

# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

- - - JANUARY 1994 NEWSLETTER - - -

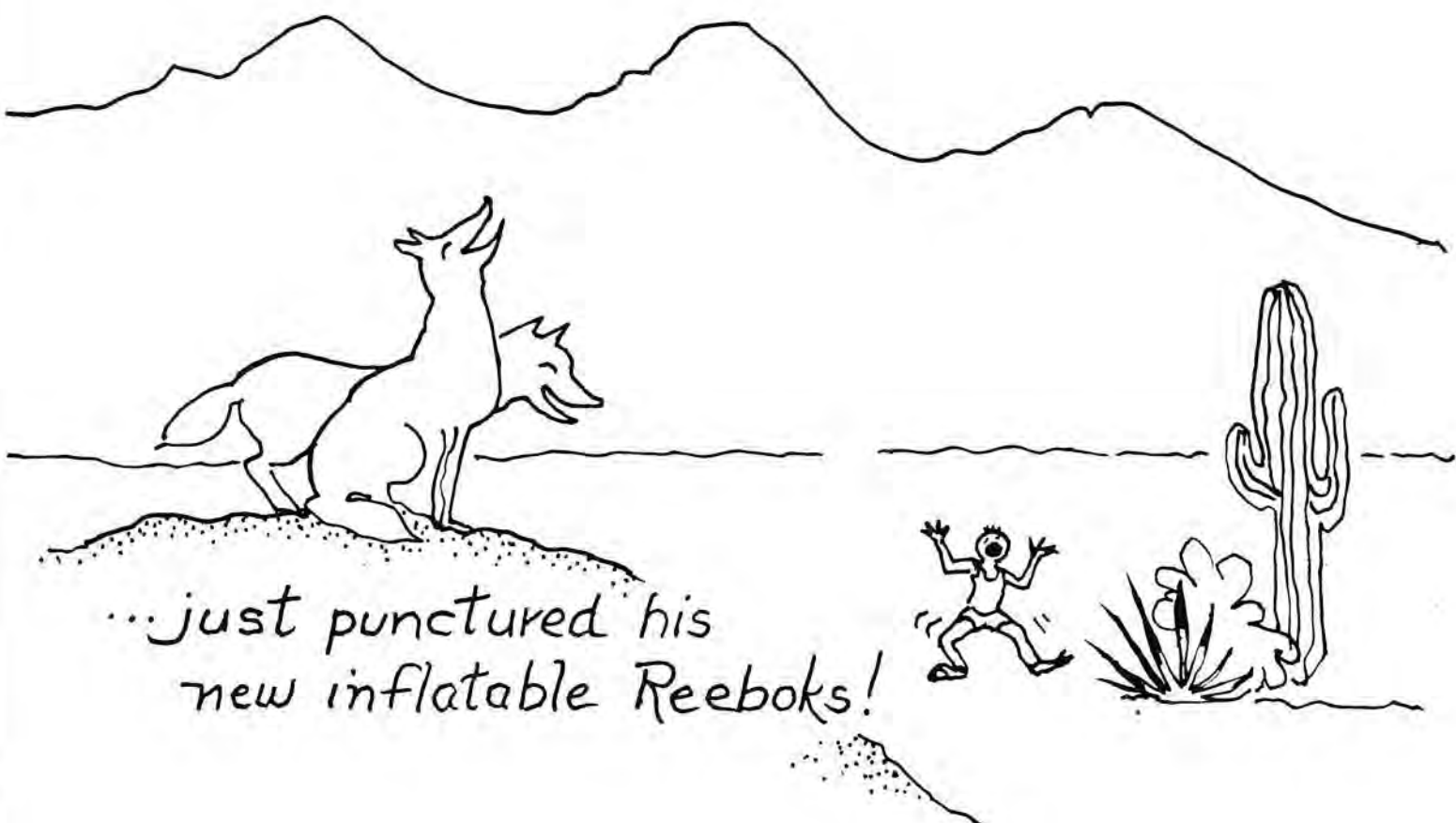
NOTE DIFFERENT MEETING DAY & LOCATION!!

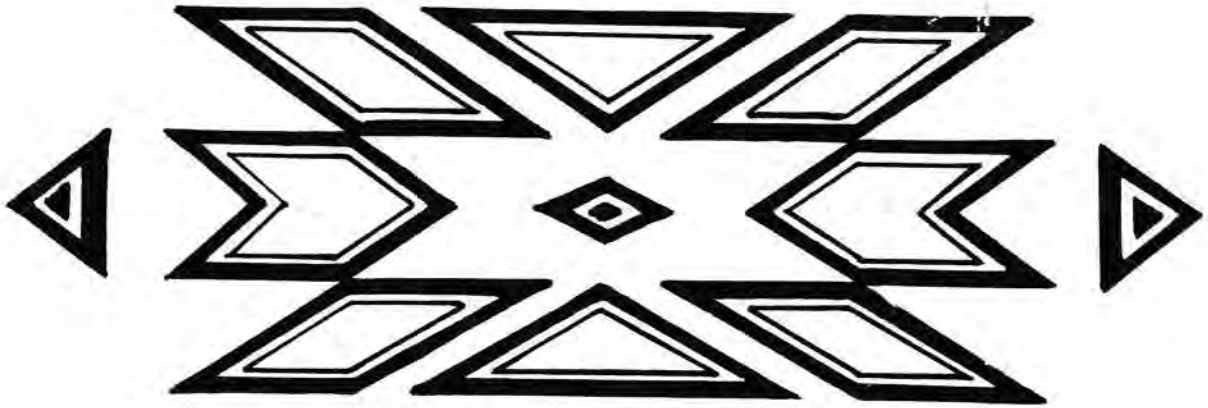
Our first general meeting of the new year will be held at the Doubletree Hotel (445 S. Alvernon) on

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 7:30 PM.

Dr. Seymour Linden, past president & current chair of CSSA's research committee, will speak on his travels in Somalia. Other clubs have raved about his talks, so this should be spectacular!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 9 - 1 pm the CSSA board meets. Sitting in on this is a unique opportunity to ask questions, have direct input, or simply observe. Participation is encouraged! A special mailing will be made of finalized details, as plans are changing as I write!





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

It has been almost eighteen years since I have had the opportunity to serve as your president. Then, as now the Society is making plans to host a National Convention in Tucson and at the same time keeping monthly activities interesting and exciting for all society members. I want all of you to feel you are a part of these activities.

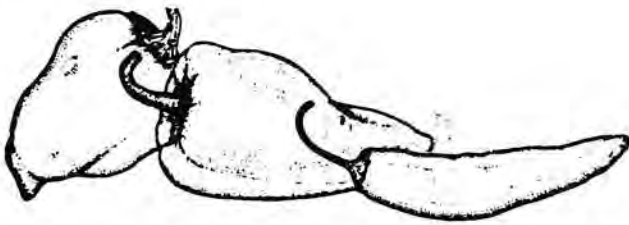
I also need your input and advise. When things go great it's because of a hard working Board of Directors and great membership, but when there is a problem, I take full responsibility. So, please contact me with your ideas or concerns.

The Board is planning meetings and activities that will have appeal to a broad cross-section of the membership. I hope you will support these events. There will be interesting guest speakers, hands on practical meetings, field trips, show and sale opportunities and more.

I have one early request of every member ( besides paying your dues) and that is to bring a new member into the society. This will double our organization and bring together more people with an interest in succulents and cacti.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Dick Wiedhopf



LOOKING AHEAD...

March 13 is the annual Flower & Garden Fair in Reid Park. This year, it is sponsored by FFH youth of Flowing Wells High School. Details to follow.

Also in 1994, field trips, workshops & a new, less formal (user-friendly) meeting format are being planned!

Keep in mind, too, that June 1995 is getting closer! To assist with convention preparation, call a board member.



Old-timers may be interested to learn the address of these time former members:

|                |                      |          |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|
| Joe Brick      | 6531 N. Sherman      |          |
|                | Fresno CA            | 93710    |
| Ed & Peg Busch | Midvale Manor #4213  |          |
|                | 6250 S. Commerce Ct. |          |
|                | Tucson, AZ 85746     | 741-2365 |



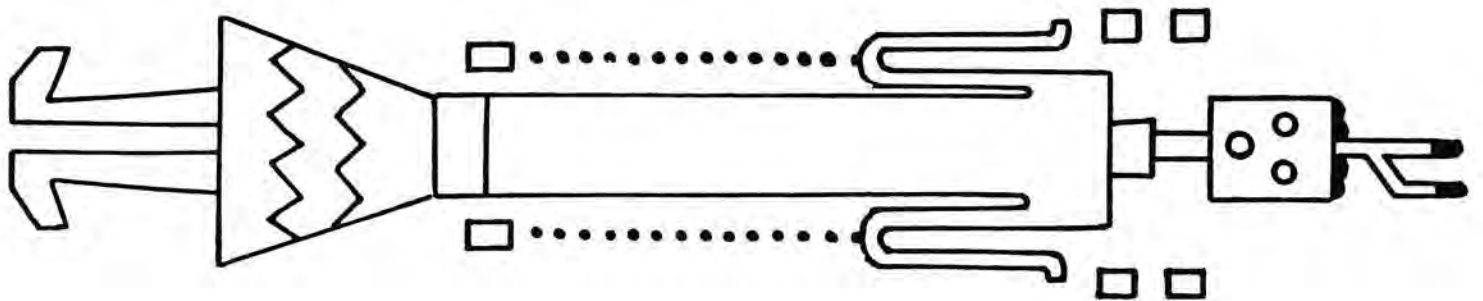
PLEASE WELCOME:

|                 |                  |          |
|-----------------|------------------|----------|
| Linda L. Bailey | 2110 S. Amigo    |          |
|                 | Tucson, AZ 85713 | 623-8913 |

Two spouses have been added to the membership roster:

\_\_\_\_\_ Janice & Miles Anderson  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Francesca & Clint Jarvis

Dues are \$15/individual, \$20/family. See Myrtle Ethington.



TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
FEBRUARY 1994 NEWSLETTER

"Substrate: Growing Media Revisited" is the title of our first workshop meeting of 1994 on Thursday, February 3 at 7:30 PM in the Education Building of the Tucson Botanical Gardens. This workshop will focus on the latest ideas in potting mixes including commercially available potting soil, pumice versus sand or other media, and the benefits/problems of additives such as perlite, vermiculite and peat moss. We will have soil testing equipment present to allow comparison of potting mixtures for pH and particle-size. Members are encouraged to bring their own potting mixtures to test and discuss.

JANUARY MEETING REPORT

Dr. Seymour Linden, past president and current chairperson of CSSA's research committee, gave a fascinating talk and slide presentation on his travels in Somalia to a standing-room-only crowd at the Doubletree Hotel. Tucson members who attended also had the opportunity to meet the board members of the CSSA, who were in Tucson for their annual meeting.

Saturday Tucson club members were invited to sit in on the annual CSSA Board Meeting. Much of the discussion centered around the 1995 convention. The CSSA Board members are extremely pleased with the Doubletree Hotel facilities, where the convention is to be held. They are also impressed with the progress of the convention planning to date.

Saturday evening members of the Tucson Board met for dinner with the CSSA Board at the El Parador restaurant for an informal exchange of ideas. We should note here that our previous plans to include the general membership in this event were thwarted due to scheduling constraints.

CONVENTION REPORT

This is your opportunity to become involved in the excitement of hosting a national convention! Contact any of the board members to see what you can contribute; we ALL have something to give.

\* \* \* \* \* SPRING SHOW & SALE \* \* \* \* \*

The TCCS Spring Show and Sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 5th and 6th at the Park Mall shopping center. Set-up will be Friday evening. Please call Gene Joseph at 628-8773 if you are able to help, particularly with sales. More details will be discussed at the February meeting.

WELCOME TO 1994!

If your address label has a red mark on it, our records show that your 1994 dues remain unpaid, and this will be your final newsletter until your dues is paid. Eighty-nine newsletters are being mailed out this issue -- our club is growing! Don't be left out! Dues are \$15/individual, \$20/family. Mail a check to Myrtle Ethington at 3490 N. Iroquois, Tucson, AZ 85705.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

It was a long meeting, but here are some highlights:

Discussion continued over the possibility of purchasing a club computer to be housed at the centrally located home of club secretary and newsletter editor Jeri Ogden. This investment could benefit the club in many ways, particularly with the work involved in the upcoming convention.

Door prize ticket distribution and raffle plant ticket purchases will now be done at the door prior to each meeting, saving valuable meeting time.

NOTES OF INTEREST

Mike David (296-0122) is selling out his collection. He has over 900 cacti -- some are rare. Give him a call.

Norma Beckman (885-0669) and Mary Church (624-7976) are both eager and willing to answer your plant-care questions.

Don't forget to bring a favorite plant for our brag table!!!

Roster Change: New (returning) faces --  
Wanda Horst & Gilbert Barrett  
4765 E. 27th St  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
748-1203

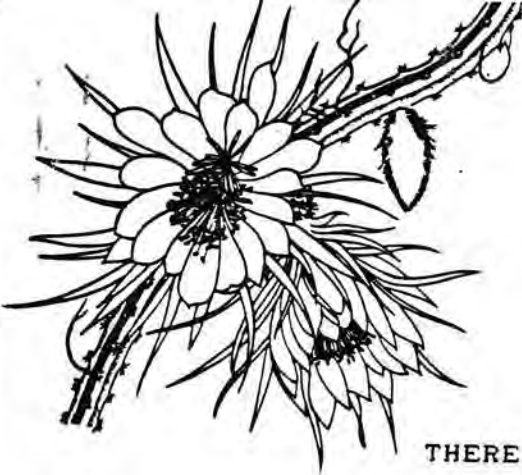
Friends of artistic former club member Agnes Daniels will be saddened to learn of the death of her husband, Ross.

JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI JERI

Please join me in wishing our beloved secretary and newsletter editor Jeri Ogden a speedy recovery from her surgery. Our newsletter isn't the same without her magic touch! You can send her get well wishes at her home address. Hurry back, Jeri!!!

