2015 CACSS Meeting
2 pm, Sunday, May 31
Presenter: David Palzkill, PhD
Presentation: Adenium Propagation and Care

Articles
President’s Letter
Open Garden and Studio-April 25
Propagation Education Group Meeting-May 9
Library Notes
Why Do Aloes Bloom During the Winter?
More Photos of the 2015 Show & Sale
CACSS 2015 Meeting Schedule
Plant Questions??? Whom To Contact!!!

2015 Show & Sale People’s Choice Award

Bonnie Scott won the People's Choice Award for her beautiful Aeonium and Euphorbia tirucalli (Firesticks) dish garden.

2015 CACSS Officers

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2015 CACSS Officers

CACSS Program and Committee Leaders

Archivist/Historian Lois Schneberger
Audit/Finance Committee Nick Diomede, Mike Gallagher, Carol Parrott
CSSA Affiliate Representative Sue Hakala
Facebook Coordinator Dan Smith
Finances/Accounting Nick Diomede, Ingrid Swenson
Holiday Party - December 6, 2015 Sue Glenn
Librarians Wendy Barrett, Nancy Mumpton
Membership Beth Kirkpatrick
Members-Keeping-In-Touch Jo Davis
Mailed Newsletter Subscriptions Sue Tyrrel
Newsletter Diana Decker
Nominating Committee 2015 Chuck Brush, Dan Smith, Jo Davis, Lois Schneberger
October 2015 Silent Auction Mike Gallagher
Plant Rescues Open Position
Private Plant Sales at General Meetings Sue Tyrrel
Propagation Education Group Tristan Davis
Monthly Speaker-Programs Diana Crummey
Pumice Sales Gard Roper
Refreshments Kat Hanna
Show & Sale – 2015 Sue Tyrrel
Website Beth Kirkpatrick

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

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Telephone numbers, email addresses, and street addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.
A thousand thanks to Show & Sale Chair Sue Tyrrel and to the sizable number of members who helped make this year’s event one of the best ever. This was Sue’s third time as the General Chair of the Show & Sale. How lucky we were in having her! Congratulations to all the winners who won awards for their exhibits, and thanks to all who prettied-up their succulents for the Show. The weather was perfect for the event, and the impressive turnout of attendees resulted in sales of around $45,500, about $13,000 more than last year’s.

Another treat is in store for us as Barb and Rick Rosenberg again invite us to their stunning garden with Rick’s award winning sculptures nestled among the cacti and desert shrubs in Paradise Valley. If you were not able to attend last year, then be sure to mark April 25 on your calendar for this year. Other details are in this Newsletter.

The Board in 2008 established a new class of membership identified as Honorary Lifetime Membership, and the Board approved a policy covering it in 2013. The first recipients were Electra and Jim Elliott and Joan and Stan Skirvin. The goal for this New Membership is to honor CACSS Members who have made a substantial contribution to the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS).

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.

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.
- Being a member of the CACSS for at least the past 10 years.

*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 those plants among the members and the public at large, (d) to support conservation programs which protect cacti and other 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.

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 qualifications for Honorary Lifetime Membership. Members who are serving as Officers or Directors-at-Large are not eligible for this designation.

Honorary Lifetime Members nominees must be unanimously elected by the Board of Directors to receive this recognition and are exempt from membership dues, and such exemption shall not affect their status as active members or the privileges of active membership.

If you would like to nominate someone for Honorary Lifetime Membership, please let me know in writing whom you would like to receive this honor and why. I am looking forward to hearing from many of you.
Kathy
Please bring boxes to the meetings so you can carry plants home more easily.
Jo Davis

CACSS NEW MEMBERS

Laura & Steve Allen
Richard Anderson
Carol Baeker
Gabriel Boyd
Susan Brachman
Joseph Cacciatore
Mike Cone
Eli Conroy
Mikayla Damon
Deanna & Richard Gale
Brian Hershey
Kara Hjelmstad
Barb Hucek
Linda Hubbard
HC & Sue Jenkins

