

Join the fun at our HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 1986

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

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Shake the tambourine, beat the drum,
 Soon's the party of the annum.
 Our bash is no secret, it's famed, not mum.
 To miss it would be plumb dumb.
 Our forum never lacks a quorum;
 All differed types of people come:
 Executives, chefs, folks who chew gum,
 Debutantes, lawyers, the old Brooklyn Dodger hum,
 Operetta players who aspire to Yum-Yum,
 Marketers, Elks, rock stars who slum,
 Cowgirls and ogres spouting fee-fi-fo-fum,
 Etcetera, et al, ad infinitum.
 We bar at the door, however, curmudgeons and scum.
 Come alone, or bring a spouse or chum,
 Singles, mingle and you'll meet some wum.
 Enjoy our vittles, fill your tum
 With chips, cold cuts, cole slaw, and pum
 1. Pernickle. Shed ho-hum December glum.

Happy
Holidays

10:
The
South Coast
Cactus & Succulent
Society

Come to the
Party



Fabulous
Feast!

December 14

1986



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SOME CREDITS: The front cover poem is by Art Shulman of Shulman Research, for their 1985 party. (He & Jack Cody have something in common. See Jack's poems in this issue.)

Decorated Opuntia on the back cover is by Elibet Marshall of the San Diego C & S Soc. & is from their Nov. 1986 ESPINAS Y FLORES.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR is Carol Anne Wujcik, 10860 El Mar Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, (714) 963-3146.



AN INVITATION



TO A PARTY!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 at 1:30 PM.

In the CONFERENCE OR SEMINAR ROOM OF THE
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (not the classrooms)
AT SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDEN, 26300 Crenshaw
Blvd., Palos
Verdes Penin-
sula.

BRING:

You,
Food for the feast,
Serving utensils,
Place setting.

OPTIONAL:

Gift (\$5 max.)
Decorated plant(s),
" Dish Gardens,
Some slides for the
Kodak Carousel, and
Name Tags.



FOOD -
for feasting,

GIFTS -
for exchanging,

DECORATED PLANTS -
for sharing, and

SLIDES
for viewing.

COME!

OUR HOST AND NUMBER 1 CHEF: BOB CAUSEY!

THE MENU: Turkey and dressing, honey-baked ham, cranberries, sweet potatoes, yams with marshmallows, green beans, bean salad, Mideastern salad, fruit salad, scalloped potatoes, homemade pickles, bread & butter, cole slaw, candy, nuts, Norma's hot cider, 5 pumpkin pies, apple pie, mince pie, and coffee. For starters. If you've forgotten which of the above you're to bring, call Bob at 675-5843. Napkins will be provided. Bon appetit!

GIFT EXCHANGE: This is optional. Bring one - get one. gifts should be plant or plant-related, nice but \$5 max.

DECORATED PLANTS: There won't be a contest, but bring these to share, serve as decorations, and show-off. Also bring super-bloomers, but there will be no formal bragging table this month.

SLIDES: Have some slides of favorite plants, cactus people, plant places? Share them. IT'S HOME MOVIE TIME. (But no pets or kids unless with plants, interacting with plants etc!)

This month we are favored by two poems by Jack Cody, husband of cactophile Peggy. Her cactus collection has been inspirational! What more can we say? Here's the first!

FAST THINKING

I drove into the desert,
To find cacti in the rough.
I have plenty store-bought cacti,
But never have enough.

A split-rock cactus caught my eye,
It had pups and was in bloom.
I'm sure it would look very nice,
If I had it in my room

I was miles away from any town,
And there was no one around.
If I had a shovel,
I could dig it from the ground.

Suddenly the sheriff came,
Along the road he wheeled.
I don't know how he found me out,
Someone must have squealed.

He yelled, "You cannot take away that plant;
We have a law that says you can't."
I told him, "I'm not taking that!
I came to look for a "Bishop's Cap."

He cooled, said, "I'm sorry I was severe
Knowing now why you are here.
Hunt and look as you see fit;
I didn't know that he'd 'lost it!'"

