



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

March 2003

Thursday, March 6, 2003

7:00 pm

TCSS BOARD

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885-6367

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Free Plants: Norma Beckman

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Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

Editor: Barry McCormick

jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 6 at 7:00 pm

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

February 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.

Libby Davison
Director, UA Campus Arboretum

Libby Davison will do a presentation on the University of Arizona arboretum, and hand out maps of the arboretum.

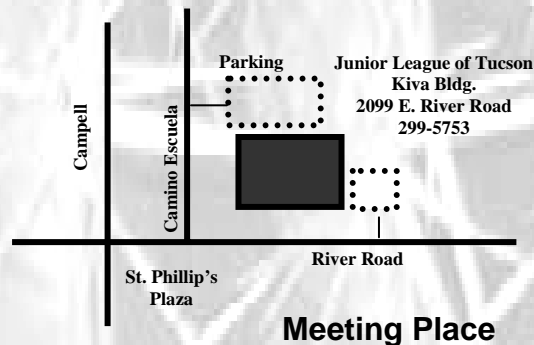
The Mission of the Campus Arboretum at The University of Arizona is to conserve, manage, enhance, and expand a vital collection of plants adapted to an active urban Sonoran Desert setting; and to showcase the historic, aesthetic, environmental, economical, and educational value of these plants within our community and the American Southwest.



We will also discuss a proposal that our Society participate in the planting / replanting of part of the arboretum grounds with cactus and succulents. This would be a great project for the Society, and could possibly provide a home for some rescued plants.

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Larry Grammer will demonstrate how to stage your plants for exhibition using decorative planters, rocks and top dressing. His results are spectacular, and he is considered to be among the best exhibitors in Southern California.



President's Message



Did you get to El Con last weekend? It was a great display of orchids, and a lot more.

I am so pleased with our presence at this show. I thank the dedicated members who manned our booth and informed the public about our plants and our society. They also sold a few plants!

I started to think about all the plant societies and realized how unique and diverse we are. The Orchid Society deals with one family of plants. It the same for the iris, rose, African violets etc. The cactus and succulent society bring together large group of plant families with little similarity in looks, size, flower color etc. and are only linked by their succulent character. We need to build on this concept. Our strength is in diversity. The majority of our members are interested in Cacti, but we need to extol the virtues of other plant families in which our members are also very interested.

I would like to invite those members who have a particular interest in one of these families to bring to our meeting representative specimens and talk for a few minutes about how you grow your plants. If you want to show slides and provide handouts that would be great. Let me know a day or so before a meeting so we can allocate time and space.

Let's go one step further. It doesn't have to be a plant family, it could be one of the genera of cacti or even non plant material. I know we have stamp collectors, print collectors, etc. who should show off their interest in cacti and succulent within different media.

I know that you are thinking, what does he really want? Well, I do have an ulterior motive. The May 3 & 4 show and sale is coming. Your collections would make excellent educational displays to the public. I just want you to get in a little practice before May. Thanks.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Fiesta de las Flores Spring Flower Show and Sale

The annual Fiesta de las Flores at the El Con Mall was its usual success. We made about \$300 on the combination of rescue plant sales, sales commissions, and the sale of a few small plants. We gained at least one new member and passed out a lot of literature.



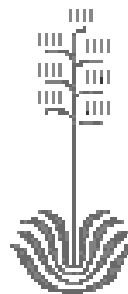
Thanks to all who helped us with the booth, including Kevin & Helen Barber, Julie Girden, Gail & George Virtes, Marty & Barbara Harrow, and Barry McCormick. Norma Beckman arranged plants for us to sell. Mark Sitter and Robbin Baza also had plants to sell.

Jack Ramsey



Desert Botanical Gardens

Saturday, April 5, 2003



Reservations are being accepted for the bus trip to the Desert Botanical Gardens. We will leave at 7:30 am from the College of Pharmacy Parking Lot at the corner of Mabel and Warren St. We will also make a stop at Magee and Oracle for those in the Northwest.

Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members, which includes lunch, drinks and snacks. The Desert Botanical Garden has kindly agreed to waive our admission fees. Reservations are needed as soon as possible so we can make final arrangements for the bus. 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**

Planning is in full swing for our spring show. The board and show planning committee has outlined a great weekend of displays and sales. The key to enjoying this event is to participate! Enter your plants, bake some cookies, sell some rescue plants. Help at the membership booth, staff the plant motel, greet the public. Set up tables, take down tables. The opportunities for participation are endless. This is our show – we do the work – and we have the fun. So reserve the weekend for Cactus and Succulent fun! Call Barry McCormick at 299-6195 for details.

Destination Forever Ranch Plants

<http://www.destinationforeverranch.com/>

Jan Emming of Yucca, Arizona and curator of the Destination Forever Ranch is gearing up for another trip to Tucson, with plants native to the northwestern Arizona Mohave Desert in tow for sales to our members and friends.



To gauge member interest and to allow for Jan to bring down the most appropriate selection of plants, please advise Chris Monrad via email ferowiz@comcast.net or phone, 299-5623 of your choices and quantities of the following species:

Mohave yucca, *Yucca schidigera*;
Joshua Tree, *Yucca brevifolia*; and
Ferocactus acanthodes, Fire Barrel.

Quantities of these plants are likely to be limited.

Having recently purchased the inventory of a nursery in Kingman, Jan also has various high-quality saguaro, golden barrel, and *Agave neomexicana* available for those who may be interested. Jan will be in Tucson for the Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorenson Center on March 16th, or for the TCSS Show and Sale at the Junior League on May 3 & 4."

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 and help the club and get hand selected cacti at a great price.

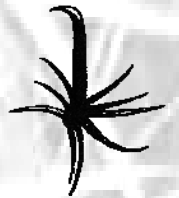


Happenings to the North

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society in Phoenix is having several noteworthy events in the next few months. You can get the full details on:

<http://www.centralarizonacactus.org>

Sunday, March 30, John Trager, Desert Collections Curator, propagator, and photographer at the Huntington Botanical Garden, will speak at 2 p.m. at the Desert Botanical Garden. On April 9 – 13 the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society will hold its annual Show and Sale, also at the Desert Botanical Garden.



Pima County Country Fair

Sunday, March 16

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Lew Sorenson Center

11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

(East on Tanque Verde on the right hand side)

The Pima County Spring and Fall Country Fairs have given our club the opportunity to provide valuable information to many of the visitors that attend, and to sell salvaged and member plants to the public. The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society has established a very good reputation for providing some great plants at very reasonable prices. You will find a great diversity of drought tolerant plants, including many natives, ready for your garden. Drop by and consider giving some of these plants a home.

Jack Ramsey



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 Kevin Barber.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
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