

Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

September 2002

Thursday, September 5, 2002
7:00 pm

TCSS BOARD

Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf
885-6367

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

Board of Directors:

(terms expire Dec 31 of year indicated)

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)

CSSA Affiliate Representative

Wendy Beall

Editor: Barry McCormick
jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy:
18th of each month

TCSS Web Page
www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, September 5 at 7:00 pm
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

September Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
N to S, 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.

Mark Dimmitt
Director of Natural History
Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum

ADENIUMS

The popularity of Adeniums in Tucson has surged in the last couple of decades, in large part because of Mark Dimmitt's twenty-year obsession. Few of us who have admired the wonderful specimen of Mark's cultivar "Crimson Star" at the Desert Museum have fully escaped this obsession.

Mark will present a program with two parts. The first part will describe the several species as they are currently understood, with information on their different growth forms, flowers, and cultural needs. Then he will show the improvements that breeders around the world have produced in recent years.



Crimson Star

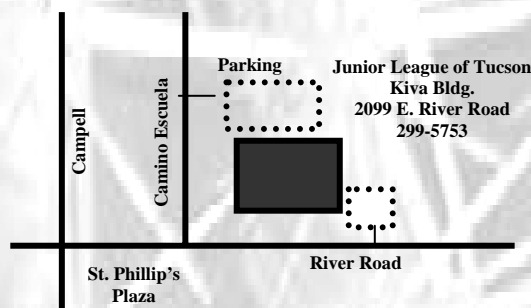
Thursday, October 3, 2002
Dan Mahr
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Dan will be hosted by TCSS for two talks on October 3, 2002.

"The Famed Cactus Moth: Its History and Potential Threat to the Desert Southwest", 3:30 pm at the College of Pharmacy

"Namibia: Land of Succulent Extremes", regular meeting time.

Meeting Place





President's Message

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

I am almost done with my first four-year term on the Board of Directors of CSSA and am running for re-election to a second term starting in 2003. This has been a great experience and has given me an opportunity to let everyone know about the great things we do in Tucson.

CSSA started in 1929 in Los Angeles, California. The Society provided new knowledge about the culture of cacti and succulent plants. It has had a long association with the Huntington Botanical Gardens and recently has been given space for a permanent home for the CSSA Library.

Today, there are about 100 affiliate societies and members in all states and territories plus about 80 countries. The CSSA Journal, which started in July 1929, is the best in the world. It gives great scientific and practical information and the photography is spectacular. If you haven't looked at a journal contact our librarian, Jenny Coniglio.

CSSA holds a biennial convention. The next one will be in St. Louis, June 22-26, 2003. You must be a member to attend but it is well worth it. We had over 10 members at the Los Angeles convention last year. They returned with new knowledge and a lot of new plants and books. I hope there will be a lot of us in St. Louis.

It is easy to join CSSA. Just go to their web site at Ccssainc.org to get a membership application.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

New Address

Our new official mailing address is:
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
PO Box 64759
Tucson, AZ 85728-4759

Educational Grant Program

The School Grant Program is in full swing with the TCSS brochure and grant request form being completed. Chris Monrad is heading up the Schools team and contacted the heads of education for Vail, TUSD, and Amphi Districts who will be eligible to participate in our program for this kick-off year. We have almost \$3,000 in our treasury earmarked for the School Grant program.

George and Gail Virtes are heading up the School Grant judging team. Judges are being selected and will review all grant request proposals and decide which are worthy of funding. Judging will begin in mid October after the grant requests are due back from the schools to TCSS.



Funding for this program comes from donations to TCSS specifically designated for the School Grant Program and 25% of the Cactus Rescue proceeds. Send donations to TCSS. Contact Joe Frannea for questions or suggestions (575-7126).

Joe Frannea

2002 Meeting Schedule

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

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

September 5, - General Meeting, Mark Dimmitt

October 3, - 3:30 pm Dan Mahr

October 3 - General Meeting Dan Mahr

December 15 Holiday Party

Technology Committee Formed

Kevin Barber has accepted the chairmanship of a new committee to use computer technology to generate interest in and share knowledge about cactus & succulents growing in the Tucson area. We will have a report on this committee next month.

