Our annual live and silent auction will be held \textit{indoors} in Dorrance Hall this year. Come early for browsing on October 29 as the live auction will begin at 2 p.m. Photo by Wendy Barrett.

\textbf{NOVEMBER 19}  Be sure to mark your calendar for the November meeting as we are convening a week earlier than normal due to Thanksgiving. Newsletter deadline is moved up to November 1.
ANNUAL LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION
By Mike Gallagher, auction chair

For all of you who have complained of losing more than the usual number of plants this past summer, now is your chance to refill those spaces. The annual October Bidfest, otherwise known as our Annual Silent Auction, happens October 29, in Dorrance Hall on the grounds of the Desert Botanical Garden (our normal meeting room). The auction will begin at 2 p.m., but volunteers will be available from noon on to help with setup and unloading items from cars. If you have many items, you can park at the back of Dorrance and bring them in through the back, but we may have to drop most things off at the curb near the bus loading area and bring them in the same way we come in for meetings. Volunteers will be available to help, and we will hopefully have a few carts available.

Items (plants, cuttings, seeds, decorative and regular pots, botanical literature, and botanical art) should be clean (if plants or cuttings, disease free). No decorative pots for live plants are expected, but would certainly be welcomed. All items should have a bid sheet like the ones we use for the meeting silent auctions, filled out to include your name and item information as well as a starting bid if you feel one is appropriate (bid sheet is on a PDF file on the club website or some will be available at the auction). We will try to have various plant families spread out over all the table groups to make a variety of plants available throughout the auction.

All bidders, and we are hoping all of you will be bidding, should obtain a bidder number which will be available near the entrance to Dorrance Hall. Please use your bidder number on the bid sheets, in lieu of your name, when you write a bid on the bid sheets. Non-club members are welcome to the auction, and should request a bidder number as well if they will be bidding. Please bring a pen or pencil, a box for any goodies you may acquire, and maybe gloves (you may need them).

We will start the afternoon at 2 p.m. with a live auction for some more exceptional donated items, with the silent auction following. There will several sets of tables, with each closing for bids in a random fashion starting about 25 minutes after the auction begins and extending for variable time periods before the next set closes. At which time you better not put your pen on any bid sheets on that set of tables or you may find yourself bidding from a North Korean jail cell. Please wait until all tables are finished before collecting your winning bid sheets.

At checkout, please take your winning bid sheets to the checkout area where a volunteer will total your sheets before one of the cashiers will then ring just the total. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted. After paying, please collect your acquisitions (please try not to leave any behind). Some extra boxes and newspaper will be available should you need it. There is not a lot of room for vehicles at the back of Dorrance, so plan on picking up your winnings at the curb in the parking area near the bus drop off, and again volunteers will be available to help with loading.

Just like Chicago, it is time to vote early and vote often—oops! That should be bid early and bid often. Look forward to seeing lots of you on October 29.
If you like cacti, and you like flowers, then you owe it to yourself to grow *Matucana madisoniorum*. They are painfully easy to grow in the Valley of the Sun, and will reward you with flower after flower after flower all spring/summer/autumn. Each plant will flower every 4-6 weeks during blooming season, so if you grow several (guilty as charged!) you’ll almost always have one in flower for 8 or 9 months of the year. Watch your back *Echinopsis*!

*M. madisoniorum* thrives in the Valley in what I’d call almost-full sun, which means full sun in autumn/winter/spring, with just a little afternoon shade in summer; less sun for youngsters of course. My mature plants all get full sun from November through April, then morning sun with a little afternoon shade in summer. They seem very happy with a weekly watering April through October, then monthly for the rest of the year. I slop some all-purpose water-soluble tomato fertilizer on them monthly in spring and summer, with no fertilizer in autumn and winter. They are reputed to be very frost sensitive, but after 11 years of growing them in far north Scottsdale without any frost protection, mine have thrived. However, make a note if you’re in a cold area or are more cautious (or if a bad winter is predicted) to protect them.

I use my typical cactus mix for these easy plants: 50% soil-less “potting mix” with 50% pumice with a handful of sand box sand when I’m making a large batch. Like most cacti and succulents, they enjoy being crowded so I don’t re-pot them unless absolutely necessary.

There’s more to love about these plants besides their beautiful tubular flowers (in reds, whites, oranges, pinks, and in-betweens, with the wild type being orange-red). They’re very easy to pollinate. Just grab some of the powdery yellow pollen from one plant’s flower and gently press it onto the single sticky stigma at the center of another plant’s flower. The resulting almond-sized (and shaped) fruit ripens very quickly, around four

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*Matucana madisoniorum five years old.*
months, and gently splits open, usually while still green or yellow-green, to release the small hard black seeds.

