CENTRAL SPINE

November 2026



Stapelia hybrid by Michelle Schrade.

THE PRESIDENT'S PRICKLE By President Stephanie Halcrow

Happy November! Good news—THE PUMICE PILE IS BACK!

Extremely gracious CACSS members have agreed to host the 2026-2027 Pumice Pile at their home. There will be three dates this season, all Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on November 21, February 20 and April 10. This is a member only opportunity and a filled five-gallon bucket is $5. In addition to cash, you need to bring bucket(s), a shovel and your favorite pair of gloves to shovel the pumice into your bucket. Details, including the cross streets, were already sent out via email. The exact location will be provided via email immediately prior to the event.

It may be informative to know how the Pumice Pile will work going forward. Based on some articles in the newsletter index, this may be similar to the origins of the Pumice Pile. What is old is new again.

CACSS will order a bulk quantity of pumice from a supplier in Tucson. They used to have two sizes but now only offer one size of pumice. Depending on how much pumice we order, the delivery charge is 20-30% of the total cost of the pumice. Thanks to Bryce Janosko and ACME Sand & Gravel for giving CACSS such a great deal on the delivery fee!

The Pumice Pile team will open the pumice pile three to four Saturdays during the season (cool months). CACSS offers the pumice to our members at a rate much lower than our members can acquire pumice anywhere else. Right now, a five-gallon bucket will be offered at $5 (cash only).

Most recently, the Pumice Pile was hosted by a very generous nursery owner (and CACSS member), and the pile remained at the nursery all year long. Now that the host location is someone's private residence, we want the pile to be gone. We didn't have great information on previous pumice sales, so we've ordered a small quantity with the goal to have it all purchased by the end of the season. We will adjust the order going forward. If you need pumice, visit a Pumice Pile sooner rather than later.

NOVEMBER MEGA SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION By Javier Gurrola

Sunday, November 15, 2026
Desert Botanical Garden, located at 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix
Drop off plants 12-2 p.m. | Auction 2-4 p.m.

This event is open to CACSS members and guests. No reservations are needed. Let DBG know at the entrance that you are there to attend a CACSS event. All activities will be held inside Dorrance Hall and outside on the adjoining Kitchell Patio.

You may park behind Dorrance Hall and drop off plants between 12-2 p.m. After dropping off plants, you need to immediately move your vehicle to the main parking lot. You may also temporarily park behind Dorrance Hall to load all the items that you have won.

A greeter will be stationed inside Dorrance Hall and will provide you with a bid number. You will use this number in place of your name when placing bids during the Silent Auction. We request that you bring something to write with.

The Live and Silent Auction bidding will start at 2 p.m. and end when the last item is sold. There will be seating available should you want to sit and rest. During the Silent Auction, please do not linger in front of any plants. After placing your bid, please keep moving so that others may come and look at the plants. Please keep track of everything that you have bid on. I would suggest making a list or taking photos of all that you have bid on.

After the Live Auction ends, bidding on the Silent Auction will end randomly for a group of tables. When the bidding for each group of tables ends, please wait until our volunteers use a highlighter marker to indicate the winner. You may then collect your plants and bid sheets and proceed to the cashier or gather them off to the side until you are ready to pay. The last of the bidding will end by no later than 4 p.m. Credit/debit cards will be the preferred method of payment, however, cash will be accepted.

This is one of the biggest fundraisers our society has, and is a fun event for all. Please consider donating plants or cactus and succulent related items. We especially need nicer plants and related items for the Live Auction. **We ask that any cuttings brought are no larger than 2 feet as guests of the Garden may not be prepared to carry oversize/large items**. **Please no *Chollas* or *Opuntias*!**

Boxes are always needed to help transport plants home. You can also drop off donations at DBG on the day of the event and depart if you do not want to stay for the auction. It would be most helpful if you bring completed bid sheets with your donations.

