

# Central Spine



**October 2013**  
**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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## **Sunday, October 20 – CACSS Silent Auction**

**Set-up: 12:30 – 1:30 pm;**

**Silent Auction: at 2 pm**

As usual, you'll be given instructions on how to bid and pay for your plants.

Get those plants and cuttings ready for our Silent Auction at the Wildflower Pavilion at Desert Botanical Garden. You may also bring pottery and other items of interest.

You will need a bid sheet for each plant you bring. The bid sheet should include the name of the plant (if you know it) and two columns, one for the bid, the other for the name of the bidder. You will also need a pen or pencil to write down your bid for other members' plants.



Gardeners look at the plants available at the CACSS 2012 Silent Auction.    Photo by John Crummey

### **Articles**

**Tom Gatz's Open House**  
**In Memoriam: Doug Green**

**Desert Rivers Audubon 2nd Annual Tour de Bird**  
***Coryphantha elephantidens*: A fine fall-flowering cactus**



## October President's Letter

President Wayne Whipple has medical issues and has taken a break from writing this month's letter.

We wish him a quick recovery and send him best wishes.

## Tom Gatz' Open Garden

Theme: Landscaping in small spaces

When? Saturday, October 26. From 9 am to Noon

Where? At Tom Gatz and Barb Larson's backyard.  
419 W. Monte Cristo Ave. Phoenix, 85023 (602-863-2553)

Hot coffee, tea, juice and light snacks will be provided

Directions: Turn south off Greenway Parkway at 3rd Avenue. Make an immediate right turn on Somerset. Drive west on Somerset for a short block. Turn left (south) onto 4th Drive. Continue one block south to bend in street. We are on the right, just before you have to turn left. Look for the big adenium. Parking is limited so car-pooling is encouraged.

Nearby good restaurants for lunch later:

Chino Bandido's (Mexican, Chinese, Jamaican fusion). NW corner of 19th Ave. and Greenway.  
U.S. Egg (salads and sandwiches and famous protein pancakes) 402 E. Greenway Parkway.

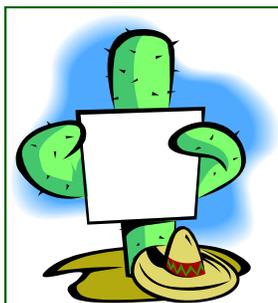
## Propagation Committee Annual Recruiting Enrollment

We have lots of work to do next year and need your help.

Come and learn the fun and rewards of propagating plants. If you would like to join, please contact Dean Patrick: 480-759-0312; desertpatrick@cox.net

## CACSS Nominating Committee Looking for Candidates for Vice President and Board of Directors Member

If you are interested, contact Dan Smith: smithdans@cox.net



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PLAN THE 2014 SHOW & SALE...

Kick-off meeting Sunday, October 27, 2 pm

Contact Lynda Michaelson

480-722-2991

lynda@itsgs.com



## In Memoriam: Doug Green

I was saddened to learn that long-term CACSS member Charles Douglas (Doug) Green passed away on September 11. His celebration of life service was held Tuesday, September 17, 2013.

We will certainly miss him and enjoyed his displays at our annual Show & Sale. He was a regular attendee for any years at our General Meetings, the last one being our August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. He was also an active member of The Arizona Native Plant Society. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

Wayne Whipple



Lee Brownson asks for bids for special plants at the CACSS 2012 Silent Auction. Photo by John Crummey

**Contact the *Central Spine* Editor**

**Diana Decker**

dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825

for article and photo submissions for the *Central Spine*.

**Please Wear Your Name Tag  
at Monthly Meetings**

Board Member Jo Davis asks members to wear their name tags at monthly meetings and other club events. Members then can more easily spot guests and talk with them about the guest's interests and CACSS. If you need a lanyard to hang the name tag around your neck, see Jo at the meetings.

***Welcome To New  
Members***

**Dan Bernstein  
Verna and Jim Burkett  
Judy Tolbert  
Elaine Zolock**

**Membership Chair:  
Beth Kirkpatrick**

**Please bring boxes  
with you to the meetings  
so you can carry your new  
plants home more easily.  
Jo Davis**

**Raffle Tickets at the General Meetings**

**\$1 for one**

**\$5 for six**

**Raffle Winners**

**at the September 29, 2013 General meeting**

John Voloudakis  
Pat Adler  
Judy Tolbert  
Rachel Klink

*Agave parrasana variegata*  
*Mammillaria sepervivi*  
Ceramic pot  
*Opuntia robusta* "Silver Dollar"

There were eight raffle items, but only four winners were identified. Two winners did not leave their names. One ceramic pot and one plant were not taken.



# ***Coryphantha elephantidens*: A fine fall-flowering cactus**

Article and photo by Mark Dimmitt

(The article first appeared in the October 2012 issue of *Desert Breeze*, the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society newsletter. It is reprinted with the author's permission.)



Figure 1.

*Coryphantha elephantidens* (Figure 1) is one of the most distinctive of the several dozen species in this genus. The stems are three to four inches in diameter, and offset to form clusters of up to a dozen or more heads (Figure 3). (In *The Cactus Family*, Anderson says the stems can be nearly eight inches in diameter, but I have never seen any even close to this.) As the specific epithet describes, the stems have very large tubercles. The few short stout spines don't conceal the shiny green cuticle.

The two-inch pink flowers are not borne in masses as in many cacti. They appear one or two at a time per stem, every few days for about three months from September to November (Figure 2). The subspecies *C. e. greenwoodii* and *C. e. bumamma* have yellow flowers. The species occurs in Michoacan and Morelos, Mexico. It's winter hardy anywhere in southern Arizona. Grow it in any well-drained succulent medium, in light shade. Water little in winter, and also keep it on the dry side during extremely hot weather to avoid rot.



Figure 2



Figure 3

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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. Call or e-mail Diana Decker, *Central Spine* editor. Find contact information on p. 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.

### **DOUG DAWSON**

480-893-1207

dawsonlithops@hotmail.com

Specializations include Growing from Seed, Flora of Namibia, Lithops, other Mesembs, Melocactus, Miniature Cacti and Succulents of Arizona.

### **MIKE GALLAGHER**

602-942-8580

mgallagher26@cox.net

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

### **DEAN PATRICK**

480-759-0312

desertpatrick@cox.net

Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, agave and aloe).

### **STEVE PLATH**

623-915-7615

revegdude1@juno.com

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

### **DAN SMITH**

480.981.9648

smithdans@cox.net

Specializes in adeniums. raising adeniums from seed, grafting and adenium culture in general

### **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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