



50 YEARS OF HISTORY
APRIL 1973 · APRIL 2023

50 Years of History of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society

1973 - 2023

Founding or Charter Members

Mrs. Doris F. Boyce, Lewis & Barcia Bremer, Mrs. Margaret Caldwell, William H. & Martha L. Chester, Mrs. Belle Cooper, J. Warner & Beverly J. Dodd, Herbert W. & Lucille Earle, J. Whitman Evans, Miss J. Sharon Fairchild, Francis R. & Philomena M. Hennessey, John R. & Nevelyn Hopkins, Roderick McGill, Robert J. & Elaine Moulis, Kent C. Newland, Chester L. & Genevieve Oppen, Lee & Fran Tolleson, Henry C. Triesler, Jr. Note: Herbert Earle was the Director of the Desert Botanical Garden.

Membership list dated June 24, 1973, and revised on July 7, 1984. The number 26 is quoted by H. Triesler in an interview with Leo Martin, past president, and Ken Schutz, DBG Director, 2004. From 26 in 1973, the membership is currently over 600.

Desert Botanical Garden and the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society

The history of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society cannot be written without including the Desert Botanical Garden. The two organizations were very much intertwined during the formative years of the Society. Director W. Herbert Earle and his wife were Society founding members. Margaret Caldwell, also a founding member, served on the DBG's Executive Board and as a Trustee. Other Society members served as trustees and advisory board members of the Garden. Garden employees, approximately 26 over the years, gave programs at the general meetings, served as officers (4 as President), directors, committee members, and judges for the CACSS Cactus and Succulent Society plant shows, etc. At one time both the Director Charles A. Huckins and former Director Earle were members of the Society at the same time. Former Director Carolyn O'Malley and current director Ken Schutz are both Honorary Lifetime Members.

CACSS members served on advisory boards of the Garden and members participated in the Garden's Annual Cactus Show as exhibitors and volunteers in many different capacities. In the Garden's list of volunteers for 1981, approximately 10% were or were also CACSS members.

Notices of meetings appeared in the Saguaroland Bulletin. In the 1970's and 80's the Garden provided bus trips to its horticulture staff, members, and volunteers to attend the Huntington Botanical Garden's annual cactus and succulent show and various other growers. These trips provided the CACSS Board members with opportunities to purchase quality plants as door prizes, \$100 in 1980.

Education, Exhibitions and Open Gardens

In the first Bylaws of the Society the founders wrote: "The purpose of the Society shall be to foster, disseminate and advance the knowledge and propagation of cacti and other succulents."

An early proponent of furthering the educational goals was Kent Newland from Boyce Thompson Arboretum. He conducted numerous mini clinics at general meetings and taught a 6 month botany course. With the advent of The Central Spine, another avenue to disseminate information to members became possible, and finally in the so-called modern era came the Society's website and webpage, which has membership from all over the world. Education sometimes was one-to-one or a more structured setting. Gard Roper and Doug Dawson sought out new members and invited them to visit their gardens. Workshops on such topics as growing winter bulbs, cactus and succulent nomenclature, and growing plants from seed featuring the Red Cup Society were held. Currently the Society has an active Education Committee and Plant Propagation Group (PEG).

Exhibiting plants was very important to the founders. The Garden held its first annual juried show in 1947. Prior to the founding of CACSS, cactus enthusiasts who later became founding members exhibited plants in those shows, won awards and ribbons, made presentations, and volunteered in various other capacities.

Once established as a Society, members continued to participate in the Garden's annual show. The Society became a cosponsor with The Phoenix Gazette in 1981 and participated as exhibitors, program presenters, and provided input to the competition rules until the annual show was discontinued in 1988. The Society held its first cactus and succulent show in Webster Auditorium in 1990.

In addition to the annual show at DBG, the Society sought other opportunities to exhibit plants including the Maricopa County Garden Shows, Men's Garden Clubs, Scottsdale Senior Center and the Arizona State Fair.

Initial meetings were held at member homes and a tour of the host's garden was always a part of the meetings. The 'tour of the garden' evolved into what became open gardens. President Triesler proposed the concept of the open garden to the board and general membership in July 1976. It was enthusiastically supported and over the years many members opened their gardens to the membership. The Archive has photos of some of the early open gardens. In more recent times Tammy and Cliff Fielding hold the record for the sponsoring the most open gardens. Their open garden, now annual, is an important event not to be missed at the beginning of each year.

Newsletter and Logo

The first issue was published September 28, 1975, as the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter. Duplication of the newsletter was problematic; at one point the editor reported that the mimeograph machine "ate" the newsletter. The publication was published to coincide with the board and general dates. Christina Dezelsky provided the line drawings for the first 6 issues.

A logo, a central spine, was selected in the January 21st meeting, 1979, and first appeared on the newsletter masthead on the first issue of 1979. The format changed to a 'booklet'. Issues were printed on regular size paper and then folded and stapled to form the booklet; the membership roster was often the center page. The spine on the December issue featured a Christmas ornament hanging from the 'central spine'. In the 1980's an enlarged spine printed on a full sheet of paper and the issue date became the cover of the newsletter. In the late 80's the cover of the newsletter featured the enlarged spine on bright color paper. In some years publication coincided with the general meetings and was made available there.

The publication of the newsletter was sporadic in some years due to the turnover of its editors and/or lack of articles. The format sometimes changed when editors changed and sometimes the logo of the central spine didn't appear. Publication was timed to coincide with the monthly meetings and was made available to those attending the meetings. In 2023 the Education Committee assumed the task of creating a new logo for the Society.

Desktop publishing ushered in a new generation of possibilities for the newsletter, from black and white photographs to color, and finally distribution to the membership electronically. Over time the central spine appeared on fewer and fewer mastheads. In addition to the newsletter the spine was used on the Society's letterhead, CSSA convention in Scottsdale, T-shirts, rosettes, and trophies.

The newsletter played a vital role in providing communication to members when Society activities could not be held during the COVID pandemic and the Chihuly exhibit at the DBG.

Membership

Various approaches were utilized over the years to grow membership and retain it. The major draw at all general meetings was the program. The topic of getting new members and retaining them was a recurring theme in many board meetings. Name tags became one way to help with socialization in general meetings. Surveys were used several times to ascertain more information on what the members wanted in terms of programs, ways to improve things, etc.

Different approaches were tried at the general meetings to engage members and encourage greater attendance and participation: door prizes, plant of the month, species of the month, silent auctions, propagation demonstrations, show and tell, new member programs, etc.

Formal and informal approaches were used to welcome new members; names were listed in the newsletter, introduced at general meetings, and a welcome committee was established. Several members, Doug Dawson and Gard Roper, made it a point to contact new people outside of the general meeting environment and invite them to gardens.

Website and Social Media

The Society's website was made possible through the efforts of a litany of members, including Lee Brownson, Jim Davis, Nick Diomede, Sue Hakala, Beth Kirkpatrick, Leo Martin, and others. At several times a webmaster was hired and an appointed position for web liaison was created to facilitate better communication between the webmaster and the Society. Initially getting content and information about botanical events that would be of interest to Society members was paramount. At one point articles from previously published newsletters were retyped for loading on the website. There were 'crashes' and other issues that were reported in the board minutes over the years. Important improvements to the site occurred when the newsletters were loaded and indexed.

