

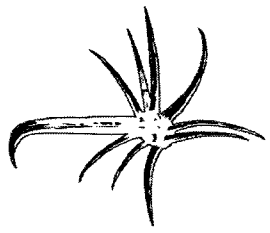
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CENTRAL SPINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



On The Web at <http://www.centralarizonacactus.org/>

October.....2005.....President's Letter

Isn't this weather great??!! I got about an half an inch of rain the other day. I am loving it and so are my plants. I can almost hear them growing. How does your garden look?

Going to Tucson? I cannot believe the trip to the Tucson nurseries is not yet sold out! It only costs \$15, less than it costs to drive there in your car. You won't have to drive and you will be with 40 other plant fanatics. What could be better?

Are you prepared? I hope everyone is getting their plants ready for the TREMENDOUSLY, HUGE Silent Auction on October 30th. Remember that it is held at the Wildflower Pavilion on the West side of the Garden. Bring your plants early so we can get set up and start on time. Will you be there?

Interested in rescued plants from the Tucson area? I haven't had much luck finding a rescue opportunity in the Phoenix area but a few members were able to take advantage of a chance to join with the Tucson club to rescue cacti off an incredible lush property on the North side of Tucson. The area was covered with Saguaros, barrels, hedgehogs and pincushions. We were able to bring about 100 plants back to Phoenix to sell for the CACSS. Would you like to acquire some?

Are you willing to serve the CACSS? I am worried that no one has come forward to lead our group for the next year. I've been President for two years and it's time for me to step aside. Someone else must step forward. We can't have a Society without a leader, can we?

Would you like to know what other members of the CACSS do for a living? I think it would be great if we allowed CACSS members an opportunity to advertise their businesses in our monthly letter, for a nominal fee...say \$5 per month. I, for one, like to do business with people who share common interests with me. What do you think?

Spider Mites..... Sue Hakala

These mites are tiny, and hard to see with the naked eye. To confirm their presence, hold a sheet of white paper under a leaf and rap the stem several times. Any mites will fall on the paper and move around. In heavy infestations, they form dense clusters and spin fine webs on the undersides of leaves. They like hot, dry environments, and prey on water-stressed plants sucking out plant juices. Spider Mites aren't picky, liking all plants, but especially fruit trees, cucurbits, tomatoes, roses, and your most prized plant. I've had them on houseplants as well. In addition to the bugs and webs, watch for stippled leaves with yellow fading to a bronze color. Severely infested plants can die.

Continued on page 3.

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Calendar

November 12, Saturday

TUCSON PLANT SHOPPING TRIP BY BUS.

Forty-two lucky people can go on this trip to B & B, Tan queverde and Plants of the Southwest Nurseries. Cost is \$25.00, plus a tip for the driver. No stops for lunch are planned. Bring your own lunches and beverages. Water will be provided. Mark your calendars. Reservations will be taken September 15 and until the quota is met.

November 20, Sunday

NOT The last Sunday

Regular club meeting Dorrance Hall 2:00pm

Speaker will be **Matt Johnson**. Matt is a botanist with the University of Arizona. He has just published a booklet called Cacti, other Succulents and Unusual Xerophytes of Southern Arizona

December 11, Sunday

HOLIDAY PARTY AND ELECTIONS.

Noon NOT 2:00pm and not the last Sunday. Webster Auditorium.

CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



**JO
DAVIS**

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

**2714 W. Monte Ave
Mesa, AZ 85202**

Publication of the material in the Central Spine does not imply agreement with the ideas expressed therein by any portion of the membership of CACSS, nor does it constitute an endorsement or support for any portion of such material by CACSS, or the Central Spine, regardless of any position or office held by the author(s). All such material represents a comment and/or personal opinion of the author(s).

CACSS Board Meeting minutes for July 31, 2005

Tom Ballon reported that the Convention account is in the red by \$1,644.39 at this time, however, there are still more funds to come in. The Club treasury contains \$16,869.20 as of September 25, \$3,703.36 of which is in the plant rescue account. We have 233 members. A storage space for the Club's possessions has been secured with Shurgard of AZ. It is evaporative cooled.

