



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

April 2022

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 7:00pm

Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

Feeding Succulents: How Fertilizer, Water pH and Soil Can and Should Be Adjusted!

Presented by Ernesto Sandoval



Perhaps you've heard that pH is important for plants? Ernesto will summarize why you want your plants to receive slightly acidic water and various ways you can adjust it for your succulents. How is this similar and different than fertilizing "regular" plants? Ernesto will discuss all of this plus the importance of "soils"/container media and the details of how you can maximize the root potential for your plants!

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way that they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences of others as well as his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director/Manager over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of horticultural biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents! Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought

tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

If you have been fully vaccinated for Covid-19 you are welcome to come and join us for this excellent in person presentation (masks will be required by all). This meeting will also be a Zoom program and will be an important educational and informational event you must see. Also, if using Zoom, be sure to log in to win a \$25.00 gift certificate from TCSS or choose a copy of the new 3rd edition of the Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona. Plant give aways will also be happening at the in person meeting as well. When leaving the live in person meeting, everyone can get a free plant offered to you by the TCSS.

Ernesto will also have some special plants he will be bringing for sale to the membership.

Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:00pm
Program title to come but will include
the discovery of Agave Cryptica
Presented by Tristan Davis



Sky Islands Public High School • 6000 E. 14th St.



President's Message

Thank you, Chuck Huckleberry for your 28 years of service as Pima County Administrator. Your vision has made Pima County a truly wonderful place to live. For the last 15 years you and your family have been members of our Society. Your participation in our Rescue Program and the support and development of Pima Prickly Park

has been so important to the growth of TCSS. Thank you.

April 23, 2022 is our Earth Day Sale. This will be our largest sale of the year and a special event for our member vendors to meet you and present their, plants, pottery and art for sale. It will also be a huge rescue plant sale featuring saguaros, ocotillos, barrels, hedgehogs and mammillarias.

Please print out the sale flyer and give it to your friends and neighbors. I certainly hope to see you on April 23.

Recently we have purchased a heavy-duty truck to assist with our rescue program. This is another resource that makes this program so outstanding. Thank you to Donna Ellis and Steve

Watts for their leadership of the rescue activities. Remember, we need your eyes and ears to identify new potential rescue sites. Just email site@TucsonCactus.org with information.

I hope you are enjoying the Pop-Up Tours. The March thru April tours are perfect. They are an opportunity to see wonderful plants and get new ideas how other members are growing and displaying them. It is a real educational experience. Many thanks to Patsy Frannea and her Garden Tour committee and volunteers. Great Job!

March 31, 2022 was the cut off for membership renewal. Eligibility for rescues, special sales or mailed newsletters ends. Please renew your membership asap.

Our former Board Member, Barry McCormick passed away last month and we send our condolences to his family and friends. We are thankful for his service and support for TCSS.

Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

2022 SARSEF Science Fair Winners

A special thank you to Patsy and Joe Frannea for, again, judging science projects for this year's SARSEF competition specifically in the Special Award Category of Cactus and Succulents. Projects were submitted from K-12 schools across Southern Arizona.

On Saturday, March 5, an all-day event was held at Reid Park's DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center to celebrate the work of the students. Throughout the festivities, TCSS hosted a tent where families learned about our organization and participated in activities. During the awards ceremony, TCSS certificates, family memberships and cash awards were presented to our eight winners.

First Prize \$100

Samantha Chulamorkodt, Grade 8, Gowan Science Academy
Harnessing the Saguaro Cactus to Treat Skin Infections -
Antimicrobial Properties of the Carnegiea Gigantea Seed
Extract

Second Prize \$75

Ana Navarro, Grade 8, Harvest Preparatory Academy
Antimicrobial Potentials of Ayurvedic Products Extracts and
Streptomycin Against Necrosis Causing Bacteria in Saguaro
Cactus

Third Prize \$50

Andrea Romero, Grade 11, Harvest Preparatory Academy
Investigating the Effects of Native Sonoran Desert Plants on
Enhancing the Effects of Different Antibiotics Against E. coli

Third Prize \$50

Maximus Rose, Grade 10, Rose Homeschool
How Prickly Pear Can Lower Low-Density-Lipoproteins (the
"bad" cholesterol)

Honorable Mention \$25

Isabelle Lefforge, Grade 5, Senita Valley Elementary School
What kind of Fabric Sticks to Cholla the Best?

