



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2005

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367
Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: George Virtes
Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins
Joe Frannea (2005)
Marty Harow (2005)
Peter Hubbell (2005)
Dan Birt (2006)
Chris Monrad (2006)
Mark Sitter (2006)
Norm Dennis (2007)
Barry McCormick (2007)
Jack Ramsey (2007)
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Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Sales: Jack Ramsey
Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymmcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 6, 2005.
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

January 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, January 6, 2005
7:00 P.M.

Agaves, Yuccas, and other Cool Plants



Janet Rademacher of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery will be doing a presentation on the assortment of agaves, yuccas, nolinias and other accents that are available in the marketplace.

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery was founded in 1969. Over the years their goal has been to seek out and test plants that would add pizzazz to the landscape. Today, the nursery employs over 130 people, and has over 300 acres of plants in production at two nursery locations.

Janet, a University of Arizona graduate, is the Landscape Architect Liaison at Mountain States.



Third Thursday, January 20, 2005
7:00 P.M.

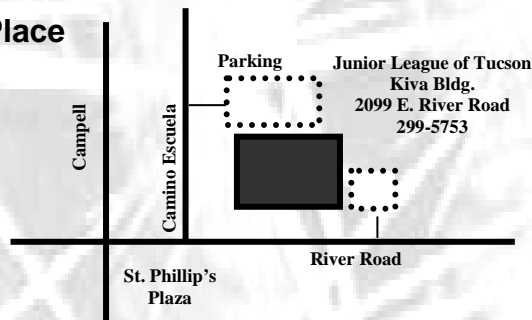
Norm Dennis – Introduction to Cacti and Succulents (Reservations Required)

The first of three workshops in our 2005 Spring Workshop Series is designed for the beginning Cactus and Succulent fancier who would like to learn more about these fascinating plants. Reservations and a five dollar fee are required.

Thursday, February 2, 2005
7:00 P.M.

Jane Evans – Winter Growing Succulents

Meeting Place



President's Message



The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is a finalist for the **Sonoran Institute Faces of Conservation Award** in the conservation collaboration category. The awards dinner is February 4, 2005 at the Hilton El Conquistador Resort. Tickets are \$100. Please

contact me if you are interested in attending or would like to help purchase a table for ten. This is an important forum to give our rescue program community recognition. Many of our rescue partners will be in attendance.

I congratulate our new officers and board members. Vonn Watkins, Vice President, George Virtes, Secretary, Gail Virtes, Treasurer, and three board members; Norm Dennis, Barry McCormick and Jack Ramsey.

We are kicking off our *Third Thursday Workshops* with some basic information about cacti and succulents. Norm Dennis will be leading this workshop. Norm is a retired teacher; when he puts his love for teaching and cacti and succulents together, it is always great.

We are working on our second Cactus Expo on April 30 & May 1. Barry McCormick is heading that effort and would welcome your suggestions.

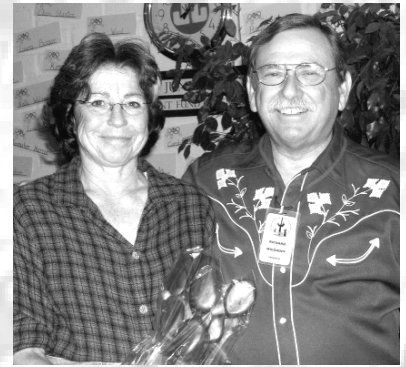
Jack Ramsey and Marti Harow are taking charge of the special events committee and are planning a trip to the Wallace Botanical Garden, local nurseries, and gardens. If you have ideas about trips and activities they would be glad to hear from you.

Membership renewal is speeding along. Those who have volunteered for committees will be contacted by the committee chairpersons. Please contact them or me if there is something for which you want to volunteer or if you have ideas or complaints that you want to express. You can e-mail me at: tucsoncactus@comcast.net or write me at our PO Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Holiday Party a Great Success!

How could it not be a success? A hall filled with jolly members, great decorations, and food, food, food! Special Recognition was given to our outgoing board members: Kevin Barber, Valarie Miller and Linda Ryan.



Third Thursdays Workshops

Over the last several months a group of interested members have been working on plans for a series of workshops. Our Spring series will focus on basics. We know there are a lot of new members in our society and these workshops should appeal to members that are new to the world of cacti and succulents. Workshops will be on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Junior League meeting room. These workshops are restricted to members only and limited in the number of participants. There will be a \$5.00 registration fee for each workshop. Please return the sign-up sheet with payment to reserve your space.

January - Introduction to Cacti and Succulents.

Norm Dennis will cover the unique structures found in cacti and other succulents, and relate those structures to the plant's ability to thrive in hostile environments. Basic taxonomy, distribution, evolution and botanical terms will be explained. Participants will have hands-on activities as well as demonstrations. Each participant will receive materials, but should provide their own writing tools. The workshop will last for two hours, with a short break in the middle of the session.

February – Seed and Vegetative Propagation. Vonn Watkins and others.

March -. General Cultural Practices.

Gene Joseph

We want your input and feedback. We will be planning another series in the fall so let us know what you want.

Cactus Rescue Partners



Sixteen thousand cacti rescued!
What an amazing statistic.
Sixteen thousand cacti removed
from the path of Tucson
development, and replanted to fill
otherwise sparse landscapes and
gardens of the
Tucson area. Tucson Cactus and
Succulent Society has been the
catalyst, and provided most of the
labor. But our many Rescue
Partners, over the years, have
been just as essential to our
rescue projects. We have been
recognizing these partners with
our thanks and our Ironwood
Saguaro plaques. It seems
appropriate, upon reaching such a
milestone, to publish a partial list
of those who have been so
essential to our rescue efforts.



A.F. Sterling Homes
A.W. Marrs Development
Abrams Development
Albanese-Brooks Associates
Amphitheater School District
Arizona Cactus Sales
Burlini / Silberschlag Ltd.
Burns & Wald-Hopkins Architects
City Of Tucson Department Of Transportation
Civano Nursery
D. R. Horton Homes
Diamond Ventures
Diversified Design And Construction
Emc2 Group
Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort
James P. Douglass
KB Homes
Kemmerly Homes
Kevin B. Howard Architects, Inc.
McGann & Associates
MMLA / Psomas
Monterey Homes
Mr. Tree
MSC Consulting
NCH Corporation
Novak Environmental
Pima County Department Of Transportation
Pulte Homes

Richmond American Homes
Rick Engineering
Robson Communities / Saddlebrooke Development
Sage Landscape Architecture & Environmental
Southern Arizona Home Builders Association
Stantec
Sunnyside Unified School District
Swaim Associates
Target General / Core
The Planning Center
TMHS Associates
Town of Oro Valley
Town Of Sahuarita
Tucson Unified School District
Tucson Water
Vail School District
Verrado / DMB Associates, Inc.
Vistoso Partners
Westcor
Wheat Scharf Associates

Chris Monrad

Upcoming Events

February 17, 2005. Third Thursday Workshop: Seed and Vegetative Propagation.
February 26-27, 2005. Fiesta de Las Flores display and show at the Foothills Mall.
March 17, 2005 Third Thursday Workshop: General Cultural Practices.
Sunday, March 20, 2005. Pima County Country Fair Sale.
April 30- May 1, 2005. Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society "Expo" at the Junior League of Tucson.
December 11, 2005 Holiday Party

How We Have Grown!

We begin the new year with a computed membership of 590 members. That is 198 more members than we had a year ago; total increase, not just new members. And that was on the heels of 101 additional members the year before. In June of 2002 we regretfully bid farewell to our meeting place at the Tucson Botanical Garden, which we had badly outgrown. How huge The Junior League of Tucson Kiva Building looked to us at the time.



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



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





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February 2005

Thursday, February 3, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Ganna Walska's Lotusland

Lotusland is a unique thirty-acre estate and botanical garden in the foothills of Montecito, east of Santa Barbara. Madame Ganna Walska, who owned the property from 1941 until her death in 1984, created the gardens now covering the estate. Before her death, Madame Walska established the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation, which now preserves this unrivaled botanical treasure.

A world class cycad collection, as well as major collections of cacti and bromeliads are found here. Over 2000 plant species are present in unique settings and arrangements. The talk will cover the history of the site, the gardens and the plants.



Jim Foster will be our 'tour guide' for the visit to this exciting collection. Jim retired from DuPont in 1999 where he was a chemist involved in crop protection research. He's been a docent at Lotusland for over a year, giving two-hour tours to the public. Jim received his doctorate from the University of Arizona (Go Wildcats!) and still loves the Sonoran desert. Tucson remains one of his favorite places. We welcome Jim back to Tucson!

Thursday, March 3, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Jane Evans – Winter Growing Succulents

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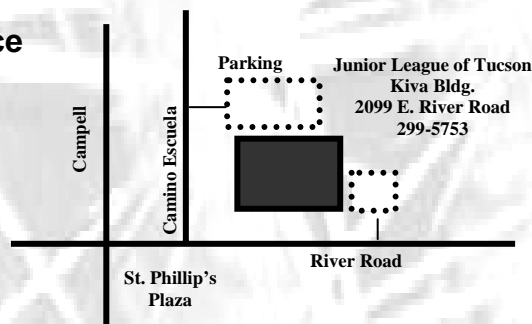
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2099 E. River Road
Tucson

February Refreshments

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Everyone is Welcome!
Bring your friends, join in the fun,
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community.

Meeting Place



President's Message



The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) represents almost 3,000 members and 70+ affiliated societies around the world. Helen Barber is our affiliate representative who represents our interests at the biennial conventions. The next

convention is August 5-10, 2005 in Scottsdale, Arizona. I am enclosing both a registration form and a list of speakers and hope you will be interested in attending.

Convention attendance requires that you be a member of CSSA. Membership is \$35.00 per year and includes a subscription to the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*. The Journal has up-to-date information on new species and exciting travelogues to great cacti and succulent locations. You also receive *To the Point* which is the newsletter of the society edited by our member Peter Bockenthien. The newsletter contains interesting articles for beginners and information about Cactus and Succulent events around the world.

As a board member of CSSA, I have facilitated recognition of our Tucson rescue program as a true conservation effort, which has given new status to legally field-collected plants. I have recently assumed the duties of Vice President of the CSSA

The new president of CSSA is Dan Mahr. He spoke to our society about the *cactoblastis* moth about two years ago. This is the moth whose larvae destroys opuntias and is now in the Southern United States. Dan and others, supported by the CSSA, have taken the issue to the USDA, which is now attacking this problem with all its resources. That's an example of how the CSSA can influence national policy.

I hope you will consider joining the CSSA. See their web site cssainc.org for more information.

I might mention that the CSSA meeting was at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in the Pasadena area

on January 15. All that rain in Southern California made the gardens beautiful. Most of the Aloes were in bloom and many of the ground covering Mesembs were also blooming. Every plant has benefited from the rain and they look spectacular. This would be a great year to visit the gardens.

This is going to be a very good spring in Arizona and we are going back to Organ Pipe Cactus Monument on March 5, 2005. The information on this trip is enclosed. The bus holds about fifty-five individuals and if we have enough participants we will take more than one bus. This is an all-day trip and we will provide lunch and snacks. We are looking forward to a good spring wildflower show and will stop along the way to take photos and identify plants. I hope you will join us.

There is so much going on this year. Please check the web site and the Desert Breeze for events and dates. You don't want to miss anything.

Finally, on February 4, several members of rescue program will be representing you at the Sonoran Institutes Faces of Conservation Awards Dinner where we are finalists for the Conservation Collaboration Award.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

**Third Thursday, February 17, 2005
7:00 P.M.**

**Vonn Watkins - Cactus and
Succulents from Seed
(Reservations Required)**

This workshop will provide an introduction to basic seed culture. It will cover flowers, pollination techniques, hybrid populations and the gathering, cleaning and seed storage process. Basic germination techniques will be discussed and the various problems that can occur will also be covered. Complete details of how to grow your seedlings year round as well as using some very basic materials in a limited space will be examined and discussed. The workshop will end with some tips on timetables, what to do after your seedlings have matured a bit and how and when to move plants into larger containers.

Third Thursdays Workshops

The response to the workshops has been both satisfying and overwhelming. We had a full workshop of twenty-five on January 20, and added a second session on February 10. The remaining two workshops have more sign-ups than the planned capacity, but we will do all we can to accommodate all comers. So if you would still like to sign up, use the form you got last month or pick up a new one at the meeting. The workshops are restricted to TCSS members. There is a \$5.00 registration fee for each workshop, and participation is limited.

February – Seed and Vegetative Propagation.
Vonn Watkins.

March -. General Cultural Practices.
Gene Joseph

We want your input and feedback. We will be planning another series in the fall so let us know what you would enjoy.

A Great Mammillaria Find!

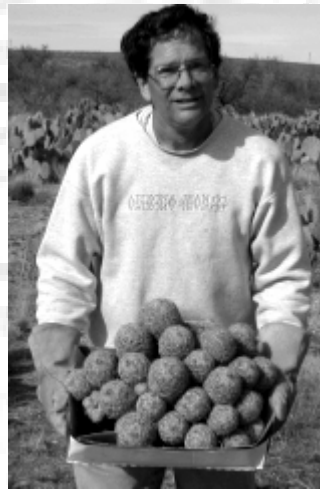
The Cactus Rescue Crew Program jumped off to a great start this year on January 2 with a rescue on a 500 acre parcel that will become the new Saddlebrooke Ranch, complete with an 18-hole golf course and hundreds of interspersed homes. The site is located about three miles northeast of Oracle Junction. Robson Development has been a great TCSS Rescue Partner and let us on site prior to any blading.

We have been there four times in January and already rescued over 2,100 cacti, including barrels, luscious hedge hogs, a few small yuccas, a few prickly pear and cholla and a great Mammillaria find, *Coryphantha Bisbeeana*. We had found a few



Coryphantha on the original Saddlebrooke site but nothing like these. Several were about double the size in diameter and height as normally found or documented, like the four-inch double header that Dave Palzkill found and several were multiple heads with as many as 32

heads like the one that Bill Hicks found.



Chris Monrad is working with several other developers about prospective rescue sites for the next several months. Many are being scheduled so stay tuned as to when and where. We have had some problems with rescue crew members not getting their rescue notices due to anti-spam filters. Our notices come

from CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org or TCSS@TucsonCactus.org so be sure both of these addresses are on your list of allowed email senders if you use a spam blocking filter. Notices are sent out on Thursdays for the following weekend.

I will start sending notices every Thursday even if we do not have a rescue, so if you asked to be on the rescue broadcast list you should have a notice no later than Friday morning. If you do not receive a notice, please send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org to let me know.

Joe Frannea

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New Member Listings and changes are in the 2005 Roster

Photos by Joe Frannea. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

A BUS TRIP TO ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Extraordinary Wildflower Displays

Date: March 5, 2005

Departure Time: 6:00 am at the College of Pharmacy Parking Lot west of College
off of Cherry Ave. Bus will start loading at 5:30 am.

Return: Approximately 6:30 pm

Cost: \$40.00 members

\$50.00 non-members

See the enclosed sign-up sheet.

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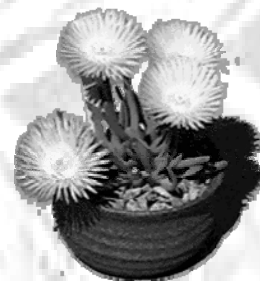
Have you ever seen beautiful blooming Aloes around town and wondered how do they do that?

Have you ever grown Lithops and had them turn to mush overnight?

Are you a winter visitor wishing you could have flowers while you're here but you don't want all pansies and petunias?

Well....come find out answers to these and other questions when Jane Evans talks about growing cool season plants in Tucson.

Jane and Gene Joseph are the owners of Plants for the Southwest here in Tucson. Jane has a BS in Horticulture from the University of Arizona, and has been interested in growing these types of plants for the past 25 years.



Thursday, April 7, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Tim Metcalf – What's in Your Pot?

There's more to the dirt you grow plants in than meets the eye. Join Tim Metcalf, Director of the Botanical Conservatory at UC Davis and find out how important this is to your growing success.

