

SPRING | 2022

# DESERT CORNER JOURNAL

TOHONO CHUL'S NEWSLETTER



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**Tohono Chul**  
GARDENS • GALLERIES • BISTRO





## A NOTE FROM JAMIE MASLYN LARSON, TOHONO CHUL'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For as long as I can remember, my Dad and I have hiked together. Growing up in the Phoenix area in the late 1970's, I remember long drives down dirt roads to trailheads that few people explored. We'd pack our metal canteens, pull up our tube socks, and explore the incredible vistas, waterfalls, and shady canyons of the region.

After retiring, my Dad became an Arizona Site Steward, a program offered through Arizona State Parks which seeks to protect and preserve the irreplaceable cultural resources in natural settings. My Dad was required to periodically visit his 'adopted' sites to monitor activities, and I was fortunate to join him on some hikes during my college years to these rugged areas, which are typically not mapped and often didn't have a defined trail. Sometimes when we arrived to the site, it looked like we were merely standing on a sage-filled hilltop, but he would point out the archeological features that were not visible to the eye. Standing there with him, envisioning a community of people whose decedents today still live in and revere this landscape, made an indelible mark on my understanding of the relationship between people and nature.

It was during this period, in my early 20's, that I decided to become a landscape architect, with the

hope that I could bring the benefits of nature to people through designed landscapes.

Even though most of the public spaces I would be designing would be re-creating nature, I hoped that my work would bring the same feelings of joy, beauty, and connection that I felt on those hikes with my Dad. After 25 years designing and overseeing construction of dozens of parks, public plazas, and gardens across the country, I found myself yearning to make a difference in the community in which I live. Additionally, I wanted to come back to the Southwest, where my love for nature began. So, my husband and I left New York City and made Tucson our forever home. Now, as Executive Director of Tohono Chul, I feel utterly fortunate and fortuitous to serve our mission to "enrich people's lives by connecting them with the wonders of nature, art, and culture in the Sonoran Desert region and inspiring wise stewardship of the natural world."

Now in his mid-80's, my Dad and I still hike together today. Although the trails we take may not be as arduous, we still find immense pleasure in exploring, with no agenda except to be together and appreciate the unique beauty and cultural history of the Sonoran Desert. Tohono Chul provides that same experience at our special 49-acre site. As we begin to look to the future of Tohono Chul, we have some incredible opportunities: to continue to grow our community of stewards; to enhance our garden's experiences and offerings; and continue to shine light on the challenges facing our region's ecosystem, just like the Wilsons did when they saved this beautiful 'desert corner' for future generations. We are today's stewards of this incredible public garden, and I cannot wait to grow it with you.

Warm regards,

Jamie Maslyn Larson FASLA  
Executive Director





## SPRING PLANT SALE

**Members' Preview:**

**Wednesday | March 16 | 9am - 3pm**

**General Public:**

**Saturday | March 19 | 9am - 3pm**

**Sunday | March 20 | 9am - 3pm**

**MASKS REQUIRED** | Be aware that the plant sale is now hosted in our main parking lot located off Paseo del Norte.

Now's your chance to add some local flora to your household with our Spring Plant Sale. Whether you're potting them or planting in the ground, the selection of over 1,200 species of native vegetation is diverse and includes plants that cannot be found anywhere else. All the plants are propagated for the southern Arizona climate which means they are much hardier and arid-adapted, making them ideal for indoor and outdoor use. Choose from a selection of blooming vegetation to attract local fauna such as butterflies and hummingbirds. There are even special sections to help you find the right plant for your garden. Make your backyard a beautiful Sonoran Desert rainbow.



## SUNDAYS IN THE GARDEN SPRING CONCERT SERIES

**Sundays | 1:30-3pm | Performance Garden**  
**Free with Admission | Masks Required**

Treat yourself to a wonderful afternoon outdoors listening to live music. Seating is limited, so please arrive early.

