

Newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America On the Web at www.centralarizonacactus.org

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

From the editor ... Diana Decker

The newsletter is in a different format this month because we're waiting for the new computer publishing program. We should be back to the regular format, with photos, for the July newsletter.

June 27 meeting: 2 to 4 pm, Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

Presentation: Plant Survival in a Land of Little Rain Cliff Fielding, CACSS member describes his presentation:

"I'll discuss the land and plants in the Northwestern Cape of South Africa, Namaqualand. The area is unique in the world. The plants do not get much rain, but they do get regular and predictable moisture. This has led to a variety of interesting plants that make the most of what little moisture there is. I will focus on how knowledge of these interesting survival adaptations will lead to a better understanding of how to grow these plants in Arizona. I'll be speaking as an observer, not an expert. I have been to Africa twice and have been growing these plants for about 14 years. I still have a lot to learn. "

August Los Angeles Trip Update - Gard Roper

The California trip, Friday-Sunday August 13-15, needs four more people or we'll have to cancel it. Several of last year's "trip goers" have vacation or other conflicts. Everybody—please help find a few more. I know what we'll see and I want to go.

Cost is \$205 for a double room; \$331 for a single room. We will help fit roommates together if you need it. That process went well last year. Send money to Club Treasurer Wayne Whipple at this address: CACSS, P O Box 63572, Phoenix, AZ 85082-3572.

On Friday, we'll visit two excellent smaller nurseries. On Saturday, we'll go to the Inner City Show and Sale in Los Angeles featuring 25 vendors. It's the best-judged show in the USA, with gross plant sales for the two-day sale around \$80,000. Next we'll stop at Solano Succulents to buy plants, and then to Solano Beach for several hours to enjoy the ocean. Solano Beach also has a unique collection of small stores.

On Sunday we'll go to the Huntington Botanical Garden. Highlights include the desert plant collection, the mansion and library, the Japanese Tea Garden and other landscaped areas. We have free entry, a catered lunch, and access to their plant sale area, open just for us. Plant growth should be good because of the rainy spring increasing the size of their giant specimens. I am particularly looking forward to the Huntington. It has been "too long before for me."

[Editor's note: Bob Torrest also encourages members to visit the Huntington. Be sure to read his article, *Around My (or Your) Desert Garden*, below.]

President's Letter: Steve Martinez

Hi everyone, I hope all of you are enjoying your wonderful plants as much as I am enjoying mine. This time of year is always fun, with summer growers kicking into high gear, flowering, etc. This good stuff is tempered by the awareness that soon it will get VERY HOT!! Well, I guess there's always

something to worry about..... I just got back from the Mid-States Cactus Conference, held this year in St. Louis and hosted by the (local club) Henry Shaw Cactus Society. St Louis is a really fun city that loves their holidays, has plenty of ethnic diversity and kind of an east coast vibe. There is some great architecture and history as well. I mentioned the location of the Conference to various people, and many were surprised that there were collectors and growers of cacti and succulents in parts of the country other than the southwest! Well they can show us differently for sure. There were probably ten clubs represented there from neighboring (and farther) states, with the preponderance of them St. Louis area residents. I can tell you there are some really fine growers there, although to be able to handle any sizable collection a greenhouse is required. We are a lucky bunch here in Phoenix, heat and all. I must say I was proud to say I was from the CACSS, a club of over 200 members, healthy financials and good member participation. Several clubs reported declining memberships and withering funds, including some from big cities like Chicago. St. Louis is a very healthy club like ours and did a great job hosting the event. There were many good speakers delivering interesting presentations, and I love meeting people from all over the country... and all over the world when it's a national convention. The next national convention is in April 2011 in San Diego so start making plans now! Keep up the good work, and see you at the meeting! Steve

Around My (or Your) Desert Garden - Bob Torrest

May 20, 2010 - The extra winter rain and relatively mild spring temperatures seems to have contributed to an unusually long and colorful succulent plant flowering show. And desert trees flowering now in addition to Palo verdes and Palo breas include Palo blanco (*Acacia williardi*); Mesquites, including *Prosopis pubescens*; Ironwood; *Tipuana tipu*; Leather leaf (*Acacia craspedocarpa*); Desert willows; Jacaranda trees; *Lysilomas*; and

Cordia boissieri (Texas olive). That is, there are lots of choices to add shade to your garden. A botanical tour in Oaxaca made it abundantly clear how extra shade and more rain (and, of course, milder temperatures) will benefit many of your plants. For example, the best looking *Pachycereus marginatus* (older books list this with *Stenocereus*) were in the deciduous forests. Here in Phoenix, there is an unfortunate tendency to put this columnar in full sun...but if you give it some afternoon shade (at least), it will appreciate it. The April Cactus and Succulent Journal Newsletter has an outline of the November CSSA Tour in Oaxaca and will give you an idea of the plant and habitat diversity and a hint of the many kinds of columnar cacti (including *P. marginatus*)...

