Central Spine

October, 2010

Newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America
On the Web at www.centralarizonacactus.org

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Erik

How many Falls?

A season, fleeting, of grace, soft breeze, and passing wonder.

See God's light tracing vermillion and gold cloud-scaped sunsets

How many Falls? I wonder.

It is a transitional season; yielding vibrant new life past summer's heat.

Savor the mild star filled nights; breezy days shine umber and purple.

How many Falls? Few, it seems.

It floats, preceding winter, that cold and dead time, promises broken.

Perceptions of black and white, denies the riot of autumn and closes a door.

How few Falls. Done for me.

In a time so short, softness and fading light reduces tomorrow's possibilities.

It is done for me, no more Falls; and the darkness beckons.

By Steve Plath

Erik M. Anderson

A memorial for Erik Anderson will be held on Saturday, November 13, at 2 pm. The service will be held at Desert Cross Lutheran Church, 8600 S. McClintock, Tempe.

Cactus and succulent plants and the CACSS were big parts of Erik's life. I hope many society members will be able to pay their respects to Erik by attending the memorial service.

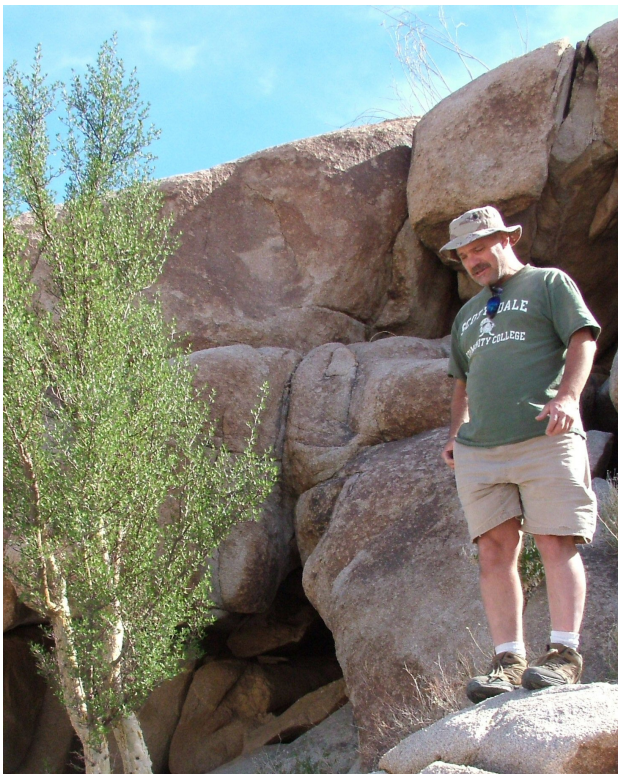
Lee Brownson.

More information about Erik's life, contributions and accomplishments will be in the November newsletter.

SALE OF ERIK'S PLANTS

There will be a sale of many of Erik's plants on Sunday, November 14, from 1 pm to 4 pm. It will be held at my house, 6702 E. Clinton, Scottsdale. There are from 200 to 300 plants.

I can't begin to list the various genera or species as there are too many. The plants come in all sizes, but most fall into the small to medium category. Many of them were stressed from lack of water before they were moved from Erik's house. With a little TLC, they will be very nice looking plants. If you come, bring boxes for the plants you buy. Cash and checks only; no credit cards will be accepted. Lee Brownson



Eric in Cabeza Prieta, 2006 Photo by Cynthia Robinson

From my experience, I would say that Erik's favorite cactus/succulent genus was Agave, followed closely by anything native to Arizona. He loved looking at plants in their native habitat & seemed to always be searching for a new occurrence of a species within the state. He had a passion for plants, and I will miss him dearly."

Cynthia Robinson

Erik on a trip to Wickenburg, AZ Photo by Doug Dawson

We have lost a real treasure. He knew the back roads of Arizona better than anyone I know. He took me to some places where I would never have gone. I will miss him every time I am roaming the back country and when I am looking down a road and say I better stop, it's too rough, and know Erik would have said I think we can make it.

Tom Steuber

Please look for the CACSS 2011 ballot for officers and directors at the end of the newsletter.

October Meeting—Plant Sale
Desert Botanical Garden's Wildflower Pavilion
Sunday, October 31—*Happy HALLOWEEN!*
Bring potted plants to sell and plan to buy some to take home.

