

August 1999

# Roadrunner News

Newsletter of the Long Beach Cactus Club

Founded 1933; Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

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## A VIEW OF SOQOTRA

**PROGRAM:** GARY JAMES will present a slide lecture on his recent trip to Soqotra (Gary's preferred spelling) in the company of expedition leader Bruno Mies of the University of Dusseldorf, John Lavranos and others. Soqotra is an island about 70 miles long by 35 miles wide lying in the Arabian Sea east of the horn of Africa. It is part of Yemen which occupies the southwestern part of the Arabian peninsula. Gary and his friends had to spend five days in Yemen's capital obtaining all the proper permits. Then it was off to three weeks on the island where such botanical treasures as twenty-five foot *Dorstenia gigas* and huge *Adenium socotranum* may be found. In addition, there are many species of *Euphorbia*, frankincense and myrrh. The group is preparing an upcoming article for the CSSA Journal on the classification of the six species of frankincense (*Boswellia*) that grow on the island.

Gary is an LBCC member who has entertained us many times with lectures on his trips to such places as Madagascar and Namibia. Since retiring six years ago from his post as Dean of Math and Science at Orange Coast College, he has spent much of his time traveling to collect seeds and propagate rare plants to reduce the pressure collectors have on wild populations. Join us for a rare look at a unique habitat in the company of an expert.

**LOCATION:** Dominguez Adobe, 18127 South Alameda Street, Compton, CA 90221. Take the 91 Redondo Beach/ Artesia Freeway and exit south on Alameda. Signs for the Adobe are posted on the freeway and on Alameda. Coming from the freeway, the entrance to the Adobe is on the right or west side of Alameda. We will meet in the cafeteria in the northeast of the big building next to the garden.

**TIME:** Sunday, August 22, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. Our use of the cafeteria is limited to the hours 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Because of this constraint we will follow this schedule: 1:30 to 2:00 -- setup and refreshments, 2:00 to 4:00 -- general meeting and program, 4:00 to 4:30 -- cleanup.

**PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH:**

**Cactus:** *Uebelmannia*

**Succulent:** *Senecio, Hoya, Ceropegia*

**REFRESHMENTS:** We will follow the alphabet to determine who is to bring the snacks and finger foods. This month, those with last names starting with the letters **N through S** are asked to bring the goodies. Please feel free to bring something even if you don't fall into this group.

**DOOR PRIZES, BIRTHDAY PLANTS & PLANT SALES:** Free plant for first time visitors.

**PLANT RAFFLE:** Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Members are asked to donate any plants they would like to pass along that they think others would like to buy. Previous months' raffles have been big successes with several dozen plants available. Included last month were excellent specimens of *Agave victoria regina*, *Aeonium*, *Bilbergia*, a *Dyckia fosteriana* hybrid, *Echeveria*, *Euphorbia royaleana*, *Euphorbia trigona*, *Melocactus griseoleoviridis*, *Notocactus magnificus* and others, including cuttings from our garden.