

CENTRAL SPINE

NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

MAY 2000

RESULTS FOR CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW, YEAR 2000

Sweepstakes Trophy sponsored by Rod and Lisa Northrup	Russ Hintz	184 points
Charles E. Mieg Memorial Trophy for Most Blue Ribbons	Edra Drake	20 blue ribbons
Best Cactus of Show	Supanee & Kreg Webb	<i>Ortegocactus macdougallii</i>
Best Succulent of Show	Supanee & Kreg Webb	<i>Portulacaria afra</i>
Best Cactus from Section I, Individual Specimens	Richard Zeh	<i>Obregonia denegrii</i>
Best Succulent from Section II, Individual Specimens	Supanee & Kreg Webb	<i>Portulacaria afra</i>
Best Cactus Collection sponsored by Elaine Chapman in memory of Jack C. Taylor	Edra Drake	Six Mammillaria
Best Succulent Collection	Edra Drake	Six Gasteria
Best Aizoaceae sponsored by Fran Tolleson & Bud Terrell in memory of Vikkie Bone	Russ Hintz	<i>Lithops leslei</i> v. <i>albinica</i>
Best Ariocarpus sponsored by Jo Davis & David Balemi in memory of Donald Holland	Edra Drake	<i>Ariocarpus trigonus</i>
Best Euphorbia sponsored by Elaine Chapman in memory of Lewis R. Steichman	Joan & Stan Skirvin	<i>Euphorbia ambovombensis</i>
Best Ferocactus sponsored by Scott McMahan in memory of his grandfather	Edra Drake	<i>Ferocactus diguettii</i>
Best Arizona Native Plant sponsored by the Board of the CACSS	Edra Drake	<i>Echinocereus goniacanthus</i>
Best Crested or Monstrose Plant sponsored by Rod and Lisa Northrup	Richard Zeh	<i>Euphorbia</i> x ' <i>Edward Hummel</i> '
Best Seedling	Leo Martin	<i>Blossfeldia liliputana</i>
Best Decorative Planter	Russ Hintz	<i>Euphorbia</i> x ' <i>Peaches and Cream</i> '
Best Specimen Planter	Edra Drake	<i>Mammillaria geminispina</i>
Frank & Philomena Hennessy Memorial Trophy for Best Novice Cactus	Richard Zeh	<i>Obregonia denegrii</i>
Frank & Philomena Hennessy Memorial Trophy for Best Novice Succulent	Richard Zeh	<i>Euphorbia suzannae</i>
Best Junior Novice Cactus sponsored by Elaine Chapman in memory of Jack C. Taylor	Corinne Cox	<i>Obregonia denegrii</i>
Best Junior Novice Succulent sponsored by Elaine Chapman in memory of Jack C. Taylor	Corinne Cox	<i>Monadenium ritchiei</i>
Rosette for Outstanding Master's Cactus	Joan & Stan Skirvin	<i>Copiapoa krainziana</i>
Rosette for Outstanding Master's Succulent	Edra Drake	<i>Calibanus hookeri</i>
Rosette for Outstanding Advanced Cactus	Supanee & Kreg Webb	<i>Melocactus lensselinkianus</i>
Rosette for Outstanding Advanced Succulent	Supanee & Kreg Webb	<i>Gasteraloe 'Green Ice'</i>
Rosette for Outstanding Novice Cactus	Richard Zeh	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>
Rosette for Outstanding Novice Succulent	Jane Schlosberg	<i>Idria columnaris</i>

Chairman's Special Rosette for Outstanding Achievement
Desert Botanical Garden

Chairman's Special Rosette for Outstanding Achievement
Judy Braun-Brody & Bob Davis Registration Volunteers

Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

P.O.Box 8774
Scottsdale, AZ 85252

2000 Officers

President	Leo Martin	602-852-9714
Vice President	Debra Korobkin	602-493-7003
Secretary	Dana Hiser	602-368-8606
Treasurer	Alan Rinstone	602-996-9636
Past President	Cathy Babcock	480-921-9396
Directors	Pam Bass	602-460-4369
	Damon Billings	846-1708
	Judy Brody	951-1363
	Jerry Chapman	602-945-6543
	Bob Davis	480-839-3792
	Janet Hazlet	480-902-0892
	Richard Maxwell	480-252-6101
	Regina Rodgers	623-974-1105
	Fran Tolleson	602-943-6729
	Henry Triesler	480-946-1122
	Richard Zeh	602-224-0811
Affiliate Representative	Henry Triesler	480-946-1122
	<i>Appointive Offices</i>	
Librarian	Muriel Beroza	840-8912
Newsletter	Nick Diomede	602-636-0873

Central Spine

Deadline for articles and submissions for next newsletter:

June 12th 2000

Send to:

Nick Diomede

1022 East Osborne Road Unit C.

Phoenix, AZ 85014-0873

(H) 602-636-0873 / (FAX) 877-415-9707 /

phxnickd@yahoo.com

Publication of the material in the Central Spine does not imply agreement with the ideas expressed therein by any portion of the membership of CACSS, nor does it constitute an endorsement or support for any portion of such material by CACSS, or the Central Spine, regardless of any position or office held by the author(s). All such material represents a comment and/or personal opinion of the author(s).

CACSS

Annual Spring Plant Auction

Desert Botanical Gardens

Webster Auditorium

Sunday May 21, 2000

2:00 ~ 4:00 PM

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to all our volunteers for staging a spectacular Show. I would like to single out Pam Bass, Judy Braun-Brody, Bob Davis, Jo Davis, and Edra Drake for committing vast amounts of time. Any shortcomings, errors, or omissions of necessary items related to the Show are due to me, and I would like to hear of any so they may be avoided next time. The wonderful work was done by our volunteers.

I would like to thank publicly the Desert Botanical Garden and director Carolyn O'Malley for allowing us to use such a fine space for our Show and for our meetings.

If you didn't show this year, I would like to hear from you why not, and how we could change things to make it possible for you to show. Talk to me in person, phone me at 602-852-9714, or send me a letter (you don't have to sign it) at 4205 East San Miguel avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, 85018. Our presentation of the Show is one way we justify to the DBG our use of Webster Auditorium, and I think it is very important that our Show continue to grow. At least a few people became members of the Desert Botanical Garden after viewing our Show.

* * * * *

Alan Butler of Brookside Nursery, England, gave a spectacular talk on Succulents of the Arabian Peninsula. Those of you who made it had quite a treat. I like these in-depth talks where I learn about the climate; it helps me grow my plants better.

* * * * *

This is still seed time. I planted lots of cactus seed this year. As the days and nights warm up, different plants become happy enough to sprout. It is always amazing to lift the lids of containers and see who is there to greet me for the first time. I'm collecting seed from my own plants as it matures and still will be planting more, well into the summer. And then there are the seeds of the non-succulents I grow... Try some seeds. They're quite easy, and it's so very rewarding.

* * * * *

My Echinopsis continue blooming. These have to be the easiest and most rewarding of all plants (not just C&S) to grow in this climate. Imaging an offset the size of a quarter, taken in early summer. By the next April, it will probably be at least as large as a softball, maybe even a volleyball, and have a dozen brilliantly-colored flowers up to 6" in diameter. All the request is a larger pot than you would use for slower-growing plants; plenty of water; sun; and ample fertilizer. I put offsets into 4" pots using a soil mixture that retains water well. Don't let them dry out for best growth. Properly grown, they will easily increase enough each year to jump 4" or more in pot size. If yours aren't growing that much and not blooming like crazy in the spring, you're almost certainly not watering enough. These plants are almost impossible to rot. They grow all winter and welcome watering and fertilizing all winter. They even tolerate temperatures down into the teens while wet. Yet, they will survive for weeks without water in the heat of the summer (though I don't recommend this if you want to see lots of flowers.) For some photos, point your browser at <http://www.huntington.org/BotanicalDiv/Succulent2000/catalogindex.html> Most of the

(Continued on page 3)

Plant of the Month
May 2000
Lithops N. E. Brown
Leo A. Martin

Yes, we did this just last November. But, the plants have just finished producing the new leaves, and look great!