There will not be a sign-up email asking for volunteers to help at this event. If you wish to help, just show up at any time starting at 12 p.m., and I or other volunteers will let you

know how you can help. All who assist me in marking the winning bids with a highlighter are asked to bid at the beginning of the Silent Auction. Since you will know when each group of tables will end, it would not be fair to others if you were to continue bidding until the last moment.

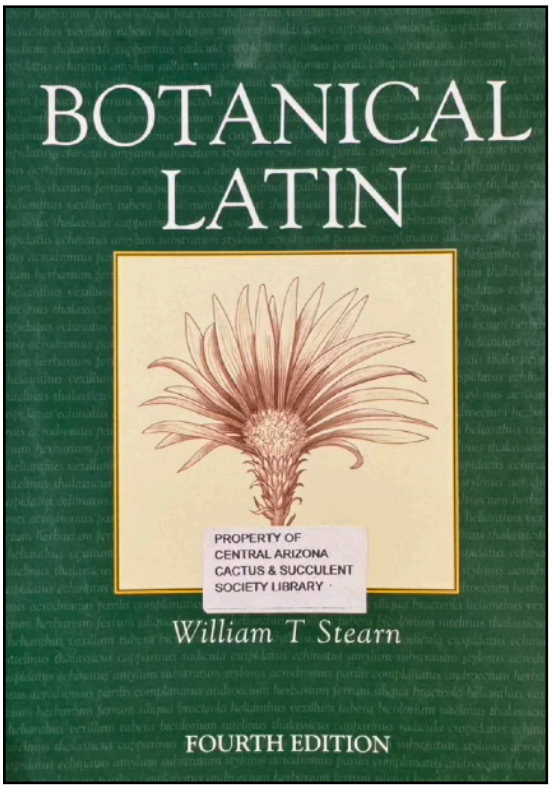
Bid sheets for your donations can be found at this link: https://centralarizonacactus.org/show-and-sale/CACSS-Silent-Auction-Bid-Sheet.pdf

Email me at javier.gurrola@centralarizonacactus.org with any questions.



BOTANICAL LATIN, Fourth Edition by William T. Stearn Reviewed by Sylvia Lee

When I read the title of this book, I thought, “If we had studied Latin in school wouldn’t it help us understand and remember Latin names of the plants we enjoy as gardener botanists?”



In the third paragraph of the pre-introduction named “Apologia pro Libro meo,” the author states: “Although primarily concerned with grammar, syntax and vocabulary, [this book] attempts also to sketch the historical development of botanical Latin, which is here accepted as a channel of communication now so distinct from classical Latin in spirit and structure as to require independent treatment… The realm of literature, in which a knowledge of botanical Latin opens to botanists, is a strange barbarous place for classicists; invited into it as an interpreter, a good classical scholar may well feel like Alice meeting Humpty Dumpty through the looking-glass.” This explains the fun you will have working your way through this book, especially if you studied classical Latin.

The Apologia paragraph seemed to answer my question. Studying Latin during my school years probably would not have helped me understand botanical Latin.

There is also a chapter titled “Introduction.” In this section, there is reference to the book *Nonsense Botany* by Edward Lear. Lear’s book has been out of print for a long time, but the reader will enjoy seeing some of its humorous innards on the Internet.

You have surely heard of the Swedish botanist Linnaeus, but have you ever heard of the botanist Theophrastus? His important influence on modern botanic taxonomy is well explained by the author, so I will not give any biographical information. Continuing on, we learn that the Latin alphabet is based on the Greek alphabet, and was created just before BCE (Before Common Era) switches to CE. Should I have studied ancient Greek?

The student of this book will want to study the Apologia and the four chapters of Part One very closely because they explain how to understand Parts Two and Three. (Part Four, the last part, covers Vocabulary and Bibliography.)

As my eyes wandered through Chapter V, “Nouns,” I learned that nouns in Latin change form depending on whether they are the subject, object or some other form of speech. I decided to let the botanists worry about how to use botanical Latin. I will simply enjoy their fruits.