Facebook was first mentioned in the board minutes of March 2014, and again in the May 18, Point E: 5: someone is needed to manage the Facebook page. The society's Facebook group reports July 31, 2014, as the founding date. In less than 10 years it has grown to an international membership of 6,000+. A Swap and Shop feature for members only was created on June 15, 2016.

Timeline

Feb 1973 26th Annual Desert Botanical Garden (DBG) Cactus Show. Six of the exhibitors became founding members of the Central Arizona Cactus and Society two months later.

Apr 1973 First meeting of ten individuals at the home of Henry Triesler, April 13. It was voted to form a chapter, the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society of the national organization the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. A monthly meeting date was established. Before the next meeting Triesler and Bob Moulis would attend the CSSA Convention in Las Vegas to get information on the process of establishing a chapter.

May 1973 Second meeting at the home of Bob Moulis. Bylaws were adopted and officers elected. The bylaws reflect a commitment to fostering, disseminating, and advancing the knowledge of cacti and succulents, to support the Desert Botanical Garden and similar organizations of similar purpose, and to support conservation programs aimed at protecting succulent plants.

May 1973 Bank account opened for the Society.

President Henry Triesler June 1973 - June 1974

July 1973 Fiscal year determined and classes of membership in the revised Bylaws.

Sep 1973 Society is welcomed as an official affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. The plaque as an Affiliated Club in CSSA was received, March 31, 1974.

A vote is taken to hold the first public plant exhibit at the Arizona State Fair; the exhibit won first prize.

Oct 1973 First field trip to the Southwest Arboretum (Boyce Thompson Arboretum), Superior, AZ.

Feb 1974 DBG's 27th Annual Cactus Show, February 17 - 24, cosponsored by the Desert Botanical Garden and The Phoenix Gazette. Two founding members won sweepstakes awards and five members won trophies. Members also volunteered at the show. 785 exhibits entered by 120 entrants.

May 1974 New members introduced at the general meeting; Mrs. Joan Skirvin was one.

President Henry Triesler July 1974 - June 30, 1975

Aug 1974 DBG to be the official home for the new Society.

Sep 1974 Webster Auditorium (now air-cooled) at DBG became the venue for society's general meetings.

Sep 1974 First bus trip to Tucson to visit commercial growers and private gardens. Thirty one members purchased over two hundred plants.

Oct 1974 Board agreed that a portion of each general meeting be devoted to plant culture.

Membership voted unanimously to protest the manufacture and advertisement of a device for off-road vehicles for smashing cactus plants.

Nov 1974 Resolution passed by the board and membership vigorously protesting the advertising, sale, and use of a device known as a "Cactus Smasher"; copies of the resolution are sent to the manufacturer of this device, as well as other interested parties, agencies, and organizations. A copy of the resolution, with signatures, became part of the official minutes of the general meeting.



Image appeared in The Phoenix Gazette or The Arizona Republic. Citation for image not known at this time.

Nov 1974 Program "The A (anthropology) and B (biology) and C (chemistry) of Peyote" by Dr. Charles Merbs, Chair Anthropology Department, Arizona State University.

Dec 1974 Copies of the resolution against the Cactus Smasher sent to 25 political leaders, organizations, and the manufacturer of the item. It was withdrawn from the market. The Society received much publicity and public commendation nationwide for their action on the matter.

Dec 1974 First Christmas or Holiday Party became a tradition, initially held in private homes of the members. The venues changed over time, first in Webster Auditorium, then on to private homes, Dorrance Hall at the DBG, Roadrunner Park in Scottsdale, etc.

President Charles Merbs July 1975 - June 1976

Feb 1975 28th Annual Cactus Show at DBG February 16 – February 26? by the Desert Botanical Garden and The Phoenix Gazette. Close to 17,000 visitors to the show; 986 entries and 135 exhibitors. Eight of 10 trophies for plants won by Society members.

Apr 1975 CACSS membership is 46.

July 1975 First general meeting at which there were door prizes and plants as gifts for the speakers.

Sep 1975 First issue (Volume 1, Number 1, September 28, 1975) published with title Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter; Editor: Charles Merbs.

Herbert Earle, DBG Director and founding member of the Society, suggested the name The Central Spine as the title for the publication.

Sep 1975 Membership passed resolution in support of recommendations in the “Report on Endangered and Threatened Plant Species of the United States. House Document 94-51, Serial No. 94-A” as prepared by the Smithsonian Institution. Twenty-four members signed the resolution. Copies sent to Arizona’s Congressional Delegation, Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Smithsonian Institution, and the US Department of Labor. September 28, 1987.

Oct 1975 Four CACSS members served on the DBG Board of Directors.

Jan 1976 Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter, Volume 1, Number 3, January 28, 1976. Editor Merbs reported the copy machine developed a ripple and once again modern technology triumphed. Henry Triesler appointed the new editor.

Feb 1976 29th Annual Cactus Show at the DBG, February 22 - 29. Cosponsored by the Desert Botanical Garden and The Phoenix Gazette. Fran Tolleson won 2 sweepstakes awards and Society members swept the trophy awards for the plant sections, 14, and K. Newland won the trophy for Educational Exhibit. “The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society members, who worked so hard with us [DBG staff] before and during the Show, supplied many information experts.”

Jun 1976 Two flats of 500 *Lemaireocereus thurberii* purchased and pots and plastic trays donated as table for the 1977 CSSA Convention in Tucson.

President Henry Triesler July 1976 - December 77

Jul 1976 “The Central Spine” name selected for the CACSS Newsletter. Name submitted by Hubert Earle, founding member and DBG Director. Suggestion for a logo that might follow

the name, and be a spine designed from a spine cluster, perhaps that of an Arizona native plant.

Charles Merbs appointed editor, Genevieve Oppen assistant editor and circulation manager, and Elaine Moulis as librarian.

'Open Garden' concept proposed by President Triesler at board and membership meetings, member response overwhelming in favor of the proposal.

Aug 1976 Responses to the survey from 41 members. 1) Majority joined to increase their knowledge of plants, 2) Door prizes did not encourage attendance, but 3) Members felt they would like to continue having door prizes, 4) 40 favored "open gardens" while one did not, 5) All respondents favored plant culture at every meeting, 6) 34 indicated they would attend study groups.

Sep 1976 W. H. Earle general meeting program presenter. President Triesler announced the retirement of Mr. Earle as Director of the DBG, effective October 1st. Triesler "noted that over three years ago when he conceived the idea of starting the CACSS, he received invaluable help from Mr. W. Hubert Earle. Mr. Earle encouraged him in every way, providing him with names of persons he thought would be interested in the more serious side of our hobby, and Mr. and Mrs. Earle became charter members of the Society." (Mr. Earle retired after 29 years of service, including 18 as the Director of DBG.)

Sep 1976 Library ready for operation. Cards prepared and materials in the collection can be checked out at the close of the general meeting.

Nov 1976 Bus trip to Tucson. Last stop was Louie Fudor's Green Hand Nursery. "Few plants are marked with prices, and while his prices are reasonable, one sometimes has difficulty in talking Mr. Fudor into parting with a cactus or succulent! It would seem that Mr. Fudor is personally acquainted with all his 5000 plants, since you could chase him to the far end of this building just to ask about a plant at the other end, and he would know immediately just exactly which plant you were asking him to part with."

