

Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2002

Thursday, October 3, 2002

3:30 pm

Dan Mahr

University of Wisconsin – Madison

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, October 3 at 7:00 pm
Junior League of Tucson
2099 E. River Road
Tucson

October Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with
T to Z, 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.

Dr. Daniel L. Mahr, Professor of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is our featured speaker for October. Dan is currently a member of the board of CSSA and is running for Vice President. He chairs the Research Committee and the Field Trip Committee of CSSA.

Dan will give two presentations, both at the Junior League meeting hall. The first, at 3:30 pm, will be on cactoblastis. This insect, which was used to eliminate invasive prickly pear species in Australia in the last century, is now a potential invader and threat to cactus plants in the United States and Mexico. Dan has taken a lead role in understanding and tracking this problem, and we are pleased to have him in Tucson. There will be ample time at this afternoon presentation for questions.

Following the presentation there will be light refreshments.

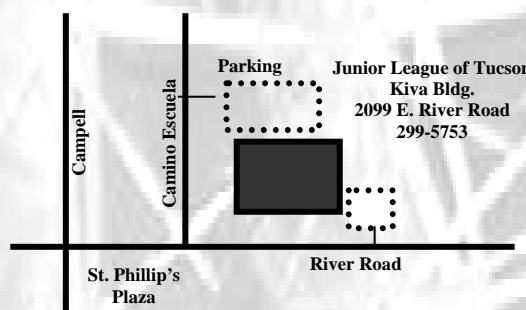
Our regular meeting is at 7:00 pm and Dan will take us on his travels to Namibia. Dan has recently returned from a trip to this area. Initially, he was taking a group to Madagascar but the political problems there made the trip impossible. Dan is an engaging speaker with wonderful slides. Don't miss this one.

In November, we will hear Jon Weeks with a presentation titled:

Underutilized Cactus Species.

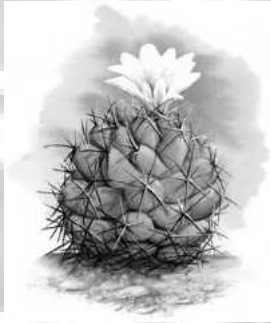


Meeting Place



President's Message

In the last couple of weeks the Arizona Daily Star has published front-page pictures and stories about cacti. One story was about the 40-foot saguaro that was moved and is now showing signs of new roots and another expressed concern about the Pima pineapple cactus potentially being damaged by illegal border crossings. The Boojums at the University also were featured. A few years ago these topics would not have made the headlines or even rated a mention in the press.



I interpret this to mean that we, the botanical oriented societies, have done some good work. It takes time and education, education, education to make an impact on our community and region. We have been successful but

we must continue this work and educate newcomers and those who have been here for a long time but still don't get it. It is more important we educate and inspire a new generation of citizens who care about the environment and understand how nature, people, development and progress can work together.

Our Educational School Grant Program can make a difference. Joe and Patsy Frannea kicked off the idea with their directed gifts from their former employer and Chris Monrad has made the grants program part of his rescue committee's activity by dedicating 25% of the proceeds from the sales of rescued plants. Several members have stepped forward and made contributions to support this effort without being solicited but knowing that this is an important effort. I thank these members specifically because they show how ideas and efforts translate into real action on our endeavors.

We are focused on issues that we know and care about and have great fun in sharing this.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Educational School Grant Program

Brochures and grant request application forms have been sent to Vail, TUSD, and Amphi Districts. Grant requests from teachers are due back to TCSS by October 15th. George and Gail Virtes are putting a judging team together to review the requests and to rank them. TCSS monies earmarked for the School Grant Program from donations and 25% of Rescue Cacti sales, will be used to fund worthy grant requests (from \$50 to \$400 per request). Grants will be awarded to teachers the first week in December.



More details about the Educational School Grant Program can be found on our TCSS web site www.TucsonCactus.org.

Joe Frannea

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.

October 3, - 3:30 pm Dan Mahr
 October 3 - General Meeting Dan Mahr

December 15 Holiday Party

Pima County Country Fair

Saturday, October 13, 2002

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Lew Sorensen Center

11100 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

(East on Tanque Verde on the right hand side)

The Pima County Spring and Fall Country Fairs have given our club the opportunity to provide valuable information to many of the visitors that attend, and to sell salvaged and member plants to the public. The Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society has established a very good reputation for providing some great plants at very reasonable prices. You will find a great diversity of drought tolerant plants, including many natives, ready for your garden. Drop by and consider giving some of these plants a home.

Jack Ramsey

TCSS "Cactus Rescue Crew"

Activities for the past month have been limited to selling hundreds of rescued cacti on hand. A few new prospects for rescue operations are being pursued but nothing is available right now. One misconception about our rescue mission is that we always want to get our share of plants from properties to be developed. But actually, we encourage others who can rescue plants commercially or otherwise to save as many cacti as possible and our Cactus Rescue Crew volunteers will work properties and cacti that are not profitable for others. Our goal is to try and help save every cactus destined for a land fill.



We have started a waiting list for cacti that are in high demand -- saguaros and ocotillos. Call Joe Frannea (575-7126) if you want to be added to this wait list. At our August 25th sale we had 25 small saguaros (under two feet) and six large ocotillos. A numbering system was used at the sale to ration out these cacti. About 125 people came to the sale, most arrived early to get the best selections, purchasing over 310 cacti. Most of the barrels were in bloom so it was a rare opportunity to pick colors of choice.

Seventeen TCSS members helped set-up, cashiered, handed out brochures, and loaded up cars and trucks. Thanks to Jack and Helen Ramsey, Lois and Denny Ladwig, Kevin and Helen Barber, Gail and George Virtes, Keith and Helga Zwickl, Dick Wiedhopf, Barry McCormick, Vonn Watkins, Julie Girden, Carl



Pergam, and Patsy Frannea for helping make the sale a huge success.

The Rescue Crew will be selling cacti at the Pima County Garden Fair to be held October 13, 10 am to 4 pm at the Lew Sorenson site, 11100 E. Tanque Verde Road.

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





Fall Plant Sale! Oct 7th – 12th

B & B Cactus Farm has overgrown its greenhouses. TCSS Club Members take advantage of this exclusive presale for savings of at least 50% off normal retail prices. Sale includes an abundant variety of 2”- 10” items as well as selected yard plants.

11550 E. Speedway. Closed Sunday and Wednesday.

For more information, e-mail Chris at BBCactus@cox.net or call (520) 721-4687.

Photo credits for this issue are Joe Frannea.

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

