



Desert Breeze

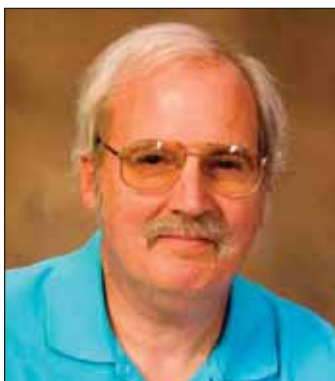
Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

January 2009

Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7PM "Adenium: Twenty Years from Obscurity to Rising Star"

Presented by Kevin Barber and Mark Dimmitt

Kevin will begin with a 10-20 minute quick introduction that features a short travelogue that will show Taiwan as a place to grow succulent plants and will display pictures of non adenium succulents as well as do some quick views of adenium nurseries in Taiwan and India.



Mark will be doing the major portion of the program and will present the adenium as the newest ornamental plant to be domesticated, with a history of its development over the last 20 years.



Mark is Director of Natural History at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. He received his Ph.D. in biology at the University of California Riverside. He is well known for his hybrids, especially his study of the adenium and various cacti. In 1999, he received the Friend Award from The Cactus and Succulent Society of America for his outstanding

accomplishments with cacti and succulents.

Please be sure to attend our feature presentation to begin the new year! This will be a great program that you should not miss!

Thursday February 5, 2009 7 pm "E Namibia Semper Aliquid Novi - New Plants from an Old Place"

Presented by Tim Harvey

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Aloe albida x saundersii

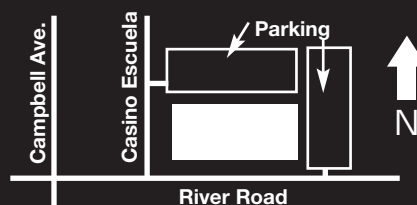
A cross between the two dwarf species of *A. albida* and *A. saundersii*, both grass Aloes. This hybrid offsets freely and is floriferous with pale cream flowers produced in the fall. This cross was done at Arid Lands in the late eighties.

Aloes are succulent plants in the lily family and are native to the old world, specifically Africa, Madagascar and the Arabian peninsula. Many species grow well here in the arid southwest either as potted plants or as specimens in the landscape. They especially thrive under the south side of trees in dappled light that gives them some shade in the summer but more light in the winter when sun angles are lower.

Most aloes are cool season growers. They need bright, filtered light with weekly waterings during the cool season and once every two weeks in summer. These aloes are cold tolerant to the high 20's and are easily protected at temperatures below that with a light piece of frost cloth draped over the plant. Flowering takes place normally from mid winter through spring and can range in colors from yellow to orange or bright red.

Chris Monrad

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



Happy New Year. It is my sincere pleasure to serve you again as president, and along with a great team of officers and board members, we will have another great year. The society has grown over the years and in 2008 we reach 1158 total members at 759 households throughout the country. In ten years of our rescue program we have saved over 42,000 cacti and succulents from destruction and made them available to members and the general public. I consider this a great conservation achievement. Every member should take pride in what all of us have accomplished. In 2005 the Cactus and Succulent Society of America awarded us their first Conservation Award. It was presented at the Biennial Convention in Scottsdale, AZ. Vonn Watkins, one of the founders of the Rescue Program, represented us and received the award on behalf of the Tucson Society.

As you know the 2009 convention will begin on April 10 at the La Paloma Resort in Tucson. I hope you have sent in your registration and will attend this great event. There is still plenty of time to register for the convention. We are the host society and have been working quietly in the background planning events and doing the preliminary activities necessary. The venue, program speakers and vendors are set. Now comes the easy part. We are having company and we need to make our guest feel at home. We will be asking all of you to give us a few hours of your time before, during and after the convention to make it a success.

Our first cookbook did not arrive until late December 24th and we apologize for not getting it to you before Christmas. We are in the process of distributing all the pre-orders and more cookbooks will be available at our regular meetings and from other locations. We will let you know when and where you can get a copy. The cookbook is wonderful and filled with interesting recipes and outstanding photos. I know you will enjoy it.

As we look to the future, the opportunity for expanding knowledge to the public about cacti and succulents is one of our important goals. We will need your help in preparing useful guides (pamphlets, handouts, booklets, etc.) on all aspects of growing and caring for cacti and succulents in our area. I would really like to hear from newcomers on what you want and need to know.

Thank you for renewing your membership and understanding the need to raise fees for mailed newsletters. We will continue to provide you with a wide range of activities and opportunities to expand your interest and knowledge of cacti and other succulent plants.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

TCSS Cookbooks have arrived

The TCSS Cookbooks have finally arrived, they turned out beautifully. We apologize for not getting them in time for our Holiday party or Christmas day. They will be available at the January and February TCSS monthly meetings and at a couple of other places around Tucson. Please see our web site for this information and there is also ordering information on our web site. Call Joe or Patsy if you do not have web access at (520)575-7126.

2009 Election Results

240 ballots were received by December 1, 2008 to be counted for the election of officers and 4 Board of Directors positions. The results were announced at the Holiday Party and the ballots and results were certified at the December 9, 2008 Board Meeting.

President	Dick Wiedhopf
Vice President	Vonn Watkins
Secretary	Dave Moyer
Treasurer	Joe Frannea

Board of Directors - Ending December 31, 2011

Ed Bartlett	Mark Dimmitt
Joie Giunta	Bill Salisbury

A Special Month

*by Donna Souders Manager
from the Golden Years Gazette*

A member of the Chamburg Senior Center, has a very special hobby. Marlin Hostettler collects cactus plants. He has been collecting cactus plants for 15 years. Marlin brought in most of his collection to show us and to tell us about. His collection filled his car and trunk full and he even had to take out his back seat to transport them. Marlin belongs to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He now has about 70 plants ranging from 2" to 12" in diameter and may weigh anywhere from 1 to 30 pounds each. Marlin's collection filled two long tables so we had quite a few to look at and ask questions about. When Marlin spots a plant he likes, he told us that he is like a kid in a candy store and he has to have it. Thanks to Marlin we were able to share his passion for his cactus collection and understand why his plants mean so much to him.

Library

The Desert Water Hole by Jeffrey Church and Lewis Wayne Walker
Desert Beauty the story of cacti by Charlotte Jeanes and Joseph Stacey. The books are Nature Adventure Books from the Arizona Highways. Both have been donated. These books are older but still have some interesting information.
Wildlife Gardens by Katharine Anderson is another donated book. The book is about creating and maintaining wildlife gardens in all areas of the US.
Desert Giant The World of the Saguaro Cactus by Barbara Bash. A book about the Saguaro and the animals, bird, reptiles and people that use it. Colorful illustrations.

Holiday Party Fun for All...



Over 120 members, family and friends attended the 49th Holiday party. For the last several years we have collected money and food for the Community Food Bank. This year everyone was especially generous and more than \$640 was donated to this important activity.

Members brought their favorite dishes and we were treated to more than 15 delicious salads, 13 different starches, 14 (what can you say) vegetables and 24 wonderful non-fat-tening desserts (Ho-Ho-Ho). TCSS supplied all the rest including turkey, ham and shrimp, plus holiday punches in 2 flavors, decorations and beautiful succulent wreaths for the tables. Lucky seats got to take home the table wreaths. Patsy & Joe Frannea, Doug Rowsell and whole lot of other volunteers made the event perfect by taking care of the set-up and food. Doug even provided us with a video fireplace to keep us warm and in good spirits.

After lunch there was the official annual meeting of the corporation which announced newly elected officers and

board members. This was followed by the presentation of service awards (see President's Awards in this issue).

The day ended with our annual gift exchange. If you brought a gift, you got a gift but were able to exchange it for another if you thought it was better. Some were and some were not but everyone had a good time and left full and happy.

Thanks for attending.

President's Awards



For the last several years, your Board of Directors has authorized the President to present awards to members for their service to the society. These awards are announced at the annual meeting in conjunction with the Holiday Party. There are two types of awards. The President's Award recognizes outstanding service to the society and the President's Special Service Award recognizes individuals for their outstanding service and special contributions for the success of our society. The awardees are recommended to the President by the Board and committee chairs and the decisions are made by the president. Each recipient receives a special engraved trophy. Individuals can receive each award only once. A list of all award recipients will be placed on the web site.

This years President's Special Service Award goes to:

Chris Monrad: Chris is one of the four founders of the Rescue Program and has been a leader of this activity for its entire 10 plus years. He is an active member of the Board of Directors promoting the conservation and research efforts of the society. Chris has redis-

covered the yellow spine, yellow flower "variety" of our native barrel, *Ferocactus wislizeni* and has headed the controlled reproduction and propagation so as to produce large quantities of this rare form for those attending the CSSA Convention.

This year's winners of the President's Award are:

Karen Keller: Editor of the Desert Breeze for the past year and a member of the Board of Directors. Karen was also recognized for all her work in designing and publishing our first cookbook.

Ed & Linda Bartlett: Service on the Board plus their efforts in making Sonoran VII, cactus sales, and rescue program a great success.

Noe Mayotte: Service as Community Relations for the rescue program and especially for discussion about our efforts with community and government leaders. Special effort with ASARCO Mining for a very special and successful rescue of saguaros and other cacti.

Marty Harow: Long time service on the Board, greeter to all at meetings, volunteer service at Sonoran conferences and has coordinated bus service for all recent outings.

Doug Rowsell: Layout, design and set-up of events to get use of minimum space such as Sonoran VII sales tent area, holiday party and sales at our 4th Ave. site. Responsible for arranging the recovering of the shade structures at 4th Ave. He is an active member of the rescue crew.

This group of people and the past recipients are the reason for the success of our society.

Thank you. *Dick Wiedhopf, President*



Nancy Reid and Peter Hubbell stepped down from the board and were recognized for there excellent achievements over the years.



TCSS at Funfest



On November 5, 6 & 7 TCSS participated in the Math, Science and Technology FunFest (MSTFF) for the first time this year. This was the 6th annual MSTFF held at the TCC for 4th through 8th grade students in the Tucson area. The MSTFF, which this year included 60 booths and exhibits, is a three day event with approximately 2200 students attending each day. The intent of MSTFF is to give the kids a hands-on exposure to math, science and technology topics in a small workshop type environment. The TCSS booth was titled "Let's Make a Cactus Model" We gave the students a short tutorial on the anatomy of a generic cactus pointing out the function of the major elements – roots, stem, water storage, skin, spines and flower/fruit. We then helped them make a model incorporating

all of these elements. During the three days we had over 1000 students visit our booth and build a cactus. Feedback from students, teachers and event organizers was all very complementary. Special thanks go to Joe and Patsy Frannea for their tireless efforts in both preparing materials for the models and for working in the booth over the three days. Thanks also to Gayle Swarbrick for help in preparing model materials. Our success in this event would not have been possible without the efforts of the following volunteers who worked the very busy booth over the three days: Molly Harris, Ron Sprague, Catherine Mexal, Sandra Kunzman, Linda Radloff, Linda Heisley, Noe Mayotte, Joie Giunta, Dave Palzkill, Cyndi Garrison, and Dale & Augie Johnson. We are also tentatively planning on participating in MSTFF in November 2009.

John Swarbrick

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

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.



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

January 2009

Thursday, January 8, 2009

7:00 pm

Monthly meeting: "Adenium: Twenty Years from
Obscurity to Rising Star"

Presented by Kevin Barber and Mark Dimmitt

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

7:00 pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

February 2009

Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7PM
"E Namibia Semper Aliquid Novi - New Plants from an Old Place"

Presented by Tim Harvey



Tim started growing cacti (almost exclusively) in England over 30 years ago. In the early 90s he moved across the pond to North America and in 1994 settled in California. Since then his interests had changed, focusing on the "other succulents", especially pachycaul and xerophytic trees. Tim also grows quite a few Aloes and geophytes. He has a Ph. D. in Biochemistry and having escaped the Biotechnology Industry with his morals intact, he now spends his time trying to get his backyard nursery to be more productive.

Against the spectacular backdrop that is Namibia, the program will cover the summer rainfall area (with a few diversions), with emphasis on the 'big' plants e.g. *Cyphostemma* and *Commiphora*. The effects of various factors, natural and otherwise, on the plants from year to year will be illustrated and a number of little-known or undescribed species discussed. Finally, the horticultural potential of Namibian plants will be illustrated.

Please don't miss this great presentation about an incredible area of the world. This is a presentation everyone should see.

Thursday March 5, 2009 7pm
"Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada"

Presented by Stephen Ingram

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

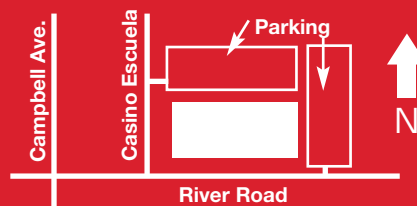
This month's free plants are *Euphorbia resinifera* and *E. coerulescens*, recommended for pot culture or under filtered light in the ground. Both are hardy to the mid or high 20's without protection, tree cover will provide some additional frost protection.

Euphorbia is a genus of plants belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae. Consisting of about 2160 species, *Euphorbia* is one of the most diverse genera in the plant kingdom. Members of the family and genus are sometimes referred to as Spurge. The genus is primarily found in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and the Americas, but also in temperate zones worldwide. Succulent species originate mostly from Africa, the Americas and Madagascar.

Euphorbia are annual or perennial herbs, woody shrubs or trees with a caustic, poisonous milky sap (latex) that will cause irritation to the eyes and mucous membranes. The roots are fine or thick and fleshy or tuberous. Many species are more or less succulent, thorny or unarmed. The main stem and mostly also the side arms of the succulent species are thick and fleshy, 15-91 cm (6-36 inches) tall. The deciduous leaves are opposite, alternate or in whorls. In succulent species the leaves are mostly small and short-lived.

Chris Monrad

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



On January 17th the Huntington Botanical Garden hosted the second Desert Forum for all Cactus and Succulent Society of America members and all members of their Affiliate Societies. About 170 members attended with most being from California but there were members from Arizona, Nevada, Iowa, Missouri and Washington DC. I flew in that morning and arrived right on time for registration. We spent 2 hours

in the Desert Garden and Greenhouse. January is the time for Aloes and they were wonderful. I have included some photos so you can get an idea about this wonderful garden. It was a beautiful day with temperatures in the low 80s.

We assembled in the teaching greenhouse in the Botanical Center for lunch and snacks before the sales area was opened to us. There was of course a lot of enthusiasm to acquire plants. After more than an hour of shopping we were treated to a discussion of the future of the garden by its direction Jim Folsom. Jim will be a speaker at our convention. He is so enthusiastic and knowledgeable about all things botanical and more. I know you will really enjoy hearing him at the convention.

I followed Jim with a brief talk on the convention and an expression of thanks to the Huntington and its staff for the great day they had prepared for us. We were on our own for the rest of the day to shop or view the other displays at the Huntington. There are many gardens, but it is also an art museum and an extraordinary library. You must visit.

Convention, Convention, Convention!

We need your help for a number of activities before and especially during the convention. Here are the general areas of need.

Pre-Convention activities

Badges, ribbons, tickets, gift bags, Registrations desk, TCSS sales area consignment material.

Convention Booklet

Soliciting ads, managing the publication and distribution

Convention Plant Sale:

Cashiering, assisting with set-up, crowd control, selling raffle ticket for early entry, holding area monitor.

Rare plant auction and silent auction

Set-up

Tour guides on the buses, lunches

Door monitors at the lectures, dinners, lunches

Audiovisual assistants for speakers

Workshop helpers and general way finding and ask me type help.

The Convention Booklet, T-shirts, gift bags committees will meet on February 1 and all other on Feb 10 check your email or call 404-9223 for location.

The TCSS is the affiliate sponsor and we really need your help!

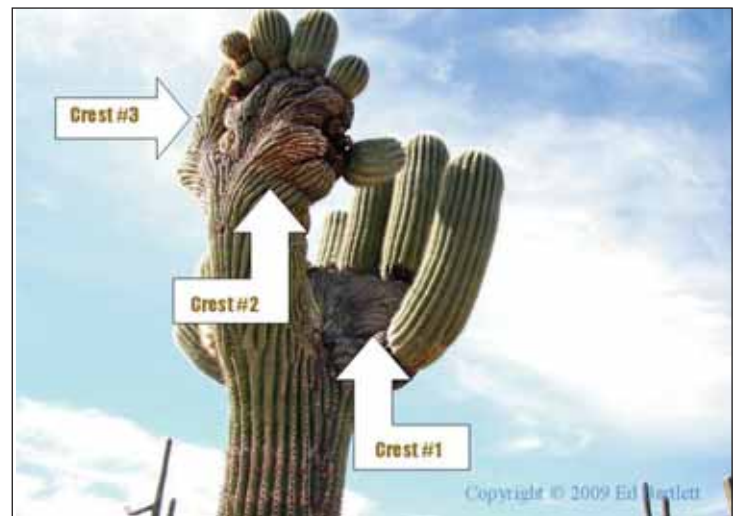
Thanks,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Tripple Crested Saguaro Find

While exploring some of the flat lands in Ironwood National Monument I came across a small 300 foot high hill that had fascinating Desert Varnish on about ½ of the rhyolite (volcanic) rocks that made up most of the hill. Of course I had to get to the top to see if the manganese patina was any better up high. Once to the top the view of just how desolate over grazed desert can be was apparent. While scanning the base of the hill with and 15 power lens a Saguaro caught my eye. It seemed a bit top heavy. That in turn required a very careful decent down the steepest east side to investigate. The decent was well worth the effort.

The top heavy Saguaro is a triple crested plant that has attempted to return to normal growth. The cactus was stunted for the age I estimate it to be, about 100-125 years old. All the other Saguaros were stunted also judging by their southern skin weathering and woody bases. I wouldn't be surprised if the lowering of the water table from human use didn't play a part in the stunted height of the plants. All other succulent species that were on the sides and top of the hill looked normal only the few plants in the legume family appeared a bit shabby.



Now I'm seeking Dudleya in habitat. Can anyone lead me in the right direction? I have seen reports of a couple sightings in the Oracle area and the Ajo Mountains but the locations were wisely not published.

Ed Bartlett

Flowering Aloes from The Huntington Gardens

Photos by Dick Wiedhopf



Acknowledgement of Contributions:

December 2008 –January 2009

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society members and friends who helped make this year a success through their contribution.

We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

Sonoran Desert Florilegium

JOAN McGANN
MARGARET POPE
NANCY ZIERENBERG

Research

DAVID HALL
WILLIAM & ADELLA HICKS
TRINA TRIMBLE
MARIAN ALABACK
TONI YOCUM & ROBERT H WEBB

Conservation

DAVID HALL
WILLIAM & ADELLA HICKS
JAN KONSTANTY & PAT WALLACE
RON & ELAINE MEYER
PATRICIA PHELAN
DAVID SCOTT & FAMILY
MICHAEL TAMARACK
DAVE & LINDA HEISLEY
MARIE HIRSCH
TONI YOCUM & ROBERT H WEBB
ROBERT & VANESSA DEARING
VERNON L & DIANE RKLIEWER
JOY PHOENIX & LESLIE JOHNSON

Education

LEO M. JACQUES
RON & ELAINE MEYER
PHILIP & BARBARA BROWN
JOE FRIEND
CONNIE ENGARD
DAVID HALL
DAVE & LINDA HEISLEY
GEORGE & GAIL VIRTES
TOM HARDING

General Fund

DAN BIRT
MICHAEL & NANETTE BURNETT
JACK J. & TENA BYRNE
DIANE & ARDNER CHESHIRE
E. J. COCKCROFT & FAMILY
ORIANE G DRUET & LEE WINSOR
J. DAVID & SANDRA GIBEAULT
GEORGE A. & EMOJEAN B. GIRARD
MARLIN HOSTETTLER
DOUGLAS C JONES
KEN KAY & KAREN K. CHRISTENSEN
KENT W. KNIGHT
MARY & PAUL KOSS
BILL J. & SUZY K. LILLIS
WENDELL & ROSEMARY NIEMANN
ARDIS M NOOMAN
SANDRA L. STEPHENSON
SUSAN THICKETT
ELIZABETH VLASSIS & FAMILY
ROY F. WALZ
JAN KONSTANTY & PAT WALLACE



"Selections of Succulence from The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society"

Cookbooks are here!

