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# Central PHOENIX SOCIETY

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

[www.centralarizonacactus.org](http://www.centralarizonacactus.org)

## President's Letter March 2004

After two full months of being the president of this fine organization, I can tell you that I have become even more excited about the CACSS's outlook for the future. We have a great Board of Directors who are anxious to make this one of the best year's ever for the Society and club members who have shown a willingness to "step up" and do the necessary work.

The most pressing challenge facing us is the April Show and Sale. Leo Martin is the Chairman and he has a great committee working with him. Many of the volunteer needs have been met, but there remain a few critical jobs which require some members' time and talents. Please contact Jo Davis 480-839-3792 or Cecilla Phelan 480-488-1205 to see how you can help. Don't forget the dates April 14th (set-up and plant check-in), April 15th (Show judging), April 16-18 (Show and Sale open to the public).

Be sure to bring your checkbooks to the Sale. We have 15 vendors bringing an amazing assortment of plants and pots. I guarantee you will find something you want to take home. Be sure to tell your friends about it. Speaking of telling your friends, another way you can help is to pass out advertising post cards to everyone you know, plus take a quantity to your local nursery for their countertop. Contact Ingrid Swenson 602-957-9865 to get your supply of cards.

You read about the July trip to California in the last newsletter. If you didn't sign up quickly, you are going miss a great opportunity to see the exquisite garden at Lotusland, near Santa Barbara. Forty seats have been sold and we have started a waiting list in case someone has to drop out. Contact Tom Ballen if you want to be on that list 480-502-8639.

Late last month, three other members of CACSS and I met with three representatives of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. We spent two hours with them learning as much as we could about their plant Rescue Program. I came away from that meeting more enthusiastic than ever about the possibilities of such a program for the Phoenix area. It's a win-win situation if I've ever seen one. The CACSS wins by increasing its income and positive public exposure. The members win because they have a great time doing the actual rescue; it's a fun way to spend a day. The public wins because we offer healthy plants that are indigenous to the area at reasonable prices. The plants win a reprieve from being destroyed. Read this newsletter each month to get more information as our Rescue Committee takes shape.

The Board has realized a club weakness that needs to be addressed - new members. We have a lot of people visit us but don't become members. New members express disappointment that it takes so long to feel a part of the group. Doug Dawson and Gard Roper have volunteered to head up a New Member Initiative. They already have some ideas about how to make guests feel welcome and new members feel included. I really appreciate these two Board Members stepping forward to suggest and lead this new effort to make our group stronger.

I hope that you can see that I am "jazzed" about the future. I must confess that some of my enthusiasm and optimism

*Continued on Inside...*

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## Club Visit to Arizona Cactus Sales

The visit by CACSS members Sunday, March 28th, will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. We are normally closed Sundays so the only customers there should be CACSS members. For this visit only, a special discount of 20% for CACSS members will apply. (Our normal discount to Club members is 10%. It excludes saguaros and delivery charges, as usual.) We accept major credit cards.

We may have non-members show up to shop. If they join the CACSS and pay dues on Sunday, they will also get the 20% one-day discount so hopefully someone from CACSS will be there to take their dues. I do not know all of our membership so will need some help to verify who belongs to the Club and who does not. I would suggest membership cards be presented.

We will have a supply of cold drinks and a restroom is available. Parking will be a problem, I hope, if we have a good turnout. We will encourage people to park inside the Nursery so long as they leave room for other vehicles to pass. Photographers are welcome; pets are not. Unattended children will be sold into slavery. All facilities are handicap accessible. There is a good map and directions to the Nursery on the website: [arizonacactusales.com](http://arizonacactusales.com) If you need directions please call us at home the day before at 480-732-0307. The business phone will not be answered on Sunday.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of members. Jim and Electra

## President's Letter March 2004

come from the fact that I received 1.4 inches of soaking rain recently. Rain in the desert always puts me in a good mood. It makes my plants look better and is making them stronger to withstand the inevitable heavy summer. I can barely wait until the end of this month when I will put some of my nursery plants out into the landscape.

