



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

January 2008

January 3, 2008 at 7pm

## "A View From the Bench - trials and tribulations in succulent horticulture"

Presented by Mark Fryer



I started growing cactus and succulent plants as a young boy in the mid-Willamette valley area of Oregon. My Grandfather was a farmer and my parents always had a passionate interest in gardening and planting interesting shrubs and trees, so the appreciation of flora was one that was instilled over and over in

the course of my formative years. My first cactus garden died in the family attic during it's first year of growth (I dehydrated everything in it). I remember clearly the every other day jaunts up the ladder in the garage to check on my little mini-desert up under the eaves.

20 years later, I found myself surrounded by 1000's of living things that were constant companions and inspiration over the years, things that offered more questions than answers that I couldn't seem to shake. While my various education paths were never really agriculturally oriented, there were always elements of the natural sciences involved with summer jobs and other activities. I accidentally flowered some cactus one spring and wanted to learn more, which is when and where I was first exposed to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, and the Oregon Cactus and Succulent Society. Several years later I was obsessed with studying north Americancacti in habitat and growing as many different plants as possible. As luck or fate had it, one of my neighbors at the time had a little business called Banana Gardens that was an overgrown backyard nursery operation, and was soon to be moving into new quarters on some acreage, called "Rare Plant Research" which was specializing in Lewisias, cold-hardy succulents, and rare

tender succulents. I had a part-time job that was feeding the obsession. I tried to launch my own backyard nursery and actually got very close to success with it. I was very dedicated to the Oregon C&S Society, and served officially for several years.

Fast forward another decade or two and time finds me working in a good corporate job, relegating my passion to "well-developed hobby", and still devoted to study and experimentation. The "dot-com burst" of 2000 placed me in a challenging position after having relocated to San Diego where I married the girl of my dreams and settled down a bit. Moving to southern California after almost 4 decades in the Pacific Northwest, I got to relearn everything I thought I knew about growing plants, especially succulents. In between consulting gigs and chewing on the notion of buying a nursery, I struck a deal with the owner of C&J Cactus Nursery to do some temporary grafting work. After a month or so of working there, they made me an offer to come on as a manager of sorts, a propagator of sorts, someone to potentially buy the place and learn the ropes. Now in my 5th year here, this program will be an overview of what it's like to bring several hundred species of cacti and succulent plants from seed-production into plant-production, some of the successes and failures, and some of the neat anomalies we encounter along the way. I look forward to meeting with you all on January 3rd!

Be sure to come and welcome Mark to our first meeting of 2008!

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

## President's Message



Welcome to 2008 and the 49th year for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Yes, we are fast approaching our Golden Anniversary. That celebration will be capped off by the 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in Tucson on April 10-15, 2009. One of

our activities will be the introduction of a golden spined variety of our native *Ferocactus wislizeni* which we are growing for that event.

Sonoran VII is fast approaching on May 9, 10 and 11, 2008 at the InnSuites Hotel. This is our celebration of the Sonoran Desert with speakers, workshops, a show, auctions and a huge sale with twenty plus vendors. You will here much more about this event next month. Mark your calendars now.

Every year at the Holiday Party some one says "why don't we do a recipe book of all the great dishes that are prepared by our members" and the answer has always been "that's a great idea, do we have a volunteer?". Well, this year we do. Actually, we have several volunteers who are really excited about this project. They will be meeting in mid January to decide how this will be accomplished but I can tell you now to start writing down your recipes and looking through your cactus, succulent plant and Sonoran Desert photos for possible inclusion into this book. This is going to be an exciting project and will become a great gift to give on all occasions.

Several individuals throughout the country have given gift memberships to TCSS to their friends and family during this holiday season. We will make this easier in the future and will customize gift memberships for all occasion. More than 100 of our members live outside of the Tucson area and many outside of Arizona. That's just wonderful!

If you haven't renewed your membership you will be getting a reminder very soon. I know how the Holidays get us out of our routines and things get misplaced so don't be offended by our reminder notices. This year we have produced a decal of our logo that you will be receiving with your renewal as our gift to you. We will have more available for purchase at meetings and I know you will find many uses for these to promote the

Society. Also, many of you will be receiving "cactus bucks". This is a thank you from the Rescue Program Coordinators for your participation. The number of bucks represents your participation in actual rescues and can be used for the purchase of rescued plants. Your Board is already planning exciting trips, outings, sales and other events for 2008. Information will be available on the website, in the Desert Breeze and your mailbox.

Finally, I want to welcome our new Board of Directors for term ending December 31, 2010, who were elected and announced at the Annual Holiday Party. They are Linda Bartlett, Marty Harow, Bill Hicks, and Karen Keller.

Thank you for a great 2007 from the Board of Directors and Officers of the largest local cactus and succulent society in the World.

