



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

May 2020



President's Message

The Board of Directors and committee chairs have been meeting by teleconferencing on our regular meeting time and dates, so that there is no break in continuity of the Society. It is a new experience but one that is working well and we are looking at other no ways to communicate with each other and all

the members. Nobody knows how long this virus will last but we are adopting to it.

We have had two rescues recently and have adopted procedures that protect our crew members. It has worked very well and I want to thank Steve and Barb Watts for taking the lead along with Donna Ellis to accomplish our rescue mission. They have really stepped up to the challenge.

There will not be a general meeting in May but we are hopeful that we can have a meeting on June 4. Greg Starr is our intended speaker. The Covid-19 virus is in charge and we will

not jeopardize anyone's health. So watch the website or our Facebook page for more information.

Our tentative plans are to hold our Good Time Silent Auction on Sunday, September 13, 2020. For those of you who have not participated this is multiple silent auctions, sale of \$2, \$5, & \$10 pre-priced plants, free items donated by members related to gardening (plants, pots, tools, etc.) plus ice cream and all the toppings. It is a full afternoon of fun.

Pima Prickly Park is in bloom. If you are looking to get out in a safe setting take a walk around the Park and see all the wonderful plants in bloom. The Cholla Maze should be terrific as well as many prickly pear. It's worth an hour or so of your day.

The Society currently has 1,274 members.

Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

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.

General Fund

Sandi Kilkuts & Family
Vicki Lawrence

Educational Outreach

Joan A Holladay
In honor of my friend Denise Barnes

Support Of The Rescue Program

Taylor Cheiak
Anthony Rodriguez

Pima Prickly Park

Support To Obtain A Very Large
Multi-Headed Golden Barrel
William Thornton

The May 7, 2020 Monthly Meeting has been cancelled.

In the interest of health concerns of TCSS members and friends, the Board of Directors of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society has cancelled this May 7, 2020 monthly meeting.

TCSS Program Presentation

Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7:00pm

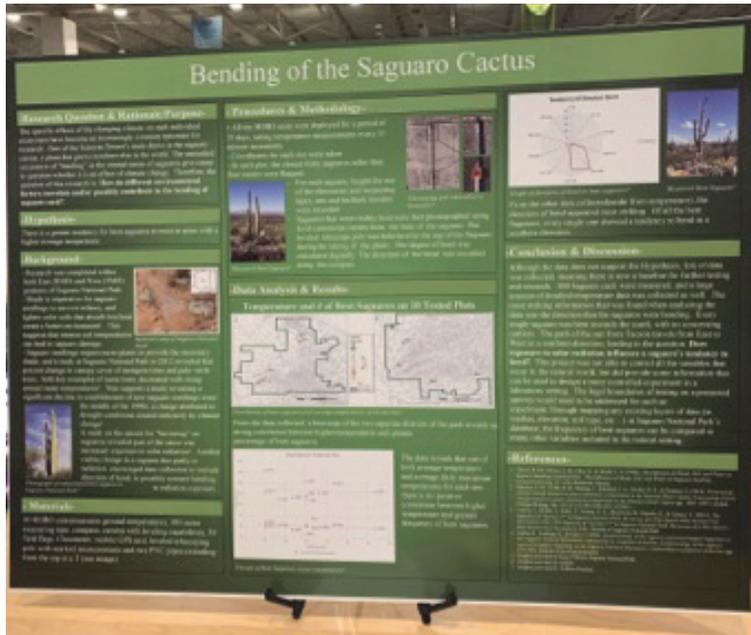
Agave species post Gentry - There are how many new ones???

