As the 40th anniversary of the founding of the CACSS comes to a close, it is a good time to celebrate those people who contributed their efforts to leading this ongoing, successful organization. Since the founding of the society in 1973, our club has had 23 presidents and under their leadership, the society's membership has grown to 377 cactus and succulent lovers.

Our presidents have not only had leadership and planning expertise, they have worn many hats and have a range of skills, talents, and personalities. What do an anthropologist, an anesthesiologist, a director of horticulture, executive directors, business owners, a school psychologist, a college professor, and a contractor/musician/entrepreneur have in common? You may have guessed that they have all served a term or more as our society presidents.

• Henry Triesler, who became the first president of the society in 1973, served for two years and led the club through its early organizational stages. He later took on presidential duties for three more years setting a record of five terms served as president. Henry was also president of the Desert Botanical Garden for two years.

• Dr. Charles Merbs, now Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Arizona State University, became the second society president in 1975. As well as taking on the role of president for two years, he spent three years as the newsletter editor. He juggled all that work while managing a prestigious career in forensic anthropology.

During the past 40 years there have been four women presidents. Cathy Babcock, current Director of Horticulture at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, stepped up to be president in 1999 after serving on the board of directors as treasurer and vice-president. When I asked Cathy about her experiences as president, she noted that because of her innate shyness, it was a challenge for her to agree to be president, but it gave her a boost in self-confidence. She remembers doing a lot of program planning and notes that “there are so many more members now, and active ones at that, to help the president today.”

Continued on page 7
January Central Spine Deadline: Jan. 11, 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
602-904-2734
tomrankin@cox.net

Directors-at-Large

Serving through December, 2013
Cindy Capek
623-979-9389
ronluccap@gmail.com

Sue Tyrrel
480-797-952
styrrel@cox.net

Dana Hiser
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dana2garden@aol.com

Nancy Mumpton
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nancy.mumpton@gmail.com

Joe Barnes
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barnesinaz@gmail.com

Beth Kirkpatrick
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Serving through December 2014
Wendy Barrett
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Jo Davis
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Doug Dawson
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dawsonlithops@hotmail.com

Mike Gallagher
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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 Lynda Michaelson

Website Beth Kirkpatrick

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

2014 General Meetings

Sunday, January 26, 2014
Sunday, February 16, 2014
Sunday, March 30, 2014
Remarks made by President Wayne Whipple at the Holiday Party  
December 8, 2013

Welcome and thanks for coming to this year’s holiday buffet. Thank you, Wendy Barrett, for arranging it, and thanks also to Dana Hiser for renting this facility. It is always fun to hold our annual party here.

One of the many reasons that made 2013 a special year was that it was our 40th anniversary. To help celebrate it, a special program was presented by three past presidents – Scott McMahon, Jim Elliott, and Kent Newland. A special anniversary cake was also served. We were happy that Lois Schneberger spearheaded this celebration, and I thank her and all those who helped her for this special event.

This has been a good year for the CACSS. We all enjoyed the diverse and interesting monthly programs. We had seven excellent speakers during the year. Most of them traveled from outside the Phoenix area. All of these programs were arranged by our Vice President, Gard Roper, and also Doug Dawson, whom we thank for doing a great job. Also I thank Dan Smith for researching and then buying a new computer for the meetings. He has also been setting up the equipment at our meetings.

Two board members need to be thanked for many hours working at home on CACSS business. Lois Schneberger has been our Secretary for the past four years. Not only does she spend long hours on the Board’s minutes, but she also is the society’s historian and archivist. Thanks to her, we have the history of the Society written and preserved for the future. This task took an endless number of hours of work. Thanks, Lois, for several years of service.

No one knows better than me how much time is needed to perform the Treasurer’s duties. I know, because I was Treasurer for five years. We were fortunate this year to have Tom Rankin fill this position. He worked at all our major functions and membership meetings and then went home to account for the collections and pay the bills. Many of our positions require people with professional experience, and who better could do the Treasurer’s job than a CPA like Tom? Thanks, Tom. We also thank Ingrid Swenson, our Assistant Treasurer, who helped Tom at our meetings.

