



# KERR COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

The KCCSS meets on the third Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm in the conference room of the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, in Kerrville. Visitors are always welcome.

Membership dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. The membership year starts in July.

|   |              |              |             |                        |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|
| President   | Mike Sykos   | 830-896-7425 | Newsletter* | Bill & Cheryl Wildfong | 830-896-8940 |
| Treasurer   | Allen Duncan | 830-896-5582 | Library     | Elliot Hatch           | 830-896-3891 |
| Secretary   | Edna Platte  | 830-257-2185 | Historian   | Natalie Fagarason      | 830-792-5421 |
| Past President  | Bob Taylor   | 830-792-3773 | Director    | Larry Fagarason        | 830-792-5421 |
| VP, Programs — shared between Larry Fagarason 830-792-5421 & Bill Gibson 830-896-1229 |              |              |             |                        |              |

\* Items for the newsletter are due the FIRST Tuesday of the month. Email them to [wildfong@windstream.net](mailto:wildfong@windstream.net)  
(Snail-mail: 342 West Water St., Kerrville TX 78028; fax 928-752-5463)

## It Was a Great Party!

Those of us attending the annual KCCSS Christmas dinner at Inn of the Hills on December 6 had a wonderful time, with plenty of good food and friendly conversation. As usual, Bob Taylor brought magnificent long-stemmed roses for the ladies.

We hope y'all remembered from our last newsletter that there was no regular meeting this month.

## Refreshments

Here's our new lineup of volunteers for refreshments in 2009:

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| January   | Natalie Fagarason               |
| February  | Judy Surles & Cheryl Drumheller |
| March     | Bill & Cheryl Wildfong          |
| April     | Rose Marie Turner               |
| May       | Mary McFadin & Betty Collins    |
| June      | Bonnie & Bob Taylor             |
| July      | Mike Sykos                      |
| August    | Norma Lozano                    |
| September | Buddy & Evelyn Weaver           |
| October   | Wendell & Gayle Bingham         |
| November  | Bill Gibson                     |

Thanks, y'all!  
And thank you Natalie, for recruiting these folks.

# Merry Christmas



# Happy New Year

## Coming Events

**Kerrville— Feb 18:** Brown Bag Lunch and Learn "Home Energy Conservation." Riverside Nature Center; 12 noon - 1:00pm. Presented by Bob Keeler, KPUB. Save energy and money, from simple steps you can take to cut energy use to increasing energy efficiency through out your home. You can help the environment and your pocket book.  
<[www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org)>

# Meeting Minutes

KCCSS Minutes November 18

Mike Sykos, president, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Bill Gibson discussed the Sleepy Orange butterfly that is now very active, and books about the sansevieria succulent.

People signed up to bring refreshments in 2009.

Wendell Bingham displayed his Tiger Jaw succulent, a native of South Africa. It had many yellow flowers.

Robert Taylor announced the Saturday, December 6 Christmas dinner at Inn of the Hills at 6:00 p.m. Use the buffet line and sit in the Garden Room.

Mike Sykos thanked the Wildfongs for the excellent newsletter and the website.

John Farmer showed off the big dark red fruit from his cereus peruvianus.

Allen Duncan discussed Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society's Cactus Rescue. They rescue barrel cactus, ocotillos, hedgehog cactus and Saguaro so these cacti are not lost to real estate development. This project is monitored and sponsored by governmental agencies. The cacti are sold to club members, go to hospitals schools and other institutions, the subdivision to use for landscaping and some are sold to the general public.

After the drawing, the meeting was adjourned.

*Edna Platte, Secretary*

## Rocks and Cacti

What do they have in common?

For Harrison Yocum of Tucson, Arizona, they both involve discovery, creativity and life experiences. His yard is a sight not to be missed, with palm trees, boojum trees, and many varieties of cacti and exotic plants. It includes a miniature rock mountain range and retaining walls built from petrified wood, quartz, calcite, jasper, epidote, onyx, and other found treasures, with cacti dispersed among them. It's the result of 30 years of dedicated collecting and constructing.

Harrison was born April 2, 1923 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he developed an interest in plants which eventually led to a master's degree in botany and horticulture, and a teaching job in El Paso, Texas. While in El Paso he joined a cactus & rock club, which began his interest in rockhounding.

In 1960 Harrison moved to Tucson, for a research position at

the University of Arizona, and started his garden, which included the 30 kinds of palm trees and other exotic plants he had been accumulating since his youth. Since then he and his parents, who moved to Tucson in 1967, have made the garden what it is today.

In December 1964 Harrison founded the Tucson Botanical Garden ([tucsonbotanical.org](http://tucsonbotanical.org)) in honor of his parents. In 1973 he was offered the job of Landscape Superintendent at Tucson Airport. Thanks to his efforts, in 1975 *Ground Maintenance* magazine declared it the best-landscaped airport in the United States.

—summarized by Cheryl from "Rockhounding Pioneer Harrison Yocum," *Rock & Gem* magazine, Dec. 2008.

[www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)

Photos from a Google image search:



## BOOK RECALL

We're **still** missing some valuable books from our library, which people borrowed but never returned. Check around the house to see whether you have one or two of these books. If you do, **please return them**, so others can enjoy them.

## Another Call for Dues!

Some folks haven't paid their July 2008 → June 2009 dues yet. KCCSS membership is still only \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. If you haven't paid yet please do so at the next meeting, or mail a check (made out to KCCSS) to Allan Duncan, 100 Valley Ridge Dr, Kerrville TX 78028.

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