

# CENTRAL SPINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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

## August...2005.....President's Letter

WOW! That's the best way I can describe the 2005 CSSA Convention held recently in Scottsdale. There are many other superlatives I could use to try to convey just how successful the convention turned out...fantastic, incredible, stupendous...you get the idea. It was a great event and I heard many, many positive comments from those who attended.

I want to say a HUGE thank you to all of the CACSS members who pitched-in to help put the conference together. Leo Martin, chairman of the host club committee, put together an extraordinary group of people. We should all doff our hats to the **50 plus** volunteers who worked before, during and after the event. They worked hard and it showed. 50 names are too many to list in this small space, but each one of them should be proud of their contributions. The rest of the CACSS is indebted to this group for making our Society look really good to over 300 people.

Leo also deserves congratulations for the great program he put together. Every talk was well attended and every speaker got high marks for their presentations.

The CSSA Convention Committee warrants our thanks for selecting our fair city for this year's site. It allowed a lot of our members to attend who normally wouldn't travel to a convention. I know everyone I talked to had a good time.

### Next Up

Now we have about two months before our next REALLY BIG event, our Annual Silent Auction, held in lieu of our October meeting. Everyone needs to review his/her/their collection and pick one or two special plants to donate to the auction. I know that you will because, each year I've been a member, the selection gets bigger and better. Don't forget to start saving your money; I guarantee there will be several plants you will want to take home.

In the meantime, someone one in the Society should hold an Open Garden in late September or early October. Open gardens are some of the most enjoyable activities we have. It's a great time to see someone else's "special babies" and get to know fellow members a little better. Don't be bashful, there is no garden or collection too small. After all, an Open Garden is really just an excuse for a party.

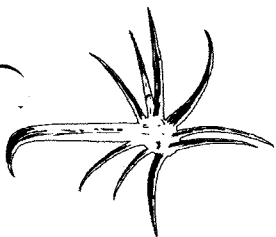
### A Big Favor

I do have a really big favor to ask of all members. It involves money. No, I am not going to ask you to give the CACSS money! Our group currently has over \$15,000 in the bank. We are an educational non-profit organization and I do not think we need that much money in reserve. Frankly, I believe we, as a group, need to think of good ways to spend some of it. Here's the favor I need. Let me know how YOU think the CACSS can best put this money to use. We all need to be creative in our thinking; let your imagination go. Let's create a wish list of programs, projects, activities, or donations that we can do in the future. We can then evaluate, prioritize and begin to implement them, one at a time.

I would like you to email (lsbrownson@cox.net), snail mail (6702 E. Clinton St., Scottsdale, 85254) or telephone (480-951-9494) me your ideas. OR just bring them to the next meeting. I would like to spend a few minutes at the next couple of meetings discussing all of your ideas. I want the general membership to point the Board of Directors in the direction they want to go and let the Board work out the details.

I believe that when we come together and focus our energies, there is nothing we can't do. Let's think big. Let's be bold. Let's set some goals that will make a difference.

See you at the next meeting.



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# *Calendar*

## **August 28, Sunday**

Regular club meeting Dorrance Hall 2:00pm

**Leo Martin**, CACSS Board Member and Past President

*2004 Field Trip to Madagascar*

## **September 25. Sunday**

Regular club meeting Dorrance Hall 2:00pm

Program to be determined

## **October 30, Sunday**

**SILENT AUCTION WILDFLOWER PAVILLION AT 1 P.M.**

It's time to prepare your plants and cuttings for this fun event.

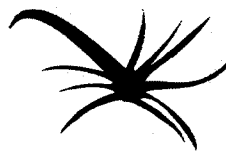
Bring some cash, too.

## **November 12, Saturday**

**TUCSON PLANT SHOPPING TRIP BY BUS.**

Forty-two lucky people can go on this trip to B & B, Tanqueverde and Plants of the Southwest Nurseries. Cost is \$25.00, plus a tip for the driver. No stops for lunch are planned. Bring your own lunches and beverages. Water will be provided. Mark your calendars. Reservations will be taken September 15 and until the quota is met.

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**

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

July 31 - Finally a bit of rain at 6 pm and the hope that the worst of a brutal summer is over. But even after all those consecutive days over 110F there is still some color. Today *trichocereus huascha* is flowering again (red) along with several different *echinopsis*. *Acanthocalycium glaucum* has bright yellow flowers. *Mammillaria microcarpa* is also flowering again as are the *notocacti schmannianus* and *warasii*. *Matucana madisoniorum* has tubular red flowers and *ferocactus hamatacanthus* has bright yellow flowers even in shade. Try the fruit....you will be pleasantly surprised. *Stenocereus gummosus* and *thurberi* continue to flower. If you need a reason to try an *opuntia*, *aciculata* is always colorful and now has purple fruit.

