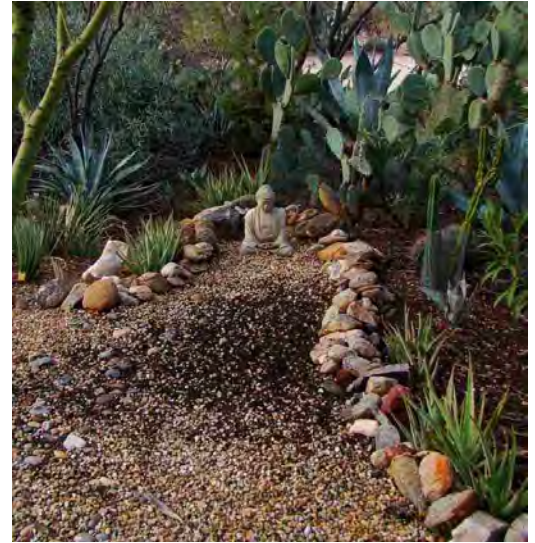


Over the past 4 years, Bill and Adella have re-vegetated their landscape with a wide variety of cactus and succulents in a natural desert setting dotted with native trees, shrubs and ocotillo. They added pathways and rock edgings, removed old fallen debris, and used extensive plantings of rescue cacti along with some nursery plants and transfers.

Many outstanding specimens can be seen amongst the eclectic mix of the owners' interest in succulents and whimsical yard art. Look for the *Ferocactus cylindracea* and good-sized *Ziziphus obtusifolia* (graythorn) and a beautiful large *Vaquelinia californica* (Arizona Rosewood). Adella's small zen garden is an additional treat.

Bill has been interested in plants nearly his whole life. When he lived in upstate NY he cultivated plants in the yard and even had a greenhouse with a few cacti/succulents. Since moving to Tucson in the fall of 2003 his focus has been almost exclusively on cacti/succulents including active participation in cactus rescue program which has provided many of the cacti in his yard.



Photos by Ed Bartlett

LOT SIZE: about 1 acre, although it seems larger due to the wash area at the rear and surrounding native vegetation.

SOIL MIX: Whatever is available, but typically a mix of sand from the wash, compost from our bin and native dirt from the yard. Use a commercial cactus mix for potted plants.

WATERING: Irrigation system for leafy plants near the house, natural rain water for the rest of the yard, some rain water harvesting from the roof.

PESTS: No treatments, but do trim lower agave leaves to discourage pack rats and install metal screens to protect some plants from rabbits and javelina.

TIP: Plant almost exclusively native or equivalent plants to conserve water



NEDRA WILLIAMS

Begin your tour of this Desert Garden by strolling through a lovely mature patch of native desert to enter the fenced back yard. When Nedra first moved into her house many years ago she started transforming the very barren back yard she found into a home for her newly acquired fascination with cactus and succulents. She was so excited to start collecting the exotic blooming plants she never had known existed before coming to Tucson. With many years of planting, and the help of her daughter, she has expanded her collection to include a wide variety of plants both in the ground and in pots. Large, mature *Lophocereus schottii* (Senita) and *Stenocereus thurberi* (Organ Pipe) cacti now grace the property. An impressive Koi pond has been installed complete with falling water to create a serene oasis. After returning to the street, you can walk around to the front of the house where you will find more interesting specimens and Nedra's opuntia collection.



Photos by Ed Bartlett

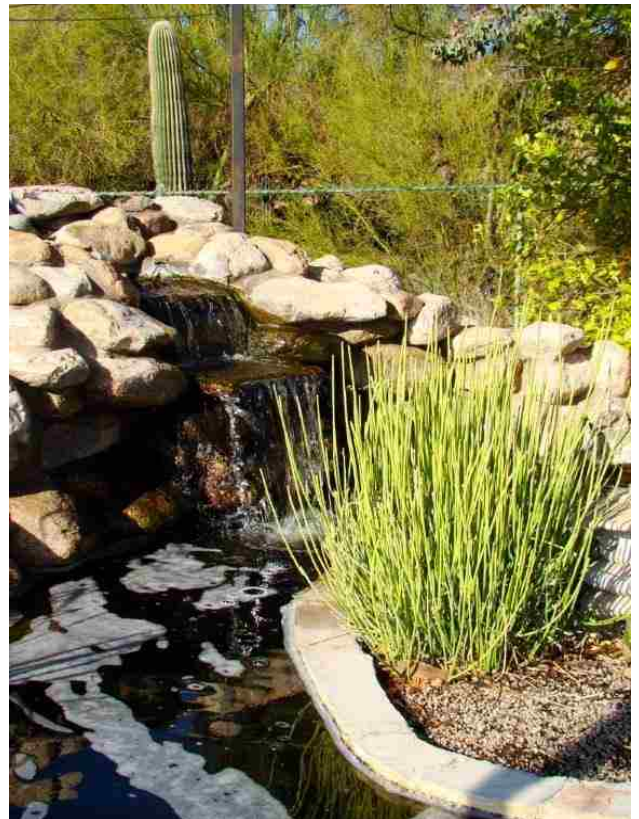
LOT SIZE: a commercial acre.

