

# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2001

## **The Results of the Officers and Board of Directors Elections 2001**

**49 Ballots received**

| <b>Officers</b> |                                | <b>Votes</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| President:      | Al Coritz                      | 46           |
|                 | Mark Sitter    1 write in vote |              |
| Vice Pres.      | Vonn Watkins                   | 47           |
| Secretary:      | Wendy Beall                    | 49           |
| Treasurer:      | Valarie Miller                 | 49           |

## **Board of Directors 3 year term expiring December 31 2003**

|               | <b>Votes</b> |
|---------------|--------------|
| Margaret Pope | 48           |
| Dan Birt      | 45           |
| Chris Monrad  | 48           |

## **Board of Directors 1 year term expiring December 31 2001**

|             | <b>Votes</b> |
|-------------|--------------|
| Jack Ramsey | 49           |

## **2001 Meeting Schedule**

January 4

February 1

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

**July 1 - 6**

## **The Biennial Convention of The Cactus and Succulent Society of America**

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 1

December

**Christmas Party to be announced**

## **Board Meeting**

Next board meeting to be announced  
by Al Coritz

Board meetings are held at The University of  
Arizona College of Pharmacy

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AND BOARD  
Officers**

President: Al Coritz  
Vice President: Vonn Watkins  
Secretary: Wendy Beall  
Treasurer: Valarie Miller

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(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

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Jack Ramsey (2001)  
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Debbie Boyink (2001)

**Affiliate Representative to the CSSA**

Richard Wiedhopf

**Al Coritz Cell Phone Number  
(520) 977-0952**

Editor:

karen keller

email address:

kkeller@azstarnet.com

Deadline for copy:

18th of each month



**New Web Address**

TCSS Web Page:

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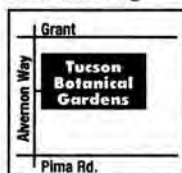
**Next Meetings**

Thursday, January 4 at 7:00pm  
Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way  
Tucson, AZ 85712

**Refreshments**

*Those people with family names  
beginning with A to J, please bring your choice  
of refreshments to the next meeting.*

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



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Bob Schmalzel**

**will present**

**Pima Pineapple is Trailer Trash; Turk's  
Head is the Quiet immortal: Two ways to  
live on an Ancient Landscape**

Bob received his masters degree in science from the University of Arizona and later spent 3 years with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. He is now a practicing plant Demographer and has spent more than 5 years working with plant population dynamics. Bob will talk about his field studies on two endangered cacti in the Tucson area, Pima Pineapple Cactus, *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina* and Nichol's Turk's Head Cactus, *Echinocactus horizonthalonius* var. *nicholii*. His work is primarily focused on understanding the population dynamics of these two cacti. This research has been supported by contracts with the Arizona Department of Agriculture and is currently supported by a grant from T & E, Inc., and a contract through the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Bob will talk about how he sets up permanent plots to study cactus populations and what he has learned in watching the growth and fates of these plants. Jackrabbits, bighorn sheep, cactus beetles and maybe microbes all may play a role in the life and times of these two cacti. Hopefully, some of you may try your hand at setting up permanent plots for wild cactus populations and teasing out the factors that control their fates. Bob will help outline ways to study habitats of plant populations and may help you understand more about plant life.

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**



*Desert Breeze*

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

**Dr. Thomas Van Devender**  
and

**Ana Lilia Van Devender**

will present

**The Cacti of Sonora**

I'm sure many have seen Tom appear on episodes of the PBS Television series *The Desert Speaks*. The new book *Cactáceas de Sonora, Mexico* was co-authored by him along with Rafaela Paredes Aguilar and Dr. Richard S. Felger. Tom is Senior Research Scientist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Ana Lilia is a Research Associate at the Museum. She is from Sonora, Mexico with a background in botany and ethnobotany. She translated much of the book from English to Spanish. Tom will do an overview of the Sonoran cacti based on studies and findings for the new book, and his wife, Ana Lilia Reina will cover the ethnobotany. He will show habitat photos and discuss some of the plants and environments where the cacti of Sonora are found. This will be an excellent presentation that everyone must see.

**Jenny Coniglio,  
TCSS Librarian,**

will be at the next meeting to receive library books you have checked out, and to display others for you to choose. In future meetings we plan to have book reviews by our members. Can you help?

We are also planning to expand our current library.

What are your suggestions for books to buy?

**Call 546-3684  
for suggestions.**



*Ferocactus latispinus*

photo by Vonn Watkins

*The Ferocacti are a wonderful group of excellent plants well suited for Tucson. Look for more on the Ferocactus in coming months.*

## **A Few Words**

**by Vonn Watkins**

Happy New Year to Everyone,  
Even though 2000 was a very active and prosperous year we need to again look at improving and doing well in the new millennium. I have only been with the club a short time and have seen lots of great things accomplished. Many of you are quite unaware of all the time and efforts that some of your fellow club members give to make things happen in this organization. At our annual Holiday Party on December 10th several members were recognized for all they did for us in 2000. I would again like to thank these individuals on behalf of everyone and list their names. **Norma Beckman** was always there to give her time and effort in so many ways and with all her help she made sure we had great door prizes and raffle plants at every meeting. **Kathryn Fridlind** did an excellent job as club Treasurer and her great work with the budget and overall money handling was vital in 2000. **Ron Fridlind** is stepping down as a board member. Ron helped greatly with Sonoran III. **Karen Keller** has done an exceptional job with her efforts and hard  
*continued on the next page*



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work in the re-designing of the Desert Breeze and in keeping up the board's requests and recommendations. **Chris Monrad** has done a great job in bringing the salvage of our native cacti and other succulents into the forefront and has also given our organization room for educational understanding in the coming years. **Jack Ramsey** has always given his time and effort to making our sales efforts and elections work well. His work on Sonoran III and numerous other events will not be forgotten.

**Mark Sitter** always gives his time to various committees and always helps to further our educational efforts. Mark also helped greatly with our 2000 presentations. **Dick Wiedhopf** continues helping with anything and everything. His great work on Sonoran III made it a success we truly needed. Dick continues to keep us informed about the CSSA as well as doing so many other things. We thank all these people for giving so much of their time and effort to the TCSS. We should all think about how giving a little can mean a great deal to everyone.

We have had a great 2000, but must now look ahead and move forward to ensuring the educational efforts and other ideas become a reality. Let's all work to make 2001 a great year for Tucson and the plants we all love and respect. Any small amount of time and effort will always be recognized and valued. This is your organization, if you can help make it better for the generations to come please do. Thank you all!

Expectations in 2001. We are looking at doing some bus trips to some of Arizona's great cactus and succulent destinations. Plans are being made and you will be hearing more as we move into the new year. In July The Cactus and Succulent Society of America will hold their Biennial Convention in Los Angeles. Our organization will be planning a trip to the convention, so be looking for further information. We also may plan some garden tours as well as other events throughout the year. Education will be a big topic in the new year and if you have any suggestions or ideas please express them to any board member. They will be greatly appreciated.



I will be scheduling monthly meeting presentations in the new year. We already have some excellent guest speakers that will bring us lots of information, but we still have openings available. I will always be looking for speakers, and your help is greatly needed. Many of you have given me helpful insights into our presentations. Please continue to let me know what you would like to see and hear. I will also be looking at finding those individuals in the TCSS that would like to discuss their experiences or special interests. Please call me at 520-322-5029 in the evening or 520-573-4553 during business hours if you have suggestions or information about our monthly presentations. If you would like to present your plants and information to the club call me and we will make arrangements for your special interest.

Please look forward to a great year.

Thanks,  
Vonn

### **Looking for a New Newsletter Editor**

We are still looking for a new editor for the Desert Breeze Newsletter.

This individual should have a good working knowledge of desktop publishing

They also need a good scanner, printer and computer.

**Please contact Karen Keller  
if you are seriously interested  
at 322-5029**



## The lengthy salvage efforts at Vail High School finally comes to a close.

Our last salvage activity in December at the Vail High School site included the athletic field areas and resulted in Mark Sitter of the Arizona-Sonora Desert museum acquiring ten wonderfully healthy and intact ocotillos as well as a fine two-headed crested barrel, *Ferocactus wislizenii*. Look for these plants in their displays during your next visit to the museum. Additionally, several hedgehogs and barrels were acquired for general club sale activities to recover our tag costs. The architectural firm associated with the new Vail Middle School has since acquired most of these plants, although a few deserving hedgehogs remain if any club members or friends would like any.

As of January 20, 2001 the site was being prepared for ongoing construction activities and we can be thankful that we were able to relocate all of the plants that we did. Again, we are grateful to Al Flores of the Vail School District for partnering with us in this important activity. *Chris Monrad, TCSS Salvage Committee Chairman*



Photo by Vonn Watkins

*Mark Sitter is caught on film standing beside the Ocotillos just taken from the areas that have now been cleared for athletic fields.*

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**Holiday Party to be announced**

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Monday, February 26th

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Monday, April 9th

Wednesday, May 30th

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Monday, July 30th

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U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333**

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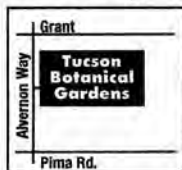
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**Dr. Thomas Van Devender  
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I'm sure many have seen Tom appear on episodes of the PBS Television series *The Desert Speaks*. The new book *Cactáceas de Sonora, Mexico* was co-authored by him along with Rafaela Paredes Aguilar and Dr. Richard S. Felger. Tom is Senior Research Scientist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Ana Lilia is a Research Associate at the Museum. She is from Sonora, Mexico with a background in botany and ethnobotany. She translated much of the book from English to Spanish. Tom will do an overview of the Sonoran cacti based on studies and findings for the new book, and his wife, Ana Lilia Reina will cover the ethnobotany. He will show habitat photos and discuss some of the plants and environments where the cacti of Sonora are found. This will be an excellent presentation that everyone must see.

**Thanks to Bob Schmalzel**

Over 65 club members and visitors attended Bob Schmalzel's presentation on January 4th. Bob's excellent demographics on Nichol's Turk's Head Cactus, *Echinocactus horizonthalonius* var. *nicholii* and the Pima Pineapple Cactus, *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina* gave us all a wealth of information on two of Arizona's endangered species.

Thank you Bob for a great presentation!



