



Desert Breeze

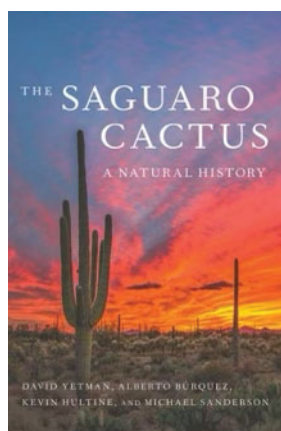
Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

May 2023

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 7:00pm
Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711
On Growth and Form: the columnar cacti of NW Mexico

Presented by Alberto Búrquez

Departamento de Ecología de la Biodiversidad, Instituto de Ecología,
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México



I will speak about a subject that has attracted me all my life; the morphology of organisms and how growth modifies biological structures. I will use as examples trees and cacti, describing first their distribution patterns, and later their functional traits and their growth and form.

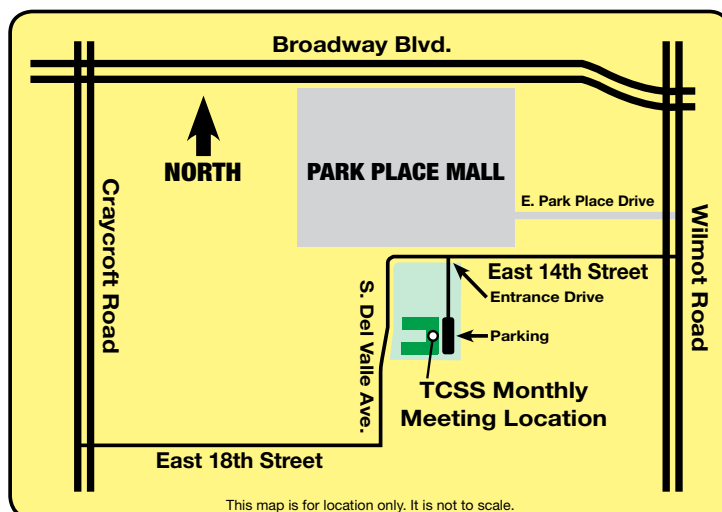
I remember my childhood in the desert hills and arroyos of the Sonoran Desert where I harvested sweet and red organ pipe cactus fruits and searched for prized flint arrowheads

and eggshell pottery of ancient Seri Indians. At home, I spent hours going through adventure books. They provided valuable information about the wilderness, like the unique species of the arctic tundra and the plants of the Malaysian archipelago. Others offered more practical advice, like survival skills in the desert and improvisation of fishing gear, still others included building boats of Styrofoam, making black powder, or exploring caves with smoky torches that once inside the dark underworld extinguished and almost choked us to death. A happy childhood wandering in the desert and seashore and discovering the pleasure and value of reading and exploring. Later, I left the desert to study biology at the National University of Mexico (UNAM). I wrote my bachelor dissertation on the reproductive ecology of wild and cultivated scarlet runner beans. I got my Master of Sciences degree at UNAM on inheritance and the ecological and evolutionary consequences of seed heteromorphism. Soon after finishing, UNAM offered me a scholarship to study the PhD at the University of Cambridge (Clare Hall) where I analyzed the process of nectar secretion in flowers. Coming back to Mexico I received a researcher position at the Institute of Ecology-UNAM in Mexico City, and one year later the chance to work at UNAM's Research station in Sonora. I did not hesitate and came back to work in the desert among my beloved cactus, Burseras and my childhood Sea of Cortés.

I have written many research articles on the ecology and evolution of desert plants. Also, I am coauthor on several books, including one on the mining spill on the Sonora River in 2014, and another on the biocultural complexes of indigenous nations

of Sonora, Mexico. Our recent book on the natural history of the saguaro cactus has been widely read, and on the third quarter of this year, our forthcoming book on the ecology and ethnography of the Tehuacán and Cuicatlán Valleys of southern Mexico will be launched by the University of Arizona Press.

If you have been fully vaccinated for Covid-19 you are welcome to come and join us for this excellent in person presentation (masks are not required). 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. Excellent 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, please enjoy great refreshments provided by our member volunteers and also, everyone can get a special free plant offered to you by the TCSS.



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

Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 7:00pm
Program Title to Come
Presented by Jan Emming



President's Message

Our second annual Earth-day event was another great success. It was led by a team of volunteers who are dedicated and committed to do whatever it takes to put on a great event. Sincere thanks to all who volunteered and to all who supported the sale.

The 40' x 100' tent was filled with our vendor friends who contribute so much to our hobby. Our rescue program made available hundreds of plants that "sold out" at the sale. These plants came from several difficult sites at long distances from Tucson but volunteers saved them and made them available for this sale. We also had a lot of donated non-native plants that were grown on for this sale.

