2015 CACSS Meeting
2 pm, Sunday, June 28
Presenter:
Ernst van Jaarsveld, Ph.D.
Presentation:
The genus Gasteria and the new arrangement of genera within the aloe family

Ernst van Jaarsveld, Ph.D.

Ernst is the curator at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (Cape Town, South Africa). Gasteria is one of his favorite topics. He has published over 200 papers and articles and calls himself a horticulturist and plantsman. He has been growing succulents for over 38 years. We are very fortunate to have Ernst as our speaker. He is visiting our part of the world to speak at the national convention. You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Hope to see you there.
Doug Dawson took this Gasteria photo August 22, 2008 1 km west of Steinkopf. This is the largest specimen he has seen.

Gasteria pillansii var. ernsti-ruschii taken by Doug Dawson on Oct. 17, 2014 on Vyftienmylberg, east of Port Nolloth.
2015 CACSS Officers

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

Vice-President: Mike Gallagher
602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net

Secretary: Jeanne Ann Brush
480-982-3899
jabmom2@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Nick Diomede
602-772-8282
nich.diomede@gmail.com

Directors-at-Large

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

Beth Kirkpatrick 480-275-4833
bethalia@gmail.com

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

Serving through December, 2016

Jo Davis 480-839-3792
Tristan Davis 480-540-9540
minime8484@hotmail.com

Sue Glenn 920-327-3137
ekmglenn@hotmail.com

Edmund Hunt 847-514-0812
e-hunt@neiu.edu

Carol Parrott 602-438-4003
caparrott21@hotmail.com

Dan Smith 480-981-9648
smithdans@outlook.com

CACSS Program and Committee Leaders

Archivist/Historian Lois Schneberger
CSSA Affiliate Representative Sue Hakala
Facebook Coordinator Dan Smith
Finances/Accounting Nick Diomede, Ingrid Swenson
Holiday Party - December 6, 2015 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
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
Monthly Speaker-Programs Diana Crummey
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.

For questions, and to send articles and photos for the newsletter, contact the newsletter editor, Diana Decker:
(602) 220-9825
dianadec@cox.net
PRESIDENT’S LETTER
June 2015
Wayne Whipple

At the May General Meeting, I had the pleasure of presenting the new Honorary Lifetime Members:

Doug Dawson
Leo Martin
Scott McMahon
Gard Roper
Lois Schneberger

These highly-qualified Members for this honor were unanimously approved by the Society’s Board of Directors and will formally receive their Honorary Lifetime Memberships at the annual Holiday Party in December. It will be a very special part of this year’s festivity, as it is the first time since 2008 that we have awarded this designation to any of our Members.

Another major decision made by your Board was to sponsor speakers for the biennial CSSA convention, which was held in Claremont, CA, this month. The speakers sponsored by the CACSS were Ernst Van Jaarsveld and Doug Dawson. We are also fortunate to have Ernst as our speaker on June 28.

Our annual Show Awards were presented to the winners at our May meeting. Congratulations to all the recipients for your entries of fantastic cacti and succulents in the 2015 Show & Sale. Huge thanks also goes to everyone who brought in their plants in support of our Society’s largest project of the year.

We were fortunate to have Sue Tyrrel chair this year’s Show & Sale for the third year in a row. Dan Smith has volunteered to chair the 2016 Show and Sale, and he will be soon getting next year’s event ready. Our income from the recent Show & Sale was just a little less than $10,000, of which we shared half with the Desert Botanical Garden. As in the past, many, hands will be needed for our biggest yearly event. Thanks, Sue and Dan, for your dedication and zeal.

A large attendance of approximately 225 people enjoyed the May 31 excellent presentation of Dave Palzkill who spoke about adeniums. The meeting was the first to be arranged by our Program Chair Diana Crummey. If you check our website, you will be able to see our upcoming programs for not only this year but also for most of next year. Thanks Diana, and we are looking forward to the future meetings.

