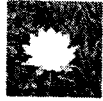


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Central SPINE

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

www.centralarizonacactus.org

President's Letter May 2003

Hello, Everybody: First of all, thanks to all of you who helped to make this year's show bigger and better than it has been in years. Our new venue, Dorrance Hall has proven to be a winner for the exhibitors, the vendors, and public. Sure, we had logistical and other problems, but next year's show committee has already met to meet these and future problems and to make the next show run more smoothly. Next, thanks to all of you who turned out for the open garden. We had a good crowd with plenty of food, refreshments, and interesting conversation. I hope we were able to answer all of everybody's questions, and that everyone came away learning

something new. This month you'll get a chance to tour the DBG's greenhouses and talk with some of the horticulture department's staff about the plants that are raised in there. These greenhouses are not open to the public and contain plants that need the extra protection of a greenhouse or that are not able to be put out for public display. It's been a few years since the club last did this, and there are two new greenhouse that have been added since then. See you at the meeting!

Scott



The judges examine all the entries in division 26 - Ariocarpus.

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Letter from the Show Chair - April 14, 2003

We had a great Show and Sale. This was our first time in Dorrance Hall, a very large space. We filled the hall with about half show and half sale.

Of special note were the many novices who entered so many beautiful plants in the Show. I think you novices had a good time, and we look forward to your entries in years to come.

The public came in droves, and they all remarked about how much they enjoyed the Show.

The Sale was a great success. The gross take was almost twice as much as last year. Each of the vendors who sold last year and this year did much better this year. The vendors were generally quite pleased with the Sale and offered suggestions for improving next year. We are going to listen to them.

Thanks to the work of Cathy Babcock and the Desert Botanical Garden Visitor Relations staff, we were mentioned in Phoenix Home and Garden magazine, on television, on radio, and in the newspapers. This is very much better publicity than we have had before.

I awarded Chairman's Rosettes to Gard Roper and to Nick Diomede. Gard managed the Sale. This involved a tremendous amount of work and time. Nick did the graphic work. He designed and had printed paper posters, permanent vinyl banners, and the scrip given to volunteers. Both these men earned their rosettes.

To those of you who didn't go to the Show and Sale: You missed a really fun event. We look forward to an even better Show and Sale next year.

Leo A. Martin
Show Chair

CACSS Library News, March 2003

HOW DO I CHECK OUT CACSS BOOKS?

Since the CACSS no longer holds its monthly meetings in Webster Auditorium where the CACSS library is located in a locked cabinet, we need to change how we browse and check out books and journals. To see a list of the books we have please see our catalog. Paul Schueneman, the CACSS librarian, can email you a copy of the catalog (see contact information at the end of this article). Or, you can pick up a catalog from him at a CACSS meeting. Or, there's a copy of the catalog on the CACSS website: www.centralarizonacactus.org/liblist.htm. When you would like to check out books or journals, contact Paul at least a couple of days before the next CACSS meeting and he will give the books to you there.

The CACSS Board is looking into ways to try and make it more convenient for members to browse and check out our books. So, please bear with us while we look into various alternatives.

NEW BOOKS AND JOURNALS:

- *Cactus and Succulent Journal* Vol. 75, March-April, 2003, No. 2. Articles of interest:
 - Observations on two newly described species of *Pseudolithos* from the Horn of Africa: *Pseudolithos gigas* M. Dioli and *Pseudolithos harardheranus* M. Dioli. By Maurizio Dioli.
 - Propagating *Boswellia nana*. By Gary J. James and Joseph M. Stead.
 - The Huntington Botanical Gardens presents the 2003 offering of International Succulent Introductions. By John N. Trager
 - *Huernia mccoysi* Plowes, a new asclepiad from western Yemen. By Darrel C. H. Plowes.
 - Superb Succulents. By Duke Benadom.
- *British Cactus & Succulent Journal*, Vol. 21, March 2003, No. 1. Articles of interest:
 - A special offering of *Melocactus* seeds.
 - What is an areole? By Gordon Rowley.
 - *Echeveria* - small but perfectly formed. By John Pilbeam.
 - *Yavia cryptocarpa* - conservation action on a new and interesting cactus. By Roberto Kiesling and Omar Ferrari.
 - The conservation and protection of *Mammillaria albiflora*. By Martin Smith.
 - Could *Aloe pillansii* be facing extinction? By Elsabe Powell, H. Hendriks and B. Clark.
 - Succulents on stamps. By John Cox.
 - *Cristates*. Variegates and the asymmetric universe. By Gordon Rowley.
 - *Mammillaria scheinvariana* submerged. By Bill Weightman.

NEED HELP?

Contact the CACSS librarian, Paul Schueneman:
602-381-9859 (W) • 480-706-1672 (H)
Schue888@aol.com

Book Review

Mary Irish. *Month By Month Gardening in the Desert Southwest.* Cool Springs Press, Nashville, TN, 2002. Soft Cover, ISBN 1-59186-0900-8. (319 pp) \$19.99

This book begins with a description of the desert area in the southwest and its distinguishing features including climate, soil composition, and elevation ranging from El Paso Texas to Southern California. The format of the book is a very helpful one for newcomers as well as long time residents. The difficulties of growing healthy plants in the harshness of the desert is carefully reviewed with an eye to planning what should be done each month to insure a successful garden.

