The Facebook Cactus of the Month: Schick Echinopsis hybrid ‘Ishtar’ by Celeste Gornick.
WHAT ON EARTH DO TREE ALOES AND SANSEVIERIAS HAVE IN COMMON?

Photos and Text by Robert Webb

Join Robert for our program May 19, at 2 p.m., in Dorrance Hall at the Desert Botanical Garden

Dr. Robert Webb is a retired research hydrologist formerly with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson, Arizona. He now is the owner of Arid Lands Greenhouses in Tucson, and grows a whole lot of species of succulent plants, cacti and "species of interest."

He is the chairman of the International Sansevieria Society, which is now based in Tucson, and has made numerous trips to various parts of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula looking for new species of succulents, especially Sansevieria, in addition to some old favorites.

That’s Bob on the right with Sansevieria dawes. On the left is Aloe volkensii multicaulis flos.
A member asks: Can you recommend 3 or 4 plants that do well with eastern, western, southern, and northern exposure in the Phoenix area?

Chris responds:

I do not grow any of my plants in a northern exposure. My wife grows some Aloes, Gasteria and Sansevieria in that exposure, and they seem happy. The native Dudleya pulverulenta ssp. arizonica and Dudleya saxosa ssp. colomiae seem to grow well on north-facing mountain slopes. A number of Echinopsis hybrids look best when grown in an eastern exposure. By eastern exposure, I mean sun from dawn to noon at the latest. Other cacti that I would recommend for an eastern exposure would be plants in the genus Cleistocactus and Pilosocereus. Many species of Aloe, and some of the more sun tender Agaves such as Agave ‘Blue Glow’, would be happiest in an eastern exposure.

A good majority of cacti can take a southern exposure. This would be full sun from dawn to about 3 p.m. I have many columnar cacti in the genus Cereus, Myrtillocactus and Stenocereus that are thriving in this exposure. Many Echinocereus and Ferocactus will do fine in a southern exposure.

In my opinion, there are very few cacti species that can do well in a western exposure. By this I mean they are exposed to the late afternoon sun from 3 p.m. on. A couple of the smaller species that thrive for me in this exposure are the native Mammillaria grahamii and Mammillaria tetranicstris. A couple of Echinocereus species that do well for me in a western exposure are
Echinocereus brandegeei and E. engelmannii. For columnar cacti in this exposure, I like to use the 'Senita' (Lophocereus schottii).

I often hear the question, "Can this plant take full sun?" Before answering that question, I think a person has to define what the term “full sun” means to them. Making an assumption can have disastrous results for your plant. To me “full sun” means being able to handle a full late afternoon western exposure. As I stated above, there are very few plants that grow well in that exposure. There are always exceptions, and I often hear "this exposure works for me." When visiting their homes, I am usually able to determine why a certain sun exposure works for them and not for others. Sometimes it is as simple as the clone that they grow of that species. It can handle a certain exposure much better than other clones of that species.

Watering schedule, soil and sun acclimation also play a big role in how plants can handle a certain sun exposure. I always welcome visitors to discuss this subject more in-depth, and to show them what works for me.

Lophocereus schottii ‘Gray Ghost’ right and Mammillaria grahamii above.
IN MEMORIAM: JOHN CRUMMEY

By David Crummey

John Knowles Crummey, 79, died Saturday, March 30, 2019, of complications from cancer. Attorney, sailor, husband, father, lover of music, and avid reader of American and world history. He was a long-time supporter of the arts, the constitution, American jurisprudence, gardens, and open space.

Born in Red Bluff, California, John graduated with his bachelor’s degree from Stockton College, attended American University and graduated with his Juris Doctorate degree from George Washington University. He was a lieutenant in the US Navy, serving aboard the USS Montrose before becoming a Security Officer at Naval Command Systems Support providing computer support for the Navy during the Vietnam War.

John was an active community member in Annapolis, Maryland, where he sailed, practiced law and raised his family. In 1994, he relocated with his family to Phoenix, Arizona to become general manager of National Flight Services of Arizona, from which he retired. The switch from open water to open desert didn’t slow him down. He engrossed himself in the history and culture of the Southwest.

