Happy Holidays! The snow-capped Superstition Mountains and *Cylindropuntia bigelovii* create a special desert day. It’s a great time of year to take a stroll in the desert and see our favorite plants in their home environment.  *Photo by Sue Hakala.*
We now have 515 members and I am very grateful that we also have so many members who volunteer to create great experiences for us. Our success as a society depends on the work of our volunteers. I would like to devote this letter to recognizing the people who make significant contributions to our society.

Since this letter is in the Central Spine, I would first like to thank Sue Hakala who took over the newsletter in January. She spends tremendous time and effort putting together our newsletter and is supported by so many folks who submit articles and photos resulting in an informative and visually interesting newsletter. Sue, with the help of Lauren Marks, indexed all of our newsletters so you can easily find articles by plant, author, photos, open gardens, workshops programs, etc. Thank you!

Diana Crummey is our program chair, and her team of Cathy Babcock, Lee Brownson and Chuck Brush select our speakers and host them when they arrive. We are so fortunate to have had such great programs, and Diana provides such a good experience for our speakers while they are here. We couldn’t do our programs without audio visual expertise, and that has been provided by Dan Smith and now Jim Oravetz. Cindy Capek enhances our viewing pleasure by making and putting up black-out curtains at each meeting, and Kat Hanna has manned the refreshment table and provided us with water and snacks. Nancy Mumpton and Wendy Barrett manage our library at every meeting with the help of several book runners who bring the books. Our ever-popular silent auction is managed by Thom Young. Nick Diomede and Emily Glenn sit in the back of the room at each meeting handling finances and memberships. Nicky Davis manages our seed depot and brings the seed bank to each of our meetings. Jo Davis is our, jack-of-all trades, and does whatever is necessary to ensure the success of our meetings, including running our raffles. Thanks to all of you!

Our Annual Show and Sale was led by Dan Smith and Mike Cone and a large cast of dedicated volunteers. This is our major fundraiser, and it was very successful, allowing us to support a number of worthwhile programs and projects. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this happen.

Mike Gallagher and his team led the annual auction where you acquired some great plants while raising money for our use. Thank you!

We enjoy going on buying expeditions and the camaraderie that ensues. Our bus trip to California was led by Steve
Martinez, Gard Roper and Rita Gosnell and supported by a number of other members. It was a great time! Thank you!

Open gardens are a lovely way to see interesting spaces and plants and visit with fellow members. They are always very popular events enjoyed by many of you. This year, Mary and Donald Maciver, Diana and John Crummey, Cliff Fielding, and Barbara and Rick Rosenberg graciously opened their gardens and provided us with refreshments. Bob Torrest hosted two walkabouts in his extensive garden, highlighting the species and cultivation of columnar cactus. Thank you!

Tristan Davis leads our Propagation Education Group (PEG). He also initiated and developed our new research grant program. The PEG group is also propagating plants that will serve as gifts for the 2017 CSSA convention that we are hosting. Thank you!

We are taking advantage of social media by having two Facebook sites. Our main site is managed by Dan Smith and Thom Young. Membership on it is growing by leaps and bounds. I particularly enjoy all of the beautiful plant pictures posted and the “how-to” information. Chris Ginkel manages our Swap and Shop site where we buy and sell plants and related items. These sites add considerable value to our society, and provide a way for folks to learn about us and join. Thank you!

Gard Roper, “Pumice Pile Baron,” and Eric Holst, “Fertilizer King,” have continued to provide pumice and fertilizer to us at greatly reduced costs. Thank you!

Again this year, we were provided with the opportunity to buy CACSS T-shirts thanks to the efforts of Linda O’Connor. Thank you!

