

# 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)

## Our January 20 Meeting

Bill Gibson will do a show-and-tell about "Roughing it in Big Bend Cactus Country." He and some other KCCSS members recently camped and hiked the Big Bend area.



## Refreshments

These kind folks have volunteered to cater our refreshments in 2009:

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| January   | Natalie Fagarason               |
| February  | Judy Surlis & 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!

## Meeting Minutes

There are no minutes for December. As we announced in the November newsletter, we had our annual Christmas dinner at Inn of the Hills on December 6 in place of our regular meeting. We had a wonderful time, with plenty of yummy food and friendly conversation. As usual, Bob Taylor made the arrangements; and he brought magnificent long-stemmed roses for the ladies.

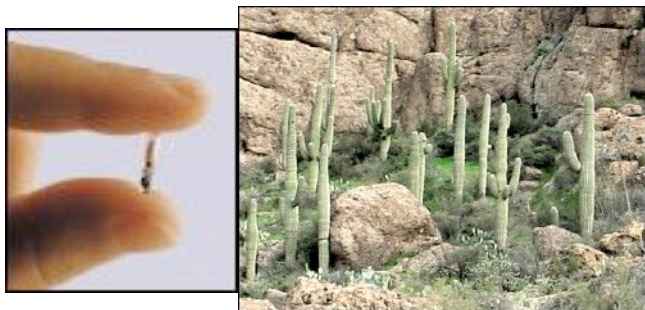
## Coming Events

**Feb 18, KERRVILLE, TX:** 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)>

**April 4-5, AUSTIN, TX:** ACSS Spring Show & Sale; Austin Area Garden Center at Zilker Botanical Garden; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. [As we go to press, the show info on their website, <[austiness.com](http://austiness.com)>, has not been updated].

**April 10-15, TUCSON, AZ:** CSSA Convention; world renowned speakers, rare and unusual plants, pots, artwork and books will be available for purchase and there will be an assortment of interesting trips to local gardens and habitat. For *much* more info, visit <[www.2009.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.2009.tucsoncactus.org)>

**April 23-25, SAN ANTONIO:** SACXS Annual Show & Sale, 8:00 am till 5:00 PM. This is a State Juried Show. Plant Auction on Friday and Saturday at 2PM. Located at the San Antonio Garden Center on N. New Braunfels and Funston St. Open to the public. Website: <[sacxs.org](http://sacxs.org)>



## Poachers Beware!

Two years ago thieves pulled off one of the highest-profile heists in Arizona history. Their loot: 17 saguaro cacti they uprooted from Saguaro National Park near Tucson. The 35- to 70-year-old plants each stand five to seven feet tall and can fetch \$2,000 apiece from landscapers. "We have an active patrol," says the park's chief ranger, Bob Love, "but we can't be every place all the time." To stop the pillaging, Bob and his team will imbed microchips, like those used to identify pets, in 1,000 cacti throughout the 91,000-acre park.

With the tags in place, rangers can scan suspicious cacti in truck beds and at nurseries to make sure they weren't pilfered. Ideally, Bob says, the mere presence of the tags will deter theft. The penalty for cactus theft in Arizona can be thousands of dollars and years in jail.

The technology will also make it easier for scientists to keep track of some of the park's 1.3 million saguaros and record their location, health and growth rate.

Bob calculates that the tags and scanners will cost the park around \$5,000. That might sound like a bargain to city officials implementing a similar system in Palm Desert, California, where thieves have made off with 50 barrel cacti and agave plants in the past six months, a haul worth \$20,000. He still needs to confirm that the chips won't hurt the saguaros, but he expects to begin tagging plants by the end of the year.

—Paraphrased from an article by Corey Binns in *Popular Science*, February 2009

## Doris Uhl

As many of you know, Doris and her husband Marvin were charter members of KCCSS, but resigned a few years ago when Marvin's health limited their activities (he died in June 2008, and we published his obituary in our August newsletter).

Doris says she's doing well and misses our fellowship, but lives too far away to attend our meetings. If you would like to keep in touch, here's her address and phone number:

Doris Uhl  
PO Box 1273  
Castroville TX 78009  
830-538-2083

## 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 still 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.