The annual Show & Sale has been a major undertaking over the years, and this year’s Show & Sale was no exception. It also utilized the largest number of volunteers with more than 50 members helping out this year, mainly behind the scenes. Besides the annual dues, the income from the Show & Sale is the second largest contributor to the Society’s funds. This year, nearly $4,000 was generated for the Society. Sue Tyrrel was the General Chair of the Show & Sale, and again we thank her and the many, many others who worked very hard to make this a success. We are also very lucky to have Sue assume a leadership position with our 2014 Show & Sale. She will be working closely with Lynda Michaelson, the event co-chair.

Our next major contributor to income is the October auction, which is usually held in the Wildflower Pavilion at the DBG. This year, we were again fortunate to have Jo Davis in charge. Hundreds of plants were donated to this year’s event, which provided around $1,500 to the Society’s coffers. Thanks, Jo, and to all those dedicated helpers and donators, and also thanks to the many bidders for the plants.

Jo also took on the added responsibility this year of a new position--Members-Keeping-In-Touch. Probably a week does not go by without Jo sending a card on behalf of the Society to one of our members. I am sure the recipients are most appreciative.

We also had our first joint meeting with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, which was enjoyed by around 200 attendees. Gard Roper, CACSS Vice President, and Mary Ann Garewal, Master Gardener, worked together for several months to bring this meeting to fruition. Thanks.

We again chartered a bus and visited many nurseries in the Tucson area. About 25 people enjoyed the two-
day trip during the first weekend in November. Gard Roper, our Program Chair, was in charge, and he was greatly assisted by Rita Gosnell, Jo Davis and Sue Hakala.

Many of us again enjoyed Leo Martin’s class on growing plants from seeds. He conducted this course a couple of years ago. It was so popular that he was asked to do it again. Thanks, Leo.

We also have a Propagation Committee that is headed by Dean Patrick. Plants that his committee grows are often brought and sold at our meetings. Thanks to Dean and all the members of his Propagation Committee.

In 2013, our members enjoyed the open-garden tours hosted by 11 of our members: Cliff Fielding, Sue Hakala, Jo Davis, Joe Miracle, Debora Life, Gay and Scott Hendricks, Tom Gatz, and Lee Brownson – for the Wallace Gardens, and Electra and Jim Elliott – for Arizona Cactus Sales.

Membership has increased dramatically this year; according to our membership chair, Beth Kirkpatrick, it now stands at 377, a net increase of 42 members since the end of 2012. If we have the same increase in 2014 as we did this year, total membership would easily exceed 400 by next summer. Thanks, Beth, for maintaining the membership roster. We also appreciate the informative emails you send us during the year.

Beth also has another important responsibility – maintaining our website. There was a rocky start at the beginning of the year when our website was about to crash, but is now running smoothly, thanks not only to Beth but also to Leo Martin, and Beth’s daughter, Brooke Biltimier. A new area located on our website holds the postings of our historical newsletters supplied by Lois Schneberger, and placed on the site by Beth. Thanks to both Beth and Lois for making this possible.

Although it seems well off into the future, our Board did offer to host the 2017 Cactus and Succulent Society of America’s convention. Steve Martinez made a proposal to the CSSA for the CACSS to host it. We were pleased to learn that it was accepted. We are grateful to Beth for volunteering to be the General Chair. I am sure she will need many hands to assist her.

We all appreciate receiving the monthly newsletter the Central Spine and thank the editor, Diana Decker, for seeing that we receive it on a timely, monthly basis for the past three years.

Several others also need to be thanked for their service to our Society during this past year. I again thank Gard for spending many hours of his time to bring a load of pumice to Arizona from California so that our members could get buckets of this volcanic rock for their potting media. And thanks to Ingrid Swenson for permitting us to unload it in her yard.

