

2 5 4 1 4
Cacti Rescued

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

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

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 15% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



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

Upcoming Schedule

- January 5, 2006 – General Meeting. Speaker, Bob Webb.
- January 10, 2006 – Board Meeting. See Website for details.
- January 19, 2006 – Third Thursday workshop.
- February 2, 2006 – General Meeting. Speaker, Mark Muridian
- February 7, 2006 – Board Meeting.
- May 5-7, 2006. Sonoran VI.

Third Thursday, January 19, 2006
7:00 P.M.

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

Once again we will offer our spring series of third Thursday workshops. We will focus on basics. These workshops should appeal to members that are new to the world of cacti and succulents. Workshops are on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Junior League meeting room. The workshops are restricted to members only and limited in the number of participants. There will be a \$5.00 registration fee for each workshop. Please return the sign-up sheet with payment to reserve your space.

January - Introduction to Cacti and Succulents.

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

February and March workshops will be announced next month.

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



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2006

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
 885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
 Secretary: George Virtes
 Treasurer: Gail Virtes

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Dan Birt (2006)
 Chris Monrad (2006)
 Mark Sitter (2006)
 Norm Dennis (2007)
 Barry McCormick (2007)
 Jack Ramsey (2007)
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 Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick
 jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 2006.
 Junior League of Tucson
 2099 E. River Road, Tucson

January Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

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

Thursday, January 5, 2006
7:00 P.M.

Bob Webb & Toni Yocum
Travels in Africa and Arabia - III. Aloes!



Bob Webb has collected succulent plants for about 20 years. 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.



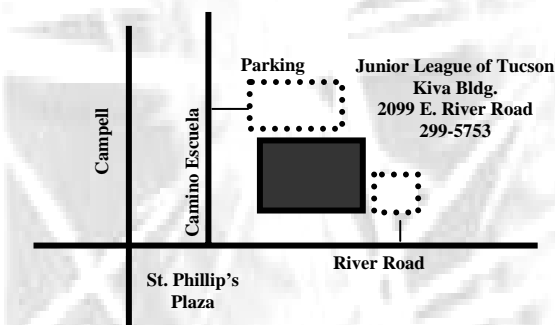
He's been traveling to the Arabian Peninsula and Africa since the mid-1990s and has visited



Oman, Kenya, South Africa, Namibia and Botswana in search of succulent plants.

Join us for a great New Year presentation and learn more about the fabulous Aloes!

Meeting Place



President's Message



If you don't have a *Ferocactus latispinus* blooming in your collection you are missing a great winter wonder. When I see that bright purple flower, all I can think about is that spring isn't far off.

I predict another good year for the nursery business. I am already counting the losses in my collection. I know I should protect the sensitive plants before November 15 and let them out after April 15. Every year I wait till the first freeze before I get serious about doing something. Of course, I will probably also uncover them too early and get the last spring freeze. I should be the poster child for supporting the nursery business.

This year I am experimenting with terrestrial bromeliads, Hechtias, Dyckias etc. They make great accents in the garden and are wonderful as potted specimens. I have been growing some from seed, which is always fun to do. I am anxious to see how these plants handle light winter frost. So far they are doing well with only a light cover of frost cloth on some of the more tender plants. A number of the local member nurseries have these terrestrial bromeliads for sale. You need to try some.

We have expanded the Board of Directors to the limit of 11 and will consider recommending changes to the Bylaws to expand the board further. This is a large organization and needs expanded opportunities for leadership. I want everyone to feel that they have the opportunity to be engaged in the decision making process. We will also try to have more regularly scheduled committee meetings for the major functions of the Society: Sonorans, Cactus Expos and the CSSA Convention in 2009.

There are many of regular meetings, workshops, cactus rescues, field trips and sales in which to participate. We have school grants, research grants, and technology projects to be involved with. We continue to support the Southern Arizona Science and Engineering Fair and all kinds of conservation and environmental activities.

I am excited about this year and future years and promise that we will continue to have many interesting activities. Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

President's Awards

Two types of annual awards are given out at the Holiday Party. The President's Awards recognize outstanding service to the society in the past year and the Special Service Award recognizes special contributions for the success of our society. The awardees are recommended to the President by the board and committee chairs. Recipients receive a special engraved trophy.

The 2005 President's Awards went to:



Keith Zwickl, for his continuing contribution to the rescue program.

Bob & Donna Ellis, for their contributions to the rescue program and sales events.

Cyndi Garrison, for her contributions to the rescue program and for her assistance with the meeting refreshments.

Gayle & John Swarbrick, for their significant contributions at Expo II, the rescue program and sales events.

The President's Special Service Award was presented to Joie Giunta. Joie chairs the library committee, coordinates the workshop attendees, contributes to almost every rescue and sale, helps out with the refreshments at meetings, and has been a regular attendee at board meetings and more. Whenever help is needed, Joie is there.

The efforts of the current and past awardees have substantially contributed to making this society fun, educational, entertaining and special.

Thank you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Cactus Rescues Hot & Cold



Cactus Rescues opportunities have been hot and cold during 2005 but one thing you can always count on: a crew ready to go on a moments notice. Our rescue schedule is sporadic because we need to fit into the developer's schedule, which is controlled by permits and other legal issues that must be attended to before any grading or plant removal begins.

Many areas around Tucson are still in a fast growth mode, especially the northern and eastern parts. K. Hovnanian Homes recently let us rescue a 30 plus acre parcel in the Vail area for new homes and an adjacent 12 acre parcel that will be sold to Vail Schools for a new elementary school. We had a great two days saving 681 cacti. Thanks to Chris Monrad for getting this into a tight schedule and to about 40 of our Rescue Crew Members.

We have had a great rescue year with 32 rescue trips, saving over 9,400 cacti. The TCSS Board and Cactus Rescue Crew leaders want to thank all who participated in the rescues this past year. This very successful program and the people who participate is one 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.



Chris is working on several more sites that will most likely be available in early 2006. Stay tuned and if you want to get on the Email broadcast list for rescue notices sent out every Thursday, simply send an email request to:

CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org.

Joe Frannea

Holiday Party

About 110 of us gathered for our annual holiday party on December 11. The delicious potluck was awesome in its variety and quantity. The society kicked in for the turkey and roast pork. The hospitality committee provided festive decorations, helped along by the mountains of presents for the gift exchange. We also had donations of six boxes of food and \$130 for the food bank.



John & Gayle Swarbrick

A short annual business meeting was called to order to announce the new board and officers, as listed on the masthead of this newsletter. The annual awards were also given.

The gift exchange was lively, and we all left with the energy and spirit we needed to pitch in for the rest of the holiday season. The only question one could ask was: where were the other 650 members? Make a note for next year – this party is too good to miss. We are prepared to serve on the lawn if necessary, so all are welcome.

Barry McCormick

Library Update



Along with all the books donated by Rainbow Gardens, we also have purchased, *Ferocactus* by John Philbeam and Derek Bowdery. The book describes over 40 species and subspecies of the genus with photos of the plant and its flowers. There is also a section on cultivation, a key to the species and a map of the distribution areas.

I hope to be adding more books this year and look forward to your suggestions.

Joie Giunta

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

Upcoming Schedule

- February 2, 2006, Thursday – General Meeting. Speaker: Mark Muridian.
- February 14, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting. See Website for details.
- February 16, 2006, Thursday – Third Thursday workshop.
- March 2, 2006, Thursday – General meeting, Speaker: Ernesto Sandoval.
- March 5, 2006, Sunday – Hacienda del Sol Cactus Sale.
- March 11-12, 2006, Saturday & Sunday – Fiesta de las Flores Show and Sale.
- March 11, 2006, Saturday – Mason Audubon Ironwood Festival.
- March 14, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- April 23, 2006, Sunday – Garden Tour.
- May 5-7, 2006. Friday to Sunday - Sonoran VI.
- June 30, Friday to Monday – Bus Tour to the Huntington.



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 7:00 P.M.

Mark Muradian

Bulldozers Built My Cactus Garden!

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 refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

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 community.



Constructing his large outdoor cactus and succulent garden required moving many yards of soil and tons of rock. Mark's solution: use a bulldozer and forklift. Mark will show how large plants are moved and placed in the garden, the winter protection he has devised, and his unique style of urban plant salvage.

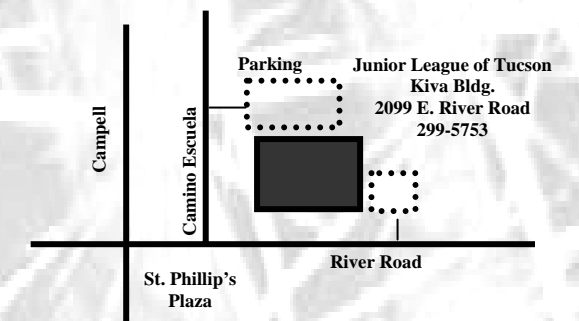
Mark is a third generation fruit and grape farmer in the Fresno, California area. He has been interested in cacti and other succulents for over twenty years and currently is Vice President and Program Chairman for the Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society. Ten years ago he began producing pottery for his own plants. Others so admired his pottery and he started making them to sell.

Mark will bring a variety of pottery pieces with him to display and sell. His gardening style is unique and his pottery superb!

Don't miss this very special presentation and enjoyable evening!

Thursday, March 2, 2006
 Ernesto Sandoval, University of California, Davis.
 BajaCalifornia.

Meeting Place



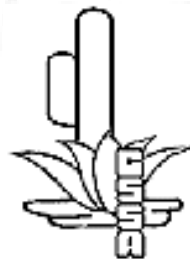
President's Message



The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is affiliated with the **Cactus and Succulent Society of America**, which was created to promote better understanding and appreciation of these fascinating plants.

The CSSA is a strong voice for conservation and preservation of threatened and endangered plant life nationally and worldwide. Last year TCSS was the first recipient of their conservation award.

The CSSA Journal and newsletter is issued bi-monthly and is internationally recognized as an outstanding publication. Generously illustrated, it contains excellent articles for both the casual and the serious student of cacti and other succulents. The advertisement section provides sources for plants, books, and supplies available through-out the country.



Members are of all ages, lifestyles, and from many different ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds. There are members in South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Most members are amateurs, but others are world-famous scientists, commercial growers, and educators. It's easy to join the CSSA through their website at:

www.cssainc.org

or pick up a form at any of the TCSS regular meetings or events.

TCSS will be hosting the CSSA 2009 Biennial Convention. I encourage you join and start to participate in this organization, especially in anticipation of the excitement and honor hosting the convention will bring to us and to Tucson.

Thank you

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Spring Workshops

Because of a scheduling problem, the Norm Dennis workshop scheduled for January 19 has been moved to February 16.

Introduction to Cacti and Succulents.



Norm Dennis will cover the unique structures found in cacti and other succulents, and relate those structures to the plant's ability to thrive in hostile environments. Basic taxonomy, distribution, evolution and botanical terms will be explained.

Participants will have hands-on activities as well as demonstrations. Each participant will receive materials, but should provide their own writing tools. The workshop will last for two hours, with a short break in the middle of the session.

The workshop is limited to twenty-four. Currently, eighteen are signed up. If you are interested in attending this fun workshop and want more information, e-mail me at joietgo@yahoo.com, phone 327-1217 or sign up at the library table, where forms will be available. The cost is \$5.00.

Joie Giunta

Rescue Plaque Installed



Some of our rescued cacti have found their way to the raised planter boxes at the Arizona State building at 400 W. Congress, downtown, thanks to the efforts of Tom Baron. Tom has worked for the State for much of his career and volunteers as a TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew Member as well.

Several Ocotillo, many barrels, and several hedge hog cacti were used to fill the planter boxes with native vegetation. The State planted and has taken wonderful care of the plants and many have almost doubled in size in their new home.

Tom recently initiated an effort to get a plaque installed in one of the planter boxes to publicize the viability of rescued cacti. Vonn Watkins prepared the art work, Dick Wiedhopf had the plaque made



and Tom Baron obtained all the State approvals. Tom and Joe and Patsy Frannea showed up one Sunday morning with a few extra cactus and a couple of sacks of concrete to anchor in the plaque. If you go by the plaza area in the back towards the parking garage, check out the rescued golden spined *Ferocactus wislizenii* just to the left of the plaque (one of 3 large heads - gets yellow flowers). This cactus is being propagated by Chris Monrad with the help of Mark Sitter.

Joe Frannea

Future Events

Information about two major events will be coming in the mail soon:

Sonoran VI will be held May 5, 6 & 7 at the InnSuites Hotel. This year's theme is "The Sonoran Desert Then and Now".

We are arranging a bus trip to the Huntington Botanical Garden, CSSA National Show and Sale and Lotus Land, June 30 to July 2. Costs are being finalized, and we need to get reservations in.

Barry McCormick

Passings

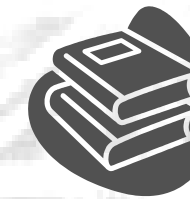
Our sincere expression of sympathy to all the families and friends of:

Louis Fodor - December 7, 2005 Green Hand Cactus Nursery

Bobbette Adler Levy - December 24, 2005

Kristy Hanson - January 22, 2006 Arid Lands Greenhouse

Library Update



At our last meeting, Charles O'Brien spoke about the cactus moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum* that is a possible threat to the southwest. This moth attacks the Opuntia or Prickly Pear cactus.

Mr. O'Brien left an informative DVD and literature with the library. The DVD is available to be checked out. The literature will be at the library table for anyone to view.

There will be a short meeting with the library committee at 6 pm before the regular meeting. We will discuss which books to consider adding to the library along with other items pertaining to the library. If you are interested in being on the committee and haven't been contacted, feel free to join us.

Joie Giunta

Cactus Tour of Argentina Sunday, September 24 through Saturday, October 7, 2006

Progress continues on the upcoming Cactus Tour of Argentina with most of the details having been set. The tour participants have not yet been confirmed so anyone who might be interested in going on the tour should contact Evelyn or Peter Hubbell at 520-229-3560, via email at peterhubbell@qwest.net or check with them at the February or March meetings.

Tour leader, Luis Segura, suggested that the final internal airfare from Jujuy to Buenos Aires be paid six months prior as the flight fills up fast. That would mean buying tickets for that flight by Friday, March 24th.

Continental Airlines has recently initiated flights to Buenos Aires from Houston offering one more choice of airlines to Argentina. Prices are competitive and Frequent Flyer seats are available.

Sue and Dick Hildreth have offered to host a gathering of prospective participants at their home in early March to review these details and for Peter and Evelyn to answer questions.

There will be more information in the March Newsletter and at the February and March TC&S meetings.

Peter Hubbell

25414
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- March 11, 2006, Saturday – Mason Audubon Ironwood Festival.
- March 14, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- March 19, 2006 – Pima County Spring Country Fair
- April 6, 2006, Thursday – General meeting.
- April 23, 2006, Sunday – Garden Tour.
- May 5-7, 2006. Friday to Sunday - Sonoran VI.
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Ernesto Sandoval

The Land of the *Boojum* and the *Cardon*:
Baja California's version of the Sonoran Desert

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885-6367

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Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road, Tucson

March Refreshments

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G to M, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

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

Ernesto Sandoval is
the Curator of the
Botanical Conservatory
at the University of
California, Davis.

Ernesto reports: I've
been down to the
Peninsula about ten
times over the last ten
years. Most of my
time has been spent in
the northern half which

will be the focus of my talk. When I first started doing succulent
plant talks a woman told me that her husband's photography was
much better than mine. Rather than taking that as an insult I took
it as a challenge to improve. I hope, at the very least, to visually
entice future visitors to the desert plant paradise known as the
Vizcaino Desert of Baja California.

Ernesto will be bringing a small variety of choice cacti and other
succulents from the UC Davis greenhouses. He will also have a
few *Dorstenia gigas* at over one foot tall!

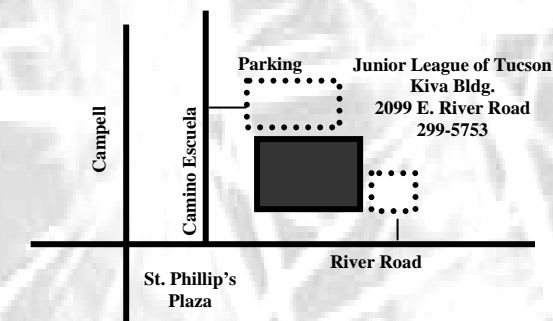
Join us for this very special presentation with excellent Baja
photography, lots of fun and some great friends!

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Myron Kinnach.



Meeting Place



President's Message



We are starting a very busy time for the society. There will be three plant sales in March: the Hacienda del Sol sale, the Fiesta de las Flores Show and Sale, and the Pima County Spring Country Fair. Dates and details are presented elsewhere in this

newsletter and at www.tucsoncactus.org. Two important educational opportunities present themselves at the Audubon Ironwood Festival and the SAHBA home show at the community center. These will be followed by our Sonoran VI Conference in early May. You are encouraged to be both a volunteer and a participant. It's easy to volunteer, just say "yes" when you are asked to help.