Linda Benciger for Jeri

# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



THERE WILL BE NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN MARCH

BECAUSE WE NEED YOUR HELP

WITH OUR SPRING SHOW & SALE AND THE FLOWER & GARDEN FAIR

OUR ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER is in Park Mall March 5 & 6, during mall hours (9-9 Sat, 12-9 Sun). Contact Gene Joseph (628-8773) to volunteer a few hours as a friendly face encouraging interested passers-by. Tell them about our club! (No worries-you don't have to speak fluent cactus!!) We need help setting up (Friday evening) & tearing down, of course, as well as donations of sharp-looking (!) succulents.

A board meeting is scheduled for March 3 at 7:30 pm in TBG's Education Building, to finalize plans.

FLOWER & GARDEN FAIR also requires your assistance!! Held at Reid Park on Sunday, March 13, this is a perfect opportunity to bring in new blood (Oops! I meant members!) and begin promoting excitement for TUCSON '95!! Contact Jim Hosack, (he's in charge, but has no phone) or Jeri Ogden (321-9484).

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Bob Webb fascinated meeting attendees with a display of (and much discussion on) various potting media, focusing on pH levels. He tested several commonly available commercial mixtures, as well as those of several local greenhouses and avid hobbyists. His method? Placing several inches of each mixture in a pot and watering thoroughly, he observed how readily liquid was accepted, checked pH of the drain-off and noted how long the soil remained damp. A lively discussion on potential materials followed; these include: peat, pumice, vermiculite, decomposed granite, sand & humus.

Bob has several thoughts/cautions/suggestions:

Avoid a build-up of calcium carbonate or other salts.

Before using rainwater, consider what happens to it running across roof, through gutter & down spout! Generally thought to be acidic as raindrops, test pH value after collection to prevent problems.

Added nitrogen buffers the effect of nitrogen needed by organic matter during decomposition. Use well-rotted mulch to avoid shocking your plants..

Pumice, decomposed granite or sand offer good drainage.

To reduce acidity of pumice, screen out fine particles and rinse before use.

Jon Weeks, a local, commercial grower (who is not yet a club member!) uses a totally different medium, WITH GREAT SUCCESS!!

THANKS to you, Bob, for a down-to-earth program!!



When mailing TCSS something, PLEASE USE ENTIRE ADDRESS:

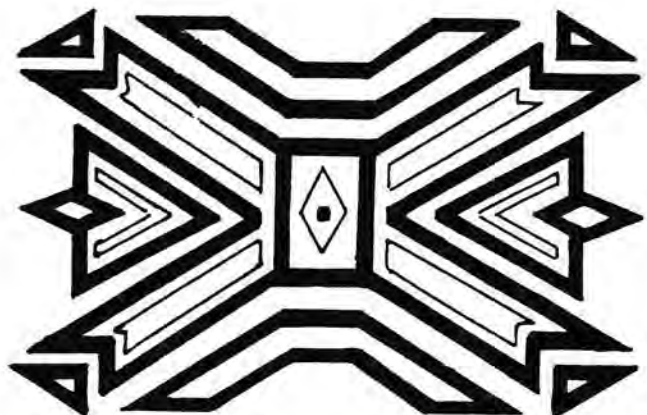
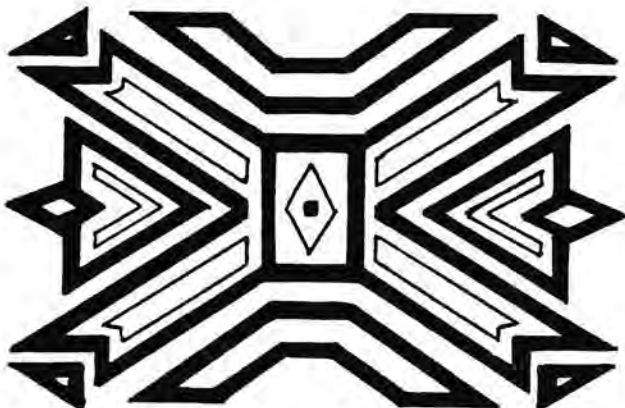
TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON WAY  
TUCSON, AZ 85712

NEW MEMBER -

Julie Turko      4225 E Fairmount      #2      85712      326-5170

Oldtimers with our club may be wondering what has become of longtime former member Dorothy Christiansen. Her current address - drop her a line and encourage her to rejoin! - is: 1747 E Hampton, Mesa, AZ 85204.

GEM FROM JERI - The Editor gets a bit sassy when she has too much free rein - ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME!!! Copy deadline is the 15th. (3329 E Navajo Place, Tucson 85716)



# TWO TUBER FORMING CACTI *PENIOCEREUS* AND *PTEROCACTUS* by J. A. Betzler

The *Peniocereus* (*Pe.*) are a genus of tuber forming cacti native to the southwestern United States, Mexico, and Central America. The generic name was coined by Britton & Rose in 1900 and refers to the thin pencil-like stems. There are about 20 species which are to the right. This genus has been lumped at one time or another into *Cereus* by various authors and has also been known as: *Nyctocereus* (Berger) Britton & Rose 1909, *Neoevansia* Marshall 1941 and *Cullmannia* Distefano 1956. These have all been lumped into *Peniocereus* (Hunt 1992). The tubers may resemble spindle shaped yam-like tubers, as in *Pe. striatus*, or the turnip like organs of *Pe. gregii*. These preceding species may produce 'turnips' that can weigh up to 43 pounds! Typically the above ground stems of this cactus are slender (approximately ¼ inches) and relatively inconspicuous. The stems are 4 to 6 ribbed, cane-like with abundant spines, though these are small. They are difficult to find because they usually grow up through the canopy of other plants. When flowering occurs, the presence of these plants becomes apparent. The flowers are nocturnal two to three inches in diameter and four to six inches long, quite a contrast to the slender stems. Though most often the flowers are closed during the day the large closed buds make the flowering stems contrast sharply with their supporting host. Careful observers may also notice the red fruit produced after flowering, as well.

These plants are not very common in cultivation, though *Pe. castellae*, *greggii* and *johnstonii* are occasionally available.

Fifteen species and five provisionally accepted (italics and bold type respectively) with synonymy in regular type

### *Peniocereus* :

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>castellae</i>                      | Mexico  |
| <b>cuixmalensis</b>                   | Mexico  |
| <i>diguetii</i> = <i>Pe. striatus</i> |   |
| <i>fosterianus</i>                    | Mexico  |
| <i>gregii</i>                         | U.S.A., Mexico                                |
| <b>haackeanus</b>                     | — from cultivation                            |
| <i>hirschtianus</i>                   | Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica |
| <i>johnstonii</i>                     | Mexico  |
| <b>lazaro-cardenasii</b>              | Mexico  |
| <i>macdougalii</i>                    | Mexico  |
| <i>maculatus</i>                      | Mexico  |
| <i>marianus</i>                       | Mexico  |
| <b>marnierianus</b>                   | from cultivation                              |
| <i>oaxacensis</i>                     | Mexico  |
| <b>occidentalis</b>                   | Mexico  |
| <i>papillosus</i> = <i>Pe. sp.</i>    |   |
| <i>rosei</i>                          | Mexico  |
| <i>serpentinus</i>                    | Mexico  |
| <i>striatus</i>                       | U.S.A., Mexico                                |
| <i>tepalcatepecanus</i>               | Mexico  |
| <i>viperinus</i>                      | Mexico  |
| <i>zopilotensis</i>                   | Mexico  |

Though *Pterocactus* (*Pt.*) has an underground storage organ as in *Peniocereus*, this is the only resemblance. *Pterocactus* was named by Schumann in 1897 and has stood untouched all these years! The winged seed (Latin for wing = ptero) of the genus is unique and hence its name. These strictly Argentinian plants are closely related to the *Opuntias*. The slender stems are deciduous and are shed once a year. Like other opuntias the spines are made up of glochids, those bothersome loose spines that attach to anyone brushing up against these plants. The flowers are typical *Opuntia* type except they are sessile (without a flower stem) and the fruit is embedded in the stem.



*Peniocereus*  
& *Pterocactus* by J.Betzler continued...

The only species, out of ten, that is commonly offered is *Pt. kuntzii* (formally *tuberosus*). Both genera are usually grown as caudiciforms and the fantastic tubers are exposed. The soil conditions must provide excellent drainage, but the tubers must be protected from the blazing sun. Propagation from cuttings will produce very nice tubers. If a seed source is available try your hand with seedlings.

Nine species and one provisionally accepted, coded as above

*Pterocactus* :

*araucanus*            all are from Argentina  
*australis*  
*decipiens* = *Pt. kuntzii*  
*fischeri*  
*gonjianii*  
*hickenii*  
*kuntzei*  
*megliolii*  
*pumilus* = *Pt. valentini*  
*reticulatus*  
*skottsbergii*  
*tuberosus* = *Pt. kuntzii*  
*valentini*

Bibliography

Benson, L. 1981. The Cacti of Arizona, 3rd edition, University of Arizona Press.

Hunt, D. 1992. CITES Cactaceae Checklist Whitstable Litho Ltd.

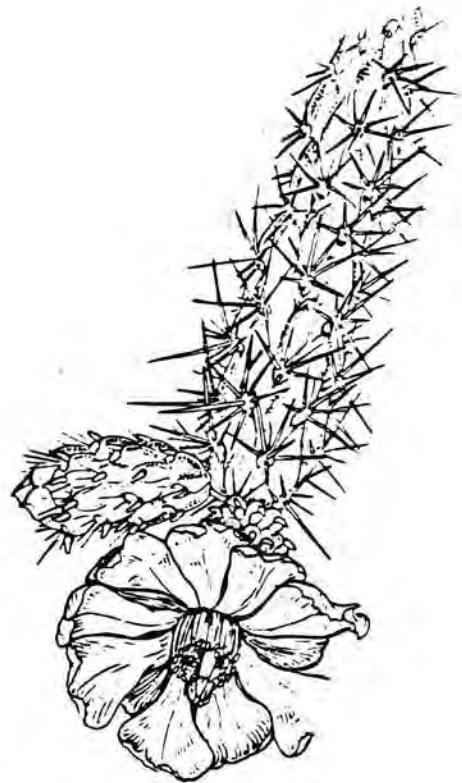
Flehsig, P., 1989, Cactus of the Month: *Peniocereus* and *Pterocactus* Espinas y Flores 24: (2) center section (much information is compiled here)



This story courtesy of 'Espinas y Flores' (January 1994),  
bulletin of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.

## NEW MEMBERS' LAMENT

When I see you at our meetings,  
You never say 'hello'.  
You're busy all the time you're there  
With those you really know.  
I stand around among the men,  
Yes, I'm a lonesome guy.  
We new members feel so strange  
When you old-timers pass us by.  
Why don't you nod and say a word,  
Or stop & shake a hand?  
I'd also like to meet your friends,  
I hope you'll understand.  
So, when we meet next meeting time,  
Can't you a moment spend?  
Step up and introduce yourself,  
I had hoped to make new friends.



Contributed by Nancy Clarke; from The Night Crawler, Spokane Men's Garden Club. (Reprinted in Cactus Chatter, Vol IV, No 2, 1968.) The 'Cactus Capitol Chatter' was TCSS's quarterly bulletin, published '65 - '80. About members, the Chatter (Vol III, No 1, 1967) tells us:

A lot of club members are like wheelbarrows -  
They are not good unless pushed.

Some are like canoes -  
They need to be paddled.

Some are like kites -  
If you do not keep a string on them,  
They will fly away.

Some are like footballs -  
You can't tell which way they will bounce.

Some are like balloons -  
Full of wind and ready to blow up.

SOME ARE LIKE A GOOD WATCH -  
Open-faced, pure gold, quietly busy,  
And full of good works.





# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

APRIL 1994 NEWSLETTER

FIRST THINGS FIRST...If this looks different, that's because it is!! I'm creating this on a new computer!! Now, if I can only remember how to PRINT when I'm through...but you won't be reading this if I don't, will you?

Next Meeting:  
Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 pm  
Porter House, TBG

Our April program will be presented by Doug & Doris Evans, on C&S of Big Bend National Park, Texas. Retired from the U S Park Service, Doug was Chief Naturalist there while Doris taught in a one room schoolhouse in Panther Junction. She started the Docent Program for Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and currently runs Camp Cooper - an environmental science camp in the Tucson Mountains.



In March, TCSS was involved in two public awareness events:

Our Spring Show & Sale was in Park Mall. An impressive array of 100 succulents of different genera were displayed. Myrtle says we raised \$953.50 for our efforts. John & Joyce Jackson of the British C&SS, (Chairman & Treasurer, respectively) visited Saturday, and so did many others!

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all who helped - bringing plants to show, plants to sell, hosting the show area, selling, answering questions, setting up and tearing down - GRACIAS!!

Reid Park Flower & Garden Fair was a blow out. It was windy & cold - not a day to be outdoors!

Then, on March 15 TCSS had a special meeting featuring Germany's Ernst Specks, presenting "Plant Exploring in SW Tanzania". Those who were absent missed a real treat! Everyone got a list of each slide shown - so we could mark our favorites - and the UA College of Pharmacy facilities were wonderful!! Plenty of parking, well-lit, etc. Thanks to Dick & Pat Wiedhopf for the Girl Scout Cookies & juices!

Upcoming programs include our own Tony Burgess, THE Agave man, giving a program on - how clever of you! - Agaves! And our own Matt Johnson, on C&S of the lower Rio Grande Valley. Watch for them!

March has been a busy month - don't forget April 7!

## NEW MEMBERS

|                       |                                      |       |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| James Wahl            | 3608 E Lee, Apt B                    | 85716 |
| Mr & Mrs Richard Lane | 7739 E Broadway, Ste 347<br>883-6498 | 85710 |
| Mary Stove            | 3937 E Timrod St<br>326-3764         | 85711 |

In the confusion over new members vs renewals, I have missed welcoming a slew of new cactophiles.....WELCOME TO ALL!!

