Due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend our next meeting and presentation by Evan Meyer on “Conserving Plants on a Changing Planet” will be held on Sunday May 21st.

Dudleya anthonyii, a rare endemic species from the cinder cones of northwestern Baja California by Evan Meyer
It is no secret that a large portion of the world's biodiversity is in an extremely perilous position. The variety of threats facing wild organisms requires a corresponding variety of solutions. One of the most critical threats, the loss of habitat, can be addressed through the preservation of wild lands (in-situ conservation). This alone cannot protect rare species from extinction. Ex-situ conservation seeks to protect individual species by maintaining and augmenting their populations outside of their natural habitats. Join Evan as he discusses how these efforts are being carried out in Southern California, and why groups like the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society are so important to the future of plant diversity.

Evan Meyer is the assistant director of Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA. Prior to this, Evan was the manager of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Seed Bank. Originally from Massachusetts, Evan worked at the New England Wildflower Society, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, and Harvard University Herbaria before relocating to Southern California. 

Hesperocyparis forbesii A genetically diverse grove of Tecate cypress (Hesperocyparis forbesii) at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Southern California.
The Tucson Botanical Garden (TBG) is a green oasis in central Tucson. Spring is a wonderful time to visit, the Aloe alley is in bloom, the barrio garden bright with spring color, the world class cactus collection is flowering, and the blue and white garden is flush with the new growth of herbs.

This spring is an especially good time to visit as TBG is hosting the New York Botanical Garden’s curated Frida Kahlo: Art, Life and Garden exhibition. Frida Kahlo is Mexico’s celebrated surrealist, self-portrait artist of the 20th century. Frida was an artist with a strong passion for indigenous plants, flowers and animals and she incorporated them into her paintings.

Frida married Mexican muralist Diego Rivera and from 1930-1954, Casa Azul and its surrounding garden in Mexico City was a center for their creative life. Even if you aren’t a fan of Kahlo’s before you go, after walking through this garden you are certain to gain a new insight into this remarkable person.

I first saw this exhibition in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in the New York Botanical Garden. The four-tiered central pyramid built to scale of the Kahlo-Diego garden in Mexico City was recreated as the focal point. The bright blue and deep red (Frida Blue & Diego Red now commercially available paint colors) were accented by terra-cotta pots
filled with cactus. Surrounding the base were masses of orange and yellow marigolds. Even though it was a substantial show it seemed lost and small within the soaring glass house.

Tucson Botanical Garden is the only other site chosen to host this highly acclaimed exhibition and it comes to life recreating the garden of Frida and Diego. The central pyramid is surrounded by the Casa walls painted in the definitive red and blue. The cactus, the marigolds, jasmine, and white alyssum thrive under the filtered shade of the ironwood trees. A recreation of Frida’s painting desk looks over the garden. The child-size Casa kitchen further defines the experience while giving the little ones a place to explore.

The entire garden seamlessly integrates Frida’s presence. The Cafe Botanica offers a lunch menu featuring some dishes found in a cookbook of Frida’s recipes, Frida’s Fiestas: Recipes and Reminiscences of Life with Frida Kahlo written by Diego Rivera’s daughter. I tried and enjoyed the corn pudding which was part of her wedding lunch menu. The Kahlo menu is an idea developed to enhance the exhibition by Botanica’s local chef, Kristine Jensen.

The NYBG exhibition gathered a collection of Kahlo’s original works, loaned from private owners. The exhibition, worth millions, was highly secured and only available for that event, I was familiar with her self-portraits before I saw the exhibition, but I rarely gazed past her eyes. Her face stares intently out at you and it is hard to look more deeply into the painting. Yet just behind the self-portrait, she reveals her fascination with nature as she painted flowers, fruits and her pets.

One of Frida’s signature emphases was the celebration of Mexican folk art and indigenous traditions. She embraced the pre-Hispanic Meso-American heritage. Casa Azul was her childhood home and when she and Diego lived there they recreated the garden with native plants. Examples of these are identified at TBG by the chartreuse and purple signs throughout the garden.