**Tucson Botanical Gardens**  
2150 N. Alvernon Way



## Succulents of Kenya

The above information was provided by  
**Rainbow Gardens Bookshop**  
 1444 E. TAYLOR ST., VISTA, CA 92084  
 Phone Only (760) 758-4290  
 Fax Only (760) 945-8934 (24 Hours)  
 E-Mail Address: [rbgdns@aol.co](mailto:rbgdns@aol.co)

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### **High Desert Gardening**

The Eighth Annual High Desert Gardening and Landscaping Conference is set for February 15-16, Lakeside Activity Centre, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

### **Tucson Botanical Gardens**

Paul Bessey and Associates Plant Clinic  
Wednesdays from 10 AM-Noon  
Paul Bessey, retired UA Plant Sciences Professor, and other members of the Gardeners of Tucson will be available in the Education Building or by phone 326-9686 #30 to answer your questions on plant pests, disease, and nutrient deficiencies. Enter at the east end of the building. Free, but please pay TBG admission if also touring the Gardens.

### **Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park**

Annual Spring Landscaping Festival & Plant Sale, Friday, March 16 - Sunday, April 1, 2001, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Thousands of drought-tolerant plants will be for sale, ranging from shrubs, vines, trees, cacti, and succulents. This sale provides visitors with the opportunity to see mature species of plants throughout the grounds. Horticulturists will be on hand to answer questions and lead tours of the Demonstration Garden each Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

### **Looking for a New Newsletter Editor**

We are still looking for a new editor for the Desert Breeze Newsletter.

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# Desert Bre

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

## Our first annual trip to Organ Pipe National Monument

We had almost 50 people on the bus that departed at 6am on Saturday February 24th to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. It was a beautiful day even though the weather forecast for that day predicted rain. After arriving at the Visitor's Center we soon learned that our 45 foot bus would not be allowed on the two main routes around the park. Even though we weren't granted permission to enter the two dirt roads we still had a wonderful time. We were still able to see an abundance of desert wild flowers in bloom. There were carpets of yellow, purple, pink, and white flowers all along the way from the Kitt Peak entrance off Ajo Hwy-86 to the Visitor's Center at Organ Pipe Nat. Mon. We were also able to take in the beautiful scenery and also visit an area near Ajo where lots of great desert plants were seen.

We wish to thank everybody who made the bus trip possible, Marty Harrow for organizing the bus, Bobbie Coritz for getting all the delicious Lunches and snacks for everybody, Dick Wiedhopf for the drinks and organization of the trip, And we must also thank Mark Sitter for introducing us to many wonderful wild flowers and for his talks on the many other plants found. We look forward to our next trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park.

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## Pima County Garden & Craft Fair,

Sunday, March 11, 10:00 am-5:00pm

Lew Sorensen Center, 11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd

(East on Tanque Verde on the right hand side)

We will be holding our annual Spring Plant sale at Lew Sorensen Center again this year. We do need volunteers to help. For those who wish to volunteer, please call Jack Ramsey at the number listed below.

### We need plants for the Sale!

If you have plants that you wish to sell at the plant sale, please double tag them and bring them to the booth on Saturday. There is a 15% commission for the club. There will be many other vendors there, so come and enjoy the day, spend time with your fellow cactus friends and enjoy the vendors as well.

**If you would like to volunteer,  
please contact Jack Ramsey**

**Phone: 888-6137**

## Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park

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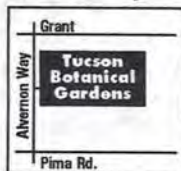
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Echinocereus, Mammillaria, Escobaria and Ferocactus comprise the largest parts of his collection. He also enjoys contributing spare plants to our door prize collection at various meetings.

Vonn has been a member of the TCSS since 1998 and has been growing cacti since 1973. He has been a CSSA member since 1977, and is also a member of the BCSS. He has been growing and studying Opuntias for many years but also has many other types of plants that he is equally fascinated with. He has been growing plants from seed since his college years and has acquired a lot of knowledge from his sizable book collection and explorative habitat observations in many locations.

There will be lots to show, discuss and talk about so be sure to attend this presentation!



*Ferocactus cylindraceus*

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# *Desert Breeze*

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## **Presidents Corner from Al Coritz**

TCSS Board is off and running, wasting no time moving the club forward into the new millennium. I would like to discuss a few of the items considered by the board. It's official; TCSS is now a non-profit organization! It has taken a long time but it's finally done. More on this in the coming weeks as we learn more about the laws defining the Tax exemptions allowed.

The board voted unanimously to hold a Sonoran conference every two years with our next one planned tentatively for the fall of 2002. If you remember the Sonoran III theme was "The Desert at Night". I would like to have a contest to pick a theme for Sonoran IV. The winner will receive a special prize. Please send all submissions to me via Email: Phobos@aol.com or by mail: 11465 W. Magee, Tucson, AZ 85743 by March 31st for consideration. Events like the Sonoran conferences take talent and enthusiasm, which is abundant within TCSS. Please share this resource with the S4 committee and join the fun and just contact any officer to let them know how you would like to help.

New books for the library are in the plan for this year. Our librarian, Jenny needs help in selecting the new titles. If you know of a new book that is not currently in the club collection let her know at the meeting or look her up in the new member guide. A complete library book list is on the TCSS website. We will not have a July meeting this year because of the CSSA convention in Los Angeles. Don't forget to register, even if you go for only one day. Many of our member growers who ALWAYS support us will be there, now it is our turn to support THEM. Besides, you will see the best specimens of your favorite C & S's there at the Huntington.

We have received many membership renewals but we are still looking for a few stragglers. Please check your records if you are uncertain if you renewed your membership for 2001.

Al Coritz



**THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2001**

**7:00pm**

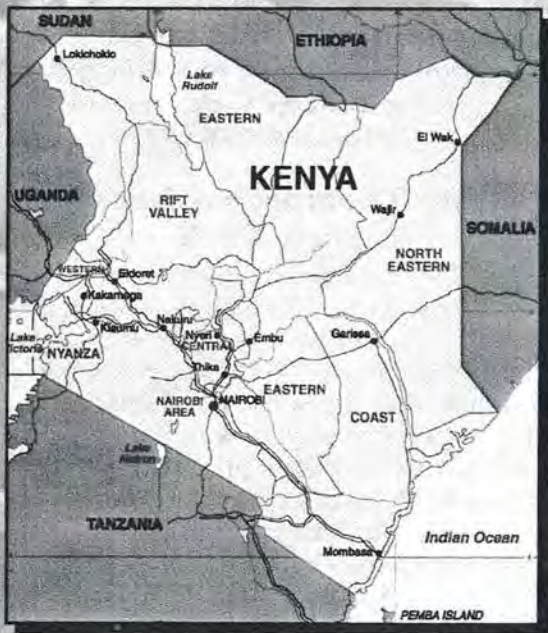
**Tucson Botanical Gardens**  
2150 N. Alvernon Way

# Meg Quinn

**will present**

# Succulents of Kenya

Join us for a talk on the succulent plants of Kenya, presented by Meg Quinn. Meg visited Kenya in 1991 and again in 1997. In '91 she worked as an IESC (International Executive Service Corps) volunteer on a jojoba farm in the Voi area. In 97 she assisted Rudolf Schulz and Anne Powys with field work for their book *Pinguone, Kenya, Succulents in Their Environment*. Included in the presentation will be plants from Voi, Nanyuki, Mt. Kenya, and Lake Turkana. Meg has been the Education Director at the Tucson Botanical Gardens for the past 7 years and is a former employee of the Desert Museum's Botany Department. She has recently published *Wildflowers of the Desert Southwest*.



**THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2001**

7:00 pm

**Tucson Botanical Gardens**  
**2150 N. Alvernon Way**

## Chris Monrad, Robbin Baza

**and Vonn Watkins**

**will present**

## A Collection of Echinocactus and Ferocactus

Three of our members will present some interesting views on these fantastic members of the cactus family.

Chris has been a member of TCSS since 1993. He is a native Tucsonan and became seriously interested in cactus & succulents in 1988 when he was given two salvaged plants by a construction worker. After one of the plants, a *Peniocereus*, flowered he photographed it and started giving the photos away as Christmas gifts. His recent interest in *Ferocactus* stems largely from experience observing the interesting variety of *Ferocactus wislizenii* characteristics during the last two years of TCSS salvaging activities. Another spark came on a trip to Gold Basin (just south of the Lake Mead Recreation Area) in February of 2000, where he observed numerous *Echinocactus polycephalus* v. *xeranthemoides* and *F. cylindraceus* in habitat. He has since collected a variety of *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus* species via local nurseries and mail order houses.

Robbin has been collecting cacti for about 8 years. He collects mostly Arizona, California, Baja, Sonora, Chihuahuan, West Texas and New Mexico cacti, concentrating on what can be found and is most interesting. He likes finding unusual plants and also exploring the habitats wherever cacti can be seen in the wild.





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## A lot of Saguaros saved at salvage in March



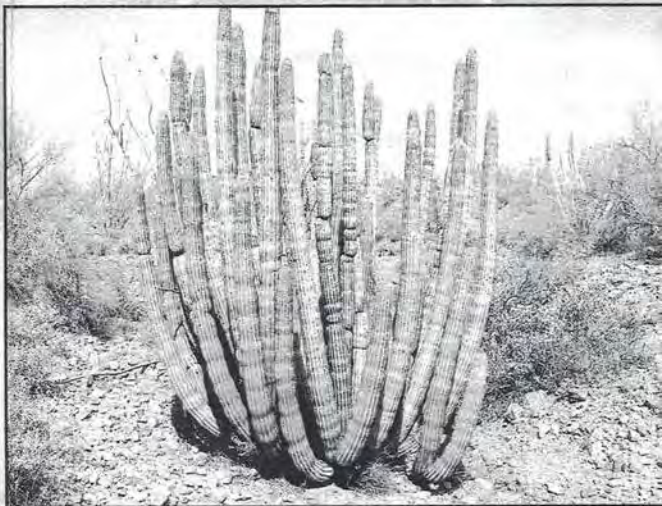
Chris Warren & Carol Lemon at La Cholla & 36th St.

This month the Salvage Committee worked two new Tucson Unified School District elementary school sites on the west side of town. One site was at the intersection of 36th and La Cholla and the other was north of Bopp Road, east of San Joaquin. Members Dick Wiedhopf, Vonn Watkins, Carol Lemon, Valarie Miller, Debbie Boyink, George and Gail Virtes, David Farnsworth, Lois & Denny Ladwig, Nicole Montroy, Julie Girden, Joe Frannea and Chris and Elizabeth Warren all assisted with the salvage activities. Both sites included small saguaro as well as echinocereus, ferocactus, and opuntia. Civano Nursery will be salvaging trees and large saguaro as well. Our appreciation goes out to Tom Compton and John Setford of TUSD for their cooperation and partnership in our ongoing efforts.

