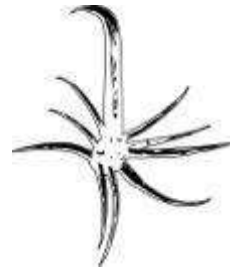


# Central Spine



## October 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](http://www.centralarizonacactus.org)

**2015 CACSS  
October Silent Auction  
2 pm Sunday, October 18  
Wildflower Pavilion  
Desert Botanical Garden**

**President's Letter  
2015 Meeting Schedule  
Boyce Thompson Arboretum's Plant Sale  
Library Notes  
Holiday Party  
PEG Points: What's Going on with the  
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Photos of the September Meeting by John  
Crummey  
Plant Questions: Whom to Contact?**

### OCTOBER SILENT AUCTION

The annual CACSS Silent Auction will be on Sunday, October 18, starting at 2 pm and held in the Wildflower Pavilion at the Desert Botanical Garden. This is our October activity and there will be no regular meeting for the month.

The event will start with a live auction of some more significant items, followed immediately by a silent auction; both combined usually see 600 items or more. Plants (cuttings and potted), seeds, pottery, garden art, horticultural books are welcome as donations. Donated items can be brought in starting at 11 am. All donations are tax deductible and documentation is available upon request. If you are donating something special for the live auction, please let Mike Gallagher know what it is ([mgallagher26@cox.net](mailto:mgallagher26@cox.net) or 602 942-8580); a description (and picture if available) will allow us to better let everyone know what is in store.

For the auction, try to bring a good box along to take home treasures, although some will be available on site. Bring a pen or pencil (bid early and bid often). Following items on various tables can be hectic, so a bidding buddy is a good option. Bid forms for donations will be available the day of the auction, and will be in an attachment in an email next week. Hope to see everyone in a bidding mood the on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**November 2015 Central Spine Deadline: November 6, 2015**

## 2015 CACSS Officers

### President:

w7676@msn.com

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480-460-3623

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## CACSS Program/Committee Leaders

Archivist/Historian	Lois Schneberger
Audit/Finance	Nick Diomede, Mike Gallagher, Carol Parrott
CSSAA Affiliate Representative	Sue Hakala
Facebook Coordinator	Dan Smith
Finance/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
Monthly Speaker/Programs	Diana Crummey
Newsletter	Diana Decker
Nominating Committee 2015-Chuck Brush, Dan Smith, Jo Davis, Lois Schneberger	
October Silent Auction	Mike Gallagher
Propagation and Education Group (PEG)	Tristan Davis
Plant Rescues	Open Position
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings	Sue Tyrrel
Refreshments	Kat Hanna
Show & and Sale 2016	Dan Smith
Website	Beth Kirkpatrick

*Telephone numbers, email addresses, and street addresses are in the Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.*

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

October 2015

Wayne Whipple

Are you ready for our big October Silent Auction on Sunday, October 18? I know I am but hope it is cooler than last year! I started my serious collecting of cacti and other succulents when I attended my first October auction in 2004, shortly after joining the CACSS. Here it is 11 years later, and I still get excited about this annual scramble and betting time. If you have never been to the October Silent Auction, start a new tradition and join your happy competitors in the Wildflower Pavilion at the Desert Botanical Garden.

Our Program Chair Diana Crummey is busy lining up General Meeting Speakers. If there are any cacti or succulent experts that you would like to have make a presentation, please contact Diana as she is always interested in your suggestions. You can find a list of our invited speakers on our website at [www.centralarizonacactus.org](http://www.centralarizonacactus.org). We do not hold General Meetings in April (Show & Sale), October (Annual Auction) and December (Holiday Party).

Our Membership Chair Beth Kirkpatrick reported on October 5 that our Membership had reached 437. The total may increase, so the year's total will definitely exceed the 414 membership record set in 2014.

Our Facebook followers have grown sharply over the past year. A year ago we had only 100 people signed into our Facebook account; today the number reached 565, a huge increase during the past year. Obviously, a large number of them are not CACSS Members so we have the potential of a further increase in Membership. If you have not joined our Facebook group, you might want to check it out and will be glad that you did. You will find many great pictures and informative comments

Reminder again: Our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, at the Mountain View Community Center in Scottsdale.