## GEMS FROM JERI

Charter and honorary life member Mary Church is at home recovering from knee surgery and welcomes calls of encouragement. GO, Mary!!!

## REMEMBER OUR BRAG TABLE!!

Miles Anderson always does - how about YOU!?!

## 3) SUCCULENT NAMES

SAY THAT AGAIN  
by R. H. "Pedro" Gregg

Adromischus: (ăd-rō-mīs'kūs)  
Eryophyllum: (brī-ō-fil'ŭm)  
Cephalocereus: (sĕf'ă-lō-sĕ'rĕ-ŭs)  
Dudleya: (dŭd-lĕ-ă)  
Echeveria: (ĕch-ĕ-vĕr'ĭ-ă)  
Penestraria: (fĕn-ĕs-tră'rĭ-ă)  
Gastrolea: (gă-strō-lĕ-ă)  
Huernia: (hŭr-nĭ-ă)  
inflorescence: (ĭn-flō-rĕs'ĕns)  
Jatropha: (jăt-rō-fă)  
Kalanchoe: (kăl-ăn-kō'ĕ)  
Leuchtenbergia: (loik-tĕn-bĕrg'ĭ-ă)  
Matucana: (mă-tōō-kă-nă)  
Neoporteria: (nĕ-ō-pōr-tĕr'ĭ-ă)  
Obregonia: (ō-brĕ-gō'nĭ-ă)  
Pedilanthus: (pĕd-ĭ-lăn'thŭs)  
Quiabentia: (kĕ-ă-bĕn'tĭ-ă)  
Rebutia: (rĕ-bōōt'ĭ-ă)  
Sempervivum: (sĕm-pĕr-vĭ-vŭm)  
Toumeya: (tōō-mĕ-ă)  
Utahia: (ŭ-tă'ĭ-ă)  
viridiflorus: (vĭr'ĭ-dĭ-flō'rŭs)  
Wilcoxia: (wil-cōk'sĭ-ă)  
xerophytic: (zĕ-rō-fĭt'ĭk)  
Zygocactus: (zĭ-gō-kăk'tŭs)





## ALOE

4) The following is from the Mid-Iowa C & S Soc. Newsletter, January, 1989, Lorraine Eldredge, editor. Drawing is from Cactus Chatter, the Oregon C & S Soc. newsletter, for Feb. 1989, Peg Spaete, editor.

### ALOE

Aloes are Lilies; family Liliaceae, they're leaf succulents; nearest relatives are Lomatophyllum, Haworthia, Gasteria and Bulbine. Habitat is mostly So Africa, adjacent islands and Arabia; they have gone wild in many warm areas of the world. Lomatophyllum grows in Madagascar only; they have soft, horizontal leaves, typical Aloe flowers, but their fruit is a berry rather than dry seedpod.

A widespread genus, habitat conditions vary greatly, from moist to desert. Size varies greatly also: 6" high *A. descoingsii* and *A. albida* to *A. bainesii*, a 60' tree. Aloes have harmless marginal teeth; leaves are plain to spotted or striped, powdery blue to dark green.

Flowers are in clusters on a stalk, tubular, yellow to red, with green tips; they bloom whenever they feel like it.

Culture of Aloes is very easy if their few demands are met. They prefer strong filtered light or fluorescent tubes; most small species require less light than large ones, which tolerate sun. Aloes grow on the ground, not in it, in habitat, so don't bury the stem, or it may rot!! Roots are large and stringy and shallow. Most are sensitive to excess moisture, and like heavy soil, so excellent drainage is needed; conversely, they don't like to be dry for long. 50°F minimum needed by some; some tolerate much lower (look them up if in doubt).. If warm, most prefer to grow winter. If leggy, cut off the stem below leaves, reroot. Propagation from pups is easy.

Known for their medicinal qualities since ancient time, *A. barbadensis* (*vera*) is the one most often used. It even caused a war: Aristotle persuaded Alexander the Great to conquer the island of Socotro to ensure a continuous supply of aloe for his soldiers' wounds. Supposedly, when mixed with shampoo, the juice darkens gray hair.



#### DON'T YOU AGREE?

2) "Ferrocactus Wislizenii is one of the three barrel cactus native to Texas. Mature plants are cylindrical, growing as high as eight feet and up to three feet in diameter. The flowers are about three inches across, ranging in color from yellow and orange to dark red. Referred to as the "candy barrel", it is often used for making cactus candy. The implication that the plant has any ingredients suitable for making candy is, of course, inaccurate. The succulent, white tissue is cut into small squares, boiled in water until tender, drained and boiled in a heavy syrup (sugar). Then, each piece is rolled in bar sugar and glazed in the sun. The fleshy tissue contains no sugar and has very little flavor, if any. This is hardly our idea of good candy."

—————quoted from Bettie Muckleroy, in Kaktos Komments, Houston.

"The fruits of the Mexican lemon cactus, ferrocactus hamatacanthus, are used as a substitute for lemons in Nueva Leon, Mexico. The greenish fruits persist on the plants nearly all winter. They have a high acid content, and Mexican cooks use them like limes or lemons in flavoring drinks, pies, and cakes. Unlike most other species of the genus, F. hamatacanthus fruit is very thin skinned, and the flesh is juicy and edible."

—————quoted from Larry Mitfch in "The Sun Dwellers" in Cactus Points.



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#### HINTS FOR RHIPSIDOPSIS (Easter Cacti) by Evelyn Crisp

3) All of us want to have our Rhipsalidopsis or Easter Cacti to bloom in the Spring. If your plants do not get enough light, the segments will be pale green, lacking chlorophyll. However, if your plant has had too much sun, or if you have kept the temperature too hot this winter, it will not flower. They cannot have "wet feet" or they will drop their segments or rot. Another reason for dropping segments is the loss of the main roots. If this has happened to your plants, rest them on top of fresh soil and spray them with room-temperature water to encourage new roots. While the night temperature remains at 40 degrees, spray your plants. After the temperatures reach 50 degrees, water them. They can go outside at 60 degrees. After the Ides of March (15th), use fish emulsion fertilizer. Although Easter is early this year, Happy Easter to you from me.

Credits:

- 1) Espinas y Flores, Bulletin of San Diego C&SS  
Michael & Joyce Buckner, Editors 1994
- 2) our own Cactus Capitol Chatter  
Edited by:  
Marjorie Spring & Eva Copenhaver, 1965  
Josephine Shelby, 1966
- 3) Kaktos Komments, Houston C&SS  
Mary Jo Gussett, Editor 1986
- 4) Roadrunner News  
Long Beach Cactus Club  
Carol & Joe Wujcik, Editors



HELLO SPRING!!  
 SPRING IS HERE!!!  
 HAPPY SPRING!!!

ARIZONA, YOU SURE LOOK FINE

2)

When the good Lord made this world,  
                                   He must have had cactophiles in mind,  
 For He made the desert and mountains,  
                                   And filled them with cacti of all kinds.

He made the desert rough and rugged,  
                                   And planted shrubbery which have spines,  
 And I'm sure when He got it finished,  
                                   He said "Arizona you sure look fine".

Another spring has now rolled around,  
                                   And the trees and cactus look real grand,  
 With them blooming everywhere,  
                                   It sure beautifies our desert land,  
 Let us protect our Lord's gift to us,  
                                   By taking the conservation stand.

by P. G. Nichols



# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

MAY 1994 NEWSLETTER

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 5, 7:30 pm

Program: 'An Overview of Agaves'

Location: Porter House, TBG

Tony Burgess, a reknowned world-wide authority on the subject, will be our presenter in May. If you need any more incentive than finding out everything you always wanted to know - but were afraid to ask (about agaves), Norma Beckman will be providing her famous refreshments!

At a board meeting in April, Club President Dick Wiedhopf expressed a desire to offer refreshments at meetings. This will give folks a good excuse to linger, visit & trade plant stories. Norma has volunteered to cover our May meeting, after which I will set up a schedule.

Dick also urges - bring in your favorite agave offsets for donation. Have them identified! Trade! Lets have an AGAVE EXTRAVAGANZA!!

Ideas for a CLUB LOGO will be looked at & VOTED UPON at this meeting. A quick sketch will do - an artist can fuss with detail later.

BRAG TABLE - AGAVES, OF COURSE, & ???



Our April program, given by Doug & Doris Evans, was well attended & BEAUTIFULLY presented. Now we all want to visit Big Bend National Park! Slides of agave, corypantha, thelocactus, ferocactus, echinocactus, dasylirion, ariocarpus, yucca, epithelantha, mammillaria, neolloydia, and opuntias were featured.

"The Chihuahuan desert is essentially a shrub dominated biome.... Nonetheless, small cacti are well represented....there are almost as many species of cacti in the Chihuahuan Desert as in the rest of the U.S. combined." "There are more than 1000 species of plants endemic to the Chihuahuan Desert."....M. Johnston ('77) D. Brown ('82)

Two very rare species found in Big Bend include: Echinocereus chisosensis (Chisos pataya) which is endemic to the area, rare and on the endangered list, and Neolloydia mariposensis (Mariposa Cactus), which is rare.

A slide was shown of Euphorbia antispyhiitica, the wax of which was formerly used in Tic-Tacs & phonograph records. Candelilla wax is still an ingredient in car polishes.

APRIL FREE PLANT - FEROCACTUS LATISPINIS v FLAUISPINUS

THANKS, Doug & Doris, for a lovely presentation, and welcome to the club!





THE CONVENTION IS COMING - THE CONVENTION IS COMING - THE CONVENTION IS

|          |          |    |        |        |        |        |     |    |        |         |
|----------|----------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|----|--------|---------|
| TTTTTTTT | UU       | UU | CCCCCC | SSSSSS | OOOOOO | NN     | NN  | '' | 999999 | 5555555 |
| TT       | UU       | UU | CC     | SS     | OO OO  | NNN    | NN  | '' | 99 99  | 55      |
| TT       | UU       | UU | CC     | SSSSSS | OO OO  | NNNNNN |     |    | 999999 | 555555  |
| TT       | UU       | UU | CC     | SS     | OO OO  | NN     | NNN |    | 99     | 55      |
| TT       | UUUUUUUU |    | CCCCCC | SSSSSS | OOOOOO | NN     | NN  |    | 99     | 555555  |

NEW MEMBERS

DOUG & DORIS  
 EVANS            432 N LA CHOLLA BLVD,    TUCSON    85745            623-8214

NORMAN & JEAN  
 PYLE            2121 S PANTANO, #173    TUCSON    85710            721-2306

MARY STOWE    3937 E TIMROD ST            TUCSON    85711            326-3764

CHANGE

JIM HOSACK            3711 N TUTTLE, TUCSON            85705            292-0925

INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS YOUR '94 ROSTER - KEEP IT HANDY!



JERI'S GEMS



Take cuttings now for our Silent Auction this fall - they'll be well started and you'll beat the heat! Now if I'll just heed my own advice...

Charter member Mary Church is at home recovering from knee surgery.

NOW the newsletter looks different!  
 Thanks to Dick & Chuck & A NEW PRINTER.  
 THANK YOU ALL!!

TREASURER'S REPORT  
 Myrtle reports a February  
 balance of \$5022.29.

The directors voted on a  
 CONVENTION LOGO designed  
 by Linda Benziger,  
 and here it is:

THANKS, LINDA!!



OFFICERS

|              |                  |          |
|--------------|------------------|----------|
| PRESIDENT    | DICK WIEDHOPF    | 885-6367 |
| V. PRESIDENT | CHUCK HANSON     | 883-9404 |
| SECRETARY    | JERI OGDEN       | 321-9484 |
| TREASURER    | MYRTLE ETHINGTON | 887-4507 |

DIRECTORS

|                  |                   |          |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| MILES ANDERSON   | TERM EXPIRES 1994 | 682-7272 |
| LINDA BENZIGER   | TERM EXPIRES 1994 | 881-3212 |
| MYRTLE ETHINGTON | TERM EXPIRES 1994 | 887-4507 |
| NORMA BECKMAN    | TERM EXPIRES 1995 | 885-0669 |
| DAN BIRT         | TERM EXPIRES 1995 | 325-4967 |
| DICK WIEDHOPF    | TERM EXPIRES 1995 | 885-6367 |
| JIM HOSACK       | TERM EXPIRES 1996 | 292-0925 |
| MARY CHURCH      | TERM EXPIRES 1996 | 624-7976 |
| GENE JOSEPH      | TERM EXPIRES 1996 | 628-8773 |
| BOB WEBB         | TERM EXPIRES 1996 | 822-1059 |

SPECIAL DUTIES

|                |                |          |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| CSSA AFFILIATE | NORMA BECKMAN  | 885-0669 |
| PUBLICITY      | LINDA BENZIGER | 881-3212 |
| CLUB LOGO      | JERI OGDEN     | 321-9484 |

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

|                          |                |          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------|
| CONVENTION COORDINATOR   | DICK WEIDHOPF  | 885-6367 |
| FOOD & BEVERAGE          | JANE EVANS     | 628-8773 |
| SALES                    | JERI OGDEN     | 321-9484 |
| HOSPITALITY              | GENE JOSEPH    | 628-8773 |
|                          | NORMA BECKMAN  | 885-0669 |
|                          | JERI OGDEN     | 321-9484 |
| CLUB SALES               | LINDA BENZIGER | 881-3212 |
| FACILITIES               | MILES ANDERSON | 682-7272 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT | DAN BIRT       | 325-4967 |
| LOGO                     | LINDA BENZIGER | 881-3212 |
| FIELD TRIPS              | CHUCK HANSON   | 883-9404 |
| SOLSTICE                 | JANE EVANS     | 628-8773 |
| PUBLICITY                |                |          |
| AUDIO VISUAL             | CHUCK HANSON   | 883-9404 |

Pick the one (or two) that interests you, and LETS HEAR THOSE PHONES!  
 .....THE CONVENTION IS COMING....THE CONVENTION IS COMING.....

