



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

February 2005

Thursday, February 3, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Ganna Walska's Lotusland

Lotusland is a unique thirty-acre estate and botanical garden in the foothills of Montecito, east of Santa Barbara. Madame Ganna Walska, who owned the property from 1941 until her death in 1984, created the gardens now covering the estate. Before her death, Madame Walska established the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation, which now preserves this unrivaled botanical treasure.

A world class cycad collection, as well as major collections of cacti and bromeliads are found here. Over 2000 plant species are present in unique settings and arrangements. The talk will cover the history of the site, the gardens and the plants.



Jim Foster will be our 'tour guide' for the visit to this exciting collection. Jim retired from DuPont in 1999 where he was a chemist involved in crop protection research. He's been a docent at Lotusland for over a year, giving two-hour tours to the public. Jim received his doctorate from the University of Arizona (Go Wildcats!) and still loves the Sonoran desert. Tucson remains one of his favorite places. We welcome Jim back to Tucson!

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 3, 2005.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

February Refreshments

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

Everyone is Welcome!

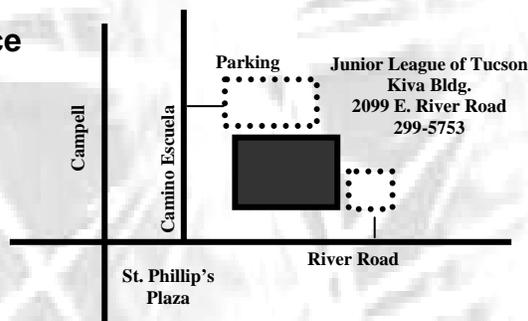
Bring your friends, join in the fun, and meet the cactus and succulent community.

Thursday, March 3, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Jane Evans – Winter Growing Succulents

Meeting Place



President's Message



The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) represents almost 3,000 members and 70+ affiliated societies around the world. Helen Barber is our affiliate representative who represents our interests at the biennial conventions. The next

convention is August 5-10, 2005 in Scottsdale, Arizona. I am enclosing both a registration form and a list of speakers and hope you will be interested in attending.

Convention attendance requires that you be a member of CSSA. Membership is \$35.00 per year and includes a subscription to the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*. The Journal has up-to-date information on new species and exciting travelogues to great cacti and succulent locations. You also receive *To the Point* which is the newsletter of the society edited by our member Peter Bockenthien. The newsletter contains interesting articles for beginners and information about Cactus and Succulent events around the world.

As a board member of CSSA, I have facilitated recognition of our Tucson rescue program as a true conservation effort, which has given new status to legally field-collected plants. I have recently assumed the duties of Vice President of the CSSA

The new president of CSSA is Dan Mahr. He spoke to our society about the *cactoblastis* moth about two years ago. This is the moth whose larvae destroys opuntias and is now in the Southern United States. Dan and others, supported by the CSSA, have taken the issue to the USDA, which is now attacking this problem with all its resources. That's an example of how the CSSA can influence national policy.

I hope you will consider joining the CSSA. See their web site cssainc.org for more information.

I might mention that the CSSA meeting was at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in the Pasadena area

on January 15. All that rain in Southern California made the gardens beautiful. Most of the Aloes were in bloom and many of the ground covering Mesembs were also blooming. Every plant has benefited from the rain and they look spectacular. This would be a great year to visit the gardens.

This is going to be a very good spring in Arizona and we are going back to Organ Pipe Cactus Monument on March 5, 2005. The information on this trip is enclosed. The bus holds about fifty-five individuals and if we have enough participants we will take more than one bus. This is an all-day trip and we will provide lunch and snacks. We are looking forward to a good spring wildflower show and will stop along the way to take photos and identify plants. I hope you will join us.

There is so much going on this year. Please check the web site and the *Desert Breeze* for events and dates. You don't want to miss anything.