Presented by Greg Starr

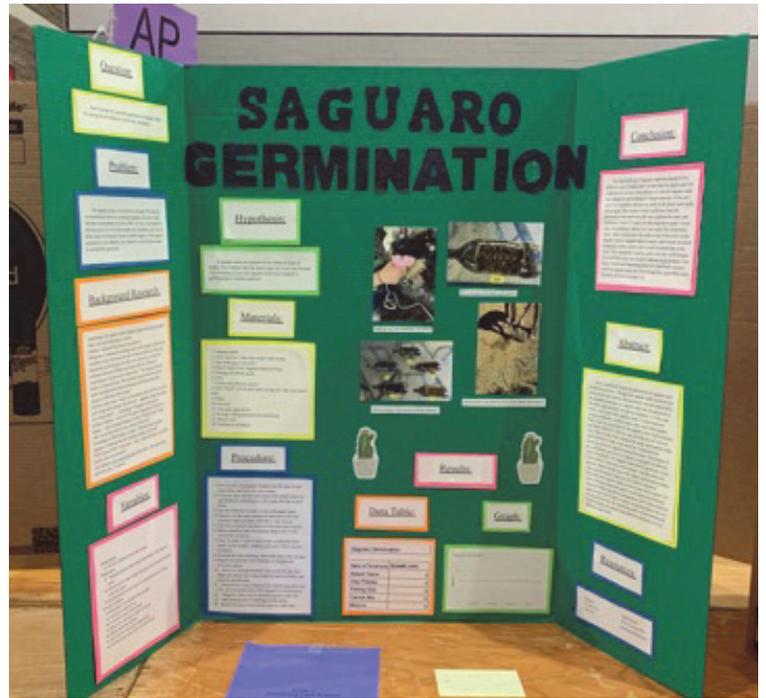
SARSEF

This year TCSS participated in the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) TCSS judges identify projects directly related to cactus or succulents. They evaluate the projects as to content and research. TCSS awards a First Place of \$100.00, a Second Place of \$75.00, Third Place of \$50.00 and 6 Honorable Mentions of \$25.00.

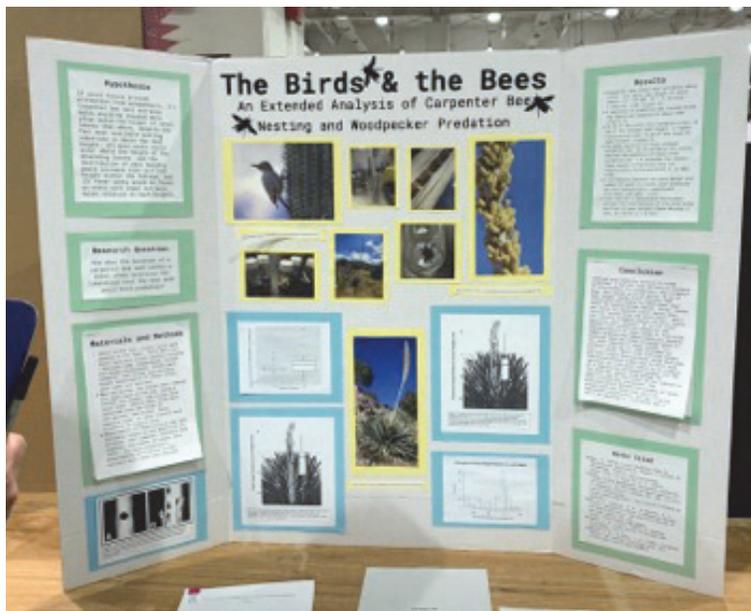
Our judging panel was Patsy Frannea, Janet Baker and myself. We were only able to meet with one of the students because of the virus. The goal here is to incentivize the students with an interest in science. We hope to meet some of the winners at our TCSS May 2020 meeting. Laurie Naugle



