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

Publication of material in the Central Spine does not imply agreement with the ideas expressed therein by any portion of the membership of the CACSS, nor does it constitute an endorsement or support for any portion of such material by the CACSS, or the Central Spine, regardless of any position or office held by the author. All such material represents a comment and/or personal opinion of the author.

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

April 2013 Show and Sale p. 3
Correction “What are those cactus that look like giant toothbrushes?” p. 4
October Bus Trip to Tucson p. 5
Photo of Raffle Prize at Holiday Party p. 7
New President of England’s Asclepiad Society p. 7

“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)
January Newsletter Deadline
January 12, 2013
*************************************************
2012 CACSS Officers
President: Steve Martinez
602-688-4339
altrigo2@aol.com
Vice-President: Gard Roper
602-996-9745
Secretary: Lois Schneberger
480-946-8373
lschneberger@cox.net
Treasurer: Wayne Whipple
480-460-3623
w7676@msn.com

Serving through December, 2012
Beth Kirkpatrick 480-275-4833
2kirks@cox.net
Debora Life 480-580-3813
lifedebora@yahoo.com

Serving through December, 2013
Cindy Capek 623-979-9389
ronluccap@aol.com
Sue Tyrrel 480-797-8952
styrrel@cox.net
Joseph Miracle 480-345-6644
demiracle@cox.net
Nancy Mumpton 480-649-1558
nancy.mumpton@gmail.com
Joe Barnes 480-883-1651
barnesinaz@gmail.com
480-946-8373

President’s Letter
Well here I go with my 36th and final President’s message, wrapping up my three years in office. I think I’ve addressed many aspects of the hobby and the Club along the way, and at this point, I wish to send greetings to all. So to every member of the CACSS, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Hanukah and a Happy New Year! As always, I am looking forward to another great year,...and, see you at the meeting.

Steve M.

HAPPY 2013!!

HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

Contact the Central Spine Editor
Diana Decker
dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825
for article and photo submissions for the Central Spine
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 means 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.

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*.

The photos now have correct information.
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.

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 Carrusos’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!

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 aloe 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.

***********************************************

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 aloe 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.

***********************************************

6
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.

Raffle Prize at the CACC 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 Mumpton took this photo of her prize.
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
desertpatrick@cox.net
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
smithdans@cox.net
Specializes in adeniums. raising adeniums from seed, grafting and adenium culture in general.

BOB TORREST
480-994-3868
robertst9114@msn.com
Specializations include Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, Trichocereus, and Opuntia.