The annual silent auction, otherwise known as horticultural eroticism, will be held in the Wildflower Pavilion at the Desert Botanical Garden on Sunday, October 19, starting at 2 pm. Please bring clean, disease-free plants, pots, and horticultural related items (books, art, etc.) for the auction. In addition to the silent auction, a normal live bidding auction for selected plants and unique items will precede the silent auction.

Items for the auction can be dropped off at the Wildflower Pavilion (the second roadway on the right after entering DBG from Galvin Parkway) starting at 12 noon. Please plan to drop off items, and then move your vehicle to a regular visitor parking spot.

Please have a bid sheet available for each item you are bringing (example attached). A few items that are also recommended – a pen for bidding (like Chicago voting – bid early and bid often), a pair of gloves if you have to handle larger specimens, and at least one sturdy box to carry your treasures home. The auction will be in lieu of a regular meeting this month.

If you have questions, contact Mike Gallagher: 602-942-8580  mgallagher26@cox.net
2014 CACSS Officers

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

Vice-President: Deborah Mulholland
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dm@deborahmulholland.com

Secretary: Lois Schneberger
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Assistant Treasurer: Ingrid Swenson
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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
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

Serving through December 2014

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2014 CACSS Meetings

Sunday, November 23
General Meeting 2 pm
Board Meeting 11 am

Sunday, December 7
Annual Holiday Party

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

Directors-at-Large

Serving through December 2014

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2014 CACSS Meetings

Sunday, November 23
General Meeting 2 pm
Board Meeting 11 am

Sunday, December 7
Annual Holiday Party

Telephone numbers, email addresses, and addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.
This is the time of year that we should be inviting speakers for our 2015 General Meetings. I encourage members to give me names of people whom they would like to hear make a presentation. Even better rather than sending me the names extend the invitations yourself, but you must coordinate the invitations with me in order to avoid double bookings. Gard Roper has volunteered to arrange speakers for January and February, which means there are many available dates for program speakers. We do not hold General Meetings in April (Show & Sale), October (Annual Auction) and December (Holiday Party). Hope to hear from you soon.

Have you checked out our Facebook page where we have our own CACSS Group? Thanks go to Dan Smith who reorganized our Facebook and created the group format. I had my reservations about participating, but I am glad I did join. Many fantastic pictures have been posted with their scientific latin names along with useful information. Sensible questions are also being asked, which are being answered intelligently. Our new Facebook page began only a couple of months ago but has already attracted over 100 participants, several of whom joined our Society as new members. If you have not joined our Facebook group, you might want to check it out and will probably be glad that you did.

Our membership Chair Beth Kirkpatrick has got our CACSS PayPal Account set up for business on our website. We already have had two people use it to pay their 2015 dues to become new members.

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 will be aided by her daughter, Emily Glenn. Cindy Capek is also assisting with the party. More details will be forthcoming.

Send article and photo submissions for the *Central Spine* to the Editor:

Diana Decker
dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825
Welcome to New Members

James Blevin  
Liz Davis  
Cheryl Frier  
Kate Gallagher  
Connie Heaton  
Claudia and Art Helfgott  
Clare Kioski  
Grant Meyer  
Christine O’Hara  
Michelle Schrade  
Ginger Swartz  
Earl Tripp

Membership Chair:  
Beth Kirkpatrick

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

Photos from the 2012 Silent Auction by John Crummey

Members bid for plants.
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.

Members can sign up for the trip until Oct. 15. 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  gobnellatir@yahoo.com  480-595-0292
Landscape Design With Cacti and Succulents in Mind
by Lillian Barker

Fall is a great time to get back outside to work cacti and succulents into our landscapes. But before we get our shovels, let’s consider a few design ideas, lest we end up with what some landscape designers call “the garden of despair”, in other words, one cactus in the middle of the front yard surrounded by gravel.

1. First, decide how you plan to use the space. Dogs and kids need a place to play without getting close to a cholla or mashing your favorite aloe. Also, consider sunny or shady areas that will draw you outdoors in different seasons.

2. Next, decide if you want a formal or natural garden style. Formal rows of golden barrels or lines of *Pedilanthus* are in vogue right now and can be very exciting, especially with modern architecture. On the contrary, a natural effect can be achieved by the thoughtful arrangement of plants chosen for color and size as if placed there by Mother Nature herself.

3. We love cacti and succulents from all over the world, so I would suggest that aside from collections, we choose either a Sonoran, a Mediterranean, or a tropical landscape style. For example, cluster your tropicals on a protected patio or your Mediterranean plants near the door where you will notice if they need water. But don’t plant a rosemary (Mediterranean) or jade (tropical) next to a Hedgehog cactus. It’s not only an impossible watering situation, but it creates a kind of culture clash. Think about a Blackfoot Daisy instead.

4. Anticipate the future size of the plants. It takes a strong imagination, but it will solve many future problems. You won’t have to keep trimming the 6-foot Texas sage that you planted in front of a window, or get stabbed in the behind by an *Agave americana* when you get out of the car. With thought to size, you may not have to trim shrubs very much at all.

5. Plant a tree, preferably a native or near-native, but not smack-dab in front of a window or too close to the house. Otherwise, in a few years you’ll see only the trunk of the tree when you look out the window. A Palo Verde makes a great space for succulents that need filtered light.

6. Distinguish between accent/specimen plants, shrubs, vines and ground covers. Saguaro, ocotillos or totem pole cacti can serve as focal points, especially when surrounded by lower massed plantings of shrubs or ground covers as seen in nature. Rows of the same plant can make a dramatic statement in a formal garden. But too many types, too close together, disturb the eye.

7. Boulders have their place in the landscape—and that place is half-buried in the ground! That way they look like they’ve been there since the dawn of time and not just dropped from a space ship. They are the perfect way to show off cacti tucked in beside them as they grow in the wild.
8. It’s safer to mass an odd number of the same plant (staggered in natural landscapes) rather than a jumble of varieties.

9. Sketch out a simple plan with walkways, seating areas, and places you want to screen. Then make the plant list and research the care of each, deciding how much time you want to spend on maintenance.

10. Look at gardens you like--especially Desert Botanical Garden--and take pictures. Steal ideas! The DBG library is full of great garden design books for inspiration.

This is just the beginning of a great landscape adventure as you learn to show off cacti and succulents in your garden. I rely on *Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes* by Judy Meilke and *Arizona Gardener’s Guide* by Mary Irish, but there are many more books and plenty of people to learn from in CACSS.

![Stapelia](image)

*Stapelia*

Photo by Lillian Barker

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Join The Celebration! Annual Holiday Party

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

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DEAN PATRICK  
480-759-0312  
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Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, agave and aloe).

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DAN SMITH  
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BOB TORREST  
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robertst9114@msn.com  
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