
THE XEROPHILE

“The object and purpose of the Society shall be exclusively for the study, appreciation, propagation and promotion of cacti and succulents among growers and collectors; the conservation and cultivation of native cacti and succulents, the exhibition of said materials whenever and wherever possible”

November 2017

The President's Letter

Carl Hime, President

Dear C & S Lovers,

We are looking to a packed November and December. First, there is a Luncheon for the CAGC Volunteers on 14 December at 11:00 AM at the Garden Center. This is an important event for the Garden Center and its supporters. Please RSVP by December 8th, 2017. You may do so by calling Laurie at 296-6020. Next, please don't forget our Christmas Party on December 9th. The Society will supply the meat – please bring the fixings- salads, vegetables, dinner rolls and desserts. Next, Steve has the Program set up for the November meeting—the Speaker will be Doug Dawson from Phoenix. His topic will focus on Lithops both in the wild and in cultivation. And almost lastly, we will be electing officers at the November meeting. We still need a volunteer for Secretary and the second member for the CAGC representative team. Several members have been asked but no one has contacted Margaret, Steve or me. There is really only one task associated with the Secretary's position and that is the monthly meeting minutes. For the Garden Council Rep, there are 2 business meetings per year, February and October, where each club in the Council can send delegates to attend these brief meetings and can vote on decisions affecting the Garden Center. Please consider volunteering!

And lastly, we received a shameless plug in the September 17th, 2017 Sunday Journal from Tracy Fitzgibbon in her “Digging In” column. The question was about hardy cacti and which ones are and/or are not. She referred her readers to both our Society and the web page.

That is it. It really was a little less than I expected. See you at the November 17th meeting and at the Christmas Party on December 9th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17th - Doug Dawson from Phoenix will give a presentation on the genus Lithops (living stones) from South Africa.

Doug has completed fourteen 3-week botanical expeditions in Namibia and South Africa over the last 13 years, spending many nights sleeping on the ground and days hiking many mountains and rolling hills in search of mesemb species and other botanical riches. His latest interests include Namaqualand's many exotic crassulas and euphorbias.

Doug is a retired math professor and does extensive botanical travels to areas of the world where succulents grow. These include Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Yemen, Socotra, and Africa as well as Arizona. In recent years, he has organized 8 botanical exploratory trips to South Africa and Namibia, camping on local farms and public areas by night and exploring the surrounding mountains and hills by day. To aid in his travels, he has a background in languages. These include German and French. Nowadays Afrikaans has become a much more useful language for him in rural South African areas.

For many years, one of his key interests has been seed-growing of cacti and succulents. Other interests are photography and presentations with succulent content. He has delivered many workshops and speaking engagements in Arizona and other states.

Doug's private plant collection has an emphasis on seedlings, lithops, other mesembs, Arizona natives, and other cacti. He is a member of the CSSA, Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society.

November 17th – Election of Officers for 2018

**Saturday, December 9 - Holiday Party starting about 6 pm at the ABQ Garden Center
Please bring salads, vegetables, dinner rolls, and of course desserts.**

Saturday and Sunday, April 14 & 15, 2018 - Spring Show and Sale at the Albuquerque Garden Center

Succulent Plants

Thanks to Rosario Douglas – Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society

The genus Dyckia

The genus *Dyckia* is in the subfamily Pitcairnioideae in the family Bromeliaceae (pineapples are in this family). Other genera in the subfamily Pitcairnioideae include the genus *Hetchia*, *Pitcarnia* and *Puya*. The majority of plants in this subfamily are saxicolous (living on or around rocks) or terrestrial (growing on the ground). The genus was named in honor of the Prussian botanist, botanical artist and horticulturist the Prince and Earl of Salm Reifferscheid-Dyck (Josef Maria Franz Anton Hubert Ignatz), (1773-1861).

Most *Dyckias* are native to central Brazil although some are found in Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina. They can grow up to 6000 feet in elevation with most growing on rocks. *Dyckias* are sun-loving plants having very stiff and thorny spines. The genus comprises about 120 species with additional cultivars. *Dyckias* are able to survive cold temperatures (sometimes into the teens) which is not the case for many members of the Bromeliaceae family. Although very drought tolerant, *Dyckias* are not technically succulents since they are unable to store water internally as succulents do. During very dry periods the plants go into dormancy and this strategy allows them to survive.

Most *Dyckias* have long leaves with sharp hooks along the margins. The leaves often form rosettes that make them a desirable plant for cultivation. The color of the leaves is often bronze, purple or silver making them an attractive addition to your garden. Their sizes vary from a few inches to several feet wide. In Spring the plants produce numerous small flowers on flower stalks that are visible above the foliage. The flowers are often a vivid yellow or orange color and appear to be attractive to wasps, bees and hummingbirds. Unlike many plants in the Bromeliaceae, *Dyckias* are able to continue to grow after they flower.

In cultivation the size of the pot can often determine how large your plant will get. It is best to change the soil and the pot every 3 years or so and it is important to water them during the growing season if you want them to thrive. *Dyckias* are a good addition to your garden or greenhouse and with proper care you will enjoy these plants for many seasons.

Sources: Wikipedia, "Dyckia a prickly pitcairnioideae" by Celeste Booth at: <http://www.bromeliads.info/all-about-dyckias/>, UF/IFAS University of Florida Gardening Solutions at:



Have you paid your dues? Please see information below. They are \$10.00 per year and can be paid at the meeting in cash or by check.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____ Tel No.: _____

E-Mail: _____

How do you grow? Greenhouse ___ Yard ___ Window ___ Other _____ Favorite genera:

_____ Suggestions for a program: _____

Volunteer to give a program? _____ Volunteer for: Officer: _____ Co-Chair an Event:

_____ Other: _____

Do you: Buy plants locally ___ Mail order ___ Raise from seed ___ Buy at our sale ___

For current information about the Society, including our email address, go to the Society's website <http://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org>

Complete this application and send it to the address below with your check for \$10.00 made out to the CSSNM.

For more information, contact:

CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY of NEW MEXICO P.O. Box 21357

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87154-1357

A note from Ralph Peters----Because he is sometimes unavailable....Margaret Todd will be Ralph's backup for sending out CSSNM emails. If your email server rejects "unknown" people, please allow Margaret Todd -- abqmcats@q.com -- to send you email.

If your e-mail server rejects tlme5168@ msn.com, please allow Ellen Taylor to send you an e-mail.



SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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