



Espinas y Flores

BULLETIN OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

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November 1975

PROGRAM:

Due to Circumstances Beyond the Editor's Control, the Content of the Program will be a Surprise.

November 8th, 1975, 1:30 pm, Rm.101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

CACTUS OF THE MONTH: Mammillaria.

SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH: Your Favorite Succulent.

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MEMBERSHIP: The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society is open to all persons interested in growing cacti, other succulents and exotic plants.

Dues: \$ 5.00 annually, due in December of each year.

Single copy of E y F : \$ 0.50

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, 1:30 pm, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, unless otherwise indicated. Board convenes after the general meeting.

Deadline for December publication is November 15, 1975.

A CACTIPHILIC PILGRIMAGE

Dr. George E. Radwin

Picture the dream of a cacti-nut. Oh, not one of your grand, grand dreams, like being instantly transported to the Peruvian slopes of the Andes, amid the Matucanas and Islayas, or to the mountains of Minas Gerais State of Brazil, replete with white-haired blue cereoids and Discocacti. I'm talking about the relatively prosaic yen to visit a cactus nursery. Not an ordinary nursery, but one with an eminent reputation for rare, beautiful and well-grown plants. Nothing too unusual about that, you say? Well, if you think that, then you haven't seen Tegelberg's Cactus Nursery. Its appeal to me, above and beyond the charm and knowledgability of the owners, is compounded of equal parts of unattainability (Tegelberg's is located in Lucerne Valley, a small desert community some $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 hours hard drive from San Diego), quality plants, and a selection of plants I have not found anywhere else in my cactophilic wanderings.

Occasionally, when by good fortune I find myself in the higher sections of the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County, I make sure to save a few hours to visit Gil Tegelberg and his family and indulge my acquisitive urge. A trip up route 395 (now 15) requires prior checking oil and water carefully, as careless motorists run the risk of being caught with an overheated engine on an inhospitable mountain grade.

Having reached the nursery, in a rather inaccessible location - a location, I might add, that is, nevertheless, found by a remarkably large number of dedicated lovers of cacti, etc. - there is a prescribed route to follow through the Tegelbergs' three large greenhouses. After my first pilgrimage, and no one I know is satisfied with just one, I knew, allright, which greenhouse held the goodies that I wanted so badly it hurt: that peak-roofed rectangular one nearest the Tegelberg residence. Gil Tegelberg knows only too well where the best goodies are but he's like the restaurateur who tempts you with delicious appetizers before presenting the pièce de resistance. The trick here, as in restaurants, is to save enough of your resources to be able to partake of the prime fare to your satisfaction. Of course, restaurants are more conventional commercial establishments than any rare-plant nursery I know. In a restaurant, if it's on the menu or otherwise in the kitchen, it's available. At Tegelberg's, as at other such places, it's "What you see is not always what you get". Gil Tegelberg is a lover of plants much more than any restaurateur is a lover of food. He has this (to me) frustrating habit of marking with black ink the stakes in pots in pots with plants that are not for sale. Unfortunately, for acquisitive cacti-nuts like me, growers must keep a stock of plants for seed producing purposes. I suspect that many others are kept because he values them too highly a choice parts of his personal "collection". This has led to verbal by-play between us: -I: "Will you be offended is I continually ask whether this or that plant is for sale?" - He: "No! As long as you're not insulted by being told no!" I have even threatened to come around secretly and steal his black marker; it wouldn't do any good, as he would just buy another one.

Lest it would seem that a visit to Tegelberg's is a solely frustrating experience (which, in part, it always is, because there are dozens of species there that I would give my eyeteeth to own, but which are un-

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GARDEN HINTS

Rooting plants in eggcartons. Upon Mad Lee's advice I just decapitated my wife's most valued plant, Echeveria honeyi, in order to root its head via the eggcarton method. Here is how it works: Puncture any or all of the raised protrusions of an eggcarton - I prefer the plastic variety, as that is easier to work with and retains more heat - and enlarge the the openings to fit snugly around the stem of the plant you wish to root. Then stick your plant into its slot, add label, and forget about it. Very soon - as soon as one week, depending on the plant - fine hair roots will begin to sprout. You may place the plant into soil at that time; however, I prefer to wait another week until hairroots have strengthened. This method is recommended for Echeverias only. I have had excellent results in rooting E. glaucus and E. multicaulis and am keeping my fingers crossed to obtain the same success with our one and only E. honeyi. Once, as a temporary resting point, I happened to stick a piece of Crassula perforata into one of the slots of a handy eggcarton and then totally forgot about it. Several weeks later a massive net for hair roots had formed. This leads me to believe, that the eggcarton method may work for species other than Echeverias as well.

