

July 2005

CSSA Convention!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

31st Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc. (CSSA) to be held in Scottsdale featuring Huge Plant and Book Sale Open to the Public

What: 6-day convention for CSSA members from all over the world, featuring 21 speakers from Europe, USA, Africa; workshops, plant sale, book sale, field trips devoted to cacti and other succulents of the world. Hosted by the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, an affiliate of the CSSA.

When: Friday-Wednesday, August 5-10, 2005

Where: Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Indian Bend and Scottsdale Rds

Details: The CSSA, founded in 1929, is a charitable, educational, and conservation-oriented organization. The CSSA produces the world's longest-running journal devoted to the study and protection of cactus and other succulents, the Journal of the CSSA.

The CSSA also: funds research and promotes habitat conservation; publishes an additional scholarly journal, *Haseltonia*; arranges field trips to succulent habitats throughout the world, such as Madagascar, Chile, Kenya, and the Four Corners Region of the USA; holds an annual plant show and sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California; and maintains a succulent plant seed exchange.

The CSSA Convention, held every two years since 1941, provides four days of lectures on succulent plant habitats, conservation, exploration, cultivation, and discovery. An international panel of speakers is featured. Monday, August 8, 2005, will feature five different field trips to regional sites of interest to succulent lovers.

The plant and book sale is open to the general public with no admission charge. Hours will be 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 6-7 and 9-10, 2005. There will be about 20 vendors from all over the USA of exotic cactus and succulent plants and containers, and thousands of books devoted to cactus and other succulent plants from desert habitats. Cash, check, MasterCard, and VISA will be accepted.

Further Information:

Information for publication: info@centralarizonacactus.org or convention@cssainc.org

The CSSA Convention Web site is www.cssainc.org/convent.html

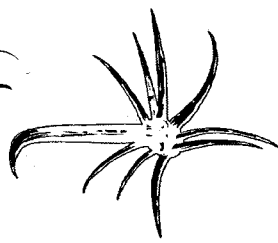
The CSSA home page is www.cssainc.org

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society home page is www.centralarizonacactus.org

Local convention chair is Leo Martin, 602-852-9714 leo@possi.org

On The Web at <http://www.centralarizonacactus.org/>

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



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Calendar

July 31, Sunday

Regular club meeting Dorrance Hall 2:00pm

Judy Mielke, senior landscape architect with **Logan Simpson Design**, Tempe, previously of the Desert Botanical Garden
Landscaping with Succulents

August 5-10 CSSA National Convention

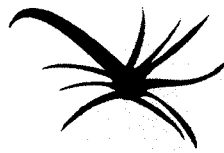
August 28, Sunday

Regular club meeting Dorrance Hall 2:00pm

Leo Martin, CACSS Board Member and Past President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America
2004 Field Trip to Madagascar

At the CACSS show and sale in April **Jim Sudals pottery** was sold so quickly that several members did not get what they wanted. **Jim will sell pottery at the June 26th meeting.** Jim is a longtime CACSS member and has helped us each year increase the profits in our raffle with a nice donation.

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



JO
DAVIS

Interested in one of the name badges you see other members wearing? You can have one of your very own! Talk to Jo Davis at the meeting or send her a check for \$7.50 made out to "Jo Davis" to her home address:

2714 W. Monte Ave
Mesa, AZ 85202

Publication of the material in the Central Spine does not imply agreement with the ideas expressed therein by any portion of the membership of CACSS, nor does it constitute an endorsement or support for any portion of such material by CACSS, or the Central Spine, regardless of any position or office held by the author(s). All such material represents a comment and/or personal opinion of the author(s).

Around My (Or Your) Desert Garden.....Bob Torrest

June 30....Soon after May 23, the date for the first article, both *ceiba acuminata* (in a 5 gallon pot) and *acacia pennatula* (feather acacia) finally leafed out (an old one that has been through some frosts). Apparently at 110F they decided that winter was over. Several months ago in an effort to develop some more shade, a number of 6 foot trees in 5 gallon pots were planted. The palo brea and hybrid palo verde are doing fine as is an *acacia saligna*. There were two *eucalyptus spathulata* but only one remains. A *melaleuca* (paperbark tree) planted even earlier never really grew and has finally given up (perhaps because of residual herbicide in the soil after 22 years). The *chorisia speciosa* leaves are all brown and it is unlikely that it will come back. I think some losses are typical in the first summer when planting large trees from 5 gallon containers.

