



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

October 2022

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 7:00pm  
**Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711**

## Nature's Geometry: Succulents

Presented by Russel Ray



Russel uses the Fibonacci sequence of numbers to look at the shape of plants, the number of plant ribs, the number of spines in areoles, golden angles, phyllotaxis (the divergence angle), golden triangles, Fibonacci triangles, golden squares, golden rectangles, circles, fractals, and, most fascinating to him, golden spirals. He brings a selection of live succulents showing nature's geometry and will have copies for sale of his book, "Nature's Geometry: Succulents" a soft-cover book with over 600 pictures in 174 pages, discounted to \$25 at the meeting.

### Back to the Future

Your Board of Directors has authorized a return to regular meeting activities. Masks and Social distancing are not required but will be respected. Vaccinations and booster shots will make it healthier for everyone.

The meeting agenda will change slightly. We will still need set-up and take down of chairs and tables. Also members can exchange plants prior to the start of the meeting on the entrance patio

**The Agenda • Welcome • Updates & Announcements  
Program Speaker & Questions • Raffles and Door Prizes  
Adjourn • Refreshments  
Free plants as you leave.**

**We Ask That Members With Last Name A-E  
Bring Food To Share**

Russel is from Kingsville, Texas, where he was born and then raised mostly by his paternal grandmother. He has lived in the San Diego area since April 1993. He has been self-employed his entire life, mostly as a "serial entrepreneur" specializing in getting companies through startup and growth phases. He has owned businesses in grocery export, antique restoration, roofing, landscaping, international & wireless telecommunications, heating & cooling, computer sales, writing & editing, typing & desktop publishing, construction, real estate agent, real estate investing & renovating, project management, business consultant, home inspector, photographer, and author.

#### A short Russel Ray timeline:

1962—Received his first plant, a heartleaf ivy (*Philodendron cordatum*), from his first grade teacher.

1966—Got started in photography as a volunteer elementary school events photographer.

1968—Created a 100-square-foot cactus rock garden in his grandmother's yard.

1973—Became fascinated with the Fibonacci sequence of numbers and how they are expressed in nature.

2017—Retired and started learning the scientific names for all his favorite plants.

*Continued on the following page*

**Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:00pm**  
**Program title to come**  
**Presented by Scott Calhoun**

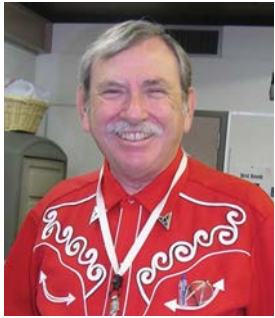


**Sky Islands Public High School • 6000 E. 14th St.**



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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 highly encouraged). 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.



### President's Message

Thank you for making TCSS for the largest local Cacti and Succulent Society in the world. We have reached 1,890 members and a very strong financial position. Our programs in Education, Conservation, Research, Pima Prickly Park and Cactus Rescue are exciting and well-funded. There are numerous other activities for the benefit of the members and the community. So, what's the issue? "Volunteers"

There is a group of members who volunteer on a regular basis whenever help is needed. With so many members, we need to engage more folks in activities that they enjoy doing. One of the reasons for our success is my belief that there should be no requirement that members have to volunteer. This is just a call to say you are wanted. It is impossible to personally contact every member to ask for help on a project but you need to know

you are welcome, needed and appreciated. It is also important to recognize that your membership says, "We support what you are doing". That means a lot to me and the entire Society.

When the call goes out for help please consider giving a little time and effort.

This is a very busy time of the year. Pop-Up Tours in October, Holiday Party and Annual Meeting in December, Election of Officer and Board Members, Membership Renewals and of course all the family gathering for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and more. Don't forget your plants; they may need special care as we enter the winter season.

Also, please vote for in the upcoming city, state and federal elections in November. Your vote counts.

Thank you for your support

Dick Wiedhopf, President

## Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on October 6, 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](https://tcss.wildapricot.org/resources/pdf_files/ZoomInstructions.pdf)

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

# **SAGUARO PROJECT-TCSS**

Dick Wiedhopf- Thomas Staudt  
Conservation Committee

## **MISSION:**

To continually grow Saguaros for revegetation of areas in Southern Arizona affected by climate change (temperature and precipitation), fire, disease and theft.