Jack Cody



On the next page is a reprint from the CACTUS DIGEST, bulletin of the Henry Shaw Cactus Society, for Nov. 1986, Betty Cordes editor. BE THANKFUL YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAUL ALL YOUR PLANTS IN EVERY FALL -- AND OUT AGAIN EVERY SPRING. BE THANKFUL GROUP! Nevertheless it can be done...with help...

GETTING ORGANIZED

I admire people who are organized. You see them in July--- doing their Christmas shopping. They make lists when they go to the grocery store, and only buy what's on them. They have schedules. They probably even bring their plants indoors early, before the weatherman issues his first frost warning.

This year, I am going to get organized. Last year was the pits. All the plants had been doing so nicely outdoors that I just didn't want to bring them in. They were happy out there, blooming and growing like mad. One night, we were sitting in front of the television watching the news. We had turned it on in time to catch the weather report. Hard freeze! Tonight!

They had all just been watered, so there was no getting around it. Get our butts off that couch, and bring them in--NOW! They live on the patio in summer, in the basement in winter. To get them into the basement, we have to carry them through the kitchen, then the living room, downstairs to their winter quarters. We used to put them in the windows, until we got more plants than we have windowsills.

The easiest way to bring them all in is leave the back door open and start carrying. However, if we leave the back door open, all the damn cats get out. So, we lock the cats in the basement, and carry all the plants into the kitchen. The cats do not enjoy this at all. They fight. They howl at the top of the steps. They want to get out and help. If you ever had more than one cat help you do anything, you will know why we lock them in the basement.

We have large plants and small plants and plants in bulky hanging baskets. We have about twenty trips apiece. We put the small pots in cardboard boxes, only that time we only had two boxes, so we had to fill one, carry it in, unload it, go back for more. Some of the larger plants are a trip by themselves. We found that the more 10 inch pots you move, the heavier they get.

It was dark outside while we were bringing them in. Once they were sitting in the kitchen, we took a really good look at them. Some had really grown over the summer. They looked so nice and fresh and healthy. Too bad their pots were so dirty. Oh, well some of the dirt fell off. On the floor, on the countertops, on the table. And, we had only dropped six. That's not too many to report. A little iodine for the stab wounds and tweezers for the opuntia glochids, and we would be as good as new.

After a little first aid, we decided to let the cats out. The howling was getting on our nerves. They loved the kitchen jungle! Plants to climb in, pots to hide behind, things to stalk. Wait a minute---what were they stalking? The chilly spiders and other assorted insects that had been living happily outside were warming up indoors, and getting mighty active. We don't keep bug spray around, we use a mix Organic Gardening recommends. It is mostly soap and garlic. Use it indoors, your house will smell like an Italian restaurant for months.

In a few days, the cats had caught, and eaten (yuck!) most of the bugs. We finally got all the pots cleaned. The dirt came off the rug fairly easily. The cats only ate a few spider plants and a *beaucarnea recurvata*. I guess the bugs didn't fill them up. The lithops that the cats used as kitty hockey pucks survived, the little claw marks didn't hurt them at all. We finally got all the opuntia glochids out.

Cont.

So, this year, I am NOT going to wait to the last minute. Actually, I would go downstairs right now and check the lights and start setting up the shelves, but I have this paper to write for American history. And it's due Thursday, and today is Sunday, and I do have to read these 3 books, and just a few pages for American literature. Well, O.K., about 100 pages for lit.....

By Katy F. Maion (the F stand for Procrastination)

* * * *



The above drawing is from the March 1970 CSIE.
(Cactus & Succulent Information Exchange, now
out-of-print fabulous newsletter).

DO'S AND DON'T'S

There are many "Do's" and many "Don't's,"
To follow all through life.

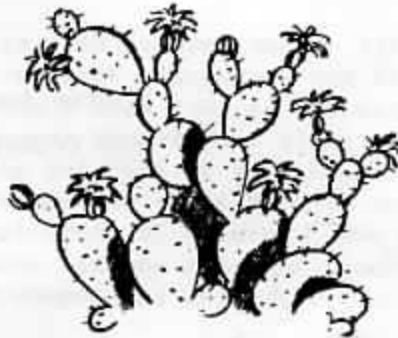
We "don't" use a saw for dinnerware,
And "don't" chop wood with a knife.

