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Kaktos Komments

a bimonthly publication of the Houston Cactus and Succulent Society
to promote the study of cacti and other succulents



Echinocactus platyacanthus
by Liliana Cracraft

Membership

Kathy Fewox

On July 25, 2018, HCSS celebrated its anniversary as we always do, by having a potluck dinner. Twenty-seven members attended the meeting. That number included three brand-new members who joined at the meeting: Suzanne Siegel, Lynne Schafer, and Victoria Castillo. Also attending were two guests, Jolie Pagel and Madeline Droog. There was lots of wonderful food, and we had a nice time visiting while we attempted to eat some of everything. The food must have destroyed my focus, because I neglected to write down all the door prize information. I do know that Bruce Moffett and Josie Watts donated something, which was won by visitor Jolie Pagel. Karla Halpaap-Wood donated an Echinocereus, but I failed to make a note of the name of the lucky winner.

Our August 22 meeting was attended by nineteen members. Also attending were ten guests: July Olson (who joined the club at the meeting), Jennifer Tevis, Andrew Bishop, Rhianna Barber, David Tam, Catherine Claussen, Jolie Pagel (who also visited in July), Leona Coffin, and John and Anna Doody. We gave away lots of nice door prizes. David Thomas donated a beautiful Euphorbia milii, which was won by Pinke Neck. Bruce Moffett and Josie watts donated a large Opuntia macromeris, which went home with guest David Tam. Cindy Gray very generously contributed several door prizes: a Tephrocactus articulata var. strobiliformis, which went home with Robert Smith; and three Tephrocactus articulata var. papyracanthus "Red Spine," which were won by Wally Ward, Jeff Boggan, and visitor Leona Coffin.

I'm still looking for someone to take my place as Membership chairperson (or whatever it is I am, or used to be, called). It's a fun job, and I'm sure somebody out there would enjoy handling this relatively undemanding position in HCSS. Please let me know if that person is you!

As always, please send any news of HCSS members and their families to kathyfewox@aim.com.

Calendar:

September 8-9, 2018 Show and Sale at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center.
9 am - 5 pm each day

September 12, 2018 7:30 pm Board Meeting at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center

September 26, 2018 7:30 pm Membership Meeting at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center.
Program by Jeff Heilers, Mercer Arboretum

October 13, 2018 TACSS seminar, Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Rd, Dallas, TX 75218

October 24, 2018 7:30 pm Membership Meeting at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center.
Program by Liliana Cracraft : History of Tequila and Mescal

August Cactus of the Month

Fred Haase

Opuntia leucotricha

My *Opuntia leucotricha* was severely damaged by the hard freezes during January of 2017 and of January of 2018. I considered changing my cactus of the month, but since the plant is still alive, I decided to go ahead and describe the plant since there may be some value in what I did to salvage the *Opuntia*. First, I will describe what the two hard freezes did to the plant and why I still have doubts about the survival of the plant.

During January of 2017, the temperature at my house dropped down to 18 degrees F. During March and April of 2017, the new cladodes that grew during the spring and summer of 2016 all died and dropped to the ground. However, since the older parts of the plant looked good, I had hopes that the plant would resume growing just fine. It did. The cladodes that grew during 2017 looked normal. However, it got even colder during the January of 2018. The temperature dropped to 17 degrees. Worse, the temperatures remained below freezing for more than 24 hours. Thus, the new cladodes all dropped off during March and April of 2018. This time parts of the older portions of the plant died. The live areas in the older parts of the plants sprouted new cladodes, but if the parts of the older cladodes had died, then the new cladodes will stop growing and die after about two months. My plant had formed three trunks that branched at ground level. However, one of the three trunks died to about 6" and collapsed. The cladodes that sprouted from the remaining 6" of the branch of one of the 3 branches are still alive but are growing. From the other two branches, new cladodes sprouted and are still growing. However, even parts of the old branches have died and the new cladodes that sprouted from the now dead branches have stopped growing. I believe that the plant will recover unless the temperature drops below 20 degrees F this coming winter. The plant is said to be hardy down to 25 F.



Opuntia leucotricha is a species of cactus with the common names: arborescent prickly pear, Aaron's pear cactus, and semaphore cactus. It is a species of *Opuntia* (prickly pear) that is endemic to Mexico. It occurs in the states of (Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Nuevo León, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, Tamaulipas, Zacatecas). Furthermore, it has become an invasive to Florida. 1.

