This photo of a beautiful *Aloe dorothea* was taken by Kathy Miller. Members are encouraged to submit their photos with captions for inclusion in the newsletter. Send to cacsscentralspine@gmail.com
ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE  
By Show Chair Jo Davis

On April 14 at 5:30 a.m., I met with volunteer transport truck drivers Amanda Aros, Maggie Hines and George Kazaka to pick up all of the supplies needed for our annual show in Dorrance Hall at the DBG.

At 7 a.m., volunteers starting putting the burlap tablecloths on the display tables along with the dividers and division cards. The exhibitors started showing up with plants. Doug Dawson spent all day helping members identify plants and fill out exhibitor cards. He helped move plants and pitched in wherever needed.

As plants came in all day, volunteers placed plants in their divisions. After the deadline for bringing plants passed, tables were rearranged into a pleasing presentation. Everything was readied for the judging the next day.

Armed with clipboards after lunch on Thursday, succulent judges Julie Plath and Peter Walkowiak and cactus judges Steve Plath and Scott McMahon started. When it came time to pick a winner, it was like looking for a needle in a haystack!

All plants entered deserved a ribbon, but that was up to the judges. The novice category did very well. Even our junior novice exhibitors won ribbons—way to go!

The show was a success thanks to all the exhibitors and volunteers who made it happen.

My sincere thank-you to the following members who worked a lot of hours behind-the-scenes. My Co-Chair Dan Smith, who was under the weather, helped with volunteer scheduling, emailing and phone calls.

Lois Schneberger ordered the judges gifts, trophies and ribbons for the winners. She also gave me a lot of support.

Sue Hakala helped me get the word out far in advance so we were in Phoenix Home and Garden magazine and other publications.
Vendor Chair Nick Diomede handled all the registers. He and Thom Young and Cricket Peterson got the vendors set up, arranged tents and tables. They worked hard to make sure the traffic flow went well for our guests.

Gard Roper and Mike Gallagher were responsible for the cut plant table sales. They arranged with other volunteers for plant cuttings to be picked up, tagged and readied for sale.

Rita Gosnell made sure that all of us were fed Friday, Saturday and Sunday. She was assisted by Dana Heiser, Marty Shahan and Diamond Walker. Rita will be stepping down from this position (we'll need a replacement next year) as she has fed us all for the last 10 years. I will miss her mint green tea.

Other volunteers served as greeters, floaters, cashiers, tabulators, photographers, judge’s assistants, education assistants, and more. Thank you to everyone. This event would not happen without all the helping hands.

Nick Diomede (above left), vendor and cashier chair, with cashier Nancy Mumpton, Thom Young vendor sales helper, and “caterer” Rita Gosnell with helper Dana Heiser.
Mike Gallagher, along with many others, helped obtain, organize and man the cut cactus sales table at the annual sale. The best thing about the sales from this table is that the Society gets to keep 85% of the revenue, with the other 15% going to the DBG.

Mike was alerted to several 60-year old columnar cactus that were going to be removed in Tempe. Truckloads of the plants were brought to the sale, and all found homes.

Special thanks go to all the contributors of plants. There weren’t many left on Sunday. Those remaining went to the making of cancer survivor gardens implemented by David Jones.

Eric Lundberg (left) with Gard Roper.
Bolivia, an island in the western regions of South America, is south of Peru, north of Argentina and Chile, and west of Brazil. Being squeezed by past wars with its neighbors, Bolivia is now a small country with no direct connection to the Pacific Ocean. It is mostly made-up of high Andean mountain environments, often divided by deep river gorge valleys. From sea level to altitudes in excess of 24,000 feet, it is well known for its Inca ancestry, high altitude terrace farming, and the beautiful llamas, alpacas and vicunas. Due to it being mostly high in elevation, many of the cacti and other succulents are endemic to very specialized and unique habitats.

