



# Central Spine

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2018



*This spectacular cake by Pat Korn would make any cactus and succulent lover happy. If you've done something like this, please submit it to the newsletter for publication.*

**Join Javier on September 30, at 2 p.m. in Dorrance Hall at the Desert Botanical Garden for our monthly program.**

So about me...I was born in Los Angeles, grew up and went to school in Las Cruces, NM, and attended college at New Mexico State University (GO AGGIES!) where I received a B.S. in Biology and Geological Engineering. My family and I moved to Phoenix in 2001. I currently work with the City of Glendale as a principal engineer.



Ok, now with that out of the way, let's move onto my love for plants, especially the spiny and prickly kind. Backing up a little bit, ever since I can remember, I've always had this love of nature and natural history in general, including all the living kind and the non-loving kind. Having lived all my life thus far in the Southwest, I innately fell in love with the cactus family and other xerophytes native to my area. As a child growing up, my parents took it upon themselves to acquaint me with lots of outdoor activities and frequent visits to zoos and museums. No judgments upon anybody, but I count myself extremely lucky to have **not** grown up in the age of today's technology. I may have never acquired these interests.

Needless to say, I enjoy, with an immense passion, seeing and photographing our native cacti grow, flower and thrive in their natural habitats. My presentation will take you to two vastly different places that are near and dear to my heart. The first half takes us to a place that is about 40 miles slightly northeast from my home town of Las Cruces, NM, and across the Organ Mountains and White Sands Missile Range. In the immediate vicinity of Orogrande, NM (Otero County), is a small mountain range that lies in the northern portion of the Chihuahuan



*Echinocereus x roetteri*

Desert—the Jarilla Mountains (approximately 32.425078,-106.103225). Here you will see pictures of your typical Chihuahuan Desert scrub, with a very unique and naturally occurring hybrid between *Echinocereus coccineus* (red claret-cup cactus), *E. dasyacanthus* (Texas rainbow cactus) and *Echinocereus x roetteri* (Lloyd's hedgehog cactus).

The second half takes us along the “Devil’s Highway,” in southwestern Arizona, to a northwest-to-southeast-oriented chain of rugged batholithic granite situated within the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range in Yuma County. The Tinajas Altas Mountains are a relatively small range of desert mountains one can easily overlook while traveling to and from San Diego. Located within the Lower Sonoran vegetation life zone of the Sonoran Desert, the cacti here still thrive, but are not nearly as abundant as elsewhere. Other xerophytes, like *Bursera microphylla* (elephant tree or torote) and *Jatropha cuneata* (desert limberbush or sangrengado), grow to such impressive sizes as to dominate the landscape.



*Bursera microphylla*

Well, I hope I have interested you enough to show up to my presentation in September. Included below are some reference materials, if you wish to do a little research beforehand. See you in September!

References for the Jarilla Mountains:

[http://cactiguide.com/distribution\\_display/?state=New%20Mexico](http://cactiguide.com/distribution_display/?state=New%20Mexico)  
Accessed 8/30/2016. From Cactiguide.com, this is list of cacti from New Mexico with photos.

Dodson, Carolyn, and Robert DeWitt Ivey. 2012. *A Guide to Plants of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM.

Grieb, Harald. 2016. *Hybrid Cacti of Orogrande, NM*. In the *Xerophilia* October 2016 (Issue 18), pp. 41-66. Available online at <http://xerophilia.ro/>.

Konings, Gertrud and Ad Konings. 2009. *Cacti of Texas in Their Natural Habitat*. Cichlid Press, El Paso, TX.

Ohr, Martina and Andreas Ohr. 2009. *Das Farbspiel der Echinocereen von Orogrande (The Brilliant Echinocerei of Orogrande)*. Martina and Andreas Ohr, Germany. (German and English text)

Powell, A. Michael, and James F. Weedon. 2004. *Cacti of the Trans-Pecos and Adjacent Areas*. Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX.

References for the Tinajas Altas Mountains:

For a complete systematic treatise on the flora of the region, I suggest you consult with a series of open access papers (21 to date) by Richard Felger and Susan Rutman, *Ajo Peak to Tinajas Altas: Flora of Southwestern Arizona*, available at <http://cals.arizona.edu/herbarium/content/flora-sw-arizona>.