There are ten chapters which cover the care of (1)

annuals (2) bulbs, corms, rhizomes & tubers (3) cacti & succulents (4) fruits (5) grasses (6) perennials (7) roses (8) shrubs (9) trees (10) vegetables & herbs. Advice for monthly care is given for each plant group. Topics discussed are planning, planting, care, watering, pruning, fertilizing & pest control. Particular plants are suggested for optimum success in each of the cold hardiness zones. There is also general advice regarding soil preparation, composting, tools, fertilizers, cold weather protection, seed propagation and container gardening. A short glossary of terms will be particularly helpful for novices. Suggested sources of where more information can be found throughout the southwest with a list of special gardens in the area. An extensive bibliography is available for those who wish to 'dig deeper.'

Continued on next page...

Thank You to Our Vendors...

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society would like to thank the following vendors for making our 2003 Show and Sale a tremendous success:

Mike Cone
Baobab Pottery, Cave Creek, Arizona
imakepots@hotmail.com

Distinctive ceramic planting containers and humorous garden monsters. See Mike's work in the Desert Botanical Garden Gift Shop. E-mail Mike for a schedule of exhibitions or for commissions.

Cactus Data Plants
9607 Ave S-12
Little Rock CA 93543
661-944-2784
www.cactus-mall.com/cactusdatapants
Woody Minnich is a favorite speaker.

Julie Turko
Juliette Plants, Glendale, Arizona
julietplants@earthlink.net

Artfully staged cactus and succulent arrangements for the home or garden. See Julie's work in the Desert Botanical Garden Gift Shop.

Steve Holmes
Lithic Vision
LITHICVISION@aol.com

Planting vessels and fountains: molded reproductions of carefully-selected Sonoran Desert rock and stone formations. Dramatic containers for Echinocereus and other rock dwellers. See Steve's work in the Desert Botanical Garden Gift Shop.

Plantas del Sol
6175 North Noel Lane
Tucson AZ 85743
520-682-8883

Hard-to-find cactus and succulents, many from Baja California. Spectacular Ferocactus. We visited John and Dorothy Pasek on the March buying trip.

Rainbow Valley Nursery
E-mail for a list of garden fairs they will attend.
rainbowvalleynsy@aol.com
520-424-3464

Rosette succulents and more for the Arizona deserts and home arrangements.

Rio Grande Cactus
By appointment
2188 NM Hwy 1
Socorro, NM 87801
(505) 835-0687
riograndecacti@hotmail.com
www.riogrande-cacti.com

Winter-hardy cacti for the West and Southwest: Coryphantha, Echinocereus, Escobaria, Opuntia, and more. Always a high point of the Denver C&S show.

Smith-Poore Farms
623-533-0926

Copper vessels for planting and display, and rustic decorative objects, in verdigris and brilliant finishes.

Starr Nursery, Tucson
3340 West Ruthann Road
Tucson, AZ, 85745
(520) 743-7052
http://starr-nursery.com

Unusual, hardy, and hard-to-find Agave species for landscape and specimen use. Do you know Greg Starr and Agave pelona? You should.

Sticky Situation
4545 West Camino Pintoresco
Tucson AZ 85745
(520) 743-9761 or send email to
Visit@StickySituation.com
www.stickysituation.com

Cactus and succulents in tremendous variety for the collector.

Jim Sudal Pottery
http://home.att.net/~jasudal

Well-known and highly-favored local ceramic artist. See Jim's work in the Desert Botanical Garden Gift Shop.

Xerophytic Design
www.xerophyticdesign.com/

Unusual collectible and landscape plants, and modern landscape design.

OPEN GARDEN

Saturday May 17, 2003, 1-4 P.M. Jim Davis and Russ Hintz invite you to their adjoining gardens at lots 134 and 135 in Sun Garden MHP at 8301 N. 103rd Ave., Peoria. Please bring a beverage or snack to share; refreshments will be in Jim's home, lot 134. Phone number (623) 583-3901.

Please, only members of Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society and Phoenix Bonsai society. This event is not otherwise open to the public.

Parking options may be limited, so you might want to park along the greenbelt on the Park entrance road east of the mailboxes and then walk up the one block street to our gardens. You'll see the chain link fence and white gate at Lot 135 as you walk up the street.

Continued from previous page.

Book Review Continued...

Mary Irish is a well-known horticultural expert on desert gardening. She has written articles in a variety of journals and magazines and has authored several books. Her professional experience is comprehensive with numerous appearances on radio, TV, in lecture halls and class rooms. She served as Director of Public Horticulture at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Her writing style is clear and sometimes even enchanting as the truth of her love of desert plants shines through. This book should be on the 'potting bench' of every would-be desert gardening fan.

Muriel Beroza

From Cathy Babcock's Garden... pictures courtesy of Jane Schlosberg



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Upcoming Events - CALENDAR

General meetings are at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Board meetings are one hour earlier. Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

- May 18, 2003 Guided Tour of DBG Greenhouses, Dorrance Hall
June 29, 2003 CACSS Member Gard Roper - Agave, Dorrance Hall
July 27, 2003 Pete Petrie: Argentina, Dorrance Hall
August 24, 2003 CACSS Board Member Doug Dawson - CSSA Tour to Richtersveld & South Africa
September 28, 2003 CSSA President Duke Benadom - Echinocereus of Mexico, Dorrance Hall
October 26, 2003 Silent Auction of Member's Plants, Dorrance Hall
November 23, 2003 Leo Martin - Convention report, Dorrance Hall
December 7, 2003 Holiday Party 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Webster Auditorium

Central Spine is the newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society. All opinions are those of respective authors. Publication herein does not imply that CACSS or any CACSS members agree with any statements published.

Change of Address:
contact our Treasurer,
Judy Brody, with any
changes of address.

D E A D L I N E F O R N E X T I S S U E !

The deadline for material submission for the next issue of *Central Spine* is:

June 8, 2003

Please make a note of this!

C.A.C.S.S.
PO BOX 63572
PHOENIX, AZ 85082-3572