It was very curious that between the bibliography and the index was a one-page section called “Plane Shapes” followed by a three-page section titled “Synopsis polyglotta.” The term “polyglot (polyglotta)” seems to refer to the fact that botanical Latin is made up of words derived from gallica, hispanica, germanica, lusitanica, and rossica.

This book is for a serious student. But, then, aren’t all of us CACSS members serious about learning?

2027 ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE UPDATE By Pat Adler, chair Annual Show and Sale Committee

Save these dates:
- Set up: March 30
- Plant entry: March 31
- Judging day: April 1
- Show and Sale dates: April 2, 3 and 4

You can find the “how to participate” documents on our website: centralarizonacactus.org. Listed are the
- 2027 Show Rules and Guidelines
- 2027 Plant Lists, Categories and Divisions

To be eligible for showing, plants must have been owned prior to October 2, 2026. Both CACSS and Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society (TCCS) members may enter plants. Everyone must have an active 2027 membership prior to entering plants.

The Committee is actively working on details and arrangements for the event. Topics include staging Dorrance Hall, setting up Boppart Plaza, securing judges and judging guidelines, securing volunteers, securing vendors, promoting the event, as well as many details that will guarantee a successful and enjoyable experience for all.

You can help in several ways by volunteering at the event, bringing plants to show, attending, buying plants and pots at the sale, bringing friends, and spreading the word about this fabulous event. Watch for CACSS emails, Instagram and Facebook posts.

More to come!

SAGUARO BOOT By Sue Hakala

Why do gila woodpeckers and gilded flickers create a hole in your saguaro? Researchers say that the temperature inside a saguaro can be 10 degrees cooler than the outside, and it's cooler up off the ground and away from predators. Birds are smart; they have to be to survive.





Left, look carefully to see the holes birds have pecked in a saguaro. Right, the saguaro boot in the ribs of the plant after the tissue is all gone.

The birds choose a nest site on the upper part of a saguaro where the ribs are a bit more flexible than the tough woody ones lower on the plant. Both sexes work on the excavation. As soon as the pecking begins, the saguaro sends out an internal alarm enabling it to defend itself from the incoming bacteria and pathogens. It ramps up production of an adrenalin-like compound called dopamine. This substance surrounds the site, causing a buildup for a thick cork-like callus sealing the plant off from harm, kind of like a scab on your arm after a cut.

When birds create a boot/nest site cavity in the saguaro, they tunnel in and then down. They need to allow the plant to callus over, dry out and become watertight before they move in. So, the birds may begin excavating next year's site late in the previous summer.





Left, a saguaro dead and down on the ground will take years to deteriorate, but the boots will be the last to go. Right, a saguaro boot which feels quite hard.

Woodpeckers may reuse the nest site the following year. When they abandon the cavity, elf owls, western screech owls, finches, starlings, sparrows, and others may move in.

If a bird creates a nest hole in your saguaro, don't panic. It won't kill it, and please, don't do what someone I know did, which was to fill the hole in with concrete! The saguaro knows what to do to protect itself.

As the saguaro reaches the end of its life cycle, arms sag, the top might freeze, bacteria and pathogens set in. When it finally crashes to the ground, it isn't the end. It becomes a bonanza for microbes, fungus and insects, becoming a whole ecosystem. The saguaro boot can provide a home for desert life.

A saguaro can take a decade to be stripped of its flesh, revealing the woody skeletal structure with the boots inside. It would be about now that you might be lucky enough to see one while walking in the desert. The boot will still be there when the skeleton turns to dust. Take photos, but don't remove the boots from the desert.

NOMINEES FOR THE 2027 BOARD By Elaine Hu

The Nomination and Election Committee is pleased to present the following nominees for the annual CACSS Board of Directors election. We sincerely appreciate all those who serve and support CACSS in fulfilling its mission and purpose. Each of the nominees has demonstrated a strong commitment to and support for our organization. CACSS officers serve one-year terms, while members-at-large serve two-year terms. We would also like to extend our appreciation to our departing board members, Javier Gurrola and Elaine Hu, for their dedication and valuable contributions.

