

Giunta and Helen Barber and their committee worked the cash registers and made the purchase of plants go smoothly and the accounting and distribution of revenue accurate. Joe & Patsy Frannea and their talented group of rescue crew volunteers managed our rescue sale. Patsy also provided refreshments for the hospitality room for vendors and sales workers. That's after they dug and loaded plants.

Plant Show – Cindy Garrison and Nanci Frank and their committee did a fabulous job in staging the show. Barry McCormick and his group provided the correct names and signage for all the plants.



Blair Kuropatkin and Dan Tassone drove one rental truck to pick up specimens on the west side of town and Dale and Jen Whitt drove the other for east side pick-ups. This activity brought to our show large specimen plants that would not normally be available. These individuals and all the others who helped to make the show spectacular have our special thanks.

Speakers and Workshops. Vonn Watkins, assisted by Mark Sitter, put together a great program. This was a spectacular group of presenters. Vonn and Karen Keller did the artwork for the posters, t-shirts, advertising and logo

Publicity - Blair Kuropatkin handled publicity for the event with distribution of posters and flyers, newspaper and magazine articles and a wonderful spot on KUAT with Pam White promoting our activities.

I know many others spent a lot of time helping out and it is appreciated. Like the conductor of a great orchestra, it is easy to produce wonderful music when you are surrounded by great talent.

Dick Wiedhopf

Plant Show at Sonoran VI

It's no surprise that the Plant Show at Sonoran VI



was the highest rated category on the symposium evaluation questionnaire! In addition to our usual fine displays of plants, this year Cindi Garrison and Nanci Frank spruced up the show with Cinco de Mayo themed backdrops and

accents. The show was the largest ever: 199 plants from 23 plant families brought in by 28 members. This compares to 140 plants two years ago.

The four prize winners were Mark Sitter with *Parodia warasii*, Mark Dimmitt with *Tillandsia cacticola*, Miles Anderson with *Opercularia decaryi*, and Laurinda Oswald with *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*.



Barry McCormick

Weird Plant Sale



“Weird plants take root at the Gardens! Growers from and around Tucson will offer their oddest species for sale. Some smell like putrefied flesh, others have stalks reminiscent

of the male anatomy, and some are outrageously big or black. You won't find roses and petunias; this plant sale is dedicated to the strange and dramatic, the weird and the wacky, the bizarre and smelly!”

The Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, hosts their annual Weird Plant Sale on Saturday, June 10 from 8 am to noon. There will be a member-only pre-sale on Friday, June 9 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. TCSS will be selling rescue plants at the sale.

Jack Ramsey

La Pilita Cactus Garden Happens!



After many months of planning and waiting for all the dirt work to get finished, the cactus garden area was finally ready to receive plants. The Carrillo Elementary School Docents were patiently waiting for the day when they could get their hands dirty and help plant the native cacti that they had selected for their garden.

Dave Palzkill and Patsy and Joe Frannea had been working with the young docents for several weeks and were now ready to bring some plants to populate the garden. Each docent picked a cactus



and filled out the data sheet listing specifics about each cactus before they helped plant it. Things such as the common name, the botanical name, where the cactus came from, size, weight, photo of the roots, etc. were noted. See the photo of Dave helping a docent look up one of the names to fill out her data sheet.



Matt Johnson's reference guides, donated by Rainbow Gardens Bookshop, came in handy to get the botanical names correct. The five foot saguaro from the Cactus Rescue Crew was a challenge to carry, but using two of the cactus slings made it easy for eight docents. It weighed in at 92 pounds.

All of the docents have sent personal thank you notes on their special Docent Corp note cards to each of us for our help. A few more cacti still need to be added to the garden but will have to wait until school starts up again in the Fall. The information about each cactus will be added to the other La Pilita Museum curriculum for the docents to know before they can be certified to give tours. The Museum is located just north of the school at 420 S. Main. Their web site is www.lapilita.com but does not yet feature the cactus garden.

Joe Frannea

Cactus Rescues

Cactus rescues have been a real hand-to-mouth affair for us lately. We are in the great position of having disposed of all of our stock, and badly need some new stock by the Weird Plant Sale.

TCSS Members can participate on our cactus rescues, which are normally held early on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Notices are emailed to all Rescue Crew Members on Thursdays. If you want to be on the notification list please send an email to CactusRescue@TucsonCactus.org

Joe Frannea

Five Weeks of South Africa in Fifty Minutes



Namaqualand is home to many succulents we grow here at home, and Steven Hammer had already visited this area over 20 times! As a result, Russell saw many wonderful plants and was able to have them immediately identified by his trusty and stalwart guide. He

saw many species of his favorite genus, *Tylecodon*, members of the *Crassula* family that have pachyform trunks and thick, succulent, summer-deciduous leaves. Tylecodons flower during the summer while totally leafless. On a smaller scale, Russell saw and photographed Hammer's beloved conophytums and countless other wonderful mesembs, plus crassulas, avonias, aloes, haworthias and some cool animals. Of course, a plethora of aloes, especially the wonderfully impressive tree aloe, *Aloe dichotoma*, were seen in abundance, and