

FALL | 2023

DESERT CORNER JOURNAL

TOHONO CHUL'S NEWSLETTER



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Tohono Chul
GARDENS • GALLERIES • BISTRO



We respectfully acknowledge that Tohono Chul is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the Tohono O'odham and the Yaqui nations.



Tohono Chul Executive Director, Jamie Maslyn Larson

to experience our garden is a “first date” towards longer-term relationship building with our community.

I am inspired by the words of Dick and Jean Wilson on Tohono Chul's opening day: “We wanted to keep something natural in the middle of all the development so that people could come easily for a few hours and get out of the traffic and learn something at the same time.” I can't wait to welcome all of these new folks to Tohono Chul and to see how transformative this will be for our park. New faces, new voices, and new ideas will most certainly create positive change for years to come.

With gratitude,

Jamie Maslyn Larson
Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fall is here, thankfully, as we welcome cooler temperatures after enduring the hottest July on record in Tucson.

Remembering that oppressive heat, day after day, it seems unfathomable to share with you that we welcomed more visitors than ever to our gardens this summer. Yes, that's right. Highest temperatures on record do not logically equate to highest summer visitation. But having grown up in Phoenix, and feeling “cabin fever” through 115-degree days, I recall needing to get out of the house, be active, and socialize with friends. It's human nature. For the past two summers, we have been experimenting with events and programs such as Chillin at the Chul, where over 11,500 attended this summer; Desert Discovery Days, which had a 5x uptick in attendance; and added a “pop up” art show by Lex Gjurasic in the Pavilion. By testing, we are learning that even in the most extreme heat, our community uses our garden for connection to nature, art, and each other. It's exciting to see the garden come alive with die-hard desert rats and locals, now truly year-round in all seasons!

As we anticipate the return of Holiday Nights in December, an enduring family tradition, we have introduced a new event, Glowing Pumpkins. Like Chillin at the Chul, Glowing Pumpkins is an opportunity to open our garden in new ways that bring folks together, inspire conversation, and provide joy. Last year, nearly 40,000 people attended the inaugural year of Glowing Pumpkins in Tucson in the parking lot of the Tucson Mall. By relocating this event to Tohono Chul, we are aiming to introduce families, younger folks, and children to an artful experience in our garden. Many of these visitors have never visited Tohono Chul before. We believe that providing new ways



Glowing Pumpkins is coming to Tohono Chul! Fun for the whole family.

GLOWING PUMPKINS

Sept 21 - Oct 31 | 6:30-10:00pm
Every Wednesday night through Sunday night
General Public | Special Event | Tickets available online

Explore the magical pathways through Tohono Chul enchantingly lit with pumpkin sculptures and displays, spooky music, sounds, and special effects. You'll see classic Halloween characters, dinosaurs, superheroes, and movie and pop culture icons. Glowing Pumpkins: A Jack-O-Lantern Adventure, is an outdoor Halloween event featuring over 5,000+ hand-carved art pumpkins! This one-of-a-kind walk-through experience is the must-see event of the fall season. Pumpkins are hand-carved and constructed by artists. Tickets are available now, online. For additional info: tohonochul.org/glowing-pumpkins

Please note that this is a third party event. For all inquiries about this event, visit glowingpumpkins.com

LOOK WHO'S JOINED US!



Rae Vassar, Director of Operations

WELCOME

RAE VASSAR, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Rae Vassar as the new Director of Operations. In this role, Rae will play a vital part in driving the strategic growth and operational excellence of Tohono Chul. The selection of Rae Vassar comes after a thorough search for a dedicated and experienced leader to oversee all operational aspects at the park.

Rae brings a unique blend of skills and expertise to her new role. With over 10 years of experience in operations, leadership, and placemaking within non-profit and private sector practices, her track record speaks volumes. Her background in landscape architecture, coupled with her recent completion of the prestigious Longwood Fellowship Program, a 13-month executive program for public garden leaders, positions her as a valuable asset to Tohono Chul.

"We are delighted to have Rae join us as the Director of Operations," says Jamie Maslyn Larson, Tohono Chul Executive Director. "Her passion for public gardens, coupled with her proficiency in communication and her adeptness at managing complex projects, makes her an invaluable addition to our team. Rae's leadership will be instrumental in driving our strategic initiatives and enhancing our visitor experience."



SUNDAYS IN THE GARDEN FALL CONCERT SERIES

Sundays | 1:30-3pm

In the Performance Garden | Free with Admission

Treat yourself to a wonderful afternoon outdoors listening to live music. Please arrive early as seats fill up fast for these great concerts! Programming in partnership with the Tucson Guitar Society.

OCTOBER 1

Misael Barraza | Flamenco

OCTOBER 8

Facundo Martinez and Jonathan Rodriguez | Classical Guitar, Latin American

OCTOBER 22

Las Azaleas | Mariachi

OCTOBER 29

Pima Jazz Band | Jazz

NOVEMBER 5

Tradiciones | Peruvian

NOVEMBER 12

TJI Ellington Big Band | Jazz

NOVEMBER 19

Diana Schaible & Sierra Norris | Classical Guitar/Flute

NOVEMBER 26

Ignacio Mondaca and Dante Olita | Classical Guitar

EXHIBITIONS 2024



Día de Los Muertos installation



Betsy Babb | Tucson 23. | colored pencil, graphite, and ballpoint pen on paper



Todd Ros | Ladder Backed Woodpecker | oil on canvas



Angel Luna | Blue Eyes Figurative Vase | ceramic

MAIN GALLERY: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Continuing through November 5 | Main Gallery

The celebration of *El Día de los Muertos* is a joyful occasion of remembrance, involving feasts and festivities through which death is recognized as a part of the natural process of living. Contemporary celebrations of this holiday bear both ancient traditions and a modern flair and have become a rich part of Tucson's cultural heritage. Tohono Chul's biennial exhibition celebrates the creative ways artists honor and enliven this deeply meaningful holiday through artistic expressions of personal and universal significance. *Día de los Muertos* was co-curated with the help of Tohono Chul Exhibits staff and Sandy Villegas, artist and designer.