Electronic voting will take place November 15–29. Brian Simmons will once again oversee the online voting process, and all CACSS members will receive voting instructions by email.

CACSS OFFICER NOMINEES
President: Stephanie Halcrow
Vice President: George Kazaka
Secretary: Nelson Gray
Treasurer: Tammie Jansen



STEPHANIE HALCROW: President
I am honored to be nominated for the upcoming election for the position of president. If elected, I will continue to focus on compliance, accountability and transparency, and to inspire knowledge and appreciation of cacti and succulents through education, programs and conservation. Professionally, I have led both small and large groups, as well as served on several boards of nonprofits, professional groups and academic organizations. I am a certified Maricopa County Master Gardener and a member of Desert Botanical Garden Operations Support Committee.



GEORGE KAZAKA: Vice President
I have been a club member for twenty years now and look forward to another twenty years with gratitude for all who have made this club a success and a pleasure. If I can in some way promote that forward momentum, I will do my best.



NELSON GRAY: Secretary
My professional career has been primarily focused on construction and architecture, and I currently work as an architectural project manager. I am an Arizona native and a graduate of Arizona State University.

I joined the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS) board this past July and look forward to continuing to bring my project management and administrative experience to the secretary position.
I have thoroughly enjoyed building and growing my own cactus and succulent garden at home and look forward to hosting an open house to share it with fellow club members. I hope to continue serving on the board in 2027 and to build upon the outstanding work and legacy of the dedicated board members who have served before me.



TAMMIE JANSEN: Treasurer
I have been the CACSS treasurer since June 2025. I have enjoyed contributing to the board and the organization and meeting everyone at the monthly meetings.

My husband, Tom, and I live in the west valley in Waddell and share our home with 3 dogs, 3 cats and a host of desert plants in the ground and in pots! I joined the CACSS in 2021 and enjoy learning about desert plants from other members and from our guest speakers. I have taken classes at DBG, and I am currently participating in their Saguaro Nursery project.

I was a licensed WI CPA, but all my work experience was in the corporate world (retail and electric utility) within various departments of each company. I have also been the treasurer of two non-profit entities in Wisconsin: Rehabilitation Program at the Wildlife Sanctuary (RPAWS) and the Packerland Kennel Club. I believe my career with a diverse background, and my previous volunteer treasurer service, has provided benefits to the CACSS treasurer position. I have assisted with updating the governing documents and set up the Google Workspace for the finance area. CACSS now has its first approved financial policy.

I would like to continue as your treasurer as I enjoy contributing to CACSS's business end and being involved in our organization's future.

CACSS MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINEES
Ruthanne LaQua Bill LeGoullon
Kathi Metzger Jessica Clontz



RUTHANNE LAQUA: Member-at-Large
I have been a proud member of CACSS for seven years and have served as a board member for the past two years. I am currently serving my third consecutive year as vendor coordinator and sale chair of the Annual Show and Sale Committee, and I am looking forward to the 2027 Annual Show and Sale!

I have thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with club members and outside vendors to make our show and sale an inviting, engaging and successful event for everyone. Being part of this team has been incredibly rewarding, and I truly value the friendships, teamwork and shared passion that make our club so special.

My enthusiasm for all things cacti and succulents continues to grow, and I enjoy adding to and caring for my collection of rare and collectible plants whenever time allows.

I would be honored to continue serving as a board member. I look forward to building on our accomplishments, supporting our members and helping strengthen the club's foundation for continued growth and success in the years ahead.



KATHI METZGER: Member-at-Large
I am a lifelong gardener and have expanded my interests to include the unique world of cacti and succulents since moving to Arizona in 1978. I have been a member of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS) for six years, serving on the board as a director-at-large for four of those years. I am currently on the Annual Show and Sale committee and have chaired the Outreach Committee for three years.

