



# DESERT BREEZE

NEWSLETTER OF THE TUCSON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

A DECADE AMONGST THE RETROSE BARBS:  
RECENT ADVENTURES AND ADVANCES IN CYLINDROPUNTIA RESEARCH

PRESENTED BY: MICHELLE CLOUD-HUGHES

The cholla cacti (*Cylindropuntia*) are often considered a nuisance by humans, yet they are a vitally important component of their native habitats, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem processes both above and below ground. The past decade of our research into this understudied but fundamental element of our desert ecosystems has resulted in new knowledge, new names, and new questions. In this presentation, I'll discuss the role of cholla in our desert ecosystems, our cholla adventures and research over the past decade, and ongoing explorations into this fearsome yet fascinating group of cacti.

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Michelle and *Cylindropuntia alcahes sub. giantensis*



Michelle with *Cylindropuntia davisii* and *imbricata*

INTERESTED IN THIS  
PROGRAM?

For more information on attending this program  
(in person or through zoom) please refer to page 13.



# MEET THE PRESENTER

## MEET MICHELLE – SURVEYOR, BOTANIST, AND DESERT ENTHUSIAST



Michelle Cloud-Hughes is an independent botanist and restoration ecologist specializing in the desert flora and ecosystems of North America. After 17 years with the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group at San Diego State University, she started her company, **Desert Solitaire Botany and Ecological Restoration** in 2010.

Since then, she has worked on many rare plant surveys and other botanical and restoration projects throughout the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. She is an authority on the genus *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) and an author of *Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*, a rare California endemic and the most recent addition to California's cactus flora. Her research focuses mainly on the evolutionary relationships within the cholla tribe, with occasional detours into other cactus genera including *Pediocactus* and *Echinocereus*.



Michelle and *Cylindropuntia imbricata*  
sub. *spinosior*



Michelle and *Cylindropuntia*  
*multigeniculata*

# Reminder

## MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Please share and socialize with your fellow members at our monthly meetings by bringing some type of finger food for the refreshment table. For the **JUNE MEETING** we are asking members whose last names begin with **"O" through "Z"** to bring something that would serve 10-12 people.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the next 2 years we will be planning, developing and organizing activities as the host for the 2027 Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) International Convention in Tucson. There will be lots of opportunities for your input and participation. Look for a monthly column in this newsletter about Tucson 2027. This is the most fun and rewarding activity a cactus society can have. It is also a lot of work, but easy when all of you participate. We have signed a lease agreement with TUSD for the use of 3 classrooms and other spaces at the former Nan Lyons Elementary School so that we can develop programs and have more face-to-face meetings of the Board and committees. This is a short term solution for no more than 3 years but gives us the opportunity to evaluate current and future activities. Our usage will start on July 1.



I hope you will attend our monthly meetings which have **temporarily moved to St Phillips** in the Hills church at the corner of River Rd and Campbell Ave. Check out the complete directions in this newsletter. All of our normal activities will continue at this new meeting location for June and July. Thanks to all the members who made this possible. Summer is just around the corner. Please be safe, protect yourself and your plants from extreme heat and join when you can for activities at Pima Prickly Park, Amphi area and soon at Nan Lyons. Look at the activity schedule on our website for opportunities to participate.

Thank you all for your support

Dick Wiedhopf, President

**IMPORTANT**

Temporary Meeting Site

Our monthly June and July meetings will be held at the Murphey Gallery at St. Philip's in the Hills Church, 4440 North Campbell. Located at the northeast corner of River and Campbell, it's just a stone's throw from our former meeting space at the Junior League.

The property can be accessed from westbound River Road by turning onto Camino Escuela or the next driveway before the light at Campbell. Watch for St. Philip's signs.

