The Miniature Jewels of Mexico

By Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

The Miniature Jewels of Mexico presentation features the often rare, but always tiny, species of cacti and other succulents that are found in the vast country of Mexico. This presentation includes Woody’s photos and experiences covering 40 years of exploring almost all of this, the most cactus-rich country in the world. We will see Mammillarias, Ariocarpus, Turbinicarpus, Thelocactus, Strombocactus, Aztekiums, Gymnocactus, Astrophytums, Escobarias, Coryphanthas, Geohintonias, Echeverias, Sedums etc., etc., etc. We will encounter miniature plants from such states as: Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Sinaloa, Queretaro, Oaxaca, Puebla and many more. Within these states we will find ourselves traveling through such famous regions as the Sonoran Desert, the Chihuahuan Desert, the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental.

Many of these miniature plants are the most beautiful an intriguing of all the cacti and succulents in the world. Their geometric patterns and their sculptural shapes, often adorned by intense colors, make most of them real collectors’ items. Some of these miniature species are considered real stinkers when it comes to successful cultivation. Thus we will visit the habitats where these plants grow and their relevance to their successful cultivation. This talk will also address the uniqueness of each species and their historical background from their original discovery to their relationships with field workers from the past to the present.

Many of the miniature jewels in this presentation will be plants that most of us have had or have admired for all the years we have enjoyed this special hobby. An added bonus from this program is, for those of us with limited growing space, learning just how many species we can keep in an area the size of a coffee table! Hopefully, you will learn some of the secrets for growing these miniature plants and be introduced to some potential new acquisitions for your collection.
Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly called, has been in the cactus hobby for some 45 years. He is known for his extensive fieldwork studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen.

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December Central Spine Deadline: Dec. 12, 2013

2013 CACSS Officers

President: Wayne Whipple  
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Vice-President: Gard Roper  
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Secretary: Lois Schneberger  
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Treasurer: Tom Rankin  
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Board of Directors

Serving through December, 2013
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623-979-9389  
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Serving through December 2014

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602-971-5345  
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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
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings- Sue Tyrrel
Programs (Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens, Special Interest Groups)  --  Gard Roper, Doug Dawson
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.

Party time!  
Annual Holiday Potluck  
1:30 to 5 pm, Sunday, December 8  
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. Please R.S.V.P. by Dec. 2, and let Wendy what dish you are bringing for the potluck. Bring your holiday spirit and a plant to exchange. If you bring a plant, you may take a plant.

For more information, contact Wendy Barrett:  
602-971-5345  wbarrett@cox.net
Again, it is sad that another one of our members has passed. Ray Daley died on November 2 at his home in Sun City. Although he was not an active member for the last few years, he and his wife Sue were quite active at one time and both served on the Society’s Board of Directors for many years. Sue died a couple of years ago. Recently, Ray contributed many specimen plants for our monthly silent auctions, and most recently for the major October auction, which we greatly appreciated. I think all of us will remember the spectacular *Leuchtenbergia principis* that he donated for the October auction. It was the most impressive one that I have ever seen.

The October 20 Auction held in the Wildflower Pavilion of the Desert Botanical Garden was another success. Hundreds of plants were contributed by our members, which will enhance the gardens of many of our members for many years to come. Thank you so much for not only contributing your plants, but also for bidding on donated plants during the auction. Special thanks goes to the chair of the event, Jo Davis, and to all those who helped with this annual event.

We had two open gardens to tour in October. Our members enjoy these outings and are always ready for the next one. On October 13, we were invited to Electra and Jim Elliott’s nursery – Arizona Cactus Sales. I did not realize how huge the nursery is until they opened the back gate to the 3½ acres of specimen plants. This area is off-limits to the general public, so it was a real treat to see it. The Elliotts not only gave a discount on all purchased plants, but they also donated a percentage of total sales to the Society. Thanks Electra and Jim.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Tom Gatz’s open garden on October 26, but those who attended were amazed by the plants, fish pond, and well-organized garden in a relatively small space. Thanks, Tom, for hosting, and I assure you that I will make it to your next garden tour.

We had a great trip to Tucson the first weekend in November. Members looked forward to visiting the nurseries, and of course, splurging on buying plants. Thanks to Gard Roper for selecting the itinerary for the two days; Rita Gosnell for logistics and lodging; Jo Davis for the bus; and Sue Hakala for the goody-bags on board the bus. So many heads and hands are needed to have a successful event.

We have to start thinking about 2014. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a listing of the nominees for Officers and Directors who will commence their new terms in 2014. The new Board members will be announced at the December Holiday Party, so be sure to vote. Our Society depends on active, supportive volunteers, and everyone is encouraged to participate by joining the various committees.

