

The Central Spine

THE CENTRAL SPINE

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CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY - *June, 1984*

PRESIDENT: VICTOR GASS

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- APRIL** First meeting was at the home of Henry Triesler. Those in attendance voted to form local chapter of Cactus and Succulent Society of America. They also decided to meet on the last Sunday of each month from 2-4. Those present---Henry Triesler, Bob Moulis, Lew and Barcia Bremer, Warner Dodd, Frank and Phil Hennessey, Lee Tolleson, Martha Chester and Genevieve Oppen.
- MAY** This meeting was held at Bob Moulis* home. Order of business was to adopt by-laws and elect officers.
 Pres.---Henry Treisler, Jr. Treas.----Lewis Bremer III
 V.Pres--Robert Moulis Aff. Dir.--Warner Dodd
 Sec. ---Frank Hennessey
- JUNE** This time the group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester. The time for cut-off for charter members was declared. The membership was 22.
- JULY** Meeting held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tolleson. The fiscal year was to July 1 to June 30. Classes of membership was changed in the by-laws to conform with National.
- AUG.** This time the meeting was held at the Lewis Bremer's. Lew gave a lecture and showed slides on coryphanthas.
- SEPT.** The meeting roated to the Warner Dodds. This month the chapter became an official club of the National Assn. The members voted to put a club exhibit in the State Fair.
- OCT.** The first field trip--to Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Also the Club won first prize on the exhibit at the State Fair.
- NOV.** The club met at the DBG where Whit Evans showed slides of Mexico. Afterwards Rodney Engard, horticulturist, led a tour of the Garden.
- DEC.** The last meeting of the year was held at the Hubert Earles'. Instructions reminded guests to close the gate so the Earles' desert tortoises would not escape. First raffle of plants which netted the club's coffers \$13.00.

NOTE: Each meeting always included a tour of the host's garden.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Doris Boyce
 Lewis and Barcia Bremer
 Martha Chester
 Belle Cooper
 Warner and Beverly Dodd
 Hubert and Lucille Earle
 J. Whitman Evans
 Sharon Fairchild
 Frank and Phil Hennessey
 Rod McGill
 Robert and Elaine Moulis
 Kent Newland

Genevieve Oppen
 Lee and Fran Tolleson
 Henry Triesler, Jr.



THE HISTORY OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA
 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY IS
 BEING COMPILED BY

MARILYN J. FITZ-RANDOLPH

- JAN. Frank and Phil Hennessey hosted the largest turn-out ever--26 members and 5 guest attended. The program was "how to prepare for the Plant Show."
- FEB. There was no meeting this month, but members were encouraged to participate in and help with the Plant Show.
- MAR. Henry Triesler hosted this month. Members did well in the Garden Show taking best cactus, best succulent, and best dish garden. The top four contenders for the sweepstakes were all society members. PROBLEMS--A permanent meeting place and money. (The club is now solvent, but just barely.)
- APRIL The members (and the numbers have now swelled to 46) met at the home of Margret Caldwell.
- MAY The group returned to the DBG where Lew Bremer gave a lesson on Taxonomy of Cactus. A plant sale netted them \$16.50.
- JUNE A new meeting place--The Club house of Fountain of the Sun. Election of officers revealed--
 Pres.-----Henry Triesler
 V.Pres.----Bob Moulis
 Sec.-----Frank Hennessey
 Treas.----Lewis Bremer
 Aff. Dir.-Warner Dodd
 If you are keeping track, this is a continuation of the original officers.
- JULY Members met at the home of Lowell Baaker. Birdie Stevens presented a program on dish gardens. The Club is still plagued by lack of money and a permanent meeting place.
- AUG. At the DBG Kent Newland reviewed the book The Boojum Tree and it's home. "Show and Tell" seems to be on its way to becoming a permanent part of the meetings.
- SEPT. The group took a field trip to Tucson to visit two private gardens and two commercial growers. Cost: \$7.00 per person. 31 members brought back almost 250 plants.
- OCT. This year the Club received an honorable mention on the year's exhibit in the State Fair, but it also came with a \$30.00 prize. It was voted to devote part of each meeting to plant culture.
- NOV. Meeting was held at the Anthropology building at ASU. The annual dues were raised from \$10.00 and \$11.00 to \$12.00 and \$13.00 because of an increase in subscription rates of the Cactus and Succulent Journal. A resolution was passed protesting the advertising, sale and use of a device known as a "Cactus smasher." It could be attached to off-road vehicles and was for smashing cactus.
- DEC. The first party for the holidays was held at the home of Genevieve and Chester Oppen. Light refreshments were served and the first door prize was awarded. The Club voted to aid the DBG by propagating cactus seeds for them.