Opuntia leucotricha is a tree-like cactus, growing up to 5 meters (16 ft) tall. Its cladodes are about 10cm to 30cm long and about 12cm wide. The areoles are small and about 1cm apart. There are 1-3 spines. The longest of the three is about 3cm. The glochids are up to 1cm in length.

The flowers are 4-5cm long and about 4-8 cm in diameter. The petals are a light yellow that shade to a dark green near the center of the flower. The style is red and the stigma is green.

The fruit is variable, globose, 4 to 6cm long. Color, white to purple, aromatic, and edible.

Although the plant grows in a semi desert, it can tolerate abundant water. My plant has been submerged in a puddle of 1-2 inches that lasted for 36 hrs. Yet, the plant survived just fine. I have had the plant for about

10 years. I am growing to in my back yard. When it rains, it is watered. The only problem I have had with the plant is when the temperature drops below 20 F.

1 *Opuntia leucotricha* - Wikipedia

2 [lifle.com/Encyclopedia/CACTI/Family/Cactaceae/9736/Opuntia_leucotricha](https://www.lifl.com/Encyclopedia/CACTI/Family/Cactaceae/9736/Opuntia_leucotricha)



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September Cactus of the Month

David Van Langen

Mammillaria wrightii

Mammillaria wrightii is a small, round soft bodied cactus only a couple inches in width and height. It is seldom seen in the cactus trade and not a very well known plant to the casual collector. The egg shaped stems are usually only a couple inches tall and wide and are covered with many light colored radial spines and one to several dark, hooked central spines. The plant has a very neat overall appearance. The flowers are very showy and well exceed most flowers of *Mammillaria*. Each purple petals are about an inch long and the edges are frilled. The flowers are almost identical to the flowers of *Coryphantha macromeris* and *Escobaria vivipara*. Flowers are followed by large grape like fruit that protrude well beyond the spines.

While not a common plant, *M wrightii* is not a rarity and covers are very wide range of territory. Its range covers most of New Mexico and into S E Arizona, Northern Mexico and is said to be found in the Franklin Mnts near El Paso. Not a cactus found in the highest





of mountains or the lower hot deserts, it is found on high desert plains and grassland and into the juniper scrub of middle elevations of desert mountains. The majority of its habitat is volcanic or igneous in origin with sandy to gravelly soil. It can handle plenty of summer heat and very cold blustery winters. Most of the rainfall in its range is from summer monsoons but is covered with snow several times a winter.

There are a few different varieties of *M wrightii* within its range. *M wrightii* var *wrightii* is the one found over most of New Mexico. *Mamm. wrightii* var. *meridiorosei* is found in the SE portion of Arizona and is most likely the same as var. *wilcoxii* *M wrightii* var *wolfii* is found in Mexico and has white flowers.

While not found in local nurseries, *Mamm wrightii* can be ordered from specialty nurseries such as Mesa Garden, Miles to Go and several online growers. An extremely gritty and free draining mix is a must and should contain little organics. Water should be given sparingly and only when dry during the growing season and

withheld from October through March as it is very rot prone and unforgiving when over loved !



September Succulent of the Month

Karla Halpaap-Wood

Sesamothamnus lugardii

Family: PEDALIACEAE (sesame family)

Other succulent genera in this family are Proboscidea (Devil's Claw), Pterodiscus, and Uncarina.

Common names: Transvaal sesame-bush, Eastern sesame-bush

Habitat: Southern Africa, grows at 180 - 1500 m above sea level. It grows singly or in groups in hot dry areas. Elephants are known to eat parts of the tree, and sometimes to uproot it.

Description: *Sesamothamnus lugardii* is a spiny shrub or small caudiciform deciduous tree, looks similar to a baobab. It has a thick swollen trunk, branches out low. Flowers are beautiful and trumpet shaped, sweet scented, but it rarely blooms. Blooming season is in the summer. Mine has never bloomed, is probably not mature enough. Stem is swollen at the base up to 1 m diameter. The bark is brownish, peels off in small flakes and shows shiny green underneath. It has single short spines that start out soft, but later become sharp. It makes woody fruits about 4-6 cm long, splits open to release seeds.

The plant is named *lugardii* after Edward James Lugard (1865-1957, a British naturalist who collected plants in Namaqualand during the late 1800s.

