

# Central Spine

Newsletter of Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2000

## *From Your President - Leo Martin*

Hello Friends,

Let's do three things together this year:

1. Make our club even more interesting, informative, & appealing to the world;
2. Bring in more new members to the hobby we love; &
3. Reach out to schools and youngsters to develop future members.

Your Board of Directors is keenly interested in what you think. We spend time wondering what you want so we can try to give it to you. Please tell us! If there is a topic you'd like covered, let us know! If you know a potential speaker, let us know! If you can think of a way to improve the club, the meetings, the show... anything... let us know! If there is something you don't like, we want to know that too. Our phone numbers are in the Central Spine and we are at the meetings. We welcome contact with you.

At the January 23 meeting I will distribute a questionnaire to the membership. You will be asked to evaluate the current and potential club activities. If you can't be at the January 23rd meeting, please call me at 602-212-6724 (voice mail) so I can mail you one.

We are blessed with a little over 100 members. That's pretty good for the average metropolitan area of around 1.4 million, but with cactus and other succulents so easy to grow here, we might expect to have more members. Do you have friends with a few plants in pots in the back yard? Invite them to lunch, followed by a visit to our meeting. Tell them about us. Let your co-worker with the jade plant on the desk know about us. Bring in cactus flowers to work or school. Do you have friends in the media business? Talk to friends on the staffs of local newspapers and magazines, radio and TV stations, even if they're not reporters; they know who the reporters are, and reporters and producers are always looking for material, especially the small neighborhood newspapers. Do your friends bring their kids to your home when they visit? Show your collection to the kids. Give them a cutting. Get them hooked.

Were you hooked on cactus as a child? I was, and many enthusiasts I know were. If we recruit them young, they won't think we're strange later!

Sue Hakala and Richard Zeh have begun our school reach out program. When members have extra plant material--prunings, rooted cuttings, extras, whatever--contact Rich Zeh at 602-224-0811 or aldo5@home.com. When there is enough ready to go, Sue calls a teacher's network and the teachers have plant material for their students. Pot-sized cuttings work best; landscape material is too big. Sue has also made herself available to speak to schools.

We can expand on these efforts. Do you have kids or grandkids in school? Contact their science or agriculture teachers. They'd love to have you talk to the kids about the plants you love. Or, if you don't want to speak, offer the services of CACSS members who are ready and willing to speak. We'll even bring cuttings or offsets for the kids.

What about boys and girl's clubs? Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts? Recreation centers? If you know people involved with these organizations, offer them our services. Kids can get merit badges in the Scouts for science projects, and maybe kindle a lifelong interest.

If you don't have the time to make the call yourself, let our board members know. We'll call your schools, clubs, whomever and tell them about all we have to offer.

At the January 23 meeting I'll read some brief notes from other C&S groups about their meetings and attracting young members.

### **Let's build the club!**

IMPORTANT NOTE:  
NEXT CACSS MEETING  
SUNDAY JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2000 AT 2:00 PM  
DESERT BOTANICAL GARDENS  
WEBSTER AUDITORIUM

SUNDAY JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> IS SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

## Plant of the Month

January 2000

### *Mammillaria*

*Mammillaria* (first described as a genus by Haworth in 1812) is a large genus ranging from the United States to Venezuela and the Caribbean islands. The largest number occur in Mexico. They are relatively small globular cacti, often clustering, with stems bearing tubercles arranged into spirals rather than ribs. The tubercles were thought by Haworth to resemble nipples, thus the genus name, from Latin *mammilla*, or nipple. The distinguishing characteristics from other globular tuberculated cacti are the flowers arising from the axil, the cranny at the base of the tubercle, and the absence of a groove along the top surface of the tubercle. Grooved tubercles usually mark a plant as a *Coryphantha*. Many subgenera exist with slightly differing flowers. Presence or absence of milky sap is an important identifying characteristic. Our local plant is *M. grahamii*, the older name for which *M. microcarpa* is a synonym.

They are generally easy to grow in fast-draining soils. Growth is usually during the warmer parts of fall, winter, and spring; many take a summer rest. Few take much frost, and they don't like staying moist for any length of time. Many flower in the winter. Those from Baja California and the Sonoran Desert often flower after each rain.

Pot sizes: Small, 4" and under; Medium, 4" to 8"; Large, over 8"

Leo A. Martin  
leo1010@attglobal.net

### Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society Y2K membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees \$15 + \$3 each additional member.

Make check payable to:

Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

Mail to:

Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

Alan Rinestone

*Sent check  
2/6/00*

Note: Your next newsletter will be sent when your dues are paid in full for the year 2000

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Apologies for the brief newsletter this month. It is unfortunate but your Central Spine newsletter editor's 6 month old computer is down, yet again! Your regular newsletter will return next month (providing your dues are paid). If you sent in articles to be used this month, they will appear in February's issue. Please note my address has changed, the new address to send information to is:

Nick Diomedes

(W) 623-393-2469

Deadline for next issue is 2/19/2000