I had the good fortune to obtain a book by Luther Burbank on the hybridization of *Opuntia* to produce a crop that would make arid lands useful. This project took Burbank over fifteen years and gave him real insight into cacti. He said if he knew about working with cacti before he started this project he wouldn't have done it.

He was particularly irritated by what he called spicules, or glochids, and recalls how he first removed them with forceps and a magnifying glass but later resorted to shaving them off or using sandpaper.

He received hundreds of *Opuntia* specimens to hybridize and planted millions of seeds so he could select those that were free of spines and glochids. He grew those out to flower and used them for his next crosses and so on. He was able to produce spineless, giant, fast growing, large flowered and tasty fruited *Opuntias* that were hardy and produced a large quantity of forage per acre.

We have forgotten all that is possible with *Opuntias* and perhaps we need to rekindle the interest.

Thank you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President



March Rescue Cactus Sales.

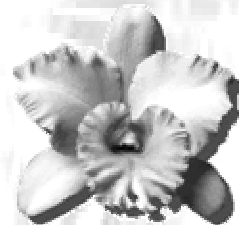
There are three cactus rescue sales scheduled for the month of March. Contact Jack Ramsey, 888-6137 for more information.

The third annual Spring Plant Sale at the Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort, 5601 N. Hacienda Del Sol Road, will be held on Sunday, March 5, from 9 am to 3 pm. In addition to our rescue cactus, B & B Cactus Farm, Living Stones & Plants for the Southwest, Miles to Go, and Starr Nursery will be selling plants.



HACIENDA DEL SOL
GUEST RANCH RESORT

Fiesta de las Flores flower and Garden Show will be held on March 11 from 9 am to 9 pm and March 12 from 11 am to 5 pm. The show and sale will be at the Foothills Mall, 7401 N. Cholla Blvd. (Ina and La Cholla). In addition to rescue cactus sales there will be an orchid show by the Tucson Orchid Society and displays and sales by Tucson African Violet Society, Southern Arizona Bonsai Enthusiasts, Rose Society of Tucson, and many others. TCSS will have a small cactus and succulent display; anyone with plants to show can bring them around 8 am Saturday.



The Pima County Spring Country Fair will be held at the Lew Sorensen Community Center, 11100 E. Tanque Verde Road, on Sunday, March 19, 2006. Hours will be from 9 am to 3 pm. We will sell rescue plants and member's excess plants. Members wishing to sell plants should have them there by 8 am. In addition to rescue plant sales, the Country Fair features many arts and crafts booths and agricultural shows and exhibits. It is always an enjoyable outing.



Jack Ramsey

Remembrances of Louis Fodor By his close friend Dan Birt.

In the early years of TCSS, one man stood up to tell his story in a quavering voice and with shaky hands to the other seven or eight people present, about his cactus experiments. He had found a group of people he liked being around and they proved to be a good audience. This is how Louis J. Fodor got his start. They always had more new plants to show him and the monthly plant give-away and drawings resulted in many new plants for him to try to grow here.

This was a man of many talents, good carpenter, cement finisher, brick layer, etc. who built his small garden area up to be one visited by people looking for another new *Mammillaria* or other scarce item.

Each year he tried to start at least 60 new species from seed and when unable to find the seeds he sought, he would visit Dan Bach or Alan Blackburn or even Mary Church to get this new cactus plant. Once home he would cut the purchased plant in half, one to graft for sale, the other upside down and grafted to produce offsets to provide future saleable plants.

He had a very sizeable outdoor growing garden that he kept well watered until the seventies and water rates went up. Then he built a fiberglass roofed structure to house his ever growing collection of plants. This gave him a cold weather hideout to work in on bad days and a large display area of plants that survived the cold winter temperatures of the 1970's.

His Green Hand Cactus Garden was sought out first at every CSSA Tucson convention. People would flock to see his collections and make many purchases.

He slipped away on December 7, 2005 as we were all preparing for our Christmas parties and gatherings and few of us were able to be present to say good-bye to a dear friend of all cactus enthusiasts.

Future Events

TCSS and landscape designer Greg Corman will sponsor a Garden Tour of Mary Dillon's Garden from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday, April 23. Mark your calendars; more information next month.

Information about two major events will be coming in the mail soon:

Sonoran VI will be held May 5, 6 & 7 at the InnSuites Hotel. This year's theme is "The Sonoran Desert Then and Now".



Final Information on the June 30 to July 2 bus trip to the Huntington Botanical Garden, the Living Desert Gardens in Palm Desert and Lotus

Land in Santa Barbara will be in the mail soon. We will be asking for a refundable deposit immediately and the remainder in June. We expect the bus to fill up, but we will need details on lodging as soon as possible to make the final arrangements.

Barry McCormick

Library Update

Diane Szollosi, who helps out at the library table, reviewed the following books.



The North American Deserts
Edmund C. Jarger

If the reader can overlook some errors in common plant and animal names, because changes have been made in the last 40 years, this is a very informative and readable book. Besides the geological and biological information, it's about people and their histories.

Succulents Care & Health -
Rudolf Schulz & Attila Kapitany

This book is very people friendly. It has good color photographs and numerous line drawings. It covers areas such as care, plant health, design ideas and propagation

Richtersveld, the Enchanted Wilderness
Graham Welliamson

This is an exquisite book on South Africa. The photography is outstanding. It covers climate, people, their histories, geology and spotlights animals and plants.

Joie Giunta

Spring Workshops

There are currently no plans for workshops in March and April. If things change there will be an announcement at the meeting.

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3
Cacti Rescued

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

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

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



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

Upcoming Schedule

- April 6, 2006, Thursday – General meeting. Myron Kimmich
- April 11, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- April 23, 2006, Sunday – Garden Tour.
- May 5, 2006, Friday - General Meeting and Dinner at Sonoran VI
- May 5-7, 2006. Friday to Sunday - Sonoran VI.
- June 9, Friday – Tucson Botanical Garden Weird Plant Sale
- June 30, Friday to Monday – Bus Tour to the Huntington.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

April 2006

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: George Virtes

Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Dan Birt (2006)

Chris Monrad (2006)

Mark Sitter (2006)

Norm Dennis (2007)

Barry McCormick (2007)

Jack Ramsey (2007)

Marty Harow (2007)

Joe Frannea (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Nancy Reid (2008)

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CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick

jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 2006.

Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road, Tucson

April Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

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

Thursday, April 6, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Myron Kimmich

Travels through Peru and Bolivia

Myron has traveled to many cactus and succulent habitats all over the world. He has made three trips to Peru and Bolivia and will share with us his fond experiences with the extraordinary people, places and plants. He saw many *Sulcorebutia*, *Lobivia*, and *Weingartia*, as well as orchids, *Echeverias* and other plants.

Myron was Director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, for twenty-five years.



He was editor of the Cactus and Succulent Journal where his ten year contribution added a touch of class and assured the success to the publication. Myron is a Fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is an extremely respected individual and has combined many years of concentrated research and study to the world of cacti and other succulent plants. He was a book dealer for eighteen years and is

currently working on a book about palms.

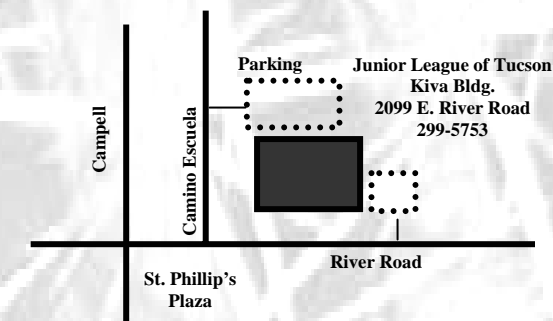
Please come visit with Myron and join us for this very special presentation.

Friday, May 5, 2006

InnSuites Hotel

The special member's dinner meeting in conjunction with Sonoran VI will include the opening talk by Tom Van Devender on Cacti and the History of the Sonoran Desert Region.

Meeting Place



President's Message



SONORAN VI

This event celebrates the Sonoran Desert and the success of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Our regular May meeting moves to Friday, May 5, as the kick off for Sonoran VI, and includes a no-cost Cinco de Mayo dinner. Members with a single membership get one free dinner and family members, two. Additional dinners may be purchased. You will receive a mailer with more information in a week or so. It is important to RSVP. A few tickets may be available for dinner at the door, if your plans change.

Our speaker will be Tom Van Devender. After the meeting will open the show and sale will be open for a special preview. You won't want to miss this.

Sonoran VI has speakers and workshops designed for you. Everyone from novice to expert will find this conference to be very special. Registration is limited to 100 attendees, but we will sell individual workshops on a space available basis. Remember, this is an event that we put on for our own enjoyment.

There will be a silent auction, art exhibit, and books, plants, pots and T-shirt for sale. The display and sale events are open to the public.

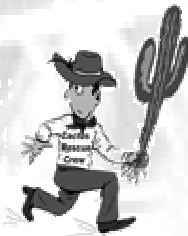
We have a new t-shirt and a re-order of our logo shirt. Full Sonoran VI registrants get a free t-shirt!

This is a major undertaking and depends on the efforts of the members. There will be specific sign-ups at the meeting, in the next mailing and online on our website. Please set aside a couple of hours that you would be willing to help in a specific area of your choice, especially during setup Friday. We especially need individuals to be trained in the use of our scanning cash registers.

As you read the rest of this news letter, you can see that April and May are going to be Fun!

Dick Wiedhopf, President

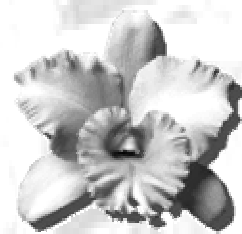
March Rescue Cactus Sales.



Another fantastic Cactus Sale this year at Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch. Twenty-three TCSS members handled very brisk sales that just about cleaned out our total inventory. Sales were \$5,976.40, up from about \$4503 last year. Our profit was about \$3200. Four member vendors also had excellent sales.



HACIENDA DEL SOL
GUEST RANCH RESORT



Our second sale of the month at the Fiesta de las Flores was a test of stamina. Saturday rain, wind and cold weather impeded sales but not the sales crew. Sales were medium to slow on Saturday and very slow on Sunday even though it was a beautiful sunny but cool day. Sales were \$1,691, about \$500 less than last year, for a profit of about \$700.

Our 9 to 3 Sunday sale at the Pima County Country Fair turned out to be a 9 to 11 sale due to the rainy weather. Sales were \$1,130 for a profit of about \$730. We sold about half of the plants that we took to the sale. Special thanks to the eighteen members who endured the rain and helped set-up, sell, and take down the sale on Sunday.



Sonoran Update



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Conference
May 5th, 6th & 7th, 2006

Speakers

Tom Van Devender	Cacti and the History of the Sonoran Desert Region.
Jan Emming	Invasive Grass and the Threat to Sonoran Desert Plants.
Nathan English	The Age of the Saguaro.
Jack Lasseter	History of Tucson.
Thomas Park	Designing Spectacular Succulent Gardens.
Kathy Rice	Plant Populations: Issues and Solutions.

Workshops

Miles Anderson	Cactus and Succulent Plant Propagation.
Greg Corman	Creating Your Desert Landscape.
Mark Dimmitt	Adeniums or Related Plants.
Jane Evans	Something on South African Succulents.
Larry Grammer	Excellent Potting Techniques and Plant Display.
Mary Irish	The Agave.
Matt Johnson	Cactus and Succulents of the Chihuahuan Desert.
Cory Martin	Drip Irrigation in the Desert Garden.
Ana Lilia Reina	Ethnobotanical Uses of Cacti in Sonora.
Mark Sitter	The Yucca.
Jon Weeks	Acclimation of Cacti and Succulents in Tucson's Environment.

Two special sales took up the slack from the two rainy weekends. We sold rescue cacti at Desert Survivors Nursery on Starr Pass Blvd on March 25 for their Spring Sale. We set up inside their fenced area where customers enter the nursery. We had a few customers at a time all day long. The Hedge Hogs were starting to bud so they were popular. We collected \$912.30 for a profit of about \$600. Desert Survivors did not ask for any commission but we left them about 55 small hedge hogs and barrels to pot up and grow out, they were very pleased. We sold about two thirds of the plants that we took to the sale. We also made a special sale to a Texas TCSS member, the first time we had shipped by moving van!

Again, thanks to all of the members who made this a very successful month of sales.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescues

The past four or five weeks were not only a busy time for rescued cactus sales but for rescues as well. We were out north twice at the new Saddlebrooke Ranch site, twice at Pulte site in Sahuarita that had wonderful barrels, and a DR



Horton site in Sahuarita. A treat at two of the sites was finding some wonderful Queen of the Night cacti, *Peniocereus greggii*.

TCSS Members can participate on our cactus rescues, which are normally held early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Notices are emailed to all Rescue Crew Members on Thursdays. If you want to be on the notification list please send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org

Joe Frannea

SARSEF Science Fair Winners



Each year the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society sets aside some of our cactus rescue proceeds to provide

special awards for the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair. These awards encourage students to consider cactus and succulent related subjects for their displays. Several of our members serve as special judges and make these awards.

This year our TCSS Cactus & Succulents Category judges selected seven worthy projects from grades K through 12 for cash awards and special certificates. There were 1,453 exhibits and many interesting topics. Some of our winners will bring their projects to our Sonoran VI Conference to share them with us. We will feature each of the seven exhibits in next month's newsletter.

Joe Frannea

Future Events

TCSS and landscape designer Greg Corman will sponsor a Garden Tour of Mary Dillon's Garden from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday, April 23. Refreshments will be served. Maps will be available at the April meeting or call 888-6137 for information.

Information about two major events was recently mailed out:

Sonoran VI will be held May 5, 6 & 7 at the InnSuites Hotel. This year's theme is "The Sonoran Desert: Then and Now".

There will be a bus trip to the Huntington Botanical Garden, the Living Desert Gardens in Palm Desert and Lotus Land in Santa Barbara on June 30 to July 2. We are asking for a refundable deposit immediately and the remainder in June. We expect the bus to fill up, but we will need details on lodging as soon as possible to make the final arrangements.



Barry McCormick

Library Update





We have two new books by Kapitany and Schulz “Succulents for the Garden”. and “Succulent Propagation”. The first book is loaded with color pictures showing different kinds of succulents and how to use them in the garden, whether in the soil or in pots.

“Succulent Propagation” covers basic and advanced propagation, seed raising and propagation tips on forty-one specific groups of succulents and some cacti.

For a real treat, take a look at “Colour illustrated experiences of two expeditions for succulents in central, south and southwestern Madagascar”. This is not a wordy book, but the photos are superb and each one is identified. Some of the more numerous plants shown are aloes, euphorbia, and kalanchoes. A special treat is at the end of the book with a few pages of lemurs and the final photo a sunset in the mountains.

Joie Giunta



Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale
Presented by:
The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Featuring

- Cactus and Succulent Plant Show
- Cactus and Succulent Silent Auction
- Plant Sales with exclusive plant selections by the best plant growers in Tucson
- Book sales by Rainbow Gardens Bookstore
- Southwestern Art Show and Sales by the Southern Arizona Arts Guild
- Exhibits, Educational Displays and More!

Public Dates and Times
Saturday, May 6th 9:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday, May 2nd 9:00am - 4:00pm

InnSuites Hotels, Tucson City Center • 457 N. Granada Avenue

For additional information see us on the web at www.tucsoncactus.org or email: tcss@tucsoncactus.org

Look for this add in the April Desert Leaf. Add design by Karen Keller



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2006

Friday, May 5, 2006

InnSuites Hotel

“Evolution of the Sonoran Desert”

Tom Van Devender

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885-6367

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jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2006.

Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road, Tucson

May Refreshments

**There will be no May refreshments
because of the Member Dinner.**

Everyone is Welcome!

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

This is a special member's dinner meeting in conjunction with Sonoran VI. The presentation will discuss the history and evolution of the Sonoran Desert from Tropical forest ancestors to the modern Sonoran Desert with special emphasis on succulent plants.

Tom has been a Research Scientist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum since 1983

Before working at the Desert Museum, he was the Endangered Species Botanist for the Arizona Natural Heritage Program in Tucson. With his wife Ana Lilia Reina, he has explored many areas in Mexico. Tom has published over 100 research article, book chapters and edited six books including Las Cactaceas de Sonora in Spanish.

Tom earned a B.S. in biology from Lamar University and a M.S. in Zoology and Ph. D. in Geosciences from the University of Arizona.

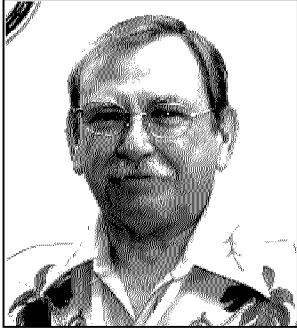
The dinner event starts at 6:00pm and is limited to 200 including registrants, vendors, workshop leaders and speakers. Please RSVP by May 2 to insure a place at the dinner. If you can't make the dinner, you are welcome to attend the presentation which starts at approximately 7:15pm followed by the opening of the plant and book sales, plant show and the start of the silent auction.