BETSY BABB: FULL CIRCLE

Continuing through November 5, 2023 | Welcome Gallery

Full Circle showcases a small selection of drawings from an ongoing series Tucson artist Betsy Babb initiated during the Covid-19 shutdown. Babb's compositions are built upon the interplay of overlapping primary shapes and colors within a shallow space. Concentrating on the dynamics of variation and sequence, compositional elements slowly shift into a deeper space. The intensity Babb brings to each surface moves toward the spiritual.

ENTRY GALLERY PROJECT SPACE

Amber Vanhatala Stene (Tucson, AZ) | Sept 16 – Oct 22
Heather Bentz (Tucson, AZ) | October 28 – December 3
Kate Hoover (Tucson, AZ) | December 9 – January 14
David Adix (Tucson, AZ) | January 20 – February 25

THE EXOTIC SUBLIME | ON A WING

November 16, 2023 – February 5, 2024 | Main Gallery
Reception with the Artists | Thurs, Nov 16 | 5:30-8pm

The Exotic Sublime/On a Wing represents a contemporary bestiary focused on the many creatures that take to the air in the Sonoran Desert. In plain sight or elusive, real and imagined creatures are ever-present, existing, threatened, mysterious, endangered, mystical, and magical. Or extinct. Mammalian, insect, and avian worlds fly, float, soar, hover, flap, and flutter around us; resilient lifecycles adaptably ever-changing. Or not. Cautionary and symbiotic tales combine what this place used to be with what this place will become.

ANGEL LUNA | FEATURED ARTIST

November 16, 2023 – February 5, 2024 | Welcome Gallery

This show looks at several facets of Angel Luna's ceramic practice that references the rich history of pottery in the region and draws inspiration from his personal and ancestral history. Always exhibiting his respect for tradition and process, Luna's work moves between the functional and the sculptural, often playing on social and political issues delivered with his wry sense of humor.



Dedication of our new electric vehicles charging station. From left to right, Denise Wiscount, Mary Anne Hawthorne, Ryan Trimpe, Jamie Maslyn Larson, TEP representative Camila Martins-Bekat, Deanne Seligmann.

CHARGING UP AT TOHONO CHUL: MEET OUR NEW EV STATION

Big news from Tohono Chul! Right in our parking lot, there's now an EV charging station for electric vehicles. As guests enjoy our beautiful gardens, their cars get a top-off too. It's a simple yet big step toward a more green and clean future.

This new station is more than just a place to plug in. For Tohono Chul, it's a clear sign of our commitment to taking care of our planet. Every electric car that plugs in shows our shared effort to make sustainable choices.

A big thumbs up to the team that made this possible: Denise Wiscount, Mary Anne Hawthorne, Ryan Trimpe, and Deanne Seligman. Their hard work and team spirit brought this project to life.

We also can't forget our awesome partners. A big thank you to our Gold Corporate Member, Tucson Electric Power. They've been with us every step of the way, and they see the beauty and value that Tohono Chul adds to our community.

If you want to join this effort, check out how you can become a Corporate Member on our website:
tohonochul.org/corporate-memberships

Here's to a cleaner, fun, and charged-up future—see you in the park!

*Frank Vidal, Philanthropy Manager would be happy to share with you all the benefits of being a corporate member:
fvidal@tohonochul.org*



Monsoon Madness, July 2023

SUMMER RECAP: MORE WAYS TO THRIVE

Visitors literally chilled down in the gardens under the shade of mature trees that contribute to a cooling 10° difference in temperature. Here's a recap of this summer's community activities:

Chillin at the Chul

Friday May 26 saw the kick-off of our 2nd year of Chillin at the Chul, an event that has already become a beloved weekend tradition for many. With more than 11,500 visitors, total, this year saw us breaking attendance records nearly every weekend, and the first-rate entertainment line-up was a big part of that success. Neon Prophet, Desert Fish, Olivia and the Interlopers, and Derdog were just a few of the bands who performed at Chillin this summer and, in addition to the incredible live music, guests also enjoyed Tohono Chul staff-curated playlists when our performers took a break.

Desert Discovery Days

The second iteration of this beloved program received some welcome revisions. Wednesday through Saturday, kids and adults took a break from the heat in the Children's Ramada to acquaint themselves with the amazing Sonoran Desert through immersive activities such as nature journaling, planting tepary beans, building native bee habitats and honing observation skills.

SARSEF, Arizona Science Center, and Tohono Chul collaborate to host Camp Innovation

Children 4th through 8th grade visited the gardens and learned about our amazing mission and collections. Campers created, and then shared their very own 'Interpretation Moment' with family, loved ones, and peers. The camp culminated with campers having the option to share their newfound knowledge and passion as junior docents at Chillin at the Chul!

