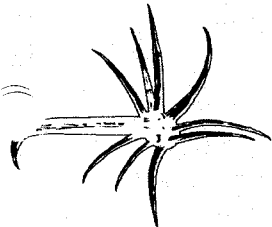


# CENTRAL SPINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



## President's Letter

May 2005

And I thought last year's Show and Sale was good! This year's Show and Sale was incredible from start to finish. I am so proud of the CACSS and what we are doing to help others appreciate the plants we know and love.

Of course, the success of the Show and Sale was the result of a team effort. Many CACSS members gave of their time and talent to create a fantastic event. We owe each other a big Thank You.

Two people deserve special recognition, Sundee Helm and Denise Diederick. Sundee was in charge of the Show. I heard comments from many people that it was the best Cactus and Succulent Show the CACSS has ever had.

Congratulations to everyone who won a ribbon or trophy. Forty-two plant enthusiasts brought in hundreds of exotic plants. I am glad I was not a judge having to choose among so many wonderful entries. It was hard enough just picking one favorite for my vote for the Henry Triesler Memorial People's Choice Award. This year's winner of what I hope will become our most coveted award, the Treilser Award, was Cynthia Robinson with her magnificent *Adenium obesum*.

Denise created a beautiful open marketplace for the vendors. Staging the Sale on Boppart Terrace was a brilliant idea. The vendors loved it and so did the public. Having a live harpist playing soothing music all day was a stroke of genius, as was the idea to offer free potting of plants and pots purchased at the Show. It all encouraged gross sales in excess of \$36,000, a 33% increase over last year!

Now that the Show and Sale is over, we can all breathe a sigh of relief. It is our biggest project of the year and has taken a great deal of energy from many people. Now we can recharge during the summer months. That doesn't mean there will be nothing to do. The monthly meetings will provide plenty of opportunity to learn from our guest experts and time to get to know our fellow members. Check our Web Site for the monthly topics and the names of our speakers.

The Cactus Rescue Program will continue through the summer, as long as there are rescue opportunities presented to us. It will mean starting earlier in the morning to beat the heat, but a lot of people digging for just a couple of hours can save hundreds of plants.

Don't forget that we are the host club for the 2005 CSSA Convention in August. You will never have a better opportunity to attend a Convention. It will be worth taking a couple of days vacation time just to hear and meet some of the most knowledgeable cactus and succulent experts in the world. Leo Martin is chairman of the Convention Committee for our group. He needs your help – even if it's only for a few hours one of the days of the Convention. Don't be reluctant to volunteer – I guarantee you will have a great time.

Do not forget that this month's meeting is NOT on the last weekend of the month because it is the Memorial Day weekend. The meeting is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; see you there.

On The Web at <http://www.centralarizonacactus.org/>

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## *Calendar*

### **May 22, Sunday**

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

### **June 26, Sunday**

Regular club meeting Dorrance Hall 2:00pm  
Speaker to be determined

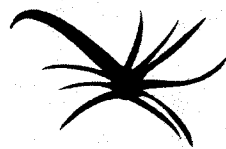
### **July 31, Sunday**

Regular club meeting Dorrance Hall 2:00pm  
Speaker to be determined

### **August 5-10 CSSA National Convention**



CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



**JO  
DAVIS**

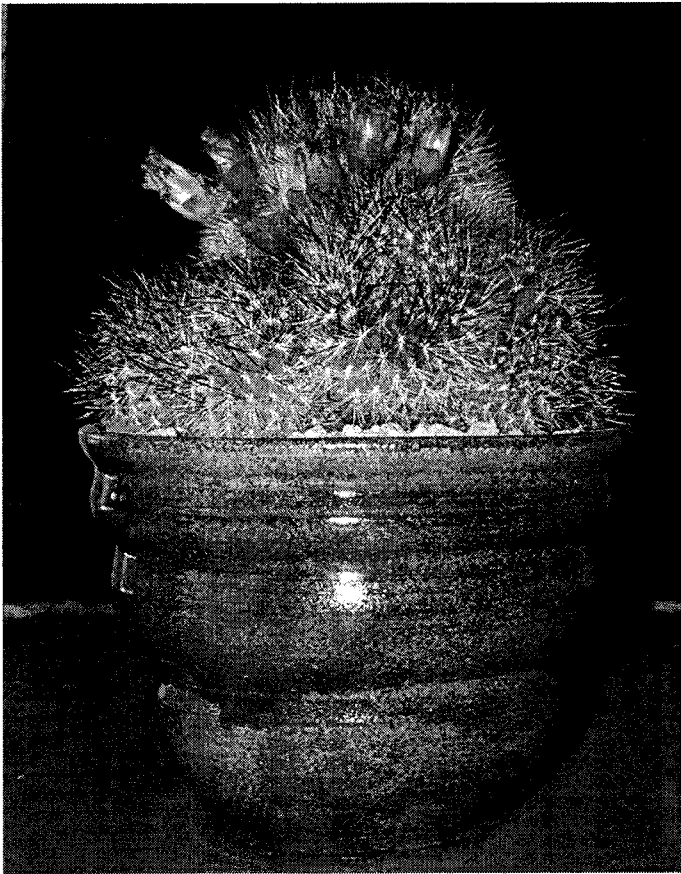
Interested in one of the name badges you see other members wearing? You can have one of your very own! Talk to Jo Davis at the meeting or send her a check for \$7.50 made out to "Jo Davis" to her home address:

**2714 W. Monte Ave  
Mesa, AZ 85202**

*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).*

# *Show And Sale Results!!*

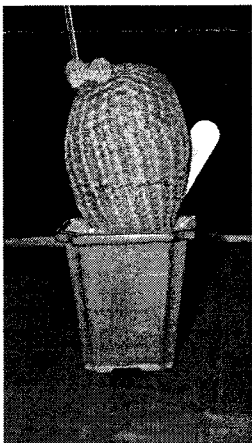
<i>Award</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Recipient</i>
Best Cactus of Show	Sulcorebutia multispina	Sundee Helm
Best Ariocarpus	Ariocarpus agaroides	Scott McMahon
Best Junior Novice Cactus	Echinocereus rigidissimus	Phoebe Garvie
Best Individual Cactus	Gymnocalycium pflanzii V alba pulpa	Joan and Stan Skirvin
Best Arizona Native & Meritorious Award by Show Co-Chairman	Mammillaria tetracistra	Laurence Garvie
Best Novice Succulent & Meritorious Award by Show Co-Chairman	Pachypodium resulatum gracillis	Richard Greenberg
Best Seedling	Adenium cv "Bosom Jade"	Cynthia Robinson
Best Aloe	Aloe tenuoir	Laurence Garvie
Best Succulent of Show	Cysphostemma beliformis	Richard Zeh
Best Euphorbia	Euphorbia rossu	Cynthia Robinson
Best Aizoaceae	Lithop julii fulleri rouxii	Doug Dawson
Best Decorative Planter	Dimterantus wilmotismus	Cliff Fielding
Best Junior Novice Succulent	Agave montana	Sean Dundas
Best Specimen	Cyphostemma cirrhosa	Lloyd Garretson
Best Succulent Section II	Hoodia gordonia	Lois Schneberger
Best Novice Cactus	Echinocereus engelmannii v nicholii	Dave Dundas
Best Cactus from Section I	Mammillaria hahniana	Scott McMahon
Best Cactus Collection	Notocacti	Sundee Helm
Best Ferocactus	Ferocactus rectispinus	Laurence Garvie
Best Monstrose or Crest	Myrtillocactus geometrizans	Bob Torrest
Henry Treisler Memorial People's Choice Award	Adenium obesum	Cynthia Robinson



Best in Show *Sulcorebutia Multispina* Sundee Helm



Henry Treisler Memorial People's Choice Award  
*Adenium Obesum* Cynthia Robinson



Best Junior Novice Cactus  
*Echinocereus Rigidissimus*  
Phoebe Garvie



Best Specimen *Cyphostemma Cirrhosa*  
Lloyd Garretson



Best Individual Cactus *Gymnocalycium Pflanzii V. Alba Pulpa*  
Joan and Stan Skirvin

## *Great Deal on an orphaned Greenhouse.....*

CACSS member Lin Leivian has a 8' x 14' x 24' FarmTek greenhouse kit that is too tall for her Homeowner's Association. It can be completed as a greenhouse or shade house.

It is galvanized steel with polycarbonate sides, extra full shade siding with grommets to use as a shade structure, but also has double poly with inflator, no fans or vents. It has a door and rolling structure for sides.

It has been partially constructed, has the ground stakes in (but not in concrete), pressurized lumber side pieces and half of the hoop structure up. It will require a large vehicle to haul.

