



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

September 2007

Thursday, September 6, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Gene Joseph

"Plant Sex in the City – and the County Too."

## TCSS BOARD

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885-6367

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TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

## September Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with  
G to M, 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.



The Well-equipped Pollinator

This presentation will promote the local seed production of succulents and cacti by amateur growers. It is a logical 'next step' in growing these plants and will afford the hobbyist an opportunity to closely observe and learn more about these great plants. With minimal tools necessary and a small amount of time, an individual can focus on a group of plants (Euphorbias or Pachypodiums or Mammillarias) or even a single species (*Pseudolithos miguertinus* or *Euphorbia bupleurifolia* or *Echinocereus viridiflorus v. canus*), producing hundreds, or even

thousands, of seeds on just a few plants in your back yard. If successful, seedlings can be sold or traded to our local growers. Pollinating tools and techniques, insect exclusion, seed collecting, cleaning and storing methods and suggested species will be discussed.

[See Gene Joseph Biography inside]

Please welcome Gene as our September guest speaker and plan on attending this very important educational presentation.

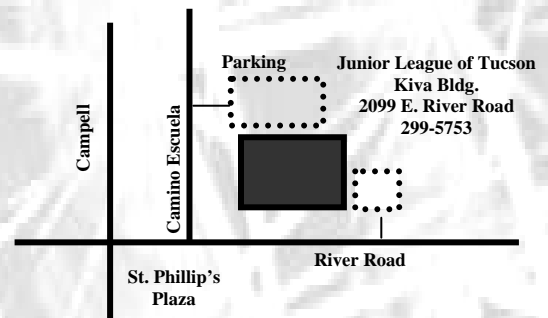
Thursday, October 4, 2007

7:00 P.M.

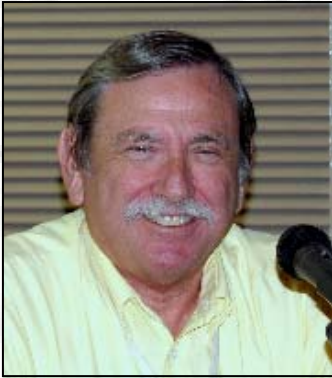
Cory Martin

"A Garden of Eden in Our Own Backyard."

## Meeting Place



### President's Message



One of the traditions of this Society is the September "Good Time" Silent Auction. I am not sure when it started but I recall attending when I first joined in the early 1970s. It was great fun then and it is even better now. This is an

opportunity to increase your collection and share some of your special plants with the other 1,068 members of the society. There are free plant tables and \$2.00 tables outside plus ice cream and cookies. Inside will be multiple silent auctions and a live auction for really special donated plants. Three of the plants that will be available come from our last rescue. There are two very large *Escobaria vivipara var. bisbeeana* (*Coryphantha*) clusters and a spectacular *Echinomastus* specimen. There is more information about this event in this newsletter and on our web site. This is a wonderful time to share with each other our enjoyment of this hobby. Bring a friend -- everyone is welcome.

Also in this newsletter is information about the September 23 home tour of Doug Hall and Dael Kaufman, and information about our trip to the Wallace Gardens in Scottsdale.

A nominations committee was elected at the August board meeting and is seeking nominees for officers, four board of director positions and the CSSA affiliate representative. This is your opportunity to become active in the planning, organizing and directing the activities of the society. The nominations committee members are Joie Giunta, Mark Sitter and Chris Monrad.



My college roommate wrote me recently from Sacramento, CA about a cactus that was in stress at their home. I made a few suggestions but I think he went too far on implementing them.

### In Memoriam

Douglas Keith, who recently joined the Society, has passed away August 1, 2007. The family has generously asked that donations in his memory be made to the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society-Cactus Rescue Program.

We thank the following for their donations.

Wayne Evans Insurance Agency, Yucaipa, CA  
Eric and Marilyn Anderson, Alameda, Ca

### Donation

The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society expresses its thanks and appreciation for a \$400 donation from the Resources Law Group, Sacramento, CA for support of our School Grant Program.

