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# ◆ DESERT BREEZE ◆

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TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

APRIL 1995

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

## APRIL ADVENTURE

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
THURSDAY, APRIL 6 at 7:30 PM  
TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS**

John & Dorothy Pasek - not yet members - present 'Flora of the Islands in the Sea of Cortez'. This slide tour is based on a fifteen year span of trips throughout the Baja peninsula: studying plants, collecting seed and exploring remote regions.

John, retired from 24 years as horticulturist for the city of San Diego, is responsible for much of the landscaping in Balboa park.

Dorothy worked for Cooper's Cactus in Vista, California, as propagator & horticulturist

Upon moving to Tucson in August of '93, they established their own C&S nursery, Plantas Del Sol.

The Ferocacti of Baja California are one of their particular interests.

**IN MAY, "Monstrose, Crested & Variegated Cacti," with MILES ANDERSON.**

**MARCH MADNESS was truly a MYSTERY!!**

**WHERE WAS CHUCK HANSON?** In the emergency room (ED note: He'll live!)

**GENE JOSEPH, owner and manager of PLANTS FOR THE SOUTHWEST, threw together a presentation that was**

**WONDERFUL!!!**

To learn more, see page 4.....

## NEIGHBORS

This month, we're talking about neighbors - plural - one you'll see commonly this time of year, and the other you'll rarely, if ever, see. The two are principal pollinators of the saguaro blossoms which will brighten our landscapes over the next several weeks. These two neighbors are the white-winged dove, *zenaida asiatica*, and the lesser long-nosed bat, *leptonycteris curasoae*.

The white-winged dove is the largest of our three common local doves, larger than the ubiquitous mourning dove and its even smaller cousin, the Inca dove. The obvious white bar along the wing gives the dove its name. What isn't as obvious is the dove's relationship with saguaros. In fact, the northern limit of this dove's range corresponds roughly with the distribution of the saguaro cactus.

If the white wing bar on the side isn't a giveaway, the white-winged dove is the one with its whole head buried in the saguaro flower. The dove is getting food and liquid at the same time in the saguaro's nectar. Some other species of birds also visit these filling stations, but their visits are not as refined as the dove's and may actually do some damage to the saguaro. The dove is more careful,

continued on page 5

## CONVENTION

Your local convention committee has been (and continues to be!) hard at work to ensure a successful Tucson '95. It's not too late to get involved & help!

CSSA just bought 2 new state-of-the-art cash registers. (Scanners read bar codes, so this job will be simple!) We need cashiers to work the plant sale area - compensation for performing this service is being negotiated. The plant sale area will be open 40 hours during the convention.

We also need **LOTS** of beer/soda flats for plant sales and helpers to stuff convention packets and tote bags.

### DONATIONS WANTED!!

REMEMBER the 20 cent U.S. cactus & succulent stamps? We need them!! Cancelled or not, Norma will gladly accept your donations; but, **HURRY!!** She will be away during the convention, but is hard at work providing club sales with stamps in pins and bookmarks - she has given **April 3** as her deadline for accepting stamps.

CHUCK HANSON has given 160 of these stamps to the club - THANKS!!

The Postal Historic Foundation of Tucson has donated stamps for our use, also.

**TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE,**

**PLEASE CALL 321-9484.**



## CONNECTION

### 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

#### PLANTS, BOOKS & POTTERY SALES

GENE JOSEPH 628-8773

#### HOSPITALITY

to be filled

#### CLUB SALES

PAT WIEDHOPF 885-6367

#### PUBLICITY

DALE SLOAN 743-3553

Convention plans are moving too fast to report accurately in this monthly newsletter. Attend meetings for current information! - Ed.



Fenestraria aurantiaca

## JERI's GEMS

PLEASE WELCOME

### NEW MEMBERS

CRAIG H CURTIS  
4601 N Via Entrada #2901  
85718-5605 299-6170

JAMES & FRIEDA WORRALL  
1621 E Big Rock Rd  
85718 797-0819

### AND RETURNING MEMBER

NATALIE MCGEE  
HC 70 Box 4579  
Sahuarita 85629 625-4419

REMEMBER, local area codes are now 520 and our friends in Green Valley are now part of Tucson local calling area!

### MARCH FREE PLANT ASSORTMENT

Crassula x 'Moonglow'  
Echeveria perforata  
Cotyledon ladismithensis  
Sempervivum arachnoideum  
Dudleya greenii 'whitesprite'

### DOOR PRIZES

Echeveria harmsii  
Crassula portulacea variegata  
Kalanchoe bossfeldiana x 3

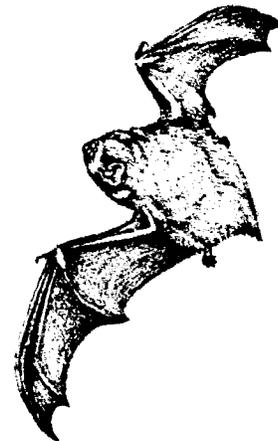
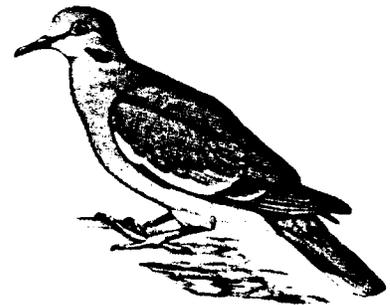
### RAFFLE PLANT

The lovely Echeveria harmsii (CHARLIE WRIGHT) was won by HARRISON YOCUM, former President & long-time (charter?) member.

