



DRY TIMES

VOL. 111

MARCH 2011

NO. 3

President: Rosalie Gorchoff
(310) 822-1783

Editor: Nels Christianson
(310) 396-1231

nchristianson@mednet.ucla.edu

March meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2011
7:30 pm

Burton W. Chace County Park
13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey

PROGRAM

The Succulents of Yemen
Woody Minnich

PLANT OF THE MONTH

CACTUS:

Mammillaria, straight spines

SUCCULENT:

Tylecodon, Cotyledon

This month Sunset member Woody Minnich will present a program on the succulents of Yemen. Woody says: In 2007 I visited the country of Yemen which is located to the direct south of Saudi Arabia. Yemen is a unique country because it is affected by three different oceans. Like the islands of Abdel Kuri and Socotra, it is located at the confluence of the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea and is also heavily influenced by the currents of the greater Indian Ocean. We will visit Sana, the capital of Yemen, and then travel south to Taiz and from there on to the famous Port of Aden.

Yemen's environment is extremely arid, mostly sand and rock. Due to this typical desert condition, it is also classically rich in succulent plants. On route to Yemen's fascinating cities we will see an abundance of Asclepiads, Aloes and Euphorbias. I also found a few other wonderful succulents including *Adenium arabicum*, *Adenia venenata* as well a number of interesting Sansevieria species. I won't leave out the lizards and I'll also show a few of the special creatures that are often found in this windswept, sandy and mysterious region.

The Yemen culture and the people of this part of the world are very different from our western ways, and yet, their deserts are very similar to our own. When exploring their deserts, one can easily confuse their landscapes to the vistas of our own Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan regions. Don't miss this special presentation about Yemen, a part of the succulent world that is seldom seen and a country that most of us will probably never visit.

**** If your last name begins with letter T-W, please bring goodies to munch on at the break. Thank you!**

Sunset member Stan Kamin showed pictures of Ecuador and the Galapagos he took on a trip in December 2010. The Galapagos are on the equator 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and have some interesting succulents. He toured the islands aboard an 18-passenger ship. Stan's program was welcome since Sunset had not had a program on Ecuador for a long time.

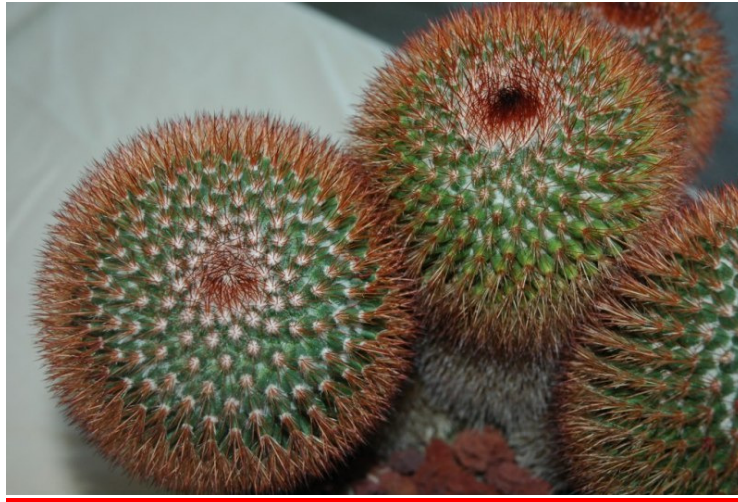
MEMORIES FROM MY PAST for Sunset Succulent Society on its 50th anniversary by Brian Gold

My father, Lee Gold, was always fascinated by the Southwest and as a newlywed traveled for the first time across the country. As he got to relive his childhood Indian card collecting days he discovered cacti and started a collection when settling in the San Fernando Valley in 1953. As a child, I grew up surrounded by weird living sculptures both in and out of the house as my parents collected primitive art and plants. In 1974, my Dad and I drove down through Baja California in a VW camper and it was legal to collect anything you could find so long as it was under a foot long. When we returned we really didn't know much about the names of the plants so we joined the Sunset Club in Santa Monica that met in Jocelyn Hall. It met on the third Thursday of every month and I was the youngest member there. I felt a bit out of place at first because there was no one else my age there, but everyone was so nice that I quickly became comfortable. I remember a lot of people because my Dad would talk to anybody and everybody and he really enjoyed the interactions. Bob McClurkin was the librarian and would faithfully truck in more pounds in books than he weighed. John & Mary Bleck, Joe Clements, Laurel Woodley and her Mom with the beautiful Zuni inlay were ever-present. Bill & Ellen Lowe, Millie Stern, Seymour Linden and Henry Varney were really helpful and made extra efforts to welcome newcomers.