When flying into La Paz, the capitol of Bolivia, one soon becomes aware of their first immediate adjustment. As soon as you step off of the airplane, you really feel the altitude of near 14,000 feet. Normally, a few days of acclimation are necessary, thus what better way to see this historically beautiful city than to just meander very slowly from street to street! The people and their culture are pronounced, and the colors and vibrancy of their life style is inspirational. One would think, at this mountainous altitude, the winter temperatures would get very cold and thus prohibit the growth of most succulent plants. Surprisingly, there are numerous cacti and other succulents found growing everywhere. And, if the altitude makes you feels ill, there are always vendors
along the cobblestone streets anxious to sell their famed cocoa leaves. Just chew some, dribble the juice down your chin, and soon you’ll feel as if you’re back at sea level.

From La Paz into Bolivia’s more remote regions, one quickly begins to view fantastic scenery from snow covered peaks to deep valleys and sculptured geological formations. Soon the *Puyas* and columnar *Cereus* become the dominate vegetation. If curvy winding roads with sheer drop-offs are not to your liking, this may not be the best place for you. Pretty soon, many smaller cryptic genera become visible from the window of the Land Cruiser. You totally forget about the rough roads and immediately get excited by more and more species appearing with each and every bend in the road. *Sulcorebutias*, *Rebutias* and *Weingartias* are the most dominant genera, and when they are in flower, they seem to glow with their big electric red, yellow and burgundy flowers. The *Echinopsis*, *Lobivias*, *Oreocereus* and *Cleistocactus* are also very common and are often found growing in association with numerous *Bromeliads* and the occasional *Echeveria*.

Everyday in Bolivia is like riding a rollercoaster, from sea level to 20,000 feet, and from one species of cactus to another. In some areas, the cacti dominate the landscape, and in others, the cacti are as cryptic and camouflaged as chameleons.

Hopefully sharing my travels in Bolivia from Lake Titicaca to Sucre will be as exciting for you as it was for me. For those of you who may never make such a trip, perhaps this presentation can take you to Bolivia without ever leaving home.
JOIN PROGRAM SPEAKER WOODY MINNICH MAY 20, 2 P.M., IN DORRANCE HALL AT THE DGB FOR CACTI AND SUCCULENTS OF THE BOLIVIAN HIGHLANDS

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950’s. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer, and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his fieldwork from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States, and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975.

Woody’s show quality plants were often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles in various journals and his photography is featured in many books including: The Copiapoa by Schulz, The Mammillaria Handbook by Pilbeam, The Cactus Lexicon by Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book, The Xerophile. This book specializes in what the authors call, “The Obsessed Field Workers” from around the world.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught graphics, art and architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of ten C&S societies. With 45 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.
**EUPHORBIA RIGIDA**: Fifteen Minutes of Work for a Year’s Worth of Beauty
Photos and Text By Grant Meyer

Talk about a great return on your investment. A fifteen minute yearly maintenance trim is all it takes to have a year’s worth of beauty from one of my favorite plants for the low desert: good old *Euphorbia rigida*.

This low-water member of the “spurge” group of *Euphorbias* is an excellent short-stemmed ground cover for full or partial sun. It has pointed (though not sharp) blue-green leaves whorled along the stems each ranging from 6 inches (short) to 18 inches (long) that arch and then often scramble to the ground when longer.

It’s a great species to plant in groups, say under a desert tree, or near an upright cactus. My favorite combination, that I repeat throughout the garden, is to plant it near another great blue plant: *Agave parryi*.

*Euphorbia rigida* stems grow from the ground, not from a succulent stem, so it is definitely a pseudo-ground cover type of plant. I think they’re especially effective growing on the top or side of a gentle slope. Each spring, from February through late April, they make nice clusters of chartreuse flowers (right) in clusters at the stem tips of older stems. The Kermit-the-frog green/yellow bracts of the flowers look terrific among the blue-green foliage of the plant. They look great when spilling on or near a blue-green companion plant like the *A. parryi*, or mixed in with any number of purple verbenas.

