From Our President

Well, it was a hot 110 degrees at the Garden, but that didn’t deter very many of you, judging by the nice turnout we had to see Eric Anderson. Eric took us through some interesting and sometimes rough places in his talk on South Africa, as he navigated primitive roads and climbed mountains in his search of unusual succulents. Many of the Haworthias and Gasterias were shown growing deep in the brush or in rock crevices confirming their need for shade in our collections, especially at this time of year. We also got to see pictures of many species of aloes including some huge tree specimens, and many habitat photos of Euphorbias. Eric has more slides of Africa and of a trip to Madagascar, so we hope to have him back in the future.

Marc Fleischer was the only one willing to show off his favorite plant, a *Euphorbia cymindrifolia* that was nicely grown. I hope to see more favorite plants at this month’s meeting! We also had a good discussion on summer growing tips. Many feel that as long as it is hot and dry, most plants will take more water, but if the nights stay hot and/or the humidity goes up after the summer rains, it is best to back off on your watering frequency. A good test is always to get used to picking up the pots when they are full of water and when they are dry to judge when to water next. Some of us definitely prefer to water in the evening when the plants begin to respire and open their stomata. Others like to do it in the morning when it is cooler or whenever time permits. Rich Zeh treats everything with a fungicide as soon as the summer rains begin.

Well, I’m back from the trip to the Bay area nurseries, and it was another outstanding time for me and I think everyone else that went. Our intrepid travelers fought early departure times, mysterious room assignments, winding roads, and late night dinners in pursuit of the rare and unusual plant. We had plenty of cool, pleasant weather, beautiful scenery, and our driver, Roger took us everywhere in complete comfort and safety. In addition to the top quality nurseries we visited, we saw the golden gate bridge, Herman Schwartz’ Euphorbia Reference Collection, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row with its shops and restaurants. Some of the things I heard most often during the trip were: Will this grow in Phoenix?; Someone’s in my room!; Do you take plastic?; Sit down, Jerry; Shut up, Scott; No, that one’s not for sale!; When is this highway (1) going to end?; Pass the guava juice; and Where did I put my box? There was something for everybody, and I feel that for me the most important thing was not only seeing all the plants, but spending time with a great bunch of people who share this wonderful passion for succulent plants. Many, many thanks to Jim and Electra Elliot for putting together another fantastic trip!

*See you at the next meeting, Scott B. McMahon*

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### A Very Special Thanks

Gard Roper for making several generous cash donations to the library fund!

&

Marc Fleischer who has generously donated to our library a beautiful new coffee table hardback book of dramatically photographed cacti entitled 'Cacti' with photographs by the biologist Paul Starosta and text by Vincent Cerutti. 300 varieties of cacti are presented with 138 magnified photographs, most with black background, and some growing advice (1998, 127 pp.). Thank you Marc for such a lovely addition to the library!
Here are the must see stunning books I bought for the CACSS library on the fun trip to San Jose/SF which were signed by the gracious publisher and our host, Herman Schwartz, MD of Strawberry Press when we were at his impressive garden in Bolinas, California:

3. "Succulent Compositae," Gordon D. Rowley, 1st ed. (1994, 238 pp.) HB - Covers over 80 species of the largest of all families of flowering plants (Senecio and Othonna), including their cultivation.

*These books will be available to see and check out at the next meeting.*

By the way, Dr. Schwartz told us he is publishing the much anticipated Vol. 11 of the "Euphorbia Journal," which I plan to purchase for the library as soon as it's published.

*Karen Kravcov, CACSS Librarian*
Good Growing

Yippee! It’s monsoon time.

Wait. Before you claim that Deb has been out in the sun too long, let’s take a horticultural look at what’s going on and coming soon.

Monsoon season is a very active period for most cactus and succulents. Think about what your plants were doing in December. A little quiet in the greenhouse? Now, think about what’s happening during the hottest time of the year. New growth, abundant flowers, and easily rooted cuttings make for greenhouse party time. This bud’s for you.

With temperatures over 105° F, the outdoor, potted plants at my house are watered once/week. I count natural rain; it saves me from having to pull out the hose on a hot summer night (watering during summer days is a no-no). Look to the north, northeast and eastern horizons for thunderclouds. This year’s first monsoon storms at the beginning of July brought over an inch of rain. That’s a sizable amount of water.

