Aloe dorotheae turns orange or red in the winter sun, but be sure to protect it from a hard frost. See more information about aloes in Tom Gatz’s article, Favorite Aloes, on page 4. Photo taken in the old DBG succulent house by D. S. Franges.
March Newsletter Deadline  
March 7, 2013

2013 CACSS Officers
President: Wayne Whipple  
480-460-3623  
w7676@msn.com
Vice-President: Gard Roper  
602-996-9745
Secretary: Lois Schneberger  
480-946-8373  
lschneberger@cox.net
Treasurer: Tom Rankin  
480-460-3623  
tomrankin@cox.net
Immediate Past President  
Steve Martinez  
602-688-4339  
altrigo2@cox.net

Board of Directors  
Serving through December, 2013
Cindy Capek  623-979-9389  
ronluccap@aol.com
Sue Tyrrel  480-797-8952  
styrel@cox.net
Joseph Miracle  480-345-6644  
demiracle@cox.net
Nancy Mumpton  480-649-1558  
nancy.mumpton@gmail.com
Joe Barnes  480-883-1651  
barnesinaz@gmail.com

2013 Meeting Schedule

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦
Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m.  
Webster Auditorium, Desert Botanical Garden  
Presenter: Dave Zaitlin  
Species of Cactus and Succulents in Brazil
++++++++++++++++++
Sunday March 24, 2 p.m.  
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden  
Presenter: Matt Johnson  
Southern Arizona Cacti:
This presentation will feature most of the  
cactus species native to southern Arizona with  
information on their habitats and ecology, as  
well as horticultural observations.
++++++++++++++++++
Sunday, April 21, 1 pm  
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden  
Presenter: Mark Dimmitt  
Topic #1: Adenium Hybrids  
Topic #2: Trichocereus Hybrids  
for your Garden
*******
This is a joint meeting between the  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
Master Gardeners and CACSS.  
The presentation starts at 1 p.m. to allow  
time necessary for the two topics.

Contact the Central Spine  
Editor  
Diana Decker  
dianadec@cox.net  (602) 220-9825  
for article and photo submissions for the  
Central Spine.
President’s Letter February 2013
Wayne Whipple

After January’s days of freezing nights followed by days of heavy downpours, I think most of us with outdoor-collections refer to them now as our Darwinian survivors.

The foul weather abated for our January meeting, which had probably a record turnout of around 150 people. Not only was Webster Auditorium filled to capacity, but an overflow enjoyed the program in the sunshine of the adjacent courtyard. The February meeting will be another intimate meeting in Webster, but in March we should be back in the spacious Dorrance Hall. We were again very fortunate to have Woody Minnich address us in January with an excellent presentation showing pictures of cacti and succulents from around the world and discussing his secrets on how to grow them. Dave Zaitlin, our speaker for February 24 will not travel the world with us, but will select only one country – Brazil – for his presentation.

At our last meeting, I asked for someone to volunteer to be the Assistant Treasurer, and I was happy that Ingrid Swenson stepped forward to volunteer for this position. I know our Treasurer Tom Rankin will be happy for her support.

We are still looking to fill an important position. One of the Society’s favorite activities, and one that encourages many new people to join our Society, is the Cactus Rescue Program. This Program was started in 2004 to save cacti and other succulents from being bulldozed under as construction began on housing developments, highways, pipelines and many other projects. Over the years, our members saved thousands of plants. Many of those plants were donated to the Desert Botanical Garden or sold at reasonable prices to the public; and of course, the rescuers were able to augment their own collections with the saved plants.

It has been a few years since we have had an active rescue program as development came to almost a halt during the Great Recession. Hopefully, the economy will start to grow again, causing construction and development work to accelerate. We have many members waiting to restart the rescue program, but we need someone to step forward and say yes: “I’ll do it; I will take charge.”

Please contact me if you are interested in handling this great program. The previous rescue programs were headed by Lee Brownson and then by Cheryl and RP Brown. They also would be happy to answer any questions about the rescues.

I am looking forward to Cliff Fielding’s Open Garden on Sunday, February 17. This will be his sixth time at treating us at his house and to see his “neat” collections of plants.

Presenter Dr. Dave Zaitlin’s Autobiography

I am a plant molecular geneticist by training and I work at the University of Kentucky as a research scientist. I became interested in plants sometime during my childhood, and they continue to fascinate me nearly 50 years later. Growing up in Tucson, I naturally started off collecting cacti for some reason I was particularly drawn to the Brazilian tropical species of Melocactus and Discocactus. When I was in college, I was introduced to the genus Sinningia, which is a New World genus in Gesneriaceae, the botanical family that contains the world’s most popular houseplant, the African Violet, and many other highly ornamental species. After growing, hybridizing and even researching Sinningias for several decades, I finally got my chance to see the plants in the wild in late 2011. I spent two weeks in the Brazilian countryside visiting the habitats of at least a dozen species in the company of an expert guide. I took hundreds of digital images during the course of a 1,500-mile trip that took us from São Paulo, through Rio de Janeiro and as far north as the town of Jaguaré in Espírito Santo state. Some of these photos actually show cacti! I visited places that most tourists, and many native Brazilians never see so I hope you will enjoy sharing this experience.
Open Gardens in March

March 16 Garden Tour
By Sue Hakala

Deborah Life will host a potluck at the end of this fun morning. She’s planning a hot dish and will have all the utensils so bring cold dishes to share.

