



Desert Breeze

Echinopsis atacamensis ssp. pasacana, in Salta Province of northwestern Argentina, at 9100 ft elevation.



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

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

Memorable Places and the Succulents that Live There

Presented by Dan Mahr

Dan Mahr grew up in southern California, a fifth-generation San Diegan. Influenced by frequent family camping trips to the ocean and desert he developed an interest in the natural world at an early age. He had an outdoor cactus garden by the age of 11 and has been growing cacti and other succulents continuously since – about 65 years. He and his wife Susan are both entomologists and lived in Wisconsin for 40 years, on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin – Madison. They have now returned to southern California and are living in the home where Susan's family resided when she was in high school. The property suffered neglect for many years and the two have been revitalizing the yard, planting over 700 plants – mostly succulents, natives, and other drought-tolerant species. Dan has been a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America for nearly 50 years and was on the Board of Directors for 15 years, serving as CSSA president in 2005-2006. Dan founded the CSSA Fields Trips Program in 1998 and served as its director for 20 years, organizing field trips for CSSA members to cactus and succulent habitats throughout the world. He has personally seen succulents growing in their native habitats in 25 countries in Europe, Africa, Latin America, Australia, and various

island countries. Dan has been an invited speaker for several local cactus and succulent societies and at numerous cactus and succulent conferences in the United States and abroad. He has given dozens of talks and workshops on growing cactus and succulents to various garden groups throughout the Midwest. His personal interest in succulents has varied through the years; currently he has a mixed assortment of cacti and other succulent plant families, but specializes in succulent trees and hybrid adeniums.

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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 **September MEETING** we are asking members whose last names begin with **H through N** to bring something that would serve 10-12 people.



Corryocactus brevistylus at Colca Canyon, the second deepest canyon in the Peruvian Andes, in the Arequipa Region of southwestern Peru, at 12,000-15,000 ft elevation.

The western-most species of *Adenium*, *A. boehmianum*, at Epupa Falls, Kunene Region, northwestern Namibia, on the Angola border, at 2100 ft elevation. The blue palms in the background are the Makalani palm - *Hyphaene petersiana*.

Memorable Places and the Succulents that Live There. This is a talk about memories. Specifically – travel memories. But with some plants thrown in. For folks who might be interested in such.

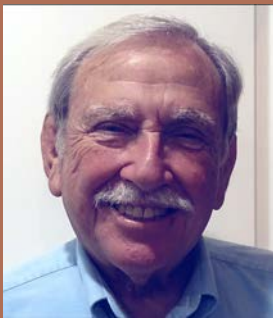
Those of us who like to travel to natural areas have lived at a pretty good time. Travel is relatively easy and there are enough natural areas still existing to make the effort worthwhile (though that is quickly changing). Many cactus and succulent enthusiasts have made opportunities to see our plants in their natural habitats. And even if the destinations are fairly close

at hand, such as the American Southwest or adjacent Mexico, there is plenty to see, lots to learn, and experiences that build memories.

Many of the trips Susan and I have taken have not been succulent-centric, but the plants are often there anyway – sempervivums in the Swiss Alps; sedums on the French Riviera; epiphyllums in the Amazon Rainforest. And even on succulent-intense trips, some of the most lasting memories are of other things – other types of plants, or animals, geology, people architecture, history, cuisine. This talk recalls a few of the memorable places I've been lucky enough to visit. In some cases, the succulents may be rather inconsequential – but they were there. In other cases, it was certainly the plants and their surroundings that have firmly fixed the memories in place. As I advance into my late 70s, there probably aren't many exotic

destinations in my future; so, thank goodness for the memories! As time allows, the talk will visit four locations in southern Africa and three more in South America. The hope is that my memories will allow you to come away with a greater understanding of our very special plants, and the places they call home.

We are always thinking of your safety and if you are not feeling well we ask that you join us on the internet Zoom presentation. If you're doing well and would like to attend you are perfectly welcome to come and join us for this really special 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.



