



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2002

Thursday, August 1
7:00 pm

Jan Emming

TCSS BOARD

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885-6367

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Wendy Beall

Editor: Barry McCormick

jbarrymcc@earthlink.net

Deadline for copy:

18th of each month

TCSS Web Page

www.tucsoncactus.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 1 at 7:00 pm

Junior League of Tucson

2099 E. River Road

Tucson

August 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.

CREATING A NEW BOTANICAL GARDEN IN THE DESERT

In 1999, Jan Emming moved from Colorado to Yucca, Arizona (Mohave County), to pursue his long-held dream: the creation of a new desert botanical garden and living center. After an extensive search, he settled upon 40 acres in the transition zone between the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts in north-western Arizona.

Since then, Jan has done extensive plant salvage work, rescuing Joshua trees, red barrel cactus, ocotillos and other desert plants from the path of development in the area.

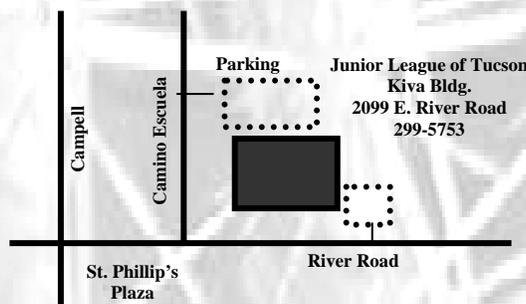
This work has advanced his project, which he has named Destination: Forever Ranch and Gardens (D:FR). Large numbers of valuable desert plants have been moved to the ranch, or traded for alternative materials not available from the wild.

Many TCSS members will recall getting plants from Jan last December, when a trade was arranged. Surplus Joshua trees, Mojave yuccas, and red barrel cactus available in his area of Arizona were exchanged for fishhook barrels and hedgehog cacti salvaged by TCSS members. Jan will discuss some of the practical aspects of caring for newly-transplanted Joshua trees and yuccas, as well as show slides of the D:FR property and its surroundings, with an accompanying discussion of the practical aspects of creating a brand-new desert botanical garden from the ground up. Please join us for what promises to be an interesting evening on a variety of topics of concern to desert plant lovers everywhere.

You can also visit Jan's website at www.destinationforeverranch.com



Meeting Place



President's Message

The next venture for this society will be the creation of interactive programs for the education of members, friends and the public. We have a number of very talented members, especially in the area of technology. We also have knowledge about all aspects of growing cactus and succulents in our Sonoran Desert region. I have been talking about combining these talents to produce computer based programs that will be of special interest to us.

One of the first programs needs to be the cacti and succulents of the Tucson area. This will be a great learning experience for everyone and could easily expand to include the common cultivated species. Golden barrels, aloe x saponaria, agave americana and large spineless prickly pear are common and thrive in our climate but certainly represent vegetation from around the world.

You can help. First of all we need the definitive list of genus, species and hybrids that are found native or are commonly grown in the Tucson area. Bring your list to the next meeting or e-mail it to me at *tucsoncactus@comcast.net*. The next step will be to acquire slides and digital photos of growing plants, close-ups and especially flowers. If you are interested in this project please let me know so you may be included on the committee.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

2002 Meeting 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.

August 1 General Meeting, Jan Emming

December 15 Holiday Party

Educational Grant Program

The Educational Grant Committee is being kicked off and will be in place for the upcoming school year. The program will make small cash grants to teachers, K thru 12, to fund activities or projects pertaining to Cactus and Succulents. Joe Frannea is chairing the committee, which will meet in the next few weeks. This will be an ongoing program; we will have money to award grants each school year.

We will initially work with the five schools where we have rescued cacti prior to construction.

Teachers will be given grant guidelines by September.

By mid October the Educational Grant Committee will review the proposals, and award grants in early December. We hope to have about \$3,000 to grant.



We will dedicate all or part of our May meeting for teachers and students to present an overview and results of their grant projects. Funding of the program comes from donations specifically designated for the Educational Grant Program and 25% of the Cactus Rescue proceeds. For more information, or to join the committee, contact Joe Frannea at 575-7126. Donations may be made to the treasurer; designate the Educational Grant Program.

Joe Frannea

The Huntington Botanical Gardens

19TH ANNUAL SUCCULENT PLANTS SYMPOSIUM

Africa- Finding the Lost Continent.

August 31 (Saturday)
 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Symposium \$70
 Saturday dinner \$25
 Luncheon included in fee.

Deadline August 28th

Registration: (626) 405-3504



Shocking!

Even when you know it is going to happen, it's still a shock. Recently the rescue crew was dismayed to inspect the huge graded area where we had recently



Saddlebrooke Grading

been digging cactus. Where did it all go? Into mountains of crushed and shredded vegetation! Cactus lived here; now people will. The



Mountain of Vegetation

Saddlebrooke developer is certainly one of the best with regard to the amount of plants they reuse in their landscaping, and they are very cooperative with our rescue efforts. But this was a stark reminder of why our work is important – we set about our rescue that day with a renewed sense of purpose.

Barry McCormick

TCSS "Cactus Rescue Crew"

The Cactus Rescue Crew continues to attract new volunteers. All TCSS members are welcome. The crew continues its rescue work at Saddlebrooke, a retirement community north of Tucson. Some earth moving has begun, but lots of areas are still untouched. We start at 6:30 AM, to avoid the heat, and work for about three hours.

It takes about half of our time to find and dig the cacti, and about half to collect and tag. Wheelbarrows come in handy to collect the plants and haul to a central point for tagging. Dick Wiedhopf chooses to use his

motorized version of a wheelbarrow to make collection a little easier. Every plant must have an Arizona Native Plant tag attached before it can leave the property. Tags for cacti smaller than 8 inches cost 50 cents each, most others cost \$4 -- Saguaro tags cost \$6. Rescue Crew members can dig and take cacti for tag costs for planting on their own property.

Two other sites are being lined up for rescue operations. One is the SW corner of Skyline and Campbell. This is just south of the La Encantada shopping center site we were at last March, now under construction.

This new site has some nice Cholla cactus which will only be dug for interested TCSS members since they are 4 to 5 feet tall and hard to handle.



Chris says "it looks much like *Arbuscula*, but is not quite as dense -- the branches are a little more organized. The stems are probably 3/4" diameter when hydrated. It is very lime green and southern-Mexico /tropical looking". We may be at this site as early as July 27. Please call Joe Frannea (575-7126) if you are interested in one of these chollas.

The other potential site is northeast of River Road and First Ave. This site has small saguaros, and lots of the purple prickly pear (*Santa Rita*) cactus. This site may be available as early as August 3.

Our Rescue Crew is notified on Thursdays for the weekend rescue. If you are interested in being on the list, send Joe an email at frannea@prodigy.net. Many crew members can only work one weekend a month. Come when you can and help the club and get hand selected cacti at a great price.

Joe Frannea

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

**Joshua Trees,
Yuccas, etc.
for Sale!**

Jan Emming
can bring a
limited number
of Joshua
Trees, Yuccas,
Saguaros, etc.
to be sold prior

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
7510 E. Rio Verde Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85715-3537

to the meeting on
August 1st. He
would like for
TCSS members to
buy these plants
and give them a
good Tucson home.
Please contact Jan
and make
arrangements.

Jan Emming,
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2597

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