



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2007

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Editor: Karen Keller
runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org
Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

November Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
T to Z, 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, November 1, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Kelly Griffin

"A Visit to Madagascar."



Be prepared for an exciting journey to Madagascar with Kelly Griffin, curator of xerophytic plants at Rancho Soledad Nurseries. Kelly spent a month traveling the countryside looking at the flora and fauna. He found plenty of both ...Lemurs, Aloes, Chameleons, Kalanchoes, Snakes, Alluaudias, Palms and Pachypodiums. Madagascar is a beautiful and very friendly, albeit extremely poor, country.

Kelly is the curator of xerophytic plants at Rancho Soledad Nurseries in Rancho Santa Fe, California, one of the largest nurseries in Southern California specializing in rare and unusual palms,



cycads and succulents from around the world.



Please attend this amazing program on one of the most magical, yet endangered, environments on earth.

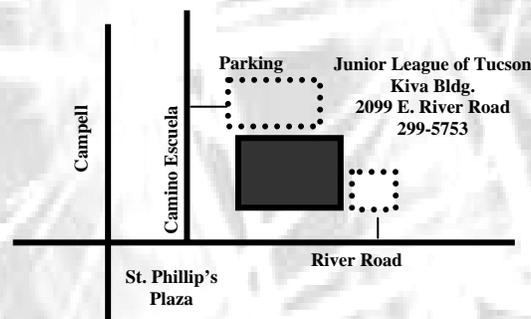
Sunday December 9, 2007

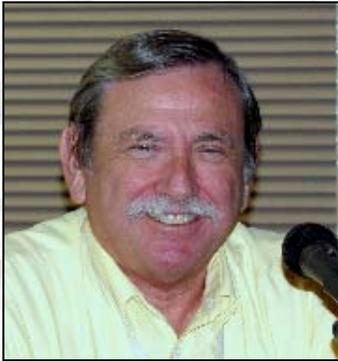
12 Noon to 3 pm

Annual Holiday Party

No General Meeting in December

Meeting Place

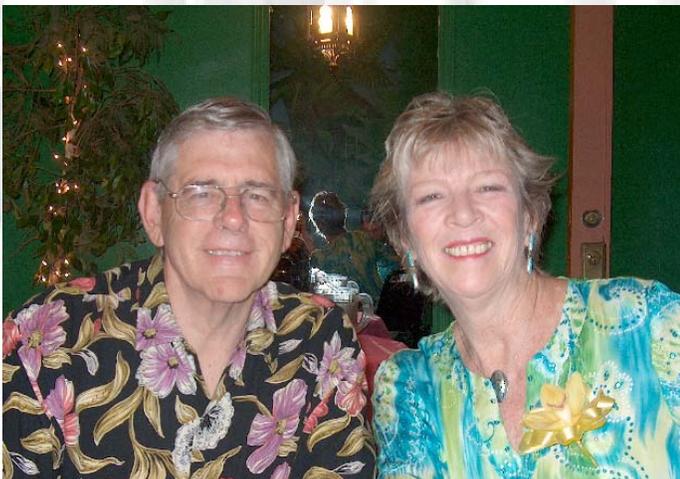




I remember a meeting at the Tucson Botanical Gardens about seven or so years ago when the call went out for a new editor for our newsletter “The Desert Breeze”. A hand went up and a note was

made of the name and the rest is history. Barry McCormick has produced more than seventy newsletters in his tenure as editor. Over this period of time he has innovated the production, introduced year-end color specials, created a full color on-line edition and made you aware of all the happenings of TCSS. He has encouraged everyone to contribute articles, pictures and other information and he has put them together for the benefit of all.

This is his last newsletter. There are no words to express the commitment he has fulfilled to this society and how grateful we all are for a job extremely well done except: THANK YOU BARRY.