A couple of reminders:

Please contact Sue Tyrrel—styrrel@cox.net or by phone at 480-797-8952—if you, as a member, would like to sell plants or other items pertaining to plants at our General Meetings. Members appreciate having the items for sale, but please do not bring them to the meetings without prior approval, as space is quite limited.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held just before the General Meeting on Sunday, November 24, starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Farrington Conference Center. Members are always welcome to attend.
Welcome To New Members
Frank Bevacqua and Meredith Hess
Vincent Rollen family
Reid and Laurie Satter
Joan Seeling family
Frank Wise and Barbara Trojan

Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrick

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

Raffle Tickets at the General Meetings
$1 for one
$5 for six

The Propagation Committee’s 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

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

Please Wear Your Name Tag at Monthly Meetings
Board Member Jo Davis asks members to wear 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.
LOVE THAT CACTUS
BY A. Glochid

(This poem was found in the CACSS archives. No information—when written, etc.—was found with it.)

It’s cactus padding time in Arizona.
Yes, it’s padding time in good old cactus land.
The cacti keep on padding, and the pads they keep on adding on.
Why they do this, I just cannot understand.

They say those pads are mighty good for eating,
So I took one that looked like it was loose.
Now my hand is full of prickles, and they itches and they tickles.
From now on I will stick to cactus juice.

They say those pads can turn to pretty flowers,
And when they start to bloom are quite a sight.
Well, I’ve looked at them for hours and have never seen their flowers;
They do their blooming in the middle of the night.

It’s cactus padding time in Arizona,
And they threaten now to cover up the state.
So, up north I will go and live amidst the snow,
And leave the Arizonans to their fate.
CACSS
Ballot for Officers and Directors for 2014
(Biographies written by the candidates)

Deborah Mulholland,
Candidate for Vice President:

Deborah Mulholland has a passion for plants! Growing up in the subtropical climate of Southeast Texas, ferns, palms and pines were the beginning of her experience with horticulture. Deborah’s first job was as a bookkeeper in a wholesale greenhouse; Flowers, Inc. While flying for United Airlines she enjoyed touring gardens throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

After moving to Arizona in 1999 she realized the need to learn more about desert gardening, and enrolled in the Master Gardener program offered by The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. Membership in the CACSS has helped her cultivate a desire to learn more about cacti and succulents, and to help expose others to their unique beauty. Ms. Mulholland is currently employed with the Mayo Clinic, and works in Cancer Clinical Research. She is also a graduate student at Arizona State University majoring in Clinical Research Management. In her free time, in addition to gardening, she enjoys photographing architecture, landscapes, flora, and fauna.

Jim Oravetz,
Candidate for Member of the Board of Directors:

Born and raised in Southern California, Jim and his wife relocated to Arizona in 1986. Jim is a Master Gardener, who generously shares his horticultural knowledge and years of experience to groups and organizations throughout the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

His wide ranging interest in plants include Orchids, Bonsai, Carnivorous Plants, Vegetable Gardening, Roses, Cactus and Succulents, Container Gardening, and Xeriscape plants.

Jim’s long and distinguished career include:
• Served honorably in the United States Air Force;
• Graduate of the ‘Certified Desert Landscaper’ course, Phoenix, Desert Botanical Garden;
• Advanced Arizona Certified Nursery Professional;
• Certified Horticulturist and Merchandise Professional;
• Landscape Consultant and Designer;
• Certified Arizona Master Watershed Steward, U of A;
• Past President, San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society (Southern CA)
• Past President, Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society
• Former Senior Horticulturist, Summer Winds Nurseries, Arizona Division
• Recognized Television and Radio Personality:
  • Hosted the Gardening Segment for Jan D’Atri’s Heart and Home, KAZTV13 for one year;
  • Appeared on Jan D’Atri’s Radio Show for four years;
  • Hosted the Gardening Segment for Sonoran Living on ABC15 for three years
world’s many desert areas. Having been an educator in Arizona since his arrival here in 1971, Doug will continue to actively seek to enhance the educational components of our club and its place in the greater Maricopa community.

The ballots will be mailed out this month. Please return your ballots to be tallied.
Tom Gatz’s Open Garden (October 26, 2013) -- Photos by Sue Hakala

If you visited the garden at the home of Tom Gatz and Barb Larson, you know that I’m not exaggerating when I say that it is wondrous. Everywhere you turn is a new gorgeous sight to hold your eye, a new “room” to snuggle into, and a beautiful sight to behold. This garden is a real labor of love. Congratulations, Tom!
Sue Hakala
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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, Column 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.