

CENTRAL ARIZONA
CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

THE CENTRAL SPINE

September, 1979

Minutes of the CACSS Board Meeting, August 26, 1979

President Kent Newland called the meeting to order at 1:30 p. m. The September and October meetings were discussed. The September meeting was scheduled for September 24th, so as not to conflict with the Huntington Field Trip sponsored by the Garden on September 28-30th. The program for the September meeting will be a slide show by Jackson Fitz-Randolph on his field trip to Mexico. The October meeting will be a bus trip to Tucson to visit several growers. The details of the October meeting are still tentative.

Chris Dezelsky and Sylvia Forbes presented a rough draft of the proposed new membership form. It was reviewed and changes suggested.

The following items were then discussed:

- The Board authorized \$50 to be spent at the Huntington Garden Plant Sale for future door prizes.
- The plant show at Metrocenter. We have an area between Sears and Joske's.
- Open Gardens. Frank Hennessey will set up open gardens for October or November.
- Christmas party. A home is needed for the annual Christmas party this year.
- Microphone and speakers were suggested so that we can hear over the noise of the Auditorium's evaporative cooler.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Emmy La Tempa
Emmy La Tempa
Secretary



What did the Italian gentleman say after he sat on a chair that someone had covered with glochids?

I echevaria.

Minutes of the CACSS Members Meeting, August 26, 1979

President Kent Newland called the meeting to order in Webster Auditorium. He announced that the September meeting would be held on September 23rd so as not to conflict with the Garden's field trip to the Huntington Plant Sale on September 28-30th.

The October meeting, a bus trip to Tucson to visit several growers, was announced. The cost for the trip will be \$12, which should be paid to Martha Passwater as soon as possible.

President Newland mentioned the upcoming show at Metrocenter in which we are participating with the Men's Garden Club. The show is scheduled for November 3rd and 4th. More information to follow.

Door prize drawings were held and the plants were won by Margaret Caldwell and Sylvia Forbes.

Newland announced that Kathy Corbett is selling her collection of plants. Anyone interested may go over to Cathy's after the meeting or call her and make arrangements to go another time. Her address is: 3238 N. 27th Place (off of Osborn).

Earl Passwater urged everyone present to sign up for the trip to the Huntington. He mentioned that the tour will visit many nurseries as well as the beautiful Huntington Garden itself.

Joan Skirvin announced there were 25 members and 5 guests present.

Kent Newland gave an explanation of the vegetative structures of cacti. He also mentioned that the Arboretum will be putting out a new publication.

Jackson Fitz-Randolph showed a stalk off an Agave sisalana, which was most unusual. Small bulbils or new plantlets were growing from the flowers. Bulbils are an asexual form of plant reproduction.

The program was a slide show on Four Corners narrated by Frank Hennessey.

After the slide show, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Emmy La Tempa
Emmy La Tempa
Secretary

On Sunday, October 14th, three of our members have volunteered to have their gardens open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for visitation. They are:

Joan Skirvin (948-2515)
11415 N. 68th St.

Warner Dodd (971-2579)
3835 R. Ludlow *CANCELLED*

Bob Moulis (992-4166)
13431 N. 33rd Pl.

All of these gardens are fairly close together, in the far north-east section of the Valley.



In June, Kent Newland taught a comprehensive course on Cacti for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson. Kent spent months getting his detailed notes together, and has now put together an excellent 2-day course.

In July, Joan Skirvin and Martha Passwater taught a workshop, Getting Ready for the Cactus Show, at the Desert Botanical Garden. Joan talked about pots, soils, dressings, plants, and judges, and gave many tips on how to exhibit a specimen plant. Martha talked about dish gardens, explaining how arrangement, color, texture, plant combinations, proportion, and many other elements are essential to a good, prize-winning arrangement.



A VISIT TO QUAIL BOTANIC GARDENS

by

Jackson Fitz-Randolph



In March Marilyn and I visited the Quail Botanic Gardens at Encinitas, California for the second time. The first time was on a Sunday a little over a year ago and we hadn't allowed enough time to "do" the garden properly. We did see enough (agaves, aloes, euphorbias, etc.) to know we had to come back and see it all at a leisurely pace. This year's Spring school break provided the opportunity.

The Garden is reached quite easily via Interstate 5, north out of San Diego (about 30-40 minutes at most). Exit the freeway at Encinitas Blvd (there is also a sign for the Garden) and follow the signs. It is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Ample parking is provided. Admission is free. Drinking fountains and modern comfort stations are also available.

