



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

September 2003

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Technology: Kevin Barber

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, September 4 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.

Thursday, September 4, 2003

7:00 pm

Dylan Hannon

Plant Propagator, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden "A Natural History of Socotra"

The September 4th program will be presented by Dylan Hannon. Dylan is a plant propagator at both Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and the Huntington Botanical Gardens and has also written articles for the Cactus and Succulent Journal on some of his travels.



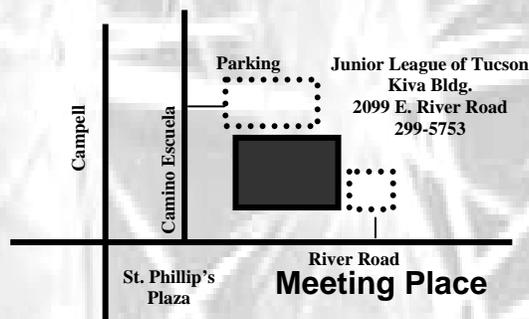
The island of Socotra has long been fabled as a source of frankincense (*Boswellia* species), dragon's blood (*Dracaena cinnabari*) and bitter aloes (*Aloe perryi*). During two recent expeditions to the island, which is administered by Yemen, Dylan has

photographed many of the plants, including enormous adeniums, cucumber trees (*Dendrosicyos*), dragon trees, *Dorstenia gigas*, stapeliads and many others. He will also focus on the people and natural history of this beautiful and remote Socotra, literally translated from Sanskrit as "Island of Bliss"

To learn more about Socotra and view some beautiful pictures, visit <http://www.friendsofsocotra.org/photos.htm>.

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Richard Felger, Director of The Drylands Institute, will give a presentation on the Ethnobotany of Sonoran Desert Cactus



President's Message



Summer is almost over! Soon our focus will turn to preparing for fall planting, re-potting and over-wintering our plants. No matter how I try to control myself, there always seem to be more plants to worry about. The reason I mention this is that

November 15 (the day that we use for the potential first frost) is quickly approaching and I usually forget to do anything about my tender plants until November 16.

In the next couple of meetings we will make time to hear some fall and wintering suggestions. I hope they will be helpful. We will put the best ones on our website and in the Desert Breeze. If you have questions or answers, please let us know! The areas we want to cover are planting, re-potting, frost protection, structure building and associated activities.

Of course an important activity this fall is attending plant sales. We will keep you up-to-date and post them on our website. Our local member growers produce many of the plants that are at these sales and they always appreciate your support.

We have purchased two scanning cash registers for use at all our plant sales. We know this will be a great convenience to buyers and sellers and look forward to their use. If you would like to be trained to help out at our sales using these new devices, please contact Kevin Barber (our vice president).

At the next board meeting we will be electing a nominations committee who will prepare a slate of officers and board members to be announced at the November meeting. At that time nominations from the floor for any officer or board member will be accepted. The ballots go out in late November and the winners announced at the annual meeting which is part of the December 14 Holiday Party. If there is a need for a run-off election, it will take place at the annual meeting.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Sonoran V

Sonoran V is only eight months away. The dates are Friday, April 30 to Sunday, May 2 at the Inn Suites Hotel. We will have a tentative schedule of events in the October issue of the Desert Breeze.

Technology Committee Update

If you haven't visited the TCSS web site recently please do so. (www.tucsoncactus.org). This is your site and we are steadily enhancing it. You will find a lot of new information. We have created an expanding database of cactus and succulents that are commonly grown in Tucson with pictures and cultivation information. It will eventually cover over 100 varieties. We are also busy adding more



pictures of each plant in a "more information" page attached to each plant entry.

We have also added a "latest news" page to provide for breaking news that we would

like to communicate to the organization. Check it out often to make sure you stay up on all the interesting activities that the TCSS is involved in this year. Soon we will be adding a food section so get those recipes ready! In addition Vonn Watkins is working on creating a diseases and pests page.

You can help in two important ways. We need more pictures of each plant to add to the information pages. We are looking for images that show the various stages and ages of the plants and also pictures of the plants in bloom. We would also like to create links to quality web sites containing information about Cactus and Succulents that would be interesting to most of our readers. If you have some favorite sites please send them to tcss@tucsoncactus.org for consideration to be added to our site.

We welcome any suggestions or feedback concerning the site. If you think something is missing or simply have an idea for new content please don't hesitate to send email to tcss@tucsoncactus.org.

Kevin Barber

Rescue a Big Success

Thirty-seven eager volunteers showed up early Saturday morning on August 16 at Skyline and Campbell for our first rescue opportunity this summer, and only our second outing this year. We worked diligently for several hours on nine acres of steep, rocky terrain, digging up plants before the development site grading. It didn't take long for all of the new recruits to learn the basics, and discover some underused muscles.



The specimens on this site were in beautiful condition after recent rains and rescue crew members were fortunate to have the opportunity to remove so many from harms way so that the plants will continue to be

enjoyed. Ocotillo, barrels in bloom and several pincushion size plants are ready to take up residence in new landscapes around Tucson. Most of the barrels on this property were exceptionally large and required lots of muscle power by three to four people using a carpet sling to haul them out of the site and load them into vehicles for transport. We have several of these large specimens in our rescue holding nursery. Call Joe or Patsy at 575-7126 if interested.



The weather cooperated for the rescue and rains a few days before helped loosen the soil but the jackhammer was beneficial to help coax the larger ocotillo out of their rocky hillside home. A total of 35 ocotillo, 50 barrels, 45 pincushion size cacti, and one large hedgehog were rescued. All of the ocotillo and many of the barrels went home with Rescue Crew members who volunteered over 150

hours of work to save these plants. Other prospective sites are being reviewed. Rescue notices are emailed to Rescue Crew members on Thursday if there is a rescue the following weekend.

Joe & Patsy Frannea

Financial Details

Our treasury continues to maintain a healthy balance of about \$21,000. Final gross sales figures from the spring show and sale were \$15,694.63, making our profit from the event about \$2000. While profit was far from our main purpose in having the show, it certainly helps us maintain our projects and programs.



We have made quite a number of valuable additions to our society assets recently, including a very high tech video projector, scanning cash registers to support our sales, tables and equipment to aid in cactus rescue, and some very valuable additions to our library.

Our first-cut budget for Sonoran V of \$20,730 is more comfortable with our current financial picture.

Greenhouse Project

We are still interested in a project to design a simple, inexpensive greenhouse that members could build to protect some of the more tender cactus and succulents.



The goal would be an 8x10 foot greenhouse for under \$1000 in materials. Interested? Contact Barry McCormick at jbarrymcc@earthlink.net or 299-6195.

2003 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.

October 2 General Meeting, Richard Felger
October 19 TCSS Plant Sale
November 6 General Meeting, Phil Favel
December 14 Annual Holiday Party

Photo credits for this issue are Joe Frannea, Barry McCormick, Friends of Socotra.



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



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