



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

February 2022

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:00pm
Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

Following the Footsteps of a Forgotten Botanist: A Visual Journey of the Life and Work of Sara Plummer Lemmon

Presented by: Wynne Brown
Freelance Writer/Editor/Designer

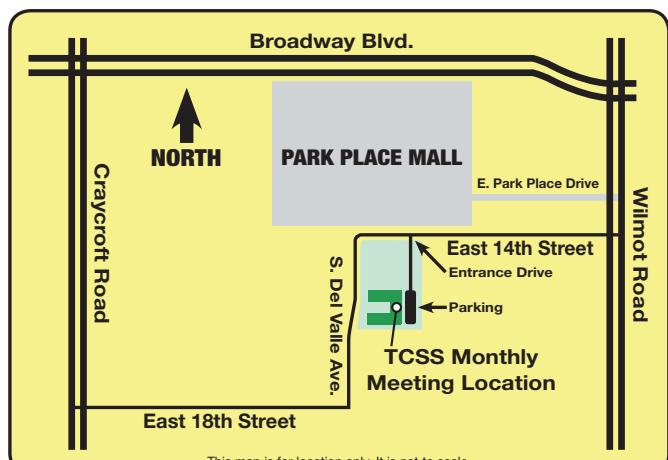
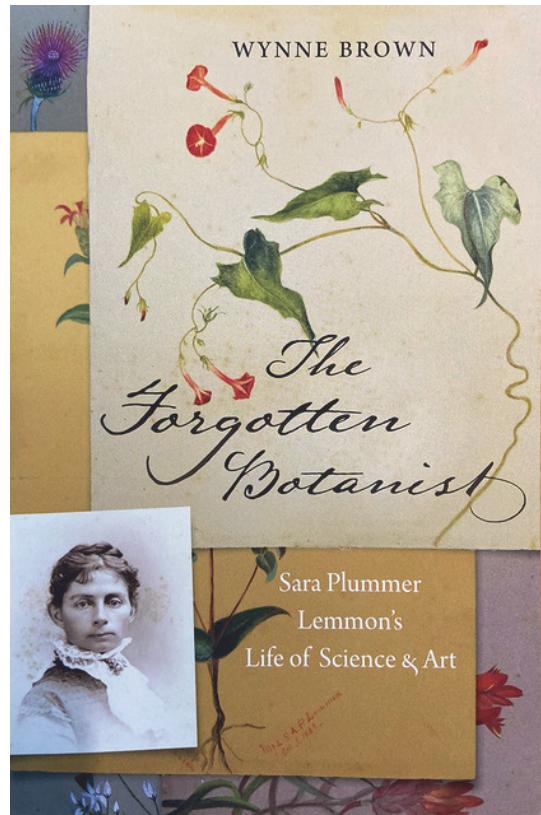


In this presentation, Wynne Brown, author of the recently released biography of Sara Lemmon, will reveal the story behind *The Forgotten Botanist*. Along the way, she'll show examples of plants discovered by and named for this remarkable 1880's woman, as well as sharing a sample of Sara's surviving botanical illustrations.

Wynne Brown is a freelance writer/editor/graphic

designer, based here in Tucson. Her books include *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Arizona Women*, *The Falcon Guide to Trail Riding Arizona*, and *Cave Creek Canyon: Revealing the Heart of Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains*. She is also president of the Chiricahua Regional Council and represents Pima County on the State Board of the Arizona Historical Society. In addition, she will be the Pima County Public Library's Writer in Residence from Feb 1 - April 30, 2022.

If you have been fully vaccinated for Covid-19, you are welcome to come and join us for this excellent in-person presentation (masks will be required by all). This meeting will also be a Zoom program and will be an important educational and informational event you must see. Also, if using Zoom, be sure to log in to win a \$25 gift certificate from TCSS or choose a copy of the new 3rd edition of the Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona. Plant give aways will also be happening at the in-person meeting. When leaving the live in-person meeting, everyone can get a free plant offered to you by the TCSS.



This map is for location only. It is not to scale.

Sky Islands Public High School • 6000 E. 14th St.



