



Central Spine

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JANUARY 2018



Bryophyllum pinnatum, Grant Meyer tells us in his informative article in this issue, is an easy and fun plant to grow.

SOFT SUCCULENTS

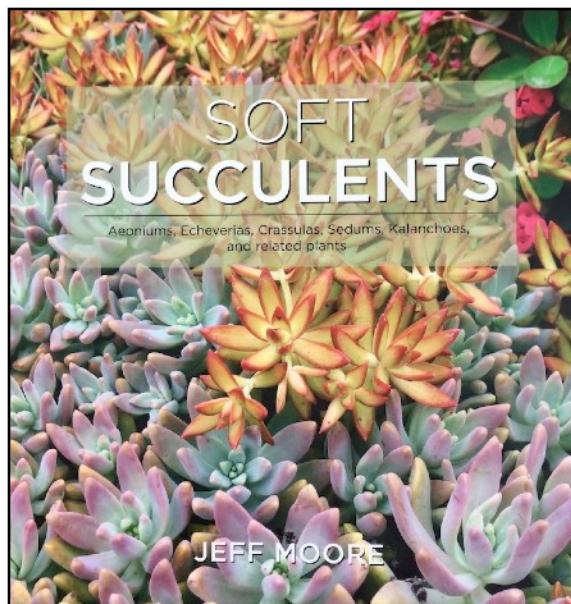
Text and Photos by Jeff Moore

The January program will be Sunday, January 28 at the Desert Botanical Garden in Dorrance Hall beginning at 2 p.m. The topic will be soft succulents highlighting genera of *Aeoniums*, *Echeverias* (and some of their relatives and intergeneric crosses),

Dudleyas, *Crassulas*, *Sedums*, *Senecios*, *Kalanchoes*, *Mesembs*, and a few others. Although some habitat images are included, the plants that will be shown have been photographed in cultivation. This is a highly visual program and will include tips on growing these plants.



Jeff Moore has operated Solana Succulents located in Solano Beach, California for 24 years and has been involved with succulents for over 34 years. (We've visited his nursery on several bus tours.) He says he is pretty much a generalist as he likes them



all. If he has a specialty, it is in *Aloes* and he particularly likes crests, variegates and caudiciforms. He is also known for creating “under the sea” theme inspired landscapes. He has installed a permanent undersea garden in the San Diego Botanic Garden.

Jeff has written three books, all of which will be for sale at our meeting. They are *Under the Spell of Succulents: A Sampler of Diversity in Cultivation*, *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation*, and his latest *Soft Succulents*.

PUMICE PILE NEWS

From Gard Roper

We've currently been selling large size pumice for \$5 per 5 gallon bucket. Our more experienced growers and seed growers prefer the smaller size pumice. Trying to accommodate everyone's needs, I've been able to locate a supplier for the small size pumice. In the near future, the small pumice will be delivered to our current pumice pile location. We will be splitting the truckload with Boyce Thompson Arboretum. The cost will be \$6 for the smaller size and \$5 for the larger size per 5 gallon bucket. Price is determined by the supplier. An email will go out alerting everyone when and where it will be available.

Cactaceae Collections Manager at the Desert Botanical Garden Scott McMahon says, "We've been using the larger pumice for a long time, because that's what was available, but I would prefer the smaller size because it remains in the mix better. The smaller size is also better for small pots and for tiny plants and seedlings."

HELP GROW MORE GARDENERS! By Linda Larson, AFGC state scholarship chair, larson20@me.com

A \$5,000 scholarship, with potential for further awards on a regional and national level, exists for students in Agriculture Education, Horticulture (including Fruit Science/ Environmental/ Communications), Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Biology, Plant Pathology/Science, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns (Management: Environmental, Horticulture Resource/Environmental Behavior, etc.), Economics, Environmental Conservation (including Engineering, Law, etc.), City (Rural and Urban) Planning, Wildlife Science, Habitat or Forest/ Systems Ecology, Land Management and/or other related or allied subjects. Students enrolled in one of the three state universities, ASU, U of A and NAU are eligible if they are in the junior, senior or graduate level of their studies. Applications are due January 31. Full details here <http://www.azgardenclubs.com/home/scholarship>

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2018

- February 10 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society, spring show and sale in Balboa Park, room 101, San Diego, 858-382-1797
- April 29 Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., San Marino, CA, 626-405-3504
- August 11-12 Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 626-798-2430
- September 1 Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium, all day, 626-405-3504