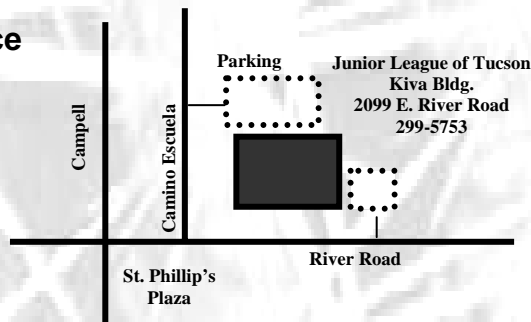
Thursday, March 17, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Workshop

Gene Joseph - General Cultural Practices

Meeting Place



President's Message



Three things I thought about these last few weeks of February:

**Wow! It's almost Spring.
Wow! It's Raining.
Wow! I have the Flu.**

Two of the three are good and one is not so good.

Spring is almost here and that means there are a lot of things to do to get ready for the long growing season. You should already have super-bloomed (high middle number fertilizer) your early bloomers, especially Echinocereus. This is also a great time to plant cactus seeds.

I hope all of you who went to the workshop on seed growing are starting lots of plants from seed. Plants are breaking dormancy. Winter bloomers are still colorful. No matter how much I want to ignore it, I know the last hard freeze is still coming. This winter has been super for aloes and it seems every plant has more blooms than I can remember. Of course, I know that the one that I really want to see will get frosted just as it's ready to bloom or set seed. As I look around the yard I see all the work that needs to be done before the really warm weather starts, but I know that I won't start it 'till it gets to be 100. Maybe almost spring is not such a good thing.

I can't believe that it's raining again. When can I spray for weeds? They seem to have a deal with the rain gods. I spray, and the rains wash off the weed killer, and I spray again, and new weeds pop up everywhere. It's too wet to dig or transplant and all I do is track mud around. The last thing the drowning plants want is more water with fertilizer in it. I hate going to a nursery with an umbrella. It doesn't seem appropriate for Tucson. Drought is more convenient!

Fortunately, I don't have any allergies, but I feel sorry for all of you who do. This is going to be the awful result of all this rain. Everything will be blooming, pollen will be filling the air, and many of you will be

suffering. I, on the other hand, will be delighting in the desert bloom.

I decided that it would be a good thing to get a flu shot this year. Of course this was the year when the flu vaccine was in short supply and I was not in the critical group. Thus, no flu shot. So, I got the flu. It lasted for seven days. The first day was the warning of things to come; slight chills, fever headache etc. The next couple of days I hardly maintained an upright position for more than a few minutes. Certainly, I couldn't go to work and spread my flu to others that might deserve it more, so I was destined to stay home all week. After four days of daytime TV, I found strength to go outside and view the garden. The rain and spring-like weather create wonders, especially when you not well enough to do any work and can just enjoy the sights.

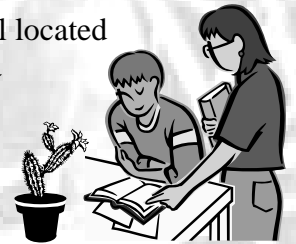
**Wow! It's almost Spring.
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Wow! I had the Flu.**

Dick Wiedhopf, President

TCSS Provides Technical Assistance

Lulu Walker Elementary School located near River Road and La Canada recently received one of our Outreach School Grants.

Teacher Jen Powers volunteered to help refurbish their outdoor Cactus & Succulents garden but needed some assistance to help identify plants that had died or lost their ID tags.



The garden is located under mature native trees and surrounds a wonderful water garden feature which



will come to life once warmer weather shows up. Vonn Watkin's expertise was called into action to help identify over fifty plants that were originally planted in the garden. Suggestions were given for relocating some, others needed replacing, and some needed trimmed back a little as they had overgrown their allotted space.

The Cactus Rescue Crew donated a Compass Barrel, Fish-hook Barrel, Hedge Hog, and Pincushion to be sure our common Tucson area cacti were represented in their garden. These were planted in the garden as Vonn worked with Jen to help her identify plants and update her list.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescue Committee



The rescue committee has started off the year with a vengeance! Despite having to work around all the wonderful rain and attendant mud that we have had, we have harvested thousands of plants. Our inventory is in fine shape as we start into our aggressive schedule of sales. See the letter by Chris Monrad in the insert for details.

Expo 2005

Planning and work continue on the Expo 2005 scheduled for April 30 and May 1 at the Junior League. We are planning for expanded exhibits and displays and an increased number of vendors. There will be plenty of opportunities for members to participate; we would like to have even more members take part than we had two years ago.

Increased Committee Participation

Members who indicated particular interest in society committees should expect to be contacted soon by various committee chairmen. The fantastic growth of our society and the increase in programs and activities has made it plain that we need more members actively participating.

Rainbow Gardens Bookshop will have a one day "We are now in Tucson" Open house and sale on Saturday, March 12th, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. 10% off everything in the shop. See <http://www.rainbowgardensbookshop.com/> for details and address.

Upcoming Schedule

- March 5, 2005. Wildflower bus trip to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The trip is sold out.
- March 17, 2005. Third Thursday Workshop: General Cultural Practices, Gene Joseph. Reservations Required.
- March 20 (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) - Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorenson School on Tanque Verde Road (East of Houghton).
- April 3 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm) – Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort - Second Annual Spring Plant Sale - Several other local specialty nurseries of note will also be in attendance, offering a diverse selection of aesthetic cacti and succulents from the Americas, Africa, and Madagascar.
- April 7, 2005. General Meeting; Tim Metcalf – “What’s in Your Pot?”
- April 30 & May 1 – Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society Exposition and Plant Show at the Junior League on River road (near intersection of Campbell). This biennial event will feature a show of members Cactus and succulents as well as over a dozen local cactus and succulent nurseries..
- May 5, 2005. General Meeting: Bob Webb – “Travels in Arabia and Africa.”
- June 10 (5:00 pm to 7:00 pm TCSS and TBG members only pre-sale) June 11 (8:00 am to 12:00 pm – open to the public) – Weird Plant Sale at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. This huge, annual event will include over a dozen local nurseries with a very large selection of interesting plants. This is an event not to be missed for the succulent plant lover in Tucson.
- October 23 (10 am – 4:00 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorenson School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS Rescued plants.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.





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Return: Approximately 6:30 pm

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Third Thursdays Workshops

The response to the workshops has been satisfying and overwhelming. We had a full workshop of twenty-five on January 20, and added a second session on February 10. The cacti and succulents from seed workshop was filled to capacity. The remaining workshop has more sign-ups than the planned capacity, but we will do all we can to accommodate all comers. So if you would still like to sign up check at the meeting. The workshops are restricted to TCSS members. There is a \$5.00 registration fee for each workshop, and participation is limited.

March 17 - General Cultural Practices. - Gene Joseph - The workshop will focus on the basic aspects of growing succulents and cacti here in the arid southwest, which is distinctly different from where everybody else lives and where all of the books are written. I will address such topics as what kind of soil to plant in, what kinds of pots to use, how much sun the plants can take (and how much they need!), temperature needs and limits, both high and low and how to water your plants. We will all pot up some plants, looking at the roots, soil, stems and most importantly, finishing off with a hands-on demo of spine removal.

Gene Joseph

Introduction to Cacti and Succulents

Our first workshop on Introduction to Cacti and Succulents was very successful. A total of 56 members signed up for the workshop, so the Board decided to present two sessions. The workshops were held on January 20 and February 10.



The workshop started off with a survey of members' experience and interests, followed by a hands-on segment that took up most of the session. Topics included investigation of the unusual shapes found in our plants and why those shapes aid in living in deserts; anatomy and seed dispersal in Lithops; functions of spines and hair in cacti; benefits of the spiraling growth in Aloes and Agave; water storage structures in succulent plants; literature on cacti and succulents; and what scientific names mean. Finally, the evolution of cacti and succulents was discussed briefly, along with how to identify a cactus versus a succulent.

Attendees were instructed on making cuttings, how to repot, and what to look for when getting a new plant. Everyone received at least two plants to take home and add to their collections.

Many attendees are newer members, and were able to meet other folks in our society; look for them in our meetings, introduce yourself to a new member and ask them about their plants!



Thanks to Jane Evans and Gene Joseph, Dan Birt, and Mark and Margaret Sitter for supplying various plant materials, and to Joe Frannea, Vonn Watkins and Marty Harow for helping out during the workshop. I enjoyed giving the workshop immensely, and want to thank all of the attendees for coming out and getting involved in our first workshop.

Norm Dennis

Cactus and Succulents from Seed

Sincere thanks to all the participants in the seed propagation workshop on February 17th. In this workshop I presented a short PowerPoint



presentation that detailed flowers and fruit, the seed of a cactus, as well as some of the results that can be expected by growing your own plants from seed. I also tried to cover some of the ways to hybridize and

to self pollinate your plants at home. I also briefly covered equipment, lighting, containers, soils, sources for seed, a few good books available and ways to extract and clean the seed. Free seed was available and I think most everyone enjoyed the workshop. This is a new and still improving educational addition for our members. Please let us know what you would like for future workshops.

Vonn Watkins



The illustrated email reproduced below was sent to our Rescue Partners and local landscape architects.

All,

The TCSS Cactus Rescue Program has had an amazingly productive 2005 so far, with nearly **THREE THOUSAND** plants collected in the last five weeks and over 18,000 since 1999.

Our rescued cactus inventory presently contains hundreds each of local pincushion cacti (*Mammillaria microcarpa*), barrels (*Ferocactus wislizenii*) and hedgehogs (*Echinocereus fasciculatus*), all of which are extremely well hydrated from our winter rains and are primed for spectacular blossoms this year.

Please forward this message to anybody who may need some high quality, native landscape materials or may be specifying cacti plant materials for installation in Southern Arizona. The plants are priced to sell quickly (pricing is about \$1.00 per stem for the hedgehogs and \$1.00 per inch of diameter for the barrels) and all plants are in excellent condition. We have more new projects looming in the near future, so we really need to make room for the new inventory.

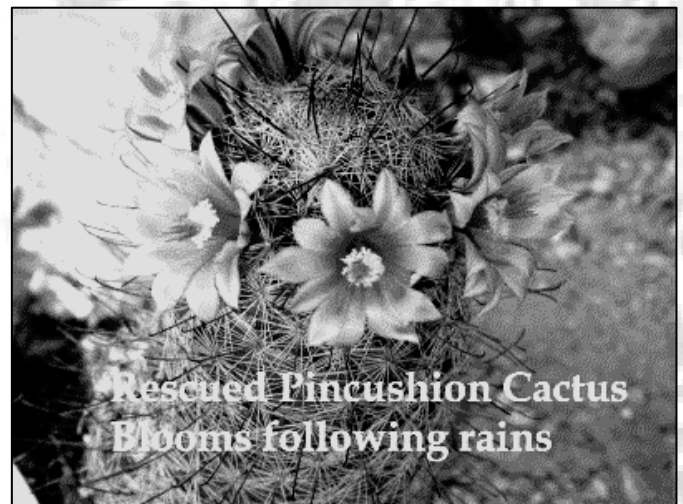
You may see our current sales schedule at http://www.tucsoncactus.org/tcss_cactus_rescue_sales_2005.htm

or for large quantity sales, you may contact <frannea@earthlink.net> to arrange for a viewing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Christian K. Monrad, P.E.





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

April 2005

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367
Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: George Virtes
Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

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Joe Frannea (2005)
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Norm Dennis (2007)
Barry McCormick (2007)
Jack Ramsey (2007)
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymmcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 2005.
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

April Refreshments

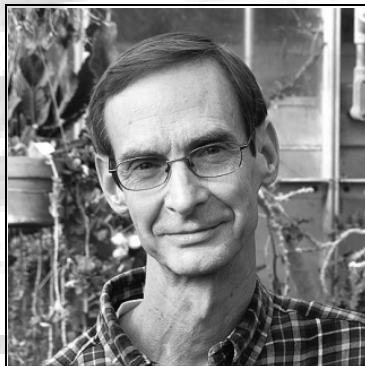
Those with family names beginning with
T to Z, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

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

Thursday, April 7, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Tim Metcalf – What's in Your Pot?



Tim will explore the various principles and practices of making and testing media for growing succulents. This presentation draws on the sessions he gives to the UC Davis greenhouse interns on the nuts and bolts of making a soil mix suitable for growing plants in containers or outdoor planting beds. It covers everything from "good sand vs bad sand" to "does peat have a

place in the cactus garden". Starting with an overview of the soil characteristics needed for growing succulents in containers, he will discuss various components and proportions to meet specific objectives, and end with tests to check the soil characteristics.

Tim oversees twenty-three greenhouses at the University of California, Davis. He says: "My favorite greenhouse complex is the Conservatory which houses over 3000 species and is particularly rich in succulents and epiphytes. More than 4000 students a year go through the displays on small guided instructional lab tours. We just received a \$42,000 grant to label and install interpretive panels for some of the outdoor succulent and cycad collection plantings."

For the truth about soils, don't miss this valuable presentation!

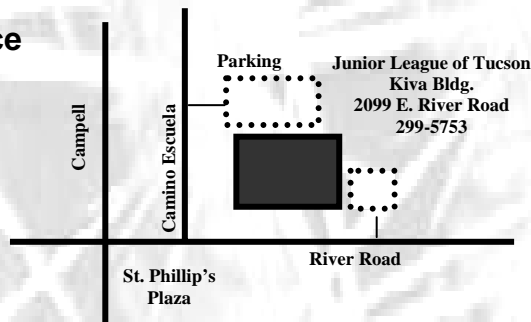
Thursday, May 5, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Bob Webb – Travels in Arabia and Africa

Adeniums, Sanseverias, and others.

Meeting Place



President's Message



It's time to visit our member nurseries. The cool season growers are starting to wind down and the new spring flower show for many of the cacti and succulents is beginning.

This is your opportunity to see familiar and new species at their best. Every one of our member

nurseries has something special and different. You really have to make the effort to see all that is available in the Tucson area. It is extraordinary. Our member businesses are on the web site or pick up a handout at the next meeting. We are truly the cactus and succulent capital of the world.

We need to explore ways to promote this concentration of cacti, succulent and related businesses to plant lovers throughout the world. We are starting to work on a brochure that will tell our story and be available to travel and destination industry. We want everyone visiting Southern Arizona and those who live here to know about the cactus and succulent businesses, gardens and organizations that they can visit. We also want to encourage visitors to plan trips to Tucson when the desert and nurseries are at their prime.

This will be a cooperative effort between many different organizations and businesses and will be available free of charge to everyone. It will be web based and hard copy. We want your input, ideas and help. Please contact me if you are interested in working on this project.

I want to thank all that made the trip to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument so enjoyable. We had a great time and that was due to the excellent planning of the special events committee. They are planning another trip in the fall.

I also want to thank everyone who lead, helped or attended our first series of workshops. They have been an overwhelming success and we are evaluating how to continue with this process. There were over 120 attendees total for the first three workshops. Our goal was about 15 to 20

participants per workshop. Your attendance certainly indicates that we underestimated the interest and need. Your comments will help us prepare for future workshops.

You have been notified about our current sales. We do this in three ways. The activities are listed on our web site at: tucsoncactus.org. If your current email address is correct in our membership list you have received notification by email. If you did not get an email notification would you send me your email at: tucsoncactus@comcast.net. Your email will be updated. If you don't have Internet access then you should have received a postcard about the sales.

Remember your friends and neighbors are always welcome at our sales.

Be sure you have the Cactus Expo on your calendar for April 30-May 1. Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Cactus Rescue Committee



Rescue Crews - Joint Effort

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (CACSS) has officially launched their Cactus Rescue program under the direction of Lee Brownson. TCSS has been assisting Lee with

logistics and educational materials to help them get going. We participated with their Rescue Crew on March thirteenth for a joint rescue on a several hundred acre parcel near the White Tank Mountains about 20 miles west of downtown Phoenix. This new Verrado Development is a large planned community being built in the town of Buckeye just North of Interstate 10 at exit 120, Verrado Way.



Joint TCSS and CACSS Rescue

Many of the cacti were hiding in the brush and weeds which have grown dramatically in the past

months due to the excessive rains. Great specimen *Ferocactus cylindraceus* (Spiny barrel or Fire barrel) were collected as well as a few *Echinocereus engelmannii* (strawberry hedgehog). A crew of 29 worked for about four hours in the morning to not only get some great cacti for their private collections, but to collect plants for upcoming public sales for both societies. CACSS is partnering with The Desert Botanical Gardens for sales of rescued plants and advertising of their new rescue program.

