Central Spine
Newsletter of Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society
June 2000

From the President

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America holds a national convention every other year -- Las Vegas in 1999, Los Angeles in 2001 -- and various affiliate clubs hold regional conventions in even years. The Henry Shaw Cactus Society, founded 1942, hosted the Mid America Conference June 9-11. Four CACSS members went to St Louis for the conference. We had a wonderful time; conventioneers said this was one of the best, most informative, and most enjoyable conventions ever.

It was held at the Viking conference center in the West County area. The hotel has been remodeled recently. It easily accommodated the somewhat more than 120 registrants, vendors, and speakers. By comparison, the national convention usually draws around 300 plus. The conventioneer traveling the farthest came from India.

A guided tour of the Missouri Botanical Garden herbarium and rare book collection was a highlight of the convention. We saw specimens collected by Georg Engelmann (think Echinocereus engelmannii, Opuntia engelmannii,...) and first editions of Linnaeus' books.

Jerry Barad showed slides of Madagascar, with its rapidly disappearing natural areas, and coastal Chile. Chuck Hanson spoke on pollinating various genera of succulents; there are many tricks involved. Dan Mahr showed slides of a trip to northern Namibia, including many Commiphora, Adenia, Euphorbia, stapeliads, and Welwitschia. It was very informative to see these plants, familiar to us in pots, in their natural states. Dan also spoke on the climate and rainfall patterns. Mike Massara, formerly of Arid Lands but now established in his own nursery Out of Africa (together with wife Maureen), showed slides of his trip to Ethiopia in fall 1998, from which he brought back several novelties and nearly lost his life when Ethiopian gunmen decided they didn't like his Somali driver. Your club is working on getting Mark to speak to us here. Mark Olson spoke on genetic diversity and the question of whether private collections can help preserve endangered species. The answer is Yes and No depending on the natural variation in the species. Bob Smokey showed slides of famous nursery greenhouses across the world. Rob Wallace talked about the anatomy of Lithops and showed why they are his favorite plants; he also presented an overview of what his lab's DNA research is revealing regarding evolutionary relationships in family Cactaceae. There were many minor surprises and a major one: genus Maihuenia deserves to be its own subfamily, together with the traditionally accepted three of Pekiskoidea, Opuntioidea, and Cereoidae. Your Board will be incorporating some of Rob's findings when we revise the show schedule for next year.

The plant sales area was even more interesting than a chocolate buffet. Five plant vendors and Joe Wujick's pots filled three rooms. There were plants to break any budget.

Friday evening featured a cocktail party with all the hors d'ouves we could eat and fascinating conversation. Nobody left hungry.

Saturday evening featured a banquet, followed by a rare plant auction. CACSS member and DBG staff member Judy Braun put 14 plants from the DBG into the auction, which was well-appreciated. Prices reached the stratosphere and close to $4000 was raised.

There was an after-hours party in your president's room each evening. Conventioneers, CACSS members, and lecturers spoke freely and hilariously on many topics, some having to do with cactus and succulents, most of which probably shouldn't be mentioned, so I'll stop there. I'm going to St Louis in 2003 for the big CSSA Convention for sure!
Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society
P.O. Box 8774
Scottsdale, AZ 85252

2000 Officers

President
Leo Martin 602-852-9714
Vice President
Debra Korobkin 602-493-7003
Secretary
Dana Hizer 602-368-8606
Treasurer
Alan Rimstone 602-996-9636
Past President
Cathy Babcock 480-921-9396
Directors
Pam Bass 602-460-4369
Damon Billings 623-846-1708
Judy Brody 480-951-1363
Jerry Chapman 602-945-6543
Bob Davis 480-839-3792
Janet Hazlet 480-902-0892
Richard Maxwell 480-252-6101
Regina Rodgers 623-974-1105
Fran Tolleson 602-943-6729
Henry Triesler 480-946-1122
Richard Zeh 602-224-0811

Affiliate Representative
Henry Triesler 480-946-1122

Appointive Offices

Librarian
Muriel Beroza 480-840-8912
Newsletter
Nick Diomede 602-636-0873

Central Spine
Deadline for articles and submissions for next newsletter:
July 20th 2000
Send to:
Nick Diomede
1022 East Osborne Road Unit C.
Phoenix, AZ 85014-0873
(H) 602-636-0873 / (FAX) 877-415-9707 /
phxnickd@yahoo.com

Publication of the material in the Central Spine does not imply agreement with the ideas expressed therein by any portion of the membership of CACSS, nor does it constitute an endorsement or support for any portion of such material by CACSS, or the Central Spine, regardless of any position or office held by the author(s). All such material represents a comment and/or personal opinion of the author(s).

Next CACSS meeting
Sunday June 25th 2000 at 2:00 PM
DBG Webster Auditorium
Dr. Edward Anderson,
Director of the Desert Botanical Garden.

Bug-of-the-Month
Sue Hakala
Ladybugs

Life Cycle: The length of the life cycle depends upon temperature, humidity, and food supply, usually requiring about three to four weeks. In the spring, overwintering females find food, then lay egg clusters of 10 to 50 eggs in aphid colonies. They lay from 50 to 300 eggs in a lifetime. Eggs hatch in 3-5 days with the larvae feeding on aphids or other insects for 2-3 weeks; then, they pupate. Adults emerge in 7-10 days. There may be 5-6 generations per year. In the autumn, adults hibernate in aggregation sites. These sites can be along a fence row, under a fallen tree, or under a rock.

