

# Central Spine

December 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](http://www.centralarizonacactus.org)**

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**January 2013 CACSS Meeting**  
2 p.m. Sunday, January 27  
Dorrance Hall Desert Botanical Garden  
**Presentation by Woody Minnich:**  
**Forty Years of Wisdom in  
Growing Cacti and Succulents**

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### **"Some plants are just too darn cute!"**

This plant wishes everyone a Happy New Year. To get you mentally ready for 2013, it composed a quiz for you:

\*To what species do I belong?

\*Where do I live?

\*Who was the photographer that took my photo?

*(Answers in the January Central Spine)*





Visitors look at all the beautiful plants at the 2012 Show and Sale. Photo by John Crumme

## **The 2013 Show & Sale –April 5, 6 and 7, 2013** **By Sue Tyrrel**

Bring your plants for the show on Wednesday April 3, 2013. This may sound like a long way off, but you should start thinking now about which lucky plants will be shown. The plants must have been cared for by the exhibitor for at least six months; this mean you must have owned it since November 2012. The complete information booklet is on our wonderful website: <http://www.centralarizonacactus.org>. Check it out and take notice of those beauties and oddities you care for; which one or ones will you share with us?

Here is information from our rule book:

### **Entry Details:**

- \*Current members of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society are eligible to enter this Show.
- \*Exhibitors may enter both the Competitive and Noncompetitive portions of the Show.
- \*Competitive exhibitors will register and receive an Exhibitor Number and blank entry cards before the Show.
- \*Competitive exhibitors will register as Novice, Advanced or Master.

Entry tag color codes:

This classification is based on cumulative blue (first place) ribbons won in all previous competitions as follows:

Novice Exhibitors..... ... None to 24  
Advanced Exhibitors..... 25-99  
Master Exhibitors.....100 or more

**Save your smaller Christmas boxes for the Show & Sale.  
'Tis the season for great shipping boxes!**



The reproductive area with bristles (called a lateral cephalium) of this *Espostoa guentheri* in the Garden is restricted to one side of each column, allowing the remaining portion to continue to photosynthesize and continue to grow. Photo by the author



In contrast to *Espostoa*, the reproductive head on the top of a cactus (called an apical or terminal cephalium) like this *Melocactus peruvianus* inhibits further growth of this adult cactus. Photographed in Peru by Scott McMahon

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## ***CORRECTION***

In the November 2012 *Central Spine* article by Tom Gatz entitled "What are those cactus that look like giant toothbrushes?", the captions on the two photos were mistakenly transposed. Also, the correct spelling of the reproductive portion of the cactus is 'cephalium' and the columnar cactus name is spelled *Espostoa guentheri*.

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*The photos now have correct information.*

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# Notes from the Bus Trip To Tucson in October 2012

By Sue Hakala  
Photos by Wendy Barrett

I love going on the bus trips our club organizes. It's such fun spending days talking about the plants we love, looking at them, and buying some for my collection and getting to know members. I also love the way everyone pitches in and helps each other; each person seems to be on her or his best behavior. Kindness and helpfulness is overflowing -- just the way I wish the world could be daily.

Gard Roper organized our trip this time, selecting the stops, assisted by Steve Martinez. Gard was then not able to attend due to emergency knee surgery. Rita Gosnell and Jo Davis stepped right up and said that they would take care of the rest. Jo selected and organized the bus, arranged for parking in the Wal-Mart parking lot and arranged for individual trash bags and hand wipes (so necessary) and looked out for and kept everyone comforted in her own special way. Rita researched hotels and restaurants and made on-the-bus reservations. Sue Glenn donated popcorn snacks.

Dan Smith bought boxes to pack the plants in, delivered them to the bus and couldn't come on the trip due to a health issue—how's that for dedication! Debra Life brought the bottled water, smartly freezing some, and the cooler. Sundee Paternoster bought snacks for us and Treasurer Wayne Whipple paid for our rooms.



Tom Rankin, Deborah Life, Mary Maciver and Nancy Mumpton get a tour of Bach's Nursery from owner Don Bach.



Lee Brownson, Wayne Whipple, Marianna Hancin, David Johnson (in blue shirt) with wife Milliy. Marianna, David and Milly are new members.

Lee Brownson served as navigator (never easy) and as our speaker system, utilizing his wonderful voice to keep us all informed and on schedule. He also organized our plant packing after it quickly blew out of control. This is a difficult job. Vera Heminger, Sue Glenn and others assisted him. He also thought of a new way to unpack the plants that resulted in the quickest, easiest and safest way yet by organizing plants by the owner's last name.

Trip participants have no idea what goes on in the front few seats of the bus to make the trip go smoothly--it is command central. Calls and confirmations are made, nursery owners alerted to arrival, directions adjusted when Google gets it wrong, details and assignments rearranged as need dictates. Questions get answers and needs are met.