If you have been to the past two meetings, you know that I am trying to adhere to a consistent format for each meeting. My first goal is to always start on time, 2:00 pm sharp. The first 30 minutes will be CACSS business and status reports, plus Questions and Answers about plant issues. Then there will be a 15 to 20 minute break for socializing and the monthly silent auction. Sometime between 2:45 and 3:00, we will reconvene and the guest speaker will be given the floor. I hope this schedule works. We ran a little long in January (I talked too much) but February's meeting was right on.

All that being said, this month's meeting will be totally different. We will be meeting at Arizona Cactus Sales, 1619 S. Arizona Ave., Chandler. We will be touring the "back 40" of the property - the part you never get to see. Plus, we will be able to tap into some of the vast store of knowledge Jim and Electra Elliott have about growing all sorts of cacti and succulents. If you really want to learn about growing plants in Arizona, do not fail to attend this meeting. Call 480-963-1061 for directions. See you there.

## FROST DAMAGE 2004 BY: Jim Elliott

We have finally had a significant freezing event in the Valley, again. We often go years without any really damaging temps and we all tend to stretch the envelope with near tropical plants. As a Nurseryman I love the exotics as they add color, texture, and variety to the plant palette. HOWEVER, they also add the element of loss when we grow them in areas beyond their normal ranges.

At our home and nursery in Chandler we had successive nights of 24 degrees F and then 22 degrees F. In 2003 I noted temperatures of 26, 25, and 24 without much damage at all. One night registered 23 last year with negligible damage. This year was different. At 22 degrees we have had a fairly major meltdown of *Euphorbia tirucalli* (Pencil euphorbia) with especially serious damage to the newest cultivar called 'Fire Sticks'. This cultivar develops a stunningly beautiful reddish color on the new growth during normal winters. Now turned to a stunningly brown nush in those Fire Sticks left exposed to the cold! Among the agaves we took quite a severe hit on *Agave desmetiana* and *Agave gypsophila*. Some of both were damaged under an eight-foot tall cover of shade cloth, which is very unusual. Those that had frost protection closer to the plants survived with minimal scarring. Both of these agaves are relatively new in the trade with introductions from Southern California nurseries. I also had severe damage to unprotected *Agave guingola*. The one thing these three agaves have in common is very thin leaves which apparently denied them the natural protection of mass (bulky plants resist freezing better, in general).

Among our elephant trees the results will not be totally apparent until the flush of new growth this spring. *Pachycormus discolor* held up the best based on retaining vibrant green foliage versus the somber dead brown that cloaks the *Bursera microphylla*, *B. hindsiana*, and *B. fagaroides*. I deliberately did not cover these trees this winter as I have spent many dollars and hours covering them the past several years without any damaging temperatures. This effort was greatest on the *Bursera microphylla* in our front yard that is roughly 16' tall with a spread of 20+ feet. I

have a special 50 x 50 piece of shade cloth that takes three or four men to install. Oh well, maybe I will return to covering it next year.

Some plants take a hit every winter such as *Bombax ellipticum*, Cannae lilies, etc. as part of their normal Valley cycle preparatory to blooming. This usually just takes out the foliage leaving the underlying scaffold of branches or stems to host the renewal of spring. I don't see any damage beyond normal with them. I have probably lost the Velvet Leaf Kalanchoe that has prospered so well for three years on the North side of the house. The Kalanchoes under the eaves on the East side of the house show some damage but are obviously full of life and will replace the damaged parts very quickly.

With our cactus there has been surprisingly little frost damage. I have finally progressed to leaving a couple of samples of most species we grow uncovered as an ongoing quality control. Of the several *Myrtillocactus* species, only the *M. eichlami* from Guatemala has minor damage on the growing tips. Surprisingly the various crested and variegated myrtillos came through unscathed. All of the *Stenocereus* made it just fine with one notable exception. I have a few stenos that come from the area of Guaymas. They are very fat, bright green, with spination most similar to *S. dumortieri*. They were blasted. We have never had a firm ID on these and now with the frost damage they will be consigned to the dumpster. Who needs trouble?

