



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

June 2008

## Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 7:00 PM "Phytotourism in Yemen"

Presented by Dr. Robert Webb and Toni Yokum



Six weeks exploring Yemen on our own. Just Toni and I with various guides and drivers going where we wanted to go. While Socotra occupied 3 weeks of that time, we're going to talk about mainland Yemen. We'll discuss a wide variety of species there including Adenium, Euphorbias, Aloes, Commiphoras, yada yada yada and the culture, architecture, people, terrorists, etc. etc.

Bob Webb has collected succulent plants for more than 20 years. For his day job, he is a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson; however, he has worked as a plant ecologist in the southwestern United States and Baja, California for nearly 30 years. He's been traveling to the Arabian Peninsula and Africa since the mid-1990s and has visited Oman, Kenya, Socotra, Yemen and South Africa in search of succulent plants.

Dr. Robert Webb has worked on land-use issues and landscape ecology of the southwestern United States and Baja California for more than 30 years. For the past 12 years, he has worked with Mexican government scientists on

plant conservation issues in Baja California centering on cirio, cardon, and other charismatic species that are iconic to the peninsula. He has a Ph.D from the University of Arizona in Geosciences (1985) and has worked for the National Research Program of the U.S. Geological Survey for nearly 20 years. Bob Webb and Toni Yokum are owners of Arid Lands Greenhouses at 3560 W. Bilby Road Tucson AZ 85746 Phone: (520) 883-9404.

This will be a very special program for anyone interested in remote areas of the world where many rarely seen succulents are found. We are really looking forward to having Bob as our special guest so please join us and bring a friend for this very special presentation

## July 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM "Exploring The Cactus Hobby Around Europe" Presented by Stuart Riley

Stuart will be returning to Tucson from his home in the United Kingdom to present another great presentation that will take a close look at the shows, collections, nurseries and a bit of humor from around Europe.

## Free Plants

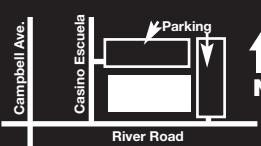
### Mammillaria and Coryphantha ( various species)

Mammillaria and Coryphantha are native to Mexico and the southwestern US, typically characterized by a short squat appearance with tubercles instead of ribs. They are suitable for pot culture or growing out in the ground as landscape plants or in rock gardens once of adequate size. Mammillaria typically enjoy filtered light in our growing conditions, while some Coryphantha often grow in full sun and have more dense spination. Some species are opportunistic and can bloom multiple times throughout the growing season when water is plentiful. Our local Mammillaria grahamii is well known for its candy-striped blossoms during the monsoon and thousands have been collected by the TCSS Cactus Rescue Program. For more information, refer to [www.mammillarias.net](http://www.mammillarias.net)

and see many photos by our very own Norm Dennis!

Regards,  
Christian K. Monrad

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.



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

## President's Message



I again thank Bob Webb and Toni Yocom for underwriting the cost of Susan Carter Holmes, our kick-off speaker for the Sonoran VII conference. Bob also found this amazing statistic about Susan. Of the 923 species of succulent Euphorbias, Susan Carter described or co-described 14% of them (130 species). That is an astounding number!

The financial results of Sonoran VII are almost complete and they are similar to the last several conferences. The Saturday and Sunday portion of the conference breaks even. The sales applied to the conference breaks even and the Friday and Saturday dinners lose some money. Overall, the society breaks even. Our income was just over \$45,000 and our external expenses were \$43,000.

I want to thank the fabulous Sonoran VII committee (20 to 25 members) who did a terrific job and put on a great conference. I told them that this was practice for the 2009 convention. Helen Barber, Linda Bartlett, Ed Bartlett, Dan Birt, Alice Campbell, Ed Campbell, Mark Dimmitt, Patricia Frannea, Joe Frannea, Joie Giunta, Marty Harow, William Hicks, Karen Keller, Avi Leftin, Jack Ramsey, Doug Rowsell, Mark Sitter, James H. Thomas, Joyce Thomas, George Virtes, Gail Virtes & Vonn Watkins.