Among his many activities over the years: he was a founder of the Eastport Yacht Club; former commodore of West River Sailing Club; a member of the Annapolis Yacht Club for more than 30 years; past board member of the Annapolis Federalist Society, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, and the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra; a practicing attorney; founder of the American Horse Trials Foundation; and long-standing member of the District of Columbia Bar Association. After decades of taking his family to Civil War battlefields, sites important to the American Revolution, lighthouses, and natural wonders across the US, you most recently would have found him on adventures across the desert, visiting gardens, trimming roses at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Mesa Community College, or helping his wife Diana with her Aloes.

In his time, John sailed with Ted Turner, partied with Elon Musk, hosted Winston Marsalis, volunteered for Jimmy Carter, and much more. John will be remembered as a lifelong learner, for his intelligence, kindness, and his love of sailing, fast cars, and airplanes.

John was preceded in death by his father Cliff and his mother, Ethel Elizabeth. He is survived by his wife, Diana, two brothers, David Crummey of Weaverville and Mark Crummey of Mill Valley, his sister, Janet Leonard of San Jose, his children David Crummey and Sean Kennedy, six grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.
The family is collecting stories and remembrances of John. You can send them to David Crummey via email at david.crummey@gmail.com.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, please consider supporting one of the causes John supported his entire life. His love for our country and rule of law was deep and unerring. He was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union for more than 40 years, and supported their defense of our constitution and our rights contained therein. He also supported the Grand Canyon Association and Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

The family is not planning any traditional public services, but are grieving and remembering our husband, father and step-father together. His easy-going spirit, kind heart and intelligent conversation is dearly missed.

DEsert Botanical Garden Summer Classes

The DBG is offering a wide variety of classes over the summer. Several you won’t want to miss include those listed below. Register at learn.dbg.org or call 480-941-1225.

- NIGHT BLOOMING CACTI with Cactaceae Collections Manager Scott McMahon on June 26, 6-8 p.m. Members $30/$38 non-members.
- GARDENS FOR THE DESERT CLIMATE June 5, 3-5 p.m., $30/$38.
- PLANT PROPAGATION July 20, 2-4 p.m., $40/$45.
- BOLD PLANTS July 27, 8-10 a.m., $30/$38.
- SUCCULENT FAIRY GARDENS August 28, 6-8 p.m., $78/$98.
- BENEFICIAL BUG HOUSE July 7, 2-4 p.m., $60/$75.
- WATERCOLOR CACTUS August 31, 9 a.m.-noon, $65/$80.

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A member asks: What type of succulents thrive in a wet/damp environment like a mulched flower bed?

Succulents (that includes cactus) are plants that have evolved to be able to store water in leaves, stems and/or roots. They live in arid environments that get sporadic rain. To survive, they must be able to store water within the cells of the plant. Too much water too often and they rot and die. This will happen in nature, or in the pot or bed you are growing them in.

Succulents have evolved to live in soils that do not contain a lot of humus within them to hold moisture. Dead plant material hardly ever accumulates under or around arid plants. Take a walk in the desert and you can observe this. Succulents and cactus will not like being in a mulched bed as the mulch will hold too much moisture too long.

Succulents will not like being in a wet/damp environment. The soil they live in must be allowed to dry out between waterings. They prefer a soil that is more open, permitting the soil to dry out quickly. The club buys pumice in bulk to sell cheaply to members to add to their soil mix, assuring the soil will dry out quickly keeping your plants alive.

To get more information on soil mixes, visit the club website, choose Newsletters, Newsletter Archives, Miscellaneous Index, and read the articles under the Potting Soil heading.

FAVORITE TOOL

This is an earth or bulb auger. It comes in different hole diameters and lengths, but it’s great for drilling holes in hard dirt. If you need a larger hole, just drill a series of parallel holes and break out the rest with a shovel. You do need a powerful drill. Be careful though, if it gets caught on a rock, the recoil is a bit hard on the wrists, but less damaging than a pick ax.
Book Carrier Needed. We currently have 11 very kind people who are carrying books to the meeting for the CACSS library each month. Rita Gosnell will be leaving our carriers. Thank you so much for the many years of service to our CACSS Library, Rita.

We are looking for someone who would be willing to take a box home and bring it back to our meeting each month. You don’t have to attend every meeting, but it is very important to attend most meetings. If you will not be able to make it, we will ask that you notify Nancy Mumpton or Wendy Barrett (co-librarians) before the meeting. Please notify me at nancy.mumpton@gmail.com if you are interested in being a book carrier.

