

# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

NEWSLETTER OF TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JANUARY 1995

## JANUARY JUNCTURE

*note special meeting day & place...*

DOUBLETREE HOTEL, 445 S Alvernon

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13 at 7:30 pm

Dr Gerald Barad, past president of CSSA, will speak to us on 'Namaqualand in Flower'.

CSSA invites you to observe their board meeting

9 am Saturday.

OUR HOLIDAY POTLUCK included LOTS of good food. A grand time was had by all!

### CONVENTION UPDATE:

Borderland Tours reports that reservations for both pre- and post-convention tours are closed and waiting lists are nearly full!!

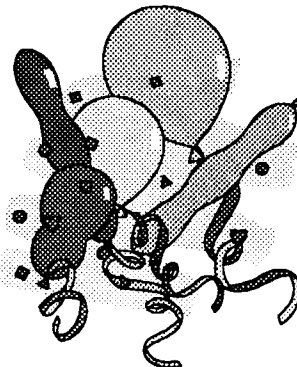
The Doubletree has already received 100 room reservations!!

The Convention is coming...

The Convention is coming...

The Convention is coming...

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!!!



## NEIGHBORS

by LES SLOAN

This month's neighbor is the horned lizard. Some folks call it a horned toad, but it's a reptile, not an amphibian. Southeast Arizona is home to four different species of horned lizard, all in the genus *phrynosoma*. While we think of "horny toads" as desert species, one species, the short-horned lizard, even ranges as far north as extreme southern Canada, and can be found at altitudes of over 11,000 feet in parts of its range.

The horned lizard's horns, while used defensively, also aid in camouflage, since they break up the critter's outline and blend well with the rough textures of desert terrain. If you do find one, it may well just "sit tight" and hope to remain invisible. Pick one up, and it may inhale gulps of air to inflate its body and make it as ominous as possible.

A good reason to invite them into your garden is they eat ants - lots of ants. Those great big harvester ants that make themselves such garden pests can become a feast if a horned lizard "adopts" your yard. A little loose, sandy soil where he can dig in, a colony of harvester ants, and he's in "lizard heaven". For that same reason, though, it's best not to make a captive pet of one of these little dragons. You probably could never supply ants in the quantity they require. The Texas Horned lizard lays up to 37



TUCSON '95  
a taste of the  
Sonoran Desert  
and more...  
JUNE 19-23

## JERI's GEMS

TO ALL MEMBERS: Please be assured a new roster will be part of a DESERT BREEZE future issue.....as soon as everyone renews their membership dues so I have something to print! (Don't be left out!!)

FLASH!! No time to redo committee list on cover. THANK YOUs to LES SLOAN for his NEIGHBORS column & to SARA PERPER for newsletter mailing!!

We need a vice president A.S.A.P.!! The VP's main function is program chair. Please see Dick.

DUES...

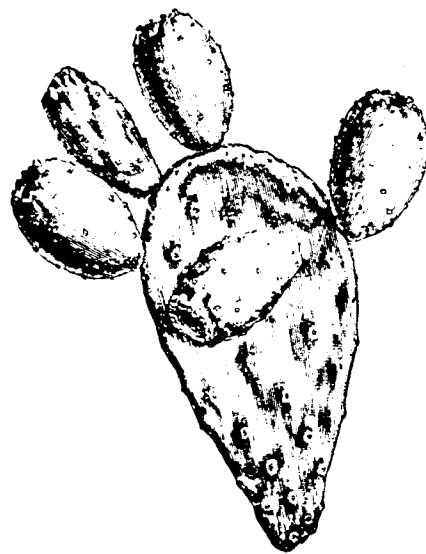
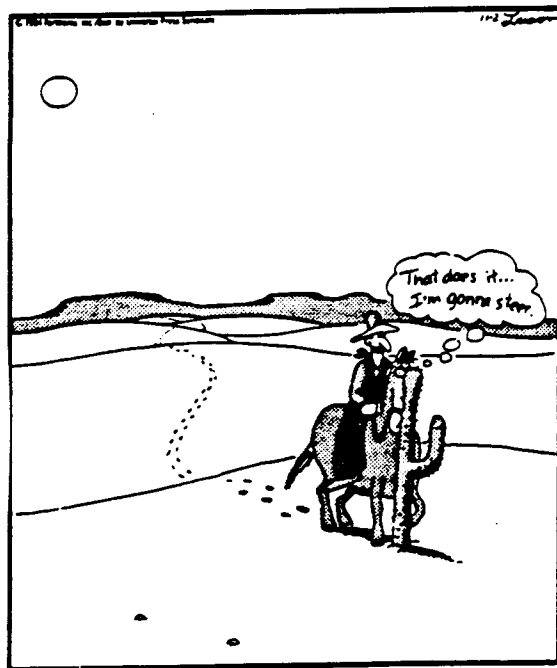
DUES...

.....DUES...

BRAG TABLE -

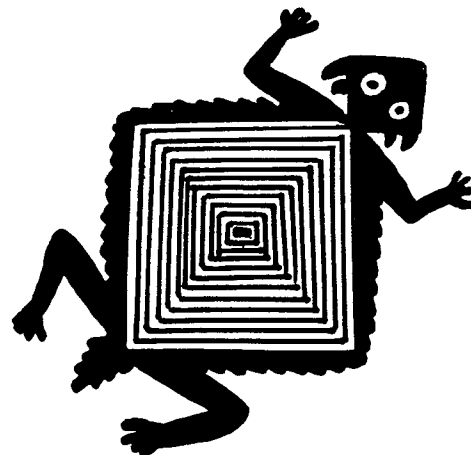
What have YOU got?

## THE FAR SIDE



NEIGHBORS  
continued from page 1

eggs, while the short-horned lizard has a litter of up to 31 born alive. Either way, a baby "horny toad" gives new meaning to the word "cute". Watch for them. And invite these neighbors into your garden.



## **WATER ON THE BRAIN - BY RON BURNIGHT**

e I ever joined the cactus club I watering plants was easy. Shoot, all I was to stick 'em in the ground and stand back. I didn't have the slightest idea that it was in the same league as raising pigs, but I guess it is. I knew raising pigs was hard because of Rufus, the singing pig. Rufus used to drive my Aunt Effie nearly crazy. Aunt Effie liked to listen to the oldies-but-goodies station on the radio, and every time she'd turn it on, Rufus would start to sing. He had a hell of a range, but he couldn't carry a tune in a trough. Now the reason Effie was so good at raising pigs was that she treated them like humans. So instead of hurting Rufus's feelings by telling him he couldn't sing, she got him his own Walkman. Now Rufus sings to a different drummer - Sid Catlett to be precise. It turned out that Rufus was partial to Louis Armstrong, and now he trots around the yard, his cute little Walkman on, a smile on his snout, scatting Blueberry Hill - leastways I think it's Blueberry Hill.

I found out that raising cactus is about as hard as raising pigs when I took my Star Cactus to show and tell. The first guy I showed it to told me - he was a tall skinny guy with a bow tie right over his Adam's apple. Every time he swallowed that tie bobbed up and down like a cork on a fishing line. He took one look at my plant, looked down his nose, bobbed his tie, and said, "Its got spots!" Your top watering!"

I was pretty embarrassed to have everybody know that I'd been doing such a dumb thing as watering from the top, but on the other hand, I couldn't figure out how not to top water. Well, there wasn't much going on in the meeting - the guy up front was talking about taxis - so I leaned over to a woman in a purple blouse and asked her. She whispered, "You've got to water from the bottom." I sat there dumbfounded. I had this weird picture in my mind of me with a plastic syringe jamming water up through the bottom hole of the pot - a sort of plant enema. I had never much liked enemas, and I couldn't believe that plants would either.

By the time we broke for coffee everybody in the place knew I was top watering, and people kept drifting by and

offering advice. A lady wearing Navajo jewelry came up, winked, and whispered in my ear, "Full of the moon." I wasn't too sure if she was talking about me or my plants. A serious little man with half glasses peered at me and said, "Have your water pH tested. "I was about to ask how many PH's it was supposed to have when a large woman with a heaving chest came up and said, "Use rain water."

"But we're in a drought," I replied.

She gave me a scathing look. "You have to plan ahead."

Her husband, a paunchy guy with four hairs combed over his bald spot, shrugged, "You can use distilled water."

As I was trying to figure out where I could buy 20 gallons of distilled water at a whack, Chester Taube, our resident scientist came over. He scribbled something that looked like an Egyptian zip code on a piece of paper and handed it to me. I must have looked startled. He said, "It's a wetting agent."

"What's it do?"

"It makes water wet."

"I thought it already was."

"It makes it wetter."

"A wetter water?" I must have winced.

"Why a wetter water? A wetter water works wonders!"

"How often?"

"Once a week -- on Wednesday."

I was getting woozy. "Let me see if I've got this straight. I water once a week on Wednesdays with a wetter water works wonders."

He smiled wryly.

As I was leaving that night, I got a final piece of advice. "Only water when it rains in the desert." That sounded like great advice until I tried to put it into effect. First of all I didn't know which desert to watch, and secondly the Orlando Sentinel didn't report the weather for any desert anyway.

It's amazing how complicated watering is. The desert would probably have a lot more plants if Mother Nature just knew some of this stuff.

## 1995 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT DICK WIEDHOPF 885-6367

VICE PRESIDENT

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,  
DESERT BREEZE EDITOR & REGISTRATION  
JERI OGDEN 321-9484

TREASURER & LIBRARIAN  
MYRTLE ETHINGTON 887-4507

CONVENTION COORDINATOR  
CHUCK HANSON 883-9404

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CLUB SALES PAT WIEDHOPF 885-6367

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REFRESHMENTS SALLY WILLIAMS 886-2119  
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DAN BIRT 325-4967  
(ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT)

JIM HOSACK 292-0925

MARY CHURCH 624-7976

GENE JOSEPH 628-8773  
(PLANT SALES)

# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1995

## FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 at 7:30 PM  
TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS

We are pleased to announce a **real treat** for February: Convention Chairman **CHUCK HANSON** will conduct a hands on vegetative propagation workshop!! Tucson is very fortunate to have a premier succulentist living in our midst.!

Bring a (portable) favorite plant. Chuck will bring tools, answer questions and teach a method you won't soon forget. AND.....

Debra Shepherd and Sally Williams, our new hostess duo, will provide refreshments!!

**BRAG TABLE**

SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT!!

IN JANUARY, former CSSA president Gerald Barad shared with us 'Namaqualand In Flower', at the Doubletree Hotel, home of our July Convention! (Ed's note: as of January 15, the Doubletree has received 250 room reservations!) Jerry's presentation included several Aloe, Dimorphotheca, Conophytum, Euphorbia, Mesemb, Othona, Gorteria (Beetle Daisy!), Anacampseros, Pelargonium, Cheiropopsis, Hoodia, Crassula, a Drosanthemum, and others. All this with late Renaissance music as background. (Baroque music for Recorders, Denmark.)

THANKS, JERRY!!!

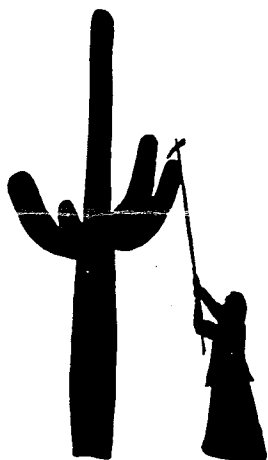
## NEIGHBORS

by LES & DALE SLOAN

Mom! There's a monster in my bed! Well, okay actually it's my flower bed. And actually, it's just a Gila Monster. If you've lived in the desert for even just a few years, you've probably run into a Gila monster. If there is an Arizona lizard, it's the Gila monster. Outside of Old Mexico, the critter's range covers the majority of Arizona, but only very small sections of Utah, Nevada, California and New Mexico. His (or her) scientific name, *Heloderma suspectum* means (loosely) the knobby- (or warty-) skinned mistrusted one. The Gila monster's relative south of the border is the Mexican beaded lizard, *Heloderma horridum* (you can figure that one out for yourself).

These two lizards are unique in that they are poisonous, more correctly venomous, the only venomous lizards in the world. Unlike rattlesnakes, however, which have a hypodermic-needle type injection mechanism, Gila monsters have a poison gland in their lower jaw. The poison flows along grooves in their teeth. So, after biting, the monster has to hold on tight, often turning its body over so the venom will flow downward into the wound. (Have we ruined your dinner yet?)

Given the difficulty the Gila monster has getting its venom into its victim, (and the fact that it is not a master of the chase) it shouldn't come as a surprise that they prefer things easy to catch, especially the eggs of other reptiles and ground-nesting birds. They also take smaller rodents and even ants. Their skin is a black background covered with tubercles or warts which may be pink or white or yellow or orange. As adults, they range in size up to 18-24 inches long, so if anyone tells you he saw a four-foot Gila monster, he must mean two feet in front and two in the back. Perhaps they appear larger because of



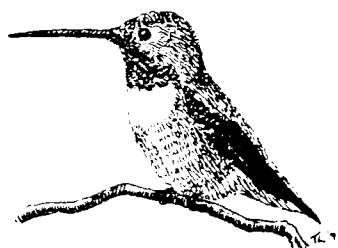
**TUCSON '95**  
*a taste of the  
Sonoran Desert  
and more.....*  
**JUNE 19-23**

## TUCSON '95 CONVENTION CONNECTION

As the convention draws closer, we begin devoting more meeting time (and newsletter space!) to our BIG EVENT - watch this space for details.

### CONVENTION COMMITTEES

COORDINATOR  
CHUCK HANSON 883-9404  
REGISTRATION  
JERI OGDEN 321-9484  
FOOD & BEVERAGE  
JANE EVANS 628-8773  
FACILITIES  
MILES ANDERSON 682-7272  
ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT  
DAN BIRT 325-4967  
PLANT SALES  
GENE JOSEPH 626-8773  
HOSPITALITY  
to be filled  
CLUB SALES  
PAT WIEDHOPF 885-6367



### TCSS LIBRARY

#### HOURS & LOCATION

#### PLANTS FOR THE SOUTHWEST

9 - 5:30

Wednesday - Saturday

50 E Blacklidge

628-8773

## CSSA

A heated debate reinforcing continued intolerance of field collected plants was a hot topic at the CSSA board meeting.

Following the meeting, directors visited Arid Land's Greenhouse.

That evening, both boards met for dinner at El Parador Restaurant.

Officers of our club and directors of both boards were invited to form a carpool for an all day field trip. We made a cool journey up Kitt Peak, investigating the varied flora on our way. After a brisk lunch at the picnic ground near the top, some explored further, while others toured the observatory. (Ed's note: I took a NAP!!)



### DESERT BREEZE STAFF

EDITOR JERI OGDEN 321-9484

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
LES & DALE SLOAN  
DAN BIRT  
AND ?

MAILING SARA PERPER

### TREASURER

*MYRTLE ETHINGTON reports*

*a year's end bank balance total of*

*\$3,533.24*



## neighbors (cont.)

their disposition. We watched one on a two-lane highway one day standing up on its toes and hissing at passing cars. Maybe we didn't think he was so big, but he obviously did.

Gila monsters are mostly nocturnal, though in spring, and even winter, they may come out during the day. Unlike most of our desert lizards, Gila monsters just aren't built for speed. Their fat tail drags behind them as they move slowly along. But the fat in that tail can sustain them for months when pickings are slim.

The eggs, as you might suspect, are large, about as large as hen's eggs. The female digs a hole in moist sand, lays 1 to 8 eggs (occasionally even a dozen), and leaves. The youngsters which hatch about a month later are on their own from the start.

Next time you see this neighbor, admire, but don't touch. Very few people die from the bite, but it'll hurt like crazy. And besides, haven't we bothered him enough calling him a monster?