A special treat at this rescue site was to see some of their wild flowers, especially the Desert lily (Ajo lily). These Easter lily like flowers are quite impressive and striking. Yes, they really do have a one and a half to two inch diameter bulb about twelve inches underground.

We may have another opportunity to return to this area with CACSS in the near future as there are many more acres destined to be cleared in the Verrado Development.

Joe Frannea

Expo 2005

What is Expo 2005? - Expo 2005 is our annual cactus and succulent plant show. It is our chance to show off to the public the beautiful and interesting plants we grow. It is also our celebration of all the things that make Tucson the cactus and succulent center of the world.



Is it like our Sonoran Conferences? – Our Sonoran Conferences alternate with the Expositions. They both feature our plant show and the largest gathering of Tucson specialty plant growers held anywhere. The Sonoran features speakers and workshops from around the country, while the Expos highlight the broader community, with displays from local attractions and prize-winning exhibits from the Science Fair.

Do I need a reservation? -- No. Just come and bring your family and friends. There will be refreshments available, a snow-cone machine, a raffle and plant give-aways. We will have our bean-counter plant judging and some casual demonstrations and discussions.

How can I help? – Many of us have already contributed in the planning and promotion of the event. At the April meeting we will have more flyers and posters to be distributed. And we can all help with that old-fashioned promotion called “word of mouth.” Tell your friends, coworkers, and family about this pleasant easy-to-attend attraction. Then all that remains is to make it happen!



So how do we make it happen? – There are three main areas where we can pitch in: the setup of the show, the actual running of the show, and the show takedown. We also need to bring our plants for the show, and we need baked goods for the refreshments sale.

Show setup – Show setup will be from 7:00 am to 10:00 am on Saturday, April 30. We will set up the exhibits, the plant show, and help the vendors set up for sales, including our own rescue sales. We'll have coffee and doughnuts, get the work done, and be on hand for the earliest plant sales.

During the show – We will man the membership booth, sell refreshments, welcome visitors with information and brochures, and be on hand to make everything run smoothly. The snow-cone machines and the cash registers must be manned as well.

Show teardown – After 4:00 pm Sunday we clean up, move out, and congratulate ourselves on a great show.

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 are in the 2005 Roster

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

Support our 2005

Cactus and Succulent Expo

April 30 – May 1

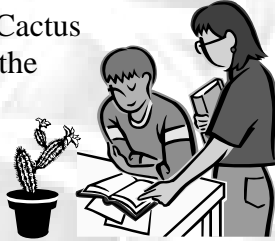
Junior League of Tucson



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

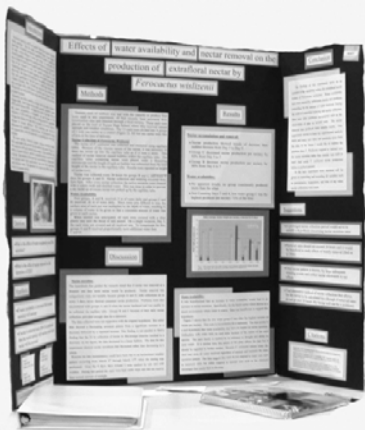
TCSS Science Fair Winners

Five members of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society scoured the rows of over 1,300 Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) projects for topics dealing with Cactus and Succulents. Five excellent exhibits were awarded TCSS memberships and cash prizes by the committee consisting of Gail and George Virtes, Marty Harow, and Patsy and Joe Frannea.



Our \$100 First Place Award went to Gordon, an eighth grade student from Basis School. His "Saguaros: Living Compasses" exhibit questioned whether Saguaros respond to sunlight by exhibiting

phototropism when growing arms. His display was very professional with bar graphs to effectively communicate the data he collected. Gordon concluded that the first arms on a Saguaro do tell a story.

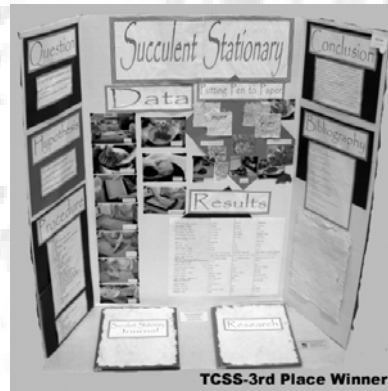


Our \$75 Second Place Award went to Alexandra, a senior at Tucson Magnet High School. Her project was "Effects of Water Availability and Nectar Removal on the Production of Extrafloral Nectar by Ferocactus

Wislizeni". She acquired 13 mature Barrel Cactus to extract nectar using a capillary tube to study production rates. Her display was very complete with great descriptions of her work including results, methods, conclusions, and suggestions.

Our \$50 Third Place Award went to Andrea, an eighth grade student at Old Vail Middle School.

Her "Succulent Stationary" display was very attractive with detailed photos and samples of her



hand made stationary. She proved that you could make paper from yucca fibers and use cochineal insects for ink.

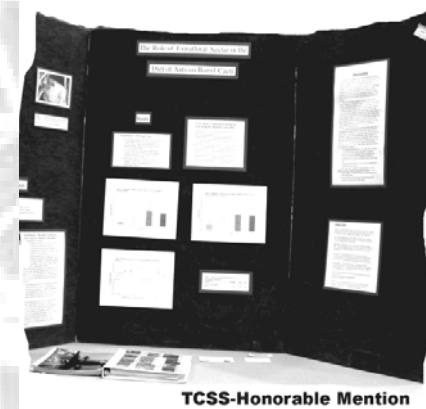
A \$30 Honorable Mention Award went to Madeline, a sixth grade student

at St. Michaels Parish Day School. Her "Pin the Hole on the Saguaro" project questioned which cardinal direction do most saguaro holes tend to face. She hypothesized north, but her study proved this not to be true.



Another \$30 Honorable Mention Award went to Hailey, a Junior at Tucson Magnet High School. Her project was "The Role of Extra Floral Nectar in the Diet of Ants on Barrels". While this project dealt mostly with

the habits of ants, it provided interesting information on the purpose of nectaries on barrel cactus.



This was our second year to award prizes to students who entered their projects in the SARSEF. All five winners have been invited to bring their science fair projects to our two day Cactus &

Succulent Exposition which starts on Saturday, April 30th to be held at the Jr. League. Please look for our Educational Exhibits area at the Exposition.

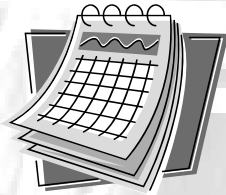
Joe Frannea

Tucson Xeriscape Contest.

Tohono Chul Park and the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) are again partnering to present the 2005 Metropolitan Tucson Xeriscape Contest. I am sure many of you have gardens and landscapes worthy of one or more of the Xeriscape Awards presented to home gardeners and I would encourage you to enter. The deadline for entries is April 8 at 5:00 pm (at TCP). All entries receive a free Family Membership to Tohono Chul Park plus a Free three-year subscription to Tucson Home Magazine. Application fee for homeowners is \$10.00. Applications are available online at www.tohonochulpark.org/xeriscapecontest2005 or by calling 742-6455 ext. 222.

Upcoming Schedule

- April 3 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm) – Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort - Second Annual Spring Plant Sale - Several other local specialty nurseries of note will also be in attendance, offering a diverse selection of aesthetic cacti and succulents from the Americas, Africa, and Madagascar.
- April 7, 2005. General Meeting; Tim Metcalf – “What’s in Your Pot?”
- April 30 & May 1 – Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society Exposition and Plant Show at the Junior League on River Road (near intersection of Campbell). This biennial event will feature a show of member’s cacti and succulents as well as over a dozen local cactus and succulent nurseries.
- May 5, 2005. General Meeting: Bob Webb – “Travels in Arabia and Africa.”
- June 2, 2005 General Meeting: Cory Martin on Sierra Mazatan.
- June 10 (5:00 pm to 7:00 pm TCSS and TBG members only pre-sale) June 11 (8:00 am to 12:00 pm – open to the public) – Weird Plant Sale at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. This huge, annual event will include over a dozen local nurseries with a very large selection of



interesting plants. This is an event not to be missed for the succulent plant lover in Tucson.

- August 5-10, 2005 Cactus and Succulent Society of America convention in Scottsdale, Arizona
- October 23 (10 am - 4 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorenson School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS Rescued plants.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.

Ellen Low, a member living in California, passed away on March 6, 2005. In 1989, Ellen and her late husband Bill were honored for their contributions to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America with a Superior Service Award. Ellen’s ten-year membership in our Tucson Society and her attendance at our Sonoran Conferences strongly supported our efforts. I visited with Ellen at a number of Huntington Symposiums and often thanked her for her support of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. –DW

Organ Pipe National Monument Trip.

The March 5 bus trip to Organ Pipe National Monument and other wildflower areas in the Ajo area was a great success. It sold out, of course. The



combination of fine weather, the expert guidance of Matt Johnson, and lots of wildflowers was the first offering of the newly-formed outings committee; keep an eye out for our fall trip.



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2005

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885-6367

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jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2005.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

May Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

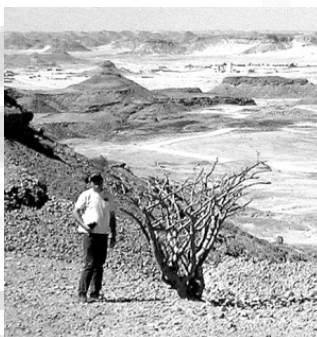
Bring your friends, join in the fun,
and meet the cactus and succulent
community.

Thursday, May 5, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Bob Webb – Travels in Arabia and Africa

Adeniums, Sanseverias, and others.



Bob has collected succulent plants for about twenty years. For his day job, he is a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson; however, he has worked as a plant ecologist in the southwestern United States and Baja California for nearly thirty years.

Bob has been traveling to the Arabian Peninsula and Africa since the mid-1990s and has visited Oman, Kenya, and South Africa in search of succulent plants.

This will be a special presentation for all succulent lovers and will feature some great Sansevieria habitat. This will be a presentation not to miss!

Thursday, June 2, 2005

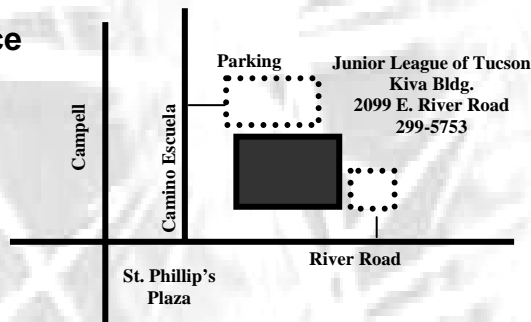
7:00 P.M.

Cory Martin

New Librarian

Joie Giunta has volunteered to take over the responsibilities of the Library. She will be in charge of updating our holdings and moving our check out system to a barcode computerized operation. We always need volunteers so contact Joie if you would like to help.

Meeting Place



President's Message



It is my pleasure to announce that TCSS member Kevin Barber has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA). The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is proud to have several members serving the national society. I

am serving as Vice President. Sue Haffner, of Fresno, California is a board member and chair of the seed depot and Lee Miller, of Washington, DC, is the secretary. Both have been members of TCSS for a number of years. We are now the largest affiliate society of the CSSA with over 590 members.

Jenny Coniglio has been our Librarian for the last several years and has done a wonderful job. She and her volunteers have brought our suitcase library to you at every meeting. It has worked out very well and I hope you have had the opportunity to check out some of our great books. Thank you, Jenny, for a great job.

Our rescue program is featured in the latest issue of "To the Point". It is a wonderful article and pictures put together by Chris Monrad, Joe and Patsy Frannea and Peter Bockenthien.

Our program is a part of the overall conservation effort needed for cacti and succulent plants.

The number one component is habitat preservation. This is the most difficult and causes the most concern. There needs to be a balance between the needs of people, for their welfare, and preservation of the environment for the future. This is a worldwide effort and each area has its specific issues, which need to be addressed. There are no simple answers. You can support habitat preservation with your dollars or volunteer your time and effort in the stewardship of designated habitat preserves.

The second component is saving plants from destruction no matter what the cause and getting them established. Obviously, we do this better than

almost anyone else. We have saved over 20,000 plants and most have been replanted in areas where they will thrive and continue to populate the Sonoran Desert Region. This gives the TCSS the opportunity to educate a lot of people about cacti and succulents and also the laws governing them in Arizona. The educational component is the most important by-product of what we do. If you are active on the rescue crew, digging and tagging, selling them, or replanting them at schools or other public facilities, you are a conservation hero. So are the people who support us by allowing us to rescue from their land prior to immediate development. Those who buy these plants are also conservation heroes.

The third component is propagation of plants that are rare, unusual, difficult to transplant, very desirable, or not usually available. Some of this is being done by the International Succulent Introductions at the Huntington Botanical Gardens which John Trager and his staff does magnificently. There is a lot more that can be done by societies like ours with the expertise in this community. These activities must be encouraged, recognized and rewarded with our participation and financial support.

Congratulations to all who participate in this effort.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Cactus Rescue Crew Keeps Diggin'



Our TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew keeps growing and attacking more and more properties destined to be bladed for new development.

Most of our activity the past few months has been at the Saddlebrooke Ranch on far North Oracle Road near the Florence

Junction and various properties far South East Tucson in the Corona de Tucson area.

If you are a member and not a part of the Rescue Crew and would like to try it out, you need to send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org. to ask that you be put on the Rescue Crew notification email list. Email broadcasts are sent out every Thursday to advise of what is taking place the following weekend and to give detailed directions to the particular rescue. You do not have to be able to do heavy lifting or digging to participate. We need lots of help tagging and boxing small cacti. You

simply show up at the location at the designated time; no RSVP's are required.. We normally work about three hours.

We have had 14 rescues so far this year and have plenty more on the radar screen. We have rescued over 4,000 cacti this year alone bringing our total plants rescued since the start of the program in 1999 to over 20,000.

Joe Frannea

TBG Garden Tour Sale

Bill Salisbury's residence was featured by Tucson Botanical Gardens on their Garden Tour, April 2 and 3. Bill, being one of our devoted Cactus Rescue Crew members, suggested that TCSS be allowed to sell rescue cacti at his residence during the event.

Bill, Jack Ramsey, and Norm Dennis put a very successful sale together and sold over 200 rescued cacti, bringing in about \$1,600 in sales. Cactus gloves and planting brochures were also a big hit. It is always hard to estimate the number of plants to take to a sale. The first pick-up truck full of Barrels and Hedge Hogs were almost sold out within two hours of the first day so they headed back to the rescue cacti holding area for another load, and then again Sunday morning for a third. A big thanks to Bill, Jack and Norm for their hard work making these rescued cacti available to the public.

Joe Frannea

Hacienda Del Sol Sale-Another Success!

Sunday April 3 marked the second annual Cactus and Succulent sale on the beautiful grounds of the Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch Resort. It was another huge success. Chris Monrad once again spear-headed the effort. The owners wanted to promote the beauty and use of cactus and succulent plants. They were familiar with our rescue program because of previous TCSS sales and Jeff is a partner with A.W. Marrs, who has often supported the TCSS Cactus Rescue Program in the past.

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

B&B Cactus Farm, Arid Lands Greenhouses, Miles' To Go, and Starr Nursery not only brought wonderful specimens for sale, but shared their expertise about cactus and succulents and gave lots of planting tips. Their support for the sale is greatly appreciated.

This one day six hour event brought in hundreds of customers who were notified by sending emails, post cards, posting flyers and notice on our TucsonCactus.org web site. We sold over 800 rescue plants totaling \$4,000, and also sold about 40 pair of cactus gloves and 13 new memberships.



Total plant sales for the event were about \$9,000. Hundreds of planting guides and club information pamphlets were also handed out as well as lots of free advice and encouragement to use native plants in their landscapes. Many of the Hedge Hogs were in bloom with their beautiful magenta color grabbing your eye and many had buds about to bloom. These sold about as fast as we could set them out on the sales tables. It took a couple of quick trips to the rescue cactus holding area to replenish our sales tables for both Hedge Hogs and Barrels.

We had many first time customers who were asking about which plants are the natives. The Hacienda Del Sol grounds provided a great palate to point out various plants but we noticed there were not very many of the Fishhook Barrels near our parking lot sales area so we planted three of our larger rescue Barrels to enhance their other native vegetation.

A special thanks to Frank Hughes and Jeff Timan of Hacienda del Sol and to Chris for coordinating this annual event. Also, a big thanks to all the TCSS volunteers who worked feverishly for several hours with the setup, brisk sales, and take-down.