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that gets done with little visibility to most of you. Lois Schneberger is our historian/archivist, capably organizing and keeping the records of the society. Jo Davis leads our Keeping-in-Touch program calling and sending cards to members who need extra support. Lucy Rand organizes our plant rescues. Sue Tyrrel prints and mails newsletters, which go via USPS, and also manages private plant sales at our meetings. Sue Glenn and her team organize our annual holiday party. Leo Martin, “Expert Extraordinary,” helps me answer questions that come to our website which are beyond my ability. The nominating committee, Wayne Whipple, Mike Cone and Nancy Mumpton recruited our slate of officers and board members and Dan Smith managed the election process. Thanks to all of you!

And last, but certainly not least, are our officers and board members who meet every other month and handle the business of
the society: they are, Mike Gallagher, our knowledgeable vice-president; Nick Diomede, our hard-working treasurer; Jean Brush, our efficient secretary; and our dedicated directors, Mike Cone, Diana Crummey, Jo Davis, Tristan Davis, Sue Glenn, Edmund Hunt, Nancy Mumpton, Jim Oravetz, Carol Parrott, Lucy Rand, Dan Smith, and Judy Tolbert. I am grateful to work with such a capable and enthusiastic team. Thank you!

When you think about what you would like to add to your bucket list in 2017, please think about volunteering to serve the needs of CACSS. It will enrich your CACSS experience. Enjoy the holidays and we will meet again on Sunday, January 29 to kick off the CACSS new year!

NEW MEMBERS joining October through December

Mary Albrecht          David and Donna Ropp
Morakod and Jan Aphaisuwan Alex Slade
Walter Bisbee and Robert Upton Greg Starr
John Branum            Mitchell Muser & Michele Buntin
Ferras Elshair          Frank and Mary Mobley
Michael Hernandez       Bill McLain
Bill and Laura King     John Marks
Chris Kline

Aloes in bloom at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in January. Photo by John Crummey.
DAN SMITH  By Cindy Capek

Dan Smith grew up in a little town in northwestern Pennsylvania called Warren. “I went to a little liberal arts school right out of high school called Baldwin-Wallace. I then went to Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan and finished my education at Lawrence Technological College studying automotive engineering,” Dan said.

Dan moved to Arizona in 1974. He lives in Mesa with his wife Denise of 34 years.

“I enjoy studying genealogy and history and then, I started to love the beautiful Adeniums and cactus with caudiciforms,” Dan said. He has approximately 268 Adeniums along with seeds for successful propagation and, a total of 25-30 other different cactus and succulents in pots.

“I started volunteering at the Desert Botanical Garden doing various duties, like planting new cactus, cleaning out old ones, and whatever was needed. I heard about the CACSS from reading a brochure and joined eight years ago.

“I created the CACSS Facebook page and it turned out to be very successful with approximately 1,781 members and growing every day,” said Dan. He also checks to make sure that everything on the page are all approved sites and members.

Dan has also wrestled with our audio/visual system at meetings, chaired the Annual Show, serves on our Board of Director and done so much to assist the Society. He shares his knowledge willing and we are so lucky to have him.

This plant is called “Star of Happiness” or “Star of Luck,” depending on the grower. It’s one of the first Adenium that I imported around 2008. It came from Taiwan, and the gentleman I purchased it from is no longer selling grafted plants. It’s just a single blossom, but it’s so floriferous that I love it. Photo by Dan Smith.
BOOK REVIEW

The Bold Dry Garden Lessons From the Ruth Bancroft Garden, by Johanna Silver, photographs by Marion Brenner, published by Timber Press. $35 from Timber Press.

Today’s gardeners digging succulents and arid plants will immediately be attracted to the beautiful cover of The Bold Dry Garden. The surprise in opening the book is that before you learn more about arid plants you get a story of Ruth, a curious gardener who loves plants and design. Johanna Silver has written this important story of Ruth Bancroft and her Bold Dry Garden documenting her place in American garden history. Ruth’s succulent and cactus garden in Walnut Creek, CA has been growing since 1972. For over 40 years, this garden filled with succulents, cactus, shrubs, and trees from arid lands around the world, has been inspiring visitors. This was long before drought conditions introduced gardeners to such interesting plants as Aeonium, Agaves, Aloes, Euphorbias, Sedums, and Yuccas.

