

Central Spine



October 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

Sunday, October 19

CACSS Silent Auction
2 pm, Wildflower Pavilion
Desert Botanical Garden

Plant drop off begins at 12 pm.

Articles

- President's Letter
- Caravan Trip to Tucson
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- Caravan Trip to Tucson-Oct. 25 and 26
- Landscape Design with
Cacti and Succulents in Mind
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Annual CACSS Silent Auction – Sunday, October 19

By Mike Gallagher

The annual silent auction, otherwise known as horticultural eroticism, will be held in the Wildflower Pavilion at the Desert Botanical Garden on Sunday, October 19, starting at 2 pm. Please bring clean, disease-free plants, pots, and horticultural related items (books, art, etc.) for the auction. In addition to the silent auction, a normal live bidding auction for selected plants and unique items will precede the silent auction.

Items for the auction can be dropped off at the Wildflower Pavilion (the second roadway on the right after entering DBG from Galvin Parkway) starting at 12 noon. Please plan to drop off items, and then move your vehicle to a regular visitor parking spot.

Please have a bid sheet available for each item you are bringing (example attached). A few items that are also recommended – a pen for bidding (like Chicago voting – bid early and bid often), a pair of gloves if you have to handle larger specimens, and at least one sturdy box to carry your treasures home. The auction will be in lieu of a regular meeting this month.

If you have questions, contact Mike Gallagher: 602-942-8580 mgallagher26@cox.net

November *Central Spine* Deadline: November 8, 2014

2014 CACSS Officers

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CACSS Program and Committee Leaders

Archivist/Historian	Lois Schneberger
Audit Committee	Mike Gallagher
CSSA Affiliate Representative	Sue Hakala
Donations	Jim Oravetz
Facebook Coordinator	Dan Smith
Finances, Accountin	Ingrid Swenson
Holiday Party - December 2014	Sue Glenn
Library Co-Chairs	Wendy Barrett, Nancy Mumpton
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	<i>Open Position</i>
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings	Sue Tyrrel
Programs (Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens, Special Interest Groups)	Deborah Mulholland
Pumice Sales	Gard Roper
Refreshments	Kat Hanna
Show & Sale – 2015	Sue Tyrrel
Website	Dan Smith

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

2014 CACSS Meetings

Sunday, November 23

General Meeting 2 pm

Board Meeting 11 am

Sunday, December 7

Annual Holiday Party

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

October 2014

Wayne Whipple

This is the time of year that we should be inviting speakers for our 2015 General Meetings. I encourage members to give me names of people whom they would like to hear make a presentation. Even better rather than sending me the names extend the invitations yourself, but you must coordinate the invitations with me in order to avoid double bookings. Gard Roper has volunteered to arrange speakers for January and February, which means there are many available dates for program speakers. We do not hold General Meetings in April (Show & Sale), October (Annual Auction) and December (Holiday Party). Hope to hear from you soon.

Have you checked out our Facebook page where we have our own CACSS Group? Thanks go to Dan Smith who reorganized our Facebook and created the group format. I had my reservations about participating, but I am glad I did join. Many fantastic pictures have been posted with their scientific latin names along with useful information. Sensible questions are also being asked, which are being answered intelligently. Our new Facebook page began only a couple of months ago but has already attracted over 100 participants, several of whom joined our Society as new members. If you have not joined our Facebook group, you might want to check it out and will probably be glad that you did.

Our membership Chair Beth Kirkpatrick has got our CACSS PayPal Account set up for business on our website. We already have had two people use it to pay their 2015 dues to become new members.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 7, at the Mountain View Community Center in Scottsdale. The chairperson for this year's event is Sue Glenn, who will be aided by her daughter, Emily Glenn. Cindy Capek is also assisting with the party. More details will be forthcoming.

**Send article and photo
submissions for the *Central Spine*
to the Editor:**

Diana Decker

dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825



Lee Brownson auctions off a special plant.



Caravan Trip to Tucson – October 25 and 26

As CACSS members we enjoy the camaraderie of going on buying trips to nurseries in Arizona and California. This year, instead of a bus trip, we are doing a caravan to visit some of our favorite Tucson nurseries as well as spending a day with Mark Dimmitt at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum.

We will be leaving the morning of October 25 for the nursery tour. Because we are going in individual vehicles, you will have flexibility in the nurseries we choose to visit. Most of us will want to visit Bach's, B & B and Plants of the Southwest, but there will be time to visit other nurseries. Please refer to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society website for the Tucson nurseries. http://www.tucsoncactus.org/html/nurseries_books.html

Rooms will be arranged, which will be the only advance payment you will need to make. You will also be responsible for all meals.

