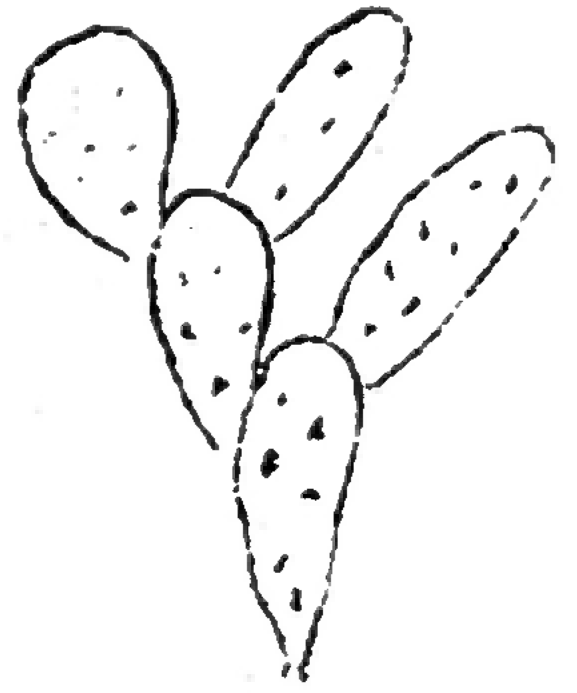


# CACTOS

# 7

# SUCCULENTAS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

July, 1966

Vol. 2, No. 7

## TAYLOR SHOWS GRAFTS

### JULY MEETING

July 9, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., Taylor's Cactus Garden, 1640 E. Main Street, El Cajon.

Program will include potluck lunch, a cactus-grafting demonstration, garden tour, and plant auction. Guests and all your family members are welcome.

Bring a main dish (casserole or meat), salad, or dessert. Bring your own knives, forks, and spoons, including serving spoons. Also, bring your own stool, chair, and, if possible, folding table.

Paper plates and cups will be provided by the Society. Mrs. Taylor will supply punch and coffee.

### TRANSPORTATION ?

Some members do not have transportation to Taylor's. If you are willing to take passengers in your car, please call Mrs. Ward, 420-5513.

Members who need transportation are urged to call Mrs. Ward as soon as possible.

Please pick up odd and end fair display plants at the Taylor's on Saturday.

Mr. Robert Taylor, of El Cajon, the best known of local cactus collectors-sellers, has opened his garden for a Society field trip on July 9, from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Taylor, who specializes in cristate grafts, will demonstrate simple grafting techniques for the benefit of Society members. Those attending will also be able to view hundreds of his grafts, as well as large specimen cacti.

The many specimens, collected on the recent trip of the Taylors to Mexico, will also be seen.

### Potluck

A potluck lunch is the first-scheduled activity of the day. Member families are requested to bring a main dish, salad, or dessert. If guests are brought members are requested to bring additional food.

Because seating and table space will be at a premium, members are encouraged to supply their own seating and tables.

### Auction

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor will supply the plants for an auction to be held after the lunch and grafting demonstration.

# MINUTES

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

June 4, 1966

The meeting was called to order by the president and the minutes were read and approved. Several guests were welcomed.

Treasurer's report: \$353.38 bank total, \$56.75 cash on hand giving a total of \$410.13.

Correspondence: A letter from the National Show Chairman was read in which she was asking that each affiliate society send \$2.50 to help defray show expenses. Mr. Greenwood made a motion to this effect; it was seconded by Mr. Arnold. Motion carried.

Committee reports: Mr. Ward reminded the membership of the special meeting to be held at the fairgrounds on the 18th.

Doc Vaughan reported on the progress of trying to combine the Cactus Garden with the Kate Sessions Aloe-Agave Garden. He had sent a letter to Miss Pauline des Granges, who wholeheartedly endorsed the plan, and had had several sessions with assistant superintendent of the park, Mr. Dave Roberts. The Highway Commission is asking for more of the park for bigger freeways. Within the next two or three months we should know what will happen to the park. Doc Vaughan distributed literature to the members from the Coordinating Committee which is fighting for the existence of the park.

New Business: Mr. Ward suggested that the volumes of the Cactus and Succulent Journal donated by Mr. Benbow be bound. A local bindery had quoted a price of \$4.50 per volume. Mr. Hoffman made the motion that they be bound; seconded by Mr. Arnold. Motion carried.

Mr. Arnold brought to the membership's attention how the monthly newsletter is put together and duplicated, and suggested that the society buy an electric mimeograph machine for this purpose. Motion was seconded by Mr. Greenwood and carried.

