



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

February 2021

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:00pm

Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona 3rd Edition Introduction

Presented by Thomas Staudt



This saguaro was 3-4 feet tall when rescued about 10 years ago.

First published in 2015 the TCSS Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona is now available in an updated third edition. Thomas Staudt conceived the original idea for the much needed field guide and has served as editor for all three editions. The program will cover a brief history on why and how the book was published. The program will address the process of preparing the field guide for publication including details on how the pages were formatted, layout, photos selected and the use of the species distribution maps.

Additionally, adaptations and changes to the second and third editions will be covered with emphasis on the third edition. Overall, three new species have been included. There have been a combined 44 photo updates, 24 map modifications and several nomenclatural adjustments along with occasional copy corrections.

Thomas is originally from Iowa and moved from Portland, OR, to Tucson in 1991. The Sonoran Desert and the bird life of SE Arizona were the attractions. He had little knowledge of native cacti/succulents at that time but like most of us was fascinated by the mighty saguaro. From the early 90's to 2005 Thomas

spent parts of the year conducting bird and plant surveys in AZ, worked above the Arctic Circle and in Denali National Park, Alaska, guided bicycle tours across western and northern states including a cross country tour in 1993. In Winter Thomas would move south, working in the environmental field in McMurdo, Antarctica. One season included a two week stint at the South Pole. While there, Thomas pulled a bike out of storage and did three quick trips around the world in one day at minus 40 degrees. Since 2005 Thomas has remained close to Arizona continuing work with plant and wildlife surveys.

Thomas and his wife Maria Voris have been members of TCSS since 2007. Maria knew of the club and it's rescue activities and their xeriscape yard needed some cacti so... Thomas has served as a Board member for 8 years and is currently head of the Conservation Committee.

Please join this Zoom program and enjoy a very special educational and informational program. Also be sure to log in to win a \$25.00 gift certificate or Field Guide from TCSS.

Door Prize

Considering the release of the 3rd Edition of the Field Guide, which is the subject of this month's Presentation, if you are a Door Prize winner, you now have a choice of receiving either the \$25 Gift Certificate OR a free copy of the new 3rd Edition of the Field Guide! This is effective for the February meeting only. Good luck!!

TCSS Zoom Presentation
Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:00pm
Cacti of Anthony Gap
Presented by Root Gorelick
Professor of Biology - Cactus Biology

First Sale of 2021

On January 16th, we had our first sale for 2021. As we had over 400 ocotillo to sell, this was an ocotillo only sale. Members came thinking they could only buy small ocotillo as they needed to fit into their vehicles. When we told them they could be attached to the top of their vehicle the popular question became "How many can you tie to my roof?" By the end of the day, our loaders were experts on attaching ocotillo to the tops of vehicles as members left with several \$40 and/or \$50 ocotillo tied on the roof of their vehicle. Thanks to our personal shoppers, our loaders, and Beth manning the gate we managed to sell 355 ocotillo and 46 bundles of canes in 6.5 hours. Although it was a busy day, everyone had fun and we enjoyed helping our 80 TCSS members shop for their ocotillo. Watch your emails for upcoming sales.





President's Message

RAIN & SNOW! What a welcome sight for our parched desert. I hope you were fortunate enough to enjoy the short snowfall. It really was uplifting.

We have been enduring the Covid-19 pandemic for a year and I know we are all tired of the restriction but let me encourage you to hang in there for another 9 months and hope that we

can get back to life as usual. At least ZOOM meetings have helped a little.

For the next month if you order the 3rd edition of the Field Guide online, we will pay the shipping and your cost will only be \$25.95. We appreciate your support. We will also include the Field Guide as an option if you win one of the Gift Certificates at the monthly meeting.

Spring plant sales will be upon us especially at botanical gardens all over Southern & Central Arizona. Please try to support these sales since these facilities have had a tough time during the last

year. Check out the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tohono Chul Park, Tucson Botanical Gardens, Desert Botanical Gardens (Phoenix) and Boyce Thompson Arboretum (Superior). These are all great facilities that are worth your support and visitation.