Chris Monrad



TCSS members look on as Mark Sitter talks plants.  
Photo by Dick Wiedhopf



One of many beautiful plants admired during Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.  
Photo by Dick Wiedhopf



## "The Cactus Family"

**A Book Signing Reception & Talk  
Monday, April 2 from 5 - 7 p.m.**

Webster Auditorium  
Desert Botanical Garden  
1201 N. Galvin Parkway  
Phoenix, Arizona

Come meet world-renowned and  
award-winning expert in cacti

Dr. Edward Anderson as he signs his latest book

The Cactus Family. The book is the first  
comprehensive treatment of the cactus family  
written by a scientist since 1923. Drawn from

Dr. Anderson's 40 years of research on the  
cactus family, the book discusses over 1800  
species and has over 1000 color photographs.

This book signing includes  
a short talk by the author.

Please call (480) 941-1225  
to reserve a seat.

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## TCSS OFFICERS AND BOARD

### Officers

President: Al Coritz

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Wendy Beall

Treasurer: Valarie Miller

### Board of Directors:

(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

**Immediate Past-President:** Maury Clapp

Dan Birt (2003)

Jack Ramsey (2001)

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Richard Wiedhopf

**Al Coritz Cell Phone Number**

**(520) 977-0952**

Editor:

karen keller

email address:

klkeller2@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy:

18th of each month



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[www.azstarnet.com./nonprofit/tcss/](http://www.azstarnet.com./nonprofit/tcss/)

### Next Meetings

Thursday, April 5 at 7:00pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens

2150 N. Alvernon Way

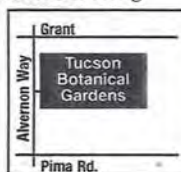
Tucson, AZ 85712

### Refreshments

*Those people with family names  
beginning with I to R, please bring your choice  
of refreshments to the next meeting.*

Everyone is welcome!

Bring your friends,  
come join the fun  
and meet the cactus and  
succulent community.





Echinocereus, Mammillaria, Escobaria and Ferocactus comprise the largest parts of his collection. He also enjoys contributing spare plants to our door prize collection at various meetings.

Vonn has been a member of the TCSS since 1998 and has been growing cacti since 1973. He has been a CSSA member since 1977, and is also a member of the BCSS. He has been growing and studying Opuntias for many years but also has many other types of plants that he is equally fascinated with. He has been growing plants from seed since his college years and has acquired a lot of knowledge from his sizable book collection and explorative habitat observations in many locations.

There will be lots to show, discuss and talk about so be sure to attend this presentation!



*Ferocactus emoryi*



*Desert Breeze*

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

## Pima County Garden Fair

The TCSS participated once again in the Garden Fair on March 11 at the Lew Sorensen Center. It was a slightly cooler day than we had hoped, but there were lots of visitors that came looking and buying. There Antique sales, Arts & Crafts, Poultry Shows, Food, live entertainment and of course lots of great plants. This year we had a large variety of cactus and succulents to offer including many salvage plants. The sale of plants was excellent and everyone really enjoyed our participation. Jack and Helen Ramsey were there to head our sales efforts along with Mark & Margaret Sitter, Neal & Marty Harow, Dick Wiedhopf, Norma Beckman and myself. We found homes for lots of recently salvaged plants as well as other donated selections. B&B Cactus Farm also participated in the event and were represented by Karen Mott & Patty Herman. At the TCSS tables we made \$579 on plants that were salvaged and \$247.50 on donated plants from Mary Church, Julie Girden and Marty Harow. Our total sales effort for the club was \$911.50. We also got \$25 from Mike Ellis and \$60 from Mark Sitter as a percentage of there plant sales. This was an excellent achievement for the club. All members that participated should be thanked tremendously for their helping in so many ways.

Vonn Watkins



**THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Karen Mott**

**will present**

**Hardy Aloes for many  
areas of Tucson**

Karen has been the manager at B&B Cactus Farm for 5 years. She received her degree from Louisiana State University where she studied Business Agriculture. She worked for 12 years as an outdoor Education Teacher. She taught native flora in the Western United States, and Baja California, Mexico. Her interests include all types of plants and arid plants. She has chosen her topic as those Aloes that can be grown in areas where low winter temperatures are common. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear someone that has lots of experience with these plants. Please come and learn about growing and caring for these wonderful succulents.

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April 5

May 3

June 7

**July 1 - 6**

**The Biennial Convention of  
The Cactus and Succulent  
Society of America**

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 1

December

**Holiday Party to be announced**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Chris Monrad, Robbin Baza**

**and Vonn Watkins**

**will present**

**A Collection of  
Echinocactus and Ferocactus**

Three of our members will present some interesting views on these fantastic members of the cactus family.

Chris has been a member of TCSS since 1993. He is a native Tucsonan and became seriously interested in cactus & succulents in 1988 when he was given two salvaged plants by a construction worker. After one of the plants, a *Peniocereus*, flowered he photographed it and started giving the photos away as Christmas gifts. His recent interest in *Ferocactus* stems largely from experience observing the interesting variety of *Ferocactus wislizenii* characteristics during the last two years of TCSS salvaging activities. Another spark came on a trip to Gold Basin (just south of the Lake Mead Recreation Area) in February of 2000, where he observed numerous *Echinocactus polycephalus* v. *xeranthemoides* and *F. cylindraceus* in habitat. He has since collected a variety of *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus* species via local nurseries and mail order houses.

Robbin has been collecting cacti for about 8 years. He collects mostly Arizona, California, Baja, Sonora, Chihuahuan, West Texas and New Mexico cacti, concentrating on what can be found and is most interesting. He likes finding unusual plants and also exploring the habitats wherever cacti can be seen in the wild.



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2001

## Saving plants can be a sad but rewarding experience for all of us!

TCSS members keep busy on recent salvage efforts at several locations.



*Lois Ladwig  
exposes the root  
to a Peniocereus  
she found at the  
recent Sabuarita  
salvage location.*



*Dick Wiedhopf  
checks the size on  
a Saguaro at the  
site north of  
Bopp Road.*



*The TCSS Salvage Team had it's  
hands full at the TUSD 36th & La  
Cholla location shown above and  
to the left.*

*Photo above by George Virtes*

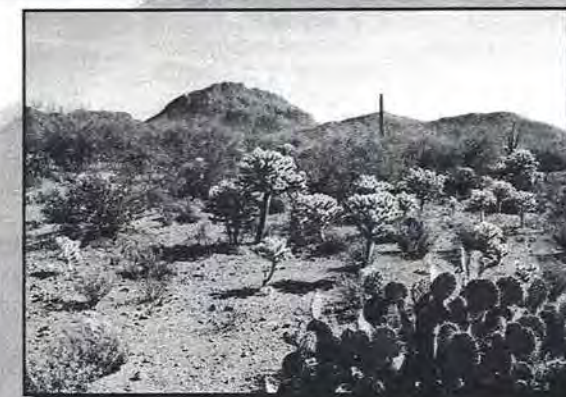


*Julie Girden holds an old Peniocereus greggii  
that was just one of the many plants salvaged  
in Sabuarita.*



*Debbie Boyink salvages  
a beautiful Peniocereus  
at the TUSD 36th & La  
Cholla site.*

**All photos by  
Vonn Watkins  
except where  
indicated.**



*TUSD Salvage location north of Bopp Road on the  
far West side of town.*



*Nicole Montroy, Chris Monrad and Dick Wiedhopf  
tag Saguaros at the TUSD site near West Bopp Road.*



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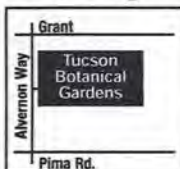
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*Peniocereus greggii rescued at a recent salvage site.  
Photo by Vonn Watkins*

England he was assigned to the Ministry buildings in London, at St Giles Court, where he remained until his retirement in early 1984.

He and his wife, Mary Jane were married in Wandsworth, London in 1983. Upon leaving the MOD in early 1984, he immediately came on board with Hughs Aircraft in Tucson where he retired (again) in early 1993. He then served 6 years as a Director on the Green Valley Recreation Board.

Being a mathematician always and forever at heart, he continues doing accounting and tax work for local clients at both homes in Arizona, one in the desert and one in the mountains. Of course he additionally tends to his collections of cacti and other succulents at both locations.

Peter was highly recommended to come and speak to our club and give us his views, understanding, cultivation tips and more. Please come and welcome Peter and his wife, Mary Jane as he gives us his understanding of these fantastic plants.

## President's Corner

By Al Coritz

Greetings everyone. We're off & running!! The first organizational meeting for the Sonoran IV Conference is already behind us and the next one is coming up fast. We have set a tentative date of May 17-19 2002 at the Inn Suites Hotel & Conference center where it was held the last time. **The next organizational will be held May 14 at the College of Pharmacy (corner of Mabel & Warren) at 7 PM.** We are looking for bright minds with great ideas to make this the best conference yet. The shows planning teams are broken into four main areas all reporting to (lucky) me. I am responsible for the whole Enchilada happening as planned as well as arranging all of the hotel facilities.

**Show:** Plans and executes all plant show activities. **Programs:** Organizes speakers & workshops. **Sales:** Plans & coordinates activities in support of the club & vendor sales **Publicity:** Coordinates with all of the above groups and provides information to the media to attract the outside public to the show & sales part of the conference.

Each of the above groups is looking for team members to help with the tasks mentioned above. Most of what takes place in these early stages of the conference is we sit around and chat about what we would like to do and come up with ways to make it happen. Since we have three of these conferences under our belt and have good records on what worked well and what didn't the plans will fall into place rapidly. Please step up to the plate and take a swing and have fun.



**THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2001**

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**Karen Mott**

**will present**

**Hardy Aloes for many  
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Monday, August 13th

Monday, October 29th

Monday, November 19th

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U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Peter G. Bish**

**will present**

**Peniocereus greggii  
and other Desert Gems**

Peter will discuss the very popular but well hidden Queen of the Night, *Peniocereus greggii* and shed some light on others in this genus. He will also talk about some of the other cacti that can be found in Southern Arizona and display some of those plants from his collection.

Peter Bish a former NCSS and BCSS has lived in Green Valley, Arizona since 1985. He graduated from Cambridge University, Emmanuel College with honors in 1956 with a B.A. in Mathematics and received his master's degree (M.A.) in 1960.

His background is with the Ministry of Defense (MOD is equivalent to our DOD). He began at the Farnborough Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1956 and shortly thereafter discovered these wonderful spiny creatures called "cacti". He soon became an avid collector and for 6 years was the seed buyer/distributor for the British National Society.