Alecia & Nils Kindgren
Joy Kuyava
John Leafman
Robbyn McDowell
Therese Messerschmitt
Kathy Mendelson
Delia Neal
Sarah Noite
Jolene Peer
Leslie & Jay Richards
Ruth Ann Showalter
Lisa Skidmore
David Thiele
Laurie Waite
Cheryl Willis

Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrick

Open Garden and Studio
Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 10:00AM – 1:00PM
Over 1 acre of desert trees, shrubs, cacti, succulents and sculpture
Rick and Barbara Rosenberg
5916 E. Caballo Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ
480-483-5630
DrRikRok@cox.net

South on 56th Street off of Doubletree Ranch Road, past Cherokee Elementary School and a left on Caballo Drive
Propagating Education Group (PEG)
Upcoming Meeting: May 9, 2015

The Propagation Education Group (PEG, for short!) is the new name for what was previously called the Propagation Committee. We felt the name had become somewhat of a hindrance to increased participation by CACSS members. With the revamped name, we hope to get more CACSS member participation than ever!

PEG meetings are meant to provide our members an additional outlet for learning about propagation of cacti and succulents, and we welcome any and all questions and discussions about any propagation topic.

• Are you having difficulties rooting your plants?
• Have you had issues with growing cacti from seeds?
• Have you ever wondered how difficult it is to grow from seeds?
• Are you looking for a specific species to grow and just can't seem to find a source?

All these questions and more can be great topics for discussion with other members that attend PEG meetings. Additionally, members are always welcome to bring show-and-tell items from their propagation experiences. And, members also bring any extra seedlings, cuttings, seeds and/or propagation materials for giveaways to meeting attendees.

The next meeting of PEG is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from 10 am to 12 Noon in the Farrington Conference Room at the Desert Botanical Garden. Everyone is welcome to attend! For this meeting, we plan on discussing an exciting project that we will be implementing for the 2017 CSSA convention; additionally, we want to hear from our members regarding any recommendations and ideas you might have for future activities of PEG.

So, please come on down and let's get together and have some fun and maybe learn something in the process. We look forward to seeing you there!

Library Notes

The CACSS Library is missing all 3 paperback copies of: Adenium - Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance by Mark Dimmitt, Gene Joseph, and David Palzkill David Palzkill will be speaking at the May general meeting and we would like to have the Library's copies available to borrow. Please check your collections at home and see if our library copy is among them. ALSO: BOOK CARRIERS: please check all the CACSS books you have for any copies of this title. Wendy Barrett (who lives in West Valley) and I (who lives in East Valley) are willing to come and pick up the book ASAP. Please help us by looking for the library's copies of this book. Thank you.

The March-April issue of the CSSA Journal has arrived and will be available for checkout at the May meeting.

For those who saw all the beautiful Rebutias at this year's Show & Sale, we have a great book to learn more about them: The Cactus File Handbook: Rebutias by John Pilbeam.
Why Do Aloes Bloom During the Winter?

by Tom Gatz

(Reprinted from The Gatherings, the newsletter for the volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden)

Have you ever wondered why so many species of aloes bloom during the shorter, cooler days of the winter, rather than during the longer, warmer days of summer when most other flowering plants are in bloom? I couldn't find a definitive answer to this question. Apparently, nobody knows for sure.

Before I pass along an educated guess about why winter blooming may be to the aloes’ advantage, I want to correct a misunderstanding that many of us have heard about aloe flowering seasons. Have you ever had someone tell you that the reason many of our aloes bloom here in the winter is because they get confused; somehow sensing that it is summer in the southern hemisphere where they evolved? That is a great story, but unfortunately, it isn’t true. Plants can’t sense what season it is someplace else. Their bloom cycle is usually triggered by changes in their immediate environment such as day-length, temperature, humidity or rainfall. So if a species of aloe blooms in the winter in your northern hemisphere backyard, it also blooms in its natural habitat in the southern hemisphere during their winter, six months later, since our seasons are reversed.

