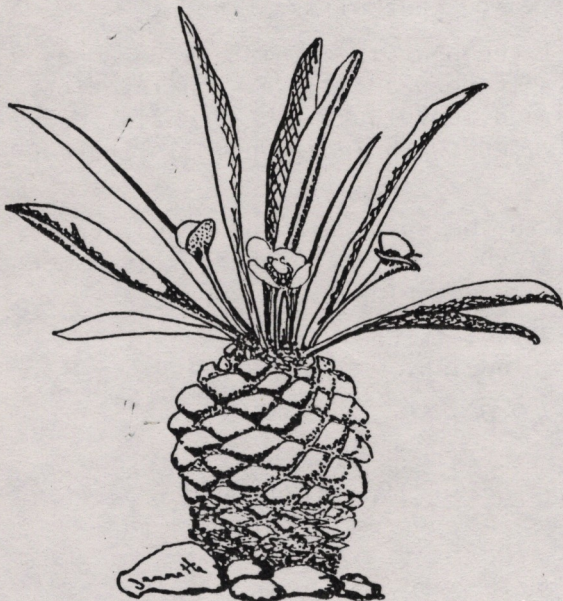
by E. W. Putnam

Drawings by Jeanette Histed  
and Carla Wolters

In my remarks introducing this series in the last issue of the Journal I omitted to mention that Jeanette Histed's fine drawings were originally published in *Zonemag*, the newsletter of the Branches in Zone 14. This time I have another of Jeanette's drawings from the same source as well as an example of the superb work of Carla Wolters, whose plant drawings are already well-known to cactophiles in other European countries.

## *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*

This is another robust and handsome *Euphorbia* deserving room in anyone's collection. The massive brown woody stem is, I believe, a true caudex (at any rate, that's what Jacobsen calls it in his *Succulent Lexicon!*). The stubby leaf-bases which form the outer armament of the caudex can be seen quite easily to form a double spiral pattern of the kind familiar in many other succulent plants. In cultivation *E. bupleurifolia* should bring no headaches or heartaches to the grower. It is a very nearly hardy plant and I have been told of specimens grown to perfection in unheated greenhouses in very bleak districts of northern England. The plant is deciduous, the large dark green leaves turning yellow and falling at the



end of the season. At this stage watering should stop until the shoots of next season's leaves appear.

*E. bupleurifolia* occurs widely in South Africa, in Cape Province, Natal and the Transkei.

## *Gymnocalycium vatterii*

This is an easily grown *Gymnocalycium* of particularly attractive appearance which is still, rather surprisingly, not very common in collections in this country. It belongs in the *Gymnocalycium quehlianum* group of species but is sufficiently distinctive not to be confused with the rest of the group. I find there is a good deal of variation within the species, though all the plants I have seen share the distinctive spine pattern. There may be three, two or only one spine at each areole and there is always one pointing downwards. Where there are three spines these are arranged in a T-shape. Some forms have very long spines and are often labelled as var. *longispinum*, but this is only a catalogue name which has not been validly published.

*G. vatterii* flowers readily and has large flowers compared with most other species in this group. The flowers are white with a deep pink flush in the throat. The plant is easily raised from seed and gives no cultivation problems under normal cactus greenhouse conditions. Flowering is in late spring or early summer (May to July).

This species was first described in 1950, by Albert Buining. The habitat is in the province of Córdoba, Argentina.

The above is from the *BRITISH  
CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL*,  
Vol. 3, No. 4, Dec. 1985, as  
is the following.



THE AESTHETICS OF SUCCULENT PLANTS

by Jerry Krulik

All types of succulent plants are not equally popular. Everyone goes through a conscious or unconscious selection process when acquiring new plants. Each person's collection is unique, but there are always similarities between collections. Are there any underlying rules of order which are universally followed? I believe that there are a number of rules that define the aesthetic appeal of succulent plants. My observations are that the physical appearance of the plant is just one of the many factors involved in aesthetics. And do these rules change as the collector becomes more experienced? Some of these constraints are so universal that most people don't even realize that they are affected by them (annual vs. perennia succulents) while others are immediately apparent (popularity of white-spined cacti).

Plant collections are completely unlike those of paintings, sculpture, jewelry, stamps, or books. Plants are dynamic and ephemeral and take much space and care. Stamp collectors can easily collect and permanently store an almost infinite number of stamps. They don't change, die, or worse, propagate and enlarge. Most types of collectors basically accumulate and continuously enlarge their collections. They rarely give away items. Succulent collectors have a pronounced disposition to promote their hobby by giving away plants to "make space," or to sell their propagations.

Most succulent collectors progress through various "life cycle stages" regardless of the age at which they start collecting. I call these: a. the novice; b. the accumulator; c. the collector; d. the specialist and/or the authority.

....All four groups of collectors generally respond to these thirteen derivations of the only cardinal precept (of aesthetic rules): a succulent plant must appeal to a collector's acquisitive instincts.

