



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2004

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885-6367
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Free Plants: Norma Beckman
Librarian: Jenny Coniglio
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Sales: Jack Ramsey
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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, November 4 at 7:00 pm
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

November 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.

Thursday, November 4, 2004

Matt Johnson

7:00 PM



Matt Johnson, author of Cacti, Other Succulents, and Unusual Xerophytes of Southern Arizona will present the second part of his program on local native Cacti and Succulents.

Matt is a long-time Tucson resident who received both his BS and MS degrees in Horticulture from the University of Arizona. He is presently Curator for the Desert Legume Program, a seed bank project jointly sponsored by the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum. He has been growing cacti and succulents all his life, and has traveled extensively in the Southwest and throughout the world.

Matt is the author of over 50 publications on botany & horticulture of arid climate plants including his previous book: The Trees of Sonora, Mexico (Felger, Johnson, and Wilson, 2001, Oxford University Press).

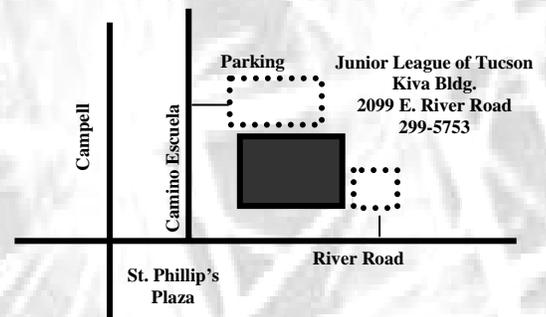
This will be the second part of Matt's presentation and will primarily feature *Opuntia* species.

Sunday, December 12, 2004

Annual Holiday Party

12:00 Noon

Meeting Place



President's Message



It is hard to believe that another year of activities is nearing completion. Thank you for the time you donate to conservation, education, outreach, and volunteerism -- it really makes this society enjoyable and fun. Our membership has increased to over 500 individuals, and keeping everyone involved is an enjoyable challenge.

At the November meeting the nomination committee will present a slate of officers and board of directors for the coming year. Their job is to insure that there is at least one qualified candidate for each position. You will have the opportunity to nominate additional candidates for each office. The nominee must be a member and be willing to serve. A ballot will be sent to every member and results will be announced at the December annual meeting and holiday party.



Speaking of the holiday party, it's time to break out that favorite recipe and get ready for our annual meeting and holiday party on December 12, 2004. We provide the entrees and you provide salads, vegetables, desserts etc. We collect

food and money for the Tucson Community Food Bank and have a fun gift exchange. More information will be coming to you later in November. Because of our growing membership, reservations are important.

Chris Monrad, Rescue Committee Chair, made arrangements to display our rescue program at the Mountain States Wholesale Nursery open house in Glendale, AZ on October 22. Members of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society joined us. We have been working with them to establish a rescue program in the Phoenix area. The open house drew about 300 professionals from all over the southwest and we were able to tell the story

about our rescue programs. Everyone who came by our display was impressed by our conservation activity.

The next day we had a display at Plaza Palomino, along with many other garden groups, and had the opportunity to tell our story in Tucson. Many thanks to Jack & Helen Ramsey and Peter & Evelyn Hubbell for representing TCSS at this event.

It is also time to vote if you are a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. The ballot is on the back of the Newsletter "To The Point" which, by the way, is edited by our member Peter Bockenthien. [Note, especially, that Dick Wiedhopf is the candidate for Vice President of the CSSA - Ed.] Thank you,

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Carrillo School Receives TCSS Grant



All third grade students at Carrillo Magnet School in the Tucson Unified School District will participate in a project to create a signed cactus garden so children can research, identify, and describe native plants. A \$400 TCSS grant was recently awarded to facilitate the purchase of cacti, create decorated tiles for plant identification, and prepare and print cactus guides.

The site for the garden is in a neighborhood park "El Parquecito" directly across from the school at La Pilita (420 S. Main). This is a historic property and has received a Bricks and Mortar Grant for renovations. The La Pilita Association is in



El Parquecito

partnership with the City of Tucson and has the responsibility for stewardship of this historic property.

The sixty Carrillo third graders will research a variety of desert plants through field trips and reviewing written materials and present their findings by a prepared speech to learn how to effectively convey information to an audience. The students will also improve their writing skills by creating a plant identification guide so future students and visitors to the site can learn more about native plants.

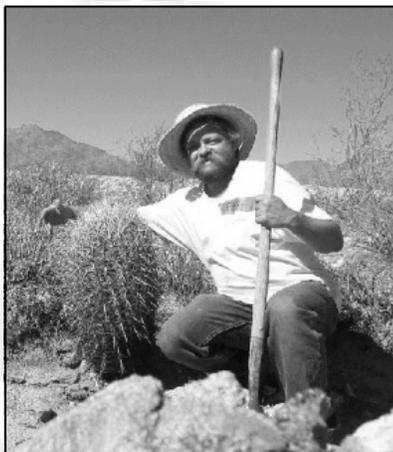
This project is a unique collaboration between a school, a nonprofit association, a city park, a neighborhood, and now the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. Could you possibly think of a better way to use TCSS profits from our Cactus Rescue Crew program!

Joe Frannea

Plant Rescue Committee



Cactus rescue activities continue at a fever pitch. We had a rescue at the Rancho Vistoso development near the Tortolita Mountains in Oro Valley on October 16. The site has very convenient access, and we rescued many hedgehogs and Mammillaria, and a good supply of barrels. We



will be back to this same site after the developer has taken out the inventoried plants he will reuse, and we will rescue the remainder. The ever-present grading equipment is a grim reminder

just how important it is that we react quickly to the invitation to rescue.

A major development in our rescue operations this month was the joint rescue with the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society at the Verrado site near Buckeye, in the foothills of the White Tank Mountains. Rescued plants included *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Echinocereus engelmannii*, and



saguaro. These joint rescues will be done by TCSS, until the Phoenix group gets the experience and confidence to start their own operation. A number of CACSS members have joined our society so they are covered under our permits and insurance.

On Wednesday, October 13 we did another landscape plant rescue, obtaining cuttings of a monstrose cereus for our members.

Barry McCormick

Cactus and Succulent Gardening Calendar

Watch for a new feature to start soon: our Cactus and Succulent Gardening Calendar. This monthly feature will briefly address things to do and watch for in our landscaping, patio container, and windowsill gardening, month by month. We will also include specific advice on two different plants we would all love to raise, given by our experienced members. The plants we feature will be covered for an entire year, so we will have detailed culture information when we need it. In subsequent years we will feature different plants and growers. We will be calling upon all of our experienced growers to build a feature that will steadily improve over the years.

Barry McCormick





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



New Member Listings and changes

Photos by Barry McCormick, Kevin Barber, Joe Frannea and Chris Monrad. Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

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