



# Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2005

## TCSS BOARD

### Officers

President: Richard Wiedhopf  
885-6367

Vice President: Vonn Watkins

Secretary: George Virtes

Treasurer: Gail Virtes

### Board of Directors:

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Mark Sitter (2006)

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Jack Ramsey (2007)

CSSA Affiliate Rep: Helen Barber

Cactus Rescue: Chris Monrad

Educational: Joe Frannea

Free Plants: Norma Beckman

Librarian: Joie Giunta

Programs: Vonn Watkins

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea

Sales: Jack Ramsey

Technology: Kevin Barber

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Deadline for copy: 18th of each month

TCSS Web Page: [www.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.tucsoncactus.org)

### Next Meeting

Thursday, June 2, 2005.

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

### May Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with  
G to M, 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, June 2, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Cory Martin

### "The Sierra Mazatan"



The Sierra Mazatan is a small mountain sixty miles east of Hermosillo, Sonora. The top of the sierra is a mesa comprised of large oaks, forbs and not much else. Once over the edge you enter thorn scrub with a wide range of cacti and succulents. Highlights of this beautiful place are Blue Palms, Plumeria, two different Agaves,

Burseras, Tree Morning Glory, Hecho Cactus and the northern terminus for *Dioon tomasellii* var. *sonorensis* (sago palm).

Cory Martin, is a horticulturist for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Areas of care include: Convergent Evolution, Desert Grasslands, Cat Canyon, Desert Loop Trail, Cactus Garden and Boojums.

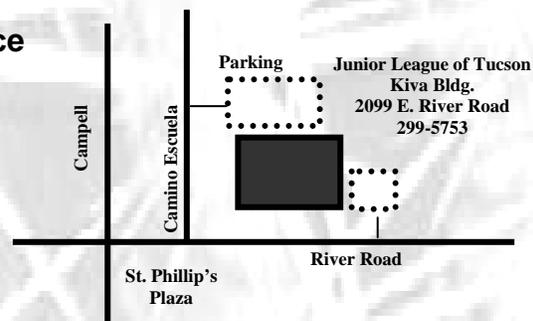
This presentation focuses on a very unique location in Sonora, Mexico and will of interest to everyone

Thursday, July 7, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Ernesto Sandoval of UC Davis

### Meeting Place



## President's Message



It is my pleasure to announce that TCSS member Kevin Barber has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA). The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is proud to have several members serving the national society. I

am serving as Vice President. Sue Haffner, of Fresno, California is a board member and chair of the seed depot and Lee Miller, of Washington, DC, is the secretary. Both have been members of TCSS for a number of years. We are now the largest affiliate society of the CSSA with over 590 members.

Jenny Coniglio has been our Librarian for the last several years and has done a wonderful job. She and her volunteers have brought our suitcase library to you at every meeting. It has worked out very well and I hope you have had the opportunity to check out some of our great books. Thank you, Jenny, for a great job.

Our rescue program is featured in the latest issue of "To the Point". It is a wonderful article and pictures put together by Chris Monrad, Joe and Patsy Frannea and Peter Bockenthien.

Our program is a part of the overall conservation effort needed for cacti and succulent plants.

The number one component is habitat preservation. This is the most difficult and causes the most concern. There needs to be a balance between the needs of people, for their welfare, and preservation of the environment for the future. This is a worldwide effort and each area has its specific issues, which need to be addressed. There are no simple answers. You can support habitat preservation with your dollars or volunteer your time and effort in the stewardship of designated habitat preserves.

The second component is saving plants from destruction no matter what the cause and getting them established. Obviously, we do this better than

almost anyone else. We have saved over 20,000 plants and most have been replanted in areas where they will thrive and continue to populate the Sonoran Desert Region. This gives the TCSS the opportunity to educate a lot of people about cacti and succulents and also the laws governing them in Arizona. The educational component is the most important by-product of what we do. If you are active on the rescue crew, digging and tagging, selling them, or replanting them at schools or other public facilities, you are a conservation hero. So are the people who support us by allowing us to rescue from their land prior to immediate development. Those who buy these plants are also conservation heroes.