Breslin, Peter et al. 2010. *Field Guide to the Cacti and Other Succulents of Arizona*, second edition. Tucson and Cactus Succulent Society, Tucson.

Broyles, Bill et al. 2013. *Last Water on the Devil's Highway: A Cultural and Natural History of the Tinajas Altas*. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

- Members are encouraged to submit photos for use in the newsletter. Send photos, questions or comments to Editor Sue Hakala at [CACSScentralspine@gmail.com](mailto:CACSScentralspine@gmail.com).

Be sure to visit CACSS on the web at:  
[centralarizonacactus.org](http://centralarizonacactus.org) the Society's website.  
Facebook Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society  
CACSS Swap and Shop, a place to connect with members.

---

CACSS BUS TRIP TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: August 10-12 Photos and Text  
by Diana Rogers

---

Oh wow folks. I can't even tell you what going on this trip meant to me. It was a dream come true for this newbie, for sure. I discovered at the May meeting that there were still seats available for the LA trip so I literally ran to sign up, immediately. Hah! Then, I checked to see if I could take a day off work. It was an action-packed weekend and one I won't soon forget. There was just so much to see, and oh, the opportunities to buy at the show and nurseries. Also, a bucket-list visit to the Huntington Gardens. Plus, it was



*Parodia gigantea* from the Tri-City Show.

a fantastic opportunity to get to know fellow members, and learn from them as well. Whether on the bus, jam-packed action at the show and sale, perusing through the nurseries or, sharing a meal, I was surrounded by a wealth of desert gardening experience and knowledge. Like most, I came with a wish list and a budget, and came away with boxes of plants. I did get a few more plants than I planned, but I ended the weekend with a bunch of new friends too.

#### Friday

There were about 47 of us assembled in the DBG parking lot Friday morning at 6:30. Our well-organized, capable leaders Beth Kirkpatrick, Steve Martinez and bus driver were waiting. Loaded up,

we hit the road right on schedule at 7 a.m. About 7 hours and 2 stops later, we arrived at The Oak Tree Inn in Monrovia. After a brief break to check in, we were back on the bus around 4 p.m., and off to our first private nursery visit at Desert Creations in Northridge. What a selection! A beautiful nursery and gift shop, many kind, helpful staff, and a plethora of plants, priced affordably. Dinner was included: Italian subs (meatballs, veggie burgers or pastrami), chips, and all the fixings, then cookies and lots of fresh fruit for dessert.

#### Saturday

Some enjoyed the continental breakfast in the Oak Tree Inn lobby, while others found alternative choices within walking distance. About 8:30, we were back on the bus, off to the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden for the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale. The show opened at 9 a.m. to lots of eager shoppers. The sales area was wildly busy, crowded and filled with awesome plants. So much fun! I was glad I made my choices early on as the line to purchase was long, and got longer as the morning progressed.

What a well-organized event. I left my box of treasures in the designated holding area while I wandered the garden, and then the show. Absolutely an incredible display of show plants, and now of course, I wish I'd taken more pictures. We met up at the

vendor gate about 12:30 p.m., loaded plants in the cargo bay of the bus, and off we went to lunch and the next nursery. Half of us were dropped at California Cactus Nursery in Pasadena, while the other half went on to Tops for lunch. Then, about an hour later, we switched. Both were great choices with super Mexican food and a terrific selection of plants.

Next stop was the motel where we were given the choice of visiting the next nursery or opting out. Some of us did stay behind, while the rest went on to another private sale at California Specialties Cactus Ranch in Reseda. There was a huge selection of plants and all prices, I was told later. I opted to crash and chill in my room. Everyone was free to pursue dinner as they pleased, with various choices within walking distance, as well as Claim Jumper right next door.



*Beautiful cactus and succulent beds at the Huntington.*

### Sunday

A continental breakfast was served again in the lobby, and then we checked out before meeting up at the bus. There was time for boxing of plants in the bus cargo bay before we headed out around 8:45 a.m. for the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Library and Galleries in San Marino.