Sunday, October 26, is a full day at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum with a special tour by Mark Dimmitt. With beautiful fall weather, this will be a fun and educational trip.

Members can sign up for the trip until Oct. 15. Rita Gosnell and Gard Roper are coordinating this trip. Please let Rita know if you plan to attend, your roommate or single preference, if you plan to drive or need a ride, and if you are attending the Museum tour on Sunday, as reservations are needed. She is also happy to answer any questions regarding the trip.

Rita Gosnell

gosnellatir@yahoo.com

480-595-0292



Landscape Design With Cacti and Succulents in Mind

by Lillian Barker

Fall is a great time to get back outside to work cacti and succulents into our landscapes. But before we get our shovels, let's consider a few design ideas, lest we end up with what some landscape designers call "the garden of despair", in other words, one cactus in the middle of the front yard surrounded by gravel.

1. First, decide how you plan to use the space. Dogs and kids need a place to play without getting close to a cholla or mashing your favorite aloe. Also, consider sunny or shady areas that will draw you outdoors in different seasons.
2. Next, decide if you want a formal or natural garden style. Formal rows of golden barrels or lines of *Pedilanthus* are in vogue right now and can be very exciting, especially with modern architecture. On the contrary, a natural effect can be achieved by the thoughtful arrangement of plants chosen for color and size as if placed there by Mother Nature herself.
3. We love cacti and succulents from all over the world, so I would suggest that aside from collections, we choose either a Sonoran, a Mediterranean, or a tropical landscape style. For example, cluster your tropicals on a protected patio or your Mediterranean plants near the door where you will notice if they need water. But don't plant a rosemary (Mediterranean) or jade (tropical) next to a Hedgehog cactus. It's not only an impossible watering situation, but it creates a kind of culture clash. Think about a Blackfoot Daisy instead.
4. Anticipate the future size of the plants. It takes a strong imagination, but it will solve many future problems. You won't have to keep trimming the 6-foot Texas sage that you planted in front of a window, or get stabbed in the behind by an *Agave americana* when you get out of the car. With thought to size, you may not have to trim shrubs very much at all.
5. Plant a tree, preferably a native or near-native, but not smack-dab in front of a window or too close to the house. Otherwise, in a few years you'll see only the trunk of the tree when you look out the window. A Palo Verde makes a great space for succulents that need filtered light.
6. Distinguish between accent/specimen plants, shrubs, vines and ground covers. Saguaros, ocotillos or totem pole cacti can serve as focal points, especially when surrounded by lower massed plantings of shrubs or ground covers as seen in nature. Rows of the same plant can make a dramatic statement in a formal garden. But too many types, too close together, disturb the eye.
7. Boulders have their place in the landscape--and that place is half-buried in the ground! That way they look like they've been there since the dawn of time and not just dropped from a space ship. They are the perfect way to show off cacti tucked in beside them as they grow in the wild.

8. It's safer to mass an odd number of the same plant (staggered in natural landscapes) rather than a jumble of varieties.
9. Sketch out a simple plan with walkways, seating areas, and places you want to screen. Then make the plant list and research the care of each, deciding how much time you want to spend on maintenance.
10. Look at gardens you like--especially Desert Botanical Garden--and take pictures. Steal ideas! The DBG library is full of great garden design books for inspiration.

This is just the beginning of a great landscape adventure as you learn to show off cacti and succulents in your garden. I rely on *Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes* by Judy Meilke and *Arizona Gardener's Guide* by Mary Irish, but there are many more books and plenty of people to learn from in CACSS.



Stapelia

Photo by Lillian Barker



Join The Celebration! Annual Holiday Party

1:30 to 5:00 pm Sunday, December 7
Mountain View Park Community Center, 8625 N Mountain View Rd.,
Scottsdale

We have room for 100 members. Please RSVP with your name and the item you will bring to pass (Main dish, Appetizer, Salad/Vegetable or Dessert). Please include a serving spoon/ fork with your item you bring. We will have a plant exchange for anyone interested. If you bring a plant, you will get a ticket from Jo Davis. Jo will be conducting the exchange during the meal, so please wait for your number to be called before taking a plant. We will have plates, napkins and eating utensils.

RSVP to Sue Glenn (920) 327-3137 - ekmglen@hotmai.com



Publication of material in the Central Spine does not imply agreement with the ideas expressed therein by any portion of the membership of the CACSS, nor does it constitute an endorsement or support for any portion of such material by the CACSS, or the Central Spine, regardless of any position or office held by the author. 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 page 3.

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

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dawsonlithops@hotmail.com

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

MIKE GALLAGHER

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

DEAN PATRICK

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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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