



DESERT BREEZE

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

December 2019

Sunday, December 8, 2019 • 3-5PM

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 E. 14th Street

Set-up starts at 1pm • Bring food at 2:30pm

Dinner and Program-3pm till 5pm

The Society will provide Turkey, Ham, Shrimp,
Condiments, Tableware and Drinks
(coffee, punch and water)

You will provide your favorite recipe
(enough for 10+ servings) Hot or Cold

Salads – Starches – Vegetables – Desserts
(Please bring serving dish and serving utensils)

This has been another great year;
let's make it special for others.
Please bring donations (\$) preferred
for the Tucson Community Food Bank

Gift Exchange:

Everyone can participate by wrapping (cleverly)
a plant or plant related gift of at least \$10.00 value.
If you bring a gift you get a gift and we have a fun
way of distribution. Additionally, there will
be a short Annual Meeting,
Election results, Awards and Table decoration
plants to be given away.



This map is for location only. It is not to scale.

Sky Islands Public High School • 6000 E. 14th St.

TCSS Program Presentation
Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 7:00pm

SPINY SUCCULENTS:

Euphorbias, Cacti, and Other Sculptural Succulents
and (Mostly) Spiny Xerophytic Plants”

Presented by Jeff Moore

Owner of Solana Succulents Retail Nursery
in Solana Beach, California



President's Message

I am writing this on November 21, 2019 in support of the request from our newsletter editor, Karen Keller. I (We) don't thank her enough for putting together a monthly newsletter that provides us with important and interesting information. We try to get you the most up to date information and still meet meeting deadlines. Since

the Post Office sends all the mail to Phoenix to be sorted and then returned to Tucson to be distributed, there is a minimum of 2 day before the mail is delivered. The newsletter is sent out to be printed and folded for over 130 members and then stuffed, stamped and mailed. That's a process. It is also sent to our webmaster (Keimpe Bronkhorst) in a different format (in color) to be put on the website and he notifies all members by email. It is a monthly process that is dependent on Karen and Keimpe. They do a great job. Thank you!

I am processing ballots, memberships, donations and holiday party reservations. Our mail box was filled yesterday and today. I have not been able to process memberships and donations but will certainly have those done in the next two weeks or so.

Our Rescue Program hasn't stalled because we reached the 100,000 mark and Donna Ellis, Rescue Coordinator, along with Robert Ellis and the Rescue Crew are working on the next 100,000. New opportunities to save plants are happening now.

We have sold more than 2,500 copies of the 2nd edition of our "Field Guide." I am sure there will be another update in the future. We have sold in total more than 5,000 copies of the 1st and 2nd editions. This has been a great public relations experience for the Society. I hope you have a copy. They do make great Holiday Gifts at only \$25.95.

Thomas Staudt has agreed to head up the conservation Committee. Thomas has worked with David Yetman to support his conversation effort in Mexico which we are now providing the majority of financial support. Thomas has been a longtime supporter of the rescue program and will take the lead on other conservation efforts.

Linda Heisley leads our effort in developing Pima Prickly Park. The current rain storm has really helped the plants. We are in the process of expanding the Agave Garden and developing the long awaited prickly pear display. Next year is our 9th year of development. We always need more volunteers to plant, water and maintain. It's fun!!

Finally, we have ended 2019 membership with a total of 1,401. This is a new record since it tops last year's high of 1,350. The support and interest in the Society is amazing. On behalf of the Officers and Board we thank each one of you.

Some of you will be attend the Holiday Party on December 8. If you haven't sent in your reservations it is probably filled up. We are limited to 180. So if I don't see you, I wish all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Happy Hanukah, a Merry and Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be January 2, 2020.

Stay safe.

Thank you for all your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Save These Dates for 2020

The Sonoran XIII Conference
Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, 2020

Great Expectations for an Excellent Educational Weekend and More!
Speakers • Workshops • Vendor and Rescue Plant Sales
Silent Auction • Excellent Lunch and Dinner • Drinks • Lots of Fun and More!

We are looking for any ideas to improve this event and also asking for your help with planning and selecting workshops and much more.

Please contact me with your thoughts and also let me know if you would like to be on the Sonoran XIII Committee.

Vonn Watkins
cactusdude1@yahoo.com

FROM THE FLORILEGIUM

Before the murdered homecoming queen, the cherry pie, or the Black Lodge, FBI Special Agent Dale Cooper drove into Twin Peaks, Washington, and fell in love with the “big, majestic” Douglas-fir. This beautiful conifer is one of the three tallest trees in North America, after the two species of Sequoia, with some reaching nearly 400’ in height and a life span beyond 750 years. Trees harvested before reaching these impressive heights provide most of the wood for the construction industry, and its fast growth rate also makes it valuable to the Christmas tree industry.

