



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

January 2011

Thursday, January 6, 2011

"Cactus Cultivation and More!"

Presented by Scott McMahon "Cactaceae Collections Manager" at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona



Peru Day 7 Huaraz to Lima, fog granite canyon plants, Thursday, July 8, 2010.

Scott McMahon is the Cactaceae Collections Manager at the Desert Botanical Garden. He received his Masters degree in Plant Protection from the U of A in 1977 and worked for 5 years in the agricultural industry in Arizona and Southern California. Scott's father was a commercial landscaper, and Scott gained valuable experience in landscape design, installation, and maintenance while working for him on and off over the years. Scott has also worked in the electronics industry as a technician and has held a K-8 elementary teaching certificate. Scott is a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and also of the local affiliate, the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, where he served two terms as President. Scott started with the DBG as their arborist and became a Certified Arborist a year later. Scott's current duties include caring for the Garden's

extensive cactus collection, including numerous succulents from other families. Scott is an instructor in the Desert Landscaper School, teaching classes in both English and Spanish on desert trees, the Cactus Family, and on other succulents. Scott's ability to speak Spanish has also enabled him to participate in workshops on desert landscaping in Mexico.

This will be a program that everyone should greatly enjoy. Scott is really good at presentations and will give you lots of ideas. If you haven't met Scott, please attend this program and introduce yourself. Join us for the new year and we'll start 2011 with an excellent guest speaker!!

Thursday, February 3, 2011
"The Fascinating Hoya"

Presented by Ted Green

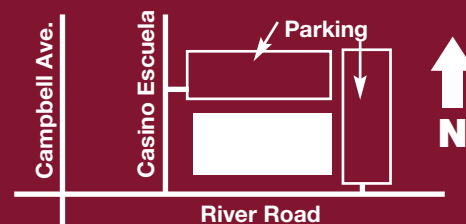
Free Plants

Aloe

Aloe, is a genus containing about four hundred species of flowering succulent plants. The genus is native to Africa, and is common in South Africa's Cape Province, the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighboring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian peninsula, and the islands of Africa.

Most of the smaller species are excellent for pot culture in Tucson, given filtered light and protection from hard freezes. Plants in well draining soil and keep pots on the small size to avoid rotting from excess water, especially in the summer when they are dormant. Aloe blossoms are a great source of winter and early spring color.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



Happy New Year!

2011 will be an exciting year with our great Monthly Programs, Spring and Fall round tables, Cactus and Succulent Exhibition, Rescues, Sales, Home Tours and The Prickly Park activities. There are activities for every interest and I encourage your participation.

2010 was a very successful year with 1,000 plus members enjoying a whole range of plant activities and educational opportunities. Your Board of Directors worked very hard to insure that we were doing what you want in an appropriate and fiscal responsible way. The bottom line has increased slightly from 2009 and in these economic times that is a real positive.

During the December membership renewal period donations of almost \$3,000 were received. That's just spectacular and appreciated. We are a 501(c)(3) educational organization so your donations are tax deductible.

John Swarbrick and Marty Harow are leaving the Board and stepping in are Cyndi Garrison and Thomas Staudt. Marty has been a major contributor to the success of the society for the last decade. He was there on our first rescue, arranged for all our bus tours for more than 10 years and along with his wife, Barbara, has greeted you at the door at monthly meetings for the last couple of years. John was a key member of the 2009 convention committee. He arranged all the tours during that event. He has advanced our educational outreach with his Cactus Model activity that has been a great success at the Funfest and other venues for the last 3 years with more than 2,500 models constructed by young students to educate them about cactus anatomy and physiology. John will continue heading up our education committee.

Marty and John, Thank you for your service on the Board.

This will be another great year for TCSS, so I encourage you to participate, learn and enjoy.

Thank you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Awards

Two awards were given out at the Holiday Party. The President's Award recognizes outstanding service to the society in the past year and the Special Service Award recognizes special contributions for the success of our society. Recipients receive a special engraved trophy.

Mark Dimmitt received the President's award for his newsletter series "Growing Succulent in the Desert", service on the Board of Directors and providing spectacular plants for the Sonoran

VIII show. We also recognized his 30 plus years of contributions to our knowledge about the Sonoran Desert as the now retired Director of Natural History at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

The President's Special Service Award recognized Carol Scannell. Carol is the owner of Tanque Verde Greenhouses. We recognized Carol for over 46 years of growing cacti and other succulents in support of our hobby. It has been a custom for visitors to Tucson from the 1960's to the present to take a part of their experience home with them in the form of neatly boxed assortments of cacti from Tanque Verde Greenhouses. We are very pleased to recognize a true pioneer of the cacti and succulents nursery business that has helped to make Tucson famous as the "Cactus Capitol". Carol was unavailable to receive her award at the Holiday Party but we will make the presentation to her at the next appropriate event.

Ferocactus of the Month



Ferocactus flavovirens - Native to Oaxaca, Mexico

Ferocactus flavovirens - Native to Oaxaca, Mexico, this plant grows into small mounding clumps and flowers during December and January. Somewhat frost sensitive, needs protection under 28F. Does best in filtered light under a native tree (which also offers some frost protection). Rabbits are known to chew down the spines and then eat the flesh. A form of exclusionary barrier is recommended for the first year if critters frequent your yard.

TCSS Holiday Party



Acknowledgements and Contributions

Education

Nicole & Patrick Harrington
Jan Konstany
Bill & Suzy Lillis
Elizabeth Upham
Pat Wallace
Douglas Willams

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Dick & Pat Wiedhopf
Jody Wilson
David Yetman



Growing Succulents in the Desert

What is a Succulent, Anyway?

By Mark Dimmitt

If you're reading this article, it's a pretty sure thing that you're a succulent collector. But do you know what a succulent is? You might be surprised to learn that there is no clear definition of the term. I've been trying to answer the question throughout my long career both as a botanist and a horticulturist. I've discussed the issue with many other professionals, and most of them are unclear too. Gordon Rowley, who has written many books on succulents, freely acknowledges that it's often difficult to decide whether any given plant is succulent. When I asked Park Nobel, a molecular biologist renowned for his research on the special metabolism of succulent plants (particularly CAM photosynthesis), he punted. He basically answered that a succulent is whatever people agree to categorize as such. I want a better definition than that. So, after much thought and considerable trepidation, I'll make a stab at one.



Figure 1. Cut leaf of *Agave parryi truncate*; the inside is almost all water storage.

The basic definition is simple. In general, the word "succulent" means juicy. A succulent plant is one that stores water in its tissues; hence it's juicy (Figure 1). Sure, but how much water is enough to qualify? That's where the disputes begin. There is no doubt about some plants such as lithops (Figure 2), which are almost all water. But what about, say, yuccas, which are much less juicy. Some try to avoid the question by calling them semisucculents. But we shouldn't go there. Now you have two gray areas, not just one, to decide on. Is it succulent or semisucculent, or is it semisucculent or nonsucculent? See where that leads? So let's try to be more rigorous.



Figure 2. *Lithops* are extreme leaf succulents.

I found one good stab at a technical definition, which includes the plant's function in addition to just having lots of water inside. Von Willert et al. (1992) define a succulent as any plant that possesses a succulent tissue, which is "... a living tissue that... serves and guarantees a ...temporary storage of utilizable water, which makes the plant... temporarily independent from external water supply...". In other words, the water stored in succulents functions to help them survive dry seasons. They further defined these plants as xerophytic succulents, ones that live in dry habitats. There are also succulent halophytes that live in saturated, saline soils. Their succulence serves some function, yet unknown, other than drought adaptation. From now on, I'm talking only about xerophytic succulents.

Now we need some additional traits to distinguish some of the less obviously succulent plants from nonsucculents. The main ones are:

1. Nearly all succulents have extensive, very shallow root systems that are adapted to absorbing lots of water after very light rainfalls.

2. Succulents aren't just juicy. Most of them use their stored water to continue metabolic activity when there is no available water in the soil. That is, they may grow during the dry season.

3. In order to be able to do the above two functions, many succulents have a special variant of photosynthesis called CAM. Without going into technical detail, CAM plants are ten times more efficient with water consumption than non-CAM plants. This is very important where water is scarce. It's important for growers to know that CAM requires a big day-night temperature differential to work, at least 15 degrees Fahrenheit. If you keep CAM plants at the same temperature, they will die. Almost all succulents that have

Growing Succulents in the Desert

Photos by Mark Dimmitt

succulent leaves or stems have CAM. But succulent-stemmed plants that have nonsucculent leaves are not CAM, e.g., *Bursera* and *Adeniums*.

So which of the plants we love are succulents and which are not? Here is a partial list. (More than 25 plant families have at least one succulent species.)

Agave family (Agavaceae): All species of *Agave* are succulent. Some are CAM, some not, and some can switch depending on how moist the soil is. *Yuccas*: Some are succulent, others not. The nonsucculent ones (like soap tree, *Y. elata*, Figure 15) have thin leaves and deep roots.

Aloes (Aloaceae): Oh yeah, and CAM (Figure 3).

Bromeliad family (Bromeliaceae): *Dyckias* are definitely succulent, and CAM. Succulent collectors tend to ignore the genus *Tillandsia*, which has numerous succulent species (Figure 4).

Cactus family: Almost all cacti are succulents. Contrary to popular lore, there are exceptions. *Pereskias* (Figure 5) are just woody shrubs and trees. Their leaves look succulent, but they are shed during the dry season; they don't help the plant get through droughts. All succulent cacti are CAM.

Cycads: NO! They have no water storage tissue. Deep roots, no CAM. Figure 6.

Euphorbia family: This huge group has all growth forms from nonsucculent herbs like the spurges that grow in your yard, to woody shrubs and trees like poinsettias and *****, to the fat ones which are definitely succulent (Figure 7). There are many species in between that have slightly juicy stems, and can be difficult to classify. Examples are *****. All succulent euphorbias are probably CAM. Many *Jatropha*s are also succulent, and some *Pedilanthus*.

Dogbane family (Apocynaceae, including former milkweed family Asclepiadaceae): Many growth forms. Oleander, jasmine, and many milkweeds are nonsucculents. Many others are quite succulent: the stapeliads (Figure 8), most hoyas, adeniums, pachypodiums. Stapeliads probably CAM; adeniums and pachys not. *Plumerias* (Figure 9)? Well, they probably qualify, but not CAM.

Geophytes (bulbs): Many families have bulbous or tuberous plants, and many of these bulbs are pretty juicy. But most don't qualify; they're dormant during the dry season. Some begin growing before the rains come. These might be legitimate succulents; possible examples: *Boopane* (Figure 10), *Synandropadix*.

Mesems (Aizoaceae): Yep, almost all succulents, and CAM. *Lithops*, *Conophytum*, etc.



Figure 3. *Aloe claviflora* is an example of a leaf succulent.



Figure 4. *Tillandsia cacticola* is a leaf succulent. It grows epiphytically on cacti in the Peruvian desert, where it endures 6 months without rain.

Ocotillo family (Fouquieriaceae): Probably all 11 species are succulent, including ocotillo (Figure 11). It doesn't look very fat, but it has all the other traits of a succulent—the broad, shallow root system, and the ability to leaf out within a couple of days after a rain. That latter feat is impossible for nonsucculents. Reportedly not CAM, but they must have something like it.

Growing Succulents in the Desert

Photos by Mark Dimmitt



Figure 5. *Pereskia grandiflora* (rose cactus) is a woody deciduous tree to 60 feet tall, from the dry forest of Brazil. No succulent tissue.



Figure 6. Succulent collectors tend to love cycads because they're weird looking. But they are not succulents.

Orchid family (Orchidaceae): This huge family is almost completely ignored by succulent collectors, but there are many succulent orchids. Some of the most xerophytic ones such as *Eulophia petersii* (Figure 12) are showing up in succulent nurseries.

Stonecrop family (Crassulaceae): Mostly succulents, and CAM. Echeverias Torchwood family (Burseraceae): Includes



Figure 7. *Euphorbia abdelkuri* is a leafless stem succulent.

many succulents, such as *Bursera* (Figure 13), *Boswellia*, and *Commiphora*. These genera also have species that are probably not succulent. This family has no CAM.

Welwitschia: NO! No water storage, no CAM (Figure 14). If the pot dries out for even a day, it's dead. In habitat, they probably have very deep roots that find a perennially moist layer. In cultivation the roots dive straight down, very un-succulent.

For more technical explanations and references, see the story on the Desert Museum's website: desertmuseum.org/programs/succulents_definition.php.

Growing Succulents in the Desert

Photos by Mark Dimmitt



Figure 8. *Caralluma russelliana* (*Desmidorchis acutangula*) is a good stem succulent, one of the largest stapeliads.



Figure 10. Some bulbs may be true succulents if they use their stored water to get a jump on the growing season before rains come. In cultivation at least, this *Boophane haemanthoides* doesn't leaf out for me until I water it.



Figure 11. Ocotillo stems have a thin layer of succulent tissue beneath the thorny bark. It is metabolically active during the dry season when the plants are leafless.

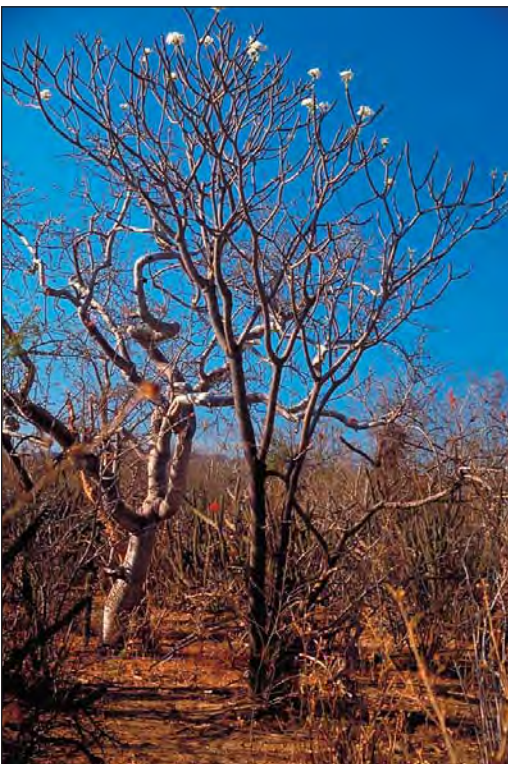


Figure 9. *Plumeria rubra* (photographed in Baja California) is one of the iffy ones. Kinda succulent, but not sure.

Growing Succulents in the Desert

Photos by Mark Dimmitt



Figure 12. *Eulophia petersii* is a very succulent orchid native to dry habitats in Africa and Saudi Arabia.



Figure 13. *Bursera microphylla* is a good stem succulent. It has nonsucculent leaves and is not CAM. The cross section of stem (inset) shows that it is not woody, but filled with water storage tissue.



Figure 15. *Yucca* (*Hesperoyucca*) *whipplei* (left) is slightly succulent, but *Y. elata* is not. The latter species has roots that tap deep soil moisture to survive the dry season.



Figure 14. *Welwitschia* is easy to grow, IF you are careful never to let it dry out. It has no water storage in its tissues, and will die very quickly if it can't pull in water through its roots.

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Everyone is Welcome!

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

January Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with P, Q, R, S, T, U, and V
please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your
generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

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Cacti Rescued 249 Rescues Accomplished

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

January 2011

Thursday, January 6, 2011 7:00pm

Monthly Meeting, "Cactus Cultivation and More"

Presented by Scott McMahon "Cactaceae Collections
Manager" at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 7:00pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Election Results

Dale Johnson, nominations committee member, announced
the results of the elections for 2011 Officers and Board of
Directors, ending December 31, 2013 at the Holiday Party on
December 5, 2010. Thanks were expressed to the
nominations committee for putting together a wonderful slate
of candidates. The other nominations committee members
were Bill Hicks and Bill Holcombe. 272 ballots were returned
by the required date, that's a little over 27%.

The results are listed below:

Officers

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

Board of Directors (term ending December 31, 2013)

Linda Bartlett
Cyndi Garrison
Bill Hicks
Thomas Staudt
Thanks to everyone for participating.