Subsequent travels with MOD assignments took him 3 times to Australia where he made good use of his spare time at the Royal Botanic Gardens (Adelaide) and also gave a talk to the Cactus & Succulent Society of South Australia. On one occasion he was able to hand-deliver an "Elephant Foot" from South Africa to the Director of the Gardens at Adelaide.

His government defense work continued for 28 years (from 1956 to 1984) which included 3 years with the British Embassy (1970-73) in Washington DC. Upon leaving and returning to



# Desert Breeze

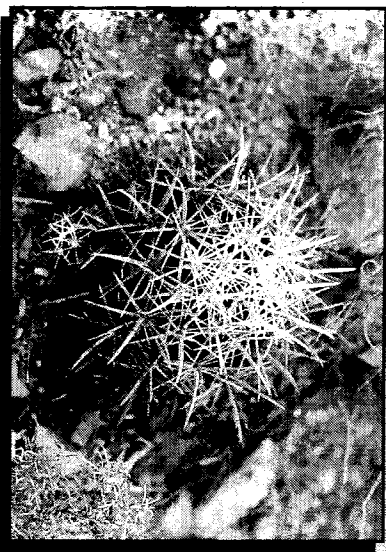
Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2001

## How many Arizona Cactus & Succulent plants have you grown?

All photos show plants native to Southern Arizona. Photos and article by Vonn Watkins

If you are a new collector or someone that has been growing and collecting for years... How many individuals can say that they have an Arizona Cactus Collection or an Arizona Cactus and Succulent Collection? With hundreds of plants and genus diversity to collect, it is not surprising to find that our own Arizona plants are sometimes overlooked as a challenging group to collect. Many of us may have a few



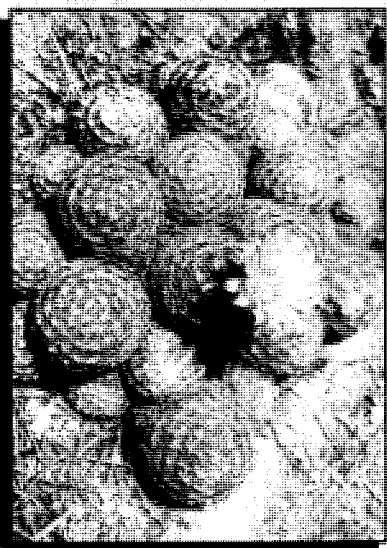
*Coryphantha robustispina*, known locally as the "Pima Pineapple Cactus" is one of several Arizona cacti on the U.S. Endangered Species list.

Arizona cacti and other succulents in our gardens, but the person that can say they have a complete collection of all the Arizona Native Cacti would be someone to be admired indeed. While plants can be sometimes easy to obtain at local nurseries, those really difficult to find can be easily and economically grown from seed. The seed can usually be found from many local as well as mail order sources.

If you are wanting to start your own Arizona collection it is always helpful to learn more about the plants and their growing conditions. Some books that may aid you are *The Cacti of the United States and Canada* by Lyman Benson, *The Cacti of Arizona* by Lyman Benson, *The Cactus Family* by Edward F. Anderson as well as several other publications. Web resources to consider are the Arizona Department of Agriculture Native Plant list at <http://www.agriculture.state.az.us/PSD/nativeplants.htm> and the Arizona Native Plant Society Home Page at <http://AZNPS.org>. Other resources would include talking to plant growers and collectors who can help you get started. It is important to remember that Arizona has some fascinating cacti and other succulent plants and obtaining and maintaining a collection would require desired effort and knowledge. Let's not forget that many of our own native plants can't be seen in major Gardens within the state so start growing Arizona cacti and other succulents today!



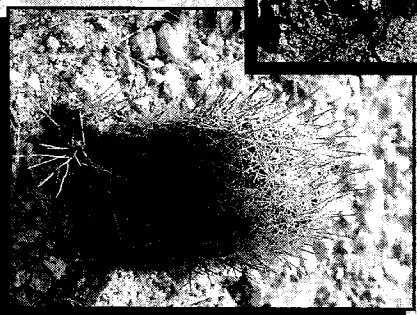
A magnificent *Coryphantha recurvata* in habitat within the Atascosa mountains of Southern Arizona.



*Escobaria vitifera* var. *bisbeeana* was for many years known as a *Coryphantha* until recent taxonomic studies placed it within *Escobaria*.



*Mammillaria hyderi* subsp. *macdougalii* is noted for having a sticky white latex sap.



*Echinomastus erectocentrus* is another Southern Arizona plant that has an increasingly unstable habitat.

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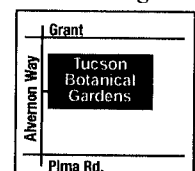
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**CSSA's 29th  
Biennial Convention 2001**

**Sunday, July 1 - Friday, July 6  
Woodland Hills, California**

**Warner Center Marriott**

21850 Oxnard Street  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
**Phone: (818) 887-4800**  
Fax: (818) 347-0907  
email wcmarrriot@aol.com

**Convention Chairman:**

Duke Benadom  
dukeb@advancedbionics.com

**Hosted by:**

The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society

**Information:**

Art Chavez, Host Chair.  
(818) 363-3432 color@gte.net  
LoWilla Wilson, CSSA Secretary  
Lowilla.wilson@att.net

**Register Now**

on line at the CSSA Web Site:  
<http://www.cssainc.org/>  
or contact Mindy Fusaro (775) 751-1320  
treasurer@cssainc.org

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### **The Tucson Botanical Gardens Annual Weird Plant Sale 2001**

Please donate your extra plants for the TCSS participation in the Weird Plant Sale to be held on June 23rd. If you would like to donate some specimen Cacti & other Succulents for the TCSS

Silent Auction or to be sold individually,

**Please call Jack Ramsey at 888-6137.**  
All donations will be greatly appreciated!

### **CSSA Journals etc. to be bound**

The club will be sending  
it's journals to be bound very soon.  
There is a price break for more binding jobs,  
so we are receptive to the idea of having your  
private journal collections bound also.

Call **Jenny Coniglio** at **546-3684**  
for more information.



# *Desert Breeze*

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

## **President's Corner**

By Al Coritz

Hello Everybody:

Sonoran IV will be at the Inn Suites near St. Mary's as it was the last time around. **Mark your calendars, May 17-19 2002 from 8-5 both Saturday & Sunday.** On Friday night we will have a special guest speaker and a silent auction with special items to be auctioned off. The central theme for the conference is: **Sonoran IV "A 5th Season"?** Thanks to those that submitted entries for the "name the conference contest".

If you have any ideas for workshop topics or speakers please let us know. We welcome your input because it's your conference. One thing we desperately need help with is someone to help get the show publicity going. This is a critical area that we need to start now so we can get into various publications future calendars. I can't emphasize how important this is to make the plant sales successful.

Another special event we are planning to do is a late afternoon visit to the AZSDM (Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum) and dinner as we did during Sonoran 2. Please let us know what you think about this idea and if you would participate if we had this type of event at Sonoran IV.

Lastly, those members that have access to a computer and e-mail please send me a note, so I can update my e-mail list as soon as possible. My address is: *Phobos11@aol.com*. Thanks for your support.





# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2001

## Tucson Botanical Gardens Weird Plant Sale was a real Success.

On Saturday June 23rd the Tucson Botanical Gardens held the Weird Plant Sale to all that wanted to find and purchase a "Weird Plant". The TCSS had a nice display that included donated plants from Norma Beckman, Mary Church, Marty & Barbara Harow, and Vonn Watkins along with numerous Salvage plants.

The sale brought in \$459 for the club. Jack Ramsey headed up the TCSS area and was joined by Helen Ramsey, Vonn Watkins and Chris Monrad. Other members also came by and gave a helping hand if needed and special thanks should be extended to all. The club also donated 12 nice hedgehogs, *Echinocereus faciculatus*, to the Tucson Botanical Gardens for future use in the garden.

Our member's businesses or participating plant growers included Plants for the Southwest, Miles to Go, Landscape Cacti, Bach's Cactus Nursery, Arid Lands Greenhouses and Plantas del Sol. At 8 am the line of potential buyers filled into the gardens and completely packed the entire vending area. People were anxious to get their hands on some plant varieties and many were taken right away. I think all the buyers had a great time looking, asking questions, and purchasing plants. Greg Corman did another excellent job with organization of the event and it proved again to be a great benefit to the gardens and everyone who participated.



*Many people stopped by to discuss our plant rescue efforts and to purchase plants.*



*Jon Weeks of Landscape Cacti talks about plants to interested*



*Donations as well as salvaged plants were displayed*



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# **JOB OPENING**

**DATE OF POSTING: May 25, 2001**

**TITLE: Nursery Coordinator  
(Part-Time/Seasonal)**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens**

2150 North Alvernon Way

Tucson, Arizona 85712

## **Purpose:**

Supervise the day-to-day

operations of the nursery and 5 plant sales

## **Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Select and purchase plants for the Tucson Botanical Gardens Nursery emphasizing low water use trees, shrubs, perennials, cacti and succulents with staff committee in consultation with a staff team.
2. Coordinate and staff the Fall and Spring Plant Sales, Herb Fair, and Weird Plant Sale. Provide appropriate plants for sale at Chile Fiesta and Luminaria Nights.
3. Train and schedule docents to staff the nursery during open hours. Arrange for docents to label and price all plants, answer customer questions, and handle retail sales.
4. Work with Education and Horticulture staff to organize efforts to present educational classes, programs, and publications, in the nursery and to determine needs for equipment and supplies.
5. Maintain daily, weekly and monthly plant sales records.
6. Supervise receiving of plant inventory.
7. Perform other duties as requested by the Gift Shop/Nursery Manager.

## **Position Requirements:**

BS in Horticulture or a related field; work experience in a retail nursery; some background working with volunteers; prefer experience in greenhouse/propagation; strong interpersonal and communication skills; weekend work required.

## **Anticipated Start Date:**

August 15, 2001

## **To Apply:**

Contact Cindy Cook, Gift Shop/Nursery Manager  
326-9686 ext. 11 or mail resume to  
Tucson Botanical Gardens,  
2150 North Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona 85712.



*Desert Breeze*  
Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

## **Events and Announcements**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
Conservation Lecture Series:  
Invasive Plants**

Cosponsored with the Tucson Chapter of  
the Arizona Native Plant Society

**Wednesday, July 25, 7-8 PM**

### **Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan**

Maeveen Behan, Assistant to County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry, will discuss origins of The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, an innovative and far reaching blueprint for growth in Pima County. The conservation plan is designed to benefit both natural systems and residents.