There will not be a meeting on Thursday, May 4

Meeting Place



President's Message



On Friday, April 14, 2006 The New York Times front page featured a story on our rescue program and the impact it has had. This was a first hand account written by Patricia Leigh Brown who spent a day out in the field

with our rescue crew asking question and gaining understanding of just what we do and why we do it. We are very appreciative of what she has presented to the whole country about our effort to save a little bit of this environment.

This story was also printed by the Arizona Daily Star who also gave us a "cactus flower" for what we do. ABC new has been here to continue the coverage of this effort and will provide us with more national and local coverage.

The founders of the rescue program (Chris Monrad, Vonn Watkins, Lois Ladwig and I) never dreamed that the rescue effort would bring so many wonderful people into the organization and make it a nationally recognized program. Joe and Patsy Frannea joined the program in its first year and have been backbone of the rescue program ever since. There are also about 150 great members who over and over again assist in rescues, plantings and sales. We continue to grow and expand our education and outreach efforts and our membership is over 700.

We must encourage others around the country and the world that this type of a grass roots, low tech, low cost, educational and environmental program can work. Many of the plants we are interested in grow in some of poorest and least developed areas of the world. We can not ask someone to make choices between their family's welfare and some succulent plant, but we must find ways to develop a process that will work.

The 2009 convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America will be held in Tucson and would be a great venue to launch a program aimed at helping people and special plant survive together. I welcome your input and look forward to informing the world what we do in Tucson.

Dick Wiedhopf , President

Rescue Diversity at It's Finest



The Rescue Crew showed up in mass, fifty-five strong, to remove plants from a native desert area that was getting ready for a new road. The area, sixty feet wide and about a thousand feet long, was rich in plant diversity. As the

Crew headed to the area and began work, it looked like a trail of ants neatly working in a straight line, checking and removing very small and large cacti.

Cacti rescued included small, medium, and large *Ocotillo*, medium and large *Sotol*, *Dasyliirion wheeleri*, see photo of new member with a large catch, *Agave palmeri*, *Yucca arizonica* and *elata*), Hedge Hogs, *Echinocereus fasciculatus*, Prickly Pear, *Cholla*, Fishhook Barrels, *Ferocactus wislizenii*, Spiny Stars, *Corypantha vivipara biseeana*, and several really nice Sonora Pineapple *Echinomastus erectocentrus* in bloom.



Dasyliirion wheeleri

The special plants are almost always purchased by Cactus Rescue Crew members, which is one of the benefits of being on the crew. Send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org to join.

TCSS Exhibits at SAHBA Home Show



The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society was invited to be one of the 450 exhibitors at the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association (SAHBA) Annual

Spring Home and Patio Show. It was held April 7th, 8th, and 9th at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC).

We created a cactus display in our 10x12 booth area to highlight sixteen different native cacti in the Tucson area and also had a display board to show TCSS activities including our Cactus Rescue Crew program. We handed out 1,200 of our new Cactus postcards and about 400 brochures to those interested in our booth.



About 330 people fill out a door prize slip to win one of five items.

We had a nice Adenium from Plants for the Southwest (PSW), a great Organ Pipe cactus from B&B Cactus Farm (not in photo), two plant books from Rainbow Garden Bookshop, and a cactus garden in a dish from the Cactus Rescue Crew which included one of the seedling Ocotillos from PSW.

Also, a big thanks 15 TCSS volunteers who staffed our booth in 3 to 4 hour shifts and to Ed Taczanowsky at SAHBA for inviting us.

Joe Framea

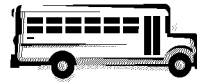
93 MEMBERS ENJOY DILLON HOME TOUR

We want to thank TCSS member and landscape designer Greg Corman and our hostess Mary Dillon for the opportunity to tour her Garden on Sunday, April 23. This was inspired by an article in the November 2005 issue of Sunset magazine entitled "Desert Walk Careful Pruning Brings New Life to our Oro Valley Garden".

We are sure that Mary Dillon would appreciate a note of thanks from all who went on the tour. Her address is 545 Orango Place, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-9757.

California Botanical Gardens Trip May 10 Deadline

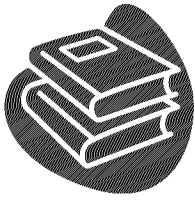
This event is a 4 day trip to California to visit the Living Desert Museum, Huntington Botanical Gardens and Lotus Land. This will be a trip to remember forever. You need to respond by May 10, 2006. A \$50 down payment (refundable till June 15) is required to hold your spot on the bus. This trip is limited to 54. You will be put on an alternative list in the order of response and payment if you are not one of the first 54. Your down payment will be totally refunded if there is not a spot on the Bus for you. Call Jack Ramsey for more information and reservations. 888-6137



Special Saturday Night Dinner & Speaker

Our speaker following the Saturday night dinner will be Jack H. Lasseter who will be sharing with us the "History of Tucson". Mr. Lasseter is a Tucson attorney and a lifelong Arizona resident (since age five years old). He loves history and is extremely knowledgeable of the history of Arizona and the southwest. He taught U.S. history at Pima College, is often requested by groups as a guest speaker, is a story teller and is currently writing a book on the life of our former governor, Raul Castro. He is a very informative and even more importantly a very entertaining person. Please don't miss this excellent opportunity to hear about the true history of Tucson! BBQ Steak or Chick Dinner \$25.00 Reservations needed by May 2.

Library Update

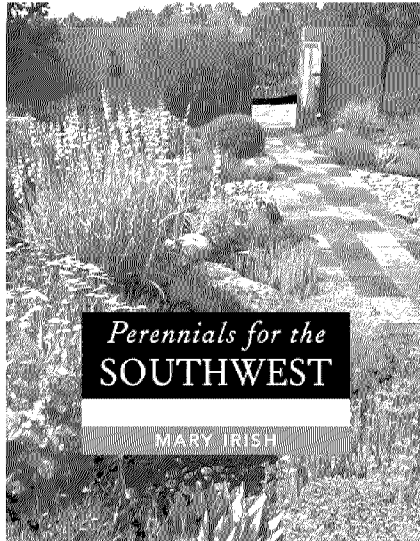


There is no library this month. If you are planning to leave Tucson for the summer before the June meeting and have books to return, you can call me at 327-1217 or e-mail me at joietgo@yahoo.com

and I can arrange a pickup.

There will be new books at the June meeting.

Amongst them will be Mary Irish's book *Perennials for the Southwest*. This book is extremely informative. The first section of the book deals with design and care. The second part has more than 175 pages of plants. Each page not only gives the family and distribution of the plant, but also when it blooms, the type of exposure it needs, how hardy the plant is and its mature size.



Diane Szollosi writes the following reviews.

Native Trees & Shrubs For Landscape Use in the Desert Southwest

By Charles M. Sacamano & Warren D. Jones

This is a thin concise bulletin issued by the Arizona Extension Service in 1976. Each tree and shrub mentioned is discussed in simple language that covers description, landscape value, maintenance and propagation. It is illustrated with black and white photos.

The Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents
By Terry Hewitt

This is the perfect book for basic information for those people wanting to learn about the cultivation, propagation and display of cacti & succulents. Each family is illustrated with color photos and illustrations concerning height and growth patterns along with information about cold tolerance. He also discusses planting design both indoors and out.

At the back of the book, he has several helpful lists for beginners and enthusiasts. Other lists include plants for different climates and light levels.

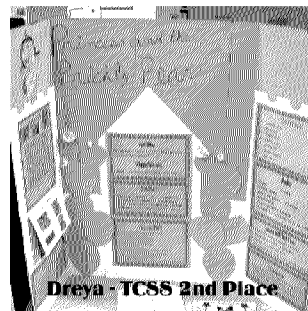
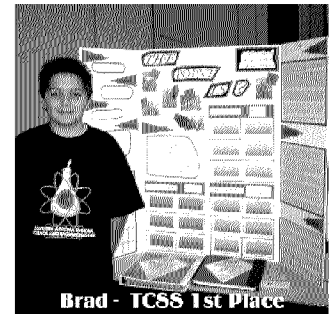
See you at Sonoran VI

Joie Giunta

TCSS 2006 Science Fair Winners

Five judges from the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society reviewed over 1450 Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) projects for topics pertaining to a "Special Awards" category of Cactus & Succulents. Seven great projects were selected and awarded prizes that included certificates, cash, and honorary TCSS memberships. This was our third year at SARSEF. Thanks to judges Gail and George Virtes, Marty Harow, and Patsy and Joe Frannea.

The Point Is -- Our \$100 First Place Award went to Brad from Pistor Gate Middle School, grade six. A field study of cactus spines in Southern Arizona. *The research problem is to examine different types of cactus spines and compare them to identify similarities and differences.* Brad plans to bring his project to our Sonoran VI Conference to share with others.

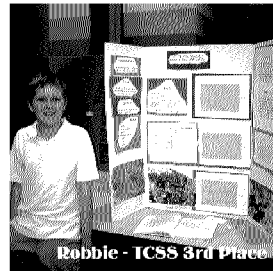


Princess and the Prickly Pear – Second Place Award of \$75 went to Dreya who is home schooled, grade two. Question: *Which has a higher percent water, prickly pears or princesses?* She hypothesized that the

Princess would have more water but found out by drying out prickly pear pads that they have about 75% water versus 60% for a princess.

Environmental Factors That Affect The Survivability of Cacti – This was our Third Place Award of \$50 that went to Robbie from Pistor Gate Middle School, sixth grade.

Question: *What environmental factors affect the growth of large cacti and cholla?* Robbie is to be commended for his extensive field work of observations and recording of data.



Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, seventh grade. Question: *Which needles go deepest into tissue?* You guessed it, the Cholla!

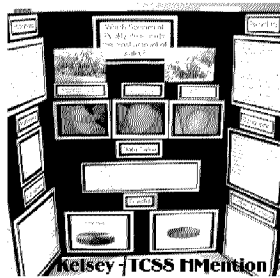
Russell Wagner June 1, 2005 Program

5 weeks of South Africa in 50 minutes

That's ten minutes a week! What is this all about? Well, in April and May of 2003 Russell Wagner, editor of our favorite magazine, *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, traveled to South Africa for a five week botanizing expedition with Steven Hammer of the Sphaeroid Institute. Steven was an ideal guide to the flora of Namaqualand, the winter rainfall desert of South Africa's west coast. Namaqualand is home to many succulents we grow here at home, and Steven had already visited this area over 20 times! As a result, Russell saw many wonderful plants and was able to have them immediately identified by his trusty and stalwart guide. He saw many species of his favorite genus, *Tylecodon*, members of the Crassula family that have pachyform trunks and thick, succulent, summer-deciduous leaves. Tylecodons flower during the summer while totally leafless. On a smaller scale, Russell saw and photographed Hammer's beloved conophytums and countless other wonderful mesembs, plus crassulas, avonias, aloes, haworthias and some cool animals. Of course, a plethora of aloes, especially the wonderfully impressive tree aloe, *A. dichotoma*, were seen in abundance, and a surprising variety of bulbs hid in every nook and cranny.

Which Species of Prickly Pear holds the most amount of water? - - Kelsey received an

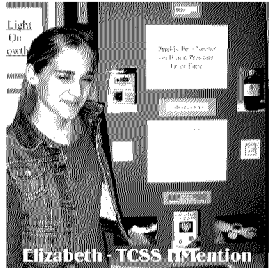
Honorable Mention Award Certificate and \$25 cash. She attends Sonoran Science Academy, seventh grade. Hypothesis: *The investigator thinks that Cows Tongue Prickly Pear cactus holds the most*



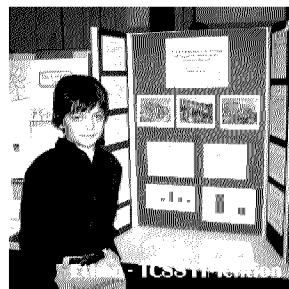
amount of water...

Prickly Pear Nectar on Blood pressure Over Time - - Elizabeth received an Honorable Mention Award Certificate and \$25

cash. She attends Desert Christian Middle School, eighth grade. Hypothesis: *If two tablespoons of Prickly pear Nectar are taken once a day for two weeks, then blood pressure will lower.*



After four weeks of camping in the winter rainfall desert, with occasional stops at a friend's house for showers and meals, Russell and Steven headed over to the Little Karroo, a mostly (but not entirely!) summer rainfall region, to spend a week seeing haworthias, gibbaeums, euphorbias and many other spectacular plants, plump from heavy summer rains.



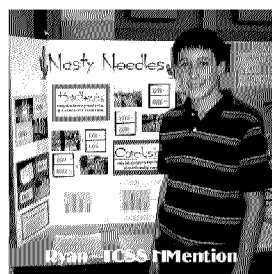
The Distribution and Density of Saguaro Cactus in the Sonoran Desert –

Ethan received an Honorable Mention Award Certificate and \$25 cash. He attends Ida Flood Dodge Traditional Middle Magnet

School, sixth grade. Question: *Is there any difference in the density of saguaros at different sites in Saguaro National Park?* A very nice display with some good field work.

Traveling in the desert is the best way to learn about our favorite plants, but a good travelogue is the next best thing. Russell will take us on a journey through winter and summer rainfall sections of South Africa with bright and beautiful pictures, presented digitally, and lots of interesting details about plants in habitat. There should also be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Russell is known as a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker able to present to any different levels of expertise and interest, so don't miss this talk!

Nasty Needles – Ryan received an Honorable Mention Award Certificate and \$25 cash. He attends



2 7 4 2 4
3
Cacti Rescued

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)
Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount



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

Upcoming Schedule

- May 5, 2006, Friday - General Meeting and Dinner at Sonoran VI
- May 5-7, 2006. Friday to Sunday - Sonoran VI.
- May 09, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- June 01, 2006, General Meeting -- Russell Wagner
- June 9, Friday – Tucson Botanical Garden Weird Plant Sale
- June 13, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- June 30, Friday to Monday – Bus Tour to the Huntington.



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

27144
Cacti Rescued

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)
 Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount



Photos by Barry McCormick, Russell Wagner and Patsy Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- June 1, 2006, Thursday – General meeting. Russell Wagner
- June 9, Friday – Tucson Botanical Garden Weird Plant Sale
- June 12, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- July 6, 2006, Thursday – General meeting.
- July 11, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- August 20, 2006, Sunday – Blooming Barrel Sale
- September 17, 2006, Sunday – Good Time Silent Auction.



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2006

Thursday, June 1, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Russell Wagner

Five Weeks of South Africa in Fifty Minutes



That's ten minutes a week! What is this all about? Well, in April of 2003, Russell Wagner, editor of our favorite *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, traveled to South Africa for a five-week botanizing expedition with Steven Hammer of the Sphaeroid Institute. Steven was an ideal guide to the flora of Namaqualand, the winter rainfall desert of South Africa's west coast, and to the Little Karroo in South Africa, a mostly (but not entirely!) summer rainfall region.

Traveling in the desert is the best way to learn about our favorite plants, but a good travelogue is the next best thing. Russell will take us on a journey through winter and summer rainfall sections of South Africa with bright and beautiful pictures, presented digitally, and lots of interesting details about plants in habitat. See the article on page 4 for additional details.

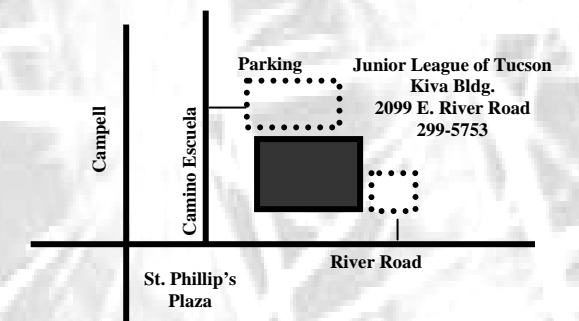
There should also be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Russell is known as a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker able to present to many different levels of expertise and interest, so don't miss this talk!

Thursday, July 6, 2006

General Meeting

Speaker to be announced.

Meeting Place



TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
 885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: George Virtes

Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Dan Birt (2006)

Chris Monrad (2006)

Mark Sitter (2006)

Norm Dennis (2007)

Barry McCormick (2007)

Jack Ramsey (2007)

Marty Harow (2007)

Joe Frannea (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Nancy Reid (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick

jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 1, 2006.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road, Tucson

June Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

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

President's Message



It's time to re-energize. We have completed another outstanding event in Sonoran VI and all of you should pat yourself on the back for a job well done. I thought it was the best cactus and succulent plant show ever in Tucson. The addition of a tent and

outdoor sales worked great. Believe it or not, 220 members and registrants attended the kick-off dinner, speaker and opening of the sales and shows. The whole event was over too quickly and hardly enough time to say hello and thank you. We got outstanding evaluations from everyone.