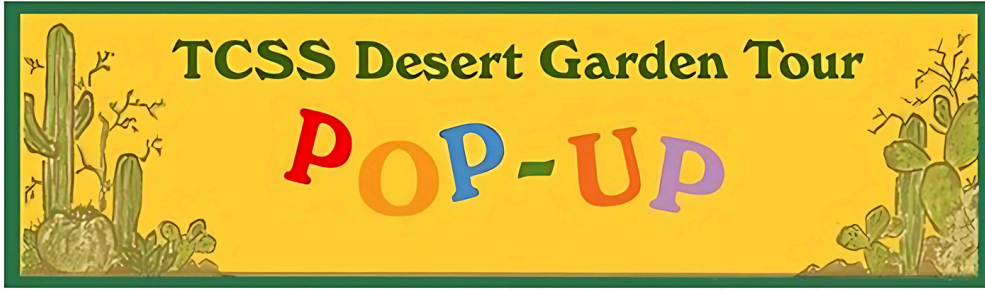
Going north on Campbell, take an immediate right onto the property after you go through the intersection and the road narrows.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, June 5 at 7:00PM

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS & PICS



If you would like to share what you've created in your desert garden with TCSS members please consider being on a TCSS Desert Garden Pop-Up Tour. These tours are usually held on Saturday mornings for about 4 hours. Our Garden Tour Committee will help arrange all of the planning and publicity so that members can take a leisurely tour of your landscape. The tour date is up to you, but we do need at least 4 weeks lead time in order to take photos and get all of the details into our monthly newsletter.

If you would like to consider having your garden on tour, please fill out the application on our website by clicking on this link [popup\\_tour\\_application.pdf](#)

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?**  
**PLEASE CONTACT:**



GARDEN TOURS  
[GARDENTOURS@TUCSONCACTUS.ORG](mailto:GARDENTOURS@TUCSONCACTUS.ORG)

## WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT IS BLOOMING IN YOUR YARD!



Photo By: Thomas Staudt



Photo By: Cathy Robson



Photo By: Cathy Cabezas



Photo By: Cathy Cabezas

**TO SUBMIT PHOTOGRAPHS**  
**PLEASE CONTACT:**



NEWSLETTER  
[NEWSLETTER@TUCSONCACTUS.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@TUCSONCACTUS.ORG)

# NATIVE & URBAN RESCUES

## NATIVE RESCUE

### UPCOMING NATIVE PLANT RESCUES

(Currently in planning stages—check TCSS website Activities Schedule for updates)

- Cemex Quarry near Old Nogales Highway
- TEP powerline in Oro Valley
- TEP powerline on Houghton
- Tucson Water near Agua Caliente Park
- Mattamy Homes near Vail

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR YOUR PLANTS



### COCHINEAL SPRAY

SUBMITTED BY: VONN WATKINS

- 1 cup Dawn Dish Liquid
- 1 cup Pine Sol
- 1 cup Alcohol
- 1 tablespoon Neem Oil
- Fill up with water

(MAKES 1 GALLON)

Spray infected plants as needed

If you have a helpful hint for your cacti and succulent plants send it to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.



# K-12 EDUCATION

**The K-12 Education Outreach** On May 2, we had a large booth at Pima Community College, Northwest Campus for their STEAM Night and presentation of students' research posters. Our booth had lots of interest from people of all ages (and professions) wanting to plant saguaro seed terrariums.



The week of May 5, we held classes daily for each of the first grade STEM classes at Senita Valley Elementary, and finished the week at Kellond Elementary's STEAM and Fine Art Night.

Our last event of the school year was at Lineweaver Elementary on May 20. The class had just returned from their adventures at Camp Cooper and wanted to learn even more about cactus and succulents.



2025 UA grad, Jenna Franea, taught dozens of third graders how to fold a Cactus Catcher and play the Help Protect Our Cactus game that was created by her grandfather, Joe. The students had so much fun!

Special thanks to our instructors during May: Edie Campbell, Jillian Echlin, Jenna Franea and Janine Malkin.



# TCSS DIRECTORY

## TCSS OFFICERS

Terms expire December 31, 2026

**PRESIDENT:** Dick Wiedhopf

- [president@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:president@Tucsoncactus.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Vonn Watkins

- [vp@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:vp@Tucsoncactus.org)

**SECRETARY:** Barbara Watts

- [secretary@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:secretary@Tucsoncactus.org)

**TREASURER:**

- [treasurer@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:treasurer@Tucsoncactus.org)



Photo By: Dick Wiedhopf



Photo by: Dick Wiedhopf

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms expire December 31 of year indicated

RAY FISHER (2027)

DONNA ELLIS (2026)