Monsoon Madness

Monsoon Madness is a plant-shoppers dream with more than 20 local nurseries selling unique and wonderful Sonoran Desert plants at Tohono Chul. This year's event, which took place July 28 and 29, saw hundreds come out and, luckily, the monsoons cooperated and we did not get rained out. Maybe next year.

Bloom Night

Perhaps Tohono Chul's most cherished event, this year's Bloom Night took place on Sunday, July 23. More than 750 folks came out and witnessed the opening of the Night Blooming Cereus, or *Peniocereus greggii*, aptly nicknamed "The Queen of the Night". Opening slowly at dusk, each beautiful, palm-sized flower wilts within a few hours of sunrise.

Since this particular species of cereus cannot self-pollinate, the plants must bloom on the same evening to ensure pollination, usually by hawk moths. The more blooms that are open, the greater the chances of pollination. The true mystery of the Night Blooming Cereus is how the majority know when to bloom.

At Tohono Chul, we've been celebrating this cereus for over 20 years and are still uncertain what exactly triggers the bloom. Native to Southwestern North America, the Night Blooming Cereus looks like a bunch of dead sticks most of the year, only revealing its spectacular flower in the heat of the early Tucson summer. Tohono Chul planted and cultivated many of the cacti; others grew naturally on the grounds creating our world-class collection. In fact, Tohono Chul has the largest private collection of *Peniocereus greggii* in the world.

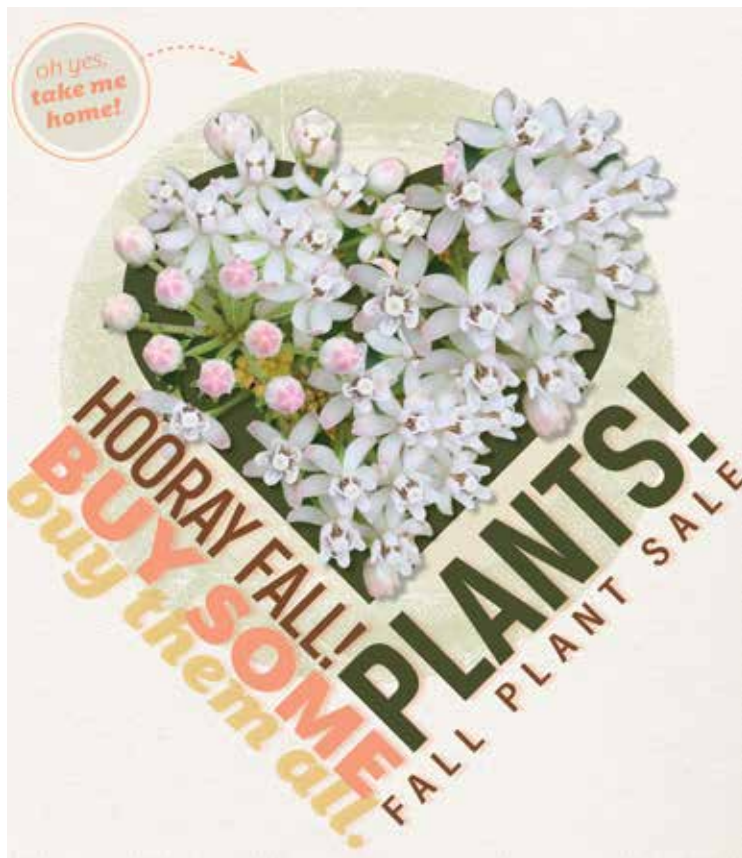
After going virtual in 2022, guests rejoiced at the opportunity to see these delicate miracles open, in person, right before their eyes.

TOHONO CHUL'S BILINGUAL INITIATIVE BEGINS!

Late last year, Tohono Chul embarked on an exciting new initiative to provide all communications in both English and Spanish languages. With more than 22% of Pima County residents speaking Spanish, this effort aligns with Tohono Chul's goal to diversify our audience and provide a welcoming space for everyone in our community.

You may have already noticed some of our materials translated into Spanish including donor acknowledgement letters and event promotional materials. In the coming months (and years), we will continue this work, in phases, and look forward to creating a place where everyone can experience the magic of Tohono Chul.

*Want to know about our other initiatives?
Please contact Ethan Cox at ecox@tohonochul.org or call us!*



FALL PLANT SALE

Members' Day: Wednesday | Oct 11 | 9am - 3pm

General Public:

Saturday | October 14 | 9am - 3pm

Sunday | October 15 | 9am - 3pm

The plant sale is located in our main parking lot

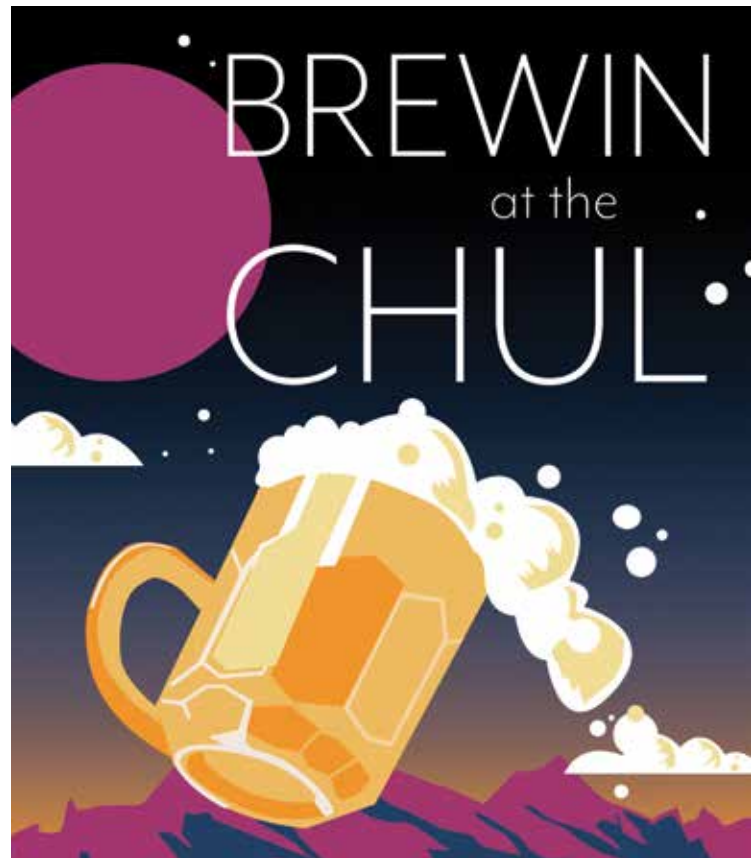
Colorize your yard! Our annual Fall Plant Sale offers a diverse selection of locally grown Sonoran native and arid-adapted plants. Our trusted plant advisors will help you choose the right plants to cultivate your own re-creation of the Sonoran Desert. Choose from a selection of blooming flora to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and native bees to your neighborhood.

GUATEMALAN CRAFTS SALE

**Friday November 10 | Saturday, November 11
10am-3pm | Garden Pavilion**

FREE ADMISSION DURING THE SALE

Bring a kaleidoscope of color into your home with the Guatemalan Crafts Sale. For almost a decade, we've hosted this trunk sale featuring an array of brilliant beaded jewelry, colorful shawls, handwoven textiles, contemporary purses, vests, table runners, and embroidered square-cut blouses also known as traditional *huipiles*.



BREWIN AT THE CHUL

**Fridays and Saturdays | 5-9pm | The Bistro
November 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 | Free Admission**

Because you enjoyed Brewin at the Chul last year, we are bringing this event back again, with another great line-up. Taking place at the Garden Bistro from 5pm-9pm, Friday and Saturday nights, enjoy food, beer, other drinks, and music. The creative chefs and staff build rotating menu items offered just for this event. Performers are announced on our webpage and on social media, so please 'friend' us if you haven't already! Bookmark this page in your browser for November:

<https://tohonochul.org/brewin-at-the-chul/>





SONORAN CINEMA

Tuesday, October 24: "Nightmare Before Christmas"
Friday, November 17: "Finding Nemo"
Friday, December 22: "Polar Express"
Gates open at 6:30pm | Tickets online or at the door

Family movie night is fun at Tohono Chul! Join us for the fall portion of our film series, Sonoran Cinema; presenting monthly movies that are engaging for the whole family. This festive yet relaxing atmosphere is great for gathering up your friends, enjoying popcorn and light snacks, and surprise extras! **For additional info, and tickets please visit tohonochul.org/sonoran-cinema**

SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Thursday, December 7 | 5-7:30pm
In the Pavilion | RSVP online

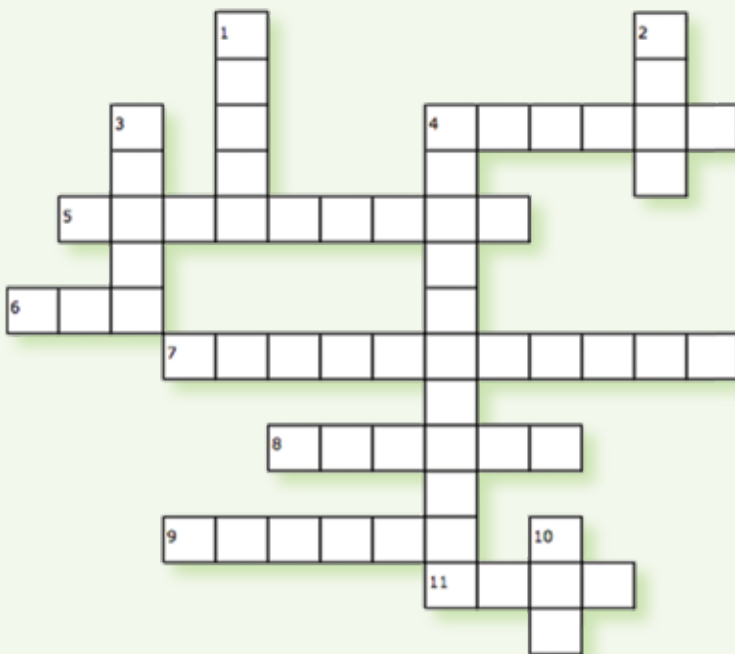
Join us for a festive Holiday Reception, a special gathering to celebrate the past year's accomplishments and strengthen our community bonds. This joyous event is open to those members who have gifted \$250 or more in the past year. It's a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude and look forward to the year ahead.

For additional info or questions, please contact Frank Vidal, Philanthropy Manager, at 520.742.6455 x261.



CROSSWORD MOMENT

Put your Sonoran flora and fauna knowledge to the test. The answers are on the back of this newsletter, in the lower right corner.



