President's Letter

If you missed the January meeting you missed probably one of the most unique programs of the year! You may think you've seen presentations about Bolivia before but Mark Muradian had a different twist on it... video! Yep, moving pictures! It was like watching a Nature Channel biodocumentary but the cameraman couldn't get his attention off the cacti of the Andes. Anyway, hats off to Mark for a truly innovative presentation.

This month we'll have another program treat with Gene Joseph from Tucson speaking about propagating succulent plants. Gene, and his wife Jane, are owners of Plants for the Southwest which is one of my favorite nurseries in Tucson. I guarantee you that even if you've propagated succulent plants for years you'll gain some new knowledge with Gene's presentation!

On a more somber note; several weeks ago one of our members, George Lombard, was in a house fire that resulted in him being injured with 3rd degree burns over more than half his body. I'm not sure as to his current condition or location but perhaps more information will be available by Sunday's meeting. I sent a card on behalf of the club, however I plan on bringing several cards to the meeting that everyone can sign and we'll see that he receives them. Per Leo Martin, flowers, food, etc. are very restricted in burn units so our ability to send him much beyond cards is limited at this point. I know everyone will want to wish George the absolute best during the arduous recovery process.

Coming up on March 8th and 9th will be the Flower Power Festival at the Desert Botanical Garden. This event will run from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm that Saturday and Sunday and will consist of talking with garden visitors about our club, handing out brochures, etc. and should be a nice casual event. The DBG is providing the tables, chairs, tents, etc. so all we have to do is bring ourselves and whatever literature we wish to distribute. I circulated a sign-up sheet last month and we had a great response but we could use a couple more people for Sunday. So, I'll bring the sign-up sheet again to the February meeting and if you have some time on March 9th please consider joining us!

Continued on page 3...
2008 CACSS OFFICERS

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2008 CACSS COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE............................... CONTACT:
Programs & Workshops ............... Lee Browson

Newsletter/Publications/.. ............. Cynthia Robinson

Membership ......................... Doug Dawson or
Jo Davis 480-839-3792

Finance ................................... Wayne Whipple

Plant Rescue ......................... Chairperson Needed!

Library .................................... Erik Anderson
480-897-3984
woodcraftman@earthlink.net

2008 Show ......................... Steve Martinez

2008 Sale ......................... Mike Cone 623-215-7692
imakepots@hotmail.com

2008 Show & Sale Volunteers .... Ingrid Swenson

Refreshments ....................... Gard Roper

Field Trips ......................... Daniel Sumberg or
Lois Schneberger

By-Laws ........................... Lois Schneberger

Web-site .......................... Lee Browson

To participate in any of the committees, contact the chair-
person listed or any Officer or Board member listed above.

LOCAL CALENDAR

February 21st, 2008, Thursday, 7 pm
Board Meeting
Home of Ingrid Swenson

February 24th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm
Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden
Guest speaker, Gene Joseph, will give a presentation on Plant Sex in the City...
and the Country Too!

March 6th, 2008, Thursday, 7 pm
Show & Sale planning meeting
Home of Ingrid Swenson

March 8th - 9th, 2008, Saturday - Sunday, 10 am - 3 pm
Flower Power Festival
Desert Botanical Garden
Volunteers are needed for the CACSS table; we will be handing out info on
the CACSS, CSSA & our Show & Sale. Sign up at the February meeting or
contact Steve Plath.

March 14th - 16th, 2008, Friday - Sunday, All Day
Spring Plant Sale
Desert Botanical Garden
Volunteers are needed to answer cactus & succulent related questions as well
as handing out information about the CACSS & CSSA.

March 30th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm
Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

April 2nd - 6th, 2008, Wednesday - Sunday, All Day
2008 Show & Sale
Dorrance Hall & Boppard Courtyard, Desert Botanical Garden
April 2nd, Wednesday: Show setup
April 3rd, Thursday: Show setup & judging vendor setup
April 4th - 6th, Friday - Sunday: Show & sale open to the public

April 27th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm
Regular Club Meeting
Webster Auditorium, Desert Botanical Garden

May 18th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm
Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

REGIONAL CALENDAR

May 9th - 11th, Friday - Sunday, All Day
Soneran VTI Cactus & Succulent Conference
Tucson, AZ

June 12th - 15th, 2008, Thursday - Sunday, All Day
12th Biennial Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference
Grand Junction, CO

June 26th - 29th, 2008, Thursday - Sunday, All Day
CSSA Annual Show & Sale
Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA
Visit http://www.cssa.org for more information.