Also please thank Barry McCormick, Blair Kuropatkin, Theresa Garza and Barbara Harow for all their assistance during the conference and thanks to every other volunteer who helped out.

Speaking about 2009, it is less than a year away.

I have a list of those of you who volunteered to be on the CSSA 2009 committee and you will be receiving an email from me before we start meeting. I want to invite every member to participate either in the planning or helping out during the convention. This will be a very exciting event for Tucson.

If you want to be included please email me directly at tucsoncactus@comcast.net. or leave a message at 885-6367.

Thank you.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

## Arizona Native Plant Society's Spring Garden Tour

Recently I hosted the Arizona Native Plant Society's Spring Garden Tour, which was open to the public this year. There were an estimated 150 people who came through. The two main areas of interest were: 1. Trees: what kind and how old are they? 2. Where'd you get all the cool cactus? Hedgehogs sparked the area with different hues of pink, magenta,

and purple. When I explained they were rescue plants, most of the visitors had heard of TCSS and of our rescue program. Many were happy to hear about the Hacienda del Sol sale set for the following day. I can't think of a better deal than our rescue. Not only do we have fun saving them (kind of like Easter egg hunts), but offering them up to an eager public (where else can they get such a good deal?) is an all around win!

Nancy Reid

## Did you know that...

Our native local Yuccas propagate not only from seeds but also send out underground runners (stolons) that outlive the parent plant? If you have a mature plant or a transplanted 'rescue' plant that loses the original or main head, don't assume that the whole plant has died. Leave the plant as-is and continue to deep water the area around the plant monthly, as the underground tuber and root system may very well still be alive and in the process of growing new rosettes that will soon sprout from the ground. I have seen this happen with six rescued Yucca arizonica in my yard this spring!

For more information, refer to this website.  
<http://www.yuccaagavaceae.com/species>

Regards, Christian K. Monrad,

## Library Update

### Cactaceas de Sonora, Mexico: su Diversidad, Uso Y Conservacion

This book, donated by Mark Dimmitt, is written mostly in Spanish. English descriptions are given under the color photographs.

### The Genus Duvalia (Stapeliaceae)

A technical book with black and white drawings, a two page color spread of flowers and distribution maps describing about 17 different species. Includes distribution, habitat and descriptions.

### Little Big Bend Common, Uncommon, and Rare Plants of Big Bend National Park by Roy Morey. Donated by Texas University Press

This book describes plants from Agaves to Zygophyllaceae found in Big Bend National Park. It covers the geography, temperatures and diversity of the area. Each plant has a common name along with the botanical name and its derivation, which the author hopes will help in understanding and appreciating the plants. A glossary in the back will help with understanding the descriptions.

Joie Giunta

## BELL Enhances Habitat on Earth Day

TCSS School Grant recipient Borton Primary Magnet School enhanced their Borton Environmental Learning Lab or BELL, a native desert area, with additional cactus and other succulents on Earth Day, April 22nd. About fifty students were able to participate with Cactus Rescue Crew volunteers Bill

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## Sonoran VII: A Lot of Fun for Everyone!



Photo by John Duram

### WHAT A SHOW !!!

Thanks to the generous contributions of our members and a hearty moving crew we had a very impressive plant show at Sonoran VII. There were a total of 124 plants from about 20 TCSS members and the visiting crowds took seriously their job of picking the best of the show with their 10 bean votes. There were colorful blooming specimens, sculptural beauties, and an array of presentations that made most of us anxious to get home and try to push some of our collections into show quality winners. It was indeed a feast for the eyes of cactus and succulent lovers! The display was augmented by two tables of beautifully presented plants brought by Larry Grammer from his workshop on display plants.

The "Top Four" vote recognition recipients went to B&B Cactus Farm for *Gymnocalycium chiquitanum* "NEATO" and *Parodia magnifica* "WOW", Angell Lascala for *Trichocaulon cactiforme* "GEE WHIZ". and to Plants of the Southwest for *Euphorbia bupleurifolia* nestled in just the perfect pot "OH BOY". We are grateful to everyone who made the effort to share their wonderful plants with all of us and to the truck drivers and strong movers who made it possible for the larger plants to be transported and set up for the exhibit.

