



SACXS FACTS

Newsletter for the San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society

July 2010

Volume 22, Number 7

“The San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society was organized in 1977 to promote the study, propagation, conservation and public awareness of cacti and other succulent plants.”

Hello Fellow SACXS Members,

The dog days of summer have arrived. It is now officially summer even though the temperatures have felt summer-like for quite awhile. It's nice to have time off for summer vacation but the heat makes it hard to get much done outside past 1:00 PM. We have been having some critter visitors recently. The scorpions are invading the house. I make sure I have shoes on at all times. Outside there has been interesting action at the bird feeders. The raccoons and the javelina work as a team with the coons scattering seed and sometimes throwing the feeders to the ground and the javelinas scarfing up the seed on the ground and keeping the dogs away. I can always tell when the javelinas are out there because the dogs start barking like crazy and I can hear the javelinas scraping their tusks together. Oh my, life in the country.

Now that summer is here, I know many members take time away from their routine and travel to other parts of Texas, other parts of the country, or even to places outside our country. If you visit some places that showcase cactus and succulents, or other desert plants, please take lots of pictures and think about putting together a program to share with other SACXS members. Also, be on the lookout for potential speakers for our meetings and pass on some names to Claude Townsend. Our very own SACXS member, Bjorn Steffensen, is one member who is stepping forward to give a program about a cactus garden he visited in Vancouver, British Columbia. Be sure to attend the July meeting to hear Bjorn speak about this unusual garden in the city which hosted the Winter Olympics.

I want to thank Ernie Akers for agreeing to fill the open board director position. We still have an opening for third vice president, who arranges field trips. I have someone in mind, but the position is open to anyone who would like to provide SACXS members with hunts in the field or visits to gardens or greenhouses.

One last comment to all members. We are so happy to have people join SACXS as new members and have current members renew their membership. We encourage you to attend meetings and special events and get to know everyone in the society. With your membership comes some responsibilities. Occasionally you will be asked to provide refreshments, auction plants, present a program, write a newsletter article, or volunteer your services. Please do your part when asked. I'm hoping to see lots of members at our July meeting.

Barbara

Barbara Schulze, SACXS President
Visit our website at www.sacxs.org



Don't Miss the June Meeting! Read on for Important Information!!

SACXS BOARD MEMBERS



President: Barbara Schulze 830-281-5766 **1st Vice President:** Claude Townsend 210-655-8959
2nd Vice President: Tony Garcia 210-733-7470 **3rd Vice President:** Bill Bauta 210-497-1362
Secretary: Bjorn Steffenson 210-479-3717 **Publicity Secretary:** Randy Schulze 830-281-5766
Treasurer: Chad Booth 210-349-1239 **Directors:** Cal Eichler 210-828-0833
Doug Coates 210-659-7279 David Dawson 210-336-8621

SACXS FACTS Editor: annblack@gvtc.com

July 21 Meeting Information



“Overcoming the Odds-- An Island Cactus Garden Near Rainy Vancouver BC”

Vancouver is the famous city of the 2010 Winter Olympics. Our speaker, Bjorn Steffenson, is a board member of SACXS. There will be a show & tell at this meeting, so bring some interesting plants. They should be labeled with at least the common name. This would be a good time for you to get them named properly for the April show. For more information call or email Claude at 210-655-8959 or ctownsend@satx.rr.com

Social time begins at 6:30 pm. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm.
SACXS meets at the San Antonio Garden Center.
Visitors are welcome.

July 21 Member Assignments

Auction:

*Doug Coates 210-659-7279
Rudy Brieno 210-673-2715
John Carlin 210-384-4820
Don Clark 830-230-5454

***First person on each list, please call the others to remind them**

Refreshments:

*Tony Garcia 312-213-2842
Monika Winkler 210-379-7648
Laurence Gonzalez 210-707-3507
Bill Hildebrand 210-545-4031
Robert Ierien 830-253-8714



***First person on each list, please call the others to remind them**

Please feel free to call Cal Eichler if you have any questions.

