

Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society News

Our January 17 Meeting Will be at the WF Bank

During the Library remodeling, we'll be meeting in the **Wells Fargo Bank** building at "Five Points" (the corner of Junction Highway and West Water Street). Entry is from the west side door into the elevator lobby, and up to the second floor to room 230 (around to the left).



Cindy Arredondo
"Gardener of the Week" photo from the
Central Texas Gardener website

Our speaker will be Cindy Arredondo, from *Desert to Tropics* Nursery in Del Valle (a little southeast of Austin). Cindy has appeared on several episodes of Central Texas Gardener on PBS. She's the enthusiastic, knowledgeable lady who gave our January presentation last year. This time, she'll be talking about cold-hardy C&S, both for a "regular" winter and one like we had last winter when it got so cold for 3 days. She will also cover C&S that go dormant during the summer when temps get high, and how they should be cared for.

Refreshments

Our thanks to these kind folks have volunteered to cater our meeting refreshments in 2012.

Jan	Natalie Fagarason
Feb	Buddy Weaver
Mar	?
Apr	Bob & Kay Savage
May	Willie Young
Jun	Bill & Cheryl Wildfong
Jul	Edna Platte
Aug	?
Sep	Betty Collins & Mary McFadin
Oct	Wendell & Gayle Bingham
Nov	?
Dec	<i>Christmas Party!</i>



A good time was had by all at our Christmas dinner!
Photos by Larry Fagarason.

Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Wendell Bingham.

The Christmas dinner will be at 6:30, Saturday December 3 at Inn of the Hills.

Edna Platte provided the refreshments.

Bob Savage presented the program: a show and tell for the following genera/types of succulents: *Mammillaria*, *anacampseros* (*avonia*), crested plants and blooming plants.

The meeting was adjourned after the raffle drawing.

Respectfully submitted,
Edna Platte, Secretary

[There are no minutes for December, because there was no business meeting.]



More Christmas dinner photos by Larry

Above: KCCSS President & First Lady
Wendell & Gayle Bingham

Below: Bob & Bonnie Taylor; as in previous years,
Bob made the arrangements for our dinner.



The Show-and-Tell plants at the November meeting.

Below: Howard Platte inspecting Bob Savage's
crested *echinocereus*.



From Bobby Crabb's Facebook, dated 9/2/10:
"A *Pereskia weberiana*, a cactus with true
leaves. I have had this plant for five or six
years. It finally bloomed."



TACSS Executive Director's Message

As another year goes by, there are many people to thank. **Thanks to Larry Fagarason, Wendell Bingham, Bob Savage and the team of volunteers from KCCSS for their efforts in making the 2011 TACSS Fall Seminar the resounding success it was.** Thanks to Bill Utley, Ross Floyd, Josie Watts and Pete Stankunis for contributing their time and efforts to make the past two years pass smoothly.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to work with them. Thanks to Bruce Moffett for getting the new TACSS website up and running. I appreciate his time and financial contribution (domain registration fee for the first year). The site looks great! Please check it out (www.tacss.us).

I look forward to working with Josie Watts, Richard Stamper, **Bob Savage and Claude Townsend** in the next two years. We will be meeting in Austin on April 14, 2012 for the TACSS Spring Business Meeting in conjunction with the ACSS Spring Show and Sale and again in Dallas in October for the 2012 TACSS Fall Seminar. Pete Stankunis and Irwin Lightstone are already busy working on securing a venue and making plans for another fun-filled, informative weekend.

Be advised that 2012 TACSS associate dues (for individuals)* and society dues (for member clubs) are now due. If you have questions about how much you owe, feel free to contact me.

Happy New Year!

Michael Rupe
Executive Director / Newsletter Editor
1709 Primrose Trail
Round Rock, TX 78664-2628
512-695-5575
epur@sbcglobal.net

* TACSS associate members receive direct mailing of the newsletter and other TACSS publications. Associate membership dues are \$5.00 annually for one or more individuals at the same address. Mail dues to the address above. You may pay for more than one year if you like.