We "don't" water cactus in the rain,
They are wet enough, we know.

We "do" give them attention,
"Do" feed, so they will grow.

We "do" love our cactus,
They give us such a treat;
But we "don't" walk through the cactus,
When we have bare feet!

Jack Cody



More seriously, the following is from CACTUS COMMENTS, monthly newsletter of the N.Y. C. & S. Soc. via the CACTUS DIGEST for Jan. 1985, the St. Louis Soc., Betty Cordes editor.

KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Can you really believe that this year is almost history? Can you look back over the past months and see progress in your knowledge and love of your plants? Can you put a value on the pleasure you have derived from your collection? Can you say that you have encouraged someone else to enjoy cacti and other succulent plants? Did you try a different soil mixture, fertilizer, insecticide, or plants this year? Will you be looking forward to another active year with your plants and our club? Will you contribute more of your knowledge and time with the club and fellow members? Will you let next year be just "another" year?

Frank Bowman



"A true journey, no matter how long
the travel takes, has no end."

- William Least Heat Moon
BLUE HIGHWAYS

The following is written by Patsy Wade of the Sunset Society. She describes well the subtle change of our seasons. Soon will come the winter rains, then drying and maturing of late spring. And on the Santa Monica cliffs above the ocean, less than a block from Patsy's home, there is always the wind...

A CHANGE IN THE SEASONS



Come with me to a special place - on a cliff above my ocean. Today is a day in May, today is blowy with a strong ocean breeze, a small weather front moving through. I was out working on my plants in the backyard and felt the wind and could see a few clouds in the sky, and I had to go see.

The wind is strong. My hat blows off, and I have to hold it. And when I come to where I can see, the ocean is grey and wild, pushed by the wind, full of white caps and veils of foam. Its full of motion and so alive. I want to just stay awhile and feel the wind. This is no winter wind; there is no real bite of cold, but my jacket feels good. I stay and feel the tangle of the wind in my hair, and I sit not rigid and resisting but easily and moving slightly with the wind gusts. I feel somehow the warmth of the sun through the wind.

I sit for awhile with my eyes shut - listening and feeling the wind. Then I start to look around and see the horizon and the clouds and the ocean and then I look down to the weeds. The winter weeds have changed. No longer the vibrant alive green of the winter, they are now maturing and full of seed heads. The grasses are blowing and dancing in the wind; the curly dock is swaying stiffly. I go along and see the multitude of colors of the grass seed heads, pink and red, rust, yellow. In one area the winter green is still there with all the varied shapes and colors of the seed heads.

The birds are out today. Two of them are soaring and banking with each other. They look like they are playing with the wind. They too are feeling the wind...

Patsy

Rainbow Gardens has a huge listing of cactus books plus a sales listing as well. For the lists write Rainbow Gardens, PO Box 721, La Habra, Ca. 90633-0721. If you call first to make an appt., you can go in person to 1574 E. Dorothea Rd., La Habra (213-697-1488). It's a neat place to visit.....the books are irresistible. Bring money.

The information and drawing below are from the Huntington fall calendar. The Symposium info was written by Daryl Kutnik. The IOS info to the right is courtesy of Fred Hutfless.

THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Frontispiece from *Der Gart der Gesundheit*, 1485, showing a gathering of famous herbalists, including *Pliny* and *Dioscorides*.



General Information

The Huntington is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt institution open year around. No admission fee; suggested contribution is \$2 per adult.

Hours

Tuesday through Sunday, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Reservations required for Sunday by calling (818) 405-2273.

Closed Mondays and major holidays. Refreshments available Tuesday through Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 in the Patio Restaurant. Both cafeteria and tea room service are available.

Tours

Self-guided tour brochures are available for the Gardens, Library Exhibition Hall and Art Collections.

The Huntington Symposium on Succulent Plants, which began in the fall of 1984, presents technical information to a broad audience. And next year looks to be a real international event when the Huntington Botanical Gardens, as part of its annual Succulent Symposium, will host the intercongress meeting of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS). This meeting will consist of three days of presentations by eminent botanists from North and South America, Europe and Africa. Intended subjects for this gathering include epiphytic cacti, the Crassula family, conservation and succulent physiology.

