LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB NEWSLETTER

THE CACTUS COMPANION

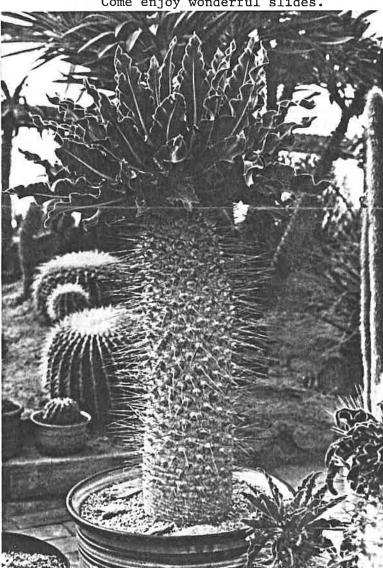
October 1987

October Meeting: Sun. Oct.25

1:00 P.M. at the Iacoboni Library Community Room, 5020 Clark Ave., in Lakewood.

PROGRAM: AN AMERICAN IN ARGENTINA by the popular Victor Turecek.

Argentina is the "home country" for many of our favorite cacti, and it is one of Victor Turecek's most favorite places. Come enjoy wonderful slides.



PLANTS OF THE MONTH:

Cacti: Gymnocalycium! Succulent: Sedum!

BRAGGING TABLE: Bring your blooming beauties, whatever is looking good, or whatever puzzles you.

REFRESHMENTS: Again, anyone who can, bring finger foods. THANK YOU!

PROMPTNESS & END OF MEETING PRIZES: Yes!

BIRTHBAY PLANTS:

Yes!

PLANT SALES: We hope Victor will bring his beautiful strong little seedlings for sale. Others will be bringing handsome plants for sale

HANDOUTS: Look for POM handouts on Sedum & Gymnos, also Aloe 88 info. & for those who haven't received them, our beautiful ROSTER.

PACHYPODIUM NAMAQUANUM photo by Jim Hanna was taken at the Inter-City Show Planning Meeting & Barbeque at Woody Minnich's home & greenhouses last month. ON TO 1988!

IN MEMORIUM, AUGUST BREITUNG



ON SEPTEMBER 27 LONG BEACH MEMBER AUGUST BREITUNG PASSED AWAY OF HEART FAILURE. WE KNEW HIM AS THE AGAVE MAN AND A WRITER: WE ARE TOLD HE WAS ALSO A FINE WOODWORKER. WE WILL MISS HIM.

To the left is a half-size illustration from Praeludia Botanica (Leiden, 1703) of Agave americana, at that time called an Aloe. We are able to use it thanks to its reprinting on a Friends of the Huntington bookmark.

GET WELL SOON KATHI, BERTIE & TED!

During the recent earthquake, Kathi was assisting at an operation at the hospital where she works. She sustained a cut on the eyelid just after the earthquake, and it required stitches. Nevertheless, she was very fortunate her eye is fine. SEE YOU AT THE MEETING, KATHI!

Bertie Denham has fallen and broken her leg and also has an injured pelvis. She must use a walker just now, and can't get to meetings, but she wants everyone to know she misses the Roadrunners! GET BETTER SOON BERTIE!

Ted Taylor keeps having to set back his eye operation, the most recent problem being the diagnosis of skin cancer. He will have a biopsy Wednesday; it is expected to be fairly routine. Nevertheless WE'RE THINKING OF YOU! Ted expects to be at the meeting Sunday.

1987 OFFICERS: President...Rowena Thompson 835-0393; VP Kathi Teyes 5917330; Secretary Pat Kelley 639-6439: Treasurer Jim Hanna 920-3046; Membership Marge Snyder639-1236 & Terry Dew 429-2539; Newsletter Carol Wuicik, 10860 El Mar Ave., Fountain Valley 92708, (714)963-3146; Programs Audrey Tucker & Library Darryl Tucker, 421-8175; Show Chair. Larry Grammer 599-0856; and many others who give so much to Long Beach Cactus Club. THANK YOU!

