



2006 Year-End Report



IT'S BEEN A BANNER YEAR!

Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society

Roll on! Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. 2006 has been a great 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:

Myron Kimmach, Travels through Peru and Bolivia.

Mark Muradian, Bulldozers Built My Cactus Garden!

Stuart Riley, Cactus and Succulent Growing Methods in Europe.

Greg Starr, A Thirteen-Day Journey Through Mexico, in two parts.

Tom Van Devender, Cacti and the History of the Sonoran Desert Region.

Ernesto Sandoval, The Land of the Boojum and the Cardon: Baja California's version of the Sonoran Desert.

Russell Wagner, Five Weeks of South Africa in Fifty Minutes

Bob Webb & Toni Yocum, Travels in Africa and Arabia III: Aloes!; Travels in Africa and Arabia IV: Euphorbias.

Jon Weeks, Salicornia, The Sonoran Desert Succulent That Could.

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

Special activities this year included Sonoran VI, an expanded "Goodbye to the heat Good Time Party and Auction, and a number of special tours, nursery visits and garden tours.

Sonoran VI was the highlight of the year. Six great speakers and eleven workshops combined an overview of the Sonoran Desert with practical tips on enjoying cacti and succulents. Vendor and Rescue plant sales netted almost \$10,000, thanks in part to the greatly improved sales area situated in a large tent. Our member plant displays continue to grow year by year; we had over 200 plants

displayed. The winners were: Mark Sitter with *Parodia warasii*, Mark Dimmitt with *Tillandsia cacticola*, Miles Anderson with *Operculicarya decaryi*, and Laurinda Oswald with *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*. The real winners were the members and visitors who were treated to a great plant show.



Sonoran VI Sales Tent

Membership growth continues to astound us. Conservatively counting family memberships as two members and all others as one, we have 961 members, up 26% from 760 a year ago. Next year will surely see us expand past 1000.



Cactus Rescue

Certainly the greatest amount of time, energy, and suffering went into cactus rescue. For year 2006 we saved over 6000 cacti during 28 rescues at 19 different sites. Dedication, hard work, and skill from over 200 TCSS Cactus Rescue Crew members are what make this program so successful.

A great boon to our rescue efforts this year was obtaining the use of a cactus storage area on Amphi Public School District land.



Amphi Storage Site

This past year our Cactus Rescue Program contributed about \$5,000 to the School Grant Program. We awarded five monetary grants totaling \$1,950 and one grant providing 103 rescued cacti. Since the inception of the program TCSS has awarded seventeen grants for a total of \$5,500. Also, several hundred rescued cacti have been provided at nominal costs for various projects.



Dave Palzkill at Carrillo Elementary

We have focused on our mission statement this year, balancing our four purposes: Education, Information, Conservation and Discovery. Our highly successful spring and fall workshop series continues 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.

We end the year with 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 Bill Salisbury, Dave Palzkill, Keimpe Bronkhorst, and James Thomas. The President's Special Service Award was presented to George and Gail Virtes.

Looking ahead to the coming year we will have many new opportunities to enjoy our cacti and succulents: Expo2007, more trips and events, continuing cactus rescue and sales, and continued preparations for our hosting of the 2009 Cactus and Succulent Society of America symposium.



Special Service Award to Gail and George Virtes