## **PROCESS:**

To continually grow on 1500 to 2000 plants per year until they reach a height of 12-18". 1,000 + to revegetate and the balance to sell to support the project.

Plants would be free for federal, state, city, county and the indigenous nations.

## **INITIAL SUPPORT: Grants, donations, TCSS**

## **NEEDS:**

Appropriate land, Shade structure, water source , location, security, soil, pots, fertilizer, insecticides etc.

## **VOLUNTEER TASKS:**

Potting, watering, weed and insect control.

Special project Coordinator and 3 assistant coordinators and as many hands as possible.

## **ALTERNATIVE OR ADDITIONAL CONCEPT;**

Engage members who would take 1 to several flats of 25 pots to maintain and grow to size.

Compensate with Saguaro bucks or some other method.

Great education possibilities.

## **SAGUARO FESTIVAL**

community event and fund raiser

Lectures, Workshops, tours, saguaro harvest?, sales etc. Major outreach event.

## **SPINOFF:**

Grow other native plants for revegetation

Ferocactus, Echinocereus (hedgehogs), Ocotillos, Queen of the night etc.

## **YOUR OPINIONS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE IMPORTANT!**

[conseration@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:conseration@tucsoncactus.org) or [president@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:president@tucsoncactus.org).

Thank you



## **OCTOBER 2022 POP-UP TOUR SCHEDULE**

(Detailed addresses for each tour will be emailed to members the week before each tour)

We are excited to present this list of member home tours that are scheduled for the month of October. Each of these desert gardens is so unique and special, filled with multitudes of creative ideas and solutions for your enjoyment and learning experience.

### **OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> TOUR - 8am to 12pm (near Ina & LaCholla)**

Wandering garden paths serve as a showcase for a multitude of mature desert plants and sculptural accents with relaxing seating areas along the way. Learn about their emphasis on water conservation too.

### **OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> TOUR - 8am to 12pm (in Oro Valley)**

See how a blank slate in 2020 has been transformed into a very special cactus & succulent garden with an emphasis on diversity, low maintenance, water use, shade and wildlife support. So much accomplished in such a short time.

### **OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> TOUR - 9am to 1pm (in Sahuarita with Green Valley bonus)**

Enjoy this one acre landscape packed full of mature potted and in-ground specimens plus an abundant area of propagated plants that will inspire anyone wanting to grow their own plants. While you are in the area we hope you have time to attend the Green Valley Gardeners' "Art-in-the-Park" & Sale at Desert Meadows Park. This amazing park got its start with plants rescued by TCSS volunteers and has grown to a lush mature community asset. This annual event should be a fun experience for art and plant lovers.

### **OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> TOUR - 9am to 1pm (near Tanque Verde and Camino Principal)**

Allow plenty of time to wander through the many paths in this five acre botanical creation. There are unending visual treats at every turn for every lover of plants. The owner's vision was to create an English garden with cactus and succulents replacing the usual flowering plants. Mission accomplished in grand style.





## HARRY & BECKY'S DESERT GARDEN

October 8, 2022 - near Ina & La Cholla



When Becky and I bought our house fourteen years ago, the only cactus were in the front yard. The back of the property had been scraped for parking. Thanks to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society our home has taken on more of a desert feel.

We have tried to combine the best of a garden environment with the feel of the Sonoran Desert by using rescue plants and garden paths. We love the different textures and colors of prickly pear and use them throughout the property. When we purchased the property there was only one saguaro, an older one in the front yard. Now there are over twenty and we have new ones growing from seed. We love the pin cushions and hedge hogs for their delicate blooms, agaves add texture and Mexican fence posts and Ocotillo add height.



Each cactus contributes to the joy of walking in our back yard. Almost every day something is blooming. After a rain, the pin cushions pop and the ocotillo turn green and bloom. In the heat of summer the barrel cactus bloom when everything else is starting to wilt. The desert is magical.

