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# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

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TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1995

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## SEPTEMBER SUNSET

In these post-convention times, it is difficult to think of an 'S' word for the headline to go with September that means 'afterglow!'  
**TUCSON '95 was a GREAT SUCCESS!!!**  
Those of you who were there, know.

# Thanks

TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED!!!

And **MANY THANKS** to **CHUCK HANSON** and **RICHARD WIEDHOPF**, who pulled us all together!

*for more, PLEASE SEE PAGE 2*

*but first...*

**MAY MAYHEM** was a memorable event. **MILES ANDERSON** shared "Monstrose, Crested & Variegated Cacti."

**JUNE 1**, we heard "Plant Sex, part 2" (propagation by seed) with **CHUCK HANSON**, in good health and gearing up for!

**TUCSON '95**

**IN JULY**, still winding down, the **FREE PLANT** was **FOUQUIERIA COLUMNARIS** - a Boojum!

**IN AUGUST, we escaped Tucson or SWELTERED IN THE HEAT!!**

**SEPTEMBER 10** is our

**SILENT AUCTION!!!**

*beginning promptly at 2 pm, and featuring (besides the usual plant & related donations) free refreshments as well as vendor tables of books, more plants, pots, T-shirts & FUN!!!*

*come early to help set up & check us out!!!*

**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

## NEIGHBORS by les & dale sloan

Naturalists call him the white-throated woodrat; scientists call him *neotoma albigula*; but, most of us just call him a packrat. The *albigula* part means white throat, and the genus *neotoma* refers to the cutting of something new, specifically its habit of nipping off new, tender twigs. Packrats, or trade-rats as they're sometimes called, are hoarders of stuff.

Probably the packrats' principal collections are cholla joints, prickly-pear pads, sticks, whatever it can gather. These are heaped into what may look like a very land-locked beaver lodge. For all the sloppy appearance of the exterior, the interior is nicely constructed with fibers of grass or shredded bark. Inside this layer is a layer of even finer fibers. This offers great insulation against the desert heat. That same heat keeps the packrat inside during the day, venturing out at dusk or after dark and getting in before sun-up.

We commonly refer to people (other than ourselves) who keep seemingly useless items as packrats. The trade-rat moniker is appropriate because a packrat carrying a new "treasure" back to the nest may see an even more precious item along its way and leave the first one in its place. This behavior is "cute" and "interesting" until your watch disappears while you're out camping and a perfectly beautiful cholla joint is left in its place.

Something else the packrat saves, though unwittingly, is a bit of history. Especially in those cases where a nest is built in a cave or crevice, and then the nest is used by countless generations of packrats, such

continued on page 4



## CSSA CONVENTION CONNECTION

TUCSON '95 was a smashing success!!

A special thanks to Jane Evans & Pat Weidhopf for many long hours!

We were a convention of FIRSTS:

At the opening ceremonies, we presented a gavel of mesquite, copper & turquoise to Dr. Seymour Linden, CSSA Convention Program Chair, who gave it to our Chuck Hanson, to bang open the convention. At the final banquet, Chuck passed it to Joey Betzler, President of San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.

We were 2nd in total club membership attendees.

Convention attendees hailed from all across the United States, as well as: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, England, Germany, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Wales, and Zimbabwe!!

Below is reprinted from July Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Staff/Volunteer Newsletter:

### ASDM AND IRONWOOD RESTAURANT BIG HITS WITH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY CONVENTIONEERS.

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) held its biennial symposium in Tucson this June, attracting a record 600+ participants from as far away as Chile, New Zealand, Sweden, England, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. The Desert Museum was an active supporter. George Montgomery and Mark Dimmitt led a pre-conference tour of southeastern Arizona. Botany staff safely transported more than 50 giant potted succulents grown by six local growers (including ASDM) to create a display in front of the Doubletree Hotel. During the entire week visitors could be seen marveling (agape) at the superb specimens produced in our climate. The closing banquet and tour at the Desert Museum by Botany staff and docent Shirley Singleton also drew rave reviews. Cheers to the staff of the Ironwood for smoothly and splendidly dining 400 people, their largest group yet. A professor from Kenya was overheard saying that it was the first good meal he has had in this country (he'd been here for a week).

THANKS TO ALL  
CONVENTION HELPERS —  
YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE !!

WOW!!! All who have been heard from (and there are a BUNCH) have only praise for Tucson '95!!