ROSTER AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS AT THE MEETING.

SHOW REVIEW..... Those of you who didn't go to the 2nd Annual Inter-city Cactus and Succulent show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum missed a realy outstanding show. With three clubs participating plus being open to outsiders, there was a wealth of outstanding plants, not the least of which included collected plants (Very conspicuous by their absence in the CSSA show). The hall at the Arboretum was filled to about maximum capacity without being too crowded for effective display.

Kyle Elliott, the only person from Santa Barbara to enter, made a very creditable showing. Kyle also put together a Frank Horwood Memorial exhibit.

Saturday evening Mike and Cathie McCammon, Kyle Elliott, Nancy and I attended the award dinner. The special program afterward was by Myron Kimnach on his recent trip to Somalia.

I would most highly recommend attending next years show. It's impossible not to come away with a new sense of excitement about your hobby after seeing so many fantastic plants all dressed up in their show-time best. (by Richard Bogart)

THE ABOVE REVIEW of our show was written by Richard Bogart, husband of editor Nancy Bogart, and appeared in the Sept. '87 Santa Barbara NEWSLETTER. Kyle, by the way, won a major award with her wonderful Astrophytum asterias. The sense of accomplishment generated by the show continued through our own post show board meeting and the Sept. meeting at Woody's where we discussed the '87 show and began planning for '88. The Ariocarpus retusus in Woody's greenhouse burst into flower for the occasion - a magnificent sight - and was captured on film by Jim Hanna. NEWSFLASH!!!Jim's Roberta just called to say that SARAH



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, AND NOTES

NAME BADGES: Last chance! Treasurer Jim Hanna will be taking orders for personalized name badges Sunday. Please print your name exactly as you'd like it to appear. Last year the price was \$4 pre-paid. Badges are green & white plastic and sport an Opuntia.

LBCC PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY POSTER: To promote our Club, Khobe Reyes will help create a poster collage of photos & whatever! Bring them to this Sunday's meeting. We can use this at any event we participate in. Photos or items can be silly or serious.

1988 DUES DUE: Dues paid now are for 1988. Regular membership is \$8, senior membership is \$5, and each associate (same home) membership is \$1.50 regardless of age. (A senior membership is for a retired person,65). Please contact Marge or Terry. Checks should be made out to LBCC. Renewals can be paid at any time. A thank you gift plant from the Club will be yours at the holiday party if you renew or join by them. Marge Snyder, 19009-308 Laurel Park Rd., Dominguez Hills, CA 90220. THANK YOU!

NOVEMBER - OUR BIG ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION! Nov. 22 at 1 PM at the home of Bob & Sharon Thoerner, 15549 Ryon Ave., Bellflower, CA., (213) 866-1555. There will be wonderful plants from master growers. Bring \$\$ & folding chair. If it rains, there is room inside. SHORT BUSINESS MEETING - ELECTIONS AT 12:30 PM. Our auctioneer extraordinaire will be Jacques de Tisne! Of course! If you have plants to auction, decide what the minimum bid should be, make sure plants are clean & labeled, group small or inexpensive plants together, keep in mind our LBCC 25%, unless you can donate the entire plant to the Club! Questions? Ask at the meeting!

FROM THE EDITOR: As your editor has begun a new schedule, with less time available for anything, please bear with any problems with the newsletter. Content, length, copier quality may vary widely. I have fewer copier options available now and the results may be very visable. Time is the

big problem. I used to be able to do without much sleep for a night or two to get the newsletter finished. But now I'm having to do without sleep just to lurch from day to day

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAMBRA, WOODY AND TO BABY SARAH!!!