President's Message

We have made it through the worst summer on record. Unfortunately, many of our cacti and succulents didn't. Plants that we have grown for years could not survive this summer's weather. It would be valuable to have a record of plants that didn't make it. Please send me a list of plants that you lost this

summer to president@tucsoncactus.org. Perhaps, we can gain some knowledge for the future. I am afraid that the climate change will be with us for many years.

We have applied for and received an Arizona Seed Dealer License. The board will be establishing a seed reserve and how we will be packaging and disseminating seeds. Of course we will need your help and support for this important long term project. Watch for more information on the web and in this newsletter for the future of this project.

Pima Prickly Park is having its annual Ferocactus flower show. There are still a lot of blooms to open. Stop by and

enjoy. September and October are prime planting months at the Park. Come out and play in the dirt with us. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday are active planting days at the park.

The Board of Directors will be meeting in person Sunday, September 17. The meeting will start at 2:00pm at the Ward 3 City Council office. We will be electing a nominations committee and preparing for the elections of 4 Board members and the CSSA representative. All current members are eligible to run for office. More information will be in the next newsletter.

The Good Time Silent Auction is coming October 1, 2023 at our Amphi Sales Area (more information in this newsletter). This is a great opportunity to get rid of extra plants, pots etc from your house and acquire new plants, pots etc. from someone else's house. And there is ice cream and toppings. It can't get better than this to end a miserable summer.

Thank you for your support,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

The Star Cacti: A look at the genus *Astrophytum*

By Greg D. Starr



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Both the genus *Astrophytum* and its first species, *A. myriostigma*, were described by Charles Lemaire in 1839. In the genus description, Lemaire wrote “plante ressemblant à une étoile de mer”, which translated from the French becomes “starfish-like plant” – a reference to the 5-6 ribbed body resembling a starfish when viewed from above. Prior to the Lemaire description, Augustin de Candolle had described *Echinocactus ornatus* where it resided until 1922 when Britton and Rose moved it to *Astrophytum*. Both *Astrophytum asterias* and *A. capricorne* were placed in *Echinocactus* when they were first described but were later moved to their current home in *Astrophytum*.

Currently there are six species recognized in the genus each with its own individual appeal and all being very popular with cactus and succulent enthusiasts. Four of the six species are easy to grow, and many collectors will start with these to gain confidence in their cultivating skills. I discuss the culture of each species in each account. The two most difficult species to cultivate are *Astrophytum asterias* and *Astrophytum caput-medusae*.

Species Accounts: *Astrophytum asterias* Sea Urchin Cactus, Sand Dollar Cactus

These are small plants with a single body to 1–3 inches tall by 3–6 inches across and shaped like a sea urchin or sand dollar. Bodies have eight low ribs with woolly areoles down the center of each. They may or may not have small or large patches of white trichomes sometimes referred to as flecks. Typical flowers are large and yellow with red at the base of each tepal (figure 1), although there are forms with pink or red flowers (figure 2). In cultivation the plants can flower multiple times in late spring and summer.

These are best grown in decorative pots in a fast-draining soil with some organic matter mixed in. Plants require some shade and the right amount of water; too much and they rot, too little and the roots die. They generally have no problem with Tucson winters, having survived high teens F with no damage.

There are a plethora of cultivars involving either pure *Astrophytum asterias* selections or hybrids between *Astrophytum asterias* and either *Astrophytum capricorne* or *Astrophytum coahuilense*.

