

Feb, 1979

CENTRAL ARIZONA  
CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

# THE CENTRAL SPINE

1979 OFFICERS and BOARD

EUFORBESIA'S NEWSII

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This marks the first issue of my editorial career. I hope and plan to print The Central Spine every other month, but this depends on each of your contributions. I will gladly welcome any ideas or suggestions to improve the newsletter, as well as articles, drawings, cartoons, and even jokes. If you need ideas, I have plenty for everyone! If everyone contributed just one article, we'd have enough material to print issues for over one year! So start thinking about it now.

Although I'm new to the Society and also to publishing newsletters, I hope to print a newsletter that is worthwhile to the Society.

C.S.S.A. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SUCCULENT PLANTS  
Adopted January 20, 1979

PURPOSE:

Recognizing that abusive and indiscriminate collecting of native species of succulents can contribute to the depletion of local plant populations and to the extinction of rare or endemic species, the Cactus and Succulent Society of America adopts as a guide for responsible and conscientious conduct the following principles, and recommends that affiliated societies endorse these principles.

I. Do not damage natural populations of plants. In general, removal of plants from habitat should be discouraged. Such plants are valuable reservoirs of natural history that can be studied and appreciated by all.

II. If plants are to be collected, obey international, national, and local regulations by doing the following:

A. Know and abide by local laws regulating removal and export of both protected and unprotected plants. Obtain and carry all necessary permits with you before collecting and removing the plants.

(NOTE: this includes abiding by the provisions of the International Convention of Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora; the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; other laws and regulations prohibiting the taking from protected areas such as national parks and state-owned lands or from public or private preserves; and state laws regulating the taking of protected native plants. Some jurisdictions impose heavy fines and possibly jail sentences for illegal taking.)

B. Make absolutely sure that the plants collected are not threatened, endangered, or are being proposed for one of these categories. If so protected, such plants may be removed only for scientific study. You should be content to collect seed, if allowed by law, of these species.

III. Where possible, collect seed, cuttings, or offsets rather than the whole plant. Remember that large plants are needed in habitat to produce seed for regeneration. If you must collect whole plants, be content with small ones; besides large plants are difficult or impossible to re-establish.

- A. Never jeopardize natural populations by taking plants in volume numbers; exercise restraint by taking only a few.
- B. Avoid casual disclosure of specific locations of desirable plants in the wild because this may result in the depletion of the whole population by collectors less scrupulous than you.

IV. Make careful field notes. Include locality, altitude, other interesting plant associations, vegetation and soil types, date of collection and your field number. If possible, assess the population density and range. This material should be useful for your own study of these plants and ultimately be a contribution to their conservation.

V. If a plant species is thought to be endangered, or if you come across information regarding its possible preservation or destruction, please send a report to the C.S.S.A. Conservation Committee Chairman.

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A. Local cactus societies should actively participate in rescue efforts to save native succulents from destruction resulting from land clearing and land development.

VI. Photographs of the habitat area are advisable.

VII. In the management of your own collection:

- A. Propagate rare plants and contribute to their survival by distributing them.
- B. Grow plants from seed and make seeds available to others.
- C. Label plants clearly and correctly, particularly if you specialize in certain groups.
- D. Maintain good records.
- E. Make well-grown plants your emphasis, not size or rarity.

VIII. Buy plants from reputable nurserymen. Do not patronize a supplier who trades in illegally obtained, unpropagated, imported plants, or one who knowingly exports or imports plants contrary to the provisions of the International Trade Convention.

IX. At cactus shows, judges should give preference to well-grown seedlings rather than to plants that are obvious imports.

- A. Show committees should indicate that more credit will be given to plants that are difficult to grow rather than those that are rare.
- B. Showing of field-collected plants listed in the Smithsonian Report on Endangered Species and Appendix I of the International Trade Convention should be discouraged.

Minutes of...

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 21, 1979

President Kent Newland called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. All incoming and outgoing board members were present with the exception of Fran Tolleson, who was ill. Kent thanked Joan Skirvin and Margaret Caldwell for their service to the Society in 1978.

The meeting schedule for the next few months was discussed. It is detailed in this newsletter under Upcoming Events.

The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta will meet in Tucson for this year's regional meeting from April 18th through the 21st. The CACSS will act as hosts during their tour of the Desert Botanical Garden.

May 21-25 are the dates for the annual CSSA Convention, this year in Pasadena, CA. Details are in the CSSA Journal. Kent Newland and Bob Moulis were unanimously selected as our two delegates to the convention. The idea of hiring a bus for a group trip to the convention was discussed, but later discarded of the time and money involved.

