



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

October 2009

Thursday, October 1, 2009 "50 years in 50 minutes" Presented By Richard Wiedhopf.

From the first meeting in December 1960 to the Good Time Silent Auction a week or so ago the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society has been going strong for 50 years. Pictures and stories about the members and events of the society will be highlighted.

Dick is the Assistant Dean for Finance and Facilities and Curator of the History of Pharmacy Museum at the College of Pharmacy at The University of Arizona. He has been associated with the College for 48 years receiving BS and MS degrees and has published

research on the chemistry of plants with potential anti-cancer agents. For the last 30+ years his focus has been on finance and facilities.

Dick and his wife Pat are long time members of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, joining in 1970. Dick currently serves as president. He has co-chaired all the Sonoran

conferences and is one of the founders of the Tucson Society's Plant Rescue program, which has saved over 45,000 cacti & succulents from destruction due to large-scale land development.

Dick has been a member of the CSSA since 1975 and coordinated the 1977 convention in Tucson, was host President for the 1995 Tucson Convention and Program Chairman for the 2001 Los Angeles Convention.



He is a grower and collector of all things cacti and succulent.

Please join us for a look at 50 memorable years.

This photo of John Haag appeared in the Arizona Daily Star in May of 1965 when the John Haag Memorial Cactus Garden was dedicated at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The Garden was a gift from the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society.

Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7 PM

"The Use of Emulsified Pure Oils to Control Insects and Diseases Attacking Cacti and Succulents"

Subtitle: "Grandfather's Intestinal Lubricant Provides Excellent Control of Mites, Insects and Diseases"

Presented by Dr. Jerald Wheeler

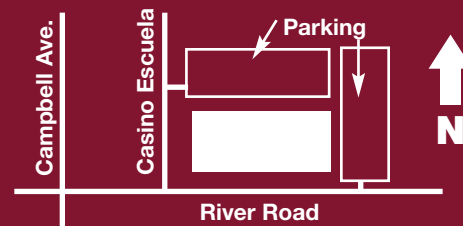
SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY FREE PLANT CARNEGIEA GIGANTEA-GIANT SAGUARO

Want to get involved with a special event... that only will happen once in 50 years?

Receive a one gallon seed grown Giant Saguaro. Plant it, nurture it, watch it grow and measure it's growth once every October and send your results annually in order to follow the growth from year to year. A special page will be set up to track and follow the growth of your seedling Saguaro. We can track how many Saguaros were initially planted, and see how they age each year, what will five and ten years produce in height? Who know's...when will the first one branch and throw an arm and how long will the first plants take to produce the first flowers? Stay Tuned for more details.

Okay..so you have the Saguaro, you have the fertilizer, measure and record the date of planting, log details at the TCSS Website, dig the hole...plant the Saguaro, water and fertilize and off we go.

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



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

October Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with C, D, E, F and G, H, I please bring your choice of refreshments to the meeting. Your generous sharing will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed!

President's Message



During the last several years, I have served both the Tucson Society (TCSS) and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) as president. In April of this year the CSSA held its Biennial Convention in Tucson at the Westin La Paloma. There were about 500 attendees but we were anticipating 800 plus. The world wide economy disaster took its toll and CSSA lost \$30,000 on the convention. A

number of the CSSA board members were very unhappy about the loss and the convention as a whole. They were also especially unhappy about my leadership style so several of them worked behind the scenes to force my resignation as president. It was an impossible situation to continue service in a house divided. On September 1, 2009 I officially resigned as president of CSSA and all other responsibilities of that organization. Laurel Woodley (vice president) took over the position of President. She is an outstanding individual to whom I wish success.

Speaking of success, the Good Time Silent Auction, on September 20, was wonderful. We had 6 consecutive silent auctions that contained more than 50 plants each. We also had tables of \$2.00 and \$5.00 plants for sale and a large area of free plants. Everyone got something special to take home. Of course the best thing was the free ice cream and toppings. Special thanks to the ice cream crew of Patsy Frannea, Dale Johnson and Lu Salisbury.

