



DESERT BREEZE

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

July 2022

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

Not all Bugs are TRUE BUGS

Presented by William D. "Bill" Peachey



Kids that grew up in the post-WWII Phoenix area had easy access to extensive tracts of the surrounding Sonoran Desert to explore and learn about and many of them only became "civilized" well after they had already become confirmed "desert rats"! Bill Peachey was one of those lucky ones and was fortunate to have developed an all-consuming interest in desert "critters"(at that time...especially the arthropods!) that eventually led him to a lifetime of ecological studies facilitated through field science.

In the late 1990s having finished a nectar-feeding bat grant he turned a data gathering aspect of that grant into the beginning of the first detailed study of the bloom phenology of the saguaro cactus that continues today near the east end of Rincon Valley some 26 years later and 27 miles SE of downtown Tucson. At the time he had no idea just how "buggy" things were to become...

During the bat studies he had discovered a relationship between Pallid Bats & the Mesquite Bug. If you like "big" bugs - the Mesquite Bug is the one for YOU as, in its Family of the "Leaf-footed Bugs" that are "True Bugs", it is the largest species found in N. America! In the mesquite covered bottomlands that are its most favorable habitat its adults can attain body lengths of 2 inches. The data collection about this bug spanned years and was a "portent" of things to come concerning "bugs" and cacti. If you have interest in the Mesquite Bug and its bat predator here is the link to the study that resulted: <https://peerj.com/articles/6065>

During the early 2000s Bill found out that there is a group within the Family of "Leaf-footed Bugs" called the "Cactus Bugs". It contains several Genera that consist of a number of species. He was surprised to find that several of these take great delight in feeding on saguaros. And, he has determined over the past two years that presently just two species of these "Cactus Bugs" are, by far, the most numerous and so are probably doing the greatest amount of damage to our cacti.... The following presentation elaborates upon what is now known.

All of those who resided in Tucson through the 2021 Monsoon last year were both amazed and gratified that we received record rainfall during the month of July & that the 2021 Monsoon recorded the 3rd greatest amount of rain... ever!

Unfortunately, "plenty" is sometimes accompanied by negative attributes. So, this year we see extra ground-fire fuels from last summer 2021's growth of various "weedy" & non-weedy plants and, similarly, we have now received a "bumper crop" of several species of cactus-eating "True Bugs"! These insects are rarely responsible for killing our cactus garden specimens but, they leave unsightly scarring where they have fed and can damage stem tip growth points that can then cause deformed stems of not only native cactus species but also some of our larger showy non-native cactus species..... such as the Mexican Fence Post Cactus. In the presentation Bill will first discuss how to tell just what a "True Bug" is. Then, the talk will move on in order to identify the "culprit" bug species, describe where to look for them, relate indirect signs of their presence, and, finally, give a relatively easy and very effective way to rid your cacti of them...

continued on next page

Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 7:00pm
Program title to come but it will feature the book:
"The Genus Sansevieria: A Pictorial Guide to the Species"
by Robert H. Webb and Len Newton
Presented by Robert H. Webb

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

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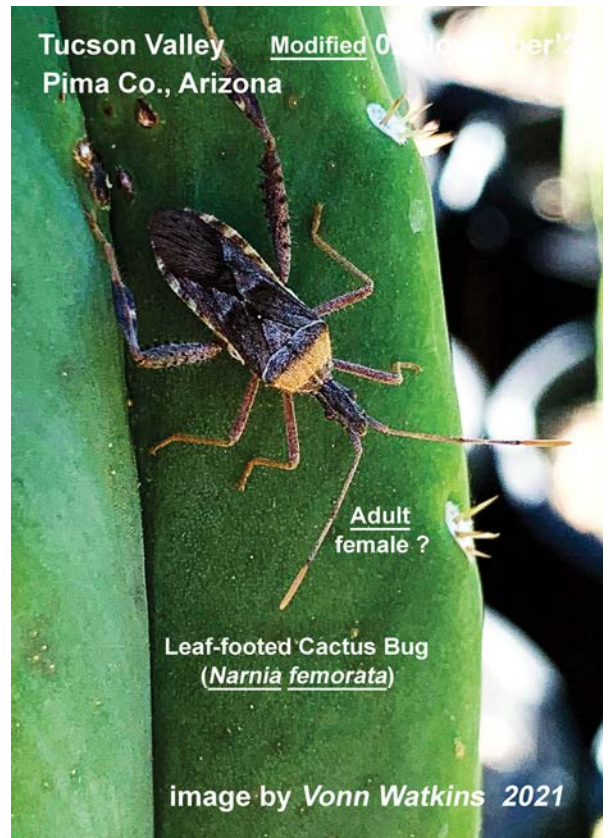
A recipe herein, provided by Vonn Watkins, Vice President of TCSS, gives the directions for a “sure fire” bug-killing mixture. In one gallon of water add about a cup of each of these items, Dawn Ultra dish soap, Pine-Sol, 70% Isopropyl Alcohol and only about 2 tablespoons of Neem Oil. Use the mixture in a sprayer. Works great for Cochineal!