Trees flowering in the last month include *caesalpinia mexicana* (mexican bird of paradise), *acacia craspedocarpa* (leather leaf), mexican palo verde, desert willow and an african acacia. Driving by there seem to be some royal poincianas (*delonix regia*) along the street in front of the main Scottsdale library. If you live in a frost free area, or can create a warm microclimate, you might try this great shade tree They grow readily from seed which are easy to find in south Florida.

Cacti flowering in full sun include four of the *stenocereus*....*thurberi* (Arizona organ pipe), *gummosus* (*pitahaya agria*) with its large tubular flowers and elegant look, *rathbunia* - which has been flowering for months, and *schottii* (*senitas*). *Cereus huntingtoniana* is a bit less common with a unique angular look, long black spines and lots of flowers. *Cereus aethiops* is medium sized with colorful flowers and appreciates some shade. The other large *cereus* varieties have been flowering on and off for a month or more. The *ferocacti* include *acanthodes*, *rectispinus* and *pilosus*. A nice book by Pierre Fischer "70 Common Cacti of the Southwest" has good descriptions to help distinguish the 3 Arizona barrels.

In the last month lots of smaller cacti have flowered. *Trichocereus* varieties with their large flowers are easy to grow and should be more commonly used. There are a range of shapes, textures and spine color. *Trichocereus huascha* (*echinopsis*, *helianthocereus*... it depends on the book) was flowering at the start of the month and at the end with lots of bright red or red-orange flowers in both sun and shade. *Cleistocacti* also continued to flower thru most of June. In succession there were flowers on various *echinopsis* (I still distinguish them from *trichocereus*), *hamatocactus*, *coryphantha*, *copiapoa*, *thelocactus*, *parodia* and *leuchtenbergia*. The native *mammillaria* flowered a couple of times and towards the end of the month the *melocacti* had their turn as did some *notocacti*.

Other succulents flowering included *aloes*...*sladeniana*, *rauhii* and *karasbergensis* (one of the best!). A 12 foot *pachycormis discolor* flowered for weeks as did some *adeniums*. *Pachypodium namaquanum* finally started leafing out (the one you can put in the ground).

Succulents are often sold in 1 gallon black plastic pots and may look fine at the nursery. But, when you get them home, keep the pots in the shade and water more often than you would for plants in the ground. A 1 gallon pot filled with a good fast draining dry soil can reach 140F when left in the sun with dry air temperatures of 110F. When moist the soil tracks the air temperature and will dry out in a day or two. In shade or filtered sunlight, the dry soil will lag below the air temperature. In the ground, even just a few inches below the surface but in the sun, the temperatures will be substantially moderated with a maximum of about 105F and less when wet.

NOTE - Please let me know what you think of this kind of general article and how it might be modified to make it more useful to you.

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CACSS Board Meeting minutes for June 26, 2005

Tom Ballen reported that the club realized a profit of \$3621.38 from this year's Show and Sale. There is \$14,639.09 in the general fund and \$3372.36 in the plant rescue fund. We had 217 members as of June 8.

211 people are registered for the CSSA Convention in August. The room commitment and opening banquet commitment have been met, however, the closing banquet commitment may not be as of June 26. Approximately \$3650 in convention expenditures was approved. Volunteers are still needed for this event.

The idea of a Fall Plant Sale was clarified. It would not be in place of a trip, but rather, an extra opportunity to obtain plants and raise money. If we are to have a trip, a volunteer is needed to organize it.

The Rescue Committee is looking for new projects in addition to Verrado. Contact Lee Brownson with suggestions.

Regarding monthly speakers, the need for them to use a microphone was discussed, again, as was the necessity of identifying them in the Central Spine.

The possibility of placing our extra library books in the monthly Silent Auctions, a few per month, was discussed.

Doug Dawson recommended that a calling list be organized so that club communications can be broadened to those without e-mail

A new refreshment chairman is being sought for the general meetings.

President's Note For A Little Help

I've been really busy since the last General Meeting with several personal matters taking up most of my attention. In addition, I face a "good news/bad news" situation regarding the upcoming CSSA Convention (which I hope you are planning to attend and/or at which you have signed up to volunteer.)

At the last Board Meeting, Leo asked me if I would be interested in having my yard as one of the stops on the Member Garden Tour bus trip on Monday, August 8. Of course, I am thrilled to have people come see my garden – that is the good news. The bad news is that I was given only a month to do all of the work needed to make it presentable, especially since the other two gardens are nothing less than spectacular.

I want to represent the CACSS as best I can. On the weekends, I have been trying to bring some semblance of order to my shaded potting area. I've put a few things into the ground that I should have planted last Spring. I am trying to label as many plants as possible.