The rescue program has been extremely busy this year. I hope you have been able to participate in either the rescues or sales. Your support is really appreciated. Unfortunately, sales have been limited to members only because of Covid-19.

In our new membership system, if you have not renewed by March 15, 2021 you will no longer be eligible to participate in rescues and will not receive member related email notifications. You will always be welcome to attend meetings and when sales are open to the public you will be invited. Whenever you renew all the benefits of membership are restored.

Your questions, comments and concerns are very important to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me (president@tucsoncactus.org).

Thank you for your continuing support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on February 4, 2021

If you have a laptop or other device where you can enter a web site address enter
<https://bit.ly/tcssmm>

Copy this into your browser address line or just click on it.

If this does not work and for all other types of devices see our Zoom Meeting Instructions page on our web site. It is

https://www.tucsoncactus.org/pdf_files/Zoom-Instructions.pdf

You can also find a link to it by going to our December Meeting notice information on the web.

If you can not get connected at the last minute, you can email us at
HELP@TucsonCactus.org and someone will get right back to you.

Rescue crew conducts record number of plant salvage trips in 2020

The TCSS cactus rescue crew wrapped up the year by conducting an all-time record of 53 rescue trips to 24 different sites throughout the Tucson area in 2020. 177 crew members salvaged 5,869 plants and donated 2,982 volunteer hours. This brings the total number of plants rescued by TCSS since 1999 to 107,030.

The crew also accomplished these rescues while complying with the TCSS Covid Protocol, which was derived from CDC guidelines for landscape workers. The protocol requires diggers to wear face masks at all times, maintain social distancing, and to arrive and depart at staggered intervals to prevent congregating in groups. We also limited the number of people per rescue to help ensure the safety of individual diggers and loaders.

(Note: The attached photo shows a member of rescue crew working on an ocotillo at the New Tucson rescue site near Corona de Tucson.)

Donna Ellis
TCSS Cactus Rescue Coordinator



FROM THE FLORILEGIUM

In keeping with 2020's explosion of virtual events, the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) held its October annual meeting on Zoom. In normal times, this multi-day event consists of exhibits, workshops, and portfolio sharing, and, as it turns out, those things actually work very well online. Some of today's finest botanical artists presented four days of lectures and up-close technical demonstrations that were likely more useful via Zoom than in person. The less-technical evening presentations consisted of guest speakers, awards, and slide presentations of notable artists' works. On one evening, twelve prolific artists, all of whom have concentrated their talents in a particular field of interest, shared their work and projects. I've listed a few here whose work might be of interest to TCSS members.

NATIVE BEES OF IRELAND: Shevaun Doherty, a botanical artist and tutor working in Ireland, is applying her considerable talent to helping raise awareness of the importance of Ireland's native pollinators and ways to prevent their further decline. In 2017, she was asked to design four hexagonally-shaped postage stamps, each depicting a native bee pollinating a flower. The country has 97 species of wild bees, most of which are solitary bees. For the stamps, she selected one bumblebee and three solitary bees. The completed stamps are shown here on a minisheet with the stamps surrounded by more flowers and bees. She also designed the cover of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. <https://pollinators.ie/>

Shevaun's paintings of bees and other natural subjects can be viewed on her website, shevaundoherty.com/portfolio-shevaun.

KALAHARI DESERT PLANTS: Painting the plants of the Kalahari Desert is the passion of Gillian Condy, South Africa's foremost botanical artist, currently artist in residence at Tswalu Kalahari Reserve. Previously, she was resident botanical artist for 34 years at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), where she created a large body of work depicting the flora of South Africa. During her presentation, she noted her preference for drawing plants in situ, which in desert regions can be perilous on many fronts (as we can all attest).