Have you done your summer reading yet? Our website contains all the known Newsletters for the Society dating back to 1975. We wish that we had them all. So if you have any to fill in the gaps, let us know. I have recently completed reading all the Newsletters listed on our site. Even those that were printed a few years ago contained surprises as my memory did not recall some of the interesting and important events. I gained further insight of our Society through reading them in a short time-frame as it gave me a new depth of understanding about the culture of our Society and further appreciation of how fortunate we have been to have so many dedicated Members in our heritage. I suggest all Members, and especially the new Members, to review our history through the Newsletters contained on our website.

******************************************************************************
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

Crista Abel
Judy Bishop
Martin Johnson
Seth & James Klasko
Glenn & Phyllis Lesniak
Marco Meraz
Jeff, Ryan & Lindsay Michaelree
Ken & Paige Mostoller
Diane Nickel
Donald & Cricket Peterson
Angela Smart

Membership Chair:
Beth Kirkpatrick

LIBRARY NOTES:

Library Policies:

Only members of CACSS are allowed to check out materials from the library. Two books and/or periodicals are allowed per person.

Materials are to be returned at the meeting following the check out. That gives the person at least one month of use of the material.

When members return books or periodicals to the CACSS library at the meetings, please do NOT just set them on a library table and walk away. Always put the items into the hands of one of the librarians AND see that the check-out card is returned to the book or periodical. That way we can all be sure that the member no longer has responsibility for the item.

Our speaker for June:

Our library has several periodical publications containing the writings of our esteemed June speaker, Ernst Van Jaarsveld. We have articles he wrote on Conophytums, Gasterias, and the Succulents of South Africa and Namibia. We also have the book Gasterias of South Africa.

CSSA Journal:

The new issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal for May-June is available for checkout. Included in this issue among others topics are the 2015 Huntington Botanical Gardens International Succulent Introductions, an article on a new species of Sansevieria, as well as one on an overlooked Adenium species.

Nancy Mumpton
TWO BOOK REVIEWS by Tom Gatz

*Cultivation of Bursera – Frankincense of the Americas.*


A recent addition to the CACSS library, this beautifully illustrated volume has photographs and descriptions of all 113 (perhaps mistakenly stated as “105 known species” on the back cover) species in the genus Bursera. Most valuable to those of us growing some of these species in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona are the first 37 pages that cover in detail tips on how to cultivate Bursera, addressing everything from potting medium, watering, fertilizing, propagation from both seeds and cuttings, as well as staging techniques.

For Bursera-lovers, this book is a joy to explore. The author, a CACSS member and owner of Minitree Garden, a nursery in Tempe, breaks down the genus into two major groups: Bullockia and Bursera and then further into seven groupings, some of which require special care. For example, the Bullockia group including *Bursera filicifolia*, *B. hindsiana* and *B. laxiflora* are considered only semi-succulent, therefore requiring more regular water than those in the more succulent Bursera group such as *B. fagaroides*, *B. odorata*, *B. microphylla*, and *B. silviae*.

The author stresses the importance of sowing seeds and rooting cuttings just before the monsoon season (and not in the springtime) to get the best results for Bursera as well as Boswellia and Commiphora.

These are just a few helpful tips I gleaned from my first quick read. Check out this book from our club library or browse the copy in the Desert Botanical Garden Library to learn more about one of my favorite groups of plants. The author will be speaking at our August meeting about Boswellia, a genus for which he has also written a book entitled *The Cultivation of Boswellia.*
Field Guide to Cacti and Other Succulents of Arizona

By Peter, Breslin, Rob Romero, Greg Starr and Vonn Watkins. 2015.
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, Az. 302 pages.

Our own CACSS members Doug Dawson and Chris Ginkel participated in the preparation of this wonderful new field guide, covering 90 species of cacti, 14 species and two subspecies of agave, and 24 other succulents native to Arizona. The maps and excellent photos of both the plants and their flowers will be invaluable when searching for these succulent gems in the field. The overview at the beginning of the book helps put each genus into perspective, the phonetic pronunciations of the scientific names are very helpful, and the derivation of these names adds meaning and helps bring the Greek and Latin to life. For example, did you know that the genus name Opuntia was thought to have derived from a Greek island location known as Locris Opuntia where various spiny plants grew? The genera are color-coded on the upper right-hand side of each page making it easier to locate them.