November presentation "Growing Winter Hardy Cacti" by Jon Weeks. This will be an appropriate topic as November draws to a close. Jon, owner of Landscape Cacti in Tucson, has spent years learning which cacti grow best in the unique desert environment in Arizona. Plants need to tolerate a temperature range from 115° F all the way down to the mid teens. No plant grower who lived in Arizona in 2007 will ever forget the cold temperatures that killed or damaged hundreds of species. Jon will tell us the plants that we can grow that will prevent you from experiencing the heart break of mushy plants.

Jon received a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 1986 and worked as a research scientist at the University from 1986 to 1992. During that time, he conducted his research along the coast of the Gulf

From the editor ...
California Trip Photos: from trip members and consolidated them into one file. Access it on photobucket.com.
Enter the username "cacss" and the password "succulent."
There are two albums.
Select the one named "CACSS 2010 Calif Trip" and start the slide show (button in upper right hand corner).

November Newsletter Deadline: November 12

By-law Change Approved
By a vote of 42 to 3, the By-laws were changed to read, "No person shall be elected to serve more than three consecutive terms in the office of president." This change means that of the four CACSS officers, only the president will be restricted to three consecutive terms. There are no terms limits for the offices of Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.
The Board of Directors thank all of the members who took the time to vote on this issue.

Open Garden and Sale
Scott and Gay Hendricks
Sunday, November 7, noon to 4 pm

We have been growing cacti and succulents for more than 10 years and have specialized in mostly Aloes, but also grow a variety of cacti and succulents. Come tour our garden and see first-hand our collection of more than 150 different species of Aloes. Ask questions and learn which species can take full sun, need more shade, water requirements, and which ones are summer or winter growers.
Come and join us for an afternoon filled with lovely plants, good conversation and refreshments. Bring a box as our sale will include some hard-to-find Aloes.

- Snacks and refreshments
- Many other cacti and succulents such as Haworthias, Gasterias, Agaves, Kalanchoes, Euphorbias, and many, many more.
- Learn first-hand about light requirements, water requirements, and growth patterns. .
- Free plant with purchase.

1428 N. 62nd Place, Mesa, AZ 85205
480-201-9457

One Tough Plant By Sue Hakala

This is a true story. You may not believe it, but it is.

My green thumb-challenged friend R.A.N. bought a tiny Mammillaria grahamii, an Arizona native, 26 years ago just after moving to

Arizona from the Seattle area. "I brought it home, found this pot I had laying around, and scooped up some dirt from the yard, and popped it in the pot," R.A.N. said. Then she placed it along side a small bush in her yard and forgot about it.

When I say she forgot about it, I mean she never gave it another thought. She never watered it, fertilized it, repotted it, and nurtured it in any way for 26 years.

After she retired, she and her husband bought a second home in Prescott, and tried living there for two years before deciding to move there permanently. I helped her do some final packing when they sold their Mesa home, and when pulling out of the driveway for my final time, I spotted the plant under a bush. I jumped out of the car, and asked what she was going to do with the cactus. She said, "What cactus?" She readily gave it to me. "I thought it died years ago," she said.

I had to use a hammer to break up the pot to get the plant out. I expected the roots to be a root bound mess. Instead they were about 5-6 inches long and healthy.

The plant has since been replanted in the ground. It responded to the monsoon rains, blooming in bright pink flowers. I sent R.A.N. photos of the flowers, reassuring her that the plant was doing well. Her response: "I never knew that it could bloom."

This experience has made me re-evaluate how I care for my plants. Is all the fertilizing, acidifying of water,

repotting, protecting from frost, constant vigilance really required? When it comes to taking care of an Arizona native plant, it's probably not. But then where would the fun be?

Surprise! More members can attend our Christmas Potluck on Sunday, December 12!

1 to 4:30 pm, Mountain View Park Community Center, 8625 E. Mountain View Road, Scottsdale, AZ

We have room for 150 members. Join us for a memorable time Bring your holiday spirit and a plant to exchange. If you bring a plant, you may take a plant. Please bring an appetizer, a main course or dessert, with utensils for serving it. You'll also need to bring your own plates, silverware and napkins. As always, Gard and Loren will make a great punch and serve coffee.

IT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT TO RSVP to Jo Davis by phone, 480-839-3792. She must know what you're bringing so she can coordinate the menu. Please get your reservation in now. If you leave a message for Jo, be sure to include your phone number, so she can call you back.

The reservation deadline is Thursday, December 2.