**Wednesday, August 15, 7-8 PM**

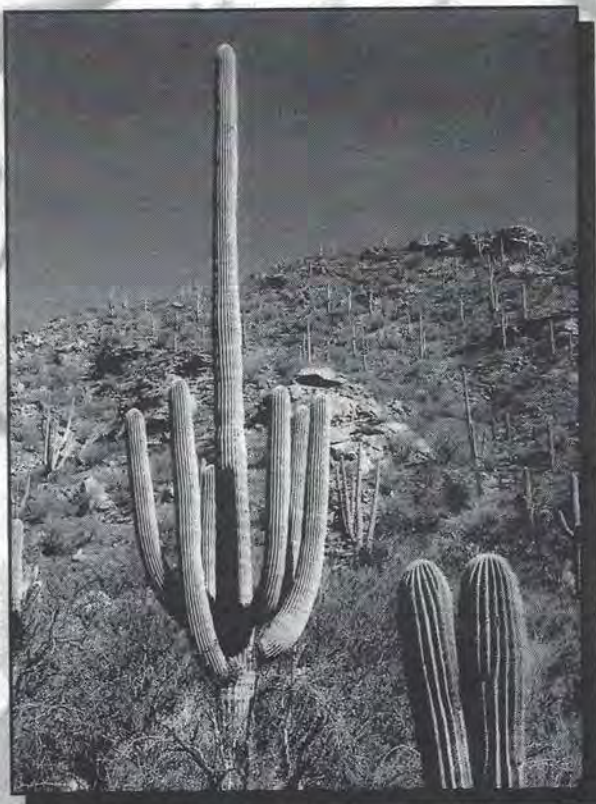
### **Invasive Plants in our Cities and along Waterways and Highways**

ANPS Conservation Chair Jeff Kreamer will present an overview of the increasing concerns regarding exotics and the threat they pose to our native flora. He will discuss the invasion of exotic plants in urban and riparian areas as well as along highways in southern Arizona. What species have become particularly problematic and by what mechanism are they spreading? What can be done to address the problem?

### **Honoring Horace Miller**

Memorial donations are being accepted in honor of Horace for The Horace P. Miller Publications Grant. Send to the ANPS P.O. Box 41206, Sun Station, Tucson, AZ 85717. Also, anyone wanting to send cards to Horace's brother: William C. Miller (Bill & Sue), 3361 Reliez Highland Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549. If you would like to be notified of a memorial event which will probably happen in mid-summer, send an Email or note to Barb Skye at the above address.





The Saguaro, *Carnegiea gigantea*

## 2001 Meeting Schedule

**July 1 - 6**

**The Biennial Convention of The Cactus and Succulent Society of America**

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 1

December

**Holiday Party to be announced**

## 2001 Board Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 30th

Monday, August 13th

Monday, October 29th

Monday, November 19th

**Board Meetings are at the  
U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333**

All Board Members please mark your calendar and don't forget that your presence is very important.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Dale Turner**

**will present**

**Brown Giants,  
Surrounded by Babies**

This presentation will cover recently acquired information from a study on the health and demographics of the Saguaro, *Carnegiea gigantea* in Saguaro National Park.

Dale received his B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology at Rice University and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology at The University of Arizona. He is now a Conservation Planner for the Nature Conservancy and until recently, he was a program coordinator (USGA Biological Resources Division), Inventory and Monitoring Program, Sonoran Desert Network, for the National Park Service. He was responsible for planning and directing plant and animal inventories in 11 national parks and monuments. He has also worked as a Biological Technician for the National Park Service in organizing and directing monitoring Saguaro studies. Dale has a wealth of Biological experience and a tremendously impressive background. He has also conducted herpetological studies in the Whetstone Mountains of Southern Arizona and in the Mohawk Dunes of Arizona where he worked with Richard Felger on plant surveys of the Mohawk Dunes.

For all of us that have marveled at the great many Saguaros seen around The Old Pueblo, this will be a very important presentation that everyone should enjoy. Let's all welcome Dale as he brings to us some important information on the Brown Giants, Surrounded by Babies.



## TCSS Salvage Committee

Now and in the near future your presence will be needed in helping with salvage operations at Saddlebrooke. You will be contacted by phone and by e-mail as to what dates will be planned. This is a large project with lots of beautiful plants that need to be rescued. Please put it on your calendar to volunteer. Thanks for your help and contributions.



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

### The Tucson Botanical Gardens is recruiting for a part-time gardener position.

Please pick up an application at the TBG Gift Shop or request one via mail to TBG. I'm one of the docents who work with this gardener in the Shade Garden and Bird Garden and we need someone good! These two gardens are being renovated this fall, so it will be interesting to be part of it. Additionally, there may also be other areas of responsibility.

*Lois Ladwig*

TBG Part-time Gardener position. Three days a week including Saturdays. Must have a good background in plant materials and irrigation systems. Experience in landscape gardening preferred. Salary is \$8.15/hour with 1/2-time benefits.

Applications for this position are available in the Tucson Botanical Gardens Gift Shop, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, 8:30 to 4:30 daily or may be requested by mail to TBG, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson AZ 85712. No phone calls, please. TBG is an E.O.E. organization.

*All photos in the August newsletter were contributed by Vonn Watkins*



*The mass planting of Agave attenuata and Aloes at the entrance to Lotusland, just East of Santa Barbara, is an unforgettable sight.*

At the start of a beautiful tour there are some memorable experiences that opens the eyes. One view of Lotusland that really impressed me was the mass and number of *Agave attenuata* plants that lined the old entrance to the property. Madame Ganna Walska purchased the 37-acre Montecito estate in 1941 and spent 50 years of her life designing unusual gardens with rare and exotic plants. A fantastic site to see!

*Vonn Watkins*

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Richard Wiedhopf

**Al Coritz Cell Phone Number**  
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Editor:  
karen keller  
email address:  
klkeller2@earthlink.net  
Deadline for copy:  
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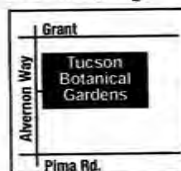
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2150 N. Alvernon Way  
Tucson, AZ 85712

### Refreshments

*Those people with family names  
beginning with S to Z, please bring your choice  
of refreshments to the next meeting.*

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





## The 2001 CSSA Convention in Woodland Hills, California

### Excellent Speakers, Books, Plants, Tours & Friends

By Dick Wiedhopf

The 2001 Biennial Convention was another high point for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Our members made a number of important contributions to the success of this Convention.

I was given the task of program chairman for the Convention by the former President of the CSSA Dr. Larry Mitich. Unfortunately, Larry passed away suddenly last year. The convention was dedicated to his memory.

The programs were varied and interesting with a good balance of Cacti and Succulent programs. Something for everyone. You should be very proud that two of our members gave programs; Mark Dimmitt and Miles Anderson. Mark gave two programs, one on adeniums and the other on Baja. He wowed them with his knowledge and his ability to grow great plants. Miles brought his special kind of humor and excitement to an extraordinary group of crests, montrose and other mutant cacti and succulents in his program. Additionally, Miles was one of the plant vendors at both the national show and the convention. Everyone appreciates the quality of Tucson's growers. There were a wealth of professionals and other very notable individuals in attendance, here is a good sample; Roberto Kiesling, Tony & Suzanne Mace, Fred Katterman, Ted Flemming, Gary James, Mary & Gary Irish, Carlos Ostolaza, Myron Kimnach, Graham Charles, Guy Wrinkle,

Dr. Jerry Barad, Chris Barnhill, Steven Hammer, Chuck Everson, Bob Jewett, Eva & Voytek Foik, Duke Benadom, Dr. Seymour Linden, Dr. Dan Mahr and more.

It was fun to be surrounded by other TCSS members. Those active members were: Chris Monrad, Mark Sitter, Vonn Watkins, Robin Baza, Linda & Shaun Ryan, Mark Dimmitt, Miles Anderson, Life Member Paul Shaw, Maury and Carol Clapp, and Myself. I am sure you will be hearing stories about all the plants that were seen and purchased.

Remember, prior to the start of the convention the National show took place at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. It is a great show and sale. That alone was worth the trip. They grow wonderful plants in Southern California and they know how to present them for show. Tours took place on July 5th and included Ganna Walska Lotusland, a private garden near Santa Barbara, The Huntington in Pasadena, the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and Nursery tours in Vista.

The Affiliate representatives voted for Phoenix for the 2005 Convention. The next convention will be in St. Louis in 2003.

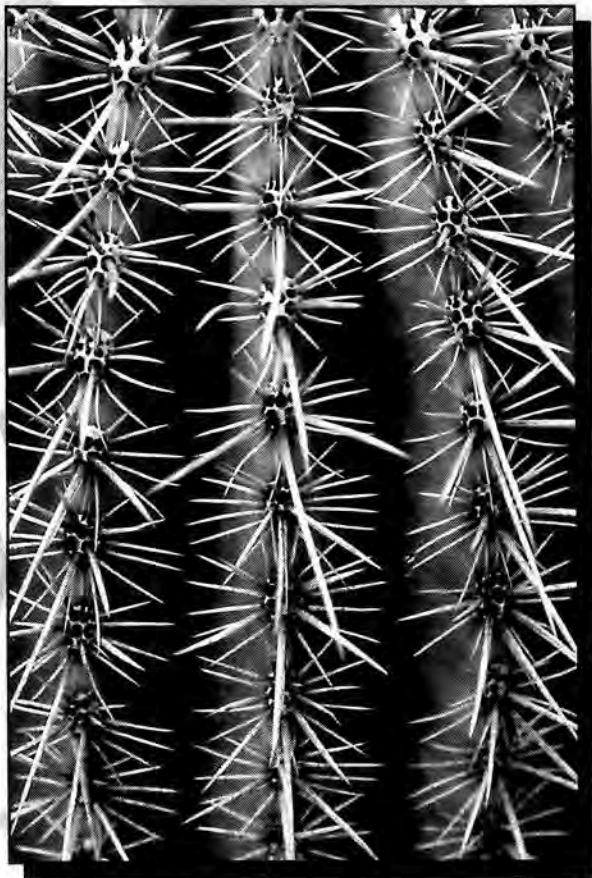
The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society were wonderful hosts and made us all feel welcome. I hope you will attend the next convention and of course our conference in May, Sonoran IV.



Great displays of Cactus and Succulents could be seen at Lotusland in Montecito, CA.



In front of the house at Lotusland massive Euphorbias and Cacti were classical display plants.