Dec 1976 First issue, Volume 2, Number 1, December 19, 1976, published with new title, The Central Spine. Publication was delayed due to a malfunction in Merbs' office, "office duplicating machine ground up the script to a pulp." Editor: Charles Merbs.

Dec 1976 Social gathering at Webster Auditorium on December 19. The auction was cancelled because members purchased so many plants on the November Tucson trip. President Triesler received a check for \$33.00 from Louis Fudor. "It appears that members purchased \$330 worth of plants, and he was so pleased that he had sent a check to the Society in the amount of \$33.00 to be applied in any way the Society wished. It appears that Mr. Fudor was much impressed by the group who visited him, and felt they were terrific. The check might have been larger if members had been allowed to purchase all they desired! It takes much effort to get Mr. Fudor to part with his beloved plants."

Jan 9, 1977 Kent Newland's first study group "A Taxonomic and Generic Recognition Survey of the Cactaceae or Everything You Have Always Wanted to About the Cactus Family* *But Were Afraid to Ask", 86 pages, 6 sessions, each two hours long. Group met at ASU and the DBG.

Jan 16, 1977 First open garden held at the home of Philomena and Frank Hennessey from 2:00 - 5:00 pm.

Apr 1977 Seventeenth Biennial CSSA Convention, Marriott Hotel, Tucson, AZ, May 16 - 20. Society members grew 487 seedlings of *Lemaireocereus thurberri* as 'favors' for all registrants. Wednesday night banquet sponsored by the Society. Centerpieces purchased for all tables.

Feb 1978 Announcement at general meeting: pumice available at Greenworld for \$32.50 per yard, no containers provided.

Jun 1978 Society purchased a slide projector for use at the general meetings.

May 1978 *Coryphantha grandis*, a new species discovered and described in the Cactus and Succulent Journal, v.50, May-June 1978. Lewis Bremer III. Bremer continued his research in the species and authored additional descriptions of *Coryphanta* including *C. delicate* and *C. bernalensis*. Specimens of species authored by Bremer can be found in the DBG Herbarium, ASU Herbarium, Harvard University Herbaria and Mexico. Specimens collected by Bremer can be found in the ASU Herbarium.

Nov 1978 Society's first plant exhibition "Exotic Cacti and Other Succulents around the World" at the Valley National Bank Center Atrium in Phoenix, November 13 - 17. Also in the exhibition were the Bonsai Society, the Orchid Society, and the Artistic Arrangement Guild.

President Kent Newland

Jan 1979 Drawing of a central spine submitted by Tom Caldwell, son of Margaret Caldwell and a founding member, chosen as Society's new logo.

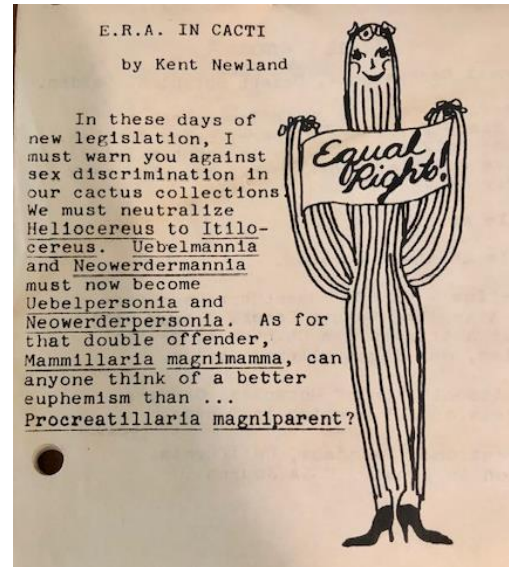
Jan 1979 Society adopted the CSSA Code of Conduct for the Conservation of Succulent Plants on January 20. The Code was published in The Central Spine, in the February 1979 issue.

Jan 1979 The Society's logo, a central spine drawn by Tom Caldwell, is chosen and featured as a part of the masthead information for the first 1979 issue of The Central Spine.

Jan 1979 CACSS membership at 37.

Feb 1979 Newsletter. Thoughts on the Equal Rights Amendment pertaining to cactus by Kent Newland.

“In these days of new legislation (E.R.A.), K. Newland warns members against sex discrimination in our plant collections. We must neutralize *Heliocereus* to *Itilocereus*. *Uebelmannia* and *Neowerdermannia* must now become *Uebelpersonia* and *Neowerderpersonia*. As for that double offender, *Mammillaria magnimamma*, can anyone think of a better euphemism that *Procreatillaria magniparent?*”



Feb 1979 32nd DBG Annual Plant Show, February 24 – March 4. Cosponsored by the DBG and The Phoenix Gazette. First time the show extended through a Saturday. First and oldest trophy, Annual Cactus Show Most Blue Ribbons Charles Meig Memorial Trophy, Desert Botanical Garden established.

Aug 1979 First botany lesson taught by Kent Newland, the first of many more to come.

Aug 1979 Rodney Engard, Director of the DBG and a CACSS member, leaves the garden to pursue a masters and doctorate in Botany at Arizona State University.

Sep 1979 Dr. Charles A. Huckins, new Director of the DBG introduced at the General Meeting. Dr. Huckins was formerly director at the St. Louis Botanical Garden.

Nov 1979 Members hold a cactus and succulent show as a part of the Men's Garden Club at Metro (Shopping) Center, November 10 - 11. Show chair: Frank Hennessey.

President Frank Hennessey

Jan 1980 Dr. Huckins spoke with the board on the role of the society in the Cactus and Succulent Shows. Items of concern were payment of bills, decision making, and division of interests. It was finally decided that the Society would coordinate with the Garden in a cooperative effort to produce the show.

CACSS membership: 45 active and 18 associate members.

1980 Martha Passwater and Joan Skirvin taught class at DBG on plant preparation for the annual plant show.

1980 33rd Annual DBG Annual Cactus Show, March 22 – 30. Cosponsored by the DBG and The Phoenix Gazette. Society members Fran Tolleson and Emmy La Tampa co-chairmen

of the show. Joan & Stan Skirvin were big winners, receiving 3 sweepstakes awards and three trophies.

Feb 1980 Board & General Meetings. Society has 125 posters for the show to distribute. Dr. Huckins spoke about the feasibility of the Society working more closely with the Garden in the management of the show. Such cooperation would help each organization and give continuity to the show.

Botany Course for members "Characteristics and Morphology of Aloes" by K. Newland.

Apr. 1980 Field trip to the Vulture Peak Mine near Wickenburg.

May 1980 Critique of the March Cactus Show: nine points that need to be considered before the next show, 1) clarify the show rules, 2) have a more efficient check-in system, etc. Consensus of discussion the Garden members, the Society and Garden staff would work jointly on decision making on matters relating to the show.

Sep 1980 Mini botany course taught by Kent Newland, "Dispersal Mechanisms in Succulent Plants-Inherit the Earth", September 21.

