

Central Spine

May, 2011

*Newsletter of the Central Arizona
Cactus & Succulent Society*

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

On the Web at www.centralarizonacactus.org

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CACCS May meeting: Sunday, June 5

2 pm, Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden



Lewisia brachycalyx.

Photo by Doug Dawson

See Doug's article, *Lewisia*, and more of his photos on page 3

June Newsletter Deadline: June 18, 2011

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2011 Meeting Schedule

There are changes to our normal meeting schedule due to a holiday and the CSSA National Convention in San Diego. Barring any unexpected event, the schedule is:

June 5 (in place of May 29th)
June 26
July 31
August 28
September 25
October 30
November 20 (in place of November 27th)

May meeting (June 5) Presentation- -----TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Check the website for update on program:
www.centralarizonacactus.org**

President's Letter on vacation!

On May 4, CACSS President Steve Martinez left on a trip to Namibia. He returns at the end of May and will share his adventures in the June newsletter. CACSS members Doug Dawson and Woody Minnich, who gave the presentation at the April meeting, are also on the trip.

CACSS Plants of the Month is on hiatus.

Contact the *Central Spine* Editor

Diana Decker
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for article and photo submissions,
questions or comments:

Welcome to New Members

Sharon Atwood
Cynthia L. Bunes
Gail Gray
Gwen Mastin
Christine Nimitz
Janet Laufer
Adelaide & Don Bahr

Lewisia

Article and photos by Doug Dawson

It was one of those mornings I have come to celebrate here in Arizona, a nature hiker's delight. Monday, March 16, 2009, the weather was, as usual, tailor-made for a great hiking day in the Arizona wilderness.

Just the day before, we had finished our 2009 Show and Sale which was about a month early due to a necessary change in scheduling at the DBG. I had gathered three fellow explorers, Woody Minnich, Tom Steuber, and Steve Martinez to accompany me up state route 87 toward Payson. About one half mile south of Rye, is a trailhead sign pointing west for the Barnhardt Trail in the Mazatzal Wilderness area.

We took two vehicles. Woody and Steve drove together. Tom accompanied me in my jeep. Tom and I discussed some of our previous plant-finding expeditions. I mentioned to him that although we had visited many of Arizona's cacti and succulents in habitat together, we hadn't yet tried to find any of the three *Lewisia* succulents which grow in Arizona. We need to do that this year.



Woody Minnich, Steve Martinez, Tom Steuber near Barnhardt Trailhead

The Barnhardt Trailhead was about four miles in on a gravel road from highway 87, with a nice parking area and signs for the trail. I had told Woody of

the impressive colonies of *Agave toumeana bella* and other plants that can be found along this trail, which I have explored many times since August, 1974.

Within one minute of heading out on the trail, **BOOM!** There they were, a beautifully colored field of *Lewisia brachycalyx* with blooms of Easter pastel pinks and even whites. I couldn't believe it. I had passed within a few feet of them on several other hikes there, but since they were not in flower, they had eluded me completely. It was as beautiful as a spring field of crocus blooms! We took many photos and proceeded on our three hour hike up the trail to a natural rockery and saddle point and back down to the parking lot. We were not disappointed in the many cacti, succulents, bulbs and wildflowers along the way, including the genera *Agave*, *Sedum*, *Dudleya*, *Graptopetalum*, *Escobaria*, *Echinocereus*, and many other delights.



Lewisia brachycalyx.

Back to the *Lewisia*:

The genus *Lewisia* belongs to the plant family *Montiaceae* (formerly and better known as *Portulacaceae*). *Lewisia* is named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Members of this genus are found from Alaska, down through the Rockies and all the way to northern Baja. They are most prevalent in northern California and the Pacific Northwest.

Our *Lewisia brachycalyx* is a perennial succulent with a small caudex and thick, starchy roots. Above ground, the leaves are green, succulent, flat, smooth, all radiating from the plant's center. Leaves are narrow and about three to four inches

long. Flowers range from nearly snow white to pale shades of pink (see photos).

Since these beauties grow at 4,200 feet elevation and higher, they are not geared to be desert floor dwellers. I have seen them for sale at Lowe's and, of all places, out front of Trader Joe's once. I have

not tried to grow them, but I'm sure I will. They may require their summer rest to be indoors. If anyone has tried or plans to try to grow them here in the Phoenix area, share your results with your fellow club members. ...and remember: Take a hike!

