

## 2004 community Xeriscape Leader - Kimber De Lorenzo



The **Community Xeriscape Leader** Award honors an individual or organization that has been a driving force in the Tucson area in promoting Xeriscape principles and/or the use of native and arid-adapted plants. This year's award goes to someone who brings knowledge, dedication and tireless energy to promoting Xeriscape principles in local schools, her neighborhoods and throughout Pima County. She has worked for years to teach local school children about water conservation through Xeriscape gardening.

Over the past ten years she has taken 2-1/2 acres of her own property and transformed the bulldozed land into a series of natural looking washes that channel rainwater to plants. She has planted a wide variety of rare native specimens and desert-adapted plants. Her entire collection includes over 700 plants, including many rare Sonoran native and desert plants from around the world. She has labeled and carefully catalogued each plant to help visitors and customers identify plants for use in their own yards. Her property also serves as an informal test site for Summerland, a small company that specializes in developing indigenous plants from the Southwest and deserts around the world for use in local landscapes. Over a year ago she started her own company, KLD Landscaping.

Kimber has spent countless hours developing and teaching a curriculum that focuses on using native plants and water-harvesting basins. She helped to build a hummingbird and butterfly garden on Harelson School campus. In 2000 the school won the National Gardening Association's Youth Garden Award and was designated a National Wildlife Schoolyard Habitat. The project has been expanded to include a Nocturnal Pollinator Habitat. For her outstanding leadership in advancing the principles of Xeriscape and water conservation, Kimber DeLorenzo has been selected to receive the **2004 Community Xeriscape Leader Award**.

Water harvesting and desert plants have never had a more energetic, passionate and creative advocate than Kimber DeLorenzo.