The seeds are easy to collect and easy to grow and sprout. No complex stratification is needed (I'm looking at you, *Opuntia*). Just sprinkle the seeds on the surface of a similar soil mix used for the adults, keep lightly moist. I just put the whole thing into a clear plastic bag, vented for a minute or so once a week, in bright indirect light and most seeds will sprout within several weeks.

The youngsters are slow to take off, often reaching only the size of a lentil the first year, and perhaps a very small grape the second year, but in year three and beyond they grow quickly. The most precocious will flower around year four, and nearly all by year six. I grow the youngsters indoors for their first two years and then ease them into life outside their mini-greenhouse indoors by s-l-o-w-l-y venting the bag over many days. Once they’ve had several months indoors on a sunny windowsill, but without their mini-greenhouse, I eventually transition them into life outside in bright shade or morning sun in their third spring. As with all youngsters, monitor them closely and perhaps don’t move all of them at once.

Don’t like dealing with seeds? *Matucana madisoniorum* can help you there too as they make the occasional pup/offset which can be easily separated and planted on its own if you’d like.

Another thing to like about the species is that they have very few, very long spines, which are easy to avoid, and many individuals have few if any spines.

If you like cacti, and flowers, and are a bit on the impatient side like I am, then you definitely owe it to yourself to give this easy, generous cactus a try. Happy gardening!
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Beth Kirkpatrick

It has been nice to get out in the garden again with the cooler temperatures. As a result of the excessive summer heat and more rainfall than usual in the East Valley, I lost a few plants, which gives me the opportunity to do some more plant shopping. Not such a bad thing!

I mentioned at the last meeting that I am using a new service to send out CACSS emails. It is called Vertical Response and is free to 501(c)(3) organizations such as ours. It is much easier for me to send out the emails and I also get reports on how many folks are actually viewing the emails I send. At this point only about half of you are opening your emails. I suspect that some of you are not receiving them because they are either filtered out by your Internet Service Provider (ISP), cox.net is high on the list of unopened emails, or they are going to Spam or Junk. One way to mitigate this is to put both bethalia@gmail.com and centralarizonacactus@gmail.com in your Contacts. You can also white list Vertical Response with your ISP. If you would like instructions on how to do this please send me an email and I will send you instructions.

I hope you will all take advantage of our Annual Live and Silent Auction that begins at 2 p.m., October 29, in Dorrance Hall.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our December Holiday party. It's Sunday, December 10, at Tumbleweed Recreation Center in Chandler.

CONVENTION FINANCIAL REPORT

By Nick Diomede, treasurer

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America’s (CSSA) 37th Biennial Convention, hosted by the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS), was a success on all accounts: finances, registration and quality of events. Financials for convention registration, events and meals, along with plant sales and auctions were coordinated and received by the CSSA. Costs for the gift bags were covered by the CSSA. Preliminary reports show financial success for the 2017 Biennial Convention.

The CSSA made a significant contribution to the convention by donating the printing costs of the program book along with its advertising sales revenue. The donated printing costs were $2,316.48 while advertising sales revenue brought in an additional $1,985 to the convention.

For the CACSS’s part, we were given the opportunity to raise funds through sales we thought would interest convention attendees. Shirts and tumblers, with Steve Plath’s logo artwork, were sold netting the club $2,389.73. We also sold duplicate copies of the Cactus and Succulent Journals and Beth Kirkpatrick’s hand-knitted winter cactus caps, bringing in an additional $340 sales to the CACSS.

The 37th Biennial Convention was a well attended event with many positive comments. Attendees enjoyed the convention events while many volunteers enjoyed contributing their time. It was through contributions of both organizations that the 37th Biennial Convention was a financial success.
HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT?

Compiled by Tom Gatz

OBREGONIA DENEGRII
Grown by Ryan Wasson, age 9.

PURCHASED: Ryan's dad, Barnaby, said that his kids bought this plant four years ago at the annual Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Sale. Ryan's sister, Brenna, picked this one out as she liked the fluffy top. Later on, she handed the care of it over to Ryan. Ryan's dad says that the Obregonia has been a lovely plant for the kids to grow.

POT: It was put in a clay pot soon after it was brought home.

FERTILIZER: The plant has been regularly fertilized over the last two years using the club's Pro-Flower mixture. Over the last six months, it has been receiving natural apple vinegar (see below). Ryan's dad says that he handles and mixes the Pro-Flower fertilizer into the watering solution. It’s toxic nature and extreme water solubility prohibits the kids from participating in this process. If they water with just water and vinegar, the kids can handle the mixture and watering process.

POTTING MEDIUM: Kellogg's organic palm and cactus mix plus 20% more pumice.

SUN EXPOSURE: The potted plant is kept within a south-facing open porch. The walls and ceiling are white and generously bounce light to the Obregonia denegrii. It receives strong reflective light during the summer months.

