The February 26 program will start at 1 p.m., not 2 p.m., due to the DBG Horticultural Center opening. Karen Zimmerman will present a program on *Aloe* hybrids.
Karen Zimmerman has loved and grown plants from a very young age thanks to her grandparents. Succulents became a major passion in 1994 and has never slowed down.

“I've always been drawn to growing plants. The first plants I grew from seed were pine trees. A small local nursery gave my best friend and me an envelope of pine seeds, and I can still remember the deep excitement and awe when they germinated! We jumped into the pool with our clothes on. We were 10 years old. I also remember years later, my mother pointing to the rear of the yard asking, "Karen, where did that tree come from?" That Monterey pine (Pinus radiata) was as tall as the electric lines by then.

Photography is another great love finding it pairs well with horticulture. “It is easy to overlook small details, and you can really see them through a close-up lens. I love to share tiny wonders,” she says. Karen has had many photos published in journals, a few books and a photography magazine.

She has been with the Huntington since 1999, and as succulent plant propagator for the Desert Collections since November 2001. Aloe hybridizing became a “hobby” within her job since 2002. She has had 10 hybrids published and distributed through the International Succulent Introductions (ISI) program with many more on the horizon.

The program she will present to us will begin with an overview of the genus Aloe, their distribution, and diversity of the
species. Karen will discuss the work of hybridizers up to the present, with a special mention about Kelly Griffin, her inspiration. Karen will show parent plants and offspring, some that became good enough to name and distribute, and others that became disappointments.

Promising babies and future possibilities will be highlighted.

Karen will be selling *Aloe* hybrids at the meeting for $15 each. They will all have ISI numbers. Please bring cash.

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*Aloe hybrids by Karen Zimmerman.*

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Be sure to visit CACSS on the web at:  
[centralarizonacactus.org](http://centralarizonacactus.org) the Society’s web site.  
Facebook Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society  
CACSS Swap and Shop, a place to connect with members.
Purchases and gifts for the library:

Books

Amateurs' Digest, *Cacti and Succulents From Seeds* 2 copies (Gift from Nancy Mumpton)
Amateurs’ Digest, *Succulents From Scratch* (Gift from Nancy Mumpton)
Arbury, Jim, *The Complete Book of Plant Propagation* (Gift from Demetrius Arquette)
Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, *Wild Foods of the Sonoran Desert*
Baldwin, Debra Lee, *Designing with Succulents and Succulent Container Gardens* and *Succulents Simplified*
Banks, Leo W., *All about Saguaro*
Barthlott, Wilhelm, *Cacti: Botanical Aspects, Descriptions and Cultivation*
Bell, Shirley-Anne, *Success with Cacti and Other Succulents*
Bowden, Charles & Dykinga, Jack, *The Sonoran Desert*
Bowers, Janice Emily, *100 Desert Wildflowers of the Southwest* (Gift from Nancy Mumpton)
Bowers, Nora & Rick, *Cactus of Arizona Field Guide*
Breslin, Peter, et al., *Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona* (Copy 2)
Brookbank, George, *Desert Gardening* (Revised ed.)
Brusca, Richard C. & Dimmitt, Mark, *Desert Gardens*
Cave, Yvonne, *Succulent Garden and Succulents for the Contemporary Garden*
Dahl, Kevin, *Native Harvest*
De Vosjoli, Philippe & Lime, Rudy, *Pachyforms Volume II: Bonsai Succulents* (Copy 2) (Replacement by borrower for lost copy)
Dimmitt, Mark, et al., *Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance* (Copy 1 Replacement) and Copy 2 Replacement
Doutt, Richard L., *Cape Bulbs*
Ellis, John, *Beginner’s Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents*
Gerritsen, Mary E. & Parsons, Ron, *Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & Their Relatives*
Grantham, Keith & Klaassen, Paul, *Plantfinder’s Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents*
Hawker, Jon L., *Agaves, Yuccas, and Their Kin*
Hazen-Hammond, Susan, *Great Saguaro Handbook*
Hecht, Hans, *Cacti & Succulents*
Hodge, Carle, *All about Saguaro*
Humphreys, Anna & Lowell, Susan, *Saguaro, the Desert Giant*
Hunt, David L., *New Cactus Lexicon: Illustrations* (Replacement for Damaged Book)
Irish, Mary, *Gardening in the Desert* and *Month-By-Month Gardening in the Deserts of Arizona*
Kalman, Bela & Hammer, Steven, *Succulents: Nature’s Sculptural Wonders*
Kelandis, Gwen Moore, *Hardy Succulents*
Kramer, Jack, *Bromeliads for Home and Garden*
La Croix, Isobyl and Eric, *African Orchids in the Wild and in Cultivation*
Manke, Elizabeth, *Cactus, the Most Beautiful Species and Their Care*
Manning, John, et al., *Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs*
Moore, Jeff, *Aloes & Agaves in Cultivation*
Overbeck, Cynthia, *Cactus (Reading Rainbow Book)* (Gift from Lois Schneberger)
Owens, Dave, *Extreme Gardening*
Phillips, Judith, *Growing the Southwest Garden*
Pilbeam, John W., *Cacti & Succulents of Baja California and Gallery of Agaves (including Variegates)*
Pilbeam, John W. & Weightman, Bill, *Ariocarpus et Cetera*
Preston-Mafham, K., *Cacti, the Illustrated Dictionary* (Gift from Nancy Mumpton)
Quinn, Meg, *Cacti of the Desert Southwest and Wildflowers of the Desert Southwest*
Schneck, Marcus, *Growing Classic Cacti*
Schulz, Rudolf, *Haworthia for the Collector*
Sengo, Zenaida, *Air Plants: The Curious World of Tillandsias* (Gift from Lee Brownson)
Silver, Johanna, *The Bold Garden: Lessons from the Ruth Bancroft Garden*
Skousen, Max B., *Aloe Vera Handbook*
Smith, Gideon F., *Cacti and Succulents*
Smith, Gideon F. & van Wyk, Ben-Erik, *Garden Succulents Primer*
Stearn, William T., *Botanical Latin*
Steens, Andrew, *Bromeliads for the Contemporary Garden*
Tate, J. L., *Cactus Cook Book*
Taylor, Nigel, *Genus Echinocereus*
Van Jaarsveld, Ernst J. & Judd, Eric, *Tree Aloes of Africa*
Van Jaarsveld, Ernst J. & Judd, Eric, & Smith, Gideon F. *Succulents of South Africa* (2nd Ed.)
Wright, David E., *Stuck on Cactus: A Beginning Grower’s Guide*
Yetman, David, *50 Common Edible & Useful Plants of the Southwest and Organ Pipe Cactus*

Periodicals
*Phoenix Home & Garden*: April 2012. I was able to get numerous issues for free to fill in those with members’ gardens featured.

Supplies: Three book trucks for book carriers

Donations to the collection:
Demetrius Arquette, Lee Brownson, Tom Gatz, Sue Hakala, Scott and Crystal Meeks, Nancy Mumpton, Lois Schneberger and Jennifer Woelke.
Number of items checked out: Wendy keeps track of the books out and notifies members before the next meeting when due. Nancy does the same for periodicals. We checked out 169 books during the year.

Month, number of books, number of people
January 18, 14
February 17, 13
March 10, 8
June 6, 35, 22
June 26, 24, 18
July 13, 10
August 19, 14
September 12, 10
November 21, 16

We checked out a total of 21 periodicals.

Special Projects:
• Researched possible storage of some of our collection at the Desert Botanical Garden.
• Worked on a comparison of CACSS library holdings with those of Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society.
• Organized all duplicate issues of CSSA Journal and Haseltonia (Yearbook of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America). Sold issues of CSSA Journal and Haseltonia on Ebay for a profit of $183.51.
• Organized donated issues of Amateurs’ Digest for the collection and to donate to our members.
• Researched and purchased three book carts for carrying books to the meetings.
• Organized information for the president that is necessary to send long-time overdue notices to borrowers.

