



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2005

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Librarian: Joie Giunta

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Editor: Barry McCormick

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2005.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

May Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
A to F, please bring your choice of
refreshment to the meeting.

Everyone is Welcome!

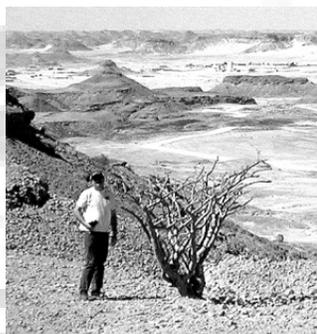
Bring your friends, join in the fun,
and meet the cactus and succulent
community.

Thursday, May 5, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Bob Webb – Travels in Arabia and Africa

Adeniums, Sanseverias, and others.



Bob has collected succulent plants for about twenty 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 thirty years.

Bob has been traveling to the Arabian Peninsula and Africa since the mid-1990s and has visited Oman, Kenya, and South Africa in search of succulent plants.

This will be a special presentation for all succulent lovers and will feature some great Sansevieria habitat. This will be a presentation not to miss!

Thursday, June 2, 2005

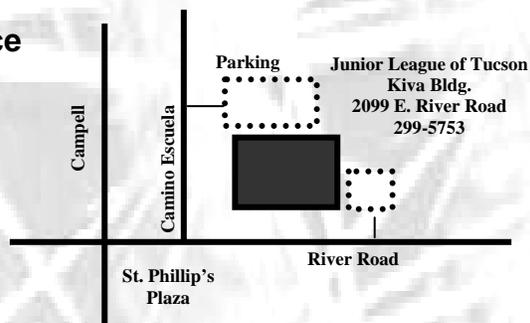
7:00 P.M.

Cory Martin

New Librarian

Joie Giunta has volunteered to take over the responsibilities of the Library. She will be in charge of updating our holdings and moving our check out system to a barcode computerized operation. We always need volunteers so contact Joie if you would like to help.

Meeting Place



President's Message



It is my pleasure to announce that TCSS member Kevin Barber has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA). The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is proud to have several members serving the national society. I

am serving as Vice President. Sue Haffner, of Fresno, California is a board member and chair of the seed depot and Lee Miller, of Washington, DC, is the secretary. Both have been members of TCSS for a number of years. We are now the largest affiliate society of the CSSA with over 590 members.

Jenny Coniglio has been our Librarian for the last several years and has done a wonderful job. She and her volunteers have brought our suitcase library to you at every meeting. It has worked out very well and I hope you have had the opportunity to check out some of our great books. Thank you, Jenny, for a great job.

Our rescue program is featured in the latest issue of "To the Point". It is a wonderful article and pictures put together by Chris Monrad, Joe and Patsy Frannea and Peter Bockenthien.

Our program is a part of the overall conservation effort needed for cacti and succulent plants.

The number one component is habitat preservation. This is the most difficult and causes the most concern. There needs to be a balance between the needs of people, for their welfare, and preservation of the environment for the future. This is a worldwide effort and each area has its specific issues, which need to be addressed. There are no simple answers. You can support habitat preservation with your dollars or volunteer your time and effort in the stewardship of designated habitat preserves.

The second component is saving plants from destruction no matter what the cause and getting them established. Obviously, we do this better than

almost anyone else. We have saved over 20,000 plants and most have been replanted in areas where they will thrive and continue to populate the Sonoran Desert Region. This gives the TCSS the opportunity to educate a lot of people about cacti and succulents and also the laws governing them in Arizona. The educational component is the most important by-product of what we do. If you are active on the rescue crew, digging and tagging, selling them, or replanting them at schools or other public facilities, you are a conservation hero. So are the people who support us by allowing us to rescue from their land prior to immediate development. Those who buy these plants are also conservation heroes.

The third component is propagation of plants that are rare, unusual, difficult to transplant, very desirable, or not usually available. Some of this is being done by the International Succulent Introductions at the Huntington Botanical Gardens which John Trager and his staff does magnificently. There is a lot more that can be done by societies like ours with the expertise in this community. These activities must be encouraged, recognized and rewarded with our participation and financial support.

Congratulations to all who participate in this effort.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Cactus Rescue Crew Keeps Diggin'



Our TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew keeps growing and attacking more and more properties destined to be bladed for new development.