Among the songs sung:

"Thanks to all Tucsonans!.. ..terrific convention memories so many positive intangibles knowledge & experiences shared...the best ever more lectures skies were blue Accolades.. well done terrific job one of the best...over 600 in attendance...record number...Rare Plant Auction brought in \$12,500... The opening get-together in the hotel courtyard was a blast (How about those decorations!!)...festive balloon hats...an effort of the entire club...strong international attendance...best organized convention...large specimen plants on display. ..Hasan Bahidaj!!

Plan to attend  
FUTURE CONVENTIONS  
San Diego in 1997  
and  
Las Vegas in 1999!!!

Many Thanks to:

Carol & Joe Wujcik  
former Editors" Roadrunner News"  
Long Beach C&S Society

Michael Gaddis  
Editor "Point of View"  
C&S Society of California

Michael & Joyce Buckner  
Editors "Espinas y Flores"  
San Diego C&S Society

Brigette Williams  
Editor "Chronicle"  
Los Angeles C&S Society

Jack Makepeace  
Editor "Prickly Press"  
Kansas City C&S Society

David Tufenkian  
Editor CSSA Newsletter

for your comments.



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

**TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION**

Plants For The Southwest

9 - 5:30

Wednesday - Saturday

50 E. Blacklidge

628-8773

Librarian

Myrtle Ethington

887-4507

**DESERT BREEZE STAFF**

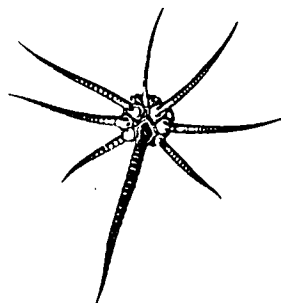
EDITOR JERI OGDEN

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LES &amp; DALE SLOAN

DAN BIRT

MAILING SARA PERPER



## ***THORNY PROBLEMS... POINTED ANSWERS***

This new column is designed to help promote success with our plants. Everyone has a favorite fertilizer, trick, or tip they could share. What's yours? Call or write your editor by the 15.

**PROBLEM** - How do I combat mealy bugs?

**PROBLEM** - I have tried several Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), but keep losing them. What's the secret?

You need to know that your esteemed secretary/editor is retiring following creation of the December newsletter. Five years of excitement!! It is time to turn over control - let someone else have the fun. - ED

***FLASH!!!***

*Just received word...  
San Gabriel Valley C & S Society  
Winter Show & Sale  
Saturday & Sunday, October 14 & 15  
10:30 - 4:30  
Huntington Botanical Gardens  
flyer in next newsletter*

**JERI's GEMS**

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Jonathan & Jennifer Donald  
3355 E Ft Lowell, Apt #106  
Tucson, AZ 85716  
326-6355

Dave & Susan Gallaher  
270 E Hillcrest Pl  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
294-1610 (work)

Net proceeds from the convention:

**\$4,762.14**

Total bank balance August 1 = \$7391.50

**\$7,391.50**

Speaking of money.....it will soon be time to print dues reminders .....

Your board of directors is planning several field trips & contemplating joining the world-wide (computer) web, to make our organization bigger, better & friendlier. What do YOU think?

This newsletter is published monthly except in summer. Submit material by the 15th of month preceeding to Editor:

JERI OGDEN  
3329 E NAVAJO PLACE  
TUCSON, AZ 85716 (520) 321-9484

I appreciate feedback (all kinds). Please help me to correct phone/address errors, also.

Membership meetings (free and open to the public) are generally held at Tucson Botanical Gardens, 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month. Dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, payable at meetings or send check to:  
TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY,  
c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON WAY  
TUCSON, AZ 85712 326-9255