So until I become better organized, I will have problems with the N.L. How much it will show, I don't know! Thanks for reading! Carol

TROUBLE



BOOKS: Any subject

are always needed for

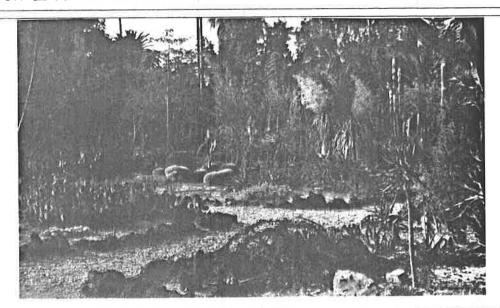
to help pay our rent!

donations to the Library

Bring them to the meeting.

Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.

OUR LBCC CLARENCE WRIGHT MEMORIAL GARDEN AT THE ADOBE



ABOVE: A 1985 Photo of the Clarence Wright Garden at the Adobe

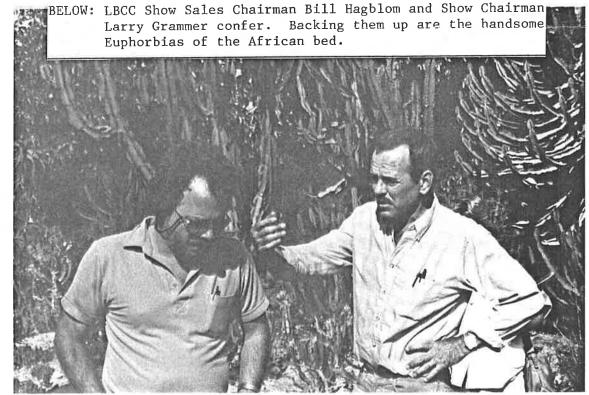


photo by Jim Hanna



FROM THE LBCC FAMOUS FABLES FILE!

A HALLOWEEN HORROR STORY



It was Halloween, and Bill Hagblom, working hard as usual in the Dominguez Adobe Garden, has just been bitten by a horrendous halloween lizard called Huxtable and only has moments to live, when he is snatched from the slavering jaws of the dread lizard by the grateful Dominguez Yucca, Arabella, who once upon a time had been saved by this very same Bill from being smothered by WEEDS, especially the spiteful spurge, scourge of the West!

Meanwhile, Huxtable the Horrible continues to run amuck in the Garden, breaking off Acacia limbs, planting spurge all over the place, ravaging the watering lines, and hurling foul mealies at the defenseless cacti. With Bill still swooning in the arms of Arabella (he's no fool), who will save the Adobe Garden?!

Ted "Tarzan" Taylor, Knight and Curator of the Garden! Of course! Raising his mighty hand, he thunders at Huxtable the Horrible, "Begone Foul Lizzard! Leap no more!" And at that moment, there is a miracle. The lizzard stiffens and goes still. Huxtable the Horrible is but an empty shell. All that remains is hideous Huxtable's scaly petrified form, which Ted, Curator of the Garden, locks in the Garden CASTLET, also known to the uninformed, as the Shed. Whereupon Ted forges new keys for distribution to the LBCC key guardians to hold in trust.

As for Bill and the fair Arabella, what can we say except that Bill has revived and has fully recovered. And that is our very own Halloween Tale, dear LBCC Roadrunners!

Ah but there is more! Few have seen him, but it is said that the Adobe Garden has its very own magical genie — one who cares for the Garden and keeps it safe from the dread spurge and other evils. His name, it is whispered, is Edward Hennessey; and without his ministrations & those of the others, the beautiful garden might be no more. And so our tale ends with a final THANK YOU!

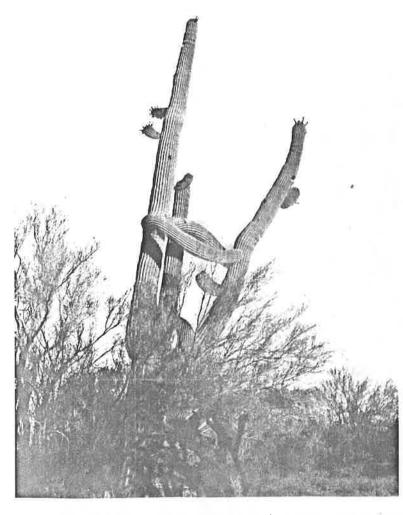
C.A.W. Humble Scribe



photo by Ted Taylor

EVERYONE! It is said that the damage Huxtable wrought is still with us. Can you help?! Contact Ted Taylor/(213) 569-3368

PHOTOS: Most of these photos were taken at our August board meeting. Next time, BE THERE!



