Presentation by Duke Benadom: *Echinocereus of the USA*

Duke has been involved with several cactus & succulent clubs and is a life member of three. He became a Director for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) in 1990, served as the CSSA's Show Chairman for more than a decade, and as Convention Chairman for six conventions. He served as Vice President and then President for a total of almost ten years, and as Editor of the Cactus & Succulent Journal for just over a year. He has been the author of the long-running CSJ column, Superb Succulents, since its inception; that column remains popular today. Duke’s first book, *Superb Succulents*, was published on September 25, 2013. His newest release, *Echinocereus*, was published in July of this year. Both publications will be available for review and purchase at the meeting. He enjoys flora and fauna, traveling, photography, and sharing these experiences with others of similar interests.
*Echinocereus* rigidissimus AZ native from southern AZ.
**2014 CACSS Officers**

President: Wayne Whipple  
480-460-3623  
w7676@msn.com

Vice-President: Deborah Mulholland  
480-650-5624  
dm@deborahmulland.com

Secretary: Lois Schneberger  
480-946-8373  
lschneberger@cox.net

Treasurer: Tom Rankin  
tkrankin0@gmail.com  
602-904-2734

**Directors-at-Large**

**Serving through December 2014**

Wendy Barrett  
602-971-5345  
wbarrett@cox.net

Jo Davis  
480-839-3792

Mike Gallagher  
602-942-8580  
mgallagher26@cox.net

Steve Martinez  
602-688-4339  
altrigo2@cox.net

Dan Smith  
480-981-9648  
smithdans@cox.net

Lynda Michaelson  
480-722-2991  
Lynda@itsgs.com

**Serving through December 2015**

Cindy Capek  
623-979-9389  
ronluccap@gmail.com

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

Beth Kirkpatrick  
480-275-4833  
2kirks@cox.net

Jim Oravetz  
602-284-9854  
oravetz@cox.net

**2014 Meetings**

Sunday September 28  
Board Meeting 10:30 am  
General Meeting 1 pm

Members are welcome to attend the board meeting in Farrington Hall.

Sunday, October 19  
Silent Auction  
2 pm  Wildflower Pavilion  
Desert Botanical Garden

Sunday, November 23  
General Meeting

Sunday, December 7  
Annual Holiday Party

**CACSS Program and Committee Leaders**

Archivist/Historian: Lois Schneberger

Audit Committee: Mike Gallagher

CSSA Affiliate Representative: Sue Hakala

Donations: Jim Oravetz

Facebook Coordinator: Dan Smith

Finances, Accounting: Tom Rankin. Ingrid Swenson

Holiday Party - December 2014: Sue Glenn

Library Co-Chairs: Wendy Barrett, Nancy Mumpton

Membership: Beth Kirkpatrick

Members-Keeping-In-Touch: Jo Davis

Mailed Newsletter Subscriptions: Sue Tyrrel

Newsletter: Diana Decker

Nominations for Board Officers & Directors: Jim Oravetz, Joe Barnes, Jeanne Ann Brush, Chuck Brush

October Silent Auction: Mike Gallagher

Plant Rescues: Open Position

Private Plant Sales at General Meetings: Sue Tyrrel

Programs (Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens, Special Interest Groups): Deborah Mulholland

Pumice Sales: Gard Roper

Refreshments: Kat Hanna

Show & Sale – 2015: Sue Tyrrel

Website: Dan Smith

Telephone numbers, email addresses, and addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.
When the deluge from Hurricane Norbert hit the Valley of the Sun on September 8, I missed it. I was in sunny California, but was anxious about my home in Ahwatukee Foothills and to learn how the citizens of the Valley coped. When I arrived home, I quickly inspected my house, yard and swimming pool. I was fortunate as the only damage was a toppled *Opuntia linguiformis*. I could not tell that a record-breaking rainstorm had swept through the area. I hope everyone survived the storm without major damage. I really feel sorry for those people who lived in the Emerald Park Acres neighborhood in Mesa and other areas that were hit hard or were swamped by water on various roads and highways. As I write this letter, I see the dark clouds of Hurricane Odile approaching.

Somewhat of a surprise when I got home was the article in the *Arizona Republic* that 6,000 plants of the Wallace Desert Garden were to be removed and replanted at Boyce Thompson Arboretum. This massive undertaking is expected to take three years to accomplish. I have asked Lee Brownson, the executive director of the Wallace Gardens, to comment on this major transplant at our September General Meeting.

I hope everyone has checked out the Society’s new tee-shirt, which has a beautiful aloe-design created by CACSS member Diana Crummey. These distinctive shirts will be fun to wear, especially at events such as our Show & Sale and the October Auction. Sue Tyrrel is in charge of the shirts, so please contact her at the September meeting if you would like to purchase one.

Have you identified the plants that you will generously donate for the October Auction? Keep in mind that the CACSS is a not-for-profit educational organization (501-C-3), and your plant-donations could be a tax write-off for you. If you would like a form attesting to your donations, please see our Treasurer Tom Rankin for a confirmation form. Mike Gallagher is this year’s chairperson for the auction, and he will need plenty of volunteers to help with the auction, so please see him if you can help.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 7, at the Mountain View Community Center in Scottsdale. The chairperson for this year’s event is Sue Glenn, who I am sure will be aided by her daughter Emily Glenn. Cindy Capek is also assisting with the party. More details will be forthcoming.

Check-out our Facebook group and please join if you have not already done so. Some interesting postings have occurred, and we thank Dan Smith for monitoring the site and keeping it active.

