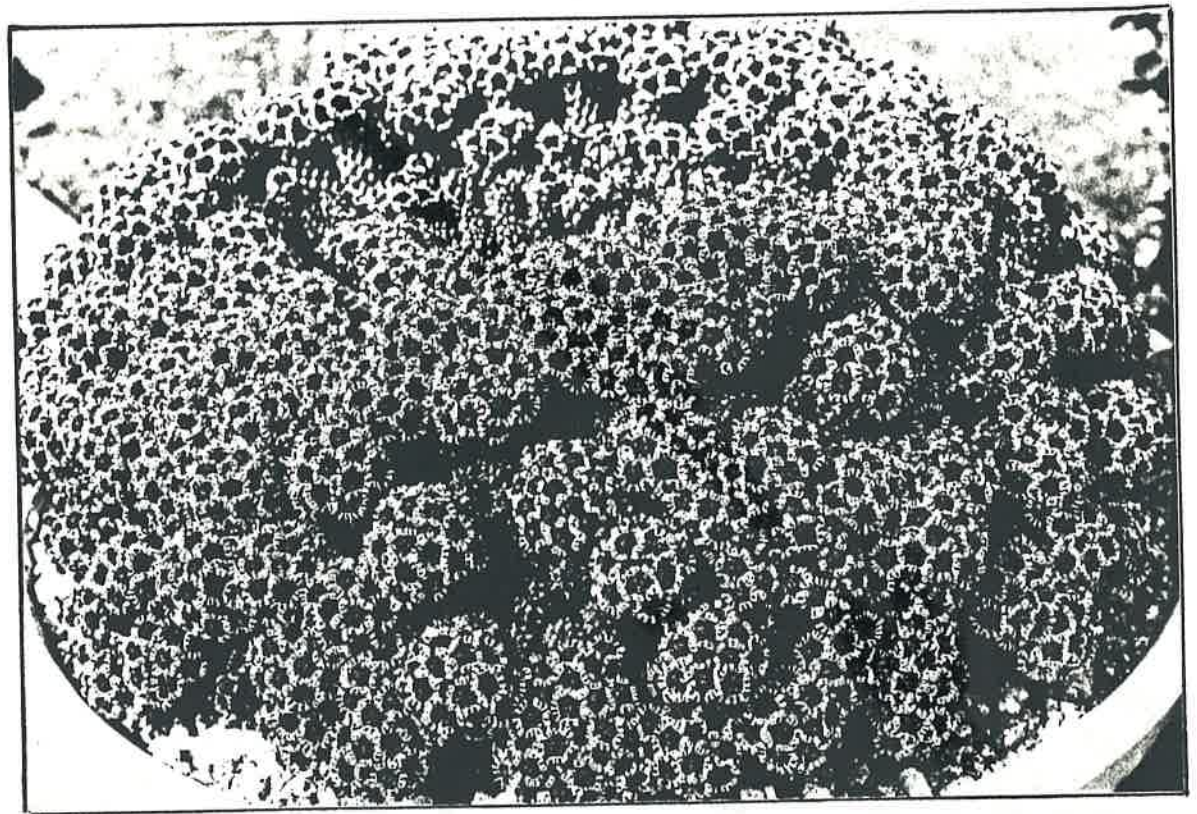




**THE CACTUS COMPANION
LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB
NEWSLETTER — MARCH 1989**

EUPHORBIA CAPUT-MEDUSAE -- the huge two foot diameter specimen below was in full gorgeous flower just for our last meeting. Grown by Larry Grammer and photographed by Jim Hanna, this incredible plant was dressed for Spring!



SPECIAL NOTICE!



THE MARCH MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELED.

Thanks

Last month's pottery sale and auction was fun and exciting and successful. KATHI REYES not only conceived the idea, but made it happen by calling people & writing & spending many hours organizing. JIM HANNA with ROBERTA'S help made the sales and auction aspect of the event go smoothly and efficiently as always. And WOODY MINNICH of course was a superb auctioneer, always with "le mot juste!"