SWOONING SAGUARO'S?

WALTZING SAGUARO'S?
RING AROUND THE ROSIE?

These two Saguaros were spotted just off a sandy back road in Arizona in the Tonto National Forest just before the start of the CSSA convention.

They were photographed doing their thing by ace reporter Carol just before her car Glochid almost got stuck in sand, after which she had to back up nearly a mile (putting a permanent crick in her neck) with husband Joe grimly walking ahead to help direct around boulders which had been easy to navigate going forward. Glochid didn't seem to mind in the least and didn't get stuck once, this time.

QUESTION: DOES ONE NEED 4 WHEEL DRIVE FOR DESERT BACKROAD DRIVING?

Ted Taylor and Carol have had a running conversation as to whether or not 4 wheel is needed. Ted says not usually as rocks are the biggest problem, not sand, so the main thing is having good clearance. And 4 wheel drive is just one more thing to go wrong. Except that Glochid keeps finding itself in sand — at Anza-Borrego, Joshua Tree, and then Arizona. Don't know yet about Death Valley.

Someone at work says that the problem, though, with 4 wheel drive is that you can get overconfident, with the expected results.

Any comments? The day will come when Glochid must return to that great foundry in the sky. A decision must be made!

THE ROADRUNNER

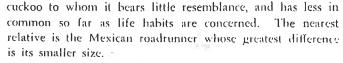
Of our southwestern birds none creates more interest, or is the subject of more discussion than the roadrunner. Being of good size, and able to cover much ground with its long, rapid strides it is frequently seen as we travel the highways and byways thus bringing itself to our attention more often than is the case with smaller and less active birds.

It is no uncommon sight to see one of the fellows cross the road before our car, running with head thrust forward and neck outstretched as it dashes for the cover of nearby vegetation, or if too hard pressed, resorting to a few awkward wing beats which permit it to glide to safety. At other times the bird may desire only to get off the road to watch us pass, and after running what it considers a safe distance will quickly throw the tail erect and spreading it a trifle, use it as a brake to bring itself to an abrupt stop.

The roadrunner is a member of the cuckoo family, and has only one distant relative in Arizona, viz., yellow-billed

Resertife 1937 oct- nov. 1937

> D. M. GORSUCH University of Arizona Tueson



The over-all length of our roadrunner is 20.24 inches half of which is tail, and the balance head and beak. The feathers of the head are long and can be easily erected to form a conspicuous crest. A large naked patch over the eye is colored a bright orange-red, and shows also a small amount of blue and white. The plumage is coarse, and in general black and brownish white, the black having a green, metallic sheen to brighten it. The bill is long (over two inches) and a powerful weapon, while the large gullet permits the bird to swallow objects of great size. Long powerful legs, enable the bird to cover great distances, and the feet, which have two toes pointing forward and two backward, give it excellent balance, and leave tracks which can not be mistaken.





The concept and some of the language for the following, and that includes the title and most of the tally, is by Tom Rightmyer for the Orange County Wheelmen's Wheelin' News, July 1984. (The OCW is an organization for bicycle fanatics.)

INSTANT QUIZ*

by Carol Wujcik, under the influence of Rightmyer's article.