This brief survey is not intended to keep you from buying the more marginal plants. It just highlights the need to recognize the difference a little cold (one degree colder than 2003) can make on marginal species. With just a little effort to plant them in a more favorable microclimate such as under eaves or providing frost covers on the worst night of winter you can grow and enjoy exotics. The corollary to that is: If you don't want to do the work to protect them, stick with the tried and true species that are not affected by frost. Your nurseryman can tell you if you will ask about the hardiness of the plants.

## BLOMSTER KUNGEN BY: Muriel Beroza

A lot of people wonder why botanists use Latin names for plants that are difficult to pronounce, hard to spell and impossible to remember. It is hardly the 'dead language' it is purported to be. It all started with a Swede, Carl von Linné (1707-1778). He was the son of a clergyman Nils Ingemarsson. Linnaeus would have started life as Carl Nilsson if he had taken the usual patronymic route. It was usual in Sweden at that time for a new more dignified surname to be taken upon entering university. Several older members of his grandmother's family had taken the name of the Linden tree (Latin *Tilia*) after a particularly large specimen on the family farm... thus the names *Tiliander* and *Lind* were already used by the family. The tree is still standing.

Nils Ingemarsson chose the name Linné after the old tree. Nils Linné served as a pastor in the Lutheran Church in Stenbrohult, Sweden. He was an ardent amateur 'botanist,' interested in plants and had an impressive garden. His son Carl began his love of plants as a youngster in his father's garden. His parents were eager for him to pursue a career in the church, but he had no interest in that profession. Botany was not yet a separate important field of study. Most of those involved in studying plants were physicians searching for cures and preventives for the diseases rampant at that time. Eventually Linnaeus enrolled in Medical School and was able to pursue his interest in plants. He was even appointed lecturer in botany while still a student. When an expedition was planned for studying the plants of Northern Sweden (Lappland) he was the chosen as

the leader. Later as a professor at Uppsala he sent many of his students to other continents to collect plants for him.

Linnaeus lived during a period of intellectual ferment. There was enormous interest in the natural world at that time it was before the Theory of Evolution was articulated. Linnaeus set himself the task of naming all of "God's Creatures." His system of classification started with the plant kingdom "Species Plantarum" in 1753 and later in 1758 "System Naturae" organizing the animal kingdom. His monumental task was accomplished in record time, though he continued with this activity until his death. The system devised by him started with Kingdom, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species. There were many modifications over the years adding sub-orders and sub-families and other designations... considering the haphazard way plants had been named, it was an inspiration to settle on a binomial system... Genus & Species. Latin was the chosen instrument as it was known to the intellectuals all over the world. With new techniques now available (cladistics using DNA) there are bound to be some new relationships discovered and his system will be augmented with new taxonomy. Linnaeus relied heavily upon the sexual structures of plants in his classification system. Here is a quote from his writings:

*In spring when the bright sun comes nearer to our zenith, he awakens in all bodies the life that has lain stifled during the chill winter. See how all creatures become lively and gay who through the winter were dull*

*and sluggish! See how every bird, all the long winter silent, bursts into song! See how all insects come forth from their hiding places where they have lain half dead, how all plants push through the soil, how all trees which in winter were dormant now break into leaf. Words cannot express the joy that the sun brings to all living things ... Every animal feels the sexual urge. Yes, love comes even to the plants. Males and females, even hermaphrodites hold their nuptials. ...The actual petals of a flower contribute nothing to generation serving only as the bridal bed which the great Creator has so gloriously prepared, adorned with such precious bed curtains and perfumed with so many sweet scents in order that the bridegroom and bride may therein celebrate their nuptials with greater solemnity. When the bed has thus been made ready, then is the time for the bridegroom to embrace his beloved bride and surrender himself to her. ...*

Linnaeus married Sara Lisa Moraea in 1739. It is a curious coincidence that her maiden name is the same as that of the peacock Iris. No, he did not sneak his wife's name into his Species Plantarum. The Moraea was named after Robert More, an amateur botanist. In 1757 Linnaeus was knighted by the King of Sweden and then used the name Carl von Linné, though most of the world still uses his Latin name Carolus Linnaeus. In Sweden he is revered as the **Blomster Kungen**... the Flower King.