Being a member of CACSS has helped me to greatly expand my collection of cacti and succulents. Some of my favorites include *Haworthia*, *Kalanchoe* and *Astrophytum*. I enjoy picking up new specimens at our silent auctions, Mega Auction, Annual Show and Sale and other events. Being a member of CACSS has been a great opportunity to learn about all things cacti, including conservation, and how to provide proper care during periods of extreme heat and drought, as well as to learn from experts in the field. When

I am not caring for plants, I take care of my cat Chubs and enjoy hiking, cooking, traveling and getting together with friends and family.



BILL LEGOULLON: Member-at-Large
As a Phoenix native, I've grown up admiring and appreciating the desert landscape that surrounds us. It's helped influence my previous ventures as an independent artist and curator. I've exhibited work internationally, including exhibitions in Los Angeles, Toronto, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle. My various projects have been featured in such publications as WIRED, Bloomberg Businessweek, Dwell, The Guardian, VICE, and NPR. I've also had the pleasure of teaching at ASU and Phoenix Community College.

Since 2010, I've worked as a commercial photographer, primarily collaborating with architectural and design-focused clients throughout the Valley, including being a contractor for Desert Botanical Garden. Showcasing and staging plants has become a natural extension of my artistic practice, and my love for cacti has grown tremendously over the years. What began with landscaping projects evolved into casual collecting and, most recently, the designing and building of a custom greenhouse. I really appreciate experiencing the community and culture associated with plants and look forward to being a club member for years to come.



JESSICA CLONTZ: Member-at-Large
I'm originally from Rochester, NY, where I grew up helping my mother in her vegetable garden. In 2003, I moved to Phoenix to attend ASU. Since then, I've fallen in love with the Sonoran Desert, its plants and its wildlife. Cactus collecting has opened my eyes to the fascinating botanical world beyond our city limits. I'm currently a BIG fan of *Astrophytum*, *Melocactus* and *Euphorbia obesa*!

Over the past 20 years, I've built a career in luxury retail, working with a variety of local boutiques and major corporations. Last year, I thoroughly enjoyed volunteering at our Annual Show and Sale, which inspired me to become more involved in the CACSS community. I'm excited to continue learning about cacti and succulents while finding meaningful ways to contribute to the club. I believe my experience in management, sales, recruitment, event hosting, and planning would be valuable in supporting the club's mission. I look forward to aiding the club in any way I can.

GYPSUM FOR PLANTS By Elton Roberts

Elton has been identified as a master grower by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

I have the feeling that the thought of fairy dust is just kind of a stupid dream on my part. I thought I would photograph a couple of plants that are showing some results of fairy dust. Gypsum (fairy dust) seems to unlock plant nutrients that have slowly been encapsulated. It seems to free the fertilizer so the plants can make use of it.



Photo 1 (left) is one of three *Mammillaria beneckei* that I have, and all three are showing the dark green around the growing point after getting the fairy dust. The plant is getting some food and making the old bodies look healthy. That is not new growth, it is old growth getting some nitrogen.

Photo 2 (below) is of a *Ferocactus*. I have three of these. Notice how the faded old part of the plant is now turning dark green. Again, that is not new growth, just the plant starting to get healthy. This happened since I gave it about a teaspoon of fairy dust.



Photo 3 (below) is of *a Lophophora diffusa*. It has done very little all summer. I gave it a teaspoon of fairy dust, and it has fattened up which has made it about 5/16 of an inch taller. I think the offsets have also grown some. All of a sudden, the turtle head has come out on a skinny neck. Go fairy dust go!





Photo 4 (left) is of a crested *Pygmaeocereus densiaculeatus.* All around the plants, there is new growth. This is since the fairy dust. Some have quite a bit of new spines, and some not so many; but it is from the fairy dust. Be they crested or not, they are showing new growth. I would love to have a ton of flowers again.

I have not seen any new growth on the plant in quite a few years. I am really happy about this growth. I just wish the plant would flower. What a thrill that would be for me!

HOW MUCH TO USE: I use a teaspoon full of gypsum for five- and six-inch pots. For 3.5 inch pots, I use about a quarter to half a teaspoon. It does not have to be exact.