President Margaret Caldwell

Feb 1981 34th Annual DBG Annual Cactus Show, February 21 – March 1. Cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and the CACSS. First year of cosponsorship with The Phoenix Gazette. Fran Tolleson awarded The Phoenix Gazette trophy for most blue ribbons points in Education, Seedling, and Specimen sections of the show, Joan Skirvin received the CSSA Award for the Best Education Exhibit from the CSSA President Kitty Sabo who was also a judge. Other Society members are well represented in sweepstakes and trophy awards. By the end, close to 10,000 visited the show.

Feb 1981 "Cactuses, succulents grab spotlight in garden Show", The Phoenix Gazette, Feb. 15, 1981. More than 1,000 specimens will be on display. The Phoenix Gazette Award Sweepstakes will be presented to the holder of the most blue ribbons in Education, Propagation and Specimen sections.

Mar 1981 Dr. Huckins led a spirited critique of the cactus show at the general meeting including the eligibility of a 'collected plant'.

Jul 1981 Board Meeting. A steering committee for a possible Society hosting the 1987 CSSA Convention was appointed.

President Margaret Caldwell

Mar 1982 35th Annual Desert Botanical Garden Annual Cactus Show, March 16 - 28, cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and the CACSS. The Phoenix Gazette Award went to Fran Tolleson and the Mieg Trophy to Ron McCully and Bud Terrell.

May 1982 Board Meeting. DBG will do its best to assist the Society if the bid to host the 1987 CSSA convention is successful.

Dec 1982 The Central Spine issue, December 19, 1982, Volume 2, Number 4 featured as its cover the new logo that filled the page. Editor: Vera Gamet. (Note: Vol 2, No 3 publ. Dec. 1979)

President Warner Dodd

Feb 1983 36th Annual DBG Cactus Show, February 19-27, cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and the CACSS.

Mar 1983 General Meeting. Suggestions made for improving the Cactus Show. President Dodd noted that, except for a few people, the Society was poorly represented as volunteers. Let's do better next year as we do help sponsor the show and collect most of the ribbons.

Apr 1983 First annual CACSS Flower Show, April 24, at the DBG. 21 members brought in 384 plants.

Correspondence between Warner J. Dodd, President of CACSS, to Mr. Martin Mooney of Chula Vista, CA requested consideration for hosting the 1987 Biennial CSSA Convention. April 24.

May 1983 President Caldwell expressed a concern of some of the members. "If CACSS is to continue as cosponsors of the DBG Cactus Show, we will all have to pitch in and do more to support the show other than enter plants. Volunteer records show that a few members are doing all the work."

Library has 2 books. Plan for raising funds proposed.

Pumice is available at the Cactus Co. and Bakers Nursery.

Dec 1983 Dr. Huckins leaving the Society and the DBG for the directorship of the American Horticultural Society.

President Victor Gass

Feb 1984 37th Annual Cactus Show at the DBG February through March 4, cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and the CACSS.

Feb 1984 Minutes for February meeting first to be composed on a computer by Marilyn Fitz-Randolph.

Mar 1984 Questionnaire on member expectations for the society distributed.

July 1984 General Meeting. 1987 CSSA convention to be in Phoenix in 1987. Paul Johnson from CSSA and Fran Tolleson will be coordinators.

Important results from member survey: most members joined for the programs and to learn more about cacti and succulents and the major dislike was lack of equal participation by all members.

Oct 1984 The Central Spine, October 1, 1984. Editor: Vera Gamet. Correction to Charter Members, Margaret Caldwell's name was inadvertently omitted, noted on the second to last page.

1984 CACSS membership at 80.

President Margaret Caldwell

Jan 1985 Donation of \$100 made to the annual CSSA research grant fund in honor of Herbert Earle, founding member of CACSS, who passed away in December.

Feb 1985 38th Annual Cactus Show at the DBG February 16 through 25, cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and the CACSS. Fewer plants exhibited than in past shows. Show awards not published in the Saguaroland Bulletin.

Mar 1985 Extensive critique of the DBG cactus show at the March 29 general meeting and continued at the April meeting.

Jun 1985 Birthday Bank was introduced at the general meeting. Each month members with birthdays deposit 1 cent for each year. Money used to purchase books for the library.

Jul 1985 DBG seeks input from members on what succulents to include in the re-do of the Succulent House.

Nov 1985 President Caldwell introduced the new DBG Director, Dr. Robert Bruening, to the membership. He spoke about the plans for the Garden and encouraged all members to become members of the DBG.

President Marvin Williams

Feb 1986 39th DBG Annual Plant Show February 15 - February 23, cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and CACSS. First show in a tent. Nearly 10,000 people visited the Garden and the plant show of more than 1,000 cactus and succulent plant entries. Two Society members, John Graham and Fran Tolleson, were judges and numerous members won awards at the show.

Mar 1986 General Meeting. An extensive critique of the 39th Cactus Show. Two lists with 33 individual points.

CACSS membership at 66 members and 32 associate members.

Apr 1986 Board Meeting: issue date will now appear on the cover of the newsletter, and it will be made available at the general meetings. General Meeting: the critique of the show continued.

Jul 1986 Board Meeting: menu decision necessary for 1987 dinner at Pinnacle Peak, size of steak 10 oz. sirloin with dessert (apple pie) or 16 oz. without dessert. Decision: steak with dessert.

Sep 1986 Special Board Meeting with Dr. Bruening on September 3. Changes to rules for the 40th Annual Cactus Show reviewed and discussion on other matters relating to the show, e.g. judging, point structure, etc.

President Marvin Williams

Feb 1987 40th Annual DBG Cactus Show, February 14 through 22, cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and the CACSS. Location: White tent – Auxiliary Parking Lot, Desert Botanical Garden.

Mar 1987 General Meeting. Seventeen suggestions made and discussed for future cactus shows. Topics covered judging of plants, date for 1988 Show, exhibitor classes, etc.

Jim and Electra Elliott and Stan Jones thanked for ‘mothering’ plants that are being sent to us by growers from out of state for the convention.

Jun 1987 The Society and the DBG co-host the Biennial CSSA Convention, June 21 - 26, at Arizona State University in Tempe. Also the 50th anniversary of the Desert Botanical Garden.

Jul 1987 CACSS made a profit of \$665.12 from the sale of shirts, pins, etc. One of the growers who had plants at the convention donated 10 flats of plants, proceeds from sale of plants to go into the treasury.

Jul 1987 Board Meeting. “More discussion was had regarding our [the Society’s] response to Dr. Bruening’s letter from DBG. Lou and Elaine Steichman went to the show and sale at Huntington Gardens and suggested that we have our show and sale with the garden festival and give 12% of our sales to DBG. Until our response is given to the DBG, we are going to continue along the lines of having a sale and show at another location...?” It is assumed that President Williams wrote the document for the Board. The letter from Dr. Bruening is not in the Archive or the DBG Library. No additional information on an alternative location for the show and sale can be found in the 1987 records.

President Fred Kaspar

Feb 1988 Spring plant sale at one of the shopping malls discussed, more information at the next meeting.

Mar 1988 41st Annual DBG Cactus Show, March 2 - 6. Cosponsored by The Phoenix Gazette and CACSS. Fran Tolleson swept the honors, taking sweepstakes and trophy awards, for a total of 7. Awards for best monstrose cactus, best *Crassulaceae*, and best succulent in show went to Jim Oravetz.