IOS

The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study was founded in 1949 to assist the interchange of information between those engaged in research on the biology, taxonomy, cultivation and conservation of succulent and allied plants.

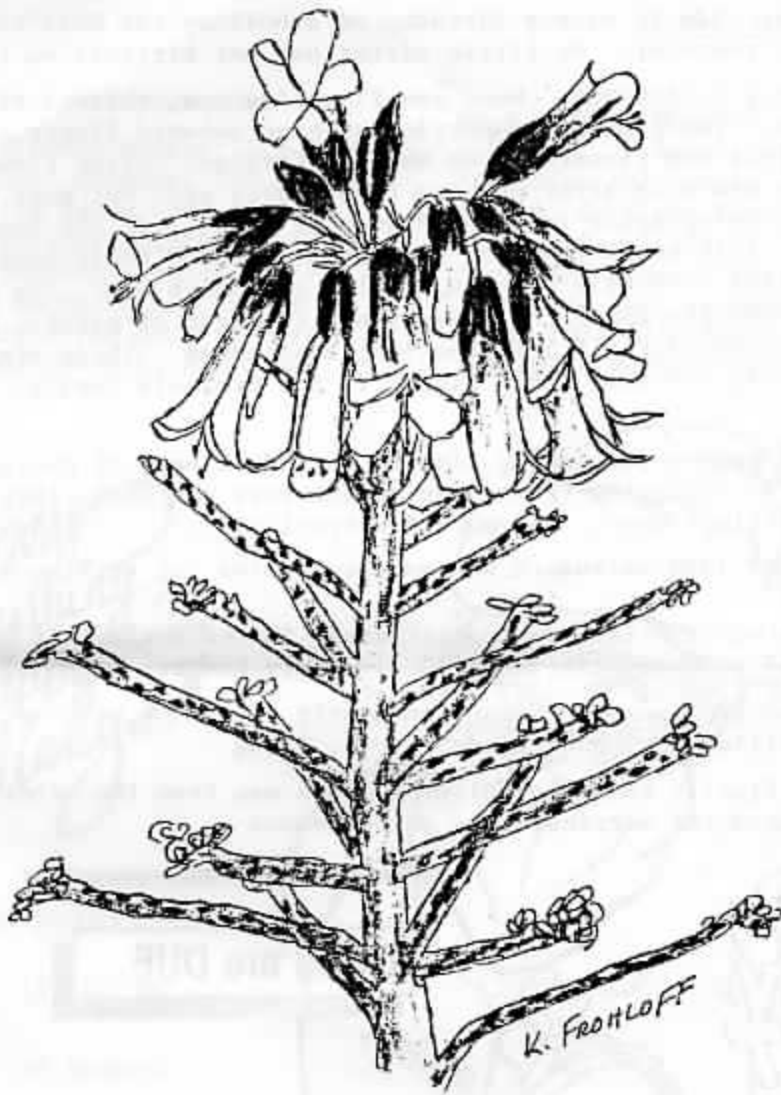
Sections cater for the different research interests of Active Members, who meet biennially for a week of seminars, lectures, etc. Applications for membership of the sections are considered by the members themselves in the light of the applicants' published work and other qualifications.

Other persons wishing to support the IOS, which receives no monetary support other than the subscriptions of members, may apply for election as Associate Members. Associates may attend the biennial congresses and receive IOS publications which currently include IOS Bulletin (an annual report of IOS activities) and Repertorium Plantarum Succulentarum (an annual index of new names of succulent plants).

Address for correspondence: D.R. Hunt, IOS Secretary, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE, England.

NOTE: The 1987 IOS meeting will be held at the Huntington Botanical Gardens on September 18 & 19, in conjunction with the fourth Huntington Symposium on Succulent Plants.

DOROTHY YAKOUBIAN, THIS ONE'S FOR YOU:



The Kalanchoe tubiflora drawing is by Klaus Frohloff and is natural size. It's from the cover of CSIE, #6, 1978. Editor Grace Rollerson writes: "According to Jacobsen this plant is a widely distributed native of S. Madagascar, grows up to one metre high, rarely branches. Most collectors seem to think of it as a weed since the little plantlets on the leaf tips fall everywhere and take root readily; but grown well, it makes a very attractive plant."

