

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MAY 1994
NEWSLETTER

THE MAY MEETING IS ON THE 22nd. THE DATE WAS MOVED UP TO ACCOMMODATE MEMBERS WHO LIKE TO GET OUT OF TOWN FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. Board meeting at 1 p.m., membership meeting at 2 p.m.

MAY Program

Our guest speaker this month on May 22nd is Mark Dimmitt from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Mark will be speaking on his work with Adeniums, their propagation, hybridizing, and culture.

HUNTINGTON TRIP UPDATE

Are you packed? Me neither, but I am working on my wish list for plants and scheming on how to get them into my extra suitcase (one for clothes, one for plants).

We now have verification on dates and times for Cactus King, Grigsby Cactus Garden, Huntington Botanical Gardens, Murata Bonsai Garden, Tropic World Nursery and the San Diego C&S Society's show and sale. Rainbow Gardens could not stay open as have to be at the San Diego show. They are an exhibitor there--so we will see them anyway.

A complete itinerary will be mailed to each tour participant and extra copies will be available on the plane. Just in case anyone missed the deadlines and now wants to go, please make your own arrangements to California and make your arrangements for a hotel. Call me for further details. You will be welcome on the tour bus for each of the three days IF, AND ONLY IF, you pay \$70.00 by June 1st, 1994. We have lots of room on the bus and each extra rider puts money back in the treasury. Send your payment to Joan Skirvin. This will be somewhat more expensive than our two-for-one fares, but we all had the chance to go at the bargain rate.

Anyone just showing up at the tour stops and attempting to sneak in will be excluded wherever possible. We have gone to a lot of work to make this trip affordable. Any attempt to freeload is --CHEAP-- and shows a lack of respect for everyone else. With the success of this trip and a better understanding of lead times and costs, we hope to make an outing of this sort a semi-annual event. That will take everyone's cooperation. Jim Elliott

New members, please add their names to your rosters:

Anne F. Greene (Art)
9241 W. Sierra Pinta Drive
Peoria, AZ 85382 (602)566-0937

H. B. Wallace (Jocelyn)
30600 N. Pima Road #56
Scottsdale, AZ 85262 (602)488-1843

PRIVATE GARDEN TOUR

Those who missed the tour in April of the Wallace Gardens can take heart. It will be repeated in about two or three years. Our hosts (and new members!) were most gracious in sharing their garden and residence. We had beautiful weather and the plants cooperated with hundreds in bloom.

It is hard to believe that so much could be accomplished in just seven years. As these gardens mature and are expanded they become more and more of an asset to this community. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Wallace for your generosity.

SILENT AUCTION RESULTS:

Our treasurer, Joan Skirvin, reports total sales at last month's silent auction as \$359.20. This sale is one of our major sources of income and paid off very nicely again.

Ken Jantz and his committee members did a good job setting the auction up. Many, many members contributed plants and associated items to really keep the bidding going. These sales occur at least once a year so it is never too soon to start propagating some of your treasures for the next auction.

TREASURER'S REPORT - SUMMARY - FIRST QUARTER

Balance on hand, January 1, 1994. \$3067.03

Income

Dues	Jan-Mar	\$706.00
Sales	Jan-Mar	710.50
Library	Jan-Mar	<u>22.00</u>
	Total	\$1438.50

Expenses

Publications	\$181.78
Cactus for sales	180.00
1994 Cactus Show	712.42
Miscellaneous	<u>333.44</u>
	Total \$1407.64

Balance on hand, April 1, 1994 \$3097.89*

*Does not include the silent auction, a second quarter activity.

OOPS!

From the Awards list for 1994 Cactus Show, a sponsor was ommitted. The Best Azioaceae Trophy in memory of Vikki Bone is given by Fran Tolleson and BUD TERRELL. Bud's name was inadvertently left off. Our apologies, Bud.

STAN SKIRVIN

HUNTINGTON WEEKEND, Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Soc.

Friday, June 3, 1994

7:00 AM Check in, Southwest Airlines, Flt 760.
8:15 AM Depart Sky Harbor.
9:20 AM Arrive in San Diego.
10:10 AM Depart on bus, Sundance Stage Lines.
10:40 AM Arrive at Cactus King Nursery, Encinitas.
12:15 PM Depart, stop for lunch.
2:15 PM Arrive at Grigsby's Cactus Gardens, Vista. They
have a tour planned for non-public areas.
5:00 PM Depart Grigsby, stop for dinner.
7:00 PM Arrive at hotel, Best Western Oceanside Inn, Oceanside.