A wonderful thing about these public events is that they provide an opportunity for old friends to meet. Bernie Ethington is one such person who I haven't seen for almost a decade. His late wife Myrtle was our long time treasurer and librarian and our library is named for her. Bernie brought us a box of *Journals* and papers of the society going back to 1977. That was a convention year in Tucson and there were 132 members and 29 years later, ten are still active members of the in the society.

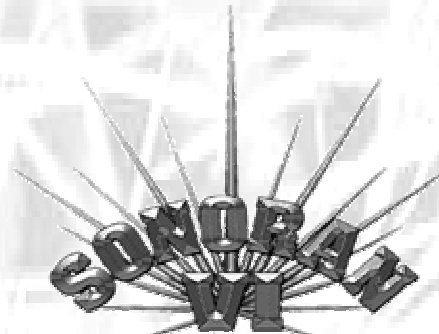
CSSA Convention 2009 in Tucson is coming quickly. We will start organizing committees next month. Convention Coordination, Field Trips, Plant Sales, Plant Show, Food and Beverage, Hospitality, Registration, Facilities, audio visual, Publicity, workshops, Club sales and more. We want to brainstorm on how we can make this the very best gathering of Cactus and Succulent Plant interests from around the world.

Don't forget, we will have our Expo in 2007 and Sonoran VII in 2008. These will give us an opportunity to try out innovative ideas for the 2009 convention.

After thinking about past members and future activities, I am energized. Thanks to all seven hundred and fifty of you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Sonoran VI Special Thank You's



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Conference
May 5th, 6th & 7th, 2006

The 750+ members extend their special thanks for Sonoran VI to all who helped and participated. A special thanks to the following individuals who took on special assignments.

Overall Facilities - Jack Ramsey and his committee designed the set-up, tents, venues for all events and made it all work. Jack and his wife Helen are a great team.

Patsy Frannea arranged all the meal menus for the conference.

Information, Hospitality, Registration, Sonoran VI T-shirts - Marty Harow, Gail and George Virtes, and their volunteers did it all and more. Gail and George managed all aspects of the t-shirts from beginning to end. This group handled registrations, meals, and provided information to everyone at the event. Chris Monrad produced the excellent signage and acquired the night time security for the sales areas.

Plant Sales - Mark Dimmitt and his committee organized and brought together the best vendors of



cactus, succulent plants and potters in Tucson. Joie

a surprising variety of bulbs hid in every nook and cranny.

One memorable three day camping trip took him to the un-botanized Mt Terror in a remote corner of the Richtersveld National Park. One night a leopard surprised an expedition member in the dark, but Russell stayed in his sleeping bag and missed seeing it. On the way up Mt Terror, a new species of the clumping mesemb genus *Odontophorus* was happened upon, and two interesting, and perhaps unknown, *Othonna* species were found. Stunted *Aloe dichotoma* trees dotted the top of the mountain, framing panoramic views that included the Orange River, which forms the border between South Africa and Namibia. Although the hike to Mt Terror was a strenuous and even scary trek, complete solitude with succulents was found there far from any other humans.

After four weeks of camping in the winter rainfall desert, with occasional stops at a friend's house for showers and meals, Russell and Steven headed over to the Little Karroo, a mostly (but not entirely!) summer rainfall region, to spend a week seeing haworthias, gibbaeums, euphorbias and many other spectacular plants, plump from heavy summer rains. One day was spent looking only for the ten or twelve beautiful species of *Gibbaeum* that are spread out along an 80 km stretch of land in this succulent paradise. We will see most *Gibbaeum* species, including the weird and wild *Muiria hortense* in Russell's talk.

Russell Wagner

Future Events

California Trip Cancelled
Free Lotus Land Admission Available.



Our trip to the Living Desert Museum, Huntington Botanical Gardens and Lotus Land did not get the required number of attendees. Our non-refundable deposit at Lotus Land in Santa

Barbara has been exchanged for 12 admissions on Saturday, July 1, 2006 at 10am. You may take advantage of this free \$20.00 ticket by calling Lotus Land at 1-805-969-9990 and reserving one or more of the 12 tickets. This will be on a first come first served basis and when they are gone they are gone.

Dick Wiedhopf

Library Update



We now have the last two Schulz and Kapitany books, *Succulent Success in the Garden* and *More Succulent Success in the Garden*. These books are easy reading and loaded with pictures and ideas.

Both books deal mainly with succulents and how to use them in the garden. Each book contains at least one chapter on cacti.

Another new book this month is *Echeveria Cultivars*, also by Schulz and Kapitany. The first part of the book deals with the care, pests, propagation and naming of these plants. Part two has over 100 pages of photos in alphabetical order, showing the variety in this plant family, from growth, coloring and leaf formations which are rosettes, frilly, bumpy and hairy. Part three contains new and unnamed hybrids and varieties. Even the index is full of information.

Joie Giunta

Horticulture Conference at the TCC

TCSS helped sponsor and participated in the 15th Annual Desert Horticulture Conference held at the Tucson Convention Center on Friday, May 9th. About 500 Green Industry landscape architects, growers, retailers, contractors, suppliers, and educators attended the conference.

Our display board featured all TCSS activities including our rescue program with a plea for leads on new development sites. We made our club and planting guide brochures available. They all disappeared quickly as well as about 180 of our new color cactus postcards.

The eight hour event was packed with twenty excellent talks and panel discussions to choose from pertaining to: Arboriculture, Invasive Plants, Timely Topics, Design Topics, and Maintenance considerations. Club member Jon Weeks gave one of the talks "New Cactus Varieties for Arizona Landscapes".

The U of A Department of Plant Sciences, Arizona Cooperation Extension did an excellent job putting this conference together. Put this \$45 event on your calendar for next year. People from all over the State attended.

Joe Frannea

Giunta and Helen Barber and their committee worked the cash registers and made the purchase of plants go smoothly and the accounting and distribution of revenue accurate. Joe & Patsy Frannea and their talented group of rescue crew volunteers managed our rescue sale. Patsy also provided refreshments for the hospitality room for vendors and sales workers. That's after they dug and loaded plants.

Plant Show – Cindy Garrison and Nanci Frank and their committee did a fabulous job in staging the show. Barry McCormick and his group provided the correct names and signage for all the plants.



Blair Kuropatkin and Dan Tassone drove one rental truck to pick up specimens on the west side of town and Dale and Jen Whitt drove the other for east side pick-ups. This activity brought to our show large specimen plants that would not normally be available. These individuals and all the others who helped to make the show spectacular have our special thanks.

Speakers and Workshops. Vonn Watkins, assisted by Mark Sitter, put together a great program. This was a spectacular group of presenters. Vonn and Karen Keller did the artwork for the posters, t-shirts, advertising and logo

Publicity - Blair Kuropatkin handled publicity for the event with distribution of posters and flyers, newspaper and magazine articles and a wonderful spot on KUAT with Pam White promoting our activities.

I know many others spent a lot of time helping out and it is appreciated. Like the conductor of a great orchestra, it is easy to produce wonderful music when you are surrounded by great talent.

Dick Wiedhopf

Plant Show at Sonoran VI

It's no surprise that the Plant Show at Sonoran VI



was the highest rated category on the symposium evaluation questionnaire! In addition to our usual fine displays of plants, this year Cindi Garrison and Nanci Frank spruced up the show with Cinco de Mayo themed backdrops and

accents. The show was the largest ever: 199 plants from 23 plant families brought in by 28 members. This compares to 140 plants two years ago.

The four prize winners were Mark Sitter with *Parodia warasii*, Mark Dimmitt with *Tillandsia cacticola*, Miles Anderson with *Operculicarya decaryi*, and Laurinda Oswald with *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*.



Barry McCormick

Weird Plant Sale



“Weird plants take root at the Gardens! Growers from and around Tucson will offer their oddest species for sale. Some smell like putrefied flesh, others have stalks reminiscent

of the male anatomy, and some are outrageously big or black. You won't find roses and petunias; this plant sale is dedicated to the strange and dramatic, the weird and the wacky, the bizarre and smelly!”

The Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, hosts their annual Weird Plant Sale on Saturday, June 10 from 8 am to noon. There will be a member-only pre-sale on Friday, June 9 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. TCSS will be selling rescue plants at the sale.

Jack Ramsey

La Pilita Cactus Garden Happens!



After many months of planning and waiting for all the dirt work to get finished, the cactus garden area was finally ready to receive plants. The Carrillo Elementary School Docents were patiently waiting for the day when they could get their hands dirty and help plant the native cacti that they had selected for their garden.

Dave Palzkill and Patsy and Joe Frannea had been working with the young docents for several weeks and were now ready to bring some plants to populate the garden. Each docent picked a cactus



and filled out the data sheet listing specifics about each cactus before they helped plant it. Things such as the common name, the botanical name, where the cactus came from, size, weight, photo of the roots, etc. were noted. See the photo of Dave helping a docent look up one of the names to fill out her data sheet.



Matt Johnson's reference guides, donated by Rainbow Gardens Bookshop, came in handy to get the botanical names correct. The five foot saguaro from the Cactus Rescue Crew was a challenge to carry, but using two of the cactus slings made it easy for eight docents. It weighed in at 92 pounds.

All of the docents have sent personal thank you notes on their special Docent Corp note cards to each of us for our help. A few more cacti still need to be added to the garden but will have to wait until school starts up again in the Fall. The information about each cactus will be added to the other La Pilita Museum curriculum for the docents to know before they can be certified to give tours. The Museum is located just north of the school at 420 S. Main. Their web site is www.lapilita.com but does not yet feature the cactus garden.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescues

Cactus rescues have been a real hand-to-mouth affair for us lately. We are in the great position of having disposed of all of our stock, and badly need some new stock by the Weird Plant Sale.

TCSS Members can participate on our cactus rescues, which are normally held early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Notices are emailed to all Rescue Crew Members on Thursdays. If you want to be on the notification list please send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org

Joe Frannea

Five Weeks of South Africa in Fifty Minutes



Namaqualand is home to many succulents we grow here at home, and Steven Hammer had already visited this area over 20 times! As a result, Russell saw many wonderful plants and was able to have them immediately identified by his trusty and stalwart guide. He

saw many species of his favorite genus, *Tylecodon*, members of the *Crassula* family that have pachyform trunks and thick, succulent, summer-deciduous leaves. Tylecodons flower during the summer while totally leafless. On a smaller scale, Russell saw and photographed Hammer's beloved conophytums and countless other wonderful mesembs, plus crassulas, avonias, aloes, haworthias and some cool animals. Of course, a plethora of aloes, especially the wonderfully impressive tree aloe, *Aloe dichotoma*, were seen in abundance, and

President's Message



It's summer. It's raining!
It's 6:00 pm June 21, 2006!

I thought that I would capture the moment since it seems to be an event to celebrate and the whole world should know that it is time to water their cacti since it is raining in Tucson.

Thank you again for all your assistance with Sonoran VI. It was another success for this society. We are looking forward to a number of activities that will keep us busy for the rest of the year. We will be having sales, rescues, silent auctions, workshops, monthly programs, the holiday party and more over the next six months. Check them out in this and following newsletters and on the web at tucsoncactus.org.

The technology committee is up and running again so expect to see some changes on our website and other related activities. You are certainly invited to participate on this committee or any other committee. Drop an email to our website for more information.

From time to time at our plant rescues a special plant is found. I was fortunate to stumble upon a variegated *Ferocactus wislizenii*. This is the first one that I have encountered in the field and I hope to be able to share it with everyone at a future show. If it blooms this summer, every effort will be made to self pollinate it and collect seeds for all of you seed grower.

Remember that the CSSA Seattle convention is May 2007 and the CSSA Tucson convention is sometime in 2009. What month or week would you like to show off Tucson? Let me know.

Our first convention planning meeting will be July 13, 2006. More information is enclosed in this mailing.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Some Like em Tall... Some Like em Fat...



Cactus Rescue opportunities came a day too late to be able to participate and sell rescued cacti at the Tucson Botanical Gardens Weird Plant Sale on Saturday, June 10th. The Rescue Crew was out in the Corona de Tucson area that morning picking through hundreds of nice barrels and looking for special cacti of any sort. A special variegated barrel was rescued by Dick as well as a crested cholla.

Keith likes to go for the larger barrels and, with the help of Edwin and Joe, wrestled this great five footer specimen onto his dolly and into the truck' only to later discover a bad spot in the base. We need to pay closer attention to rank odors and not assume it is a dead animal. Keith has rescued many large barrels before and has had very good success in their relocation and survival.

Alice found many *Ferocactus Ballerii* in various colors including white, yellow, pink, and orange and claims when placed around the base of other plants the squirrels and other rodents can't dig up the soil as the balls just roll around. Hundreds were found about 250 yards from the back of homes near the golf course.

A rescue in the southern Sahuarita area yielded about a dozen Queen of the Night Cereus, *Peniocereus*



In some cases a small artist's paint brush might be in order to transfer the pollen from plant to plant. Most of our succulents and cacti are self sterile, so the pollen needs to go to a different plant. I usually use a paint brush anyway in case the bees are slackers. If you have more than one species of a genus in your collection, it's best to cage the ones that you are pollinating. A simple frame box with window screen attached should do the job.

In other cases, pollination is more involved. With *Uncarinas*, you need to squeeze the anthers, to extrude the pollen before putting it on the stigma. Although most *Uncarinas* appear to be self fertile, to maintain good genetic variability, it is still desirable to use several clones, if available. The challenge with *Uncarinas* is to detach your fingers from the ripe seed pods, once it's time to harvest them.



Adeniums and *Pachypodiums* are fun ones to pollinate. Using a cat whisker or a javelina bristle, you transfer the pollen from deep within the corolla to the next plant's

flower. Very good eyes or reading glasses are helpful. *Euphorbias* are good seed producers, but some are dioecious (male and female plants), so you need at least one male and one female to produce seeds. They are easily brush pollinated, but will hybridize readily with other *Euphorbias*, so take precautions. Seed collecting can be tricky with *Euphorbias*, because when the fruit is ripe, it pops and sends the seed flying. Timing is everything, but if you are watching carefully, you can see a color change and harvest the fruits before popping.

Tucson is a great place to grow these plants.

We are the cactus and succulent center of the Universe! And I dare say any grower would be interested in reliable seed.

Next month we will present a list of suggested plants, and an idea for a way we might make this a group project.

Gene Joseph

Help Needed!

How much fun do you suppose 750 members of a cactus and succulent society can have? We have a lot of fun. We have great meetings, fine speakers, wonderful refreshments. We have cactus rescues and sales, Expos and Sonorans. Our library is fantastic and is being added to every month. We have parties, raffles, trips and even conducted tours. We have plenty of money, and work hard to distribute some of it to educational and research purposes.

But I think we can have a lot more fun than we are having now. I have been a member of the board for some years now, and have seen us grow from the tiny meeting room at the Botanical Garden to the giant organization we are today. I believe that we are limited today simply by the lack of members willing to step forward and take on leadership roles. Each of the things that go well in our organization is headed by a specific individual, or small number of individuals, who make it happen. Many, but not all of these members are on our board.

The thing that the successful leaders of our organization have is passion, passion for the particular aspect of the society they enable. Don't we all have our passions? Fit your passion around the following list of jobs, and see if you can't be the next one to step forward and be "in charge." Don't wait to be recruited – step forward and help make the fun. In my opinion, the following areas are "Help Wanted!"

Spring and Fall Workshops – We need a central point person to take charge of the workshops to make them an effective, enjoyable, and continuing part of our society.

Research Grants – We have the money and the good intentions. Someone needs to become the leader of this activity.

Special Sections – Container growing, landscaping, botanical gardens, field trips, ecology, photography and many other special interests could become larger parts of our society if someone had a special passion and a willingness to lead.

This is not a call for willing workers – we are fortunate to have many of those. It is a call for willing leaders.

Barry McCormick



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2006

Thursday, July 6, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Stuart Riley

Cactus and Succulent Growing Methods used by Collectors and Wholesale Growers in Europe



Stuart and Jane Riley live in Eastbourne on the South Coast of England where they run Plantlife, one of the oldest nurseries in the United Kingdom. They have visited the U.S. every two years for the past twenty-four. Tucson is the one city that has always been included; this year they will be our guests at the July meeting.

Stuart regularly gives programs and judges shows in the UK and has judged both the CSSA National Show and the English National Show. He has also given programs in California and Holland. His interests in the cactus world are progressing more towards the succulent spectrum of the hobby which in England is part of the natural aging process for cactus hobbyists! He is keen on variegation, particularly in Agaves, and also on the more unusual growth forms of cacti and succulents, especially crests.

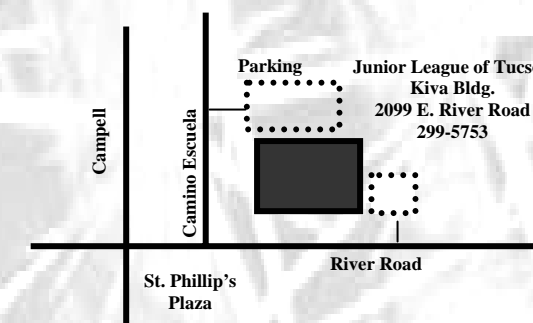
Please join us in welcoming Stuart back to Tucson where he will introduce us to the very different growing methods used by growers and collectors of England and other parts of Europe.