See below for Pick-up and Purchase Locations.

- **At our monthly TCSS meetings**, Kiva Room at the Jr. League
- **B&B Cactus Farm**, 11550 E. Speedway, Tuesday to Saturday,
8 AM to 4:30 PM, (721-4687)
- **Plants for the Southwest**, 50 E. Blacklidge, Wednesday to Saturday,
9 AM to 5 PM, (628-8773)
- **Dick Wiedhopf's residence** near Tanque Verde and Sabino Hwy,
Call first 885-6367
- **Joe & Patsy Frannea's residence** near Oracle Road & Magee Rd.,
Call first 575-7126

Also, we have discovered a few mistakes in the cookbook. We will print corrections on our web site as we find mistakes so please check the web to update your cookbook.

Library Update

During the next couple of months I will be eliminating some of the books from the library. These books will be available by either emailing me directly at joietgo@yahoo.com or through the website at library@tucsoncactus.org, where you can get a list of available titles.

"Field Guide to the Wild Plants of Oman" by Helen Pickering and Annette Patzelt
Sectioned off according to the color of the flower or fruit, the book gives the family the plant is in, common and botanical names, descriptions of the plant, leaves, flower and fruit. Includes the flowering period, habitat, distribution, occasional notes and uses. Also includes a section on trees and grasses. The accompanying photos will help in identifying the plants.

TCSS 2008 Financial Statement

INCOME

Memberships, Raffles	\$14,862
Cactus Rescue Sales	\$44,648
Sonoran Conference/Auctions	\$47,960
Sales of Misc. Items	\$ 2,764
Investment Income	\$ 1,440
Donations/Grants Received	\$ 8,086
Total Income	\$119,760

EXPENSES

Meetings & Newsletters	\$15,296
Cactus Rescue Program	\$28,664
Sonoran Conference/Auctions	\$53,468
Purchase of Misc. Items	\$ 6,459
Operational/Admin/Library	\$ 4,728
Grants Awarded	\$13,222
Total Expenses	\$121,837

CASH ASSET ALLOCATIONS

TCSS Operating Fund	\$17,136
Cactus Rescue Program	\$10,000
Education Outreach Fund	\$12,270
Research Fund	\$13,869
Conservation Fund	\$ 1,040
Florilegium Preservation Fund	\$ 611
CSSA 2009 Expense Funds	\$ 4,721
Total	\$ 59,647

BANK BALANCES

Checking Acct. incl. CSSA funds	\$10,901
Savings Account	\$ 5,980
CD matures 3-13-09 (4.8%)	\$10,818
CD matures 4-05-09 (4.8%)	\$10,713
CD matures 10-05-09 (2.8%)	\$10,564
CD matures 1-24-09 (2.8%)	\$10,122
Petty Cash	\$ 549
Total	\$59,647

JM Frannea

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

February Refreshments

Those with family names beginning
with G to L 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.



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

February 2009

Thursday, February 5, 2009	7:00 pm Monthly meeting: "E Namibia Semper Aliquid Novi - New Plants from an Old Place" Presented by Tim Harvey
Tuesday, February 10, 2009	7:00 pm Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Thursday, March 5, 2009	7:00 pm Monthly meeting: "Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada" Presented by Stephen Ingram

IN MEMORIUM



Blair Kuropatkin 64, of Tucson, died peacefully of cancer on January 22, 2009, after a five year struggle. Blair was born September 26, 1944 in Holland, Michigan and moved to Tucson in 1959. She was a graduate of Rincon High School and was a member and president of B'nai B'rith Women. Moving to the Los Angeles area in 1971, she eventually settled in Lancaster / Palmdale. Professionally she was active in the field of substance abuse counseling and ran residential programs for Care Unit / Compcare for 30 years. In the year 2000 she returned to Tucson. She was a Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor and worked with Cactus Counseling in Tucson. Blair was preceded in death by her mother, Dorothy Van Dyke Bontekoe Mikola, and her son Paul Jacob "Jake" Kuropatkin. She is survived by her companion of 15 years, Barry McCormick, her former husband Michael Kuropatkin, daughters Carol (David Cone), and Marion (James Chubon), granddaughters Shea Lynn and Sarah, grandsons Owen and Elliot, and stepfather Dick Mikola. Blair was especially close to her sisters-in-law Judy Abrams and Franki Levin, and her life was greatly

enhanced by her extended Van Dyke, Kuropatkin, and McCormick families. Blair was an avid outdoorswoman, and hiking, skiing, backpacking, scuba diving, river running and nature travel were among her fond pursuits. Her favorite places included the Grand Canyon, which she ran three times, the Sierras, and all the wonderful places in the Southwestern deserts. She most recently climbed Mount Whitney, for the fifteenth time, in 2007. She received awards for her volunteer efforts with the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, and the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Services were held in the Heritage Room of the Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E. River Road, at noon on Monday, January 26 followed by prayers and a luncheon at the McCormick Home. Blair has requested donations be made to the Sunstone Cancer Center of Tucson in lieu of flowers. There will be no interment.



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

March 2009

Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 7PM
"Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada"
Presented by Stephen Ingram



"Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada" Stephen Ingram's multimedia presentation explores some of the unique attributes of the cacti, agaves, and yuccas as well as highlights what makes them such intriguing components of our native plant communities. With stunning images of their colorful blossoms and unusual growth forms, this program showcases a number of species and varieties that occur in California's deserts and coastal areas. The main slideshow-talk will be approximately 40 minutes, with time for questions. A second 10-minute show set to music illustrates the beauty of these remarkable succulents. Following the presentation, Stephen will sign copies of his new book from Cachuma Press, "Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada."

About the Book:

California and Nevada are known for their astonishing array of plant life, and few components of this diverse flora are more intriguing than the cacti, agaves, and yuccas. These spiny succulents -- which share many of the same arid habitats -- have long been a source of fascination for explorers, naturalists, and scientists. "Cacti, Agaves, and

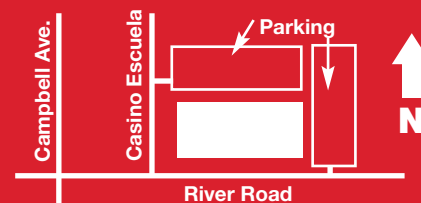
Yuccas of California and Nevada" features more than 60 species with a detailed text that is accompanied by 262 color photographs, 16 botanical watercolors, and 52 range maps. Much more than a field guide, this book examines the natural history of California's and Nevada's cacti, agaves, and yuccas, including their origins, ecology, and conservation. It also provides practical horticultural advice for their cultivation and describes some of the best places to see these remarkable succulents in the wild.

Botanist, writer, and photographer Stephen Ingram traveled more than 30,000 miles -- much of it on remote backroads -- to search out, study, and photograph the cacti, agaves, and yuccas of California and Nevada. He also delved into the scientific literature, visited numerous herbaria, and interviewed our region's leading experts on Cactaceae and Agavaceae. The result is a detailed, highly readable, and beautifully illustrated natural history and field guide. "Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada" is an engaging and substantive reference book that can be enjoyed by novice and expert alike. David will have his book on hand to sell and sign!

Stephen is an excellent professional photographer and his program is exceptional. Be sure to mark your calendar and be at this great program. For more information and to see some of Stephen's work, please visit www.ingramphoto.com.

Thursday April 2, 2009 7pm
"The golden spine Ferocactus Wislizenii"
Presented by Chris Monrad

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road

President's Message



What should we do now?

We have grown to be the largest local cactus and succulent society in the world. We have developed the most active and probably the best conservation program with our emphasis on rescue and re-distribution of smaller cacti and succulents throughout Southern Arizona. We have developed and funded ongoing grant programs, research programs and sponsored

cash prizes at the Southern Arizona Science and Engineering Fair. Our build a cactus activity at the Funfest attracted great programs over 1000 kids and praises from their teachers about the quality of our learning tool.

We have a great list of speakers who have presented at our monthly meetings. Even the foods we serve at the break get raves from everyone. Every even numbered year we have our Sonoran Conference and in the odd year we have our Cactus and Succulent Expo. Both events allow our members to show off their plants and have the public vote for their favorites. It is an eye pleasing and learning event. Both events support our fabulous local nurseries, potters, book store, artists and more.

We are hosting the 33rd biennial convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and have been able to have our members take leadership roles in the national society. We have built a useful website that is filled with current information and is used by thousands weekly.

We have received press coverage locally, nationally and internationally for the things we do. We have started an activity that we are calling our "Round Table Discussion" where some of our experts join with interested members to learn more about a specific topic. We hope to have a full schedule available soon.

Another new area is our role in supporting the preservation of Sonoran Desert Botanical Art and a Sonoran Desert Florilegium.

Most recently we have published our first cookbook featuring the favorite recipes of our members.

What's Next?

More Book Publishing
Landscape design (cacti and succulents)
Permanent Gardens, Greenhouses and displays
Retail store
Pima College course
Seminars and online lectures

What would you like to see this society do? The officers and Board would very much like to hear from you.

Finally, another reminder that the Convention is almost here. Please make plans to attend the opening banquet, some daily

meetings and the closing banquet and provide help as needed. I have been telling everyone what a great group we have in Tucson. I do want the rest of the world to meet you.

Thank you for all you do,

Richard Wiedhopf, President

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Haworthias are a genus of small succulent perennial herbs confined in the wild almost exclusively to the Republic of South Africa. The charm of Haworthias is in their small size, ease of growth, and the almost infinite variation of their delightful leaves. Haworthias rarely require a pot larger than 4-inches in diameter making them ideally suited for a bright windowsill. Perhaps the biggest problem you will encounter when growing Haworthias is that they tend to be addictive! If you acquire more than one plant, you may find yourself wanting more and more, and before you know, you are buying Haworthias with your lunch money.

Although some Haworthias are more difficult to cultivate than other, most are very easy. Remember that Haworthias are

succulents, so they require abundant bright light, though sudden introduction to direct sunlight will burn and even kill. They also require a well drained soil that approaches dryness between watering. It is best to fertilize only sparingly, using a water soluble houseplant fertilizer diluted to 1/4 strength, no more often than monthly during active growth, and not all if the plant is resting. Many Haworthia aficionados, attempting to simulate the natural habitat, grow their plants "hard". These Haworthias are often grown in direct sunlight, with infrequent watering and no fertilizer. Occasionally one of these "hard" plants will show a spectacular array of stress induced colors, but more often they look burned and shriveled. www.haworthia.com

Library Update

Last month I was asked which books I would not be bringing to the meetings. Here is the list I have taken out so far.

Cacti of the Southwest
The Cacti of the United States and Canada
Cycads of Vietnam
Dumpling and His Wife New Views of the Genus
Conophytum
Euphorbia Journal 2000, 2001, 2002
Vygies Genus of the veld

There are also many other books available. Go to the library section of the TCSS website to see the list. These books are available on request. I will need at least a week's notice in order to get them to the next meeting.

Joie Giunta

Celebrating Ten Years of Cactus Rescues!



The TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew kicked off its' 2009 season on February 22nd with a rescue at the Silver Bell Mine. We had to limit the crew size per rescue to about thirty due to logistics of getting back into the rescue site. We started out on this first rescue with thirty of our crew members who volunteered with the most hours last year and then we opened up the next rescues to all current TCSS crew members.

Our first cactus rescue was in 1999 with four TCSS members creating the program. We have since grown dramatically over the years with 191 TCSS Members participating on one or more rescues last year. We are averaging about 20 outings per year with the high of 32 in 2005. Our crew members have volunteered over 13,000 hours and provide their own tools

and travel expenses. The crew has saved over 42,000 cacti that fall outside the Native Plant Protection Ordinances and would most likely have otherwise been destroyed. TCSS has spent over \$100,000 in purchasing Arizona State plant removal tags to legally remove and transport the cacti.

A BIG Congratulations is in order for all TCSS Members who have participated in our Cactus Rescue Crew over the past ten years. Thanks also to Chris Monrad who has been our Cactus Rescue Crew Chairman since the start. And of coarse, a Big thanks to our customers who buy the majority of the rescued cacti which funds this rescue program and other TCSS programs including our Educational Outreach, especially the School Grant program.

We can always use tips as to potential areas that may be developed. If you know of an area that may be developed please send us a site address, developer or owners name to the email listed below. We DO NOT remove plants from already developed areas such as residences.

If you are not on the weekly cactus rescue crew notification list and would like to be, just send an email to: cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org. You can always delete your name at any time.

Joe Frannea
photos Ed Bartlett

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

March Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with H to O 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.



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

March 2009

Thursday, March 5, 2009

7:00 pm

Monthly meeting: "Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada".

Presented by Stephen Ingram

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

7:00 pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Thursday, April 2, 2009

7:00 pm

Monthly meeting: "The Golden Spine Ferocactus Wislizenii".

Presented by Chris Monrad

Convention 2009 Plant Display

Start getting you larger plants ready for display at the CSSA Biennial Convention at the La Paloma Resort on April 10-April 15. We want a WOW display for the Convention attendees. Details will be in the next newsletter and on our website.

Acknowledgement of Contributions: February 2009

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society members and friends who helped make this year a success. We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

Sonoran Desert Florilegium

LAWANDA D WINNINGHAM & DON WILSON

CHERIE GOSSETT

Research

MICHAEL McNULTY & LINDA & McNULTY

MICHAEL V NEWBERRY & TERESA L NEWBERRY

Conservation

ART PACHECO III & LINDA RESTIFO

MARGO SASSE'

Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and comprehensive listing of donors. TCSS apologizes for any incorrect listings, misspellings, or omissions.



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

April 2009

Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 7PM

"The golden spine Ferocactus Wislizenii"

Presented by Chris Monrad



Chris Monrad has been a TCSS member for nearly 20 years (now a paid life member) and was a co-founder of the Cactus Rescue program in 1999. During the numerous cactus rescues that he assisted with, he began noticing and marveling at the wide variety of spination patterns (black, brown, maroon, short, long, skinny, fat, nearly straight, highly recurved, etc) present in our local barrel cactus, *Ferocactus wislizenii*. (This interest in spination also spilled over into the Ocotillo / *Fouquieria* but that is another story.)

This fascination led to a keen interest in the entire genus *Ferocactus* and also the genus *Echinocactus*. His collection of these plants now includes several plants of nearly every species in each genus and he is now dedicated to the pollination and seed collection for many of these species as well. During an early cactus rescue project at Saddlebrooke near Catalina, Chris noticed a barrel cactus specimen with bright and pure yellow flowers as well as spines with a strong golden yellow cast. This plant would be the first of only five such specimens that would be collected by the Chris over the next five years of rescue projects, with sites ranging from Saddlebrooke Ranch north of Oracle Junction to a new school site in Corona de Tucson, over 45 miles away from

Saddlebrooke. Chris estimates this yellow spined/yellow flowered variety to occur in something like one in every 5,000 or 10,000 barrel cacti, based upon his numerous plant surveys and rescue activities.

Soon after acquiring the first two specimens, Chris wondered about the possibility of performing selective pollination between those two plants to develop a purpose-bred *Ferocactus* cultivar and began to consult with other noted *Ferocactus* propagators in the area. Some of the early results from the first efforts were encouraging and there are approximately 15 six year old yellows spined plants that may bloom this summer.

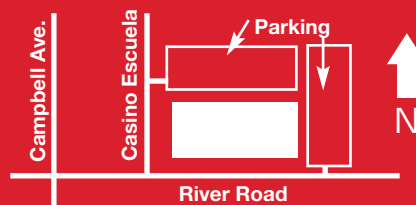
The summer of 2005 seed crop benefited from the presence of four available seed parents and the first crop of over one thousand seeds was planted in early 2006 with outstanding germination results and the ultimate reward of having numerous never-before-available plants to be given to attendees of the 2009 CSSA Convention at La Paloma and the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the TCSS.

This month's presentation will follow the production of this highly successful and exciting crop of plants from March 2006 thru today, with an eye toward the future landscape applications of the plant and the long term availability of this hardy, robust, and showy native Tucson cultivar.

Thursday May 7, 2009 7pm "Cactus and Succulent Shows, Showing and Judging"

Presented by Woody Mininnich

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



What should we do now?

It's hard to believe that the Convention time is here. It seems that we have been talking about it forever and now it's April 2009. There is still time for all of you to take part. Don't miss this opportunity to help, meet, see, hear and buy.

Everyone is welcome to participate but many of the events require registration and fees. The enclosed brochure will help you make a decision.

There are also opportunities to volunteer and in return receive admission to regular programs. Please contact the names on the committee list for volunteering.

We have experienced a serious problem with our web site that has caused us to send the newsletter to everyone. Our new hosting site requires that you pre-approve being on the list serve to get email messages from us. This will take time to get everyone signed up. Please be patient and aware of the new requirements.

June will be the fifty year anniversary of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. My wife Pat and I joined the society in 1969-70 and have been able to serve the society over the last 40 years. We will tell the convention about the first fifty years but our society needs to have its own celebration. I will ask the Board to plan activities in the fall for this special anniversary.

Thank you for this opportunity to represent you to the rest of the Cactus and Succulent World.

Richard Wiedhopf, President

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

This month's free plants are robust three-year-old seedlings (red-spined versions) from the TCSS sponsored propagation of the Golden Fishhook cultivar of our native *Ferocactus wislizenii*. The four yellow-spined and pure yellow-flowered seed parents were found over several years during various cactus rescues ranging from north of Oracle Junction all way to Corona de Tucson. Hand pollination amongst the seed parents during the summer of 2005 resulted in an outstanding crop of fruit and seed that was sown in March 2006. Nearly 75% of the now three-year old seedlings have retained the yellow spination of the parents, but only approximately 25% of the seedlings have more typical red spines. Some of these rare red-spined specimens have been designated as the free plants for attendees of the April 2nd meeting. While the yellow spines of the parents did not carry through to these selected plants, it is possible that the yellow flowers will do so. In the interest of following the outcome of the offspring from this

grand experiment, we encourage all members that acquire this plant to join an on-line registry to post the results from the future flowering of these plants.

PLEASE KEEP THESE PLANTS IDENTIFIED AND WATCH FUTURE TCSS NEWSLETTERS TO REGISTER YOUR PLANTS VIA THE WEB.

NOTE : All paid registrants to the CSSA Biennial Convention April 10-15 at La Paloma will receive a free potted 4" Golden Fishhook (with Yellow Spines).