DOWN

1. Bats visit flowers that open during this time
2. Butterflies taste with this part of their bodies
3. This tasty treat comes from pollinated flowers
4. Group of animals that moves pollen from one flower to another
10. A very busy pollinator that visits many types of plants

ACROSS

4. Grains moved from one flower to another
5. A colorful pollinator that needs a landing pad
6. Some desert cactus flowers are visited by this flying mammal
7. This animal can hover over a flower while drinking nectar
8. A sweet liquid reward for pollinators
9. Showy plant part that attracts pollinators
11. Created when flowers are pollinated, needed to grow new plants



BLOOM NIGHT 2023 REPORT

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The night blooming cereus holds sacred significance in Tohono O'odham storytelling, and has inspired folk songs, paintings, thousands of photographs and even a perfume. Also known as *Peniocereus greggii*, "The Queen of the Night," produces an impressive flower, blooming en masse on select summer nights. Opening slowly at dusk, each beautiful, palm-sized flower wilts within a few hours of sunrise... The true mystery of the night blooming cereus is how the majority know when to bloom.

Our very own Tracey Till, Propagation Associate, was the author of this year's Bloom Watch. She tracked and provided reports every couple of weeks leading up to this special occasion.

How can I keep an eye out for this flower?

Starting in May, the opportunity to sign up for the Bloom Watch is sent out via email. Tracey collaborates with Chris Kibler, Senior Gardener, to walk through the grounds, inspect the flowers, measure, and report on the state of the cacti. Then Tracey produces a write-up, sharing with the world the progress of the buds and tons of tidbits about the secrets of the Sonoran Desert. You can add yourself to this list by going here: <https://tohonochul.org/get-engaged>

Bloom Night | The Queen's Monsoon Magic

Here is an excerpt from Tracey's last website entry summing up what happened on July 23, Bloom Night 2023:

"Last Sunday was an eventful one. Chris says that early that morning, the buds were still closed tight, but by afternoon some were already showing the white of their petals!"

"Around 6 pm we could see an opaque storm cloaking the northwest from Tucson's East side. Filled with excitement and cautious optimism we made our way to Tohono Chul. Beautiful cascades of rain fell in front of the sunset. A dramatic backdrop of pink cotton candy clouds and lightning set the stage. The brief downpours cooled the air

and filled it with the scent of creosote leaves. The Queen's blossoms were timid and we waited expectantly for them to open. Native flute music echoed as we crowded around the blooms. Nature does not hurry for anyone. The monsoon gifted us with some much-needed rain and brought life and vibrancy to the Desert View Trail."

"Tarantulas, tarantula hawks, sphinx moths, night hawks, and other critters were out and about. Spadefoot toads sang. Guests poured into the gift shops and took refuge under the ramadas. The Exhibit House was a welcome escape from the rain and gave us a moment to experience an artistic interpretation of the Queen and the Sonoran Desert. It was a lovely garden party for the Queen, filled with music, untamed beauty, and community."

"At 6 am the next morning the blossoms were still open and the fans of the *Peniocereus greggii* filled the parking lot. A fervor of photographers took a morning stroll to see the ephemeral flowers. By the very next evening we had the last few remaining buds open. We hope that these uninterrupted inflorescences will show a good pollination rate. The gardeners carefully covered them in mesh bags to protect the developing fruits. We shall see! Thank you to everyone who came out and braved the rain. For all the volunteers and staff who made it possible. To those who waited patiently for a glimmer of beauty..."

An exciting update!

These past couple months the Queen has been hard at work growing fruits that hold the next generation of cacti. Shauna Smith, gardener and caretaker of the Desert View Trail, has carefully counted the fruit. Though the monsoon has been meager, the Queen was still able to produce 10 fruits this year. Each fruit contains at least 100 seeds. We will wait for these to fully ripen before harvesting, cleaning the seeds, and storing them for the future.

This monsoon season we planted seeds that were donated in 2022 from member Beverly Mulkins and they germinated beautifully!

Watch an informative video interview with Tracey Till about the propagation greenhouse on YouTube at this address:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaZJ2I3E1B0>



From left to right: Debi Greene, Stephan Donovan, Gerri Conn, Scott Stapp

2023 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

During fiscal year 2022-2023, 419 volunteers contributed 33,692 hours of service! We celebrated our fine folk with a luncheon on April 20, 2023 during National Volunteer Appreciation Week. At the appreciation luncheon, the following recipients were awarded volunteer hour pins based on their service:

Curiosity Award: Ken Simkins

Events: Debi Greene

Exhibits: Joel Aronson

Gardens: Cheryl Lee

Interpretation: Janel Feierabend

La Entrada Retail Shop: Kathy Dixon

La Fuente Retail Shop: Nancy Goudy

La Galeria Retail Shop: Carol Escobedo and

Lynn Bullock

Facilities: Steve Plevel

Marketing: Pat Weigand

Philanthropy: Stephan Donovan

Propagation: John Williams and Niko Tax

Retail Nursery: Teresa Tipton

Public Programs: Don Johnson

These volunteers have been chosen because of their extra efforts to go above and beyond the regular duties of their respective posts. All of our volunteers make the gardens possible because of their passion and expertise.

