



Desert Breeze

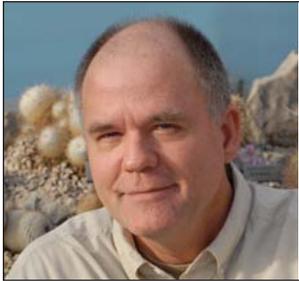
Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

August 2009

Thursday, August 6, 2009

"Understanding the Climates of Succulent Plant Habitats"

Presented by Dr. Michael W. Douglas, Ph.D
Research Meteorologist, National Severe Storms
Laboratory, Norman, Oklahoma.



This will be a very interesting program that will include lots of photos of succulent habitat locations and ariel images of many of those same areas as Michael will present his ideas about the relationship of weather on the environmental conditions on succulent plants.

Dr. Douglas became interested in cacti from a friend while in high school in San Diego, and thereafter traveled widely through the desert southwest and Baja California before going off to graduate school in Florida. After a nearly endless period of graduate studies at two universities in Florida, he obtained his Ph.D. in Meteorology from Florida State University in 1987. His last 16 years have been spent in Norman, Oklahoma at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, where, contrary to normal expectations, he has not been chasing tornadoes but instead has been doing research on the climate and weather of the southwestern US and Mexico and also of regions farther afield, in South America and parts of Africa. Fieldwork for this research required extensive traveling and extended stays throughout Latin America and parts of Africa, most with his wife Rosario. This work travel, together with many personal trips made over the years, has afforded lots of exposure to succulent habitats. This has led to some of his current "unofficial" research, which involves seeking meteorological explanations for many of the succulent plant habitats around the globe.

This will be a must see program for everyone! I would highly recommend that you please try to attend this important look at the earth's meteorological patterns and the habitats that are always under the natural control from the climate.

Our September Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 7:00pm

Richard Wiedhopf

"Happy 50th Anniversary TCSS"

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Agave

There are several hundreds species of Agave. They are native to the Southwestern US, throughout Mexico and into Central America. They were (and continue to be) cultivated for centuries by the native populations for fibers, food and drinks. They are also very useful plants in desert gardens and many of the species that are native to areas northerly of the tropics are quite hardy.

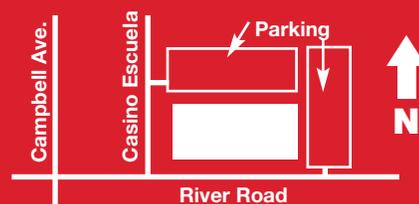
Agaves are succulent rosettes, often clumping, occasionally on short trunks. They generally have a sharp spine at the end of their leaves, and for this reason should be away from paths. Each rosette blooms after many years (generally at least 8). The blooming rosette uses all its energy to produce the giant towering bloom, and seeds. When it has finished blooming, in almost all the species, the rosette dries out. Some species produce a large quantity of new plants on the flower stem (bulbils). These can be detached and planted.

August Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with Q, R, S, T and U, please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting.

Your generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



Please read the article on the Good Time Silent Auction so you can get your plants ready and share in the fun on Sunday, September 20 at the Junior League facility. The September silent auction has been a tradition for more than 40 years.

In the last month the Adenium seedlings have really grown and I spent today removing some them from the Aero Garden environment

and planting each of them in their own 3 1/4 inch pot. It was a very simple task to remove the plugs and then plant them at a proper depth in the pots. I use a very simple potting mix consisting of one part cactus soil (Kellogg Palm and Cactus Soil-Lowes) and one part pumice (Uni-Grow – Mesquite Valley Nursery) and some added osmocote fertilizer. I am sure that these products are available at many other locations but I am always asked, "Where did you buy this?" In this case it is strictly convenience to where I live.

I watered them in and top dressed each container. The flat of 25 is in a moderate indirect light location outside and now I can sit back and watch them take off. You can see from the picture that roots have been produced and have extended through the plugs of the AeroGarden. There will be more information next month when I transplant the seedlings from the plastic shoe boxes.

