



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

December 2007

TCSS BOARD

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President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

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

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Norm Dennis (2007)
Barry McCormick (2007)
Jack Ramsey (2007)
Marty Harow (2007)
Peter Hubbell (2008)
Joie Giunta (2008)
Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)
Bill Salisbury (2008)
Dan Birt (2009)
Chris Monrad (2009)
Mark Sitter (2009)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

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

Editor: Karen Keller
runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

January Potluck

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

Everyone is Welcome!

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

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Where: Junior League Facility 2099 E River Road
Setup: 10.30 AM till 11.45 AM
Lunch: 12.00 NOON

The Society will provide Turkey, Ham, Shrimp, Condiments, Tableware, and Drinks (Coffee, Punch, Water).

You will provide your favorite recipe (enough for 10+ servings). Hot or Cold. Salads, Starches, Vegetables, Desserts. Please bring a serving dish and serving utensils.

This has been a great year! Let's make it special for others as well. Please bring donations, preferably dollars, for the Tucson Food Bank.

Gift Exchange: Everyone can participate by (cleverly) wrapping a plant or plant related gift of at least \$8.00 value. If you bring a gift, you get a gift, and we have a fun way to distribute the gifts.

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

Please RSVP using the form you got in the mail, OR write your name, number of people attending, and the kind of food you will bring (salad, starch, vegetable, dessert) on a piece of paper and send it to: Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society P.O. Box 64759 Tucson, AZ 85728-4759

January 3, 2008 at 7pm

Success and Failures with Succulent Plants, "A View from the Bench"

Presented by Mark Fryer

Mark is a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

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



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

President's Message



We have a membership of more than 1100 this year. We are the largest local cactus and succulent society in the world and we are inviting the world to visit us at the Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. This is planned to start in Tucson April 10, 2009. That's only 16 months away. A lot of work has been going on

behind the scenes with facilities, programs and sales. Starting in January you can become a part of the TCSS portion of the convention. We are the host society and as the host we want to make all our guests feel welcome. Lots of information will be on our website and in this newsletter about convention committees and activities. We will make this convention great only if you are part of it!

Recently, you have received information in the mail about renewing your membership, a ballot for the election of Officers and Board of Directors and our Holiday Party information. I hope you will renew your membership, vote and attend the party.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the other officers, Board Members, committee chairs and everyone who has volunteered at an event. You have made this a terrific year.

Jack Ramsey, Norm Dennis and Barry McCormick have decided not to run for re-election to the Board of Directors. In the last newsletter I talked about Barry leaving the editors position and all his accomplishment both as editor and board member. His knowledge and input will be missed.

Jack Ramsey is a name and face all of you know. He greets you at the door of our monthly meetings, handles the raffles and door prizes, organizes events like garden nursery and home tours and along with his wife Helen, manages many of our sales. He has also been responsible for our many years of participation in the Pima County Country Fair. I know Jack will continue to contribute his talent to TCSS. Thanks Jack for all you have done and all the hours you have contributed to this society.

Norm Dennis organized and started our mid-month spring and fall workshops. His first workshop was so successful that he had to repeat it several times so everyone could be included. He has provided us with a marvelous library of mammillaria photos on our website and his background as a science teacher has been extremely valuable for education and research grant efforts. Norm will also continue helping out where needed. Thank you Norm for all that you do.

Don't forget SONORAN VII will take place on May 9,10 & 11, 2008. Happy Holidays and have a great New Year.

Dick Wiedhopf, Presiden

Another Successful Sale

A beautiful historic setting, great weather, freshly rescued native cacti and four of Tucson's best cactus and succulent growers came together in perfect harmony on November 11th to make our Fall Sale at Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch Resort a big success. By the time our rescue crew had unloaded hundreds of plants, a large crowd of customers were eagerly waiting to select their favorites to take home, and within minutes after opening at 9 AM, the crew had to restock with what barrels were left in our hold area. It is very satisfying to know that so many homeowners treasure our rescued plants and are anxious to put them into their landscapes. As always, kudos to the hard working volunteers who labored the day before the sale, to rescue so many plants from two separate sites. One site was rich with barrels and hedgehogs, and the other site was heavy with exceptional mammillaria and hedge hogs. The diversity gave our customers a good selection of rescued plants, and up in Hacienda del Sol's beautifully landscaped patio, they could select from a wide variety of special cactus and succulent brought in by some of our member nurseries. Extra thanks go to those nurseries, to the great group of members who came to help at the sale, and of course to the owners of Hacienda del Sol for supporting our rescue program.

One special perfectly formed crested barrel about two feet tall was rescued and donated by TCSS for Hacienda's cactus garden so their guests could see this one in a thousand cacti. Rescue sales by 19 volunteers included 363 cacti bringing in \$3,114 with a profit of about \$1,800. Our Educational Outreach Program which includes our school grant program will receive 25% of our profits. Check our web site for the next sale date in the Spring.

