



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

November 2008

Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 7PM "Brazil, Bahia to Minas Gerais, Cacti under the blanket"

Presented by Woody Minnich



Photography by Stephen Cooley from the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society.

This presentation will feature the cacti, bromeliads, and other succulents from Bahia to Minas Gerais, a region known as the Brazilian Highlands. This is my second excursion into these areas and this time I was joined by Brazilian cactus expert, Marlon Machado. Our adventure was from Salvador to almost Belo Horizonte and our group was small, thus allowing us to explore new areas as well as visit many of the old, must see sights. We will see 22 species of Melocactus, all the Uebelmannias, many

Discocactus, most of the Micranthocereus and Coleoce phalocereus (Buiningia), many Pilosocereus as well as the rare Arrojadoas and the new Pierrebraunia. As is usual, I will feature some of the people and their culture, the towns and their architecture and some of the creatures that live with our favorite plants. We will learn the importance of the coastal winter fogs, the Blanket, and how it affects the overall cultivation of these wonderful and specialized genera.

Woody Minnich grew up in the desert of California and has been a cactus enthusiast his whole life. He has made over 100 trips to Mexico and South America studying various genera of cacti and succulents, and is considered an authority on a number of genera. He has given numerous lectures and presentations about cacti in habitat from his trips all over the world. Woody is an avid photographer and has had many of his pictures published in various books and periodicals. Since 1975, he has owned the nursery Cactus Data Plants where he has become a primary source for rare and well grown cacti and other succulents. He has been a show chairman for various cactus shows, creator of the Inter-City Show, and has become a leader in the artistic presentation of cacti and succulents (habitat staging). Woody is an Honorary Life member of numerous C&S clubs and has served as President, News Letter editor, Plant Culture chairman, Program Chairman as well as most other positions where there is something that needs to be done. He has been in the process of writing 3 books: Cacti of Baja California, Field Observations of the Genus Mammillaria, and Rare Cacti of Mexico. Hopefully some day, one or more of these texts will be in the hands of his fellow hobbyists. He is a retired

high school graphics arts and art teacher of 32 years, Now, in retirement, his main focus is on doing serious field study and observation of the Cactaceae. He and his wife Kathy live in Edgewood New Mexico where he runs his nursery CDP.

Please be sure to attend our last presentation meeting for 2008. Woody will present a great program that you should not miss! He will also be bringing plants from his nursery in New Mexico and those plants will be for sale to anyone interested.

Sunday, December 7, 2008
TCSS Holiday Party 12pm - 3pm
Junior League of Southern Arizona

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY

Ferocactus latispinus - Crows Claw Barrel

Barrel Cactus or Ferocactus are a dramatic group of plants that are excellent landscape plants. The genus is diverse and readily available at local nurseries. With some planning your landscape can have flowering Ferocactus 12 months out of the year. This month we are featuring the Crows Claw, which blooms in November and December with showy purple flowers, sometimes white, pink or even yellow flowering forms can be found. The species is an excellent landscape plant and can be acclimated to full sun and is hardy to cold in our region. Thorough regular watering will keep the plants well hydrated and able to grow into stunning thick spined specimens. In March the pollinated flowers will develop maroon fruits which will add interest to your landscape. They are native to Mexico from Mexico City Northwards.

Enjoy your plants.

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



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

President's Message



The other season is on its way. As we all know there are two seasons, the hot season and the not as hot season. Unfortunately, many of the plants we grow don't do well in the not as hot season (some call it winter). Our general rule of thumb is that you need to reduce watering and protect cold sensitive plants by November 15. Of course, many places in Tucson received and early frost warning in mid October.

You just can't trust mother nature.

Cold protection like the use of frost cloth (available in most garden stores) should be a standard in your defense against plant loss. What else can you do? Bring those special plants indoors until the spring. Remember, there has been April snow falls. If you have a special way of handling plants for the cold, please email us so that we can post it on our web site.

Another year is quickly coming to an end which means it's time to renew your membership. Like so many other business activities the board has sort of raised prices. We have approved a \$10.00 increase if you want to have "The Desert Breeze" mailed to you. We send out over 650. The cost is about \$1.00 (\$0.42 postage and about \$ 0.50 + printing etc.). Lately, the post office equipment has been ruining some of the newsletters so members are getting parts and pieces. We have not changed the cost of membership in over a decade and the price is staying the same for all categories except the \$10.00 fee for the mailed newsletter. Renewal notices will be going out next month with this information. It will be very important to maintain accurate and up to date email addresses. The newsletter is also available for viewing and printing from our website.

The 2009 Convention Committee has mailed out and/or distributed almost 10,000 registration brochures. In the next few weeks we will send out the brochures to every TCSS member who does not have a current email address. All the information and registration is on our website for those who have internet access. The convention will be stressed by the worldwide economic situation so your support is very important. The CSSA convention comes to Tucson every 10-15 years so this is a great opportunity to attend a convention at a very reasonable price. Most of you won't need a hotel room or airline flights so you can spend that money buying plants!!!