BRYOPHYLLUM PINNATUM

Photos and Text By Grant Meyer

Everyone has that favorite piece of clothing--something that looks good, feels good, is durable and yet isn't so flashy that people will take too much notice when you wear it again. Whether it's your favorite pair of jeans, or shirt, or sweater (for the four weeks a year that we need them), some plants are similar: nice looking, durable, not-flashy and reliable. One such plant is the so-called "mother plant" or "miracle leaf," *Bryophyllum pinnatum*. No no not, it's NOT "mother of thousands," a close relative that makes

dozens of plantlets along the leaf edges that quickly becomes a nuisance here in gardens and in greenhouses. *B. pinnatum* is a very well-behaved plant, ONLY producing plantlets when you sever a leaflet from the main plant, and even then it only makes one, two, or three plantlets that stay attached to the leaf. It really is one of my favorite background singers in the garden and on the patio.



Bryophyllum pinnatum with one tall and one short plant.

I've been growing them in far north Scottsdale (read: chilly in winter compared to you lucky folks in central Phoenix) for seventeen years now and really love them. They'll grow in virtually any soil, but I give them my usual succulent recipe of 50% potting mix and 50% perlite or pumice (pumice is preferred, usually purchased at our club's frequent Pumice Piles). I give them that magic mix: sun with afternoon shade in summer (full sun in winter is lovely), and I water them when they are fairly dry (not "cactus dry" but dry), probably once a week in summer, and every two weeks or so in winter. Unlike many succulents, these will tell

you if they need more water by wilting when desperately thirsty. I don't let that happen often, but when it does, just give them a drink and they'll look great tomorrow.

B. pinnatum is an upright growing, rarely branching succulent plant with nice, thin, medium-sized semi-floppy leaves (either produced singly or with three leaflets) each slightly scalloped and edged in a pencil thin line of chocolate (which gets darker and thicker in winter). It will grow anywhere from two feet (shorter than average) to four feet (taller than average), depending on how much sun/soil/water it gets. I've never had to give them winter protection, but if you're in a chilly zone or are more conservative, you could bring the plants (or a few leaves) indoors if a frost/freeze is predicted. "Mother plant" often flowers the spring after its first or second winter. Again, like the plant, the flowers aren't showy, but they ARE attractive: each rusty maroon flower faces down

and wears a fun inflated calyx like a puffy coat. Remember, we split *Bryophyllum* (flowers face down) from *Kalanchoe* (flowers face up) several years ago, so you'll often see it listed under its former genus, *Kalanchoe*. Stems or plants often die after flowering, but if you see it coming and only have one plant you can easily make more.



Bryophyllum pinnatum bloom.

Propagating "mother plant" is as easy as it gets. I call them adventitious propagators, meaning they really only make plantlets when you sever a leaf or leaflet from the plant. I just snap them off, but you can use scissors/pruners if you're feeling fancy. Just lay it on top of your favorite soil mix and press it onto the soil so the leaf edges keep in contact with the soil. I weigh it down with three or four grape-sized pebbles. Water it when dry, and in several weeks you'll have a few plantlets forming on the leaf edge AND rooting into the soil. No, not a hundred, hah, but one, two or three. They don't even need soil to make plantlets which is how they get their other name, "miracle leaf" because when severed, even a leaf not laying on soil will make a plantlet or three. I occasionally find a previously-hidden leaf with a baby when I do a rare sweeping of the patio (guilt guilt). Just plant and enjoy.

As far as I'm concerned, the only real downside to these plants is that with their thin, upright stems and numerous wind-grabbing leaves, they ARE a bit top-heavy, so plant

them in a pot with a low center of gravity or wedge their pot in a plant rack or between other heavy pots to keep them from tipping over on windy days (hey, free leaves to share or propagate if they do tip over!). If you like handsome, easy plants that are well-behaved and fun to grow and share, give the well-named "miracle leaf" plant a try. Happy gardening!



Bryophyllum pinnatum with a tennis ball for size and a leaf for propagation.

PEG POINTS: The Latest from the Propagation Education Group By Tristan Davis

The dates and times for the 2018 PEG meetings have now been finalized. As usual, they will be held every other month on Saturday mornings towards the middle of those months, starting in January.

NOTE: All PEG meetings will start at 9 a.m. and end at 11 a.m.

All 2018 PEG meetings will be held in the Whiteman Conference Room in the Webster Building of the Desert Botanical Garden. All CACSS members and guests are welcome.