President's Message

I hope you have all had an opportunity to view the Arizona Illustrated program about our rescue and conservation activities. We have received a lot of positive feedback plus additional opportunities for more publicity about our Society. Leadership from Donna and Robert Ellis and Steve and

Barb Watts make our rescue activities a huge success. Congratulations to everyone who participates in this activity for your extraordinary efforts. You should have received your CACTUS/AMPHI BUCKS as a thank you for your participation.

We have also instituted a gift certificate program for volunteers at our rescue plant sales. After every 5 sales that you volunteer at, you will receive a gift certificate redeemable at nurseries and rescue sales. Your efforts are really important to complete the conservation program.

We have reached out to all of you for input on the idea of a future home for the Society. Thank you for your initial response. This will help us create a preliminary motion for the Board of Directors to evaluate. The initial step if approved is to move forward on the concept and will allow us to explore the many opportunities that may exist. This is not approval

to buy, build, lease etc. but only to explore the feasibility and ramifications. It will also allow us to create a list of activities that we would want this home to provide in the context of KNOWING, GROWING, SHOWING AND CONSERVING cacti and other succulent plants. At this point, we are not considering costs, which will allow us to think outside the box. I hate that phrase but it is true.

Please keep your thoughts coming. The email site is: home@tucsoncactus.org.

Pima Prickly Park is bustling with activity. This is a great time to get things planted and established. I want to thank all the new volunteers for their participation. You know I always say there is nothing more fun than playing in the dirt. If you haven't been to the park in a while, stop by and see what has been accomplished. There will be some interesting opportunities coming up to collect seeds, start offsets, root cutting, photograph blooms and really make this your home away from home.

Over 1,250 members have renewed or joined so farth is year. I hope you will consider renewing ASAP.

Thank you for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

First Sale for 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.



FROM THE FLORILEGIUM

EXHIBIT REMINDER:

'Abundant Future: Cultivating Diversity in Garden, Farm, and Field' at the Tucson Botanical Gardens,
January 17 – May 8, 2022.

A celebration of heirloom crops and their wild relatives from the New York Botanical Garden and the American Society of Botanical Artists.

Among the 40 works selected for the exhibit are two by Arizona artists—Joan McGann's pen-and-ink portrayal of the 'San Rafael' quince tree and Gillian Rice's watercolor of the Tohono O'odham l'itoi onion.

In the September 2021 "Desert Breeze", the USDA Pomological Watercolor Collection was discussed in the context of two recently published books that contain hundreds of vivid, detailed watercolors of fruits selected from the Collection's 7,000 works. As a contrast to these works, I've compiled a small group of pen-and-ink pomological drawings by Lucretia Breazeale Hamilton that can be seen on the Florilegium Program's website.

These black-and-white drawings don't have the striking realism or vibrant colors of the paintings in the USDA Collection, but they present the same basic information (the form of the fruit) but with additional detail (reproductive structures of the plant). Hamilton's drawings are highly detailed scientific botanical illustrations whose purpose is to present the unique identifying structures of a species that differentiate it from another species. Vivid color isn't necessary for this purpose.

As the USDA artists were painting their fruits, the objective was to illustrate the difference between varieties of fruits of a single species. They produced over 3,800 paintings of varieties of *Malus domestica* (apples); nearly 1,000 paintings of varieties of peaches (*Prunus persica*); nearly 200 paintings of cherry varieties (*Prunus avium*); and so on. There was no need to add further detail, such as the reproductive structures seen in Hamilton's illustration.

One purpose of the USDA at this time was to help growers and breeders identify the cultivars and varieties of the fruits they had developed, thereby protecting their "intellectual property". Cuttings from fruit trees could easily be stolen and renamed, and many naturally occurring varieties were given a host of different names by different growers.