Sour soil is one of several problems which result from overwatering. In this case, what happens is that soil at the bottom of the pot is constantly wet and swampy and this encourages various soil fungi to set up residence there. When you notice that the foliage of plants is yellowing or wilting and stems become limp or soft, sour soil is apt to be the culprit. The cure is to remove the plant from its pot and break away the bottom half of the soil attached to the root ball.

Replace the removed soil with a fresh potting medium, repot and sprinkle a half teaspoon of horticultural grade lime over the top of the soil. Then water well. (Half a teaspoon of lime is right for a six-inch pot - add another half teaspoon for each additional inch in diameter of the pot). Lastly, to be very thorough, you can apply a systemic fungicide to the soil according to label directions to dispel the threat of lingering fungi in the soil. (McNaught Syndicate).

Aporocactus flagelliformis (rat tail) rooting made easy.

How many of you have had to wait an interminable time for a cutting of 'rat tail' to root when put in moist sand? This is the method I always used. Quite by accident I discovered that it will root in a few weeks if placed in shallow water. I had a cutting given to me and temporarily put it in a small bottle of water with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water. The 'temporary' lasted for 3 weeks when I remembered and was going to put it in the greenhouse in sand. To my amazement it had many roots and so was potted in soil instead of sand. (From CACTUS CHATTER, Oregon Cactus Society, June 1975).

A Cactiphilic Pilgrimage, cont'd:

availabe)nothing could be farther from the truth. I have made about six pilgrimages from San Diego to Lucerne Valley and I have always come away very pleased with my gleanings. I cannot speak for anyone but myself but a trip to Tegelberg's is a must for all serious cactus and succulent plant enthusiasts.

G. Rollerson
CSIE, Jan. 1975

The essentials for repotting are a supply of clean pots in assorted sizes, according to your needs, and fresh potting soil, as discussed previously. You will also need drainage material -- pea gravel, broken clay pot pieces, coarse organic matter or charcoal bits, or a combination of some of these. Many plants which have developed satisfactorily over the past year or two will need a larger size pot than they are now in. If it is possible repot first those which are largest into new pots, then it may be possible to wash the first pots emptied and use them for a group of smaller plants, and so on down the line to the smallest. This will not work out exactly, of course, but it will minimize the quantity of new pots required. I like to soak all dirty pots for several hours in hot water to which 1 or 2 tablespoons of chlorine bleach have been added per gallon.

The actual repotting operation needs care, particularly with large plants, to avoid damaging leaves of succulents or breaking cactus spines. Sometimes the stem of a plant just at or below soil level can be grasped, then the pot inverted and the edge tapped firmly to knock out the ball of roots and soil; or the pot may be laid on its side and a stick pushed through a drainage hole to lever the plant out; or flexible plastic pots can be squeezed gently to loosen the soil; or an old kitchen plastic fork (excellent versatile tool) can be inserted between plant and pot and pushed into the root ball, and the plant lifted out. Try to suit the method to the situation, and keep alternatives in mind! Kitchen tongs, a folded newspaper or towel, or leather gloves are methods of handling a spiny plant. Once out, the old soil and root ball can be worked on with the fingers or that kitchen fork to remove as much old soil as reasonably possible. (This is quite unnecessary if the soil is still good, but the plants need a larger pot, in which cases disturb the root balls as little as possible. Dead roots and excessive fibrous roots are best trimmed away with a pair of scissors -- new roots will soon form, and it will be easier to replace fresh soil around the remaining roots. Bits of white indicate root mealties -- treat with insecticide dust or granules sprinkled on the roots and mixed into the discarded soil (as well as fresh). Dust cut and broken roots with a little fungicide powder, sulphur or powdered charcoal.