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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.**



**CACSS NEW MEMBERS**

John Cahill  
James Girsch  
Randall Heath  
Shirley Kafton  
Mary Kaminsky  
Stanley Kaminsky  
Mercedes McVey  
Richard Solum  
Paula Swanson

Membership Chair:  
Beth Kirkpatrick

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

**2015 Meeting Schedule**

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



For questions, and to send photos for the newsletter, contact the newsletter editor, Diana Decker: (602) 220-0925



**Boyce Thompson Arboretum's plant sale has been moved back a week to Friday, October 16 for members and beginning Saturday, October 17 for everyone through Sunday, October 25.**



**LIBRARY NOTES:**

Co-Librarians Wendy Barrett and Nancy Mumpton will be attending the Saturday, October 18 Auction at the DBG and will accept returns of CACSS Library materials.  
Nancy Mumpton



**Join The Celebration! Annual Holiday Party  
1:30 to 5:00 pm Sunday, December 6,  
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 or fork with the 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: Sue Glenn (920) 327-3137 - ekmglen@hotmail.com by Sunday, November 29.**



**PEG Points: What's Going on with the Propagation Education Group**

- **NEXT PEG MEETING: 10am-Noon, Saturday, November 14, 2015 at the Desert Botanical Garden's Whiteman Conference Room in the Webster Center**

**Growing from Seed Year-round with Limited Space**

Have you occasionally thought about growing cacti and succulents from seed, but always shied away from the effort? Have you always thought:

- *I'm sure it's REALLY complicated!*
- *I have enough trouble keeping cacti in my yard alive, surely I couldn't keep a seedling alive!*
- *I just simply don't have space!*
- *I can't afford a shade house!*
- *I'm not sure I'd live long enough to see the fruits of my labors...don't they grow \*really\* slowly?*

Well, if you can imagine yourself thinking any of the above, I can assure, you are not alone. A short three years ago, I was right there with ya.

**Why grow from seed?**

I guess for everyone, the reason(s) could vary. For me, it stemmed from my obsession with a certain type of cactus: *Cleistocactus*. Years ago, I - like many of you, I'm sure - decided that I must have \*all\* of the species in a certain genus. Of course, I only checked the *number* of species in the genus (50+) *after* I had made that decision. The trouble was that after the 30th or so species that I tracked down (getting plants from Germany, South Africa, England, Bulgaria, and all across the US), I hit a wall. A significant number of species in the genus simply were not available *anywhere* that I

knew of around the globe. At least not as plants. That's when I started looking seed lists instead of just plant lists.

That one modification in my obsession opened up a whole new world of possibilities. It was startling to see how many *more* species were available as seed rather than as plants. I was aghast that some of my "Most Wanted" species (like *C. morawetzianus*) were easily available as seed from several places. So, I started asking people who grew *Cleistocactus* and other cacti from seed how old they had to be to flower, and the answer was often as little as 3-4 years. Slow for plants in general, but I sat back and thought how fast the *last* ten years of my life have gone and began to believe waiting years watching my plants grow might not be such a bad idea after all! And, as it turns out, *Cleistocactus* are relatively fast growers compared to many other species of cactus. I realized I was definitely on to something.

### **Do I even have the space for growing from seed?**

I just wasn't sure. I'd been to Bach's in Tucson and seen their shade house operation where they grow literally thousands of seedlings at a time. Well, that was out of the question for my small house in Chandler! However, I started to do some research by asking a few of my cactus friends from around the country about how much space I *really* needed if I wanted to only grow just a few species. I was surprised by the answer across the board: very little space and time is needed! I didn't even need space outside, and I could do it all inside. Because I want to minimize the time needed to get cacti growing, I opted for a setup where I could use growing lights; that way I could make the seeds/cacti think it was summer and time to grow when it was the middle of winter. I could also better control how much light the plants got to guard against frying and etiolation. My setup ended up consisting of a small (22" long, 13" deep, 30" tall) three-tiered shelf setup with two small fluorescent light fixtures and a timer all purchased at the local box store. It takes up a small corner of my home office. I use small plastic leftover containers for pots and Ziploc baggies to provide humidity. Easy breezy.