Thursday, August 3, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Greg Starr

Meeting Place



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

2 8 6 6 4
3

Cacti Rescued
154 Rescues Accomplished

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



Photos by Barry McCormick, Alice Campbell and Patsy Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- July 6, 2006, Thursday – General meeting. Stuart Riley
- July 11, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- August 3, 2006, Thursday – General meeting. Greg Starr
- August 8, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- August 20, 2006, Sunday – Blooming Barrel Sale
- September 17, 2006, Sunday – Good Time Silent Auction.
- September 21, 2006 Fall Workshops.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
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Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2006.

Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road, Tucson

July Refreshments

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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.

greggii, with a few of them having just finished blooming. The very sandy soil made for quick and easy digging. This was our second rescue in this area and it is like playing in a sand box. A rescue area that's easy on us seniors.



Patsy couldn't stand to see a beautiful huge pumpkin looking barrel get destroyed so Ken, Jim, Tom and Joe devised a way to drag it on a cactus carrier over to the trailer and then tip the trailer down so it could be rolled in as it was too heavy for four men to lift. It is about 36 inches in diameter and must weigh about 250 pounds or more. Sometimes the challenge is more rewarding than the number of plants saved.

Joe Frannea

Future Events

“Goodbye to the Heat” Good Time Party

Our President's column reminds us that summer and the summer rains are something we celebrate as lovers of cacti and succulents. We should probably do more to celebrate the seasons that so affect the desert we love.



September 17 will be our next opportunity to do just that: say “Goodbye to the Heat” and welcome the cooler days of autumn. We are going to get together to have a party, look at some fantastic plants, have a plant exchange and our annual auctions. If you have not attended this event in the past it is probably because you didn't understand – it's a party! You must come!

Barry McCormick

Library Update



New this month is Teratopia, The World of Cristate and Variegated Succulents by Gordon Rowley. This beautifully photographed book covers crested, variegated, monstrose and other unique variations found in cacti and succulents. It contains information on cultivation, grafting and recommends plants for the beginner and the connoisseur.

Also new is Flora, A Gardener's Encyclopedia, donated by Rainbow Gardens Bookshop. The massive two-volume set covers all plant groups. Because of its size, I will bring either one or both volumes by request only. The book comes with an interactive CD that I will bring each month.

Joie Giunta

In our library:

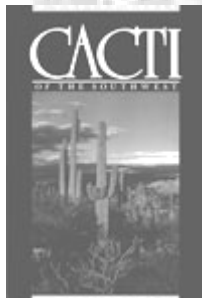
Medicinal Plants of the World Ben-Erik van Wyk & Michael Wink



This book is a guide to 900 of the most important and well-known medicinal plants of the world. It gives descriptions, geographical origin, therapeutic category, historical modern uses, active ingredients and pharmacological effects. It is intended as a scientific overview and not a medical handbook for self-treatment. Also covered are medicine systems of the world. This book will appeal to the professional as well as most of us who are interested in medicinal uses of familiar plants.

Diane Szollosi

Cacti of the Southwest W. Hubert Earle



This compact book is loaded with easy to read information concerning our local varieties of cacti. It has good descriptions and pictures of the plants. It describes the environment and areas where the plant is found. It also has a good glossary.

Diane Szollosi

Russell Wagner Plant List

Last month's speaker, Russell Wagner, has supplied this plant list from his talk. We will try to get such lists in advance in the future.

Trichodiadema densum
Conophytum minimum
Gibbaeum heathii
Albuca sp
Morea sp
Gibbaeum velutinum
Euphorbia pseudoglobosa
Gibbaeum pubescens
Astroloba corrugata
Gasteria brachyphylla
Gibbaeum petrense
Euphorbia suzannae
Gibbaeum album
Muiria hortense
Muiria × Gibbaeum album
Crassula congesta var laticephalla
Gibbaeum schwantesii
Senecio ovoideus
Gibbaeum pachypodium

Plant Sex in the City - and the County too!

Did you wake up this spring and couldn't breathe? Or have a sneezing attack that left you dizzy and those around you glad it was over? That was



probably the result of rampant, unprotected plant sex. Pine trees on Mt. Lemmon, ragweed in the canyons, mulberries and olives and even native mesquites are doing their best at this time of year to spread their DNA far and wide, in hopes of it landing somewhere productive.

With a little knowledge and a few implements, you can actually make this plant sex pay and have some fun at the same time. Here's what I suggest:

Choose a plant species, or several, that interest you, raise mature plants, assure effective pollination, collect and clean the seeds, and sell them to our local growers.

Succulents and cacti lend themselves well to this process.

Did you ever think about where the seeds come from for those orderly rows of seedlings we see at plant sales? Some are commercially produced, but the majority are either collected in the wild, or carefully produced by individual growers and



hobbyists. That's what all of those "do not enter" areas are at your local nursery: stock plants for cuttings or seed production. It's a bit tricky to ensure that the seed that is produced is true to the species and not an accidental hybrid.

In the process, there are a lot of fascinating things to learn and enjoy.

Use at least three different plants of the same species. The goal is to spread pollen from each one to the others. This can be a simple process or involved. The simplest system is for insect pollinated plants, for example *Ferocactus fordii*, a small purple flowered barrel cactus from northern Baja. If you have no other *Ferocactus* in your collection, simply group your *F. fordii* together and



sit back with a drink in hand any morning while they are flowering (orange juice works well here) and watch the bees pollinate for you. Part of the fun

is to learn more about your plants and their ecology.

You learn the time of year of flowering, time of day, flower color and the local pollinators that are doing the hard work.

Then you watch the developing fruit for ripeness, usually some weeks, and harvest them before the insects and birds do. It is important to clean the seeds properly and store them in a labeled paper envelope before selling, trading or even giving them to your favorite local nurseryman.

President's Message



I received a courtesy copy of the March 2006 issue of Cactus World, the journal of the British Cactus & Succulent Society, asking the Tucson Society to join and inviting all of you to become members of the British Society and receive their quarterly journal. It is

a very well done publication and there is a very interesting article by their new editor Roy Mottram.

Mr. Mottram traces the non-stop growth of their society for thirty-five years after 1945. In the 1970s there was a new interest in conservation and by 1980 a whole host of national and international laws were enacted prohibiting trade in cactus and other succulents including seeds, in some cases. He points out that even legal collection of plants is looked at as not quite being politically correct and that many who might have been interested in our hobby have turned to other activities. From 1980 to the present, these laws and attitudes have caused a steady decline in membership in most societies.

Obviously, we have bucked this trend in Tucson and our society has grown substantially. We have found a conservation theme that we can practice without the kind of confrontation that has driven people away from most societies.

Habitat destruction is impossible to stop. Our 30,000 rescued plants attest to our conservation success. But we are only able to save a couple of dozen or so species and varieties in the Tucson area; we are concerned about the thousands of succulent species throughout the world that will be lost unless we start an active plan to maintain them.

Along with others in the world, Tucson would be a great place to engage in a solution by preserving rare and scarce species in private and public collections and propagating them as a means of conservation. I would like your feedback on this idea and whether we might want to make this a topic for Sonoran VII or the 2009 CSSA convention. Some British Cactus & Succulent

Society members are already taking part in these types of programs.

I will ask Roy Mottram for permission to put his article on our website.

Over the last few weeks our rescue crews have saved hundreds of barrels (*Ferocactus wislizenii*), hedgehogs (*Echinocereus fasciculatus*) and mamms (*Mammillaria grahamii*) that will be available for sale at our Blooming Barrel Sale. Joins us and bring your friends and neighbors to this event.

Thanks

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Cactus Coffers Restocked!



Our cactus stock has been replenished through the Herculean efforts of the rescue committee, who have had a number of highly successful rescues despite the intense heat. Where were all these developments during the cool seasons?

We have always had a hand-to-mouth existence, with only limited space to stock cactus. Our sales are clustered in the Spring and Fall, and our rescues are when we find them. Most recently we had to pass up our traditional participation at the Tucson Botanical Garden Weird Plant Sale because our cupboards were bare. We have now been offered the use of a wonderful, fenced storage site on the near northwest side. We are in the process of filling this up in anticipation of our upcoming fall sales.

Our next sale is our ever popular Blooming Barrel Sale on August 20 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, or until we sell out. We haven't decided where to hold the sale yet. On October 8 we will have our fall Hacienda Del Sol Cactus and Rescue sale. Also in October we will sell at the Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorenson Center. The sale will probably be held on October 28 or 29.

TCSS Members can participate on our cactus rescues, which are normally held early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Notices are emailed to all Rescue Crew Members on Thursdays. If you want to be on the notification list please send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org.

Barry McCormick

Future Events "Goodbye to the Heat" Good Time Party



September 17 will be our opportunity to do just that: say "Goodbye to the Heat" and welcome the cooler days of autumn. We are going to get together to have a party, look at some fantastic plants, have a plant exchange and our annual auctions. If you have not attended this event in the past it is probably because you didn't understand – it's a party! You must come!

Barry McCormick

Library Update



Whether you're new to the Southwest or a native, you'll find something of interest in "The Southwest Inside Out" by Thomas Wiewandt and Maureen Wilks. The book covers the various shapes, formations, landscapes and color in Arizona and other areas of the southwest. Photography tips will help in capturing these beautiful places. The resource guide includes Southwestern parks, sites of geographical interest and a list of books and websites.

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's "A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert" consists of contributions from many writers including Mark Dimmitt who covers the many plants of the desert and Kenn Kaufman with a section on birds. Other sections include a natural events calendar, nature watching hot spots, storms, invertebrates, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and more.

Visit tucsoncactus.org for an updated list of all the library books.

Joie Giunta



Speaker's Plant List

Plant list for Greg Starr's August 3 talk on his trip to Mexico in June 2006

<i>Acacia crassifolia</i>	<i>Dasyilirion quadrangulatum</i>
<i>Agave asperrima</i> = <i>A. scabra</i>)	<i>Echeveria cante</i>
<i>Agave bovicornuta</i>	<i>Echeveria chihuahuensis</i>
<i>Agave celsii</i>	<i>Echeveria craigiana</i>
<i>Agave durangensis</i>	<i>Echeveria unguiculata</i>
<i>Agave gentryi</i>	<i>Echinocactus horzonthalonius</i>
<i>Agave parrasana</i>	<i>Echinocactus platyacanthus</i>
<i>Agave parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	<i>Echinocereus pectinatus</i>
<i>Agave parryi</i> var. <i>truncata</i>	<i>Echinocereus stramineus</i>
<i>Agave polianthiflora</i>	<i>Ferocactus hamatacanthus</i>
<i>Agave potrerana</i>	<i>Ferocactus histrix</i>
<i>Agave salmiana</i>	<i>Ferocactus latispinus</i>
<i>Agave striata</i>	<i>Ferocactus pilosus</i>
<i>Agave victoriae-reginae</i>	<i>Fouquieria fasciculata</i>
<i>Agave wocomahi</i>	<i>Leuchtenbegia principis</i>
<i>Agave xylonacantha</i>	<i>Myrtillocactus geometrizans</i>
<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i>	<i>Neolloydia conoidea</i>
<i>Astrophytum myriostigma</i>	<i>Opuntia stenopetala</i>
<i>Bouvardia ternifolia</i>	<i>Stenocactus phyllacanthus</i>
<i>Brahea decumbens</i>	<i>Thelocactus rinconensis</i>
<i>Bursera fagaroides</i>	<i>Thelocactus species</i>
<i>Bursera galeottiana</i>	<i>Yucca filifera</i>
<i>Cephalocereus senilis</i>	<i>Yucca linearifolia</i>
<i>Dasyilirion berlandieri</i>	<i>Yucca rigida</i>

Focus on Echeverias



If you enjoyed looking at the "Focus on Crassulas" exhibit at the last meeting, you can look forward to our "Focus on Echeverias" this month. It will be interesting to see if we can have these special exhibits from time to time. This time I need your help:

Please glance through your collection and bring a few of your own Echeverias to help fill out the display.

The intention is for these displays to be interesting, informative, and to have all our growers participate.

Barry McCormick



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2006

Thursday, August 3, 2006
7:00 P.M.
Greg Starr

A Thirteen-Day Journey Through Mexico



Agave parrasana

Greg's program will cover his most recent trip to Mexico. He traveled with seven others for thirteen days and covered over 5000 kilometers throughout much of northern and central Mexico. His fantastic pictures are of a variety of cactus and succulents and some surprising agaves, with many in bloom.

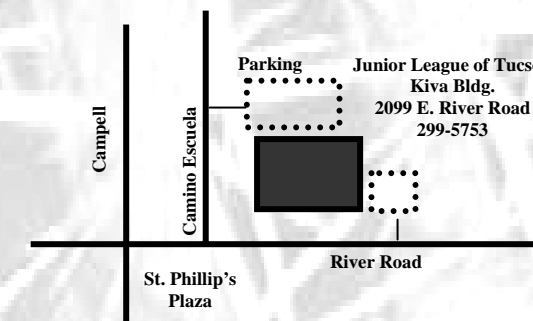
Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek teamed up with Greg to study the taxonomy of as many *Agave* species as they could.

Agaves as horticultural plants have been Greg's favorites for the past twenty-three years. Recently he has become more interested in *Agave* taxonomy. He has written a monograph on the genus *Hesperaloe*, describing two new species and a new subspecies, and was a coauthor for the description of *Agave ovatifolia*, the Whale's Tongue Agave. Greg is the owner of Starr Nursery, a Tucson based mail order nursery specializing in the families Agavaceae, Liliaceae, and Nolinaceae.

Please join us for a great opportunity to hear Greg's recent travel adventures throughout the succulent habitats of Mexico!

Thursday, September 7, 2006
7:00 P.M.
General Meeting

Meeting Place



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

28664
3

Cacti Rescued
154 Rescues Accomplished

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



Photos by Greg Starr, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- August 3, 2006, Thursday – General meeting. Greg Starr
- August 8, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- August 20, 2006, Sunday – Blooming Barrel Sale
- September 7, 2006, Thursday – General meeting.
- September 12, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- September 17, 2006, Sunday – Good Time Silent Auction.
- October 8, 2006 - Hacienda Del Sol Cactus and Rescue sale

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885-6367
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Joie Giunta (2008)
Nancy Reid (2008)
Bill Salisbury (2008)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 3, 2006.
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road, Tucson

August Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

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



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

President's Message



Southern California is a wonderful place to visit if you are a cactus and succulent enthusiast. On August 19 and 20, your web master Kevin Barber and I visited three botanical gardens, five nurseries, and the fabled Intercity Show and Sale. It was two days of driving in California traffic, walking, photographing, and, of course, buying a few plants. The weather was almost perfect, cool and overcast in the morning, hot and humid in the afternoon and cool and humid at night. There is no place like Tucson!

We visited the Quail Botanical Garden, Los Angeles Arboretum and the Huntington Botanical Gardens. For cactus and succulents, the Huntington is the best but the other gardens offer interesting plants in different settings. You should visit these gardens at different times of the year to see what's blooming. Each garden grows many interesting plants.

When you go nursery hopping you see a different assortment of plants than the ones you find at our local nurseries. There is a greater emphasis on succulent plants rather than cacti. A must-see nursery is Rancho Soledad.

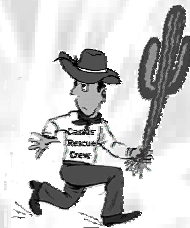
We spent Sunday morning at the Intercity Show and Sale. It is presented by the San Gabriel, Los Angeles and Long Beach societies and is held at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. There were 1800 plants on display from novice to professional growers. It was a wonderful show and beautifully staged. Associated with the show is a great sale. Some of our member vendors regularly participate at this event.

We finished our weekend walking and photographing through the Arboretum and the Huntington. If you are not ready for a California trip don't forget all the wonderful gardens and nurseries in southern Arizona that you can visit.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Simply Gorgeous!

Only one word – Gorgeous – seemed to fit this beautiful 55-headed Hedgehog cactus, *Echinocereus fasciculatus*, that was rescued at the Eagle Crest development site recently. This site, which is now bladed, is near North Oracle Road just north of the Pima/Pinal



County line. Many other great specimens were also rescued including a medium sized 20-headed Fishhook barrel cactus, *Ferocactus wislizeni*.

There were so many nice hedgehogs and



mammillarias, *Mammillaria grahamii*, that two consecutive weekends were used, in spite of the very hot dehydrating weather, to save over 600 plants. Many plants went home with forty-one rescue crew members who volunteered their time, tools, vehicles and energy to save these cacti. Other cacti were taken to a holding area and then to the TCSS Annual Blooming Barrel sale for the public to purchase.

show off Tucson and the succulent plants we love, with good weather that will attract a large crowd. Cost is key factor for choosing a facility. We also want to have an overall theme to the convention that will attract interest and participation from around the world.