Honorable Mention \$25

Anne Marie Wages, Grade 4,
J. Robert Hendricks Elementary School
Will Buffelgrass Keep Plants from Growing?

Honorable Mention \$25

Maizie McIntosh, Grade 3,
Winifred Harelson Elementary School,
The Thorny Transplanter

Honorable Mention \$25

Mrs. Vanessa Schiess class, Grade K, J. Robert Hendricks
Elementary School
Water Harvesting Playscape

Congratulations to all participants and our winners!

Please Note

The City of Tucson has revised its mask mandate for city buildings. Starting Monday, March 7, masks will no longer be required to enter city facilities. However, leaders say masks are still encouraged when it's not possible to maintain a six-foot distance from others. According to the city, the change comes due to the declining number of cases and guidance from the Pima County Health Department. Let's incorporate this philosophy into all of our activities, meetings, sales, prickly park and rescues. "Masks are encouraged especially when a six-foot distance is not possible to maintain"



Our Spring series of Pop-Up Tours has successfully taken off with great attendance at the first four in March. Many thanks to the March hosts who opened their gardens to our membership. Now you can look forward to three more tours scheduled in April. These tours are a great opportunity for our membership to see how fellow members have created their very own distinctive gardens. Please join us at any or all of these April tours and watch for news of more to come in May. We think you'll really enjoy touring these diverse and creative landscapes.

Exact addresses for tours will be emailed to members the week before each tour.

Saturday, April 2nd - THOMAS & MARIA'S LUSH MID-TOWN XERISCAPE

Saturday, April 16th - BONNIE & MIKE'S WHIMSICAL GARDENS

Saturday, April 30th - BONNIE'S "OUTDOOR GALORE" GARDEN

If you miss a tour you can always go to our website to read about past tours and see videos that were taken at each tour. <https://tcss.wildapricot.org/Garden-Tours>

**THOMAS & MARIA'S LUSH MID-TOWN
XERISCAPE & RESCUED PLANTS
April 2nd - Near Campbell & Grant**

Our 1/3 acre midtown yard is designed for comfortable use in a xeriscape setting. Swales, basins, and rocky mounds were established early in the yard restoration to maximize water



collection and enable native and desert adaptable trees and shrubs. Rescued cacti, agave and other succulents dominate the setting. You will find over 100 barrel cacti (mostly *Ferocactus wislizeni*), over 30 saguaros, numerous hedgehogs, prickly pear, more *Mammillaria grahamii* than anyone would want to count and a nice scattering of queens (*Peniocereus greggii* v. *transmontanus*). The barrels, hedgehogs and mamms have all successfully seeded and new young plants are frequently popping up in the yard.

In addition to the basins for water harvesting, gutters funnel rain water from our roof into three collection tanks that hold a combined 1250 gallons.

A 1.5 inch monsoon rain will overflow those containers. The stored winter rains will sustain most our watering needs into May. Mature trees provide significant cover for most of the



seating areas in the yard. A small ramada provides an additional seating area and it houses some of our shade preference plants.

As you walk through the yard you will spot numerous found objects collected on desert hikes while conducting wildlife and plant surveys. And one thing to note: ALL the larger rocks in the yard have been personally collected and added to the yard. The property value may not have increased but the yard sure weights a lot more.

We've been at home in this yard for over 15 years. In 2012 we were hosts for a TCSS yard tour, in 2009 we received the Tucson Botanical Garden's Xeriscape award, in 2010 we were married here.

Like all gardens this is still a work in progress but then I look around and think, "damn, there's no more room in the yard"! Come on by, give the yard a look and maybe find a spot for us to plant new things.