Summer rain is a blessing. In habitat, cactus seeds germinate and start their first tenuous growth. It is New Years for the Tohono O’ohdram. They harvest ripe saguaro fruit and cook it into a sweet, purple wine. The wine’s froth represents rain clouds. For the Hopi, the kachinas are active. Rain is the result of devoted prayer and adherence to the traditional way of life.

With the start of monsoon, we know that fall is only two or three months away. The summer bloomers are blossoming their hearts out and the fall bloomers, like Ariocarpus, are not too far behind. With Ariocarpus flowers comes the change to cooler weather and climatic relief.

So, get out and enjoy your plants during the monsoonal season. There’s nothing you can do for your plants about the humidity and mind bending temperatures. You might as well take off your shoes, get your feet muddy, and rejoice in the season.

Happy monsoon,
Debra Korobkin

Start getting excited! Get very excited!
CACSS is putting out a special newsletter in November and we want pictures of your favorite, rare or unusual cacti or succulents. We are looking for a color picture or digital image; include its botanical/common name, who cares for the plant and a one or two sentence comment about it. Then wait for your newsletter in November. Pictures must be received by Saturday October 31st, 1998. If you wish, please include a SASE to have the pictures returned or ask that they be returned at the November meeting.
You can mail hard copy pictures to:
Nick Diomede
1345 W. Willetta Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Or e-mail digital images to: desertsegue@earthlink.net
Because of the nature of this project we will not be using B&W pictures.
Recommended Cacti and Succulent Websites
Karen Kravcov, CACSS Librarian  Kkravcov@aol.com  780-2867

There are some advantages to using the Internet for cacti and succulent research such as great color photos of plants which are not available in most nursery catalogs, and most sites have links or rings to other cacti and succulent sites. You can even place your orders via the Internet and request catalogs or join a national or international group. The following is a list of only some of the available sites.

Books/Publishers/Research Groups:
The Amateurs’ Digest  http://www.com/~amdigest/hornepage.htm
Arizona Cactus & Succulent Research - Bisbee, Arizona  http://www.arizonacactus.com/
CactusLand - great photos!  http://www.cactusland.com
Cactus Succulent Plant Mall - many resources, including a Mesemb Study Group  http://www.cactus-mall.com/index.html
The Last Peyotero - Ethnobotany of cacti - unique!  http://www.piante.it/lastpeyo/default.HTM
Ralph Martin’s Cacti and Succulents  http://ralph.cs.cf.ac.uk/cafti/cacti.html
The Succulent Plant Page  http://www.graylab.ac.uk/ust/oddgiss succulente.html

Botanic Gardens:
Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, Superior, Arizona  http://atg.arizona.edu/BTA/btsa.html
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens  http://www.huntington.org
The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Surrey, UK  http://www.rbg.kew.org.uk/

Nurseries:
Arid Lands - great photos  http://www.aridlands.com
Cactus King Nursery  http://www.cactusking.com/
Exotica Botanische Raritaten (Germany)  http://www.cactus-mall.com/exotica
The Great Petaluma Desert  http://www.sonic.net/~gpdesert/HomePage.htm
Miles’ To Go www.miles2go.com
South Bay Growers  http://www.vvm.com/~amdigest/homepage.htm

Group Societies:
Tucson C&SS - club newsletter  http://www.desertcactus.com/tcss/

Scrambled Eggs Arizona Style  http://www.graylab.ac.uk/ust/oddgiss/recipe.html

1 or 2 cactus leaves  Scrub cactus leaves and remove spines. Use a potato peeler to cut around spiny nodules and remove. Slice cactus leaves into bite-size pieces. Saute cactus leaves in a small amount of butter for 5 minutes. Remove. Beat eggs in a mixing bowl and add shredded cheese and cooked cactus leaves. Pour in heated skillet and scramble. Serve warm.
8 eggs
1/4 pound cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
EASY PLANT BIOCHEMISTRY FOR CACTOPHILES
This article first appeared in the newsletter of the Henry Shaw Cactus Society, St Louis, MO
Leo Martin

PART II: THE PARTS OF CELLS
Each plant cell has an outer cell wall which is a rigid but water-permeable box. These billions of cell walls support the plant. Animal cells lack cell walls, which is why animals are generally softer than plants, and why we have to chew vegetables more than meat. Cell walls are made of cellulose, a polymer plants make by stringing together sugars. Each cell is encased in a box of cellulose; adjacent boxes are attached to each other with glue-like chemicals.

