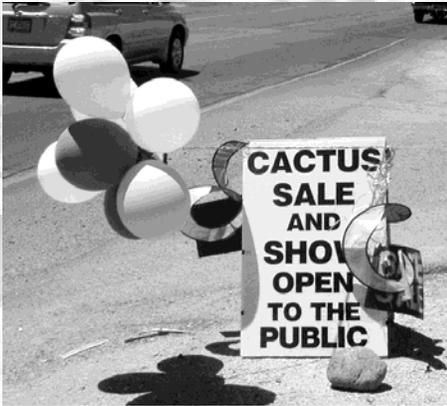


Tucson Cactus and Succulent Expo a Resounding Success

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society is proud of the highly successful “first-annual” Exposition. Every aspect of this endeavor was a resounding success. We had a vision, and we brought it home!



At the top of the list of successes is the record number of members who pitched in to make it what is was. This is obviously not your typical

Society, with a small core of over-worked members and a big following of members who show up for meetings and trips. No, we all pitched in together, and we did a great job.

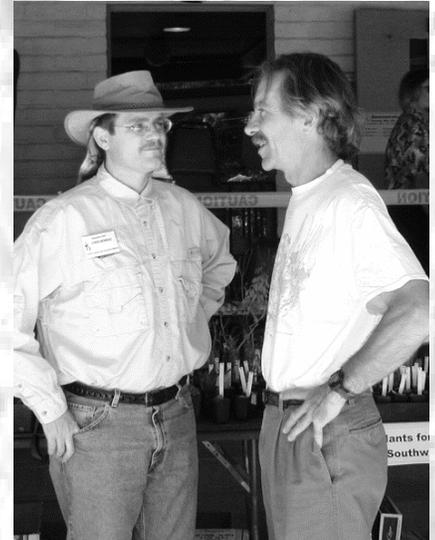
It's a hopeless task to start singling out members for recognition – some will always be missed. But I want to recognize, and thank, many of the key members who made this such a success.



It all started with Jack Ramsey, who had the vision to suggest the event. Jack admits that the final product greatly exceeded his expectations, but he was the one who got the ball rolling. The Board ratified the idea, and President Dick Wiedhopf did his usual fine job of putting it all in perspective and making those key suggestions that contributed so much – the now famous snow cone machine (Who knew how well the take-down crew would work fueled by Margarita snow cones), the Agave giveaway (and the windfall of selling his sample plant), and key publicity ideas. Barry McCormick took on the task of general coordinator, and the show took form. Jack, Barry, and Joe Frannea did the initial

site planning, and Blair Kuropatkin took on the vital task of publicity. Our purpose was two-fold: to highlight our many exciting programs and our love of cacti and succulents for ourselves, and to show ourselves off to the public, fulfilling our educational and community purposes. Publicity was the key, and Blair led a great team, with everything from posters and flyers in the Tucson libraries to the great KUAT TV spot.

The show was also notable for the integration of the vendors into the overall show. Joe Frannea marshaled the local growers, and the enthusiasm to participate was so great we had to disappoint quite a few who wanted to sell.



Most of the vendors also entered exhibits, and their show plants helped make the show such a fantastic look at the many faces of cacti and succulents.



The backbone of the effort fell to the board members, and, in many cases, board member spouses. Gail Virtes and Helen Barber organized the membership and information booth. Keith Zwickl took charge of the plant sitting booth and the free raffle. Chris Monrad handled security, and Jack Ramsey, ably assisted by Helen, doubled as the Cactus Rescue sale manager. Vonn Watkins

did the fabulous art work on the poster, the flyer, and even the post cards. Vonn also teamed with Dick Weidhopf setting up workshops and displays.



Patsy Frannea, who has done more for our good dispositions and bad waistlines than any other, took over the daunting task of providing refreshments. Linda Ryan took on the task of mounting the society display, with Dick Wiedhopf at the keyboard providing labeling, supported by Mark Dimmitt, who kept insisting that names should be spelled correctly.



This was the team who put the thing together, but it was the other 80% of the membership who showed up and made the show a success. I single out just a few who particularly caught my attention. Blair Kuropatkin, after working endless hours on publicity, rented a truck and took on the job of hauling specimen plants in from the far reaches of Tucson, and delivered them home afterwards. Even as the show was running, she was out tacking up posters at the nearby Farmer's Market. George Virtes dealt with the potentially massive traffic jam that ensued Saturday morning, and was the cornerstone of the greeting staff. Margaret Pope

ably counted the voting beans. Bill Salsbury came to do his shift as a greeter and stayed at it most of the day.



Margaret Sitter, Mark Sitter, and Laurel Cooper gave excellent demonstrations. The science fair was represented by a cactus-related exhibit and one of the Grant Program awardees had a display.

How successful was it? We had an estimated attendance of 700, and approximately 90 of our society members participated in some way. Vendor sales were excellent; the vendors were pleased. We signed up 20 new members, and made approximately \$2000, including \$1000 net rescue sales. 375 rescued cacti received a new home. We obtained the addresses of several hundred attendees to add to our mailing list for notification of future shows and sales. Most importantly, we had a great time and showed off some wonderful plants.



This show sets the standard for our shows in the future, and is a testament to the skills and hard work of all of our members.