Mr. Stevenson presented a set of eight mission bells to the club. Mr. Bob Nelson suggested that the bells be used in a display at the fair, after which they could be raffled off to members.

Mr. Reinboldt issued an open invitation to the society members to see his small cactus garden of 300 varieties for which he had painted a backdrop measuring 5 feet by 40 feet.

The film "Water--Fountain of Life" was shown after which the plant sale was held.

Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Hoffman. The meeting was adjourned.

Shirley Ward  
Secretary

# WEEKEND IN THE MOJAVE

by J. Ward

Cactophiles usually look toward Mexico or southern Arizona when they think of traveling to see thick stands of cacti. This attitude is fostered by the drab landscape of southern California desert areas as seen from the highways. However, if one takes extra time to leave the highways and travel into the mountains, the reward can be as great as in the more fertile fields to the south.

On a recent weekend, my family decided to visit Mitchell Caverns, north of Essex, off highway U.S. 66, in the Mojave Desert. Because we were pressed for time, we were not able to explore as thoroughly as we wanted, but we were pleased with what we found.

We left San Diego on a late Friday afternoon, detoured to Redlands to pick up my nephew Vic Chinn (age 15), and headed east on Interstate 10 to the southern entrance of Joshua Tree National Monument.

As recently as 15 years ago, large specimens of Ferocactus acanthodes could be seen in the area between Whitewater and Thousand Palms, but we did not observe any this trip, except near turn-off to Twentynine Palms. Yucca schidigera could be seen in numerous locations, some of it in bloom.

The turnoff to Cottonwood Springs campground, at the southern end of Joshua Tree National Monument, is 24 miles east of Indio. We arrived there after dark, and discovered the camp area to be quite crowded. There were several hundred people camping overnight, including a group of young men from some religious organization who sang religious songs far into the night. We set up our cots and sleeping bags, and quickly settled for the night, having eaten pre-packed lunches while driving to our first camp site. The many noises originating from other campers kept us awake quite late.

We were the first campers to rise the next morning, and were surprised to see that most of the other campers were not using cots but had unrolled their sleeping bags, or had made pallets, on the hard and rocky desert floor. After cooking breakfast, we explored our immediate camp area for plants. Yucca schidigera, Opuntia echinocarpa, and Opuntia ramosissima were quite numerous. After packing our gear, we drove down to the spring (completely boxed), but did not take time to explore the hills downstream for Echinocereus mojavensis and E. engelmannii, reported from there.

Other specimens found in the Monument, which we did not take the time to seek out were Opuntia chlorotica, Nolina bigelovii, Ferocactus acanthodes, Opuntia parishii, and Coryphantha alversonii.

## Cottonwood Springs to Twentynine Palms

Because we planned to reach Mitchell Caverns Saturday afternoon, we made only two stops before arriving at Twentynine Palms. We saw stretches of Fouquieria splendens, Yucca brevifolia, and the densest stand of Opuntia bigelovii I have ever observed. I was surprised to find F. splendens and O. bigelovii so far north.

The National Park Service has placed nature trails by the roadside, where visitors may see and identify many of the native plants. We took the time to tour one of these.

## WEEKEND IN THE MOJAVE (Continued)

### Twentynine Palms To Amboy

A paved, well-traveled road leads northward from Twentynine Palms to Amboy, on U. S. 66. Out of Twentynine Palms, the desert is very dry and drab. It has been turned into a sort of desert slum-ghost-town by land speculators, who built one-room shacks for weekend retreats. These scene desecrations stretch for seemingly endless miles wherever one chooses to look.

The road climbs out of the Twentynine Palms trough toward the Granite Mountains, where it crests through a pass area before descending again to the desert floor. We stopped the car at the beginning of the pass area, and climbed the steep mountains to the east. There, we found Ferocactus acanthodes variety lecontii with four-inch spines, some very tortuous, and other specimens with hooked spines. Coryphantha alversonii was harder to find, but we did spot a few specimens, widely scattered, on the north slopes of the mountains. It was a thrilling sight to find it growing in the wild for the first time.

Approaching Amboy, we crossed the west end of Bristol dry lake, and became intrigued with the prominent black crater of extinct Amboy volcano, to the west. Near the junction of U.S. 66, we took a sand road to the west, and drove to the edge of the lava fields.

Surveying the volcano from the edge of the black lava flows, we estimated the distance to be about one half mile. I then did something very foolish; I proceeded, with nephew Vic and son Kern, to hike to the crater for a look, without taking canteen, compass, hat, or bearings on landmarks. The apparent half mile to the volcano stretched out to more than two.

