

# **Central Spine**

# *June 2013 Newsletter of the Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society*

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America On the Web at www.centralarizonacactus.org

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.

June Meeting: Sunday, June 30 2 p.m. Dorrance Hall Presenters: Bob Webb and Toni Yocum See photos and information below **Desert Landscaping Tips** by Tom Gatz **40<sup>th</sup> Year CACSS Anniversary** Remembrance from Dana Hiser

Arizona Native Plants Exhibit--April 2013 Show and Sale List of Plants Exhibited Recent Bloomers from the Desert Botanical Garden Collection Photos by Scott McMahon

# Travels in Africa and Arabia IX: Euphorbias and Monadeniums Bob Webb and Toni Yocum, Arid Lands Greenhouses, Tucson, AZ



*Euphorbia* atrispina

Photo by Bob Webb

The genus *Euphorbia* contains about 2000 species worldwide, with 500 of these being succulent plants. Monadeniums, which some consider now to be part of the genus *Euphorbia*, are another 73 species, many of which are geophytes. *Euphorbias* have a general reputation among collectors for being spiny and dangerous, and many avoid them for those reasons; but while there is some truth to those problems, two attributes make this genus more desirable in the warmer parts of Arizona. Many species, particularly those from South Africa and Namibia, are spineless and frost-hardy in typical Tucson winters; some withstood the extreme freezes of 2011 and 2013. Many are adapted to hot, dry climates and are especially suited to the conditions of the Arizona monsoon.

Bob Webb and Toni Yocum are the owners of Arid Lands Greenhouses in Tucson, which was established in 1978 and is world famous for its collection and cultivation of *Euphorbias* and monadeniums. In addition to being nursery owners since 2006, Bob and Toni have traveled extensively in Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and Baja California looking for succulent plants, including euphorbias and monadeniums. They have expanded the world-class collection of euphorbias in particular and have become quite proficient in their propagation and cultivation.

This presentation will offer a survey of these two genera, showing the wide range in form and habitat. Euphorbias range in size from tiny geophytes to extremely large trees, and these forms vary across Africa. Highly desirable spineless forms occur in Africa and Mexico, and these range from Medusoids to shrubs. Monadeniums are spectacular in cultivation and, although some are intermediate-sized trees in habitat, most are small plants well suited for container cultivation.



# July Central Spine Deadline: July 17, 2013

# 2013 CACSS Officers

President:

Vice-President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Wayne Whipple 480-460-3623 w7676@msn.com Gard Roper 602-996-9745 Lois Schneberger 480-946-8373 Ischneberger@cox.net Tom Rankin 602-904-2734 tomrankin@cox.net

# **Board of Directors**

## Serving through December, 2013

| Cindy Capek    | 623-979-9389            |
|----------------|-------------------------|
|                | ronluccap@gmail.com     |
| Sue Tyrrel     | 480-797-952             |
|                | styrrel@cox.net         |
| Joseph Miracle | 480-345-6644            |
|                | demiracle@cox.net       |
| Nancy Mumpton  | 480-649-1558            |
|                | nancy.mumpton@gmail.com |
| Joe Barnes     | 480-883-1651            |
|                | barnesinaz@gmail.com    |
|                |                         |

## Serving through December 2014

| Wendy Barrett    | 602-971-5345                     |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jo Davis         | wbarrett@cox.net<br>480-839-3792 |
| Doug Dawson      | 480-893-1207                     |
|                  | dawsonlithops@hotmail.com        |
| Beth Kirkpatrick | 480-275-4833                     |
|                  | 2kirks@cox.net                   |
| Mike Gallagher   | 602-942-8580                     |
|                  | mgallagher26@cox.net             |
| Steve Martinez   | 602-688-4339                     |
|                  | altrigo2@cox.net                 |
| Dan Smith        | 480-981-9648                     |

#### 

smithdans@cox.net

# CACSS Program and Committee Leaders

Archivist/Historian Lois Schneberger CSSA Affiliate Representative Sue Hakala Facebook Coordinator Nick Diomede Finances-Accounting Tom Rankin, Ingrid Swenson Holiday Party - December 2013 Wendy Barrett Paul Schueneman, Marty Shahan Librarv Membership Beth Kirkpatrick Members-Keeping-In-Touch Jo Davis Mailed Newsletter Subscriptions Sue Tyrrel Newsletter Diana Decker Nominations for Board Officers, Directors --Mike Gallagher, Dan Smith, Jackie Vasquez October Silent Auction Jo Davis Plant Rescues **Open Position** Private Plant Sales at General Meetings- Sue Tyrrel Programs (Speakers, Workshops, Open Gardens, Special Interest Groups) --Gard Roper, Doug Dawson, Joe Miracle Refreshments Cindy Capek Show & Sale - 2013 Sue Tyrrel Website Beth Kirkpatrick, Leo Martin

Telephone numbers, emails, and addresses can be found in the CACSS Member List emailed periodically to members by Beth Kirkpatrick.

