



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.

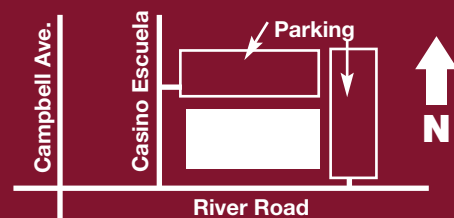
Jason is the owner of Miniature Garden, LLC in Tempe, Arizona where he propagates and sells Boswellias, Euphorbias, Commiphoras, Dorstenias, Pachypodiums and Adeniums.

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

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

August Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with N, M, O, P, Q, R, and S
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

August 2011

Thursday, August 4, 2011 7:00pm
Monthly Meeting, "What is a Succulent"
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