



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

March 2021

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

Cacti at Anthony Gap

Presented by Root Gorelick

I have seen spectacular cactus habitats in many countries, but, surprisingly, my favorite cactus habitat is at the New Mexico-Texas border, just north of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, on the four-lane high-speed NM Highway 404, four miles east of I-10 and the town of Anthony. These are public lands in the Franklin Mountains: the Sierra Vista Trail on BLM lands in New Mexico and Franklin Mountains State Park in Texas. Along an old jeep track perpendicular to Highway 404, there are at least 21 species of cacti (see checklist, below). This is the only known locale in New Mexico for *Coryphantha dasyacantha*. Clumps of *Coryphantha sneedii* exist along the trail with over 100 stems. Some specimens of *Glandulicactus uncinatus* have 8-9 inch long spines. The largest specimens of *Echinomastus intertextus* I have ever seen are less than a hundred feet from the highway, with a dozen flowers open at once. There are a profusion of forms of the hybrid *Echinocereus x roetteri*, along with its two putative parents. I will show photos of 20 cactus species here, many in flower, plus the one natural hybrid. I will show another 5-7 taxa that are probably also here, all of which I have seen nearby, which I now need to make a concerted effort to find when I next visit Anthony Gap.



Coryphantha sneedii (28 Feb 2020)

I am a professor of biology (cross-appointed in both mathematics and interdisciplinary studies) at Carleton University in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, but seem to spend most of my days living at the end of a lake in Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. While this is boat-access (or snowmobile-access) only, 8.5 km from the nearest road, electricity is supplied by cables at the bottom of the lake, so is hardly rustic. My cactus gardens overlook the lake, so close that snapping turtles often

lay eggs, digging up my cacti in the process. My cacti are now under several feet of snow. In addition to research on cacti, I study evolution of sex, philosophy of science, mathematics for quantifying diversity, and academic freedom. In the mid 1990s, I lived in Las Cruces, NM, but ironically never stumbled upon Anthony Gap until 15 years ago, as I was moving to Canada.



Echinomastus intertextus (11 March 2020)

CHECKLIST:

Cacti at Anthony Gap (21 taxa)

Coryphantha macromeris

Coryphantha dasyacantha (= *Escobaria dasyacantha*)

Coryphantha sneedii var. *sneedii* (= *Escobaria sneedii* var. *sneedii*)

Coryphantha tuberculosa (= *Escobaria tuberculosa*)

Coryphantha vivipara var. *neomexicana* (= *Escobaria vivipara* var. *neomexicana*)

Cylindropuntia imbricata

Cylindropuntia leptocaulis

Echinocactus horizontalonius

Echinocereus coccineus var. *rosei*

Echinocereus dasyacanthus

Echinocereus x roetteri

(= *E. dasyacanthus* x *E. coccineus* var. *rosei*)

Echinocereus viridiflorus var. *chloranthus*

Echinomastus intertextus

Epithelantha micromeris

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Ferocactus wislizeni
Glandulicactus uncinatus var. wrightii
Mammillaria lasiacantha
Opuntia engelmannii
Opuntia macrocentra
Opuntia phaeacantha (= Opuntia camanchica)
Opuntia tortispina

Nearby cacti that are probably also at Anthony Gap (5 taxa)

Coryphantha robustispina
Echinocereus fendleri
Echinocereus stramineus
Mammillaria heyderi
Mammillaria meiacantha

Nearby cacti that may also be at Anthony Gap (2 taxa)

Coryphantha (= Escobaria) sneedii var. organensis (= orcuttii)
Mammillaria grahamii

Please join this Zoom program and enjoy a great program from Root Gorelick. It will be a very educational and informational program. Also be sure to log in to win a \$25.00 gift certificate from TCSS.



Glandulicactus uncinatus var. *wrightii* and *Coryphantha sneedii*
(28 Feb 2020)

Mammillaria lasiacantha
(11 March 2020)



President's Message

Guess What? It feels like Spring and our cacti and succulents are telling us that they are convinced it is. Leafing out, new growth and flowering are pretty good signs that a winter that wasn't, has passed. Aloes are blooming and hummingbirds are zooming. This is a great time to be in Tucson.

I hope you have seen and read the March issue of Arizona Highways. Our Rescue Program is the feature of one of the many great articles in this issue. It is important that you read this article because it goes to the heart of what our Society is about.

