



CENTRAL SPINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

FEBRUARY 2016



In this beautiful burst of spring photo, *Sarcocaulon crassicaule* is in spectacular bloom amid purple wildflowers. Taken by Doug Dawson at the Northern Cape of South Africa.

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Welcome new members who joined in January

Russell Faust | Leslie Nelson | Iris Philbin

CACSS Facebook

The CACSS Facebook page is an active and growing site with over 715 members from around the world. The CACSS Facebook page is a great forum for sharing photos, and giving and receiving information on cactus and succulents. Here are a few photos submitted by our CACSS members on the Facebook page: *Aloe dichotoma* by Victor Peterson; *Stapelia* in bloom by Lauren Marks.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I enjoyed our January speaker, Raul Puente Martinez, Curator of Living Collections at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG). He shared his adventures in bringing the Kattermann Collection to the DBG, which is a meticulously kept and important collection. He was informative and entertaining; packing the U-Haul in New Jersey and driving it to Arizona in the snow and sleet was particularly challenging.

I am looking forward to our February 26 speaker, Virginia Hayes, curator of Lotusland. Diana Crummey has done a wonderful job lining up a diverse group of talented and interesting speakers for the year. Behind-the-scenes she is also a great host to our speakers. She and her husband John are taking Virginia to Boyce Thompson Arboretum for a private tour, then to lunch in Superior and a tour of Monte Crawford's garden the day before our meeting. I really appreciate the efforts she and John extend to ensure that our speakers have a nice experience with us. She is also going to be affording all of you an opportunity to lunch with our speakers before the meetings. Emails will go out with further information.

Lucy Rand and Rita Gosnell have agreed to re-initiate our plant rescue program, so you will be hearing more about that in the coming months. I am delighted that Steve Martinez and Gard Roper are going to be working on putting together bus trips to Tucson and California this year. I got to know a number of people on my first bus trip who have given me lots of good advice on successfully growing my plants. It's a great way to meet interesting people and make new friends, and of course, get new plants.

At each meeting I will be asking new members and first time visitors to stand up and be recognized. I would encourage you to make yourselves known to these folks and welcome them. We want to continue to be known as a very friendly and engaging club.

Our very successful silent auction has changed just a bit. We are ending the auction seven minutes into the break to allow time for everyone to pay for their plants before the speaker starts. It would be very helpful if you have your auction items totaled and your money out and ready to pay as Nick and Emily have a big challenge getting this done in optimum time.

Again, I wish to thank Wayne Whipple, our outgoing president and Cindy Capek and Dana Hiser, our outgoing directors for their service to the club. I would like to welcome our new Directors; Mike Cone, Diana Crummey, Lucy Rand and Judy Tolbert who will serve for two years. I would also like to encourage all of you to consider serving in leadership positions on the Board and for various committees. We are currently looking for someone to chair a new education committee that will implement educational opportunities for members such as seminars, workshops, field trips, etc. Please let me know if you have interest.

Happy cultivating, planting, fertilizing and enjoying!

Beth Kirkpatrick

PROGRAM

Curator's Tour of Lotusland

February 28, 2016

Madame Ganna Walska, a well-known Polish opera singer and socialite, purchased her estate in Santa Barbara, California in 1941. She spent the next 43 years creating Lotusland. On display are more than 3,000 plants from all over the world.



Virginia Hayes, curator of the living collection, will present a *Curator's Tour of Lotusland*. Virginia will show us plants from every corner of Lotusland from the perspective of the curator: palms, ferns, aloes, cacti, water plants, cycads, Japanese, Australian, tropical, and more.

Since January 1992, Virginia has been responsible for maintaining plant records for the extensive plant collections, and educating staff, volunteers and members about them. Since joining the Lotusland staff, Virginia has been introduced to the floras of many regions of the world through the exotic plant collections at Lotusland.

Before coming to Lotusland, Virginia managed Santa Barbara Water Garden Nursery, specializing in aquatic plants and owned a pond maintenance business. She holds a master's degree from UCSB where she did research on the unique floral characteristics of lotuses (*Nelumbo nucifera*) and their variation among wild populations.

Virginia has written a popular gardening column for the *Santa Barbara Independent*, and contributes to other California and national publications.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of touring Lotusland on the club's bus trip or on their own, know what a treat this will be. You will not want to miss it.



DOUG DAWSON
CACSS Honorary Lifetime Member

By Sue Hakala

This is the first in a series highlighting each of CACSS's Honorary Lifetime Members.

In 1963 Doug Dawson, a Sioux City, Iowa native, made a family trip to Arizona where he found a saguaro seed pod. He planted the seeds when he got home to Iowa. They all died, but the experience lit a spark in Doug. By junior high school he was sending away for cactus and succulent catalogs, and purchased his first houseplant in the basement of his local Kresge's store.

