



DESERT BREEZE

Newsletter of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society

September 2022

Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society • In Person and Zoom Program Presentation • Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 7:00pm
Sky Islands Public High School, 6000 East 14th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

Planning for uncertainty: conserving cacti in a world of change

Presented by Michiel Pillet



Cacti are one of the most endangered groups of organisms on the planet, being impacted by a host of factors such as habitat destruction and poaching. The effects of climate change on cacti until recently remained uncertain. On the one hand, a common perception is that future climate will be favorable to cacti as they have multiple adaptations to heat and drought. On the other hand, the wide

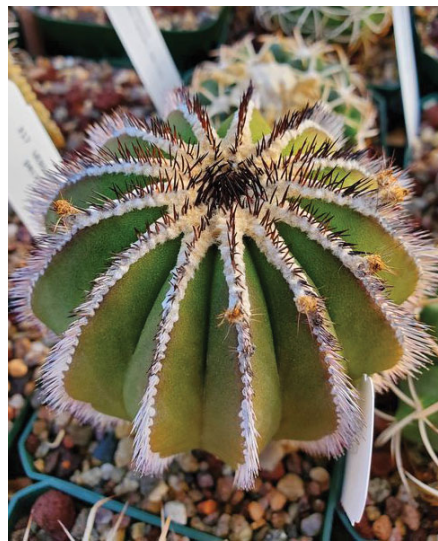
diversity of the more than 1,500 cactus species, many of which occur in wetter and cooler ecosystems, questions the view that most cacti can tolerate warmer and drier conditions. What does the future hold for cacti? Come look into my crystal ball!

Michiel Pillet is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at The University of Arizona here in Tucson, and a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group. Dedicated to cactus conservation, he studies the impact of climate change on cacti. He became interested in cacti as a teenager growing up in Belgium, where he had a small cactus

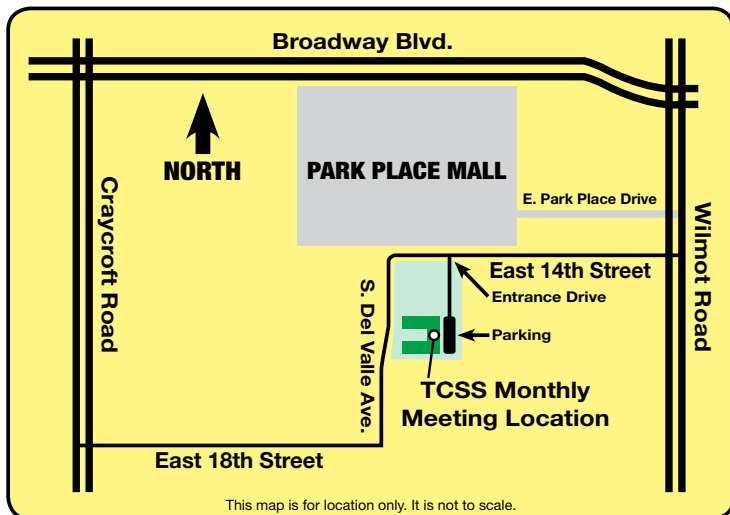
collection. When Michiel moved to Tucson in 2016, this quickly got out of hand. Last year, he opened a conservation-focused cactus nursery, Prickly Prospects, which focuses on ethical propagation of the most endangered species. He is involved in conservation projects with botanical gardens across the world. He believes strongly in the importance of holistic conservation management including both research in the field, as well as safeguarding the future of cacti by cultivating them.

If you have been fully vaccinated for Covid-19 you are welcome to come and join us for this excellent in person presentation (masks will be required by all). This meeting will also be a Zoom program and will be an important educational and informational event you must see. Also, if using Zoom, be sure to log in to win a \$25.00 gift certificate from TCSS or choose a copy of the new 3rd edition of the Field Guide to Cacti & Other Succulents of Arizona. Plant give aways will take place at the in person meeting but that portion of the program, because of the recording, will not appear on Zoom. When leaving the

live in person meeting, everyone can get a free plant offered to you by the TCSS.



The endangered Uebelmannia pectinifera, from Brazil, predicted to lose nearly 75% of its range due to climate change



This map is for location only. It is not to scale.

Sky Islands Public High School • 6000 E. 14th St.

Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:00pm
"Nature's Geometry: Succulents"
Presented by Russel Ray

At this time, no refreshments will be served at the September meeting



President's Message

August is my favorite month. It's not the fact that my birthday is in August but that does give some favor to the month.

