

Barry and Caryl



When Barry McCormick moved into his Tucson house at the stroke of the millennium year 2000, he found an acre of undisturbed Sonoran landscape, some bare-dirt patio areas, eleven beautiful Saguaros, a parking lot big enough for a small church, massive oleander hedges, and a large congregation of packrats. Barry moved here from the California Mojave desert, but his love for cactus and succulents go back to windowsill growing in Missouri.

During the ensuing decade, patio landscaping has developed, an orchid and a succulent greenhouse have appeared, garden pathways began to weave through the undeveloped areas, and the landscape has been enriched by many rescue cacti. The outer gardens did not as much respond to a plan as to the opportunities to gain and provide fill from other projects. Caryl Jones, a longtime Tucson resident and plant enthusiast, has recently influenced a substantially neater and more orderly landscape, while retaining the authentic Sonoran feeling.



A six-year energy savings plan has just been completed on the house with all new windows and doors, efficient lighting and utilities, and a roof of solar panels. Water conservation efforts to date have consisted of a water sump from the orchid greenhouse to water the back oleanders, and some rain gutting in anticipation of upcoming plans for rainwater harvesting. The most recent garden addition is a bench

area to display specimen plants and a replacement water feature in the north patio area.



Plants of note: *Gymnocalycium saglionis*, *Agave geminiflora*, *Echinocereus nicholii*, *Echinocereus brandegeei*, *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Stenocereus thurberi*, *Cleistocactus*, *Trichocereus*,



PHOTOS BY ED BARTLETT

LOT SIZE: one acre

SOIL MIX: Potted plants are a substantial part of the inner landscaping, cultivated in a traditional mix of one-half commercial potting soil and one-half pumice. Occasional weak fertilizer is provided.

WATERING: Irrigation is restricted to the patio areas, and, regrettably, to the oleanders. Supplemental spring water is provided, and special areas receive an occasional other sprinkling.

PESTS: The packrat wars continue

TIP: In a traditional fisherman's lament, Barry protests: "You should have been here last year." Damage from the big freeze of 2011 was extensive; the special garden theme this year is "what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger."



Chris and Cliff

For the past 20 years the Manns have lived in this special foothills home that was originally built by well known Tucson photographer Ray Manley. The front of the house has a dense mature landscape of saguaro, yucca, organ pipe, and nice stands of prickly pear that provide a striking entrance. Over the years Chris and Cliff have used their artistic talents to enhance the back patio and surrounding landscape with a large variety of plants and interesting hardscape installations while taking advantage of the mature native plants on the property. Everywhere you look you will see accents of their clay and wood creations that remind you that creating this landscape must be a labor of enjoyment.



LOT SIZE: about 2 acres

WATERING: Drip irrigation
otherwise it's all frittering and piddling

TIPS: Notocactus seems to do well in the back yard
in an off year for rabbits and Organ pipe does well
in the hot front south-facing landscape



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Plants of note: *Astrophytum ornatum*,
Ferocactus robustus, *Sophora secundiflora*,
Calliandra californica, *Agave colorata*,
Cereus terscheckii, *Echinopsis*, *Trichocereus*
and some wonderful old trees



Rowena and Larry

The Matthews became seriously interested in cacti and succulents when they bought their house in Tucson 10 years ago. At first, before they had both retired, they were only here for 2 months a year. During those long absences, they were greatly helped by Joe Frawley, of Picture Rocks Cactus Nursery, who watered weekly with a hose before they had any irrigation systems, helped them identify what plants they had, and who provided advice and many cacti and succulents.

Margaret Joplin (Design Collaborations) helped design and install patio hardscapes. Rowena has constructed a series of paths through the nether regions of their lot that allow closer viewing of the desert vegetation that Larry has enriched with plantings of black spined opuntia (*O. macrocentra*) and other cacti.

Larry loves to propagate agaves, and they now have more than thirty species growing both in ground and in pots. He is particularly proud of a statuesque *Nolina nelsonii* and several *Yucca rigida*. They also inherited a yard full of mature cholla and prickly pear, as well as other native succulents, which they have enriched with specimens obtained through participation in TCSS cactus rescues. They love the interplay of desert adapted wildflowers and succulents.

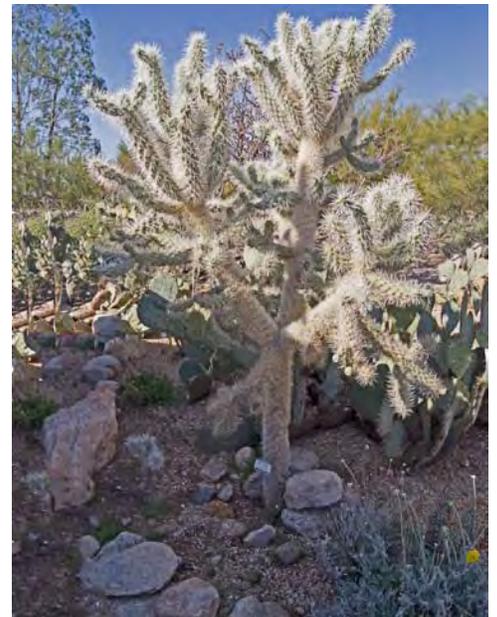
Their favorites at the moment include the *Nollina nelsonii*, and some beautiful golden-spined prickly pear that bloom in April with magenta blossoms. A beautiful contrast with their golden/green pads.