The 2018 schedule is as follows:

- * January 6
- * March 10
- * May 19
- * July 21
- * September 15
- * November 17

As usual, PEG meetings will be informal gatherings to share plants and information about propagation. We will try to identify a general topic of discussion at each meeting.

January meeting topic was *Agave Extravaganza – Round 2* which had 40 members participate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Oravetz

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you made it through the Holidays okay. Just a quick note to say we have a few new officers and board members this year. I'll be introducing them at the January meeting.

Please join me in saying a very special "Thank You" to the outgoing board members, the wonderful team that put our Christmas Party together, members who volunteered to make all our annual events and meetings run smoothly, the Facebook Team, Plant Sales Team, all the Committee Chairs, Jo Davis, and to our super-duper Newsletter Editor, Sue Hakala.

I look forward to our organization growing and accomplishing a lot of wonderful things this coming year. If you have any thoughts or ideas about programs, trips or events, be sure to let me or any board member know. If you have a little free time, consider joining one of the committees. I know they can use the help. See you at the January meeting.

AMBROISE VERSCHAFFELT

Manager, Scott McMahon

By Desert Botanical Garden Cactaceae Collections

Ambroise Colette Alexandre Verschaffelt (1825-1886) was a distinguished Belgian horticulturist and author. His grandfather, Pierre-Antoine (1764-1844) was among the founders of the *Floralies gantoises* (flower show in Belgium see below) in 1808. His father Alexandre was a major horticulturist of his city.

The Verschaffelts were a family of Belgium nurserymen specializing in camellia, azalea and palm trees. They introduced many new species from abroad, in particular from South America, collected for them by "plant hunters." They published the *Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias* (1848-1860).



Ambroise sold his business to Jean Linden in 1869. He then retired but continued to be active on the botanical scene and acted, at different occasions, as a counselor to King Léopold II of Belgium for his famous hothouses of Laeken.



Austrocylindropuntia verschaffeltii a low growing
shrubby cactus growing at 5,000-9,800 feet in
elevation. Photo by Frikkie Hall.

Ambroise was vice-president of the Royal Society for Agriculture and Botany of Gent. He obtained numerous medals and prizes in horticultural exhibitions in his own country as well as in the United Kingdom (Cheltenham 1853, London 1861), Russia (St.Petersburg 1869), and other countries.

Verschaffeltia splendida is a species of flowering plant in the Arecaceae (palm) family. It is the only species in the genus *Verschaffeltia*. It is found only in the Seychelles where it is threatened by habitat loss.

One of the plants names after him in the Desert Botanical Garden cactus collection is *Austrocylindropuntia verschaffeltii*, a cholla relative from Argentina.

FAVORITE TOOL

By Tristan Davis

Whenever I try to convince people to grow from seed, I get all sorts of reasons why they just can't seem to get it right, so they just give up. Well, one of the reasons I consistently hear—and a reason I struggled with seeds early on—is that unlike large seed-growing operations that can fertilize seedlings regularly, a small operation makes it a bit more difficult to constantly mix up fertilizer then apply water to tiny little seedlings that are just starting out. This left my seedlings very slow-growing and more prone to algae and mold. Thanks to a friend of mine, this past year I purchased a one gallon sprayer at a box store for less than \$10. It was the best purchase of the year!

The great thing about the seed sprayer is that you can mix your water mix once to the right pH and the gallon will last weeks for small setups like mine. Using plastic bins instead of baggies has simplified my seed-growing process immensely now that I have the sprayer. If a bin seems to be drying out, I just flip the switch on the sprayer, pump a few times, and the hose/nozzle has a fine mist setting that won't disturb even the smallest of seedlings. It worked so well in such a short time, my seedlings are growing stronger, I have fewer issues with algae and mold, and I spend less time than ever working on the seedlings. So, if you are still reluctant to grow from seed, you can take "can never get the watering regime right" off your "List of Reasons Not to Try."



HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT?

Compiled by Tom Gatz

Aloe hybrid 'Blizzard'
Grown by Bonnie Scott

Best Novice *Aloe* or *Aloe* Hybrid of the 2017 Show

PURCHASED: Bach's Cactus Nursery? Bonnie says that this *Aloe* hybrid 'Blizzard' has always been one of her favorites because of the variegated leaves and the small compact size.



POT: It was put into a very small ceramic pot in which it has lived for about 7 or 8 years.

FERTILIZER: No fertilizer was used.

