

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)

Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 15% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



New Member Listings and Changes. A new roster will be available shortly.

Photos by Joe Frannea, Barry McCormick, and Mark McMahon.

Happy New Year!

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2004

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Kevin Barber
Secretary: Lynda Ryan
Treasurer: Valarie Miller

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins
Gail Virtes (2004)

Barry McCormick (2004)

Jack Ramsey (2004)

Joe Frannea (2005)

Marty Harow (2005)

Peter Hubbell (2005)

Dan Birt (2006)

Chris Monrad (2006)

Mark Sitter (2006)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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Free Plants: Norma Beckman

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Programs: Kevin Barber

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick

jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 8 at noon

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

January Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
N to S, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

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

Thursday, January 8, 2004

Mark McMahon: Cacti of Bolivia



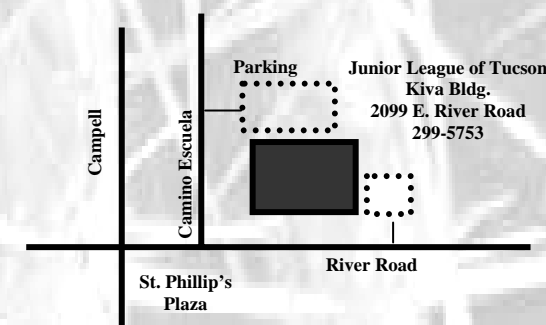
TCSS member Mark McMahon has just completed an odyssey of major proportions. He drove from Tucson to the end of the world: Tierra Del Fuego, the southern tip of South America!!

The TCSS will be treated to the first public presentation by the award-winning photographer since the completion of the expedition in mid-December. Exotic cactus of Bolivia will be featured in the presentation.

Along the way, Mark managed to make it back to Tucson to tend his own cactus garden and attend a few TCSS meetings. He documented the trip on his website (www.filmtrips.com) with over 100 journal entries. Having honed his writing skills, he is now hard at work on a novel inspired by his adventures in Latin America. *Between the Sheets & on the Streets* is due out in the fall of 2004.

Thursday, February 5, 2004

The February program has not been firmed up as of this moment. Look for an announcement on our web site at www.tucsoncactus.org.



Meeting Place

President's Message



Every year I think that the society can't get any bigger, do more things, have more people engaged in activities, rescue more plants, have more outstanding programs, etc. and every year you prove me wrong.

I am always amazed at the quality of our members. Every day I learn more about the talents of members within and outside the realm of cacti and succulents. We have wonderfully diverse group and I am very proud that I will be leading you for another year.

At the Holiday Party, I was able to thank some of the members who took a leadership role in making this year a great success. The Board of Directors designates two different types of awards to be presented by the President. The President's Award recognizes outstanding contributions for the year and the Special Service Award recognizes very special and unique contributions to TCSS.

President's Awards winners are.

Jenny Coniglio, our librarian, for making our book collection more accessible to the members.

Gail and George Virtes, who review school grants, stand-in for the secretary, and champion new ideas for the society.

Chris Monrad, for his continued effort on the rescue committee and for using his professional skills to engage landscape architect and planners in our rescue efforts.

Patsy and Joe Frannea, for all the things they both do from refreshments at meetings to planting and maintaining our rescued plants.

Norma Beckman, who acquires all our raffle plants, free plants, and door prizes for meetings and events.

Jack Ramsey, who greets us at every meeting, makes sure our badge is there, and manages our sales events.

Barry McCormick and Blair Kuropatkin, who provided the essentials to make our first Expo a great success, including KUAT TV exposure which allowed us to tell our rescue story.



Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you.

There are three Special Service Awards.

Helen and Kevin Barber have been outstanding in mastering our new barcode cash registers, in addition to their service on the board; Helen as Affiliate Representative, and Kevin as Vice President, program chairman, and technology committee chair.

Lois and Denny Ladwig created a new look to our web site, with new features that make it one of the best. Denny passed away suddenly a few months ago, but his contribution will always be a part of TCSS. Lois is one of the originators of our rescue program.

Vonn Watkins is our immediate past president and a constant contributor; our new logo and our web plant database is mostly Vonn's work.

Vonn is always there to help with programs, rescues, and anything else that is needed.

These individuals have provided special service to this society, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

The honorees received an engraved trophy carved out of ironwood: a saguaro for the president's Award and an opuntia for the Special Service Award.

There are many opportunities to help out. If you did not sign up for a committee on your renewal you will have many chances to be involved during this next year.

I hope you have had the happiest of holidays and look forward to a "Sonoran V" New Year

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Rescue Crew



The one cactus rescue this month was a mini-rescue at the Diamond Ventures Pima Farms site on December 13. A small crew easily mastered several dozen barrels and pincushions. Several very nice chollas were also rescued, along with a couple of stray saguaros. Keith Zwickl, as usual,

challenged the crew to rescue a pair of larger than usual barrels.

Barry McCormick

Rescue Cacti Donated

Over the past several years there have been many TCSS members who have purchased and then donated rescued cacti to various groups and organizations. This is an excellent way to let the public know about our cactus rescue program while making a contribution to the recipient group or organization.



One member donated cactus to Habitat for Humanity to help landscape a couple of recently completed houses that did not have a landscape budget. Other rescued cacti have been purchased by TCSS members and donated to the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Tohono Chul Park, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Arizona State Building downtown Tucson, and The Our Yard Landscape Learning Center being developed by the University of Arizona, Pima County Cooperative Extension on Campbell Ave. Also, various churches and home owner associations have been recipients of cacti for their gardens, medians and road side landscaping.

Our inventory includes hundreds of wonderful Hedge Hogs, Barrels, and Mammillaria Cacti. Use your TCSS club 15% discount to purchase plants for your church, school, neighborhood, or favorite organization and get them involved in learning how to plant and care for them. We have plenty of "How

to Plant and Care" brochures to give out and they are on our TCSS web site as well for viewing and printing.

Joe Frannea

Holiday Party

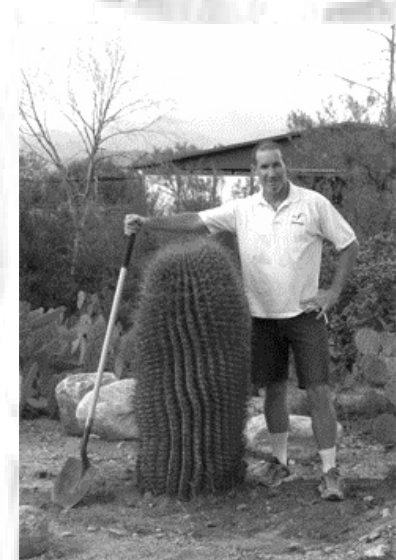
The annual holiday party was the usual success. Food and good company abounded. The president's awards were a good indication of just how much we have accomplished this year. We have certainly been spoiled by the quality and quantity of refreshments we encounter at all of our events; I fear our communal waistline attests to this. The present exchange was a jolly time enjoyed by all.

We certainly didn't forget those who may be less fortunate at this moment in time; we collected four large boxes of food and \$125 which has been delivered to the Community Food Bank. This is a fine culmination to a fine year. Thanks to all who pitched in, and all who participated.

Barry McCormick

Biggest Rescue Barrel?

January speaker Mark McMahon touts "his energetic participation in a [previous] cactus



rescue (with the help of a small army of other members) that netted the largest barrel cactus ever rescued by the club." It may be time to get out the tape measures to compare this monster with some of Keith's best.

Freeze Damage

This past December 28, Tucson had a low temperature of 19°F. Tucson has not experienced that since early December, 1978. At that time, we had over 24 hours at or below 32°F, with an ultimate low of 19°. The recent freeze was very different, in that it was a shorter duration of hard freeze. Although the plant damage this season was not as bad as 1978, some did occur and is a cause for concern.



In most cases, the damage that I have seen was superficial. That is, leaf die back, flower damage, and, in some cases, stem tip die back. Generally, the action now taken is for aesthetics only. With that in mind, it is easy to remove dead or

damaged leaves, which can be done at any time, with the slight loss of insulation that a covering of dead leaves might provide. Another possible benefit to leaving the old leaves and stem tips on is to support frost cloth in any future freeze.

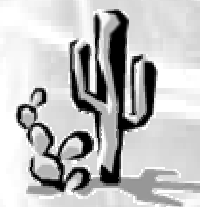
Damaged flowers can also be removed at any time. I had many aloe inflorescences start early this year. This always makes me nervous because of the long season ahead with many chances of freezing.

Sometimes, if the freeze happens early enough, aloes will regenerate another flower spike, but I don't think that will be the case this year.

The worst type of freeze damage that I had this year was stem die back. A lot of the time, a viable option is to do nothing. Most plants will only die back to a point and heal themselves off, leaving a dead stem tip to probably fall off at some future time. The amount of die back depends on the severity of the freeze. At 19°, I had burseras and fouquierias and some other pachycauls under semi protection, appear to freeze back to pencil diameter stems. I say apparently because sometimes the full extent of the damage does not show up right away, and in some cases you may not know how much has been damaged until the plant starts to grow again in spring. On most of these hard stemmed, or semi succulent plants, I am in no hurry to cut off plant material. On the other hand, with some of the soft stemmed succulents like adeniums, euphorbias, adenias and others, I usually cut off damaged stems as soon as I can see what has died, normally within a couple of weeks. The thought here is that the dying softer tissues might start to rot and that rot may continue into the healthy tissue.

Prevention, of course is the best solution. Move, cover or heat, or only grow those ugly, boring, cold tolerant plants. Or better yet, if we could only get that global warming they have been promising. Not in the summer, mind you, but at least a little bit in winter.

Gene Joseph



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Desert Breeze

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Thursday, February 5, 2004

Mark Dimmitt: Biodiversity of Baja

7:00 pm



This will be a terrific preview of our upcoming Sonoran V conference with its focus on Baja. Come and learn more about this interesting succulent-diverse area. Mark is a very interesting and knowledgeable speaker and an excellent photographer. We will be treated to some fabulous images of this area.

Mark is Director of Natural History at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. His knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Sonoran desert is very well known and he is currently heading up a number of research projects including a study of the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Many of us know Mark as a dedicated and prolific horticulturist specializing in the cultivation of succulents and epiphytes, especially Adenium, Trichocereus, and Tillandsia. He has produced more than 50 named cultivars. Check out more on

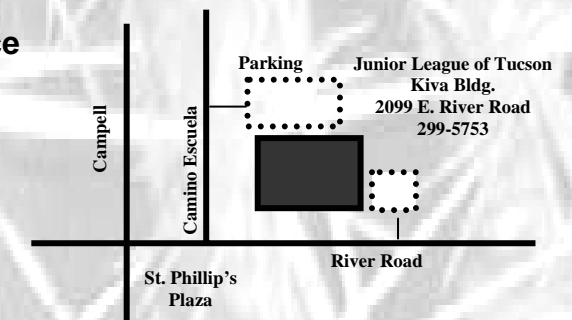


<http://www.desertmuseum.org/programs/succulents.html>.

Thursday, March 4, 2004

The March program has not been firmed up as of this moment. Look for an announcement on our web site at www.tucsoncactus.org.

Meeting Place



President's Message



Congratulations to one of our newer members, Peter Bockenthien. He has been appointed editor for the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) newsletter, *To the Point*. Peter succeeds our member Carol Clapp, who has been editor for the last several years.

Many other affiliate societies of CSSA are losing membership. It is important that CSSA remain strong and, as a member of their Board of Directors, I want to encourage you to join CSSA. You will receive the outstanding *Cactus and Succulent Journal* and *To the Point* six times a year, have access to member services such as seed sales, and receive a discount on Symposium attendance. Next year's symposium will be in Phoenix, so this is a perfect time to join. A real effort is being made to include articles in both the Journal and the Newsletter that will have broad appeal and interest. We look forward to an upcoming article by Mark Dimmitt, John Wiens and Tom Van Devender on "Rich Succulent Floras in Central Baja California."

Statistics gathered on our web site show that we are providing information of real interest. Our site gets a substantial number of hits a day and people especially like our ABC guide from Miles Anderson and our planting guides. Joe Frannea's rescue program description is often downloaded even though it is quite large. It is very good and worth the effort. Other popular features are our Cactus & Succulent Business Directory and our Cactus and Succulent Database. Kevin Barber and all the technical committee members need to be congratulated for a great job, and we all need to remember to refer to the site often for new information.

The recent cold snap has caused damage to many of our plants. It would be interesting if you would let

us know the low temperature at your garden and the plants that were damaged. Please drop us an e-mail or note about your collection and what happened. You can help us with future planting suggestions based on real data associated with this cold weather event that we have just experienced. See the article in this newsletter about how to deal with your damaged plants.

New membership badges will be distributed at our next meeting. They have a new logo and style. We now have over 450 individuals that have membership in TCSS, and it has become difficult to distribute badges prior to the meeting. We ask that you take the badge home with you and wear it to the meetings. As an inducement, wearing your new badge will entitle you to a special door prize ticket. We will always replace a lost badge.



TCSS is presenting special awards at the Southern Arizona Science and Engineering Fair for outstanding projects dealing with Cacti, Succulents and related topics. A group of our members will judge these displays and award cash prizes to the top three entries. We may also give "honorable mention" gift certificates to other worthy displays. The Board of Directors has approved this use of money from our research and grants program. We expect that this will stimulate interest in our favorite subjects.

Sonoran V is coming soon and you will be getting more information in the mail about this event. A large group of volunteers will be necessary to make this a great educational and fun event. I know we can count on you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Rescue Crew Digs Deep!

A dozen Cactus Rescue Crew members descended on a residential property just north of Interstate 10 that was in the process of being cleared for new housing development. A night blooming cereus garden had been planted at the old family residence several years ago and about thirty plants needed to find new homes.

