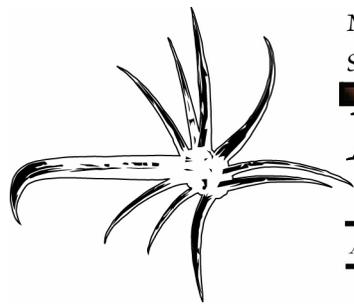


CENTRAL SPINE



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

STEVE PLATH

Wanted: CACSS Newsletter Editor. Must be able to type as many words a minute as it takes to complete "The Central Spine" newsletter each month. Ability to be creative and produce a publication as editor chooses. Will be mentored by outgoing Editor and may pester the CACSS Board of Directors for information and articles. Sense of humor a plus. Spines embedded in fingers optional. Equal Opportunity Volunteer Organization. Pay: \$0.00 per hour. Benefits: Undying gratitude of CACSS President and Board.

As I announced at the April General Meeting we are in need of a newsletter editor. Cynthia Robinson, who has done an outstanding job for the past few years, has asked for someone to replace her. I know for many people the thought of taking on such a task seems monumental. However Cynthia has graciously offered to mentor the new Editor for a period of time so it isn't a "cold turkey" kind of change. The newsletter is our primary means of communication with the general membership so the Editor position is a very important role in our organization. It does offer someone the ability to be creative and can be streamlined to fit an individual's time availability. If you're even remotely interested in considering the position, please see me or anyone of the Board of Directors at the General Meeting. It's a big job for sure, but we all want the person who volunteers to be successful and offer whatever support they need.

When you have an opportunity at the General Meeting please extend a personal thank you to Cynthia for the time she's dedicated to being the Editor.

Lee Brownson has offered to organize a meeting for all those who have expressed an interest in being involved with the Cactus Rescue. As mentioned earlier in the year Lee would also like to step down as the primary organizer of the program. However what we'd like to discuss at the special meeting is the tasks that need to happen for a rescue to occur. Perhaps we can get a core group of people to work in unison to keep rescues happening. The time and place of this meeting are yet to be determined but we'll let everyone know as soon as possible.

My personal thanks to anyone willing to offer some of their time for the club.

See you at the meeting!

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

AN AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA  ON THE WEB AT CENTRALARIZONACACTUS.ORG

2008 CACSS OFFICERS

President: Steve Plath.....	623-915-7615 revegdule1@juno.com
Vice-President: Lee Brownson...	480-951-4945 lsbrownson@cox.net
Secretary: Julie Plath.....	623-915-7615 revegdule1@juno.com
Treasurer: Wayne Whipple.....	480-460-3623 w7676@msn.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS ENDING 12/2008

Gard Roper.....	602-996-9745 tommy15@cox.net
Daniel Sumberg.....	480-361-6503 daniels@libertyiron.com
Ingrid Swenson.....	602-957-9865 iswenson@cox.net

TERMS ENDING 12/2009

Doug Dawson.....	480-893-1207 doug.dawson@ gmail.maricopa.edu
Leo Martin.....	602-852-9714 leo@possi.org
Steve Martinez.....	602-688-4339 altrigo2@aol.com
Cynthia Robinson.....	602-615-2261 crobin500@msn.com
Lois Schneberger.....	480-946-8373 lschneberger@cox.net

2008 CACSS COMMITTEES

<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	<u>CONTACT:</u>
Programs & Workshops.....	Lee Brownson
Newsletter/ Publications/Publicity.....	Cynthia Robinson
Membership.....	Doug Dawson or Jo Davis 480-839-3792
Finance.....	Wayne Whipple
Plant Rescue	Chairperson Needed!
Library.....	Erik Anderson 480-967-3984 woodcraftman@ earthlink.net
2008 Show.....	Steve Martinez
2008 Sale.....	Mike Cone 623-215-7692 imakepots@hotmail.com
2008 Show & Sale Volunteers.....	Ingrid Swenson
Refreshments.....	Gard Roper
Field Trips.....	Daniel Sumberg or Lois Schneberger
By-Laws.....	Lois Schneberger
Web-site.....	Lee Brownson

To participate in any of the committees, contact the chairperson listed or any Officer or Board member listed above.

LOCAL CALENDAR

May 18th, 2008, Sunday, 12 pm

Board Meeting
Desert Botanical Garden
All members are welcome to attend.

May 18th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm (Not the last Sunday)

Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden
Guest speaker **Woody Minnich** will give a presentation about his recent trip to **Socotra - An Island in the Arabian Sea.**

June 29th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm

Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

July 27th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm

Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

August 24th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm

Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

September 28th, 2008, Sunday, 2 pm

Regular Club Meeting
Dorrance Hall, Desert Botanical Garden

October 26th, 2008, Sunday, 12 pm Setup, 2 pm Auction

Silent Auction of Member's Plants
Wildflower Pavilion, Desert Botanical Garden
Start your propagations now to make this annual event a success!

