

# THE XEROPHILE

October - December 2018

## President's Letter

Dear all you cactus lovers,

A lot has happened since we had the last edition of the Newsletter in the Fall of 2017, but we now have another enthusiastic editor, Margaret Ménache, and are off and running.

And, it has been a very successful year. We had a great Spring Show and Sale and an even better Fall Event at the Albuquerque Botanical Garden. Margaret (Todd) did a fantastic job of communicating what was happening and, specifically, coordinating the event at the ABG. It worked with over 2,000 people at each event, as I have been told. And, we did at least serve one breakfast at the State Fair Flower Pavilion.

The programs this last year were phenomenal, thanks to Steve.

Those comments do cover a lot of ground without a lot of detail or "thank you's" to the people who did all of the work. You showed yourselves proud.

Please do not forget the meetings between now and 2019 and our Christmas Dinner. We have the meat and we would ask you to bring the trimmings.

Lastly, with one exception, the officers from this year have agreed to stay on next year, which is great. They know what they are doing and will make a great transition to 2019.

Carl Hime, President

Cactus &  
Succulent  
Society of  
New Mexico



"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."

## Mark Your Calendars

### Friday October 19

Jim Hastings, the Gringo Gourmet  
Nominate 2019 officers

### Friday November 16

Speaker TBD  
Elect 2019 officers

### Saturday December 8

Holiday Party

In 1982, David Grundman shot a saguaro just west of Lake Pleasant, Arizona. The 26-foot tall cactus was estimated to be 100 years old. A four-foot arm was severed by the shots and fell on Grundman, crushing him to death. Facts from [snopes.com](http://snopes.com). Event immortalized in the the song "Saguaro" by the Austin Lounge Lizards, available on youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7y\\_9OCCqHM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7y_9OCCqHM)

## Editor's Letter

I am delighted to join the Cactus and Succulent Society and excited to become your newsletter editor. I'm looking forward to doing layout and to writing articles - but most of all, I'm looking forward to receiving articles, ideas, and photographs from YOU! Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or suggestions you might have for me: [margaret@margaretmenache.com](mailto:margaret@margaretmenache.com).

I attended my first meeting in August. Someone, making conversation, asked me what my specialty is. My first, unspoken thought was - whatever will grow. However, I paused thoughtfully and said, "Opuntias. I know they're plebian, but I like them." Besides, I thought to myself, they grow like weeds...

They're good to eat, too. You probably knew that already. In fact, the CSSNM website has some great Opuntia recipes. But, in case you didn't, or in case you want to expand your Opuntia recipe repertoire, the October speaker is just the chef for you. According to the CSSNM website, Jim Hastings, the Gringo Gourmet, will "talk and prepare a dish using Opuntias." Jim's blog and online recipe collection may be found at [www.thegringogourmet.com](http://www.thegringogourmet.com). If you get a chance to look at it, you'll see that his culinary skills extend far beyond an Opuntia recipe or two. I happened to meet him in Silver City during the Native Plant Society meeting this fall where we both attended a workshop on cooking with native plants. Without missing a beat, he joined the presenters and quickly put together a really yummy Opuntia (nopales) salsa. Which we all washed down with some Opuntia (tuna) juice. I don't know about you, but I'm bringing my plate, silverware, and a glass to this meeting! And some extra napkins!

Margaret Ménache



<https://cooksouthwest.wordpress.com/2012/06/12/look-whos-cooking-with-nopalitos/>

### Taken from the El Paso Times

(Maria Cortés González, October 29, 2017)

Hastings has been giving demonstrations to clubs in El Paso and out of town since he bought a cookbook on cooking with cacti a few years ago.

"I do it because it's fun to watch people's faces when they try something they haven't tried before," he said. "And I try to find or develop recipes for modern tastes."

"We don't have a lot of grandmas cooking it as much as they used to. I like to give them a sample of the raw cactus and tell them it tastes like a gamey green bean."

However, cooked cactus tastes much better and in a variety of recipes, he said. Among his favorite dishes is preparing it with rajas Poblanos (chile strips), pan roasted corn and garlic and chicken broth for a great soup.

## Recent Events

**The second annual Cactus and Succulent Exhibit** at the ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden was held from 1-3 September 2018. The notes presented here are taken from the final report submitted by Margaret Todd.

The exhibition was well attended with 1,983 people passing through the showroom during the three days. We also gained several new members - welcome to the CSSNM! Hosts answered a lot of questions and received a number of compliments.

The Committee volunteers (Penny and Gary Hoe, Ralph Peters, Robert Perz, and Steven Brack) undertook much of the work required to make this exhibit a success. Pia Louchios participated in the Committee meetings, revised the advertising card and placed the printing orders for it. Committee members were on hand for most of the four days to set up, take down, assist showroom hosts, provide many of the exhibited plants, and interact with the public.



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carnegiea\\_gigantea\\_\(Saguaro\\_Cactus\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carnegiea_gigantea_(Saguaro_Cactus).jpg)

Education efforts were expanded this year to include a “Prickly Pear and Cholla” educational display with John “Obie” Oberhausen providing most of the plants, answering questions, and providing information throughout most of the event. A second display explained monstrose and cristate/crested plants (see image) complete with examples of normal growth compared to the mutations. The plants and signage were provided by Donna Behme.

The BioPark Education Department reserved the time slot in 2019 for another cactus and succulent exhibit, in effect inviting us to return. A rapid response email vote by CSSNM members (22 responded) was unanimous. The Committee members for the 2018 exhibit have agreed to serve another year. The third annual exhibit at the BioPark Botanic Garden will be held Labor Day weekend in 2019. Mark your calendars now!

CSSNM Representation at the **2018 State Fair Flower Show** in the Floriculture/Horticulture Building. From the final report submitted by Margaret Todd.

Members of CSSNM voted to have only an information display during the 2018 State Fair, since the Fall education event is now an exhibit at the BioPark Botanic Garden over Labor Day weekend. The display at the State Fair included the Membership Counts and Education Outreach posters, business cards, the Society postcards, Member Applications, and a handout rack containing the Welcome New Members, Resources 101, Resources for Purchasing Cacti and Succulents, and Collecting Wild Plants—Resist the Temptation handouts. All business cards, member applications, and Collecting Wild Plants handouts were taken.

# 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

## Elected Officers

President	Carl Hime
Vice President	Margaret Todd
Recording Secretary	Cheryl Haaker
Treasurer	Pia Louchios
Executive board members	Penny Hoe
	Lee Graham
	Ralph Peters

## Key Positions

Program Chair	Steve Brack
Webmaster & Show PR	Ralph Peters
CSSNM e-mail	Steve Brack
Garden maintenance	Robert Perz
Librarian	Judith Bernstein
Representatives to CAGC	Steven Brack
	Judith Bernstein
	Margaret Todd
Affiliate CSSA Representative	Oleg Lagutin
Membership Chair	Lee Graham
Newsletter	Margaret Ménache
Spring Show	Daniel Finley
Spring Sale	Steve Brack
Fall Show-State Fair	Margaret Todd (info only)
Fall exhibition-Botanic Garden	Margaret Todd