April 10th - 15th, 2009, Friday - Wednesday, All Day
33rd Biennial CSSA Convention
Westin La Paloma Resort, Tucson, AZ
Visit http://www.cssa.org for more information.
**FEBRUARY SPEAKER**

PLANT SEX IN THE CITY... AND THE COUNTY TOO!

featuring Gene Joseph

The topic I am interested in promoting is local seed production of succulents and cacti. It is a logical "next step" in growing these plants and will afford the grower/pollinator an opportunity to closely observe and learn more about these great plants and, if successful, can provide some bargaining power with the local growers. With minimal tools necessary and a small amount of time, an individual can focus on a group of plants (Euphorbias or Pachypodiums or Mammillarias) or even a single species (Pseudolobophora miguetitans or Euphorbia bupleurifolia or Echinocereus viridiflorus var. canus), producing hundreds, or even thousands of seeds in your back yard, on just a few plants. Pollinating tools and techniques, insect exclusion, seed collecting, cleaning and storing methods and suggested species will be discussed.

I have a degree in Plant Sciences from the U of A. From '78 until '85, I was plant propagator at the Desert Museum, where I focused my energies on Sonoran Desert plants. I knew where I was by what I was growing. If it was Sonoran, I was at work. If it was not, I was at home. My collection at home forced me to quit the Desert Museum and move to Jane's flower shop where I continue to maintain my collection under the guise of being in business.

Image caption: The Well Equipped Plant Pollinator.

**DUES ARE DUE!**

It's February, and if you haven't already done so, you have until March to renew your membership before you will be dropped from the newsletter mailing list.

The membership renewal form is again enclosed for those members who have not already renewed. Please review the form & questionnaire; it is important that you take the time to answer a few short questions so that the Board can ensure that the CACSS is meeting your needs.

Once you have filled out the form, you can either mail the form with your dues ($20 individual, $25 family) to PO Box 63572, Phoenix, AZ 85082-3572, or better yet, bring it with you to the next meeting!

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**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**  ..Continued from page 1

As mentioned in the January newsletter we'll be holding a little raffle for two, one-year individual memberships to the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) this month. If you've never belonged to the CSSA and received the Journal, this is a great opportunity to do so. Conditions to be eligible for the raffle are: 1) You must never have been a CSSA member before, 2) You must be a CACSS member in good standing, in other words you must've paid your membership dues by the February meeting, and 3) You must be present at the February meeting to win.

We still need volunteers for several committees, folks. There currently is no-one participating in the Membership Committee. Gard Roper can use someone's assistance with the Refreshment Committee during the summer months, starting in May. Field Trips Committee needs someone to lead as does our Plant Rescue Committee. I'm sure people are already tired of hearing me bring up the need for committee volunteers but ignoring the need doesn't make it go away. The sooner we fill these few slots the sooner I don't have to mention them, and/or these committees will no longer function. Please help.

At the January meeting, I also mentioned the gift that the DBG is giving our club. As an expression of supporting our club, the DBG has offered us a new trophy for our show this year. The details are still in the works but the trophy will essentially be "Best of Show". As those who've participated in the show know, we have Best Cactus and Best Succulent trophies but we've never had a Best of Show trophy. This trophy will be unique in that it will have at least 50% of the judging criteria be for artistic presentation. So, the judges (which will be from the DBG for this trophy) will be looking at the entire plant or plants, pot, top dressing, props, etc. and how they all go together. This trophy will also encompass all categories in the show, so the entries can be chosen from individual plants, dish gardens, planters, etc. Now I'm not going to say that something like Leo's "Succulent Barbie" in last year's show may have a chance at this trophy but technically even that entry could be a contender... and who am I to be artistically critical? So, with the DBG extending such an expression of gratitude to our society and trying to foster what I consider a symbiotic relationship between our two organizations, I think it would be a great gesture on our part to have one of the largest shows we've had in several years. Please, if you only have a few plants that you consider show worthy, bring them to the show and if you do show a number of plants, bring one or two more. Let's show the DBG that we are proud to be the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society!

Thanks, and see you at the meeting!

Steve Plath
JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

There has been an interest in having the Minutes of the Board for our club presented in the Newsletter for the members. So this is a brief meltdown of January's Board meeting, since the February meeting only occurs, generally, the Thursday evening before the General meeting (if not the hour or so before in the summer); so I count myself lucky to get the minutes themselves typed up by the Sunday meetings. Truthfully, the Board meetings are open to all members and if you want to see what ticks with the club, submit ideas, or entertain the idea of participating in a committee or three, it's a great way to do it.