Saguaro, *Carnegiea gigantea*

### **2001 Meeting Schedule**

August 2  
September 6  
October 4  
November 1  
December

**Holiday Party to be announced**

### **2001 Board Meeting Schedule**

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**Brown Giants,  
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For all of us that have marveled at the great many Saguaros seen around The Old Pueblo, this will be a very important presentation that everyone should enjoy. Let's all welcome Dale as he brings to us some important information on the Brown Giants, Surrounded by Babies.



# TCSS Presents a Grand Silent Auction & Sale on September 16th at the Tucson Botanical Gardens

The TCSS will present a Silent Auction and Sale of Cactus and Succulent plants on Saturday September 16th from 1:00pm until 3:00pm. The event will be open to TCSS members, friends, visitors and the general public.

As always we need your help in making this a Grand Event. We are asking for donations of plants for the Sale as well as the Silent Auction. We would request that you select nice display plants that you would like to part with and bring in for this event.

Members can donate plants at the September 6th meeting or bring them in on the day of the Silent Auction and Sale. If you decide to bring in your donated plants on the day of the event it is requested that you arrive early with those plants. As always please be sure to label the plants with the proper name if it is known. We will begin accepting plants at 11:00am and the Silent auction and Sale will start promptly at 1:00pm. Please allow plenty of time to get your donations logged in and ready prior to the start of the event.

We will be purchasing plants for this and will be accepting any donations you may have. The proceeds for this event will help fund many projects we have planned for the future. Please help your club and find one or more plants from your collection that you would like to go to another collector or someone just getting started. This will be a rewarding experience that will help further our educational activities as well as help us make this event a real success. Volunteers will also be needed and Jack Ramsey will be accepting any help that you may want to provide. **If you have plants for donation or would like to volunteer please call Jack at 888-6137 for any further questions or information.**

Everyone of us should participate in this Silent Auction & Sales event and it will add lots of fun and excitement to your Sunday afternoon.

## Saddlebrooke Salvage Continues as Hundreds of Beautiful Plants are Rescued



*Just a few of the many Salvage Crew Members that have worked diligently on this project.*

This has been the largest salvage project yet for our club and has provided some excellent Saturday morning desert experiences. Along with the many varieties of cacti found in the area several reptiles have also been seen. Three rattlesnakes as well as a large, beautiful Gila Monster have been seen by members working on this vast 500 acre project. The area has some truly gorgeous landscape views and is very diverse in cactus species. Just some of the plants found have been, *Echinocereus fendleri* var. *rectispinus*, *Escobaria vivipara* var. *bisbeeana* as well as *Mammillaria grahamii* var. *oliviae*. The project continues to surprise us all and has given us all a real respect for our Sonoran Desert environment.



*Agave victoriae-reginae*

### **2001 Meeting Schedule**

September 6

October 7

November 1

**Holiday Party December 9**

### **2001 Board Meeting Schedule**

**New Board Meeting dates for the remainder of 2001**

Monday, September 10

Monday, October 8

Monday, November 12

Monday, December 10

**Board Meetings are at the  
U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333**

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don't forget that your presence is very important.**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens**

**2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Bob Scarborough**

**will present**

### **Geology and Climate Influences on the Sonoran Desert**

Bob Scarborough has a M.S. degree in geology from the University of Arizona, and is currently staff geologist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum where he divides his time between education and research. He received much training while employed by the Arizona Geological Survey, having worked on projects concerning safety of dams for the Bureau of Reclamation, geologic mapping in various parts of the Southwest, and an inventory of all uranium resources for the State. In private consulting practice, he has looked for deeply buried petroleum in the lower Colorado River region (there isn't any), has mapped landslides along coastal California (there are too many, including behind Jack Lemmon's back yard), and did the geologic assessment for the first Mt. Graham telescope EIS project for the U of A (rejected because the picture was too gloomy). He has suffered through the upper reaches of the Amazon basin while looking for gold (its there, but too hard to find), and iceburg-covered shores of Newfoundland and the Mediterranean coast of Spain while searching for commercial gypsum deposits (siesta coffee in Spain is 300% better than in Canada). His current research interest lies in the origin of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon - (Don't even ask about this unless you're prepared to wait out his story).

This presentation will give you an opportunity to learn some fascinating information so please come enjoy Bob's presentation.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2001**

**3:00 • 4:00 • 5:00pm**

**The Home of Connie & Charles Bachman  
7480 N. Calle Sin Desengano**

## **Charles Bachman**

**will present**

### **An Agave Garden Tour & Presentation**

Charles has been growing Agaves for many years and has established a collection of over 100 species.

Charles and Connie have invited members, friends and visitors to come visit his home and enjoy a garden tour and presentation of the many Agaves not normally found in gardens around Tucson. Charles will conduct three tours, with the first beginning at 3:00pm sharp followed by another at 4:00pm and the last tour will start at 5:00pm. Please select one of these times for your visit and plan to arrive a few minutes early as each tour will begin on the hour.

This will be a rare opportunity for everyone. The TCSS will have refreshments and FREE plants for all who attend and it will be a very rewarding experience for members and guests.

If you have problems finding their home, please call them at 297-9866.



## **Just a Sticky Note**

**by Vonn Watkins**

We have all probably experienced a very nice Summer with a little more to come. A lot has happened and we have a lot more to look forward to throughout the Fall.

A sad note from the editor's desk. Karen Keller will not be the Desert Breeze Editor any longer. She has other commitments and has stepped down from this position. We have enjoyed her excellent undertaking and all of us thank her greatly for doing a really great job and keeping us all informed.

I will be your new Desert Breeze Editor until the first of next year. I hope you will please help me out with any information needed to be passed on to the membership. Your help will always be appreciated.

We have a lot of events planned for the remainder of 2001. Our **Silent Auction and Plant Sale** will be held on September 16th. We have also planned a bus trip to **Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum** in Superior, Arizona on November 3rd, and as always we will finish this year's activities with a wonderful **Holiday Party and Celebration** on Sunday, December 9th. As time allows we will be getting further information about everything to you very soon. We hope you will enjoy the rest of this year with some extra fun and good times.

Thanks,  
Vonn

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Vonn Watkins  
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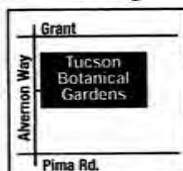
### Next Meeting

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2150 N. Alvernon Way  
Tucson, AZ 85712

### Refreshments

*Those people with family names  
beginning with A to F, please bring your choice  
of refreshments to the next meeting.*

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





# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2001

## Plant Sales, Special Events and Other Activities

This time of the year is perfect for getting out and seeing what is available to enhance your garden. Please help to support all the many people, organizations businesses and groups that have special sales and events. The weather is getting very nice so take a little time and go see what's out there.

### TCCS Silent Auction

The auction took place at the Tucson Botanical Gardens on September 16th. Joe Framma took these photos of some of the event. Thanks is extended to all those who came out participated and helped. Jack Ramsey did a great job again and his efforts were well received by everyone.



Photos by Joe Framma



### Pima County Garden Fair

Sunday, October 21st

8:00am to 4:00pm

Lew Sorensen Center

11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd

(East on Tanque Verde on the right hand side)

This event has given our club the opportunity to provide some valuable information to some of the many visitors that attend the Garden Fair twice a year. At this event we have somewhat established a very good reputation for providing some great plants at very reasonable prices as well as giving some needed plant educational demonstrations by Mark Sitter as well as other gardening information. For those interested in providing some needed homes for plants this is the place to come. The TCCS will have a great diversity of drought tolerant plants, including many natives, available for the fall planting schedule.

### Nominations Committee

We have a Nominations Committee that will be seeking nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, three board positions and Affiliate Representative to the CSSA for 2002. If you have suggestions or would like to nominate someone for these positions, please contact Wendy Beall at 232-0911, Mark Sitter at 578-9180 or Debbie Boyink at 572-8611.

### Sonoran IV

#### Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2001 at 7:00pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens

2150 N. Alverton Way

This is a meeting to start getting organized and ready for the really big event on May 17, 18 & 19, 2001. Anyone interested in taking part in this event is invited to come to the meeting and join in on the planning and organization of a truly special TCCS project. Margaret Pope is our new Sonoran IV chairperson. Please come to this meeting and let's get started with putting all the details together.

### Spend a Day at Arizona's

#### Boyce-Thompson

#### Arboretum State Park

Saturday, November 3, 2001

The Bus is waiting...

We have planned a fantastic day trip for TCCS members, family and friends to travel to this great haven for plant lovers. With over 800 species of cacti not counting the many other desert plants, this will be a very important trip. The only cost to you is your seat on the bus. TCCS will provide lunch, snacks & refreshments and the entrance fees to the park. You will be getting a sign-up notice in the mail this month so what are you waiting for... get on board!

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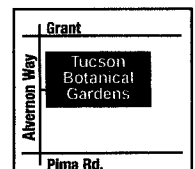
### Next Meeting

Sunday, October 7 at 3:00, 4:00 & 5:00pm  
The Home of Charles & Connie Bachman  
7480 N. Calle Sin Desengano  
Tucson, AZ 85712

### October Refreshments

*All refreshments will be provided by TCSS at the October event. Thanks should be extended to our Hostess Chairperson, Patsy Frannea for her great work with preparing the refreshments.*

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





**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Greg Starr**

**will present**

## **Hunting Agaves in Mexico**

Greg's presentation will consist of showing samples, discussing the variety of Agaves found, and a slide presentation of some plants in habitat.

Mexican Agaves cover all the variation found in the genus. Both inflorescence types (spicate and paniculate) are represented. Offsetting and non-offsetting types are found. Narrow leaves and broad leaves, and desert, high montane, and tropical types are all found in Mexico.

Greg graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelors degree in horticulture. After working in the landscape industry, he went back to school. He received a masters degree in Plant Sciences with a dual emphasis on botany and horticulture. While working on his master's degree, Greg worked under the tutelage of both Warren Jones and Dr. Charles Mason. He learned first hand many aspects of collecting expeditions.

Upon graduating from the University of Arizona a second time, Greg started his nursery (imaginatively called Starr Nursery) in 1985, and through the years has collected, tested, and introduced many Chihuahuan Desert plants into the landscape industry. He has written a monograph on the genus *Hesperaloe*, and has recently focused his attention to the genus *Agave*.

This should be a great presentation that will give a much needed look at Agaves in their natural setting. Everyone should come bring a friend and enjoy Greg's perspective on these important garden plants.



