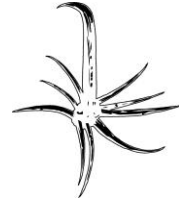


Central Spine



April 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

May 2014 Meeting
Sunday May 18
2 p.m. Dorrance Hall
Desert Botanical Garden
Presenter: Doug Dawson
***Arizona Miniature Cacti and
Succulents***

Articles
• **President's Letter**
• **Stan Skirvin: Exceptional Person**
• **Photos by Scott McMahon of
Plants from His Collection**

***Echinocactus horzonthelonius nicholii*, Arizona Native**

Photo by Doug Dawson



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

April 2014

Wayne Whipple

Stan Skirvin

We were saddened to learn that on March 28 long-term CACSS Member Stan Skirvin had passed away. Stan was one of our four Honorary Members. He was not active in our Society for the last few years because of poor health, but for those who have been Members for a number of years, we remember Stan, sporting his signature goatee, sitting in the front rows during our General Meetings with his wife Joan. Jim Elliott has written a memorable obituary for this Newsletter.

Show & Sale

Our 2014 Show & Sale was successfully held on April 4, 5 and 6. We again showed our members and the public-at-large what an outstanding Society we have here in the Valley of the Sun. Of course, such an event does not just happen. It takes strong dedication and hours of hard work by a few members to chair and organize the event. Because of their leadership, approximately 50 other Members volunteered to help with this public event for the benefit of not only our members, but also for the many visitors at the Desert Botanical Garden during that weekend.

For the second year in a row, we were thankful for Sue Tyrrel being the General Chair of this major event. Members of the Steering Committee for the Show & Sale met monthly starting last October. Lynda Michaelson had to give-up the Chair of the Show & Sale, and Sue Tyrrel again kindly assumed the role. The Steering Committee was composed of enthusiastic volunteers. Besides Sue and Lynda, it included Joe Barnes, Chuck and Jeanne Ann Brush, Jo Davis, Dan Smith, Nancy Mumpton, Lois Schneberger and Ann Stanton.

Jo Davis again had the task of soliciting, instructing, and scheduling the volunteers. One of my favorite times at the Show & Sale is when the volunteers and vendors meet for lunch in the Farrington Conference Center. This is a great time to renew friendships and to get to know each other better. Jo was at the Center early every morning with donuts and coffee, and this year she was ably assisted by Rita Gosnell, Kat Hanna and Sue Glenn with the lunches.

We could not have a "Sale" without the vendors. For the last several years, we have been fortunate to have Steve Martinez select and organize the vendors, who totaled 14 for this year's Sale. He also programmed our cash register for the Sale. Revenues for this year's sale were approximately \$32,500. This was less than last year's sales of nearly \$40,000, which were unusually high. This year's sales, however, were in the range of those in 2012 and 2011.

We are always grateful to our Treasurer Tom Rankin for doing the accounting and dispersing payment checks to the vendors. Again we are beholden to Beth Kirkpatrick for handling the publicity, emails, and website support for this year's Show & Sale.

Of course, there would not have been a Show without the support of our Members who prepped their favorite plants and brought them to Dorrance Hall for display and judging. The large display of plants was awesome. Everyone had to have enjoyed the excellent educational displays by Doug Dawson, Tom Gatz, Sue Hakala and Dan Smith. Thanks for your support and congratulations on your awards. Thanks go to our Show Judges Julie Plath and Steve Martinez who judged the succulents and to Jim Elliott and Peter Walkowiak who judged the cacti.

We again thank employees of the Desert Botanical Garden for their support and assistance. Amber Hahn was our point person at the Garden and was immensely helpful in interacting with the DBG. Again, we appreciated the help of Shelly Salam who programed a DBG cash register for our use.

Open Garden

What a surprise we had on April 12 when our Members were invited to the home of Barb and Rick Rosenberg for an open-garden. They have lived at their current residence for 25 years, but this was the first time that their garden was opened to CACSS members. Their property is over an acre of winding paths in a desert setting of native plants and other cacti and succulents. Many of the plants were rescued during some the Society-sponsored rescue missions. (Maybe Barb and Rick could head a new rescue group for the CACSS). Highlights of the garden were the modern sculptures that Rick made from stone, bronze, steel and concrete that were erected everywhere in the Garden and in their home. It was truly a marriage of art and garden. Those who attended could only utter WOW!

