

LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB

CACTUS COMPANION

JUNE 1988 NEWSLETTER

MEETING THIS SUNDAY: JUNE 26, 1:00 P.M.

AN OPEN FORUM - Bring all your questions!

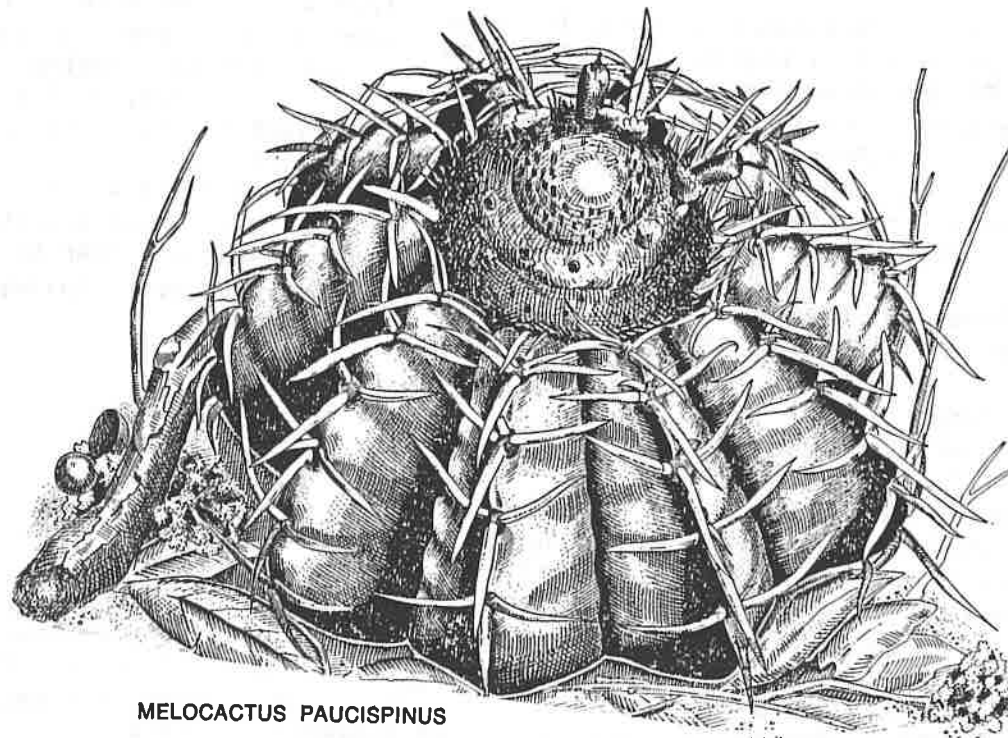
PLANTS OF THE MONTH:

Cacti - Discocactus & Melocactus

Other Succulents - the Apocynaceae
(Adenium, Pachypodium, & Plumeria)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Conservation matters to think about...Bob Kent's funny but serious article from Espinas y Flores on how to show plants using Machiavelli's philosophy...News of and for members... About the names our plants have...Calendar...Marge Snyder's PHOTOS OF OUR ANNIVERSARY PARTY...And who knows what else!?! At this point, not even the editor knows.....



MELOCACTUS PAUCISPINUS

c. Walters

THE LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB will miss one of its longtime members

ARLOINE (ARLIE) WRIGHT

wife of well-known grower and hybridizer Clarence Wright; and mother of Dick Wright, their son who carries on the work of growing and propagating succulents. Mrs. Wright was one of our honorary members, and cared about the Club through the years. In fact just before her death, your editor received another thoughtful note from her about a friend interested in cacti and succulents, who might want to visit our Club. Ted, who knew Arloine Wright over the years, says she was a great lady. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

She will be missed.

1988 OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President: Rowena Thompson (213) 835-0393
Vice Pres. - Kathi Reyes (213) 591-7330
Secretary - Terry Goewert (714) 962-3839
Treasurer - Jim Hanna (213) 920-3046

Affiliate Rep. - Lillian True (714) 837-4494
Bragging Table - Bill Hagblom (714) 538-6186
Birthday Plants- Rose Wey (213) 869-8024
Garden Curator - Ted Taylor (213) 569-3368
Librarian - Darryl Tucker(213) 421-8175
Programs - Audrey Tucker " " "
Refreshments - Kathi Reyes (213) 591-7330
Show Chairman - Larry Grammer(213) 599-0856
Sunshine - Laverne Pitzer(213) 429-3271

To the above and those chairpersons we don't have room to list, THANK YOU!

Dues: Regular membership is \$8, senior membership is \$5, and each same home membership is \$1.50. Please contact your membership chairmen: Marge Snyder 199009-308 Laurel Park Rd., Dominguez Hills, CA 90220, or Terry Dew, 5328 Carita, Long Beach CA 90808.

* * * * *

Newsletter: Carol Wujcik (714) 963-3146, 10860 El Mar Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708.

COVER CREDITS: The Pachy flowers are from the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, Nov. 1977, which is now merged into the BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL, from which the Melocactus drawing is taken - V.4, #3, Sept. 1986. The artist is Carla Wolters about whom the Journal writes "Constantly experimenting with her technique, she produces pencil and ink drawings, aquarelles and gouache paintings. Her work has been featured in many cactus journals and the plant catalogues of the Hovens nursery. She has a permanent exhibition of her work displayed at the nursery. A limited number of prints of her drawings are made available to collectors. For further particulars write to her at Dorpsstraat 36, NL 6082 AP Buggenum, Holland."

LOCATION: The Iacoboni Library on Clark in Lakewood - opposite the Lakewood Mall - lots of parking. Enter the Community Room at the rear of the Library.

