



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

March 2008

March 6, 2008 at 7pm
**"Grass Aloes and other botanical treats
from the hills of eastern South Africa"**

Presented by Brian Kemble



Brian Kemble is the curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California. He has been working at this garden of succulents and other drought-tolerant plants since 1980 (see the garden's website at: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org). He has been a member of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America for over 30 years and has been a judge at many cactus & succulent shows. Over the years, he has made many trips to places such as Mexico, Madagascar and South Africa to see and photograph succulents in habitat. The genus Aloe has been a major focus for Brian and he is also vice-president of the Institute for Aloe Studies, based in Oakland, California (the institute's website is at: www.aloestudies.org).

Brian's program will cover his recent trip to South Africa, in November of 2007. He was fortunate to be able to get out in the field with Charles Craib, author of "Grass Aloes in the South African Veld". This book, published in 2005, is the only work devoted to this interesting group of diminutive Aloes. Seldom seen in cultivation, these plants grow in grasslands and can be very difficult to spot when not in flower. Along with the Aloes, Brian saw a variety of other succulents and bulbs.

This will be a very special program for anyone interested in the Aloes. We are really looking forward to having Brian as our special guest so please join us and bring a friend for this rare presentation.

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 7 PM
**The Development of Succulent Gardens, The Ethel
M. Garden in Las Vegas, Nevada and Others**
Presented by Gary Lyons
Curator of the Huntington Desert Garden

Free Plants of The Month

Beaucarnea recurvata

From the Mexican state of Vera Cruz, this commonly available species is easily grown. What we really like about this species is that it conforms to either a container, where it can be root bound for long periods of time, or put into the ground in our area, where we have a large plant that only sustains leaf damage at low temperatures in the low 20s.

Aloe albida x saundersii

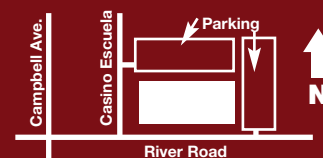
A cross between the two dwarf species of *A. albida* and *A. saundersii*, both grass Aloes. This hybrid offsets freely and is floriferous with pale cream flowers produced in the fall. This cross was done at Arid Lands in the late eighties.

Aloes are succulent plants in the lily family and are native to the old world, specifically Africa, Madagascar and the Arabian peninsula. Many species grow well here in the arid southwest either as potted plants or as specimens in the landscape. They especially thrive under the south side of trees in dappled light that gives them some shade in the summer but more light in the winter when sun angles are lower.

Most aloes are cool season growers. They need bright, filtered light with weekly waterings during the cool season and once every two weeks in summer. These aloes are cold tolerant to the high 20's and are easily protected at temperatures below that with a light piece of frost cloth draped over the plant. Flowering takes place normally from mid winter through spring and can range in colors from yellow to orange or bright red.

Chris Monrad

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



Ocotillos, Boojums and nine other species make up the entire *Fouquieria* genus. So what? Sonoran VII that's what. Coming May 9, 10 & 11 is the seventh in the series of mini conferences about the Sonoran Desert and its inhabitants. This year the Ocotillo and its relatives will be featured.

The Sonoran conference is our major even numbered year activity. The two day conference is a mixture of presentations featuring the Ocotillo family and workshops on a variety of topics about cacti and other succulents. This portion requires registration and limits the number of workshop attendees to about 20 or less per session.

Surrounding this is our annual show to the public of great cacti and succulent plants, a wonderful sale of plants, pots, and books by the best nurseries, potters and our internationally known Rainbow Gardens Book Shop. We will also have an art show and sale from local artists.

Sonoran VII will start on Friday night May 9 at 6pm with a pre-meeting dinner reception and a special TCSS meeting presentation by Susan Carter Holmes at 7pm. "Susan is a botanist and taxonomist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and has discovered and catalogued more than 200 plants of the family Euphorbiaceae, particularly of the succulent east African members of the genera *Euphorbia* and *Monadenium*, as well as about 20 Aloes. Then for the members and guest the show and sale areas will open for your preconference purchases. The conference begins on Saturday Morning with lectures and workshops and the show and sale areas open to the general public.

The whole event takes place at the Inn Suites City Center Hotel. This has been the site for the last 4 Sonoran Conferences. Look for the conference mailing next week. The TCSS Cookbook is waiting for your favorite recipe or photograph. Please take a few minutes and send us your favorite recipe in your own words and a digital high resolution photograph to: recipes@tucsoncactus.org or to our PO Box 64759 Tucson, AZ 85728.

I've sent my favorite one in. It takes just a few minutes to do this and we would love to have you represented in our first cookbook.

Thank you

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Conservation Committee Challenge Grant

The Conservation Committee has started the drive to raise \$500 which will be matched by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. This money will go to the preservation of the organ pipe cactus forest in the flat lowlands of Southern Sonora and Northern Sinaloa, Mexico. Originally covered by thousands of acres of organ pipe cactus, recent irrigation and cattle ranching of this area has leveled almost all of it, and there is only one protected forest still in existence. The grant money will be used for materials, primarily fencing, and not for labor as that is being provided by the local Mayo indigenous community.