REGIONAL CALENDAR

June 6th & 7th, 2008,

**Friday 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm (TBG members only) &
Saturday 8 am - 12 pm**

Weird Plant Sale
Tucson Botanical Gardens
Tucson, AZ

Dozens of local cacti, succulent & pottery vendors participate in this annual sale - you won't want to miss it! Visit <http://www.tucsonbotanical.org> for more information.

June 12th - 15th, 2008, Thursday - Sunday, All Day

12th Biennial Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference
Grand Junction, CO

Visit <http://www.midstatesconference.org> for more information.

June 26th - 29th, 2008, Thursday - Sunday, All Day

CSSA Annual Show & Sale
Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA
Visit <http://www.cssainc.org> for more information.

August 30th, 2008, Saturday, All Day

25th Annual Huntington Succulent Symposium
Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA
Visit <http://www.huntington.org> for more information.

April 10th - 15th, 2009, Friday - Wednesday, All Day

33rd Biennial CSSA Convention
Westin La Paloma Resort, Tucson, AZ
Visit <http://www.cssainc.org> for more information.

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.

MAY SPEAKER

On May 18th, Woody Minnich will tell us about his recent trip to 'Socotra - An Island in the Arabian Sea.' Woody has spoken to our group many times in the past about many things - he's been just about everywhere succulents grow, and always gives a fascinating presentation of plants in habitat. Not many people go to Socotra; it's hard to get to, and four-star hotels are not to be found. Let Woody take you there.

Lee Brownson



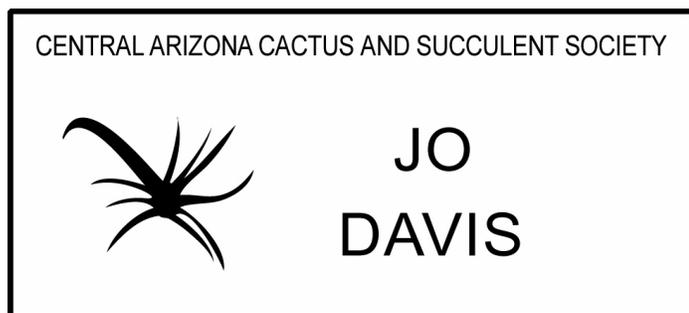
THE COVER PHOTO

Eriosyce paucicostata v *floccosa* (*Neoporteria echinus* v *floccosa*) currently blooming on my patio. Photo taken on 5/11/08 by the editor.

PUMICE

If anyone is interested in buying some pumice, I can bring bags of pumice to the meeting on Sunday. One bag - equivalent to a 5 gallon bucket full - is \$2.00. Email me if you want some and how many bags you would like.

Lee Brownson



Interested in one of the name badges you see other members wearing? You can have one of your very own! Talk to Jo Davis at the meeting or send her a check for \$7.50, made out to "Jo Davis," to her home address:

2714 W. Monte Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85202

BUG-OF-THE-MONTH

By Sue Hakala

Digger Bee
Diadasia rinconis

Before sunrise this summer, look closely at the flowers in your yard and you may find digger bees sleeping in them. As *Diadasia rinconis* is awakened by the warming sun, they yawn and stretch their tiny bee legs preparing for a full day of gathering pollen and nectar as food for themselves and their eggs.

One female began digging her nursery tunnel next to a soon-to-bloom *Rebutia* in my yard. Her strong forelegs moved aside the ¼ inch plus granite rock, and one small foot full at a time, began to dig. As she slowly proceeded underground, she'd back up racking the dirt up under her body. Now and then, she'd use her body to tap, tap, tap the pencil-size tunnel walls firming them up, then, lined them with a wax-like secretion. A frantic 24-hours of activity, created a small dirt mound, and what looked like two different tunnels moving off in opposite directions.

Each one of the underground cells she'll create will contain a pollen/nectar ball serving as food for the one egg she'll place on it. The developing larvae will wait in a kind of suspended animation and will not finish developing until next spring when cactus flowers begin to bloom again. Males emerge first, searching for females, and may even dig underground to find them.

Sometimes digger bees will nest in big aggregation sites by the hundreds or, like my girl, by herself. They are excellent cactus pollinators, visiting flowers many times. If you look closely in your flower, you can see the pollen sacks on their back legs heavily laden, and their bodies utterly dusted with pollen. It's okay to get close to them, as they only sting if handled or threatened.