500 HOUR PINS

Lynn Bullock	552
Kelly Christensen	556
Gerri Conn	503
David Davies	581
Cheryl Davis	531
Kim Dwyer	518
Vicki Ettleman	598
Lorette Kunch	738
Cindy Schultz	504
Ken Simkins	900
Harvey Smith	577
Rita Thelen	537
Frank Tussing	586

1000 HOUR PINS

Bonnie Bray	1065
Sue Cuneo	1043
Sally Hammond	1177
Sally Lowdermilk	1053
Steve Plevel	1037
Peggy Ries	1061
Tempe Snyder	1066
Dan Wright	1051

1500 HOUR PINS

Jean Burton	1644
Karen Endorf	1668
Carol Escobedo	1730
Jane Fairchild	1532
Stephen Greene	1591
Carol Laesecke	1666

1500 HOUR PINS (continued)

Alison Lang	1648
Kay Norris	1564
Len Poliandro	1539
Monica Wnuk	1552
Karen Wright	1535

2000 HOUR PINS

Marion Cimmino	2080
Dave Clement	2037
Phil Davis	2185
Johnny Fenton	2020
Jeanne Peery	2036

2500 HOUR PINS

Ronnie Bishop	2501
Olivia Carey	2822
Vicki Kalen	2595
Sunny Stone	2635
Lynda Treat-Clemons	2864

3000 HOUR PINS

Anita Lucas	3161
Carol Massanari	3048

3500 HOUR PINS

Liz Bezanson	3625
Anne Gates	3570
Veronica Gonzales	3727

4500 HOUR PINS

Barb Carolus	4925
Mike Hicks	4561
Marlene Shamis	4941

5000 HOUR PINS

Janel Feierabend	5169
Pam Olson	5006

5500 HOUR PINS

Jeanie Honn	5944
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6000 HOUR PINS

Don Johnson	6191
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9000 HOUR PINS

Sarma Spitzer	9062
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JOHNNY FENTON

How long have you been volunteering at Tohono Chul?

Since 1989, so that's over 30 years! My children love it here. When they were little, they adored the bookstore. That's exactly how I first became interested: we would come to the Haunted Book Shop and I wanted to see how I could be of service. Over the years, I have volunteered with positions at La Galeria, La Fuente, Admissions and the desk of the Welcome Gallery.

What is your favorite spot here in the gardens?

My favorite spot in the park is the Desert Palm Oasis. I often come to sit on the bench and reflect. My husband gifted me the bench, and that is where my grandchildren and I sat: just across from the little reflective pond.

Tell me a little bit about your volunteer work at Tohono Chul?

I have so much history and am lucky enough to have had a number of careers, but I describe myself as a former tv news reporter and magazine travel writer. I currently work as a concierge for an international resort firm. In this capacity, I am bent on giving first-timers to the desert a wonderful experience. Describing Tohono Chul, my absolute favorite adjectives are 'restorative,' 'desert treasure chest,' 'Sonoran kaleidoscope'. These are words I use to visualize this place!

But the most descriptive phrase I've invented for Tohono Chul is "a multitude of gee-whiz experiences!" because that is exactly what this place is! As a concierge, I meet first-time visitors to Tucson, such as conventioners, business travelers, or families, who often only have a few days or even just a few hours to try and soak in the ambience of the Sonoran Desert. They ask me where to go for dining, hiking, music, wildlife, relaxation, shopping ... it's like a pop quiz every day! That's when I recommend Tohono Chul: it literally checks off all the boxes!

What book are you reading right now?

It happened in Arizona by James Crutchfield. I bought it at the museum shop here at Tohono Chul. *It Happened in Arizona* features thirty-six episodes from Arizona's history—from the thirteenth-century creation of the Hohokam's irrigation canals to the building of the Hoover Dam, and from explorations of the Grand Canyon to a stagecoach robbery. It helps to inform me as a volunteer here at Tohono Chul.

What is your favorite plant?

Oh, wow, probably the agave. The reason? In the past, wherever I've lived, there's been water, such as a fountain in my yard or something like that. But here in Tucson, where water is precious, the agave becomes a substitute. The agave plant, the shape of it, kind of looks like a fountain, if you think about it.

Oh, and the saguaro ... it reminds me of a story of my own kids! Once, when we landed in Tucson, and were leaving the airport to drive through the desert, I recall that my kids screamed with excitement as they spotted the saguaro cacti out the window, "Look mom! They're waving at us!"

What is your favorite creature?

Quail! The Gambel's quail! I love them. I have one of those metal sculpture figures of a quail that I purchased from the museum shop here, La Entrada.

That reminds me of another story, once, when my husband really surprised me! We had recently downsized our home and had moved into the place where I currently live, and I was busy unpacking, with boxes strewn everywhere around me. I saw my husband appear amidst the chaos with this huge sculpture tucked under his arm. He exclaimed with a grin, "I've got a big contribution to our desert landscaping ..." The



'contribution' was a 3-foot high metal sculpture of a vulture! Well, I was flabbergasted at first, but didn't want to hurt his feelings. After some time, of course, we named him 'Cisco' and he magically acquired a wardrobe of seasonal bandanas!

For visiting relatives or family, I ended up putting 'Cisco' out as a welcome mat to help distinguish our house from the neighbors'. As a matter of fact, I joke that my house now looks like a Tohono Chul annex: I have collected vases, pots, hanging art, all manner of décor that I've bought over the years and fell in love with!

What is a special memory you have of Tohono Chul?

It really is fun to think about something like this! Long ago, before there were official shops, I remember volunteering at the exhibit house gift shop and we sold dates! The dates were harvested right here at Tohono Chul. They were completely unmarked, crammed into these little cellophane bags, stapled, and sold. Just like that! No logos, or item weight, or even number of fruits, just handed over with a smile.

