



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

April 2003

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 pm

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

April 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, April 3, 2003

7:00 pm

Larry Grammer

Larry Grammer will demonstrate how to stage your plants for exhibition using decorative planters, rocks and top dressing. Larry has an extensive cactus and succulent collection and is a very active exhibitor. His results are spectacular, and he is considered to be among the best exhibitors in Southern California.

Thursday, May 1, 2003

7:00 pm

M. Patrick Griffith

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens

Patrick Griffith of Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens will do a short presentation on the Botanical Gardens and then discuss Opuntias and his research with them.

The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Presents

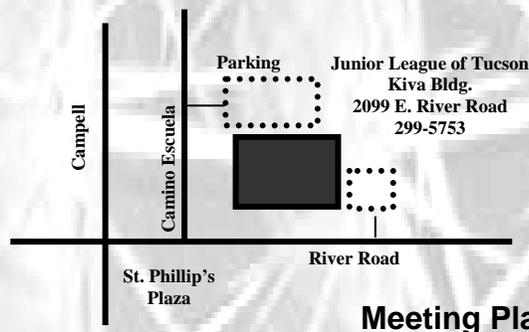
A Cactus & Succulent Exposition

Saturday, May 3

Sunday, May 4

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

10:00 am to 4:00 pm



President's Message



I want to thank all the hardy members who spent most of the rainy Sunday, March 16, at the Pima County Garden Fair helping out in our booth. Sales were brisk between downpours and we found a lot of new homes and friends for our rescued plants. Jan

Emming brought a variety of plants from his Northern Arizona garden that he has rescued and acquired. They included very nice specimens of *Echinocereus engelmannii variegatus*, *Agave neomexicana*, *Yucca schidigera*, *Ferocactus acanthodes*, Joshua trees, golden barrels and saguaros. Mark Sitter, Gecko Cactus, sold a variety of interesting cacti and succulents and educated everyone on how to grow these plants successfully.

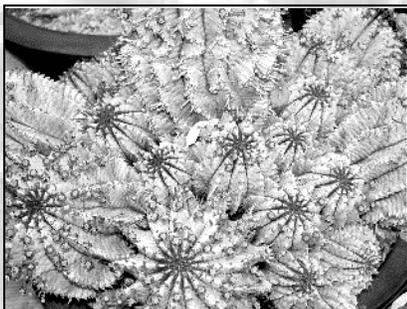
There were no complaints about the rain!

There are 4 seats left on the April 5, bus trip to the Desert Botanical Gardens and Arizona Cactus Sales.

As part of my New Years resolution, I promised myself to visit all our member's nursery operations. We are so fortunate in the Tucson area to have some of the very best growers in the world. You can check them out on our website and we will have a list at the next meeting.

Miles' To Go
 6125 N. Noel Lane
 (520) 682-7272

Member Miles Anderson is the owner. Miles has spoken at regular meetings, Sonoran Conferences and the last CSSA National Convention, and he has been a plant vendor at most of these events. The Nursery is tricky to find and I suggest you call first to make sure he is there and ask for directions. Of course, I didn't, so I spent about an hour on a driving tour of the area. Miles has acquired a large, diverse, collection of



plants that he grows from seed, cuttings and grafting. His growing techniques enable him to produce larger healthy plants in a short

period of time. One these techniques is to grow seedlings and cuttings in specially prepared ground beds from April to September and then replot them for wintering. His results are convincing and it's something I am going to try. (I am sure that I will not have the same results but it will be fun.) You might also ask him about Root-Gel, a product that he has had great success with. It's a rooting hormone and fungicide in a gel preparation that sticks to the cutting.

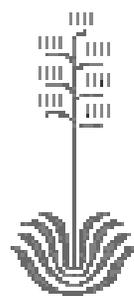
Miles' To Go is a must for collectors.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Desert Botanical Gardens

Saturday, April 5, 2003

A few seats are left for this bus tour. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members, which includes lunch, drinks and snacks. This will be a great trip – don't miss it! Call Dick Wiedhopf at 885-6367 to reserve.



Spring Show and Sale

**Saturday – Sunday
 May 3 & 4, 2003**

The Spring Show and Sale is exceeding all of our expectations. We already have 11 vendors and over 20 exhibits. Publicity is underway and we expect to have a great time and hope for huge crowds of visitors.



It's going to take a lot of work to put this on right. The attached sheet is your opportunity to sign up to help. Please fill it out and bring it to the meeting or mail it in. We're counting on all of us.

Barry McCormick

Larry Grammer Workshop

Larry will do a hands-on workshop on Friday, April 4 from 9 a.m. until 11 at Plants for the Southwest. This will be a workshop on 'staging' of plants, including the use of special pots, selected top dressings and rocks. Participants can bring their own rock, pot, and/or plant, or can buy pots and plants at the nursery. Rocks and top dressings will be provided. Registration is required. The cost is \$10 per person.

Call 628-9773 for sign up and information.

Treasurer's Report

We had \$20,864 in the treasury, before the Pima County sale.

Cactus Rescue

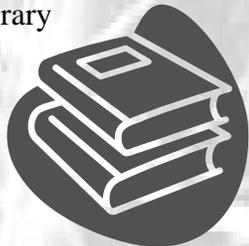
Cactus Rescue has had a bit of a hiatus during the holidays and into the first part of the year. A number of potential rescue sites are being monitored and activity should pick up soon.

Our Rescue Crew is notified on Thursdays for weekend rescues. If you are interested in being on the list, send Joe an email at cacti@earthlink.net. Come when you can, help the club, and get hand selected cacti at a great price.



Library Project Nears Completion

Check out the new, expanded library facility at the next meeting. Four mobile library cases have been built to hold our most popular books. Four board members have agreed to bring them to each meeting, greatly increasing the books available, while sparing the back of our librarian, Jenny Coniglio.



Pima County Country Fair

The Pima County Country Fair, in spite of the weather, was another success for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. Our Society has a large following and they won't buy from anyone except us, because they know we have nice

plants. We sold 93 rescue plants in spite of the small crowd.

Mark Sitter was selling his ever popular well-manicured plants. Jack sold a few of his show stopping Aeoniums. Overall, the promotion of our Society was again very successful.

Jan Emming from Yucca AZ was down from the Kingman area selling his plants. This partnership was very effective, as buyers had many more varieties of rescue plants to choose from. Jan also bought all of our remaining barrels at the end of the shortened sale.

Preliminary figures show that we made \$325 in commissions and \$1026 in gross rescue sales, counting the barrels Jan took.

Thanks to all of the hard workers who showed up in such lousy weather. There were too many to name here. Thank you all very much.

Jack Ramsey

Greenhouse Project

The three main things you need to grow cactus and succulents are sun, sun, and sun. That's why Tucson is such a great growing center. If it was only ten degrees warmer in winter and ten degrees cooler in summer, we could grow everything.

A greenhouse is the answer. I would like to start a group greenhouse project to design and build greenhouses. The goal would be an eight by ten foot greenhouse for under \$1000 in materials. Interested? Contact Barry McCormick at jbarrymcc@earthlink.net or 299-6195.

Artwork on the Web



Some interesting cactus artwork by artist Eric Wert is on the web at www.gescheidle.com.



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



Photo credits for this issue are Dick Wiedhopf and Eric Wert.

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