These people -- all volunteers -- were all instrumental in making our February meeting a success.



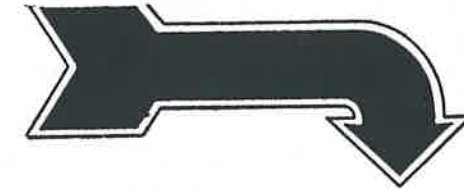
SPECIAL NOTICE!
THE MARCH MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELED.
We regret to announce that the meeting switched from Easter Sunday to Saturday the 18th at the Tuckers has been canceled. Audrey Tucker has had surgery on both feet and will not be well enough to be our hostess. No other arrangements could be made in time.
GET WELL SOON AUDREY!

LBCC



SPECIAL EVENT

DON'T FORGET: LA ZOO SALE WITH THE LBCC
PARTICIPATING -- LA ZOO, ZOO DRIVE, IN GRIFFITH
PARK. THAT'S APRIL 15 & 16.



Also a reminder that on April 8 & 9 THE SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY WILL HAVE ITS BIG SHOW & SALE at the South Coast Botanic Gardens on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sales 9 - 4:30 both Sat. & Sun. Show hours are 12 (or so) on Sat to 4:30, & then 9 - 4:30 Sunday. This show is open to all who wish to enter. Contact Show Chairmen: the Causeys at 213-675-5843 or 213-679-6021; or Jim Hanna at 213-920-3046. Show setup is Friday April 7.

TIME TO REPOT: Remember, repotting plants is therapeutic for both the plant AND you!

CALENDAR UPDATE: Please add the following to last month's calendar page.

April 23, Sunday: THE SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW & SALE at the South Coast Botanic Gardens on Crenshaw on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. For info. contact Dick Kohlschreiber, 1801 W. 27th St., San Pedro, CA 90732, 213-833-6823.

April 22 & 23: The Fullerton Arboretum will have its big general sale: The Green Scene. Fullerton, CA

Lbcc ROADRUNNER BIO QUESTIONNAIRE: SARMIS LUTERS, visitor

It was in the Spring of 1987 that Sarmis discovered cacti and succulents, and cycads too. A friend who had 2 years experience with the plants told him about them and Sarmis wanted to learn more. He likes all succulents, but considers himself to be a "Euphorbiophile." His favorite succulent is Euphorbia inaequispina, or something still waiting to be discovered! His current favorite cactus is Ortegocactus macdougallii. What plants would he like to add to his collection? "I'd be partial to Pachypodium decaryi and Whitesloania crassa. (He has good taste!)

Sarmis' growing space is limited in size "but with grandiose future plans." The following sentence may describe these plans, or current reality -- your editor isn't sure! But he writes: "I have an outdoor succulent landscape collection worthy of the whims of hardcore C & S -ophiles, and a 25' X 10' Filon enclosed hothouse with my goodies." (Very likely Sarmis meant to write, "I will have..." But he'll need to redream, as a 25X10 greenhouse may fill up too fast!) Sarmis also writes that "Someday I want to be as knowledgeable as Werner Rauh, Dave Grigsby, Manny Singer, and Ed Gay." But as for now, "I don't know how much I have to know before I can judge how little I know." (He sounds like a realist, but with lots of dreams!)

Asked about how hard or easy it is to grow certain plants, he says that he has no casualties from "plant attitudes -- but from the grower's lack of knowledge of particular species!" Does he have special skills or a specialty as a grower? "I have my interests, but I feel it's best to let others judge my skills, luck, and sincere judgement." Asked what the c & s hobby means to him, he writes: "Immense enjoyment, freedom from worldly pressures, relaxation, and on and on.... I truly believe the popularity of c & s is going to skyrocket and inflate the ranks of collectors. But other than that, the 'profession' will stay exclusive to the ardent students." Sarmis further comments that he is "stubborn in my quest for knowledge about certain plants, but later I become enthusiastic about plants I didn't care for before -- It takes time to absorb everything, but I'll gain Dave Grigsby's respect someday!" (Probably sooner rather than later!)

