



Desert Breeze

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

September 2008

Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7PM "A Summer Succulent Sabbatical to South Africa and Namibia"

Presented by Ernesto Sandoval



Ernesto Sandoval is a plant person. No, he doesn't sprout buds or need occasional watering, but he does kind of like the bone-warming heat of a greenhouse. For Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, raising and rearing flora and foliage is a deeply meaningful way of life. Simply, his passion is his profession.

"Plant people are nice people," says Sandoval. "There's something about working in a garden and nurturing plants and flowers that makes one more peaceful and calm." The greening of Sandoval's life started early on. He grew up in the Los Angeles area and from the age of 10 worked for his dad's landscaping

business and aptly-described as the "Mo', Blow and Go" style. From cutting countless lawns to cultivating saplings and shrubs in the yards of the San Fernando Valley, Sandoval earned both a pair of green-stained shoes and a practical botanical education. More formally, Sandoval obtained his bachelor's degree in botany from UC Davis in 1996.

I spent the first two months of 2008, January and February, in South Africa and spent most of my days in the field visiting Nature Reserves within the fynbos vegetation of the Cape Floristic Region where over 8,700 species of plants are to be found on 6% of South Africa's land area! The name fynbos is Afrikaans for fine bush and refers to the fine, needle-like leaves of many fynbos species. One 15km sq reserve has 1,600 species of plants!! Of course there will be more than just a few succulents that I discuss and I'll share some highlights from short trips to Namibia including Welwitschia and tree aloes.

Please join us for this very special presentation with Ernesto's excellent photography, lots of fun and some great stories!

TCSS MONTHLY MEETING FREE PLANT GIVEAWAY - Adenium

The giveaway this month is 'Black Ruby', a clone of *Adenium obesum* selected in Florida. *A. obesum* is one of several species of the genus which occur in scattered locations from the Arabian peninsula and the island of Socotra down to southern Africa. All of the species contain attractive brightly colored flowers, and have interesting succulent stems. Inter-specific crossing is resulting in many spectacular new clones every year. Much of the impetus for variety development resulted from the ideas and clones developed by our club member Mark Dimmitt. Examples of some of his crosses and much more information is available at <http://adenium.tucsoncactus.org/>. Adeniums are cold-sensitive, so are best kept in containers to allow moving to a warm spot in the winter. A care-sheet for Adeniums is available in the publications section of the club's website. The Adeniums are being donated by Dave Palzkill.

Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 7:00PM
Program to be presented by Susan Fisher

Meetings are held on the first
Thursday of each month.



Junior League of Tucson, Kiva Bldg.
2099 E. River Road

President's Message



The 33rd Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America hosted by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is only 8 months away. Just thought I would remind you. Remember this opportunity comes around only once every decade or two; 1965, 1977, 1995 and now 2009. I don't want you to miss out on this event.

I want to thank all the volunteers who made the Blooming Barrel Sale a success. New procedures were implemented that controlled parking, access to the plants and made it easier for buyers to pick out plants, pay and load them in their vehicles. It went off smoothly. It is great to have so many dedicated members help out and the public really appreciates what we are doing.

Coming up on September 21 is the Good Time Silent Auction. This event features several overlapping silent auctions, and a limited silent auction of special plants. Free plant cuttings giveaways and \$2.00 plant sale tables will feature great bargains. This is always a lot of fun and an opportunity to unburden your garden of excess material and fill it back up again with new material. There will be ICE CREAM and all the TOPPINGS to really make this a good time. See the article in this newsletter about the event.

Thanks for your support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Blooming Barrel Sale Goes Smoothly



The annual Blooming Barrel Sale was timed just right so customers could pick their favorite flower colors which is only possible in mid to late August. Extra effort was put into the planning to assure a controlled and pleasant experience for all. Our opening customer rush is always a challenge as is parking. With more preplanning and utilizing a few new techniques like controlled parking, limiting entry to groups of fifteen every few minutes, and bright yellow sold tags we were able to give much better service and customers were pleased with the results. Of

course the thirty two TCSS volunteers with their work assignments not only made quick work of setting up but were readily available to assist our customers. The sale location, our Amphi holding site near the Tucson Mall, also provided space for parking, plant layout, holding and loading areas. We had plenty of inventory so even customers who came at the closing bell were able to purchase plants. Sometimes we sell out within the first hour.

We sold over 525 rescue plants and over 200 other plants to 104 customers, about half of them being TCSS members who enjoyed an extra ten percent off their purchases. The Barrels were a big hit, many of them being over eighteen inches, and had a great selection of recently rescued Echinocereus and Mammillaria. We also had small potted rescued Ocotillo, cereus cuttings, Agave bulbils, Opuntia cuttings and several trays of nursery plants donated by B&B Cactus Farm. Our total sales were \$5,829 including a few new memberships, T-shirts and cactus gloves. Our net profit after cactus tag costs, postcard mailing, visa fees, and a few other expenses came to \$3,380. Twenty five percent of this is earmarked for our Educational Outreach Program which includes School Grants and Science Fair student awards.