I have realized that I sure could use some help. If anyone is ready, willing, and able to give me a hand, it would be greatly appreciated. Everyone so inclined is invited a work party at my house on Saturday morning, July 30. It will start at 7 am and go to 9 am. There will be coffee, sweet rolls, fresh fruit, juice and plenty of water. The work will be easy – mostly cleaning up plants (picking out leaves and such) and placing labels. The only thing you need to bring, if you have them, are long "plant tweezers."

Please RSVP so that I can have an idea of how many people might show up. My phone number is 480-951-9494 and my email is lsbrownson@cox.net.

Mini Bits.....Ray Daley

MINI BITS.....it was good to see Ken Jones at the June meeting ,up and around again after his stroke.....and Deborah Mulholland is back at meetings again - I guess her job change means no more little bags of peanuts on the bus trips.....after returning from yet another trip back to the Ohio humidity, I've come to the conclusion that the word "Albuquerque" is a Indian word meaning "constant construction zone", and the word "Oklahoma" is another Indian word meaning "place with much bad pavement".....saw an interesting AZ license plate the other day - "50 TOES"I'm probably not the only one who has a favorite plant - my single all-time favorite happens to be Rue-Anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*), a charming little woodland wildflower we had in our woods back in Ohio. Out here I have a different favorite - earlier this year it was our Texas Mt.Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) - the scent of those flowers reminds me of the grape flavored gum I used to get as a kid or the grape soda/pop I'd get on Saturday night when my cousins and I would go into town. Later in the season it was our 'Chrysler Imperial' rose - could anything smell better? A couple days later it was the *Trichocereus* (ok *Echinopsis*!) 'Glorious' - even though the flowers don't smell at all, the color lives up to the name. Oh, and I can't overlook our Hibiscus - it has to be my favorite when it blooms. A co-worker once likened it to a Tahitian sunset (which prompted an interesting conversation); I bought it because it has the gaudiest flowers I've ever seen - 6" across, pink, yellow and orange with ruffled edges. I'm sure there are other favorites that'll come along as the seasons progress - am I too fickle?.....the other day while doing some dead-heading on a pad opuntia my mind started wandering and ended up back at a cousin I had who was a chemist and got into making wine at home out of anything he could find - the elderberry wine was quite good, the mint wine was odd, but the weirdest was made from dried milk solids. Even he didn't like it Then I wandered forward in time to a Cincinnati cactus club friend who made wine from prickly pear fruits. It was, well, to be kind I'll say it was interesting. Anyone out there ever tried prickly pear wine?.....now that our screwbean mesquite is dropping its seeds, it's providing me with a pretty good general exercise program - stretching, bending, squatting, reaching, grasping, testing depth perception and critical reasoning (should I reach into that agave/cactus?).....Ray D.

Plants, Plants, Plants.....Moving Sale

CACSS member Bill Cook is moving out of state and would like to find nice homes for most of his cactus collection. He also would like to raise a little money for the CACSS.

This Sunday, July 24th, there will be a one hour silent auction at Bill's house with all proceeds going to the CACSS. It will be open for inspection and bidding at 1 pm and will close at 2 pm. Yes, it will be hot but he is moving soon and can't wait for better weather and there are too many plants to move them all to the DBG for our regular meeting. That means the adventurous souls who will brave the heat will have a good shot at getting some of these plants:

Bill lives at 401 W. La Jolla Drive in Tempe. This is very close to the Mill exit off of US-60 (north 1/2 mile to Southern, west 1/4 mile to Kyrene, south a few blocks to La Jolla, and then west 1/2 a block). If you can't





CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
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 PHOENIX, AZ 85082-3572
 WWW.CENTRALARIZONACACTUS.ORG



ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT
 CENTRAL SPINE ISSUE IS: AUGUST 10, 2005
 SEND TO GALYNKJ@COX.NET

95254+5254 65



Plant Questions????????????????????Who To Contact!!!!

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list (just call or E-mail Bob Torrest) For now, with the first three the list is simply alphabetical with principle interests. When more members add their information the list will also be cross referenced by topic.

DOUG DAWSON - 480.8931207 - doug.dawson@gmail.maricopa.edu
 Lithops, other mesembs, Namibia and its flora Growing from seed, Melocacti

MIKE GALLAGHER - 602.9428580 - gallman@azboss.net
 Aloes, haworthias, Columnar cacti, turbinicarpus

BOB TORREST - 480.9943868 - robertst9114@msn.com
 Desert landscaping and unusual trees and shrubs including fruit Aloes, agaves, Columnar cacti, trichocereus, opuntia