The redesigning of the membership application was discussed. It was decided to let the secretary and treasurer design a new form.

**Operating expenses: Board members may submit bills under \$30 directly to Martha Passwater for reimbursement. Anything over that amount must be submitted to the Board for approval.**

Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society  
Minutes of January 21st, 1979

The meeting was called to order by President Kent Newland. He introduced the new board members and gave their respective positions. The retiring board members were thanked for their efforts in 1978. Kent then announced the following appointments: Chris Dezelsky - Librarian, and Sylvia Forbes - Newsletter Editor. A special request was made to each and every member to contribute to the newsletter. Articles do not have to be treatises; just a short article about a species of special interest to you, or your secret formula for potting mix, fertilizer, etc., will be greatly appreciated by Sylvia, and by us all. If you have an idea and would like to talk it over with Sylvia, you can reach her at the Garden.

Frank Hennessey announced that due to the upcoming Cactus Show, there will be no meeting of the CACSS in February. Details of the March and April meetings can be found in Upcoming Events.

Rodney Engard gave us a report on the Cactus Show. This year the show will open (for the first time) on Saturday, February 24th and run until March 4th. Set-up will begin on Wednesday, February 14th. Entries will be received from Monday, the 19th, until Wednesday, the 21st. Judging will be Thursday. Open house is scheduled for Friday, the 23rd. Please plan to spend some time helping out with the show. If you haven't considered volunteering before, Reconsider! Call Sylvia at the Garden if you can donate a few hours.

The Agaves of Baja California, by Dr. Howard Scott Gentry, research botanist at the Desert Botanical Garden, is finally in print. It is available at the Garden's Bookstore for \$8.00. Since only 2,000 copies were printed, it will be a collector's item! Eight new species and varieties are described by Dr. Gentry in his book.

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
1979 Membership list

Central  
Spent  
E.A. 1079

- Lewis Bremer III (Barcia)
- W. J. Brosenne (M. M.)
- Margaret Caldwell
- Martha Chester (William)
- ✓ Belle Cooper
- ✓ Kathy Corbett (Runice)
- Chris Dezelsky
- ✓ - Warner Dodd (Beverly)
- Hubert Earle
- Rodney Engard
- Alice Feffer
- Chuck Fellers (Anne)
- Melvin Firestone (Mark)
- ✓ - Jackson Fitz-Randolph (Ma)
- Sylvia Forbes
- William Garcia (Sylvia)
- John Graham (Pat)
- Ruth Halseth
- ✓ Charlene Hart
- Frank Hennessey (Phil)
- Stanley Jones
- Emmy La Tempa

- C. H. Liu
- Nancy Macbeth
- Roderick McGill
- Charles Merbs (Barbara)
- Robert Moulis (Elaine)
- Art Murray
- Kent Newland
- Dottie O'Rourke
- Emma Oscarson (Clinton)
- ✓ Martha Passwater
- Robert Pribbenow (Clara)
- Tim Reeves
- Frank Schively (Trudi)
- ✓ - Sally Shackelford
- Daniel Shell
- Joe Sherman (Winnie)
- Joan Skirvin (Stan)
- Ella Stacey
- ✓ Lewis Steichman (Millie)
- Keith Teater
- Lee Tolleson (Fran)
- Henry Triesler
- William Tucker (Ruby)
- Gerald Yates

5001 Wilk. Way Rd - P.V. 85253

Anne Fellers, Hospitality Chairman, reported that 24 members and 2 guests were present. The guests were Anne's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Frost.

Margaret Caldwell gave the final financial report for 1978. We had \$595.85 in the bank as of 1/21/79. We made one major investment in 1978 - the slide projector - which cost \$274. Membership is down somewhat this year. These factors combined has left us with less money in the bank than we had last year at this time. If anyone has an idea for generating income for the Club, please bring it to Kent's attention.

Warner Dodd asked what plants we would like him to obtain to sell at the meetings. It was decided to have a wide selection of smaller, less expensive plants.

Kent told the membership about a new nursery in Tucson carrying a very nice selection of succulents: Arid Land Plants  
6538C E. Tanque Verde (at La Playa Center)  
Phone: 298-7651

The next order of business was to choose a logo, at long last! The winner of that vote, drawn by Tom Caldwell, now graces the front page of our newsletter.

The program was a most interesting presentation by Bob Moulis on grafting.

Kent offered everyone a cutting of Xenocysious langyii, a rather rare succulent from Madagascar.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy La Tempa, Secretary

The purpose of this trip was to see the plants available at Arizona Cactus Sales in Phoenix. I went on a Saturday, January 24, 1964, and found that the plants were mostly in the ground, and to my surprise, they were mostly in the ground. The plants were mostly in the ground, and to my surprise, they were mostly in the ground.