~Sign up today~

Silver Bell Mine Beauty Takes "Best Regional Expression"



Mix some talent, a good eye for what goes together, some cactus rescue crew experience, a beautiful golden hedgehog, some great rocks all in a beautiful container and a winner results. Jessie Byrd had the idea to enter one of our rescued cacti in the Phoenix Flower and Garden Show. The Arizona Nursery Association and the Arizona chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects held a container design competition open to landscape designers. The containers were judged, and her hedgehog arrangement won "Best Regional Design Expression." It sold for \$250 to a woman in Peoria, all the proceeds go to the Arizona Nursery Association scholarship fund. Jessie received three of their scholarships when she was attending Landscape Architecture grad school at the University of Arizona.

This incredible specimen *Echinocereus nicholii* was delicately picked from the rocky terrain by volunteers, planted in on-site soil, and accented with warm, red rocks collected from the rescue site. It radiates the natural beauty of the Sonoran Desert every time the golden spines of this hedgehog are backlit by the sun. The blooms can be quite spectacular as well. Jessie, with Desert Green Design, put the arrangement together in a container donated by John Sargent, Desert to Mountain Products.

Joe Frannea

Science Students Love Cactus Projects



The annual Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) yielded many great science projects involving Cactus and Succulents. It is always tough for our Special Category judges to select those top three projects and decide on the Honorable Mention projects as well. It is fun to start the process early in the morning walking through the Tucson Convention Center Hall looking at over 1,300 projects to find those possible candidates. Our judges found eleven very worthy projects ranging from students in 2nd grade to High School. The High School students are required to be with their projects in the afternoon so judges can learn more about their projects, and evaluate the student's understanding and thought process. The SARSEF judges will select projects to compete at State level and some of these will go on to the National competition.

Our First Place winner was Juliana, 5th grade, from Manzanita Elementary School. Her "Baffling Barrels" project explored why some barrel cactus had odd growths and deformities. She explored the possibilities of cold, disease and animal damage. Our Second Place award went to Ruby, 4th grade, from Tanque Verde Elementary. Her study

of Stomata on cacti versus leafy plants showed the cacti have smaller stomata and about half the stomata than leafy desert plants. Our Third Place Award was for a very unique project by Ebba, 10th grade, from Canyon del Oro. She experimented with different cacti and berry juices to be used to create Solar Cell Solutions for high temperature regions. She is planning to continue her research in biomimetic solar cells with other substances and aiming to double the energy output from traditional silicon base photovoltaic systems. Go Ebba!

Our top three winners receive cash awards of \$100, \$75, and \$50, the Honorable Mention awards are \$25. Each winner also receives an Award Certificate and honorary family TCSS membership. The Honorable mention projects were also very interesting and covered several topics. Our purpose in giving these Special Award Category awards is to give all the encouragement we possibly can to our budding scientists who pursue studying cacti and other succulents.

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

Honorable mentions were given to the following students, in no particular order. Schilpa, 8th grade at Doolen Middle School, "Prickly Medicine" to study antibacterial properties of prickly pear fruit and roots. Dreya, 5th grade at Wrights Town Elementary, "Bow to the Sun", studying why barrels tend to lean to the south. Tammi, 5th Grade Home Schooled, "Navajo Rug Dyes" discovering how Navajo's made such colorful fabrics, she produced some nice colorful samples. Carrie, 6th Grade St. Michaels Parish, "Home Sweet Saguaro" investigating where bird nests are located on saguaro cacti. Ellie, 2nd Grade Agua Calliente, "Prickly Pear Pop" wanted to know if there is enough sugar in prickly pear juice to make carbonated soda. Debra's 2nd Grade class project, "Where Does the Water Go" compared water retention in cactus vs. tropical plants. Suphakit, Vail

High School, "Board from Cactus" using cactus skin to make fiber cardboard. Chase, 6th Grade at Discovery Plus Academy, "Terra Forming Mars" looking into how cacti might be able to change the atmosphere on Mars.

It is so rewarding to review these projects and to understand some of the inquisitive minds of our young scientists and we often learn something new from these projects about our desert. Please encourage any K through 12 student to do a project involving cacti and other succulents, "it pays". TCSS also gave a \$1,000 grant to SARSEF from our Education Outreach fund to support the SARSEF mission. We are already looking forward to next year and participating in the "Fun Fest" come November for hands on student experiences building model cacti.

Joe Frannea



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



We are hosting the Biennial Convention of The Cactus and Succulent Society of America from April 10-15 at La Paloma Resort and Spa. Please check our web site for details.

I'm sure those of you who have attended conventions know they can't succeed without a lot of volunteers. Sally Krusing has agreed to head up our Volunteer Committee. She will need a total of 51 volunteers throughout the convention. Are you willing to help? If so, please contact her starting Friday, March 27 at sallykrusing@gmail.com

Lectures/Discussions and plant sales are the events that need volunteers. The convention will run all day and into some evening hours.

If you work the morning, you get admission free that afternoon or another half day of your choosing to attend lectures. If you work the afternoon, you get admission free that morning or a half day of your choosing to attend lectures.

If you work an evening you get admission for a morning or afternoon to attend lectures. There will be a wonderful lunch buffet each day for \$15 that includes a lunch lecture; unfortunately, no one gets a free lunch. There will be a Volunteer training session at La Paloma Resort and Spa on Sunday afternoon, April 5.

Sally is looking forward to hearing from you.

Library Update

The four volumes of the 2008 Cactus & Co. have been added to the library. Each volume is written in both English and Italian. There are numerous photos to accompany each article.

Volume 1 has articles on Hoyas, *Aztekium hintoni* & *Geohintonia mexicana* and Medicinal cactaceae.

Volume 2 has *Gymnocalycium castellanosii*, *Lophophora alberto-vojtechii* and *Sedum*.

Volume 3 articles are *Agave victoriae-reginae*, *Oroya borchersii* and *Aloe pillansii*.

Volume 4 contains Succulent plants – recent researches, *Sulcorebutia* and a new species of *Adromischus*.

IMPORTANT NEW Cactus Rescue Crew Mail List

We lost our Cactus Rescue Crew Mail List due to our old web provider deleting the List. Our new web provider requires that after we add a name to a Mail List that the email recipient confirm that they want to be on the List. We can not send you any emails using the List until you click on the confirmation link which activates your name on the list.

I created a new cactus Rescue Crew List on March 24th which includes all TCSS Members. Those who want to get the weekly Cactus Rescue Crew notices must click on the link you received in an email. The message will be from "mailing list manager" and the subject will be "Request for confirmation of subscription to the mailing list [cactus-rescue-list@tucsoncactus.org].

Sorry for the inconvenience but we had to create a new hosting site quickly. The new host provider is 1and1.com. If you did not get the confirmation notice email or deleted it and want to be on the list, send an email to cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org.

Thanks, Joe Frannea

TCSS Spring Cactus Sale a Winner



Mix over 400 rescued native cactus, 180 great customers and 34 TCSS volunteers and voila, a win-win. Our sale had over 300 saguaros, 60 hedgehogs (many being the golden nicholii), about 20 barrels and a few ocotillo, prickly pear, cholla and lots of mammillaria. Many of the hedgehogs were just starting to bud so customers will be able to enjoy their spectacular magenta flowers in the weeks to come. We were joined by Catalina Magnet High School Agriculture FFA Education Program students who had grown agaves and prickly pear plants for the experience and to raise money for their program. Their teacher, Nicole, is one of our TCSS Members and a School Grant recipient.

We had our normal booming start of the sale at 9 AM with most of the plants gone by 10 AM, almost everything was sold by our closing time at 1 PM. Our TCSS volunteers did a super job getting everything set-up and assisting customers. The Amphitheater holding

Continue on the page 6

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

April Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with P 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.



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

April 2009	
Thursday, April 2, 2009	7:00 pm Monthly meeting: "The golden spine Ferocactus Wislizenii". Presented by Chris Monrad
Friday, Saturday, April 3 - 4, 2009	Tucson Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale. April 3 (members only) 12pm - 6pm, April 4 (public sale) 9am - 4pm.
Tuesday, April 7, 2009	7:00pm Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Friday, April 10 - Wednesday April 15, 2009	CSSA Biennial Convention at the Westin La Paloma Resort.

Continue from page 5

site near First Ave. and Wetmore Road works so well for us being under the shaded structure and plenty of parking for all with drive through lanes for easy loading. We took in just over \$10,000 and after expenses for tags and subtracting glove sales (28 pair) and memberships (12) we netted about \$7,000. Our Educational Outreach Fund will receive 25% of the profit for School grants and other Educational projects.

A special thanks to the ASARCO Silver Bell Mine management for allowing us to rescue plants on their expansion areas, almost all of the sale plants came from

their mine property. Our next sale will be announced on our web site and by postcards and emails to customers and by email to TCSS Members. The sale date will be determined by new inventory that will be accumulated over the next several months. The CSSA conference at the Westin La Paloma Resort will have over twenty-five vendors selling plants, pottery, art and books. This is open to the public on April 11, 12, 14, and 15 from 8 AM to 5 PM. Come by to shop, treat yourself to one of our \$15 buffet lunches which also gives you admittance to hear a great speaker. We will not be selling any rescued cactus at the conference.

Joe Frannea photo Ed Bartlett



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

May 2009

Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 7PM "Shows, Showing and Judging"

Presented by Woody Minnich



This program will feature the up-to-date styles of presenting plants for shows or displays with artistic beauty as well as for competitive excellence. This most modern aspect of showing, sometimes called Staging for Habitat, shows how one can not only grow beautiful plants but present them in a very pleasing and attractive manner. This presentation will also cover the overall

dynamics of how to create these stunning presentations as well as where to acquire the best staging materials. Another aspect of this presentation is the considerations that judges use in selecting or critically differentiating one plant from another. The final portion of this talk will show the different types of shows from competitive to noncompetitive as well as the various aspects of show organization and positive group participation. Shows, Showing and Judging was developed for many of the Cactus and Succulent clubs who have decided that a good show is one of the most positive activities that a club can provide. The excellence of horticulture, the perfection of presentation, the sharing of plant knowledge and the camaraderie of sharing our hobby, the education of others and the introduction of our clubs to potential new members, all of these things are the valuable aspects of a good show.

This program will be a very important view into new ideas for the future as well as demonstrating what can be accomplished with preparing, planting and growing excellent choice plant selections for display. Please be sure to come and see what others are doing and let's look to the future with showing what we can do!.

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

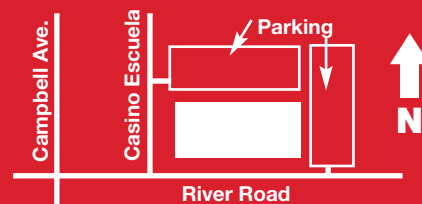
Mammillaria and Coryphantha (various species)

Mammillaria and Coryphantha are native to Mexico and the southwestern US, typically characterized by a short squatty appearance with tubercles instead of ribs. They are suitable for pot culture or growing out in the ground as landscape plants or in rock gardens once of adequate size. Mammillaria typically enjoy filtered light in our growing conditions, while some Coryphantha often grow in full sun and have more dense spination. Some species are opportunistic and can bloom multiple times throughout the growing season when water is plentiful. Our local Mammillaria grahamii is well known for its candy-striped blossoms during the monsoon and thousands have been collected by the TCSS Cactus Rescue Program. For more information, refer to www.mammillarias.net and see many photos by our very own Norm Dennis!

Regards,
Christian K. Monrad

Our June 4, 2009 program presentation will be presented by Greg Corman. Program topic to come.

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



Thank you all for making the 2009 CSSA Convention a wonderful experience for all that attended. We have had numerous compliment about the Tucson Society and how great you all were to the many visitors from all other the country and world.

There just isn't any question that the strength of this society is with the members who are always

willing to do more, go the extra mile, take on an extra responsibility, and work hard for just the fun of working hard. I am so proud to be a part of this Society.

So thank you Kevin and Helen, Vonn and Karen, Patsy and Joe, Mark D. and Mark S., Doug and Kathy, John and Gayle, Theresa, Joie, Alice & Edie, Thomas, Sally and your more than 60 volunteers, Gail and George, James and Joyce, Karen, Jen & Dale, Bill, Ed and Linda, Deborah, Sadie, Bill, David, Norm and Linda and the convention committee for meeting often and put together badges, seeds, t-shirts, the tour guides, door monitors, registration help, cashier and plant sales help, plant show crew, TCSS sales, local vendors and local speakers. Jack and all who opened their homes and gardens to our guests and every other volunteer and member who made this convention very special and of course a special thanks to my wife Pat. It was over too quickly for the amount of effort all of you put into it.

This was 4 years in the planning with high hopes of being the biggest and most profitable convention ever, but was hit with the worst economic climate in more than 70 years. The numbers of planned attendees was down 40% and unfortunately produced a major financial loss to CSSA.

I hope everyone who participated can take away some positives. Here are mine. More than 500 people participated in the convention. We had a great group of speakers probably the best ever. The venue was beautiful and the food was excellent. We had wonderful plant's and pots for sale and great books including a brand new publication on Adeniums by three local members. We finished it off with a wonderful banquet and great performance by the Santa Cruz River Band.

Thanks again,
Richard Wiedhopf, President

Cooper Center Finishes School Grant Project

The Cooper Center has finished constructing their Handicap Accessible Interpretive trail and also developed educational resources to be used with the trail. They capped off the event by installing a sign as a gesture of appreciation to those organizations who helped make their project possible.

Colin Waite is the Tucson Unified School District's Environmental Education Specialist for the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning which is located in the Tucson Mountains.

Joe Frannea



TCSS Email Lists Still Lacking Many Names...

We keep four email lists for communicating with members and our customers. We are having to build all new lists as we have switched to a new web site provider. We have been working on creating the new lists for several months and have about half of the names activated. You must participate in the process, by clicking on an activation link that we send you, for TCSS to be able to send you email. This is an anti-spam feature we must use. Here are our lists and ways to tell if you are on the lists.

MEMBER LIST - We send out a notice about a week before the monthly meeting to announce the newsletter is now available online for your reading. If you did not get this notice, then your email is not activated on the Member List.

CACTUS RESCUE CREW LIST - We send out rescue notices every Thursday. If your email is activated on this list then you should be receiving the notices.

CUSTOMER LIST - This list is for people who are not Members but want to receive our Sales and Special events notices. If you are a Member, you do not need to be on this list as you will receive all the notices sent to Customers.

OCOTILLO NOTICE LIST - We maintain a list of people who are interested in being notified when we have fresh ocotillo. We normally like to sell rescued ocotillo the same week we dig them to increase their chance of surviving the transplant. We only send the ocotillo availability notice to this List.

If you want to check to see if your email is activated on a given List or to request to be on any of our lists, please send an email to: TCSS @ TucsonCactus.org and be sure to state the list name you are asking about.

Thanks, Joe Frannea

TCSS Sells Memorabilia at the CSSA Convention



George and Gail Virtes with the assistance of several faithful volunteers staffed the TCSS sales area selling many convention related items and provided a hub for TCSS operations. The items sold included CSSA convention tees, TCSS logo tees, several styles of pins from previous conventions and the Tucson convention pin, stamps, seeds, postcards, CSSA DVDs, cookbooks and framed botanical art. Some of the items belonged to the CSSA like the previous convention pins and DVDs, but the other items were provided by the TCSS to supplement their convention expenses. Total sales income was about \$6,900 over the five days of sales.

Joe Frannea

Library Update

Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance

by Mark Dimmitt, Gene Joseph, David Palzkill

This long awaited book is not a disappointment. The first chapter deals with the species. The anatomy information provided includes the various parts of a flower, different leaf forms and seeds. There are four summary pages that describe the plant and flowers. Other chapters include hybrids and cultivars, culture and propagation. Numerous photos show the plant in culture and natural habitat

COOL PLANTS FOR HOT GARDENS

200 Water-Smart Choices for the Southwest by Greg Starr

From A to Z this book is everything a southwest gardener could ask for (except for maybe another 200 plants). Listed alphabetically by botanic name each plant has field notes, description, culture, maintenance, identification, landscape application and precautions where applicable. Be sure to read the introduction, as there is a wealth of information there.

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

May Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with A to E 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.

CSSA Convention Gallery



Photos by John Durham, Walker Charles and Joie Giunta

CSSA Convention Gallery





TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

May 2009

Thursday, May 7, 2009

7:00 pm

Monthly meeting:

"Shows, Showing and Judging".

Presented by Woody Minnich

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

7:00pm

Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Jim and Electra Elliot at
 Arizona Cactus Sales
 in Chandler for providing
 all the Centerpiece
 Cacti at the opening banquet.

Doug Jones at Sabino Electric
 for the Lighting at the opening
 of the plant sale.

We really appreciate their great support.

CSSA Opening Reception Decorations

Attendees to the 2009 CSSA Convention were treated to very special gifts provided by their TCSS hosts. The first crop of our never-before-available yellow-spined *Ferocactus wislizenii* yielded 500 4" plants that were set at every place in addition to wonderful centerpiece specimens generously donated by member Jim and Electra Elliott of Arizona Cactus Sales. Lucky winners of the two gallon centerpieces got to choose from *Lophocereus spiralis*, *XPachygerocereus orcuttii*, an *Espostoa* hybrid and *Stenocereus treleasei*.



Debra, Joie and Joyce arranging the table decorations for the opening banquet.



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

June 2009

Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 7PM
"Designing with Cacti and Succulents"
Presented by Greg Corman



Greg Corman, landscape designer and horticulturist, will discuss ideas for creating beautiful, easy care, and ecologically sound gardens using cacti, succulents, and complementary trees and shrubs. He'll include tips for unifying a chaotic collection of plants, using monsoon plants for seasonal interest, and creating restful, sculptural gardens using only monocots.

Greg Corman is a landscape designer and horticulturist and owner of Gardening Insights, Inc. His landscapes are recognized for their artistry, ecological sensitivity, and unique combinations of native plants. Greg's experience includes

thirty years of horticultural and design work, mostly in desert areas of Australia, the Middle East, and the Southwestern US. He is always looking for new species for landscaping and new ways to use native plants.

He is also recognized as a regional expert on native plants and teaches docents, master gardeners and the public on many horticultural and design topics. Greg is also a co-leader on bird and plant tours to Bolivia for WINGS, a local bird tour company.

To promote environmental education and research, Greg sits on the board of the Drylands Institute and is an advisory committee member for the Watershed Management Group and the University of Arizona Arboretum. Greg has BS and MS degrees in Agriculture from the University of Arizona and the University of Maryland, respectively.

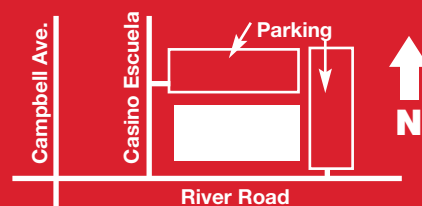
Please mark your calendar and be sure to attend this very informative meeting where you will learn some great things about landscape design, selection of plants for your "succulent landscape" and much more. Be sure to join us and also, bring a friend!

For our July Meeting.

Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Problems and Pests of Agave, Aloe, Cactus and Yucca presented by Dr. Mary Olsen. Division of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, The Department of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road

President's Message



It's time to look forward. The convention is over and now we must move on. We are planning our major events for the Fall and next Spring.

Coming up on September 20, 2009 is the "Good Time Silent Auction". A September silent auction has been a part of TCSS from almost its beginning. It was our major fund raiser and an event that everyone

looks forward to. Now it's much more than just a silent auction. In the patios of the Junior League Building we have your give away plants and \$2.00 tables filled with plants that you want others to have. Inside we have multiple silent auctions and a very special silent auction table with high value plants. Of course the best part is the ice cream and all the toppings. The money raised supports our research grants program. This is an event where everyone comes out a winner. More details about this event will be in future newsletters.