SOIL MIX: uses no special soil mix

WATERING: uses drip system on leafy plants

PESTS: cats for pack rats, Amdro for leaf-cutting ants, Safersoap for aphids. Installed a bat house, but no residents yet.

TIP: Be lucky enough to have a daughter who gives you her cacti and succulents when she moves out of town. (Nedra's daughter, Janice Johnson, is a landscape architect and former TCSS member)



MARCIA LINCOLN & VICTOR ONG

Many treasures are scattered throughout this large property, so save plenty of time to meander and enjoy the many paths which will take you on a tour. Marcia has lived at this one-of-a-kind property for 30 years, joined by Victor in 1997. Approximately 1000' of chicken wire and lots of rocks line the chain link fence, making a good portion of the main yard bunny-free. A lover of all things botanical as long as she can remember, Marcia's landscaping includes a mix of cacti and succulents, desert-adapted shrubs and trees as well as many fruit trees. Don't miss the amazing 25' X 140' covered vegetable and fruit tree garden in the SW corner. Some nice specimens are "hidden", such as the two organ pipe cacti on the south wall of the building with the solar panels, and the large blue candle cactus and *Euphorbia resinifera* on the berm behind the olives trees that line the driveway. You can't miss the gorgeous totem pole cactus where the driveway splits. Feel free to walk anywhere, but do watch out for rattlesnakes.

The couple also maintains a mini-farm complete with heritage turkeys, chickens, and Nigerian Dwarf dairy goats. Adorable baby goats will win your heart. A 30 year old macaw also adds to the cacophony. Solar living is a big interest: a 6 KW photovoltaic system provides much of the electrical needs. There is also a solar hot water system, several solar water distillers, and a solar oven. New works in progress include two greenhouses, one for succulents and one for tropical plants, and a revamping of the hillside which insulates the workshop into a terraced succulent garden using native Tucson Mountains rocks.



LOT SIZE: 13.3 acres, approximately 2 acres are "tamed".

SOIL MIX: Nothing special, frequently a mix of whatever I have, be it native soil plus sand plus compost, and pumice. For vegetables and fruit trees, the native soil is sifted to remove rocks and mixed 50/50 with organic material.

WATERING: A combination of drip irrigation and hose watering by hand. I try to use collected rain water for container plants.

PESTS: Rabbits, deer, and javelina are excluded by the lined fence and by diligently keeping the gate closed. Rodents are live-trapped, humanely killed and fed to the chickens (free-range organic meat) to supplement their diet. Diligent use of systemics and prompt removal of dead agaves killed by weevils seems to have broken the cycle of agave weevils, which used to be a major problem. All snakes, including rattlesnakes, are allowed to stay, although removal of pack rat nests has decreased the rattlesnake population in the fenced yard.

TIP: Too much space can get you in trouble. I've thought I'd just plant a few succulents here and there and they'd just do or die. Wrong! I end up watering and taking care of everything anyway.



Photos by Ed Bartlett



STAN & JILL JANKOWSKI (and Ozzie the Cairn Terrier)

Prepare for the reward of beautiful 360 degree views when you reach the top of the rather steep Jankowski drive leading up to their hill top home and gardens. It is well worth the effort. As long as he can remember, Stan has had an interest in cactus and succulents. He has a 30 plus year old Christmas Cactus in Michigan, and obviously he got very interested when they moved into their home in 2003. He did all of the landscaping in the front and back enclosed patios using many succulent plants. The rest of the property is basically natural desert and he has planted many rescue plants to blend his home landscape into the beautiful native desert surroundings which includes being "up close and personal" to Saguaro National Park. Note the saguaro branch tip which is rooted and growing in the back patio and enjoy the *Nopalea Cochenilifera* and the *Thunbergia Grandiflora* (Blue Sky Vine) in the front yard... especially if it is blooming on tour day. An interesting mix of garden sculpture accents complete the artistic landscape design.



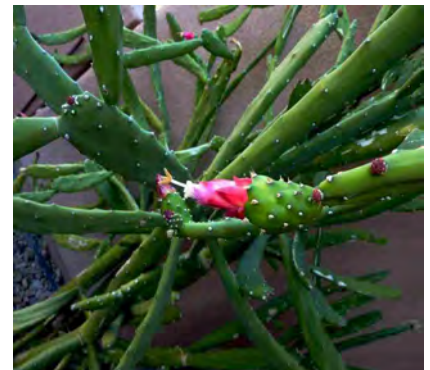
LOT SIZE: 3.3 acres

SOIL MIX: I generally use Super Soil about half and half with coarse sand or pigeon grit and a little Osmocote time release fertilizer at planting

WATERING: For the summer months I water just a little (1/2 gph dripper for 10 min) every morning and evening. Only plants that don't seem to tolerate that are prickly pears

PESTS: Don't really have any so far. keeping my fingers crossed.

