



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

January 2008

January 3, 2008 at 7pm

"A View From the Bench - trials and tribulations in succulent horticulture"

Presented by Mark Fryer



I started growing cactus and succulent plants as a young boy in the mid-Willamette valley area of Oregon. My Grandfather was a farmer and my parents always had a passionate interest in gardening and planting interesting shrubs and trees, so the appreciation of flora was one that was instilled over and over in

the course of my formative years. My first cactus garden died in the family attic during it's first year of growth (I dehydrated everything in it). I remember clearly the every other day jaunts up the ladder in the garage to check on my little mini-desert up under the eaves.

20 years later, I found myself surrounded by 1000's of living things that were constant companions and inspiration over the years, things that offered more questions than answers that I couldn't seem to shake. While my various education paths were never really agriculturally oriented, there were always elements of the natural sciences involved with summer jobs and other activities. I accidentally flowered some cactus one spring and wanted to learn more, which is when and where I was first exposed to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, and the Oregon Cactus and Succulent Society. Several years later I was obsessed with studying north Americancacti in habitat and growing as many different plants as possible. As luck or fate had it, one of my neighbors at the time had a little business called Banana Gardens that was an overgrown backyard nursery operation, and was soon to be moving into new quarters on some acreage, called "Rare Plant Research" which was specializing in Lewisias, cold-hardy succulents, and rare

tender succulents. I had a part-time job that was feeding the obsession. I tried to launch my own backyard nursery and actually got very close to success with it. I was very dedicated to the Oregon C&S Society, and served officially for several years.

Fast forward another decade or two and time finds me working in a good corporate job, relegating my passion to "well-developed hobby", and still devoted to study and experimentation. The "dot-com burst" of 2000 placed me in a challenging position after having relocated to San Diego where I married the girl of my dreams and settled down a bit. Moving to southern California after almost 4 decades in the Pacific Northwest, I got to relearn everything I thought I knew about growing plants, especially succulents. In between consulting gigs and chewing on the notion of buying a nursery, I struck a deal with the owner of C&J Cactus Nursery to do some temporary grafting work. After a month or so of working there, they made me an offer to come on as a manager of sorts, a propagator of sorts, someone to potentially buy the place and learn the ropes. Now in my 5th year here, this program will be an overview of what it's like to bring several hundred species of cacti and succulent plants from seed-production into plant-production, some of the successes and failures, and some of the neat anomalies we encounter along the way. I look forward to meeting with you all on January 3rd!

Be sure to come and welcome Mark to our first meeting of 2008!

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



Welcome to 2008 and the 49th year for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Yes, we are fast approaching our Golden Anniversary. That celebration will be capped off by the 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in Tucson on April 10-15, 2009. One of

our activities will be the introduction of a golden spined variety of our native *Ferocactus wislizeni* which we are growing for that event.

Sonoran VII is fast approaching on May 9, 10 and 11, 2008 at the InnSuites Hotel. This is our celebration of the Sonoran Desert with speakers, workshops, a show, auctions and a huge sale with twenty plus vendors. You will here much more about this event next month. Mark your calendars now.

Every year at the Holiday Party some one says "why don't we do a recipe book of all the great dishes that are prepared by our members" and the answer has always been "that's a great idea, do we have a volunteer?". Well, this year we do. Actually, we have several volunteers who are really excited about this project. They will be meeting in mid January to decide how this will be accomplished but I can tell you now to start writing down your recipes and looking through your cactus, succulent plant and Sonoran Desert photos for possible inclusion into this book. This is going to be an exciting project and will become a great gift to give on all occasions.

Several individuals throughout the country have given gift memberships to TCSS to their friends and family during this holiday season. We will make this easier in the future and will customize gift memberships for all occasion. More than 100 of our members live outside of the Tucson area and many outside of Arizona. That's just wonderful!

If you haven't renewed your membership you will be getting a reminder very soon. I know how the Holidays get us out of our routines and things get misplaced so don't be offended by our reminder notices. This year we have produced a decal of our logo that you will be receiving with your renewal as our gift to you. We will have more available for purchase at meetings and I know you will find many uses for these to promote the

Society. Also, many of you will be receiving "cactus bucks". This is a thank you from the Rescue Program Coordinators for your participation. The number of bucks represents your participation in actual rescues and can be used for the purchase of rescued plants. Your Board is already planning exciting trips, outings, sales and other events for 2008. Information will be available on the website, in the Desert Breeze and your mailbox.

Finally, I want to welcome our new Board of Directors for term ending December 31, 2010, who were elected and announced at the Annual Holiday Party. They are Linda Bartlett, Marty Harow, Bill Hicks, and Karen Keller.

Thank you for a great 2007 from the Board of Directors and Officers of the largest local cactus and succulent society in the World.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

School Grant Awarded to TUSD Brichta Elementary

TCSS has awarded a \$400 School Grant to teacher Katie Eddleman for her "Brichta Reconciliation Ecology Project". She is a fifth grade math and environmental science teacher. Her students will develop a micro habitat to determine the effect on ground squirrel populations using various native plants. Students will participate in plant, animal surveys, habitat design and community outreach so that students can experience first hand that humans can have a positive effect on nature. Students will get a great exposure to the Scientific Process of developing questions and conducting experiments to gather data and perform analysis and summarizing results.

We applaud teachers like Katie who develop great student projects and are pleased that we can help make the project a success by providing some funding. Twenty five percent of our Cactus Rescue Crew profits are earmarked for the TCSS Educational Outreach Program which includes School Grants.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescues - Nine Years Strong

The TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew Program just completed its' ninth year and bringing the number of plants saved to over 37,000. We had 20 rescue trips at seven different sites this past year saving about 6,000 cacti and other succulents. Our volunteer crew is as strong

as ever and contributed over 2,400 volunteer hours this past year. We would like to especially thank Granite Construction and A.W. Marrs Development for letting us make many trips to rescue a large number of the plants on their sites.

The TCSS Board and Cactus Rescue Crew leaders want to thank all who participated in rescues and sales this past year. This very successful program and the crew members who show up to make all this possible is a big part of what TCSS is all about. Our annual Cactus Bucks coupons for those who participated in one or more rescues or sales events this past year are enclosed with this newsletter as a special thanks for your contributions.

Joe Frannea

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 Special Dedication and Outstanding Service 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 received a special engraved trophy and an award certificate.

Some of the recipients were not in attendance and their awards will be presented at the next regular meeting.

This years President's Award winners are:

ALICE & ED CAMPBELL

For their consistent volunteerism for rescues, sales and committee activities.

DAVE MOYER

A regular rescue volunteer, who assists with tagging and collecting money, assists with set up and helps cashier at sales events. He is a great inspiration to others due to his work ethic despite his wheelchair challenges.

NANCY REID

As a regular rescue crew member, volunteer coordinator, Secretary, and for increasing the plantings at the University's Joseph W. Krutch Gardens with many of our donated rescued plants.

JOYCE THOMAS

Who is a consistent volunteer at sales events and rescues

JAMES THOMAS

Who is a regular volunteer at rescues, sales and contributes his talent for framing botanical art for monthly raffles.

President's Special Service Award goes to BARRY MCCORMICK

For his six years as Newsletter Editor-creator of Biennial Cactus Expo and two term member of the Board of Directors.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Conference
May 9, 10 & 11, 2008

Presented by the
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Inn Suites Hotel
465 North Granada Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85701

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harrow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Volunteers: Nancy Reid

volunteer@tucsoncactus.ehost.com

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.

3	7	3	5	4
				3

Cacti Rescued
189 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale
Visit our next Sale for selections

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 2008

Thursday, January 3

7:00 pm

General Meeting and Presentation by Mark Fryer:
*"A View From the Bench -
trials and tribulations in succulent horticulture"*

Tuesday, January 8

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



Holiday Party Fun for All...

Laden with plates and dishes of gourmet food and festive mystery gifts, nearly 140 TCSS members and guests gathered in December for our Annual Holiday Potluck Lunch and Celebration.

A team of loyal volunteer elves set to work early Sunday to transform our meeting room into rows of colorful red tables and hungry guests were treated to nearly 100 feet of tempting food choices as they went through the buffet line. TCSS provided turkey, ham, shrimp and drinks and members filled the tables with delicious and exotic recipes that would challenge any fancy restaurant in town. It was quite the gourmet spread ... encouraging a renewed call to publish a TCSS cookbook for all to enjoy, watch for upcoming details on this project.

After everyone was more than well fed, the party continued with recognition of special award recipients and the traditional mystery gift exchange. Each person who had brought a wrapped gift was given a ticket to receive a gift. As the numbers were called they could either accept a random gift or could exchange it for someone else's gift that looked interesting. The fun, games and exchanging went on for set limits until everyone was allowed to open their gift.... followed by many oohs and aahs as new plants and related accessories were unveiled.

The party was a fun and festive conclusion to yet another great year for TCSS. Many thanks to all who helped make it such a huge success.

Patsy Frannea



Awards



Dick Wiedhopf presenting
President Award
to JOYCE & JAMES THOMAS



NANCY REID

President's
Award winners

Special Service Award
NORM DENNIS, BARRY MCCORMICK
JACK RAMSEY



Newsletter
Special Service Award
BARRY MCCORMICK





DESERT BREEZE

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

February 2008

February 7, 2008 at 7pm

"Reduction of Plant Disease with Nutrients"

Presented by Dr. Jerald E. Wheeler

Dr. Wheeler's program will cover these four important informational topics that focus on the essentials needed for insuring a beautiful and healthy plant collection.

1. **Essential Nutrients & Beneficial Nutrients**
2. **Fertilizer analysis-an explanation of the numbers on a bag of Fertilizer.**
3. **Fertilizer rates**
4. **Principle nutrients needed to increase plant resistance to disease.**

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 refereed journals.

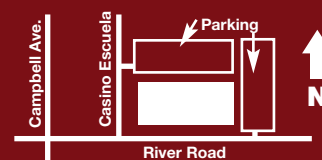
This will be a special program that everyone should attend and enjoy. Dr. Wheeler is presenting our first program on Plant Pathology and this will be a very important area to be presented. You may learn a lot more about your plants and their particular needs so please join us in welcoming Dr. Wheeler and be sure to also bring your questions.



On March 6, 2008 Brian Kemble from the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California, will be our guest speaker.

Brian will be presenting a program on his recent trip to South Africa and will be concentrating on the Grass Aloës.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



May 9, 10 and 11 are the dates for the Sonoran VII Conference. This is a multifunction activity that involves a plant show, plant sales, art exhibit, silent auction and a registration based activity of lectures and workshops. It will be held at the Inn Suites Hotel Tucson City Center. Later on this month you will receive in the mail and online, details about registration and opportunities to volunteer at this biennial event. I know we can count on your support.

The Tucson Cactus Cookbook Committee (I like the way that sounds) will have its first meeting in late January and the process will be underway to produce our first Tucson Cactus Society book. I think it will be a best seller. I know we can count on your support.

I hope you like the logo decals that were sent to you upon renewal of your membership. It will be interesting to learn how they are being used. We did purchase an ample supply and they will be available at our meeting and events at 4/\$1.00. I know we can count on your support.

The Research Grant Committee will be making recommendation for the first awards at our next Board of Directors meeting. The money to support these awards comes from our live and silent auctions held at events throughout the year. I know we can count on your support.

We have participated in a number of interviews this month about our nationally recognized rescue program and several members have been reaching out to community developers for new leads on rescue opportunities. I know we can count on you for support.

We will be hosting the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America the first weekend in April. They will be here to look over the Westin La Paloma which is the site of the April 10-15, 2009 convention. We have invited Gary Lyons (CSSA Board Member) to speak at our April 3rd meeting. I know we can count on your support.

The Tucson CSSA 2009 convention committees will start meeting in earnest to plan all the activities around the convention. We are planning a show, bus trips, club sales, banquets, give aways, t-shirts and more. I know we can count on your support.

All these activities and the Convention are happening in the next 15 months and the one thing I am sure about is your support.

Thank you

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Conservation Committee Matching Grant

The flat lowlands of Southern Sonora and Northern Sinaloa, Mexico, were once covered by thousands of acres of organ pipe cactus forests. With irrigation and cattle ranching, almost all of this has been leveled and there is only one protected area still in existence. Much of that protection has come through the efforts of David Yetman who has spoken at our meetings and is the host of the KUAT program "The Desert Speaks".

Recently, the newly organized Conservation Committee proposed to the Board of TCSS that a small financial contribution of \$200 go to this protection program. Spearheaded by Chris Monrad, the Board raised the amount to \$500 as a challenge grant to the membership. Matched by \$500 of membership contributions, this would bring the total grant to \$1,000. This money could be used only for materials, primarily fencing, and not for labor which is being provided by the local Mayo indigenous community.

At the next meeting, members of the Conservation Committee will be available to discuss the challenge grant and answer any questions which the membership might have concerning the project. Look for us at or near Marty Harrow's badge and literature table.

The Conservation Committee would like to encourage all TCSS members to contribute to the challenge grant even if it is only a few dollars as this will help to build the fund. Make checks to TCSS, Conservation Committee Challenge Grant. They can be mailed to Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, P. O. Box 64759, Tucson AZ 85728-4759 or given to the committee representative at the meeting.

Peter Hubbell, Chair, Conservation Committee

"Desert Connections" Grant Awarded

TCSS recently awarded Sunnyside Desert View High School teacher George Meisch a School grant for \$483 so he may implement his "Desert Connections" project. Approximately three hundred high school students will benefit from hands on work creating and using the outdoor habitat.

Their goal is to create a desert botanical habitat so that science teachers can use it with their students to identify, analyze, observe, and test hypotheses that tie to Arizona State Standard based lessons. The project states that others will benefit as well. "Welding students will help build fences, ramadas, benches, design trails. Art students will draw and paint cactus and succulents. Writing students will enjoy the area and create poetry. Geography students will learn about Tucson, Mexico, and New Mexico habitats and natural history. Special education students will learn science and the value of community service."

This grant request was well thought out and clearly written. The TCSS Board raised the maximum amount of School

Grants from \$400 to \$500 effective January first so this will allow us to cover all material costs outlined in the proposal. We have also offered Cactus Rescue Crew plants for their project at very reasonable costs.

Details and grant request forms are available on our TCSS web site for any teacher in Arizona to request a grant for school projects pertaining to cactus and succulents.

Joe Frannea

TCSS Financial Report - 2007

This is the financial report for all of 2007. Some minor final adjustments may need to be made. The \$10,000 set-aside for Rescue Crew Operations is necessary to ensure working monies for large tag purchases and other rescue expenses. Education, Research and Conservation Funds are designated monies specifically earmarked for these programs. The Rescue Cactus Program Expenses include \$3,757 donated to the Educational Outreach Fund (25% of Rescue Program profits).

Major Categories	Income	Expenses	Net
Dues, Newsletters, Meetings, misc.	\$19,380	\$24,737	\$(5,357)
Rescue Cactus Prog:	\$36,749	\$25,149	\$ 11,600
Expo, Silent Auction, Trips, Commissions:	\$29,461	\$23,795	\$ 5,666
Donations, Grants:	\$ 5,772	\$ 2,550	\$ 3,222
Totals	\$91,362	\$76,231	\$15,131

Assets by Funds:

General Fund:	\$22,908
Rescue Operations:	\$10,000
Educational Outreach:	\$11,917
Research Fund:	\$ 9,511
Conservation Fund:	\$501
Total Monetary Assets:	\$54,837
Physical Assets approx: (Library and Equipment)	\$20,000

For comments or questions
regarding this report contact
Joe Frannea, Treasurer,
email: Joe@TucsonCactus.org

Library

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond by Brad Lancaster

As a Tucson resident, the author practices what he preaches. This award-winning book is volume 1 in a series of 3. You will learn how to evaluate your property, design the landscape and implement some simple steps to use rainwater. There are worksheets, plant lists and water requirements specific to Tucson. Included is an appendix of resources in print and online.

Australian Succulent Plants An Introduction by Attila Kapitany

This book has some unusual and beautiful plants. Each plant is given two pages of pictures, showing the plant, flower and an occasional shot of the habitat. There is also a brief description of the plant and a sentence on the habitat.