The first visit was to Arizona Cactus Sales, located at 1000 North Central Avenue in Phoenix. I went on a Saturday, January 24, 1964, and found that the plants were mostly in the ground, and to my surprise, they were mostly in the ground. The plants were mostly in the ground, and to my surprise, they were mostly in the ground.

The plants of the nursery were four family related but varied in size, shape and color. I found a large cactus that was very interesting. The plants were mostly in the ground, and to my surprise, they were mostly in the ground.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

I returned on another occasion and had the pleasure of meeting Jim Elliot. Mr. Elliot has owned the business two years, having bought it from the previous owner. Essentially, the nursery is a one-man operation. Mr. Elliot has help on Saturdays only. Most of the plant stock is planted in the ground, thus making the problem of watering in the summer greatly simplified. He had quite a few plants damaged by the freezes in December and January. He had put styrofoam cups over the tips of many of his columnar cacti. It proved to be a very effective insulator. He explained that the principle of insulation is not that it keeps out the cold, but rather that it retards the loss of heat. He was careful to point out, however, that the styrofoam will not protect against a hard freeze of 20° or so.

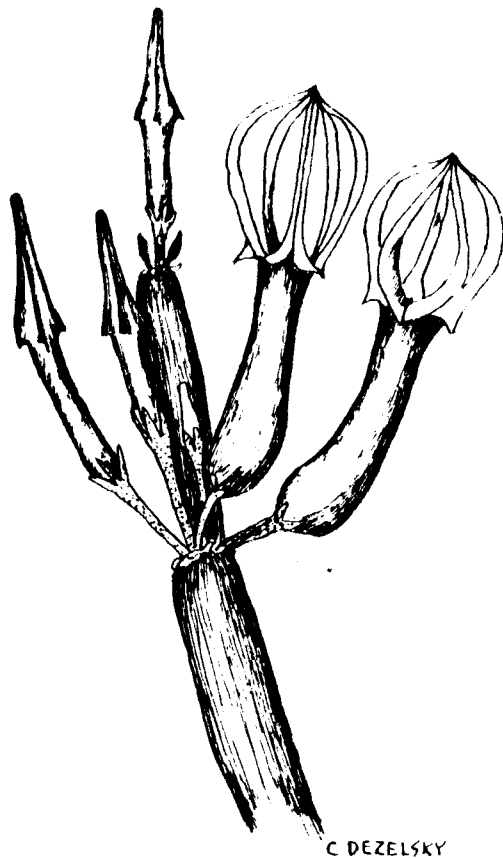
I had intended to list some of the plants available at Arizona Cactus Sales in this article. Mr. Elliot asked that I not list specific plants in the raised beds, since the stock is constantly changing. Though I agreed not to, I don't understand his reluctance. Anyway, if you want to know what's there, you will have to go and see for yourself. All in all, it seemed to me to be worth an occasional trip to keep up with what is in stock.

## Ceropegieae and Ceropegia dichotoma

Members of the Ceropegieae tribe of the Asclepidaceae (milkweed) family occur in tropical and South Africa, East India and the Canary Islands. There are more than 200 known species of Ceropegia. Over 70 of these are succulent, either in their roots, caudices or stems.

All the members of this Genus have narrow tubular flowers. The flowers are quite diverse, and their size ranges from 2-12 cm. long. The five corolla lobes remain united at their tips but free from one another otherwise. This arrangement forms a canopy or umbrella over the top, giving the appearance of tiny colored lanterns. The apex can be drawn out into a long spiral. Sometimes the unusual flowers have masses of colored hairs, spots or other outgrowths that attract tiny insects.

Insects are attracted to the flowers by both color and odor. An insect finds its way from the upper part of the floral tube, to the lower part which has smooth walls and hairs angled downwards. The insect falls into the



lower tube in which the stamens and stigmas are situated. Once pollination has occurred (due to the pollen brought in by the insect), the hairs wilt, allowing the insect to escape.

The seed pods resemble a pair of horns and contain seeds, each bearing a tuft of white hairs, which allow the seeds to be borne on the wind and to be dispersed to new habitats some distance from the point of origin.

Ceropegias can be divided into three basic vegetative groups:

- 1) Those with tubers, often having long twining stems,
- 2) Thicker stemmed species, usually leafless, which climb, and
- 3) The "stick" type, which grow erect, cluster freely and bear a pair of leaves at each joint position on new stems.