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**Meeting
Minutes
for May
19, 2010**

1.	Meeting called to order	6:20 PM
2.	Members present	B. Shulze (BS), D. Coates (DC), C. Townsend (CT), C. Booth (CB), D. Dawson (DD), S. Yarborough (SY), D. Clark (DC), C. Eichler (CE), T. Garcia (TG)
3.0	March meeting minutes	Minutes read and approved with amendment per 3.1.
3.1	Amendment to March minutes	D. Coates made correction to entry 5: change <i>March</i> to <i>May</i> .
4.0	Treasurer's report	CB submitted his report. checking balance (03/08/2010) \$275.43 checking balance (05/10/2010) \$120.05 savings balance \$8001.79 total deposits \$188.46 closing balance \$8121.84 show account \$4000.00
4.1	Vendor payments	One vendor has not paid dues of \$10.
4.2	TCXS dues	BS inquired if TACXS dues need to be paid for new members. CE said these would not need to be paid until 2011.
5.	Membership report	TG reported 22 new members joining in April. A total of \$195 was collected from dues. 30 former members have not renewed; TG attempted to contact 10 by phone and spoke to 4. TG will continue to try to reach the other six. These former members commented that they could not afford the time for meetings or were otherwise uninterested. A comment was made about the meetings being redundant. No opinions were given on how to improve the club. CE suggested that the remaining members on the phone list be contacted by the phone committee. Total club membership stands at 79, including life members.
6.	Program report	CT reports that the June meeting presentation will be given by BS or Ann Black. CT himself will do a program in the next couple of months on plant care. BS cannot do the July presentation due to vacation plans.
7.0	Opening and closing time for Garden Center	CE reported that the new opening time will be 6:30 PM and the closing time will be 9:30 PM. CE will act as the attendant and have the key. The new fee will be \$15/h.
7.1	Board meeting schedule	Due to the change in opening time, the board meetings will be held at CT's home on the 2 nd Tuesday of each month starting at 6:30 PM.
8.0	Show news	DC presented a financial data for the show and sale. At this time we have \$1010.91 net proceeds from the show. However, insurance will have to be paid. Anticipated proceeds are in excess of \$1000. A review of the 2010 show and sale will be conducted at the June board meeting A \$5 charge was collected from board members in connection with show book page fees.
8.1	Security deposit	SACXS will lose security deposit of \$500 to Garden Center due to scratches on stage resulting from pot movement during show & sale.
8.2	2010 Show and Sale review	A review of the 2010 show and sale will be conducted at the June board meeting to include Paul Kibler, DC, and Ann Black.
8.3	Fiesta medals	CT reported \$1008.56 from partial sales of Fiesta medals. Profit will be realized fully in June.
9.	Alamo Area Horticultural Show	BS has entry information for this event.
10.	Cactus destruction concern	A person named Darren contacted SACXS concerning the destruction of roadside cacti in NM during road construction and wanted to know how he could obtain a permit to collect these plants. CT suggested the NM Parks and Wildlife Department.
11.	Life members	SY and her husband Gerald will be granted life membership. This will be announced at the present meeting.
12.	Board nominations	There is an open board director position. Nominations will be sought.
13.	Civic project	BB's calls to the Autism Center were not returned. CE mentioned that the Colleen Allick had left her position there and someone else should be contacted.
14.	Newsletter interest articles	No update
15.	Board member concerns	It was agreed that instead of e-mailing the news letter, the url should be included with the e-mail to direct members to the NL on the SACXS website.
16.	Meeting adjourned	7:25 PM

Plant Facts

Plant Facts is a regular feature of SACXS Facts. Information is provided by SACXS members.



Dasyliirium texanum;

Texas Sotol

Family: Agavaceae

Hardiness zone: 8

Very drought tolerant
and deer resistant

Height: five feet, fifteen feet when in bloom.
Width: five feet. Growth Habit: clustering
or solitary; found in fields and rocky areas

It is impossible to know everything about this species- sotols are so prolific-yet so mysterious. What makes them bloom? Are they yuccas? Why do their flowers look so strange?

The Texas Sotol (also known as desert candle) is an excellent hummingbird plant and xeriscape addition. It thrives in full sun and prefers well-drained soil No supplemental irrigation is needed. Their leaves are armed with dangerous teeth, so handle with caution! The Genus is native to the Edwards Plateau, Trans-Pecos, Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico.

Ethnobotany: All parts of the plants are useful. Flower stalks, when dry, are used as building materials; in periods of drought, the succulent base is split open for grazing and many plants bear evidence of being eaten by wildlife. The heart of the sotol stem can be roasted and eaten. Leaves are used for basket weaving, mats and thatching. The alcoholic beverage “sotol” is the state drink of Chihuahua Mexico; it is prepared for fermentation by roasting and adding champagne yeast. Sotol is aged in oak-barrels, and then bottled as a beverage similar to tequila.

Propagation: Male and Female flowers are born on separate plants (they are dioecious); flowers are wind-pollinated; seed capsules mature in late summer. Individual plants live for many years-much more than a decade; each one will flower annually (unlike most agaves). Plants will form offsets at their base. Sotols must be transplanted with care; harvest stems with intact roots for best results.

Other species in the genus include *D. leiophyllum* (used more frequently for fermentation), and *D. wheeleri*.

—Ann Black