Although primarily a field guide and not a growing guide, the authors do occasionally mention when species are easy to grow and some genera that are challenging to grow in cultivation such as Echinomastus and Echinocactus. Ironically, they note that while “all the Arizona members of the genus (Echinocactus) have a reputation for being very difficult in cultivation” they point out that another member of the genus from Mexico, the golden barrel cactus, is extensively used in landscaping here.
It is an eye-opener to read in the Notes sections how many of these species hybridize freely with one another, creating taxonomic challenges. While the authors mention upfront that “no single source currently exists that has universal endorsement of all of the expert field botanists currently working within the state,” they stress that “Our authors have made every effort to adhere to the most widely accepted and current taxonomy in selecting which species to include in this guide.” Perhaps anticipating future taxonomic decisions, the authors mention that “recent studies show saguaros are closely related to the genus Pachycereus” and that “recent research indicates that *Echinocereus* apachensis is not a definable taxonomic entity”. While you may not agree with every taxonomic decision in this book, every CACSS member who enjoys our native cacti and succulents will undoubtedly find this guide indispensable in the field.

Propagation Education Group (PEG)

*By Sue Hakala*

The newly renamed group (formerly the “propagation committee”) met on May 9 at the Desert Botanical Garden under the leadership of Tristan Davis and Dean Patrick. As the 17 participants introduced themselves, we discovered that we had those who have been growing cactus and succulents for decades, and others who were so new to the hobby that they had not even joined our society yet.

To make everyone feel more comfortable with their experience level, Dan Smith offered that, “The only difference between an expert and a novice is that the expert has killed more plants.”

Tristan reported that the CACSS board had approved a budget of $200 for supplies (cups, etc.), to grow 500 Arizona native succulents from seed that we hope to give away to participants at the 2017 Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) conference in the Phoenix area hosted by our club. The group agreed to participate by growing ten species of succulents for which legal seed has been obtained. Each participant agreed to grow at least one small container’s worth of seed that PEG provides (anywhere from 20-50 seeds per container are possible). To get everyone started, Doug Dawson (seed grower extraordinaire) offered to host small groups at his house to go over the simple process.

I participated in one of the first groups Doug hosted. I learned everything that would get me started on the right path to success: how to store seeds, what planting medium to use and how to sterilize it, how to create a closed system for successful seed germination, and where and how to place starting seeds. Doug also provided a handout for reference.

My *Peniocereus* greggii (queen of the night) seeds sprouted right on schedule and are perky and healthy. I owe it all to Doug and his patient instructions.

Now that some of us have gotten started, group members can bring their sprouts periodically to PEG meetings to share and get more tips for success.
Please consider attending PEG meetings in the future to learn about growing from seed and to participate in an educational venture that’s sure to be interesting.

The next meeting of PEG will be a brief get together immediately following the club’s monthly meeting on June 28. We will convene briefly to get updates from members on their sowing progress for the CSSA convention project.

Our next regular PEG meeting will be Saturday, July 18. Be on the lookout for further announcements about the time and place. We hope to see you there.

**Peniocereus greggii**  
*Photo by Sue Hakala*

---

**Correction**

In the May newsletter, the name of the photographer given credit for this photo was not correct. The correct photographer is Wendy Barrett. Wendy also took the photo of the show and the close-up of Nick Diomede and Jo Davis.

---

**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 2015 Meeting Schedule

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: Mexican cycad (Dioon) species and raising cycads from seed.

December 6, 1 pm – Annual Party

Publication of material in the Central Spine does not imply agreement with the ideas expressed therein by any portion of the membership of the CACSS, nor does it constitute an endorsement or support for any portion of such material by the CACSS, or the Central Spine, regardless of any position or office held by the author.

All such material represents a comment and/or personal opinion of the author.
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*. 