Because I love to cook, I have tried to incorporate the desert flavors in many of my creations. I use Palo Verde beans and flowers, Barrel fruit, Cholla buds, Mesquite beans, Prickly Pear fruit and Prickly Pear paddles in many dishes. I love serving them to our out of town friends.

Our other big project has been water conservation. We have banked the yard to retain water and are in the process of creating channels to move that water to areas that have been planted. We also store 700 gallons of water that can be used for drip irrigation or to top off the pool.



We learn more about the desert every day and are excited to live in Tucson and be a part of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society.





## MATT & MOLLY'S DESERT GARDEN

### From Nothing to Diverse Cactus & Succulent Garden

#### Our Journey

October 15, 2022 - Oro Valley off of Linda Vista



We moved into our first home in February 2020. It is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre, but probably only about  $\frac{1}{3}$  maintained and the other  $\frac{2}{3}$  kept more natural. We arrived to a landscape that had a few agaves, palo verde, and mesquite trees around the periphery. A great starter pack,



but the land around the house was pretty much a blank slate. It was an exciting thought to be able to make it our own, but also a bit overwhelming to start from scratch.

Our first step was to spruce up the existing landscape trimming overgrowth/decay, weeding, and giving a much needed drink to some thirst plants. The next step was to put together a loose design of the essential elements. Lucky for us, a family friend was a talented artist and designer who helped put our descriptions into picture form. The key elements we wanted to include were diverse group of plants, low maintenance and water use, SHADE, support wildlife in a natural way, and to add some contour to the flat piece of land.

From there we hit the ground running. Brought in 10 tons of fill dirt to build a kidney shaped mound. Invested in a relatively large tree (Acacia Aneura) to provide some shade. We would ask for cuttings or pups from generous family and friends who had extra. We went on TCSS rescues. We did not have to spend much money on plants to start filling the area.



As our passion grew, we started to look for additional resources to help further our education. A neighbor recommended we check out the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. A short time after we went on your first rescue for primarily Ocotillos (Makita Power Shovel style!). Another great resource was the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Assoc. that puts on some informative classes about landscape maintenance, my favorite was the class on tree



trimming. We also ask lots of questions to the great people working at our local nurseries, getting advice from people growing in our same climate is incredibly helpful.

By September 2020, we were up and running with Version 1 of our yard. As we all know, our gardens are always evolving and that's part of the beauty. We did suffer the occasional setback, an Agave Snout Weevil infestation was one of the most devastating losing some massive Agave Americana's. But for every setback, there are many more successes. Even the setbacks can often be good learning experience. I'm not sure what version we are on now, but the process has been a lot of fun.







## BYRON'S DESERT GARDEN

October 22, 2022

Sahaurita with Green Valley Bonus

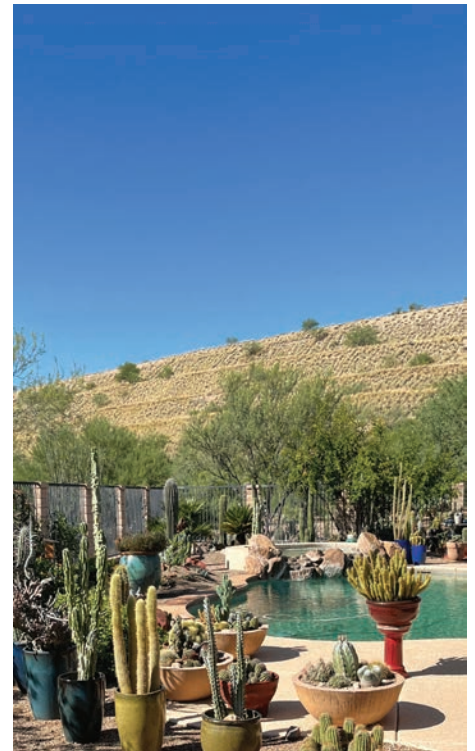
I purchased this property in 2008. It is just over 1 acre and was sparsely populated with native trees, cactus and succulents. In 2012 after joining the Green Valley Gardeners and later TCSS, I decided to use my new found knowledge to improve my landscape. Over time it has progressed from my landscape to collecting and growing my own cactus from seed.