CSSA SEED LIST is now available at meetings. A big **THANK YOU** to Sally Shumaker (not yet a member) for copying!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP:

TCSS has a paid membership for Pete Sold or Tele Sald, but no address or phone! Anyone who knows this person, please call Jeri at 321-9484.



**TO CREATE A REALLY USEFUL ROSTER,**  
We need input! Appropriate information to include (such as do you own a nursery, what is your area of expertise or interest, and what do you want to learn more about or study), should be put in writing and given to Jeri at meetings or by mail - 3329 E Navajo Place, Tucson, AZ 85716-1309.

# NEWS TO USE

TCSS board has voted to create all new  
**NAMETAGS.**

There will be extras for guests, all kept at TBG, so we'll always know who everyone is! These should be ready soon.



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO**

**DESERT BREEZE**

**WELCOME**

**COPY DEADLINE 15th**

### TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION

Plants For The Southwest  
9 - 5:30  
Wednesday - Saturday  
50 E. Blacklidge  
628-8773

Librarian  
Myrtle Ethington  
887-4507

remember  
TCSS  
tag table

## MARCH MADNESS

**MESEMBRYANTHEMUMS (MESEMBS!)** grow mainly in South Africa and include the popular genus 'lithops' (living stones), as well as faucaria (tiger jaws), pleiospilos (split rocks), conophytum (cone plant), fenestraria (baby toes), lapidaria, titanopsis, cheiridopsis, asclepiads and more.

**GENE JOSEPH** shared with us some of what he has learned about growing mesembs in Tucson.

Shade cloth (30% in winter, 50% in summer) must be suspended **above** the plants to allow for air circulation.

Most Mesembs are dormant in summer & bloom in fall with white or yellow fragrant flowers that last 3-4 days.

Active growth takes place during flowering in the fall and releafing in the spring. Regular watering is required by the plants at these times.

Cut back on water during the summer while plants are in true dormancy and most of winter, when the roots aren't functioning well. Watering too much at these times can cause problems. During semi-dormancy of winter, these plants are undergoing a leaf-renewal process, by recycling stored water. In late winter or early spring, the new leaves will have emerged and the old ones will be reduced to a papery sheath.

Perhaps because of their relatively small size and reversed growth cycle, drainage is important to success when growing Mesembs.

THANKS, GENE!!!

### DESERT BREEZE STAFF

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JERI OGDEN

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LES & DALE SLOAN

DAN BIRT

MAILING

SARA PERPER

First of the saguaro fruits appear a few weeks later, they are consumed by - yes the dove has set up house-, or rather nest-keeping. After visiting the nest and regurgitates the fruit pulp and seed into the mouths of the nestlings. Sure enough, some of this stuff falls to the ground, under the tree, a great place for a seed to start its life. You could say that today's doves are reaping the benefits of having sloppy ancestors.

Long-nosed bats spend the winter in southern Mexico. But in the spring, pregnant females in great numbers migrate north to saguaro country to bear their young amidst the bounty of blooming cactus. The long-nosed bat visits the saguaro blossoms at night, soon after they bloom, while the dove is still asleep. At times they approach the flower and hover like a hummingbird before dining. At other times though, they may just land, eat, climb clumsily to the next flower, and repeat the process. This gets pollen all over the bat, which does little for its appearance, but does wonders for the saguaro, since an individual bloom cannot set seed from its own pollen. Anyway, these nocturnal visits are very important to the saguaro. In fact, for reasons not yet known, even though doves, other birds, and of course, bees, visit the blooms, seeds seem more likely to set in flowers visited by the bats.

A sad note concerning the bats is that they are becoming endangered. This may be due to habitat destruction, as is often the case with other endangered animals and plants. But it may also be due to loss of food plants which it normally finds along the spring and fall migration paths. Over-harvesting of some agaves, for example, has reduced the availability of food in the fall. And, as the bat population declines, it could adversely affect the saguaro population.

It is marvelous to think that the fate of a fifty foot tall, five ton giant rests with a bird or bat weighing in at a few ounces. But then most of our neighbors are pretty marvelous, aren't they?



**Lapidaria margaretae**

You are invited  
to the opening of the

☪☪☪

**Ray Allen Memorial Iris Garden**  
at Tucson Botanical Gardens

**Thursday April 13, 1995**  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

☪☪☪

**5:00 - 6:00 pm**  
View the garden and enjoy refreshments

**6:00 pm**  
Remarks in memory of Ray  
Marty Eberhardt, TBG Director  
Robert Ellis, Men's Garden Club

**RSVP by calling Beth at 326-0686 by April 7, 1995**

Tucson Botanical Gardens • 2150 North Alvernon Way • Tucson, Arizona 85712

1995 OFFICERS &  
COMMITTEES

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