She wore the traditional, colorful “Tehuana style of dress (that) emerged (from) the Tehuantepec region of South Mexico. Kahlo adopted this style, dressing in huipil tops and floor-length sweeping skirts, with bright floral prints, thick lace hems, and ribbon trim.” (The Fashion Codes of Frida Kahlo, 6/5/14, Mhairi Graham) Her self-portraits often included a crown of flowers in her hair. An exhibition of photo portraits taken by Nickolas Muray is in the Porter House Gallery. It was in these portraits that I realized her hair, braided with colorful ribbon, was crowned with intricately arranged fresh flowers. In one photo portrait there is a crown of bougainvillea, in another fuchsia blossoms are mixed with creamy orange lantana. From a docent tour, I learned it was a
two-hour ritual for Frida to dress for the day and perhaps the flowers are part of the reason.

This exhibition expanded my understanding of her art and her as a person. Tucson Botanical Garden’s staging of this unique and special show is perfect in this garden. An original portrait of Frida was painted by contemporary portrait artist, David Conklin, to use in promotional materials. The portrait first appears in a large banner hanging from the wall of the new visitor’s center.

Frida still stares at you, but with a softer expression inviting you into her garden.

Executive Director, Michelle Conklin, enhanced the exhibition with a series of lectures highlighting significant aspects of historical, biographical, nature and textile contexts of Frida’s life. There is an exhibition of the winners of the annual Mexican Consulate Art Competition for 7-11-year-old Mexican expat children. This year’s theme was My rights as a child which celebrates universal cultural values. All of these elements work beautifully together in this jewel of a garden. The TBG was just awarded recognition from the Canada Garden Tourist Council one of the top 10 gardens in North America to visit in 2017! Under Michelle’s leadership look for more exciting garden experiences.

Frida Kahlo: Art, Garden, Life exhibition
October 2016-Aug 31, 2017
Tucson Botanical Garden
www.tucsonbotanical.org
2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ
5.5 acres,17 themed gardens
Frida Photo Portraits by Nickolas Muray
The CSSA 37th Biennial Convention is only two months away and I am very excited to have this great opportunity come to our area. I have attended the last four CSSA Conventions in Tucson, San Diego, Austin and Claremont, California and had a wonderful time at each one. You will never have a better opportunity to attend a CSSA Convention. It will be worth taking a couple vacation days to hear and meet some of the most knowledgeable cactus and succulent experts in the world. It is also a great time to meet new folks and see old friends who share your passion for our hobby. I’m also looking forward to the sales/vendor area to add some unusual and hard to find plants and pots to my collection.

We need your help in getting the word out. You will shortly be receiving an email from me that you can send to your family, friends, co-workers or anyone else you can think of who might enjoy this experience. Please talk this up, as we are the very best source of positive publicity!

The convention is going to have both an auction and a silent auction. We are going to need donations of high quality plants for these auctions. You can either donate outright, with all the proceeds going to the CSSA or you can donate based on a 70/30 split with 30% of the bid goes to CSSA and 70% back to you. Carol Parrott will lead this activity for us so, if you have plants to donate, please contact her at carolparrott21@hotmail.com.

Dan Smith, our volunteer coordinator, is gathering volunteer requirements from the 15 Team leaders and shortly I will be sending you the link to the website. I look forward to seeing all of you at the convention either as a full time registrant, a day registrant or as a volunteer-or, the best possible scenario a registrant and a volunteer! It is important for all of us to support this convention. You can learn all about the convention at www.cssaconvention.com.

GET RID OF WATER = GET RID OF MOSQUITOES

- Chlorine water in pools or fountains does not stop egg laying, moving water does.
- Water in gutters, over-watered lawns, standing in tires or flower pot saucers can all be breeding sites.
- 2,000-3,000 mosquitoes can emerge from a green pool each night.
- To learn more, visit Arizona Department of Health Services AZDHS.com then search for mosquitoes.
My favorite garden tool is my chopsticks. I use them for weeding and getting into the small crevices of my plants to clean them without harming them. I also use them to break up and aerate soil, and for staking up small plants. Cindy Capek

My favorite tool(s) are my large spoons. They are great for mixing potting soil, filling medium to large pots, and excavating smaller holes when planting in the ground. They are stainless steel, so if left out, they will hold up well. And, they are relatively inexpensive. Mine cost 50 cents from Goodwill, up to $1.50 from a restaurant supply store. Mike Gallagher
The CACSS Show and Sale was a great success. I hope everyone was able to attend. What a Show. View the CACSS Show and Sale photo on our FB page. Copy and past the URL located below.