## GREEN HAIR BY: Muriel Beroza

The Asclepiaceae family of plants is named after the Greek God of Medicine ... Asclepius. Members of this family were probably used for medicinal purposes. It is more commonly known as the Milkweed family because of the milky white sap that most of the plants exude. As the father of a large family, Asclepius has six tribes under his protective wing. Almost all of them are very distinctive because of the unusual growth forms and bizarrely beautiful waxy flowers. Included in this family are *Ceropegias* and *Stapelias*.

One of the weirdest of all is the Rapunzel Plant ... *Sarcostemma viminale*. The common name is a reference to Grimm's fairy tale about a beautiful young maiden trapped by a wicked witch in a door-less tower. The only access for her rescuing Prince is her flowing hair which she lets out over the side of the tower to serve as an unusual ladder. *Sarcostemma* deserves this name with its green locks of thin stems flowing over the sides of a pot in great profusion. The stems are sometimes segmented

and almost leafless with a lovely bright gray-green color. Their natural habitat is from Abyssinia to the Cape in tropical and sub-tropical African climes. Supposedly, this plant produces a small white flower with stalked umbels. I have never seen this plant in bloom, maybe it is one of those plants that refuses to do so in captivity (i.e. in a pot).

A near cousin of the Rapunzel plant is the *Cynanchum marnierianum*. (Kyon = Gr. dog, ancho = Gr. to strangle), the dog strangler. This plant also has the long flowing thin stems but rather than a luscious green, it is sort of brownish olive green. The surface of the stems is rather rough and toad-like. Its common name is a Warty Strand Plant. Like its more beautiful relative, the stems flow over the side of the pot looking like a head of hair. Compared to the *Sarcostemma* it is as if she were having a bad hair day.

The redeeming feature of the *Cynanchum* is the flower. It blooms profusely with a tiny flower that looks at first as if it were a miniature bird cage of

green sepals closed over the tiny white flower perhaps 1/8 of an inch in diameter. The *Cynanchum* comes from the Central Plateau of Madagascar, which has dry winters and warm humid summers.

Both plants do well in a hanging pot either on a patio or sheltered from the full force of Arizona's sun. Partial shade or morning exposure is best. They probably do not like our cold winter night temperatures. Most hanging plants dry out more quickly than those on or in the ground, watch the water requirements carefully.

*"Fair tresses man's imperial race ensnare  
And beauty draws us with a single hair."*

Alexander Pope... (Essay on Criticism")

# Cactomania—A Prickly Tale from the Southwest

BY: David L. Epele

Whenever man comes in intimate contact with succulent plants, strange changes take place in his mind. These changes are usually of an alarming nature and have at long last been recognized by some authorities as a most insidious disease. When the succulent plants happen to be cacti, the disorder is described as Cactomania and the victim is known as a Cactomaniac.

Now Cactomania, in spite of its potential seriousness, has been overshadowed by more glamorous ailments, such as carbuncle, seven-year itch, athletes' foot and bad breath. It is imperative that the early signs be recognized. Secret studies conducted in Switzerland, Germany and at the Cactus Ranchitos of Scottsdale have proven that Cactomania may be roughly classed as occurring in five progressive stages, of which only the first two are curable. The stages are as follows:

**STAGE 1.** A perfectly normal human being sees a cactus. He promptly becomes fascinated by this strange plant. He feels the spines and decides that he must have a cactus of his own ... and another ... then perhaps two for the road ... beside the house. This is the time for a compassionate friend to take matters into his own hands and sit down with this weird plant lover and tell him the facts of life. Get it through this person's head that he is playing with a loaded gun, a time bomb, a dangerous and potentially hazardous substance! Tell him to just say No!