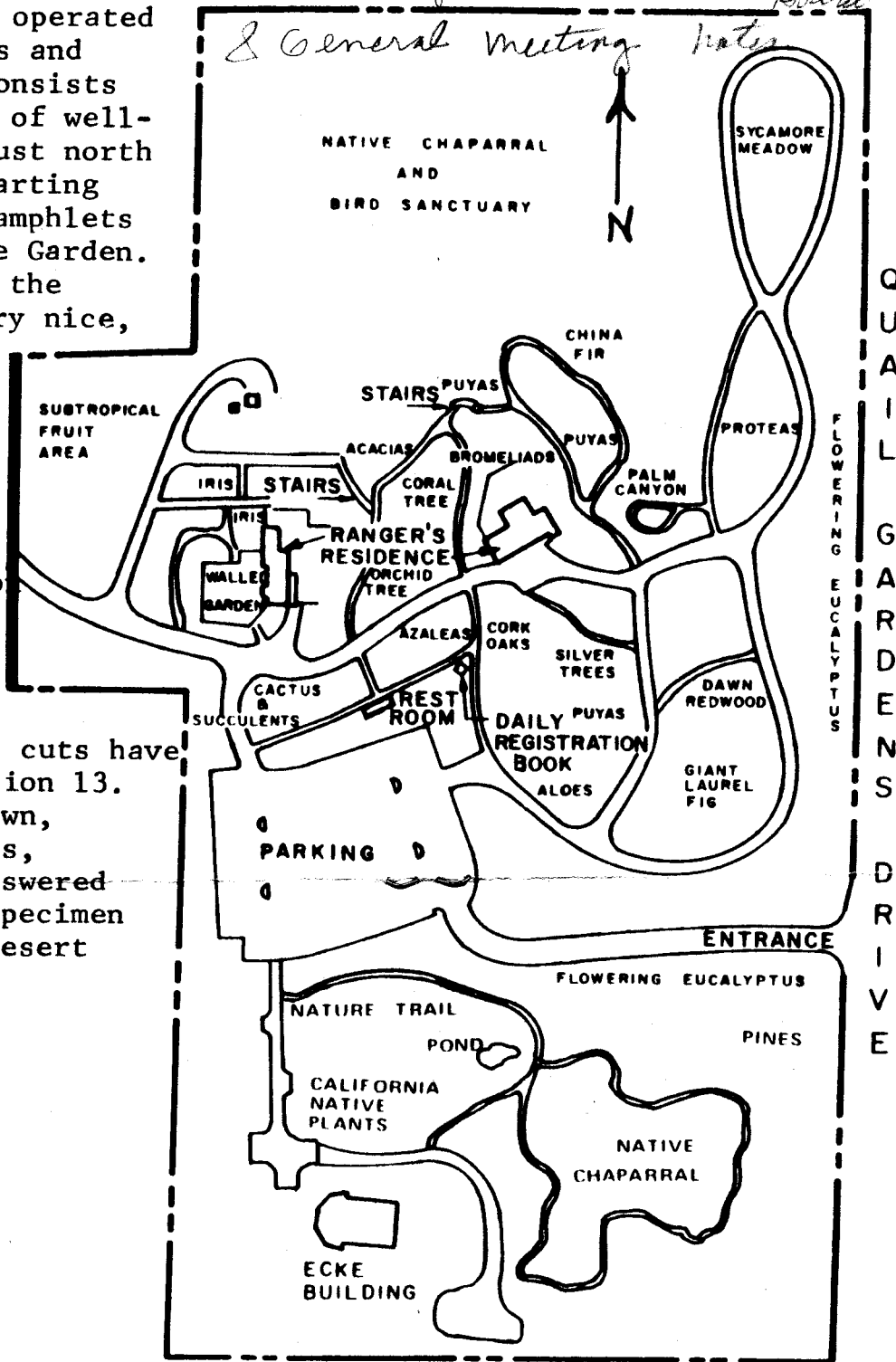
The Garden was established in 1961 from donated property and is operated by the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department. It consists of approximately 20-25 acres of well-planned trails and walks. Just north of the parking lot is the starting point for all tours. Free pamphlets guide the tourist through the Garden. I was looking principally at the Agave collection. It was very nice, with everything from Agave atrovirens to a blooming Agave attenuata. The Gardens have quite a few of the Baja plants. However, even a person with a special interest like mine (Agaves) has to see the Aloe collection and the Euphorbias in the Cactus and Succulent area.

The staff is small; personnel cuts have been made because of Proposition 13. We met two gentlemen; Mr. Brown, Ranger-in-charge, and Mr. Voss, Acting Horticulturist, who answered our questions and gave us a specimen of Agave atrovirens for the Desert Botanical Garden.



Please note that the essential purpose of Quail Botanic Gardens is to serve the botanical interests of the public and the scientific interests of specialists.