Saturday, June 4, 1994

7:30 AM Depart for Huntington, breakfast before departure.
9:30 AM Arrive at Huntington. Welcome and tour hosted by
Mr. Joe Clements. Lunch at on-grounds cafeteria.
Free time, follow your interests.
3:30 PM Depart Huntington.
4:30 PM Arrive at Murata Bonsai Garden, Westminster.
5:45 PM Depart for Oceanside, approximately one hour drive.
No dinner stop planned. This is a long day (we
have the bus for 11½ hours!) so take snacks.
7:00 PM Arrive back at Oceanside Inn.

Sunday, June 5, 1994

7:30 AM Check out of Inn.
8:00 AM Depart for Tropic World Nursery, Escondido.
9:00 AM Arrive at Tropic World. Tour of private gardens
hosted by Mr. Paul Hutchinson.
12:30 PM Depart for Balboa Park, site of San Diego C&SS
show and sale. Stop for lunch enroute.
2:30 PM Arrive at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Show
runs to 5:00 PM.
5:00 PM Depart for airport. Check in and get dinner.
7:45 PM Southwest Airlines flight 938 departs.
8:50 PM Arrive at Sky Harbor.

Cactus King Nursery, 1534 Crest Drive. (619)753-6939
Grigsby Cactus Gardens, 2354 Bella Vista Dr. (619)727-1323
Oceanside Inn, 1680 Oceanside Blvd. (619)722-1821
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino,
CA. (818)405-2163
Murata Bonsai Garden, 13631 Beach Blvd., Westminster, CA.
(714)894-4919
Tropic World Nursery, 26437 N. Center City Parkway.
(619)746-6108

IF YOU MISS THE BUS, TAKE A TAXI TO THE NEXT
DESTINATION OR BACK TO THE OCEANSIDE INN. WEAR A WATCH AND
BE AWARE OF THE TIME AS WE WILL TRY TO STAY ON SCHEDULE. IF
YOU WISH TO LEAVE THE GROUP FOR WHATEVER REASON PLEASE LET
KEN JANTZ, ELECTRA ELLIOTT, STAN SKIRVIN, OR GARD ROPER KNOW
AS THEY ARE YOUR PROGRAMS COMMITTEE.

ON THE DRY SIDE
by Timothy Chapman

When we see the beauty of one of our plants, its adaptations that allow it to fit into its environment like a key into a lock, it's tempting to therefore assume that Nature, in Her majesty and wisdom, runs like a well-oiled machine, each gear meshing perfectly with the next. But intertwined with this beautiful clockwork is a chaotic web of accident and mishap. Plants and animals are doing the equivalent of falling into manholes all the time. I remember once finding the tiny, emerald corpse of a leafhopper on one of my baby saguaros. After having executed what must have been a joyful, perfect, and mathematically stunning leap into the air, the poor creature impaled itself headlong onto one of the unforgiving spines, and died there, most uncomfortably.

More recently, I found the still, emaciated body of a lizard upon the cottony surface of my Mammillaria guelzowiana. Those of you who are familiar with this plant know that hidden among its mantle of white hair are innumerable hooked central spines that can grab onto anything that brushes past. The luckless reptile was stuck like velcro. And my heart jumped as it started scrambling madly in place when I reached down to pluck it off: still alive!

Now I've untangled leashed dogs who've wrapped themselves around trees, and I've even taken a fish hook out of a furious grebe bent on kicking my good Samaritan butt, but this was a new one for me. The Mexican M. guelzowiana is a really gorgeous plant with big shocking-pink flowers. Mine is a solitary, squat column about six inches tall, and I have my heart set on putting it in next year's show. I've done everything right: I've been sparing with the water, given it lots of bright filtered light, kept it protected from frost during the winters, and managed to keep it mealybug-free. I did not want to pluck a bunch of spines from its side just because some scaly little Buster Keaton goofed on a pratfall, but the judges would probably be less forgiving of dead lizard decor. And I knew I had to act fast, because my dog Echo was getting real interested in making a grab for this wriggling potential plaything, and I didn't think I could enter both her and the cactus in the Decorative Planter section, as good-looking as I think she might be.

Well, after a few carefully executed snips the lizard was liberated,

if not completely spine-free. I misted the poor thing as it lay panting among the pots, and it lapped up the water that fell on its scaly lips. I gave Echo the tail, which was lost during surgery, and eventually the lizard crawled away. I have no idea whether or not it survived, but the whole episode reminded me that, in spite of the desert that surrounds us, it's a jungle out there.

Hope to see everyone at the silent auction! Bring your checkbooks and your rollerskates.

There was no Board of Directors' meeting in March, so there are no meeting minutes.