1975

- JAN. Virginia Martin, National Secretary of CSSA came to the DBG to speak of a recent trip through northern Sonora and Chichauhua to collect miniature mammillarias.
- FEB. The club participate in a garden Fair at Encanto Park.
- MAR. Frank Hennessey was ill and evidently never was able to reconstruct this meeting from the notes of Warner Dodd--So this meeting remains a mystery.
- APRIL 44 members took a field trip to Boyce Thompson. They had a picnic lunch and a tour of the greenhouses and Kent's private collection of plants.
- MAY Seventeen members had attended the CSSA convention in San Diego. Our club had the largest percentage of membership present after the three host clubs.
- JUNE This was the month for elections. ALL new faces this time.
Pres.-----Charles Merbs
V. Pres.--Rodney Engard
Sec.-----Genevieve Oppen
Treas.----Bill Tucker
Aff. Dir.-Kent Newland
Seeds were distributed by Rodney Engard and members were directed on record keeping--length of time for germination, number of seeds planted, etc.
- JULY INOVATIONS--door prizes at each meeting, plants for speakers, and a newsleter.
- AUG. Members trekked again to the anthropology building at ASU. The minutes reveal that the members were pooling plant orders from Hans Britsch of Calif. Much space is given to the glowing praise of fine specimens. Pres. Charles Merbs was interviewed by the Chronicle. A plant sale this time brought in \$191.70 and was reported to be "a noisy and exciting event".
- SEPT. The first newsletter was published with such articles as "A trip by minibus to the tip of Baja California" by William Tucker, "The lath house caper" by Phil Hennessey, "Under the lights" by Lee Tolleson and book reviews by Kent Newland.
- OCT. Two contests suggested: A clever name for the newsletter and a logo for the society.
- * → After being a possibility since March, Dr. Gentry became a reality this month. He showed slides of agaves and later led a tour through the Garden and lath house.
- NOV. A very full trip to Tucson to visit one private garden, one grower and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.
- DEC. The holiday meeting was held at the Chester Home. The fiscal year was changed to Jan. 1. Planning was started for the upcoming CSSA convention in Tucson.

- JAN. Henry Triesler became the editor of the newsletter. Dr. Merbs's stint as editor was plagued by a copy machine that rippled the papers or just plain ground them to pulp.
- FEB. Garden Show
- * → MAR. The Board voted to have the next officers serve 1½ years as the chapter brings its fiscal year and official year into conformity with National's pattern.
- APRIL The club did its first project for the Garden: A frost protective canopy of Seran screen to shelter two aloe beds next winter.
- MAY The Club voted to buy 500 seedlings of *Lemaireocereus thurberi* to grow for the CSSA Convention in 1977. Each volunteer agreed to grow 50 plants.
- JUNE New officers:
 Pres.-----Henry Triesler
 V.Pres.----Kent Newland
 Sec.-----Barcia Bremer
 Treas.-----Lew Bremer
 Aff. Dir.--Warner Dodd
 Directors--Bob Moulis and Rodney Engard
 800 *Lemaireocereus thurberi* have already been planted.
- JULY The newsletter was finally named "The Central Spine". Members were urged to design a logo to fit the name. The idea of open-house tours on Sundays other than regular meetings was brought up.
- AUG. Henry Triesler modeled the DBG's new T-shirt which sold for \$6.25. No mention was made of his commission. Dick Countryman was the speaker.
- SEPT. The club conducted a poll to determine the preference and concerns of its members. (What a cycle we run on!) There was a library for the club with Elaine Moulis as librarian, but again the minutes are silent as to number of kind of books. Mr. Earle spoke on his tour of Europe and prefaced his talk with some remarks concerning his retirement in Oct. after 29 years of service to the Garden.
- OCT. Capsule results of the poll: (1) Majority joined to increase their knowledge of plants. (2) Door prizes did not encourage attendance, but (3) members felt they would like to continue having door prizes. (4) Open gardens were highly favored. (5) All respondents favored plant culture at every meeting.
- NOV. The members went to Tucson and bought, bought, and bought. A quote from the minutes--"Our trip had been the third for this particular bus driver Tuscon in the space of one week. He was heard to remark at the end of our trip, that he had enjoyed the day--this trip had been nice, and different--the other two trips had been made with normal people!"
- DEC. Starting in Jan. Kent Newland will lead a six month study sessions. Cost of the sessions as \$5.00 for an active member.



STAN JONES AND HIS CACTUS HOUSE by VERA GAMET

Some people are born to their calling. They are the lucky ones, the happy ones. Stan Jones is such a man. It seems he has always been drawn to the mystic of growing things. One of his earliest photographs shows a mere toddler, garden hose in hand, gamely watering the family garden.

Stan and his wife, Lorraine, were born, brought up, married and had their family in Iowa.

There Stan had his green house, a small glass house with two squeezed down aisles attached to the house. In the time he was able to spare from his plumbing business he raised house plants, gorgeous amaryllis and cyclamons, an orange tree that actually bloomed, a few tropicals excluding orchids, and one lonely barrel cactus.

In 1972 the Jones family came to Arizona. Stan got interested in cactus, and really got hooked when he planted a bed of mounding Echinopsis around the base of a Palo Verde tree.

By 1975 the passion for cactus had become so great Stan had to choose either plumbing as an established business or a precarious venture into cactus cultivation and sales. Really there was no contest. Cactus won.