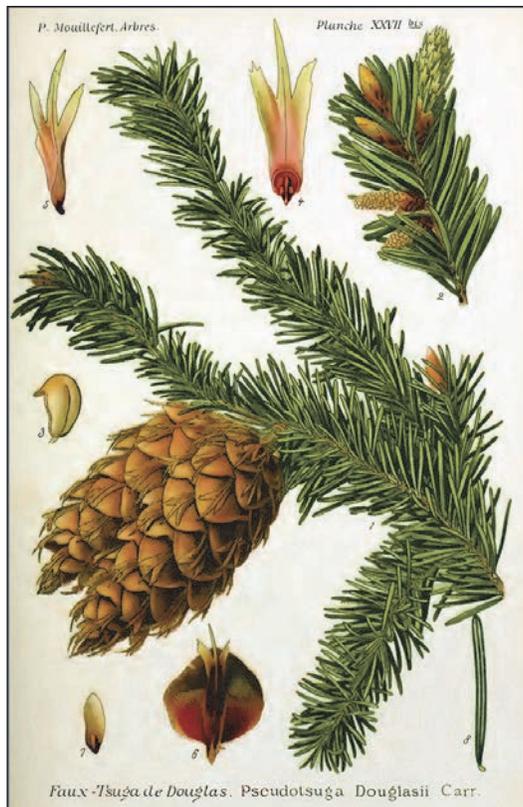
Since its discovery, the tree has endured a dizzying taxonomic history. To begin with, Douglas-fir is not a fir tree (the genus *Abies*), as the hyphen in the name implies. It is in the genus *Pseudotsuga*, from the Latin “pseudo”, or “false”, and the Japanese “tsuga”, or “hemlock”, so it is not a hemlock, either. The path to its current scientific name has been a winding one. In 1803, it was *Pinus taxifolia*, “taxifolia” meaning with leaves similar to a yew (genus *Taxus*). In 1833, it was *Abies douglasii*; *Pseudotsuga douglasii*, in 1867; *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*; in 1889; and finally *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, in 1950. This is by no means a complete list.

Two Scottish botanists are commemorated in both the common and scientific names of the Douglas-fir. In 1792, Archibald Menzies collected the first specimens of the tree, on Vancouver Island, during the HMS Discovery’s five-year exploratory voyage under the command of Captain George Vancouver. In 1824, David Douglas, on an expedition for the London Horticultural Society, collected seeds of the tree along the Columbia River for cultivation in England.

Another twist in the Douglas-fir name game is the pronunciation of the species epithet. In Scotland, the name Menzies traditionally has been pronounced MING-iss, to rhyme with “sing”. Thus, the pronunciation of “menziesii” would be “MING-iss-ee-eye,” following the convention of retaining, as far as possible, the original pronunciation of the person’s name.



Pseudotsuga menziesii, Douglas-fir © 1979 Lucretia Breazeale Hamilton



Pseudotsuga menziesii, Douglas-fir
Pierre Mouillefert, *Traité des arbres et arbrissaux*,
Atlas (1892-1898)

Two varieties of Douglas-fir grow in the western United States. Coastal Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*, grows in the coastal and inland Pacific Northwest, from California to Canada, while Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*, occurs in the dry interior mountains, from the Mexican border to Canada. The coastal variety is by far the largest, with the tallest documented tree measured at 393’, in 1924.

This pen-and-ink illustration of the Douglas-fir is one of Lucretia Hamilton’s unpublished drawings held by the University of Arizona Herbarium. In the drawing, note that the leaves, or needles, completely encircle the branch and occur singly, not in clusters as with pine trees. The downward-facing cone has distinctive bracts that extend beyond the scales of the cone. To the left of the cone is an enlarged bract attached to a scale.

The second illustration is from the French publication, *Traité des arbres et arbrissaux* (Treatise of trees and shrubs), by botanist and dendrologist Pierre Mouillefert. This illustration includes a fruiting branch with pendulous cones and their prominent bracts (center) and also a flowering branch (top right) with male flowers at the bottom left of the branch and female flowers at the top right.

Note that the bracts of the cones in both drawings resemble the tail and hind feet of a mouse. The tale of the mouse and the Douglas-fir is on the Florilegium Program’s website, along with several additional illustrations of the tree, including an excellent drawing by Charles Edward Faxon and a drawing by William Jackson Hooker, who somehow managed to invert the cones. A link is on our home page (<https://art-botanical.org/>).

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf • president@Tucsoncactus.org

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Secretary: Monica Wnuk
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Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:
Monday, December 16, 2019

TCSS Web Page:

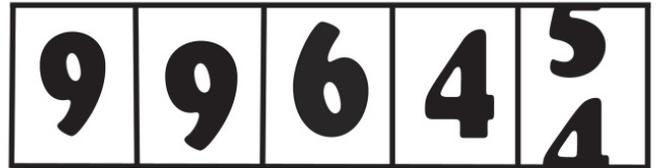
www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst • webmaster@Tucsoncactus.org

For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

Everyone is Welcome!

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



Cacti Rescued - Since 1999
456 Rescues - 35,969 Volunteer Hours (updated 10/21/19)

Please see our Website 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

We need your "Eyes and Ears" to help us find new Cactus Rescue sites. Please email us as much information as you can from new project signs or from other sources to **Site@TucsonCactus.org**. Attach a photo of the sign if you can. Note, we do not remove plants from residences.

December 2019

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3:00pm

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

Sky Islands Public High School

6000 E. 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Board meeting, Ward 3 Council office at

1510 E Grant Rd. Tucson, AZ

Acknowledgement Of Contributions

The Names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society members and friends whose donations helped make this year a success.

We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

Pima Prickly Park

Catherine Robson

Conservation

Kirk Emerson

In Memory of Jane Kismet Taner Harris

Wayne Stengel

In Memory of Peter Hubbell

Patricia & Richard Wiedhopf