Joe Frannea



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 Joe Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

New and returning members

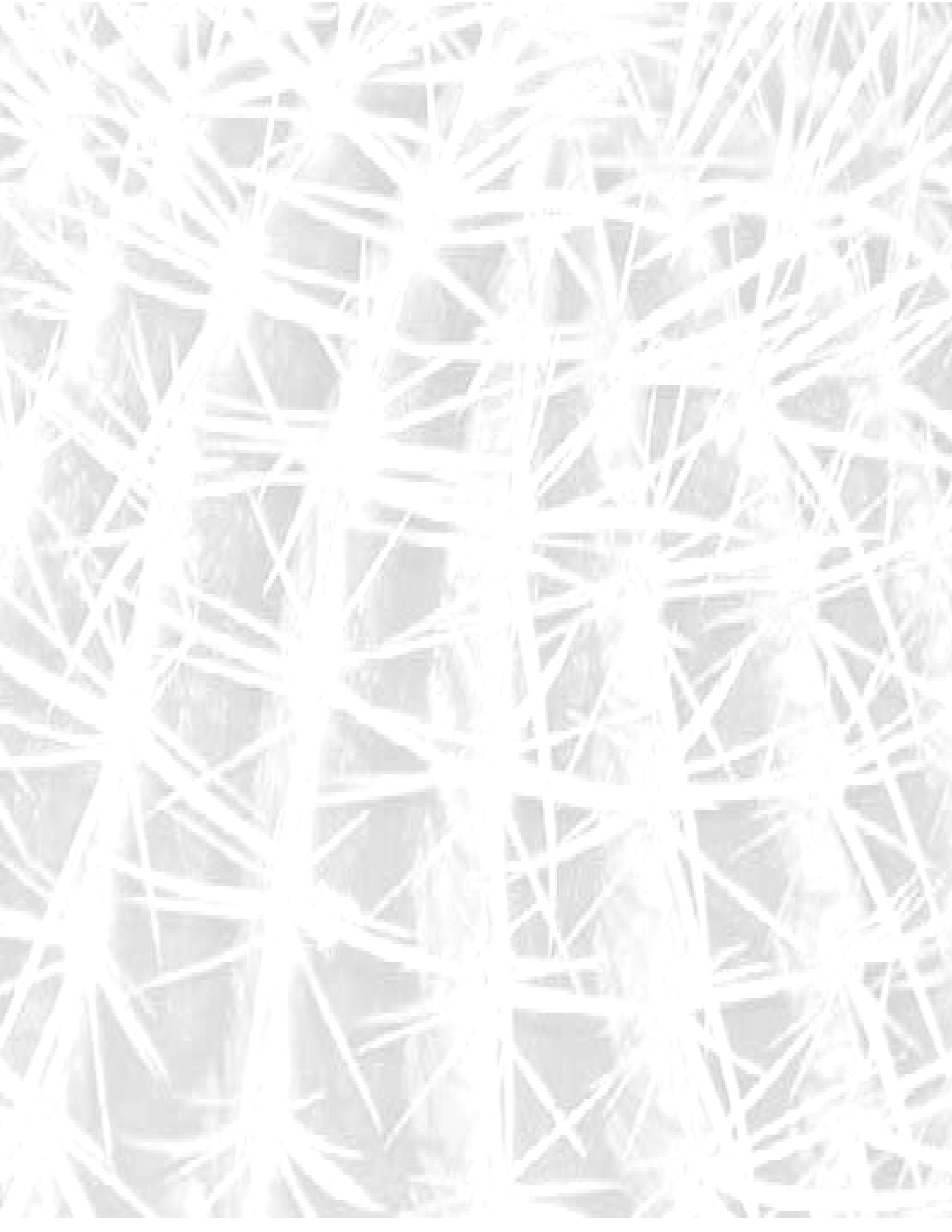
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Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2005

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367
Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: George Virtes
Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins
Joe Frannea (2005)
Marty Harow (2005)
Peter Hubbell (2005)
Dan Birt (2006)
Chris Monrad (2006)
Mark Sitter (2006)
Norm Dennis (2007)
Barry McCormick (2007)
Jack Ramsey (2007)
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Norma Beckman
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
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, June 2, 2005.
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

May 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, June 2, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Cory Martin

"The Sierra Mazatan"



The Sierra Mazatan is a small mountain sixty miles east of Hermosillo, Sonora. The top of the sierra is a mesa comprised of large oaks, forbs and not much else. Once over the edge you enter thorn scrub with a wide range of cacti and succulents. Highlights of this beautiful place are Blue Palms, Plumeria, two different Agaves,

Burseras, Tree Morning Glory, Hecho Cactus and the northern terminus for *Dioon tomasellii* var. *sonorense* (sago palm).

Cory Martin, is a horticulturist for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Areas of care include: Convergent Evolution, Desert Grasslands, Cat Canyon, Desert Loop Trail, Cactus Garden and Boojums.

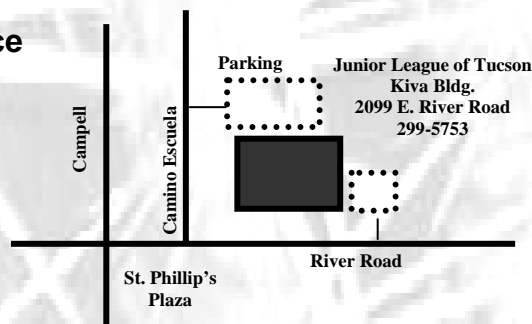
This presentation focuses on a very unique location in Sonora, Mexico and will of interest to everyone

Thursday, July 7, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Ernesto Sandoval of UC Davis

Meeting Place



President's Message



It is my pleasure to announce that TCSS member Kevin Barber has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA). The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is proud to have several members serving the national society. I

am serving as Vice President. Sue Haffner, of Fresno, California is a board member and chair of the seed depot and Lee Miller, of Washington, DC, is the secretary. Both have been members of TCSS for a number of years. We are now the largest affiliate society of the CSSA with over 590 members.

Jenny Coniglio has been our Librarian for the last several years and has done a wonderful job. She and her volunteers have brought our suitcase library to you at every meeting. It has worked out very well and I hope you have had the opportunity to check out some of our great books. Thank you, Jenny, for a great job.

Our rescue program is featured in the latest issue of "To the Point". It is a wonderful article and pictures put together by Chris Monrad, Joe and Patsy Frannea and Peter Bockenthien.

Our program is a part of the overall conservation effort needed for cacti and succulent plants.

The number one component is habitat preservation. This is the most difficult and causes the most concern. There needs to be a balance between the needs of people, for their welfare, and preservation of the environment for the future. This is a worldwide effort and each area has its specific issues, which need to be addressed. There are no simple answers. You can support habitat preservation with your dollars or volunteer your time and effort in the stewardship of designated habitat preserves.

The second component is saving plants from destruction no matter what the cause and getting them established. Obviously, we do this better than

almost anyone else. We have saved over 20,000 plants and most have been replanted in areas where they will thrive and continue to populate the Sonoran Desert Region. This gives the TCSS the opportunity to educate a lot of people about cacti and succulents and also the laws governing them in Arizona. The educational component is the most important by-product of what we do. If you are active on the rescue crew, digging and tagging, selling them, or replanting them at schools or other public facilities, you are a conservation hero. So are the people who support us by allowing us to rescue from their land prior to immediate development. Those who buy these plants are also conservation heroes.

The third component is propagation of plants that are rare, unusual, difficult to transplant, very desirable, or not usually available. Some of this is being done by the International Succulent Introductions at the Huntington Botanical Gardens which John Trager and his staff does magnificently. There is a lot more that can be done by societies like ours with the expertise in this community. These activities must be encouraged, recognized and rewarded with our participation and financial support.

Congratulations to all who participate in this effort.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Cactus Rescue Crew Keeps Diggin'



Our TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew keeps growing and attacking more and more properties destined to be bladed for new development.

Most of our activity the past few months has been at the Saddlebrooke Ranch on far North Oracle Road near the Florence

Junction and various properties far South East Tucson in the Corona de Tucson area.

If you are a member and not a part of the Rescue Crew and would like to try it out, you need to send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org. to ask that you be put on the Rescue Crew notification email list. Email broadcasts are sent out every Thursday to advise of what is taking place the following weekend and to give detailed directions to the particular rescue. You do not have to be able to do heavy lifting or digging to participate. We need lots of help tagging and boxing small cacti. You

simply show up at the location at the designated time; no RSVP's are required.. We normally work about three hours.

We have had 14 rescues so far this year and have plenty more on the radar screen. We have rescued over 4,000 cacti this year alone bringing our total plants rescued since the start of the program in 1999 to over 20,000.

Joe Frannea

Weird Plant Sale



The Tucson Botanical Garden, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, hosts their annual Weird Plant Sale on Saturday, June 11 from 8 am to noon. There will be a member-only pre-sale on Friday, June 10

from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. TCSS will be selling rescue plants at the sale.

Jack Ramsey

Future Events

Sunday, September 18 will be our Good Time Silent Auction. The event will be from noon to 3:00 pm and is a



chance to socialize, make some money for the society, and clear off

your benches before you have to button up for winter. Now is a

good time to look around and decide what you can donate. Perhaps a division or a propagation is called for, perhaps a larger pot would make the plant look its best in the Fall. Reserve the date; details to follow.

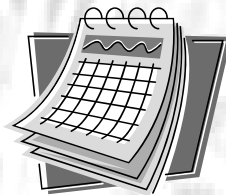


Our Tour events committee is finalizing the arrangements for the much-awaited trip to the Wallace Desert Gardens. This will be an exclusive event for Tucson Cactus and

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Upcoming Schedule

- June 2, 2005 General Meeting: Cory Martin on Sierra Mazatan.
- June 10 2005 Weird Plant Sale at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. (5:00 pm to 7:00 pm TCSS and TBG members only pre-sale) June 11 (8:00 am to 12:00 pm – open to the public) –This huge, annual event will include over a dozen local nurseries with a very large selection of interesting plants. This is an event not to be missed for the succulent plant lover in Tucson.
- August 5-10, 2005 Cactus and Succulent Society of America convention in Scottsdale, Arizona
- October 23 (10 am - 4 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorenson School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS Rescued plants.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.





TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

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

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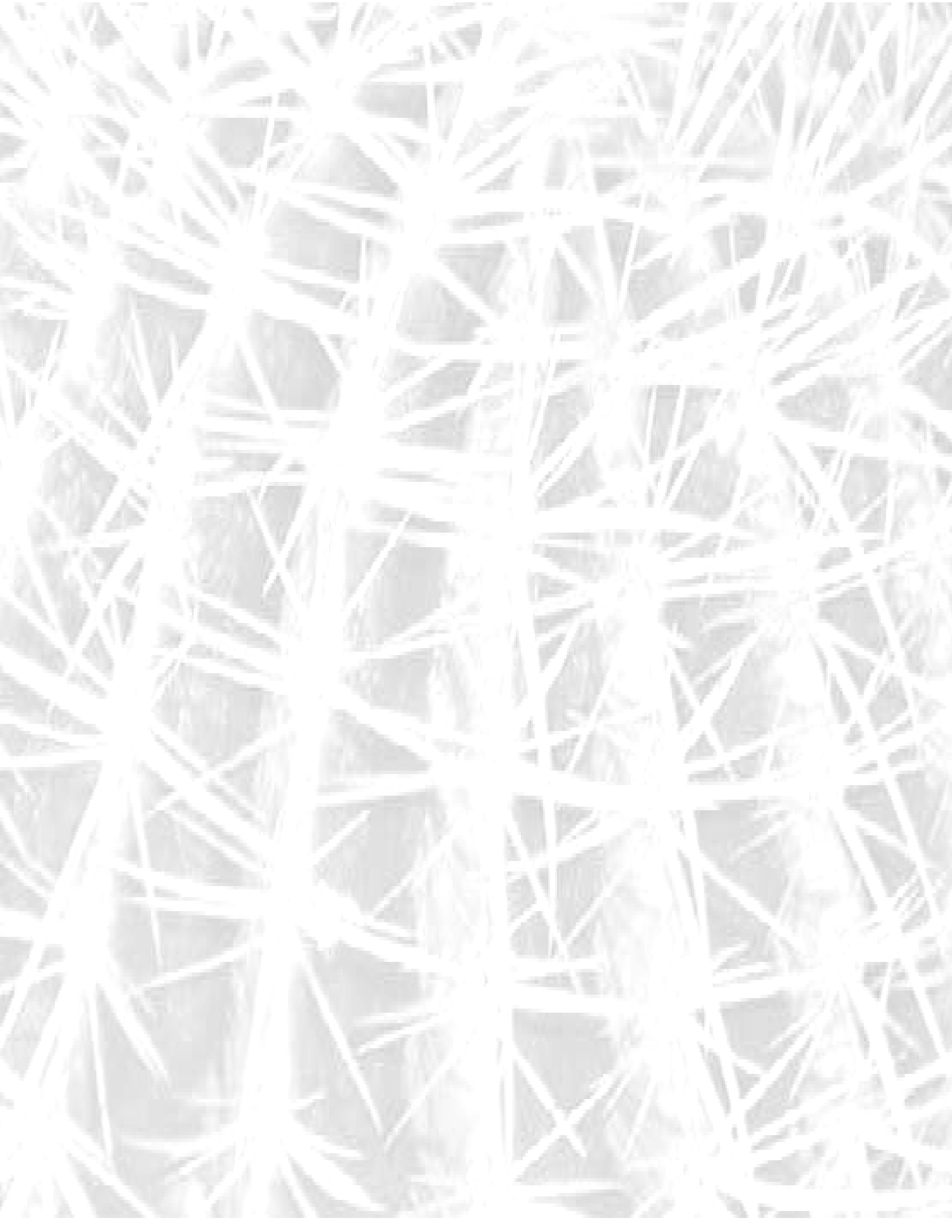


Photos by Joe Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

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Thursday, July 7, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Ernesto Sandoval of UC Davis

**"Incorporating Succulents in the Garden
for Bold Year Round Interest"**



Ernesto will discuss succulents that merit a place in our gardens, using examples from gardens such as the Ruth Bancroft Garden, the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Strybing Arboretum, as well as his own garden. Aloes, agaves, cacti and other succulents suitable for mixed plantings will be emphasized using quality photographs.

Although many people consider succulents to be hard to grow and even dangerous, the author hopes to convince us that not all succulents are difficult and that there are many which have little chance of causing pain and anguish in our gardens. Some less common, but not difficult to grow plants such as various Aloe and Agave species, and bulbs such as *Ornithogalum fimbriatum* and other low water use plants will be discussed.

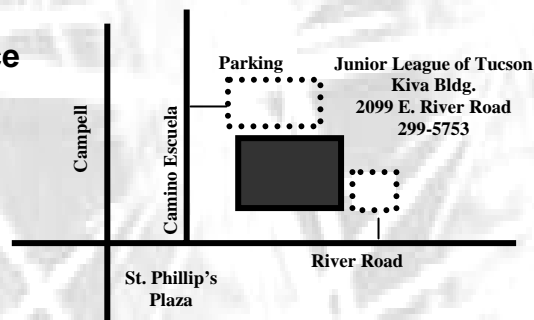
Ernesto is curator, of the plant biology section of the biological greenhouses at the University of California Davis. This will be an excellent presentation for everyone!

Thursday, August 4, 2005

7:00 P.M.

To be Announced: The August speaker has not been finalized; check the web site for an announcement.

Meeting Place



President's Message



We are half way through another great year for the society. I am overwhelmed with the support we have for our programs and activities. Our current membership is 658 members from 463 households. We are the largest local cacti and succulent society in the

world, and have a very strong financial base to support our activities. The most important asset, of course, is our membership. Our volunteerism for events, and our support of programs and activities is outstanding. We make this society work and it is all done with a smile. I have never seen so many happy people working so hard and having so much fun! Thank you again for your support.

The Board of Directors and working committees are working hard to provide more activities and opportunities. We should all be a part of this process. Your input and efforts are always appreciated.

Success does have some problems and one area needing improvement is the rescue program



Rescued Plants Need Better Storage Location

holding facility. The larger volunteer rescue crews are doing a great job in saving many more plants. In the near future we are going to need a more permanent location for holding and maintaining rescued material. If you know of possible sites that could be donated, leased, purchased or acquired by some means please let me know. We need at least

5,000 sq ft that can be secured, has vehicle access, and has water available.