Lee mentioned that we still need a librarian. During the general meeting Eric Anderson said that he would fill the position, at least for now.

The Club trip to Tucson will be on November 12. The price is \$15.00. Contact Lois Schneberger to reserve your seat. Bring your own lunch and soda and clearly-marked boxes for your purchases. Concerning the use of Club funds, spending more money on speakers was a very popular suggestion. Concerning a scholarship fund, it was suggested that a committee would need to be set up to consider what can be done and how.

A nominating committee is needed for the election of officers. Lee will work on creating one.

The big annual Silent Auction will be held on the date of the October meeting--the 30th. Bring your cactus and succulent related donations to the DBG Wildflower Pavilion in time to have them placed by the 2pm auction start.

Sue Daley

Continued from page 1.

There are many generations in a year. In a warm climate like ours, reproduction goes on nonstop all year. Spider Mites can overwinter as adults or as eggs on host plants.

Mist plants to create an unfavorable environment. Blast Spider Mites off with a strong stream of water. Soapy water applied every 7 – 10 days will help. Remember to get it on the undersides of leaves. Spider mites are resistant to most pesticides. Using pesticides most likely will kill their natural enemies, lacewings among others. Then Spider Mites will increase uninterrupted thanks to their short life cycle. Plant small-flowered nectar plants like allyssum and dill to attract natural enemies.

Around My (Or Your) Desert Garden.....Bob Torrest

September 30 - Still too hot but I won't dwell on it. Instead, pick your pomegranates before the birds get them all. The interior color may not be there yet but there is some flavor. *Zizyphus jujuba* has fruit from green to partially dried (chinese dates). Mexican limes and limequats are also on the trees.

Trees and shrubs flowering include *acacia aneura* and *tecoma stans* (yellow bells). *Caesalpinia mexicana* continues to flower as does Coulter's hibiscus and San Marcos hibiscus. The screw bean mesquite still has a few flowers and lots of green tornillos. *Ficus palmeri* looks surprisingly good after the long summer but a small *pereskia* tree in full sun looks exhausted.

Some of the cactus flowering include several large *cereus* and Huntington's *cereus*. Several barrels are flowering again including the Texas barrel (*ferocactus hamatacanthus*) one of the best all summer. *Coryphantha elephantidens* has been at it for some time. But the summer was tough on some aloes. *Aloe broomii* that got some afternoon sun finally gave up as did *petrophila*. Even *aloe striata*, which made it through last summer in sun, is gone. On the other hand, *aloe karasbergensis* which had folded up in some afternoon sun, has opened now that it is back in shade (i.e., the sun no longer hits it). *Aloe divaricata* is flowering. Some losses are inevitable since most of what we all grow are non-native. Everything that has been mentioned in these articles has been outdoors and rarely given special attention. Of course, some things that won't survive our summers, *aloe plicatilis* for example, will be OK in a garden room with evaporative cooling.

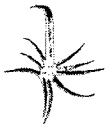
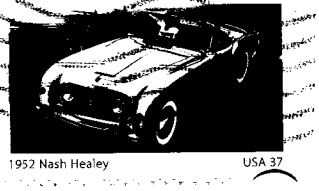
In the last article the 20 year growth of some columnar cacti was summarized. Others include *stenocereus thurberi* (Arizona organ pipe) which is very slow at first but has now reached 9 ft. and *stenocereus schottii* (senita) which is available in a husky and thinner form with both at 11 ft. "Totem poles" also come in a thin and husky form at 10 and 12 feet respectively. *Stenocereus gatesii*, a thinner version of the senita, is up to 9 ft. *Stenocereus gummosus* has flowered at 5 ft. and the tallest is about 7 ft. *Stenocereus dumortieri* has reached 10 ft. in sun but has been slower in part shade. Other columnars that get tall include *escontria chiotilla* at 6 ft. and *stetsonia coryne* up to 6 ft. in mostly sun(it was taller in the shade but did not have the characteristic look). Some of the *pilosocereus* are up to 10 ft. *Espostoa lanata* has the nice candelabra look with the central column at 6 ft.. Finally a Grenadier's cap (*backebergia militaris*) is all of 3 ft. after 20 years.

