

Why Show Your Plants?

Leo A. Martin, Show Chair

- To have fun! It is a blast seeing the look of understanding on someone's face when you answer their question while working the show floor.
- It is fun to check out other people's plants and see what they look like.
- It is a great sense of accomplishment to work together with the club to put on a big event that draws lots of people and lots of compliments.
- To demonstrate to the public how beautiful these plants can be, and why we love them.
- To gain members! Each year many people who see our show join us so they, too, can grow such wonderful plants.
- To keep raising our standards of what a well-grown plant looks like. After seeing some of the spectacular examples in the show, we elevate our own standards of what we expect of our collection, and how we grow our own plants.
- To provide the public another reason to attend the Garden. We pay "rent" for our space by drawing visitors to the Garden.
- To learn more. To study an entire group of related plants in one place, some of which may be unfamiliar, leads to new understanding. To ask questions of people who have grown winning plants leads to our own plants growing and looking better. Have plants you can't identify? Somebody can show you how to find out what they are. It's easier to learn how to identify plants when there are lots to look at.

Why a sale?

- To bring a wide variety of exciting plants in one place. How much time would it take to drive to a dozen vendors, scattered all over Arizona and California, and look at everything they have?
- To increase the drawing power of our show.
- To raise money for our club.

What does our Society do with money, and why do we need more?

- Our purpose is to increase and disseminate knowledge about succulent plants and their culture. We can spend money on any educational function. This includes, but is not limited to, our library; travel costs and advertising for speakers, special meetings, our own publications, such as our *Central Spine*, our Web site, www.centralarizonacactus.org, and anything else that leads to the transmission or discovery of knowledge.
- With more money, we can buy more library books; bring in speakers from around the country, or even world, rather than just those within driving distance; have a more elaborate Web site (which each year has brought in more than enough new memberships to pay for the site;) or do many other things you haven't even thought about yet, but might if you sat down to think about!

What do you want me to do?

- First, enter plants. We were all novices at one time. Enter just five plants! Talk to some of the people who exhibited last year for the first time. They enjoyed

themselves immensely! If you have any questions, ask anybody on the show committee.

- Volunteer to help with something. If you only have one hour, that is fine. You don't have to take on five days, full time. If you have more time, that is fine, too. You will see that people volunteering at the show have big smiles on their faces. It's not work when it's that much fun. There are lots of things to do before the show as well, such as putting posters up in nurseries or any place you think people might see them.
- Talk about the show where you work. Talk it up a lot. Put up a poster. Give out a show and sale postcard to every person you interact with. Give them to sales clerks at the checkout, to waiters and waitresses, to the cop who stops you for speeding. Many of your co-workers would be fascinated by the show, and be sure they bring their kids, too. Remember to mention each kid gets a free cactus.
- Come see the show! You're in this society because you love the plants. Come see some plants!

Where can I get more information?

- Ask somebody on the show committee.
- Look on our Web site. The show rules and regulations are available on the Web site for downloading. The show and sale dates and times are posted on the meetings/calendar page of our site.