JUNE MEETING

SUNDAY JUNE 26
1:00 PM

FEATURING: AN OPEN FORUM

Program Chairperson AUDREY TUCKER will field all those questions about our plants you may have but do not fear to ask! Be fearless! With luck, SOMEONE IN THE GROUP WILL KNOW THE ANSWER! Or at least will give it a try. If you're hesitant to speak in groups, or if you have so many questions you know you'll forget one or two, write them down on individual pieces of paper and give them to Audrey before the meeting. Bring plants you have questions about with you....even ones blighted with something! Just keep them quarantined!

PLANTS OF THE MONTH: CACTUS - Discocactus & Melocactus
OTHER SUCCULENT - the Apocynaceae (Adenium, Pachypodium, & Plumeria!)
Handouts on these available at the meeting.

REFRESHMENTS: Whoever you are, please remember to assist Kathi!
THANK YOU!

BRAGGING TABLE: Bring all the plants you can to share!

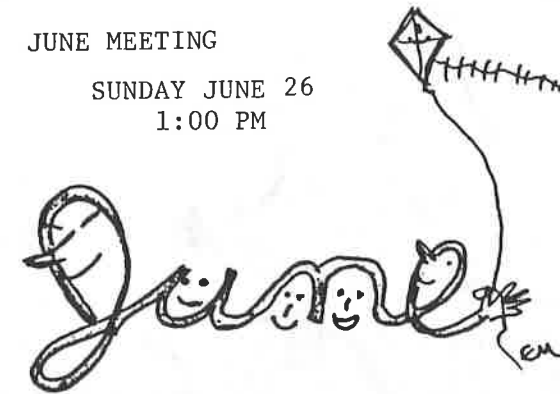
PLANTS FOR SALE: Yes! BIRTHDAY PLANTS: Yes! DOOR PRIZE & END-OF-MEETING PRIZES; Yes!

INTER-CITY SHOW: If you can be an alternate clerk, let Larry know.
NEEDED: 2 Easels (easils?) (easals?????) for the Show. More show info.to come.



HANDOUTS AT THE MEETING: There will be several plant of the month handouts for Discocactus, Melocactus, and the Apocynaceae. There will also be flyers for upcoming shows; there will be show schedules; there will be Membership Books for new members; there will be a reprint from the British C & S Journal via the Sacramento Society on a CITES change as well as the addition of Astrophytum asterias to Appendix I. THERE WILL BE ALL KINDS OF THINGS TO LEARN AT THE MEETING AS WELL AS THESE HANDOUTS SO HOW CAN YOU STAY AWAY!

CREDIT: "June" drawing is by the talented Elibet Marshall for ESPINAS Y FLORES, June, 1988, Mary Aubuchon, Editor.





NEWS OF AND FOR AND ABOUT LBCC

ROADRUNNERS

TOO MANY BOOKS???? The Long Beach Cactus Club needs donations of your used books (any subject) to use to pay its rent, or part of its rent, at the Iacoboni Library, which is where we meet. So if you're overwhelmed by books you no longer need, recycle them by donating them to the LBCC!

THANK YOU TO ED HENNESSEY! Ted went last Tuesday to the Dominguez Adobe to check on our Clarence Wright Memorial Garden. Though often his vigil and labors are lonely ones, this time Ted was delighted to find one of our Guardians of the Garden, Ed Hennessey, hard at work. We welcome Ed back from his travels and thank him for his dedication and hard work.

WE ALSO WELCOME BACK WALDIE ABERCROMBIE, who was recently hospitalized with a hernia. There was surgery, and Waldie is recovering strongly. We look forward to seeing him soon.

THANK YOU ALSO TO DICK WRIGHT, who has given the Club more Echeverias for the Memorial Garden at the Adobe. Bill Hagblom has been caring for these until the Garden is ready for them to be planted.

The following humorous look at competitive showing by Bob Kent in the May 1988 ESPINAS Y FLORES of San Diego also makes some serious points about readying your plants for a show. But serious advice does not have to be given in a serious way. So we give you Bob's recreation of Machiavellian cactus show philosophy.

Note: Machiavelli - Renaissance Italian political philosopher whose principles of conduct are remembered rightly or wrongly for cunning, duplicity or bad faith. (+ or - Webster's)

And now for Bob's column...



Killing Cactus and Other Succulents

How to Knock 'em Dead at the Cactus Show: Abstract of Niccolo Machiavelli's The Cactus Grower

The Cactus and Succulent Show is only a month away. The expert advice found in this abstract may be of only limited help to you this year, but it is not too soon to start your preparations for other shows. Winning a plant award is not a casual thing. It requires devoted and determined care and work. It is serious business.

1. The first step is adopting the correct attitude of mind. Do not plan on having fun. Prize winning is an end in itself, and in plant shows as well as athletic contests winning is everything. This is a campaign, not a hobby, on which you are embarking.

2. Next, you must acquire plants. Never add a plant to your collection just because you like it. Look for lists of recommended plants. Research the type of plants that have won in previous shows, and, to lend a scientific bent to your endeavors, look for the plants that make people say "ooh" and "ah." Choice are cactus that have strong or unusual spination or heavy wool. Among succulents favorites are plants with striking caudexes, pleasing leaf or stem patterns, or attractive colors. Consider yourself several steps ahead if you can find plants that have grown to a size that in itself is to be admired.

3. Keep your plants modest in number. Do not acquire more than you can give close, daily attention to if each one is to be a prize winner. Do not go too deeply into any one genus but stick to the most attractive of any one group. You must diversify your collection, not only to be able to meet all kinds of competition but also not to have to compete with yourself by entering many plants in one grouping.

