Presentation: Under the Spell of Succulents

Jeff will talk broadly about succulents, but will also emphasize some of the Mediterranean climate plants. He will discuss what it takes to birth a book, which became a hobby and obsession. His recently published book, *Under the Spell of Succulents: A Sampler of the Diversity of Succulents in Cultivation*, will be available for purchase, along with plants. He is near completion on his second book on aloes and agaves.

Jeff Moore has operated Solana Succulents located in Solano Beach, California for 21 years and has been involved with succulents for over 30 years. He says he is pretty much a generalist as he likes them all. If he has a specialty, it is in aloes and he particularly likes crests, variegates and caudiciforms. He is also known for creating “undersea the sea” theme inspired landscapes. He has installed a permanent undersea garden in the San Diego Botanic Garden.

Jeff will also emphasize some of the Mediterranean climate plants. He will discuss what it takes to birth a book, which became a hobby and obsession. His recently published book, *Under the Spell of Succulents: A Sampler of the Diversity of Succulents in Cultivation*, will be available for purchase, along with plants. He is near completion on his second book on aloes and agaves.

(photos, p. 5, 6)
December Central Spine Deadline: December 10, 2014

2014 CACSS Officers

President:  Wayne Whipple
           480-460-3623
           w7676@msn.com
Vice-President:  Deborah Mulholland
                480-650-5624
                dm@deborahmulholland.com
Secretary:  Lois Schneberger
           480-946-8373
           lschneberger@cox.net
Treasurer:  Open position
Assistant Treasurer:  Ingrid Swenson
                   602-957-9865
                   iswenson@cox.net

Directors-at-Large

Serving through December 2014

Wendy Barrett  602-971-5345
               wbarrett@cox.net
Jo Davis       480-839-3792
Mike Gallagher 480-942-8580
               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

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 Deborah Mulholland
(Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens, Special Interest Groups)
Pumice Sales Gard Roper
Refreshments Kat Hanna
Show & Sale – 2015 Sue Tyrrel
Website Beth Kirkpatrick

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

Sunday, December 7
CACSS
Annual Holiday Party
See Details on Page 4
President’s Letter
November 2014
Wayne Whipple

I was saddened to learn recently that CACSS member Mary Ann Garewal died suddenly after a pancreatic cancer operation. Our sincere condolences go to Mary Ann’s husband Khem. Both Mary Ann and Khem were active members of our Society for many years, and both were Master Gardeners. Mary Ann coordinated two enjoyable joint meetings with the CACSS and the Master Gardeners.

We had a great October auction in the Wildflower Pavilion at the Desert Botanical Garden on October 9. A large number of bidders generated proceeds of nearly $2,000, probably a record amount for such an event. Eleven plants and other items were auctioned off orally; the plants in the oral auction were considered the premier donations, and their sales generated $421 or about 20% of total proceeds. This year’s auction was chaired by Mike Gallagher, whom we greatly thank along with all others who worked on the auction. Hearty thanks also go to those who contributed plants and other auction items and to all the enthusiastic bidders.

During the last weekend in October, 29 of us made our annual pilgrimage to the renowned nurseries of Tucson. Instead of renting a bus, as we did in the past, travelers were given the names and addresses of six nurseries to visit at their own pace. After visiting nurseries in the eastern part of Tucson, Karen and I were even able to take an enjoyable side trip to Summerhaven on Mount Lemmon, a place we had not visited. Although we were not all together during the day, we all stayed at the La Posada Lodge on Saturday night and enjoyed a dinner together in the Lodge’s dining room. On Sunday morning, we were treated to a special tour conducted by Mark Dimmitt of the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. As in the past, the team of Rita Gosnell and Gard Roper provided us with a well-organized weekend. Thanks again, Rita and Gard.

Just another reminder: 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.

Mary Ann Garewal

It is with great sadness that I tell you of the death of Mary Ann Garewal following her surgery last week for pancreatic cancer. Mary Ann and her husband Khem were also Master Gardeners and were famous for their success in vegetable gardening, especially with tomatoes. Mary Ann was responsible for coordinating the dual CACSS and Master Gardener meetings. She came up with the idea to sell wholesale products, helping members purchase fertilizer and pumice at 75% savings. She also researched out-of-state pumice suppliers for the best vendor.

Wendy Barrett
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 out. (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. Contact Sue Glenn to tell her if you will be bringing an appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert.

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

For questions and to send articles and photos for the newsletter, contact the newsletter editor, Diana Decker
(602) 220-9825 dianadec@cox.net

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 plants home more easily.

David Bertolet
Debbi Burns
Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrik

CACSS NEW MEMBERS

David Bertolet
Debbi Burns
Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrik

Please bring boxes to the meetings so you can carry 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.

Please bring boxes to the meetings so you can carry plants home more easily.
Under the Spell of Succulents:  
A Sampler of the Diversity of Succulents in Cultivation  
Review of Jeff Moore’s book by Sue Hakala

Some CACSS members met Jeff Moore when we visited his nursery, Solana Succulents, in Solana Beach, California, on two of our bus trips. What we didn’t know was what a great photographer he is. His recently published book, Under the Spell of Succulents: A Sampler of the Diversity of Succulents in Cultivation, features this talent.