I recently visited Ruth’s garden and was mesmerized by the lush beauty and variety of arid plants. Reading Silver’s descriptions of Ruth’s planting strategies, her ideas of repetition, working with light and shade, and managing the wide ranging climate adaptation of plants only increased my appreciation of what I saw.

The book gave me, already a desert gardener, a much greater understanding of what is possible. Detailing the exquisite photographs of Marion Brenner, Silver’s words open a gardener’s eyes as she describes a mounding cactus “with two types of white spines: long central ones and shorter radial ones that make each globe look ghostly and glowing.” The photo captions go beyond the important task of naming species and clarify the beauty of such an arrangement, “Parodia magnifier, organized into neat rows of bristly spines topped with satiny flowers, creates a formal appearance.” I read this book
slowly as each image had the power to send me outside to look at my own garden, looking for rock edges and niches, re-imagining my planting design, and hunting potential spaces for plants that poke, swirl, send up rosettes of color, and rise high with sword-shaped leaves.

Ruth Bancroft’s beautiful garden inspired the founding of The Garden Conservancy “to preserve exceptional American gardens for the public's education and enjoyment.” Timber Press released the book in celebration of Ruth’s 108th birthday. Even if you never plant a single cactus, you will be inspired by the story of Ruth's *Bold Dry Garden*.

Linda Larson, inspires others to visit gardens whoever they go through her blog, “A Traveling Gardener, wandering, wondering, noticing. . . .” [http://travelinggardener.com/wordpress/](http://travelinggardener.com/wordpress/). When not traveling herself, she gardens in Mesa, AZ.

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**FEROCACTUS WISLIZENI**

Photo and Text By Tristan Davis

This photo of an amazingly sited *Ferocactus wislizeni* was taken along the King Canyon Wash Trail in the Tucson Mountains (West) District of Saguaro National Park (The monument was officially elevated to full National Park status in 1994).

The King Canyon Trail is a great trail for anyone who wants to get away from the crowds; about 1.1 mile from the parking lot (located across from the Sonoran-Desert Museum). The trail arrives at the Mam-A-Gah picnic ramada which was built by the CCC during the Roosevelt Administration. There are several such ramadas in the park, but this is the only one well away from roads.

Lots of different cacti can be seen along the trail, like *Opuntia*, *Ferocactus*, *Carnegia gigantea*, of course, *Mammillaria*, *Cylindropuntia*, etc. Other succulents typical of the Sonoran Desert like *Fouquieria splendens*, *Simmondsia chinensis*, etc. are also there.
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 $89 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
- Peter Breslin, AZ
- Mark Dimmitt, AZ
- Chuck Hanson, AZ
- Woody Minnich, NM
- Ernesto Sandoval, CA
- Marcia Tatroe, CO
- Rob Wallace, IA
- Bob Webb, Tucson, AZ
- with more to come!

**Great Plants, Pottery and More**
- Arid Lands
- Cactus Data Plants
- Carol Wichern Pottery
- Desert Creations
- J & J Cactus and Succulents
- Plants of the Southwest
- PW Plants – Peter Walkowiak
- Rare Succulents – Petra Crist
- Sandy Siegel Pottery
- Steve Plath
- Sticky Situation
- with more to come!

Please visit us at the convention website: cssaconvention.com for the latest information regarding speakers, vendors, daily schedule, and field trips.
It is with the deepest regret that we note the passing of Darrel Plowes, in Mutare, Zimbabwe in October, 2016 at age 91. Darrel’s long career before retirement was in agriculture and natural resource management where his contributions were substantial. His extensive interests covered an incredibly wide range of subjects in the fields of natural history, agronomy, entomology, botany, and ornithology, to name just a few. He was considered an authority on Stapeliads, orchids, butterflies, birds, and bird’s eggs. He was widely published and had a number of newly described taxa named for him. He has revised several major groups of Stapelias, including descriptions of new genera and species.

