2015 CACSS Meetings  
Sunday, January 25  
Speaker: Wendell  
(Woody) Minnich  
Topic: Madagascar

Photo by Doug Dawson taken in South Africa in early October, 2014  
See more photos on page 7.

Crassula tomentosa
January Central Spine Deadline: January 10, 2015

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  
602-942-8580  
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Dan Smith  
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Lynda Michaelson  
480-722-2991  
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Serving through December 2015

Cindy Capek  
623-979-9389  
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Dana Hiser  
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Nancy Mumpton  
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Joe Barnes  
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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: Diana Decker

Newsletter: Sue Tyrrel

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 street addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.

CACSS 2015 Meetings


February Meeting: Sunday, March 1, Julie Plath

March Meeting Sunday, March 29, Scott McMahon: Peru
President’s Letter
December 2014
Wayne Whipple

I hope everyone enjoyed this year’s Holiday Party as much as I did. Thanks go to Sue Glenn along with her daughter Emily for chairing this year’s buffet meeting. I thank also Cindy Capek for her decorative, holiday table pieces that many attendees were able to take home with them. Jo Davis arranged the plant exchange and Lois Schneberger wrote the clever quiz. Thanks go to both of them. For the past several years, Dana Hiser has been able to book the facilities for the Scottsdale Community Center for us, and I thank her for doing it again.

This year 2014 has been another year of progress for the CACSS. Sue Tyrrel again very ably chaired the annual Show & Sale held last April. About 60 members helped with this event in many different positions, and the approximately $6,800 that was earned was spit 50:50 with the Desert Botanical Garden. Thanks, Sue, and to the myriad workers who helped you. We are also very lucky to have you as our 2015 Show & Sale Chair. Sue ordered our beautiful new Society tee-shirts, and Diana Crummey kindly let us use her artwork on them.

We are fortunate to have Beth Kirkpatrick, our Membership Committee Chair, who diligently maintains our database, which now includes over 400 members. Dues from our members are now the Society’s primary source of income, providing the resources for many of our activities, including monthly speaker expenses, library books, subsidies for trips, and donations to other organizations and worthy causes. In addition to being the Membership Chair, Beth also maintains our website. Can you ever image not having our own website? Not only does it provide timely and important information to our members, but also to the general public. Beth has recently added PayPal to our website and several members have used it to pay their annual dues. Thanks so much, Beth, for your contribution to our Society.

An important communication source is our newsletter, Central Spine. Meeting notices, timely articles and outstanding pictures by our members can be found in our monthly newsletter, and we thank our editor, Diana Decker, for producing it. Remember those deadlines, everyone!

We hold General Meetings with excellent programs, and five of them this year featured our own members. I thank the following members for their informative presentations: Tom Gatz for the January presentation, “Creating Bonsai With Succulent Plants”; Steve Martinez for the February presentation, “From Road Kill To Rarity”; Doug Dawson in May for “Arizona Miniature Cacti”; Scott McMahon in July for “Euphorbias”; and Jim Oravetz in August for “Desert Soil and Nutrient Requirements.”

The meetings would be unsuccessful without the communications system. Dan Smith sets up the microphones, computers and projectors for our meetings. All of us know that our meetings are enjoyable because we can hear the presenters and see their photos. Dan has been assisting in this capacity for several years, and I again thank him. Dan also manages our Facebook account and organized it into a special interest group that now has over 130 people participating. The posts are interesting from many people with differing backgrounds. We appreciate your doing this for us, Dan.

What would our meetings be without refreshments? I do not think that I would have survived the October outdoor auction without the water that Kat Hanna lugged in. Thanks Kat, for handling the refreshments at our meetings. Gard Roper is always at our meetings with special items for sale for us cactusophiles – special fertilizers and frost cloth to name a couple, and, of course, the pumice pile at Ingrid Swenson’s house. Thanks, Gard.

One of the highlights of the year is the October auction held in the Wildflower Pavilion. This is a major fundraiser for the Society, and its success depends not only on numbers’ donated plants and other items, but also on the friendly bidders for those items. Mike Gallagher was in charge of this year’s auction, and I think he enjoyed it so much that he volunteered to do it again in 2015. Thanks, Mike, for being the point person for the auction, which provided nearly $2,000 in income for our Society.
Among the favorite outings are the Open Gardens of our members. The “WOW!” word is often used to describe them, and that certainly applies to the ones we visited this year around the Valley. This year we enjoyed the gardens of Cliff Fielding, almost a yearly event, Steve Mack, Lee Brownson/Pat Issacson, and Barb & Rick Rosenberg.

Out-of-town trips are also among the highlights of the year, and we certainly had fun on an overnight excursion to Tucson in October visiting five or six nurseries and enjoying a Sunday morning at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum with a private tour with Mark Dimmett. Rita Gosnell and Gard Roper again arranged a well-organized weekend.

Our efficient and long-serving Librarian Paul Schueneman retired in July, and we were very fortunate to have two qualified Board Members, Nancy Mumpton and Wendy Barrett, step forward and become Co-Librarians. They have already selected several new books for the library, which they will bring to our monthly meetings for our members to check out. Thanks, Nancy and Wendy, for becoming our new Librarians.