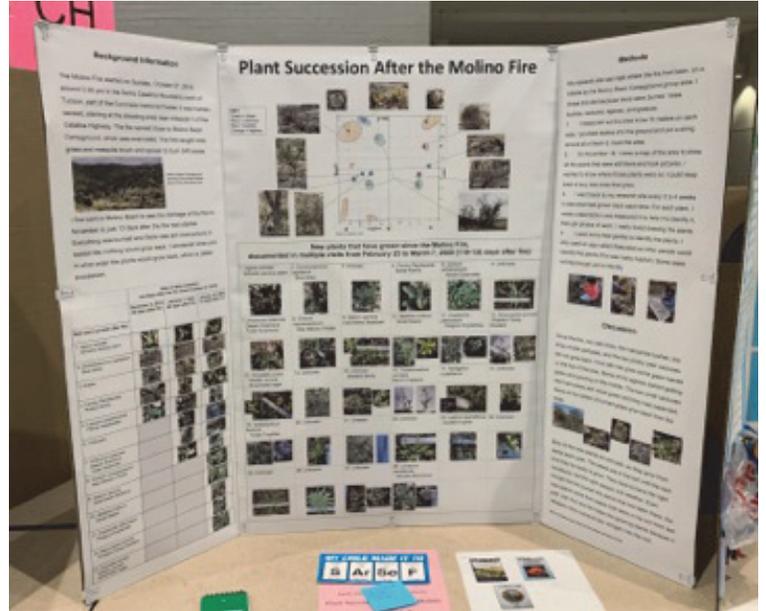
First Place - Celeste Vonelle Browne
Bending of the Saguaro Cactus
University High School



Third Place - Abigail Zsitvay
Saguaro Germination
Old Vail Middle School -grade 7



Second Place - Chloe Burkholder
The Birds & the Bees
Empire High School



Honorable Mention - Elwyn Lipson
Plant Succession After the Molino Fire
Khalsa Montessori School -grade K

ALERT & Warning to TCSS Members! *Oncosiphon piluliferum*

On Monday, April 6, 2020 Linda Heisley, our Manager of Pima Prickly Park, uprooted the imaged specimen of an “invasive species”.

It is called “Stinknet” or “Globe Chamomile” for its distinctive bright yellow “globes” of tiny flowers (up to 400 can comprise each globe!).

This plant originated in south Africa and made it to our west coast at San Diego and Los Angeles, California sometime in the 1980s. From there it invaded Arizona in the Phoenix area after 2000. Recently, with our unusual wet winter it has recently shown up in Tucson and Ajo.

In addition to the bright yellow “globes” of tiny flowers, it has small finely divided, carrot-like, dark green leaves that are odiferous like carrots but that bear a very strong “stink” when they dry. The plants are said to grow to 6 to 24 inches

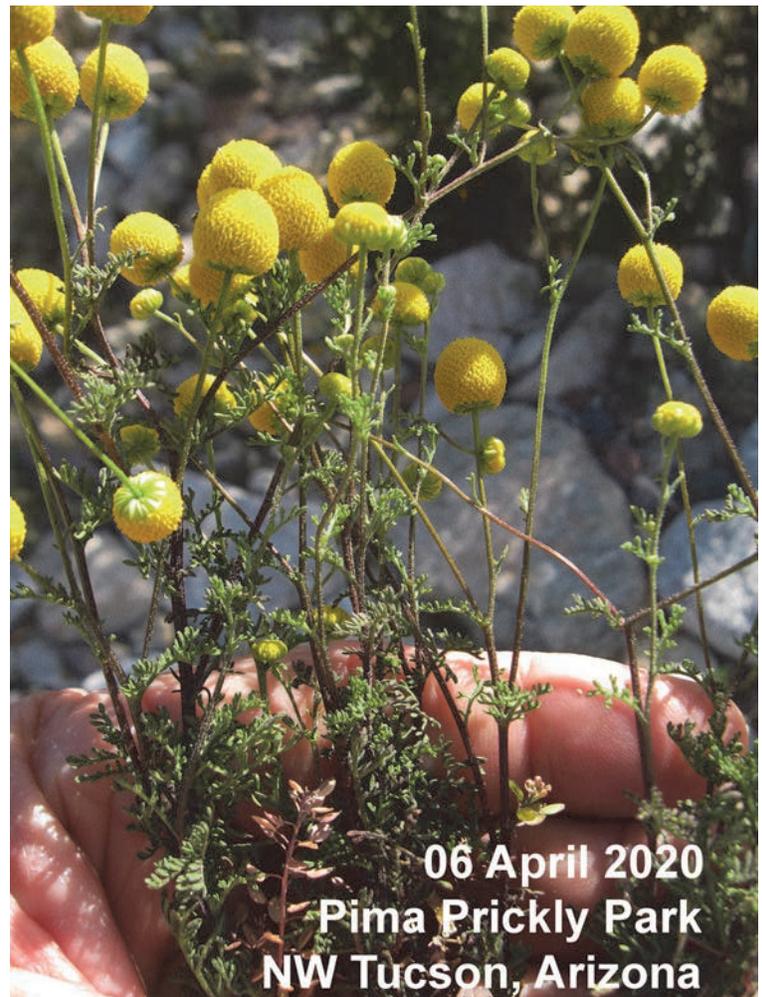
in height. They can form patches that are dense enough to choke out our native plants. They are wet winter-spawned annual composites.