# 

### 2013 Meeting Schedule

July: Sunday, July 28, 2 p.m. Dorrance Hall Presenter: To Be Announced August: Sunday August 25, 2 pm Dorrance Hall

## 

This month we are saying good-bye to two of our most active and dedicated members both of which served on our Board of Directors. Debra Life, a board member until last year, has moved to South Carolina where she will be united with family. By the end of June, Joe Miracle, a current director, will have moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. We will sincerely miss both and wish them much happiness in their new journeys. We will all remember their beautiful gardens, which they opened up for us to visit last March. Thank you, Debra and Joe, for being such supportive members.

Congratulations to all the trophy winners who received their awards earlier this month at a presentation emceed by Scott McMahon. The trophies were presented to the outstanding plants in many categories that were exhibited at our recent Show & Sale.

The Show & Sale is the highlight of the year for many of our Society Members. Success requires the dedication of many members – last April the Show & Sale relied on nearly 70 volunteers. All of us look forward to this major event for the Society. But in order to continue with the Show & Sale, we need someone to be the General Chair and then we need another group of members to chair the subcommittees. Sue Tyrrel was our hardworking leader for the most recent Show & Sale, and we need another society member to step up to the plate in order to experience the fun.

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in being the General Chair for the Show & Sale, please contact me. The earlier the better as preparing for the 2014 Show & Sale will take a fair amount of time. You can never be too early in getting started with this big event.

#### 

#### 

Please bring boxes with you to the meetings so you can carry your new plants home more easily. Jo Davis

#### 

#### Please Wear Your Name Tag at Monthly Meetings

Board Member Jo Davis asks members to wear their name tags at monthly meetings and other club events. Members then can more easily spot guests and talk with them about the guest's interests and CACSS. If you need a lanyard to hang the name tag around your neck, see Jo at the meetings.

# Raffle Winners for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CACSS at the May General meeting, June 2, 2013

#### Member's name

Katherine Hanna MaryAnn Garewal Janet Hazlett, Tristan Davis Eric Holter

#### Name of plant chosen

*Trichocereus* hybrid *Agave* parrasana *Totem* veriegata *Ferocactus* emoryi *Trichocereus* hybrid

## Contact the *Central Spine* Editor

#### **Diana Decker**

dianadec@cox.net (602) 220-9825 for article and photo submissions for the *Central Spine*.

When you send emails with photos of members to the Central Spine editor, please include the members' first and last names.

# **Special Thanks to Ray Daley**

Ray, a former member of CACSS, brought in plants for the May General Meeting's Silent Auction.

## Welcome To New Members

Bev Burns Phil and Janie Johnson \*\*\*\*

Apologies to three new members whose last names were misspelled in the May *Central Spine:* Robert and Cherie Boulton (not Bolton) Shawn R. Pahl (not Paul)

> Membership Chair: Beth Kirkpatrick

# DESERT LANDSCAPING TIPS

#### **Compiled by Tom Gatz**

Reprinted and revised from an earlier issue of The Central Spine

(Tom included this information in his presentation at the May general meeting on 6-2-13. The article is a good review for those who attended the meeting and good information for those who did not.)

If you are wondering where you are going to place all those plants you purchased at the last DBG plant sale or club bus trip, or just have a corner of your yard that you would like to make over into a more appealing landscape, here are some tips I have gleaned from the experts over the past 20 years. Many of these ideas are from landscaping lectures and classes I have taken from the Desert Botanical Garden's excellent 5

horticultural staff and during workshops offered by Master Gardeners and the City of Phoenix. I have also picked up many of these tips from Judy Mielke, Carol Schuler, Carrie Nimmer, Ron Dinschak, and Kent Newland.

• Add elevational relief and improve drainage with low, gently sloping mounds.