* * * * *

Sarmis visited our Club after the INTERCITY SHOW. We all hope to see him at the next show, if not before!

NEWS OF - BY - AND - FOR LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB MEMBERS

BACKEBERG'S CACTUS LEXICON: Rowena Thompson wishes to clarify the request for a used Cactus Lexicon for the ISI - Huntington Botanic Gardens greenhouse nursery area. This is not a donation request -- though donations are always welcome -- but if you have a Lexicon to sell, please let our President know!

NEW LBCC BUSINESS CARD: Below is our new LBCC card designed and printed by Woody Minnich and Steve Southwell and given by them to the Club for Christmas. Thanks to them, we now have a large supply to hand out at events to interested potential members and visitors!

Long Beach Cactus Club

- ◆ Informative Programs
- ◆ Meet with fellow Cactus & Succulent Enthusiasts
- ◆ Plant Culture Contests & Plant Sales

Meetings: 4th Sunday of each month
At: IACOBONI Library
Clark Street, Lakewood, CA
Time: 1 P.M.

For more information, call (213) 835-0393

BLOOMING ASCLEPIADS: Bill Hagblom notes that many of the "Carrion Flowers" -- also known as Stapeliads -- bloom best when given light shade. But the stem color will often be more colorful when given more sunny conditions. Sometimes an Asclepiad in the sun will still bloom -- but from those stems in the shade. Why should shade help? Could it be that unlike some other succulents, stress inhibits bloom? Or perhaps the shady side grows more and faster, and the Asclepiads bloom from new growth ????? Does anyone out there know?

QUOTABLE NOTABLES: "You have to be able to suffer pain to grow Stapeliads!" - Dr. Gerald Barad (CSSA talk 1988)

The CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF HAWAII has just launched its fine quarterly publication, the CSSH NEWS; I believe the editor is Jim Berdach. We are including 3+ of their pages full of info & thoughts:-- from the Dec. 1988 issue (Vol. 1 No. 4):

Some thoughts on Clubs

Why a club? We like to associate ourselves with others who have the same interests. There are orchid clubs, dance clubs, yacht clubs, bridge clubs, rabbit clubs, and pigeon clubs. You name it, somewhere there is a group of people who gather to discuss and enjoy their common interest.

In San Jose, California, in 1960, my good friend Bert Mueller, who had probably the best collection of cacti in Northern California, used to say to me repeatedly: "Why don't you start a cactus club, Ed?" I would reply: "It's your idea, why don't you do it?" Bert would say: "What do I know about starting a club?" I would reply: "What do I know about starting a club?"

My marriage at the time was failing so some sort of wild "off on a tangent" deal seemed to be in order so I called Hamilton Fish who wrote garden articles for the local paper. I told him we were thinking about starting a cactus and succulent club. The "we" was Bert and I. I told him Bert Mueller had the largest collection of cacti in Northern California. He garbled that. It came out in the article that Ed Eby had the largest collection. At the time I had six ratty cactus plants. I had not at that time taken off on the insanity of trying to acquire one of every species that grows.

Thirty-five people responded by mail or phone. A date was set for our first meeting. The Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose was off and running. Today it has a little over 100 members.

A club does promote the subject that the members have a common interest in. Then there is the social aspect. For 28 years now--first in San Jose and now here in Hawaii--I have had wonderful friends who have enhanced and added immeasurably to the quality of my life. On occasion there have been some rather nasty individuals who I found hard to endure (but only one--now long dead--who I could in no way stomach; I hope he is uncomfortably hot). Some of the difficult ones I admired for their talents and for the support they gave the club. The very best club member is one who thinks just like you do. No? Well, discount the above statement some, but think on it. We do tend to get along better with folks who think like we do. I do admire some folks whose thinking is really away out in left field...we can have "shouting fit" conversations. Bert and I used to holler at each other; we'd get red in the face. The neighbors would turn off their TV's so they could hear what we were yelling about and so they could better hear bodies hitting the floor. No, not really... it was all in fun.