RULE 1: A plant must be small enough to handle....

RULE 2: Plants are preferred which have attractive flowers...A windowsill of blooming Lithops or Rebutias beats the same number of healthy non-flowering cereoid seedlings.

RULE 3: White-haired, furred, or spined plants are the most popular followed by golden-spined plants. All other colors are individually much less appealing...

RULE 4: Distinctive body colors or markings are always preferred over plain green.

RULE 5: The plant should have moderate growth and reproduction rates to keep it from overwhelming the collector. It also must be a perennial succulent.



RULE 6: All but the smallest, most compact or easily dwarfed bushes, vines, or trailing succulents are ignored.

RULE 7: The plant must be of moderate difficulty in cultivation.... Collectors do want a challenge, and they want something different.

RULE 8: Symmetry beats non-symmetry. This is why people trim hedges at bushes. A symmetrical cluster is more appealing than an irregular one.

RULE 9: Non-symmetry, to be appealing, must be restrained...Cristates, with one linear growing point and often a high degree of symmetry, are more popular than monstrous plants, with multiple random growing points... Grotésquerie is appealing as a contrast to symmetry, but it must not be messy or overwhelming.

RULE 10: Plants must be sturdy enough to ship, exhibit, or otherwise transport.

RULE 11: Thick-stemmed plants beat thin-stemmed ones. Pseudo-thick stems of tightly packed leaves around a thin stem so it looks like a thick stem-- also seem aesthetically appealing....Caudiciforms are appealing partly due to their massiveness.

RULE 12: Miniatures which look like bonsai, tiny trees which look like pictures of adult trees rather than like skinny seedlings, are high in appeal. The same rules apply as for non-succulent bonsai: they need attractive foliage leaves appropriate to the size of the tree; appropriately thickened trunk; attractive color and texture of bark; and flowers in proportion to plant size. The major difference between succulent and standard bonsai is that the former are much easier to grow. You don't have to worry about a dead plant if the pot dries out.

RULE 13: A plant, to be totally appealing, must be not only desirable but also acquirable...It should be possible to make cuttings, detach offsets, or grow the plant reasonably well from seed.

\* \* \* \* \*



*Certain growers march to a different drummer, and in the South Coast club alone we have a number of growers fond of LONG BIG vines not to mention skinny, non-symmetrical, twiggy, greenish things. But some of these do have amazing flowers! Then there are some of us who find Kalanchoes attractive and challenging...the challenge being to keep them attractive.....*

*But what about judges at shows? Do they follow some of the same aesthetic rules listed above? To find out, turn the page...*

*(Cartoon is from the Jan. '68 Espinasy Flores)*



THE JUDGES SPEAK...

At the March San Gabriel Valley C & S Society meeting, a panel of judges discussed a "class" of Ferocacti and talked about their decision-making process. Some comments...

Joe Clements: The winner to me is the one I'd like to take home most!

Woody Minnich: White and gold plants tend to win.

Joe: As a judge, you need to know how difficult it is to grow the plant.

Woody: Re: certain common succulents -- Opuntias come from the other side of the tracks. When judged against other cacti they probably won't win.

Joe: You can't judge succulents against perfection. There are too many variables. What's a perfect plant for the species? There's no exact standard of perfection.

Woody: Re: pots -- A pot is to your plant as a frame is to a painting. It's important as a tie-breaker especially. A green plastic pot doesn't "work." However, your plant is more important than the show; so if it's happy in its old cruddy pot, plunge the pot in a presentable one.

Somebody: Again regarding pots: Use a subtle color.

Woody: Pruning a (bonsai-type) plant may leave a scar, so do you do it? As a judge, I will judge down for neglect, but won't for an attempt to improve the plant.

Woody again: Describing a winner: It has to sing...You need to go Ahhhhh!

\*\*\*\*\*

*(The above contains paraphrasing to the best of my note-taking ability, memory, and hearing. Paraphrasing is approximate. CW)*

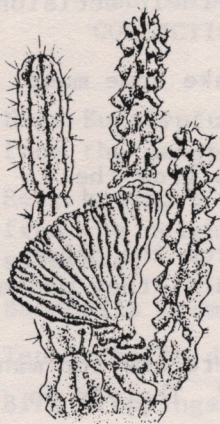
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PROGRAM FOR MAY: Past shows and preparing for 1986! Drawing below is by Eleanor Barker.





This drawing from the Huntington's self-guided tour leaflet illustrates normal growth, mostrose growth and crested growth on a cactus. The knobby growth is monstrose, and the "fan" is crested. Both are abnormalities, and the cause or causes are the subject of debate. Stu Bedwell notes that an unusually large number of plants at the South Coast Botanic Garden are affected. As you know, the Garden sits atop a landfill. One of the "harvests" is gas. Is there some sort of connection? It'll be interesting to see if our young cactus garden there also begins displaying unusual growth forms.