Joie Giunta

The TCSS is looking for your FAVORITE RECIPIES to be featured in a Cookbook

If you would like to have your original recipe featured in a cookbook, you can email or send them to the following addresses
recipes@tucsoncactus.org

TCSS Recipes
P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728

If you have a great idea for a name for a cookbook, let us know

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Nancy Reid
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)
Joie Giunta (2008)
Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)
Bill Salisbury (2008)
Dan Birt (2009)
Chris Monrad (2009)
Mark Sitter (2009)
Linda Bartlett (2010)
Marty Harrow (2010)
Bill Hicks (2010)
Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Norma Beckman
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Sales: Jack Ramsey
Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine
Volunteers: Nancy Reid
volunteer@tucsoncactus.org

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.

3	7	3	5	4
				3

Cacti Rescued
189 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale
Visit our next Sale for selections

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 2008	
Thursday February 7	7:00 pm General Meeting and Presentation by Dr. Jerald E. Wheeler: <i>"Reduction of Plant Disease with Nutrients"</i>
Tuesday, February 12	7:00 pm Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Thursday, March 6	7:00pm General Meeting and Presentation by Brian Kemble
Saturday & Sunday, March 8-9	Fiesta de las Flores hosted by the Tucson Orchid Society and Green Things
Sunday, March 16	Boyce Thompson Arboretum Spring Sale Bus Tour



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

March 2008

March 6, 2008 at 7pm

"Grass Aloes and other botanical treats from the hills of eastern South Africa"

Presented by Brian Kemble



Brian Kemble is the curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California. He has been working at this garden of succulents and other drought-tolerant plants since 1980 (see the garden's website at: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org). He has been a member of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America for over 30 years and has been a judge at many cactus & succulent shows. Over the years, he has made many trips to places such as Mexico, Madagascar and South Africa to see and photograph succulents in habitat. The genus Aloe has been a major focus for Brian and he is also vice-president of the Institute for Aloe Studies, based in Oakland, California (the institute's website is at: www.aloestudies.org).

Brian's program will cover his recent trip to South Africa, in November of 2007. He was fortunate to be able to get out in the field with Charles Craib, author of "Grass Aloes in the South African Veld". This book, published in 2005, is the only work devoted to this interesting group of diminutive Aloes. Seldom seen in cultivation, these plants grow in grasslands and can be very difficult to spot when not in flower. Along with the Aloes, Brian saw a variety of other succulents and bulbs.

This will be a very special program for anyone interested in the Aloes. We are really looking forward to having Brian as our special guest so please join us and bring a friend for this rare presentation.

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 7 PM

The Development of Succulent Gardens, The Ethel M. Garden in Las Vegas, Nevada and Others

Presented by Gary Lyons

Curator of the Huntington Desert Garden

Free Plants of The Month

Beaucarnea recurvata

From the Mexican state of Vera Cruz, this commonly available species is easily grown. What we really like about this species is that it conforms to either a container, where it can be root bound for long periods of time, or put into the ground in our area, where we have a large plant that only sustains leaf damage at low temperatures in the low 20s.

Aloe albida x saundersii

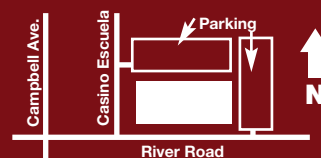
A cross between the two dwarf species of *A. albida* and *A. saundersii*, both grass Aloes. This hybrid offsets freely and is floriferous with pale cream flowers produced in the fall. This cross was done at Arid Lands in the late eighties.

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



Ocotillos, Boojums and nine other species make up the entire *Fouquieria* genus. So what? Sonoran VII that's what. Coming May 9, 10 & 11 is the seventh in the series of mini conferences about the Sonoran Desert and its inhabitants. This year the Ocotillo and its relatives will be featured.

The Sonoran conference is our major even numbered year activity. The two day conference is a mixture of presentations featuring the Ocotillo family and workshops on a variety of topics about cacti and other succulents. This portion requires registration and limits the number of workshop attendees to about 20 or less per session.

Surrounding this is our annual show to the public of great cacti and succulent plants, a wonderful sale of plants, pots, and books by the best nurseries, potters and our internationally known Rainbow Gardens Book Shop. We will also have an art show and sale from local artists.

Sonoran VII will start on Friday night May 9 at 6pm with a pre-meeting dinner reception and a special TCSS meeting presentation by Susan Carter Holmes at 7pm. "Susan is a botanist and taxonomist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and has discovered and catalogued more than 200 plants of the family Euphorbiaceae, particularly of the succulent east African members of the genera *Euphorbia* and *Monadenium*, as well as about 20 Aloes. Then for the members and guest the show and sale areas will open for your preconference purchases. The conference begins on Saturday Morning with lectures and workshops and the show and sale areas open to the general public.

The whole event takes place at the Inn Suites City Center Hotel. This has been the site for the last 4 Sonoran Conferences. Look for the conference mailing next week. The TCSS Cookbook is waiting for your favorite recipe or photograph. Please take a few minutes and send us your favorite recipe in your own words and a digital high resolution photograph to: recipes@tucsoncactus.org or to our PO Box 64759 Tucson, AZ 85728.

I've sent my favorite one in. It takes just a few minutes to do this and we would love to have you represented in our first cookbook.

Thank you

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Conservation Committee Challenge Grant

The Conservation Committee has started the drive to raise \$500 which will be matched by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. This money will go to the preservation of the organ pipe cactus forest in the flat lowlands of Southern Sonora and Northern Sinaloa, Mexico. Originally covered by thousands of acres of organ pipe cactus, recent irrigation and cattle ranching of this area has leveled almost all of it, and there is only one protected forest still in existence. The grant money will be used for materials, primarily fencing, and not for labor as that is being provided by the local Mayo indigenous community.

The committee wants to thank those members who made contributions at the February meeting. These donations ranged from one to fifty dollars. We encourage all members to give something to the grant fund either by cash or check. Make checks payable to TCSS, with a notation that the money is to go to the Conservation Committee Challenge Grant. Checks can be mail to Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, P.O. Box 64759, Tucson AZ 85728-4759. Cash or checks may also be given to a committee representative who will be sitting at the desk near the River Road entry during future meetings.

Peter Hubbell, Chair, Conservation Committee

Botanical Art Preservation Project

At its February meeting the Board approved the "Botanical Art Preservation Project." This exciting project adds a new dimension to how we work to educate and create awareness among the public not only of the cactus and succulents of our region, but of all our native flora.

This project will involve working with individuals, groups, and institutions to preserve existing botanical art, to educate artists in traditional and modern botanical art techniques, and to create an awareness among the public of the value of botanical art in identifying and preserving the flora of the Sonoran Desert Region.

We are presently involved in preserving existing botanical art that will be exhibited at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum during the 2009 CSSA Convention.

In the coming months more information about the project will appear in the DESERT BREEZE and on our web site. Anyone interested in participating in the project please contact *Margaret Pope - email: nempe@aol.com.*



The TCSS is looking for your FAVORITE RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS to be featured in a Cookbook

If you would like to have your original recipe featured in a cookbook, you can email or send them to the following addresses

recipes@tucsoncactus.org • TCSS Recipes P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728

If you have a great idea for a name of the cookbook, please let us know.

MDAD Personnel are doing great work even when not at work.

Yesterday Jim Thomas was driving west on Sahuarita road when he saw a couple acting suspiciously along the side of the road. Jim pulled over and asked them a few questions to see if they needed help. As a result of the questioning he noticed that they were loading a cactus into their Honda CR-V with Kansas plates. Jim went back to his truck and waited for them to leave. He then followed them noting their license plate number. He went back home and provided descriptions of both individuals and their license plate number to the police. With this information the Green Valley police contacted Kansas police to get the individuals names and then cross referenced them to a home in Elephant head. They dispatched a unit to the individuals home and another to Jim's house. Jim went on a ride along to the scene of the crime and with the police found all necessary evidence they need to punish the thieves. The unit dispatched to the perps house found the CR-V matching the description Jim gave to the police and it contained a freshly uprooted cactus. The male suspect was arrested on the spot.

Jim is a member of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent society and was given the president's award in 2006 for his work in rescuing and relocating so many cacti that would have otherwise been destroyed. Jim has been asked by the Green Valley police to go down and identify and relocate the cactus that was stolen from state land. If the cactus in question is a Saguaro, the perp will receive a minimum 6 month jail term and get to pay a \$10,000 fine.

"I don't think wer'e in Kansas anymore!"

Thanks,

*William S. Cockrell, Section Head, Advanced Programs
Mechanical Design Analysis Documentation, Raytheon Missile Systems*



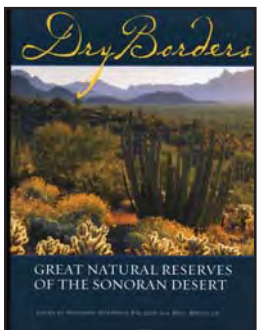
Library

The Great Cacti Ethnobotany and Biogeography

By David Yetman

reviews the more than one hundred species of columnar cacti, with detailed discussions of some 75 that have been the most beneficial to humans or are most spectacular. Focusing particularly on northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States, Yetman examines the role of each species in human society, describing how cacti have provided food, shelter, medicine, even religiously significant hallucinogens.

Dry Borders great Natural Reserves of the Sonoran Desert. By R. S. Felger & B. Broyles



The book is divided into six sections: I. The Place—delves into the geography and geology of the region, giving shape to its rivers and ranges. II. People of the Place—introduces those who make the desert their home, including both native peoples and visiting scientists. III. The Desert—discusses birds, bugs, and botany, all the things that live and grow in the borderlands. IV. The Gulf—examines the waters and the aquatic life of the region from the Colorado River to the Sea of Cortez. V. Conservation—focuses on protecting and preserving the desert and its increasingly endangered species

into the future. VI. Place-names—include a geographic dictionary. 816 pages, 8 ½ x 11, 321 halftones, 80 color photographs, 27 illustrations, 5 maps.

Joie Giunta

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harrow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Volunteers: Nancy Reid

volunteer@tucsoncactus.org

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 M to T, 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.**

3	7	3	5	4
				3

Cacti Rescued
189 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale
Visit our next Sale for selections

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 2008	
Thursday, March 6	7:00 pm General Meeting and Presentation by Brian Kemble: <i>"Grass Aloes and other botanical treats from the hills of eastern South Africa"</i>
Tuesday, March 11	7:00 pm Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Saturday & Sunday, March 8-9	Fiesta de las Flores hosted by the Tucson Orchid Society and Green Things



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

April 2008

Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 7 PM "A Gardener in Search of a Cactus Garden"

Presented by Gary Lyons, Curator of the Desert Garden at the Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA



Gary is a member of the World Conservation Union's Species Survival Commission and a fellow of the Linnean Society of London. He has also written many articles and books on desert plants.

This program is somewhat of a historical overview and retrospective of how Gary got into cacti. It is also a look at the people and events that

have influenced his work, and an overview of the gardens with which he had a connection for over the past fifty years.

Please join us for this great program as we welcome Gary back to Tucson.

Friday, May 9, 2008 at 7:30 PM "Hooked on Euphorbias"

Presented by Susan Carter Holmes

Susan Carter Holmes joined the Herbarium staff of Kew Gardens in 1957 as a member of the team working on Tropical African plants. She retired in 1995 and was made an Honorary Research Associate. In 1958 she met Peter Bally and became his assistant during his frequent visits to Kew, and through him became interested in the Euphorbiae of Tropical Africa, especially the succulent species. Similarly, in 1960 she met Gilbert Reynolds and was his assistant. During this she developed an interest in Aloes. No-one else in the Herbarium was interested in any of these plants, so gradually she became an expert in the genera. Susan went to Kenya for the first time in 1971 to work with Peter Bally, and on a short safari and was immediately hooked on plant expedition work. Official expeditions from Kew followed and several private ones sponsored by the CSSA, amounting to 12 in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan and Zimbabwe, and 2 visits to the Transvaal in South Africa. Those visits have produced about 140 publications, including a long series in the Euphorbia Journal and the recently published Euphorbs in the Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants (Dicots). Susan was made a fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in 1989, and awarded the Cactus d'Or by the IOS in 1996.



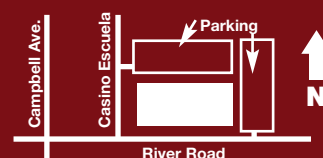
This presentation will show examples of Euphorbias occurring in tropical eastern Africa, including herbaceous and shrubby species, but concentrating mainly on the many different forms of those with paired spines that I have found so fascinating. All the slides were taken in habitat during often exciting and always enthralling expeditions to remote corners of Africa.

Please mark your calendar for this great program from a very well known expert in the Euphorbieae. We sincerely welcome Susan Carter Holmes to Tucson and are honored to have her as our guest speaker.

David Yetman will be doing a book signing at the April 3rd meeting.

David Yetman will be signing his new book "The great Cacti" David will also briefly talk about some very important conservation efforts. He'll arrive at 6:30 for early bird book signings.

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



We have about 10% of the recipes we need for our TCSS cookbook. I know that most of you eat more than 1,000 meals a year so there must be some favorite that you want to share with us. This will be fun. We really want your favorite recipe in your own words and pictures of cacti and succulents or other TCSS related photos to make up this cookbook. Email either

recipes or photos or both to: recipes@tucsoncactus.org.

Sonoran VII is May 9, 10 & 11. Remember that our meeting in May is on May 9 at the InnSuites Hotel. This year there is a plated dinner of your choice of Beef, Chicken or Vegetarian for only \$10.00 each if you are not registered for the conference. The speaker is Susan Carter Holmes and all members are welcome for her 7:00pm talk. Please get your reservations and dinner choices in as soon as possible.

After her presentation the show and sale will open to all in attendance. It will be open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday, May 10 & 11.

Spring is finally here and the CSSA Biennial Convention is a year away. Please take pictures of your cacti and succulents and those in the Tucson area. We want to be able to show our visitors from all over the world what they will be missing if they don't come to Tucson in April of 2009.

A special thanks to Noe Mayotte, Jerry Estruth, Bill Hicks, Joe & Patsy Frannea & Chris Monrad for their efforts in promoting our rescue program and securing new partners & sites to save native succulent plants.

I hope every member and every citizen realizes how much time and effort goes into this rescue operation and how much good it does for this community. I know I must sound like a broken record talking about this program but it does so much for this community, TCSS and this area of the Sonoran Desert.

One very special outcome of our rescue program is our participation and cash awards that we present at the Southern Arizona Science and Engineering Fair to projects related to cacti and succulents. These students and their projects are wonderful and we hope to share them with all of you at Sonoran VII or on other occasions. Thank you to all our members who participate in the judging and awards to these students.

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society will be having their show and sale on April 4, 5 & 6 at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix. I know they appreciate our support. This would also be a great time to visit the gardens new cacti and succulent exhibit. I have seen them from a distance but am excited to see them up close.

There is nothing better than Spring in Tucson. Enjoy!

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Two Grants Awarded to TUSD Schools

The TCSS Board recently approved two School Grant requests that were reviewed and recommended by our school grant review team. The first grant was awarded to the Borton Primary Magnet School. It was submitted by parent Chris Brashear and principal Terei Melendez. They want to increase the diversity of the plants in their Borton Environmental Learning Laboratory (BELL), both in terms of species and maturity of plants. Their long term goal is for BELL to be an urban greenspace serving as both a wildlife corridor and a community wide resource for educational purposes. Their 2.5 acre bird sanctuary has been spearheaded by parent volunteers with collaboration from teachers. The \$400 grant money will be used to purchase cactus and succulents including saguaros, ocotillo and yuccas. Our recent saguaro rescue will make available two larger saguaros at our tag price of \$7 each.

The second grant was awarded to Whitmore Alternative to Suspension High School. It was submitted by Melody Baker to create a cactus and succulent garden called "Cactus Garden Exploration". They plan to create the garden on their property and use it as a science learning lab for study and observation. The twenty to thirty students will get hands on experience with the planning, selection of plants, building, and maintaining the garden. They will also collaborate with their middle school and Whitmore Elementary in implementing the project. Half of their \$300 grant will go for plants with the balance for soil and decorative materials.

Our member nurseries often provide plants at a discount to school grant recipients to help stretch their buying power and cacti from our rescue program are made available as well for our tag cost. Some TCSS members have also provided technical assistance in the past to help schools plan, select appropriate plants and implement their projects.

Joe Frannea

Library

The Genus *Turbinicarpus* Milan Zachar

This book contains detailed descriptions of the various species, notes include locations, accompanying vegetation, when the plant was discovered, study numbers, synonyms and Latin descriptions. Color photographs accompany each species.