WATERING *AGAVES* IN THE LOW DESERT By Tom Gatz

One of the first rules succulent growers learn is “Don’t overwater. Let the soil completely dry out before watering again.” While that works well for most cacti and many other succulents, I have found that it doesn’t always produce the best looking *Agaves*. Most *Agaves* tolerate drought remarkably well, but tolerating drought is not the same as growing optimally. And because most *Agaves* do not grow naturally in the hot desert valley where Phoenix is located, supplemental water is needed for good growth.

After more than 30 years of growing *Agaves* in north Phoenix, I have found that most species commonly grown here perform best in a fast-draining potting mix that does not remain bone-dry for extended periods. Brief drying between waterings is harmless, but prolonged drying can cause *Agaves* to sacrifice older leaves as they remobilize water and nutrients to support new growth. The result is premature yellowing, shriveling and loss of lower leaves. I first learned this from longtime club member Gard Roper, whose exceptional *Agave* collection and annual show entries were consistently among the finest I have seen.



With appropriate spacing and placement of drip emitters, *Agaves* can be combined with even lower-water plants, such as these cacti, *Euphorbia*, and *Leucophyllum*, in the author’s backyard.

Former Desert Botanical Garden Public Horticulture Specialist and author Mary Irish offers similar advice in *Gardening in the Desert—A Guide to Plant Selection and Care*. She notes that wilted, shriveled or yellowing *Agaves* may be suffering from too little water rather than too much. During warm weather, she recommends watering potted *Agaves* when the upper half of the potting mix has dried. In winter, she recommends allowing the soil to dry nearly to the bottom of the pot before watering again.

For *Agaves* planted in the ground, Mary recommends watering newly planted plants twice a week during the first month after fall planting (the best time to plant almost everything here) and then gradually reducing the frequency as temperatures cool. Established plants generally need little or no supplemental winter irrigation when monthly rains occur. Otherwise, a thorough soaking about once a month is usually sufficient. During hot, dry weather she recommends deep watering rather than frequent light sprinkling. A quick spray from a garden hose does little to replenish soil moisture.



This root-bound agave hasn't been repotted for several years. If space is limited, trim off about two-thirds of the roots and replace the plant in the same container with fresh potting mix or, ideally, move it to a larger pot or plant it in the ground.

Agave expert Greg Starr, writing for the somewhat cooler Tucson climate, likewise recommends deep, thorough watering, generally every seven to ten days from spring through autumn for most landscape *Agaves*. Longtime Phoenix-area *Agave* grower Lee Bronson recommends providing about 40% shade to *Agaves* planted during spring or summer until daily temperatures no longer exceed 100°F. Plant Form Specialist for *Agaves* and *Aloes* at Desert Botanical Garden Octavio Rivera points out that an *Agave's* water requirements can change as it develops. Young plants as well as mature *Agaves* that are beginning to bolt (flower) may require additional water during our increasingly hot summers.

My own watering schedule is somewhat more generous. Unless we receive at least a half inch of rain, I water most of my potted *Agaves* about once a week year-round, although the winter watering is lighter than my summer soaking. My in-ground *Agaves* receive drip irrigation approximately every 10 days during summer and every three weeks in winter if it doesn't rain.

One observation has become increasingly apparent over the years: a young *Agave* in a small pot may thrive for several years, but eventually its roots can occupy most of the available potting mix. Once root-bound, the container dries much more quickly, and the plant may begin losing increasing numbers of leaves unless it is watered more frequently. At that point, there are three options: water more often, move the plant to a larger container or into the ground, or if the plant is still manageable in its original container, remove approximately two-thirds of the roots and repot it in fresh mix.

(continued)

Important Exceptions
This advice applies to many *Agaves* commonly grown in the Phoenix area, but there are important exceptions, particularly with species from Baja California and higher elevation deserts. Greg Starr's *Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers* provides detailed cultural information for many of these species.

