

## *The Beaver Tale*

December 2008

### **From the President:**

I just want to remind everyone of our upcoming Holiday Party on December 4<sup>th</sup> and fill in some details. The December meeting of the CSSSN has always been special and I hope this one will be too. If nothing else it's a chance to get together and just socialize and have a nice sit-down dinner. This year, as we did last year, we're having the turkey and the fixings catered. We're asking you as club members to bring a side dish or desert or any other trimmings. Those of us who were at the November meeting signed up to bring something. If you weren't there, please contact Susan Kent and she will give you suggestions on what to bring.

There will be no charge for members. The club will also provide some liquid refreshments: water, soft drinks, juice, coffee but feel free to bring your own—adult beverages of otherwise—if you prefer. We will ask for a nominal charge for guests to help pay for the cost of the catered food.

And don't forget to bring a wrapped gift—in the \$10 range—if you want to be part of the gift exchange. The way it will work is this: if you bring a gift you will get a ticket which then entitles you to choose a gift. This process will occur in the order that the tickets are given out. So, if you bring the first wrapped gift, you will get first choice when it comes to selection. Call it an incentive to come early and help set up. No Chinese auction this year, although swapping is encouraged if anyone is so inclined.

Everyone will get a gift plant, compliments of the club. For this you will get a second ticket. The plants will then be given out by a random drawing of the second ticket (different colors will help you keep track of which ticket is which).

It promises to be a fun evening. We'll plan to gather at 6:00 and sit down to eat at 6:30. No Board meeting this time. Technically, I'm no longer President but officially Susan will take over in January.

That makes this my last message to you as President. It's been fun. Where have the four years gone? I'm not going anywhere but it will be nice to let someone else sit/stand up front for once. Thanks for letting me serve.

Oh, one last thing. We will be collecting membership dues for 2009, so don't forget to bring your checkbook or some extra cash.

**Phil Lawton**

 **Next Meeting: December 4, 2008**

Garden Center at Lorenzi Park  
3333 W. Washington  
Las Vegas, NV

Gathering Starts at 6:00 PM. Seating for dinner at 6:30. Please come early to help set up or stay late to help clean up! **Please remember to bring your happy personality, covered dish, and \$10 gift if you wish!**

 **Monthly Meeting Program:  
The Year in Snapshots**



We'll be viewing a digital photo presentation that reflects on club people, activities, places we've visited, and beautiful plants. If you have a special photo (or more) you wish included,

please send it to [desertgardeners@cox.net](mailto:desertgardeners@cox.net). We hope you all attend the holiday meeting and join together to wish each other well.



Photos from <http://www.dreamstime.com>

**PS: Please use the lobby area for the children's quiet play area and utilize pre-meeting, post-meeting, and the break period for mingling. Try to**

*refrain, if possible, from talking while the program is being presented so that all of us can enjoy it. The old adage, "If you are talking, you are not listening, and the person you are talking to can't listen either..." applies. Thank you*

 **Stay in touch at Meetings & on-line:**

YAHOO GROUP SITE:


<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/CSSSN/>

WEB SITE:

[http://www.csssn.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=37](http://www.csssn.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=37)

 **2008 Officers & Committees:**

[http://www.csssn.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=29](http://www.csssn.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=29)

 **Membership Dues: Individual - \$15.00;  
Household - \$25**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_









Email & website are default methods of communication. If you have an e-mail address, we e-mail the newsletter. If you wish a paper copy, please notify Liz at [dicnliz7067@netzero.net](mailto:dicnliz7067@netzero.net).

Dues can be paid at any monthly meeting, or you may mail them. Thanks for your continued interest!

CSSSN – Membership  
P O Box 571101  
Las Vegas, NV 89157

 **CSSSN Events 2008-2009 GRAB SOMEONE & GO**

Date Range	Name	Location	Links
<b>Gee Whiz!</b> It seems some of us are blessed with both keen interest and free time. There are members hiking and seeking out our lovely desert plants almost every weekend. Please check the yahoo group calendar for current information. <a href="http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/CSSSN/cal///group/CSSSN/?v=61&amp;t=1228003200">http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/CSSSN/cal///group/CSSSN/?v=61&amp;t=1228003200</a> Look at this digital desert website as well. <a href="http://www.desertusa.com/explore.html">http://www.desertusa.com/explore.html</a>			
2/14/2009	San Diego Winter Show & Sale	Casa del Prado Balboa Park Downtown San Diego.	<a href="http://www.sdcss.com/">http://www.sdcss.com/</a>
3/11/2009??	UNLV Educational Presentations?	UNLV Arboretum?	Details? (Paula G.)
4/11/2009?	Plant Sale	Springs Preserve	Details? (Pete D.)
4/10 to 4/15, 2009	CSSA's 33rd Biennial Convention	Westin LaPaloma Resort, Tucson, AZ	<a href="http://www.cssainc.org/">http://www.cssainc.org/</a>

