

The Hooked Spine

Newsletter of *CoronaCactus Nursery LLC.*

Volume 1, Issue 01

January 2010

South Africa 2009

30 days in succulent heaven!

Richtersveld Area - Northern Cape

Part 1 - Alexander Bay

South Africa is home to many succulents both big and small. From tiny Lithops and Conophytums, to huge Pachypodium and Aloe Trees.

Our travels took us along the west coast of South Africa in the Western Cape from Cape Town up into Springbok and the Richtersveld in the Northern Cape bordering the country of Namibia. Cape Town is the main "hub" city on the west coast of South Africa. A beautiful city with a European influence.

Situated along a similar longitude as where we are here in Southern California, the climate in South Africa is quite similar. The main difference being the seasons are reversed. As we now enter winter, it's spring over there.

The rainiest months in Cape Town are from May to August, while Johannesburg to the northeast, receives most of its rainfall in the summer between November and March.

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REGULAR FEATURES

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Welcome to the first issue of *The Hooked Spine*

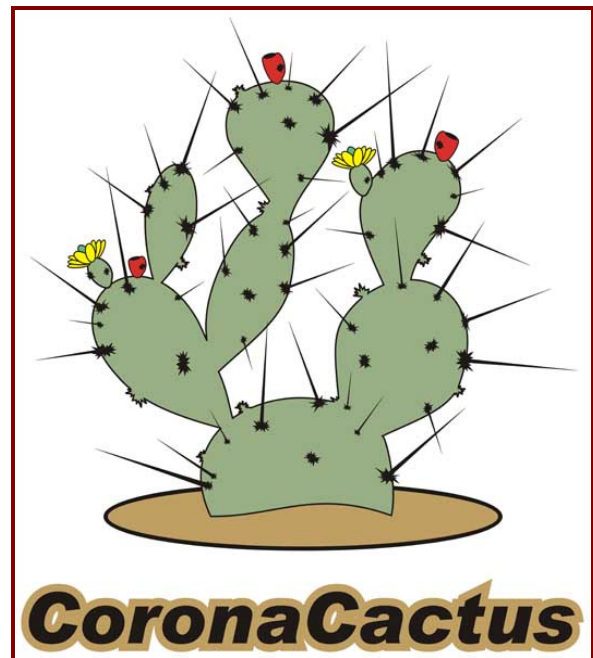
Winter Edition
January 2010
Vol. 1, Issue 01

Back by popular demand! We are bringing back the newsletter. It has a new name with a new look and we hope it meets your satisfaction!

We'll start with Bi-Monthly emailings or when news hits and see how it goes. Hopefully we can get it to a monthly status.

Each issue will have special offers that are not listed on the website. These could be special pricings, package deals, gift offers, rare species, matures specimens or anything else that might come up.

We will also have 2 rotating featurettes. A small photo gallery, "Flower Fotos" that will display a few select plants in bloom since the last newsletter issue and a small article, "About that Plant" which will feature a few photos and cultivation info and or accompany the Plant of the Month feature on the website. ❖



In September 2009 I had the opportunity to tour South Africa from the southern point all the way up to the Namibian boarder. I travelled with Buck and Yvonne Hemenway. During our trip I met many succulent lovers who lived in the areas and were gracious enough to show us around. Karel du Toit, a knowledgeable succulent enthusiast and guide, gave us a little hand drawn map on how to locate this fascinating spot. This short piece is about a stop we made driving south from The Richtersveld National Park towards Cape Town.

