

**Newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society**

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America On the Web at [www.centralarizonacactus.org](http://www.centralarizonacactus.org)

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**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**

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**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.

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

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

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