4. As you select plants, keep in mind that, some opinions to the contrary, the best grower is still Mother Nature. Her endeavors are particularly important if you do not feel that you have the time to wait fifty to one hundred years for a certain cauduciform or slow growing cactus. Also keep in mind that the legal impediments to field collecting are such that even the Creator could not get his products across state and national lines. Nonetheless from time to time, certain plants will appear, perhaps from disbanded collections(?); and notable specimens may be acquired.

5. If your pocketbook or principles (misguided, some would say) does not encourage the acquisition of collected plants, then you must haunt the nurseries. Do not purchase the first plant you see. In every seed batch, there will be a few plants that are stronger and more attractive than the others, and these are the plants you must find. Obviously the best

source is the original grower, but if this course is closed to you, you must find a retailer who has been able to skim off the cream for his own nursery. An alternative, of course, is to grow plants from seed yourself, but time given to propagation is time away from preparation for competition. Do not, by the way, acquire a show plant from a dealer immediately prior to the competition. It is against the rules, but, more important, someone may tell, and one of our rules is never get caught.

6. If you are going to show plants, some time must necessarily be spent on their cultivation. The usual twaddle prevails: good drainage and ventilation, neither too much nor too little water and fertilizer, and (often overlooked by neophytes) all the light the plant will tolerate without showing stress or burning. You should have a greenhouse for plants which scar easily or need protection from local winters and a more open or entirely open area for plants which grow as nature intended. Some white-spined mammillarias, for example, could even be grown in the ground and potted just before the competition. Pest control is an important part of cultivation. Timely applications of banrot, cygon, sevin, diazinon, kelthane, snail bait, and a rodent control of your choice will provide your plants a modest degree of protection if they do not kill them, or you. There is some risk that your neighbors may charge you with operating a toxic waste dump. With discretion this may be turned to advantage, however, by quietly informing your competitors' neighbors of their pest control practices.

7. As the show grows close, pots, clean top dressing, cleanliness of plants, the proportions of the plant to the pot, and the positioning of the plant within the pot all take on great importance. Pots can be a most difficult problem. Some judges state that they do not consider pots in their judging, but such consideration is often ordained in their formal instructions, and you may rest assured that pots become crucial when the quality of plants is equal. Keep in mind that plastic pots are declassé; terra cotta pots are gauche; but used oil cans are suitable if it can be whispered in the judges' ears beforehand that they represent nouveaux arts. The best, however, are artfully done ceramic pots, the more expensive, the better. And pots must be clean, never with any indication that they have spent time in the dirt of a plant house or collected salts from the liquids which have been administered them. A sharp knife edge, an electric sander, vinegar (for its acidity), and a great deal of perspiration will remove most of the scum (a spouse and a whip are also helpful). If your pots are terra cotta, an application of mineral oil rubbed into the pot and then rubbed off will give the pot some luster for a day or two. Much of this work may be avoided by slipping the plant into a new pot just before the show, but this runs the occasional risk of having a loose plant in the pot or upsetting the desired proportions of the plant to the pot.



8. While your plants are growing to competitive size and beauty, leave nothing to chance. Study the judges. There are not a large number of people whom clubs are willing to use as judges, and as a result they come around often. Keep a record of them: learn what plants they grow at home and whether they have a habit of choosing a particular kind of plant as the best. Judges may endeavor to be fair, but the pressures of time may prevent an intelligent and informed decision while some judges may lack both the capacity and inclination to make that kind of decision. Know who they are. Do not attempt to bribe judges or to keep one or more on retainer; it is too expensive and eats up the money needed to buy pots.

9. When the moment comes to place your plants on the judging table, be at your competitive best. Do not bring plants in wet soil and leave at home the weeds and bugs which usually grace your prizes. Have the plant correctly named, if that is possible in a day when a rite of passage for any new taxonomist is to discredit the work of all who preceded him. Arrive at the hall late in the day so that you can help arrange your and other plants in their categories, casually placing your plants toward the front where they may be best seen. Also examine the plants of the competition, slowly turning them so that any flaws in the pots or plants are toward the front. Competitor pots are appropriate depositories for the cob webs which you have brushed off your own plants. Cigarette stubs in the top dressing, however, is in bad taste (and too noticeable). Placing insects in competitor plants is also not recommended, since their mobility usually cannot be controlled. Dead insects, however, are a possibility, and a properly trained snail with a proven slime-track record can leave the opposition in complete disorder.

11. If none of the above works for you, all that is left is to be lucky. At a good show, there are many good plants, and at times the difference between winning and losing is only a mental or physical flip of the coin.

- translated by Bob "sour-grapes" Kent
from the recently discovered latin text

Now we know what to do with them!

"Some of the cacti you brought over for Chelsea are, I am sorry to say, no longer alive, but as they are just as effective in their dead condition as they were when they were living, and nobody can tell the difference, we have planted a number of them in the background of the planted out portion, where they exactly match many of the specimens painted in the picture."

From a letter written by Sir Arthur Hill
to Mrs Sherman Hoyt in 1932.

