

Central Spine

April, 2012

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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**CACSS Show and Sale
April 20, 21 & 22**

***Dorrance Hall and Boppart Patio
Desert Botanical Garden***

Articles

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Aloe gariensis

Located east of Springbok,
South Africa Sept. 22, 2009
on a farm named Areb.

In the background you see the
wide expanses of Bushmanland.

I took the photo from an inselberg
on the west end of Bushmanland.

An inselberg is the term used for a
mountain somewhat dramatically
rising from the surrounding flat
land and is botanically an island
(insel) mountain (berg) in that
area. The flora in such an area is
usually different from the flora in
the surrounding flatter terrain.

In some places in the US,
especially out west where we have
more mountainous areas, we have
inselbergs and small higher
outcrops we call sky islands.
Usually the flora on them is more
pristine since cattle can't trample
the plants.

Doug Dawson

CACSS Show and Sale Volunteers

On Saturday May 5th from 1 PM until 4 PM, the CACSS Show & Sale Committee is hosting at Gard Roper's house a Volunteer Thank You Party. Anyone who volunteered to help during the show and sale is welcome to come. Each volunteer can also bring a spouse or significant other person with them.

By Tuesday April 24th, we need the volunteers to please notify me at nancy.mumpton@gmail.com that you are coming and whether you will be bringing another person. We need the count so that we will have the appropriate amount of food and drinks for everyone.

Thank you.

Nancy Mumpton

Our Judges for the 2012 Show

By Gard Roper

We feel very fortunate to have the 2012 selection of judges.

Succulent judges are Julie Plath and Cliff Fielding.

Julie was a judge the 2011 show. She is a nursery co-owner, has a master's degree in horticulture, and has lifetime experience working with plants. Julie's presentation of plants is one of the best in our society. She is always ready to help us improve our skills.

Cliff is an extraordinary grower, as demonstrated by his first place point total in several recent shows. His last open garden also showcased his fine, detailed perception of plants. Cliff can see all details of a plant in a few seconds, which is a good trait for a show judge.

Cactus judges are Raul Puente-Martinez and Mike Gallagher.

Raul is the Curator of Living Collections at the Desert Botanical Garden. His journal publications include "The Evolution of Growth Forms in *Cactaceae*." "He also has published material on taxonomic revisions for genus *Opuntia* and genus *Napoleae*. (Find details at www.dbg.org.)

Mike joined the CACSS in 1983 and is one of our true generalists. Mike has substantial knowledge in most genera of desert plants and is a great help in identifying different desert plants. His pharmacy background has contributed to his capacity to master detailed knowledge of many different plant groups.

When judges enter a plant in a division, they do not judge in that division. Other judges then make the decision. Our show rules divide plants into useful categories for judging. Having the best of our members as judges has improved the reliability of judging.

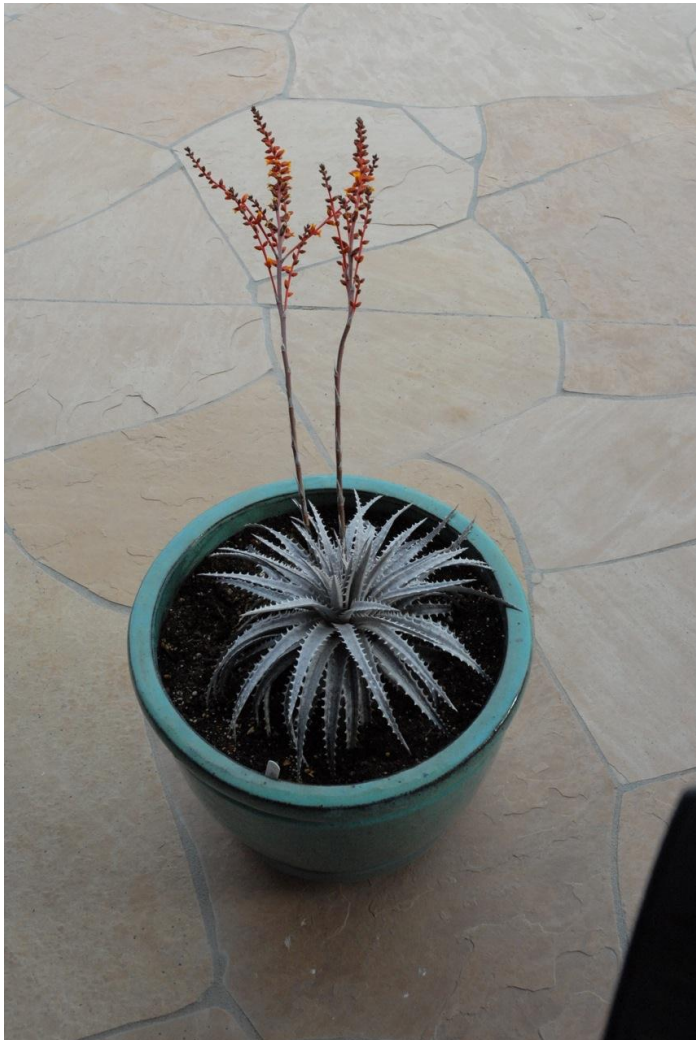
Verbal and written comments from judges often include tips on how we can all grow plants in a better manner. We will share useful comments from judges in future newsletters.

"Gardening is a mood, and my mood is one of intimacy not splendor."