You are now ready to position your plant at a suitable level in a clean pot which you have prepared with a layer of drainage material and then some fresh soil. The soil can be mounded up in the center and the roots spread over the mound so that the plant rests firmly at the desired height. This may take several false tries even for the experienced! When satisfied, fill in fresh soil over and around the roots, tapping to settle it down rather than tamping or pressing, and be careful to avoid air spaces where the soil does not settle in properly -- much easier if your soil is not too damp. You will not water the plant for a few days until cut and broken roots heal, and until fresh minute hairroots have time to develop to absorb the moisture. Use care in watering until the plant is re-established and actively growing, but use common sense too if the weather is very hot and dry -- often misting with a sprayer several times a day helps, until you feel it is safe to water. Did you replace the label? Or make a new one if it was getting faded?

THE JOHNSON'S HIDEWAY IN
ESCONDIDO

(Mrs.) Audrey Johnson

Having recently been accused (jokingly, I hope) of hibernating out here in Escondido, I felt that I just had to rise to the challenge and try to prove the untruth of this accusation!

In point of fact, we have been so busy this summer that my reporting about our activities have had to put on one side for awhile. Two batches of out-of-town visitors, from Ohio and Canada, swallowed up large (but pleasant, of course) chunks of our summer, and, inbetween visits, we spent a great deal of time fighting desperately against the rezoning of our valley to the detested "Urban" designation. Residents of our beautiful valley responded overwhelmingly with: "No Way!" In my travels about the area to gather signatures for a petition against the proposed rezoning, not one single family refused to sign. To cut a long story short, we made our point and eventually were informed that the recommendation would be changed to "Rural Residential", which suits us very well.

Meanwhile, the weird winter, spring and summer conditions of this past year have played havoc with our various gardens. Snails and many other unidentified insects, which I had never seen before, appear to have thrived in this unusual weather and they all went energetically to work on my plants; even some of the succulents fell victim to these pests. As for gophers, they have had a field day and succeeded in destroying no less than ten of our new rosebushes. On one weekend trip alone, we returned to find three of the most abundantly blooming ones lying on the ground. This finally prompted us, rather late, unfortunately, to protect plants in the future by a wire cage. This should help, we feel - at least we hope so.

Perhaps more than anything else this summer, the hardiness of our Club's particular favorites - cacti and succulents - left a lasting impression. Despite a very cold wet winter and the particularly hot dry spells we have experienced here in Escondido this summer, they have all grown and flourished amazingly on the hillside behind our home. After the rains to be expected this coming winter, our cacti and succulent areas should really be something to see. But then, with plants from the San Diego and Palomar Cactus and Succulent Societies, Torrey Pines, Ruth Stanton's Carlsbad garden as well as from many other friends, how can we go wrong?

Yes, we should have our own Johnson Cacti and Succulent Gardens to show off to all of you by next summer, when Geoff will have completed his two winding stairways leading to the upper area. Nevertheless, bring your rock climbing shoes when you come as there are large parts consisting of very hard slippery rocks to be covered by the visitor. Geoff and I can vouch for these facts, having had a number of opportunities to test the hardness of these rocks and their treacherous slickness.

CEREUS-LY SPEAKING

Regalement Committee - Outstanding as always: Jean and Leta Hapeman with the help of Lucille Beckfield, Evelyn Chatham, Maria Fisher, Herb Hewitt, Ione Hubner, Verna Pasek and Walter Scott.

Library will be closed at the December meeting.

Ruth Stanton offers her apologies with regards to the seed packages labeled Agrostemma coronaria placed on the plant table at the last meeting. All seed packages contained seeds from Hibiscus trionum. Ruth asks that all concerned parties please correct their labels.

Your Nominating Committee has come up with two names to replace retiring board members Ione Hubner and Oliver Loyland. Shirley Berry and Tom Hamecher agreed to serve a three-year stretch on the Board of Directors. Both are newer members and, more importantly, have taken an active part in our club's affairs. Tom and Marcia Hamecher, as you may well remember, chaired and worked very hard on the last Del Mar Fair exhibit - a job not relished by many. Shirley has some refreshingly new and incentive ideas. Here is one of them:

A Bulletin Board will be set up at each meeting which members may use to post cards containing information pertaining to items related to our hobby. This will include buying, selling and trading. The Bulletin Board will be available from one half hour before start of regular meeting until one half hour after closure. At that time, all cards will be removed to be posted before the next meeting. This type of communication might well start some lasting friendships among members. Shirley Berry and assistant Jeanne Hoffman have kindly offered to take charge of this service. We are certainly grateful to them.