The monsoon usually has its greatest effect on plants during August. All of sudden everything looks great and is busting out with blooms and new growth. Pima Prickly Park has a great

display of Ferocactus in every shade from very red to amazing yellow with hundreds and hundreds of blooms throughout the park. The ocotillos look amazing with their whip-like branches now covered with a carpet of green leaves. It can't get much better than this.

What is even better is that we don't have to water. The monsoon rains have a special effect on desert plants. Seeds that have been dormant for the year(s) spring to life. You can almost

see them growing. New growth is everywhere. I hope this is happening at your house but you are certainly welcome to visit Pima Prickly Park and enjoy this August phenomenon.

As you know, we have planted *Agave palmeri* to provide food for several species of bats when the Agaves bloom. We will continue to plant Agaves every year so there will be a continuous source of food for these migrating mammals. We have also assisted with plantings at another park this month.

It seems that every week there is something new we are engaged in. Rescues will pick up but there are other activities to keep everyone enthused. The next big activity for everyone is our Good Time Silent Auction. Sunday, October 2, 2022 is the date and all the details will be available soon on our website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dick Wiedhopf, President

Follow us on Instagram!

#tucsoncss and #pimapricklypark

<https://www.instagram.com/pimapricklypark/>

Yes, that's right, the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and Pima Prickly Park now have legit Insta accounts! We'll be posting about our volunteer activities including sales and cactus rescues as well as fabulous photos of blooming cacti in the park and around Tucson. Keeping within our mission of sharing and appreciating the cactus and succulent world so it is enjoyable and educational to all, we'd encourage you to tag us when you post photos of your own cactus.

If you'd like to be one of our Social Media experts and assist with our online presence, we are welcoming volunteers to help out. Watch for our tech team meetings and feel free to join us! See <https://tcss.wildapricot.org/Cactus-Rescue-Crew> to sign-up for any of our club volunteer opportunities.

A Note on Internet Security

Social media can be a fun way to interact and keep in touch with friends and family. It has been a vital mode of communication for many during times of separation. Cyber security is an important part of being online in any form and social media is no exception. There are numerous reputable sources for learning about keeping your online presence secure and helping you manage your own comfort level of being online. Search "how to keep your online presence secure" in your favorite search tool for more information.

Here are 3 common security tips found when searching:

1. Use a secure password. Everyone knows this but it's surprising how often this advice is ignored. A password manager helps, or using "pass phrases" with numbers for vowels.
2. Check the "Security settings" on your social media accounts at least quarterly or when you know a program has been updated, since sometimes settings are reset to defaults.
3. Assume anything you post may be seen by anyone anywhere. It's also good practice to get permission from people in photos before you post or "tag" them.

Instructions To Join The TCSS Zoom Meeting on September 1, 2022

If you have a laptop or other device where you can enter a web site address enter

<https://bit.ly/tcssmm>

Copy this into your browser address line or just click on it.

If this does not work and for all other types of devices see our Zoom Meeting Instructions page on our web site. It is

https://tcss.wildapricot.org/resources/pdf_files/ZoomInstructions.pdf

You can also find a link to it by going to our August Meeting notice information on the web.

No Species Is an Island

BOOK REVIEW By: Brian Vandervoet

Those of us involved in the rescue and preservation of cacti may think of these botanical wonders as a landscape item, a number, a statistic, and object to be dug, protected and moved for its own salvation. 'No Species Is an Island', by Theodore H. Fleming, illustrated by Kim Kanoa Duffek, teaches so much more about the columnar cacti of northern Sonora and southern Arizona.

True to its title, the book explains the symbiotic relationship between the cacti and their pollinators; pallid bats, the lesser long nosed bats, and hummingbirds. The shape of the flower, the hours in which they are open, the sequence in which they open, and the consequences of fertile seed production have all been researched and documented over the course of eleven years of investigation.

Those in the community who are also interested in bats and their contribution to our desert ecology will along find this book of important value. The migration of these flying mammals, along with their contribution to the life cycles of the cardon, saguaro, organ pipe and senita cacti is explained.

Reading this book is educational in a very enjoyable way. Pollination is a complex partnership between flower and pollinator. Stamen and pistil location, flower size, and bat populations are all critical components for the successful propagation of the species. I found it to be one of the best books I had read during the year. I was so impressed that I gifted it to friends and family. One of the close connections for TCSS members is that a donation from TCSS helped make possible the excellent illustrations. That contribution is acknowledged. Two copies of this book are available in the TCSS library.

Acknowledgement Of Contributions

The Names Below Represent The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society Members And Friends Whose Donations Helped Make This Year A Success. We Extend Our Sincere Thanks For Your Support.