But the Cactomaniac sends off for some plant catalogues: buys, begs, steals or collects more cacti and, by the end of just one month, purchases a book on the subject. This book tells him everything he ever wanted to know about his new found "spiny friends" and indeed, even broaches the kinky subject of asexual reproduction by offset. He learns how to keep his cacti happy and contented. He now has pots and dish-gardens filled to capacity with barrels, hedgehogs, prickly pears, snake-cactus, ruby dump-lings, silver torches and snowball cactus, which all cause him great joy.

**STAGE 2.** The Cactomaniac now owns quite a large collection of plants which he proudly displays to

anyone who will look and listen. He now haunts other collectors and botanical gardens, boring any and all with tales of his remarkable plants. He asks questions but doesn't seem to hear the answers. He has joined a club of similar individuals who all have equally remarkable experiences to relate. He also begins to try his own recipes for soil mixtures and starts to propagate his plants from cuttings. Someone slips him a packet of cactus seeds! After a soul-stirring struggle with himself he delegates the first book with the happy little cactuses in it to the trash can and in its stead sports a botanical treatise by some well known authority on cacti. Remember those spiny little darlings, cucumber cactus, golden torches, snake cactus and jeepers creepers? Well, they have now taken a back seat to ferocactus, mammillarias, echinocactus and pediocactus. Our victim rambles on and on about "spination and species" and buys a grafted plant!

**STAGE 3.** The living room, bedroom, basement, kitchen and bathroom are cluttered with catalogues from dealers, growers and importers. There are journals, magazines and books, plus assorted notes made by the Cactomaniac personally. Regular meal-times are a thing of the past and now the members of our Cactomaniac's family wake up (too late, alas) to the fact that there is something radically wrong! Strange characters drop in at all hours to discuss marvelous new observations; seeds are planted, hormones and vitamins are tried. Flower colors and peculiarities of spine formations are noted in little black books. In cactus clubs and other social gatherings of kindred spirits he readily discusses britton and rose, bravo, borg and even Gibson & Nobel. If the Cactomaniac is a man of means, he begins to take five-day weekend trips to cactus land. His field truck is the equivalent of a British Land Rover and is cluttered with altimeters, high-powered binoculars, expensive cameras and plant presses.

**STAGE 4.** The Cactomaniac has now lost all sense of humor if, indeed, he ever had one. Words like morphology, genes, mutations, chromosomes and phylogeny flow from his lips as if he knew what they signified. He is certain that *Echinocactus polycephalus* var *Xeranthamoides* occurs along the western

piedmont of the Eminence Break region of the Little Colorado River. He knows all the answers and reluctantly admits that he is the authority on cactus, botany biology and probably life in general. Furiously writes learned treatises on any subject that comes mind. As far as Cactomania is concerned, he dwells at the edges of the inner sanctum of Minerva's Temple. From these Olympian heights he dispenses pearls of wisdom to be gathered up and treasured by the mass of his inferiors. Taxonomy, heredity, evolution ... who knows the answers? Certainly not the mediocre minds who, up to now, have labored over the solutions. No! The answer, the only true answer indeed, is here! (He strikes his forehead with a Napoleonic pose.)

Now, with a magnanimous show of altruism, so typical of his great mind, he decides to enlighten mankind by giving to the anxiously awaiting world the fruits of his Herculean mental labors. He now writes a book--a book to end all books. In fact, the book!

**STAGE 5.** Cactomania has now reached its apex and this is followed by a rapid decline. Publishers, being a most unenlightened lot, fail to recognize the worth of the gem which is being thrust at them and a hoard of rejection slips begin to clutter his mailbox. He has just purchased a mainframe computer, complete with a DSL satellite link, and is communicating 14 hours a day (or night) with every world-class cactus expert. His telephone bill has the same number of digits as his phone number, including the area code. He has dedicated the entire memory of his giant mainframe to Cactomania Trivia, the title of his "soon-to-be-released" book.