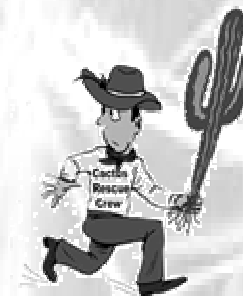
Digging up each Queen of the Night, *Peniocerus Greggii*, took time and patience due to the delicate

nature of the excavation work required. You don't know what is underground until you start to explore and your goal is to get the whole tuber in one piece. The tuber is usually much larger than the stem showing above ground. Many of the plants had tubers that were twelve to sixteen inches long and eight to twelve



inches in diameter. One giant weighed in at 30 pounds! Luckily the dirt was fairly soft and the jack hammer helped loosen the soil since digging needs to be deep and to the side of the tuber. You can't just pry it out like you can with a lot of other succulents.

A special thanks to Rescue Crew member Tom Baron for getting this property set up for a rescue and acquiring the tags. We need the help of all TCSS members to keep an eye out for properties destined to be cleared for new development.



Joe Frannea

Huge Cereus Peruvianus Must Go...

A huge multi-armed cereus located in the front of a business on North First Avenue must be relocated to make way for a new sign. The plant is too large and heavy to move in one piece but will make excellent stock for cuttings.

The TCSS Rescue Crew plans to remove the plant in about one hundred pieces and make them available to club members at nominal cost.

Plans are to have 80 to 100 branch tip cuttings of various sizes available at the February TCSS meeting. Bring newspaper, a box or flat, or something to wrap your cutting in to transport it home. The cutting will be ready to plant about a week or two (after the cut end has a chance to scab-over) after you take them home.

Joe Frannea



Fiesta de las Flores

We will be participating in the Fiesta de las Flores Orchid and Flower Show again this year. The show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 28-29 at the Foothills Mall, 7325 N. La Cholla Blvd. This show is sponsored by the Orchid Society, but features many of the botanical societies of Tucson, including African Violets, Bonsai, and many Tucson nurseries. This is a good opportunity for us to sell rescue plants and display our cactus specimens. We want to make this a "dress rehearsal" for the cactus displays we will have at Sonoran V. This is a good chance to attract new members, especially in the Northwest region. We will need display plants, help with selling rescue plants, and people to talk to the public about the society. Plan to be there!



Barry McCormick



March 2004

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Jim Elliott, "Landscaping with Succulents"

7:00 pm

Jim Elliott and his wife Electra are owners of Arizona Cactus Sales in Chandler, Arizona. Jim has twenty-seven years of hard-earned experience to share with us about landscaping with succulents.

In 1977, with no experience in the field, Jim and Electra left their management jobs and purchased Arizona Cactus Sales, seeking a business venture that would hold their interest. Building from a one-employee (that would be Jim) business that barely paid the rent, Arizona Cactus Sales has been transformed into a six-employee nursery with excellent relationships with customers, hobbyists and growers.

Jim is not formally trained in botany, but has gained his experience by actually working with the plants. He has teamed up with Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society on our Cactus Rescue program, buying many of our plants for sale in the Phoenix area. Many of us remember how hospitable and generous Jim was when we made a nursery visit after last year's trip to The Desert Botanical Garden.

Jim has many interesting experiences and insights to share with us; don't miss this valuable program.

Thursday, April 1, 2004

The April program has not been firmed up as of this moment. Look for an announcement on our web site at www.tucsoncactus.org.

Meeting Place

President's Message



There is a great web site that gives more detail about the weather in Tucson from 1894 to 1996 then you ever wanted to know.

I am quoting the March synopsis for your benefit. The site is worth checking out and from time to time I will update the months when the weather is dramatically changing.

The site is: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tucson/climate/TUCSON/WR-249.html#intro>

"MARCH WEATHER

The month begins with average highs around 70 degrees F and average lows around 43 degrees F, and ends with average highs around 77 degrees F and average lows around 47 degrees F. Temperature extremes for the month range from a record high of 99 degrees F set on March 26, 1988 to a record low of 20 degrees F set on March 4, 1965. Although March is the beginning of the spring growing season, a few outlying areas around the Tucson metro area may still have low temperatures in the 20's at times. As a result, some localized areas may still experience a hard freeze.

Normal precipitation during the month of March is 0.72 of an inch. Monthly extremes range from 3.88 inches in 1905 to zero rainfall recorded five times (1984, 1956, 1933, 1928, and 1898). The past 100+ years of records for Tucson show that measurable snowfall has been recorded nine times during the month of March. The last measurable snowfall recorded during March in Tucson was back in 1991 when 0.3" fell on the 16th. The most snowfall recorded for one day occurred on March 12, 1922 when six inches fell. This daily snowfall total also is the monthly snowfall record for March.

The number of daylight hours increases from 11 hours 31 minutes on the 1st to 12 hours 29 minutes

on the 31st, a gain of 58 minutes. The vernal equinox, otherwise known as the beginning of spring, begins on about March 20th when the sun crosses the equator into the Northern Hemisphere. "

March can bring disaster to your collection so don't lull into complacency by mild weather. Wait until April for your tender cacti and succulents to be introduced back into the yard.

There are a lot of activities coming in March, so check the dates in the Newsletter.

See you at the meeting. Don't forget to bring your n tags from the last meeting or pick up your new badge at the March meeting.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Ocotillo on the Rocks!

Seventeen Cactus Rescue Crew members showed up Starr Pass one Saturday morning a few weeks ago, not to play golf, but to dig in the rocks. The biggest prizes were Ocotillo and small Saguaro. The City of Tucson is cutting in a new road between existing Casitas and new Arnold Palmer greens to access their Clearwell Reservoir and provide access for hikers to some Tucson Mountain trails.



The Crew put in extra hours to get all 32 Ocotillo, mostly in real rocky soil, as threatening weather was forecast for the next day and the City wanted to start preliminary grading the next week. The crew also rescued Barrel, Hedge Hog, Cholla, a few Prickly Pear and lots of Pincushion size cacti. Some of the Ocotillo went home with Rescue Crew Members and the others were immediately sold to people on our Cactus Rescue wait list.

The City of Tucson Channel 12 TV station showed and covered our rescue process. They shot a lot of footage and interviewed several people including Dick Wiedhopf about their story. Channel 12 is only available on cable and some segments can be viewed on their Web site at

www.cityoftucson.org/ch12/.

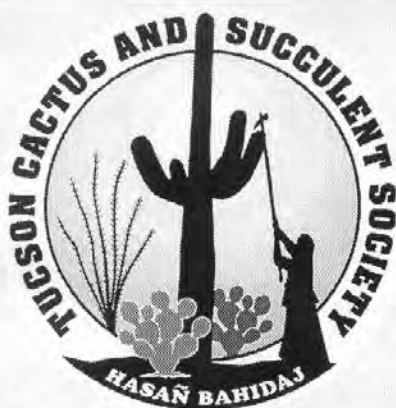
We will post a link on our TCSS web site when this story is available. There was also a brief mention of this rescue in the Neighborhood Briefing section of the Arizona Daily Star Newspaper on January 30.

A special thanks to Gary Wittwer, City of Tucson Transportation Department, for lining up this project and for helping with the rescue. Gary is giving us another opportunity to work on a City of Tucson Project, the Harrison Road widening project from Speedway to Old Spanish Trail just South of Broadway. This rescue should be coming soon. We need the help of all TCSS members to keep an eye out for properties or roadways destined to be cleared for new development.

Pima County Country Fair
Sunday, March 21
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Lew Sorensen Center
11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd.
(East on Tanque Verde on the right hand side)

The Pima County Spring and Fall Country Fairs have given our club the opportunity to provide valuable information to many of the visitors that attend, and to sell salvaged and member plants to the public. You will find a great diversity of drought tolerant plants, including many natives, ready for your garden. Drop by and consider giving some of these plants a home.

Jack Ra



Sales Events

Featuring
**Rescued
Tucson Cacti**

*All of these events are **Open to the Public**.
Please join us for lots of Great Plants,
Educational Opportunities, Fun and More!*

Pima County Country Fair

Lew Sorensen Center • 11100 E. Tanque Verde Road
Sunday, March 21st • 10am to 4pm

A short distance east of Houghton Rd. There is plenty of parking and easy plant sale access

Inaugural Spring Desert Plant Sale

Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch • 5601 N Hacienda Del Sol Road
Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28 • 9am to 3pm

Hacienda Del Sol Road can be accessed east of Campbell Avenue by River Road or Sunrise Drive

Sonoran V

Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale

InnSuites Hotels • 457 N. Granada Avenue

Saturday, May 1 • 8am to 4:30pm & Sunday, May 2 • 8am to 3:30pm

Just south of 6th Street on Granada Avenue and east of Interstate 10.

- Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale • Cactus & Succulent Silent Auction
- Plant Sales with exclusive selections by the best professional growers in Tucson
- Book Sales by Rainbow Gardens Bookstore, Vista, CA • Art Show by the Southern Arizona Arts Guild
- Educational Displays and much more!

Please Call **888-6137** for Additional Information about any of these events.

Visit our web site at: **www.tucsoncactus.org**

The TCSS is a non-profit organization.



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Desert Breeze

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April 2004

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Norm Dennis, "Mammillaria - Surprising Gems" 7:00 pm

Norm Dennis, a retired Biology teacher, started off as a young boy in Southern California collecting and growing cacti. After majoring in Botany in university and a four-year stint in the Air Force, he returned to the university to obtain a teaching certificate. During the course of his thirty year career, he often used Lithops as research subjects for high school students.



Upon moving to Arizona in 2002, the genus Mammillaria again drew his attention. He has a collection of several hundred plants, combining his interest in cacti with his skills in digital photography.

Norm is an editor at the web site mammillarias.net, an international site with members from several continents. He contributes articles on the cultivation of Mammillaria, and acts as the site English language editor.



Norm says that living in Tucson has been a great boon to growing cacti. The climate is wonderful, there are top notch commercial nurseries, and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society offers opportunities to learn and share with other cactophiles.

Friday, April 30, 2004

The May meeting will be held in conjunction with Sonoran V at the Inn Suites Hotel. The speaker will be Mark Dimmitt continuing his February presentation on the "Biodiversity of Baja California".

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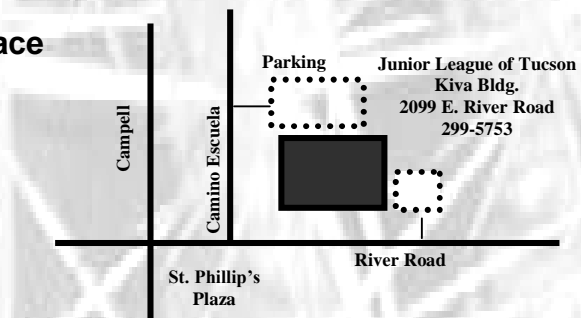
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Meeting Place



President's Message



I want to express my thanks to all of you who participated and supported the Orchid Show and Sale, Pima County Country Fair, Inaugural Spring Desert Plant Sale at the Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch, Southern Arizona Science and Engineering Fair

and plant rescues. Your participation is what makes this society work. We also look good in our new logo T-shirts. Thank you again.

Dick Wiedhopf, President



Sonoran V Questions

Sonoran V will be held April 30 to May 2.

Will there be a regular meeting Thursday, May 6?

No. The Friday, April 30, Member's Free Dinner, keynote speaker Mark Dimmitt, plant show and plant and book sale will be the May meeting.

Who can come to the Friday evening event?

Every member is invited and will receive one or two free tickets depending on whether they have a single or family membership. Additional ticket may be purchased for \$20.00. Members will receive details in a special mailing. Conference registrants and vendors will be in attendance.

Can I still register for the Conference and get the TCSS rate?

Absolutely. The Sonoran V is specifically for TCSS members. If you can't attend the entire conference there will be an opportunity to purchase individual workshop tickets or daily admission. This will be explained in the special mailing.

Can I just come to the plant, art and book sales and look at the plant show, and bid at silent auction?

YES! These events are free and open to the public. You are absolutely welcome. Please bring your friends to these public portions of Sonoran V.

Will the speakers and workshops be too technical for me?

The programs and workshops will be suitable for everybody from newcomer to expert. These are primarily hobbyist level presentations for those who enjoy cacti, succulents, and the deserts they grow in.

Can I attend the Saturday Night Dinner if I am not registered at the conference?

YES! Anyone may attend. The dinner costs \$25.00 per person.

If I register what else do I get?

You get the first choice of five workshops to attend. You get the conference registration notebook, luncheon tickets for Saturday and Sunday, Silent Auction bid number, opportunity to win door prizes at every meal event, special Sonoran V pin and more.

Sounds great! It really is our conference. How can I help out?

That's what it's all about. We always need volunteers and you can contact Barry McCormick or sign-up with him at the April 1 regular meeting.

Don't hesitate to ask any question or have us answer any concerns about Sonoran V.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Special Sonoran V Opportunities

Sonoran V Cash Register Volunteers Needed

We will need help manning the two cash registers. This will involve a 4 hour shift and a Pre Sonoran V individual training session. Each cash register will have two people per shift, one to handle the plants and the other the register. If you can help, please contact Kevin or Helen Barber by phone at 529-9221 or by e-mail at helen@barberit.com.

Plant Transportation Needed

To help fill the Sonoran V conference with wonderful succulents and cacti, we will rent a truck to pick up and return some of the members and member growers' special plants. We need several volunteers to spend about four hours Friday and three hours Sunday picking up and returning plants. Contact Barry McCormick, 299-6195.

Mammillaria Thornberi Rescued!



Twenty seven anxious Cactus Rescue Crew members showed up just south of the Tucson Mall to rescue a large collection of Mammillaria Thornberi on a rare plot of undisturbed desert right in the center of Tucson. These cacti are typically found on the West side of the Tucson Mountains, this location is the most Eastern location that we know about.

There were a lot of small single headed plants and several nice clumps or families. About 180 Thornberi were rescued. Many went home with Rescue Crew members (one of the benefits of being a crew member), and several were saved for TBG and other public cactus gardens. Since these cacti are a little difficult to transplant and the survival rate is probably 50/50, the balance will be sold to TCSS members at our April 1st meeting.