TCSS newsletter is published monthly except August. Submit materials by the 15th of the month to Jeri Ogden, 3329 E Navajo Place, Tucson 85716 (321-9484) or catch me at meetings. I appreciate feedback (all kinds) on newsletters. Please help me to correct phone/address errors, also. Meetings are held in the Porter House at Tucson Botanical Gardens at 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month. See paper or call for specifics. 1994 dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, \$5/student (18 & under), payable at meetings or send check to: TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 2150 N ALVERNON WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85712. (326-9686)

# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JUNE 1994 NEWSLETTER



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

7:30 PM, TBG PORTER HOUSE  
Thursday, June 2

## PROGRAM:

Zerophytic Plants of Lower Rio Grande Valley

Our program will be presented by Matt Johnson, former curator at T'Ohono Chul Park, & currently botanist for the Desert Legume Project (jointly sponsored by the University of Arizona and Boyce-Thompson Arboretum). Matt has traveled extensively throughout the South Western US and South America, so this should prove to be an elucidative experience!

**BRAG TABLE** - C'mon, FOLKS -  
I'll show you mine if you'll show me yours!!

## BUSINESS -

The subject of REFRESHMENTS will be discussed.  
THANK YOU, NORMA BECKMAN, for May meeting goodies!

Also, no decision has been made on our club logo. WE NEED ONE.

## AGAVE FEST

In May, Tony Burgess presented 'An Overview of Agaves'. Tony is respected worldwide for his expert knowledge on the subject. His talk was excellent, and did indeed tell everything you always wanted to know about these superb succulents:

We had 10 GUESTS at our meeting!

Agaves are Lilies evolved to cope with aridity.

Leave Agave stalks up, Tony urges, as forage & wildlife habitat. Carpenter bees, which pollinate Desert Willows, like to live in old Agave stalks.

Typical Agave habitat is a semi-arid rocky slope, not a desert. Tony touched on this and many points - suitability for soap, indiscriminate cross-hybridization, habitat, variation of toothedness & weevil resistance.

Copies of Tony's Agave slide list will be available June 2.

The free plant was a choice of Agaves: Colorato, Pelona, Parryi, Scabra x Ferdinand, and Zebra.

The door prizes were also Agaves: Felpari, Parryi, Arizonica, Multifilifera, and Taumeyana v Bella.

THANKS AGAIN, NORMA!!

Mary Lou Ogden (YES!) reports she is VERY PLEASED with her raffle prize dish garden.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS:

Mary Stowe                    323-3376

Jana & CARL Sweets

Member Kim Collins is living at Valley House Health Center, following a stroke. Cards of encouragement are always welcome. We wish you a speedy recovery, Kim!!

COMING EVENTS:

1994

JUNE 16-19            Midwest Conference  
                         Kansas City C&SS  
                         Overland Park, KS

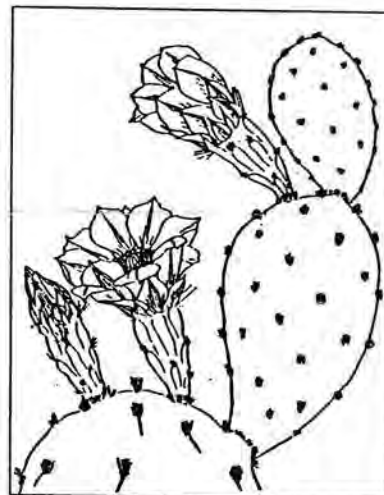
JULY 1-3              29th Annual Show & Sale  
                         Huntington Botanical Gardens  
                         San Marino, CA

AUGUST                NO TCSS MEETING OR NEWSLETTER.

SEPTEMBER 1        **TCSS SILENT AUCTION.** Plant your offsets now for donation to the club. This is a great opportunity to enhance your collection with plants donated by fellow members.

1995

JUNE 19-23            CSSA Convention - TUCSON!!



The remainder of this newsletter is recycled tidbits from CACTUS CAPITAL CHATTER. Again, I invite contributions!

### THE GIFT OF LIFE

Of the miracles of this planet, none is more fascinating than the mechanism that permits green plants to absorb poisonous gases from the air and replace them with oxygen. For man, this process is more than a biological phenomenon. It is a gift of life.

It is ironic that the United States became the world's leading agricultural power, amassed the greatest reservoir of technological skill and pushed the frontier of knowledge beyond the threshold of space while ignoring the depletion of our atmosphere until it was almost too late. A cruel cycle of pollution now grips every major city. No

practical region  
free of  
of contamin-  
Some areas  
polluted  
are approach-  
ess for human

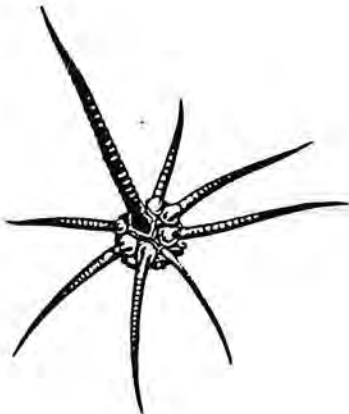
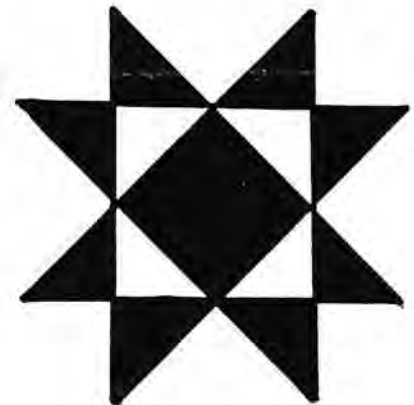
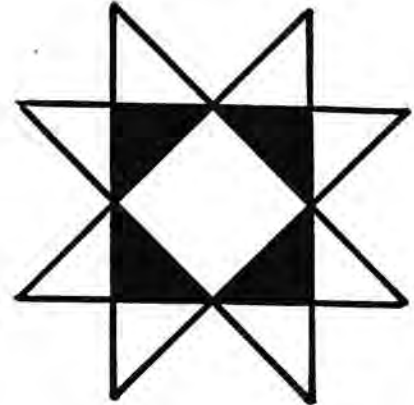
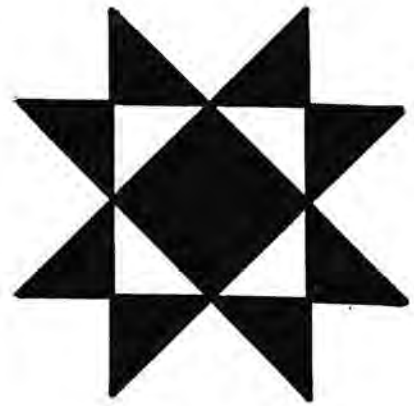
requires oxygen -  
and in large quantities  
to survive. His con-  
sumption of oxygen aver-  
ages 23 pounds daily.  
The sole source of this

vital, life-giving element is the plant life which he is replacing with asphalt and concrete. Plants complete the ecological chain between animal and plant kingdoms. They absorb carbon dioxide and combine it with energy from the sun, nutrients and water from the soil to convert this poisonous gas into oxygen. Without this process, known as photosynthesis, there would be no oxygen to breathe. Thus, the cultivation of plant life on earth is much more than a pleasant, leisure time activity. TO GROW PLANTS IS TO AID NATURE IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

### WAX COATING ALLOWS PLANTS TO SURVIVE.

-----  
If leaves did not have a waterproof surface, evaporation would kill many plants. The common waterproofing on plant leaves is wax made within the leaf and spread on the surface to make a protective wrapper. The wrapping, however, does not cover tiny pores through which leaves interchange gases and water vapor with the air.

Scientists say that man knows no way to package a living, growing thing so selectively. The wax coating on leaves appears to serve different purposes in different plants in addition to waterproofing.



### SOME USES FOR CACTI

Tucson police reported that they arrested a man after he tried to hold up a bookstore with a piece of cactus. The man held a foot-long segment of prickly pear up to the clerk and demanded money. The clerk reached under his desk for a club and hit the attempted robber on the head.--Arizona Daily Star, 1977.

# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July 7, 7:30 pm

PROGRAM: Growing & Breeding Adeniums

LOCATION: Porter House, TBG

**Dr. Mark Dimmitt**, Curator of Botany at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and famed Echinopsis hybridizer, will share his extensive knowledge of the 'Karoo Rose'. He offers a specimen feature plant for the raffle!

**REFRESHMENTS** will work this way: TCSS will provide cups, napkins & the 'wet', while last names O - R need to bring a 'dry'. A big **THANK YOU!!** to **Mary Church** for baking & bringing ALL the cookies in June!

**Matt Johnson**, club member & presenter of our June program, has worked on the Desert Legume Project since '89, including a study of Sonoran Burseras.

'Zerophytic plants of the Lower Rio Grande Valley' featured slides of yucca, jatropha, agave, opuntia, hectia & about 2 dozen variety of cacti, as well as acacia & leucophyllum, but little grass, do to overgrazing. This area of 'Catalina Thornscrub' or 'South Texas Brush Country' is just that - thorny brush! Of low elevation (0-1000 feet), semi-arid and semi-tropical, the valley is periodically subjected to rather severe freezes. Roughly defined, it covers Laredo south to Brownsville.

During our June 7 board meeting, which was primarily a discussion of convention plans, a decision was made to adopt our new convention logo for TCSS, also. It is pictured above - soon to be visible **everywhere** as we countdown to **TUCSON '95!!**

**LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENT:** Located (inside!) Gene Joseph's Plants for the Southwest at 50 E Blackledge, TCSS maintains a library of books and periodicals on succulent plants. Members are encouraged to use this facility! Books may be checked out for up to 30 days, or arrangements can be made with club librarian Jim Hosack (292-0925) to pickup/return books at meetings.

## PLEASE WELCOME

return of

Debra Sheperd & Family 9617 E Barrudean Hills Tucson 85748

and newcomers

Bill & Mary Odette 3831 N Cherry Creek Place Tucson 85749



Jeri's Gems

Harrison Yocum won the raffle plant - Euphorbia kiwiensis. Door prizes were Mammillaria plumosa, M. lenta, M. longimamma, Stenocactus longispina & Corophantha micromeris. Free plants were Ferocactus hamatacanthus var. sinuatus - native to the Lower Rio Grande, of course! **THANKS, NORMA!!**

Member Kim Collins and Treasurer Myrtle Ethington have returned home!  
**HOPE TO SEE YOU BOTH JULY 7!!**

**COMING EVENTS: (PLEASE NOTE CHANGES)**

1994

- JULY 1-3                    29th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE  
                                  HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
                                  SAN MARINO, CA
- AUGUST                      NO TCSS MEETING OR NEWSLETTER  
                                  (SUGGESTION: Use these long evenings to  
                                  compose/create/contribute to this, YOUR newsletter.)
- SEPTEMBER 1                REGULAR EVENING MEETING -  
                                  PREPARING PLANTS FOR SILENT AUCTION
- SEPTEMBER 18 ?            SUNDAY AFTERNOON SILENT AUCTION  
                                  TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
                                  Norma Beckman (885-0669)
- OCTOBER ??                 SPECIAL PROGRAM BY  
                                  EUPHORBIAS OF INDIA EXPERT  
                                  MEENA SINGH

1995

- JUNE 18-24                 CSSA CONVENTION  
                                  TUCSON, ARIZONA





# TUCSON CONVENTION

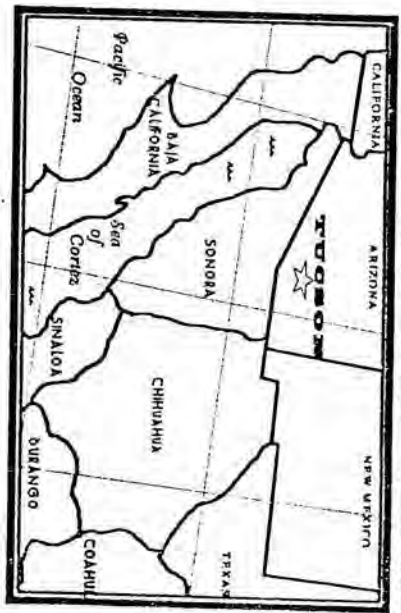
## JUNE 18-24, 1995

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A  
DESERT SUNSET?

HAVE YOU TASTED SAGUARO  
JAM?

HAVE YOU DRUNK OCOTILLO  
TEA?

HAVE YOU SMELLED A  
DESERT DAWN?



*You can do all these things and more in Tucson, AZ, at the CSSA's 26th Biennial Convention to be held June 18-24, 1995. But you must plan ahead - don't get caught without a room reservation! Start to plan your 1995 vacation now around the dates June 18-24, 1995.*

We have reserved the beautiful Doubletree Inn with swimming pool, restaurants, and nearby golf and tennis courts for the entire period. We will have the lowest rates in town - \$53.00 per night (room only) with two double beds.

Hear Susan Carter, Kew Gardens, England, Dr. Len Newton, Nairobi, Kenya, Gerhard Marx, South Africa, Alfred Razafindratsira, Madagascar, Mary Wilkins(Ellert) and Anthon Ellert Zimbabwe, Charlie Glass, Mexico, Larry Mitich and Steve Hammer, USA, plus many others. The convention theme is the ethnobotany of cacti & succulents. Our program will feature a GIANT AUCTION, exciting BUS TRIPS and unlimited time to TALK, TALK, TALK to your old friends and fellow hobbyists. Another spotlight will be pre and post convention trips to the Mexican side of the Sonoran Desert and the Sea of Cortez! We plan to have a lot of fun in the sun in Tucson. And folks don't forget, we will feature the very best PLANT & BOOK SALES that can be assembled.

