

Central Spine

December, 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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Happy New Year!

St Nicholas Visits the Greenhouse
(Revived by Sue Hakala, CACSS member)

By Eva Allen

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M. wrightii Photo by Doug Dawson. Taken Nov. 5, 2011 within 5 miles from Superior, not far from the Boyce Arboretum. See more of Doug's photos on page 3 and 4.

January Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, Jan. 12 2011

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**Thanks to the Desert
Botanical Garden
for providing our meeting rooms.
For more information about the
DBG's events and programs, go to
its website,
www.dbg.org**

Presentation Sunday, January 29, 2012

2 pm
Webster Auditorium
Desert Botanical Garden

Tom Glavich, long time cactus and succulent collector, will talk to us about the strangest of the strange: Mutant Succulents!

*Beth Kirkpatrick
Membership Committee Chair*

Welcome to New Members

**Laura Denyes
David Hamilton
Diana and John Crummey
Karin Machnau
Harriet Wilshusen
Ray Newlon
Steven Serrano
Rae Letz
April Biggs
Barbara and Terrence Ward
Ted Barrett (Wendy Barrett's
husband)**

*Most new members join at CACSS meetings.
Recently, eight new members signed up at
President Steve Martinez' Farm at South
Mountain. Thanks, Steve.*

Contact the Central Spine Editor

Diana Decker
dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825
for article and photo submissions, and
to suggest topics you'd like to see included
in the Central Spine.

President's Letter

Well as usual I will start out with our weather,... for me it seemed like straight from 100 degrees to 32 degrees,...did we have an autumn?

I hope you covered your tender plants if you were in an area that got frost, as many of you were I'm sure. I am writing this just days before our Holiday party, and I am looking forward to making my usual Jamaican jerk chicken! (not TOO spicy!!) and visiting with all who come to the party.

I won't see many of you until the January meeting (don't forget to renew your membership!).

In 2012, we will conduct another bus trip to a fun place, probably California, but we will try to add as much new as possible, and of course old favorites as well. We will also have more great workshops, maybe a round table discussion, etc. We might try another picnic, as many members seemed to want have attended the first one, but were put off by the unpredictable weather.

We can also do the caravan trip to Tucson. It would be nice to have more open gardens as well (volunteers?). If you have any other group activities you would like to suggest, please do.

Well, with that I will wrap up my letter, and to all, Happy Holidays! Steve M.



Graptopetalum rusbyi Photo by Doug Dawson Nov. 5, 2011



M. wrightii Photo by Doug Dawson Nov. 5, 2011

St. Nicholas Visits the Greenhouse

By Eva Allen

'Twas the night before Christmas
The whole greenhouse through,
All the cacti were resting, most succulents, too.
Not one stocking was hung by the heater with care,
For plants don't wear stockings, as you're well aware!
But there, near the doorway, pots plastic and clay
Were waiting for gifts St. Nick might bring that way.
The plants nestled down, dry and cool on their shelves,
While they dreamed of sweet plant food and cactophile elves.
And soon the place filled with a wonderful glow,
As each plant dreamed it'd someday win Best of the Show!
Then, out on the lawn, there arose quite a roar,
And an old Aloe cried, "It's that man we adore!
Hope he won't try to land on the glass roof again—
When he did it last year, he came crashing right in!"
Not a plant dared aspire, but they needn't have worried,
The sleigh came to rest on the grass, all unhurried.
And into the greenhouse, St. Nicholas came,
Laughing and calling each plant by its name!
"Greetings, Agaves, Euphorbias, too,
Astrophytums and Gymnos—it's good to see you!
And my Cereus buddies! Just how have you been?
Don't you hide from me Lithops," he said with a grin.

"I see you Opuntias; still have all your spines?
My Haworthia friends! You are looking so fine!
How's it going, you Crassulas and Mammillarias,
You Pachy, Parodias, and lovely Gasterias?"
St. Nick made his way through the greenhouse and back
To the door where he'd set his big, bulging pack.
Then he turned his attention to filling the pots
Of the plants' favorite foods, he had brought lots and lots!
There was lava rock, perlite and pumice in bags,
Tweezers, insecticides, pretty name tags,
Compound for rooting, and tools to make grafts,
And caulking to keep out the cold winter drafts!
All the plants received things they would very soon need
To start growing and blooming and making new seed.
"We're eternally grateful," the old Aloe said.
"My pleasure!" St. Nick replied, nodding his head.
"I wish we had succulents at the North Pole,
But you're not quite that hardy, I know, bless my soul!
I will see you next year, now you all take good care,
And win a nice prize at the show or the fair!"
Then, turning, he made his way back to the sleigh,
Called out to his reindeer, and soon flew away.
And they heard him exclaim as he faded from view,
"Happy Holidays and Happy Growing to you!"

*First published December 2000 in the Henry Shaw Cactus Digest
(Revived by Sue Hakala, CACSS member)*



Graptopetalum rusbyi

Photo by Doug Dawson

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. Call or e-mail Diana Decker, *Central Spine* editor. (See contact information above, on page 2.)

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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