This summer and fall we will have another round of workshops, a trip to the Wallace Botanical Gardens, Good Time Silent Auction, the Blooming Barrel Sale and the Pima County Country Fair. You will get special notices in late July on how to sign up for these events. Don't forget that the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Convention is in Scottsdale, August 5-10. Even if you don't register you are still welcome to come to the plant & convention sales areas at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort.

Sometime in the near future we will be hosting the convention and you might want to get some ideas for the future.

Finally, May 4-7, 2006 is Sonoran VI at the InnSuites Hotel. We need your input and help in planning this event.

Thank you again for making this job so much fun.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Rescue Crew Flexes Its Muscle!

A Special Cactus Rescue Crew operations was held early Saturday morning on June 18. It was a little beyond the norm and required some extra muscle, ropes, and digging bars. TCSS was called to help clear some Ocotillo and large Saguaros that Pathways Development could not use. The property is a heavily laden Saguaro habitat located near the Catalina Highway and Snyder Road.



Larger Than Our Ordinary Rescue!

There were four eight-to-ten foot tall Saguaros which can weigh over 500 pounds each so a lot of planning and coordination was required as well constant reminders about working safely, which is always our first priority. Saguaros are wrapped in carpet to protect their fragile skin and to make the cacti easier for the Crew to handle. South is marked so they are replanted with the same sun orientation to minimize sun burn. Feeder roots are usually within ten inches of the surface but the center tap root, which helps keep the Saguaro



It's Not Pretty, But It Works!

upright, goes down much further. Normally we do not rescue cacti this large but this was too special an opportunity to pass up. The area was already mostly bladed except for the Saguaros, so it was possible to back a trailer or pick-up right up to the larger Saguaros so they could be gently lowered into the trailer. There were another dozen much larger Saguaros with arms that will be salvaged commercially since special cactus moving trucks with cactus moving hoists are required.

There were also five smaller Saguaros in the three-to five-foot range which were much more manageable and could be carried in a cactus sling by four people. The reward for the Cactus Rescue Crew members for their sweat equity was the opportunity to purchase and take home one of these great specimens for their landscapes.

Keen eyed rescue crew members were able to find and dig a few baby saguaros and some limber bush, *jatropha cardiophylla*, plants that had survived the initial blading. Treasure hunting is always a bonus for crew members. The work was all completed in three hours with no stuck vehicles and no injuries!

Joe Frannea

Rescued Cacti Popular at Plant Sale

The Tucson Botanical Gardens held their annual Weird plant Sale June 10 and 11 with a dozen Tucson area growers selling mostly cultivated plants in the garden areas and Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society selling their rescued Barrels, Hedge Hogs and small Mammillaria outside in a large area next to the parking lot.

We sold about 250 cacti, bringing in almost \$1,600, with TBG getting a commission of about \$400. This was a great opportunity for the public to support local nurseries and our rescue program while supporting Tucson Botanical Garden, not to mention getting some great plants as well.



TCSS was well represented with sixteen members



Sales at Tucson Botanical Garden

selling plants, giving planting tips, and answering questions about cactus and succulents in general. Our planting guides and society information brochures are always popular. A grateful thanks to all who helped.

Joe Frannea

Future Events



Thursday, September 15 will be the first session of our Fall Workshop Series. Among the topics being considered are another general introduction session, and sessions on vegetative propagation and grafting. We were somewhat surprised by the tremendous turnout for last spring's workshops, and are working to establish a sign-up procedure that gives everybody a chance to attend. There will be additional information in August.



Sunday, September 18 will be our Good Time Silent Auction. The event will be from noon to 3:00 pm and is a chance to socialize, make some money for the society, and clear off your benches before you have to button up for winter. Now is a good time to look around and decide what you can donate. Perhaps a division or a propagation is called for, perhaps a larger pot would make the plant look its best in the Fall. Reserve the date; details to follow.



Our Tour Events Committee is finalizing the arrangements for the much-awaited trip to the Wallace Desert Gardens. This will be an exclusive event for Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society members, held on Sunday, November 6, 2005. There will be a bus for those who prefer to travel in comfort, but it will also be possible to meet us there. The tour will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant and then we will make a stop at the Arizona Cactus Nursery in Chandler on our way home. The last time we took a bus trip and stopped in Chandler we filled the luggage space on the bus with plant purchases.

Upcoming Schedule

- July 7, 2005 – General Meeting: Ernesto Sandoval of UC Davis
- August 4, 2005 – General Meeting
- August 5-10, 2005 - Cactus and Succulent Society of America convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- September 15, 2005 – First session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- September 18, 2005 - Good Time Silent Auction II, 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm. Junior League of Tucson Kiva Bldg. 2099 E. River Road. TCSS members only.
- October 19, 2005 – Second session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- October 23 (9 am - 3 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorensen School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS Rescued plants will be sold.

- November 6, 2005 Wallace Desert Gardens Trip. Exclusive garden tour, lunch, and visit to Arizona Cactus Nursery.
- November 17, 2005 – Third session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.

Library Update

Thanks to the board's approval, we have five new books in the library. I've also taken some books out of storage. Come by and check them out.



World Encyclopedia of Cacti & Succulents by Miles Anderson.

Succulents Health & Care by Kapitany/Shulz.

Cacti & Succulents by Lueberman.

Scorpions & Venomous Insects of the Southwest by Stoops/Martin.

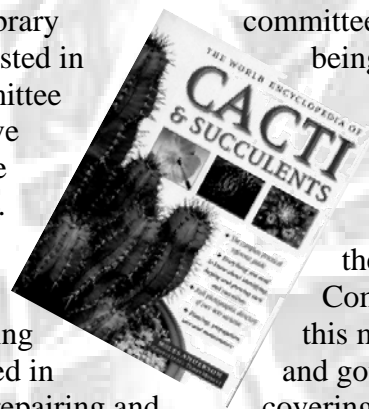
Cacti & Succulents.

I've sent e-mail to those who've signed up for the library committee. If you are interested in being on the committee and did not receive and e-mail, please let me know.

At

Meeting pitched in start repairing and

The next step is to mark them with a bar code, bar code all of our badges, and inaugurate our new checkout system due to be in place by the end of the summer.

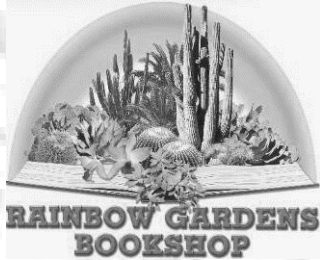


the Technology Committee this month, we all and got off to a good covering our books.

Joie Guinta

Books

I have been asked to write a column now and then about what is happening in the book world on our favorite topics ... Cactus and Succulents. This month I am providing some information on two new titles that may be of interest to many of you.



Coming out, at last, is a new book on *Sansevieria*! For those of us interested in this fascinating group of plants there has really been nothing for quite a while. The only book that has been available was *Sansevieria Trifasciata varieties* by B. Juan Chahinian and it covered only a single highly variable species. Fortunately, this same author, who is one of the foremost authorities on *Sansevieria* and is the current president of the International *Sansevieria* Society, has written a new book covering the entire genus. It includes chapters on hybrids, display, cultivation, propagation, a key to the species and a complete list of *Sansevieria* species with detailed descriptions and their authorities. If you have an interest in *Sansevieria* or just want to learn more about this group you will want to investigate this book.

The second new book is on Aloes. There is also very little available in print on these interesting plants. Currently in print is, *The Guide to the Aloes of South Africa*, a 2003 update of a book originally published in 1996, and *The Aloes of Malawi* published in 2004. This year, however we have a terrific field guide to the Aloes of Namibia entitled *Aloes aristocrats of Namibian Flora*. The 96-page softbound book is loaded with terrific color pictures of the plants in habitat and useful information only on identification and culture. It will also be very reasonably priced between \$20 - \$25 dollars and should be available in the next month or so.

In future columns I will cover other new and interesting books in detail and keep you up to date on what's coming out, as well as provide some advice on which books are good for specific needs and interests. If you have suggestions for topics for this column or want more specific information about anything discussed please contact me at

Kevin@RainbowGardensBookshop.com

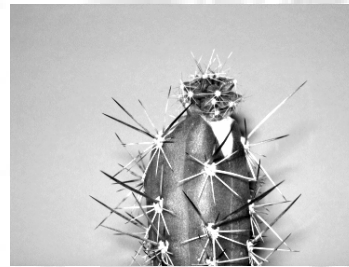
Kevin Barber

Grafting Seedlings

About 10 years ago a friend brought me a seed pod of *Harrisia pomanensis* and asked me to grow some plants of this large beautiful white flowered night-bloomer. This really got me started growing cacti from seeds.

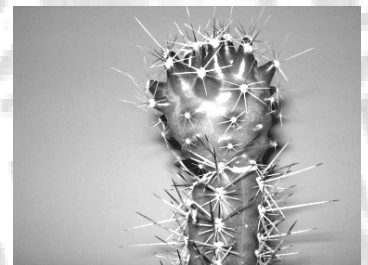
These seeds germinated quickly and grew strong and tall despite my mistreatment. They were easily potted on and within a short time were a foot or two tall. Wow! growing cacti from seed is easy. I should have been doing this for years.

Wrong! I started growing other cacti but none were as successful as the *Harrisia*. Extracting, cleaning and germinating cacti seeds didn't seem to be a problem. But once they grew and filled the seed container, growing them on seemed to be where my technique failed. I ran across an old article about grafting young seedlings and thought: why not? I had never grafted but had watched Miles Anderson and Mike Ellis demonstrate grafting techniques many times. I gave it a try.



Seedling Grafted on Stock

play with. You can see from the pictures that the growth rate of a grafted seedling is very enhanced. I plan to remove it from the graft next spring and attempt to establish it on its own roots.



Seedling After 6 Months Growth

This is a fun project that anyone can do.

Experiment! Enjoy!

Dick Wiedhopf



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 Joe & Patsy Frannea, Dick Wiedhopf Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

The Thirty-first Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America

will be held in Scottsdale at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Indian Bend and Scottsdale Roads, Friday-Wednesday, August 5-10, 2005. It is a six-day convention for CSSA members from all over the world, featuring twenty-one speakers from Europe, USA, and Africa. There will be workshops, plant sales, book sales, and field trips devoted to cacti and other succulents of the world.

Hosted by the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, an affiliate of the CSSA.

The plant and book sale is open to the general public with no admission charge. Hours will be 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 6-7 and 9-10, 2005. There will be about 20 vendors of exotic cactus and succulent plants and containers, and thousands of books devoted to cactus and other succulent plants from desert habitats. Cash, check, MasterCard, and VISA will be accepted. For further Information go to:

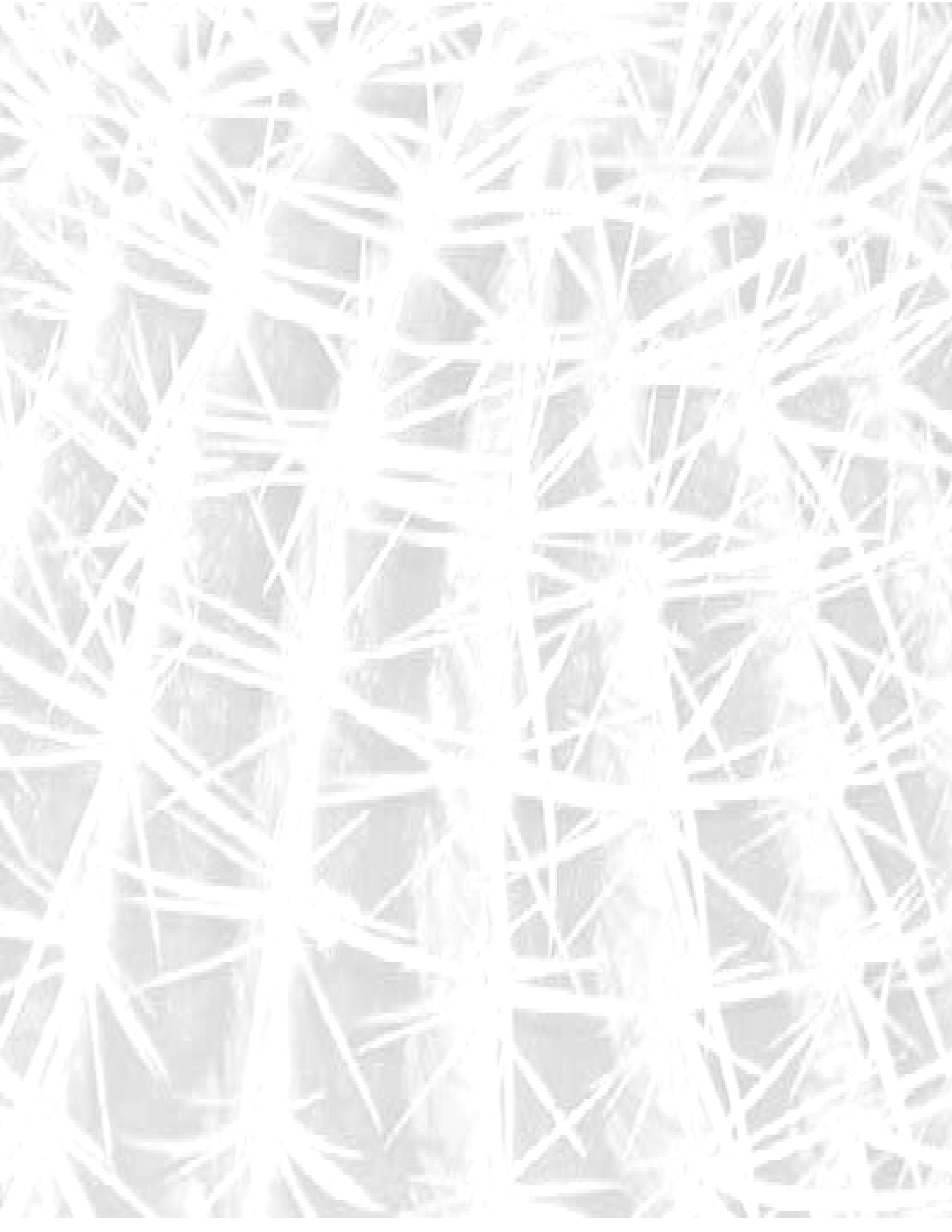
www.cssainc.org/convent.html



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2 2 3 3 4
Cacti Rescued

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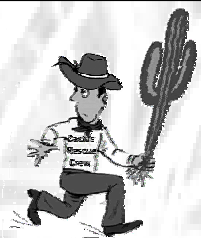


Photo by Gary James. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

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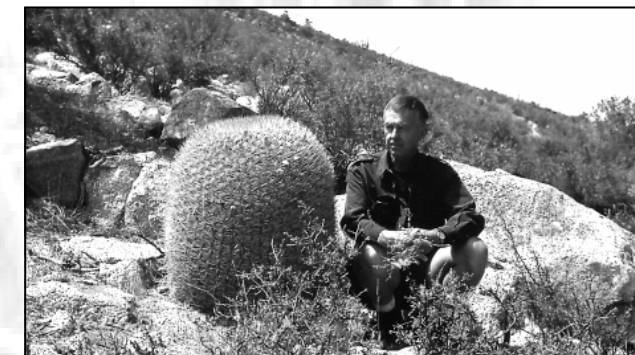
Thursday, August 4, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Gary James

Travels in the Cactus Rich Areas of Chile

Gary is a retired biology teacher from the community college in Costa Mesa, California. He worked at the college for 30 years and retired in 1993 to work for Lindblad Expeditions. With Lindblad he had an opportunity to travel quite a bit, especially in one of his favorite places, Baja California. Gary is very familiar with succulent plants from around the globe but is very interested in Madagascan Euphorbias. He has an extensive collection of succulents that grow in coastal areas around the world.



Gary James with a large specimen *Eriosyce aurata* in Chile.

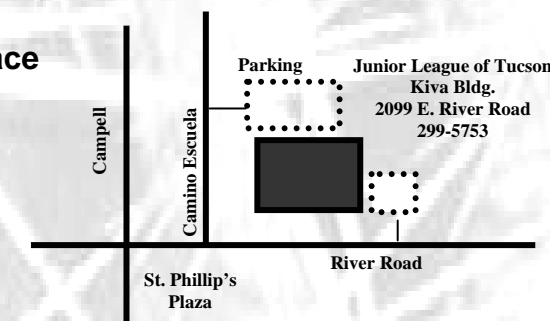
Please be sure to welcome Gary to Tucson and join us for his excellent presentation on the cacti of Chile!