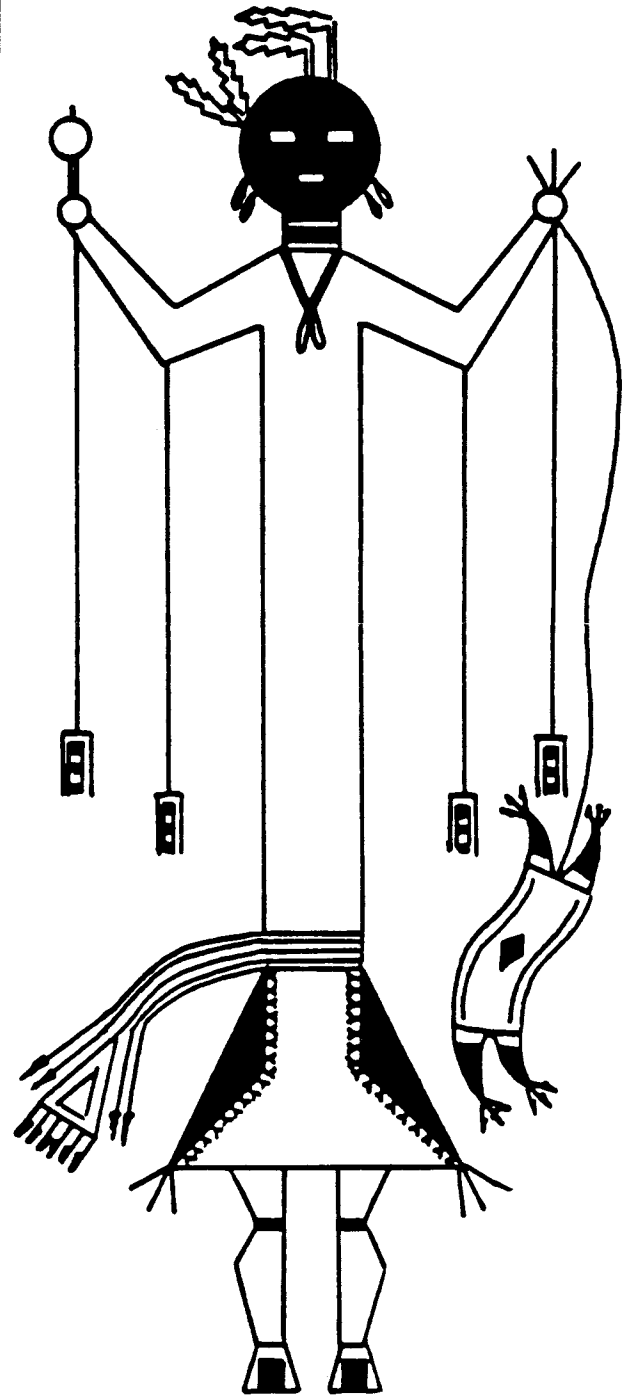
## neighbors continued

things as seeds, pollen, and leaves accumulate, offering us a scrapbook of the region's history. Since we're all pretty much newcomers to the Southwest, we may be surprised to find that only a few hundred years ago species of plants lived here which today are nowhere to be found in our area. In fact, the contents of a packrat midden may go back thousands of years. An interesting display at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum even has the tooth of an extinct camel, just the kind of swell thing a packrat might bring home from a evening's outing.

By the way, if you've seen those big dark eyes and bunny-like ears, you may be pleased to know that the packrat is more closely related to mice than to those terrible "city" rats that grow to legendary proportions in the New York sewers.

Unfortunately, the packrat can do serious damage to your ornamental cactus and succulents. While it eats seeds, mesquite beans, and those tender young twigs mentioned earlier, much of its sustenance (and moisture) comes from prickly-pear pads, especially those young ones you were hoping would fill out your prized specimen.

So, I guess that even though they're cute, and a boon to botanists who want to peer into the past, I just don't want them in my garden. After all, they chew on some of my favorite plants. And besides, I guess I'm a bit jealous of a critter that drags prickly pears and chollas around in its mouth with no trouble, and I can't come within two feet of a teddy bear cholla without going home looking like a pincushion.



*Join us for exciting slide presentations on the nature and future of some of the world's greatest succulent plant collections*

- **Gerald S. Barad**, Flemington, New Jersey, *A Tour of the World's Most Impressive Succulent Plant Collections*
- **Mark A. Dimmitt**, Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona, *Framing the Big Picture: Placing Succulent Plants in Habitat Context*
- **Harold Koopowitz**, Irvine Arboretum, Irvine, California, *For the Collector: Unusual Geophytes and Xerophytes from Southern Africa*
- **Beat Ernst Leuenberger**, Berlin-Dahlem Botanic Garden, Berlin, Germany, *The Succulent Collections of Berlin-Dahlem Botanic Garden*
- **Laura Vinson Northrop**, Atlanta Botanical Garden, *The Atlanta Botanical Garden's Succulent Collection* - The status of the country's newest significant public collection
- **Liz Slauson**, Desert Botanical Garden, *Succulent Collections, Management and Research at the Desert Botanical Garden*
- **Huntington Staff**, Huntington Botanical Gardens, *Where is it All Going? The Future of the Huntington's Desert Garden Collection*

**Other Events:**

- Succulent Plant Sales
- Silent Auction of Rare and Unusual Plants
- Tours of the Desert Garden and Conservatory
- Evening barbecue and talk by Jerry Barad

**Time:**

Continental breakfast and registration begin at 8:30 A.M. Programs from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. will include speaker presentations, silent auction, garden and conservatory tours, refreshments, and lunch. The optional evening barbecue at the home of the gardens director will begin at 6:00 P.M.