The thicker the cell wall, the more rigid the part of the plant made up of this type of cell. Wood and bark are strong and hard because they consist of billions of reinforced tiny boxes stacked on top of each other. Flowers are usually delicate because they have thin cell walls.

Animals cannot digest (break apart) cellulose into the sugars it is made from; it passes through their digestive tract. This is why wood is not edible. When you hear about eating more fiber, you are hearing about eating more cellulose. In fact, some bread has its fiber content increased by adding finely ground sawdust. Might as well eat your (paper) napkin. Paper, remember, is made from pulped wood (nowadays-the ancient Egyptians used the papyrus reed) and is primarily cellulose. Cotton (from a hibiscus), linen (flax), sisal (agave), hemp (cannabis), and jute (a tropical palm) are all basically cellulose.

Inside the cell wall is a thin cell membrane. The membrane is mostly composed of fats, with a few proteins stuck here and there. The membrane controls the passage of water and chemicals into and out of the cell. Without a membrane, the cell would quickly dry up or the chemicals it needs to carry out its growth would leak out. The plant makes all the fats and proteins it needs for its cell membranes from sugar. Animals can also make fat from sugar (probably not a surprise for the reader.)

Inside the cell membrane is a soupy mixture of water, minerals, and proteins, called the cytoplasm. Proteins that convert one kind of chemical into another are called enzymes, and are also in the cytoplasm. Plants make all their own proteins by linking amino acids together in polymers. Plants make all their own amino acids from sugar. Animals can make all their own proteins, too, if they have the proper amino acids available. Animals can convert amino acids into other amino acids, but cannot make them from sugar; they must eat proteins, and break the proteins down into amino acids in their digestive systems for absorption into the blood.

Floating in the cytoplasm are structures called chloroplasts. These are encased in their own membrane, also made from fats with a few proteins. These are small factories where special chemicals use solar energy to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. The oxygen is released into the air, and the hydrogen is combined with carbon dioxide from the air to form sugar. We will cover this process, photosynthesis, in another article.

Also floating in the cytoplasm is the nucleus. It has its own membrane, too. The nucleus contains blueprints for making all the proteins and enzymes the cell needs. It also contains the special proteins to read the blueprints. The information is carried outside the nucleus to the cytoplasm where the proteins are made. The blueprint material is deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA. The DNA is a long polymer made up of only four different building blocks strung together in a double chain. The plant makes these building blocks, called nucleic acids. Animals must eat nucleic acids, though they can convert one into another. The DNA in an average plant cell is several yards long, though the cell is too small to see. Each cell in a particular living organism has the exact same DNA. When a cell splits to make two cells, the DNA is first copied exactly so each daughter cell has an identical copy. A seeds contains food and a copy of DNA for making the new plant. Organisms differ from each other because their DNA and thus proteins are different. Humans and saguaros have very little of their DNA the same; humans and chimpanzees have about 97.5% identical DNA.

Next: Sugar, where plant biochemistry starts

Deadline for articles and submissions for next newsletter:
Send to:
Nick Diomede
1345 West Willetta St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(fax) 258-0736
desertsegue@earthlink.net

I wanted to personally thank our member and good friend Mike Finley for the enormous amount of quality plants he donated to the Silent Auction. If it had not been for his donation I think the result of sales would have been half. Some people do not know Mike as he does not always attend, he is an excellent grower and has the latest in greenhouses and equipment. He grows plants for fun.