Of course, the meetings follow the time-tested Robert's Rules of Order with a review of previous minutes, Treasurer's report, Old Business, New Business, and Committee Reports. The Show and Sale is always front and center at this time of year. We've changed the timing a bit to make more time for people to submit their plants for judging; previously needing to be in by Wednesday evening; now, Thursday until 10 am with judging occurring that afternoon. Volunteers have also been considered. Those volunteering to work the morning shift on Friday will be given 15 minutes before the sale opens to go through and select up to a dozen plants from the vendors for purchase. How's that for incentive!

New business included the donation to the DBG and a Judge Certification Program through the CSSA (with Cynthia and Leo as directors on their board as well, our club has ALL the best connections!).

Committee discussions:

- Programs and Workshops Committee is always looking for suggestions and ideas; talk to Lee or Gard.
- Publications Committee with Cynthia at the helm needs any tidbits anyone wants to include. The board suggested that reviewers of articles could also be helpful.
- Membership Committee ideas include establishing a list of CACSS mentors throughout the valley to help new C&S growers. The Board Meeting article presented here & the CSSA membership giveaway are just two results of past Membership Committee discussions.
- Finance Committee talked about the creation of more specific budgets so the club's money could be better controlled.
- Plant Rescue Committee requires the eyes and ears of people for things like checking the Dept of Ag pin-board. We truly need to save the desert a plant at a time!
- Library Committee with Eric is very responsive to club interests and we have new books!
- Show and Sale both have great committees and are revving up for April! The postcards also look great but not if they sit in a box, so EVERYONE needs handfuls!
- Refreshments Committee needs someone to take over for the summer months; talk with Gard (all is reimbursed by the club).
- Field Trips Committee. If anyone is interested this is the time to let your Board know. That perfect Show plant with your name on it (for the 2009 Show) might be found IF we were to do a field trip before October. Previous field trips include the CSSA Show & Sale, Lotusland & Tucson.
- By-Laws Committee has been hard at work trying to be sure that the By-Laws truly reflect how our club operates.
- Website Committee deserves kudos for the effort already expended to get out a new site so there is always information on our club at your fingertips.

Phew – longer than I thought but January's Board meeting is always a big one with a new Board and President. The next one I'll try to be less wordy (yeah, right) but will include all the exciting info that comes out of our next Board Meeting at Ingrid's house (worth the trip just to see) at 7 pm, Thursday, February 21st. JP

Interested in one of the name badges you see other members wearing? You can have one of your very own! Talk to Jo Davis at the meeting or send her a check for $7.50, made out to "Jo Davis," to her home address:
RESCUE UPDATE

Be prepared. There may be a rescue in the very near future.

For two years, I have talked about a pipeline being dug down the middle of the state to supply natural gas to the Phoenix area. It looks like the pipeline company will break ground soon. They are waiting for final permission from the Bureau of Land Management that owns the land.

The area is between Black Canyon City and Bumble Bee, not too far off I-17. This is very rugged terrain and much of it is inaccessible for normal rescue activity. There are about two miles of right-of-way that we may be able to work.

Several CACSS members walked this area to see what might be rescued. There are hundreds of hedgehog cacti – Echinocereus engelmannii and small pincushion cacti – Mammillaria grahamii. There are maybe 50 Saguaroas that are small enough to be carried out. There are no barrel cacti or Ocotillos.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to save many wonderful plants and the scenery is spectacular.

Because of the large number of people on the rescue interest list, I cannot call or write everyone who is interested in participating. I will send out any notifications about a rescue via email. If you don’t have an email account, find a member who does and ask them to let you know if they receive an update.

A word of caution needs to be added. The BLM may not allow us to rescue on their property. I don’t know why they would make such a decision, but it is possible.

Lee Brownson

THE COVER PHOTO

A spectacular clump of Echinopsis 'Princess Anne' blooming at Lotusland on 7/3/04.

Photo taken by editor.

ROAD TRIP!

Looking for an opportunity to get away from the heat of Arizona in June? Want to learn more about cacti & succulents and visit a few national parks in the process? Why not visit Grand Junction, Colorado this June 12th-15th for the 12th Biennial Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference, hosted by the Chinle Chapter of the Colorado C&SS.