We are grateful to Rory Baker, former Southern Arizona resident who presented the information to their Charitable Contributions Committee.

*Dick Wiedhopf, President*

### Cactus Rescue Treasures

One of the thrills in walking native desert acreage looking for cacti to rescue is to keep an eye out for a great or unusual specimen or to find a real treasure. Three such plants were recently found in the Vail area at a new housing development site where we were rescuing cacti in road cut areas.

Two of the plants are wonderful specimens of *Coryphantha vivipara variety bisbeeana*. The larger one is about 12 inches in diameter with 22 heads as shown in the photo. We have only found



a few of these plants over the years with so many heads. The third plant that is a real treasure is a huge *Echinomastus erectocentrus*, about 5 inches in diameter and 10 inches tall. This is by far the largest one that we have ever found.



These three plants have been potted and will be donated by the Cactus Rescue Crew for the TCCS Good Times Silent Auction so you can have a chance to own them. See details about the auction in this newsletter or on our web site.

Another great find at this site were many small seedling Ocotillo, ranging from one inch tall to about 12 inches. Many of these were sold at the recent Blooming Barrel sale. The large Ocotillo that we rescued were so heavily leafed out that you could not see the canes. It is amazing to see how native plants respond to the monsoon season.

*Joe Frannea*

### **Blooming Barrel Sale, No Bulls**

It might as well been the running of the bulls. Just a few minutes before the official 9 am start time of the annual Sunday Blooming Barrel Sale, a welcome and instructions were given, the yellow



**9:10 AM - Sale well under way**

tape was dropped, and customers rushed in to claim their favorite blooming Barrel Cactus or other plant.

Twenty six TCCS members showed up early and made quick work to set up the sale in about thirty minutes as anxious customers gathered. Many of the cacti were already at the Fourth Avenue holding site but a Saturday cactus rescue delivered more barrels, hedgehogs, a few yuccas and thirteen large ocotillos in full leaf. More barrels, hedgehogs, and mamms were brought to the sale Sunday morning from the other holding area. A total of 550 plants were sold to 110 customers in two hours which was just about everything at the site except for a few prickly pear and small hedgehogs.

We apologize to those who came later and the sale was sold out. We have no way to know the demand and we do have a limited supply as all the

cacti sold are rescue plants. We will remind customers in the future to come early for best selection since the inventory may sell out quickly.



**11:00 AM - Almost all Cacti Sold, no Barrels**

Fishhook barrel cactus are the main staple at our sales; we sold 343 bringing in over \$4,000. Our total sales were \$6,139 which included 35 pair of cactus gloves and 11 new memberships. After cactus tag expenses and advertising, we netted about \$3,700. One fourth of this will be used for our Educational Outreach and School Grants program.

A special thanks to all our customers for supporting our efforts and a big thanks to all the TCCS members who helped set up, sell, load cactus and take down the sale..

*Joe Frannea*

### **Speaker Biography: Gene Joseph**

Gene has a degree in Plant Sciences from the University of Arizona and graduated in 1985. He was plant propagator at the Desert Museum, where he focused his energies on Sonoran Desert plants. Gene says "I knew where I was by what I was growing and if it was Sonoran, I was at work." "If it was not, I was at home." Gene's collection at home forced him to quit the Desert Museum and move to Jane's flower shop where he continued to maintain his collection under the guise of being in business.

Today Gene Joseph and Jane Evans own Living Stones Nursery & Plants for the Southwest, located at 50 E. Blacklidge, Tucson, Arizona 85705. They specialize in succulent plants and cacti from around the world, but also grow some of the interesting and uncommon desert shrubs, wildflowers and trees, mainly from our region here in the southwest.

## “Goodbye to the Heat” Good Time Party

Sunday, September 16, 2007

12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. at the Junior League



This party day will be filled with activities: live and silent auctions, member plant sale and exchange, refreshments, and plenty of

fellowship.

