



DESERT BREEZE

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

February 2009

Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7PM
"E Namibia Semper Aliquid Novi - New
Plants from an Old Place"

Presented by Tim Harvey



Tim started growing cacti (almost exclusively) in England over 30 years ago. In the early 90s he moved across the pond to North America and in 1994 settled in California. Since then his interests had changed, focusing on the "other succulents", especially pachycaul and xerophytic trees. Tim also grows quite a few Aloes and geophytes. He has a Ph. D. in Biochemistry and having escaped the Biotechnology Industry with his morals intact, he now spends his time trying to get his backyard nursery to be more productive.

Against the spectacular backdrop that is Namibia, the program will cover the summer rainfall area (with a few diversions), with emphasis on the 'big' plants e.g. *Cyphostemma* and *Commiphora*. The effects of various factors, natural and otherwise, on the plants from year to year will be illustrated and a number of little-known or undescribed species discussed. Finally, the horticultural potential of Namibian plants will be illustrated.

Please don't miss this great presentation about an incredible area of the world. This is a presentation everyone should see.

Thursday March 5, 2009 7pm
"Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas
of California and Nevada"

Presented by Stephen Ingram

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

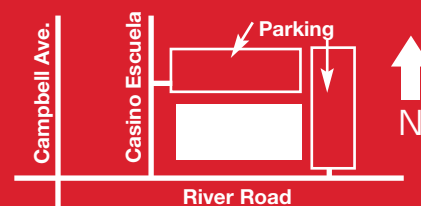
This month's free plants are *Euphorbia resinifera* and *E. coerulescens*, recommended for pot culture or under filtered light in the ground. Both are hardy to the mid or high 20's without protection, tree cover will provide some additional frost protection.

Euphorbia is a genus of plants belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae. Consisting of about 2160 species, *Euphorbia* is one of the most diverse genera in the plant kingdom. Members of the family and genus are sometimes referred to as Spurge. The genus is primarily found in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and the Americas, but also in temperate zones worldwide. Succulent species originate mostly from Africa, the Americas and Madagascar.

Euphorbia are annual or perennial herbs, woody shrubs or trees with a caustic, poisonous milky sap (latex) that will cause irritation to the eyes and mucous membranes. The roots are fine or thick and fleshy or tuberous. Many species are more or less succulent, thorny or unarmed. The main stem and mostly also the side arms of the succulent species are thick and fleshy, 15-91 cm (6-36 inches) tall. The deciduous leaves are opposite, alternate or in whorls. In succulent species the leaves are mostly small and short-lived.

Chris Monrad

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



On January 17th the Huntington Botanical Garden hosted the second Desert Forum for all Cactus and Succulent Society of America members and all members of their Affiliate Societies. About 170 members attended with most being from California but there were members from Arizona, Nevada, Iowa, Missouri and Washington DC. I flew in that morning and arrived right on time for registration. We spent 2 hours

in the Desert Garden and Greenhouse. January is the time for Aloes and they were wonderful. I have included some photos so you can get an idea about this wonderful garden. It was a beautiful day with temperatures in the low 80s.

We assembled in the teaching greenhouse in the Botanical Center for lunch and snacks before the sales area was opened to us. There was of course a lot of enthusiasm to acquire plants. After more than an hour of shopping we were treated to a discussion of the future of the garden by its direction Jim Folsom. Jim will be a speaker at our convention. He is so enthusiastic and knowledgeable about all things botanical and more. I know you will really enjoy hearing him at the convention.

I followed Jim with a brief talk on the convention and an expression of thanks to the Huntington and its staff for the great day they had prepared for us. We were on our own for the rest of the day to shop or view the other displays at the Huntington. There are many gardens, but it is also an art museum and an extraordinary library. You must visit.

Convention, Convention, Convention!

We need your help for a number of activities before and especially during the convention. Here are the general areas of need.

Pre-Convention activities

Badges, ribbons, tickets, gift bags, Registrations desk, TCSS sales area consignment material.

Convention Booklet

Soliciting ads, managing the publication and distribution

Convention Plant Sale:

Cashiering, assisting with set-up, crowd control, selling raffle ticket for early entry, holding area monitor.

Rare plant auction and silent auction

Set-up

Tour guides on the buses, lunches

Door monitors at the lectures, dinners, lunches

Audiovisual assistants for speakers

Workshop helpers and general way finding and ask me type help.

The Convention Booklet, T-shirts, gift bags committees will meet on February 1 and all other on Feb 10 check your email or call 404-9223 for location.