We had a couple hours free to wander as we pleased, and I think most of us headed straightaway for the Desert Garden. Talk about landing in heaven, the desert landscaping is truly a work of art. In fact, I was beyond impressed with the entire grounds. Truly a beautiful property, but there wasn't time to visit all the gardens, library or galleries before heading back to the visitor center. I made a stop for a quick bite and stroll through the Huntington store (hands-down the best museum gift shop ever). About 11:30, we met up again for our private sale, located in the greenhouses behind the Children's Center. Oh gee. I found a few more plants. Still plenty of room on the bus!

We were a hot, tired but contented group as we assembled for the final time about 2 p.m. for the drive back to Phoenix. We happily discovered that the greenhouse staff and our bus driver had all our new purchases boxed and loaded! All we had to do was climb on the bus and hit the road. Seven hours and 2 stops later, we pulled into the DBG parking lot about 9 p.m. Talk about service!

It was a fantastic trip and one I highly recommend if you haven't thought about going. I wasn't the only 'newbie' on board, nor was I the only traveling 'single' on the bus. Couples, friends, pals and partners were traveling together. We shared a mutual passion for cactus, succulents and desert gardening, in the best possible way imaginable.



*Steve Martinez captured the bus trip group enjoying socializing and a free dinner prepared by Desert Creations Nursery in Northridge, CA.*

---

## CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

---

Our club is an affiliate of the CSSA. They have developed a new website that will replace the old one. Visit them at: [cactusandsucculentsociety.org](http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org)

---

## ESSEX SUCCULENT REVIEW      FREE FREE FREE

---

This is a free quarterly on-line publication covering all aspects of cacti and succulents. Articles, photographs and layout are very professionally done. Go to the website and sign up for a free subscription. You'll be glad you did.

The latest issue has articles on:

- What I'm Interested in Today—the evolution of a collection
- *Adenia* with lots of habitat photos
- Czech Republic (leading growers)
- *Euphorbia*, and more

---

## ASK AN EXPERT

---

A member asks: My crested *Euphorbia* sunburns easily. Yet, in total shade it etiolates. What is the best light condition for my plant?

**Grant Meyer responds:** Well, I'm no expert but I DO have quite a few happy, thriving crested *Euphorbias* outside (and a couple inside too).

Outside they thrive with an eastern exposure, meaning on the east side of a wall/building, so they get sun from sunrise until noon, then shade afterwards.

Inside they get full sun and are plopped in or near south or west facing windows.

I also trim off any non-crested growth from the crested part so it doesn't overtake the slower growing crested part. And yes, I root them, hah!



*Above a grafted crested Euphorbia. Right a crested Euphorbia non-grafted.*



---

## MY FAVORITE TOOL

Photo and Text by Veronica Countryman

---



My favorite tool is my forceps. I bought them at the DBG gift shop quite a few years ago. They are very handy for plucking cactus fruit, whether I am going to harvest the seeds or have a taste. I use them to clean debris out from the spiny body of a cactus. I also use them after almost every hike or gardening session to pull spines and thorns out of my shoes before going into the house.

That little dark circular thingy is a metal bead I attached to it with wire and a crimp. I had a sneaky suspicion my husband would hijack them into the garage for his own purposes if I did not mark them as my own.