Many pitched in and helped in numerous other ways and we all thank you, too. Others helped by back-seat driving, which really did save us a time or two.

We left from the Wal-Mart parking lot at 6 a.m. sharp; after a comfort stop, we arrived at Bach's Greenhouse Cactus Nursery by 9 a.m. Staff was so helpful here. Dan Bach drove folks around for a tour. Plants were delivered to the bus for loading.

We had a quick lunch at Culver's Restaurant; then it was on to Tanque Verde Greenhouse. Many of us made great plant finds at amazingly low prices with their expanded offerings. Then it was on to B & B Cactus Farm. The two hours spent there just flew by as we all spread out to hunt the cactus or succulent greenhouse, look at pots and yard decorations or stalk the larger landscape plants. After this stop, the bus was about 60 percent full of plants.

Check-in at Hotel Tucson City Center Inn Suites gave Wayne Whipple heart palpitations. Wayne coordinated with the hotel to have the keys ready and the right bed with the right person and they were a bit slow on these items. Many enjoyed the free happy hour on the terrace, then piled in the bus to have a long relaxing dinner at Carruso's Italian Restaurant.

Beds were comfy and a hot breakfast buffet was included to fuel us for our morning. We arrived at Sticky Situation at 8:30 a.m. to tour their greenhouses and see their own beautiful landscaping. Our bus went on narrow dirt roads, through deep washes and made five-point turns to get us in and out of this area. What an adventure!



Debora Life, Chris Allsop, Beth Kirkpatrick, and Scott McMahon at Tanque Verde Nursery



Kim Joyiens, Jean Andrade, Jo Davis, Jana Sweets and Rita Gosnell. Kim and Jana are Sticky Situation's owners

We had a great lunch at La Casita del Molina to keep us going. Off we were again arriving on time at Arid Lands Nursery truly heaven for most of us. Arid Lands invited Greg Starr to set up a few tables of agaves, his books and other plants. The selection of aloes and sansevierias in the Arid Lands greenhouses was staggering. There were about 150,000 plants of all kinds. Could the bus hold anymore? Yes, under Lee's guidance it all fit! Empty seats were now full, under seats were full, overhead bins were full. Could the bus hold more plants?

A stop at Tohono Chul Park's greenhouse, outside sales areas, and two gifts shops proved that there was indeed room to get a few more things on the bus.

Milly and David Johnson, new members, were on their first CACSS bus trip. Milly said, "I was so impressed with the high quality of plants that we saw. I found it a privilege to travel with people who love cactus and succulents so much. I learned a great deal and delighted in what members had to say about these amazing plants. When I got home, I went to the library to read more and reinforce what I had learned." When asked if she'd go again she said, "Absolutely!"

Tour participants disclosed, if they chose to, how much they spent on plants. The average was around \$200 each, our total close to \$12,000. It was wonderful support for the growers who have served as our speakers and vendors at our annual sale.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this another unforgettable experience

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**Raffle Prize at the  
CACCC Annual  
Holiday Party**

Jo Davis created the wonderful faces on the five spineless Opuntia (prickly pear) raffle prizes.

The spineless types of Opuntia were originally developed by Luther Burbank as cattle feed for arid regions.

Nancy Mumptom took this photo of her prize.

**Sheila Collenette  
New President of England's Asclepiad Society**

Sheila Collenette was chosen as President of England's Asclepiad Society because of all the work she did on the Asclepiadaceae. She spent 27 years living in Saudi Arabia and had the opportunity of studying the succulents there while her husband, Peter, was working for the US Geological Group. Sheila wrote two huge books on the flowers of Saudi Arabia, which some of our members have. She was also one of the speakers at the CSSA Convention in Seattle in 2007, and at the one which CACSS organized in Scottsdale in 2005. Sheila stayed with Maury and me in Tucson following the Scottsdale Convention. In 2007 she flew from England to Tucson and the three of us drove up to Seattle so she could photograph the wild flowers en route. Sheila is now recovering from heart valve surgery in Southampton, England. She says she has many happy memories of her visits over here.

**From Carol Clapp , CACSS member who lives in Tucson.**

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## 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. Find contact information on p. 2

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

### **DOUG DAWSON**

480-893-1207

dawsonlithops@hotmail.com

Specializations include Growing from Seed, Flora of Namibia, Lithops, other Mesembs, Melocactus, Miniature Cacti and Succulents of Arizona.

### **MIKE GALLAGHER**

602-942-8580

mgallagher26@cox.net

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

### **DEAN PATRICK**

480-759-0312

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Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, agave and aloe).

### **STEVE PLATH**

623-915-7615

revegdude1@juno.com

Specializations include General Propagation and Desert Revegetation, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Cyphostemma*, *Echinocereus*, *Fouquieria*, *Thelocactus*.

### **DAN SMITH**

480.981.9648

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Specializes in adeniums. raising adeniums from seed, grafting and adenium culture in general

### **BOB TORREST**

480-994-3868

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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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