Thornberi have slender stems and seem to like to cluster. They have small fish hook spines and bloom in mid-summer with light pink blooms on the outside and a deeper pink center. They give a red and white star shape appearance from a distance due to the contrast of colors.

Rescue Crew members could not reach a consensus regarding the secret for a successful transplant, but it was noted that most of the Thornberi were growing under a Velvet Mesquite tree in sandy soil. This property was on the outer banks of the Rillito River not too many years ago before the river was re-channeled and banked.

The Rescue Crew also saved a huge and very plump Hedge Hog with about 32 stems that has been donated to The Tucson Botanical Gardens (TBG).

The special canvas cactus carrier made by Twink Monrad was a must to keep this beauty in tact. This property also had several varieties of nice Cholla for our Opuntia collectors. Two night blooming cereus (*Peniocereus Greggii*) were rescued that will be given to the land owners along with a couple of the Thornberi cacti.

Joe Frannea

TCSS Selects SARSEF Winners!

As you enter the huge Tucson Convention Center exhibit hall with rows and rows of school children's display boards and models lined up, you can't help but be impressed with all of the talent and brain power radiating from these 1,300 Southern Arizona Region Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) Projects.

This year TCSS followed the lead of many other companies and societies in Southern Arizona by creating its own Special Awards Category: "Cactus & Succulents" and granting awards for deserving projects from grades K through 12. We did our own judging and awarded TCSS award certificates, created by Vonn Watkins, cash, gift certificates, and TCSS memberships. We gave \$100, \$50, and \$25 cash prizes and two of our member nurseries, B&B Cactus Farm, and Plants for the Southwest, donated \$20 gift certificates.

Our judges, Marty Harow, George Virtes, Patsy and Joe Frannea, searched all the aisles for Cactus and Succulent projects. We were pleased to find eight great projects to consider. We judged overall display appeal, topic, clarity of the project, inventiveness and originality, project data and log books, and how conclusions were derived. After considerable deliberation, we decided to expand our awards from six to eight, since they all were very deserving projects.

The eight TCSS winners have been invited to bring their projects to our Sonoran V Conference to share them with all of us.

The Science Fair organizers were very appreciative of TCSS setting up this Special Awards Category, judging the projects, and giving so many Special Awards. Encourage students you know to select Cactus and Succulents for their science project next year and offer to be a mentor or find a mentor for them. This is truly a Win/Win/Win situation!

Adaptive Advantages of Cactus Spines -- First



Place (\$100) went to Hannah, Basis Charter School, grade seven. Question: *What are the specific advantages of spines to a cactus' life?* See photo showing her creative toothpick models used to collect data.

Sonoran Desert Plants -- Second

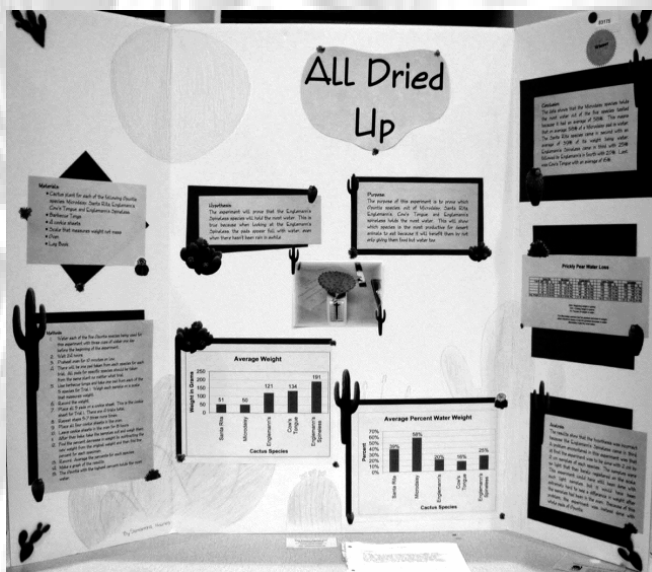
Place (\$50) went to Diane Cribbs' Third Grade Class,

Indian Oasis Primary. Question: *Are Sonoran Desert Plants helpful to people?* Their notebook contained

data sheets of interviews of their parents and elders, a wonderful collection of information with publication potential.



All Dried Up -- Third Place (\$25) went to Samantha, Dodge Middle School, eighth grade. Question: *Which of five Opuntia species holds the most water and is the most productive for desert animals to eat?* A very nice overall exhibit with 3-D cacti glued on the display.



The Unknown Cochineal -- Honorable Mention

(\$20 B&B gift certificate) went to Joe, Doolen Middle School, Seventh Grade. He had four different questions: *What is that white matter on my cactus? Will it kill my cactus? Will the cactus pads containing the white substance still produce fruit? Will the white substance grow/spread?*

Desert Dyes -- Honorable Mention (\$20 B&B gift certificate) went to Andrea, Old Vail School, Seventh Grade. Question: *Do natural desert plants produce a colorful dye when put through a dye making process?* She did many tests on various fabric samples and a painting using yucca, ocotillo, cochineal and wild flower dyes.

Dye in the Desert -- Honorable Mention (\$20 Plants for the SW gift certificate) went to John, Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, Seventh Grade.

Questions: *Can prickly pear fruit juice be used as a dye? Which material can prickly pear fruit juice dye the best?* His idea came to him from his class selling Prickly Pear cactus jelly last year as a fund raiser.

Plant Growth in Sabino Canyon -- Honorable Mention (\$20 Plants for the SW gift certificate) went to Seamus, Davis Bilingual School, Second Grade. Question: *Are there more plants for birds and animals in Sabino Canyon today than 100 years ago?* Photos of then and now were used to make the comparisons.

The Race is On! -- Honorable Mention (\$20 B&B gift certificate) went to Sofia, St. Michaels Parish Day School, Fourth Grade. Question: *Will a cactus grow better in sand or cactus soil?* She was surprised by her results.

Joe & Patsy Frannea

Fiesta de las Flores

Our display and sales at Fiesta de las Flores grossed over \$900.00 for the two days. We had a nice display of a dozen or so plants and had a free raffle to increase our mailing list. B&B Cactus donated a nice Mammillaria senilis for the raffle.



Jack Ramsey

Pima County Country Fair Sunday, March 21



The Pima County Spring Country Fair was a very successful sale. We took home very few plants. Our gross sales before tag costs were around \$1500. Members Ed Campbell and Jeff Moore sold plants and Vonn Watkins donated some plants for sale. Also at the Fair were B&B Cactus and DestinationForever Sales. Thanks to all of the members how helped out.

Barry McCormick

B&B Cactus Farms Changes Hands

B&B Cactus Farms, one of Tucson's premier nurseries, has been sold by long-time owner and founder Bob White. The new owners are Mark and Margaret Sitter, TCSS members and owners of Gecko Cactus. Mark and Margaret have the skills and talent to maintain the caliber of plants we have come to expect from B&B. We will miss Bob when we visit the nursery, but we look forward to its continuing success.



Coming Events

Huntington Garden, San Marino, California CSSA Cactus & Succulent Show July 2-3 (Friday-Saturday) 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Hundreds of award-winning plants will be on view as the Cactus and Succulent Society of America presents its annual show and sale. This prestigious event will feature "the best of the best" from prize-winning growers nationwide. Stop by the sale area and pick up some unusual specimens to add to your own succulent collection, or tour The Huntington's 10-acre Desert Garden.

TCSS Silent Auction September 26

Later this year we will resume an old TCSS tradition of having a Silent Auction for our members. Many interesting and exciting plants change hands at this auction. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 26 so you don't miss out!

New CSSA Newsletter Editor

TCSS member Peter Bockenthien has agreed to serve as the editor of *To the Point*, the Cactus and Succulent Society of America newsletter..

Peter has over fifteen years professional experience as a graphic designer, and seven years developing and editing various marketing collateral. He has designed, edited and produced a wide range of catalogs, national advertisements, and websites. He's excited to apply his skills to *To The Point*.

A relative newcomer to CSSA, he became good friends with Steve Miles in Boulder, Colorado. Peter relates, "a friend of mine gave me a neglected cereus jamacaru and a euphorbia lactea. I immediately started researching both to find out how to care for them. I bought several books, and I learned a lot from Steve."

His collection grew quickly and he met another enthusiast, Angela Stephens. They combined their collection and then their lives. Knowing they loved the desert and enjoying their visits to the Sonoran desert, they moved to Tucson in August 2003.

Tom Glavich, CSSA To The Point, interim editor



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)

Hedgehogs – from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 15% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



Photos by Kevin Barber,
Joe Frannea, Barry
McCormick.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537





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New Members

Welcome to the following new members. Detailed information will be included in the new roster that will be issued at midyear.

Joe & Sue Diehl
Pam Emerson
George & Emojean Girard
Shawn Halversen
Wendy Hill
Robert A Kersh
Marcia Lincoln & Victor Ong
Robert K McCormack
Susan McMahon and Julie Evans
Gary Wittwer Family

Herb & Sarah Morris
George & Essie Nadler
Aaryn D Olsson
Rick & Debra Raeber
Susan Roberts
Mike Robinette
Jim & Marilyn Wheeler
Nedra Williams

Photos by Joe Frannea and Barry McCormick. Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
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Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2004

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367
Vice President: Kevin Barber
Secretary: Lynda Ryan
Treasurer: Valarie Miller

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins
Gail Virtes (2004)
Barry McCormick (2004)
Jack Ramsey (2004)
Joe Frannea (2005)
Marty Harow (2005)
Peter Hubbell (2005)
Dan Birt (2006)
Chris Monrad (2006)
Mark Sitter (2006)
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Norma Beckman
Librarian: Jenny Coniglio
Programs: Kevin Barber
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Sales: Jack Ramsey
Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Friday April 30 at 6:00 pm
Insuites Hotel
457 N Granada Ave
Tucson

Refreshments

Enjoy the Free Buffet
at the
InnSuites Hotel

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

Friday, April 30, 2004

Mark Dimmitt: Biodiversity of Baja, Part II

6:00 pm

InnSuites Hotel
457 N. Granada Ave.



This talk is both the keynote address for our Sonoran V Conference and a continuation of Mark's talk from February. Remember, this meeting is a free dinner, a plant show, and a wonderful opportunity to see and buy plants from virtually all of the area growers before the public offering. How could anybody miss this? See you there!

Mark is Director of Natural History at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. His knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Sonoran desert is very well known and he is currently heading up a number of research projects including a study of the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Many of us know Mark as a dedicated and prolific horticulturist specializing in the cultivation of succulents and epiphytes, especially Adenium, Trichocereus, and Tillandsia. He has produced more than 50 named cultivars. Check out more on:



<http://www.desertmuseum.org/programs/succulents.html>.

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Cono Rojo, Sierra del Pinacate

Horticulturist Cory Martin of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will do a presentation on the Cono Rojo, Sierra del Pinacate. The Pinacate is located in the southeast corner of the Gran Desierto del Altar, one of the hottest, driest regions in the Sonoran Desert in the state of Sonora, Mexico. Join Cory in viewing images of the vegetation that manages to eke out a meager living in this "desolate" place.

President's Message



I am very excited that Sonoran V is starting this week. This is a great educational opportunity for us and the public at large. Since so many of you are new to the Tucson Society, I hope you will take this opportunity to participate in

some way. You may want to enjoy the plant show, purchase books, pottery, plants, bid at the silent auction and enjoy the art show on Sunday. You may want to volunteer your help for a couple of hours. I hope you have reserved dinner on Friday, since this is a special thank-you to the membership. Mark Dimmitt will present "Succulent Plant Community of Baja", after the dinner. This is the kick off event of Sonoran V and serves as our May Meeting.



There is no regular meeting on May 6, 2004. Our next meeting is June 3, 2004

Please invite your friends and neighbors to the show and sales on Saturday and Sunday. We will have plants from our recent rescues available for sale.

We will have a new supply of our T-shirt available at this event so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

I want to thank all the members of the Sonoran V committees who have worked so hard to make this event special. Remember – Sonoran VI is only two year away!

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Sonoran V – When You Go.

Friday, the member's dinner and monthly meeting is at 6:00 pm in the Copper room. If you are bringing plants for the display or silent auction, park in the east lot and follow the signs to enter the complex. Come as early as you can; plants are accepted anytime after noon. Volunteers should come after noon and check in at the registration desk. If you know what plants you will display, please notify Barry McCormick at jbarrymcc@earthlink.net with the plant names so labels can be made up in advance. This will help speed up the plant labeling process.

After the buffet, Mark Dimmitt will deliver the keynote talk. Around 8:00 pm we will have dessert and then move into the plant display and plant sales areas. The silent auction and the book sales will begin. We will post a list of those who have volunteered for Saturday and Sunday, and members can sign up for unfilled slots.

Saturday the participants will have lectures and workshops; those holding tickets to individual workshops should come for their workshops. Volunteers can check in at the Registration Desk for specific assignments. We expect good public attendance Saturday, and can use all the help we can get. This is our opportunity to sell ourselves to the public.

Sunday you should consider returning on to see the art show and be on the lookout for special plant sales, and to help take down the show. See you all there!

School Grant Requests Trickle In



The TCSS School Grant Program was initiated in the Fall of 2002. We awarded our first grant in November, 2002 to Ironwood Ridge High School and two additional ones last year to Bisbee Middle School and Nash Elementary in the Amphi District.

We recently received six additional requests from schools in the Vail, Amphi and Sunnyside Districts.

Our judging committee, headed up by George and Gail Virtes, presented recommendations to the TCSS Board for approval of two of these grants, which the board did. Three grants are still being reviewed and recommendations will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

The Nash Elementary School "Kindergarden" grant given last Spring was used to help build an outdoor teaching cactus garden. Kindergardeners are learning about native plants and how they fit in with their community. Their project and some from other schools who have outdoor gardens were recently featured in the Arizona Daily Star Northwest section. In a note to TCSS to show recent progress, Nash Elementary sent "before" and "after" crayon pictures. The "before" was a blank page with just two rocks in place and nothing else. The "after" added the cactus and a bright shining sun!