He did extensive fieldwork in 18 countries.

He was also a very nice man willing to share his extensive knowledge. I met Darrel as we were sharing a ride on a trolley from the parking lot at ASU at the 1987 CSSA conference. He was a world authority on Stapeliads that CSSA brought in to speak. I couldn’t believe my luck. I had the full attention of a world expert, and I’m not ashamed to say that I took advantage of it. I had just had a massive mealy bug infestation in 35 different species of Stapelias. I asked his advice on how to reduce this risk.

He said to use clay pots, use a loose soil with at least 50% pumice, and to lay the plant on top dressing gravel so that the plant body doesn’t touch the soil in any way allowing the roots to grow through it. Then to fill the pot with more top dressing. Mealy bugs don’t like air circulation and won’t move in. I’ve been growing my Stapelias and relatives this way since then, and guess what? I’ve never seen a mealy bug since.

If they had returned, he recommended a systemic insecticide that not only kills root mealy bugs, but also scale and probably also mites. The basic ingredient is imidachloprid.

Darrell and I have emailed through the years sharing our passion for Stapelias. In our last correspondence he said, “All my time these days is taken up with producing an illustrated Stapeliad checklist that will cover the approximately 500 species, which I have managed to obtain over the many years that I have
collected and studied them. I usually work until 02.00 at night, and sometimes even later, because at age 90 I need to get this task finished before I pass on—there is no-one else who can sort out *Stapelia* taxonomy in the way that all my experience provides. It is the result of studying *Stapeliads* in 18 countries, as well as having in-depth interests in every other branch of natural history. This checklist will be about 250 pages in length. After that is published, I hope to resume work on my book which is about half-done.”

We can only hope he got to finish these tasks. He will be missed.

*Huernia plowesii*
PLANT QUIZ

Taken from Cacti and Other Succulents Newsletter

Answers are found later in this newsletter.

1. Why do plants such as Echeverias and Aeoniums have a rosette arrangement of leaves?
2. What helps to insulate and sometimes act as a reflector of light for cactus?
3. What Latin words can be used after a species name to indicate a fasciated variety of plant?
4. What family do cactus belong to?
5. Cactus are almost exclusively natives of what continents?
6. Where do the majority of other succulents originate?
7. Name the three “tribes” of cactus.
8. What is the second largest family of succulent plants?
9. What genera of plants are distinguished by their flowers and have a milky juice?

After Dan Smith’s excellent article last month on Welwitschia mirabilis, this photo by Chris Hewitt taken in Namibia, surfaced showing a stunning specimen believed to be 4,000 year old.
Gymnocalycium mihanovichii var. hibotan or “Lollipop” cacti are a colorful group of succulents that lack the necessary chlorophyll to produce plant sugars through photosynthesis. For this reason, the mutants are grafted onto a species that produces plenty of chlorophyll which the cactus can use to sustain itself for several years. Normal wild Gymnocalycium mihanovichii are native to desert habitats in various parts of South America.

The cultivated mutant plants, Gymnocalycium mihanovichii var. hibotan or “Lollipop,” are believed to have been engineered in Japan. They come in vibrant bright colors of hot pink, brilliant orange and neon yellow. These are small plants, generally only ½ inch across, although there are cultivars that get up to 8 inches in diameter.

Most often, in the horticultural trade, the “Pops” are grafted onto Hylocereus species which has triangular-shaped stems with few spines. In their natural southern Mexico, Central American or South American environment, Hylocereus are climbers, with stems that can grow up to 30 feet, and horizontal roots that can attach to surrounding objects. The flowers of Hylocereus species are among the largest in the cactus family—12 inches in length. The fragrant flowers open for only a few hours for one night.