Cycads of Vietnam

Donated by Rainbow Gardens Bookshop.

From 1994-2004, 22 species of Cycads have been discovered in Vietnam. Twenty-seven species are photographed with descriptions, distribution maps and habitat, discovery, distinguishing features and more. Three appendixes, (one with websites and societies) as well as a glossary. Also included are classifications, vegetative morphology, reproductive features, pollination, seed dispersal, ethnobotany and conservation.

Joie Giunta

Pent up Cactus Rescue Fever Explodes



Some of the TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew

The TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew showed up in record numbers, 77 strong, for the first full fledged rescue of the year. The five acre site was rich in saguaros from one to seven feet tall, large barrel cactus, and a few queen of the night. We had twelve new members join TCSS so they could participate in the rescue including two young children who carefully dug up a few six inch tall saguaros. One large mesquite tree had over twenty saguaros under its branches, talk about a family needing a nurse tree. One of the crew members concerned about getting heavy saguaros hauled off the site built a saguaro crawler vehicle with four large independent flotation tires to navigate the desert terrain. Complete with a tongue for two people to hitch up to it to steer and pull the load, it worked incredibly well and saved a lot of heavy carrying.

A mine expansion site about 20 miles west of Marana has been visited and inventoried as to potential cacti that can be removed from the 40 acre site. Mine employees have already removed a few of the cacti but there are hundreds more needing some attention. We hope to perform several rescues during late March and April to save hundreds of small saguaros, ocotillo, barrels, and gorgeous large hedgehogs. The Cactus Rescue Crew will take on a slightly different look to be able to work at this site, donning hard hats, safety glasses and boots. We also have several other sites in the works so it looks like we will have lots of rescues for the next several months. A big thanks to all the Cactus Rescue Crew Members who work hard for the club and help with all the logistics to make everything happen.

Joe Frannea

Free Plants of The Month

Echinocereus pectinatus variety rubrispina
Red Spined Rainbow Cactus • Echinocereus - Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are a popular group of cacti to grow either in pots or as landscape plants. The genus Echinocereus, being derived from Greek, echinos, hedgehog or sea urchin, referring to their spiny fruits. The genus is distributed widely from Oklahoma west to California and into Mexico including Baja.

Most species are frost hardy, lending themselves well as landscape accents in southern Arizona. The bulk of the species flower in Spring or early Summer at higher elevations. Several species from Baja California actually wait until late summer or fall to bloom. Many species are commonly grown locally and will reward you with magnificent large showy flowers.

Echinocereus will only flower once per year, but you may experience one to dozens of flowers depending on the size and species you grow. Another unusual flowering fact, watch where the flower bud emerges from, just above the areoles, as to split from inside the stem of the cactus. Subsequent scarring remains where flowers had been borne. Some species of Echinocereus are single stemmed and others are low multi-stemmed. Some species perform better with morning sun and afternoon shade while others can be acclimated to full sun.

Enjoy your plants!

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Nancy Reid
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)
Joie Giunta (2008)
Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)
Bill Salisbury (2008)
Dan Birt (2009)
Chris Monrad (2009)
Mark Sitter (2009)
Linda Bartlett (2010)
Marty Harrow (2010)
Bill Hicks (2010)
Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad
Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Norma Beckman
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Sales: Jack Ramsey
Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine
Volunteers: Nancy Reid
volunteer@tucsoncactus.org

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

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

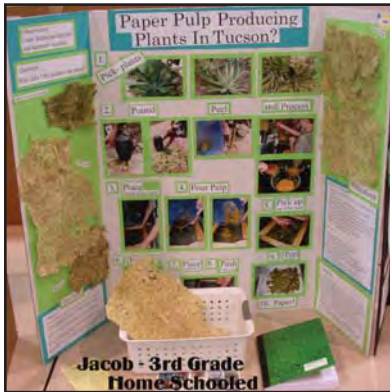
March Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with U 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's 2008 Science Fair Winners

TCSS Special Category judges for Cactus and Succulents scoured the convention center isles containing 1,300 display boards, log books and projects for the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF). Our judges awarded seven students cash prizes, certificates and honorary Family TCSS memberships for their very deserving science fair projects. The winners have been invited to display their projects at our Sonoran VII Conference so you may get to meet some of them and review their projects. Sustainability and using local resources seemed to dominate the focus of our science fair winners this year.



Paper Pulp Producing Plants In Tucson?

Our first place winner is Jacob, a third grade home schooled student. After observing petroglyphs, he wondered why Native Americans didn't use some sort of paper for their drawings. After studying paper making, he pounded, peeled and processed agave, prickly pear and mesquite to see if it was possible to make paper out of native materials. Although his resulting paper was quite beautiful, he concluded that it wasn't very practical for use as writing material.

Cactus Bricks - Green and Sustainable, A Sticky Solution-for a Changing World.

Olivia, a 5th grade student at Picture Rocks Intermediate School wondered if cactus can be used as a substitute for Portland Cement in a sustainable building material/ block made mostly out of paper and sand. Using cactus as a bonding agent, she concluded that not only can it replace cement, but it was easier to work with and makes a much smoother block.



Yucca Root:

Mikey from Coronado K-8 School, wondered if the Yucca Root used by Native Americans makes better shampoo than store bought shampoo. After digging and processing the yucca root he had ten people test the shampoo against their regular commercial shampoo.



The TCSS is looking for your FAVORITE RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS to be featured in a Cookbook

If you would like to have your original recipe featured in a cookbook, you can email or send them to the following addresses

recipes@tucsoncactus.org • TCSS Recipes
P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728

If you have a great idea for a name of the cookbook, please let us know.

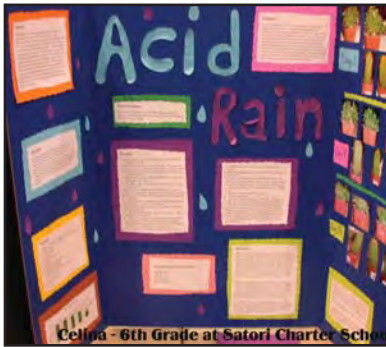
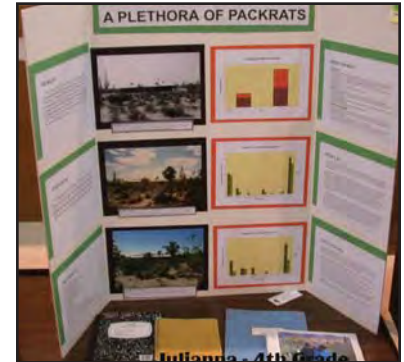


The Future of Solar Technology: Dye-Synthesized Solar Cells-The Poor Man's Power Source

Ebaa, a 10th grade student from Canyon del Oro HS, used several plants from her back yard, including two kinds of prickly pear and barrel fruit, designed a very interesting experiment to measure the power output of different pigments that she extracted from the plants and applied to solar cells. Turns out that purple prickly pear has enough potential to get her excited about continuing the experiments.

A Plethora of Packrats:

Julianna, a fourth grade student from Manzanita School, wondered if increased vegetation over the past 22 years around her house is responsible for the increased packrat population. Using family photos taken of the landscape during those years she counted the cactus and native plants while studying their growth, characteristics and use as habitat for the packrats.



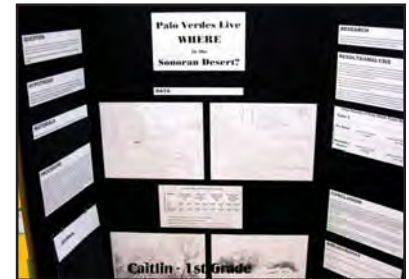
Acid Rain

Celina, a sixth grade student from Satori Charter School set up an experiment to test the effects of acid rain on different types of plants, including cacti. whose survivalist nature showed the most resistance.

Palo Verde Live Where in the Sonoran Desert?

Caitlin, a first grader from Ocotillo Ridge Elementary used observation and measurements to study the distribution of two types of palo verde in the Tucson area and concluded that they grow in different areas according to their needs and therefore don't always compete with each other for the same resources.

Joe Frannea



Volunteers Needed to Start High School Botanical Garden



Catalina Magnet High School, at Pima and Dodge, is creating a new program to prepare and train high school students for agricultural careers following high school or college. This program will include agribusiness classes, an FFA chapter

and the creation of a botanical garden on the school grounds. Students will study plants and biology, learn business skills, start a small nursery where they will sell potted plants and cactus to the public, and grow produce in the greenhouse to sell to parents, teachers and other students. In addition to this, students will design and plant a botanical garden, maintain the botanical garden and greenhouse and gain work experience in agribusiness through job shadowing and student internships.

Nicole Harrington, a member of our society, will teach these classes and welcomes the advice and participation of our members in creating this educational program. She especially needs volunteers, guest speakers for her classroom, and invitations to take the students to nurseries and other agriculture businesses. These field trips will offer her students a real world opportunity to see the inner workings of a variety of agri businesses.

Let's support Mrs. Harrington in her quest to teach real life business skills with this hands on approach! Volunteers are needed to help design the layout of the botanical garden, select and plant plants with the students, help with plant sales, assist in bringing the greenhouse to life, as well as to accompany students on field trips. **Nicole can be reached by e-mail at arizonawildcats123@hotmail.com**

The picture shown is of the area the students hope to turn into a botanical garden...it's not hard to image how our combined talents can make this dream a reality.

3	7	5	7	4
				3

Cacti Rescued
191 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale
Visit our next Sale for selections

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 2008	
Thursday, April 3	7:00 pm General Meeting and Presentation by Gary Lyons: <i>"A Gardener in search of a cactus garden"</i>
Tuesday, April 8	7:00 pm Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Sunday April 13	Fifth Annual Spring Plant Sale Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort 5601 N. Hacienda Del Sol Road



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

May 2008

Friday, May 9, 2008 at 7:30 PM
"Hooked on Euphorbias"

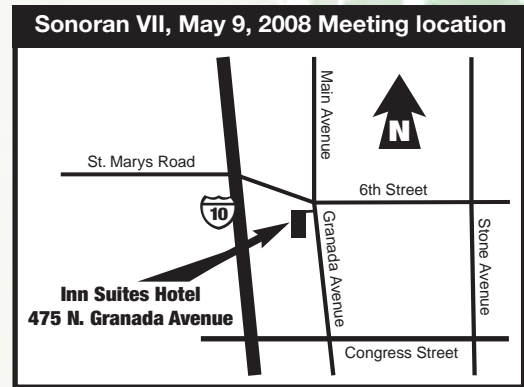
Presented by Susan Carter Holmes



Susan Carter Holmes joined the Herbarium staff of Kew Gardens in 1957 as a member of the team working on Tropical African plants. She retired in 1995 and was made an Honorary Research Associate. In 1958 she met Peter Bally and became his assistant during his frequent visits to Kew, and through him became interested in the Euphorbieae of Tropical Africa, especially the succulent species. Similarly, in 1960 she met Gilbert Reynolds and was his assistant. During this she developed an interest in Aloes. No-one else in the Herbarium was interested in any of these plants, so gradually she became an expert in the genera. Susan went to Kenya for the first time in 1971 to work with Peter Bally, and on a short safari and was immediately hooked on plant expedition work. Official expeditions from Kew followed and several private ones sponsored by the CSSA, amounting to 12 in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan and Zimbabwe, and 2 visits to the Transvaal in South Africa. Those visits have produced about 140 publications, including a long series in the Euphorbia Journal and the recently published Euphorbs in the Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants (Dicots). Susan was made a fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in 1989, and awarded the Cactus d'Or by the IOS in 1996.

This presentation will show examples of Euphorbias occurring in tropical eastern Africa, including herbaceous and shrubby species, but concentrating mainly on the many different forms of those with paired spines that I have found so fascinating. All the slides were taken in habitat during often exciting and always enthralling expeditions to remote corners of Africa.

Please mark your calendar for this great program from a very well known expert in the Euphorbieae. We sincerely welcome Susan Carter Holmes to Tucson and are honored to have her as our guest speaker.



DID YOU KNOW.....

Our native barrel cacti that still have fruits intact from prior years will have diminished flowering! The old fruits occupy the locations where new flowers are propagated. If your local critters have not removed all of your fruits by the end of April, do your plant a favor and take them off by hand or with a pair of tongs. If you don't wish to propagate the seeds, distribute the whole fruits in natural desert areas for the benefit of the birds and ground squirrels. Who knows, new barrel cacti may sprout from some of those seeds!

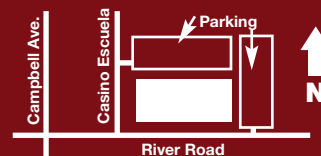
Chris Monrad

Thursday, June 5, 2008

This Presentation will feature rare succulents and other finds from Yemen and other places.

Presented by Bob Webb and Toni Yokum

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



Sonoran VII is almost here and a lot is going on to make it a success. The most important thing is your participation. The Sonoran Conference is a thank you to you for making this society a great success.

There is still time to register for all or part of the conference. You must make your registration for the Friday night dinner by May 5,

2008 and all other meals and activities by May 6, 2008 so that we can confirm to the Inn Suites accurate numbers of attendees.

Secure your full registration ASAP and individual workshops are limited to 20 participants by prepaid ticket only. Make your registration workshops now.

We have 16 vendors selling plants, pots and books plus several art groups with their members selling botanical related items. On Saturday and Sunday will be selling plants from our recent rescues.

There will be a silent auction on Saturday that ends at 4:15pm with a least 10 beautifully framed botanical drawings and lots of wonderful plants to bid on.

Our plant show is always outstanding and the public and members get to enjoy your favorite plants. Each visitor to the plant show will get 10 beans to vote for one or more of their favorite plants. The plants with the most beans will be given recognition. I hope each of you will bring at least one plant for the show.

If nothing else, join us Saturday evening for a Barbeque Dinner (chicken & ribs \$25.00) and wonder time with Jude McNally from the Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center. It's all about those critters!. He is great fun and extraordinarily knowledgeable.

We always look forward to you volunteering some of your time to make this a success. E-mail joietgo@yahoo.com if you can help.

Don't forget Sunday is Mother's Day. We have a free plant for the first 200 or so moms. If you forgot to get something for Mother's Day we will have the perfect gifts for her. I hope all you will get a chance to come to Sonoran VII and please tell your friend and neighbors about this sale.

Thanks as always for making this so much fun.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Rare Golden Hedgehogs

The cactus rescue crew has been delighted to find many relatively rare Golden Hedgehogs at the latest rescue site

northwest of Tucson. This cactus, *Echinocereus nicholii*, constitutes a giant among hedgehogs, producing numerous large stems with golden spines that are visible from far away. As you may have noticed, the plant produces pale-pink to almost-white flowers.



If you were lucky enough to get one of these beauties, you can help ensure its survival by caring for it as follows: (1) Trimming any broken or frayed roots back to healthy tissue (2) Letting the cactus roots dry in a partly shady area for 7 to 10 days (3) Planting in a shallow depression of loosened sandy soil just enough to cover the roots and root stem, orienting the white mark on the plant southward to minimize sunburn (4) Watering lightly every 7 to 10 days to encourage new roots. After the plant becomes established, it should require only minimal water during very dry seasons.

The type specimen for this hedgehog, also known as *Echinocereus engelmannii* var *nicholii*, is from the Silver Bell Mountains of Pima County, Arizona. It has a restricted range mainly in Pima County and is found from 1,000 to 3,000-foot elevations. Populations have also been reported in Sonora, Mexico; the White Tank Mountains in Maricopa County; and possibly the Mohawk Mountains in Yuma County.

Robert and Donna Ellis

Two for One!



Who needs to go to the gym to exercise and work out when you can get all the exercise you want by climbing mountains and digging cactus at the same time. That's just what the TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew has been doing for the past six weekends in the Silver Bell mountains, getting a good cardio-vascular workout and saving cacti at the same time. Crew members have donned hard hats and safety glasses to work a couple of hills on the Silver Bell Mine site full of golden spined hedge hogs (nicholii), saguaros and ocotillo. The soil is so rocky it is more like doing archaeological work with a pick than any real digging. The roots are fairly shallow for most plants so loosening up the rocks around the base often yields the secret to getting the cacti out fairly quickly. One eight inch diameter barrel cactus was growing horizontally out of a crack in the face of a large boulder. Many of the hedge hogs were growing on the top of rock formations and saguaros often were coming out of the ground at an angle to navigate over the top of rocks.