Thursday, September 1, 2005

7:00 P.M.

To be announced: The September speaker has not been finalized; check the web site for an announcement.

Meeting Place



TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf

885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: George Virtes

Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins

Joe Frannea (2005)

Marty Harow (2005)

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Programs: Vonn Watkins

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, August 4, 2005.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

August Refreshments

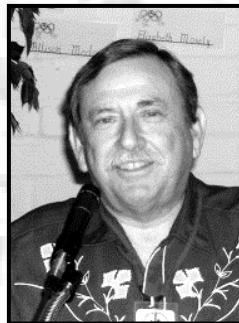
Those with family names beginning with T to Z, please bring your choice of refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

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



President's Message



I tell people that we really have two seasons, a hot season and a not as hot season and we just completed a month of the hot season. I am glad there is a little break in the weather. The plants are stressed (and so are we) and you can see that all over Tucson. After couple of days of rains all will change and we will quickly forget the 30 plus days of 100 degrees.

Have you noticed all the seed pods that are developing and ripening during this hot spell. This is a great opportunity to collect, clean and share them. More and more of our members are interested in growing from seed and would appreciate fresh interesting seeds. Also Sue Haffner (one of our members) runs the seed program for CSSA. She always wants donations of clean, fresh documented seeds. Her address is:

3015 Timmy Ave
Clovis, CA 93612-4849

I like to collect and clean seeds. Usually, around the kitchen there are enough gadgets to make the job fairly easy. Obviously, there are some seeds which do not need any intervention such as agaves, aloes, hechtias and others where the dry seed pod opens and the seeds drop out. On the other hand many cacti have the seeds encased in a gelatinous mass that just gets worse when you add water.

I like to use a Braun Food Chopper. I add enough water and seed mass so as not to make a huge mess in the kitchen. Most cacti seed are not hurt by the rotating blade but are separated from the seed pulp and sink to the bottom of the water. I transfer this mixture to larger containers where more water can be added and through a process of shaking, decanting seedless water and adding fresh water, I get a concentration of clean seeds on the bottom of the container. I decant off most of the water and wash the clean seeds onto a paper towel to dry. The paper towel has been folded in quarters to give more absorption and is sitting on a paper or plastic plate. The next day the seeds are dry and can be easily

placed in small paper envelopes with appropriate data inscribed. Take a close look at the seeds. Lots of differences in color and shapes; they really can catch your interest.

Have some fun in this hot season and collect some seeds.



Caution: a cup of foamy water and seeds can look very much like the cold beer you just poured for yourself.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Future Events



Thursday, September 15 will be the first session of our Fall Workshop Series. Among the topics being considered are a general introduction session and sessions on vegetative propagation and grafting. We were pleasantly surprised by the tremendous turnout for last spring's workshops and are working to establish a sign-up procedure that gives everybody a chance to attend. There will be additional information in September.



Sunday, September 18 will be our Good Time Silent Auction. The event will be from noon to 3:00 pm and is a chance to socialize, make some money for the society, and clear off your benches before you have to button up for winter. Now is a good time to look around and decide what you can donate. Perhaps a division or a propagation is called for, perhaps a larger pot would make the plant look its best in the Fall. Reserve the date; details to follow.



Our Tour Events Committee is finalizing the arrangements for the much-awaited trip to the Wallace Desert Gardens. This will be an exclusive event for Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society members, held on Sunday, November 6, 2005. There will be a bus for those who prefer to travel in comfort, but it will also be possible to meet us there. The tour will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant and then we will make a stop at the Arizona Cactus Nursery

in Chandler on our way home. The last time we took a bus trip and stopped in Chandler we filled the luggage space on the bus with plant purchases.

Upcoming Schedule

- August 4, 2005 – General Meeting: Gary James: Travels in the Cactus Rich Areas of Chile
- August 5-10, 2005 - Cactus and Succulent Society of America convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- September 15, 2005 – First session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- September 18, 2005 - Good Time Silent Auction II, 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm. Junior League of Tucson Kiva Bldg. 2099 E. River Road. TCSS members only.
- October 19, 2005 – Second session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- October 23 (9 am - 3 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorensen School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS Rescued plants will be sold.
- November 6, 2005 Wallace Desert Gardens Trip. Exclusive garden tour, lunch, and visit to Arizona Cactus Nursery.
- November 17, 2005 – Third session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.



Library Update

An article in the July 3 issue of the Sunday Arizona Daily Star highlighted the dangers of non-native plants that are invading our deserts. The library has the field guide Invasive Plants of the Sonoran Desert. It shows what plants are invasive and gives a brief description to avoid confusing the natives with non-natives. It also explains what kind of impact the plant has and gives its habitat preferences, dispersal and management.

An excellent book for Arizona landscaping is Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes. This book contains color pictures of each plant

described, native distribution, culture, and landscape use.

At the June meeting we used barcodes on the library books for the first time. Many



thanks go to Kevin Barber of Rainbow Gardens Bookshop for donating the computer and Laurence Fahrney for the programming. The barcodes work great. This month we will put barcodes on member's badges. Please stop by the library table and get yours.

Future plans for the library include getting the website library list up to date. I hope to have this done no later than September.

Joie Giunta

Cactus Rescue Takes a Hiatus

Brutal heat and a large inventory have made it both possible and advisable to reduce our rescue activities. Our usual beat-the-heat scheme of starting and quitting early is no match for overnight lows in the eighties and high nineties by 8:30 am. The start of the monsoon [when will it rain at my house?] should give us some relief, so look for things to pick up

Barry McCormick

Cactus and Succulent Society of America

The CSSA, founded in 1929, is a charitable, educational, and conservation-oriented organization. The CSSA produces the world's longest-running journal devoted to the study and protection of cactus and other succulents, the Journal of the CSSA. The CSSA also funds research and promotes habitat conservation; publishes an additional scholarly journal, Haseltonia; arranges field trips to succulent habitats throughout the world, holds an annual plant show and sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California; and maintains a succulent plant seed exchange.

TCSS August Board Meeting

The August Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 16 because of a conflict with the CSSA Convention.

2 2 3 3 4
Cacti Rescued

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

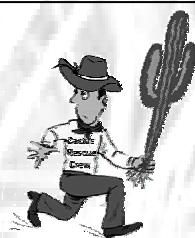
Lots & lots to choose from.....

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 Joe Frannea, Bill Hagblom, and Barry McCormick. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Cactus and Succulent Society of America Convention

A number of TCSS members attended the CSSA convention in Scottsdale. When first proposed, the thought of deliberately going to Phoenix in August seemed insane. On closer examination the logic appeared: fantastic accommodations at a world-class resort very inexpensively. Given that cactus and succulent lovers are generally desert rats anyway, it made some sense. The logic was borne out by a great convention and an interesting field day with cloudy weather and some light drizzle.

If you didn't go, you missed something important. The presentations were all first rate. The chance to hear international presenters like Shelia Collette, Len Newton, and Graham Charles seldom occurs. While Seattle, the site of the 2007 convention, may not be famous for desert landscapes, we can be assured that there will be speakers of the same caliber to hear, local gardens to tour, and many sights to see. Consider attending the next convention, both for the very pleasant experience and to learn more about what we want to do for our Convention in 2009, which will be the biggest and best CSSA convention ever.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

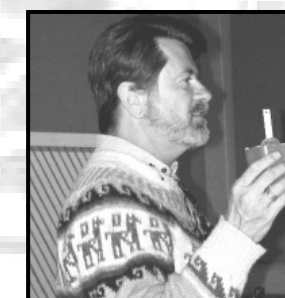
September 2005

Thursday, September 1, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Woody Minnich

"Succulent Travels through Argentina and Bolivia"



Woody Minnich grew up in the desert and has been a cactus and succulent enthusiast his entire life. He has made over one hundred trips to Mexico and South America studying cacti and other succulents.

He is an authority on a number of genera. He has given lectures and

presentations about cacti in habitat from his many trips to locations all over the world. Woody is also an avid photographer and always includes special photos in his presentations. His last visit to TCSS was in 2003 when he gave an exceptional talk on the "Cacti of Brazil."

Woody owns Cactus Data Plants, a fantastic nursery with over 10,000 square feet of greenhouse space and some exceptional plants in Littlerock, California that opened in 1975. He has been a show chairman for various cactus shows and is an Honorary Life Member of many clubs.

If you want to learn more about plants in Argentina and Bolivia you should mark your calendar for an evening with an excellent speaker that will easily entertain you with his information and views. You don't want to miss this great presentation!

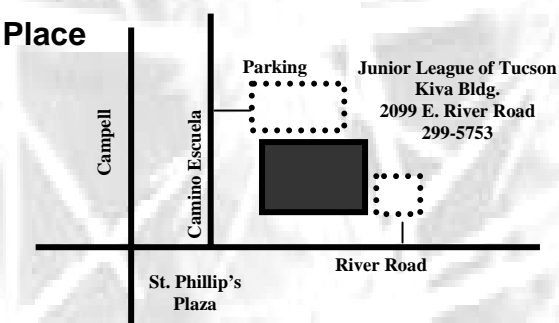
Thursday, October 6, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Doug Dawson

A Tour of Namibia

Meeting Place



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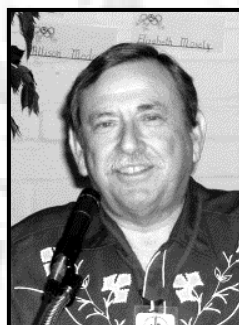
Those with family names beginning with A to F, please bring your choice of refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

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



President's Message



The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society hosted the Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) on August 5-10 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort. It was wonderful! There were great speakers, wonderful plants, pots and books to

purchase, rare plants at auction and spectacular entertainment at their closing banquet.

Many attendees were TCSS members from all over the country; which made it more fun. I want to thank and congratulate Central Arizona President Lee Brownson, Convention Host Coordinator Leo Martin and all the fine members who hosted us. I must also express appreciation to the CSSA Convention Chair Duke Benadom and President Dan Mahr for putting together a great convention.

We have won the bid to host the 2009 Convention in Tucson. That means we have four years to plan the Tucson convention, a process we have already started at our August Board Meeting. At every opportunity I will be talking about the Seattle convention in 2007 and Tucson 2009 and how you can participate. This will continue the tradition of fine conventions of CSSA held in Tucson; we hosted in 1964, 1977 and 1995.

We have two Sonoran Conferences and Cactus and Succulent Expos to hone our skills and prepare for hosting a great convention. We need your input and help to make these successful.

Three awards with TCSS ties were given out at the convention. Two of our members, Mark Dimmitt and Chuck Hanson, were awarded Fellow status in CSSA. We are proud of them and their contribution to our hobby.

The third award was given to us. It is the first Conservation Award given



by CSSA. It recognizes our efforts to conserve Sonoran Desert plants through our rescue program. We will have the trophy at the September Meeting. We are truly honored.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Dimmitt and Hanson Receive Fellow Awards

The Fellow Award is the highest honor the Cactus and Succulent Society of America confers. It is open to members and nonmembers, and winners are announced at the biennial convention. Each Fellow receives an honorary life membership and an engraved plaque.

An article describing their accomplishments will appear in the Society Journal.

TCSS members Mark A. Dimmitt and Charles L. (Chuck) Hanson were honored at the 31st biennial convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, on August 6, 2005

Mark Dimmitt is the Director of Natural Resources at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Mark is a TCSS member and a frequent speaker at our meeting and Sonoran Conferences. He is an outstanding grower of succulent plants and generously contributes to our shows and auctions. Mark is well known for his *Adenium* and *Trichocereus* hybrids, and has published many articles about the southwest desert environment.

Chuck Hanson is the founder of Arid Lands Greenhouses, specializing in the introduction of rare succulent plants. He is a past president of TCSS and was the coordinator of the 1995 CSSA convention in Tucson. He is truly responsible for the rebirth of our society. We are very proud that CSSA has recognized his many contributions to the hobby. Chuck now lives in Iowa and has announced a new project called Arid Lands Orchids. At the recent convention he spoke about growing succulent orchids. This will become a new passion for many.

We are so fortunate to have these individuals as part of the TCSS. Congratulations!



Library Update



The following three new books should be available in September. Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar, Volume II; Plants of Arizona, A Field Guide; and Coryphantha, Cacti of Mexico and

Southern USA

The library also received a DVD of the first twenty years of CSSA journals. It is in a searchable PDF format and will be available for circulation at the meeting.

I generally bring the latest five years of journals to the meetings. Any member interested in the CSSA bound journals before 2000, can give me a call or e-mail me about a week before the meeting and I will have them for you.

Joie Giunta

Cactus Rescue Due to Start

Brutal heat and a large inventory made it both possible and advisable to reduce our rescue activities. Now that the monsoon is well under way [and a good one it is] things are cooling down and the ground is softening up. Quite a number of sites are potential rescues, and the successful Blooming Barrel sale and the upcoming Hacienda del Sol sale have provided some room in our holding areas. Look for things to pick up soon.

Barry McCormick

TCSS August Board Meeting

The September Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 13. All members are invited to attend. For details see our TucsonCactus.org website.

Native Seeds / SEARCH Garden Tour



Please join us for a garden tour of seven Native Seeds / SEARCH home gardens. The tour will be held Sunday September 25 from 8 am until noon. Seven gardens will be featured, all centrally located in Tucson. Every garden is different. You will see raised beds, sunken beds, flood hand watering, overhead spray and drip irrigation examples. A

brief description of each garden will be handed out at each garden. Problems encountered and successes will be described. Tickets are \$6.00 for Native Seeds/SEARCH members and \$8.00 for non-members and are available at the Native Seeds/SEARCH store 526 N. 4th Ave. and Plants for the Southwest nursery 50 E. Blacklidge. For information call NS/S 622-5561 or Jane Evans at Plants for the Southwest 628-8773

[Native Seeds/SEARCH (NS/S), a nonprofit organization with offices in Tucson and Albuquerque, works to conserve the traditional crops, seeds, and farming methods that have sustained native peoples throughout the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. We promote the use of these ancient crops and their wild relatives by gathering, safeguarding, and distributing their seeds, while sharing benefits with traditional communities. We also work to preserve knowledge about their uses. Through research, training, and community education, NS/S works to protect biodiversity and to celebrate cultural diversity. Both are essential in our efforts to restore the earth.]

Treasurer's Report

As of August 15, 2005 our account balances totaled \$31,945.89. In the first six months of the year our income totaled \$65,363.23 with expenses of \$49,374.23. First half income reflects the annual dues payments.

Cactus and Succulent Society of America Convention



TCSS members relax at the Scottsdale Convention.

Blooming Barrel Sale a Big Success!

The fourth annual Blooming Barrel sale was a big success despite torrential rains for over three hours. The sale was held Sunday, Aug 14th from 9 am to 3 pm in front of the Jr. League facility on River Road, where we hold our monthly meetings.



A swarm of Cactus Rescue Crew members showed up early and, within thirty minutes, had the sales tent and hundreds of barrels, hedge hogs, and mammillarias displayed for sale. Normally the tent is used for sun cover but on this cloudy day it provided rain cover - and boy was it needed! Sales started slowly about 8:30 and picked up to a steady pace for a couple of hours and then the heavy rains came and persisted for almost three hours, dumping about two inches of that wet stuff. River Road was truly a river from edge to edge for quite a while. Eventually the tent had to be abandoned and we waited out the heavy rain in the Kiva meeting room.



We not only sold several hundred plants, but a dozen pairs of cactus gloves, four TCSS Tee shirts, and some cactus books. We signed up two new members and, as always, shared a lot of planting advice and our brochures with the public. Total sales were just over \$2600. A special thanks to all who helped load up the trailer on Saturday and helped with the sale on Sunday. We had some customers who wanted to shop in spite of the rain so a couple of our crew members accommodated them. A few mastered the skill of holding an umbrella under their chin while carrying a large barrel cactus in their hands. What fun we have!

Joe Frannea

Opuntia on Steroids!



This newly formed Prickly Pear pad couldn't wait to start producing fruit and things kind-of got mixed up. The large, bright red, fruit is totally integrated into the new pad.

Joe Frannea

[If you have a weird cactus or succulent photo that you would like to share, please email it with a short story to the editor for possible use in our newsletter.]

