



# Cactus Needles

No fooling!

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## Calendar

Know of an upcoming costumed event in Arizona? Please tell your editor. **\*Indicates an event organized by SWCG.** Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1 PM.

April 8, 2006 – **1861 Remembrance Ball** *We Make History* event. See [www.wemakehistory.com](http://www.wemakehistory.com) for details.

April 8, 2006 – **The Way We Wore** Fashion Show and Luncheon as a fundraiser for Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 East Devonshire, Phoenix.

From the flyer: “Experience a day in the life of Kristine Goodrich. The audience feels a part of Kristine’s life in the

1880s as her story unfolds through many costume changes from early rising to a late evening of entertainments. All costumes modeled are vintage fashions from the 1880s. Doors will open at 11:30 AM for raffle tickets, silent auction and table contest voting. Luncheon served at noon.”

*SWCG Members will be in attendance to enjoy the program and to promote our guild with a display table. Look for a review in the May Cactus Needles.*

April 14-16, 2006 – **AniZona 2** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (SEC Greenway Road & I-17) Arizona’s own Anime and Manga convention [www.anizona.org](http://www.anizona.org).

April 23, 2006, 1:30 PM – **Glove Making\*** SWCG workshop at Jean’s place in Sun City. Frances will teach us to lay out individually fitted glove patterns.

May 5-7, 2006 – **LepreCon 32** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (SEC Greenway Road & I-17) Fan-run SF Con featuring guests of honor Alan M. Clark, John Vornholt and Bill Blair. Guildster Margaret Grady will produce a masked ball. [www.leprecon.org](http://www.leprecon.org).

May 6-7, 2006, 10AM to 6PM – **May in The Meadows** on the lawn of the Civic Center in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Single-weekend renaissance faire from the people who bring you the Devonshire Renaissance Faire. [www.mayinthemeadows.com](http://www.mayinthemeadows.com)

May 14, 2006 – **Glove Making II\*** SWCG workshop at Randall’s place in Phoenix. We’ll finish up the gloves started in April.

May 26-29, 2006 – **CostumeCon 24** at the Hotel Fort Des Moines in Des Moines, Iowa. This year’s theme is “Epic Movies.” Memberships \$85 until Dec 31, 2005, \$95 until the con. <http://cc24.dmsfs.org/>.

June 24 & 25, 2006 – **Renaissance in the Pines** at Fort Tuthill off of I-17, just south of Flagstaff, Arizona. A fine one-weekend renfaire.

June 25, 2006 – **Renaissance in the Pines\*** SWCG field trip. Meet at the transit center in the southwestern portion of the Metrocenter Mall parking lot at 8 AM, then carpool to Fort Tuthill for a day at the faire.

June 24, 2006 – **Buccaneer’s Ball** *We Make History* event. See [www.wemakehistory.com](http://www.wemakehistory.com) for details.

August 4-6, 2006 – **Costume College** at the Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue in Van Nuys, California. Costume Guild West’s annual costuming arts conference. Tickets are sold out as of this writing. [www.costumecollege.org/](http://www.costumecollege.org/)

August 26-27, 2006, 9AM-6PM – **Mountain View Renaissance Faire** at Veterans' Memorial Park in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

September 1-4 (Labor Day weekend), 2006 – **CopperCon 26** at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel, 60 E 5<sup>th</sup> St, Tempe AZ. This fan-run local con features author guests, Mark Zicree, Diane Duane and Peter Morwood, as well as artist Sarah Clemens and filker Seanan McGuire. The masquerade will be directed by your beloved editor. Go to [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org) for details.

September 23-24, 2006 – **Phoenix Cactus Comicon** at the Mesa Convention Center, Mesa, Arizona. Lots of comic book writer and artist guests. A masquerade is in the planning stages. [www.phoenixcomicon.com](http://www.phoenixcomicon.com)

### **A History of the Parasol**

by Diane Harris

From the French and Italians, the English received “*ombrelle*,” “*ombrella*,” “*ombriere*,” and “*umbrella*,” which come from the Latin word “*umbra*,” meaning shade. They also received the French and Italian words “*parasol*” and “*parasole*,” from the Latin “*parare*,” meaning to shield and “*sol*,” meaning sun.