There are 3 main areas to my property. #1 In the front yard I have created seven mounds from soil removed from the expansion of my back yard. I planted trees (Texas and Mexican ebony), rescued saquaros, barrels, ocotillas, agaves, and a wide variety of non native cactus.

#2 Pool area has an outdoor kitchen which is used mostly to display specimen cactus, three mounds, and many pots with a lot unusual cactus specimens including crested and monstroed.

#3 Large propagating area has a small greenhouse with wire shelving to house smaller cactus and seedlings, and a few raised pallets for gallon sized plants.



After touring Byron's special landscape with hundreds of plants and distinctive design we hope you'll have time to take advantage of this great event nearby.

The Green Valley Gardeners sponsor this wonderful annual "Art-in-the-Park" and sale. The landscaping that the community has created in this park will amaze you.



TCSS and Desert Meadows Park have a special connection. Years ago, Byron and other Green Valley Gardeners started the landscaping project in the park by joining TCSS and rescuing plants at Silverbell Mine. Those plants became the anchor native plantings for this park and over the years the park has grown into a lush desert botanical oasis



## LYNN'S DESERT GARDEN MILLSTONE

October 29, 2022

Near Tanque Verde & Camino Principal

In the late 70s my parents bought the land behind our home to keep a gravel company from purchasing and subsequent mining of the property. The homes on Santa Aurelia were deemed horse properties and needed access to the Pantano Wash, which mining would have precluded.

In 1999, when my husband Andy retired, we returned to Arizona, built a home [on this land], and in 2006 I began this garden. Everything that was done at that time was to camouflage the unsightly presence of a giant utility pole. I laid out the Dump (?) Road and trails with that challenge in mind...although, laughingly, the first building project was the stairway to the grasslands, as I had promised Andy a putting green.

I approached the garden from a design point of view and then began struggling with choices for foundation plantings. Many mistakes later, I am still suffering those early decisions. My vision was to have an English garden with cactus and succulents replacing the main plantings of flowers. There was not an overall plan but rather the garden evolved along the trails, one project at a time, over the last sixteen years. I feel the introduction of innumerable loads of granite, from rubble to boulders, assisted me immensely with design and planting decisions. They provided a framework.

As to the future, so much has to change. Although I am fortunate to have reclaimed water, it is something of a trap, resulting in plantings that need to be rethought. For me, gardening is more about failures...but these momentary victories lead me about by my nose and inspire me to try again.





## Election for TCSS 2023 Board

TCSS leadership is comprised of four officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) who serve two-year terms, 12 members who serve on the board for three years and a CSSA rep who serves for two years. The board meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month and offers a host of opportunities for participation in the club's activities.

At the end of this year, the board terms of four officers and four members will expire. The nominations committee is preparing a slate of nominees and will present it at the November board meeting. If you, or a member you know, is interested in running for election, please submit the name and the desired position to one of the committee members (below) by November 1.

The final slate will be presented at the November 3 general meeting. At that time, additional nominations will be taken from the floor and via "Zoom." All members will receive a ballot in late November along with their 2023 membership renewal form. The election results will be announced in December.

Thanks for your participation! We look forward to hearing from you!

### The nominations committee:

Bill Holcombe -holcombew@yahoo.com - 520.256.2447

Janice Johnson - chortus@yahoo.com - 817.703.8180

Kris Thompson - kris\_thompson@centurylink.net - 520.529.5825

## 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.

Joel Martin  
Mark & Margaret Sitter  
Chris & Bridget Monrad  
Donna Bolster  
Joel Foy  
Apryl Hultstr And & Family  
Jordan Mantz  
Susan Oates  
Brendan Woltman  
Holli H Strand  
Joanna Vine

## K-12 Education Outreach

We were pleased to see the progress of the Nature Trail and outdoor science lab at Agua Caliente Elementary School this fall. The grant money, awarded to them by the TCSS earlier this year, has allowed them to transform the area and has resulted into even bigger plans for continued growth.