Gillian has designed numerous sets of postal stamps for Botswana and a set of South African stamps featuring the genus *Clivia*. She has illustrated several books on the flora of the region, including "**Grass Aloes in the South African Veld**" and has contributed many illustrations to SANBI's journal "**The Flowering Plants of Africa**". She has often painted flowers of the baobob tree, one of which appears on the cover of "**South African Botanical Art: Peeling back the Petals**". Another painting of a baobob flower is among her works that are in the Shirley Sherwood Collection. <https://shirleysherwood.com/~508>

A number of her works can be seen in the 2011 issue of SANBI journal biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/FPA62_2011.pdf

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS: Tucson artist Joan McGann ("Desert Breeze" Sep. 2017) specializes in drawings of cacti using pen and ink to bring maximum clarity to the small, intricate structures of these challenging plants. For color works, she adds watercolor or colored pencil to the finished pen-and-ink drawing. Her magnificent pen-and-ink cacti can be seen on her website. www.joanmcgann.com

Shortly before the ASBA's annual meeting, Timber Press released the organization's new book, "Botanical Art Techniques/A Comprehensive Guide". More than 50 artists contributed stunning images of their work along with descriptions of their techniques, some with step-by-step tutorials.

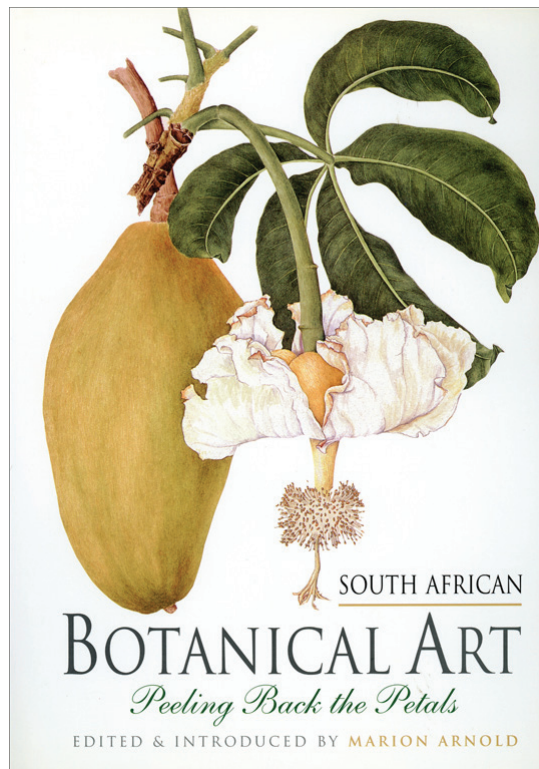
Joan McGann's pen-and-ink technique is shown in two excellent entries, one on depicting cactus spines, the subject of which is the heavily-spined *Echinocactus grusonii*, or golden barrel cactus, and the other on combining pen and ink with colored pencil, which she used to portray the diminutive *Coryphantha robustispina*, the Pima pineapple cactus. Her description of her process for drawing the Pima pineapple can be seen on the publisher's website:

d17lzgq6gc2tox.cloudfront.net/product/interior_image/original/9781604697902.in04.jpg

(The book can be purchased directly from Timber Press and, of course, Amazon.)



Illustrator: Shevaun Doherty



Illustrator: Gillian Condy

Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

2020 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2020

\$181,144.93

Income

20000 · Membership & Meetings Income	\$20,309.95
21000 · Sonoran XIII Income	3,534.15
22100 · Rescued Cactus Sales income	32,892.05
22110 · Gloves/Slings/Vests Income	475.00
24000 · Special Projects Income	225.94
24500 · TCSS Field Guide Sales	9,054.05
25000 · Investment Income	409.05
26000 · Donation and Gift Incomes	<u>20,550.91</u>

Total Income:

\$87,451.10

Expense

40000 · Monthly TCSS Meeting Expenses	\$7,637.59
41000 · Newsletter Expenses	2,473.08
42000 · Cactus Rescue Program Expenses	16,017.70
44000 · Special Project Expenses	86.94
45000 · TCSS Field Guide Expenses	23,362.80
46000 · Sonoran XIII Expense	4,460.87
51000 · TCSS Operational Expenses	11,730.08
53000 · Educational Outreach Expenses	4,392.86
54000 · Research Program Expenses	2,000.00
56000 · Conservation Program Expenses	3,000.00
57000 · Prickly Park Expenses	<u>11,450.45</u>