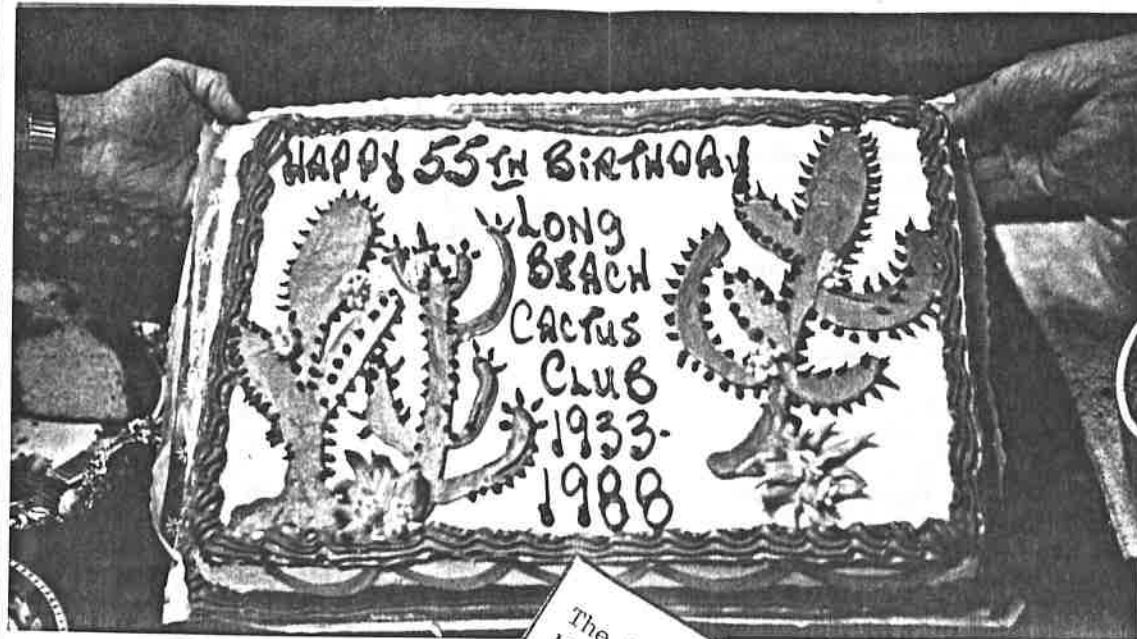
← from the BRITISH
CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOUR-
NAL, December 1987.



Welcome
NEW Members

INTER-CITY SHOW UPDATE: We are several months away from OUR BIG SHOW! How are we progressing? How can you help? Do we have any artists in our group? Can you be an alternate clerk during judging on Fri. nite (means staying late), Do you have an idea as to how to make our show EVEN BETTER? Can you assist with membership? (See Marge & Terry). Do you have sales plants to donate? A calculator? Can you help with sales? (See Jim & Bill). Can you be a host or hostess, keep watch on the plants, answer questions? (See Roberta or Camille). Can you help with Publicity (See Laverne). Are you readying your plants? WE WANT TO MAKE THIS THE SHOW OF SHOWS!!!

The minutes of the show meeting in Feb. will be available to pick up at our June mtg. Also, HOW MANY PEOPLE SIGNED UP FOR THE INTER-CITY T SHIRT? HOW MANY



Long Beach Cactus Club 55 Years Old!

CELEBRATION! The LBCC celebrated its 55th Birthday this March, and Marge Snyder kindly took photos and donated them to the Club. The LBCC is one of the oldest Cactus Clubs in the U.S., and is stronger than ever. More than a club, it's like a family of cactophiles. Thanks again to Marge for these photos.



Clara Halpern & Lillian True



Patriarch Ted Taylor



Bill Low, Sage Low & Bill Hagblom

INTER-CITY SHOW continued:

OTHERS WOULD LIKE THEM? The three handsome roadrunners to the left are modeling them! Also, at the June meeting there'll be a sample of Woody's hand-done posters, created without dates so that they can be used over the years. Those who have seen these want their own copy as poster art, so there'll be at least one at the meeting to see if there's other demand -- at this point Woody may not even know of their popularity!

CONSERVATION MATTERS: If you are interested in the fate of the East Mojave (where the LBCC went on its April field trip), then you should make 2 phone calls: ① CALL JOHN BAILEY AT THE NEEDLES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) OFFICE TO REQUEST YOUR COPY OF THE FINAL EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. PUBLIC COMMENT IS DUE BY AUG. 1. Call (619) 326-3896. ② CALL SENATOR CRANSTON'S OFFICE (213) 215-2186 for information about his Senate bill - an alternate plan for this region. More info. at meeting - but call now for your copies of these plans.

ABOUT

THE NAMING OF OUR PLANTS: NOMENCLATURE

THE LUMPERS VERSUS THE SPLITTERS: As most of you know, in the world of taxonomy (figuring out which plant is related to which and therefore what name it should have) the lumpers are ascendant, while the splitters are definitely "out." And what of fence-sitters and helpless hobbyists? The former, no matter how rational, may risk the charge of "wimpydom," while the latter must try to keep calm and not lose their cool while attempting to update labels and write out show entry tags.

BUT HELP FOR THE HOBBYIST IS AT HAND! John Pilbeam's new book, CACTI FOR THE CONNOISSEUR, discusses and reviews all the name revisions for the Cactaceae to date. He includes the why's and wherefore's, not to mention the spellings! Although he only discusses in detail a few species for each genus, he lists all accepted and synonymous species names - which means he spells them! This will be a tremendous help when filling out those entry tags.

Hobbyists don't have to use the new taxonomic changes - they can continue to use commonly used synonyms at shows. For example, Ferocactus acanthodes is now Ferocactus cylindraceus according to Taylor. However it may be awhile before we see this latest (but "older") name become commonly used at shows. Still, if you have time, putting both names on the show tag might be educational, ie. FEROCACTUS ACANTHODES (FEROCACTUS CYLINDRACEUS).

While Pilbeam includes the latest taxonomic thought (lumping) the most used reference for cacti is the epitome of splitting - namely THE CACTUS LEXICON by Backeberg. Both books - Pilbeam's & Backeberg's - should be in our library, or can be purchased at Rainbow Gardens.