Alexander Bay

In the Alexander Bay area there is an amazing ecologically sensitive area. On one side of the road is the fenced off (due to the diamond mining) Atlantic Ocean beach. The side of the road we were interested in was the eastern side. Gypsum crust housed a huge lichen field and in that field were incredible succulents. (Fig. 1)

Roadside stops

We parked, got out of the car and immediately started spotting *Lithops* growing flat on the surface of the ground. (Fig. 3) I was actually surprised at this. Being my first visit to South Africa, I expected them to be growing in between rock facings like I had seen most of the *Conophytums* growing. I'm a noob, what can I say. As we walked along, eyes on the ground, under and around the lichens we soon started seeing *Euphorbia*, *Crassula*, *Tylecodon*, *Sarcocaulon* and many other wonderful plants. (Fig. 2) Finding the *Euphorbia ramiglans* was a highlight for me. (Fig. 4) Then Yvonne spotted the unusual *Sarcocaulon pattersonii* with the pink flowers. (Fig. 5) And they were open--lucky for us! We had seen many white flowering *Sarcocaulon*, but this was our first look at the pink flowers. We spent hours walking around looking and finding more and more treasures.

One plant was eluding us, we were told we could see baby toes (*Fenestraria hopalophylla*) and we were not having any such luck. You see, the plants here face high winds that blast the sand around. To stay alive, some of the succulents contract into the gypsum. At one point, Buck commented that we were not leaving until we had found them! Finally, under a *Sarcocaulon pattersonii*, I spotted the tiny little heads sticking up out of the sand. (Fig. 6) Of course, once we saw one, we found many others after that. That was the trend the whole trip.....I could of spent days roaming that area taking pictures, but we still had another little piece of paper with another hand written map on it to go find so we hopped into the SUV and took off to our next spot.

*It's so beautiful here, I want to sell my house
and move right now!*

In the next few issues of the Newsletter, we'll continue on our journey around South Africa. We'll also have the complete article with more photos up on the website.

Written by: Jennifer Craig



For accompanying South Africa photos, please see page 6. Click on the photo to view full size.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS WINTER 2010

JAN. 16

Huntington Botanical Gardens Desert Forum

Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA

FEB. 13

San Diego C&SS Winter Show & Sale

Casa Prado, Balboa Park (Room 101)

MARCH 6-7

SouthCoast C&SS Show & Sale

SouthCoast Botanical Gardens

263 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA

Plant Specials

New seedlings and some larger specimens.

We're giving you first crack at these special plant offers. (While supplies last) These offers are only available in the newsletter. Specials are good until the next Newsletter issue. Now aren't you glad you subscribed to the newsletter!!

<p>Ferocactus herrerae 1.5 y/o seedling Item# SSP10 Pot Size: 2.5" Price: \$3.00</p>	
<p>Parodia rutilans (Notocactus rutilans) 2 y/o seedling Item# SSP09 Pot Size: 2.5" Price: \$3.00</p>	
<p>Mammillaria sphacelata ssp. viperina Item# Mamm-c11 Pot Size: 3" Price: \$6.50 \$5.00</p>	
<p>Ferocactus chrysacanthus Item# Fero-c10 Pot Size: 5.5" Price: \$9.50 \$8.50</p>	
<p>Euphorbia resinifera Item# Euph-nwsltr01 Pot Size: 6.5" Price: \$12.50 \$10.00</p>	

Plant order arrived and in great condition. Thank you very much. I'm sure I'll be ordering from Corona Cactus Nursery again.

-Bob, MD

Pachypodium saundersii
Item# Pachy-s14
(*P. lealii* ssp. *saundersii*)
Pot Size: 6.5"
Price: ~~\$22.50~~ **\$20.00**



Euphorbia coerulescens
Item# Euph-nwsltr02
Pot Size: 6.5"
Price: ~~\$15.50~~ **\$13.50**



We were recently contacted by Joe Shaw of the website *Opuntiads of the USA* regarding the cold-hardy plants we offer. Joe writes a blog about various subjects regarding Cacti. Joe wrote a very nice review of CoronaCactus in his blog and we thank him very much for doing so.

Visit Joe's blog here:

www.opuntiads.com/oblog/?p=2020

Visit Joe's website here:

www.opuntiads.com

An [archive page](#) has been set up for easy web viewing of current and past Newsletters.

CUSTOMER CORNER

In this section we'd like to showcase photos, articles, comments, etc. from you, our valued customers! Please include your name and location, as well as a brief description of the photo (including the name(s) of the plant(s) in the photo) If you have a webpage or would like to be contacted via email, include that information as well.

