

Central Spine



August 2015 Newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America On the Web at www.centralarizonacactus.org

2015 CACSS Meeting
2 pm, Sunday, August 30
Presenter:
Jason Eslamieh
Presentation:
An Introduction to the Genus
Boswellia

Articles

- ◆ President's Letter
- ◆ Photo-Night-Blooming *Cereus*
- ◆ Library Notes
- ◆ Your *Adenium* is Rotting
- ◆ CACSS 2015 Meeting Schedule
- ◆ Please send articles for the newsletter
- ◆ Plant Questions??? Whom To Contact!!!



Jason Eslamieh

See photo of his greenhouse photo on page 4.

Biography of the Speaker, Jason Eslamieh

After 26 years of practicing architecture and representing Arizona State University in building design and the development of the arboretum, Jason retired in 2004 as the "Campus Architect." He started a research nursery in Tempe to pursue a twenty-year passion on the study of three genera in the Burseraceae family with the objective to write about each genus: *Boswellia*, *Bursera* and *Commiphora*. *Cultivation of Boswellia* was published in 2011 and *Cultivation of Bursera* in 2014. The next book on the genus *Commiphora* is on the way and is scheduled to be published end of 2015.

Jason occasionally contributes to the CSSA Journal and he is a co-author of a science paper on the chemical compounds of *Boswellia* resin. He is presently working on a series of hybridization of *Boswellia* species to increase certain medicinal compounds in their resin through the possible heterosis.

September 2015 *Central Spine* Deadline: September 9, 2015

2015 CACSS Officers

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CACSS Program and Committee Leaders

Archivist/Historian	Lois Schneberger
CSSA Affiliate Representative	Sue Hakala
Facebook Coordinator	Dan Smith
Finances/Accounting	Nick Diomede, Ingrid Swenson
Holiday Party - December 6, 2015	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
Nominating Committee 2015	Chuck Brush, Dan Smith, Jo Davis, Lois Schneberger
October 2015 Silent Auction	Mike Gallagher
Plant Rescues	<i>Open Position</i>
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings	Sue Tyrrel
Monthly Speaker-Programs	Diana Crummey
Pumice Sales	Gard Roper
Refreshments	Kat Hanna
Show & Sale – 2016	Dan Smith
Website	Beth Kirkpatrick

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

For questions, and to send articles and photos for the newsletter, contact the newsletter editor, Diana Decker: (602) 220-9825 dianadec@cox.net

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
August 2015
Wayne Whipple

I think everyone in the Valley got the big storm on August 10 except for Karen and me. We watched the news reports and read the newspaper coverage and felt left out. So it is back to the hose and watering can for us.

I am looking forward to our August 30 speaker on a subject we seldom hear. Jason Eslamieh, owner of Miniatree Garden, originally joined CACSS in 2010 and ever since then, I have wanted to visit his garden in Tempe. He is an expert on *Boswellia* trees, 80% of which come from the rough environments of Somalia, where they are grown for their sap, which is a source for frankincense. There are not many experts on *Boswellia*, and Jason will review 19 of the species. Maybe sometime in the future we will be able to visit his nearby nursery.

It is again time to make sure that you have a couple of important dates on your calendar. Our very popular outdoor auction is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, and will be held in the Wildflower Garden Pavilion. The success of this auction depends on the generosity of our members in donating outstanding specimens. From my experience, the plants are won at very reasonable bids. There is no better way for a Member to enlarge and enhance a collection of cacti and succulents than by winning great plants donated by our Members. Mike Gallagher is this year's Chair--he was last year's as well--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 6, 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. This year's Holiday Party will be special as we will be recognizing our new Honorary Lifetime Members: Doug Dawson, Leo Martin, Scott McMahon, Gard Roper, and Lois Schneberger. Again, Sue Glenn along with her daughter Emily Glenn will be handling the details for this event. More details will be forthcoming.

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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.

Jason Eslamieh's Greenhouse



CACSS NEW MEMBERS

**Amanda Aros
Carol Crum
Gina Ewert
Maggie Hines
Cassandra Winchell**

**Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrick**

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





A night blooming *Cereus* in July Photo by Lillian Barker

LIBRARY NOTES

Nancy Mumpton

Reminder:

Please be sure that when you return books to CACSS library, you hand the item(s) to one of the co-librarians. Setting the items on one of our tables of books does NOT ensure that we will see them, know they are returns, and retrieve the check-out cards removing your responsibility.

The final chapter on the story of the three missing copies by Mark Dimmitt [et al.] of *Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance* is that we located the one copy that had recently been purchased. We were not able to retrieve the others. If anyone happens to see a copy (good used or new) of this book locally or online available for \$25.00 or less, please let me know. We would like to have at least one more for the library. Currently, online they are running anywhere from \$35 to \$95.

Our speaker this month is local business owner Jason Eslamieh from Miniature Garden (he also has an online store on Ebay). We have a copy of his book, *Cultivation of Bursera* (reviewed by Tom Gatz in the June 2015 issue of Central Spine), and expect to have available his other book, *Cultivation of Boswellia*, when he speaks.