BRIAN VANDERVOET (2025)

RANDY HELLWIG (2027)

KRIS THOMPSON (2026)

BRAD HAECKEL (2025)

AMY PEARSE (2027)

EDIE CAMPBELL (2026)

JOEL FONTAINE (2025)

CLARKE STEPHENS (2027)

JULIE SHULICK (2026)

STEVE WATTS (2025)

CSSA AFFILIATE REP: MICHIEL PILLET (2025)



# PROGRAM CONTACTS

**Cactus Rescue:** Donna Ellis & Steve Watts • [cactus@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:cactus@tucsoncactus.org)

**Urban Rescues:** Julie Shulick • [desertrat@shulick.com](mailto:desertrat@shulick.com)

**Education:** Kris Thompson • [education@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:education@tucsoncactus.org)

**Free Plants:** Mark Stubbs • [plants@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:plants@tucsoncactus.org)

**Florilegium:** Joyce Peters • [art@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:art@tucsoncactus.org)

**Garden Tours:** Patsy Frannea • [tours@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:tours@tucsoncactus.org)

**Librarian:** Brad Haeckel • [librarian@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:librarian@tucsoncactus.org)

**Prickly Park:** Linda Heisley • [park@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:park@tucsoncactus.org)

**Programs:** Vonn Watkins • [programs@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:programs@tucsoncactus.org)

**Publicity:** Patrick Cavanaugh • [publicity@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:publicity@tucsoncactus.org)

**Refreshments:** Patsy Frannea • [refreshments@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:refreshments@tucsoncactus.org)

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**Field Trips/Tours:** Open

**Vendor Coordinator:** Dale Johnson • [vendors@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:vendors@tucsoncactus.org)

**Plant Sales:** Open

**Field Guide Sales:** Susan Durham & John Durham • [books@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:books@tucsoncactus.org)

**Conservation:** Michiel Pillet • [conservation@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:conservation@tucsoncactus.org)

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**Webmaster:** Julie Schulick • [webmaster@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:webmaster@tucsoncactus.org)

**Deadline for newsletters articles or photos: Third Thursday of the Month by 4:00P**

TCSS Web Page: [www.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.tucsoncactus.org)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS 2025

ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

EDIE CAMPBELL

DALE & DAVID BIRCHLER

RION BOWERS

PAUL BRENNER

CHERYL & DOUG CHANG

NAN COURSEY

STEPHAN DONOVAN & DAVID BARLOW

BRENDA McKINNEY

JIM & NANCY PORTER

BETH & PETE RONDELLO

MICHAEL ROTH

ROSS & MICHELLE SCHERER

NICOLE SCOTT & BEN RATHBONE

BRUCE & MARSHA WEBER

DONATIONS AS OF MAY  
25<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

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# JUNE

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Monthly Meeting 7:00pm	6	7
8	9	10 Board Meeting 7:00pm	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM INFORMATION

### LOCATION



ZOOM  
[Click Here](#) or  
 scan to join the  
 Meeting



### BOARD MEETING

[Click Here](#) or  
 scan to join the  
 Meeting



### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- If you are not feeling well, **PLEASE** stay home and join us on Zoom.
- Plant Giveaways (only in person, not shown on Zoom).
- Refreshments provided by TCSS Volunteers
- Free Plants offered by TCSS

