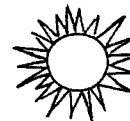


August 1993

FROM DEBRA'S SHADEHOUSE



Upon my return from the Labor Day weekend, I chanced to hear a commentary by Charles Osgood, the veteran CBS reporter. He thought that September, not January, was a better time to set yearly resolutions because of the end of summer and the start of the school year.

His premise may not be socially practical, but it does provide for some great food for thought as our Society enters the final months of 1993. We have cause to reflect on our Board's transition, our impact in the community and our goals as a group.

Board Transition

Our future is fast upon us. The Nominating Committee will be appointed and announced this month. They will assemble the 1994 slate of officers and board members. Please feel free to contact the Committee members and let them know who you want to lead our Society next year. Your concerns, suggestions, wild ideas and constructive criticisms are needed to continue our growth.

Community Impact

As this school year kicks off, I thought how nice it would be to see some youngsters involved in the Society. Help your local schools and neighborhood kids to be aware of our group and what we could offer "green thumbed" students. Sometimes it just takes knowing the right person to talk to; that person could be you for a "cactus curious" teen.

We also have new opportunities to reach out with the horticultural events in the community calendar. As booked as we got this year with the Floriade, Extension Service and Valley of the Sun Garden Club events, this next year gets even busier! Our first event is hosting a sales/information booth at the Fairgrounds in January. These horticultural events have been very, very important for our membership recruitment, fundraising and general community outreach.

Society Goals

Some of our 1994 goals seem pretty clear--

- ★ provide excellent information programs for members.
- ★ serve as an informational resource on plant cultivation and conservation.
- ★ serve as a national resource for CSSA members visiting or inquiring about our area.
- ★ revise the Bylaws to meet Society operational needs.
- ★ strengthen interest and participation in our Annual Show.

Some of our 1994 goals seem to be becoming clearer--

- ★ be available to assist the Tucson Society with the 1995 CSSA conference.
- ★ develop a stronger relationship with the Desert Botanical Garden in attaining their conservation, research and educational goals.
- ★ develop more ambitious programming for members.

While these September resolutions are not complete, I hope they will help you to reflect on this transitional time of year for the CACSS. Develop a couple of resolutions yourself and work to make them happen. It's our future together.



Dedicated to our success,

Minutes
August 29, 1993 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

In attendance: Debra Korobkin, Fran Tolleson, Edra Drake, Rene Rosenberg, Herb Rosenberg, Timothy Chapman, Fritz Hasenpusch, and Linda Miller.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Reimbursements to Debra for copying costs and flowers for Larry Fischer (\$90), to Timothy for new library books (\$71.90), to Linda for plant labels (\$36.13) and propagation supplies (\$42) were all approved by the board. Also approved was the speaker fee. Frank Hennessey has been paid for his Convention registration.

Linda continues to research the possibility of investing money in a CD, and it turns out the CACSS does need a federal tax number in order to interest to be paid.

Income was generated by one new membership (\$5), sale of pots and plants (\$8), and the Birthday Fund for the Library (\$2.81).

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Two new books have been added to the library: Noteworthy Species of Kleinia by P. Halliday and Succulent Flora of Southern Africa by Doreen Court. Haseltonia has been ordered. Timothy will follow some leads in an attempt to locate the Society's missing cabinet.

OLD BUSINESS

No new information on the VOS Men's Garden Club Show. Edra is looking into it.

A vote will be taken at the general meeting for suggestions for the November Tucson trip

We will try to get Mark Dimmett for a program in 1994.

NEW BUSINESS

The CACSS by-laws as they stand are more suited to a business: some aspects need to be changed and/or re-worded. Rene and Henry are looking into it. A special meeting, the date of which will be announced later, will be held by board members to study proposed changes prior to the December elections.

Linda has some new software (Cactus graphics in PCX FORMAT) and has volunteered to use it to make us some new flashy fliers as we need them.

Debra has suggested that the position of Show Coordinator be added as a board position. Virginia Walters has volunteered to serve on our Welcoming Committee.

ON THE DRY SIDE
by Timothy Chapman

The walls look as if they're breathing. The light above my desk has a strange, liquid quality, and is so bright I have to shade my eyes. The keyboard at which I'm typing vibrates and glows while the letters seem to leap and play, trading places with one another. My intellect has become oddly separate from the rest of my being. Time seems to be standing still.

A drug-induced, mind-altering hallucinatory experience? Well, not really ... I'm just up real late trying to get this article written. These deadlines are killing me. But while we're on the subject, let us consider the peyote cactus, Lophophora williamsii. It is probably best known for the psychotropic effects it produces in those who ingest it for religious, consciousness-raising, or recreational purposes. Either the "buttons" (the harvested tops of the plants) or its major hallucinogenic derivative, mescaline, have been used by the likes of Aldous Huxley, Indians throughout the American southwest and Mexico, and Scary Eddie down the street who stares at the sun too much and has a lot of really neat tattoos.

But I would like to consider the plant itself. It really is a beautiful thing. The globular heads are solitary or clustering and get to be 4 to 5 inches in diameter. They are soft to the touch and range in color from pale yellowish-green to bluish. There are normally 5 - 13 rounded ribs which, in some individuals, may have a tubercled appearance. Instead of having spines (only developing seedlings exhibit them), the areoles produce white tufts of wool; in fact the name Lophophora is derived from the Greek and means "crest-bearing". The flowers appear in summer and are reddish-pink to white. They arise from the depressed apex and give rise to smooth red fruits. The root is thick and tuberous.

Lophophora williamsii can be found throughout central Mexico and up into Texas growing in sandy or clay soils, usually in the shade of some shrubby plant like creosote. In cultivation,

it is not difficult. It requires a well-drained soil, which should be a little on the alkaline side. The peyote cactus enjoys liberal watering during hot weather but, like so many others, little or none in the winter. Judging from its geographical range, I would guess that it needs some protection from frost.

Of course, from one viewpoint, the information in the previous paragraph is of little value since the federal government prohibits the possession of Lophophora, even if it's grown simply as part of a cactus collection. That's too bad; most research has shown that peyote is not a dangerous narcotic. But then again, who needs Scary Eddie sniffing around your cactus house?

Well, that about does it for me: time is running backwards, the dog is speaking to me in what sounds like Swahili, and my hair has turned into snakes. 'Scuse me while I kiss the mattress.