Look ahead a little further, Sonoran VIII is less than a year away. We have already started planning for this event. It will be held at the Inn Suites Civic Center (the same as Sonoran VII) on May 14-16, 2010. The Sonoran Conference is a 2-3 day event touching on this special place in which we live. It features 5 speakers and 5 workshops on topics of interest. There is a registration fee to attend and it is limited to 100 participants. This insures that the workshops do not have more than 20 participants. There are also lunches and dinners included in the registration price.

Also associated with the Sonoran Conference is a public show and sale. This is usually our biggest show with hundreds of wonderful plants that the public can view and learn about. We invite all our member vendors (plants, pots, books, art) to participate in the sales event. This is like a mini convention and is great fun for those that take part in helping to put this event together.

We need your input and help to make this another very special event. We will be having planning meetings starting very soon.

The economy is starting to pick up. A leading indicator is our rescue crew activity. Areas are being prepared for development and our rescue program is involved. That's always good news. Our inventory is expanding and plans are being made for a "Monsoon Madness Sale".

Finally, congratulations to our members Dan Bach and David Yetman who were both honored at the CSSA Convention last month. I had the privilege to present the awards to each of them. Dan received the CSSA Friend Award; "In sincere appreciation for his forty years of growing cacti and other succulent plants and his service, generosity, knowledge sharing, dedication and friendship to the hobby." David

received the Conservation Award; "Author, Photographer, Educator, man of many talents used to promote conservation, crowned by the Organ Pipe Forest preserve of southern Sonora, Mexico."

What a special honor to have both of these Tucsonans as members of our Society.

In all the communication I have received about the convention the final request is to thank the TCSS members for their hard work, friendship and hospitality. I certainly agree with that.

Thanks again,
Richard Wiedhopf, President

Aloe Roundtable Discussion Meeting

June 18, 2009 at 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Junior League of Tucson • Kiva Room
2099 East River Road

On June 18, 2009 we will be having an Aloe roundtable discussion that will be freely open to all our members interested in finding further information about anything and everything related to the Genus *Aloeaceae*. What Aloes would be good to put in the landscape garden, what would be frost hardy, what would be a good choice for a landscape tree Aloe and much more. We will be asking some of our best local nursery owners to come out and express some of their experiences with everyone and to let everyone know what would be their choice selection of Aloe! There may be many questions, a chance for everyone to express their own ideas and to find out what is the best plants to grow in the many areas around Tucson.

Please plan to come out and ask questions, get answers and enjoy talking with others that are interested in learning more about the Aloe! I hope to see you there!

Vonn Watkins

Another School Grant Awarded to Cooper Center



The Cooper Center for Environmental Learning in the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) recently finished their Handicap Accessible Interpretive Trail Project utilizing funds from a TCSS School Grant. This was featured in last month's newsletter. They have applied for a new \$500 School Grant which has been awarded to assist them with

their "Invasive Plant Species Education and Remediation" project. They plan to remove invasive buffelgrass and replant the areas with TCSS rescued succulents. The Cooper Center has about 3,500 students from K to 12 grades who use the center each year for various learning experiences. Older

students will be involved in removal and planting events. Other Cooper Center partners such as Pima County Department of Natural Resources will also assist with financing and participating in this project. Students from the University of Arizona will assist with teaching workshops and serve as mentors.

Joe Frannea

Need You To Show Off Your Yards!

The Board requested that member garden tours be scheduled for the fall. I have volunteered to organize these tours, and I am asking for your help. Please contact me if you would volunteer your garden for a tour or know some member with a GARDEN TO DIE FOR, so that I may contact them. Please call Bill Salisbury at 299-3301 or email lusalisbury@comcast.net.

Lu Salisbury

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Thelocactus

The arid lands of the central Mexico plateau are home to many cacti, among which there are the Thelocactus species. These are small to medium sized plants of a globose to slightly upright form with a beautiful spination and large, showy flowers. They are very popular among collectors, mainly for their recurrent flowering throughout the spring and summer months with regular watering and low maintenance / frost hardy / full sun cultivation. The genus is small, made up of about 15-20 entities, the exact number of species varying according to the authority.

Christian K. Monrad

Library Update

Selections of Succulence, Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Recipes from members of TCSS. Includes drinks, soups and salads, vegetables and casseroles, meat dishes and desserts.

The Hot Garden Landscape Design for the Desert Southwest

Scott Calhoun

This book is about desert landscaping. It is ideal for the person who wants to plant and landscape for the Tucson area. There are pages of plant charts with the plant name, both common and botanical, mature height & width, cold hardiness, water use and Scott's notes. The chapter on Outdoor life shows what can be done with color, mulches, lighting, water features, attracting wildlife and more. The final chapter is about water and watering. Throughout the book there are tips, recipes and even a bill of rights for HOA's.

Errata

The thank you to Doug Jones at Sabino Electric for the lighting at the opening of the plant sale was incorrect in the printed version of the newsletter.

We really appreciate the support from Doug and Sabino Electric and apologize for the misnaming Sabino Electric.

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

June Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with F to J 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.

Acknowledgement of Contributions:

March, April and May, 2009

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society members and friends who helped make this year a success. We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

Sonoran Desert Florilegium

Val L Little
Carol J. Owens
Bill and Randy Owens

General Fund

Jay Cody
Laura Cody
Jack Davis
Marsha Davis
Douglas C. Jones
Ken Kay
Karen K. Christensen
Kent W. Knight
Mary Koss
Paul Koss

Hal Myers
Wendell Niemann
Rosmary Niemann
Sandra L. Stephenson
Susan Thickett
Elizabeth Vlassis & Family
Roy F. Walz

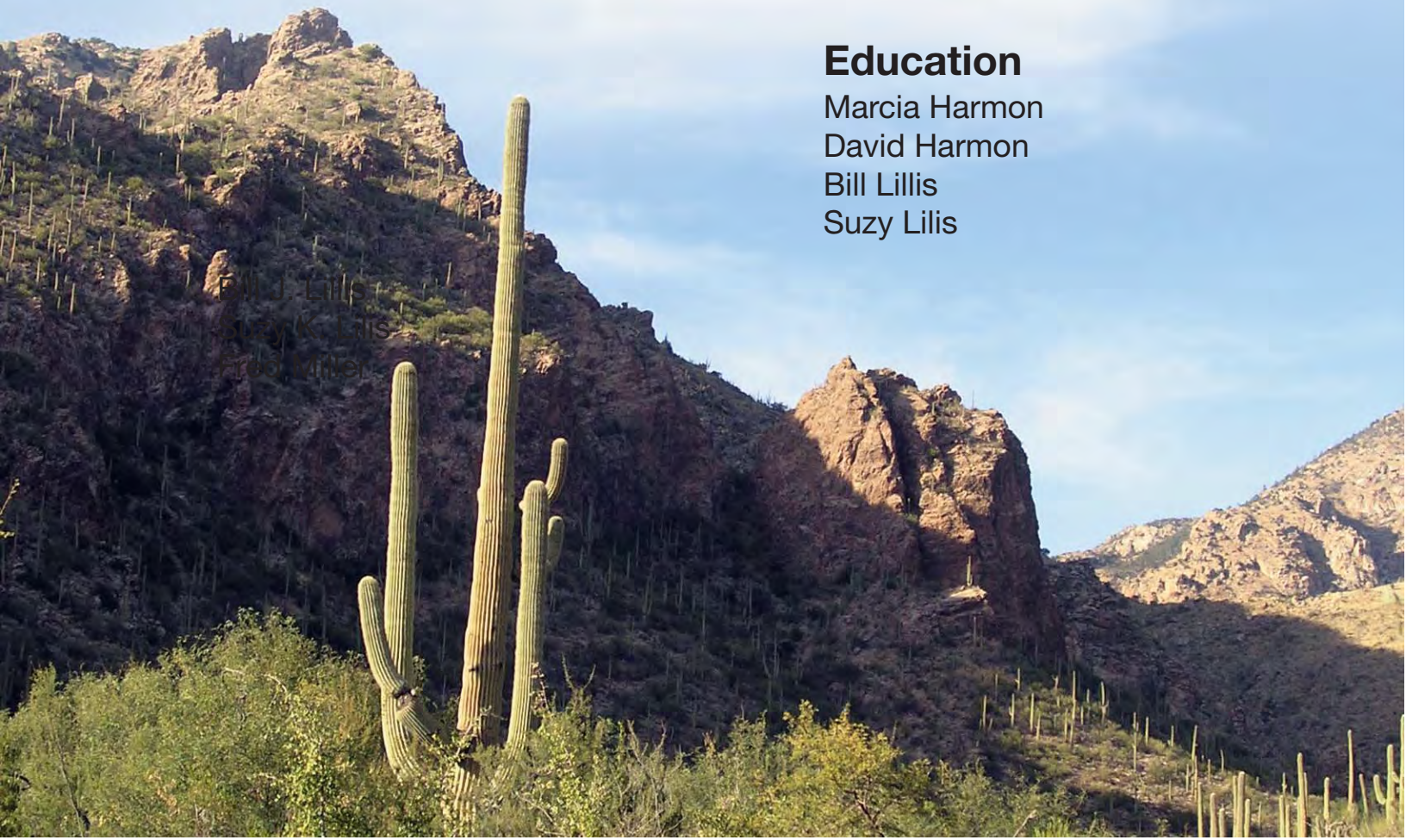
Conservation

Robert Dearing
Vanessa Dearing
Doreen Fischer
Joy Phoenix
Vernon L. Kliwer
James Zintz
Leslie Johnson
Diana R. Kliwer

Education

Marcia Harmon
David Harmon
Bill Lillis
Suzy Lillis

Bill J. Lillis
Suzy K. Lillis
Fred Miller



Cactus Rescue Crew Activity Hectic



The Cactus Rescue Crew has stayed real busy the past couple of months with four different projects. One major initiative was a very rich ocotillo and agave site south of Vail. CalPortland Company, who owns the Arizona Portland Cement operations on Interstate 10 near Tangerine Road, will remove limestone to supplement the existing plant. A new access road and quarry area are very rich in ocotillo and Palmer agave. CalPortland is re-vegetating and infilling a few areas with about a third of the plants but there were hundreds that could not be used on site. They were very helpful to TCSS by removing about 300 ocotillo while the Crew dug 250 in a couple of rescues.

In return for CalPortland's assistance removing the ocotillo, Crew members dug 182 agaves and replanted them in areas that will not be disturbed. We tested the ocotillo capacity of the large dump trailer we use to haul rescued plants to the holding area. Ocotillo were stacked carefully in alternating patterns and banded together as one big load like you would do with a load of lumber. This makes it easy to slide the load out the back of the dump trailer so Crew members can easily pick the ocotillo off the stack without breaking the canes. They were placed in a new ocotillo holding area where we can spray the canes frequently to preserve their freshness until sold which greatly increases their chance for a successful transplant.

Three impromptu sales were held in May to sell some of these ocotillo as quickly as possible to eliminate our work in holding them, we sold 130. We still have over 300 in our inventory for our next sale in June, see our web site for the date, type and prices of plants to be sold.

Another rescue site that kicked off our partnership with a Town of Marana project involved a right of way widening project for Camino de Manana Road and the new align-

ment with Dove Mountain Road. This is a three mile long project so it is easy to get lots of exercise. While two miles of the project is along existing roads, one mile involves bushwhacking and carrying out all cacti that are dug. There were mostly saguaros, barrels, hedgehogs, and mamms in this area, most of these will be in our sale as well. We also found a few Queen of the Night Cereus plants which are starting to set buds.

A third site was the clearing of some plants around the perimeter of a U of A parking lot that will be the home of some new dormitories. The contractor, CORE Construction was generous and uprooted a few sotol and a couple dozen red yucca plants which we split into 500 individual plants and potted about five per 5 gallon pot on site, thanks to Plants for the Southwest for the containers. This is a LEED project so all materials that can be reused are important to save. We also obtained two large dump trucks of wood chips from the site that we can use in the future. The red yucca will also be available for sale in June.

We have switched back to the old style email notification list, copying all current names to the new list. Our cactus rescue notices go out every Thursday so if you want to be on the list and are not getting the notices, please send an email to cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org and ask to be added to the cactus rescue notice list.

Joe Frannea

Photos by John Durham, Patsy Frannea

4 4 4 2 4
Cacti Rescued
217 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

June 2009

Thursday, June 4, 2009	7:00pm Monthly meeting: Designing with Cacti and Succulents. Presented by Greg Corman
Sunday, June 7, 2009	9:00am - 1:00pm Rescued Ocotillo and Saguaro Sale 4342 N. 4th Avenue (between Wetmore and Limberlost)
Tuesday, June 9, 2009	7:00pm, Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Thursday, June 18, 2009	7:00pm - 9pm Aloe Roundtable Discussion Meeting Junior League of Tucson. Kiva Room

Photos from the Cactus Rescue Crew



Photos by John Durham, Patsy Frannea



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

July 2009

Thursday, July 2, 2009

"Diseases of Cacti and Succulents"

Presented by Dr. Mary Olsen, Ph.D.



Despite their special adaptations such as thick waxy cuticles, modified leaves (spines), dehydration induced dormancy and other tactics, cacti and succulents suffer from diseases, insect pests and cultural problems just as all other plants. There is relatively little known about the diseases of these

plants, but fungi, bacteria, viruses and parasitic nematodes can cause problems in cacti and succulents. Many of these problems are avoidable, but others are problematic in cacti and succulents even in their native habitats. Recognizing these problems is the first step toward knowing how to control or avoid them. Mary will discuss the problems with which she is familiar, and engage audience participation in expressing problems they may have encountered.

Dr. Mary W. Olsen, is an Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology with the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Arizona. She received her B.S. in Botany at the University of Arizona in 1976 and her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at the University of Arizona in 1982.

Mary has been the Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology at the UA since 1997 and works at the the University of Arizona main campus in Tucson. She will diagnose plant diseases for clientele in Arizona including growers, landscapers and homeowners. She also provides information on the identification, prevention and control of diseases of plants in commercial agriculture, landscapes and native sites. Mary currently conducts research on the etiology, ecology and control of important diseases of cotton, grains, vegetables and turf. Information on many diseases of plants in Arizona is provided on her web site (<http://www.ag.arizona.edu/PLP/plpext/>) and there is also information for submitting plant samples for diagnosis.

If you would like to learn more about disease and pest problems, please be sure to attend this meeting!



Our August Meeting

Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM

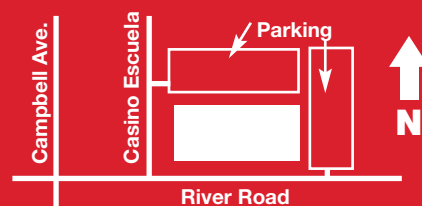
Dr. Michael W. Douglas, Ph.D Research Meteorologist,
National Severe Storms Laboratory, Norman, Oklahoma

**"Understanding the Climates of
Succulent Plant Habitats"**

July Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with K, L, M, N, O and P, please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting.
Your generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

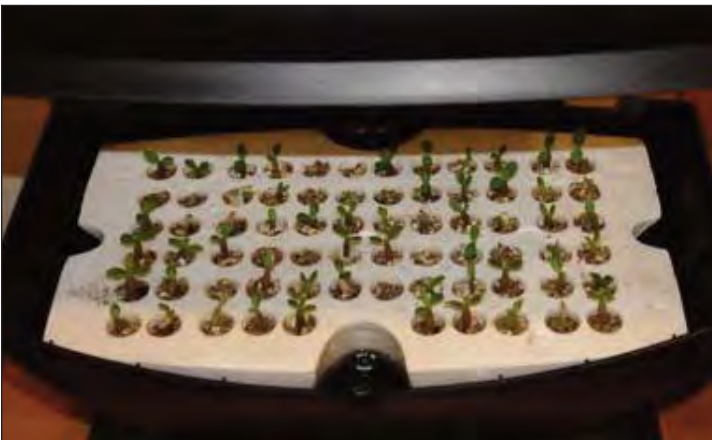
President's Message



I can't remember weather like this in the 48 years I've been in Tucson. The wonderful cool mornings allow us to work out in the garden for several hours each day. The plants know it is different and are responding with more growth and flowers than normal. Unfortunately, by the time you are reading this the weather has changed and it is probably triple digits, "but it's a dry heat".

Every year I try a new method of growing cacti and succulents from seed. I find all kinds of interesting containers left over from the supermarket or the dollar type stores. They are never quite right. This year I am focusing on two methods that are working well.

The first is very expensive and high tech. I am sure you have seen the product Aero Garden on TV or at many household stores. The company makes a seed starter that fits in the product and allows you to start and grow 70 seeds at a time with each in its own separate growing plug. This is by far the easiest way to start seeds. It has a built in grow light system and indicators when to add water and nutrients. It is almost fool proof. Kevin Barber introduced me to this system and he is growing Adenium seeds, so I had to follow suit and do the same. Within a week the plants have sprouted and are looking good. You can check out this product on the web.



The second is low tech and inexpensive. I decided that the \$.99 shoe boxes would make a great seed starter and seedling growing container so I purchased a few at the local cheap store and prepared them for growing. The first thing I did was to place a number of drain holes in the bottom using a pointed soldering iron to melt the plastic. Caution: be sure to do this outside since the fumes are irritating and toxic. I placed a piece of screening in the bottom and filled it with my sterile soil mix to a depth of about 2 to 3 inches. To sterilize the soil I use a microwave safe dish, wet down the soil and microwave it until it reaches a temperature of about 180 degrees. That usually kills most problems. Let it cool before you put it into the plastic shoebox. I like to then soak it in

sterile water to thoroughly saturate the soil before I spread my seeds. I cover them lightly with a thin layer of small pumice and then cover the shoebox with plastic wrap held in place with a large rubber band. It's worked this spring outside under a patio roof.

Now that I have all these seedlings up and growing, what to do with them? Answer: We need to have a seedling exchange in the fall! Think about it?

There must be something special about the name Jack Ramsey. I have had the privilege of knowing 3 of them in Tucson. Two were father and son and they took care of my family automobile repairs for years and the 3rd was our TCSS Jack Ramsey (passed away on June 13th) who took care of this society for more than a decade. In every way you can think of Jack did things. He did more things than I can possibly write down and helped us in more ways than there are ways. Jack and his wife Helen were always here for us. Thanks Jack.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Ceropegia stapeliiformis* ssp. *serpentina

From the Republic of South Africa and Swaziland, this is one very "snaky" species of *Ceropegia*. The stems creep and twine, possessing peduncles that grab onto convenient surfaces to hold the plant up. The flowers are dark brown and white.

Orbea variegata

From the Western Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa, this widely distributed species is one of the most popular stapeliads. The stems are rather generic and unremarkable, but the flower is large, multicolored, and stinks to high heaven. In Tucson, these plants get leggy; it is best if the stems are short and densely packed.

Huernia keniensis* var. *keniensis

This small asclepiad grows among basalt rocks and on other rocky ridges in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya and Tanzania. The fragile stems resemble innumerable *Huernia*, but the flowers are bell-shaped and dark purple and about an inch across.

