

GARDEN A - CASS & TONY

“We come from earth - We’ll return to earth - And in between, we garden”



This is just one of the sayings you will find around the Knight yard along with fossils and some special landscaping by Tony and Cass.

The Knights have been interested in cactus and succulents for many years. When they lived in Colorado they had specimens of Colorado cacti in their garden. When they bought this property it was essentially an undeveloped desert lot with a few trees planted by the previous owner (Shoe-string acacia, leather leaf acacia and a few mesquites). On the east side of the house was a large dirt parking lot which they are converting into a garden and outdoor living area. A work in progress! An orchid greenhouse is an additional treat along with a variety of cacti and succulents. In order to have a garden they erected a 7 foot high fence around their garden to keep the deer, javelinas and rattle snakes out!

LOT SIZE: We have about a 1 acre lot and have lived here permanently since 2012

SOIL MIX: We use a compost/pumice mix we get from ACME Sand and Gravel. Cacti are planted in the native soil that is unamended.



WATERING: We plant mostly native plants or those that are desert adapted. For those plants that need additional water, we have different drip water zones – Oasis garden – transitional and xeriscape or natural desert

PESTS: We do not use insecticides and prefer to use controls such a BT, soapy water sprays, Neem oil. We trap packrats!



PLANTS OF NOTE: *Agave utahensis* var *eborispina*, *Echinocereus brandegeei*, *Sansevieria cylindrica*, *Platyopuntia wilcoxii*, *Tecoma stans*, *Agave bovicornuta* x *colorata*, *Thelocactus rinconensis*, *Podranea brycei*

Photos by Ed Bartlett



GARDEN B - GREG & SUSAN



“The first plants I ever grew were cacti: I was about 7 or 8 years old and living in Minnesota. I bought a packet of seeds from a magazine for 10 cents started them in sand in the back of my Tonka truck. They germinated and grew to about 1” tall before succumbing to my overzealous water regime.”

Most of the work to date has been house and shop renovations and infrastructure work. Greg is slowly and surely working on the landscape too, but mostly focused on re-vegetating areas that were horse corrals. He is planting mostly native species that are good for wildlife habitat. Almost feeling guilty for it, he recently planted two *Eucalyptus stricklandiis* that he got from the Horticulture Director of the Denver Botanical Gardens. His first serious botanical job was in Western Australia, where the tree is native, and just couldn't resist having trees that he'd seen in habitat when working there.

LOT SIZE: Just shy of 5 acres and have owned it since 2010.



SOIL MIX: I buy my potting soil from Kevin at AAA Fertilizer. He still makes a mix that I developed while working at Tucson Botanical Gardens. We needed an all-round mix that works for everything from veggies to cacti. I've had good luck with it.

WATERING: We have two 1000 gallon tanks for water harvesting and that's what I'm using for irrigating new plantings outside our fenced yard. I'm not very good at remembering to water, however, so I lose all but the toughest plants.



PESTS: I've fenced a part of the property to keep out Javelinas and Jackrabbits, but the rest is up for grabs. I don't use herbicides or pesticides, so I concentrate on things that have few problems.

TIPS: I'm a landscape designer, so I have lots of tips, of course! So I'll limit myself to three basic ones.

If you're unhappy with your landscape, remove everything you don't love. Just get rid of stuff. By doing so, you can open up the space, and your imagination, for improvements.

Don't plant more than you really want to care for. Gardens should be a source of fun and relaxation, not a constant reminder that you're slacking on maintenance!

If you're a plant collector, choose 1 - 3 plants (especially trees) to plant throughout so the garden has some consistency and flow. Gardens that just have one of everything tend to look cluttered and disorganized.



PLANTS OF NOTE: *Cereus gigantea* "Cristate", *Pedilanthus macrocarpus*, *Olneya tesota*, *Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*, South African flowering bulbs and a raised bed vegetable garden



Photos by Ed Bartlett

GARDEN C - MARK



Mark Dimmitt has been interested in cactus and succulents as long as he can remember. When he was a toddler a neighbor had a starfish flower (*Orbea variegata*) in the front yard, and he was hooked. One look around this expansive collection and you know he was really hooked.

Since he retired in 2011 Mark has built an enclosed food garden of fruit trees, grape vines, and raised beds for annual fruits and veggies, planted a milkweed garden, renovated the *Trichocereus* beds, expanded adenium production, and planted out numerous cacti and other succulents that had been in pots for decades. His special collections in his landscape include *Trichocereus*, hybrid chollas, orchids, bromeliads, food plants, milkweeds, and of course adeniums.

LOT SIZE: Five acres of desert, of which about three are developed or enhanced with extra plants.

SOIL MIX: Almost all of my potted plants are in a coir-based mix.

WATERING: I abandoned most automatic watering many years ago. It's more efficient to water manually when I see the plants or beds need it.

