



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

May 2022

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 7:00pm
Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

Shining a Light on a Hidden Agave: When you know that they don't know that they don't know

Presented by Tristan J. Davis



Have you ever looked at a plant with an ID and thought, "Hmmm...that's weird."? Trying to answer those types of questions is what Science is all about. In this presentation, Tristan will take you on a storybook adventure with Greg Starr that ended in a surprising place. It all started with a photo and someone saying, "Something is going on here." The story will take us from the Internet, to a nursery, to our gardens, and all the way to Mexico.

It's a story that has a happy ending – and lots of pretty photos! It's also a story that has an unwritten sequel.

Born into a very "outdoorsy" family, Tristan was introduced to the natural World at a very young age. His initial interest was specific to South American birds, and subsequent education at Louisiana State University and the University of Kansas allowed him to accompany scientific expeditions to most South American countries, as well as China, the Philippines, and Equatorial Guinea. It was obvious early on in his travels that Tristan much preferred those locations with less humidity (western Peru, the pampas of Argentina, etc.), and this was a significant reason he moved with his husband to Arizona in 2001. Once arriving in Arizona, Tristan readily transitioned his scientific passions to cacti and succulents, and although Tristan has authored numerous scientific publications related to ornithology, he published his first paper on desert succulents in 2011 in the Cactus & Succulent Journal. Tristan's current interests and scientific travels include Mexican agaves with Greg Starr, Peruvian Puya, and South American Cleistocactus, as well as neotropical birds. And whatever else piques his interest along the way. Tristan currently resides in Chandler, AZ and is a member of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society; he served on the Board of Directors for the society, and currently administers the Propagation Education Group (PEG), the Research Grant Program, and the Seed Depot for the society. Tristan also volunteers in the Horticulture, Research, and Education departments at the Desert Botanical Garden.

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 encouraged 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

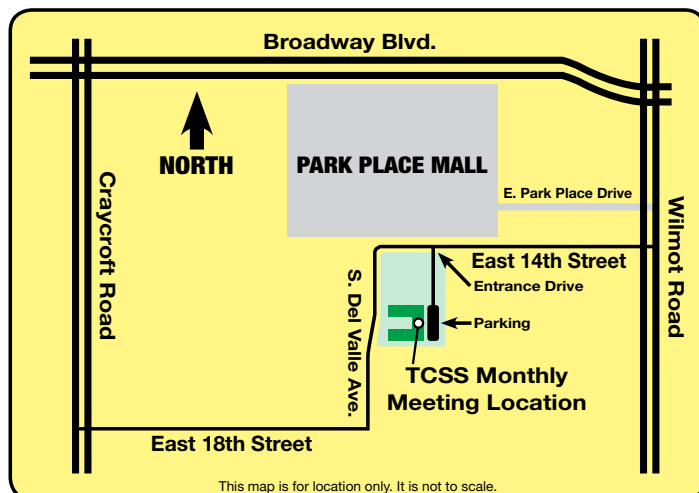


new 3rd edition of the Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona. Plant give aways will take place at the in person meeting but that portion of the program, because of the recording, will not appear on Zoom. When leaving the live in person meeting, everyone can get a free plant offered to you by the TCSS.

Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7:00pm

Art in the Garden

Presented by Margaret Joplin
Design Collaborations, Ltd.



This map is for location only. It is not to scale.

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



President's Message

Our success is grounded in 4 words: Knowing, Growing, Showing and Conserving cacti and other succulent plants. These words and what they represent motivates every action of the society. We are so fortunate that we can condense all we do as it is related to those 4 words. Now, members in more than 1,000 households in the

Tucson area agree. That is really something special.

I have been a member of The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society for more than 50 years and that is hard to believe. Wow, have things changed. We are always looking to the future of this society and the Sonoran Desert that we cherish and hope that our actions will help to preserve the plants that we loved. It is more than that. We care about so many other cacti and succulents from around the world and hope we can have a positive effect on their environment and survival. It's the real challenge.