Electra Elliott
Nursery Review

Richard Zeh

Desert Foothills Gardens
33840 N. Cave Creek Road
Cave Creek AZ 85331
602-992-9439

Inventory: 8.0
Availability: 8.0 (10 if you have Bill Gates’ checkbook)
Personality: 4.0
Plants: 8.0

George Pingitore runs this very chic nursery. This is a must see for all the members. His boulder-filled arroyos and extensive large specimen plantings are first class. There are also his various adobe follies: Little jail houses, fountains and even an adobe greenhouse grace the property. It’s a little much, but interesting and good looking plants are everywhere. He actually has very large Boojum trees priced at ~1000 per foot! There are a few good buys to be found, but you have to dig around in his inventory. Unfortunately, I have purchased a couple of plants that had NO roots. They were just sitting on top of the soil. Caveat emptor, people. That goes for all purchases from anywhere, but I didn’t expect it from this first class and expensive operation. I’d say most of the inventory is cactus, but some great succulents are to be found here. His help appears to be different each time I visit. They are friendly, if lacking extensive plant knowledge. Go anytime he’s open; I’ve never seen more than a few people there at one time.

Miles’ To Go
6175 N. Noel Lane
Tucson AZ 85743
520-682-7272

Inventory: 7.5
Availability: 8.0
Personality: 7.5
Plants: 8.0

The name of Miles’ Nursery is appropriate. He’s out near the Sonoran Desert Museum, on the far west side of Tucson. His collection is of course outstanding, with a heavy emphasis on Ariocarpus. The specialty of the house is grafting. If you’re a devotee you probably already know about Miles To Go. The nursery itself is smallish, maybe three greenhouses, but they are well stocked with mostly seed grown plants. Catalogues for mail order are available along with an internet site. It’s better to deal in person with Miles so you can enjoy his acerbic sense of humor.

Plantas Del Sol
6175 N. Noel Lane
Tucson AZ 85743
520-682-8883

Inventory: 9.0
Availability: 8.0
Personality: 10.0
Plants: 10.0

(This is not the Olympics and I’m not a liberal Canadian judge. You won’t be seeing these high numbers again anytime soon.)

You’ll notice the address is the same for Plantas Del Sol and Miles’ To Go. Make sure they are both in residence before visiting. There is some overlap in inventory, but not much. Miles has a trailer/house just before Plantas Del Sol. John and Dorothy run an exceptional little nursery. Plantas Del Sol is without doubt the cleanest, the neatest, and the friendliest nursery I’ve ever had the pleasure to visit. I felt like I had gone home to my grandparents for a visit. It’s hard to describe the obvious depth of knowledge and long acquaintance with succulents John and Dorothy possess. They are both an institution and an irreplaceable asset. Their collection of stock plants is priceless. If you can find even a cobweb in their nursery, I’ll eat it. Succulents are represented here more than cactus. All the standard plants we see everywhere else are missing. Only rare and unusual plants live at Plantas Del Sol. All of their plants are seed grown and in the best possible shape. There are no misshape or haphazard root cuttings for sale. You won’t find any pots or soil mix for sale. This is strictly a collectors’ nursery. Go, you all must go. Consider it a pilgrimage.
Thank you, TCSS, for sharing with us.

Submitted by: Jim Elliot

Thanks to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, we were all afforded an opportunity to hear two very interesting speakers with beautiful slide programs.

On June 11th, Rudolf Schultz gave a double program based on books he has co-authored on Copiapoa in habitat and the Pingueone (pronounced penguin) Ranch, Kenya. Rudolf Schultz operates a non-cacti succulent nursery in Australia so his approach to the plants was much more from a grower's standpoint than an academic approach. In the copiapoa he dispelled a number of ideas that a lot of us have. For instance, the copiapoa do not seem to take in moisture directly from fog in any significant amount: their numbers actually decrease where the fog is heaviest. Fog apparently does contribute significantly to reducing the normal temperatures and the higher humidity aids in reducing water loss. Some species of copiapoa are flourishing while others seem headed toward extinction based on climate change. The area they grow in is being pushed up relatively quickly by plate tectonics which may be the cause of the changes. He was unable to find any reproduction among a number of the copiapoa. Eulychnia is a genus of cactus in the area that is even harder hit with a near total loss of living plants in several areas. Unlike many plants that are threatened by loss of habitat, collection, or other activities of man; these plants are declining due to forces of nature.