Library Update

***Gymnocalycium In Habitat and Cultivation* by Graham Charles**

The popular genus is described and photographed in 288 pages. Included is the history of the species, comments, distribution maps, history and in some cases conservation status.

***Threatened Cacti of Mexico* by Edward F. Anderson, Salvador Arias Montes, Nigel P. Taylor**

This book looks into the conservation status of the cacti of Mexico. Removed by collectors, destroyed by agriculture or

TCSS Board and Donor Member Offers Matching Funds In Support of Preserving Herbarium Illustrations



At the June 9th meeting the Board voted to match dollar for dollar donations to The Florilegium Program for up to \$3,000. An individual TCSS member donor is willing to add \$500 to this matching amount for a total of \$3,500 in matching funds. The work of cataloguing over 850 botanical illustrations in the University of Arizona Herbarium Collection is almost completed and the next step is to insure preservation of these illustrations. This means each illustration needs to be mounted and enclosed in archival material then stored in boxes. Once they are archived they are not only preserved but their future use can be better monitored. We estimate the cost to archive one illustration is between \$7 - \$10 depending on the choice of materials, price at the time of purchasing materials and taxes. Archiving over 850 illustrations will cost over \$6,000. By offering these matching funds both the Board and TCSS member donor not only offer support for this project but want to encourage members and the public to contribute to this effort. By contributing \$10 dollars (\$20 with matching) you will preserve two illustrations, contributing \$20 (\$40) you will preserve four, contributing \$50 (\$100) ten will be preserved. Whatever amount your contribution will be very much appreciated. Contribution forms will be available on the back table at our monthly meetings. Contributions can also be sent to TCSS, The Florilegium Program, P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728-4759.

Many thanks the TCSS Board and member donor for generously supporting this work. I also want to thank volunteers Nancy Reid, Joan McGann and Kay Marietta for the dedication they have shown to this project for over a year. They

continue to be enthusiastic and look forward to the work of preserving these illustrations that are so important to the botanical history of this region. If you are interested in helping please contact me.

For members who were not able to get to the Desert Museum to see some of these illustrations on display in the exhibit, Illustrations from Howard Scott Gentry's book, *Agaves of Continental North America*. You will have another chance to see them on exhibit in Porter Hall at the Tucson Botanical Gardens from July through September 27, 2009.

Thanks,
Margaret Pope, Email: mpope7@gmail.com



Cactus Rescue Crew Busy with Rescues, Workdays and Sales.



Cactus Rescue Crew activity continued yielding nice quality saguaros, barrels, mamms and hedgehogs, providing several opportunities to collect some nice plants by crew members and to beef up our sales inventory. The New Life Baptist Fellowship was ready to break ground for their new church on west Cortaro Farms Road. The Town of Marana and Chestnut Construction coordinated efforts so cactus in the areas to be cleared that did not need to be relocated could be removed before construction began. Chestnut hurried up the clear limits staking to have it ready for the weekend so we could move in. A Saturday and Sunday cactus rescue allowed us to remove all the smaller plants, over 500, so construction could begin the following Monday.

The site had about two hundred smaller saguaros, under five feet tall, that the crew could handle. There were no roads or paths leading inside the 15 acre property so we parked on the perimeter and got our workout carrying out plants hundreds of feet. We also removed about sixty nice barrels, a couple of Queen of the Nights, one with two nice blooms which makes them much easier to find. There were some nice multi-headed clumps of pincushions *Mammillaria grahamii*, and a few nice hedge hogs. A special thanks to Chestnut Construction for meeting us on site and providing clearing limit maps.

Out Cactus Rescue notices are emailed to all TCSS Members who have elected to receive them, you must be a member to receive the notices and to participate on the crew. We maintain a Cactus Rescue Crew email list and broadcast messages every Thursday as to rescues, holding site workdays or sales for the following weekend. If you want to be on the cactus rescue crew notice list and are not, send an email to cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org and request to be added to this list. We occasionally can send earlier notices but most details are worked out very close to

the actual rescue weekend. All permits, approvals, clearing limits, maps, site inventory, native plant lists, logistics of site access, safety considerations and parking logistics, load-out access and plans, tag purchased, and other details must be in order to hold each rescue.

Joe Frannea

International Member's Tucson Holiday

Ralf Holzheu is one of our newest TCSS members. He is a 20+ year collector of cactus and a co-Webmaster at the Haage web site. the oldest and largest cactus nursery in Europe. www.kakteen-haage.com/index.htm

Ralf was 22 before the wall separating him from West Berlin was torn down November 9, 1989. He could stand on his roof and see the west as a child. He has edited the synonyms addendum updating the cacti names to match Edward F. Anderson's work "The Cactus Family" for the reprint of the German Cactus "Bible" "Kakteen von A bis Z" by the famed cactus expert Walther Haage (1822-1972). <http://www.kakteen-haage.com/shorthis.htm>

Ralf's long time dream was to experience the desert to better understand what his beloved Mammillaria and other desert cacti require and endure. A 30 minute guided walk in Ironwood National Monument gave him a much better feel for 104° F air temperatures and 130°+ F ground temperatures along with the precautions desert dwellers (flora, fauna and people) must observe to survive and thrive.

Continued on the back page of the Desert Breeze

urbanization, the book evaluates the threats to 52 taxa of Mexican cacti. A chapter on propagation as a means of safeguarding wild populations is included.

TCSS Holds "Sizzling Summer Extravaganza" Rescued Cactus Sale



With the hectic cactus rescue activities during the past many weekends, we accumulated 300 plus ocotillo and 200 plus saguaros. That triggered a sale at our holding site. We maintain a postcard mailing list and an email list for those who are not TCSS members but want to know about our sales and special events. We try to give a couple of weeks notice for our sales but it is hard to plan too far in advance because our sales are based on inventory which is totally dependent on our cactus rescue crew activity which is dependent on construction project activity. We can hold plants for several months but prefer to sell them as soon as possible so the plants are not disturbed again after they start to grow new roots.

Thanks to 41 TCSS volunteers, our June 7th, Rescued Cactus Sale went very smoothly with 174 customers purchasing 860 plants in a four hour period. We had an unusual sale having so many saguaros and ocotillo and not hundreds of barrel cactus as we often have. We also had a hundred five gallon pots of red yucca (*hesperaloe parviflora*) and a few large sotol. We are fortunate to have such a large holding site with plenty of area to layout 300 ocotillo and 200 saguaros and also have ample sales, holding, parking and loading areas. We netted about \$12,000 with one forth of this earmarked for our Educational Outreach Program.

We had about 175 plants left over after the sale and held a crew workday the following weekend to plant them in the ground. We decided to invite all TCSS members to come during the workday time to purchase plants in case they missed the sale or wanted more plants. A couple dozen members did come by and purchased about 75 plants.

We are not sure when our next sale will be scheduled, possibly in July but we are planning our annual "Blooming Barrel Sale" for August 16th assuming we have barrel cacti to sell. Always check our web site calendar for our next sale date.

Joe Frannea

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

Everyone is Welcome!

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



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

July 2009

Thursday, July 2, 2009

7:00pm

Monthly meeting: Presentation by Dr. Mary Olsen, Ph.D.
"Diseases of Cacti and Succulents"

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

7:00pm,

Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

International Member's Tucson Holiday *Continued from page 4*

Until Ralf's visit to Tucson he had never observed a cactus in habitat. We took care of that deficiency with several trips for him to walk among the Giants.

As a TCSS member Ralf assisted the Rescue Crew on a Saturday morning rescue. With a little guidance his

enthusiasm was under control and he harvested his first saguaro along with many other plants for the club.

We welcome Ralf as a full time TCSS member and self proclaimed "Part-time Arizona Ralf".



Photo by John Durham



Photo by Ed Bartlett



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

August 2009

Thursday, August 6, 2009

"Understanding the Climates of Succulent Plant Habitats"

Presented by Dr. Michael W. Douglas, Ph.D
Research Meteorologist, National Severe Storms
Laboratory, Norman, Oklahoma.



This will be a very interesting program that will include lots of photos of succulent habitat locations and ariel images of many of those same areas as Michael will present his ideas about the relationship of weather on the environmental conditions on succulent plants.

Dr. Douglas became interested in cacti from a friend while in high school in San Diego, and thereafter traveled widely through the desert southwest and Baja California before going off to graduate school in Florida. After a nearly endless period of graduate studies at two universities in Florida, he obtained his Ph.D. in Meteorology from Florida State University in 1987. His last 16 years have been spent in Norman, Oklahoma at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, where, contrary to normal expectations, he has not been chasing tornadoes but instead has been doing research on the climate and weather of the southwestern US and Mexico and also of regions farther afield, in South America and parts of Africa. Fieldwork for this research required extensive traveling and extended stays throughout Latin America and parts of Africa, most with his wife Rosario. This work travel, together with many personal trips made over the years, has afforded lots of exposure to succulent habitats. This has led to some of his current "unofficial" research, which involves seeking meteorological explanations for many of the succulent plant habitats around the globe.

This will be a must see program for everyone! I would highly recommend that you please try to attend this important look at the earth's meteorological patterns and the habitats that are always under the natural control from the climate.

Our September Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 7:00pm

Richard Wiedhopf

"Happy 50th Anniversary TCSS"

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Agave

There are several hundreds species of Agave. They are native to the Southwestern US, throughout Mexico and into Central America. They were (and continue to be) cultivated for centuries by the native populations for fibers, food and drinks. They are also very useful plants in desert gardens and many of the species that are native to areas northerly of the tropics are quite hardy.

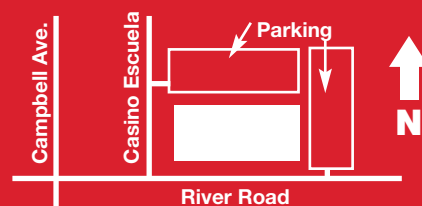
Agaves are succulent rosettes, often clumping, occasionally on short trunks. They generally have a sharp spine at the end of their leaves, and for this reason should be away from paths. Each rosette blooms after many years (generally at least 8). The blooming rosette uses all its energy to produce the giant towering bloom, and seeds. When it has finished blooming, in almost all the species, the rosette dries out. Some species produce a large quantity of new plants on the flower stem (bulbils). These can be detached and planted.

August Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with Q, R, S, T and U, please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting.

Your generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



Please read the article on the Good Time Silent Auction so you can get your plants ready and share in the fun on Sunday, September 20 at the Junior League facility. The September silent auction has been a tradition for more than 40 years.

In the last month the Adenium seedlings have really grown and I spent today removing some them from the Aero Garden environment

and planting each of them in their own 3 1/4 inch pot. It was a very simple task to remove the plugs and then plant them at a proper depth in the pots. I use a very simple potting mix consisting of one part cactus soil (Kellogg Palm and Cactus Soil-Lowes) and one part pumice (Uni-Grow – Mesquite Valley Nursery) and some added osmocote fertilizer. I am sure that these products are available at many other locations but I am always asked, "Where did you buy this?" In this case it is strictly convenience to where I live.

I watered them in and top dressed each container. The flat of 25 is in a moderate indirect light location outside and now I can sit back and watch them take off. You can see from the picture that roots have been produced and have extended through the plugs of the AeroGarden. There will be more information next month when I transplant the seedlings from the plastic shoe boxes.

Several years ago we tried to establish a pollination activity for less common plants. Many of the nurserymen do this on their own as part of their normal business activity but most members are not involved. The issue is that there are many members with rare or very desirable plants that should be propagated. It would be a shame not to take advantage of the possibilities that we have in Tucson.

For instance, my *Pachypodium namaquanum* was in full flower in the late spring and one of the member nurseries was kind enough to pollinate my plant with one or more of their plants and produce a large number of seed pods. For my part I got over 100 seeds to play with plus there were enough seeds produced to give a quantity to the CSSA Seed Depot and plenty left for the future. This is just one example of what we can do.

If you are interested in this kind of activity and want to lead or be a part of this please let me know. We need your involvement.

Thanks again,

Dick Wiedhopf, President



Good Time Silent Auction

**Sunday, September 29, 2009 • Junior League Building
2099 River Rd, 12:00 noon to 3:00pm**

Good bye to the summer heat and the monsoon and hello to fall and a great time to plant.

This is a celebration: silent auctions, free plants, \$2.00 and \$5.00 sale tables and Ice Cream with all the toppings.

Bring your excess plants for the free plant table. All we ask is that they are free of disease and insects, so please check all your plants for insects. Better plants will go on the \$2.00 and \$5.00 tables and special plants for the silent auctions. All proceeds go to our Research program. Bid sheets and price stickers will be available at the August and September meetings for your convenience.

The Board has adopted the same policy as we had at Sonoran VII with a high value special silent auction table. These items will have an opening minimum bid of \$25.00 or more set by the donor. If the item sells for at least the opening bid the donor receives the opening bid price and any amount above that goes to the society.

The regular silent auctions will feature wonderful items that you donate to support our research programs. There are no minimum bids but all bids must be even dollar amounts. We will

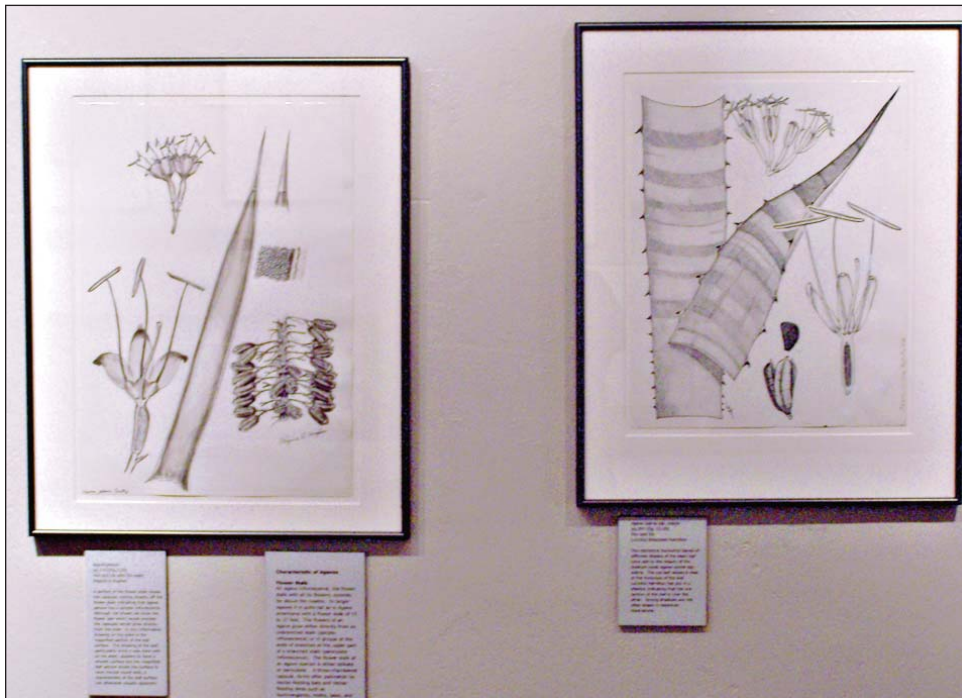
have several separate silent auction tables spaced throughout the afternoon. Pots, plants, special cutting, books, tools etc will be part of these silent auctions. There may also be a special table of books that will have a minimum bid but all the funds go to the society.

Free Plants will be available starting at 12:45pm in order to give everyone an opportunity to take some home.

We will start the set-up at 10:00am and the party will start at 12:00! The first silent auction will start at about 12:30pm and then about every 30 minutes thereafter. All you have to do is sign-up and get a bid number.

We always welcome volunteers for set-up, sales, and clean-up. Come help, bring in your plants and have fun. Please feel free to bring your family and friends to this event.

Illustrations from the “Agaves of Continental North America” on Exhibit at the Tucson Botanical Gardens



The exhibit of illustrations from Howard Scott Gentry's book, "Agaves of Continental North America", at the Tucson Botanical Gardens will continue through September 26, 2009. This exhibit provides information on agaves, gives insight into the art of botanical illustration and introduces you to one of the most productive botanists of the southwest.

It is the first exhibit from the University of Arizona Herbarium collection of over 900 botanical illustrations that volunteers of the Sonoran Desert Florilegium Program have been archiving. The exhibit will give you an idea of how these illustrations are being preserved. We are planning future exhibits with different illustrations. We hope you will take time to see the exhibit and also enjoy the new gardens on the grounds at TBG.

Les Longino, one of our TCSS members, has been working on developing a website for the Florilegium Program. We hope to have it up soon.

Margaret Pope

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Dave Moyer
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:
(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt
Chris Monrad
Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett
Martin (Marty) Harow
William (Bill) Hicks
John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett
Mark Dimmitt
Joie Giunta
Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue
cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Chris Monrad
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller
runbunny@cox.net
Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

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



Please see our Web site calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

August 2009

Thursday, August 6, 2009

7:00pm

Monthly meeting: Presentation by Dr. Michael W. Douglas, Ph.D., "Understanding the Climates of Succulent Plant Habitats"

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

7:00pm

Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Library Update

***Guide to the Aloes of South Africa*
by Ben-Erik van Wyk & Gideon Smith**

Arranged by growth habit, 125 species are each given a page with a description, distinguishing characteristics, the habitat and distribution, conservation status, name derivation and notes. The opposite page has at least three color photos.

***All About Saguaros* by Leo W. Bank**

This Arizona Highways book is a quick read for anyone interested in some of the facts and lore of the Saguaro.

***Saguaro Questions and Answers* by James W. Cornett**

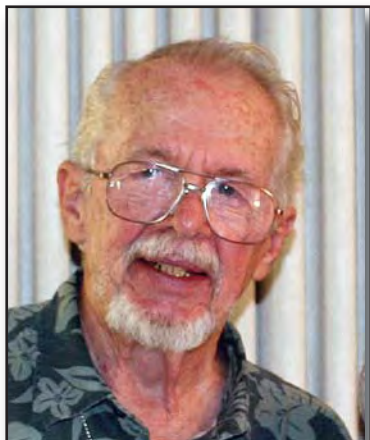
Another fast reading book, this booklet answers a multitude of questions on the Saguaro.

Discount Offer to TCSS Members

Jan Westenborg, owner of Green Things is Tucson's destination for houseplants, cactus, trees, shrubs and more! Green Things is offering all TCSS members a 10% discount. All you need to do is mention that you are a member of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and they will honor you with a 10% discount on your purchase.

Green Things is located at: 3235 E Allen Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718 (Just west of River Road and north of Brandi Fenton Park) For any needed information call Green Things at (866) 971-4635. www.greenthingsarizona.com

JACK RAMSEY 1924-2009



Jack was a great supporter of our Society. He organized trips, home garden tours, silent auctions and raffles. He did all the planning for the layout of the sales tables for the many Expositions and Sonoran conferences as well as planning the Holiday Party. He and his wife Helen participated at many TCSS events and also handled the money for many of the sales. At the monthly meetings he greeted everyone who came through the door. Jack was a TCSS member since 1998 and served on the board for many years.

Jack enjoyed his family, traveling and tending his plants. Jack will be greatly missed by members of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, all of his many friends, acquaintances, his wife Helen of 63 years, 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

September 2009

Thursday, September 3, 2009 "South Africa - Northern Cape Part One"

Presented By Doug Dawson.