The hike was very interesting; we observed two-foot-long iguana lizards (Sauromalus obesus?), the largest I had ever seen, and numerous smaller lizards; we marvelled at the forms taken by the lava flows. I could not help but wish for an acre of this beautiful lava for my own in which to plant a cactus garden (at home, of course).

The crater was steep, covered with loose debris and ash, making it difficult to climb, but the view from the top was not disappointing. The steep sides formed a perfect cone except for the west side, which had been blasted away by some ancient violent eruption. Our descent was hazardous, more on the seat of our trousers than on our feet.

Our hike back was almost a nightmare. Inasmuch as the car was parked below the level of the lava flows, it was not to be seen; because I had taken no bearings, we could only head back in the general direction from which we had started. Since the lava flows appeared the same in every direction, we drifted some two miles south of the car, and walked at least three miles from the volcano to the edge of the lava flows. Vic had conjectured that we were drifting too far to the south, but I had continued out of the way. The day was hot, made hotter by the black rocks absorbing and radiating the heat of a sun at high noon.

What had started out as a little round-trip jaunt of a mile had lengthened into an endurance test of more than seven miles, the last two miles pure nightmare of glaring sun, parched throats, muscular fatigue, and near-heat prostration. There was more to the story, but I will not dwell further on the subject. Let it be noted that the lesson was learned the hard way.

## (Weekend In The Mojave, Continued)

### Amboy to Essex

For the next few hours we hikers drank a great amount of water to replenish our lost reserves. However, the cold drinks at Amboy, immediately after the ordeal, were among the most pleasurable I have ever had.

Our trip from Amboy to Essex was uneventful, the drab floor of the desert trough unbroken by sight of either cacti or yuccas. Even the mountain passes looked drab and unpromising for exploration. The most enlightening aspect of this stretch of the trip was to reverse an erroneous impression about the creosote bush (Larrea tridentata). All these years I had been under the impression that the creosote ended at the Joshua Tree National Monument, giving way to sage; it does not.

### Essex to Mitchell Caverns

After turning off U.S. 66, northward toward Mitchell Caverns, the road climbs gradually, almost imperceptibly in the next 20 miles, to an altitude of around 3500 feet above sea level. The last three miles of the drive climb steeply into the Providence Mountains to Mitchell Caverns at an altitude of 4300 feet, where the California State Park Service maintains a public campground, with limited facilities, and conducts cavern tours for a small fee.

In the last few miles of the drive up the side of Providence Peak, to the caverns, one may feast his eyes on one of the densest and most beautiful natural cactus gardens to be seen anywhere in the United States. In fact, it was shocking to see so many species growing so prolifically at such a high altitude. A park ranger informed us that it snows half a dozen times during the winter, and that around one half the winter nights drop below freezing; not exactly ideal growing conditions for cacti.

Among the species to be found here are Ferocactus acanthodes, F. acanthodes variety lecontii, Echinocereus engelmannii, Opuntia mojavensis, Opuntia erinacea variety ursina, Opuntia echinocarpa, Opuntia ramosissima, Yucca baccata, Yucca schidigera, and a small Dudleya species. It was especially exciting to see O. erinacea, O. mojavensis, and Yucca baccata, three species I had never before observed in the wild.

The caverns were rather small and disappointing to one who compares them with Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, or Colossal Cave, Arizona, but to one who has never visited a limestone cavern, with its variable formations of stalactites and stalagmites, the tour would be worth taking. Visitors to the park are requested to bring their own drinking and cooking water during the last spring, summer and fall months. However, water was plentiful when we were there in May.

### North of Essex

After the cavern tour, we turned northward on the road to Cima, and found a good camp site for the night. We explored our surroundings in the remaining daylight hours and again on the following morning. It was quite interesting to observe such great variability in Ferocactus acanthodes species. In addition to varieties acanthodes and lecontii, there appeared to be a third variety with long pinkish spines and with a somewhat depressed or broad flattened manner of growth, broader than tall. We observed only the black spined variety of Echinocereus engelmannii, and none of these formed large mounds. O. erinacea var. ursina, and O. mojavensis were not

## Weekend in the Mojave (Continued)

were not to be seen. Perhaps, we were not at high enough elevation, or some other factor existed that we were not aware of.

That night, we had problems with wind and kangaroo rats. Before retiring for the night, we placed the car between ourselves and a strong southwesterly wind, but, during the night, the wind shifted direction, and blew directly on us for most of the night. The previous night, we had been disturbed by people, but, this night, we were disturbed by little kangaroo rats bouncing all around our cots and in the immediate vicinity of the car. In their own way, they made noises as disturbing as those of adjoining campers of the night before.