Our membership blew past 2500 in April!!! The CACSS Facebook (FB) page membership has grown to 2643 (2422), which is a nine percent increase in the month of April. Please join the CACSS FB page. Our FB page is an open forum on cactuses and succulents with a variety of commentaries sprinkled in along with requests on cactus and succulent IDs. Of course, our FB page allows for the opportunity to post your favorite plant photos.

We were able to identify 14 new international FB members from 9 countries that represent 6% of the new FB members in April. Some of the countries represented in April: Albania, Australia, Canada, Iran, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, and more.

In April, there were plant identification requests for eleven (11) succulents (non-cactus) and thirty-three (33) cacti, thirty-two (32) of the forty-four (44) plants were identified. Another tough month for plant IDs. Let’s put our noodles together and try to hit 100% in May.

Below is a sampling of other topics and requests from our April FB page postings:

- Great photos of the CACSS Show and Sale.
- Baker's Nursery has been revived as Arcadia Color Garden Nursery!
- DBG photos of plants in bloom.
- When do Monadenium bloom?
- Free...To a good home, currently harvesting agave & aloe they are at the corner of…
- What soil should I use for succulent?
- Beaver-Rita. I'm going to trim back. Anybody want any pads?
- Why is my opuntia oozing?
- Sansevieria are blooming this year!
- Online Journal "Xerophilia" – Volume VI, No. 1 (20), March 2017
- So sad to soon say goodbye to our amazing century plant.
How to start succulents from leaves.
Thanks to everyone who gave good advice.
Can you guys help me out... what's wrong with my cactus?
Can anyone tell me if a Dioscorea elephantipes is dormant during our Phx summer.

Here are the many cacti and succulents in bloom posted on our April FB page:
Adenium, Aloe, Arroyadoa, Astrophytum, Chamaelobivia, Cleistocactus, Dudleya,
Echinocereus, Echinopsis, Euphorbia, Ferocactus, Gymnocalycium, Hesperaloe,
Mammillaria, Myrtillocactus, Neoporteria, Opuntia, Pachypodium, Parodia, Passiflora,
Pelecyphora, Pereska, Plumeria, Pseudolithos, Saguaro, Sansevieria, Stenocereus,
Thelocactus, Trichocereus, Wilcoxia, Yucca and many more.

The super-bloom continues as exemplified by the posted photos in April! A secondary benefit is the assist in plant identifications. Find the beautiful photos here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/cacss2/ (copy and paste to your search engine).

To our faithful Facebookers and new folks, thank you for sharing your plant knowledge and assistance in the cactus/succulent identification as well as all of your wonderful photos posted. Each month we feature photos of a cactus and a succulent from a CACSS FB member in the Society’s newsletter ‘The Central Spine’. This month’s featured photo is from Sue Tyrrel, which includes the cactus Echinocereus pentalophus in bloom and the succulent Yucca endlichiana.

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).

Again, thanks to all CACSS members who contributed and/or joined the CACSS FB page in April. We have room for many more CACSS members. So, please take the time to become a member of the CACSS 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. Please contribute today!
Echinocereus pentalophus and a Yucca endlichiana from the collection of Sue Tyrrel
SPECIALISTS TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS

Nicky Davis
nicky.davis4@gmail.com
Manages the Seed Depot.

Tristan Davis  480-540-9540
minime8484@hotmail.com
Specializations include plant propagation, and heading PEG (Propagation Education Group).

Doug Dawson  480-893-1207
dawsonlithops@hotmail.com
Specializations include growing from seed, flora of Namibia, Lithops, other Mesembs, Melocactus, and miniature cacti and succulents of Arizona.

Mike Gallagher  602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net
Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, columnar cacti, and Turbinicarpus.

Chris Ginkel  602-908-2664
chrisginkel@gmail.com
Manages the Facebook CACSS Swap and Shop page.