Total Expense:

\$86,612.37

NET INCOME:

\$838.73

December 31, 2020 Year End Balance:

\$181,983.66

BALANCES ON DECEMBER 31, 2020:

CHECKING ACCOUNT (QB Balance)	\$22,858.29
EARMARKED ACCOUNTS	\$36,604.40
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$91,789.15
BUSINESS CD 12M	\$15,320.77
BUSINESS CD 24M	\$15,411.05
CASH BOXES	\$300.00

TCSS TOTAL FUNDS

\$182,283.66

2020 DONATIONS:

CONSERVATION	\$1,037.00
EDUCATION	\$892.00
ENDOWMENT	\$20.00
FLORILEGIUM	\$445.00
FIELD GUIDE - 3rd EDITION	\$7,205.00
GENERAL FUND	\$4,182.91
MEMORIALS	\$2,192.00
PIMA PRICKLY PARK/HUB/FEROCACTUS	\$4,232.00
PUBLICATIONS	\$120.00
RESCUE	\$50.00
RESEARCH	\$175.00

TOTAL DONATIONS

\$20,550.91

Fund-raising Cane Cutting Day

The rescue crew is planning a fund-raising “Cane Cutting Day” on Thursday, Feb 4, at the New Tucson site near Corona de Tucson where we have been working since December. There are still hundreds of ocotillos on site.

Our last TCSS plant sale revealed an unexpected interest in ocotillo cane bundles to be used for living fences and other natural landscaping enhancements.

This rescue is unusual in that we are not digging any plants to take home. Instead we are harvesting canes from ocotillos that are too large to dig intact. It is much better that these plants live in a fence than be destroyed by a bulldozer.

The TCSS sales team has prepaid orders for nearly 50 bundles of ocotillo canes that we need to fulfill. Your help on this workday is necessary as follows:

4 members with chainsaws to cut canes

20 members to work in teams of two to sort canes and tie bundles

4 members to assist by tagging, carrying and loading bundles

The rescue will be split into two separate loading areas and will have staggered start and end times to observe COVID protocols. If you arrive earlier than your assigned time, please stay back and do not crowd the sign-in area.

Timeline

8:30 AM: Cutters should arrive no later than 8:30 AM, and Steve will take them out to the two cutting areas and get them started.

8:45 to 9:00 AM:

Sorters and cane-tiers should arrive.

Robert, Barb, and Steve will take small groups to the cutting areas and get them started by showing them how to sort the canes and tie bundles. We will put one trailer at the 2nd tagging area and another trailer at the 3rd tagging area so that workers remain well separated and carries are shorter.

9:00 to 9:15 AM:

Carry crews should arrive.

We can show them how to tag and pay attention to not overloading either trailer.

Steve will send follow-up emails to cover (1) Work and site details (2) Directions (3) COVID considerations.

Donna Ellis and Steve Watts, TCSS Cactus Rescue Coordinators

Please RSVP to Steve at **Steve@ACSSoftware.net**

Trees, a fundamental aspect of your yard



During the December meeting presentation the members of the panel discussion all agreed that while we are a cacti and succulent group, planting trees at this time is an essential for yard/microclimate stability. An overstory of trees can mitigate the strong sun and increasing high temperatures of summer while the shade protects many of our favorite cacti and succulents. *Mammillaria grahamii*, small saguaros, most agave and aloes are some plants that benefit from the shade. During the winter trees can protect your cacti and succulents from frost.

Trees are certainly more than decorations, they can be a low cost foundation to the ecosystem that surrounds your home. Trees on your property will help retain water and soil moisture thus reducing the need for irrigation. They can help prevent soil erosion and aid in control of seasonal flooding. Of primary importance, trees are essential for providing food and habitat for our native wildlife. Additionally trees take up and reduce CO2 levels leaving us with cleaner air. All of this and while they are maturing they help reduce our energy costs and increase the value of our homes.

