

## TCSS BOARD

### Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf  
885-6367

Vice President: Joe Frannea  
Secretary: Lynda Ryan  
Treasurer: Valarie Miller

### Board of Directors:

(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Immediate Past-President: Vonn Watkins

Dan Birt (2003)

Marty Harow (2002)

Dick Hildreth (2004)

Peter Hubbell (2002)

Barry McCormick (2004)

Chris Monrad (2003)

Margaret Pope (2003)

Jack Ramsey (2004)

Mark Sitter (2002)

### Affiliate Representative to the CSSA

Wendy Beall

**Editor:** Barry McCormick

Jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy:

18th of each month

TCSS Web Page

[www.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.tucsoncactus.org)

### Next Meeting

Friday, May 3 at 7:15 pm

Inn Suites Hotel

475 N. Granada Ave.

Tucson

### May Refreshments

*Free Buffet Dinner at 6:00 pm  
before the meeting for members.*

*Reservations requested.*

Everyone is Welcome!

Bring your friends, join in the fun,  
and meet the cactus and succulent community.



# Desert Breeze

May 2002

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Thursday, June 6

7:00 pm

J. M. "Pete" Petrie

Horticultural Specialist

Boyce Thompson Arboretum"

## The Cuyo: Home of the Sand People

During Boyce Thompson's November 2000 Argentina Expedition, Director Dr. William Feldman, Desert Legume Program Research Specialist Matt Johnson, and Pete Petrie took nearly 1000 photos, largely cactus and succulents. Pete's talk will focus on the "Cuyo", the seven-province desert area of northwestern Argentina.

Pete will begin with an overview of the cultural history of the region, and compare and contrast the Monte and Chaco regions of Argentina with the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and Sonora.

November in Argentina corresponds to May in Arizona, so many of these photos are of cactus in bloom. The purpose of the expedition was to gather data for the development of a Cuyo exhibit at the Arboretum, which is scheduled to open later this year.

Pete is a TCSS member, a 4th-generation Arizonan, and a 1977 graduate of ASU. He did graduate work in Mexican and southwest U. S. history, was a landscaping contractor for 15 years in Mesa, started at Boyce Thompson Arboretum in 1991, and currently is a Horticultural Specialist in cactus and succulents.

Friday, May 3, 2002

6:00 pm Buffet Dinner

7:15 pm Program

Inn Suites Hotel

475 N. Granada Ave., Tucson

## Dave Ferguson

### Trials and Travels with Xerophytic Plants.

Dave will discuss the plants being grown on a trial basis at the Rio Grande Botanical Garden. He will emphasize the results with cacti and succulents. Comparisons will be made between growing these plants in a dry cold climate with a cold winter versus the dry warm climate with mild winters of the Sonora Desert. What has been done in the colder climate of the Albuquerque area might be relevant to the dry cold areas in Arizona such as Bisbee, Globe, Prescott, Kingman, Page and Holbrook. Dave has traveled widely gathering plants to test in the Albuquerque climate. He will touch on the places he has visited.

Our May meeting moves to Friday for Sonoran IV. All members are invited.

There is no cost to members for the dinner or program. The public is invited to the talk, which is free.

## Fiesta de las Flores

The annual Fiesta de las Flores plant show at the El Con Mall was very successful. We sold many of our salvage plants and a few other odds and ends we had on hand. But the biggest success was the public contact we enjoyed. We



shared a booth with the Desert Museum, and the combination made for a very enjoyable time.

We want to thank all of the members who participated, including Gail and George Virtes, Julie, Peter Hubbell, Margaret Pope, Helen and Kevin Berber, Jean Lewis and Jerry Daharsh, Barry McCormick and champion plant-peddler Joe Frannea.

*Jack Ramsey*

### 2002 Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month except for May and December.

Board Meeting are the second Tuesday of the Month at The U of A College of Pharmacy, Room 333.

