



# 2005 Year-End Report

IT'S BEEN A BANNED YEAR!

## Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

By any measures of success, the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society has had a successful year. We have had great meetings, with great speakers, attended by more members than ever. Our activities have increased and our educational programs have expanded. We have rescued more cactus and worked harder to pass them on to be planted throughout Tucson, and around the state. We are proud of what we have done and thankful for all of our opportunities for friendships and the enjoyment of Cacti and Succulents.

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

Janet Rademacher, "Agaves, Yuccas & Other Cool Plants"  
Jim Foster, "Ganna Walska's Lotusland"  
Jane Evans, "Winter Growing Succulents"  
Tim Metcalf, "What's in Your Pot"  
Bob Webb, "Travels in Arabia and Africa"  
Cory Martin, "The Sierra Mazatan"

Ernesto Sandoval, "Succulents in the Garden"  
Gary James, "Travels in Chile"  
Woody Minnich, "Travels through Argentina and Bolivia"  
Doug Dawson, "Southern Namibia"  
Gary Koutnik, "Cotyledon and Tylecodon"

But our meetings are more than just programs and certainly the fellowship, the exchange of ideas, access to our fine library, raffles and give-aways, and our great refreshments are the glue that holds us together.

Four enjoyable and well-attended special activities this year were the TCSS Baja California tour led by Jon Rebman, our Organ Pipe spring bus tour, the fall social and auction, and the Wallace Garden bus trip.

On odd-numbered years we have our Cactus and Succulent Expo. Perhaps the best way to understand just how important the expo has become is to mention the gross sales of \$24,426.41. The society made about \$2000



*Haworthia truncata*



Catavina, TCSS Baja Tour

net on rescue sales, and \$526.73 on sales commissions from vendors and from refreshments. The member plant display was spectacular; we had over 110 plants displayed by 21 members. We had a science fair winner display, other display tables, and the best collection of vendor specimen plants ever. We don't have exact attendance, but over 500 people voted in the show voting. Show winners included Mark Dimmitt's *Haworthia truncata* and Mark Sitter's *Rebutia marsoneri*. The real winners were the members and visitors who were treated to a great plant show.



Rescue Crew

Membership is booming. Conservatively counting family memberships as two members and all others as one, we have 760 members, up 30% from 590 a year ago.

Certainly the greatest amount of time, energy, and suffering went into cactus rescue. Our record year of 9,412 rescued cacti has pushed our total to over 25,000! 203 members contributed 2317 volunteer hours on this effort. We spent \$23,792 on Department of Agriculture tags to allow us to move the plants. To get these cacti distributed we held eight sales throughout the year, and sponsored two significant re-vegetation projects. These rescue cacti sales brought in over \$47,000 this year with a net profit to TCSS of about \$23,000. We are particularly indebted to our many Cactus Rescue Partners – those developers, agencies, and architects without whom we could not accomplish all that we do.

Our swelling treasury suggests that we are falling behind in spending our income on our educational and member activity programs. We have introduced our highly successful spring and fall workshop series to provide special interesting and educational sessions for our members. We continue to fund our School Grant Programs, and are instituting a research grant program. We provide cash prizes to science fair participants who choose cactus and succulent themes.

Our newsletter and web site continue to keep us in touch with our members and all of Tucson.

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Tucson Botanical Garden Weird Plant Sale



President's Special Service Award to Joie Giunta

Our finale of the year is our holiday party. Great food and fellowship accompany the introduction of the newly elected board members and the recognition of special awardees. Awards this year went to Keith Zwickl, Bob & Donna Ellis, Cyndi Garrison, and Gayle & John Swarbrick. The President's Special Service Award was presented to Joie Giunta.

Looking ahead to the coming year we will have many new opportunities to enjoy our cacti and succulents: Sonoran VI, more trips and events, continuing cactus rescue and sales, and early preparations for our hosting of the 2009 Cactus and Succulent Society of America symposium.