Grand Junction, Colorado is only 600 miles away from the Phoenix metro area, and the drive will take you through or near Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef & Natural Bridges National Parks & Colorado National Monument as well as prime cactus & succulent habitat.

The CCSS has put together a great schedule of speakers to include Don Campbell, Jan Emming, Panayoti Keladis, Woody Minnich, Rob Wallace & Jim Weedin, who will be giving presentations on topics such as: Cacti & Scenery of the Colorado Plateau; Baja California; Weeds & Wildfire in the Desert Southwest; Searching for Hardy Succulents in Africa; Bolivian Highlands; Socotra; Succulent Sex 101; Succulent Plant Adaptations; Cacti & Succulents of the Big Bend Region of Texas and more! There are also two optional field trips: 1) A trip to Colorado National Monument to see the habitat of Escobaria missouriensis, Echinocereus triglochidiatus, Pediocactus simpsonii, Sclerocactus glauces & several Opuntias; and 2) A trip to two highly acclaimed cactus & succulent gardens in Grand Junction maintained by the Chinle Chapter of the CCSS.

And, what would a conference be without a room full of cactus & succulent vendors? I always enjoy going to regional and national conferences, as they often have a different vendors than those who participate in our local show. The vendors for this year's conference include Cactus Data Plants & Rio Grande Cacti of New Mexico, J & J Cactus & Succulents of Oklahoma & Crump Greenhouse & Stone Path Gardens of Colorado.

For more info visit http://www.mstatesconference.org. I will also have registration forms available at the next meeting.

Cynthia Robinson

Photo Right: The Colorado National Monument.
7th ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER REAL GARDENS FOR REAL PEOPLE TOUR

Phoenix blooms in March. See how six Valley homeowners and one school garden teacher have taken their properties from barren desert to restful havens at the seventh annual Real Gardens for Real People Tour on Saturday, March 29, 2008. The self-guided tour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. will cover the Scottsdale/Moon Valley area. Tickets, at $20 each ($24 if purchased online) will be limited to 1,000.

The tour will include the Mission Montessori School in Scottsdale, where goats, rabbits and a rooster graze near the vegetables grown by the children. Other gardens on the tour feature trees and pools, comfortable patios, herb gardens, mosaics, murals and other garden art. During the tour, well-known local gardening experts will speak at each of the locations; the informal presentations are included in the ticket price. As part of our mission to educate the public, each garden’s theme will be described and plants will be labeled.

The creators of each of these seven magical garden makeovers have done it all the Master Gardener way: that is, by understanding the unique needs of plants in the Sonoran Desert, by providing sufficient yet minimal irrigation, by enriching the soil through compost and amendments, and by managing heat and insects by shading and integrated pest management.

Event Date:
Saturday, March 29, 2008

What and Where:
The 7th Annual Master Gardener Real Gardens for Real People Tour will be held in zip code areas 85022, 85023, 85259 and 85260. The self-guided driving tour runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and is open to the public. This tour will showcase six inspiring Master Gardener gardens as well as a school garden.

How This Tour is Different from Other Garden Tours:
This is not the standard tour of professionally landscaped gardens. These gardens have been designed, planted and maintained by Master Gardeners. Plants in the gardens are labeled and an extensive plant list is included in our brochure. Gardening experts will be on hand at each garden to give presentations, answer questions and provide educational information to the public. Visit our Garden Boutique where a variety of unique items will be for sale and don’t forget to enter to win one of our great drawing items.

Ticket Information:
Tickets will be available for purchase at $20 each after January 15, 2008 at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County office, 4341 E. Broadway Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85040-8807 and at the following nurseries:
Baker Nursery 3414 N. 40th Street, Phoenix 602-955-4500
Berridge Nursery 4647 E. Camelback Rd, Phoenix 602-952-8080
Harpers Nursery 2529 N. Hayden Rd, Scottsdale 480-946-3481
1830 E. McKellips Rd, Mesa 480-964-4909

Tickets can also be purchased online for $24 each. Online ticket prices include a $4.00 per ticket handling charge. Visit www.maricopamastergardener.org or call the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Garden Tour Hotline at 602-470-1556 ext. 101.

Will-call tickets may be picked up at the Mission Montessori School on the day of the Tour.

