

THE SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

May 1986



1986 OFFICERS & ETC.:

President.....Eleanor Barker,	Publicity...Sean Fleming
First V.P.....Sean Fleming,	Programs....Jim Hanna
Second V.P....Jim Hanna,	Ways & Means...Mary Belle Wallenhorst
Secretary.....Dorothy McArthur,	Sunshine...Rosalind Hancock
Treasurer.....Virginia Russell,	
Show Comm.....Norma Holley, Bob Causey, & Carol Kennedy	Librarian...Bob Causey
Membership....Norma Holley,	Garden...the Hancocks & Doug Rawcliffe
Affiliate Rep. (CSSA)... Eleanor Barker	

NOTES & CREDITS



1. The exquisitely beautiful stapeliad drawing on the cover is from the old Cactus & Succulent Journal of Great Britain, for June 1982. The stapeliads are a group of fascinating succulents often under-represented at shows for some reason. John Trager & Leo Pickoff in commenting about these plants suggest restarting them every so often as many flower from fresh stems. Also, rooting cuttings every so often provides backups should your specimen decide to drop dead -- usually from rot. The occasional fungicide application may be beneficial as a preventative. By the way, the choice of a "carrion flower" or "little stinker" as Leo calls them, is in NO WAY meant to be an editorial comment on Mother's Day, or anything else!!!!!!!!!!!!!! So no jokes please!
2. The euphorbia drawing → is from the above-mentioned Journal for September 1982. Popular for their diverse forms rather than their flowers; euphorbias, the cacti of the Old World, are popular with most of us and are well-represented at shows, for which reason several classes are provided for them.
3. The Mom's Day drawing on the back cover comes to us from Stan & Val Oleson's current issue of The Inflorescence, newsletter of the South Bay Bromeliad Associates, which also meets at South Coast Garden.
4. Other delightful drawings in this newsletter are courtesy of Carol Kennedy and were drawn freehand by her son C. Ezell from the drawings by Shirlea Hatcher in Claude Chidamian's The Book of Cacti and Other Succulents, 1958, Doubleday & Co. This book is perhaps one of the best ever written for beginners. It won't help you identify specific plants, but it will give you excellent growing advice and will help you pronounce some of those long names. It was the only book available to me when I started growing cacti, and I remember it most for the enthusiasm and love it communicated. Long after I'd read the library edition cover to cover, I bought the book for myself to keep forever and ever. It should be available from our own library, and also from Rainbow Gardens if you wish to buy it.

- Carol Wujcik, Newsletter





## SHOW REPORT



SHOW COMMITTEE: Norma Holley  
Carol Kennedy  
Bob Causey

SHOW PLANT SALES: Ed Hancock  
Jim Hanna

(It may be difficult for awhile to reach Jim because of his long hours & changing schedule at work -- his co. is still undergoing a strike, & management is working extra)

SALES: Don't forget to work on your donated plants in club pots. Please label them as best you can & mark "club" on them. If you're repotting plants right now, you'll probably be dividing clusters. The divisions will make great donated plants -- they should root in a month. But it's probably too late to start cuttings. Pots & labels will be available this Sunday at the meeting.

Members who wish to sell plants (on a percentage split with the club) should be readying these as well. Double-tag them with plant name, your name or code, and price. Please see Ed or Jim regarding percentages and codes, etc.

- SHOW:
- If you plan to enter a large exhibit -- or an educational display etc. -- please let Norma Holley know in advance.
  - Potpourri table -- Like last year, there'll be one or more tables set aside for plants you don't wish to enter in competition, but which will interest the public. The potpourri table is something like our bragging table. If there's something special you'd like to tell about your plant, print it on a 3 X 5 card or etc.
  - Entry blanks & competitor plant list sheets will be available at this meeting. Norma will be telling you all about them. There will be extra show schedules available as well for those who can't find their copy (sent with the March Newsletter)
  - Awards -- Our show has nifty special medallion awards (thru Roz Hancock's efforts) and lots of them! Last year we inaugurated a People's Choice award for best plant, & we'll continue that this year. This is the way the public can say phooey to the judges! (No fair trying to sway the opinions of showgoers!). Also, this year there will be 3 Best Cactus & 3 Best Succulent awards instead of 1 each (Div. I & II).
  - Spelling your plant's name is important, but if you don't know the species, it's usually ok. For ex., write "Aloe species".