The following selection is from the BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL, V. 1, #4, Dec. 1983 from an article titled: "When Things Go Wrong -- a Look at Monstrous, Cristate and Ascidate Xerophytes," by D. C. Speirs. As you know, a xerophyte is a plant adapted to a life with water shortages of one sort or another, and that makes succulents xerophytes.

"During the growth and development of a xerophyte there are many events which can affect the shape that the plant will assume. Sometimes the event is environmental, as in an insect biting into a meristem, or the wind causing a branch to tear off. The event can be genetic, as a result of something going wrong during cell division or gamete production. The event often can only be guessed at. Whatever the cause, the result is often a succulent growing into a bizarre shape.

"Crests and monstrous succulents are a favorite subject for many growers, and in recent years more and more of these plants have reached the marketplace. Ascidia are cup-shaped growths, not as commonly seen. As a rule, reversion to normal growth will occur and in order to keep a plant at its best, one should prune the normal growth away."

D.C. Speirs

Photographs accompanying the article include those of *Crassula 'gollum'* and *Sempervivum 'oddity.'* Both are ascidate plants. 'Ascidia' is the plural of 'ascidium.' Does anyone know how to pronounce these? Has anyone ever heard these words before?

\* \* \* \* \*

1986 CALENDAR

To save time and space later, a show-sale-special events listing for the rest of the cactus world year has been sent with this newsletter. Many of the events listed won't be repeated, so please save the list or transfer the info to your own calendar.



FOR THOSE OF YOU NOT FAMILIAR WITH CSSA, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER BY SEYMOUR LINDEN (THEN AFFILIATE CHAIRMAN, NOW PRESIDENT) AND PRINTED IN THE CACTUS DIGEST OF THE ST. LOUIS SOC., FEB. 86.

"CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America) is an organization which promotes research, education and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants. In accordance with a recent change in our constitutional by-laws, CSSA has two basic categories of membership: ACTIVE MEMBERS who subscribe to the Journal and pay an additional \$6.00 annual dues to CSSA (these members have full voting privileges and receive the CSSA Newsletter), and SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS who only subscribe to the Journal.

"A CSSA affiliated club is any group which has an interest in cacti and other succulent plants and which agrees with and supports the interests and goals of CSSA (CSSA approval is required).

"CSSA benefits from a group of healthy and active affiliated clubs, and the clubs can benefit from an active and financially secure CSSA. CSSA would like to see an increase in Journal subscriptions and more active memberships. CSSA would like to increase its support of research (especially field/plant research), education and conservation and needs the support of a large, active membership to provide a sound, financial base."

Any South Coaster who'd like to become a CSSA active or subscribing member, please contact Eleanor Barker, our president and affiliate rep., or send your \$20 for the Journal to Abbey Garden Press, Box 3010, Santa Barbara, CA 93130. Then to become an active member, send \$6 (+ \$1 for an associate mbrshp) plus word that you have subscribed to the Journal, to Dorothy Williams, Membership Chairperson, 6240 Wildomar Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. (The CSSA N.L. by the way is edited by our Eleanor Barker!)

\* \* \* \* \*

From the South Bay Bromeliad Associate's THE INFLORESCENCE, edited by Stan & Val Oleson, comes the following SPRING MESSAGE from their president Alan Levy:

Spring has arrived! What a great time of the year to enjoy nature and to feel good.

Trees are bursting with new leaves,  
birds are singing the latest rock songs,  
plants are starting to color up & bloom.  
There's something new to see in the garden every day.

Spring, an annual miracle to enjoy.  
It's great to be alive and among friends.

- Alan



HAPPY SPRING, SOUTH COASTERS!



On our bus trip we'll  
visit Ed & Betty Gay's first...

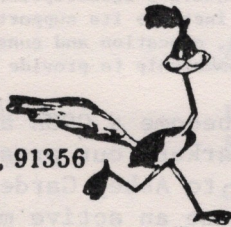


Cactus Ranchito is a cactus lover's paradise -- with excellent value for your money. You'll find small seedlings to specimen plants --- and succulents which like TLC to landscape plants. Plus for your camera you'll find wonderful plants to photograph in the ground and in pots.

## "Cactus Ranchito"

ED & BETTY GAY

, 91356



Then on to Bill  
Baker's ...

### CALIFORNIA GARDENS

Although not a retail nursery, California Gardens is open by appointment, as it will be for us. Bill has an extensive selection of cacti, succulents, and bromeliads -- including many hard-to-find plants. The biggest specimens of course are Bill's own plants ("Don't even ask!" he says) But you'll have no problem spending money on the plants which are for sale. The surrounding garden is filled with neat things to see and photograph -- horses (real), manhole covers set in the brick walk, bones, wagon wheels -- an eclectic mix. The address is 18552 Erwin St. in Reseda. (818) 344-4856.

And finally to  
Hurst Epi Center  
in El Monte ...for  
swinging cacti!

Then home! →