While Hylocereus are not often grown in pots and greenhouses due to their cumbersome size, the fast growth makes them popular for use in grafting. The grafts do not last long as Hylocereus.
prefer tropical growing conditions, and are very sensitive to cold, which most people don't realize.

The “Lollipop” is usually sold already grafted in a process that removes the bottom of the “Pop” and the top of the rootstock cactus (*Hylocereus*). The two halves are secured together at the cut ends and soon heal together. The graft usually only lasts a few years because the *Hylocereus* base grows faster than the “Pop” scion. The difference in the speed of their growth eventually becomes too great for the graft to hold, and the two parts separate. The life of the “Pop” can be extended by re-grafting it onto a fresh rootstock like a *Myrtillocactus geometrizans*.

More commonly, cactus propagation for “Lollipops” is achieved by removing the offsets, which are smaller versions of the parent plant growing from the base. These are easy to detach and graft.

“Lollipop” care is similar to any succulent or cactus species. The “Pops” prefer temperatures on the warm side but, need a minimum of 48F to survive. Most wild normal *Gymnocalyciums* grow in the shelter of taller specimens which shade them from the scorching sun, so indoor cultivar “Pops” should be partially shielded from bright sunlight by slatted blinds during the brightest part of the day. Fertilize April through September for this summer grower.

Use unglazed shallow pots with a drainage hole. Water deeply, and then allow the soil to completely dry to the base of the pot before reapplying moisture. Suspend watering in the winter months and repot in spring to reintroduce nutrient dense soil. In rare cases, and when care of these “Lollipops” is optimum, you may be rewarded with small red to pink flowers in late spring to early summer.

These plants are bright and colorful and fun to look at. Many inexperienced growers buy these plants, some thinking that the brightly colored part is the flower.
Hosted by the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, the Desert Forum will take place on Saturday, January 14, 2017. Schedule of events are:

9-9:45 a.m. Registration. Bring your CSSA membership card or CACSS club badge for free admission. After 9:45 a.m., you will need to pay for Huntington admission.

9-11 a.m. Desert Garden. Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory to answer questions. The Aloes will be in bloom.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Plant sales for CSSA and club members. Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11 a.m. for plant sales. No early bird shopping. No shopping after 1 p.m. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.

1-5 p.m. Free Time. Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10 a.m. Several lunch options are available on the grounds.

An Aloe bed at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in spectacular January bloom. Photo by John Crummey.
James Duncan Graham was born April 4, 1799 in Prince William County, Virginia. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1817, and served in the United States Army as a topographical engineer. He directed the re-survey of the Mason-Dixon line, and served on the boundary commission for the United States and Canada and the United States and Mexico. He supervised harbor improvements on the Great Lakes, discovering the lunar tide there. Graham died in Boston in 1865. Graham County, Mammillaria grahamii and Mount Graham in Safford, Arizona are named after him.
When I brought in *Agave vilmoriniana* (octopus agave) babies for distribution, Gard Roper (a club expert on *Agaves*) explained to us why they were different and rare. He said that he believed they were triploids (see definition below). Many people were excited and scooped them up and others were left shaking their head. So here’s why.

**CHROMOSOME** A thread-like structure in the nucleus of the cell, which carries the genes.

**CHROMOSOME NUMBER** The number of chromosomes in the nucleus. It can be used for the purpose of identifying the species.

**HAPLOID** A nucleus containing one complete set of chromosomes.

**DIPLOID** A nucleus containing two complete sets of chromosomes.

**TRIPLOID** A nucleus containing three complete sets of chromosomes.

**TETRAPLOID** A nucleus containing four complete sets of chromosomes.

**ANSWERS TO PLANT QUIZ**

1. To permit a maximum of photosynthesizing surface in a minimum of space.
2. spines
3. monstrous or cristatas
4. Cactaceae
5. North and South America
6. Africa
7. Pereskioideae, Opuntioideae, Cereeae
8. Crassulaceae
9. Euphorbiaceae
WINTER INDEX

Be sure to refer to your newsletter indexes to find articles of interest. Especially timely now, are the articles relating to winter protection of plants. Visit the CACSS web site, select newsletters on the left side, and scroll down to find the year and month you are looking for. A copy of all the index are kept in our library.