Cultivation: It is easy to grow indoors or outdoors in warm climate. It does not tolerate frost. It loses leaves in the winter, but also in a drought. It grows slowly. My plant is about 15 years old. I have rooted a branch, but it does not show a swollen trunk yet.

Plant can be grown as a bonsai

I grow mine in full sun, in the summer outside with lots of rain or watering. It loses all the leaves in the winter and starts to grow rather late in the spring, about March.

Propagation: by seeds or cuttings

References:

http://www.llifl.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Pedaliaceae/28091/Sesamothamnus_lugardii

https://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/species.php?species_id=152510

<https://plants.jstor.org/compilation/sesamothamnus.lugardii>





Picture of flower by Carolyn Waltenberg [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons

October Cactus of the Month

David VanLangen

Mammillaria thornberi

Mammillaria thornberi is a small, clumping cactus found in southern Arizona and adjacent Mexico. The stems are finger size and usually under 3-4 inches tall. As the main stem produces offshoots, they readily form their own roots and the clump continues to get wider. Each stem is covered with small light colored radials and longer, twisted, hooked centrals. The flowers are a nice pink with midstripes and open wide. The flowers are followed by red "Chilies" type fruit. The overall look of this plant is shaggy and small single stems look similar to a small *Mamm grahamii* and they often grow together.



While not a common plant, *Mamm thornberi* not a rarity but covers a limited range of territory. Its range extends from west of Tucson and goes down into Organ Pipe Cactus Monument and adjacent Sonora Mexico. It is always found in lower sandy desert flats covered with Cholla, Mesquite, Palo Verde and Ambrosia scrub. While adapted to hot and dry conditions, it is not very cold hatdy. A hard freeze in the 1930's took a heavy toll on *Mamm thornberi* as it did with many young cactus- including the Mighty Saguaro. This cactus grows in pure Sonoran Desert conditions!! Both summer rains and winter rains are the norm but extreme drought is very common leaving this plant ragged looking at times

Like normal-- this is not found in local nurseries but can be found through several online growers. A sandy quick draining mix and careful watering is needed to keep this cute little *Mamm* healthy. Each offset readily detaches from the main stem when handled-- in fact!-- it is tough to handle at all because the hooked spines grab skin and clothing alike and follow you around for days !! But new plants can be established by simply planting offsets in sandy soil.





October Succulent of the Month

Wally Ward

NAME: *Pachpodium lealii* subs. *saundersii* (N.E. Br.) G. D. Rowley

SYNONYMS: *P. lealii saundersii* v. *compactum*; *P. saundersii*.

COMMON NAMES: Kudu Lily; Rathbonia.

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION: endemic to dry woodland in crevices in the Lebombo Mountains near the east coast of Southern Africa in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa. The Lebombo Mountains climb to a maximum altitude of 2500 feet, consisting of volcanics, sandstone, and granite. *Pachpodium* generally lives in rocky outcrops, rock sheets, steep hillsides, and inselbergs; consequently they grow above other flora and create microclimates that may differ from the climate of the general region, so as to be subject to fluctuating moisture, high winds, and extremes of temperature. They prefer sunny, xeric conditions and are often found in rock crevices with only small amounts of poor soil. Therefore they store water in their fattened trunks and grow spines to capture moisture from fog and dew, directing the moisture toward the base of the plants and on to the roots.

DESCRIPTION:

Fat and pot-bellied stem succulent; shrubby and sprawling, with a broad, bulb-shaped base, from which sprout multiple trunks. It produces white, purple-fringed flowers at the ends of the stems that are pollinated by moths. The stems bear smooth, somewhat-shiny, light-green leaves, with a white midriff. The bottle-shaped main stem can grow to five feet in height. The stems bear long spines.

CULTIVATION/GROWTH/MY EXPERIENCE: This subspecies is considered one of the easiest *Pachypodiums* to grow. It does well in bright light, avoiding moist and shady locations. Since it grows in rock crevices with roots having to reach soil below, some growers layer coarse material such as pumice, perlite or volcanic rock around the base of the plant with soil below. It can withstand cooler temperatures and becomes dormant below 50 degrees F and can be damaged below 30 degrees F. Light, frequent feedings in the growth season are helpful. This plant requires water in summer but none to very little in the winter. The plant does well in a somewhat under-potted situation. Growing them hard and allowing them to dry out between waterings (but not extremely dry) in the summer will produce fat, compact growth. Plants come out of dormancy by growing new leaves before roots start growing, so don't water for a week or two after new leaves begin to appear. These plants are best propagated from seed as they do not do well from cuttings. Seeds should be shallowly planted and kept evenly moist till sprouting. If sprouted together in a pan, wait a year before transplanting. I sprouted my seeds (from Dick McEuen) individually in 2-inch cell packs on a porch that gets direct, afternoon sun for several hours, and that has worked out well. Flowers can be expected as soon as a year after sprouting.