Arizona is a wonderful vacation state with more National Parks, Monuments & Forests than any other state in the US, many great nurseries, and more than 250 species of cacti and succulents native to the surrounding Sonoran Desert region. The Grand Canyon, Sedona, and Tombstone are within easy driving distance and MEXICO is only an hour away! Write for a registration form and more information after June 1, 1994 to:

**Clive Hanson, Host Society Chairman**

Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

3400 West Pilsbury Road

Tucson, Arizona 85716

Richard Bernard, Convention Chairman

Seymour Linden, Program Chairman

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON WAY  
TUCSON, AZ 85712





# DESERT BREEZE



Note - The following issues are not available and we would ask anyone who may be able to provide us with a copy would be appreciated. They can be emailed to the webmaster at the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society or to the President.

## **Year - Months Missing**

2000 - Jan missing

1999 - Dec missing

1997 - Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Nov missing

1996 - Jan, May missing

1995 - Jun, Jul, Aug missing

1994 - Aug missing

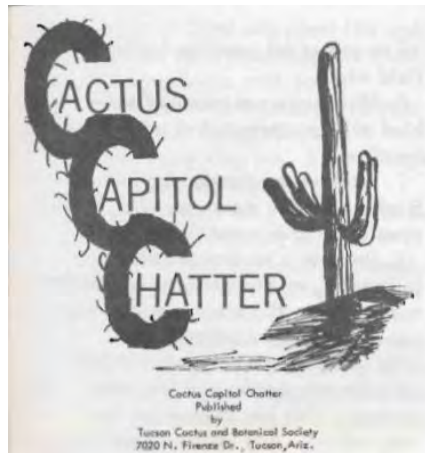
1992 - All months except Jul and Aug missing

1991 - All months missing

1990 - All months missing

1989 - All months except Jan and Feb missing

1988 - May, Sep missing



From 1965 to 1982 the Newsletter was named “Cactus Capitol Chatter”

It was published quarterly (4 issues per year)

We are missing 1982 - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter publications

# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



MEMBERSHIP MEETING: SEPTEMBER 1, 7:30 PM  
PROGRAM: PREPARING PLANTS FOR AUCTION  
LOCATION: PORTER HOUSE, TBG

AND

SILENT AUCTION: SEPTEMBER 18  
TIME: 10 am to noon  
LOCATION: EDUCATION BUILDING, TBG

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO LINDA BENZIGER FOR PUBLICITY - MEETING ATTENDANCE IS UP!!

REFRESHMENTS: S & T bring the "dry"; TCSS will take care of the "wet."  
THANKS to those who helped in July.

KAROO ROSE FANS turned out in force to share in Mark Dimmitt's Adenia expertise in July. He explained:

The reason Adeniums have a reputation for being hard to grow is that they will not grow in southern California. They will not grow (very well or outdoors) in any part of the country that has long winters.

This plant needs hot temperatures. It needs lots of sunlight and (contrary to its apparent succulent nature) it needs lots of water.

In the summertime, treat these like tomato plants: water well, fertilize heavily.

In the winter, treat it like a tropical cactus: put it in a warm, dark place and forget about it. If it gets below 50 degrees and is watered, it will die.

If you keep it warm & water when the temperature is above 50 degrees, its really difficult to go wrong.

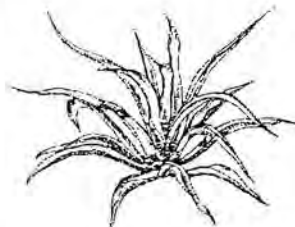
These are not really desert plants; they are tropical thornscrub plants. During the summer they like lots of rain.

We viewed slides illustrating how well Adenia bloom, and admired his donation to the raffle - 'Volcanic Sunset' a lovely Adenium of his own creation.

THANKS, MARK for sharing your knowledge!!

CONVENTION NEWS.....

There was no membership meeting in August, but things haven't slowed as we count the MONTHS to TUCSON '95!! The Convention committee did meet, and agreed we need a larger work force! As we went to press, we still had no regularly scheduled Convention Committee meeting time, but will designate a portion of monthly get-togethers for membership input & updates.



Where Is It?

For the Convention in 1995, we need the location of large native and non-native plants growing in the Tucson area - like the large Organ Pipe at Ghost Ranch Lodge. Where is the biggest agave patch, the largest group of Burbank Spineless Prickly Pear, Tucson's largest saguaro? If you know of an especially good cactus planting (or several of them), please get the address and maybe a picture.

Perhaps you know of or are a collector who will allow visitors or drive-bys. Southern Arizonans are famous for their open, friendly attitude - here is a chance to express it!

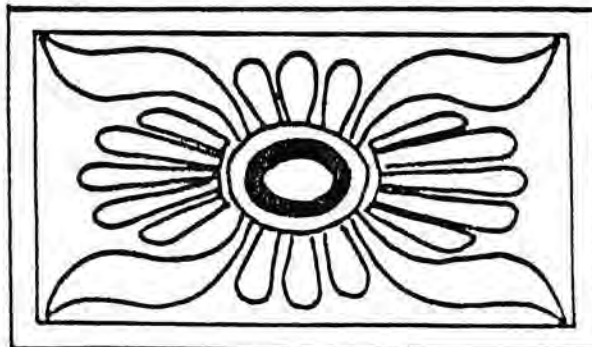
Please write, call or bring your example to Dan Birt (1517 N Beverly Blvd 85712, phone 325-4967), to help him create a BIG MAP of Tucson's specimen plants for convention goers & us!

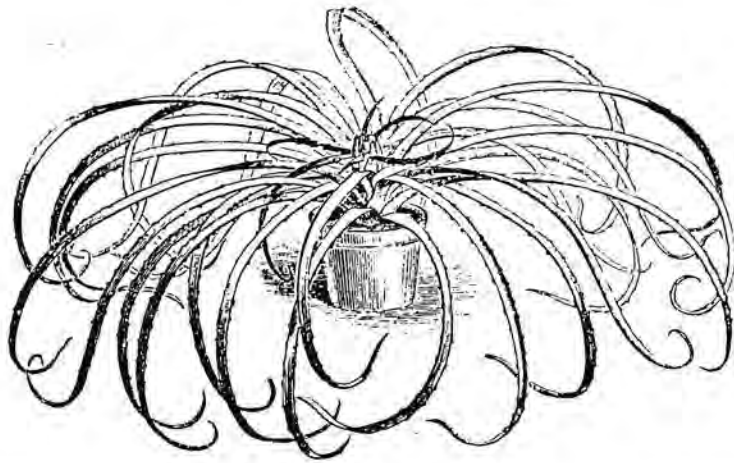
by Dan Birt

Please help me welcome these new members:

|                  |                         |       |          |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------|----------|
| Margaret Pope    | 2820 E 4th              | 85716 | 795-1285 |
| Beverly Meredith | 160 N Pantano #1037     | 85710 | 722-6585 |
| Kathrina Albig   | 4229 N Rio Cancion #111 | 85718 | 794-2846 |

Member Kim Collins has returned to Valley House (5545 E Lee Room 107 Tucson AZ 85715), and appears to be in failing health. She was pleased to receive her convention poster in July. Send her a colorful card! (Editor's suggestion.)





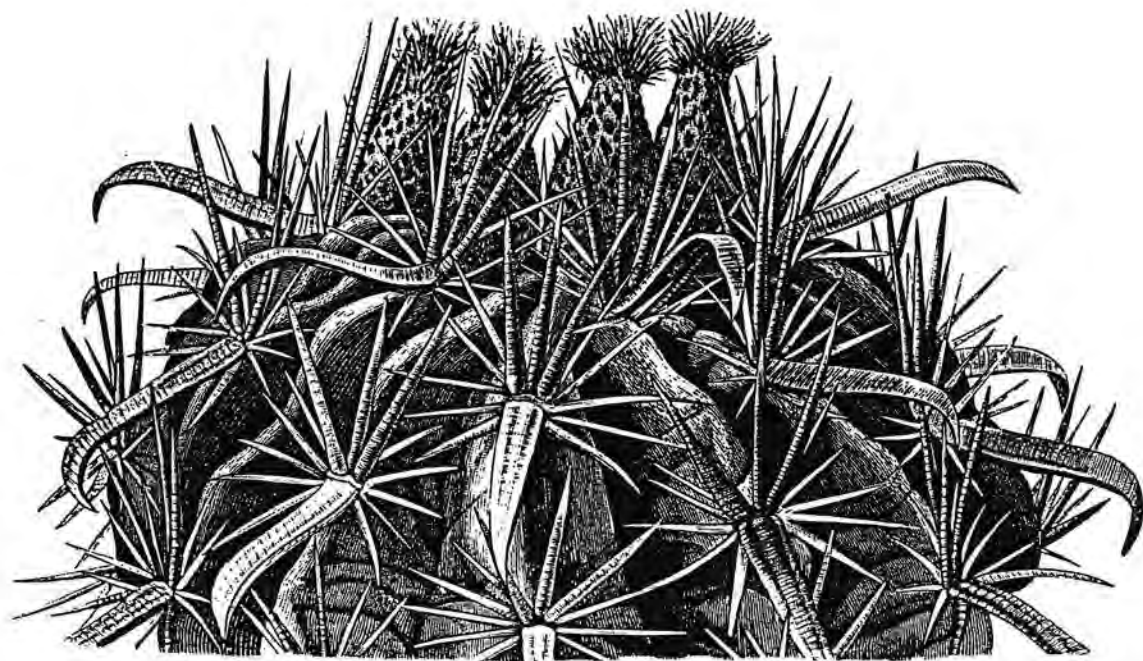
Begin preparing plants now for our Silent Auction - or learn how at our September 1 meeting! Included in this newsletter are tally sheets for your plant or item donations. Please include plant name. We welcome related items - pot, shade cloth, book, fertilizer, gift or decorative C&S item - use your imagination!

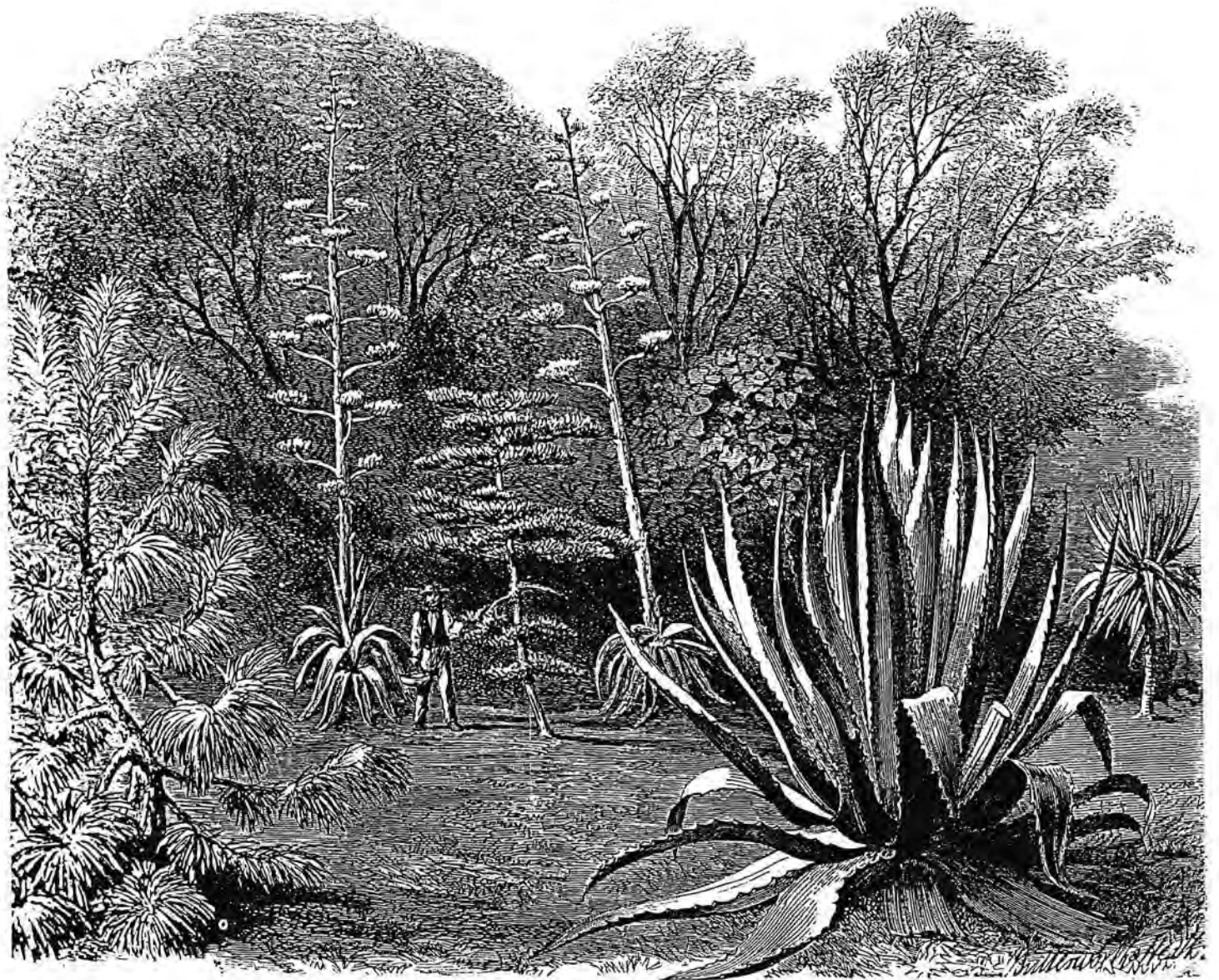
Also September 1, bring your favorite plants for our BRAG TABLE!

