



SACXS FACTS



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

DEDICATED TO THE ADMIRATION, STUDY, AND PROLIFERATION OF CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

Our Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month except
April, June and December,
At the San Antonio Garden Center at Funston and New Braunfels Avenue,
Doors are open at 6:30 P.M., reception at 7:00, Meeting/program at 7:30.

Meeting – Wednesday, March 17 2004

Presidents Message

Hi Everyone!

Here we are - It's March! April is right around the corner! I hope you are getting in the mood to get your plants ready for the Show and Sale. As a relative new-comer to the club I had a lot of fear about bringing some of my newly acquired plants to be judged of all things. I'm not one for competition, but **Jeannie Clark** encouraged me to bring in a plant and see how it works. What I learned was that it was much more fun than I thought. The plants are judged against an "ideal plant", only in the last go-round are they judged against each other. Even though the plant might have scarring the maximum that can be taken off for that is 3 points, and that is for a lot of scarring. So my humble *Astrophytum* got points off for immaturity, a minus 2, and minus 1 for staging. I got a first place in spite of my fears. We have a lot of new people in the club I'd like to encourage to get their plants ready for the Show. There are so many experts to ask for help, we'd all like to see **YOUR** plant there too. This month's meeting will be a hands on demonstration of judging and plant preparation.

We have put a Show and Sale flier in the newsletter this month. PLEASE POST it at the most visible place at work, church, or the closest 7/11. We will have other posters at the next club meeting to distribute. Talk it up to everyone. Get you neighbors to come too. Sign up for duties to help out. We can all join in the fun.

The board members have suggested I find a helper to assist making the meetings flow easier. I'm looking for someone to help pass out handouts, turn off lights, etc. Anyone want to volunteer? Let me know.

Ann 531-0463

SACXS General Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2004

After a nice social get-together, the meeting began at 7:40pm. Ann Dickey welcomed new members and visitors. JoAnn Anderson reported a total of \$5,409.92 in the treasury.

Ann discussed plans for the Garden Center Sale on March 11, 12, and 13, and a sign-up sheet for members to work at the SACXS table was passed around. Scott Busby asked for volunteers to set up tables for the SACXS Show and Sale on April 22, 23, and 24.

Cal Eichler presented our color and size options for SACXS logo shirts. The shirts were sold for \$12.93 apiece, and may be available by March 17.

Paul Kibler showed the members two new book donations for the library and asked for requests for new books that he will purchase in California.

Ann and Jimmy Black presented a five-minute slide show with music on cactus and xerophytes on their hill country property. This was followed by an excellent and thorough presentation, "Landscaping with Cacti, Succulents and Native Plants" by Larry Fargarason. Larry first talked to us about landscaping tips and techniques and then showed us some slides of his handiwork. Of particular note is how he incorporated hardscape features and native plants into his landscapes to produce a natural look that is both pleasing to the eye and enduring.

Bobby Crabb conducted the plant auction, and Ann drew numbers for the raffle plants. The auction plants for this meeting included several interesting succulent species and many fine donations for the raffle table. The meeting concluded at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by **Ann Black**, Secretary



SPRING SHOW ----- Do you remember? How many of you are going to enter plants for the first time? You will find it fun and educational. The judges have a checklist and will attach it to your card so you can see how to improve your plant. My goal is to enter at least ten with my handicap. I tripped over a box and fell against the entertainment center. Got a cut on the forehead and one across the left eyebrow that took three stitches. Worst of all I broke my left shoulder, had surgery and a titanium replacement. My left arm is bound across my chest so I can use only the right one. So, you ask why I am entering plants. First of all is to support the club and it gives me pleasure. Second, it is the yearly function where we can educate the general public about xerophytes. You can get entry sheets, plant tags and plant labels at the March meeting. I know you won't let the club down.

Lucile Lively, Show Chairman

THANK YOU for your cards, calls and prayers. It meant so much to me. I am facing a L O N G recovery. I am thankful that I have friends like you. **Lucile Lively**

The SACXS program for March will be a Show Plant Special.

Part I - Potting and Preparing Your Plants to Win Big Bucks by Jeannie Clark and Barbara Schulz. These two award winning cactus and succulent growers will demonstrate their secrets to success. This will be a hands on demonstration.

Part II –Judging plants – CSSA certified judges and others will show you what they look for in judging plants. They will explain the judging system and judge real plants right before your eyes.