AVAILABILITY: Plants and seeds are available from a number of vendors on eBay and from nurseries and retailers on the Internet. I suggest a Google search as the starting point.

REFERENCES:

SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute) at <http://pza.sanbi.org/pachypodium>

LLifle Encyclopedia of Living Forms) article on *Pachypodium lealii*, referencing subspecies *saundersii* at the end of the article ([http://www.llifle.com/Encyclopedia TREES/family/Apocynaceae/12217/Pachypodium_lealii](http://www.llifle.com/Encyclopedia%20TREES/family/Apocynaceae/12217/Pachypodium_lealii))

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society 2017 Annual Plant: *Pachypodium lealii* subsp. *saundersii* (<http://southcoastcss.org/2017-annual-plant-pachypodium-lealii-sub-saundersii/>)

APRIL 11, 2018 BY MATTBUCKINGHAMPHOTOGRAPHY

The Biodiversity of the Rio Grande Valley Part 2: The Cacti

Peyote

Spring in the Tamaulipan Thornscrub is a beautiful, albeit deceiving thing. When the chaparro, huisachillo, and guayacan bloom above a carpet of wildflowers, its easy to forget just what a harsh, unforgiving land this can be. I was bleeding through my jeans when I sat a moment to rest in the shade of a mesquite tree. I don't think that Carolina, James, or Erin had fared much better. Despite being early March, it was pushing 90 degrees, and the sun was beating down. After taking a long draw from my water bottle, I got up and continued my search. I winced as I pushed through the allthorn, and felt the tasajillo spines pierce my skin. It's safe to say at that point my spirits weren't at their highest. But then I heard the voice of my wife as she called out, "I found one, with a flower!" In that moment, pain seemed like an insignificant consideration as I pushed through the tangle of thorns that lay between me and my succulent quarry. I saw Carolina squatting down looking at the base of a large shrub. There, under the shade and protection of a condalia I could see the iconic Peyote in bloom.

Despite being very un-cactus like, the Peyote may be the famous of all cacti. Once fairly common in parts of south and west Texas, decades of over-harvest, poaching, and habitat loss of significantly reduced the populations to the point that today they are a rare sight among the thornscrub. The reason that it has been so persecuted is the psychoactive compound mescaline contained within its flesh.

In fact, Peyote is one of the most well known psychoactive plants. It has been utilized for centuries by native



Peyote

peoples for both its medicinal and hallucinogenic effects. Today Peyote is a controlled substance in the United States due to its use as a recreational drug. It is, however, legal for many native tribes to harvest and consume for ritualistic purposes. And though it may be illegal to harvest or possess, poachers continue to devastate Peyote populations to sell them on the black market.

In the United States Peyote is known only from extreme southern and western Texas. Here it occurs in desert scrub and arid brushland, typically growing beneath dense shrubs. It is one of three spineless cacti in Texas. We were lucky enough to observe some in bloom on an extensive private ranch in the Tamaulipan Thornscrub of South Texas, with the help of our dear friends Toby Hibbits and Connor Adams.

In our pursuit of Peyote we observed several other species growing beneath the shelter of their nurse plants. We seemed to catch the Heyder's Pincushion Cactus (*Mammillaria heyderi*) in full bloom. This small cactus grows low to the ground, and like many species with this growth habit, is very difficult to spot when not in bloom. In the early spring a single plant may put on a dozen or more flowers, generally organized in a ring along the top of the cactus. It occurs from Mexico through south and central Texas west across eastern and southern New Mexico into southern Arizona.



Heyder's Pincushion Cactus



Heyder's Pincushion Cactus

While the Heyder's Pincushion Cactus may be difficult to spot when not in bloom, the Hair-covered Cactus (*Mammillaria prolifera*) is difficult to spot even when in flower. This species is tiny, with individual stems not much larger than an egg, though they may occasionally form large clumps. The Hair-covered Cactus is known in the United States only from Texas, where it occurs in only a handful of counties in southern and south-central Texas, most of them along the Rio Grande.