A special thanks to ASARCO's Silver Bell Mine environmental engineer, Nancy, for contacting TCSS and working on her weekends to give us access to the 40 acres where the cactus are located. The golden hedge hogs are one of the most beautiful hedge hogs with pink flowers and stems that reach up over 16 inches tall, glistening in the bright sun light. Some of the plants have over 50 stems with as many or more blooms. One of the larger plants that was too large to remove had over 75 stems. These cacti are a special treat for residents in the greater Tucson area as they mostly grow on rocky ridges to the west of Tucson. They are abundant in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument area so we are lucky to bring some of their splendor to our cactus landscapes. Many of these plants were sold at the recent Hacienda Del Sol Plant sale and we hope to have a few more for the Sonoran VII plant sale.

Joe Frannea

Library Update

Since there is no meeting this month, books taken out in April and before, will not be due back until June. At that time we will have more new books that have been donated to the library. See you at Sonoran VII

Joie Giunta

*Thank you to the following people for submitted photos into the Newsletter:
Vonn Watkins, Joe Frannea, Robert and Donna Ellis*

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harrow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Volunteers: Nancy Reid

volunteer@tucsoncactus.org

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.**

Spring Hacienda Del Sol Plant Sale "Furious"



A BIG THANKS is given to about a hundred rescue crew members who dug plants for the club over the past two months and to forty TCSS members who showed up at the 5th Annual Hacienda Del Sol Plant Sale to set-up, sell, cashier, load plants and take-down the sale. The Sale was a huge success from several vantage points. We sold over 800 plants to 268 mostly very happy customers in just a

few hours. Many customers asked us to express their appreciation for the plant saving efforts of the crew and the businesses that made the cacti available to be saved. About 90% of the plants sold came from ASARCO's Silver Bell Mine site. Mining is generally exempt from Arizona native plant protection laws so we want to commend ASARCO and especially Nancy, Silver Bell Mine environmental engineer, for taking the initiative and follow-through making this all possible.



Our sales profit after tags costs, advertising, commission, and a few others expenses was just over \$9,000. This means \$2,250 can be added to our Educational Outreach program which is mostly used for School Grants. A few of the larger saguaros (4 to 5 footers) from the Silver Bell site and another site were held back for the School Grant program. These are used by schools for their cactus gardens saving them \$300+ to purchase larger saguaros. This allows their limited school grant money to go much further and they would rather have a desert grown plant than a nursery grown one.



The TCSS is looking for your FAVORITE RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS to be featured in a Cookbook

If you would like to have your original recipe featured in a cookbook, you can email or send them to the following addresses

**recipes@tucsoncactus.org • TCSS Recipes
P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728**

If you have a great idea for a name of the cookbook, please let us know.

We had an excellent selection of cacti, selling 813 total. With over 200 hedge hogs, many in bloom and many buds still to open, lots of mammalaria, over 350 saguaros to choose from, over 100 barrel cactus with a few two feet in diameter, and over 40 ocotillo, many were one gallon potted babies. Our sales are always very brisk and challenging for the first hour, sometimes first 20 minutes. We tried a new limited purchase tag option for the first hour so as many customers as possible could have a good selection of plants. This procedure has a few quirks to work out but we also had a very limited sales space in the parking lot for plants, workers, and customers. We also had Arid Lands Greenhouses, B & B Cactus Farm, Plants for the South-

west, and Starr Nursery selling their colorful plants in the ramada and courtyard areas.

We will be rescuing more of the same type of cactus for the TCSS Sonoran VII plant sale which is part of the conference, May 10th and 11th. Check our TCSS web site as the Sonoran conference approaches for more details on the types of rescue cacti that will be for sale. We of course, also want to thank the 268 members and customers who purchased plants to give them a new and safe home.

Joe Frannea



Earth Day at Reid Park

TCSS participated in 14th Annual Tucson Earth Day Festival held at Reid Park this year on April 19th. Our booth emphasized the importance of native cactus and succulents and how they are used and interact with our wildlife. Special poster boards were created with pictures of flowers, fruit and animals that frequent our common native cacti. Saguaro boots and ribs, cholla skeletons, cochineal, areoles, and other display props were used to explain some of the unique features of our native plants. The prickly pear pad with big globs of white fluffy cochineal was an amazement to many and were surprised to learn that this insect which yields a bright red dye when crushed has been used for thousands of years and is still used today for the deep red colors in fabrics, artist paints, and in some cosmetics. Our TCSS picture post card was handed out as a cactus reference card to about 100 attendees who stopped to chat and visit our display. Thanks to Ed Bartlett, Doug Rowsell, and Patsy Frannea for staffing the booth for the four hour event.

Joe Frannea

Sonoran VII Conference

May 9, 10 & 11, 2008 at the Inn Suites Hotel

The 2008 Sonoran VII conference will feature the Ocotillo (Fouquieriaceae) family and more. Friday evening, May 9, will kick-off this fabulous week-end with a complete plated dinner for all TCSS members (\$10.00 each, free to conference registrants and \$20 each for extra guest tickets) with your choice of beef, chicken or vegetarian dinner and followed by a very special presentation by Susan Carter Holmes, botanist and taxonomist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Following her presentation the plant show and all sales areas except the TCSS Rescue Sales will be open for your early shopping pleasure. **If you can't make it for dinner you are encouraged to attend the speaker presentation that starts at 7:30 pm.**

Saturday, May 10, 2008, the show, sales areas, silent auction and fine art sales will be open to the general public. Registrants for the conference will enjoy speakers, workshops and lunch. The silent auction will end the day's activities at 4:15 PM. In the evening a special barbeque dinner (\$25.00 each) followed by Jude McNally, Managing Director of the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center will be talking about those critters that you don't want to see when we are out looking at cacti and succulents in our Sonoran Desert. The Conference on Sunday, May 11, will begin with a speaker presentation followed by more workshops and a closing luncheon and speaker. The Show and Sales will also be open to the public on Sunday. Since Mother's Day is May 11, we will have a free plant for the first 200 Moms who attend the show and sale.

Confirmed Speakers: 1. Susan Carter Holmes – "Hooked on Euphorbias" 2. James Henrickson – "A Taxonomic Revision of the Fouquieriaceae" (with new material) 3. Scott Calhoun – "Wild Cactus/City Cactus: Succulent Design Approaches Inspired by Nature" 4. Jude McNally – "Venomous Creatures of the Sonoran Desert" 5. Bob Webb – "Fouquierias and other succulent plant species of the Baja California Peninsula, Mexico" 6. Mark Muradian – "Cacti of the Bolivian Highlands" (digital movie)

Confirmed workshops and general topics: A complete description of each workshop will be available for all registrants and on the TCSS web site. 1. Martha Burgess- Native Cacti and Other Succulents for Food 2. Doug Dawson – Succulents from Seed 3. Norm Dennis – Cactus 101 & Starting Your Collection 4. Larry Grammer – Excellent Container Planting and Staging Techniques 5. Greg Starr – Enchanted Agaves for Your Garden 6. Matt Johnson - Exploring and Knowing the Plants of the Rio Grande Area of Texas 7. Gene Joseph – Cactus and Succulent Pollination Techniques 8. Cory Martin – Container Plant Culture as Design Accents Around the Home 9. Dave Palzkill – Adenium Asexual Propagation 10. Mark Sitter - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (insect pests and control)

Sonoran VII Conference features topics of interest for the beginning hobbyist to the serious professional and is suited to an adult audience only. Registration is limited to 100 people.

Additional Sonoran VII registration forms and information is available on the TCSS web site at: www.tucsoncactus.org

Single workshop tickets are limited and lunches are available both at \$15.00 each. Just complete the form below and mail it to the address at the bottom of this page.

	#	Total Amount
Friday, May 9: Dinner (TCSS Member \$10.00; Guest \$20.00) Chicken, Beef or Vegetarian (circle)		
Workshops: Session #1 Workshop Presenter's Name _____	\$15:00	_____
Session #2 Workshop Presenter's Name _____	\$15:00	_____
Session #3 Workshop Presenter's Name _____	\$15:00	_____
Session #4 Workshop Presenter's Name _____	\$15:00	_____
Session #5 Workshop Presenter's Name _____	\$15:00	_____
Saturday Lunch	\$15:00	_____
Saturday Evening Barbeque Dinner and Speaker	\$25:00	_____
Sunday Lunch	\$15:00	_____
Total Amount		\$ _____

Send to: Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society, PO Box 64759, Tucson, Arizona 85728-4759

Sonoran VII Program Schedule

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 9, 10 & 11, 2008
Inn Suites Hotels & Suites • 475 N. Granada Avenue

Day/Time	Event	Location
Friday, May 9		
12:00 Noon	Set-up Show, Sales, Silent Auction, Etc.	Assigned Areas
3:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Early Registration	Lobby Area
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Reception & Cash Bar	Copper Room
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Dinner	Copper Room
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Guest Speaker 1 Susan Carter Holmes	Copper Room
8:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Plant Sale	Outside Tent
	Book & Pottery Sales	Gold Room
	Plant Show	Silver Room
	Preview and Bidding Starts for Silent Auction	Lobby Area
Saturday, May 10		
8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Set-up Art Show and Sales	Lobby, Outdoor Areas
8:00 am - 8:30 pm	Registration	Lobby Area
8:30 am - 4:30pm	Plants, Books, Pottery, Art Sales and Plant Show	Silver Room, Gold Room, Tent & Outdoors
8:30 am - 4:15 pm	Silent Auction Bidding	Lobby Area
8:45 am - 9:45 am	Guest Speaker 2 Dr. James Henrickson	Copper Room
10:00 am - 10:50 am	Workshops Session 1	Assigned Rooms*
11:00 am - 11:50 am	Workshops Session 2	Assigned Rooms*
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch	Copper Room
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Workshops Session 3	Assigned Rooms*
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	Guest Speaker 3 Scott Calhoun	Copper Room
4:15 PM	Silent Auction Ends	Lobby Area
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Reception & Cash Bar	Copper Room
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Special Dinner	Copper Room
7:30 PM	Guest Speaker- Jude McNally	Copper Room
Sunday, May 11		
8:30 am - 3:00 pm	Plants, Books, Pottery, Art Sales and Plant Show	Silver Room, Gold Room, Tent & Outdoors
8:45 am - 9:45 am	Guest Speaker 4 Bob Webb	Copper Room
10:00 am - 10:50 am	Workshops Session 4	Assigned Rooms*
11:00 am - 11:50 am	Workshops Session 5	Assigned Rooms*
12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch / Speaker 5 to follow	Copper Room
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Guest Speaker 5 Mark Muradian & Closing	Copper Room
3:00 PM	Plant, Art Show and All Sales End	All Areas
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Take Down & Clean Up	All Areas

*Workshop Rooms: Buckley, El Conquistador, El Dorado, MacArthur and St Augustine

Sonoran VII Workshop Schedule

Saturday and Sunday, May 10 & 11, 2008
Inn Suites Hotels & Suites • 475 N. Granada Avenue

Date	Time	SESSION	ROOMS	NAME	TITLE
Saturday, May 10, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 1	Buckley	Larry Grammer	Excellent Container Planting & Staging Techniques
Saturday, May 10, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 1	El Conquistador	Matt Johnson	Exploring & Knowing the Plants of the Rio Grande Area of Texas
Saturday, May 10, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 1	El Dorado	Norm Dennis	Cactus 101 & Starting Your Collection
Saturday, May 10, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 1	St. Augustine	Dave Palzkill	Adenium Asexual Propagation (cuttings/grafting/air-layering)
Saturday, May 10, 2008	11:00-11:50AM	Session 2	Buckley	Larry Grammer	Excellent Container Planting & Staging Techniques
Saturday, May 10, 2008	11:00-11:50AM	Session 2	El Dorado	Norm Dennis	Cactus 101 & Starting Your Collection
Saturday, May 10, 2008	11:00-11:50AM	Session 2	MacArthur	Gene Joseph	Cactus & Succulent Pollination Techniques
Saturday, May 10, 2008	11:00-11:50AM	Session 2	St. Augustine	Dave Palzkill	Adenium Asexual Propagation (cuttings/grafting/air-layering)
Saturday, May 10, 2008	1:30-2:30PM	Session 3	Buckley	Cory Martin	Container Plant Culture as Design Accents Around the Home
Saturday, May 10, 2008	1:30-2:30PM	Session 3	El Conquistador	Mark Sitter	The Good the Bad and the Ugly (insect pests and control)
Saturday, May 10, 2008	1:30-2:30PM	Session 3	MacArthur	Gene Joseph	Cactus & Succulent Pollination Techniques
Saturday, May 10, 2008	1:30-2:30PM	Session 3	St. Augustine	Greg Starr	Enchanted Agaves for Your Garden
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 4	El Conquistador	Mark Sitter	The Good the Bad and the Ugly (insect pests and control)
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 4	El Dorado	Doug Dawson	Succulents from Seed
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 4	MacArthur	Martha Burgess	Native Cacti and Other Succulents for Food
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 4	St. Augustine	Greg Starr	Enchanted Agaves for Your Garden
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 5	Buckley	Cory Martin	Container Plant Culture as Design Accents Around the Home
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 5	El Conquistador	Matt Johnson	Exploring & Knowing the Plants of the Rio Grande Area of Texas
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 5	El Dorado	Doug Dawson	Succulents from Seed
Sunday, May 11, 2008	10:00-10:50AM	Session 5	MacArthur	Martha Burgess	Native Cacti and Other Succulents for Food

Workshop titles may change slightly but this schedule will remain constant until updates are provided.

Sonoran VII Conference Plant Show

Plant Show Information:

The Plant show committee will be accepting plants Friday, May 9 from 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm

General Guidelines:

1. If possible, avoid watering your entries for at least two days before the entry date to prevent dampness on tables.
2. Containers should be clean and unbroken, and free from salt accumulation and stains. A top dressing is recommended but not required.
3. To facilitate setup, please get your plants to show as early in the day as possible on Friday, May 9
4. Only Cacti and Succulents will be accepted for entry in the show.
5. There are no specified plant categories since this is not a judged show
6. All entries will be voted on by TCSS members and the public.
7. Only TCSS members may enter plants in the show, and you do not have to be registered for Sonoran VII to enter your plants. **Ideally each TCSS member should enter at least one plant or more to the show.**
8. Any well-grown plant that is special to you is a candidate for the show. The plant does not have to be rare or unusual.

Show Rules:

1. You must own the plant for at least six months before the show date.
2. Plants **Legally** collected in the wild may be entered.
3. Basically, the entry should look attractive.
4. There is no limit as to the size of the plant.
5. You may bring as many plants as you wish.

The show committee will determine if a plant is allowed as an entry according to the criteria listed. The decision of the Show committee is final.

We will have two large trucks picking up plants throughout Tucson. If your plant or plants are too large for you to transport give us a call and we will arrange to pick up and return.

If there are any questions or need for additional information, contact Dick Wiedhopf, at 404-9223 cell or 885-6367 home.

4	0	2	7	4
				3

Cacti Rescued
198 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Visit our next Sale for selections

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 2008	
Thursday May 1, 2008	Our May meeting will be on May 9, 2008
May 9, 10, 11, 2008	Sonoran VII Conference
Friday May 9, 2008	6.00 pm Monthly meeting with plated dinner and special presentation by Susan Carter Holmes: <i>"Hooked on Euphorbias"</i>
Saturday May 10, 2008	Ninth Annual Ironwood Festival
Tuesday, May 13, 2008	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

June 2008

Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 7:00 PM "Phytotourism in Yemen"

Presented by Dr. Robert Webb and Toni Yokum



Six weeks exploring Yemen on our own. Just Toni and I with various guides and drivers going where we wanted to go. While Socotra occupied 3 weeks of that time, we're going to talk about mainland Yemen. We'll discuss a wide variety of species there including Adenium, Euphorbias, Aloes, Commiphoras, yada yada yada and the culture, architecture, people, terrorists, etc. etc.

Bob Webb has collected succulent plants for more than 20 years. For his day job, he is a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson; however, he has worked as a plant ecologist in the southwestern United States and Baja, California for nearly 30 years. He's been traveling to the Arabian Peninsula and Africa since the mid-1990s and has visited Oman, Kenya, Socotra, Yemen and South Africa in search of succulent plants.

