

# Central Spine



*July 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)

## **July 27, 2014 Meeting**

General Meeting, 2 pm  
Dorrance Hall

**Presenter: Scott McMahon**  
**Presentation: Euphorbia**

## **Articles**

- ◆ **President's Letter**
- ◆ **Neoraimondia**
- ◆ ***Aloes and Lilies of Ethiopia & Eretria***
- ◆ **Raffle Winners at the  
June 2014 General Meeting**
- ◆ **Plant Questions??? Whom To Contact!!!**

## **Presentation: Euphorbia** by Scott McMahon

I'm officially Cactaceae Collections Manager here at the DBG, where I've been for 13 years. Our collection is one of the largest and most complete in the world, with over 10,000 plants in total. I have a BS and MS in Plant Protection from the U of A and am a Certified Arborist, my first position here. I've been collecting Euphorbias since about '77 and a member of the CACSS since the mid-'90's. The talk will be an overview of Euphorbia and the characteristics that make the plants so fascinating. Care and cultivation and anything else relevant to inspire the collector will be included.



A habitat shot of *E. virosa* (Scott has never been there)

## August *Central Spine* Deadline: August 7, 2014

### **2014 CACSS Officers**

President: Wayne Whipple  
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### **Directors-at-Large**

#### **Serving through December 2014**

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### **CACSS Program and Committee Leaders**

Archivist/Historian Lois Schneberger  
Audit Committee Mike Gallagher  
CSSA Affiliate Representative Sue Hakala  
Facebook Coordinator *Open position*  
Finances, Accounting Tom Rankin, Ingrid Swenson  
Holiday Party - December 2014 *Open Position*  
Library Paul Schueneman, Marty Shahan  
Membership Beth Kirkpatrick  
Members-Keeping-In-Touch Jo Davis  
Mailed Newsletter Subscriptions Sue Tyrrel  
Newsletter Diana Decker  
Nominations for Board Officers & Directors  
Jim Oravetz, Joe Barnes,  
Jeanne Ann Brush, Chuck Brush  
October Silent Auction Mike Gallagher  
Plant Rescues *Open Position*  
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings Sue Tyrrel  
Programs Deborah Mulholland  
(Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens,  
Special Interest Groups)  
Pumice Sales Gard Roper  
Refreshments Kat Hanna  
Show & Sale – 2015 Sue Tyrrel  
Website Beth Kirkpatrick

Telephone numbers, email addresses, and addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.

### **2014 Meetings**

**Sunday, July 27**  
**Board Meeting 11 am**  
**General Meeting 2 pm**

**Sunday, August 24**  
**General Meeting 2 pm**

**(Members are welcome to attend Board Meetings in Farrington Hall)**

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**President's Letter**  
**July 2014**  
**Wayne Whipple**

I trust everyone survived our first monsoon of the summer and the attendant haboob. Many trees in my area were blown over, and the powdery red dust still lingers. As I write this letter, I am watching the yard-maintenance crew using their high-powered blowers to pile up pine needles. We have three pine trees on our property, and it seems like every needle on them is now on the ground. It looks more like a mountain lot than one in a sandy desert.

A couple of important dates should be on your calendar for CACSS events. I always look forward to our October auctions, which have been mostly held in the Wildflower Garden Pavilion. Some of us were concerned that we would not be able to hold it there this year because of major construction being done at the Desert Botanical Garden. But our DBG contact assured me that the construction would not deter us from using the Pavilion again this year. So mark the date of Sunday, October 19, on your calendar. There is no better way for a collector to enlarge and enhance a collection of cacti and succulents than by winning the bids for the great plants donated by our Members. This event's success depends not only on the bidding for plants, but also on the many donations of high-quality plants. Mike Gallagher is this year's Chair, and I am sure he will get all the help he needs from our Members. As always, this auction is in lieu of a regular general meeting for the month.

The other date to reserve is Sunday, December 7, for the annual Holiday Party. Dana Hiser has booked the event at the Mountain View County Center, Scottsdale, the same place that it has been held for the past four years. This is always a fun affair, and I am sure it will be this year as well. We do, however, need a Member or Members to organize the details for the party, which consist mainly of coordinating the food and getting the room set up for the dinner. If you can help, please let me know.



**Send article and photo submissions  
for the *Central Spine*  
to the Editor:  
Diana Decker  
dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825**

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**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.**

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**Welcome To New Members**

**Mike and Jan Borden  
Anita Challis  
Antje Schneider  
Kyle Vanden Bosch  
Janet Wise  
Jean Zapata**

**Membership Chair:  
Beth Kirkpatrick**

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

**Jo Davis**

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# Neoraimondia

Article and photos by Scott McMahon



*Neoraimondia arequipensis*

Neoraimondia is a little known genus of South American columnar cacti, and although we have a few large specimens here in the Garden, it is hardly seen in the Phoenix area. Why, I don't know, because our largest one, *Neoraimondia herzogiana*, was accessioned in 1939 and has survived the extremes of our weather here for all these years. The other species, *N. arequipensis*, is rare here because it is more frost tender.

*Neoraimondia herzogiana* is named after Antonio Raimondi, an Italian-born Peruvian geographer and scientist. Many schools, theaters, museums, and institutes of higher learning also carry his name. While in Peru, I was fortunate enough to see *Puya raimondii*, the world's largest Bromeliad growing at around 13,000 ft. *Neoraimondia herzogiana* grows in the highlands of central Bolivia, where it develops a single trunk and branches several feet above ground. *Neoraimondia arequipensis* is common along the coastal highlands of Peru and branches at or near the base.

An unusual element of Neoraimondias is that their spine clusters produce new spines and flowers every year, each spine cluster therefore growing longer every year. This growth is very atypical for the cactus family, so it's amazing to see areoles almost as long as one's finger.



*Puya Raimondi*



***Aloes and Lilies of Ethiopia & Eritria***  
**Book by Sebsebe Demissew and Inger Nordal**

**Google the title or  
cut and paste this website:**

**<http://nhm2.uio.no/botanisk/nbf/temp/Sebsebe%20et%20Nordal%202010%20Lilies%20-%20SCREEN%2020091220.pdf>**

**Some of the CACSS aloe collector members may like to look at this book, on sale in 2003, but now out of print. Scroll down on the website and you will find all the information, and pictures of the flora in Ethiopia and Eritrea. It really is a good read and very informative. Ethiopia has one of the largest fresh water lakes, which is a result of the vast amount of rainwater it receives.**

***Raffle Winners at the June 2014 General Meeting***

- 1) Carpet Design Squares\*\*\*\*\*Gard Roper***
- 2) Aloe Varigeta\*\*\*\*\*Rita Gosnell***
- 3) Euphorbia\*\*\*\*\*Jim Oravetz***
- 4) Cactus sp.\*\*\*\*\*Tom Morrissey***
- 5) Dorstenia\*\*\*\*\*Mike Gallagher***

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*All such material represents a comment and/or personal opinion of the author.*

## 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. 4.

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

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

### **DEAN PATRICK**

480-759-0312

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

### **STEVE PLATH**

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

### **DAN SMITH**

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

### **BOB TORREST**

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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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