## JERI's GEMS

PLEASE WELCOME BACK long-time members  
JOHN & JUDI GASTON

4254 W Jupiter Pl  
Tucson, AZ 85741 744-0039

KIM & JULIE JOYIENS

P O Box 36442  
Tucson, AZ 85740 743-7178

TOM FERN

600 E San Marino Dr  
Tucson, AZ 85715 296-1197

### CHANGES:

PAT WIEDHOPF has officially joined our club and the convention team! She is chairing club sales - GO PAT!!

JOHN PALTING has moved to:

7339 N Yucca Via  
Tucson, AZ 85704 299-6454

BOB WEBB & TONI YOCUM

are building and living at  
6710 W Camino Del Cerro  
Tucson, AZ 85736

**A PAIR OF 20 FOOT MONITOR LIZARDS** have been sighted in the median on Mission near Irvington!! What can YOU find? How about the biggest saguaro or agave?

**HELEN HOUSMAN NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS:**

Her husband, Martin, has been hospitalized since a December heart attack, and is soon to be released.

THE ROSTER IS COMING.....

THE ROSTER IS COMING

THE ROSTER IS COMING...

...PAY YOUR DUES!!

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### VICE PRESIDENT

### CORRESPONDING, SECRETARY & DESERT BREEZE EDITOR

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### TREASURER & LIBRARIAN

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### MEETING REFRESHMENT TEAM

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# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

MARCH 1995

## MARCH MADNESS

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 7:30 PM**  
**TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
**PLANT SEX FOR FUN & PROFIT**  
**CHUCK HANSON**

As follow-up to his February vegetative propagation demonstration, Chuck will teach techniques for producing seed in March.

Last month we learned several methods of producing more plants. With some species, you can use a number of different techniques, but with others, only one will work.

**STEM CUTTINGS** Stand cutting in empty pot with crumpled-up newspaper in bottom. Wait until 'toes' form before potting in soil.

A **LEAF CUTTING** can often be rooted in pumice or soil.

**ABOUT CUTTINGS** - If the mother plant is variegated, don't count on the new plant to be, as it usually is not.

Also, Chuck recommends using a fungicide on cuttings, such as 'rootone'.

**OFFSETS** This requires patience! Mature succulents frequently set pups. These tiny plantlets can then be separated from the mother plant and potted on their own.

**BULB SCALE** Peel the outer leaves off a bulb and root in air using the newspaper-in-a-pot trick.

**TUBERS, CORMS or BULBS** (underground storage organs that aren't roots) are quite

(continued on page 4)

## NEIGHBORS

by LES & DALE SLOAN

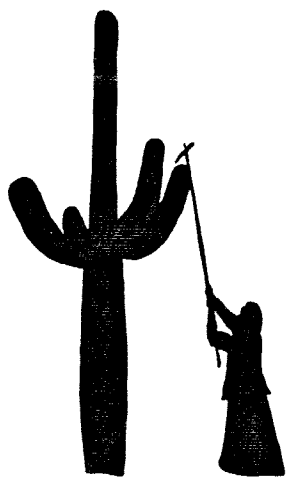
Javelinas! Well, I've been hoping they'd get to those cute little piggies soon! Well, maybe "cute" isn't the first word that comes to mind. But, remember the last time you saw a herd of javelina with little ones in tow, maybe hiding under their mom's belly? Yup, you said "cute", too, didn't you?

On the other hand, a large (up to 55 pounds), bristly, smelly, pig-like critter may stretch the bounds of "cute" considerably. Up to about a yard long and 16 inches high at the shoulder, javelinas may be seldom seen, but are hard to overlook.

Our term, javelina, comes from the Spanish for "little female pig", and does not originate with the idea that they were hunted with a javelin. They're also called peccaries, from a South American word. Our javelinas, or white-collared peccary, range from the Southwest U.S. down to Patagonia (the South American Patagonia, that is). A relative, the white-lipped peccary, is found from Vera Cruz, Mexico, to northern Argentina. And in 1975, the Chacoan peccary was "discovered", weighing in at up to 95 pounds. It lives in the Gran Chaco region of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay.

But javelinas are not "true" pigs. They differ from old world swine in a few areas, notably the fact that javelinas have a three-chambered stomach instead of the "simple" stomach of old world and barnyard varieties. These stomachs contain microbial flora (see, I knew I could relate this to plants) which aid digestion. Though they apparently don't digest everything they eat. Javelinas will eat birds, bugs, berries, mushrooms, and roots, but they thrive on prickly pear pads. How they can do that is at once mystifying and

(continued, p 3)



**TUCSON '95**  
*a taste of the*  
**Sonoran Desert**  
*and more.....*  
**JUNE 19-23**

## TUCSON '95

## CONVENTION

## CONNECTION

## CONVENTION COMMITTEES

## COORDINATOR

CHUCK HANSON 883-9404

## REGISTRATION

JERI OGDEN 321-9484

## FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE

JANE EVANS 628-8773

## FACILITIES

MILES ANDERSON 682-7272

## ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

DAN BIRT 325-4967

## PLANTS, BOOKS &amp; POTTERY SALES

GENE JOSEPH 628-8773

## HOSPITALITY

to be filled

## CLUB SALES

PAT WIEDHOPF 885-6367



PROGRAM UPDATE - We are sorry to report that Gerhard Marx, of South Africa, cannot attend our convention.

New speakers have been added:

Prof. Patrick Van Damme of Belgium will speak on the relationship between the Topnarr Tribe and endemic succulents of Namibia.

"New Succulents of Mexico," is the topic of Miguel Chazaro, from Guadalajara.

Joel Floyd, of the USDA/APHIS staff in Nogales will explain CITES import/export laws.

All evening programs will be in large, well-lit rooms. These lectures will be listed in your permanent program issued at the convention.

For the first time, the convention will feature a get-together for all members and 'wanna-bees' of the cactus-and-succulent-net which now has over 200 e-mail members!. Anyone who is not a member is missing a lot. Come to the meeting and we will tell you how to join. (Ed note: I had a brief taste of what it's like to be on-line - WOW!)

A meeting of club newsletter editors, headed by Mac Clark of Tennessee, will also be scheduled. (Ed note: Oh, boy! I'm just editing a news release, folks.)

**BY THE WAY.....**Your Editor now has the convention registration database in the club computer and is very disappointed to read local registration numbers. Currently, England alone has Tucson beat (so far). Germany, New Zealand, and Chile are represented...

## WE ARE PROMISING ATTENDEES

## THE BEST CONVENTION EVER.....SO

## LETS SHOW OUR PRIDE

## IN THE OLD PUEBLO!!!

On page 5 of this issue, you will find a Tucson '95 Convention Registration form. Take a vacation, learn more about C&S, visit with friends and make new ones - all without leaving Tucson!! (The Doubletree reports rooms filling VERY fast. We are indeed fortunate to live here!)

Borderland Tours is reporting that both pre- and post-convention tours are full.

## THE CONVENTION IS COMING...

## THE CONVENTION IS COMING...

## neighbors (cont.)

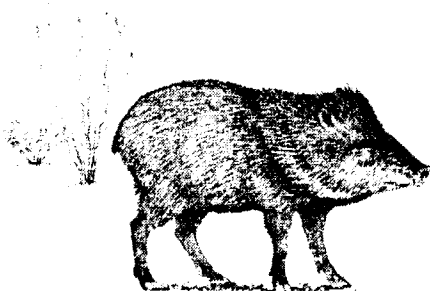
horrifying. The larger spines seem to pass through undigested. This ability even enables them to eat barrel cactus. The javelinas don't attack a barrel head-on, but wait 'til old age, weak roots, or bad weather knock the barrel over, then they attack the unprotected underside,

and eat the cactus with relish (or, occasionally, a good picante sauce).

The suborder, suiformes, has three families, pigs (old world), peccaries (new world), and hippos. If that seems a bit far-fetched, take a look at the huge tusks in a hippo's jaws. The tusks are probably the most fearsome of the javelina's weapons (assuming you can get past the smell). The smell, secreted by a musk gland, may help to keep the herd together.

According to most sources, their principal predators are Jaguars and Cougars, though I suspect Buicks and Toyotas take a toll, too. In what most sources can only term "altruism", javelinas exhibit an unusual defense mechanism. Travelling in their little herds, when approached by a predator, they scatter in all directions, confusing the hunter. But in overgrown and dense habitat, however, where scattering is difficult, one sub-adult will turn and face the intruder while the others escape, even though it may cost him his life.

I suppose that, of all the neighbors we've looked at so far, the javelina is the last one you'd want to let into your garden. I've seen what they've done to decorative cholla, much less leafy plants, so I don't invite them in, either. But, darn it, you've got to admit, they're cute.



Collared Peccary

## JERI's GEMS

Your Editor has been the victim of bad information. The median sculptures mentioned in my last issue are **GILA MONSTERS!** Had I seen them for myself (I still haven't), I'd have tied them in with February's 'neighbors' article.

**SPEAKING OF' NEIGHBORS'.....WHAT DO YOU THINK? LET ME KNOW!**

**WELCOME BACK**

Barbara Ann Kile  
9106 N Eaglestone Loop  
Tucson, AZ 84741 744-9370

**BRAND NEW ADDRESS FOR**

JIM HASOCK & HOPE CAVANAGH  
4620 E WOODPECKER LANE  
CATALINA, AZ 85737 825-2822

### FEBRUARY MEETING FREE PLANTS

Thelocactus rinconensis  
Acanthocalycium violaceum  
Epithelantha micromeris v unguispina  
Thelocactus hexadrophorous  
Astrophytum hybrid  
Mammillaria dewegii

### DOOR PRIZES

Echinofossulocactus multicostatus (2)  
Thelocactus bicolor  
Leuchtenbergia principis  
Coryphantha vivipara v arizonica

### RAFFLE PLANT

Idria columnaris (Boojum Tree) Won by new member JOHN ohn Holmes!

A big **THANK YOU**

to SALLY WILLIAMS & DEBRA SHEPHERD for yummy refreshments!

to DAN SIMS for help acknowledging convention registrations!

**TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION**

Plants For The Southwest  
9 - 5:30  
Wednesday - Saturday  
50 E. Blacklidge  
628-8773

Librarian  
Myrtle Ethington  
887-4507

**NEW BOOKS:**

EUPHORBIA, Volume 9  
SEDUM, Cultivated Stonecrop  
SUCCULENT COMPOSITAE  
Senecio & Othonna

**ERIOSYCE**

donated by MILES ANDERSON

**AGAVE in the West Indies**

donated by GARD ROPER

**'BRADLEYA'**

(9 British yearbooks, 2/84-10/92)

donated by MARY CHURCH

(continued from page 1)

**MARCH MADNESS**

root-able, as are **NODULES** on roots.

Stem succulents can even be cut in half!

**MERICLONING** is also a form of vegetative propagation. He cannot condone such practice and had nothing to say on that method.

Grafting is yet another technique. Chuck acknowledged MILES ANDERSON, who has done grafting workshops for the club, saying Miles 'is a great grafter - one of the world's best

THANK YOU, CHUCK, for a wonderful and entertaining program!!



*Fouquieria fasciculata*

**DESERT BREEZE STAFF**

EDITOR JERI OGDEN 321-9484

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LES & DALE SLOAN

DAN BIRT

MAILING SARA PERPER

LIBRARIAN

MYRTLE ETHINGTON

887-4507

remember  
TCSS  
drag table

## CSSA TUCSON CONVENTION

**REGISTRATION FORM**

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/COMPANION \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

APARTMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ FAX # \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A CSSA AFFILIATE DELEGATE? PLEASE CIRCLE ..... YES / NO

TO WHICH LOCAL C &amp; S SOCIETY DO YOU BELONG? \_\_\_\_\_

A REGISTRATION APPLICANT CAN JOIN THE CSSA AND SAVE ON THE REGISTRATION FEES AT THE TIME HE/SHE SENDS IN THE APPLICATION. AN APPLICANT CAN ALSO REGISTER THEIR SPOUSE AT THE CSSA MEMBER RATE IF THEY ENROLL THEM AS A CSSA ASSOCIATE MEMBER.

	NUMBER	COST
<b>NEW CSSA MEMBERSHIPS</b>		
CSSA MEMBERSHIP - DOMESTIC	_____ @ \$ 30.00	_____
CSSA MEMBERSHIP FOREIGN incl. MEXICO & CANADA	_____ @ \$ 35.00	_____
CSSA MEMBERSHIP FOREIGN - AIRMAIL	_____ @ \$ 55.00	_____
CSSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR SPOUSE / PARTNER	_____ @ \$ 6.00	_____
<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
CSSA MEMBERS	_____ @ \$110.00	_____
NON - CSSA MEMBERS	_____ @ \$160.00	_____
CSSA MEMBERS LATE REGISTRATION AFTER 5/15/95	_____ @ \$155.00	_____
CSSA MEMBERS LATE REGISTRATION AFTER 6/15/95	_____ @ \$160.00	_____
DAILY REGISTRATION - DATES ATTENDING 6/	_____ @ \$ 35.00/DAY	_____
<b>FIELD TRIPS WITH LUNCH INCLUDED - CHOOSE ONE ONLY</b>		
TRIP 1 - BOYCE THOMPSON/DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN	_____ @ \$ 25.00	_____
TRIP 2 - TUCSON NURSERY TOUR	_____ @ \$ 25.00	_____
<b>FAREWELL BANQUET</b>	_____ @ \$ 25.00	_____

**TOTAL DUE** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE CSSA. CREDIT CARD USERS, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW

VISA / MASTERCARD # only \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:

MINDY FUSARO, TUCSON CONVENTION TREASURER, PO BOX 35034, DES MOINES, IA 50315-0301

CREDIT CARD USERS MAY FAX THEIR REGISTRATION FORM TO : (515) 285-7760

**NOTE: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE CONVENTION ROOM RESERVATIONS AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL IN TUCSON, ARIZONA.** THE CONVENTION DATES ARE JUNE 18-23, 1995. SCHEDULE YOUR ARRIVAL BY SUNDAY JUNE 18TH TO ATTEND THE OPENING PARTY. TO MAKE RESERVATIONS AND RECEIVE THE SPECIAL \$53.00/DAY RATE, CONTACT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL ASAP. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL THAT THE RESERVATIONS ARE FOR THE CSSA CONVENTION.

**DOUBLETREE HOTEL**

445 SOUTH ALVERNON WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85711-VOICE: (800) 222-TREE, FAX: (602) 323-5225

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DICK WIEDHOPF 885-6367

### VICE PRESIDENT

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY & DESERT BREEZE EDITOR

JERI OGDEN 321-9484

### TREASURER & LIBRARIAN

MYRTLE ETHINGTON 887-4507

### MEETING REFRESHMENT TEAM

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JIM HOSACK 825-2822

MARY CHURCH 624-7976

GENE JOSEPH 628-8773

BOB WEBB

NORMA BECKMAN 885-0669

CSSA AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE

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---

# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

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TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

APRIL 1995

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**TUCSON '95.....**  
**.....June 19 - 23**  
**.....a taste of the**  
**Sonoran Desert and**  
**more.....**

## APRIL ADVENTURE

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
THURSDAY, APRIL 6 at 7:30 PM  
TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS**

John & Dorothy Pasek - not yet members - present 'Flora of the Islands in the Sea of Cortez'. This slide tour is based on a fifteen year span of trips throughout the Baja peninsula: studying plants, collecting seed and exploring remote regions.

John, retired from 24 years as horticulturist for the city of San Diego, is responsible for much of the landscaping in Balboa park.

Dorothy worked for Cooper's Cactus in Vista, California, as propagator & horticulturist

Upon moving to Tucson in August of '93, they established their own C&S nursery, Plantas Del Sol.