The third component is propagation of plants that are rare, unusual, difficult to transplant, very desirable, or not usually available. Some of this is being done by the International Succulent Introductions at the Huntington Botanical Gardens which John Trager and his staff does magnificently. There is a lot more that can be done by societies like ours with the expertise in this community. These activities must be encouraged, recognized and rewarded with our participation and financial support.

Congratulations to all who participate in this effort.

*Dick Wiedhopf, President*

## Cactus Rescue Crew Keeps Diggin'



Our TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew keeps growing and attacking more and more properties destined to be bladed for new development.

Most of our activity the past few months has been at the Saddlebrooke Ranch on far North Oracle Road near the Florence

Junction and various properties far South East Tucson in the Corona de Tucson area.

If you are a member and not a part of the Rescue Crew and would like to try it out, you need to send an email to [CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org](mailto:CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org). to ask that you be put on the Rescue Crew notification email list. Email broadcasts are sent out every Thursday to advise of what is taking place the following weekend and to give detailed directions to the particular rescue. You do not have to be able to do heavy lifting or digging to participate. We need lots of help tagging and boxing small cacti. You

simply show up at the location at the designated time; no RSVP's are required.. We normally work about three hours.

We have had 14 rescues so far this year and have plenty more on the radar screen. We have rescued over 4,000 cacti this year alone bringing our total plants rescued since the start of the program in 1999 to over 20,000.

*Joe Frannea*

## Weird Plant Sale



The Tucson Botanical Garden, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, hosts their annual Weird Plant Sale on Saturday, June 11 from 8 am to noon. There will be a member-only pre-sale on Friday, June 10

from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. TCSS will be selling rescue plants at the sale.

*Jack Ramsey*

## Future Events

Sunday, September 18 will be our Good Time Silent Auction. The event will be from noon to 3:00 pm and is a



chance to socialize, make some money for the society, and clear off

your benches before you have to button up for winter. Now is a

good time to look around and decide what you can donate. Perhaps a division or a propagation is called for, perhaps a larger pot would make the plant look its best in the Fall. Reserve the date; details to follow.

Our Tour events committee is finalizing the arrangements for the much-awaited trip to the Wallace Desert Gardens. This will be an exclusive event for Tucson Cactus and



Succulent Society members, held on

Sunday, November 6, 2005. We will have a bus for those who prefer to travel in comfort, but it will also be possible to meet us there. The tour will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant and then we will make a stop at the Arizona Cactus Nursery in Chandler on our way home. The last time we took a bus trip and stopped in Chandler we filled the luggage space on the bus.

## Upcoming Schedule

- June 2, 2005 General Meeting: Cory Martin on Sierra Mazatan.
- June 10 2005 Weird Plant Sale at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. (5:00 pm to 7:00 pm TCSS and TBG members only pre-sale) June 11 (8:00 am to 12:00 pm – open to the public) –This huge, annual event will include over a dozen local nurseries with a very large selection of interesting plants. This is an event not to be missed for the succulent plant lover in Tucson.
- August 5-10, 2005 Cactus and Succulent Society of America convention in Scottsdale, Arizona
- October 23 (10 am - 4 pm) – Pima County Country Fair at the Lew Sorenson School on Tanque Verde road (east of Houghton). TCSS Rescued plants.
- December 11, 2005 Holiday Party.





## 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



Photos by Joe Frannea, Logo Artwork by Vonn Watkins

Aviva Tirosh & Patty Kane have shared with us the information that their Tucson garden has been selected by Better Homes and Gardens to be in this year's Southwest issue. Their gardens have also won the Tohono Chul Park Landscaping competition as Best in Show in 2001 and the Arizona Department of Water Resources 2001 Xeriscape Landscape First Place Award for Design and Installation as well as the J.D. DiMeglio Artistry in Landscaping. They were on the Tucson Botanical Garden Home Garden Tour in 2002. Congratulations on this new honor!



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

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