
◆ DESERT BREEZE ◆

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1995

FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 at 7:30 PM
TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS

We are pleased to announce a **real treat** for February: Convention Chairman **CHUCK HANSON** will conduct a hands on vegetative propagation workshop!! Tucson is very fortunate to have a premier succulentist living in our midst.!

Bring a (portable) favorite plant. Chuck will bring tools, answer questions and teach a method you won't soon forget. AND.....

Debra Shepherd and Sally Williams, our new hostess duo, will provide refreshments!!

BRAG TABLE

SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT!!

IN JANUARY, former CSSA president Gerald Barad shared with us 'Namaqualand In Flower', at the Doubletree Hotel, home of our July Convention! (Ed's note: as of January 15, the Doubletree has received 250 room reservations!) Jerry's presentation included several Aloe, Dimorphotheca, Conophytum, Euphorbia, Mesemb, Othona, Gorteria (Beetle Daisy!), Anacampseros, Pelargonium, Cheirodopsis, Hoodia, Crassula, a Drosanthemum, and others. All this with late Renaissance music as background. (Baroque music for Recorders, Denmark.)

THANKS, JERRY!!!

NEIGHBORS

by LES & DALE SLOAN

Mom! There's a monster in my bed! Well, okay actually it's my flower bed. And actually, it's just a Gila Monster. If you've lived in the desert for even just a few years, you've probably run into a Gila monster. If there is an Arizona lizard, it's the Gila monster. Outside of Old Mexico, the critter's range covers the majority of Arizona, but only very small sections of Utah, Nevada, California and New Mexico. His (or her) scientific name, *Heloderma suspectum* means (loosely) the knobby- (or warty-) skinned mistrusted one. The Gila monster's relative south of the border is the Mexican beaded lizard, *Heloderma horridum* (you can figure that one out for yourself).

These two lizards are unique in that they are poisonous, more correctly venomous, the only venomous lizards in the world. Unlike rattlesnakes, however, which have a hypodermic-needle type injection mechanism, Gila monsters have a poison gland in their lower jaw. The poison flows along grooves in their teeth. So, after biting, the monster has to hold on tight, often turning its body over so the venom will flow downward into the wound. (Have we ruined your dinner yet?)

Given the difficulty the Gila monster has getting its venom into its victim, (and the fact that it is not a master of the chase) it shouldn't come as a surprise that they prefer things easy to catch, especially the eggs of other reptiles and ground-nesting birds. They also take smaller rodents and even ants. Their skin is a black background covered with tubercles or warts which may be pink or white or yellow or orange. As adults, they range in size up to 18-24 inches long, so if anyone tells you he saw a four-foot Gila monster, he must mean two feet in front and two in the back. Perhaps they appear larger because of



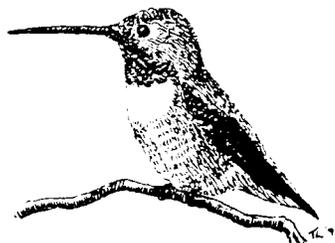
TUCSON '95
a taste of the
Sonoran Desert
and more.....
JUNE 19-23

TUCSON '95 CONVENTION CONNECTION

As the convention draws closer, we begin devoting more meeting time (and newsletter space!) to our BIG EVENT - watch this space for details.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

- COORDINATOR
CHUCK HANSON 883-9404
- REGISTRATION
JERI OGDEN 321-9484
- FOOD & BEVERAGE
JANE EVANS 628-8773
- FACILITIES
MILES ANDERSON 682-7272
- ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT
DAN BIRT 325-4967
- PLANT SALES
GENE JOSEPH 626-8773
- HOSPITALITY
to be filled
- CLUB SALES
PAT WIEDHOPF 885-6367



TCSS LIBRARY

HOURS & LOCATION

PLANTS FOR THE SOUTHWEST

9 - 5:30

Wednesday - Saturday

50 E Blacklidge

628-8773

CSSA

A heated debate reinforcing continued intolerance of field collected plants was a hot topic at the CSSA board meeting.

Following the meeting, directors visited Arid Land's Greenhouse.

That evening, both boards met for dinner at El Parador Restaurant.

Officers of our club and directors of both boards were invited to form a carpool for an all day field trip. We made a cool journey up Kitt Peak, investigating the varied flora on our way. After a brisk lunch at the picnic ground near the top, some explored further, while others toured the observatory. (Ed's note: I took a NAP!!)



DESERT BREEZE STAFF

EDITOR JERI OGDEN 321-9484

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
LES & DALE SLOAN
DAN BIRT
AND ?

MAILING SARA PERPER

TREASURER

MYRTLE ETHINGTON reports

a year's end bank balance total of

\$3,533.24



neighbors
(cont.)

their disposition. We watched one on a two-lane highway one day standing up on its toes and hissing at passing cars. Maybe we didn't think he was so big, but he obviously did.

Gila monsters are mostly nocturnal, though in spring, and even winter, they may come out during the day. Unlike most of our desert lizards, Gila monsters just aren't built for speed. Their fat tail drags behind them as they move slowly along. But the fat in that tail can sustain them for months when pickings are slim.

The eggs, as you might suspect, are large, about as large as hen's eggs. The female digs a hole in moist sand, lays 1 to 8 eggs (occasionally even a dozen), and leaves. The youngsters which hatch about a month later are on their own from the start.

Next time you see this neighbor, admire, but don't touch. Very few people die from the bite, but it'll hurt like crazy. And besides, haven't we bothered him enough calling him a monster?



*"hissing
at
passing
cars"*

JERI's GEMS

PLEASE WELCOME BACK long-time members
JOHN & JUDI GASTON

4254 W Jupiter Pl
Tucson, AZ 85741 744-0039

KIM & JULIE JOYIENS

P O Box 36442
Tucson, AZ 85740 743-7178

TOM FERN

600 E San Marino Dr
Tucson, AZ 85715 296-1197

CHANGES:

PAT WIEDHOPF has officially joined our club and the convention team! She is chairing club sales - GO PAT!!

JOHN PALTING has moved to:

7339 N Yucca Via
Tucson, AZ 85704 299-6454

BOB WEBB & TONI YOCUM

are building and living at
6710 W Camino Del Cerro
Tucson, AZ 85736

A PAIR OF 20 FOOT MONITOR LIZARDS have been sighted in the median on Mission near Irvington!! What can YOU find? How about the biggest saguaro or agave?

HELEN HOUSMAN NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS:

Her husband, Martin, has been hospitalized since a December heart attack, and is soon to be released.

THE ROSTER IS COMING.....

THE ROSTER IS COMING

THE ROSTER IS COMING...

...PAY YOUR DUES!!

1995 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT

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CSSA AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE