



# 2004 Year-End Report

IT'S BEEN A BANNER YEAR!

## Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Once again we find ourselves at the end of the year, proud of all we have done and thankful for all of our opportunities for friendships and the enjoyment of Cacti and Succulents. It has been a great year. We have kept up the things we enjoyed most in past years, and added new experiences as we continue to grow and prosper.

The key to any organization such as ours is to have great meetings and great speakers. This year's star speakers include:

Mark McMahon, "Cacti of Bolivia"  
Mark Dimmitt, "Biodiversity of Baja"  
Jim Elliott, "Landscaping with Succulents"  
Cory Martin, "Sierra Del Pinacate"  
John Schaefer, "Cactus Photography"

Norm Dennis, "Mammillaria – Surprising Gems"  
Chuck Hanson, "The Succulents of Madagascar"  
Matt Johnson, "Local Cacti and Succulents"  
Mark Dimmitt, "The Genus Trichocereus"

But our meetings are more than just programs, and certainly the fellowship, the exchange of ideas, access to our fine library, and particularly the great refreshments coordinated by Patsy Frannea, are the glue that holds us together.



Sonoran V was the centerpiece of the year. The Friday member dinner meeting broke all records. 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*



*Adenium obesum* 'Daeng Taiwan'



*Peniocerus greggii* Rescue

*truncata*, and Miles Anderson for *Euphorbia symmetrica*.

The speakers did a great job presenting the flora and landscapes of Baja California. Mark Dimmitt, Tom Van Devender, Jon Rebman, and Wendy Hodgson delighted the symposium attendees. Workshops were ably given by Kevin Barber, Laurel Cooper, Norm Dennis, Mark Dimmitt, Mike Ellis, Gene Joseph, Jeff Moore, Mark Sitter, and Vonn Watkins.

Certainly the greatest amount of time, energy, and suffering went into cactus rescue. The rescue committee continued to pile up the most amazing statistics. One hundred and thirteen members participated in our twenty-six rescue operations. The crew spent 1320 crew-hours in rescuing 4,272 cacti. Total cacti rescued now exceed 16,000! We branched out northward this year, mentoring the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society in their first cactus rescue, near Buckeye.

Underlying this rescue effort is the highly effective planning process undertaken by Chris Monrad, with the assistance of Joe Frannea and President Dick Wiedhopf. A continuous and highly professional



Hacienda del Sol



*Echinocereus pentalophus*

process of contacts, briefings, and publicity is involved in obtaining permission to do our rescues. The same high quality slide shows and videos we have seen during our meetings have been shown many times to professional organizations and even the Tucson mayoral staff. This year we have evolved the concept of

identifying and recognizing our corporate and governmental rescue partners, without whom we could not do as much as we do.



*Agave americana*

The other side of cactus rescue is dispersal of the rescued cactus through sales, donations, and revegetation projects. We had seven major sales: Fiesta de Los Flores, Hacienda del Sol, Sonoran V, TBG Weird Plant Sale, Blooming Barrel Sale, and the Spring and Fall Pima County Country Fairs. We undertook three revegetation projects, and many cacti ended up in the yards of the rescue crew. Joe Frannea conducts informal sales from the holding area more than once a week, on the average.

As an offshoot of our cactus sales income, we continue to fund our School Grant Programs. We awarded seven grants totaling \$1946 this year, bringing our two-year total to \$3132.

our members and all of Tucson.

Our newsletter and web site continue to keep us in touch with



University of Arizona Revegetation

Our finale of the year is always our holiday party. Special recognition was given to retiring officers and board members: Vice President Kevin Barber, Secretary Lynda Ryan, and Treasurer Valarie Miller.

Looking ahead to the coming year we will see new opportunities to enjoy our cacti and succulents: the new Third Thursday workshops, more trips and events, and the Spring Expo.