If you let the resulting seed pods fully ripen and turn brown, they’ll *pop* open and eject seeds several feet away (a universal trait among *Euphorbias* that is a blessing to some gardeners (me!), and a curse to others (greenhouse growers especially). Yes, this plant self-sows nicely (though not aggressively) and you’ll often find seedlings near and far. The seedlings are extremely easy to identify, and if you dig up plenty of soil to reduce root-disturbance, they are very easy to transplant. Water them immediately after transplanting. Don’t wait the way you would if transplanting a thick-trunked succulent *Euphorbia*. Sadly, in-ground plants do NOT transplant well at all. I have killed countless individuals trying to relocate them...
when my fickle landscape preferences change. Seedlings, and mature container-grown plants transplant just fine.

I grow them in full sun or partial sun, and generally water them once a week in summer, and once a month in winter, and something in between in spring and autumn. If I’m on the road for work or fun, they just have to do without. I usually plant them in the ground in utterly un-improved lean desert soil and they thrive. Really thrive. They’ve proven immune to summer’s heat and winter chill in two different Scottsdale gardens for 18 years now. I’ve never covered them in winter or in summer.

Oh, the fifteen minutes of maintenance? Well, it only comes once a year and it usually takes less than fifteen minutes. While *Euphorbia rigida* is a perennial plant, its individual stems are biennial, so in mid-spring, (late April to early May), the stems that have flowered will suddenly start to yellow a bit and will begin to shed their leaves. Just take out your pruners and cut each fading stem that has flowered back to two to three inches in length. (See the difference in the photo below.) Do NOT cut back any stems that have not flowered as they will provide next year’s flowers. That may sound shocking, but isn’t, because by the time the flowering stems are fading, next year’s stems have emerged and are 4-6 inches long already. The plant will look clean, tidy and lush after the quick once-a-year haircut. I always wear gloves for the Annual Pruning, (even though I despise gardening gloves), to protect myself from the irritating milky latex that will seep from the cut stems.

Another bonus from this great plant: the irritating, bitter sap means animals like javelina, rabbits, hares and others will almost never molest your plants. Happily this plant is easily found at plant nurseries throughout the warm-winter parts of Arizona, and is always sold at the Desert Botanical Garden’s annual plant sales. If you’re interested in trying it, you’ll have little trouble finding it.

Your stock market investments may be risky, but a small investment with *Euphorbia rigida* will definitely yield great results for you and your garden.

Happy gardening!

*To read *Euphorbia Latex Dangers* by Sue Hakala, go to the club web site, newsletters-archived and select March, 2012. You’ll be surprised.*
CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 2018 SHOW
AWARDS    Compiled by Lois Schneberger

Best Cactus of the Show:  *Teprocactus bonnieae*
Grown by Sue Hakala

Best Junior Novice Succulent:  *Lithops leslei*
Grown by Danny Briggs

Best Advanced Cactus:  *Echinocereus pacificus*
Grown by Pam Edsall

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

Best Novice Cactus:  *Astrophytum myriostigma*
*Grown by Rita Gosnell*

Judge’s Choice for a Cactus:  *Adenium ‘mini’*
Grown by Dan Smith

Best Novice Succulent:  *Welwitschia sp.*
Grown by Dan Smith

Show Chair’s Choice for a Succulent:  *Adromischus maculatus*
Grown by Sue Hakala

Best Junior Novice Cactus:  *Stenocereus griseus*
Grown by Johnny Briggs

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

Best Cactus Collection:  *Epiphytic* collection
Grown by Ken Luiten

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

Best Educational Exhibit:  *Cactus of Mexico*
By Steve and Julie Plath

Show Chair’s Choice for a Cactus:  *Parodia scopa sb. murielle*
Grown by Sue Hakala

Desert Botanical Garden Best in Show for Artistic Merit:  *Eriosyce senilis*
Grown by Mike Gallagher

Best Succulent of the Show:  *Jatropha cuneata*
Grown by Wendy Barrett

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

Best Advanced Succulent:  *Cyphostemma cv. ‘Fat Bastard’*
Grown by George Kazaka

Best Aizoaceae:  *Lithops hookeri*
Grown by Cliff Fielding

Best Novice Aloe or Aloe Hybrid:  *Aloe erinacea*
Grown by Thom Young

Best Succulent:  *Welwitschia sp.*
Grown by Dan Smith

CACSS 10 of 21 May 2018
Best Ariocarpus: *Ariocarpus fissuratus* var. *lloydii*  
Grown by Pam Edsall