Their new STEM teacher, Sara Stein, invited our Education Outreach instructors to teach three, third-grade classes about cacti and our club. 72 students participated in the September classes and left with big smiles and an appreciation of our desert. We are looking forward to presenting additional classes to all their fourth-grade students.

On Saturday, October 29 from 10-2, we'll host a table at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum (SATM) during their Halloween event. There will be fun (and educational) cactus and succulent-themed activities for the kiddos.

Be sure to mark Saturday, December 17 from 10-3 on your calendar, too, for the SATM's Holiday Express celebration with Santa. Hundreds of Tucson's children attend this annual event, and the TCSS will be there with interesting activities for them.

Contact [education@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:education@tucsoncactus.org) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer at our events.

## Recipe for Build-A-Cactus Models

<b>Ingredients:</b>	Sponges	Green balloons
Logo boxes	Pollinators	Plain toothpicks
Soil bases	Rubber bands	Fancy toothpicks
Ropes	Copper wires	Instructions

The TCSS Education Outreach Volunteers assembled 11,000 pieces of the "ingredients" (above) and created 500 Build-A-Cactus kits for our fall classes. The kits are a favorite of elementary school children who love to create their own cactus model while learning about our desert.

Special thanks to our volunteers, Nancy Birtch, Patsy Frannea, Donna Gonzalez, Bill Holcombe, Paul McNellis and Doug Rowsell. Your time and dedication to our educational goals are sincerely appreciated!





## TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2022)

**President:** Richard Wiedhopf • [president@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:president@Tucsoncactus.org)

**Vice President:** Vonn Watkins • [vp@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:vp@Tucsoncactus.org)

**Secretary:** Monica Wnuk

[secretary@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:secretary@tucsoncactus.org)

**Treasurer:** Cathy Robson

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

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

**Free Plants:** Donna Ellis • [plants@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:plants@Tucsoncactus.org)

**Florilegium:** Cindy Hartwell • [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:** • [park@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:park@Tucsoncactus.org)

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

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

**Technology:** [technology@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:technology@Tucsoncactus.org)

**Research:** Doug Rowsell • [research@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:research@Tucsoncactus.org)

**Field Trips/tours:** Rob Romero • [trips@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:trips@Tucsoncactus.org)

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

**Plant Sales:** Crystal Cannon • [sales@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:sales@tucsoncactus.org)

**Field Guide Sales:** Susan Durham & John Durham

[books@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:books@tucsoncactus.org)

**Conservation:** Thomas Staudt

[conservation@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:conservation@tucsoncactus.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Karen Keller • [editor@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:editor@tucsoncactus.org)

**Deadline for newsletter text or photos:**

**Thursday, October 27 by 4:00pm**

**TCSS Web Page:**

[www.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.tucsoncactus.org)

**Webmaster:** Barb Watts • [webmaster@Tucsoncactus.org](mailto:webmaster@Tucsoncactus.org)

**For general information and questions related to**

**TCSS, email [TCSS@TucsonCactus.org](mailto: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.**

# 130,530

## Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

658 Rescues - 49,520 Volunteer Hours (updated 08-28-22)

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](mailto:Site@TucsonCactus.org)**. Attach a photo of the sign if you can. Note, we do not remove plants from residences.

### October, 2022

**Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:00pm**

Nature's Geometry: Succulents

Presented by Russel Ray

**Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00pm**

Teleconference Board Meeting

## New Addition at Pima Prickly Park

If you are a regular visitor at Pima Prickly Park you know that we are adding great plants every week.

Our latest addition is a trio of Bottle Trees of Queensland *Brachychiton rupestris*.

Named because this unusual tree has a bottle shaped trunk that can expand to as much as 6 ft in diameter.

If you would like to learn more about this great addition to our park, we have a video in our online library. Just type AUS in the keyword search to find it.

If you would like to see mature examples of this tree, you can find one just outside the entrance gate to B&B Cactus Farm and there are 11 in the UA campus arboretum.

Have fun learning about this interesting tree.