TIP: Use Brass fittings above ground wherever available for your irrigation systems. Plastic just doesn't last.



Photos by Ed Bartlett

JOE & BEV BANNON



From an artful grouping of saguaro at their entrance to a dramatic silhouette of ocotillo lining the entrance ridge to this home you can see how rescued plants have played a major role in landscaping the Bannon home. Joe and Bev have been in Tucson for about 4 years now and have loved cactus since their first visit to Arizona in the 1990's. Three years ago they installed a pool within the walls and landscaped the yard around it with native species and decorative plants that need little upkeep or water. Some of their favorite plants seem to be the multi-headed barrels. Enjoy the plantings as you walk down the drive to the front and rear patios and don't miss the unique water feature in the front patio.

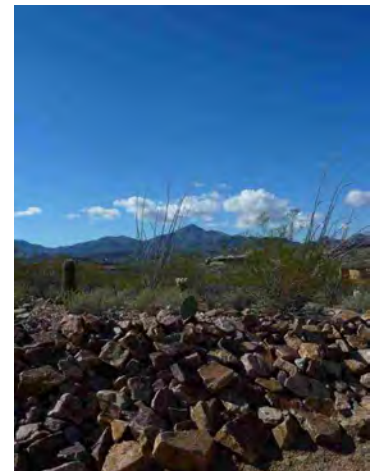


LOT SIZE: Our lot is approximately 3 1/2 acres in size and we maintain the majority of it as native desert landscape

WATERING: I have several potted plants that I water by hand as needed, and some plants are on an alternate day, limited drip system

PESTS: We do not spray pesticides anywhere around our home

TIP: We feel that the best way to plant your garden is to use as much native plant material as possible, use little water, and enjoy the results!



Photos by Ed Bartlett

KENDALL ELMER, MARGIE WOODRICH & SAM WOODRICH



Nestled on the side of a hill surrounded by a re-vegetated native plant pallet, this secluded retreat will delight visitors. Kendall has been interested in gardening since he was a child when his mother used to care for various types of succulents at his home in Riverside, California. He dabbled in different types of gardening as a hobby over the years, and his interest in cactus, succulents and arid environment plants began to develop about 10 years ago along with thoughts of moving from California to a desert community. In 2000 they purchased this lot, began construction in 2004, and moved here in 2005. They didn't do any landscaping as part of the construction of their home, so there was nothing but dirt where all of their gardens now are. Most of the heavy work (planting of big trees, placement of rip-rap and boulders, and construction of drainage channels and backyard koi pond and ramada) was done with the help of contractors in 2006/2007. They've done continual work since then on filling out the gardens with numerous desert plants, low-water native and non-native trees and shrubs. Since joining

TCSS about three years ago, they have also added many rescue plants (saguaros, ocotillo, barrels, hedgehogs and mammillarias). The appearance and feel that they've been working towards is that of a desert botanical garden such as the Desert Museum or Tohono Chul where different types of plants grow together in less structured groupings as opposed to the appearance of a formal garden.

The intimate rear patio is a special treat because of its privacy and features such as the pathways, relaxing seating areas, and the soothing koi pond. Because the backyard is enclosed and protected from four-legged wildlife, it also has the widest variety of plants as well as some of their favorite cacti and succulents. The front yard has numerous plants, including many cacti and agaves. The fountain and bird feeders make it attractive to wildlife with regular visits to the fountain from javelina, coyote, deer, bobcats, rabbits and squirrels.



LOT SIZE: 3.5 acre lot

SOIL MIX: . We use regular cactus mix in our pots.

WATERING: While our landscaping would not be considered xeriscape, we do use water sparingly and conscientiously. All of our watering is done using drip irrigation or by hand.

PESTS: Live and let live is our motto. Through continual trial and error we've ended up with plants in the open front yard that are either unattractive to browsers (javelina, rabbits and squirrels) or protected by mesh until they are established and/or big enough to be safe. The backyard is enclosed and is therefore safe from javelinas and rabbits, and although some of the plants in the backyard are attractive to birds and squirrels, the damage they do is not usually extensive.

TIP: Patience! One aspect that I've come to enjoy about maintaining our gardens is the trial and error that is required. Watching plants do well in one spot and not another, either due to the conditions, the type of care, the wildlife, etcetera, and then learning from your mistakes and trying something new the next time. The losses become new opportunities, which makes the hobby continually enjoyable.