I don't really know how to say it adequately. I do very much appreciate your friendship. It gives me a warm glow inside. Let us enjoy each other to the fullest. We will all be glad we came to know each other--I guarantee it.

-Ed Eby

humble living things
other-worldly survivors
plants strange and wondrous

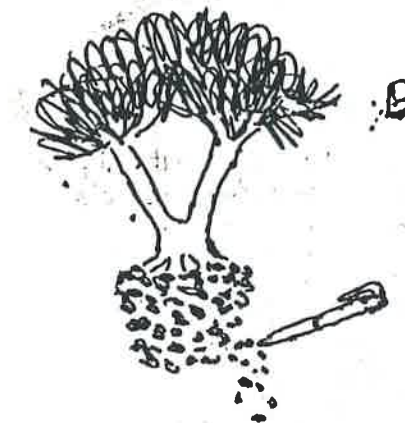
-haiku by Jim Berdach

Step-by-Step Method of Ficus Rock Planting

-by Nathan Wong

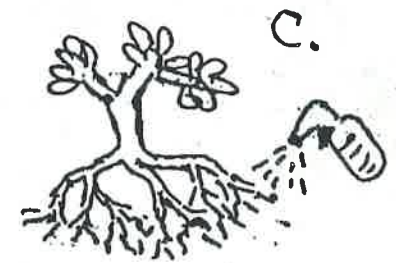
(this is a synopsis of
Nathan's presentation on
the topic at a recent
meeting)

A. Soak plant for an hour
to thoroughly saturate
and soften the soil mass
comprising the root ball.

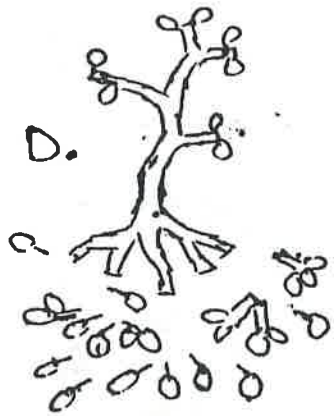


B. Remove pot and use a
chopstick or old pen to
loosen soil. Dip in
container of water and
swish roots around to
clean debris off roots so
you have a clear picture
of the root structure
you'll be working with.

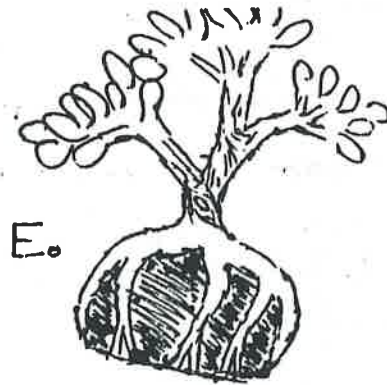
C. Keep roots moist at all
times. The fine root
hairs are prone to damage
through evaporation in
dry air.



D. In the process, a lot of roots will be damaged and broken. Trim off a third of branches and up to three-fourths of the leaves to lessen transpiration shock and to make it easier to work with the plant.

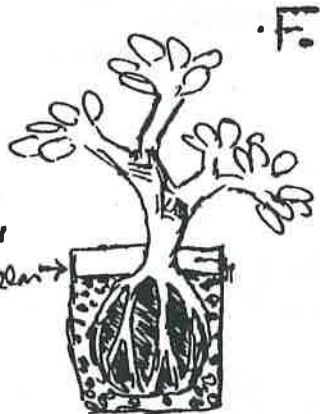


E. Drape roots artistically and realistically over rock. Imagine how an old tree in the mountains would look if it were growing over a large boulder and constant weathering had exposed its root structure.



F. Place in a pot that is deep enough so that top of rock is one inch below pot collar. Carefully, pour soil around rock and roots, trying not to disturb placement of roots.

Following this procedure will allow the roots to attach to the rock naturally. After a period of several months or years, the rock with accompanying roots can be raised in the pot. In the course of regular watering, excess soil covering the roots will be washed away to expose the roots in a very natural way.