A special welcome to all the new members who have joined for the 2021 year. We are so glad to have you as part of this Society. There are many ways to participate in activities so check out

our website for your area of interest. Due to the Covid-19 virus some of our programs are on hold but will become active as soon as it is safe for all participants. The officers, board and committee chairs are always available by email to answer any questions you may have. Again, Welcome.

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 March 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 March 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.

ALERT & Warning to TCSS Members! *Oncosiphon piluliferum*

In the TCSS May 2020 newsletter Bill Peachey alerted our membership to the presence of a new invasive in the Tucson landscape. I'm presenting a brief reminder to be on the lookout for this plant. In the past month, despite the long drought conditions and maybe assisted by our slight break with a bit of recent winter rain I have seen the emergence of this species in two separate locations in midtown Tucson. Bill's comment to uproot and bag this invasive is the key here. Thanks Bill.

Thomas Staudt
Conservation Chairman

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.

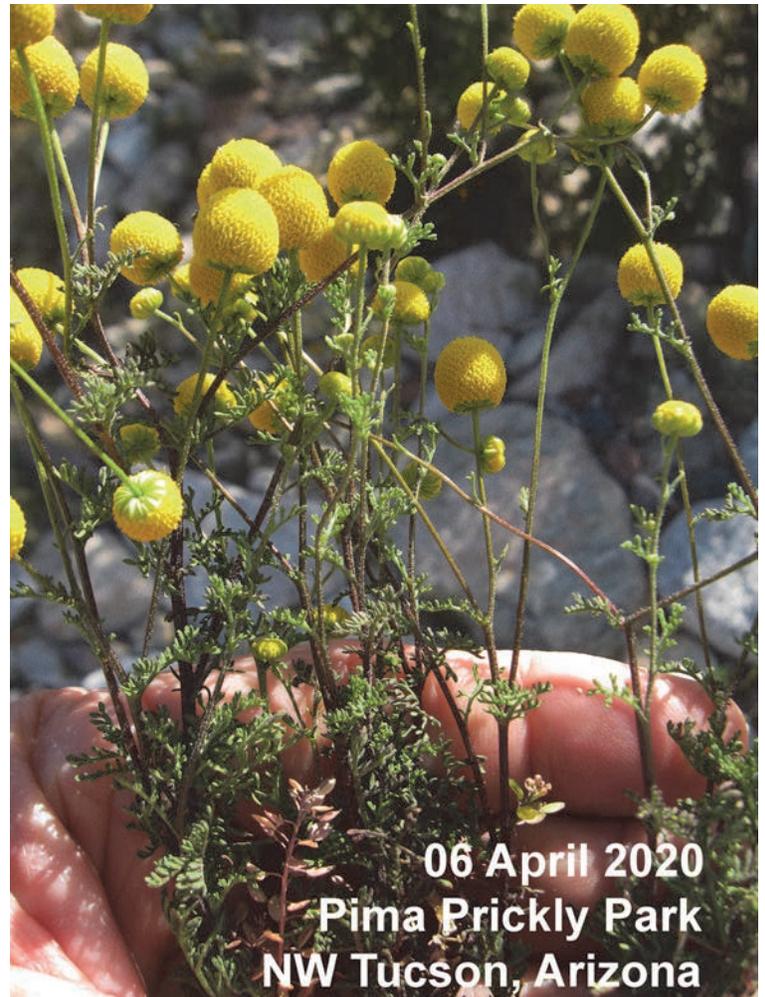
In addition to the bright yellow "globes" of tiny flowers, it has small finely divided, carrot-like, dark green leaves that are odiferous like carrots but that bear a very strong "stink" when they dry. The plants are said to grow to 6 to 24 inches in height. They can form patches that are dense enough 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

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Conservation: Thomas Staudt

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Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:

Thursday, March 18 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.

March 2021

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

Cacti at Anthony Gap

Presented by Root Gorelick

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

TCSS Zoom Presentation

Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00pm

The Folklore, Enchantment, and Evolution of the C&S Hobby
from 1889 to the Present Day

Presented by Gunnar Eisel, President, SGVCSS

Executive Director, Cactus and Succulent Society of America

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.

Donna Osborn

Ginny Sonett

Barbara Walker & Phil Feigin

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In Memory Of David Ilum Warren

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