



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

June 2021

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 7:00pm

What you need to know about the Ocotillo before you die

Presented by James W. Cornett

Did you know? In the American Southwest, there are more streets named after the ocotillo than any other desert plant. It is the only species that blooms every year regardless of rainfall. Migrating hummingbirds can't survive without its blossoms. Learn what every desert aficionado should know about the desert's most remarkable keystone species. Presented by Jim Cornett who has been studying ocotillos in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California, since 2007.

James W. Cornett is a desert ecologist living in Palm Springs, California. He is one of the Southwest's most prolific writers with more than forty-two of his books published as of 2021. He enjoys sharing his love of desert natural history through writing, teaching and lecturing. He is the first professional naturalist to have visited all nine of the world's great deserts and is currently writing a book on his travels and research in each desert. His most recently released book (2021) is titled *Wildflowers of Anza-Borrego*. Mr. Cornett holds both B.A. and M.S. degrees in biology and is the founder and principle biologist for JWC Ecological Consultants, Inc., an ecological consulting firm specializing in endangered species studies in the deserts of the American Southwest.

In addition to his books and award-winning newspaper column (his column was voted "Best of The Valley" in 2011), Mr. Cornett has written for numerous magazines including *Natural History* (published by the American Museum of Natural History), *California Wild* (published by the California Academy

of Sciences), *Harper's* and *Westways* to name only a few. He has also authored dozens of scientific papers and is one of the country's leading experts on desert palm oases, the Joshua Tree and Ocotillo. He is currently researching the impact of climate change on these three symbols of the California deserts. In 1987, Mr. Cornett discovered the local desert fan palm was the first terrestrial plant on Earth whose populations were being effected by global warming. His research has made front-page news in both the *Desert Sun* and *Riverside Press Enterprise* as well appearing in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*. More recently he has been conducting research on the possibility roadrunners hibernate. The new edition of his book on the Roadrunner has been recently released.

Everyone needs to Zoom in for this program and you will truly enjoy special educational and informational presentation. Also be sure to log in to win a \$25.00 gift certificate from TCSS or choose a copy of the new 3rd edition of the *Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona*.





President's Message

The world of Cacti and Succulents is in international, national, and local news. It is great that there is so much concern for the welfare of the plants that consume me (us). The NY Times article* about the illegal poaching and black market in rare, and protected cacti from Chile is a reminder that those issues we talked about 50

years ago are still at the forefront of our hobby.

There was great concern and objection to our rescue program in its early days by leaders in the cactus and succulent world that it would cause more poaching and disregard for the laws. Their thought was to allow plants to be destroyed by development than to rescue them, since it might give the wrong impression to the public who knowingly or unknowingly would break the state laws. Of course, we know that our program has made the public aware of the laws and decreased poaching since we make available 1,000s of native cacti and succulents to the public for reasonable prices.

The Sunday, May 23, 2021 Arizona Daily Star featured front page story was all about saguaro blooming and information from our member expert Bill Peachey. The quote I appreciated most was "Peachey has more saguaro experience than just about anyone." That is absolutely true! There is so much good information about saguaros in this article that it is a must read.

This has been a great month for TCSS. Read the article

about the palm tree planting. They are beautiful and made it essential to expand our water capabilities which will greatly impact many other areas of the park. We have received several other plant donations which will enhance other areas of Pima Prickly Park. At our last rescue, several crested barrels and an exceptionally large 5 headed barrel were removed and planted in the park. They are beautiful!

What is Happening in June?

Queen of the night (*Peniocereus greggii*) buds and blooms are starting.

Rescue sale in June is being prepared.

Possible rescue of more Ocotillos and a June speaker about these plants.

Education programs for members are being planned.

September 2, 2021 will be our first in-person meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic issue. Many of us are fully vaccinated and encourage those who aren't to take advantage of the availability of vaccines.

The dates for Sonoran XIII are April 21-23. Put that on your calendar.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/20/science/cactus-trafficking-chile.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage>

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on June 3, 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 June 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.

15 Mexican Blue Palm Trees added to the Baja Garden at Pima Prickly Park

By Kris Thompson

During May, 15 huge Mexican Blue palm trees (*Braeha Armentia*) were added to the Baja Garden at Pima Prickly Park. And, it was no small task!

The trees were grown from seed 30 years ago by (now) 90-year-old Herb Owen of Phoenix. Herb and his son, Hal, own Precision Components, Inc., a reload yard. After reading about, and being impressed by the TCSS rescue program in the March issue of Arizona Highways, Hal contacted our group and offered to donate and transport the palms to the Park.

TCSS board member, Steve Watts, coordinated this enormous project in record time. Steve immediately contacted the County and went to work notifying the Blue Stake entities to obtain approvals, and mapped out the placement of each palm.

Trenches were dug for the 740-feet of water lines that needed to be installed. Three-foot holes had to be dug for the root ball of each palm, and water basins were created around them.

With a great team of TCSS volunteers, and heavy equipment assistance from Tom Chacon's employees from TC Palms & Tree Service, the palms were planted in five groups of three.

Our group is so proud of our work at the park, and the palm trees are another beautiful addition. We encourage you to visit Pima Prickly Park and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the park.



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, June 17 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.**

107,025

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.

June 2021

Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 7:00pm (ZOOM MEETING)

What you need to know about the Ocotillo before you die

Presented by James W. Cornett

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

TCSS Zoom Presentation

Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 7:00pm

Program title to come.

Will cover the history and use of the saguaro by the Tohono O'odham.

Presented by Andrea Ramon

MA-AIEd/LLSS

O'odham Ní'okí kc Hlmdag Ha-Maşcamdam

TOCC, ASU

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.

LINDA BENZIGER & FAMILY
TOMMY & DOROTHY BLEDSOE
EMMETT DODGE
IAN & LORA McFAUL
HAL OWENS
RICHARD WIEDHOPF