



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

March 2023

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 7:00pm

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

Cultivation of Cacti and Succulents

Presented by Marcus White

Casa Blanca Horticultural Services and Desert Natives



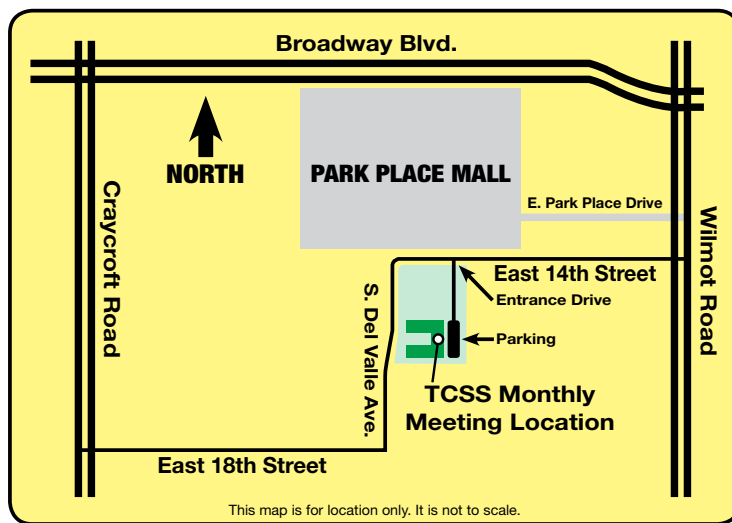
I started my adventures with plants as a kid growing up on the west side of Albuquerque where the upper Chihuahuan Desert meets the Rio Grande river. Roaming the sand hills of the desert and the banks of the river opened my eyes to the natural world and sparked my interests in all things wild. I migrated south to Study Horticulture at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. There I received a bachelor's degree in Horticulture (1987) then decided to hang around and get

my Master's Degree in Horticulture (1990). In graduate school, I worked with native plants, soil water relations and water stress physiology. This was pure luck; I got to work with the plants I loved at a university where most of my colleagues spent their time with peppers, pine trees and onions. An early student and promoter of native and desert-adapted plant use in landscaping (way before it became cool) enforced my passion of desert plants that began as a kid chasing lizards on Albuquerque's west mesa.

My career in horticulture started in southern New Mexico working in greenhouse production of flowering seasonal plants and nursery woody ornamentals. I moved to Tucson in 1992 and involved myself in many aspects of the trade including: education, sales, landscape design, construction, maintenance, and nursery production. My favorite, and where I have spent most my time in the plant world, is production. Nothing beats sowing a seed and watching it grow. Currently, I am the owner of two plant-related businesses, Casa Blanca Horticultural Services and Desert Natives, both providing me with enough plant-related challenges to last two life times. I will be sharing with you my experiences in production horticulture and how I have used my skills to grow quality succulents and cacti. My hope is that we all will leave with at least one piece of information that helps us have more success with the plants we love.

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 but not required). 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. Excellent 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, please enjoy great refreshments provided by our member volunteers and also, everyone can get a special free plant offered to you by the TCSS.



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

Sales Update

The first sale for 2023 for TCSS was an ocotillo/sotol sale on February 19th. Oh what a sale it was. Thanks to the 44 volunteers that helped sort ocotillo and/or helped the day of the sale, we were able to sell 417 ocotillo and 94 sotols. That only left 30 unsold ocotillo. 105 people purchased either plants or gloves or both and we added six new memberships. I want to thank all the volunteers and members that came out to make this such a successful sale. Mark your calendars for the Earth Day Sale on April 22nd. Crystal Cannon TCSS Sales Coordinator



President's Message

Spring is on the way. My old friend Dan Birt (deceased life member) was convinced that the frost season started November 15 and ended on March 15. I can hardly wait. The signs are there and the plants know good days are ahead. All my potted Ocotillos are showing new green tip growth. YEAH.

Another project that I started at home was to try to grow cacti using soil blocks. You make these blocks with a little device that compresses the soil into a cube and put a little dimple in the top for you to place a seed. I put 18 in a small flat and I covered the seed with a little vermiculite and then covered the flat with plastic wrap. Today the seeds germinated almost all at once. When the blocks fill with roots they can be planted in pots or the ground without disturbing the root structure. It seems like a winner.

TCSS Foster Plants Program. "Members take home plants, offsets or cuttings and grow them in containers for 1 to 2 years. When the new plants are fully rooted and are transplant ready, we will call them in for use in one of our conservation programs or to be sold at a plant sale. We may optionally elect to upsize the plant to a bigger pot if the member is willing to continue foster care."

