



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

July 2008

Thursday, July 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM
**"Cactus Travels
From Across The Atlantic"**

Presented by Stuart Riley



Stuart and Jane Riley will be returning to Tucson from their home in the United Kingdom to present another great presentation. As well as being keen cactus hobbyists, they have a cactus nursery in the UK and will be bringing a follow-up program to the one they gave in 2006 with more photos of collections, nurseries, shows and a few amusing stories from across the Atlantic with a bit of history thrown in too! This will be Stuart's first digital program and the first time any of the photos have been seen. Stuart and Jane have been spending their holidays in the United States since the early 1980s and always include Tucson on their travels.

Please plan to come in and welcome Stuart and Jane back to Tucson. Also be ready for a wonderful evening of fun and adventure from Europe!

Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 7:00PM
**"Exploring and Knowing the Plants
of the Rio Grande Area of Texas"**
Presented by Matthew B. Johnson

FREE PLANTS Adenia Glauca

First described by Schinz in 1892, belonging to the Passifloraceae family. This species is from southern Africa and Botswana region, The caudex can get up to one meter or more in diameter (over time, of course) and the branches reach for up to three meters. It prefers well draining soil, should be heavily watered in the summer and can dry out in winter. The plant should be kept out of strong sun and prefers filtered/patio light. The flower is green/creme in color. Best for pot culture, as it is frost tender and should be moved indoors, left dry and dormant in the winter. Showy, tropical leaves are outstanding during the growing season.

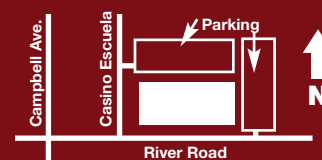
Chris Monrad

HATS OFF TO "A to J" MEMBERS !

Every month we ask members to help with our meeting refreshments alphabetically according to their last name. In June "A to J" families really overwhelmed us with an abundance of delicious varieties of goodies to share. TCSS supplies basic drinks and treats at the meetings, but depends on our generous members to provide the interesting extra food we all enjoy sampling. Look for your turn to contribute by checking the newsletter each month. Thanks a million to everyone who helps fill our refreshment tables.

Patsy Frannea

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



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

President's Message



It is hard to believe that the 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is less than a year away. April 10-15, 2009 is the official dates, The Westin La Paloma is the site and we are the host society. This is also the time we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society (TCSS). Both Societies are busy getting things ready for the largest convention

ever. We are expecting to exceed the record 700 attendees at the 1995 convention also held in Tucson. What a wonderful time.

A group of TCSS volunteers are planning field trips for the Monday, April 13, 2009 and other times to sites all over Southern Arizona. These include visits to local nurseries, Desert Museum, Tohono Chul Park, Tucson Botanical Gardens, Desert Botanical Gardens, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Missions, Desert exploring and more. There will be a need for one TCSS member tour guide on each bus to answer questions and talk about the wonders of Tucson and Southern Arizona. You would also be the way finder and the attendance monitor. We want to bring back the same number of folks we started with. This will be great fun and the reward will be a free tour and one morning or afternoon session of your choice at the convention.

Kevin Barber is the CSSA Convention Chair and he has appointed Vonn Watkins, Program Chair, Helen Barber, Vendor Sales chair, Mindy Fusaro, Convention Registrar to handle the major CSSA tasks. The local activities are being managed by TCSS committees. There is a large variety of activities and everyone is welcome to participate. It's easy! Just go to the website and click on Contact Us or you may call directly at 520-885-6367.

Congratulations to Scott Calhoun (member and speaker at Sonoran VII) selected as First Place Professional Residential "Zona Gardens for the Newhouse Residence" in the 8th Annual Regional Xeriscape Landscape Contest sponsored by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

This is the final call for recipes and photo for our book. Thanks to all who have contributed.

It's hot, It's summer, killer bees are swarming on my patio, its Tucson and I love it.