Dr. Robert Webb has worked on land-use issues and landscape ecology of the southwestern United States and Baja California for more than 30 years. For the past 12 years, he has worked with Mexican government scientists on

plant conservation issues in Baja California centering on cirio, cardon, and other charismatic species that are iconic to the peninsula. He has a Ph.D from the University of Arizona in Geosciences (1985) and has worked for the National Research Program of the U.S. Geological Survey for nearly 20 years. Bob Webb and Toni Yokum are owners of Arid Lands Greenhouses at 3560 W. Bilby Road Tucson AZ 85746 Phone: (520) 883-9404.

This will be a very special program for anyone interested in remote areas of the world where many rarely seen succulents are found. We are really looking forward to having Bob as our special guest so please join us and bring a friend for this very special presentation

July 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM "Exploring The Cactus Hobby Around Europe"

Presented by Stuart Riley

Stuart will be returning to Tucson from his home in the United Kingdom to present another great presentation that will take a close look at the shows, collections, nurseries and a bit of humor from around Europe.

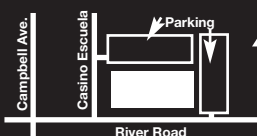
Free Plants

Mammillaria and Coryphantha (various species)

Mammillaria and Coryphantha are native to Mexico and the southwestern US, typically characterized by a short squat 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

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



I again thank Bob Webb and Toni Yocum for underwriting the cost of Susan Carter Holmes, our kick-off speaker for the Sonoran VII conference. Bob also found this amazing statistic about Susan. Of the 923 species of succulent Euphorbias, Susan Carter described or co-described 14% of them (130 species). That is an astounding number!

The financial results of Sonoran VII are almost complete and they are similar to the last several conferences. The Saturday and Sunday portion of the conference breaks even. The sales applied to the conference breaks even and the Friday and Saturday dinners lose some money. Overall, the society breaks even. Our income was just over \$45,000 and our external expenses were \$43,000.

I want to thank the fabulous Sonoran VII committee (20 to 25 members) who did a terrific job and put on a great conference. I told them that this was practice for the 2009 convention. Helen Barber, Linda Bartlett, Ed Bartlett, Dan Birt, Alice Campbell, Ed Campbell, Mark Dimmitt, Patricia Frannea, Joe Frannea, Joie Giunta, Marty Harow, William Hicks, Karen Keller, Avi Leftin, Jack Ramsey, Doug Rowsell, Mark Sitter, James H. Thomas, Joyce Thomas, George Virtes, Gail Virtes & Vonn Watkins.

Also please thank Barry McCormick, Blair Kuropatkin, Theresa Garza and Barbara Harow for all their assistance during the conference and thanks to every other volunteer who helped out.

Speaking about 2009, it is less than a year away.

I have a list of those of you who volunteered to be on the CSSA 2009 committee and you will be receiving an email from me before we start meeting. I want to invite every member to participate either in the planning or helping out during the convention. This will be a very exciting event for Tucson.

If you want to be included please email me directly at tucsoncactus@comcast.net. or leave a message at 885-6367.

Thank you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Arizona Native Plant Society's Spring Garden Tour

Recently I hosted the Arizona Native Plant Society's Spring Garden Tour, which was open to the public this year. There were an estimated 150 people who came through. The two main areas of interest were: 1. Trees: what kind and how old are they? 2. Where'd you get all the cool cactus? Hedgehogs sparked the area with different hues of pink, magenta,

and purple. When I explained they were rescue plants, most of the visitors had heard of TCSS and of our rescue program. Many were happy to hear about the Hacienda del Sol sale set for the following day. I can't think of a better deal than our rescue. Not only do we have fun saving them (kind of like Easter egg hunts), but offering them up to an eager public (where else can they get such a good deal?) is an all around win!

Nancy Reid

Did you know that...

Our native local Yuccas propagate not only from seeds but also send out underground runners (stolons) that outlive the parent plant? If you have a mature plant or a transplanted 'rescue' plant that loses the original or main head, don't assume that the whole plant has died. Leave the plant as-is and continue to deep water the area around the plant monthly, as the underground tuber and root system may very well still be alive and in the process of growing new rosettes that will soon sprout from the ground. I have seen this happen with six rescued Yucca arizonica in my yard this spring!

For more information, refer to this website.
<http://www.yuccaagavaceae.com/species>

Regards, *Christian K. Monrad,*

Library Update

Cactaceas de Sonara, Mexico: su Diversidad, Uso Y Conservacion

This book, donated by Mark Dimmitt, is written mostly in Spanish. English descriptions are given under the color photographs.

The Genus Duvalia (Stapelieae)

A technical book with black and white drawings, a two page color spread of flowers and distribution maps describing about 17 different species. Includes distribution, habitat and descriptions.

Little Big Bend Common, Uncommon, and Rare Plants of Big Bend National Park by Roy Morey. Donated by Texas University Press

This book describes plants from Agaves to Zygophyllaceae found in Big Bend National Park. It covers the geography, temperatures and diversity of the area. Each plant has a common name along with the botanical name and its derivation, which the author hopes will help in understanding and appreciating the plants. A glossary in the back will help with understanding the descriptions.

Joie Giunta

BELL Enhances Habitat on Earth Day

TCSS School Grant recipient Borton Primary Magnet School enhanced their Borton Environmental Learning Lab or BELL, a native desert area, with additional cactus and other succulents on Earth Day, April 22nd. About fifty students were able to participate with Cactus Rescue Crew volunteers Bill

Continued on page 4

Sonoran VII: A Lot of Fun for Everyone!



Photo by John Duram

WHAT A SHOW !!!

Thanks to the generous contributions of our members and a hearty moving crew we had a very impressive plant show at Sonoran VII. There were a total of 124 plants from about 20 TCSS members and the visiting crowds took seriously their job of picking the best of the show with their 10 bean votes. There were colorful blooming specimens, sculptural beauties, and an array of presentations that made most of us anxious to get home and try to push some of our collections into show quality winners. It was indeed a feast for the eyes of cactus and succulent lovers! The display was augmented by two tables of beautifully presented plants brought by Larry Grammer from his workshop on display plants.

The "Top Four" vote recognition recipients went to B&B Cactus Farm for *Gymnocalycium chiquitanum* "NEATO" and *Parodia magnifica* "WOW", Angell Lascala for *Trichocaulon cactiforme* "GEE WHIZ". and to Plants of the Southwest for *Euphorbia bupleurifolia* nestled in just the perfect pot "OH BOY". We are grateful to everyone who made the effort to share their wonderful plants with all of us and to the truck drivers and strong movers who made it possible for the larger plants to be transported and set up for the exhibit.

Barry McCormick and Patsy Frannea



The TCSS is looking for your FAVORITE RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS to be featured in a Cookbook

If you would like to have your original recipe featured in a cookbook, you can email or send them to the following addresses
recipes@tucsoncactus.org • TCSS Recipes
 P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728

Sonoran VII: A Lot of Fun for Everyone!



Photos by John Duram

Brichta Creates Reconciliation Project

Ms. Katie Eddleman and her 5th grade class at TUSD's Brichta Elementary were recently awarded a TCSS School Grant to build a Reconciliation Ecology Project. Their habitat site was selected close to their portable building classroom and in an area that was in need of some serious work. Water harvesting was one important part of their project and students were able to use their math skills to calculate water shed volumes and retention basin areas and volumes. Dirt removed from the retention areas was used for paths and a berm area for the cactus garden.

Brichta called upon the Cactus Rescue Crew to provide some cacti at reasonable costs and help plant them in their new habitat. Early one Sunday morning Dave Palzkill, Ed and Linda Bartlett, John and Gayle Swarbrick, Keith Zwickle and Patsy and Joe Frannea showed up with students, parents and teachers to work on the landscaping part of the project since the water retention areas were mostly complete. After a few hours of work about 30 cacti and many other plants had been planted including two 50 inch tall saguaros from one of our recent rescue sites. Dave, John and Keith brought a few extra plants to add to the rescue cacti.



Continued from page 1



Salisbury, Ed and Linda Bartlett, Dave Palzkill, and Joe Frannea. Students were able to learn about saguaro roots, measure heights and diameters, test the weight of a five foot saguaro, and observe planting techniques. Parents are heavily involved in setting up, expanding, and operating the BELL project. They have other pictures and more information on their web site.



<http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us:80/Borton/events/eventframe.htm>

Joe Frannea (photos by Borton School)

Continued from page 3

Katie and her class developed a power point presentation to share the project, design and implementation, with other classes at Brichta Elementary School. After the presentation is given by her students, they hand out a TCSS Cactus postcard to each student and lead them on a tour of the new garden. The color postcards are used as reference cards to help students identify cacti. When Katie needed to buy some more postcards, Joe and Patsy delivered them to her and were treated to a private showing of the power point presentation by students Reza and Jazmyne. It was reassuring to see two 5th graders give a presentation to two adults totally on their own and they really knew their stuff. Reza confidently and accurately explained how they calculated water shed areas, converted those to volumes and calculated retention basins needed. They expertly operated the computer equipment and software, switched to Google Earth to show the areas of the project and picked up the presentation where they left off. They explained three different types of ecology, Preservation, Restoration, and Reconciliation, I learned something! Students also learned to use bunyip level devices to get ground levels correct. It's a form of a water level.

It is absolutely heart warming to see great teachers like Katie in action and seeing young students respond, learning and applying skills that will stick with them for life. TCSS Educational Outreach and the Cactus Rescue Crew members are proud to be able to serve as a catalyst to help make these projects happen.

Joe Frannea
(photos by Patsy Frannea)



TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harrow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Volunteers: Nancy Reid

volunteer@tucsoncactus.org

Newsletter 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 A 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.

4	0	3	3	4
				3

Cacti Rescued
201 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Visit our next Sale for selections

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 2008	
Thursday June 5, 2008	7:00 pm Phytotourism in Yemen. <i>Presented by Bob Webb and Toni Yokum</i>
Friday and Saturday June 6 and 7, 2008	Weird Plant Sale, Tucson Botanical Garden June 6 (members only) 4:30p - 7:30p; June 7 (public) 8am - 12pm
Tuesday June 10, 2008	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

July 2008

Thursday, July 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM
**"Cactus Travels
From Across The Atlantic"**

Presented by Stuart Riley



Stuart and Jane Riley will be returning to Tucson from their home in the United Kingdom to present another great presentation. As well as being keen cactus hobbyists, they have a cactus nursery in the UK and will be bringing a follow-up program to the one they gave in 2006 with more photos of collections, nurseries, shows and a few amusing stories from across the Atlantic with a bit of history thrown in too! This will be Stuart's first digital program and the first time any of the photos have been seen. Stuart and Jane have been spending their holidays in the United States since the early 1980s and always include Tucson on their travels.

Please plan to come in and welcome Stuart and Jane back to Tucson. Also be ready for a wonderful evening of fun and adventure from Europe!

Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 7:00PM
**"Exploring and Knowing the Plants
of the Rio Grande Area of Texas"**
Presented by Matthew B. Johnson

FREE PLANTS Adenia Glauca

First described by Schinz in 1892, belonging to the Passifloraceae family. This species is from southern Africa and Botswana region, The caudex can get up to one meter or more in diameter (over time, of course) and the branches reach for up to three meters. It prefers well draining soil, should be heavily watered in the summer and can dry out in winter. The plant should be kept out of strong sun and prefers filtered/patio light. The flower is green/creme in color. Best for pot culture, as it is frost tender and should be moved indoors, left dry and dormant in the winter. Showy, tropical leaves are outstanding during the growing season.

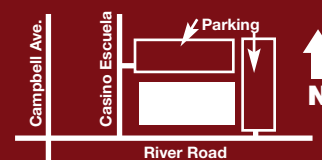
Chris Monrad

HATS OFF TO "A to J" MEMBERS !

Every month we ask members to help with our meeting refreshments alphabetically according to their last name. In June "A to J" families really overwhelmed us with an abundance of delicious varieties of goodies to share. TCSS supplies basic drinks and treats at the meetings, but depends on our generous members to provide the interesting extra food we all enjoy sampling. Look for your turn to contribute by checking the newsletter each month. Thanks a million to everyone who helps fill our refreshment tables.

Patsy Frannea

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



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

President's Message



It is hard to believe that the 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is less than a year away. April 10-15, 2009 is the official dates, The Westin La Paloma is the site and we are the host society. This is also the time we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society (TCSS). Both Societies are busy getting things ready for the largest convention

ever. We are expecting to exceed the record 700 attendees at the 1995 convention also held in Tucson. What a wonderful time.

A group of TCSS volunteers are planning field trips for the Monday, April 13, 2009 and other times to sites all over Southern Arizona. These include visits to local nurseries, Desert Museum, Tohono Chul Park, Tucson Botanical Gardens, Desert Botanical Gardens, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Missions, Desert exploring and more. There will be a need for one TCSS member tour guide on each bus to answer questions and talk about the wonders of Tucson and Southern Arizona. You would also be the way finder and the attendance monitor. We want to bring back the same number of folks we started with. This will be great fun and the reward will be a free tour and one morning or afternoon session of your choice at the convention.

Kevin Barber is the CSSA Convention Chair and he has appointed Vonn Watkins, Program Chair, Helen Barber, Vendor Sales chair, Mindy Fusaro, Convention Registrar to handle the major CSSA tasks. The local activities are being managed by TCSS committees. There is a large variety of activities and everyone is welcome to participate. It's easy! Just go to the website and click on Contact Us or you may call directly at 520-885-6367.

Congratulations to Scott Calhoun (member and speaker at Sonoran VII) selected as First Place Professional Residential "Zona Gardens for the Newhouse Residence" in the 8th Annual Regional Xeriscape Landscape Contest sponsored by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

This is the final call for recipes and photo for our book. Thanks to all who have contributed.

It's hot, It's summer, killer bees are swarming on my patio, its Tucson and I love it.

Thank you,
Dick Wiedhopf, President

Catalina High School Horticulture Program

We are supporting our member Nicole Harrington, a faculty member at Catalina HS, with her horticulture program. Please bring clean pots in the following sizes ONLY: 2 3/4" . 3

1/4", 6", 1 gal and 2 gal. Norm Dennis has volunteered to store them and make them available as needed.

We also need cleaned seeds in labeled envelopes. We need native and non-native cacti, succulents, trees etc that will be interesting and easy to grow. Species might include Fairy Duster, Desert Mallow, Velvet Mesquite, Ocotillo, Cresote, Desert Marigold, Penstemon, Brittle Bush, Burr Sage, and local cacti excluding Opuntia.

We can also use standard plastic flats Bring your pots and seeds to either the July or August meeting.

Thanks"
Norm Dennis

TBG Weird Plant Sale Depletes Rescue Inventory



The Cactus Rescue Crew participated in the Tucson Botanical Gardens (TBG) Weird Plant Sale held on June 7th and 8th. It was an opportune time to sell the remaining cacti from the Silverbell Mine rescues held in prior months. Eighteen crew members setup tents, unloaded rescue cacti, waited on customers, loaded their vehicles, and cleaned up the sale site. The best news was that there were no cacti to return to the holding site and hence none to re-plant or care for. We had about 80 customers who purchased 99 Charlie Brown saguaros, 7 ocotillo, 40 mammalaria, a few small potted plants and we gave away a box of small cereus cuttings.

Total sales were \$2,141 with expenses consisting of a 25% commission to TBG, cost to purchase Native Plant tags and a few other minor expenses yielding a profit of \$1,050. About \$250 of this will be earmarked for our Educational Outreach fund for School Grants.

Joe Frannea
photo by Patsy Frannea

Grants Awarded

TCSS recently awarded a \$400 School Grant to teacher Lori Tate at Mountain Vista in Oracle, Arizona. They plan to create an educational cactus garden on their campus near other gardens and a greenhouse. They will buy equipment and

gardens and a greenhouse. They will buy equipment and materials to make signs for each plant to clearly identify them so students can learn their names. They will study species that are well suited for their climate.

Another School Grant for \$400 was awarded to teacher Daniel Forrest at Pistor Middle School in TUSD. Two hundred students will be involved in the design, planning, and construction of a community cactus garden including other plants and trees. They have eight phases outlined which include other community organizations to help with walks, artwork, benches, trees, irrigation, etc. They hope to expand the project serving students and the community with a playground, barbecue pit, and basketball court. Sounds like a great project involving students, parents, teachers, and community.

Joe Frannea

San Joaquin Shares Success Story



For the second year in a row, High School teacher Jim Kennedy reports another successful year for students and their cactus garden project. Students research and participate in the selection and propagation techniques for various cacti. They plant and care for their purchases from a local nursery, integrating them into an outdoor landscape design which they create for their garden.



Students also created a beautiful hummingbird wall mural, designing, colorizing, and making individual tiles to create the mural. The Outdoor Design Class students developed and demonstrated teamwork skills that produced some great results. This program helps foster vocational job skills, enhances students lives by developing life-long knowledge, and helps beautify the campus at the same

time. TCSS is pleased to be able to partner with Jim Kennedy and his students at San Joaquin High School through our School Grants program. Congratulations to Jim and his students!

Joe Frannea

photos by Jim Kennedy

Library Update

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond Volume 2 by Brad Lancaster

The second book in a three book series. This book has numerous black and white photos and illustrations. It shows how to assess your site and describes techniques needed to implement water harvesting "earthworks". Most techniques are low cost or no cost.

Isocs Journal Adenium Special January-March 2005 issue.

A 28-page booklet covering care and cultivation of Adeniums. Good care advice and easy to follow techniques on propagating and grafting.

Joie Giunta

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Nancy Reid
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)
Joie Giunta (2008)
Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)
Bill Salisbury (2008)
Dan Birt (2009)
Chris Monrad (2009)
Mark Sitter (2009)
Linda Bartlett (2010)
Marty Harrow (2010)
Bill Hicks (2010)
Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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

July Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with K to T, 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.

4	0	3	3	4
				3

Cacti Rescued
201 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale
Visit our next Sale for selections

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 2008	
Thursday July 3, 2008	7:00 pm "Cactus Travels From Across The Atlantic", <i>Presented by Stuart Riley</i>
Tuesday July 8, 2008	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

August 2008

Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 7PM Exploring and Knowing the Plants of the Rio Grande Area of Texas

Presented by Matthew B. Johnson



This presentation will focus on Matt's recent nine-day trip from Brownsville to El Paso where he identified cacti, trees, and other plants for some of his photographer friends. His program will include such species as *Astrophytum asterias*, *Acanthocereus tetragonus*, *Echinocereus chisosensis* and *Grusonia densispina*. Matt is very familiar with this fantastic area of the country and knows the plants very well.

Matthew has a BS in Agriculture and a MS in Horticulture from the University of Arizona. He is currently a Research Specialist at the University of Arizona, Program Manager and Curator of the Desert Legume Program (1989-present). The Desert Legume Program (DELEP) is a joint project of the UA College of Agriculture Life Sciences and the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. DELEP was established in 1988 to develop a comprehensive seed bank of wild species of legumes (Fabaceae) that are native to or adapted to arid and semi-arid regions, to preserve their seeds long-term, to provide seeds and information to individuals and organizations around the world, and to investigate potential uses for these plants. He has made extensive travels to study and photograph plants and plant habitats in southwestern United States and in arid regions of Mexico, Argentina, Australia and South Africa. His international travel has involved visits to 14 countries on six continents.

For those interested in cacti and other plants of the Texas Rio Grande area this will be a very special program you will not want to miss. We are really looking forward to having Matt as our special guest. Be sure to invite a friend and join us for this excellent program.

Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7:00PM

"A Summer Succulent Sabbatical
to South Africa and Namibia"

Presented Ernesto Sandoval
from the University of California, Davis

FREE PLANTS *Ferocactus hamatacanthus* Turk's Head Barrel/ Texas Barrel

The *Ferocactus* is a popular group of cacti to grow either in pots or as landscape plants. The genus *Ferocactus*, being derived from *Ferus*, meaning wild or fierce and *cactus* referring to the very spiny character of the plants.

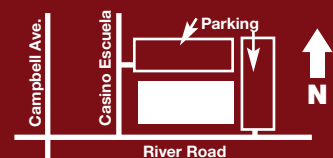
The genus is distributed widely from southern Mexico, north to the Southwestern US and continuing westward to southern California and into Baja California.

This species lends itself well as a landscape cactus for southern Arizona. It is both frost hardy and able to be acclimated to full sun. In the next year or so, your specimen will be large enough to flower. The Turk's Head Barrel will usually flower in July with large yellow flowers, they are diurnal and attract bees as pollinators. In about two months you will find a large ripe fruit containing hundreds of seed suitable for germinating next year. Plants will attain mature size at about 12"-14" wide and about 24" tall and are capable of flower each year. Some individuals will offset with multiple heads capable of also flowering. This species has a very dramatic long central spine which is curved at the end, so be careful when planting not to damage the beautiful long spines. The native range for the Turk's Head Barrel is southern New Mexico, west Texas bordering Mexico south to Brownsville and south into northeastern Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert and Tamaulipan Thorn Scrub.

Enjoy your plants!

Mark Sitter

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



The 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America hosted by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is only 8 months away. Just thought I would remind you. Remember this opportunity comes around only once every decade or two; 1965, 1977, 1995 and now 2009. I don't want you to miss out on this event.

Coming up in the near future are four exciting activities other than regular monthly meeting. August 17th is our blooming barrel sale. Rescued barrels in bud and bloom will be featured. This material sells very quickly and usually within the first 2 hours most material is sold. The sale will be held at our Fourth Ave holding site at 4342 N 4th ave. You will receive a postcard or email with all the details soon.

The 25th Annual Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, in San Marino, Ca will be held on Saturday, August 30, 2008. The title is "A New Century of Succulent Plants" and features 6 speakers, lunch, optional dinner, silent auction and an opportunity to visit the behind the scene areas and purchase plants. There are many other wonderful things to see at the Huntington either the day before or after the symposium. The CSSA Board of Directors meets on Sunday August 31, at the Huntington. A complete schedule and registration form will be available September 1, 2008. See our website for CSSA convention links.

Coming up on September 21 is the Good Time Silent Auction. This event features several overlapping silent auction, a limited live auction of special plants, plus free plant cuttings and giveaways, and \$2.00 plant sale tables. This is always a lot of fun, an opportunity to unburden your garden of excess material and

fill it back up again with new material. There will be ICE CREAM and all the TOPPINGS to really make this a good time. Full details will be in the September newsletter so start getting your plants ready.

The Board of directors has authorized a trial period for another monthly meeting to start in September. We are calling it "The Round Table." It will be informal and will focus on a popular subject with one or more host experts. This will be an opportunity to ask questions, get advice and share successes and failures. Other cactus and succulent societies have been doing this and it has been very successful. If you have a topic (plant genus, technique, structures etc.) for The Round Table please let me know. I hope these meetings will be a success.



Finally, Kevin Barber and I had the opportunity to visit our member Jan Emming at his Destination Forever Ranch outside of Yucca, AZ. The scenery and plants are spectacular in this area where the Mohave Desert plants meeting the Sonoran Desert plants. Any scene with both Joshua Trees and Saguaros is dramatic. Here is just one picture to give you the flavor.

Thanks for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Cactus Rescue Crew Carefully Removes Habitat



While surveying a twenty acre parcel for potential cactus to be removed prior to clearing the land for a new middle school to be built in the Vail area, a large rattler was discovered enjoying his

native territory. The area did have a lot of pack rat middens so it probably is a good snake habitat. During spring and summer months we always have the rattlesnake reminder high on our "working safely" priority list. During the cactus rescue which took place a few days after the survey, the snake was discovered under a prickly pear cactus just having had breakfast. Its two inch diameter body was now about four inches in the center of the snake, obviously digesting a rodent of some type that it had just swallowed. He was not active during this digestive period so it was good for us as we knew exactly where he was for several hours, not that there couldn't have been others in the area. There is lots of neighboring state land so hopefully he will be able to exist on the hundreds of remaining acres.

The crew had a heavy lifting day as most of the viable cactus were large and heavy, very hydrated barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizeni*) from the recent monsoon rains. We left anything over two feet tall for the club inventory as they are very heavy for us to handle and too large for most customers to deal with. One crew member took a few larger ones as he has built specially equipped dollies and ramps to load the large barrels into his truck. The crew removed over a hundred barrels weighing in at

about 5 tons. We had worked part of this site a year and a half ago for the construction of an elementary school which is just being finished on the adjacent parcel. We removed most of the smaller cactus, pincushions, peniocereus and hedge hogs, on both parcels at that time. Some of the eagle-eyed crew did find a few more Queen of the Night (*Peniocereus greggii*), one prize being five feet tall with a huge 6 by 12 inch tuber. It does take a special eye to find what looks like a dead stick coming out of the ground and is often at the base of a mesquite tree with lots of other dead sticks around the area. There were also lots of small devils claw plants with large tubers that were easy digging in the soft loamy soil, thanks to all the recent rain.

Some of the rescued barrels went home with crew members but most were taken to our holding site for our Blooming Barrel Sale to be held on Sunday, August 17th, from 9 am to 1 pm or until all cactus are sold which can be as early as 10:30 am. See our web site for more details, www.TucsonCactus.org. A special thanks to the Vail School District Facilities Manager for making this property available as they have prepared many other sites as well over the past ten years.

Joe Frannea

Library Update

At the board's suggestion we are adding children's books to the library so that your children and grandchildren can learn about Arizona and the desert. The following books are for 4-8 year olds.

Cactus Hotel by Brenda Z. Guiberson is a story of the Saguaro from a seed to a 200-year-old fallen plant. The book tells how the Saguaro got its start and the creatures that make use of it during its lifetime and beyond.

Don't Call Me Pig! A Javelina Story by Conrad J. Storar. This is an informative

and interesting story about the javelina and why you shouldn't call them pigs. At the back of the book are a couple of pages teaching the adults why you don't call them pigs. Colorfully illustrated.

For the adults there is **Cacti of Texas** A Field Guide. *Opuntia*, *Echinocereus*, *Ferocactus*, *Coryphantha* and more are discussed. Each species covers distribution, vegetative characters, flowers, fruits, the latin name and other common names.

Joie Giunta

TCSS Financial Report - First Half 2008

This is the financial report for the first six months of 2008. The \$10,000 set-aside for Rescue Crew Operations is to ensure working monies are available for large tag purchases and other rescue expenses. Education, Research, Conservation, and Botanical Art Preservation funds are designated monies specifically earmarked for these programs. The Rescue Crew Program expenses include \$3,560 donated to the Educational Outreach Fund which is 25% of the Rescue Program profits for the first half of 2008.

Major Categories	Income	Expenses	Net
Dues, Newsletters, Meetings, misc.:	\$ 7,898	\$ 8,755	(\$857)
Cactus Rescue, misc sales:	\$31,122	\$15,663	\$15,459
Sonoran VII, commissions:	\$46,339	\$54,903	(\$8,564)
Donations, grants:	\$1,914	\$8,332	(\$6,418)
Totals	\$87,273	\$87,653	(\$379)

Assets by Funds:	Balance
General Fund:	\$17,668
Cactus Rescue Operations:	\$10,000
Educational Outreach Fund:	\$13,627 (\$2,333 awarded this period)
Research Fund:	\$11,917 (\$4,999 awarded this period)
Conservation Fund:	\$745 (\$1,000 awarded this period)
Botanical Art Preservation:	\$501 (new fund, no monies awarded)

Total Monetary Assets: \$54,458
Physical Assets, approx: \$20,000 (Library collection and equipment)

For comments or questions regarding this report, please contact Joe Frannea, Treasurer, email: joe@TucsonCactus.org

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harrow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

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

August Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with U to D 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.

40594
3
Cacti Rescued
202 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Visit our next Sale for selections

(See the Calender below)

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

August 2008	
Thursday, August 7, 2008	7:00 pm "Exploring and Knowing the Plants of the Rio Grande Area of Texas" <i>Presented by Matthew B. Johnson</i>
Tuesday, August 12, 2008	Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Sunday, August 17, 2008	Blooming Barrel Sale
Saturday, August 30, 2008	The 25th Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

September 2008

Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7PM "A Summer Succulent Sabbatical to South Africa and Namibia"

Presented by Ernesto Sandoval



Ernesto Sandoval is a plant person. No, he doesn't sprout buds or need occasional watering, but he does kind of like the bone-warming heat of a greenhouse. For Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, raising and rearing flora and foliage is a deeply meaningful way of life. Simply, his passion is his profession.

"Plant people are nice people," says Sandoval. "There's something about working in a garden and nurturing plants and flowers that makes one more peaceful and calm." The greening of Sandoval's life started early on. He grew up in the Los Angeles area and from the age of 10 worked for his dad's landscaping

business and aptly-described as the "Mo', Blow and Go" style. From cutting countless lawns to cultivating saplings and shrubs in the yards of the San Fernando Valley, Sandoval earned both a pair of green-stained shoes and a practical botanical education. More formally, Sandoval obtained his bachelor's degree in botany from UC Davis in 1996.

I spent the first two months of 2008, January and February, in South Africa and spent most of my days in the field visiting Nature Reserves within the fynbos vegetation of the Cape Floristic Region where over 8,700 species of plants are to be found on 6% of South Africa's land area! The name fynbos is Afrikaans for fine bush and refers to the fine, needle-like leaves of many fynbos species. One 15km sq reserve has 1,600 species of plants!! Of course there will be more than just a few succulents that I discuss and I'll share some highlights from short trips to Namibia including Welwitschia and tree aloes.

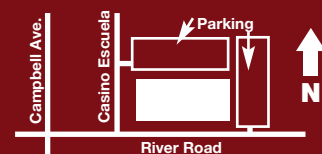
Please join us for this very special presentation with Ernesto's excellent photography, lots of fun and some great stories!

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY - Adenium

The giveaway this month is 'Black Ruby', a clone of *Adenium obesum* selected in Florida. *A. obesum* is one of several species of the genus which occur in scattered locations from the Arabian peninsula and the island of Socotra down to southern Africa. All of the species contain attractive brightly colored flowers, and have interesting succulent stems. Inter-specific crossing is resulting in many spectacular new clones every year. Much of the impetus for variety development resulted from the ideas and clones developed by our club member Mark Dimmitt. Examples of some of his crosses and much more information is available at <http://adenium.tucsoncactus.org/>. Adeniums are cold-sensitive, so are best kept in containers to allow moving to a warm spot in the winter. A care-sheet for Adeniums is available in the publications section of the club's website. The Adeniums are being donated by Dave Palzkill.

Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 7:00PM
Program to be presented by Susan Fisher

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



The 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America hosted by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is only 8 months away. Just thought I would remind you. Remember this opportunity comes around only once every decade or two; 1965, 1977, 1995 and now 2009. I don't want you to miss out on this event.

I want to thank all the volunteers who made the Blooming Barrel Sale a success. New procedures were implemented that controlled parking, access to the plants and made it easier for buyers to pick out plants, pay and load them in their vehicles. It went off smoothly. It is great to have so many dedicated members help out and the public really appreciates what we are doing.

Coming up on September 21 is the Good Time Silent Auction. This event features several overlapping silent auctions, and a limited silent auction of special plants. Free plant cuttings giveaways and \$2.00 plant sale tables will feature great bargains. This is always a lot of fun and an opportunity to unburden your garden of excess material and fill it back up again with new material. There will be ICE CREAM and all the TOPPINGS to really make this a good time. See the article in this newsletter about the event.

Thanks for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Blooming Barrel Sale Goes Smoothly



The annual Blooming Barrel Sale was timed just right so customers could pick their favorite flower colors which is only possible in mid to late August. Extra effort was put into the planning to assure a controlled and pleasant experience for all. Our opening customer rush is always a challenge as is parking. With more preplanning and utilizing a few new techniques like controlled parking, limiting entry to groups of fifteen every few minutes, and bright yellow sold tags we were able to give much better service and customers were pleased with the results. Of

course the thirty two TCSS volunteers with their work assignments not only made quick work of setting up but were readily available to assist our customers. The sale location, our Amphi holding site near the Tucson Mall, also provided space for parking, plant layout, holding and loading areas. We had plenty of inventory so even customers who came at the closing bell were able to purchase plants. Sometimes we sell out within the first hour.

We sold over 525 rescue plants and over 200 other plants to 104 customers, about half of them being TCSS members who enjoyed an extra ten percent off their purchases. The Barrels were a big hit, many of them being over eighteen inches, and had a great selection of recently rescued Echinocereus and Mammillaria. We also had small potted rescued Ocotillo, cereus cuttings, Agave bulbils, Opuntia cuttings and several trays of nursery plants donated by B&B Cactus Farm. Our total sales were \$5,829 including a few new memberships, T-shirts and cactus gloves. Our net profit after cactus tag costs, postcard mailing, visa fees, and a few other expenses came to \$3,380. Twenty five percent of this is earmarked for our Educational Outreach Program which includes School Grants and Science Fair student awards.

*Joe Frannea
photo by Ed Bartlett*

Grant Awarded to Catalina Magnet H.S.



A \$500 TCSS School Grant was awarded last month to AgriBusiness Systems school teacher Nicole Harrington, grades 9 to 12. She is planning a "Catalina Botanical Garden" and small nursery so that students can learn landscape architecture, business skills, horticultural practices, and water harvesting techniques. The money will be used for plants, plant materials, educational signs, decorative gravel, and TCSS memberships so some students can participate with Cactus Rescue Crew Members.

Many TCSS members and nurseries have already made seeds and pots available to Nicole for her new program. She is an active TCSS member and Cactus Rescue Crew Member. Nicole has many great ideas and will emphasize hands on participation for her students to gain knowledge and experience while increasing school pride and school beautification. We look forward to a continued partnership with Nicole, her students and Catalina Magnet High School.

Joe Frannea

Back Breakin' Work Yields Rewards

The Cactus Rescue Crew was fortunate to have a couple of northwest properties to remove plants from just prior to our Blooming Barrel Sale on August 17th. Unfortunately the majority of the Barrel Cacti were HUGE, requiring many to be carried and loaded by two crew members often using the cactus slings for heavy lifting and safety. Many of these were 80 to 100 plus pounds but full of blooms and buds. We usually do not harvest such large Barrels but most specimens were too wonderful to leave behind. These two properties took over 300 crew hours to remove 230 Barrels, 160



Echinocereus, 1000 Mammillaria, and a few Saguaros, Cholla, Prickly Pear, and Queen of the Night. There was one huge crested Saguaro just outside the clearing limits that will be saved and we were able to enjoy its presence.

Crew members are relentless in their dedication to saving cacti and helping TCSS with their mission of "educating, teaching and learning about cacti and other succulent

plants". Increased gas expenses has not seemed to slow participation. Many still drive across town to contribute to rescue efforts. It is rewarding to receive comments from customers at our sales that they appreciate what we do. Some join TCSS just to show their support of our society. It is worth noting that only about one fourth of our club activities and expenses are supported by dues. The balance comes mostly from cactus sales.

Joe Frannea

photo by John Durham

Good Time Silent Auction

Sunday, September 21, 2008

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

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 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 INSECTS. Better plants will go on the \$2.00 table and special plants for the silent auctions. All proceeds go to our Research programs.

We will adopt the same policy as we had at Sonoran VII for a special table for the silent auction. These will be high value plants which the donor will set the opening bid that the donor will receive if the plant is sold. The difference will go to the society. These plants will have a minimum starting bid of at least \$20.00.

The regular silent auctions will feature wonderful items that you donate to support our research programs. We will have four separate silent auction tables spaced throughout the afternoon, beginning at 1:00pm. Pots, plants, special cutting, books, tools etc., will be part of these silent auctions.

We will start the set-up at 11:00am and the party will start at noon. We always welcome volunteers for set-up, sales, and clean-up. Come help and have fun.

Library Update

Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada by Stephen Ingram

More than 60 species are described with distribution maps. Each species has an Identifying Characteristics section detailing habit, stems, spines, flowers and fruits.

Look who lives in the desert! by Brooke Bessesen

Ages 3-9 A rhyming book of 21 desert habitants with fascinating facts on each. Great illustrations.

Zachary Z. Packrat and His Amazing Collections by Brooke Bessesen

Based on fact, this rhyming book covers Zachary Z. packrat and the things he collects. A prelude covers how researchers can find information from a packrat's midden. A question section at the end will have you thinking.

Joie Giunta

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Nancy Reid
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

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

September Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with E to I 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.

4 2 0 2 4
Cacti Rescued
205 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

September 2008	
Thursday, September 4, 2008	7:00 pm "A Summer Succulent Sabbatical to South Africa and Namibia" <i>Presented by Ernesto Sandoval from the University of California, Davis</i>
Tuesday, September 9, 2008	Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Sunday, September 21, 2008	Good Time Silent Auction Junior League, 2099 E. River Rd, 12:00noon to 3pm



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

October 2008

Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 7PM "Botanical Illustration-What Have You Done for Me Lately?"

Presented by Susan T. Fisher



"Botanical Illustration: What Have You Done for Me Lately?" is my way of putting a humorous spin on the history of botanical illustration; pointing out some of the common threads that weave this art form into the fabric of history - right into modern times where we continue to find its unique form of documentation useful and its aesthetics delightful.

Susan T. Fisher is the Director of the Art Institute at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. She is the former Coordinator for the Botanical Illustration Program at Denver Botanic Gardens where she created the Certificate Program in Botanical Art and Illustration known throughout the United States. Susan is on the faculty of the Art Institute and Filoli Gardens in California. She conducts workshops throughout the United States. Her artwork is in many books, journals, and private collections. Susan is the Immediate past president of the American Society of Botanical Artists. Her BA degree includes three years of advanced study in art history at the University of Bordeaux in France. Susan's time is divided between her studios in Denver, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona.

Please join us for this very special presentation about an extremely historical artistic expression.

Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 7PM
"Brazil - Bahia to Minas Gerias"
Presented by Woody Minnich

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY Agave multifilifera, Agave schidigera

Agave multifilifera

This is a medium size, generally non-offsetting plant, growing to about 24-36 inches tall by 24-48 inches across. The narrow leaves have nice white markings and thin, white threads along the edges. Plants are hardy to at least 15 degrees F, prefer a little afternoon shade, but will grow fine in full sun. They do require some water in the heat of summer to keep them from turning to crispy critters. They grow fine when planted in native soil; just make sure drainage is adequate.

Agave schidigera

This medium sized Agave will top out at about 24-30 inches tall and 36 inches across. The narrow, dark green leaves are decorated with white marks and thin white threads along the edges. Plants are hardy to at least 17 degrees F, prefer a bit of afternoon shade, but are fine in full sun as long as they get supplemental water in the summer. They grow fine when planted in native soil; just make sure drainage is adequate.

Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 7 to 9 PM Adenium Round-Table Discussion

Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Room, 2099 East River Road

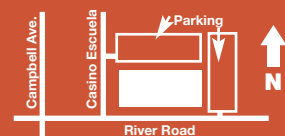
This will be our first round-table discussion and the topic for this group will be on the Adenium. Anyone who has grown these succulents or who may want to learn more about these fascinating plants should join in on this discussion.

This is a discussion meeting and not a presentation by any one particular person. By bringing those interested in discussing the one particular topic together, it will be a more concentrated focus. We invite our members to join in and discuss particulars of cultivation, propagation ideas, identification, problems, successes and more.

Please attend this important discussion and please bring your thoughts. This is our first attempt at a round-table discussion and we do need your participation.

If you have any questions about this round-table, please contact Vonn Watkins at cactusdude1@yahoo.com or call 520-322-5029.

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



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

President's Message



Well it's fall plant sale time again and I thought I would give you a summary of what is going on.

We are moving our fall sale from Hacienda Del Sol to our Amphi site where we had the blooming barrel sale. We have invited all our local vendors to participate and will let you know all the details with special notice.

October

Members Plant Sale (3 - 6pm) CHANGED from October 9

October 11: Plant Sale (9am - 5pm)

October 12: Plant Sale (10am - 4pm)

Finally, I want to introduce a special new member of TCSS. His name is Haden Gaudet. He is special because he is the youngest member (born 9-15-2008) and he is our first grandchild.

Thanks for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

October Plant Sales

Tucson Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale:

Public Sale: Saturday, October 4, 9am-4pm.

Members Only Sale: Friday, October 3, 12pm-6pm.

From A to Y: Agaves to Yuccas. Fall is a great time to plant hardy succulents. Come to the Fall Plant Sale for a wide selection of agaves & yuccas, our featured plants! Cacti, succulents, trees, shrubs, herbs and other plants suited to Tucson's climate will be for sale. We will host free information seminars on care and planting of agaves & yuccas. Seminars are free, no pre-registration required. Space is limited free and open to the public.

Desert Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale Festival

October 17 to 19, 2008

Garden Members Preview: Friday / October 17, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Open to the Public: Saturday / October 18, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

AND Sunday / October 19 / 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

No admission charge to enter the plant sale

The Desert Botanical Garden Plant Sale Festival is a one-stop shopping experience featuring the largest variety of arid-adapted plants available in one location. Garden volunteers, horticulturists and professional landscape designers are all on hand to answer questions, assist in plant selections and offer advice. Specialty retailers offer pottery and other delightful garden accessories.

Desert Survivors Fall Plant Sale

Public Sale, October 4 & 5, SAT. 8-5 & SUN. 10-5

10% off on all purchases • 20% off for members & no sales tax
Members Only Sale

Boyce Thompson Arboretum Fall Plant Sale

October 10 - 26, daily, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Autumn is harvest season; also the time to plant herbs and the right season to prepare your Spring flower garden. Stock up during this annual fundraiser which helps support botany education and conservation at Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden. Author Mary Irish will be a featured guest Oct. 18; staff horticulturists and groundskeepers are available daily to answer your plant questions.

<http://ag.arizona.edu/BTA/events/plantsale.html>

Tohono Chul Park The Members Only Preview for the Fall Plant Sale has been moved from 3-6 p.m. October 9 to 3-6 p.m. October 8. Please mark your calendars accordingly and remember to check the Plant Availability.

Fall Plant Sale - October 19th

Our Fall Plant Sale will be on Sunday, October 19, 2008 from 9 AM to 2 PM (no sales before 9:00). We normally would have this sale at the Hacienda Del Sol Resort, but since our customer base has grown we simply need a larger setting with more parking and set-up space. While we love the HDS Resort, this setting just doesn't work for us for large sales. We have invited our TCSS Member nurseries to sell with us so you can buy rescue plants and lots of other varieties from your favorite nursery.

The sale will be at our Amphi Holding area where we recently held our Blooming Barrel Sale. This location is just south of Wetmore Road on 4th Ave (4342 N. 4th Ave) at the Amphi livestock and El Hogar site. The Cactus Rescue Crew will be selling Barrels, Hedgehogs, Mamms, a few small Saguaro plus a few misc. cacti. We will have plenty of space for customer parking and lots of space for vendors. A list of vendors that will be there will be listed on our web site (tucsoncactus.org) after October 1, 2008.

Joe Frannea

"Roadrunners" Receive School Grant

TUSD Robins Elementary School, "Home of the Roadrunners", was recently awarded a \$400 School Grant for their School Yard Habitat Project. They are working on establishing habitat study areas so that students and teachers can learn more about our Sonoran Desert. Three habitat gardens featuring multi-faceted ecosystems will be established in conjunction with their neighborhood community, Sweetwater in the Foothills, Arizona's first Community Wildlife Habitat certified by the National Wildlife Federation. They are also obtaining a Pro-Neighborhood grant to help fund the project.

About 500 students and teachers will benefit from the gardens. Several grades have already assisted with preliminary work involving mapping, surveying existing plants, plant selection, and staking out plant location areas. Students will also be heavily involved in planting and maintenance of the habitat gardens. Teachers from all grade levels have identified uses of gardens in subjects they teach from art through the sciences. A great project we are proud to be able to support. Thanks to the Cactus Rescue Crew Member efforts which produces funds to make our School Grant Program possible.

Joe Frannea

Workday Spruces Up The Cactus Holding Site



Assessment of our Amphi holding area that we initiated about three years ago showed that it was looking a little shaggy, full of weeds and in need of expansion of holding beds to accommodate more plants. Our original shade cloth covered four of the eight 20' x 25' canopy sections, but it was torn and tattered, providing little shade and looked bad as well for the neighbors across the street. After our August Blooming Barrel Sale we still had a few hundred Hedgehogs and Mamms in boxes that we wanted to plant on site to allow them to root and to minimize the number of times that we need to dig them up to take them to various sales. Doug Rowsell jumped into

action, took measurements and acquired quotes and ordered material to re-shade the entire structure with 40% sun block woven shade cloth that should last ten years. In late August, we scheduled a work day and asked our Cactus Rescue Crew to help get things into shape. Thanks to 24 hardworking volunteers, the Amphi Holding Site was quickly whipped into shape.

The holding site needed to be weeded and more planting bed material needed to be added. Fifteen tons or about twenty yards of reject sand was ordered and spread about three

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

3 inches thick providing a great layer for planting the cacti. Neat rows of Hedgehogs and Mamms were laid out and planted so they can re-establish themselves by developing healthy roots. The old shade cloth and support wires were totally removed and the new full size grommets sections of shade cloth went up covering the entire 4,000 square foot area. The site looks fantastic.

Rescue cacti are removed as soon as we can get to them, usually just before the clearing of land when trees are being boxed and required cacti are being relocated. We often have

only a week or two to remove plants to fit into a construction schedule so we need a large holding area to store the plants until our next sale. This Amphi holding site worked so well for our Blooming Barrel Sale, with plenty of parking and sales area, that we hope to have more sales at this centrally located site (Tucson Mall area). Come see our refurbished site at our upcoming October 19th sale.

Joe Frannea and Patsy Frannea

Photo by Ed Bartlett

Succulents through a photographers lens



Photo by Karen Keller

Silent Auction a Gift to All

Our annual Fall Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social was attended by about 70 members who walked away with some great cacti and other succulents and a few trees, at very reasonable prices. Outside in the patio we had about eight tables of free plants with hundreds of cuttings and small plants as well as eight tables of two dollar potted plants that would normally retail for four to eight dollars each.



Inside were over 160 wonderful plants for silent bidding at four different time periods. These included adeniums, boojum tree, organ pipe, agave, cereus, ferocactus, fouquieria, totem pole, echinocereus, corypantha, euphorbia, mammalaria, trichocereus, haworthia, hoyo, harrisa, desert willow tree and many more plants. Winning bids started at two dollars with the average bid under fifteen dollars. Thanks to all the members who brought such quality plants for a great event.

Delicious scoops of free chocolate and vanilla ice cream with many different toppings including fresh strawberries, pecans, crushed Oreos, M&Ms, chocolate syrup, whipped cream and cookies were enjoyed by all. Home-made "Prickly Pear Swirl" ice cream was an adventurous addition this year. About 8 gallons of ice cream disappeared during the event, a nice passtime between bid times.

Total income was \$2,588 and with expenses for Kiva room rental, ice cream and a few other misc. expenses, we netted a profit of about \$2,200. This money will be earmarked for our Research Program. Also, a big thanks to all the volunteers who setup tables, marked and set out plants, helped run the auction, served ice cream, and cleaned up after the event.

Joe Frannea
photos by John Durham



Library Update

The Garden Succulent Primer Gideon Smith & Erik Van Wyk

This book gives a description of many succulents. It is lacking in care, although there are a few places in the description where they will say that the plant is frost sensitive. There is a few pages on general cultivation, propagation and gardening with succulents. The photos are good for identifying plants.

Around One Cactus

Anthony D. Fredericks, A children's book about saguaros and the animals living in and around them. Nicely illustrated.

Desert Digits

An Arizona Number Book

Barbara Gowan Describes many things found around Arizona from North to South. The numbers are 1-15 and then 20 to 100 by 10's. Well done illustrations and the end will have you thinking.

Joie Giunta

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Nancy Reid
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)
Joie Giunta (2008)
Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)
Bill Salisbury (2008)
Dan Birt (2009)
Chris Monrad (2009)
Mark Sitter (2009)
Linda Bartlett (2010)
Marty Harow (2010)
Bill Hicks (2010)
Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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

October Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with J 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.

4 2 2 8 4
3

Cacti Rescued
207 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

October 2008

Thursday, October 2, 2008

7:00 pm

"Botanical Illustration - What Have You Done for Me Lately?"

Presented by Susan T. Fisher from the Art Institute at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

7:00 pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Sunday, October 19, 2008

Fall Plant Sale

4342 N. 4th Ave (between Wetmore and Limberlost, equivalent of 3 blocks west of First Ave)

9:00 am to 2:00 pm (**no sales before 9 am**)



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

November 2008

Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 7PM "Brazil, Bahia to Minas Gerais, Cacti under the blanket"

Presented by Woody Minnich



Photography by Stephen Cooley from the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society.