More photos of *Lewisia brachycalyx* by Doug Dawson





CACSS 2011 SHOW AND SALE TROPHIES AND ROSETTES AWARDED BY THE JUDGES(CACSS 2011 SHOW)

Look for more Show information and
photos in the June newsletter

ROSETTES

1. Best Junior Novice Cactus – **Ryan Grabe** -- *Uebelmannia pectinifera*
Most total points by a junior novice exhibitor--**Ryan Grabe**, Total points: 25
Best Succulent of Show – **Gard Roper** - *Euphorbia horrida*
Best Individual Cactus Specimen in Section I – **Steve & Julie Plath** -- *Echinocereus rigidissimus*
Best Individual Succulent Specimen in Section II – **Steve & Julie Plath** – *Fouquieria purpusii*
Best Seedling – **Doug Dawson** – *Aloe karasbergensis*
2. Best Succulent Collection – **Wendy Barrett** – *Sansevieria*



Wendy Barrett and her Sansevieria Photo by Tom Gatz

3. Best Specimen Planter – **Paul Schueneman** – *Mammillaria lenta*

4. Best Decorative Planter – **Melinda Louise**,



Melinda Louise's Dudleya

Photo by Tom Gatz

5. Best Educational Exhibit – **Mary McGiver**, rosette

6. Chairman's Choice Award - **Jo Davis** – Aloe dorothea



Jo Davis – Aloe dorothea Photo by Tom Gatz

7. Best Cactus of the Show – **Lin Leivian** – Obregonia negrii

TROPHIES

- 8.** Best Novice Cactus presented in memory of a life-long Cactophile Maury Clapp– **Sue Hakala** - *Parodia scopa*
CACSS Annual Show Novice Sweepstakes trophy sponsored by Lee Brownson—**Steve Mack** with 70 points
- 9.** Best Cactus Collection – **Cliff Fielding** -- Copiapoa Collection
- 10.** Best Aizoaceae presented in memory of Vikki Bone sponsored by Bud Terrell and Fran Tolleson--**Cliff Fielding** – *Gibbaeum velutinum*
Most total points awarded to an exhibitor sponsored by the Northrop Family--**Cliff Fielding** Total points: 180
- 11.** Best Ferocactus presented in memory of Grandfather James A. Beaman, sponsored by Scott McMahon – **Lee Brownson** – *Ferocactus hamatacanthus*
Best Crest or Montrose sponsored by Rod and Lisa Northrop – **Gard Roper** - *Echinocactus grusonii*
Best Aloe presented in honor of the Charter Members of CACSS--**Gard Roper** – *Aloe ramosissima*
- 12.** Best Novice Succulent – **Loren Rodewald** – *Euphorbia decaryi guillaumin*
- 13.** Best Agave presented in memory of Erik Anderson -**Steve & Julie Plath**– *Agave utahensis v. nevadensis*
- 14.** Best Ariocarpus presented in memory of Donald Holland sponsored by J. Davis and David Belemi– **Steve & Julie Plath** – *Ariocarpus koutschoubeyanus albitflorus*
- 15.** Best Euphorbia presented in memory of Lewis R. Steichman, sponsored by Elaine Chapman– **Steve & Julie Plath** - *Euphorbia abdelkuri alfredii*
- 16.** Best Arizona Native sponsored by the CACSS Board of Directors – **Steve & Julie Plath** – *Graptopetalum rusbyi*
People’s Choice-- **Steve & Julie Plath**--*Adenium* hybrid ‘Cherry Marshmallow’ (allowed to keep trophy)
Most cactus blue ribbons awarded to an exhibitor sponsored by Arizona Cactus Sales --**Steve & Julie Plath**
- Total: 22**
Most blue ribbons won by an exhibitor presented in memory of Charles Meig sponsored by the Desert Botanical Garden--**Steve & Julie Plath** Total: 30
- 17.** Desert Botanical Garden Choice Award for Best of Show sponsored by DBG – **Steve & Julie Plath**



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Euphorbia enopla, one of Gard Roper’s entries,

Photos by Tom Gatz

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—480-994-3868; robertst9114@msn.com).

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

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

MIKE GALLAGHER

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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*.

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