Meanwhile, rejection slips continue to pour in to large and small publishing houses worldwide. His postman is earning overtime pay sorting mail by the sack, all addressed to "Mr. Cactus."

Eventually the men in the white coats arrive. They have little trouble in persuading the Cactomaniac to "come along with them." They show our friend a rubber cactus!

## CACSS Library News, March 2004

### REVIEW OF SOME BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY:

- *An Illustrated Guide to Cactus and Succulents*, by Peter Chapman and Margaret Martin. (1982, 160 pp., hardbound). About 150 species of cacti and non-cacti succulents are included in this little book. Each plant named has horticultural information including soil, temperature, and watering. Drawings, color photos.
- *The Encyclopedia of Cacti*, by W. Cullmann, E. Gotz, and G. Groner. (1986, 340 pp., hardbound). As the name implies, this is one of those books that attempts to cover almost everything about cacti, and it does a pretty good job. Clay vs. plastic pots. Atmospheric moisture. Grafting techniques. Seed composts. Greenhouse design. Physiology. Etc. All this and about 750 species. Drawings, color photos.
- *The Euphorbia Journals*, by Strawberry Press (10 separately hardbound volumes, each volume approximately 150 pages). These stunning volumes are collections of articles by various authors on the succulent *Euphorbias*. The most complete resource the CACSS library has on this species. With over 2,000 species of *Euphorbias* in the world, it is one of the largest. These journals will help you learn more about this fascinating, versatile species.

### HOW DO I CHECK OUT CACSS BOOKS?

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.centrazonacactus.org/liblist.htm](http://www.centrazonacactus.org/liblist.htm). When you would like to check out books or journals, contact Paul at least a couple of days before the CACSS meeting and he will give the books to you there or he will go with you to Webster Auditorium (our books are shelved there) after the meeting and you can browse/check out books.

### NEED HELP?

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

# Rooting Epiphytic Cactus Cuttings in Arizona

BY: Leo A. Martin

Epiphytic cacti come from tropical areas with high rainfall, or frequent dews or mists. Many are from always-damp rain forests or cool cloud forests, while others experience strict dry seasons. Most grow on tree limbs in partial to full shade, but a few grow on rocks in full sun - though they won't take Arizona sun.

Some are easy to grow here: *Acanthocereus*, *Deamia*, *Selenicereus*. Take a 4" cutting, lay sideways and press into barely-moist, coarse and rapidly-draining soil during warm weather and stand back.

Others can be challenging. These don't like high night temperatures and prefer more humidity than we can offer. *Rhipsalidopsis* (Easter cactus) are especially hard to grow here - I haven't had much success despite trying several times. Rooting these difficult epiphytes can be especially troublesome. Since reading a tip in *The Amateur's Digest*, I have been experimenting with rooting in water with good results.

I'm talking about: *Epiphyllum* species and hybrids - jungle and seasonally dry tropical forest *Disocactus* (Not *Discocactus*), *Lepismium*, *Rhipsalis*, *Hatiora*—jungle and cloud forest *Schlumbergera* (*Zygocactus*) (Christmas cactus) and *Rhipsalidopsis* (Easter cactus) species and hybrids (holiday cactus)—jungle and cloud forest

The standard way to root *Epiphyllum* cuttings is trouble as I'm concerned, and I haven't had much luck. It is supposed to take cuttings about 4" long, lay on a greenhouse bench until they shrivel slightly (about 1-2 weeks in California, but decidedly less here), plant upside down in dry, loose potting soil suitable for epiphytic orchids and cacti, place in a shady humid spot, leave dry for one week, water once, and then water regularly when normal growth resumes. For me the cuttings just dry up. If I try to water earlier they rot.