MARCH

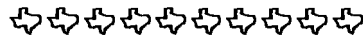
REFRESHMENTS:

*Al Campa - 656-1827
 Claro Casso- 532-8049
 B & S Catterton – 830- 230-5050
 Don & Jeannie Clark – 830-232-5454
 Doug Coates - 659=7279

AUCTION PLANTS

* Bobby Crabb – 531-0463
 Judt DeKing - 695-9256
 Don Dewees – 655-1694
 Ann Dickey – 531-0463
 J & J Edwards – 659-8384

Any Questions? Call Norma Tindall 695-8090. * denotes Chairman – Who will call committee members to coordinate. The committee for refreshments brings the punch & snacks. SACXS furnishes everything else. Besides bringing refreshments, chairman & committee should see that the kitchen is left in the clean condition it was found in & garbage placed in containers outside the back door.
Proceeds from the raffle & auction plants help pay the rent.



Coming Events:

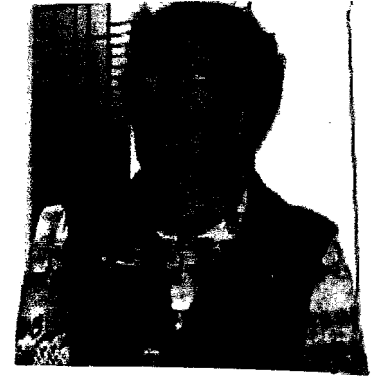
March 21 > Paul's Desert open house 12:00 noon til dark, 200 Schertz Pkwy
March 27 – 28 > Zilker Garden Festival, Zilker Park, Austin
April 3-4 > Austin Cactus & Succulent Soc. Show and sale at Zilker Park, Austin
April 22 – 24 > San Antonio C & S Society show and sale, San Antonio Garden center
May 1- 2 > Houston C&S Soc. Spring Sale 10:00 – 5:00, Houston Arboretum & Nature center, 4501 Woodway Dr. Houston, Tx
May 22 > K.T.S.A. Festival of Flowers, Alzafar Shrine Temple, 901 N. Loop 1604
June 11 – 13 > 2004 CSSA Midwest Regional Cactus & Succulent Conference, Ramada Ltd Convention Center/Council Bluffs, Iowa
September 4-6 > Austin C & S Soc show & Sale, Zilker Park, Austin
October 4 – 31 > Paul's Desert 3rd annual clearance sale nursery > 210-658-7561



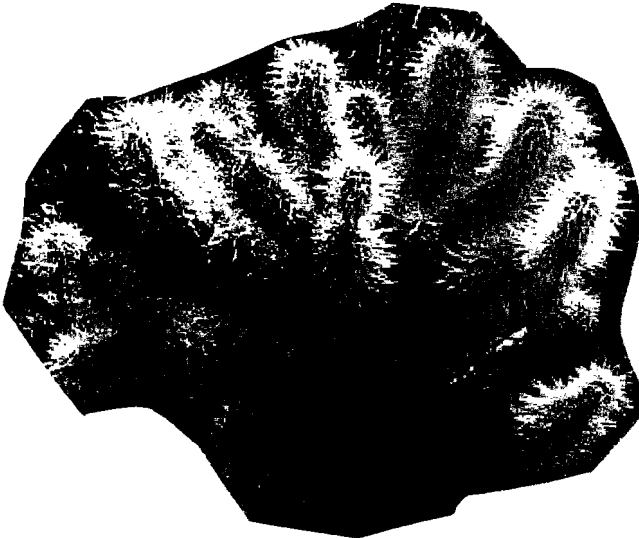
MEET A MEMBER

Ann Patrice Black SACXS secretary, was born in Albany New York and grew up in Naperville, Illinois. She attended St. Mary's University and the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. She is now a family physician in Blanco, Texas. E-mail: ablack@gvtc.com

Ann is married to Jimmy Black, a clinical pharmacist. She says her Husbands' love of cacti sparked her interest. A friend of hers gave her some cuttings of succulents and her collection went crazy from there on.



Her favorite cacti/succulent – echinocereus and ocotillo. Other interests include, native plants of Texas, wild flowers and ducks. Ann is hoping to increase peoples awareness of the Texas Hill Country – resources, endangered status and conservation.



Teddy Bear Cholla - A member of the cactus family. Also known as silver cholla, teddy bear cactus and jumping cholla.

