

Central Spine

July, 2011

Newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

On the Web at www.centralarizonacactus.org

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CACCS July meeting: Sunday, July 31

2 pm, Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

Presentation: Succulents and Perennials in Desert Landscapes, by Mary Irish



May 13, 2011--*Conophytum taylorianum* subsp. *Ernianumon*, Farm Spitzkop, southern Namibia

Photo by Doug Dawson

See more of Doug Dawson's photos from his trip to Namibia on page 4

August Newsletter Deadline: Aug. 12, 2011

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Welcome to New Members

**Vera and David Heminger
Dean Patrick
Luke M. Campbell**

Contact the *Central Spine* Editor

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July 31 Meeting Presentation

Mary Irish, noted horticultural author, will be combining two of her favorite topics - Succulents and Perennials in Desert Landscapes. This will be a great opportunity to learn from a master about selecting and combining plants to produce gorgeous, water-wise landscapes. Don't miss it.

August 28 Meeting Presentation

Greg Starr, intrepid plant explorer, will be back to tell us about his adventures in Baja California. Baja has some of the most interesting and unusual desert plants in the world and Greg has pictures of many of them. We have seen programs about Baja before but everyone experiences the land in a different way. Greg's narrative is sure to be entertaining as well as informative.

2011 Meeting Schedule

Note the change to our normal meeting schedule because of the Thanksgiving weekend. Barring any unexpected event, the schedule is:

July 31
August 28
September 25
October 30
November 20 (in place of November 27th)

President's Letter

Welcome to summer,... it's here for sure. I wish I had more trips to California planned; as it is, I'm going at least twice more in the next two months. One trip will be in mid-August for the Inter-city Show and Sale which is probably the best cactus and succulent show in the country, and where there are lots of great vendors selling awesome plants. All of this, SoCal weather and some of my favorite foods available in the area--- how could I resist?

The other trip will be to the Huntington Botanical Gardens for the 28th Succulent Plant Symposium where there will be a day's worth of good speakers and an optional dinner. This event costs a little money but it is well worth it. Besides the programs, there is also an opportunity to buy plants from the usually off-limits sale area. Another great combination of activities.

I have been attending these and other such events for a number of years and I have become friends with many people from those areas. For me the social part is as big a part of it as anything.

I have found that people in the 'plant world' are generally pretty friendly; we're really mostly a bunch of old hippies, ya think?

I enjoy doing activities with our club members too, of course, and we will be planning some new things.

Next up will be a picnic type trip to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, when it gets a little cooler.

There are also new committees being formed and we will be looking for members to join them.

One of these committees is the election committee, consisting of two board members, Sue and Debbie, and they will be adding two people from the General Membership. This can be a fun job, so please consider volunteering!.

See you at the meeting (I hope!!) Steve M.



Plant Rescue Update

RP and Cheryl Brown, CACSS Plant Rescue Co-chairs

In April, RP and Cheryl Brown attended a Public Scoping meeting hosted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss Arizona Public Service's (APS) proposed Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line project. The intent of the Public Scoping meetings is to inform the public about the proposed project and to solicit feedback from the public to help the BLM identify issues, concerns, alternatives, and potential impacts that should be analyzed. We attended ostensibly to see if there would be any cactus rescue opportunities and to make contacts with BLM, APS and Peoria city officials.

APS filed an application for a right-of-way grant on public lands to construct an above-ground electric transmission system, consisting of a single series of tower structures holding two high voltage circuits – a single-circuit 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and a single-circuit 230 kV line. The total project spans 38 miles and seeks to connect APS's Sun Valley Substation near the northern reaches of the Town of Buckeye with the Morgan Substation near the City of Peoria. It would cross approximately 10.5 miles of federal public lands in two separate locations. This was a revision of a previously submitted plan that had been rejected. The revised plan utilizes an alternate routing that includes a strip parallel to state road 74 about half way between I-17 and US 60. This strip was the subject of much discussion at the meeting, as it would obstruct the view looking north across some very scenic open desert. It will be some time before BLM considers all the arguments and makes a decision.

Although we would welcome the rescue opportunity, we felt that it would be better if an alternate routing could be found that would not affect such a beautiful stretch of desert.

"We haven't run across any rescue opportunities recently," RP said. "With the economy such as it is, there isn't much development going on."



Special thanks to CACSS Co-Librarians for all the work they do during meetings and between them

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Doug Dawson's Photos Taken in Namibia-

Doug Dawson, Steve Martinez and four other Americans joined two South African police officer friends to explore Namibia in May.



May 10, 2011--Eendoorn Farm Owners, Nico and Cheryl Pretorius, with Steve Martinez

Doug explained how the couple helped:

"I had visited their farm in 2003. This time we drove up to their house in the afternoon and we went out with them to look at plants. They asked us where we were staying that night and we said we would camp somewhere. They offered to drive us to a lovely camping area on their other farm adjacent to this one, so we had a great night in nature. The next day we went out with them again to see other plants."



May 11--*Dinteranthus wilmotianus* ssp. *impunctatus*, Eendoorn Farm, southern Namibia



May 13--A mountain morning photo displaying the all-important fog on Farm Spitzkopf near Rosh Pinah, Namibia



May 13--*Pachypodium namaquanum*, southern Namibia



May 12--Hoodia gordonii along Orange River



May 13--Aloe erinacea on mountain top on Farm Spitzkop, southern Namibia



May 12--A strikingly white trunked Aloe dichotoma along the Orange River in Namibia

PLANT QUESTIONS??? WHOM TO CONTACT!!!

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—480-994-3868; robertst9114@msn.com).

For now the list is simply alphabetical with principal interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

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MIKE GALLAGHER

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Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and *Turbinicarpus*.

STEVE PLATH

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Specializations include *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Cyphostemma*, *Echinocereus*, *Fouquieria*, *Thelocactus*,

General Propagation, and Desert Revegetation.

BOB TORREST

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Specializations include Desert Landscaping,
Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves,
Columnar Cacti, *Trichocereus*, and *Opuntia*.

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