This presentation will feature the cacti, bromeliads, and other succulents from Bahia to Minas Gerais, a region known as the Brazilian Highlands. This is my second excursion into these areas and this time I was joined by Brazilian cactus expert, Marlon Machado. Our adventure was from Salvador to almost Belo Horizonte and our group was small, thus allowing us to explore new areas as well as visit many of the old, must see sights. We will see 22 species of Melocactus, all the Uebelmannias, many

Discocactus, most of the Micranthocereus and Coleocephalocereus (Buiningia), many Pilosocereus as well as the rare Arrojadoas and the new Pierrebraunia. As is usual, I will feature some of the people and their culture, the towns and their architecture and some of the creatures that live with our favorite plants. We will learn the importance of the coastal winter fogs, the Blanket, and how it affects the overall cultivation of these wonderful and specialized genera.

Woody Minnich grew up in the desert of California and has been a cactus enthusiast his whole life. He has made over 100 trips to Mexico and South America studying various genera of cacti and succulents, and is considered an authority on a number of genera. He has given numerous lectures and presentations about cacti in habitat from his trips all over the world. Woody is an avid photographer and has had many of his pictures published in various books and periodicals. Since 1975, he has owned the nursery Cactus Data Plants where he has become a primary source for rare and well grown cacti and other succulents. He has been a show chairman for various cactus shows, creator of the Inter-City Show, and has become a leader in the artistic presentation of cacti and succulents (habitat staging). Woody is an Honorary Life member of numerous C&S clubs and has served as President, News Letter editor, Plant Culture chairman, Program Chairman as well as most other positions where there is something that needs to be done. He has been in the process of writing 3 books: Cacti of Baja California, Field Observations of the Genus Mammillaria, and Rare Cacti of Mexico. Hopefully some day, one or more of these texts will be in the hands of his fellow hobbyists. He is a retired

high school graphics arts and art teacher of 32 years, Now, in retirement, his main focus is on doing serious field study and observation of the Cactaceae. He and his wife Kathy live in Edgewood New Mexico where he runs his nursery CDP.

Please be sure to attend our last presentation meeting for 2008. Woody will present a great program that you should not miss! He will also be bringing plants from his nursery in New Mexico and those plants will be for sale to anyone interested.

Sunday, December 7, 2008
TCSS Holiday Party 12pm - 3pm
Junior League of Southern Arizona

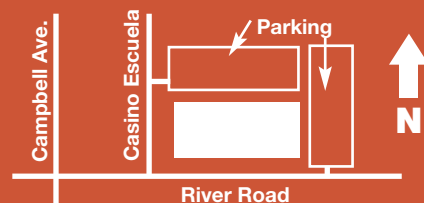
TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Ferocactus latispinus - Crows Claw Barrel

Barrel Cactus or Ferocactus are a dramatic group of plants that are excellent landscape plants. The genus is diverse and readily available at local nurseries. With some planning your landscape can have flowering Ferocactus 12 months out of the year. This month we are featuring the Crows Claw, which blooms in November and December with showy purple flowers, sometimes white, pink or even yellow flowering forms can be found. The species is an excellent landscape plant and can be acclimated to full sun and is hardy to cold in our region. Thorough regular watering will keep the plants well hydrated and able to grow into stunning thick spined specimens. In March the pollinated flowers will develop maroon fruits which will add interest to your landscape. They are native to Mexico from Mexico City Northwards.

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 other season is on its way. As we all know there are two seasons, the hot season and the not as hot season. Unfortunately, many of the plants we grow don't do well in the not as hot season (some call it winter). Our general rule of thumb is that you need to reduce watering and protect cold sensitive plants by November 15. Of course, many places in Tucson received and early frost warning in mid October.

You just can't trust mother nature.

Cold protection like the use of frost cloth (available in most garden stores) should be a standard in your defense against plant loss. What else can you do? Bring those special plants indoors until the spring. Remember, there has been April snow falls. If you have a special way of handling plants for the cold, please email us so that we can post it on our web site.

Another year is quickly coming to an end which means it's time to renew your membership. Like so many other business activities the board has sort of raised prices. We have approved a \$10.00 increase if you want to have "The Desert Breeze" mailed to you. We send out over 650. The cost is about \$1.00 (\$0.42 postage and about \$ 0.50 + printing etc.). Lately, the post office equipment has been ruining some of the newsletters so members are getting parts and pieces. We have not changed the cost of membership in over a decade and the price is staying the same for all categories except the \$10.00 fee for the mailed newsletter. Renewal notices will be going out next month with this information. It will be very important to maintain accurate and up to date email addresses. The newsletter is also available for viewing and printing from our website.

The 2009 Convention Committee has mailed out and/or distributed almost 10,000 registration brochures. In the next few weeks we will send out the brochures to every TCSS member who does not have a current email address. All the information and registration is on our website for those who have internet access. The convention will be stressed by the worldwide economic situation so your support is very important. The CSSA convention comes to Tucson every 10-15 years so this is a great opportunity to attend a convention at a very reasonable price. Most of you won't need a hotel room or airline flights so you can spend that money buying plants!!!

Our local cactus and succulent nursery members always need your support and especially in these times. We are so fortunate to have this group of experts and growers in Tucson and we must do our part to support them as well as the plants and information they provide. Cactus and Succulents make great holiday gifts!

Finally, there are three important things to think about. The Holiday Party is December 7; a nomination for officers and board of directors is in progress and our first CACTUS COOKBOOK is going to press and order information is available in this mailing and online.

Thank you for all your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

Our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 7, 2008 at the Junior League Facility, 2099 E River Rd. Set-up --- 10:30 am till 11:45am with lunch at 12:00 noon. The Society will provide Turkey, Ham, Shrimp, Condiments, tableware and Drinks (coffee, punch, water) You will provide your favorite recipe (enough for 10+ 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 Tucson Food Bank. This year the need will probably be greater, so let's make it special for others. Please bring donations (\$ preferred) for the Tucson 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.

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

Save the date and in November the special mailing will include more information and a RSVP for attendance.

Nomination and Elections

A nomination committee has been elected by the Board of Directors and their job is to provide at least one candidate for each office: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and 4 Board of Directors positions. They will present their slate of nominees at the November meeting and at that time nominations from the floor for any and all positions available will be accepted but we must have the consent of the nominee either being present or in writing at the time of nomination.

At the November Board meeting a ballot will be approved and one ballot will be sent to each regular member and two to each family membership with a self-addressed envelope for return by December 1, 2008.

The ballots will be counted by the nominations committee and the election results will be announced at the Holiday party. If it is necessary to have a run off it will be held at the Holiday event until each office is filled..

I hope you will all take the opportunity to nominate and vote for the TCSS officers. Officers serve for one year at a time and board of directors members serve for 3 years. Current officers and Board Members and terms are list in all newsletters.

Fall Plant Sale New Location Works Well

The Annual TCSS Fall Plant Sale normally held at the Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch and Resort was moved to our Amphi holding site to accommodate more customers with easier access, parking and more plant selection. We were

also able to invite all our Member Nurseries since we have lots of space and some large mesquite trees for shade. Six vendors were able to participate, providing a nice compliment to the rescued cacti.

We had a great turn out of thirty volunteers to help set-up, sell plants, load vehicles, cashier, and take down tents, tables and clean-up. This great help is much appreciated and is what makes TCSS such a fun organization. Our inventory of Barrels consisted of mostly very large specimens of about 14 inches in diameter and 20 inches tall. We sold 75 of these and all the smaller Barrels as well. About 25 Saguaros from 12 to 24 inches sold quickly as did many of the smaller potted ones. A nice selection of Hedgehogs were available with about a hundred of these selling along with about 40 Mammalaria.

The TCSS had 77 customers purchasing over 270 rescued cacti, bringing in just under \$4,000. After tag and advertising expenses our net profit was about



\$2,600. One fourth of this will be earmarked for our Educational Outreach Program which includes school grants and educational activities for school children. Our next sale date will depend on future rescues as our inventory is fairly low at this time.

Joe Frannea
Photos by Ed Bartlett

Library Update

The Cactus and Succulent Journal for 2006 and 2007 are now bound. Some chapters include *Aloe alexandrei*, Bromeliads, Mesembs, *Pterodiscus ngamicus*, *Ferocactus herrerae*, Rosularia, Epiphytic cacti and tillandsias. Some contributing writers include David Yetman, Brian Kemble, Steve Hammer and John Pilbeam,

Who Pooped in the Sonoran Desert Scat and Tracks for Kids by Gary D. Robson Story of a family traveling through the Sonoran Desert and the kids

learning what animals are around by the tracks and scat left behind. Two pages of identification are located in the back of the book.

The Little Saguaro by Shannon Young Written in Spanish and English this is a story of a conversation between mother and daughter, revealing the fears of the daughter and the mother quelling those fears. Included in the back of the book is information on the desert ecosystem.

Joie Giunta

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

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

November 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.

4 2 2 8 4
3

Cacti Rescued
207 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

November 2008

Thursday, November 6, 2008

7:00 pm

"Brazil, Bahia to Minas Gerais, Cacti under the blanket"

Presentation by Woody Minnich

Tuesday November 11, 2008

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

December 2008

Sunday December 7, 2008 Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Where: Junior League Facility, 2099 E. River Road
Setup: 10:30 AM till 11:45 AM
Lunch: 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:

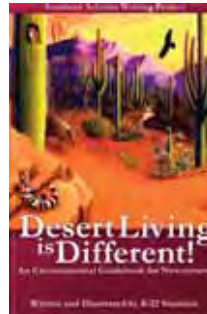
Additionally there will be a short Annual Meeting, Election Results, Awards and Table prizes.

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

Presented by Kevin Barber and Mark Dimmitt

"Desert Living is Different"

The Southern Arizona Writing Project in the Department of English at the University of Arizona is sponsoring an innovative and exciting project, "Desert Living is Different". This project has produced a 96 page color environmental guide book written and illustrated by Tucson area K to 12 students. It is primarily for newcomers to the desert and gives stories and illustrations to share living in the desert experiences. The books will be given to students so they can learn about our unique and beautiful desert and how to protect it.



TCSS has made a \$1,000 donation so about 200 more books can be printed and distributed to the schools. These books can be obtained at the Ward VI office, a \$5 donation is asked to cover the printing for those who can afford it. We will have a few books at our library table for purchase. They make great gifts for children and grand children.

Joe Frannea

Tucson Botanical Gardens Summer Container Displays

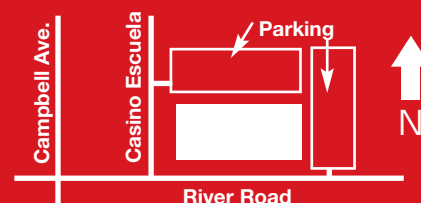
I am planning our container displays for next summer and I would like to feature the versatility of succulents. Would your organization be interested in contributing plant material? Since I'm starting now in the greenhouse, cuttings would be fine. We would display signs crediting your group with its contribution. I will receive messages at the Garden 326-9686 ext. 40. My cell between 8-4 Tues-Fri is 981-9726, or e-mail Jamie DelVecchio: ladygrowflower@yahoo.com

Library Update

All books taken out this past month will be due back in January. Please return any overdue books. If you are unable to attend a meeting, send me and email, so arrangements can be made to pick up the books. Happy holidays.

Joie Guinte

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



Another great year for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society has come to an end. I want to thank all of you for your support of our many activities. I am very proud of this group of officers, board members and volunteers for the many activities they have accomplished. Just look back over the last 12 issues of the Desert Breeze to see what has been done. Thank you.

Even in these uncertain economics times our Society is doing well because of the above mentioned folks and the fact that we are meeting your interests. I have asked for your input on the membership renewal form and it is important that we hear from you and are able to accomplish some of the things that are of interest to you.

Hosting the 2009 CSSA Convention April 10-15 will be a major achievement for which we will need your help. It is only 5 months away but that time goes by very quickly. We have sent out over 10,000 brochures inviting cacti and succulent enthusiasts from all over the world. I know I can count on all of you to help out and attend as much as possible. We will be getting very serious about volunteer activities after January 1, 2009. A list of committees and meetings will be in the next Desert Breeze.

Remember that our regular meeting has moved from January 1, 2009 (Thursday regular date) to January 8, 2009 just for this one meeting. We will return to our regular first Thursday date in February.

We have made the first change in our dues structure in the last decade or so. I hope you will all realize that this is a necessary base on postage and printing cost and the current state of the economy. I don't foresee any additional dues being changed in the near future and we are always trying to provide more activities for your interest and participation. Two new activities that we will be continuing and improving is our participation in the SARSEF (Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair) Fun Fest and our round table discussion groups. The Fun Fest is only once a year in the fall. We are planning for 6-8 round tables through out the year on subject of interest to many of you.

I hope you will continue to support the society. Just return membership renewal form that you received last week with any payment that is due or contribution you would like to make. Check your membership expiration date. Remember, new members who joined after September 1, are valid to the following December 31.

Our first Cook Book has gone to press and will be available soon. It will cost \$10.00 plus \$2.00 shipping if necessary. We hope to have them available for convenient pick-up before the holidays. The order form was in your membership mailing.

Thank you again for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Mountain Goats Take to the Hills...



Another cactus rescue challenge took place on mountain slopes to be mined for marble and decorative rocks. A limited group of the cactus rescue crew were called on to help assess the viability and safety of removing cactus on fairly steep and rocky terrain. The prizes were ocotillo, saguaros, and sotol. Results were excellent with many finding new muscles that had not been exercised for a while. The hiking in and out is hard enough with care needed for each step of the way, but carrying a saguaro or two adds a little more challenge and requires even more planning, agility and safety. Some new techniques were deployed to dig and haul out cacti. Shovels proved to be useless, a small pick to remove rocks and loppers to cut roots did the job.

A few vehicles were able to get fairly near the top, but the area to start rescuing was still several hundred yards away over difficult ground. The wait for cooler weather helped with dehydration and the concern for keeping a close eye out for rattlesnakes. We were able to remove about 35 saguaros, 25 ocotillo and 5 sotol on this first of several rescues to be held at this site. A few barrels, cholla, and mamms were also saved. Because of the difficulty of this site, we will continue to limit the number of crew members each time we return and require those who volunteer to have good hiking skills and balance.

Joe Frannea.

Robins Schoolyard Habitat Project



The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society was invited to participate in the Robins Elementary Schoolyard Habitat project Celebration held on Saturday, November 15th, 2008. They were celebrating the completion of several gardens including a cactus garden which we helped fund through a school grant and provided expertise to help with the children planting their own special cacti. The school is located in



the Tucson Mountains just off Sweetwater a few miles west of Silverbell.

Robins through many months of work with students, parents, teachers, neighbors, and various businesses and organizations has earned the designation of an official Schoolyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Their neighboring community, Sweetwater in the Foothills, received Arizona's first community Wildlife Habitat certification and was instrumental in helping Robins Elementary School.

The celebration consisted of several keynote speakers from the community, readings from students about what the project meant to them and what they learned, the presentation of the certificate, some entertainment by a young

Mariachi Band, and several exhibits by various environmental organizations for students and parents to visit so they could learn even more about their special environment. TCSS had a table set up with some display material including our new "GO GREEN" with Low Water Outdoor Plants brochure. We also had two children's tables set up so students could build some cactus models like we did for the recent FunFest event. About sixty students, and a few parents, sat down and spent about ten to fifteen minutes assembling a model cactus so they could understand the functioning and importance of the significant parts. They took home their model, the explanation sheet and a cactus postcard so they could share their new knowledge with family and friends.

One phrase that was used in the ceremony that I had not heard before was quite catchy. We all have heard of "No child left behind", well another important one is "No child left inside". These Robins students were very knowledgeable about their habitat and were anxious to learn even more. They are certainly taking advantage of their environment and learning to respect it and the importance of helping to protect it. We are in good hands with students, teachers, and parents like these.

Joe Frannea
photos by Ed Bartlett



Our First Cookbook

A great gift for you and your friends for the Holidays **Only \$10⁰⁰ each**
Add @2.00 for each book shipped to you

80 + pages of recipes and pictures from our members. All color 8 X 10 format. Pick-Up will be available

**Send check to: TCSS Cookbook • PO Box 64759
Tucson, AZ 85728-4759**

TCSS BOARD

Officers

**President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367**

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

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

December Refreshments

Holiday Party and Gift Exchange.

Please see front page for more

information on bringing food.

Everyone is Welcome!

Bring your friends, join in the fun,

and meet the cactus and

succulent community.

4 2 3 9 4
3

Cacti Rescued
208 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

December 2008

Sunday December 7, 2008

Noon - 3.00 pm

TCSS Annual Holiday Party, Junior League
of Tucson, Kiva Bldg. 2099 E. River Road Tucson.

Tuesday December 9, 2008

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