

Holiday Party



Two of Santa's most capable elves, Jack Ramsey and Patsy Frannea, teamed up with volunteers, too numerous to mention, to put on a great Holiday Party. Wielding their magical shoehorns, they provided comfortable seating and scrumptious food for a record number of members. Dual serving lines whisked mountains of food to hungry holiday revelers. The gift exchange was spirited and many treasures changed hands. Thanks to all who made this annual event so enjoyable.

Barry McCormick

2007 TCSS Election Results



The results of the election for officers and board members for 2007 were announced at the annual meeting and Holiday Party.

President: Richard Wiedhopf
Vice President: Vonn Watkins
Secretary: Nancy Reid
Treasurer: Joe Frannea

Board of Directors:
Dan Birt, Chris Monrad, Mark Sitter.

As a result of the election, two vacancies were created on the board of directors. At the December board meeting the board selected Peter Hubbell and Keimpe Bronkhorst to fill the two positions that expire in 2008.

2006 President's Awards.

President's Awards recognizing outstanding service to the society were presented at the Holiday Party to Bill Salisbury, Dave Palzkill, and Keimpe



Bronkhorst. Recipient James Thomas will receive his award at a later date. The President's Special Service Award for outstanding service and special contributions for the success of our society was presented to George and Gail Virtes.

Calling All Cooks

Every year at the TCSS Holiday Party we get requests for recipes for many of the delicious pot luck dishes that members bring to share. This year I promised to try to find those talented cooks to see if they might be willing to share their recipes with others in the Society.

If you would like to share your gourmet delights, please email the recipe to TCSS@TucsonCactus.org so they can be forwarded to me. If this is not convenient, bring a copy to the next meeting and give it to me. I will work with Keimpe so that we can post them on our website for all to enjoy. Please include your name and the origin of the recipe if known.

Thanks for your help.

Patsy Frannea

Grants Help Our Teachers and Students

The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society



implemented the School Grant Program in 2002 by earmarking 25% of all cactus rescue sales profits for School Grants. This year the program was expanded to include all schools in Arizona, not just Southern Arizona

schools. When a grant request is received it is forwarded to our judging team, headed up by George and Gail Virtes, for review. If recommended for approval and approved by the TCSS Board, a check is immediately sent to the applicant.

Our grants are limited to \$400 each as they are intended to assist teachers with buying supplies and materials for Cactus & Succulent related projects. If native plants are needed for a cactus garden or classroom project, the Rescue Crew often provides cacti at nominal costs. Larger saguaros from rescues are often reserved for these grant recipients as it is expensive to buy them from nurseries.

TCSS recently awarded two monetary grants and one involving 103 cacti for a native garden. One of

the recent \$400 grants was awarded to Jim Kennedy at the Amphitheater Alternative High School for a Cactus & Succulent Garden, part of their outdoor beautification project. Students will participate in the building and care of the area and can enjoy it during lunch or use it for research activities.

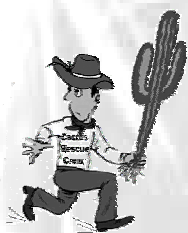
Another of the recent \$400 grants went to Lynn Eggleston from Sierra Oaks Community School in Oracle. They want a low maintenance Cactus & Succulent Entry Garden near the drop off area of the school. About 60 students will participate in creating and maintaining the area. The garden will also be used for investigating fruits for medicinal qualities.

The Vail/Rita Ranch area Desert Sky middle school, in conjunction several volunteer organizations, landscaped a 17,000 square foot area in front of the school for community usage. Many organizations contributed labor and materials to make this happen. The rescue crew removed 103 cacti from a nearby parcel where a new Vail school will be built and made them available for this project. TCSS's Dave Palzkill coordinated the planting of the cacti for the project. A barren dirt area in the front of the school and parking medians were beautified with native cacti, shrubs, and trees in one days work by hundreds of volunteers. A great community effort!

This past year our Cactus Rescue Program contributed about \$5,000 to the School Grant Program. We awarded five monetary grants totaling \$1,950 and one grant providing 103 rescue cactus. Since the inception of the program TCSS has awarded seventeen grants for a total of \$5,500. Also, several hundred rescued cacti have been provided at nominal costs for various projects. Information about our School Grant Program and Grant Request forms for teachers are posted on our web site at TucsonCactus.org.

Joe Frannea

Ocotillo Rescue on the Rocks



The Cactus Rescue Crew headed up Redington Road way early last month to a very lush desert area studded with saguaros and ocotillo. The developer is getting ready to cut in a road to access new home sites and wanted to save all the plants he could. He will have a professional

landscaper handle hundreds of the saguaros, relocating them on site. The area is very hilly and rocky so it is much harder to relocate the ocotillo and many are being preserved in set-aside areas.

The rescue crew, 46 strong for this rescue, worked for about four hours to remove over sixty ocotillo, fifty barrels, a few baby saguaros and many pincushions. The prize ocotillo was so huge it took four men to manhandle it onto a flatbed trailer. The viability of this ocotillo making the transplant is to be determined, but left in place it would become mulch.



Another rescue at the end of December finished up our 8th year of cactus rescue crew work. For year 2006 we saved over 6000 cacti during 28 rescues at 19 different sites. Dedication, hard work, and skill from over 200 TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew members is what makes this program so successful.

The value of saving native cacti for reintroduction into Tucson area landscapes can't be stated strongly enough. These plants are hardy and true survivors. While our rescue program has been recognized at a national level this past year from several sources, the hundreds of "Thank You" comments from residents is heartwarming.

Joe Frannea

February Workshop

Get ready for spring. On February 15 at 7 pm we will have two hours with Greg Corman. Greg will give a presentation and slide show with questions and answers following. The location will be the Kiva room at the Junior League. The cost will be \$5.00. There will be sign up sheets at the library table or you can email me at joietgo@yahoo.com.

Joie Giunta