August 26, 1979 Board



NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

The Boyce-Thompson Arboretum has just recently started a new publication called Desert Plants. Published quarterly, it is a semi-technical journal containing a variety of information on arid-land plants: from botanical articles to horticultural information, as well as articles about botanists. \$10.00 per year, it sound well worth it. The first issue is hot off the press, so look at it and decide for yourself!



Definition of a "prickly" pear - Carter and Kennedy

PLANTS THREATENED

Germans Stop Cactus Caper'

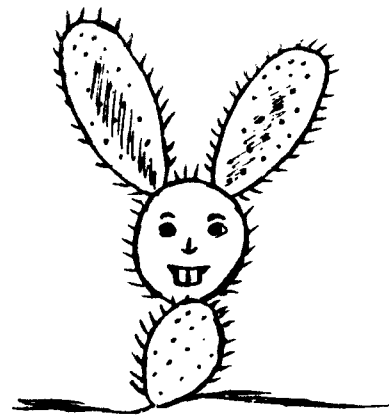
MORGES, Switzerland (UPI) — The biggest "cactus caper" of all time was foiled in West Germany when rare cacti worth thousands of dollars were seized at Frankfurt airport, the World Wildlife Fund said Wednesday.

German customs officials confiscated 3,600 of the world's rarest cacti worth more than \$21,000 in the first major action to combat the illegal smuggling of plants which is threatening endangered species everywhere, the WWF said.

"This confiscation, and the prosecutions which will follow are a real breakthrough in our battle against illegal plant traders," Peter Sand of the WWF's affiliated Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species said.

PLANT "collectors" returning from a special "study tour" of Mexico carried the cacti in their suitcases after having dug them up by the roots in isolated desert areas.

Mr. President, cactus may be wild, but they don't attack people!



Opuntia microdasys

"Bunny ears" Cactus

"Massive damage has already been done by so-called tourists who ravage rare plant populations to take home and sell — some species of plants have already been completely wiped out in this way," Sand said.

The cacti have been taken into "protective custody" by the Botanic Institute at Heidelberg University, pending the outcome of legal action.

"THERE ARE signs that we can reverse the trend in commercial exploitation leading to the

extinction of certain animal species, but the situation for plants is much more serious — about 30,000 species are endangered, many of them before we even had the chance to study them properly," the WWF said.

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN NEWS

SEED SALE - On Saturday, October 6, the Desert Botanical Garden will hold its first Fall Seed Sale, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Webster Auditorium. Packets of seeds will cost 50¢. Among the "finds" will be a few packets of Lithops, Frailia, and some of the less often grown cacti, so get here early! The Garden will also be selling seeds of wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and succulents; over 120 different species in all.

HUNTINGTON GARDENS FIELD TRIP - There is still space available on the Garden's 3rd field trip to the Huntington Gardens Plant Sale. As well as the sale, the group will be stopping at nurseries on the way, to look and look and look even more at the plants. The Gardens are beautiful, and the plant sale is ENORMOUS! Bring your piggy banks. For details on this plant collector's holiday call Earl Passwater at 944-2594.

NEW DIRECTOR - Rodney Engard left the Garden this summer after seven years of dedication and hard work. He is now pursuing his research and further studies in botany. The Garden now has a new director, Dr. Charles Huckins. Dr. Huckins has come from the Missouri Botanical Garden, bringing with him much experience, as well as a great deal of knowledge, including a Master's degree in horticulture, and a Doctorate in Botany.

The Cactophile File
by
Calliandra

After visiting a third cactus nursery in the Valley, I have come to the conclusion that all cactus nurserymen are bogged down by the insurmountable amount of work caused by two "adversaries" that exist here: weeds and weather. Yet somehow, the plants thrive and the businesses succeed in spite of the odds.

Moon Valley Cactus Gardens is a perfect case in point. Clint Callahan, owner and operator, has five acres of land. My first thoughts were that, unfortunately, one of the adversaries, the weeds, were winning here. However, Mr. Callahan's conversation was so full of future plans and projects and his motivation to achieve these goals was so great, that I concluded that my first impression, while technically correct, was a superficial one. Moon Valley Cactus Gardens is one of the quality cactus nurseries in the Valley of the Sun.

I met Clint this summer when I visited his nursery in anticipation of making MVCG the subject of this column. I'm probably not far wrong when I say that I am probably the last CACSS member to visit MVCG and meet Clint Callahan. If I'm not, whoever hasn't been, should. And when you do, be sure to allow enough time to see everything. Five acres covers a lot of territory.