The leaves when present are varied in shape and colors range from green to purple with cream colored markings. Fleshy leaves remain on the plant for years, while non-fleshy leaves remain only up to 6 months before dropping.

Ceropegia dichotoma is a native of Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands. It is of the "stick" type, growing stiffly erect, and having cylindrical succulent stems up to finger thickness. The stems, gray to whitish, sometimes tinged with purple, are composed of up to ten joints. During the growing season, pairs of very narrow, 3-4 cm. long leaves are present, but they drop off during the dry season. The flowers of Ceropegia dichotoma are 2 cm. long, lemon yellow, and rise from the joints of the upper parts of the shoots. (See the illustration.) It grows natively either in sandy soil among rocks or beneath other bushes for protection from foraging animals.



Although *Ceropegias* are showy house plants, many of them are inconspicuous in their native habitat. They tend to grow in isolation under dense shrubs, and this makes them hard to find. Some have been collected on only a few occasions, and others are known only from one herbarium specimen.

*Ceropegias* generally grow best in a sandy humus soil mixture, a well draining pot, slight shade and regular watering from spring through autumn, provided the weather is warm. They require plenty of warmth in summer, and winter temperatures not lower than 45° F. (some sources say 50° F.).

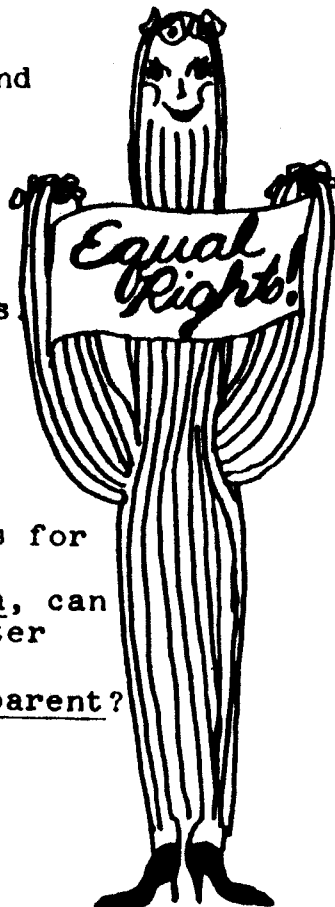
Most species should be kept completely dry in winter. The Canarian species, including *C. dichotoma* are winter growers, so they are watered more in the winter, and need very little water during their summer resting period.

Seeds of *Ceropegias* are said to keep their vitality a long time and to germinate quickly when sown. A very large number can also be propagated from cuttings, flowering within 6-12 months. Cuttings root best with slight bottom heat.

*Ceropegias* grow considerably during the year. Some species may be trained into a perennial vine, while others die back to the tuber each year for the winter resting period.

## E.R.A. IN CACTI

by Kent Newland



In these days of new legislation, I must warn you against sex discrimination in our cactus collections. We must neutralize *Heliocereus* to *Itilocereus*. *Uebelmannia* and *Neowerdermannia* must now become *Lebelpersonia* and *Neowerderpersonia*. As for that double offender, *Mammillaria magnimamma*, can anyone think of a better euphemism than ... *Procreatillaria magniparent*?

## WANT LIST

This section of the newsletter is for CACSS members, so your wildest plant dreams can be fulfilled! Have you been drooling over someone else's special plant, that you can't locate at any nursery? Or do you need some equipment that you can't find? How about an out-of-print book? Write it down (only a few items each time please!), put your name on it, and give it to the editor. In this way everyone in the club can be a resource of plants and information to every other member.

### WANTED:

- 1) *Crassula pyramidalis* - Sylvia
- 2) WRITERS for the newsletter
- 3) Plants donated for the Silent Auction
- 4) Unusual varieties of *Sansveria* Em LaTempa
- 5) Unusual lithops- Chris Dezelski

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
2/24 to 3/4	9-6 p.m.	32nd Annual Cactus Show, Desert Botanical Garden.
3/25	11 a.m.	March Meeting - CACSS. Wildflower trek to Picacho State Park. Meet there; bring lunches. Admission: \$1/car. Picacho is about a 1-1/2 hour drive south of Phoenix on I-10. The park is clearly marked.
4/7 & 4/8	9-5	Plant sale at the DBG.
4/14 & 4/15	all day	Plant sale at the Arboretum.
4/29	2 p.m.	April meeting - CACSS. Guest speakers from the U of A and the Desert Sonora Museum will talk about a trip to the Chihuahua, Mexico area. Also, our first silent auction.
4/18 to 4/21		American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta annual meeting in Tucson.
5/21 to 5/25		CSSA Convention. Pasadena, California. Information in January CSSA Journal.