*Desert Breeze*

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

## **October Words**

**by Vonn Watkins**

Our President, Al Coritz has currently moved to Pennsylvania after new business ventures became available. As I understand it he will not be returning to his duties as President of the club for the remainder of the year. Therefore I will be accepting the duties of the President in Al's absence. I know you all have been very understanding during this situation and I hope to put this behind us and move things forward to the new year.

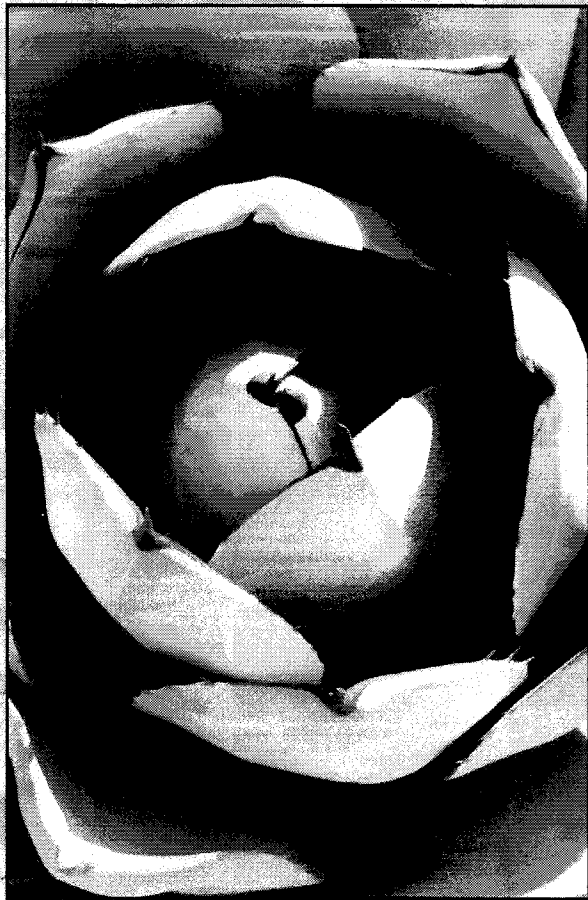
Al has done a really great job during his time as our President and on behalf of the membership I would like to extend our thanks for all he has done.

We have several upcoming things to look forward to in October so be sure to mark your calendars. On October 4th is a Sonoran IV meeting at Tucson Botanical Garden. We have a completely different monthly meeting coming up so please make plans to attend the October 7th tour and presentation at Charlie Bachman's home. A really great event on October 21st is the **Pima County Garden Fair** at the Lew Sorenson Center on east Tanque Verde Road.

Wendy Beall, Mark Sitter and Debbie Boyink comprise our 2002 Nominations Committee. They will be looking for nominations for new officers for next year as well as several board positions. Please give them some suggestions as your help will be needed.

A new Editor for the Desert Breeze is needed for next year. If you have good graphic and editorial skills as well as a love for Cactus & Succulents please contact a board member or just come to one of our upcoming board meetings. Your help and dedication will always be appreciated and needed.

Thanks, Vonn



*Agave species*

## 2001 Meeting Schedule

October 7  
November 1

**Holiday Party December 9**

## 2001 Board Meeting Schedule

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Tuesday, October 9  
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**Charles Bachman**

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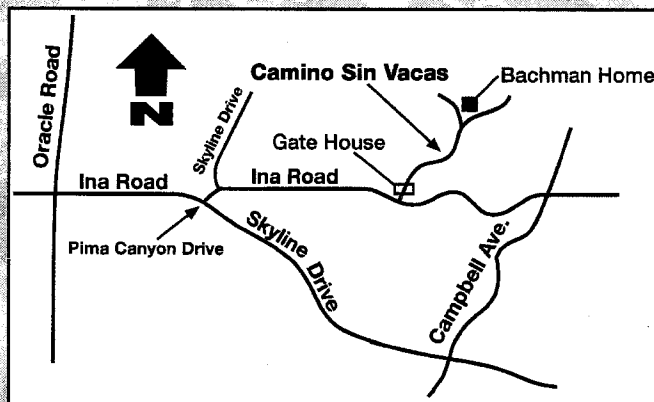
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### Web Address

TCSS Web Page:  
[www.azstarnet.com/~nonprofit/tcss/](http://www.azstarnet.com/~nonprofit/tcss/)

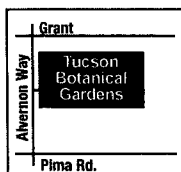
### Next Meeting

Thursday, November 1 at 7:00pm  
Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way  
Tucson, AZ 85712

### Refreshments

*Those people with family names  
beginning with G to N, please bring your choice  
of refreshments to the next meeting.*

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



## Ironwood Ridge Temporary Nursery

*By Chris Monrad*

During September the Salvage Crew completed the bulk of its work at SaddleBrooke and performed an expedited salvage of remaining plants in the temporary nursery at Ironwood Ridge High School, the newest school within the Amphitheater School District.

With the assistance of Joe and Patsy Frannea, Dick Wiedhopf, Vonn Watkins, Jim Elliott, David Hand and Jon Weeks, over 80 Ferocactus and 75 Saguaros were tagged and removed from the temporary nursery over a two day period to allow for final construction activities at the high school site.

Our hearty thanks go out to Superintendent Vicky Balentine, Ph.D., Associate to the Superintendent Todd Jaeger, J.D., Operational Support Director Doug Aho of the Amphitheater Public School District for their quick efforts which allowed us this opportunity to find homes for these worthy native plants. We look forward to similarly rewarding partnerships on future projects. It is noted that our first salvage project was in June of 1999 at the Amphitheater Painted Sky Elementary School Site in Oro Valley.

Next month - a recap of the SaddleBrooke Salvage Project.

# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2001

## George High School Saguaro Salvage Project

**Spend a Day at Arizona's  
Boyce-Thompson  
Arboretum State Park  
Saturday, November 3, 2001  
Seats are still available!!**



*Ferocactus wislizeni tagged and ready for removal.  
Photo by Joe Frannea*



*Saguaros being tagged by Dick Wiedhopf and Vonn Watkins  
Photo by Joe Frannea*

We have seats available on the bus for anyone wishing to go. TCSS members, please ask your family and friends to travel with you to this great haven for plant lovers and enjoy a really great day trip. With over 800 species of cacti not counting the many other desert plants, this will be a very important trip. The only cost is a seat on the bus. TCSS will provide lunch, snacks & refreshments and the entrance fees to the park. If you or anyone you know wants to go please call **Dick Wiedhopf at 885-6367** or send him an e-mail at **wiedhopf@pharmacy.arizona.edu** and make arrangements before Friday, November 2nd. Please don't miss this trip!



*Joe Frannea, Chris Monrad, Dick Wiedhopf and Jon Weeks with son & daughter remove Saguaros.  
Photo by Vonn Watkins*



## **Cactus & Succulent Education at the Pima County Garden Fair**

This event has given our club the opportunity to provide some valuable information to some of the many visitors that attend the Garden Fair twice a year. This year's event was on Sunday, October 21 at the Lew Sorensen Center on East Tanque Verde Road. Plant education and discussion was provided by Mark Sitter and several other members. Jack and Helen Ramsey did another great job in maintaining our area and keeping track of sales. Many salvage plants were given new homes by members of the community. The Garden Fair plant sales had increased over all this year and varieties of plants could be found all around the grounds. Other TCSS members with a sales area at the event was B & B Cactus Farm attended by Karen Mott and Pat Herman along with Bob & Beverly White who were also in attendance. Thanks to all our members who came by and helped with everything.

### **Our Thanks to Charlie & Connie Bachman**

On behalf of the membership I would like to thank Charlie and Connie Bachman for inviting all of us to visit their home and garden. Around 70 members and guests came out for a beautiful day. Agaves, refreshments, free plants and great conversation were all around. Also let's not forget to thank Patsy Franea for preparing the excellent refreshments.

## **2001 Meeting Schedule**

November 1

**Holiday Party December 9**

## **2001 Board Meeting Schedule**

**Two Board Meetings remain for 2001**

Tuesday, November 6

Tuesday, December 11

**Board Meetings are at the  
U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333**

**All Board Members please mark your calendar and  
don't forget that your presence is very important.**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

**Greg Starr**

**will present**

## **Hunting Agaves in Mexico**

Greg's presentation will consist of showing samples, discussing the variety of Agaves found, and a slide presentation of some plants in habitat.

Mexican Agaves cover all the variation found in the genus. Both inflorescence types (spicate and paniculate) are represented. Offsetting and non-offsetting types are found. Narrow leaves and broad leaves, and desert, high montane, and tropical types are all found in Mexico.

Greg graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelors degree in horticulture. After working in the landscape industry, he went back to school. He received a masters degree in Plant Sciences with a dual emphasis on botany and horticulture. While working on his master's degree, Greg worked under the tutelage of both Warren Jones and Dr. Charles Mason. He learned first hand many aspects of collecting expeditions.

Upon graduating from the University of Arizona a second time, Greg started his nursery (imaginatively called Starr Nursery) in 1985, and through the years has collected, tested, and introduced many Chihuahuan Desert plants into the landscape industry. He has written a monograph on the genus *Hesperaloe*, and has recently focused his attention to the genus *Agave*.

This should be a great presentation that will give a much needed look at Agaves in their natural setting. Everyone should come bring a friend and enjoy Greg's perspective on these important garden plants.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2001**

**12:00 Noon**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

## **Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society - Annual Holiday Party and Luncheon**

Join us Sunday December 9th, for our annual Holiday gathering at Tucson Botanical Gardens. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet with your fellow Cactus & Succulent friends, have some excellent food and enjoy the festivities, awards, gifts and giveaways. Further details will be arranged and planned during our next board meeting and will appear in the December Desert Breeze. Please plan to attend this once a year gathering to celebrate the holidays and to have some fun and good times with members, friends and visitors. Everyone will be expecting you to attend!

## **New Newsletter Editor Needed**

A new Editor for the Desert Breeze is needed for next year. If you have good graphic and editorial skills as well as a love for Cactus & Succulents please contact a board member or just come to one of our upcoming board meetings. Your help and dedication will always be appreciated and needed.

### **Does anyone have Mammillaria goldii?**

Bill Munkacsy has asked me to put this in the newsletter. He writes: I am a member of the C&SS of San Jose. I am looking for small plants of Mammillaria goldii for propagation purposes.

Thanks,  
"Bill Munkacsy" bill\_munkacsy@hotmail.com

Please E-mail Bill if you know where he can get this species.