According to Greg, among the more water-sensitive *Agaves* are:

- ***Agave asperrima*** once established, approximately 10 inches of annual rainfall is sufficient. Allow the soil to dry between waterings.
- ***Agave cerulata* r**equires very little supplemental irrigation once established and may rot if overwatered.
- ***Agave deserti*** requires minimal supplemental irrigation, and is susceptible to rot if kept too wet.
- ***Agave parviflora*** appreciates only modest summer irrigation; too much water can be detrimental.
- ***Agave pelona*** should be watered sparingly during summer, about once a month, with suspended irrigation after significant rainfall.
- ***Agave polianthiflora*** is highly sensitive to excess moisture. It's best grown in a coarse, predominantly mineral potting mix.
- ***Agave shawii*** benefits from only light summer irrigation.
- ***Agave utahensis*** should be watered very conservatively especially during winter.
- ***Agave zebra* r**equires little supplemental water once established. One or two summer waterings per month are generally sufficient.

Conclusion
Unlike most cacti, many *Agaves* commonly grown in containers in the low desert look and grow best when planted in a fast-draining mix that is allowed to partially dry between waterings, but not remain bone-dry for prolonged periods, particularly during the hotter months. Repeated drought stress, especially in root-bound plants, can cause premature loss of lower leaves as the plant draws upon the stored water and nutrients to support new growth.

As with many aspects of horticulture, however, one size does not fit all. Some *Agaves* adapted to winter rainfall climates or extremely arid habitats require considerably less irrigation and are best grown on the dry side, so do your research. Most of these references are available in the club's library.

Thanks to Lee Bronson and Octavio Rivera for reviewing earlier drafts and providing helpful suggestions and to Chat GPT for light editing.

MORE AGAVE GROWING INFORMATION

For more information on successfully growing *Agaves* in this climate, go to the club website centralarizonacactus.org. Click on the Newsletter tab at the top and then choose All Plant Index. Scroll down to the *Agave* heading and read lots of good articles like the ones listed below. Below, just click on the web link (the underlined part) to go directly to the newsletter with the article in it.

- Agave—the Good, the Bad and the Ugly by Tom Gatz, 4/25, pages 8-9
- Agave Aquaculture: Who Knew? by Tom Gatz, 12/23, pages 9-10
- Agave 'Blue Glow'—A Handsome Hybrid by Tom Gatz, 4/11, page 5
- Agave desmetiana by Tom Gatz, 9/19, page 13
- Agave Fever by Sean Dundas, 6/04, page 1
- Agave 'Kichi-Jokan': An Unsolved Mystery by Tom Gatz, 7/07, page 6
- Agave 'Kissho Kan' by Tom Gatz, 2/22, page 13
- Agave amica Finds a New Home by Kathleen M. McCoy, 3/25, pages 21-22
- Agave Stalk Becomes Nursery by Sue Hakala, 6/25, pages 10-11
- Agave utahensis: How'd You Grow That Plant? By Rich Zeh, 5/23, page 11
- Agave victoria reginae: Queen Victoria's Agave by Jim Elliott, 6/04, page 3
- Agave weberi question on rot by Greg Starr, 7/18, page 14
- Agaves That Can be Acclimated to Our Full Sun by Tom Gatz, 11/11, page 5
- Growing Agaves from Seeds by Charles F. Merbs, 12/76, page 2

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Special Opportunity for CACSS Members

Join the Saguaro Monitoring Crew January–March 2026

Location: Throughout the Phoenix Metro Area

Join Desert Botanical Garden's Saguaro Monitoring Crew and help us learn more about the health and survival of urban saguaros near your home, workplace or school.

More information: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UAWNuOhOPWUTZsa14s3t-eihotZf1Pxq/view?usp=drive_link

Ready to join? Fill our volunteer interest form here: https://forms.gle/nZDeAJKRNAyewRFE8

Questions? Contact the Saguaro Initiatives team at saguaroinitiatives@gmail.com

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT RESCUE PROGRAM from *To The Point* newsletter published by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society began their Native Plant Rescue program more than 27 years ago through hands-on experience and steady refinement. Since the first rescue in July 1999, volunteers have developed careful, repeatable methods for locating, removing and safely relocating native cacti. Over that time, the program has rescued more than **170,000** cacti and succulents from construction sites where they would have been destroyed.