Several years ago we tried to establish a pollination activity for less common plants. Many of the nurserymen do this on their own as part of their normal business activity but most members are not involved. The issue is that there are many members with rare or very desirable plants that should be propagated. It would be a shame not to take advantage of the possibilities that we have in Tucson.

For instance, my *Pachypodium namaquanum* was in full flower in the late spring and one of the member nurseries was kind enough to pollinate my plant with one or more of their plants and produce a large number of seed pods. For my part I got over 100 seeds to play with plus there were enough seeds produced to give a quantity to the CSSA Seed Depot and plenty left for the future. This is just one example of what we can do.

If you are interested in this kind of activity and want to lead or be a part of this please let me know. We need your involvement.

Thanks again,

Dick Wiedhopf, President



Good Time Silent Auction

**Sunday, September 29, 2009 • Junior League Building
2099 River Rd, 12:00 noon to 3:00pm**

Good bye to the summer heat and the monsoon and hello to fall and a great time to plant.

This is a celebration: silent auctions, free plants, \$2.00 and \$5.00 sale tables and Ice Cream with all the toppings.

Bring your excess plants for the free plant table. All we ask is that they are free of disease and insects, so please check all your plants for insects. Better plants will go on the \$2.00 and \$5.00 tables and special plants for the silent auctions. All proceeds go to our Research program. Bid sheets and price stickers will be available at the August and September meetings for your convenience.

The Board has adopted the same policy as we had at Sonoran VII with a high value special silent auction table. These items will have an opening minimum bid of \$25.00 or more set by the donor. If the item sells for at least the opening bid the donor receives the opening bid price and any amount above that goes to the society.

The regular silent auctions will feature wonderful items that you donate to support our research programs. There are no minimum bids but all bids must be even dollar amounts. We will

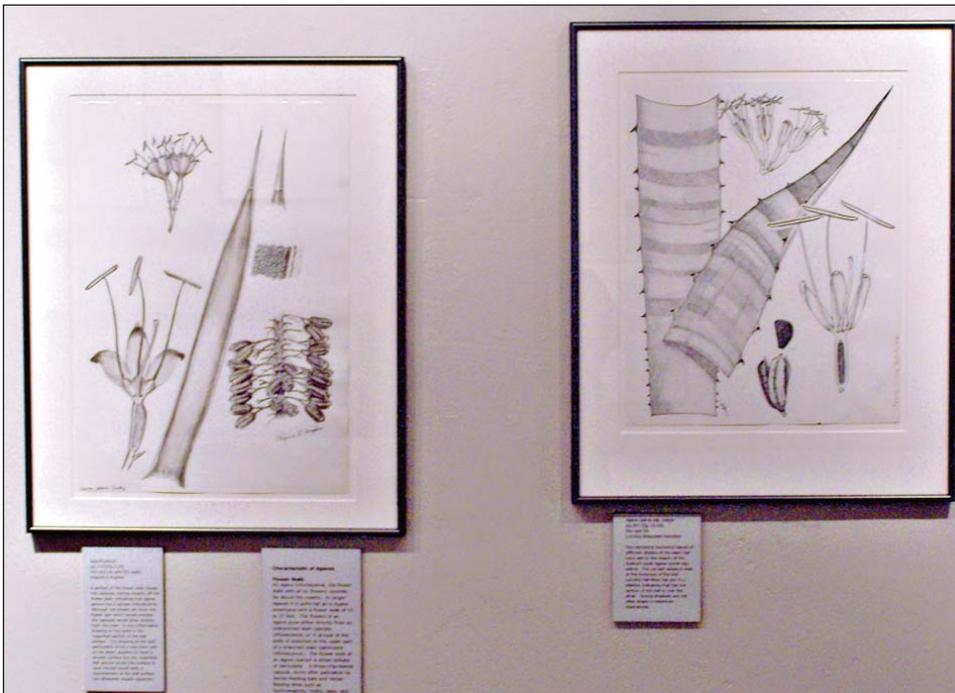
have several separate silent auction tables spaced throughout the afternoon. Pots, plants, special cutting, books, tools etc will be part of these silent auctions. There may also be a special table of books that will have a minimum bid but all the funds go to the society.