Doug collected discarded wooden melon boxes from behind the local grocery store. Taking them home, he meticulously took them apart until he had enough wood to build a two-story tree house. This determination and attention to detail would serve Doug well throughout his life.

In between discovering plants and growing A LOT of them, Doug earned a bachelor's degree in math, chemistry and German along with a teaching certificate. In August 1971, Doug was awarded a master's degree in math from Arizona State University.



Some of Doug's beloved plants.

Throughout his teaching career he spent 7 years at the high school level, 5 years at ASU teaching math and calculus along with administrative duties, and finally, retiring in 2007 after teaching at Glendale Community College. All the while, Doug was hiking in the desert and growing plants from seed.



Doug Dawson in his small plant house.

In 1988 he joined the CACSS meeting many people who shared his love of the desert. "I always just did my own thing, and had no idea there were so many people with the same interest. I started connecting and networking with people in a way I never had before," Doug said.

The first big plant trip Doug went on was the May, 2002 Cactus and Succulent Society of America's trip to Namibia and South Africa. He came back an ignited and changed plant grower.

Doug has now been to Namibia and South Africa 15 times. He speaks French and German and has learned Afrikaans facilitating travel in these countries. He now organizes his own trips, and has become friends with a local policeman who is his guide and fellow plant lover, and who, Doug says, “knows everyone. He helps us get into places no one else can.” Let Doug know if you are interested in traveling with him to these destinations as he always seems to be planning another trip.

Doug has contributed so much to CACSS (see the December 2015 issue of the *Central Spine* for just some of his contributions—and they are many). He has an overwhelming love of lithops and mesembs, and growing from seed. If you haven’t visited his greenhouses to see his enormous collection, just ask.

Doug Dawson has influenced me as well as everyone in the society either directly or indirectly to be better grower. Thanks Doug for your many contributions.



Doug in his large greenhouse stuffed with gorgeous plants.

Enjoy reading two of the articles Doug has written for the *Central Spine*:
Namibia, 9/11 and *Know Your Plant's Native Climate, 1/09*

Three Cold-Hardy, Full-Sun Euphorbias for Your Landscape

By Tom Gatz

Are you as discouraged as I am viewing the damage after a hard freeze that turns many of our leafy plants brittle and brown, and causes our more frost-sensitive succulents to melt before our eyes? Peeking under the frost cloth to assess the damage almost seems more like peeling a bandage off of a wound. What will we find underneath? Among the injured and dead are often some of the more delicate euphorbia species.

Most euphorbias don't tolerate freezing temperatures or full-sun exposures very well and do best sheltered on our patios and covered or brought inside during hard freezes like we have every few years. There is good reason many of these species sold at the Desert Botanical Garden plant sales are protected inside or under shade and often labeled with a "3" indicating that they are very frost sensitive or a "C" indicating they need lots of summer shade. When mature, plants labeled "A-1" can usually be acclimated to full-sun areas with no frost protection needed (down to 18 degrees F for short periods). However, be aware that these ratings were developed in cooler Tucson where the term "full-sun" doesn't have quite the same brutal connotation that it does here in the Valley of the Sun.

Some of us keep lists of those plants in our landscapes that are damaged by these hard frosts for future reference when selecting hardier plants or warmer micro-sites in our gardens in which to protect them. As my list of casualties over the years continued to mount, I needed something to cheer myself up, and I decided to focus instead on the

positive: those plants that come through the freezing weather with little or no damage. Three of the species that I never cover yet still look great are euphorbias planted in almost full-sun areas with no overhead protection from the frost. All three are in clay soil that is mounded to improve drainage and tolerate drip irrigation every 10 days during the summer but, would likely do fine with less. All three can be propagated from cuttings.

MOROCCAN MOUND (A-2) (*Euphorbia resinifera*): Hardy to 20 degrees F. A tight, clumping plant with stout, erect stems. An effortless plant, it does equally well in the ground or in a planter. They maintain better color with some afternoon shade.

GOPHER PLANT (A-1) (*Euphorbia rigida*): Hardy to 5 degrees F. Spreads to four feet; reseeds but not invasively. This leafy perennial produces new stems just as the old stems with chartreuse yellow flower bracts start to fade (remove them) so you never have a bare spot. **Mary Irish** suggests part shade, but mine do fine in almost full sun, where their leafy appearance contrasts nicely with the more sculptural form of a nearby agave.