The Ferocacti of Baja California are one of their particular interests.

**IN MAY**, "Monstrose, Crested & Variegated Cacti," with MILES ANDERSON.

**MARCH MADNESS** was truly a **MYSTERY!!**

**WHERE WAS CHUCK HANSON?** In the emergency room (ED note: He'll live!)

GENE JOSEPH, owner and manager of **PLANTS FOR THE SOUTHWEST**, threw together a presentation that was

**WONDERFUL!!!**

To learn more, see page 4.....

## NEIGHBORS

This month, we're talking about neighbors - plural - one you'll see commonly this time of year, and the other you'll rarely, if ever, see. The two are principal pollinators of the saguaro blossoms which will brighten our landscapes over the next several weeks. These two neighbors are the white-winged dove, *zenaida asiatica*, and the lesser long-nosed bat, *leptonycteris curasoae*.

The white-winged dove is the largest of our three common local doves, larger than the ubiquitous mourning dove and its even smaller cousin, the Inca dove. The obvious white bar along the wing gives the dove its name. What isn't as obvious is the dove's relationship with saguaros. In fact, the northern limit of this dove's range corresponds roughly with the distribution of the saguaro cactus.

If the white wing bar on the side isn't a giveaway, the white-winged dove is the one with its whole head buried in the saguaro flower. The dove is getting food and liquid at the same time in the saguaro's nectar. Some other species of birds also visit these filling stations, but their visits are not as refined as the dove's and may actually do some damage to the saguaro. The dove is more careful,

continued on page 5

## CONVENTION

## CONNECTION

## CONVENTION COMMITTEES

## COORDINATOR

CHUCK HANSON 883-9404

## REGISTRATION

JERI OGDEN 321-9484

## FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE

JANE EVANS 628-8773

## FACILITIES

MILES ANDERSON 682-7272

## ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

DAN BIRT 325-4967

## PLANTS, BOOKS &amp; POTTERY SALES

GENE JOSEPH 628-8773

## HOSPITALITY

to be filled

## CLUB SALES

PAT WIEDHOPF 885-6367

## PUBLICITY

DALE SLOAN 743-3553

Convention plans are moving too fast to report accurately in this monthly newsletter. Attend meetings for current information! - Ed.



Fenestraria aurantiaca

Your local convention committee has been (and continues to be!) hard at work to ensure a successful Tucson '95. It's not too late to get involved & help!

CSSA just bought 2 new state-of-the-art cash registers. (Scanners read bar codes, so this job will be simple!) We need cashiers to work the plant sale area - compensation for performing this service is being negotiated. The plant sale area will be open 40 hours during the convention.

We also need **LOTS** of beer/soda flats for plant sales and helpers to stuff convention packets and tote bags.

**DONATIONS WANTED!!**

REMEMBER the 20 cent U.S. cactus & succulent stamps? We need them!! Cancelled or not, Norma will gladly accept your donations; but, **HURRY!!** She will be away during the convention, but is hard at work providing club sales with stamps in pins and bookmarks - she has given **April 3** as her deadline for accepting stamps.

CHUCK HANSON has given 160 of these stamps to the club - THANKS!!

The Postal Historic Foundation of Tucson has donated stamps for our use, also.

**TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE,**

**PLEASE CALL 321-9484.**



TUCSON '95



## JERI's GEMS

### PLEASE WELCOME

#### NEW MEMBERS

CRAIG H CURTIS

4601 N Via Entrada #2901

85718-5605 299-6170

JAMES & FRIEDA WORRALL

1621 E Big Rock Rd

85718 797-0819

#### AND RETURNING MEMBER

NATALIE MCGEE

HC 70 Box 4579

Sahuarita 85629 625-4419

REMEMBER, local area codes are now 520 and our friends in Green Valley are now part of Tucson local calling area!

#### MARCH FREE PLANT ASSORTMENT

Crassula x 'Moonglow'

Echeveria perforata

Cotyledon ladismithensis

Sempervivum arachnoideum

Dudleya greenii 'whitesprite'

#### DOOR PRIZES

Echeveria harmsii

Crassula portulacacea variegata

Kalanchoe bossfeldiana x 3

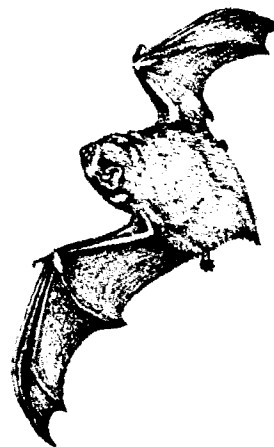
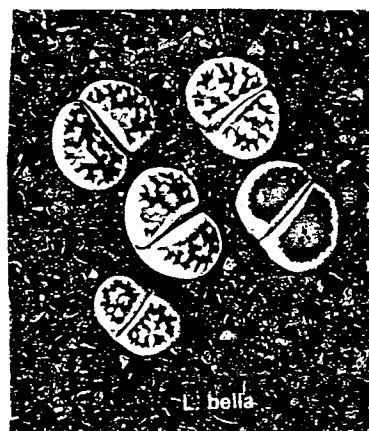
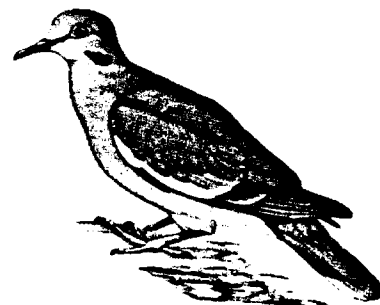
#### RAFFLE PLANT

The lovely Echeveria harmsii (CHARLIE WRIGHT) was won by HARRISON YOCUM, former President & long-time (charter?) member.

CSSA SEED LIST is now available at meetings. A big **THANK YOU** to Sally Shumaker (not yet a member) for copying!

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP:

TCSS has a paid membership for Pete Sold or Tele Sald, but no address or phone! Anyone who knows this person, please call Jeri at 321-9484.



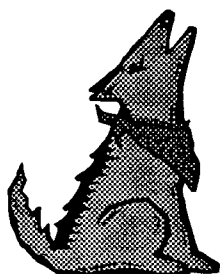
**TO CREATE A REALLY USEFUL ROSTER,**  
We need input! Appropriate information to include (such as do you own a nursery, what is your area of expertise or interest, and what do you want to learn more about or study), should be put in writing and given to Jeri at meetings or by mail - 3329 E Navajo Place, Tucson, AZ 85716-1309.

# NEWS TO USE

TCSS board has voted to create all new

## NAMETAGS.

There will be extras for guests, all kept at TBG, so we'll always know who everyone is! These should be ready soon.



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO

### DESERT BREEZE

### WELCOME

**COPY DEADLINE 15th**

### TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION

Plants For The Southwest  
9 - 5:30  
Wednesday - Saturday  
50 E. Blacklidge  
628-8773

Librarian  
Myrtle Ethington  
887-4507

remember  
TCSS  
drag table

## MARCH MADNESS

**MESEMBRYANTHEMUMS (MESEMBS!)** grow mainly in South Africa and include the popular genus 'lithops' (living stones), as well as faucaria (tiger jaws), pleiospilos (split rocks), conophytum (cone plant), fenestraria (baby toes), lapidaria, titanopsis, cheiridopsis, asclepiads and more.

**GENE JOSEPH** shared with us some of what he has learned about growing mesembs in Tucson.

Shade cloth (30% in winter, 50% in summer) must be suspended **above** the plants to allow for air circulation.

Most Mesembs are dormant in summer & bloom in fall with white or yellow fragrant flowers that last 3-4 days.

Active growth takes place during flowering in the fall and releafing in the spring. Regular watering is required by the plants at these times.

Cut back on water during the summer while plants are in true dormancy and most of winter, when the roots aren't functioning well. Watering too much at these times can cause problems. During semi-dormancy of winter, these plants are undergoing a leaf-renewal process, by recycling stored water. In late winter or early spring, the new leaves will have emerged and the old ones will be reduced to a papery sheath.

Perhaps because of their relatively small size and reversed growth cycle, drainage is important to success when growing Mesembs.

THANKS, GENE!!!

### DESERT BREEZE STAFF

#### EDITOR

JERI OGDEN

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LES & DALE SLOAN  
DAN BIRT

#### MAILING

SARA PERPER

First of the saguaro fruits appear a few weeks later, they are consumed by - yes the dove has set up house-, or rather nest-keeping. After visiting the nest and regurgitates the fruit pulp and seed into the mouths of the nestlings. Sure enough, some of this stuff falls to the ground, under the tree, a great place for a seed to start its life. You could say that today's doves are reaping the benefits of having sloppy ancestors.

Long-nosed bats spend the winter in southern Mexico. But in the spring, pregnant females in great numbers migrate north to saguaro country to bear their young amidst the bounty of blooming cactus. The long-nosed bat visits the saguaro blossoms at night, soon after they bloom, while the dove is still asleep. At times they approach the flower and hover like a hummingbird before dining. At other times though, they may just land, eat, climb clumsily to the next flower, and repeat the process. This gets pollen all over the bat, which does little for its appearance, but does wonders for the saguaro, since an individual bloom cannot set seed from its own pollen. Anyway, these nocturnal visits are very important to the saguaro. In fact, for reasons not yet known, even though doves, other birds, and of course, bees, visit the blooms, seeds seem more likely to set in flowers visited by the bats.

A sad note concerning the bats is that they are becoming endangered. This may be due to habitat destruction, as is often the case with other endangered animals and plants. But it may also be due to loss of food plants which it normally finds along the spring and fall migration paths. Over-harvesting of some agaves, for example, has reduced the availability of food in the fall. And, as the bat population declines, it could adversely affect the saguaro population.

It is marvelous to think that the fate of a fifty foot tall, five ton giant rests with a bird or bat weighing in at a few ounces. But then most of our neighbors are pretty marvelous, aren't they?



**Lapidaria margaretae**

You are invited  
to the opening of the

BOG

**Ray Allen Memorial Iris Garden**  
at Tucson Botanical Gardens

**Thursday April 13, 1995**  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

BOG

**5:00 - 6:00 pm**  
View the garden and enjoy refreshments

**6:00 pm**  
Remarks in memory of Ray  
Marty Eberhardt, TBG Director  
Robert Ellis, Men's Garden Club

**RSVP by calling Beth at 326-0686 by April 7, 1995**

Tucson Botanical Gardens • 2150 North Alvernon Way • Tucson, Arizona 85712

## 1995 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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VICE PRESIDENT

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY &  
DESERT BREEZE EDITOR  
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MYRTLE ETHINGTON 887-4507

MEETING REFRESHMENT TEAM  
SALLY WILLIAMS 886-2119  
DEBRA SHEPHERD 886-7796

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MARY CHURCH 624-7976

GENE JOSEPH 628-8773

BOB WEBB

NORMA BECKMAN 885-0669  
CSSA AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE

# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

May 1995

## MAY MAYHEM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
MONSTROSE, CRESTED & VARIEGATED  
CACTUS

THURSDAY, MAY 4 at 7:30 PM  
TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS

Our own MILES ANDERSON will present slides featuring "Monstrose, Crested & Variegated Cacti." He will, of course, bring some of his own to show us.



Our APRIL ADVENTURE was an exciting slide tour on the Flora of the Islands in the sea of Cortez, presented by John & Dorothy Pasek.

The program covered two separate natural history expedition cruises - stopping at eight or nine of the more important islands in the southern part of the Sea of Cortez.

The tour guides were all naturalists; and the ship carried a fleet of Zodiac rafts, enabling passengers to land on various islands to hike and explore for several hours each day.

Since these islands are fairly inaccessible and are home to many endemic plants, birds & animals, this was a unique opportunity to see them in habitat.

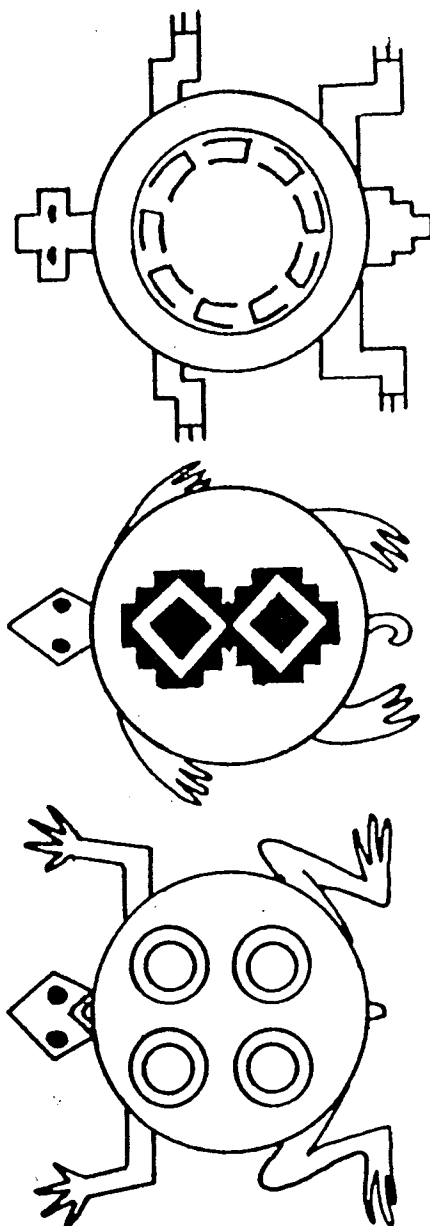
THANKS, DOROTHY & JOHN, for a personal view of succulents in habitat!!

### FREE PLANT - FEROCACTUS GRACILIS

Door Prize	Mammillaria zeilmaniana (3)
	Gymnocalycium baldianum
	Astrophytum myrostigma
Raffle	Calabanus hookeri



TUCSON '95  
a taste of the  
Sonoran Desert  
and more.....  
JUNE 19-23



TUCSON '95

## CSSA CONVENTION CONNECTION

### CONVENTION PLANNING MEETINGS:

7 pm, UA Pharmacy Building  
(Mabel & Warren, south of Speedway)  
McDonald's)

May 2, 16, 30  
June 6, 13, 15, 16, 17

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

The Doubletree Hotel is fully booked!! Our  
overflow hotel is the Ramada Inn Airport.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG.....Following are  
some people you can expect to find there:

### CONVENTION COMMITTEES

COORDINATOR	
CHUCK HANSON	883-9404
REGISTRATION	
JERI OGDEN	321-9484
DAN SIMS	299-9706
FOOD & BEVERAGE	
JANE EVANS	628-8773
FACILITIES	
MILES ANDERSON	682-7272
ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT	
DAN BIRT	325-4967
PLANTS, BOOKS & POTTERY SALES	
GENE JOSEPH	628-8773
HOSPITALITY	
to be filled	
CLUB SALES	
PAT WIEDHOPF	885-6367
PUBLICITY	
DALE SLOAN	743-3553

THANKS TO ALL  
CONVENTION HELPERS -  
THE BEST IS YET  
TO COME!!



### PLEASE NOTE:

Your Secretary/Editor is having so much fun  
with convention preparation that she is too  
busy to do summer newsletters! The next  
Desert Breeze issue will be mailed in late  
August. I plan to  
find time to send postcard-meeting-  
reminders, but in case I don't...  
meetings are

June 1    July 6    August 3  
7:30 pm  
Tucson Botanical Gardens

dremember  
TCSS  
rag table



#### DESERT BREEZE STAFF

##### EDITOR

JERI OGDEN

##### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LES & DALE SLOAN

DAN BIRT

##### MAILING

SARA PERPER

This newsletter is published monthly except in summer. Submit material by the 15th to Editor:

JERI OGDEN

3329 E NAVAJO PLACE

TUCSON, AZ 85716

(520) 321-9484

I appreciate feedback (all kinds). Please help me to correct phone/address errors, also.

