



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

February 2008

February 7, 2008 at 7pm

## "Reduction of Plant Disease with Nutrients"

Presented by Dr. Jerald E. Wheeler

Dr. Wheeler's program will cover these four important informational topics that focus on the essentials needed for insuring a beautiful and healthy plant collection.

1. **Essential Nutrients & Beneficial Nutrients**
2. **Fertilizer analysis-an explanation of the numbers on a bag of Fertilizer.**
3. **Fertilizer rates**
4. **Principle nutrients needed to increase plant resistance to disease.**

Jerald E. Wheeler, Ph.D. is a Plant Pathologist. For those who need a better explanation of what a plant pathologist does, here is a short definition. A plant pathologist is one who studies, interprets, and diagnoses diseases and abnormalities of plants. Plant Pathology is defined as the study of the organisms and environmental conditions that cause disease in plants, the mechanisms by which this occurs, the interactions between these causal agents and the plant (effects on plant growth, yield and quality), and the methods of managing or controlling plant disease. It also interfaces knowledge from other scientific fields such as mycology, microbiology, virology, biochemistry, bio-informatics, etc.

### Educational background

BS. Purdue University, 1966,  
Agriculture and Plant Sciences  
MS. U. of Arizona, 1969, Plant Pathology/Botany  
Ph.D. U. of Arizona, 1970,  
Plant Pathology/Agricultural Biochemistry  
1968-1970 U. of Arizona,  
In charge of plant disease clinic under Dr. Hine

### Professional History

1970-1971 Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology,  
Univ. of Freiburg, Germany  
1971-1973 Assistant Professor of Agronomy  
and Plant Genetics at the University of Arizona  
1973-1975 Development Plant Pathologist,  
University of Wisconsin, Brazil  
1975-1988 Owned and/or Managed Acre, Inc.  
1988-2002 Product Development Manager,  
United Agri Products  
2002-2004 Product Development Manager,  
Western Farm Service  
2003-present Product Development Manager,  
Agrilience/Winfield Solutions

Dr. Wheeler has also been published with his writings in 17 Scientific Publications in refereed journals.

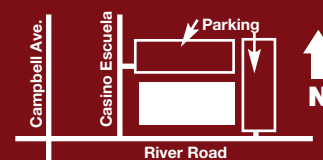
This will be a special program that everyone should attend and enjoy. Dr. Wheeler is presenting our first program on Plant Pathology and this will be a very important area to be presented. You may learn a lot more about your plants and their particular needs so please join us in welcoming Dr. Wheeler and be sure to also bring your questions.



**On March 6, 2008 Brian Kemble from the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California, will be our guest speaker.**

Brian will be presenting a program on his recent trip to South Africa and will be concentrating on the Grass Aloes.

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



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

## President's Message



May 9, 10 and 11 are the dates for the Sonoran VII Conference. This is a multifunction activity that involves a plant show, plant sales, art exhibit, silent auction and a registration based activity of lectures and workshops. It will be held at the Inn Suites Hotel Tucson City Center. Later on this month you will receive in the mail and online, details about registration and opportunities to volunteer at this biennial event. I know we can count on your support.

The Tucson Cactus Cookbook Committee (I like the way that sounds) will have its first meeting in late January and the process will be underway to produce our first Tucson Cactus Society book. I think it will be a best seller. I know we can count on your support.

I hope you like the logo decals that were sent to you upon renewal of your membership. It will be interesting to learn how they are being used. We did purchase an ample supply and they will be available at our meeting and events at 4/\$1.00. I know we can count on your support.

The Research Grant Committee will be making recommendation for the first awards at our next Board of Directors meeting. The money to support these awards comes from our live and silent auctions held at events throughout the year. I know we can count on your support.

We have participated in a number of interviews this month about our nationally recognized rescue program and several members have been reaching out to community developers for new leads on rescue opportunities. I know we can count on you for support.

We will be hosting the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America the first weekend in April. They will be here to look over the Westin La Paloma which is the site of the April 10-15, 2009 convention. We have invited Gary Lyons (CSSA Board Member) to speak at our April 3rd meeting. I know we can count on your support.

The Tucson CSSA 2009 convention committees will start meeting in earnest to plan all the activities around the convention. We are planning a show, bus trips, club sales, banquets, give aways, t-shirts and more. I know we can count on your support.

All these activities and the Convention are happening in the next 15 months and the one thing I am sure about is your support.

Thank you

*Dick Wiedhopf, President*

## Conservation Committee Matching Grant

The flat lowlands of Southern Sonora and Northern Sinaloa, Mexico, were once covered by thousands of acres of organ pipe cactus forests. With irrigation and cattle ranching, almost all of this has been leveled and there is only one protected area still in existence. Much of that protection has come through the efforts of David Yetman who has spoken at our meetings and is the host of the KUAT program "The Desert Speaks".

Recently, the newly organized Conservation Committee proposed to the Board of TCSS that a small financial contribution of \$200 go to this protection program. Spearheaded by Chris Monrad, the Board raised the amount to \$500 as a challenge grant to the membership. Matched by \$500 of membership contributions, this would bring the total grant to \$1,000. This money could be used only for materials, primarily fencing, and not for labor which is being provided by the local Mayo indigenous community.