Best Arizona Native Plant of the Show:  
*Escobaria robbinsorum*  
Grown by Cliff Fielding

Best *Euphorbia*: *Euphorbia decaryi var. spirosticha*  
Grown by Mike Gallagher

Best Gasteria: *Gasteria armstrongii*  
Grown by Pam Edsall

Best Ferocactus: *Ferocactus emoryi var. covillei*  
Grown by Wayne Whipple

Best Haworthia: *Haworthia pumila*  
Grown by Claudia Helfgott

Best Mammillaria: *Mammillaria petterssonii var. saltensis*  
Grown by Sue Hakala

Best Crest or Monstrose: *Melocactus matanzanus monstrose*  
Grown by Tom Briggs

Best Seedling: *Cereus peruvianus monstrose*  
Grown by Ken Luiten

The following award is chosen by the visitors to the show. The winner receives a traveling trophy for the award with his/her name on the 2018 plaque and a decorator pot which the winner can keep. This award is given in honor of Henry Triesler, co-founder of CACSS.

People’s Choice Award to Cliff Fielding

A special thanks to Wendy Barrett from the editor for taking pictures of all the prize-winning plants, show, sale, and volunteers for use in the newsletter this year.
Best Junior Novice Succulent of the 2018 Show: *Lithops leslieii*
Grown by Danny Briggs

PURCHASED: March 2017

POT: It grows in a small glazed ceramic pot from Goodwill.

FERTILIZER: Haven't fertilized it yet.

POTTING MEDIUM: 50% small pumice, 50% backyard soil from South Mountain.

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun is filtered with 30% shade cloth in summer.

WATERING: It gets misting/light shower a few times per week.

FROST PROTECTION: Frost hasn't been a problem yet.

SPECIAL NEEDS: It needs help splitting old leaves off in the spring time.

Danny Briggs (left) and Johnny Briggs with their Junior Novice Rosette Ribbons. All photos by Wendy Barrett.
HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT

Best Junior Novice Cactus of the 2018 Show:  *Stenocereus griseus*
Grown by Johnny Briggs

PURCHASED:  August 2017

POT:  It grows in a small glazed, orange ceramic pot from Goodwill.

FERTILIZER:  Haven’t fertilized it yet.

POTTING MEDIUM:  50% small pumice, 50% backyard soil from South Mountain

SUN EXPOSURE:  It grows under 30% shade cloth in summer.

WATERING:  It gets a light shower once a week.

FROST PROTECTION:  Frost hasn’t been a problem yet.

SPECIAL NEEDS:  It just needed a good home.  A nursery in Tucson gave it to me for free because they thought it was going to die soon.
ASK AN EXPERT

President Jim Oravitz has a new idea for a newsletter feature. Here’s how it works. Members send a question related to growing cactus and succulent plants to Editor Sue Hakala (CACSScentralspine@gmail.com). She will find a club expert to answer the question. Here’s our first question.

Please provide information about how to fertilize cactus and succulents grown indoors year-round in Arizona.

Steve Plath provides the answer.

The majority of cacti and other succulent plants come from regions with soils fairly low in nutrients. That being said, a plant in a container is totally dependent upon its caretaker to provide all the elements necessary to thrive, including fertilizer. Fresh potting media may have a limited amount of fertility, but that is quickly used up by both the plant taking up nutrients as well as leaching every time the plant is watered. Succulents typically need low nitrogen fertilizers. Nitrogen is the first number of the three numbers listed on fertilizer containers and is the nutrient that promotes growth. For example, a 10-30-20 fertilizer indicates 10% nitrogen, 30% phosphorus and 20% potassium. Ten percent or less nitrogen is more than adequate for nearly any succulent.

Succulents as indoor container plants pose an interesting challenge, even more so than as container plants outside, because their environment is relatively benign (moderated temperatures, limited air movement, possibly sub-optimal lighting, etc.). Consequently, fertilizing indoor succulents doesn't need to be excessive. If you have a favorite fertilizer you use, dilute it to 50% or less strength as recommended on the container for a once a month drench during the plant's growing season. If you're looking for a new fertilizer, look for one with 10% or less nitrogen and dilute it at least by half for indoor use. There is no need to apply fertilizer when the plant is not actively growing. You don't need to over do it for succulents indoors because there's the risk of promoting soft, abnormal growth.