On land he owned on Dove Road near Carefree he started with one rough plastic covered shade house. Eventually there were five and tables all over the place.

In March 1982 Stan and Lorraine opened CAREFREE CACTUS GARDENS, 25601 North Scottsdale Road. The cactus house is 150 feet long by 40 feet wide, has four full length aisle tables and displays the length of both walls.

It is a most beautiful cactus house, not Huntington Gardens to be sure, but a delightful privately owned display of row upon row of clean, vigorous, healthy cactus, large and small, uniform, presently many species in exuberant bloom.

Many Mammillaria and Melocactus species have bloomed to abundantly their bright colorful seed vessels cascade over the plants.

There is a tremendous variety of plants, the usual things and many varieties to interest collectors, many species new on the market but not newly discovered but only recently available to the public. Mammillaria nana, now 1" to 1-1/4" in diameter will mature about 4". It comes from the mountains of Mexico. Neochilania procitata, about the same size comes from Chile. Mammillarilla crinita has been in the hands of collectors but is new on the market.

Stan will make an effort to find an unusual plant on request.

Lorraine, who is an excellent established artist, has laid aside her paint brushes and is turning her talents to creating original gift arrangements. You don't expect to find a choice cactus collection in an old wornout boot, or an old purse sporting Gasteria, or miniature Senita and Opuntia in a baby's worn tennie, but they are all here with many conventional handsomely potted plants.

Are they successful? They will tell tell you they are not sure, they are not business people. They are not rich, but they are happy, enjoy what they are doing and want other people to enjoy it too. They love meeting the people who stop to wander through their cactus house.

Their plans for the future include a nature walk with plant identification over their acreage, and a shady ramada where people can rest and face the natural open desert.

The drive to Carefree Cactus Gardens is through some of the most beautiful desert in the world. It is easy to get to with little traffic to harrass you.

The visitor is met by the cooling breezes from five swamp coolers and by friendly hostesses, Lorraine, Jean Skirvin and Sally Leason who leave you free to browse or will knowledgeably answer your questions.

No buyer leaves without his purchase being identified. The plants are priced so people can afford to buy them. The garden is open from ten o'clock to five thirty seven days a week, and they will meet you at eight o'clock if requested.

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Some time ago, on the garden page of SUN LIVING in the Sunday Arizona Republic I read an article about willow tree twigs being used to root tree cutting, including hard to root trees such as oak, cherry and beech. Most of us know that to get a new willow tree all you have to do is to cut off a twig from the tree, stick it in the ground and jump back. They root that easily, not in Arizona, but in areas of normal rainfall.

That set me to wondering if it would work on cactus and succulents. The only problem was to find a willow tree, which are scarcer than hen's teeth on the desert. A desert willow won't do for it is not a true willow, but a catalpa. I luckily found one in a member's garden. (I won't give her name. I'll leave it to her to volunteer the information.) I managed to get a bunch of twigs from her and tried it out on cactus that was proving hard to root. How it works! I never saw so many roots develop when watered with willow broth.

If you can locate the willow branches, cut them in about 8" pieces and remove the leaves. Put them in a large container and cover with about 4-5 gallons of water. Weight down the twigs with rocks to prevent them from floating to the top. Leave them to soak in the water for 4 or 5 days, covering the water to prevent evaporation. Remove the twigs from the water and store the water in plastic containers. Use the juice to water the plants you are trying to root. Treat the cutting to be rooted with "Rootone" and allow to dry thoroughly. I put them in plastic pots with sand only. Water only enough to keep them from drying completely. If the plant doesn't wiggle it has probably put out roots. This may take up to three months, depending on the temperature.

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DID YOU KNOW that Adrian Hardy Haworth never left England to study his exotic African succulents, the Haworthias and other exotic species?

The fad for succulents reached something of a craze in England between 1800 and 1830, which were Haworth's most productive years, between his thirty-second and sixty-second birthdays.

A boy-gardner-botanist since he was seven years old, Haworth promptly abandoned his training in law, which his father insisted upon, as soon as he had complied with his father's requirements. His income from the family estates afforded him time to devote to his own interests, botany, entomology, ornithology and gardening, all of which he eagerly embraced at the same time.

Haworth was a home-body who did not even accept invitations from friends to visit the Continent, so there was no sweating it out on the South African desert for him.

Instead there came into this hands several hundred species of South African succulants, many of which were unknown to science, which he eventually described and named.

In his small garden thirty yards square he had over 1000 pots of succulents, never more than two of any one species. He carefully tended the garden himself, closely observing the differences and resemblances among the plants day by day.

He made many mistakes but some of his classifications have been formally adopted and others have never been questioned.

Haworth was a man of his time. He lived through the time the cultivation of succulents was at its height, and just before his death was declining in favor of tropical and sub-tropical plants, particularly orchids, from Central and Sout America.

In 1833 Haworth became one of the last of 22,000 British subjects to die of cholera, just as the epidemic was drawing to a close. One day in August he was enjoying his normal good health and watering his plants when he suddenly was stricken. He died less than twenty-four hours later.

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