The set-up, which worked perfect, was put together by Doug Rowsell who worked tirelessly from 8 to 5 and made sure that everything went as planned. I want to especially thank my wife Pat, Nancy Reid and Joie Guinta who work all morning on the bid sheets and set up. There are so many other that pitched in to make this a success and I thank you all. As usual, it ended with the same activity. This time performed by Augie and Dale Johnson - Vacuuming the carpets!!

The real contribution to the success of this event is all of you who brought wonderful plants etc., helped out in any way possible and purchased most of these items. Thank you so much for your support.

About 18 months ago, "Martha Stewart Living" Magazine contacted TCSS to ask for recommend nurseries for an article they were proposing. They picked Arid Lands Greenhouses. The October 2009 issue is out and has a wonderful article and pictures of succulent plant including the Arid Lands owners Bob Webb and Toni Yocum. You will enjoy reading this article.

Fifty years ago this society started and I hope you will join me at our October 1, meeting to see and hear some of our history.

Thank you

Dick Wiedhopf, President

FUNFEST 2009

As described in last month's newsletter, FUNFEST 2009 will be held at the TCC on 4,5,&6 November, and TCSS will be there – with your help. Last year we had over 1000 kids come through our booth and build a cactus model; this year we are planning for 1200. We will need 5 – 6 volunteers per 2 hour shift (9:00am – 11:00am and 11:00am – 1:00pm) on each of the three days of FUNFEST. We will be scheduling one or two work parties in late October to put together the model kits and to familiarize the volunteers with the model building exercise. The details of the work parties will be provided at the October TCSS monthly meeting and will be e-mailed to all who have indicated an interest in helping out on this education outreach project. If you are interested in participating please e-mail me at funfest@tucsoncactus.org.

John Swarbrick

TCSS Desert Garden Tours

The first in a series of self guided TCSS member Garden Tours will be Sat., Oct. 24, 9:00 am- 3:00pm. Visit 5 of our member's gardens and see how they grow, maintain and display Cacti and succulents.

Homeowners will be available to answer your questions. The tour is free and open to TCSS members and Guests, however most gardens are not handicap accessible. It is recommended that members wear their TCSS badge. We have grouped the gardens on the East side of Tucson for your driving convenience. Please park only on streets adjacent to the home.

**The garden descriptions and directions are listed below.
LOOK FOR THE GREEN TCSS SIGNS AND BALLOONS**

1. Norm and Linda Dennis. 991 S. Paperflower Ave.

A collector's paradise in a terraced backyard and a series of greenhouse structures with over 600 potted plants. This yard will amaze you.

From 22nd St. and Houghton, go east on 22nd to Rockcrest which is 2nd left. Turn left to Paperflower, which is 1st left. Turn left to 991.

2. Jenny and Jim Coniglio. 761 N. Circle D Way.

A 2002 award winning xeriscape back yard and innovative screened enclosure for vegetables, herbs and seasonal flowers. Expansive mountain and city views add to the beauty of this yard.

From Speedway and Houghton, go east on Speedway one block to Circle D Way. Turn right, go up steep hill to first driveway on right to 761.

3. Doug and Kathy Rowsell. 4745 Avenida de Frenelah.

Over 70 Saguars in a natural setting and a diverse collections of plants along with aviaries, tortoises, turtles and an adenium greenhouse makes this large interesting yard a special treat. Restroom will be available at this garden.

IT'S PRICKLY PEAR HARVEST SEASON



Patsy Frannea collecting prickly pear fruit at a recent TCSS plant Rescue

TCSS members James and Joyce Thomas spent one morning in their yard last week picking some of the most beautiful prickly pear fruit we have ever seen. Huge deep magenta fruit packed full of wonderful nutritious juice. After picking only a small portion of their crop, they filled buckets and containers totaling about 20 gallons of fruit and headed off to do the processing. Four of us worked about 3 hours washing, blending, straining and packing the final product into containers for freezing. If you enjoy extra rich prickly pear lemonade at our meetings for the next year, you can thank James and Joyce for sharing all of their fruit. Members Sue Hildreth, Joie Giunta, John Polacheck and Faye Libbey have all shared their harvests over the years to make sure we have enough frozen juice for our club use. Thanks everyone! Our Prickly Pear Sorbet was recently on our menu of ice creams at the Good Times Auction.