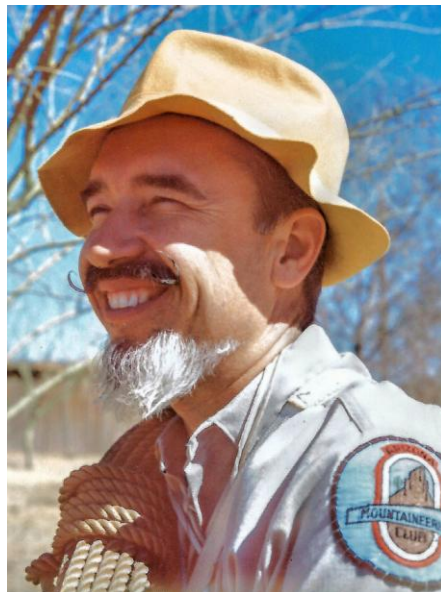
Openings for Volunteers

As always the success of our Society depends on many dedicated volunteers. We are still looking for people who will assist with the October plant auction, an important fund-raiser for the Society, and for the December Holiday party. If you would like to assist with either of these two event s, let me know.

If you would like to take a leadership role in next year's Show & Sale, please contact me. It is not too early to come forward with your offer of help.



Stan Skirvin: Exceptional Person



When we received word that Stan had died, many thoughts raced through my memories as my wife Electra and I have known Stan and Joan since the late 1970s. That phrase "Stan and Joan" came immediately to mind, as they have been a remarkable couple for all of that time. It would be impossible for me to think of one without the other.

They visited our Nursery before we were members of the CACSS, and I was immediately impressed with the knowledge of cactus they both had. Not only did they have a marvelous knowledge, they were gracious enough to share it with anyone who asked. This was no small gift in those years as Britton and Rose's *Cactaceae* was the best book then available; it was published in 1919 with black-and-white photos and 60 years out of date. To find these kind people who would take the time to help identify plants I had enthusiastically purchased from gypsy brokers was a miracle. Truckloads of cactus were being exported from Mexico though Texas and on to Arizona and California. Most of these plants arrived without a name and

obviously without any kind of owner's manual as to care, frost tolerance, etc. Without a few good customers like Stan and Joan, I doubt Arizona Cactus Sales would have ever survived those initial months.

The Skirvins entered plants in the annual Cactus Show at the Desert Botanical Garden and had many winning entries. Eventually the CACSS took over the responsibility of running the Cactus Show from the DBG. Stan was the club's technical supervisor overseeing entries. He had to determine if the plants conformed to the requirements as to size, nomenclature, cleanliness and health. Stan accomplished this task for years and years. He had superb knowledge and a very diplomatic style, which accomplished much without upsetting the exhibitors. I was always amazed at how often he would help an exhibitor with relatively major corrections and improvements and little turbulence. In fact, he was so smooth and gracious that they often thought it was their own idea!

We will miss Stanley on Cactus Club trips and events. He was always quick to help and slow to anger. A combination of traits that is quite rare and much appreciated. I doubt that anyone ever heard him raise his voice, although the situations he resolved would have put most of us into orbit.

I never saw Stan doing technical rock climbing but that was one of his other interests. He was expert enough to judge climbing contests and put his knowledge to work as a member of mountain rescues.

The overall memory of Stanley Skirvin is one of a kind and strong man. We will miss him greatly.

Jim Elliott



Photos by Scott McMahon of plants from his collection



Euphorbia polygona cv 'Snowflake'



Uebelmannia pectenifera



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Edithcolea grandis

Raffle ticket winners at the March General Meeting

The names of the winners and the pot or plant they chose will be listed in the May *Central Spine*.

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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.

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Welcome To New Members

- Bob Bailey**
- Carol Barnes**
- Richard Carlson**
- Steve and Geni Crofout**
- Lezlie Gordon-**
- Carol Miller**
- Dan and Jackie Reed**
- Louis Schwindt**
- Tom and Beth Steuber**
- Al Stewart and Debra Langley**
- Eugene Zielinski**
- Membership Chair:**
- Beth Kirkpatrick**

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

**Diana Decker
dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825**

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

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 p. 7.

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

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

MIKE GALLAGHER

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mgallagher26@cox.net

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

DEAN PATRICK

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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

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

480-994-3868

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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