I also thank Dean Patrick who quietly leads the Propagation Committee. Not only is this program useful to our members in learning how to propagate from cuttings, but the plants grown by the committee also are sold at our meetings, providing additional income for our Society.

You have heard this many times that the best is saved for the last. In this case it truly is. Two members have contributed immensely to our organization, and I do not have to introduce them. Everyone knows them well - Jo Davis and Lois Schneberger. I cannot thank them enough! There is probably not an activity of the Society that Jo is not actively involved, be it the Show & Sale, monthly meetings, raffles, auctions, trips, set-ups and tear-downs. She is always there doing whatever has to be done. She is also in charge of Members-Keeping-In-Touch, and many of us appreciate the thoughtful cards that we have received. I often refer to her as the Energizer Bunny or the quiet little church mouse hopping around getting things done.

Lois Schneberger is another of our members who works diligently, often behind the scenes, on most of our activities, including major help with the Show & Sale. But she is also cited for many years of board service. She has been on our Board for nine years; and for the past six years, she has been our Board Secretary. She chose to retire from the Board this year, but I have refused to let her leave. She will continue in her position as our Society’s Archivist/Historian. She was recently honored by the Society for the compilation of the Society’s historical documents, which was a major achievement. Our Board relies heavily on our written policies, which Lois helped to compose and edit. She will continue to be of assistance with them.

We are off to a great start for 2015. Our new Monthly Programming Chair Diana Crummey has already scheduled all the meeting dates of 2015 – an amazing undertaking which she did in about a week. These meetings will soon be posted on our website and in the Central Spine. The Show & Sale Committee under the leadership of Sue Tyrrel has held several meeting, and I am sure it will be another stellar event. Mike Gallagher, I am sure, will have another successful October auction. We are always looking for members to help with Open Gardens, trips, and workshops. If you can help with these other activities, please contact me.

We are also very thankful of being able to use the facilities at the Desert Botanical Garden and to share its mission with us. Special thanks also go to who is our friendly contact person with the DBG and is so very helpful.

We have a great Board for 2015 with several new enthusiastic members. I thank the Nominations Committee of Chuck Brush, Jeannne Ann Brush, Joe Barnes, and Jim Oravetz for proposing the new Officers and Directors-at-Large for 2015. The following will be joining Joe Barnes, Cindy Capek, Dana Hiser, Beth Kirkpatrick, Nancy Mumpton and Jim Oravetz on the Board:

Directors-At-Large: Jo Davis, Tristan Davis, Mike Gallagher, Sue Glenn, Edmund Hunt and Dan Smith

The officers are

President: Wayne Whipple
Secretary: Jeannne Ann Brush
Treasurer: Nick Diomede
We greatly appreciate the service of those retiring Board Members who contributed so much to the success of the Society, but will, I am sure, continue to support and assist in its goals and activities. In addition to Lois Schneberger, thanks go to past President Steve Martinez, to Vice President Deborah Mulholland, to Treasurer Tom Rankin and to Directors-At-Large Wendy Barrett and Lynda Michaelson.

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

See you next year. Wayne

Will the following please be sure to pick up their CACSS T-shirts at the January meeting: Clair Kioski, Sheryl Leigh-Dewalt, Cynthia Jones, Marty Shahan, Steve Crofout, Kate Gallagher, Margie Green, Irla Irwin, Cynthia Jones, George Kazaka, Leo Martin, Naomi Pier, Jerry Ronnebeck, Paul Schueneman, Richard Smith, Judy Tolbert, Vicki Woods. Thank You.

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. Jo Davis

CACSS NEW MEMBERS

Michael Hector
Jan Horner
Barb and Knud Larsen
Lance Runkles
Julie Sergovic
Louis Sullivan
Starr Urbatsch

Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrik

CACSS Library Information

** Here's something for cactus & succulent book fans to look forward to in May, 2015. Take a look at the following web site for the two special volumes our club library has ordered: http://cactus-aventures.com/Taxonomy_of_the_Cactaceae_ENG.html

Nancy Mumpton, Co-Librarian
More Photos of the December Holiday Party by Doug Dawson

Sue Glenn (center) organized the affair. She stands with Ingrid Swenson (left) and Chris Herington.

One of the wonderful and delicious cupcakes made by Nicole Davis

Comment about the Holiday Party from CACSS member Eileen Thier: “An excellent party! Lots of fun! Thanks to all the organizers.”
More Photos Taken in South Africa by Doug Dawson in early October, 2014

*Oophytum nanum* (with an *Argyroderma* in the background) in the Knersvlakte, South Africa

*Aloe khamiesensis*
Please Send Articles for Newsletter

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

Diana Decker  dianadec@cox.net

CACSS Show & Sale Meetings

January 11, 1:00 pm, at Kokobelli’s Bagels on Power Rd. and Southern Ave., Northeast corner. We can share rides.

February 15, 1:00 pm Desert Botanical Garden, Farrington Room

March 15, 1:00 pm Kokobelli’s Bagels

The Show & Sale is April 10-12. Show plants are to be delivered Wednesday, March 8, to Dorrance Hall. Volunteers are needed.

Contact Sue Tyrrel for more information: 480-797-8952  styrel@cox.net

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 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*. 