For further information, the following Master Gardeners can be contacted:
Lisa Grant, liliesandladybugs@msn.com
Mary Beth Kalkbrenner, Marybeth@pksi.phxcoxmail.com
Margaret Spence, margaret.spence@cox.net
Mary Bossler, mgmz@cox.net
AROUND MY (OR YOUR) DESERT GARDEN

JANUARY 15, 2008 - On the one year anniversary of two nights of a rare really hard freeze, and after a record hot summer, the remaining aloes are doing well. Four very different aloes have been flowering. Aloe ramosissima is a large bush form at over 6 ft in full sun. The bright yellow flower spikes are unique and the woody trunk is nicely marked. This aloe will grow and look good in part shade but is then more susceptible to a hard freeze. A. kraophylia is small with blue leaves (not what the books say but it is from a reputable dealer) and a neat red flower spike. Intermediate in size, A. cryptopoda has dark green leaves with long lasting very colorful spikes of red and yellow flowers. A. pirottai, also mid-size, is a soft green with long curving flower spikes of pale red and green flowers. Of course, lots of other aloes will be flowering soon. If you have the space, A. vaeombe with its very colorful red candelabra flowers is one you will like. Some clustering aloes like A. elegans and A. campesi are easier to separate at this time of year after the ground is saturated... just pull steadily on the pups.

For several days since December 26, TV weather forecasts included freeze warnings of various degrees. Usually the first warning includes a reminder to cover tender plants with the prediction for the freeze from 3 to 9AM. By the fourth and fifth day, the forecast said "cold but no freeze warning". I track low temperatures with the minimum temperature in a "warm microclimate" a few feet from a south facing adobe wall. On the first day of the forecasted freeze warning, my warmest minimum was 33° F, so there was a light freeze everywhere else. I had the same reading for the next two nights and the fourth and fifth night was a degree or two cooler (the forecast was No Freeze). This same pattern has occurred in prior winters so if you have made an effort to protect some tender plants from the freeze, don’t be in a hurry to remove the protection. Styrofoam cups and paper bags on frost sensitive columnar cacti can stay in place for several days with no problem. The same holds for cloth covers or wraps. The warmest spot is often about the same temperature cited for my area but the cooler areas of our acre can be 4 or 5 degrees lower. Once you calibrate some particular spot against the forecast temperature it will usually give you the guide you need to decide on freeze protection.

Since the last article there has been lots of color on the usual foliage plants. A few that haven’t been cited before include Anisacanthus quadrifidus (Flame Anisacanthus) with tubular red to orange flowers on a 3 ft. shrub. The more common Desert Honeysuckle (A. thurberi) flowers in the spring. Justicia caniculata (Red justicia or Hummingbird bush) is a small shrub, while Tecoma Orange Jubilee is a very colorful large shrub. Lycium fremontii (Fremont Thornbush) has filled out with all the rain. It is a large evergreen bush with small white to purple flowers and red fruit. Finally, although often mentioned in the past, Casacolate (Caesalpinia cacalaco) with fragrant long lasting yellow flower spikes is well worth the problems. The hard freeze did major damage last year, but the tree has come back. Don’t let the thorns and litter keep you from growing this one.

Perhaps the most unexpected cactus flower this time of year is the purple of Ferocactus latispinus. Cochemia pondii has red tubular flowers while those of Ariocarpus agavoides are pink-purple. Myrtillocactus geormetizans has also begun to flower (the monstrous plants) and the small white flowers are followed by a good edible fruit. The soaking rains have plumped up tree form prickly pears. The Santa Rita opuntia doesn’t get tall but some always break at the joints between pads. They root easily and with their purple color there are always some takers. This year, for the first time, a San Pedro cactus (Trichocereus pachanoi) got so swollen with the rain and inclined in the saturated soil that many of the four foot columns broke. When you plant them make sure they get some afternoon shade.

Ferocactus latispinus blooming at the Desert Botanical Garden. Photo taken by Judy Figue.
PLANT QUESTIONS???

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list (just call or e-mail Bob Torrest). For now, the list is simply alphabetical with principle interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

**DOUG DAWSON**  
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Specialization includes Flora of Namibia, Growing from Seed, Lithops, other Mesembs & Melocactus.

**MIKE GALLAGHER**  
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mgallagher26@cox.net  
Specialization includes Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti & Turbinicarpus.

**STEVE PLATH**  
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**CYNTHIA ROBINSON**  
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**BOB TORREST**  
480-994-3868  
roberts9114@msn.com  
Specialization includes Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees & Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, Trichocereus & Opuntia.  

WHOM TO CONTACT!!!