SHOW REPORT continued

- The potential number of classes in this year's schedule is greatly expanded, partly because of the difficulty the committee had in agreeing upon appropriate combinations of like plants to be judged against each other in 1 class. This means your chances for a ribbon are greatly increased as long as the class you enter remains viable (has enough entries).
- Classes which have little competition in many shows are: Opuntia, Thelocactus, Aeonium, Anacampseros, some Asclepiads (stapeliads) mesembs, and many leafy genera like Kalanchoe. Each show is different however, so it's hard to predict. BRING ALL YOUR PLANTS! That should do it!
- What's a show plant? This is a hard question to answer, but if your plant looks good & hasn't too many imperfections, clean it up and bring it. You never know what will appeal to that combination of judges on any given day. A blue ribbon winner may get nothing at the next show & vice versa. Whatever your expectations are you'll probably be surprised! (If you decide at the last minute not to enter a plant in competition, you can put it on the Potpourri Table.) Judges vary considerably -- some prefer the greenhouse look, & others like a plant grown hard even if it means an imperfection. How difficult a plant is to grow may be a factor. Any pests or pot crud may disqualify a plant right off as these are considered preventable. Slight "necking" or another imperfection difficult to prevent in an otherwise handsome mature specimen may be acceptable if the plant has clearly been grown well for some time. And then again, maybe not! Judges may favor species they don't see everyday (but not necessarily rare), & like all of us they may prefer the more decorative (ie. fuzzy or well-colored) species in a genus (see last month's newsletter). WHATEVER THE JUDGES DECIDE, IF YOU THINK YOUR PLANT IS WORTH SEEING, THEN THE PUBLIC WILL TOO. And the pleasing and educating of the public, and having fun ourselves, are more important than the ribbons & awards, nice though these are to receive.
- Many plants can be entered into more than 1 class -- it's your decision. For example, a Pachypodium may be entered in its own genus, or it could go into "Old World Caudiciforms." You decide where it'll do best. A Matucana is now considered a Borzicactus by many authorities so it can be put into that class, or into "Any Other Genus" as a Matucana. For help deciding, you can talk with the show committee, but the decision is yours. Just don't let uncertainty stop you from bringing your plant! PLAN NOW TO SHRUG OFF ANY SHOWTIME ANGST & RELAX & ENJOY!

QUESTIONS? ASK THEM THIS SUNDAY. MORE INFO IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.



# Fiesta de Flores

MAY 17 & 18, 1986

Dick is our Fiesta liaison & his report follows:

## FIESTA DE FLORES

- Dick Kohlschreiber

Sat. & Sun., May 17 & 18 from  
9 - 4 PM at South Coast Bot. Garden

"As you know, the Fiesta de Flores is the major fund raiser for South Coast Botanic Gardens. Since the County has cut the funds so drastically for the Gardens, the money earned from Fiesta helps to maintain the Gardens and goes for any new projects.

"We need Volunteers to help with the Plant Sale. We can use people the week before the Fiesta, May 12 - 16 to help unload, price, and arrange plants. We need help during Fiesta May 16 (evening preview party), and May 17 & 18 to man booths and various other jobs. People need not worry that they don't know enough about plants. Sometimes it helps to just have someone say "Isn't that plant beautiful" and people will buy it. I think anyone who helps with Fiesta will enjoy the experience.

"We will also be having a 'Bake Sale' connected with the Fiesta. If any C & S member can bake cookies & bring them to our next meeting, I'll see to it that they get to the Bake Sale. Would prefer them in plastic sacks or boxes.