CAN YOU HELP?

By Cindy Capek

I need someone to take over putting up, taking down and storing the curtains used to block out the light from the doors at the monthly meetings. You have to be at Dorrance Hall at least one-half to an hour before the meeting (1-1:30 p.m.) to do this. It really is not hard. The curtains are in a plastic bin and the poles are in a cloth sleeve and the foot stool is very light. I have been doing this for a few years and now it is time to pass it on. Contact me on my cell 623-570-2069 or home 623-979-9389.
I purchased this plant in April 2016 at the CSSA plant sale. I planted it in a bonsai pot and entered it in the 2017 show (see photo bottom left). Being a novice and not familiar with it’s nature or habitat, I researched it online. It comes from the Baja. I checked the weather conditions for that area and found it was mostly ocean mist. I decided to stay on the safe side and only ran the hose over it lightly, once a week. Most of my plants are outside year-round, potted, or in the ground. Iberillia sits under my Chinese elm tree on a raised stand. It gets early morning and late afternoon sun. I don’t cover it when the temperature drops.

Last year, I purchased Iberillia tennisecta at the CSSA sale. Why I thought this needed extra water I do not know. It had Texas, New Mexico and northern Mexico as its native locations. Just giving it a little more water killed it. Since that experience, I would treat any Iberillia with just a light spray of water.

My Iberillia Sonorae is just starting to get leaves now, so I decided not to put it into the 2018 show (bottom right). It’s going to take a few more weeks to get to the flowering state of last year.

I have been collecting cactus and succulents for forty years and still feel like a novice.
FAVORITE TOOL

By Tom Gatz

The high pressure nozzle is one of my favorite gardening tools. These nozzles are available at the big box stores and are great for cleaning leaves and other debris out of *Agaves* and other large rosette succulents. Be sure to have a control valve attached with it so you can regulate the pressure to ensure that you don’t damage plants with softer leaves. It seems counterintuitive, but it is best to start at THE BOTTOM of the rosette and work your way up. Otherwise, the debris from the top tends to build up farther down and is more difficult to remove once it is soaking wet.

My brother John showed me another great use; loosening the soil and roots in a pot-bound plant, such as the large *Adenium* in this photo, in order to remove it without damaging the roots or the pot.

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Next newsletter issue submission deadline is **June 5, 2018**. Email all submissions to: Editor Sue Hakala at cacsscentralspine@gmail.com. Members are encouraged to submit medium resolution images of their plants with captions for inclusion in the newsletter when and where possible.
FAVORITE TOOL

My favorite tool is a spading fork for turning organic material into compost that I use on my succulents and in my garden.

I use the spading fork to turn my compost pile and to add oxygen to the organic material to keep the composting process going. The spading fork is easier to use than a regular shovel. I can also use the spading fork to till my garden and loosen soil.

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NOPALITO SALAD
Submitted by Chris Ginkel


Nopalitos (or nopales) are the pads of the prickly pear cactus, and this salad is a staple in Mexico. The dressing and the salad ingredients can be prepared ahead, refrigerated and combined just before serving. Makes 4 servings.

For the dressing:
2 large (unpeeled) cloves garlic
Juice of 1 large lemon (about 1/4 cup)
1/2 cup olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
1 tablespoon pickled jalapeño peppers, finely chopped

For the salad:
1 15-ounce jar sliced nopalitos, rinsed and drained (or 3 to 4 fresh prickly pear cactus pads; see TIP, below)
4 scallions, white and light-green parts, coarsely chopped
2 medium tomatoes, thinly sliced
4 red radishes, thinly sliced
1 head red leaf lettuce, washed, dried and torn into small pieces
1 bunch cilantro leaves, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup crumbled queso fresco (may substitute feta cheese)

For the dressing: Heat the garlic cloves in a small heavy skillet, preferably cast iron, over medium heat for about 20 minutes, turning them frequently until they have softened. Peel and mash the cloves; transfer to a small bowl.