Having trouble  
 logging on?  
[Click Here](#) for  
 some helpful tips



# MEETING LOCATION

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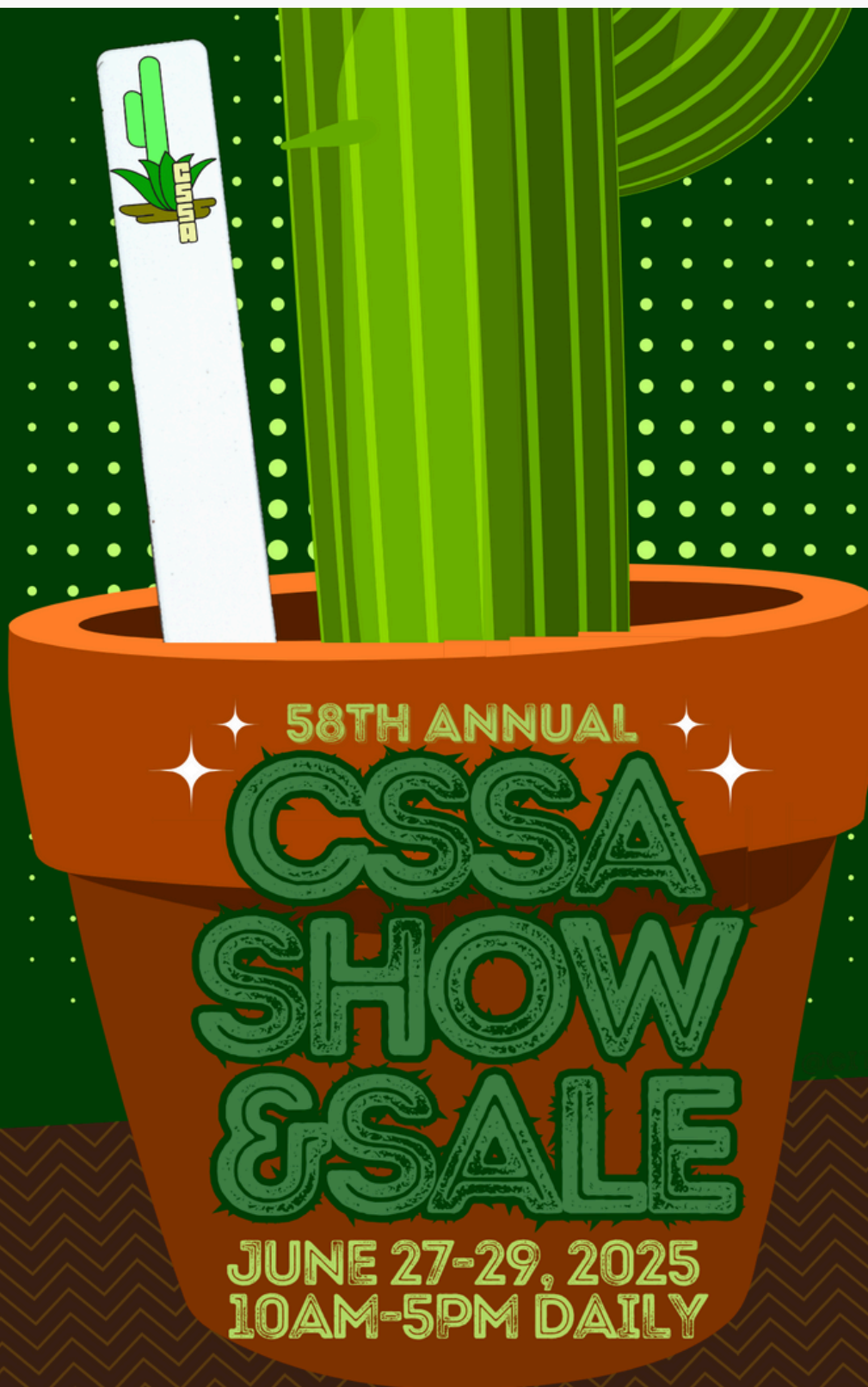
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*Reminder* →

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**@ THE HUNTINGTON**  
1151 OXFORD RD, SAN MARINO, CA

**CSSASHOW.COM + @CSSASHOW**



CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
58th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE  
AT THE HUNTINGTON

Dates: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 27th – 29th, 2025

Location: The Huntington: 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA  
The Botanical Center. Contact 626-405-3571

Sale and Show: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 5:00pm

Show set-up: Wednesday, June 25th 9:00 am – 1:00pm

Enter plants: Wednesday, June 25th 1:00pm – 6:00pm & Thursday, June 26th  
9:00am – 4:00pm. Judging starts at 5:00pm Thursday

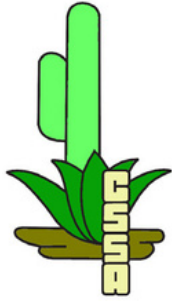
Dinner: Saturday, June 28th at 6:00pm, \$35 dinner. Menu: Mediterranean-style  
buffet provided by Bon Appétit. Contact Barbara Hall by cell phone 818-429-6914  
or email lbcjhall@aol.com for reservation information. Reservations must be  
made by June 20th.