Thank you,
Dick Wiedhopf, President

Catalina High School Horticulture Program

We are supporting our member Nicole Harrington, a faculty member at Catalina HS, with her horticulture program. Please bring clean pots in the following sizes ONLY: 2 3/4" . 3

1/4", 6", 1 gal and 2 gal. Norm Dennis has volunteered to store them and make them available as needed.

We also need cleaned seeds in labeled envelopes. We need native and non-native cacti, succulents, trees etc that will be interesting and easy to grow. Species might include Fairy Duster, Desert Mallow, Velvet Mesquite, Ocotillo, Cresote, Desert Marigold, Penstemon, Brittle Bush, Burr Sage, and local cacti excluding Opuntia.

We can also use standard plastic flats Bring your pots and seeds to either the July or August meeting.

Thanks"
Norm Dennis

TBG Weird Plant Sale Depletes Rescue Inventory



The Cactus Rescue Crew participated in the Tucson Botanical Gardens (TBG) Weird Plant Sale held on June 7th and 8th. It was an opportune time to sell the remaining cacti from the Silverbell Mine rescues held in prior months. Eighteen crew members setup tents, unloaded rescue cacti, waited on customers, loaded their vehicles, and cleaned up the sale site. The best news was that there were no cacti to return to the holding site and hence none to re-plant or care for. We had about 80 customers who purchased 99 Charlie Brown saguaros, 7 ocotillo, 40 mammalaria, a few small potted plants and we gave away a box of small cereus cuttings.

Total sales were \$2,141 with expenses consisting of a 25% commission to TBG, cost to purchase Native Plant tags and a few other minor expenses yielding a profit of \$1,050. About \$250 of this will be earmarked for our Educational Outreach fund for School Grants.

Joe Frannea
photo by Patsy Frannea

Grants Awarded

TCSS recently awarded a \$400 School Grant to teacher Lori Tate at Mountain Vista in Oracle, Arizona. They plan to create an educational cactus garden on their campus near other gardens and a greenhouse. They will buy equipment and

gardens and a greenhouse. They will buy equipment and materials to make signs for each plant to clearly identify them so students can learn their names. They will study species that are well suited for their climate.

Another School Grant for \$400 was awarded to teacher Daniel Forrest at Pistor Middle School in TUSD. Two hundred students will be involved in the design, planning, and construction of a community cactus garden including other plants and trees. They have eight phases outlined which include other community organizations to help with walks, artwork, benches, trees, irrigation, etc. They hope to expand the project serving students and the community with a playground, barbecue pit, and basketball court. Sounds like a great project involving students, parents, teachers, and community.

Joe Frannea

San Joaquin Shares Success Story



For the second year in a row, High School teacher Jim Kennedy reports another successful year for students and their cactus garden project. Students research and participate in the selection and propagation techniques for various cacti. They plant and care for their purchases from a local nursery, integrating them into an outdoor landscape design which they create for their garden.



Students also created a beautiful hummingbird wall mural, designing, colorizing, and making individual tiles to create the mural. The Outdoor Design Class students developed and demonstrated teamwork skills that produced some great results. This program helps foster vocational job skills, enhances students lives by developing life-long knowledge, and helps beautify the campus at the same

time. TCSS is pleased to be able to partner with Jim Kennedy and his students at San Joaquin High School through our School Grants program. Congratulations to Jim and his students!

Joe Frannea

photos by Jim Kennedy

Library Update

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond Volume 2 by Brad Lancaster

The second book in a three book series. This book has numerous black and white photos and illustrations. It shows how to assess your site and describes techniques needed to implement water harvesting "earthworks". Most techniques are low cost or no cost.

Isocs Journal Adenium Special January-March 2005 issue.

A 28-page booklet covering care and cultivation of Adeniums. Good care advice and easy to follow techniques on propagating and grafting.

Joie Giunta

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885-6367

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15th of each month

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www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

July Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with K to T, 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
201 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

July 2008

Thursday July 3, 2008

7:00 pm

"Cactus Travels From Across The Atlantic",

Presented by Stuart Riley

Tuesday July 8, 2008

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