*Dick Wiedhopf, President*

## School Grant Awarded to TUSD Brichta Elementary

TCSS has awarded a \$400 School Grant to teacher Katie Eddleman for her "Brichta Reconciliation Ecology Project". She is a fifth grade math and environmental science teacher. Her students will develop a micro habitat to determine the effect on ground squirrel populations using various native plants. Students will participate in plant, animal surveys, habitat design and community outreach so that students can experience first hand that humans can have a positive effect on nature. Students will get a great exposure to the Scientific Process of developing questions and conducting experiments to gather data and perform analysis and summarizing results.

We applaud teachers like Katie who develop great student projects and are pleased that we can help make the project a success by providing some funding. Twenty five percent of our Cactus Rescue Crew profits are earmarked for the TCSS Educational Outreach Program which includes School Grants.

*Joe Frannea*

## Cactus Rescues - Nine Years Strong

The TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew Program just completed its' ninth year and bringing the number of plants saved to over 37,000. We had 20 rescue trips at seven different sites this past year saving about 6,000 cacti and other succulents. Our volunteer crew is as strong

as ever and contributed over 2,400 volunteer hours this past year. We would like to especially thank Granite Construction and A.W. Marrs Development for letting us make many trips to rescue a large number of the plants on their sites.

The TCSS Board and Cactus Rescue Crew leaders want to thank all who participated in rescues and sales this past year. This very successful program and the crew members who show up to make all this possible is a big part of what TCSS is all about. Our annual Cactus Bucks coupons for those who participated in one or more rescues or sales events this past year are enclosed with this newsletter as a special thanks for your contributions.

*Joe Frannea*

## Awards

For the last several years, your Board of Directors has authorized the President to present awards to members for their service to the society. These awards are announced at the annual meeting in conjunction with the Holiday Party. There are two types of awards. The President's Award recognizes outstanding service to the society and the President's Special Service Award recognizes individuals for their Special Dedication and Outstanding Service Contributions for the success of our society. The awardees are recommended to the President by the Board and committee chairs and the decisions are made by the president. Each recipient received a special engraved trophy and an award certificate.

Some of the recipients were not in attendance and their awards will be presented at the next regular meeting.

## This years President's Award winners are:

### ALICE & ED CAMPBELL

For their consistent volunteerism for rescues, sales and committee activities.

### DAVE MOYER

A regular rescue volunteer, who assists with tagging and collecting money, assists with set up and helps cashier at sales events. He is a great inspiration to others due to his work ethic despite his wheelchair challenges.

### NANCY REID

As a regular rescue crew member, volunteer coordinator, Secretary, and for increasing the plantings at the University's Joseph W. Krutch Gardens with many of our donated rescued plants.

### JOYCE THOMAS

Who is a consistent volunteer at sales events and rescues

### JAMES THOMAS

Who is a regular volunteer at rescues, sales and contributes his talent for framing botanical art for monthly raffles.

## President's Special Service Award goes to BARRY MCCORMICK

For his six years as Newsletter Editor-creator of Biennial Cactus Expo and two term member of the Board of Directors.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Conference  
May 9, 10 & 11, 2008

Presented by the  
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

Inn Suites Hotel  
465 North Granada Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85701

## 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.ehost.com

Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy:

15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

## January Refreshments

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.

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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

**JANUARY 2008**

**Thursday, January 3**

**7:00 pm**

**General Meeting and Presentation by Mark Fryer:**  
*"A View From the Bench -  
trials and tribulations in succulent horticulture"*

**Tuesday, January 8**

**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



## *Holiday Party Fun for All...*

Laden with plates and dishes of gourmet food and festive mystery gifts, nearly 140 TCSS members and guests gathered in December for our Annual Holiday Potluck Lunch and Celebration.

A team of loyal volunteer elves set to work early Sunday to transform our meeting room into rows of colorful red tables and hungry guests were treated to nearly 100 feet of tempting food choices as they went through the buffet line. TCSS provided turkey, ham, shrimp and drinks and members filled the tables with delicious and exotic recipes that would challenge any fancy restaurant in town. It was quite the gourmet spread ... encouraging a renewed call to publish a TCSS cookbook for all to enjoy, watch for upcoming details on this project.

After everyone was more than well fed, the party continued with recognition of special award recipients and the traditional mystery gift exchange. Each person who had brought a wrapped gift was given a ticket to receive a gift. As the numbers were called they could either accept a random gift or could exchange it for someone else's gift that looked interesting. The fun, games and exchanging went on for set limits until everyone was allowed to open their gift.... followed by many oohs and aahs as new plants and related accessories were unveiled.

The party was a fun and festive conclusion to yet another great year for TCSS. Many thanks to all who helped make it such a huge success.

*Patsy Frannea*



# Awards



Dick Wiedhopf presenting  
President Award  
to JOYCE & JAMES THOMAS



NANCY REID

President's  
Award winners

Special Service Award  
NORM DENNIS, BARRY MCCORMICK  
JACK RAMSEY



Newsletter  
Special Service Award  
BARRY MCCORMICK