Two quotes about the genus Borzicactus from these two references are interesting. First, Pilbeam's comment:

"The admirably cogent, painstaking revision of Borzicactus by Kimnach is compulsory and compulsive reading for anyone interested in the taxonomy of cacti. It must also be read by anyone who doubts the wisdom of his combining in Borzicactus the several genera which fall into synonymy and, perhaps more importantly, his exclusion of other members of the subtribe Borzicactinae, ie. Denmoza, Cleistocactus, and Oroya. The main obstacle to acceptance of the amalgamation in collectors' minds is, I think, the diversity of form of species in such genera as Matucana, and, say, Bolivocereus. But no such doubts, to quote Kimnach's parallels, are felt about comparable species in Mammillaria or Echinocereus, for instance."

Pilbeam goes on to explain that the "lumping" was based on the flowers of the plants -- not body shape. Some of the genera included in this revision of Borzicactus are Arequipa, Bolivocereus, Hildewintera, Loxanthocereus, Matucana, Morawetzia, Oreocereus, Seticereus, and Submatucana.

Backeberg's work (the splitter's bible) had the following to say about the above "lumping" of genera into Borzicactus:

"Quite apart from newer finds of Peruvian species of Loxanthocereus" which he (Kinnach) included, any study of the strongly differentiated characters of the genera he proposes uniting makes it clear that this is a needless reversion to outdated large genera."

Backeberg, however, is the one who is outdated today. Current thought, as Bob Causey would say!, now includes even Denmoza, Cleistocactus, and Oroya in the genus, because of new information. And because Cleistocactus is the older name, all these plants plus Borzicactus will become Cleistocactus.

Confused? You are not alone. What's more, nothing is written in concrete. New information, new interpretations, individual decisions as to the boundaries of species and genus, will mean new name changes in the future for us all to look forward to. Think of it this way, your labels in your pots need to be redone every several years anyway. This is just one more reason to get to it -- after buying the current books from Rainbow or checking them out of our library!

However, not to worry! At our show (and most others as well) the most often used botanical names (not always the latest) are almost always acceptable. If in doubt just check with the show committee or a knowledgeable grower. Be sure though that whatever name you use is spelled correctly.

GOOD GROWING, HAPPY LABELING, AND SUCCESSFUL SHOWING TO YOU ALL!



NOMENCLATURE: Process of naming. An international system of standardized Latin names used...for kinds and groups of animals and plants.

- More or Less Webster

NOMENCLATURE: "Name & Clutter"

- Landscaper Jack Catlin

NOMENCLATOPHOBIA: Condition characterized by fear of the sudden metamorphosis of cactus names.

- C.A.W.

The NOMENCLATURAL: State of ecstasy achieved by cactus taxonomists who have just published multisyllabic, unspellable, and unpronounceable botanical names -- or who have just revised the whole of Backeberg -- or both.

- C.A.W.

Carol Anne Nijcik

Apologies to DeMartin's "Mr. Boffo"

MINE: Environmentalists Attack Cyanide Plan

Continued from Page 3

"There are a lot of questions that need to be resolved," said Bureau of Mines spokesman Glenn Palmer.

Robert Stebbins, emeritus professor of zoology at UC Berkeley and an active opponent of heap-leach mining, agreed.

"I feel almost sick at heart that this is happening," said Stebbins. "My deeply felt view, just from knowing what is out there in the way of wildlife and how strongly that wildlife is drawn to water—from puddles to moist soil—is that it will have a strong impact."

Independent Study Begins

The Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of Laurel, Md., responding to reports of migrating birds and mammals turning up dead at heap-leach mines in California and Nevada, this month launched the first independent study of the effects of cyanide on migrating waterfowl.

Despite the controversy swirling around heap-leach mining, Fitzpatrick said his company has already invested \$13 million in mining claims, exploratory drilling and other start-up procedures and has no intention of walking away from the project.

Fitzpatrick said his mine will use all known methods of preventing harm to wildlife. For example, air cannons, strings of multicolored flags and floating covers will be installed at the mine's cyanide ponds to ward off thirsty birds and animals. The area will also be guarded by fences sunk deep into the earth to prevent intrusion by burrowing animals.

He said that once the gold source has been depleted, the company will clean up the area and replant natural vegetation wherever possible.

Environmentalists are not convinced that the procedures will

work. In fact, Bureau of Mines spokesman Palmer said, precautionary measures such as colored flags and air cannons often fail.

"Ducks get bored with most attempts to scare them away," Palmer said. "Once they realize there is no buckshot behind those cannons they realize there is no reason to be scared." As for the colored flags, he said, "If there is a real need, the birds will land."

Of particular concern to environmentalists is the threat to Piute Springs, a year-round stream gushing out of volcanic mountains about 12 miles southeast of the proposed Viceroy Mine. The stream is a haven for wildlife ranging from bighorn sheep to endangered birds such as Bell's vireo and Bendire's thrasher.

A U.S. Geological Survey report filed in 1983 said the outflow at Piute Springs roughly equals the amount of water stored each year in the underground aquifer of Lanfair Valley, Viceroy Mine's main source of water.

Environmentalists point to that study as reason to fear that the mining operation, which intends to draw about 1,100 acre-feet of water from the aquifer each year, could sap the spring.

"There is insufficient recharge anywhere else in the area to provide water for Piute Springs," said Robert Curry, a professor of environmental geology at UC Santa Cruz, who has joined the fight against Viceroy.

"There is no acceptable amount of water that can be safely extracted because Piute Springs is marginal in dry years," added Curry, who based his assertions on the USGS study. "That spring could go dry."