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

February 2011

Thursday, February 3, 2011

"An Introduction to the Hoyas and Dischidias"

Presented by Ted Green



Ted maintains a sizeable collection of Hoyas and Orchids in Kaaawa, Hawaii. Since 1963, he has field collected in Australia, Borneo, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Guinea, the Philippines, the Samoas, Tahiti, Singapore, the Solomons, Thailand, New Caledonia and Vanuatu. Ted also goes collecting at least once a year to the South Pacific or to tropical Asia.

Ted operates Green: Plant Research, a company that investigates problems in horticultural and agricultural crops, does plant exploration for potentially economic horticultural plants and introduces them into the U. S. They will also propagate, by micro and macro methods, endemic and exotic horticultural and agricultural plants – Hoyas, Dischidias, orchids, bananas, etc. Green: Plant Research also sells collected and propagated, select plant materials.

Green: Plant Research
P O Box 597, Kaaawa, Hawaii 96730
Telephone/Fax: (808) 237-8672
Email: GREENT010@HAWAII.RR.COM

This will be a program that introduces something quite different to Tucson succulent collectors and enthusiasts. Hoyas are great plants to grow and will only need a little shade and lots

of water during our hot summer months. Those who have greenhouses can easily start and maintain a good collection. Now is your excellent opportunity so please attend this program and introduce yourself to Ted Green. Ted will also be bringing some "well selected" Hoya cuttings to sell so please get some of these great plants from an expert grower and collector!

Thursday, March 3, 2011

"Cactus Forays in the Madrean Archipelago"

Presented by Tom Van Devender

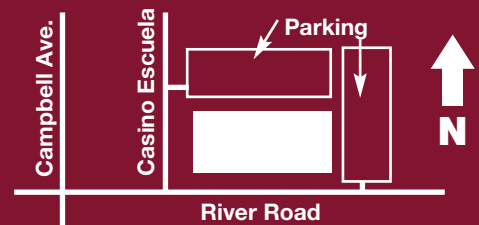
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Thursday of each month.**



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

President's Message



Our Cactus Society and Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords

I asked Gabby to do a "Welcome to Tucson" at the CSSA Convention in April of 2009. She was pleased to do it and spoke for about 15 minutes. The convention attendees were very appreciative that a sitting Congresswoman would come to a Cactus Convention. She

spent some additional time talking one on one with members of the CSSA. They were very impressed and I was very grateful that she spent that time with us. That's only part of our connection to these recent events.

There is much more involvement on a personal level with many of our members and Gabby and others who were injured or died in the January 8 tragedy.

Recently, I have sent a note to Cacti_etc reminding those who attended the convention that it was Gabby who spoke and that it was just another example of her doing her job as a representative. Several have responded with good wishes for her speedy recovery and expressions of sympathy for others who were involved in this tragic event.

Suggestions to honor those affected by this tragedy are being considered. Your comments and additional thoughts would be appreciated.

Thank you.
Dick Wiedhopf, President

A Roundtable Discussion of 'Mesembs'

Thursday, February 17, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

On February 17, 2011 we will be having a roundtable discussion on the plants of the Mesembryanthemaceae - the Ice-Plant family. This is one of the largest families of succulent plants, and the one which provides dramatic flowers during fall and winter months. Cultivated members of this family include Lithops and Conophytum and more than 50 other genera. This discussion is open to all of our members who are interested in learning or contributing information about this interesting group of plants. What watering schedules work? Any tricks you use to get them to flower? Problems with heat or cold? Which ones perform well for you? We plan to invite local nursery people to share their experiences. Please plan to come out and share your knowledge, get your

questions answered and take advantage of the opportunity to get to know some of the other club members a little better.

Dave Palzskill

Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale

The CACSS Annual Cactus and Succulent Show of plants and sale is scheduled for April 1, 2 and 3. CACSS members are encouraged to enter, and Tucson club members are invited to attend the show and sale.

There are many reasons to enter the show and attend the sale:

- To get your plants properly identified. There are lots of people to help with that at the show at the time of entry.
- To learn more about how to grow your plants better by getting tips from experienced members and growers.
- To find plants that you would like to grow by seeing them on display to help you create your wish list of plants to buy.
- To buy plants from sellers and experienced growers that helps put money in the club's treasury. The funds can be used to bring in speakers, publish the newsletter and buy books for the library, among other things.

Plants will be dropped off on Wednesday, March 30 until 8 p.m. and judged on Thursday, March 31. The show will open on Friday, April 1. Mark your 2011 calendars now. Plants are picked up after the show closes on Sunday at 4 p.m. Now is the time to be thinking about entering, and potting up plants to establish them before the show. Please visit www.centralarizonacactus.org for more information

Ferocactus of the Month

Ferocactus latispinus and *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis*

by Chris Monrad



Figure 1: *F. latispinus* in bloom

Ferocactus latispinus and *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis* (formerly known as *Ferocactus recurvus* or sometimes as *F. nobilis*) are two more of the winter blooming ferocacti, with various specimens of *F. latispinus* typically blooming in local cultivation from late October through late January. *Ferocactus latispinus* ssp. *spiralis* generally blooms two to three weeks later than *F. latispinus*. *F. latispinus* is widely available in the trade and is well known for its vivid solid purple flower (**Fig. 1**) and displays a cream colored flower in the lesser-available and blond-spined variety. *Ferocactus latispinus* ssp. *spiralis* and its darker purple striped blossom (**Fig. 2**) is generally seen less frequently for sale but can be found locally at some TCSS member nurseries. I suspect that *F. latispinus* is better established due to its propensity to bloom at a smaller size and therefore being more aesthetic and marketable in this regard. The blooming periods can vary from specimen to specimen depending upon growing conditions, weather and perhaps just kismet.

If seed production is desired, hand pollination is recommended due to the sporadic to non-existent insect pollinator activities associated with the seasonally cold weather in Tuc-



Figure 2: *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis* blossom

son. Unfortunately, local hard frosts may cause fruits to abort prematurely even if the initial pollination is successful. Native to Puebla, Oaxaca and surrounding tropical locales in



Figure 3: Upright growth habit of *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis*



Figure 4: *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis* frost damage at 22F

Mexico over 1000 miles south of Tucson, these species are a long way from home and their naturally occurring pollinators. *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis* has a larger and more upright growing habit and twists as it grows (**Fig. 3**), hence its epithet. It also has a longer central spine and a simpler yet very sturdy spine cluster, in that it lacks the more delicate spider-like lateral spines of *F. latispinus*. As with many cacti, various clones are more frost hardy than others. The recent cold snap of early January burned the ribs of one of my specimens of ssp. *spiralis* at an unprotected 22F (**Fig. 4**), while several other specimens in my yard were unharmed and held their flower buds through the same 22F, also with no protection whatsoever (**Fig 5**). It is still possible that the buds will

ultimately fail to open due to the frost but the plant itself is unharmed. These plants are suitable for full sun conditions in pots or in the ground, but do benefit from well draining soil and regular supplemental watering when stressed. Time-release granular fertilizer administered in May will carry the plant nicely through the monsoon season.

As seems to be the case with the dedicated cultivation of ferocacti in the suburban and rural Tucson area, our native *Cactobrosis fernaldialis* moth and its Blue Cactus Borer larvae (not to be confused with the invasive *Cactoblastis* moth that preys upon *Opuntia* species) can cause damage or sometimes death to small and occasionally even larger specimens if enough larvae infiltrate the plant. (**Fig. 6**) portrays the entry points in which several female moths have laid eggs within the tissue of a *Ferocactus latispinus* and (**Fig. 7**) shows the blue larvae and the damage to another plant resulting from its feeding and attendant rot. Non-native exotic ferocacti are definitely more susceptible than our native *F. wislizenii*, but the *Cactobrosis* moth will also target sick or stressed natives. If you live in Southern Arizona outside of the urban Tucson core, you are likely to see calloused-over circular infiltration points on ferocacti of many species if you look closely for them. The persistent and rigorous use of systemic insecticide is known to be effective in limiting the damage of the moth larvae but can be costly, time consuming and may have food-chain implications on the pollinator community. For this reason, one may be advised to just cultivate a few more plants to allow for the occasional loss. After all, the moths were here first.

Photos by Chris Monrad



Figure 5: *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis* with profuse buds

TCSS Financial Statement - Year 2010

INCOME

Memberships, Raffles	\$ 13,954
Cactus Rescue Sales	\$ 32,910
Sonoran VIII Conf. Income	\$ 24,930
Sales Cultivated Cactus, Auction	\$ 7,793
Investment Income-Savings/CDs	\$ 423
Donations/Grants Received	\$ 1,280
Florilegium Donations	\$ 1,475
Prickly Park Donations	\$ 1,930
Total Income	\$ 84,695

EXPENSES

Meetings & Newsletters	\$ 11,512
Cactus Rescue Program Expenses	\$ 20,200
Sonoran VIII Conf. Expenses	\$ 31,764
Tours, Workshops, Auction Exp.	\$ 2,188
Operational/Insurance/Library	\$ 6,492
Grants Awarded, Educ. Expenses	\$ 5,333
Florilegium Expenses	\$ 5,346
Prickly Park Expenses	\$ 1,809
Total Expenses	\$ 84,644

CASH ASSET ALLOCATIONS

TCSS Operating/Discretionary	\$ 34,354
Cactus Rescue Program Reserve	\$ 10,000
Education Outreach Fund	\$ 17,947
Research Fund	\$ 15,385
Conservation Fund	\$ 1,495
Florilegium Preservation Fund	\$ 963
Prickly park Fund	\$ 1,371

Total **\$ 81,515** (includes \$937 in outstanding checks)

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Account	\$ 18,834
Savings Account	\$ 20,024
CD#13 matures 03/13/11 (0.75%)	\$ 11,214
CD#15 matures 10/05/11 (0.45%)	\$ 10,933
CD#16 matures 01/24/11 (0.30%)	\$ 10,373
CD#17 matures 04/05/11 (1.00%)	\$ 11,074

Total **\$ 82,452**

Ferocactus of the Month

Ferocactus latispinus and *F. latispinus* ssp. *spiralis*

Photos by Chris Monrad



Figure 6: *F. latispinus* with native blue cactus borer (*Cactobrosis fernaldialis*) damage



Figure 7: Native blue cactus borer (*Cactobrosis fernaldialis*)

TCSS BOARD

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Chris Monrad
Dale Johnson
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Educational:

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Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Prickly Park: Jessie Byrd jessie_byrd@hotmail.com

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Deadline for copy: **February 17, 2011**

TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst
For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

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

February Refreshments

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

4 9 4 8 4
3

Cacti Rescued 249 Rescues Accomplished

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

February 2011

Thursday, February 3, 2011 7:00pm

Monthly Meeting, "An introduction to the Hoyas
and Dischidias"

Presented by Scott Ted Green

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 7:00pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Thursday, February 17, 2011 7:00pm-9:00pm

A Roundtable Discussion of Mesembs
Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

Acknowledgement of Contributions

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus &
Succulent Society members and friends who have
contributed donations this year.

We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

General Fund

Russell C Peterson &
Family

John & Jocelyne Rivers

Lorenzo Zavala

Jeff & Connie Woodman

William Kendall

Bill Sievers

Linda Matson

Sonoran Desert

Florilegium

Cherie Gossett

Carolyn Hitchcock

Prickly Park

Lorenzo Zavala

Robert Pittman





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

March 2011

Thursday, March 3, 2011

"Cactus Forays in the Madrean Archipelago"

Presented by Tom Van Devender



Tom's program will include new information about quite a few cacti. Here is a list of the species included in his presentation. *Coryphantha robbinsorum*, *Coryphantha vivipara*, *Coryphantha recurvata*, *Echinocereus pseudopectinatus*, *Echinocereus rigidissimus*, *Echinocereus stoloniferus*, ?*Echinocereus scopulorum*, *Echinocereus laui*, *Mammillaria saboae goldi* & *haudeana* and *Peniocereus greggii*.

Thomas R. Van Devender is the Manager of the Madrean Archipelago Biodiversity Assessment program at Sky Island Alliance. He was the Senior Research Scientist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum from 1983 to 2009 where he conducted research on a broad range of natural history activities. He has published well over a hundred research publications including journal articles, book chapters, and books on the cacti of Sonora, desert grassland, packrat middens and the paleoecology of the southwestern deserts, and the Sonoran desert tortoise. He is coeditor with Francisco Molina on a book entitled *Diversidad Biológica del Estado de Sonora* published by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Hermosillo, Sonora in 2010. He has a long-term interest in the flora of the Sonoran Desert Region, and has collected over 25,000 herbarium specimens, which are deposited into the herbaria at the University of Arizona (Tucson), Universidad de Sonora (Hermosillo), and many others. In recent years, he has provided photovouchers of cacti to ten herbaria in the United States, Mexico, and Europe. He has surveyed plants in many vegetation types in Sonora. He and his wife Ana Lilia Reina-Guererro have a special interest in the plants of La Frontera, the 100 kilometer zone in northern Sonora just south of the Arizona border, and in the Yécora area in the Sierra Madre Occidental in eastern Sonora. They have studied the ecology of the Chihuahuan Desert night-blooming cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*), the Cochise foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha robbinsorum*), the false rainbow cactus (*Echinocereus*

pseudopectinatus), the El Trigo hedgehog (*E. laui*), and the choyita (*Mammillaria saboae* var. *haudeana*).

He has a long-term interest in the flora of the Sonoran Desert Region, and has collected over 25,000 herbarium specimens, many of them deposited into the herbaria at the University of Arizona (Tucson), Universidad de Sonora (Hermosillo), and the Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste (La Paz, Baja California Sur). He has surveyed local floras in the Sonoran Desert in the Tucson Mountains, Sycamore Canyon, and Ironwood Forest National Monument in Arizona. He has also studied the plants in tropical deciduous forest near Alamos in southern Sonora and Mazatlán in southern Sinaloa, and the pine-oak forests near Yécora in the Sierra Madre Occidental on eastern Sonora. He and his wife Ana Lilia Reina-Guererro have a special interest in the plants of La Frontera, the 100 kilometer zone in northern Sonora just south of the Arizona border, where they have studied the ecology of the Chihuahuan Desert night-blooming cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*), the Cochise foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha robbinsorum*), and the false rainbow cactus (*Echinocereus pseudopectinatus*).

Please make sure you have marked your calendar for this program by someone who has spent lots of time attending to various cactus research projects in Arizona as well as Sonora, Mexico. Please also bring a friend or relative who would like to learn more about cacti.

Thursday, April 7, 2011
"Cacti of Colorado"

Presented by Don Barnett

We would like to welcome Don Barnett, current president of the Walking Stick chapter of the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society.

Free Plants

Aloe

Aloe, is a genus containing about four hundred species of flowering succulent plants. The genus is native to Africa, and is common in South Africa's Cape Province, the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighboring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian peninsula, and the islands of Africa.

Most of the smaller species are excellent for pot culture in Tucson, given filtered light and protection from hard freezes. These plants will want well draining soil and be sure to keep pots on the small size to avoid rotting from excess water, especially in the summer when they are dormant. *Aloe* blossoms are a great source of winter and early spring color.

President's Message



My good friend Helen Barber suggested that I use this column to remind and inform you about our spectacular and very informative website: www.tucsoncactus.org.

When you log on, the home page gives you a variety of information and a wonderful photo from our large image library. To see another image just click on our logo on the left side of the screen and the image changes.

Below the photo is the most current information about **"Rescue Sales"**, **"Current Items"** and **"Monthly Meetings"**. When you click on **"Rescue Sales"** you can see photos of the sales area and links to printable documents on planting and care, as well as the date of our next sale. Below the Rescue Sales is a heading called "Interesting Links" and with a click it will get you to the **Sonoran Desert Florilegium Program** and Mark Dimmitt's **Adenium web site**. Both are really worth a tour. **"Current Items"** gives you links to important articles and information. Right now **"Freeze Facts"** is one you should look at. **"Monthly Meetings"** give you information about the previous and next speaker, topic, time and place. If you click on the title words **"Monthly Meetings"** you will see links to previous meeting speakers going back to 2006. Below all this is a link to the current weather and forecasts.