Finally, on February 4, several members of rescue program will be representing you at the Sonoran Institutes Faces of Conservation Awards Dinner where we are finalists for the Conservation Collaboration Award.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

**Third Thursday, February 17, 2005
7:00 P.M.**

**Vonn Watkins - Cactus and
Succulents from Seed
(Reservations Required)**

This workshop will provide an introduction to basic seed culture. It will cover flowers, pollination techniques, hybrid populations and the gathering, cleaning and seed storage process. Basic germination techniques will be discussed and the various problems that can occur will also be covered. Complete details of how to grow your seedlings year round as well as using some very basic materials in a limited space will be examined and discussed. The workshop will end with some tips on timetables, what to do after your seedlings have matured a bit and how and when to move plants into larger containers.

Third Thursdays Workshops

The response to the workshops has been both satisfying and overwhelming. We had a full workshop of twenty-five on January 20, and added a second session on February 10. The remaining two workshops have more sign-ups than the planned capacity, but we will do all we can to accommodate all comers. So if you would still like to sign up, use the form you got last month or pick up a new one at the meeting. The workshops are restricted to TCSS members. There is a \$5.00 registration fee for each workshop, and participation is limited.

February – Seed and Vegetative Propagation.
Vonn Watkins.

March -. General Cultural Practices.
Gene Joseph

We want your input and feedback. We will be planning another series in the fall so let us know what you would enjoy.

A Great Mammillaria Find!

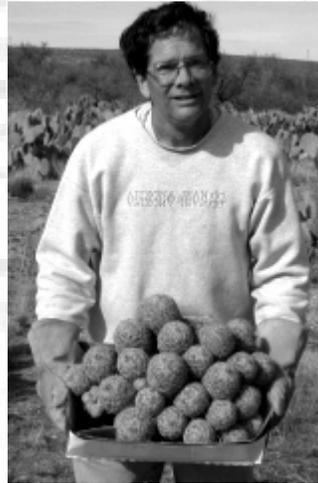
The Cactus Rescue Crew Program jumped off to a great start this year on January 2 with a rescue on a 500 acre parcel that will become the new Saddlebrooke Ranch, complete with an 18-hole golf course and hundreds of interspersed homes. The site is located about three miles northeast of Oracle Junction. Robson Development has been a great TCSS Rescue Partner and let us on site prior to any blading.

We have been there four times in January and already rescued over 2,100 cacti, including barrels, luscious hedge hogs, a few small yuccas, a few prickly pear and cholla and a great Mammillaria find, *Coryphantha Bisbeeana*. We had found a few

Coryphantha on the original Saddlebrooke site but nothing like these. Several were about double the size in diameter and height as normally found or documented, like the four-inch double header that Dave Palzkill found and several were multiple heads with as many as 32



heads like the one that Bill Hicks found.



Chris Monrad is working with several other developers about prospective rescue sites for the next several months. Many are being scheduled so stay tuned as to when and where. We have had some problems with rescue crew members not getting their rescue notices due to anti-spam filters. Our notices come

from CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org or TCSS@TucsonCactus.org so be sure both of these addresses are on your list of allowed email senders if you use a spam blocking filter. Notices are sent out on Thursdays for the following weekend.

I will start sending notices every Thursday even if we do not have a rescue, so if you asked to be on the rescue broadcast list you should have a notice no later than Friday morning. If you do not receive a notice, please send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org to let me know.

Joe Frannea

Upcoming Schedule

February 17, 2005. Third Thursday Workshop: Seed and Vegetative Propagation.

February 26-27, 2005. Fiesta de Las Flores display and show at the Foothills Mall.

March 17, 2005. Third Thursday Workshop: General Cultural Practices.

Sunday, March 20, 2005. Pima County Country Fair Sale.

April 7, 2005. General Meeting; Tim Metcalf – “What’s in Your Pot?”

April 30- May 1, 2005. Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society “Expo” at the Junior League of Tucson.

May 5, 2005. General Meeting: Bob Webb – “Travels in Arabia and Africa.”

December 11, 2005 Holiday Party



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

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 15% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



New Member Listings and changes are in the 2005 Roster

Photos by Joe Frannea. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

A BUS TRIP TO ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Extraordinary Wildflower Displays

Date: March 5, 2005

Departure Time: 6:00 am at the College of Pharmacy Parking Lot west of College off of Cherry Ave. Bus will start loading at 5:30 am.

Return: Approximately 6:30 pm

Cost:\$40.00 members

\$50.00 non-members

See the enclosed sign-up sheet.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537