"And of course, I'd like to encourage everyone to come to the Fiesta. We'll have thousands of plants -- 2000 blooming pelargoniums, 1000 impatiens (many colors & types), over 40 different kinds of perennials, all types of house plants (including a lot of new introductions: we'll have the 'Dallas' fern, a new Boston that will tolerate low light & house conditions.) Bob Greenberg & Bill Baker will be furnishing us with cactus & succulents. Our feature plants will be some plants named 'Fiesta' -- a Fiesta Bouganvillea that is very pretty, Fiesta Hibiscus which is just outstanding, and 'Fiesta' Epiphyllum which is a beauty. Will have hundreds of trees, miniature roses, the newest introductions -- and orchids, all types and some very inexpensive. We'll have lots of bromeliads including a good selection of Tillandsias. The list could go on & on but I'd better stop.

"If any member can volunteer to help, they can call the Gardens & tell them they'll help. If any member can bring cookies to the meeting, that would be great!"

- Dick Kohlschreiber,

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Toodie Walt, Or contact either  
of the Hancocks,

## THE ST. LOUIS CONNECTION

One of the nice things about being our newsletter editor is receiving the monthly exchange copy of the Henry Shaw Cactus Society's CACTUS DIGEST (St. Louis) before turning it over to our librarian Bob. Every so often our Newsletter reprints items of interest, but it is also a personal pleasure for me to read about another club and its members. At the Convention I had the chance to meet Betty Cordes, the editor, and Joe Moreno, a contributor. Then just the other month, Jo Goelzhauser of St. Louis visited her daughter in Huntington Beach, a city just next door to mine. Jo had been a librarian for Henry Shaw & so was aware of our Newsletter. She got in touch with me and we had several great visits. The timing was such that I was able to take her to the Orange County Club. I don't think she was quite relaxed about the freeways during rush hour and my driving, but of course this is all part of the total L.A. experience!

The nice thing about our hobby besides the pleasure our plants give us is meeting a wonderful variety of fine people from all over. Whoever we are and wherever we're from, we have one thing in common: we're all crazy over cactus!

A final note, the St. Louis society is gearing up for its nine-day show & sale -- two weekends & the week inbetween! As Carol K. says, "Can you believe?!"



C. Engel

The following excerpts are taken from GARDEN, January/February 1986, a publication of various arboreta, including the L.A. County Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. The title of the article the excerpts are from is "Networking to Save Imperiled Plants" by Donald A. Falk & Kerry S. Walter, pp. 2 - 5.

Many rare plants are nearing extinction as a result of such human activities as agriculture, burning, collecting, development, introduction of exotic pests, forestry, grazing, mining, pollution, spraying, trampling, off-road vehicles, and water projects. It has been estimated that at least 200 species of U.S. plants have become extinct since the Europeans arrived in North America.

Providing optimal growing conditions for plants is one of the traditions of botanical gardens and arboreta; collectively, they have been doing it for centuries. What is new is the emergence of gardens and arboreta as key new allies in *conservation*, in addition to their traditional strengths of display, education and research. Gardens have long sought to cultivate the rare or unusual, and the skills they have developed to do so are now being further refined as tools in the fight to conserve natural diversity.

Conservation is not a totally new occupation for American gardens, of course. Several in the U.S.—including North Carolina Botanical Garden, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Garden in the Woods and Fairchild Tropical Garden—have years of experience with rare native species.