Astrophytum capricorne: Goat's Horn Cactus

Plants are globular or short narrow columns growing to 6–12 inches tall and 5–6 inches in diameter. Bodies are dark green and may be naked or sparsely to densely covered in trichomes like those on *Astrophytum asterias*. There are several named varieties based on spination, and all have large flowers that are mostly yellow with red or orange-red at the base of the tepals. Flowers can appear repeatedly in summer. *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *aureum* has naked or lightly flecked bodies and long thin spines that are a tangled mess on older plants. Spines are orange-yellow on new growth aging to gray (figure 3). The body of *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *niveum* is densely covered with white flecks that give the plant a furry appearance. The spines are thick and not as curly as in other forms, mostly brown or black when fresh and aging to white (figure 4). *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *crassispinum* may very well be a non-flecked form of *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *niveum*. Finally, *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *senile* generally lacks white flecks, but the dark green body is densely covered with long thin curly spines.

All forms of *Astrophytum capricorne* are easy to grow either in pots or in the ground in a xeric landscape. When growing them in pots, provide some shade in summer and a consistent watering schedule adjusted according to type of soil and how quickly excess water drains away. Plants can breeze through winter lows of 20°F with no damage.

Astrophytum caput-medusae

This is the most unusual species, and some consider it to be in its own genus, however current taxonomy has it in *Astrophytum*, so we will follow suit. The plants are unlike any other *Astrophytum* species in that they have elongated cylindrical tubercles resembling garden eels planted in the sea floor and drifting back and forth with the motion of the water. The tubercles are 5–8 inches long and about ¼–¾ inch in diameter (figure 5). Large flowers are yellow with orange to orange-red centers and appear in summer.

This has been the most difficult species for me to cultivate. Plants do not like too much sun and the watering must be perfect. Too much water and the soil remains soggy, which causes the roots to rot, and too little water and the roots dry up and die off. Some growers have had success adding gypsum and/or limestone to the soil. Others have gone the route of grafting their plants on to a tougher root stock.

Astrophytum coahuilense

Astrophytum coahuilense resembles *Astrophytum myriostigma*, and the name has been included as a synonym under that species by some authors. However, there are three differences that point to its separation as a distinct species. These plants have a single five-ribbed body that becomes short columnar with age, reaching about 6–8 inches tall and 4–6 inches across. The body lacks spines but is densely covered with large fuzzy flecks compared to the smaller flecks with more well-defined edges seen on *Astrophytum myriostigma* (figures 6 & 7). The flowers (figure 8), which can appear repeatedly in summer, are large and yellow with red or orange-red at the base of the tepals, while those on *Astrophytum myriostigma* are pure yellow. Finally, the fruits of *Astrophytum coahuilense* are semi-fleshy, sometimes pinkish, and open at the base compared to those of *Astrophytum myriostigma* that are smaller, somewhat spiny, and split open from the apex down into a five-pointed shape.

These are also quite easy to cultivate. Plants grow in the ground as well as they do in pots provided they receive the same level of attention. In pots they should be given shade in summer and a consistent watering schedule, while in the ground they can tolerate full sun once acclimated. It may take a couple summers for plants to become fully acclimated to full sun.

Astrophytum myriostigma

As mentioned above these look much like *Astrophytum coahuilense* but are readily identified by the differences outlined under that species. Plants generally have a single body that lacks spines and can become a short column, growing to as much as 12–15 (rarely 24) inches tall and 4–8 (rarely 10) inches across. There are usually five ribs although there can sometimes be as few as three and as many as eight. Although there are nude forms, these are mostly covered with small white flecks that have more clearly defined edges than *Astrophytum coahuilense* (figures 9 & 10). The pure yellow flowers are small to medium sized for the genus and, like the other species, can appear multiple times throughout summer.

These are quite easy to cultivate either in pots or planted in the ground. As with *Astrophytum coahuilense* the plants will tolerate full sun if acclimated over a couple of growing seasons. When grown in pots be sure the soil has very good drainage and that the plant receives supplemental water on a regular basis when the temperature heats up. Your prized specimens may need watering every 4–10 days depending on how long the soil retains water. Plants are hardy to at least 15°F without sustaining damage. The cultivar ‘Onzuka’ has very large flecks and is sometimes susceptible to developing longitudinal splits in the body.