I wish we could rescue plants in danger all over the world but that is not likely to happen based on locations and politics. So we have to find other ways to protect and preserve these plants. We need to do all we can to grow and maintain plants and we can do it. A good example is our Baja Garden at Pima Prickly Park. Hopefully in the near future we will have many specimens growing and procuring seeds that we share with others to produce more plants. This is just one way we can help.

The lessons we have learned in almost 23 years of rescuing plants need to be shared and encouraged not only here in this country but, in many areas around the world. We have the knowledge on how to do it.

Our Earth Day Sale really uplifted and encouraged me to do more.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Earth Day Sale

It was an incredible day at our Amphi sales area. Great weather and a 40ft X 100ft tent made the shopping experience with our 18 vendors really wonderful. Thanks to the rescue crew leaders Donna Ellis and Steve Watts and all their volunteers who rescued plants so that we had available for sale over 300 recently rescue Ocotillos, more than 100 barrels, 58 great Saguaros, 70 plus Hedgehogs, also Mamms, Grusonias and a couple of queen of the night. When the sale ended at 2:00pm there were 2 Saguaros, maybe 30 Ocotillos and some barrels that's all.

The best part was seeing old friends and catching up after more than 2 years lost to covid. Everyone was having a great time buying great plants, pot or more from new and old vendor members. I sincerely thank all the vendors for their participation. Everyone wants us to do this activity once or twice every year.

The icing on the cake was 3 great free workshops offered by Austin Martin, Potting and Display Terchniques, Dave Palzkill, Seed and Succulent Propagation and Steve Watts, Garden Planting Techniques.

All these activities were made possible by a great team of volunteers. It was much more than a one-day event it took weeks of planning and work to make this a success. Here are some key members who made this event possible.

Dale Johnson-Vendor participation
Vonn Watkins-Program and flier development
Kris Thompson- Publicity and more
Doug Rowsell- Facilities layout and set up (big tent, tables and a lot more)
Cathy Robson- Cashiers and more
Crystal Cannon- Rescue Sales, Volunteers and EVERYTHING ELSE!

I thank all of you and every volunteer who made this activity a success.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

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.

Sharon Ostrom
Renee Reed
Lucy Wilson
Michael Longstaff & Juliana Loaiza
Jan Fulwiler & Robin Gates
Dawn Hagler
In Memory Jase Cannon
Denise Cahalan
In Memory Barry McCormick
Charles Green
Andrea Howe Lee
Kris Thompson
David Hale

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 encourages especially when a six-foot distance is not possible to maintain"



Our series of Spring TCSS Desert Garden Pop-up Tours is coming to an end with just one more treat for you on **SATURDAY, MAY 7th**. We hope that you have enjoyed the opportunity to see so many ways that your fellow members use cactus and succulents in their home landscapes and that you will continue to visit more Pop-Ups as the year goes on. Many thanks to all of the members who have so generously opened their gardens for our visits.

If you are interested in sharing your garden with members, please fill out the application that is on our website at <https://tcss.wildapricot.org/Garden-Tours>

You can choose any Saturday during the year. We already have a couple signed up for Fall 2022 and look forward to adding more to the line-up. We just need a couple of months' notice to get everything in place for a tour. We hope you might consider sharing your garden with the TCSS membership. If you have any questions please email gardentours@tucsoncactus.org

EDIE'S "LIGHTHOUSE IN THE DESERT"

May 7th - Off of Catalina Highway

I have almost an acre, but only about half of it is tended. I started my garden project growing only native and rescued plants but soon found too many other interesting flora to stop there. Additionally I had issues with throwing green growing things away, so I "rescued" many plants from neighbors' yards, roadsides, trash dumpsters, Craig's List, and of course, TCSS. Duplicates of plants are planted at my Mom's home for redundancy in case of loss. I wanted to have a myriad of plants that grow in our climate, yet resemble some other areas of the country. I also wanted to raise fresh fruits and vegetables that are hard to come by here in AZ.