Below are two short articles from the Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter: OPEN GATES:

CACTUS IS PIERCING USA MENUS

The latest prickle in still-hot Southwest cuisine is cactus: Nopales are turning up blanched or batter-fried on some of the best tables.

"It's a new-wave addition to quesadillas," says Dean Fearing, chef at the Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas.

The cactus pads, or leaves, must be de-prickered before cooking, and can be served steamed, sauteed, grilled or marinated. It's a good condiment with fresh fish, and is tasty in egg dishes. Leaves are also used as a "plate" for salads.

"It has a very fresh-vegetable taste that's a little tangy," says Nancy Beckham, owner/chef of Brazo's restaurant in Dallas. The texture is soft but crunchy, and slippery like okra. Fresh nopales run 99 cents to \$1.29 per leaf or \$1.39 per one-pound bag (cleaned and chopped), available spring to late fall, canned and pickled year-round, in specialty stores across the U.S.A.

-Mary-Ann Bendel in USA WEEKEND

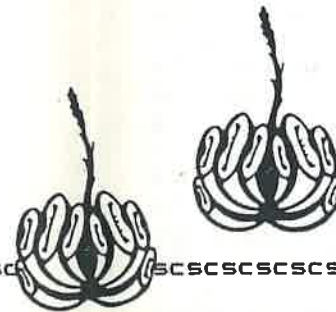
POISONOUS PLANTS

AGAVE LECHEGUILLA - causes severe liver injury and photosensitization in sheep, goats and cattle.

JATROPHA SPECIES seeds are toxic to humans and livestock but no poisoning has been reported from Arizona species.

PORTULACA OLERACEA - these accumulate toxic levels of oxalates and may cause sickness and death in livestock.

LiveStock Poisoning Plants Of Arizona by E.M.Schmutz, B.N.Freeman & R.E.Reed

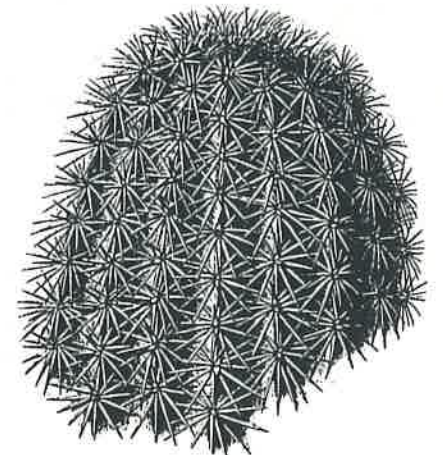


A Note on Haworthias

Bobbi Martin

There are some species of Haworthia which completely withdraw into the soil to avoid the fierce sunlight of South Africa. Others withdraw partially so that only the tips of the leaves become scorched. When the greater proportion of the leaves are buried and only the tips protrude above the ground, the underground part of the leaves continue to act as assimilating organs while excessive transpiration is reduced. It seems extraordinary that species of the same genus should show such remarkable differences. Some species are protected against excessive light (H. retusa) while others have special arrangements to make use of it (H. truncata & H. maughanii).

The above is from CACTUS CHATTER, Jan. 89, OREGON C & S SOCIETY.



The following article on ECHEVERIAS comes to us via the CASCADE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY'S THE POINT, March 1989, Ted Van Velzen, editor:

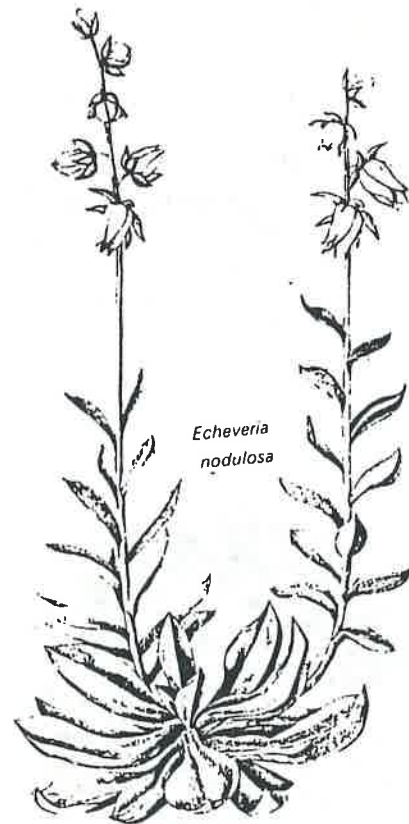
ECHEVERIAS

John N. Spain

For years I have loved Echeverias. To me they are like good food. I love good food, yet I'm no gourmet nor even a good cook. Yet when it comes time to write about Echeverias, I'm neither a botanist nor an expert on the subject. One thing emerges from my thoughts. When it comes to Echeverias, I'm the Jewish mother. I want to see you enjoy them. Why? Because I'm hooked on them and surely you should be, too.

What's so special about them? It's not the flowers; at least not to me. Their flowers are kind of graceful, and close up some are really beautiful, but their stems are too long and they tend to sprawl and look weedy. I do like the colors, the textures, the shapes, and the variety of forms found in Echeverias. I like the winter beauty that they show when many of my other plants are resting from their summer displays of finery. And, yes, I like Echeverias because they seem to be only surpassed by Haworthias in their ability to furnish supplies of "give away" pups. On the other hand, I find them difficult to raise from seed. I've never collected seed from my own plants as I do from cacti. The seeds are really tiny, almost like dust. They seem to germinate well at times but keeping the plantlets alive to maturity is a problem for me.

I have some books on Echeverias but they seem to concentrate on species and ignore those beautiful hybrids I've come to love. Have you noticed how often their lovely pictures grace the pages of our colorful succulent books? There are some very handsome species like elegans, chihuahuensis, nodulosa, crenulata, derenbergii, setosa and the newly found laui. Just to name a few. Without plants like these, there would be none of the hybrids that grace the extra sunny shelf across the south end of my greenhouse. They like it there and they reward me by showing their best color and making healthy compact growth.



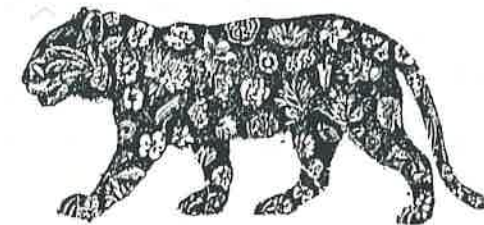
Many of the best large hybrids do have a bad habit. They grow tall and get leggy. They keep shedding bottom leaves until they look like an old Brussels Sprouts plant--stripped and grown too tall. But on the top there is that gorgeous rosette that can be 18" across. It took me a while to find the answer to this leggy problem. Now, when they get too tall, I just cut off the rosette an inch or two below the leaves and place it on top of a pot, with the stem sticking down into the empty pot. Then I wait for roots to grow. Except in the cool of winter, the roots grow within a few weeks, sometimes in just one or two. When roots appear, I pot up the plant and have a beautiful new rosette. This way you don't lose the heavy cuttings to rot. I keep the bare stem in its original pot and, as often as not, it puts out a bunch of pups around the stem. Good trading material there! I've also found another way of getting pups from the tall stem rosette-type. Very carefully cut out the center of the rosette (yes, it does hurt!) removing enough leaves to stay together and root as a plant. Leave a number of mature leaves attached to the stem. New pups will form at the base of those mature leaves. This system sometimes works when other methods fail.

Of course, there are many Echeverias, like most of the species plants already mentioned, which don't have the tall stem syndrome. These plants like to spread out and make mounds by sending out pups on long stems. They also like to put pups into the pots sitting next to them on the shelf. Some will develop into a cascade of rosettes growing over the side of a raised bench, wall, or planter. They say that in Mexico many grow hanging on the sides of cliff faces. I hope to see this sight some day.