Their joints detach very easily when brushed against, causing people to think that they "jump" off the plants. Also, if you step on a joint it "jumps" and sticks to your leg. Many people react automatically to the hurt and reach for the joint to pull it from their leg and it then "jumps" to their hand.

Its detached joints take root quickly resulting in dense thickets. Pack rats carry spiny joints to nest sites, often creating a huge pile to discourage a potential predator such as a coyote. Despite its long, sharp spines, cactus wrens favor this species and chain fruit cholla (also called jumping cholla) for nest sites.

They usually grow to about 5 feet but can reach 9 feet. Their joints are light green to bluish green, cylindrical, to 10" long, 2 1/2" in diameter. They form arms at the top of the main stem.


They bloom during February to May. Their flowers are green to yellowish, egg shaped. The fruit grows to 3/4" in length and 3/8" wide. Their spines are silvery to golden when young, black when old, dense, backward-facing barbs, to 1" long.



Cactus Wren



March Birthday

Jerry Yarbrough – 23rd



March Anniversaries

J.D. & Toni Vance – 10th
 Richard & Gloria Hammond – 10th
 Paul & Elisa Kibler – 29th

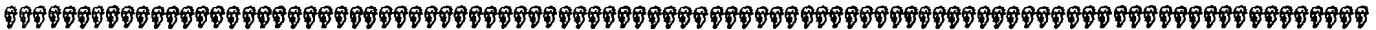
Welcome new member!!! Jackie Caverly



Thank You! Marvin and I thank all of you that came to our plant sale. We do have some plants left and if any of you would like to come out and look them over, please give me a call and I'll be happy to set a time and give you directions to our place. Again, thanks to all of you that did come.

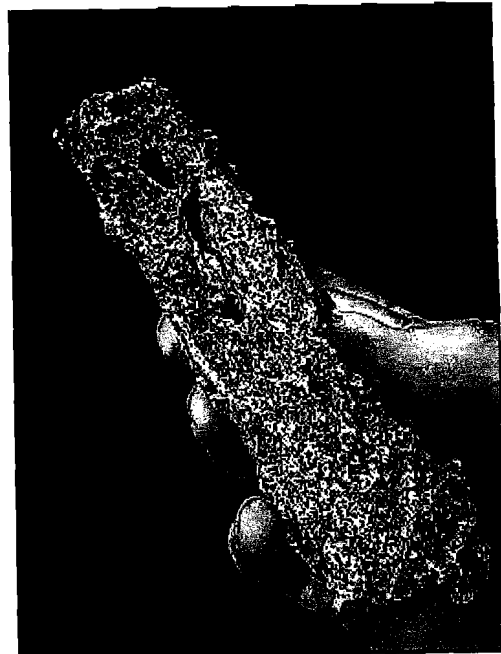
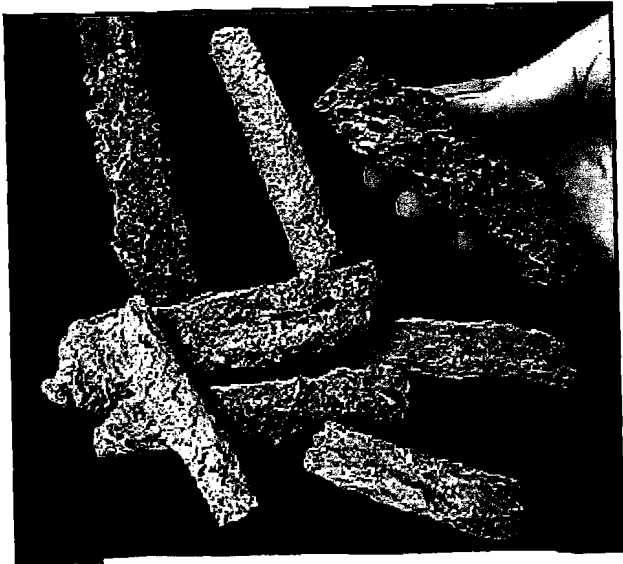
Marvin & Doris Uhl
830-510-6796

P. S. We also have Koi fish for sale



FOSSILIZED CACTUS SPECIMENTS

These cactus fossils are believed to be 4 to 5 million years old. They were discovered near Bull head City, Arizona



<http://greatsouth.net/p-F1407.html>

**A Monthly Publication Dedicated to the Admiration, Study and Proliferation of Cacti & Succulents
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"To become perfect, just follow the advice you give others" from Words To Live By

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Teddy Bear Cholla Cactus
Opuntia bigelovii

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