



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2003

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 3 at 7:00 pm

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

July 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, July 3, 2003

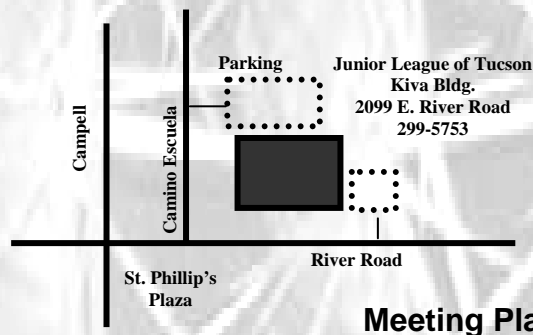
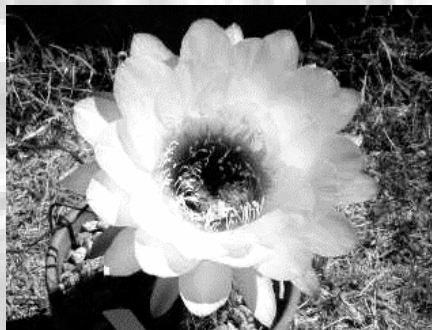
7:00 pm

Mark Dimmitt

Mark Dimmitt, Natural Science Director at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, will speak on the genus *Trichocereus*. This genus, recently vacated in favor of lumping many species under *Echinopsis*, has given us a fabulous array of both day and night blooming cactus. Mark has produced more than 50 named cultivars, such as Volcanic Sunset, Yes!, Oh Wow!, and Apricot Glow. Clones of these cactus grace many of our yards, as well as the splendid display at the Desert Museum.

Mark is well known for his knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Sonoran desert, and he is currently heading up a number of research projects including a study of the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Many of us know Mark as a dedicated and prolific horticulturist specializing in the cultivation of succulents and epiphytes, especially *Adenium*, *Trichocereus*, and *Tillandsia*.

Mark has spoken to us many times, and has never disappointed. Don't miss this presentation.



President's Message



Thank you for your support of our first Cactus and Succulent Exposition. Barry McCormick, who was general chairman, did wonderful job of coordinating all the activities associated with this event. The Junior League facility turned out to be a great

venue. To all of you who chaired parts of the event and to all of you who volunteered your time-Thank you. I hope you had as much fun as I did.

What's next? Sonoran V is in the planning stages and we will have a date and place shortly. We are planning for the end of April or the first week in May 2004 as the preferred time.

Please support the Weird Plant Sale at the Tucson Botanical Gardens on June 13. From 6-8 pm there is a special member's pre-sale and you are invited to attend. If you are not a TBG member, be sure to have your TCSS membership card with you. The sale will continue on Saturday, June 14, from 8 am to 1 pm.

We are trying to put together a trip to the Huntington Botanical Gardens in coordination with the Succulent Symposium. The date is Saturday, August 30, 2004. I understand that the one-day symposium will on South American Cacti. Please let me know if you are interested in a trip to the Huntington.

Membership in the Society continues to grow. More than 20 new members have joined during the Exposition. We welcome you and are glad you share our enthusiasm for succulent plants.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Saguaros: A Cactus Calamity?

Part of our educational display at Exposition 2003 was a great science project by Jenelle who is an 6th grade student at St. Michael's Parish School. She is a winner from the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair known as SARSEF. Her project display board and research notebook were on display and Jenelle was available for part of

the Exposition to answer questions about her project. Her project question was "Are saguaros healthier in wild areas or near roads?" Her Hypothesis was "There will be more unhealthy saguaros in the road plots that in the control plots. There will be less animal damage near roads." She found part of this to be true and part wasn't so true. I hope you had a chance to talk to Jenelle or review her display to see what she discovered.



President Dick Wiedhopf presented Jenelle with a special cactus pin and gave her and her family a TCSS membership and free cactus. Mike Ellis, one of the vendors, gave her a small saguaro to raise and care for as well.

Joe Frannea

Mary Church

January 1, 1913 to May 13, 2003

From the very beginning, as a charter member, Mary was the heart and soul of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Her support for this society was unwavering through good times and not so good times. She shared her knowledge, skills, volunteerism and plants with everyone. When my wife and I joined the Society thirty-three years ago, Mary was one of the first members to greet us and make us feel welcome. She was my friend, was a friend to all of us. She will be missed in our Society and in our Community.

Dick Wiedhopf

School Grant Program



Four kindergarten teachers from Amphitheater's E.C. Nash Elementary School recently applied for and were awarded a \$400 grant to build a Kinder"Garden". Nash first grade students maintain a

flower, fruit, and vegetable garden. A desert garden will give about 100 kindergarten students, as well as other students, experience and ideas about another type of garden. They plan to not only plant and maintain the garden but keep records on growth, flowers, and other observations. This is the third grant awarded this year from our Educational Outreach School Grant funds.

Joe Frannea

IRHS Cactus & Succulent Project a Success

A freshman Biology teacher at Ironwood Ridge High School (IRHS), Jim Ewing, was the first recipient of a cash grant from our Educational Outreach School Grant Program. He brought part of their Mini Desert Biome project and a brief write up to our Exposition 2003 to be part of the educational display.



He and another teacher, Mrs. Koza, and their students obtained over 300 cacti from Bach's, built light stands from PVC parts, and planted many biomes. They started in January and are finishing up this month. A successful plant sale in April yielded them \$450 which will help support next years Cactus & Succulent project. A gift TCSS

membership was given to Jim so the teachers and students could keep up with our activities and maybe help with some student level articles for our newspaper.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescue

Cactus Rescue leapt back into the picture with a very successful rescue in the Vail area on Saturday, May 24. About 25 members gathered for the first salvage of the year. It was satisfying that a large number of the members were new to the club, and had space to provide a home to many of the cactus. We rescued many barrels and hedgehogs, and the occasional yucca and mammillaria on the 67 acre site. All it took to get us back into the rescue business was for the temperatures to reach three digits!



We had expected to be rescuing at the new Tanque Verde School site, but the recent headline: "Tanque Verde's School Quagmire" tells it all. No telling when, or if, we will be on that fertile site.

Our Rescue Crew is notified on Thursdays for weekend rescues. If you are interested in being on the list, send Joe Frannea an email at cacti@earthlink.net. Come when you can, help the club, and get hand selected cacti at a great price.

Kudos.

To Valarie Miller, one of the winners of this year's Tucson Xeriscape Contest for her home garden of cacti and succulents. The awards were given at Tohono Chul Park May 14. Good job Valarie – that's what it's all about.

Library



Look for new books purchased recently: *Crassula - A Grower's Guide*, by Gordon Rowley and *Epiphyllum* by Leue

TCSS Rescue Cacti for

Lots & lots to choose from.....

Barrels - from 14" diameter
(about \$2 per barrel)



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

Photo credits for this issue are
Joe Franklin, Gary McCormick
and Dick Wiedhopf

Welcome to our new
members this month. A new
roster is being prepared so we just
welcome you by name this month.



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

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