The speakers of the month would show slides of their recent expeditions and would impart knowledge as well as entertain us regularly. And, of course, Pops would strike up post-lecture conversations and friendships would be forged. Woody Minnich was still teaching and would bring his wife and kids to meetings. I remember hanging out with Victor Turecek and going to Borrego Springs with him. We would faithfully attend club meetings and we would learn something new every month. In 1975, my Dad and I drove down to Baja a second time, and in 1976 Dad chaired the CSSA show. It did not take very long before we were picking up plants from growers, collectors and other plant enthusiasts. It was hysterical as a kid because I quickly learned the Latin names of the cacti and could talk knowledgably about how to transplant and handle the plants. We held a perpetual weekend plant sale at home and would encourage our regulars to join the Club too. I recall Bill & Judy Campbell in our backyard. Jerry "the Beaver" Mathers, Ray Manzarek (the Doors' keyboardist), Arte Johnson, Peter Strauss, Harlan Ellison and many other local celebs discovered our collection and would frequent the backyard. I would search for plants and seeds we didn't have and would procure from abroad. Over the years Manny & Burt Singer, Ed & Betty Gay, as well as Burt & Robert Greenberg were also influences and supplied us with hundreds of succulents we didn't have.

While I was in college it was impossible to go to meetings, yet I had a few dozen plants I took with me to school and maintained a small number of plants at my parents' home. After graduation, I would get to shows and perhaps a couple of meetings a year but didn't really become active again until the 80's. I became vice-president of this Club in February 1989 when the Club met at the Felicia Mahood location on Mondays, and, with Rosalie's help, I coordinated the monthly speakers. I actually remember trying to track down Dave Verity for months. John Trager, Myron Kimnach, Guy Wrinkle, Don Delano and Park Nobel, as well as Gary James, Mike Loik, Joey Betzler were speakers that year, in addition to Victor Turecek and Woody Minnich. My Dad covered one month when I couldn't find a speaker. He talked about Chile and Copiapoas. I even lectured on *Astrophytum* one month. I have grown up in this Club since I was 12 years old and am loving it **more** now than ever. It is great to see that the Club is still quite alive and that new members are still joining monthly. It won't be long before I am the speaker of the month and share images from my travels abroad.

SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN 2011 !!



Mammillaria spinosissima, photo by N. Christianson

Upcoming Events

April 9-10, South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, information, 310-832-2262.

April 16-17, Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton CA 92831.

April 24-29, CSSA Convention, San Diego CA, Marriott Hotel Mission Valley, www.cssainc.org

May 1, South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, 9 am-4 pm, South Coast Botanical Garden, information, 310-833-6823.

May 7-8, Sunset Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. Info 310-822-1783.

May 15, Huntington Plant Sale, 10 to 5, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino Ca

May 15, Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, 310-670-8148

May 14-15, Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, 10-4 pm, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo CA, info.: 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org

May 20-21, Gates Cactus and Succulent Society show and sale, 9 am – 4pm. Jurupa Mountain Cultural Center, for info call 909-360-8802.

June 4-5, San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale, Balboa Park, Rm. 101, San Diego, Info.: 858-382-1797.

June 11-12, Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale, June 11 9-5, June 12 9-3:30, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, info Sandy Chase, 818-367-0864.



Tylecodon schaeferanus, photo by N. Christianson

Sunset is sponsoring a trip to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park on March 12-13. There is limited space available. The Club will provide transportation and a partial payment of the room. If interested, call Rosalie by March 1st at 310-822-1783.

PLANT OF THE MONTH 2011

CACTUS

March	Mammillaria, straight spine
April	Uebelmannia, Buiningia
May	Lobivia, Echinopsis
June	Ferocactus, Echinocactus
September	Copiapoa, Matucana
October	Melocactus
November	Ariocarpus

SUCCULENT

Tylecodon, Cotyledon
Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Puya
Euphorbia – Africa
Euphorbia – Madagascar
Bursera, Operculicaria, Commiphora
Succulent Crests
Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon

February 2011 Plant of the Month Winners

Junior Cactus (no Junior winners)

Senior Cactus

1 st Place	Brian Gold	Parodia warasii
2 nd Place	Brian Gold	Parodia scopa alba
3 rd Place	Brian Gold	Parodia leninghausii

Junior Succulent

1 st Place	Peggy Oberg	Aeonium cv. Starlight
2 nd Place	Peggy Oberg	Aeonium

Senior Succulent

1 st Place	Jim Hanna	Sedum furfuraceum
2 nd Place	Jim Hanna	Aeonium cv. Bronze Medal
3 rd Place	Nels Christianson	Sedum clavata

The February POM judges were Mark Thomas and John Ryan accompanied by Jim Hanna.

