

Gerald S. Barad (1923---2016): plant explorer, hybridist, and horticulturist

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When I heard recently that Jerry Barad had passed away a few months after the death of his wife, Bea, I remembered his passions that had played out on his 28-acre estate near Flemington, New Jersey. There he had amassed a spectacular collection of cacti and other succulents in a 200-foot-long glasshouse as well as a landscaped garden in or near his forest of native trees. The view from his house included a vast stretch of lawn and in the distance his own lake.

I visited there several times while on trips to the east coast. He and his wife were fine hosts, with Jerry doing much of the cooking. He took pride in his extensive vegetable garden, his alpines, bulbs and hardy rhododendrons. Many of the gardening tasks required the assistance of one or more hired men. An important annual event for him was the Philadelphia flower show, in which he entered his own plants as well as acting as a judge. Another annual event at his home was his open house and plant sale where he sold plants and potting soil and gave tours.

Professionally, Jerry was a New York City physician who specialized in gynecology, especially in matters of female fertility. This interest inspired his hobby of creating unusual stapeliad hybrids by pollination using a microscope. Stapeliads were among his favorite succulents; 150 of his photographs of these plants can be seen on his page "Stapeliads, Orchids of the Succulent World" on the internet Plant Mall.

Jerry had a long association with the CSSA. He was President from 1990 to 1993 and a Fellow from 1981. For several years he wrote a column in the Journal featuring other private collections and sometimes his plant collecting trips.

I was on two of these trips with Jerry, the first one in Madagascar, accompanied by John Lavranos, Gary James, and Seymour Linden. It was a fabulous country with a unique flora. I had been there before with a large group, but with the four of us there was more leisurely time exploring fields of pachypodiums, alluaudias, stapeliads and other fascinating plants.

My second trip with Jerry was to Somalia, a perilous but adventurous place in which to travel. We found some twenty new succulent species, nearly all of them later published by Susan Carter. One found by Jerry was *Rhytidocaulon richardianum* Lavr., a stapeliad named after one of his sons who had died when young.

Jerry had five plants named for him. Those from Somalia are *Caralluma baradii* Lavr. (later reclassified as *Somalluma baradii* (Lavr.) Plowes) and *Euphorbia baradii* Carter. Others from elsewhere are *Huernia baradii* Plowes (Yemen), *Caralluma sinaica* var. *baradii* Lavr, & Newton (Yemen), and *Conophytum* var. *klingshardtense* subsp. *baradii* Hammer (Namibia).

Jerry was a major international figure in the world of succulents. He will be long remembered.