Amount of Food Consumed: Although adults and larvae are primarily known as predators of aphids, they also like soft-scale insects, mealybugs and spider mites. Some feed on plant and pollen mildews. One larva will eat about 400 aphids during its development. An adult will eat about 300 aphids before it lays eggs, or about 3-10 aphids for each egg laid. An adult will consume more than 5,000 aphids in its lifetime.

Collecting Ladybugs for Sale: Ladybugs are collected in the mountains of California. Ladybugs return to the same huge aggregation sites each year. Some sites have been known to contain as many as 500 gallons of the bugs (72,000-80,000 adults per gallon). Bugs collected in December, January, February, and early March before normal migration are cold-stored. When released they tend to disperse quickly and widely, especially when temperatures reach 65F and above. As a consequence, few stay in the area where they are liberated. Those released in the summer don't disperse any great distance. They will drink water but don't eat existing on their stored fat.

Purchased Ladybugs = Unwise Investment Shipped-in ladybugs aren't really an economical way to manage aphid infestations. Bugs collected from outside Arizona are of less value as a pest eater than the local beetle populations, which will multiply in accordance with prey. Ladybugs can be beneficial in a greenhouse with tightly screened vents. In that case, one-half pint (about 4,500 ladybugs) per 3,000 square feet is the recommended rate. Release in the evening after watering down the area. Spray wheat (a combination of whey and yeast) on plants to attract Ladybugs.
Plant of the Month
June 2000
Gymnocalcium Werdermann
Leo A. Martin

Mostly small globular plants with smallish pink and purple flowers, these gems feature beautifully colored spines against bright white wool. They have been included in Neolloydia in the past but seem to have settled in their original genus. More and more are available now. They are native to north central Mexico. On species, ( G. subterra-

Many think them difficult to grow—but we live in the Sonoran desert, where they grow easily. They like pure mineral soil mix (our native soil is ideal), dry cool winters and adequate summer water, drying out between waterings like Mammillaria. Prolonged dry spells are much more easily tolerated than too many waterings. Mine seem happy with full sun, which brings out the wool from the centers.

June tips...
From Arizona Cactus Sales
www.arizonacactusales.com/tips/monthly_tips.htm

Don’t water newly planted cactus. If you are re-potting or adding to your landscape the same rules apply: plant dry and wait to water. Watering all depends on the weather: the cooler it is the longer you wait for that first drink. You should usually wait at least a week, this gives the succulent roots time to heal before being exposed to water. Only water again when the soil is dry at the roots: each situation is different.

Time to Label! With the blooming season in full swing, it’s time to label those colors and the date they bloomed. It is somewhat remarkable to see year after year that most plants bloom right on schedule as last year. Each year is different depending on the winter rains and temperature. So, labeling is important to collect data, or just plain remembering.

Those pesky mealy bugs. Our cactus seem to be growing so nicely, then along comes that hungry mealy bug and starts sucking the juice right out of them! There are lots of ways to get rid of these pests, from patiently picking them off with tweezers, to spraying chemicals. If there are not that many we suggest picking them off. Keep some rubbing alcohol handy for sterilizing. If you have to spray, follow mixing directions on the Malathion bottle to ornamentals. Before spraying be sure that plant has been well watered a day prior to treating. This will decrease the risk of chemically burning your cactus. If spraying soft succulents, cut the mixture of Malathion in half or dilute by 50%. Succulents are more tender: they also may lose their leaves, so be careful!

DBG SPRING PLANT SALE SUCCESSFUL

I wish to express a heartfelt thank you to all of you who helped to make the spring plant sale a resounding success. We broke records again, and it couldn’t be done without the help received from volunteers. Muriel Beroza, Edra & Jim Drake, and Dana Hizer worked tirelessly for days setting up the whole Cactus & Succulent Shade Area, labeling and pricing plants. It is a thankless job. My deepest thanks to Jane Scholberg who spent hours making up the computer labels for all 20,000 plants that were out on the lot. And the assistance you all give to the customers in helping them choose the proper plant is invaluable: Elaine & Jerry Chapman, Barb Danieisen, Jo Davis, Delores Grotti, Janet Hazlett, Cindy and Scott Klingberg, Lee Loewen, Scott McMahon, Alan Rinestone, Joan Shirein, and Leo Martin (who also helped us reconfigure the sales lot early Sunday).

Cathy Babcock
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, June 25th 2000
Board Meeting: 1:00-2:00 PM Location: Archer House

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 25, 2000</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Edward Anderson</td>
<td>Director of the Desert Botanical Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30, 2000</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Kent Newland</td>
<td>&quot;Using Cactus &amp; Succulents to Jazz Up Xeriscaping&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 27, 2000</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Mary Irish</td>
<td>Agaves/Yucca, taken from her new Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 29, 2000</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>CACSS Fall Cactus &amp; Succulent Silent Auction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 19, 2000</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Woody Minnich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 10, 2000</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>CACSS Annual Holiday Party</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21, 2001</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Brian Kimball</td>
<td>Terrestrial Bromeliads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25, 2001</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Steve Southwell</td>
<td>&quot;Grafting and Other Propagation&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25, 2001</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>&quot;Preparing Plants for presentors, Judging&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>