Membership meetings (free and open to the public) are generally held at Tucson Botanical Gardens, 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month.

Dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, payable at meetings or send check to:

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY,  
c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS

2150 N ALVERNON WAY

TUCSON, AZ 85712

326-9255

## JERI's GEMS

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

STEVEN SHELDON

P O BOX 30684

TUCSON, AZ 85751 529-0609

Desert Breeze Editor spoke with:

Mindy Fusaro, CSSA secretary.

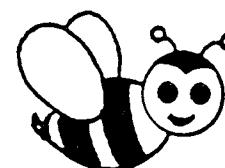
Ken Jantz, CAZC&SS Pres.

And a host of others.....SARA & LLOYD PERPER, DALE & LES SLOAN, PAT & DICK WEIDHOPF, CHUCK HANSON, JULIE TURKO, HELEN HOUSMAN, JUNE MUELLER, JANICE & MILES ANDERSON, LINDA RYAN, DEBRA SHEPHERD, ROBBIN BAZA, NORMA BECKMAN, DAN BIRT, KIM COLLINS, SALLY WILLIAMS, CRAIG CURTIS, MARK DIMMITT, TERRY ERISMAN, GENE JOSEPH, JIM HOSACK, TONI YOCUM, and JERI OGDEN (I always talk to myself!)

THE CONVENTION IS COMING...

THE CONVENTION IS COMING...

THE CONVENTION IS...



#### TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION

Plants For The Southwest

9 - 5:30

Wednesday - Saturday

50 E. Blacklidge

628-8773

Librarian

Myrtle Ethington

887-4507

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BOB WEBB 743-9009

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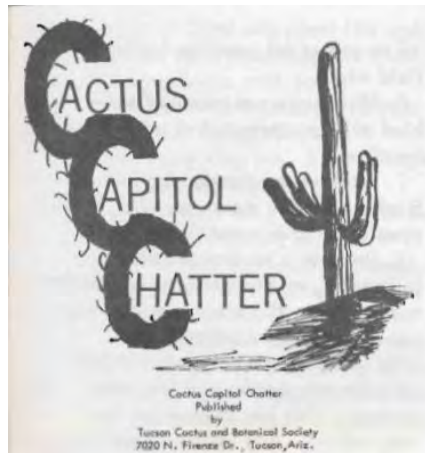




Note - The following issues are not available and we would ask anyone who may be able to provide us with a copy would be appreciated. They can be emailed to the webmaster at the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society or to the President.

**Year - Months Missing**

2000 - Jan missing  
1999 - Dec missing  
1997 - Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Nov missing  
1996 - Jan, May missing  
1995 - Jun, Jul, Aug missing  
1994 - Aug missing  
1992 - All months except Jul and Aug missing  
1991 - All months missing  
1990 - All months missing  
1989 - All months except Jan and Feb missing  
1988 - May, Sep missing



From 1965 to 1982 the Newsletter was named "Cactus Capitol Chatter"

It was published quarterly (4 issues per year)

We are missing 1982 - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter publications

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# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

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TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1995

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## SEPTEMBER SUNSET

In these post-convention times, it is difficult to think of an 'S' word for the headline to go with September that means 'afterglow!'  
**TUCSON '95 was a GREAT SUCCESS!!!**  
Those of you who were there, know.

## Thanks

TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED!!!

And MANY THANKS to CHUCK HANSON and RICHARD WIEDHOPF, who pulled us all together!

*for more, PLEASE SEE PAGE 2*

*but first...*

MAY MAYHEM was a memorable event. MILES ANDERSON shared "Monstrose, Crested & Variegated Cacti."

JUNE 1, we heard "Plant Sex, part 2" (propagation by seed) with CHUCK HANSON, in good health and gearing up for!

**TUCSON '95**

IN JULY, still winding down, the FREE PLANT was FOUQUIERIA COLUMNARIS - a Boojum!

**IN AUGUST, we escaped Tucson or  
SWELTERED IN THE HEAT!!**

**SEPTEMBER 10 is our**

**SILENT AUCTION!!!**

*beginning promptly at 2 pm, and featuring  
(besides the usual plant & related donations)  
free refreshments as well as vendor tables of  
books, more plants, pots, T-shirts & FUN!!!*

*come early to help set up & check us out!!!*

**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

## NEIGHBORS by les & dale sloan

Naturalists call him the white-throated woodrat; scientists call him *neotoma albigula*; but, most of us just call him a packrat. The *albigula* part means white throat, and the genus *neotoma* refers to the cutting of something new, specifically its habit of nipping off new, tender twigs. Packrats, or trade-rats as they're sometimes called, are hoarders of stuff.

Probably the packrats' principal collections are cholla joints, prickly-pear pads, sticks, whatever it can gather. These are heaped into what may look like a very land-locked beaver lodge. For all the sloppy appearance of the exterior, the interior is nicely constructed with fibers of grass or shredded bark. Inside this layer is a layer of even finer fibers. This offers great insulation against the desert heat. That same heat keeps the packrat inside during the day, venturing out at dusk or after dark and getting in before sun-up.

We commonly refer to people (other than ourselves) who keep seemingly useless items as packrats. The trade-rat moniker is appropriate because a packrat carrying a new "treasure" back to the nest may see an even more precious item along its way and leave the first one in its place. This behavior is "cute" and "interesting" until your watch disappears while you're out camping and a perfectly beautiful cholla joint is left in its place.

Something else the packrat saves, though unwittingly, is a bit of history. Especially in those cases where a nest is built in a cave or crevice, and then the nest is used by countless generations of packrats, such

continued on page 4



## CSSA CONVENTION CONNECTION

TUCSON '95 was a smashing success!!

A special thanks to Jane Evans & Pat Weidhopf for many long hours!

We were a convention of FIRSTS:

At the opening ceremonies, we presented a gavel of mesquite, copper & turquoise to Dr. Seymour Linden, CSSA Convention Program Chair, who gave it to our Chuck Hanson, to bang open the convention. At the final banquet, Chuck passed it to Joey Betzler, President of San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society.

We were 2nd in total club membership attendees.

Convention attendees hailed from all across the United States, as well as: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, England, Germany, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Wales, and Zimbabwe!!

Below is reprinted from July Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Staff/Volunteer Newsletter:

### ASDM AND IRONWOOD RESTAURANT BIG HITS WITH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY CONVENTIONEERS.

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) held its biennial symposium in Tucson this June, attracting a record 600+ participants from as far away as Chile, New Zealand, Sweden, England, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. The Desert Museum was an active supporter. George Montgomery and Mark Dimmitt led a pre-conference tour of southeastern Arizona. Botany staff safely transported more than 50 giant potted succulents grown by six local growers (including ASDM) to create a display in front of the Doubletree Hotel. During the entire week visitors could be seen marveling (agape) at the superb specimens produced in our climate. The closing banquet and tour at the Desert Museum by Botany staff and docent Shirley Singleton also drew rave reviews. Cheers to the staff of the Ironwood for smoothly and splendidly dining 400 people, their largest group yet. A professor from Kenya was overheard saying that it was the first good meal he has had in this country (he'd been here for a week).

THANKS TO ALL  
CONVENTION HELPERS —  
YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE !!

WOW!!! All who have been heard from (and there are a BUNCH) have only praise for Tucson '95!!

Among the songs sung:

"Thanks to all Tucsonans!.. ..terrific convention memories so many positive intangibles knowledge & experiences shared...the best ever more lectures skies were blue Accolades.. well done terrific job one of the best...over 600 in attendance...record number...Rare Plant Auction brought in \$12,500... The opening get-together in the hotel courtyard was a blast (How about those decorations!!)...festive balloon hats...an effort of the entire club...strong international attendance...best organized convention...large specimen plants on display. ...Hasan Bahidaj!!

Plan to attend

#### FUTURE CONVENTIONS

San Diego in 1997  
and  
Las Vegas in 1999!!!

Many Thanks to:

Carol & Joe Wujcik  
former Editors "Roadrunner News"  
Long Beach C&S Society

Michael Gaddis  
Editor "Point of View"  
C&S Society of California

Michael & Joyce Buckner  
Editors "Espinas y Flores"  
San Diego C&S Society

Brigette Williams  
Editor "Chronicle"  
Los Angeles C&S Society

Jack Makepeace  
Editor "Prickly Press"  
Kansas City C&S Society

David Tufenkian  
Editor CSSA Newsletter

for your comments.



**TUCSON '95**  
*a taste of the  
Sonoran Desert  
and more.....*  
**JUNE 19-23**

**TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION**

Plants For The Southwest  
9 - 5:30

Wednesday - Saturday  
50 E. Blacklidge  
628-8773

Librarian  
Myrtle Ethington  
887-4507

**DESERT BREEZE STAFF**

EDITOR JERI OGDEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
LES & DALE SLOAN  
DAN BIRT  
MAILING SARA PERPER

## **THORNY PROBLEMS... POINTED ANSWERS**

This new column is designed to help promote success with our plants. Everyone has a favorite fertilizer, trick, or tip they could share. What's yours? Call or write your editor by the 15.

PROBLEM - How do I combat mealy bugs?

PROBLEM - I have tried several Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), but keep losing them. What's the secret?

You need to know that your esteemed secretary/editor is retiring following creation of the December newsletter. Five years of excitement!! It is time to turn over control - let someone else have the fun. - ED

**FLASH!!!**

*Just received word...*  
**San Gabriel Valley C & S Society**  
**Winter Show & Sale**  
**Saturday & Sunday, October 14 & 15**  
**10:30 - 4:30**  
**Huntington Botanical Gardens**  
**flyer in next newsletter**

**JERI's GEMS**

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Jonathan & Jennifer Donald  
3355 E Ft Lowell, Apt #106  
Tucson, AZ 85716  
326-6355

Dave & Susan Gallaher  
270 E Hillcrest Pl  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
294-1610 (work)

Net proceeds from the convention:

**\$4,762.14**

Total bank balance August 1 = \$7391.50

**\$7,391.50**

Speaking of money.....it will soon be time to print dues reminders .....

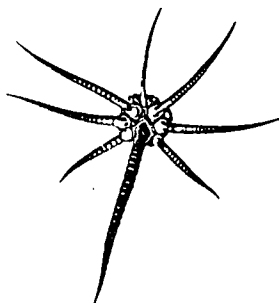
Your board of directors is planning several field trips & contemplating joining the world-wide (computer) web, to make our organization bigger, better & friendlier. What do YOU think?

This newsletter is published monthly except in summer. Submit material by the 15th of month preceeding to Editor:

JERI OGDEN  
3329 E NAVAJO PLACE  
TUCSON, AZ 85716 (520) 321-9484

I appreciate feedback (all kinds). Please help me to correct phone/address errors, also.

Membership meetings (free and open to the public) are generally held at Tucson Botanical Gardens, 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month. Dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, payable at meetings or send check to:  
TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY,  
c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON WAY  
TUCSON, AZ 85712 326-9255



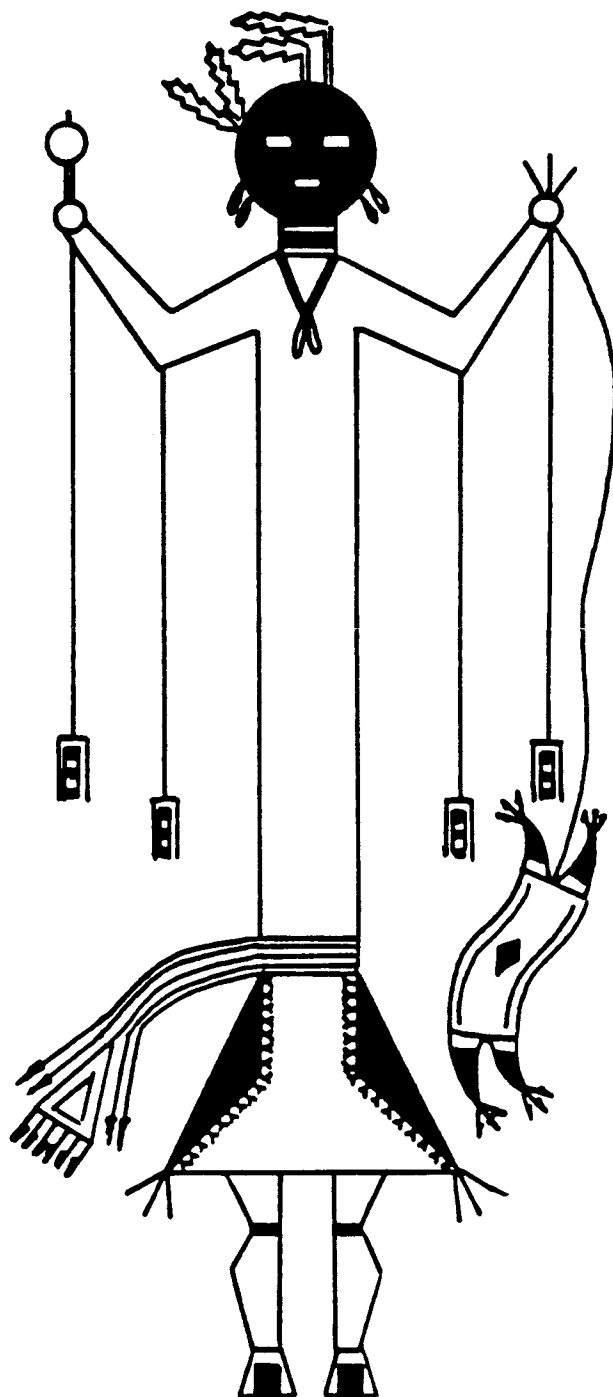
## neighbors continued

things as seeds, pollen, and leaves accumulate, offering us a scrapbook of the region's history. Since we're all pretty much newcomers to the Southwest, we may be surprised to find that only a few hundred years ago species of plants lived here which today are nowhere to be found in our area. In fact, the contents of a packrat midden may go back thousands of years. An interesting display at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum even has the tooth of an extinct camel, just the kind of swell thing a packrat might bring home from a evening's outing.

By the way, if you've seen those big dark eyes and bunny-like ears, you may be pleased to know that the packrat is more closely related to mice than to those terrible "city" rats that grow to legendary proportions in the New York sewers.

Unfortunately, the packrat can do serious damage to your ornamental cactus and succulents. While it eats seeds, mesquite beans, and those tender young twigs mentioned earlier, much of its sustenance (and moisture) comes from prickly-pear pads, especially those young ones you were hoping would fill out your prized specimen.

So, I guess that even though they're cute, and a boon to botanists who want to peer into the past, I just don't want them in my garden. After all, they chew on some of my favorite plants. And besides, I guess I'm a bit jealous of a critter that drags prickly pears and chollas around in its mouth with no trouble, and I can't come within two feet of a teddy bear cholla without going home looking like a pincushion.