EDITOR'S NOTE: I hope everyone had a fine Thanksgiving. Norma Holley wrote that her oldest daughter celebrated her birthday on Thanksgiving "so we had a real nice celebration here at our place." It's hard on birthday kids to have a birthday on a holiday but easy for everyone else to remember. My little sister has her birthday on Christmas.

Regarding KALANCHOES: Most are flowering now, which I view with mixed emotion. The fuzzies in particular have awkward flower stalks, but they make great cut flowers as do the non-fuzzies. After flowering, a few species die down after pupping ^{abund} from leaves etc, but most branch and start growing again from the flowering point. If the lower leaves are scarce, this means that for the plants to look their best, they may need restarting. Luckily this is usually easy with most. In general the Kalanchoes are among the easiest and toughest of plants, but few plants can look as ratty if left too long unattended. These are plants to recycle...as are many other plants in the Crassula family.

Again I regret not having time to include a page of photographs, but thanks to borrowing from other newsletters and such, this newsletter is a little longer. (So much for brevity.)

One of my 1986 calendars has various quotes for each month. Here are three.

"Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It beats money and power and influence." - Henry Chester

"The greatness of a man can nearly always be measured by his willingness to be kind." - G. Young

"I finally know what distinguishes man from the other beasts: financial worries." - Jules Renard



DUES are DUE

additional
\$5 for each member plus \$1.00 for each person
at the same address. Make checks payable to
The South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society
(SCC&SS). Bring to the meeting for Norma or
send to: NORMA HOLLEY, MEMBERSHIP, 2971 TOLEDO STREET,
220, TORRANCE, CA 90503-7340. To be included
in the roster, your dues must be in by Jan. 15, 1987.

The South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society wants to thank all its hardworking officers, chairpersons and members for another successful year. The list below is NOT all-inclusive and all those who worked so hard to make our 1986 show & sale a success deserve an extra big thank you. THANK YOU!

1986 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

President Eleanor Barker, 679-3506
First VP Carol Kennedy, 679-6021
Second VP Jim Hanna, 920-3046
Secretary Dorothy McArthur, 547-5401
Treasurer Virginia Russell, 378-3536
Membership Norma Holley, 212-6130
Refreshments Verna McCarty, 645-5009
Sunshine Roz Hancock, 375-3410

* Ways & Means MaryBelle Wallen-
horst, 378-5903
* Librarian Bob Causey, 675-5843
* Garden, Ed & Roz Hancock & Doug
Rawcliffe
* Field Trips Carol Kennedy
* Affiliate Rep. Eleanor Barker
* Plant Table Jim Hanna
* Historian Norma Holley

*Merry
Everything
Happy
Always!*

ON TO NEXT YEAR!

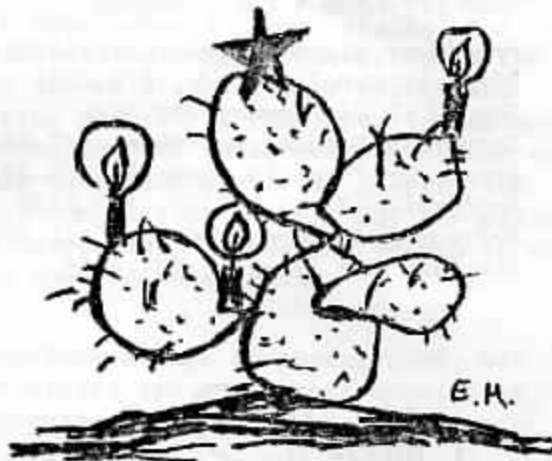
1987 OFFICERS

President -- Ed Hancock
First VP -- Carol Kennedy
Second VP -- Jim Hanna
Treasurer -- Roz Hancock
Secretary -- Dorothy MacArthur

Santa drawing is by
outgoing Prez Eleanor
Barker. Good wishes
message is from the Olesons. THANK YOU.



Happy Holidays



SOUTH COAST CACTUS &
SUCCULENT SOCIETY
10860 El Mar Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708



FIRST CLASS

Norma Holley
2971 Toledo Street #220
Torrance, CA 90503-7340



COME TO THE PARTY!