
CENTRAL SPINE

Newsletter of the

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JANUARY, 2001

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT—

I will be going to my first meeting of the Board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America on January 13. I was appointed to fill a slot on the Board for a term extending through 2002.

The CSSA is a great organization that has done tremendous things over the years to advance our hobby, introduce new plants into cultivation, fund exploring trips, and scientific research as well. Membership in the CSSA is \$35 per year and includes: subscription to the *Cactus and Succulent Journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America*, usually abbreviated to the Journal; access to the CSSA Seed Bank; ability to attend CSSA Conventions, held in odd years, and Regional Conferences, held in even years. The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society is an affiliate of the CSSA. The Journal is published every other month and includes many color and B&W photos. Regular features include reports of discoveries and descriptions of new plants; photos of show-winning plants, and cultural information on them; a yearly issue devoted mainly to one group of plants (recent years have included *Haworthia* and *Pachypodium*); historical articles devoted to famous names in succulent botany and horticulture; and reports of the round robins, mail information exchanges. It is easily worth \$35 per year; you will learn how not to

kill many plants worth much more than that each year from the Journal.

In the March-April issue each year is the annual offering of International Succulent Introductions. Most of these plants are new to cultivation; many of our favorite plants were made available to US collectors for the very first time by the ISI, such as *Abromeitiella brevifolia*, *Adenium obesum*, *Agave guiengola*, *Aloe harlana*, *Espositoa mirabilis*, *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* var. *friedrichiae* 'Ruby Ball', *Haageocereus aureispinus*, *Haworthia limifolia* var. *ubomboensis*, *Seyrigia humbertii* and *Uncarina grandidieri*. They are propagated at the Huntington Botanical Gardens under the auspices of John Trager.

Along with the Journal comes the newsletter, *To The Point*, now edited by our own Carol Clapp. This contains information about local clubs, upcoming conventions and events, and field trips. The Seed Depot listing is published here. Hundreds of kinds of seed donated by CSSA members are available to CSSA members on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Conventions are wonderful. I've been to two, in San Diego in 1997 and Las Vegas in 1999. I will go to Los Angeles in 2001 and St Louis in 2003. Our club is contemplating hosting the 2005 convention. Conventions are a week long, with four days of lectures, slide shows, and travelogues, one day of field trips, a rare plant auction, and a huge plant and book sale area with many vendors.

The CSSA Web site is <http://www.cssainc.org/> For membership, send \$35 (\$10 additional for an associate membership in the same household; check, VISA, Mastercard accepted) to Mindy Fusaro, CSSA Treasurer, PO Box 2615, Pahrump, NV 89041-2615, USA, email mpfusaro@pahrump.com, fax

(775) 751-1357 (Visa and MasterCard accepted), voice phone (775) 751-1320.

The CSSA wants your input. If you are a member, what do you like and not like about the CSSA? If you are not a member, why not? What would you want changed? Please contact me and give me your thoughts.

I've had requests to include more beginners' information in our meetings and newsletters. I think this is an excellent idea. I remember what it was like when I found out there were other people who liked growing C&S enough to JOIN A CLUB! I had grown plants all my life, but hadn't read much, because I didn't know what was there. I also didn't know about clubs until 1995, living in St Louis, when I found a mention of the Henry Shaw Cactus Society in the quarterly bulletin of the Missouri Botanical Garden. I probably would have joined a club long before but I never found out about one.

This issue is on the minds of your board—how to publicize our club, so more can find out and join. We also want to retain the members we have, so we are going to make extra efforts with new members.

Leo Martin

PLANT FAMILY OF THE MONTH: ALOINOPSIS

Aloinopsis was described by Schwantes in 1926. They are members of family Aizoaceae, the mesembs, and closely related to genera *Deilantbe*, *Ihlenfeldtia*, *Nananthus*, *Prepodesma*, *Tanquana*, and *Titanopsis*. Controversy still swirls over exactly which name to put on which species but this doesn't matter to the hobbyist; go ahead and call them all *Aloinopsis*.



Titanopsis calcareum!

Most come from the Karoo and Little Karoo regions of South Africa.

They are small plants with tuberous or swollen roots and rough leaves in rosettes. Most are somewhat to extremely cold hardy and bloom in the winter. The flowers are mostly yellow to pink, fragrant, and open in the afternoon, closing after dark.

They experience rain at any season, but most rain falls during their summer, and winters months are the driest. *A. spatbulata* grows in the coldest region of South Africa, with winter temperatures down to 10 degrees F, and has survived outdoors in Utah with only a light cover. Here in Phoenix they rest during the heat of the summer, at which time they require little water; when nights begin to cool mine grow and start to form buds, and I get buds scattered throughout the winter.