Request for 2017 budget: $1,000.

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Succulent plants in the genus *Euphorbia* are among the most diverse and interesting of all for collectors. *Euphorbias* were the first to really fascinate me, and I have been growing them since the 70’s. While many closely resemble cacti, they are from a different family, the spurge family, and have to be treated just as carefully as cacti. While cacti have spines and often glochids for defense, *Euphorbias* have spines and a caustic milky sap which you need to be aware of.

Cacti have a sap which can be either clear or milky but poses no risk of irritation. It also exudes slowly from a cut or damaged area. *Euphorbias* can easily bleed milky sap from the slightest wound, whether from the stem, leaves or roots. Sometimes the vascular pressure can be high enough to spray the sap from a cut during certain times of the year. This sap is an extreme irritant, causing redness and burning on sensitive areas of the skin, and getting even a little bit in your eyes, nose, mouth, (or other areas) can ruin your day. Little information exists about specific treatment other than washing the area immediately and taking something for the pain. Sap in the eye will result in a trip to the ophthalmologist and/or the hospital.

This is by no means meant to discourage you from enjoying this group of succulents, but you have to respect the plants’ defenses in order to safely maintain a collection. I find that the sap doesn’t bother me when it gets on my hands or the outer sides of my arms, but does cause some redness if left on the insides of my arms and not washed off immediately. Some people are more sensitive than others. To be on the safe side, you should at least wear gloves and a long-sleeved shirt when pruning or repotting. If your *Euphorbia* is in an
enclosed space with poor ventilation, you should move it out rather than work on it inside. I have been affected by *Euphorbias* just from being near them in a corner of a greenhouse without even touching them. It doesn’t take long for your eyes to burn and your sinuses to hurt to tell if you’ve been too close.

Some people prefer to wear goggles and a mask as extra precautions. The most common mistakes people make are touching the eye or other parts while making cuttings or just pruning, the sap will drip out quickly. Spraying the cuts with water will slow down the flow and eventually stop it, making rooting the pieces easier. This sap is also a natural latex, and when it dries, it leaves a rubbery coating on surfaces. This means you’ll have problems cleaning unglazed pots, clothing, gloves, concrete, and tools. It’s important to clean your tools before putting them away and even during breaks. WD-40 sprayed directly on the tools will dissolve and wash away the latex before it has a chance to harden, making clean up a breeze. Alcohol doesn’t work nearly as well. Just as people have gloves for cacti, you may want to reserve a pair that you don’t mind getting *Euphorbia* sap on.

At its peak, my *Euphorbia* collection had over 120 species. I still enjoy them very much and so do many members of our club. I’ve made a few mistakes over the years handling them, but all in all, it’s been a very worthwhile pursuit. Our library is well stocked with books and journals on *Euphorbias*, and some plants show up at our silent auctions. Also look for them in our next CACSS show April 7-9 in Dorrance Hall. The largest source of *Euphorbia* species happens to be in Tucson at Arid Lands Greenhouses.

Note: The CACSS library has all 10 volumes of the *Euphorbia Journal* (they are actually hardcover books) for further study.

To read other articles about *Euphorbia* in past issues of the Central Spine visit the club web site at centralarizonacactus.org, select newsletters at the top, then the archived newsletters and find the articles by month and year.
From Wikipedia: The milky latex from *E. tirucalli* ‘fire sticks’ is extremely irritating to the skin and is toxic. Contact with skin causes severe irritation, redness and a burning sensation; contact with the eyes may cause severe pain, and in some cases temporary blindness for several days. Symptoms may worsen over 12 hours.

The plant is best located away from pedestrian and pet areas where the branches can be easily broken. *Photos by Sue Hakala.*
PUMICE

By Sue Hakala

When using a cactus mix, add 1/2 pumice or more depending on your plant’s needs. Mixing it in a five gallon bucket makes for easy storage with a lid on top. All the experienced growers in our club, and those who win the top awards at our annual show, add pumice to their mix. It is so important to your success as a grower, that our club buys it in bulk.