The TCSS is the affiliate sponsor and we really need your help!

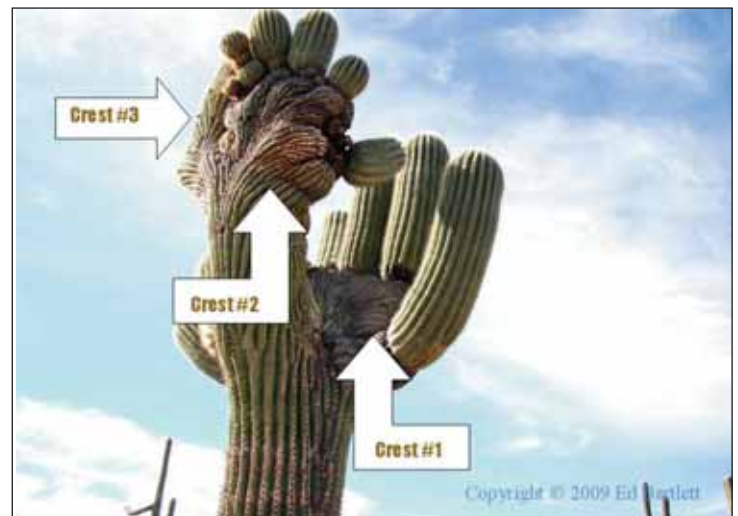
Thanks,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Tripple Crested Saguaro Find

While exploring some of the flat lands in Ironwood National Monument I came across a small 300 foot high hill that had fascinating Desert Varnish on about 1/2 of the rhyolite (volcanic) rocks that made up most of the hill. Of course I had to get to the top to see if the manganese patina was any better up high. Once to the top the view of just how desolate over grazed desert can be was apparent. While scanning the base of the hill with and 15 power lens a Saguaro caught my eye. It seemed a bit top heavy. That in turn required a very careful decent down the steepest east side to investigate. The decent was well worth the effort.

The top heavy Saguaro is a triple crested plant that has attempted to return to normal growth. The cactus was stunted for the age I estimate it to be, about 100-125 years old. All the other Saguaros were stunted also judging by their southern skin weathering and woody bases. I wouldn't be surprised if the lowering of the water table from human use didn't play a part in the stunted height of the plants. All other succulent species that were on the sides and top of the hill looked normal only the few plants in the legume family appeared a bit shabby.



Now I'm seeking Dudleya in habitat. Can anyone lead me in the right direction? I have seen reports of a couple sightings in the Oracle area and the Ajo Mountains but the locations were wisely not published.

Ed Bartlett

Flowering Aloes from The Huntington Gardens

Photos by Dick Wiedhopf



Acknowledgement of Contributions:

December 2008 –January 2009

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society members and friends who helped make this year a success through their contribution.