Edward, Duke of Windsor

Life Magazine, 1956

Contributed by Wayne Whipple



***Dyckia* 'Arizona' on Martha and Steve Goode's patio. The plant began blooming on Feb. 14 and continues to bloom.**

Photo by Steve Goode

First steps to gardening

By Dean Patrick



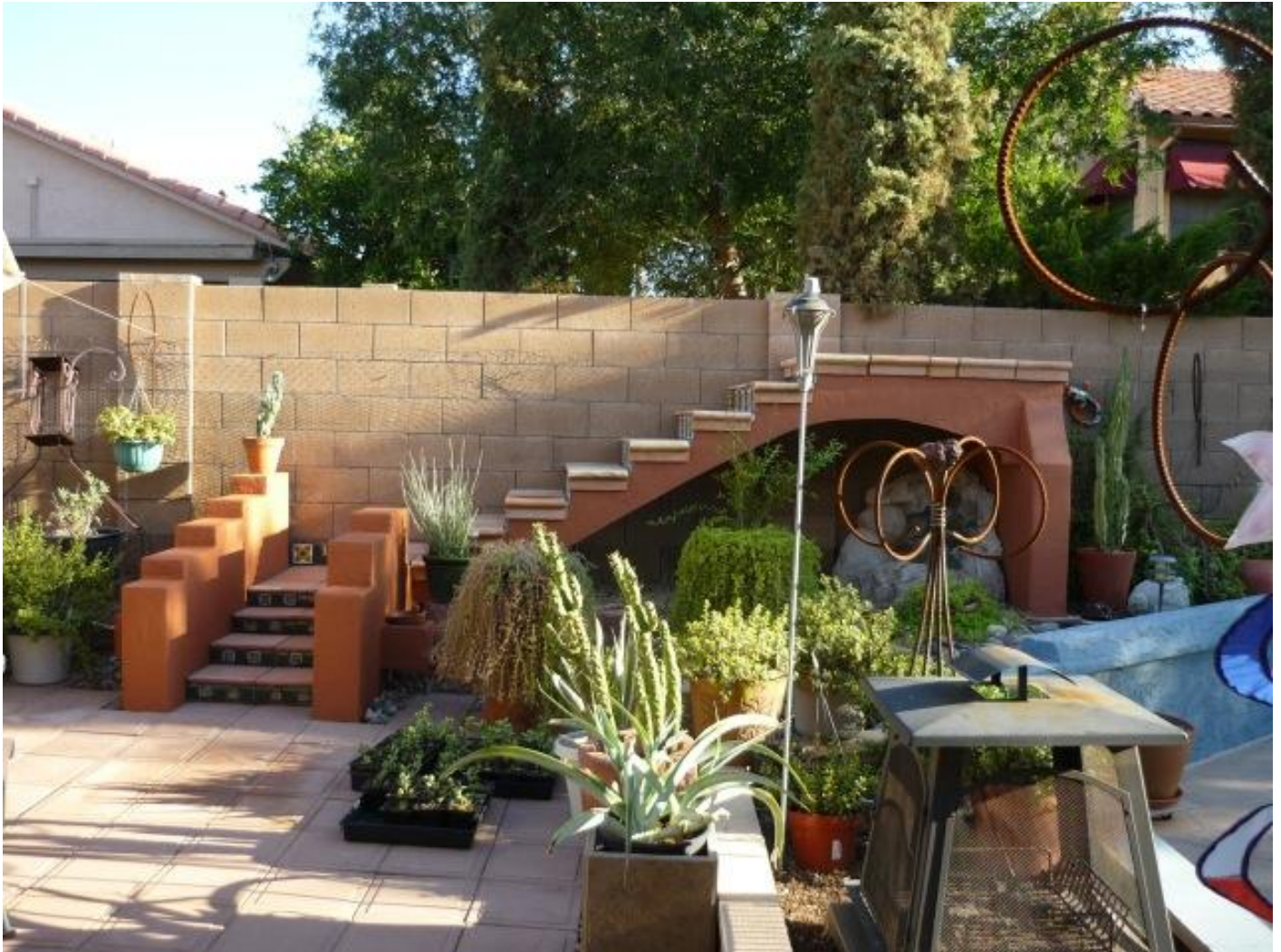
Garden feature in Tohono Chul Park, Tucson
Patrick

Photo by Dean

I first saw this garden feature (above) at the Tohono Chul Park in Tucson about six years ago during my first visit to the park. During another visit, I realized this item would be fun to build and went home to see if I could locate a spot in my garden to develop this display. It was not a real task as I have general contractor experience and an architectural education.

I started to collect some of the basic items and my summer fun was about to start. I spent most of that summer laying concrete block and cutting stringers (the wood part that supports the steps) for the stairway. Finding the related parts, stone treads and decorative items for the risers was the most challenging part of it. stringers are the wood part that supports the steps, risers are the part that your toe hits if you are in a hurry. I wanted it to look as close to the original as possible.

It is completely correct and as strong as the stairway in any house. Truly a fun project.
The lizards love to play on it.



Stairs in Dean Patrick's garden

Photo by Dean Patrick

If you have questions for Dean about his stairway, you'll find his contact information below in PLANT QUESTIONS??? WHOM TO CONTACT!!!

Binomial Nomenclature Workshop Participants Create New Plant Name

Twelve participants enjoyed Doug Dawson's March workshop on naming plants. Doug explained the history of creating Latin plant names, from before Carl Linnaeus to post-Linnaeus. Then in groups of four, participants practiced creating names, using the worksheets Doug provided. The first names are the genus and species in italics, followed by descriptions of the plant, all in Latin. An example is *Mammillaria striatus florae*. The translation is Mammillaria with striped flowers.. At the end of the workshop, Doug asked if any group had created a new plant name. One participant immediately raised his hand and shared the name his group created. All participants agreed that it was a great name for a plant.

Dawsonii mirabilis sinilis

Translation:

Dawson marvelous old, white hair

**Contact the
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for article and photo submissions, and
to suggest topics you'd like to see included in the *Central Spine*.

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.)

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 Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and *Turbinicarpus*.

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

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