You should know that the newsletter is just the tip of the iceberg. Our Expo, which completed its third biannual celebration, was initiated by Barry. He recruited his partner Blair Kuropatkin to do publicity and even drive a truck to pick up show plants. Together they have made this plant show and sale an extraordinary success. Barry has

made sure that every plant in our shows is correctly labeled with the current name and spelling utilizing his computer skills and a large database he helped develop. This is an under appreciated task but so important to the education of the public who view our shows.

Blair has also been able to get television and print coverage of our rescue and neighborhood and sales activities. Many of our members learned about the TCSS through her ability to get this publicity for us.

For a number of years Barry's old trailer was visible at our rescue sites helping to transport and store plants for future sales. He also took a lot of photos of the early rescues for the newsletter

Barry has served on the Board of Directors for the last six years and helped guide this organization through this very large growth spurt. He has decided not to run for re-election. This doesn't mean that he will not be involved but his monthly commitments will be lessened.

Every organization needs dedicated volunteers and Barry has been one and encouraged so many others to do the same.

Personally and on behalf of all the members of TCSS thank you again for all you have contributed to this Society.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Housing Development Down – Cactus Rescues Down



Our Cactus Rescue Program has been very slow for the past several months with only a few rescues. This is largely due to the housing market slowing so much with many new development projects being put on hold. We are trying to reach out a little more to areas and projects that we have probably missed. It takes a very proactive approach to be sure developers, landscape architects, governments, and others who have a hand in new developments are aware of our all

volunteer program and to continually follow-up with them. There is no cost to the developer to participate, just a little time to get us in their development loop.

We welcome Noe Mayotte, one of our regular rescue crew members, to our efforts to follow up on leads and be proactive with developers and governments to snag a few more rescue opportunities. Always remembering, that we do not want to remove cactus from any site unless they are destined for the landfill or the mulcher. We do not remove plants from individual residences but encourage unwanted cacti to be relocated. Don't forget that cholla are a primary nesting habitat for native birds.

Our last rescue was in the Vail area to remove cacti from a 60 foot wide by 1200 feet long area that will be cleared to add an additional natural gas pipeline. This area was rich with Ocotillo from 6 inches tall to 12 feet. There were hundreds of *Yucca arizonica* and several nice Sotol, Desert spoon, many too large for us to hand dig or haul. The medium size ones were fairly easy to dig and handle if properly prepared, see photo. This technique avoids many cuts to the legs and arms and allows easy access to dig up the shallow roots once the bottom leaves are trimmed.



We are gathering a few rescue cacti for the Hacienda del Sol Sale on Sunday, November 11, and hope to have a rescue the day before to be able to bring fresh plants directly to the sale. See our web site for last minute details regarding plants we plan to have at the sale. Details about our Cactus Rescues go out via email every Thursday.

Joe Frannea

Sycamore Canyon Field Trip



Good choice! Cory is delightful beyond words and was a wonderful guide into Sycamore Canyon. He took plenty of time to discuss plants, animals, and the Canyon itself. We saw a white belted kingfisher, red tailed hawk, lots of beautiful butterflies, hundreds of Arizona Chub in fabulous pools as well as many interesting water bugs, dragon flies, cute little rock toads, a young tarantula, and *!boing!!! a black tailed rattle snake... in fact I nearly stepped on it!



We left our meeting point around 7:10 am. We waited for two missing members, but left without them. With Cory, there were 11 of us. We got back to our vehicles after 3 pm.

I recommend Cory for future hikes. He is easy going and good with everyone, knowledgeable of the territory and LOVES being in our Sonoran desert! He provided a plant list of the Canyon to all.

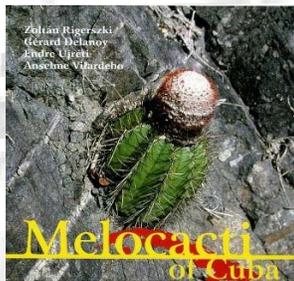
Nancy Reid

Library Update



Rhipsalis & Lepismium by Frank Supplie. This small book has a lot of information covering the culture, propagation, pests, diseases and more. The pictures will make identification easy.