We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

Sonoran Desert Florilegium

JOAN McGANN
MARGARET POPE
NANCY ZIERENBERG

Research

DAVID HALL
WILLIAM & ADELLA HICKS
TRINA TRIMBLE
MARIAN ALABACK
TONI YOCUM & ROBERT H WEBB

Conservation

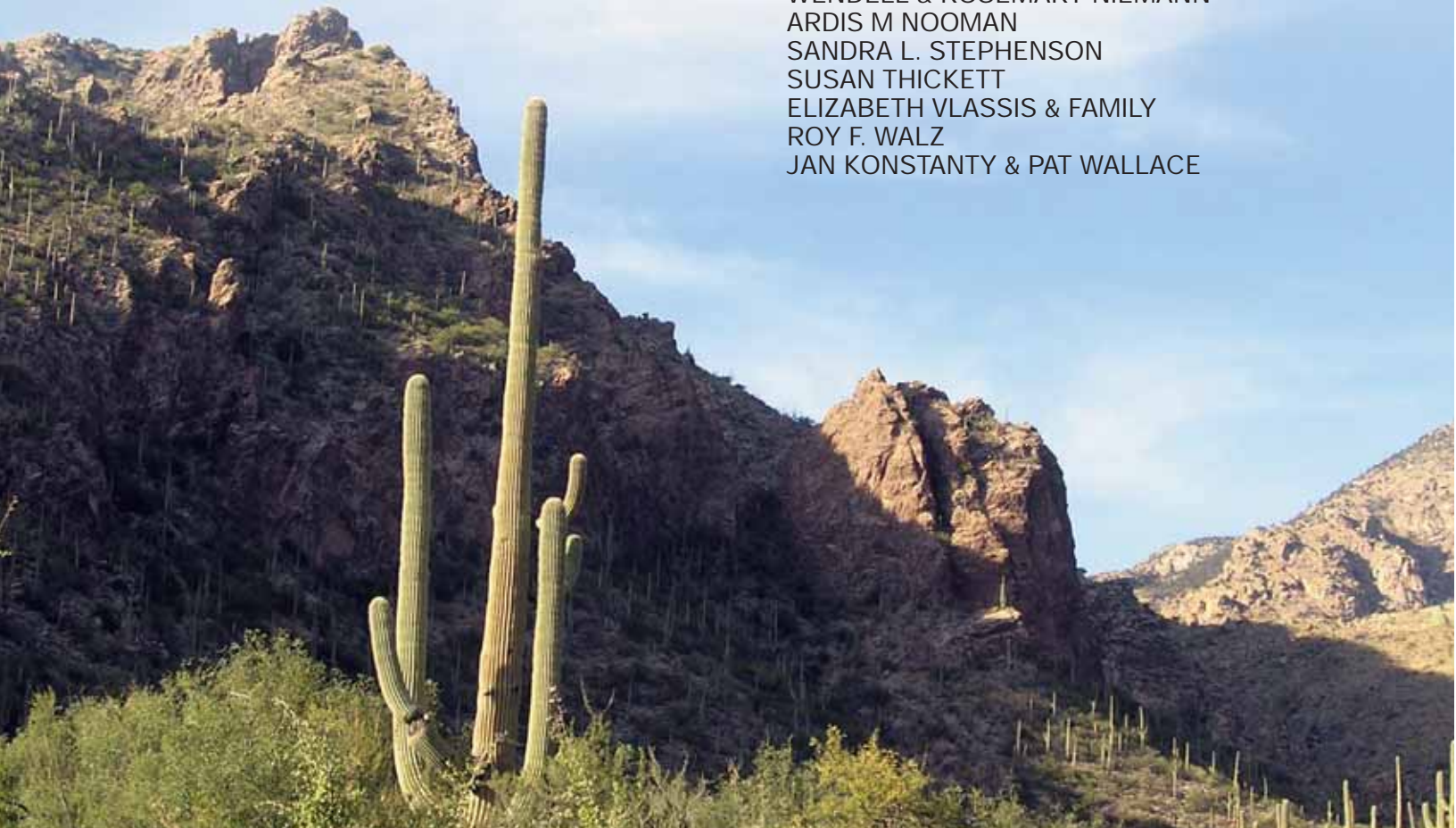
DAVID HALL
WILLIAM & ADELLA HICKS
JAN KONSTANTY & PAT WALLACE
RON & ELAINE MEYER
PATRICIA PHELAN
DAVID SCOTT & FAMILY
MICHAEL TAMARACK
DAVE & LINDA HEISLEY
MARIE HIRSCH
TONI YOCUM & ROBERT H WEBB
ROBERT & VANESSA DEARING
VERNON L & DIANE RKLIEWER
JOY PHOENIX & LESLIE JOHNSON

Education

LEO M. JACQUES
RON & ELAINE MEYER
PHILIP & BARBARA BROWN
JOE FRIEND
CONNIE ENGARD
DAVID HALL
DAVE & LINDA HEISLEY
GEORGE & GAIL VIRTES
TOM HARDING

General Fund

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WENDELL & ROSEMARY NIEMANN
ARDIS M NOOMAN
SANDRA L. STEPHENSON
SUSAN THICKETT
ELIZABETH VLASSIS & FAMILY
ROY F. WALZ
JAN KONSTANTY & PAT WALLACE



"Selections of Succulence from The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society"

Cookbooks are here!

See below for Pick-up and Purchase Locations.

- **At our monthly TCSS meetings**, Kiva Room at the Jr. League
- **B&B Cactus Farm**, 11550 E. Speedway, Tuesday to Saturday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM, (721-4687)
- **Plants for the Southwest**, 50 E. Blackledge, Wednesday to Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM, (628-8773)
- **Dick Wiedhopf's residence** near Tanque Verde and Sabino Hwy, Call first 885-6367
- **Joe & Patsy Frannea's residence** near Oracle Road & Magee Rd., Call first 575-7126

Also, we have discovered a few mistakes in the cookbook. We will print corrections on our web site as we find mistakes so please check the web to update your cookbook.