The great flowering show that aloes put on is mostly over but you can extend it a bit with *A. karasbergensis*, one of the best; *A. sinkatana*; *A. pirottae* and a few other small aloes flowering now. *A. eru* just finished and always seems to last after *A. camperi* is done. Some of the best aloes produced lots of seed this spring...so if you want to grow *A. aculeata*, *A. vaombe* and several other very nice but still unidentified aloes, please ask for some seed. These are all aloes that don't produce offsets! Another way to extend the aloe flowering is by visiting The Huntington in Pasadena (actually, San Marino) where many varieties you won't often see here are well labeled and nicely displayed along hilly pathways. While most of the small cacti including *echinocereus*, *mammillaria* and the smaller *opuntias* are done, you can extend the *opuntia* flowers with some of the larger varieties such as *O. tomentosa* (velvet fig), *O. leucotrica*, *O. ellisiana*, some *Nopalea* and chollas like *O. versicolor* (purple) and some pencil types.

Whenever you are around Pasadena, Calif., The Huntington is always worth a visit. In addition to the spectacular succulent gardens, there are Palm, Australian and other gardens and specimen plants in unexpected places. An enormous old *Erythrina crista-galli* (coral tree) was at the entrance to a History of Science exhibit, while a large old *Bursera odorata* loaded with seed (and never noticed before) was along a main path. An *Alluadia procera* at about 30 feet high had flowers at the top. There will be something surprising or unexpected wherever you look. On your way to the L.A. area, allow a few hours for a stop at the Living Desert in Palm Desert. In addition to the animals, there are lots of gardens, including the best collection of *Burseras* we have ever seen, along with a good variety of African acacia trees and a good plant sales shop.

Thanks to those members who came by during our sale. We had hoped more would take advantage of our offer to call with your "want list." We have lots of extra uncommon plants that are not out for our sale because no one asks in advance. ALSO, should you need many agaves, cacti and aloes for landscaping, please feel free to call (480-994-3868).

Plant-of-the-Month Selection - a.k.a. Mini Show

Succulents: Caudiciform Cacti: any cactus whose name begins with a P. or a T.
Please bring your favorite plants in the genera listed above. In fact, bring in any plant that is looking especially fantastic right now and show it off!

2010 CACSS Officers

President: Steve Martinez602-688-4339 altrigo2@aol.com
Vice-President: Lee Brownson 480-951-4945 lsbrownson@cox.net
Secretary: Lois Schneberger..... 480-946-8373 lschneberger@cox.net
Treasurer: Wayne Whipple 480-460-3623 w7676@msn.com

Board of Directors

Doug Dawson 480-893-1207 dawsonlithops@hotmail.com
Gard Roper 602-996-9745 agaveguy@cox.net
Ingrid Swenson 602-957-9865 iswenson@cox.net
Rick Rosenberg480-483-5630 drrikrok@cox.net
Cheryl Brown480-664-9409 rp62@intergrate.com
Sue Tyrrel480-946-3499 styrrel@cox.net
Tom Rankin602-595-9217 tomrankin@cox.net
Cindy Capek623-979-9389 ronlucap@aol.com

2010 CACSS Committees

Programs & Workshops Lee Brownson
Publications & Publicity Cynthia Robinson
Newsletter Editor.....Diana Decker dianaldec@msn.com
Membership Doug Dawson or Jo Davis 480-839-3792
Finance Wayne Whipple
Plant Rescue Robert & Cheryl Brown 480-664-9409
rp62@intergate.com
Library Erik Anderson 480-967-3984
woodcraftman@earthlink.net
Refreshments Melinda Louise
Field Trips Gard Roper and Steve Martinez
By-Laws Lois Schneberger
Web-Site Melinda Louise

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PO BOX 63572
PHOENIX, AZ 85082-3572

WWW.CENTRALARIZONACACTUS.ORG

PLANT QUESTIONS??? WHOM TO CONTACT!!!

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list (just call or e-mail Bob Torrest). For now the list is simply alphabetical with principal interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

DOUG DAWSON

480-893-1207

dawsonlithops@hotmail.com

Specializations include Flora of Namibia, Growing from Seed, Lithops, other Mesembs, and Melocactus.

MIKE GALLAGHER

602-942-8580

mgallagher26@cox.net

Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and Turbinicarpus.

STEVE PLATH

623-915-7615

revegdude1@juno.com

Specializations include Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus, General Propagation, and Desert Revegetation.

BOB TORREST

480-994-3868

robertst9114@msn.com

Specializations include Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, Trichocereus, and Opuntia.