*Desert Breeze*

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

## **November Words**

**by Vonn Watkins**

For anyone that has been wanting to take a nice day trip to one of Arizona's choice garden destinations, with first class bus transportation, enjoy juice, sodas and other refreshments provided during the trip and have a great free lunch catered by Los Hermanos Restaurant, then you need to be on the bus with all of us on Saturday, November 3rd. This trip to **Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park in Superior, Arizona** will give everyone an opportunity to see this great botanical experience and be guided by one of our own members, Pete Petrie. Members will also have an opportunity to explore areas on their own and see some of the more than 800 species of cacti and other succulents. I have visited there almost every year since coming to Arizona in the early 80's and for anyone interested in plants, Boyce Thompson should be seen by all. This will be our last outing this year so be sure to get your seat on the bus.

On November 1st our regular meeting will feature **Greg Starr**. Greg will give us his exclusive views on finding Agaves in Mexico. Be sure to attend this presentation.

We will also be electing new officers to the board. Please vote and help in selecting next year's new board members. Your vote is very important in keeping our club moving in the right direction and working to improve.

Our annual **TCSS Holiday Party at the Tucson Botanical Gardens** will be held on Sunday, December 9th. This year we will celebrate and remember many achievements over the year and enjoy a great lunch with other members, family, friends and visitors. Please plan to attend this very enjoyable event.

Thanks, Vonn



## TCSS OFFICERS AND BOARD

### Officers

President: Vonn Watkins  
Vice President: Open  
Secretary: Wendy Beall  
Treasurer: Valarie Miller

### Board of Directors:

(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

**Immediate Past-President:** Maury Clapp

Dan Birt (2003)  
Jack Ramsey (2001)  
Linda Ryan (2001)  
Marty Harow (2002)  
Open (2002)  
Margaret Pope (2003)  
Mark Sitter (2002)  
Chris Monrad (2003)  
Debbie Boyink (2001)

**Affiliate Representative to the CSSA**

Richard Wiedhopf

**Vonn Watkins**  
**(520) 322-5029**

Editor:  
Vonn Watkins  
email address:  
cactusdude1@yahoo.com  
Deadline for copy:  
18th of each month



### Web Address

TCSS Web Page:  
[www.azstarnet.com./nonprofit/tcss/](http://www.azstarnet.com./nonprofit/tcss/)

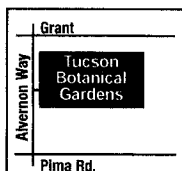
### Next Meeting

Sunday, December 9 at 12:00noon  
Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way  
Tucson, AZ 85712

### Holiday Luncheon & Party

*Please bring a dish of your choice and enjoy the company of other Cactus & Succulent friends. Please bring a plant related gift to join in the fun of the gift exchange and a donation to the Community Food Bank.*

**Everyone is welcome!**  
**Bring your friends,**  
**come join the fun**  
**and meet the cactus and**  
**succulent community.**



## Saddlebrooke Successful Salvage

*By Chris Monrad*

During July, August, September, and October the Salvage Crew completed the bulk of its work at the newest construction phase within the SaddleBrooke Resort Community in Southern Pinal County.

Our sincere and resounding thanks are directed toward Don Fickett of SaddleBrooke Development Company and their parent company Robson Communities for partnering with us on this huge undertaking. We look forward to future projects with SaddleBrooke and Robson as they may arise.

With the assistance of some twenty-odd crew members (you all know who you are!) over twelve weekends, well in excess of fourteen hundred plants were removed from the site and are destined for new homes throughout Arizona. The various species involved were *Echinocereus faciculatus*, *Echinocereus fendleri* var. *rectispinus* and some possible hybrid plants of unknown origin. Various *Opuntias* and *Cylindropuntias*, *Escobaria vivipara* subsp. *arizonica* as per Dan Birt's description, and maybe some *Escobaria vivipara* subsp. *bisbeeana* as well. *Ferocactus wislizenii*, *Mammillaria grahamii* and *Mammillaria grahamii* subsp. *olivae* and some thirty *Ocotillo*, *Fourquieria splendens* of which about half ended up at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Headquarters.

Nurseryman Jim Elliott of Arizona Cactus Sales in Chandler (480-963-1061) was a strategic partner in acquiring hundreds of our plants for distribution

# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

December 2001

## , Our Largest Project This Year

in the Phoenix area, while Jon Weeks of Landscape Cacti here in Tucson (883-0020) handled our surplus inventory as well. Jan Emmling of the Destination: Forever Ranch and Gardens in Yucca, Arizona [destinationforeverranch.com](http://destinationforeverranch.com) will also be acquiring our remaining stock in early December.

My personal thanks go out to all Salvage Crew members, whether there for one weekend or eleven (Patsy Frannea attended eleven straight weekends!) throughout the brutal summer months. Fond memories of ice water, rattlesnakes, deer (and that fawn!), Gila Monsters, and the myriad colors of the Ferocactus in bloom over those many weeks exist for those who endeavored to make a difference in salvaging this site and the other six projects we worked on this year.

Happy Holidays and looking forward to more successful projects next year.



One of the many specimen Ocotillo plants found along the hillside.  
Photo by Vonn Watkins



Barry McCormick displays an excellent Echinocereus.  
Photo by Dan Birt



A view of the entrance road with the site on each side.  
Photo by Vonn Watkins



The area where an abundant number of Escobaria were found. Photo by Dan Birt



## **A Thanks from Peter & Mary Jane Bish**

Peter and Mary Jane Bish would like to thank those members that came to their open house garden event on October 13th. Alan Phipps of Bristol, England and a member of the British Cactus & Succulent Society extends his thanks to the TCSS members for sharing their time and interests with him. It was a good opportunity for everyone to share and discuss their experience and knowledge.

## **The TCSS Sonoran IV Conference will be held on May 3, 4 & 5, 2002 at Inn Suites Hotel**

More information will be coming your way after the first of the year.

### **2001 Meeting Schedule**

**Holiday Party December 9**

### **2001 Board Meeting Schedule**

One Board Meeting remains for 2001

Tuesday, December 11

**Last Board Meeting in 2001**

**U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333**

All Board Members please mark your calendar and don't forget that your presence is very important.

### **2002 Meeting Schedule**

Each meeting will be held on the first Thursday of each month unless indicated differently.

January 3

February 7

March 7

April 4

**May 3, 4 & 5 Sonoran IV**

June 6

July 4

August 1

September 5

October 3

November 7

**Holiday Party December 8**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2001**

**12:00 Noon**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens**

**2150 N. Alvernon Way**

## **Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society - Annual Holiday Party and Luncheon**

Join us Sunday, December 9th for our annual Holiday gathering at Tucson Botanical Gardens. Everyone is invited so please bring a friend or a guest. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet with your fellow Cactus & Succulent friends, have some excellent food and enjoy the festivities, awards, gifts and giveaways.

Please bring a dish of food at your selection and if you choose to participate in the gift exchange just bring a small or large gift (your choice \$5 or more in value), containing a cactus & succulent related item. It is more fun if your gift is wrapped so please do your best. You must bring a gift to participate in the gift exchange. This will be an excellent time for everyone to attend this once a year gathering to celebrate the holidays and to relax, have some fun and good times with everyone.

The club will provide Turkey, Ham, Rolls, Gravy, Drinks and all the necessary eating utensils. Your special dish will be added to the table and we all will join in on this once a year event. After the meal we will have a short awards presentation followed by the yearly gift exchange.

We will also be expecting everyone to bring in a non-perishable item for the **Community Food Bank**. Your donations will help many others in the area to have food for the holidays. We will accept all your donations and deliver them to the Food Bank.

This year we will celebrate and remember many achievements over the year and enjoy a great lunch with other members, family, friends and visitors. Please plan to attend this very enjoyable event.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2002**

**7:00pm**

**Tucson Botanical Gardens  
2150 N. Alvernon Way**

## **David Yetman**

**will present**

### **The Big Ones: Columnar Cacti and the People Who Use Them**

David will take us on a tour of big cactus from the U.S., Mexico, Ecuador, and Argentina, describing their importance in the lives of the native people and the lands where they grow. David was originally scheduled to speak for the club in November, but "The Desert Speaks" needed his help in Baja with a program being filmed there.

David is a research social scientist at the Southwest Center of the University of Arizona. He conducts intensive social and ecological studies of indigenous people and their lands, which includes the role of great cacti in native cultures. His research activities have taken him from the southwestern U.S. into Mexico and points south as he investigates historic human geography. Prior to his adventures with giant cacti and indigenous people to the south, David spent 12 years on the Pima County Board of Supervisors, and was the executive director of the Tucson Audubon Society.

His books include, *Where the Desert Meets the Sea: A Trader in the Land of the Seri Indians* (1988), *Sonora: An Intimate Geography* (1996), and *Scattered Round Stones: A Mayo Village in Sonora* (1998). He is co-editor of Gentry's *Rio Mayo Plants: The Tropical Deciduous Forest and Environs of Northwest Mexico*, and *The Tropical Deciduous Forest of Alamos: Biodiversity and Conservation in an Endangered Ecosystem*. His latest book, *Mayo Ethnobotany: Knowledge, Land, and Tradition in Northwest Mexico*, was written with Thomas Van Devender and will be available in January 2002.

Be sure to attend this presentation and start the new year on a very positive note!



*Desert Breeze*  
Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

## **December Words**

**by Vonn Watkins**

We've had a great time this fall participating in a number of activities. I want to thank Pete Petrie and the staff at **Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park** for giving our members a fantastic tour of the park on November 3rd. Everyone truly enjoyed the bus trip, the park, the lunch and of course seeing all the great plants. Thanks again Pete for all your great work and efforts. You're doing a great job at one of Arizona's premiere destination for plant lovers.

I do hope everyone will try to attend the **TCSS Holiday Party at the Tucson Botanical Gardens on Sunday, December 9th**. This year we will celebrate and remember many achievements over the year and enjoy a great lunch with other members, family, friends and visitors. I look forward to seeing you all there.

We have a new newsletter editor for next year. Barry McCormick has volunteered to do the newsletter and will start with the January issue. Please help Barry in any way you can in 2002.

The TCSS Board has voted me in as President until 2002. The board made it official at the early November board meeting so I will try to do my best until the new year. I do plan to continue participating and working on a variety of activities in 2002.

As you already know we will be counting the election ballots on December 9th and Wendy Beall will announce the newly elected Officers and Board members at the Holiday Party.

I want to thank everyone for a great year and also thank all our members for their participation and for all the really hard work from so many dedicated individuals. You are all making the TCSS a really fun and exciting club and an organization you should all be proud of.

Thanks, Vonn