WATERING: Summer watering using 0.5 teaspoon of fertilizer and 1 tablespoon of vinegar per gallon. Lightly watered twice a week during the hottest part of the summer, otherwise lightly watered weekly during the summer. In the winter months, lightly watered only with one tablespoon vinegar/gallon of water every other week.

FROST PROTECTION: During the coldest part of the winter, all potted plants are covered with a frost cloth. If a hard freeze is expected, a second cloth and Christmas lights will be employed.
ALOE DESCONGSI
Grown by Brenna Wasson, age 14.

PURCHASED: The Wasson kids also bought this plant four years ago at the annual Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Sale. Brenna really liked the stacked nature of this plant as well as its small size. The Wasson family has noted that this little Aloe blooms roughly 5-6 times during the year. In the four years, it has grown almost twice its size and now sports several pups. It seems to be coming into its own this year.

POT: It was put in a clay pot soon after it was brought home.

FERTILIZER: For safety reasons, the plant has been regularly fertilized over the last two years by her dad using the club’s Pro-Flower mixture. Over the last six months, they have been applying natural apple vinegar (see below).

POTTING MEDIUM: Kellogg’s organic palm and cactus mix plus 20% more pumice.

SUN EXPOSURE: The potted plant is kept within a south-facing open porch. The walls and ceiling are white and generously bounce light to the Aloe descongssi. It receives strong reflective light during the summer months.

WATERING: Summer watering using 0.5 teaspoon of fertilizer and 1 tablespoon of natural apple vinegar per gallon. Lightly watered twice a week during the hottest part of the summer, otherwise lightly watered weekly during the summer. In the winter months, lightly watered only with one tablespoon vinegar/gallon of water every other week.

FROST PROTECTION: During the coldest part of the winter, all potted plants are covered with a frost cloth. If a hard freeze is predicted, a second cloth and Christmas lights will be employed.
FAVORITE TOOL

Two useful tools are my 10" scoop and a 5" small transplanting tool. The large scoop is perfect to fill pots and mixing soil. The small terrarium tool is great for transplanting small seedlings and firming the soil around tiny items. Both items are used almost daily. Dean Patrick

This old garden knife with US on it and a whisk broom are used daily. These were my father's tools. He was a master carpenter and avid gardener. Kelly DePetro
TOUR THE DBG’S HORTICULTURE CAMPUS  Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hazel Hare Center for Plant Science. Learn about the sustainable horticultural practices used by the Garden. See where the horticulture staff, researchers and volunteers grow, study and take care of the plants, including many rare, endangered and threatened species. Tours begin October and run through May. Call 480-941-1225 for information.

FALL PLANT SALE OCTOBER 21 AND 22  Become a member and attend the Member’s Preview on Friday, October 20, 7 a.m.. Members get early access to the Fall Plant Sale and receive 10% off on all purchases.

Take advantage of fall’s cooler weather and stock up on cactus! Choose from more than 30,000 plants, and get expert advice from staff horticulturists and Garden volunteers.

Volunteer to help and answer questions.
LEDEBOURIA SOCIALIS  
Text and Photos By Sue Hakala

This perennial bulb sure is social. It has filled every pot to overflowing. It naturally grows in shaded woodlands in the summer rainfall region of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. For a decade or so, I kept it in a pot where I could move it to summer afternoon shade and out of winter rains, simulating the Cape environment.

This tough little beauty, related to hyacinths, has a white, sweet-smelling flower that resembles its cousin. The six-inch high leaves have a beautiful silvery green color mottled with brown marks. Every part of the plant is poisonous if ingested, so keep it away from all pets.

As it grew, so did my boldness as to where to put it. It loved being in the ground on the west side of a mesquite tree. It was exposed to summer and winter rains, and did just great. A single bulb grew to a circle of about 24 inches, blooming abundantly in the spring. It formed an impenetrable mat, signaling time to divide and replant.

I decided to try it in the ground at the west end of my patio. It gets searing summer sun and concrete reflection to the max. It has loved it, as long as it gets 30% shade cloth when over 105F. It doesn’t like heavier shade cloth and will etiolate. It gets water about every 7-10 days in the warm months and no supplemental water in the winter.

When it grew to form a mat at the west end of the patio, I took it out in a big heap. An hour was spent pulling it apart and cleaning up the bulbs. (I’m bringing some to the October auction.) You can see in the photos that it has lots of underground activity: runners and bulbs galore. Each bulb will form a new plant.

continued
Here’s what I’ve learned:

- Fertilize in the early fall so the bulb has food stored for spring growth. Fertilize in the spring and once more before summer dormancy so the bulb has stored food.
- Too much shade and the blooms can be non-existent and leaves etiolate.
- Providing them with dry winter dormancy helps the plant to put out more new leaves and flowers (remember this is a bulb). Plants are also pretty much dormant in the summer with leaf die back.
- They must be divided every 3-4 years to keep the plant vigorous, otherwise they develop a raggy look and don’t bloom much.