Lithops (stone plant) was first separated from Mesembryanthemum as a genus by Nicholas Edward Brown. They had amazed Europeans since the late 1700s for their resemblance to stones. They are stemless, sometimes clustering, top-shaped paired-leaf plants whose flat leaf tops are normally at soil level, formally separated from *Conophytum* by the absence of bracts on the stems, though only by cutting into the plant would this be noticed. Flowers are white or yellow, and open when the sun shines.

Lithops are found primarily in southwest Africa with predominately late summer to early winter rains. During the rainy season it may rain almost daily. Then they may go 8 months without rain. They grow in flat areas among pebbles. They are almost impossible to find in habitat unless flowering; during the dry season plants shrink below ground, and sand blows into the depression, so areas must be swept to reveal the plants beneath the dust.

According to Schwantes, *L. pseudotruncatella* easily tolerates 15 degrees F in the winter if it is shrivelled. Rusch reported leaf temperatures of 56C (133 F) at noon on a sunny day. On the other hand, Steve Hammer has told me *L. optica forma rubra* grows very close to the coast and probably never gets above 75 F in habitat. Whatever the temperature, they grow in full sun, and soon elongate with shade.

Many people prefer growing them in deep pots, allowing formation of an extensive root system, in a mainly mineral soil. They are potted higher than natural in cultivation to protect against rot. Flowering starts in fall, with different species following the same order year after year. Woody Minnich has said the flower is like a flag saying, "Stop watering me." After flowering, the plants will shrivel somewhat. With the approach of summer, the new pair of leaves will split the old ones. Don't water yet! Wait until the old pair of leaves is dry like paper, then soak once. Drench the soil. After that, wait until the soil is dry before watering again. Very weak fertilizer is used during the summer watering period by many people; others don't fertilize.

One person wrote to the online cacti_etc discussion group that he waters his *Lithops* only TWICE yearly, once in the spring after old leaves are resorbed, and once in the fall just before flowering. He has plants decades old.

Birds are a problem. They like to peck at the soft bodies. Protect your plants.

They are supposed to be easy from seed; in fact, easier than buying plants, because they are adapted to one's growing conditions from birth. Multiple bodies can also be separated and potted up; this is probably best accomplished when it's warm and new growth is complete.

(Continued from page 2)

flowers are shown life size.

* * * * *

The Silent Auction beckons. I've been making my cuttings and potting seedlings to bring in. This is one of our club's only sources of income, the other being dues. So, bring in things to auction! Please, also bring in a piece of paper with each plant. Make it 4" x 6" or bigger. At the top put the name of the plant and the minimum opening bid. If you bring in a rare plant, go ahead and set the opening bid higher than 50 cents. A little more information--where it comes from, is it rare, is it from seed or a cutting--helps make plants more attractive to bidders.

Also, bring boxes to take home your plants; cash or check-book; and a pen or pencil.

We will start with a short business meeting, then on to the auction.

We will return to the format of one timer per table, with different time periods for each table. When I tell you to start, you may put your name and your bid on any plant. If somebody has already bid, you must overbid them by at least 50 cents. When the timer goes off at a table, the auction is closed at that table, and the table monitor will prevent you from bidding there. Go on to the other tables and continue bidding.

When the last timer has dinged, collect your winning plants and cards. At this time, any plants that drew no bids may also be selected; you will pay the opening bid. Take all your cards to the front table for payment.

Enjoy your plants!

* * * * *

People continue to ask about a fall buying trip to San Diego this year. I think fall is perfect; the plants don't have to come from cool southern California into the ovens of our gardens, and they have all winter to get ready for summer. There is still time to plan a trip if we start now.