Our library also has a copy of the other book reviewed in June: *Field Guide to Cacti and Other Succulents of Arizona* by Peter Breslin [et al.] It was generously donated by Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society.



Your *Adenium* is Rotting

By Dan Smith

One of the things *Adenium* growers fear most is rot, but rot does not have to be feared if caught in time.

This spring I brought out one of my favorite *Adenium* plants to try to get an early start to the season. Although I knew this plant was a late starter, I figured, if I just kept an eye on it, I could overcome that issue. The temperatures were also in my favor as February and March were well above the seasonal norms. What could go wrong with this thinking?

In the middle of February, with temperatures in the high 70's to the mid 80's, I trimmed my *Adenium* and put it in its normal location for the summer. This spot faces east for morning sun but, early in the season, a large tree gives it shade. Along with the early season and the shade, I added a thick layer of top dressing to hold in moisture. I have always heard that three strikes and you are out; but this time it is three strikes and you rot.



Photograph 1



Photograph 2

In the middle of March, I was beginning to become concerned with the lack of growth. Nothing was visibly wrong with the plant, but the *Adenium* around it were showing new growth and this plant was not. I checked the firmness of the caudex and found softness at the soil line. Of course, this could only mean one thing: it was starting to rot. The first photograph (photograph 1) shows a large root, which had rotted. The root actually fell off the plant as I was removing it from the soil. You can see that there is still more rot that needs to be removed.

As I continued to check the plant, I found more trouble. Photograph 2 shows rot on the surface and it looks like the plant was attempting to grow new roots below the rot. This would have to get worse if it was not stopped. It is important to thoroughly check the plant and make sure all the troubled areas are found and removed.



Photograph 3



Photograph 4

After sterilizing my knife with alcohol wipes, I began the operation. At this point I can only hope that the rot has not gone so far that the plant cannot be saved. It's very important to use a clean knife so that the rot does not spread to the clean part of the plant. I like to sterilize my knife after every cut.

Photograph 3 shows another rotting root which needs to be cut further back. All rot (the brown area) needs to be removed from the plant to ensure success.

After I am done cutting, I coat all the cuts with something to sterilize the surface. I often mix up a paste of Bordeaux Fungicide and paint all the cuts.

The next step is to let the plant dry out and make sure there is no rot remaining. I hung my plant in the garage where I knew it would be safe, but it's not necessary for the plant to be hung. Keep it anyplace where it will be warm and dry and will not contact any moisture. Do not worry about doing this; it will not hurt the plant. My plant hung in the garage for two weeks and was not harmed. In the middle of summer I would recommend one week only, but it really depends on the size of the plant, its health and the ambient conditions. The plant may dry out so much that it will appear soft. That's okay, as long as it is soft from being dry and not from rot. Photograph 4 shows my plant hanging in my messy garage.

Finally my plant was ready to go back in a pot. All the cuts should have hardened off so there is no place for the rot to start again. I would also recommend using new soil. The old soil is probably contaminated and should be discarded. Make sure the new soil is well draining. I use cactus mix with pumice added at about a two to one ratio: soil to pumice. Once it is in the pot, a light watering is recommended. At this time, it is best to keep it on the dry side until new growth starts. Remember that the plant will probably have to form new roots so it is important to be patient. The caudex should firm up after it has been watered, but that might take a little time. The watering is dependent on the ambient conditions. If it is the middle of summer, it

may need to be watered more often. Remember, if there are no leaves, there is no way for transpiration to take place, so easy does it.



Photograph 5

The earlier photos were taken on March 20. Photograph 5 shows a photo of the plant taken on June 20. While not as floriferous as normal, it is doing quite well. I am treating this plant normally with regards to watering and fertilizing.

Hopefully I have learned a lesson from this experience. There is no sense trying to hurry a plant that does not want to be hurried. Patience is something that I need to learn more about. Also, I hope this article will help you realize that rot does not have to be deadly if caught in time.

I would very much like to thank Sue Hakala for her help with this article. She was terrific. And finally, I apologize for the quality of the photos. They were not taken with an article in mind; they were taken for my education.



CACSS 2015 Meeting Schedule

Sunday, September 27 – 2:00 to 5:00 pm - Jeff Chemnick - Topic: The Greatest Wildflower Show on Earth – The Richtersveld and Namibia

Sunday, October 18 – Annual Show

Sunday, November 22, 2:00 to 5:00 pm – Leo Martin - Topic: Species and Raising Cycads from Seed

Sunday, December 6, 1 pm – Annual Party

Please Send Articles for Newsletter

For a more interesting newsletter, articles about plants and taking care of them are very important. Please send your articles or suggestions for topics to the editor: Diana Decker--dianadec@cox.net

*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 email Diana Decker, *Central Spine* editor, dianadec@cox.net, 602-220-9825. 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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Specializations include Growing from Seed, Flora of Namibia, *Lithops* and other Mesembs, *Melocactus*, Miniature Cacti and Succulents of Arizona.

MIKE GALLAGHER

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Specializations include *Aloe*, *Haworthia*, Columnar Cacti, and *Turbinicarpus*.

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Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, *Agave* and *Aloe*).

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Specializes in *Adenium*, raising *Adenium* from seed, grafting and *Adenium* culture in general

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

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