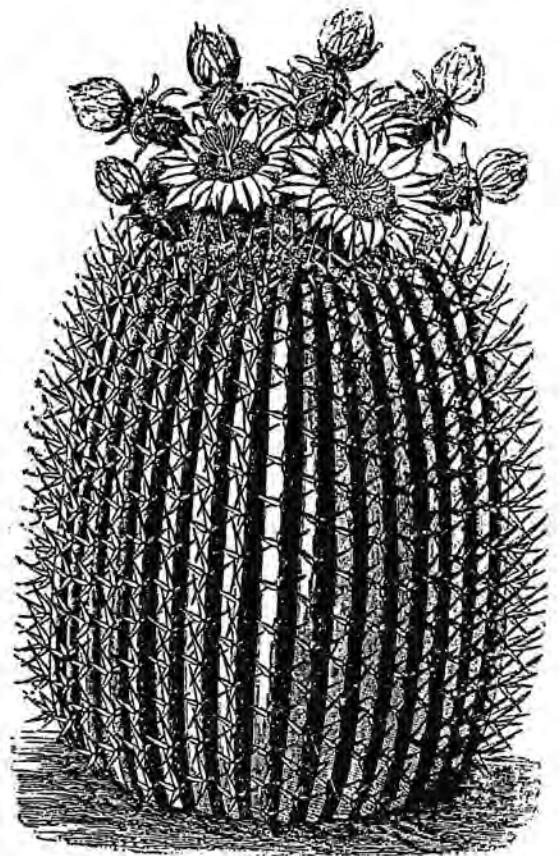
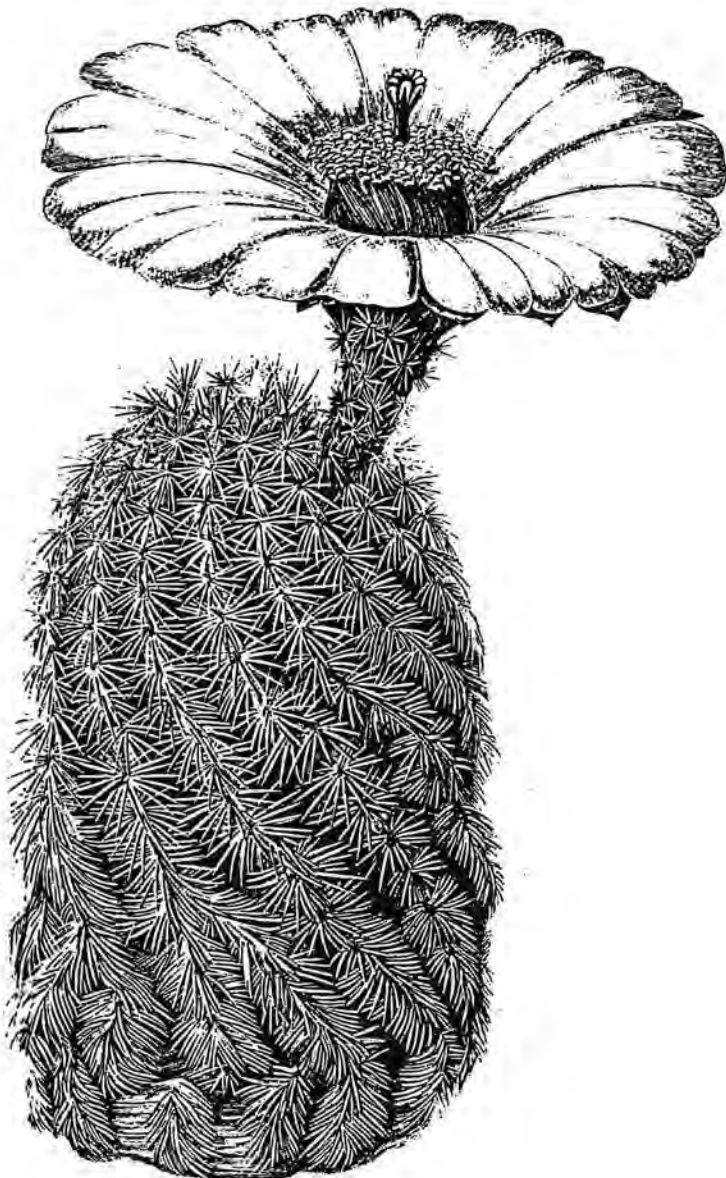
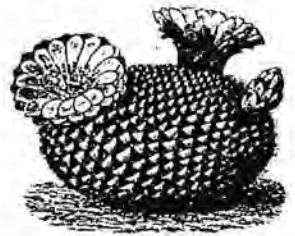
**A Special Occasion - Tell Your Friends - Bring Your Neighbors!!!**

Due to the extraordinary nature of the program, TCSS October meeting will take place 7:30 PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT UA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY (corner of Martin & Mabel, behind McDonald's). Why all the hullabaloo? Our featured speaker is **Meena Singh**, dispensing expertise on the succulents of India!!

Many thanks to Living Stones Nursery (Gene & Jane) for these lovely C&S illustrations appearing here now and in the future!







OFFICERS

|              |                  |          |
|--------------|------------------|----------|
| PRESIDENT    | DICK WIEDHOPF    | 885-6367 |
| V. PRESIDENT | CHUCK HANSON     | 883-9404 |
| SECRETARY    | JERI OGDEN       | 321-9484 |
| TREASURER    | MYRTLE ETHINGTON | 887-4507 |

DIRECTORS

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SPECIAL DUTIES

|                |                |          |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| CSSA AFFILIATE | NORMA BECKMAN  | 885-0669 |
| PUBLICITY      | LINDA BENZIGER | 881-3212 |

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

|                          |                |          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------|
| CONVENTION COORDINATOR   | CHUCK HANSON   | 883-9404 |
| FIELD TRIPS              | "              |          |
| PLANT SALES              | GENE JOSEPH    | 628-8773 |
| FOOD & BEVERAGE          | JANE EVANS     | 628-8773 |
| HOSPITALITY              | NORMA BECKMAN  | 885-0669 |
| CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  | JERI OGDEN     | 321-9484 |
| REGISTRATION             | "              |          |
| FACILITIES               | MILES ANDERSON | 682-7272 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT | DAN BIRT       | 325-4967 |
| AUDIO VISUAL             |                |          |
| PUBLICITY                |                |          |

THIS IS **YOUR** PARTY & WE **ALL** NEED HELP, SO LETS HEAR THOSE PHONES!!!  
 Tucson hosts CSSA's convention **June 19-23 1995!!**  
 .....THE CONVENTION IS COMING....THE CONVENTION IS COMING.....

This newsletter is published monthly except August. Submit materials by the 15th of the month preceding to Jeri Ogden, 3329 E Navajo Place, Tucson 85716 (321-9484) or catch me at meetings. I appreciate feedback (all kinds) on newsletters. Please help me to correct phone/address errors, also. Meetings are held in the Porter House at Tucson Botanical Gardens at 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month. See paper or call for specifics. 1994 dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, \$5/student (18 & under), payable at meetings or send check to: TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 2150 N ALVERNON WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85712. (326-9686)

# TUCSON

JUNE 18-24, 1995

## CONVENTION NEWS

Planning for the 26th Biennial CSSA Convention in Tucson is well underway. Both the national and local convention committees are working hard to see that Tucson '95 will be the best convention ever. The registration forms are being prepared now and will be included in the September - October issue of the Journal.

The slate of speakers is an impressive one, including speakers from Africa, South America, Madagascar, Europe and, of course, the US. The theme of the convention is the ethnobotany of succulents, so many of our speakers will talk on the uses native peoples from around the world have made of the plants that we enjoy so much as a hobby.

During the convention there will be Wednesday field trips to the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, the Boyce-Thompson Arboretum in Superior, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, and several of the well-known local cactus and succulent nurseries, including Bach's, Plants for the Southwest, and Arid Lands. There may be several early morning field trips to a Tohono O'odham saguaro fruit harvest camp. Participants should be able to watch, and assist in, the centuries old harvest that has been so important in O'odham culture. There will also be a great selection of O'odham crafts, baskets, and souvenirs available for purchase.

We have both pre- and post-convention trips planned. The pre-convention trip will be a 7 day trip to S.E. Arizona to explore the "sky islands", the mountains of that area that rise up out of the desert. The participants will stay in Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains and make day trips to the surrounding area. The 7 day post-convention trip will explore the Barranca del Cobre in the Sinaloa/Sonora/Chihuahua area of western Mexico. The Barranca del Cobre is frequently referred to as the Grand Canyon of Mexico, and is actually larger than the Grand Canyon. The Barranca is located in an area where tropical and temperate flora and fauna meet, giving rise to a unique biota. The Barranca is also home to the Tarahumara Indians, the famous runners of the Sierra Madre. Participants will have ample time to explore the Barranca and its indigenous flora and fauna and will have the opportunity to meet Tarahumara on their home territory. The experience promises to be a memorable one. The pre and post convention trips arrangements are being handled by Borderland Tours. Please call (800)525-7753 for more information.

The desert surrounding Tucson is some of the most picturesque landscape in the world: spectacular mountains, unlimited vistas, huge saguaros, and chamber-of-commerce sunsets. If you miss this convention, you'll be kicking yourself for years to come!

Looking forward to hosting you in Tucson!

For more information; mail, fax, or e-mail inquiries to:

**TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

1995 CSSA CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

3560 West Bilby Road

Tucson, Az 85746

Telephone: (602) 883-9404

Fax: (602) 883-8874

e-mail: [tucson95@elixir.pharm.arizona.edu](mailto:tucson95@elixir.pharm.arizona.edu)



# TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



OCTOBER 1994 MEMBERSHIP MEETING:  
THURSDAY, OCT 20, 7:30 PM  
SPECIAL SPEAKER: MEENA SINGH  
PROGRAM: SUCCULENTS OF INDIA  
LOCATION: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AUDITORIUM, ROOM 325  
(CORNER OF MABEL & WARREN)

Meena Singh, India's premier succulentist, (and a whiz with curry) has been revising Euphorbia of India. Working under a research grant from CSSA, she has come across many varieties of succulents during her extensive field study.

In anticipation of a legion of Euphorbia fans, a spacious meeting location has been selected. BE THERE!!!

REFRESHMENTS: After her talk, refreshments will be served.  
THANKS to those who provided goodies in September!!

A WORD ABOUT DUES: It's time to remind everyone about membership! 1995 is going to be busy, so take care of it now! (\$20 family, \$15 individual) See Myrtle Ethington.

December 11 is our HOLIDAY POTLUCK at TBG  
Plan to bring an exceptional plant - details soon!!

FREE AND DOOR PRIZE PLANTS FOR JULY:  
A choice of ADENIUM OBESUM or A. SWAZICUM was free to members.  
Door Prizes were Euphorbia nesemanii, E. polygona x anoplia,  
Crassula bakeri, Scilla, & Anacampseros retusa.

FREE PLANT FOR SEPTEMBER was a choice of:

GYMNOCALYCIUM SCHATLIANUM  
G. RIOGRANDENSE  
G. MULTIFLORUM  
NOTOCACTUS CRASSIGIBUS  
MAMMILLARIA BEISILLII  
PARODIA OTUYENSIS

RAFFLE PLANT:  
MAMMILLARIA SCRIPPSIANA

DOOR PRIZES:  
ECHINOCEREUS BOYCE THOMPSONII  
E. PECTINATUS  
MAMMILLARIA MICROCARPA  
M. ARIZONICA



THANKS, NORMA!!

Due to major competition (UA football) - the September meeting was more informal convention discussion than plant preparation instruction. President Dick Weidhopf shared slides of Tucson, including sunsets and singular C&S grown here. Please continue to call Dan Birt (325-4967) regarding large plants growing in the area, species collectors, landscaped yards, etc. for our files.

PLEASE HELP ME WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Michael & Teresa Newberry  
1304 E 8th St, Tucson 85719 628-1001



JERI'S GEMS



All excited about your plants? How about displaying them for all to see in a JUDGED SHOW?! The Men's Garden Club of Tucson is hosting the 34th annual **Desert Harvest Community Show, November 12 & 13** at El Con Mall. We could WOW 'em with a superb display of C & S!! For a show schedule, call Bob Dore at 747-9926.

INFORMAL SURVEY - What do YOU like about your newsletter? What would you like to see more of? Not see?

TCSS MEMBERS: IF YOU WANT to be considered by the nominating committee for officer or director, please call secretary Jeri Ogden (321-9484). The office of Vice President (one year term) and 3 director positions (three year terms) are open, and we VOTE November 3.



CONVENTION UPDATE.....

CLUB SALES are wide open! This stimulating project can be yours!! Call Chuck Hanson at 883-9404 or Dick Wiedhopf at 885-6367.

The board has agreed to skip our April Show & Sale to better prepare for June's Convention.

The following is a flyer for a pre-convention trip, led by Rick Taylor & our own Mark Dimmitt:

# CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

## Sky Island: Southeastern Arizona

### June 13-18, 1995



Southeastern Arizona is where Mexico's Sierra Madre mountains, and the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts all spill across the international boundary. With them comes an array of "Mexican" plants and animals found nowhere else north of the border, as well as the richest floristic diversity of any land-bounded area in the entire United States. This trip will take us to the internationally known Chiricahuas, the largest of Arizona's "sky islands". Soaring a vertical mile above the surrounding desert, these mountains support a flora estimated at an astounding 2000 species. Here we can look forward to seeing the luscious scarlet blossoms of Claret Cup, *Echinocereus riglochidians*, perhaps the showiest of the hedgehogs, and discovering the strawberry and lime layered stems of Rainbow Cactus, another of the unique cactus of Southeastern Arizona. During our five days in Cave Creek we will explore a mosaic of habitats ranging from Chihuahuan desert scrub at the canyon outlet to the Quaking Aspen groves and meadows carpeted with Rocky Mountain Iris on the mountain crest. Situated 3000 feet beneath the towering strawberry cliffs of Portal, our comfortable accommodations are located in the cool sycamores of the largest riparian area in the range. Wildlife we will look for on our botany walks includes elegant trogon, an iridescent green and crimson red bird often considered the most beautiful bird in the United States, a dozen species of iridescent hummingbirds, collared peccary (locally called javelina), endemic Apache fox squirrel, coati (a tropical relative of the raccoon), and the smallest form of whitetail deer in the U. S., excluding the Florida Keys. The scenery ranges from the northernmost Apache Pines on the continent to the southernmost Engelmann Spruce in North America

Leaders: *Mark Dimant* & Rick Taylor

**Cost of Sky Island: Southeastern Arizona** includes guide service, all transportation while on the tour, all lodging, and all meals.....\$795.

|                   |       |         |   |
|-------------------|-------|---------|---|
| <b>Itinerary:</b> | Day 1 | p.m.    | Meet at 6 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel for introductions & dinner |
|                   | Day 2 | a.m.    | Drive to Chiricahua National Monument                             |
|                   |       | p.m.    | Drive to Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains                  |
|                   | Day 3 | all day | South Fork Cave Creek   |
|                   | Day 4 | all day | Guadalupe Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains                            |
|                   | Day 5 | all day | Rustler Park & Chiricahua Wilderness Area                         |
|                   | Day 6 | a.m.    | The tour ends after breakfast with our return to Tucson           |
|                   |       | p.m.    | Registration for CSSA National Conference                         |

**Meeting Point:** Doubletree Hotel, Tucson, Arizona, 6 p.m. June 13th. (Arizona Stagecoach shuttle service charges \$8.50 each to transfer guests from the Airport to the Doubletree Hotel.)