Free Plants will be available starting a 12:45pm in order to give everyone an opportunity to take some home.

We will start the set-up at 10:00am and the party will start at 12:00! The first silent auction will start at about 12:30pm and then about every 30 minutes there after. All you have to do is sign-up and get a bid number.

We always welcome volunteers for set-up, sales, and clean-up. Come help, bring in your plants and have fun. Please feel free to bring your family and friends to this event.

Illustrations from the “Agaves of Continental North America” on Exhibit at the Tucson Botanical Gardens



The exhibit of illustrations from Howard Scott Gentry's book, "Agaves of Continental North America", at the Tucson Botanical Gardens will continue through September 26, 2009. This exhibit provides information on agaves, gives insight into the art of botanical illustration and introduces you to one of the most productive botanists of the southwest.

It is the first exhibit from the University of Arizona Herbarium collection of over 900 botanical illustrations that volunteers of the Sonoran Desert Florilegium Program have been archiving. The exhibit will give you an idea of how these illustrations are being preserved. We are planning future exhibits with different illustrations. We hope you will take time to see the exhibit and also enjoy the new gardens on the grounds at TBG.

Les Longino, one of our TCSS members, has been working on developing a website for the Florilegium Program. We hope to have it up soon.

Margaret Pope

TCSS BOARD

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885-6367

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Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine

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TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

Everyone is Welcome!
Bring your friends, join in the fun,
and meet the cactus and
succulent community.

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Cacti Rescued
219 Rescues Accomplished

Please see our Web site calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

August 2009

Thursday, August 6, 2009

7:00pm

Monthly meeting: Presentation by Dr. Michael W. Douglas, Ph.D., "Understanding the Climates of Succulent Plant Habitats"

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

7:00pm

Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Library Update

Guide to the Aloes of South Africa
by Ben-Erik van Wyk & Gideon Smith

Arranged by growth habit, 125 species are each given a page with a description, distinguishing characteristics, the habitat and distribution, conservation status, name derivation and notes. The opposite page has at least three color photos.

***All About Saguaros* by Leo W. Bank**

This Arizona Highways book is a quick read for anyone interested in some of the facts and lore of the Saguaro.

***Saguaro Questions and Answers* by James W. Cornett**

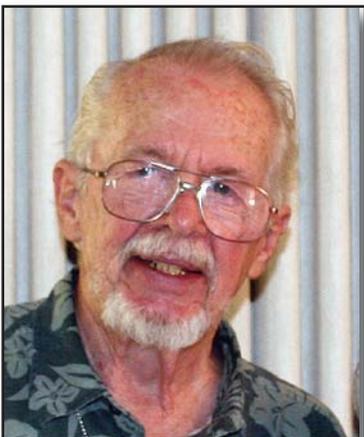
Another fast reading book, this booklet answers a multitude of questions on the Saguaro.

Discount Offer to TCSS Members

Jan Westenberg, owner of Green Things is Tucson's destination for houseplants, cactus, trees, shrubs and more! Green Things is offering all TCSS members a 10% discount. All you need to do is mention that you are a member of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and they will honor you with a 10% discount on your purchase.

Green Things is located at: 3235 E Allen Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718 (Just west of River Road and north of Brandi Fenton Park) For any needed information call Green Things at (866) 971-4635. www.greenthingsarizona.com

JACK RAMSEY 1924-2009



Jack was a great supporter of our Society. He organized trips, home garden tours, silent auctions and raffles. He did all the planning for the layout of the sales tables for the many Expositions and Sonoran conferences as well as planning the Holiday Party. He and his wife Helen participated at many TCSS events and also handled the money for many of the sales. At the monthly meetings he greeted everyone who came through the door. Jack was a TCSS member since 1998 and served on the board for many years.

Jack enjoyed his family, traveling and tending his plants. Jack will be greatly missed by members of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, all of his many friends, acquaintances, his wife Helen of 63 years, 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.