President's Letter from Steve Martinez

It is with much sadness that I began this letter, as I reflect on the unexpected death of one of our members, our librarian Erik Anderson, Although I did not know him very well, I had frequent conversations with him at our meetings, and he often would give me a newsletter from some vendor in Florida or something else he thought might interest me. He rode with me and three other members on the 2008 Tucson nursery caravan trip where we had lively discussions about music and plants and such, and that is how I shall remember him.

Several months ago our new newsletter editor asked if I would care to have my picture include with the President's Letter, as some Clubs do. I could find a colorful shirt like Dick W. has in his picture in the Tucson newsletter and look pretty spiffy, huh? At the same time I am getting much ribbing about my age. Well, although I initially said no, I am going to include a picture, only in this edition,… it is of me when I started this hobby on Long Island many years ago. I must say that joining the CACSS has really been the best thing I have done, thereby meeting lots of knowledgeable, friendly people that knew other knowledgeable, friendly people, etc. etc. etc. I appreciate all of you

This month is our Silent Auction, at the Wildflower Pavilion at the DBG; this is in lieu of our regular General Meeting. This is a big fundraiser for us, so please bring some plants for us to sell! Also, we have rented the whole room for our Holiday party (we wouldn't want to leave anyone out!) so if you haven't signed up yet, please do, we are holding a space for you!. This will be the wrap-up event for another very good year, as is every year, and every day as far as I'm concerned.

See you at the meeting, ……

Steve M.

2010 CACSS Officers

President: Steve Martinez .....602-688-4339 altrigo2@aol.com
Vice-President: Lee Brownson ..... 480-951-4945 lsbrownson@cox.net
Secretary: Lois Schneberger..... 480-946-8373 lschneberger@cox.net
Treasurer: Wayne Whipple ..... 480-460-3623 w7676@msn.com

Board of Directors

Doug Dawson ..... 480-893-1207 dawsonlithops@hotmail.com
Gard Roper ..... 602-996-9745 agaveguy@cox.net
Ingrid Swenson ..... 602-957-9865 iswenson@cox.net
Rick Rosenberg .....480-483-5630 drrikrok@cox.net
Cheryl Brown .....480-664-9409 rp62@intergrate.com
Sue Tyrrel .....480-946-3499 styrrel@cox.net
Tom Rankin .....602-595-9217 tomrankin@cox.net
Cindy Capek ....623-979-9389 ronluccap@aol.com

2010 CACSS Committees

Programs & Workshops ..... Lee Brownson
Newsletter Editor.....Diana Decker dianaldec@msn.com
Membership ..... Doug Dawson; or Jo Davis 480-839-3792
Finance ..... Wayne Whipple
Plant Rescue ..... Robert & Cheryl Brown 480-664-9409 rp62@intergate.com
Library ..... Erik Anderson 480-967-3984 woodcraftman@earthlink.net
Refreshments ..... Cindy Capek
Field Trips ..... Gard Roper and Steve Martinez
By-Laws ..... Lois Schneberger
Web site ..... Melinda Louise

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 (Just call or e-mail Bob Torrest—480-994-3868; robertst9114@msn.com). 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 Flora of Namibia, Growing from Seed, Lithops, other Mesembs, and Melocactus.

MIKE GALLAGHER
602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net
Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and *Turbinicarpus*.

STEVE PLATH
623-915-7615
revegdude1@juno.com
Specializations include *Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus*, General Propagation, and Desert Revegetation.

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*.

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
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PHOENIX, AZ 85082-3572

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CACSS Ballot for Officers and Directors serving in 2011

Officers:	2011 Nominees	Yes	No	Write-in (pending nominee's acceptance)
President	Steve Martinez			Alternate:_____
Vice President:	Lee Brownson			Alternate:_____
Secretary:	Lois Schneberger			Alternate:_____
Treasurer:	Wayne Whipple			Alternate:_____

Directors: (2 year terms ending Dec. 2012)

	Yes	No	
Cheryl Brown			Alternate:_____
Beth Kirkpatrick			Alternate:_____
Debbie Life			Alternate:_____
Jack Meharian			Alternate:_____
Gard Roper			Alternate:_____

Please mail to: Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society
P.O. Box 63572
Phoenix, AZ 85082-3572

Ballot by mail must be received by December 8, 2010. Or: you may vote in person at the December 2010 General Meeting and Banquet.

Please sign here so we can check off the voter's name from a membership list.

_____

(Before any vote tallies are counted, this bottom portion will then be cut off and discarded to protect anonymity)