Interested in becoming a volunteer or docent? Read more about exciting opportunities on our webpage: tohonochul.org/volunteer



CHILES, CHOCOLATE & DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVAL

October 27-28 | 9am - 4pm

\$20 | General Admission

\$5 | Tohono Chul Members

\$35 | Family Pack (2 adults and up to 4 children 5-12 years of age)

\$5 | Child (5-12 years of age)

Children 5 and under FREE

**Guest Passes & American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Admission Privileges are not valid at this event*

Chiles, Chocolate & Day of the Dead Festival is back this year. Help us reinvigorate a Tohono Chul tradition by welcoming the fiery chile and the beloved chocolate! Featuring over 20 food and craft vendors, the grounds will be filled with tempting foodstuffs and chile-inspired crafts.

Look for delicious treats, drink selections, musical entertainment, and gift shopping ideas.

In conjunction with this event, we are also celebrating another enduring tradition of the borderlands, *Día de los Muertos*, with personal *ofrendas* (altars) from local artists and schools, community altars inviting participants to leave *recuerdos* (remembrances) of lost loved ones, Day of the Dead-themed face painting, and even more children's activities offered on Saturday.

Traditionally, the Aztecs and Mayans incorporated chiles (*Capsicum annum*) into their daily lives, using these plants to spice up meals and cure illnesses. In northern Mexico, the indigenous tribes harvested wild chiltepin for flavoring, ancestor of the chiles we grow today, to enjoy and celebrate. And chocolate was the drink of the Aztecs: once allowed only to be imbibed by rulers and considered a divine beverage, modern humans use honey or sugar to sweeten the cacao so that the entire world enjoys every last bit!

Tickets available online or at the Admissions window.

To find out more information about this festival, check out the webpage:
<https://tohonochul.org/chiles/>



Cut along the dotted line and post on your refrigerator for a quick glance at upcoming events.

FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

Visit tohonochul.org to register for classes or buy tickets to special events.

OCTOBER 2023 EVENTS

Día de los Muertos Exhibition/ Betsy Babb: Full Circle	Exhibit	through November 5	9am-5pm
Glowing Pumpkins	Event	October 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	6:30-10pm
Sundays in the Garden	Event	October 1, 8, 22, 29	1:30-3pm
Fall Plant Sale, Members Only	Event	October 11	9am-3pm
Glowing Pumpkins	Event	October 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	6:30-10pm
Foodways Series: Dia de los Muertos	Class	October 12	6:30-7:30pm
Fall Plant Sale, General Public	Event	October 14, 15	9am-3pm
Paper Flower Marigolds for Dia de los Muertos	Class	October 13	10am-12pm
Glowing Pumpkins	Event	October 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	6:30-10pm
Mexican Folk Art Papier Mache skulls	Class	October 20	10am-12pm
Sonoran Cinema presents: Nightmare Before Christmas	Event	October 24	6:30pm
Entry Gallery: Amber Stene	Exhibit	through October 22	9am-5pm
Glowing Pumpkins	Event	October 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,31	6:30-10pm
Entry Gallery: Heather Bentz	Exhibit	October 28 through Dec 3	9am-5pm
Chiles, Chocolate & Day of the Dead Festival	Event	October 27, 28	9am-4pm
The Great Pumpkin Mosaic	Class	October 30	4-7pm

NOVEMBER 2023 EVENTS

Pocket Sketching	Class	November 2, 3, 4	10-4pm
Sundays in the Garden	Event	November 5, 12, 19, 26	1:30-3pm
Pique Assiette Flower Pot Mosaic	Class	November 7	10-4pm
Butterfly Bracelet	Class	November 10	10-11:30am
Guatemalan Crafts Sale	Event	November 10-11	9am-3pm
Brewin at the Chul	Event	November 10, 11	5-9pm
Main Gallery: The Exotic Sublime On a Wing	Exhibit	November 16 - February 5	9am-5pm
Reception with the Artists	Event	November 16	5:30-8:30pm
Brewin at the Chul	Event	November 17, 18	5-9pm
Sonoran Cinema presents: Finding Nemo	Event	November 17	6:30pm
Brewin at the Chul	Event	November 24, 25	5-9pm
Curator's Talk	Event	November 28, 30	10am-12:00pm
Pocket Sketching	Class	November 30	10am-4pm
Entry Gallery: Heather Bentz	Exhibit	through December 3	9am-5pm

Cut along the dotted line and post on your refrigerator for a quick glance at upcoming events.

FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

Visit tohonochul.org to register for classes or buy tickets to special events.

DECEMBER 2023 EVENTS

Holiday Nights, Members' Night	Event	December 1	5:30-8:30pm
Pocket Sketching	Class	December 1, 2	10-4pm
Holiday Nights, General Public	Event	December 2	5:30-8:30pm
Entry Gallery: Heather Bentz	Exhibit	through December 3	9am-5pm
Frosty the Snowman Trivet Mosaic	Class	December 5	4-7pm
Holiday Reception	Event	December 7	5-7:30pm
Holiday Nights, General Public	Event	December 8, 9	5:30-8:30pm
Main Gallery: The Exotic Sublime On a Wing	Exhibition	December - February 5	9am-5pm
Entry Gallery: Kate Hoover	Exhibit	December 9 - January 14	9am-5pm
Holiday Nights, General Public	Event	December 15, 16	5:30-8:30pm
Sonoran Cinema presents: Polar Express	Event	December 22	6:30pm