 Last month we had a great presentation by Donnie Barnett. The very informative discussion   
 was accompanied with great photos. Donnie forwarded the following two documents for   
 inclusion in the newsletter. I'll put them on our web site later, as stand-alone documents.   
 Thanks, Donnie! 

## **Agave Hardiness Information** **(From Donnie Barnett's 2008 November presentation)**

### **Confirmed Minus -10 F degrees or colder**

*Agave X ajoensis* – Hybrid between *Agave desertii* ssp. *simplex* and *Agave schottii*, found in the Ajo Mountains of Organ Pipe National Park, AZ.

*Agave X arizonica* – Hybrid between *Agave chrysantha* and *Agave toumeyana* ssp. *bella*. Took -17F in 2005 in Pueblo, CO and is grown outdoors at the Denver Botanical Gardens.

*Agave chrysantha* – Took tip damage at -17F in Pueblo, CO.

*Agave delamateri* – Cultivated by the Native Americans in central Arizona. Sterile plants and suckers more than *Agave murpheyi*.

*Agave desertii* ssp. *simplex*- Took -17F in Pueblo, CO with no damage.

*Agave filifera* ssp. *shidigera* – Took damage at -19F in Pueblo, CO. Died next winter at -13F.

*Agave flexispina*- Took tip damage at -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007.

*Agave gentry* – Survived -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007. Plant grown outdoors in Santa Fe, NM.

*Agave X glomeruliflora* – Took -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007. Hybrid between *Agave havardiana* and *Agave lechuguilla*, plants sometimes sterile.

*Agave X gracilipes* - Took -17F in Pueblo, CO with no damage. Also grown by Timberline Gardens in Denver, CO. Hybrid between *Agave neomexicana* and *Agave lechuguilla*.

*Agave havardiana* - Took -21F in Pueblo, CO with no damage. Plants from Guadalupe Mts. cold hardiest.

*Agave lechuguilla*- Took -17F in Pueblo, CO with no damage. Plants from Roswell, NM cold hardiest.

*Agave lophantha*- Took tip damage at -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007.

*Agave mckelveyana* – Took a little tip damage at -17F in Pueblo, CO.

*Agave montana*- Survived -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007. Plant grown outdoors in Albuquerque botanical gardens.

*Agave murpheyi* - tip damage at -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007.

*Agave neomexicana*- Took -21F in Pueblo, CO with no damage. Plants from Sacramento Mts. cold hardiest.

*Agave ovatifolia*- Took a little tip damage at -17F in Pueblo, CO.

*Agave palmeri* - Took a little tip damage at -17F in Pueblo, CO.

*Agave parrasana*- Took a little tip damage at -17F in Pueblo, CO.

*Agave parryi* ssp. *parryi*- Took -21F in Pueblo, CO with no damage. Plants from Flagstaff and Williams, AZ cold hardiest.

*Agave parryi* ssp. *couseii*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

*Agave parryi* ssp. *huachucensis* - Took a little tip damage at -17F in Pueblo, CO.

*Agave parryi* ssp. *truncata*- Took a little tip damage at -17F in Pueblo, CO. Grown outdoors at Denver Botanical Gardens.

*Agave parryi* ssp. *integrifolia*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2007. Teethless form from Prescott, AZ.

*Agave parviflora* ssp. *parviflora*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

*Agave parviflora* ssp. *flexiflora*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

*Agave phillipsiana* – Newly discovered species found on the Tonto Platform of The Grand Canyon. Offsets profusely and is about the size of *Agave americana*.

*Agave polianthiflora*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005 and -23F in Colorado Springs, CO.  
*Agave scabra*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005. Plants are variable in cold hardiness and individuality is present.

*Agave schottii ssp. schottii*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

*Agave schottii ssp. treleasei*- Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

*Agave X sharkskin* - Took tip damage at -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007.

*Agave toumeyana ssp. toumeyana* - Took tip damage at -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007.

*Agave toumeyana ssp. bella* - Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

*Agave utahensis ssp. utahensis* - Took -21F in Pueblo, CO with no damage. Peach Springs form listed under this.