POTTING MEDIUM: She uses Bach's Greenhouse and Cactus Nursery potting medium from his nursery in Tucson.

SUN EXPOSURE: This plant lives inside the house for most of the year. During the winter months it is placed outside. It is always given bright, indirect light for all seasons.

WATERING: Summer, once a week, spring and fall every two weeks, and winter every three weeks.

FROST PROTECTION: When it freezes or is close to freezing, the plant is covered with frost cloth.

HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT?

Compiled by Tom Gatz

Welwitschia mirabilis
Grown by Dan Smith

Best Seedling of the 2017 Show



ACQUIRED: At the end of September, Dan planted three *Welwitschia* seeds given to him by Doug Dawson, "the seed man."

POT: Dan planted the seeds in red solo cups after soaking them in water for about an hour.

GERMINATING MEDIUM: Using seed mix, he just barely covered the seed with the mix. See the photo below of his homemade seed-growing station. He kept the seeds at 80° F using an old waterbed heater. In 10 days, the first seed sprouted and the others followed shortly after that.

POTTING MEDIUM: After they reached about three inches in

height, he moved them to his greenhouse. At that point, he repotted them using his standard mix: cactus soil plus about 25% pumice and 25% coir.

FERTILIZER: They rarely get fertilized, but when that happens he uses the club fertilizer 10-16-38.

SPECIAL NEEDS: His greenhouse is heated in the winter and never goes below 60°F. Dan also tries to keep the humidity above 30%. In the summer, he has an evaporative cooler that usually keeps it below 100°F. Dan keeps all his *Welwitschia* in the greenhouse year-round and keeps the pots damp.



HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT?

Compiled by Tom Gatz

Echeveria sp.

Grown by Nils Kindgren

Best Novice Succulent of the 2017 Show

PURCHASED: Nils purchased this *Echeveria* as a single rosette from Lowe's about three years ago. I was impressed that he kept it alive for so long; I lost my *Echeveria* during the first summer I tried to grow it.



POT: It was in a plastic pot for the first two years and in a ceramic pot for the last and final year of its life.

FERTILIZER: Nils fertilized it about three times each year, alternating between Cactus Juice (1-7-6) and a balanced Miracle Grow.

POTTING MEDIUM: About 15-20% sand, 10-15% perlite and the remainder potting soil.

SUN EXPOSURE: Just a little sun in the early morning and shade the rest of the day. Nils said it would grow toward the sun and he would periodically prune it.

WATER: Nils said he only watered it about once a month during the winter but once or twice a week during this past summer.

FROST: He had no problems with frost.

SPECIAL NEEDS: This plant died this past summer when several days were over 115 degrees and nights were often in the 90's. Nils speculated that perhaps he may have watered it too much during the hot summer months. He said he is normally not in town during the summer so it apparently survived with little or no watering for the first two summers.

Desert Botanical Garden Cactaceae Collections Manager Scott McMahon says, we should consider *Echeverias* as "annuals" if grown outside here in the hot summer days (and nights) of the Phoenix area and that it "was a miracle that it lived as long as it did here." In an article Leo Martin wrote for the *Central Spine*, he mentioned that some of the plants most susceptible to our hot, wet, summer nights are many of the smaller cacti (hold off on watering them when the nights are above 90 degrees) as well as *Aeonium*, *Crassula*, *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Sedum*, and *Sempervivum*.

Our website recommends bringing these rosette succulents into the house and keeping them dry all summer, resuming watering when night temperatures dip into the low 70's. For more information go to our website: [Fhttps://centralarizonacactus.org/assets/article/basics/CACSS_Article_Basic_Information_Leo_Martin.PD](https://centralarizonacactus.org/assets/article/basics/CACSS_Article_Basic_Information_Leo_Martin.PD)

COMMON PLANT PROBLEMS

From *Cactus and Succulents*, a Sunset Book

- Failure to make new growth can mean too much water, soil is compacted and roots may be decayed. Repot in fresh soil mix, adjust watering.
- Pale color on new growth can mean root injury. Trim away dead or damaged roots and repot.
- Failure to bloom or very few flowers can mean the plant has received too much nitrogen or a winter rest period wasn't given. Use fertilizer lower in nitrogen, higher in phosphorus and give plant a winter rest.
- Flower bud drop can mean the temperature is too low or fluctuates too much or the plant is in a draft. Move plant to a warmer, draft-free location.
- Soft or mushy growth can mean too much moisture and/or the temperature is too low. Reduce moisture and cut away the soft or mushy parts and dust cuts with fungicide.
- Corky skin on stem. This is a natural development on some cacti as they age.
- Elongated growth means that the plant has not had enough light. Gradually move the plant to a location with more light.

HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT

Compiled by Sue Hakala

Haworthia limifolia striata
Grown by Rich Zeh

Best Astroloba or *Haworthia* of the 2017 Show

PURCHASED: I have no idea. It's not from seed, that much I can remember.



POT: I always plant *Haworthias* in the ground. When they get large, I transfer them into pots. They don't lose their roots when they are in the ground like they do when they are potted. Therefore they grow faster and bigger.

FERTILIZER: I have an injector system, so I water everything with dilute 20/20/20, a gallon of apple cider vinegar, and 2 pints of hydrogen peroxide in the 5 gallon injector. The vinegar helps reduce the pH of our water.

POTTING MEDIUM: For this specific plant, there's about 50% washed, crushed 1/4 inch granite with 50% regular cactus mix.

SUN EXPOSURE: This is the key to growing *Haworthia* with color. Too little sun and they are too green. I move the plants around until they get just enough strong sun to stress them, but not enough to burn them. They NEVER get any full summer sun.

WATERING: Watering depends on the time of year, I just water when dry; weekly in the hot dry spring and summer, monthly when it's cold. I've never under watered a *Haworthia*.

FROST PROTECTION: None needed. I'm in a warm spot. I have some outside in the ground that got to 26 F back in 2007.

SPECIAL NEEDS: They are very hardy. No special needs. Just separate out any pups to keep the plant looking open, not crushed by the pups.

HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT

Compiled by Sue Hakala

Mammillaria albiflora

Grown by Steve and Julie Plath

Best *Mammillaria* of the 2017 Show

PURCHASED: After going to Mexico in the summer of 1991 and seeing this species in habitat on the borderlands between Puebla and Oaxaca, I just had to have it in my collection. Unfortunately, as is often the case, I was unable to find it available in nurseries. So I purchased seed from Mesa Garden and germinated them in December of 1991.



POT: The show specimen has been growing in an upright bonsai pot for a number of years.

FERTILIZER: It receives a dilute liquid feed of 10-30-20 about once a month during the growing season.

POTTING MEDIUM: A general potting mix that contains about 50% of a combination of perlite and pumice along with 50% of cinder sand and a little bit of composted organics.

SUN EXPOSURE: It grows with 50% shade cloth overhead during the growing season and then rests in the greenhouse during winter dormancy.

WATERING: Like with most cacti, this receives moisture during the hot summer growing season and then dry conditions in winter dormancy. Summer watering regimen is typically a thorough drenching once a week.

FROST PROTECTION: This plant will tolerate a light frost if kept dry but because it takes so long to grow a nice specimen, I don't risk leaving it outdoors and place it in the protection of the greenhouse in winter.

SPECIAL NEEDS: The only special need for this species is patience. It is not a fast *Mammillaria* by any stretch but is good looking even in a small size. It is still a challenge to find in nurseries, so growing from seed may be the main option in obtaining one.

HOW'D YOU GROW THAT PLANT?

Compiled by Tom Gatz

Lithops

Grown by Cliff Fielding

Best Succulent Collection of the 2017 Show

PURCHASED: Most were grown from seed. Several were grown by Doug Dawson from seed. A few were from Miles' to Go Nursery near Tucson.

POT: Clay. Cliff says that it surprises most people to learn they are between 14 and 20 years old. They were selected because they were forming larger clumps than other *Lithops* of the same species. He had guessed that being in a larger pot would encourage more rapid head division and the clay would prevent them from sitting in too much wet soil for too long leading to an unattractive growth form. This worked great for the first five years. The last five years they have not grown in size, they have not flowered as well, and some have even died! Cliff says that it must be time to repot.

FERTILIZER: He uses half strength fertilizer when he waters.

POTTING MEDIUM: Well-draining mixture of sand, pumice and a little desert dirt.

SUN EXPOSURE: Full sun mid-November to mid-February. Thirty percent shade the rest of the year. They get no late afternoon sun.

WATERING: No water when the temperature is over 110 degrees. Very little water when new leaves appear until old leaves are absorbed. Regular weekly watering when old leaves have wilted until new leaves have filled out and in the fall when nights drop below 80 degrees until flowering. They love the summer and winter rains unless they cause the plant to be too fat which can lead to bursting.