But Fitzpatrick said hydrologists hired by his company dispute the USGS findings.

"The recharge to Lanfair Valley is a total of 3,000 acre-feet a year," Fitzpatrick said. "Of that our usage would be 700 to 1,140 acre-feet a year."

The issue may have to be resolved in the courts, said Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund attorney Deborah Reames. "Our goal is not to stop the mine, just to make certain it doesn't harm the wilderness area," Reames said.

As it stands, appeals filed by Reames and representatives of at least three other environmental groups figured in a recent Bureau of Land Management decision to withdraw an earlier approval of Viceroy's plan of operations and to conduct an environmental impact study of the project.

"I didn't expect this much controversy," said Ron Yakota, acting district manager of the BLM office in Riverside. "We are hoping it will quiet down, but I don't think it will."

Six weeks ago, the company submitted a new plan of operations that reduced the amount of water and land the mine would use.

Nonetheless, some opponents say the project cannot be mitigated.

"We say the natural and cultural resources far outweigh what this gold is worth," said Peter Burke, president of the Citizens for Mojave National Park. "If you believe that the mine will restore the land you believe in the Easter Bunny."

Burke's group supports Cranston's proposed California Desert Protection Act, which would set aside 1.5 million acres of desert lands east of Barstow as the nation's 50th national park. It would also preserve 4.5 million acres of

land now controlled by the BLM as wilderness and expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and turn them into national parks.

The bill is currently pending before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Viceroy officials and the mining industry in general oppose the protection bill, which would restrict certain operations and curtail deep exploratory drilling, said Chris Mitchell, Viceroy's vice president.

Beyond that, industry officials said the gold rush has created thousands of jobs in the southwestern United States and added millions of dollars to the gross national product.

"There are no easy choices," Mitchell said. "You can have mining cognizant of the environment, or you can have no mining and eventually you won't have an economy."

The following article was called to our attention by Larry Grammer, who is concerned about the fate of the plants and animals in the East Mojave Desert Scenic Area, which we visited on our first overnight field trip last April. Your editor regrets the tiny size of the copy which will require magnifying glasses for some. Or please see the LA TIMES, Monday May 23, 1988, Part I. Activist Cactus drawings are from an old RANGER RICK.

Environmentalists Attack Plans to Use Cyanide in Gold-Mining Operations

By LOUIS SAHAGUN, Times Staff Writer

CIMA, Calif.—Plans by a group of Canadian investors to use a controversial gold-mining technology at a site within the proposed Mojave National Park have come under attack by environmentalists, who claim that it will dry up a perennial spring and attract wildlife to ponds of cyanide-laced water.

Opponents, including the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and the Wilderness Society, see their battle against the Viceroy Gold Mine as the first stand in a larger war against cyanide heap-leach mining, which is proliferating across the West.

"We are using this issue to draw attention to a process that we think is destroying the desert," said Patricia Shifferle, regional director of the Wilderness Society of San Francisco. "When push comes to shove, wildlife loses out to these mines."

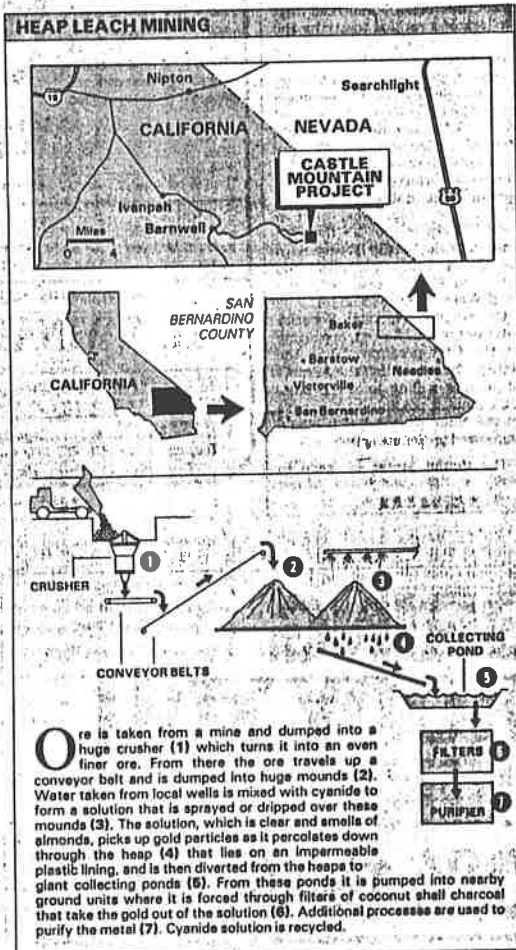
The method saturates heaps of ore dug from nearby strip mines with a weak cyanide solution, which extracts microscopic grains of gold. The solution, which is typically 0.1% cyanide, is then diverted from the heaps to collecting ponds. Additional processes are used to filter the gold from the solution.

'Great Deal of Homework'

Ross Fitzpatrick, president of Vancouver-based Viceroy Resource Corp., insisted that his project will be safe and will include safeguards to prevent wildlife such as migrating birds from trying to land on the mine's ponds of toxic cyanide solution.

"Our view from the beginning is that we have the objective of mitigating all environmental impacts we can," Fitzpatrick said. "We have done a great deal of homework, . . . and there is no reason from an environmental point of view why this mine cannot go through."