Hair-covered Cactus

Though it is superficially similar to the *Mammillaria prolifera*, the Runyon's Pincushion Cactus (*Coryphantha pottsiana*) is easily differentiated when in flower. Like many species of cactus, the taxonomy for *Coryphantha pottsiana* is a bit cloudy. It has variably been known as *Coryphantha robertii*, *Mammillaria robertii*, *Mammillaria bella*, *Escobaria bella*, *Escobaria runyonii*, and *Escobaria emskoetteriana*. Some authorities still use the latter, though *Coryphantha pottsiana* seems to be more widely accepted. The Runyon's Pincushion Cactus is known from northern Mexico and a few Texas Counties along the Rio Grande, where it is generally uncommon.

While the previous cacti are generally small, the Horse Crippler (*Echinocactus texensis*) can reach much larger proportions. While most seem to be about the size of a basketball, we saw some that were easily 3 or 4 times as large. They tend to occur in looser soil including sandy alluvium. They are also frequently found growing in the open, away from nurse plants, though its likely that many plants get their start in the less hostile microclimate of a nurse plant. Their impressive spines seem to be an effective deterrent against mammalian predators.



Runyon's Pincushion Cactus



Horse Crippler



Horse Crippler

Among the most beautiful of all cacti are the hedgehog cacti of the genus *Echinocereus*, a few of which are endemic to the Tamaulipan Thornscrub of South Texas and northern Mexico. This year our trip coincided with the peak bloom of *Echinocereus fitchii*, the Fitch's Hedgehog Cactus. Though they are generally hard to find, in the right habitat they can be abundant, and we saw dozens, blazing the thornscrub with their pink blooms. Like *Coryphantha pottsiana* and so many other cactus taxa, the taxonomy of *Echinocereus fitchii* is murky at best. It is considered by many to be a subspecies of the more broadly distributed *Echinocereus reichenbachii*. For anyone interested in the topic I strongly recommend reading "A hard-to-manage taxon: The Black Lace Cactus (*Echinocereus fitchii* ssp. *albertii*)". Though it discusses the Fitch's Hedgehog Cactus's Federally Endangered cousin, it includes a good discussion on the taxonomy of *E. fitchii* and *E. reichenbachii*, including characteristics used to distinguish the two.



Fitch's Hedgehog Cactus

In my opinion, the Lady Finger Cactus (*Echinocereus pentaloophus*) is perhaps the most spectacular cactus native to the United States. Confined to northern Mexico and extreme southern Texas, they can form huge mats under the shade of mesquite and other trees and large shrubs. They have even been found growing upon protected ridges adjacent to the Laguna Madre. Their bright blooms shine neon pink under the midday sun.



Lady Finger Cactus

The bizarre Pencil Cactus (*Echinocereus pentaloophus*) seems less a cactus and more a tangle of dried branches resting at the base of some thorny shrub. That is, until it's giant pink blooms open in the early spring and betray its presence to the world. Unlike most other members of its genus, the Pencil Cactus produces a massive tuberous roots that aid in water storage.

The highlight our South Texas cactus hunt, however, was finding the Federally Endangered Star Cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*) in peak bloom, an experience which I will share in my next blog post.



Pencil Cactus



Star Cactus

Preliminary Information 2018 TACSS Fall Seminar Dallas, TX October 13, 2018

The TACSS seminar will take place October 13, at the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Rd, Dallas, TX 75218. Directions will be included prior to the seminar. If you have any questions or problems, please call Irwin Lightstone at 214-529-7046.

The speakers are as follows:

Richard Stamper (The Cactus Shack) – The Legend of *Haworthia splendens*

Karen Zimmerman (Huntington Botanical Garden) – Aloes on my Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids One Generation at a Time

Woody Minnich (Cactus Data Plants) – TBA

Irwin Lightstone (Radiant Images) – Plants, Passion, and Photography

The vendors are as follows:

Dennis Barkley

Claret Ranch Cactus and Succulents / Jimmy Black

Rick Van Dyke Studio (pottery)

Sa Soon McDonald

Cactus Data Plants / Woody Minnich

The Cactus Shack / Richard Stamper

The host hotel is Holiday Inn Express & Suites, NE Arboretum at 11331 W. Kingsley Rd., Dallas, TX 75238. They have blocked off courtesy rooms at the rate of \$98.00 plus tax for a standard King, \$108.00 for standard double, and \$118.00 for King Suites. They have a buffet-style breakfast, free parking, wi-fi, microwave and refrigerator. Coffee is available in the lobby. Rooms can be booked until September 10th at 214-340-0003. To obtain your room discount, please refer to our group, Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies (TACSS).