We are lucky to have a variety of native and desert adapted trees that do well in our area. Mesquite and palo verde are our iconic trees of the desert and provide a filtered shade that is perfect for many of our understory plants. The following is a short list of well performing trees in Tucson. Velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) and screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*), two species of native palo verde, blue (*Parkinsonia florida*) and foothill (*Parkinsonia microphylla*), plus palo brea (*Parkinsonia praecox*) do well, as do most of the listed plants here, with little additional water once they have been established. Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) and netleaf hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*) are other commonly used native trees in the Tucson landscape. Texas ebony (*Ebenopsis ebano*), though slow growing, is a relatively low litter tree that has handsome dark green foliage and is fully green all year round. Ironwoods (*Olneya tesota*) are said to be slow growing but with supplemental water, growth rate may be increased. Ironwoods can be susceptible when temperatures dip below 20F. Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) is a colorful non native that provides dense shading. Our native birds love feeding on this tree. Shrubby trees like condalia (*Condalia warnockii*) and desert hackberry (*Celtis pallida*) are big favorites of bees and other insects.



Avoid non native Mexican palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), it continually drops debris and sends up volunteers in your yard as well as your neighbors. African sumac (*Rhus lancea*) also spreads rapidly. The former tree unfortunately is widespread in the Sonoran Desert landscape. The Arizona Native Plant Society considers sumac as an “invasive weed”. It has been observed in some of the canyons in the Santa Catalinas.

The above mentioned trees are available at most nurseries around Tucson and through our friends at Tucson Clean and Beautiful/Trees for Tucson. Their website lists trees they have and provides excellent information on planting and care for your new trees. Their information is well worth reading. Additionally, TEP has a program providing trees for their customers. They offer a wide variety of five gallon trees priced at \$5 each with a limit of three trees. Check TEP Trees for details.

One word of caution, always conduct a blue stake evaluation (provided free by your utility company) 1 800 782-5348. Also evaluate the location of power lines over potential tree sites. Planning and maintenance are keys to successful tree growth. Your yard, understory plants, home and neighborhood will greatly benefit with the planting of trees.

Thomas Staudt

TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2022)

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:

(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Helen Barber (2023)

Donna Ellis (2023)

Janice Johnson (2023)

Kris Thompson (2023)

Peter Ertman (2022)

Brad Haeckel (2022)

Penny Miller (2022)

Steve Watts (2022)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2021)

Jessie Byrd (2021)

Crystal Cannon (2021)

Linda Heisley (2021)

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

Librarian: Brad Haeckel • librarian@Tucsoncactus.org

Prickly Park: Linda Heisley • park@Tucsoncactus.org

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

trips@Tucsoncactus.org

Vendor Coordinator: Dale Johnson • vendors@tucsoncactus.org

Plant Sales: Crystal Cannon • sales@tucsoncactus.org

Field Guide Sales: Susan Durham & John Durham

books@tucsoncactus.org

Conservation: Thomas Staudt

conservation@tucsoncactus.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:

Thursday, February 19 by 4:00pm

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Joe Frannea • webmaster@Tucsoncactus.org

For general information and questions related to

TCSS, email TCSS@TucsonCactus.org

or call (520) 256-2447 during business hours.

Everyone is Welcome!

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



Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

516 Rescues - 39,643 Volunteer Hours (updated 01-01-21)

**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.

February 2021

Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:00pm (ZOOM MEETING)

Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona - 3rd

Edition Introduction

Presented by Thomas Staudt

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

Acknowledgement Of Contributions

The Names Below Represent The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Members And Friends Whose Donations Helped Make This Year A Success. We Extend Our Sincere Thanks For Your Support.

In Memory Of Christina Lawrence

Jon R. Weeks, Ph.D.

Bill Olson

Jennifer Topp

Sharon Brennan

Sandi Kilkuts & Family

Denise Cahalan

Noe Mayotte & Family

Jay Gray

Ruth Vegodsky

Julie A Shulick

Jennifer & Michael Omo

Nina & Rich Grossman

John Emmett

Brent Linker

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