CANDELILLA (A-1) (*Euphorbia antisiphilitica*): Hardy to 15 degrees F. Best form with full, all-day sun. Spreads by rhizomes to three feet wide. Creates a vertical accent; looks nice with boulders or in a planter. Wax on the stem is used in products such as chewing gum, lip balm, skin creams, candles, soap, polish, and

ointments. Plantings at the DBG include Boppart Courtyard and the PPSD trail.

Give these three hardy euphorbias a try. An added bonus: the caustic sap in these plants that reminds you to wear gloves when handling them, also likely discourages rabbits from eating them. Of course, selecting plants native to our area for landscaping is still the best way of all to liberate us from the seasonal shackles of shade screen and frost cloth.

Thanks to **Cathy Babcock** and **Scott McMahon** for helping me with this article. Scott observed that *Euphorbia officinarum* and *E. coerulescens* in the Garden beds and *E. echinus* in the shade house also survived past cold spells uncovered with no apparent damage. For a more complete list of succulents and their hardiness, go to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society website at: http://www.tucsoncactus.org/pdf_files/TCSS_ABC-123-Code.pdf



Euphorbia resinifera is one of the oldest documented medicinal plants. The genus (and possibly this species) is named after Euphorbus, the Greek physician of Juba II, King of Mauretania (ca 50 BC-19 AD). Juba was married to the daughter of Antony and Cleopatra and had an interest in botany. Euphorbus roughly translates to "well fed." Some suggest this was a play upon words by the King referring to both the plant's succulent form and to his doctor's corpulent physique. Photo of a Moroccan Mound by Tom Gatz.



Cliff Fielding and his family opened their garden to club members in early February. Everyone was agog over Cliff's gorgeous plants. Thanks for your hospitality, we all enjoyed it. Photo by John Crummey.

CACSS Library 2015 Annual Report
Librarians: Wendy Barrett and Nancy Mumpton
January 24, 2016 REVISED

Purchases and gifts for library:

Breslin, Peter et al., *Field Guide to Cacti and Other Succulents of Arizona* (Gift TCSS)
Calhoun, Scott, *Gardener's Guide to Cactus*
Dimmitt, Mark et al., *Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance*
Eslamieh, Jason, *Cultivation of Boswellia*
Eslamieh, Jason, *Cultivation of Bursera* (also received a gift copy)
Glass, Charles and Foster, Robert, *Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur* (replacement)
(also received 2 gift copies)
Glavich, Tom, *Beginner's Guide to Gasteria, Haworthia, Agave and Other Succulent Monocots*
Hammer, Steven, *Lithops: Treasures of the Veld* 2nd ed.
Humphrey, Robert R., *Boojum and Its Home* (replacement)
Hunt, David, *New Cactus Lexicon-Illustrations* this volume only
Irish, Mary, *Arizona Gardener's Guide* (replacement)
Lode, Joel, *Taxonomy of the Cactaceae* (2 volume set)
Pilbeam, John W., *Echinocereus*
Pilbeam, John W. and Bowdery, Derek, *Ferocactus*
Pilbeam, John W., *Stapeliads (Refreshed)*
Preston-Mafham, Ken, *500 cacti: Species and Varieties in Cultivation*
Rosenthal, Gerald A., *Sonoran Desert Life* (replacement)
Smith, Gideon F. and Figueiredo, Estrela, *Garden Aloes: Growing and Breeding Cultivars and Hybrids*
Van Wyk, Ben-Erik and Smith, Gideon F., *Guide to the Aloes of South Africa*
Whitelock, Loran, *The Cycads*
Wiewandt, Thomas, *Desert Dreams: Celebrating Five Seasons in the Sonoran Desert* (DVD)

Supplies: Scotch Book Tape #845, Scotch Permanent Double-sided Tape ½ inch, and large roll of Mylar plastic covering for book jackets (got for \$1.00 at an estate sale and is valued at \$35)

Donations by: Judy Brody, Jason Eslamieh, Nancy Mumpton, Roberta Reichel, Cynthia Robinson, Lois Schneberger, and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Approximate number of items checked out: Wendy did not start counting until March 2015. The total is 116 books checked out at 7 meetings for an average of 17 books each meeting. We have 44 books checked out as of the November 2015 meeting, and 18 of those have been for 90 days or longer and 2 are from 2014.

We had approximately 10 periodicals check out for 2015 and currently have 2 checked out. We have 2 missing periodicals (not checked out, but can not find) and 1 lost (checked out, but not returned).

Wendy keeps track of the books out and notifies members before the next meeting when due. Nancy does the same for periodicals.

Special Projects:

Jacketed and labeled all circulating books in our collection. Created and sent to website liaison the current listing of all books, periodicals and journals in our collection

2016 budget: \$1,500.



Members enjoyed touring the Kattermann Collection in the Desert Botanical Garden greenhouse following the January meeting. Photo by John Crummey.