The mine would sit in the Castle Mountains—a row of jagged peaks and gray volcanic rock that rises above the eastern Mojave Desert about 100 miles south of Las Vegas. The barren range is part of the East Mojave National Scenic Area and is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. It is included in land designated for national park status in legislation sponsored by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) that



is now pending in Congress. Fitzpatrick estimated that the mine will take \$40 million worth of gold from 2.8 million tons of crushed ore each year. It will also gouge a hole in the mountains 2,200 feet across and 600 feet deep. Spurred by the rising price of gold and advances in cyanide heap-leach technology, Viceroy is

one of many mining companies that have been attracted to the Mojave Desert in recent years. Mining company officials said improved heap-leach techniques have enabled them to make a profit from claims considered "mined out" only 20 years ago. Bureau of Land Management officials call it a gold rush. In 1975,

there were no cyanide heap-leach mines in the Mojave Desert, officials said. Today there are five on public land alone—including the Mesquite Mine near Brawley, which takes \$60 million worth of gold a year—and permits are pending on six more. In Nevada, more than 60 such mines have sprung up in the last 10 years, officials said.

At nearly all of these mines, which are usually monitored by local regional water quality control boards and state safety and health officials, birds and small mammals have turned up dead near ore heaps and cyanide ponds, authorities said.

Typically, only a few dozen birds are found dead at a given mine each year. But in August, 1986, 900 birds including ducks, pelicans and great horned owls were killed at a gold mine's cyanide ponds near the central Nevada community of Gabba. That mine has since neutralized exposed cyanide and covered its ponds with nets, Nevada Mining Assn. officials said.

In response to the problem in Nevada, mining companies there have reached an agreement with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to take steps to eliminate wildlife mortality in and around heap leach operations. These steps include lowering cyanide concentrations in exposed ponds, covering ponds that carry lethal levels of the chemical, and implementing methods of scaring off animals, Nevada Mining Assn. officials said.

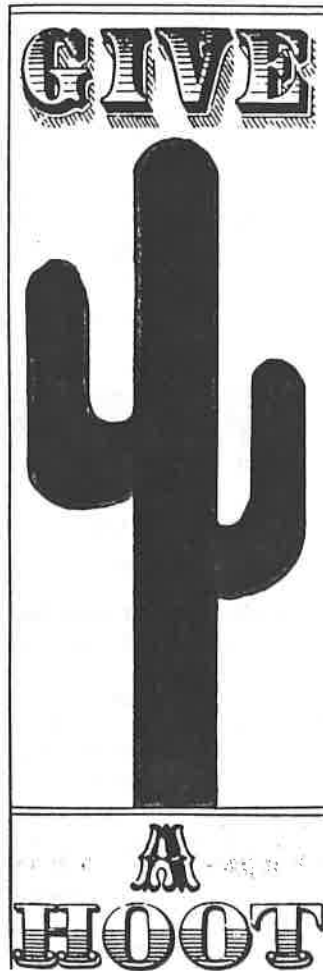
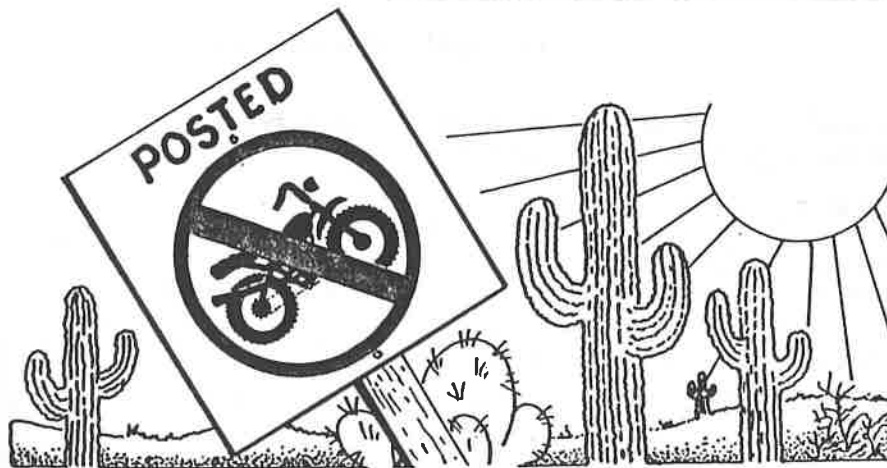
Two Accidental Spills

Separately, San Bernardino County health and safety officials said there have been two large accidental spills of cyanide solution in the last three months at a mine near Viceroy's claims called the Morning Star Mine. Reports of birds and animals killed by drinking or somehow absorbing lethal doses of cyanide at that mine are being investigated by the state Department of Fish and Game.

"I have yet to have it proved that cyanide has anything to do with these bird kills," said Fred DeVries, senior consultant to cyanide manufacturer E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. of Wilmington, Del. "I would want to be darn sure we know what is killing the animals before we take action."

Nonetheless, U.S. Bureau of Mines officials are concerned about a dearth of independent research on the effects of cyanide on wildlife.

Please see MINE, Page 6



WORDS FOR THE SUCCULENTOPHILE

Succulentophile & Cactophile (Lovers of Succulents & Cacti, respectively)

The following words don't exist, but should:

Cactoid, adjective - Like a cactus, or cactus-shaped, round & spiny
noun - something or someone like a cactus

Cactophitic (alt. Cactofitic) adjective - cactus-like, spiny, tough, maybe round or ceroid. The alternate spelling (cactofitic) suggests an emotional dimension...

Cactophitically yours, or
Cactofitically yours, used at end of cactoletter

Cactonut - Cactophile and then some. Cactomaniac.

Euphorbic, adj. - To feel the opposite of euphoric, to feel lousy, poisonous, latexy. (This word must be attributed to Mary Sheffler at HBG - she coined it while attempting to say euphoric. This is what happens when immersed too long in the plant world.)

Spurge, verb - To spurge means to blob out - spread - expand uncontrollably, in a seedy, tenacious, obnoxious, one-dimensional way. Generally negative. To spurge out is to blob out or expand. Etc.