He admits that he’s an amateur photographer, and used a “high-end point and shoot camera for the photos” in this beautiful 244 page book. He may have, but he did it with an artist’s eye, and a sense of color, texture and design in every photo and page layout. He may have lost a little depth-of-field in some shots; overall the pictures are gorgeous with colors popping everywhere. The only photos that could be redone are some of the Ferocactus, especially the chrysacanthus on page 111. (I read the book on a computer monitor, not the same as a book in the hand when it comes to photography.)

The roughly 425 succulents represented in this book are considered more Mediterranean climate-loving than desert plants. It’s a book very fun to look at for us low desert folks. Do realize that many of the plants won’t like growing here. Jeff’s nursery is just two blocks from the ocean, north of San Diego; the book is intended for growers in that climate. Desert folks can certainly be inspired by what is shown and select similar looking desert-adapted plants that will grow here in gardens and containers.

Each succulent genus is introduced through its place in its kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species, educating the reader in these relationships. A facing page is filled with a representative member, followed by a gallery of photos of individual plants, containers and gardens with that genus of plant. I liked seeing all the variety in one section for each genus, but found the text point size a bit small.

Some of the plants represented include: aloe, haworthia, gasteria, aeonium, agave, cacti, echeveria, dudleya, crassula, senecio, sedum, kalanchoe, crests, euphorbia, mesemb, caudiciform, and dyckia. Other sections include succulent giants like the 50-year-old elephant foot, Beaucarnea recurvata, that is massive. “Odd plants” like stapelia, sansevieria, sempervivum, tylecondon, and others get one page--just enough to perhaps peak your interest. There is a good index listing every plant illustrated by botanical name.

Jeff shows vertical gardens, succulent wreaths (and how to make them), and succulent bonsai. Suggestions are given on garden design: “Utilize rocks for a natural appearance, restraint (from too many varieties) and repetition in garden design.” Many examples are shown which will have you tearing out a section of your garden to start over. (Use low desert adapted plants for best results.) The reader is encouraged to use the “Goldilocks approach when placing plants: not too hot, not too cold, but just right.” A good reminder to know your yard’s microclimates.

Spoiler alert: “The spiral aloe (that will have aloe lovers drooling), Aloe polyphylla, is from 6,000 feet elevation in Lesotho, and is difficult in warm climes.” Jeff says it’s “easier to grow in the cooler climate of Northern California rather than Southern California.” So you know this coveted beauty will not like the Sonoran Desert. Make a mental note to know where your plant comes from to know if it will do well in your environment.

Plants illustrated in containers are like eye candy to the viewer and will leave you salivating. The potters among us will be itching to get to their clay finding inspiration from the variety of handmade pottery shown. There are many different kinds of containers displayed, including an old pickup truck planted with succulents.

Jeff reminds growers to acidify your water to get the best growth for your plants. Also to paint a fence wall a bright color behind succulents as it will “make you happy.” (Ask Tom Gatz. I bet he smiles every time he ventures into his garden with the bright orange wall.)

I found just a couple of typos. The one that made me cringe was “proof-reading” (it’s one word). It was used when thanking the person who helped.
Jeff lists a few references and mentions clubs and their sales as a way to find great plants. If you look carefully, you’ll see CACSS members Mike Gallagher and Gard Roper doing just that in the photo of the San Diego club’s sale. Perhaps reason enough to buy the $29.99 book available on Jeff’s website: solanasucculents.com. Jeff will be coming to our club on November 23 and will be bringing books with him, so you can have an autographed copy. Great for your library or a holiday gift.

Photos of Jeff Moore’s Business, Solana Succulents, by Wendy Barrett

Solano Succulents plants
Members looking at plants at Solano Succulents

Photos of *Stapelia gigantea* by Martha Goode
I brought a collapsible wagon for carrying plants to the silent auction. Several people said they would like to know where to buy one. The wagon costs about $100.

Find where to buy it by Googling: Mac Sports All Terrain Collapsible Wagon
Lee Brownson
Spotlight: THE BRISTLE BRUSH CACTUS
Article and Photos by Jo Baker

On the same 13’ x 8’ patio, in the same light-green stripped pot, near the same tan colored wall, in the company of over 150 potted cactus and succulents, this Bristle Brush Cactus has sat since 2004. Along a thin foot path, it thrives with cuttings and freebies from CACSS and flora with diverse backgrounds and stories to tell.

Discovering this little corner of the world, a work in progress, neighbors and landscapers seize the moment to stop and examine my laboratory. Often they ask about the 11” x 2” spines on the Bristle Brush Cactus. Adding more arms as it ages and afraid to move or be repotted, the Bristle Brush Cactus will continue to fascinate. And it may in turn occupy the same place, in the same pot, near the same wall for another 10 years.