North of our campsite, before reaching Cima, lie the highest sand dunes in the United States, but we postponed their examination until some future trip.

On Sunday morning, we started the long drive home by way of Barstow and Victorville, instead of southward by Twentynine Palms. Yucca brevifolia starts appearing as scattered specimens near Barstow, but at Victorville, grows in dense forests, the last evidence of the high desert vegetation. West of Victorville, the highway drops through the windy Cajon pass into the smog-veiled valley of San Bernardino.

Yucca whipplei was in prolific bloom in the lower part of the Cajon pass area, but there was little evidence of other native plants of interest to the cactophile.

The next time you feel in the mood for a weekend of wanderlust, take the drive to Mitchell Caverns; you will enjoy it (in spring, fall or winter, of course).

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# DISPLAYS EARN MONEY

The Society took three second places and one third place to earn a record \$575 at the San Diego County Fair, 1966. Second places were awarded for Cactus Garden (\$125), Garden Theme and Specialties (\$175), and Succulent Garden (\$125). A third place was taken in the Hanging Basket Display (\$150).

Mr. and Mrs. Kim Arnold chairmanned the Garden Theme and Specialties display, a new category this year. They found themselves somewhat puzzled by the requirements of the new display. The Arnolds are veteran exhibitors, having taken firsts every year in the Rock Garden, but, this year, the Rock Garden was discontinued.

Mr. Jim Stalsonburg, a newcomer to the display ranks, put in the Cactus Garden, taking second place out of four exhibitors. Mr. Stalsonburg has volunteered to take the Cactus Garden again next year.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ward chairmanned the Succulent Garden and the Hanging Basket Display, their first experience with the Succulents, their second year with the baskets.

The display chairmen wish to give special recognition to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scott, who were at the fairgrounds almost every day prior to the fair opening, putting in a great amount of time on mapping, labeling, identification, electrical wiring, planting, etc.

Other members who contributed plants and/or labor at the 1966 fair were Mr. Harold Crane, Mrs. Ruth Cuzner, Miss Joan E. Fleer, Mrs. Rose Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Greenwood, Mrs. Helen Howe, Mr. and Mrs. William Hoffman, Mrs. Ione Hubner, Mrs. Harold Kennett, Mrs. A. A. Lewis, Mrs. Helen Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson, Mr. Troy Shipman, Mrs. Bernice Sterling, Mrs. Pearl Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor, "Doc" Vaughan, and Mr. William Waite.

SUCCULENT GARDEN 1966

EXHIBITOR	AWARD	JUDGE	ARTISTIC	QUALITY	RARITY	VARIETY	LIGHTS	LABELS	TOTAL
			DISPLAY 30%	25%	20%	15%	5%	5%	100%
Palomar (62)	1st	1	29	25	18	14	4	5	95
		2	25	25	5	12	5	5	77
		3	30	24	15	15	5	5	94
			<u>84</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	266=84
San Diego (70)	2nd	1	26	24	17	13	5	4	89
		2	20	25	10	13	5	5	78
		3	27	24	18	15	5	4	93
			<u>73</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	260=84
Hardin (38)	3rd	1	25	24	10	10	1	3	78
		2	30	25	5	5	0	4	74
			25	24	15	15	3	3	85
			<u>80</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	237=71

Judges: Mr. Robert Kelley, Mrs. Joyce Tate, Mr. Charles Glass  
(order unknown)

CACTUS GARDEN 1966

EXHIBITOR	AWARD	JUDGE	ARTISTIC	QUALITY	RARITY	VARIETY	LIGHTS	LABELS	TOTAL
			DISPLAY 30%	25%	20%	15%	5%	5%	100%
Palomar	1st	1	25	25	18	13	5	5	91
		2	28	25	10	10	5	5	83
		3	28	25	18	12	3	4	90
			<u>81</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	264=84
San Diego	2nd	1	20	23	14	10	4	5	76
		2	22	25	7	10	5	5	74
		3	20	20	10	10	3	4	67
			<u>62</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	217=72
Dodd	3rd	1	29	22	13	9	3	2	78
		2	25	20	5	8	5	3	66
		3	25	20	10	10	2	2	69
			<u>79</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	213=71
Hardin	4th	1	23	24	15	11	3	1	77
		2	23	24	4	10	3	4	68
		3	23	18	8	12	2	1	64
			<u>69</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	209=69