At the top of our home page is a **search box**. Put in your query and give it a try.

On the left side of the home page is a subject index of what you can get to on our website. Let me just highlight a few of these links. There is too much to detail in this column so you need to go on our website and try all the links.

We have every **TCSS Newsletter** from January, 2002 to the present, available to read or print. That's more than 100 newsletters. **"Meetings"** will provide you with current meeting information, a handy calendar of events which includes more than just TCSS activities and the link to past speakers.

The Membership link provides information on everything you want to know about the society and or where you can get it. This link makes giving **gift certificates** and **gift memberships** easy.

"Cactus Rescue" describes and provides video and printed material about this special program that we developed in 1999. The rescue counter now shows 52,074 native plants saved. This activity has made it possible to provide funds for School Grants and assisted in grants for Research and Conservation. Check them out under the heading **"Grants"**.

The **"Publications"** link is fabulous. It not only contains all of our printed and video materials but links to digital material from around the world. The **"About TCSS"** and **"FAQ"** tell you who we are, what we do and more.

Our cactus and succulent data base has a group of plant commonly grown in Tucson including all the data you need to be successful. There is also links to thousands of photos and much more. This is one of my favorite areas of our website.

"Member Businesses" is the link that supports our members who own or manage cactus and succulent related businesses and services. Support these businesses whenever possible. **"Relate Links"** gives you the websites for other Cactus and Succulent websites, Societies and Places of interest.

Thank you.
Dick Wiedhopf, President

Jane Evans Honored

Jane Evans who owns Plants for the Southwest and Living Stones Nursery was honored along with 16 other women for their achievements and contributions to the community on Sunday night, February 20, at the YWCA's Women on the Move Awards Banquet at the Westin La Paloma. She was one of 12 women to receive prestigious "The Women on the Move Award".

Jane was described as an environmentalist and business owner. As co-founder and president of the Keeling Neighborhood Association, she brought Christmas in April which was responsible for the renovation of 37 homes and secured \$1.1 million Back to Basics Grants for the neighborhood. Jane also grows tomato and pepper starts for the Tucson Community Food Bank's Education program, just to name a few of her accomplishments. We know and appreciate all her contributions to TCSS.

Congratulations from all of us.

A Roundtable Discussion on the Great Freeze of 2011

Thursday, March 17, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Junior League Building, 2099 East River Road

On March 17, 2011 we will be having a roundtable discussion on the record cold temperatures experienced a couple of weeks ago and how well our plants coped. Come share your experiences: Temperatures reached? Which plants made it through with no protection? Which ones were severely damaged in spite of protection? What did you do to provide protection, and how well did your method work? What can we do now to reduce damage in the future - Design considerations? Protective structures? Pot selection? Cultural practices? Plant choices? Stock up on good quality frost-cloth and empty dog-food bags? If you have some good photos perhaps you could bring along prints which could be passed around the circle. This discussion is open to all of our members, so please plan to come out and share your experiences on this important topic.

Dave Palzskill

"Cactus Forays in the Madrean Archipelago"

Presented by Tom Van Devender



Pitahayal - From left to right, Toby, Analilia and Tom



Echinocereus lauii

Photo by Tom Van Devender



Peniocereus greggii var. *greggii* Photo by Tom Van Devender



Coryphantha robbinsorum

Photos by Erik Enderson



Mammillaria saboae var. *goldii*

Photo by Tom Van Devender



Echinocereus rigidissimus Photo by Tom Van Devender



Mammillaria lasiacantha Photo by Tom Van Devender



Echinocereus pseudopectinatus Photo by Tom Van Devender



Echinocereus pseudopectinatus Photo by Tom Van Devender



Mammillaria saboae var. *haudeana* Photo by Tom Van Devender



Mammillaria mainiae Photo by Tom Van Devender

Library Update

Sonoran Desert Spring by John Alcock

The book covers the months from February through June. It has a few pages of information on various plants, birds, snakes, tortoise, animals and insects.

Cactus & Succulents, a care manual by Tony & Suzanne Mace

Cacti, An Illustrated Identifier to over 150 Representative Species by Marcus Schneck

Both of these books are basic beginners books with plenty of photographs accompanied with descriptions.

Cactus & Succulent Journal Aloe Issue

Two new species are described along with an article on tree aloes and more.

Ferocactus of the Month

Ferocactus hystrix and F. Echidne

by Chris Monrad

Ferocactus hystrix and F. Echidne are two of the late winter / early spring blooming ferocacti, with specimens typically blooming in local cultivation from February into March. Both of these species display smallish yellow flowers and are native to central and eastern-central Mexico some 1000 miles SE of Tucson.

In my experience, these species are readily pollinated by our native desert bees that are up and around this time of year. The fruits of each species are gelatinous and are tricky to collect upon ripening, as they tend to collapse quickly into the plant tissue within the spines once ripened. The spines of F. hystrix (Figs. 1 and 2) are far more dense and long than F. echidne. Given the sparse spination of F. echidne, protection in the form of wire mesh or chicken wire may be necessary to preclude predation by our local varmints and critters. Both species can usually be found locally at several TCSS member nurseries.

The local hard frosts of early February appear to have spared my specimens of any apparent damage, although the buds of the F. hystrix were badly damaged. F. echidne has (thankfully) started budding since the freezing weather (Fig. 3).



Figure 1: The spines of F. hystrix



Figure 2: The spines of F. hystrix



Figure 3:

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Librarian: Joie Giunta

Prickly Park: Jessie Byrd jessie_byrd@hotmail.com
Programs: Vonn Watkins cactusdude1@yahoo.com
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Editor: Karen Keller runbunny@cox.net
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March Refreshments

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5 2 0 7 4
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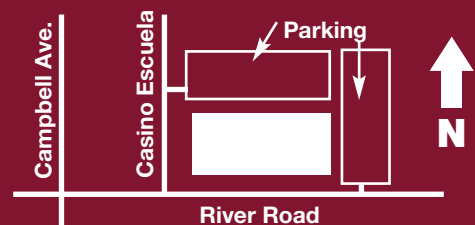
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General Fund
E.J.Cockcroft

Prickly Park
Vernon & Diane Kliever

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

April 2011

Thursday, April 7, 2011
"Colorado Cacti"
Presented by Don Barnett



I acquired an appreciation for cactus at a young age. My father was an avid outdoorsman and our weekends and vacations were often spent hunting and fishing in Colorado's wild lands. I developed a reverence for the natural world that eventually led to a degree in biology from the University of Southern Colorado. When my wife and I moved into our home 15 years ago we decided to remove our lawn and put in a xeric garden. I thought it would be nice to have every cactus species occurring in Colorado. I eventually learned more about other cactus species from neighboring states and have about one hundred plus species in the garden. Panayoti Kelaidis of the Denver Botanic Gardens has called it one of the finest xeric gardens he has seen. I am currently president of the Walking Stick chapter of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society. I have travelled throughout Colorado and the southwest studying cacti with my son Donnie.

The presentation will cover all aspects of Colorado cacti. There will be detailed photographs of all species in habitat showing their identifying characters and colorful flowers. I will provide a Colorado range made for each species and give you some specific locations so you can see them for yourself in the wild. There are about twenty cactus species found in Colorado. When people think of the state of Colorado they envision snow-capped peaks and sparkling alpine lakes. While much of the state is mountainous, there are more areas of dry grasslands,

mesas and plateaus. Elevation ranges from a low of 3,300' to 14,000' high mountain peaks. This diverse topography leads to extreme climatic zones. The average precipitation for the overall state is 17 inches per year with some areas receiving less than seven inches per year and some mountain locations having an excess of 60 inches per year. Temperatures can range from well below zero in winter to 100 in the summer. Yet cacti inhabit the entire state with the exception of the high alpine zone. Many animals and plants, including cacti, are at their northern range limits in southern Colorado.

Thursday, May 5, 2011
"Where Art meets Ecology"
Presented by Greg Corman

Free Plants

Mammillaria

Suitable for pot culture or in-ground cultivation, filtered light and well draining soil are recommended for optimal appearance. Flowering is generally in the spring and can also be opportunistic relative to watering or rainfall. The blossoms are often quite showy and typically display in a ring fashion around the crown of the plant.

President's Message



Let me quote part of an article in the April 2011 Sunset Magazine (page 25).

"Arizona day trip Tucson nurseries
Why go now: In a word, flowers. In late April, saguaros pop little white blossoms that look like Easter bonnets. Trust us, it's cool. Brake for cactus: Tucson is home to the world's largest regional cactus and succulent society (Tucsoncactus.org), and monthly meetings are open to the public."

Thanks to Sunset for the publicity.

We don't need to make a day trip. We are here! We know how cool saguaros are. We also know that now is the time to visit all our nurseries and gardens for the best show ever to see cacti and succulents plants in bloom. I know how lucky I am to live in Tucson. I hope you had a chance to get to one or more of the spring garden sales. There is always something new to acquire and enjoy.

The native Echinocereus (hedgehogs) started blooming this week and made me feel a little better even though I am continuously removing other plants that didn't make it through the February freeze.

I don't know if there is a relationship between the severe freeze and spring blooming but I have a number of Agaves that I hoped would not bloom which are now throwing up a bloom spike. A relatively small Agave zebra with very prominent teeth has thrown a bloom spike. I hope someone else is in the same position that we could cross pollinate and perhaps produce some great looking Agaves. Some of the opuntia species are producing lots of flower buds and new pads. I am looking forward to a good bloom season.

Be sure to take advantage of our home tour April 30th and submit your freeze data.

I am glad spring is here.

Thank you.
Dick Wiedhopf, President

Share Your Freeze Damage Information with others

TCSS is asking Members to share their experiences during the hard freeze in early February with others. We have developed a data collection spreadsheet that you can use to submit your information. If you cannot use a spreadsheet, then you can print a form and mail your information to us. The forms are available on our web site under "Current Items" in the center part of the home page. Forms are available in Microsoft Excel, Corel QuattroPro, and OpenOffice per your choosing. You can enter as many plants as you wish, be as specific as to damage as you can.

Apology for a Program Presentation Error on January 6, 2011

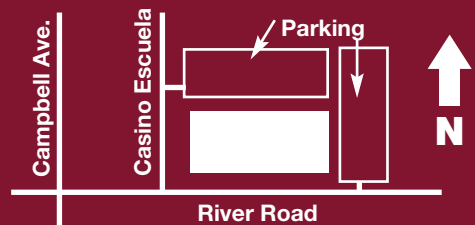
Scott McMahon recently discovered that one of the plants in his talk was incorrectly identified. The *Peniocereus* with the orange-red flowers was *viperinus*, not *striatus*. He had actually gotten it from Miles Anderson 5 years ago and had the wrong name on it. Scott says "I strive to be accurate when presenting photos and making statements, and I appreciate those in the audience who knew, but didn't say anything." Scott would like to extend his apologies for this error to the members.

Reddington Pass Road Trip with Matt Johnson

On Saturday, April 23, we will have an all day driving tour over the Reddington Pass Road. The trip is limited to 24 people; the cost is \$10.00 per person. There is limited parking and carpooling is encouraged. This is close and accessible. We will 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 will be about 40 miles round-trip. We will make several stops along the way to look at plants. In addition to many of the local species found in and around Tucson, we will see *Coryphantha* (*Escobaria*) *vivipara*, *Echinocereus bonkerae*, *E. fendleri*, *E. rigidissimus*, *Echinomastus erectocentrus*, *Mammillaria macdougallii*, *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 McDonald'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 303-1001 and leave a message or email at joietgo@yahoo.com. Reservations can also be made at the library table

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

The Spring TCSS Member Garden Tour April 30, 2011 from 9am to 3pm



The Spring TCSS Member Garden Tour is one you will not want to miss. Many of the previously scheduled gardens suffered greatly by the Freeze of 2011 so we have but one garden on the tour and it is definitely a 'destination garden'. Robert and Donna Ellis have offered the viewing of their place in the Vail area south-east of Tucson. As with any first time visit to an anticipated place, it seems like a long distance there, but the return seems short and full of remarkable memories of outstanding and beautiful plants and animals.

The Ellis' moved onto their 10 acre site in 1977. They are situated at an elevation of 3150' with a southeasterly breeze moving through the area. The past freeze registered a low of 12 degrees with a high of 30 the next day. The low that night was 15.

The approach to their home is well defined with a brick-outlined driveway and numerous beds of cacti and succulents. Be sure to see the Boojum trees on the east end; the largest, planted with a 3" base in 1977, now stands just under 9' with a base of 14".

Surrounding the house are large patches of prickly pear and other succulents which serve as a wildfire deterrent. On the east side of the guest house is a pond with 15 kinds of pond turtles, mosquito fish, and goldfish. The Ellis' have observed a resident road-runner occasionally fishing from this and the other pond on the west side of their home.

After strolling the driveway collections and the plantings around the home, stop by the bird aviary near the greenhouse. This enclosed area houses mature grape plants, which make perfect perches for various finches, canaries, and diamond doves. Button quail patrol the ground. Pull up a chair and enjoy the lovely birds and song. Be sure to check out the breeding pair of Sulcata tortoises in the adjoining enclosure. The large 20-year-old male was out and about during our visit while the female was in the dwelling preparing to lay her eggs.

By this time you have probably spent at least a hour looking around with amazement and wonder. Now prepare yourself for the frosting on the cake as you enter the greenhouse which houses three long rows of raised block beds, each bordered with lovely and interesting rocks and contains a grand symphony of cacti of all shapes, sizes, colors, heights, and widths, The beds are terraced to accommodate the hundreds of species which all complement the other beautifully. I would call this a living art exhibit extraordinaire!

The greenhouse was built in 1980 and contains no heating or cooling; 22 degrees was this winter's low reading. In here Robert hand pollinates, collects seed, and propagates from his extensive collection. You can visit his propagation area in the greenhouse.

Donna specializes in succulents, which will be on exhibit in the enclosure between the greenhouse and the aviary. Robert and Donna Ellis have been long-time generous donors of free plants at our monthly meetings. Now they open their wonderland to TCSS members on this very special Spring Garden Tour.

Mark your calendars for April 30, 2011 from 9am to 3pm for a very memorable garden tour!

