Central Spine

October 2013
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.

Sunday, October 20 – CACSS Silent Auction
Set-up: 12:30 – 1:30 pm;
Silent Auction: at 2 pm
As usual, you’ll be given instructions on how to bid and pay for your plants.

Get those plants and cuttings ready for our Silent Auction at the Wildflower Pavilion at Desert Botanical Garden. You may also bring pottery and other items of interest.

You will need a bid sheet for each plant you bring. The bid sheet should include the name of the plant (if you know it) and two columns, one for the bid, the other for the name of the bidder. You will also need a pen or pencil to write down your bid for other members’ plants.

Gardeners look at the plants available at the CACSS 2012 Silent Auction. Photo by John Crummey

Articles

Tom Gatz’s Open House
Desert Rivers Audubon 2nd Annual Tour de Bird
In Memoriam: Doug Green
Coryphantha elephantidens: A fine fall-flowering cactus
November Central Spine Deadline: Nov. 8, 2013

2013 CACSS Officers
President: Wayne Whipple
480-460-3623
w7676@msn.com
Vice-President: Gard Roper
602-996-9745
Secretary: Lois Schneberger
480-946-8373
lschneberger@cox.net
Treasurer: Tom Rankin
602-277-2117
tom@sascpa.net

Board of Directors
Serving through December, 2013
Cindy Capek 623-979-9389
ronluccap@gmail.com
Sue Tyrrel 480-797-952
styrrel@cox.net
Dana Hiser 480-368-8606
dana2garden@aol.com
Nancy Mumpton 480-649-1558
nancy.mumpton@gmail.com
Joe Barnes 480-883-1651
barnesinaz@gmail.com

Serving through December 2014
Wendy Barrett 602-971-5345
wbarrett@cox.net
Jo Davis 480-839-3792
Doug Dawson 480-893-1207
dawsonlithops@hotmail.com
Beth Kirkpatrick 480-275-4833
2kirs@cox.net
Mike Gallagher 602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net
Steve Martinez 602-688-4339
altrigo2@cox.net
Dan Smith 480-981-9648
smithdans@cox.net

CACSS Program and Committee Leaders
Archivist/Historian Lois Schneberger
CSSA Affiliate Representative Sue Hakala
Facebook Coordinator Nick Diomede
Finances-Accounting Tom Rankin, Ingrid Swenson
Holiday Party - December 2013 Wendy Barrett
Library Paul Schueneman, Marty Shahan
Membership Beth Kirkpatrick
Members-Keeping-In-Touch Jo Davis
Mailed Newsletter Subscriptions Sue Tyrrel
Newsletter Diana Decker
Nominations for Board Officers, Directors --
Mike Gallagher, Dan Smith, Jackie Vasquez
October Silent Auction Jo Davis
Plant Rescues Open Position
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings- Sue Tyrrel
Programs (Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens,
Special Interest Groups) --
Gard Roper, Doug Dawson, Joe Miracle
Refreshments Cindy Capek
Show & Sale – 2013 Sue Tyrrel
2014 Show & Sale Chair Linda Michaelson
Website Beth Kirkpatrick

Telephone numbers, emails, and addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.

2013 Meeting Schedule
Sunday. November 24
2 pm, Dorrance Hall
Desert Botanical Garden
Sunday. Dec. 8

Sunday December 8
CACSS Annual Holiday Party
See more details on page 6
October President’s Letter
President Wayne Whipple has medical issues and has taken a break from writing this month’s letter. We wish him a quick recovery and send him best wishes.

Tom Gatz’ Open Garden
Theme: Landscaping in small spaces
When? Saturday, October 26. From 9 am to Noon
Where? At Tom Gatz and Barb Larson’s backyard.
419 W. Monte Cristo Ave. Phoenix, 85023 (602-863-2553)
Hot coffee, tea, juice and light snacks will be provided
Directions: Turn south off Greenway Parkway at 3rd Avenue. Make an immediate right turn on Sumerset. Drive west on Sumerset for a short block. Turn left (south) onto 4th Drive. Continue one block south to bend in street. We are on the right, just before you have to turn left. Look for the big adenium. Parking is limited so car-pooling is encouraged.
Nearby good restaurants for lunch later:
Chino Bandido’s (Mexican, Chinese, Jamaican fusion). NW corner of 19th Ave. and Greenway.
U.S. Egg (salads and sandwiches and famous protein pancakes) 402 E. Greenway Parkway.