Celebrating the Beauty of the Desert™

Cactus and Succulent Society of America

37th Biennial Convention

July 26-30, 2017

Club Members Visit Crummey Garden

Articles and photos by Kathy Miller

The aloe queen, Diana Crummey, and her gracious husband John, recently invited our club to visit their lovely garden and home in the historic Willo district. It was a perfect January day with aloes blooming galore. Diana was eager to share her knowledge and her wonderful plants. Many of our members were able to attend and, if this should become an annual event (hoping), be sure not to miss it. Diana has now put aloes at the top of my favorite succulents. Thank you both for a lovely day.



Top right: A. 'tangerine'; bottom left: A. elegans;
bottom right: A. bicolor mariothii

In order to make our newsletter index as complete as possible, please check your archives to see if you have any of the following newsletter issues. If you do, please contact me at hakala2@icloud.com or 480-831-1940. I just need to make a copy and will then return them to you. Doug Dawson went through his archives and found 46 issues that were missing. Hopefully, you have some too. Thanks for your help. Sue Hakala

CACSS NEWSLETTER ISSUES MISSING AND NEEDED AS OF JANUARY 2016

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2008</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1985</u> | <u>1981</u> |
| July | January | December | February | All months |
| February | February | | March | |
| | March | <u>1990</u> | April | <u>1980</u> |
| <u>2007</u> | April | May | June | All months |
| May | May | June | July | |
| December | August | August | September | <u>1979</u> |
| | December | | October | April |
| <u>2006</u> | | <u>1989</u> | November | May |
| December | <u>1997</u> | March | <u>1984</u> | June |
| | All months | May | January | July |
| <u>2005</u> | <u>1996</u> | August | February | August |
| November | All months | September | March | October |
| December | | October | April | November |
| | | | May | |
| <u>2004</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1988</u> | July | <u>1977</u> |
| April | January | February | August | All months |
| July | April | March | September | except May |
| October | May | May | November | |
| | June | June | December | <u>1976</u> |
| <u>2003</u> | September | July | | February |
| April | October | August | <u>1983</u> | March |
| July | November | September | All months | April |
| November | December | November | | May |
| December | | December | <u>1982</u> | July |
| | <u>1994</u> | | January | August |
| <u>2000</u> | February | <u>1986</u> | February | September |
| January | March | January | March | October |
| March | May | February | April | November |
| April | July | April | May | |
| July | August | May | June | <u>1975</u> |
| August | September | June | July | All months |
| | November | August | August | except |
| <u>1999</u> | | September | September | September |
| April | <u>1993</u> | November | October | and |
| May | July | December | November | December |
| September | September | | | |
| December | December | | | |

Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA)

Calendar from Affiliate Clubs

- April 16 and 17 Sonora IX presented by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, Tucson, AZ
- April 24 Huntington Plant Sale at the the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California
- June 4 and 5 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show and Sale, San Diego, California
- July 1-3 CSSA Annual Show and Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California
- August 13 and 14 Annual Intercity Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum, Arcadia, California (biggest and best show in the country)

Visit the CSSA web site and Facebook page for lots of great information.

CACSS Writer's Group to Form

This informal writers group is open to anyone interested in the writing process. The goal of the group is to share ideas and give feedback on writing. An atmosphere of kindness and support will help you to reach your writing goals. All writers and aspiring writers are welcome. Contact Sue Hakala at CACSSCentralSpine@gmail.com for more information.

CACSS Newsletter Team

Please welcome Sue Hakala as our new editor. She will be assisted by Nick Diomedede on layout/design. Your articles and photos are welcomed for the newsletter. Please send all correspondence to the new CACSS email account:

CACSScentralspine@gmail.com.

Maricopa County Master Gardeners

Maricopa County Master Gardeners present the 15th annual Real Gardens for Real People Tour, Saturday, March 12, 2016, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can visit five home gardens and one school garden in north Scottsdale near 56th Street and Bell Road. All created and cared for by home gardeners! A lively garden fair, vendors and food trucks will be at the school. Expert DIY advice and labeled plants will be at all gardens. Advance tickets are \$30 with \$2 off online only (promo code 2off). Same-day tickets are \$30 cash/check only. For more info and tickets: www.RealGardensforRealPeople.com.

CENTRAL SPINE Special Issue

Be sure your dues are paid up as you won't want to miss the February issue of the *Central Spine*. This special issue will focus on potting soil for cactus and succulent plants.

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.

Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society

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Next newsletter issue submission deadline: March 10, 2016. E-mail all submissions to:
cacsscentralpine@gmail.com We encourage members to submit high resolution images of their plants
with captions for inclusion in the newsletter when and where possible.