*Agave utahensis ssp. nevadensis* - Took -21F in Pueblo, CO with no damage.

*Agave utahensis ssp. eborispina* - Took -21F in Pueblo, CO with no damage.

*Agave utahensis ssp. kaibabensis* - Took -21F in Pueblo, CO with no damage.

*Agave Victoria-reginae ssp. compactum* - Took tip damage at -12F at Pueblo, CO in 2007.

*Manfreda maculosa* - Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

*Manfreda virginica* - Survived -17F at Pueblo, CO in 2005.

### **Cacti & Succulents of the Mojave Desert *Latin Breakdown:*** **(from Donnie Barnett's 2008 November presentation)**


- 1.) *Yucca schidigera*-Mojave Yucca  
Schidigera- bearing a splinter of wood, referring to fillifera.
- 2.) *Agave desertii ssp. simplex*- Desert Agave  
Simplex-Means : undivided one piece, in this case generally unpupping- solitary plants.
- 3.) *Cylindropuntia bigelovii*- Teddy-Bear Cholla  
Named after John M. Bigelow- part of the railroad survey 1853-54
- 4.) *Opuntia basilaris/aureus*- Beaver Tail Prickly Pear  
Aureus means Gold disc/Basilaris: latinized greek for regal(magnificent or splendid)
- 5.) *Dudleya saxosa ssp. aloides*- Mojave Live-Forever  
Saxosa: dwelling amongst stones or rocks.
- 6.) *Opuntia stanleyi ssp. parishii*- Parish's Dog-Cholla
- 7.) *Agave mckelveyana*- Mckelvey's Agave  
Names for Susan Mckelvey. A plant explorer in the Southwest late 1800's-Mentor of Howard Gentry-Agaves of North America.
- 8.) *Echinocereus engelmannii*- Strawberry Cactus  
Echino: hedgehog Cereus: wax candle (derived from Cera- meaning wax) Named after Engelmann Plant explorer with wisilizen
- 9.) *Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*- Silver/Gold Cholla  
Echino: hedgehog as just learned, Carpa-: fruit....so hedgehog fruit.
- 10.) *Yucca brevifolia/jaegeriana*- Joshua Tree  
brevifolia: short leaves, Jaegeriana named for DR. Edmund Jaeger who first did the comprehensive study of the species in 1935.
- 11.) *Echinocereus triglochidiatus ssp. mojaviensis*- Mojave Claret-cup cactus  
Triglochidiatus- 3 spines.
- 12.) *Escobaria vivipara desertii/rosea*- Spiny-star cactus  
vivipara or viviparous meaning: germinating or sprouting while still attached to parent. Rosea: reddening.
- 13.) *Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa ssp. coloradensis*- Buckhorn Cholla  
Acantho: spines or thorns, Carpa as already learned fruit.

## SHORT STUFF FROM SOME OF OUR MEMBERS

### YOUR IRRIGATION CONTROLLER!

Did you reduce the number of watering days and watering times per day to 1 (one)? Are multiple programs established (not just multiple valves) from the controller? On some, maybe all controllers, if multiple programs are enabled, changing just "Program A," for instance, DOES NOT DISABLE OR CHANGE other enabled programs. Here's a worst case: some people set Program A for the summer; Program B for the winter, etc. If not disabled, the summer program will continue to operate along with the winter program. Too much water will be delivered for winter growing conditions.

*Another tip: If you replaced drip heads, make a FRESH CUT in the PLASTIC TUBING at the point of drip head attachment.*

 Member **STEVE "Z"** is soon moving his home to Hawaii. He can't take his plants or his ceramics. He very quickly needs to find homes for potted as well as in-ground plants and ceramic pottery (great glazes and designs). I've done a preview, as also have Pete Duncombe and Linda Gamble. It is very much worth a visit to Steve's Las Vegas home. If you feel like taking a look, **DECEMBER 7 IS THE BIG SALE DAY. If that date is not possible, give him a call and try to arrange some other date. Take cash if you can. The address is 6808 Bienville here in the northwest. His phone is 285 7339.** This link might help you locate the property.

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.09024,-95.712891&spn=47.167389,92.8125&z=4&om=1&layer=c&utm\\_campaign=en&utm\\_source=en-ha-na-us-google-svn&utm\\_medium=ha](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.09024,-95.712891&spn=47.167389,92.8125&z=4&om=1&layer=c&utm_campaign=en&utm_source=en-ha-na-us-google-svn&utm_medium=ha)

When I last saw the collection there were certainly landscape opportunities and show quality plants and a wonderful pottery collection to peruse.