Managed by Gard Roper, pumice is made available to members at a greatly reduced price compared to buying it in bags. The pumice is sold for $5 per 5 gallon bucket. The pumice pile is open to members several times a year. Watch for announcements when the pile will be open in the future.

As a growing medium, it has several key advantages for growing plants.

- **DRAINAGE** Pumice has a natural variety of pores in size and shape. They provide a good balance for draining gravitational water and holding capillary water.
- **AERATION** Pumice has a highly porous, low-bulk nature. This facilitates an effective exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the roots and the environment.
- **NUTRIENT HOLDING CAPACITY** Pumice contains countless tiny pores that capture nutrient-rich moisture and give it back to the roots as needed.
- **WEIGHT** Pumice is lighter than gravel and sand and provides easy access when planting and carrying.
- **STABILITY** Pumice is lightweight but substantial enough to support roots without floating away.
- **DURABILITY** Pumice does not compact or breakdown over time, so it does not need to be replenished.

The following information from haworthia.com helps explain why pumice is good for growing cactus and succulent plants.

Pumice is a form of volcanic rock made up of highly vesicular volcanic glass strands permeated with fine air bubbles.

*Pumice comes in various sizes.*

CACSS 10 of 22 February 2017
My favorite tool is the patented Soil Scoop. I love it because it is curved, which provides more leverage in our often-hard soils, and it has a pointed tip, good for prying out plants, and serrated edges, good for sawing when needed.

The sharp tip and curved shape make it perfect for digging or, as is often the case, scratching out a hole in the ground, and of course the cup-like surface is great for scooping soil, whether potting mix or native soil. I love it and have kept it handy for 20 years. Grant Meyer

My favorite tool is long handle pruners by Corona. They are great for trimming everything from Mediterranean fan palms to giant Aloe dicotoma. A precision instrument, they are easy to operate requiring a minimum of strength. Loran Rodewald
Tempe, Arizona, a vibrant urban oasis located in the heart of the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area, and the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society will play host to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America’s 37th Biennial Convention.

The Tempe Mission Palms, our convention hotel, located in the entertainment district of Tempe, is a luxury hotel with pool, exercise room, airport shuttle, valet parking and many other amenities. Our special convention rate is only $89 per night plus taxes. A light rail stop to other adventures is just out the back door of the hotel.

The Sonoran Desert, a region rich in both habitats and species, will provide the backdrop for informative speakers, plant and pottery vendors, auctions, great food, and opportunities to visit desert plant habitats. The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society is excited to be hosting the 37th Biennial Convention, and is working with the CSSA, to plan a fun, informative, educational and memorable experience. It’s time to start planning your visit to Tempe!

**World Class Speakers**

Graham Charles, England  
Joel Lode, Spain  
Marlon Machado, Brazil  
Peter Breslin, AZ  
Mark Dimmitt, AZ  
Chuck Hanson, AZ  
Woody Minnich, NM  
Ernesto Sandoval, CA  
Marcia Tatroe, CO  
Rob Wallace, IA  
Bob Webb, Tucson, AZ  
with more to come!

**Great Plants, Pottery and More**

Arid Lands  
Cactus Data Plants  
Carol Wichern Pottery  
Desert Creations  
J & J Cactus and Succulents  
Plants of the Southwest  
PW Plants – Peter Walkowiak  
Rare Succulents – Petra Crist  
Sandy Siegel Pottery  
Steve Plath  
Sticky Situation  
with more to come!

Please visit us at the convention website: cssaconvention.com
for the latest information regarding speakers, vendors, daily schedule, and field trips.
PREPARING PLANTS FOR SUMMER

By Mary Irish

An excerpt from her book *A Place All Our Own*.

Watering plants in the summer, particularly the ones that are completely or partially dormant, gets tricky. One of the greatest lessons this weather and plants have taught me is that how they go into the summer absolutely determines how they survive it.