Astrophytum ornatum

This last species has a single globular body that becomes a short column with age, eventually growing to 12–24 inches tall and 6–10 inches in diameter. The body is medium to deep green sparsely to densely covered with white flecks when young, but they become more spaced out as the plant grows taller (figures 11 & 12). Ribs have 5–11 straw-yellow to golden yellow, straight, sharp spines at each areole. Large pure yellow flowers are 2–3 inches long and 2–3 inches wide and can appear several times throughout summer. *Astrophytum ornatum* var. *mirbelii* has a stout stem that is more heavily flecked than the regular var. *ornatum*.

Plants are easily cultivated whether in containers or in the ground. They are great landscape subjects throughout much of the desert southwest and can be grown in pots almost anywhere. For potted plants, be sure the soil has good drainage, and the plant receives supplemental water when the weather is warm but keep the soil dry when the weather is cold.

Hybrids and Cultivars

Hybrids and cultivars are becoming more commonly available as growers in Asia have become enchanted with these plants. Japanese growers especially have been producing several unique forms and crosses, and there are many named cultivars available.

There are numerous named cultivars of *Astrophytum asterias* that have originated primarily in Japan. *Astrophytum asterias* ‘Super Kabuto’ is densely covered with large fuzzy flecks that nearly obscure the green body (figure 13). ‘Super Kabuto’ is used as one parent in producing a plethora of interesting hybrids.

Regular *Astrophytum asterias* and the cultivar ‘Super Kabuto’ cross readily with both *Astrophytum capricorne* and *Astrophytum coahuilense*, and some interesting plants can be grown. Crosses between the large flecked ‘Super Kabuto’ and heavily flecked *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *niveum* result in some very interesting forms. Second and third generation crosses produce some real oddballs with respect to flecking and presence or absence of spines (figures 14–16).

There are also many named cultivars of *Astrophytum myriostigma* that have originated in Japan, too many to cover here. Two of the more popular cultivars are ‘Onzuka’ with large white dots covering the plant, and ‘Fukuryu’ with its numerous irregular “wart-like” projections on and between the ribs.

Hybrids of *Astrophytum myriostigma* and *Astrophytum ornatum* frequently inherit the more heavily flecked bodies from *A. myriostigma* and short spines from *A. ornatum*. They tend to be sturdy plants that grow faster than either parent.

Final Thoughts

Plants are easy to identify to species, but hybrids involving multiple generations can be difficult to pinpoint the parentage. *Astrophytum* species are generally easy to cultivate and do not require special care, but if summers continue to remain abnormally hot during the day and the overnight lows continue to creep higher, they might need a little more attention. Specifically, *Astrophytum asterias* and *Astrophytum caput-medusae* might become even more touchy to grow in the low and mid-elevation desert cities in the southwest. It might be worth the time and expense to install a system capable of supplying a fine mist that could be used to cool the air around the plants on hot summer afternoons, as long as it does not wet the soil.

Because the genus consists of only 6 species, 5 of which are usually readily available, it is easy to collect them all. Once you are bit by the *Astrophytum* bug, you will want to amass a collection that includes single and multi-generational hybrids.

For more pictures and additional information go to www.llifle.com and search for

Good Time Silent Auction

Sunday, October 1, 2023 • Amphi Cactus Sales Site
4342 N 4th Avenue (Wetmore and 4th Ave.)
3:00pm to 5:00pm

The new outside location will be easy to access and will be under shade cover. Enter on 4th Ave. from either Limberlost or Wetmore. Entrance gates will be clearly marked. This will make it easy to drop off plants etc.

This event has been a Tucson Cactus Succulent Society tradition for almost 60 years.

This is a celebration: silent auctions, Free Plants etc., \$2, and \$5, sale tables and Ice Cream. Bring your excess plants, pots etc for the free item tables. All we ask is that your plants are free of disease and insects. Better plants will go on the \$2.00, and \$5.00 tables and special plants for the silent auctions, your choice and we will be glad to help. There will be no discount pricing at the end of the event for the \$2.00, and \$5.00 plants.