FROST PROTECTION: They can take down to 25 degrees or lower with frost cloth.



THE XEROPHILE

By Woody Minnich

I thought I'd let you know about the, just off the press, new book *The Xerophile*. This book is a photographic treasure featuring unusual and special cacti and other succulents from around the world, all in their native habitat.

The authors of this book are three young men from the LA area and they operate the Cactus Store in Los Angeles. Carlos, Max and Jeff have great new visions and their book features plants as they are seldom seen. The photographs are from many of the really obsessed field explorers, including: Graham Charles, Howard Gates, Paul Hoxey, John Lavranos, George Lindsey, Joel Lode, Martin Lowery, Reid Moran, John Rebman, myself, and many others.

I'm sure we'll be seeing and hearing more from these young, new inspirations to our hobby.



Carlos Morera, Woody Minnich major photographic contributor and Christian Cummings. Photo by Gunnar Eisel.

FAVORITE TOOL

By Carol Parrott

This little tool kit is big on performance and is the perfect size for our potted cactus and succulent displays. Penny-sized trowels can dig, separate mini pups while their handles can be used to gently distribute and compact the soil. Mini-tongs and massive tweezers make plant placement easy. A spray bottle delivers targeted water as scissors and brushes tidy up the job making your creation show ready.



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WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Propagation Education Group (PEG): Tristan Davis

Pumice Sales: Gard Roper

Refreshments: Tara Richards

Research Grants: Tristan Davis

Show and Sale 2018: Jo Davis and Dan Smith

Website: Beth Kirkpatrick

The 2018 CACSS Show and Sale will be held April 6, 7, and 8. The times are 8 to 5 on Friday and Saturday and 8 to 4 on Sunday. It will be held in Dorrance Hall and the adjoining patio.

Volunteer positions will be needed from Wednesday through Sunday, with one important position that could be started now: the Volunteer Scheduler who needs to begin organizing. Volunteer registration will be on-line again this year and open soon. There will be an email announcement when it is available. There are many different positions and different times so I'm sure everyone can find something they like to do. We need everyone's help to make this the best show and sale ever.

Of course there is a show along with the sale. It can't be a good show unless you bring your plants. The only requirement is that your plant must have been owned by you for six months, and that it be a cactus or succulent. People will be available from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6 to accept your plants. Please have them clean and ready to show before you bring them in. You will be given a display tag to fill out and to keep with each plant. These tags can be attained at our monthly meetings. If you need help identifying your plant, there will be someone to help.

They need not be the best plants in the world. You may think your plant isn't good enough to be in the show, but the judges may think it's a prize winner. So please don't be shy about bringing your plants. The more unusual the better. That's what brings people to the show.

Remember, education is an important part of what this society is about. We would love to have any educational display dealing with cactus and succulents. It sometimes takes work, it can be fun, and it's for the betterment of our society.

If you have any questions, please contact Co-chairs Jo Davis or Dan Smith.

Be sure to visit CACSS on the web at:
centralarizonacactus.org the Society's website.
Facebook Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society
CACSS Swap and Shop, a place to connect with members.

FACEBOOK

By Thom Young

Our Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS) Facebook (FB) page is an open forum on cacti and succulents (C&S). There are many C&S questions and commentaries along with requests for C&S IDs. Our page has many informative posts associated with all aspects of growing C&Ss. Our FB page offers the opportunity to post photos of your favorite plants in pots, in your yard and garden.

The CACSS FB page membership rose to a total of 3,316 members in December. This is a three percent increase from the month of November. Please join the CACSS FB page.



Tom Briggs' post of a *Parodia gigantea*.

The following are the different C&S in flower posted on our FB page in December:
Adenium, Aloe, Conophytum, Corryocactus, Crassula, Euphorbia, Kalanchoe, Lithops, Mammillaria, Micranthocereus, Monadenium, Sansevieria, Schlumbergera, Sedum, Stapelia and Titanopsis. The photos of our beautiful 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. December's featured cactus photo is Tom Briggs' post of a *Parodia gigantea*. The featured succulent photo is from Tom Cardinal's post of an *Aloe ferox* in Christmas bloom. Thanks to both Toms for posting their photos on the CACSS FB page. Facebookers keep posting.

Again, thanks to all CACSS members who posted and/or joined the CACSS FB page in December. 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 in our

FB page. 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 post of an Aloe ferox in Christmas bloom.