We need a trip coordinator. This person will need to research plane fares, motel accommodations, bus, and nurseries. The Elliots at Arizona Cactus Sales, 480-963-1061, have coordinated this before and might be willing to offer advice. Rich Zeh at 602-224-0811 is familiar with nurseries there and would be a good contact person.

I think it takes almost the same time to drive to San Diego as it does to fly, when you consider driving to the airport, parking, checkin, wait for the delayed plane, get off the plane, get the luggage, find the bus, drive to the motel. So, one possibility would be to drive there. It's only about 5 1/2 hours. What do you think? Let me know.

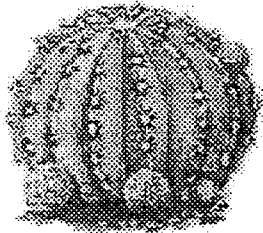
* * * * *

Now that the Show is over, I've been tabulating your responses to the questionnaire. I will publish them in the next newsletter.

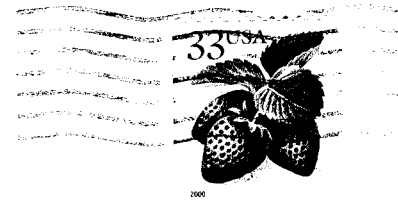
* * * * *

Coming June 25--Dr. Ted Anderson of the Desert Botanical Garden. Get ready!

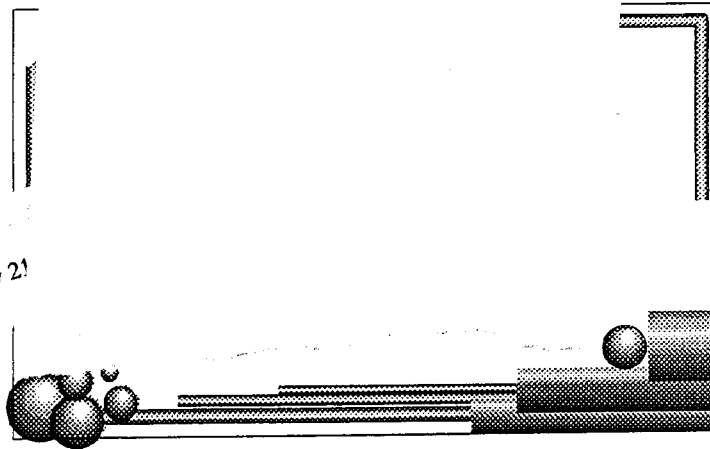
Leo Martin



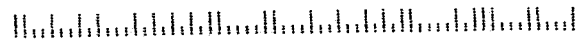
**Central Arizona
Cactus & Succulent Society**
P.O.Box 8774
Scottsdale, AZ 85252



CACSS Silent Auction - Sunday May 21



85250-6426 12



Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

Meetings held last Sunday of the month

Time: 2:00-4:00 PM

Location: Webster Auditorium, DBG

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 21st 2000

Board Meeting: 1:00-2:00 PM Location: Archer House

May 21, 2000	2:00 PM	Webster Auditorium	<u><i>Annual Spring Plant Auction</i></u>
June 25, 2000	2:00 PM	Webster Auditorium.	Dr. Edward Anderson, <i>Director of the Desert Botanical Garden.</i>
July 30, 2000	2:00 PM	Webster Auditorium	Kent Newland <i>"Using Cactus & Succulents to Jazz Up Xeriscaping"</i>
August 27, 2000	2:00 PM	Webster Auditorium	Mary Irish <i>Agaves/Yucca ,</i> <i>taken from her new Book</i>
February 2001		Webster Auditorium	Steve Southwell <i>"Grafting and Other Propagation"</i>
March 2001			<i>"Preparing Plants for presentors, Judging"</i>

SUNDAY MAY 21, 2000
CACSS ANNUAL SPING PLANT AUCTION