**Trip Difficulty:** Days will begin early to avoid summer heat and to catch bird and wildlife activity. We will walk 1-2 miles on the average field trip, and the pace will be leisurely to moderate to permit observation and identification of plants and flowers. Temperatures can range from over 100° F. at Tucson to 50° in the 9,000' elevation Chiricahua meadows, but most of our activities will be conducted between 4,000' and 6,000', where daily highs are usually in the 80's.

**Equipment:** Botanists may want a hand lens. Photographers should bring their cameras and extra film. Birdwatchers will want their binoculars.

Luggage will be limited to one medium-sized (or smaller!) duffel per person. Clothing should be informal and suitable for the field. Articles to include are a bathing suit, shorts, trousers, slacks or skirt, short and long-sleeved shirts, and a lightweight jacket. A brimmed hat to ward off the summer sun is a good idea. Be sure to bring a toilet kit and any necessary medications. Other items to include are a small day pack or fannypack for field guides, camera, one quart canteen, sun screen, and insect repellent. Optional articles to consider are a pocket flashlight, an alarm clock, lightweight poncho or rain jacket, and a spare pair of "hotel" shoes. Participants are expected to handle their own luggage.

**Accommodations:** Accommodations vary from modern hotels in Tucson to motel-style lodging at the Portal Peak Lodge in Arizona's famed Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains. Our accommodations throughout have been selected for comfort, cleanliness, and charm.

**Single Supplement:** Single rooms may be available at a supplemental charge equivalent to the difference between double and single rooms. The single supplement for this trip is \$200.

**Meals:** All meals are included beginning with dinner the first day through lunch on the final day. To minimize our time spent in restaurants, most meals will be ordered by the leader. Dinner desserts and non-bottled beverages are included. Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages are at the participant's expense. Ordinarily our restaurants can accommodate vegetarian and other special diets, as long as the participant is willing to be flexible about kinds of foods available.

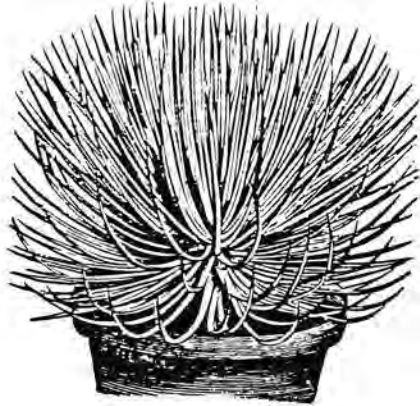
**For Information and Reservations:**

**BORDERLAND TOURS**  
2550 W. Calle Padilla  
Tucson, AZ 85745

Call Toll Free: 1-800-525-7753  
In Tucson: (602) 882-7650



*Explore the Living Museums of the World*



A BOARD MEETING is scheduled for 7:15 pm, Thursday, October 6 at TEG. This is our usual meeting day & location. Everyone is welcome to attend!

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Our conscientious treasurer, Myrtle Ethington (who volunteered to relieve Jim Hasock of library duties until someone else comes forward), reports Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society has a July balance of \$5,116.93

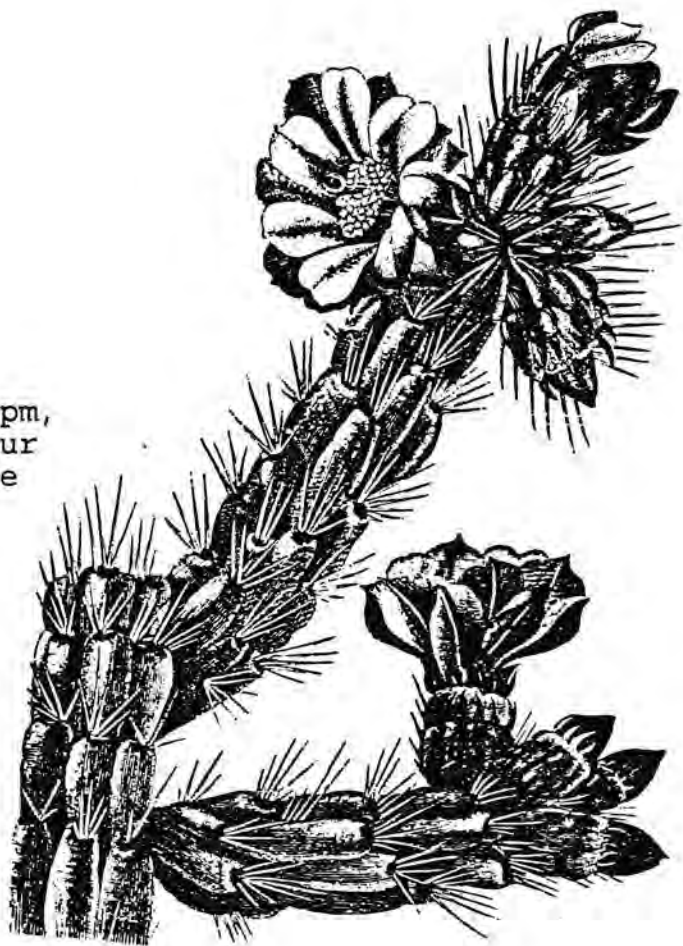
As we went to press...

Noteworthy publicity in the Tucson Weekly -

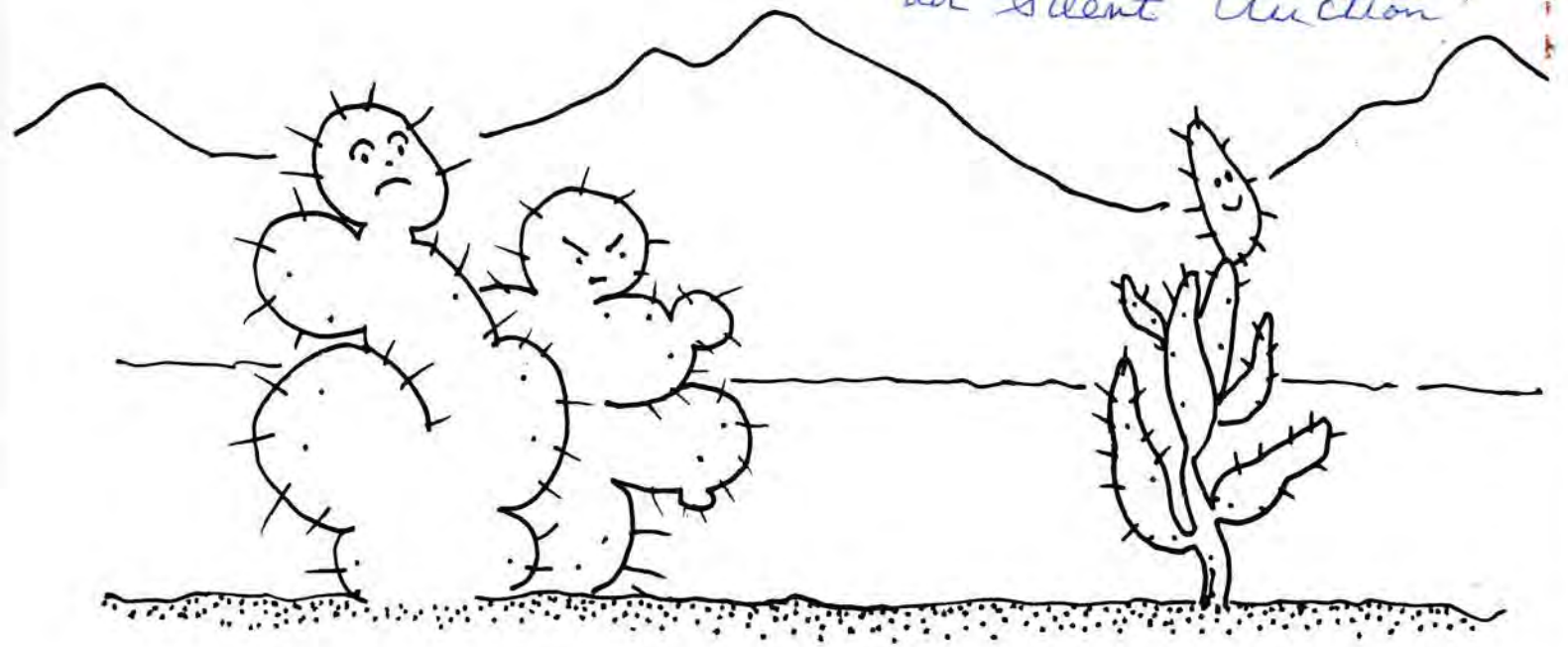
'Euphorbia Euphoria'?!?! (courtesy Linda Benziger)

was being put in place for our

SILENT AUCTION.



Thanks for your help at  
an silent Auction!



I don't know how she stays so skinny...  
she eats as much as I do!

# Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

## Monthly Newsletter

November 1994

### Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Porter House, TBG

Program: Gard Roper

AGAVE FIESTA.....

.....in the footsteps of Gentry

Gard Roper, of Phoenix, will explore habitats and offer growing tips on widely varied and unusually interesting Agaves.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Last names U-Z bring a "dry;" the club will provide the "wet!" We need a volunteer to manager meeting refreshments. Please call Jeri Ogden (321-9484) if you are willing to do this job.

TCSS Holiday plans are pending — stay tuned!!

Because of the timing of the October 20 meeting, the report on the meeting will be in next month's newsletter.

### Dues...Dues...Dues!!!

Dues are due !!! Your continued support provides these GREAT newsletters and QUALITY speakers like Singh, Roper, Anderson, Joseph, Hanson, Felger, Evans, Hammer, Dimmitt & Linden. TCSS operates on a calendar basis. Drop your check in the mail today! \$15 individual, \$20 family

Myrtle Ethington, Treasurer  
3490 N Iroquois Ave  
Tucson, AZ  
85705

### Sunny with a capital "S"

We reached the maximum sunshine at 854 minutes on June 27, and the maximum temperature of 116 degrees on June 29. There were lots of signs to warn us of worse days ahead, but tradition says that a good shower is due about July 4, so no need to shadecloth everything (it just helps the weeds sprout!) or apply extra water (it raises the water bill!)

In review, it was apparant that this powerful summer sun was too strong for any shadecloth less than 59%, and that heavy watering of many kinds of succulents simply killed them more quickly! Survival of many potted plants then fell to gardening instinct.

Watering plants occupied way too much time for many of us this summer. It is very easy to splash water around and watch the dial meter spin! Too much water lowers the soil oxygen level and drains away the minerals needed to sustain the heat-stressed plants. Looking back, carefully choosing a good watering schedule and adhering to it was tough. Even plants left under a drip line didn't prosper this year. Depending on age, type of plant and origin, this past summer required at least once a month fertilizing and watering every two weeks.

Among many choices (continued on page )

LIKE OUR NEW LOOK??

WE JUST UPDATED OUR

SOFTWARE LAST WEEK....

I'M LEARNING!!



*TUCSON '95.....  
.....June 19 - 23  
.....a taste of the  
Sonoran Desert and  
more.....*

WE STILL NEED SEVERAL CAPABLE VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE OUR CONVENTION THE BEST EVER. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. BE A PART OF THE WINNING TEAM!!

AUDIO-VISUAL

---

PUBLICITY

---

CLUB SALES

---



THIS IS YOUR PARTY AND WE ALL NEED HELP. SO LETS HEAR THOSE PHONES!! TUCSON HOSTS CSSA's CONVENTION IN JUNE!!! (By October 15 I have mailed 100 registration forms outside the U S - Africa, Australia, England, Germany, India, Mexico...)

THE CONVENTION IS COMING.....THE CONVENTION IS COMING.....  
THE CONVENTION IS COMING.....THE CONVENTION IS COMING.....