Mar 1988 Unofficial board meeting (March 14) with Dr. Bruening raised several concerns with respect to the relationship between the Society and the Garden and situations that arose at

the previous Cactus Show. It was pointed out that it is difficult for the Garden to work with complaints from the Society when a complaint is made by one person and just the opposite is complained about by another person. Discussion continued on a resolution for the problem.

Mar 1988 President Kaspar related to the board the resolution of the complaint situation with the DBG. Lou Steichman is to be called regarding show complaints. Sherry Herman is to be called regarding other complaints and suggestions for the Society.

A spring plant sale was discussed. A member asked about taxpayer identification for being an official nonprofit organization. After some discussion it was decided to 'forget about this now'.

Mar 1988 Remarks made to the membership on the DBG complaint matter. Members who entered plants were thanked and Lou Steichman will be working with the Society and the Garden for the next show, and any comments regarding the show should be made in writing. Sherry Herman will act as ombudsman taking complaints from members to the Board. General Meeting of March 20th.

Apr 1988 First issue of The Central Spine published with a full page spine printed on color paper as the cover.

May 1988 Members were invited to the June Board meeting to learn about changes to the DBG Plant Show.

June 1988 Topic for the general meeting: "Four Past Presidents Speak." Speakers and their subjects: Jim Oravetz – Conservation; Marvin Williams – *Euphorbias*; Warner Dodd – *Gasterias*; Margaret Caldwell – Caudiciforms.

June 1988 Correspondence to Mr. Fred Kaspar, President of CACSS, from Robert Bruening Ph.D., Executive Director, June 24, 1988. Decision made by the DBG Board of Directors Program Committee to discontinue the annual cactus show. "... The Cactus Show be renamed the Cactus Festival and that it be expanded to include such things as special tours of the Garden's cactus collection, events for children and other special audiences ... We want very much to continue our association with the Cactus and Succulent Society and hope that club members will accept our invitation to participate in such a display. While we wish to recognize excellence in horticulture, the committee felt that the Garden should not continue to sponsor a competition. This derives from the feeling that the competitive aspects of the event sometimes overshadow the educational aspects.... The Garden has enjoyed our on-going association with the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society and we want to strengthen that association by working on new projects together...."

Jun 1988 Board Meeting on June 26. Following discussion on the Bruening letter it was "voted that the competition is still wanted by members, best time for show would be the middle of March or weekend before Easter and CACSS does not wish to be a cosponsor with DBG for the show. We will be checking with Tucson about participating with us for a competitive show."

Jun 1988 President Kaspar reviewed the contents of Bruening letter for the membership on June 26th.

Oct 1988 Special Meeting on October 10 for Discussion of Show Alternatives. President Kaspar reported that the chance of a show at the DBG at any time in 1989 was out. Various venues were discussed; no decision made. The Phoenix Gazette will continue to assist in sponsoring a show and the DBG will present the top two trophies regardless of where a show is held.

Oct 1988 Board approved the Tri City Mall as location for a show, March 29 through April 2. Lou Bremer names show chair. "Stay with horticulture show" is the recommendation of the Board. The recommendation presented at the following general meeting.

Nov 1988 Formal request sent to Tri City Mall, November 1. Confirmation received and chairperson for the show appointed, Lou Steichman. Committees set up at a later Board meeting.

President Jim Oravetz

Jan 1989 Special board meeting held at H. Triesler's home, January 14th. Some unforeseen costs could make putting on the show financially devastating for the Society.

Note. It is assumed the show at the mall was cancelled. Minutes of correspondents, board and general meetings are missing in the Archive. During the year members did participate in a bus trip to Tucson in March, an open garden at the home of Gus Herman in May, a plant silent auction at the Scottsdale Senior Center in September, and an open garden at the Hennessey's in October. Photos for these events in the Archive.

Oct 1989 A Letter of Understanding between Desert Botanical Garden and Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society covered a CACCS Propagation and Conservation Program. Signed by Mary F. Irish, Plant Events Coordinator, and Larry Fisher, Chairman, Propagation Committee. October 26, 1989, Phoenix, AZ. A propagation effort by the members to grow and sell plants to the DBG with proceeds going to the Society when it receives its non-profit status. Point 6. Certain plants are over-abundant and should not be donated – most common Opuntias, especially those with lots of glochids; most common Kalanchoes, especially those that multiply past all understanding...

1990 Three issues of The Central Spine, April, July, and December were published in 1989. Vera Gamet editor.

President Jim Oravetz (January –July) Jim Elliott (August – December)

Jan 1990 Discussion on securing the non-profit status for the Society.

Apr 1990 CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show, April 4-6, 1990, at the DBG in Webster Auditorium. A new Society banner was on display in the show. Trophies and rosettes were awarded. Photos in the Archive. Uncertain what role the DBG had in the show, information lacking in the Archive.

Jul 1990 Articles of Incorporation of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission. Submission documentation included the latest By-laws of the Society signed by 4 of the officers. July 1990 Minutes of Organization Meeting of Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, signed by 11 Board Members, July 31, 1990.

1990 Three issues of The Central Spine published. Vera Gamet editor.

President Ken Jantz

Jan 1991 "Mom at the Front: Many Tasks Confront Fathers Left to Hold Fort" The Phoenix Gazette, January 31, 1991. Member Mike Gallagher was one of the 'fathers'.

Apr 1991 Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Show, April 4 - 7, 1991, Desert Botanical Garden, Webster Auditorium. Archive has little information on the show. March is the assumed date. Some awards were given, e.g. the trophy for the Most Blue Ribbons (Charles Meig Memorial Trophy) was awarded to Fran Tolleson in 1991.

Oct 1991 Field trip to the Dons of Arizona's Base Camp, Superstition Mountains. Photos in the Archive.

Nov 1991 Speaker member Miles Anderson's presentation on grafting. Highlights include: A) favorite understock for – *Myrtillocactus geometrizans*; B) have a very sharp knife; and C) cleanliness is next to successfulness.

President Henry Triesler

Mar 1992 Cactus and Succulent Plant Show, March 28 - 29, 1992, DBG, Webster Auditorium, as a part of Desert Bloom. Photos in the Archive.

Apr 1992 Members who attended Elaine Chapman's Open Garden on April 5 got to meet her desert tortoise.

President Debra Korobkin

President Jim Elliott

1994 Three issues of The Central Spine published in the year, in addition the meeting minutes were published as a newsletter and mailed to members. Initially the word 'newsletter' did not appear.

Mar 1994 Plans for a June trip by air to California with visits to the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Diego's club Show and Sale, and several other nurseries announced.

Mar 1994 CACSS Plant Show, March 24-27, 1994, DBG, Webster Auditorium. Photos in the Archive.

Jun 1994 Ken Jantz and Jim Elliott report on the meeting with the DBG director. The Garden is interested in getting a sponsor of a tent for the Society's Cactus Show and expressed interest in pursuing events that mutually benefit the Garden and the Society.

Aug 1994 Thoughtful remarks by President Elliott on the resignation of Dr. Bruening and all the ways he has supported the Society in the August newsletter.