Friday Night we have a welcoming dinner at my house at 9048 Royal Crown Drive. Please RSVP me at 214-529-7046. As Mama Lightstone taught me to never let a guest leave hungry, I have a bad tendency to overbuy, if I don't know. So please let me know.

Due to Arboretum rules, this year's "auction" will be a plant sale instead. The wonderful plant donations come mostly from members. Please, Please, Please. We don't charge admission to this wonderful event. If everyone donated at least one plant that they'd be proud to own, next year's conference would be even better. If you don't have a plant to donate: please support our vendors and buy a nice plant from them to donate.

More information will be forthcoming, but this will be enough to get you started. Also, don't forget to bring your best cactus and succulents from each club. You may have a chance to win best in state!!!

For further information call or text me at 214-529-7046 (mobile), or email me at radiantimages@sbcglobal.net. I look forward to seeing you.

Irwin Lightstone, President NTCSS



The Garden Club of Houston is pleased to announce its 76th annual Bulb and Plant Mart, October 12-13, 2018 at Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd., Houston, Texas. Mart hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Featured speakers include: Heidi Sheesley of Treeseach Farms (Friday, 9:00 a.m.), Susie Marten of Katy Prairie Conservancy (Nine Natives presentation, Friday, 12:00 p.m.), and beekeeper Shelley Rice (Saturday, 10:00 a.m.). All sales are tax-exempt. Admission and parking are free.

The Mart was founded 76 years ago on the steps of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston by seven determined plant lovers. Today, their small plant sale has grown to offer more than 500,000 top-quality bulbs from domestic and international suppliers. Ranging from Amaryllis to Zephyranthes, offerings include over 200 varieties of Tulips, Iris, Daffodils and Hyacinths, as well as small bulb favorites: Anemones, Crocus, Freesias, Ranunculi, and Watsonias. Gardeners of every experience level will discover hard-to-find and unusual Crinums, Daylilies, Gingers, perennials, trees, shrubs, vines, herbs and citrus plants, including exclusive offerings from the gardens of GCH members. Additionally, the Mart features the Nine Natives collection, a group of native flowers and grasses, grown from seed, that offer seasonal interest, provide a complete habitat for native pollinators, and are appropriate for an urban setting. We owe special thanks to Katy Prairie Conservancy for supplying many of the seeds and to Memorial Park Conservancy for sharing greenhouse space and helping with propagation and care.

The Plants That Merit Attention Booth, hosted by Nancy Thomas, horticultural award-winning GCH member and Garden Club of America Past President, and Kingslea Von Helms, GCA Zone IX Horticulture Award-winner, will be featured on Saturday morning and will offer noteworthy selections collected specifically for the Mart. Additional special exhibits will include the live butterfly tent from The Houston Museum of Natural Science Cockrell Butterfly Center and the Conservation Booth, which will feature a variety of native and drought tolerant plants curated by experts in ecological conservation and education.

Shop now for dazzling spring blooms. Over 100 different bulb varieties can be pre-ordered, with images and planting information, at gchouston.org. Pre-orders receive a 10% discount and are tax exempt.

Pre-orders must be received by Sunday, October 7th.

Contact: Lucy Chambers lucychambers@comcast.net or 713-478-3230

About The Garden Club of Houston

Established in 1924, The Garden Club of Houston was founded by a group of civic-minded women interested in sharing their love and knowledge of gardening with the community and to promote and protect the quality of the environment through education, conservation and civic improvement. Recent recipients of proceeds from the Bulb & Plant Mart include Houston Botanic Garden, Asia Society Texas Center, Bayou Greenways 2020, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Memorial Park Conservancy, Mercer Arboretum Society, Houston Audubon, Houston Hospice, Houston Museum of Natural Science, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston/Rienzi and Urban Harvest. For additional information about the Bulb & Plant Mart and GCH, please visit gchouston.org.

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