**MARCH 6**

Tucson Guitar Quartet | Guitar Quartet

**MARCH 13**

Oro Valley Jazz Band | Jazz

**MARCH 20**

Nancy Elliott with Bob Bachen | Southwestern Americana

**APRIL 3**

Andrea Roberto | Classical Guitar

**APRIL 10**

El SurCo | Argentinian/Chilean Music

**APRIL 17**

Puerta-Vazquez Duo | Guitar Duo

**APRIL 24**

Michael Nigro | Classical Guitar



# EXHIBITIONS 2022



Tohono O'odham Tray | beargrass and willow | Roy J. Kurtz Collection of American Indian Art

## THE ROY J. KURTZ COLLECTION OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART AN INTRODUCTION

Main Gallery | Through April 27, 2022

Spotlights, for the first time, the wide range of basketry found throughout the desert southwest, primarily those created by Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, and Apache artists that Roy J. Kurtz has collected since he arrived in Tucson in 1972.



Tom Baumgartner | Codex | offset lithograph on paper

## TOM BAUMGARTNER | CODEX SONORA

Welcome Gallery | Through April 27, 2022

*Codex Sonora* gathers Baumgartner's exacting, eccentric, and mysterious portraits of the Sonoran Desert in one room, just long enough, to celebrate his recently bound tome of codified printed matter - the enchanting *Codex Sonora*.



Rick DeMont | Kate Long Hodges | Annie Antone

## RICK DEMONT | ELEMENTAL MONUMENTS

Entry Gallery | Through February 27, 2022

## 10 X 10 | A FUNDRAISER

Entry Gallery | March 4 - May 29, 2022

## QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

Entry Gallery | June 3 - July 31, 2022



William Lesch | Ocotillo Wind | archival pigment print

## THE ELEMENTS: AIR

Main Gallery | May 6 - August 10, 2022

Curator's Talk: May 10 & 12 | 10am

*AIR* is the second exhibition in the series, *The ELEMENTS*. The series investigates how artists utilize the elements of fire, air, water, and earth as medium, process, and subject. And how, as subject, these elements reflect some of the social, economic, political, and environmental issues in Arizona.



Angea Family | Friendship Pot | ceramic | selected by Guest Curator, Phyllis Cavender

## PERMANENT COLLECTION | NEW PERSPECTIVES VI

Welcome Gallery | May 6 - August 10, 2022

We revisit, this time in person, the 2020 virtual installment of this annual Permanent Collection showcase; curated by Tohono Chul volunteers: Gigi Kammeyer, Sunny Stone, Phyllis Cavender, Len Poliandro, and Sara Wetegrove.



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## GIFT SPOTLIGHT:

### SASHA CASE ARTIST, GARDENER, FOODIE

When Sasha Case first stepped foot on the grounds of Tohono Chul in 2005, she never dreamed she would one day lead its Board of Directors. But that's exactly what happened. After joining the Board in 2017, Sasha humbly accepted the role as Board President in January 2022. She credits Christine Conte as her inspiration since they first met when Sasha was invited to help envision plans for a new pavilion.

Sasha came to Arizona from Los Angeles, CA in 2005 to meet her father-in-law, Richard Case. Tohono Chul was the first public place she visited in Tucson. They arrived at the gardens on a hot August monsoon day, enjoying breakfast at the Tea Room (as the Garden Bistro was named at the time). As they toured the grounds that morning, she absolutely fell in love. Her father-in-law was serving as a docent at the time, and he proudly walked them through the grounds, sharing all kinds of stories and introducing them to the desert flora. As they toured the Exhibit House, she privately pledged to one day have her jewelry shown there. Since then, she's been fortunate enough to be featured a half dozen times.

Sasha eagerly joined the Wilson Legacy Society in 2021 after attending an estate seminar offered by fellow board member, Jacquelyne J. Mingle. "Jacque helped me realize how many ways there are to leave something to charity," said Sasha. "I opted to designate a portion of my IRA to Tohono Chul because I was able to make a gift while at the same time minimizing tax consequences."

### LEGACY PLANNING FREE SEMINARS

Thursday | April 7 | 3pm or Wednesday | April 13 | 10am  
90 mins | Registration opens March 9, 2022

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## WILSON LEGACY SOCIETY

You are invited to join the Wilson Legacy Society, Tohono Chul's legacy giving circle, named in honor of Dick and Jean Wilson who created Tohono Chul 37 years ago with a gift of their home and property. Simply plan your gift through your will or trust and request a membership packet by contacting Jamie Maslyn Larson at 520-742-6455, extension 212.