Jean Boris
Marie Cannon
Adrienne Crawford
Richard Geist & Jeffrey Magadanz
John Koza
Roger Nichols
Carol J Owens
Mark & Margaret Sitter
M Joseph Wahnish
Robert H Webb



Can you believe the Desert Museum has been connecting people to the Sonoran Desert region for 70 years?! And you have been a significant part of that! Kicking off our year-long 70th anniversary celebration, you are cordially invited to an exclusive author forum on Sunday, September 4, at 4pm in the Warden Oasis Theater.

Hear from (and meet!) the following authors:

- William Lawrence Bird, Jr., In the Arms of Saguaros: Iconography of the Giant Cactus
- Wynne Brown, The Forgotten Botanist: Sara Plummer Lemmon's Life of Science and Art
- Ted Fleming, Sonoran Desert Journeys
- David Yetman, Natural Landmarks of Arizona
- The Desert Museum's own Craig Ivanyi, representing Treasured Legacies

After the forum, please join us in the Green Room of the Baldwin Education Building from 5-6pm for a chance to speak more intimately with the authors, and purchase books to get them autographed. There will be light refreshments, and BIRTHDAY CAKE!

Please RSVP to info@desertmuseum.org, as there is limited space. Responses accepted until the day of the event, or until capacity is met.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Lynnae Wenker
Director of Philanthropy
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

TCSS BOARD

Officers (ending December 31, 2022)

President: Richard Wiedhopf • president@Tucsoncactus.org

Vice President: Vonn Watkins • vp@Tucsoncactus.org

Secretary: Monica Wnuk

secretary@tucsoncactus.org

Treasurer: Cathy Robson

treasurer@Tucsoncactus.org

Board of Directors:

(terms expire December 31 of year indicated)

Brian Vandervoet

Brad Haeckel (2022)

Penny Miller (2022)

Steve Watts (2022)

Donna Ellis (2023)

Janice Johnson (2023)

Kris Thompson (2023)

Austin Martin (2023)

Crystal Cannon (2024)

Linda Heisley (2024)

Kermie Hodge (2024)

Robert Villa (2024)

CSSA Affiliate Rep:

Bill Holcombe (2023)

Cactus Rescue: Donna Ellis

cactus@Tucsoncactus.org

Education: Kris Thompson • education@Tucsoncactus.org

Free Plants: Donna Ellis • plants@Tucsoncactus.org

Florilegium: Cindy Hartwell • art@Tucsoncactus.org

Garden Tours: Patsy Frannea • tours@Tucsoncactus.org

Librarian: Brad Haeckel • librarian@Tucsoncactus.org

Prickly Park: • park@Tucsoncactus.org

Programs: Vonn Watkins • programs@Tucsoncactus.org

Refreshments: Patsy Frannea • refreshments@Tucsoncactus.org

Technology: technology@Tucsoncactus.org

Research: Doug Rowsell • research@Tucsoncactus.org

Field Trips/tours: Rob Romero • trips@Tucsoncactus.org

Vendor Coordinator: Dale Johnson • vendors@tucsoncactus.org

Plant Sales: Crystal Cannon • sales@tucsoncactus.org

Field Guide Sales: Susan Durham & John Durham

books@tucsoncactus.org

Conservation: Thomas Staudt

conservation@tucsoncactus.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Keller • editor@tucsoncactus.org

Deadline for newsletter text or photos:

Thursday, September 29 by 4:00pm

TCSS Web Page:

www.tucsoncactus.org

Webmaster: Barb Watts • webmaster@Tucsoncactus.org

For general information and questions related to

TCSS, email TCSS@TucsonCactus.org

or call (520) 256-2447 during business hours.

Everyone is Welcome!

**Bring your friends, join in the fun and meet
the cactus and succulent community.**

130,530

Cacti Rescued - Since 1999

658 Rescues - 49,520 Volunteer Hours (updated 08-28-22)

Please see our Website Calendar for the next rescued cactus sale. They are scheduled at various times during the year based on our inventory.

TCSS Club Members receive a 10% discount

We need your "Eyes and Ears" to help us find new Cactus Rescue sites. Please email us as much information as you can from new project signs or from other sources to **Site@TucsonCactus.org**. Attach a photo of the sign if you can. Note, we do not remove plants from residences.

September, 2022

Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 7:00pm

Planning for uncertainty: conserving cacti in a world of change
Presented by Michiel Pillet

Tuesday, September 13, at 7:00pm

Teleconference Board Meeting