In a separate small bowl or measuring cup, whisk together the lemon juice, olive oil, black pepper to taste, oregano, and thyme. Add the mashed garlic and the jalapeño peppers, stirring to mix well. Set aside; if not serving immediately, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

For the salad: Toss the drained nopalitos with the salad dressing in a salad bowl; cover and refrigerate to let them marinate until ready to serve. Just before serving, add the scallions, tomatoes, radishes, lettuce, and cilantro, tossing to combine. Sprinkle with the queso fresco and serve.
Aphids are the Amazons of the insect world. The virgin females give birth to about seven live young each day, all summer long. In autumn, males are born without mouths solely to service the females, sort of like the ultimate Stepford male. Eggs laid at this time will over winter to emerge in the spring.

These drill-mouthed little beings are always hungry. They aren’t particularly picky, and are happy to suck up thousands of plant species’ proteins and sugars. Aphids are defenseless against predation and enlist ants as their security guards. If you see ants running up and down your plants, suspect aphids and take a good look at the base of the plant, in the soil and on the undersides of leaves. The ants stroke the backs of their small friends encouraging them to excrete a drop of honeydew from their teeny, tiny butts. Honeydew, mostly made up of water, contains nutrients: amino acids (the building blocks of proteins), and sugars. In delighted return, the ants keep the aphids safe from parasites and predators. When need be, ants will sometimes even build little shelters over them. Herded together by the ants, as a dairyman does his cows, the aphids thrive. Unfortunately, your plants won’t.

The best defense is to strike when the aphid population is small. Check your plants carefully for natural enemies of aphids, such as green lacewings, aphid predator midges, lady beetles (ladybugs), and parasitic wasps. If present, these predators will keep the population in check with no action needed on your part. If not, then blast the aphids off with a hose every 2-3 days, and get under the leaves. Once blasted off, they can’t find their way back on. Some people swear by insecticidal soaps, others by spraying on water with a few drops of dishwashing soap in it. Systemics work too. Check with your nursery for the best one to use on your plant as different ones work on different aphids. I usually just put on a garden glove and squish away and follow up with a blast from the hose.
FACEBOOK UPDATE

By Thom Young

Our Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society (CACSS) Facebook (FB) page is an open forum on cacti and succulents (C&S). There are many C&S questions, commentaries, along with requests for IDs. The FB page membership rose to a total of 3,623 members in March and April. Join the CACSS FB page by copying and pasting this url to your search engine: https://www.facebook.com/groups/cacss2/

Each month we feature a cactus and a succulent (non-cactus) photo from our FB members. May’s featured cactus photo is Wendy Barrett’s post of Echinocereus enneacanthus in bloom. The featured succulent photo was not received in time for the article submission. Thanks to Wendy for posting her photos on the CACSS FB page.

Facebookers keep posting!
The May Meeting, *Growing Bromeliads in Arizona*, will be May 19, 2018 at 9-11a.m. in the Farrington Conference Room** at the DBG,

**Please note the change in location just for this month.**

Our March meeting of PEG was a great success with over 20 people enjoying an introduction to *Lithops* by Doug Dawson—an excellent precursor to his talk at the monthly meeting later that same month. Attendees not only learned a lot, but everyone went home with *Lithops* themselves!

If you think that taking home plants for free is a good thing, then you just HAVE to be sure and attend the May meeting of PEG. Not only will we learn all about the wonderful varieties of members of the *Bromeliaceae* that you can grow in Arizona, but every attendee will be able to take home at least one plant themselves from this fascinating—and heavily under-used—group of plants.

Additionally, fellow CACSS member, Ryan Grabe, will be on hand to share some of the research he’s done to date on soil components and additives to increase the success and vigor of your seedlings. He will be moving out-of-state soon and is on the lookout for someone to take over some of his collection and experiments, so be sure you don’t miss out on this fascinating topic.

We hope to see you all there!

*Billbergia sp. in flower (above) and Deuterocohnia lorentziana (left).*