The committee wants to thank those members who made contributions at the February meeting. These donations ranged from one to fifty dollars. We encourage all members to give something to the grant fund either by cash or check. Make checks payable to TCSS, with a notation that the money is to go to the Conservation Committee Challenge Grant. Checks can be mail to Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, P.O. Box 64759, Tucson AZ 85728-4759. Cash or checks may also be given to a committee representative who will be sitting at the desk near the River Road entry during future meetings.

Peter Hubbell, Chair, Conservation Committee

Botanical Art Preservation Project

At its February meeting the Board approved the "Botanical Art Preservation Project." This exciting project adds a new dimension to how we work to educate and create awareness among the public not only of the cactus and succulents of our region, but of all our native flora.

This project will involve working with individuals, groups, and institutions to preserve existing botanical art, to educate artists in traditional and modern botanical art techniques, and to create an awareness among the public of the value of botanical art in identifying and preserving the flora of the Sonoran Desert Region.

We are presently involved in preserving existing botanical art that will be exhibited at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum during the 2009 CSSA Convention.

In the coming months more information about the project will appear in the DESERT BREEZE and on our web site. Anyone interested in participating in the project please contact *Margaret Pope - email: nempe@aol.com.*



The TCSS is looking for your FAVORITE RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS to be featured in a Cookbook

If you would like to have your original recipe featured in a cookbook, you can email or send them to the following addresses

recipes@tucsoncactus.org • TCSS Recipes P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728

If you have a great idea for a name of the cookbook, please let us know.

MDAD Personnel are doing great work even when not at work.

Yesterday Jim Thomas was driving west on Sahuarita road when he saw a couple acting suspiciously along the side of the road. Jim pulled over and asked them a few questions to see if they needed help. As a result of the questioning he noticed that they were loading a cactus into their Honda CR-V with Kansas plates. Jim went back to his truck and waited for them to leave. He then followed them noting their license plate number. He went back home and provided descriptions of both individuals and their license plate number to the police. With this information the Green Valley police contacted Kansas police to get the individuals names and then cross referenced them to a home in Elephant head. They dispatched a unit to the individuals home and another to Jim's house. Jim went on a ride along to the scene of the crime and with the police found all necessary evidence they need to punish the thieves. The unit dispatched to the perps house found the CR-V matching the description Jim gave to the police and it contained a freshly uprooted cactus. The male suspect was arrested on the spot.

Jim is a member of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent society and was given the president's award in 2006 for his work in rescuing and relocating so many cacti that would have otherwise been destroyed. Jim has been asked by the Green Valley police to go down and identify and relocate the cactus that was stolen from state land. If the cactus in question is a Saguaro, the perp will receive a minimum 6 month jail term and get to pay a \$10,000 fine.

"I don't think wer'e in Kansas anymore!"

Thanks,

*William S. Cockrell, Section Head, Advanced Programs
Mechanical Design Analysis Documentation, Raytheon Missile Systems*



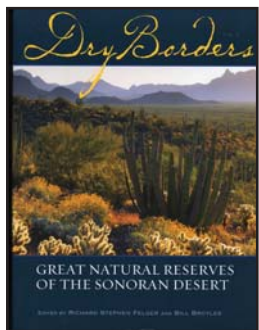
Library

The Great Cacti Ethnobotany and Biogeography

By David Yetman

reviews the more than one hundred species of columnar cacti, with detailed discussions of some 75 that have been the most beneficial to humans or are most spectacular. Focusing particularly on northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States, Yetman examines the role of each species in human society, describing how cacti have provided food, shelter, medicine, even religiously significant hallucinogens.

Dry Borders great Natural Reserves of the Sonoran Desert. By R. S. Felger & B. Broyles



The book is divided into six sections: I. The Place—delves into the geography and geology of the region, giving shape to its rivers and ranges. II. People of the Place—introduces those who make the desert their home, including both native peoples and visiting scientists. III. The Desert—discusses birds, bugs, and botany, all the things that live and grow in the borderlands. IV. The Gulf—examines the waters and the aquatic life of the region from the Colorado River to the Sea of Cortez. V. Conservation—focuses on protecting and preserving the desert and its increasingly endangered species

into the future. VI. Place-names—include a geographic dictionary. 816 pages, 8 ½ x 11, 321 halftones, 80 color photographs, 27 illustrations, 5 maps.

Joie Giunta

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Volunteers: Nancy Reid

volunteer@tucsoncactus.org

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy:

15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

March Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with M to T, please bring your choice of refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

**Bring your friends, join in the fun,
and meet the cactus and
succulent community.**

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Cacti Rescued
189 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale
Visit our next Sale for selections

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)
 Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

March 2008	
Thursday, March 6	7:00 pm General Meeting and Presentation by Brian Kemble: <i>"Grass Aloes and other botanical treats from the hills of eastern South Africa"</i>
Tuesday, March 11	7:00 pm Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Saturday & Sunday, March 8-9	Fiesta de las Flores hosted by the Tucson Orchid Society and Green Things



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
 7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
 Tucson, AZ 85715-3537