



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2003

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Editor: Barry McCormick

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 pm

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

May 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.

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.

Thursday, June 5, 2003

7:00 pm

Mark Dimmitt

Mark Dimmitt, Natural Science Director at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, will speak on Trichocereus.

The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Presents

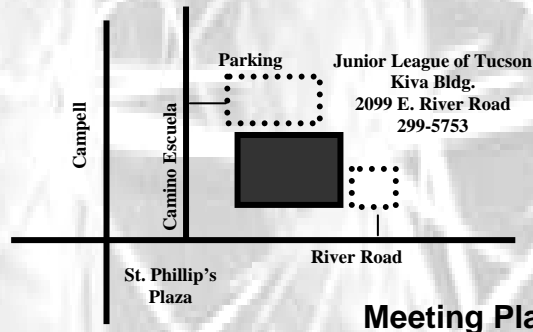
A Cactus & Succulent Exposition

Saturday, May 3

Sunday, May 4

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

10:00 am to 4:00 pm



Meeting Place

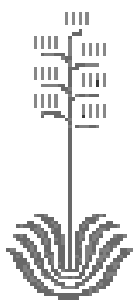
President's Message



We had a great visit to the Desert Botanical Gardens on March 5, 2003. The staff and the docents at the gardens were wonderful, and it made our morning there very special.

Many of us visited their

special butterfly exhibit and were able to get very close and take a lot of pictures of these beautiful insects. We had a delicious picnic lunch and then were off to Arizona Cactus Sales. We loaded the bottom of the bus with special finds and returned to Tucson after a very full and enjoyable day. I want to thank everyone for contributing to a great trip. It was just too much fun.



Botanical Gardens. Don't forget the biennial convention is in St. Louis on June 14-19. There is still time to make your arrangements to go. The Missouri Botanical Gardens is where the first great collection of cacti and succulents in America started. It is a must see place. There will be great talks, plants etc.



Arizona Cactus Sales

After the Board meeting, several of us had a chance to tour a new part of the cactus gardens that will be opening this next year. It is the original historical cactus and succulent garden which has not ever been on public display. It is dominated by great old plants. There were numerous huge clumps of different species of Puyas (a terrestrial bromeliad) that were in bloom. The colors of these are just unbelievable. There was so much that I have never seen up close. Of course, my camera was in Tucson.

WE MUST PLAN A TRIP TO THE HUNTINGTON!

The annual show and sale of CSSA is July 3, 5 and 6th at the Huntington. This is always a great event.

May 3 and 4 will be our Cactus and Succulent Expo. It is important for you to participate. Bring at least one plant for show, bring friends to see the show and buy plants from our vendors, and give us some of your time to help with the event. If you want the full value of this society you need to take part in the activities. I want you to get your money's worth and have fun at the same time. Hope to see you there.

We are starting to plan for Sonoran V which will tentatively be held in May, 2004. It will run from Friday night to Sunday afternoon and will include workshops, talks, show, sales, meals and a lot more. This is another opportunity to get involved.

Dick Wiedhopf, President



At the Desert Botanical Garden

Jim Elliot, owner of Arizona Cactus Sales, was very kind to make a donation to the Society based on sales during our visit. The gift will be used to support student awards at next years Southern Arizona Science Fair. The Board decided to sponsor awards for the best cacti and/or succulent projects.

I have just returned from the Board of Directors meeting of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) which was held at the Huntington

Spring Show and Sale

Saturday – Sunday
May 3 & 4, 2003

Thanks to all of the eager volunteers for the Spring Show and Sale.

We still have a few slots left, but the response has been most gratifying. What a great club we have!



**Help
Wanted**

At the next meeting we will hand out name tags for those who are going to help. Please pick yours up. The show function and time that you have selected will be written on the back of the badge as a reminder. If you don't get your badge at the meeting, it will be waiting for you at the membership table right inside the Kiva Building door during the show.

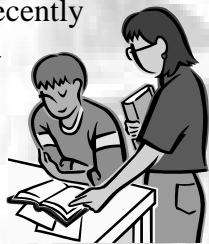
You will be able to get information on your specific tasks at the information table, or see the member in charge of your specific area:

- Greeters – Barry McCormick
- Membership Table – Gail Virtes
- Parking Assistance – George Virtes
- Plant Sitting Booth – Keith Zwickl
- Refreshments – Patsy Frannea
- Rescue Sales – Jack Ramsey

Barry McCormick

School Grant Program

A Bisbee Middle School teacher recently applied for and was just awarded a \$400 TCSS School Program Grant. The teacher plans to buy tools, plants, and soil enrichment materials with the grant money. Her goal is to provide students and community a hands-on setting in which to observe native Arizona plants and to educate students on the variety, uses and historical nature of the plants, while teaching conservation methods and ecological responsibility. About 220 students will have access to the research garden during school as well as numerous community members who use the facility after hours.



The Board also has added to the School Grant Program some cash incentive awards for entries in

the Southern Arizona Science Fair that feature cactus and succulents.



Science Fair Winner

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.



Larry Grammer, April Speaker



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 Joe Frannea and Chris Monrad.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
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