#### CONVENTION COMITTEES

CONV HEADQUARTERS,  
COORDINATOR &  
FIELD TRIPS  
CHUCK HANSON  
883-9404

SOLSTICE,  
FOOD & BEVERAGE  
JANE EVANS  
628-8773

HOSPITALITY  
NORMA BECKMAN  
885-0669

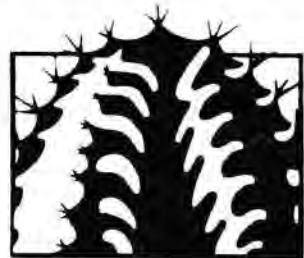
FACILITIES  
MILES ANDERSON  
682-7272

CORRESPONDING SEC'Y  
& REGISTRATION  
JERI OGDEN  
321-9484

PLANT SALES  
GENE JOSEPH  
628-8773

ADMINISTRATIVE  
OVERSIGHT  
DAN BIRT  
325-4967

This newsletter is published monthly except August. Submit material by 15th of month preceding to Jeri Ogden 3329 E Navajo Place Tucson AZ 85716, or see me at meetings. I appreciate all types of feedback. Please help me to correct phone/address errors, too. Meetings are generally held at 7:30 pm, Tucson Botanical Gardens the first Thursday (every month but August). See paper or call for specifics. 1994 dues are \$20/family, \$15 individual. See Myrtle at meeting or send check to: TCSS c/o Tucson Botanical Gardens 2150 N Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712





TCSS 1994  
OFFICERS

PRESIDENT  
DICK WEIDHOPF  
885-6367

VICE PRESIDENT  
CHUCK HANSON  
883-9404

SECRETARY  
JERI OGDEN  
321-9484

TREASURER  
MYRTLE ETHINGTON  
887-4507

DIRECTORS

MILES ANDERSON  
682-7272  
TERM EXPIRES 1994

R  
1994

TERM 1995

DAN BIRT  
325-4967  
TERM EXPIRES 1995

BOB WEBB  
822-1059  
TERM EXPIRES 1995

JIM HOSACK  
292-0925  
TERM EXPIRES 1996

MARY CHURCH  
624-7976  
TERM EXPIRES 1996

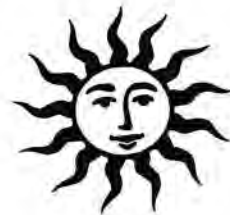
GENE JOSEPH  
628-8773  
TERM EXPIRES 1996

capital "S" continued

...to shield plants from intense sun are these: alternate arrangement of tall and short plants, block early sunrays, filter long, late-afternoon light, place blocks of wood or rocks for South- and West-side protection, nestle plants close to a tree or shrub, move pots to more protected spot on North- or East-side, place cut branches over yellowing plants, cover with nursery flats, replant in larger container, or plunge entire plant in ground.

Also, make sure there is gravel or a mulch covering exposed soil and around the collar of the plant.

Finally, a light watering in the morning or evening will raise the humidity.



A word about CONTAINER WATERING:  
One easy way is to provide one second of water per inch of pot diameter. Thus, a 6" pot needs water applied for 6 seconds, or until water flows from bottom or side drainage holes. Yes, a 24" pot needs 24 seconds of water to ensure penetration of entire container. If drainage begins too soon, suspect the soil has formed a tunnel along container sides. Rearrange and add soil or repot to be certain the center of the pot isn't being left dry!

BY DAN BIRT

*"nestle plants  
close to a tree  
or shrub"*

SPECIAL DUTIES

NEWSLETTER  
JERI OGDEN  
321-9484

CSSA AFFILIATE  
NORMA BECKMAN  
885-0669

PUBLICITY  
LINDA BENZIGER  
881-6713

# ◆ DESERT BREEZE ◆

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1994

## TCSS HOLIDAY HAPPENING

SUNDAY, DEC. 11, PORTER HOUSE, TBG  
PROGRAM: POTLUCK SOCIAL  
SET UP AT 12:30; WE BEGIN SERVING AT 1

TCSS will provide turkey, rolls, drinks & cups.

Members & guests will need to bring a PLATE, UTENSILS, DISH TO SHARE, and a GIFT to exchange. A couple of notes -

- ★ on the GIFT: a plant, pot or related item, preferably wrapped ; worth at least \$3.
- ★ and the DISH: in true potluck style - bring what you like! Bring enough to feed yourself, your guests & 6 more.

To aid planning, we encourage you to R.S.V.P. by December 7 to Jeri (321-9484). Please feel welcome if you forget!

In January, the CSSA board is again meeting at the DoubleTree Hotel, sight of our convention!

Stay tuned for details!



COLORATA  
GEMINIFLORA  
HORRIDA  
MACROACANTHA  
PARRASANA  
PARRYI TRUNCATA  
PELONA  
POTATORUM  
SCHIDIGERA  
VICTORIA REGINAE

AGAVE  
TOP TEN

## AGAVE FIESTA with GARD ROPER

NEW MEMBER GARD ROPER journeyed from Scottsdale to give us a wonderful talk on Agaves. He and his traveling companion Jim Elliott (President of Central Arizona C&S Society), are paid through 1995 - are you?

Southeastern Arizona is an ideal climate for Agave cultivation. (In fact, Gard would like suggestions on locations of prime Agave habitat.) A 'monsoon plant', Agaves like a generous supply of soil moisture IN THE GROWING SEASON. They prefer a heavy soil - cactus potting soil drains too quickly.

Agave parryii is his favorite.

In Mexico, Agaves are used to control erosion. (If you've ever tried to transplant a large one, you understand why!)

Gard often referred to the years of Agave research by Dr. Howard Gentry, whose favorite was 'colorata'.

A genetic survival technique of Agaves in response to fire, transplanting, or being partially eaten is to form offsets, often prematurely.

Chopping the bloom stalk forces about 20 pups, but sacrifices important forage or habitat for birds, bats and bugs. The liquid stored there is truly an oasis for desert dwellers.

Agaves are covered with a reflective wax coating to deflect light. This works at night, too!

THANKS, GARD, for such a friendly, informative program!!



**TUCSON**  
a taste of the  
Sonoran Desert  
and more.....  
JUNE 19-23

SUCCULENTS OF INDIA  
WITH  
MEENA SINGH

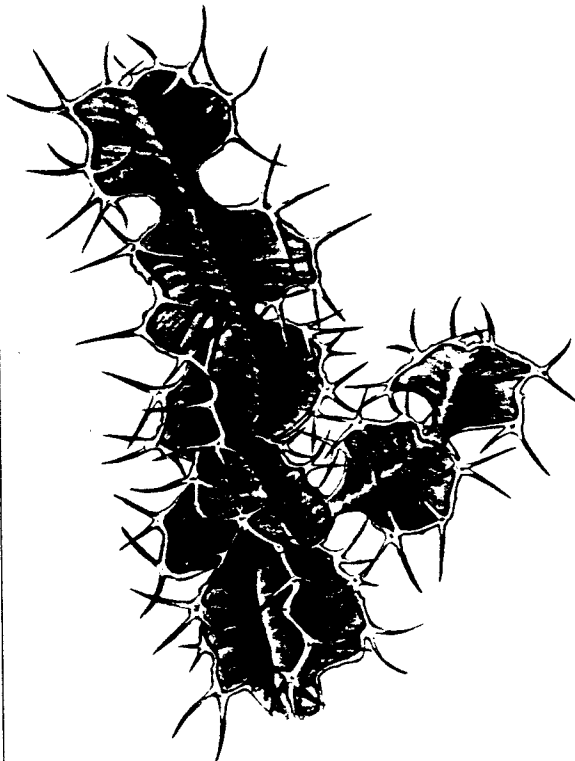
In October, Meena Singh showed many slides representative of several years in the field, working under a research grant from CSSA to study Euphorbias.

Besides featuring Euphorbia and Ceropegia (her 'next project'), slides of Caralluma, Adenia, and Scilla were shown. She reports there are many ferns, cycads, lantana and orchids growing there, also.

Author of Euphorbias of India, she is a regular contributor to the CSSA journal. (Editor's note: check out Mrs. Singh's article and the Agave parrasana on the cover of Volume 66.)

THANK YOU, MEENA, for sharing your incredible hands-on knowledge!

India has lots  
of Ceropegia....  
'my  
next project!'



NOVEMBER FREE PLANT  
ECHEVERIA BELLA

This ground-hugging, rosette-forming native of Mexico readily offsets, requiring filtered light and protection from cold.

RAFFLE PLANT: Agave macroacantha (6")  
DOOR PRIZE: (All Agaves) parryi pattoni dwarf, vershaffeltii cv-sheji rajjin, macroacantha (4"), medio alba picta & species.

MYRTLE ETHINGTON reports

a September bank balance of

\$5,351.84



## NEIGHBORS

by Les Sloan

To introduce this new column, we've selected a "neighbor" which is, to many folks, nearly as much a symbol of the Southwest as is the saguaro. That neighbor is the roadrunner, *geococcyx californianus*. Aside from the fact that they don't really go "beep-beep", there are many interesting facts about this neighbor you may not have known.

First of all, they are members of the cuckoo family, which is sparsely represented in the Western hemisphere. And most cuckoos are nothing like our roadrunners. First of all, as the name implies, roadrunners prefer to run, and don't fly much. And, unlike their kin, they aren't nest parasites, that is, roadrunners build their own nest rather than leave their eggs in another bird's nest.

Their diet is made up of assorted small reptiles, insects, rodents, cactus fruit and berries, nestling birds, and even hummingbirds - a habit which has earned them a number of human foes. And, yes, the stories are true - a roadrunner can even kill and eat a rattlesnake. The main dietary item, however, is the whip-tailed lizard. As you've likely noticed, even in the warm Southwest, lizards are pretty scarce in the winter months. And so, it seems, are roadrunners. In fact, no one is certain where they go in the winter. They don't seem to migrate. (Remember that part about "they don't fly much"? Well Central America's an awfully long walk, especially when your legs are only a few inches long.) They oc-

cupy their range from Texas and Oklahoma west to California year-round.

Some theorize that they become somewhat dormant during winter months, lowering their body temperature and metabolism. It is known that the roadrunner lowers its metabolism at night to conserve "fuel". When the sun first clears the horizon the next morning, the runner fluffs up its feathers and reveals an H-shaped patch of feathers and dark skin which it turns toward the sun, which then warms the bird for its morning activities. This saves about 50% of the energy it would otherwise need to get itself up to working temperature. But do they do that all winter? Studies are going on in the Coachella Valley in California to find out the runner's wintering habits.

The sexes are identical in appearance. About the only way to tell them apart is to see who does the courting or who lays the eggs. They'll readily nest in the spiniest cholla, not far off the ground. This past spring and summer they nested in a couple of our grapefruit trees - great for shade, but offering poor photo opportunities for us. About 4-6 eggs are laid, and the youngsters leave the nest a day or two apart as they reach fledging size. Then they start to wander, keeping mom and dad busy, tracking them with their little rattling contact calls, and feeding their insatiable appetites.

You may have wondered, What did they call it before there were roads? The old name was chaparral cock. But whatever you call it, it's one of our more interesting neighbors, and a great complement to the Sonoran desert.



*'...an awfully long walk, especially when your legs are only a few inches long.'*

### JERI'S GEMS

ADDRESS CHANGES...

KIM COLLINS  
5545 E. Lee 85712

HELEN KING  
1530 N. Bryant Ave. 85712

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ROBBIN BAZA 888-2890  
4709 N. Laird Way 85705

GARD ROPER  
5843 E Waltann Lane  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

JOHN STEVEN HOLMES &  
KIMBERLEY CURRIER  
638 N 1st Ave. 85719 624-8747

BETTY & ALAN BLACKBURN, both life members, are in poor health. Alan is on dialysis & Betty suffered a fractured pelvis in October. NORMA BECKMAN reports that they miss Tucson friends and wish they could attend meetings. We at TCSS are thinking healing thoughts & wish you both a speedy recovery! As you can see, I am now using your newsletter name suggestion - 'DESERT BREEZE' - THANKS! Cards of encouragement are welcome! Send to: 155 W. Brown Road, #144 Mesa 85201.

DAN BIRT, MYRTLE EHINGTON & RICHARD WIEDHOPF were judges at the Men's Garden Club Show November 12 & 13. NORMA BECKMAN won the Manz Memorial Award for the Best Horticultural Entry. As well as BEST IN SHOW!! CONGRATULATIONS, NORMA!!

THE CONVENTION IS COMING...

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### 1995 ELECTION RESULTS

NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS to serve 1995-1997 are:

MILES ANDERSON  
682-7272

LINDA RYAN  
299-2338

SARA PERPER  
743-3162

TCSS OFFICERS for 1995 are the same good people:

PRESIDENT  
DICK WIEDHOPF  
885-6367

VICE PRESIDENT

TO BE FILLED

SECRETARY  
JERI OGDEN  
321-9494

TREASURER  
MYRTLE EHINGTON  
887-4507

NEW SPECIAL ASSISTANTS:

SARA PERPER  
HELEN HOUSMAN  
LES & DALE SLOAN

REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS



DEBRA SHEPHERD  
SALLY WILLIAMS

Our newsletter name DESERT BREEZE comes to us courtesy of BETTY & ALAN BLACKBURN!!

DUES...

DUES...

DUES...



'Twas the Night Before Christmas  
in the Desert

- by -  
Charlotte Van Bebber

'Twas the night before Christmas  
in the the desert you know,  
Way out in the West  
Where the tall cactus grow

The Stockings were hung  
near the woodburning stove....  
Where fragrant mesquite embers  
shimmered and glowed....

Such magical shadows  
were cast on the wall...  
As Hank and Sally dozed  
to the crickets soft call

When all of a sudden  
there arose such a roar!  
they sprang from their bunks  
and ran to the door!

What is it? they wondered  
with eyes open wide...  
Is it a bobcat or a coyote  
with cactus in its' hide?

The oldtimers say  
there are ghosts in the mountains..  
Could it be old Geronimo  
out there whoopin' an' hollerin'?

"Let's go back inside",  
Said Sally with a shiver,  
It was then that they spotted  
the long-awaited figure!

He had come in a pick-up  
all laden with toys!  
And a list that he carried  
of good girls and boys!

He stood in the dry wash  
all covered with dust,  
wearing Levis and Boots  
and a look you could trust!

And there, right beside him,  
wonder of wonders.....  
stood eight out-of-breath,  
but hardy Roadrunners

He looked at them fondly  
and called them by name,  
that kindly old gent  
of Santa Claus fame.

Now Chula and Cholla,  
Dusty and streaker,  
Pepita and Rita,  
Chico and Treaker,

We've come many a mile  
through the star-spangled night,  
now my little companeros,  
you've been a real delight!

He set to work at once  
with a twinkle in his eye...  
And he whistled a tune  
as he strolled right on by...

He filled up the stockings  
with bright wonderous toys,  
with oranges and candy  
and other Christmas Joys!

And then just as quickly  
as he'd come out of the night,  
He jumped into his pick-up  
and drove out of sight!

They heard his voice echoing  
throughout the foothills...  
Merry Christmas my Amigos!  
and then the desert grew still..

