

# Central Spine



## *February 2014 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)

**February 2014 Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 16**  
**2 p.m. Dorrance Hall**  
**Desert Botanical Garden**  
**Presenter: Steve Martinez**  
**Topic: From Road Kill to Rarity**

### Articles

- **Attention: All Rock Hounds and Hikers**
- **Happy Valentine's Day Photo by Doug Dawson**
  - **It's CRUNCH...for This Year's Annual CACSS Cactus & Succulent Show**
- **Reminder: Entry Forms for Show & Sale**
- **CACSS December 2013 Financial Report**
- **Jim Elliott, CACSS President, 1990 and 1991**

## From Road Kill to Rarity

by Steve Martinez

I started the cactus hobby in New York (Freeport, Long Island) in the early 1970s with a collection of dish gardens, A small greenhouse was to follow not too long after. It became a lifelong hobby. My home club is the CACSS. I moved from New York to Phoenix about 30 years ago. I was President of the Club in 2010-11-12, at which time I termed out. I was Show Chair in 2008, and have been Sales chair for several years. I own a specialty nursery called Succulentia, located at the Farm at South Mountain (6106 S. 32nd St. Phoenix, AZ) which houses most of my collection as well as my sale plants. In recent years, I have been fortunate to be able to travel to numerous cacti and succulent habitats, including South Africa, Namibia, Argentina, and Baja (North and South). My companion on the Baja trip was Marjan Donko, a serious hobbyist from Slovenia, whom I met and became good friends with on our Argentina trip. With various warnings of danger to our lives and the risk of losing my new Silverado pickup truck (all unfounded in my opinion), we headed out

in my wife's 2009 Hybrid Malibu and spent eight days driving along both paved and dirt roads in search of our beloved plants of interest. This presentation will be the story of the wonderful trip we took the week of Thanksgiving, 2012. Thank you, Steve Martinez



Steve Martinez

Photo by Marjan Donko





**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**  
**February 2014**  
**Wayne Whipple**

I had the pleasure of honoring Lois Schneberger at our January General Meeting by presenting her with a piece of pottery by Mark Muradian in recognition of her archiving and preserving the records of the Society's 40-year history. It was a tremendous feat, and we give her thanks for undertaking it.

Welcome to the Board, Lynda Michaelson! A vacancy occurred on the Board, and the Directors elected Lynda for the opening at their January Board Meeting. Who better to fill the position than the co-chair of this year's Show & Sale Committee?

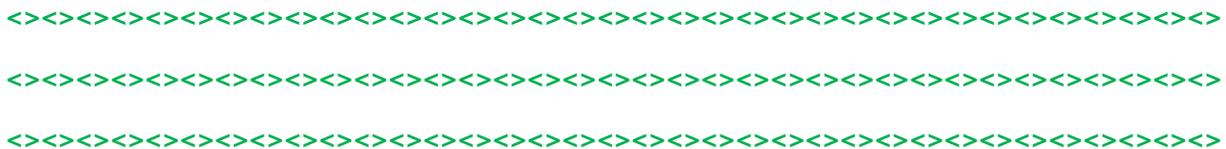
I hope everyone is reviewing their succulent collections and are zeroing in on what plants to display at this year's Show. Even if you do not show any of your plants, you certainly will be able to participate in this important event by volunteering to help. I started out as a volunteer for the Show & Sale, and look how far it has gotten me!

Not only do we need your help on the Show & Sale but also for several other Society committees and activities. Although Board Members are active on many of the committees, we need help from the general Membership to also volunteer. There should not be any shortage of help with approximately 400 Members.

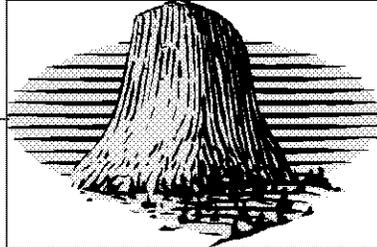
Our Program Chair Deborah Mulholland has much to keep her busy with the booking of monthly speakers for our General Meetings, but she is also the coordinator for several other program activities of the Society as well. These include trips, open gardens, education classes, workshops, and special interest groups. Dean Patrick has agreed to continue to chair the Propagation Committee, but more people are needed for the other activities. Also we are still in need of someone to chair the Plant Rescue Committee. We often receive calls from people who are moving or who no longer want their plants. To handle these requests, we probably should have regional point-people throughout the Valley to decide what can be done with these orphans-to-be. Please let either Deborah or me know what interests you.