Tucson will host the Board of Director meeting of the CSSA in April of 2007, who will make the final decision about facilities.

The next convention meeting will be held September 14, 7 - 9 pm in the new College of Pharmacy Building. Direction will be available on our website and at the September general meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Plant Sex in the City - and the County too!

(Continued from last month)

Here is a partial list of ideas:

Ferocactus fordii (purple flowers)

F. acanthodes. v. *tortulospinus* (long, red spines)

Echinocereus viridiflorus v. *canus* (green flowers)

Mammillaria standleyi (large clumps with beautiful pink flowers)

Pachypodium densiflorum (great yellow flowers)

P. horombense (similar to above, but different)

Dorstenia gigas (incredible plant and a real challenge to flower, but easy to pollinate)

Euphorbia gymnocalyciodes (rare globular Euphorb)

Pseudolithos miguirtinus (rare globular milkweed—flies do all the work)

Whitesloania crassa (very rare in habitat and cultivation, but well worth the effort)

Plant Collectors: Do They Have A Role In Conservation?

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society has a large local role in succulent-plant conservation with its cactus rescue program. While this program has local benefits, the problem of succulent-plant conservation is global in scale. If you travel in Africa, the Middle East, or Mexico, you are struck by the large-scale human effects on landscapes.

As humans convert wildlands to development or agriculture, or extract resources, such as charcoal, at non-renewable rates, many plants of interest to

succulent plant collectors are destroyed. The list of threatened and endangered species is so long that it fills several books. What positive role, and what responsibility, do plant collectors have in a world with ever decreasing habitat of the species we love to grow?

Plant collectors have long had a bad reputation for over collection and destruction of succulent and cactus populations, particularly rare or highly desirable species. One of the best examples comes from Baja California, where Cirio or Boojum, *Fouquieria columnaris*, are frequently illegally collected for urban landscaping. Another example comes from South Africa, where populations of *Euphorbia obesa* recently were decimated by a plant collector, who was caught. Unfortunately, there are too many other examples to mention.

We believe that ethical responsibility has increased with the passage of plant-protection laws and the general increase in education about wildland degradation. Beyond cactus rescue, we think that plant collectors have another positive role that they can play in succulent-plant conservation.

As wildlands continue to be consumed, restoration of succulent plant species will become an international goal. We believe that plant collectors, not botanical gardens or scientific institutions, will play the pivotal role in supplying genetic material for restoration efforts or, indeed, preserving species extirpated in the wild. Returning to the case of *Euphorbia obesa*, there are far more individuals of this species in private collections than occur in the wild. Document your plants that you know are pure species – they may be more than just objects of your affection.

For most of its existence, Arid Lands Greenhouses has had a policy of "we do not sell collected plants." We, of course, have collected plants, or offsets from collected plants, in our stock house for propagation – all those cacti and succulents in horticulture came from a collected plant at some point. Some of the species at Arid Lands Greenhouses are extremely rare, and we find ourselves to be both a commercial nursery and a rare-plant conservatory. We take that latter role seriously by taking inventory of our plants, particularly recording collection data that document the source – and indirectly the genetics – of the species.

*Bob Webb and Toni Yocum,
Arid Lands Greenhouses*



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

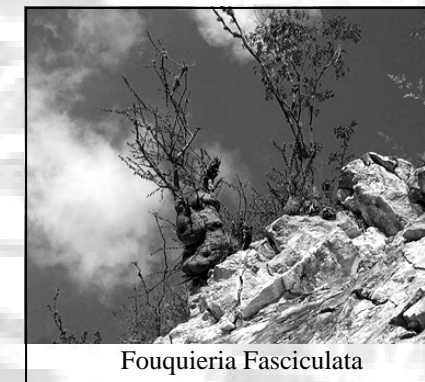
September 2006

Thursday, September 7, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Greg Starr

A Thirteen-Day Journey through Mexico, Part 2



Fouquieria Fasciculata

Come and resume the trip we started in August. Greg will take us deeper into eastern and southern Mexico where we'll check out some newly described Agaves and various cool cacti and weird succulents.

The climate down there should be warm and dry, and the roads dusty and bumpy so dress appropriately. There will be

plenty of photo ops for the shutterbugs. So gas up the car and get ready for some travel time!

Greg traveled with seven others for thirteen days and covered over 5000 kilometers throughout much of northern and central Mexico. His fantastic pictures are of a variety of cactus and succulents and some surprising agaves, with many in bloom. Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek teamed up with Greg to study the taxonomy of as many *Agave* species as they could.

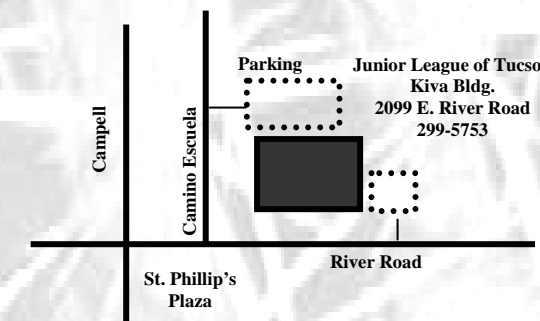
Please join us for part two of Greg's recent travel adventures throughout the succulent habitats of Mexico!

Thursday, October 5, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Jon Weeks

Meeting Place



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)
Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount



29484
3

Cacti Rescued
157 Rescues Accomplished

Photos by Greg Starr, Patsy Frannea, George Virtes. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- September 7, 2006, Thursday – General meeting.
- September 12, 2006, Tuesday – Board Meeting.
- September 14, 2006, Tuesday – CSSA 2009 Meeting.
- September 17, 2006, Sunday – Good Time Silent Auction.
- October 5, 2006 – General Meeting
- October 8, 2006 - Hacienda Del Sol Cactus and Rescue sale
- October 15, 2006, Sunday – Garden Tour
- October 22, 2006, Sunday – Pima Country Fair Plant Sale
- December 10, 2006 Sunday – Holiday Party

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September Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

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Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

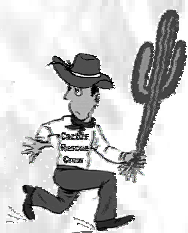
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537

A special thanks to Dick, Vonn, and George and Gail for coordinating these two rescues with DR Horton and the Crew as Chris, Joe, and Patsy were out of town for most of July.

Joe Frannea

TCSS Members can participate on our cactus rescues, which are normally held early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Notices are emailed to all Rescue Crew Members on Thursdays. If you want to be on the notification list please send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org.

Workday Creates Storage Site



Thirteen members of the Cactus Rescue Crew flexed their muscles and applied skills to turn an old nursery site into a working laydown area to hold rescued cacti that need to be stored between sale dates. An existing ten foot tall pipe framework structure was used to hang two different weights of shade cloth to provide appropriate shade for barrels (23% average sun blockage) which pretty much like full sun and hedgehogs and mamms which need a little more shade (about 50%) to help them get reestablished.



TCSS had 15 tons (about 12 cubic yards) of reject sand, often called chat, delivered to spread four inches deep in a 25' by 50' area to make easy planting of the cacti and to facilitate rapid root growth. About 150 barrels, 150 hedgehogs, 75 mamms, and a few Christmas cholla were planted in the area and treated to some nice monsoon rain a few days later. Water is available on the site if needed.

The crew worked very industriously for about three hours and all was in place and looked very professional to get ready for our Blooming Barrel Sale which was held on the following Sunday, August 20th. A special thanks to Chris Monrad for working with Amphi School District, our first cactus rescue partner in 1999, in obtaining the use of this site for a nominal annual fee. The site is secure and has plenty of expansion room for more storage of rescued cacti. It is located near First Ave. and Wetmore on the Amphi Public Schools Land Lab site.

Joe Frannea (photo by Patsy Frannea)

Bloomers a Big Hit!

Everyone knows that August brings blooms to the wonderful Sonoran Desert Fishhook Barrels,

Ferocactus wislizeni.

And that means it's time for our annual "Blooming Barrel Sale" which was held on August 20th.

Many of the 450 rescued Barrels on display were in full bloom - orange, red, or yellow or some combination in between - and many had buds just ready to pop with a little more sun.



Our new holding site location just off Wetmore Road near First Ave. worked out perfectly for this sale with lots of wonderful display beds to show off the cactus, shade cloth over head to cut the bright sun, a huge parking lot area with even some mature mesquite trees to park under, and our great prickly pear punch thirst quencher. The weather cooperated this year although a little less than a 100 degree day would have been appreciated by the workers.

We not only sold about 350 Barrels, but 180 really nice Hedge Hogs, 100 Mammillaria, and 30 Christmas Chollas. Thirty one pairs of cactus gloves were sold. Total sales amounted to \$6,500 with a net profit, after expenses and cactus tag costs, of about \$4,200.

This was one of our top sales events for our rescued cacti. A special thanks to twenty two hard working TCSS members who set-up, sold plants, loaded vehicles, and cleaned up the site after the sale.

Joe Frannea

“Goodbye to the Heat” Good Time Party

Sunday, September 17, 2006

12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. at the Junior League

This party day will be filled with activities: live and silent auctions, member plant sale and exchange, refreshments, and plenty of fellowship.

We will start setting up at 11:00 am so the party can start at noon. Bring your plant donations for the auction, plants to trade, some of your collection for the mini-show. Remember that the auction can include plant-related books, artwork, tools, etc.

What could be better for a Goodbye to the Heat party than an old fashioned ice cream social. We'll have everything – just bring your appetites.

The auctions are the core of this event, and help us raise money for our research grant program. Our member-growers are always very generous, but our own contributions are the most important part. Look through your collections for some nice plants you can part with for a good cause. You might even consider putting it in a nice pot to add to its attractiveness. Everything is welcome. We will have four separate silent auction tables spaced through the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 pm.

Some of the best plants will be set aside for the live auction. This is always an exciting event as the urge to acquire great succulents expresses itself in spirited bidding.

The member plant sale / exchange is a new event this year. The idea is to be able to get rid of those little bits and snippets of plants you have made from cuttings and divisions, thus making room to get someone else's little bits and snippets. Plants that might have a value of five dollars or less can be put into the plant sale, reserving the auction for the larger, more exciting items. Anyone can sell and buy – you don't have to bring plants to buy plants.

The mini-show is just that, a chance to show of some of your nice plants, perhaps some that look their best during the monsoon, that we never see at our spring shows. Bring two or three – we won't have any complicated labeling system, just put them out for show. We'll make sure your show plants don't get mixed in with the auction plants!

We'll need volunteers for setup and cleanup, and to help with the auctions and sales. Come, help, and have fun.

Jack Ramsey

Future Events

Special Garden Tour

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 15, for a special tour of Bill Salisbury's Garden. His garden is a beautiful landscaped yard with a beautiful view. A large number of his plants are rescue plants.

Jack Ramsey



Library Update

The CSSA journals for 2005 are now bound and ready to take out. Some plants and articles are cleistocactus, Trekking for Cuban Cacti, echeveria cuspidate, Burera microphylla in Phoenix, Cacti and Fauna of the Galapagos Islands and much more. The “To The Point” insert has a beginner's guide to various Cacti.



New books are Nishiki Succulent Handbook and A Gardener's Guide to Cacti Succulent & Foliage.

The Nishiki Succulent Handbook by Tony Sato is a Japanese book with tons of pictures. The pictures are identified in English and are good to use to identify plants.



A Gardener's Guide to Cacti Succulents & Foliage by Richard Rosenfeld, Editor features growing, propagating and what can go wrong. Each page contains at least one photograph of a plant with an "at

a glance box", the features, varieties, conditions, growing methods and flowering of the plant. Clear and concise, this book will help in choosing and caring for your plants.

Joie Giunta

CSSA 2009 Convention Update

July 13 was the kick-off meeting for the 2009 Convention. Dick Wiedhopf led the meeting and told about the activities at the 1977 and 1995 Conventions in Tucson.

Time of year, facilities and a theme are the three considerations that must be attended to in the next couple of months. Early spring is the best time to

President's Message



The October issue of Sunset Magazine featured the TCSS rescue program. There are great pictures and a real positive story about what we do and who we are. This is a great article to tell your friends about and be proud that you are a part of this growing society.

Actually, we are quickly approaching 900 members. This is truly amazing and speaks volumes about the kind of organization that you have created. The successful "Good Time" event with its silent and live auctions, ice cream social, mini plant show, free and \$2.00 plants was a perfect example of how this organization excels. There was something for everyone and we raised almost \$2,000 for the research grant fund. Everyone was smiling even if they got outbid at the last second. There are always members who put extra time and effort into organizing the event and they are complemented by so many other members who just show up, volunteer and make it so much fun. Thank you.

Our research fund has grown to a point that we can support several research projects. We need an individual or group to lead this activity. We have the School Grants Program, and we support the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This Research Grants program will round out our outreach educational efforts. Please contact me if you have an interest in the development of this practical research program.

October is a busy plant month and your last chance to get things growing before the first frost in mid-November. Check our website and this newsletter for dates and times of all the October events in and around Tucson.

Finally, TCSS election time is approaching. The nominations committee elected by the board of directors consists of: Bill Salisbury, Joie Giunta, Jack Ramsey and George Virtes. Their purpose is to provide at least one qualified individual for every position that is up for election. All four officers,

CSSA affiliate representative and three director positions need to be filled. If you are interested please contact one of the nominations committee members.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

"Goodbye to the Heat" Good Time Party



Our End-of-Summer party was held Sunday, September 17 at the Junior League. It was a

great party – I hope everybody else enjoyed it as much as I did. Having activities outside as well as inside kept the crowd manageable, and there was plenty of room for everything.

Over 400 free scoops of Swenson's chocolate and vanilla ice cream were served up during the three hours and topped with fresh strawberries, chocolate and butterscotch syrup, nuts, crushed Oreo cookies, whip cream and coconut. Cookies, ice tea and water were also served.

We had over 200 cactus and succulents for auction, with several hundred more for the \$2 sale table. A massive amount of free plant material, smaller plants and cuttings disappeared quickly.



The live auction portion included 16 great plants and a set of books and brought in \$610. The silent auction was displayed on four groups of tables with four different ending times. The highest price silent auction item, a *ferocactus herrerae*, went for \$35 while many of the other bids were in the \$6 to \$12 range with some going for only a few dollars.

Special Event

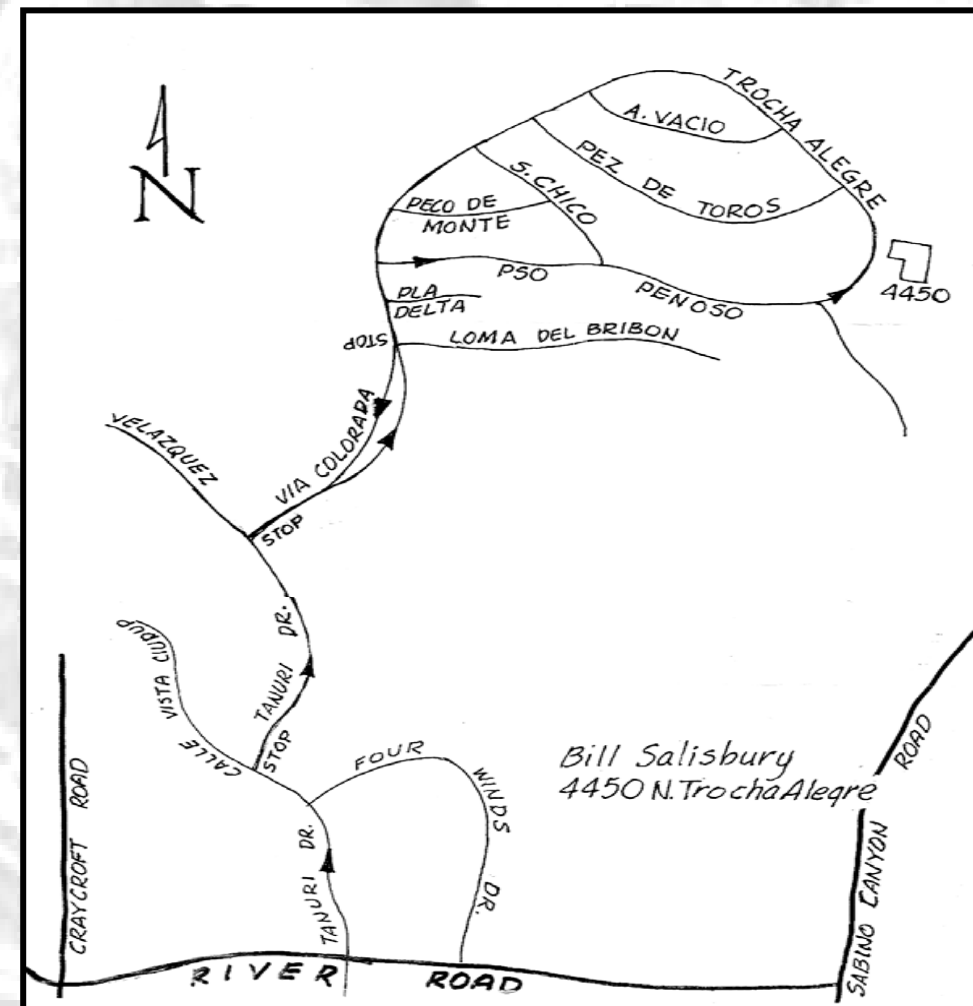
Garden Tour

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 15, for a special tour of Bill Salisbury's Garden. Bill has graciously offered a tour of his garden. It is a beautiful landscaped yard with a beautiful view. A large number of his plants are rescue plants. His yard was part of the Tucson Botanical Gardens garden tour in April last year. This is one event you don't want to miss.