Digger bees seldom nest in the same place again. Research is showing that digger bees specialize on plants that are abundant, bloom predictably and reliably with large amounts of pollen. Watch for them sleeping in your cholla, ferocactus and datura flowers among others over the summer. Wait patiently to see that tiny little yawn and stretch—it'll give you a thrill.

To see more photos, go to <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu>, animals, and type in *Diadasia rinconis*.



Diadasia rinconis © 2007 Sandy Shanks

AROUND MY (OR YOUR) DESERT GARDEN

BOB TORREST

MAY 12, 2008 - We have had a real spring season with cool evenings and no 100 degree days yet. The cacti have responded, some with extended flowering. Trichocereus are still flowering, some varieties for a second time. Of course, there are lots of Echinopsis varieties and you can choose any colors you like...with some flowering at a small size. Opuntias still flowering after an extended period include *O. rufida* and *O. versicolor* (Staghorn cholla). This cholla comes in a range of flower colors, but make sure you have the purple. Larger opuntias include *O. velutina* ("Velvet fig") with red flowers and *O. ficus-indica* ("Indian fig") with golden yellow flowers. The Velvet fig looks great pruned to a tree form or as a dense shrub. Smaller prickly pears include *O. paraguayensis*, which slowly gets to be a 6 ft shrub, *O. macrocentra* (yellow flowers with red centers), and *O. violacea* (yellow flowers). *Opuntia microdasys* ("Bunny ears") comes in white, golden or reddish brown and is often misidentified as *O. rufida*. Early in April there was *O. aciculata* with its red-orange flowers (one of the best) and *O. erinacea*, very spiny with pink flowers and a very wide range (the "Plains" prickly pear).

The Mexican organ pipe (*Stenocereus griseus*) was the first of the *Stenocereus* to flower and continues having been joined by *S. schottii* (senitas, including "Totem" poles), *S. marginatus*, *S. thurberi* (Arizona organ pipe), *S. alamosensis* (Rathbunia) and recently, *S. gummosus*. Only *S. beneckeii* and *S. stellatus* have never flowered in over 20 years and of all the *stenocereus* varieties *S. beneckeii* was most damaged by last year's hard freeze. 6 foot high clumps of *Stetsonia* are flowering now, along with some of the large *cereus* varieties. Other cacti that have been flowering for some time include *cleistocacti*, *notocacti*, *neoporterias*, *pilosocereus* and *myrtillocacti*. In fact, some of the fruit on *Myrtillocactus geometrizans* are now ripe and if you get out early enough, you can get some before the birds. *Ferocactus glaucescens* was still flowering in the shade in early April. Then *F. schwarzii* with its small yellow flowers followed, as did a 6 inch Baja "Fire" barrel with its red flowers. Recently a large Golden barrel (*Echinocereus grusonii*) began flowering and the California barrels (*F. cylindraceus*) are getting started.

The aloes are mostly done. In early April *Aloe garipepensis* flowered (red to yellow below) and does well with morning sun. A medium large plant, *A. pirottae*, from Somalia, is flowering again under high shade. The 2 foot rosette is surrounded by more colorful small plants. The spike is 6 ft tall with colorful flowers at the top 15 inches; a light red with green tips. A few other smaller aloes still flowering include *A. humilis* and *A. brevifolia*. There has been lots of seed... if you are interested in any of the aloes mentioned previously just let me know.

Except for the *stenocereus* and large barrels, the flowering cacti mentioned either require some shade or do much better with some. Since early April, trees continuing to flower include *Eucalyptus torquata*, Palo blanco and pomegranates. They were joined by Palo verdes, Jerusalem thorn (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), lysilomas, desert willow and cordias. The acacias include *A. rigidula* (Black brush), *A. aneura*, sweet acacia and cat claw. The Screw bean mesquite (Tornillo) is a nice small tree and is flowering along with all the other mesquite varieties. With red and yellow birds, calliandra, ruellia, etc., there are lots of choices for the shade you need.

Several cuttings of different columnar cacti of 2 to 4 feet were left over after our October sale. These were either put in 5 gallon pots or in the ground. Those in the ground all made it through the winter and most were showing signs of growth by April. Of those set in good well drained soil in pots, most were fine and had made a bit of root by April but several did not survive or form any roots. Of course, root formation is much faster in warm weather although very large cuttings may show no signs of new growth for more than a year.

