



# DESERT BREEZE

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

December 2008

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

**Where:** Junior League Facility, 2099 E. River Road  
**Setup:** 10:30 AM till 11:45 AM  
**Lunch:** 12:00 NOON

The Society will provide Turkey, Ham, Shrimp, Condiments, tableware and Drinks (coffee, punch and water).

You will provide your favorite recipe (enough for 10 or more servings) Hot or Cold Salads - Starches - Vegetables - Desserts (please bring serving dish and serving utensils).

For the past ten years or so we have been collecting money and/or food for the Community Food Bank. This year the need will probably be greater, so let's make it special for others. Please bring donations (\$ preferred) for the Community Food Bank.

### Gift Exchange:

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

### Meeting:

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

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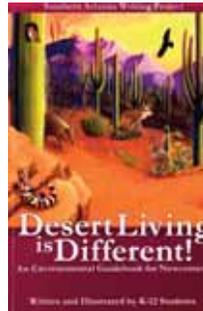
## Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7PM "Adenium: Twenty Years from Obscurity to Rising Star"

Presented by Kevin Barber and Mark Dimmitt

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## "Desert Living is Different"

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



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

*Joe Frannea*

## Tucson Botanical Gardens Summer Container Displays

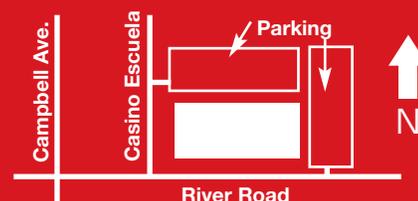
I am planning our container displays for next summer and I would like to feature the versatility of succulents. Would your organization be interested in contributing plant material? Since I'm starting now in the greenhouse, cuttings would be fine. We would display signs crediting your group with its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

## Library Update

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

*Joie Guinte*

Meetings are held on the first  
Thursday of each month.



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

## President's Message



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you again for your support.

*Dick Wiedhopf, President*

## Mountain Goats Take to the Hills...



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

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

*Joe Frannea.*

## Robins Schoolyard Habitat Project



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



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

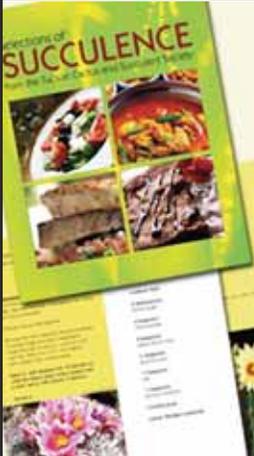
Robins through many months of work with students, parents, teachers, neighbors, and various businesses and organizations has earned the designation of an official Schoolyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Their neighboring community, Sweetwater in the Foothills, received Arizona's first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

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

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

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

Joe Frannea  
photos by Ed Bartlett



## Our First Cookbook

A great gift for you and your friends for the Holidays **Only \$10<sup>00</sup> each**  
Add @2.00 for each book shipped to you

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

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

## TCSS BOARD

### Officers

**President: Richard Wiedhopf**  
885-6367

**Vice President: Vonn Watkins**

**Secretary: Nancy Reid**

**Treasurer: Joe Frannea**

### Board of Directors:

Peter Hubbell (2008)

Joie Giunta (2008)

Keimpe Bronkhorst (2008)

Bill Salisbury (2008)

Dan Birt (2009)

Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

Linda Bartlett (2010)

Marty Harow (2010)

Bill Hicks (2010)

Karen Keller (2010)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy:

15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

[www.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.tucsoncactus.org)

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

### December Refreshments

Holiday Party and Gift Exchange.

Please see front page for more information on bringing food.

Everyone is Welcome!

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

**4 2 3 9 4**  
**3**

**Cacti Rescued**  
**208 Rescues Accomplished**

## TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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

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

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

### December 2008

Sunday December 7, 2008

Noon - 3.00 pm

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

Tuesday December 9, 2008

7:00 pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85715-3537