Mini Bits.....Ray

MINI-BITS.....thanks to Doug Dawson for his last-minute (literally) program presentation at the Sept meeting.....and thanks also to Eric Anderson for taking on the job of club librarian.....don't forget the upcoming elections - think about who you'd like to see run for an office or for the board - and especially consider YOURSELF.....reading Tom Gatz's article last month made me wish I could give it to some of our neighbors here in Sun City. Now we appreciate a certain amount of garden whimsy (like Deb Life's restrained but creative use of bowling balls), but since we don't have the HOA restrictions that other areas have (like Sun City West and Sun City Grand), some here have let their imaginations run way out of control. Like the guy who, realizing that the stubs of the cut-off fronds on his pineapple palm formed concentric spirals up the trunk, painted the ends of alternating rows black and white. In addition, his driveway featured 18"x24" painted blocks containing a deck of cards. Or the guy on a corner lot who edged the sidewalk from his front door to the driveway with golden barrels, continued them along both sides of his driveway out to the street, then edged the sidewalk in front of his house, and around the corner to the back property line with them also. And I mustn't forget the ones along the front and side of the house. And all of them were 6" or so apart. All of them. People like these obviously could benefit from Tom's article, and I'm sure some of our neighbors would like to have us re-read it for some pointers on improving our yard.. It wouldn't do as much good for the people up the street who, although the design was ok, got some bad advice this spring and installed 15 4' Euryops on standards along the west side of their house and across the back of their patio. Looked good that morning, but now there are only about 2 left, both in the shadiest end of the patio. And our neighbor who left one spring to go back to his farm in Iowa and didn't turn on the irrigation to a palm tree in the back yard because "palm trees don't need water." Ah, but we're not in Iowa any more, Toto..... along roughly the same lines, there was a customer I had at one of my nursery jobs who, after purchasing a potted somethingorother, pointed to the pot and asked, in all seriousness, "should I take this black thing off before I put it in the ground?" The only reply I could think of was "Yes, and the green part goes up."and lest we think it's only the customers who are so often clueless, I've seen lots of nurseries selling things (besides those Euryops) that quite obviously don't belong here (although some of us DO like to stretch the limits don't we?) Stuff like a landscaping store nearby featured this spring - New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*) and a Thread-leaf Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Filiformis'). Those things just doesn't do well here at all - at least we've had zero luck with Phormium. As for the Arborvitae variety mentioned, we had one back in Ohio, but out here you may just as well just bury the money in the ground and save yourself the anguish of losing it the first summer. The one we had 'back home' was purchased as a 5-gal grafted plant on about a 4' standard. We found it on our last stop during a 2-day nursery trip to Cleveland; since the car was completely full of plants otherwise (50 in bags under the front seat alone), it shared the front seat with Sue the whole 300 miles home. We considered it quite a coup when, during an open garden for the local Dwarf Conifer Society, the member who had THE dwarf conifer collection in town (made with cubic \$) asked what the plant was..... did you all get the info on the LA TIMES article on Woody Minnich? It says he has the world's largest documented collection of Mammillaria - sounds impressive to me and I can certainly believe it. Almost equally impressive to me is the fact that back in OH, Sue and I had the world's largest undocumented indoor collection of rocks with holes. And you thought YOU were weird.....Ray Daley

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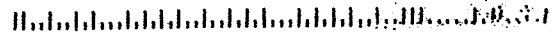
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Plant Questions????????????Who To Contact!!!!

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list(just call or E-mail Bob Torrest) For now, with the first three the list is simply alphabetical with principle interests When more members add their information the list will also be cross referenced by topic.

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