Photos by Ed Bartlett

Directions to the Ellis Desert Garden and Greenhouse

7821 S. Camino Loma Alta

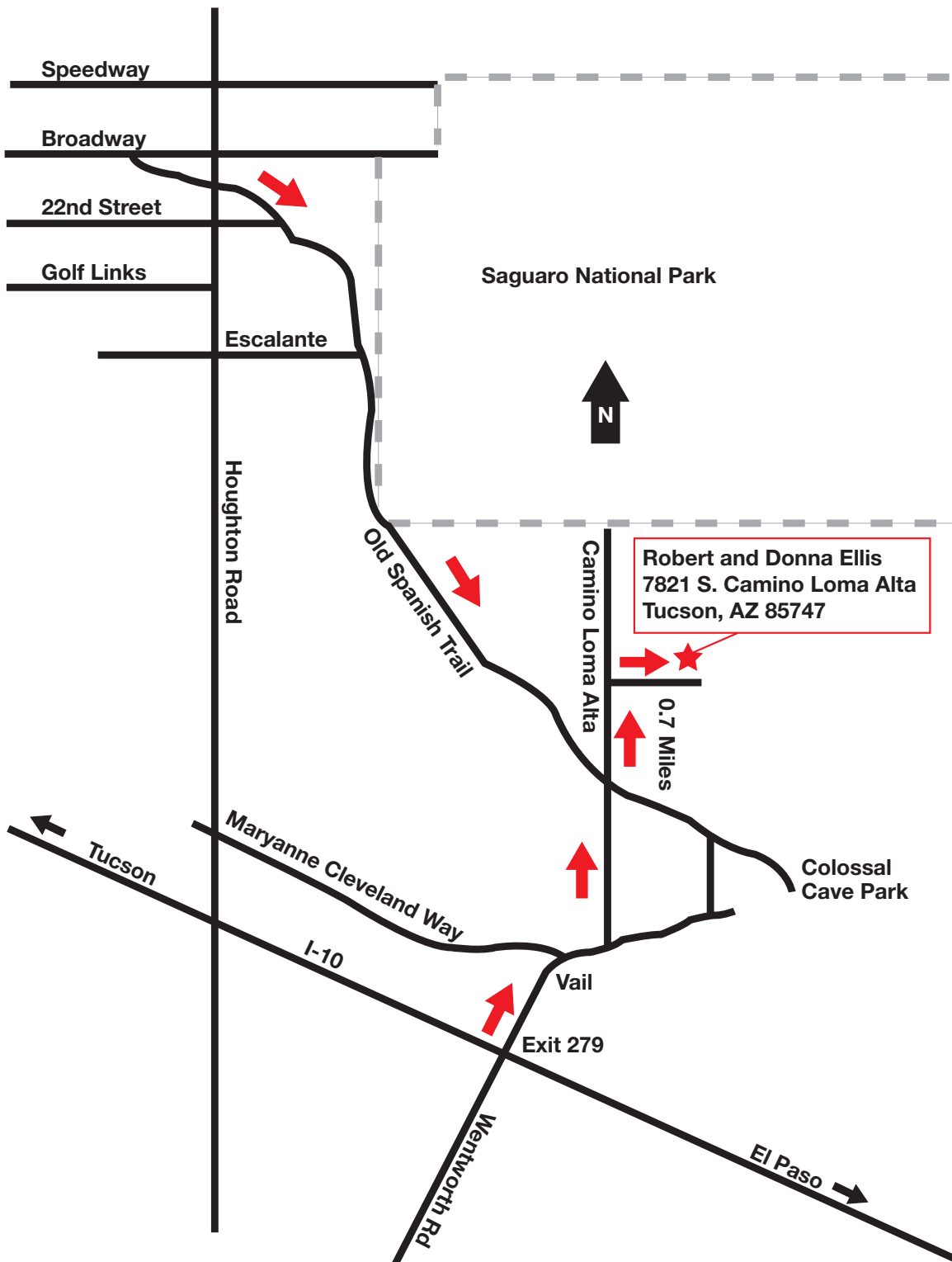
Here are two different ways that you can get to the Ellis home for the tour.

1. Take Exit 279 on I-10 (the Wentworth exit) drive north toward Vail Road/Colossal Cave Road. Wentworth Rd becomes E. Vail Rd, then Vail Rd. becomes E. Colossal Cave Rd. Stay right to stay on E. Colossal Cave Rd. Turn left onto S. Camino Loma Alta and drive to 7821 S. Camino Loma Alta (about 3.9 miles)
2. From the intersection of Houghton Road and Old Spanish Trail, drive east on Old Spanish Trail almost 10 miles (9.9mi) to S. Camino Loma Alta. Turn left on Camino Loma Alta and drive to 7821 S. Camino Loma Alta.

We will have signs and green balloons to help you find your destination and will be asking you to park along the road and either walk a short distance to

their home or a shuttle car will be available to take a few at a time to their home. There are only a few places at the Ellis house for handicapped parking, so everyone else will need to park on Camino Loma Alta.

If you are not familiar with the far SE part of the Tucson area, this would be a great opportunity to take advantage of some of the special sites on this side of town. You will be near Saguaro National Park East, always a beautiful desert drive, and on the route to the tour you can also enjoy the Rincon Valley Farmers & Artisan Market at 12500 E. Old Spanish Trail. Colossal Cave Mountain Park is not far from our tour either and a real treat. All of these attractions have websites for more information.



A Roundtable Discussion on *Ariocarpus* and *Astrophytum*

April 21, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

Ariocarpus and *Astrophytum* - For many people, these two genera are among the most interesting of the cacti. The plants of these genera, many of which are spineless, can look like artistic sculptures with white flocking variably displayed. These

plants produce striking flowers, and tend to be slow-growing which makes them attractive to collectors with limited space. Join us and share your experiences with them growing from seed, selecting/breeding new forms, display ideas, care through the year and problems you've experienced. This discussion is open to all of our members; please plan to come out and share your experiences with these interesting plants.

Dave Palzskill

Ferocactus of the Month *Ferocactus pilosus*

by Chris Monrad

Spring brings a very showy (but smallish) flower and vivid spination in *Ferocactus pilosus*, native to the San Luis Potosi region of Mexico. The red spines are often very thick and robust in better specimens, many of which are readily available from our member nurseries. The spination quality is best when grown in full sun, although our piercing summer sun and low humidity can cause some discoloration of tissue and sunburn. A reasonable compromise is to place the plant on the extreme south edge of

the drip line of a Palo Verde such that the plant is in full sun most months of the year excepting three or four weeks on either side of the summer solstice. Older plants will often grow offsets. Specimens in my yard appear to have withstood the extreme cold of this winter, but I am aware of some casualties in other parts of town. In any event, this species is a must have for the *Ferocactus* aficionado.



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Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst
For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

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

April Refreshments

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

5 2 0 7 4
3

Cacti Rescued 263 Rescues Accomplished

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

April 2011

Thursday, April 7, 2011 7:00pm
Monthly Meeting, "Colorado Cacti"
Presented by Don Barnett

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
A Roundtable Discussion on
Ariocarpus and Astrophytum
Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

Acknowledgement of Contributions

The names below represent the Tucson Cactus & Succulent
Society members and friends who have contributed
donations this year.

We extend our sincere thanks for your support.

General Fund

Richard C. Sanders
Sandi Kilkuts & Family • Sue Voss

Education

George A. Girard • Emojean B. Girard

Conservation

George A. Girard • Emojean B. Girard
Patrick J. O'Connor • Aeyn Ricks
Marie Hirsch

Research

Patricia Phelan

Florilegium

Margaret Pope





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

May 2011

Thursday, May 5, 2011-7:00pm
"Functional Garden Art"

Presented by Greg Corman



Tucson artist Greg Corman is fine with plants sitting in a garden looking pretty, but believes garden art should work for a living. He'll illustrate ways you can incorporate art in the landscape so it does double duty as planters, seating, walkways and other amenities that make life better for you and for local wildlife too.

Greg Corman is a sculptor and landscape designer in Tucson. His art work is primarily functional and includes wooden vessels, tables, benches and bee habitats: he creates most of them from recycled lumber and steel, found objects, and chunks of wood rescued from the firewood pile.

Please join us for a great evening presentation and much, much more. Enjoy sharing your thoughts and ideas with many others who enjoy growing, collecting and studying cactus and other succulents! Greg Corman, Gardening Insights, Inc. - "Where art meets ecology" Sculpture, Landscape Design and Garden Consulting

Thursday, June 2, 2011
A special program presented by Marc Baker

Free Plants

Ferocactus pilosus

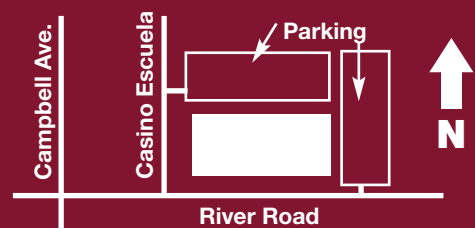
Spring brings a very showy (but smallish) flower and vivid spination in *Ferocactus pilosus*, native to the San Luis Potosi region of Mexico. The red spines are often very thick and robust in better specimens, many of which are readily available from our member nurseries. The spination quality is best when grown in full sun, although our piercing summer sun and low humidity can cause some discoloration of tissue and sunburn. A reasonable compromise is to place the plant on the extreme south edge of the drip line of a Palo Verde such that the plant is in full sun most months of the year excepting three or four weeks on either side of the summer solstice. Older plants will often grow offsets. Specimens in my yard appear to have withstood the extreme cold of this winter, but I am aware of some casualties in other parts of town. In any event, this species is a must have for the *Ferocactus* aficionado.

In Loving Memory of Bob White



We regret to announce the passing of Bob White, in April 2011. Bob was a long time member of TCSS and in 1981 he opened B & B Cactus Farm in Tucson AZ. Bob had a keen interest in the native plants of Arizona and growing many of them became a passion. He was very fond of South American hybrid *Trichocereus* and produced many showy crosses. "Epic" was one of his notable creations. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

President's Message



The last casualties of the February freeze are finally apparent and being discarded. Most of my plants just died quickly relieving me of the ongoing pain of watching them slowly migrate to the mulch pile. A few trees will have to be removed since they also couldn't make it through that cold spell, but things are getting back to normal. All of my Adeniums were in a heated greenhouse but the heater wasn't sufficient to maintain appropriate

conditions and the house fell to 22 degrees. All the smaller branches have died back to main stems and new growth is starting to appear from larger stems. By the end of the summer they should look pretty good.

I hope all of you will take the time to submit information about how your plants fared. It is real important for the future to have this information. We certainly want to be able to educate the public about the best choices for their landscapes and collections.

We have completed the Spring Roundtables. These are informal discussions with members who want to share knowledge or learn more about a particular subject. The topics this Spring were Astrophytums and Ariocarpus, Mesembs and the Freeze. These were well attended, informative and great fun. I want to thank Dave Palzkill for planning the topics and leading the discussions. I hope you will join him in the Fall for 3 more roundtable discussions.

On May 14 we will have a one day Expo. Scheduling conflict at the Junior League facility have caused us to shorten the event. The Expo will include sales by a number of our great vendors and feature discussions of Adeniums, Aloes, Agaves and Ferocactus with members of these genera for show and smaller plants for sale. This will be a great all day event. You will get more information in this newsletter, on our website and in the mail. Mark it on your calendars.

Now is the time to start plants for the Pima Prickly Park. We are particularly interested in prickly pear, chollas and other members of the Opuntia group for outdoor planting in the Park. We are also interested in Agaves, Ferocactus and other interesting species that could be used in the landscape efforts. We are looking for the less common and interesting varieties and especially those with known origins. You will have to grow and care for these at home for awhile. Don't forget we are talking about 9 acres of plantings. Some of the plants you grow will be used in the Park planting and others will be sold to raise money for the Park. Just think, a 1,000 members growing 10 plants is a lot easier than 10 members caring for 1,000 plants. This will be a fun and ongoing project for all of us. Think about prickly pear with great tasting fruit or large beautiful colored flowers. That's what we are looking for, but everything you grow for us will benefit the Park in some way. I have started over 100 gallon size plants and will continue to add more to help out this project.

I just learned of the loss of long time member and supporter Sarah Perper and have express our condolences to her husband Lloyd. We also recently lost Bob White. He and his former wife Bev were the founders of B & B Cactus Farm.

Thank you for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Library Update

Yucca II & Yucca III

by Fritz Hochstatter

Both of these books are loaded with photographs. Yucca II delves into 15 species and 6 subspecies found in the US. Yucca III covers 33 species and 1 sub species, 19 that are found in Mexico. Each book contains descriptions and distribution information and maps, descriptive photos of the leaves and fruit, drawings and an original first description section.

Joie Giuinta

Reddington Pass Trip

On Saturday, April 23, ten TCSS members led by Matt Johnson went on a day trip to Reddington Pass. The day was pleasant and not too hot. Stops were made along the way looking for and finding *Coryphantha* (*Escobaria*) *vivipara*, *Echinocereus bonkerae*, *E. fendleri*, *E. rigidissimus*, *Echinomastus erectocentrus*, *Mammillaria macdougalii*, *Agave chrysantha*, and *Agave schottii*. Matt answered questions on these plants as well as various trees, shrubs and other plants we encountered. A great day was had by all.

Joie Giuinta

TCSS Awards Two School Grants

The Board recently approved two \$500 school grants for cactus and succulent projects. Drachman Elementary School's Wes Oswald will lead students in creating a Xeriscape Garden with Native Plants. The school community will be able to plant, tend to, study, and appreciate their native cacti and plants as well as the habitat. His 4th and 5th grade students will design the garden and perform much of the work.

Agua Caliente Elementary School in the Tanque Verde area will create a "Learning Garden" for students to acquire hands on learning experiences under the direction of Svea Anderson. It will be located just outside the science lab so it will be easily accessible by all students, about 400. They plan to make their own plant identification signs and to purchase cactus and succulent books to supplement their library collection.

Joe Frannea

Ferocactus of the month

Ferocactus pilosus ssp. pilosus

Similar in form and flower to last month's *Ferocactus pilosus*, this month's *Ferocactus pilosus* ssp. *pilosus* is a form also native to the San Luis Potosi region of Mexico with markedly denser woolly spines and generally finer central spines (Photo 1.) Most of my plants have finished blooming except for a few late buds (Photo 2). This plant tolerates full sun better than its less furry brother due to its inherent

shading provided by the hairy fur. Planting locations from which the spines can be seen backlit by the sun later in the day offer excellent photographic opportunities (Photo 3). Photo 4 also includes a rare white spined specimen of *Ferocactus pilosus* to the right. Both forms and various intergrades of *Ferocactus pilosus* can be found at several of our members nurseries.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Florilegium Projects

Thanks to James Thomas the 1,356 pen and ink illustrations in the U of A Herbarium are archived and safely stored in custom-made cabinets at the Herbarium. Since last Fall Chris Bondante has been scanning the illustrations and Carol Starr has recently joined Chris in this effort. A series of original watercolor drawings done in the early 1930's by Ella Howard Estill were stored in the same area as the pen and ink illustrations. Although these watercolors are not scientifically accurate they do have historical value and the plant images are well rendered. The Steering Committee recommended these should also be accessioned and archived into the collection and the Herbarium staff agreed. The Florilegium Program will take on this work and would like sometime in the future to have an exhibit of the drawings.



Before: Illustrations stored in cardboard boxes, After: Boxes of illustrations in custom-made archival storage cabinet.



Completed *Senna lindhemeriana* illustration by Chris Bondante

The exhibit, Illustrations from Howard Scott Gentry's *Agaves of Continental North America*, has been returned by The Huntington Botanical Gardens in California where it was on display from September through December 2010. While there the exhibit was highlighted during two receptions.

Plans are underway for an exhibit of works by contemporary botanical artists for September – October 2013. This is a joint effort of the Florilegium Program and the Art Institute of the Desert Museum. It will be held in the gallery at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The program is also working with the ASDM Art Institute to hold classes for artists interested in drawing plants of the Sonoran Desert Region. The class, Drawing for a Florilegium, is held in the Fall and Spring at the Art Institute.

In May the Boyce Thompson Arboretum will have a display of illustrations for the book, *Legumes of Arizona*, a reference book which will describe the legume family (Fabaceae) in Arizona. The Florilegium Program has been supporting this project by originally holding a class at the Art Institute of the Desert Museum to develop artists' skills in pen and ink scientific botanical illustration. We have continued to work with them on a consultation basis. The illustrations, a key part of the book, can be used as a tool for identification and will provide a visual representation of unique characteristics of species. If you haven't been to the arboretum recently, consider taking a day trip in May to enjoy the arboretum grounds and see the Legumes of Arizona Illustration Exhibit.



Katie Salwei planning composition for legume illustration



Pat Anderson, student, in florilegium class



Kim Ratelle-Collins illustrating a legume



Preliminary drawings for legume illustration

A Big Dedication At Manzo Elementary School



New Tortoise Habitat



TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew Cactus

Manzo Elementary School Had a big Dedication. About 300 people helped Manzo celebrate months of hard work by students, staff and volunteers. They built ecology projects, including a vegetable garden, cactus gardens, cisterns and a tortoise habitat. Many of the tortoise habitat, cacti and others around the school were purchased from the TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew. These plants are beautifully displayed thanks to Moses Thompson, other teachers and many students. Moses found several sources for grants including our School Grant program. What they accomplished this school year is incredible, instilling a huge amount of pride and sense of accomplishment – it was in the air at the celebration. The Davis Bilingual Magnet School Mariachi band provided a lively setting with their excellent performance. The new 4 pound adopted tortoise seemed to like his new first class habitat and enjoyed the event as well. Manzo also has a native habitat lot across the street from the school that may be slated for expansion. We are fortunate to be able to partner with such a great TUSD school.