- 10/10 Temperature Guide (when to cover plants) by Tom Gatz, 1/03
- Cacti and Succulents in Cold Weather by Russ Hintz, 12/00
- Frost Damage 2004 by Jim Elliott, 3/04
- Frost on the Cactus by Kent C. Newland, 1/76
- Frost Protection found within Leo Martin’s From Your President column, 1/99
- Growing in the Desert Series: Coping with Wet Winters by Mark Dimmitt, 1/12
- Gymnocalycium Habitat and Winter Culture by Mike Goodson, 8/85
- Holiday Cactus by Leo Martin, 12/02
- Some Observations on Winter by Joan Skirvin, 10/92, 8/85
- Turn of the Seasons by Leo Martin, 9/02
- Winter Growing Plants found within Leo Martin’s From Your President column, 12/01
- Winter Protection by Leo Martin, 10/02
- Winter Watering found within Leo Martin’s From Your President column, 2/01
- Wintering Plants in Phoenix by Leo Martin, 11/00

WEB SITES TO VISIT

- CACSS on the web at: centralarizonacactus.org the Society’s web site.
- Facebook Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society to share plant knowledge, pictures and more with members.
- Facebook CACSS Swap and Shop a place to connect with members.
- The latest edition of The Cactus Explorers Club Journal is now available on-line. This excellent publication is free and chock full of interesting articles and so much more.
- If you like Opuntias be sure to check out a very professionally put together web site: opuntiads.com. Every species has many habitat pictures, flowers and cultivated specimens featured. Their motto is, “Glochids Forever.”

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

For Club Use Only

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☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ PayPal Date: ____________

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

For new and renewal membership, complete this form and make check payable to CACSS.

Mail to: CACSS, PO Box 63572, Phoenix, AZ 85082-3572.

Please take special care in ensuring all information is legible.

Name (1): ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________

Name (2): ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________

☐ For renewing members, please check if all following information remains same.

Address: _______________________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ________ Zip Code: ___________

Phone (Home): __________________ (Cell): __________________

☐ Do not publish my information to the CACSS membership list. (Note: we do not share information.)

Areas of volunteer interest: _____________________________________________

How did you hear about us: _____________________________________________

Includes monthly full-color newsletter via e-mail.

Annual Membership Fee: ☐ Individual $20 ☐ Family $25

Multi-year renewal (x) Years _________ = Total Fees Submitted _________

Please share your ideas for speakers or how we can improve your club experience:

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

If you would like to speak to someone about your membership please contact Beth Kirkpatrick,

Membership Chair, at bethalia@gmail.com or 480-275-4833. We look forward to your

continued participation in the club.

REVISED DECEMBER 2016
Explore the Borderlands during a thrilling evening with renowned author Gary Paul Nabhan and discover why food tastes better when we know the science, history, and culture behind it.

Enjoy an evening of discovering how history influences the taste of the food we consume. Nabhan, the Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems at the University of Arizona, will share excerpts and stories from his book *Desert Terroir*, in which he delves into the ecological, cultural and personal history of the food we grow and eat. The terroir or, “taste of the place,” of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands is rich and unique, and Nabhan will leave you craving a taste of the desert.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 17, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Dorrance Hall. Members: $24 / General Public $30. Here is a link with more information http://www.dbg.org/nabhan
A big thank you to all of our newsletter contributors for 2016. My personal thanks to everyone who has said yes to an article request. Please thank them too. Our proofreader, who chooses to remain anonymous, contributes more than you’d ever guess to the quality of the newsletter and deserves a halo. Also, Nick Diomede has been very supportive in answering technical questions. If you have any ideas for articles you’d like to see written or subjects/plants to write about, please forward your ideas to: cacsscentralspine@gmail.com