She is offering it at \$1500 - \$800 less than what she paid. If you are interested, contact Lin via email at [leivian@cox.net](mailto:leivian@cox.net)

*Mini Bits.....Ray Daley*

MINI Bits.....when we were gardening in southwestern OH, we had an outside cactus garden with about 50 cacti planted in the ground. One of our more satisfying successes was an *Opuntia kleinei* (a cholla type) which, although not a spectacular plant, at least grew for us, about 1/2-1" per year. We thought it was a tremendous achievement to grow a cholla there, considering it regularly got to -20 with no snow cover. To reward it for its struggle, we brought a piece with us when we moved here and planted it out in the yard. It settled right in with no apparent difficulty and for a couple years continued its regular slow growth, albeit a little faster, until about the 3rd year it grew 3'. So my question is, was that growth spurt a sign of relief or fear? It has since slowed down a bit to about 1-2' per year. The Ohio cactus garden was a raised bed of bank run gravel which is what comes out of a gravel pit before it's sorted into the various sizes, and includes everything from sand up to baseball size rocks. We hand-separated out the larger stuff and used the remainder straight. The stuff we grew seemed quite happy in that bed - being raised it drained fairly well and the bed itself was somewhat protected on the east side of the garage. One of the pad *Opuntias* which was about 18-24" tall in the summer would be completely prostrate all winter. We brought several of our other cacti with us in our move here, and all seem to be doing fine. The *Stenocereus pruinosus* we brought with us (from the greenhouse) has lost the lovely blueish bloom it had on its surface, but has settled in to its spot in the ground here quite well. I've also transplanted some wild cacti I found on the Daley family cemetery plot in central NE with mixed success. The *Opuntia fragilis* made it for several years until the summer sun/heat did it in. Last year's harvest is in a shadier spot and will get more water. The *Opuntia compressa* I found in the pasture I played in as a kid, a few miles from the cemetery, is doing fine, but the *Neobesseyas* didn't tolerate the move at all.....in Ohio, we had problems with rabbits, deer, raccoons and squirrels, but nothing ever bothered our in-ground cacti. Squirrels once ate a potted *Crassula arborescens* and a *Birds Nest Fern* down to ground level, and then proceeded to eat the potting soil on one of them. One morning it took me 45 minutes to put the yard back together after a night-time raccoon raid - they pulled up all the newly planted things, shook all the dirt off the roots and left them lay by the holes. Luckily we managed to leave them and the deer behind. Here we've had rabbits chomp on many of our unfenced cacti, including a golden barrel and hooked-spine *Mammillaria*. Even the occasional rat has nibbled on *Aloes*, *Agaves* and *Echinopsis*. And this year someone is nibbling on *Opuntia* flower buds. Then there's the quail who graze on any kind of leafy green thing to the point where we have to fence our *Dyssodia*, *Dicholestemma*, *Oxalis*, *Physalis* and any other wildflower seedlings that may try to sprout. Oh well, at least we don't have javelina.....congratulations to Cynthia for her 'viewer's choice' award.....Ray Daley

*Library Notes.....Harold Stoetzer*

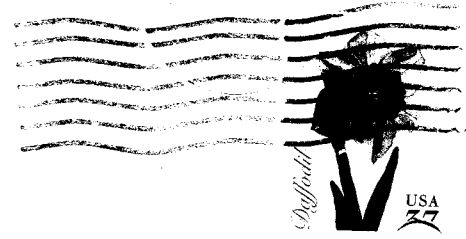
Finally in mid May we gained access to our library books stored in Webster Auditorium. DBG had changed the locks on our cabinet without our knowledge. Now I can conduct a complete inventory of our library, but doubt it will be finished this month.

There are several books that have been checked out for quite a while. Please check if you have any club books you've borrowed and bring them to the May meeting so they can be included in this inventory.

Contact me at [cacsslibrary@aol.com](mailto:cacsslibrary@aol.com) if there are any books you would like me to bring to the May meeting, or if there are books you would like to have added to the library. Harold Stoetzer



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ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT  
CENTRAL SPINE ISSUE IS: JUNE 10, 2005  
SEND TO GALYNKJ@COX.NET

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## *Plant Questions??*

The CACSS is well organized with a "Who to talk to" list that covers everything but plant questions. How about a list of members who will take your phone or email questions? Will you have any luck with that Aloe Bainesii you brought back from Los Angeles? Will your new plant be damaged by a light freeze?....etc...

If you agree that experienced club members should share their expertise, please help me compile a list of members that are willing to help with individual questions. This list would be provided to all members.

If you are willing to help with plant questions, please call or send your pertinent info to Bob Torrest (480) 994-3868 OR [robertst9114@msn.com](mailto:robertst9114@msn.com). Info should include:

- Plants that you specialize in.
- Your experience as in years growing and if that is landscape or pots.
- ANYTHING else that you may feel useful to get the proper questions to you.