When the desert is full of that gorgeous magenta fruit laden prickly pear (usually in late July/August), don't let the opportunity pass to enjoy the gift of the vitamin rich juice contained in those fruits. It can be obtained easily through either of the following methods and frozen in containers for

use throughout the year. Gather prickly pear fruit from your own property or with the permission of a property owner. Remember, it is illegal to gather plants, fruit, seeds or plant parts from City, County, State or Federal lands or roadways. Always leave some of the fruit for the animals.... they need food too.

METHOD I: (from Patsy Frannea)

Using metal tongs, carefully remove fruit from the plant when it is at its deep, magenta-colored ripeness peak and place in a large pail. You can usually tell when it starts to fall off the plant or you see signs that the birds are starting to feast on it. If the fruit is still green where it attaches to the pad it is not quite ripe. I usually try to leave some fruits on the plant around the edges for the animals to easily reach for their share. Note: Use caution when picking and handling the fruit... especially on a windy day. The small short reddish stickers (glochids) can easily become airborne and land on you and stick in your skin or worse, get in your eyes. Pick the fruit the same day that you plan to process. It does not keep well. Rinse the desert dirt off

Continued on the next page

It's Prickley Pear Harvest Season, Continued

of the fruits and discard any damaged or diseased pieces. Then use tongs to load a batch into your blender. Process quickly until liquefied and pour the liquid mixture into a fine mesh strainer or a colander lined with cheese cloth that has been placed over a large bowl. This will strain out all of the seeds and stickers and you will have a prickly pear juice that can be used or frozen for drinks, sauces, syrups, jellies, etc. Toss the pulp in your compost pile. You can do a two step straining process using a coarse screen first then the fine to make the process go faster. Be sure to refrigerate the juice immediately after straining and freeze if not used within a day or two because it tends to sour quickly. Hint: leave some of the liquid juice in the blender each time you pour it out to make it easier to blend the next batch.

METHOD II: (from Faye Libbey) (this is a really easy way if you have the freezer space to freeze the fruits first) Pick the fruit off of the plant as described in Method I. Rinse and use tongs to load into plastic bags. Freeze the bags of fruit for at least a couple of days. Remove from freezer and dump fruit into a strainer or colander as described above. The freezing will have softened the fruit and when thawed the juice will easily flow to be strained for your use.



Patsy Frannea collecting prickly pear fruit

Haworthia and Gasteria Roundtable Discussion

October 15, 2009 at 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Junior League of Tucson • Kiva Room
2099 East River Road

On October 15, 2009 we will be having a Haworthia and Gasteria roundtable discussion that will be freely open to all our members interested in finding further information about anything and everything related to the Genus Haworthia and Gasteria. What plants would be good to put in the landscape garden, what would be frost hardy, what would be a good choice for excellent pot culture and much more. We will be asking some of our best local nursery owners to come out and express some of their experiences with everyone and to let everyone know what would be their choice selection from each of these great group of plants! There may be many questions, a chance for everyone to express their own ideas and to find out what is the best plants to grow in the many areas in and around Tucson.

Please plan to come out and ask questions, get answers and enjoy talking with others that are interested in learning more about Haworthias and Gasterias! I hope to see you there!

Thanks, Vonn

Library Update

Going through the books we have in storage for the silent auction, I came across a few books that are well worth looking through. Among them is a two-volume set of **The Succulent Euphorbieae (Southern Africa)** by **Alain White, R. Allen Dyer & Boyd L. Sloane**. Although these books are from 1941, and



James Thomas and Joe Frannea processing ripe prickly pear fruit.

most of the pictures are black and white, the material and the clarity of the pictures make these books worth the time to go through. From the same three authors is a three-volume set of **The Stapelieae**, written in 1937. This is another invaluable set loaded with considerable information. Again, these books have black and white photos, but this set also has more color plates than the Euphorbieae books. Because of their age, I will not be bringing these books to the meetings on a regular basis. If you are interested in borrowing them, just email me at joietgo@yahoo.com or library@tucsoncactus.org. Please give me at least a week's notice before the meeting to get them from storage.