As a benefit to the Society's Members, the Board authorized the purchase of nearly \$2,200 worth of pumice from a California site. The pumice was delivered to Ingrid Swenson and Chris Herington's house in Central Phoenix in September. According to the financial records of our Treasurer Tom Rankin, only \$76 had been received from the sale of pumice as of the end of 2013. This means that members are going to have to purchase several buckets of pumice before we can recoup our cost. Gard Roper is our point person for the pumice. If you would like to purchase some pumice or owe money for what you have already acquired, please call Gard at 602-996-9745. You will never get a better deal than this: *\$4 per five gallon bucket.*

General Meetings of our Society usually fall on the last Sunday of each month. But this year it is different as only five of our General Meetings will fall on the last Sunday of the month. This month's (February) meeting will be on the third Sunday. So please check the monthly Newsletter and our website for dates.



**ATTENTION  
HOUNDS &**



**ALL ROCK  
HIKERS!**

Each year at the Show & Sale we offer complimentary potting to customers who buy a plant and a new pot.

It is always fun to be able to add some flare or decoration and we have found people just love to pick out rocks, wood, or a piece of beach glass, etc. So if you are a rock hound, hiker, naturalist...please collect extras of the above for donation to the show and sale.

Size wise - stones or rocks 1-4"

Driftwood—2-4"

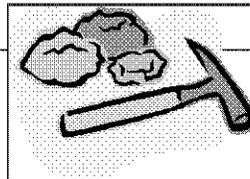
Beach Glass 1-3"

**Donations can be made to Lynda Michaelson at the  
February and March meetings.**

**Questions—call Lynda at 480.722.2991**

**Email: [Lynda@itsgs.com](mailto:Lynda@itsgs.com)**

Thank you to all who can help with this— our customers  
will be SO thrilled!



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

**to the Editor:**

**Diana Decker**

**dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825**

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

**Jo Davis**

**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***

**Jim and Lynn Blaugh**

**Ron and Betsy Farone**

**Raymond Finley**

**Sandra Gonzales**

**Irla Irwin**

**Marianne King**

**Davis Matusow**

**Raymond "Buzz" Peloquin**

**Joyce Peters and Christopher Boren**

**Barry and Linda Spreen**

**Greg and Cheryl Sulzer**

**Membership Chair:**

**Beth Kirkpatrick**

Happy Valentine's Day!



The photo of this *Conophytum bilobum* was taken by Doug Dawson in May, 2010 in the Komagas Region, South Africa.

## **Propagation Committee Needs Members**

**For information about the  
Propagation Committee,  
please contact Dean Patrick,  
[desertpatrick@cox.net](mailto:desertpatrick@cox.net)**

# CACSS MEMBERSHIP – It's **GRUNCH** FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

**Committee Chairs** have been meeting monthly since October to organize and prepare for this year's show & sale. However, a group of **10** people cannot put together an event of this size and still represent you or our Society in the way that that makes us all proud. The feelings of teamwork, joy and accomplishment are the fuel that motivates us to be involved and put on a great show & sale each year!!

**We need our members – I can't say that strongly enough**; without our membership, without **YOU**, we can't succeed. Our membership increased by **triple digits** this past year, but volunteer participation is down, way down . So please, please take a moment and evaluate if you can spare a couple of hours, half a day or even two half days; whatever you can manage. Then **call or plant yourself on Jo Davis's doorstep and let her know! She will be THRILLED to Hear from YOU!** Her number is **480-839-3792**.