Eric Holst  480-786-2010
heats@cox.net
Manages Society fertilizer program.

Dean Patrick  480-759-0312
desertpatrick@cox.net
Specializations in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting, rooting cacti, Agave and Aloe.

Gard Roper  602-996-9745
Manages Society pumice pile.

Steve Plath  623-238-3342
sbotanica@inreach.com
Specializations include general propagation and desert revegetation, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, and Thelocactus.

Dan Smith  480-981-9648
smithdans@outlet.com
Specializes in Adenium, raising Adeniums from seed, grafting and Adenium culture in general, and co-manages the Facebook page.

Bob Torrest  480-994-3868
robertst9114@msn.com
Specializations include desert landscaping, unusual (including rare fruit) trees and shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, and columnar cacti.

Thom Young  480-460-0782
te77@q.com
Co-manages the CACSS Facebook page.
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 $85 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
- Gideon Smith, South Africa
- Peter Breslin, AZ
- Mark Dimmitt, AZ
- Chuck Hanson, AZ
- Woody Minnich, NM
- Ernesto Sandoval, CA
- Marcia Tatroe, CO
- Rob Wallace, IA
- Bob Webb, AZ

**Great Plants, Pottery and More**
- Arid Lands, Bob Webb
- Cactus Data Plants, Woody Minnich
- Carol Wichern Pottery, Carol Wichern
- Desert Creations, A. Chavez & S. Freeze
- J & J Cactus and Succulents, Joyce Hochtret
- Keith Taylor Pottery, Keith Taylor
- Mike Cone Pottery, Mike Cone
- PW Plants, Peter Walkowiak
- Rare Succulents, Petra Crist
- Sandy Siegel Pottery, Sandy Siegel
- Sticky Situation, Jana Sweets
- Succulentia, Steve Martinez

Please visit us at the convention website: cssaconvention.com for the latest information regarding speakers, vendors, daily schedule, and field trips.
2017 PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE

Audit Committee: Mike Gallagher
Board Nominations: Mike Cone, Nancy Mumpton and Wayne Whipple
CSSA Representative: Mike Gallagher
Donations: Jim Oravetz
Facebook Coordinators: Dan Smith and Thom Young
Fertilizer Sales: Eric Holst
Holiday Party 2016: Sue Glenn
Librarians: Wendy Barrett, Nancy Mumpton
Mailed Newsletters: Sue Tyrrel
Keeping in Touch with Members: Jo Davis
Membership: Beth Kirkpatrick
Newsletter: Sue Hakala
October Auction: Mike Gallagher
Plant Rescues: Lucy Rand
Private Plant Sales: Sue Tyrrel
Programs and Room Setup: Diana Crummey
Pumice Sales: Gard Roper
Refreshments: Tara Richards
Show and Sale 2017: Steve Mack
Website: Beth Kirkpatrick

Be sure to visit CACSS on the web at:
centralarizonacactus.org the Society’s web site.
Facebook Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society
CACSS Swap and Shop, a place to connect with members.
2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers 2017  President: Beth Kirkpatrick 480.275.4833
benthalia@gmail.com | Vice President: Mike Gallagher 602.942.8580
mgallagher26@cox.net | Secretary: Heather Holst 480.786.2010
heats@cox.net | Treasurer: Nick Diomede 602.772.8282
nich.diomede@gmail.com

Directors 2017  Mike Cone 602.300.7012
imakepots11@hotmail.com | Diana Crummey 602.495.1813
assegai@cox.net | Nancy Mumpton 480.620.8608
nancy.mumpton@gmail.com | Jim Oravetz 602.284.9854 oravetz@cox.net
Lucy Rand 623.261.5793
lucyrand@yahoo.com | Judy Tolbert 602.421.5290 tolbertj10@gmail.com

Directors 2018  Cindy Capek 623.979.9389 cindycapek48@gmail.com
| Jo Davis  480.839.3792 | Kelly DePetro 602.319.9266
planterkelly@gmail.com | Edmund Hunt 847.514.0812 e-hunt@neiu.edu | Carol Parrott 602.438.4003
caparrott21@hotmail.com | Dan Smith 480.981.9648 smithdans@outlook.com

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