Spurgyy, adj. - Having the characteristics of spurge. To feel spurgyy is to feel euphorbic and like a flattened blob at the same time. Etc.

SAMPLE: "I feel so euphorbic, I think I'll just go over to (ie. the library) and spurge awhile -- until they weed me out."

Actually, some or maybe all of the above words may exist with more conventional meanings. Does anyone know?

Can anyone add to our Cactotalk list? Does anyone know more Spinyspeak?

- Cactoid Carol, the Cactonut

P.S. Does anyone know how to make a bumper sticker? I'd like to produce one especially for succulentophiles:

R O T H A P P E N S !

(Hereby copyrighted, or should that be offsetrighted?
Puprighted? Clusterrighted? Clonerighted? Caespi-righted?)

ONE IRRITATED CITY KID TO ANOTHER: "OH GO PLAY IN THE TRAFFIC!"

ONE CACTOPHILE'S KID TO ANOTHER: "OH GO WEED THE CREEPING DEVILS!"
OR
"OH GO PLAY WITH THE TEDDY BEARS!"

PLANT NAME OF THE DAY: Yungasocereus inquisivensis

This is a real name published by Ritter but now considered synonymous with Haageocereus. (See Pilbeam). Aren't you glad you asked!

UGLY NAME OF THE YEAR: Synandrospadix vermitoxicus

This is also a real name, and the unfortunate plant so-named is an Aroid.



Annual CSSA Meeting and Program is scheduled at 5:15PM on Saturday, July 2 at the "downstairs" Lecture Hall at the Arboretum. The featured speaker is Dr. Gerald Barad, Vice-President of the CSSA. Active in several plant societies and in the cause of conservation, Dr. Barad has a fantastically fascinating program consisting of slides which appear as if they were taken from inside the flower. While he has not mastered the ability to shrink himself small enough to fit inside the flower, his ability to take such detailed slides will be revealed to those who wish to attend his program. All are invited and it's free.

Judges' Award Dinner - 7:30 PM.
A dinner, open to all, will take place at Alexander's Brass Rib, 3768 East Colorado Blvd. Send checks to R. Thompson for \$17.25 each, made out to CSSA. Deadline is June 20.

Dr. Barad will also speak at the dinner - a different talk from the 5:15 one...a Barad Double Shot.

CSSA ENTRY SCHEDULE available at our meeting (we hope). Or call Fred Hutflesz. Enter plants late Wed., June 29, until 8:30 PM or Thurs. until 4:30. Special preview sale Thurs at 6:30 PM. Show opens Fri. July 1.

GOOD HOME NEEDED!

ADORABLE LITTLE FEMALE DOG NEEDS A HOME! CURRENTLY BEFRIENDED BY LARRY GRAMMER, WHO DESCRIBES HER AS LOOKING LIKE A LITTLE RED FOX, THIS YOUNG TWO-YEAR-OLD DOG IS SWEET TEMPERED AND AFFECTIONATE AND WOULD MAKE A FINE COMPANION. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL LARRY AT 213-599-0856.

1988

The Cactus & Succulent Society of America

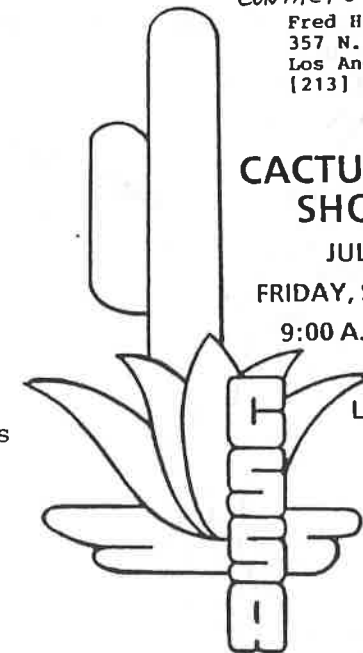
CONTACT & SHOW CHAIRMAN

Fred Hutflesz
357 N. Fuller Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(213) 934-3597, after 6:00 p.m.

23rd Annual
**CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SHOW and SALE**

JULY 1st, 2nd & 3rd
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. DAILY

LOS ANGELES STATE and
COUNTY
ARBORETUM
301 NORTH BALDWIN
AVENUE
ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA



June 26 - Sun. - OUR REGULAR MEETING, 1:00 PM at the Library.

June 29-31 CSSA Show Setup. See inside newsletter for details.
July 1 - 3 CSSA Show & Sale.

(I like to think of this and all other shows as appetizers to the MAIN EVENT: THE INTER-CITY SHOW & SALE THIS AUGUST 20 & 21 - a labor of love for the Long Beach Cactus Club, the L.A. C & S Soc. & the San Gab. Valley C & S Society!
More info in this N.L. & July & Aug. N.L.'s.



July 31 - BOARD MEETING for the Long Beach Cactus Club - all members invited to participate. At Laverne & Reed's. Lots to discuss!

August 13 - 10AM - 2PM -Annual bulb sale at the UCI Arboretum- UC at Irvine, Campus Dr. just south of Jamboree, (714) 856-5833. These are African bulbs, often not available anywhere else in the U.S. They are suited to our climate. The UCI Arboretum also has African succulents. THEY ARE ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS RIGHT NOW to help them prepare. THE REWARD FOR 10 HOURS OF LABOR IS A CHANCE AT THE PRESALE.

THE CACTUS COMPANION
Newsletter of the Long Beach Cactus Club
10860 El Mar Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708



FIRST CLASS
FIRST CLASS
FIRST CLASS

Pachypodium lamerei

drawn by Jackie Painter