The Popes used parasols in the 15<sup>th</sup> century; one being open and one being closed to denote spiritual and temporal powers. (vonBoehn) In the Victorian era, ladies used them to protect their beautiful skin from the sun. The parasol is a delightful flirtatious device, as well. I am certain that many a lady played a game of peek-a-boo behind her parasol.

Parasol covers lent themselves to elegant materials and decoration. The papal parasols were frequently red and yellow, and greatly bejeweled, with perhaps a cross affixed on top. Mary, Queen of Scots' parasol was covered in satin, decorated with silk and gold fringe with tassels and painted buttons. (Crawford) Henri IV's was made of blue silk, and Elizabeth I's was of damask. No expense was spared in building, covering, or decorating the parasols of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The early 19th Century (Regency and Romantic) produced tiny parasols that were covered in ruffled laces with very small shafts that folded and bent; as well as later (Late Victorian - 2nd Bustle and Early Edwardian) the parasols were larger and built on shafts so tall they could be used as walking sticks when closed.

Many of us have discovered and will go to great lengths to achieve the beautiful "English" (undamaged-by-sun) skin of the past eras. In this modern century, there has been a great resurgence of interest in using something to shade one's skin so that it can remain undamaged and lovely. We call this "sunscreen."

Crawford, T.S. *A History of the Umbrella*. New York, NY: Taplinger Publishing Company. 1970. p. 19 – 101.

Von Boehn, Max. *Modes & Manners: Ornaments: Lace, Fans, Gloves, Walking-Sticks, Parasols, Jewelry, and Trinkets*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd. 1929. p.120-150.

### **From the Mailbox**

Beyond Reality Costumer's Guild, Notions, Spring 2006 – Pooh Bah's Prattles discussed upcoming movies and BRCG events, Costumes of Disney on Ice vs. Dora the Explorer ice shows, Backstage with Kelly McNary, Costumers in Action pictures, Memoirs of a Taikomochi (male geisha) by Eric Prill, meeting minutes

### **The Language of the Fan**

*Diane discovered this piece. It appears as a feature in our new "Victorian Ball" recruiting pamphlet. The original source or author is not known, though a Google search reveals that it appears on many web pages. This gives new meaning to the term "fan site." Is it real or is it fan-tasy?*

Carrying in right hand – You are too willing  
Carrying in left hand open – Come and talk to me  
Carrying in right hand open in front of face – Follow me  
Clasping the hands under the open fan – Forgive me  
Drawing across the cheek – I love you  
Dropping the fan – We will be friends  
Fanning slowly – I am married  
Fanning quickly – I am engaged  
Letting fan rest on right cheek – Yes  
Letting fan rest on left cheek – No  
Placing fan behind the hand – Do not forget me  
With the little finger extended – Goodbye  
Fan open wide – Wait for me  
Fan presented shut – Do you love me?  
Shut fan held to the heart – You have won my love  
Twirling fan in the left hand – I love another  
With fan handle to lips – Kiss me



## **References for SWCG Glove Workshop**

by Frances Burns

In April we will be doing a glove workshop, if you want to look up information on glove construction the following sites are excellent:

<http://www.glove.org/> This web site is by (S.C.A. Name) Chiara Francesca Arianna d'Onofrio. It has information on 3 glove patterns, a list of glove books, pictures, links to other glove sites.

<http://vintage Sewing.info/1950s/50-hmg/hmg-toc.html> is a Vintage Sewing Reference Library, Inc. offers free online access to public domain sewing books. This is a link to the index to the glove making book that they have posted.