Photos by Ed Bartlett



JERRY & MARGO ESTRUTH

When Jerry and Margo purchased this hilltop lot the natural landscape was very sparse after many years of cattle grazing. Jerry has focused his re-vegetation on the use of mostly native rescued plants and he has added dirt mounds for effect and to help with the planting. They have also added many trees including two Ironwoods. Under some of the trees you will find little nurseries of small saguaro that he has nurtured from tiny seedlings. He has a mammillaria nursery, some Arizona rainbow and many coryphantha, and has enjoyed propagating dozens of pinecone cactus that he is planting all over the yard. He has successfully planted many rescued *Peniocereus greggii* (Queen of the Night) on the property. He planted a saguaro arm near the road on the side of his property that is doing quite well and you'll notice many interesting rocks gathered on trips with TCSS member Harrison Yokum. Look for Chrisycola and azurite rock from Morenci, dendritic manganese, alabaster, quartz and marble scattered amongst the many new cactus plantings. Don't miss the large Bill Worrel metal sculpture in the rear patio along with the numerous pieces of whimsical metal art scattered throughout the landscape. When you walk around the left side of the house to get to the back yard, be sure and take time to stop and enjoy Margo's intimate garden patio tucked so artfully between rooms to be enjoyed .



LOT SIZE: 3.5 acres

SOIL MIX: Likes to use about 60% native soil and 40% cactus mix and at least a couple of shots of balanced fertilizer

WATERING: During May I give plants at least one Monsoon Monday so they get some water

PESTS: Have Truly Nolan come out 4-5 times a year. Feed birds that like insects and fence the outside yard from the patios to keep the larger critters out.

TIP: When I plant new cactus, I like to put shade cloth on top for at least a year to help them get started and shield them from the full sun.



Photos by Ed Bartlett

NOE & LUCILLE MAYOTTE



While wandering down this peaceful drive take note of the many native and low water plants that have been added to give the lush desert appearance while maintaining a water wise budget. Noe and Lucille are particularly fond of the "feature" Agave at the front entrance. This was "rescued" by their initial landscaper from a shopping center where it had outgrown its space and was doomed to be trashed. The artful display of saguaro and low water plants balance out the entrance to the inner courtyard and cacti and succulent garden.

After spending their entire life on the East coast, the Mayottes purchased this lot in 2001, began construction in 2004, and moved in March of 2005. Their initial landscape (using a vendor recommended by the builder) included an assortment of plants & bushes that required constant irrigation. Being of an East Coast mind set, these pretty bushes and flowers seemed perfectly normal. However, due to the influence of his neighbor, Jerry Estruth, Noe joined the TCSS Rescue Crew and

began to enhance the area with rescued cacti. In December 2009, they decided that they were spending too much \$\$ for irrigating non-native species, and enlisted the help of Jessie Byrd...a TCSS member and landscape designer...to help redesign their front and back patios utilizing rescued plants and low water usage specimens. A commanding specimen of *Dasyliirion longissimum* (Mexican Grass Tree) is in the back patio.



Photos by Ed Bartlett



LOT SIZE: 3.6 acre

SOIL MIX: I am partial to the local soil collected from wash areas mixed with commercial cactus mix at about a 3:1 ratio

WATERING: as little as possible

PESTS: fencing seems to do the trick

TIP: As a relative neophyte, I pretty much adhere to planting specimens that interest me, fit in the area, and of course maintain the all important rule of "GREEN SIDE UP!"



BILL & LYNN RAMSTAD

When you continue driving on Four Barrel Court for just a short distance, you come to a cul de sac and the Ramstad property. Bill and Lynn have recently moved into a new home in Tucson Mountain Reserve, are busy planning the landscape there and they currently have this one for sale. We wanted you to have a chance to drive by and see the way that they used our rescued plants to enhance the street scape of this property. As with the other homes built on this previously well worn cattle range, they had to add a lot of plants to help nestle this house into the surrounding landscape.



LOT SIZE: 3.3 acres

SOIL MIX: Use native soil. Caliche is very close to the surface, so I use an electric jackhammer to generally prep a hole.

WATERING: I water the plant heavily when I first plant it, and generally leave it alone after that. With ocotillo, I will try to spritz them for several weeks.

PESTS: I figure that I'm playing in their front yard, so they can play in mine (see photo)

TIP: When landscaping in caliche ridden soil, a jackhammer is a huge asset. After first hand experience trying to dig planting holes with a pick, I cannot say enough about the benefits of the investment in this jackhammer.



We hope that you enjoyed the tour. Please continue driving around the circular median in front of the Ramstad house and go back down Four Barrel Court. Turn left on Tucson Mountain Drive and exit through the gates onto Sunset Road. If you turn left on Sunset it will take you back to Silverbell Road.

Thanks so much for coming on the 2nd TCSS DESERT GARDEN TOUR and many special thanks to your fellow members who generously opened their Desert Gardens today for your enjoyment.