LOT SIZE: one acre

WATERING: Over the years we have gradually installed irrigation systems for newly planted areas, but still do hand watering when and where needed.

PESTS: Our yard is unfenced except for two small areas adjacent to the house, so critters roam. Newly planted agaves and herbivorous plants must be caged, and we specialize in plants disliked by javelinas, rabbits, quail and finches. The herbivorous pests are free to roam, and for us they are part of the joy of living in the desert. Probably the two types of pests we are least tolerant of are pack rats and leaf cutter ants. With these, the battles are continuous!

TIP: Things grow! We have often made the typical beginner's mistake of planting small agaves much too close to each other and to paths. We are getting better about this, but the earlier plants continue to grow.



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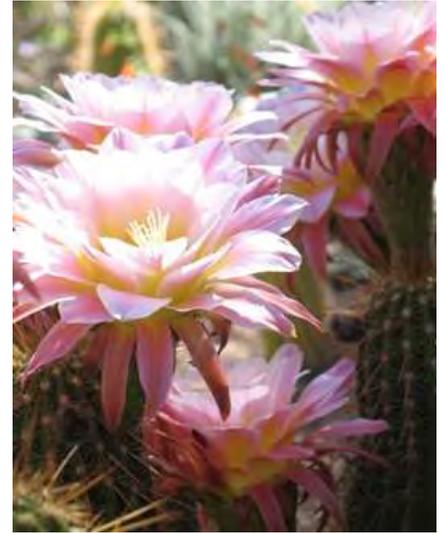
Other Plants of note: White spined jumping cholla, *Pachycereus pringlei*, *Opuntia leucotricha*, *Opuntia stenopetala*, *Echinocereus nicholii*, *Cleistrocactus strausii*



Dick and Sue

This garden is an eclectic mix of cactus, succulents, flowering native shrubs, and native trees. There are many trichocereus which hopefully might be in bloom. With the varied habitat the garden is home to butterflies and birds. Hummingbirds can be found year round since there is always something in bloom. Dick and Sue have used rescue plants and our monthly free plants to good advantage.

Dick has a background in horticulture as a previous founding director of a botanic garden. He likes to push the envelope to find out what will grow in Tucson. "We battle with hot temperatures, critters that nibble, and sometimes freezing winters", he says. "It's rewarding to watch how a plant changes with the seasons, offering different views on its beauty". He has a passion for plants, and helps a plant get settled and become hardened to grow in our dry and hot climate.



Dick and Sue moved to Tucson in 2000 when Dick started his desert retirement. "I used to tell others what to do in the garden. Now I get to do it. If it's wrong it's now my fault", he observes. As a retirees' garden, there are many chairs scattered throughout that allow Dick to sit as he contemplates a section and waters his little children. No shade cloths or winter protection are used. Dick says, "It will either make it, or it won't".

As you wander around the property you'll see several aloe and agave species. There are plants from the Mojave and the Chihuahuan deserts, South Africa, and Australia. This garden is a trial site for plants from around the world and for plants newly developed for our Sonoran desert. You will see salvias, scutellarias, a smoke tree, and lots of our desert wildflowers.

LOT SIZE: almost an acre

WATERING: . Everything is hand watered, more the first year, less the second, and little the third year.

TIP: "We have a Darwinian garden. Either a new plant makes it or it doesn't. I help by planting the same species in different microclimates in our garden. Ultimately a plant may be happy in one of the yard's microclimates or it may be food for the desert dwellers".



Other Plants of note: Giant *Fouquieria splendens*, *Cephalocereus senilis*, *Mammillaria geminispina* with crest, *Aloe striata*, *Sansiveria cylindrica*, *Aloe variegata*, *Notocactus leninghausii*, *Agave bracteosa*



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Lee and Wendy

The Goldbergs have owned this property for about 5 years, but cactus and succulents really captured Lee's interest when they moved to Tucson in 2003. Over the past few years they have re-worked the entire property by adding a koi pond and tennis court, renovating the pool, adding a new concrete driveway and re-landscaping the entire yard. Lee's favorite plants in the front yard would be the large moroccan mound, the large potted crested golden barrel, 2 crested myrtillos, and several bright red fire barrels. In his back yard he favors some very large totem poles, a nice boojum, several ocotillo purpursii and the yucca faxonia.



LOT SIZE: 5 acres

SOIL MIX: I never use cactus mix because the pack rats and ground squirrels love digging in this and you end up with large air pockets underneath your plants. I typically dig large holes and remove rocks for good drainage. Then I use a combination of sand and dirt to plant the cacti.

WATERING: I water according to how the plants look. In the dry months of May and June, before the monsoon, I generally have to water every 2 weeks. I have a drip system for citrus and other plants that require more water.

PESTS: First off, I don't use cactus mix. I fence vulnerable plants and place hardier plants in unfenced areas. I remove prickly pear where pack rats are a problem and treat agaves with pesticide at least twice a year. I try to make soil around plants really compact to make digging difficult and watch for problems. I have learned to water boojums and tree aloes in the spring but NOT in the summer.

TIP: I find that larger plants are more tolerant to severe cold and after losing several small ones, I tend not to buy small anymore. I find that almost all my cacti do better with some shade and that great soil and good drainage are very important.

Plants of note: Boojum tree, Fouquieria purpusii, Cereus schottii, Opuntia quimilo, Ferocactus alamosanus, Mammillaria longimamma, Cereus terscheckii, Oreocereus celsianus



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