Furthermore, the dead plants are highly flammable as well as potentially able to cause severe allergic reactions. Also, there has been no mention of a native herbivore that may be able to check the advance of this plant.

To prevent its spread in your garden or elsewhere in our environment carefully uproot the plants and immediately “bag” them in order to stop the “broadcasting” of their tiny seeds! **Watch for this plant – it is NASTY!**

- Bill Peachey

For further information, please visit :
www.sdcwma.org/species/stinknet.php



TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf • president@Tucsoncactus.org
Vice President: Vonn Watkins • vp@Tucsoncactus.org

Secretary: Monica Wnuk
secretary@tucsoncactus.org

Treasurer: Cathy Robson
treasurer@Tucsoncactus.org

Board of Directors:
board@Tucsoncactus.org
(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Peter Ertman (2022)
Brad Haeckel (2022)
Penny Miller (2022)
Steve Watts (2022)
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Crystal Cannon (2021)
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Donna Ellis (2020)
Bill Salisbury (2020)
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CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Bill Holcombe (2021)

Cactus Rescue: Donna Ellis
cactus@Tucsoncactus.org

Education: Laurie Naugle • education@Tucsoncactus.org

Free Plants: Donna Ellis • plants@Tucsoncactus.org

Florilegium: Margaret Pope • art@Tucsoncactus.org

Garden Tours: Patsy Frannea • tours@Tucsoncactus.org

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Programs: Vonn Watkins • programs@Tucsoncactus.org

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea • refreshments@Tucsoncactus.org

Technology: technology@Tucsoncactus.org

Research: Doug Rowsell • research@Tucsoncactus.org

Field Trips/tours: Rob Romero/Joie Guinta
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Vendor Coordinator: Dale Johnson • vendors@tucsoncactus.org

Plant Sales: Linda Heisley • sales@tucsoncactus.org

Field Guide Sales: Susan Durham & John Durham
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Conservation: Thomas Staudt
conservation@tucsoncactus.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:
Thursday, May 28, 2020 by 4:00pm

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.

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Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

470 Rescues - 36,952 Volunteer Hours (updated 03-02-20)

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.

May 2020

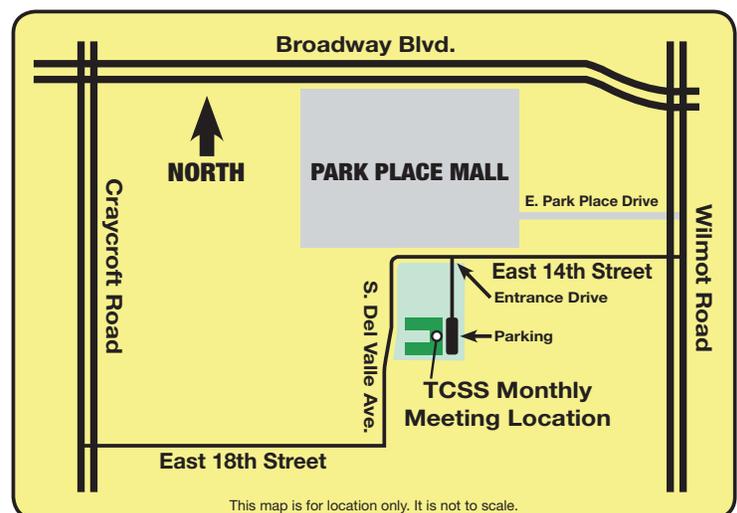
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Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00pm

Teleconference



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