Hacienda Del Sol Fall Plant Sale



"The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society will hold its inaugural Fall Plant Sale at the Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort on Sunday, October 2nd, 2005 from

9:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

We will be selling hundreds of rescued native cacti including barrels, hedgehogs and small saguaros (available in limited supply) that have been collected from local development sites and are offered for sale at very reasonable prices in the interest of providing the plants with new homes throughout Southern Arizona.

Several other local specialty nurseries of note will also be in attendance, offering a diverse selection of aesthetic cacti and succulents from the

Americas, Africa, and Madagascar including euphorbias, adeniums, mesembs and pachypodiums.

Please call Chris Monrad of the TCSS at 444-0967 for additional information."

Chris Monrad



Fall Workshop Series



Thursday, September 15 will be the first session of our Fall Workshop Series. The first workshop is "Cacti -Special Structures, Their Identification, and the Culture of Plants" given

by Norm Dennis from 7:00 until 8:30 pm at the Junior League on River Road. This is an introductory workshop for members interested in learning about acquiring, planting and caring for cacti. It will include an overview of structures peculiar to cacti, their identification, sources for plant materials, how to unpot and repot using artificial soils, and how to plant in native soils, watering, feeding and pest control.

The second workshop, held Thursday, October 20 will be on Cactus and Succulent Seed Propagation presented by Vonn Watkins from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. This workshop will provide an introduction to basic seed culture. There will be a short photo presentation on some basic techniques, propagation results, the various parts of a flower and some techniques for pollination.

The third workshop, held on Thursday, November 17, will be on Grafting Cacti, by Mike Ellis. It will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Attendance at each workshop is limited to twenty-four participants. Complete descriptions and materials needed are described in the reservation form included with your newsletter mailing. Attendance is strictly on a first-come basis and these sessions generally sell out. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable charge for each workshop.

Good Time Auction



Sunday, September 18 is the Good Time Silent Auction.

The event will be from noon to 3:00 pm and is a chance to socialize, make some money for the society, and clear off your benches before you have to button up for winter. Now is a good time to look around and decide what you can donate. Perhaps a division or a propagation is called for, perhaps a larger pot would make the plant look its best in the Fall. Full details are contained in the notice mailed with this newsletter.

Future Events



Our Tour Events Committee is finalizing the arrangements for the much-awaited trip to the Wallace Desert Gardens. This will be an exclusive event for Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society members, held on Sunday, November 6, 2005. There will be a bus for those who prefer to travel in comfort, but it will also be possible to meet us there. The tour will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant and then we will make a stop at the Arizona Cactus Nursery in Chandler on our way home. The last time we took a bus trip and stopped in Chandler we filled the luggage space on the bus with plant purchases.

Upcoming Schedule

- September 1, 2005 – General meeting, "Succulent Travels through Argentina and Bolivia."
- September 15, 2005 – First session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- September 18, 2005 - Good Time Silent Auction II, 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm. Junior League of Tucson Kiva Bldg. 2099 E. River Road. TCSS members only.
- October 2, 2005 - Cactus & Succulent sale at the Hacienda del Sol
- October 6, 2005 - General Meeting, "A Tour of Namibia."
- October 20, 2005 – Second session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- October 30 (10 am - 4 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorensen School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS rescued plants will be sold.
- November 3, 2005 – General Meeting.
- November 6, 2005 Wallace Desert Gardens Trip. Exclusive garden tour, lunch, and visit to Arizona Cactus Nursery. TCSS members only.
- November 17, 2005 – Third session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.

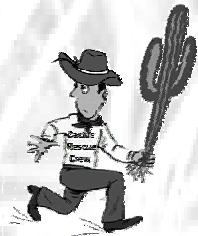
2 2 7 2 4
Cacti Rescued

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 Joe Frannea, Joie Giunta, and Barry McCormick. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

H.B. Wallace: 1915-2005

Henry Browne Wallace, who liked to be known as "HB", was born September 18, 1915, in Des Moines, Iowa. HB was the son of Vice President and Secretary of Agriculture H.A. Wallace. He was a pioneer in poultry genetics and, simultaneously, devoted himself to the family philanthropic tradition.

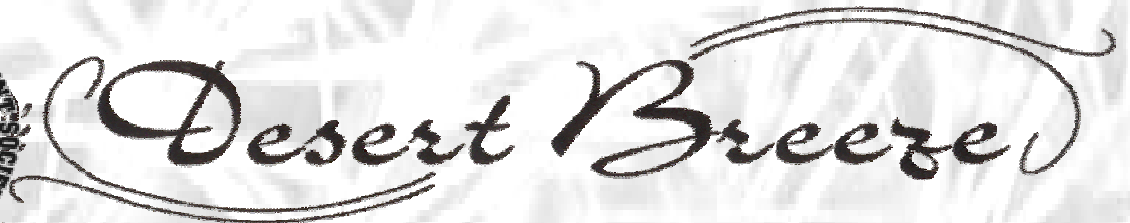
HB founded the Iowa Dahlia Society (his own collection was more than 600 plants), but knew little of desert plants until moving to Arizona in the early 1980's. Desert plants became his passion, and he and his wife acquired the Sincuidados property where they built their residence and a large cactus pavilion. Their original plants are today some of the most spectacular specimens in the collection, and form the basis of one of the most extensive and extraordinary private collections found anywhere.

Wallace Desert Gardens, a non-profit foundation, was formed in 1993 to create an enduring botanical legacy to be used and enjoyed by researchers, enthusiasts and students alike.

Interested parties may send memorial donations to Wallace Desert Gardens; 30600 North Pima Road - #57; Scottsdale, Arizona 85262.



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



Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2005

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

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Next Meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2005.
Junior League of Tucson
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October Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
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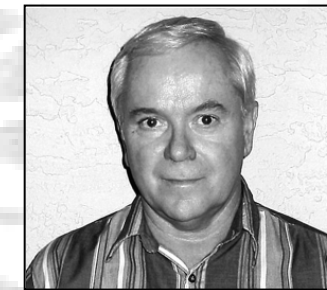
Everyone is Welcome!
Bring your friends, join in the fun,
and meet the cactus and succulent
community.

Thursday, October 6, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Doug Dawson

"Southern Namibia - A Botanical Exploration"



This program consists of photos and narrative based on a trip to southern Namibia in July, 2003. We explored several Lithops colonies and saw where the original *Lithops julii* "Peppermint Creme" occurs on the farm Vrede. The hospitality of local farmers was a real plus for us during our trip.

Doug Dawson is a serious cactus and succulent hobbyist, originally from Iowa, and has been a Phoenix native since 1971. His professional background is in mathematics, languages, and education. For the last 34 years he has taught mathematics at ASU and Glendale Community College.

Doug's major botanical interests include growing from seed, a large and diverse Lithops collection, photography and getting in on just about any botanical exploration trip he can. In the next few years he will be organizing a series of Namibian trips for local succulent enthusiasts.

Please be sure to come and enjoy learning more about this amazing succulent habitat in southern Namibia.

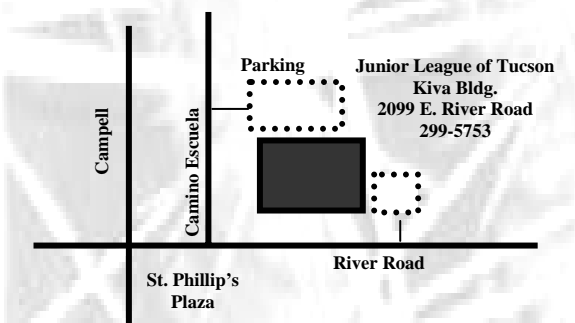
Thursday, November 3, 2005

7:00 P.M.

General Meeting

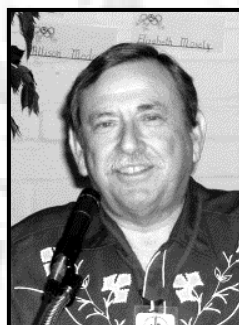
Program to be announced

Meeting Place





President's Message



I think it is fall! All the botanical gardens are having their sales; a better indicator than the weather. This is a great opportunity to enlarge your collection of succulent plants and help the many gardens that attract visitors and future members to our society. You

might want to consider joining one or more of these special gardens that do such a great job in educating the public and showing off the plants we enjoy. Don't forget the Desert Botanical Garden (Phoenix), The Boyce Thompson Arboretum (Superior) in addition to the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and Tohono Chul Park. Most have plant sales coming up in October.

In addition to these sales we have wonderful member businesses that you need to visit. These businesses support the TCSS in all our activities and we treasure our relationship with them all.

The last three months of the year are going to be filled with activities. On October 2, we have a special sale at the Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort. Come out, support this sale, enjoy the planting at the resort, and perhaps take advantage of their Sunday Buffet. Besides our regular meeting on October 6, (Doug Dawson, TCSS member will speak on Namibia) we have the second fall workshop presented by Vonn Watkins on seed growing. There are still some openings for both the October and November workshops. Contact Joie Guinta for information at 327-1217. We end October with the Pima County Country Fair on the thirtieth. We have participated in this activity for the last five years and it has also been a real success. If you would like to sell your plants at this event, please contact Helen Barber (529-9221) for bar-code details. Your plants must be bar-coded to participate. Other details are in this newsletter.

Our regular meeting is November 3 and on November 6 we have our trip planned to visit the Wallace Desert Garden and later that day Arizona

Cactus Nursery. TCSS member Pam Slate will be our hostess at the Wallace Garden and Jim & Electra Elliot and staff will host us at their nursery. The Garden and the Nursery are being opened especially for TCSS and we appreciate this kindness. Mike Ellis will conduct the November workshop: Grafting Techniques. Then the holiday season is upon us.

December is our holiday party. We supply the turkey and ham entrées and you bring your favorite dish to share. A gift exchange, election results, awards and more take place at this event. More information will be in the next newsletter and on the web.

There are 7 months until Sonoran VI!

There is 1 year & 7 months until Expo III!

There are 2 years & 7 months until Sonoran VII!

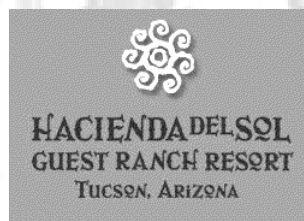
There are 3 years & 7 months till Expo IV and the 2009 CSSA Convention in Tucson!

I hope you are as excited about all these events as I am. **I can't wait!!!**

Thank you for all your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

TCSS Fall Plant Sales



9:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society will hold its inaugural Fall Plant Sale at the Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort on Sunday, October 2nd, 2005 from



The Pima County Fall Country Fair will be held on Sunday, October 30, from 10 am to 4 pm. at the Lew Sorensen Center, 11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

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

hedge hog and mammillaria cactus were also planted. The association paid the tag costs for the plants.

To visit the park, turn north off Tanque Verde Road at the traffic light at Dos Hombres, about half way between Sabino Canyon Road and Pantano Road. Go about three blocks to the end of the road, turn left and go about a half a block. If you would like to read more about the Park, go to the City of Tucson Ward 2 web site:

<http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/ward2/vistadelrio.html>

Joe Frannea

Future Events



Enclosed with this newsletter is the reservation form for the much-awaited trip to the Wallace Desert Gardens. This is an exclusive event for Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society members, held on Sunday, November 6, 2005. There will be a bus for those who prefer to travel in comfort, but it will also be possible to meet us there. The tour will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant and then a stop at the Arizona Cactus Nursery in Chandler on our way home. H. B. Wallace, the founder of the garden, recently passed away. Information on his life is on the last page of this newsletter.

Upcoming Schedule

- October 6, 2005 - General Meeting, "A Tour of Namibia."
- October 20, 2005 – Second session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- October 30 (10 am - 4 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorensen School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS rescued plants will be sold.
- November 3, 2005 – General Meeting.
- November 6, 2005 Wallace Desert Gardens Trip. Exclusive garden tour, lunch, and visit to Arizona Cactus Nursery. TCSS members only.
- November 17, 2005 – Third session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.

Library Update



I finally had a chance to go through the DVD of CSSA's first 20 years. There's quite a bit of information located in one place.

If you attended Norm Dennis' workshop and saw his Pereskopsis, you may be interested in the articles on this interesting species. There are series of articles on Opuntia, Stapeliads and Cereus, along with pieces on the Huntington Botanical Gardens, succulent diseases and other interesting articles.

There is some interesting trivia. For example, did you know that in 1933, Arizona changed the spelling of the state flower from Sahuara to Saguaro?



The DVD is in PDF format, can be searched and printed. There is also an index in the last month of each year. The DVD can be checked out from the library.

Joie Guinta

TCSS October Board Meeting

The October Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 11. All members are invited to attend. For details see our TucsonCactus.org website.

Tohono Chul Park's Fall Plant Sale Oct. 8 & 9 2005



*Propagation Greenhouse
(Park's east side)*

Drive to the east side of the Park, off Northern Ave. (1/4 block west of Oracle Rd.).

<http://www.tohonochulpark.org/plantsale.html>

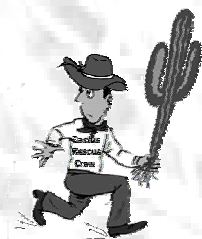
The Desert Botanical Garden Plant Sale October 7, 8 and 9, 2005



Desert Botanical Garden
1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, Arizona 85008
(480) 941-1225

<http://www.dbg.org/>

Cactus Rescue Crew Still Diggin'



The Cactus Rescue Crew had two rescues this past month. One was in Rancho Vistoso picking up about 100 extra barrel cactus they could not use in re-landscaping their common areas. The other was a rescue for the County road widening project on the west side of Craycroft from River Road to Sunrise. For this site our task was to rescue about 300 small plants that the landscape company could not use. These were mostly mammillaria, many large multi-head plants, and some hedge hogs and small barrels. Many of these will be sold at the TCSS October 2 Hacienda del Sol plant sale.

This site also had some limber bush, *Jatropha cardiophylla*, that several crew members took home. We also sold some to a landscaper. Our objective is to only rescue plants that are in imminent danger of being destroyed due to clearing of land for new development. The plants to be rescued must be viable, both in survivability and marketability. We have spent over \$15,000 this year purchasing Arizona native plant tags to allow us to legally remove and transport 6,600 cacti. We plan carefully so we do not purchase tags for plants that are not marketable. Tags can only be used for the specific property listed on the permit and no tags can be reused.

We get calls and emails every week to rescue plants on residential property. We generally do not do residences, nor do we make referrals. There are many landscape professionals who can handle the removal and transplanting of cacti for homeowners.

Our rescue Crew notices are sent out every Thursday for the following weekend activity. You do not have to be able to do heavy digging or carrying of plants to participate. We have tasks for all members who want to be outdoors for a few hours in the early morning. If you are a current TCSS Member and would like to receive the notices, please send an email asking to be added to the Rescue Crew notice list. Send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org.

Joe Frannea

Fall Workshop Series



The first TCSS workshop for the fall series was on September 15. Norm Dennis presented information on basic cactus anatomy, the use of identification keys, and cultural techniques. The hands-on part of the workshop focused on nutrition, pest control, and planting cacti in the ground and in pots. The session included a



PowerPoint presentation, examples of various fertilizers, pesticides, and planting tools, and a demonstration of techniques for planting spiny plants without injury to the hobbyist or the plant.

All attendees practiced potting cacti of several genera, and were able to take home several plants suitable for planting in 5 or 6 inch pots.

Thanks to several members who assisted with this workshop, including Joie Giunta, Vonn Watkins, Patsy and Joe Frannea, and Marty Harow.

The second workshop, on Thursday, October 20 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm will be on cactus and succulent seed propagation presented by Vonn Watkins. This workshop will provide an introduction to basic seed culture. There will be a short presentation on propagation results, the various parts of a flower and some techniques for pollination.

The third workshop, on Thursday, November 17, will be on grafting cacti, by Mike Ellis.

Attendance at each workshop is limited to twenty-four participants. Attendance is strictly on a first-come basis and these sessions often sell out. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable charge for each workshop.

Norm Dennis and Joie Giunta

Good Time Auction Holds True



About forty TCSS Members enjoyed bidding on cactus and succulents Sunday afternoon, September 19, while enjoying a spread of snacks and refreshments. Plants brought by members for bid included beautiful adeniums, a variety of opuntia, aloes, agaves, mammillaria, ferocactus, saguaro, sanseveria, bromeliad, euphorbia, coryphantha, and many other great succulents. There were also many CSSA journals, a seven-foot saguaro skeleton, a pottery wall planter, and a hand made wall cactus scene tapestry.