Doug is a retired mathematics professor at Glendale Community College and now just teaches summer school each year to earn money for his trips. Right now, seed-growing seems to be his greatest botanical passion. It yields much needed biodiversity. So often, especially in the succulent area, propagation by cuttings and even seed seems to limit the breadth of biodiversity. Much of what we grow or can even get seed from, comes from sources which have the same small gene pool for decades from a few select plants. It is good to introduce wild-collected seed with data from time to time to prevent a narrowing of genetic material. New sports or cultivars also effervesce when lots of seedlings are observed. With his lithops, it is like being able to go "rock" collecting for prettier, shinier "living" stones without even leaving his greenhouse.

Doug is a past president of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society in Phoenix and is also a member of the TCSS. He has done extensive botanical travels in Namibia and South Africa. Doug's program will include Mesembs, Euphorbias, Stapeliads and other succulents, wild flowers and many bulbs. Most of the photos from his talk were taken in August, 2008 (early Spring), with a few from a second trip in April and May of 2009 to show the same plants in blooming season or other conditions.

Doug visited South Africa in September 2007 to visit the Little Karoo and further explore the Northern Cape. At that time, Woody Minnich and Jan Emming accompanied him. Every

time he returns at a different time of year, the plants show further characteristics of their growth cycles and give clues on how they should be grown in the very harsh Phoenix climate.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for this September 3rd presentation. It will be an excellent program that you will want to attend!.

Our October 1 Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 7:00pm

Richard Wiedhopf

"Happy 50th Anniversary TCSS"

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

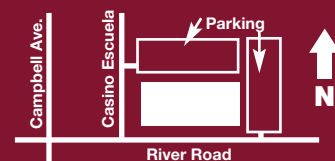
Melocactus

Melocactus the genus...A unique group of cacti which are native to the Caribbean, Central and South America. These plants over time will produce a characteristic cephalium, a terminal growth where flowers are born. They are usually small hot pink in color and open late in the day, closing up the next morning. A few weeks later bright red or pink fruits emerge when the seeds are ripe. Over many years, the cephalium will continue to grow and elongate, adding lots of reddish soft spines. Old specimens are quite the conversation piece.

In Tucson...Melocactus are not landscape plants, but great potted patio plants. They are best grown in morning sun or dappled light, do not attempt to grow them in full sun, they will burn. If they are kept dry during the winter when freezing temperature are possible, they will overwinter fine. On the coldest prolonged freezing nights a box inverted over your specimen will offer extra cold protection. In April resume watering and feed them monthly thru September using a balanced water soluble fertilizer at half strength.

When seen in the wild, Melocactus or Turk's Caps look like aliens from another planet. Many of the seasonally dry islands of the Caribbean each have a species of Melocactus. These plants are good sized with many starting to produce their cephalium. Enjoy your plants.

**Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

President's Message



The seedlings I have transplanted last month are doing fine, so I thought I would take a break and cover some other topics.

I want to introduce you to a new feature initiated by the Board of Directors called "Growing Succulents in the Desert". It will be a monthly feature with a short article of interest that will help you choose and grow succulent

plants. Mark Dimmitt kicks this off with a great introduction to growing Adeniums. The success I have had with these plants comes from following the advice of Mark and others who have developed the expertise of growing this succulent in our desert. We hope that this series of articles will produce the same results for you. Thanks Mark for a great start to this series.

Don't forget the Good Time Silent Auction on Sunday, September 20, 2009. Read more about it in the article in this issue. I hope you will attend.

In the Arizona Daily Star on Friday, August 21, 2009 in the Law and Order section the title of the second story is "Man faces 10 months for removing cacti". This man faces up to 10 months in federal prison for removing four saguaros, two were from the Saguaro National Park. I hope this sends the appropriate message about the illegal removal of cacti. We take a lot of pride in the way we follow all the laws, rules and regulations within our rescue program. Nobody wants to go to prison.

At the September Board meeting we will be electing a nominations committee which will provide a slate of nominees for officers (1 year terms), 3 Board of Directors (3 year terms) and the Affiliate Representative for CSSA (2 year term). Please let us know if you are interested in serving and willing to run for one of these positions.

Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

FUNFEST 2009

The MSTFunfest 2009 is coming on November 4, 5, & 6 and the TCSS is going to be there – with your help! The Math, Science & Technology Funfest is an annual event held at the TCC where over 6000 4th through 8th grade students get a chance to work hands on in small groups on projects involving math, science or technology. Last year we had over 1000 students come through our booth and build a model cactus. This year we are planning for 1200 students. The kids work in groups of 8 – 10 with a TCSS leader for about 20 minutes learning the functional anatomy of a generic cactus and then building a model incorporating the functions of roots, stems, core, structure, skin, spines & flowers. It was a big hit last year both with students and teachers. To make this work we need volunteers to help assemble the model kits in

October; and to work the booth in November. The October work parties to assemble the kits will be announced in the October Newsletter. The Funfest runs from 9:00am to 1:00pm each day (Wed, Thurs, Fri), so we will be setting up 2 hour shifts (9:00am – 11:00am and 11:00am to 1:00pm) on each day and will need 6 volunteers to man the booth on each shift. If you are interested in participating, please send me an e-mail at funfest@tucsoncactus.org or see me at the October TCSS meeting (I will be out of town for the September meeting).

John Swarbrick

TCSS Desert Garden Tours

The TCSS is going to be offering a series of Garden Tours in 2009 and 2010. The first tour is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 24, 2009, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The tours are for TCSS members and their guests.

We are looking for members to volunteer their gardens in February and May, 2010 particularly on the northwest and south side of Tucson.

Please call Bill Salisbury, if you would be willing to participate. 299-3301 or email at: lusalisbury@comcast.net.

Haworthia and Gasteria Roundtable Discussion

October 15, 2009 at 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Junior League of Tucson • Kiva Room
2099 East River Road

On October 15, 2009 we will be having a Haworthia and Gasteria roundtable discussion that will be freely open to all our members interested in finding further information about anything and everything related to the Genus Haworthia and Gasteria. What plants would be good to put in the landscape garden, what would be frost hardy, what would be a good choice for excellent pot culture and much more. We will be asking some of our best local nursery owners to come out and express some of their experiences with everyone and to let everyone know what would be their choice selection from each of these great group of plants! There may be many questions, a chance for everyone to express their own ideas and to find out what is the best plants to grow in the many areas in and around Tucson.

Please plan to come out and ask questions, get answers and enjoy talking with others that are interested in learning more about Haworthias and Gasterias! I hope to see you there!

Thanks, Vonn

September Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with V, W, X, Y and Z, A, B please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

Growing Succulents in the Desert

This is the first in what we hope will be a long series of brief articles on growing cacti and other succulents in the desert. At first thought, this might seem like a no-brainer. But there are numerous challenges to growing them here. First, many succulent plants are NOT native to desert habitats, like most of the adeniums featured in this article. Instead, they grow in more humid, wetter habitats such as temperate woodlands, tropical thornscrub, and tropical deciduous forest. When cultivated in the desert, these species may need surprisingly generous watering, and protection from the brutal summer sun. Growing cacti in “cactus country” is a special challenge. Because they are part of the local biological community, there are all kinds of pests and diseases that are adapted to consuming them. Exotic species of cacti are often more susceptible than native ones that have evolved some resistance. For example, the giant cactus borer (*Moneilema gigas*) favors *Trichocereus* (not *Echinopsis sensu strictu*) over its native opuntoid foods, and it does tremendous damage to them.

This series will address the above and many other topics. They will be posted on the website at www.tucsoncactus.org, where they will eventually accumulate into a comprehensive guide for desert succulent growers. Contributions to the series are welcome any time.

Fall is the Time to Shop for Adeniums

by Mark Dimmitt

Although there are about 11 species of *Adenium* from different climates all over Africa and southern Arabia, there is a general growth pattern in cultivation. The great majority of plants that are sold commercially are *obesum* or its hybrids. The parent species grow in equatorial Africa, where they have no obligatory dormant season – they will grow year round as long as they are kept warm and moist. These plants do most of their vegetative growth in the hot summer months, when they flower little or not at all. The flowering season begins when days shorten and the temperatures begin to drop; in Tucson that's in September or early October. If they are kept under tropical conditions (wintered in a greenhouse or a sunny window where the nights don't fall below 50° F), they will continue to flower all the way to the following spring (April or May). So if you buy a plant now, you can expect to enjoy their beautiful flowers for 8 or 9 months (Figure 1).

If you want a really superior hybrid, shop in a desert nursery in July or August. Any plant that is in good flower during the peak summer heat will probably flower year round (if it was grown here, not recently imported). Some *obesum* cultivars and hybrids with *swazicum* and *crispum* often flower year round.

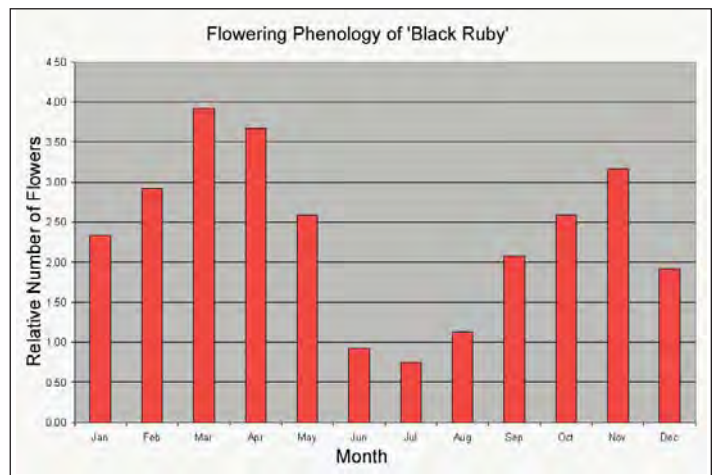


Figure 1. Flowering phenology chart for a typical good adenium cultivar, using 'Black Ruby' as an example. Flowering peaks in spring, nearly or completely ceases in midsummer, peaks again in the fall, and then continues at a lower rate all winter. On the vertical axis a flowering score of less than 1.5 means essentially no flowers, while 3 represents a good bloom as in the accompanying photos.

Some nearly everblooming adeniums:

'Calypso'	'Crimson Star'
'Daeng Siam'	'Evelyn Marie'
'All Year Prosperity'	'Harry Potter'
'Beauty of Taiwan'	'Twinkling Moonlight'
'Home Run'	'Pink Elegance'
'Candy Stripes'	

Caveats:

1. Keep in mind that smaller plants have fewer flowers over a shorter season. The display gets better as the plant matures.
2. If you can't keep the plants warm over the winter, it is critical that you dry them out for the cool period. The best way to kill an adenium is to give it cold wet feet. Adeniums adapt well to a winter rest. The only downside is that you will lose much of the winter flowering season. Also, much of the caudex growth occurs in fall and winter.
3. All the species other than *obesum* have an obligatory winter dormancy. They must be dried out and allowed to rest for a few weeks to a few months depending on the species and the winter temperatures. Therefore it's important to know what kind you have.

Cultural instructions can be found in a Cactus and Succulent Journal article, which is also posted on TCSS's adenium website www.adenium.tucsoncactus.org. More detailed and up to date instructions are contained in the book ***Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance*** by Tucson authors Mark Dimmitt, Gene Joseph, and David Palzkill.

Some of Mark Dimmitt's Adeniums



'Evelyn Marie', another Tucson creation, flowers all year, often profusely.



'Rainbow' is another obesum-swazicum hybrid that flowers in summer. This photo was also taken in August.



'Pink Elegance' was also developed in Tucson and bears flowers year round.



'Taiwan Beauty' (aka 'Beauty of Taiwan') is an obesum-swazicum hybrid that flowers through the summer heat. This photo was taken in mid August.

See you at TCSS Good Time Silent Auction

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Junior League Building • 2099 River Rd • 12:00 noon to 3:00pm

Don't miss bidding on these very special items at the silent auction: Special Used Books, CSSA Journals, Items from the Cactus and Succulent Society of South Australia donated to us at the convention, 2 nights stay at a luxury resort and lots of great plants.

This is a celebration: silent auctions, free plants, \$2.00 and \$5.00 sale tables and Ice Cream with all the toppings.

Bring your excess plants for the free plant table. All we ask is that they are free of disease and insects. Better plants will go on the \$2.00 and \$5.00 tables and special plants for the silent auctions. All proceeds go to our Research program. Bid sheets and price stickers will be available at the September meetings for your convenience.

The Board has adopted the same policy as we had at Sonoran VII with a high value special silent auction table. These items will have an opening minimum bid of \$25.00 or more set by the donor. If the item sells for at least the opening bid the donor receives the opening bid price and any amount above that goes to the society.

The regular silent auctions will feature wonderful items that you donate to support our research programs. There are no minimum bids but all bids must be even dollar amounts. We will have several separate silent auction tables spaced throughout the afternoon. Pots, plants, special cuttings, books, tools etc., will be part of these silent auctions. There may also be a special table of books that will have a minimum bid but all the funds go to the society.

Free Plants will be available starting at 12:45pm in order to give everyone an opportunity to take some home.

We will start the set-up at 11:00am and the party will start at noon with the first silent auction ending at about 12:30pm and then about every 30 minutes thereafter. All you have to do is sign-up and get a bid number.

We always welcome volunteers for set-up, sales, and clean-up. Come help and have fun, ask questions, talk with friends, etc., etc.,

Please feel free to bring your family and friends to this event. You don't have to bring plants or buy them, just come and enjoy the event.

Thanks

Library Update

Sansevieria in Cultivation in Australia by Robert F. G. Swinbourne

This 48 page booklet covers over 40 species of Sansevieria. There is a section on culture, propagation and descriptions of the species and cultivars on the first 18 pages. The rest of the booklet has line drawings of the various species.

Uebelmannia And Their Environment by Randolph Schulz and Marlon Machado

The first part of this book covers not only the Uebelmannia, but also the area in eastern Brazil where they are located. Associated plants, animals and the cultural history of the area are also discussed. The second part is dedicated to the Uebelmannia and its conservation.

Cactus & Co. 2009 Volume 13 #1 Plants covered are Pelecypora strobiliformis, Eulophia petersii, Agave albopilosa and Arrojadoopsis marylandae **Volume number 3 & 2** discusses Weingartia, Sulcorebutia, Echincereus, geophytic euphorbias from Chile.

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Dave Moyer
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors: (Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt
Chris Monrad
Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)
Linda Bartlett
Martin (Marty) Harow
William (Bill) Hicks
John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)
Ed Bartlett
Mark Dimmitt
Joie Giunta
Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue
cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Chris Monrad
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller
runbunny@cox.net
Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

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



Please see our Web site calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

September 2009

Thursday, September 3, 2009	7:00pm Monthly meeting: Presented By Doug Dawson. Presented By Doug Dawson.
Tuesday, September 8, 2009	7:00pm Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Sunday, September 20, 2009	12.00 Noon to 3.00pm Good Time Silent Auction at the Junior League

Acknowledgement of Contributions: June, July and August, 2009

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society members and friends whose donations helped make this year a success. We extend our sincere thanks for you support.

General

Mary Jane Magee
Fred Miller
Ray & Ann Carroll
Stu Benson

Education

Betty King

Conservation

Christopher Domin
Diana Chen

Research

Marie LeRoy

Florilegium

Peter Hubbell
Evelyn Hubbell
Keimpe Bronkhorst
Rebecca Bushner
Barbara A. Covarrubias
Gene Joseph
Jane Evans

Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and comprehensive listing of donors. TCSS apologizes for any incorrect listing, misspelling or omissions



Photos taken by Doug Dawson from his trip to South Africa



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

October 2009

Thursday, October 1, 2009
"50 years in 50 minutes"
 Presented By Richard Wiedhopf.

From the first meeting in December 1960 to the Good Time Silent Auction a week or so ago the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society has been going strong for 50 years. Pictures and stories about the members and events of the society will be highlighted.

Dick is the Assistant Dean for Finance and Facilities and Curator of the History of Pharmacy Museum at the College of Pharmacy at The University of Arizona. He has been associated with the College for 48 years receiving BS and MS degrees and has published

research on the chemistry of plants with potential anti-cancer agents. For the last 30+ years his focus has been on finance and facilities.

Dick and his wife Pat are long time members of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, joining in 1970. Dick currently serves as president. He has co-chaired all the Sonoran

conferences and is one of the founders of the Tucson Society's Plant Rescue program, which has saved over 45,000 cacti & succulents from destruction due to large-scale land development.

Dick has been a member of the CSSA since 1975 and coordinated the 1977 convention in Tucson, was host President for the 1995 Tucson Convention and Program Chairman for the 2001 Los Angeles Convention.



He is a grower and collector of all things cacti and succulent.

Please join us for a look at 50 memorable years.

This photo of John Haag appeared in the Arizona Daily Star in May of 1965 when the John Haag Memorial Cactus Garden was dedicated at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The Garden was a gift from the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society.

Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7 PM

"The Use of Emulsified Pure Oils to Control Insects and Diseases Attacking Cacti and Succulents"

Subtitle: "Grandfather's Intestinal Lubricant Provides Excellent Control of Mites, Insects and Diseases"

Presented by Dr. Jerald Wheeler

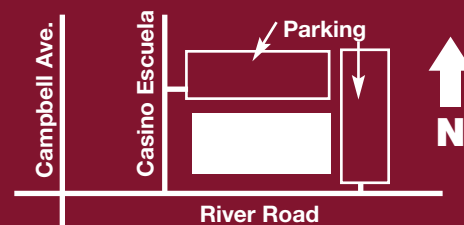
**SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY FREE PLANT
 CARNEGIEA GIGANTEA-GIANT SAGUARO**

Want to get involved with a special event... that only will happen once in 50 years?

Receive a one gallon seed grown Giant Saguaro. Plant it, nurture it, watch it grow and measure it's growth once every October and send your results annually in order to follow the growth from year to year. A special page will be set up to track and follow the growth of your seedling Saguaro. We can track how many Saguaros were initially planted, and see how they age each year, what will five and ten years produce in height? Who know's...when will the first one branch and throw an arm and how long will the first plants take to produce the first flowers? Stay Tuned for more details.

Okay..so you have the Saguaro, you have the fertilizer, measure and record the date of planting, log details at the TCSS Website, dig the hole...plant the Saguaro, water and fertilize and off we go.

**Meetings are held on the first
 Thursday of each month.**



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
 2099 E. River Road**

October Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with C, D, E, F and G, H, I please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

President's Message



During the last several years, I have served both the Tucson Society (TCSS) and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) as president. In April of this year the CSSA held its Biennial Convention in Tucson at the Westin La Paloma. There were about 500 attendees but we were anticipating 800 plus. The world wide economy disaster took its toll and CSSA lost \$30,000 on the convention. A

number of the CSSA board members were very unhappy about the loss and the convention as a whole. They were also especially unhappy about my leadership style so several of them worked behind the scenes to force my resignation as president. It was an impossible situation to continue service in a house divided. On September 1, 2009 I officially resigned as president of CSSA and all other responsibilities of that organization. Laurel Woodley (vice president) took over the position of President. She is an outstanding individual to whom I wish success.

Speaking of success, the Good Time Silent Auction, on September 20, was wonderful. We had 6 consecutive silent auctions that contained more than 50 plants each. We also had tables of \$2.00 and \$5.00 plants for sale and a large area of free plants. Everyone got something special to take home. Of course the best thing was the free ice cream and toppings. Special thanks to the ice cream crew of Patsy Frannea, Dale Johnson and Lu Salisbury.