The front yard is mainly specimen cactus and succulents planted on three mounds of soil (tres lomas means 'three peaks' in Spanish), and other little 'mini' gardens. Most of my citrus bushes are in front. I call them bushes because our temps vary here from the low 'teens (11 degrees in 2011), to the upper 120s in the heat of summer and the foliage tends to dieback/freeze on top.



My first activity when I moved to AZ in 2002 was to plant a lot of trees for shade, cover, and winter protection since the day and night temps sometimes differed by over 50 degrees! My yard had historically been the neighborhood horse arena and corral, so not much would grow here.

My back yard houses the largest plants of my collection, as well as my biggest ponds and a growing area. It is accessed from a side gate. There is a gravel/dirt roadway to a huge garage toward the rear of the property. Side walkways come off the main drive and some pass over homemade ditches with wood slatted

bridges. I used to be the President of the Tucson Water Gardeners, so then I dug and incorporated two large ponds with native fish and several smaller ponds with specialty water plants and other fish.



I have sun gardens and shade gardens, as well as moister sections and drier areas to display my plant collection. There are more than 1500 plants to view varying in height from less than an inch high to over 15 feet tall. Some are native and others are very rare. My yard is a certified Wildlife Habitat and a Monarch



butterfly way station. You will definitely see hummingbirds and other assorted native bird species. After our damp winter, there are loads of butterflies and lizards.

I am now recording a plant list for all the flora on my property and making garden markers with the Latin and common names for most of my collection. I hope to incorporate highlights of certain plants (like medicinal, herbal, edible, useful) into the landscape. You should be able to find plants from A to Z, inclusive on my plot. Good luck!

Agua Caliente Elementary School Trail

Thanks to a grant from TCSS, Agua Caliente Elementary School continues to make progress on their nature trail. It's completely lined by rocks and has two separate outdoor classrooms. The school selected rescue cactus from Amphibious and has worked with the students who planted all of the cactus and succulents. Many plants are surrounded by wire fencing to ensure they will have a good start. In addition, the Kindness Circle, with the students' painted rocks, now has seating. The school has expressed thanks to the TCSS for facilitating their vision.



Education Outreach Activities

In April, we were invited to Fort Lowell, by Presidio San Agustin del Tucson, to participate in one of their events held at the Fort. Bill Holcombe hosted our tables and spent a few hours as a Q&A cactus expert. He taught both children and adults about the work of the TCSS and showed them our Build-A-Cactus models. Pictured is Bill with some really, big kiddos! We received an invitation from the Presidio to participate in their summer camp programs in June. More details will be available soon.

During Earth Week, the Civano Community School requested that we teach the K-5 and 6-8 graders about cactus and succulents. Carol Owens volunteered to host the event and, as you can see from the photo, was swarmed by enthusiastic students. She received high marks from the PTA organizers of the event.

Our next event will be the Silver Spike celebration of the railroad track completion and the first train's arrival in Tucson in 1880. The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum sponsors this annual event at the Train Depot, and it is open to the public on Saturday, May 14 beginning at 10:00. There will be a ceremony and lots of activities for children. The TCSS will host a table throughout the day. You may also want to mark Saturday, December 17 on your calendar for the Holiday Express at the Train Depot. Santa will be there to greet children and give gifts to the nearly one thousand in attendance. It's a wonderful experience for families, and the TCSS will be there, too!

Mission Gardens has approached us about working with their numerous programs for kids. We'll keep you posted when we have more information on planned activities and available dates.

If you would like to become involved in these community activities, or lend some time to the Education Outreach Committee, please send a note to education@tucsoncactus.org. We welcome your participation!



Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on May 5, 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, May 26 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.**

127,341

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.

May, 2022

Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:00pm

Shining a Light on a Hidden Agave: When you know that they don't know that they don't know Presented by Tristan J. Davis

Tuesday, May 10, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

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