Joe Frannea

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For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

Everyone is Welcome!
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May Refreshments

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

5	2	1	3	4
				3

Cacti Rescued 265 Rescues Accomplished

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rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various
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May 2011

Thursday, May 5, 2011 7:00pm
Monthly Meeting, "Functional Garden Art"
Presented by Greg Corman

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Saturday, May 14, 9:00am to 5:00 PM
2011 TCSS EXPO
Junior League of Tucson 2099 E. River Road

Acknowledgement of Contributions

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

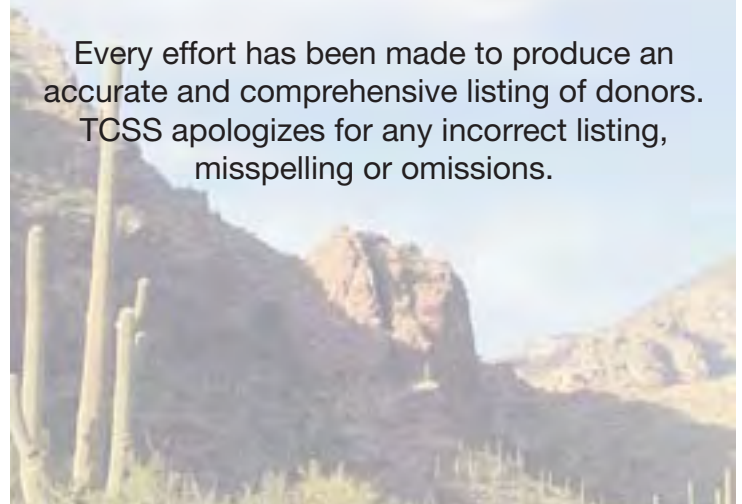
General Fund

Leo M Jacques

Pima Prickly Park

Desert Garden Club

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





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

June 2011

Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 7:00PM

“Variation and Evolutionary Processes in Cacti”

Presented by Marc Baker



Cylindropuntia munzii 1

© Michelle Cloud-Hughes 2011

Marc will be discussing variation in morphology and other characters, geographic isolation, polyploidy, and apogamy; and how these affect evolution and taxonomy of cacti. Marc will present examples of studies in various North American and some South American cacti.

I first began studying cacti at an academic level for my Ph.D. with Dr. Pinkava at ASU who brought to my attention problems in chollas centering on apogamy, hybridization, and polyploidy. I used various methods in an attempt to answer questions and test hypotheses with the most successful centering on cytogenetics and multivariate analysis of morphological characters. Since then, I have used these methods, along with classical taxonomic techniques to pursue problematic taxa in *Opuntia*, *Cylindropuntia*, *Coryphantha*, *Echinocereus*, and other genera.

Just a note from the program director. Tom Van Devender brought to my attention the need to have Marc Baker as a guest speaker because of his extensive knowledge of the *Opuntia*, *Cylindropuntia* and other cacti. This should be a program you must not miss! Please join us for a great evening and bring a friend for an excellent program and so much more.



Mystery Cholla Flower

© Michelle Cloud-Hughes 2011

Thursday, July 7, 2011

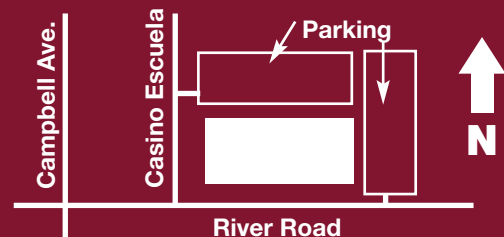
Saguaro Census Results presented Don Swann

Free Plants

Thelocactus bicolor

Native to the Chihuahuan desert of Texas and northern Mexico, *Thelocactus bicolor* has stunning pink to magenta blossoms. Regular watering throughout the spring and summer can keep plants in nearly continuous flower.

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



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

President's Message



I hope you were able to attend the Expo on May 14, 2011. This was the first time we tried a one day event and it was extremely successful. Twelve vendors supported the event with great plants and pottery. Three speakers attracted audiences ranging from 35 to 50 attendees. Gene Joseph talked about Aloes, Chris Monrad presented Ferocactus and Dave Palzkill finished the day with a discussion about Adeniums. This

concept of sales and lectures worked well.

We had over 30 fabulous volunteers helping to set-up and take down make the day run smoothly. Special thanks to Patsy Frannea for the free snow cones, Doug Rowsell who designed and handled the set-up and Joe Frannea who handled everything else. Special thanks to Joie Giunta and David Moyers who do a great job handling cashier duties. Thank you to all who bought plants and attended the lectures. It was a very good day.

This is a concept that we would like to try in other venues and we are looking into areas like Green Valley to do a similar type of event. The vendors and speakers were interested and input from you would be appreciated.

Negotiations for a long term agreement for the "management" of Pima Prickly Park are quickly moving forward. Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) is great to work with. Whenever an opportunity has arisen for material for the park they have worked with and for us to acquire some very special additions to the grounds. Two ramadas have been updated and installed with our support and NRPR has acquired 200 barrels and planted them and most recently acquired, planted and brought drip irrigation to several very large hackberry trees and large Yuccas. There is over 9 acres to design and plant and we are working right now on an Entrance Garden. We call this the WOW garden. We want visitors to say "wow" when they enter the Park.

Very soon we will be asking for volunteer help. Don't forget my request to grow interesting prickly pear, chollas etc for use in the Park. We also need ideas about a special event that could be held at the park that would attract wide community interest. It should be associated with the blooming or fruiting season of the plants to emphasize our interest in these plants.

Summer is almost here and we need to think about our "Blooming Barrel Sale" and then the fall "Good Time Silent Auction".

I have tried to forget about the freeze as the last of the dead plants have gone to the City of Tucson, Brush and Bulky pick up. I will start to remind you in October to be aware of the cold and will get some experts to present at each meeting a

short program of what you can do to protect your plants.

Thank you as always for your support,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

TCSS Spring Desert Garden Tour

On Sat., April 30, 126 Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society club members were treated to the spectacular garden and collections of Donna and Robert Ellis. An impressive 35 year old Boojum tree greeted visitors, as well as many other special in-ground specimens.

Robert's fantastic green house containing 3 large raised beds of cacti of all shapes, sizes and colors, (many in bloom) was pure enjoyment, in addition to an aviary containing several bird varieties, a Tortoise enclosure and a pond with 15 kinds of turtles. To top it all off, Donna has a separate area housing her large succulent collection and artfully designed planter arrangements.

Thank you Donna and Robert for sharing your fabulous desert garden with us.

Don't miss the next TCSS Desert Garden Tour, scheduled for Oct. 8, 2011. More information to follow.

Bill Salisbury



Robert and Donna Ellis with their garden tour award. Photo by Ed Bartlett

Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 7:00PM

“Variation and Evolutionary Processes in Cacti”

Presented by Marc Baker



Cylindropuntia bigelovii

© Michelle Cloud-Hughes 2011



Mystery Cholla 2

© Michelle Cloud-Hughes 2011



Mystery Cholla

© Michelle Cloud-Hughes 2011



Cylindropuntia munzii

© Michelle Cloud-Hughes 2011

Signs of Life

“Patience in removing plant materials damaged by the Feb. 1st freeze at the Tucson International Airport has been rewarded. While several tree-form *Cereus peruvianus* and *C. forbesii* were badly frozen, TIA groundskeeping staff were careful to not remove tissue that still had green elements that might foster new growth. As shown in the photos, the “Will to Live” in the remaining viable cells has manifested itself in new armlets that will someday become the giant tree cacti to again compliment the unique landscaping at our local airport.”



Ferocactus of the month

Ferocactus cylindraceus

Ferocactus cylindraceus occurs throughout many regions of the Mohave desert and in the more arid regions of the Sonoran desert. Its extensive range includes Baja California, north through the Anza-Borrego area and the Mohave desert up to the Utah/Nevada/Arizona border confluence along the Colorado River, and also easterly to Phoenix as well as the Marana/Tortolita mountain complex. Flowering is generally in May and June and usually consists of yellow blossoms, although red flowers are seen in some populations. Spine colors seem to vary regionally from straw / pale to pink, red and a dark maroon color. The red spination gives the plant the common name of 'Fire Barrel'. The plants occurring in areas of 'more' rainfall (approx. 6 inches of rain per year) such as those in the Sonoran

desert seem to have wider spines but in a slightly less dense pattern (Fig. 1 and 2), while the Mohave Desert plants survive on 2 inches or less of rain per year. These specimens often have thinner spines in a very dense clusters, as if to provide the plant with its own built in shading systems (Fig. 3 and 4). The blossom size is often constricted by the density of the spines of the respective plant. This species is known to rot in local cultivation if overwatered, as it is quite well adapted to small amounts rainfall in its native ranges. (Local rainfall of 12 inches on average per year is well above that experienced in its normal habitat.) In any case, this species is a striking and care-free addition to local landscapes (Fig 5) and is readily available from many of our member nurseries.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Great Plants, Presentations and Fun at the 2011 Expo



Cactus and Succulent enthusiasts had a special opportunity in May to shop with 12 of Tucson's best growers and artists exhibiting at our 2011 EXPO. Customers were tempted by multitudes of beautiful plant specimens and interesting one of a kind containers. Three well attended scheduled talks were presented by Gene Joseph, Dave Palzkill and Chris Monrad. Perfect weather combined with a feast of fascinating plants, invaluable information, and of course those free sno-kones, made the day a big success. Many thanks to all of our faithful volunteers who made this possible.

We had over 30 volunteers helping to set up, sell plants and take down the event at the Jr. League facility. Our total income was \$12,128 from about 225 sales, selling 773 items. Rescued cactus sales and TCSS items (caps, gloves) accounted for \$1,300 of the total. After expenses for the facility, table rental, snow cones, visa fees and advertising, our profit was about \$1,200. We consider this a big success because the purpose of our Conferences and Expos is all about sharing information, education and having a good time!
Joe and Patsy Frannea

Photos by Kevin Barber



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cactusdude1@yahoo.com

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Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad/Joe Frannea
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Refreshments: Patsy Frannea frannea@earthlink.net
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For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

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

June Refreshments

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

5 2 1 3 4
3

Cacti Rescued 265 Rescues Accomplished

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

June 2011

Thursday, June 2, 2011 7:00pm
Monthly Meeting, "Variation and Evolutionary
Processes in Cacti"
Presented by Mark Baker

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

TCSS Spring Desert Garden Tour

Photos by Vonn Watkins





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

July 2011

Thursday, July 7, 2011 at 7:00PM
"The 2010 Saguaro Census"

Presented by Don Swann



© Copyright Protected 2007

Photo Illustration by Vonn Watkins

Don Swann will present the results of the 2010 Saguaro Census, a once-a-decade "citizen science" program that Saguaro National Park uses to monitor its signature plant. He will also speak about the ecological history of the park, which was established in 1933. During the 1940s, large numbers of large saguaros were observed to be dying, and declines in the Rincon Mountain's "Cactus Forest" continued for several decades. Since the 1970s, large numbers of young saguaros have survived, and the number of saguaros in the park has increased. Don's presentation will focus on the census, recent saguaro mapping projects at the park, the relationship between

saguaros and climate and Saguaro National Park's 2011 BioBlitz. Don Swann is a biologist at Saguaro National Park. He has an MS in Wildlife Biology from University of Arizona, where his thesis was on long-term monitoring in national parks, and a BA in Geology-Biology from Brown University. Don has worked in state and national parks in Arizona and New England, and was an interpretive ranger for many years. He has been at Saguaro since 1993, and his duties include monitoring of plants, animals, and water; education about natural resources; and collaborative conservation and research projects such as the Saguaro Census and BioBlitz.

This program should be seen by all as the focus is on one of the representational plants of our state. The TCSS made contributions to this research project so you as a member should see what was accomplished. Please come and join all of us for this special presentation and please bring a friend.

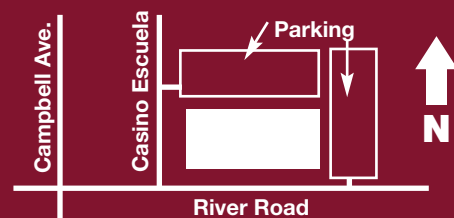
Thursday, August 4, 2011
Program to be Determined

Free Plants

Saguaro

As in nature, young saguaros need a nurse tree in cultivation to avoid sunburn and frost damage. Plant in the ground on the south side of a native mesquite, acacia, palo verde or similar tree to provide filtered / dappled light .

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



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

President's Message



Our rescue program:

The alarm goes off at 5:00am.

It's time to get up and ready to hit the road for another hot day rescue. Shorts and a Hawaiian shirt are my standard dress no matter what the weather. The only thing that changes from summer to winter is the amount of sun screen that's applied. Water, snacks, directions and I'm ready.

load the car. I have everything pre-packed in a container. There's work shoes, hat, gloves, clippers, hand pick, so I just ad a shovel and I am off.

We gather at 6:30am to get a somewhat cooler start to the day. As each paid member arrives on site they sign in for insurance and liability purposes and so we can also record volunteer hours for a host of purposes. White out is passed out for making south on collected plants and we are now ready to hear instruction as to what and where we can collect. Joe Frannea usually handles the details. It is extremely important to our rescue program that everyone follows the directives laid down by the property developer and the society. Every sight has some restriction which must be adhered to. Joe gives his lecture on safety which is the most important part of our program. We have a great record in this area and we do everything required to maintain our 12 years of success.

The survey of plants has already been performed by Chris Monrad with the help of other rescue committee members and we have purchased the necessary permit and plant tags for a successful day. Patsy Frannea and David Moyer make sure every plant has the appropriate tag and those going home with members have been paid for. Everyone helps in the tagging process and it starts with the first plant collected and ends with the last plant loaded on the trailer.

Everyone teams up or stays within sight of other members just to insure safety and help in digging and collecting plants. New members of the rescue crew work with more experienced crew members to learn the ropes. Marking and digging the plants with minimum damage is what we do. Spines don't grow back on barrels or saguaro so care must be taken in digging and handling these plants.

The best part is being out in the desert with great people looking for that special plant you know is out there. At a recent rescue site we were treated to a large variety of wonderful plants. Ocotillos from seedling to giants, ferocactus in all sizes and some with wonderful long and curved spines. There were a number of Peniocereus hiding as usual and one had it's own rattlesnake for protection. Fortunately, no one was bitten and the Peniocereus went home with a member without its rattlesnake friend. There

was a wonderful Pima Pinneapple specimen identified for removal. The Society does not have authority to handle this endangered plant so all we do is take pictures and admire. There were several species of prickly pear and cholla plus mammillaria, and echinocereus.

After 2 hours it was getting really warm so its time to blow the horn, stop digging and bring all the plants in to be tagged and loaded. Hundreds of plants were rescued and will find there way back into the Southern Arizona landscape. A great job by wonderful members of our society.

By 9:30 am we are on the road home

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Library Update

Melocactus care and cultivation by George Thomson
Loaded with excellent pictures for identification, this book also contains useful information on the care and culture of this genus.

Kaktusy

Austrian cactus lovers have translated selected special editions from the Czech journal into these booklets. All editions are amply illustrated.

- 2005 Lophophora Coulter
- 2007 The genus Pediocactus
(From a growers point of view)
- 2008 Thelocactus rinconensis and its relatives
- 2009 Sclerocactus in cultivation

Joie Giuinta

Fall Road Trip

We are considering a trip to one of three places in November and are asking for your input.

1. Boyce Thompson, Lunch, Nursery
 2. Desert Botanical Gardens, lunch, Arizona Cactus sales
 3. Huntington Botanical Gardens and local Nurseries.
- Fly to LA on Sat morning or meet us at the Huntington at the opening. Fly back on Sat or Sun.

Cost would be determined by how many people go.

If there is enough interest, we will hire a bus for DBG and Boyce Thompson.

Send an email to joietgo@yahoo.com before August 8 and let me know which trip appeals to you.

Joie

Queen of the Night Rescue



Rob with an Arizona Princess of the Night.