We will start setting up at 11:00 am so the party can start at noon. Bring your plant donations for the auction, plants for the \$2.00 sale table, and plants and cuttings for the give away table. Remember that the auction can include plant-related books, artwork, pots, tools, etc.

What could be better for a Goodbye to the Heat party than an old fashioned ice cream social. We'll have everything – just bring your appetites.

The auctions are the core of this event and help us raise money for our research grant program. Our member-growers are always very generous, but our own contributions are the most important part. Look through your collections for some nice plants you can part with for a good cause. You might consider putting them in nice pots to add to their attractiveness. Everything is welcome. We will have four separate silent auction tables spaced through the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 pm.

Some of the best plants will be set aside for the live auction. This is always an exciting event as the urge to acquire great succulents expresses itself in spirited bidding.

We'll need volunteers for setup and cleanup, and to help with the auctions and sales. Come, help, and have fun.

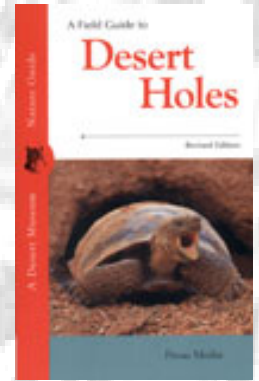
*Jack Ramsey*

## Library Update



A Field Guide to Desert Holes by Pinau Merlin is arranged by the hole sizes, whether it's a depression, mound, elevated hole or borrowed or modified. Each section has the possible builders, description of the hole and a natural history of the builder. There are 16 color pages of various animals as well as black and white drawings, some showing tracks of the animal. An informative book that is easy to read.

Moon Handbooks BAJA by Joe Cummings is a good book for anyone planning a trip to Baja. The introduction covers geography, climate, flora, fauna, history government and the people. Northern, Central Baja and the Cape regions are covered separately. Another section



covers recreation, entertainment accommodations, camping, food, drink health and safety, holidays, festivals and events. This book was printed in 2003, so some things may have changed, especially pricing. I checked out some of the internet sites listed and they still exist, so you should be able to verify a lot of the information..

*Joie Giunta*



## September Garden Tour

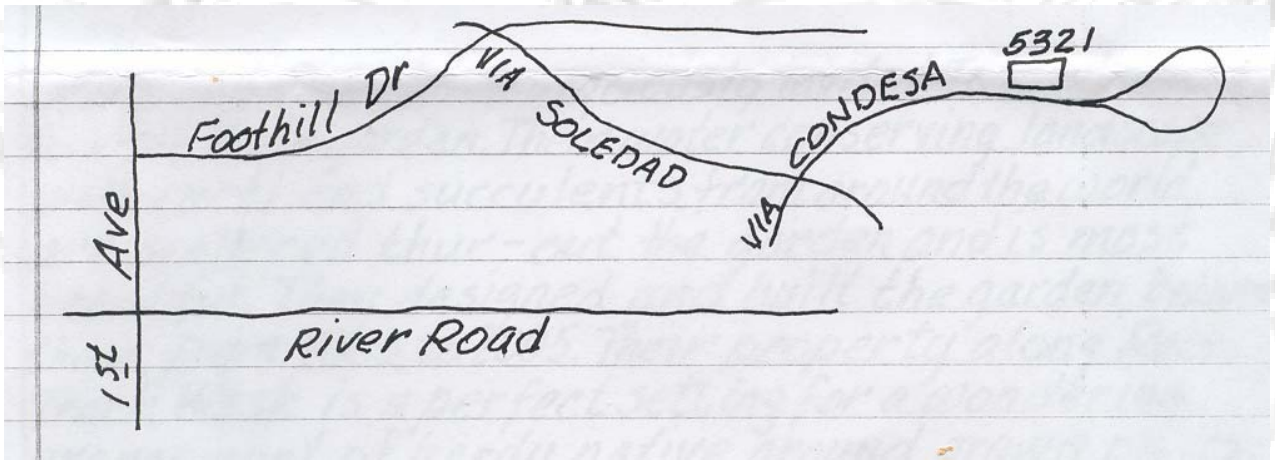
Doug Hall and Dael Kaufman have graciously invited TCSS members to visit their garden on Sunday, September 23, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Their water-conserving landscape garden features cacti and succulents from around the world and is most beautiful. They designed and built the garden from 2003 to 2005. Their property along Race Track Wash is a perfect setting for a wonderful arrangement of hardy native ground grown plants. The native rocks and boulders add to the charm of the perfectly positioned plants, and add additional local shade and moisture retention for the plants. The backyard is situated around a naturalistic swimming pool and a densely planted pond, surrounded by plantings evoking the mid-altitude Oak Woodlands of Southeast Arizona and Sonora. You will be surprised at the thriving number and variety of plant genera and species, both hardy and tender.