• Use one large year-round focal point (a large columnar cactus, for example) or a few seasonal focal points (large shrubs that flower at different times of the year).

• For a more natural and aesthetically pleasing look, repeat two or three primary accent species of shrubs and cacti instead of the cluttered look of a collector's garden with one of each species (my biggest challenge!).

• Similarly, use several individuals of the same species or genus of tree.

• Mimic nature by clustering groups of the same species and boulders together, using uneven numbers (3, 5, 7) of each.

• Irregularly space clusters and individuals, leaving some open areas and meandering paths between planting islands.

• Bury your boulders about 1/3 deep to eliminate the "just fell off truck" look (or select flat-bottomed boulders to reduce cost and weight and only bury them a few inches).

• Use plants with contrasting shades and shapes (examples: plant low gray foliage plants in front of taller, green foliage plants).

• Add movement to your landscape with native bunch grass accents.

• Soften the cacti, agaves and rocks by interplanting with leafy desert shrubs. For example, try a prickly pear and a native fairy duster together.

• Add architectural exclamation points by using specimen plants in large pots, especially in transition areas near patio, entryways and walkways Again, cluster them.

• Use one or two species of low shrub or perennial to knit the entire landscape together (such as bursage, desert marigold, or creosote).

• Use gravel, rock mulch and boulders of the same color for a natural look.

• To combine higher water shrubs with low-water succulents, place the plants that need less water and better drainage higher on a raised area and the leafy plants at the base of the raised area where the water will collect. The elevational relief will also allow the higher succulents to make more of a statement.

### ALSO CONSIDER:

• Planting species like cholla and native bunch grasses where the sun will backlight them.

• Replicating natural associations like cacti/nurse-tree growing together.

• Think of flowers as a seasonal bonus instead of a year-round focus and depend instead on variations in shades of green and plant textures to provide year-round visual interest.

• A nice 3-way combination is the boulder/succulent/perennial combo. The perennial (penstemon, desert marigold, etc.) softens the boulder and provides seasonal color, while the succulent (cacti, agave or aloe) provides year-round visual interest with the boulder as a backdrop.

6



A corner of my garden with the sculptural forms of agaves, *Mammillaria* and prickly pear cactus of contrasting shapes, shades and sizes, softened seasonally with wildflowers and year-round with *Euphorbia* rigida (*E.* biglandulosa). Photo by Tom Gatz

#### HARDSCAPE CONSIDERATIONS

• Walls, fences, walkways and seating areas provide a touch of civilization to a natural landscape and can complement or set off the plants.

• Pull from the architecture of the house for your hardscape (brick, tile, adobe, wood).

• Stone walls or rock veneer over cinder blocks look great with desert plants. Wedge old stockings filled with dirt to create planting pockets between rocks in the wall.

- 18" walls are the best height for seating.
- Add color by painting or staining boring, cinder-block walls. Be brave!
- Use old and/or interesting gates to add character.
- •Use vine-covered arbors between areas of the garden to give the illusion of separate garden rooms.

Summer is a good time for planning and noting sun/shade patterns, while fall is the perfect time to establish new plantings in the low desert. Have fun!

# 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of CACSS

## **Remembrance from Dana Hiser:**

Long ago, when I joined the DBG in the '80s, volunteering in the Plant Shop was easy. My mentors were Mary Irish and Frank Hennessey and these two talked all the time in their own language (Latin). All I had to do was try to hang on to everything they said, in the words that I could understand.

Mary made no apologies. Plant nicknames were bad. Frank was stuck with me for longer periods of time, since we had to work together. So, in the end, he had to spend more time explaining all of the plants that I wanted to like. He often tried to talk me into joining CACSS, but I was always too "busy," until a road trip organized by the Elliotts (of course) materialized on the horizon. I joined the society in the spring of 1994.

My first trip was the Huntington show & sale, which also included the gardens and galleries along with the Lincoln exhibition, all in one day. I lived on fig cookies the whole day, no time for sitting down! In those days, we were still flying, and Electra and Jim Elliot were pros at checking empty suitcases. Over the years, I have learned a lot about packing.



Dana Hiser

Wendy Barrett is collecting memories, recollections or stories that will be shared with the membership as part of our upcoming 40th Anniversary celebration. If you have something you would like to share, please send it to Wendy Barrett at wbarrett@cox.net. If you know the year you joined CACSS, please include that as well. If you have questions, email Wendy or call 602-971-5345.