Joe Frannea

Hacienda del Sol Sale a Huge Success!



The weekend of March 27 marked a new adventure for our Cactus Rescue Program. In response to a suggestion by Frank Hughes and Jeff Timan, part-owners of the beautiful Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch Resort, Chris Monrad spear-headed a joint venture to have a Cactus & Succulent sale on the grounds of the resort, to promote the beauty and use of cactus and succulent plants.

The resort grounds and the entrance patio area at the Hacienda del Sol are cactus wonderlands. This made an excellent setting to display and sell rescued native cacti and cultivated plants from some of our TCSS member nurseries.



Plants for the Southwest, B&B Cactus Farm, Arid Lands Greenhouses, and Blue Oasis Nursery brought wonderful specimens for sale and shared their expertise about cactus and succulents. TCSS member Mark Sitter gave a hands-on demonstration on planting and care of native cacti.

Over the two days, TCSS sold almost 500 items including some of our new T-shirts, memberships, cactus gloves, and lots of Mammillaria, Hedgehogs, Barrels, and Saguaro cacti. Hundreds of planting guides and club pamphlets were handed out, as was a lot of free advice and Prickly Pear lemonade. This was the first time we took Visa and Master Card charge cards, which proved to be very successful, and the first time we totally sold out of rescued cactus on the first day.

A special thanks to Frank and Jeff, co-owners of the resort, and to Chris for coordinating this inaugural event. A big thank-you to all the TCSS volunteers who helped with the setup, sales, and take-down. It was successful, and fun!

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescue Activity Picks Up

The year started off slowly, but, things have changed and the Crew has now been to eight different sites this year. We have grown to over a hundred people on the notification list, and often 20 to 35 crew members show up for a given rescue.

The larger crew size makes the logistics a little more challenging but we get a lot of cacti collected, often 300 plus, in a short period of time before the morning sun heats things up too much. We appreciate all the new volunteers! Thanks.

Here are a few year-to-date numbers for the eight sites we have rescued. Over 1,400 cacti have been rescued with crew members giving over 400 hours of volunteer time. We have searched over 200 acres for these special cacti, which have included 1,005 Mammillaria and other small cacti (any species under 8 inches), 130 Barrels, 165 Hedge Hogs, 92 Ocotillos, 37 Saguaros, 17 Queen of the night Cereus, and a few Cholla, Yucca, and Prickly Pear.

Our rescue at the Pulte home site just south of Civano on South Houghton Road produced many nice Hedge Hogs which will be for sale at our Sonoran V Conference, April 30, May 1 and 2. If any of you are wondering how Southern Arizona residents feel about our Cactus Rescue program, come help sell at one of our sales and get an earful of positive comments and compliments. We are truly filling a need for the community and it is much appreciated by all.

Joe Frannea



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

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Hedgehogs – from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 15% discount
Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



New Members: Welcome to the following new members. Detailed information will be included in the new roster that will be issued at midyear.

Karen L Abels
Pamela Bass
Richard Brennis
Michael Brewer
Leah Buchta & Bryan Starrett
Thatcher Building Supply
Keith & Carrie Burkard
Dan Ginter
Helen Gutierrez
John C Higgins

Wendy Hill
Terry Jennings
Dale & August Johnson
Ken Kay & Karen K Cristensen
Brad & Muriel Knudson
Jan Konstanty & Pat Wallace
S. Roberta Kurtz
Dixie L Langdon
Theola Ann Lindeman & James W
Shockey

Herb & Sarah Morris
Carl Noggle
John Palting
Alyce Pennington & Rick Trapp
Jane Price
Audrey Quick
Dorothy C Sterns
Diane K Szollosi
Nancy Tom
Cathy M. Woodard

Photos by Joe Frannea and Barry McCormick. Artwork by Vonn Watkins

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Desert Breeze

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TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 pm
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

June Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
N to S, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

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

Thursday, June 3, 2004

7:00 pm

Polycephalus, microphylla and confertifolia...oh my!
Cono Rojo, Sierra del Pinacate, Sonora, Mexico



Just south of Organ Pipe National Monument, 32 miles south of the U.S./Mexico border, lies the Sierra del Pinacate. The Pinacate is located in the southeast corner of the Gran Desierto del Altar, one of the hottest, driest regions in the Sonoran Desert. Join horticulturist Cory Martin in viewing images of the vegetation that manages to eke out a meager living in this "desolate" place.

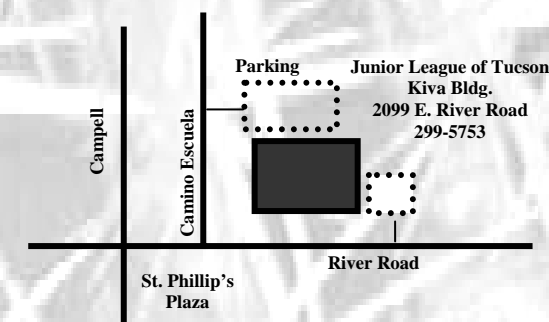
Cory Martin spent three years at Bach's Cactus Nursery prior to his four-year tenure at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. At the museum Cory cares for the Convergent Evolution exhibit, Desert Grasslands, Cat Canyon, Desert Loop Trail, Cactus Garden and Boojums. Cory also leads hikes for the Arizona Native Plant Society and occasionally gives classes on landscaping with succulents and potted succulent care.

Thursday, July 1, 2004

John Shaefer

One of our members, John Shaefer, will show some of his fabulous photographs of cactus and succulents.

Meeting Place



President's Message



Thank you for your participation at the Sonoran V Conference. You made it a major success. The speakers and workshops received excellent evaluations and total sales were more than 2.5 times that of Sonoran IV. Thirty members brought in 140 plants for the show, all wonderful specimens. Thanks to all who donated plants for the silent auction and time to put it all together. Sonoran VI is only 23 months away and your evaluation of Sonoran V will be very helpful as we start our plans for Sonoran VI. We will have evaluation forms at the June meeting or email me your thoughts about the conference or ideas for a Sonoran VI theme.

On Sunday, September 26, 2004 we will bring back the thirty-year tradition of a Members Silent Auction. This will make this a great Sunday Special. Our intent is to have several silent auctions closing at 15 minute intervals, a live auction, a "Dutch" auction (multiple plants are offered with the high bidder having first choice of one or all of the plants and any balance available to other bidders at the high bid price) and refreshments. After a long summer of growing, there are always pups and offsets available to share, which was how this tradition got started. More information will be available in August.

Please let us know if there are any changes made to your membership information. In July, you will receive an updated roster of all current members. We will print name(s), address, home phone and email(s). The roster is for members only and is not to be used for any commercial purposes. Your information will not appear on our Web site.

Please wear your membership badge to the meetings. Your badge will get you a door prize ticket. If you have not picked up your new badge, they are available at the membership table as you enter the meeting room. You should keep the badge and bring it with you to TCSS events.

fifty new members have joined our society in the last month. We have become one of the largest societies in the country. Be sure and greet a new member!

Dick Wiedhopf, President

A Cereus Cactus Rescue



The cactus rescue crew had a change of pace on April 28 when they assembled to rescue one cactus. The landmark Cereus 'Peruvianus' has stood for many years in front of the Firestone store on First Avenue. But it had to go to make way for a new sign and

some renovation. The crew had been poised since February to tackle this giant; we finally got the chance.

The results were available for members at the Friday Sonoran V meeting, and were sold throughout the weekend. In addition to adding to the Society coffers, the rescue has sent clones of this fine specimen throughout Tucson.



A Great Sale at Sonoran V!

Gross rescue sales at Sonoran V exceeded \$1700. This caps our great four-sale season of the Fiesta de las Flores, Pima County Country Fair, Hacienda del Sol, and Sonoran V. All told this year we have placed almost 2000 cacti into Tucson gardens, at gross proceeds of about \$10,500. After tag costs and expenses we have raised in excess of \$7000 to support our club activities, primarily the school grant program and research grants. Well done to all of the members who rescue, sell, buy and support this important program.

Joe Frannea



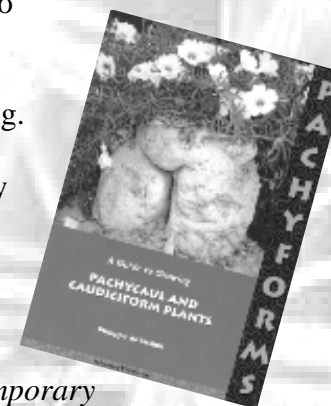
Library



Your library has purchased a number of new books that will be available for check out at the June meeting. We will be converting to a bar code system this summer. Each member will have a bar code

attached to his or her badge and the books will be bar coded. This will make check out and return fast and simple and allow us to locate all of our library holdings quickly. More details will be forthcoming. This is one of the many projects of our technology committee.

The new titles include Seven Volumes of the *Cactus & Co. Journal*, *Succulents for the Contemporary Garden* by Yvonne Cave, *Prickly Pear Cookbook* by Carolyn Niethammer, *Pachyforms* by Philippe de Vosjoli, *Rebutia* by John Pilbeam, and *Cacti, Other Succulents, and Unusual Xerophytes of Southern Arizona* by Matt Johnson. Watch for them on the library table.



Dick Wiedhopf

Weird Plant Sale



The Tucson Botanical Garden hosts their annual Weird Plant Sale on Saturday, June 12 from 8 am to noon. There will be a member-only pre-sale on Friday, June 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. TCSS will be selling rescue plants at the sale.

There will also be a Weird Plant Film Experience the previous weekend at the Loft Cinema, featuring a showing of the Little Shop of Horrors. This fund-raising event is described on the TBG web site at www.tucsonbotanical.org.

Container Growing



To reflect the growing interest in the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society in container grown plants, we are planning to initiate a column for this newsletter and various other programs such as

collection tours and special monthly exhibits. If you have ideas about what you would like your society to present, please contact Barry McCormick. Look for an interesting column next month.

Sonoran V – We all did it!



As this month's insert shows, Sonoran V was a great success. It was also a major undertaking.

All of the members of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society made the show happen. Volunteers gave

generously of their time and talents, and all efforts were greatly appreciated. Assisting at the show, bringing plants, buying from our member vendors, admiring the art show, passing out flyers – hundreds of things that added up to a great result. Thank you all!

Preliminary planning fell primarily to the TCSS board, with Dick Wiedhopf in charge of registration, Jack Ramsey planning the show and sale, and Vonn Watkins and Kevin Barber arranging speakers and workshops. Blair Kuropatkin did publicity and Gail Virtes coordinated with the vendors. The plant show was staged by Linda Ryan; Barry McCormick printed the plant labels and John Swarbrick handled the incoming plants. Brian Hurd and Jimi Asencio trucked many of them to the show. Helen Ramsey minded the display.

Jack Ramsey arranged the silent auction and Wayne Johnson and Ed and Alice Campbell assisted.

Joe and Patsy Frannea oversaw the rescue sales, and Helen Barber trained and managed the cash register crew of Blair Kuropatkin, Arlene Johnson, Ann Grodzicki and Paul Federico.

The registration desk was handled primarily by Marty & Barbara Harow, Margaret Pope, and Gail and George Virtes.

Patsy Frannea designed and made the banquet centerpieces, using cactus seedlings supplied by Dick Weidkopf.

Feel free to make your comments and suggestions to those responsible for particular areas so we can continue to improve the conferences.



Desert Breeze

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885-6367

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Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymcc@earthlink.net
Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 1 at 7:00 pm
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

July Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
T to Z, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

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

Thursday, July 1, 2004

7:00 pm

John Schaefer Cactus Photography



John Schaefer received his B.S. in chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn, New York; his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana; and his Postdoctoral Fellow from the California Institute of Technology. He began his teaching career at the University of California-Berkeley before coming to the University of Arizona in 1960. He served on the University of Arizona faculty for twenty-one years, and held appointments as head of the Department of Chemistry and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts before serving as President of the University. In 1990, Dr. Schaefer joined Research Corporation, one of the first U.S. foundations wholly dedicated to the advancement of science. He is a regular contributor to *Westways* and *Arizona Highways*, as well as to many photographic journals. His photographs have been exhibited in museums around the world. He is an avid reader and collector of books in a variety of fields.

(<http://www.coh.arizona.edu/newandnotable/schaefer/schaefer.htm>)

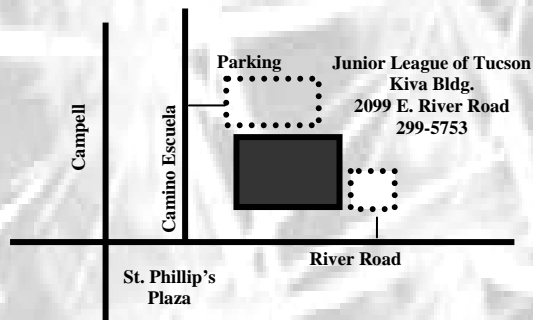
Mark Sitter will provide color commentary for this presentation of cactus photographs, many of which were taken recently at B&B Cactus Farm.

Thursday, August 5, 2004

Mark Dimmitt Trichocereus

Mark Dimmitt will present a talk on the beautiful Trichocereus group.

Meeting Place



Those Pesky Names



Recently I was chatting with a friend who expressed a bit of frustration over the use of scientific names -- many times I've heard similar thoughts from other cactus and succulent fanciers.

Why do we use those pesky scientific names, and what good are they? To begin, there

are several thousand cacti alone, and very few of them have common names. And the common names are often confusing. For example, the common name "Barrel Cactus" can refer to many of the members of the genera *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus*, as well as some lesser known genera. The local species *F. wislizenii* and *F. cylindraceus* are both Barrels, but so is *Echinocactus horzonthalonius* var. *nicholii*. We can neatly avoid this confusion by using the scientific names -- or else just point and say -- "That one!"