The set-up, which worked perfect, was put together by Doug Rowsell who worked tirelessly from 8 to 5 and made sure that everything went as planned. I want to especially thank my wife Pat, Nancy Reid and Joie Guinta who work all morning on the bid sheets and set up. There are so many other that pitched in to make this a success and I thank you all. As usual, it ended with the same activity. This time performed by Augie and Dale Johnson - Vacuuming the carpets!!

The real contribution to the success of this event is all of you who brought wonderful plants etc., helped out in any way possible and purchased most of these items. Thank you so much for your support.

About 18 months ago, "Martha Stewart Living" Magazine contacted TCSS to ask for recommend nurseries for an article they were proposing. They picked Arid Lands Greenhouses. The October 2009 issue is out and has a wonderful article and pictures of succulent plant including the Arid Lands owners Bob Webb and Toni Yocum. You will enjoy reading this article.

Fifty years ago this society started and I hope you will join me at our October 1, meeting to see and hear some of our history.

Thank you

Dick Wiedhopf, President

FUNFEST 2009

As described in last month's newsletter, FUNFEST 2009 will be held at the TCC on 4,5,&6 November, and TCSS will be there – with your help. Last year we had over 1000 kids come through our booth and build a cactus model; this year we are planning for 1200. We will need 5 – 6 volunteers per 2 hour shift (9:00am – 11:00am and 11:00am – 1:00pm) on each of the three days of FUNFEST. We will be scheduling one or two work parties in late October to put together the model kits and to familiarize the volunteers with the model building exercise. The details of the work parties will be provided at the October TCSS monthly meeting and will be e-mailed to all who have indicated an interest in helping out on this education outreach project. If you are interested in participating please e-mail me at funfest@tucsoncactus.org.

John Swarbrick

TCSS Desert Garden Tours

The first in a series of self guided TCSS member Garden Tours will be Sat., Oct. 24, 9:00 am- 3:00pm. Visit 5 of our member's gardens and see how they grow, maintain and display Cacti and succulents.

Homeowners will be available to answer your questions. The tour is free and open to TCSS members and Guests, however most gardens are not handicap accessible. It is recommended that members wear their TCSS badge. We have grouped the gardens on the East side of Tucson for your driving convenience. Please park only on streets adjacent to the home.

**The garden descriptions and directions are listed below.
LOOK FOR THE GREEN TCSS SIGNS AND BALLOONS**

1. Norm and Linda Dennis. 991 S. Paperflower Ave.

A collector's paradise in a terraced backyard and a series of greenhouse structures with over 600 potted plants. This yard will amaze you.

From 22nd St. and Houghton, go east on 22nd to Rockcrest which is 2nd left. Turn left to Paperflower, which is 1st left. Turn left to 991.

2. Jenny and Jim Coniglio. 761 N. Circle D Way.

A 2002 award winning xeriscape back yard and innovative screened enclosure for vegetables, herbs and seasonal flowers. Expansive mountain and city views add to the beauty of this yard.

From Speedway and Houghton, go east on Speedway one block to Circle D Way. Turn right, go up steep hill to first driveway on right to 761.

3. Doug and Kathy Rowsell. 4745 Avenida de Frenelah.

Over 70 Saguaro in a natural setting and a diverse collections of plants along with aviaries, tortoises, turtles and an adenium greenhouse makes this large interesting yard a special treat. Restroom will be available at this garden.

IT'S PRICKLY PEAR HARVEST SEASON



Patsy Frannea collecting prickly pear fruit at a recent TCSS plant Rescue

TCSS members James and Joyce Thomas spent one morning in their yard last week picking some of the most beautiful prickly pear fruit we have ever seen. Huge deep magenta fruit packed full of wonderful nutritious juice. After picking only a small portion of their crop, they filled buckets and containers totaling about 20 gallons of fruit and headed off to do the processing. Four of us worked about 3 hours washing, blending, straining and packing the final product into containers for freezing. If you enjoy extra rich prickly pear lemonade at our meetings for the next year, you can thank James and Joyce for sharing all of their fruit. Members Sue Hildreth, Joie Giunta, John Polacheck and Faye Libbey have all shared their harvests over the years to make sure we have enough frozen juice for our club use. Thanks everyone! Our Prickly Pear Sorbet was recently on our menu of ice creams at the Good Times Auction.

When the desert is full of that gorgeous magenta fruit laden prickly pear (usually in late July/August), don't let the opportunity pass to enjoy the gift of the vitamin rich juice contained in those fruits. It can be obtained easily through either of the following methods and frozen in containers for

use throughout the year. Gather prickly pear fruit from your own property or with the permission of a property owner. Remember, it is illegal to gather plants, fruit, seeds or plant parts from City, County, State or Federal lands or roadways. Always leave some of the fruit for the animals.... they need food too.

METHOD I: (from Patsy Frannea)

Using metal tongs, carefully remove fruit from the plant when it is at its deep, magenta-colored ripeness peak and place in a large pail. You can usually tell when it starts to fall off the plant or you see signs that the birds are starting to feast on it. If the fruit is still green where it attaches to the pad it is not quite ripe. I usually try to leave some fruits on the plant around the edges for the animals to easily reach for their share. Note: Use caution when picking and handling the fruit... especially on a windy day. The small short reddish stickers (glochids) can easily become airborne and land on you and stick in your skin or worse, get in your eyes. Pick the fruit the same day that you plan to process. It does not keep well. Rinse the desert dirt off

Continued on the next page

It's Prickley Pear Harvest Season, Continued

of the fruits and discard any damaged or diseased pieces. Then use tongs to load a batch into your blender. Process quickly until liquefied and pour the liquid mixture into a fine mesh strainer or a colander lined with cheese cloth that has been placed over a large bowl. This will strain out all of the seeds and stickers and you will have a prickly pear juice that can be used or frozen for drinks, sauces, syrups, jellies, etc. Toss the pulp in your compost pile. You can do a two step straining process using a coarse screen first then the fine to make the process go faster. Be sure to refrigerate the juice immediately after straining and freeze if not used within a day or two because it tends to sour quickly. Hint: leave some of the liquid juice in the blender each time you pour it out to make it easier to blend the next batch.

METHOD II: (from Faye Libbey) (this is a really easy way if you have the freezer space to freeze the fruits first) Pick the fruit off of the plant as described in Method I. Rinse and use tongs to load into plastic bags. Freeze the bags of fruit for at least a couple of days. Remove from freezer and dump fruit into a strainer or colander as described above. The freezing will have softened the fruit and when thawed the juice will easily flow to be strained for your use.



Patsy Frannea collecting prickley pear fruit

Haworthia and Gasteria Roundtable Discussion

October 15, 2009 at 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Junior League of Tucson • Kiva Room
2099 East River Road

On October 15, 2009 we will be having a Haworthia and Gasteria roundtable discussion that will be freely open to all our members interested in finding further information about anything and everything related to the Genus Haworthia and Gasteria. What plants would be good to put in the landscape garden, what would be frost hardy, what would be a good choice for excellent pot culture and much more. We will be asking some of our best local nursery owners to come out and express some of their experiences with everyone and to let everyone know what would be their choice selection from each of these great group of plants! There may be many questions, a chance for everyone to express their own ideas and to find out what is the best plants to grow in the many areas in and around Tucson.

Please plan to come out and ask questions, get answers and enjoy talking with others that are interested in learning more about Haworthias and Gasterias! I hope to see you there!

Thanks, Vonn

Library Update

Going through the books we have in storage for the silent auction, I came across a few books that are well worth looking through. Among them is a two-volume set of **The Succulent Euphorbieae (Southern Africa)** by **Alain White, R. Allen Dyer & Boyd L. Sloane**. Although these books are from 1941, and



James Thomas and Joe Frannea processing ripe prickly pear fruit.

most of the pictures are black and white, the material and the clarity of the pictures make these books worth the time to go through. From the same three authors is a three-volume set of **The Stapelieae**, written in 1937. This is another invaluable set loaded with considerable information. Again, these books have black and white photos, but this set also has more color plates than the Euphorbieae books. Because of their age, I will not be bringing these books to the meetings on a regular basis. If you are interested in borrowing them, just email me at joietgo@yahoo.com or library@tucsoncactus.org. Please give me at least a week's notice before the meeting to get them from storage.

Joie Giunta

Take Houghton north to Catalina Hwy. Turn right and go to Snyder. Turn right to Avenida de Fanelah. Turn right on Avenida de Fanelah to 4745.

4. Matt Johnson and Pat Rorabaugh. 9165 E. Loma Linda Place.

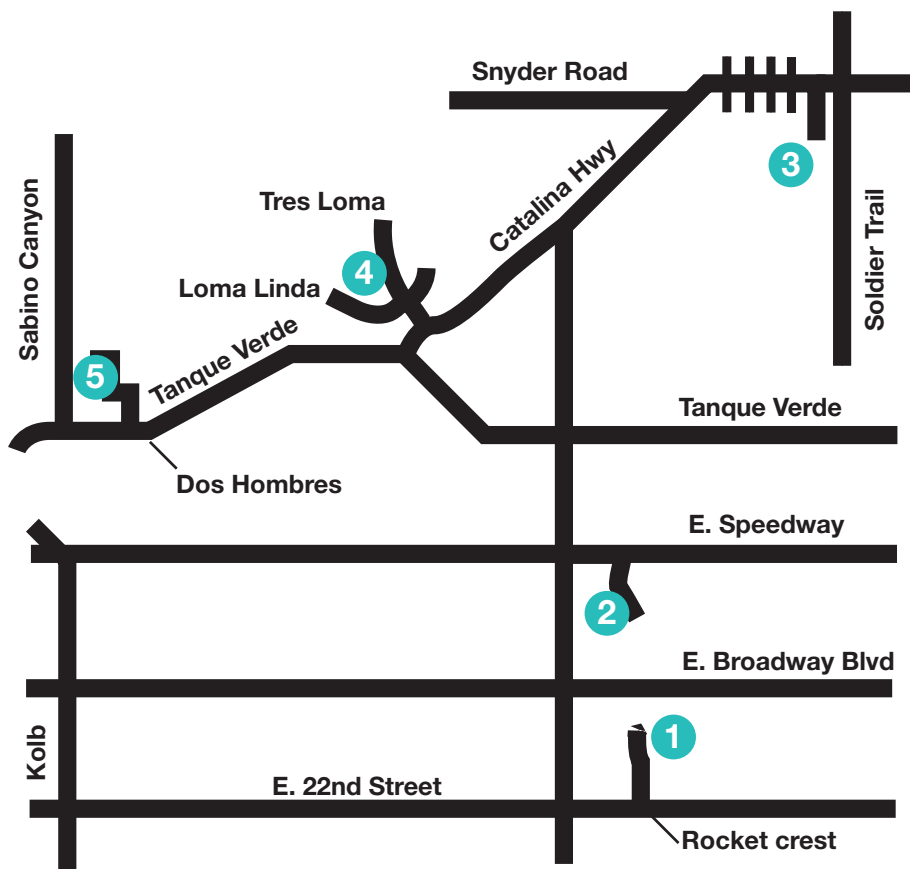
Enjoy this serene natural Sonoran Desert setting with many collected Texas and Mexican Chihuahuan Desert specimens tucked amongst limestone and native plants. Containerized cacti reside in a special shade house for protection and special care.

From Snyder and Avenida de Fanelah turn left on Snyder to Catalina Hwy. Turn left on Catalina Hwy. to Tres Lomas Dr. (small green street sign 0.4 miles north of Tanque Verde Road). Turn right to Loma Linda Pl. Turn left on Loma Linda Pl to 9165.

5. Dick and Pat Wiedhopf. 7510 E. Rio Verde Dr.

Meandering specimen studded paths take you through an amazing collection of cacti and succulents and numerous small specialty greenhouses add to the charm of this backyard.

From Catalina Hwy. and Tanque Verde Rd. turn right (west) on Tanque Verde Rd. Go west to Dos Hombres Rd. Turn right to Desert Arbors St. Turn left on Desert Arbors which becomes Essel Dr. Turn left on Rio Verde Dr. to 7510



Please vary order to avoid congestion

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Dave Moyer

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

(Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt

Chris Monrad

Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett

Martin (Marty) Harow

William (Bill) Hicks

John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett

Mark Dimmitt

Joie Giunta

Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue

cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

Everyone is Welcome!

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



Please see our Web site calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

October 2009	
Thursday, October 1, 2009	7:00pm Monthly meeting: Presented By Dick Wiedhopf. "50 years in 50 minutes."
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	7:00pm Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Thursday, October 15, 2009	7pm - 9pm Haworthia and Gasteria Roundtable Discussion

The genus Ferocactus

The genus Ferocactus contains nearly 40 species and subspecies with many different flower colors and spine characteristics. Native to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Mexico (including Baja California and numerous other Mexican states all the way south into the tropics), its broad ranging habitat spans approximately 1500 miles north to south and east to West.

Nearly all species are frost hardy in the Tucson area and one can literally have one or more species flowering in every month of the year. Many species are available at most TCSS member nurseries and are quite suited as landscape plants and sure to provide long term enjoyment in your collection. Be sure to check out books in the TCSS library and consult with your favorite nurseries for specific growing and fertilizing instructions for the various species, as there are some "tricks of the trade" that can help you to grow more robust and vibrant specimens.

Flowering seasons of various barrel cacti (The Genus Ferocactus)

Species	Flower Color	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
F. alamosanus	yellow			✓	✓								
F. chrysacanthus	yellow, red						✓	✓					
F. cylindraceus	yellow (orange)					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
F. cylindraceus tortulospinus	yellow to orange								✓	✓			
F. diguetii	red-orange			✓	✓	✓							
F. echidne	yellow				✓	✓							
F. emoryi	yellow or red							✓	✓				
F. flavovirens	yellow to red		✓	✓	✓								
F. fordii	purple						✓	✓	✓				
F. glaucescens	yellow					✓	✓	✓					
F. gracilis	red						✓	✓	✓				
F. haematacanthus*	magenta					✓	✓						
F. hamatacanthus	yellow					✓	✓	✓	✓				
F. herrerae	yellow with bronze tips									✓	✓		
F. hystrix	yellow			✓	✓								
F. johnstonianus*							✓	✓					
F. latispinus	purple									✓	✓	✓	✓
F. lindsayi*	yellow									✓			
F. macrodiscus	pink & white				✓	✓	✓	✓					
F. peninsulæ	red to orange								✓	✓			
F. pilosus	Yellow, orange, red												
F. pottsii	yellow			✓	✓								
F. rectispinus	yellow							✓	✓	✓			
F. recurvus	Purple, white & pink	✓	✓										✓
F. robustus	yellow			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
F. schwarzii	yellow												
F. townsendianus	yellow to orange							✓	✓	✓			
F. viridescens	greenish yellow				✓	✓	✓						
F. wislizeni	yellow, orange, red, peach, salmon							✓	✓	✓	✓		
F. wislizeni v. tiburonensis*	yellow				✓	✓							

*RARE IN CULTIVATION



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

November 2009

Thursday, November 5, 2009

"The Use of Emulsified Pure Oils to Control Insects and Diseases Attacking Cacti and Succulents"

Presented by Dr. Jerald Wheeler.



Pure oils can be obtained from the local drugstore. "Mineral Oil" is a great intestinal lubricant, Odorless - Tasteless - Crystal Clear, 1-2 tablespoons at bedtime. My grandfather used it but I did not understand the actual significant use of oils until I started working and understanding their use in agricultural application. The use of pure oils for pest and disease control for cactus

and succulents is safe, effective and really quite unknown to most people.

Jerald E. Wheeler, Ph.D. is a Plant Pathologist. For those who need a better explanation of what a plant pathologist does, here is a short definition. A plant pathologist is one who studies, interprets, and diagnoses diseases and abnormalities of plants. Plant Pathology is defined as the study of the organisms and environmental conditions that cause disease in plants, the mechanisms by which this occurs, the interactions between these causal agents and the plant (effects on plant growth, yield and quality), and the methods of managing or controlling plant disease. It also interfaces knowledge from other scientific fields such as mycology, microbiology, virology, biochemistry, bio-informatics, etc. Educational background: BS. Purdue University, 1966, Agriculture and Plant Sciences MS. U. of Arizona, 1969, Plant Pathology/Botany Ph.D. U. of Arizona, 1970, Plant Pathology/Agricultural Biochemistry 1968-1970 U. of Arizona, In charge of plant disease clinic under Dr. Hine Professional History 1970-1971 Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology, Univ. of Freiburg, Germany 1971-1973 Assistant Professor of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Arizona 1973-1975 Development Plant Pathologist, University of Wisconsin, Brazil 1975-1988 Owned and/or Managed Acre, Inc. 1988-2002 Product Development Manager, United Agri Products 2002-2004 Product Development Manager, Western Farm Service 2003-present Product Development Manager, Agrilience/Winfield Solutions Dr. Wheeler has also been published with his writings in 17 Scientific Publications in referred journals.

Please plan to come to this last regular meeting for 2009. Dr. Wheeler is a fantastic speaker that will add a lot of information that will be of value to you and your garden. It has been a very

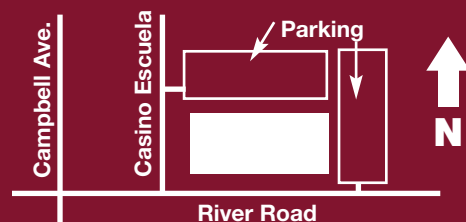
busy year for everyone in our organization. We have achieved many goals and are now looking to another amazing year in 2010.

Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 12-3 PM
TCSS Holiday Party 12pm - 3pm
Junior League of Southern Arizona

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY Lithops Care (Pot Culture)

LITHOPS should be given a dry rest in winter when the new growth is drawing moisture from the old leaves. At this time, water very lightly, just enough to keep the root hairs alive. As the old leaves dry up in the spring, give them more water until the long, hot summer days bring the growing period to a standstill. During summer only regular light watering is required to prevent the plants from shriveling and the soil from going bone dry. As flower buds appear in late summer and fall, another watering period begins, tapering off during winter after flowering has ended. (Those growing plants under lights will probably need to water some during the winter when the plants show signs of shriveling). Lithops should be grown in filtered sunlight. We pot our lithops in our standard succulent medium. It's approximately 50% pumice (perlite works just as well for the plant, though it tends to float). Two crucial factors in lithops cultivation are fast-draining soil and good air movement.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



**Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road**

November Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with J, K, L, M and N, O, P please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

President's Message



On November 12, 2009, the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society will complete its first 50 years and I have had the good fortune to be involved for the last 40 years. In this last decade the society has rapidly grown and reached out to more people and their diverse interests. This year we have more than 1,100 members, mostly from the Tucson area but also from many other communities in Arizona, 16 other

states and at least 1 international member. This certainly makes us the largest local Cactus and Succulent Society in the country if not the world. We are truly the Cactus Capital.

We need to think about the future and how our society can contribute in areas like discovery (research), information, conservation and education. We already have a research grants program which provides financial support. Our monthly newsletter "The Desert Breeze" and our website tucsoncactus.org provide great information on a whole range of topics to members and the general public. Our celebrated rescue programs has saved over 46,000 plants from destruction and found them new homes. This has made it possible to provide grants to K thru 12 teachers to do classroom educational projects about cacti and succulent plants. Finally, you have benefited from the almost 600 meeting speakers in the last fifty years.

We will be introducing some new software on our website to make it possible for you to upload pictures and more for everyone's enjoyment and also including an online scrapbook starting at our beginnings and continuing into our future. We will be adding more general information about growing succulents in the desert for your benefit.