*Aloe karasbergensis* is in full flower in shade under a mesquite tree but another one nearby that gets some late afternoon sun has folded its leaves up for protection. While not in flower *aloe broomii* looks fine in shade but another one that gets some sun has blackened lower leaves and leaf tips. This one grows at 6000 ft and is happy here in winter. Other aloes with some color of the undesirable kind include *cryptopoda* (which always has some leaf blackening in summer) *lutescens*, *rubriviola* and *suprafoliata*.

After seeing a large *aloe speciosa* in full sun at the Living Desert in Palm Springs we had to try it. One went into the ground and got a half day of direct sun. The other was kept in a pot in more shade. Both are now a mass of soggy purple leaves. An *aloe buhrii* that got a half day of sun did not make it and *aloe spinosissima* has major damage (it was fine in past years). *Aloe bainesii* made it through the winter and seemed to recover but now most of the leaves look somewhat bleached and dried out even though it is in a shaded protected location.

Desert willows are still flowering, especially the purple flowered variety. *Jatropha cinerea* has small flowers that are easy to miss. *Leucaena retusa* (golden lead ball tree) has put on some new growth with the start of the monsoon season as has *caesalpinia platyloba* (palo colorado) which we first saw in front of the small cat exhibit at the ASDM. An old Brazilian pepper tree has finally been killed. The roots of this attractive tree are very invasive. Use it only if you can contain it. In the Everglades these trees are removed by scraping away all of the vegetation.

July is when the top pads of *opuntia ficus indica* and some other tree form prickly pears fold over and it almost looks like the plant is melting. Just cut off anything that needs it. We have always used the pads for rabbit food. The deal I thought we had was that in exchange for the pads the rabbits wouldn't do much damage to everything else. That plan worked until this summer when agaves, *cereus*, *echinopsis*, the ribs of some *ferocacti* and even aloes were eaten. Protect whatever is worth the trouble with chicken wire rings or even split black plastic 5 or 15 gallon pots.

There were some comments about soil temperatures last time. For 1 and 5 gallon black plastic pots in full sun with the lower maximum temperatures of the monsoon season of 105 to 110F the dry pot soil can still reach 130F. When wet, the max is more like 115F in full sun and in shade (under a tree) it tracks the air temperature. If you keep cuttings in pots during the summer for rooting (some people believe this to be less stressful than direct planting) keep the pots in shade to minimize soil temperatures. If you put a cutting in the ground in a sunny location it needs to be staked and shaded. The stakes also provide a framework for surrounding the plant with shade cloth. If you don't like that look, wait until milder conditions before planting directly but you may still need shade cloth to acclimate the plant. You will need some shade cloth in the summer anyway for when some agaves and cacti get yellow in the sun.

NOTE - Please let me know what you think of this kind of general article and how the emphasis might be modified to make it more useful. Your questions are welcome!

# *CACSS Board Meeting minutes for July 31, 2005*

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

President: Lee Brownson

Vice President: Mike Gallagher

Treasurer: Tom Ballen

Secretary: Sue Daley

Board members: Celeste Gornick, Ray Daley

Ingrid Swenson, Bob Torrest, Sundee Helm

Visitors: Chris Herington, Cynthia Robinson, Jo Davis,

## OLD BUSINESS

**PAST MINUTES:** Ray moved and Ingrid seconded the motion that the minutes of the June meeting be accepted. The motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Tom reported \$ 18,124.49 in the checking account as of July 1; \$ 3,607.36 of that amount was in the Plant Rescue fund. As of July 31, 2005 the checking account contained \$ 17,538.10, with the Plant Rescue fund being unchanged. At the beginning of the month the Convention balance was -\$1000. As of July 31, the Convention balance was -\$1,753.17. Sixteen pages of ads have been sold for the Convention booklet. This will help in the final reckoning of Convention expenses. The Club currently has 226 members. Ray moved and Celeste seconded the motion that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

**STORAGE FACILITY:** Denise has been given the deposit for the storage facility, so presumably one has been secured. The Club's possessions have not been moved to it yet.

**2005 CONVENTION:** Twenty vendors have signed up for consignment sales in the Club's Sales Room. A plea was made for coolers, newspapers, and pruning shears to be used during the Convention, as well as shipping scales. It was mentioned that checks would be needed for plants for the banquet tables, change for the raffle, and a phone line fee. The issue of a Club credit card account was discussed. Tom will try to obtain one through our bank, since we cannot get it through Costco due to our lack of federal nonprofit status. It has been recommended that we go with a call-in system as that is safer and cheaper.