---

## DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN CLASSES

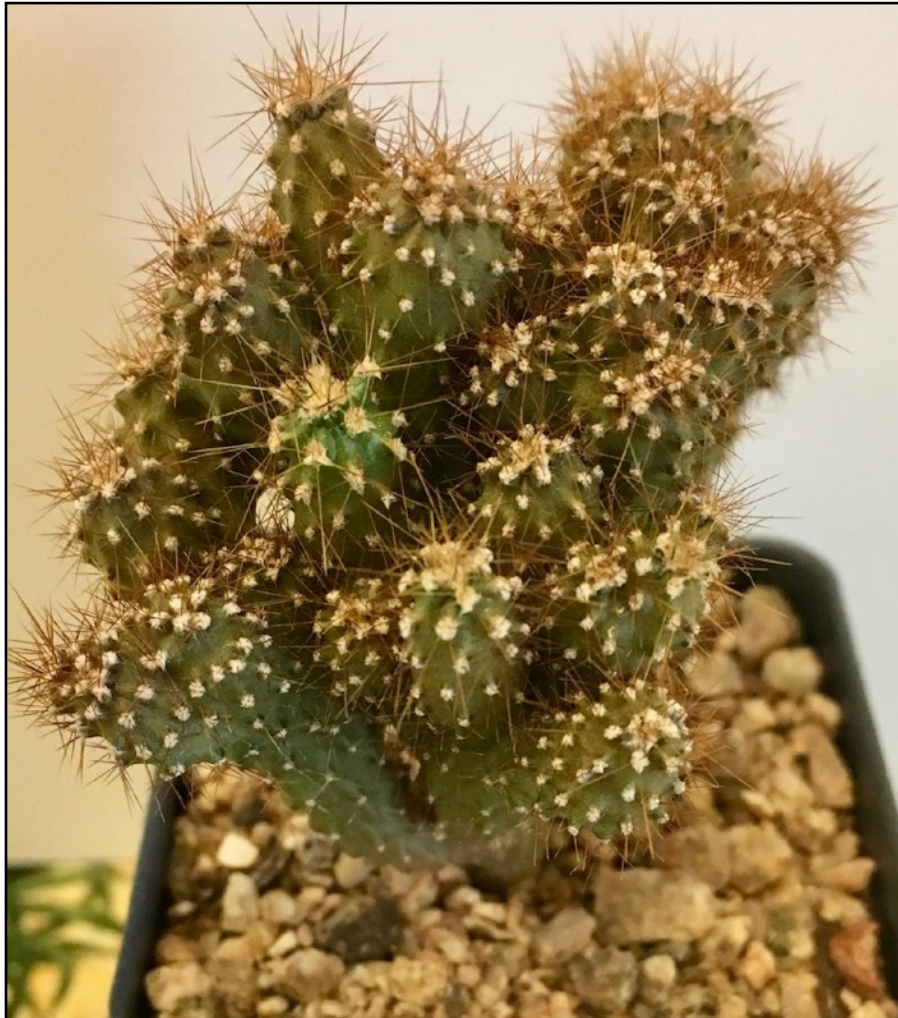
---

Check out the upcoming classes on cactus and succulent plants offered at the DBG in the coming months. Prices are for members/non-members. Register at [DBG.org](http://DBG.org).

- Small Cactus for Small Gardens, September 24, 6-8 p.m., \$30/38
- Cultivating Desert Roses: *Adenium*, October 13, 2-4 p.m., \$30/38
- Growing Cactus from Seed, October 30, 6-8 p.m., \$30/38
- Container Gardening: Succulents, November 14, noon-2 p.m., \$35/44
- Bromeliads: *Dyckia* and *Hechtia*, November 15, 10 a.m.-noon, \$35/44
- Succulent Tree, December 1, 10 a.m.-noon, \$70/88

Best Seedling of the 2018 Show: *Cereus peruvianus f. monstrose*  
Grown by Ken Luiten

PURCHASED: Seeds were collected from a plant in Fountain Hills and sown  
November 2015.



POT: The seedlings  
grow in a plastic  
nursery cup.

FERTILIZER: N/A

POTTING MEDIUM:  
It's a mostly inorganic  
mix of approximately  
40% desert loam,  
40% sand and 20%  
potting soil.

SUN EXPOSURE:  
Initial germination  
was under LED  
lighting and later  
transferred to full sun  
under 40% shade  
cloth.

WATERING: The  
seedlings get one  
good soaking per  
week in the spring  
through fall months,  
then a once per  
month watering in the  
winter months.

FROST PROTECTION: As a seedling, frost protection is required. As a mature plant,  
frost protection is recommended to protect growing tips.

SPECIAL NEEDS: *Cereus* are fast, reliable growers and recommended for those new  
to growing cactus from seed. Once mature and established, they are a hardy plant that  
can take full sun and are very forgiving with over and under watering.

Best *Aizoaceae* of the 2018 Show: *Lithops hookeri*  
Grown by Cliff Fielding

PURCHASED: Grown from seed in 1999.

POT: It's grown in a beautiful Mike Cone pot.



FERTILIZER: I use half strength fertilizer when I water.

POTTING MEDIUM: It grows in a well-draining mixture of sand, pumice and a little desert dirt.