Patsy and Joe Frannea

How Many Rescue Crew Members Does It Take To Move A Barrel Cactus?

More than six, if the cactus weighs over 500 pounds! On a recent cactus rescue a magnificent double headed barrel cactus was found with each head about four feet tall. One of the heads had a smaller barrel head on top with the other half being crested, truly a unique barrel. Its' demise was discussed amongst a few crew members and with the land to be bladed in a few days it was decided to rescue the one with the unique crest





on the top. As digging began to expose the roots, it was discovered that the cactus had one root base in the middle and each head grew out to the side and then up about four feet tall. One four foot tall barrel

requires a couple of people and a specially rigged dolly with oversize wheels and a ramp to get it into a pickup truck. But with two parallel heads this technique won't work and the weight being double and the possibility of letting it fall or twisting it may break the single base and ruin the whole thing.

Some of our rescues are like going to the dog pound, you want to save every one and give each one of them a good home. The more we talked the more we convinced ourselves that somehow this cactus needed to be saved so we decided to give it a go. We continued to dig around the base cutting the main roots and gently lowering it down to the ground onto 3 large cactus carrying slings. The slings were specially made for TCSS with heavy web strap handles. Once on the ground we decided to see if moving it was a possibility. Six strong crew members grabbed the handles for a test lift to see if we could get it off the ground. We could, but only a few inches. This cactus was 500 pounds plus. We knew we couldn't lift it high enough to get it into a pick up bed so now what do



we do to transport it off site? Safety always come first so we needed a simple and safe solution.

Luckily there was a two foot high berm just a few feet away so we shuffled it to the top and backed the truck to the berm to load it straight into the bed. This would be great, but wait, now it will take an army to off load it and plant it so where does it go? The simple answer was "somewhere close by" so the crew that just loaded it could plant it.

The site we were working was Granite Construction sand and gravel operation. We had started a small cactus garden next to their field office last March so we decided to add this great specimen to the existing garden of

other barrels, ocotillo, chollas, hedgehogs, saguaros and queen of the night. This went smoothly and 30 minutes later the cactus had a new home.

A special thanks to Novak Environmental and Granite Construction for letting us on their site to remove over 1,100 great barrels and 1,600 other cacti including 40 Queen of the Night over the past ten months. It should be noted that mining operations are exempt from native plant laws, so it is great to have businesses that go the extra mile to save native plants. Granite has certainly done this.



Joe Frannea

Meet the New Editor

Greetings, I have been asked to introduce myself. My name is Karen Keller and I was born and raised in Zurich, Switzerland where I attended The American International School of Zurich. After graduating, I got a BFA degree in Graphic Design at The Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore Maryland. I was not sure whether or not I wanted to pursue a career in the States of Switzerland, so I decided to return to Switzerland where I worked for several ad agencies. After working for two years in Switzerland, I decided it was time to spread my wings. When my brother was married in Tucson I got a glimpse of the area and fell in love with Tucson. It gave me the opportunity to do the things I enjoy such as running, hiking and enjoying the natural surroundings. I now call Tucson my home and work for Tucson Newspapers as a graphic designer as well as freelance on the side.

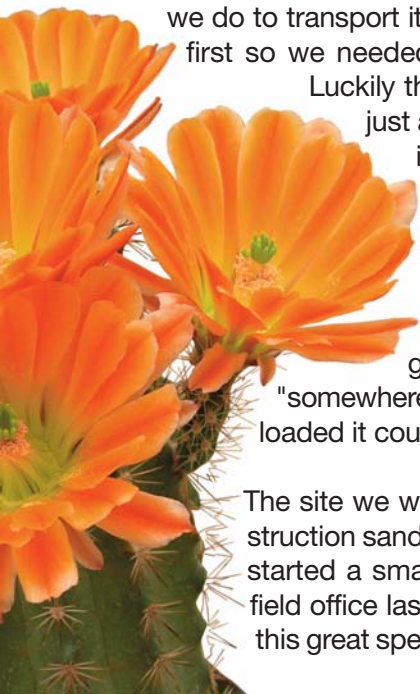
In the new year I plan to revamp the newsletter to make it more reader friendly. Hopefully this gives you a brief biography of myself. I can be reached via email at runbunny@cox.net.

Karen Keller

Library Update

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

Joie Giunta



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Cacti Rescued
189 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale
Visit our next Sale for selections

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

DECEMBER 2007
Sunday December 9

No General Meeting this month
12:00 Noon to 3:00pm
Annual Holiday Party at the Junior League of Tucson

JANUARY 2008
Thursday January 3

7:00pm
General Meeting and Presentation by Mark Fryer:
Success and Failures with Succulent Plants,
"A View from the Bench"

Tuesday, January 8

7:00pm
Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
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