Central Spine
May, 2012

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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CACSS Meeting Presentation May 20,
2 p.m. Dorrance Hall
Desert Botanical Garden

Steve Martinez and Doug Dawson:
Our Adventures in Namibia

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Psylocaulon dinteri, near Luederitz

Photo taken by Doug Dawson on May 15, 2011
May Newsletter Deadline: May 12, 2012

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Do you need a lanyard for your name tag, to hang it around your neck? You can pick one up at the May meeting.

Jo Davis

2012 Meeting Schedule
Sunday, May 20, 2 p.m. Dorrance Hall,
(note date—4th Sunday, not 5th Sunday)

Doug Dawson and Steve Martinez: Our Adventures in Namibia Doug and Steve will collaborate on a presentation that will cover their three week trip to Namibia in 2011.

More of Doug’s photos

2012 Meeting Dates
Sunday, June 24: Bob Webb: Aloes
Owner of Arid Lands Nursery in Tucson, Bob is a leading expert on aloes. His nursery has the greatest number of aloe species for sale of any nursery in the U. S.

Sunday, July 29
Sunday, August 26
Sunday, September 30
Sunday October 14 -- Plant Sale
Sunday, November 25
President’s Letter

Well this is the 29th President’s Letter I am writing; boy how time flies. By the end of this year (my last as President due to term limits), I will have written 36 letters, almost as many as years as I have been in the cactus and succulent world (hmmm, perhaps I could have written one about each year....?).

In any case, I would like to repeat my thanks to all who helped to make this recent Show the best that I have seen. I am not just talking about the number and quality of plants, or the number of dollars that we collected. I am talking about the spirit and the vibe of the overall event. Happy Club members, happy customers, and happy vendors.

The Desert Botanical Garden staff did a great job promoting this event, by the way. Numbers were up despite the U to making this Show a success..., that includes the event planners, the set-up crew, (who did a great job on the tent positioning), the Rangers, the IT people, Shelley in accounting for making available a second cash register, ....thanks to all!

Next up is our California trip. This is the third trip that I will have been on and I am just as excited about it as I was on the first. I’m still working on a few details, but I expect to have some new stops for us to make, as well as repeating some of the good ones we’ve been to before.

I think there are still a few seats left so don’t hesitate to confirm yours if you want to participate.

We have an open garden in May, only our second this year. A couple more would be nice and I can think of a few members (Russ, you are one of them) that have great stuff to show off.

Keep this in mind- it’s nice to see how other people grow their plants and it is a good way for Club members to socialize and get to know each other. I’ve said this before- it’s a club, it’s our hobby, our common interest. We’re in it to have fun and learn from others. Let’s do it.

See you at the May meeting. Steve M.

Welcome To New Members

John Brandon  Mary Pearl Wostl
Bill & Joan Kasler  Naomi Pier
Joyce Tatham  Paul Khera
Rachel Klink  Sheri Mecca
Michele Spiller  Karen Adair
Naomi Pier  Joyce Tatham
Paul Khera  Rachel Klink
Adelaide & Don Bahr  Craig Bolton
Jacqueline Klein  Gail Bamber
Kitty Christensen  Nellann Roberts

Membership Chair Beth Kirkpatrick
On April 13, 1973, a dozen or so individuals met at the home of Henry Treisler Jr., and voted to form a local chapter of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA), a national organization. Robert Earle, director of the Desert Botanical Garden fully supported the idea. Fran Tolleson later recalled that, “I don’t think any of us knew very much about the others in attendance, except that we were all interested in cacti and other succulents. There were differences of opinion on important questions, such as whether Warner Dodd should be allowed to smoke.”

Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society was declared the name of this new organization. The president of the national Society wrote that he was happy to welcome CACSS as an affiliate organization, “representing the heart of cactus country.”

The group decided to meet the last Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m. “Our programs and speakers will be selected to help the serious growers become more proficient and knowledgeable. Our only purpose will be to enable our members to derive greater satisfaction and enjoyment from our fascinating hobby,” to quote the invitation sent to prospective members.

By May there were 28 charter members: Doris Boyce, Lewis III and Barcia Bremer, Margaret Caldwell, William and Martha Chester, Belle Cooper, Warner and Beverly Dodd, Hubert and Lucille Earle, J. Whitman Evans, Sharon Fairchild, Frank and Philomena Hennessey, John and Nevelyn Hopkins, Roderick McGill, Robert and Elaine Mouls, Kent Newland, Chester and Genevieve Oppen, Robert and Clara Pribbenow, Lee and Frances Tolleson, and Henry Triesler Jr.

During the first year, by-laws were written and adopted, and dues were set at $10 for an individual and $11 for a couple. In those days, it included a subscription to the CSSA’s journal. Meetings were held at member’s homes until November 1973 when the Desert Botanical Garden allowed the Society to meet there (although not permanently at this time). The first plant auction made $13 for the treasury, and the first field trip was to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. A name badge style was selected, and the CACSS won first place for a display at the Arizona State Fair.

Members were encouraged to exhibit and volunteer at the annual DBG cactus and succulent show. Members won many ribbons and trophies. Only four points separated the top four exhibitors for the sweepstakes award, all Society members.

By the end of the first year, there were 35 members. The excitement and interest in cactus and succulent plants has only increased through the years.

This information is extracted from a summary of CACSS history compiled by Lois Schneberger.
2012 CACSS Show and Sale
A complete summary—and more photos—will be in the June *Central Spine*.
Plants and Cacti

Volunteers check out Gard’s great collection of plants. Photo by John Crummey

Thank You Party for Volunteer

Gard Roper hosted a party at his home on May 5, honoring CACSS members who volunteered their time to help at the CACSS Show and Sale. Those who attended the party enjoyed visiting with each other and looking at Gard’s wonderful collection of cactus and succulent plants.

Contact the Central Spine Editor

Diana Decker
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for article and photo submissions, and to suggest topics you’d like to see included in the Central Spine.

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. Call or e-mail Diana Decker, Central Spine editor. (See contact information above.)

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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