Therefore, whether it is cactus, agaves, shrubs, or desert perennials, I try to make sure that they are well watered and in prime condition before the “Big Heat” begins. It is the best defense they have. Watering while it is 110 degrees or worse is only palliative. Almost nothing grows when it is that hot, and while such watering may prevent outright death, it does little to stave off the ravages of heat stress. I am just trying to avoid disaster, but it is the plant’s own reserves that are really going to make the greatest difference, and those reserves are built up in the months before these temperature, not the day before.

CONVENTION BAGS  By Cindy Capek, convention bag coordinator

Can you donate some small items for our 300 convention bags? They will be given to everyone who attends the July CSSA convention that our club is hosting. I’m looking for things like key chains, pads of paper, pens, water bottle covers, etc. If you have a business, any small item with the name of your business on it will be considered. Anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help. Contact me at 623-570-2069 (cell).

*The San Diego Bromeliad Society creates lots of fun ‘trees’ for their holiday party.*
FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

By Treasurer Nick Diomede

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society raised $45,294.11 in 2016 through hundreds of volunteer hours at our regular monthly meetings, our annual show and sale, and October auctions. Providing various services to our members such as knowledgeable speakers, an extensive library collection, pumice, fertilizer, frost cloth materials, open member gardens, and plant trips, our club’s expenses for 2016 totaled $40,452.42, resulting in a net profit of $4,841.69. This also includes $7,500 in donations to both the Desert Botanical Garden and to Boyce Thompson Arboretum for support in moving the Wallace Garden to its new home.

The success of 2016 could not have been achieved without our member volunteers. The board wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to all those that have supported the club’s endeavors.

Many opportunities will exist for volunteers as 2017 is gearing up to be another tremendous year for our club. With a bigger Show and Sale in April, and co-hosting the Cactus and Succulent Society of America’s 37th Biennial Conference: “Celebrating the Beauty of the Desert,” in Tempe, AZ in July, volunteer opportunities will be available soon for the convention.

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When I was out walking I saw this peeking over the fence at a neighbor’s house. I think it is safe to say we don’t get much rain when a cactus takes root in a rain gutter. Linda Larson
Volunteers are the life-blood of our organization and we are fortunate to have so many capable and dedicated volunteers. This past weekend, three members of the CSSA Convention Committee, Gunnar Eisel, Woody Minnich and Peter Walkowiak met the local CACSS convention leadership team to discuss all the work that needs to be done to have a successful convention. They were very impressed with the talent and expertise of our local convention leadership committee and also impressed with the work that has already been done. It was an excellent meeting and I am very confident that we are going to host a great convention.

On the subject of volunteers, we need to fill one of the most important positions our club requires. It is the position of program chair. This person arranges for programs at our monthly meetings and usually has a committee to help with selection and support. Diana Crummey has done this job for the last three years and has two notebooks to pass on to her successor. One is filled with all of the information on past programs, correspondence with speakers, form letters, and process documentation. The other is a notebook filled with information on potential future speakers. The programs have been selected for 2017, but work needs to begin to select programs for 2018. Please contact me if you are interested in this interesting and important opportunity.

Cliff Fielding had his tenth Annual Open Garden on February 5. His garden is beautiful, pristine and filled with all manner of very interesting plants both in the ground and in many, many pots! It was fun to see so many members and to get a chance to chat outside of meeting days, which are very hectic for so many of us. The food was also varied and wonderful. Many thanks go to Cliff, his wife and son for hosting such a nice event. And, for us dog lovers, Thor, their beautiful golden retriever’s presence was also a treat!

At our January board meeting, we thanked our outgoing board members, Tristan Davis, Jeanne Ann Brush and Sue Glenn for their service and welcomed our new board members, Cindy Capek, Kelly DePetro and Heather Holst. Thank you for you volunteerism!
If you have been growing cacti and/or succulents for over six months, I am sure you have a favorite or two. Now is the time to share them with us at the annual show and sale. “I can’t show them with the likes of the Plaths, Cliff Fielding or Mike Gallagher.” Well you don’t have to. Plants are shown in three divisions based on the number of ribbons/points you have won in the past. When you get your entry form there are four colors: green for Junior Novice, yellow for Novice, pink for Advanced, and white for Masters. Plants are considered only in the same division. There are special awards for each division, including novice. One could be waiting for you. Please consider sharing at least one of your plants, if not more. There is no limit.