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**Sunday, October 19 CACSS Silent Auction**

**Set-up:** 12:30 – 1:30 pm;  
Silent Auction begins at 2 pm

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

You will need a bid sheet for each plant you bring. The bid sheet should include the name of the plant (if you u 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. As usual, you’ll be given instructions on how to bid and pay for your plants. Make sure you bring boxes so you can take the plants you purchased home with you.

If you have questions, contact Mike Gallagher:  
602-942-8580  
mgallagher26@cox.net
Caravan Trip to Tucson – October 25 and 26

As CACSS members we enjoy the camaraderie of going on buying trips to nurseries in Arizona and California. This year, instead of a bus trip, we are doing a caravan to visit some of our favorite Tucson nurseries as well as spending a day with Mark Dimmitt at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum.

We will be leaving the morning of October 25 for the nursery tour. Because we are going in individual vehicles, you will have flexibility in the nurseries we choose to visit. Most of us will want to visit Bach’s, B & B and Plants of the Southwest, but there will be time to visit other nurseries. Please refer to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society website for the Tucson nurseries.

Rooms will be arranged, which will be the only advance payment you will need to make. You will also be responsible for all meals.

Sunday, October 26, is a full day at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum with a special tour by Mark Dimmitt.

With beautiful fall weather, this will be a fun and educational trip.

Rita Gosnell and Gard Roper are coordinating this trip. Please let Rita know if you plan to attend, your roommate or single preference, if you plan to drive or need a ride, and if you are attending the Museum tour on Sunday, as reservations are needed. She is also happy to answer any questions regarding the trip.

Rita Gosnell
gosnellatir@yahoo.com
480-595-0292

Welcome to New Members
Steen and John Allard-Lawson
Leslie Nelson
Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrick

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 to the meetings so you can carry your new plants home more easily.
Jo Davis
A Thorn in My Side: Learning to Grow Cacti and Succulents
By Lillian Barker

I like to think of myself as a master gardener, but the truth is that over the last 50 years I’ve killed more plants than I can count: lithops, fenestra (those cute little “baby toes”) and many types of crassulaceae. I even threw away an adenium I thought was dead when it went dormant! I’m sure there will be more casualties. Still, over all, I’ve been successful. The death toll has dwindled as the variety of my plants has increased. This has happened by listening, reading and observation. CACSS meetings have been an especially great help.

First, I’ve learned that it’s vital to know the plant’s native environment. Does it grow on the rocky slopes of the Sonoran desert, beginning life nestled under the filtered shade of a brittle bush? Or does it live on the Baja coastline where it thrives in extreme heat, watered by early morning fog? Understanding this environment awakens a new appreciation for our cacti and succulents while allowing us to better care for them—not to mention knowing how far we want to go to help them thrive in the Phoenix area.

Creating the best environment is not as easy as it sounds. As Doug Dawson points out, every square foot of our yards and patios is its own little ecosystem of soil, light, water and temperature fluctuations. I’ve learned to choose plants that can fit in on the shady or bright places of my patio or front yard, that can handle warm winter days that drop to 30 degrees F. at night; and I put the Madagascar palm close to the house for frost protection. If they can’t live outside through August, I won’t try again. I’m lazy. I stand back and admire growers who build ingenious structures for their collections of lithops.

Listen and learn is my mantra for cultivation of cacti and succulents. There are some great books in the CACSS library. (Why are they all written by experts in England who have greenhouses?) So I soak up the knowledge of our group like an opuntia in a monsoon and I ask plenty of questions. I’ve been advised not to believe everything I hear, even when it is said with great authority, but I take it all in. After all, according to Scott McMahon, curator of cacti at DBG, the combined sum of knowledge in our group surpasses all horticulturists’ knowledge because no one can know everything about all plants or have the combined years of practical experience of CACSS.

The CACSS T-shirts Have Been a Hit

We have four styles and many colors to choose from. There is the embroidered design and also a nice "transfer" of the same image. There are samples at the table. If you have an item you would like embroidered, a different shirt, apron, tote, hat, we can have that done as well.

I will be at the September meeting (God willing) to take orders and then will bring the finished shirts to the October meeting which is at the Wildflower Pavilion. September will be the last time to purchase this year so if you want to gift these to anyone you need to plan. Orders will only be taken at the general meetings.

Sue Tyrrel
Photos of Members Bidding on Plants at the August CACSS Meeting
By John Crummey

Doug Dawson (in blue shirt) talks with members and guests about the plants on display.

Diana Crummey (center, left) and Sue Tyrrel (center, right) talk with members about the CACSS T-shirts. Diana designed the floral print on the front of the T-shirts.
Tom Gatz, in front of the first table, gets plants ready for bidding.

More Photos of Echinocereus by Doug Dawson

_Echinocereus triglochidiatus_ in Doug’s front yard.
*Echinocereus* engelmannii, an Arizona native, in Doug’s front yard

*Echinocereus* bonkerae taken at the base of Barnhardt Trail
Join The Celebration!
Annual Holiday Party

1:30 to 5:00 pm Sunday, December 7
Mountain View Park Community Center, 8625 N Mountain View Road, Scottsdale

We have room for 100 members. Please RSVP with your name and the item you will bring to pass (Main dish, Appetizer, Salad/Vegetable or Dessert). Please include a serving spoon/ fork with your item you bring. We will have a plant exchange for anyone interested. If you bring a plant, you will get a ticket from Jo Davis. Jo will be conducting the exchange during the meal, so please wait for your number to be called before taking a plant. We will have plates, napkins and eating utensils.

RSVP to Sue Glenn (920) 327-3137 - ekmglen@hotmail.com

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. 1

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*.