I grow Echeverias in a lighter soil mix than the one I use for cacti. It's closer to what I use for Haworthias. Over the years I've grown them in a half dozen different mixes; all seem to work but for now I use a mixture of peat, perlite, a little rough sand and Osmicote for fertilizer. It dries out fast in the hot sun but Echeverias seem to like it. I water them fairly often, even in winter, so they don't lose too many leaves during this slow growing time. They seem to like lots of water in summer and they put out new leaves at a fast rate if given food and root room.

Let's see, I know it's time to get scientific and really tell you something about Echeveria. The problem is nothing scientific comes to mind. I think I'd better go read some of those books on my shelf. At least then I'll have some really worthwhile stuff to share with you. Now, the name Echeveria comes from--Oh, to heck with it, you can probably read better than I can! Try: "Echeverias", by E. Walther (Calif. Acad. Sc., 1972); "A Handbook of Succulent Plants", by H. Jacobsen (Blandford Press, London, 1954); or "Echeverias", by Carruthers and Glins (from Rainbow Gardens Bookshop).

Middlebury, Connecticut



ZOO SALE

NOTABLE QUOTABLES: John Donald, at a South Coast C & S Society talk, 1988, said:

"If you love it, grow it. Don't worry too much about the name. Just cherish it!"

How does a species become a species? Through major changes in morphology and isolation of the population.

"Rebutia can take dry cold including several degrees of frost. A dry cool winter helps flowering. They dislike warm nights."

Be sure to give your plants trace elements.

Regarding classification and taxonomy -- "If you use one system, be consistent."

It may take a scientist (as opposed to a "botanist") to sometimes "see the woods better".

Sucrobutia (not a good genus) are actively evolving. Weingartia is also not a good (valid) genus. Rebutia is.

The above was reconstructed from notes, & includes paraphrasing.

csc

DEFINITIONS FROM THE CACTUS CURMUDGEON:

Cactophile.....One who is unaccountably obsessed with amazingly weird & spiny plants.

Cactus Hobbyist.....One who actually spends time with other people who are obsessed with these amazingly spiny & weird plants.

Botanist.....Professional who is paid real money for his/her plant obsession.

Nurseryman.....See botanist.

Taxonomist.....See botanist. Also touchingly naive in believing he/she can bring order to the plant kingdom.....

(Who is the Cactus Curmudgeon? Well, her name begins with "C" but she must admit she is only a Curmudgeon-in-Training. There is some debate as to whether or not a woman can aspire to Curmudgeonhood, but these, after all, are the days of equal opportunity. Or are they? Perhaps a Curmudgeon would not admit that they are. Which creates a problem. Which then allows a Curmudgeon to mutter that isn't that just like life! Paradoxical as usual! Just like our chosen plants are too -- paradoxical! -- tough bodies but dainty iridescent flowers -- spiny exteriors but liquid, weepy insides -- suclptural and geometric but never formed by man!)



" I THINK IT'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING "

From THE CACTUS JOURNAL, Oct. 1898, F.A.Walton writing on winter preparation.

"....A word of warning about putting Cacti upon high ungetable shelves for the winter....We think the plants should be examined occasionally during the winter, and if they are in some inaccessible place, such as we have often seen, they are apt to be neglected; and although Cacti will stand more neglect than any other plant, yet they will repay attention as much or more than other plants, by their beautiful and interesting growths and magnificent flowers."

#####

The same holds true for repotting. Although the plants may survive in the same pot and soil mixture for years, repotting in fresh mix about every two years will make a tremendous difference in the vitality and beauty of any succulent, which of course includes cacti. (ed.)

EDITORIAL

NEWSLETTER POLL:

Throughout the years your editor has been editing (gathering info., planning, searching for illustrations, writing, typing, pasting up, proofing, photocopying, assembling, folding, stapling, stamping, labeling, and mailing) volunteer newsletters, she occasionally feels the need to include a poll, just in case someone not only has an opinion, but wishes to express it enough to actually get the poll to the editor.... who knows in her heart of hearts the response will be small or nonexistent. She knows this because of past experience, & because her husband is a marketing researcher, and even the professional polls have a small response rate. It's just that their samples are so large to begin with, that they receive enough returns to be able to figure out some results.