The reason for her legacy gift? "Tohono Chul ignites my lifelong passions embracing everything that I love," Sasha shared. "As a gardener, I'm mesmerized by all the wild and wacky cacti that proliferate on the grounds. As an educator, I'm gratified by the number and diversity of programs. As a foodie, I relish brunch in the Bistro whenever I can. And I become 10 years old again whenever I attend Holiday Nights."

### ARIZONA GIVES DAY

Tuesday - Wednesday | April 5-6, 2022

Matching gift opportunity. Details coming soon!

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## HONORING DR. CHRISTINE CONTE

Tohono Chul's Board of Directors has initiated an endowment campaign honoring retiring Executive Director, Dr. Christine Conte's leadership and service. An anonymous donor has stepped up to match any endowment gifts up to \$50,000. To learn more, make a gift, or to share a memory of Christine, go to [tohonochul.org/support/make-your-gift](https://tohonochul.org/support/make-your-gift)



photo credit: Katie Iverson | Painted Lady Butterfly

## BUTTERFLIES, AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDY HOGAN

*Stephen Spikes, Interpretive Programs Manager, sat down with Tohono Chul docent and butterfly enthusiast, Andy Hogan to talk about our butterfly census. Butterfly counts in the summer and fall of 2020 yielded the lowest numbers of butterflies since Andy started logging data in 2014. This also coincided with one of our driest and hottest monsoon seasons on record. Dubbed the 2020 “non-soon” because of the measly 1.6 inches of rain compared to our average 6 inches. The 2021 monsoon, on the other hand, was much wetter than usual with over 12 inches of rain. Butterflies returned in higher numbers than Andy had ever counted before. In our conversation, Andy and Stephen explore why this might be the case and what can be done to help our butterfly populations.*

STEPHEN

I noticed an explosion in the numbers of butterflies at Tohono Chul this fall. Was that reflected in your weekly counts?

ANDY

Between mid-August and December 2021, I was setting weekly sighting records for number of butterflies spotted. So, there was a fantastic rebound after our poor summer in 2020. Other butterfly counts that are done in this area by NABA (North American Butterfly Association) saw the same thing. They count in the Catalina mountains, the Rincons, in Patagonia, and in Madera Canyon and witnessed massive rebounds in the number of butterflies. It wasn't just us at Tohono Chul, everyone was seeing the same things.

STEPHEN

How did the butterfly counts start at Tohono Chul?

ANDY

Well, in the past we didn't have many docents that knew much about butterflies, or how to lead butterfly tours. So, in 2012, we recruited members of SEABA (Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association) to come here and help us develop a butterfly checklist. And then a year later we started butterfly tours at Tohono Chul. We had a lot of butterflies and thought somebody should count them. That fell to me, and I started counting in 2014.

STEPHEN

Why is it important to count butterflies?

ANDY

They are pretty good indicators of what is going on in the environment. The numbers really respond if we are in a drought or if it becomes very, very hot. When the local ecosystem is stressed, butterfly numbers go down. And then when things return to normal or better, butterfly numbers can really shoot up very quickly. Butterflies are a sensitive ecological signal like the canary in a coal mine.

STEPHEN

You also use e-Butterfly to record data. Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

ANDY

e-Butterfly is a website where you can add your butterfly sightings to an international database. Researchers use the database as a toolkit to answer different questions related to butterflies and how they are making out in the changing environment. I upload all my counts every week after I do the butterfly tour. e-Butterfly makes my data available to anybody. Docents giving tours can look up what I've seen in the last week and know what to expect.



photo: Andy Hogan



STEPHEN

I noticed from your data that butterfly sightings had been going down until this summer. Do you have any idea why?

ANDY

I think it's global warming. Mike Crimmins, from the cooperative extension, presented on climate at a volunteer meeting last year. He noted that in terms of precipitation we have had worse droughts than the 2020-2021 drought. But the 2020-2021 drought was a lot hotter. We were breaking temperature records all summer in 2020. Higher temperatures cause everything to lose more water through evapotranspiration. Butterflies have a hard time above 104 degrees, especially if their nectar plants are wilting. You can see this in the data if you look at the two periods where the drought index is very low. The 2016-2018 drought is longer than the 2020-2021 drought, but it wasn't as severe because the temperatures were lower. And so, the butterflies did better. We don't see as precipitous of a decline in the data. Tohono Chul was an oasis for butterflies because we care for our gardens. In the 2020-2021 drought, the numbers of days above 104 degrees and the number of days between rain was much higher. That made it a lot harder for plants and butterflies. And you can see our butterfly sightings really dropped in the summer and fall of 2020.

