

TCSS BOARD

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885-6367

Vice President: Joe Frannea
Secretary: Lynda Ryan
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(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

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Mark Sitter (2002)

Affiliate Representative to the CSSA

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Deadline for copy:

18th of each month

Web Address

TCSS Web Page

www.azstarnet.com/nonprofit/tcss

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens

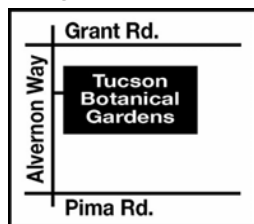
2150 N. Alvernon Way

Tucson, AZ 85718

March Refreshments

*Those with family names beginning with G to M,
please bring your choice of refreshments
to the next meeting.*

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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

March 2002

Meetings

Thursday, March 7, 2002

7:00 pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens

2150 N. Alvernon Way

Mark Sitter

The Beauties and the Beasts – A Tour of Baja California and Cerro Colorado.

Join Mark Sitter, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum horticulturist, on a photo journey of Spring in the Baja. Mark participated in a Desert Museum trip to catalogue the flora of Cerro Colorado, often referred to as “Succulent Hill,” just south of San Ignacio in Mexico. This field work was supported, in part, by a grant from the TCSS, so this report is very timely.

Last year was a very wet year in the Baja, and Mark has captured the glorious fields of wildflowers that carpeted the hillsides. Don't miss this one!

Thursday, April 4, 2002

Our own Meg Quinn will talk about her new book on the Cacti of Sonora, Mojave, and Chihuahua Deserts. Books will be available to be purchased and signed.



SPECIAL TCSS MEETING

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

7:00 pm

College of Pharmacy Auditorium

Rm 325

Dr. Bob Barth, University of Texas

Dr. Barth will present a program on African Succulents of the Richtersveld and surrounding areas, including southern Namualand, and Ceres Karoo.

Bob is a CSSA Board Member and President of The Austin Cactus and Succulent Society. He is a professor of ornithology, a world traveler, and also runs a cactus and succulent nursery in Austin.

Don't miss this special program.

The College of Pharmacy is at the corner of Mabel and Warren. There is plenty of close free parking.

Saturday- Sunday, April 13, 14

Fiesta de las Flores

Our society will be participating again in the annual Fiesta de las Flores. See flyer for details. More information next month on our participation.

Pima County Garden Fair

Saturday, March 10, 2002

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Low Sorensen Center

11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

(East on Tanque Verde on the right hand side)

The Pima County Spring and Fall Garden Fairs have given our club the opportunity to provide valuable information to many of the visitors that attend. The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society has established a very good reputation for providing some great plants at very reasonable prices. Mark Sitter will be giving educational demonstrations as well as other much needed gardening information. You will find a great diversity of drought tolerant plants, including many natives, ready for your spring planting. Drop by and consider giving some of these plants a home.

Jack Ramsey

2002 Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month except for May and December.

Board Meeting are the second Tuesday of the Month at The U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333.

March 10 Pima County Garden Fair
March 13 Special Program, African Succulents

April 13 & 14 Flower Show, El Con Mall

May 3, 4 & 5 Sonoran IV, Inn Suites
December 15 Holiday Party

Sonoran IV News



Speaker Change: Tom Wilson of the University of Arizona will be giving the workshop on Soils. A biography of Tom and a description of the workshop are given in the enclosed Sonoran IV supplement.

Sonoran IV planning meetings. Two more planning meetings are scheduled for Tuesday March 19 and Tuesday, April 23.

Special attachment. Additional information on Sonoran IV is included in the supplement pages of this newsletter. We are particularly interested in encouraging all members to bring plants to the plant show. Plants that are well grown and showy are important to make this an effective public display. We particularly want the more common plants in cultivation to be well represented. This is not just a show for the conference attendees, but for the general public as well. Now is the time to look at your collection and consider grooming and pot cleanup for your best plants. See the supplement for entry guidelines and show rules. Let's all pitch in to share our love of cactus and succulents with the public.



President's Message - *Dick Wiedhopf*

Thank you for your input on the issues that were raised last month. In June we will probably try another meeting place and certainly a bigger place for our holiday party. We want to continue our relations with TBG, so we might meet twice some months. One meeting would be a hands-on, practical activity at TBG and the other might deal with advanced topics or a popular speaker at a larger venue. Give this some thought and let the Board know your feelings.

At this time we have 40 people signed up for Sonoran IV. Thank you for your support. The official registration package will be out within the next two weeks. The conference portion of the activity is important but all of you can make a difference by supporting the show and sale by getting the word out to your friends and neighbors.

Lots of activity this month. Our regular meeting on March 7 features Mark Sitter on Baja; the Pima County Garden Fair is on March 10; a Board of Directors meeting is March 12. A presentation on African Succulents by Bob Barth, CSSA Board Member and President of the Austin Texas Society is on March 13; and the salvage committee will be working to salvage plants for sale at the garden fair.

We are also working on the reprinting of "The Boojum and its Home" by Robert Humphreys and growing Boojums from seeds obtained from the U of A Boojums.

Lots of good work and fun. Enjoy!

Sonoran IV Information

Plant Show Information

The Plant Show Staging Committee will be accepting plants from noon until 7 p.m. on Friday, May 3rd.