Please make sure that each plant has a label in the back so we orient it like you desire. Take some aquarium gravel or other gravel to place on top for top dressing. Rules and categories are in the “Show” section of the website. On Wednesday in Dorrance Hall, if you need help, people will assist you identify your plants and category when you bring the plants in. Clean up those plants and show them off.

There are also a number of opportunities to meet other club members and learn more about our plants by working as a volunteer for the show. Plants are brought to Dorrance Wednesday, April 5, 2017. They are judged Thursday, April 6, and the show is open to the public Friday, April 7-9. Plants are removed on Sunday after 4 p.m. Volunteer positions are available for different times all five days. Sign up for volunteer positions on the internet at centralarizonacactus.org.

PEOPLE WHO WON TROPHIES LAST YEAR, PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE MEETING February 26.

In addition to the show is the sale. It is one of the main money-makers for the club in the year, and a terrific opportunity to find that special plant that has been alluding you. There will be many vendors selling plants and pots. We need boxes for purchases. If you can start collecting boxes, it will really be appreciated.

There will be a volunteer meeting Sunday, February 26, at noon in Farrington Hall at the DBG. We are making progress. All please consider attending. If you have any questions please speak up. If you come for the meeting, just let the DBG admissions know and there is no fee.

Reviewed by Dan Smith

A great beginner’s guide to growing *Adenium*. As the author states: "I will do my best not to bore you with scientific technical terms," and she does not. It is an easy reading guide to all things you need to know if you are a beginner *Adenium* grower. It is well illustrated with recent photographs and drawings, and I’m sure everyone will enjoy the beautiful blossoms that she shows throughout the book.

The author, Cath Grimshaw, is an Australian and sometimes uses terms you may not be familiar with. Are you familiar with a chook? The terms are easily determined, so don’t let that scare you away. She states that she is not an expert but, was bitten by the *Adenium* bug after she and her husband were given a plant. I think many of us can relate to that.

There is a good chapter on problems and solutions where she talks about soft trunks, among other things. Is the trunk soft because of dehydration or is it too much water and rot? This is often a difficult problem to determine. In another great section, leaf drop is discussed. I think she handles both issues very well.

The other chapters cover most everything that you would need to know including, soil, growing from seed, choosing a plant, and much more.

I would recommend this book to any beginner or intermediate *Adenium* grower. Since the book is written in general terms, there may be some information that is not pertinent to our part of the world, but it is still worthwhile reading. Oh, by the way, a chook is a chicken.
Wow! The CACSS Facebook (FB) page crested 2,000 members in January. This equates to an 11% increase in January. Our FB page now has 2,046 members from around the world. Take the leap and join the CACSS FB page. Read on to find the many reasons for joining our FB page including the open forum on cactus and succulents with a variety of commentaries sprinkled in along with requests on cactus and succulent ID’s. Of course, our FB page allows for the opportunity to post your favorite plants and collection photos.

In January, there were plant identification requests for two (2) succulents (non cactus) and seventeen (17) cacti, seventeen (17) of the nineteen (19) plants were identified. Two (2) cactus were not identified as of this writing.

Wendy Barrett’s photo of the Desert Botanical Garden Aloes in bloom.
Member’s asked “What is wrong with my plant?” and for help with
• *Echinocereus grusonii*
• Century plant
• *Stapeliad*
• Christmas cactus
• Where can I find *Aloe ‘Hercules’*

Find the answers here:  https://www.facebook.com/groups/cacss2/ (copy and paste to your search engine).

Below is a sampling of other topics and requests from our January FB page postings:
• Monthly photos of the DBG
• FB page plant post from a member in Malaysia
• How has my garden grown
• Over-wintering your plants
• Javelina attacks on our gardens and plants
• Show and sale events in the Southwest
• Louis Lee’s Rock Garden
• Our “sickness” for collecting, propagating and growing from seed. I am quoting here.
• Best place to buy desert plants
• Scouring the box stores for rare plants
• Discount membership prices for Boyce Thompson Arboretum
• The CACSS library opportunity for magazine back issues
• Mesa Garden’s 2017 seed list is available
• Our new cactus and succulent scores in January
• Grafting
• And much, much more… Come take a look on the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society’s FB page.

Here are the many cacti and succulents in bloom that were posted on our January FB page:  *Schlumbergera, Thelocactus, Adenium, Mammillaria, Kalanchoe, Aloe, Titanopsis, Fenestraria, Micranthocereus polyanthus, Aloinopsis, Cleistocactus,* and *Agave.* The posted photos were absolutely beautiful! A secondary benefit is the assist in plant identifications.

To our FB members, thank you for your plant knowledge and assistance in the cactus/succulent identification as well as all of the wonderful photos posted. Each month we feature photos of a cactus and a succulent that a CACSS members shared on the FB page. This month’s cactus photo is Chris Ginkel’s cactus photo of *Opuntia lindheimeri.* The succulent photo of the month is Wendy Barrett’s photo of the Desert Botanical Garden *Aloes* in bloom. Do you have questions on the FB photos? Please contact the photographer via Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society FB page:  https://www.facebook.com/groups/cacss2/ (copy and paste to your search engine).
Thanks to all CACSS members who contributed and/or joined the CACSS FB page in January. We have room for many more CACSS members. So, please take the time to become a member of the FB page. There is no charge and it is very easy to access, enjoy and participate in our FB page. You can find us on FB @ Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society. We would love to see your cacti and succulent photos and answer any questions you may have.

Chris Ginkel's cactus photo of *Opuntia lindheimeri*.

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Next newsletter issue submission deadline is **March 5, 2017**. Email all submissions to: Editor Sue Hakala at: cacsscentralspine@gmail.com.

Members are encouraged to submit medium resolution images of their plants with captions for inclusion in the newsletter when and where possible.

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**CACSS 2017 CONVENTION AUCTION**  
By Mike Gallagher, convention auction coordinator

One of the features of the upcoming CSSA convention is the live auction and silent auction, both of which take place on the Saturday evening of the convention. Donated items in the auction are typically show-quality or rare plants, show quality pottery or, rare or unusual botanical books and art. The proceeds of the auctions are earmarked for the CSSA research grant program.

As we are the host club of the convention, we hope that some members of CACSS would have items appropriate for inclusion in the auctions. Donated items can be made as a pure donation or, the auction proceeds can be split with 30% of the amount donated to CSSA.

As the convention approaches, more information on donations will be available.
TIME TO FERTILIZE *TRICHOCEREUS*  
By Sue Hakala

Last year, a member reminded us on the club Facebook page to fertilize our *Trichocereus* plants on Valentine’s Day (an easy date to remember) for superb summer bloom. Use the fertilizer the club sells at meetings. Here’s my result.

![Image of a flowering *Trichocereus* plant]

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DBG SPRING PLANT SALE  
By Scott McMahon, cactaceae collections manager, Desert Botanical Garden

March 17-19, 2017   FREE   Member preview Friday, March 17, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.  Open to the general public Saturday, March 18, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, March 19, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Located at the Events Plaza parking lot at the east end of the general parking. Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases with membership card.

- Choose from more than 30,000 plants including cactus, succulents, trees, shrubs, ground cover, perennials, herbs/veggies, and other oddities.
- Specimen-sized plants and delivery services available.
- A large selection of unique bare root cactus will be available at the sale.
- Garden-related pottery, art and other specialties will be on sale.

Our club provides volunteers to answer questions at the sale. Club members need to wear their badges and sign in at the tent at the back of the lot. We need those who can answer questions about cacti and succulents and others who can simply help people find plants. This helps the staff, especially during Friday and Saturday mornings!
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