Backyard not handicap accessible

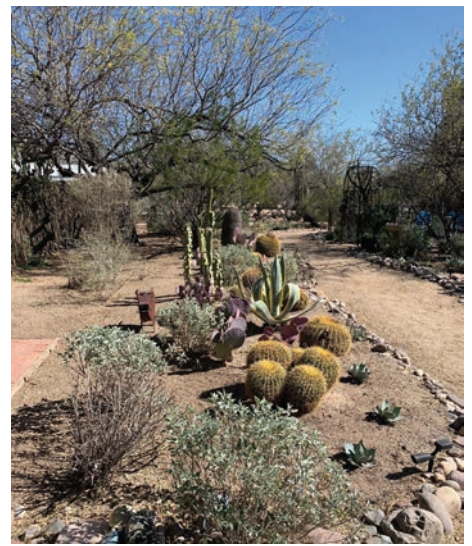




BONNIE & MIKE'S WHIMSICAL GARDEN

April 16th - Near Tanque Verde and Wentworth

Bonnie and Mike purchased this home 42 years ago. They left the native vegetation existing on the property and started adding drought tolerant plants and cacti to conserve water and attract wildlife. They have added 6 saguaros and many hedgehogs and mammillaria from TCSS rescue sales. Growing up, their children made natural pathways with their bikes in the front yard and those paths helped determine the initial



landscape design. Throughout the many areas of their property you will see that they enjoy collecting items at flea markets and antique shops to add eye catching whimsy to their garden. As you approach the house you'll find an inviting sitting area with a colorful pots filled with specimen plants and an attractive ocotillo cane screen for privacy.

Shaded by a sprawling mesquite, they created an enclosed Barrio garden in the center of the front yard that includes a shrine, colorful flowers and herbs reminding them of their childhoods growing up on the south side of Tucson. Mid-century motel chairs rest on salvaged brick paving from old downtown buildings.



Entering their side and back yards you'll find an inviting pool accented with a border of golden barrels and mature prickly pear. A colorful Tangerine Cross Beauty vine covers an ocotillo fence on one side and a 3D ocean themed ocotillo cane 'mural' serves as background for a variety of desert plants in the pool area. You will see ocotillo canes used in so many areas throughout this tour.



Bonnie and Mike created and maintain their garden together, embracing a desert landscape with fun and whimsical accents. Their garden is registered as a wildlife habitat through the National Federation of Wildlife and they have shared their creative and whimsical landscape with others on both TBG and Master Gardeners' tours and magazine and news articles.



BONNIE'S "OUTDOOR GALORE" GARDEN

April 30th - West of Silverbell & El Camino del Cerro

In 1999 Dick and I found this retirement home nestled on 3.4 acres surrounded by saguaros, ironwood trees and wildlife. We added the pool and landscaping shortly after moving in. It has been an oasis for entertaining, gardening, and relaxing. A warm micro-climate has helped to protect the succulents from most freezes. The garden was featured in the 2004 Tucson Botanical Garden tours and the Tucson Lifestyles 04-05 Newcomer's Edition. The plantings have changed many times as I added or replaced with more cacti and succulents.

The exterior was already painted with the Mexican blue wainscoting. Over the years, I painted the decorative designs inspired by Talavera pottery and our time spent in South America and Spain. This includes a faux tile "chandelier" mural on the pool wall.



There are three sections of the garden

1. The circular area in front of the house is full of paths and has been populated with cuttings and "cast offs." I had some beautiful varieties of Opuntia in this area until this past year when they were totally destroyed by javalina.

2. The front patio is built around the huge mesquite tree. The area is protected from large critters, but rabbits and packrats check it out from time to time.

The plants get watered at the most once a month when I hose off the flagstone patio. The Mammillaria has been repotted numerous times as it has grown. The large pot of Aloe started small from a TCSS event. All of the totem poles came from one original plant.



3. Pool area. Enter the walled back area through the home's main entrance and note the hand-painted frescoes on the foyer and dining room ceilings. Other than most of the pots, the plants are on irrigation which I had redone last summer along with upgrading to LED lighting. We added the raised bed in the back corner for herbs. When blooming, the Jacaranda tree has been a favorite of the neighborhood. The multi-headed red barrel and Parryi agaves are definitely on the top of the list. Two of the potted cacti were inherited from a TCSS member, Bill Salisbury, who has been my garden inspiration. Bill and Lu have been friends for many years. RIP Bill!