When I arrived, I was greeted by a welcoming party: a large German Shepherd. I understood his message as clearly as if he had spoken to me in English: "Stay put outside the gate," he said. "Someone will be along in a minute to let you in." Next, I met Merlin, who did let me in. Once the dog checked me over, everything was all right. Merlin, who I judged to be around 8 years old, is Clint's neighbor, employee, and competitor. He and his brother, about 6, operate Moon Valley Happy Garden, a modest concession adjoining MVCG. After meeting more dogs and kids, I finally met Clint Callahan himself.

When asked how he got started in the business, Clint said that he had started as a collector. Soon he was selling plants to make his hobby pay for itself. He has been operating commercially for four years at the north 7th street location.

The first thing he showed me was what I will call, for lack of a better name, the Echinopsis "bloom board." He has literally dozens of pictures of Echinopsis flowers displayed prominently on a bulletin board. Each photograph is numbered and keyed to the plants he has growing in his Echinopsis beds. Thus, you can pick out the plant you want by the flower, even when it is not blooming. It's a great idea and a clever selling tool.

Clint has planted a number of drought-resistant trees on the grounds. They include Palo Brea, Acacia shaffneri, Prosopis chilensis (Chilean aliquite), and Cercidium floridum (Blue Palo Verde). As soon as the trees fill out enough, he will landscape around them with cacti and succulents, thus providing landscape ideas for those interested. In addition, he wants to illustrate actual growing situations of the plants he sells, so the buyer will see which plants can take full sun and which can't.

In the growing beds, Clint has a select group of Ariocarpus and Echinocereus dasyacanthus (Texas Rainbow Cactus) for sale. The reason I say select is because he personally picked through thousands of plants to get the few hundred he now has. These plants were protected from the sun by a netting material. He recommends: when re-establishing plants which were kept in partial sun (even though they may grow in full sun), keep them protected from the full sun for many months, even up to a year. Other plants growing in partial sun were: Mammillaria pottsii, Echinocactus horizontalis, and Thelocactus nidulans.

Grafting enthusiasts will be interested to see inside his greenhouse. He is doing quite a bit of grafting. Basically, it enables him to have mature plants in 1½ to 2 years. He feels that 78° and 50% humidity are optimum conditions for the greenhouse. However, he does have different growing conditions in the same greenhouse. At one end he has many tropical specimens. These are at the end with the evaporative coolers, ostensibly where the humidity is higher. The rest of the greenhouse shelters the grafted plants, seedlings and other plants that cannot be grown outside. A smattering of the plants to be found inside are: Mammillaria humboldtii (blooming), Ariocarpus kotschubeyanus, Neogomansi avavoides, and Rebutia albopilosa (with lovely, delicate orange flowers).

My visit ended after more than 2 hours. I know for sure I'll be going back, though. I'll be going back to buy that Rebutia albopilosa I left behind.

EUPHORBSIA'S NEWSII

The Christmas meeting is not that far away! Its time now to start thinking of a good place to hold our annual Christmas potluck. If you are able to hold it at your house, or know of a good place, talk to Kent or one of the officers of the society.



What do you call Godzilla when he is in a pensive mood?

a Cereus giganteus

What did one French succulent say to the other?

Aloe

CACSS OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

The October meeting for CACSS is scheduled as a field trip (by bus) to Tucson to visit several of the growers. On Sunday, October 28th, the bus will leave from Thomas Mall (44th St. and Thomas) at 6:30 a.m., and from the Tempe K-Mart (Baseline and Priest) at 6:50 a.m. We will be visiting Dan Bach's, Arid-Land Plants, and Tanque Verde. Be sure to bring a sack lunch. Cost of the trip is \$12.00. Send in your check now to Martha Passwater at:
7014 N. 15th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85020

Seeing all these super plants should make this a "spine-tingling" trip!

(The group will also be visiting one private garden.)



CACSS EVENTS CALENDAR

- Sept. 23 (Sun.) 2:00 p.m. CACSS Monthly Meeting - Slide show on Mexican plants by Jackson Fitz-Randolph
- Sept. 28-30 Leaving early a.m. Desert Botanical Garden field trip to the Huntington Gardens and Plant Sale
- Oct. 6 (Sat.) 9a.m.-5p.m. Desert Botanical Garden Fall Seed Sale
- Oct. 14 (Sun.) 2-5p.m. Open Gardens (see inside for details)
- Oct. 28 (Sun.) 6:30 a.m.-from Thomas Mall CACSS Field Trip by bus to
6:50 a.m.-from Tempe K-Mart Tucson Nurseries Cost \$12.00
- Nov. 10-11 8 a.m.-5p.m. Plant Show at Metrocenter with CACSS and the Men's-Garden Club
- Nov. 18 (Sun.) 2:00 p.m. CACSS Monthly Meeting - at the Garden