Photo by Ed Bartlett



Marilyn Houck and her prize find

Photo by Ed Bartlett



"Calvin" helping dig a Queen of the Night.

Photo from Jessie Byrd

Signs of Life

Cactus Rescue Crew Tip

The TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew often comes across *Yucca arizonica* when performing salvage activities in the Vail and Corona de Tucson areas. These plants have much shallower root systems than *Yucca elata* and we regularly collect small offsets and larger rosettes with excellent success in transplantation. However, in some cases the original rosette dies back after transplanting. The outer leaves will often turn brown and sometimes the entire plant appears to have expired. But Wait! Don't give up on it yet, have some patience.

Keep on watering the plant every two weeks or so in hot weather and every month or so in the cooler weather. We often find that the below ground root mass is still alive and throws out new stolons, even after the original plant has apparently dried up and blown away. The red arrow in these photos show the original leafless stalk and the new offsets happily emerging after a period of establishment. PS - If you have wild critters in the area, some wire mesh is strongly recommended to keep the new growth from being unceremoniously mowed to the ground.



Ferocactus of the month

Ferocactus rectispinus

Ferocactus rectispinus is endemic to central Baja California, with Cerro Colorado and Bahía Concepción as renowned locales for sizeable populations. Suitable for full sun cultivation, it is well adapted for very modest rainfall and intense summer heat. Flowering season

can begin in late May and extends throughout the summer. The best clones will have long, straight spines from 6 to 10 inches in length with no curvature whatsoever. This species readily hybridizes and such plants can usually be identified by their arcing spines (figures 4 and 5).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 5

Sprucing Up The Holding Site



Early one June morning, 17 energetic TCSS Members showed up to refurbish our rescued cactus holding area. Shovels were swinging, wheel barrows were carting, (and sweat was dripping) as this hardy work crew spread 23 tons of pea gravel under our shaded planting area in only 2 hours. We have found that several inches of pea gravel makes an easy and excellent planting medium for temporary holding of our rescued treasures, and now the area is in fine shape for holding and rooting plants in preparation for public sales. While all of the gravel was being hauled and spread, 3 additional side shade cloth panels were installed to give our “relocated” plants a little protection from the additional stress of the hot summer sun. After the gravel was all in place, 180 new barrels, 120 hedgehogs and ten large specimen chollas from the previous weekend’s rescue were unloaded and “planted”. The chollas will be held for installation at Pima Prickly Park, but all of the other plants will be prime offerings at our annual



Robert and Donna Ellis with their garden tour award.

Photos by Ed Bartlett

“Blooming Barrel Sale”, scheduled for Sunday, August 14th from 8 AM to 1 PM. Our inventory is looking pretty spiffy in their newly laid gravel beds! (As an added treat, some of our TCSS member businesses will also be selling with us starting at 7:30 AM.)

Don't miss the next TCSS Desert Garden Tour, scheduled for Oct. 8, 2011. More information to follow.

Bill Salisbury

Many thanks to the hard working crew ... Linda & Ed Bartlett, Robert Ellis, Paul Federico, Joe & Patsy Frannea, Ann Grodzicki, Dick Loffi, Noe Mayotte, Dave Moyer, Dave Palzkill, Doug Rowsell, Thomas Staudt, Michael Tamarack, Robert Tappe, Bill Thornton, & Keith Zwickl.

Patsy Frannea

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July Refreshments

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please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your
generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

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				3

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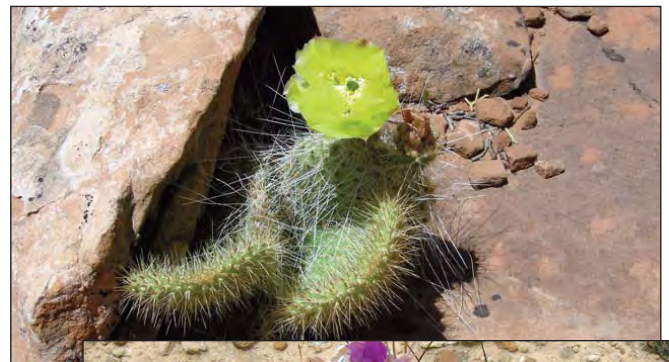
Thursday, July 7, 2011 7:00pm

Monthly Meeting, "The 2010 Saguaro Census"
Presented by Don Swan

Tuesday, July 12, 2011 7:00pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

A few snapshots from a recent trip to Moab, Utah and a
few areas in Colorado. The Cactus in these locations
further north of Tucson are always an excellent,
surprising enjoyment. *V. Watkins*





Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

August 2011

Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 7:00PM
"What is a Succulent?"

Presented by Mark Dimmitt



Photo by Nathan Wong, 2008

Mark Dimmitt, Ph.D. formally majored in zoology throughout his college career, but also studied botany and ecology extensively. After earning his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California at Riverside, he spent four years as a vertebrate ecologist in the California Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management. He moved to Tucson in 1979 to become Curator of Botany at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and in 1997 he became the Director of Natural History. This position allowed him to conduct field research and share oversight of the scientific aspects of the museum's operations. Mark has published numerous popular articles on horticulture and several articles on desert ecology (he is an avid plant hybridizer). He is also the creator of the 'Desert Museum' hybrid palo verde. He is well known for his hybrids, especially his study of the

adenium and various cacti. In 1999, he received the Friend Award from The Cactus and Succulent Society of America for his outstanding accomplishments with cacti and succulents. He has also co-authored a special Adenium book, "Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance".

The title of Mark's program presents us with something to truly think about and it may be a question that many people have a hard time answering. Be sure to mark your calendar and make sure you attend this important and informative program presentation. Your friends and anyone interested are also welcome to join us.

Thursday, September 1, 2011

"Cultivation of Boswellia"

Presented by Jason Eslamieh

Boswellia is best known as frankincense.

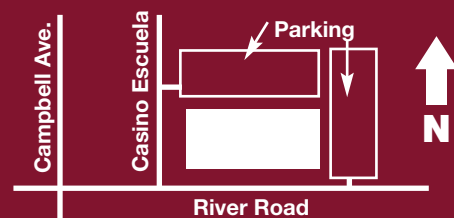
Jason is the owner of Miniature Garden, LLC in Tempe, Arizona where he propagates and sells Boswellias, Euphorbias, Commiphoras, Dorstenias, Pachypodiums and Adeniums.

Free Plants

Echinocereus viridiflorus

A green flowered hedgehog cactus, its native habitat includes New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico. Bright red and white spines contrast nicely with the bright green flowers that ring the stem in late spring.

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



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

President's Message



Pima Prickly Park

We are about to embark on a wonderful new opportunity to educate and demonstrate to the public, the wonders of cacti and succulent plants. This project will allow us to research the best cacti and succulent plants to use in Tucson xeriscapes. We can show some of the unusual and wonderful individual plants from our rescue program besides

examples of native and non-native cacti and succulents that excite and enrich our lives. Most important we can educate everyone, from school children to seniors about these plants and the role they play in our environment.

We are working with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) who are: "Leading community efforts to conserve the Sonoran Desert and enhance the urban environment while providing quality recreational, educational, and leisure activities." We fit perfect with their philosophy and are now ready to have the Board of Supervisors approve a contract for the TCSS to operate "Pima Prickly Park", on a 9 plus acre Park parcel adjacent to the NRPR offices at 3500 West River Rd.

The property was a 60ft deep sand and gravel pit that was filled when the NRPR offices were built on solid ground above the pit. Due to the nature of the fill it is not useful for additional buildings or even ball fields so when we approached County leaders about using this area for a cactus park, they were excited about our proposal. Currently, they have installed some trails and it is an open public park. The County had two ramadas from a closed park facility that could be moved and installed at this site. We were able to assist with some financial help from our general fund and your specific donations to have these ramadas properly upgraded and installed. Your support was crucial to our board moving ahead on this project.

With your specific donations we engaged a landscape designer to develop a master plan for the Park and a specific garden entrance design (a WOW garden). When people enter the park if they don't say WOW we have not done our job. The park will feature Opuntoids (prickly pear, chollas etc) but also many representatives of other genera of cacti and succulent groups in interesting garden arrangements. This is our laboratory and educational classroom. I am really excited about the opportunities this presents to us for "knowing, growing and showing".

I want to thank our Prickly Park Committee and the TCSS Board and Officers for all their efforts, meeting and discussions that have got us to this point. I also want to thank Chuck Huckleberry, Pima County Administer and Rafael Payan, Director of NRPR for their support for this

project. They helped make it happen.

The rescue crew has just found two exciting plants for this garden. A large three headed crested barrel and a 6ft crested *Opuntia fulgida*. These are just two examples of the unusual plants that are found and need a home where the public can enjoy them and be educated about their uniqueness.

What a privilege it is to work with this Society. Thank you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Upcoming Education Outreach Activities

We have 2 Education Outreach activities in the planning stage for the next couple of months. On September 30th from 5:00 pm to 8:00pm we will be participating in a Plant Science Night at Ventana Vista School. We will be offering our Build A Cactus Model exercise so we will need a few volunteers to help the kids with this workshop exercise. On 21 & 22 October we will be participating in the National Park Service/National Geographic BioBlitz 2011 at Saguaro National Park West. Those of you who attended the July TCSS monthly meeting heard Don Swann briefly describe BioBlitz 2011 (for more info see their website at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/bioblitz>) . We will be offering both our Build A Cactus Model exercise and an information booth featuring "Cactus - Unique Desert Survival Traits". At this time we do not have specific hours for either of the BioBlitz activities. Volunteers will be needed for all of these activities so please mark your calendars. **If you are interested in participating in any or all of these events please e-mail me at funfest@tucsoncactus.org.**

John Swarbrick,

SAVE THE DATE

Sat., Oct. 8, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Members desert garden tour.

The gardens will be in the central/north area.
More information to follow in future newsletters.

Ferocactus of the Month

Ferocactus pottsii

by Chris Monrad

Ferocactus pottsii is a summer bloomer and displays large yellow to peach colored flowers. Native to Chihuahua, Sinaloa, and Sonora Mexico, it will locally tolerate full sun despite its sparse spination and lack of self-shading. Though its spines

are not dense, they are very stout with interesting micro-ribbing. Our native desert bees are fond of this species and fruits readily set. This plant can be found at several of our member nurseries.



Three headed crested barrel

Photos by Ed Bartlett

On Sunday, July 24, 2011 several TCSS members rescued this large crested barrel from the Granite Company site. The 3 headed barrel was located by Chris Monrad during a survey

of the property. The plant was a truly amazing find and it took 5 people to load into the transport truck.





RESCUED BARRELS & OTHER CACTUS

***** ANNUAL BLOOMING BARREL SALE *****

“Come Early for best Selections - Many of the Barrel Cactus will be in Bloom”

SUNDAY - AUGUST 14, 2011 - 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

4342 N. 4th AVENUE (between Wetmore & Limberlost)

Several of our Member Businesses will start selling at 7:30 AM

Rescued Cactus Sales Start at 8:00 AM

Gates Open at 7:00 AM - Entry Numbers will be handed out to initially limit first access to the Rescued Cactus Sales area. We let about 15 people into the sales area every 10 minutes or as fast as we can help customers. Come early to get an entry number.

We have about

350+ barrel cactus from 6" to 20" tall, priced from \$6 to \$40

50 Hedgehogs from 1 to 10 heads priced from \$2 to \$20

(Note: Barrels and Hedgehogs will have limits of 4 per customer for the first 30 minutes)

50 Saguaros from 6" to 30" priced from \$15 to \$90 (limit of 1 per customer)

Lots of small Mammillaria (pincushion fishhooks), a few other misc. plants
We want these newly rescued plants to have homes ASAP and they are reasonably priced to sell.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF OUR RESCUE PROGRAM
(we will use a numbered limited entry system to
make the sale more manageable)

**Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
Cactus Rescue Crew Program**

Web: www.TucsonCactus.org

Email: CactusRescue @ TucsonCactus.org

TCSS cell: 256-2447



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Presented by Mark Dimmitt

Tuesday, August 9, 2011 7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Sunday August 14, 8 am to 1 pm
TCSS Annual Blooming Barrel Sale

Norma Beckman July 25, 2011

I am very sad to report the death of our (my)
very good friend and long time member of the
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Norma
was an active member for more than 40 years.
No services are planned. I have expressed our
sincere condolences to her daughter
on behalf of the society.

In lieu of a memorial service, her daughter
asks that you do something you
learned from Norma. Her journey continues
yet we mourn our loss of a fabulous woman.

**You may donate in her name to the
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society,
P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728 or
to the Hospice Family Care Foundation,
1550 S. Alma School Rd. #280,
Mesa, AZ 85210.**

Dick Wiedhopf, President



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

September 2011

Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 7:00PM
"Cultivation of *Boswellia*"

Presented by Jason Eslamieh



Boswellia rivae

Boswellia is probably best known as frankincense, and is well known within the family Burseraceae.

Jason will cover a wide range of topics including history, the species, cultivation, hybridization and staging. The presentation is geared toward less emphasis on the general cultivation but more discussion on individual species. The intent is to present all nineteen species in the genus showing habitat photos as well as cultivated plants, and to share a brief propagation method specific to each species.

Jason is part owner of the Miniature Garden, a Tempe nursery whose primary focus is on the Burseraceae family with an emphasis on the *Boswellia*, *Bursera* and *Commiphora* species. He was intimately involved with the arboretum at Arizona State University and spent twenty years introducing a diverse group of species on the main campus which ultimately received "arboretum" status. In short, one could say that Jason is passionate about "plants" either in habitat or in cultivation.

Please invite your friends and anyone interested to join us for a great program, meet Jason and enjoy a discussion on the *Boswellia*.

Free Plants

Agave

Various species of frost hardy agave, grown by Gene and Jane at Plants for the Southwest, will be available to those members that stay for the complete meeting on September 1st.

Free member Desert Garden Tour

The next free member Desert Garden tour will be Saturday, October 8, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have 7 member gardens on this tour, all in the North Central Tucson area. Each yard is different and unique. You will see how other TCSS members grow and display an extensive variety of cactus and succulents.

All TCSS members and their guests are welcome.

Volunteers are still needed to work 2 hour shifts on Oct. 8., to register visitors. Call Bill Salisbury, 299-3301 or email: lusalisbury@comcast.net, if you can volunteer.

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Program presentation announcement coming soon.

A Roundtable Discussion on all things related to Seed

September 15, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

On September 15, 2011 we'll be having our first roundtable discussion of the season. Anything and everything to do with seed propagation will be the topic: how to collect and store them (or where to buy them), how to plant and care for them during germination, when to transplant, etc. For those interested in controlled breeding to create new plants - bring your questions or knowledge on the species you're particularly interested in. As one example, consider the potential of breeding for bigger and badder spines or bigger and redder flowers on our local barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizeni*) - the genetic variation to allow for this certainly exists as any of our dedicated TCSS Rescue Crew can attest to after having studied and saved thousands of them. Large ranges in variation also exists for important traits of many other species we're interested in, and with a little focused effort, some really interesting new plants could be developed. Come and share your experiences - what's worked and what hasn't. This discussion is open to all of our members - newcomers are especially welcome.

Dave Palzkill

President's Message



Pima Prickly Park

On August 15, 2011 the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved the agreement for the development, operation and maintenance of Pima Prickly Park between the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and the Pima County Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. Thanks to everyone who helped accomplish this first step. Now the work (fun) begins. I want everyone to

be a part of this project and there will be unlimited opportunities to participate.

On Tuesday August 23, we did our first plantings, a large 4 stemmed saguaro and several other cacti from a recent rescue. It really looks great.

Are you growing any unusual members of the Opuntia Family or any other succulent? We are planning to establish test beds at the Park to evaluate new and interesting succulent plants but especially Opuntias for use in the Tucson area.

A new valuable resource for us may be "The Cactus Explorer". It is a free on-line journal available as a pdf download. It is available to everyone and there is no membership required.