See our new books for 2019 in the photo! We have purchased a number of excellent new books for our collection, so stop by our tables at the next meeting and see what we have to lend. Even if you are thinking of purchasing a book, it is always a good idea to examine it beforehand.
CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
2019 SHOW AWARDS

Best Cactus of the Show:  *Mammillaria mazatlanensis*
Grown by Pam Edsall

Best Junior Novice Succulent:  *Lithops* sp.
Grown by Johnny Briggs

Best Advanced Cactus:  *Mammillaria mazatlanensis*
Grown by Pam Edsall

Best Succulent Collection:  *Lithops* collection
Grown by Cliff Fielding

Best Novice Cactus:  *Tourmeya papyracantha*
Grown by Anthony Wray

Judge’s Choice for a Succulent:  *Adenium ‘mini-star’*
Grown by Dan Smith

Best Junior Novice Cactus:  *Browningia* sp.
Grown by Johnny Briggs

Judge’s Choice for a Succulent:  *Dudleya greenii*
Grown by Sue Tyrrel

Best Cactus Collection:  *Copiapoa* collection
Grown by Cliff Fielding

Desert Botanical Garden Best in Show for Artistic Merit:  *Mammillaria spinosissima* cv. *Un Pico*
Grown by Marianna Hancin

Judge’s Choice for a Cactus:  *Mammillaria mazatlanensis*
Grown by Pam Edsall

Best Agave of the Show:  *Agave victoriae-reginae*
Grown by Sue Hakala

Judge’s Choice for a Cactus  *Parodia columnaris*
Grown by Scott McMahon

Best Aizoaceae:  *Conophytum marginatum*
Grown by Cliff Fielding

Best Succulent of the Show:  *Pachycormus discolor* ‘bonsai’
Grown by Tom Steuber

Best Aloe:  *Aloe ‘Kelly Griffin hybrid’*
Grown by Loren Rodewald

Best Advanced Succulent:  *Welwitschia mirabilis*
Grown by Dan Smith

Best Novice Aloe or Aloe Hybrid:  *Aloe aristata*
Grown by Cindy Capek

Best Novice Succulent:  *Gasteria carinata* var. *verrucosa* ‘ox tongue’
Grown by Elaine Hu

Best Ariocarpus:  *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* var. *elephantidens*
Grown by Scott McMahon
Best Arizona Native Plant of the Show:
*Escobaria robbinsorum*
Grown by Cliff Fielding

Best *Euphorbia*: *Euphorbia gymnocalycioides*
Grown by Scott McMahon

Best *Gasteria*: *Gasteria brachyphylla*
Grown by Janet Karasz

Best *Ferocactus*: *Ferocactus acanthodes*
Grown by Sue Hakala

Best *Haworthia*: *Haworthia koelmaniorum*
Grown by Pam Edsall

Best *Mammillaria*: *Mammillaria mazatlanensis*
Grown by Pam Edsall

Best Crest or Monstrose:
*Echinobivia ‘rainbow bursts’*
Grown by Tom Briggs

Best Seedling: *Astrophytum caput-medusa*
Grown by Ken Luiten

People’s Choice Award: *Adenium ‘mini-star’*
Grown by Dan Smith

_Pictured are award winners from the 2017 show: above Fockea okea grown by Loran Rodewald, below Ferocactus chrysacanthus grown by Steve Plath. Photos by Wendy Barrett._
BEGINNER’S CORNER: GETTING READY FOR SUMMER

By Sue Hakala

Wicked summer heat is just about here. Now’s the time to get you and your plants ready for it. Visit the CACSS website at centralarizonacactus.org, choose the Newsletter tab, then Newsletter Archive, then Miscellaneous Index. Here you will find a wealth of information on how to water your plants in the summer under the Summer Heat and Watering headings. Utilize this index to get answers on how to deal with insects, birds and other problems.

Plan how to give your plants supplementary shade in the coming months. Have shade cloth on hand and some type of clip to secure it. Use 30% and 50% shade cloth depending upon the plant. Shade cloth sold at big box stores is very dense and great for your patio, but not your plants. Talk to folks at our monthly meetings wearing the ASK ME buttons for advice, or call a specialist listed in the newsletter. For new members that have attended an open garden, talk to the garden host for advice.