# Arizona Native Cacti and Succulents Exhibit at the April 2013 Show & Sale



Photo by John Crummey

Often visitors to Arizona purchase a cactus dish garden at a gift shop. What they don't realize is that the dish garden seldom has a single Arizona cactus at all! The plants in those containers are usually from Mexico and South America.

Many people are only aware of the "giants" that grow here, such as the stately saguaro, barrels, and ocotillo. Arizona has many more species than those. Here is a list of plants brought in by members.

| <b>Member</b><br>Phil Ruttenbur: | <b>Plant Name</b><br><i>Stenocereus</i> thurberii |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Gard Roper:                      | A <i>gave</i> parryi                              |
| Wayne Whipple:                   | <i>Ferocactus</i> emoryi                          |
| Julie Plath:                     | <i>Graptopetalum</i> rusbyi                       |

| Steve Mack:     | Saguaro<br><i>Cylindropuntia l</i> eptocaulis<br><i>Opuntia</i> basilaris<br><i>Peniocereus</i> greggii<br><i>Echinocereus</i> rigidissimus<br><i>Echinocereus</i> engelmannii<br><i>Echinocereus</i> boyce-thompson<br><i>Ocotillo</i><br><i>Ferocactus</i> wislizini<br><i>Opuntia</i> macrocentra<br><i>Senita</i><br><i>Yucca</i> brevifolia<br><i>Mammillaria</i> grahamii |
|-----------------|---|
| Mike Gallegher: | <i>Cylindropuntia</i> acanthacarpa<br><i>Agave</i> toum. bella<br><i>Cylindropuntia</i> arbuscula   |
| Dick Carter:    | <i>Jatropha</i> cinerea   |
| Doug Dawson:    | Agave deserti simplex<br>Dudleya saxosa col.<br>Duleya saxosa col. green form<br>Dudleya pulverulenta arizonica<br>Epithelantha micromeris<br>Mammillaria heyderi macdoug.<br>Mammillaria heyderi bullingtoniana<br>Mammillaria tetrancistra<br>Escobaria vivipera<br>Sedum griffithsii<br>Opuntia engelmannii  |
| Tom Steuber:    | <i>Agave</i> parviflora<br><i>Coryphanta</i> missouriensis<br><i>Coryphanta</i> robustispina<br><i>Echinomastus</i> acunensis<br><i>Escobaria</i> robbinsorum<br><i>Pediocactus</i> peeblestanus<br><i>Bursera</i> microphylla<br><i>Echinocactus</i> horizonthalonius<br><i>Corphantha</i> alversonii<br><i>Coryphantha.</i> recurvata<br><i>Echinocereus</i> triglochidiatus. |

# Recent Bloomers from the Desert Botanical Garden collection Photos by Scott McMahon



Mammillaria baumii



Echinocereus websterianus



Hylocereus purpusii



Harrisia pomanensis



Maihueniopsis colorea

## PLANT QUESTIONS??? WHOM TO CONTACT!!!

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list. Call or email Diana Decker, *Central Spine* editor. Find contact information on p. 2

For now, the list is simply alphabetical with principal interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

#### **DOUG DAWSON**

480-893-1207 dawsonlithops@hotmail.com Specializations include Growing from Seed, Flora of Namibia, *Lithops,* other *Mesembs, Melocactus*, Miniature Cacti and Succulents of Arizona.

#### **MIKE GALLAGHER**

602-942-8580 mgallagher26@cox.net Specializations include *Aloes, Haworthias*, Columnar Cacti, and *Turbinicarpus*.

#### **DEAN PATRICK**

480-759-0312 desertpatrick@cox.net Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, agave and aloe).

#### **STEVE PLATH**

623-915-7615 revegdude1@juno.com Specializations include General Propagation and Desert Revegetation, *Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus.* 

#### DAN SMITH

480.981.9648 smithdans@cox.net Specializes in adeniums. raising *adeniums* from seed, grafting and *adenium* culture in general

#### **BOB TORREST**

480-994-3868 robertst9114@msn.com Specializations include desert landscaping, unusual (including rare fruit) Trees and Shrubs, *Aloes, Agaves*, Columnar Cacti, *Trichocereus*, and *Opuntia*. CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PO BOX 63572 PHOENIX, AZ 85082-3572 WWW.CENTRALARIZONACACTUS.ORG