APRIL SPEAKER

Sonoran Desert Life: Understanding, Insights, and Enjoyment

Featuring: Dr. Gerald A. Rosenthal
ON THE COVER

A large flowering *Hoodia gordonii*. I have had this plant for several years, and planted it in the ground two years ago. It has done amazingly well since I planted it out and it's currently sporting more than 100 fly-covered flowers. This plant is native to the Kalahari desert region of Southern Africa. According to some reports that I have read, this, and some of the other *Hoodia* species, are supposed to be difficult to grow. To the contrary, I have found the opposite to be true - as long as you put them in the ground.

Photo taken April 2010 © Laurence Garvie
Wow, ... where did the first third of the year go? Well I must be having a lot of fun then right? I sure am! I write this one day after our 2010 Show and Sale wrapped up, and it was a great event. We had fifteen wonderful vendors selling fabulous plants and pots, so if you didn’t get by there you missed out on a lot of cool stuff. We had over 400 plants entered as well, however, these were all entered by only twenty or so exhibitors. We had hoped for more participation, so next year we need to do better. We did have a good group of volunteers however, and I thank all of you who were helping to make the event a success. This is such a great time of year; cool nights and mornings, and warm days making for good growing conditions. I hope your plants are all blooming and thriving and that you are taking the time to enjoy them! I spend every morning coffee and every evening Chai tea latte with my plants. It really lets me relax and center my thoughts, and sometimes I just sit there not thinking about too much at all! Next on the agenda is the California trip. We have it 95% complete as far as itinerary and price, and within a few days we will e-mail out the whole package and price. I hope to have this by the April 25th meeting.

See you there ... Steve

From the editor ...

The May issue of the Central Spine will be my last as editor. I am hoping to have some articles to print in that issue ... so please do not be shy, send me your writings. Almost any cactus- and succulent-related topic will do such as plant descriptions, travelogues, poems, cooking recipes, secret growing tips, favorite nurseries etc. Assuming that I get a reasonable number of contributions, I need time to put the May issue of the Central Spine together. So, please send me (lgarvie@cox.net) your contributions by May 18th. This gives you more than three weeks to find an hour or so to put something together. As I have said before, even a photo with an extended figure caption counts as a contribution.

Laurence Garvie
Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list (just call or e-mail Bob Torrest). For now the list is simply alphabetical with principal interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

**DOUG DAWSON**
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Specializations include Flora of Namibia, Growing from Seed, Lithops, other Mesembs, and Melocactus.

**MIKE GALLAGHER**
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Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and Turbinicarpus.

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Specializations include Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus, General Propagation, and Desert Revegetation.

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Specializations include Flora of Madagascar, Growing from Seed, Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents, Aloes, Apocynaceae, Burseraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fouquieriaceae, and Succulent Bonsai.

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Specializations include Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, Trichocereus, and Opuntia.