PESTS: Manual pulling, mulch, and glyphosate for weeds. Various pesticides for insects and mites in greenhouses. Rarely need pesticides outdoors; Predalure pheromone packets seem to work most of the time. Back yard fenced to exclude rabbits and javelina. Food plants mostly in net cages to exclude birds. Regularly trap packrats.



TIPS: Raised beds and benches are life-savers for aging back and knees. Mulch is essential to reduce irrigation needs - gravel for succulent pots, organic materials or rocks for ground beds.



SOME OF MANY PLANTS OF INTEREST: *Stenocereus eruca*, *Agave colorata*, *Adenium obesum* "Snow Lotus", *Trichocereus terscheckii*, *Boswellia* – "Frankincense", *Cylindropuntia molesta*, specimen size *Welwitschia*, *Ferocactus emoryi*, *Euphorbia abdelkuri*, flowering *Nolina quadrangulatum* (longissimum), *Agave parryi truncata* colony, and the Orchid greenhouse

GARDENS D1 & D2 ... JANA & STICKY SITUATIONS

Landscaping created by Jana and Kim on Patricia's property



Jana has lived on this lovely property for many years and has been interested in cactus and succulents since she was nine years old. The immediate area around both homes have been landscaped into beautiful scenic gardens. Be sure not to miss in front of Jana's home and landscaping around the 2 fish ponds by her mother's home. The other areas are mostly natural except the driveway into the Miller home and Sticky Situation's Nursery.

Pallets of color, shapes, and texture create picturesque scenes that create a canvas of natural art with many personal plants acquired over the years that are unusual or "Freaks", etc. The yard art was mostly created by many artist friends .



Enjoy the 360 degree view of the City of Tucson and Tucson Mountains from this hilltop property. Spring brings masses of wild flowers that unfortunately may mostly be gone by four time because of warm weather early blooming this year.



LOT SIZE: Both properties total just under 8 acres. Jana's family has owned it since 1989. but the actual owner of the property is her wonderful and generous mother, Patricia Miller

SOIL MIX: We use our custom made soil mix that is light weight, non compacting, and creates nice solid root balls that don't fall apart when re-potting. Will try to have some available for purchase , if possible.

WATERING: We drench weekly in summer on the gardens (except during the monsoon's), every two weeks spring and fall, and generally let sit during winter unless unusually warm winter. The out lying areas are all taken care of by mother nature for watering.

PESTS: Don't really have yard pests, per say . The garden at my house is so densely planted that the pigs and rabbits stay to the sidewalk and pathway, honest.

TIPS: Be creative and create a pallet of color, texture, and shapes. Not just a plant here and one way over there.....boring.....



PLANTS OF NOTE: Agave ocahui, Ferocactus robustus, Dasyliiron longissimum, Brachychiton rupestris, Lophocereus schottii, Euphorbia antisiphilitica, Astrophytum capricorne, Oreocereus celsianus

Photos by Ed Bartlett

GARDEN E - GREG & CAROL - The King and Queen of Agaves.

(Starr Nursery and Garden)



It is no secret that Greg and Carol love Agaves. Their landscape's major theme is agave-centric. Be sure not to miss the spectacular Agave ovatifolia (Whale's tongue). In addition you will see North American cacti with a focus on Ferocactus, Echinocereus, and other Chihuahuan Desert cacti. Greg has been interested in cactus and succulents since the early 1980's and they are now his life's work. Their landscape is always evolving, first as a tree and shrub landscape to now one that is a cactus and succulent/ tree and shrub blend, with new test plants added frequently.

LOT SIZE: 1 acre, we have been on it since 1983

SOIL MIX: Nothing special for soil for the plants in the ground. I use my nursery mix for

potted plants. That mix is heavy on pumice and black cinders with a small percentage of compost and sand

WATERING: Watering is done when I remember and am in town. Plants in the ground do not get supplemental water in winter and once or twice a month in March-until monsoons



PESTS: To control pests I use a shotgun. Actually, I will treat with a systemic insecticide or spray running bugs with a 10% baking soda solution to suffocate the little buggers

TIP: I would recommend that more people incorporate shrubs and wildflowers in with their cacti and succulents. Many native wildflowers and native or near native shrubs grow well with cacti, agaves, yuccas, dasylirions, etc. and they provide a splash of color at various times of the year. Mix in plants that bloom in spring, summer, fall and even winter to provide interest and intrigue year 'round. There are a good many "leafy" plants that will grow well with just a little supplemental water in spring and summer once they are established.



PLANTS OF NOTE: Agave ovatifolia, Sophora secundiflora, Echinocactus platyacanthus, Yucca rigida, Agave parryi var huachucensis, Echinocactus texensis, Ferocactus cylindraceus, Agave macroacantha

Photos by Ed Bartlett