Judges: Mr. Robert Kelley, Mrs. Joyce Tate, Mr. Charles Glass  
(order not known)

Comments: None

HANGING BASKETS DISPLAY 1966

EXHIBITOR	AWARD	JUDGE	ARTISTIC	QUALITY	RARITY	VARIETY	LIGHTS	LABELS	TOTAL
			DISPLAY 30%	25%	20%	15%	5%	5%	100%
George Evans (22)	1st	1	27	23	16	14	2	4	86
		2	29	23	13	15	4	5	89
		3	27	21	15	12	3	4	82
			<u>83</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	257=852
Talmadge Nursery (87)	2nd	1	24	23	17	14	2	4	84
		2	26	23	15	15	4	4	87
		3	25	23	17	12	4	4	85
			<u>75</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	256=853
San Diego (69)	3rd	1	26	22	15	13	2	5	83
		2	25	20	13	10	4	5	77
		3	20	21	15	12	3	4	75
			<u>71</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>	235=781
Frantz Tascher (90)	4th	1	22	21	14	11	2	5	75
		2	24	20	13	10	0	4	71
		3	20	20	14	11	2	3	70
			<u>66</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>12</u>	216=722

Judges: Unknown  
Comments: None

GARDEN THEME AND SPECIALTIES 1966

EXHIBITOR	PLACE	JUDGE	ARTISTIC	QUALITY	PROPORTION	ACCES*	LIGHTS	LABELS	TOT
			ARRANGEMENT 35%	30%	TO SCALE 15%	SERIES 10%	5%	5%	100
(Conifers) (43)	1st	1	25	24	12	3	2	4.5	70.
		2	30	25	12	0	2	5	74
		3	29	26	13	6	4	4	82
			<u>84</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	256. 75.
San Diego (71)	2nd	1	23	21	10.5	5	1	4	64.
		2	30	25	10	0	1	3	69
		3	26	23	11	9	4	3	76
			<u>79</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>31.5</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	209. 69.

Judges: Unknown  
Comments: None



## JULY ISSUE ON NEW MACHINE

This issue of Cactus and Succulentas has a new look, a mimeographed look, which is a considerable improvement over the previous method of spirit-duplicator printing. It is not only easier to read, but more permanent. The only disadvantage is that it takes time for the ink to dry on non-absorbant paper (you may find that your copy is smeared).

Your editor was quick to take advantage of the \$150 authorization by the Society to buy a new electric mimeograph machine. After comparison of prices and machines, it was decided to buy a Sears machine. The machine regularly sells for \$144, but the Society was given a discount, paying \$119.88 plus tax (\$124.68 total).

Unfortunately, the many activities concerned with the fair, including taking out the last display baskets as late as 11:00 p.m. on July 6, kept your editor from experimenting with illustrations for the July issue.

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## PLANT DISTRIBUTION REVIEWED

One of our strong points in the Succulent Garden at the fair this year was the rarity of the plants. This, in part, may be attributed to the purchase and distribution to members last year of plants for grooming for future displays. It is a program which should be continued in the future.

However, there are some very real problems which I observed in collecting plants for display. The biggest problem is that too many plants are drought ridden and starved for food. Of the 148 plants in this year's fair display, my wife and I supplied around 85 of them, not of choice but of necessity. We have only been collecting succulents for around one year; this was why so many of the display plants were so tiny.

Some loss of plants distributed to members could be expected. The general reason was usually "rotted because of too much water." From our own experience in growing succulents, we find it hard to kill a plant by overwatering, except in the coldest part of the winter. From our observation of plants that could not be used for fair display, we have come to the conclusion that plants are being lost and are wasting away not because of too much water but because of too little water and fertilizer.

Since early spring, we have been watering our succulent plants at least twice weekly and, in warm weather, daily. We have been fertilizing at least once weekly with fish-oil fertilizer. We did not lose a single plant. In fact, we forced several inches growth out of some of our plants in the two weeks prior to fairtime through daily watering and twice-weekly fertilizing.

Some of the plants distributed last November, which were in robust and healthy condition at that time, had actually retrogressed in the last eight months. When we tried watering them, we discovered that water would hardly penetrate the soil mixture due to extreme dryness. A few of the plants appeared to have not been watered at all in the last eight months.

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## ARTICLES WELCOMED

Articles and other items of information are welcome from members of the Society. Address all correspondence to Mr. Jack W. Ward, 823 Halecrest Dr., Chula Vista, Calif., 92010, or telephone 420-5513. Mrs. Helen Hegyi has loaned extensive materials on Aloe vera, which will be worked into an article for the August issue.