What began as a small, volunteer effort has grown into a well-organized operation built on teamwork, training and respect for the desert ecosystem.

CONGRATULATIONS TCSS!



Adenium in bloom by John May.



CACSS Fall Hike

Boyce Thompson Arboretum & Wallace Gardens

Saturday, November 14
7:00 - 11:00 am MST

Join us on a guided walk at Boyce Thompson Arboretum & Wallace Gardens - Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden. We will enjoy scenic views and spectacular collections of cactus and succulents as well as peak color in the garden. The walk(s) will be led by BTA docents / CACSS Members.

Schedule

7:00	Optional Carpool - Superior Park and Ride
8:00	Check-in with CACSS Team
8:30	Gather inside BTA to start walk
	Option 1: Ayer Lake Walk
	Option 2: Wallace Gardens Walk
10:00	Snacks and drinks in picnic area
10:45	Optional hike led by Tom Swift (BTA docent/CACSS Member)

Good to Know

WALK LEADERS
BTA docents / CACSS Members

ADMISSION
CACSS has negotiated free admission for 50 CACSS members.
If you register, please plan to attend.

MEMBERSHIP
For liability reasons, you must be a CACSS Member and have your badge to attend.

REGISTER HERE: forms.gle/KkiowGvbZHnvaD7CA

An email prior to the event will provide you with more details.

?s: Stephanie Halcrow | stephanie.halcrow@centralarizonacactus.org

Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society
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GETTING READY FOR WINTER

Go to the club website centralarizonacactus.org and click on the Newsletter tab at the top. Choose Plant Care Index and click on that. Then scroll down for lots of articles on plant care. Under Winter Care you will find the articles below and a lot more. Click on the web link below (the underlined part) to go to the newsletter with the article in it.

- 10/10 Temperature Guide (when to cover plants) by Tom Gatz, 1/03, page 2
- Cacti and Succulents in Cold Weather by Russ Hintz, 12/00, page 3
- Crash Course on Winter-Growing Bulbs by Celeste Gornick, 10/08, page 5
- Frost Protection found within Leo Martin's From Your President column, 1/99, page 1
- Growing in the Desert Series: Coping with Wet Winters by Mark Dimmitt, 1/12, page 4
- Gymnocalycium Habitat and Winter Culture by Mike Goodson, 8/85, page 6
- Insects in Winter by Sue Hakala, 1/20, page 21
- Some Observations on Winter by Joan Skirvin, 10/92; 8/85, page 4
- Turn of the Seasons by Leo Martin, 9/02, page 2
- Winter-growing Bulbs: Part II by Celeste Gornick, 3/09, page 6
- Winter Growing Plants found within Leo Martin's From Your President column, 12/01, page 1
- Winter Growing Mesembs Through the Year by Leo Martin, 7/01, page 1
- Wintering Plants in Phoenix by Leo Martin, 11/0, page 3
- Winter Protection by Leo Martin, 10/02, page 2
- Winter Watering found within Leo Martin's From Your President column, 2/01, page 1
- Winterizing Your Adeniums by Tom Gatz, 11/14, page 10

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ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Established in 1973, the mission of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, a non-profit, is to inspire knowledge and appreciation of cacti and succulents through education, programs and conservation.

The purpose of the CACSS is to:

- study, propagate and cultivate cactus and succulents
- educate members and the public
- aid conservation programs
- support Desert Botanical Garden and other institutions



Open Garden



January 30

9:30 a.m. - 1p.m.

16819 S. 15th ave., Phoenix

Cliff Fielding is having one more open garden, plant sale and cactus social. There are a bunch of African Bulbs, hundreds of seedlings, collector cactus, and lots of lithops. Cliff will be thinning out the collection, so some nice plants will be for sale. Everyone, and their guests, are welcome to spend a pleasant afternoon in the warm January sun. There will be a few snacks and drinks. More: 602-625-5186. See you there.