We were fortunate to have Paul Schueneman again handle our library with the assistance of Marty Shahan. I was pleased to see so many members volunteer to help him bring books to our monthly meetings so our members have a larger selection from which to choose.

We also thank Nick Diomede for bringing us into the world of social media by maintaining our Facebook page.

What would our meetings be like without the refreshments, especially the bottled water on hot days? For most of the year, Cindy Capek handled this task, but she has handed this job over to Kat Hanna, who has been bringing in the refreshments for the last couple of meetings. I thank both of them for doing this somewhat back-breaking job.

One of the last decisions your Board made this past year was to approve a policy covering Honorary Lifetime Memberships. The last time we honored members with that title was in 2008 when the board selected Electra and Jim Elliott and Joan and Stan Skirvin as Honorary Lifetime Members. The new policy for Honorary Lifetime Members is included in this newsletter.
I thank the Nominating Committee consisting of Mike Gallagher, Dan Smith, and Jackie Vasquez for their diligence in selecting candidates for Officers and Directors-at-Large, whose terms commence January 1, 2014. Those elected by the Members are:

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<th>Officers</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Wayne Whipple</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Deborah Mulholland</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lois Schneberger</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<th>Directors-at-Large, 2014-2015</th>
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<td>Joe Barnes</td>
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<td>Cindy Capek</td>
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<td>Dana Hiser</td>
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<td>Beth Kirkpatrick</td>
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<td>Nancy Mumpton</td>
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<td>Jim Oravetz</td>
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I enjoyed my year as President of your Society. I enjoyed working with our governing board of 16 members and sincerely thank the Board members for their assistance and guidance during the year. So many people helped to make it possible for the CACSS to have an eventful, productive year, and I sincerely thank everyone who gave their time and energy for the benefit of the Society.

Thanks for attending today’s Holiday Party, and I wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

Welcome To New Members

Lucy Rand and Ron Foss
Edith Goble
Barry Friedman
Lynn Friedman
Tom and Mary Ellen Morrissey
Greg Schuster
Kimball Smith
Gary and Beth Wisinski

CACSS now has 377 members.

Membership Chair: Beth Kirkpatrick

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 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.
Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Policy:
Honorary Life-time Membership Bylaws:
(CACSS Bylaws Article III: 3. Lifetime Members)
Approved by the Board, November 24, 2013:

Goal: To honor CACSS Members who have made a substantial contribution to the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS)

The Honorary Lifetime Membership is covered by this policy. Honorary Lifetime Members are unanimously elected by the Board of Directors and are exempt from membership dues. Such exemption shall not affect their status as active members or the privileges of active membership.

In general, Honorary Lifetime Memberships shall be meaningful to the CACSS. Qualifications will be determined by the Board and may be changed by unanimous consent of the Board of Directors.

Any member of the CACSS may nominate an individual as a candidate to receive an Honorary Lifetime Membership. The nomination shall be in writing and submitted to the President of CACSS before June 1. The nominator should address the nominee’s qualifications for Honorary Lifetime Membership. Board Members who are serving as Officers or Directors-at-Large are not eligible for this designation.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to the education of the CACSS members and the general public on cacti and other succulents.
- Commitment to the Society’s purpose* and activities for many years in diverse capacities.
- A member of the CACSS for at least the past ten (10) years.

New Honorary Lifetime members shall be recognized at the annual December Holiday Party and shall receive a framed certificate of Honorary Lifetime Membership and a special identification badge.