**FALL TRIP:** Cecilia is working on a trip for Nov. 12 to the following nurseries in Tucson: B&B, Tanque Verde, and Plants of the Southwest.

**LIBRARY:** The issue of duplicate books in the library was discussed briefly. It was thought that the Euphorbia set could be auctioned at the October Silent Auction.

## NEW BUSINESS

**ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE:** Bob suggested that we might take some pointers from the San Diego show and include educational sessions and displays in our event.

**FUTURE EXPENDITURES:** Lee wants to get input from the membership as to what they think the Club should be spending its money on.

The meeting dissolved due time constraints.

MINI BITS?? well, the convention is over and I wonder what part the out-of-towners will remember most: the rain, the Friday pm power outage (which took the air conditioning with it), the Wallace garden, or what. Working the registration desk Friday was interesting and at times quite fun, especially getting to meet people from all over the world: England, India, Switzerland, E.Africa, Hawaii, Scotland, Australia, and even Connecticut - the Scottish accent was the hit of the day for me. The vendor sales room was interesting, as was seeing several CACSS members leaving with less than full boxes of plants (hmmmm). I've thought how frustrating it must be for the foreign visitors not to be able to take plants home with them. The CACSS sales room had an impressive array of items, well displayed. I'm sure the attendees left with a positive opinion of the CACSS, the convention itself, and the hotel (oops, resort!). Cynthia, you are getting sleepy, very sleepy???. "Now it is summer and as usual, life fills me with transport and I forget to work. This year I have struggled for a long time, but the beauty of the world has conquered me." Leo Tolstoy.....?.outside of Santa Fe, I wouldn't have thought the New Mexico DOT would have had anything to do with existential thinking, but the signs on I-40 west of Albuquerque "Gusty Winds May Exist" are a puzzle - of course they MAY exist, but do they really? and a sign we saw at a gas stop somewhere farther east - "Semi Exit" - is also a puzzle - why isn't it a FULL exit? - can you only go out so far and no farther? and what good would that be? I dunno..?...oh, and speaking of Albuquerque, if you ever pass through there on I-40, on the east side of town, 1/2 mile E. of exit 167, on the north side of the road, on the hillside close to the road, there is a very large, very shiny, metal sculpture of an agave - no indication of why it's there or who is responsible, as it doesn't seem to be in anybody's yard - kinda neat, though, if you like agaves?.....so how'd July treat your garden? Some of our in-ground stuff that has been there for several years was not happy at all, so we had to get out more shade cloth than usual. The stuff under the trees seemed to do ok so maybe we need one more tree - anyone know a good source for the Chilean Palo Verde (*Geoffroea decorticans*)?.....?..Ray D.

## *HENRY BROWNE WALLACE (H.B.), 1915-2005*

H.B.Wallace, an honorary member of the CACSS, passed away in early August, just days short of the scheduled visit by the CSSA convention garden tour. A native of Iowa, he was the son of Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President under Franklin Roosevelt. Quoting his Arizona Republic obituary, "Upon retiring to Scottsdale in 1985, (he) developed a passion for arid lands and, in particular, the Sonoran Desert. Combined with his support of the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust, and the Desert Foothills Land Trust, he placed a conservation easement of 80 acres of his undeveloped property to ensure its lasting protection. He has created a unique botanical center housing one of the world's largest non-commercial collection of cacti and succulents. The Wallace Desert Gardens serves as a free research facility for scientists, ecologists, educators, and students from universities, non-profit organizations and agencies." This quoted obituary appeared in the AZ. Republic on Sunday, Aug 7. Check it out for more details concerning his extraordinary life.

We in the CACSS are, of course, familiar with his splendid (mind-boggling, if you prefer) gardens which he generously allowed us to visit on several occasions. The 80 acres mentioned that he set aside surely includes the mountainside across the road from his home, which he regularly hiked at least as late as our last visit, in spring of this year. For his contributions to the CACSS, our hobby, and cactophiles in general, he will surely be missed

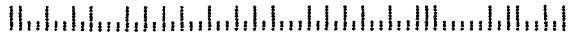


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ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT  
 CENTRAL SPINE ISSUE IS: SEPTEMBER 10,  
 SEND TO GALYNKJ@COX.NET

85254+5254-02 C065



## *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](mailto:doug.dawson@gmail.maricopa.edu)  
 Lithops, other mesembs, Namibia and its flora Growing from seed, Melocacti

MIKE GALLAGHER - 602.9428580 - [gallman@azboss.net](mailto:gallman@azboss.net)  
 Aloes, haworthias, Columnar cacti, turbinicarpus

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