SUN EXPOSURE: Full sun mid-November to mid-February with 30% shade cloth the rest of the year. They get no late afternoon sun.

WATERING: No water over 110F degrees. Very

little water when new leaves appear until old leaves are absorbed. It gets regular weekly watering when old leaves have wilted and until new leaves have filled out, and in the fall when nights drop below 80 degrees until flowering. They love the summer and winter rains unless it causes the plant to be too fat which can lead to bursting.

FROST PROTECTION: They can take down to 25F degrees or lower with frost cloth.

Best Cactus of the 2018 Show: *Tephrocactus bonnieae*  
Grown by Sue Hakala

**PURCHASED:** This plant was on my wish list for years. When I saw it for sale, it was just a few heads for \$180—too much for me! Leo Martin came to my aid and gave me three heads in 2011.



**POT:** It's grown in a clay pot as it has many tubers the size of a thumb that fill the pot and it needs to drain and dry out fast or it will rot.

**FERTILIZER:** I use the fertilizer sold by the club just a few times, at half strength, in the early spring.

**POTTING MEDIUM:** It's in 1/3 cactus mix, 1/3 pumice and 1/3 perlite.

**SUN EXPOSURE:** It grows under 30% shade cloth.

**WATERING:** It's watered every 7-10

days in spring through the end of summer. It's not watered when it's really hot and humid, or in the winter.

**FROST PROTECTION:** It's kept in my heated plant house at night. On a very cold night, it comes in, just because.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** The thrashers peck the heads. I use bunched up bird netting secured around it. If only one layer is used, they stand on it and peck away.

---

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN'S ELEPHANT FOOD WINS AWARD    Photos  
and Text by Tom Gatz

---

Elephant food (*Portulacaria afra*) is the Rodney Dangerfield of the succulent world. It gets no respect. Succulent hobbyists and horticulturists often look down their noses at the humble elephant food because it is so common and effortless to grow. So, it was nice to see this species get some recognition for a change.



*Perhaps the whimsical miniature elephants browsing on the elephant food influenced the vote just a bit.*

The large bonsai elephant food, normally displayed at the entrance to the DBG's Center for Desert Living (CDL) from spring to fall, was given the People's Choice Super Succulent trophy at the bi-annual Sonoran XII Conference in Tucson this past May. This conference is sponsored by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Over 100 plants were entered in the show, but only two awards were given: People's Choice trophies for best cactus and for best succulent.

The CDL bonsai elephant food has an interesting history at the Garden. Originally, it was planted in the ground on the north side of the old volunteer break area under the big ironwood tree. It was over four feet tall and wide. However, the hard frost of 2007 knocked it back to a mere stump.

The Wednesday horticultural aides nursed it back to health that spring and noticed it was acquiring a distinctive 'bonsai' style. Encouraging that form with judicious pinching, pruning and some temporary wiring, it began to take on an interesting twisted form. That fall it was dug up and protected in the old *Agave* greenhouse. The next spring, it was potted up and has been displayed in the Garden ever since; complete with its signature miniature tire swing.

Elephant food is native to southern Africa but does well here (if protected from hard frosts), and complements the DBG African *Aloe* beds by providing a darker green border for the lighter green *Aloes*. The prostrate form works much better as a ground

cover and requires a lot less pruning to stay tidy than the upright form (just ask the hort aides).

Care: *Portulacaria afra* needs full sun until about 1 p.m. in the summer, and appreciates filtered shade through the rest of the day. Give it full sun all winter. The leaves wrinkle when dry, so provide a regular watering schedule: twice a week in the hot months, monthly in the cool months. Easy to propagate, just break off a stem, allow to dry for a few days and stick in some dirt.



*This pale blue-gray Aloe dhufarensis really 'pops' when showcased in a bright green bed of elephant food at the DBG.*

---

## ASK AN EXPERT

---

A member asks: How do I avoid and treat mealybugs?

**Sue Hakala responds:** The allure of succulent juices brings mealy bugs from miles around for a feast on plants. They especially love the junctures of the stems and roots, hiding in the tiny creases and crevices. Inserting their mouthpiece, they suck out the luxuriant juices. And the plant's life.

