



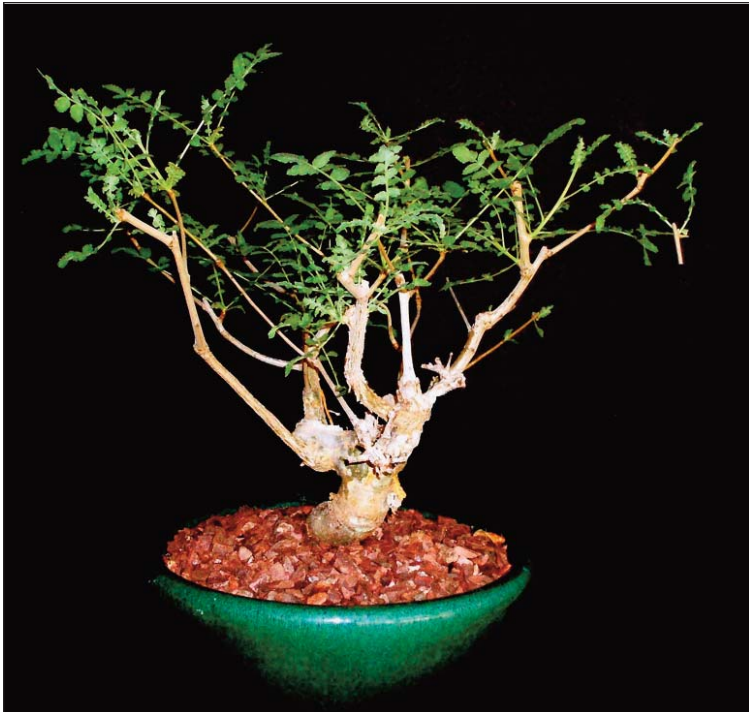
Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

September 2011

Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 7:00PM
"Cultivation of *Boswellia*"

Presented by Jason Eslamieh



Boswellia rivae

Boswellia is probably best known as frankincense, and is well known within the family Burseraceae.

Jason will cover a wide range of topics including history, the species, cultivation, hybridization and staging. The presentation is geared toward less emphasis on the general cultivation but more discussion on individual species. The intent is to present all nineteen species in the genus showing habitat photos as well as cultivated plants, and to share a brief propagation method specific to each species.

Jason is part owner of the Miniature Garden, a Tempe nursery whose primary focus is on the Burseraceae family with an emphasis on the *Boswellia*, *Bursera* and *Commiphora* species. He was intimately involved with the arboretum at Arizona State University and spent twenty years introducing a diverse group of species on the main campus which ultimately received "arboretum" status. In short, one could say that Jason is passionate about "plants" either in habitat or in cultivation.

Please invite your friends and anyone interested to join us for a great program, meet Jason and enjoy a discussion on the *Boswellia*.

Free Plants

Agave

Various species of frost hardy agave, grown by Gene and Jane at Plants for the Southwest, will be available to those members that stay for the complete meeting on September 1st.

Free member Desert Garden Tour

The next free member Desert Garden tour will be Saturday, October 8, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have 7 member gardens on this tour, all in the North Central Tucson area. Each yard is different and unique. You will see how other TCSS members grow and display an extensive variety of cactus and succulents.

All TCSS members and their guests are welcome.

Volunteers are still needed to work 2 hour shifts on Oct. 8., to register visitors. Call Bill Salisbury, 299-3301 or email: lusalisbury@comcast.net, if you can volunteer.

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Program presentation announcement coming soon.

A Roundtable Discussion on all things related to Seed

September 15, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

On September 15, 2011 we'll be having our first roundtable discussion of the season. Anything and everything to do with seed propagation will be the topic: how to collect and store them (or where to buy them), how to plant and care for them during germination, when to transplant, etc. For those interested in controlled breeding to create new plants - bring your questions or knowledge on the species you're particularly interested in. As one example, consider the potential of breeding for bigger and badder spines or bigger and redder flowers on our local barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizeni*) - the genetic variation to allow for this certainly exists as any of our dedicated TCSS Rescue Crew can attest to after having studied and saved thousands of them. Large ranges in variation also exists for important traits of many other species we're interested in, and with a little focused effort, some really interesting new plants could be developed. Come and share your experiences - what's worked and what hasn't. This discussion is open to all of our members - newcomers are especially welcome.

Dave Palzkill

President's Message



Pima Prickly Park

On August 15, 2011 the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved the agreement for the development, operation and maintenance of Pima Prickly Park between the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and the Pima County Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. Thanks to everyone who helped accomplish this first step. Now the work (fun) begins. I want everyone to

be a part of this project and there will be unlimited opportunities to participate.

On Tuesday August 23, we did our first plantings, a large 4 stemmed saguaro and several other cacti from a recent rescue. It really looks great.

Are you growing any unusual members of the Opuntia Family or any other succulent? We are planning to establish test beds at the Park to evaluate new and interesting succulent plants but especially Opuntias for use in the Tucson area.

A new valuable resource for us may be "The Cactus Explorer". It is a free on-line journal available as a pdf download. It is available to everyone and there is no membership required.

