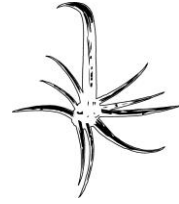


# Central Spine



**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](http://www.centralarizonacactus.org)

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**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



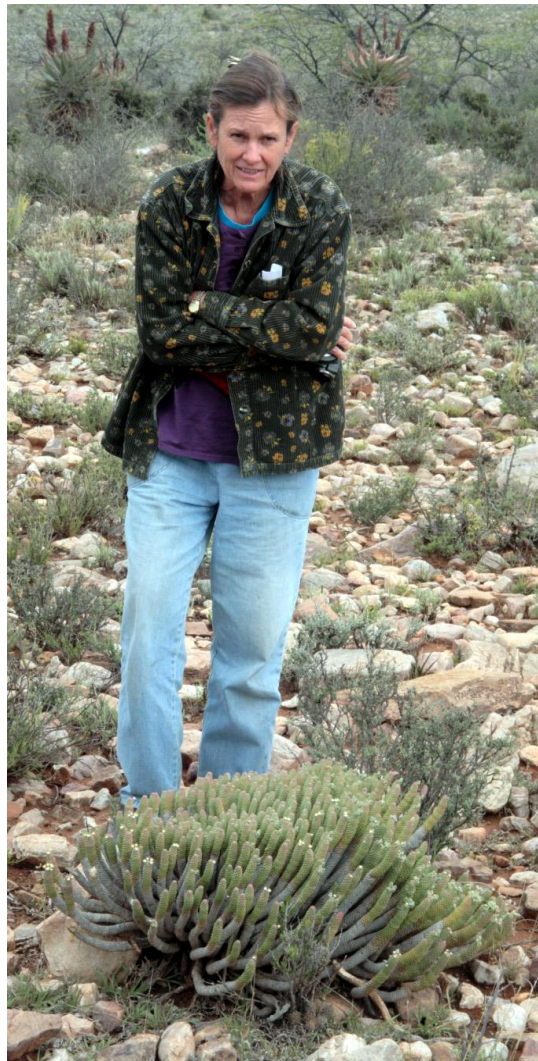
*Euphorbia atrispina*

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.









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

**Member's name**

**Name of plant chosen**

Katherine Hanna  
MaryAnn Garewal  
Janet Hazlett,  
Tristan Davis  
Eric Holter

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

**Contact the *Central Spine*  
Editor**

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**(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.**

***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**

**Special Thanks to Ray Daley**

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



**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

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.





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









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



Photo by John Crummeey

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

Steve Mack:

Saguaro  
*Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*  
*Opuntia basilaris*  
*Peniocereus greggii*  
*Echinocereus rigidissimus*  
*Echinocereus engelmannii*  
*Echinocereus boyce-thompson*  
*Ocotillo*  
*Ferocactus wislizeni*  
*Opuntia macrocentra*  
*Senita*  
*Yucca brevifolia*  
*Mammillaria grahamii*

Mike Gallegher:

*Cylindropuntia acanthacarpa*  
*Agave toum. bella*  
*Cylindropuntia arbuscula*

Dick Carter:

*Jatropha cinerea*  
*Agave deserti simplex*

Doug Dawson:

*Dudleya saxosa col.*  
*Dudleya saxosa col. green form*  
*Dudleya pulverulenta arizonica*  
*Epithelantha micromeris*  
*Mammillaria heyderi macdoug.*  
*Mammillaria heyderi bullingtoniana*  
*Mammillaria tetrancistra*  
*Escobaria vivipera*  
*Sedum griffithsii*  
*Opuntia engelmannii*

Tom Steuber:

*Agave parviflora*  
*Coryphanta missouriensis*  
*Coryphanta robustispina*  
*Echinomastus acunensis*  
*Escobaria robbinsorum*  
*Pediocactus pebblestanus*  
*Bursera microphylla*  
*Echinocactus horizonthalonius*  
*Corphantha alversonii*  
*Coryphantha. recurvata*  
*Echinocereus triglochidiatus.*



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**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**

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Specializations include Growing from Seed, Flora of Namibia, *Lithops*, other *Mesembs*, *Melocactus*, Miniature Cacti and Succulents of Arizona.

#### **MIKE GALLAGHER**

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Specializations include *Aloes*, *Haworthias*, Columnar Cacti, and *Turbinicarpus*.

**DEAN PATRICK**

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Specialization in softwood stem-cuttings, plant division and seed starting (rooting cacti, agave and aloe).

**STEVE PLATH**

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revegdude1@juno.com

Specializations include General Propagation and Desert Revegetation, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Cyphostemma*, *Echinocereus*, *Fouquieria*, *Thelocactus*.

**DAN SMITH**

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Specializes in adeniums. raising *adeniums* from seed, grafting and *adenium* culture in general

**BOB TORREST**

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Specializations include desert landscaping, unusual (including rare fruit) Trees and Shrubs, *Aloes*, *Agaves*, Columnar Cacti, *Trichocereus*, and *Opuntia*.



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