It got me wondering what survival advantage blooming during the winter would provide to so many species of aloes (keeping in mind that some aloe species are summer-bloomers). I put the question to Arizona’s foremost aloe expert, Cathy Babcock, the director of horticulture at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, and the person who taught us so much about aloes when she worked at the DBG. Cathy said that she did not know and posed the question to one of her go-to authorities on aloes, Brian Kemble. Brian is a curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California. He wasn’t sure, either; however, he came up with an educated guess that makes a lot of sense. Here is what he surmised regarding winter-blooming aloes in southern Africa:

"Winter-blooming aloes in Africa have sunbirds, their major pollinator, all to themselves during the cool season, when many other flowering plants are not in bloom. This sunbird feeding on aloe nectar was photographed by the author in Africa in 1984.

“This is a good question, and it is interesting that there are winter-blooming aloes in both the west of the country (the winter-rainfall part) and in the east. This rules out rainfall or humidity as the determining factor, so perhaps the answer lies in the pollinators: sunbirds. Since sunbirds, like hummingbirds, must have a year-round source of nectar, it could be that in summer there are lots of other"
things in flower for them to visit, but having the aloes bloom in winter gives them a crucial means of making it through the season when they otherwise would have trouble finding enough to survive on. Without much competition from other plants, the aloes would be assured of plenty of attention from the sunbirds to achieve pollination, so natural selection might favor this timing. That is the most plausible explanation I can think of, but of course it is just a hypothesis. I have not read any studies on this.”

There are no sunbirds in the Americas and no hummingbirds in Africa; however, they both pollinate aloes when given the chance. Perhaps the aloes we have moved to North America also benefit from having fewer flowering plants competing for the hummingbirds’ attention during our winter months. It’s kind of neat to know that there are things in nature still waiting to be discovered.

More Photos of the 2015 Show & Sale

Some of the wonderful items that were available at the Sale. Photo by Doug Dawson
Sue Tyrrel stands next to her plant, *Feroactus cylindraceus*, which was awarded Best Arizona Native. The plant is also called *Acanthodes v acanthodes*. Photo by Diana Crummey

Cynthia Robinson is next to her entry which won first place in the category, Exhibits of other than living plants. Crafts, ceramics, works of art, photography and the like. The bark was from a eucalyptus tree, a tree limb from a native Arizona tree, and moss and yellow flowers. Photo by Diana Crummey

Woody Minnich stands next to the Arizona Native Plants display. Photo by Doug Dawson

Vendors Gay and Scott Hendricks stand in front of their section of the Sale. Photo by Doug Dawson

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CACSS 2015 Meeting Schedule

May 31, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. David Palzkill, PhD. Topic: Adenium
Presentation on Adenium propagation, care and comments on some varieties; Will include discussion of various propagation techniques, re-potting, pruning and pest control.

June 28, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Ernst van Jaarsveld, PhD. Topic: The genus Gasteria and the new arrangement of genera within the aloe family
Ernst’s talk will be an introduction to the new arrangement of the aloe family but the emphasis on Gasteria.

July 26, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Scott Calhoun Topic: "The Gardener's Guide to Cactus"
Join author and garden designer Scott Calhoun for a journey into the world of garden cactus. Scott will bring books for sale.

August 30, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Jason Eslamieh Topic: Boswellia.
Jason's talk will cover cultivation of, habitat and distribution, taxonomy of all nineteen species.

Sept 27: 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Jeff Chemnick Topic: The greatest wildflower show on earth -- The Richtersveld and Namibia
Join Jeff for an armchair tour of the Richtersveld ...a place where daisies, mesembs, aloes, and other succulents abound in spectacular array.

October 18: Annual Auction

November 22, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Leo Martin Topic: Cycads.
Leo will speak on Mexican Cycad (Dioon) species and raising cycads from seed.
Also Monte Crawford: Topic TBD

December 6, 1 pm – Annual Party
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.

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Specializations include Growing from Seed, Flora of Namibia, Lithops, other Mesembs, Melocactus, Miniature Cacti and Succulents of Arizona.

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**STEVE PLATH**  
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Specializations include General Propagation and Desert Revegetation, *Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus*

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**BOB TORREST**  
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Specializations include Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, *Trichocereus*, and *Opuntia*.