

# Desert Breeze

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Lois Ladwig and Dick Wiedhopf  
report on the TCSS salvage operation

## Saving our Native Cactus

**C**hris Monrad, TCSS member, brought our society the opportunity of salvaging native cacti growing on a 15-acre soon-to-be cleared elementary school site in the Amphi school district. While a portion of the site is being preserved in its natural state, the school district is salvaging some of the plants in the area to be cleared for later use in the school landscaping. Many more plants were growing happily in the area soon to be bulldozed.

With the permission of the school district, Dick Wiedhopf, Vonn Watkins, and Lois Ladwig met Chris's parents and one of their neighbors on the site and counted and marked many ferocactus, echinocereus, and mammillaria as potential salvage plants along with one *Peniocereus greggii*. With this information and salvage permission from Mike Orr of the Amphi construction office, Dick went to the AZ Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Office and obtained tags and seals to allow salvage of 94 plants. Marty Harow and his son collected approximately 35 cacti and brought them to be included in the successful Silent Auction held June 26th at TBG.

Following this initial collection, more plants were collected and stored at TBG until they

could be placed in new homes in the community. Plants were donated to TBG for use in the gardens and to the Desert Museum to add to the desert setting there. At the July 8 TCSS meeting the *Peniocereus greggii* was a raffle plant and many of the other plants were sold to members of the society. Dick went back to get more tags and seals and another collection effort saved more plants. The salvaged plants will continue to be available to TBG and ASDM and available for purchase.

This is a new direction for TCSS and one that has already provided great satisfaction to participating members whose efforts have saved beautiful cacti scheduled to be destroyed. When walking the site for the survey, it was amazing how many cacti were hiding under the bursage and desert trees. Every step revealed another plant soon to be bladed by a bulldozer. A portion of the site had already been bladed with mammillaria and echinocereus uprooted and cholla broken up and dying. While we were not able to save all the plants on this site, we feel this first effort was very successful and a good learning experience.

We hope to identify a group of members who

*(Continued on page 9)*

**2 TCSS meetings in August see p. 3**

*“ Every step revealed another [cactus] soon to be bladed . . . ”*

Sonoran 3  
2000 AD  
May 5, 6 and 7  
Inn Suites  
1-10 / St. Mary's  
Tucson

Speakers on  
The Desert  
at Night  
Many Workshops  
to choose from

Details  
coming  
soon



Business Page: TCSS Officers and Board; Board and Sonoran 3 Meetings; Copy Deadlines .....page 2  
Calendar of Events; Welcome New Members; Sunshine .....page 3  
Other Societies' Events to tempt you .....page 4  
From the Editor's Desk — A Miscellany .....page 5  
The Saguaro, *Carnegiea gigantea*, state flower of Arizona .....page 6  
CSSA Journal for July/August; Notes on June 3 meeting .....page 7  
Surviving Prickly Pear Jam; WOW from the President.....page 8  
Succulenta 2000 - International Succulent Congress, Cape Town .....page 9  
16th Succulent Plants Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino CA .....page 10  
TCSS Membership Application Form .....page 11

(Continued from page 1)

want to act as a TCSS salvage team and are looking for more salvage opportunities. There are two more sites posted as potential salvage sites and Dick and Vonn are contacting the owners/developers to see if we may continue our plant rescue.

Thanks to the Amphi school district for allowing us to salvage some of these smaller plants that are not normally saved and to Chris who was instrumental in giving us this opportunity.

The Oro Valley residents care about native vegetation and called the local police to check out what we were doing on the school site. We had the appropriate permit and tags which were verified by the police so there was no problem.

Everyone needs to be aware of the native plant laws and to adhere to them. There is a web site: <<http://agriculture.state.az.us/PSD/native-plants.htm>> (*nativeplants* is one word) which has files of the laws and permits required for clearing land and salvaging protected native plants. It also includes a 12-page list of the protected plants of Arizona.

For those who purchased plants and used the plastic flats to carry them home, please bring the flats to the next meeting so we can reuse them in further salvage efforts. If you have extra flats that you want to donate to this effort please bring those to the next meeting on August 5. Thank you.

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## Succulenta 2000

### International Succulent Congress

**Dates:** 21 to 25 August 2000

**Venue:** Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens,  
Cape Town, South Africa

World renowned speakers will present papers on Southern African and (other) Succulent Plants. The high standard achieved in the past will be maintained. This will be an occasion not to be missed by anyone seriously interested in the flora and, specifically, the succulent flora of this region.

#### Provisional prices:

**Congress fee** (including lunches, teas and all congress material):

\$300 plus \$40 Banquet.

**Hotel accommodation** can be arranged for participants.

Approximate cost for five nights:

Holiday Inn Garden Court: \$260 per person sharing, \$490 per person (single)

Bed and breakfast accommodation: \$130 per person sharing, \$210 per person (single)

#### Pre-congress field trips:

Namaqualand (Trip during height of flower season) — 7 days \$1150

Richtersveld and Southern Namibia — 14 days \$2300

Eastern Cape — 7 days \$1150

Knersvlakte, Ceres, Tanqua and Little Karoo — 7 days \$1150

#### Post-congress field trips:

Eastern Cape and Little Karoo — 12 days \$2090

Northern Namibia including Kaokoveld and Damaraland — 14 days \$3690

Kenya — 14 days \$3030

Single supplement available.

**Registrations** and enquiries may be sent to the Organizing Committee, Succulenta 2000, Private Bay X10, Hatfield, 0011 South Africa

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