His presentation on the Pingueone succulents was much more of an encyclopedic overview of that particular area. The ranch covers 20,000 hectares and includes numerous types of habitats based on elevation changes and soil types. Mr. Shultz and Anne Powys (the Powys family own the ranch) have written a book that includes wildlife and most life forms living on the ranch. The many forms of succulents that are covered are treated within the context of all living things found with them.

Both books have extensive color photography and make a good read. They are in our CACSS library.

Two weeks later, TCSS presented another special program on Haworthias. Mr. Bruce Bayer is a resident of South Africa who has done extensive field studies of the genus. His two handbooks on the haworthia are very highly regarded. Mr. Bayer has written a new book that will be out next year which will attempt to update and organize the genus. He spent a great deal of time explaining the need of a framework or 'construct' to make the assigning of plants within a genus have a logical base. He was highly critical of people who bestow an entirely new species name to a plant that is little different in any of the number of aspects from previously described species.

He had excellent habitat photos which show Haworthias that live very close to each other geographically. Some grew on shales, others in granite or other soil types. Some on north slopes (hottest in southern hemisphere), others on the cooler southern slopes. Yet another variation of the growing locations was the verticality of the location: cliff faces, sloping locations, or flat land. With each of these habitat changes there was an associated change in the plant(s) that flourished there. Often these changes were relatively minor and in every case he presented there was a gradation of forms from one area to another. When the specific plants were aligned with the changing topography it seemed to me that instead of a number of species, it appeared that there was just one species in a myriad of forms with a fairly consistent gradation from one to the other. The extreme forms from the ends of the distribution did not look at all similar but any meaningful division of the gradations seemed artificial and stilted. In the Question and Answer after the show this idea was presented and surprisingly, Bruce Bayer was adamant that indeed the species were legitimate and valid separations. I did not understand his reasoning for that statement as it seemed that his very thorough presentation had proved exactly the opposite. Oh well, it isn't the first time I have completely missed the point.

Another concept he presented was that evolution is completely ongoing and that a valid species we recognize today is not static but continues to evolve. I knew that, didn't I? It logically has to follow if you believe in evolution at all. I just hate it when people make me rethink things like that. There were several other points in his program that had that same effect on the thought processes. With the beautiful slides and his extensive fieldwork, I found this program to be very excellent. I look forward to the book. CACSS was quite well represented at this program as at least eight of us were in attendance.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTER-CITY
CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE
Sat. & Sun. August 22 & 23, 1998 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day
Los Angeles State & County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

The theme this year is "CREATING HABITAT". Talks, displays, and handouts will be geared to how cacti & succulents grow in the wild and how we can adapt this knowledge for plants at home, in landscaping, and even in staging our plants in pots. Growing succulents in containers is an alternate habitat for them, and tips for success will be addressed in talks as well as viewed in the show itself.

Once again it is expected that the 13th Annual Inter-City Show will be the biggest show of succulent plants on display in the United States this year. Sponsored by the Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Societies, the show competition is open to all interested in showing. Pre-registration is requested, especially for displays. Contact a show chairman (see phone numbers below).

The sale is also huge, with a wide variety of plants and accessories for the beginner as well as experienced grower. Dealers will be on hand to answer questions and discuss plants. A holding table is available for your convenience. Also in the works are plans for a staging booth to discuss how to pot your plant for good culture and to show it off to advantage.

Walks, talks and demos again will be offered free to those interested beginning Saturday at the following times: 11am - Landscaping with C&S (Habitat at Home) by veterans Bill Baker & Joe Clements; 12pm - Creating the Plant Pot, Demo, with potters Al & Erika Van Auker & Joe Wujick; 1:00pm - Where & How Cacti Grow in Natural Habitats with field men Woody Minnich & Charles Spotts; 2pm - Swinging Epiphytes (Cacti at Home in Trees) by growers Clem & Terry Goewerts of Las Vegas & nurseryman Jerry Williams; & 3pm - Basic Cultivation, Demo, by experts Bill Hagblom & Joe Stead. On Sunday, at 11am will be the topic, Staging Ficus on Rocks, Demo, by Gene Joseph of Living Stones in Tucson; 12pm - Mimiery Succulents by field man & nurseryman Michael Vassar; 1pm - Show Trophy Table Explained with champion growers Michael Buckner, Woody Minnich, & Charles Spotts; and at 2pm - Staging Cacti & Succulents as Miniatures by artist-growers Joyce Buckner & Monte Woodworth. All speakers are experienced and dedicated growers and showers of cacti and succulents.

