

President's Letter

April 2005

Well, another month has whizzed by much too quickly. As I get older, time goes faster. It doesn't seem fair! But, then again, as my Mamma once told me, "Life ain't fair but you can make it fun."

So, I'm settin' to have some fun later this month. Yep, you know what I'm leadin' up to, the Annual Show and Sale. It's just 'round the corner and time's a wastin'.

I am still trying to decide which plants to enter. A couple of the ones I had planned to use got damaged one cold night in January. The lower leaves on these Agaves got nipped and don't look so good and my beautiful Melocactus aureus turned to mush. In spite of these setbacks, I will find something to take their place.

I hope that many of you are planning to enter the Show. It is fun and a real trip when you win a ribbon or two. But, more than that, it helps us educate the public about these wonderful plants we grow. The Show is definitely an instance when it's the more the merrier!

It is also fun to help out during the three days we are open to the public. Don't be bashful about volunteering. All the jobs that need to be done are easy. Don't worry about not knowing enough about the plants to talk to people. You know more about cacti and succulents than 98% of the public, even if your are just a beginner.

Going back to the theme of having fun, 32 of us (including six new members) had a great time at the second rescue this year at Verrado, west of town. We saved more than 150 Ferocacti, about 30 Echinocereus, ten smaller Saguaros, and a bunch of Mammillaria. I expect we will have completed another morning of rescue by the time this newsletter reaches your hands.

Regarding the Rescue Program, the CACSS Board decided not to accept the terms of the proposed agreement to associate the Desert Botanical Garden's name with the Rescue effort.

What do we do with the extra Rescue cacti we harvest? We sell them to the public. We sold 50 barrels and 8 pincushion cacti at the DBG's Spring Plant Sale. All but three were sold on the first day!

Speaking of the DBG Sale, I want to thank the members who helped out during the sale. I know the DBG, especially Cathy Babcock who runs the Sale, appreciates your willingness to help the public spend their money (by answering questions about the plants).

A Big thank you to Debbie Life for having us over to her Open Garden on April 2. It was great fun, delicious food and a chance to see an outstanding garden.

To All Show Entrants

Please deliver your show plants on Wed April 20th

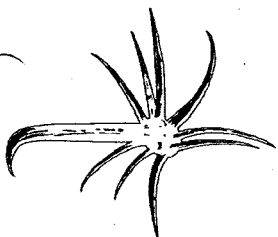
To Dorrance hall between 10am and 7pm

It's not too late!

There will be registration info and cards when you bring your plants in.

To volunteer, contact Sundee Helm shelm85259@yahoo.com

Or Denise rainbowvalleynsy@aol.com



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Calendar

April 20-24 CACSS Annual Show and Sale

4/20—8am to 12pm Setup 12pm to 7pm plant check in

4/21—Judging and vendor setup. Not open to the public

4/22—4/24 Show and Sale open to the public 9am to 5pm

May 7, Saturday

Convention Planning Committee meeting 7pm Leo's home
Contact Leo for further details

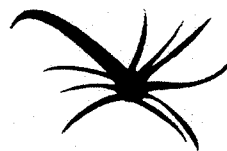
May 22, Sunday

Regular club meeting **NOT THE LAST SUNDAY**
Dorrance hall 2:00pm Program to be determined

August 5-10 CSSA National Convention



CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



JO
DAVIS

Interested in one of the name badges you see other members wearing? You can have one of your very own! Talk to Jo Davis at the meeting or send her a check for \$7.50 made out to "Jo Davis" to her home address:

2714 W. Monte Ave
Mesa, AZ 85202

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Mini Bits.....Ray Daley

MINI Bits.....New members, don't forget to check out our library which is on display in one of the cases in Webster Auditorium (at the DBG). You have to be a member for 6 months before you can check out a book, but it's worth the wait, there is a lot of good stuff in there.....as you know the club had another plant rescue dig on Saturday the 26th, at Verrado. I went and (surprise!) had a good time. There were 20-25 people in all, many from Tuscon, and at least 2 people joined the CACSS so they could dig. There were a lot of barrels, quite a few hedgehogs (many in bloom) and some mammillarias; also some Ajo Lilies, Desert Chicory, Scorpion Weed, Dodder, plus other wild-flowers I couldn't identify. I found it very frustrating not being able to dig all that could have (or should have) been saved, but the problems of transportation, storage and disposal of sooooo many barrels had to be considered. Despite some misgivings I may have about parts of this worthwhile project, I think every CACSS member should participate in at least one of these digs, if only to just show up and see what it's like. This dig wasn't physically challenging (soft dirt), except for the effort required to walk the entire 200 acre site. The hardest labor was by the guys who dug up and loaded the 4' barrel which had 7 heads clustered at the top - that prize will be given to the DBG. As I said, everyone should go at least once - then you'll see why Lee is so hyped up about this project.....if you're ever in the Sun City West area, check out Saguario Country Nursery, on Dysart Rd., just south of Bell. They've expanded their stock in the last couple years - they still have a ton of saguaros of all sizes, but now have a fair selection of agaves, hedgehogs (in spring), and other cacti. While there check out their *Bombax ellipticum* which they've had in the ground, in full sun, for several years - you can't even tell where the dead growth (actually winter dormant stems) was cut off by a well-meaning but misguided employee a few years back...(and no, this is not a paid endorsement)a couple months ago I tried to point out to new members who in the club has a lot of information on cacti/succulents. Don't, however, get the idea that we're all one dimensional in our interests - for example, Damon Billings has done a LOT of hiking in the Grand Canyon, and has taken a ton of cactus flower pictures, Ken Jones is president of the Sun City Poetry Club, Doug Green is in the Arizona Native Plant Society, Jim and Electra Elliott are avid birders, Dolores Grotts is a Girl Scout leader, Tom Ballen is in the Bonsai club, Carol Clapp raises mules and Sue Daley is in the American Hosta Society and used to belong to the American Ivy Society. So you see, there's more to us than just cactus and succulents anybody know what my spineless *Ferocactus* with yellow flowers occurring in pairs is? I've heard there is a spineless *F.glaucescens* - what are it's flowers like? The flowers on this little guy are almost identical to my *F.glaucescens*, if a little paler, but are always in pairs, with the 2 buds/flowers joined at their base. Any ideas? I'd bring it in for 'show and sk' but it's in the ground.....thanks to Deb Life for opening up her garden - now we know what to do with our old bowling balls.....Ray Daley

Board Meeting Minutes

CACSS Board Meeting, held March 15, at Lee Brownson's house instead before the March general membership meeting.

Tom Ballen reported \$13,600 more or less in the treasury, with 137 paid members.

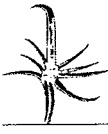
An extensive discussion was held regarding the cactus rescue program. Lee reported 5 new memberships from a recent Verrado rescue dig with Tuscon. 40 barrels were delivered to the DBG for their spring weekend sale.

The DBG has been approached about attaching their name to this project, but no formal agreement as been reached yet. A change of format for the general membership meetings was proposed: a brief opening, a one hour program, a break with silent auction activity, followed by a Q&A session, taking the general business out of the meeting and including it in the

The club received a thank you letter from the DBG for our table at the recent Flower Power weekend event.

The Tuscon club is sponsoring the 2nd Cactus and Succulent Exposition April 30-May 1.

Cynthia Robinson is our new CSSA representative.



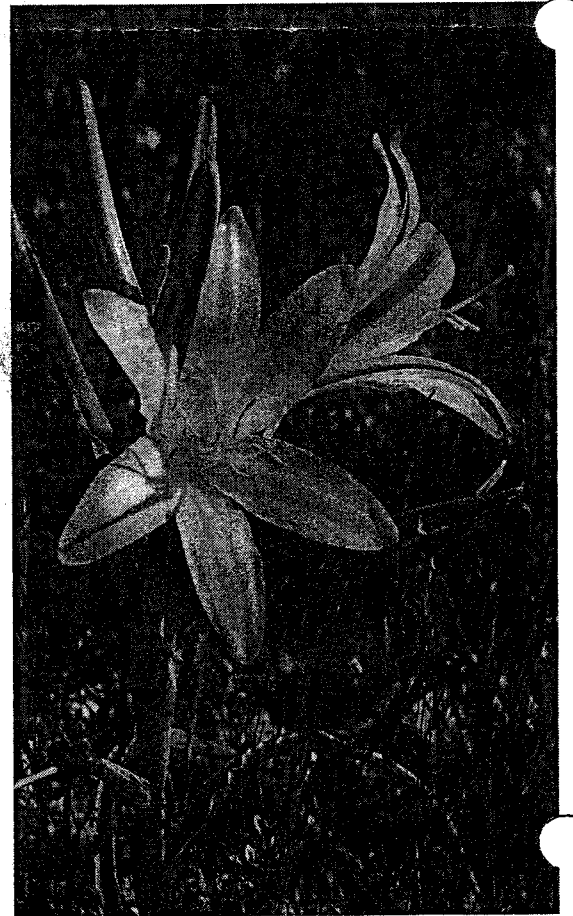
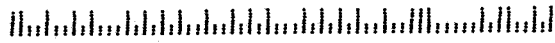
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ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT
 CENTRAL SPINE ISSUE IS: MAY 8, 2005
 SEND TO GALYNKJ@COX.NET

Show & Sale April 22, 23, 24

55254+5254



Phil Rutenbur, Lee Brownson and Ron Risko
 we multi-headed Ferocactus given to DBG.

Ajo Lily (*Hesperocallis undulata*) Both photos
 by Laurence Garvie