STEPHEN

What can people do to help local butterfly populations?

ANDY

One thing is to support programs that are going to limit global warming. That is good for all of us. Another thing is to plant butterfly gardens with native nectar plants and host plants. They can act as an oasis for butterflies when times get tough.

*Butterflies and their Plants tours are given Saturdays and Sundays at Ilam. Peak butterfly season is August through October.*



## BLOOM WATCH BEGINS MAY 16

Each year, for one evening only between May and July, Tohono Chul opens its doors to visitors from around the world to experience the majestic mass blooming of the Queen of the Night, the night-blooming cactus *Peniocereus greggii*.

For more information visit [tohonochul.org/bloom-watch](http://tohonochul.org/bloom-watch)

## UPCOMING FREE ADMISSION DAYS



### NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY

Friday | May 6 | Free Admission

### GO PUBLIC GARDENS COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday | May 7 | Free Admission



### MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY | MAY 8

Free admission for mothers and grandmothers

### FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY | JUNE 19

Free admission for fathers and grandfathers



# Tohono Chul

GARDENS • GALLERIES • BISTRO

7366 N. PASEO DEL NORTE, TUCSON, AZ 85704  
520.742.6455 | WWW.TOHOCHUL.ORG

### HOURS:

Gardens | 8am - 5pm  
Garden Bistro | 8am - 4:30pm  
Exhibits, Shops & Greenhouse | 9am - 5pm

Closed New Year's Day, 4th of July, Thanksgiving & Christmas

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
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TUCSON, AZ  
PERMIT NO. 1688

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

A special thank you to all  
our volunteers!

### 500 HOURS PINS

Carol Bondurant	538
Marlo Buchmann	507
Susan Carroll	575
Frank Crawford	711
Jan Cunningham	513
Linda Eckhardt	679
Judith Goodrode	617
Deborah Greene	539
Susan Hurt	548
Sally Lowdermilk	712
Sharon Madison	628
Susan Miller-Pinhey	569
Debbie Pelstring	506
Martin Randall	591
Carolyn Thomas	658
Richard Thomas	549
Denise Torkelson	543
Patricia Weigand	522

### 1000 HOURS PINS

Jean Burton	1142
Mikki Gries	1027
Alison Lang	1274
Astrid Randall	1319
Carolyn Sachse	1263
Monica Wnuk	1157
Karen Wright	1088



### 1500 HOURS PINS

David Clement	1548
Philip Davis	1677
Nancy Eschrich	1604
Jeanne Peery	1573

Liz Bezanson	3139
Janel Feierabend	3417

### 2000 HOURS PINS

Olivia Carey	2117
Thomas Crawford	2005
Donald Eagle	2006
Sallie Gruszka	2003
Susan Hildreth	2110
Andrew Hogan	2096
Alice Hutchison	2002
Vicki Kalen	2124
Carol Massanari	2250
Sally Ogier	2072
Lynda Treat-Clemons	2066
Sara Wetegrove	2397

### 3500 HOURS PINS

Barb Carolus	3777
Mike Hicks	3615
Pam Olson	3857
Marlene Shamis	3899
Alice Wilder	3582

### 4000 HOURS PINS

Cylphine Bresdin	4023
Helen Roach	4051

### 5000 HOURS PINS

Jeanie Honn	5055
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### 7000 HOURS PINS

Sarma Spitzer	7458
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### 8500 HOURS PINS

Ann Nyhan	8552
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# SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE

Visit [tohonochul.org](http://tohonochul.org) to register for classes or buy tickets to special events.