Aug 1994 Proposed revisions to the Society's Bylaws reported to the Board which includes a category of membership for honorary members.

Program for the month, Gard Roper. His topic "The genus *Agave*: a live demonstration concentrating on select smaller agaves for collectors, special growing requirements of the genus *Agave* and the agave's unique environmental niche in North America and Arizona." Two handouts in the Archive.

President Ken Jantz

Feb 1995 Press release from the DBG on the fifth annual landscaping and garden show Desert Bloom 1995, presented by Phoenix Home & Garden in association with the DBG and Artiscapes... Making its first appearance in the annual Desert Bloom show, the CACSS will feature an extraordinary display of more than 800 arid-region plants, including award-winners from a juried competition.

Apr 1995 CACSS Plant Show April 20-23, cosponsored by Phoenix Home and Garden magazine and the CACSS in association with the DBG's Desert Bloom 1995. Show held in a tent. PH&G sponsored a Sweepstakes trophy for total points. "The Cactus Show was a major attraction and has been enthusiastically asked back for 1996!!" Jim Elliott, Show Chair.

May 1995 Honorary membership awarded to Vera Gamet for the many years she single handedly wrote, edited, compiled, and reproduced the newsletter and got it ready for distribution at the monthly general meetings.

Dec 1995 A quartet of Jim Elliott, Damon Billings, Jo Davis, and Marge Jantz entertained at the December 12 Christmas Party.

1995 The Central Spine not published.

President Henry Triesler

Jan 1996 The Society began the year with the office of President vacant. At the board meeting Henry Triesler agreed to once again act as "titular president".

Apr 1996 CACSS Plant Show, April 25 - 26, cosponsored by the Phoenix Home and Garden magazine and the CACSS in association with the DBG's Desert Bloom 1996. Edra Drake was awarded the PH&G sweepstakes trophy.

May 1996 CACSS membership at 136.

Jun 1996 "Guidelines for Cactus Show Chairmen" by Jim Elliott, 11 pages.

Jul 96 Second California air trip to the Los Angeles area, July 5 - 7 for the national CSSA Cactus and Succulent Show, 4 commercial nurseries and Loren's Whitelock's Cycad Gardens. Trip Committee: Gard Roper, Jim & Electra Elliott, Marge Jantz and Doyt Galloway.

Group came home exhausted, most buying more than intended and wishing a certain plant here and there was not purchased.

1996 Board names Jocelyn and H. B. Wallace, Frank Hennessey, and Carolyn O'Malley (DBG Director) Honorary Members of CACSS.

1996 The Central Spine not published in 1996. A monthly newsletter was published.

President Gard Roper

Apr 1997 CACSS Show and the DBG's Desert Bloom Festival, April 23 - 27, a tent on the DBG parking lot. A junior novice division for members less than 14 years of age added to the exhibition rules for the show. Since the class was added, 11 different junior members have entered and won awards. Extensive coverage in photos from the 1997 show in the Archive.

President Scott McMahon

1998 Central Spine: Newsletter of Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society published again with new format and new editor, Nick Diomedede.

Apr 1998 CACSS Cactus Show, April 16 - 19, Webster Auditorium. Competition between two master level exhibitors (Fran Tolleson and Edra Drake) dominated the show, winning a total of 15 trophies and rosettes. However, there was an appalling lack of volunteer help.

Jul 1998 "California Dreaming, We Know the Way to San Jose", the San Francisco Bay area trip by air, July 10 - 12, with visits to Dr. Herman Schwartz's euphorbia collection, Shein's nursery, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row, and California Succulents. Trip organizers: Jim and Electra Elliott. Pictures from the trip in the Society's Archive. "Our intrepid travelers fought early departure times, mysterious room assignments, winding roads, and late night dinners in pursuit of the rare and unusual plant." Scott McMahon. Photos in the Archive.

Sep 1998 The Central Spine issue featured a cactus and succulent theme crossword puzzle in the September issue and answers in the following month's issue.

Nov 1998 The Central Spine special issue featured a centerfold of 17 color photographs of plants from member collections. Editor: Nick Diomedede.

President Cathy Babcock

Feb 1999 CACSS Plant Show, February 19 - 21, DBG, Dorrance Hall. Photos in the Archive.

Nov 1999 The Central Spine special issue featured a cover and centerfold of color photographs of plants from member collections for a total of 20 photos. Editor: Nick Diomedede.

President Leo Martin

Jan 2000 Latest membership roster should have the new area codes and email addresses. Discussion at Board meeting: new means of attracting members, including the creation of a website for the Society.

Jun 2000 Survey of member results: interest in website on "Cactus Mall" and email.
Discussion initiated on possible bid to host the CSSA Convention for 2005.

Jul 2000 Work on the Society's website still being researched, and information gathering for the convention continued.

Sep 2000 Board awarded an honorary lifetime membership to Bob Moulis, a founding member.

Dec 2000 Newsletter in color? The electronic file of the newsletter available to those that request it. Web design party at home of Jim Davis, new editor of The Central Spine.

President Leo Martin

Apr 2001 CACSS Show and Sale, April 4 - 8, DBG, Webster Auditorium. First time for sale of plants, pottery, and dish gardens by two vendors from Tucson.

May 2001 Progress reported on the web page being hosted by Cactus Mall; site is up.

Jun 2001 The Central Spine in a PDF format or Microsoft Word again offered to members who want to receive newsletter in color. Editor: Jim Davis.

Jul 2001 Board Meeting. Each member received a three page printout from the Society's new website.

Aug 2001 President Martin met with Ken Schutz, new DBG director, providing an overview on the history of the Garden and how the Cactus Society works in conjunction with the garden and a request made to find space for our library. Ken indicated he would join the society on the November Tucson buying trip.

Sep 2001 Board voted to hold a small silent auction at each meeting and one large silent auction in October.

2001 Members contributed to a landscaping project at Ocotillo High School, a charter school for troubled youth.

2001 Society's first pumice pile located at Lee Brownson's property.

President Leo Martin

Aug 2002 Bus trip to the San Diego area, August 3 - 5, with stops at Cactus King Nursery, Rancho Soledad, etc. Organizers: Jo Davis and Cathy Babcock, with President Martin as tour

boss. Recommendation made to travelers to read the July newsletter article by Harry O'Carpus on bus etiquette. Photos in the Archive.

Aug 2002 Library moved into cabinet in Webster Auditorium, Aug 10; items available during meetings. Catalog of the collection now on the website. Prior to the move librarians kept the collection in their homes.

Dec 2002 The Central Spine. First and probably only movie review to ever appear in newsletter, page 6, "Frida". Contributed by Tom Gatz.

President Scott McMahon

Jan 2003 First general meeting in Dorrance Hall, and it will be for most future meetings.

Feb 2003 Members offered the opportunity to receive the newsletter by email.

May 2003 Contract signed for the 2005 CSSA Convention with the Scottsdale Resort and Conference Center.

President Lee Brownson

2004 Cactus Rescue Program established by President Brownson; rescue committee formed and liability insurance obtained for members going on rescue trips. "Why a Cactus Rescue Program?" a flyer produced to explain the program.

Feb 2004 CACSS membership at 114 individual members and 89 family memberships.