At the next meeting, members of the Conservation Committee will be available to discuss the challenge grant and answer any questions which the membership might have concerning the project. Look for us at or near Marty Harrow's badge and literature table.

The Conservation Committee would like to encourage all TCSS members to contribute to the challenge grant even if it is only a few dollars as this will help to build the fund. Make checks to TCSS, Conservation Committee Challenge Grant. They can be mailed to Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, P. O. Box 64759, Tucson AZ 85728-4759 or given to the committee representative at the meeting.

*Peter Hubbell, Chair, Conservation Committee*

## "Desert Connections" Grant Awarded

TCSS recently awarded Sunnyside Desert View High School teacher George Meisch a School grant for \$483 so he may implement his "Desert Connections" project. Approximately three hundred high school students will benefit from hands on work creating and using the outdoor habitat.

Their goal is to create a desert botanical habitat so that science teachers can use it with their students to identify, analyze, observe, and test hypotheses that tie to Arizona State Standard based lessons. The project states that others will benefit as well. "Welding students will help build fences, ramadas, benches, design trails. Art students will draw and paint cactus and succulents. Writing students will enjoy the area and create poetry. Geography students will learn about Tucson, Mexico, and New Mexico habitats and natural history. Special education students will learn science and the value of community service."

This grant request was well thought out and clearly written. The TCSS Board raised the maximum amount of School



Grants from \$400 to \$500 effective January first so this will allow us to cover all material costs outlined in the proposal. We have also offered Cactus Rescue Crew plants for their project at very reasonable costs.

Details and grant request forms are available on our TCSS web site for any teacher in Arizona to request a grant for school projects pertaining to cactus and succulents.

*Joe Frannea*

## TCSS Financial Report - 2007

This is the financial report for all of 2007. Some minor final adjustments may need to be made. The \$10,000 set-aside for Rescue Crew Operations is necessary to ensure working monies for large tag purchases and other rescue expenses. Education, Research and Conservation Funds are designated monies specifically earmarked for these programs. The Rescue Cactus Program Expenses include \$3,757 donated to the Educational Outreach Fund (25% of Rescue Program profits).

| Major Categories                             | Income          | Expenses        | Net             |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dues, Newsletters,<br>Meetings, misc.        | \$19,380        | \$24,737        | \$(5,357)       |
| Rescue Cactus Prog:                          | \$36,749        | \$25,149        | \$ 11,600       |
| Expo, Silent Auction,<br>Trips, Commissions: | \$29,461        | \$23,795        | \$ 5,666        |
| Donations, Grants:                           | \$ 5,772        | \$ 2,550        | \$ 3,222        |
| <b>Totals</b>                                | <b>\$91,362</b> | <b>\$76,231</b> | <b>\$15,131</b> |

### Assets by Funds:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| General Fund:   | \$22,908 |
| Rescue Operations:                                    | \$10,000 |
| Educational Outreach:                                 | \$11,917 |
| Research Fund:  | \$ 9,511 |
| Conservation Fund:                                    | \$501    |
| Total Monetary Assets:                                | \$54,837 |
| Physical Assets approx:<br>(Library and<br>Equipment) | \$20,000 |

For comments or questions  
regarding this report contact  
**Joe Frannea, Treasurer,**  
email: [Joe@TucsonCactus.org](mailto:Joe@TucsonCactus.org)

## Library

### Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond by Brad Lancaster

As a Tucson resident, the author practices what he preaches. This award-winning book is volume 1 in a series of 3. You will learn how to evaluate your property, design the landscape and implement some simple steps to use rainwater. There are worksheets, plant lists and water requirements specific to Tucson. Included is an appendix of resources in print and online.

### Australian Succulent Plants An Introduction by Attila Kapitany

This book has some unusual and beautiful plants. Each plant is given two pages of pictures, showing the plant, flower and an occasional shot of the habitat. There is also a brief description of the plant and a sentence on the habitat.

*Joie Giunta*

## The TCSS is looking for your FAVORITE RECIPIES to be featured in a Cookbook

If you would like to have your original recipe featured in a cookbook, you can email or send them to the following addresses  
[recipes@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:recipes@tucsoncactus.org)

**TCSS Recipes**  
**P.O. Box 64759, Tucson, AZ 85728**

If you have a great idea for a name for a cookbook, let us know

## 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 Harrow (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  
Volunteers: Nancy Reid  
[volunteer@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:volunteer@tucsoncactus.org)

Editor: Karen Keller  
[runbunny@cox.net](mailto:runbunny@cox.net)  
Deadline for copy:  
15th of each month

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

### February Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with G to L, 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.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
|   |   |   |   | 3 |

**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

| FEBRUARY 2008                |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Thursday February 7          | 7:00 pm<br>General Meeting and Presentation by<br>Dr. Jerald E. Wheeler:<br><i>"Reduction of Plant Disease with Nutrients"</i> |
| Tuesday, February 12         | 7:00 pm<br>Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy   |
| Thursday, March 6            | 7:00pm<br>General Meeting and Presentation by Brian Kemble   |
| Saturday & Sunday, March 8-9 | Fiesta de las Flores hosted by<br>the Tucson Orchid Society and Green Things   |
| Sunday, March 16             | Boyce Thompson Arboretum Spring Sale Bus Tour  |



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