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2024 EVENTS

Main Gallery: The Exotic Sublime	Exhibit	January 2 - February 5	9am-5pm
SACA Ceramics Sale	Event	February 9, 10	9am-3pm
Entry Gallery: David Adix	Exhibiti	January 20 - February 25	9am-5pm
Artist Reception with William Lesch	Event	February 15	5:30-8pm
Curator's Talk	Event	February 20, 22	10am-12:00pm
Jazz Under the Stars	Event	February 23, 24	5-9pm
Jazz Under the Stars	Event	March 1-2, 8-9	5-9pm
Entry Gallery: 10x10: A Fundraiser	Exhibit	March 2 - May 26	9am-5pm
Sundays in the Garden	Event	Mar 3, 10, 24	1:30-3pm
Spring Plant Sale	Event	March 13, March 16, March 17	9am-3pm
Sonoran Cinema: "Cars"	Event	March 15	6:30pm



HOLIDAY NIGHTS

Members' Only Night: Friday, December 1 | 5:30 - 8:30pm

General Public: Saturday, December 2 | 5:30 - 8:30pm

Friday, December 8 & Saturday, December 9 | 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Friday, December 15 & Saturday, December 16 | 5:30pm - 8:30pm

\$20 General Public | \$15 Members | \$6 Kids ages 3-12 | Kids under 3 are free! Tickets at tohonochul.org/holiday-nights

Save the date and mark your calendars for this year's Holiday Nights, a Tohono Chul tradition. Stroll along paths garlanded with twinkling lights while musicians and artists perform throughout the gardens. Bring the family to visit Santa who will be here in person to share holiday tidings and special magic.

Not finished with your holiday shopping? Visit our shops where you are sure to find a unique gift for that special someone or purchase the gift of a membership to Tohono Chul! Tickets on sale by October 1 and always sell fast, so get yours early!



RE-WILD YOUR CHILD

Regular hours | 9am - 1pm

Tuesday through Sunday

Outdoor play spaces are open daily

8am - 5pm | Free with Admission

Children's Museum Oro Valley at Tohono Chul is a place for kids and families to explore nature through fun, hands-on exhibits. Engage in a wide variety of fun activities and educational programming designed to stimulate young minds and foster an appreciation for the Sonoran Desert.



Tohono Chul

GARDENS • GALLERIES • BISTRO

7366 N. PASEO DEL NORTE, TUCSON, AZ 85704

520.742.6455 | WWW.TOHONCHUL.ORG

HOURS:

Gardens | 8am - 5pm

Garden Bistro | 8am - 4pm

Exhibits, Shops & Greenhouse | 9am - 5pm

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

Follow us on social media:



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US POSTAGE

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TUCSON, AZ

PERMIT NO. 1688



WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

TOURS & ECO-STATIONS 2023

MONDAYS

TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul | Year-round: 8:30am

ECO-STATION | Winged Things | Overlook |

May-Sept: 9am to 11am | Oct-Apr: 11 am to 1 pm

TOUR | Walk in the Gardens |

May-Sept: 10am | Oct-April: 10am, 12pm & 2pm

TUESDAYS

ECO-STATION | Ocean to Desert | Overlook |

May-Sept: 9am to 11am | Oct-Apr: 11am to 1pm

TOUR | Walk in the Gardens |

May-Sept: 10am | Oct-Apr: 10am, 12pm & 2pm

TOUR | Wildflowers: What's Bloomin'? | Mar-Apr: 10:30am

EVENT | Gallery Buzz | Oct-Apr: 11am

WEDNESDAYS

TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul | Year-round: 8:30am

ECO-STATION | Rocks & Ruins | Overlook |

May-Sept: 9 am to 11 am | Oct-Apr: 11 am to 1 pm

TOUR | Walk in the Gardens |

May-Sept: 10am | Oct-April: 10am, 12pm & 2pm

THURSDAYS

ECO-STATION | Desert Chow | Overlook |

May-Sept: 9 am to 11 am | Oct-Apr: 11 am to 1 pm

TOUR | Walk in the Gardens |

May-Sept: 10am | Oct-April: 10am, 12pm & 2pm

TOUR | Wildflowers: What's Bloomin'? | Mar-Apr: 10:30am

EVENT | Gallery Buzz | Oct-Apr 11am

FRIDAYS

TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul | Year-round: 8:30am

ECO-STATION | Creepy Crawlies | Overlook |

May-Sept: 9am to 11am | Oct-Apr: 11am to 1pm

TOUR | Walk in the Gardens |

May-Sept: 10am | Oct-April: 10am, 12pm & 2pm

TOUR | Connecting Plants and People | Year-round: 11am

EVENT | Reptile Ramble | Overlook |

mid-Aug thru mid-Nov: 10am | Mar-May: 10am

Check Tohono Chul's website for the Reptile Ramble schedule

SATURDAYS

TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul | Year-round: 8:30am

TOUR | Desert Landscaping | Year-round: 9am

ECO-STATION | Plants and People | Overlook |

May-Sept: 9am to 11am | Oct-Apr: 11am to 1pm

TOUR | Walk in the Gardens |

May-Sept: 10am | Oct-April: 10am, 12pm & 2pm

TOUR | Butterflies and their Plants | Year-round: 11am

TOUR | Wildflowers: What's Bloomin'? | Mar-Apr: 10:30am

SUNDAYS

TOUR | Walk in the Gardens | Year-round: 10am

TOUR | Butterflies & Their Plants | Year-round: 11am

TOUR | Art in the Gardens | Oct-Apr: 12pm

Answers to the Crossword Moment:

DOWN: 1. night, 2. feet, 3. fruit, 4. pollinators, 10. bee;
ACROSS: 4. pollen, 5. butterfly, 6. bat, 7. hummingbird,
8. nectar, 9. flower, 11. seed