Check it out, the details are on our website or go to:
www.cactusexplorers.org.uk

Please join us and bring your friends to our Good Times Silent Auction on September 18 at 3:00pm at the Junior League Facility. This year we will have some great books, magazines, plants and pottery available. Every dollar raised supports one or more of our activities. This event will raise money for our Research Grants and Pima Prickly Park. These activities have a direct educational benefit to you and all others interested in succulent plants.

Dick Wiedhopf, President.



Good Time Silent Auction

Sunday, September 18, 2011 • Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd • 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Good bye to the summer heat and a so so monsoon and hello to a wonderful fall planting time. This event has been a Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society tradition for more than 50 years. All proceeds will be shared by our research grant program and Pima Prickly Park.

This is a celebration: Silent Auctions, Free Plants, \$2, \$5, \$10 sale tables and Ice Cream with all the toppings. Bring your excess plants for the free plant table. All we ask is that your plants are free of disease and insects. Better plants will go on the \$2.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 tables and special plants for the silent auctions.

Bid sheets and price stickers will be available at the September meeting, at the event and on our website for your convenience. The Board has adopted the same policy as we had at Sonoran VIII with a high value special silent auction table. These items will have an opening minimum bid of \$20.00 or more set by the donor. If the item sells for at least the opening bid the donor receives the opening bid price and any amount above that goes to the society. We will have a number of special plants and books from friends and past members of the Society. Some are large, some are old and some are rare. Be sure you don't miss out. Special plants and books donated from the estate of our Honorary Life Member, Norma Beckman will be included and proceeds will benefit Pima Prickly Park.

We will have at least 3 separate silent auctions during the afternoon. Pots, plants, special cuttings, books, tools etc. are welcome donations for these silent auctions. Free Plants will be available starting a 3:30pm in order to give everyone an opportunity to take some home. We will start the set-up at 1:00pm and the party will start at 3:00pm with the first silent auction ending at about 3:15pm and then about every 25 minutes there after. The final silent auction will be all the high value plants. All you have to do is sign-in and get a bid number and bid for special plants.

We need volunteers for set-up, sales and clean-up. Come help and have fun, ask questions, talk with friends, etc., etc., Please feel free to bring your family and friends to this event. You don't have to be a member or bring plants or buy them, just come and enjoy the event. More information at www.tucsoncactus.org or call (520) 256-2447.

Cactus Model Volunteers Needed

TCSS will be participating in a Family Plant Science Night at Ventana Vista School on Friday evening September 30th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. We will be offering our "Build A Cactus Model" exercise and need a few volunteers to help the kids build their cactus models. Previous experience building the models is not required. If you are interested in helping out please email **John Swarbrick** at funfest@tucsoncactus.org.

Ferocactus of the Month

TCSS Golden Fishhook

by Chris Monrad

It has been ten years since the TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew found its first specimen of a golden spined and vivid yellow flowered version of our native *Ferocactus wislizenii* at the 700-acre Saddlebrooke rescue site. Nearly 200 of the offspring from this rare plant (and four other similar plants found by the Cactus Rescue Crew from 2002 thru 2006) have now found their way into public landscapes around Tucson.

Five year old specimens, many of them in flower in August as this was written, can be found in planters surrounding the Pima County Superior Court Building, the Jewish Community Center, and the two new University of Arizona dormitory complexes at the northeast corners of Sixth Street and Euclid and Sixth Street and Highland.

The five year old plants exhibit the hand-pollinated heritage of their parents with robust golden spination as well as large bright yellow buds and flowers that can be seen from the public roadways and viewed even better from the adjacent sidewalks.

Known to be extremely frost hardy and fast growing with far showier buds, flowers and fruit than the non-native 'Golden Barrel' (*Echinocactus*

grusonii), it is hoped that the TCSS Golden Fishhook will become the golden-spined barrel cactus of choice in Tucson landscapes.

Extremely limited quantities of this form may be available at selected member nurseries, but many more plants are in production and should be in the market in the coming years.

My utmost appreciation and a big 'Thank You' is given to all of the TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew volunteers, developers, contractors, design professionals, municipalities, and school districts that have sustained the Cactus Rescue program since its inception in 1999, Mike Reimer at the AZ Dept. of Agriculture, the various nursery-men and women that have offered advice and produced numerous seedlings over the years, and to the TCSS Board that helped to support the widespread promotion of this plant since I developed this crazy idea about six years ago.



TCSS BOARD

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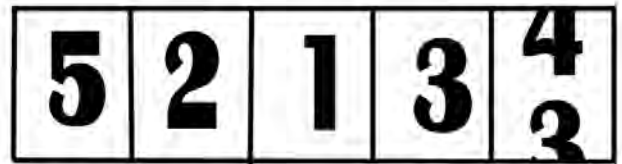
Editor: Karen Keller runbunny@cox.net
Deadline for copy: September 22, 2011

TCSS Web Page:
www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst
For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

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

September Refreshments

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



Cacti Rescued 265 Rescues Accomplished

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

September 2011

Thursday, September 1, 2011 7:00pm
Monthly Meeting, "Cultivation of Boswellia"
Presented by Jason Eslamieh

Tuesday, September 6, 2011 7:00pm
Prickly Park Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Library Update

Madagascar: the Red Island

Text by Arlette P. Kouwenhoven

Photographs by Toussaint Raharison

An interesting book on the history, land, people, plants and
animals of Madagascar. Loaded with photos.

Plants of Dhoofar

Anthony G. Miller, Miranda Morris

There is a description and history of the various plants of
Dhoofar accompanied by some excellent botanical illustrations.

Acknowledgement of Contributions

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

General

Bill & Lalita Kuhn • Marcus White • Marcia Harmon
William & Katherine Young • Tom & Cindy Bethard

Pima Prickly Park

Mary Jane McGee • Marcia Harmon

Florilegium

Alan & Susan Rogers

Norma Beckman Memorial Fund

The Wiedhopf Family • Vonn H Watkins
Clayton A Copeland • Elena Vassilieva
Jan Copeland • John B Bryan III • Jennifer Weil Arns

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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

October 2011

Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 7:00PM

“The Succulents of Mojave County”

Presented by Jan Emming



Ferocactus cylindraceus and *Cylindropuntia multigeniculata*,
Meadview AZ

Northwestern Arizona is a place that is not typically on the radar of cactus and succulent enthusiasts, although the diversity of the region is fairly high with at least 40 to 45 different taxa. On most maps showing human-created features, the region registers as a blank space, with relatively few towns and roads. This does not mean the area is devoid of beautiful scenery and fascinating plants, some of which are endemic. It is in NW Arizona that the ecological transition zone between three of America's major desert regions occurs – the Sonoran, the Mojave, and the Great Basin/Colorado Plateau all converge here, and each one contributes unique elements to the flora of the area. This program will feature the majority of the succulents to be found in this diverse and strikingly beautiful, less-traveled region of our great southwestern deserts.

Jan Emming lives in the small town of Yucca, located in the far northwestern reaches of Arizona where the Mojave Desert intergrades naturally with the Sonoran Desert. In 1999 he started Destination:Forever Ranch and Gardens, a combination botanical collection and sustainable-living experiment on 40 acres set in the southwestern foothills of the Hualapai mountain range. After 11 years of work, Jan is about ready to complete his first residential structure, a 600-square foot guest house, and move permanently onto the D:F Ranch property for the first time. He has learned that cows will not eat papercrete. He also expects that major progress can finally be made on the

horticultural aspects of the property and gardens, since living there full-time will finally enable him to deal adequately with the legions of gnawing rodents that inhabit the wilderness, causing tremendous plant mortality unless closely monitored. In the desert, it seems that everything is always looking for a meal.

If you want to attend an excellent program from one of our Mojave County members and hear about Arizona's northwestern cacti and other succulents, please join us for this presentation. Also, your friends are welcome!



We're waiting for the bus to come by.

TCSS Program Presentation

November 3, 2011

David Yetman will present an update on the Coteco Biological Reserve, The reserve is a 62 acre conservation area that features large stands of *Stenocereus thurberi* (organpipe cacti).

Free Plants

Will be a surprise this month.

President's Message



It's that perfect time again for buying and planting. First choice is always our member nurseries. They do such a great job supporting our society and our hobby and this is a great time to say thanks by doing some shopping with them.

This is also the time for some wonderful Fall Plant Sales at these destinations:

Tohono Chul Park - Tucson, AZ

Members Preview: Wednesday, October 12, 3 – 6pm

General Public: Saturday, October 15, 9am – 5pm & Sunday, October 16, 10am – 4pm

Desert Botanical Gardens – Phoenix, AZ

Members Preview: Friday, October 14, 7am– 5pm

General Public: Saturday, October 15, 7am – 5pm & Sunday, October 16, 9am – 5pm

Boyce Thompson Arboretum – Superior, AZ

Members Preview: Friday, October 7, 8am– 5pm

General Public: Saturday, October 8, 8am – 5pm to Sunday, October 23, 8am – 5pm

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Good Time Silent Auction. It was a great afternoon and continued our 50 year tradition of a great silent auction in September. I am especially pleased that we were able to make available plants, books, pottery and garden accessories from the estate of Norma Beckman.

We do have some books and magazine left over that will be on sale at the October meeting and perhaps other plants and pots. They will be available before and after the meeting and during the break.

Thank you for all your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Important Upcoming Elections

Your board of directors has elected a nominations committee to prepare a slate of candidates for all the officers and for the four (4) director positions ending December 31, 2011. The committee members are Bill Hicks, Dale Johnson and Linda Bartlett. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for office. If you are at all interested in serving, please contact one of the committee members (emails are listed in the Desert Breeze).

Our current Treasurer, Joe Frannea, will not be seeking another term. This is a great opportunity to be involved in our society. A list of responsibilities of the treasurer will be provided to any interested member. This is an important position and we need you to consider being a candidate.

The nominations committee will present a slate of candidates at the November meeting. At that time, nominations from the floor will be entertained so that a final ballot can be mailed out prior to the Holiday Party (nominations must have the approval

of the nominee either in person or in writing). The results of the election will be announced at the Holiday Party and the new officers and Board will be installed at the January meeting.

A Roundtable Discussion on Getting Ready for Winter

Thursday, October 20, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

Our next roundtable will take place on Oct. 20 at the Junior League Building. Due to last year's sad endings for many of our plants, we decided to discuss what we can do ahead of time this year to avoid a repeat. The topic for discussion will include everything related to protecting our plants during the upcoming winter. What should we be doing in terms of watering and fertilizing as winter approaches? What plants have you found to need special care? What are simple and/or more involved structures/greenhouses which you have found to be effective? Frost cloth or other protective coverings – what materials do you use and how effective have they been? Where do you get frost-cloth or cheap substitutes? Interpreting weather forecasts – what does a Tucson forecast mean for where you live? At what forecast temperature do you start taking steps – has it worked for you? Do you record temperatures? Are inexpensive recorders available? Plan to come out to share your knowledge and experiences, get your questions answered, and get to know some of the other club members a little better.

Dave Palzkill

One in a Million Crested Barrel

The Cactus Rescue Crew recently discovered this huge crested Ferocactus wislizenii at a desert site to be cleared. While the Crew has found crested fishhook barrels before, this specimen is quite unusual in its size and perfect symmetry. Six strong crew members couldn't budge it to load it onto a pallet so a forklift was called into action to transport and plant it in Pima Prickly Park. Notice the orange flowers on both ends. A big thanks to Granite Construction Company for making this special cactus and hundreds of other plants available to TCSS.

Joe Frannea



Photo by Vonn Watkins

TCSS Fall Desert Garden Tour

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

See many more photos and details of the gardens on our website www.tucsoncactus.org

Our next TCSS Fall Desert Garden Tour is just around the corner. Eight very special gardens will be open for TCSS Members and their guests at no cost on Saturday, October 8th. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to see how your fellow members have incorporated their passion for cactus and succulents into their landscapes in very creative and unique designs. This tour is focusing on the area mostly north of River Road and east of Swan. We hope that you will be able to join us for this special treat. Many thanks to the following members who have generously agreed to share their gardens with all of us.

Our gardens can be visited in any order you wish, but they are listed here going from east to west. **Look for our TCSS boxes with GREEN streamers at intersections to help find the gardens.** (Total driving distance for this route is approximately 12 miles)

Driving directions* and brief descriptions of the 8 gardens on the TCSS Fall Desert Garden Tour

To start the tour from the east end, drive south from the intersection of Sunrise and Sabino Canyon on Sabino Canyon and turn left on E. Ocotillo Drive (2nd left). Go east on Ocotillo to Siesta Drive (3rd street) and turn right.

A. Rim & Marija Tallat-Kelpsa - 5065 N. Siesta Drive

Ocotillo lined entrances, a striking "copper blue river" of chryso-colla and golden barrels, abundant collections of agaves, aloes, trichocereus and diverse cactus beds greet the visitors to this special landscape.

*Return to Sabino Canyon, turn left and drive south a few miles past River Road to Cloud Road. Go west on Cloud Road to Calle Tortosa, turn left through the service gate, turn left onto Calle Arandas.

B. Tom & Barbara Bloom - 7031 E. Calle Arandas

Nestled in a quiet, tree shaded community, this young small backyard shows real depth and breadth with contoured soil grade, the placement of boulders, and the use of cacti and succulents to accent the various grades.

*Exit going south on Calle Tafalla, turn right onto Calle Tolosa, turn right onto Calle Tortosa and through the service gate to Cloud Road. Turn right and return to Sabino Canyon Rd, turn left and go north to River Road, turn left and drive west to Tanuri Drive. (6th street on right) Turn right on Tanuri and take the 2nd left to stay on Tanuri. Take first right on Camino de Carrillo (to park pull off the road as best as possible ... narrow street).

C. Wendy Beall - 4220 N. Camino de Carrillo

Step into Wendy's serene private patio and enjoy the special retreat she has created and accented with her collection of cactus and succulents. Enjoy the expansive backyard view, a nice group of pachypodiums, and the special touches she's added to accommodate her cats too.

*Continue going north on Camino de Carrillo toward E. Loma del Bribon. Turn right on Loma del Bribon and then take the 1st left on N. Trocha Alegre.

D. Bill & Lu Salisbury - 4450 N. Trocha Alegre

A delightful ridge top garden with sweeping views and a diverse palate of sun tolerant natives, ground covers, shrubs and shade trees, interspersed with an extensive collection of metal sculptures and art accents.

*Return to Loma del Bribon, turn right and go to Via Colorada, turn left and go to Tanuri Dr., turn left then stay to the right to River Road. Turn right and take River to Craycroft. Turn right on Craycroft and go north 0.7mi. to Camino del Celador. Turn left and it is the 1st drive on your right.

E. Keith & Helga Zwickl - 4205 N. Camino del Celador

Experience a lush surrounding desert landscape dotted with native rescued plants, a special "gymnocalycium collection", and a patio overflowing with a wide array of more exotic succulent specimens in raised beds and pots.

*Continue southwest on Camino del Celador to River Rd and turn right. Go 0.6mi and turn right on Camino Cardenal. Go north and take 2nd left, Camino Colibri.

F. Chris & Bridget Monrad - 4325 N. Camino Colibri

Explore these wandering paths to find over 15 different species of ferocacti, over 10 species of yucca, (including several large tree-form specimens), agave, cold hardy palms (including specimens native to Mexico, Pakistan, Madagascar, and Southeastern US), every species in the genus Fouquieria, nolina/beaucarnia (8 species), and Sonoran/Chihuahuan trees.

G. Geno & Cindy Mapelli - 4365 N. Camino Colibri

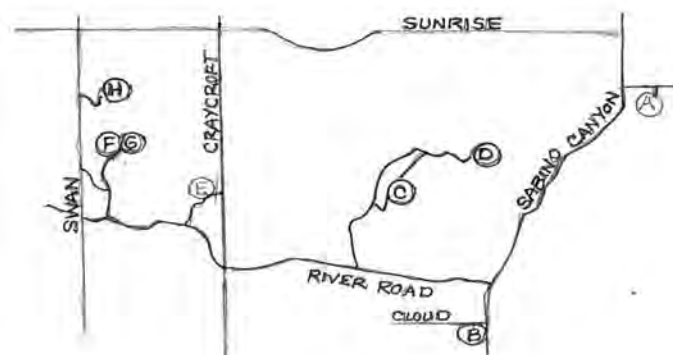
Colors and textures of the Sonoran desert provided a design focus for this landscape accented with a healthy collection of rescued native plants. You won't want to miss the spectacular prized rescued mammillaria and other potted treasures on the patio.