Bid sheets and price stickers will be available at the event. The Board has adopted the same policy as we had

at previous silent auctions with a high value special silent auction plants. These items will have an opening minimum bid of \$20.00 or more set by the donor. At the discretion of the donor, If the item sells for at least the opening bid the donor receives the opening bid price and any amount above that goes to the society. There are always special and/or rare plants that will pique your interest.

In the past, we have had at least 3 separate silent auctions during the afternoon. Pots, plants, special cuttings,

books, art, tools etc. are welcome donations for these silent auctions. Free Plants etc. will be available starting at 3:30pm in order to give everyone an opportunity to take some home. We will start the set-up at 1:00pm and the party will start at 3:00pm with the first silent auction ending at about 3:25pm and then about every 20 minutes thereafter. All you have to do is sign-in, get a bid number and then keep bidding until you hear "PENCILS DOWN STEP AWAY FROM THE TABLE".

We need volunteers for set-up, sales, and clean-up. Come help and have fun, ask questions, talk with friends, etc., etc., Please feel free to bring your family and friends to this event. You don't have to be a member or bring plants or buy them, just come and enjoy the event. Everyone is welcome. More information call (520) 256-2447.

Please bring your plants and other items between 1:00pm and 2:30pm for inclusion in this event.

Bid sheets will be available at the September meeting and in the newsletter for your convenience. Just cut, fill out the name of the item and your name only and leave the rest blank. We will finish the process when you bring the items for the auction tables.

Thank you

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America 39th Biennial Convention 2023

This past July I was fortunate to attend the Cactus and Succulent Society of America 2023 Biennial Convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The location was excellent at the Colorado Springs Marriott. The area was perfect for the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society to invite everyone to the CSSA 39th Biennial Convention in beautiful Colorado Springs where the actual convention title was, Succulents with Altitude. The weather was excellent during the 5 days of activities, July 12 to July 16.

Starting the activities was the Field Trips and Tours that was an excellent feature, allowing those who participated to visit excellent home gardens, attend a public garden tour and go explore the Pueblo and Cañon City area. There was even a special trip to Pikes Peak on the Cog Railway. During the convention there was a large pottery, art and plant sales area and it was also a great place to talk with vendors and anyone looking for something special.

The main feature of the convention was the truly professional and wonderful speakers and their combined, 19 total presentations. Many of these professionals have been to Tucson as our guests and have presented programs to our club over the years. The CSSA conventions are limited to their members and I always enjoy meeting and talking with those

from around the world who are interested in what we're doing in Tucson. I'm always encouraging many research professionals, growers and gardeners from various locations to come and visit with us.

Article and photo by Vonn Watkins



Rob Wallace, Elisabeth Sarnes, Don Barnett, Karen Ostler, Panayoti Kelaidis, Kelly Grummons, Woody Minnich, Stefan Burger, Ernst Van Jaarsveld, Peter Breslin, Ernesto Sandoval and also Donnie Barnett & Marcia Tatroe (not shown).

Good Time Silent Auction

ITEM # A_____

Minimum Starting Bid \$ _____

Item Name: _____

Donor

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The Star Cacti: A look at the genus *Astrophytum*

Photos by Greg D. Starr



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

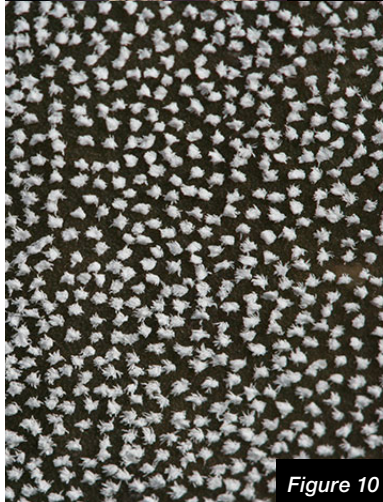


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

Figure 1 A cultivated *Astrophytum asterias* lacking flecks and showing the yellow flower with red center.