### A NOTE FROM KRIS & DAVE TURNER

To all our friends and fellow members of the Cactus Club,

Dave and I, over here at Turner-Greenhouse, want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. We want to Thank everyone for helping us get closer to retirement by purchasing and helping us sell off our stock. Although we still have a great selection of both indoor and landscape plants, we are offering **ANYONE IN THE CLUB** a 50% discount off our regular prices. Some good deals can already be had at a \$1.00 each on the super discount table. As you may already know, our hours have changed to 8 to 4 Fri., Sat., & Sun. We're closed the rest of the week. We hope you visit during the holidays so that we can personally wish you the best. If not, please accept our "digital wish." Happy Holidays, Dave and Kris Turner

### Book review by Dick Askew

#### THE GREAT CACTI

#### ETHNOBOTANY AND BIOGEOGRAPHY

DAVID YETMAN----300 pgs.

This book is devoted to the study of the columnar cacti found in Arizona and South American, and the impact on the peoples of the areas. The first 50 pages take the reader through the taxonomy, ecology and other botanical terms concerning these magnificent plants which can grow to over 60 feet in height. The remainder of the book discusses each plant, its growth area, and the effects on the environment and the residents.

These cacti provide food, shelter, and medicine, not to forget some religiously significant hallucinogens. **PARTY DOWN!** This is a beautiful book with excellent **MAPS** and photography.

## WHAT A SHAME

Photo at the right was sent to us from the Askew's. It's from a dog park near their home. The plant is burned, but not from the summer sun. It was set on fire by vandals.

I NEED TO HEAR MORE FROM YOU!

It is YOUR NEWSLETTER, YOUR web site--- YOUR CLUB. As the newsletter editor and web site administrator and next President of our CSSSN, I think it appropriate that club members contribute in many ways. From an outings and event perspective, the travelers, hikers and "show and sale/shop till you drop" enthusiasts have kept the Yahoo group site humming. This month, I received more written input from members than ever before. THANK YOU ALL! Please help expand that level of effort in all areas of our club. Please write me at [desertgardeners@cox.net](mailto:desertgardeners@cox.net) or [susan@csssn.org](mailto:susan@csssn.org). Here are some points to get you thinking:

Did you like the crossword puzzles? Did they teach you anything? Did my occasional error at least make you laugh? Were the puzzles too big or too hard?

Do you like knowing little "tid-bits" of information about club members?

Do you want reports and photos on the field trips that some of the folks have been taking?

Do you want book reviews?

Do you want articles about specific plants?

Do you want articles about landscape or interiorscape care?

**DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS FROM CURRENT OR PAST EVENTS THAT COULD BE PLACED ON OUR WEBSITE OR EVEN TRANSFORMED INTO PRESENTATIONS?**

**DO YOU HAVE BOOKS THAT DESERVE A SHORT REVIEW, EVEN IF ONLY FROM A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE?**

Please help to continue to shape the club into something rewarding. I am just giving you my time. Please help me make it worthwhile.

Thank you and happy growing,  
Susan K.



Victor Lindsey's <http://calplants.biz/>

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E-mail [calplants@yahoo.com](mailto:calplants@yahoo.com)

Check out this valuable site!!!!!!

<http://www.coldcacti.com/home>

Save 50% on Travel:

<http://victorlindsey.worldventures.com>

If you have veggie or tropical plant gardening questions, contact club member, **Leslie Doyle, aka the "Tomato Lady"**

<http://www.sweettomatotestgarden.com>

Watch for her several Workshops around the Valley!

**\*\*\*\*\*General Public CLOSING SALE\*\*\*\*\***

Dave & Kris continue the process of closing  
**Turner-Greenhouse-** <http://www.turner-greenhouse.com>

645-2032

4455 Quadrel Street, Las Vegas, NV 89129

OPEN Friday, Saturday, Sunday ONLY

New Hours those days: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

CLOSED THE REST OF THE TIME!

Remaining inventory is available at a **40% price reduction.**

This includes ALL sizes of landscape plants, their private collection, pottery, and decorative yard art.

1st come, 1st served. Plants selected & paid in full can be held for no more than 24 hours. (SORRY, NO "TAG & HOLD" FOR ANYBODY!)

Master & Visa still accepted, but CASH & CHECKS PREFERRED.