### **How does the story end?**

I planted my first seed batch in January 2013, so I'm coming up on my third anniversary of growing from seed. On my first attempt, I sowed 36 species - 22 of which I have never seen offered for sale as plants anywhere in the US; not surprisingly, those 36 species included 14 species of *Cleistocactus*. Some I'd never heard of anyone growing, but I figured what the heck, and tried some really out of the World species (like *Arrojadoa marylandae*, *Eulychnia acida*, and *Arthrocerus rondonianus*) that I got from seed sellers around the World. The result: 20 species for which I still have seedlings today (now almost 3 years old). Only 16 species either never germinated (some I suspect were bad seed batches) or died at some point. That totaled **68** individual plants that I potted up at one time or another! SIXTY-EIGHT! Most of those I brought to CACSS monthly meetings for the auctions, just gave away to friends, or traded for other goodies. The first flower from a plant I grew from seed opened just this past Spring: *Mammillaria bocasana* var. *roseiflora*. I added four species of *Cleistocactus* to my collection that I've never seen offered as plants anywhere, the tallest of which is already 13" tall; I hope to see blooms on it next year. My seedling *Arrojadoa marylandae* won 1st Place this past year at our Annual Show & Sale in the Cactus Seedling Division too (my *Cleistocactus plagiostoma* seedling won 3rd)! With those kind of results, I've pretty much gone full-blast with that same setup year round. I sowed seeds three times in 2014 and already three times in 2015. It's been a great learning experience and a great way to increase my collection.

### **How will your story end?**

If you were like me and reluctant to take the dive into growing from seed, I encourage you to start your own story and see how great the results can be. You don't need a lot of time, you don't need a lot of space, and you don't need a lot of money. You can do it. Your obsession will thank you for it. And do you know the *best* way to help figure out what you can do and how you can do it? Attend a

PEG meeting! Everyone is there to help you on this journey and make sure you enjoy it in the process! So, I hope to see you all there at our next meeting in November. And, if you are going to grow any *Cleistocactus*, maybe we can work out a seedling trade in a year or two?!

### UPDATES to the PEG Seed Depot List (as of October 3, 2015)

\*\* Seeds are in packets of 20-25 (sometimes more) unless otherwise labeled.

\*\*Cost is \$1 per packet; if you donate a packet of identified seed, you only pay 50¢ per packet.

\*\*Seeds are only available at monthly CACSS meetings or at PEG meetings.

\*\*If you would like to donate seeds or have any questions about the Seed Depot, please contact Tristan Davis (minime8484@hotmail.com).

**NOTE: Full PEG List is now on the club's website. Check it out!**

### NEWLY ADDED:

*Aloe hybrid (austroarabica x ?)*

*Austrocactus spiniflorus*

*Cipocereus minensis*

*Cleistocactus buchtienii*

*Cleistocactus flavispinus*

*Cleistocactus strausii*

*Corryocactus melanotrichus*

*Mammillaria grahamii*

*Opuntia macrocentra*

*Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus*

*Cipocereus crassisepalus*

*Cleistocactus baumannii*

*Cleistocactus candelilla*

*Cleistocactus laniceps*

*Consolea macracantha ssp guantanamo*

*Cylindropuntia imbricata*

*Nolina microcarpa*



*Arrogedoa marylandae*



*Cleistoactus morawetzianeesi*



*Mammillaria bocasana ssp bocasana roseiflora*





## Photos of the September Meeting by John Crummey



Members and guests study plants to decide which plants to bid on.



Mike Gallagher, left, tells members about the October plant sale. President Wayne Whipple listens.



Doug Dawson left, talks with the speaker, Jeff Chemnick

## 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](mailto: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???

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](mailto: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**

480-893-1207

[dawsonlithops@hotmail.com](mailto: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**

480-759-0312 [desertpatrick@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:revegdude1@juno.com)

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

#### **DAN SMITH**

480.981.9648 [smithdans@cox.net](mailto:smithdans@cox.net)

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

#### **BOB TORREST**

480-994-3868

[robertst9114@msn.com](mailto: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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