Auction: Saturday, June 28th at 7:00pm. Items need to be registered by 2:00pm.  
There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and a Live Auction (35 items max.)  
after dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items: 2 items per  
person/business marked as donation or split (70/30)

Tear down: Sunday, June 29th 5:00pm

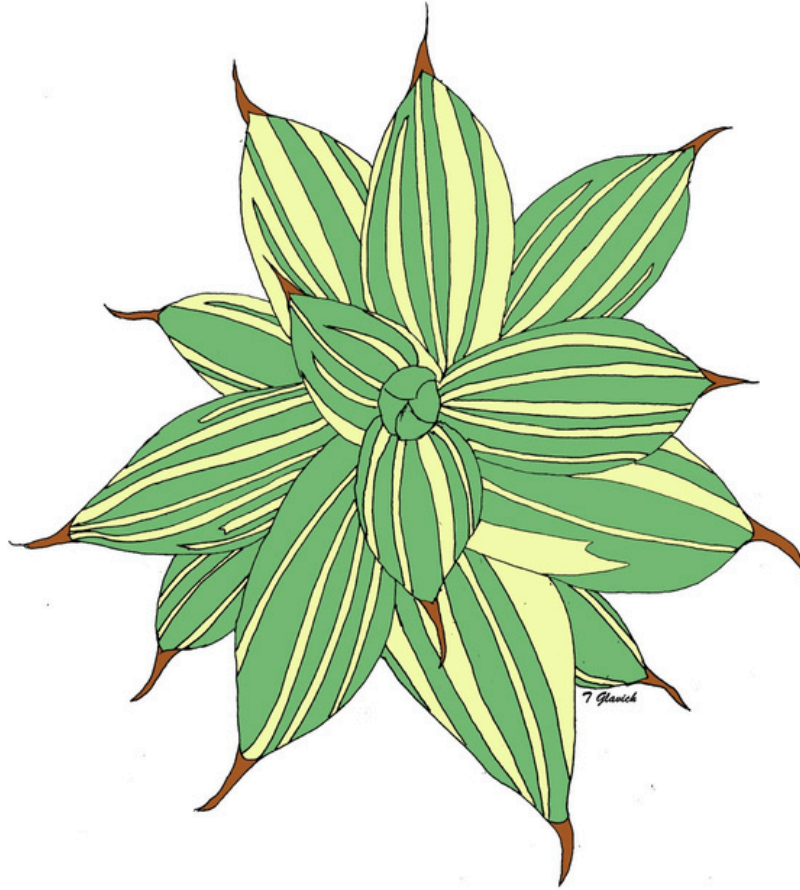
- CSSA Club Affiliates need to pass this information on to their club members. Show Schedules & Indexes will be available online through your Club newsletter or website & [www.cssashow.com](http://www.cssashow.com). Entry tags will be available at many of the local clubs & at the show. I can mail entry tags upon request.
- All Vendors, Volunteers or Show participants need to wear their club badges (if you have one) and a HBG wrist band each day they participate. These will be distributed by the Show Chair each day. Please go directly to the Botanical Center and not through the front entrance.
- For those NOT participating, special passes for this event will no longer be distributed ahead of time. Information regarding complimentary entry for CSSA & CSS Club Members will be forthcoming in May or June. At this time, entry to the HBG is by advance online reservation on Fridays and weekends, no walk-ins. Stay tuned for updates!
- There are opportunities to participate/volunteer in this year's show, in the showroom or sales areas, information table, holding area, welcome table at the HBG entry and for setup/teardown. All participants receive a show T-Shirt as a thank you. See you at the Show!

Nick Renteria Phone: 323-428-2215 (cell)  
CSSA Annual Show Chair Email: [Nick\\_Renteria@yahoo.com](mailto:Nick_Renteria@yahoo.com)



# CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

## 58th Annual Show and Sale



**SHOW & SALE: Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
**June 27th -29th 2025 10 am to 5 pm**  
**at**

**THE HUNTINGTON**

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA  
626.405.3571

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

**For the complete Show Booklet**  
**Please [click here](#)**

**For the complete Indices**  
**Please [click here](#)**