# Join us for exciting slide presentations on the nature and future of some of the world's greatest succulent plant collections

- Gerald S. Barad, Flemington, New Jersey, *A Tour of the World's Most Impressive Succulent Plant Collections*
- Mark A. Dimmitt, Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona, *Framing the Big Picture: Placing Succulent Plants in Habitat Context*
- Harold Koopowitz, Irvine Arboretum, Irvine, California, *For the Collector: Unusual Geophytes and Xerophytes from Southern Africa*
- Beat Ernst Leuenberger, Berlin-Dahlem Botanic Garden, Berlin, Germany, *The Succulent Collections of Berlin-Dahlem Botanic Garden*
- Laura Vinson Northrop, Atlanta Botanical Garden, *The Atlanta Botanical Garden's Succulent Collection* - The status of the country's newest significant public collection
- Liz Slauison, Desert Botanical Garden, *Succulent Collections, Management and Research at the Desert Botanical Garden*
- Huntington Staff, Huntington Botanical Gardens, *Where is it All Going? The Future of the Huntington's Desert Garden Collection*

## Other Events:

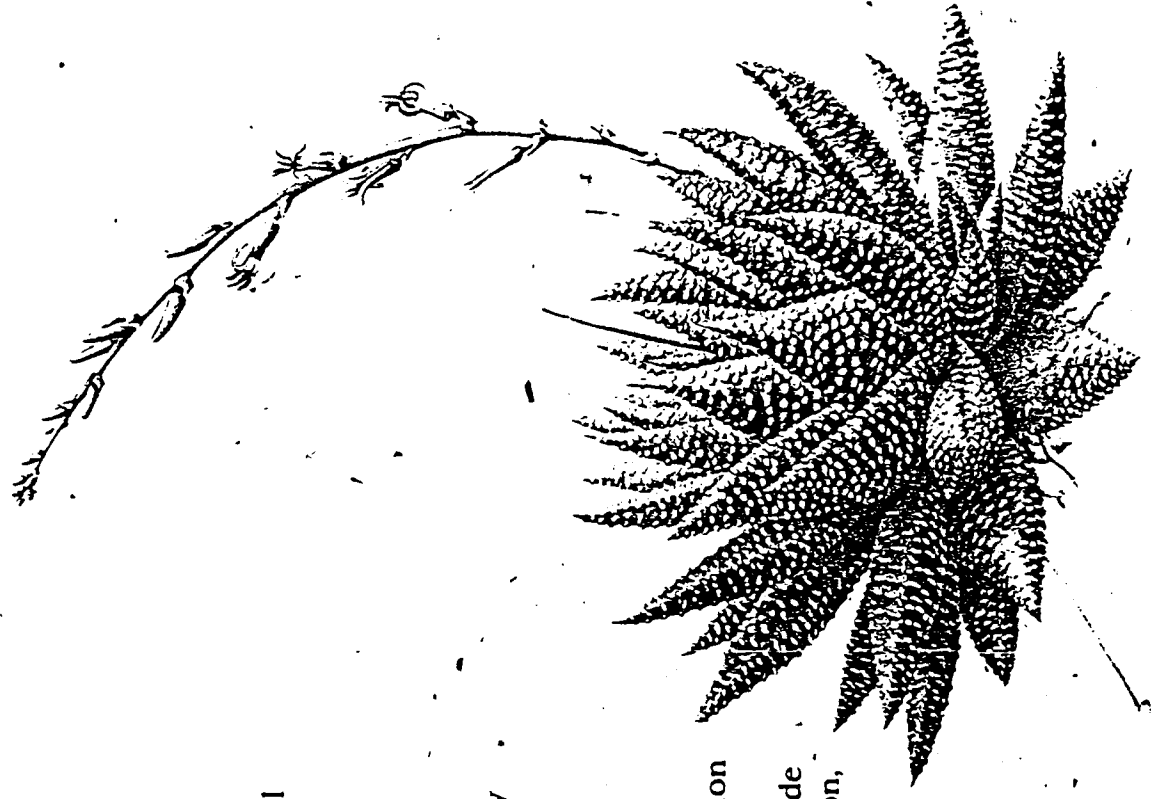
- Succulent Plant Sales
- Silent Auction of Rare and Unusual Plants
- Tours of the Desert Garden and Conservatory
- Evening barbecue and talk by Jerry Barad

## Time:

Continental breakfast and registration begin at 8:30 A.M. Programs from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. will include speaker presentations, silent auction, garden and conservatory tours, refreshments, and lunch. The optional evening barbecue at the home of the gardens director will begin at 6:00 P.M.

## Location:

Friends' Hall  
Huntington Botanical Gardens



**Registration:**

Symposium \$60.00  
Evening barbecue \$20.00

Mail your name(s), address,  
and a check (made payable to  
The Huntington) for the  
appropriate amount to:

**Succulent Symposium**  
**Huntington Botanical Gardens**  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108  
(818) 405-2160  
(818) 405-2260 FAX

The deadline for registration is  
September 5th. We cannot guarantee  
meals for late registrants.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Program registration: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$60 per person)

Barbecue registration: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$20 per person)

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(We welcome donations to help  
defray costs of the symposium)

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*"The Future of  
Public Collections"*

**Twelfth Succulent  
Plants Symposium**



*Saturday, 9 September 1995*

**Huntington  
Botanical Gardens**

## RAWBERRY PRESS - UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT

his open letter to STRAWBERRY PRESS subscribers, to members of the Cactus and Succulent Societies and all fellow collectors and cherishers of plants shall be an Annual Report of my progress in the ultimate production of my "LIBRARY OF SUCCULENTS."

In the past 13 years I have published nine EUPHORBIA JOURNALS, THE CAUDICIFORM BOOK, THE SUCCULENT COMPOSITAE, AND Lemaire's CACTEES, plus my resident genius' (wife's) autobiography with 284 of her wonderful paintings, and "ADA" (Ada Lovelace Byron), the letters of Lord Byron's daughter, who with Charles Babbage invented the computer.

Somewhere along Volume VII of THE EUPHORBIA JOURNALS I decided to attempt to also document the other marvelous major groups of Succulents. By that time, I had gotten to know virtually all the world's authorities on the "other" Succulent families.

I decided to begin this process by asking Werner Rauh to allow me to publish his major life work: THE SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR. In short order, the menu grew to projected series on the Asclepiads, the Aloes, the Succulent Compositae, Tylecodon & Coryledon, and the History of Succulents.

Little did I know what I was getting into!

THE SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR introduced me to some new realities of publishing. The early text grew dramatically in size over a two year period with new discoveries, revisions and illustrations. The problem of long distance editing imposed by volumes of 500 pages and over a thousand illustrations made it obvious that smaller but multiple volumes like THE EUPHORBIA JOURNAL would be not only simpler but also produce greater predictability of time of completion. With Professor Rauh's visit a month ago both volumes of his extraordinary SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR were reviewed line by line (text, slides, and captions). The massive job of publishing Volume I and then Volume II is underway and should produce Volume I this summer.

It will be the most beautiful plant book ever produced!

Subsequent series, i.e., The Asclepiadaceae and The Aloes will be done in multiple volumes, each with shorter time frames rather than two massive volumes of each.

Volume X of THE EUPHORBIA JOURNAL is almost complete and should also be out later this year. It will be huge...as was Volume IX.

But, above and beyond the gestation and birth of my books I want address their finances.

THE EUPHORBIA JOURNALS were hatched in a period when it was possible to publish each Volume in Japan when the dollar was worth 320 yen. It is now worth 88 yen. Prices have soared to an unimaginable degree. At the same time I cannot bring myself to escalate my book prices to that same degree, for example, Volume IX (50% larger) cost 200% more to produce than Volume VIII. THE SUCCULENTS OF MADAGASCAR will cost about \$300,000 (Volume I) and so on in the same vein.

I am committed to producing my dream books. After a long time the aggregate sales by Volume VII of THE EUPHORBIA JOURNAL paid for a significant part of Volume VIII. This is no longer the case since factors have arisen which have made previous calculations obsolete.

1) The cost of producing new, larger books is vastly greater than the Journal.

2) My subscribers...for various reasons are buying my books from dealers rather than directly from me. Dealers pay slightly more than cost. They provide useful sales but do not help pay for future books. Dealers previously sold 40%, now 70% of my books. The difference between wholesale dealer cost and retail cost represents the income to STRAWBERRY PRESS which makes it possible to publish future books.

3) A publisher cannot survive with a payout period of 7-8 years for THE EUPHORBIA JOURNALS. God knows what it shall be with my new and larger books! No publisher in his right mind would ever embark on this process. This tells you something about my mind.

Since I hate to raise my prices the answer has to be...increase the rate of direct subscriptions. That can only come from you, my readers. There is no way I can continue to produce the exquisite one-of-a-kind, lavishly illustrated reference books I contemplate unless there are significantly more direct subscriptions.

I have to leave it up to you all to support this effort. I am interested in having comments and ideas from all of you. Meanwhile my weekdays are filled with books, weekends with keeping my plants alive in the wettest winter in history, and wondering when I can get back to Africa and Madagascar.

Best wishes,

*Herman Schwartz*

Herman Schwartz, M.D.  
Publisher/Editor  
STRAWBERRY PRESS



STRAWBERRY PRESS

227 Strawberry Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941 U.S.A.  
PH (415) 388-5017--FAX (415) 380-9628



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# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

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TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1995

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## OCTOBER ACTIVITY

OCTOBER 5

We will gather to view videos of convention presentations, which many of us who were THERE, missed!

SEPTEMBER 10 was our  
TCSS SILENT AUCTION -  
and figures are still coming in.

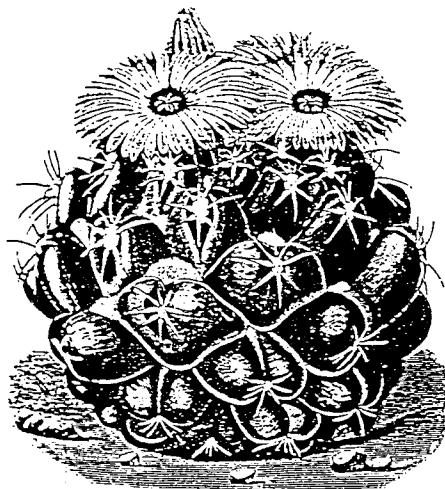
PLEASE,

I want everyone to feel free to submit problems,  
solutions, culture articles, cartoons, quips, etc.

JUST DO IT!!!

Every year at this time, we select officers for the coming year and three directors for 3 year terms. If you are interested in a nomination, share this information!

NOVEMBER 2nd WE VOTE !!!



## NEIGHBORS

by les & dale sloan

This month's neighbors are Cottontails and Jackrabbits. Long thought to be members of the order rodentia, they have now been placed in an order of their own called lagomorphs. Lagomorph can be loosely translated as "Kiss your ornamental cactus and succulents Good-bye". Well, actually it means "hare-form", or shaped like a hare. (Clever lot, those taxonomists!)

First of all, a bit of explanation... Jackrabbits aren't actually rabbits at all, but hares. Rabbits are born hairless and blind and don't leave the nest nearly as soon as hares which are born with fur and able to see, and can get around on their own rather quickly. The "jack" part of jackrabbit refers to the long, jack-ass ears.

Both groups are superb desert dwellers. The eyes, placed on the sides of the head, give peripheral vision the Shaq would kill for. And the ears make obviously excellent listening devices. But those enormous ears are also great radiators. As much as one-third of a jackrabbit's body heat loss is through its ears. Yet the blood vessels into the ears can be constricted to slow heat loss in colder weather.

Arizona hosts two species of cottontails, the Desert Cottontail, *sylvilagus audobonii*, found in the Tucson area, and at higher elevations, the Eastern Cottontail, *sylvilagus floridanus*. While capable of a speedy getaway, rabbits usually resort to a zigzag run to confuse predators. And predators there are! For its size, the cottontail probably has more predators than any other animal -- to name a few, rattlesnakes and gopher snakes, hawks and eagles, owls, coyotes and gray foxes, bobcats, and, of course, humans.

continued on page 4

# CSSA

FLASH111

CHUCK HANSON  
RESIGNS -  
RICHARD WIEDHOPF  
NOMINATED FOR  
CSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

DECISION AT  
JANUARY CSSA MEETING



## POST-CONVENTION PONDERINGS

Where do we go from here?

We're famous! We can do  
ANYTHING WE WANT!!

But lets not let this go to our heads...How about a  
bus tour of local nurseries? We can visit them so  
easily, perhaps we never get around to it!

Share your thoughts with directors - numbers are  
listed on the cover.

## TCSS LIBRARY HOURS &amp; LOCATION

Plants For The Southwest  
9 - 5:30

Wednesday - Saturday  
50 E. Blacklidge  
628-8773

Librarian  
Myrtle Ethington  
887-4507

## DESERT BREEZE STAFF

EDITOR	JERI OGDEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS	LES & DALE SLOAN
	DAN BIRT
MAILING	SARA PERPER

## THORNY PROBLEMS..... POINTED ANSWERS

This column is designed to help promote success with our plants. Everyone has a favorite fertilizer, trick, or tip they could share. What's yours? Call or write your editor by the 15th.

PROBLEM - How do I combat mealy bugs?

SOLUTION - Alcohol (any kind), rubbed on plants with a cotton swab, will kill mealy bugs. Repeat every 2-3 days for 7-10 days. Or, diazinon or malathion works if you have too big a problem to treat by hand.

PROBLEM - I have tried several Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), but keep losing them. What's the secret?

SOLUTION - Large specimen plants are difficult to transplant successfully. Since they take a long time to die, it is often hard to pinpoint the cause. Propagated plants, although younger, are a better choice than legally collected ones, for that reason.

Tips from Gene Joseph, Plants for the Southwest.

## JERI's GEMS

Due to time constraints, figures for the Silent Auction are unavailable at press time.

As I write, days are JUST BEGINNING to cool off - I know I'm glad!! Maybe as I compose the next newsletter, I'll actually be wearing LONG SLEEVES?!?! By the way, anyone who is interested in being secretary/newsletter editor, please say so! No experience necessary - this is a learn-as-you-go experience! TCSS owns a computer, including windows and publisher software, to help get the job done.

### FALL PLANT SALES OCTOBER 7 & 8

DESERT SURVIVORS  
1020 W 22  
SATURDAY 8 - 4  
SUNDAY 19 - 4

TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON  
SATURDAY 10 - 5  
SUNDAY 12 - 5



remember  
TCSS  
drag table

## neighbors continued

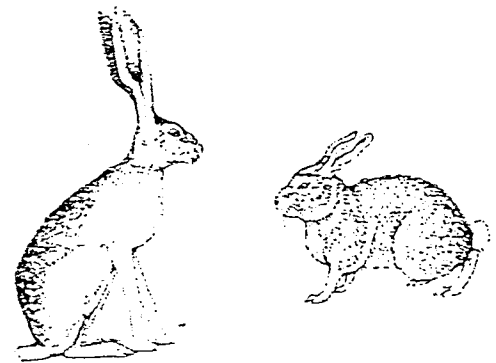
To compensate for this plethora of predators, the cottontail is profoundly prolific. Litters of 2-6 are common, four or more times a year, so 20 - 30 young a year is not unusual.

Jackrabbits, on the other hand, are a bit less fecund. Of our two principal species, one breeds annually and the other up three times a year. I say principal species because, depending on your source, you may find up to five species listed for the Arizona desert.

The two we'll consider are the black-tail (or black-tailed) jackrabbit, *lepus californicus*, and the antelope jackrabbit, *lepus alleni*. Of course, the black-tail has, yup, a black tail. But then, so does the antelope. The black-tail has black tips on its ears, and the antelope has a white rump patch, like a pronghorn antelope. Therefore, whether it's coming or going, you can pretty much tell which jackrabbit you're looking at. And when it is going, the antelope jackrabbit puts on quite a show. He uses the same zigzag movement as the cottontail when fleeing, but adds an interesting twist, literally. As it changes directions (from zig to zag), it uses muscles to pull the white fur on its hip around to the side facing the pursuer. This is called "flashing" and is used to confuse the pursuer. Considering that an antelope jack can hit 35 mph on open ground, such tactics might seem unnecessary. But the predators, especially coyotes and Harris hawks, have a strategy that meets with some success. They work in teams, eventually wearing the jack down. For most of us humans however, a fleeing jackrabbit just seems to lope along with a you'll-never-catch-me-in-a-million-years attitude.