*The purpose of the Society shall be (a) to learn how to grow and study cacti, other succulents and associated xerophytes, (b) to foster, disseminate and advance the knowledge and propagation of cacti and other succulents, (c) to promote interest in members’ cactus and succulent plants and their habitats, (e) to support the Desert Botanical Garden of Phoenix, Arizona, and other organizations of similar purpose, (f) to hold public meetings for study, to which anyone interested in these plants is invited, and (g) to provide the opportunity and place to exhibit plants. CACSS Bylaws Article I: 3. Purpose.
During the past 40 years there have been four women presidents. Cathy Babcock, current Director of Horticulture at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, stepped up to be president in 1999 after serving on the board of directors as treasurer and vice-president. When I asked Cathy about her experiences as president, she noted that because of her innate shyness, it was a challenge for her to agree to be president, but it gave her a boost in self-confidence. She remembers doing a lot of program planning and notes that “there are so many more members now, and active ones at that, to help the president today.”
Margaret Caldwell, Debra Korobkin, and Kathy Butler, none of whom are club members now, were the other women who tackled the opportunity to show us their leadership talents. Doug Dawson noted that Kathy Butler’s love of lithops drew her to the club. He maintains an ongoing friendship with her and she was able to travel to South Africa with him in 2007. She shared with Doug that the trip was a highlight of her life.

• Jim Oravetz, who was president in 1989, has returned to take a seat on the Board of Directors for 2014. You can read Jim’s article, “How Well Do Your Plants Glow?” in the April, 1989 issue of the Central Spine (online). If you are not yet making your own planting mix, this will give you a good start.

• Dr. Leo Martin has given us a first-class education on so many aspects of plant growing and care that it is hard to catalog them all here. Leo was club president for three years from 2000 -2002 and did double duty as editor of the Central Spine. He has also served as both Show & Sale chair and webmaster.

Leo was honored by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in 2011 with a Superior Service Award “for several years of service as a Director and chair of numerous committees, and the convention Local Arrangements chair.” (Website: CSSAIInc.com/Honors)

In addition to his career as an anesthesiologist, Leo is a volunteer for, and sits on the board of, Arizona Schnauzer Rescue, Inc. He provides care for some of these dogs in his home.

My husband, Chuck, and I had a chance to visit the Missouri Botanical Garden and the concurrent Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society show in July, 2012. We introduced ourselves as club members from Phoenix and got an immediate reaction from members about their memories of Leo when he was with their group. His talents are recognized around the country.

• Three of our past presidents own and operate their own businesses. Jim Elliot, our president in 1990 and 1991, owns and operates Arizona Cactus Sales with his wife, Electra. They hosted a private tour of their nursery in September for members of the CACSS. Our wonderful hosts provided a tour of the behind-the-scenes operations on their 3.5 acre property and gave everyone plenty of time to shop in their retail store.

I learned from Gard that Jim and Electra organized and led one of the “best-ever” bus trips to Northern California. To read more about them, go to the online newsletter archives and read Sue Hakala’s excellent interview with Jim, featured in the August 1999 issue of the Central Spine.

• Another nursery owner/entrepreneur is Steve Martinez, president for three years from 2010 -2012. Under Steve’s leadership, membership in the CACSS took a huge jump. Steve currently serves on the board of directors. He owns and operates his business, Succulentia, at The Farm at South Mountain, where he offers rare and hard-to-find plants, as well as plants for beginning growers. Take a look at his website, www.succulentia.com. to see a historic photo of his first greenhouse. It seems that owning one business leads to another so Steve recently opened a restaurant, Alo Cafe, in downtown Scottsdale. Named after an Estonian musician, Alo features food from Spain, South Africa, Namibia, and of course, Estonia.

• Yet another nursery owner and grower is Steve Plath. Steve served as our president from 2008-2009. He operates Signature Botanica LLC. in Morristown, Arizona, together with his wife, Julie. Steve has experience in landscape design and has a special interest in revegetation of desert lands to help preserve our native species. His and Julie’s growing talents are showcased at the annual Show & Sale, where their prize-winning plants wow us all. Steve is current Vice President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and has also served as a Director for the organization.