Regardless if you are volunteering or not, being part of this great group of people, the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society, means we have at least one thing in common and that is our love and passion for cacti and/or succulents. **So please enter at least one plant or as many as you want for judging or simply to be admired.** It isn't about who gets a ribbon or not; it's about sharing something you care deeply about with others. The public visiting our shows yearly look forward to seeing a bountiful array of specimens. Without our members' contributions, we can't meet that goal, so please enter a plant or more for exhibition or judging.

Remember, our society doesn't judge against "perfection." We judge against what is within the realm of our membership. That said, I remember my first year. I "reluctantly" submitted three plants for judging (I say reluctantly because being a novice I didn't feel I possessed the knowledge or quality of specimens that would show well – forget about winning anything!). When I came in on Saturday (I couldn't make it in on Friday – oh, the dreaded wait) I was **shocked!!** Next to two of my entries were ribbons.

More important than the ribbons or trophies, though, are the members I have gotten to know who enjoy growing the same type of specimens I do, as well as those members who grow specimens that I just can't. Belonging to CACSS now is more than attending a monthly meeting. It is belonging to something greater than me – where I have an opportunity to learn, to help, to grow, to care and to give.

**So I invite you to take that first step. I'm glad I did and I'm certain you will be too.**

Sincerely, *Lynda Michaelson*, Program Co-Chair 2014

## Reminder: Entry Forms for Show & Sale

**If you are planning to enter your plant or plants in the April 2014 Show & Sale, don't forget to pick up your entry form and exhibitor number at the February meeting. Look for our booth in Dorrance. We had 21 members pick up their forms at the last meeting. Pick up yours and you will have a chance to win a small (as in small) prize! Thanks from Jeanne Ann & Chuck.**



**CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
DECEMBER 31, 2013, FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Revenues	\$54,402	\$54,662	\$39,342
Expenses	<u>51,170</u>	<u>49,166</u>	<u>37,109</u>
Excess	2,692	5,496	2,234
Checking Account & Cash	\$24,687	\$22,002	\$16,450
Savings Account	<u>10,510</u>	<u>10,503</u>	<u>10,500</u>
Total	\$35,197	\$32,505	\$26,950

The Central Arizona Cactus Society again showed strong growth in 2013 bringing total membership to another record level and modestly increasing the Society’s financial base. Operating results overall were quite similar to the 2012 levels.

Total membership in 2013 rose by nearly 15% to 382 members compared to 335 at the beginning of the year. Nearly 90% of the members at the beginning of the year renewed. This is a high renewal rate for any non-profit organization and reflects the aggressive actions of our new Membership Committee in encouraging members to pay their annual dues. As to membership counts, a single membership is, of course, counted as one, whereas a family membership is counted as two.

With cash reserves of over \$35,000, CACSS is in an excellent financial position to improve and expand its services to members. A new computer purchase in 2013 along with the improvements made to the organization’s website will help the club to keep up with today’s technological innovations. For 2014, expect to see improvements to our show and sale cash registers and scanners, as well as an increase in our library budget for new books and publications. Our donation to the DBG was maintained at the same amount as last year’s \$2,500 donation, but including with the show and sale profit sharing, our total contributions to the DBG was almost \$6,500.

As a non-profit organization, CACSS is not attempting, at this time, to increase its cash reserves for any reason. Thus, the governing board attempts to give back to the general membership any and all revenue streams realized by the organization whether they are membership dues and donations, program service revenues such as trips to Tucson or San Diego, or fundraisers such as the Show & Sale and the annual silent auction.

The CACSS has no paid positions and thus we depend entirely upon the volunteers from the club’s membership to plan, organize, and execute all of our club activities. Many thanks to those members who have volunteered their time and hard work to make our club an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

Sincerely,

**Thomas K. Rankin, CPA, 2013 Treasurer**





## **Jim Elliott, CACSS President, 1990 and 1991**

*While writing the article about those who were presidents of CACSS over the past 40 years (Dec. 2013 Central Spine), I asked Jim Elliott, club president in 1990 and 1991, about his experiences as president. I was interested in learning about the trips to California that he and his wife Electra planned for the group. I had heard that many members of the club still remember those trips as some of the best the club has taken.*