It was perfect weather which made the day even better. Thanks to all the vendors who participated and brought great plants, pots, books, and information talks to the event. It will be an annual event.

We have done a great job in developing Pima Prickly Park. Actually, too good of a job and we need help in maintaining all the 1000s of plants that are now growing in the park. Our twice a week maintenance needs to expand to 5 days a week. We also need to start a docent program and have scheduled tour of the park. We are about to celebrate 12 years of development since we signed the agreement with Pima County on August 15, 2011. It has been a fabulous experience.

Let's have a special event that week at the park.

Another event is in development. If you look at our logo you see the words "Hasan Bahidaj" Tohono Oodham for Saguaro Harvest. It is time to take those words to the next level and celebrate the Saguaro and its impact on our Sonoran Desert. We need to create a public celebration at Pima Prickly Park around fruit harvest time to engage and educate the public about Saguaro. There are so many aspects of the importance of this plant and I invite you to contribute thoughts about how we create a meaningful celebration.



All of us have saguaro stories. Mine is simple. I rescued several small saguaros about 20 years ago and planted them under a small volunteer mesquite tree. My hope was that I would be around to see them bloom. (check out the recent photo)

Patients and care!

Thank you for your support,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

TCSS K-12 Education Outreach Calendar

Last week, we participated in Donaldson Elementary School's STEAM night. There was a great turnout of students and their families. Next weekend, we'll host a table at the 35th anniversary of the International Wildlife Museum. The following week, our team will be teaching six classes at Lineweaver Elementary School. You may recall that one of their class projects received an honorable mention award from TCSS for their SARSEF science project. During Mothers' Day weekend, we'll have an exhibit for Train Day at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum.

Upcoming activities include:

May 6 – International Wildlife Museum, 35th Anniversary

May 10 – Lineweaver Elementary School

May 12 – Lineweaver Elementary School

May 13 – Southern Arizona Transportation Museum

June 9 -- Mini Time Museum of Miniatures, summer camp

June 30 -- Mini Time Museum of Miniatures, summer camp

TBD – Presidio San Agustin del Tucson

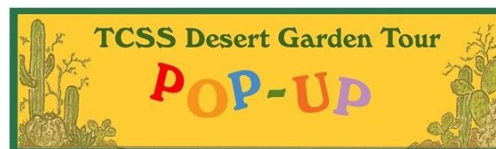
We expect to receive additional requests from schools and summer camps soon, so please let us know if you would like to join our team. Contact education@tucsoncactus.org.

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on May 4, 2023

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 August Meeting notice information on the web.



WILD BILL'S DESERT GARDEN

Saturday, May 13th 8am - 11pm

(Address will be emailed the week of the tour)

Wild Bill has invited TCSS members and their guests back to see his newly added plantings and hopefully some May blooming specimens. He has spent over 20 years putting together his collection of cactus and succulents along with a variety of whimsical garden art and artifacts. He enjoys combining many of his collections in rock lined raised beds. Of special interest are his five boojum specimens. He says his property reminds him of Southwest Indian ruins and he and his best friend Odey are anxious to show you around.



TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2024)

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

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(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Donna Ellis (2023)

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Kris Thompson (2023)

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Crystal Cannon (2024)

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Joel Fontaine (2025)

Steve Watts (2025)

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Bill Holcombe (2023)

Cactus Rescue: Donna Ellis

cactus@Tucsoncactus.org

Education: Kris Thompson • education@Tucsoncactus.org

Free Plants: Donna Ellis • plants@Tucsoncactus.org

Florilegium: Cindy Hartwell • art@Tucsoncactus.org

Garden Tours: Patsy Frannea • tours@Tucsoncactus.org

Librarian: Brad Haeckel • librarian@Tucsoncactus.org

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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 • 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 • editor@tucsoncactus.org

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:

Thursday, May 18 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.**

130,655

Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

669 Rescues - 49,623 Volunteer Hours (updated 01-01-23)

**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.

May, 2023

Thursday, May 4, 2023

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Departamento de Ecología de la Biodiversidad,

Instituto de Ecología,

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Tuesday, May 9, 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.

Rob Romero

Steve & Patty Pakus

Dawn Hagler

Lawrence Scaff & Patricia Riker

Kris & Chuck Vaughan

TCSS MEETING REFRESHMENTS



Please share and socialize with your fellow members at our monthly meetings by bringing some type of finger food for the refreshment table.

For the **MAY MEETING** we are asking members whose last names begin with **O through Z** to bring something that would serve 10-12 people.