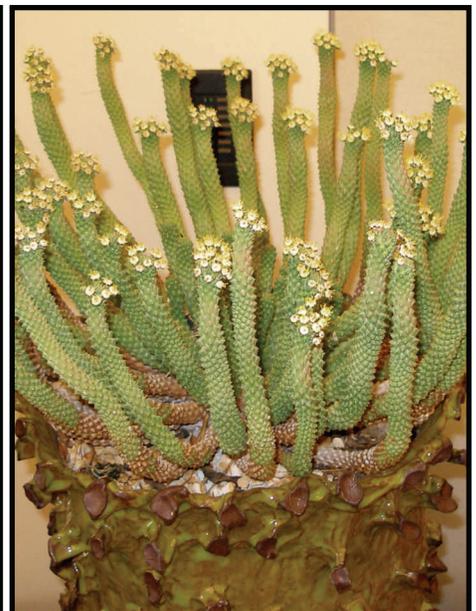
NOTE - Thanks to those of you who came by our "SALE" in March. The sale is really more of a "plant rescue" but without Saguaros or barrels. Remember that the columnar cuttings are guaranteed. If one you got didn't make it just give us a call and it will be replaced. If you got a larger cutting (we had some 6 and 7 foot organ pipe, senita and totem poles) they will take a while before they start growing. Try to be patient and don't overwater... wait until you see signs of new growth before regular watering.



All pictures on pages 4 & 5 are from the CACSS 2008 Show and were taken by member Richard Smith.

2008 CACSS SHOW AWARDS

Most Total Points	Cliff Fielding	146
Most Blue Ribbons	Steve & Julie Plath	24
Most Cactus Blue Ribbons	Steve & Julie Plath	12
Best of Show	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Fouquieria purpusii</i>
Best Cactus of Show	Joan & Stan Skirvin	<i>Aztekium ritteri</i>
Best Succulent of Show	Joan & Stan Skirvin	<i>Euphorbia tulearensis</i>
Best Individual Cactus Specimen in Section I	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Mammillaria morganiana</i>
Best Individual Succulent Specimen in Section II	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Euphorbia abdelkuri</i>
Best Cactus Collection	Cliff Fielding	Gymnocalycium collection
Best Succulent Collection	Cliff Fielding	Gibbaeum collection
Best Aizoaceae	Cliff Fielding	<i>Gibbaeum velutinum</i>
Best Aloe	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Aloe haworthioides</i>
Best Ariocarpus	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus</i>
Best Euphorbia	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Euphorbia francoisii</i>
Best Ferocactus	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Ferocactus chrysacanthus</i>
Best Arizona Native	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Echinocactus polycephalus</i>
Best Crest or Monstrose	Steve Martinez	<i>Pachypodium lamerii</i>
Best Seedling	Leo Martin	<i>Cereus hildmannianus ssp paraguayensis</i>
Best Decorative Container	Mike Cone	<i>Ferocactus glaucescens</i>
Best Specimen Planter	Mike Cone	<i>Euphorbia esculenta</i>
People's Choice Award	Maury Clapp	<i>Mammillaria scripsiana</i>
Novice trophies:		
Most Total Points – Novice	Steve Martinez	77
Best Novice Cactus	Sue Hakala	<i>Mammillaria schiedeana</i>
Best Novice Succulent	Lois Schneberger	<i>Hoodia gordonii</i>
Junior novice trophies:		
Most Points	Phoebe Garvie	7
Best Cactus	Phoebe Garvie	<i>Neobessya missouriensis</i>
Best Succulent	no entry	
Judges Choice:		
	Steve Martinez	<i>Pachypodium namaquanum</i>
	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Astrophytum capricorne v senile</i>
	Steve & Julie Plath	<i>Fouquieria purpusii</i>
	Carol Clapp	<i>Opuntia pycnantha</i>





CENTRAL ARIZONA
CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PO BOX 63572
PHOENIX, AZ 85082-3572
WWW.CENTRALARIZONACACTUS.ORG

ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT CENTRAL SPINE
ISSUE IS: JUNE 9TH, 2008. EMAIL TO: CROBIN500@MSN.COM

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 (just call or e-mail Bob Torrest). For now, the list is simply alphabetical with principle interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

DOUG DAWSON
480-893-1207
doug.dawson@gmail.maricopa.edu

Specialization includes Flora of Namibia, Growing from Seed, Lithops, other Mesembs & Melocactus.

MIKE GALLAGHER
602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net

Specialization includes Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti & Turbinicarpus.

STEVE PLATH
623-915-7615
revegdude1@juno.com

Specialization includes Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus, General Propagation & Desert Revegetation.

CYNTHIA ROBINSON
602-615-2261
crobin500@msn.com

Specialization includes Flora of Madagascar, Growing from Seed, Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents, Aloes, Apocynaceae, Burseraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fouquieriaceae, & Succulent Bonsai.

BOB TORREST
480-994-3868
robertst9114@msn.com

Specialization includes Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees & Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, Trichocereus & Opuntia.