In the course of my research, I was surprised to find one source which lists only 44 species of lagomorphs - rabbits and hares - in all the world. Considering the vast numbers of rodent species (over 260 species of squirrels alone) this seems rather small. But then, several individual species cover large ranges. The "eastern" cottontail covers much of North America and ranges down to Venezuela. The

"desert" cottontail ranges up into North Dakota and Montana. But then I suppose when your family is growing that fast, you need room to spread out. Now, if I could only get them to spread out of my garden.



This newsletter is published monthly except in summer. Submit material by the 15th of month preceeding to Editor:

JERI OGDEN  
3329 E NAVAJO PLACE  
TUCSON, AZ 85716 (520) 321-9484

I appreciate feedback (all kinds). Please help me to correct phone/address errors, also. Membership meetings (free and open to the public) are held at Tucson Botanical Gardens, 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month. No meeting in August. September & December are special - see current newsletter for details. Dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, payable at meetings or send check to:

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY,  
c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON WAY  
TUCSON, AZ 85712 326-9255

### PLEASE NOTE -

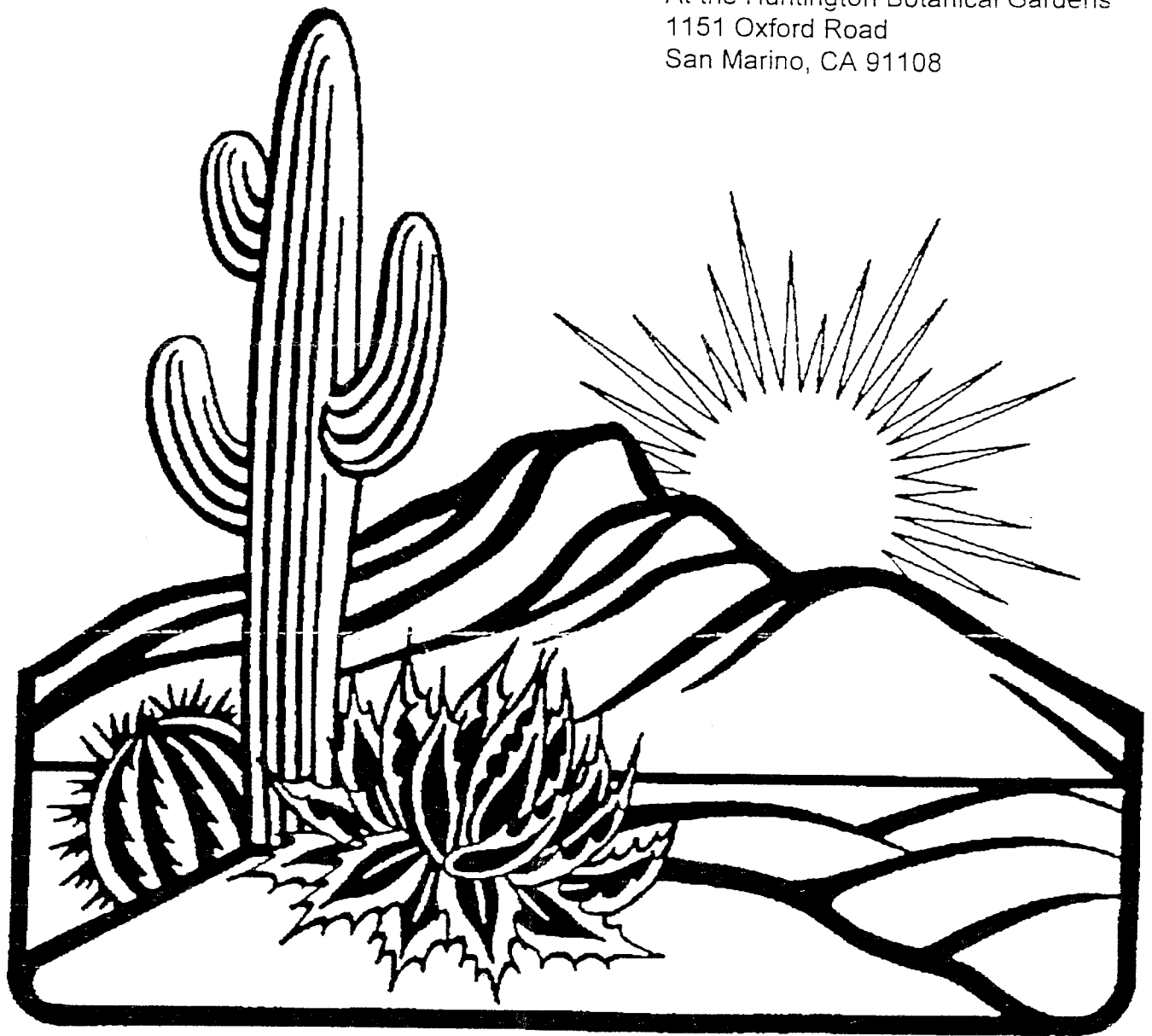
If you ever wanted me to print something in  
**DESERT BREEZE**  
& give YOU credit,  
now is the time!  
Copy deadlines are  
October 15 and November 15.

7  
riel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Present the

# ***2nd Annual Winter Show & Sale***

Saturday & Sunday, October 14th & 15th, 1995

10:30 am to 4:30 pm both days  
At the Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108



Information: David Tufenkian 818/794-3082

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CSSA AFFILIATE -

\*\*NORMA BECKMAN 885-0669

*\*\*term expires 12/95*

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# ❖ DESERT BREEZE ❖

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TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1995

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## ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 2nd

In addition to 3 new directors, you will help elect a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer & newsletter editor on November 2.

We must also prepare for the

**35th annual Desert Harvest Community Show**  
**November 18-19 at Park Mall**  
**ENTRIES: 7-10 am. NOVEMBER 18**

Hosted by the Men's Garden Club / Gardeners of America, this show is open to the public 2-9 Saturday and 12-5 Sunday. Section 'C' is C&S! For more information, contact show chairman Ron McClean at 795-6417.

In October, members & guests watched a fascinating tape of Rob Wallace making sense of Taxonomy.

**FREE PLANTS:** Mammillaria supertexta, Sempervivum arandae, Crassula x ivory pagoda, Platanus nelii, Titanopsis calcares, Anacampseros telephiastrum variegata  
**DOOR PRIZES:** Cotyledon orbiculata, echeveria lilacina, Agave verchafolotii, Aloe harlinii.  
**RAFFLE PLANT:** Coryphantha elephantiens

Proceeds of our SILENT AUCTION in September netted \$170, which we donated to TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS, as planned.

Mary Odette, Linda Burbach & Margaret Pope are planning NOW for NEXT YEAR - it should be FANTASTIC!!

**THANKS TO VENDORS!!**

**HOLIDAY POTLUCK DECEMBER 10**

Plan to bring a wrapped botanical gift - no white elephants, please - and your favorite dish to share. More detail in next DESERT BREEZE.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

## NEIGHBORS by les & dale sloan

Tarantula! (For those of you who will be stopping here, See you next month!) Why is it that bears are big and cuddly, and elephants are huge and fascinating, and even horned toads are cute, but spiders are generally considered so creepy and unlikable? Maybe it's all those legs (8), or all those eyes (8), or that venom (nah!). Whatever the cause of their unpopularity, tarantulas are a rather visible reminder that you're in the desert. In the late summer and early fall, especially, when mature males go looking for females, they can often be seen in the evening stalking along the roads or in our backyards.

The reason the males go hunting for females is that females, and immature males for that matter, don't travel much. In fact, a tarantula may spend its entire life in an area of about one square yard. They set up a home, a hole in the ground, which they line with silk. When warm weather comes, anywhere from early April to the beginning of July in our yard, they open up their burrow which had been sealed for the winter, and wait for a meal. Sometimes they'll feel the vibrations of a passing victim on the silk near the opening of the burrow and pop out to grab a meal; other times, they go out and patrol up to a few yards away. That's the daily routine. Come cooler weather, they seal up the burrow again for the winter.

All of their hunting and waiting goes on at night when it's cooler and there aren't as many predators about. During the day the tarantula waits out the heat below ground. At the top of the burrow, it has woven a series of silk strands at right angles to each other. This apparently warns of the tarantula's worst enemy, the tarantula hawk, a wasp which

continued on page 4

Vote



## CSSA

Tucson '95

### "A Taste Of The Sonoran Desert and A Lot More"

Dick Wiedhopf (President: Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society)

Over 4 years ago Chuck Hanson, Board member of CSSA and then President of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society (TCSS) put in place the plans that would make this a memorable Convention.

This will be known as the Convention of 1st's. Chuck was convinced that a theme was necessary to tie attendees to the locality. We all embraced the ethnobotany of the Sonoran Desert as a great idea to mold this Convention around.

After approval at the San Antonio Convention in '91, we went to work on development for Tucson '95. Many of you saw our poster at San Francisco in '93 as the invitation to the Sonoran Desert and activities as the Saguaro Fruit Harvest. Over the last two years the planning process was almost consuming. The TCSS was dedicated to making this the biggest and best Convention ever. Every member contributed and this was a team effort. As I said many times at the Convention the word team isn't spelled with an "i".

This was the first Convention to have special pre and post tours available to registrants. Both tours were sold out and the participants had a wonderful experience.

This was the first Convention to use barcodes for the plant sales. The Host Convention Coordinator convinced the CSSA to purchase two barcode reading cash registers. The TCSS provided the barcode labels to all plant vendors several weeks before the start of the Convention.

This type of labeling made sales easy for the vendors and the buyers. This was a good investment in technology.

This was the first Convention to have a real handbook. It contained both local and CSSA information, biographies of all the speakers, ads from local and national businesses, and a lot more. It was a TCSS concept that was put together by local society members. There are still a few copies available.

This was the first Convention to have over 600 registrants. This is the goal that all future Conventions will shoot for. Fortunately, the Doubletree Hotel and its staff were well prepared to easily accommodate all activities of the attendees. Especially for meetings and food service. They were great.

This was the first Convention to have special recipes that took advantage of cacti, succulents and other native plants. The Chief of the Doubletree introduced his recipes prior to dinner and this was a real treat for everyone. At our farewell banquet the caterer for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum used the southwest influence in all their recipes.

This was the first Convention to be opened with a special Convention gavel, made from native mesquite, copper and turquoise, and presented to the Convention as a gift from the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. At the closing ceremony the gavel was passed to the San Diego Society who will use it for the next Convention. This new tradition will continue.

This was the first Convention to raise \$12,000+ for the research fund at the rare plant auction.

This was the first Convention to have an author book signing party. Thirteen authors were available to

continued on page 5



**TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION**

Plants For The Southwest  
9 - 5:30  
Wednesday - Saturday  
50 E. Blackledge  
628-8773

Librarian  
Myrtle Ethington  
887-4507

**JERI's GEMS**

Please welcome new member:

Marilyn Ann Bernzott  
4878 W Cashin Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85746  
883-0948

remember  
TCSS  
drag table

**THORNY PROBLEMS.....  
POINTED ANSWERS**

No new 'Thorny Problems' were reported, (but I KNOW they're out there), so here is a reprint of Sept-Oct '95 CSSA newsletter article, which is interesting, if not helpful!

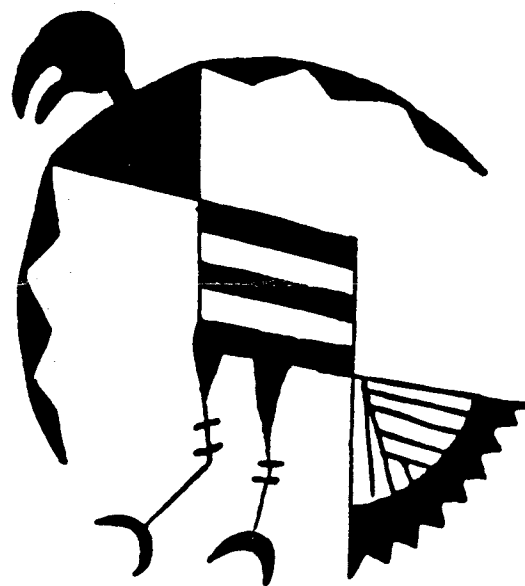
**GROWING CACTI AND  
SUCCULENTS for the Beginner  
Part 5 - Pests and What to do  
When You Get Them**

Mac Clarke (CSSA Director, Cleveland, TN)

Note that it says 'When' you get them, not 'If' in the title of this installment. Even though cacti and succulents contain impressive arrays of natural pesticides, you will, sooner or later, be pestered by pests. Don't let that discourage you, the world's best growers have pests, but they manage to grow magnificent plants anyhow. So can you!

Most people think of fungi, insects, and other creepie-crawlies such as mites as the pests that bother our plants. But there are lots more--weeds, snails and slugs, rodents, and my neighbor's free ranging, picky chickens who devoured 3 species of *Trichodiadema* and left other

continued on page 6

**DESERT BREEZE**

EDITOR JERI OGDEN

FEATURE WRITERS  
LES & DALE SLOAN

CONTRIBUTORS  
NORMA BECKMAN  
MARY O'DETTE

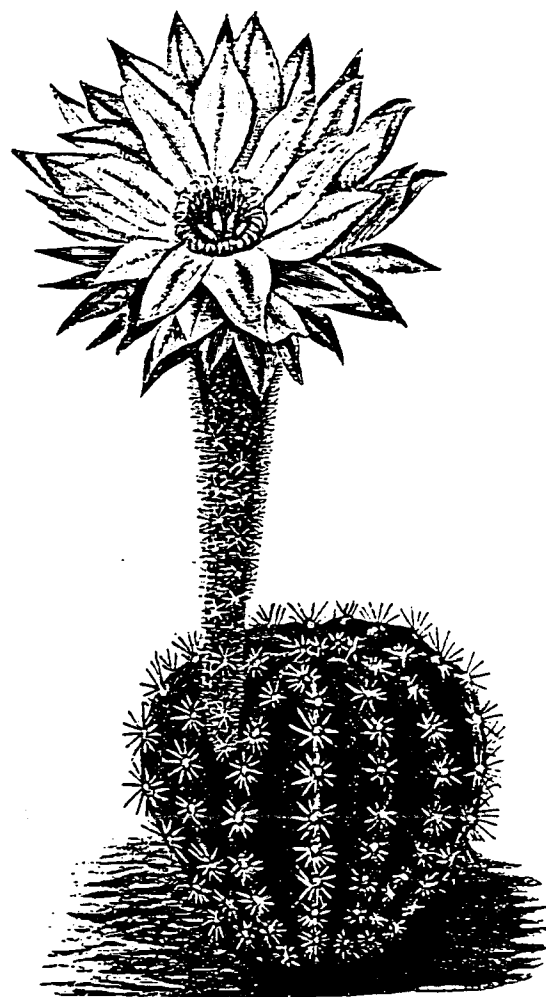
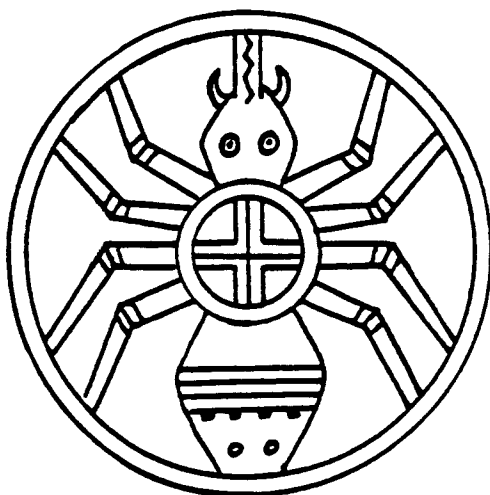
MAILING SARA PERPER

## neighbors continued

hunts, stings, paralyzes, and lays an egg on the spider. Later the wasp larva will live on the hapless tarantula.