Barry McCormick and Patsy Frannea



**The TCSS is looking for your  
FAVORITE RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS  
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

## Sonoran VII: A Lot of Fun for Everyone!



Photos by John Duram

### Brichta Creates Reconciliation Project

Ms. Katie Eddleman and her 5th grade class at TUSD's Brichta Elementary were recently awarded a TCSS School Grant to build a Reconciliation Ecology Project. Their habitat site was selected close to their portable building classroom and in an area that was in need of some serious work. Water harvesting was one important part of their project and students were able to use their math skills to calculate water shed volumes and retention basin areas and volumes. Dirt removed from the retention areas was used for paths and a burn area for the cactus garden.

Brichta called upon the Cactus Rescue Crew to provide some cacti at reasonable costs and help plant them in their new habitat. Early one Sunday morning Dave Palzkil, Ed and Linda Bartlett, John and Gayle Swarbrick, Keith Zwickle and Patsy and Joe Frannea showed up with students, parents and teachers to work on the landscaping part of the project since the water retention areas were mostly complete. After a few hours of work about 30 cacti and many other plants had been planted including two 50 inch tall saguaros from one of our recent rescue sites. Dave, John and Keith brought a few extra plants to add to the rescue cacti.



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Salisbury, Ed and Linda Bartlett, Dave Palzkill, and Joe Frannea. Students were able to learn about saguaro roots, measure heights and diameters, test the weight of a five foot saguaro, and observe planting techniques. Parents are heavily

involved in setting up, expanding, and operating the BELL project. They have other pictures and more information on their web site.

<http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us:80/Borton/events/eventframe.htm>

*Joe Frannea (photos by Borton School)*

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Katie and her class developed a power point presentation to share the project , design and implementation, with other classes at Brichta Elementary School. After the presentation is given by her students, they hand out a TCSS Cactus postcard to each student and lead them on a tour of the new garden. The color postcards are used as reference cards to help students identify cacti. When Katie needed to buy some more postcards, Joe and Patsy delivered them to her and were treated to a private showing of the power point presentation by students Reza and Jazmyne. It was reassuring to see two 5th graders give a presentation to two adults totally on their own and they really knew their stuff. Reza confidently and accurately explained how they calculated water shed areas, converted those to volumes and calculated retention basins needed. They expertly operated the computer equipment and software, switched to Google Earth to show the areas of the project and picked up the presentation where they left off. They explained three different types of ecology, Preservation, Restoration, and Reconciliation, I learned something! Students also learned to use bunyip level devices to get ground levels correct. It's a form of a water level.

It is absolutely heart warming to see great teachers like Katie in action and seeing young students respond, learning and applying skills that will stick with them for life. TCSS Educational Outreach and the Cactus Rescue Crew members are proud to be able to serve as a catalyst to help make these projects happen.

*Joe Frannea  
(photos by Patsy Frannea)*



## TCSS BOARD

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**885-6367**

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**Secretary:** Nancy Reid  
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**Refreshments:** Patsy Frannea  
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**Technology:** Kevin Barber  
**Research Grants:** Gerald Pine  
**Volunteers:** Nancy Reid  
[volunteer@tucsoncactus.org](mailto:volunteer@tucsoncactus.org)

### Newsletter Editor:

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

### TCSS Web Page:

[www.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.tucsoncactus.org)

**Webmaster:** Keimpe Bronkhorst

### June Refreshments

**Those with family names beginning with A to J, 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

### May 2008

**Thursday June 5, 2008**

7:00 pm

**Phytotourism in Yemen.**

*Presented by Bob Webb and Toni Yokum*

**Friday and Saturday  
June 6 and 7, 2008**

**Weird Plant Sale, Tucson Botanical Garden**

June 6 (members only) 4:30p - 7:30p;

June 7 (public) 8am - 12pm

**Tuesday June 10, 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