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WINTERING CACTUS  From the Desert Botanical Garden, *Saguaroiland Bulletin*
November, 1957

Now is the time to begin decreasing the amount of water that you have been giving your cactus plants. As the cool nights are now upon us, the cactus plants begin to go into a dormant stage or a period of rest. During this rest period, they begin to set flower buds for the following spring.

If you continue to water your cactus through the cool and cold weather, there is a possibility that rot from too much moisture might appear in your plants. If your plants get water during the winter and are inside of a building, they will continue to grow through the winter, but are not too interested in blooming the following spring as they have had no rest.

Many people place their cactus plants in basements or root cellars in the fall and do nothing to them until spring. Then the plants are brought out to the light and watered and soon beautiful blooms appear because the plants have had a good rest.

Cactus plants that are kept in warm rooms and apartments can be lightly washed-off once a month, but those grown in pots should not be soaked until springtime. More cactus plants are killed with kindness than with carelessness.

Although written in 1957, this information holds true today. It’s vital to let cactus rest in the winter (unless they should be growing then). That means not putting them in winter rains too.

FREE ON-LINE JOURNALS TO DOWNLOAD

The *Cactus Explorer’s Journal* with an article this month on *Cremnocereus*, a remarkable new cactus genus from Bolivia.

*Xerophilia.ro* with articles on the following plants and LOTS of habitat pictures:
- *Navajoa peeblesiana* with amazing close-up pictures taken near Holbrook, AZ
- *Mammillaria bombycina* growing in habitat in three foot mats and looking nothing like your cultivated ones
- *Mammillaria candida* with such dense spines it’ll blow your mind
- *Leuchtenbergia principis*
- *Tephrocactus geometricus*
FACEBOOK UPDATE

By Thom Young

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS) Facebook (FB) page membership rose in September to a total of 3,156 members. This is a one (1) percent increase for the month of August. Please join the CACSS FB page. Our FB page is an open forum on cacti and succulents (C&S) with questions and variety of commentaries sprinkled in along with requests for C&S IDs. Our page has many informative posts associated with all aspects of growing C&Ss and is also an opportunity to post your favorite plant photos.

The following are the different C&S in flower posted on our FB page in August: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cereus, Cleistocactus, Conophytum, Copiapoa, Coryphantha, Cylindropuntia, Echinopsis, Euphorbia, Ferocactus, Fockea, Gymnocalycium, Harrisia, Jatropha, Lithops, Leuchtenbergia, Mammillaria, Matucana, Mesembryanthemum, Opuntia, Plumeria, Pterocactus, Rebutia, and Stapelia. The photos of our plants in flower are of great assistance in plant identification. You can find the beautiful photos here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/cacss2/ (copy and paste to your search engine).

Each month we feature a cactus and a succulent (non cactus) photo from our FB members. This month’s featured cactus photo is Alexis Browne’s post of an Echinocereus in bloom. The featured succulent photo is from Tom Cardinal’s post of an Ariocarpus fissuratus in bloom. Thanks to Tom and Alexis Browne for posting their photos on the CACSS FB page.

Again, thanks to all CACSS members who posted and/or joined the CACSS FB page in August. We have room for many more CACSS members. CACSS are now a minority on the FB page. So please,
take the time to become a member of the CACSS FB page. There is no charge and it is very easy to access, enjoy and participate. You can find us on FB @ Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society. We would love to see your cacti and succulent photos and answer any questions you may have. Please contribute today!

Tom Cardinal’s cactus photo of an Ariocarpus fissuratus in bloom.

Be sure to visit CACSS on the web at:
centralarizonacactus.org the Society’s web site.
Facebook Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society
CACSS Swap and Shop, a place to connect with members.
Atanasio Echeverría y Godoy was an 18th-century Mexican botanical artist and naturalist. He accompanied Martin de Sessé y Lacasta and Mariano Mociño Suárez de Figueroa in their expedition through Mexico with the goal of compiling a great inventory of fauna and flora of the country.

The Sessé and Mociño expedition, as it is commonly called, explored extensively in the Caribbean, Mexico and northern Central America, with forays also in Baja and Alta California and as far north as Nootka and Alaska. The drawings were executed by a number of artists, the most accomplished of whom were Atanasio Echeverría y Godoy and Juan Vicente de la Cerda. In technical and artistic quality, Echeverría's work compares favorably with any other in the history of biological illustration. A great number of his drawings are preserved at the Hunt Institute. The genus *Echeveria* is named after him.

Growing *Echeveria* in the low desert: It's best to think of them as a nine-month plant as they will melt sometime during the summer. They need cooler nights than we have here, doing best all over coastal California.