Propagation Committee Annual Recruiting Enrollment
We have lots of work to do next year and need your help. Come and learn the fun and rewards of propagating plants. If you would like to join, please contact Dean Patrick: 480-759-0312; desertpatrick@cox.net

CACSS Nominating Committee Looking for Candidates for Vice President and Board of Directors Member
If you are interested, contact Dan Smith: smithdans@cox.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PLAN THE 2014 SHOW & SALE…
Kick-off meeting Sunday, October 27, 2 pm
Contact Lynda Michaelson 480-722-2991
lynda@itsgs.com
In Memoriam: Doug Green

I was saddened to learn that long-term CACSS member Charles Douglas (Doug) Green passed away on September 11. His celebration of life service was held Tuesday, September 17, 2013.

We will certainly miss him and enjoyed his displays at our annual Show & Sale. He was a regular attendee for any years at our General Meetings, the last one being our August 25th meeting. He was also an active member of The Arizona Native Plant Society. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

Wayne Whipple

Lee Brownson asks for bids for special plants at the CACSS 2012 Silent Auction. Photo by John Crummey
Welcome To New Members

Dan Bernstein
Verna and Jim Burkett
Judy Tolbert
Elaine Zolock

Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrick

Raffle Winners at the September 29, 2013 General meeting

John Voloudakis
Pat Adler
Judy Tolbert
Rachel Klink

Agave parrasana variegata
Mammillaria sepervivi
Ceramic pot
Opuntia robusta “Silver Dollar”

There were eight raffle items, but only four winners were identified. Two winners did not leave their names. One ceramic pot and one plant were not taken.

Please Wear Your Name Tag at Monthly Meetings

Board Member Jo Davis asks members to wear their name tags at monthly meetings and other club events. Members then can more easily spot guests and talk with them about the guest’s interests and CACSS. If you need a lanyard to hang the name tag around your neck, see Jo at the meetings.

Please bring boxes with you to the meetings so you can carry your new plants home more easily.

Jo Davis

Raffle Tickets at the General Meetings

$1 for one
$5 for six

Contact the Central Spine Editor

Diana Decker
dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825
for article and photo submissions for the Central Spine.
Desert Rivers Audubon 2nd Annual Tour de Bird
9 am to 4 pm, Saturday, November 9

Tickets: $10 per person
Children 16 and younger, free
Maps are included with the purchase of tickets
Tickets can be purchased at any DRA event or from our website:
www.desertriversaudubon.org

The tour has something for everyone who is interested in the delicate connections between the flora and fauna of our desert home, birders, gardeners and just appreciators of beauty. This year, the 10 stops on the tour include nine private backyards, which have different habitats, located in Mesa, Chandler and Gilbert. You can visit them all or stay for the entire time at one location. Experts will be available at all locations with helpful information. One stop, Wild Birds Unlimited of Mesa, has no plants, but is well worth the visit if you have interest in attracting birds.

Other stops will include a home with two acres of native plants and two small gardens that still manage to be great bird habitats. One garden benefits from rainwater harvesting and another includes a water feature that attracts birds not usually seen in our urban backyards. Two stops are on public land. This year, for the first time, Dreamland Villas will take part in showing us their Nature Trail: an urban walking trail planted in a wildlife-friendly manner which was created and is maintained by volunteers.

Party time!
Annual Holiday Potluck
1:30 to 5 pm, Sunday, December 9
Mountain View Park Community Center
8625 N. Mountain View Rd., Scottsdale

Bring a main dish, appetizer or dessert of your choice, and utensils for serving it. We have room for 100 members. Join us for a memorable time. Bring your holiday spirit and a plant to exchange. If you bring a plant, you may take a plant. You will also need to bring your own plates, silverware and napkins.

For ideas or suggestions, contact Wendy Barrett: 602-971-5345  wbarrett@cox.net
Coryphantha elephantidens: A fine fall-flowering cactus

Article and photo by Mark Dimmitt
(The article first appeared in the October 2012 issue of Desert Breeze, the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society newsletter. It is reprinted with the author’s permission.)

Coryphantha elephantidens (Figure 1) is one of the most distinctive of the several dozen species in this genus. The stems are three to four inches in diameter, and offset to form clusters of up to a dozen or more heads (Figure 3). (In The Cactus Family, Anderson says the stems can be nearly eight inches in diameter, but I have never seen any even close to this.) As the specific epithet describes, the stems have very large tubercles. The few short stout spines don’t conceal the shiny green cuticle.

The two-inch pink flowers are not borne in masses as in many cacti. They appear one or two at a time per stem, every few days for about three months from September to November (Figure 2). The subspecies C. e. greenwoodii and C. e. bumamma have yellow flowers. The species occurs in Michoacan and Morelos, Mexico. It’s winter hardy anywhere in southern Arizona. Grow it in any well-drained succulent medium, in light shade. Water little in winter, and also keep it on the dry side during extremely hot weather to avoid rot.

Figure 1.

Figure 2

Figure 3

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.
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.