Our local cactus and succulent nursery members always need your support and especially in these times. We are so fortunate to have this group of experts and growers in Tucson and we must do our part to support them as well as the plants and information they provide. Cactus and Succulents make great holiday gifts!

Finally, there are three important things to think about. The Holiday Party is December 7; a nomination for officers and board of directors is in progress and our first CACTUS COOKBOOK is going to press and order information is available in this mailing and online.

Thank you for all your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

Our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 7, 2008 at the Junior League Facility, 2099 E River Rd. Set-up --- 10:30 am till 11:45am with lunch at 12:00 noon. The Society will provide Turkey, Ham, Shrimp, Condiments, tableware and Drinks (coffee, punch, water) You will provide your favorite recipe (enough for 10+ servings) Hot or Cold Salads - Starches - Vegetables - Desserts (please bring serving dish and serving utensils).

For the past ten years or so we have been collecting money and/or food for the Tucson Food Bank. This year the need will probably be greater, so let's make it special for others. Please bring donations (\$ preferred) for the Tucson Food Bank

Gift Exchange

Everyone can participate by wrapping (cleverly) a plant or plant related gift of at least \$10.00 value. If you bring a gift you get a gift and the fun is in the way we will distribute them.

Additionally, there will be a short Annual Meeting, Election results, Awards and Table prizes.

Save the date and in November the special mailing will include more information and a RSVP for attendance.

Nomination and Elections

A nomination committee has been elected by the Board of Directors and their job is to provide at least one candidate for each office: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and 4 Board of Directors positions. They will present their slate of nominees at the November meeting and at that time nominations from the floor for any and all positions available will be accepted but we must have the consent of the nominee either being present or in writing at the time of nomination.

At the November Board meeting a ballot will be approved and one ballot will be sent to each regular member and two to each family membership with a self-addressed envelope for return by December 1, 2008.

The ballots will be counted by the nominations committee and the election results will be announced at the Holiday party. If it is necessary to have a run off it will be held at the Holiday event until each office is filled..

I hope you will all take the opportunity to nominate and vote for the TCSS officers. Officers serve for one year at a time and board of directors members serve for 3 years. Current officers and Board Members and terms are list in all newsletters.

Fall Plant Sale New Location Works Well

The Annual TCSS Fall Plant Sale normally held at the Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch and Resort was moved to our Amphi holding site to accommodate more customers with easier access, parking and more plant selection. We were

also able to invite all our Member Nurseries since we have lots of space and some large mesquite trees for shade. Six vendors were able to participate, providing a nice compliment to the rescued cacti.

We had a great turn out of thirty volunteers to help set-up, sell plants, load vehicles, cashier, and take down tents, tables and clean-up. This great help is much appreciated and is what makes TCSS such a fun organization. Our inventory of Barrels consisted of mostly very large specimens of about 14 inches in diameter and 20 inches tall. We sold 75 of these and all the smaller Barrels as well. About 25 Saguaro from 12 to 24 inches sold quickly as did many of the smaller potted ones. A nice selection of Hedgehogs were available with about a hundred of these selling along with about 40 Mammalaria.

The TCSS had 77 customers purchasing over 270 rescued cacti, bringing in just under \$4,000. After tag and advertising expenses our net profit was about



\$2,600. One fourth of this will be earmarked for our Educational Outreach Program which includes school grants and educational activities for school children. Our next sale date will depend on future rescues as our inventory is fairly low at this time.

Joe Frannea
Photos by Ed Bartlett

Library Update

The Cactus and Succulent Journal for 2006 and 2007 are now bound. Some chapters include *Aloe alexandrei*, Bromeliads, Mesembs, *Pterodiscus ngamicus*, *Ferocactus herrerae*, *Rosularia*, Epiphytic cacti and tillandsias. Some contributing writers include David Yetman, Brian Kemble, Steve Hammer and John Pilbeam,

Who Pooped in the Sonoran Desert Scat and Tracks for Kids by Gary D. Robson Story of a family traveling through the Sonoran Desert and the kids

learning what animals are around by the tracks and scat left behind. Two pages of identification are located in the back of the book.

The Little Saguaro by Shannon Young Written in Spanish and English this is a story of a conversation between mother and daughter, revealing the fears of the daughter and the mother quelling those fears. Included in the back of the book is information on the desert ecosystem.

Joie Giunta

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: Nancy Reid

Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:

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Chris Monrad (2009)

Mark Sitter (2009)

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CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

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Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

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Editor: Karen Keller

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Deadline for copy:

15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

November Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with P 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.

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Cacti Rescued
207 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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

November 2008

Thursday, November 6, 2008

7:00 pm

"Brazil, Bahia to Minas Gerais, Cacti under the blanket"

Presentation by Woody Minnich

Tuesday November 11, 2008

7:00 pm

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

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