Everyone had a good time viewing, discussing, and bidding on the 120 items brought in for the annual TCSS "Good Time Auction". Thirteen tables of plants were bid on using the "Silent Auction" technique while one table was a "Live Auction". Successful bids ranged from one to sixty-five dollars with most bids in the four to ten dollar range. We hope more members are able to participate in the auction next year and take advantage of getting some great plants at very reasonable prices.



Thanks to all who generously donated wonderful auction plants and also to those who helped set up and run the auction. Total sales were \$1,142.50.

Joe Frannea

Prehistoric Park Gets Cactus Uplift

The TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew showed up in force to make quick work of planting 136 rescued cactus from the Rancho Vistoso area to a native desert site in northeast Tucson that has been preserved and turned into an archaeological park. The four acre



park was recently dedicated after several years of work by the Vista del Rio Residents Association who saved the prehistoric remains of a Hohokam Village (AD 650-1450). This special place, the Vista del Rio Cultural Resource Park, is the first of its kind in the City of Tucson. Preservation had been a neighborhood concern since the 1980s because pottery shards and other artifacts were evident on the site which appeared to be just a vacant lot from the distance.



While the park has many mature Creosote bushes and trees and some small newly planted cactus, there was a lack of mature cactus. The Rescue Crew saw this as a great opportunity to use some of our rescued cactus, especially the larger native barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizenii*). Some rescued

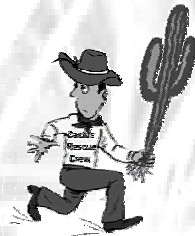


TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 Joe Frannea, and George Virtes. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

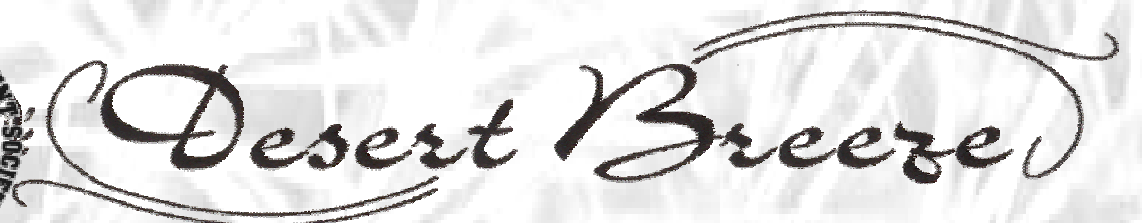
Upcoming Schedule

- November 3, 2005 – General Meeting. "Cotyledon and Tylecodon -- Plakkies and Botterboom in Southern Africa"
- November 6, 2005 Wallace Desert Gardens Trip. Exclusive garden tour, lunch, and visit to Arizona Cactus Nursery. TCSS members only.
- November 17, 2005 – Third and last session of the Fall Workshop Series.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.
- January 5, 2005 – General Meeting.

Happy Halloween



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



Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2005

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367
Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: George Virtes
Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Past-President: Vonn Watkins
Joe Frannea (2005)
Marty Harow (2005)
Peter Hubbell (2005)
Dan Birt (2006)
Chris Monrad (2006)
Mark Sitter (2006)
Norm Dennis (2007)
Barry McCormick (2007)
Jack Ramsey (2007)
CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
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Free Plants: Norma Beckman
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
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, November 3, 2005.
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, November 3, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Daryl Koutnik

"Cotyledon and Tylecodon

Plakkies and Botterboom in Southern Africa"

The Cotyledon and Tylecodon species of the Crassula family are indigenous to southern Africa. These two closely related genera are easily distinguished by their leaf arrangements. Cotyledon grows primarily in summer rainfall regions while Tylecodon has adapted to the winter rainfall biome. Both genera are relatively easy to grow when simulating the correct rainy season.

Daryl Koutnik received his doctoral degree in plant systematics from the University of California at Davis. He worked three years at the Bolus Herbarium at the University of Cape Town where he developed his passion for succulent plants. Returning to California, he became desert garden curator at the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino and worked as the curator of ornamental horticulture at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. He taught plant taxonomy at the University of California at Riverside and is currently head of the environmental review section of the regional planning department in Los Angeles

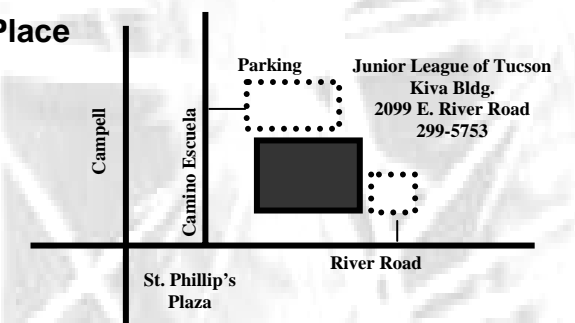
This will be our last presentation of 2005 so come and enjoy the evening with everyone!

Sunday, December 11, 2005

12:00 Noon

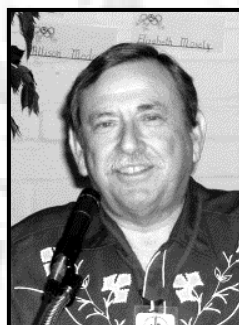
Holiday Party

Meeting Place





President's Message



It's World Series time so I thought I would steal a baseball comparison. Babe Ruth held the career homerun record at 714 for most of the last century until Hank Aaron (755) surpassed it. Guess what Babe? The Tucson Cactus and

Succulent Society has also passed that magic number. This month our numbers have swelled to 716. Hank Aaron must be getting nervous.

The last safe day for warm growing plants outdoors is getting near. We use November 15 as a target date to be prepared for the first frost. Get your shelters ready, start moving plants to protected areas, and buy frost cloth to protect larger plants that can't be moved. It is available at many nurseries and hardware stores.

There is only one workshop left in our fall series. Mike Ellis will be presenting "Grafting" on November 17, and there are still a few slots available. Please contact Joie Giunta for further information Tel: 327-1217 or email to joietgo@yahoo.com.

The Wallace Desert Garden Tour and visit to Arizona Cactus Sales on November 6 is nearly sold out for the group bus and lunch but you can drive there on your own and take part in the tour and nursery visit. Both the Wallace Desert Garden and Arizona Cactus Sales are opening specially for the TCSS. You must have a ticket for the Garden in order to participate. Contact Jack Ramsey at 520-888-6137 for details.

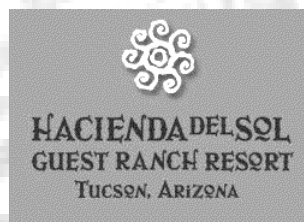
THERE IS NO REGULAR THURSDAY MEETING IN DECEMBER.

We have our holiday party on December 11.

Thank you again for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

HDS Sale a Big Success



Fifteen hard working TCSS members volunteered their time to make another successful Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort Cactus and Succulent Sale, held

on Sunday, October 2. TCSS was selling rescued cacti and the gloves to handle them while four of our member nurseries, Arid Lands Greenhouses, B&B Cactus Farm, Blue Oasis Nursery, and Plants for the Southwest sold their specialty plants including Euphorbias, Pachypodiums, Cycads, Lithops, Caudiciforms and many other beautiful succulents. Tools, pottery, potting soil, and small metal art were also sold.



A Cactus Rescue was held the day before the sale at Saddlebrooke Ranch to acquire a fresh stock of barrels and hedge hogs for "just in time" delivery to the sale. TCSS sold 395 rescued cacti, including 190 barrels, 90 hedge hogs, 110 mamms, and 5 small saguaros, bringing in \$3,051. Sales were very brisk for the first hour, cleaning out our first huge trailer load of barrels and requiring a quick trip back to our holding area to re-stock. Cactus gloves were also a big hit, we sold 42 pair.

While the TCSS Rescue Cacti sales were relegated to the parking lot area for easy loading, the member vendors were located in the beautifully landscaped patio areas of the Guest Ranch Resort. The Resort provided water and ice tea for attendees. Total plant sales by TCSS and the four nurseries was just over \$7,000. A special thanks to Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort, our TCSS volunteers and our customers who made this a great event.

Joe Frannea

Saguaros & More Saguaros



The TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew sprang into action thanks to some quick work by Chris Monrad and a very cooperative developer to save over 500 small saguaros. Forest City Land Group is developing a 150 acre parcel near Tangerine and Thornydale roads with many acres to be cleared.

A local nursery is saving hundreds of trees and larger cactus but many of the smaller plants would not be saved. That's where the Rescue Crew fits in and excels. Three rescues were held mid October on a Thursday, Saturday and Sunday to remove cacti prior to the start of any blading. Over 65 Rescue Crew members contributed volunteer hours to save over 1,700 cacti including 500 saguaros from 8 to 24 inches tall, 360 hedge hogs, 270 barrels, and 610 small saguaros, hedge hogs, barrels and mamms (under 8 inches). A special treat for Rescue Crew members was finding seven *Peniocereus Greggii* (Queen of the Night).



While many of these cacti were purchased by Rescue Crew members, over half of them are available for sale to TCSS members and the public at the Pima County Country Fair, Lew Sorensen Center, Sunday, Oct. 30, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Joe Frannea

Future Events



Don't forget the Wallace Desert Gardens trip to be held on Sunday, November 6, 2005.

Our Holiday Party will be on Sunday December 11 at noon, at the Junior League. More information and reservation forms will be in the next month's newsletter. Save this date!

Fall Workshop Series



The third workshop, on Thursday, November 17, will be on grafting cacti, by Mike Ellis.

Attendance at each workshop is limited to twenty-four participants. Attendance is strictly on a first-come basis and these sessions often sell out. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable charge for each workshop.

Joie Giunta

School Grant Awarded

At the October Board Meeting, the Board approved the school grant review committee recommendation for a grant to Deborah Skinner and Sam Hughes

Elementary School for \$400. Two third grade classes, assisted by their parents and Ms. Skinner, will build a small cactus and succulent garden in the school courtyard. The school and neighborhood will both benefit from this garden. The garden will also be used by future classes to maintain and study vascular plants.

George Virtes

Library Update

Do you have a long overdue library book?

November will be the last meeting of 2005. I'd like to ask all of you who have had books out longer than 2 months to return them at the November

meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, you can either call me at 327-1217 or e-mail me at joietgo@yahoo.com and arrangements can be made to pick up the books. Any books taken out in November won't have to be returned until January 2006.

Joie Giunta



2 4 6 4 4
Cacti Rescued

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 Joe Giunta and Barry McCormick. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins



**The Officers and Board of Directors
of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent
Society congratulate the membership
on a great year and wish all members
and friends of the Society a happy
Holiday Season and a prosperous
New Year.**



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

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Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

December Refreshments

Holiday Potluck

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

Sunday, December 11, 2005

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 \$7.00 value. If you bring a gift, you receive a gift. Participation is optional.

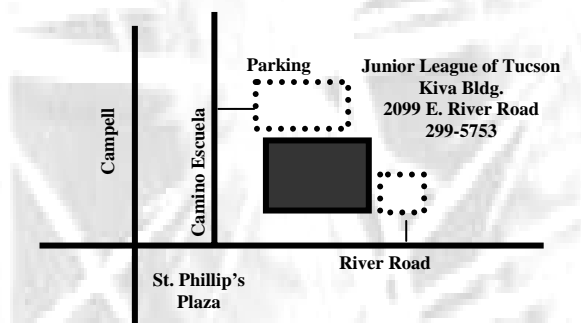


Thursday, January 5, 2006

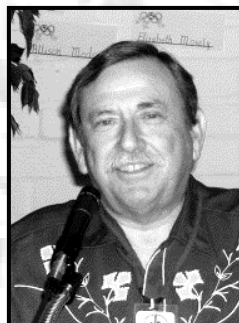
7:00 P.M.

Bob Webb

Meeting Place



President's Message



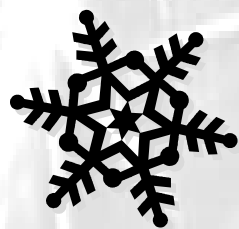
We have become the largest local cactus and succulent society in the world! This year we have over 732 members at 524 addresses which is a 20% increase over last year. We all share the credit with the officers, board of directors, committee chairs and other

volunteers who give their time, energy and expertise. I feel like the conductor of a great symphony orchestra. I might be in front waving my baton but the wonderful music comes from the members of the orchestra. I feel very fortunate that you have given me the opportunity to be in front. Thank you.

This year has seen outstanding speakers, a great Expo, trips to Organ Pipe and Wallace Desert Gardens, cactus rescues and sales, six evening workshops, school grants, science fair awards given and the first Cactus and Succulent Society of America Conservation Award received.

Additionally, we assisted the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society to develop a rescue program; we share many members in common.

Sonoran VI is coming in May. Our theme this year is: The Sonoran Desert Then and Now. More information about this biennial event will be coming up. We are proud to have been selected to host the 2009 biennial convention of the CSSA. This also corresponds to the golden anniversary of our Tucson Society, making it a really special event. Planning is already started and committees will be forming early next this year.



Again, I thank all of you for your support and, on your behalf, I especially thank the officers and Board of Directors for their dedication and service.

Happy Holidays

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Pima County Country Fair

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society had another great Cactus Rescue Plant sale with twenty-four hardworking volunteers who made it happen. We had a bit of a checkout line from time to time (maybe eight people waiting) but did not have a huge early rush, just steady sales for over four hours.



Total Monies Collected: \$5,603.36.

Rescue Plants sold:

Barrels: 94

Saguaros: 167

Hedge Hogs: 75

Mammillaria: 59

Eighteen pairs of gloves and eight new memberships were also sold.

Jack Ramsey and Edwin Campbell sold plants.

Rescue profit from this sale was about \$2,800. Twenty percent of all rescue profit goes to our School Grant Program.

Joe Frannea

Board Meetings

One of the reasons for the phenomenal success of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society in the last five years is the dedication of the officers and board members. While we all pitch in and make this society great, the board keeps everything going forward. The board meets at 7:00 pm monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at the UA College of Pharmacy. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome: see our website for directions.

Most of the business conducted at the meetings comes before the membership in announcements at the general meeting, and through the newsletter and website. You will have noticed one change when you filled out your ballots. We have expanded the board, in recognition of our expanded membership. The larger board is still within the limit set by the bylaws.

Barry McCormick

Wallace Desert Gardens

The Wallace Desert Gardens trip held on Sunday, November 6, was enjoyed by everyone who participated. In addition to a full busload, many members drove themselves to this great outing.



Even getting there was an adventure! Staff and volunteers at the garden were very helpful and well informed. The scope of the undertaking is breathtaking – the garden improves



year by year as the specimens increase in size. This is a great asset for all cactus and succulent lovers, and is one of the things that put Arizona at the top of the list for desert plants. If you missed this opportunity, keep your eyes open for the next chance.



Lunch at The Horny Toad was a fine social occasion, as was the buying trip to Arizona Cactus in Chandler.

Hats off to our special events committee, consisting of Jack Ramsey and Marty Harow. Two fine outings this year: the Organ Pipe Wildflower trip and the Wallace Gardens trip. It looks like we're "in the groove" for these exciting bus trips.

Library Update

The library is growing. We have received nineteen new books, thanks to a generous donation from



Helen and Kevin Barber of Rainbow Gardens. A few were available at the November meeting and the rest will be available in January. A few titles are:

- Medicinal Plants of the World
- Mesembs of the World
- *Lithops* - Treasures of the Veld
- Richtersveld - The Enchanted Wilderness,
- A History of Succulent Plants
- *Chamaedorea* Palms - Species and Their Cultivation.

A purchase of *Ferocactus* by John Philbeam has also been made.

There are still a few overdue books out. Please give me a call or email me so these books can get back into circulation and others may enjoy them.

Joie Giunta

Upcoming Schedule

- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.
- January 5, 2006 – General Meeting. Speaker, Bob Webb.
- January 10, 2006 – Board Meeting. See Website for details.
- February 2, 2006 – General Meeting. Speaker, Mark Muridian
- February 7, 2006 – Board Meeting.
- May 5-7, 2006. Sonoran VI.

Treasurer's Report

Bank and Savings Accounts	\$31,859.62.
Asset Accounts	<u>1,173.32</u>
Total	\$33,032.94