—From TACSS Statement 12/11 (bold type added by KCCSS editors)

Tunas, Anyone?



One of my favorite cacti is the Texas Cow's Tongue Prickly Pear, a.k.a. *Opuntia engelmannii* var. *linguiformis*. The weirdly elongated pads of this variety are so uniquely Texan. The large and luscious fruits or "tunas" of Cow's tongue prickly pear are an intense, nearly maroon, red. This deep color is caused by a group of plant pigments called *Betalains*. Betalains are found in the fruits of opuntias and other cacti, and are responsible for pigmentation of pink and red flowers such as those seen in *Mammillaria* species. Besides causing staining when fruits are handled, Betalains may have anti-cancer or anti-oxidant properties.

When the Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca journeyed through the area now known as Texas, he encountered numerous Indian tribes who relied upon the prickly pear cactus for survival. In his writings, Cabeza de Vaca described how the natives would gorge themselves on the "Tunas". In fact, he and his men also subsisted on the fruits. C. de Vaca would've had a problem this year, since drought has really stunted the formation of flowers and fruit on all of the *Opuntia* species in our region. I've noticed very few tunas this year.

By the way, if you happen to harvest any tunas, there are numerous prickly pear fruit recipes available on the internet.

Ann Black, SACXS President

—From SACXS Facts, 11/11

Coming Events



April 14-15, AUSTIN: ACSS Spring Show & Sale; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Austin Area Garden Center at Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd; <austiness.com>

April 26- 28, SAN ANTONIO: SACXS Annual Show & Sale; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Rare Plant Auction on Friday and Saturday at 2:00 p.m.; San Antonio Garden Center; 555 Funston at North New Braunfels Avenue; <www.sacxs.org>

May 11 - 13, FORT WORTH: FWCSS Spring Show & Sale; Ridgemar Mall, 1888 Green Oaks Road (off I-30); contact John Andrews at <fwcactus@gmail.com> for more info.

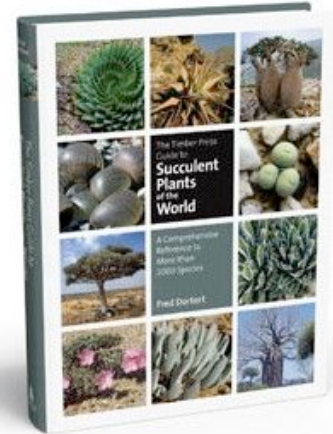
June 15 - 20, Austin: 35th CSSA Biennial Convention; see <www.cssainc.org> for more info coming soon.



A closer look at Bobby's *Pereskia weberiana* (see page 2)

Introducing

The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World
by Fred Dortort



A comprehensive guide to more than 2000 succulents, this groundbreaking book begins with an overview of where succulents are found and how they live, along with information on growing and caring for them. The remaining chapters consist of detailed, richly illustrated descriptions of the plants, including both familiar species as well as less common, more exotic plants. Each entry includes information on the plant's native habitat, its cultivation requirements, and its horticultural potential. As useful to novice growers as to collectors and those with an existing interest in succulents, this thorough, accessible volume will be the standard reference for years to come.

\$49.95 from <www.timberpress.com>, or \$32.97 from <www.amazon.com>

—*from an email we received recently (we added the amazon.com price)*

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 (except in December, when we have our Christmas party: time & place varies). **Visitors are always welcome.**

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

President Wendell Bingham ..830-895-7010
VP-Programs..... Bob Savage325-622-4664
Treasurer Buddy Weaver830-896-3777
Secretary Edna Platte830-257-2185
Past President.... Bob Richie830-257-8939

LibraryElliot Hatch830-896-3891
HistorianNatalie Fagarason.....830-792-5421
DirectorLarry Fagarason.....830-792-5421
Newsletter*Bill & Cheryl Wildfong.....830-896-8940

* **Items for the newsletter** are due the **FIRST** Tuesday of the month. Email them to wildfong@windstream.net (Snail-mail: Bill & Cheryl Wildfong, 342 West Water St., Kerrville TX 78028)