<http://www.patternstudio.com/> is a shop site that has glove and hat patterns.

Not on the web:

Threads magazine, issue #19, oct./nov. 1988, may be available from The Taunton Press, 63 So. Main Street, Box 355, Newtown CT. 06470-9989. They have an article called Handmaking Leather Gloves that includes pattern, theory on patterning, stitching illustrations, and detailed text and instructions.

The following book is hard to find in the original, but appears to have been reprinted: Make Your Own Gloves by Gwen Emlyn-Jones: ISBN 0713517735 .

### **Seen on the Road**



The attached is an antique sewing machine we spotted in Harrisonville, Missouri on our way to Branson last December. We just decided to get off the highway and explore a bit, and what a find! Because it was Sunday, all the shops surrounding the charming square were closed, but we managed to get one good shot through the window of the antique shop. Another window contained a bank of post

office boxes like the one we rented in the mid 60s. As to the sewing machine, all we know is what you see. There was no visible price and no information as to its time or circumstance. Perhaps someone with more knowledge can properly place it. --David and Ros Lyn Jeppesen

*To your editor, who doesn't have more knowledge, but does have a high-speed internet connection, this looks like a chain-stitch machine of the sort once commonly used by tailors for hemming pants while-you-wait. A Google search revealed that Bradbury was Great Britain's first sewing machine manufacturer, active from circa 1852 to 1922. They also made motorcycles for a while. Learn all about Bradbury at <http://website.lineone.net/~bradbury1852/bradburyindex.htm> and [www.ismacs.net/bradbury/bradbury.html](http://www.ismacs.net/bradbury/bradbury.html)*

### **Winter Rains at Winter Range**



Photo by Moira Whitlock

Saturday of Winter Range was a might soggy this year, but quite a few made it out to Ben Avery for shooting and shopping. The Single Action Shooting Society should get together in Arizona more often. They bring the rains!

Randall leans back under a ramada. Some of the shooting stages are seen in the background. Randall was ready for the weather with oilcloth hat, freshly Scotchguarded canvas duster, and the waterproof work boots he had just customized for his "Firefly" hall costume.

### **New Members**

Three new long-distance members joined SWCG in March. Welcome aboard!

Duane and Kathryn Elms of Silver City, New Mexico list their costuming interests as Everything!

Cat Devereaux is the winner of the 2005 ICG Lifetime Achievement Award. Her web site has all manner of useful costume information. It's particularly strong on movie recreation costumes. Check it out at [www.alleycatscratch.com](http://www.alleycatscratch.com) .



**Hats!**

Our March 26 “sweatshop” session produced a half-cloak and many novelty hats (princess, jester, robin hood, muffin caps) for our semi-annual fundraiser.

**Monday Workshops at Tasha’s House**  
by Tasha Cady

My house will be open for Stitch and Bitch on second Mondays from 5:30-ish to 9-ish :

- May 8 – come comment on Lepre-cons and pros
- June 12
- July 10 - come comment on Wester-cons and pros
- Aug 14 – what did we learn at Costume College?  
Show and Tell on what we bought?
- Sept 11
- Oct 9

And, if it looks like it would be worthwhile near the holidays:

- Nov 13
- Dec 11

2007 to be announced.



Diane greets Barbara Ratti, who stopped by in her Victorian costume to check out the guild at our March 26 meeting.



My folks recently brought this 1908 photo out to have it scanned. It’s the family of Newton O. Whitlock, my great-great grandfather (lower left with Charles Darwin beard). I have memories of four people in the picture: My grandfather George Whitlock is the baby in the christening gown at right, held by my great grandmother, Blanche Tyrell Whitlock (Gibson Girl hair). My great aunt Mabel Whitlock Ewers is the apple-cheeked little girl with the big hair bow right of center frame. Cousin Harry Whitlock is the boy in the double-breasted blazer at far left in the middle row. We used to visit him at his lakeside cabin in Minnesota.