Other features include voting on Saturday for the "People's Choice Award," a Saturday night banquet, and the "Alternative Awards" for the strangest, most bizarre etc. plants. Not all awards need be serious.

The LA Arboretum is located opposite the Santa Anita Racetrack and Mall on Baldwin in Arcadia just south of the 210 Freeway. There is a fee to enter the Arboretum, but the show and walks, talks, and demos are free. There is a coffee shop/restaurant at the Arboretum. Not far to the west off the 210 Fwy. are the Huntington Botanical Gardens, where there is a wonderful in-ground cactus garden under the care of speaker Joe Clements.

For further information contact show co-chairmen Larry Grammar 562-599-1146; Woody Minnich 805-944-2784, & Chris Rogers 818-891-9986. And for email, contact Dick Hulett Airobatic@aol.com

SAN ANTONIO
CACTUS & XEROPHYTE SOCIETY
Fall Show & Sale

Will be on the Sept 18-19-1998 at Central Park Mall (upper level). There will be many plants on display and an auction each day at 2 pm of rare plants, many of which are donated from rare plant collections...The funds received from this auction will go to the ongoing project of building a native plant garden at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens... You can help with this project by buying plants at this auction... Several dealers will be present with cactus and other rare & unusual plants for sale. For further information contact Claude Townsend @ 210-655-8959 or e-mail chtownsend@aol.com. We’ll see you there; it’s free so spend some time with us.

Southwestern Low Desert Gardening Conference
August 7-8, 1998 The Wigwam Resort

An annual conference sharing timely, research-based information on gardening in the low deserts of the arid Southwest. Whether you’re a Master Gardener, teacher, gardening professional, or a homeowner struggling to make things grow in our climate, this 8th annual conference will give you the information you need to “get growing”! This year’s conference is packed with new topics, seasoned experts and good fun! Highlights of topics included in this year’s program are: new varieties of citrus, native herbs, mosaic tile art in the garden, and in-depth session on turf and trees! Contact Cheryl Czaplicki, @ (602) 470-1556 press 824.
SONORAN 2
“BUT IT'S A DRY HEAT”
October 23rd, 24th & 25th
Tucson, Arizona

SONORAN 2 will have workshops and speakers; talks given by experts in their fields. It's a Conference, a Seminar, a Symposium.

Call it what you will, but it will be a super get-together for cactophiles to exchange their knowledge and, above all, have fun.

Our Theme - Plant Adaptations to Arid Lands - will bring Tony Burgess, Mark Dimmitt, Matt Johnson and Meg Quinn to you as speakers on growing cacti and succulents in desert areas; the plants of the Sonoran desert; succulents in Kenya, and more.

Workshops, with the chance of getting your hands on, will be on varying practical subjects to help you learn about the latest techniques in growing, propagating and reproducing photos of plants. Miles Anderson will demonstrate the cultivation of caudiciforms from ground to pot; James Pickering on How to start off your collection—especially for beginners; Gene Joseph will present two workshops on growing Aloe and Lithops; Greg Starr will show how plant combinations in the landscape may be made using succulents, near-succulents, shrubs and perennial wildflowers; Bruce Birt will present a workshop on the uses and capabilities of a photo scanner and computer printer; Dan Bach will show you how a nurseryman propagates plants commercially; Michael Louie will demonstrate a low-tech method of tissue culture which you can use at home.

We are planning a weekend for you of fun, good food, and lots of hands-on plant activities.