*After visiting both of these gardens, go back south on Camino Colibri, turn right on Camino Cardenal, and then right again on La Linda Rama. Take La Linda Rama to Swan, turn right and go north to Calle Barril. (about 0.7mi.) Turn right on Calle Barril and stay right to stay on Calle Barril. Take first left onto N. Camino Arenosa.

H. Clint & Kathi Glass - 5045 N. Camino Arenosa

Delight in a "Monet's garden" of artistic arrangements and hidden treasures. At every turn discover peaceful settings that invite the visitor to linger in appreciation of the special landscaping and architectural accents.

*After touring the Glass gardens, turn around on Camino Arenosa to drive back to Swan.





2011



**TCSS FALL
DESERT GARDEN TOUR**
photos by Ed Bartlett



Ferocactus of the Month: *Ferocactus peninsulae* ssp. *viscaiensis*

by Chris Monrad

Native to Baja California, its form is reminiscent of *Ferocactus wislizenii* but its spination is much more consistent from plant to plant with regard to robust and striking central fish-hook spines. The white radial spines are also 'well organized' and symmetrical, almost looking painted on due to their uniformity. Its

deep red flowers are known to be large, as are the buds. Its blooming season closely mimics *Ferocactus wislizenii*, with flowering extending into late September and early October. It is cold hardy and will tolerate local full summer sun. This species can be found for sale at selected member nurseries.



Good Time Silent Auction... Fun for All!

TCSS volunteers really know how to pull off an event in short order. A little planning helps, but members just show up and it all gets done in no time. We had 189 Silent auction items for bid as well as hundreds of \$2, \$5, and \$10 plants/pots and many, many free plants, cuttings, pots and plant stands that disappeared in a few minutes. There were 80 Bid numbers issued and almost everyone went home with one of their choices. The free ice cream served up with many toppings to choose from as well as prickly pear sorbet were big hits as always, as evidenced by the 200 plus cups served.

Our gross sales income was about \$4,300 and after expenses we netted about \$3,400. A special thanks to Norma Beckman's family for making many of her plants available to the society as well as Paul Cook who had to significantly cut back on his collection. Profits from the sale of Norma's plants will be used for her memorial fund and other profits will be used for Pima Prickly Park development.

Joe Frannea



TCSS BOARD

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Chris Monrad
Dale Johnson
Keimpe Bronkhorst

(Ending Dec. 31, 2013)

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www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

Everyone is Welcome!

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

September Refreshments

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

5 3 0 8 4
3

Cacti Rescued 276 Rescues Accomplished

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

October 2011

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Presented by Jan Emming

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Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Thursday, October 20, 2011 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Roundtable Discussion on Getting Ready for Winter

Acknowledgement of Contributions

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Pima Prickly Park

Linda and Ed Bartlett

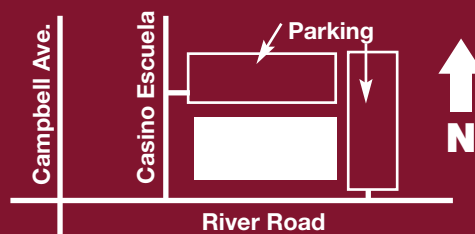
Norma Beckman Memorial Fund

Margaret Pope

Linda & Ed Bartlett

Elizabeth & Henry Miller

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

November 2011

Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 7:00PM

"Preserving the pitaya reserves: Challenges from Sonora."

Presented by David Yetman



Dave in Peru with a Calymmanthium--the evolutionary precursor of columnar cacti.

"A few thousand hectares paralleling the coast of southern Sonora comprise a distinct habitat--coastal thornscrub--one of the world's richest columnar cactus habitats. It is also one of the most endangered. Beginning about fifteen years ago I began working toward preserving parts of it, especially seeing how quickly the forest was being plundered for firewood, trampled by cattle, and cleared for buffelgrass. Nongovernmental organizations in the Tucson area were instrumental in helping set up the preserves, but the political processes were more complicated than I imagined, and still are. Political and social blockages are quite different in Mexico from those in the United States. As I discovered, maintaining these precious habitats is like walking through unidentified minefields."

David Yetman is a research social scientist and has been at the Southwest Center since 1992. He received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Arizona in 1972. Yetman's research has been primarily directed towards the state of Sonora, its indigenous people, their history, and how they have incorporated native resources into their lives. His books include

"Sonora. An intimate geography" (1996); "Scattered Round Stones. A Mayo village in Sonora, Mexico" (1998); "Guarijíos of the Sierra Madre. Hidden people of northwest Mexico" (2002); and "The Ópatas. In search of a Sonoran people" (2010). He has also written extensively on native uses of plants in Sonora. His Mayo Ethnobotany. Land, history, and traditional knowledge in northwest Mexico (2002, co-authored by Thomas R. Van Devender) combines ethnohistory and ethnobotany. His 2007 volume "The great cacti." Ethnobotany and biogeography of columnar cacti documents columnar cacti throughout the Americas, while a smaller work "The Organ Pipe Cactus" (2006) describes the natural history of the remarkable plant for which a U.S. Park Service National Monument is named. In addition, Yetman is author of numerous journal articles and book chapters. He frequently lectures on deserts, their people and their natural history. In addition to his writing, Yetman served for nine years as host for the PBS documentary television series The Desert Speaks and will host the upcoming PBS series In the Americas with David Yetman. He received an Emmy Award in 2007 for his documentary television work.

TCSS Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 4, 2011

2:30pm with dinner at 3:00pm

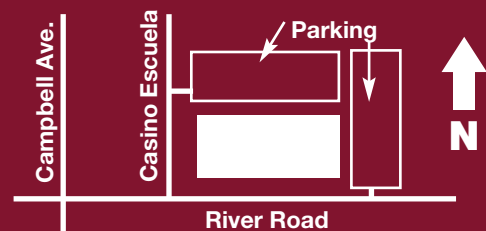
Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.

All the details will be available in the November mailing.

Don't forget you will need to RSVP

since space is limited.

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



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

President's Message



The holiday season is fast approaching which means it's time for Membership Renewal, Election of Officers and Board Members and our Holiday Party. Information about all these activities will be mailed to you in mid November. Mark your calendars for the Holiday Party on December 4, 2011 beginning at 2:30pm with dinner at 3:00pm at the Junior League facility. All the details will be available in the November mailing. Don't forget you will need to RSVP since space is limited.

The nominations committee has a slate of officers and Board nominees that will be presented at the November meeting. At that time additional nominations from the floor will be accepted as long as the nominee is present or has given written permission to be nominated. The nominations will be closed and a ballot will be prepared and sent to every current member. The ballots need to be returned by December 1, 2011. The results of the election will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation which will be held in conjunction with the Holiday Party.

The Board of Directors has approved the concept of multi-year memberships. Details will be on the 2012 membership form which is included in the November mailing. There will be no change in the cost of membership dues. Our society is the best bargain around.

A year ago we were talking about developing a cactus park. PIMA PRICKLY PARK (PPP) is now a reality. This has been a great cooperative effort between Pima County Government and TCSS. Folks, our county government works! We have a fifteen year agreement to plan, develop and maintain a cactus and succulent park on the 9.4 acre site in front of the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Administrative facilities. Now, wonderful specimens of cacti and other succulents can be replanted at PIMA PRICKLY PARK for everyone to admire and enjoy. You need to know that there is a lot more going on other than just planting rescued cacti and succulents. We are working on the final plans with the local Audubon Society for a Hummingbird Garden featuring cactus and succulents. We are working with the Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association and the North American Butterfly Association to have PPP a specifically designated butterfly garden with appropriate plants to attract butterflies. There are many other projects being on the drawing boards including the Saguaro Henge memorial, Agave garden, prickly pear demonstration garden and more. Your input and help is always appreciated.

A special thanks to John Swarbrick and all the members of his education committee for their participation in the BioBlitz at Saguaro National Park,

Thank you for all your support.
Dick Wiedhopf, President

A Roundtable Discussion on Haworthia and Gasteria

Thursday, November 17, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Junior League Building, 2099 E. River Rd.

Our next roundtable will be a discussion of the genera Haworthia and Gasteria, and will take place on November 17 at the Junior League Building. For many succulent plant enthusiasts, plants of these two genera are among the most popular – many are easy to grow and are readily available. Many also do well as indoor houseplants, and since most are relatively small it is easy to develop a large collection in a relatively small place. Plan to come out to share your knowledge and experiences with these fascinating succulents, get your questions answered, and get to know some of the other club members a little better.

Dave Palzkill

Fall Garden Tour

The fall member garden tour held on October 8, was visited by 130 members and guests. The weather was perfect and gardens were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the 8 garden owners for sharing their passion for growing and displaying their cactus collections. Also, a big thanks to all the volunteers that made this event run smoothly. The next tour will be in the spring of 2012.

Garden Tour Committee

Free Plants

Plants for the Southwest is the source for this month's plants, an interesting selection of Lithops and Haworthia. Be sure to attend the November meeting to get your choice!

Library Update

Last month, a new program was implemented for the library. It worked out very well and will make checking out quicker. The library also received a number of books from Norma Beckman's estate. I will be putting them out in the coming months.

The Instant Guide to Healthy Cacti by John Pilbeam

This is pretty much a beginner's book, giving a brief description and care requirements of the plants. There is also a 'what goes wrong' section to help identify problems.

The Audubon Society Nature Guides Deserts

A field guide to North America's deserts detailing wildflowers, birds, reptiles, insects and more.

Lithops Flowering Stones by Desmond T. Cole & Naureen A. Cole

A Cactus & Co. book featuring excellent identifiable photographs of lithops. Arranged in alphabetical order, there is distribution information and descriptions. The first part of the book covers the morphology and cycles, names and nomenclature, classification, habitat and cultivation.

Joie Giunta

Ferocactus of the Month:

by Chris Monrad

A hybrid of uncertain heritage, this specimen has vivid red-orange flowers reminiscent of *Ferocactus pilosus*, but its thick,

straight spination and fall flowering season is not consistent with *F. pilosus*. This plant blooms from October into November.



TCSS BOARD

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cactusdude1@yahoo.com

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davidandsusan_1@msn.com

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(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

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Educational:

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Free Plants: Chris Monrad

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Prickly Park: Jessie Byrd jessie_byrd@hotmail.com

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www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

For additional information call: (520) 256-2447

Everyone is Welcome!

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

November Refreshments

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

5	3	0	8	4
				3

Cacti Rescued 276 Rescues Accomplished

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

November 2011

Thursday, November 3, 2011 7:00pm

Monthly Meeting, "Preserving the pitaya reserves: Challenges from Sonora."

Presented by David Yetman

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 7:00pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Thursday, November 17, 2011 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Roundtable Discussion on Haworthia and Gasteria

A Southern Beach Opuntia

Behind the sand dunes a slightly hidden Opuntia can be found. *Opuntia pusilla* was recently observed along the beaches of North and South Carolina. I found this plant many years ago in North Carolina. During that time it was considered to be *Opuntia drummondii* the name is now *O. pusilla*.

Vonn Watkins



Photos by Vonn Watkins



DESERT BREEZE

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

December 2011

Sunday, December 4, 2011 • 3-5pm

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Junior League Facility, 2099 East River Road

Setup: 1pm - 3pm • Dinner: 3pm - 5pm

The Society will provide Turkey, Ham, Shrimp, Condiments, tableware and Drinks (coffee, punch and water). You will provide your favorite recipe (enough for 10 or more servings) Hot or Cold Salads - Starches - Vegetables - Desserts (please bring serving dish and serving utensils). For the last decade or so we have been collecting money and/or food for the Community Food Bank. This year the need is even greater, so let's make it special for others. Please bring donations (for a cash donation that is preferred, they can get 10 times the food) for the Tucson Community Food Bank.

Gift Exchange:

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

Meeting:

Additionally there will be a short Annual Meeting, Election Results, Awards and Table prizes. Please RSVP on the "goldenrod" notice you have already received in the mail.

Thursday, January 5, 2012

"The ADOT Saguaro Rescue Project"

Presented by Judy Mielke

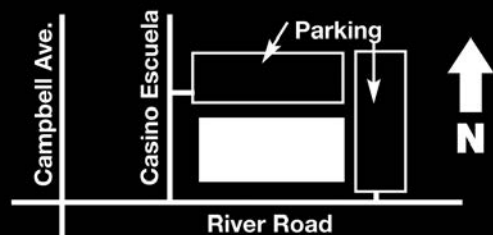
Judy is the Senior Landscape Architect at Logan Simpson Design in Tempe, Arizona.

She is also the author of a great book, "Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes".

From the Editor

Due to New Year falling over the weekend, newsletter articles need to be handed in no later than Monday, December 26.

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



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





President's Message

What do you want to do? What do you want to know? What do you want to take part in? What do you want to see and hear at meetings? What new project should be started? What changes would make our monthly meeting better? What else?

I am always listening for new answers and want to hear from you. This Society has a lot on its plate. We really try to engage in numerous activities so that there is something for everyone's interest. Vonn Watkins, our VP and program chairman has arranged 100s of presentations and is always interested in new speakers and program ideas.



In this upcoming year our focus will include a substantial effort for Sonoran IX. The Sonoran Conference is a mixture of speakers, workshops, a cactus and succulent plant show, vendor sales, silent auction, lunches, dinners and much more. The date is April 28 & 29 with set-up on April 27. Your input and help is always needed and there will be planning meetings on all the aspects in early January. The information will be in the January newsletter.

Pima Prickly Park will consume a great deal of our effort. Although, this is a long term project, we need to make substantial progress each year. The projects we hope to start next year are improvements to Saguarohege, an Agave garden, the entrance WOW garden and an Opuntia test garden. All of these projects are long term. Ten year from now we will be very proud

of our efforts and glad we started them early. There are limited funds and so fund development will be very important as will grant writing. If these topics are your specialty please help us.

I hope many of you are growing plants for the Garden and soon we will be able to receive these plant from you and take care of them on site. There will be an opportunity to work with many plants in our new growing facility at the Garden. We should have it up and running in January.

In January we will have a library site at the Junior League building to house our lending collection and make it much easier for our librarian Joie Guinta. As you know she has had to bring suitcases of our books to every meeting. We are all looking forward to this project being completed.

Our rescue program is well over 50,000 rescued plants and is the backbone of our positive activities to save many Sonoran Desert plants. The program continues to grow in spite of the down turn in the economy. Our reputation is well known for performing rescues in a safe, legal and effective manner. Thanks to all of you who participate and maintain our excellence is this area.

You can take part in many other activities of the society. We will have our regular monthly meetings, spring and fall round table discussions, Sarsef and Funfest activities, September Good Time Silent Auction, Board and Committee meetings and more. Hope to hear from many of you.

Thank you.

Richard Wiedhopf, President

Ferocactus of the Month

by Chris Monrad

Ferocactus latispinus is native to San Luis Potosí, Mexico and is well known for its vivid purple blossoms and ability to flower at a fairly small size. Typical blooming period locally is from late October through December, it is a key species to own if you want to have a Ferocactus in bloom every month of the year. It is suitable for container growth or in the ground, generally hardy into the mid-20's with no rib damage.



Photo courtesy of www.wellgrowhorti.com

Prickly Park:

Planting of the Hummingbird Garden with help from "Our friends at the Tucson Audubon Society"

Photos by Ed Bartlett



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December 2011

Sunday, December 4, 2011 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Tuesday, December 6, 2011 7:00pm

Pima Prickly Park meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Board meeting and the U of A College of Pharmacy

Prickly Park:

Planting of the Hummingbird Garden with help from

"Our friends at the Tucson Audubon Society"

Photos by Ed Bartlett