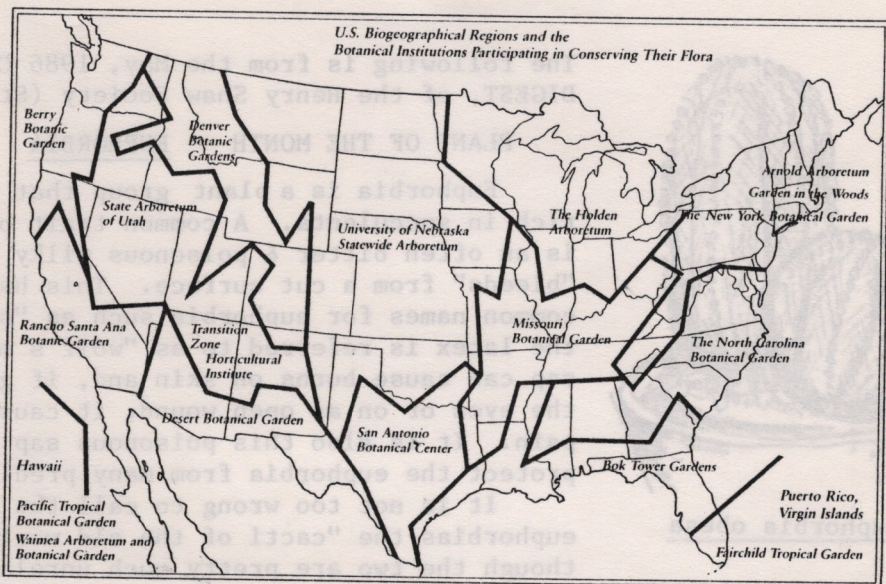
Finally, in 1984, a group of eleven gardens and conservation organizations across the U.S. joined to form the Center for Plant Conservation, the world's first national organization dedicated to cultivation and conservation of native endangered plants.

Operating as a consortium, the participating institutions propose to take on cultivation of the endangered species of their respective regions. In this way, each garden's collection will have a truly biogeographic character; together these regional collections will form a comprehensive, living, national repository of genetic material—the National Collection of Endangered Plants. This collection will be used for storage, propagation, cultivation, research and, perhaps in some cases, eventual reintroduction to the wild.

The Fairchild Tropical Garden, in Miami, which for years has specialized in the cultivation of palms and cycads, is growing two species that have been listed as endangered—the Key tree-cactus, *Cereus robinii*, and a gymnosperm, the Florida torreya, *Torreya taxifolia*. Only one plant of each of these species is presently in cultivation at Fairchild, and part of Fairchild's initial work is to bulk up existing collections to meet the Center's standards.

The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California, is involved in a network of conservation organizations and botanical gardens, all in California, working to conserve the state's exceptionally rich and highly endangered flora. One particular genus of succulents, *Dudleya*, is of special conservation concern—16 of the total 27 taxa are being tracked by the Center.





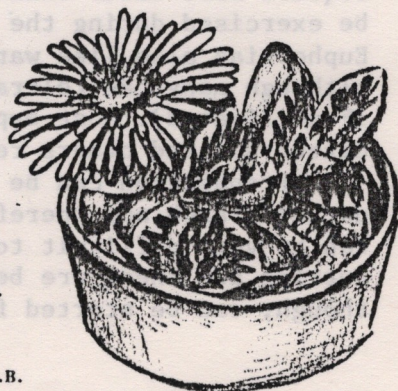
NOT a show pot!



### PINCHER

Here comes a pincher, see him stoop,  
He'll tear a branch or leaf from me.  
I'd like to stick him, the old goop  
Right where he needs a kick to be.

H.R.B.

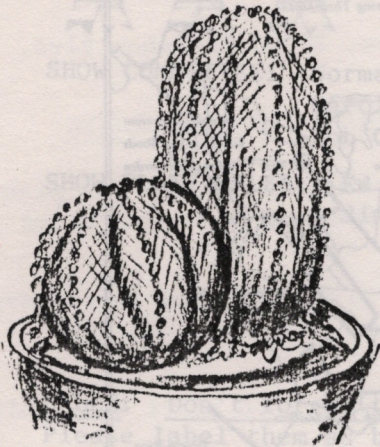


Faucaria

from the Oct. '46 DESERT  
PLANT LIFE MAG,

The following is from the May, 1986 CACTUS DIGEST, of the Henry Shaw Society (St. Louis).

PLANT OF THE MONTH -- EUPHORBIA



Euphorbia obesa

Euphorbia is a plant group that is extremely rich in succulents. A common trait of euphorbias is an often bitter & poisonous milky sap that "bleeds" from a cut surface. This has led to some common names for euphorbia such as "spurge," and the latex is referred to as "wolf's milk." This sap can cause burns on skin and, if gotten in the eyes or on an open wound, it causes severe pain. It is also this poisonous sap that may protect the euphorbia from many predators.