Figure 2 Red flowered form of *Astrophytum asterias*.

Figure 3 The new spines of *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *a ureum* come out yellow.

Figure 4 The densely flecked *Astrophytum capricorne* var. *niveum* with its thick spines.

Figure 5 The unique *Astrophytum caput-medusae*.

Figure 6 *Astrophytum coahuilense*, compare to *Astrophytum myriostigma* in figure 9.

Figure 7 Close up of the flecking on *Astrophytum coahuilense*. Compare to the flecking on *Astrophytum myriostigma* in figure 10.

Figure 8 *Astrophytum coahuilense* with its large yellow flower and red center.

Figure 9 An *Astrophytum myriostigma* in habitat in San Luis Potosí.

Figure 10 Close up of the flecking on *Astrophytum myriostigma*. Compare to the flecking on *Astrophytum coahuilense* in figure 7.

Figure 11A cultivated *Astrophytum ornatum* showing the chevron pattern formed by the flecks as sometimes seen on these plants.

Figure 12 An *Astrophytum ornatum* in the barranca to Tolimán in Hidalgo.

Figure 13 The large dense flecking and yellow flowers with red centers of *Astrophytum asterias* 'Super Kabuto'.

Figures 14–16 Various multi-generation hybrids of *Astrophytum asterias* 'Super Kabuto' and *Astrophytum capricorne*.

Big Bend 2023



Mid-April was a good time to visit Big Bend National Park. Wildflowers and cacti were still blooming, and the weather wasn't too hot yet. I went there with TCSS members Georgette Mehalik and Linda Bonner, and we saw fascinating geological formations, historic ranching and mining sites, beautiful river views, and exquisite plants of the Chihuahuan Desert.

To help us identify and understand what we were seeing, we mainly used two field guides: *Little Big Bend*, by Roy Morey, and *Cacti of Texas*, by Powell, Weedon, and Powell. Both books had useful information and good photos.

I found interesting similarities and differences, comparing the flora of the two deserts. Some plants that are the same species as what we have here are *Fouquieria splendens* (ocotillo), *Cottisia*

gracilis (slender janusia), and *Larrea tridentata* (creosote). Many Chihuahuan Desert plants resemble Sonoran Desert plants and are the same genus, but different species or subspecies. Some examples are *Echinocereus stramineus* (strawberry hedgehog), *Echinocereus dasyacanthus* (Texas rainbow cactus), *Dasyllirion leiophyllum* (green sotol), *Echinocactus horizionthalonius* (eagle's claw, but not our subspecies), and *Jatropha dioica* (leatherstem, similar to our limberbush). Then, Big Bend has plants that we will not see in the Sonoran Desert, like *Ariocarpus fissuratus* (living rock), *Hechtia texensis* (false agave), and *Echinocactus texensis* (Texas horsecreeper). In the interest of brevity, I have not included in this paragraph many other plants that we saw. Suffice it to say, we saw innumerable wonderful cacti, succulents, and other plants. A botanizing trip to Big Bend National Park is definitely worth it!



2023 Summer Interns Program

Joseph and Kaylee are part of a joint program between TCSS and the Pima County Nursery, managed by Amy Belk. In the spring Amy recruits applicants to apply for internships with the nursery with the understanding the interns will also volunteer at Pima Prickly Park on a weekly basis. When Joseph and Kaylee have met the requirements, they will prepare a summary of experiences and share with TCSS members. TCSS will send \$2500 for each of them to the accredited college of their choice.



