

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MARCH, 1994

This month

This month's program is our annual judged show! Plant drop off is Thursday, March 24; judging is Friday, March 25, and Exhibiting is Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26. See further in this newsletter for more details on logistics and particulars. Let's all put a plant into the show, even if just for the bragging rights. There will be no Board of Directors' Meeting this month.

Last month

Dr. John Alcock from ASU's Zoology Department gave us a tremendous slide presentation of the flora of SW Australia. While Dr. Alcock was in Australia studying insects, he documented many plants which were of interest to the Society, including Hackias, Grevilleas and Banksias. If you're going to study bugs, you're probably going to get familiar with the plants they frequent. This was a great program!

Elaine Moulis attended this program, and Jim Elliott welcomed her back on behalf of the Society. We're glad to see you at the meeting again, Elaine! We also had four new members at the meeting, including Hisashi Kokubun, Clarice Lavoie Dwight Peterson and Ella Stacy. We're glad you've joined! Also, guests attending were Frank and Eve Menendez.

These new members' addresses, and those of all members who have paid dues, will appear in the 1994 membership directory, available during the show and at the April meeting.

Jim Barber had free cuttings of Aloe saponaria, a claret cup cactus, and a peruvian purple prickly pear. Thanks, Jim, for that pleasant present of precious plants.

Other business. Debra Korobkin requested that the January Board Meeting Minutes be updated to indicate that she and Edra Drake were in attendance.

Coming up

Doyt Galloway mentioned that he will be unable to attend the plant show as he will be undergoing hip replacement surgery that weekend. Our thoughts are with you, Doyt, for a speedy recovery!

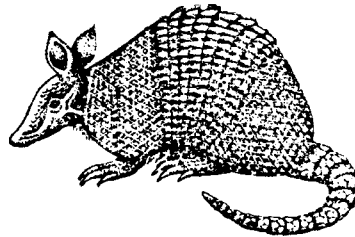
See the rest of the newsletter for upcoming events, since Jim and Electra did most of the typing for me this month (thanks, by the way). Wow, can you believe the deal on the trip to Huntington? This sounds like a trip to remember, and lots of participants will surely make it a success.

*Quick Phone Numbers: Jim and Electra Elliott: MegaCoordinators: 732-0307
Joan Skirvin, Treasurer: 948-2515. Laurine Gilbert, Secretary: 831-2477.*

April's program will be a Silent Auction. While you're selecting plants for the show, consider those which might not be winners this year, that someone else might like to nurture. Proceeds from our Silent Auctions benefit the Society. Ken Jantz will be organizing the auction. And, as always, we will need the use of timers for the auction. Please let Ken know if you'd like to help work the auction or if we may borrow a timer.

May's program will be Mark Dimmitt, speaking on Adeniums.

See you at the show!



CALIFORNIA TRIP SCHEDULED - MEMBERS NEED TO SIGN UP NOW

Last month we promised you a dynamite schedule of events, BUT little did we know how soon it would occur. Our programs committee (co-chairs Electra Elliott and Ken Jantz) has really done it's job well with programs and events on tap through the end of the year. At this time the only month open is August!

First things first: a three day trip to California is scheduled for June 3, 4, and 5. This trip will include the Huntington Botanical Gardens and visits to three or four of the finest commercial nurseries in Southern California. The reason for the short notice for this major excursion is weather. The weather in the Los Angeles area becomes very hot and nasty from about July through October much like our own climate. Therefore if we are going to go we have to get it done now or wait until November or later. We are going for it now. It has been years since this club has undertaken anything this exciting and you need to be one of the lucky ones who can say: "I was there."

Your programs committee decided to keep the cost at rock bottom so that everyone can afford to make this trip. How does \$150 PER PERSON (airfare to San Diego and two nights lodging) sound? THREE (3) DAYS of fabulous gardens and outstanding opportunities to add to your collection of cactus and succulents. We are flying to San Diego and will stay in the Vista locale on Friday the 3rd to Sunday the 5th to visit such nurseries as Grigsby's Cactus Gardens, Rainbow Gardens, Tropic World, etc. On Saturday, June 4th, we will board our bus and journey north to Huntington Botanical Gardens. They open at 10:30 am and close by 4:30 pm so we will have enough time to see a lot of this fabulous place. Electra is working with the Huntington staff right now to see what tours are available to us. We will return to our hotel Saturday evening after dinner.

The \$150 per person seems too good to be true and it is too good to be true. It does not cover any meals, garden admission, and most importantly: IT DOES NOT COVER THE COST OF THE BUS AND DRIVER. A large first-class coach runs \$580 per day! Three days totals almost \$1800. WOW! YEAH, WOW!

Our veteran club members remember bus trips a decade ago cost \$400 per person so you can see just how fabulous our proposed cost of \$150 each really is. So how did the committee perform this magic?

No magic, just a lot of hard figuring and Marge Jantz. We decided that we had to have at least twenty (20) people on the trip or it would be useless to call it a CACSS event. We canvassed the club's Board of Directors (five officers and eight elected directors) asking for telephone approval to commit a maximum of \$1000 of club funds for the bus. This telephone vote on March 8th yielded 11 of 13 yes votes so Marge went back to the travel agent for more details.

Now follow this closely so you know how magic really happens:

We will fly SouthWest Airlines "friends fly free" program from Sky Harbor into San Diego, roughly \$60.00 each for round-trip fare.

Marge's travel agent has us booked into a Day's Inn for about \$54.00 a night double-occupancy.