Still, writing out the poll is educational, and those that read it will be more aware of what can go into a newsletter, plus if someone does earnestly wish to say something they can. So it's OK that only 1 LBCC Roadrunner filled out the questionnaire. That one Roadrunner, of course, was the editor's husband, and the questionnaire was placed directly into his hand with the expressed hope it would be filled out.

It was, and so, Joe, not being a cactophile, indicated what he likes best about the newsletter are: people info., features, opinion and humor. Statistically, 1 response can't be interpreted as a trend, but your editor wants to say,

THANK YOU JOE WUJCIK! AND THANK YOU FOR THE HELP EACH MONTH WITH THE FINAL WORK ON EACH NEWSLETTER: ASSEMBLING, FOLDING, STAPLING, STAMPING, LABELING, AND MAILING, ALL DONE LAST MINUTE! Actually this last group of tasks takes about 2 1/2 hours together. Alone it might take me about 5 hours. And since by these final assembling tasks I've already spent about 10 hours or more, it's a big help!

Thankfully,

Carol



PS. The Compleat Roadrunner Bio Questionnaire, which was different than most polls, had a high (relatively) return rate, and THANK YOU EVERYONE RESPONDING!

1989 Officers

President Rowena Thompson 213-835-0393; VP Kathi Reyes 213-591-7330; Secretary Pat Kelley 213-639-6439; Treasurer Jim Hanna 213-920-3046; Board Members: Eleanor Barker, Larry Grammer, Bill Hagblom, Laverne Pitzer, & Audrey Tucker. & TED TAYLOR, PAST PRESIDENT.

MEMBERSHIP: Regular membership is \$8, seniors \$5, & each associate (same household) membership is \$1.50, regardless of age. (A senior membership is for retired persons, age 65.) Please send check made out to the LBCC to Jim Hanna, 6019 Pepperwood Ave., Lakewood 90712.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR OFFICERS & HARDWORKING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN & MEMBERS!!!! THE SOCIETY COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!

SPECIAL NOTICE! *Repeated - just in case!*
THE MARCH MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELED.

We regret to announce that the meeting switched from Easter Sunday to Saturday the 18th at the Tuckers has been canceled. Audrey Tucker has had surgery on both feet and will not be well enough to be our hostess. No other arrangements could be made in time.

GET WELL SOON AUDREY!

CREDITS (other than those given elsewhere)

First of all, the wonderful cartoons are by Dan Leavitt of the CASCADE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY'S THE POINT, Ted Van Velzen editor. With permission.

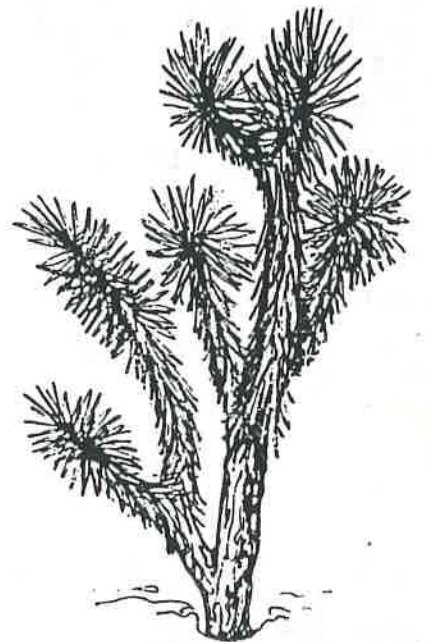
There are two Leavitt cartoons this month to help make up for their being no meeting this month! We hope the Cactus Companion makes you smile!

Joshua tree to the right is from a Mojave Desert booklet by the Council to make this area a national park.

Easter eggs are by Eleanor Barker.

Zoo Sale tiger is from an earlier zoo flier.

LBCC editor is Carol Wujcik, 714-963-3146.





The Cactus Companion
Long Beach Cactus Club
NEWSLETTER
10860 El Mar Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