It took me several decades of trying to remember which plant got which piece of shade cloth as it came out of my plastic storage bin. It finally occurred to me to put a label attached with a clothespin on the sunscreen when I took it off and stored it for winter. I now do this with frost cloth as well. Makes it all so much easier the next year.

TIME TO TREAT FOR AGAVE SNOUT WEEVIL

Visit the club website, choose Newsletters, Newsletters Index, then the Miscellaneous Index. Look under the Insects heading to read articles about treating your Agaves for the dreaded weevil now. Scroll through the whole list of articles as they are sprinkled throughout this heading.

Agave snout weevil grubs and pupae by Jeff Schalau above, and a Snout Weevil by Debra Lee Baldwin right.
This month, membership in the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Facebook page grew by an astronomical 250 members to 4,800!

Popular topics this month:

• **SPRING SPECTACULAR** Have you ever seen so many beautiful cactus and succulent flowers in your life? This spring has been spectacular! The majority of posts this month were fabulous photos of cactus in bloom. Members posted multiple times because their gardens were teeming with flowers. Some posters were worried viewers would tire of their pictures. They were quickly reminded that you can NEVER have too many cactus flower photos. What a wonderful way to share the beauty of our gardens and answer any questions readers have about their care and where to purchase them.

• **2019 CACSS SHOW AND SALE** This year’s show and sale was a great success thanks to all the volunteers from our club who gave their time and energy. The revenue for the club was an all-time high. If you haven’t already, check out the album of photos posted by member Ken Luiten of every plant featured in the show. I am already looking forward to next year’s event.

• **FACEBOOK BADGES** Have you ever wondered what the little badges that appear under some posters names signify? Conversation Starter, Visual Storyteller, Rising Star, New Member, Administrator; what does it all mean? Here’s what I found out. Group badges are a visual feature designed to help people learn about other group members.

  “Administrators” are given a badge so people recognize their authority as moderators of the group. Their job is to make sure posters are following group guidelines, and help keep posts on topic and civil.

  The “New Member” badge is for people who have joined within the last two weeks. It is a way for other members to say “hello” and welcome them to the page. It is always a little intimidating when you join a new group, so be sure and greet the newbies!

  “Rising Star” badge recognizes new members within their first month who receive the most comments and reactions on their posts.

  “Conversation Starter” badge is given to recognize those whose posts have received the most likes and comments in the past month.

  “Visual Storyteller” badge is given to members who share photos or videos group members find valuable.
Each month a photo of a cactus and succulent posted by CACSS FB members is selected for recognition. Thank you all for sharing your wonderful photos. You can join the CACSS FB page at: https://www.facebook.com/group/cacss2/

Post with Most 'Likes' this month: “Blooming Yucca with 20 Spikes” posted April 29 by Butch Gaberman with 373 likes.

Succulent of the Month: Euphorbia resinifera posted April 27 by Jason Erickson.
CACSS is now on Instagram and we invite you to join us! Instagram is a photo and video-based social media platform with a truly global reach. It allows you to interact with people all over the world that share our passion for cactus and succulents.

For example, are you interested in hybridized *Astrophytums*? Then ‘follow’ #astrophytumlover and see photos from seasoned growers in Japan and Thailand. Or perhaps you need ideas for your next trip to Socotra? Just ‘follow’ #socotra to see over 26,000 stunning photos of its incredible landscape.

On a more local level, you can keep up-to-date with CACSS events by following @centralarizonacactus. For the month of May, we will be sharing hundreds of photos from our annual April Show and Sale.

Create your account today and be amazed at the wealth of focused content at your fingertips. The Instagram app is available for Apple and Android devices, or you can visit Instagram.com from your PC. Remember to tag CACSS in your photos using @centralarizonacactus or #centralarizonacactus.

The Cactus Explorers Club Journal

Edited by Graham Charles

Be sure to download this free online journal as Graham has really outdone himself this time. It’s 96 pages (what?) of cactus and succulent information and armchair travel. A real feast!

Be sure to visit CACSS on the web at:
centralarizonacactus.org the Society’s website
Facebook Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society
CACSS Swap and Shop
Instagram