



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2004

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TCSS Web Page: [www.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.tucsoncactus.org)

### Next Meeting

Thursday, July 1 at 7:00 pm  
Junior League of Tucson  
2099 E. River Road  
Tucson

### July Refreshments

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

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

Thursday, July 1, 2004

7:00 pm

## John Schaefer Cactus Photography



John Schaefer received his B.S. in chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn, New York; his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana; and his Postdoctoral Fellow from the California Institute of Technology. He began his teaching career at the University of California-Berkeley before coming to the University of Arizona in 1960. He served on the University of Arizona faculty for twenty-one years, and held appointments as head of the Department of Chemistry and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts before serving as President of the University. In 1990, Dr. Schaefer joined Research Corporation, one of the first U.S. foundations wholly dedicated to the advancement of science. He is a regular contributor to *Westways* and *Arizona Highways*, as well as to many photographic journals. His photographs have been exhibited in museums around the world. He is an avid reader and collector of books in a variety of fields.

(<http://www.coh.arizona.edu/newandnotable/schaefer/schaefer.htm>)

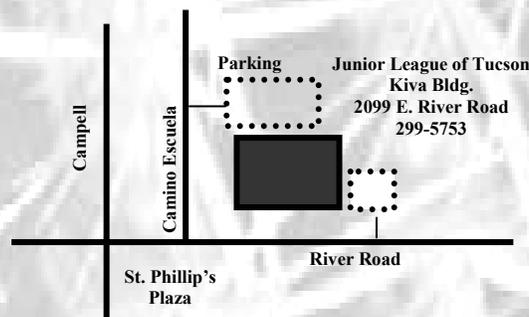
Mark Sitter will provide color commentary for this presentation of cactus photographs, many of which were taken recently at B&B Cactus Farm.

Thursday, August 5, 2004

## Mark Dimmitt Trichocereus

Mark Dimmitt will present a talk on the beautiful Trichocereus group.

### Meeting Place



## Those Pesky Names



Recently I was chatting with a friend who expressed a bit of frustration over the use of scientific names -- many times I've heard similar thoughts from other cactus and succulent fanciers.

Why do we use those pesky scientific names, and what good are they? To begin, there

are several thousand cacti alone, and very few of them have common names. And the common names are often confusing. For example, the common name "Barrel Cactus" can refer to many of the members of the genera *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus*, as well as some lesser known genera. The local species *F. wislizenii* and *F. cylindraceus* are both Barrels, but so is *Echinocactus horzonthalonius* var. *nicholii*. We can neatly avoid this confusion by using the scientific names -- or else just point and say -- "That one!"

Scientific names also reveal relationships. All *Mammillaria* are closely related to each other, while

*Hoodia* are not closely related to *Mammillaria* at all: *Mammillaria* are in the family Cactaceae, and *Hoodia* are in the family Asclepiadaceae

Another neat thing about scientific names is that we can learn things from them. For example, *Lithops verruculosa* and *Lithops gracilidelineata* are both members of a genus named *Lithops* because of their resemblance to rocks (from the Greek root litho- meaning rock), but *L. verruculosa* has little wart-like projections on its upper surface (warts or as a Physician might call your little bumps -- "verruca"). *L. gracilidelineata* has slender lines on its upper surface (gracile = slender, and linea = line in Latin) -- the names make sense, if your Latin is good enough!

You can also type scientific names into your computer search program and find interesting sites like <http://www.lithops.info/en/gallery/pictures.htm> where you can see nice pictures of many *Lithops*.

Of course it is difficult to remember many of the names, but somehow I am able to remember the scientific names of plants better than people names. Maybe if we were named for how we look -- I could be *Calvus barbatus*; the bald bearded one.

*Norm Dennis .....*

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