Scientific names also reveal relationships. All *Mammillaria* are closely related to each other, while

Hoodia are not closely related to *Mammillaria* at all: *Mammillaria* are in the family Cactaceae, and *Hoodia* are in the family Asclepiadaceae

Another neat thing about scientific names is that we can learn things from them. For example, *Lithops verruculosa* and *Lithops gracilidelineata* are both members of a genus named *Lithops* because of their resemblance to rocks (from the Greek root litho- meaning rock), but *L. verruculosa* has little wart-like projections on its upper surface (warts or as a Physician might call your little bumps -- "verruca"). *L. gracilidelineata* has slender lines on its upper surface (gracile = slender, and linea = line in Latin) -- the names make sense, if your Latin is good enough!

You can also type scientific names into your computer search program and find interesting sites like <http://www.lithops.info/en/gallery/pictures.htm> where you can see nice pictures of many *Lithops*.

Of course it is difficult to remember many of the names, but somehow I am able to remember the scientific names of plants better than people names. Maybe if we were named for how we look -- I could be *Calvus barbatus*; the bald bearded one.

Norm Dennis.....

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



Trichocereus Culture

Trichocereus, *Helianthocereus* and their hybrids are hereafter all called trichos. Some trichos also contain *Lobivia* and *Echinopsis* in their parentage. This doesn't change their cultural needs significantly, though they're a little more delicate.

Trichos grow best in the ground in nearly full sun. They will be tougher, larger plants that bear more flowers than potted plants. They need more water than our native cacti to grow well. Weekly or twice-weekly irrigation results in prolific flowering of the better cultivars. Don't forget to fertilize a few times during the growing season (March through October); only nitrogen is needed for plants in the ground.

Trichos in the ground are rarely attacked by diseases and pests. However, the giant cactus beetle loves them. The adults are easy to find after dark and picked off and killed. The grubs burrow inside the stems and do tremendous damage. They are very difficult to kill because most of the effective insecticides have been banned.

More care is needed to grow trichos well in pots. They need partial shade and twice-weekly watering during the summer. Fertilize at least once a month with a complete fertilizer. Potted specimens are much more susceptible to diseases (especially *Phyllosticta*) and pests such as the blue cactus borer and false chinchbugs. They can be kept vigorous and floriferous if repotted often enough to keep them from getting rootbound. This is a bit of a chore because they grow quite fast.

The low-growing, hedgehog-like species and hybrids are okay out in the desert, though jackrabbits will sometimes eat them and javelina will eat the flowers. The treelike ones are rarely bothered by vertebrate pests. They make good landscape subjects in part because they grow faster than saguaros and some bear many more flowers. Try a few in your yard.

Mark Dimmitt

Photos by Barry McCormick. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
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Next Meeting

Thursday, August 5 at 7:00 pm

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

August Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
A to F, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

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

Thursday, August 5, 2004

7:00 pm

Mark Dimmitt



Mark Dimmitt, Natural Science Director at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, will speak on the genus *Trichocereus*. This genus, recently vacated in favor of lumping many species under *Echinopsis*, has given us a fabulous array of both day and night blooming cactus.

Mark has produced more than 50 named cultivars, such as Volcanic Sunset, Yes!, Oh Wow!, and Apricot Glow. Clones of these cactus grace many of our yards, as well as the splendid display at the Desert Museum.

Mark is well known for his knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Sonoran desert, and he is currently heading up a number of research projects including a study of the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Many of us know Mark as a dedicated and prolific horticulturist specializing in the cultivation of succulents and epiphytes, especially *Adenium*, *Trichocereus*, and *Tillandsia*.

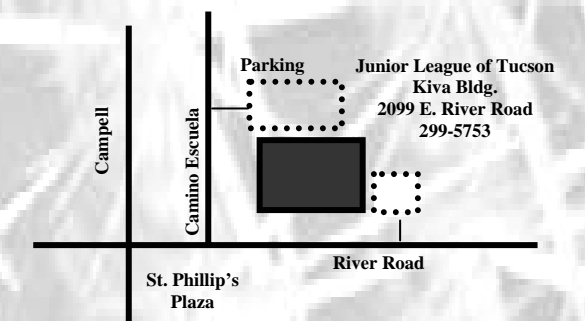
Mark has spoken to us many times, and has never disappointed us.



Thursday, September 2, 2004

Chuck Hanson of Arid Lands Greenhouses will present "The Succulents of Madagascar."

Meeting Place



President's Message



A common goal for membership retention in organizations like TCSS is 80%, while attracting enough new members to replace those who do not renew. We have not only retain more than 80% of our membership but have increased our membership by 25%. That's incredible! We are close to 500 individuals and growing. The updated mid-year roster is enclosed to with this mailing. The roster is for personal use by members only.

This large membership means we need to have more and varied activities to satisfy our diverse interests. A number of new events are being planned.

On Sunday, September 26 we will have the *Good Time Auction*. It is what it sounds like "a good time". This will be an opportunity for members and their friends to socialize while acquiring new cacti and succulents at a reasonable cost. Members donate plants and plant related materials (books, journals, pots etc.), and the proceeds go to our research fund. Start potting up plants, offsets, pups and cuttings that you know others will want. The usual fantastic refreshments will be supplied. This brings back a forty-year-old annual tradition of the society. More information will be available at the August and September meetings.

Good Time Auction



Coming soon: mid-month workshops. The workshops will be on the third Thursday of the month at the Junior League Facility. Events and workshops will be open to all members on a space available basis. The only cost will be for materials that might be necessary for a particular workshop.

We are interested in your ideas about topics and presenters. We are also requesting ideas on future meetings and other activities. Please fill out the survey enclosed with this mailing.

BAJA BAJA BAJA BAJA

Enclosed in this mailing is a description of an itinerary for a Baja California trip in January and/or April and/or October. Please read the information and respond. A self-addressed return envelope has been provided to return both the activity survey and the Baja trip interest form. Let us hear from you.

Your officers and Board of Directors put in a lot of time and effort to make TCSS active, interesting, educational and fun and I know you will join in with me to say: Thank You!

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Weird Plant Sale a Success



The annual Tucson Botanical Garden Weird Plant Sale held on Friday and Saturday, June 11 & 12 was another success for TCCS. Our gross Sales were \$1,085.50, and over 130 rescued

plants were given new homes. Tee shirt and gloves sales were also brisk. We added a substantial amount of money to our educational grant funds, and gave \$160 in commissions to support the Tucson Botanical Garden. Another well done to all of the TCSS volunteers.

Rescue Effort Heats Up



The Harrison Road widening and the Vail Middle School clearing has given us some great opportunities to rescue cactus at the peak of the Tucson heat. Undaunted rescuers start early and end before the worst of the heat. Join us for a rescue soon.

What Was That Name Again?

"A rose by any other name . . ." So we are going to count on those pesky scientific names because they precisely identify the plant we are talking about, and may even tell us something about the plant, if we understand enough Latin. Fine. But why do the names keep changing? Not fair! How did *Notocactus uebelmannianus* suddenly become *Parodia werneri*? And when I try to look up Mark Dimmitt's *Trichocereus* I find them under *Echinopsis*! How did my *Echinocereus rectispinus*

in the back yard suddenly morph into *Echinocereus fendleri*? I didn't even see it move.

Much of the answer has to do with the fact that scientific names are organized to group plants with similar characteristics. All genera in a family share specific observable characteristics that distinguish their species from other plants. Cactaceae, for example, is a family that has distinguishing lateral buds called areoles, from which flowers and spines grow. All of the species in a genus, ideally, are more like each other than they are like other species in the family. And even within a species there may be recognized subspecies that are very closely related, but can be distinguished from one another. So my *Echinocereus rectispinus* didn't really change; someone just changed their mind and decided it was *Echinocereus fendleri* subspecies *rectispinus*. Unfortunately, the characteristics used to group plants are often subjective, and different researchers can have different ideas.

Name changes are made to improve our understanding of the relationships between plants, not just to frustrate us. We just pretty much have to live with the changes. Fortunately, the old names are retained as synonyms of the new names, so most books have index entries to get us to the plants we want, and most growers remember the older names.

Then why didn't *Notocactus uebelmannianus* simply become *Parodia uebelmannianus*? That has to do with the principle of priority of names, and that's a story for another time.

Barry McCormick

Echinopsis or Trichocereus – Mark's View

I do not subscribe to the combining of the many South American genera into the genus *Echinopsis* for a number of reasons. The fact that the boundaries between some of the old genera are fuzzy is a weak justification for the excessive lumping. Some of the major differences are: some genera will not hybridize with others; fruits range from dry to juicy-sticky; North American cactus beetles (*Moneilema*) love *Trichocereus* and *Helianthocereus* but will not touch *Echinopsis*, *Lobivia*, and most of the others. These differences indicate strongly to me that there are several distinct groups, deserving of their own genus.

Some of the major genera in this group are described below. Most are hardy to any cold that Tucson can muster.

- *Rebutia* and related genera: Tiny plants with diurnal brightly-colored flowers. Heat-sensitive, they require filtered sun and diligent care to keep them healthy in Tucson.
- *Echinopsis*: Medium-sized plants with nocturnal, long-tubed white or pastel flowers. Need filtered sun; fairly heat-tolerant.
- *Lobivia*: Small plants (most 4-6 inches tall) with diurnal, long-tubed brightly-colored flowers. Need filtered sun and are rather heat-sensitive.
- *Helianthocereus*: Clustered stems look like giant hedgehog cacti (*Echinocereus*). Flowers are sturdy, short-tubed, diurnal, and brightly colored. They are often lumped in with *Trichocereus*. Sun to light shade, love desert heat.
- *Trichocereus*: Giant, mostly saguaro- or organ pipe-like plants; one is a low creeper. Very large, nocturnal, usually white flowers. Full sun, cold-hardiness variable.

Baja Trip Grows Out of Sonoran V



We were a little stunned! Three days immersed in the flora of the Baja, culminated by Jon Rebman's great lectures and slides. The cry went up: "Bring the bus around, we're ready to go!" I've seen this sort of thing happen before, but this time there was a difference. Margaret Pope set out to make it happen, and her hard work has resulted in a welcome proposal to the

board. The next step is to let the board know you are interested by responding to the mailing. Thanks, Margaret.

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society thrives on that sort of initiative. As you fill in your questionnaire, ask yourself if there is a project you would like to make happen – a bus trip, a workshop, a grower visit. We all need to make interesting things happen for ourselves, not just leave it up to the board. It's our society.



Desert Breeze

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TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, September 2 at 7:00 pm

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

September Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
G to M, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

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

Thursday, September 2, 2004

7:00 pm

Chuck Hanson

Madagascar: Rapidly Disappearing Succulent Utopia



Chuck Hanson of Arid Lands Greenhouses will present "Madagascar: Rapidly Disappearing Succulent Utopia". Chuck is a long time Tucson resident and TCSS member who relocated to Iowa in 1995. He worked as Curator of Birds and Mammals at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum from 1969 to 1978, when he left to begin Arid Lands Greenhouses, specializing in the artificial propagation of rare succulent plants. He successfully propagated and released to cultivation many species, including *Euphorbia horwoodii*, *Euphorbia turbiniformis*, *Euphorbia piscidermis*, *Euphorbia gymnocalycioides*, *Whitesloanea crassa*, and *Pseudolithos caput-viperae*. Many of these releases were the first introductions in the world. He currently maintains 5,000 sq. ft. of greenhouses in Iowa producing material for sale through Arid Lands in Tucson.

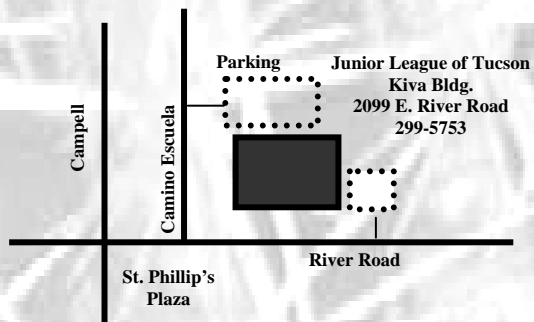


Chuck has made nine trips to Africa and Madagascar in search of succulent plants. He will return to Madagascar this September in search of terrestrial orchids and other great succulents.

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Program to be announced.

Meeting Place



President's Message



Thanks to all who sent back the survey that was mailed out last month. If you haven't filled one out yet, take a moment to jot down some thoughts and bring it to the next meeting or mail it back in the envelope provided. We really value

your input. Many good suggestions have been made for events, meeting topics, and workshops. Your Board of Directors will make every effort to provide activities that meet your interest.

Those of you who responded with interest in the BAJA TRIP will be contacted.

On August 21 we had a "Blooming Barrel Sale". It was extremely successful and featured rescued *Ferocactus wislizenii*. This is our local barrel cactus, which blooms during August in color shades from yellow, through orange, to red. Since we had a large supply of plants from recent rescues it was decided to hold this sale. Word was sent to over a thousand individuals by e-mail and postcards, and it worked. We sold out in forty-five minutes and had to restock. As the trailer pulled up with the second load so did the customers and we sold out again before the sale was scheduled to end..

The "Blooming Barrel Sale" will become an annual August event.

I want to thank all who helped out by volunteering time or buying our rescued plants and giving them new homes.

From time to time we will contact you about special activities using email. We do not make our mailing or email lists available to anyone.

Let me remind you of the September 26, 2004 "Good Time Auction". Your donation of plant and related materials will make this real success for our Research Grants Fund. Additional information and materials will be available at the September meeting. Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Good Time Silent Auction Sunday, September 26, 2004 Noon



Our Sunday afternoon social gathering and auction will start about noon.

We will have refreshments and set up the auction, and have plenty of time to admire and plan before the one o'clock start of the first silent auction. A number of silent auctions will be run in succession, so things don't drag out. Around two o'clock we will have a live auction, and should be wrapping things up around three. Plan to relax, have fun, and get some great new cacti and succulents.