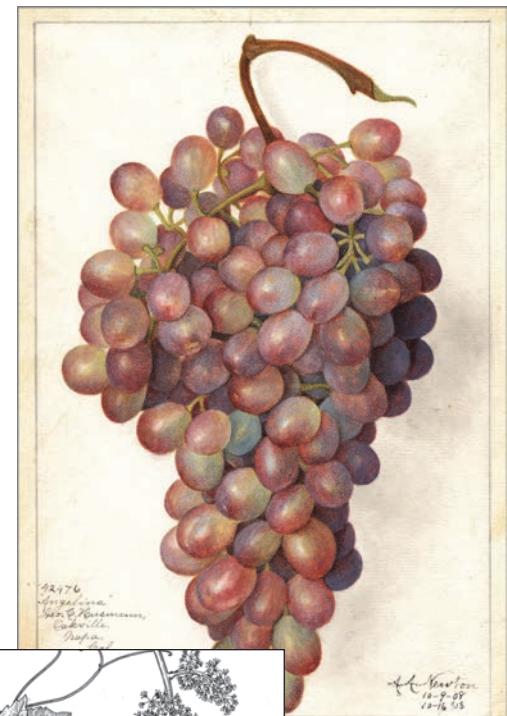
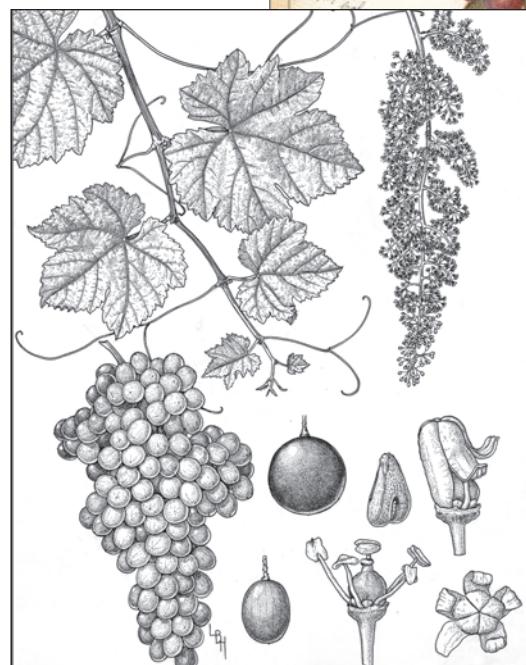
When the USDA's Pomological Division was established, in 1886, there was no national register of plants to protect the growers' ownership or trademark of a variety. Instead, the Division hired artists to create a national catalog of illustrations of all the fruits submitted to the USDA from across the country. The illustration arm of the Division ended in 1930, the same year that Congress passed the Plant Patent Act, which granted a patent to growers who had "invented or discovered and asexually reproduced any distinct and new variety of plant."

These two illustrations of grapes show the difference in purpose between Hamilton's detailed botanical illustration of *Vitis vinifera* and that of USDA artist Amanda Newton's exquisite painting of the *Vitis* variety 'Angelina'. In Hamilton's illustration, the small details in the lower right corner include: two drawings of the flower to show the unusual attachment of the petals at the top of the flower; a single seed; and a flower with petals removed to reveal the reproductive structures.

Several of Hamilton's pomological illustrations can be seen on the Florilegium Program's website. A gallery of USDA artists' works can also be found there. A link to both is on our home page (www.art-botanical.org).

Vitis vinifera, Grape

© 1979 Lucretia
Breazeale Hamilton
Unpublished illustration



Vitis var. 'Angelina', Grape, 1908 Amanda Almira Newton, U.S. Department of Agriculture Pomological Watercolor Collection. Rare and Special Collections, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705

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.

Several Anonymous Donor
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(Errors Or Omissions Will Be
Corrected In The Next Newsletter)

**Please Join Us For The Live Meeting
February 3, 2022 at 7:00pm. 6000 East 14th St.**

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on February 3, 2022

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 October 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.

TCSS BOARD**Officers (ending December 31, 2022)**

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Vice President: Vonn Watkins • vp@Tucsoncactus.org

Secretary: Monica Wnuk
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 (terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

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Field Guide Sales: Susan Durham & John Durham
 books@tucsoncactus.org

Conservation: Thomas Staudt
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Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • editor@tucsoncactus.org

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:

Thursday, February 24 by 4:00pm

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Barb Watts • 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
 551 Rescues - 42,742 Volunteer Hours (updated 05-28-21)

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, 2022

Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:00pm

Following the Footsteps of a Forgotten Botanist: A Visual Journey of the Life and Work of Sara Plummer Lemmon

Presented by: Wynne Browne
 Freelance Writer/Editor/Designer

Tuesday, February 8, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:00pm

"**Succulents of Southern Namibia**"

Presented by Steven Brack

**At this time, no
 refreshments will be
 served at the
 January meeting**