- 1. Cacti (excepting maybe some Rhipsalis) are always to be found growing in habitat:
 - A. In the Old World.
 - B. In the New World.
 - C. In Middle Earth.
- 2. To botanize means to:
 - A. Collect from habitat every plant not as big as a truck, nor hanging from sheer cliffs 100 feet above white water falls, and not tied down.
 - B. To happily wander about in hiking boots-or in some motorized transportation not equal to the task (or the roads, all of which are muddy or underwater) and photograph plants (for future slide shows), avoid snakes and other creepy crawlies, and even study cacti and succulents all to the amusement of a local populace (preferably in colorful clothes & living in a succulent wonderland).
 - C. Get a degree in botany.
- 3. An areole is:
 - A. A fuzzy pest sometimes found on cacti and killed by alcohol.
 - B. An organ on a cactus which is actually a telescoped branch with all of a branch's functions, activities, and fun.
 - C. An implement used to punch holes in compacted soil mix and so get air to the roots, which need all they can get.
- 4. People who learn all the long Latin names for their plants:
 - A. Ought to be condemned to spend time watching Laverne and Shirley reruns and Benny Hill, and any other low, vulgar show which can teach them how to speak like real, normal (?) people.
 - B. Realize it's the price (punishment) of accurate communication in the wild and wonderful world of cacti and succulents.
 - C. Are destined to have their plants die of neglect.
- 5. Epiphytes like to:
 - A. Crawl on rocks, and being cold blooded, sun themselves at noon.
 - B. Hang around on trees and cliffs.
 - C. Flower only at night by a full moon so they can be pollinated by bats and moths and other things it's best to only guess at.
- 6. A cactus club meeting is:
 - A. An excuse for a little oneupmanship.
 - B. A nice way to see a few friends and maybe learn something, but mainly to have fun.
 - C. Meaningful social and educational interaction between dedicated and highminded hobbyists in the involving world of cacti and succulents, who...etc.
- 7. You get stabbed by your pet Agave because:
 - A. It's telling you it wants to be repotted (watered, have its label corrected, etc.) RIGHT NOW, or else.
 - B. You stupidly put it too close to where people (you) walk.
 - C. "You have simmed horribly" by confining it to a pot and should take it back to the desert and release it so it can live free.

INSTANT QUIZ continued

- 8. The club's nominating committee (or show chairman or prez or whoever) asks you to do something for the club because:
 - A. He/She is silly, has a lot of nerve, and is possibly"the direct descendant of an ugly animal," and has no idea how important it is for you to get home early and not overextend yourself.
 - B. He/She doesn't want to be stuck having to do all the work alone.
 - C. He/She/They know it will improve your leadership abilities, your mind, and your cardiovascular system," not to mention your mental and spiritual health.
- 9. A bunch of fellow cactophiles at the start of a really good sale (of rare and underpriced specimens) are to be regarded as:
 - A. Fellow suckers.
 - B. Really fun guys and gals, but you'd better be able to run just as fast (or faster).
 - C. Mortal enemies and "scary as hell!"
- 10. Many cacti and other succulents have a globular shape so they can:
 - A. Roll down hills to escape goats, sheep, collectors, motorcycles, and fire.
 - B. Hold water to the max.
 - C. Fit comfortably under rock outcroppings, protective tree branches, and greenhouse or fluorescent light shelves.

A. = 5 points, B. = 20 points, C. = 40 points, or 0 depending on the question.

Straight "A's"? congratulations, you have just come up with the sum total of your I.Q. and maybe life expectancy.

"B" average? Welcome to the real world of cacti and succulents.

"C" for Cultured Cactophile? C'mon, next you're gonna tell me a Stapeliad by any other name smells as sweet!

All the correct answers were "B", more or less.



Do you suppose this drawing by Elibet
Marshall of San Diego could have been inspired by Victor Turecek and Roberto Kiesling displaying classic botanizing posture?

^{*}See asterisk at bottom of quiz on next page.

^{*}Instant Score -- no waiting!

The following appeared in ESPINAS Y FLORES, Newsletter of the San Diego C & S Society, Oct. 1987, Mary Aubuchon Editor.

KILLING CACTUS AND OTHER SUCCULENTS

by Bob Kent

A number of us who have grown cactus for some years, determined to leave no stone unturned in our mastery of the hobby, have with diligence and perseverance uncovered a number of subtle but no less certain ways of killing a prized plant. It seems appropriate from time to time to share that art. The title of this column is not without significance.