Your ideas and interests are important and we will be surveying them in our next general mailing.

Our Holiday Party is set for December 6, 2009 at the Junior League facility. Save the date. You will get all the information in the general mailing in mid November.

We will have nomination from the floor for all open officer and Board positions at the November meeting. Please see the report of the nominations committee in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

2010 Slate of Nominees for Officers and Board of Director Members

According to our by-laws, a nominations committee was elected and charged with securing at least one nominee for all open positions.

Additional nomination will be accepted from the floor at the

November general meeting. The nominee must be in attendance and agree to accept the nomination or the nominator must have a written statement from the nominee that they will accept the nomination.

The committee members, Bill Salisbury, Bill Hicks and Ed Bartlett presented their nominee list to the October Board of Directors meeting. The report was accepted by the Board.

The Nomination Committees nominees are:

President	Richard Wiedhopf
Vice President	Vonn Watkins
Secretary	Dave Moyer
Treasurer	Joe Frannea

Board of Directors ending December 31, 2012

Chris Monrad
Keimpe Bronkhorst
Dale Johnson

CSSA Affiliate Representative

Bill Holcome

Library Update

An Illustrated Guide to Arizona Weeds by Kittie F. Parker

A full page is devoted to a black and white illustration of the weed with description and distribution information on the opposite page. The illustrations are well done and identification should be easy.

Some websites to go to for more information on obnoxious weeds are Arizona Noxious Weeds List at the Arizona Department of Agriculture.
www.azdot.gov/Highways/NResources/Priority_Weeds_List.asp
This site is point and click to see the description and a picture of the weed. The former just gives a list of all noxious weeds.

Field Guide to the Wild Plants of Oman by Helen Pickering and Annette Patzelt

A photographic field guide covering the geographical regions of Oman. The main sections of this book cover 250 common species, divided by the color of flowers. There is an additional section for trees and grasses. Each color group is organized alphabetically by botanical family.

Joie Giunta

Getting Ready for Frost

from Mark Dimmitt

Growing Succulents in the Desert (series)

With temperatures still near 100 degrees F this October, it's difficult to think about winter. But the average date of first frost in Tucson is in mid November, and the coldest areas have had frost before November even arrives. Of course, tender tropicals must be brought indoors for the winter. But this article is about protecting the more frost-hardy succulents. These plants will fare much better if they are properly prepared before frost hits. Consider this: The coldest official temperatures for Tucson are in the mid teens, and most of our native plants can tolerate such temperatures in mid or

late winter. But in 1978 a warm, wet autumn ended with a hard frost of 19 degrees in early December. The plants had not hardened off, and there was wholesale death all across the desert. In the Tucson Mountains almost all of the large saguaros were killed outright or succumbed in the next few years.

Hardening off is very important. Immature leaves and stems will freeze at a higher temperature than mature, hardened growth. This presents a conflict. September and October usually have ideal temperatures for the growth of warm-season succulent plants. If you take advantage of this season and continue to water and fertilize your plants, be prepared to protect them if there is an early freeze. At least by the end of October, water and fertilizer should be withheld to harden the plants against the first hard frost that usually occurs in December.

Most summer-growing, cold-hardy succulents benefit from becoming dehydrated during winter. Succulents that grow in cold winter habitats produce antifreezes – compounds that lower the freezing point of the sap. Generous watering that keeps the plant fully hydrated dilutes the antifreeze and makes the plant more susceptible to freezing. In very cold areas such as the northern states and Canada, native prickly pears shrivel so much in the fall that they look nearly dead. They survive below zero temperatures in this condition for weeks on end and suffer no damage.

We are fortunate in that most of our frosts are only in the mid to upper 20s, and temperature remains below freezing for only a few hours. This enables simple covers to provide significant extra protection. A solid, opaque cover such as a sheet or paper bag gives at least 10 degrees of protection. In other words, a plant that would be damaged by 28 degrees in the open will survive 18 degrees under cover. Even a tree with a 50% canopy cover provides several degrees of protection. Planting next to a heat-retentive object such as a boulder or house wall also aid winter survival.

Don't be afraid to experiment; you may discover that you can grow more "tender" plants than you know. My typical winter minima are in the upper teens. Mexican tree ocotillo (*Fouquieria maccougali*) is hardy to 26, but I have had a 6-foot tall specimen under a palo verde tree for several years with minimal damage. I have a *Welwitschia mirabilis* in the ground; it has survived 17 degrees under a double blanket. So has a *Zamia furfuracea* that has been in the ground for many years. Sometimes the leaves freeze even under the



When this *Welwitschia mirabilis* grew too heavy to carry indoors, I began wrapping it in frost cloth. It has been through about 10 winters with no damage. The succulent orchid *Eulophia petersii* (left) is moved into the patio in Figure 3. It survives well, but does not flower unless kept warmer over the winter.

cover, but the buried crown resprouts in spring. An *Alluaudia ascendens* was wrapped in frost cloth every winter; it grew to 20 feet tall in about 10 years. *Adenium arabicum* specimens planted in the ground in my glass-roofed patio grow and flower very well; they suffer only twig damage at 25 degrees.

Throughout the winter, pay attention to the weather forecasts and be prepared to take extra measures when the rare catastrophic freeze hits. I've been planting out many succulents in my yard for 30 years, and they had survived several nights in the upper teens with the protective measures described above. But a couple of years ago a bad freeze happened, with the temperature dropping two degrees lower than it ever had since 1978. I had become overconfident, and lost some really fine old specimens (including my giant *Alluaudia*).

TCSS BOARD Officers

**President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367**

**Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Dave Moyer
Treasurer: Joe Frannea**

Board of Directors: (Ending December 31, 2009)

**Dan Birt
Chris Monrad
Mark Sitter**

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

**Linda Bartlett
Martin (Marty) Harow
William (Bill) Hicks
John Swarbrick**

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

**Ed Bartlett
Mark Dimmitt
Joie Giunta
Bill Salisbury**

**CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Helen Barber (2009)**

**Cactus Rescue
cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org**

**Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Chris Monrad
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine**

**Editor: Karen Keller
runbunny@cox.net
Deadline for copy: 15th of each month**

**TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst**

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



Please see our Web site calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

November 2009

Thursday, November 5, 2009	7:00pm Monthly meeting: Presented By Jerald Wheeler. "The Use of Emulsified Pure Oils to Control Insects and Diseases Attacking Cacti and Succulents."
Tuesday, November 10, 2009	7:00pm Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Some of Mark Dimmitt's Adeniums and other plants



Alluaudia ascendens grows as a narrow column, making it easy to wrap with frost cloth (inset), at least until it's 3 stories tall



This *Adenium arabicum* has been in the ground in an enclosed patio for 10 years. It and the *Stapelia gigantea* surrounding it tolerate mid 20s with no or minor damage



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

December 2009

Sunday, December 6, 2009
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
Holiday Party and Gift Exchange
 Junior League Facility, 2099 E. River Road

Setup Time: 10:30 AM till 11:45 AM
Lunch Time: 12:00 NOON

The Society will provide Turkey, Ham, Shrimp, Condiments, tableware and Drinks (coffee, punch and water).

You will provide your favorite recipe (enough for 10 or more servings) Hot or Cold Salads - Starches - Vegetables - Desserts (please bring serving dish and serving utensils).

For the past ten years or so we have been collecting money and/or food for the Community Food Bank. This year the need will probably be greater, so let's make it special for others. Please bring donations (\$ preferred) for the Community Food Bank.

Gift Exchange:

Everyone can participate by wrapping (cleverly) a plant or plant related gift of at least \$10.00 value. If you bring a gift you get a gift and the fun is in the way we will distribute them.

Meeting:

Additionally there will be a short Annual Meeting, Election Results, Awards and Table prizes.

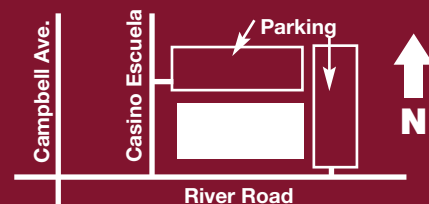
Thursday, January 7, 2009 at 7 PM
"South Africa -
The Northern Cape Part II"
 Presented by Doug Dawson



In September, Doug gave our club a program on Part I of a trip to the Northern Cape in South Africa. This follow-up program will focus on that part of the Northern Cape from the coast at Port Nolloth, many Richtersveld locations, over to Pofadder and down to a bit south of Springbok. This is all part of the Succulent Karoo Region which accounts for over 40% of the World's known succulent species.



Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road

President's Message



Another year has come to an end and I want to thank each and every one of you for your help, support and efforts during this very difficult year. Over 100 of you volunteered to be the friendly and helpful hosts for the 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Over 500 enthusiasts attended this really special convention to see and hear great speakers from around the world and enjoy the Sonoran Desert and its special plants. Thank you.

Again this year our membership exceeds 1,100 individuals making us the largest local Cactus and Succulents Society in the World. Our goal is to provide an assortment of activities that you will find valuable, educational and enjoyable. I believe that is why we continue to have this large membership. The speakers at our monthly meetings are superb thanks to Vonn Watkins and his dedication to engaging the very best. Our rescue program continues to attract members and now has completed its first decade and 46,000 cacti and succulents rescued. That is absolutely amazing.

The Science and Engineering Funfest was just completed and John Swarbrick and his team of volunteers prepared more than 1,300 project kits and spent 3 days with 5th thru 8th graders teaching them about the structure cactus and how it functions. This is such an outstanding effort and my thanks to all who participated.

One of the most amazing events of the year was to see the first yellow spined, yellow flowered, *Ferocactus wislizeni* in bloom. The vision of Chris Monrad with the help of other members and some of our fabulous cactus nursery friends took a handful of unusual local native cacti and propagated sufficient numbers to provide them to all the CSSA convention attendees and make them available for the nursery trade.

On Sunday, December 6, is our annual Holiday Party. This event inspired the publication of our first Cookbook and we will have them available at the party for purchase. They make great stocking stuffers! You will get all the information about the Holiday Party in a special mailing which also includes the election ballot, a short questionnaire and 2010 membership renewal.

Two of our current board members are not seeking re-election. Dan Birt (honorary life member) has served our society for more than 3 decades. Mark Sitter has served on the Board of Directors for the last six years. We certainly appreciate all they have contributed to the success of the society. Dan's Desert Plants can be found at Mesquite Valley Growers and visit Mark Sitter at B & B Cactus Farm. On behalf of all the members of TCSS-Thank you.

Remember, there is no regular meeting in December. Our next regular meeting is January 2, 2010

Thank you for your continued support,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

PS. Don't forget to RSVP for the Holiday Party.

Library Update

All books taken out in November will be due back in January. Please return any books that you have had out for more than three months. If there is a problem getting them returned, you can email me at joietgo@yahoo.com to arrange a pickup. See you at the holiday party

Joie Giunta

2010 SAGUARO CENSUS AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK Volunteer Opportunity

Who: Hopefully you! All volunteers must be physically fit, capable of hiking short distances in rough desert terrain, and able to work outdoors for approximately 6 hours. No experience needed, but interest in nature and science is highly desired. Groups are welcomed!

What: The 2010 Saguaro Census! The park counts and measures saguaros every 10 years to assess the health of our cactus population.

When: October 2009 thru April 2010. Group plots surveys are conducted on Saturday mornings, but other dates can be arranged. The last Saturday of every month is open to all

Where: Saguaro National Park- East (Rincon Mtn.) and West (Tucson Mtn.) Districts

Why: Why not!

Please contact Don Swann to organize groups or for more information at don_swann@nps.gov or by phone at 520-733-5177.

TCSS at Funfest 2009

At the 7th Annual Math, Science and Technology Funfest (Funfest for short) was held at the TCC on November 4, 5 & 6, 2009 and the TCSS was there. For the second year in a row TCSS offered a workshop-style exercise to build a cactus model emphasizing the functional anatomy of a generic cactus. Over 800 4th thru 8th grade students visited our booth and participated in the exercise. Again, we got rave reviews from students, teachers and Funfest organizers. The successful effort was made possible by the following volunteers who participated in the work party to assemble the model kits and worked in the booth over the three days. Thanks to: Sigrid Jones, Patty Hermann, Mark Furrow, Sandy Kunzman, Dave Palzkill, Dale & Augie Johnson, Barbara Carling, Joe Friend, Cheri Brown, Bill Hicks, Jan Johnson, Norm & Linda Dennis, Nancy Reid, Tyler Brown, Margaret Pope and Jan Bell. As usual, special thanks to Joe and Patsy Frannea for their help and support throughout the preparation and work during Funfest.

Growing Aloes in the Arid Southwest by Gene Joseph

The genus *Aloe* contains a good number of species that can be grown here in the arid southwest, enhancing the landscape with interesting leaf colors and markings, striking forms and silhouettes and in almost every case, beautiful flowers. The aloes that perform best here are generally those from South Africa and Namibia and the Arabian peninsula. These plants are

more heat tolerant than aloes native to the more tropical areas and those from the cooler winter rainfall areas.

Our climate is hotter than those from where aloes originate. Because of this, it is best to plant them where they get mid to late afternoon shade in the summer. Aloes are mostly cool season growers though, so they can take full sun throughout the day in winter. This is actually easy to accomplish.

Planting on the east side of a tree, shrub or wall will work, but the best location is to plant aloes just under the south canopy of a tree. In this case when the sun is high in summer, the plant is in the shade and in winter, with the lowering sun, the planted aloe will receive full sun. Aloes grow well in containers, but are somewhat more sensitive to heat when potted, so placement is very important. The roots of aloes, both in the ground and in containers, are sensitive to overheating and if this occurs will start to rot. Besides placement, another thing that will help mitigate the heat is to plant something green, preferably a summer grower, around the base of the aloe. This

should be something that will do well with minimal, shallow waterings throughout the hot summer. Some examples of this are *Salvia* spps., *Manfreda* spps., *Stapelia* spps., *Crassula* spps. (summer tolerant only!), etc.. This root/heat problem is more of a problem for the taller growing aloes than the clumping types.

There are basically three types of aloes in growth form that grow well here in the low deserts; tree aloes, clumping stemless aloes and single (or limited clumping) stemless aloes. The tree type species includes *A. dichotoma*, *A. ramosissima*, *A. marlothii*, *A. ferox*, *A. speciosa*, *A. africana*, *A. excelsa*, *A. candelabrum*, *A. rupestris*, *A.*

aloooides, *A. castanea*. Most of these tree aloes will grow to many feet tall (5 to 10) with a spread of several feet.

Aloe dichotoma with some protection will grow to 25 feet. Also, the tree aloes have some of the most dramatic and beautiful flowers of all. The inflorescence can be several feet tall and across and the colors can range from yellow

to orange to a spectacular red. Most of these species, however, are not color specific, so the flowers can be different on individuals within a species. These aloes are significant accent plants in the garden. Give them a place of prominence, planting them amongst rocks and plant lower, spreading plants at their base.



Aloe broomii in the foreground, *A. melanacantha* left, *A. ramosissima* in the background, and *A. hereroensis* flowers on right.



10 foot tall *Aloe dichotoma* with frost protection frame on right

The stemless clumping type includes *A. greenii*, *A. variegata*, *A. glauca*, *A. aristata* (cold tolerant to mid teens!), *A. nobilis*, *A. parvula*, *A. vera* (*A. barbadensis*), *A. fosteri*, *A. sapinaria* (very common in older landscapes), *A. longistyla*, *A. sinkatana*, *A. humilis*, *A. vacillans*, *A. globuligemma*, *A. mudenensis*, *A. suprafoliata*, *A. brevifolia*. These aloes are grown for their colors and textures and also their flowers, which range in color from whiteish to yellow to salmon to red. These plants are best used as spreading mass plantings amongst other plants, at the base of tree aloes and along walls, walkways and together with rocks.

The third basic aloe form is the stemless, mostly single rosette, which includes, *A. broomii*, *A. hereroensis*, *A. peglare*, *A.*

praetensis, *A. tomentosa*, *A. striata*, *A. karasbergensis*, *A. lutescens*, *A. claviflora*, *A. cryptopoda*, *A. gariepensis*, *A. krapohlana*, *A. melanacantha*, *A. microstigma*, *A. prinslooii*, *A. petricola*, *A. reitzii*. The species in this group are accent plants and look best (and seem to grow best) when planted in a rock garden type of landscape. Their appeal is mostly their distinctive leaf colors, shapes and of course flowers.

With the exception of *Aloe aristata*, which is cold tolerant to the mid teens, most of the previously listed aloes will need protection from temperatures in the mid twenties.

This can be mostly accomplished by placement. If the

Continued on the next page

aloes are planted under a tree, this will in most cases, give enough cold protection to keep them from freezing. Planting next to a large rock will work as well, as the rock will give off heat throughout the night keeping the plant from freezing. Another action, and a very effective one, is to cover the plant with frost cloth. Using the modern, light weight material over the top of the plant can effect 5 to 10 degrees of cold protection. (Keep a piece near the plant, cut to size and marked with the plant's name, ready to throw onto the plant at the end of the evening.

During the cool season, most aloes should be watered weekly for optimum growth and appearance. In the hot summer, water them weekly as well, but with a reduced amount of water. This will keep the roots from drying out

too badly. It is important during hot weather to not water aloes too much, as this is a classic cause for rot, starting in their roots. Aloes respond well to fertilizers during the cooler months. Any available house plant food applied at ½ strength will show results.

The aloe flowering season in our region is late winter through early spring. The flowers are spectacular and are excellent hummingbird attractors. An aloe section of a desert garden adds diversity, beauty and interest to the landscape. The plants in previous paragraphs are tried and true here in Tucson. There are many others to experiment with and new ones should be available in coming years as seeds and plants make their way into the nurseries from the Arabian countries.



Aloe karasbergensis is an unusual summer flowering species.



Aloe marlothii.



The late (and GREAT!) *Aloe dichotoma* at Arizona Cactus Sales in Chandler.

We have already been contacted by the Science Dept at Pima College NW Campus and have agreed to bring our exercise to their Earth Day Science Fair next April. This may evolve into a year-round part of our Education Outreach Program.

Again, thanks to all who contributed to make TCSS at Funfest 2009 a success and increase our visibility throughout our community!

John Swarbrick



TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Dave Moyer
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors: (Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt
Chris Monrad
Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett
Martin (Marty) Harow
William (Bill) Hicks
John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett
Mark Dimmitt
Joie Giunta
Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue
cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Chris Monrad
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller
runbunny@cox.net
Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

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



Please see our Website Calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

December 2009

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Noon - 3:00pm
TCSS Annual Holiday Party, Junior League
of Tucson, Kiva Bldg. 2099 E. River Road, Tucson

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

7:00pm
Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

IN MEMORIUM

Valarie D. Miller, passed away on November 8, 2009 in Tucson. A retired operating room nurse of 34 years at Tucson Medical Center. She will be remembered for her warm and caring nature with people and her passion for life. She was an active member of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. She was known for her love of and expertise in desert plants. Valarie is survived by her husband of 34 years, Jerry; daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Shaun Hilton; father, Sylvan Scott; sister, Cindy Scott and grandsons, Daniel and David. Her Memorial was held at Glad Tidings Assembly of God, 600 N. Kolb Road. on Friday, November 13, 2009.

Val was our Treasurer from 2001 through 2004 and also a early member of the rescue crew.

A Photo by Doug Dawson from his trip to the Northern Cape in South Africa

