



Sonoran V was another successful celebration of the world of Cacti and Succulents. This year's focus was on the desert areas of Baja California.

The conference has three parts: the member dinner on Friday; the speakers, workshops and other conference activities; and the public portions including the plant show, sales, silent auction and, this year's addition, an art sale.

The Friday member dinner meeting broke all records. The kick-off speech by Mark Dimmitt, a continuation of his Baja talk given at our February meeting, was the highlight of the evening. The meal, like all of the lunches and dinners served by the InnSuites, was excellent. Members were treated to advance viewing of the plant show and an early chance at the sales and silent auction. This dinner meeting really underscores the fact that this is our conference, put on by us, for us.



Vonn Watkins and George Virtes



*Adenium obesum* 'Daeng Taiwan'

Thirty-nine members displayed 140 plants in twenty plant families in the plant show. Attendees and visitors were delighted to select their favorite plant to bestow their "voting beans." The winners were: Marty Harow for his grafted *Mammillaria luethyi*, Mark Dimmitt for *Adenium obesum* 'Daeng Taiwan' and *Haworthia truncata*, and Miles Anderson for *Euphorbia symmetrica*.



*Mammillaria luethyi*

Thirty items brought in over a thousand dollars during the Silent Auction.

The plant sale was probably the greatest array of vendors ever assembled in Tucson. The thirteen vendors included B&B Cactus, Destination Forever, Arid Lands, Miles' to Go, Mike Ellis, Blue Oasis, Desert Gems, Landscape Cacti, Dryland Plants,



Plant Sale

Plants for the Southwest, Starr Nursery and our own rescued cactus sales. We also had Jan Bell Pottery and Rainbow Gardens Book Shop. Sales were more than double the sales of Sonoran IV.

The speakers did a great job presenting the flora and landscapes of Baja California. Mark Dimmitt was followed by Tom Van Devender who further helped us explore the diversity of succulents in the special study areas they have investigated. A two part lecture by Jon Rebman of the San Diego Natural History Museum took us section by section through the two states of the peninsula, and focused on the diverse weather and landform patterns that explain the great flora diversity. Wendy Hodgson

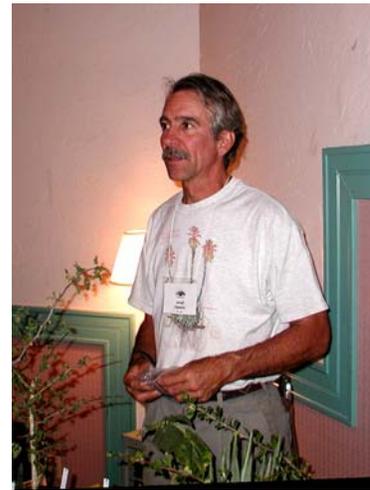


Jon Rebman

added the human dimension with the ethnobotany of the Agaves of Baja California. If there had been a bus to the Baja at the door, we all would have been on it.

The workshops gave us a chance at some hands-on detailed experience with Cacti and Succulents. Kevin Barber discussed photography, Laurel Cooper spoke on foods of the desert, Norm Dennis covered Mammillarias, Mark Dimmitt featured his beloved Adeniums, Mike Ellis demonstrated cactus

grafting techniques, Gene Joseph dealt with growing in containers, Jeff Moore informed us about Agave culture, Mark Sitter did double duty with Ferocactus and pest identification, and Vonn Watkins rounded out the sessions with his seed growing



Gene Joseph

techniques. Many workshops resulted in attendees acquiring exciting plants, from Norm's Mammillaria seedlings to Mike's grafted cactus, to Mark Dimmitt's Adeniums. Hopefully Mark Sitter kept his cactus pests to himself. The most painful part was picking just five workshops to attend.



Sunday Art Show

The Saturday banquet featured another great meal. The Sunday art show was a new addition this year, and was very well received. We all enjoyed it, sales were brisk, and the artists had a good time.

The members of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society made the show happen. Volunteers gave generously of their time and talents, and their effort is greatly appreciated.



Serving Line

Did everything run smoothly? How dull that would have been. Burned out projector bulbs, the lawn sprinklers marching towards the art sale, the accounts that refused to balance late into the night, the workshop rooms lost in the hotel labyrinth – we had our share of adventures.



Raffle Winner

But the Baja came alive for us for three days in May, and our Sonoran V Conference was all we dreamed it would be.