Apart from taking a first in a cactus show, one of the most effective, albeit often slow, methods is overpotting. And one of the beauties of this method is that a number of growers, including one intimately known to my wife, never seem to learn how effective this trick is. Hence it can be used again and again.

Overpotting consists of placing a plant which has gone beyond the seedling size into a pot where there is a gap of an inch or more between the plant and the inside edge of the pot. Sometimes. All it takes on some occasions is a gap of one-half inch.

One does this when the plant has been growing so fast that you have had to repot it twice in one growing season and a third round is in sight. Or when you have a plant that is particularly nasty to handle and you say "Aha! We'll just let it grow into that pot." Or when you don't have a pot the right size. Or a dozen other reasons.

And what then happens is that the plant sits there. And sits. And sits. At best growth comes to a jarring halt. At worst the plant slowly dies, and after (usually) two years either rots or dries up. And leaves room for a new plant on the bench.

The why of it is probably a matter of water and nutrients. In a clay pot, the water seems to flow around the edges of the roots, and the soil dries out before the roots can reach it. In a plastic pot, maybe it is because the soil, without roots to absorb the water, stays too wet. But we do not need to know why when it is only results that we are after.

Please note the above is applicable primarily to cactus. It may not work with a number of the "other" succulents, particularly if really good drainage is provided. Those haworthias with pencil-thick roots, for example, often benefit from pots larger than the plant size would suggest.

A brief comment on a different subject, aloe mite: If you have an aloe which looks like it might be cresting or becoming monstrose, it is probably aloemite. The experts tell me there is nothing for this but to destroy the plant. If the infection is small, you may be able to cut out the infected part; or if there is an uninfected offset, keep that and throw away the rest of the plant. Otherwise, get rid of it.

DEPARTMENT OF DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?!

The following was found on a bulletin board at HBG.

Stroke victim falls in garden & is eaten by her Venus flytraps

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS, September 15, 1987

Houseplant horror!

A middle-aged housewife missing for several weeks has been declared dead by investigators who searched her home for evidence — and concluded she had been devoured by her houseplants!

Isabel Suarez Delgado, 51, apparently suffered a stroke, fell into a large bed of

period of days.

"We believe she must have had an incapacitating stroke," said Det.

Capt. Orielio Ramas, chief of the homicide section of the Maturin, Venezuela, police department.

"We found clothing and jewelry scattered near the poor woman's plant collection and some of the foliage was crushed and broken.

"It appears that the plants — which all contain powerful chemicals to digest

animal tissue — simply dissolved her out on the table. where she lay."

Isabel Delgado

eating plants and was consumed by the greenery over a Woman eaten by killer blossoms after she falls into flower bed

> her apartment after not hear-ment. eral days.

woman's own home.

eral facts. Mrs. Suarez was last of plants may have killed her. seen entering her apartment.

inside the home, yet her oven perhaps - when she slipped was on, her television was go- or had a sudden attack of some ing and a meal had been laid sort and fell into the meat-

The tragic widow was discovered dence of a break-in or other plants consumed her."

missing by a sister who visited type of violence in the apart-

ing from her relative for sev- "Clothing and the woman's earrings were found near a Police searched extensively bank of carnivorous plants for the kindly housewife and that was the only unusual volunteer worker, finally nar- aspect of the scene," Det. rowing the hunt to the Ramas said. "This woman had been a plant buff, a real green They were baffled by sev-thumb type. We think her love

"She was tending her plants There was no trace of her - trimming or feeding them, eaters. After that it was just a Police could find no evi- matter of time before the

SHE SHOULD HAVE GROWN CACTI!

(They only stab the people who fall on them.)



Drawing by Frank Bowman for Fred von Behren. ALOE 88 will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe beginning Friday July 15. The schedule is as follows;

July 15 - 17 Show & Plant Sale

July 18 - 23 Illustrated lectures - also local habitat tours etc.

July 25 - 28 Official tour to include Victoria

Falls, wildlife, & succulents.