In response to a number of opportunities to engage members in education and conservation we are starting this new program for you. It all began with the concern about the loss of Saguaro from the recent fires and climate change that we are experiencing. What is proposed that members grow on small plants until they are large enough to be planted out to replace Saguaro that have been lost.

We can apply the same philosophy to other species that we obtain or rescue. The very small Ocotillo from the recent rescues would have been great candidates for this program. There are a number of other situations where this program could be utilized. We have not worked out all the details but education and conservation are at the heart of this. There is also an additional benefit for those who participate. You will be allowed to keep some of the plants which you have supplied foster care. It's a win/win concept.

Steve Watts, Thomas Staudt and I will get this program started and more detail will be available shortly.

Let us know your thoughts.

Thank you for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President



It's Sale Time Again

March and April is spring sale time at for many Garden and organizations. They all need support and this is a great time to help out and add a plant or two to your collection.

Green Valley Gardeners Spring Plant Sale

March 17 & 18 9:00 to 3:00at Desert Meadows Park
999 S La Huerta – Green Valley

2023 Spring Plant Sale at Tohono Chul

Members' Early Access Day: Wednesday,
March 15, 9 am – 3 pm

General Sale:

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19, 9 am – 3pm
Tohono Chul's main parking lot, 7366 Paseo del Norte

The Desert Botanical Garden's popular spring plant sale

7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 19,
and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, March 20.
1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum's plant sale

Runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily Saturday,
March 12, through Sunday, March 27
Superior, Az

Desert Survivors Plant Sale

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, March 7-11.
Members can shop early on Saturday, March 4.
Desert Survivors Native Plant Nursery,
1020 W. Starr Pass Blvd.

Pima County Master Gardeners plant sale

Last year's plant sale included potted plants, fruit and veggie starts, native grasses, desert plants, cacti and succulents.
8-11 a.m. Saturday, April 15
Pima County Cooperative Extension Gardens, 4210 N. Campbell Ave.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Earth Day Sale

Over 20 vendors in the Big Tent (40' x 100')
plus TCSS rescue and other plants for sale
April 22, 2023 8:00am to 2:00pm
Wetmore Rd. & 4th Ave. • 4342 North 4th Avenue
Our biggest cacti and succulent sale of the year

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 Donors
Anne & Andrew Anderson
George Carlisle
Mariah Carlos
Jeanne Coons
Junie Hostetler & Nancy Farrier
Devlin Houser & Michael Bogan
Berni Jilka & Gary Maskarinec
Sherryl & Randy Jurisch
Andrew Legan & Family
Ed & Sophie Knab
Rob & Lisa Koumal
Roger Nichols
Lori Otoole
William Pickett
Tom Richardson & Family
Tim & Mary Karen Roberts
Manuel & Rena Santoyo
Sylvia Simpson
Cathy Spann & Will Powers
Martha & Abbott Taylor

**The Cactus and Succulent
Society of America (CSSA)
has scheduled their
2023 biennial convention
July 12-16, 2023
Colorado Springs.**

The convention will include
field trips in the Colorado Springs
area, 13 world-class speakers, plant and
pottery sales, and an awards banquet.

**Further information
is available on the Convention
Website www.cssaconvention.com
or from your TCSS CSSA Affiliate
Representative
Bill Holcombe at 520-256-2447.**

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on March 2, 2023

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.

TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2024)

President: Richard Wiedhopf • president@Tucsoncactus.org

Vice President: Vonn Watkins • vp@Tucsoncactus.org

Secretary: Monica Wnuk

secretary@tucsoncactus.org

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treasurer@Tucsoncactus.org

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(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

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Kermie Hodge (2024)

Robert Villa (2024)

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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

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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, March 30 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.**

130,655

Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

669 Rescues - 49,623 Volunteer Hours (updated 01-01-23)

**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.

March, 2023

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Cultivation of Cacti and Succulents

Presented by Marcus White

Casa Blanca Horticultural Services and Desert Natives

Tuesday, March 14, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting

TCSS would like to welcome and recognize Native Garden of Green Valley as the newest outlet for sales of the TCSS *Field Guide to Cacti and Other Succulents of Arizona*.

TCSS MEETING REFRESHMENTS



Please share and socialize with your fellow members at our monthly meetings by bringing some type of finger food for the refreshment table.

For the **MARCH MEETING** we are asking members whose last names begin with **A through E** to bring something that would serve 10-12 people.

Thursday, April 6, 2023
Program title to come