It is not too wrong to call the succulent euphorbias the "cacti of the old world," even though the two are pretty much unrelated. Cacti are exclusive inhabitants of the new world and euphorbias are characteristic of the old world although there are some in the new. Euphorbias can vary greatly in size and shape. They can be very small like E. turbiniformis which grows to about the size of a ping-pong ball and they can grow to tree-like sizes like E. ingens & others that can be in excess of 30 feet tall. Not only do euphorbias come large & small, they also come in all sorts of shapes such as columnar species, candelabra species, caudexed species, and the very odd medusa head types with their snake-like branches. The succulent collector can always find a type of euphorbia that fascinates him.

Most euphorbias are fairly easy to grow & many of the same rules that apply to cacti can be applied to the succulent euphorbias. They prefer a well-drained soil and water during the growing season. The leafy species require more water than the leafless species. Care in watering must be exercised during the winter (and the dormant season if different). Euphorbias also like warmth. A minimum of 50° F. is a safe temperature although many can tolerate lower temperatures (even close to freezing IF acclimated). Most euphorbias like bright light. Some can tolerate direct sun and others require slight shading, depending on the species.

Propagation can be carried out by cuttings or seed. Some euphorbias do not branch and therefore seed is the only method of propagation. Others can be very difficult to root or will not form a typical plant from a cutting and these are best grown from seed also. A great number of them, though, can be started from cuttings, a very fast method of propagation.

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Many euphorbias want to rest after flowering, so watch their water uptake at this time. If they're not drinking, don't drown them.

# Welcome NEW Members

Edra R. Barker

Scott Sikes

4

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

Nancy Birnbaum, renewal

Evelyn Silverlake

Aeonium, Crassula, Kalanchoe

Gen. Cacti & Succulents

.....  
 Everybody, to help new and longtime members alike, please wear your name badges.  
 .....

## CALENDAR

May 11, Our regular meeting day and MOTHER'S DAY.

BOARD MEETING at 12:30 & REGULAR MEETING at 1:30.

May 17, The Carmichael C & S Show 10 - 4 (no other info.)

May 17 & 18, the Orange County C & S Society Show & Sale, Sat. Show hours: 12 - 4, Sale 9 - 4, & Sun. Show & Sale hours: 9 - 4. Yorba Linda District Library, 18262 Lemon Drive in Yorba Linda. Enter lower parking lot from Imperial Hwy. Free admission. Competition open to all. Setup Fri evening after 5:30 PM until late, or Sat. AM from 7 - 9 AM. For show schedule & info., contact C.W. Elliott, 7937 Poinsettia, Buena Park, CA 90620. C.W., as you know, is a member of our club also.



MAY						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 17 & 18, Fiesta de Flores, Sat. & Sun., 9 - 4 PM, at our South Coast Botanic Garden. PLEASE SEE FURTHER INFO IN THIS N.L.

May 18, The EPI show at the L.A. Arboretum from 11 - 4:30 and the Huntington Invitational Plant Sale from 10 - 4.

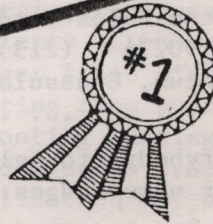
PLEASE REFER TO YOUR C & S SHOW & SALE CALENDAR 1986 FOR FURTHER INFO ON THESE AND OTHER MAY - JUNE EVENTS, especially the shows & sales on May 31 & June 1 for the Sunset, San Diego & San Jose Societies.

Our Very Best

GREETINGS to MOMS

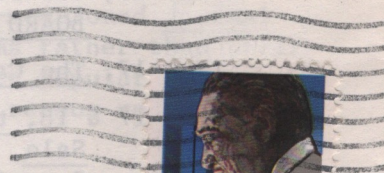


May 11



SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

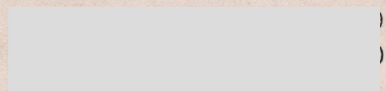
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◆◆◆◆◆ FIRST CLASS



Norma Holley



"ONLY ONE MONTH 'TIL SHOWTIME! THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS!"