PHOTOS

We'd love to see photos of your plants, your garden, etc. Need help identifying a plant? Send us a photo, we'll do our best!

ARTICLES

If you've written or would like to write an article about any aspect of our hobby and would like share it with the CoronaCactus Community, please let us know. It does not need to be technical it can be about any C&S related topic.

COMMENTS

We'd like to hear from you! Constructive feedback is good for everybody. Let us know how we're doing. ❖

Our first customer photo comes from Eileen Ritchie. Eileen has created a very nice dish garden of *Ortegocactus macdougallii* using our trademark black granule top dressing. It really sets off the jet black spines. Thanks for the photo, Eileen. Great dish garden!



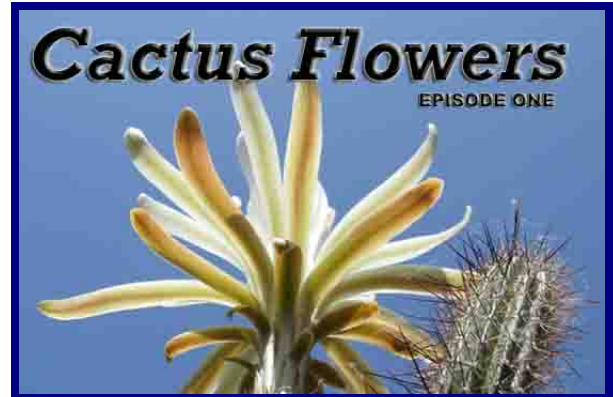
CoronaCactus Photo DVD

Cactus Flowers EPISODE ONE: Plants in Cultivation

We are proud to announce our first in a series of 3 Photo DVDs!

We have compiled over 700 high quality photos devoted to the flowers of Cacti. Compiled into two 45 minute slideshows, this DVD is sure to please!!

The DVD can be ordered directly from our website using the **Item# DVD1**. More info and sample photos are available on our website. www.coronacactus.com/DVD.htm



*These are the best plants I've ever bought!
Thanks for offering great plants to us all!*

-Dustin, FL

*Great website with informative articles. My
Pachypodiums now have seed pods!*

-Karen, TX

For more information, Plant Sales Lists, Cultivation Articles and more, please visit our website:

www.coronacactus.com

**Check us out on eBay!
CoronaCactusNursery**

Our listings generally start on Tuesday and end on Sunday.
We offer lower than listed starting prices to give you a chance at some really great deals!



Flower Fotos

All photos are property of CoronaCactus Nursery LLC.



Eriosyce napina



Conophytum ratum EF534



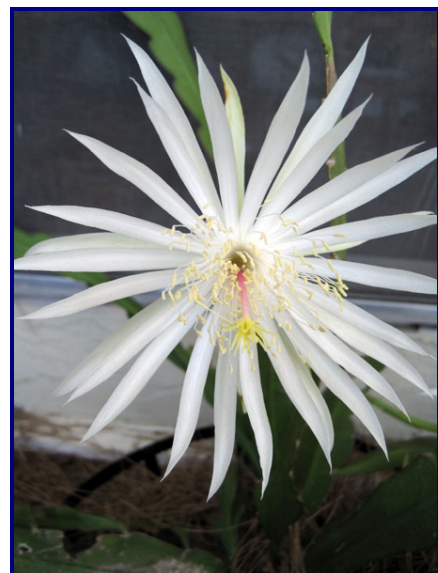
Piaranthus geminatus var. foetidus



Coryphantha maiz-tablasensis



Adenium swazicum cv. Perpetual Pink



Epiphyllum hookeri

South Africa 2009

Resolution reduced for faster loading, please see our website for full size/full resolution images (Click on image if using MSword)



Landscape view of the Alexander Bay habitat area
Fig. 1



Overview of a succulent cluster with many different plants
Fig. 2



Lithops herrei
Fig. 3



Euphorbia ramiglans
Fig. 4



Sarcocaulon pattersonii
Fig. 5



Fenestraria hopalophylla
Fig. 6