This will be followed by a very short explanation of this years saguaro bloom..... Vonn Watkins and Doug Rowsell have made Bill promise to limit himself to no more than 15,000 words!!!

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 \$25.00 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 take place at the in person meeting but that portion of the program, because of the recording, will not appear on Zoom. When leaving the live in person meeting, everyone can get a free plant offered to you by the TCSS.



President's Message

This Society continues to grow (1,791 members representing 1155 households) and an ever expanding list of activities for our members. But, we are limited in providing all activities to everyone who wants to participate. We do our very best to include as many members as possible but you can easily see that we don't have space for 1700+ at a meeting so we offer you choices, In person, Zoom or U-tube presentation.

Most rescues can only accommodate 50 or less participants and safety is the biggest concern. The purpose of the rescue program is to save plants from destruction. Members like to participate because they agree with the purpose and we reward them for their participation with the potential of finding a plant that they could take home at a special price. Selling rescued plants, especially at member only sales, gives an opportunity to many members who can't participate in a rescue to acquire some very special native plants.

We have other activities such as Pima Prickly Park which can accommodate many more members than now participate. We are creating new teams for every day of the week to expand

and maintain this park. It is now almost 11 years old. There are also other parks that we have been asked to help coordinate planting.

The Sonoran Conference was postponed due to Covid-19 and problems with the venue. It is time to start thinking about 2024 and a new version of Sonoran XIII. What are we going to do in 2023? Another big Sale? A plant show? A new program? Let's start moving on these ideas.

The focus for the future is wrapped up in water usage, climate change, and environmental disasters like fires and cactus fungus. We need to take the lead where it involves cacti and succulents since that is our expertise. I would like us to consider growing large quantities of native cacti, especially Saguaros and Barrels (*Ferocactus wislizeni*) and perhaps Queen of the Night and others to offset those that are lost. A long term reforestation effort is what I am thinking about. After 5 or 6 years it could sustain itself through the sale of some of the cacti we grow. This would generate education classes, grants, new knowledge, unlimited participation and a real feeling of accomplishment. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

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.

Richard Shippee & Julie Morency
Maria & Bob Turk

Calen Harding & Jonathan Lounds
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Julie Tronson
Jennifer Topp

Caryl Jones
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William Thornton

Ann & Steven Mcqueen

Also Donors Who Requested To Remain Anonymous

Please Note

The City of Tucson has revised its mask mandate for city buildings. Starting Monday, March 7, masks will no longer be required to enter city facilities. However, leaders say masks are still encouraged when it's not possible to maintain a six-foot distance from others. According to the city, the change comes due to the declining number of cases and guidance from the Pima County Health Department. Let's incorporate this philosophy into all of our activities, meetings, sales, prickly park and rescues. "Masks are encouraged especially when a six-foot distance is not possible to maintain"

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on July 7, 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://tcss.wildapricot.org/resources/pdf_files/ZoomInstructions.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.

TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2022)

President: Richard Wiedhopf • president@Tucsoncactus.org

Vice President: Vonn Watkins • vp@Tucsoncactus.org

Secretary: Monica Wnuk
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Field Guide Sales: Susan Durham & John Durham

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Conservation: Thomas Staudt

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Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • editor@tucsoncactus.org

**Deadline for newsletter text or photos:
Thursday, July 21 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.

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Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

617 Rescues - 47,369 Volunteer Hours (updated 01-01-22)

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.

July, 2022

Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 7:00pm

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Presented by William D. "Bill" Peachey

Tuesday, July 12, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting



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