General Guidelines

1. If possible, avoid watering entries for at least two days before the entry date to prevent dampness on the tables.
2. Containers should be clean and unbroken, and as free from salt accumulation as possible.
3. A top dressing is recommended but not required. Top dressing will be available for free at the show if you need it.
4. To facilitate setup, plants should arrive at the show as early as possible on Friday, May 3rd.
5. Only Cacti and Succulents will be accepted for entry in the show. There are no specified plant categories.
6. All entries will be voted on by YOU and the public.
7. Anyone may enter plants in the show. You do not have to be registered for Sonoran IV to enter your plants. Ideally, each TCSS member will bring at least one plant to the show.
8. Any well-grown plant that is special to you is a candidate for the show. The plant does not have to be rare or unusual.

Show Rules

1. You must have owned the plant for at least six months before the show date.
2. You cannot enter any plant collected in the wild.
3. All entries need an accompanying *Plant Show Entry Form*. You will need to provide the owner's name and phone number and botanical name of the plant. Common name is acceptable for special hybrids.

If you don't know the botanical name of your plant, someone at the show will help identify it. If you know the country of origin and flower color, provide that information also.

4. Basically, the entry should look attractive. Specifically, this means:

- a. Pot size proportionate to plant size, with adequate level of soil.
 - b. No etiolation, scars, sunburn, broken spines, or broken leaves.
 - c. In a clean, intact pot that is in good condition.
 - d. Free of disease or insect infestation.
 - e. Well-groomed: no dead leaves, twigs, or extraneous debris. Seedpods are okay.
5. There is no limit as to the size of the plant providing you make arrangements to get it to and from the show.



6. You may bring as many plants as you wish. The show committee will determine if a plant is allowed as an entry according to the criteria listed. The decision of the Show Committee is final.

Wendy Beall

SONORAN IV Banquet

Please join us for a very special evening at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Mark Sitter will lead a tour of the Cactus and Succulent Garden. After the tour he will take you to the Ocotillo Café for dinner at 7:00pm. After dinner you are invited to view a Bird Illustration Exhibit in the Gallery.

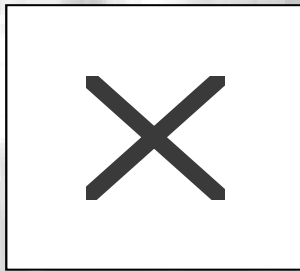
The evening at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is optional and will cost \$38.00 per person.

John Alcock

"Plant-insect Interactions in the Sonora Desert in the Spring and Foresummer"

This talk will be a sampler of some of the dramatic insects and their diverse mating systems during two of the five Sonoran Desert Seasons. Each insect's mating system can only be understood in light of its interaction with a specific Sonoran Desert Plant.

John Alcock is a Regents' Professor of Biology at Arizona State University where he has taught for 30 years. He has written a number of books about the biology of the Sonoran Desert, including *Sonoran Desert Spring* and *Sonoran Desert Summer*. *In a Desert Garden*, another of his books, won the John Burroughs' prize for natural history writing. His current research focuses on the unusual mating system of an Australian native bee, a species he has been studying in Western Australia, which he has visited frequently since 1993. Alcock is working on a book about the biology of orchids, as illustrated by the small terrestrial orchids that occur abundantly in Western Australia.



Roseann and Jonathan Hanson

"Seasons of the Sonoran Desert"

The Hansons will define the five seasons in the Sonoran Desert and discuss what is happening with the flora and fauna during each season. They will suggest places in Southern Arizona to go and enjoy these seasonal changes and happenings. Much of their talk will be based on their writings in *Southern Arizona Nature Almanac* published in 1996.

Native Tucsonans Roseann and Jonathan Hanson are naturalists, conservationists, and writers specializing in natural history and outdoor recreation subjects. The Hansons studied journalism, ecology, and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona. Together they have written over a dozen books. Their *Ragged Mountain Guide To Outdoor Sports* won the 1997 Outdoor Book Award and their *Fifty Common Reptiles And Amphibians* was cited for the Interpretive Excellence by the National Park Service in 1997. The Hansons have lived and worked together as a team for eighteen years, exploring and writing about the Sonoran Desert region and the wilds of North America from the Arctic to Baja. They teach animal tracking for conservation for Sky Island Alliance in Tucson. In 2001 Roseann published *The San Pedro River: A Discovery Guide*. She is currently Southeast Arizona Program Director for the Sonoran Institute and Jonathan is a correspondent for Outside Magazine.

Tom Wilson

"Soils, Succulents, and You"

Soil plays a critical role as a medium for plant growth and stability, especially for succulent plants, which usually require good drainage and nutrient-holding capacity. This is sometimes problematic as sandy soils promote drainage but do not retain nutrients, while clayey soils can retain nutrients yet impede drainage. In his workshop participants will explore ways of finding a happy balance between these factors, both in potting mixes and in the ground. We will also discuss characteristics of our local soils that provide unique challenges and benefits to growing landscape succulents.

Tom Wilson is a lecturer with the Soil, Water and Environmental Science Department at the University of Arizona. He recently completed his dissertation soil nitrogen status in desert grassland soils and worked as a horticulturist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum for nine years. A long-term interest of his is growing succulents from Madagascar.