9-10 a.m. visit Sue Hakala at 2524 W. Naranja, Mesa. Take the 101 to the Guadalupe Road exit and go east (or left). Turn left at the second street, Cottonwood. Her house is right in front of you with solar panels on the garage roof. Sue grows hundreds of cactus and succulents with a deep love for mammillarias. Her husband Terry built two shade houses for potted plants. Come and see the sunken conversation pit (not a pool).

10-11 a.m. visit Jo Davis at 2227 S. El Marino. Go east (or right) from Sue’s house to the stop sign. Turn left on Saratoga. At the next stop sign turn left on El Marino. Jo says her yard is a hodge podge of plants in the ground and in pots with yard art and interesting items throughout. Her son built her a shade house for more delicate plants. Look for her favorite Aloe ramossima.

11 a.m.-noon visit Joe Miracle at 2227 S. El Marino. Go east (or right) from Jo’s house to the stop sign. Turn left on Saratoga. Just past the pool, turn right on Laguna Azul Ave. The street curves, turn right AGAIN on Laguna Azul Ave. Past the stop sign, turn right on Los Logos Vista, the left on Gaucho, then left on El Marino. Look for the burro. The Miracle/DeYoung garden features an award-winning courtyard entry. The garden boasts over 200 potted cactus and succulents and a variety of art, all in a relaxing, lakeside setting.

Noon arrive at Deborah Life’s garden at 2262 W. Jacinto Circle. From Joe’s go south (or right) to Gaucho. Turn right on Gaucho, then left on Los Lagos Vista to Dobson Road. Turn left on Dobson to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline, then right onto Los Altos. Deborah’s home is on the corner of Los Altos and Jacinto Circle. Since 1995, Debora has removed and planted trees. She has added tons of dirt and rock and with help and direction organized her plantings in the front and side yard. Be sure to notice the exquisite metal gates and patio cover, both Debora’s designs.

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 monthly meetings.
The 2013 Show & Sale – April 5, 6 and 7, 2013
Article by Sue Tyrrel, Show and Sale Chair

Bring your plants for the show on Wednesday April 3, 2013. This may sound like a long way off, but you should start thinking now about which lucky plants will be shown. The plants must have been cared for by the exhibitor for at least six months; this means you must have owned it since November 2012. The complete information booklet is on our wonderful website: http://www.centralarizonacactus.org. Check it out and take notice of those beauties and oddities you care for; which one or ones will you share with us?

Here is information from our rule book:

**Entry Details:**
*Current members of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society are eligible to enter this Show.*
*Exhibitors may enter both the Competitive and Noncompetitive portions of the Show.*
*Competitive exhibitors will register and receive an Exhibitor Number and blank entry cards before the Show.*
*Competitive exhibitors will register as Novice, Advanced or Master.*

**Entry tag color codes:**
This classification is based on cumulative blue (first place) ribbons won in all previous competitions as follows:
- Novice Exhibitors......0-24
- Advanced Exhibitors:......25-99
- Master Exhibitor:....100 or more.
Favorite Aloes

by Tom Gatz

Reprinted from The Gatherings, the newsletter of the volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden

If you’re like I am, it’s a bit overwhelming to visit the succulent tent at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG) plant sales and decide which of the many species of aloe offered for sale do best in our area or have the best blooms. When they are not in flower, several of them look alike and some require special care under our weather conditions.

Aloe ‘Hercules’ may eventually grow to over 30 feet tall so give it plenty of headroom.

Fortunately, several CACSS members have come to our rescue. Through a series of workshops under the leadership of Gard Roper and with the able assistance of Diana Crummey, they have created a list of some of the members’ favorite aloe species.

Here are the top 20 aloe species from that list, starting with the most popular, some brief tips about their growth, form, care, flowering season in Arizona, and flower colors. I have also included a list of journals, books and web resources with more detailed information. In general, while many aloes appreciate winter sun, most do better with filtered or only morning sun in the summer. Aloe beds planted under the leaf canopy on the south side of a desert tree are ideal for this very reason. Let them dry out between watering and protect them from hard frosts.
- *A. dichotoma* - Tree aloe, needs good drainage, minimal summer water, tolerates mild frost, blooms in late fall, early winter, canary yellow flowers
- *A. marlothii* - Tree aloe, one stem, hardy, can stand severe frosts, yellow/orange
- *A. ramosissima* - Tree aloe, limit summer water; double frost cloth
- *A. dorotheae* - Stemless clumps, leaves redden in winter sun; morning sun, summer, red/yellow; protect from frost
- *A. ferox* - Tree aloe, single stemmed aloe, winter
- *A. dhufarensis* (Dwarf) - Stemless, small clumps, likes sun, needs good drainage, winter, coral red
- *A. excelsa* - Tree aloe, single stem grows well & flowers well in cultivation, red/orange
- *A. karasbergensis* – Stemless, small clumps, prone to summer rot so limit summer water, spring, dull red
- *A. petricola* – Stemless, small clumps, bi-color
- *A. striata* - Stemless small clumps, good bloomer, red
- *A. vanbalenii* – Stemless rosette, leaves redden in winter sun, summer grower, yellow orange
- *A. vera barbadensis* - Stemless, good bloomer, Jan, bright yellow
- *A. gariepensis* – Stemless, small clumps, winter, yellow/greenish
- *A. hereroensis* - Stemless, small clumps, red/orange/yellow
- *A. longistyla* -Clusters, great blooms
- *A. reitzii* - Stemless small clumps, summer bloomer, dark red
- *A. vaombe* – blooms in winter
- *A. aculeata* – Stemless, very prickly leaf surface, winter
- *A. africana* – Tree, one stem aloe
- *A. cryptopoda* - (A. wickensii) stemless small clumps, winter

Hybrids were not included in this list but some of my personal favorites come from mixed marriages such as *Aloe* 'Hercules' (A cross between *A. barberae* x *A. dichotoma* but hardier than either of its parents) and *Aloe* 'Rudikoppe', an *Aloe sinkatana* hybrid with nice flowers off and on throughout the year. Here are some helpful websites, journals and books to learn more about aloes.

**INFORMATION SOURCES ON THE WEB**
www.aloestudies.org  
www.xericworld.com  
www.mesagarden.com (for seeds)  
www.davesgarden.com  
www.llvmtreasures.blogspot.com

**JOURNALS**
*Cactus Succulent Society of America Journal*  
*Succulent Society of South Africa journal ALOE* -- very informative on all succulents

**BOOKS**
*Guide to the Aloes of South Africa* by Ben-Erik van Wyk and Gideon Smith  
*Aloes in Southern Africa* by Gideon Smith and Braam van Wyk  
*Kerstenbosch Gardening Series: Grow Succulents* by Ian B. Oliver  
*The Aloe Names Book* by O.M. Grace, R.R Klopper, E. Figueiredo and G.F. Smith

The DBG library has all of these books and both journals. It’s open to the public 12:00 - 4:00 PM Mon.-Fri. See the DBG aloe advice at [http://www.dbg.org/gardening-horticulture/](http://www.dbg.org/gardening-horticulture/). Our CACSS library has the Aloe journal.

*Thanks to Nancy Mumpton and Diana Crummy for helping me with this article.*
## CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
### DECEMBER 31, 2012, FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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The Central Arizona Cactus Society showed strong growth in 2012, bringing total membership to a record level and significantly increasing the Society’s financial base.

Total membership in 2012 rose by nearly 30% to 335 members compared to 259 at the beginning of the year. Nearly 90% of the members at the beginning of the year renewed. This is a high renewal rate for almost any organization and reflects the aggressive actions of our new Membership Committee in encouraging members to pay their annual dues. We also enjoyed having 76 new members join our Society.

The increase in membership resulted in a 32% increase in dues income for the year and amounted to almost $4,700 versus $3,600 in 2011. Total operating income increased by 12% in 2012 over 2011 to about $13,000, up by $1,346 over the previous year. By far, the biggest contributor to the increase was the almost $1,000 increase in dues. Operating expenses decreased by approximately $1,300. Speaker fees were $665 lower and insurance premiums dropped by $285 as a result of a new policy, which resulted from a change in insurance agents.

Nonoperating expenses were down by $1,100. The $2,000 donation to the Desert Botanical Garden was $500 higher than for the previous year, and $625 was spent on a new projector for our monthly meetings. In 2011 our largest expense was $940 for a new credit card machine. This year we had a $942 surplus from our San Diego trip last June.

T. Wayne Whipple, 2012 Treasurer
Officers and Board Members at the first meeting of 2013 taken at President Wayne Whipple’s house.

First row: President Wayne Whipple, Vice President Gard Roper, Secretary Lois Schneberger, Wendy Barrett, Nancy Mumpton, Dan Smith, Jo Davis, and Tom Rankin
Second row: Immediate Past President Steve Martinez, Mike Gallagher, Joe Barnes, Doug Dawson, Beth Kirkpatrick, Sue Tyrrel, Cindy Capek and Joe Miracle

Photo by Debora Life
“I didn’t know they had Photoshop in 1913. Ouch!”

This photo was on the front page of the January 24, 1913 Chandler Arizonan. Laurence Garvie provided the photo.

Note the title below the photo: “Who removed the spines? They did.”

(The men were hotel mechanics.)
Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list. Call or e-mail Diana Decker, Central Spine editor. Find contact information on p. 2

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*, *Theleocactus*.

**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*. 