### START AT THE BEGINNING

When buying a new plant, pull the soil away from the base of the plant checking for white sticky mealybug presence (the bugs themselves are too tiny to see). If they're there, purchase another plant. It's not worth infecting your collection or entering a long battle to rid your plants of them.

When I bring any plant home, it goes into isolation for at least a week while I search for bugs or anything else. Every plant is treated with an insect killer. Then the plant gets a week to rest in isolation before I think about repotting. I've learned to repot every plant that comes into the collection in fresh soil. It avoids problems.

After experiencing what I call *The Great Death*—when years ago mealybugs destroyed 35 species of *Asclepiads* and others—I've learned how to avoid them. It seems mealybugs don't like a lot of air circulation.

For well over 35 years, this is how I plant every plant I own and the mealies have never returned:

1. Fill the pot with a thick layer of 1/4" gravel to a depth of about 1" more or less, depending on how big the pot is—bigger the pot the deeper the layer. Many people like using a piece of window screen at the bottom of a big pot to keep soil in. Use the screen if you must but cover it with the layer of rock. Air is kept circulating in the pot.
2. I plant in my potting mix of 1/2 cactus soil and 1/2 pumice (or some variations depending on the plant).
3. Don't let the soil touch the bottom of the plant in any way by using a good 1/2" of top dressing. THIS IS CRUCIAL. This is so the air circulates freely, denying mealybugs (and others) a cozy home.
4. For *Asclepiads*, do NOT put the roots in the soil. Allow more room at the top of the pot to spread the roots over at least a 1/2" of top dressing. Then finish with step 3. Don't allow the plant to come anywhere near the soil. The waxy roots will grow down into the soil very quickly.

Guess what? No mealybugs in any species of plant that I grow. None at all.

#### IF YOU HAVE MEALYBUGS NOW

Mealybugs gather to feast and reproduce. When discovered, immediately put your plant in isolation. The plants near the one you discovered the mealybugs on are probably infected too. Mealybugs love to deposit eggs far and wide. Change the soil and throw it away, not in a compost heap—remember the eggs.



*Stapelia kewbensis* living happily without mealybugs.

I've found the first line of defense is diligence. Check weekly for withered plants, spying carefully below the soil level for the white sticky substance that indicates their presence. Once discovered, get out the alcohol. Dip a Q-tip in some alcohol and dab each one you find. It's instant death by burning. *Hasta luego*, baby! In hard to reach places, alcohol in a sprayer does the trick. Spray roots too.

Some gardeners prefer a blast of water, especially when a block party is found under plant leaves and along stems. But remember, the spray knocks off the old and feeble, leaving the macho males and Amazonian females who then produce super-tough kids.

When I've felt outnumbered and overpowered, I continue the battle with poison. Products that contain acephate (O2s-dimethyl)

acetylphosphoramidothioate as the main ingredient is the only thing I've found that works on mealybugs. Know that some species of mealybugs do not respond to insecticidal systemics. Experiment as some plants may not like the treatment.

If you have them now, kill the mealybugs, change your soil, sterilize the pot and start over.

Really, why use insecticides when planting so air circulates keeps them and others away?



---

## DONATION FOR AUCTION AND SILENT AUCTION

Photos and Text by Beth Kirkpatrick

---

We have received a very generous donation of about 200 ceramic pots, of which 50 are extra large, and 130 cactus and succulent plants in ceramic pots. Included is a collection of beautiful mature *Hoyas*. We will sell these at our Mega Auction and Silent Auction on October 28, in Dorrance Hall, at the DBG.

Because of the large number of plants and pots, we will also be bringing some to our September 30 meeting for the silent auction. We are very thankful for our donor, Ann DeWig, and to the volunteers who moved these plants for us. A big thank you to Steve Martinez who is storing the plants in his greenhouse until the auctions.



Many thanks to our volunteers who worked diligently in the hot weather moving many very large plants and pots.

JoAnne D'Alessio	Chris Ginkel
Celeste Gornick	Steve Martinez
Diane Chidlaw	Eric and Heather Holst
Nick Diomede	John and Karen Manak
Mary Dokes	Chuck and Jeanne Ann Brush
Russ Faust	



*Above, many large plants in pots for the auctions. Left, volunteers loading the Holst's trailer.*

The newly formed ED Group has met several times over the summer. Members include: Nick Diomede, Ken Luiten, Rita Gosnell, Sue Hakala, Chris Willis, Jo Davis, and Gard Roper. Initially, the group brainstormed ideas that would help us better educate CACSS members at all levels of experience. Several ideas were identified as ones to pursue at this time.