Registration forms will be available on our web page. (http://www.desertcactus.com/tcss/) Alternatively, contact Carol by FAX (520) 908-0396; snail mail: PO Box 91560, Tucson, AZ 85752-1560. The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc. reserves the right to change the program if necessary.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Presents its 28th Biennial International Convention
April 11-15, 1999 in Las Vegas

Be a part of CSSA’s ultimate convention of this millennium in fabulous Las Vegas. Cactus and succulent lovers will be able to attend an information-packed convention at the famous Tropicana, while accompanying guests may enjoy endless wonderment in the entertainment capital of the world. This is not a convention to miss. Arrangements have been made for discounted bus passes that run the “strip” every few minutes. Pre- and post-convention tours are being planned to places such as Death Valley and the Mojave Desert, the Grand Canyon (south rim), Monument Valley, Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona. Up to four mid-week tours will possibly include Red Rock Canyon, Spring Mountain Ranch, and Potosi Mountain; Valley of Fire and Lake Mead (Glen Canyon); Ash Meadows along with Devil’s Hole, Pahrump Vineyards, and Potosi Mountain (no harm in having two tours merge toward the end); with the final tour beginning at Castle Mountain Mine (Viceroy Gold Corp.), the New York Mountains, the Clark mountains, and a taste of the East Mojave National Preserve. Boxed-lunches and beverages will be included on all tours.

Our line-up of speakers will include Bea and Jerry Barad, Chris Barnhill, Sonia Barker-Fricker, Roger Brown, Susan Carter-Holmes, Eva and Voytek Foik, Steve Hammer, Inge Hoffman, Michael Louie, Gerhard Marx, Tim Metcalf, Larry Mitich, Mary Parisi, Jon Rebman, Derek Tribble, Rob Wallace, and-back by popular demand - a cultural panel. Speakers and fellow-conventioneers will be attending from all over the world. If you like cacti, succulents, photography, camaraderie, or entertainment, this is one convention that you will not want to miss.

Dr. Larry Mitich, President; Duke Benadom, Convention Chairman; Steve Hammer, Convention Program Chairman & Rare Plant Auction Procurer; Denni and Steve Plath, Convention Host. Society Chairpersons: Mindy Fusaro, Convention Registrar and Treasurer; Dr. Jerry Barad, Rare Plant Auction Chairman.

Prospective conventioneers must contact the Tropicana Hotel directly and reserve rooms. The convention dates are April 11-15, 1999. Schedule your arrival by the afternoon of Sunday, April 10 in order to take advantage of the program on “Members Slides” as well as joining us for the wine & cheese social which follows.

The Tropicana is located at 3801 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Las Vegas, Nevada, 89019, USA. Reservations may be made by calling 800-468-9494 or 702-739-2222. Please don’t forget to mention that you are going to be a part of the CSSA Convention to recieve the special rate.
Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society
Meetings held last Sunday of the month
Time: 2:00-4:00 PM
Location: Webster Auditorium, DBG
Next meeting: Sunday, July 28th 1998
Board Meeting: 1:00-2:00 PM Location: Archer House

Calendar of Events

Sunday July 28th 2:00PM (CACSS) The Longevity of the Succulent Flora of Baja California
Robert H. Webb is a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson. He is an avid plant collector with 900+ species collection of cactus, agaves, aloes & other succulents at his home in Tucson. His research involves reconstruction of changes in natural environments, primarily using repeat photography. He has worked 2 months in Baja California in conjunction with the Mexican government to document long-term changes in the desert ecosystem and to assess the ecological status of large succulents, particularly Ciriows (Boojum trees).

Thursday August 6th 7:00PM (TCSS) The Succulents of the Avra Valley Watershed
John Wiens is a Nursery Horticulturist in the Botany Department at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. He will give a photographic overview of the variety of succulents found in the Avra Valley watershed. His talk will describe habitats and microhabitats.

Sunday August 23th 2:00PM (CACSS) Presentation by Regina Rodgers
Traverse the mysterious lands of the North American continent with Regina Rodgers as she takes you on a virtual trip of three of the North American deserts. Slides of cacti and other succulents from Big Bend National Park of Texas, Anza Borrego State Park of California, and Organ Pipe National Monument of Arizona will be shown.

Thursday September 3rd 7:00PM (TCSS) Grafting
Sunday September 27th 2:00 PM (CACSS) Presentation by John Weeks
Sunday October 18th 2:00 PM (CACSS) Silent Auction
October 23rd, 24th, & 25th DBG Plant Sale (Friday 23rd for DBG members only)
October 23rd, 24th, & 25th (TCSS) Sonoran 2 Holiday Inn Palo Verde, Tucson AZ.

Check out pages 8 & 9 for some major events happening in the Southwest within the upcoming months.