Library Update

During the next couple of months I will be eliminating some of the books from the library. These books will be available by either emailing me directly at joietgo@yahoo.com or through the website at library@tucsoncactus.org, where you can get a list of available titles.

"Field Guide to the Wild Plants of Oman" by Helen Pickering and Annette Patzelt Sectioned off according to the color of the flower or fruit, the book gives the family the plant is in, common and botanical names, descriptions of the plant, leaves, flower and fruit. Includes the flowering period, habitat, distribution, occasional notes and uses. Also includes a section on trees and grasses. The accompanying photos will help in identifying the plants.

TCSS 2008 Financial Statement

INCOME

Memberships, Raffles	\$14,862
Cactus Rescue Sales	\$44,648
Sonoran Conference/Auctions	\$47,960
Sales of Misc. Items	\$ 2,764
Investment Income	\$ 1,440
Donations/Grants Received	\$ 8,086
Total Income	\$119,760

EXPENSES

Meetings & Newsletters	\$15,296
Cactus Rescue Program	\$28,664
Sonoran Conference/Auctions	\$53,468
Purchase of Misc. Items	\$ 6,459
Operational/Admin/Library	\$ 4,728
Grants Awarded	\$13,222
Total Expenses	\$121,837

CASH ASSET ALLOCATIONS

TCSS Operating Fund	\$17,136
Cactus Rescue Program	\$10,000
Education Outreach Fund	\$12,270
Research Fund	\$13,869
Conservation Fund	\$ 1,040
Florilegium Preservation Fund	\$ 611
CSSA 2009 Expense Funds	\$ 4,721
Total	\$ 59,647

BANK BALANCES

Checking Acct. incl. CSSA funds	\$10,901
Savings Account	\$ 5,980
CD matures 3-13-09 (4.8%)	\$10,818
CD matures 4-05-09 (4.8%)	\$10,713
CD matures 10-05-09 (2.8%)	\$10,564
CD matures 1-24-09 (2.8%)	\$10,122
Petty Cash	\$ 549
Total	\$59,647

JM Frannea

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:
(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

February Refreshments

Those with family names beginning
with G to L please bring your choice
of refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

Bring your friends, join in the fun,
and meet the cactus and
succulent community.

4 2 3 9 4
3

Cacti Rescued
208 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)

Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

February 2009	
Thursday, February 5, 2009	7:00 pm Monthly meeting: "E Namibia Semper Aliquid Novi - New Plants from an Old Place" Presented by Tim Harvey
Tuesday, February 10, 2009	7:00 pm Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Thursday, March 5, 2009	7:00 pm Monthly meeting: "Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada" Presented by Stephen Ingram

IN MEMORIUM



Blair Kuropatkin 64, of Tucson, died peacefully of cancer on January 22, 2009, after a five year struggle. Blair was born September 26, 1944 in Holland, Michigan and moved to Tucson in 1959. She was a graduate of Rincon High School and was a member and president of B'nai B'rith Women. Moving to the Los Angeles area in 1971, she eventually settled in Lancaster / Palmdale. Professionally she was active in the field of substance abuse counseling and ran residential programs for Care Unit / Compcare for 30 years. In the year 2000 she returned to Tucson. She was a Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor and worked with Cactus Counseling in Tucson. Blair was preceded in death by her mother, Dorothy Van Dyke Bontekoe Mikola, and her son Paul Jacob "Jake" Kuropatkin. She is survived by her companion of 15 years, Barry McCormick, her former husband Michael Kuropatkin, daughters Carol (David Cone), and Marion (James Chubon), granddaughters Shea Lynn and Sarah, grandsons Owen and Elliot, and stepfather Dick Mikola. Blair was especially close to her sisters-in-law Judy Abrams and Franki Levin, and her life was greatly

enhanced by her extended Van Dyke, Kuropatkin, and McCormick families. Blair was an avid outdoorswoman, and hiking, skiing, backpacking, scuba diving, river running and nature travel were among her fond pursuits. Her favorite places included the Grand Canyon, which she ran three times, the Sierras, and all the wonderful places in the Southwestern deserts. She most recently climbed Mount Whitney, for the fifteenth time, in 2007. She received awards for her volunteer efforts with the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Services were held in the Heritage Room of the Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E. River Road, at noon on Monday, January 26 followed by prayers and a luncheon at the McCormick Home. Blair has requested donations be made to the Sunstone Cancer Center of Tucson in lieu of flowers. There will be no interment.