Scott McMahon  Cindy Capek  Steve Martinez
Dan Smith  Doug Dawson  Lee Brownson
Steve Plath  Linda O’Connor  Ruth Jolly
Diana Crummey  Deborah Robin  David Yetman
Tom Gatz  Lance Runkles  Leo A. Martin
Sue Glenn  Nancy Mumpton  Rita Gosnell
Linda Larson  Mike Gallagher  Jordanna Saunders
Thom Young  Michelle Schrade  All the photographers
Tristan Davis  Chris Ginkel  Nicky Davis
Steve Mack  Wendy Barrett  Lois Schneberger
John Crummey  Jo Davis  Beth Kirkpatrick
Loren Rodewald  Javier F.Gurrola  Sue Hakala

Crassula ‘Red Edge’
Did someone ask if our FB page is growing? The CACSS Facebook (FB) page grew over 5% in November. Our FB page now has over 1,781 members from around the world. The Bangladesh Cactus and Succulent Society joined our FB page in November. Take the leap and join the page.

The desert flora and fauna are alive and well in the wild, in our homes and around the world. Read on to find the many reasons for joining our FB page. The page is an open forum on cactus and succulents with a variety of commentaries sprinkled in, including requests on cactus and succulent IDs. Oh yeah, the photos are great and truly tell a colorful story.

In November, there were plant identification requests for three (3) succulents and seven (7) cacti. Nine (9) of the ten (10) plants were identified. One cactus was not identified as of this writing.

Everyone should get a copy of the December issue of *Phoenix Home & Garden* magazine. Grant Meyer’s garden is featured along with his many plants. Kudos to you Grant and thank you for all of your FB posts, comments and words of wisdom. We feature one of Grant’s FB photo posts in this article. Keep reading…

Here are the many blooms that were posted on our November FB page: *Adenium, Aloe, Ariocarpus, Conophytum, Caralluma* (Bangkok, Thailand), *Cleistocactus, Cylindropuntia, Echinopsis, Euphorbia, Ferocactus, Fouquieria, Huernia, Kalanche, Lithops, Leuchtenbergia, Mammillaria, Orbea lutea, Parodia, Plumeria, Rhipsalis, Sansevieria, Sarcostema, Stapelia, Stenocereus, and Tylecondon*. The posted photos were absolutely beautiful! A secondary benefit is the assist in plant identifications.

Here is a sampling of other topics and requests from our November FB page postings:

• There was an interesting FB request: How many folks on our FB page also post on Instagram? Check out the request and respond on our FB page. Thank you!
• Cactus trimming ideas and tips.
• Soil mix- should you prepare your own or buy pre-mix?
• Fungus appearing on our cactus- to stop it, spray with hydrogen peroxide.
• Putting our plants and gardens to bed for the winter.
• And much, much more…

We continuously thank our FB members for their plant knowledge and assistance in cactus/succulent identification as well as all of the wonderful photos posted. Each month we feature photos of a cactus and a succulent that CACSS members shared on the page. This month’s cactus photo is Chris Ginkle’s *Opuntia pinkava* in bloom. The succulent photo of the month is from Grant Meyer, a *Stapelia* hybrid in bloom, and the variegated *Mangave (Manfreda x Agave)* “Espresso.” Please enjoy.

If you have questions on the FB photos, contact the photographer via Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society FB page. Thanks to all CACSS members who contributed and/or joined the page. We have room for many more CACSS members. So, please take the time to become a member of the 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.

Grant Meyer’s succulent photo of Stapelia hybrid in bloom, and a variegated Mangave (Manfreda x Agave) “Espresso” embracing it.
### SPECIALISTS TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nicky Davis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nicky.davis4@gmail.com">nicky.davis4@gmail.com</a></td>
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Next newsletter issue submission deadline is January 10, 2017. 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.