Auction Instructions

First: Bring your donated plants and memorabilia and fill out the slips with the item information. To move things along you might pick up some slips at the meeting and fill them out in advance.

Then sign in and obtain a Bid Number from the volunteers at the front entrance table. If you are a member, all we need is your name. Guests will need to sign in with name, address, and phone in order to get a bid number. You will use this bid number for both live and silent auction bidding. The plants from all of your winning bids will be held in a secure area under your bid number until you are ready to check out.

Silent Auctions: There will be four separate groups of auction tables set up with different bid closing times. The bids will close about every thirty minutes after the 1:00 pm start. You may bid at all tables at any time up to the bid closing. Place your bid number and bid amount on the blue bid sheet associated with each item. You may bid on an item as often as you wish. Make sure that the number on the item and the number on the bid sheet is the same. When the auction closes volunteers will secure your items with the associated bid sheets.

Live Auction: Bidding will begin at 1:40 pm. To bid, hold up your bid number. The bidding will be

quick so make every bid count. When the bidding is closed for each item, the winning amount and the bid number will be recorded with the item and the item will be placed in a secure holding area until you are ready to check out. You will be able to pay for them all at once, by cash, check payable to TCSS, Visa or Master Card.

The proceeds of this auction will support our Research Grants Fund

Unique School Grant Request Awarded!

A TCSS School Grant was just awarded to eighth grade teacher Holly Crawford for a unique request to set up a program for students to teach students about Cactus & Succulents.

Holly is an teacher at Amphitheater's Wilson K-8 School. Last Spring she challenged a few of her advanced students to develop lesson plans to teach elementary students about desert plants. Her eighth graders also were coached on writing professional grant requests and they did an excellent job. There were three groups of three students each writing their own lesson plans and associated grant requests.

The TCSS Board unanimously approved the \$346 request to fund all three proposals. The students, who are now ninth graders, will acquire all their supplies and materials with the grant money and return to Wilson K-8 School to teach third and sixth graders about Cactus and Succulents. An additional part of their assignment was to write letters to the elementary teachers explaining their project and requesting permission to teach these lessons.

If you are not familiar with the requirements to get a lesson plan together and approved for classroom use, consider this. The plan needs to include sections for: Objective; Arizona State Standards Met; Anticipatory; Relevancy; Assessment; Learning Task Description; Closure; and Materials. The students prepared all this information and submitted it with the grant requests for our review. We applaud Holly and her nine students for an excellent project and look forward to some feedback after they teach the classes.



Joe Frannea

"Blooming" Barrel Sale a Big Success!



A beautiful clear bright sunny Saturday morning set the stage for a huge rush of anxious cactus buyers to pick out a fishhook barrel cactus, *Ferocactus wislizeni*,

in bloom. The Rescue Crew held a special sale on a vacant lot on North First Avenue, just south of Wetmore Road near the Tucson Mall. Sales were brisk fifteen minutes before the official opening at 8 AM and by 8:30 almost all of the trailer load of barrels, about a hundred, were sold. A quick trip back to the holding area to load up more proved beneficial. A total of about 150 large barrels were sold, as large as 16 to 24 inches tall, and about 100 smaller cactus. All the smaller *Mammillaria* and Hedge Hogs and various others sold out quickly. We went home shortly after noon with only one barrel not sold. Tucsonans do love landscape cacti and expressed their appreciation for our Rescue Program!

The sale was a big success bringing in \$2,300 in total sales. About half of this will reimburse the club for out of pocket expenses, mostly cactus tag costs, 25% goes to our TCSS School Grant Program fund, and the balance to TCSS operating expenses.

Joe Frannea

Pima Pineapple Cactus Saved Twice

The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society's Cactus Rescue Crew went the extra mile to save several



dozen of the endangered Pima Pineapple Cactus, *Coryphantha scheeri robustispina*.

The developer of about 200 acres of known Pima Pineapple habitat in the Corona de Tucson area, SE of Tucson, utilized the Pima County Conservation Land Bank program to mitigate the habitat loss so that development could

proceed. But the Land Bank program did not consider what might happen to the actual plants that have been mitigated. The developer did not want to destroy the cactus but there were no suitable places to keep the plants on the site and there were no obvious legal ways to remove them from the property for transplanting.

Chris Monrad spearheaded the effort to get the State of Arizona Agriculture Department to let the Rescue Crew relocate the cacti to a nearby preserve that TCSS helped to establish on Vail School District property about two years ago. A special non-commercial transportation permit was obtained and the Rescue Crew transplanted twenty-eight healthy Pima Pineapples to the Vail School District preserve area. Hopefully the monsoon rains will give the transplants a kick-start to get re-established, but TCSS will monitor these plants and carry in supplemental water if needed. Some plants were starting to bud so hopefully they will produce some flowers in a few weeks.



The Pima Pineapple Cactus moved were about 1.5 inches to 4 inches in diameter and not quite as tall as wide. They are not known as the best transplant

candidates so extra care was taken to mark their growing orientation, get them in the ground as soon as possible, and take some of their native dirt with them. Small native grass cuttings were put over the cactus to provide some shade for sun protection and to help hide the new plants. Notice the distinctive bottom portion of the cactus that looks like a pineapple. Once you dig one of these up it becomes quite clear from the portion below ground that it is a Pima Pineapple. The portion above ground is also very distinctive with the individual areoles on the end of each of the thimble-like projections.

Joe Frannea

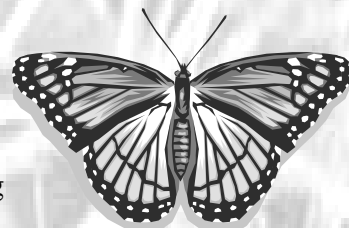
Treasurer's Report August 2004

Total checking & savings (including Research and School Grant Funds)	\$23,815.70
Research fund	\$ 2,000.00
School Grant Funds	\$ 2,261.74

Butterfly Magic at TBG

October 11, 2004 through January, 2005

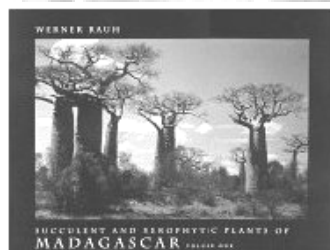
Volunteers are needed for this first ever live tropical butterfly exhibition in Tucson. Several two hour training sessions are scheduled starting September 13. In order to volunteer, you must complete one of the training sessions as well as agree to volunteer an average of at least four 2.5 hour shifts per month. Shift times will be from 10:00 am to 12:30 PM and from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM. If you would like more information, or would like to sign up for one of the sessions, please contact Julia Armstrong, 326-9686, ext. 27 or email at butterfly@tucsonbotanical.org.



A handout with all the information will be available at our September meeting.

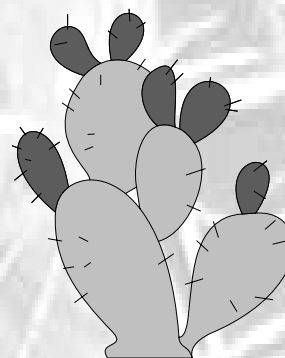
More on Madagascar

Books on Madagascar Succulents available in our library include:



Succulent & Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar, by Werner Rauh, *Pachycaul and Caudiciform Plants* by Philippe de Vosjoli, *And the Euphorbia Journals*.

Other books you may find in bookstores or the public library are *Madagascar - A World Out Of Time* by F.Lanting, and *Madagascar - The Red Island* by A. Kouwenhoven.



Things That Make You Go Ouch!

Many of the plants that we love have spines, prickles or thorns. Sometimes these are part of the attraction of the plant, but other times they are more of a pain in the finger than attractive.

So what is the difference between a spine, a prickle and a thorn? Botanically, spines are modified leaves or in some cases the stipules of leaves. Cacti have spines, as do barberries; some Euphorbia and Pachypodium can have spines too. However, many of the structures we call spines are in fact not spines. Prickles are extensions of the epidermis and cortex tissues. Raspberries, blackberries and roses all have prickles, and Euphorbia may also. Thorns are modified shoots; think of those thorns on your citrus plants as examples.

You might have pondered the functions of spines...there is the obvious answer: defense against predators. But it seems that spines do have a number of other possible functions. Spines can shade the plant by forming an overhead lattice for the plant body below. Spines can also reflect away the light – this may be the reason for high altitude plants often having dense spination.

Water loss can be reduced if air can be trapped next to the plant surface where transpiration occurs, and temperature shifts can be lessened as this trapped air acts as an insulating layer. This is handy since cacti often live where there are large differences in daytime and night temperatures.

Some other uses come to mind...for example, spines can collect condensation and the water that forms can either drip down to the base of the plant, or run down the spines to the plant body where special cells may absorb the water into the plant body.

For those of us living in the Sonoran Desert, the cholla is a well-known danger. Looking from the plant's point of view, joints that dislodge easily and are carried to another location by a passerby is a nice way to reproduce. Many of the hooked-spined *Mammillarias* from the Southwest and NW Mexico have weakly attached pups that may be distributed in a similar fashion.

Perhaps you can think of some other possible functions of those ouchy spines. You may want to visit these websites for more information:

<http://scidiv.bcc.ctc.edu/rkr/Biology203/lectures/Modified/modified.html>

<http://www.exn.ca/Stories/2000/05/15/51.asp>

<http://cactuspro.com/arides/article0005.html>

http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl_cacti_succulents/article/0,1785,HGTV_3557_1380805,00.html

Norm Dennis

Standing Room Only

Remember, a few short years ago, when we had a Mark Dimmitt talk at the Tucson Botanical Garden, and realized that TCSS had grown too large for the room? When we moved to the Junior League building it seemed to have all of the space we could ever need.

Then, last month, we filled the Junior League almost to overflowing. Maybe we should try the Convention Center the next time Mark speaks!





TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)

Hedgehogs – from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 15% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



New Member Listings and changes

Photos by Barry McCormick. Chris Monrad, Joe Frannea. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



quick so make every bid count. When the bidding is closed for each item, the winning amount and the bid number will be recorded with the item and the item will be placed in a secure holding area until you are ready to check out. You will be able to pay for them all at once, by cash, check payable to TCSS, Visa or Master Card.

The proceeds of this auction will support our Research Grants Fund

Unique School Grant Request Awarded!

A TCSS School Grant was just awarded to eighth grade teacher Holly Crawford for a unique request to set up a program for students to teach students about Cactus & Succulents.

Holly is an teacher at Amphitheater's Wilson K-8 School. Last Spring she challenged a few of her advanced students to develop lesson plans to teach elementary students about desert plants. Her eighth graders also were coached on writing professional grant requests and they did an excellent job. There were three groups of three students each writing their own lesson plans and associated grant requests.

The TCSS Board unanimously approved the \$346 request to fund all three proposals. The students, who are now ninth graders, will acquire all their supplies and materials with the grant money and return to Wilson K-8 School to teach third and sixth graders about Cactus and Succulents. An additional part of their assignment was to write letters to the elementary teachers explaining their project and requesting permission to teach these lessons.

If you are not familiar with the requirements to get a lesson plan together and approved for classroom use, consider this. The plan needs to include sections for: Objective; Arizona State Standards Met; Anticipatory; Relevancy; Assessment; Learning Task Description; Closure; and Materials. The students prepared all this information and submitted it with the grant requests for our review. We applaud Holly and her nine students for an excellent project and look forward to some feedback after they teach the classes.



Joe Frannea

"Blooming" Barrel Sale a Big Success!



A beautiful clear bright sunny Saturday morning set the stage for a huge rush of anxious cactus buyers to pick out a fishhook barrel cactus, *Ferocactus wislizeni*,

in bloom. The Rescue Crew held a special sale on a vacant lot on North First Avenue, just south of Wetmore Road near the Tucson Mall. Sales were brisk fifteen minutes before the official opening at 8 AM and by 8:30 almost all of the trailer load of barrels, about a hundred, were sold. A quick trip back to the holding area to load up more proved beneficial. A total of about 150 large barrels were sold, as large as 16 to 24 inches tall, and about 100 smaller cactus. All the smaller *Mammillaria* and Hedge Hogs and various others sold out quickly. We went home shortly after noon with only one barrel not sold. Tucsonans do love landscape cacti and expressed their appreciation for our Rescue Program!

The sale was a big success bringing in \$2,300 in total sales. About half of this will reimburse the club for out of pocket expenses, mostly cactus tag costs, 25% goes to our TCSS School Grant Program fund, and the balance to TCSS operating expenses.

Joe Frannea

Pima Pineapple Cactus Saved Twice

The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society's Cactus Rescue Crew went the extra mile to save several



dozen of the endangered Pima Pineapple Cactus, *Coryphantha scheeri robustispina*.

The developer of about 200 acres

of known Pima Pineapple habitat in the Corona de Tucson area, SE of Tucson, utilized the Pima County Conservation Land Bank program to mitigate the habitat loss so that development could

proceed. But the Land Bank program did not consider what might happen to the actual plants that have been mitigated. The developer did not want to destroy the cactus but there were no suitable places to keep the plants on the site and there were no obvious legal ways to remove them from the property for transplanting.

Chris Monrad spearheaded the effort to get the State of Arizona Agriculture Department to let the Rescue Crew relocate the cacti to a nearby preserve that TCSS helped to establish on Vail School District property about two years ago. A special non-commercial transportation permit was obtained and the Rescue Crew transplanted twenty-eight healthy Pima Pineapples to the Vail School District preserve area. Hopefully the monsoon rains will give the transplants a kick-start to get re-established, but TCSS will monitor these plants and carry in supplemental water if needed. Some plants were starting to bud so hopefully they will produce some flowers in a few weeks.



The Pima Pineapple Cactus moved were about 1.5 inches to 4 inches in diameter and not quite as tall as wide. They are not known as the best transplant

candidates so extra care was taken to mark their growing orientation, get them in the ground as soon as possible, and take some of their native dirt with them. Small native grass cuttings were put over the cactus to provide some shade for sun protection and to help hide the new plants. Notice the distinctive bottom portion of the cactus that looks like a pineapple. Once you dig one of these up it becomes quite clear from the portion below ground that it is a Pima Pineapple. The portion above ground is also very distinctive with the individual areoles on the end of each of the thimble-like projections.

Joe Frannea

Treasurer's Report August 2004

Total checking & savings (including Research and School Grant Funds)	\$23,815.70
Research fund	\$ 2,000.00
School Grant Funds	\$ 2,261.74

Butterfly Magic at TBG

October 11, 2004 through January, 2005

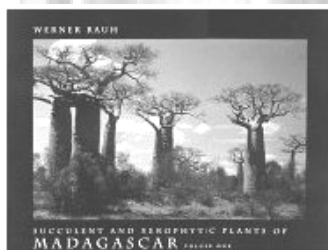
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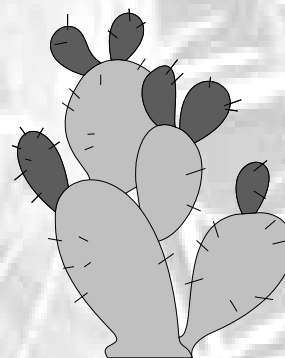
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President's Message



Who are we? The recent survey says:

Twenty percent of us are mostly interested in cacti and ten percent are mostly interested in other succulent plants, but most of us just love all cacti and succulents.

We are joiners, well represented in the plant organization community.

Other Memberships	
Arizona Sonora Desert Museum	67%
Tucson Botanical Garden	53%
Cactus & Succulent Society of America	33%
Tohono Chul	30%
AZ Native Plant Society	20%
Other Plant Organizations	10%

We have book collectors and stamp collectors that add another dimension to our society. We will take advantage of other specialized collections for some future meeting.

Based on the survey returns, our Society is on the right track. We would like more trips and more members' garden visits. Thank you very much for participating in the survey. We are a diverse group of active, interested and talented individuals who make this society enjoyable.

At our last Board of Directors meeting a nominating committee was elected to establish a slate of officers and directors for the coming year. All of the officers, the CSSA Affiliate Representative and three Board Member positions are up for election.

The nominating committee consists of Gail Virtes, Jack Ramsey and Vonn Watkins. Please contact these individuals if you would like to run for office or nominate members to run. Nominations will be announced at the November meeting at which time additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Thanks to Jack Ramsey and his volunteers for a great job and a very successful event. Over 250 plants were donated and sold and the event netted about \$1,500 for our research grant fund.

Check our website for current happenings. October is plant sale month. Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President



Our Sunday September 26, 2004 Good Time Auction was a great success, for many reasons.

It was a success because everybody had a good time! It was a success because Patsy Frannea and her group of volunteers provided the usual fine refreshments. And it was especially a success because it again demonstrated that we make our own fun. With minimal planning and little recent experience, our members, under the capable leadership of Jack Ramsey, made the fun happen.

It was also a financial success. Forty-four bidders selected among 253 plants and added \$1653.25 to our research fund.

Jack Ramsey

Pima County Country Fair

Saturday, October 31, 2004

89:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lew Sorensen Center

11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

(East on Tanque Verde on the right hand side)



The Pima County Spring and Fall Country Fairs have given our club the opportunity to provide valuable information to many of the visitors who attend, and to sell salvaged and member plants to the public. The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society has established a very good reputation for providing some great plants at very reasonable prices. You will find a great diversity of drought tolerant plants, including many natives, ready for your garden. Drop by and consider giving some of these plants a home.

Jack Ramsey

the world's) largest selection of books on our favorite topic: Cactus and Succulents, as well as a host of related topics.

Rainbow Gardens Bookshop has a long tradition of providing a comprehensive selection of the best new and previously-owned books, as well as providing excellent customer care. We plan to continue all of these traditions and possibly start a few new ones.

We believe that Tucson truly is the Center of the Cactus and Succulent Universe and are delighted to join this community and contribute to that distinction.

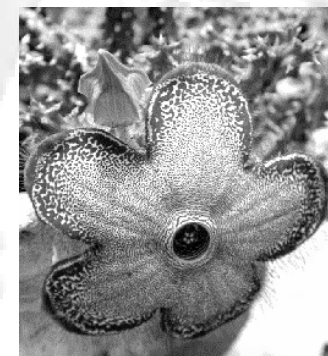
Once we have relocated the business and have things set-up, we hope that you will come out for a visit.

Kevin and Helen Barber

Plants have families, too!

In July and August, Norm Dennis and I talked about those pesky scientific names. Each plant is identified by a unique combination of a genus name and a species epithet, which together make up the scientific name. Genera are groups of plants that have many characteristics in common, so if we know some things about a few plants in a genus, we can pretty well guess that other plants in the genus will be similar.

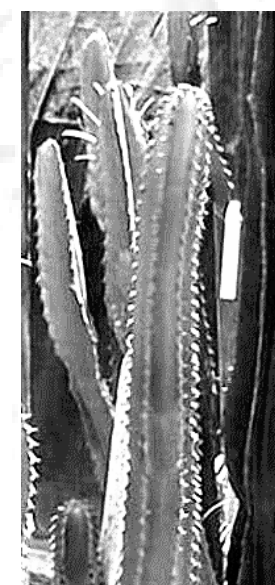
But you may have noticed that many plants come in groups that have many genera. Cactus, for instance, are in many ways similar, with spines and generally arid-adapted growth habits. Some of our favorite plants, while plainly not cactus, have cactus-like



Edithcolea grandis
Asclepiadaceae Family

growth and also have spines and are arid-adapted. Some plants, while less cactus-like, have flowers with horrible odors. Some of these are *Stapelia*, but some are in other genera, such as *Asclepias* or *Fockea*. Wouldn't it be nice if we could figure out how to group all of those succulents so we could seek out, or avoid, getting any of these odiferous ones?

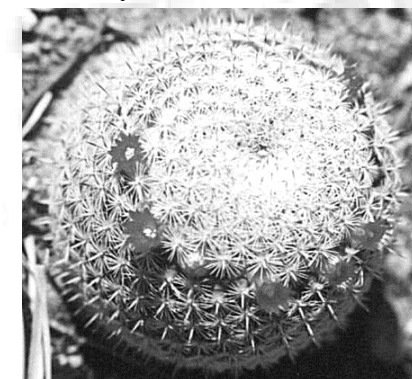
Well, we should know that the next higher grouping of primary significance is the plant Family. And, since the rules of nomenclature do not allow the use



Euphorbia abyssinica
Euphorbiaceae Family

of the same genus in more than one family, it is simple to find a plant's family by just looking up its genus in a book or on the internet. Of course those family names are still more Latin for us to wrestle with, but that's life. And here's a clue: all family names end in -aceae. That's handy. Cacti are all in the family *Cactaceae*. Many cactus-like plants from the Old World are in the family *Euphorbiaceae*, which gets its name from one of its largest genera, *Euphorbia*.

And those smelly ones? Look in the family *Asclepiadaceae*. But be careful, for not all of the *Asclepiadaceae* smell bad; you wouldn't want to deprive your butterfly garden of those useful milkweeds just because some of their cousins aren't well behaved!



Mammillaria elegans
Cactaceae Family

Learning to think about your plants in families can be very useful. At shows we often group plants by family, and, starting at this year's Sonoran V, all of our show plant labels give the family. There's so much to learn about succulents, and knowing the family can be a big help. Remember the saying: "All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti"? What that really means is that many different families have some members that are succulents, and the *Cactaceae* family is one that has all of its members with succulent adaptations.

Barry McCormick



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)

Hedgehogs – from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

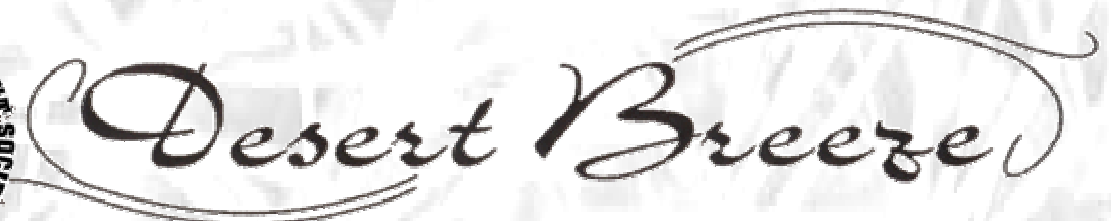
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Photos by Barry McCormick and Chris Monrad. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkin

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2004

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Kevin Barber
Secretary: Lynda Ryan
Treasurer: Valarie Miller

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins
Gail Virtes (2004)
Barry McCormick (2004)
Jack Ramsey (2004)
Joe Frannea (2005)
Marty Harow (2005)
Peter Hubbell (2005)
Dan Birt (2006)
Chris Monrad (2006)
Mark Sitter (2006)
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
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Programs: Kevin Barber
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Sales: Jack Ramsey
Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymcc@earthlink.net
Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 7 at 7:00 pm
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

October Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
N to S, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

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

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Matt Johnson
7:00 PM

Cacti, other Succulents,
and Unusual Xerophytes
of Southern Arizona



Matthew Brian Johnson

Matt Johnson, author of Cacti, Other Succulents, and Unusual Xerophytes of Southern Arizona will present a program on local native Cacti and Succulents.

Matt is a long-time Tucson resident who received both his BS and MS degrees in Horticulture from the University of Arizona. He is presently Curator for the Desert Legume Program, a seed bank project jointly sponsored by the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum. He has been growing cacti and succulents all his life, and has traveled extensively in the Southwest and

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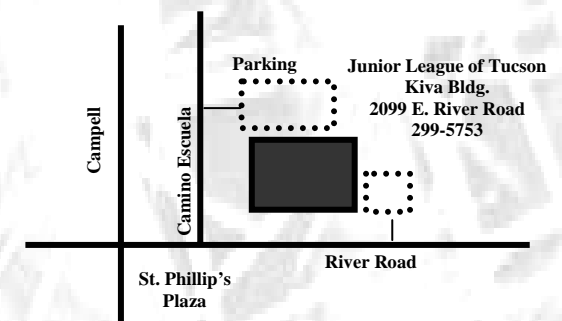
Matt will be bringing copies of his new book for sale and will be signing them at the break.

Thursday, November 4, 2004

Matt Johnson

This will be the second part of Matt's presentation and will primarily feature *Opuntia* species.

Meeting Place



Workshops



You probably have heard that we are planning a series of workshops to be held on the third Thursday of each month. The workshops will include topics that appeal to a wide range of members, and may even include topics that appeal to the professional nurserymen among our membership.

These workshops will differ from our normal meetings in several significant ways. The number of participants will be small, so we can host hands-on activities that will allow the presenter and attendees to interact in a more intimate manner.

Imagine learning how to graft, or see how to identify pests and get rid of them! Perhaps you want to expand your abilities to take digital photos of your plants, or learn how to identify and grow a particular group of plants, or choose the best landscaping plants for your particular needs...the list of possibilities is long and varied.

The success of this new undertaking will rely entirely upon how we as members become involved. We will need to be not only attendees for the workshop sessions, but also presenters. Among our members, we have a large pool of talented persons who could share their knowledge and expertise with us. But this is really about each of us helping each other.

So, if you would be able to present a workshop on your favorite topic, have a topic in mind for a workshop, or know of someone who might be a workshop presenter, please let me know. We have every chance to help each other, and have some fun too!

Norm Dennis

Another Plant Rescue Success

Tucson is the home of many splendid plant specimens that have been grown for decades. Occasionally, some of these noble plants require major trimming or removal to make way for remodeling projects. As an offshoot of our plant rescue, TCSS often has an opportunity to obtain cuttings of these plants for distribution to our membership.

A fifty-year-old specimen of *Pachycereus schottii*, or Senita, was being displaced by a garden renovation in downtown Tucson. Members Greg



Corman and Barry McCormick dismantled the plant, leaving the stump and a few small arms to regenerate over the next fifty years. Cuttings were

distributed far and wide, and many new plants will be the result.

The plant is a much smaller and thinner version of Senita than usually found in Tucson. It is thought that plants from the more southern range of this primarily Mexican plant have this characteristic.

Even at the nominal price we place on donated cuttings, we have taken in more than \$300 to support our activities and School Grant Program.

Barry McCormick

Plant Rescue Committee



Plant rescue activities have picked up tremendously. Rescue efforts are underway at the Rancho Vistoso development near the Tortolita Mountains in Oro Valley. Even after the considerable and costly tree and cactus transplanting efforts of the developer, very dense populations of *Echinocereus fasciculatus* (hedgehogs), *Mammillaria grahamii* and plentiful barrel cacti have been encountered and should



continue to be available as we work on several different parcels in the area. Our thanks go out to Dick Maes and Dave Holmberg of Stone Canyon / Vistoso Partners for their assistance in facilitating our cactus rescue activities. We even had a rare rain-out day.

Negotiations are underway for a potential large-scale cactus rescue task in the master-planned community of Verrado, in the foothills of the White Tank Mountains near Buckeye. This project will be a joint-venture between the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society and the TCSS Cactus Rescue program.



Species observed on the Verrado site during preliminary surveys include *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Echinocereus engelmannii*, and saguaro. While the cactus populations are not as dense as those we typically encounter in the Tucson area, the massive acreages involved contain many available plants of interest.

On Thursday August 26, 2004 Joe Frannea and Dick Wiedhopf met with Mayor Bob Walkup and his staff to brief them on our efforts. Jeff Sales, Senior Aide to the Mayor, spent about 40 minutes listening to our story. It was a very good first meeting and we expect this connection to help our rescue efforts very much.

Chris Monrad

TCSS Website.

Your TCSS Website (tucsoncactus.org) continues to receive more and more visitors and users each month. It has become a terrific place to announce events such as our sales, or recent auction as well as provide a wide variety of information to our members and to others through out the world.