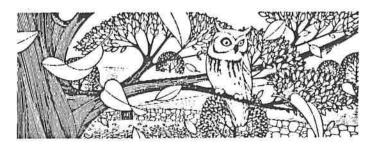
Aug. 1 ---- Optional extra tours subject to

demand.

There is a limit of 400 delegates. The greatest expense (presumably) would be getting there, but I know there will be people from this area who will try (not me alas)! So if interested, talk to others about

the possibility of charters at least part way. If I hear of any specifics I'll include them in the NL. For further info., pick up forms at our meeting, or write Convener of Aloe 88, PO Box 8514, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.





FALL...HALLOWEEN...A TIME TO GROW...AND A TIME TO SLEEP...

Many of your cacti have come out of summer dormancy and are growing. Others never experienced summer dormancy since it's been relatively cool this year. Warm sunny days and cool nights suit many species well. Just be sure that they don't get too soft for the winter dormancy which is to come. A little food now and a check on your watering dip stick now and again may be in order...& perhaps some iron chelate to loosen the salts for the winter...perhaps an insecticide or fungicide application for outdoor plants...

It's important to keep an eye on the weather, for at this time of year it can be changeable. Are you pretty much set for winter? For the rain and for any frost your mini-climate receives?

Some of your plants are sharing their fall bloom with you. Ariocarpus bloom now. They will rest later. Other plants are winter growers and will grow and give you pleasure all winter. Your Tylecodens are leafing out as are your Senecios & Pelargoniums; Dudleyas, Aeoniums and "other" Crassulas love our winter and are wide awake with glowing color - or soon will be. Enjoy them...

Plants about to go to sleep for winter are the Pachypodiums, Adeniums, Adenias, Cyphostemmas, Begonias, and others. How deep they sleep will depend on the species and whether or not you have a warm greenhouse. Some sleep deep & others doze without losing all leaves. Keep all these plants on the dry side; but it may be best to keep root hairs from drying off completely. One way to do this is to plant a winter dormant plant with a leaf succulent such as Echeveria. Then watering is not quite so critical. The more vigorous Echeveria will keep drinking and so prevent the soil from being wet too long.

This is a good time of year for a bit of cleanup, for a project or two in the garden, but it is especially fine for enjoying your plant companions and a golden sun.

Carol

"WHAT A SWELL COSTUME I DIDN'T EVEN DECOGNIZE VOLL

CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR

Sat. Oct. 24, FALL BACK AN HOUR AT BEDTIME! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS, ALAS,

Sun. Oct. 25, LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB featuring VICTOR TURECEK: AN AMERICAN IN ARGENTINA. 1:00 PM. If you didn't reset your clocks you will be late!

Sat. Oct. 31, HALLOWEEN. Watch our for wee ghosties & goblins!

Sun. Nov. 22, LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB BIG PLANT AUCTION at 1:00 PM at the home of Sharon & Bob. GET YOUR PLANTS READY AND SAVE YOUR PENNIES. If it rains we will be indoors. More info. inside newsletter. This is also the date we vote for 1988 officers.

Thurs. Nov. 26, HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

Sun. Nov. 29, LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB BOARD MEETING, 1 PM, but where?

If you can host this meeting let president Rowena know!

GOODBYE

MR. BREITUNG.

AU REVOIR.

OTHER CALENDAR INFO: Nov. 14 & 15, 11 - 4 Ojai Arts Studio Tour, \$12. Contact (805)646-8737, for info., brochure, tickets. 1988: June 17 - 19 First CSSA Mid-States Regional Conference, Iowa; July 18 - 23, Aloe 88 in Zimbabwe (see info inside NL or at meeting); Sept. 16 - 21 Succulenticon 88, Australia & New Zealand Biennial Convention, Perth; Sept. 17, Huntington Symposium; Oct. 7 - 9 Eastern C & S Conference, Baltimore. Info. in Natl. NL.

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FIRST CLASS FIRST CLASS

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