Mar 2004 Dinner conversation involving Henry Triesler, founding member, Ken Schutz, DBG Director, and Leo Martin, past president of CACSS at the Acapulco Beach Club in Scottsdale. Discussion main topic was the very early history of the society as per Henry.

Apr 2004 CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, April 16 - 18, DBG, Dorrance Hall. Colorful postcards with show and sale information distributed as publicity. The use of postcards continued for the next several show and sale events.

Jul 2004 Bus trip to Los Angeles area, July 1 - 3, visiting Lotusland, California Cactus Garden and the Huntington Botanical Garden. Organizers: Gard Roper, Jim and Electra Elliott.

President Lee Brownson

Jan 2005 The Central Spine issues available on the Society's website.

May 2005 Decision made to apply for the 'non-profit status' for the Society.

Apr 2005 CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, April 22 - 24, DBG's Dorrance Hall and Boppart Courtyard. Society sponsors a new trophy in honor of a founding member, called the Henry Triesler Memorial People's Choice Award. The award based on a vote by the show attendees. Pictures from the show in the Archive.

Jul 2005 CACSS membership at 226.

Aug 2005 CSSA Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent of America, August 5 - 10, Scottsdale Plaza Resort and Conference Center, Scottsdale AZ. CACSS is the host affiliate chapter. Chairman of the Convention Committee: Leo Martin.

President Kathy Butler

Jan 2006 Board Meeting: Nine hundred plants rescued off the Verrado property in the far West Valley.

Feb 2006 First "Seed Growing Seminar" by Doug Dawson and the Red Cup Society.

Mar 2006 Grants Committee submits its proposal to the Board.

Apr 2006 CACSS Show and Sale, April 28 - 30, DBG's Dorrance Hall and Boppart Courtyard. Colorful postcards with show and sale information distributed as publicity. The use of postcards continued for the next several show and sale events.

Jun 2006 Process for securing a 'Not-For-Profit' status for the Society from the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Arizona initiated beginning with the original "Articles of Incorporation" of 1990 and the Society's Bylaws.

Oct. 2006 Participated for the first time in the University of Arizona Master Gardeners and Metro Tech Vocational School of Phoenix '2006' Fall Garden Festival.

Jul 2006 "Articles of Incorporation" amended July 29, 2007, as required by the IRS.

Sep 2006 Motion passed by the board to purchase a wireless credit card machine.

Sep 2006 Rescue report: 549 plants rescued by 185-man hours and 13 new members/renewals.

Oct 2006 Second seed-seminar by the Red Cup Society at Archer Hall DBG.

President Doug Dawson

2007 Central Spine published with color photos throughout the issues. Editor: Cynthia Robinson.

Jan 2007 Board voted to rent a storage unit for the Society.

Feb 2007 *Buffelgrass* (an invasive grass) removal project along Galvin Parkway north of the DBG. Daniel Sumberg.

Jul 2007 Lifetime Honorary Membership purchased by Kevin & Helen Barber, Rainbow Gardens Bookshop.

President Steve Plath

Mar 2008 The Central Spine. To commemorate the opening of the Garden's Cactus and Succulent Galleries, the Horticulture Department is honoring the Society with a new trophy, "Best in Show". Ken Schutz awarded the trophy to Steve and Judy Plath for their *Fouquieria purpusii*.

Ken Schutz, Director of DBG purchased a Lifetime Membership to the Society.

Apr 2008 CACSS Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, April 4 - 6, DBG's Dorrance Hall and Boppart Courtyard. First use of the black burlap table coverings for the show.

May 2008 Internal Revenue Service approves the Central Arizona Cactus and Society's application to become a 501(c) (3), a tax-exempt organization, May 9, 2008. All board members received an email attachment "Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities.

Dec 2008 Important revision of the Bylaws passed by the Board and the membership.

President Steve Plath

Jun 2009 Bus trip to the San Diego area, June 5 - 7, with visits to C&J Cactus Nursery, Rancho Soledad Nursery, Grigsby Cactus Gardens, Exotic Gardens, and Balboa Park for the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Trip organizers: Steve Martinez and Gard Roper.

President Steve Martinez

Apr 2010 New barcoding register used for the first time for the sale.

Aug 2010 Bus trip to the Los Angeles area for the Inter-City Show at the LA Arboretum, the Huntington Botanical Garden and plant nurseries and growers.

Sep 2010 Board approved the use of email when action on amendments to the Society's Bylaws is necessary.

Oct 2010 "Winter-Rainfall Bulbs from Seed" workshop conducted by Leo Martin, October 2.

President Steve Martinez

Aug 2011 CACSS membership at 227.

Oct 2011 Propagation Committee formed with Doug Dawson and Gard Roper as co-chairs. Members grew plants especially for the silent auction.

Credit card reader purchased for use at the Society's annual Show and Sale.

2011 CACSS membership roster transferred to ACCESS, a database software. Beth Kirkpatrick.

President Steve Martinez

Jun 2012 Bus trip to the San Diego area, Rancho Soledad Nursery, the San Diego club's show and sale at Balboa Park, and several nurseries, 38 members took the trip.

Jun 2012 Aloe Round Table, the first attempt to hold an all attendee participation event limited to 30 people, June 13.

Dec 2012 CACSS membership at 335.

President Wayne Whipple

Jan 2013 Report to the Board on the society's website crash in late December 2012; email correspondence from L. Martin to Beth Fitzpatrick, Chair of the Website Committee. She noted for the board that L. Martin got the site up and did many updates.

Mar 2013 Propagation Committee's speaker Matt Johnson. Members continue to produce potted plants for the silent auction at the general meetings.

Apr 2013 Phoenix Home and Garden magazine introduced a new series, "Home Gardener" with its April issue. First issue featured Society member Sue Hakala and her garden. Subsequent issues featured Society Members Jo Davis, Sam Campana, Tom Gatz, Joe Miracle, Sundee Paternoster, Rick and Barbara Rosenberg, Lois Schneberger, John and Beth Kirkpatrick, and Dan Smith. All articles in the Archive.

Apr 2013 First general joint meeting of CACSS and the Maricopa County Master Gardeners, April 21, with a special program by Dr. Mark Dimmitt on *Trichocereus* and *Adeniums*.

June 2013 CACSS Library Bulletin of June 17. Book carriers needed to provide access to the growing collection of library materials at each general meeting.

June 2013 CACSS's 40th anniversary celebrated at the general meeting with a festive array of food including a birthday cake, featuring remarks by 3 former presidents, Kent Newland, Jim Elliott, and Scott McMahon.

June 2013 CSSA Conference Staff requested the Society to host their Biennial Convention for 2017.

At a special Board meeting, June 30, the sponsorship was approved. B. Kirkpatrick to chair the CACSS committee and assignments made. Board also approved the purchase of more space for the website.

July 2013 Approval by the board to purchase a computer for use in program presentations at general meetings.

Sep 2013 Policy passed by the Board on September 29, for a member to link their business to the CACSS website they must first be an active member for one year.

Sep 2013 Pumice is now available for purchase by the bucket, September 15.

Sep 2013 "Winter-Rainfall Bulbs from Seed" workshop presented by Leo Martin, September 28.

Nov 2013 Update on website for board members. Newsletters now available on the site.