Anyway, back to that part where the males are "cruising" for females. When a male goes through his final molt (sheds his exoskeleton) he develops a small appendage looking something like a thumb on his two front legs. As he searches for a wife, he uses his senses of smell and touch to tell when he's stumbled on the burrow of a likely prospect. He then taps the ground at the burrow's mouth to let her know that he's a suitor and not a dinner. She pops up from the burrow and he uses those two "thumbs" to keep her fangs apart while mating takes place. (Black widows aren't the only spiders that eat their mates, though generally, most species party peaceably.) Come next spring, she'll lay several hundred eggs. The babies are tiny, accurate miniatures of the adults, and in a few days, they are off to stake out their own little square yard of desert paradise.

With tarantulas, as with other creepy-crawlies, it's like your mom always said, "If you don't bother them, they won't bother you." But if you want to get close enough to be fascinated, well, that's well worth the time and effort.



This newsletter is published monthly except in summer. Submit material by the 15th of month preceeding to Editor:

JERI OGDEN  
3329 E NAVAJO PLACE  
TUCSON, AZ 85716 (520) 321-9484

I appreciate feedback (all kinds). Please help me to correct phone/address errors, also. Membership meetings (free and open to the public) are held at Tucson Botanical Gardens, 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month. No meeting in August. September & December are special - see current newsletter for details. Dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, payable at meetings or send check to:

TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY,  
c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON WAY  
TUCSON, AZ 85712 326-9255



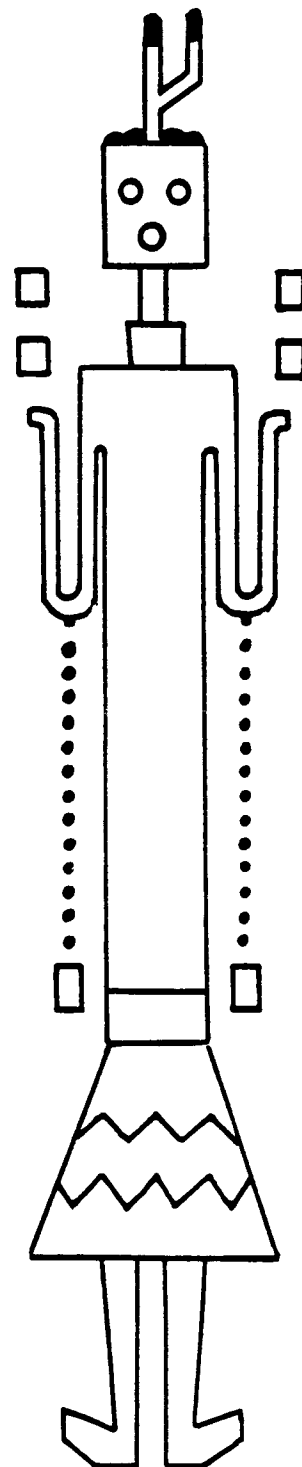
autograph their books and the book vendors graciously stayed open so that many of us could purchase books to be autographed. This was an extraordinary experience for many of the attendees.

This was the first Convention to introduce the World Wide Web, Cacti\_etc. and the whole computer Internet experience. Live and in living color from KEW to Huntington and a lot more. The interest in computer communication between members, affiliates and the CSSA was enthusiastically endorsed. This was the first Convention to take attendees to a live ethnobotanical experience. Tohono O'odham (native Americans) provided an opportunity for a limited number of conventioners to participate in the Saguaro Fruit Harvest.

No one knows how much longer this ancient tradition will continue. How fortunate it was that the peak harvest time coincided with the Convention.

This was the Convention of firsts but it also had all the traditional Convention activities and especially quality speakers of local, national and international prominence. There was a great selection of new and used books and the plant vendors made Tucson, "THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CAPITAL OF THE WORLD" (for at least a week).

Most of all, The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society wants to thank all who attended. You were wonderful guests, appreciative of our effort, and we enjoyed every minute as your hosts. Finally, I want to publicly thank all the members of the Tucson Society for their dedicated efforts to this Convention. Great Job!!



## Pests

things alone. You can handle pests either physically, biologically, or chemically (pesticides). I used to pick bean beetles off green bean plants in the family Victory Garden fifty years ago, and my wife used to pick Japanese beetles off roses. A vacuum will suck up white flies, although to be effective, you need to do it several times a day for about 3 weeks. You've got to nab them before they lay eggs. And I have picked scale off plants with mild infestations. I don't know enough about biological control to tell you about it. Is there anybody out there who wants to write a guest column?

For me the most practical solution is to use pesticides. Warning!!! Many pesticides are hazardous to your health. Fortunately, in the USA, the law is some help. Any material sold as a pesticide must be registered with the US Dept of Agriculture and must be sold with an accompanying approved label. The applicant for registration must supply a lot of information on safety and efficacy for a specified formulation on specified crops (often only one) against a specified pest. How much is a lot of info? On the order of a million dollars worth!

Few pesticides are sold as a pure chemical. They are mixed with wetting agents, spreaders, stickers, etc, etc, sometimes 20 or more ingredients. Among the classes of formulations you will find for sale are 50% wettable powders (WP), 25% emulsifiable concentrates (EC), 70% soluble powder (SP), and 10% dust. I don't use EC's, the solvents in these formulations are toxic to too many succulents, particularly Euphorbias. The safety information includes methods for safe handling and application of the formulation and the safe methods must be described on the label. Hence the repeated exhortations to "read and follow label directions." If you do,

you are a lot safer than when smoking or when pumping gas into the family car. Not many pesticides combine gasoline's toxicity, potential carcinogenicity, flammability, and explosive vapors! If you don't follow the label you are playing Russian Roulette. Unfortunately, 9 out of 10 of us, possibly 99 of 100, including me, do not follow the directions. It is a good way for you to die young. I'm too old to die young, but it is a good way for me to die old. You would satisfy most labels if you wore long sleeves and pants, shoes and a hat, rubber or vinyl gloves, goggles, and a gas mask. The local farmers coop should have the gloves and mask that you need. Change and wash the clothes immediately after spraying, and take a shower! Do not eat, drink, or smoke while using pesticides or until you have showered. There, that isn't that bad, is it?

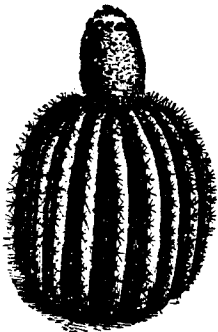
Enough generalities, now details about specific pests.

### Mealy Bugs:

Probably the most ubiquitous pest facing succulent growers, mealy bugs are a sucking insect like aphids. In fact, the mealy larva look like aphids, but you never see them, they are covered by white to yellow waxy scales. There used to be a pastry in the 'Twinky' class that was a vanilla wafer surmounted by a hemisphere of marshmallow, and coated with coconut. Imagine that scaled down to 1/8 to 1/4 inch (3-6mm) and that is what one mealy looks like. In heavy infestations the scales overlap and you get drifts of things. If you have only a few plants, a Q-tip soaked in rubbing alcohol can be used to scrub them off. You have to scrub to get through the wax. Incidentally, rubbing alcohol is not sold as a pesticide, so does not carry all the warnings it would if it was. It is toxic, both ingested and inhaled, and can form explosive vapors. If you happen to sell your plants, the use of rubbing alcohol

(Continued on the next page)





### Pests

(Continued from the previous page)  
violates another of the US pesticide laws, that pesticides applied to crops that are to be sold must be registered. I have around 1000 specimens, Q-tips would be like spitting in the ocean. I spray with Orthene 70% SP, 1-2 teaspoons per gallon. I adjust my sprayer to deliver a solid stream, not a mist! Two reasons; the solid stream knocks the mealies loose, letting me get at their exposed bellies, thus avoiding the wax, and the solid stream is less likely to be inhaled than a mist. You should spray three times at weekly intervals to get the newly hatched larva. There are also root mealies, talked about in installment x of this series. I don't have root mealies, possibly because I add FertiLome Systemic Insecticide Granules to my potting mix, 1 teaspoon per gallon of mix, or possibly because I'm lucky. If plants look sick and you can't find any other cause, unpot and clean off the roots and look for mealies.

Incidentally, a systemic insecticide is absorbed through the skin of the plant and then is 'translocated' throughout the tissue of the plant. When sucking insects come along, they get a slug of insecticide with every sip of the plant's juices. Orthene is a systemic.

#### White Flies:

If you see a cloud of small (half the size of a fruit fly) white flies around some of your plants, you've got them. They are rare here in Tennessee, and a household bug bomb for flies and roaches is pretty effective. The one we used contained Pyrethrins, one of the less toxic pesticides. Again, repeat the spray to get recently hatched larva. Incidentally, it is not the flies that do the damage, it is their larva.

#### Red Spider Mites:

Individual mites are too small for me to see without a magnifying glass, but if leaves of a plant curl more than normally,

and the back has a spider web on it, get out your glass. The mites are little red dots. Almost the only advantage of the high TN humidity is that spider mites don't like it. I've only seen spider mites once, and a misting with water got rid of them. There are miticides, but try misting for awhile first.

#### Fungus Gnats:

If you use peat based mixes, you will get fungus gnats, a fly about the size of a fruit fly. Supposedly the adults spread fungus spores, assuredly the larva eat anything organic, including seedlings. I have a well established population of fungus gnats in my greenhouse, have had them for years, and do nothing about them. I've seen no sign of damage I could lay to them and they do a good job of pollinating my *Piранthus* specimens. I do pasteurize my seedling mix before planting to kill fungus gnats and weed seeds. I keep the seedlings covered with a propagation dome until they are established, which keeps the gnats at bay.

#### Fungi:

Rot and damping off are two results of fungus infestation. Fungal spores are airborne and ubiquitous. The proper question is not why do some of my plants die of fungus infestation, but rather, why don't all of them? Answer--most healthy plants have effective natural defenses against local fungi. But break a leaf off a plant, take a cutting, or allow a feeder root to dry out for a few seconds and die, and you have created a pathway for a fungal infection that bypasses the plant's defenses. I still use Chinosol for drenching newly planted seeds, and used to use Benlate for rot. But now I accept loss from rot and try to see why the plant was weakened. Sunshine is a good fungicide.

#### Weeds:

In particular, *Oxalis*, a clover-like plant with yellow flowers, and a semi-succulent  
(Continued on the next page)

## Pests

(Continued from the previous page)  
root system. Most of the mature succulents I have lost to rot have been infested with Oxalis. And mealies love the presence of it. Few succulents can compete effectively against it, for water, for nutrients, for space. Weed it! Especially before it flowers to set seed! Tweezers, needlenose pliers, hemostats all help when weeding close to prickly succulents. If your potting mix comes with Oxalis seeds, consider pasteurizing it, or buying pasteurized mixes. There are many weeds, all with the same treatment, weed them!

### Others:

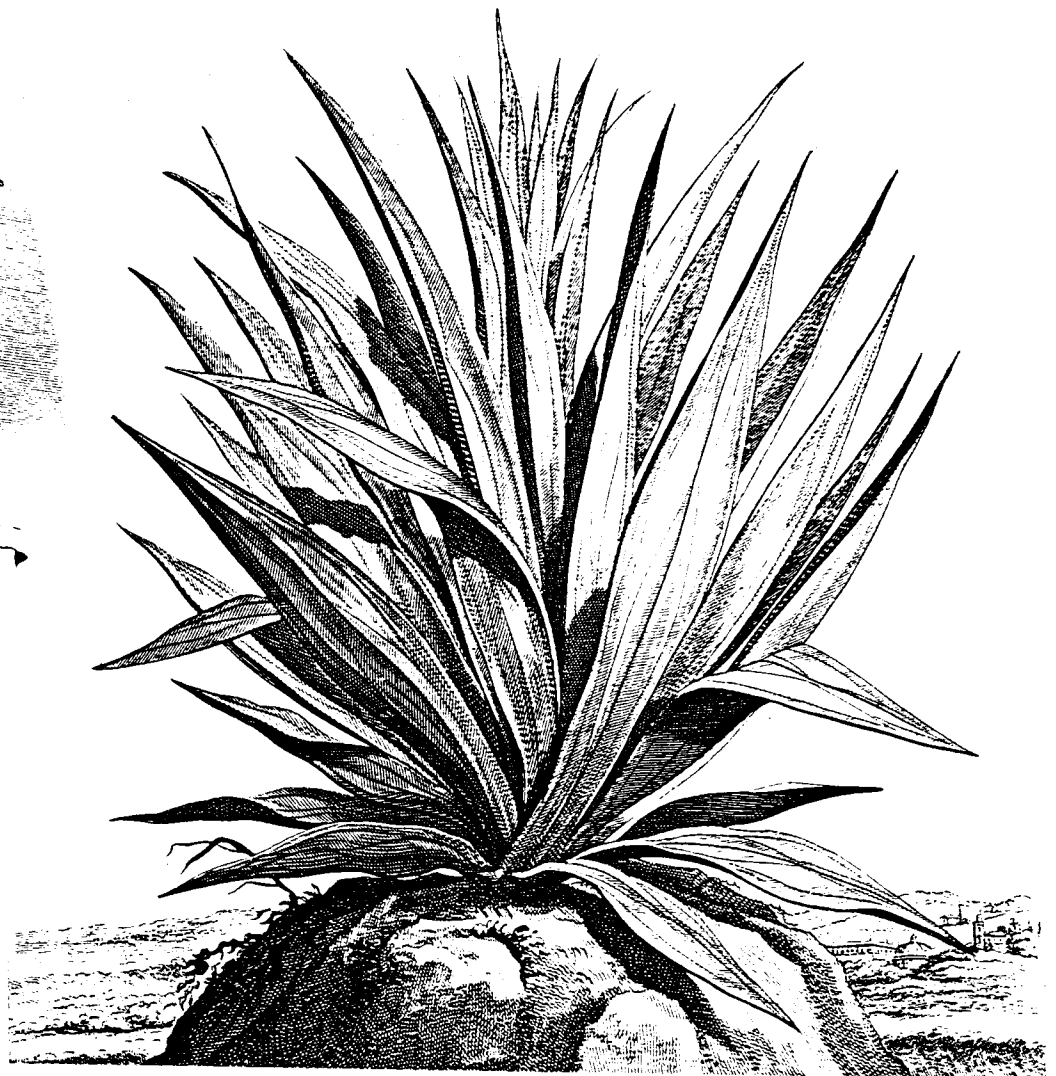
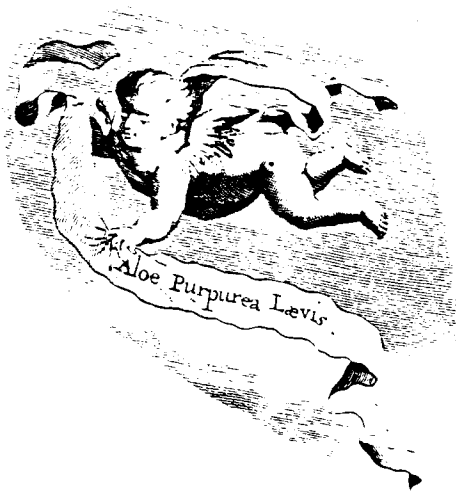
There are commercially available snail and slug baits which are more effective than grapefruit rinds. Build a fence around your outdoor plants to keep out the