Close-up of Bristle Brush Cactus

A view of the Bristle Brush cactus
Winterizing Your Adeniums

By Tom Gatz

Dear Friends of Adeniums.
If you haven't already stopped watering your adeniums, I would do so now. Let them dry out before we get our first cold snap or cold rain (often in mid- to late November), at which time they should be brought in and protected from the elements. Keep them bone-dry all winter if they will be on an outside patio or in an unheated garage. If you bring them into the house and they retain their leaves, you can give them a light watering once a month. When it begins to warm up (over 50 degrees at night), usually sometime in March, bring them back outside into sunlight (all day filtered or 1/2 day full for best flowering), but hold off on any heavy watering until it really starts to warm up. Don't worry if the old leaves start to burn in the April sun; the new leaves will adapt. Here is an article with a bit more information. Tom

(modified and reprinted from the September, 2012 Sonoran Quarterly magazine of the Desert Botanical Garden)

We had a good selection of adeniums, also known as the Desert or Karoo Rose, available at the Desert Botanical Garden plant sale this fall. If you purchase one of these beautiful plants, here are a few tips to make sure your adeniums survive the winter months. In a nutshell, treat adeniums like cold and water-sensitive succulents in the winter by keeping them dry and protecting them from frost. In
the summer, treat them like sun and water-loving perennials potted in a well-drained soil mix with lots of heat, sun, water and fertilizer to encourage growth and blooming. They thrive on lots of water several times each week during the heat of the summer but cut watering back in October when it cools off and stop completely by November, especially if the leaves begin to yellow and drop off (a sign that it is entering dormancy) and particularly for large plants in big pots that take longer to dry out. The blossoms persist into the late fall on some cultivars so in some years you can keep them outside and dry until about mid-November but bring them inside before freezing temperatures arrive or before they are subjected to a cold rain. You can keep them inside by a sunny window where they might maintain some foliage (depending upon the species/cultivar) or, like I’ve done for the past 20 years, keep them totally dry in a dark, unheated garage all winter where they will drop all their leaves and go dormant until spring. Never let them get wet and cold in the winter; they will rot. Some brave souls manage to keep their adeniums dry and alive outside on covered patios throughout the winter with only a little frost damage on the outer branches, but rain blown in by winter storms or the temptation by well-meaning spouses or winter visitors to water them “just a little bit” can be their undoing.

In the spring when the night time temperatures consistently warm up to over 50 degrees, usually sometime in late March, it is a good time to bring your adeniums back outside. Give them a half day of full sun or a full day of filtered sun for the best flowers. Don’t worry if the old leaves burn in the April sun; the new leaves will acclimate. Limited watering is best until it really warms up and new foliage is observed. Spring is also a good time to remove any crossing or floppy branches. Old wood (not new growth) cuttings can sometimes be rooted in pumice with lots of summer water. In the heat of the summer, established adeniums also appreciate lots of water as well as fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen (the first number on the bag) and higher in phosphorus and potassium (the second and third numbers) to prevent leggy growth and to encourage blooming. A long-time favorite red-flowered variety with a long bloom period, upright stems and white bark is called ‘Crimson Star’. It is a horticultural cross between Adenium obesum and Adenium swazicum. However, new cultivars are being developed every year.

Adeniums, native to Africa and the Middle East, thrive in our desert heat when given ample sun, water and fertilizer, but require absolutely dry conditions to survive our winter cold.
You can elevate the trunk over time when re-potting to gradually expose their interesting thick, twisted roots. Pot them up in the spring; bigger pots result in bigger plants more quickly. If you want one that will develop a really wide base (caudex) get an *Adenium arabicum*; however, they don’t flower as much as do the numerous cultivars and hybrids of *A. obesum*. In Phoenix, bigger adeniums in 10”+ containers can take almost full sun; smaller ones appreciate filtered or part sun; however, they will get floppy stems and not flower much if they are in too much shade. See “Good Growing Guides” under “Gardening Help” on the DBG website for more information on caring for adeniums. A great book by local experts, soon to be available in the Schilling Library at the Garden is entitled *Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance*.

Thanks to Cynthia Robinson and Dan Smith of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society for reviewing earlier drafts of this article.

**Photos of the October Silent Auction by John Crummey**

Members decide on which plants to bid on.

Lee Brownson calls for bids on special plants.
CACSS President Wayne Whipple watches as a member writes down her bid for a plant.

Photos from the CACSS Trip to Tucson

A Barn Owl says hello to CACSS members on the Tucson trip.
Photo by Mark Dimmitt
CACSS members on the Tucson trip gathered for a photo. On October 25 and 26, members on the caravan trip visited Tucson nurseries as well as spending Sunday with Mark Dimmitt at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum.

Please Send Articles for Newsletter

For a more interesting newsletter, articles about plants and taking care of them are very important. I encourage you to send your articles or suggestions for topics to the editor.

Diana Decker           dianadec@cox.net
Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list. Call or email Diana Decker, *Central Spine* editor, dianadec@cox.net; 602-220-9825.

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*. 