TCSS "Cactus Rescue Crew"

Record size Cactus Rescue Crews of 12 to 13 volunteers have been showing up for our rescues. Recently we ventured back to Saddlebrooke to get more barrels and hedge hog cacti. We have rescued over 2,300 cacti at this site. Grading has started so we have limited access to this site.

New Rescue Crew member Mark McMahon put his pick-up truck to the test with a 600 pound barrel which was over four and a half feet tall and about two feet in diameter. Took most of the crew shown in the photo to get it into his truck but is now happily relocated to his home.



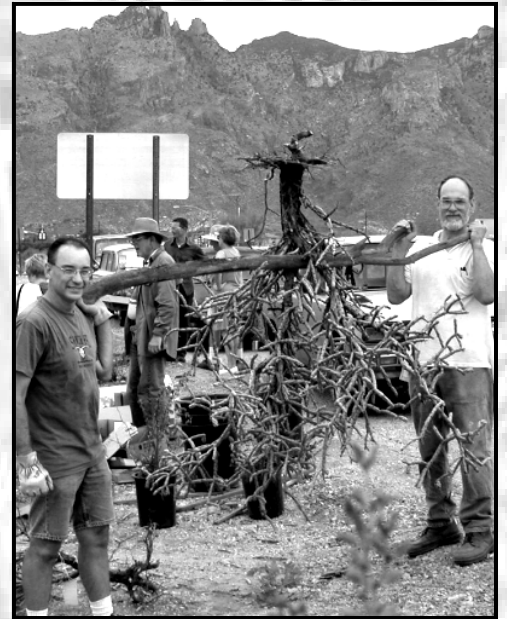
One of the multi-headed barrels (about 20 heads) was donated by the Rescue Crew to the Tucson Botanical Gardens. It was delivered August 14 and now has a great new home under a large creosote bush in their cactus garden. A large group of children passed by just after it was planted and were excited to see such a weird barrel cactus. We may never get agreement on the exact number of heads on this cactus as everyone seems to see it a little differently.



On the last Sunday in July, the Cactus Rescue Crew saved 200 Mammillaria and 20 large Cholla cacti from the SW corner of Skyline and Campbell. Some of the Mamms, which were in full bloom, were given as free plants at the August TCSS club meeting. Innovative ways were devised by the crew to haul the large

Chollas without damaging them or breaking off too many branches. We may be able to get back into this site later for more rescue.

The Rescue Crew recently made three trips to a D.R. Horton housing development NE of River Road and First Ave. It proved to be a bit of a challenge to get access to one of the ridges since the jeep trail recently



washed out. Wheelbarrows were pushed up and down steep slopes to get to the cactus and they were stashed in a safe place for later pick-up once the bulldozer cut in a new road. This area was rich in saguaros and a few nice ocotillos as well as Santa Rita Prickly Pear and lots of barrels and mamms. We had limited time, about one week, to get in before the grading. We collected 323 cacti including 44 saguaros, 21 ocotillo, 50 large barrels, 11 hedge hogs, 10 prickly pear, 2 cholla, and 185 smaller cacti.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescue Plant Sale a Great Success

A plant Sale on Sunday-August 25 at Joe & Patsy Frannea's house was a great success. We grossed \$3,520 and gave 310 plants a new home. Again, many thanks to Joe and Patsy for the generous use of their property for storage and sales, and their massive effort in making these sales such a success. Our next sale will be October 13 at the Pima County Fair.

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

Moving Sale!

Wendy Beall is having a moving sale in preparation for relocating to New Mexico. She has more than 75 species of cactus and succulents available including specimen Pachypodiums, 20 different kinds of aloes, hybrid Trichocereus, and more! For a list of available plants or to make an appointment, e-mail her at wendy@changingyourmind.com or phone 520-232-0911.

Treasurer's Report

Valerie Miller

Current Assets
August 18, 2002

Checking	\$1,700.63
Savings	\$13,881.11
<u>Grant</u>	<u>\$2,765.99</u>
Total	\$18,347.73

Photo credits for this issue are Joe Frannea and Mark Dimmitt.

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537