Directions: From River Road and First Avenue go north on First one block. Turn right on Foothill Drive and follow to Via Sodedad. Turn right on Via Soledad and continue to Via Condesa. Turn left and their home is at 5321, on the left side. There is a map on the next page.

*Jack Ramsey*





### Sycamore Canyon Field Trip

We are planning a trip to Sycamore Canyon in October 14 with Cory Martin. The cost of the trip is \$5.00. We will meet at the Starbucks at I-19 and Irvington at 7:00 am.



Sycamore Canyon is a North/ South running canyon; along the Arizona Mexico border, four miles long, as a crow flies. Temperatures are warm and humid with a perennial stream to soak your feet in. Vegetation is a mix of Sonoran Desert, Desert Grasslands and Sonoran Thornscrub. The canyons North/ South orientation makes it a funnel for wildlife including the famous Trogon, a much sought after bird from the tropics, and numerous other beauties including a plethora of butterflies during the month of October. The hike will focus on the Goodings Preserve, which is the upper half of the canyon. Depending on how much is active, the hike will last up to six hours not including drive time. Terrain is relatively flat with the occasional boulder hop. I would rate this hike at easy to moderate. Proper hiking attire required, hat, water, sunscreen, insect repellent etc.

Cory will be speaking at the October meeting. Sign up at the library table during the break in September and October or send your check to:

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society  
P. O. Box 64759  
Tucson AZ 85728-4759

This trip is limited to 12 people.

*Joie Giunta*

### Return trip to Wallace Gardens Carefree, Arizona

**Sunday, November 4, 2007**  
**Lunch at "The Horny Toad"**



Don't miss out on this great excursion. Use the enclosed form to make your reservations before the trip sells out.

*Jack Ramsey*

### Foothill Mall Plant Sale and Show

**Saturday & Sunday, September 22 & 23**  
**10:00 am to 5:00 pm**

We will be selling rescue plants in conjunction with the Tucson African Violet society show. All sales will be inside. Setup will begin at 9:00 am Saturday. Those of you who wish to help please contact Nancy Reid at 903-0245 or [desertreid @ yahoo dot com](mailto:desertreid@yahoo.com).

All plants will be rescue plants except a few plants on consignment.

*Jack Ramsey*

**3 6 6 3 4**  
**2**  
**Cacti Rescued**  
184 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 Joe Frannea, and Barry McCormick. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

### Upcoming Schedule

- September 6, Thursday – General Meeting: Gene Joseph
- September 11, Tuesday 7:00 pm – Board Meeting
- September 16, Sunday 12:00 noon – Good Time Party
- September 22 & 23, Saturday & Sunday – Foothill Mall Sale
- October 4, Thursday -- General Meeting: Cory Martin.
- October 21, Sunday – Pima County Country Fair Sale
- November 4, Sunday –Wallace Gardens Tour
- December 9, Sunday – Annual Holiday Party

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Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society  
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