Thanks to George Kennerson for a very interesting slide program describing his collecting trip to Mexico. Everyone was fascinated by the trials and tribulations of a collector. The surprise of the day, however, was when George donated the twelve beautiful specimen plants, collected in Mexico and used in his demonstrations, to be raffled off. The lucky winners in order chosen were: Jean Hapeman, Joan Kleinhaus, Martin Mooney, Reed Pierce, Vee Seigert, David Bush, John Ranske, Geoff Johnson, Alberta Widden, Joan Stanton, Lee Phelps and Walter Falk.

And more apologies, this time by your editor, to Mary Birchell and Thelma O'Reilly for not thanking them previously for their excellent September program on Bromeliads, enjoyed by all. And this reminds me: While presenting the program, Thelma held up a booklet "Cacti and Succulents", by William C. Mulligan, published by Grosset Good Life Books, \$ 1.95, which she had purchased while visiting San Francisco but did not know where to obtain it in San Diego. By chance, I ran across this booklet at Hunter's Books in La Jolla where it may be purchased.

From Bill Nelson this: Lauron Lovelace, after his terrible experience seeing his home destroyed by fire just after returning from the hospital, is doing well and at the present time resides at 1350 Euclid Ave. S.D., Room 215.

Cont'd on last page.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Officers

PRESIDENT - Martin L. MOONEY, 97 K Street, Chula Vista, CA 92011	427-6796
1ST V.P. - Nibby KLINEFELTER, 2201 Fairfield Street, San Diego, CA 92110	276-6517
2ND V.P. - Reed PIERCE, 3525 Wilshire Terrace, San Diego, CA 92104	291-1994
SECRETARY - Doris F. RAKE, 4410 38th Street, San Diego, CA 92116	282-1722
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PAST PRES - Loyal J. BIBBEY, 490 Citrus Ave., Imperial Beach, CA 92032	423-5133

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1-year term: Ione HUBNER and Oliver K. LOYLAND
2-year term: H. Warren BUCKNER and August PFEIFFER
3-year term: Mary H. BIRCHELL and Perlso LEWIS

COMMITTEES FOR 1975

ACTIVITIES -- Perlso LEWIS
EDUCATION -- Madelyn LEE, Succulents, Dr. George E. RADWIN, Cactus
EXHIBITS -- Thomas and Marcia Hamecher
LIBRARY -- Edith WERNER, Pat MOONEY, Helen HEGYI and Mike JOHNSON
MEMBERSHIP -- Madelyn LEE
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PROGRAMS -- Nibby KLINEFELTER
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Rep. to S.D. Floral Association -- Verna Pasek

SPECIAL NEWS: The Editor of the "Chronicle" and President of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society directs our attention towards a recent report from the Department of Interior on "Threatened or Endangered Fauna or Flora", dated July 1, 1975. It lists some 82 cacti and many other succulents from the continental US. and Hawaii that are either extinct, endangered or threatened. He continues to say that he has carefully studied and evaluated this report and feels that in order to save many of these plants, letters in support should be written. Here is the address: Dr. Edward S. Ayensu, Department of Botany Chairman, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., 20560. Subject: Report 94-51.

Cereus-ly Speaking, Cont'd:

Mammillaria tayloriorum is a new species from San Pedro Nolasco Island (about 8 miles off the Sonoran coast in the Gulf of California), discovered by C. Glass and R. Foster in 1970 who decided to name this new species after our mutual friends: Bob and Suzanne Taylor. Congratulations!

Ed Miller sends word that any member interested in obtaining worm castings please contact him (264-8552) for further information. Ed says he has used this potting material as part of his soil mix for the past couple of months and it works very well for him.

Among the bragging plants - some very lovely ones, indeed - top honors went to Mammillaria tetraacantha and proud owners, the Anders family. Bob says, the plant is really Mildred's.

Reed Pierce likes to express his appreciation on behalf of the entire club to the following people for donating plants to the sales table: Tom Hamecher, Mad Lee, Martin Mooney and Ruth Stanton. Plants to be offered at the next meeting will include Agave victoria regina and, specially priced, Beaucarnea recurvus.

Augie Pfeiffer
5163 E. Bedford Dr.
San Diego, Calif. 92116

Address correction requested.

FIRST CLASS