May 3 General Meeting – Matt Johnson  
May 3, 4 & 5 Sonoran IV, Inn Suites  
June 6 General Meeting, J. M. Petrie  
December 15 Holiday Party

## Sonoran IV News



**Speaker Addition:** Matt Johnson will be our fourth major speaker. His talk will be:

We'll Take the Rain Whenever We Can Get It."

**Vendors.** One of the great features of the conference, both for the public and for the attendees, are the vendors. The following vendors will be selling.

- Arid Lands Greenhouses
- Art Pacheco
- Jimmy Ascencio
- Mary Odette Books
- Mike Ellis
- Miles to Go
- Plantas del Sol
- Plants for the Southwest
- Starr Nursery

**Plant Show.** Remember to bring your plants to the Plant Show. You can bring plants anytime between 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Friday and pick them up around 2:30 pm Sunday. Any number of plants may be entered.



President's Message - *Dick Wiedhopf*

Sonoran IV is here. Remember that our May meeting is Friday evening May 3 which is also the kick-off for Sonoran IV. We will have a buffet dinner at 6:00 pm followed by our speaker. The remainder of the evening will include dessert and opening of the plant sales and show areas. This will be a great evening, full of interesting things going on. Be there.

I have recently returned from the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CCSA) board of directors meeting in St Louis. Plans are well underway for the 2003 national convention which will be hosted by Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society. This will be a great convention and I encourage all of you to attend. You must be a member of CSSA -- I have enclosed a brochure describing the benefits of belonging and other activities of the society.

We have received very positive responses to our rescue (salvage) efforts. There is a group of hard-core workers who donate a great deal of time to this effort and we appreciate the benefits that the Society has received. Our membership ranks, bank account, and public awareness and appreciation are all increasing rapidly.

Your board of directors is working hard to bring you new programs and possibilities for this organization. We need your participation: We want you to be an active part of this society, so volunteer when you can. It's fun!

See you at Sonoran IV

*Dick Wiedhopf, President*



## SONORAN IV Call For Volunteers

*Margaret Pope*

We want to thank all the club members who volunteered at the April monthly meeting to help at SONORAN IV. It is a big event requiring a lot of volunteers and at this point we are short volunteers to help at the plant show. Someone must always be at the plant show to watch over the plants, hand out the little cups of beans, explain the voting process, hand out the "I voted" stickers, sell raffle tickets and generally answer questions. The plant show is open:

Saturday, May 4, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday, May 5, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm.

Because it is open concurrently with the conference we need club members who are not attending the conference to volunteer at the plant show. You can volunteer for one hour or more anytime during the above hours. The plant show is really fun. Not only are you surrounded by wonderful plants, but watching people vote by placing their ten precious pinto beans into little boxes is great fun. We hope all the club members plan to come to the show and while you are there, please consider staying an extra hour or two to work at the show. If you can help please e-mail

Wendy Beall at [Wendy@ChangingYourMind.com](mailto:Wendy@ChangingYourMind.com) or call her at 232-0911 and let her know what time you can be there.

We could also use a few more people to host at the workshop. This simply means collecting tickets as people enter the workshop and assisting the workshop leader. If you are attending the conference you could do this at a few of the workshops you are attending. If you can help please e-mail Margaret Pope at [Nempe@aol.com](mailto:Nempe@aol.com) or call her at 795-1285. If you do volunteer, you will receive instructions about what to do when you register.

On Friday we need one person to help set-up the "What Is It" display/contest between 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm. If you plan to come to the buffet dinner and can come an hour-and-a-half early it would be much appreciated.

The other volunteer opportunity is to help with vendor sales while vendors are doing workshops on Saturday, May 4, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm and Sunday, May 5, from 8:30 am - 10:30 am and 11:00 am - 1:00 am. If you can help, please contact Margaret Pope.