Joie Giunta

Take Houghton north to Catalina Hwy. Turn right and go to Snyder. Turn right to Avenida de Fanelah. Turn right on Avenida de Fanelah to 4745.

4. Matt Johnson and Pat Rorabaugh. 9165 E. Loma Linda Place.

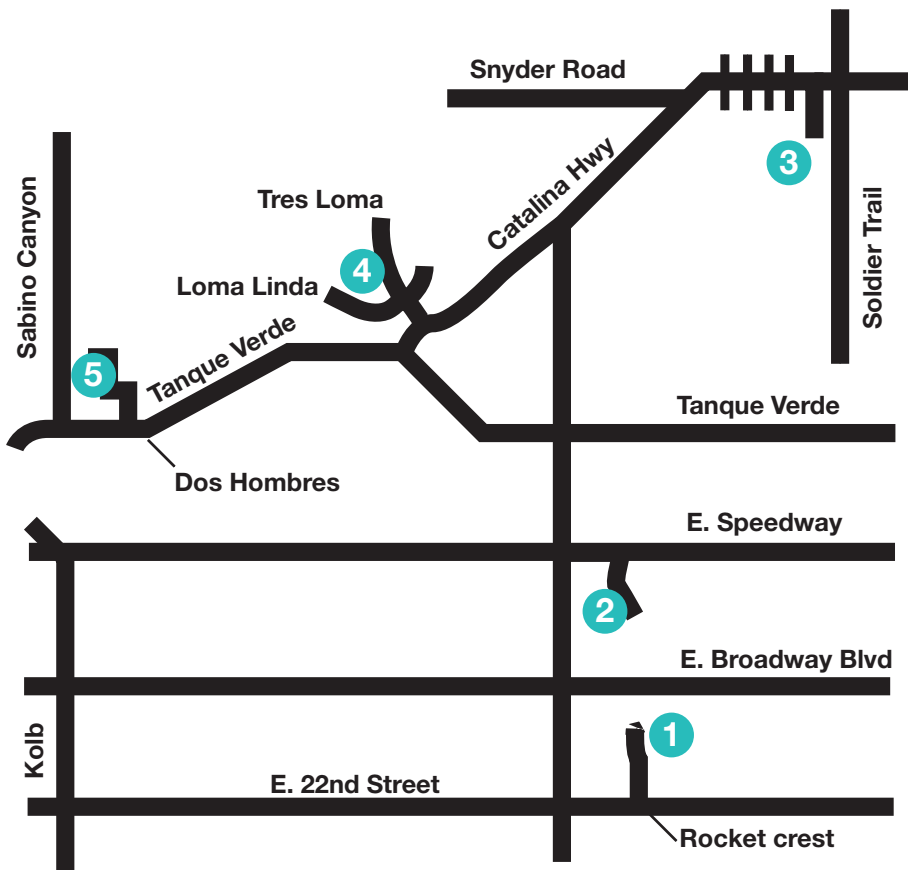
Enjoy this serene natural Sonoran Desert setting with many collected Texas and Mexican Chihuahuan Desert specimens tucked amongst limestone and native plants. Containerized cacti reside in a special shade house for protection and special care.

From Snyder and Avenida de Fanelah turn left on Snyder to Catalina Hwy. Turn left on Catalina Hwy. to Tres Lomas Dr. (small green street sign 0.4 miles north of Tanque Verde Road). Turn right to Loma Linda Pl. Turn left on Loma Linda Pl to 9165.

5. Dick and Pat Wiedhopf. 7510 E. Rio Verde Dr.

Meandering specimen studded paths take you through an amazing collection of cacti and succulents and numerous small specialty greenhouses add to the charm of this backyard.