Directions:

Take East River Road east from Craycroft Rd. Turn north on Tanuri Drive into Tanuri Hills. Stay on Tanuri (follow signs for turns) to the first stop sign. Turn right on Via Colorada. Two streets past the first stop sign turn right on Paseo Penoso. Turn left on Trocha Alegre to 4450, on the right side of the road.

Jack Ramsey



Namibia Trip!

A not-for-profit botanical tour of Namibia will take place in May of 2007 - that's only a bit more than 6 months away. The group will be limited to six participants. Much of the trip will mimic the 2002 CSSA-sponsored trip. We will use the same outfitters, but will spend all of our time botanizing Namibia, rather than trying to also cover South Africa. Trip organizer is Doug Dawson (480.893.1207) who went on the 2002 trip and has done other explorations of Namibia. The trip will last 20 days plus travel time to and from Africa. We have two positions remaining to fill. A trip of a lifetime for a fatplant hobbyist!

If you are interested in further details, contact Doug by phone or email at doug.dawson@gmail.com



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2006

Thursday, October 5, 2006
7:00 P.M.
Jon Weeks

Salicornia, The Sonoran Desert Succulent That Could



Salicornia

Jon will open the eyes of succulent lovers and introduce a plant that manages to withstand almost anything. You must attend to get the real picture.

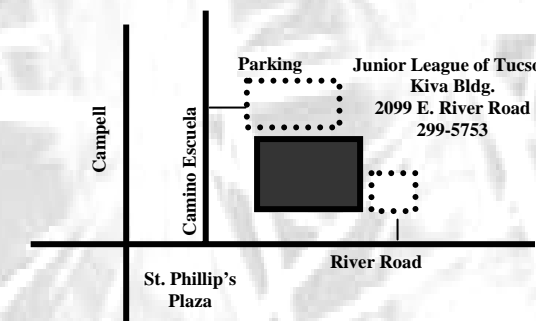
Jon was born and raised in Stratford, Connecticut. He received a B.A. from Gettysburg College in 1971 and in 1975 started Landscape Cacti, a desert nursery devoted

to growing cacti and agaves from seed for landscape use. In 1986 he received a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and worked as a research Scientist for the University from 1986 to 1992 while living along the coast of Sonora, Mexico. Jon collected halophytes and was farming them in Kino Bay at Puerto Penasco, Sonora.

From 1992 to the present Jon has operated Landscape Cacti where he grows landscape cacti and agaves. Be sure to join us for Jon's experience in growing landscape cacti and his talk on *Salicornia*.

Thursday, November 2, 2006
7:00 P.M.
Bob Webb

Meeting Place

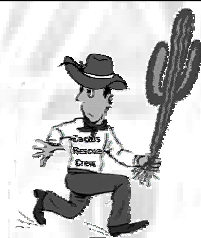


TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)
Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount



Photos by Kevin Barber, Patsy Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- October 5, 2006 - General Meeting - Jon Weeks
- October 6-8, 2006 - SAHBA Fall Show
- October 8, 2006 - Hacienda Del Sol Cactus and Rescue sale
- October 15, 2006, Sunday - Bill Salisbury Garden Tour
- October 22, 2006, Sunday - Pima Country Fair Plant Sale
- October 29, 2006, Sunday - Matt Johnson Field Trip
- November 2, 2006, Thursday - General meeting - Bob Webb
- December 10, 2006 Sunday - Holiday Party

TCSS BOARD

Officers

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

Board of Directors:

Dan Birt (2006)
Chris Monrad (2006)
Mark Sitter (2006)
Norm Dennis (2007)
Barry McCormick (2007)
Jack Ramsey (2007)
Marty Harow (2007)
Joe Frannea (2008)
Joie Giunta (2008)
Nancy Reid (2008)
Bill Salisbury (2008)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2006.
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road, Tucson

October Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

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

29524

Cacti Rescued
159 Rescues Accomplished

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



Total sales brought in \$2,465, about \$1000 more than last year. After expenses we netted \$1,958 which will be earmarked for our research fund.. We also sold two new memberships



The big success of the day was the large attendance – having fun is the real point of our activities.. Many generous club members donated some very nice plants that are now owned by other very happy club members. And, if you didn't get you fill of ice cream and toppings, it was your fault!

Joe Frannea & Barry McCormick

TCSS Field trip with Matt Johnson

On Sunday, October 29, we will have an all day field trip driving tour over the Reddington Pass Road. The trip is limited to 24 people; the cost is \$5.00 per person. There is limited parking and carpooling is encouraged.



This is close and accessible. We would pass through several plant communities including Sonoran Desert, grassland, oak woodland, and an interesting ecotone where the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts meet over on the San Pedro side. The road is unpaved but usually well maintained so a 2WD vehicle with reasonable clearance can make it. The total distance on the unpaved portion would be about 40 miles round-trip. We would make several stops along the way to look at plants. In addition to many of the local species found in and around Tucson, we would see



Coryphantha (Escobaria) vivipara, Echinocereus bonkeriae, E. fendleri, E. rigidissimus, Echinomastus erectocentrus, Mammillaria macdougalii, Agave chrysantha, and Agave schottii. It is also quite a scenic drive. The first 10 miles of the road are rather heavily used by ORVers. Further on, traffic is quite light on most weekend days.

We will meet at MacDonald's in the Safeway shopping center on the northeast corner of Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy. at 8:30 a.m. Carpooling will be arranged there to keep the number of vehicles to a minimum. We plan to be back between 5 and 6 p.m. Bring a lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, etc. for a day in the hills. There is only one restroom facility on the route and no services. We will make short walks out from the vehicles so no real hiking, but a couple of the stops are on rather steep rocky slopes.

This is sure to be an interesting, informative and fun trip. Interested parties should contact Joie Giunta by phone at 907-7950 or email at joietgo@yahoo.com.

Reservations can also be made at the library table at the meeting.

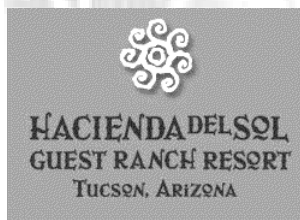
Joie Giunta

Simply Gorgeous!

As the monsoon slips away, mention must be made of the wonderful season we have had. Lush desert, ocotillo looking soft and fuzzy, a wonderland of growth wherever you look. How often do we see the Catalinas green in the distance. The Rillito and Santa Cruz have been scoured; Sabino and Madera Canyons reworked. After a winter when the rains failed, how lucky to get such a monsoon.

Barry McCormick

TCSS Fall Plant Sales



The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society will hold its annual Fall Plant Sale at the Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort on Sunday, October 8, 2005 from 9:00 AM until

3:00 PM. In addition to Rescue Sales, Arid Lands Greenhouses, B & B Cactus Farm, Blue Oasis Nursery, and Living Stones Nursery and Plants from the Southwest will be selling plants.



The Pima County Fall Country Fair will be held on Sunday, October 22, from 9 am to 4 pm. at the Lew Sorensen Center, 11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

You will find a great diversity of drought tolerant plants, including many natives, ready for your garden. Drop by and consider giving some of these plants a home.

Jack Ramsey

Cactus Rescue Profits at Work!



Twenty-five percent of all TCSS cactus rescue sales profits are earmarked for Educational Outreach. A part of this initiative which was launched in 2002 is the School Grant Program. K through 12 teachers (the TCSS Board just expanded it to teachers anywhere in Arizona, not just Southern Arizona) can apply for grants up to \$400 to purchase materials for classroom or school projects pertaining to cactus and succulents. We just awarded two additional grants this past month bringing our totals to thirteen grants amounting to \$4,282.

One of the projects just approved was submitted by Ella Gomez from Menlo Park Elementary in TUSD. Her "Cactus Diaries" Project will purchase library books and videos to allow students (K to 5th grade) to prepare cactus diaries so that they can explore the characteristics of cacti. Students will research Latin names of cacti, environmental conditions, life span, adult size, growth, shape, color, flowers and fruit connection with animals and contributions the cacti can make to the environment. Hopefully, the students will also gain an appreciation and understanding of how plants survive extreme conditions.

The other project approved this past month was submitted by Dr. Howard Shore from the El Hogar De la Paz alternative school in the Amphi District. His "El Hogar Greenhouse" Project will require the purchase of textbooks (Turning a Greenhouse Into Profit), starter plants and general gardening supplies. Students who will participate in this project are on suspension and must perform community service to earn their way back into the

regular school system. They will learn and develop horticultural skills by stocking a greenhouse with small plants and seedlings (particularly cacti) and eventually sell the plants to continue the funding of this greenhouse program and support a children's services program in the community.

Please pass on information about our School Grant Program to any teachers that you know. Direct them to our web site (TucsonCactus.org) School Grants page for more information and application forms. We have money begging for good project requests.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescue



TCSS Members can participate on our cactus rescues, which are normally held early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Notices are emailed to all Rescue Crew Members on Thursdays. If you want to be on the notification

list please send an email to

CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org.

Joe Frannea

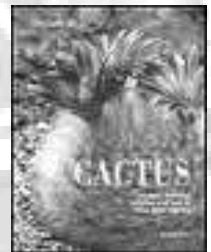
Library Update



"The New Cactus Lexicon" is in the library. It consists of two volumes. The first has 4-6 photographs on each of the 512 pages, covering cactus from A through Y. The second volume is a

"Catalogue of Taxa", giving an identification of the cacti. These books are mainly for identification and not for the person looking for cultivation care.

"Cactus" by Elisabeth Manke is good for anyone looking for cultivation care. This book has great pictures to help identify your cactus and gives the origin, habit, care and propagation along with some tips.



For succulent lovers there is "Garden Succulents" by Terry Hewitt. Not all the species covered are shown in photos. The text gives a description of the plant, hardiness and propagation.

Joie Giunta

President's Message

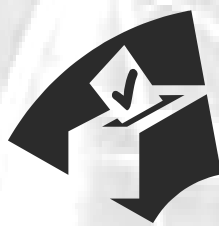


It's hard to believe that another great year is coming to an end. Last year at this time we had 716 members, and I made a comparison to beating Babe Ruth's record of 714. I looked at our membership this year and it has topped 913. Numbers

are not important but the people they represent are. My favorite two words are "thank you" and I say Thank You to all of you for contributing to this society and having an impact on Tucson and the Sonoran Desert.

It is not by chance that we have been featured on ABC national news or on the front page of the New York Times - and - most recently in the October issue of Sunset Magazine. It is through the good work of all of you. So again I say THANK YOU.

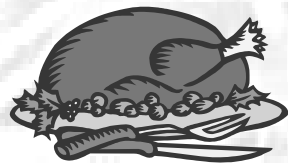
I had an opportunity this last week to visit Turners Greenhouse in Las Vegas. I am sure many of you go to Las Vegas and don't realize that they have an active and growing Cactus and Succulent Society. The Turners have a wonderful combination of landscape and potted cacti and succulent plants at their nursery. They are listed in the phone book and it is worth visiting them.



At the November meeting, the nominations committee will submit their candidates for officers, directors and affiliate representative for the coming year. You will then have an opportunity to make nominations

from the floor. If you are planning to nominate someone please make sure that they agree to run. The nominations committee has at least one candidate for every position to be elected. **Mail ballots** will be mailed out soon after the November board of directors meeting.

Information and RSVP for our holiday party will also be included in this mailing. The Holiday party will be on Sunday, December 10, 2006. We usually start setting up at 11:00 am, eat at noon,



and socialize until 3:00 pm. TCSS provides turkey and ham and the table settings. We all supply our favorite side dishes and deserts.

This is the annual corporate meeting of the society where the election results are announced. We have a gift exchange and many of us bring food or a donation for the Tucson Food Bank. It's a great opportunity to share.

Remember, there is no regular first Thursday meeting in December.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

CSSA Convention Tucson 2009



The convention committee has been meeting on a regular basis to find an appropriate site and time of year for 2009. We have reviewed many potential sites and will start visiting their facilities in November. A list of recommendations will be made to

the Cactus and Succulent Society of America who will have their April Board of Directors meeting in Tucson.

We want to develop a unique theme and logo that clearly identifies this convention. We need to have established these by May of 2007, which is the start of the CSSA convention in Seattle. We want to kick off the publicity for the Tucson Convention at this Seattle event.

Your ideas and input are needed. Our next meeting is Thursday, December 7, 2006, 7:00 pm at the College of Pharmacy room A274. You are always welcome or can send us your ideas by mail or email.

TCSS Convention Committee
PO BOX 64759
Tucson, AZ 85728-4759
or
TCSS@tucsoncactus.org

Thank you.

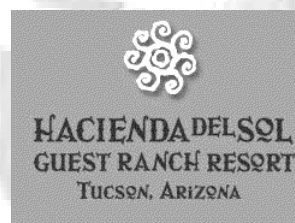
Dick Wiedhopf

A special thanks to the twelve TCSS members who staffed the booth in four hour shifts. We received many great compliments regarding recent news and magazine coverage of our Society and our Cactus Rescue Crew Program. Also, a special thanks to SAHBA for inviting us back to their great Home & Garden Show.

Joe Frannea

October Cactus Sales a Big Success!

October was a busy month for many TCSS activities including two big Rescued Cactus Sales. The annual Fall Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch and Resort sale was held on



Sunday, October 8th and brought out many TCSS members and the public to purchase Barrels, Hedge Hogs, Mamms, and Ocotillo. We brought in three trailer loads of cacti and most had been sold within



the first two hours. Unfortunately, or I guess fortunately, this depleted our storage reserve. We sold 470 cacti, 52 pair of cactus gloves, a few memberships, and a few cholla wood skeletons. Rescued cactus sales brought in about \$4400 yielding a profit of about \$2700 after expenses. Four of our TCSS member vendors also sold plants from their respective nurseries.



The Fall Pima County Country Fair was held two weeks later at the Lew Sorensen Center at 11100 E. Tanque Verde and was a two-trailer event. Luckily, we were able to conduct two cactus rescues prior to the sale to

replenish some inventory. We were fortunate to have about 75 Ocotillos for this sale giving first

hour purchase preferences to those customers who have been on our Ocotillo waiting list for many months. We will now shift from an Ocotillo wait list where we called a select few each time we have Ocotillo to sell, to an email broadcast notice list on a first come, first served basis. Our wait list had grown to over 100 customers and it was becoming unmanageable to call or email each person and wait for a response before contacting the next person.

We also sold 121 beautiful barrels, most were extremely well hydrated with lots of fruit, some Hedge Hogs, Mamms, Octopus Agave, Saguaro seedlings, cactus gloves, memberships, and TCSS T-shirts. We also had boxes of Octopus Agave bulbils and Aloe plants as give away plants. We sold about \$3300 in rescue cacti with a profit of about \$2200 after expenses, including advertising and the native plant tag purchases. One of our TCSS members also sold about 50 plants that he had raised.

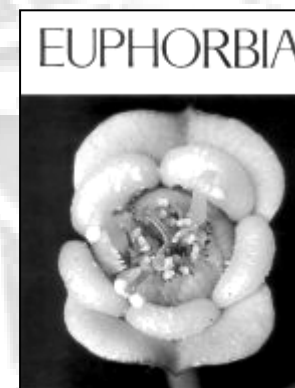
Joe Frannea

Library Update



"The library has many very good books that few people check out. Among them are the Euphorbia Journals, a set of 10 books. Each book has an index in the back and a few have cumulative indexes

included. These books are informative not only to the euphorbia collector, but also to the person who has just a few in their collection. The pictures make it easy to identify your plants in the event you are uncertain of what you have. The back of each book has a section describing various euphorbias in more detail.



If you are interested in writing a review of the books you take out of the library, email me @ joietgo@yahoo.com.

Joie Giunta



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2006

Thursday, November 2, 2006

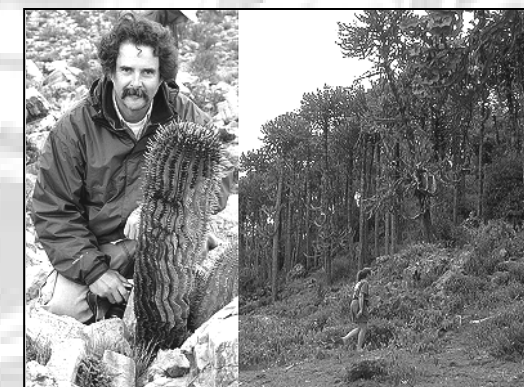
7:00 P.M.