Joseph Han is a freshman at UA who plans to study Microbiology and Mathematics. He is fairly new to the Sonoran Desert, having moved here from New Jersey only 5 years ago, but has grown to appreciate the unique beauty here. Despite the difference between the Sonoran Desert and the Garden State, Joseph recognizes that this is far from the barren desert that he first interpreted when he arrived here. He has served as

an officer for Science Olympiad, the National Honor Society, and the Newspaper Club, and his academic career includes AP Environmental Science and research on plant-microbe interactions with Dr. Baltrus at UA.



Kaylee Wilt is a senior at UA, pursuing a degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis on Rangeland Management and Ecology. She is a native Tucsonan with experience as a camp counselor and outdoor recreation guide, and training as a Wilderness First Responder. Throughout her academic career, courses in plant biology, field botany, and restoration ecology have inspired her to learn more about desert plants - and how to propagate, care for, and conserve them. She has excellent people skills and is extremely eager to learn through hands-on experience (she even volunteered at the nursery and participated in a TCSS salvage before the internship began)!

TCSS Sales Volunteer



Meet Jan Schwartz the TCSS Sales Volunteer for September –

I heard about TCSS while in training as a docent at Tucson Botanical Gardens. I looked at the website and decided immediately that this was an organization for me; I could learn a lot and also contribute, a win-win!

My first involvement was with the Education Committee. It was short lived because I discovered that kids were not the demographic with whom I enjoyed working. I then started going on rescues and experienced great fun and camaraderie. Around that time I also joined the sales team. Once the pandemic eased I maintained my involvement with sales, but had to give up on rescues in favor of my back. It's really fun working at sales with the plants and the public, and helping people make decisions about plants according to their needs. I learn something new at every sale and I find the team a fun tribe to be involved with.

Construction of Labyrinth Nears

The installation of a 75' diameter labyrinth at Pima Prickly Park is expected to begin in late September or early October. The labyrinth will be located on the north side of the driveway leading to the Pima County Natural Resources, Recreation and

Parks administration building at 3500 W. River Road directly across from the parking lot.

The labyrinth study group began collaborating on this project in November 2022 to determine a location, a style of labyrinth, the materials, and other considerations for convenience and safety. This group of 13 very active TCSS members visited several labyrinths, met with Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind administrators and faculty, and considered dozens of possible artwork creations. A Chartres-style labyrinth was selected.

The labyrinth's paths will be lined with pavers and the walkways filled with decomposed granite. Often confused with mazes, labyrinths offer only one route to the center and back out; there are no dead ends or tricks as with mazes. This will be a place for thinking, healing, celebration and peace.

Kaylee Wilt: Intern Summer/2023

My summer spent with the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society has been a summer of absorbing as much knowledge as possible. Each week, I watch master gardening practices put to use. To the members of TCSS, these tips and tricks are just common practice but, to me, these pieces of knowledge will now change how I see and work with plants forever. The first thing I learned was Saul teaching me that I can eat Palo Verde beans like edamame before they dry out. Then, Vonn taught me how to find the south side of a barrel. I watched Steve orchestrate a whole group of people in order to rescue a Mexican Fence post. I realized, when you see magnificent cacti around Tucson they're only there because someone is looking out for them. The larger and more spectacular they are, the more someone has loved them, cared them, remembered to water them on the hottest days and cover them on the coldest nights. I'm happy to say that, thanks to the opportunities given to me by TCSS and Pima County, the plants have one more trained eye to help when they need it. I thank you to anyone who shared any piece of information with me this summer. I promise I remembered it all and I will put it to good use.