• Gard Roper became president in 1997. Gard worked for 30 years in the Glendale Union School District as a school psychologist. As well as wielding the gavel as president, Gard noted that he filled the vice-president’s office five times and enjoyed doing program planning, which he felt was a good fit for his talents. Gard stated that he would like to see the club stress the importance of education for its members and encourages everyone to read the newsletter archives from the seventies, when there was a serious focus on how to grow plants. He also observed that in those early years of the club, the combination of couples working together (husband/wife team) had contributed to some high quality leadership. Currently, we are grateful to Gard for becoming the boss of the pumice pile, one of the club’s treasured resources.
Doug Dawson, a 23-year member of the CACSS, was president of the club in 2007. Doug, a mathematics professor, spent seven years as a high school teacher before moving to Arizona State University teaching lower division math classes. From there, Doug moved in 1985 to Glendale Community College, where he taught mathematics until he retired in 2008.

Now he spends his time on his love of photography and passion for travel so he can do “world-wide plant exploration.” Doug’s favorite countries to visit include South Africa and Namibia. He is teaching himself the Afrikaans language, which helps him when he travels, and which has endeared him to his South African friends. He has provided “red cup” educational opportunities to the club through the Propagation Committee. Doug told me that he loved teaching, and to those of us who have taken his propagation techniques workshops, it is obvious that he still does.

Scott McMahon is a horticulturalist and Director of the Cactaceae Collection at the Desert Botanical Garden. Scott spent two years as CACSS president, once in 1998 and again in 2003. He has also served on the Board of Directors. Scott has shared his extensive knowledge about cacti as a featured speaker at the society meetings. At the club’s 40th anniversary celebration in July, Scott gave a presentation on “Echinopsis.” In addition to educating our members, Scott is an instructor for the Desert Landscaper School at the Desert Botanical Garden.

Lee Brownson is the first executive director of the Wallace Gardens in Phoenix, where he has worked for five and a half years. Many of our members have had the opportunity to take one of his tours of these gardens, a part of his job that he especially enjoys. He was president of the CACSS for two years from 2004 through 2005 and also held the office of vice-president in 2011. Lee brought skills developed in his career in public relations, marketing and consulting to his work for the club.

Lee commented that the accomplishment he is most proud of while serving as president was his creation of the CACSS Rescue Program. With guidance he received from members of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, Lee was able to develop the rescue program, which included finding construction sites where development was going to be done. He then organized members to go out to dig and tag every plant removed. Members could buy these plants for the cost of the tag fee. Some of these plants were sold at the annual Show & Sale and the proceeds were shared with the DBG. He would love to see someone reinvigorate this plant rescue group. He would be willing to mentor anyone who is willing to lead it. When asked what he would like to see the club do in the years to come, he suggested that the group spend some of its funds to provide scholarship help for people doing study and research in cacti and succulents.

Wayne Whipple, our current president, moved to Phoenix from New York City in 2003. While living in New Jersey and working in New York City, Wayne was the Executive Director of the New York Society of Security Analysts, located in the World Trade Center. He is a survivor of the World Trade Center attack. We are grateful and fortunate that he is able to be with us and take on the challenge of another year of presidential duties in 2014. Before becoming president, Wayne was treasurer of the club for five years.

Wayne had a large orchid collection which he kept in his office at the World Trade Center, but it was destroyed on 9/11. He noted: “Now I am hooked on cacti and succulents. No pun intended.” Wayne’s other interests include a deep love for opera and a passion for genealogy research. He was President of the Family History Society of Arizona for two years, which now has more than 3,000 people listed in his family tree.

Wayne noted that “a major challenge as President of the CACSS is meeting the needs and governance of a fast-growing organization” that now numbers 377 members. This rapid growth and large membership has required some changes in the Board’s procedures and prompted some thought about providing adequate meeting space.

Thanks to all our presidents, past and present, from all those who have benefited from their countless hours of work and generous commitment to the needs of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society. Just as a garden is enhanced by a palette of plants in many colors, textures, forms and sizes, so is our Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society enriched by the unique and diverse skills, talents and interests of our presidents.
Photos of Some of Our Past Presidents and Our Current President, Wayne Whipple

Jim Oravetz  Photo by Doug Dawson

Gard Roper  Photo by Doug Dawson

Cathy Babcock  Photo by Doug Dawson

Henry Treisler  Photo by Doug Dawson
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. 5.

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*. 