**Plant of the Month (POM)** Every month, if possible, in conjunction with the program, a genus will be identified to be POM. Educational materials will be provided with a picture representing the genus, like *Euphorbia*, and horticultural information on how to grow it here in the low desert. Everyone will get a handout. Plants representing the genus will be brought to the meeting and discussed. If possible, an article will be in the newsletter. Coordination with PEG (propagation education group) will happen when possible.

A **Meet and Greet** for new members will be held two times a year at an experienced grower's garden. New members can connect with others, ask questions, receive handouts about club resources, and see how others are growing plants in the low desert.

**Greeters** at the door at monthly meetings will be expanded to welcome newcomers and to educate everyone about what is going on: silent auction, plants for sale, free plants, library, program, etc.

A **bookmark** is being designed with a picture of a central Arizona native plant on one side, and basic horticultural information on the reverse, as well as information about the society. Members are asked to submit pictures for consideration by **September 15** to [cacsscentralspine@gmail.com](mailto:cacsscentralspine@gmail.com). Consider the bookmark format when choosing photos and please identify your plant photo(s). The ED Group will make the selection of the photo. Everyone will get a bookmark.

A new four-color **brochure** will be drafted for input from the Ed Group and the Board. The brochure is to educate the public about the CACSS, how to join, and resources available to members. Members will be invited to submit photos for consideration for inclusion in the brochure.

The ED Group is always looking for new members. Join us at our next meeting, September 22, 9 a.m., in Farrington Conference Center at the Desert Botanical Garden. Admission is free to those attending. Any questions? Send them to [cacsscentralspine@gmail.com](mailto:cacsscentralspine@gmail.com). Our mantra is: If everyone does a small job, then no one is overwhelmed.

Our Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS) Facebook (FB) page is an open and inclusive forum on cacti and succulents (C&S). Our FB members post many C&S photos, questions, and commentaries, along with requests for C&S IDs. Our FB page membership rose to a total of 4,065 members in August. Please join the CACSS FB page by copying and pasting this url to your search engine: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cacss2/>

Each month we feature a cactus and a succulent (non-cactus) photo posted by our FB members. September's featured cactus photo is Nancy Popp Mumpton's post of *Echinopsis*, 'For Norma', in bloom (left below). The featured succulent photo is Wendy Barrett's post of *Gasteria* sp. blooms visited by a pollinator (below right). Thanks to Wendy and Nancy for posting their photos on the CACSS FB page. Facebookers keep posting! Please be aware, if you are a member of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, you are eligible to become a member of the CACSS Swap & Shop. You will get great deals on C&S, pottery and trades. Join today!



A way to welcome new members (those who have joined in the last year) to the club on a personal basis is being organized this fall. We will be offering an open garden tour at established members' homes during the fall and spring. Sue and Terry Hakala have offered to host the first tour this November. An announcement will be made at the prior month's meeting, in the newsletter and via email, inviting new members to participate by an RSVP to the host, no later than one week ahead of the date. It will be first-come, first-served.

Rita Gosnell will coordinate the host offers and announcements. Please contact Rita if you wish to open your garden for a tour. Hosts should expect to receive a limited number of guests 8-10 in order to offer a warm welcome, answer questions and give an insight to the educational opportunities of the club. Handouts will be provided to attendees.

This month's regularly-scheduled PEG meeting on September 15 is canceled. Instead, several PEG members will be working at a member's yard selecting plants for an upcoming PEG propagation project.

The next PEG meeting will be on November 17, 9-1 a.m. in the Webster Building at the DBG. Topic to be announced.

---

Material in the *Central Spine* may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society and the author, and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material is sent to the editor at [cacsscentralspine@gmail.com](mailto:cacsscentralspine@gmail.com). Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

---

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.