**Location:**

Friends' Hall  
Huntington Botanical Gardens



Registration:  
Symposium \$60.00  
Evening barbecue \$20.00

Mail your name(s), address,  
and a check (made payable to  
The Huntington) for the  
appropriate amount to:

**Succulent Symposium**  
**Huntington Botanical Gardens**  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108  
(818) 405-2160  
(818) 405-2260 FAX

The deadline for registration is  
September 5th. We cannot guarantee  
meals for late registrants.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Program registration: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$60 per person)  
Barbecue registration: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$20 per person)  
Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(We welcome donations to help  
defray costs of the symposium)  
Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*"The Future of  
Public Collections"*

Twelfth Succulent  
Plants Symposium



*Saturday, 9 September 1995*

**Huntington  
Botanical Gardens**

## RAWBERRY PRESS - UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT

his open letter to STRAWBERRY PRESS subscribers, to members of the Cactus and Succulent Societies and all fellow collectors and cherishers of plants shall be an Annual Report of my progress in the ultimate production of my "LIBRARY OF SUCCULENTS."

In the past 13 years I have published nine EUPHORBIA JOURNALS, THE CAUDICIFORM BOOK, THE SUCCULENT COMPOSITAE, AND Lemaire's CACTEES, plus my resident genius' (wife's) autobiography with 284 of her wonderful paintings, and "ADA" (Ada Lovelace Byron), the letters of Lord Byron's daughter, who with Charles Babbage invented the computer.

Somewhere along Volume VII of THE EUPHORBIA JOURNALS I decided to attempt to also document the other marvelous major groups of Succulents. By that time, I had gotten to know virtually all the world's authorities on the "other" Succulent families.

I decided to begin this process by asking Werner Rauh to allow me to publish his major life work: THE SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR. In short order, the menu grew to projected series on the Asclepiads, the Aloes, the Succulent Compositae, Tylecodon & Coryledon, and the History of Succulents.

Little did I know what I was getting into!

THE SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR introduced me to some new realities of publishing. The early text grew dramatically in size over a two year period with new discoveries, revisions and illustrations. The problem of long distance editing imposed by volumes of 500 pages and over a thousand illustrations made it obvious that smaller but multiple volumes like THE EUPHORBIA JOURNAL would be not only simpler but also produce greater predictability of time of completion. With Professor Rauh's visit a month ago both volumes of his extraordinary SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR were reviewed line by line (text, slides, and captions). The massive job of publishing Volume I and then Volume II is underway and should produce Volume I this summer.

It will be the most beautiful plant book ever produced!

Subsequent series, i.e., The Asclepiadaceae and The Aloes will be done in multiple volumes, each with shorter time frames rather than two massive volumes of each.

Volume X of THE EUPHORBIA JOURNAL is almost complete and should also be out later this year. It will be huge...as was Volume IX.

But, above and beyond the gestation and birth of my books I want address their finances.

THE EUPHORBIA JOURNALS were hatched in a period when it was possible to publish each Volume in Japan when the dollar was worth 320 yen. It is now worth 88 yen. Prices have soared to an unimaginable degree. At the same time I cannot bring myself to escalate my book prices to that same degree, for example, Volume IX (50% larger) cost 200% more to produce than Volume VIII. THE SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR will cost about \$300,000 (Volume I) and so on in the same vein.

I am committed to producing my dream books. After a long time the aggregate sales by Volume VII of THE EUPHORBIA JOURNAL paid for a significant part of Volume VIII. This is no longer the case since factors have arisen which have made previous calculations obsolete.

1) The cost of producing new, larger books is vastly greater than the Journal.  
2) My subscribers...for various reasons are buying my books from dealers rather than directly from me. Dealers pay slightly more than cost. They provide useful sales but do not help pay for future books. Dealers previously sold 40%, now 70% of my books. The difference between wholesale dealer cost and retail cost represents the income to STRAWBERRY PRESS which makes it possible to publish future books.

3) A publisher cannot survive with a payout period of 7-8 years for THE EUPHORBIA JOURNALS. God knows what it shall be with my new and larger books! No publisher in his right mind would ever embark on this process. This tells you something about my mind.

Since I hate to raise my prices the answer has to be...increase the rate of direct subscriptions. That can only come from you, my readers. There is no way I can continue to produce the exquisite one-of-a-kind, lavishly illustrated reference books I contemplate unless there are significantly more direct subscriptions.

I have to leave it up to you all to support this effort. I am interested in having comments and ideas from all of you. Meanwhile my weekdays are filled with books, weekends with keeping my plants alive in the wettest winter in history, and wondering when I can get back to Africa and Madagascar.

Best wishes,

*Herman Schwartz*

Herman Schwartz, M.D.  
Publisher/Editor  
STRAWBERRY PRESS



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