Dec 2013 Holiday party entertainment featured a turkey trivia quiz.

President Wayne Whipple

Jan 2014 Show and Sale: approval for two cash registers, scanners and laser printer needed to produce the barcodes. All items for sale will need a barcode.

CACSS membership at 382.

Jul 2014 Society's Facebook page created. Dan Smith. Board Policy: no selling of anything is permitted.

Oct 2014 PayPal now available on Society's webpage for membership to use. Treasurer Tom Ballen.

Sep 2014 Wallace Garden of 3000+ species of plants will be moved to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA) over a period of 3 years. Over the years Society members had numerous opportunities to tour this world-class private garden. Jocelyn and Henry B. Wallace, Honorary Lifetime Members.

Dec 2014 Holiday Party with great food, plant exchange and a trivia game of questions on the history of Society.

President Wayne Whipple

Jan 2015 A Sudal Tribute Tile to acknowledge CACSS's 40th anniversary purchased for the Center for Desert Living patio at the Desert Botanical Garden. Text: Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society 40th Anniversary 1974 - 2014. Location for tile: Tribute wall in the Center for Desert Living.

Mar 2015 Board approved a name change from Propagation Committee to Propagation Education Committee (PEG). Chair: Tristan Davis. Goal of the group will be to have members at all levels of expertise included in its activities to propagate from seed plants for the 2017 CSSA Convention.

Mar 2015 Propagation Education Group project to provide the 2017 CSSA attendees with a give-away of an Arizona native cactus or succulent seedling. Goal is 500 seedlings. Tristin Davis and Dean Patrick.

CACSS membership at 305 paid members and 259 Facebook members.

Apr 2015 CACSS Annual Show and Sale, April 10 - 12, DBG, Dorrance Hall and Boppart Courtyard. Online scheduler for volunteers used for the first time, Dan Smith and Lois Schneberger. Credit card readers used for the first time and two new cash registers purchased. Total plants entered in juried show: 552.

2015 Propagation Education Group established a seed bank. Tristan Davis.

May 2015 Honorary Lifetime Memberships awarded to Doug Dawson, Leo Martin, Scott McMahon, Gard Roper and Lois Schneberger.

2015 Electronic voting for officers and directors instituted for the 2016 elections. Dan Smith.

2015 Group project to index the newsletter articles and photos. Leadership of Sue Hakaka.

President Beth Kirkpatrick

Jan 2016 Indexing of articles in The Central Spine reported at January 24 board meeting. Sue Hakala.

May 2016 PEG meeting on agave propagation, it became an *Agave Extravaganza*. Tristan Davis and Dean Patrick. Its popularity led to a succession of annual meetings on the same topic.

Jun 2016 Society now has a Facebook Swap and Shop page for members, administered by Chris Ginkel and Dan Smith.

Aug 2016 Bus trip to the Los Angeles area for the Inter-City Show at the LA Arboretum and the Huntington Botanical Garden. Organizers: Rita Gosnell, Steve Martinez, Gard Roper.

2016 Board reviewed and approved the Research Grant Proposal to begin in 2017.

President Beth Kirkpatrick

Jan 2017 CACSS membership at 525.

Mar 2017 'PEG Potting Party' on March 25 to repot the seedlings of Arizona native plants grown by members for the July CSSA convention. Tristan Davis.

Board continued its discussion of the Research Grant Program, one application approved by the Program Committee.

Jul 2017 37th Biennial Convention of the CSSA, Celebrating the Beauty of the Desert, July 16 - 30, Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, Arizona.

President Jim Oravetz

Jan 2018 Education Committee created by the Board, January 21.

Jul 2018 CACSS membership at 532.

Aug 2018 Bus trip to the Los Angeles area for the Inter-City Show and Sale at the LA Arboretum, the Huntington Botanical Garden, and growers in the area, August 10 - 12.

Sep 2018 Cathy Babcock and Lee Brownson awarded Honorary Lifetime Memberships.

Oct 2018 Ballots for annual election of officers and directors sent out by the society's email program.

President Jim Oravetz

2019 The Education Group produced 3 educational color handouts in postcard format to coincide with general meeting programs, *Copiapoa*, *Euphorbia*, and *Adenium*.

Jun 2019 "Origins of Scientific Plant Names", a workshop by Doug Dawson.

Sep 2019 Honorary lifetime memberships awarded to Jo Davis, Dan Smith, and Wayne Whipple.

CACSS membership at 585.

Nov 2019 Scholarship policy of the American Federation of Garden Clubs accepted for CACSS.

Research Grant Program ended and remaining grant money sent to DBG for research.

President Chris Ginkel

Feb 2020 Society's Facebook Page: 5,400+ members. Michele Schrade reported in the newsletter "It has evolved into an encyclopedic database of all things cactus and succulent with stunning photos, useful tips, and helpful recommendations."

Collection of children's books on the Sonoran Desert featuring animals, cactus, and other succulents, etc. available for checkout from library.

Mar 2020 Public events at the DBG cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Garden follows directives from the Arizona Governor's Office and the Center for Disease Control.

2020 Five programs made available on YouTube.

2020 Donations made to the DBG and BTA as financial support.

President Chris Ginkel

2021 Board meetings held via ZOOM.

Sep 2021 Policy passed by the board to confirm and outline the Society's position on the conservation of cacti and succulents and their habitats.

2021 Programs held via ZOOM or in person in Dorrance Hall following guidelines established by DBG, social distancing, masks, etc. Reservations required.

2021-2022 Chihuly Exhibit at the Desert Botanical Garden. The exhibit made it necessary to find a new venue for the Society's general meetings, Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren.

President Cricket Peterson

Jan 2022 Trip by caravan of cars to visit Tucson nurseries. Sue Hakala and Nick Diomede.

Mar 2022 Field trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

2022 Policy passed by the board to govern the Society's use and distribution of confidential membership records.

2022 Formal policy recognizing on an annual basis the passing of Society members the previous year through a donation to DBG or BTA.

Jul 2022 General meetings back at Dorrance Hall.

Sep 2022 Honorary Lifetime Membership award to Mike Gallagher, Sue Hakala and Beth Kirkpatrick.

Dec 2022 CACSS membership at 640+.

Dec 2022 Holiday party at Papago Park.

President Cricket Peterson

Jan 2023 The 'hunt' for a design for the new logo for the Society announced in the newsletter.

Apr 2023 CACSS Show and Sale, March 28 – April 2, Dorrance Hall and Boppart Courtyard, DBG. Specimens entered: 512.

(First Edition. Lois Schneberger)

As I finish, my amazement at the accomplishments of the many volunteers (from the greeters at the cactus and succulent shows to the 25 members who served as our presidents) who contributed their time and talents to benefit the Society has grown tremendously. After 50 years what has been accomplished is really quite remarkable. Among the corps of hundreds of CACCS volunteers there is one who deserves the title of Volunteer Extraordinaire, Jo Davis.

Note: On October 3, 2023, Kent Newland passed away. He was the last of the 26 founding or charter members of the CACSS. Kent was President in 1978 and 1979.

Saguaroland Bulletin was first published by the Arizona Native Plant Society and later by Desert Botanical Garden. The focus changed in 1985 and the publication in the booklet format ceased 1985.