Most of our activity the past few months has been at the Saddlebrooke Ranch on far North Oracle Road near the Florence

Junction and various properties far South East Tucson in the Corona de Tucson area.

If you are a member and not a part of the Rescue Crew and would like to try it out, you need to send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org. to ask that you be put on the Rescue Crew notification email list. Email broadcasts are sent out every Thursday to advise of what is taking place the following weekend and to give detailed directions to the particular rescue. You do not have to be able to do heavy lifting or digging to participate. We need lots of help tagging and boxing small cacti. You

simply show up at the location at the designated time; no RSVP's are required.. We normally work about three hours.

We have had 14 rescues so far this year and have plenty more on the radar screen. We have rescued over 4,000 cacti this year alone bringing our total plants rescued since the start of the program in 1999 to over 20,000.

Joe Frannea

TBG Garden Tour Sale

Bill Salisbury's residence was featured by Tucson Botanical Gardens on their Garden Tour, April 2 and 3. Bill, being one of our devoted Cactus Rescue Crew members, suggested that TCSS be allowed to sell rescue cacti at his residence during the event.

Bill, Jack Ramsey, and Norm Dennis put a very successful sale together and sold over 200 rescued cacti, bringing in about \$1,600 in sales. Cactus gloves and planting brochures were also a big hit. It is always hard to estimate the number of plants to take to a sale. The first pick-up truck full of Barrels and Hedge Hogs were almost sold out within two hours of the first day so they headed back to the rescue cacti holding area for another load, and then again Sunday morning for a third. A big thanks to Bill, Jack and Norm for their hard work making these rescued cacti available to the public.

Joe Frannea

Hacienda Del Sol Sale-Another Success!

Sunday April 3 marked the second annual Cactus and Succulent sale on the beautiful grounds of the Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch Resort. It was another huge success. Chris Monrad once again spear-headed the effort. The owners wanted to promote the beauty and use of cactus and succulent plants. They were familiar with our rescue program because of previous TCSS sales and Jeff is a partner with A.W. Marrs, who has often supported the TCSS Cactus Rescue Program in the past.

The resort grounds, and especially the entrance patio area at the Hacienda del Sol, are cactus wonderlands. This made an excellent setting to display and sell rescued native cacti in addition to cultivated plants from some of our TCSS member nurseries.

B&B Cactus Farm, Arid Lands Greenhouses, Miles' To Go, and Starr Nursery not only brought wonderful specimens for sale, but shared their expertise about cactus and succulents and gave lots of planting tips. Their support for the sale is greatly appreciated.

This one day six hour event brought in hundreds of customers who were notified by sending emails, post cards, posting flyers and notice on our TucsonCactus.org web site. We sold over 800 rescue plants totaling \$4,000, and also sold about 40 pair of cactus gloves and 13 new memberships.



Total plant sales for the event were about \$9,000. Hundreds of planting guides and club information pamphlets were also handed out as well as lots of free advice and encouragement to use native plants in their landscapes. Many of the Hedge Hogs were in bloom with their beautiful magenta color grabbing your eye and many had buds about to bloom. These sold about as fast as we could set them out on the sales tables. It took a couple of quick trips to the rescue cactus holding area to replenish our sales tables for both Hedge Hogs and Barrels.

We had many first time customers who were asking about which plants are the natives. The Hacienda Del Sol grounds provided a great palate to point out various plants but we noticed there were not very many of the Fishhook Barrels near our parking lot sales area so we planted three of our larger rescue Barrels to enhance their other native vegetation.

A special thanks to Frank Hughes and Jeff Timan of Hacienda del Sol and to Chris for coordinating this annual event. Also, a big thanks to all the TCSS volunteers who worked feverishly for several hours with the setup, brisk sales, and take-down.

Joe Frannea



TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

Lots & lots to choose from.....

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 15% discount

Call Joe or Patsy if interested 575-7126



Photos by Joe Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

New and returning members

Aviva Tirosh & Patty Kane have shared with us the information that their Tucson garden has been selected by Better Homes and Gardens to be in this year's Southwest issue. Their gardens have also won the Tohono Chul Park Landscaping competition as Best in Show in 2001 and the Arizona Department of Water Resources 2001 Xeriscape Landscape First Place Award for Design and Installation as well as the J.D. DiMeglio Artistry in Landscaping. They were on the Tucson Botanical Garden Home Garden Tour in 2002. Congratulations on this new honor!



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

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