## Treasurer's Report

*Valerie Miller*

Current Assets  
April 8, 2002

Checking	\$918.42
Savings	\$17,055.98
Accounts Receivable	\$253.70
Other	\$150.00
<hr/>	
Total	\$18,378.14

## Culture Corner

*Barry McCormick*

### What Exactly Are Pachypodiums?

Pachypodiums are members of the large botanical family called Apocynaceae. This family consists of over 175 genera and includes such familiar plants as the periwinkle, oleander, adenium, and the plumeria or frangipani. All of these ornamentals are highly valued for their beautiful flowers, Pachypodiums being no exception. Even small plants will amaze you with their prolific floral display.

### What Do I Need To Grow Them



Pachypodiums are robust succulents that rapidly respond to their growing environment and therefore require high light levels to keep them in check. A few hours of direct light each day and a minimum temperature of 55 degrees F. will keep them happy. They will grow well indoors on a sunny window sill, outdoors during the

warmer months, and in a greenhouse where both of these conditions are easily met. Most growers new to this genus are often amazed at the amount of water required.

### Where Can I Buy Pachypodiums?

Several of the growers at Sonoran IV will likely have Pachypodiums for sale. Many of us got Pachypodium lealii as a gift plant at a meeting last year. [Http://www.highlandsucculents.com/](http://www.highlandsucculents.com/) is the web site that supplied this culture information -- they sell plants by mail.

## Society Library

Jenny Cogliano, Librarian

We have received the first of the new books for our library. They include:

"Agaves, Yucca and Related Plants; A Gardener's Guide" by G & M Irish



New in the Library!

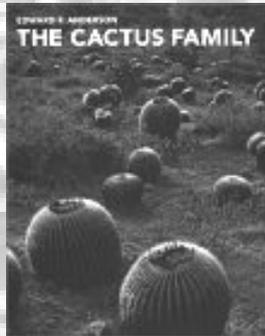
"The Cactus Family" by Ted Anderson

"Echilocereus" by Blum, Lange, Rischler, & Rutow

"Echinocereus - Special Issue of Cactus & Co." by L. Di Martino

"Mammillaria" by John Philbeam

"Succulents - The (New) Illustrated Dictionary", Vol 1 & 2 by Sajeva & Costanzo



New in the Library!

"Vygies" by van Jaarsveld & Pienaar

Order these books from our web site or call Jenny at 546-3684 and ask for the books. She will bring them to the next meeting and you can have them for the

next month. Remember to visit the library table at the meeting for a selection of topical books.



## Cactus and Succulent Rescue Committee

Chris Monrad, Chair

We have decided to abandon cactus salvage in favor of cactus rescue. This would make us rescuers, instead of scavengers. It is thought that the change will make the spine wounds less painful.

The rescue activities (and successes) continue at a brisk pace. With Joe Frannea effectively standing in for traveling Chris Monrad, we had two recent salvages and two corresponding sales.

On March 23 and 24 we salvaged at Westcor's La Encantada site (Skyline at Campbell). Six and seven people, respectively, turned out for those two days, and salvaged 395 plants. We had a record turnout of seventeen people on Saturday, April 6, at Saddlebrooke. We rescued 259 cacti, which were available for the sale for Skyline-Campbell area residents.

Most of the plants were sold at Joe Frannea's the next day. We sold 296 cacti in about six hours. We estimate that about 100 people came by. We handed out a lot of brochures about planting and care. All were most



Back in the Saddle (brooke) again!

appreciative of our salvage efforts! We have received fantastic press and several new members as a result of the Westcor rescue.

Additional plants were sold at the Fiesta de las Flores show at the El Con Mall on April 13 and 14.

## Society Web Site

Barry McCormick, Webmaster

Things are afoot at the Society Web Site. Some obsolete material has been cleared out and replaced by information that is more current and useful. Our long term goal is to make the site both a good communication tool for the members, and a useful reference for the public at large. The site has served us well in the early release of Sonoran IV information. The site also has many links to other cactus and succulent information and links that make it easy to email the webmaster. Here's a thought: look at the web site and then email the webmaster and tell him what you liked and didn't like. That's called "feedback" and it's the sort of thing webmasters thrive on. No comment is too trivial.