Succulent of the Month, March 2011 – *Cotyledon and Tylecodon*

Cotyledon and *Tylecodon* are genera in the *Crassulaceae* Family. They are winter growers, and generally look their best in from late fall through early spring. *Cotyledon* is a genus of mostly shrubby plants with showy leaves. The genus is centered in Africa, stretching from South Africa to Saudi Arabia. *Tylecodon* is a relatively new genus first published in 1978. In books published before this date, most plants that we know today as *Tylecodon* will appear as *Cotyledon*. In habitat, *Tylecodon* are generally deciduous, losing their leaves in summer while *Cotyledon* tend to be evergreen. Cultivation of these genera is easy. Both are winter growers, dormant in the summer. During dormancy, *Tylecodon* prefer little or no water, depending on size, while *Cotyledon* seem to do better with infrequent watering or misting even while dormant.

References

H. Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich, December 2002

Mark your calendar now!

CSSA 2011 CONVENTION



April 24 - April 29, 2011
 Marriott Hotel - Mission Valley
 San Diego, California
Watch for future updates
www.cssainc.org

Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Confirmed Convention Speakers

Myron Kinnach – Banquet	Tom Knapik	Jackie Poole
Debra Baldwin	Julia Etter/Martin Kristen	Guillermo Rivera
Tom Glavich	Marlon Machado	Karen Zimmerman
Andrew Hankey	Todd Masilko	



Tylecodon sp., photo by N. Christianson

About DRY TIMES

DRY TIMES is published monthly by the Sunset Succulent Society (SSS), whose officers are:

President	Rosalie Gorchoff	(310) 822-1783	Vice Pres.	Brigitte Williams	(818) 455-1246
Secretary	Peggy Oberg	(310) 645-7946	Treasurer	Brigitte Williams	
		2nd Vice Pres., Plant of the Month		Laurel Woodley	

Material for publication in the newsletter must be in the Editors' hands by the 1st day of the publication month (e.g., by Aug. 1 for the next issue). Articles and letters may be edited for space and clarity. Editorial comment and signed articles are the opinions of the Editor or author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Board of Directors of the Society, an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. Unless expressly denied in a note with the article, all material in the newsletter may be reprinted by non-profit organizations, provided that proper credit is given to the SSS and the author, and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the Editor. Reproduction in whole or in part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the SSS is prohibited.

If you don't collect stamps, please save the envelope you received this newsletter in for Nels. Thank you.

Caro Desert Nursery

PRESENTS

ANNUAL POTTERS SALE & MASTER GROWERS INVITATIONAL AUCTION MARCH 19TH, 2011

Come and Buy from First Of The Year's Fine Ceramic Pottery

Come and be the first to acquire the new pots of the 2011 year. Many of these potters create new and gorgeous pots over the fall and winter. Be among the first to see and buy their new creations.

Joe Wujcik

A talented potter with his signature pottery pleasing for any plant. Joe is introducing some great new colors and patterns. I saw some of the new glazes in Orange County - you must get a few of these new colors!

Debbie & Charlie Ball

These one of a kind creations are great for any succulent plant. Each pot has a unique feel with creative patterns and glazes. If you visit the website www.ankhworks.com you will see the great new sizes being introduced this year - really fantastic!

Karenn Ohlinder

Dark and almost ancient civilization is the feel one gets from Karenn's pottery. A real So. Cal favorite! Karenn does not attend many shows so this is a rare opportunity to get her great pottery.

Steve Pate

Always an eye catcher and not seen often here in Southern California, as he resides in Stockton. Steve creates beautiful pottery which range from small bonsai shapes to deep large pots. I have been lucky enough to sell with Steve, but only in San Francisco and San Jose.

(Tentative list of potters)

Introducing a "Master Growers Invitational Auction"

This year there will be an Invitation Only Master Grower Specimen Plant Auction. You are being given an opportunity to buy plants that prior to now have been hidden away in a special spot in a special greenhouse taken care of by a Master Grower.

This will be a great time to not only see these spectacular plants but to be able to win them at auction.

You have been to individual Master Grower auctions, now we are gathering several Master Growers into one location for one spectacular auction. A tentative list of Master Growers will be: Vince Basta, Larry Grammer, Karen Ostler, Elton Roberts, Dave Tufenkian, Rene Caro and Tom Glavich.

Date:

Saturday March 19th, 2011

Potters Sale & Plant Viewing: 9:00 a.m.

Auction begins: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Caro Desert Nursery,

9607 E. Avenue S12

Littlerock, CA 93543

Phone: 661-456-0787

Web Site: www.CaroDesert.com

Email: PattyCC4@yahoo.com

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!