From Catalina Hwy. and Tanque Verde Rd. turn right (west) on Tanque Verde Rd. Go west to Dos Hombres Rd. Turn right to Desert Arbors St. Turn left on Desert Arbors which becomes Essel Dr. Turn left on Rio Verde Dr. to 7510



Please vary order to avoid congestion

TCSS BOARD

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President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Dave Moyer
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors: (Ending December 31, 2009)

Dan Birt
Chris Monrad
Mark Sitter

(Ending Dec. 31, 2010)

Linda Bartlett
Martin (Marty) Harow
William (Bill) Hicks
John Swarbrick

(Ending Dec. 31, 2011)

Ed Bartlett
Mark Dimmitt
Joie Giunta
Bill Salisbury

CSSA Affiliate Rep:
Helen Barber (2009)

Cactus Rescue
cactusrescue@tucsoncactus.org

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Educational: Joe Frannea
Free Plants: Chris Monrad
Librarian: Joie Giunta
Programs: Vonn Watkins
Refreshments: Patsy Frannea
Technology: Kevin Barber
Research Grants: Gerald Pine

Editor: Karen Keller
runbunny@cox.net
Deadline for copy: 15th of each month

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

Everyone is Welcome!
Bring your friends, join in the fun,
and meet the cactus and
succulent community.



Cacti Rescued
227 Rescues Accomplished

Please see our Web site calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

October 2009	
Thursday, October 1, 2009	7:00pm Monthly meeting: Presented By Dick Wiedhopf. "50 years in 50 minutes."
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	7:00pm Board Meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy
Thursday, October 15, 2009	7pm - 9pm Haworthia and Gasteria Roundtable Discussion

The genus Ferocactus

The genus Ferocactus contains nearly 40 species and subspecies with many different flower colors and spine characteristics. Native to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Mexico (including Baja California and numerous other Mexican states all the way south into the tropics), its broad ranging habitat spans approximately 1500 miles north to south and east to West.

Nearly all species are frost hardy in the Tucson area and one can literally have one or more species flowering in every month of the year. Many species are available at most TCSS member nurseries and are quite suited as landscape plants and sure to provide long term enjoyment in your collection. Be sure to check out books in the TCSS library and consult with your favorite nurseries for specific growing and fertilizing instructions for the various species, as there are some "tricks of the trade" that can help you to grow more robust and vibrant specimens.

Flowering seasons of various barrel cacti (The Genus Ferocactus)

Species	Flower Color	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
F. alamosanus	yellow			✓	✓								
F. chrysacanthus	yellow, red						✓	✓					
F. cylindraceus	yellow (orange)					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
F. cylindraceus tortulospinus	yellow to orange								✓	✓			
F. diguetii	red-orange			✓	✓	✓							
F. echidne	yellow				✓	✓							
F. emoryi	yellow or red							✓	✓				
F. flavovirens	yellow to red		✓	✓	✓								
F. fordii	purple						✓	✓	✓				
F. glaucescens	yellow					✓	✓	✓					
F. gracilis	red						✓	✓	✓				
F. haematacanthus*	magenta					✓	✓						
F. hamatacanthus	yellow					✓	✓	✓	✓				
F. herrerae	yellow with bronze tips									✓	✓		
F. histrix	yellow			✓	✓								
F. johnstonianus*							✓	✓					
F. latispinus	purple									✓	✓	✓	✓
F. lindsayi*	yellow									✓			
F. macrodiscus	pink & white				✓	✓	✓	✓					
F. peninsulae	red to orange								✓	✓			
F. pilosus	Yellow, orange, red												
F. pottsii	yellow			✓	✓								
F. rectispinus	yellow							✓	✓	✓			
F. recurvus	Purple , white & pink	✓	✓										✓
F. robustus	yellow			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
F. schwarzii	yellow												
F. townsendianus	yellow to orange							✓	✓	✓			
F. viridescens	greenish yellow				✓	✓	✓						
F. wislizeni	yellow, orange, red, peach, salmon							✓	✓	✓	✓		
F. wislizeni v. tiburonensis*	yellow				✓	✓							

*RARE IN CULTIVATION