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on September 7, 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

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

Volunteer Wish List

TCSS is looking for some volunteers to help out in the following areas

1. The Sales Team is looking for someone with programming experience to join them to help with sales notices and when necessary posting of items for sale to members. If you are interested please send an email to sales@tucsoncactus.org with your name, email address, and phone number
2. The Silent Auction/Ice Cream Social is Sunday, October 1st. We are looking for volunteers to help setup on Saturday the 30th of September and volunteers to help at the sale on the 1st. If you are interested in helping send an email with your name, email address, phone number, and the day you want to help to silentauction@tucsoncactus.org
3. We are looking for someone to help Karen with the monthly newsletter. This person would contact members/leadership within the club to have articles submitted each month. If you are interested in helping send an email with your name, email address, and phone number to membership@tucsoncactus.org.
4. Everyone enjoys the snacks after the monthly meetings. We are looking for volunteers to monthly "Plan, purchase, set out and cleanup" meeting refreshments. If you are interested please send an email to refreshments@tucsoncactus.org with your name, email address, and phone number

5. K-12 EDUCATION OUTREACH: School Grant Advisor

- Respond to schools that request a TCSS grant for a desert garden.
- Visit the school and their representative and provide advice on areas and plants that will fulfill their needs.
- Review of grant application with K-12 outreach committee
- Presentation (by committee) to board for approval
- Follow-up with selection of plants and final review of garden(s)

6. K-12 Instructors: Teach K-12 students, campers, community groups, etc. about TCSS and plants.

Typical settings are two-hour, family STEM nights at local schools, some classroom teaching

All materials are supplied

No green thumb or GED required

If interested in either of these positions send your name, email address and phone number to:

education@tucsoncactus.org

7. CACTUS CASUALS BOUTIQUE: Buyer

Maintain inventory and purchase logo-wear and items for boutique

8. Shopkeeper: Assist members at TCSS meetings and events who wish to purchase items

If interested in either of these positions send your name, email address and phone number to:

kris_thompson@centurylink.net

Thanks for stepping up and helping out where needed.

Important Dates For 2023

Watch for further details and announcements

October 1, 2023	Good Time Silent Auction
October 21, 2023	Desert Haven Opening
November 12, 2023	Celebrate TCSS Birthday
December 10, 2023	Holiday Party and Annual Meeting



If you are interested in sharing your desert garden with members, please fill out the application that is on our website at [Popup_Tour_Application.pdf \(wildapricot.org\)](#)

You can choose any Saturday during the year that hasn't already been scheduled. We just need a couple of months' notice to get everything in place for the tour. In general, there are no rules or necessary requirements/knowledge to be on the tour other than a visual emphasis on cactus and succulents. Our Pop-Up Tours are just a way for members to share ideas and get inspiration for their own landscapes. We hope you might consider sharing your garden with the TCSS membership. If you have any questions, please email gardentours@tucsoncactus.org.

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

Treasurer: Cathy Robson
treasurer@Tucsoncactus.org

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

Donna Ellis (2023)
Janice Johnson (2023)
Kris Thompson (2023)
Eli Cavalcante (2023)
Crystal Cannon (2024)
Linda Heisley (2024)
Kermie Hodge (2024)
Robert Villa (2024)
Brian Vandervoet (2025)
Brad Haeckel (2025)
Joel Fontaine (2025)
Steve Watts (2025))

CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Bill Holcombe (2023)

Cactus Rescue: Donna Ellis, Steve Watts
Tucsoncactus.org

Urban Rescues: Julie Shulick
desertrat@shulick.com

Education: Kris Thompson • education@Tucsoncactus.org

Free Plants: Donna Ellis • plants@Tucsoncactus.org

Florilegium: Joyce Peters • art@Tucsoncactus.org

Garden Tours: Patsy Frannea • tours@Tucsoncactus.org

Librarian: Brad Haeckel • librarian@Tucsoncactus.org

Prickly Park: • 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: Open

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, September 28 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 under Activities 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.

September, 2023

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Memorable Places and the Succulents that Live There
Presented by Dan Mahr

Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 2:00pm

Ward 3 City Council office

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
In Memory of Peter Ertman
Patricia & Richard Wiedhopf
Daphna & Frank Lederman
Elizabeth Helen Baker
Maureen Orr & Robert Linden
Greg & Carol Starr

Thursday, October 6, 2023, at 7:00pm
Speaker will be available
in the next newsletter



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