We have a growing database of cacti information available with a number of pictures and this has become very popular with visitors to our site. In addition we have been able to distribute information on our highly successful cactus rescue program and a variety of information on how to plant and take care of cacti via a number of very useful PDF files contributed by various members.

For the month of September we had an average of about 90 unique visits each day to the site. Visitors have downloaded the ABC-123 guide over 500 times this month alone with total downloads for this document exceeding 6,000 since we added it to the site. We also average over 300 downloads a month for several of the other documents on planting rescued ocotillo and other cactus. The gallery of pictures has become very popular with thousands of downloads/views of the many pictures available each month. The technology committee and various other members continue to add functions and contents to the site. Our goal is to provide a topnotch site of useful information on Cacti and Succulents not only to our members but the public at large. If you haven't visited the site recently please do so. We welcome your feedback, suggestions and contributions.

Kevin Barber

RAINBOW GARDENS BOOKSHOP

We are very happy to announce that effective January 1, 2005, Rainbow Gardens Bookshop will have a new home....here in beautiful Tucson, Arizona.

TCSS members Kevin and Helen Barber, upon learning of the imminent retirement of the previous owners, Chuck Everson and Jerry Williams, wanted to make sure that this institution continued and determined that there was no better place to have a world-class Cactus and Succulent Bookshop than in the same city with so many of the very best desert plant nurseries, horticulturists and wonderful desert landmarks.

Rainbow Gardens Bookshop has been in business for over 25 years in Vista, California and has sold books worldwide through the web, mail order, at a variety of conferences and sales as well as in their own bookshop. It has the country's (and probably



Desert Breeze

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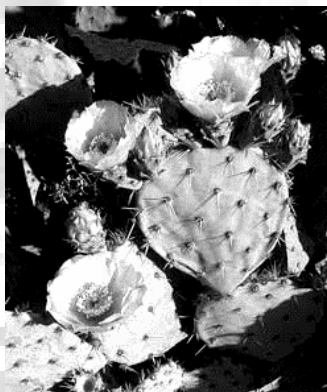
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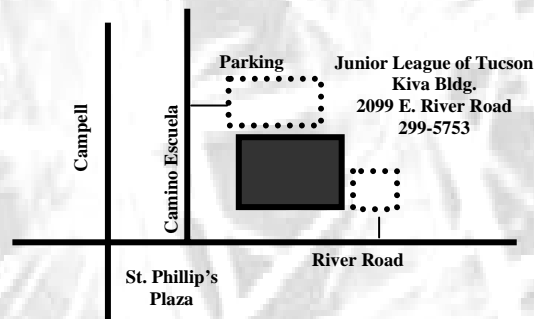
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Sunday, December 12, 2004

Annual Holiday Party

12:00 Noon

Meeting Place



President's Message



It is hard to believe that another year of activities is nearing completion. Thank you for the time you donate to conservation, education, outreach, and volunteerism -- it really makes this society enjoyable and fun. Our membership has increased to over 500 individuals, and keeping everyone involved is an enjoyable challenge.

At the November meeting the nomination committee will present a slate of officers and board of directors for the coming year. Their job is to insure that there is at least one qualified candidate for each position. You will have the opportunity to nominate additional candidates for each office. The nominee must be a member and be willing to serve. A ballot will be sent to every member and results will be announced at the December annual meeting and holiday party.



Speaking of the holiday party, it's time to break out that favorite recipe and get ready for our annual meeting and holiday party on December 12, 2004. We provide the entrees and you provide salads, vegetables, desserts etc. We collect food and money for the Tucson Community Food Bank and have a fun gift exchange. More information will be coming to you later in November. Because of our growing membership, reservations are important.

Chris Monrad, Rescue Committee Chair, made arrangements to display our rescue program at the Mountain States Wholesale Nursery open house in Glendale, AZ on October 22. Members of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society joined us. We have been working with them to establish a rescue program in the Phoenix area. The open house drew about 300 professionals from all over the southwest and we were able to tell the story

about our rescue programs. Everyone who came by our display was impressed by our conservation activity.

The next day we had a display at Plaza Palomino, along with many other garden groups, and had the opportunity to tell our story in Tucson. Many thanks to Jack & Helen Ramsey and Peter & Evelyn Hubbell for representing TCSS at this event.

It is also time to vote if you are a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. The ballot is on the back of the Newsletter "To The Point" which, by the way, is edited by our member Peter Bockenthien. [Note, especially, that Dick Wiedhopf is the candidate for Vice President of the CSSA – Ed.] Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Carrillo School Receives TCSS Grant



All third grade students at Carrillo Magnet School in the Tucson Unified School District will participate in a project to create a signed cactus garden so children can research, identify, and describe native plants. A \$400 TCSS grant was recently awarded to facilitate the purchase of cacti, create decorated tiles for plant identification, and prepare and print cactus guides.

The site for the garden is in a neighborhood park "El Parquecito" directly across from the school at La Pilita (420 S. Main). This is a historic property and has received a Bricks and Mortar Grant for renovations. The La Pilita Association is in



El Parquecito

partnership with the City of Tucson and has the responsibility for stewardship of this historic property.

The sixty Carrillo third graders will research a variety of desert plants through field trips and reviewing written materials and present their findings by a prepared speech to learn how to effectively convey information to an audience. The students will also improve their writing skills by creating a plant identification guide so future students and visitors to the site can learn more about native plants.

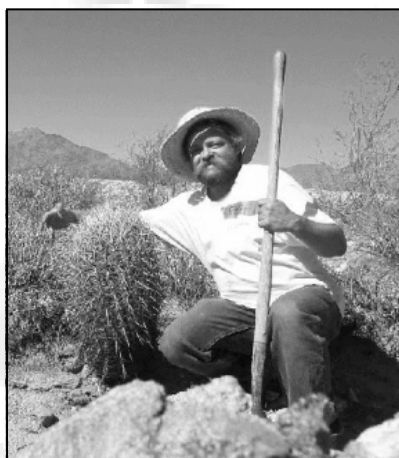
This project is a unique collaboration between a school, a nonprofit association, a city park, a neighborhood, and now the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. Could you possibly think of a better way to use TCSS profits from our Cactus Rescue Crew program!

Joe Frannea

Plant Rescue Committee



Cactus rescue activities continue at a fever pitch. We had a rescue at the Rancho Vistoso development near the Tortolita Mountains in Oro Valley on October 16. The site has very convenient access, and we rescued many hedgehogs and Mammillaria, and a good supply of barrels. We



will be back to this same site after the developer has taken out the inventoried plants he will reuse, and we will rescue the remainder. The ever-present grading equipment is a grim reminder

just how important it is that we react quickly to the invitation to rescue.

A major development in our rescue operations this month was the joint rescue with the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society at the Verrado site near Buckeye, in the foothills of the White Tank Mountains. Rescued plants included *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Echinocereus engelmannii*, and



saguaro. These joint rescues will be done by TCSS, until the Phoenix group gets the experience and confidence to start their own operation. A number of CACSS members have joined our society so they are covered under our permits and insurance.

On Wednesday, October 13 we did another landscape plant rescue, obtaining cuttings of a monstrose cereus for our members.

Barry McCormick

Cactus and Succulent Gardening Calendar

Watch for a new feature to start soon: our Cactus and Succulent Gardening



Calendar. This monthly feature will briefly address things to do and watch for in our landscaping, patio container, and windowsill gardening, month by month. We will also include specific advice on two different plants we would all love to raise, given by our experienced members. The plants we feature will be covered for an entire year, so we will have detailed culture information when we need it. In subsequent years we will feature different plants and growers. We will be calling upon all of our experienced growers to build a feature that will steadily improve over the years.

Barry McCormick



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)

Hedgehogs – from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 15% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



New Member Listings and changes

Photos by Barry McCormick, Kevin Barber, Joe Frannea and Chris Monrad. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

December 2004

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Kevin Barber
Secretary: Lynda Ryan
Treasurer: Valarie Miller

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins
Gail Virtes (2004)
Barry McCormick (2004)
Jack Ramsey (2004)
Joe Frannea (2005)
Marty Harow (2005)
Peter Hubbell (2005)
Dan Birt (2006)
Chris Monrad (2006)
Mark Sitter (2006)
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber
Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Norma Beckman
Librarian: Jenny Coniglio
Programs: Kevin Barber
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Sales: Jack Ramsey
Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Sunday, December 12, noon.
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

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

Sunday, December 12, 2004

12:00 Noon

Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

Don't forget our Holiday Party. Turkey, Ham, Rolls, Drinks and tableware will be provided. Bring your favorite hot or cold side dish or dessert, with serving utensils. Room setup will start at 11:00 am.

We have had a great year, let's make it special for others.

You also can bring canned food or make a Holiday donation to the food bank.

To participate in the gift exchange, bring a plant or plant related wrapped gift of at least \$5.00 value. If you bring a gift, you get a gift.

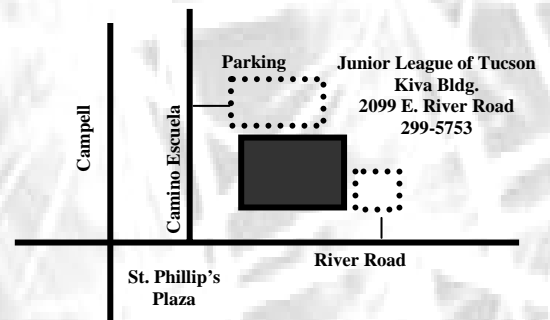


Thursday, January 6, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Janet Rademacher of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery will be doing a presentation on New Desert-Adapted plants with an emphasis on Cactus and Succulent plants like Agave and Yucca.

Meeting Place





President's Message



Another great year for the Society! This newsletter will reach over 570 paid members at 402 addresses. It is wonderful and challenging to keep up with this growth with a variety activities, speakers and events that meet our varied interests. Member

support has been outstanding and has made our success possible.

The election in progress will see some changes to our board and officers. Linda Ryan, secretary, Valarie Miller, treasurer and Kevin Barber, vice president are stepping down from their positions after years of service.

Linda has been an active member of this society for thirty years and has been an officer or board member for most of that time. Besides taking great minutes of our board meetings, she has set up most of our shows over the last fifteen years.

Val has seen us through the growth in amount and complexity of our financial transactions. As our activities and membership have grown her responsibilities as treasurer have kept her extremely busy. She has been a great Treasurer; our bills are paid and our deposits are made and there's always a smile.

Kevin is responsible for the great programs we have had during the year. He leaves the board but will continue to be our webmaster and to chair the technology committee. New web features will be online shortly.

I thank these three individuals for their dedication and service to the society. They have each made a difference to our Society and it is deeply appreciated.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Science Campus Receives TCSS Grant



A Resource teacher from TUSD's Cooper Environmental Science Campus "Camp Cooper" applied for and was awarded one of the educational grants made possible by our Cactus

Rescue Program. This Science Campus has been located in the Tucson Mountains since the late 1960's and is available to all TUSD teachers to use as an extended classroom. This facility hosts 2500 to 4000 students and approximately 1500 parents annually from over 150 classrooms across the Tucson Unified School District.



Their grant request "Identifying Plants of the Sonoran Desert" for \$400 will help them buy materials for signage along their interpretive trails and develop and print hand-out materials so they can more effectively teach students, teachers, and parents about the flora that surrounds them on a daily basis.

If you would like to learn more about Camp Cooper, they have a web page under TUSD's web site which you can access from the following web page address:

<http://instech.tusd.k12.az.us/cooperesc/index.htm>

It would be fun to have a tour of Camp Cooper once they complete their grant project.

Joe Frannea

Upcoming Events

February 28-29, 2005. Fiesta de Las Flores display at the Foothills Mall.

April 30- May 1, 2005. Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society "Expo" at the Tucson Women's League.

Cactus Rescue Crew Plants 'em, Too!!!

Our TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew took advantage of two different opportunities this past month to plant some of our rescued cacti into landscapes needing native plants.

Ironwood Ridge High School - Amphi District



Chris Monrad coordinated a project to add about thirty medium to large Barrels and thirty medium sized Hedge Hogs to the existing landscaping on the north side of the high school just south of Naranja Road. Eight crew

members made pretty quick work of the project and even brought water to help get them established.



Amphi School District has been a very big supporter of our rescue program, making cactus from new school sites that they can't use or hold during construction available to us. This was one small way we could give something back to them.

U of A / Jefferson Park Neighborhood Greenbelt

Jessie Byrd, a graduate student in the College of Landscape Architecture and daughter of TCSS member Ken Byrd, orchestrated a project to landscape a barren dirt lot on the north side of the University of Arizona Campus. This lot is just north of the Medical Center on Lester Street and is the first part of a greenbelt between the Campus and the Jefferson Park neighborhood to the north.

The design process was a collaborative effort involving students, faculty, neighborhood residents, professional landscapers, and TCSS. The idea was to incorporate native plants, including cacti, for their native appeal and low maintenance. The U of A and

various businesses and individuals donated all the plants and materials.

The Saturday workday started at 8:00 AM with a brief overview of the landscape design to guide the volunteers for proper location of the various plants, the gravel path and drip irrigation line. Dirt began to fly as over 45 volunteers began the planting process. One person brought a small 4" Krutch Garden Boojum that he grew from seed. Amazingly, four hours later it was all done and the U of A capped off the work morning by serving hot dogs, sandwiches, and drinks.



TCSS had fifteen members show up to assist with the project. We donated 12 large Barrels (includes 3 Cylindraceus), 12 smaller Barrels, 18 Hedge Hogs, 15 Prickly Pears, 7 Cholla, 15 Mammillarias, 3 Cholla wood skeletons, and one Saguaro wood skeleton. The drip system for the non-cactus plants (about 60+ plants) was successfully put into operation. Jessie and the U of A Grounds Services Department will ensure the cacti are cared for until they are well established.



It's great to see the U of A putting a strong emphasis on using native plants for their green belt and to be a part of it. Great job Jessie!

Joe Frannea



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