Nananthus transvaalensis?

During this time they will tolerate much more water. Deep pots are often used owing to the large rootstocks. The plants I have lost have all died during the summer if watered too often.

I plant my *Aloinopsis* in pure mineral clay, in narrow but deep pots. I give near-full sun. I water about every 10 days in the summer, after they get completely dry, and it's OK to let them stay dry even longer. In larger pots watering intervals would be greater. When nights cool down I water more often so that they never get bone dry, and by late November they are setting buds. I don't use much fertilizer but maybe I should. I don't protect from

frost, except I would protect *A. orpenii*, which doesn't get frost in habitat.

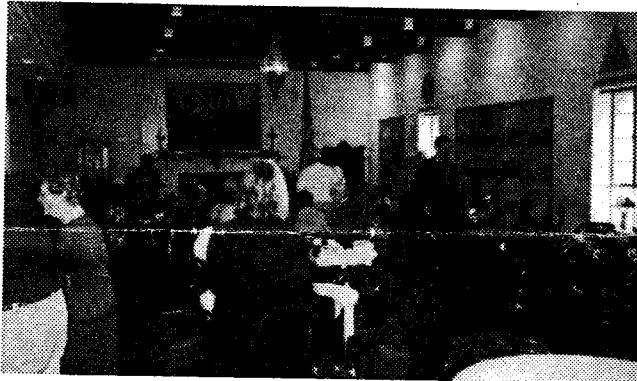
Commonly grown species: *A. loganii*, *A. malherbei*, *A. orpenii*, *A. rosulata*, *A. rubrolineatus*, *A. schooneesii*, *A. spathulata*.

Sources

Both photos in this article came from Miles Anderson, *The Ultimate Book of Cacti & Succulents* (1998).

ANNUAL DECEMBER PARTY

A large number of members attended the Winter Party, contributing a wide variety of tasty foods and beverages. There was so much food left over, that we invited the park rangers to come and enjoy a meal, which they seemed to do!



Winter Party 2000 at Webster Auditorium

CARPOOLING

Too far to drive to attend CACSS meetings? Where do you live?

There are members all over the valley. Let's reduce pollution by carpooling and also encourage members, who dislike driving the freeways, to attend. Anyone in the NW valley can call the Editor (Jim Davis at 623-583.3901), who can haul 4-5. Who else can offer rides? Let's set up a list for meetings, and let the Editor know each month just before the meeting date if you will be around and can transport others. If you need a ride, call the Editor for info.

CACSS EVENT PHOTOS

Scott McMahon has been building a collection of photos donated by members. If you have copies to share for these books, please give to Scott.

Thanks to Scott McMahon for the bottom cover photo of a *Conophytum ornatum* with a beautiful cluster of yellow flowers. The upper photo comes from the Editor's plant collection (flower is purple and white).

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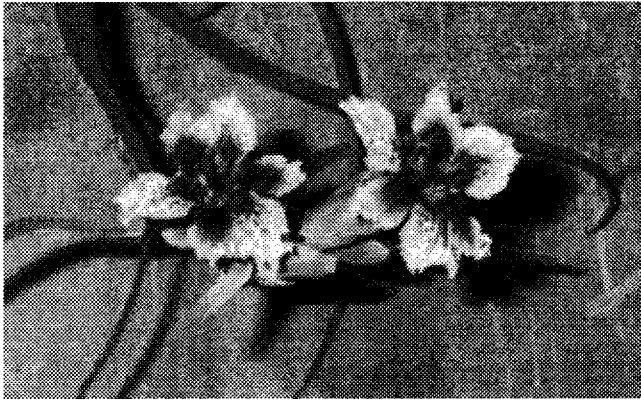
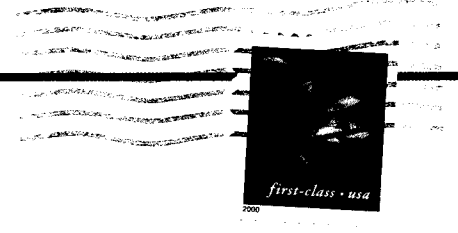
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All opinions are those of respective authors. Publication herein does not imply that CACSS or any CACSS members agree with any statements published.

CALENDAR

January 21	Brian Kemble: Terrestrial Bromeliads
February 25	Steve Southwell: Grafting and Other Propagation
March 25	TBA
April 4-8	Annual Show
May 20	Awards and Silent Auction

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Ferraria deneipunctata - a succulent bulb

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