Melocacti of Cuba gives comprehensive descriptions of the species found in Cuba. There is information on the geography, climate and phytogeography as well as pictures, not only of melocactus, but the countryside and other cacti.



Any books taken out this month will not be due back until January.

Joie Giunta



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Nancy Reid



Pima County Country Fair Sale



The Pima County Country Fair Sale on October 21 was unique because we did not have our usual supply of rescue plants. But we made do with some alternatives and we all had a good time.

Thank you

The President's message is very kind. I have enjoyed editing the newsletter very much, but feel it is healthy for an organization to have things change. And six years is a long time.

One reason the newsletter has been so enjoyable is the support I have had from the members who contribute the material. My mantra has been simple: editors edit. While I have occasion taken pen in hand to add a small detail or flesh out a sketchy report, the material in the newsletter has been contributed by many people. In fact, one of my editorial goals is to have as many people contribute as possible.

The four cornerstones of each issue are the Monthly program description, ably assembled by Vonn Watkins; the President's column by Dick Wiedhopf; the Cactus Rescue reports by Joe Frannea, and the library column by Joie Giunta. Building on these articles are the event and sales reports from Jack Ramsey and Nancy Reid. Over the years many others have contributed; all this support makes it very easy. I have edited quite a

few newsletters; never have I had such an easy job getting contributions.

Current technology has made the job easier as well. Much of the material comes to me in a form that can just be pasted together; almost everything comes by email. I email the final file to Kinko's; and the first time I see a printed newsletter is when it reaches my mailbox.

How is this magic performed? Through the skill and perseverance of our president, Dick Wiedhopf. Dick picks up the printed issue at the printer, deals with delays and assembly problems, prints and applies the mailing labels, stamps the 700 or so copies, and hand carries them to the downtown post office from which they reach our mailbox, sometimes within hours. That's where the real work is.

One final, very important thank you – to my successor, Karen Keller. Karen has actually done several issues this year, when my travels absolutely conflicted with publication dates. Best wishes to Karen, who will bring a fresh new perspective to the Desert Breeze.

Barry McCormick

TCSS Financial Report First Three Quarters of 2007

This is the financial report for the first nine months of 2007. The \$10,000 set-aside for Rescue Crew Operations is necessary to ensure working monies for large tag purchases and other rescue expenses. Education and Research Funds are designated monies specifically earmarked for these programs. Rescue Cactus Program Expenses include \$1,633 donated to the Educational Outreach Fund.

Major Categories:	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>
Dues, Newsletters, Meetings, misc.:	\$13,486	\$17,486	\$(4,000)
Rescue Cactus Prog: Expo, Silent Auction, Trips, Commissions:	\$30,209	\$20,488	\$ 9,721
Donations, Grants:	\$29,494	\$21,132	\$ 8,362
Totals	<u>\$76,184</u>	<u>\$61,256</u>	<u>\$14,928</u>

Assets by Funds:	
General Fund:	\$25,609
Rescue Operations:	\$10,000
Educational Outreach:	\$ 9,790
Research Fund:	<u>\$ 7,636</u>
Total Assets:	<u>\$53,035</u>

For comments or questions contact Joe Frannea, Treasurer, email: Joe@TucsonCactus.org

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Cacti Rescued
186 Rescues Accomplished

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 10% discount



Photos by John Durham and Barry McCormick. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Upcoming Schedule

- November 2, Thursday -- General Meeting: Kelly Griffin.
- November 4, Sunday --Wallace Gardens Tour
- November 13, Tuesday 7:00 pm – Board Meeting
- November 11, Sunday –Hacienda del Sol Plant Sale
- December 9, Sunday – Annual Holiday Party
- January 3, Thursday – General Meeting
- January 8, Tuesday 7:00 pm – Board Meeting