Totalling the airfare (\$60) and the hotel (\$54) gives us an actual cost per person of \$114.00 of the \$150.00 we are charging. This leaves \$36.00 per person to apply toward the bus. Twenty-one people times \$36.00 is \$756.00 which brings our bus fare of \$1740.00 under the \$1000.00 authorized by your Board.

NOW, WE COME TO YOUR PART! To secure these fabulous prices we have to come up with deposits (non-refundable) by the first days of April. THEREFORE, if you want to be on the plane and enjoy this extended weekend of wonder with at least 21 people of similar interests you MUST:

Send the first half (\$75.00 per person) to our club's treasurer, Joan Skirvin. This has to be there on or before March 31st---postmarks don't count. If you are slow to decide or in doubt, deliver your deposit directly to the Skirvin residence at 11415 N. 68th Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Telephone 948-2515 to verify if they have received your reservation.

IF FOR SOME REASON WE CAN NOT SECURE AT LEAST 21 RESERVATIONS BY MARCH 31st WE WILL CANCEL THE ENTIRE THING AND RETURN YOUR MONEY. AFTER THE FIRST DEADLINE IF YOU CANCEL YOU MUST FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE OR KISS YOUR MONEY GOODBY. There are club funds involved as we will have to meet our commitments once we pass the first deadline of April 1st so the only thing we would offer is our sympathy if someone is forced to drop out. The deadline for the second payment of \$75.00 is May 1st.

Now I know we all want to go and the bus holds about 70 seats so it is to all of our advantage to fill the bus. With every person that signs up above our minimum we can return an additional \$36.00 to the club's treasury so the trip could cost the club nothing if we could get 60 on board. We will not take non-members so if you have a friend that wishes to go they must first join the club (\$12.00). You can see that this is a smoking deal with almost no restrictions so get excited and help us help you have a great trip. All hotel rooms are double-occupancy so if you wish a room to yourself, add \$54.00 to your initial deposit with a new total of \$204.00.

Gard Roper is working on details to get our plant purchases home. Obviously, if you purchase small amounts you can bring them on the airplane. Gard is looking at other options for larger purchases such as UPS, having a member drive a vehicle back, etc. If you would rather drive to the Vista area, stay in the hotel with the group, and drive everyone's plants back, please contact Gard Roper at 996-9718. Those members who wish to have you carry their freight will have to come up some money to pay their way--fair is fair.

LAST MINUTE CACTUS SHOW REMINDERS

Call Bob Welsh at 930-1939 to obtain your exhibitor's number. This key part of our record keeping must appear on each of your entry cards and there will be no time to do this housekeeping detail once you are at the show.

To get your plants to the show area (Webster Auditorium) take the service entrance--first right turn after entering the Desert Botanical Garden's west entrance. While we can use the service parking for delivering our plants, the parking is too restricted for all-day parking. Deliver your plants and then move your vehicle to the public parking areas so other people can get in and out. We are the Garden's guests at our meetings and for our events so I ask that everyone be as cooperative as possible.

Plant pickup is after 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 27th.

We need some help from our members who have carts, toy wagons, etc. that can be used to transfer plants in and out of the show. The Garden has its major plant sale the same weekend as our cactus show so we will be short of carts until mid-day Thursday. We may only have the use of one large cart for the morning hours so getting our plants into the Patio could be very, very slow. During Sunday's pickup we will have lots of carts so if you can bring a cart with you on Thursday you will probably be knighted, canonized, or at least highly appreciated. If you have a cart, but can't get it to the show please call Bob Welsh (show chairman) to arrange for pickup.

Bob reminds you to get your plants in as early as possible so we can avoid the massive congestion at the end of entry day. If you have a large entry, please get in early so we can handle the plants in a rational manner. All of our volunteers get on the testy side at quitting time so do not tempt the fates.

Our Awards presentations will occur at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 25th. This is the fun part of the Show and all members are invited to attend. The Garden's Director, Dr. Bob Bruenig, traditionally presents the Sweepstakes Award to our top exhibitors. This is a great opportunity to thank him and his staff for their assistance.

If you have a complaint with the show, judging, etc., your comments should be directed to the Show Chairman and/or the Club President. The Garden has nothing whatever to do with the way the Show is run so complaints directed toward them is simple ignorance compounded by bad taste. We have had negative incidents over the Show in the past that have taken years of hard work to overcome. Let's keep our Show on the highest possible level. Thank you. Jim Elliott

Special event - Tour of private botanical garden

Your programs committee has come up with a bonus event, a tour of a fantastic botanical garden in the north Scottsdale area. The date of this event is April 30th, the last SATURDAY of the month.

Our hosts show their private garden by invitation only and we have an invitation at 9 a.m. for approximately three hours. This extensive collection rivals many public botanical gardens and is particularly outstanding in its many mature cereus-type cactus. There is no charge for admittance. The collection is housed on several acres of an exclusive residential area so there are no snack bars. There is access to a restroom, but I recommend that you bring water as even morning temperatures can be quite hot by late April.

Mark your calendars as this may be your only chance to ever see this outstanding garden. We will have details of where to meet at the April meeting. You will want to bring your cameras as a lot of the garden will be in bloom. Paths are well manicured (as is the entire garden!) so everyone should be able to enjoy this visit. We will concentrate on the core area which is approximately one acre, but there is much more to see that will be open to us. I have spent several days working at this garden and still have several acres I have not seen. This is a great opportunity that is being offered--don't miss it. Jim Elliott