---

## SPECIALISTS TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS

---

**Wendy Barrett** wbarrett@cox.net  
**Nancy Mumpton**  
nancy.mumpton@gmail.com  
*Co-librarians for CACSS collection*

**Nicky Davis**  
nicky.davis4@gmail.com  
*Manages the Seed Depot.*

**Tristan Davis** 480-540-9540  
minime8484@hotmail.com  
*Specializations include plant propagation, and heading PEG (Propagation Education Group).*

**Doug Dawson** 480-893-1207  
dawsonlithops@hotmail.com  
*Specializations include growing from seed, flora of Namibia, Lithops, other Mesembs, Melocactus, and miniature cacti and succulents of Arizona.*

**Mike Gallagher** 602-942-8580  
mgallagher26@cox.net  
*Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, columnar cacti, and Turbinicarpus.*

**Chris Ginkel** 602-908-2664  
chrisginkel@gmail.com  
*Manages the Facebook CACSS Swap and Shop page. Co-manages the Facebook page.*

**Eric Holst** 480-786-2010  
heats@cox.net  
*Manages the fertilizer program.*

**Dean Patrick** 480-759-0312  
desertpatrick@cox.net  
*Specializations in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting, rooting cacti, Agave and Aloe.*

**Steve Plath** 623-238-3342  
sbotanica@inreach.com  
*Specializations include general propagation and desert revegetation, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, and Thelocactus.*

**Gard Roper** 602-996-9745  
*Manages the pumice pile.*

**Dan Smith** 480-981-9648  
smithdans@outlet.com  
*Specializes in Adenium, raising Adeniums from seed, grafting and Adenium culture in general, and co-manages the Facebook page.*

**Bob Torrest** 480-994-3868  
robertst9114@msn.com  
*Specializations include desert landscaping, unusual (including rare fruit) trees and shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, and columnar cacti.*

**Sue Tyrrel** 480-797-8952 or  
[styrrel@cox.net](mailto:styrrel@cox.net)  
*Manages selling at meetings.*

**Thom Young** 480-460-0782  
te77@q.com  
*Co-manages the CACSS Facebook page.*

---

## CSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

**Officers 2018** President: **Jim Oravetz** 602-284-9854 robertst9114@msn.com | Vice President: **Judy Tolbert** 602-421-5290 tolbertjl10@gmail.com | Secretary: **Heather Holst** 480.786.2010 heats@cox.net | Treasurer: **Nick Diomede** 602.772.8282 nich.diomede@gmail.com

**Directors 2018** **Cindy Capek** 623.979.9389 cindycapek48@gmail.com | **Jo Davis** 480.839.3792 | **Edmund Hunt** 847.514.0812 e-hunt@neiu.edu | **Carol Parrott** 602.438.4003 caparrott21@hotmail.com | **Dan Smith** 480.981.9648 smithdans@outlook.com

**Directors 2019** **Pam Edsall** 623-810-2550 cygnetti@yahoo.com | **Russ Faust** 480-588-6613 faust224@hotmail.com | **Mike Gallagher** 602-942-8580 mgallagher26@cox.net | **Beth Kirkpatrick** 480-275-4833 bethalia@gmail.com | **Ken Luiten** luit6987@gmail.com

---

## CACSS PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2018

---

**Archivist/Historian:** Lois Schneberger

**Audit Committee:** Mike Gallagher

**CSSA Representative:** Mike Gallagher

**Donations:** Jim Oravetz

**Facebook Coordinators:** Dan Smith, Thom Young, Chris Ginkel

**Fertilizer Sales:** Eric Holst

**Holiday Party 2017:** Sue Glenn

**Librarians:** Wendy Barrett, Nancy Mumpton

**Mailed Newsletters:** Sue Tyrrel

**Keeping in Touch with Members:** Jo Davis

**Membership:** Beth Kirkpatrick

**Newsletter:** Sue Hakala

**October Auction:** Mike Gallagher

**Plant Rescues:** Lucy Rand

**Private Plant Sales:** Sue Tyrrel

**Programs and Room Setup:** Gard Roper, Wayne Kramer

**Propagation Education Group (PEG):** Tristan Davis

**Pumice Sales:** Gard Roper

**Refreshments:** Tara Richards

**Research Grants:** Tristan Davis

**Show and Sale 2018:** Jo Davis and Dan Smith

**Website:** Beth Kirkpatrick