Bob Webb

Travels in Africa and Arabia IV: Euphorbias

Bob Webb and Toni Yocum will open the eyes of *Euphorbia* lovers with their excellent views and photography. Bob will show the genus *Euphorbia* in countries ranging from Yemen down to South Africa, and in size from trees to tiny.

Bob Webb has collected succulent plants for about twenty years.



Mark Sitter beside of *Euphorbia horrida* ssp. *horrida* in South Africa and Toni Yocum entering a forest of *Euphorbia magnicapsula* near Lake Naivasha, Kenya.

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

Africa, Namibia and Botswana in search of succulent plants.

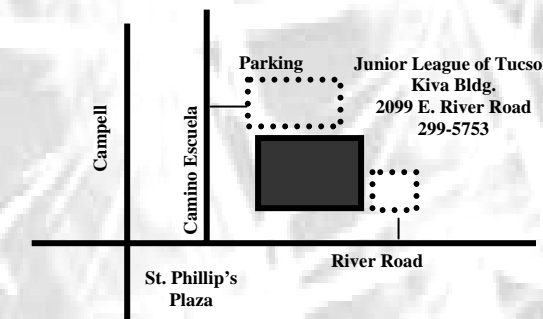
Please join us for our final presentation of 2006. We started in January with Bob's presentation on Aloes and we finish with his look at the remarkable genus *Euphorbia*. Don't miss this program from a really excellent speaker and someone who really knows, grows, and loves these plants.

Sunday, December 10, 2006

12:00 Noon.

Holiday Party

Meeting Place

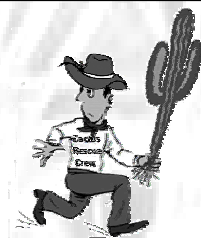


TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)
Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount



30244
Cacti Rescued
164 Rescues Accomplished

Photos by Bob Webb, Patsy Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- November 2, 2006, Thursday - General meeting - Bob Webb
- November 14, 2006, Tuesday 7:00 pm - Board Meeting
- November 18, 2006, Saturday -- Plants for the Southwest
- December 10, 2006 Sunday - Holiday Party
- January 4, 2006 - General Meeting

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: George Virtes

Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Dan Birt (2006)

Chris Monrad (2006)

Mark Sitter (2006)

Norm Dennis (2007)

Barry McCormick (2007)

Jack Ramsey (2007)

Marty Harow (2007)

Joe Frannea (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Nancy Reid (2008)

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Librarian: Joie Giunta

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Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

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Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick

jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2006.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road, Tucson

November 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.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537

November Field Trip

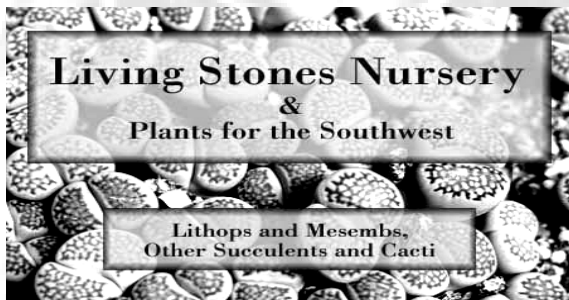


On November 18, at 9 am we have scheduled a trip to Plants for the Southwest, owned and operated by Gene Joseph and Jane Evans. The facilities consist of nine greenhouses and various shade

houses and outside growing areas, each of a different configuration, totaling about 17,000 sq. ft. Some of the unique plants in the nursery are *Adenium*, *lithops* and *astrophytums*. Gene will be our guide to answer our questions and show us the beautiful cacti and succulents he propagates and grows from seed.



The nursery is located on the 2900 block of Stone, at Blacklidge. The address is 50 E. Blacklidge Street. We will meet in front of the nursery where there is plenty of street parking.



The trip is limited to twenty people and will be \$5.00 a person. Reserve your place by calling 327-1217 or by email at joietgo@yahoo.com.

Joie Giunta

Our Hosts at Plants for the Southwest



By 1985, my plant collection had outgrown my home, so I left my job as plant propagator at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum to take care of them, under the guise of running a plant business. Fortunately, my future wife, Jane Evans, owned a piece of property where she had her flower shop and I could build my nursery, Plants for the Southwest. In 1987, we acquired the Storms' lithops collection and were immediately thrust into the mail order world, where we took the name Living Stones Nursery for our catalog business. In 1990, Jane closed the flower shop to work full time in the nursery. We currently have two greeters, Django and Dolly.

Gene Joseph

October Garden Tour

A special thank you to Bill Salisbury for opening his garden to the Society. It was a special event. The weather cooperated perfectly. Attendance was light but steady, and many of the attendees were relative newcomers anxious to see how to make a spectacular cactus and succulent garden. We are lucky to have this great example.

Jack Ramsey

Cactus Rescue



TCSS Members can participate on our cactus rescues, which are normally held early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Notices are emailed to all Rescue Crew Members on Thursdays. If you want to be on the notification

list please send an email to

CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org.

Joe Frannea

Rescue Crew Attacks Ocotillo Hill!



The Cactus Rescue Crew had the opportunity to remove hundreds of Ocotillo from a 12 foot wide utility cut path for a new development near the Sonoita Highway and Interstate 10. The rocky and hilly area was a challenge and required limiting the crew to about twenty-five members for each rescue, due to the



Agave parryi, as a special reward for the rescue crew.

Another October rescue at a new Vail School site near Houghton and Bilby roads not only provided 125 very lush barrels for our Lew Sorensen sale, but several *Peniocereus greggii*, Queen of the Night were discovered. There were also several crested Cholla chain fruit cactus. One had three levels of crests and was small enough to be dug up whole and strapped to a dolly.



Joe Frannea

TCSS Volunteer Coordinator

Tucson Cactus Succulent Society has lots of volunteer opportunities for those of you who would like more involvement with this great group! Not only with the monthly meeting needs, but also with our sales, shows, and conferences.

With TCSS hosting the Cactus & Succulent Society of America Biennial Convention in 2009 there will

be great volunteer needs for us to accomplish the stellar gathering that have envisioned.

At our next TCSS meeting on November 2nd, there will be a sign up sheet at the sign in table. Leave your name and information, including email address if you have it, and I will be in touch with you.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you,

Nancy Reid
TCSS Volunteer Coordinator
520 903-0245
desertreid@yahoo.com

SAHBA Fall Home & Garden Show Draws a Crowd

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society set up an educational 10' x 10' booth at the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association Fall Home & Garden Show. The show was held at the Tucson Convention Center on October 6th through 8th. We were proud to be one of the 450+ exhibitors. We did not sell cactus but answered questions and shared information about native plants, our Cactus Rescue Crew Program, and other club activities.



Our booth featured about a dozen different native cacti, information and Society brochures, display photos, and door prize plants and books. We handed out about 535 of our color cactus postcards to those interested in native plants. The majority who visited our booth were newcomers to Tucson who were looking for landscape ideas and information about their new world of native plants called cactus.

President's Message



This has been another spectacular year for our society and next year should be even better. Barry McCormick, *Desert Breeze* editor, will have our color year-in-review section in the January issue so I will only say "thank you" for

your participation in 2006 and hope you will continue in 2007 and beyond. The officers, board of directors and committees do a great job in making sure that you get value from being a member.

We must be doing something right since our membership has grown by 30% this year to an unbelievable 954 members at 641 addresses.

Our focus is education, conservation, information and discovery. Offering you an opportunity to support these areas has proved to be the basis of our continued success.

We are not going stand still and think that we have done all we need to. We want to move forward and need your skills and enthusiasm to do so. Later on this month the membership renewal forms will be in the mail and the opportunity to renew, sign up for committees or express your particular interests will be solicited. Our new volunteer coordinators, Nancy Reid and Daniel Tassone, will make sure that you have the opportunity to participate in the activities that interest you.

We want to develop a Tucson Cactus and Succulent Coloring Book for children or other children's books about our favorite subject. We need artists and writers to help us. We would also like to develop meeting programs about cactus and succulent growing in the Sonoran Desert. We want to focus on cactus and succulent landscaping opportunities both native and non native plants. This might include a special conference for professionals and the general public to see and learn about how to landscape with these plants. Let your imagination wander and think about all the kinds of

activities that this society could do for you and the rest of the community.

Don't forget that we are hosting the Cactus and Succulent World in 2009 and you need to be a part of this event. It will be great.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Gail (treasurer) and George (secretary) Virtes for their many years as officers and board members. They have decided not to run again for office. Gail and George went far beyond their elected duties and for the last two years were involved in every activity, doing any and every job that needed to be done. Every organization needs this kind of dedicated members. We are all so fortunate that Gail and George have done so much for TCSS. On behalf of the entire society I thank them for their support, kindness, dedication and hard work.

Happy Holidays to all.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Be a Part of TCSS -- Volunteer!

Many of you are new to Tucson and to the Tucson Cactus Succulent Society. Welcome! Helping out with Group activities is a great way of getting to know other members and to learn about cactus as well.

Volunteers, known as behind-the-scenes-people, really make a difference in getting things done. For our hosting of the 2009 Conference of the Cactus Succulent Society of America, lots of greased elbows will help make for a smooth running machine. No specific jobs are determined at this point but now is a good time to start helping out with general club tasks.

You will find Volunteer sign up sheets at the Holiday Party and future monthly meetings. We aim to create a "Volunteer Bank" to draw on when time draws near. Jobs are various but would include set up, hospitality, refreshments, plant sales and shows, to name a few.

Happy Holidays to all.

Nancy Reid
TCSS Volunteer Coordinator
520 903-0245
desertreid@yahoo.com

Field Trips

On October 29, a trip to Reddington Pass trip was made with Matt Johnson. Matt is quite knowledgeable about the plants in and around the Tucson area. Several stops were made through the pass, while Matt showed us various mammilarias and agaves along with other succulents and cacti in the area.



On November 18, we went to Plants for the Southwest, where Gene Joseph took us through his nursery and explained how he sowed and germinated seeds, told us how he acquired Living Stones and showed us the various greenhouses and the many forms and attributes of plants he propagates. Gene's plants are not the usual variety found here in the desert, but most are adaptable with some needing just a little extra care.

Both trips were excellent and all who attended had a good time and were looking forward to more.

Joie Giunta

In Memoriam

James J. Honcoop
Gene Loring



Library Update



As usual, there will be no library this December. All books taken out in November do not have to be returned until January. If you have any books that are overdue, please return them, or if you are unable to make the meetings, give me a call at 907-7950 or email me at joietgo@yahoo.com to make arrangements for getting the books back into circulation.

Joie Giunta

Board Meetings

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

Most of the business conducted at the meetings comes before the membership in announcements at the general meeting, and through the newsletter and website.

Barry McCormick



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





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

December 2006

Sunday, December 10, 2006
12:00 Noon.

Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

Don't forget our Holiday Party. Turkey, ham, rolls, condiments, drinks and tableware will be provided. Bring your favorite hot or cold side dish or dessert, serving for ten, with serving utensils. Room setup will start at 11:00 am.

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

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

To participate in the gift exchange, bring a plant or plant related wrapped gift of at least \$7.50 value. If you bring a gift, you receive a gift. Participation is optional.



If you did not already RSVP, but find your plans changed, please call 885-6367 or email tucsoncactus@comcast.net.

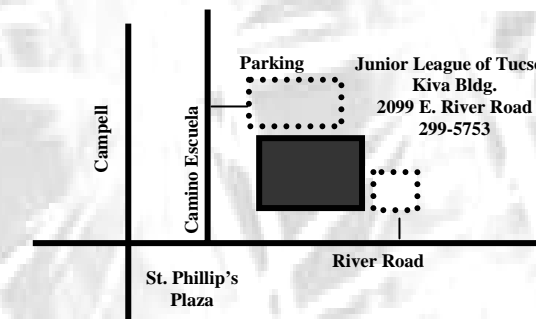
Thursday, January 4, 2006

7:00 P.M.

David Yetman

"The genera *Neobuxbaumia* and *Pachycereus*"

Meeting Place



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....



Barrels - from 2" to 14" diameter (about \$1 per inch)
Hedgehogs - from 1 to 20 heads (about \$1 per head)

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount



Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- December 10, 2006 Sunday – Holiday Party
- December 12, 2006, Tuesday 7:00 pm – Board Meeting
- January 4, 2006 – General Meeting

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: George Virtes

Treasurer: Gail Virtes

Board of Directors:

Dan Birt (2006)

Chris Monrad (2006)

Mark Sitter (2006)

Norm Dennis (2007)

Barry McCormick (2007)

Jack Ramsey (2007)

Marty Harow (2007)

Joe Frannea (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Nancy Reid (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick

jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Sunday, December 10, 2006.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road, Tucson

December Refreshments

Enjoy the holiday party!

Everyone is Welcome!

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



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537



2006 Year-End Report



IT'S BEEN A BANNER YEAR!

Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Roll on! Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. 2006 has been a great year! We have had great meetings, with great speakers, attended by more members than ever. Our activities have increased and our educational programs have expanded. We have rescued more cactus and worked harder to pass them on to be planted throughout Tucson, and around the state. We are proud of what we have done and thankful for all of our opportunities for friendships and the enjoyment of Cacti and Succulents.

The key to any organization such as ours is to have great meetings and great speakers. This year's star speakers include:

Myron Kimmach, Travels through Peru and Bolivia.

Mark Muradian, Bulldozers Built My Cactus Garden!

Stuart Riley, Cactus and Succulent Growing Methods in Europe.

Greg Starr, A Thirteen-Day Journey Through Mexico, in two parts.

Tom Van Devender, Cacti and the History of the Sonoran Desert Region.

Ernesto Sandoval, The Land of the Boojum and the Cardon: Baja California's version of the Sonoran Desert.

Russell Wagner, Five Weeks of South Africa in Fifty Minutes

Bob Webb & Toni Yocum, Travels in Africa and Arabia III: Aloes!; Travels in Africa and Arabia IV: Euphorbias.

Jon Weeks, Salicornia, The Sonoran Desert Succulent That Could.

Our meetings are more than just programs, and certainly the fellowship, exchange of ideas, access to our fine library, raffles and give-aways, and our great refreshments are the glue that holds us together.

Special activities this year included Sonoran VI, an expanded "Goodbye to the heat Good Time Party and Auction, and a number of special tours, nursery visits and garden tours.

Sonoran VI was the highlight of the year. Six great speakers and eleven workshops combined an overview of the Sonoran Desert with practical tips on enjoying cacti and succulents. Vendor and Rescue plant sales netted almost \$10,000, thanks in part to the greatly improved sales area situated in a large tent. Our member plant displays continue to grow year by year; we had over 200 plants displayed. The winners were: Mark Sitter with *Parodia warasii*, Mark Dimmitt with *Tillandsia cacticola*, Miles Anderson with *Operculicarya decaryi*, and Laurinda Oswald with *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*. The real winners were the members and visitors who were treated to a great plant show.



Sonoran VI Sales Tent

Membership growth continues to astound us. Conservatively counting family memberships as two members and all others as one, we have 961 members, up 26% from 760 a year ago. Next year will surely see us expand past 1000.



Cactus Rescue

Certainly the greatest amount of time, energy, and suffering went into cactus rescue. For year 2006 we saved over 6000 cacti during 28 rescues at 19 different sites. Dedication, hard work, and skill from over 200 TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew members are what make this program so successful.

A great boon to our rescue efforts this year was obtaining the use of a cactus storage area on Amphi Public School District land.



Amphi Storage Site

This past year our Cactus Rescue Program contributed about \$5,000 to the School Grant Program. We awarded five monetary grants totaling \$1,950 and one grant providing 103 rescued cacti. Since the inception of the program TCSS has awarded seventeen grants for a total of \$5,500. Also, several hundred rescued cacti have been provided at nominal costs for various projects.

Also, several hundred rescued cacti have been provided at nominal costs for various projects.



Dave Palzkill at Carrillo Elementary

We have focused on our mission statement this year, balancing our four purposes: Education, Information, Conservation and Discovery. Our highly successful spring and fall workshop series continues to provide special interesting and educational sessions for our members. We continue to fund our School Grant Programs, and are instituting a research grant program. We provide cash prizes to science fair participants who choose cactus and succulent themes. Our newsletter and web site continue to keep us in touch with our members and all of Tucson.

We end the year with our holiday party. Great food and fellowship accompany the introduction of the newly elected board members and the recognition of special awardees. Awards this year went to Bill Salisbury, Dave Palzkill, Keimpe Bronkhorst, and James Thomas. The President's Special Service Award was presented to George and Gail Virtes.

We end the year with our holiday party. Great food and

Looking ahead to the coming year we will have many new opportunities to enjoy our cacti and succulents: Expo2007, more trips and events, continuing cactus rescue and sales, and continued preparations for our hosting of the 2009 Cactus and Succulent Society of America symposium.



Special Service Award to Gail and George Virtes