Soil and fertilizing...I augment the natural soil by adding potting soil and vermiculite or perlite for cactus plantings. Every six weeks or so, I alternate fertilizing with an all-purpose plant food and then an Epson salt mixture. I am always reminded that plants have a life span. I had a beautiful knife acacia tree that lasted about 15 years, its normal life-span. Just part of nature.



Partially handicap accessible





EARTH DAY SALE

**CACTUS and SUCCULENT PLANTS, POTTERY,
BOOKS, ART and MUCH MORE!**

Saturday, April 23, 2022

**Wetmore Rd. & 4th Ave. • 4342 North 4th Avenue
8:00am to 2:00pm**

EXCELLENT VENDOR SALES UNDER THE TENT

- Arid Oasis
- Ben's Stems
- Blue Sky Plants
- CAM Plants
- Crazy H Cacti
- Desert Natives
- Destination Forever Ranch
- DEW Studio
- Ecogro/Hydrogro
- Jan Bell Pottery
- Jen's Hypertufa Pots
- Julie Szerine Stein
- Planta del Sol
- Prickly Prospects Nursery
- Starr Nursery
- Sticky Situations
- TCSS Boutique
- Tucson Clean & Beautiful

RESCUE PLANT SALES

Lots of Ocotillos, Saguaros, Barrel, Hedgehog and Pincushion Cacti

DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOPS

FREE & OPEN to EVERYONE *Featuring*

11:00am: Austin Martin • Potting and Display Techniques

12:00pm: Dave Palzkill • Seed and Succulent Propagation

1:00pm: Steve Watts • Garden Planting Techniques

TCSS Awards School Grant

TCSS awarded Agua Caliente Elementary School with a grant for their more than one-acre trail. Included in the design are two outdoor classrooms and a science lab. Students, parents and community members helped clear the trail and mark it with stone borders along the pathways, and an Eagle Scout built a bridge over an arroyo.

One section of the property includes the kindness circle which is defined by painted rocks decorated by the students. Some of these special rocks can even be found in the niches of trees. And, one of the trees holds a hidden critter cam! An already installed weather station, by the trail, is another great learning tool. The goal is to have the trail ready for the students during the first week of April.

TCSS board members, Crystal Cannon and Cathy Robson, helped principal Chris Reitz select over two dozen appropriate plants from our rescue inventory. The trail will be home to saguaros, barrels, hedgehogs, mammillarias and a variety of agaves and others. Students are working on signage for the plants along with a landscape architect. The sign at the entrance to the trail reads, Live Gently with the Land.

Principal Reitz is grateful for the support and generous grant from TCSS. The school is looking forward to welcoming their new STEAM teacher who will be tasked with helping students learn about the natural desert ecosystem. How lucky they are to have such a beautiful trail and breathtaking mountain views as their classrooms.



Acknowledgement Of Contributions

The Names Below Represent The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Members And Friends Whose Donations Helped Make This Year A Success. We Extend Our Sincere Thanks For Your Support.

Anonymous
Chris Arbogast
Denise Cahalan
Sandra Casad
Susan Delaney
John Emmett
Dave Endres
Chris Gaddis
Sharon Jones
Andrea Levy
Carol Loomis & Family
Sheila McGinnis
Chris Monrad
Alan Myklebust

Cathee Nordlund
Kt Oxford
Danielle Riggs
In Memory Of
Barry McCormick
Grace Holdaway
The Del Camp Family
Stewart Hirsch
Mark & Nada Mukhtar
Vickie Turley
Pat & Dick Wiedhopf

*(Errors Or Omissions Will Be
Corrected In The Next Newsletter)*

TCSS cactus at Agua Caliente Elementary School



Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on April 7, 2022

If you have a laptop or other device where you can enter a web site address enter
<https://bit.ly/tcssmm>

Copy this into your browser address line or just click on it.

If this does not work and for all other types of devices see our Zoom Meeting Instructions page on our web site. It is
https://tcss.wildapricot.org/resources/pdf_files/ZoomInstructions.pdf

You can also find a link to it by going to our March Meeting notice information on the web.

If you can not get connected at the last minute, you can email us at **HELP@TucsonCactus.org**
and someone will get right back to you.

TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2022)

President: Richard Wiedhopf • president@Tucsoncactus.org

Vice President: Vonn Watkins • vp@Tucsoncactus.org

Secretary: Monica Wnuk
secretary@tucsoncactus.org

Treasurer: Cathy Robson
treasurer@Tucsoncactus.org

Board of Directors:
(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Brian Vandervoet
Brad Haeckel (2022)
Penny Miller (2022)
Steve Watts (2022)
Donna Ellis (2023)
Janice Johnson (2023)
Kris Thompson (2023)
Austin Martin (2023)
Crystal Cannon (2024)
Linda Heisley (2024)
Kermie Hodge (2024)
Robert Villa (2024)

CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Bill Holcombe (2023)

Cactus Rescue: Donna Ellis
cactus@Tucsoncactus.org

Education: Kris Thompson • education@Tucsoncactus.org

Free Plants: Donna Ellis • plants@Tucsoncactus.org

Florilegium: Cindy Hartwell • art@Tucsoncactus.org

Garden Tours: Patsy Frannea • tours@Tucsoncactus.org

Librarian: Brad Haeckel • librarian@Tucsoncactus.org

Prickly Park: Linda Heisley • park@Tucsoncactus.org

Programs: Vonn Watkins • programs@Tucsoncactus.org

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea • refreshments@Tucsoncactus.org

Technology: technology@Tucsoncactus.org

Research: Doug Rowsell • research@Tucsoncactus.org

Field Trips/tours: Rob Romero • trips@Tucsoncactus.org

Vendor Coordinator: Dale Johnson • vendors@tucsoncactus.org

Plant Sales: Crystal Cannon • sales@tucsoncactus.org

Field Guide Sales: Susan Durham & John Durham
books@tucsoncactus.org

Conservation: Thomas Staudt
conservation@tucsoncactus.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • editor@tucsoncactus.org

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:
Thursday, April 21 by 4:00pm

TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Barb Watts • webmaster@Tucsoncactus.org

For general information and questions related to TCSS, email TCSS@TucsonCactus.org or call (520) 256-2447 during business hours.

Everyone is Welcome!
Bring your friends, join in the fun and meet the cactus and succulent community.

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Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

617 Rescues - 47,369 Volunteer Hours (updated 01-01-22)

Please see our Website Calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

We need your "Eyes and Ears" to help us find new Cactus Rescue sites. Please email us as much information as you can from new project signs or from other sources to **Site@TucsonCactus.org**. Attach a photo of the sign if you can. Note, we do not remove plants from residences.

April, 2022

Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:00pm

Feeding Succulents: How Fertilizer, Water pH and Soil Can and Should Be Adjusted! Presented by Ernesto Sandoval

Tuesday, April 12, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

TCSS Earth Day Sale

Mark your calendar for the TCSS Earth Day Sale on Saturday, April 23 from 8:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. at the Amphitheater holding area (4342 North Fourth Avenue -- near First and Wetmore). Gates open at 7:30a.m., at which time numbers will be distributed for designated shopping slots for members and the public. The sale will feature a large selection of rescued saguaros, ocotillos, barrels, hedgehogs and mammillarias. Nearly 20 vendors will showcase plants, pottery, books and art for sale. Three demonstration workshops will be held at 11:00a.m., 12:00p.m. and 1:00p.m..

You'll find a nice selection of merchandise when you visit the booths of your favorite vendors:

Arid Oasis, Ben's Stems, Blue Sky Plants, CAM Plants, Crazy H Cacti, Desert Natives, Destination Forever Ranch, DEW Studio, Ecogro/Hydrogro, Jan Bell Pottery, Jen's Hypertufa Pots, Julie Serien Stein, Planta del Sol, Prickly Prospects Nursery, Starr Nursery, Sticky Situations and Tucson Clean & Beautiful.

Get some great ideas and tips at our demonstration workshops featuring: Potting and Display Techniques by Austin Martin at 11:00a.m. Seed and Succulent Propagation by Dave Palzkill at 12:00p.m. Garden Planting Techniques by Steve Watts at 1:00p.m. We look forward to seeing you on April 23!

At this time, no refreshments will be served at the April meeting