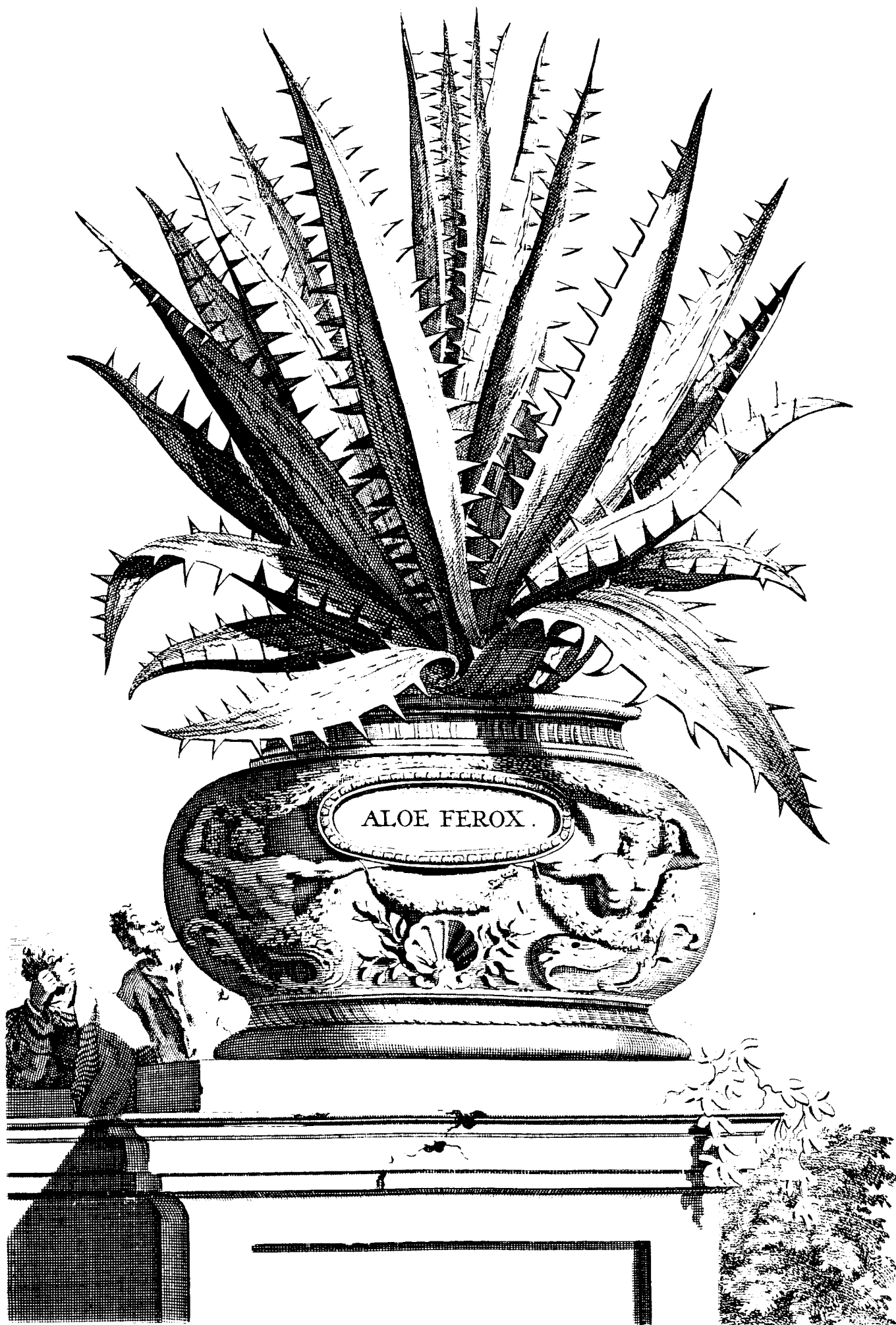
neighbor's dogs. Trap or poison rodents. And if your neighbor's chickens become a problem you may have my recipe for chicken soup. Ants are known to 'farm' aphids and mealies so if nothing else works, consider getting rid of the ants. How you say. How should I know, I'm a plant expert, not an ant expert.

### Where to get help:

Join a local C&S Club, there are lots of helpful members who know what to do locally. Most states in the USA have a County Agent system, aimed primarily at farmers and homemakers, but usually very helpful to hobbyists as well. Subscribe to Cacti\_etc, the C&S mail list on the Internet. And finally, read and follow those label directions!! Even if I'm too dumb to, I'd like you around for the next installment, "How to Get More Succulents".

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GENE JOSEPH 628-8773

CSSA AFFILIATE -

\*\*NORMA BECKMAN 885-0669

*\*\*term expires 12/95*



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# ◆ DESERT BREEZE ◆

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TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1995

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## HOLIDAY POTLUCK

**COME EARLY — WE SERVE AT 1 PM**  
RSVP (321-9484) dish type & number of guests  
ALL ARE WELCOME

Bring

- 1) dish of your choice  
(to serve your party plus 6 more,  
& serving utensil)  
and

for EACH PERSON

- 2) plate, cup, knife, fork & spoon
- 3) a wrapped plant  
(or appropriate botanical gift,  
worth at least \$3)  
for our gift exchange game  
(play limited to gift-bearers)

TCSS will provide drinks & meat.  
We will have a brief business meeting  
and hold elections.

*november free plant - aloë stricta*

## 35th ANNUAL DESERT HARVEST COMMUNITY SHOW

Many thanks to show judges: MYRTLE  
ETHINGTON, DICK WIEDHOPF & DAN BIRT,  
and to the Men's Garden Club of Tucson!!

## Happy Holidays

## NEIGHBORS by les & dale sloan

The coming of cooler weather brings large numbers of hawks down from the northern states and provinces. But our most common large hawk for much of the year is the Harris' Hawk, *parabuteo unicinctus*. They are dark brown with chestnut or rusty shoulders. (In fact they are sometimes referred to as the red-epauletted hawk.) Around the base of the tail is a prominent white band. All this makes them quite beautiful in flight or at rest.

Harris' hawks live from southern South America north through Mexico and range up into southern Texas and Arizona, touching on parts of New Mexico and even California, so birder's often come to Arizona to add this one to their "life list".

An unusual habit of Harris' hawks is their hunting in groups rather than alone as do most other raptors. In the open fields of the great plains, a hawk can swoop down on a mouse or rabbit in simple dive. In chaparral country though, cottontails and jackrabbits, the Harris' hawk's favorite prey, can duck behind a bush and outrun a pedestrian hawk. But with the rest of the family helping, one Harris' hawk can flush the rabbit into the open where it becomes easy prey for the rest of the clan.

You may see five birds hunting together, only one of them a youngster. Older brother and sister from last year's brood may have stayed around to help with the hunt. In fact, even a second mature male from another family may associate with the group. (Males outnumber females by a sizable margin for reasons not understood.) Obviously, having to share your "kill" with several other hawks

continued on page 3



# 1996

As meeting attendees know, the election of officers was rescheduled for December 10.

MARGARET POPE spoke briefly about forming an event planning committee chaired by MARY ODETTE. LINDA BURBACK completes a team of three who have volunteered to lead us in planning club events for '96. So far, there is talk of a regional mini-convention in the fall of even years, (beginning in October) featuring member plant exhibits, speakers, vendors & a hands-on workshop!! But, where?

Sound like fun?

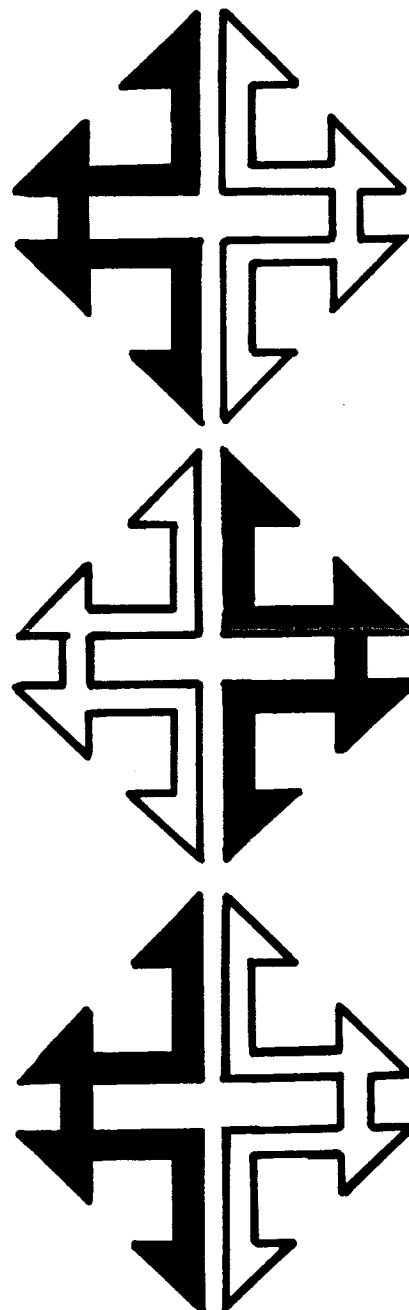
By the time you read this newsletter, a group of interested members will have met 3 times. Please feel welcome to attend the meetings, held at the college of Pharmacy. We need your input, ideas, energy & enthusiasm. The next meeting time & date will be announced at December Potluck.

Please call for details:

MARY ODETTE	749-2285
MARGARET POPE	795-1285
LINDA BURBACK	647-3200

Event Planners, UNITE!!

**dues  
are  
due**



**TCSS LIBRARY HOURS & LOCATION**

Plants For The Southwest  
9 - 5:30  
Wednesday - Saturday  
50 E. Blacklidge  
628-8773

Librarian  
Myrtle Ethington  
887-4507

**JERI's GEMS**

PLEASE WELCOME

SCOTT MCDERMOTT  
2914 N Estrella Ave 85705  
792-4270

Jonathan & Jennifer Donald have moved!

MS KARLY FIELDS  
10070 E Hawthorne 85748

neighbors, cont.

THANK YOU

means less for you to eat. But since one good-sized jackrabbit weighs as much as three Harris' hawks, there's plenty to go around. An as we said earlier, the number of rabbits "on the table" is greater thanks to the cooperation of the group.

So just as your mom always taught you to share, so a young Harris' hawk learns to share from its mom, or its dad, or its older siblings, or even that other guy who hangs around with the family.

to DAN BIRT, who helped MS. KARLY FIELDS with a school assignment (on cactus) and now has made a gift membership to her for 1996!

to BACH'S Cactus Nursery  
for donating a book (from wish list)  
to our library.

to Bob & Bev White, of B & B Cactus  
for monetary donation.

TOM FERN  
for monetary donation.

This newsletter is published monthly except in summer. Submit material by the 15th of month preceeding. We appreciate feedback (all kinds). Please help to correct phone/address errors, also. Membership meetings (free and open to the public) are held at Tucson Botanical Gardens, 7:30 pm, first Thursday each month. No meeting in August. September & December are special - see current newsletter for details. Dues are \$20/family, \$15/individual, payable at meetings or send check to:

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c/o TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
2150 N ALVERNON WAY  
TUCSON, AZ 85712 326-9255

THANK YOU ALL...for the opportunity to  
serve as your secretary & newsletter editor!

dremember  
TCSS  
rag table

**DESERT BREEZE**

EDITOR JERI OGDEN

FEATURE WRITERS  
LES & DALE SLOAN

CONTRIBUTORS  
NORMA BECKMAN  
MARY ODETTE

MAILING SARA PERPER

# ***Southeastern Cactus & Succulent Conference***

**February 22 - 24, 1996**

**Miami, Florida**

The South Florida Cactus and Succulent Society is proud to invite you to the Southeastern Cactus and Succulent Conference to be held in Miami, Florida. Come and join us for this fun filled weekend and enjoy three days of lectures given by world-class speakers. Our plant sales area will feature some of the best Cactus and Succulent Nurseries in America. Our banquet will be an event you don't want to miss. A large paddle boat ride to an island for a buffet and a vaudeville show.

There are quite a few pre and post conference activities to be explored and they are all within driving distance from Miami. Florida has Disney World & Universal Studios in the north and the Florida Keys and Key West to the south. Don't forget, the Bahamas are just off the coast of South Florida. While in the city of Miami visit the world famous Miami Beach or the Hard Rock Cafe or go out into the Everglades and visit the Seminoles for an airboat ride.

Please mail in the registration form below. Act fast, and take advantage of the earlybird registration special. If you have any questions please call Suzann Boisvert at (305) 279 - 5121.

**Don't forget to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.**

**Please mail your registration and payment to:**

**SFCSS**

**c/o: Suzann Boisvert; Treasurer**

**10785 S.W. 108th Avenue # 201**

**Miami, Florida 33176**

---

## **Southeastern Cactus and Succulent Conference**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Local C & S Society \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a list member of cacti\_etc? Yes [ ☐ ] No [ ☐ ]

REGISTRATION	Number	Cost
EARLYBIRD SPECIAL .....	@	\$75.00 = _____
(Must be received by Dec. 1, 1995)		
Regular registration <i>after Dec. 1, 1995</i> .....	@	\$90.00 = _____
Late registration <i>after Feb. 1, 1996</i> .....	@	\$100.00 = _____
Daily registration - Dates attending - .....	@	\$35/day = _____
FAREWELL BANQUET .....	@	\$30.00 = _____
Total amount due: .....		\$ _____

**Make checks payable to South Florida Cactus and Succulent Society**

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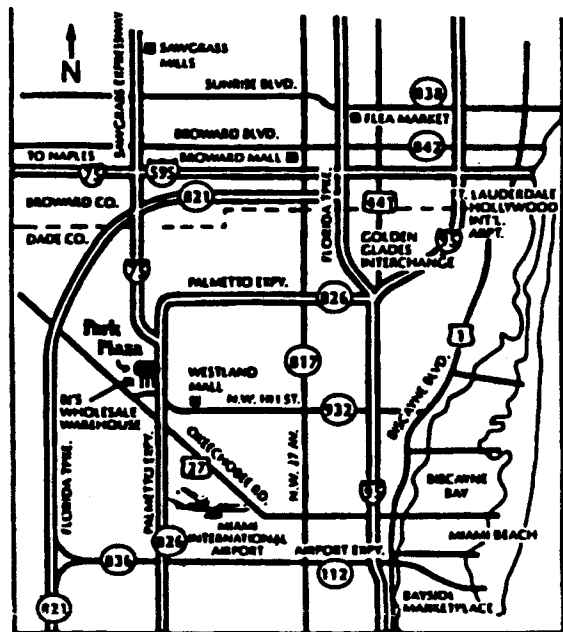
## Park Plaza®

The conference will be held at the Park Plaza Hotel. We have negotiated a special \$65.00 a day conference rate for up to four people per room.

The hotel provides free airport shuttle service to and from Miami International Airport.

To make reservations and receive the special \$65.00/day room rate, contact the Park Plaza Hotel as soon as possible. Please notify the Hotel that the reservations are for the South Florida Cactus Society Conference.

You are responsible for making your own room reservations with the Park Plaza Hotel.



For Toll Free Reservations Call:

**1-800-437-PARK**

7707 NW 103rd Street

Miami, Florida 33016

Tel: (305) 825-1000 FAX: (305) 556-6785

(1-800) 345-5000 (Bahamas)

(95-800) 010-1412 (Mexico)

Airlines System Code: PA

## Tentative Conference Program

We have scheduled the following speakers for the conference,

**John Pilbeam** -- John is a well known author of cactus and succulent books as well as a collector.

**Steve Hammer** -- Steve is an integral part of Mesa Garden and an author of books on Mesembs.

**Mark Cobia** -- Mark is a world leader in hybrid production of Schlumbergera/Zygocactus.

**Miles Anderson** -- Better known as "The Dark Overlord of Grafting", and a professional grower.

**Jerry Barad** -- Past president of the CSSA and a world explorer and collector.

**John Lucas** -- John is an expert in the field of Adenium and Bougainvillea cultivation and cross pollination techniques.

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GENE JOSEPH 628-8773

CSSA AFFILIATE -

**\*\*NORMA BECKMAN 885-0669**

**\*\*term expires 12/95**