## FEBRUARY 2022 EVENTS

Yoga in the Gardens	Class	February 22 - March 22   Tuesdays	9:30am
Chair Yoga in the Gardens	Class	February 22 - March 22   Tuesdays	11am
Birds of Prey   Children's Ramada	Event	February 23   Wednesday	11am-1pm
Pocket Sketching	Class	February 24-26	10am-4pm
Rick DeMont   Entry Gallery	Exhibit	Through February 27	
Roy J. Kurtz Collection   Main Gallery	Exhibit	Through April 27	
Tom Baumgartner   Welcome Gallery	Exhibit	Through April 27	

## MARCH 2022 EVENTS

Mexican Folk Art Papier-Mâché Silly Coyote	Class	March 1 & 8   Tuesdays	9:30am-12pm
Reptile Ramble   Overlook	Event	March 4, 11, 18, 25   Fridays	10am
10 X 10: A FUNDRAISER   Entry Gallery	Exhibit	March 4 - May 29	
Professional Development Workshop for Artists	Class	March 4	1-3pm
Sundays In The Garden   Performance Garden	Event	March 6, 13, 20   Sundays	1:30-3pm
Birds of Prey   Children's Ramada	Event	March 9, 23   Wednesdays	11am-1pm
Help! There's a Snake in my Yard	Class	March 10   Thursday	10am-12pm
Wild Weave Gourd Workshop	Class	March 12   Saturday	9am-4pm
Mosaic Birdbath Saucer	Class	March 15   Tuesday	10am-4pm
Spring Plant Sale   Members' Preview	Sale	March 16   Wednesday	9am-3pm
Pocket Sketching   Refresher Course	Class	March 18-20   Friday-Sunday	10am-4pm
Spring Plant Sale	Sale	March 19 & 20   Saturday & Sunday	9am-3pm
Grounds for Drawing I	Class	March 21-22	10am-1pm
Grounds for Drawing II	Class	March 28-29	10am-1pm
Roy J. Kurtz Collection   Main Gallery	Exhibit	Through April 27	
Tom Baumgartner   Welcome Gallery	Exhibit	Through April 27	

## APRIL 2022 EVENTS

Reptile Ramble   Overlook	Event	April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29   Fridays	10am
Sundays In The Garden   Performance Garden	Event	April 3, 10, 17, 24   Sundays	1:30-3pm
Tree Pruning 101	Class	April 5   Tuesday	10am-12pm
Legacy Planning Seminar - FREE	Event	April 7   Thursday	3pm



## APRIL 2022 EVENTS CON'T

19th and 20th Century Medicine in the Old Pueblo	Class	April 8   Friday	2-3:30pm
Annual Members' Reception	Event	April 10   Sunday	10am-12pm
Hypertufa Planters	Class	April 12   Tuesday	9am-12pm
Legacy Planning Seminar - FREE	Event	April 13   Wednesday	10am
Birds of Prey   Children's Ramada	Event	April 13 & 27   Wednesday	11am-1pm
Edible Landscapes	Class	April 19   Tuesday	10am-12pm
Historic Preservation in Tucson	Class	April 22   Friday	2-3:30pm
Desert Impressions	Class	April 23   Saturday	9am-12pm
Desert Garden Pendants	Class	April 23   Saturday	1:30-4:30pm
Roy J. Kurtz Collection   Main Gallery	Exhibit	Through April 27	
Tom Baumgartner   Welcome Gallery	Exhibit	Through April 27	
10 X 10: A FUNDRAISER   Entry Gallery	Exhibit	Through May 29	

## MAY 2022 EVENTS

Help! There's a Snake in my Yard	Class	May 3   Tuesday	10am-12pm
THE ELEMENTS: AIR   Main Gallery	Exhibit	May 6 - August 10	
Permanent Collection   Welcome Gallery	Exhibit	May 6 - August 10	
Reptile Ramble   Overlook	Event	May 6, 13, 20, 27   Fridays	10am
THE ELEMENTS: AIR   Curator's Talk	Event	May 10 & 12	10am
Sustainability Made Simple	Class	May 10   Tuesday	10am-12pm
Twisted Wire Tree of Life	Class	May 14   Saturday	9am-4pm
Bloom Watch Begins	Event	May 16	
Surviving Summers in Territorial Tucson	Class	May 20   Friday	2-3:30pm
Capturing the Queen	Class	May 21   Saturday	10am-12pm
10 X 10: A FUNDRAISER   Entry Gallery	Exhibit	Through May 29	
Monsoon Veggie Gardening	Class	May 31   Tuesday	10am-12pm



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