*The letter I received from him about those travels captures what the club seems to be all about - learning together through some great experiences. So below, in Jim's words, are his reflections on special times with a great group of cactus and succulent lovers. Enjoy the memories.*

*By Jeanne Ann Brush*



Electra and Jim Elliott

Photo by Wendy Barrett

"Electra and I were deeply involved with CACSS for about a decade. In addition to our own club, we initiated memberships in the Tucson Society and functioned as de facto ambassadors to bring the two groups closer together. Gard Roper joined Electra and me as tour guides for the National Cactus Convention bus tours from Tucson to the DBG and over to the Arboretum in California, and then back. Chuck Hansen was Tucson's Convention Program Chair and he was very worried that the bus tours under our guidance would get back late and upset the schedule for organizational meetings. All three of our buses were back on time and none of his local buses had returned. It was very difficult to keep from smiling as his concern mounted with the distant trips well in hand and the local groups nowhere to be seen. I finally got to see him relaxed and actually smiling at breakfast the next day.

I think the highlights of our time in leadership were the three trips to California. We flew into Los Angeles and picked up a bus to San Diego the first time, with visits to area nurseries and taking in the San Diego club's Cactus Show at Balboa Park. The second trip was based close to the Huntington Gardens and again was an airplane flight to LAX. We visited nurseries that had tillandsia, bonsai, one that included a specialist in palms and other succulents, and also the Huntington Gardens. The third airline tour was our flight to the San Francisco area. We flew into San Jose and took a bus to visit several local nurseries as well as the Monterrey Aquarium. We then went north through San Francisco across the Golden Gate Bridge on our way to visit Herman Swartz's gardens and several commercial nurseries. Our full-size tour bus was really out of place on the narrow twisting road up to Herman's, but we made it. It was particularly nice to see dudleyas right out our bus windows on the road cuts!

There were a lot of incidents during our years that were funny and some not so funny. We had one couple on a trip that brought two full-size metal military foot lockers to pack their plants in. That was just the beginning of the laundry list of problems they caused me and I was thoroughly exasperated. All of that changed in a heartbeat when we were back to the DBG and the wife told me that she had never flown on an airplane before and that nobody had ever treated them so well. Damn. How can you stay angry with that?

Of course, you can never satisfy everybody, as I received complaints about "wasting time" at the Aquarium as it really was not about cactus. And lunch at restaurants on Cannery Row were more "waste." I always felt we had an obligation to experience as much of life as possible, so our itineraries were always filled with different types of growers and experiences. Some of the wonderful people we visited are now history, and I cherish their memories, regardless of any waste of time they might have represented. The days of getting 40 people on an airplane with baggage and today's security checks just about militates against doing these combo trips with airplanes/buses.

Electra and I were able to cash in 20 years of Good Will chips with the assorted growers to get us into areas that people outside of the business could only dream about. Much to the credit of our club's members, we would be welcome to visit again any place we went. We were blessed with very personable DBG leaders during those years and our relationship with the Garden was strengthened. After those years, we had had about all the fun we could stand and removed ourselves for a time to let the new leadership flourish."



**Plant Winners –  
January 26, 2014 CACSS Meeting**

<b><u>Winner's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Plant Name</u></b>
<b>Nancy Mumpton</b>	<b><i>Aloe picta</i></b>
<b>Tom Rankin</b>	<b><i>Agave x manfreda</i></b>
<b>Beth Kirkpatrick</b>	<b><i>Bursera microphylla</i></b>
<b>Jon Czaplicki</b>	<b><i>Agave parii</i></b>
<b>Kristen Fouts</b>	<b><i>Bursera microphylla</i></b>
<b>Dan Tarajcak</b>	<b><i>Agave maria</i></b>
<b>Barbie Crews</b>	<b><i>Pachycormus discolor</i></b>
<b>Irla Irwin</b>	<b><i>Aloe hardyi</i></b>
<b>Elizabeth Welch</b>	<b><i>Aloe somaliensis</i></b>

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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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