*Joe Frannea
photo by Ed Bartlett*

Grant Awarded to Catalina Magnet H.S.



A \$500 TCSS School Grant was awarded last month to AgriBusiness Systems school teacher Nicole Harrington, grades 9 to 12. She is planning a "Catalina Botanical Garden" and small nursery so that students can learn landscape architecture, business skills, horticultural practices, and water harvesting techniques. The money will be used for plants, plant materials, educational signs, decorative gravel, and TCSS memberships so some students can participate with Cactus Rescue Crew Members.

Many TCSS members and nurseries have already made seeds and pots available to Nicole for her new program. She is an active TCSS member and Cactus Rescue Crew Member. Nicole has many great ideas and will emphasize hands on participation for her students to gain knowledge and experience while increasing school pride and school beautification. We look forward to a continued partnership with Nicole, her students and Catalina Magnet High School.

Joe Frannea

Back Breakin' Work Yields Rewards

The Cactus Rescue Crew was fortunate to have a couple of northwest properties to remove plants from just prior to our Blooming Barrel Sale on August 17th. Unfortunately the majority of the Barrel Cacti were HUGE, requiring many to be carried and loaded by two crew members often using the cactus slings for heavy lifting and safety. Many of these were 80 to 100 plus pounds but full of blooms and buds. We usually do not harvest such large Barrels but most specimens were too wonderful to leave behind. These two properties took over 300 crew hours to remove 230 Barrels, 160



Echinocereus, 1000 Mammillaria, and a few Saguaros, Cholla, Prickly Pear, and Queen of the Night. There was one huge crested Saguaro just outside the clearing limits that will be saved and we were able to enjoy its presence.

Crew members are relentless in their dedication to saving cacti and helping TCSS with their mission of "educating, teaching and learning about cacti and other succulent

plants". Increased gas expenses has not seemed to slow participation. Many still drive across town to contribute to rescue efforts. It is rewarding to receive comments from customers at our sales that they appreciate what we do. Some join TCSS just to show their support of our society. It is worth noting that only about one fourth of our club activities and expenses are supported by dues. The balance comes mostly from cactus sales.

Joe Frannea
photo by John Durham

Good Time Silent Auction

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Junior League Building • 2099 E. River Rd • 12:00noon to 3pm

Good bye to the summer heat and the monsoon and hello to fall and a great time to plant. This is a celebration! Silent Auctions, Free Plants, \$2.00 Sale Tables and Ice Cream with all the Toppings!

Bring your excess plants for the free plant table. All we ask is that they are FREE of DISEASE INSECTS. Better plants will go on the \$2.00 table and special plants for the silent auctions. All proceeds go to our Research programs.

We will adopt the same policy as we had at Sonoran VII for a special table for the silent auction. These will be high value plants which the donor will set the opening bid that the donor will receive if the plant is sold. The difference will go to the society. These plants will have a minimum starting bid of at least \$20.00.

The regular silent auctions will feature wonderful items that you donate to support our research programs. We will have four separate silent auction tables spaced throughout the afternoon, beginning at 1:00pm. Pots, plants, special cutting, books, tools etc., will be part of these silent auctions.

We will start the set-up at 11:00am and the party will start at noon. We always welcome volunteers for set-up, sales, and clean-up. Come help and have fun.

Library Update

Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada by Stephen Ingram

More than 60 species are described with distribution maps. Each species has an Identifying Characteristics section detailing habit, stems, spines, flowers and fruits.

Look who lives in the desert! by Brooke Bessesen

Ages 3-9 A rhyming book of 21 desert habitants with fascinating facts on each. Great illustrations.

Zachary Z. Packrat and His Amazing Collections by Brooke Bessesen

Based on fact, this rhyming book covers Zachary Z. packrat and the things he collects. A prelude covers how researchers can find information from a packrat's midden. A question section at the end will have you thinking.

Joie Giunta

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Editor: Karen Keller

runbunny@cox.net

Deadline for copy:

15th of each month

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Keimpe Bronkhorst

September Refreshments

Those with family names beginning with E to I 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.

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Cacti Rescued
205 Rescues Accomplished

TCSS Rescue Cacti for Sale

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 10% discount

September 2008

Thursday, September 4, 2008

7:00 pm

"A Summer Succulent Sabbatical to South Africa and Namibia"

Presented by Ernesto Sandoval from the University of California, Davis

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Board meeting at the U of A College of Pharmacy

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Good Time Silent Auction

Junior League, 2099 E. River Rd, 12:00noon to 3pm



Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

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