Same with *Schlumbergera* hybrids: Mine are always dropping stem segments, and I've almost never been able to root them. So, after reading the article, I started putting them into small jars with just enough water to cover the bottom half of the bottom stem segment. Baby food jars would work well; the trick is to get cuttings to stand up in the jar, for if they fall over and are

completely submerged, they rot. I put them outside in full shade, on the kitchen windowsill, or in a bathroom with a skylight. Guess what: At least 2/3 root! I pot them up and they grow.

Next I tried this with *Rhipsalis* cuttings. Same success, including *R. pachyphylla*, which is supposed to be really hard to grow. I haven't tried with *Epiphyllum* but it is supposed to work. Now, when I buy one of these plants, I immediately take a cutting and start to root it, in case I kill the plant I bought.

*The Amateur's Digest* is a great publication for succulent lovers. It comes out every 2 months and has over 40 pages of articles written by readers and by the editor, Marina Welham. It focuses on how to grow and propagate plants. There are numerous B&W photos, most sent in by readers. The Web site right now has a color photo of *Cryptocereus* (*Epiphyllum*) *anthonyanus* (rick-rack cactus), one of the great night-blooming epiphytes. Marina also collects the articles about caudiciforms into booklets, and publishes a CD of succulent images.

The Amateur's Digest Marina Welham, Editor 8591 Lochside Drive Sydney BC Canada V8L 1M5 amatrdigest@coastnet.com <http://www.theamateurs-digest.com> 1 year subscription (6 issues) US \$23 ; sample issue US \$4; personal check, bank draft or international money order payable to The Amateurs' Digest.

Soon Judy at the DBG Plant Shop will have Christmas cactus for sale. Go ahead and try some!

## 2004 Annual Plant Show and Sale Volunteer Sign-Up

Wednesday April 14 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Preparation of hall and tables for both show and vendors; help carry plants into hall for members and vendors; registration of all plants for competition; plant setup for show and making certain all are properly I.D.'d.

Thursday April 15 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Judging of member's plants will take place in the morning. More preparations and deliveries; post direction posters through out garden entrance; help with all deliveries and plant setup.

**Friday April 16**

Open to all members and the public.

**Saturday April 17**

Open to all members and the public.

**Sunday April 18**

Open to all members and the public.

We need someone on the 16th, 17th and 18th to take charge of the raffle. The raffle table must be covered by volunteers through out the day, all three days.

We also need volunteers to work these three days at other positions, such as guides. People should be directed through competition plants and vendor sales. Make visitors aware of membership table and all the benefits a membership offers, e.g. trips and knowledge.

WE HAVE A SERIOUS NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS WITH EXPERIENCE USING CASH REGISTERS. We need someone to take charge of this position and to make certain their volunteers will be there to do the job all three days.

"As Needed" - This position can include standing in for vendors, keeping watch over all plants, "subbing" for guides, raffle people, membership table, and answering questions of guests, etc.

These are five really fun days. It is not just an opportunity to learn about plants and to buy some unique specimens but a good time to get to know more members. We hope you will join us.

Jo Davis - 480-839-3792

Cecilia Phelan - 480-488-1205

Co-Chairs/Volunteers

M A R C H 2 0 0 4

# Upcoming Events - C A L E N D A R

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

**March 28, 2004** Field Trip. Meet at 2 pm: Arizona Cactus Sales, 1619 South Arizona Avenue, Chandler www.arizonacactussales.com 480-963-1061

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, Tom Ballen, with any changes of address.

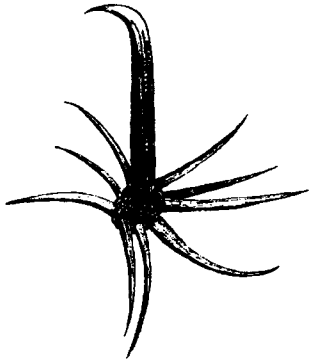
## DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE!

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

**April 1, 2004**

Please make a note of this!

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