Check it out, the details are on our website or go to: www.cactusexplorers.org.uk

Please join us and bring your friends to our Good Times Silent Auction on September 18 at 3:00pm at the Junior League Facility. This year we will have some great books, magazines, plants and pottery available. Every dollar raised supports one or more of our activities. This event will raise money for our Research Grants and Pima Prickly Park. These activities have a direct educational benefit to you and all others interested in succulent plants.

Dick Wiedhopf, President.



Good Time Silent Auction

Sunday, September 18, 2011 • Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd • 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Good bye to the summer heat and a so so monsoon and hello to a wonderful fall planting time. This event has been a Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society tradition for more than 50 years. All proceeds will be shared by our research grant program and Pima Prickly Park.

This is a celebration: Silent Auctions, Free Plants, \$2, \$5, \$10 sale tables and Ice Cream with all the toppings. Bring your excess plants for the free plant table. All we ask is that your plants are free of disease and insects. Better plants will go on the \$2.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 tables and special plants for the silent auctions.

Bid sheets and price stickers will be available at the September meeting, at the event and on our website for your convenience. The Board has adopted the same policy as we had at Sonoran VIII with a high value special silent auction table. These items will have an opening minimum bid of \$20.00 or more set by the donor. If the item sells for at least the opening bid the donor receives the opening bid price and any amount above that goes to the society. We will have a number of special plants and books from friends and past members of the Society. Some are large, some are old and some are rare. Be sure you don't miss out. Special plants and books donated from the estate of our Honorary Life Member, Norma Beckman will be included and proceeds will benefit Pima Prickly Park.

We will have at least 3 separate silent auctions during the afternoon. Pots, plants, special cuttings, books, tools etc. are welcome donations for these silent auctions. Free Plants will be available starting a 3:30pm in order to give everyone an opportunity to take some home. We will start the set-up at 1:00pm and the party will start at 3:00pm with the first silent auction ending at about 3:15pm and then about every 25 minutes there after. The final silent auction will be all the high value plants. All you have to do is sign-in and get a bid number and bid for special plants.

We need volunteers for set-up, sales and clean-up. Come help and have fun, ask questions, talk with friends, etc., etc., Please feel free to bring your family and friends to this event. You don't have to be a member or bring plants or buy them, just come and enjoy the event. More information at www.tucsoncactus.org or call (520) 256-2447.

Cactus Model Volunteers Needed

TCSS will be participating in a Family Plant Science Night at Ventana Vista School on Friday evening September 30th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. We will be offering our "Build A Cactus Model" exercise and need a few volunteers to help the kids build their cactus models. Previous experience building the models is not required. If you are interested in helping out please email **John Swarbrick** at funfest@tucsoncactus.org.

Ferocactus of the Month

TCSS Golden Fishhook

by Chris Monrad

It has been ten years since the TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew found its first specimen of a golden spined and vivid yellow flowered version of our native *Ferocactus wislizenii* at the 700-acre Saddlebrooke rescue site. Nearly 200 of the offspring from this rare plant (and four other similar plants found by the Cactus Rescue Crew from 2002 thru 2006) have now found their way into public landscapes around Tucson.

Five year old specimens, many of them in flower in August as this was written, can be found in planters surrounding the Pima County Superior Court Building, the Jewish Community Center, and the two new University of Arizona dormitory complexes at the northeast corners of Sixth Street and Euclid and Sixth Street and Highland.

The five year old plants exhibit the hand-pollinated heritage of their parents with robust golden spination as well as large bright yellow buds and flowers that can be seen from the public roadways and viewed even better from the adjacent sidewalks.

Known to be extremely frost hardy and fast growing with far showier buds, flowers and fruit than the non-native 'Golden Barrel' (*Echinocactus*

grusonii), it is hoped that the TCSS Golden Fishhook will become the golden-spined barrel cactus of choice in Tucson landscapes.

Extremely limited quantities of this form may be available at selected member nurseries, but many more plants are in production and should be in the market in the coming years.

My utmost appreciation and a big 'Thank You' is given to all of the TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew volunteers, developers, contractors, design professionals, municipalities, and school districts that have sustained the Cactus Rescue program since its inception in 1999, Mike Reimer at the AZ Dept. of Agriculture, the various nursery-men and women that have offered advice and produced numerous seedlings over the years, and to the TCSS Board that helped to support the widespread promotion of this plant since I developed this crazy idea about six years ago.



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

September Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with T, U, V, W, X, W, and Z
please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your
generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!



Cacti Rescued 265 Rescues Accomplished

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

September 2011

Thursday, September 1, 2011 7:00pm
Monthly Meeting, "Cultivation of Boswellia"
Presented by Jason Eslamieh

Tuesday, September 6, 2011 7:00pm
Prickly Park Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Library Update

Madagascar: the Red Island
Text by Arlette P. Kouwenhoven
Photographs by Toussaint Raharison

An interesting book on the history, land, people, plants and
animals of Madagascar. Loaded with photos.

Plants of Dhofoar

Anthony G. Miller, Miranda Morris

There is a description and history of the various plants of
Dhofoar accompanied by some excellent botanical illustrations.

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

Bill & Lalita Kuhn • Marcus White • Marcia Harmon
William & Katherine Young • Tom & Cindy Bethard

Pima Prickly Park

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Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and
comprehensive listing of donors. TCSS apologizes for any
incorrect listing, misspelling or omissions.